

Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire

*Report of the By-Laws Committee to be presented
to the Prov. Grand Lodge to be held at
Worcester, on March 17, 1880.*

YOUR Committee report that having fully considered the existing By-Laws of the Lodge adopted in 1852, it was deemed desirable as being more simple, to recommend the Prov. Grand Lodge to repeal them, and to substitute in their place the fuller and more complete Laws now presented for adoption. As the Book of Constitutions provides for the regulations of Provincial Grand Lodges, and as the rules governing the business of Grand Lodge are in many particulars equally applicable to the conduct of the business of Prov. Grand Lodge, your Committee have not thought it necessary to repeat such provisions, but recommend their adoption generally so far as they extend to P.G. Lodges.

In the event of the adoption of the By-Laws as now presented, your Committee suggest that they be authorised to have same printed for distribution in such order, and with such verbal alterations (if any) as may be found necessary, and that there be added to them for the convenience of the Brethren the necessary references to the particular pages of the Constitutions already referred to, and also that a list be appended of all present and past P.G. Officers and the dates of their appointment and of the places of meeting of the P.G. Lodges hitherto held in the Province so far as the records thereof extend.

*E. A. H. LECHMERE, P.G.M.,
Chairman.*



THE Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcester-
shire having at a Meeting held on the
16th day of September, in the year of
Light, 5879, Resolved that the existing By Laws
made June 16, 5852, be revised,

It is Resolved at a Meeting of the Provincial
Grand Lodge specially convened for the purpose
and held on the 17th day of March, 5880,
That the existing By Laws be and they are
hereby repealed, and that in addition to the
regulations contained in the Book of Constitutions
having particular reference to Provincial Grand
Lodges and the rules and regulations laid down
for the government of the Grand Lodge as far
as these may be applicable to Provincial Grand
Lodges, the following By LAWS be also adopted
by this Provincial Grand Lodge:—

That the members of the collective body
forming this Provincial Grand Lodge take rank
within the Province in the following order.

1. The Provincial Grand Master.
2. The Deputy Prov. Grand Master.
3. Prov. Grand Wardens.
4. Prov. Grand Chaplains.
5. Prov. Grand Treasurer.
6. Prov. Grand Registrar.
7. Prov. Grand Secretary.
8. Prov. Grand Deacons.
9. Prov. Grand Supt. of Works.
10. Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies.
11. Assistant Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies.
12. Prov. Grand Sword Bearer.

13. Prov. Grand Organist.
14. Prov. Grand Pursuivant.
15. Assistant Prov. Grand Pursuivant.
16. Prov. Grand Stewards for the Year.
17. The W.M., Past Masters and Wardens of the private Lodges within the Province.
18. Prov. Grand Tylers.

The Prov. Grand Treasurer and Secretary if Past Prov. Grand Wardens take rank immediately after the P.G. Wardens of the Year, other Past Prov. Grand Officers (except Stewards) take rank next after the actual Officers of the same rank, *seniores* (as to date of appointment) *prioris*.

2.

The Provincial Grand Lodge shall meet once at least in every year, at a time to be fixed by the P.G.M., and at such place as may have been nominated by him at the previous annual Meeting. This Meeting shall be deemed the Annual Prov. Grand Lodge at which the Election of Prov. Grand Treasurer and the appointment of Prov. Grand Officers shall take place. A Report on the state of Masonry in the Province as made to Grand Lodge shall be read and the Reports from the Auditors and the Benevolent and Charity Committees shall be read and considered. No other business involving discussion shall be brought forward unless one month's notice in writing has been given to the P.G. Secretary of an intention to introduce it, nor then unless notice has been given in the summons convening the Lodge. At these Meetings, Master Masons not members of the P.G.L. provided they be subscribing members to some Lodge, may by permission of the P.G.M. be allowed to be present, but they

cannot vote, nor can they take any part in the proceedings, unless requested by the P.G.M. to do so. After the Annual Meeting there shall be a Masonic Festival, to be so arranged by the P.G. Stewards that no expense in respect thereof fall upon the P.G.L. Funds.

3

Every Brother on his first appointment to either of the following offices, shall immediately pay to the P.G. Treasurer, towards the funds for general purposes, the following Fees of honor, namely :—

	£	s	d.
The Provincial Grand Master	5	5	0
Deputy P.G. Master	3	3	0
Prov. Grand Wardens each	2	2	0
" " Chaplain, Treasurer, Registrar, Secretary, Deacon, Superin- tendent of Works, Director of Ceremo- nies, Sword Bearer, Organist, Pursuivant each	1	1	0
" " Stewards each	0	5	0

If the office of Prov. Grand Steward has not been served, an additional Fee of 5s. shall be paid on appointment to a higher rank.

No Brother shall be allowed to rank as Past Grand Officer, unless he has duly and truly served his office for a period of twelve months (unless by dispensation from the Prov. Grand Master) and paid his appointed Fee.

Should any Officer in Prov. Grand Lodge become vacant, the P.G.M. may, if he thinks it necessary to do so, fill up such vacancy by a written appointment, and the Brother so appointed shall from the date thereof take rank in his office in the same manner as if he had been appointed, and invested at the Annual P.G. Lodge, and a record of such special appointment shall be entered on the minutes of the next Prov. Grand Lodge. In these cases the Fee of honor shall be payable to the P.G. Treasurer within 14 days of each appointment.

Every Prov. G. Officer shall be responsible for the safe custody of the jewel of his office, and shall return it at the Annual Prov. Grand Lodge to the Prov. Grand Treasurer under the penalty of One Guinea, in case of default, to the Fund of General Purposes.

The following Dues are payable to the Prov. Grand Lodge Fund for General Purposes:—

	£	s.	d.
On the Consecration of a new Lodge -	5	5	0
On the Initiation of a Candidate - -	0	5	0
On a Brother joining a Lodge - - -	0	1	0
For every Dispensation, License or } permission - - - - -	0	5	0
And to the Prov. Grand Lodge Fund of Benevo- lence.			
Annually for each Member of a Lodge } <i>i.e.</i> sixpence per quarter - - - }	0	2	0

The W.M. for the time being is responsible for these Fees and Contributions.

Every Dispensation License or permission required by the book of Constitutions to be given by the Prov. Grand Master, shall be in writing, and be obtainable only through the Prov. Grand Secretary.

All monies payable to Pro. G. Lodge shall be paid to the P.G. Treasurer for the time being, whose receipts shall be the only legal discharge for the same, and the Property of the Prov. G. Lodge shall be vested in him, but the care and custody of the Furniture, Banners, Jewels, &c., shall belong to the Prov. G.D. of Ceremonies for the time being as part of his official duties and he shall annually certify that they are complete and in good order and condition, or otherwise, which certificate shall be annexed to the Report of the Auditors of the Lodge Accounts. All monies belonging to the Prov. G. Lodge shall be deposited in the Bank of Messrs. Berwick, Lechnere, Isaac, Isaac, & Martin, or in such other Bank or on such securities as the Prov. G. Lodge, when duly assembled, shall direct. The Treasurer shall keep the P.G. Lodge accounts, separating the Fund of Benevolence, the Fund of General Purposes, and the Charity Fund in a book or books which shall be audited by two members of Prov. G. Lodge to be annually nominated by the P.G. Master and such accounts having been certified by them, an abstract thereof shall be sent to the W.M. of each Lodge in the Province in or before the first week in May in each Year, and such abstract, together with the Auditor's Report, shall be presented to the Annual meeting of P.G.L.

A Committee of five (of whom the Prov. G. Treasurer, and Prov. G. Secretary shall be two) shall be annually elected to administer the Benevolent Fund of the Prov. G. Lodge, and to investigate the Petitions of Brethren once members of a Lodge in the Province, or their widows, applying for relief, and to recommend what sums should be respectively awarded to each of the applicants at any regular Meeting of the Prov. G. Lodge with a discretionary power to them to relieve any cases of emergency to the extent of £5, to any one person in the meantime. This Committee shall be called the Benevolent Fund Committee and shall report annually to Prov. G. Lodge. Its operations shall *mutatis mutandis* be regulated by the same provisions as the Grand Lodge of Benevolence.

All Petitions must be certified according to the forms required, and must be sent to the Prov. G. Secretary at least a month before the Meeting of the Prov. G. Lodge, and no grant shall be made unless this rule be complied with.

The operations of the Benevolent Committee and of the Charity Committee hereinafter named being exclusively in the interests of Masonic Charity their reasonable expenses, subject to the approval of the Prov. Grand Lodge, may be paid out of the Benevolent Fund. The annual premium for the Insurance on the life of P.P.G.M. Vernon, shall also be paid out of this Fund. All expenses connected with the conduct of the business of Prov. Grand Lodge, may be paid out of the Fund for General Purposes.

Here follow the rules of the Charity Committee if passed by the P.G.L.

(No. Subject to the addns. of the Charity Rules).

A.

The annual report of the Charity Committee shall comprise a statement of the Candidates adopted by them, the number of Votes given for any Candidate, and of those lent or borrowed in aid, and from or to what Lodges or Charity Committees. Such report when adopted by P.G.L. shall be entered on the minutes thereof.

B.

The Prov. Grand Secretary shall issue summonses to the Members of Prov. Grand Lodge, at least a fortnight before each P.G.L. Meeting, which shall notify the business to be transacted, he shall attend all such meetings and make minutes of all transactions which shall be transcribed in a book to be kept by him for the purpose, in order that the same may be laid before P.G. Lodge when required. He shall send the blank forms of the annual or other returns to be made to P.G.L. to each Lodge in the Province, on or before the 1st day of December in each year, and shall make an analysis, or abstract of such returns when received back, to enable the P.G. Master to make his annual report to Grand Lodge as to the state of Masonry in the Province.

C.

The Master of every Lodge in the Province shall make such Returns as may, from time to

time, be required by the P. G. M. and shall in the month of January in every year make a regular return to the Prov. G. Secretary *through the P. G. Treasurer*, of the members belonging thereto, made out according to seniority of admission into the Lodge, with the date of the initiation or joining and full description of each Brother not previously returned, and the P. G. Secretary shall, make a Register thereof. And the Master of every Lodge in the Province shall, with the return, transmit to the P. G. Treasurer the Fees due to the P. G. I. If not transmitted before the first day of March, he shall forfeit One Guinea to the Fund of Benevolence. In case of continued neglect, the defaulting Lodge will be reported to Grand Lodge. The other official returns to be made shall be sent to the P. G. Secretary direct.

D.

No person resident, in or near any town or place where a Lodge is established, shall be balloted for into any Lodge held elsewhere within this Province, unless the Master of the Lodge wherein he seeks admission shall previously make enquiry in writing of the Master of each Lodge in the Town, in or near which the Candidate resides, touching the fitness of such Candidate. The Brother of whom such enquiry is made, if the Master of a Lodge in the Province, shall, and if out of the Province is fraternally requested to make prompt reply thereto in writing, and it shall be incumbent on the Master to read the reply to the Members of the Lodge before the ballot is taken. In the case of a joining Member a similar course shall be pursued and reference

shall be had to his having fully discharged his Masonic engagements in the Lodge of which he was last a Member.

E.

In the event of this Provincial Grand Lodge ceasing to exist, according to the provisions of the Constitutions, the action of the Benevolent Fund Committee and the Charity Committee may be continued, but it shall be, subject to review on the Lodge being again established. The Prov. G. Treasurer may discharge the proper liabilities of P.G.L. on its so ceasing to exist, but otherwise the Fund of General Purposes must remain intact until the P.G.L. is again established.

F.

The Master of each Lodge shall cause a copy of the summons of every meeting to be forwarded to the P.G.M., the deputy P.G.M., and the P.G. Secretary, at the same time they are forwarded to the Members of such Lodge.

G.

These Laws and Regulations shall be binding on all the Lodges within this Province, and shall not be altered, or added to, except by a Prov. Grand Lodge after one Month's previous notice in writing to the Prov. Grand Secretary. All resolutions of the Prov. Grand Lodge and By-Laws passed in Prov. Grand Lodge after such notice, shall require no further confirmation.