

# 1830 In Explanation with reference to the Tables.

The Grand Lodge of England appears to possess an Ann:  
Income upon the average of 5 years from March 1833 to  
December 1837 both inclusive of

£ s. d.  
3751. 18. 8

Derived from the following 5 sources viz

1. Fund of Benevolence . . . . .	1032. 15. 3	
2. Fund for general purposes . . . . .	1336. 2. -	
3. Fees of Honor and Ecclia Income . . . . .	183. 1. 6	
4. Rent of Tavern and House adjoining . . . . .	900. - - - (Net)	
5. Interest from Funded property . . . . .	300. - - -	<u>3751. 18. 8</u>

That the average number of steady paying Lodges in connexion with the G. L. of England (the number according to the Masonic Almanac being 500) at a moderate Estimate is allowed to be at least

500

And the number of Lodges in the London District

117

That the average number of Subscribing Members at all times upon the Books of the 500 Lodges is estimated at 12 to each Lodge (being only 5 above what is necessary to constitute a regular Lodge and make it perfect) gives an annual average of Subscribing Members at all times upon the Books of the Grand Lodge of

6000

That of these 500 Lodges, it is assumed that one with another, they raise in the name of Masonry, £150 each, upon an average! - (The Moria raised the sum of £205 from 1625 to 1630 inclusive annually) Thus there is raised in the name of Masonry Annually, the immense sum of, exclusive of the Expenses & Salary of Scotland

£75000. - - -

That out of this sum so raised, the Grand Lodge of England distributes in Benevolence the annual sum of

£677. - - -

And in educating & clothing, maintaining &c. Boys, - in educating and clothing &c. Girls, - in

£205. 6. -

So that, apart from any private charities of Individual Lodges; - the Grand Lodge of England distributes in Acts of Charity and Beneficence a total sum of - Being after the rate of about 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the gross sum raised in the name of Masonry!

£882. 6. -

Now the National Benevolent Society in year 1833, charge themselves with a gross sum as total Receipts of

8529. 15. 6

And they credit the Society for Salaries Rent & incidental expenses for one year

1015. 5. 5

Leaving a sum for distribution in acts of Charity alone of £ 7514. 10. 1

So that the National Benevolent Society, distributes above 88 per cent of their Gross Income. - whilst The Body of Freemasons distribute no more than about one and one sixth per cent of theirs!!

Therefore, with a view to endeavor to do something more deserving the name and attributes of Masonry. - It is proposed to abolish in the 1<sup>st</sup> place, the present mode of distributing the Benevolence of the Grand Lodge, and to substitute instead thereof a Fund, under the government of the M. W. G. M. and a Committee to be named "The Royal Sussex Masonic National Benevolent Fund" - for granting Annuities upon the Principal, of the National Benevolent



Society - to poor afflicted and deserving Freemasons, and their Widows, at their own residences.!!

In furtherance of this object it is proposed in the

2<sup>nd</sup> place, To raise up funds independent of those already at the command of the Grand Lodge by the following plan. Such new funds to be applied conjointly with the Income now used, as a fund of Benevolence to carry out the intended plan of annuities

3<sup>rd</sup> Of the 500 Lodges (the actual number being 612) the Master of each Lodge to pay to the proposed R. S. M. N. B. the sum of one pound, at the period of his Installation to the Chair of his Lodge; and as the Chair of every Lodge is always considered a fair object of laudable ambition to every zealous Mason, it is assumed that this sum will be cheerfully paid in furtherance of so grand an object.

4 As the system of Election of Annuitants is intended to be based upon the right to vote in favor of one, or as many Candidates, as may offer at any Annual Election, upon the payment of one pound; such payment giving a right of four votes, and so in proportion for any larger payment, or subscription: Life Governors &c. to be entitled to similar privileges, as in the National Benevolent; that every Master of any Lodge having paid the proposed contribution, be entitled in his year of office to the number of Votes which the pound entitles other subscribers to possess; that every immediate P. M. of any regular Lodge contributing a Donation of £10. 10 be entitled to the regulated number of votes: that every Master upon Election to the Chair a second consecutive year shall pay to this Fund £2. 0. 0. It is assumed that the popularity of the system of Election must necessarily call into play at least 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the whole body of the Craft (estimated at 6000 paying Members without taking into account the large number of Masons, who from age; want of time, and the various other causes which prevent them continuing upon the Books of any Lodge, but whom we may hope to find rallying round our Standards and drawing their forces in aid of our Cause.) and as Subscribers of £5, will be entitled to 25 votes for as many Candidates as may offer, and as subscriptions are not intended to be confined to Masons alone, and as the experience of the National Benevolent shows how the bounty of the truly good follows every work of Mercy, in bringing Legacies &c. &c. May we not hope that our Institution will not be lost sight of, or ever looked, and as the Craft can appeal to as high and noble a list of Noblemen and Gentlemen as associated Members of our ancient Fraternity can possibly add grace to any human Institution, we are very bold in believing that from such a source, aided in full energy by the Brethren in common at home, and in the Colonies "the truly characteristic quality of a Freemason's heart" will pour its abundance upon our humble but zealous efforts.

5 Therefore, from Masters of 612 Lodges, we propose to raise at } £612 " - "

From annual Subscribers as Individuals or from voluntary Contributions of Lodges, by annual or other payments, we calculate } 1700 " - "

to raise at the lowest Estimate from 6000 Members  
The Ann: aver: distribution of " The Fund of Benevolence" for 5 years from 1833 to 1837 inclusive was ... £ 677 " - "

Of which it is proposed to reserve 1/4<sup>th</sup> for cases of emergency } 169 " - "

Leaves applicable to the R. S. M. N. B. a sum of ... 508 " - "

Produces a total fund for Annual distribution of ... £ 2820 " - "



Which is equal to an Annual provision of above £30 p. annum for 90 persons!!!

6 As regards the reserve for Cases of emergency. It is worthy of remark that, if the cases relieved, other than those belonging to England and Wales, in the 5 years from 1833 to 1837 inclusive, - 16 were Scotch; 7 Irish and 25 Foreigners! being an average of only 9 persons per annum, and that the money paid to those 9 persons was £45.6/ It therefore becomes a point for serious deliberation, how far it is prudent or necessary to cause so large a Reserve as £169, for a purpose, or purposes, requiring only an Annual outlay of £45.6/ when so much more benefit can be produced by distribution, and at least 5 persons would receive the benefit of £30 per annum, by such distribution. - beside; May not Cases of Emergency be fairly and properly left to Individual Lodges?

It may be objected that no allusion is made in our Estimate to any charge for Salaries &c The reason is obvious! As our plan would simplify the whole system of business and lessen the various useless details, we feel considerable assurance that the existing Establishment would be amply sufficient for all purposes aided by an efficient Committee of practical men of business, whose known intelligence and singleness of purpose, combined with habits of detail, and sufficient experience in the duties to be fulfilled - Will sufficiently guarantee to the Craft - that, a fountain of blessing to thousands yet unborn is about to be opened worthy Masonic fame, and not unworthy the happy combination of circumstances which enables the common family of Masons to direct their efforts in this work of Mercy and Love under the Illustrious name which has shed so bright an example upon the Fraternity for so many years.



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*Incumbent of the Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton; Domestic Chaplain to the Right Hon. Lord Kensington; D.P.G.M. for Lincolnshire; Corresponding Member of the Society of Antiquaries, Scotland.*

—Præcul, ô præcul este profani,  
Conclamat vates, totoque absistite luco.

EN. V. v. 258.

LONDON: Printed and Published by Brother R. SPENCER, Bookseller and Librarian,  
314, High Holborn.

R. SPENCER,

Begs to call the attention of the Craft to the republication of the above Work; which is extremely valuable to the Brethren who are desirous of investigating the philosophy of Masonry. It has long been a desideratum to the fraternity, and its worth has been unequivocally decided by the universal demand which so rapidly exhausted the former Edition. It is a work which is frequently quoted, but has long been out of the reach of the ordinary purchaser. As a specimen of combined talent, learning, and deep research, it has been termed a literary curiosity; and its disappearance has been deeply regretted.

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Under these circumstances, applications have been repeatedly made to the Rev. Author, to allow a new edition to be printed. And Brother Spencer has now the pleasure to inform the Masonic Public, that Dr. Oliver has at length been induced to undertake a thorough revision of the work. The arrangement will be entirely new; and it will be so modified as to correspond with his former popular volume of Signs and Symbols, and the forthcoming work on the Theocratic Philosophy of Freemasonry; and without omitting any important portion of the original, he will so re-model the materials, as to comprise the whole Text and Notes, with the addition of several sheets of entire new matter (the results of his extended reading) in Twelve Lectures, which will tend to illustrate more clearly the nature and design of the ancient initiations.

In this edition no expense will be spared to render it worthy the acceptance of the Craft. Added to a superior type and paper, the binding will be decorated with masonic tooling in the first style of the art. And the publisher begs leave to announce that it is his intention to strike off a limited number of copies on royal paper, which may not be unworthy of introduction into the libraries of our noble and wealthy Brethren, who may be desirous of honouring with their patronage, a subject of surpassing interest with the Freemasons of the present day.

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Many other testimonies were contained in the Provincial Newspapers and Periodicals of the day.

[TURN OVER.]



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IN THE PRESS

# HISTORY OF FREE-MASONRY, FROM 1829 to 1840.

BROTHER SPENCER begs further to announce that he has made arrangements with the Rev. Dr. Oliver, who edited the *fourteenth* edition of "Preston's Illustrations of Masonry," for a History of the Craft from the closing period of that volume to the present time.

As a new edition of that celebrated work has just made its appearance without any continuation of the History; it is anticipated that this design will be peculiarly acceptable to the Craft, as it embraces a period of more than common interest;—a period of stirring energy, which has produced incidents and transactions in every quarter of the globe, that have placed Freemasonry before the public in a new and imposing form.

The "Illustrations" of Preston, though embracing a fund of information on the general usages of the order, are chiefly valuable for the comprehensive Historical Account of Freemasonry in England, which occupies the better portion of the volume. This History, in the present edition, is incomplete; because it is divested of those important facts which have occurred during a season when associations for the general advancement of science have formed a distinguishing feature in the moral economy of society; and Freemasonry, having been submitted to the ordeal of scientific investigation, has acquired additional value from the test. During the last ten years Freemasonry has become firmly established, in public opinion, as a science of benevolence and usefulness. It has attracted the notice, and received the commendation of good and worthy men in all classes of the community; its benevolent institutions have been augmented; its resources increased; and its general utility indubitably confirmed. Great public questions have been resolved; and the provinces have recruited their strength, and promoted its interests with all their energy and all their zeal. Philosophy has become the object of Masonic research; and moral worth, the test of introduction to the sacred floor of a Mason's Lodge. In a word, a great and beneficial change "has come over the spirit" of the Order, and many invaluable benefits will undoubtedly result from the noble designs and moral lessons accomplished by the Craft, during the times in which we live.

Under these circumstances, so interesting and so momentous to every class of free and accepted Masons, a faithful record of events cannot fail to be highly acceptable. And Brother SPENCER rests confidently assured that the established reputation of the Author, as a literary character, a man, and a Mason, will be considered a sufficient guarantee by the brethren that the undertaking will be executed with fidelity as to the facts, and impartiality as to the inferences and conclusions. It will be printed in duodecimo for the accommodation of those who are in possession of the *fourteenth* or *fifteenth* edition of Preston; with which it may either be bound up, or serve as a separate book of reference for the period whose history and transactions it is intended to exemplify.

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Orders received for these Works by all Booksellers, also by addressing, post paid, (accompanied by a remittance) to Brother R. SPENCER, Masonic Library, 314, High Holborn, and Brother F. CREW, Bookseller, 27, Lamb's Conduit Street.

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