

Copy

Dorset Hall, Bridport

Dorset, 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1879.

R. W. Brother H. C. Vernon P. P. G. M.

My dear Brother Vernon

You asked me when we last met how we managed in Dorsetshire to obtain so many votes and to carry so many local candidates. -

We have at present in the Girls' School five Dorset Girls, in the Boys' School, seven Dorset Boys, male pensioners, five Dorset masons, widows &c., Three widows of Dorset masons, Twenty neighbours Dorsetshire people ~~are~~ reaping the benefit of organisation and shoulder to shoulder work. -

I now reply that some years ago I started a masonic Charities Committee in the province consisting of a member from every Lodge in the province with the P. G. M. D. P. G. M. and the P. G. Secy. ex-officio members. -

we meet at least  
twice

The duty of this Committee is to meet as often as necessary, but always once a year to consider the cases that should be supported; to issue Circulars to all Masonic bodies and Charity Subscribers in the province soliciting their support to the chosen cases. This Committee I need not tell you work admirably, but what has created perhaps the most telling interest among the Lodge was the following By-Law which I got added to the P. G. Lodge By-Laws namely "That the Lodge which in each year received the P. Grand Lodge should out of its Prov. Grand Lodge funds have its donation to any one or all of the Masonic Charities, Girls' School, Boys' School, or Benevolent Institution, doubled up to Ten Guineas i. e. if the Lodge gave Five Guineas then the P. G. L. added Five more and so on up to Ten Guineas, thus the Lodge by giving

Ten Guineas became a life Governor  
with Twenty Guineas to its credit. —

I have found this scheme act  
so well that finding my Province  
when I became its D.P.G.M. with  
under 100 Votes all told - I left it  
with more than fourteen hundred.

I also advised and have got  
carried out in some Lodges that  
after every Masonic Supper or Dinner  
the Alms Box be sent round to collect  
the pence. — At the end of the  
year the Box is opened and the  
W.M. for the year asked to make  
up the deficiency to obtain a Life  
Subscription to one of the Charities  
for himself (the W.M.). Sometimes  
the Lodge has voted the necessary  
sum to make up the deficiency. —  
The St. Mary's Lodge Bridport did  
that last year and will do the  
same this year. —

I also recommended each  
Lodge to choose from among its  
Past Masters every year, or continue  
the same on in office, a Charity

Sheward, not to go up to any  
Festival, but to seize every fitting  
opportunity for pressing the cause  
of the Masonic Charities among  
the Brethren of his Lodge.

It must be understood that  
no Candidate other than the one  
chosen by the Charities Committee  
should be supported by the Lodges  
& in the Province, but individual  
Subscribers, though names should  
only be invited to support the  
Provincial Candidate.

I remain

Yours faithfully & paternally

(Signed) J. M. P. Montague

P. G. Deacon

Grand Superintendent

for Dorset