

Leswell Terrace

Kidderminster

March 14 1879



Dear Bro Bristol

The idea of a second Lodge for Kidderminster is not new, it has been talked of for the last three or four years. The fact is we have many brethren anxious for office and according to the usual state of things the W M finds he has only one or two offices at his disposal, the consequence is ~~it~~ we have six or seven who are disappointed. Of late years the Vernon has served as our safety valve. Kidderminster men have gone there and got appointments but it has been said "why

should we prop up the Vernon?  
Why should we not have another  
Lodge in Kidd? I have all  
along opposed the idea, for this  
reason, I feared a Black House  
Lodge and a Lion Lodge, and  
that they might work against  
each other, which would make  
it bad for Masonry, but  
since there has been a likelihood  
of a Masonic Hall, it has  
placed matters on quite a  
different footing. For I  
think if we get a Hall &  
Club, a second Lodge would  
work well, and we might have  
a hundred Masons here instead  
of fifty, but as to its being  
of a different class, that is  
all bosh - we have now about  
7 Manuf<sup>rs</sup> 6 Tradesmen 4  
Solicitors 4 Designers 2 Drysalter  
3 Com: Travellers. 1 Licensed Vic

2 Architects / Surveyor / Builder  
3 accountants - 4 agents 2 Professors  
of music; <sup>and so on</sup> so you see the various  
allies of men are duly represented  
we are at present without a medical  
man (oh they pardon) we have a  
dentist ~~and~~ we have no parson  
but we can't compel them to  
come in, and we doubt all them  
now considering what Providence  
is. How can you have a Lodge  
of a different class - if a  
Manufacturer won't meet a  
Trade man in a Lodge, it too  
frequently happens that he is  
ashamed to, and so in the case  
of others that he has dealings  
with. Then again some neglect  
their Masonic duties, because  
it brings in no grist - neither  
do their names appear in the  
Newspapers, I know several  
who cannot possibly find time

For Lodge, who can find time  
to be Chairman of a Working  
Man's Club Courival - their  
names, appear in the paper &  
they are most benevolent men  
the same will appear in sub-  
lists, but for a Masonic Charity  
they have nothing to spare -  
some again having gained the  
purple - walk no more with you.  
but in spite of all this a  
second Lodge will, in time, do  
no harm - but I shall strongly  
oppose any hole and corner  
business, I have said over &  
over again, whatever steps are  
taken in the matter it must  
be done in open Lodge, and  
must be unanimous - I  
quietly asked Bro Taylor - who  
he thought was going to form  
the new Lodge, as he told me  
on Monday that he had



written to Sir Edmund, (of course  
I kept your letter a secret &  
shall do so) and he said that  
"he had not mentioned  
the subject to any one but  
myself" so you see the superior  
class is at present a myth.

Bro Taylor is very ambitious.  
we don't know what a few  
months more may bring forth  
but it shall all be done  
openly or not at all.

Now onto the Charities.

I don't think you can  
blame Bro Taylor (neither do  
you I know) because he took  
up the matter first, and

is giving out of his own pocket ten guineas to each of the Charities, besides his expenses, he has written a very excellent report of his late visit, we are having it printed, you shall have some copies, and I have ~~no~~ no doubt but it will make many feel an interest in the matter. Who have not done so hitherto, we are bound to see him thro' with at this year, and I feel certain none of us will begrudge him his Charity Jewel. we assisted Rev Griffiths twice, (and I think since then the Province has not been represented)

and I am sure it would have  
given us pleasure to have swelled  
your list, but it is too late  
now, we have formed a  
permanent "Board of  
Benevolence" to work for the  
charities in future. I have  
our girls votes to send you  
I suppose you will continue  
your efforts for little Brooks  
we shall want your help by  
and bye for a son of Mrs  
Stranger, I think - Now I hope  
you are not tired out with  
this long letter, I should so like  
a chance to chat over these  
matters with you, and hope  
we may soon meet, conce  
over to us on the last Monday  
of this month you will be  
heartily welcome - in the

meantime

I remain

Yours truly & fraternally  
James Fitzgerald

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PROVINCE OF WORCESTER.

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

William Bristow, P.P.S.G.W.,  
Grand Secretary.

HORSLEY HEATH,  
TIPTON,

Mar: 15<sup>th</sup> 1877

Dear Sir: I master

I beg leave to enclose  
Letter recd. by me from Bro  
Fitzgerald M. Secretary  
of the Hope & Charity Lodge  
Kidderminster in reply to  
mine asking in confidence  
for information respecting  
the proposed new Lodge. —

I shall be happy to make  
further Enquiries either personally  
or otherwise when a formal  
petition has been sent to you  
if you deem it necessary.

Yours Very truly  
Wm Bristow: M.

For E. A. H. Lechmere Bart  
Rw psm - MP

more see

2015/21.17

Kidderminster,

Feb 12 1887.

R. W. Sir

I have given dated  
10th and 11th.

I very much regret your  
probable absence on Thursday.

It is so important it sh<sup>d</sup>.  
be as official as possible,  
and receive all the prestige  
of your personal attention.

But I see it cannot be  
helped, so we must do  
the best we can —

The Committee should  
certainly embrace a selection

of other well known, and  
influential brethren in  
the province, and before  
the day I will prepare a  
list such as will be  
thoroughly represent ative.

2 I shall be glad of your  
kind officis in drawing up  
the circulars. Like a good  
many other people who  
promise, those who have  
promised me information re  
Bro Bristow's services, have  
evidently thought no more  
about it. I shall however  
in a day or two, I trust,  
be in a position to place  
such before you —

3 - In the Gloucestershire  
case, there were 3 Counties  
General County  
Central County for collecting the  
Sub-Counties of the D.P. Gen  
P. of Treas & Secy Inst. Fund.

Our best way will be perhaps  
to form a large General County  
Then a Central County consisting  
of the W.M. & Secy of each Lodge  
& acting P. of Officers -

Then a sub-County consisting  
of yourself, D.P. Gen, P. of Treas<sup>ry</sup>,  
& the Secy of Inst<sup>l</sup> Fund  
to act in the after, and  
more delicate proceedings of  
the form of Inst<sup>l</sup> Fund to -

I will send you  
sketch of the proceedings  
as I understand them  
in a post or two, for  
your correction

Yours truly  
George Bayly

Sir E. A. Schouler Bart M.P.

It would perhaps be well to  
make the Treasurer of each Lodge  
temporary Treasurer, for transmitting  
sums collected - and I presume  
the P. G. Treasurers had better be  
proposed as Treasurer of the  
Fund generally?

Freemasons' Hall, London W.C.

18 March 1880

Rev. Sir & Companion,

I have the honor to inform you that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been pleased to appoint you to the vacant Office of Grand Superintendent of the Grand Lodge of Freemasonry for the Province of Worcester - and that you present will be prepared accordingly.

It will be necessary however that you should become an Installed 1st. Principal of a private Chapter before you can assume the duties of your Office - and I beg that I may be informed when such takes place.

Yours truly &c. &c. &c.

Compt.  
Edmund Lechmere  
Barr.

Yours paternally  
Shadwell T. Clarke  
G. S. S.

Dec. 8/3.  
Wrote 8/3 to my  
brother that he should  
not consider the  
honour of the name  
as that of the  
country again in a few days



Summerdyne Villa,  
Kidderminster.

Mar 6 1879.

Right Worshipful Sir

In a little  
time I shall be troubling  
you with a further letter  
but in the meantime I  
write a line to say that  
I am taking steps to  
found another Lodge in  
Kidderminster, and with  
such a body of preliminary  
members as will commend  
it to your favour and  
ensure its high standing

and success.

It would be composed of  
brethren in the very best  
position, and intended  
to meet the ideas of  
many who wish to be  
more exclusive.

The Communication I shall  
supplement with a prayer  
that you will permit  
the new Lodge to bear  
your honoured name, and  
it is to anticipate any  
application of the same  
nature from elsewhere,  
that I now ask such  
permission.



A line from you at your  
early convenience; saying  
if I may count upon this  
would guide me, and  
very much favour

Yours obediently  
& faithfully  
George Taylor  
P. S. O.

Sir East. Bechmore Bart.  
P. S. M. Worcester  
to the

---



Certain

and

Important Division

On Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> the Borough  
Franchise (Ireland) Bill stands for 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Reading. A Division of the greatest  
importance is certain, and your  
attendance is most urgently requested.

H. Hart Dyke.

Freemasons' Hall, London W.C.

12 Feb'y 1879

Dear Sir and R.W. Brother

I think a Provincial Grand  
Master would be quite justified in requesting  
the attendance of the D. & Officers, in their individual  
capacity, at the funeral of any esteemed Brother  
whom he might think fit thus to honour.

There would be no objection  
to their walking in the order of precedence  
of their lodges.

Provincial Grand Masters have  
however full power to grant dispensations for  
Brethren to appear at funerals in Masonic

Clotting if they think fit to do so, see Cons<sup>d</sup>.

Page 94. Art<sup>d</sup>. 243

I enclose a Circular which explains the form of mourning worn for the Earl of Zetland. The period for which it would be worn, would depend in some degree upon the Masonic Rank of the Brother.

With regard to the small Edition of the Book of Constitutions, you may safely rely upon it, it is Page for Page, and word for word identical with the larger edition.

I am dear Sir & R<sup>W</sup> Brother

Yours truly & fraternally

Sir Edw<sup>d</sup> A. M. Lechmere Bart M<sup>D</sup> John Mervin

R<sup>W</sup>P Grand Master of Worcester

Yr

Yr

Yr

P.S. Return Mr. Taylor's letter, of  
which I have taken copy

W.B.

PROVINCE OF WORCESTER.

GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

William Bristow, P.P.S.G.W.,  
Grand Secretary.

HORSLEY HEATH,

TIPTON,

Mar: 10 1879.

Dear Bro: G Master

I am in rec. of yours of  
the 9<sup>th</sup> and will see the  
D.P.G.M. and we will make  
enquiries respecting the desirability  
of the proposed new lodge at  
Kidderminster. - The Hope &  
Charity Lodge 277 had according  
to the last Return 749 members  
and when Bro. Mansfield and  
myself last visited them they  
were working very well - Bro  
Fitzgerald P.M. is a good working  
mason and takes great interest  
in that lodge. -

Many years ago the Royal

Standard Lodge 498 (then 730)  
was removed from Kilderminster  
to Dudley and the idea then  
was to make it somewhat an  
exclusive lodge at Dudley, but  
it did not answer. — I don't  
like exclusive lodges and think  
every lodge should be sufficiently  
particular as to the admission  
of members to render such a  
term unnecessary. — Brother  
Taylor has lately been very  
zealous and enthusiastic in  
masonry. I hope as the proverb  
says he will not be "too hot  
to hold". —

I am afraid it will have  
the effect of withdrawing some  
members from the Stope of Charity  
Lodge but I will make enquiries.

There cannot of course be the same objection as excited with regard to the proposed Lodge at Selly Oak. -

Apropos of that I forwarded your letter to Bro. Boocock the same day I received it. - I put it in an envelope and addressed it to his place of business 16. Bennett's Hill, Birm. and marked it "private". - I should not be likely to hear from him respecting it, as he would not know it had passed through my hands except by inference from the postmark. -

I saw the prov: G. Secretary of Warwickshire, Bro. Beech, on Thursday last and I told him that you had declined to recommend

the Lodge and he was glad to hear it. -

Had he not received the letter it would have come back through the post office.

Bro: Taylor intends acting as a Steward at the approaching Festival of the Boys' School - I am rather sorry for that as he will somewhat spoil my list and I am afraid not have a very large one himself. - I have already subscriptions promised to the amount of £246. 15. 0 and hope to be able to make it up to £300. - The Worcester Lodge have not yet shown any disposition to help me. I remain

Dear Bro. G. Warner

Yours very faithfully & truly

D. Bristol: W.

Warrior  
Bro. G. See

Sir E. A. St. Lechmere Bart M.P.  
R.W.P. G.M.



6<sup>th</sup> May. 1884.

Private



43, PORTMAN SQUARE.

Dear Sir Edmund Schumers

I propose myself to move  
a Resolution on the subject of  
your letter in the June Grand  
Lodge. It is an important  
question & after consideration  
it has seemed to me right  
that the initiative should  
proceed from the Chair.



Please to excuse my writing by  
 another hand it is the only means  
 of giving you an early answer

Believe me

Yours very truly

Camacron

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38 Portman Square  
5<sup>th</sup> May

9/15/84.  
Dear Sir Edmund,

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, by  
the kindness of the Mark  
Masons of England, I  
am to be enthroned as  
their grand Master. I  
cannot support the dignity  
alone. I am proud to

say that by own desire  
and the generally expressed  
wish of the Brethren coincide  
that you should be offered  
the appointment of Deputy  
Grand Master. If you will  
accept this from us you  
will be conferring an honour  
on all Mark Masons.

I trust for  
Hinton

12, Bolton Row,

May Fair,

London, W.

May 7.<sup>h</sup> 1884

My dear Lord Curzon,  
You have no doubt read the  
Encyclical letter of the Pope  
directed against Freemasonry,  
the full text of which appears  
in the Tablet of last week  
(Apr. 26<sup>h</sup>) -

It is no doubt mainly  
directed against the Grand  
Orient of France, &  
especially the Continental

no. 2. not 10. 2.  
1817 737

Systems of Freemasonry which  
have, like the French  
Freemasons identified them-  
selves with the prevailing  
spirit of irreligion, & a  
repudiation of Divine  
revelation, but it would  
appear very desirable  
that ~~any~~ <sup>some</sup> steps shd. be  
taken by the Freemasons  
of England to protest-

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if or they are concerned  
against the imputations in  
which they are apparently  
involved, and from which  
they are so entirely free.

Do you propose to bring  
the Subject in any way  
before ~~the~~ Grand Lodge  
with a view to some  
representations being  
made to the English  
Or Cautioners for any

inquiry to the Pope -

Believe me

Yours very truly

Edward St John

I am very sorry that I  
shall be unable to be  
with you at Peterborough  
as I am engaged to  
consecrate a New  
Lodge in Worcester-shire  
tomorrow -