



GRAND MASONIC BANQUET, AT RUGBY, TO GENERAL SIR CHARLES NAPEL, G.O.B.—DRINKING THE GENERAL'S HEALTH.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

GRAND MASONIC BANQUET AT RUGBY, TO GENERAL SIR CHARLES NAPIER, G.C.B.

On Monday, the 14th inst., a grand entertainment was given by the Freemasons of the Lodge of Rectitude, No. 739, Rugby, to General Sir Charles James Napier, G.C.B., late Commander-in-Chief in India.

The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire (Earl Howe, G.C.K.) having called a Grand Lodge on the occasion, it was attended by a large and influential body of Masons from this and most of the other provinces in the kingdom.

The Lodge was held at the George Hotel, when Earl Howe, after expressing the deep regret he felt at the absence of the principal guest, read a letter from Sir Charles, lamenting his inability to attend owing to a severe relapse of a dangerous illness, and enclosing a note from his physician, which was also read, which cast an unforseen gloom upon a meeting that promised to have been one of the most interesting events of its kind.

After lodge, the brethren walked in procession to the field belonging to Brother Bingham, of the College of the *Imai* and Dumb, W. M. of the Lodge of Rectitude, where the banquet was provided in the celebrated Indian tent belonging to Brother Russell, of Leamington, by Mr. and Mrs. Blinks, of the George and Eagle hotels. The whole was served in sumptuous and elegant taste, and gave general satisfaction.

The chair was taken by the W. Pr. J. W. Broughton Leigh, D.P.G.M., Warwickshire, and P. M. of the Lodge of Rectitude, who was supported by the Earl Howe, P.G.M.; Sir Frederick Fowke, P.G.M., Leicestershire; Br. R. J. Solers, Grand Sword-bearer of England; General Hunter, the Hon. Major Xavier, the Hon. C. L. Butler, Captain Hort (4th Regiment), and C. W. Delsernurdy, Esq., D.P.G.M., Monmouth, &c.

The toast of the evening was proposed by the Chairman, in a most interesting speech, in which he graphically detailed the leading features of Sir Charles Napier's eventful life. It is needless to say, that, notwithstanding the great and unfeigned regret for the unfortunate absence of that gallant General, the toast was received most enthusiastically with military honours, which were led by Brother Machin, of Birmingham. Several other toasts were also given, and the proceedings were further enlivened by the excellent band of the 4th regiment, which was kindly granted by Colonel Gald. During the evening Messrs. Carpenter and Ransford, senior and junior, sang several songs, duets, and glees. Altogether the meeting was a happy one; and although its main intention was frustrated by the absence of their distinguished guest, the Lodge of Rectitude may congratulate themselves on being the promoters of such a gathering, which we trust will not be the last of its kind.