

Lincolnshire Antiquarian, Nov. 26. 1839. -

FREEMASONRY.

A Provincial Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons was held in the Doric Lodge at Grantham, on Thursday last, - presided the Rev. G. Oliver, D. D., Deputy Provincial Grand Master - when the following Provincial Grand Officers for Lincolnshire were appointed - Sir E. F. Bromhead, Bart. P. G. Senior Warden. Brother J. Wood, P. G. Junior Warden. Brother W. Walker (Spilshay) re-elected P. G. Treasurer. Brother Goddard, P. G. Secretary. Brother Tuxford, P. G. Senior Deacon. Brother Lansdale, P. G. Junior Deacon. Brothers Moore, Wilkinson, Mallin, Dalton, Evans and Woodward, P. G. Stewards. Brother Langwith, P. G. Architect. Brother Howell, P. G. Tyler. Brother Williamson re-appointed P. G. Director of Ceremonies.

Arrangements had been made for a procession to church, in full masonic costume, but the very unfavourable state of the weather prevented the fulfilment of that intention, to the evident disappointment of thousands of persons (some of whom had come from considerable distances) who had assembled for the occasion. The brethren, however, proceeded to church, where a truly beautiful and impressive sermon was delivered by the Rev. G. Oliver, D. D., who eloquently enlarged on the antiquity and excellences of the order, the faithful practice of the precepts of which is calculated to advance and improve Masons in every moral and social virtue. We have much pleasure in adding that the Rev. Doctor's excellent and interesting sermon will, at the earnest desire of the brethren, be printed. The following Anthem, composed expressly for the occasion, by Brother Dixon, the talented Organist of Grantham, were admirably sung by the Choir:-

ANTHEM I.

AFTER THE SECOND LESSON.

"Behold how good and joyful a thing it is, Brethren to dwell in Unity; it is like the precious Ointment upon the Head, that ran down unto the Beard, even unto Aaron's Beard, and went down unto the skirts of his clothing; like as the dew of Hermon which fell upon the Hill of Zion; for there the Lord promised his blessing, and life for evermore."

ANTHEM II.

BEFORE THE SERMON.

Recitative.

"Let there be light!" the Almighty spake,
Beauteous streams from chaos broke
To blaze the rising path!

Well pleased the Great Jehovah stood -
The Power Supreme pronounced it good,
And gave the planets birth!

Chorus.

In choral numbers voices join,
To bless and praise this light divine.

Trio.

Fount of light! accept our praise!
Who shedd'st on us - the brightest rays,
The light that fills the mind -
By choice selected, let us stand,
By friendship join'd a social band!
That love - that aid maintain!

Chorus - In choral numbers, let

Scusi-chuave.

The Willow's tear - the orphan's cry -
All wants - our ready hands supply,
As far as power is given!

The naked shawl - the prisoner's free -
These are the works, sweet charity!
Reveal'd to us from Heaven!

Chorus - In choral numbers, let

Divine Service concluded the brethren returned to the Lodge, and the masonic business of the province was transacted, a most impressive charge being delivered by the V. G. M. Thanks were voted to the Rev. W. Potbott, for the use of the church; to the Rev. Mr. Crick, for reading prayers; to Dr. Oliver, for his admirable sermon; to the Organist of the Doric Lodge, for the use of the Town Hall; to Brother Dixon, for the musical services of the day; to the W. M. and Brethren of the Doric Lodge for their arrangements for the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge; and to Bro. Crucefix, M. D., Past Grand Deacon, of London, for his clear and very satisfactory explanation relative to the aged and Decayed Freemasons' Charity.

The Lodge being duly closed the brethren proceeded to masonic customs to the Town Hall, where a sumptuous dinner was provided; the chair was taken by the D. P. G. M., supported on his right by Dr. Crucefix, and on his left by Sir E. F. Bromhead, Bart.; the S. W. chair was filled by Brother Turner, whose speech has left the ancient history of the craft no well known, and highly appreciated by every worthy Mason. The toast being drawn, the W. M. gave the health of the Queen, who was the daughter of a Mason, and who, as the Sovereign of this kingdom, was entitled to the respect and support of all good Masons, (loud applause.)

Brother Sir E. F. Bromhead, being anxious that the health of the Queen should be drunk with masonic honours, begged to give, as a toast, "the Queen and the Craft," which was drunk with full masonic honours.

The next toast was his Royal Highness the Duke of Saxony, Grand Master of the Order, who, it was for some time hoped, would have been enabled to attend this festival. It is almost unnecessary to add that this toast was received with applause and drunk with the honours.

The W. M. then gave the health of the Right Hon. C. T. D'Erington, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who had expressed much regret at being unavoidably absent on that occasion. (Drank with the usual honours.)

Brother Sir E. F. Bromhead next proposed the health of Brother Oliver, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, of whom he spoke in terms of well-deserved eulogy, the justice of which was proved by the enthusiastic applause with which the toast was received, and the energy with which the honours were given.

The D. P. G. M., in returning thanks, enlarged, in glowing language, on the beauties of masonry, and on the grand and sublime character of many of its mysteries. In conclusion he gave the health of a highly respected Brother, Dr. Crucefix, who had honoured them with his company, and whose unwearied exertions in the cause of Charity were known, not only throughout England, but in the East and West Indies, and indeed wherever Masonry was practiced. This toast was received with warm applause and was drunk with all the honours.

Brother Crucefix, in returning thanks, adverted to the Asylum for aged and decaying Freemasons, and explained, not only the great benefits derivable therefrom, but the excellent rules laid down for the management of the institution. He earnestly appealed to those who had the means to practice the noblest virtue of Charity, and thus to cheer the joyous days of those brethren who were suffering from adversity. The eloquent address of Brother Crucefix was listened to throughout with the utmost interest, and at its conclusion the brethren testified their approbation by warm applause. Before sitting down Brother Crucefix proposed the health of the P. G. S. W. Sir E. F. Bromhead, which was drunk with all the honours.

Sir E. F. Bromhead returned thanks, and proposed the health of the rest of the P. G. Officers.

Brother Tuxford, P. G. S. D., for himself and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers, acknowledged the compliment paid to them.

Brother Nicholson proposed the health of Brother Turner, who briefly returned thanks, and in conclusion gave as a toast, "Masonry in general, and the Masons of Lincolnshire in particular."

The W. M. then gave the health of the Past P. G. Officers, for which Brother Nicholson, Past P. G. Architect, returned thanks in a neat speech.

The W. M., after some complimentary remarks, gave "the W. M. and Brethren of the Witham Lodge," for which Brother Goddard returned thanks.

The W. M. next gave "the W. M. and Brethren of the Lodge of Harmony," and expressed his gratification at the improvement which had taken place in their lodge.

Brother Adams returned thanks. The health of the W. M. and Brethren of the Doric Lodge followed, and thanks were returned to a neat and appropriate speech by Brother Wood.

A similar compliment was paid (and duly responded to) to the Trent Lodge, and also to the Stalagmore Lodge. Brother Crucefix then gave "the Ladies," a toast which was always drunk by Masons with the utmost enthusiasm. The worthy Brother adverted, in eloquent terms, to the important duties of woman, to the successful characters of maid, wife and mother, and on the imperative duty of man to repay by benevolence kindness and protection the obligations conferred in infancy, in manhood and in old age. After this toast had been drunk, the W. M. quitted the chair, and, accompanied by Sir E. F. Bromhead, Dr. Crucefix, &c. left the room amidst enthusiastic applause. It is due to the Brethren of the Doric Lodge to say that they exerted themselves to the utmost to promote the comfort and enjoyment of the visiting brethren, who were much gratified by the accommodations provided for them. The ceremonial arrangements were exceedingly well conducted by Brother Williamson, the P. G. Director of Ceremonies.