

JANUARY 1958

Wednesday 1

(1-364)

A

DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
TOWN AND COUNTY  
OF  
**NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,**  
INCLUDING THE  
BOROUGH OF GATESHEAD

—♦—  
VOLUME II.  
—♦—

BY F. MACKENZIE,

AUTHOR OF THE HISTORY OF EGYPT, AND EDITOR OF THE HISTORY OF NORTHUMBERLAND, MODERN  
GEOGRAPHY, SELECT GEOGRAPHY, LIFE OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, &c.

—♦♦♦♦♦—  
Newcastle upon Tyne:

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and by most of the principal Booksellers in the North of England.

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1827.

lasted until the year 1806. Mr. W. Macready,\* his successor, continued in the management to the year 1818; when the merry, laughter-loving Mr. Vincent De Camp succeeded. Mr. W. Nicholson, the present manager, commenced his career in Newcastle on December 3, 1824, with the comedy of the *School for Scandal*, and the farce of *Of Age To-morrow*. His economical habits, punctuality, and unassuming manners, combined with the spirited and generous policy of his management, have gained him general esteem; and it is said that, notwithstanding the pressure of the times, the present is the first year that the theatre has been clear of debt since its first erection. Newcastle can boast of having been a famous nursery for dramatic genius. W. C. Macready, when a boy, ventured upon the Newcastle stage. Listen first tried both his *tragic* and comic powers here; Emery was disciplined on our boards; Munden acquired much of his theatric education in this town; Terry is an old favourite; Egerton first shone a star in our theatrical horizon; here, too, H. Siddons made his *debut*; and here Charles Kemble came for improvement. Our theatrical corps also possessed Faulkner of the Haymarket, and Lee of the *Adelphi*. Here likewise Mr. Pearman was first elevated to the station of a leading vocalist. Many females of merit have also been suckled in our dramatic nursery whose histrionic talents will be recorded in the history of the stage.†

A *Circus*, or *Amphitheatre*, was erected at the Forum in 1780, under the direction of Mr. D. Stephenson, architect. It was opened on the 20th of October that year, by Messrs. Jones and Parker, equestrians, from London. This speculation in a short time was abandoned, and the building has since been used for a variety of purposes. During late years, it has been mostly used as a riding school, and occasionally for the exhibition of horsemanship and pantomimes.

### MASONIC LODGES.

A Masonic Lodge existed in Newcastle at an early period.‡ The records of *St. John's Lodge*, the first held under the Grand Lodge of England, commence in the

\* *William Macready* is a native of Dublin, where he was bred an upholsterer. After entering upon the stage, he contrived to please old Macklin, who procured him an engagement at Covent-garden, where he made his first appearance in *Patton* in 1786, his majesty being present. He afterwards became manager of the Royalty, and subsequently of the Newcastle, Birmingham, Sheffield, and Bristol theatres. He is author of the "*Bank Note*," a comedy, and two farces, called the "*Village Lawyer*" and the "*Irishman in London*;" but his claim to the former has been disputed. His wife, who was also an actress, died in 1804. One of his sons entered the army. Another, Charles William Macready, was designed, it is said, for the church; but circumstances induced him to fit on the sock and to strut in the buskin. Some imagine that he occupies the throne of dramatic supremacy.

† Master Betty, the Young Roscius' benefit, on September 9, 1805, amounted to £213, 9s.: boxes 5s. pit 3s. gallery 1s. 6d. This is the largest sum ever raised by a play in the Newcastle theatre.

‡ Free Masonry is sometimes traced up to Adam. Paine, Hutchinson, Clinch, and others, contend that it originated with the Egyptian priests. The Chevalier Ramsay argues that it arose during the Crusades.

year 1725. In 1730, the Brethren of this Lodge met in the Flesh Market, and ordered a play, called "The Committee," at the Moot-hall theatre. They afterwards assembled at various places until the year 1777, when they erected an elegant Masonic Hall in Low Friar Street. It contained an excellent organ, and two paintings by Bell; one representing St. John, the other a portrait of Mr. Francis Peacock, roper,

Barruel thinks it is a continuation of the Society of Knight Templars. Finch and Private assert that it was instituted by Oliver Cromwell. Professor Buhle attributes it to a hoax played off by a young man, between the years 1610 and 1614. Mounier confidently ascribes its invention to the English Jesuits. Others are satisfied that Masonry was made subservient to the interests of the Stuart family; first by Ashmole and other royalists during the civil wars, and subsequently, according to Professor Robison, by the Scotch Jacobins. This opinion seems to be in some degree confirmed by the "Degree of Scotch Masters," where a dagger is introduced, a traitor assassinated, and *revenge* is the pass-word. Falling in serving the Stuarts, it became, say some modern writers, under Weishaupt and other philosophers, an instrument by which it was intended to overturn all the thrones in Europe! Sir C. Wren, Preston, and Henry state, apparently on good authority, that Free Masons were originally moveable societies of architects and workmen, distributed into classes, every tenth man being called a *warden*, while a *master* in chief superintended the whole. They dwelt in huts near the building, and conversed by private signs. As money increased in value, they found it necessary to demand an increase of wages; but King Henry VI. made it a capital offence to belong to these "trade combinations."\* Still the operative Masons continued their union at Kilwinning in Scotland, at York, and in London; and Sir C. Wren was the last Grand Master of the English Masons. During the reign of Queen Ann, Masonic associations declined so rapidly, that the usual meetings were discontinued; but, in 1717, the four Lodges in London agreed to admit men of various professions, and to make new regulations. This once more raised Masonry in to notice and esteem; and, in 1723, the printing press was first called to its aid, and in its new character it was introduced into various countries, where it has gone on increasing.

The degrees of Masonry are, the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and the Master, including the Royal Arch. There are many other degrees, not recognized in 1813 by the Grand Lodge of England, viz. The degree of "Mark Mason,"—"Mark Master,"—"Architect,"—"Grand Architect,"—"Superintendent, or Scotch Master,"—"Secret Master,"—"Perfect Master,"—"Intimate Secretary,"—"Intendant of the Building, or Master in Israel,"—"Past Master,"—"Excellent Masons,"—"Super-excellent Masons,"—"Second Election of Nine,"—"Elect of Fifteen,"—"Priestly Order of Israel,"—"Provost and Judge, or Irish Master,"—"Grand Grand Master,"—"Order of Misraim,"—"Le Orion, or Egyptian Masonry,"—"No Whites, or Prussian Knights,"—"Sovereign Knights Elected,"—"Knights of the White Eagle or Pelican, or the Rosy Cross of St. Andrew,"—"Knights of the East,"—"Brothers of the Red Cross Sword of Babylon,"—"Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine." The Rosicrucians, or Knight Templars, is the *ne plus ultra* of Masonry. But this is not a proper place to enter into the *peculiarities* of these different degrees.

The usual officers of a regular Lodge are, the Worshipful Master, Past Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, a Senior and Junior Deacon, an Inner Guard, and a Tyler. The secrets consist of words, signs, and grips. The working part is composed of catechisms or lectures upon the merits, purposes, and ceremonies of Masonry. The interior of a Lodge consists of ornaments, furniture, and jewels. Jews, Turks, infidels, madmen, and women, are not permitted to enter a Scotch Lodge. The Irish Masons are very liberal; and the French Masons have improved on the ceremony of making a Master Mason. Finch has published much on Masonry; and Dr. Hamming and Mr. W. R. Wright, able masons, have remodelled his Masonic documents. There are few accomplished Free Masons in Newcastle.

\* There is a MS. in the Bodleian Library, said to be in the hand-writing of King Henry VI. containing an examination of a Free Mason. It was copied by Leland, and commented upon by Locke. It is said that as the Masons pretended to be masters of the Black Art, the terrified monarch granted them his protection. Sir Isaac Newton called Free Masonry "the Science of Sciences!!"

FREE GARDENERS.

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library-room of the Literary and Philosophical Society, in the Groat Market. But, since the union, the spirit of Masonry has greatly declined in Newcastle.

ORANGE LODGES.

An Orange Lodge, No. 69, was established in Newcastle in 1807, and which is now held at the Cock Inn, Head of the Side. It is governed by a Master, Deputy Master, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Committee of five members. His Royal Highness the late Duke of York was Patron of this fraternity; and the late Sir Thomas Burdon, Knt. was at one time Deputy Grand Master of the northern district. This "Loyal Orange Lodge" consists of above 700 members, of whom upwards of 200 compose a benefit society.

A member of this Lodge writes, "This is exclusively a Protestant association, whose object is to protect every loyal subject, of whatever religious persuasion he may be, from violence and oppression. We assume the name of King William the Third, Prince of Orange, whose glorious memory we will perpetually cherish, as the establisher of the true religion in this United Kingdom."

Another Orange Lodge, No. 74, was formed at Mr. Newton's, sign of the New Dolphin, in the Close, above two years ago. There is also attached to this Lodge a select benefit society, consisting of above 90 members.

FREE GARDENERS.

Anciently, men of almost every trade or mystery of any consequence had some peculiar sign and password. Hence, a Scotch Gardener, by a motion, could instantly discover whether a stranger had entered the profession regularly. This simple sign of recognition received some additions, and, being in late times engrafted upon Free Masonry, and formed into a system of degrees, is now known by the name of *Free Gardenry*.

The *St. Michael Pine-apple Lodge of Free Gardeners*, in Newcastle, was first formed in 1812, by warrant from the *St. George's Lodge* of North Shields, which derived its existence from a Lodge composed of soldiers belonging to the Forfar regiment of militia. This Lodge, which is numerous, meets at the Nag's Head, in the Old Flesh Market. *Solomon's Lodge of Free Gardeners*, which assemble at the sign of the Angel, in the Butcher Bank, was instituted in 1822, by warrant from the *Venerable Bede's Lodge* at South Shields.

The *Melon Lodge of Free Gardeners*, in Gateshead, was formed on February 8, 1813, by warrant from the *St. Michael Pine-apple Lodge* of Newcastle, with the approbation of the *Old Adam Lodge* at Sunderland.

The *internal trade* of Newcastle is very valuable and extensive, owing to the numerous and populous villages in the neighbourhood, which are chiefly supplied from this town. The great number of carts which arrive daily for goods, from the more distant parts of the country, shew the extent and importance of that branch of traffic; and the crowd and bustle which are exhibited on market-days, in many of the principal streets, often remind strangers of some of the most frequented passages in the city of London.

In 1823, which was the year before the repeal of the act for the inspection of raw hides and skins, the following was the inspector's return for Newcastle for that year: 4989 hides, 3563 calf skins, and 62,292 sheep and lamb skins; which gives for every week's consumption, 96 bullocks, 68½ calves, and about 1198 sheep and lambs. But this forms a very imperfect data for calculating the numbers killed, as a great part of the hides and skins were sent to Morpeth and elsewhere to be inspected. In 1811, it was calculated that, in Newcastle and Gateshead, the average weekly consumption was 300 oxen, &c. and 3000 sheep and lambs. Since that time, the population has increased; but the wages of the people engaged in the coal-works and in keels have been much diminished, while the number of country butchers has been rapidly increasing, so that the sales of butchers in the town cannot now be estimated so high as formerly.

The number of *inns* and *public houses* in Newcastle and Gateshead is given in the account of the beer-trade. The principal ones as posting houses are, Mr. Dodsworth's, Queen's Head, Pilgrim Street, a highly respectable establishment; Mr. Fletcher's, Turk's Head, Bigg Market, which is a very commodious, well-conducted house, and has the largest public room in town attached to it. Mr. Park's, Crown and Thistle, Groat Market, is much frequented by commercial gentlemen. Mr. Taylor's, George Inn, Pilgrim Street, is also a traveller's house, and is often used for bankrupt meetings, &c. Mr. Miller's, Half Moon Inn, Bigg Market, affords very good accommodations to travellers, and is likewise the resort of many respectable farmers on market-days. Richardson's, Three Indian Kings, Quayside, is a convenient house for gentlemen concerned with the trade and shipping of the port. Lough's, Turf Hotel, Collingwood Street is chiefly used for the accommodation of travellers by the numerous coaches that run to and from this house, and is one of the largest and best hotels of the kind in any provincial town of the kingdom. It would be uninteresting to enumerate all the inns in the town: but Dixon's, White Hart, Old Flesh Market; Richardson's, Rose and Crown, Bigg Market; Reed's, the Sun, Nun's-gate; Wallace's, Nag's Head, Butcher Bank; and Lowes', Fox and Lamb, Pilgrim Street, are all respectable, well-frequented inns. There are no *coffee-houses* in Newcastle, those so called being properly news-rooms, devoted to the use of their respective subscribers, or to such strangers as they introduce. This defect in our public establishments seems almost unaccountable, when we consider the convenience of coffee-houses to the inhabitants of a populous town, and the support they would consequently ensure.

There are, it is estimated, in Newcastle and Gateshead, 100 grocers and tea-dealers, exclusive of dealers in tea, cottons, &c. who employ about 60 men to vend their commodities in the country. Also, 50 flour-dealers, 40 master shoemakers, 32 tailors, and 45 linen, and linen and woollen drapers, with other tradesmen in proportion.

also every other kind of joiner's work." That the two trades should occupy in common the making of buttries, or any other kind of work with "sealing linck," i. e. one board grown in another, and nailed with iron nails; "chists for corpses, and all other chists not pinned with wood;" "removing of beds, cupboards, and draw-tables; together with making of doors and windows mulder work." And that half of their fines should go to the maintenance of the great bridge, and the other half to the fellowship.\*

George Collingwood, House-Carpenter, departed this life the 23d December, 1608, who, by his last will, devised to the stewards and society of this house 40s. to be paid on the 1st of May yearly for ever, and to be employed towards the putting out an apprentice to one of this company of House-Carpenters yearly.

Sir Fenwick Bulmer, Knt. a free burges of this town, presented to the incorporated company of House-Carpenters, April 19, 1824, the sum of 100 guineas; the interest to be divided amongst the poor widows of this company at Christmas annually for ever.†

In consequence of the intended removal of the West Gate, over which they formerly had their hall, a plan for a new meeting-house was laid before the company, May 27, 1805, and approved. The new building, which is of stone, was finished in 1812: it is a handsome structure, situated nearly on the site of the old gate, and was estimated to cost upwards of £1000. The company consists of 214 members.

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MASONS.

The ordinary of this society, dated September 1, 1581, constituted them a body incorporated of themselves, with perpetual succession; enjoined them to meet yearly to choose two wardens, who might sue and be sued in the courts of Newcastle, make bye-laws, &c. That whenever the general plays of the town, anciently called Corpus Christi plays, should be played, they should play "The Burial of our Lady St. Mary the Virgin;" every absent brother to forfeit 2s. 6d.: that no Scotsman should be taken apprentice, under a penalty of 40s. nor ever be admitted into the company on any account whatever; each brother to be sworn; that apprentices should serve seven years; that at the marriages and burials of brethren, and their wives, the company should attend to the church such persons to be married or buried; that one half

\* On April 19, 1737, the wardens of the House-Carpenters and Joiners' Company agreed upon a schedule of the sorts of work peculiarly belonging to each, and also of the several sorts of work in common which both might execute without distinction.

September 5, 1782, this society presented Sir M. W. Ridley with the freedom of their incorporation, a medal, and a ring, as a token of their approbation of his parliamentary conduct. December 26, 1795, Sir M. W. Ridley again received the thanks of this company, for his opposition to the sedition and treason bills.

† Sir F. Bulmer, of the Strand, London, was for many years an eminent druggist. Being the Senior Gentleman of the Band of Gentlemen Pensioners, he was knighted at the coronation of his present majesty. He died May 7, 1824, aged 79. On receiving the above benefaction, the House-Carpenters' Company voted him a handsome silver snuff-box, on which the arms of the company were engraved.

## CATHOLIC FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

As persons professing the Roman Catholic religion are ineligible as members of most friendly societies, the Catholics residing in Newcastle very properly established a benefit-fund on September 11, 1823, under the patronage of the Rev. James Worswick. The trustees are, Robert Leadbitter, Esq. Mr. John Fletcher, and Mr. Charles Larkin. The society consists of about 130 members. At the last anniversary, held on the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, 1826, there remained, after paying all benefits, a balance of £180, 11s. 6d. Their rules were enrolled, according to act of parliament, on December 8, 1823. The appended religious rules provide that a mass be said on the death of members or their wives, and also an anniversary mass. Those members that neglect to attend these masses are fined sixpence each. Members irregular in their attendance at divine service to be reprimanded by the president; and those who neglect their Easter duties for two successive years are to be excluded.

## OTHER BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

The following is as correct a list as could be procured of the friendly societies in Newcastle and Gateshead:—

Viewers' Benefit Society	Glasshouse Bridge Benefit Society	Miners' Benefit Society
<u>Ancient Masonic Benefit Society</u>	Brown Jug Benefit Society	Joiners' Benefit Society
Hanover Square Chapel Society	Young Ma's Benefit Society	Tradesmen's Friendly Society
Pitmen's General Benefit Society	United Brotherhood Society	Rising Sun Men's Society
Pitmen's Benefit Society	Good Design Society	Independent Society
Loyal Orange Lodge Society, No. 69	Union Society of Shipwrights	North Briton Union Society
Select Friendly Society of Orangemen	Universal Friendly Society	Old Friendly Society
Second Select Free and Easy Joins	Royal Jubilee Benefit Society	Tanners' Society
Third do. do.	Brothers' Society	United Brotherly Society
Odd Fellows' Lodge	<u>Masons' Benefit Society</u>	Benefit Society
Select Friendly Soc. of Odd Fellows	Independent Society	St. Michael Pine Apple Society
Joiners' Benefit Society	Burial Club	Loyal Independent Society
Shoemakers' Union Society	Good Intent Benefit Society*	Brunswick Benefit Society
Potts Box	Hope Life Box	Royal Veteran Benefit Society
United Friends' Society	First Friendly Society	Good Intent Benefit Society
New United Friends' Society	Second Friendly Society	Good Intent do.
Unanimous Benefit Society	Brotherly Benefit Society	Men's Friendly Society
Independent Friendly Society	Love and Unity Society	Journeymen Tailors' Benefit Society
Union Benefit Society	Harmonious Benefit Society	Tailors' Box
General Scotch Society	St. John's Benefit Society	Maltsters' Benefit Society

\* The distinctive appellations given to benefit societies shew a great want of invention in the projectors. Many such clubs have the same name, which is calculated to create some confusion and inconvenience. Thus, one called *The Good Intent* meet in a house in the Close, another in the High Bridge, a third in Pilgrim Street, a fourth in the Flesh Market, a fifth in Queen Street, and a sixth at the Ouse-burn Bridge.

which certainly evinces a desire amongst the industrious classes to make provision for themselves against the attacks of old age and its consequent infirmities, and to relieve the necessities of their widows and orphans. Of those associations existing in Newcastle, only about *sixty-three* have been registered in pursuance of the several acts of parliament made and passed for the relief of benefit societies. In societies under the control of those acts, the authority of justices of the peace has, in some instances, been usefully applied in preventing the unjust expulsion of members;

The establishment of the Infirmary, for the 75th year, ending the 31st March, 1826, was as follows:—

*Grand Visitor*, The Honourable and Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Durham. *Presidents*, His Grace the Duke of Northumberland; His Grace the Duke of Portland; The Right Honourable the Earl Grey; The Most Noble the Marquis of Bute; The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Newcastle; The Right Honourable the Earl of Tankerville. *Vice-presidents*, Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart. M. P.; The Right Honourable Lord Ravensworth; Thomas Richard Beaumont, Esq.; Charles John Brandling, Esq. M. P.; Sir John Edward Swinburne, Bart.; Cuthbert Ellison, Esq. M. P. *Stewards*, for Northumberland, Sir H. D. C. St. Paul, Bart. M. P.; John Davidson, Esq.; for Durham, William Barras, Esq.; Samuel Walker Parker, Esq.; for Newcastle, George Shadforth, Esq.; Thomas Wailer, Esq. *Preacher of the Anniversary Sermon*, The Reverend William Hawks, B. D. *Physicians*, Thomas Emerson, M. D.; Noel Thomas Smith, M. D.; Darnell Bulman, M. D.; Thomas McWhirter, M. D. *Surgeons*, Mr. Thomas Leighton; Mr. Edward Smiles; Mr. William Moore; Mr. John Baird. *Treasurer*, William Boyd, Esq. *Secretary*, Mr. Nathaniel John Winch. *House-surgeon*, Mr. James Church. *Chaplain*, The Rev. John Parkin. *Matron*, Mrs. Eleanor Pattison.

#### THE DISPENSARY.

In the beginning of April, 1777, Dr. Clark, in conjunction with Mr. Anderson, a respectable surgeon, proposed the establishment of a Dispensary; but the plan was opposed by the physicians to the Infirmary, until it was explained that the medical department was to be open to the whole of the resident faculty, when all opposition ceased, and the scheme was immediately carried into execution. A general meeting of the governors was held on September 23, 1777, John Baker, Esq. mayor, in the chair; when the regulations prepared for the government of the charity were confirmed. The Dispensary was opened on the 2d of October following. In November, 1785, the Duke of Northumberland was chosen patron of the institution.

The benevolent projectors of this excellent establishment not only proposed to give advice and medicine to that numerous class of sufferers whose cases excluded them from the Infirmary, but also to extend the limits of the healing art. Accordingly, Dr. Clark provided for keeping accurate journals of the patients admitted, and of their cases, by which the nature of prevailing epidemics might be ascertained, the history of diseases illustrated, and the success of the modes of treatment more accurately known. He also drew up, and distributed among the poor who received relief at the Dispensary, some very judicious rules for preventing the production and propagation of contagion; but this most important branch of the charity was left incomplete; no means of prevention were carried into the houses of the poor, nor was any board of health established for the purpose of enforcing the execution of the rules. This able physician, who for many years drew up the annual reports of the establishment, frequently and strongly stated the lamentable deficiency of its funds. Although 139 persons on an average died annually in Newcastle of the small-pox, yet a proposal made in 1779 for a general inoculation was abandoned solely on that account.

The Dispensary, during the first four years, was kept in apartments in an entry at the Foot of the Side, now occupied by Mr. Marley, cheesemonger. It was next kept



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LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

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ring this year, the Society removed into the old Assembly-rooms in the Groat Market, which had been occupied as a linen-warehouse by Mr. George Brown, and next by Mr. Kinloch, dancing-master. The library was now opened on the afternoons of Tuesday and Thursday, from four to six o'clock. Mr. Spence was chosen Librarian.

It was resolved, at the anniversary meeting, March 13, 1799, that a new class of members be instituted under the denomination of *Reading Members*, who should voluntarily relinquish the privilege of attending the general meetings, and voting in the choice of members. Ladies were made eligible into this class. On the death of the librarian this year, Mr. John Marshall, printer, was chosen his successor. In 1801, Dr. Townson, author of *Travels in Hungary, &c.* assisted in arranging the Society's collection of minerals; and a repository was fitted up for a complete Herbarium of British plants, which Messrs. Winch, Thornhill, and Waugh, engaged to prepare. At the general meeting of the Society held June 9, 1802, it was resolved to establish a permanent lectureship; and that the Rev. W. Turner, the senior secretary, be lecturer to the New Institution. At the subsequent anniversary meeting, a resolution was passed, authorizing any three of the committee, on application from an ordinary member, to grant strangers monthly tickets to the use of the library in the room. At the twelfth anniversary meeting, held March 5, 1805, it was resolved, in the same spirit of liberality, "that subscribers to similar institutions, which should afford an equal accommodation to the members of this institution, be admitted to the rooms without introduction, on producing to the librarian a certificate of their being members of such institutions."

In 1808, an unpleasant and acrimonious dispute took place respecting the connexion that subsisted between the Literary and Philosophical Society and the New Institution. One party contended that this connexion was irregular in its commencement, injurious to the Society in its progress, and that the rights and interests of the members generally required its dissolution. At the following anniversary meeting, March 7, 1809, most of the objections against the lectureship were obviated by resolutions expressly sanctioning the establishment, and limiting the sum to be given towards its support to £50 per annum, which sum was "to be applied to the purchasing and repairing of the philosophical apparatus, and defraying the incidental expenses of the Institution." It was also ordered, that "the library should be no longer used as the lecture-room of the New Institution." Preparations were made, this year, for a depository of the valuable papers that had been read at the monthly meetings of the Society. Mr. Sadler had been previously engaged to arrange the minerals in a scientific manner.

In 1813, the committee made arrangements whereby the library, from the 1st of May in that year, has been kept open from ten in the morning till ten o'clock at night. At the monthly meeting held January 4, 1814, a paper was read, announcing that a few of the members had entered into an engagement to furnish a paper in regular rotation for the monthly meetings, so that the society might never want subjects of enquiry and discussion. At the same time, it was distinctly stated that no discouragement would be offered to the occasional supply of papers from any other quarter.

On February 4, 1817, a special meeting of the committee was hastily convened, when the following minute was entered upon their book:—"The committee having

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LOCAL RECORDS ;  
OR  
HISTORICAL REGISTER  
OF  
REMARKABLE EVENTS,  
WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN  
NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,  
AND BERWICK-UPON-TWEED,  
FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD OF AUTHENTIC RECORD  
TO THE PRESENT TIME ;  
WITH  
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES  
OF  
DECEASED PERSONS OF TALENT ECCEPTRICITY, AND  
LONGEVITY.  
BY JOHN SYKES.

“There comes a voice that awakes my soul—It is the voice of years that are  
gone ; they roll before me with all their deeds.”

OSSIAN.

A NEW EDITION, WITH NUMEROUS EMBELLISHMENTS,  
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

NEWCASTLE :

PRINTED FOR, AND SOLD BY, JOHN SYKES, BOOKSELLER ;  
And may be had of all the Booksellers in Northumberland and Durham,  
Berwick, Edinburgh, York, and London.

MDCCCXXXIII,

REPRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY T. FORDYCE, DEAN STREET, NEWCASTLE.  
1865.

**1776** *September 23.*—The foundation stone of St. John's lodge of free and accepted masons, was laid in Low Friar Street, Newcastle, by Mr. Francis Peacock, their worshipful master. Underneath the stone was placed a copper plate, with an elegant Latin inscription. It was dedicated, October 16th, 1777, with great solemnity. This building is now the public Dispensary.

**1777** *October 2.*—The Dispensary, at Newcastle, was first opened in a house in Pilgrim Street; but, upon the funds for supporting this laudable charity accumulating, the governors were enabled to make a purchase of the free mason's lodge (St. John's), in Low Friar Street, to which it was removed in 1790.



DISPENSARY.

1826

February 16.—The Free Masons' Lodge, No. 26, in the Groat Market, Newcastle, was consecrated and dedicated with great solemnity. They had removed from their lodge, in the Bigg Market, to these rooms, which had previously been occupied by the Literary and Philosophical Society, that body having removed to their new building in Westgate-street.

1829

May 26.—The name of the street in Newcastle, called "The Flesh Market," and, after the building of the "New Butchers' Market," the "The Old Flesh Market," was changed by the corporation to that of "The Cloth Market."

1774.

May 16.—The foundation stone of the Assembly Rooms, at Newcastle, was laid by William Lowes, esq., in the presence of a great company of ladies and gentlemen. June 24th, 1776, these rooms were opened, when there was a very numerous and brilliant company, who expressed great pleasure at their elegance. The assembly was opened by Sir William Loraine, bart., with Mrs. Bell, jun., and Sir Matthew White Ridley, bart., with Miss Allgood. There was an act of parliament, 14th of Ge. III., to enable Dr. Fawcett, vicar of Newcastle, to grant a lease of part of his garden for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, and at a rent of £20. a-year, for the purpose of erecting this edifice upon. A plate with an inscription was deposited under the stone.

1776 (Nov. 5).—The ancient and honorable society of free and accepted masons of St. Nicholas' lodge, Newcastle, met, and under the direction and immediate inspection of John Errington, esq., of Beaufront, provincial grand master for Northumberland, consecrated with great solemnity, the old Assembly Room, in the Groat Market their lodge. After which they had a very elegant entertainment.

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 Grand Lodge of the  
 Grand Orient of England  
 Museum Trust

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Monday 20

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1810 (Nov. 6).—The foundation stone of St. Cuthbert's Lodge, in Tweedmouth (under the ancient constitution, the duke of Athol, grand-master), was laid by brother Selby Morton, acting master, amidst the acclamations of most of the brethren in the neighbourhood. In the stone was inclosed a bottle, containing several coins of the reign of George III., and some old ones of king William and Queen Mary.

1814

October 25.—The foundation stone of the Granby Lodge of free and accepted masons was laid in Old Elvet, Durham, by the right worshipful provincial grand-master, Sir Ralph Milbanke, bart., accompanied by a great number of officers and brethren. In the cavity of the stone were deposited various coins of the reign of George III., with a jubilee medal, on the completion of the 50th year of his reign. After the ceremony, the officers and brethren dined, and the day was spent in great harmony.

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1736 (*March 8*).—A new lodge of free and accepted masons was constituted at the sign of the Fountain, in Pipewellgate, Gateshead.

1755 *November 25*.—There was constituted, at Sunderland, a regular lodge of free and accepted masons, by virtue of a deputation for that purpose directed to Mr. James Smithson, junior, provincial, from the earl of Carnarvon, grand master; on which occasion an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Barwise, of Dalton, one of the fraternity, who, with the rest of the brethren, in proper costume, went in procession to church. This lodge, when first constituted, was No. 207, though now, from different intermediate erasements, is No. 146.

1763 (*Nov. 1*).—A lodge of free masons was constituted at the house of Mr. John Fife, publican, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, in due form, under the sanction of the hon. Thomas Erskine, earl of Kelly, Viscount Fenton, lord baron of Pittewarn, grand master of ancient masons in Great Britain.

1764 *December 27*.—Being the anniversary of St. John, the ancient and honourable society of free and accepted masons of the lodges in Sunderland, joined by their brethren from Durham, Newcastle, Shields, and parts adjacent, went in grand procession to church, where an occasional sermon was preached by the Rev. brother Barwise; from whence, with their worshipful master, brother Inman, at their head, accompanied by the rector, the curate, and the principal inhabitants, they proceeded to the east end of the town, where, amidst thousands assembled, the first stone of a chapel, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, was laid by brother John Thornhill, esq., who with a truly public spirit had generously undertaken to plan and execute the building upon the estate of Marshall Robinson, of Herrington, esq., who had generously made a donation of the ground, although it had been before purchased of him. After the ceremony was concluded the society proceeded to brother Adam Turner's, where an elegant entertainment was provided and the whole concluded with the utmost harmony and good order.

1765 (*Jan. 2*).—A lodge of free and accepted masons was duly constituted at Mrs. Bond's, the sign of the Old George, in North Shields, when brother Hunter, the master elect, and his officers, were with great solemnity (according to ancient form,) invested with the proper jewels of their respective offices, by their brother Robert Green, deputed for that purpose, by the hon. the earl of Kelly, grand master of Great Britain. On the following day they assembled at the Low-lights, together with their brethren from Newcastle, Sunderland, and other places adjacent, from whence they walked in procession to Mrs. Bond's making a very grand show.

1767

June 9.—Was constituted (under the sanction of the right honourable Lord Blayney, grand-master in England), the lodge of free and accepted masons, held at brother Fife's, publican, in the Castle Garth, Newcastle, the said lodge having assumed a new name, viz., that of St. Nicholas, at which time and place brother Ansell, the master, with his officers, were duly installed, according to the usual ceremonies on such occasions, by brother Potter, master of Sion lodge, North Shields, who, after having invested each officer with the proper jewels of their order, took their places accordingly.

1770

January 4.—The following curious advertisement appeared in a Newcastle newspaper of this date:—"This is to acquaint the PUBLIC THAT on Monday the 1st inst. being the Lodge (or Monthly Meeting) Night of the Free and Accepted Masons of the 22d Regiment, held at the Crown, near Newgate, Mrs. Bell the Landlady of the House broke open a Door (with a Poker) that had not been opened for some years, by which Means she got into an adjacent Room, made two Holes through the Wall, and by that Stratagem discovered the Secrets of Masonry; and she knowing herself to be the first Woman in the World that ever found out that Secret, is willing to make it known to all her Sex. So any Lady that is desirous of learning the Secrets of Free Masonry, by applying to that well-learned Woman (Mrs. Bell, that lived fifteen years in and about Newgate) may be instructed in all the Secrets of Masonry."

1773

November 8.—A new lodge of free and accepted masons was constituted at Gateshead (by a special warrant for that purpose from the right hon. Lord Petre, grand-master of the order in England), under the name of the "Union Lodge." The procession began at Swalwell, and was met by the master, officers, and brethren, of the Union lodge, a mile from Gateshead, attended by the band of music belonging to the 68th regiment, and all the honourable trophies of masonry, to the lodge house, where there was an elegant entertainment, during which volleys of small arms were fired at intervals of fifteen minutes.

November 12.—At night, the Freemason's lodge, at Sunderland,  
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was discovered to be on fire, and, before it was extinguished, all the furniture, pictures, &c., were consumed, and the house adjoining very much damaged.

1773 June 19.—The free and accepted masons walked in procession from the lodge, at Barnardcastle, to lay the foundation stone of a new bridge over the river Tees, between Rokeby Park and Barnardcastle. Mr. Hutchinson, master of the lodge, walked first in the procession, dressed in white and gold, with John Sawrey Morrilt, esq., and the Rev. Mr. Zouch, in white leather aprons edged with blue ribbon, and the rest in their respective ranks. After the stone was laid, they proceeded to a tent erected for the purpose, when the master delivered an excellent lecture, which gave great and general satisfaction, and then walked in procession to Rokeby-hall, where a sumptuous entertainment was provided for them by J. S. Morrilt, esq. The spectators were very numerous. This bridge was built at the sole expense of Mr. Morrilt.

1791 July 6.—The foundation stone of a new theatre was laid in the city of Durham, with great masonic *eclat*, by George Viner, esq., deputy grand master for the county, in the presence of Thomas Chipchase, esq., mayor, and William Ambler, esq., recorder of the city. A plate, with a suitable inscription, was deposited within the stone. March 12th, 1792, this theatre was opened, with an occasional prelude, called "*Apollo's Ho'day*," written by Mr. Cawdell; the new comedy of "*Wild Oats*;" and the farce of "*The Spoiled Child*."

1784 April 5.—The master and brethren of King George's lodge Sunderland, accompanied by a great number of brethren from the neighbouring lodges, went in procession to lay the foundation stone of the Phoenix lodge. After the usual ceremonies, coins of his majesty George III, and an elegant coronation medal of Queen Charlotte, were deposited in the stone, and above them a copper-plate, on which was engraved an elegant Latin inscription. April 5th, 1785, the lodge was dedicated with great solemnity.

1814 August 10.—A grand masonic procession took place in Newcastle, on account of the union of the Athol with St. Nicholas' lodge. There were about 600 in the procession, amongst whom were Sir J. E. Swinburne, bart., P. G. M., Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., M. P., Gilbert Ellison, esq., M. P., William Loraine, esq., Isaac Cookson, esq., the Rev. John Collinson, rector of Gateshead, the Rev. Mr. Wasney, &c. In consequence of the vicar of Newcastle having refused the use of St. Nicholas' church, the procession marched to Gateshead church, where they heard divine service, after which £112. 16s. 10d. was collected for the benefit of the Infirmary. 214 of the brethren afterwards dined at the Turk's Head inn.



1817

November 8.—On the receipt of the intelligence in Newcastle, of the death of the Princess Charlotte, the great bell of St. Nicholas, and the bells of all the other churches tolled heavily for an hour, and the flag of the castle was displayed half-staff high; many of the ships in the harbour made a similar mournful display. At Durham, the bells of St. Nicholas' church rung a mournful peal, and the great bell of the cathedral was also tolled for a considerable time. At North and South Shields the bells of the churches rung muffled peals, and the ships displayed their mourning. The flags on Clifford's-fort and Tynemouth castle, were also hoisted in mourning. November 19th being the day when the mortal remains of this most beloved princess were to be consigned to the cold and silent tomb, it was observed in Newcastle with every mark of solemnity and sorrow. At sun rise, on the signal of a gun from the castle, a muffled peal was slowly rung on the bells of St. Nicholas, and the other churches, and the flags of the castle and the ships in the harbour were hoisted half-mast high. All the shops were closed, and business of every kind suspended. Divine service was performed at the several churches in the morning, and was most numerously attended. The mayor and corporation passed in slow procession to St. Nicholas' church, where also the several lodges of free masons in that town and Gateshead assembled, properly attired in black, with hatbands and white gloves, to join in the mournful service of the day; the church was exceedingly crowded. The pulpit, reading desks, &c., were all hung with black cloth. After service, the church bells tolled heavily for a considerable time, and at sunset, another mournful peal closed the sad observance of the day. At Gateshead church, there was also service in the evening, when an affecting sermon was preached by the Rev. Christopher Benson, of Newcastle. This mournful event was similarly observed at all the other towns. She died Nov. 6th, 1817.

I

1818

March 27.—A grand masonic procession took place from Mr. Smith's, the Anchor inn, at Wooler, which was met by a deputation of the trustees, elders, and others of the congregation of Protestant Dissenters of the West chapel, the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, minister, and proceeded to the site fixed upon for a new meeting-house, where the foundation-stone was laid by Mr. Richard Jobson. Under the stone were deposited in a sealed bottle, various coins of George III., and a roll of parchment containing a list of the presiding officers of the society and the lodges, after which, an appropriate oration was delivered by brother Joseph Armstrong.

1822 (*Aug. 30*).—His royal highness the duke of Sussex visited the city of Durham, where a Masonic Provincial Grand Lodge was held to receive him. A splendred procession took place during which his royal highness was loudly cheered. He afterwards dined with the masons in their hall. On the following day his royal highness proceeded to Sunderland, by the river Wear, in company with Mr. Lambton, in that gentleman's barge. The ships in the harbour were decorated with flags, and the people loudly cheered him. On entering the carriage that awaited his arrival, the populace took the horses out, and drew him to the house of A. Fenwick, esq., where he partook of a cold collation. Previous to leaving Sunderland, his royal highness addressed the crowd, and thanked them for the kind reception with which they had honoured him.—September 2nd, his royal highness honoured Newcastle with his presence, in order to lay the foundation-stone of the new building for the Literary and Philosophical Society in Westgate-street. At noon, his royal highness, in Mr. Lambton's carriage, drawn by six horses, accompanied by Lady Louisa Lambton, Mr. Lambton, and Mr. Stephenson, reached Gateshead toll-bar, his suite following in other carriages, when the populace took out the horses, and drew the royal visitor down Gateshead, amidst the cheering of the multitude assembled on the occasion; his royal highness returned their salutes with great affability. On the arrival of the cavalcade at Tyne Bridge, he was met by Alfred Hall, esq., sheriff of Newcastle, accompanied by a number of gentlemen, who welcomed the royal visitor on his entrance into that ancient and loyal town, to which he made a suitable reply. A salute of 21 guns was at the time fired from the castle, whilst the bridge for some minutes exhibited one solid mass of carriages and people. Sir M. W. Ridley bart., and Cuthbert Ellison, esq., the members for the town (who had accompanied the sheriff to pay their respects to his royal highness), got up in front of the carriage to usher in the duke; and Sir Matthew addressed the populace, insisting that the people of Newcastle should now have the honour of drawing his royal highness, as he had passed the limits of the county of Durham. (This was immediately done, and they proceeded to the Mansion-house, when an address, previously voted to the noble duke by the common council, was read by the recorder, after which his royal highness was presented with the freedom of the town. The company then sat down to a cold collation. An especial Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of England was held at the Concert-room in the Bigg Market. Between one and two o'clock, the different

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, in their official badges, accompanied by the insignia of their city, proceeded in grand procession to the Mansion-house, arched thence to the site of the building, which it reached before three o'clock. His royal highness took possession of a prepared for him; Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., sat on his right and J. G. Lambton, esq. on his left. The masonic ceremony of laying the stone then took place, amid the loud cheering of a great assemblage of people, who had been admitted by tickets, and for whose accommodation a secure scaffolding had been erected. A plate, with a suitable inscription, and an elegantly-cut glass vase (which was presented for that purpose by Mr. Joseph Price), containing the coins of the reign of George IV., were deposited in a cavity in the stone. The large Assembly-room having been liberally granted by the committee of proprietors for the accommodation of his royal highness, nearly three hundred gentlemen assembled in it to dinner, about five o'clock, Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., in the chair. About nine o'clock, the duke took his leave, and proceeded with Sir M. W. Ridley, bart., to Blagdon. September 4th, his royal highness passed through Alnwick, on his way to Earl Grey's seat at Howick. A great concourse of people assembled to receive the royal visitor, and his carriage was drawn through the town by the populace, amid enthusiastic cheers, the waving of handkerchiefs, and the firing of cannon. His royal highness was very affable, and extremely pleased with the kind, hospitable, and enthusiastic reception with which he had been greeted during his visit to the north. September 9th, his royal highness passed through Newcastle on his way to Raby castle, whither he arrived the same day, on a visit to the earl of Darlington.

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JANUARY 1958

Sunday 26

3rd after Epiphany (26-339)



1575.—William Flower, esq., norroy king of arms, granted the addition of a helmet, crest, and supporters, to the ancient arms of Newcastle. No motto occurs in this grant. In all probability the motto was added after the gallant defence of the town against the Scots. See Jan. 15, 1644.

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