

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons
of England and Wales,

AND THE

Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL BOARD.

5TH JUNE, 1906.

The General Board cannot permit this Annual Convocation to pass without calling special attention to the most interesting and important circumstances under which it is assembled on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The unexampled and splendid progress that has been made during the past fifty years in the development of the Mark Degree affords the most gratifying evidence of the important position it holds in the estimation of the Universal Brotherhood of Freemasonry, while the prosperity of Grand Lodge bears ample testimony to the untiring zeal and ceaseless labours of those distinguished Brethren, who, since its formation, have guided its Councils, and presided over its Assemblies.

To suitably mark this auspicious occasion, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Most Worshipful Grand Master, has been graciously pleased to sanction the wearing

of a Special Jewel by every Brother who is, on this day, a subscribing member of a Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, and has signified his gracious pleasure in accepting the first jewel which has been made.

During the three months ending 31st March, 1906, there have been issued:—Mark Certificates, 306, total registered, 51,448.

Since the last Report four Warrants for new Lodges have been granted, viz. :—

- No. 583, "The Northern of China," Wei Hai Wei.
- „ 584, "Manor of Chatham," Chatham.
- „ 585, "Arthur Lewis," Pontypool.
- „ 586, "Torbay," Fagnton.

Royal Ark Mariner Certificates 158; number registered, 8,602.

Warrant for one Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, viz. :—

"Royal Naval," attached to the Royal Naval Lodge, No. 239, London.

The Board has to report with sincere regret the death of a valued member, V.W. Bro. Sir Gordon Miller, *K.C.B.* The deceased Brother took the greatest interest in the Mark Degree, more especially as a Member of the Finance and Audit Committee, in which capacity his services were most useful. He was elected Grand Treasurer in 1891, and was promoted to the Office of Grand Master Overseer in 1900.

The Board has also to report with much regret that R.W. Bro. The Rev. Canon Tristram, *D.D., LL.D.*, died on the

8th March, 1906, in his 84th year. He was advanced to the Mark Degree in Chapter No. 63, under the Grand Chapter of Ireland, and was admitted a Joining Member to the Eclectic Lodge, No. 39, 17th January, 1867, and had ruled the Province of Northumberland and Durham for upwards of thirty years, under patent dated 25th November, 1873.

H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, Most Worshipful Grand Master, has been graciously pleased to fill the vacancy by the appointment of R.W. Bro. Col. W. Mathwin Angas, C.B., who was installed by the Pro. G. Master at Newcastle, on Tuesday, 15th May.

His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master has also been graciously pleased to appoint the R.W. Bro. Col. J. R. Bramble to be Provincial Grand Master for the City and County of Bristol, in succession to the lamented Bro. W. F. A. Powell, who had held the office since 1875.

Examination of the returns required by Art. 132, show that a Provincial Lodge had installed in the Chair of Master a Brother who was at the time Master of another Lodge, contrary to the Provisions of Article 104, of the Book of Constitutions, which state that a Brother shall not be Master of more than one Lodge at the same time unless by dispensation of the Grand Master, which in this case had not been applied for.

The Board ruled that the Lodge had been guilty of negligence in not ascertaining prior to the installation that the Master Elect was not eligible for the Chair, and that the Lodge be censured for not taking precautions that the provisions of the Book of Constitutions were duly observed.

That the Lodge should apply for a dispensation which should be dated "*Nunc pro tunc*" and read at the next regular meeting of the Lodge, and that the Master be thereupon re-installed in the presence of a Board of Installed Masters, and that the ruling of the Board should be read at the same meeting and entered on the minutes.

The Board have to report that the Warrant of the Justitia Lodge, No. 476, has been surrendered.

The Board gratefully acknowledge the gift of a copy of a pamphlet entitled, The Masonic "Old Charges," by the author, Bro. William James Hugham.

FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.

The Thirty-eighth Annual Festival will be held on the 4th July, 1906, under the presidency of R.W. Bro. The Right Honourable the Earl of Donoughmore, Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Secretary will be happy to receive the names of ladies and brethren willing to act as Stewards.

The Board has to report the death of an Annuitant, Bro. Henry Robert Langmead.

The Board have elected on the Annuity Fund, without a poll,

William Henry Hopkins, of the St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 34;

Caroline Hamilton, widow of Peter Gustavus Hamilton, of the Cæsarean Lodge, No. 74.

The following cases have been relieved :—

Bro. F. F. B. (Lodge No. 181, Middlesex), £20.

- Bro. T. F. (Lodge No. 296, Lancashire), £20.
 Bro. W. H. H. (Lodge No. 34, Manchester), £10.
 Bro. W. J. (Lodge No. 69, Kent), £15.
 Bro. J. J. L. L. (Lodge No. 239, London), £5.
 Mrs. R. M. (Widow of a Brother of Lodge No. 19,
 Leicester), £20.
 Mrs. A. Y. (Widow of a Brother of Lodge No. 256,
 Kent), £20.
 Mrs. M. S. (Widow of a Brother of Lodge No. 292,
 Northumberland), £20.
 Mrs. S. A. E. (Widow of a Brother of Lodge No. 367,
 Herts), £10.

FRANK RICHARDSON, *President.*

CHARLES BELTON, *Vice-President.*

C. FITZGERALD MATIER, *Grand Secretary.*

3rd May, 1906

At the conclusion of the ordinary business on 3rd May, 1906, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—
 "That the cordial thanks of the Members of the General Board be and are hereby tendered to their President, E. W. Bro. Frank Richardson, for the very able and courteous manner in which he has presided over the meetings of the Board during the past year."

CHARLES BELTON,

Vice-President.

N.B.—The **BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS**, Edition 1895, WHICH MUST BE PRESENTED TO EVERY CANDIDATE ON HIS ADVANCEMENT, can be had at the Grand Secretary's Office, in two sizes, price 1s. 6d. per copy, bound in cloth. Postage extra.

The Twenty-first Edition of the "**MARK CALENDAR AND ROLL OF GRAND OFFICERS**" (for 1909), with useful information, price 6d. per copy, is now ready.

IMPORTANT.

THE NEW TRACING BOARD authorised by Grand Lodge is now ready for issue, and may be obtained from any Masonic Jeweller or (unframed) from the Grand Secretary. Price, stretched on canvas, unframed, 25/.

The Grand Secretary begs to direct the attention of Masters of Lodges to the necessity of communicating to him (in a Province through the Provincial Grand Secretary) any change in the day or place of meeting so soon as the resolution for effecting such change shall be confirmed. —Vide Book of Constitutions, Articles 119, 123, 124; Edition 1895.