

FREE-MASONS' HALL, January 8th, 1816.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER,

THE Most Worshipful His Royal Highness the GRAND MASTER has directed us to make the following communication to you, for the information of the Brethren of your Lodge.

The happy re-union, in one Fraternity, of all the Free and Accepted Masons of England, so long and so ardently the wish of every heart, made it obvious that increased accommodation would be required for the Grand Lodge, as well as for Private Lodges, in the Metropolis of the Empire; it was, therefore, unanimously resolved, in Grand Lodge, on Wednesday, the 2d of March, 1814:

“ 1st. That it be earnestly recommended to all Lodges, and to individual members of the Craft, to enter into a voluntary subscription, by which a basis may be laid of a fund for carrying into execution the plan that may be devised by the Board of Works, and adopted by the Grand Lodge, and that a book be opened for that purpose and a correct register kept of the Subscribers.

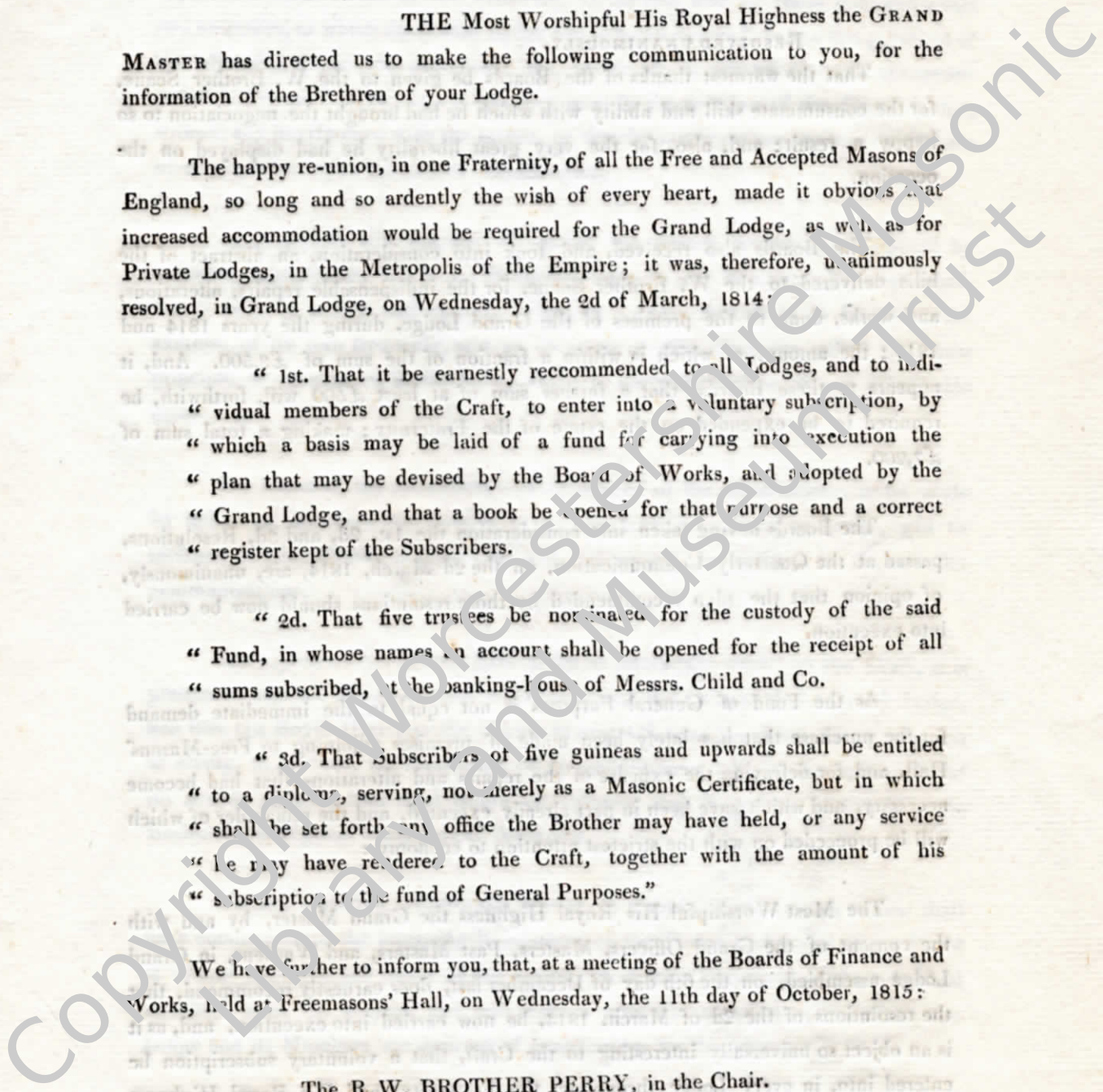
“ 2d. That five trustees be nominated for the custody of the said Fund, in whose names an account shall be opened for the receipt of all sums subscribed, at the banking-house of Messrs. Child and Co.

“ 3d. That Subscribers of five guineas and upwards shall be entitled to a diploma, serving, not merely as a Masonic Certificate, but in which shall be set forth any office the Brother may have held, or any service he may have rendered to the Craft, together with the amount of his subscription to the fund of General Purposes.”

We have further to inform you, that, at a meeting of the Boards of Finance and Works, held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 11th day of October, 1815:

The R. W. BROTHER PERRY, in the Chair.

The W. Brother Soane, Grand Superintendant of Works, reported, that a purchase had been made of the Two Freehold Houses, next adjoining eastward to the Freemasons' Tavern, in the name of Mr. J. J. Cuff, for the use of the Grand Lodge, for the sum of £3,200, exclusive of repairs, which sum had been advanced by him, the said Brother Soane, for and on behalf of the Fraternity,—and that the conveyance was then at the Office of the Register for the County of Middlesex, ready to be transferred to such Trustees as may be appointed.



The W. Brother Soane further stated, that this purchase had been completed for a sum not amounting to one-half of the price demanded two years since; whereupon it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

That the warmest thanks of the Boards be given to the W. Brother Soane, for the consummate skill and ability with which he had brought the negotiation to a happy a result; and, also, for the very great liberality he had displayed on the occasion.

The Boards also received, and took into consideration, an abstract of the bills delivered to the W. Brother Soane, for the indispensable repairs, alterations and works, done to the premises of the Grand Lodge, during the years 1814 and 1815; the amount of which is within a fraction of the sum of £3,500. And, it appears to these Boards, that a further sum of at least £500 will forthwith, be required to be expended on the estate of the Fraternity; making a total sum of £7,200.

The Boards having taken into consideration the 1st, 2d, and 3d, Resolutions, passed at the Quarterly Communication, on the 2d March, 1814, are, unanimously, of opinion that the plan recommended by those resolutions should now be carried into execution.

As the Fund of General Purposes is not equal to the immediate demand for the purchase that has lately been made of premises adjoining to Free-Masons' Hall, and for defraying the expense of the repairs and alterations that had become necessary, and which have been in part already executed, and the remainder of which will be proceeded on with the strictest attention to economy :

The Most Worshipful His Royal Highness the Grand Master, by and with the consent of the Grand Officers, Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens, in Grand Lodge assembled, on the 6th day of December last, does earnestly recommend, that the resolutions of the 2d of March, 1814, be now carried into execution, and, as it is an object so universally interesting to the Craft, that a voluntary subscription be entered into, in every Lodge throughout the Fraternity; and His Royal Highness has full confidence in the zeal of his Brethren, that they will freely and liberally concur in this useful work, by which they will leave an establishment for the preservation of Antient Free-Masonry in all time to come, in a situation so solid and with a revenue so ample and certain as will enable the Grand Lodge of England to extend its benevolent aid to the Private Lodges, and to the Brethren throughout the world.

Every consideration of love and zeal for the Craft points out this as the most

eligible means of proceeding in this emergency, as, by this resource, all lasting incumbrance on the funds and property of the Grand Lodge will be avoided, the required accommodation to the Fraternity be gained, and all those encroachments and nuisances, to which the Grand Lodge was so much exposed, before this purchase of the adjoining houses, be prevented; and, above all, it will afford ample accommodation to Private Lodges, who might then meet in the premises of the Grand Lodge, without any interference with the tavern, or thereby incurring any expense on account of tavern-bills, upon the plea of remuneration.

In proposing this scheme, of raising the money immediately required by voluntary subscription, His Royal Highness desires it may be universally understood, that it is to be purely and entirely voluntary. Every Brother is to be left to the exercise of his own free-will; and no measure of this kind can affect the great principle of equality of brotherhood, which is the corner-stone of our inestimable union.

The names of the subscribers and the amount of the subscriptions to be made by individual Brothers, by Lodges, or by the members thereof in Lodge, will be returned to the Grand Lodge, and will, of course, be notified in the circular communications.

The objects of the general fund being so manifestly useful to the Craft, it is presumed, that the Masonic world will concur with the feelings of the Grand Lodge, and that His Royal Highness the Grand Master will have the heart-felt satisfaction of seeing, in his time, the foundation of an establishment laid, in the metropolis of the British Empire, that shall secure the splendor and perpetuity of the Masonic Institution throughout every part of the world.

We are, therefore, Worshipful Master, to request, that, as soon as you shall have communicated the foregoing Resolutions of the Grand Lodge and of the Board of Works thereon, and collected the sentiments of your Lodge and of the individual members upon the subject, you will make a return to me of the sums which the Lodge and its Members are desirous of contributing for this object.

We are, Worshipful Master,

Your obedient Servants and Brothers,

Will^m. H. White, }
Edw. Harper, } G.S.

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eligible means of proceeding in this emergency, as by this means all liability
incumbent on the funds and property of the Grand Lodge will be avoided, the
referred communication to the Lodges will be gained, and all those encumbrances
and mortgages, to which the Grand Lodge was so much exposed, before the payment of
the adjoining issues, be provided; and, above all, it will afford ample accommo-
dation to the Grand Lodge, who might then meet in the presence of the Grand Lodge,
without any interference with the system of thereby incurring any expense on account
of a return-bills, upon the plan of remittance.

Upon the return of the money, the money immediately required by
the Grand Lodge, His Royal Highness desires it may be immediately understood,
that it is to be paid by and entirely voluntary. Every Brother is to be left in the
exercise of his own will; and no measure of this kind can affect the great
principle of equality, which is the cornerstone of our inalienable
rights.

The amount of the subscription, and the amount of the subscriptions, to be made
by individual Lodges, the members thereof in Lodge, will be
returned to the Grand Lodge, and, of course, be noticed in the circular
communications.

The objects of the present and being so nearly allied to the Craft, it is
presumed, that the Masonic world will be in the possession of the Grand Lodge,
and that His Royal Highness the Grand Duke will have the most liberal satisfaction
of seeing, in his own country, the foundation of an institution, which is the
British Empire, that shall secure the epistolary and political rights of the Masonic
Institution throughout every part of the world.

We are, therefore, Worthy Masters, to request, that you will
have communicated the foregoing Resolutions of the Grand Lodge of the British
of Works thereon, and collected the sentiments of your Lodges, and the individual
members upon the subject, you will make a return to me, in the manner which the
Lodge and its Masters are desirous of contributing for the subject.

**The Master of the
of Free Masons.**

We are, Worthy Masters,

Your obedient Servants and Brothers,

Edw. Harper, }
Wm. B. White, } G.S.