

PREFACE

Since the *History of Lodge 51* was first published in 1893, its prosperity has never ebbed and its numerical and financial strength has been wonderfully maintained.

Although the ranks have been naturally depleted as the years rolled on, and many loved brethren have passed over, it is gratifying to be able to say that the vacant places have always been filled up with young members, who have worthily carried on the best traditions of the Order,

My first intention was to give only new matter, but such a lengthened period has elapsed since the original brochure was issued and so few of our members possess copies, I have, in deference to the wishes of my brethren, decided to include the most interesting parts of it. Therefore, the first twenty pages are an abridgment of the matter which has already appeared. That which follows is devoted to subsequent events, commencing with the "Jubilee" of the Lodge in 1899..

I have not added anything to the history of the "Chapter", as there is little new to add; which is the best commentary I can make on the fact of its having ever pursued the even tenor of its way in the paths of peace and those truly Masonic virtues, benevolence and brotherly love, which are the distinguishing characteristics of our ancient and honourable Order.

The story of the Preceptory is given at length, as it was not in existence in 1893. Its institution formed an important part of the Jubilee "celebrations, and I am pleased to be able to include an illustration of the original petition to Great Priory which was prepared in an unusually artistic manner

Those who may wish for the complete lists of the members of Lodge, Chapter, and Preceptory will find them in the little booklets which have been issued yearly since 1895. The complete lists of P.M.s, P.K.s, and P.P.s are given in this book, by request.

I have included an account of the establishment of the District Grand R.A. Chapter, the Provincial Priory of East Ulster, and the Grand Council of the Red Cross Degrees, as being of general interest and historical value. All three governing bodies having been constituted within recent times, testify to the remarkable development and progress of Freemasonry in our country.

"In England, Scotland, and America, particular Lodges collate little histories recording interesting facts connected with their several organisations and issue these booklets to the members, thus creating a foundation for the historian in placing the records beyond the infirmities of mere tradition.

" The introduction of the practice into Ireland would rescue from oblivion much that is valuable and provide a mine of wealth upon which to base the future history of the Irish Craft. In a progressive age no. Lodge should occupy the position of that needy knife grinder of whom it is recorded that he 'had no story to tell.' " -*History of Freemasonry, Bro. Robt. Freke Gould,*

Acting upon this suggestion, the story of Lodge 51 is herewith presented.

S. L.

183 Ormeau Road, Belfast,

September, 1929.



V.W. BRO. S. LEIGHTON, P.M., P.K., P.P., P.M.W.S.,
"Father" of
Lodge, Chapter, and Preceptory
No. 51.

Temple Masonic Lodge 51

The Warrant for Lodge 51 was originally issued to Sligo, in the year 1817, where it remained until returned to Grand Lodge in 1846, to be again issued, in 1849, to Bro. James Coates, John Johnston, and William Cooper, the founders of the present Lodge, which has, since that. time, regularly continued meeting in Belfast, with varying periods of depression and success.

The first mention of the new Lodge is to be found in a Minute of Lodge 88, 14 Castle Lane, 6th August, 1849. as follows:

An application having been made to the W.M. for the use of our lodge-rooms, by several brethren who were applying for a Grand Lodge Warrant No. 51, and expecting to be installed in October next,

Resolved-That they be accommodated on the same terms as Lodge 59; the W.M. to make the necessary arrangements. The terms were as follows :-

- To pay £6 per annum, payable half-yearly in advance, and also retaining and defraying the expenses of the Tyler.

It will thus be seen that we commenced our career as tenants of Lodge 88, in 14 Castle Lane, the position of which is described by those who can recall that remote period, as having been situated just opposite the stage door of the theatre and on the premises of the present Abercorn Hotel. It is pleasant to think that, whilst then occupying the same lodge-rooms together, the brethren of 51 and 88 still remain on the most friendly and brotherly terms.

The Warrant bears the date of 11th September, 1849; and of the brethren who formed the Lodge I cannot find. that any survive. The oldest living member is Bro. Beath (1850), who is still resident in Belfast, and although not now taking an active part in Masonry, was a leading meinber during many years. He was one of a few enthusiasts—to whom all honour is due. who kept the Lodge working in the face of many difficulties, and but for whom the Warrant would have been returned to Dublin. Their faithfulness and fidelity are herewith grate fully acknowledged.

Bro, Charles Longford, who was admitted in 1855, is still in the enjoyment of this life, being resident in Dublin. He is, I believe, the oldest surviving member next to Bro. Beath; and is entitled to our regards as one of the enthusiasts mentioned above.

Bro. Gordon (1856) is the only other surviving member admitted in the '50s of whom I can hear; he served the Lodge faithfully in times gone by, and merits our best thanks.

The next in seniority whom I can trace is Bro. Savage, of Ballylessan, who was admitted in February, 1864, and nothing delights him more than to recall the memories of that time, in connection with his mother Lodge.

Bro. Coates, the " Father " of the Lodge, died a few years ago, and many of the present members will have a clear recollection of his venerable and gentlemanly presence, as he sat in the post of honour, which was always accorded to him whenever he visited the Lodge

The following are the minutes of the first meeting on record :--

Regular Meeting of Lodge 51, held at No. 14 Castle Lane, on Tuesday, the 24th day of June, 1851.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, the following members being present

Bro. Cooper, W.M.

Bro. Cowan, S.W.

Bro. Clarke, J.W.

Bro. Levy, S.D.

Bro. Dale, J.D.

Bro. Clendinning, 1.G.

Bro. Woolfenden.

Bro. Brown.

Bro. Lipsey, Secretary.

Moved, seconded, and passed, that Bro. Dale get an allowance of 1/- per chair, on the thirty chairs purchased by him for the use of the Lodge, the same not being required.

Bro. Levy handed in Bro. Moorhead's transfer fee and yearly subscription.

Moved by Bro. Dale, and seconded by Bro. Clendinning, that Bro. Levy be paid the amount due to him for clothing, provided for Bro. Coates when S.W. of the Provincial Grand Lodge and W.M. of 51. £5. 3s. 6d.

Moved by Bro. Dale, and seconded by Bro. Lipsey, that Bro. Levy's account for clothing supplied to Bro. Johnston, when Supt. of Works for Provincial Grand Lodge, be paid. £3.

Bro. Robert Brown was appointed I.G. and Bros. Cooper and Clarke auditors.

The Lodge was then closed, according to the ancient and honourable custom of Freemasonry, by solemn prayer, until the second Wednesday in August, unless in case or cases of emergency, of which the brethren shall have due notice.

The Lodge continued sitting in 14 Castle Lane until May 1852, when application was made for accommodation in the Masonic Hall, Donegall Place Buildings; but this not being available, rooms were secured in Castle Chambers, from a Mr. Gordon, at a yearly rent of £25, and the tenancy entered upon in June of the same year. Some idea of the prosperity of the Lodge at this time, may be gathered from the fact that at this meeting the Treasurer submitted his statement of accounts, from which it appeared that there was a balance to the credit of the Lodge of £55. 15s. 3d. The average attendance, however, all through the '50s was not more than ten members. Lodges 58 (now defunct), 88, 97, 106, 111, of 51. and 272 also occupied these rooms afterwards as tenants

The election of officers took place twice a year, but we frequently find the same officers re-elected for another term. Half-yearly elections were continued until the year came into force. 1875, when the present arrangements for annual elections came into force.

It is worthy of note that, on 9th August, 1854, we have a minute to the following effect: - " Bro. Echlin, as J.W., appointed Bro. Beath I.G. for the ensuing six months." From which it seems that at this time the J.W. appointed the I.G. It was customary to confer the first and second degrees on the same night.

An ancient custom was that of conferring all degrees-- Blue, Red, and Black-under the Blue Warrant. This, however, was done away with when the Order became more subject to discipline and the

Grand Lodge superintendence more strict. Masons exalted to the higher degrees under the old system are not now recognised except they have been re-admitted in due form under the respective Warrants.

On 27th December, 1853, an unusual honour seems to have been paid the Lodge, as I find " that the three principal officers elect, on the invitation of the R.W. the P.G. Master, repaired to the P.G. Lodge-room, when Bro. Lipsey was duly installed W.M. of this Lodge."

The regular night of meeting was at this time the second Wednesday, and was altered in October, 1864, to the fourth Wednesday; again, in June, 1865, it was changed to the first Wednesday, which has been the regular night of meeting ever since.

The Lodge continued working in Castle Chambers until May, 1860, when it was removed to "The Masonic Hall," Donegal Place Buildings, situated at the rear of the premises at present occupied by Messrs. Anderson and M'Auley.

In consequence of the action of those political and secret organisations which have kept Ireland more or less in a state of agitation during the greater part of this century, an Act of Parliament was passed requiring the names and addresses of the members of all friendly and secret societies, whatever their nature might be, to be sworn to by affidavit, and lodged with the Clerk of the Peace.

The Masonic body was not exempt from the action of this law; and so, we find in March, 1860, nineteen names were duly sworn to, as follows:

John Johnston, William Dale, James Lipsy, D. M'Collough, Francis C. Haddock, Peter Echlin, R. M. Beath, Jonathan Cordukes, Thomas Cunningham, Henry Black, J. W. Carroll, Charles Longford, James Rutherford, William Wilson, S. M'Lorn, Isaac Gordon, James M'Neilly, James Maclurcan, W. K. Vail.

It will thus be seen that the membership had become considerably reduced, and the average attendance was so meagre that great difficulty was experienced in holding the meetings.

The following minutes shew the depressed condition of affairs: -

"Regular meeting of Temple Masonic Lodge, No. 51, at the Lodge-rooms, Donegal Place Buildings, Wednesday, October 10th, 1860.

Present: - Bro. M'Lorn, W.M.; Bro. M'Neilly S.W.; Bro. J. Johnston, J.W.; Bro. Maciurcan, S.D.; Bro. Gordon, J.D.; Bro. Beath, I.G.

In consequence of so few members being present no business was brought before the meeting, and the Lodge closed until the 14th November.

The following are the minutes of December 27th, 1860:

Present: - Bro. M'Lorn, W.M.; Bro. Lipsey, S.W.; Bro. Longford, J.W.; Bro. Thompson (visitor), S.D.; Bro. Rutherford, J.D.; Bro. Beath, I.G.

The Lodge having been opened, it was proposed and passed, that the caretaker be presented with a Xmas-box, no other business of importance being before the meeting, the Lodge was closed.

The brethren afterwards met and dined together in their lodge-rooms and the evening was spent in harmony. Samuel M'Lorn, W.M.

This St. John's Day dinner shews a remarkable contrast to the Installation dinners of recent years, when seventy to eighty brethren usually assemble round our board.

A few faithful and enthusiastic brethren, however, met regularly in order to keep the Warrant; but, under such depressing circumstances even the most energetic are apt to lose heart, and so, on June 12th, 1861, at the regular meeting, eight members being present, we find it recorded :- That the propriety of continuing or dissolving the Lodge was discussed by the brethren, but without coming to any definite conclusion.

The following notice of motion was, however, given by Bro. Beath: -"That, on our next night of meeting, he would move that the Lodge be dissolved and a committee appointed to wind up the affairs."

The next meeting did not take place till August 17th, 1861, only five being present, when it was proposed by Bro. Beath, and seconded by Bro. Longford -" That the Lodge affairs be wound up by sale of effects and paying all liabilities. Bros. Beath, Gordon, and Haddock were appointed a committee to carry out the arrangements.

After this, no meeting seems to have been held till December 27th, 1861, six members being present, when the business proceeded, apparently without any reference being made to the foregoing resolution. Bro. Haddock was installed W.M.; Bro. Gordon, S.W.; Bro. Beath, J.W.; Bro. Longford, Secretary; and Bro. M'Lorn, I.G.; and the Lodge closed till February 12th, 1862.

At this meeting five members of 51 and two visiting brethren were present, but still no signs of dissolution appear; on the contrary, things seem to be mending and in a better state, for we find that an *annual* vote of 63 was passed to the Belfast Masonic Charity Fund and Bro. Longford appointed representative thereto. This was the year in which this fund was started. Accounts amounting to 65. 25. 8d, were passed for payment, and the Lodge closed till second Wednesday in March.

On March 12th only three brethren of 51 and two visiting brethren were present, when Bros: Longford and Gordon were appointed to make an affidavit before a magistrate as to the registry of members of the Lodge.

This is the last entry I find referring to this formality, as the action of this law ceased to operate against Free masons about this time.

No meeting was held in April; but on May 14th only five members and two visitors were present; and another interval occurs till September 10th, when accounts amounting to £13. 5s. Od. were passed for payment.

The next meeting was held on December 10th, when only three members turned up-Bros. Beath, Johnston, and Longford—and the following truly Masonic resolution was passed: - " That Bro. Johnston be again made a member of the Lodge, and that the past be forgotten."

On January 14th, 1863, "Bro. Johnston was elected W.M. for the ensuing term," thus shewing that the resolution referred to above had been carried out in spirit and in truth. At this meeting the same three brethren were the sole representatives of Masonry, and by resolution, the rent of Lodge 111 was reduced to £5 per annum,

The next meeting, held on March 11th, 1863, was a remarkable one, the same three faithful brethren being present, in addition to four members from 111. It was proposed by Bro. Beath, and seconded by Bro. Longford-" That the members of 111, collectively, become members of 51, they transferring all their property to our chest, but not to be liable for our debts; the transfer fees to come out of general funds." Passed unanimously...

At the May meeting, the proposed brethren were formed ally and separately balloted for and all admitted except one, Bros. Johnston and Longford being the only members of 51 present. It does not appear, however, that the coalition was so complete as is suggested by the above resolution. Lodge 111 did not wind up its affairs, but manifestly continued working under its own Warrant, and with considerable success, as is testified by the present position of this highly respected and well-worked Lodge. Minute of 27th December, 1864: —

" Passed-That Bro. Lyons be not charged fees whilst living beyond his 'cable tow.' "

This is a practice that has not been perpetuated, as members are now expected to accept with membership all the responsibilities attached to it, no matter where they may be resident. . At this time a wave of prosperity set in, and the efforts of the brethren, who had been working the Lodge through a period of great depression, were rewarded by a large influx of members, on transfer, affiliation, and initiation, which placed it upon a most successful footing, and the attendance at the monthly meetings became correspondingly large.

The secretaryship had been held by Bro. Longford through a lengthened period, and it was no doubt a great satisfaction to him to see the prosperity which had ensued. On resigning his office, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him for his services, in which the present brethren will join, knowing how much they owe to his faithful attention at a time when it was so much needed. He was succeeded by Bro. J. D. Templeton in 1866. "

On March 7th, 1866, a balance of £59. 2s. Od. was declared in favour of the Lodge, which speaks for itself, Indeed, it is remarkable that at no time was there a deficiency of funds, even when the paucity of members might have suggested it.

On 6th January, 1869, in the last minute recorded in the old book, I find that accounts amounting to £55. 18s. 1 d. were passed, enough, surely, for one night, ...

In May, 1870, the Lodge removed to the New Masonic Hall, Arthur Square, having arranged with the House Committee to take over its furniture and belongings; a relic of which may still be seen in the Arch-room in the shape of the S.W.'s chair, which bears a plate shewing the previous ownership. It does not, however, appear that the change of address contributed to the continued success of the Lodge; for a manifest falling off took place, both in attendance and in the number of admissions, which fell much below the previous year. However, I find that a small number of faithful brethren, worthy successors of that trusty few who piloted the old craft successfully through the shallow waters of the early '60s, stuck closely by the old number and worked it once more over a critical period, amongst whom honourable mention may be made of Bros. S. Abernethy, R. Corry, and J. D. Templeton, to whom much credit is due for their assiduous labours.

Bro. Samuel Abernethy's unwearied and lengthened services were formally recognised on March 15th, 1876, when he was made the recipient of a P.M.'s Jewel; and again, in January, 1888 (on his retirement from the Lodge in consequence of failing health), he was presented with a handsomely illuminated address album and was made an honorary member. His interest in the Craft has never relaxed, and the affairs of 51 in particular never fail to rouse his interest and enthusiasm. The brethren cherish lively recollections of his genial and animated presence, as well as of the earnest and impressive manner with which he always conferred the degrees, and his welfare and happiness are subjects of the warmest interest to all who have the pleasure of knowing him.

The Lodge continued working in peace, love, and harmony" through the early '70s, with but a meagre average attendance. In 1875, however, with the advent of a number of enthusiastic musical

brethren, success again ensued, and the Lodge continued to advance in prosperity and popularity until 1880, when it touched its highest level, which position it has steadily maintained up till the present time.

It was the writer's privilege to introduce a musical ritual into the various degrees and ceremonies, which tended to greatly enhance their solemnity and impressiveness, as well as making them more attractive. This innovation was viewed with no favourable eye by the older members of the Craft in Belfast, who were so jealous of the old land marks that anything in the shape of a novelty at once excited their opposition. The music was, however, such a palpable improvement and commended itself so much to the best judgment of the brethren generally, that soon the murmurings ceased and it became the established rule to have music to all the ceremonies. It is gratifying to think that 51 is not now the only Lodge which indulges in this practice; many Lodges in Belfast having adopted the "Ode Card," which has received the sanction and approval of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The fame of the musical powers of 51 having become known), the committees of the local Charities resolved to utilise them in the cause of the widow and orphan, and accordingly invited the Lodge to give a concert in aid of the Masonic Charities of Belfast an invitation which was at once accepted and heartily entered into. The concert was given in the Victoria Hall, on February 15th, 1878. and proved a great success, a handsome sum being realised after paying expenses, which was equally divided between the Charities; and in recognition of this effort, Bro. Samuel Abernethy, as a P.M. of 51, was made a life member of both committees.

The programme was sustained (with one exception) entirely by the members of 51 and their lady friends, and is of historical interest as being the inauguration of that series of concerts which led up to and are now merged into those annual meetings so well-known and so highly appreciated, and which have tended to bring these Charities into that popular favour which they now enjoy.

It was my privilege to conduct not only this inaugural concert, but many others of the subsequent series; and I am very pleased that the annual concert has now become thoroughly established, resulting in a handsome sum of: about £200 a year for the charities.

The grand costume procession has grown in dignity and effect. Time and experience have affected great improvements. It is a very imposing sight to see the brethren, clad in the brilliant regalia of the various degrees, marching up the hall to the martial music of a military band; and when the grand officers and all the various sections are marshalled on the orchestra, the ensemble is strikingly beautiful.

The idea originated in the desire to increase the interest in the annual meetings of the charities by having some music.

At first it did not work out very well, as the music was usually delayed till after nine o'clock, when the audience were tired out with the speeches, which nobody could hear; but ultimately it was recognised that the oratory should be cut down, as it interfered so much with the pleasure of the audience, and now we have only a few words from the Grand Master.

I would like to add a word of appreciation for the help I received from my good brother, D. Motherwell, who for many years acted as secretary.

It is gratifying to think that so much has evolved from our little effort in the Victoria Hall in September 1878.

CONCERT

IN AID OF

BELFAST MASONIC CHARITIES,

VICTORIA HALL, SEPTEMBER 15th, 1878.

Brethren to appear in Masonic Costume.

BRO. J. G. M'GEE IN THE CHAIR.

PROGRAMME.

SOLO PIANO—OVERTURE.....	"L'Italiana in Algeria,".....	Rossini.
	Bro. S. Leighton.	
PART SONG.....	"In this Hour,".....	Pisauti.
SONG.....	"Not a Fear,".....	Mozart.
	Bro. H. Campbell.	
SONG.....	"The Distant Shore,".....	Sullivan.
	Mrs. Cotter.	
QUARTETTE.....	"The Storm,".....	Dierner.
	Bros. H. Campbell, Bullick, M'Wade, and J. Anderson.	
DUETT.....	"The Village Curfew,".....	Gounod.
	Mrs. Cotter and Miss Ritchie.	
SONG.....	"Annie, dear, Good-bye,".....	Wallace.
	Bro. J. M'Wade.	
PART SONG.....	"The Rivals,".....	Hatton.
PANORAMA.....		Anderson.
	Paintings by Bro. S. Leighton; Lecture by the Author.	
	Bro. J. Anderson.	

INTERVAL.

QUARTETTE.....	"Blow, Gentle Gales,".....	Bishop.
SONG.....	"The Raft,".....	Pisauti.
	Bro. H. Campbell.	
SONG.....	"The Seal-fisher's Wife,".....	Molson.
	Bro. W. E. Bullick.	
SOLO FLUTE.....	"Fantasia,".....	Nicholson.
	Mr. J. Ellis.	
PART SONG.....	"Who shall Win,".....	Pearsall.
DUETT.....	"La che Dorem,".....	Mozart.
	Mrs. Cotter and Bro. Campbell.	
SONG.....	"The Fisherman's Daughter,".....	Lover.
	Bro. J. M'Wade.	
PART SONG.....	"Peace to the Hero's Sleep,".....	Parker.
	"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."	
CONDUCTOR AND ACCOMPANIST.....		BRO. S. LEIGHTON.

The large influx of well-known amateurs who threw themselves heartily into the business of Masonry and by the exercise of their talents made the ceremonies impressive and the pleasures of the refreshment board attractive, won for the Lodge the *sobriquet* of the "Musical Lodge," and what with solos, both instrumental and vocal, part songs, duets, and trios, the first Wednesday in the month was always looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation. All things are, however, subject to change and our Lodge is no exception. Some of the brethren referred to have left the city, some have "crossed the bar," and other circumstances have contributed to reduce their numbers; but although we cannot boast of so many musicians as formerly, I trust it will be long ere "Icabod" will be pronounced, or that our good old "Mothers' loses her reputation for either music, mirth, or hospitality.

We frequently hear it remarked by those who have no knowledge of Masonry that it exists solely for the purpose of cultivating the social pleasures; but this is a great mistake. Masonry has higher and loftier aims than the mere pleasures of the table; and if I were asked to name some of them, I would point to those noble schools in Dublin, where over two hundred orphan girls and boys, children of deceased Irish Masons, are educated and trained in such a way as to fit them for entering upon the struggle of life with advantages and prospects of success which they could not otherwise have possibly had.

I would point to the local Belfast Charities, which annually spend about £6,000 in relieving the wants and distresses of the widow and orphan, as well as of destitute brethren, who, perhaps, through no fault of their own, have become reduced to indigence and want. Should such a one be found sick and needy he is carefully nursed and tended, and in case of his death Bumbledom is not allowed to—

"Rattle his bones over the stones, He's only a pauper whom nobody owns"; for there is a plot of ground in the Borough Cemetery I would remind them of the fact that over £200,000 are annually subscribed by Freemasons of the United Kingdom towards Masonic charitable purposes, and ask, "Do these facts not speak for themselves? Are such results fit subjects for scoff and ridicule and unworthy of consideration?" Surely no one would reply in the affirmative.

The social aspect is, no doubt, an important part of the general constitution, Friendships are made and cemented at the social board which otherwise might be difficult of attainment, but sociality as a part of Masonry is only of secondary consideration, and merely an adjunct to the greater principles of universal Morality, Benevolence, and Charity.

Men may have the desire for ameliorating the lot of those less fortunately circumstanced than themselves, but, individually, may not find favourable opportunities. Masonry, however, supplies these and gives ample scope for the exercise of those kindlier feelings of sympathy and brotherly love which are at once the pride and boast of the Craft.

The record of our Lodge in this matter is not to be despised as unworthy of being recorded in this place.

Towards the various Masonic charities we have contributed to the end of 1928:

Boys' and Girls' Masonic Orphan Schools - £1,080.

The Belfast Masonic Widows' Fund - £1,120.

The Belfast Masonic Charity Fund - £700.

The principles of Masonry are so broad and wide in their application that both Jew and Gentile, Christian and Mahomedan can meet upon a common platform and greet each other as brothers; but whilst she favours no particular form of religion and recognizes no Church, she demands as a fundamental principle, a belief in a Supreme Being and the Immortality of the Soul. It is only against the atheist that her portals are closed; and so long as this principle is maintained, together with the twin attributes, Benevolence and Charity, she may be considered to be established on a foundation at once strong, safe, and secure; but should the time ever come when these fundamental principles should be allowed to lapse, when they should cease to be chief corner stones in the foundation, from that day the superstructure may be expected to crumble into ruins.

In the history of human institutions, Freemasonry has a unique record. No other can boast of such antiquity, or of having so successfully withstood the shocks of time, and the attacks of enemies both from within and without.

Successive occupants of the Papal throne and their agents have hurled the thunderbolts of Rome against her, have issued bulls and excommunications times without number and used every means in their power to stamp the Order out of existence, but all in vain, Freemasonry stands immovable and impregnable in her inherent strength, and notwithstanding persecution, envy, hatred, malice, and all un-charitableness, she is numerically stronger and socially more powerful to-day than ever she has been before. Kings, princes, and potentates do not hesitate to patronise the Order and join in its assemblies and " have not thought it beneath them to exchange the sceptre for the trowel." The principles upon which she is founded are unassailable in their integrity; the principles of brotherly love and charity are so broad and universal that Freemasons only smile in derision at the fulminations of Rome, well knowing that the evils attributed to them are non-existent.

The Order is non-political and non-sectarian, and based upon the truths of a morality that finds acceptance with every creed and in the observance of which men are drawn to each other in a union of sympathy, which is calculated to make them better men and better citizens, better fitted to live their shortened lives in this world, and better prepared to enter upon the life of immortality in the world that is to come.

It should be the earnest endeavour of every Mason to soften and subdue those selfish passions with which all are more or less imbued and to foster and encourage those kindlier feelings of peace and good will to men, which should be the key-stone to every Mason's heart. The great and immutable truths of Scripture furnish moral lessons and precepts which are incontrovertible and form a common basis upon which all men can agree, and so long as Freemasonry holds steadfastly by these truths she can and will defy all the powers that man can bring to bear against her.

THE JUBILEE OF LODGE 51,

11th September 1899

This was such an important event in the history of the Lodge that it seems to demand an acknowledgment here, and I have much pleasure in recording it in the following address, which I was privileged to give on that occasion, the W.M., Bro. Thos. Caldwell, presiding, "Worshipful Master and Brethren:

In celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the constitution of our good old "mother" lodge, who has been teaching and admonishing her sons in the principles of universal benevolence, morality, and virtue during that lengthened period, one's thoughts naturally turn backwards, and a general survey of the main incidents seems to be the suitable procedure to adopt on this occasion.

Reminiscences crowd upon the memory, we dwell with delight upon the many happy events connected with the past and in conjuring up the loved faces of those with whom we were wont to associate in lodge and merry meetings, but, alas! not without a sigh of regret.

A note of sadness breaks in upon our reverie as we remember that many of our most beloved and esteemed brethren have crossed the bar' and passed out of our lives for ever. We have, however, many enthusiastic young brethren coming forward to take their places, and we are grateful for the continued adherence of so many old and experienced Past Masters, whose wise counsel and advice have contributed in a large measure towards the general welfare.

Some of us had the pleasure of personal acquaintance with the first W.M., Bro. Coates, whose genial and gentlemanly presence was ever welcomed amongst us. He was our first W.M, and had at the same time the honour of being P.S.G. Warden of the Province of Belfast and North Down, as the governing body at that time was called.

John Johnston appropriately held the office of P.G. Superintendent, being a well known builder. He designed and erected the monument to Sir Richard Rolls Gillespie, which is still to be seen in Comber Square.

William Cowan was a leading merchant and uncle to the late Sir Edward Porter Cowan

William Mullan, an ex-mayor of Belfast.

Johnathan Cordukes, a well-known merchant residing in York Street.

James May, one of the original founders of the lodge, was organist of St Anne's church and Provincial Grand Organist, so that our association with that office commenced when we were in our swaddling clothes, and now, at the end of fifty years, it is my privilege to hold the same office. Another of our musical members, Henry A Woods, also organist of St Anne's Church was Provincial Grand Organist.

Jas. A Sherry, a well-known architect, who was killed by being thrown off a car on the Hollywood Road. The rev S. S. Frackleton was Rector of Portglenone and P.G. Chaplain for many years and a very enthusiastic Mason. His Brother W.G. Frackleton was a member of the firm Frackleton's Glass and Paint Merchants, Church Lane.

Henry Fulton was a famous yacht builder.

Bro S Abernethy was initiated in 1865 and during a lengthened period took leading part in the affairs of the lodge. He was our most prominent member for many years, conferring degrees and guiding the affairs of the lodge with his wise council and advice. He was manager of the Morning News until his health broke down, when he started business in the oil and colour trade, and subsequently acquired the Hotel "Bellevue" in Newcastle where he was always glad to welcome any member of 51. He went blind towards the end but still maintained his spirits and endeavoured to write. I have one of his letters from this period.

Bro. John M'Connell (late of Messrs. Dunville's) was initiated in 1866, and our old friend, Robert Corry, was received on transfer from 447 Newtownards. He was a well-known builder and became chairman of the Water Commissioners.

Bro. James Kidd was initiated in 1869 and is in regular attendance. His modesty has hitherto prevented him from coming forward, but his worth is recognised, and we may take it that he finds himself in congenial company or he would not have stuck so closely through a period of thirty years.

"Bro. W. T. Braithwaite has been in constant attendance since 1874, and I may be pardoned for saying that all through the years no one has been more devoted to the lodge. He was called to the chair in 1888 and is now in nomination for P.S.G.W. We all anticipate seeing him duly elected to that high office.

"During twenty-three years' membership I can safely say that no one has been so universally popular as Bro. W. E. Bullick. His heart throbs with enthusiasm towards his mother lodge. He is as jealous of her reputation as a lover of his mistress, and nothing delights him more than to be offering his services in the furtherance of the charities of the Order. He was W.M. in 1884 and received P.G. honours in 1887.

Time will not permit me to pursue this line of thought any further, although there are many others I would like to refer to, such as Bros. S. Courtney, S. Henderson, G. Murray, A. P. Dalzell, A. Thompson, W. Bryson and many others equally worthy of mention, young as well as old. There is not one of them we would be without, and there is not one, however insignificant he may think himself, who is not an object of interest to those who take an active part in the management of the lodge.

In the first set of Bye-Laws, issued in 1850, there are the names of the twenty-nine members who constituted the lodge, the majority of whom were affiliated from Lodge 154. I have endeavoured to trace the reason for these brethren starting 51 but have been unable to gain any particulars.

The regulations as set forth in the Bye-Laws were very stringent and a few extracts may be interesting.

Rule III.—That the secretary shall, on the lodge being opened, read over the minutes of the former meeting, which, after being confirmed, shall be signed by the W.M. Immediately after, the roll shall be called, and every member absent who resides within three miles of the place of meeting, shall (unless good cause to the contrary is assigned in open lodge) be fined sixpence, if absent at eight o'clock, one shilling. The officers to be fined double.

Rule IV.—Members absent from three regular consecutive meetings of the lodge (unless good cause be shown as aforesaid) may be excluded from membership and not be re-admitted unless balloted for anew, and if then admitted, to be chargeable with a payment of ten shillings and sixpence to the funds of the lodge. All members who are indebted to the lodge for three months shall be furnished with their accounts, which must be promptly discharged, otherwise such members may be cited before the lodge and suspended or excluded as may be determined by a majority of the brethren.

"The foregoing rule was also printed in the edition of 1865 Bye-Laws. Elections took place twice a year, but only the three principal officers were elected by ballot; and 'when these officers have been installed the W.M. shall appoint the S.D., and the Wardens shall appoint the J.D. and I.G. respectively, who shall thereupon be invested '(Rule XI). This procedure underwent a change when the Bye-Laws were revised in 1865. The number of members at this time was twenty-six and the meeting place was Donegall Place Buildings.

I have a statement of accounts for 1864, issued by the House Committee, in which I find that Lodge 51 had only fifteen members, Lodge 111 had five members, whilst the largest roll was Lodge 59 with sixty members.

The next edition of Bye-Laws was 1875, when the list of lodges meeting in the hall is given as twenty, so that within twenty-four years the number has more than doubled, there being at present fifty lodges, showing the remarkable progress the Craft has made.

"Elections now became yearly and a new law was introduced stipulating that the secretary must be a P.M. This question was first raised by 51, which had adopted it as a law unto themselves before it became an article of the Constitution.

"The early history of our lodge is embodied in the printed brochure. Much interesting matter has been collected and is there set forth, perhaps the most interesting being that relating to the proposal to close the lodge owing to the difficulty of getting a sufficient number of members to open with.

In 1865, however, a wave of prosperity set in and the unprecedented number of twenty-five members were added in that year. Since then we have been very prosperous, and to-day we can look back with some little pride that our 'mother' has survived the buffeting of the waves of time and emerged successfully from the welter.

The establishing of the Board of General Purposes has been a source of strength and proved to be a useful addition to the usual routine.

The desire of its members is to consolidate, unite and cement all into one solid bond of brotherhood, to encourage and cherish the principles of Peace, Love and Harmony, and to make each one feel that, within the lodge we have a common bond of union in which all can labour towards an end which is noble and elevating. I believe it is to this constant effort to maintain the highest and most honourable principles of action, that much of the general influence of Freemasonry is due, working through the agency of the separate lodges.

We have now, after a varied and eventful fifty years, attained to our Jubilee celebration, and it is a matter for congratulation that this year finds us in such prosperity, and it should be the earnest endeavour of every member to maintain this position so that our influence for good may still be kept alive and thereby justify our continued existence as a part of the Great Brotherhood of Tree masonry.

To mark in a special manner this interesting anniversary, a commemoration collar has been prepared to be worn by successive Worshipful Masters. Upon it is appropriately engraved the names of those who, during the past fifty years have occupied the chair. This collar will be handed down to our successors who, as they enter upon the office, will have their names added to the roll of P.M.s, and we trust that, in assuming the duties of the chair, they may one and all realise that their earnest desire should be to prove themselves worthy of having a place upon a roll of such distinguished and honourable Freemasons.

" In conclusion, I may be permitted to indulge in the hope that the lodge may continue to thrive with advancing years; prospering, not only numerically and financially, but also growing rich with an abundance of that brotherly love and kindly feeling one towards the other, which should be the earnest endeavour of every true-hearted Mason,"

S. Leighton, 11TH September 1899

THE WAR

The "Jubilee " celebrations over, the lodge continued with renewed zest to carry on the work through the years which followed, but when the great "Armageddon" commenced in August, 1914, with all its disastrous consequences, it was the cause of many unexpected changes, with new adaptations to new conditions.

The "Ulster boys" were not slow in responding to the call to service and many members of the Order joined the colours, amongst them were some from Lodge 51, and I have much pleasure in recording their names here:

Bro. Captain Charles Faussett.

Bro. Alfred Cotter

Bro. W. A. Malone.

Bro. R. J. Cowzer.

Bro. Walter A. Edmenson.

Bro. Victor Hunter.

Bro. Thos. H. Cotter.

Then, when the dreadful slaughtering had continued for about one and a half years, the age-long feud between the Irish and English broke out in Ireland. The rebellion which commenced in Easter week of 1916, was the result, and later on, was followed by the civil war between Sinn Feiners and Republicans. This put a temporary stop to all Masonic work, and the seizure of the Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth Street, Dublin, created great consternation amongst the members of the Craft. After a time, however, the premises were vacated and delivered up to Grand Lodge authorities without any material damage being done to the buildings.

VISIT OF THE LODGE OF RESEARCH

On 29 January 1916 an official visit from this important lodge was paid to lodge 51 in order that the brethren of the North might have an opportunity of learning of the working and the object for which the "Lodge of Research" was formed. The room was crowded to excess. At the dinner which was held after the lodge meeting the Dublin brethren expressed their thanks for the enthusiasm which they had been received in the North. As a souvenir of their visit their Worshipful Master was presented by lodge 51 with a Maul especially made from a hand grenade and suitably inscribed. A very happy evening was spent, and the whole proceedings most successfully carried out. Subsequently a return visit was arranged and lodge 51 was invited to Dublin. However, the unhappy disturbances which broke out during Easter week 1916 intervened and the visit had to be postponed. It was not until 28 October 1916 that the visit became an accomplished fact. About 30

members went to Dublin and receive a "Cead Mille Failte" from lodge 200. During the evening they were agreeably surprised by the presentation of a beautiful maul from the W M Brother Thomas Armstrong as a souvenir of their visit to us, in January. The incident created a lively interest and the brethren of 51 received the compliment with much pleasure. The W.M. Gracefully acknowledged the gift and warmly thanked the brethren of the Lodge of Research 200 for their kindness.

THE MAUL.



THE MAUL.
Presented by "Lodge of Research," No. 200,
29th January, 1916.

The origin of the Maul is very interesting and is well worth recording. Like many another good thing, it was the result of an accident, viz., a chance visit of some of our Dublin brethren to the Bank of Ireland, Dame Street, where repairs were being made to the platform of the old Irish House of Commons. Some small pieces of wood were lying about, and upon a request being made for one of

the pieces it was readily granted. That bit of oak was skilfully turned and fashioned into a beautiful emblem of the W.M.'s authority. It is embellished with a silver band artistically engraved with characteristic Celtic art interlacing and Masonic ornaments. Upon the bottom is affixed a silver plate upon which an inscription is engraved as follows:

Portion of the Speaker's platform, old Irish House of Commons. Presented to Temple Masonic Lodge, No. 51, by the

Lodge of Research, ' No. 200, as a souvenir of the visit of the brethren of Lodge 200, to Lodge 51, on 29th January, 1916."

When the Maul was completed it was found that the balance was not quite satisfactory, and in order to remedy this defect a cavity was made, into which two leaden bullets were inserted. These bullets were taken from the bandolier of the O'Rahilly, one of the Irish leaders in the Easter Rebellion. He was captured when escaping from the burning G.P.O., Sackville Street; the destruction of which was one of the disasters of the rising. The Maul is now one of our most cherished possessions, and as the story of its origin is so interesting, I give it here that it may not be forgotten.

This interchange of courtesies between the two lodges was favourably commented upon, as contributing to a closer bond of friendship between the brethren of the North and South.

Conclusions

There is little more of special interest to add. We have deeply felt the loss by death, of many of our respected members, and there are but few now left who remember the "Jubilee." In this connection, I may be pardoned if I briefly refer to two little matters personal to myself, but of interest, as unusual events in the story of the lodge, which I have been asked to include.

When the fiftieth anniversary of my initiation into "' fifty-one" came around in 1925, the members most kindly expressed their warm congratulations and fraternal good wishes in a complimentary dinner, together with a souvenir of the occasion, which was presented by my old friend and brother, the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Wm. Wallace, 31", now the Provincial Grand Master, with expressions of goodwill which touched me deeply.

During the same year I was happy in the celebration of my " Golden Wedding " anniversary, and later on another "Jubilee" occurred, that of my fiftieth year as Past Master, having been installed W.M. in 1879. During that year business affairs took me to London, where I resided for almost eight years. On leaving Belfast, the brethren of " fifty-one" kindly presented me with a marble clock and a pair of ornaments, which have decorated my home ever since. It appeared to me that this latter anniversary would be a suitable time to return them to the Masonic Hall, Arthur Square, in memory of the many happy years I had spent within the precincts of the hall. Accordingly, I presented them to my co-trustees and House Committee, who kindly accepted them and placed them in the committee room, where they now form part of the furnishings of that room.

Royal Arch Chapter No 51

When I commenced my search for the original minute book of the Chapter, I could get no trace of it, and finally wrote to Companion A. St. George, the Grand Registrar, who kindly supplied me with the following information: -

13th September, 1892.

Dear Sir and Companion :

The Warrant of Chapter 51 was first issued to Belfast on 7th June, 1851, to the following companions -William Cooper, John Johnston, William Cowan, William Dale, Robert Brown, Andrew Clendenning, Mier Levy, Samuel Boyle, James M. Fordyce.

There were exalted in the Chapter, on the 2nd September, 1853, Francis C. Haddock, James Lipsey, Jonathan Cordukes, John Porter and John Shannon and on the 19th November, 1856, Joseph Waugh and J. W. Carroll.

On 21st August, 1861, it was suspended-by order of Grand Chapter, and re-issued on 17th May, 1865.

There was no issue previous to 1851 : in fact, it was only about 1834 that separate Warrants were given, for R.A. Chapters ; previous to that date, the R.A. Degree was worked under the Lodge Warrant.

Yours fraternally,

ARCHIBALD ST. GEORGE.

Subsequently a packet of valuable documents, relating to the early transactions of the Chapter, was put into my hands by Bro. R. J. Hilton, P.G. Sec., who received them from the representatives of the late esteemed and respected Bro. Lipsey, our first Secretary, who was a very enthusiastic and energetic member of the Craft.

They consist of letters and the minutes of two meetings from which it will be observed, that although the Warrant was taken out in 1851, no business was transacted until 2nd September, 1853, when five brethren received the degrees of " Virtual Past Master," "Excellent," "Super-Excellent," and "Royal Arch," all on the same evening. The latter is the only one now practised, the other three having become obsolete and given way to a new order of things. Formerly only P.M.s were exalted to the Royal Arch degree, but as the brethren thus qualified were necessarily very limited, the degree of " Virtual Past Master". was instituted in order to increase the number. It was conferred in a conclave of P.M.s, but carried with it none of the privileges of a P.M. except the qualification for R.A. Masonry. It is not now necessary to be a P.M. in order to proceed to the Royal Arch, and the Mark Master's degree is the only other associated with the Royal Arch under the Irish Constitution. In England there is a separate Grand Chapter and Constitution for each of these Degrees, but in Ireland both are worked under the Constitution and Warrant of G.R.A. Chapter.

The following are the letters and minutes referred to above: -

Castle Chambers, Thursday, 2nd September, 1853.

EMERGENCY MEETING. Temple and St. John's Lodges, Nos. 51 and 88. 8 o'clock. Lodge opened on Past Master's Degree:

Members Present:	Lodge
Bro. William Seeds, W.M.	- 88,
Bro. Levy, S.W.	- 51
Bro. Dale, J.W.	- 51
Bro. Johnston, S.D.	- 51
Bro. M. Gilbert	- 88
Bro. E. Gilbert	- 88
Bro. Scott	- 88
Bro. Brown	- 51
Bro. Walshe	- 111
Bro. Irwin	- 88
Bro Wales	- 111
Bro. Heron	- 51

Brethren raised to the degree of Virtual Past Master':-Bros. Cordukes, Gavin, Haddock, Porter, Lipsey and Shannon.

Lodge closed quarter to 9 o'clock, Bros. Waterson and George C. Brown being also at that time present. Immediately afterwards the Chapter was opened, the following being the minutes :

First meeting of Royal Arch Chapter, No. 51, held in Castle Chambers, 2nd September, 1853.

Companions Present:

Levy, 1st Principal	51	Scott	88
Dale, 2nd do.	51	Walshe	111
Johnston, 3rd do	51	Irwin	88
Brown	51	Wales	111
Wm. Seeds	88	Heron	51
M. Gilbert	88	Waterson	154
E. Gilbert	88	Brown	154

Virtual Past Master' degree having been previously given to Bros. Cordukes, Haddock, Porter, Lipsey, and Shannon, they were introduced and advanced to the 'Excellent' and 'Super-Excellent Degrees and exalted to the degree of 'Royal Arch? Masons.

Chapter then closed according to ancient usage. An interval of three years then occurs before the second meeting, which was not held till 19th November, 1856, with only two members of 51 present; so it is apparent that these early years were not at all prosperous; and as no further exaltations are recorded in the Grand Chapter books, we may reasonably infer that these two

meetings constituted the sum total of the business of the Chapter, during the first decade of its existence, up to the time of sending in the Warrant in 1861, and the documents now received may be accepted as the only records of that time that ever existed.

Emergency. -Blue Lodge 51, held in Castle. Chambers, 19th November, 1856.

Members Present: Bro. Haddock, W.M – 51, Bro. Walshe S.W. - 111, Bro. Beath, J.W -51, Bro. Mitchell, S.D. -111, Bro. Wethered J.D. – 111, Bro. Waugh, I.G. – 51, Bro. Emerson, P.M. - 40 Bro. Lipsey, Sec. – 51, Bro. Henry - 111, Bro, Carroll – 51, Bro. Murney -154, Bro Perrie - 40

Bro. Waugh was introduced and raised to the degree of 'Virtual Past Master, the Lodge then closed in the usual Masonic manner until 2nd Wednesday in December. Immediately afterwards the Chapter was opened, the following being the minutes:

Second Meeting of Royal Arch Chapter, No. 51, held in Castle Chambers, Wednesday, 19th November, 1856. Companions Present:

Dr. Perrie 1st Principal - 40, *Emerson*, 2nd do. - 40, Lipsey, 3rd do. - 51, Walshe, 1st Sojourner – 111, Beath, 2nd Sojourner - 154, Lodi, 3rd do – 111, Haddock Scribe- 51, Mitchell Scribe – 111, Dr Murney, HP - 154

Bros. Carroll and Waugh, who had previously received the degree of 'Virtual Past Master,' were introduced, and advanced to the 'Excellent' and 'Super-Excellent' Degrees, and then exalted to the degree of 'Royal Arch' Masons.

Bros. Waugh and Carroll paid their fees.

Chapter then closed according to ancient usage. These minutes are written upon a plain sheet of paper, back and front, and are unsigned, having probably been written at home and never confirmed. The following correspondence will prove interesting:

Belfast, 22nd November, 1856.

Sir and Bro. Companion:

We beg leave to enclose return of members of

Royal Arch Chapter, in connection with Lodge 51, for the present year, by which you will observe five of them were exalted in September, 1853; and I regret to say the Companion then appointed to act as Scribe omitted to send the usual return to the Grand Chapter, and the matter has been quite overlooked since, there being no meeting of the Chapter from that its first meeting) till the 19th instant.

We trust the Grand Chapter will pardon this omission; and, of course, any fine they think proper to inflict we will pay.

You will be good enough to furnish us with any account that is now due for registering, &c; and we will feel obliged by your forwarding a Royal Arch Chapter Certificate for Companion Joseph Waugh, who is about leaving this country, the Certificate to be included in account, amount of which shall be remitted at once. We are, Sir and Companion. ROBERT BROWN, *1st Principal*. " JAMES LIPSEY, *Scribe*

Grand Secretary's Office, Freemasons' Hall, Dublin, 24th day of November, 1856.

Sir and Bro. Companion:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, furnishing a list of the members of R.A.C. No. 51, Belfast. As it appears from your letter that the Chapter has now been taken up with a view to working it regularly, no fine will be exacted for the omission of the former Scribe to return the names of the brethren exalted. No Brother has been registered in the books of the Grand Chapter since the Warrant was taken out up to the present time. I have now registered the names of the five Companions who were exalted in 1853, allowing them that date in the Registry; also, the names of Bros. Waugh and Carroll, lately exalted.

I enclose the Account against the Chapter, also a Certificate for Bro. Companion Waugh.

I have to mention to you that the Grand Chapter has passed a resolution that no Brother shall be exalted to the R.A. Degree without producing his Grand Lodge Certificate as a Master Mason.

Faternally yours, L. H. Deering, G. Scribe.

Bro. Companion Jas. Lipsey, Scribe R.A.C. No. 51, Belfast

It is a tribute to the care and attention of our late Bro. Lipsey, that, after a lapse of forty years, we are in possession of this evidence, whereby I am enabled to present the history of the Chapter complete from the beginning.

REVIVAL OF THE CHAPTER

The first mention we find of the revival of the Chapter is to be found in a minute of the Blue Lodge 51, of 11th April, 1860, as follows: -"Proposed by W.M. and seconded by Bro Longford—That after getting properly settled in the New Lodge Rooms (Donegall Place Buildings) a Chapter should be held and that the Secretary and Bro. Dale make enquiries as to the necessary preliminaries."

These preliminaries do not seem to have been completed for five years, as the Chapter was not constituted until 27th May, 1865.

The following is taken from the minute book commencing at that date:

No business having been transacted in this Chapter for a considerable period previous to the year 1861, the Warrant was on the 21st August in that year returned to Dublin, where it remained till the period hereinafter stated.

A number of the members of the Blue Lodge, considering the time had arrived for reviving the Chapter, and being Royal Arch Masons connected with other Chapters, determined that they would do so, and accordingly, on the 9th May, 1865, a memorial, signed by Alex. Faulkner, P.K. Chapter 111; John Reid, P.K. Chapter 112, and acting K. of Chapter 88; John Ireland, H.P. Chapter 88; Andrew Carr, Registrar Chapter 88; Wm. Trimble, S.T. Chapter 88; Charles Longford and Alex. Wynne, members of Chapter 88, was forwarded to the Grand R.A. Chapter of Ireland, praying for the restoration of the Warrant. The G.R.A. Chapter having been graciously pleased to accede to the prayer of the memorialists, and the Warrant having been forwarded to Companion Reid on 17th May, a meeting of the Companions memorializing, with others hereinafter mentioned, was held on Saturday evening, 27th May, 1865, the following Companions being present: Companions Alex. Faulkner, John Reid, John Ireland, Wm. Trimble, Charles Longford, James Parker, Andrew Carr, Alex. Wynne, all of Chapter 88, and John Cunningham of Chapter 106.

Companion Faulkner was unanimously elected K. The other officers intended to fill offices being at present officers of Chapter 88, it was deemed advisable that no further appointments be made for the present. A M.M. Lodge was then opened, Companion Faulkner presiding Bros. James M'Kay and the Savage of Lodge 51, and Bro. S. Wallace of Lodge 88, who had been duly proposed and balloted for in Chap: 88, were then introduced, and had conferred upon them the degree of M.M.M., Companion Carr conducting and Companion Reid conferring the degree. The Lodge was then closed in due form, until summoned again by lawful authority.

The following alone are present members of Chapter and are to be registered as such:-Alex. Faulkner, John Reid, Andrew Carr, William Trimble, Edward Smyth, Charles Longford, Alex. Wynne, and John Johnston

These constituted the original members of the Chapter as revived at this date, which continued for some years meeting in conjunction with 88. About the year 1878 the Chapters separated, and since then each has been working independently.

In 1890 a change was made in the constitution of R.A. Masonry in order to bring it into closer accord with the English Constitution. Prior to this there were no special degrees in connection with any office except that of K.; but at this date it was ordered that degrees corresponding with the English ritual should be conferred upon all three principal officers, and that none of these officers, past or present, should be recognised as fully qualified who had not received them, so that it is now necessary for all Past K.s to accept these degrees in order to take their full position.

The history of Chapter 51 has been uneventful, and there is nothing particular to relate, everything proceeding, from year to year, in peace, love, and harmony; a happy state of affairs, which it is hoped may long continue. - *So, mote it be*

LIST OF P.K.s, CHAPTER 51.

1865 Alexander Faulkner.	1898 S. Courtney.
1866 Andrew Carr.	1900 D. Reekie.
1867 Alexander Wyrne.	1901 J. Valentine.
1868 J. D. Templeton.	1902 Alex. Reid.
1869 W. G. Frackleton.	1903 W. A. J. McBratney.
1870 Rev. S. S. Frackleton.	1904 James Trelford.
1871 G. H. Whiteside.	1905 S. McCullough.
1872 S. Abernethy.	1906 Hugh McMillen.
1873 William Young.	1907 Herbert Allison.
1874 Robert Corry.	1908 A. P. Dalzell.
1875 S. Abernethy.	1909 T. Caldwell.
1876 S. Abernethy.	1910 C. A. Aickin.
1877 W. Erskine.	1911 John A. Johnston,
1878 William Young.	D.G. TREAS.
1879 David Gray.	1912 J. M. Armstrong.
1880 Robert Corry.	1913 Hugh Johnston.
1881 J. McWade.	1914 W. E. Armstrong.
1882 M. Corkin.	D.G. INST.
1883 P. McHenry.	1916 John Timbey.
1884 A. Thompson.	1917 Walter Salter.
1885 W. T. Adair.	1918 A. McCowatt.
1886 W. E. Bullick.	1919 Robert Cotter.
1887 W. E. Bullick.	1920 H. N. Han.
1888 William Kelly.	1921 F. W. Henry.
1889 W. T. Braithwaite.	1922 W. J. McCarthy,
1890 N. H. Foster.	P.D.G., 2ND P.
1891 A. Anderson.	1923 Jack McKeown.
1892 Samuel Leighton,	1924 E. P. Small.
P.D.G., 2ND P.	1925 Alex. Dalzell.
1893 Thomas Moore.	1926 Andrew H. Ward.
1894 J. Hastings.	1927 C. P. Knight.
1895 W. G. Murray.	1928 Alfred Cotter.
1896 J. Walker.	1929 David McCord.
1897 R. C. Norie.	

AFFILIATED P.K.s

S. Henderson	...Chap.	9	J. Newton	...Chap	188
S. Cochrane	...	111	W. Salter	...	262
G. A. Reid	...	88	J. W. C. Coulter	...	303
Geo. Priestly	...	411	J. G. Harris	...	207
J. C. Harding	...	764	H. W. Bailie	...	207
S. Smyth	...	762	J. Sinclair	...	327
Jas. Wilson	...	501	Geo. Pinkerton	...	389
Jas. H. McKeown	...	226	D. A. Rea	...	35
Jas. B. Brown	...	214	C. I. Brown	...	92
H. R. Vaughan	...	188			

Temple Preceptory No. 51

Constituted 23rd June 1899

In further celebration of the "Jubilee" of Lodge 51, and in order to especially mark that event, it was decided to apply for a warrant for a Knights Templar Preceptory seeing that no less than twenty-one members of that Order were connected with the Lodge and Chapter. Their names are as follows:

	Preceptory
Sir Knight W. E. Bullick	22
Sir Knight S. Leighton	88
Sir Knight W. G. Murray	88
Sir Knight A. Thompson	106
Sir Knight R. Corry	88
Sir Knight James Clarke	88
Sir Knight Henry Hayes	88
Sir Knight Gabriel Morrow	88
Sir Knight Nevin H. Foster	88
Sir Knight S. Courtney	88
Sir Knight Thomas Moore	88
Sir Knight S. Henderson	88
Sir Knight Thomas Neill	88
Sir Knight Alex. Cotter	88
Sir Knight W. T. Braithwaite	88
Sir Knight J. A. M'Alery	88
Sir Knight A. P. Dalzell	88
Sir Knight W. A. J. M'Bratney	88
Sir Knight D. Lawrie	88
Sir Knight H. Allison	88
Sir Knight George Priestley	411



"TEMPLE" PRECEPTORY, No. 51.
FOUNDATION MEMBERS.

Top Row—GEORGE PRIESTLEY, JAS. CLARKE, A. P. DALZIELL, J. A. McALERY, NEVIN FOSTER, W. T. BRATHWAITE, S. COURTNEY.
Second Row—G. MORROW, S. HENDERSON, S. LINGGARD, W. B. BULLICK, GODFREY MURRAY, ALEX. THOMPSON, D. LAWRIE.
Bottom Row—W. A. J. McBRATNEY, H. ALLISON.

Bro. W. E. Bullick was nominated to act as Secretary *pro tem.*, and issued the following circular

7th April, 1899.

Private and confidential.

Dear Bro.,

As there are now so many Knights Templar members of Lodge and Chapter 51, it has been suggested that the time has arrived when we could reasonably ask for, and obtain, a warrant for a Preceptory in connection with 51. As we have been so' successful in both the Craft and Royal Arch, there is really no reason why we should not have an equally successful Preceptory. I have, therefore, been requested to write and ask you to meet your brother Knights Templar of 51, on Thursday next, 13th inst., in the Masonic Hall, Arthur Square, at 8 o'clock, to discuss this matter and take whatever steps may be thought necessary for the furtherance of this object, and, as in all probability the decision will depend on the attendance at this meeting, I would ask you to strain a point to be present.

Yours fraternally,

W. E. BULLICK,

Secretary *pro tem.*

There was a large attendance, and those who were absent sent apologies; but the desire for the success of the project was absolutely unanimous. Bro. S. Courtney was called to the chair, and after a very exhaustive discussion it was proposed by Bro. A. P. Dalzell, seconded by Bro. S. Leighton, and unanimously resolved to apply for a warrant under the title of "Temple Preceptory No. 51." It was resolved that the election of the first list of officers should be by ballot, so that every member should have an equal chance. The result was as follows

Preceptor-Sir Kt. W. E. Bullick.

Constable Sir Kt. S. Leighton.

Marshal-Sir Kt. W. G. Murray,

Standard Bearer-Sir Kt. S. Henderson

1st Captain of Guard-Sir Kt, A. Cotter,

2nd Captain of Guard-Sir Kt. H. Hayes.

1st Warden of Regalia--Sir Kt. S. Courtney.

2nd Warden of Regalia—Sir Kt, A. P. Dalzell.

Chief Steward-Sir Kt. Gabriel Morrow.

Assistant Steward--Sir Kt. H, Allison.

Chaplain—Sir Kt. Nevin H. Foster.

Registrar-Sir Kt. S. Henderson.

Treasurer-Sir Kt, W. T. Braithwaite

Instructions were then given for the preparation of the petition, and the meeting separated with great satisfaction at the happy issue of the project.

Subsequently a meeting was held for the purpose of examining the draft of petition, which on being approved was duly signed by the following:

Sir Knight W. E. Bullick	Preceptory	22
Sir Knight S. Leighton ... ,		88
Sir Knight W. G. Murray...		88
Sir Knight A. Thompson, P.P.		106
Sir Knight Nevin H. Foster, P.P.		88
Sir Knight W. T. Braithwaite		88
Sir Knight S. Henderson ...		88

and forwarded to Great Priory.

On the 3rd of June the Vice-Chancellor intimated that the prayer of the petitioners had been granted, and a warrant would be prepared and issued forthwith. Arrangements for the dedication ceremony were then taken up and the new Preceptory commenced its career on the 23rd of June,

1899; a little over two months having elapsed from the time it was first mooted. The ceremony of Institution was performed by the Grand Seneschal, Sir Charles Cameron, and the officers of Great Priory; there was a large attendance of local brethren who came to give the "baby" Preceptory a good send off.

Order of the Temple

TO THE GREAT PRIORY OF IRELAND

The humble Petition of the undersigned Knights Templars —
Sheweth —

That your petitioners being regularly installed Knights of the Temple of not less than Three Years standing in the Order, are desirous to establish a Preceptory of the Order of the Temple, at Belfast, in the County of Antrim, under the style and title of The Temple Preceptory N° 51.

And to this end, your petitioners recommend
Sir Knight, William Edward Bullock, to be the first Preceptor,
Sir Knight, Daniel Leighton, to be the first Conostable,
 & Sir Knight, William Godfrey Murray, to be the first Marshal.

Your petitioners therefore pray —

That a Warrant under the Great Seal of the Great Priory be granted, they hereby promising strict obedience to the Laws and Regulations of the Great Priory of Ireland and all Laws as of Ancient use accustomed.

As witness our hands this Eighth day of May, 1899.

Name	Address	Profession or Occupation	Rank	Preceptory
1. William Edward Bullock	100, Victoria Road, Belfast	Engineer & Architect	H. R. I.	22.1.
2. Daniel Leighton	25 The Mount, Belfast	Manager	Chapt. of J. J.	58.12.12
3. Wm Godfrey Murray	40, Glenties Street, Belfast	Teacher	Chapt. of J. J.	58.12.12
4. Alex Thompson	130, Albany Street, Belfast	Confectioner	Preceptor	100.12.12
5. Wm H. H. H.	10, Victoria Road, Belfast	Teacher	Preceptor	100.12.12
6. Wm H. H. H.	12, Victoria Road, Belfast	Merchant	Conostable	100.12.12
7. Wm H. H. H.	10, Victoria Road, Belfast	Merchant	Marshal	100.12.12

In the course of his introductory remarks, Sir Charles Cameron expressed the pleasure it gave him to visit his brethren of the Temple in the North for the first time in his official capacity as Grand

Seneschal, This was the first Preceptory he had the privilege of consecrating, and he conveyed to the members his congratulations and best wishes for their success.

Sir Knights R. J. Hilton and O'Connell Shaw presented the Preceptor elect, Sir Knight W. E. Bullick, who was duly installed as first Preceptor, the ceremony being gracefully performed by Sir Charles Cameron. It was explained by him that it would be necessary to ballot on affiliation for the remainder of the foundation members not mentioned in the warrant, as the seven names inscribed thereon were the only ones who constituted the Preceptory at that stage of the proceedings. The names of the others were thereupon proposed and seconded for ballot at the ensuing meeting. Sir Charles graciously acceded to the request that he should become an honorary member of the new Preceptory.

The brethren then adjourned to Thompson & Sons, Donegall Place, for dinner, which passed off with great *éclat*.

The inauguration of the new Preceptory was the source of much enthusiasm. Sir Knight Bullick presided at the banquet with great success, his merry and genial manner contributing greatly to the pleasure of the company. The members of the Order in town joined in the proceedings with the heartiest goodwill, and many congratulated the members of the new Preceptory on their auspicious opening.

It was, however, a matter for great regret that five of the foundation members were unable to be present and consequently do not appear in the photograph, especially as two highly esteemed members were suddenly removed by death before the first regular meeting was held after constitution, viz., Bro. Alex. Cotter, on 13th July, 1899, and Bro. Henry Hayes, on 31st August, 1899.

The E. Preceptor (Designate) ↓
and Brethren of
"Temple" Preceptory No. 51.
request the pleasure of the Company of

on Friday evg. 23rd June, 1899.

CONSECRATION CEREMONY
at 6 p.m. in Masonic Hall, Arthur Square,
DINNER
at 7.30 in Thompson's Restaurant.

R. S. & P.
Saml Henderson,
Ulster Bank,
Waring St.
Belfast.

Their loss was keenly felt and caused a gloom amongst the members which was not soon dissipated.

There was a great deal of routine work to be done, but there was no lack of enthusiasm; and Bro. Bullick's untiring zeal and interest contributed much to the ultimate success. After his term of office

as Preceptor expired, he took up the registrarship, which he held for ten years, when to the great grief of his brethren his health failed and his work was brought to an untimely end by his sudden death in September, 1910.

Once the Preceptory was under way there was no lack of suitable candidates, and the work was carried on in Peace, Love, and Harmony, the meetings being always well attended.

On 5th September, 1902, after the Preceptory closed, E. Sir Knight W. T. Braithwaite was presented with the regalia of the Rose Croix degree, to which he had been advanced in Chapter 12. The E.P. in making the presentation, referred to the great services rendered by Sir Knight Braithwaite, not only to the Preceptory, but also to Masonry generally, and warmly congratulated him upon the well-deserved honour which had been conferred upon him. Many members of neighbouring Preceptories who were present joined most heartily in expressing the pleasure it had given them to know that his worth had been recognised, not only in being elected to the 18", but also in having been elected to the office of Provincial Grand Senior Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim.

November, 1905. In reply to an inquiry from our registrar regarding clearance certificates, a letter was read from the Great Vice-Chancellor stating that no such certificates were issued by Great Priory, but that a retiring member could be supplied by the registrar of a Preceptory with a letter stating the facts, which would be recognised by the authorities as quite legitimate.

February, 1908. The question of a certificate for Knights of Malta and the Red Cross degrees was discussed, and as Great Priory did not supply them, it was decided to have one prepared. Bros. Bullick and Leighton were appointed to confer with E. Sir Knight Redfern. Kelly as to the wording. Accordingly, after careful consideration, a parchment certificate was adopted and engraved. Subsequently these were presented to those entitled to them. Prior to this, the custom was to have a note entered upon the back of the K.T. certificates that these degrees had been conferred at a certain date.

The Great Priory subsequently issued an official certificate for the "Malta" degree, which then took the place of that issued by Preceptory 51, as above, but never issued one for the "Red Cross" degrees, so that ours still answered the purpose for them until the new constitution for the "Red Cross" degrees was established, when all connection between these and the Great Priory was dissolved,

On the 2nd September, 1910, the members of the Preceptory, and indeed the public generally, were greatly shocked to hear of the sudden death of Bro. W. E. Bullick. For ten years he had been the life and soul of the Preceptory, and his loss was keenly felt by the members to whom he was attached in the strongest ties of fraternity. I cannot pass by his demise without this word of sympathy and regret.

I would also wish to mention Sir Knight A. P. Dalzell, who was elected Registrar in 1916 and carried on with great enthusiasm and success until December, 1924, when he was cut off in a moment, like his old friends Bros. Bullick and Courtney, without pain and without warning. He was succeeded by Sir Knight J. G. Harris, 28", who for four years performed his duties with outstanding zeal and ability. He held the position on the understanding that when the son of the late Sir Knight A. P. Dalzell was qualified, he would take up the work in which his father took such delight. This arrangement has now been carried out, and Sir Knight Alex. Dalzell, P.P., has accepted the position. His brethren hope he may long be spared to perform the duties of this important office.


of this Proceptor, (who, in the margin has signed his name) has been duly instructed in the Secrets of the Mediterranean Pass or Knight of St. Paul and formally installed a Knight of Malta.

He has also received the Degrees of Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East, and Knight of the East and West, commonly called Red Cross Degrees, and known under other Constitutions as the Babylonish Pass and Knights of the Red Cross.

Ne. variolus -

Given under our hands
and the Seal of our Preceptory, at Belfast, Ireland
this _____ day _____ A.D. _____ and A.O. _____

<p><i>Mediterranean Pass</i> <i>and</i> <i>Knight of Maltes</i> <i>Date</i></p>	<p><i>Prætor</i> <i>First Constable</i> <i>Second Constable</i> <i>Registrar</i></p>
<p><i>Knight of the Sword</i> <i>Knight of the East</i> <i>Knight of the East & West</i> <i>Date</i></p>	<p>SEAL</p>



CERTIFICATE FOR "SIDE" DEGREES.

PRESENTATIONS

On the 14th May, 1915, Sir Knight James Gardiner, P.P., presented to the Preceptory a very valuable and interesting Preceptor's sword, which he received from a friend in Belgium. The blade is of the finest blue tempered steel, waved and decorated; the hilt is of mother of pearl, mounted with skull and cross bones.

Bro. Gardiner, in making the presentation, said " It had been hanging on the wall of the house where he saw it, during the memory of the oldest member of the family, and was reputed to be about one hundred and fifty years old," Sir Knight Gardiner was accorded the best thanks of the members for his valued and most interesting gift. It is now the official sword of the Preceptor.

The following gifts are also recorded:

Brass Triangle of Lights, from Sir Knight Priestley, 6th September, 1901.

Silver Salver, from Sir Knight W. T. Braithwaite, 11th July, 1916.

A Silver-mounted Coconut Cup, with inscription, from Sir Knight J. A. Johnston, 11th February, 1916.

Chaplain's Gown, from Sir Knights J. A. Johnston and Alex, Reid, 11th May, 1917.

A Set of Hand-painted Emblems, Dove, Lamb, Cock and a large plaque of the Seal, two knights on horseback, from Sir Knight Acheson Ferguson, 14th September, 1917

Preceptor's Banner, from Sir Knight J. C. Harding, 8th February, 1918.

Preceptor's Baton, by V. E. Sir Knight J. A. Johnston, G.C.T.

PAST PRECEPTORS, 51.

<u>1899 Bullick, W. E</u>	<u>1909 Norie, R. C.</u>	<u>1919 Harris, John G.</u>
<u>1901 Murray, W. Godfrey</u>	<u>1910 Forsyth, James</u>	<u>1920 Armstrong, W. E.</u>
<u>1990 Leighton, Samuel</u>	<u>1911 M'Gowan, W. I.</u>	<u>1921 Mchaffey, William</u>
<u>1902 Henderson, Samuel</u>	<u>1912 Reid, Alexander</u>	<u>1922 Ward, George</u>
<u>1903 Courtney, Samuel</u>	<u>1913 Armstrong, James M.</u>	<u>1923 M'Keown, James H.</u>
<u>1904 Dalzell, A. P.</u>	<u>1914 Wilson, James</u>	<u>1924 Brabazon, J. M'Q.</u>
<u>1905 Allison, Herbert</u>	<u>1915 Johnston, John A.</u>	<u>1925 Skillen, Joseph</u>
<u>1906 Lawrence, David</u>	<u>1916 Ferguson, Acheson</u>	<u>1926 Hanna, George B.</u>
<u>1907 M Bretney, W. A. I.</u>	<u>1917 Harding, J. C. 1</u>	<u>1927 M'Master, T. S.</u>
<u>1908 M'Alery, John M.</u>	<u>198 Smyth, John</u>	<u>1928 Dalzell, Alex.</u>
		<u>1929 Ward, A. H.</u>

AFFILIATED PAST PRECEPTORS.

Sir Charles Cameron (hon.member), Grand Seneschal.

Thompson, Alex,-106.

Foster, Nevin. H.-.88.

Braithwaite, W. T.-88.

Priestley, Georgc-411.

Wallace, Hugh-105.

Gardiner, J.-Braid Valley.

Cochrane, Samuel. -Richmond.

Martin, Arthur-Shaftesbury.

Pinkerton, Geo.- Richmond.

Ferguson, J. P.-Ballymena,

Crawford, John--Ballymena.

Scott, John B.-Ballymena.

Varden, John-Ballymena.

John Harbinson, B.A. - Unity

Ralph Mitchell--Unity:

Best, Rt. Hon. Richmond., M.P. -Unity.

John Semple - Unity,

Browne, Geo. I.- Portadown

The Provincial Priory of East Ulster

(comprising all Preceptories in the counties of Antrim, Down and Armagh)

As the Order of the Temple became so very popular in the North of Ireland, and its numerical strength and influence so great, it was considered advisable to promote a movement for the establishing of a Provincial Priory, with powers similar to Provincial Grand Lodge and District Grand Chapter,

Accordingly on the 8th July, 1918, the following resolution was proposed at Preceptory 51 by E. Sir Knight J. A. Johnston, seconded by E. Sir Knight S. Leighton, and passed with great enthusiasm: "That, inasmuch as the members of the Order of the Temple in the North of Ireland have during recent years considerably increased in numbers, it is the opinion of " Temple" Preceptory No. 51 that the formation of a local governing body would be beneficial to the honour, dignity, and interest of the Order." This resolution was communicated to the other Preceptories in the province and, after consideration, the idea was generally approved and a petition in due form was submitted to Great

Priory, which readily gave permission to the promoters of the project to proceed, and this was acted upon without delay.

The first District Grand Prior appointed was the Right Honourable Lord Justice Best, M.P., P.C., who received a most cordial welcome from the brethren, and presides with great dignity over the meetings. V. E. Sir Knight J. A. Johnston, K.G.C., who had taken a great interest in the early arrangements, was nominated District Grand Sub-Prior, a position he fills with much ability and with the full approval of his brethren.

The late Sir Knight A. P. Dalzell was unanimously chosen for the important office of Registrar, for which he was eminently suited, and which he filled with great distinction. It was a great loss to the Order, when, in the midst of his work, after a short illness, he was called to the Grand Lodge above. He was succeeded by our worthy brother V. E. Sir Knight Thomas J. Elliot, K.C.T.

The work of the "Provincial Priory of East Ulster" has proved a distinct success and a real benefit to the Order of Temple, and this also applies in the other places where similar District Priories have been established.

The District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland.

Prior to the establishment of this governing body the R.A. Degree was governed by District Grand Superintendents, Antrim being under the charge of V.W. Bro. Wm. Redfern Kelly, 33°, whose zeal and knowledge of the history and ritual of the Order were recognised by the Grand Chapter of Ireland, and, indeed, by the whole fraternity.

As a writer and an exponent of the ritual he was well known, especially in the North, where he had laboured with the greatest enthusiasm during a long and useful career.

When the District Grand Chapter was formed, he was nominated by the Great King as District Grand First Principal, and presided over its destinies until, much to the regret of his brethren, failing health and advancing years necessitated his resignation. A very excellent portrait in oils hangs in the large hall as an acknowledgment of his long and valuable services to RA, Masonry. He was succeeded by R.W. Bro. Sir Robt. Baird, K.B.E., whose popularity and zeal for the Order are proverbial, His appointment was received with much pleasure by the Companions, and the work of the D.G.C. went forward by leaps and bounds under his presidency.

Unfortunately, his health began to give him and his friends some anxiety, and it was with great reluctance he was obliged to resign, in order to be relieved from the onerous duties of the office which were making heavy demands upon him and interfering with his recovery. It was with sincere regret the Companions heard of his enforced resignation, and immediately a movement was set on foot to have a portrait of him painted in his D.G.C. regalia. It was executed by Bro. Eyre Macklin, who did full justice to the picture, which now hangs in the Upper Room in Arthur Square. It is a striking likeness, and will be for all time a treasured memento of one who never tires in promoting the welfare of the Order in all its branches.

He was succeeded by R.W. Bro. the Rt. Hon. J. Milne Barbour, M.P., who is the present District Grand First Principal. He is eminently qualified for the position, and no one could be more acceptable to the Companions. He is one of our leading citizens and greatly esteemed in both public and private life. We all hope he may long be spared to rule over the destinies of the District Grand R.A. Chapter of Antrim.

The effect of the establishment of this governing body has been all to the good, the ritual, discipline, and general working are now on a most satisfactory basis, and the interest of the Companions in the working is very real, not only in the towns, but also in the country districts.

The ceremony of dedication took place on 24th October, 1910, the number of Chapters at that time being sixty-one. This has now been increased to one hundred and twelve, which amply testifies to the valuable influence the District Grand Chapter has exercised since its institution.

V.E. Companions W. E. Armstrong and J. A. Johnston, P. 2nd D.G. Principal, both of Chapter 51, have been appointed instructors; a position for which they are eminently qualified.

Grand Council of Red Cross Degrees

Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East,

Knight of the East and West.

For many years the question of separating these degrees from the Knights Templar Order was under consideration. The northern brethren, however, put up a strong opposition and sent an influential deputation to the Great Priory advocating the retention of these degrees under the control of the Great Priory, which had the desired effect in maintaining the *status quo* until a few years ago, when the matter was raised again in Great Priory.

Some of the older Templar warrants have these degrees distinctly specified, but they are omitted from those more recently issued. The "Templar," "Mediterranean Pass," and "Knight of Malta" are the only degrees now recognised by Great Priory, and the Red Cross degrees have been definitely dissociated from all connection with it.

In order to prevent their falling into disuse, it was proposed that they should be taken under the jurisdiction of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, as in Scotland, but it would not consent to that proposition, and ultimately a new governing body was set up under the title of "The Grand Council of the Degrees of Knight of the Sword, Knight of the East, and Knight of the East and West," with full control over subordinate councils. These are now being created as separate and distinct bodies having no connection whatever with either Great Priory or Grand Chapter, and those who received the degrees under the old dispensation in their several Knight Templar Preceptories, require to register under the Grand Council in order to be recognised.

REVISED RITUAL.

Part of the details necessary to the new order of things was to revise and amend the ritual, which was very confused and incomplete. Accordingly, a committee was constituted by Grand Council for this purpose, and, as an item in the history of the Order, I think it well to record some information bearing on this point. The following brethren formed the committee, viz. :

M.E. Sir Knight A. Norman, LL.D., Dublin.

E. Sir Knight A. Whitehead, Birr.

E. Sir Knight S. Leighton, Belfast.

E. Sir Knight W. Hadden, Dublin.

E. Sir Knight Metcalf, Dublin.

E. Sir Knight James O'Hara (Sec.), Dublin.

At the first meeting, on 5th June, 1923, Bros. Whitehead and Leighton were appointed to draw up the first draft of proposed alterations and report to the general committee, a task to which they gave most careful and immediate attention,

Five old MSS. rituals were before them and minutely compared as to wording and phraseology, with a view to preserving as far as possible the old Irish wording. These rituals were as follows:

1. Banagher, No. 306-dated 1846.
2. Lagan Valley, No. 7-dated 1853.
3. Ulidia, No. 88—no date.
4. Limerick---no date.
5. Signed by Bro. J. White, but without title or date.

These were all more or less similar, apparently having a common origin, but, as usual, each scribe seemed to have made alterations to suit his own taste.

However, where the meaning was obscure the Scottish printed ritual was consulted and definite decisions were arrived at and adopted, but only after most careful consideration.

The new historical notes, with dates, cleared up much which, hitherto, had been very hazy; and by throwing additional light upon the incidents depicted, made the whole ritual more coherent and interesting, as well as clearly defining the historical facts upon which the degrees are founded.

Bro. Whitehead's name is associated with the discovery of an old apron and collar, embroidered with the symbols of the R.A. on one side and the Red Cross degrees on the other. This fact clearly signifies a connection between these two branches of Masonry quite in consonance with the dates, history, and legends of both. The colour of the apron is green, and it is the only known apron of this colour in Irish Masonry. The date. is about 1805, which amply testifies to the fact that these degrees have been practised in Ireland for one hundred and twenty-five years at least, and consequently are of great antiquarian interest and well worthy of preservation. The apron is in the care of Lodge of Research, No. 200, but a photograph may be seen in a case in Freemasons' Hall, Moles worth Street, Dublin,

The ritual is now being worked, and there is evidence of a revived interest in these old degrees, whose connection with H.K.T. was singularly inappropriate owing to there being absolutely nothing in common to connect them. In Scotland they are conferred upon R.A. Masons, and in England are worked in association with what are known as the "Allied Degrees," which include several not worked in this country.

I now finish my labour of love with an acknowledgment of grateful thanks to the G.A.O.T.U. for preserving me in health and strength so to do. I hope that which has been recorded may prove interesting to the members of the three bodies working under the banner of " fifty-one."

I offer to them my fraternal good wishes for their individual welfare, and may their united efforts always be directed towards a full and sincere exemplification of those great fundamental Masonic truths—the "Father hood of God" and the Brotherhood of Man...So *mote it be*