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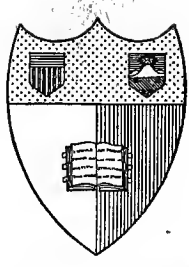

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The Lodge

of

The Nine Muses.

No. 235 OF THE ORDER OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ENGLAND.



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A Centennial Sketch of the History

of

The Lodge

of

The Nine Muses,

1777—1877.

PRESENTED TO THE BRETHREN

AT THE

CENTENNIAL FESTIVAL,

Held at Long's Hotel, Old Bond Street, London,

On TUESDAY, MAY the 8th, 1877,

BY

Bro. WALTER WEBB, W.M.

D.Y.

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To the Officers, Past-Masters, and Brethren of the Lodge of the Nine Muses.

BRETHREN,



T has occurred to me that as this *Centennial Anniversary* falls in the year during which I have the honour, by your suffrages, to occupy the position of Master in the Lodge, it would fittingly mark my sense of the extreme interest of the occasion, and might not be unacceptable to you, were I to lay before you a slight sketch, from such materials as I have been able to gather, of the history of the Lodge from its foundation to the present time. I beg, therefore, to present you with these brief notes, with the assurance of my most brotherly regard, and with the earnest wish and hope that during the second century of its existence, upon which we now enter, the Lodge may be distinguished by a faithfulness to the principles of Masonry, and be favoured with a general prosperity, which shall at least show no falling off when compared with history upon which we now look back.

WALTER WEBB, W.M., No. 235.

8th May, 1877.

The Lodge of The Nine Muses.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

ONE hundred years ago the Lodge of the Nine Muses was constituted a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, its Charter, bearing date 25th March, A. 5777, (A.D. 1777), being granted by Lord Petre, at that time the Most Worshipful Grand Master of this most ancient and honourable Order in England.

The Lodge constituted.

There is no existing record, so far as I have been able to ascertain, of the special considerations which led to the adoption of the name by which this Lodge has from the first been distinguished; nor has the Brother who originated this classical and poetical designation handed *his* name down to

The name or title by which the Lodge is known.

us. However, I think, we may congratulate ourselves upon this mythological title appropriately designating a Lodge formed to work our "beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." Our antient and scientific Institution would naturally be an object of especial solicitude to these Divine Maids who presided over the Arts and Sciences. Perchance it is owing to their watchful care during the past century that we to-night are enabled to wear the jewels of the late Bro. Cipriani, who was among the first of those Artists who thus offered libations to these daughters of Jupiter. An instance is recorded in the Minutes of a Brother having successfully invoked the Poetic Muse, for it appears that at one of the banquets he burst into song,—the libretto being in honour of the Lodge. Unfortunately, the Secretary appears to have been too much carried away by the songster to have preserved a copy of this poem; but as it was received with rapturous applause, we may confidently assume that it was the product of a true inspiration. And at any rate, during this long period of a century in duration, the meetings of the Lodge, and the relations of the Brethren with each other, appear generally to have been of the happiest kind. Those gracious influences of light and harmony, which were supposed to be imparted by the heavenly Nine to the

souls whom they favoured with their visits when they descended to the earth, have not been wanting among us. Tormenting cares have been allayed in our assemblies, and the spirit of dignity, harmony, and grace, which our name as a Lodge appears to invoke, has prevailed, and manifested itself in that brotherly love which is, according to language familiar to us all, "the foundation and cope-stone, the cement and glory, of this antient fraternity."

The Charter of Constitution.

The earliest document we possess relating to the history of the Lodge is its Charter of Constitution, the text of which I thought it would be interesting to the Brethren to refer to, and I have therefore given it in the Appendix to this narrative. It is couched in the time-honoured phraseology of the Craft, and contains the seven following names: John Hull, Esq., Raphael Franco, Esq., Richard Barker, Esq., Robert Biggin, Esq., Abraham Teixeira, Esq., Isaac Sequeira, Esq., M.D., and Bartholomew Ruspini. The document also refers, without mentioning names, to "several other Brethren."

The Chevalier B. Ruspini one of the first members.

Among the seven Brethren who, according to rule, petitioned for the constitution of the Lodge, we recognise with especial pleasure the name of the Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini, so honourably known to us, and likely to be known to many generations to come, as originator of the Royal

Masonic Institution for Girls—the oldest of our Masonic Institutions—which, since its establishment in 1788, has been the means of conferring incalculable benefit upon hundreds of the orphan children of members of the Craft. Mr. Ruspini occupied the post of Dentist to His Majesty King George IV., and he used the influence which he possessed as a professional man, enjoying a considerable popularity in the upper circles of society, for the furtherance of his benevolent ideas. His connection with the foundation of this Lodge preserves the tradition of readiness in philanthropic endeavours, and should serve to stimulate us in the manifestation of that true feeling of fraternal compassion which has ever been regarded as one of the characteristic virtues of the Freemason.

Sources of information on the history of the Lodge.

It is a matter for much regret that the books containing the Minutes of the Lodge for several years from the date of its constitution are not to be found; it is possible they are no longer in existence. We have, however, some compensation for this loss, although not of course an entirely satisfactory one, in a brief account of the history of the Lodge, published in the *Freemasons' Magazine* of February, 1796. In Appendix III. this record is quoted in full. From this account, and the list of names of Brethren given, it is plain that the Lodge was very honourably connected, in the persons of some of its

leading members, with Art, that it had an honourable social status, and a worthy reputation. Several of the members, it will be noticed, were of Italian birth, and it is noteworthy in the history of the Lodge that Brethren who have been prominent and zealous in it have generally managed to attract to it men of spirit and of associations resembling their own. Different nationalities, as well as different phases of social, professional, and intellectual life, have thus been reflected in our Masonic circle.

Brethren of the Lodge and the Fine Arts: Cipriani and Bartolozzi.

That Giovanni Batista Cipriani, who designed and painted the principal jewels of the Lodge, was no mean artist, these exquisite evidences of his skill remain to show. He was one of the original members of the Royal Academy, and was presented with a silver cup by that body in return for the design for their Diploma, which he furnished. He died much esteemed, Dec. 14, 1785, and was buried at Chelsea. He employed himself chiefly in drawing designs, of which Bartolozzi engraved a great number. Francesco Bartolozzi was one of the most accomplished and celebrated of the designers and engravers of his time. His works are still greatly valued, and his name finds distinguished mention in every complete account of his branch of art. He spent many years in England, and was also a member of the Royal Academy. He left this country at

the invitation of the King of Portugal, and is believed to have died in Lisbon in 1815 or 1819. It is an agreeable reminiscence of the early days of our Lodge,—Bro. Cipriani and Bro. Bartolozzi, after co-operating in the same field of Art during the day, adjourning to Masonic labour and refreshment, and feeling that although foreigners they were perfectly at home among cordial English Brethren. And surely Bro. Cipriani has left behind him enduring evidence of the grateful influence of these gatherings upon him, in the beautiful jewels we wear.

Dr. Dodd's connection with the Lodge.

It is with feelings of a very different kind that we must look back to Dr. William Dodd's connection with this Lodge. That notorious clergyman's association with us must have been of the briefest kind. Indeed, as he was expelled from Freemasonry before the date of the warrant of constitution (25th March, 1777), and appears simply to have been present at the preliminary meeting in the preceding January, it is not strictly accurate to call him a member of the Lodge. As, however, his name has been handed down to us in this connection, we should perhaps take notice of it. He was, as is well known, hanged at Tyburn in the summer of the year in which this Lodge was constituted. He was no doubt an excessively vain man; and being also a popular parson, and an eager

place-hunter, he drifted into difficulty, and then, hoping to save himself by the sacrifice of such remnants of honour as were left to him, he committed the act of forgery, which in those stern days met with its retribution on the gallows; although probably many more consummate evil-doers have escaped unhung. This is a shadow upon the early history of our Lodge, emblematical, let me suggest, of that darkness in Masonry which is the precursor of superior illumination.

The first and second Minute-Books.

The Minutes of the Lodge in our possession date from January 28th, 1814, thus leaving a gap of some eighteen years from the date of the record in the *Freemasons' Magazine*. It is to be noticed, however, that on the fly-leaf of the First Book it is stated that the Minutes are "continued from the last meeting [of the Lodge] in the year 1813 [for] which *see page* 135 *of the last book*." Therefore, the missing book contained at least 135 pages of Minutes. An examination of the two completed volumes in our possession shows that this space almost exactly represents the average space occupied by the Minutes of any period of from seventeen to eighteen years during the last sixty years of our existence. This is sufficient to remove all reasonable doubt that, from its constitution until now, our Lodge has maintained an uninterrupted existence, and has diligently observed the regu-

lations of the Craft. The Records of Grand Lodge seem to confirm the presumption thus supported, as we have received the warrant from the M.W.G.M., His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., a copy of which is given in the Appendix, entitling us henceforward to wear the Centennial Jewel, a distinction much prized, and not granted without satisfactory evidence of continuous working.

Brother Sir William Rawlins, Kt., R.W.M.

From the Minutes of January, 1815, we find that there were nine Brethren present at the meeting of the Lodge on that day. The W.M., or as he was then styled, the R.W.M., was Sir William Rawlins, Knight. At this time, and for twenty-three years afterwards, Sir W. Rawlins appears to have been a highly popular and beloved member of the Lodge. Indeed, during the greater part of that long period, he was rarely absent from the meetings, and may perhaps rightly be said to have been the presiding spirit in those gatherings. From 1814 to 1818 he occupied each year successively the honourable position of "R.W.M." of the Lodge. In January of the latter year he retired in consequence of the rule of Grand Lodge, then recently passed, and providing that no Brother shall continue Master of a Lodge more than two consecutive years. After an interval of two years we find Bro. Sir W. Rawlins again installed as R.W.M., which position he retained during the

years 1821 and 1822. For eleven years, from 1824 to 1835, he was Treasurer. The last date on which his name appears on the Minutes is November 14th, 1837. For some months previous to this we observe that his attendance becomes irregular—once we have a record of a resolution expressing sympathy with him in illness; but it is rather singular that we have, so far as I have observed, no record of his death. The well-known name drops abruptly from the list of Brethren attending the Lodge, and the genial presence, which the constant references of these Minutes, through a long series of years, seem to make pleasantly familiar to us, vanishes for ever. Sir W. Rawlins, we learn from Debrett, was Knighted in 1802, in which year he held the office of Sheriff of London and Middlesex. The same authority informs us that he was a bachelor, notwithstanding that, as we have seen, he was fondly wedded to the Nine Muses.

The Episode of the Candlesticks.

In the earlier years of the history of the Lodge the Minutes were kept in a more copious fashion than is usual in modern times. To this custom we are indebted for a curious and interesting record, of what I will venture to call the Episode of the Candlesticks. It was with reference to this part of our furniture that, in the days of its youthful immaturity, our Lodge was brought into something like collision with another company of

Brethren of the Craft,—the only instance of the kind, be it observed, in the history of the Lodge of the Nine Muses. The first Minute upon the subject is dated February 25th, 1814, when a communication from the Prince of Wales' Lodge was laid before the Lodge of the Nine Muses, consisting of a letter and a series of Resolutions relating to the candlesticks already mentioned. The following is a copy of the Minute :—

Extract from Minutes of the Prince of Wales' Lodge.

A letter was read from Bro. Stratford Robinson, the Secretary to the Prince of Wales' Lodge, dated January 11, 1814, with an extract of the Minutes of the proceedings of the said Lodge, held the 3rd June, 1813, which letter and extract were ordered to be entered on the Minutes as follow, viz. :—

"DEAR SIR,

"I am sorry you incurred the displeasure of any of the members of your Lodge by having returned me the copies of the Resolutions I sent you on the subject of the candlesticks. It was solely to oblige the late Chevalier Ruspini, who had not seen them, that I requested the return of them. I mentioned to the Prince's Lodge at the last meeting the displeasure expressed on account of your having returned the papers, and your request of having (*sic*) them again, and I was then desired to send you the enclosed. It is probable, otherwise, you would have heard no more of the matter. You will see by the enclosed that we relinquish all claim to the candlesticks. We only think the Nine Muses might have acted with less rudeness. Their conduct on the occasion was not such as would have been expected from such accomplished ladies.

"I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

"STRAT. ROBINSON.

"Gray's Inn Place,

"11*th January*, 1814.

"To Fredk. Turner, Esq.,

"Secretary of the Lodge of the Nine Muses."

The following is the Extract of Proceedings referred to in the foregoing letter of Mr. Robinson, viz. :—

"Extract from the Minutes of the Prince of Wales' Lodge, at a meeting held the 3rd June, 1813.

"The Report of the Committee on the subject of the candlesticks presented to the Lodge by Bro. Ruspini was read, when the following Resolutions were proposed by the R.W.M., and unanimously carried—

"First. That the Lodge, finding from the Report of their Committee, that by persisting in their claim to the candlesticks in question they may probably involve their Bro. Ruspini in an unpleasant dispute with the members of the Nine Muses, *do* therefore relinquish all claim thereto, at the same time entertaining, and being anxious to express towards their Bro. Ruspini, the same grateful respect and attachment as if his munificent donation had remained in their hands.

"Secondly. That the Lodge cannot conclude this matter without expressing their very great regret that the Lodge of Nine Muses should not have thought it expedient, in the first instance, to have offered a temperate and amicable representation to them on the subject in dispute; and that they feel it due to themselves, and to the Society of Free and Accepted Masons in general, to express their strongest indignation at the forcible and hostile measures resorted to by the members of that Lodge for securing to themselves the possession of the articles in question—measures equally inconsistent with the principles of the Masonic Institution and the liberality, courtesy, respect, and decency, the observance of which should invariably regulate the conduct of Masons.

"Third. That copies of the above Resolutions be sent to the Lodge of the Nine Muses."

The probable facts of the case.

It must be admitted that this strong language betokens considerable warmth of feeling on the part of the Brethren of the Prince of Wales's Lodge, but an impartial review of the circumstances of the case, so far as they are indicated here, (such as at this distance of time we are able

to give), inclines us to believe that justice and right were on the side of the Nine Muses. It seems probable that the whole difference arose out of a misunderstanding as to the actual proprietorship of the candlesticks. We gather that Bro. Ruspini (whose death was reported to the Lodge January 28th, 1814), had for some cause unknown withdrawn from the Nine Muses Lodge, and joined the Prince of Wales's; that he had presented to the latter Lodge the candlesticks in dispute, which had previously been used by the Nine Muses Lodge, but which Bro. Ruspini looked upon as belonging to him, although he, as we infer, had at least granted the Lodge the use of them. The Nine Muses, however, took a different view of the question of ownership, and considered the candlesticks their own, and accordingly took occasion, when their attention was called to this, as they thought, unwarrantable transfer of the property of the Lodge to other hands, to repossess themselves of it. The Muses have ever been jealous of their rights, and as it was by presuming to interfere with their prerogative that the Sirens lost their feathers, which the Muses afterwards wore, so perhaps a somewhat similar cause contributed to assure to the Muses these much-coveted Prince of Wales's feathers. However this may be, at the next meeting (March 25th, 1814) of the Lodge of the Nine Muses the following

Resolutions were adopted in reply to those quoted :—

Reply of the Nine Muses to the Prince of Wales' Lodge.

"That this Lodge do acknowledge the receipt of copies of certain Resolutions of the Prince of Wales' Lodge, dated the 3rd June, 1813, numbered 1, 2, and 3, transmitted by their Secretary on the 11th January, 1814, and presented to this Lodge on the 25th February last.

"That as to the Resolution No. 1, the Lodge of the Nine Muses perceives with satisfaction that the members of the Prince of Wales' Lodge *have relinquished any claim to the candlesticks belonging to this Lodge;* and that the remaining part of that Resolution, relating to matters between the late Bro. Ruspini and the Prince of Wales' Lodge, does not require any observation.

"That as to so much of the second Resolution, whereby the Prince of Wales' Lodge have expressed their 'very great regret that this Lodge should not have thought it expedient in the first instance to have offered a temperate and amicable representation to them on the subject in dispute,' this Lodge cannot refrain from the expression of their extreme surprise that the Prince of Wales' Lodge *should have accepted of a valuable present of furniture bearing the marks and emblems and consequently identified as the property of the Lodge of the Nine Muses, from an individual member of that Lodge,* under whatever pretence such a supposed present was made. And more especially, that the said Lodge should have so far forgotten the 'respect and courtesy' due to the Lodge as to *omit the smallest inquiry* whether the property so identified COULD *belong to the individual who offered it to them.*

"That for want of such a communication this Lodge was not informed of such proceeding *for a series of years,* until by accident the two Lodges held their meeting on the same evening, and when the Lodge *was not permitted to have the use of its own furniture, upon a pretence that Bro. Ruspini had made a present of it to the Prince of Wales' Lodge ! !*

"That as to the remaining part of the said second Resolution, whereby the Brethren of the Prince of Wales' Lodge express their 'indignation' as to the acts done by the Lodge

in dealing with their own property, they are perfectly indifferent to the 'indignation' so expressed. Nor do they hold themselves accountable to the Prince of Wales' Lodge for the removal of *their own property from one place to another*. That this Lodge can only consider such expressions of indignation (for a cause so inadequate) as the effect of momentary irritation, originating in an imperfect view of the case ; and therefore this Lodge, in that spirit of charity and goodwill so peculiarly the attributes of the Masonic Institution, returns hearty good wishes for the prosperity of the Prince of Wales' Lodge, and success to the Brethren thereof in all their *lawful* undertakings."

Close of the dispute.

With this communication this singular dispute closed. The length of the quotation will be pardoned on account of the exceptional character and the spirited tone of the controversy. We cannot but feel that, with much seriousness on either side, there was also a touch of banter, which shows that the principles of fraternity were not abandoned, and that there was a brotherly remembrance of the homely proverb, "Hard words break no bones." The fact that the candlesticks were used on an occasion when the two Lodges met, and that there was thus evidently no concealment made of the matter on the part of the Prince of Wales's Lodge, affords evidence of the *bona fides* of that body ; and the expression of their feeling towards Bro. Ruspini after the property had been restored to its lawful owners, and the right of Bro. Ruspini to present them to any body had been impugned, tends further to show that the whole matter originated in nothing worse than

a misapprehension, which it must be confessed appears to have been rectified by the Nine Muses in a rather summary fashion. One inquiry suggested by the event we cannot satisfactorily answer, viz., how it was possible that furniture belonging to the Nine Muses Lodge could thus be allowed, without express permission, to be used by another Lodge. It is plain that the custody of the property of the Lodge was not adequately cared for, and an illustration is afforded of the importance of maintaining the exclusive possession of our furniture, jewels, and other property, and of keeping an inventory thereof, which ought to be annually examined and revised by the proper officers. In deference to this view, I append a complete list of your jewels and furniture to this date.

The Lodge not affected seriously by external events in 1814-15.

In going through the Minutes of the Lodge during these early years of the present century (1814—15), one naturally looks with interest for any indications that the inner life of the brotherhood was affected by the great military and political events which were then shaking the fabric of European civilisation. But the peaceful flow of Masonic intercourse appears to have been undisturbed, except by such ripples on the surface as that which we have noticed. Empires rose and fell; kingdoms were established and overthrown; mighty armies met in the shock of battle; the

star of a consummate military genius, which for twenty years had been in the ascendant, set in clouds of darkness and seas of blood; England added the name of Wellington to her heroes, and of Waterloo to her fields of gallant prowess and of decisive victory; and the civilised world seemed as if wrung with the birth-pangs of a new era in the history of the progress of humanity. But in the records of our Lodge we find no reflection of this external strife and movement and perturbation —except, indeed, this solitary and modest entry, dated January 28th, 1814: "The Secretary read a letter from Messrs. Willis, of the Thatched House Tavern, respectfully soliciting an addition of 1s. 6d. per head for the dinners, on account of the high price of provisions!" Such is the simple record, and the Minutes do not afford material for gratifying the curiosity of any Brother who may be anxious to know whether the humble request of the keepers of this ancient hostelry was granted or not, for they merely inform us that the Lodge, being laudably anxious to avoid rash steps of any kind, ordered the application "to be considered at the next meeting." But, after all, this entry in our books must not and will not be looked upon by Brethren of the Craft as a mere anti-climax, when considered with reference to the remarkable events then transpiring beyond the precincts of the Lodge. Masonry is not a political institution.

Masonic relations to external affairs.

It concerns itself with those more profound principles of human action, and relations of human life, which are essentially the same in all countries of the world, and in all ages of the history of mankind; and while Masons are prepared to play their part, and do their work, in every department of activity, and all the more effectually because of their Masonic associations, they have as Masons nothing to do with the mere external course of events, which often pass by with so much din and clatter, although they touch but the surface of the abiding life of man.

Lodge Jewels.

The Minutes furnish us with various references to the Jewels of the Lodge. A list, with a detailed description of these, is given in Appendix V. The Jewels of the—Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Secretary are products of the brotherly and artistic labour of Cipriani, and are engraved (it may be remarked with much elegance as works of art worthy of a permanent place in the records of Masonry) in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, 1796. A curious circumstance with regard to the Master's Jewel may be mentioned here. At the meeting of the Lodge on the 24th November, 1815, it was reported that one Brother Harper claimed the sum of £10 10s., as a set-off against the demand made on him of £12 18s., for three years' arrears, that sum (ten guineas) being due to him for a Master's Jewel made by him for the Lodge. The

receipt for this amount was handed to the Assistant Treasurer "to enable him to get the money from H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, who had promised to pay for it, the Jewel having been made by his order, as a substitute for the Master's Jewel which had been lent to H.R.H., and which H.R.H. stated that *he had lost.*" Just four years afterwards, however, we find (October, 1819) that "Brother Sir W. Rawlins reported that H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, M.W.G.M., had found the Master's Jewel belonging to this Lodge (which had been lent to H.R.H. several years ago and mislaid), and that H.R.H. was desirous of returning the same to the Lodge;" and it was ordered, by a Resolution of the Lodge, that Brother Sir W. Rawlins "be requested to wait upon H.R.H. to receive the said Jewel." Notwithstanding this Resolution, singular to say, it was not until more than two years had elapsed that the lost Jewel was actually restored once more to its place among the treasures of the Lodge. In a Minute dated January 14, 1823, we read: "The W.M. informed theLodge that he had received from H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex the Master's Jewel, which had been lent to H.R.H., and mislaid by him, and the W.M. now restored it to the Lodge." Since the restoration of the original Master's Jewel, which we now possess, the Jewel provided by Bro. Harper as a substitute, seems to have been

devoted to the use of the immediate Past Master.

Business-like character of the Lodge.

It is noteworthy that the Minutes of former years testify that there was a punctuality and a systematic method in dealing with most of the affairs of the Lodge which are worthy of commendation, and it may be added, of imitation at the present time. Regularly every year the Report of the auditors upon the accounts was laid before the Lodge, and entered *in extenso* on the Minutes. It is eminently desirable that these good customs should be adhered to, for a careful and business-like attention to our affairs undoubtedly tends to strengthen the basis on which the Brethren meet, and to prevent possible causes of disturbance of fraternal peace and harmony.

The domestic interests of Members of the Lodge.

Another feature which strikes the reader of our Records is, that pleasant glimpses are every now and then afforded us of the common interest felt by the Brethren in the private and domestic affairs of members of the Lodge; and of the cultivation of pleasant relations with those who, if not within the Masonic circle, were closely connected by domestic ties with the members of the Lodge. More than once we find that what are known, in the euphemisms of polite society, as "interesting domestic events," such as occasionally occur even in the best regulated families, happening in the domestic circle of some respected

Hospitality of various Brethren.

Brother, formed the subject of a congratulatory Resolution at the ensuing meeting. It is evident, too, that the occasional gatherings of members of the Lodge, which took place under the hospitable roof of Brethren, were not the least prized opportunities of social and harmonious intercourse. On these occasions the Muses were permitted to mingle with their own sex, which no doubt added not a little to the charm of the evenings which were thus spent. For the time being the more serious duties and attention to the mysteries of the Craft were laid aside; and while the peculiar fraternal relations established and maintained by Masonry no doubt acted upon the assembled Brethren with their wonted influence, it must be confessed that the gracious presence of the ladies seems to have been the predominating source of the inspiration of those happy hours. Of the Nine Muses, Terpsichore appears then to have principally exercised her sway, and the breaking of the morning light upon the unwearied dancers must on several occasions (judging from the Minutes) have testified to the potency of the spell of that graceful goddess. The Minutes, be it observed, of these occasions are generally brief, but very emphatic. Indeed, we may note here and there an energy and glow in the curt records of the proceedings, which suggest that the Secretary had encountered during the evening

The presence of ladies sought and valued.

another pagan divinity, usually represented as of almost infantile years and of the stronger sex, and that the worthy officer had been "badly hit." The summer meetings of the Lodge, too, were observed for many years with a religious regularity, which perhaps may be partly accounted for by the fact that at them also the presence of ladies was sought and secured. For a long series of years the favourite and regular place of resort was the old "Star and Garter," at Richmond. There many a joyous and delightful day has been spent by our Lodge; and it can scarcely be mere fancy which makes it appear to the reader of the brief records of these occasions that whenever the Lodge tried a change, and took its pleasure elsewhere, the success of the summer meeting was not quite so complete. It will not do, however, to dwell at greater length upon this tempting theme; but, in taking leave of it, it may be worth while to suggest whether it would not be desirable, as it certainly is in accordance with our traditions, and with the associations suggested by our name as a Lodge, for us to introduce occasionally into our assemblies the elevating, refining, and delightful influences of some of the fairer half of human kind.

Summer Meetings at Richmond.

With regard to the discharge of those duties of benevolence and liberality towards the members of the Craft and their families when in distress—duties specially enjoined upon us by the laws and

The duties of benevolence and liberality.

principles of the Masonic order—it is gratifying to find that, so far as the Minutes afford evidence upon the point, the readiness of the Lodge to respond to calls in this direction appears to have increased in recent years. A special opportunity for the exercise of the benevolent disposition for the discharge of this high Masonic obligation is afforded to us by the existence of those noble institutions for the divinely compassionate purpose of providing for the orphan children of members of the Craft, in the establishment of one of which a distinguished founder of the Lodge, as has already been mentioned, took so prominent a part.

It is certain that, by a sympathetic and liberal regard for the claims of our poor and distressed Brethren, we are both carrying out the true idea of Masonry so far as it bears upon the development of noble individual character, and also are taking a course which, by a natural and necessary reaction upon our sympathies and affections, tends to give strength and beauty to the fraternal ties which unite us one to another.

Places of Meeting.

Our records show the places which our Lodge has used for its ordinary meetings. From its foundation onwards, apparently without interruption until 1821—a period of forty-four years—the meetings of the Lodge were held at the Thatched House Tavern, an old-fashioned inn of

good repute, which stood upon the hallowed site now occupied by the building in which it has been my pleasure to welcome the members of the Lodge, and which has for some years past afforded me shelter. In April, 1821, the Lodge met for the first time at Freemasons' Tavern. There the meetings were held for forty-three years. The experiences in this house of the Lodge do not appear, however, to have been altogether satisfactory, and an occasional grumble finds its way into the Minutes. The reason which finally led to removal appears to have been the dissatisfaction of the Brethren with the dinners which were provided. In 1864 the meetings were removed to the Clarendon Hotel, Bond Street; nine years later (1873) to St. James's Hotel, Piccadilly; in 1874 to Freemasons' Tavern again for one meeting, then to the Queen's Hotel, Cork Street; and then in December, 1875, to the present place of assembly, Long's Hotel, Old Bond Street. We trust that no necessity for a further change may arise for many years; for undoubtedly it contributes much to the pleasure of our gatherings to have them from time to time amidst surroundings which gradually become familiar. The flow of our intercourse as Brethren is most free and most delightful when each Brother occupies his accustomed place at the board, and when the eye learns to associate the

Undesirableness of frequent changes.

different portions of the room and furniture with particular faces and personalities.

Eminent Members of the Lodge.

In glancing over the names of those Brethren who have occupied the exalted position of Master (a complete list of which, so far as procurable, is given in Appendix V.), I think it right to call special attention to four Brethren, who during the latter half of the century have rendered signal service to the Lodge, and, by their able and devoted attention to its interests, have especially contributed to the maintenance of its efficiency and prestige. They are Bro. John Propert, who filled the chair no less than four years, in 1822, 1823, 1836, and 1846, and who was for a considerable time Treasurer; Bro. Francis Kearsey, who was W.M. in 1847 and 1850; Bro. C. B. Claydon, W.M. in 1842 and 1849; and Bro. J. M. Clabon, W.M. in 1863 and 1869, and who most efficiently discharged the duties of Secretary for several years.

The Progress of Masonry.

In bringing this slight outline of our history to a close, it may perhaps not be out of place that I should refer for a single moment to the great progress which has been made in the spread of the arts and mysteries of the Masonic Craft since our Lodge was founded. During the past century Masonry in England has unquestionably made great advances. Probably it never numbered so many illustrious and worthy adherents

in England as at this day. It is no longer regarded, as in former times, as a dangerous secret Society, subversive of the interests of order and social well-being. Masonry, it is true, is based upon principles which have an intrinsic nobility—the nobility of truth—and does not derive its true power and value from its association with great names. Nevertheless, we rejoice in the acknowledgment of the significance and importance attaching to our Order by eminent personages, to whom all look up with sincere respect, and whose circumstances and natural gifts cause them to be recognised as among the leaders of the first society in the world. Our present M.W.G.M., His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in occupying the proud position in Masonry to which he has been called, worthily follows the traditions of his House; and we rejoice to observe and to recognise the same spirit in our Senior G.W., the Duke of Connaught, and in our J.G.W., Prince Leopold. And we cannot but regard with profound satisfaction the fact that the position of Pro G.M. is filled by so eminent and enlightened a statesman as the Earl of Carnarvon. It is well to remember, however, that Masonry depends for its real influence over our personal and social life upon its inherent merits, its sublime principles, its changeless and undying truths; and it may be permitted

me, in a last word, to remind the Brethren how much the prosperity of the Lodge depends upon the spirit and conduct of each individual member. It is incumbent upon each of us to uphold our discipline, to maintain the dignity of our calling, and to exemplify the true and noble principles inculcated upon us by our Ancient and Honourable Order. The grant of our Centenary Warrant, while it suggests a review of the past, may also serve to mark the starting-point of a new and yet more honourable career.

Let me ask the Brethren to regard these jottings from our history, with the observations which have accompanied them, as a Sprig of Acacia to mark the position of the Lodge of the Nine Muses on this occasion of its Centenary; and while we figuratively burn incense to the honour and glory of the Most High for favours already received, let us entreat Him to be pleased to bestow peace and prosperity on the Lodge during the ensuing century.

APPENDICES.

I.—The Nine Muses.

II.—The Warrant of Constitution of the Lodge of the Nine Muses.

III.—The Centenary Warrant.

IV.—Extract from *The Freemasons' Magazine* for February, 1796, giving "Some Account of the Lodge of the Nine Muses."

V.—List of the Masters of the Lodge.

VI.—List of Furniture, Jewels, and Books of the Lodge of the Nine Muses, No. 235.

VII.—List of present Officers, Past Masters, and Members.

APPENDICES.

I.

The Nine Muses.

ON the fly-leaf of the first Minute-Book in our possession the following memorandum appears :—

"Clio, Euterpe, Thalia, Melpomene, Terpsichore, Erato, Polyhymnia, Caliope, Urania—The Muses—were daughters of Jupiter and Mnemosyne. They presided over Music, Poetry, Dancing, and all the Liberal Arts. The Palm-tree, the Laurel, and all the fountains of Pindus, Hellicon, Parnassus, &c., were sacred to the Nine. The Muses were also called Pierides, from having conquered the daughters of Pierus, a king of Macedonia, who had challenged the Sacred Nine to a trial in music, but failing, were changed into magpies."

II.

The Warrant of Constitution of the Lodge of the Nine Muses.

PETRE, G.M.

L. S.

No. 502.

TO ALL AND EVERY our right *Worshipful* and loving *Brethren*, WE, Robert Edward Petre, LORD PETRE, Baron of Writtle, in the County of Essex, GRAND MASTER of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, Greeting :

KNOW YE, that WE, at the humble petition of our right trusty and well-beloved Brethren, JOHN HULL, Esq., RAPHAEL FRANCO, Esq., RICHARD BARKER, Esq., ROBERT BIGGIN, Esq., ABRAHAM TEIXEIRA, Esq., ISAAC SEQUEIRA, M.D., BARTHOLOMEW RUSPINI (*sic*) and several other Brethren, *do* hereby constitute the said Brethren into a regular Lodge of *Free* and *accepted* Masons, under the title or denomination of the Lodge of THE NINE MUSES, to be held at the *Thatch'd House Tavern*, in Saint James's Street, Westminster. And do further, at their said petition, of the great trust and confidence reposed in every of the same above named Brethren, hereby appoint the said John Hull, L.J.G.W., to be Master ; Raphael Franco, Esq., Senior Warden ; and Richard Barker, Esq., Junior Warden, for opening the said Lodge, and for such further time only as shall be thought proper by the Brethren thereof. It being our will that this our appointment of the above Officers shall in no wise affect any future election of Officers of the Lodge, but that such election shall be regulated agreeable to such bye-laws of the said Lodge as shall be consistent with the general laws of the Society contained in the Book of Constitutions. And we hereby will and require you, the

said John Hull, to take special care that all and every the said Brethren are, or have been, regularly made Masons, and that they do observe, perform, and keep all the rules and orders contained in the Book of Constitutions; and further, that you do from time to time cause to be entered in a book kept for that purpose an account of your proceedings in the Lodge, together with all such rules, orders, and regulations as shall be made for the good government of the same. That in no wise you omit once in every year to send to us or our successors, Grand Masters, or to Rowland Holt, Esq., our Deputy Grand Master, or to the Deputy Grand Master for the time being, an account in writing of your said proceedings, and copies of all said rules, orders, and regulations, as shall be made as aforesaid, together with a list of the Members of the Lodge, and such a sum of money as may meet the circumstances of the Lodge, and reasonably be expected towards the Grand Charity. Moreover, we hereby will and require for the said John Holt, as soon as conveniently may be, to send an account in writing of what may be done by virtue of these presents.

GIVEN at *London*, under our hand and seal of *Masonry*, this 25th day of March, A. 5777 (A.D. 1777).

By the Grand Master's command.

RD. HOLT,
D.G.M.

Witness,
JAS. HESELTINE,
G.S.

III.

The Centenary Warrant.

ALBERT EDWARD, G.M.

L. S

To the Master and Wardens and other Officers and Members of the Lodge of Nine Muses, No. 235, and all others whom it may concern.

GREETING. Whereas, it appears by the Records of the Grand Lodge, that on the 25th day of March, 1777, a Warrant of Constitution was granted to certain Brethren therein named, authorising and empowering them and their regular Successors to hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, at the Thatched House Tavern, St. James' Street, London, and which Lodge was then registered in the Books of the Grand Lodge as No. 502. But in consequence of the Union of the two Grand Lodges, and the formation of the United Grand Lodge on the 27th December, 1813, it became No. 421 ; since which, owing to the general closing up of the numbers in 1832 and 1863, it has become and now stands on the Register as No. 235, meeting at Long's Hotel, Old Bond Street, in the County of Middlesex, under the Title or Denomination of THE LODGE OF THE NINE MUSES.

And Whereas the Brethren composing the said Lodge are desirous, when it has completed the CENTENARY of its existence, on the 25th day of March, 1877, to be permitted to wear a JEWEL Commemorative of such Event, and have prayed our sanction for that purpose.

Now know Ye, that we, having taken the subject into our consideration, have acceded to their request, and in virtue of our prerogative DO HEREBY GIVE AND GRANT to all and and each of the actual subscribing Members of the said Lodge; being MASTER MASONS, permission to wear, in all

MASONIC MEETINGS, suspended to the left breast by a sky-blue ribbon, not exceeding one inch and a-half in breadth, a JEWEL or MEDAL, of the pattern or device that we have already approved of, as a CENTENARY JEWEL. But such Jewel is to be worn only by those Brethren who are *bonâ fide* subscribing Members of the said Lodge, and for so long only as each shall pay his regular stipulated subscription to the Funds thereof, and be duly returned as such to the Grand Lodge of England.

GIVEN at LONDON, this 6th day of April, A.L. 5877, A.D. 1877.

By Command of the M.W., Grand Master, His Royal Highness the PRINCE OF WALES, K.G , &c., &c., &c.

JOHN HERVEY, G.S.

IV.

Extract from "The Freemasons' Magazine," February, 1796.

Pp. 75–76.

Some account of the Lodge of the Nine Muses, with an elegant engraving of the Master's Jewel.

On the 14th January, 1777, a Meeting was held at the "Thatched House Tavern," St. James's Street, by the following :—

BRETHREN :

John Hull, Esq., as R.W.M.
Raphael Franco, Esq., as S.W.
The Rev. Dr. William Dodd,* as J.W.
Robert Biggin, Esq., as *Treasurer*, and
The Chevalier Bartholomew Ruspini.

VISITORS :

Richard Barker, Esq.
William Porter, Esq.
Jean Baptiste Cipriani, Esq.
—. Borghi, Esq.

On the 23rd following, having obtained permission of the Grand Master to assemble as Masons, and to make and raise Masons, till a constitution could be made out, Brother Cipriani was raised to the degree of a Master Mason.

At this Meeting Brother Biggin very generously offered to furnish a Bible and Jewels; at the same time Brother Cipriani engaged to suggest suitable and proper designs.

* He was expelled on the 13th February following, "having behaved unbecoming a man of honour and a Mason."

An engraving from the elegant painting of the Right Worshipful Master's Jewel is given in this number, executed by Leney, of whose abilities as an engraver we consider it as no inconsiderable specimen. Brother Raphael Franco, not willing to be outdone in liberality, engaged to supply the Lodge with three candlesticks, of which peculiarly elegant furniture we shall give a particular description at a future opportunity. Among those who have been made Masons, and admitted Members in this respectable Lodge at different periods since its institution, we find the following distinguished characters, and have considered it not unimportant to annex the dates respectively of their initiations or admissions :—

Francis Bartolozzi, Esq., made February 13th, 1777.

Augustus Carlini, Esq., and Charles Frederick Abell, Esq., admitted December 11th, 1777.

—. Cramer, Esq., admitted January 8th, 1778.

Felici Giardini, admitted March 12th, 1778.

Count Siedlecki, Chamberlain to the King of Poland, admitted June 11th, 1778.

Lord Viscount Tamworth, made December 8th, 1778.

His Excellency General Paoli, Count Guiseppe Poli, Count Aubains Gentilli, and Count Cambiagi, made January 14th, 1779.

Earl Ferrers, admitted June, 1779.

His Excellency Count Cavelli, Venetian Ambassador, admitted February 15th, 1779.

Earl of Effingham, admitted March 15th, 1779.

His Excellency Francis D'Ageno, Minister from the Court of Genoa, made April 19th, 1779.

Right Hon. Lord Cranstown, made December 10th, 1779.

John Zoffani, Esq., and Right Hon. Earl Kelly, admitted December 20th.

Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton, Bart., admitted April 17th, 1780.

The Hon. Washington Shirley, made April 4th, 1782.

Hon. Wm. Ward, made January 9th, 1783.

Marquis Paul de Arconati, Viscount of Milan, made February 13th, 1783.

Lord Macdonald, admitted ditto.

Count de Ceyras, made November 7th, 1783.

Count Soderini, Venetian Ambassador, made February 2nd, 1787.

Count Gaetano Tosio, of Venice, and Count Barziza, made February 13th, 1787.

Marquis Trotti, admitted ditto.

Count Andrea Boselli, made March 2nd, 1787.

Count Savedra, admitted ditto.

Count Lavezari, Venetian Resident, admitted June 6th, 1787.

Sir Nicholas Nugent, Bart., admitted 1785.

Baron de Starck.

Sir John Ingleby, Bart.

This Lodge continues to meet numerously and respectably on the 2nd Friday in the month, at the "Thatched House Tavern," St. James's Street.



The present Officers are :—

The Chevalier B. Ruspini, R.W.M.
William Blackstone, Esq., S.W.*
Samuel Beazley, Esq., J.W.
Charles Carpenter, Esq., *Treasurer.*
Mr. Simon Stephenson, *Secretary.*
Thomas Tinson, Esq., *Mas. Cer.*

* Son of the late able Commentator on the "Laws of our Country."



V.

List of the Masters of the Lodge.

1777. Bro. JOHN HULL.
* * * * *
1796. Bro. THE CHEVALIER RUSPINI.
* * * * *
1814. Bro. Sir W. Rawlins, Kt.
1818. „ Hy. Martin.
1820. „ Sir W. Rawlins.
1822. „ John Propert.
1824. „ Harper.
1826. „ F. Turner.
1828. „ Joseph Arden.
1830. „ Samuel Page.
1832. „ Walsh.
1834. „ R. E. Arden.
1835. „ Clarkson.
1836. „ Whitsed, M.D.
1837. „ Rowley, M.D.
1838. „ T. F. Savory.
1839. „ John Propert.
1841. „ Wm. Browne.
1842. „ C. B. Claydon.
1843. „ J. D. Finney.
1844. „ J. Pilcher.
1846. „ John Propert.
1847. Bro. F. Kearsey.
1849. „ Chas. B. Claydon.
1850. „ F. Kearsey.
1851. „ J. C. Pleydell.
1853. „ R. Chapman.
1855. „ A. Warner.
1857. „ J. S. Tulloch.
1859. „ J. Addison.
1861. „ R. B. Oakeley.
1862. „ O. L. Rasch.
1863. „ John M. Clabon.
1864. „ Jas. Thompson.
1865. „ W. H. Thompson.
1866. „ G. W. Holt.
1867. „ H. H. Gideon.
1868. „ N. Solomon.
1869. „ John M. Clabon.
1870. „ R. W. Jones.
1871. „ H. Heather Bigg.
1872. „ Edwin Fox.
1873. „ F. J. Heseltine.
1874. „ E. Emanuel.
1875. „ Hy. Robinson.
1876. „ G. E. A. Ross.
1877. „ Walter Webb.

*** It was hoped that this list might have been made complete, and application was made to the G.S. of the Grand Lodge for the names required. Unfortunately, however, the Books of the Grand Lodge do not furnish the information.

VI.

List of Furniture, Jewels, and Books of the Lodge of Nine Muses, No. 235.

(Corrected to 8th May, 1877.—W. W.)

The Warrant, in Gilt Frame.
Centenary Warrant.
Mahogany Jewel Box, containing 11 Jewels, 10 Collars.
One Bible.
Three Chairs
Three Pedestals.
Three Brass Candlesticks.
Three Ivory Gavels.
One Rosewood Gavel.
One Maul.
One perfect Ashlar and Triangle.
One rough ditto.
A Temple for collecting Money for Charity.
Two Wands.
24-inch Gauge.
One Iron Skirret.
One Iron Chisel.
One Iron Gavel.
One Dagger.
Three-Folding Tracing Board for the three degrees.
One pair Gauntlets for the W.M.
One Velvet Cushion.
Silver Square & Compasses.
One Box of Tools (for installing W.M.).
One Ballot Box.

Particular description of the Jewels :—

The W.M.'s Jewel.

An oval enamel, set in silver gilt. A figure (Apollo) standing, holding the square in his right hand.

The Immediate P.M.'s Jewel.

An oval enamel, set in frame, with stones. A figure standing by a pedestal, holding a square in her left hand. Inscription at back:—"Presented to the Lodge of Nine Muses, by Brother G. M. BRIGHTY, S.W., as a testimony of his regard, 22nd November, 5816."

The S.W.'s Jewel.

An oval enamel, set in silver gilt. A female figure standing, holding the level in her left hand. Inscription at back:—"Lodge of Nine Muses."

The J.W.'s Jewel.

An oval enamel, set in silver gilt. A female figure standing, and holding the plumb in her right hand. Inscription at back:—"Lodge of Nine Muses."

The Treasurer's Jewel.

An oval enamel, set in silver gilt. A female figure sitting by a pedestal, a purse in the left hand; the keys in the right hand. Inscription at back:—"Lodge of Nine Muses."

The Secretary's Jewel.

An oval enamel, set in silver gilt. A female figure sitting by a pedestal, writing. Inscription on back:—"Lodge of Nine Muses."

Two Deacon's Jewels.

Silver Doves.

Jewel of Master of Ceremonies.

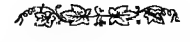
Silver Cross-Wands in Wreath.

Steward's Jewel.

Silver Cross-Staves in the Tie and Wreath.

Outer Guard's or Tyler's Jewel.

Silver Sword.



BOOKS OF THE LODGE.

Minute Book, from 1814 to 1836.
„ „ „ 1837 to December, 1875.
„ „ „ 1876.
Bye-Laws.
Treasurer's Account Book.
Book for Signatures of Members and Visitors attending Lodge Meetings.
Rough Minute Book.
Book for Signature of Candidates for Initiation.
Book of the Constitutions of Masonry.

VII.

List of present Officers, Past Masters, and Members.



OFFICERS :

Bro. Walter Webb, W.M.

Bro. E. Hyde Hewett, S.W.
„ J. Horne Payne, J.W.
„ G. Sangster Green, S.D.
„ A. S. Wildy, J.D.
„ Joseph Kincaid, I.G.
„ Hy. Staples, D.C.
„ G. F. Carlyon-Simmons, *Treasurer.*
„ E. Hyde Hewett, *Secretary.*

PAST MASTERS :

Bro. H. Heather Bigg.
„ Edwin Fox.
„ F. J. Heseltine.
„ E. Emanuel.
„ Hy. Robinson.
„ G. E. A. Ross.

MEMBERS :

Bro. James Brend Batten.
„ T. Collingwood Chown.
„ Robert O'B. Fitz-Roy.
„ T. Ridge Jones.
„ W. Geo. Nixey.



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