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**NOTES ON IRISH FREEMASONRY
[No. II.]**

“THREE LOST LODGES”

BY

**W.BRO. W.J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY, LL.D.,
D.C.L**

SENIOR GRAND DEACON, IRELAND.

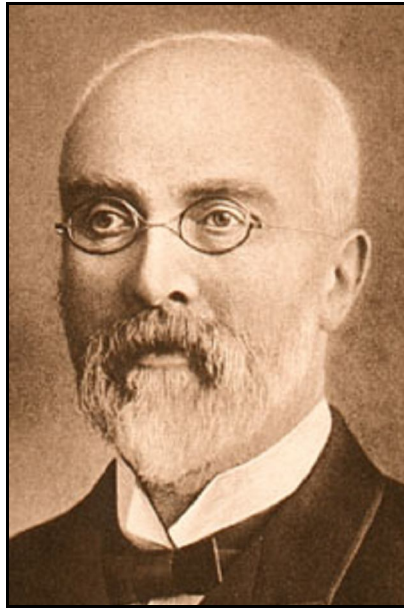
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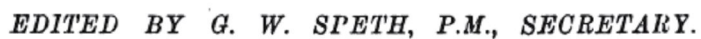
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WILLIAM JOHN CHETWODE CRAWLEY, FOR MANY YEARS HEAD MASTER OF THE QUEEN'S SERVICE ACADEMY, DUBLIN, WAS, AFTER A LENGTHY UNIVERSITY CAREER, ELECTED A LIFE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN IN 1881. AUTHOR OF VARIOUS TEXTBOOKS AND MANUALS, HE SAT ON THE COUNCIL OF DUBLIN UNIVERSITY, WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE DUBLIN COUNCIL OF TEACHERS' GUILDS AND WAS A MEMBER OF SEVERAL ROYAL SOCIETIES.

COMPILER OF THREE VOLUMES OF *CAEMENTARIA HIBERNICA* (1895, 1896, 1900) AND AUTHOR OF TWENTY-ONE PAPERS PUBLISHED IN *ARS QUATUOR CORONATORUM*, HIS STUDIES INTO THE EARLY HISTORY OF ENGLISH SPEAKING FREEMASONRY HAVE PROVIDED MASONIC STUDENTS WITH A WEALTH OF VALUABLE RESEARCH AND ESTABLISHED HIS REPUTATION AS A LEADING PROPONENT OF WHAT HAS BEEN TERMED THE AUTHENTIC SCHOOL OF MASONIC WRITERS.

**INITIATED : 1873
SCIENTIFIC LODGE No. 250, DUBLIN
WORSHIPFUL MASTER : 1876
TRINITY COLLEGE LODGE No. 357
GRAND SECRETARY : 1880-1893
GRAND LODGE OF INSTRUCTION
GRAND INNER GUARD : 1881
GRAND SWORD BEARER : 1884
GRAND STEWARD : 1887
GRAND TREASURER : 1904 - 1915
GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND**

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NOTES ON IRISH FREEMASONRY.

BY BRO. W. J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY, LL.D., D.C.L.

Senior Grand Deacon, Ireland.

No. II.

THREE LOST LODGES.



OUR American brethren have so wonderfully improved the system of Freemasonry, that they have rendered it extremely doubtful whether Anderson and Desaguliers, Martin Clare and Laurence Dermott, could possibly have lived up to their high-toned requirements. At least, conventional regulations, wholly unknown to our Operative and Speculative forefathers, have been gradually raised by American Grand Lodges into the rank of factitious Landmarks. The doctrine of Exclusive Jurisdiction is an instance in point. The practice originated in convenience, and not in the eternal verities of the Universe, or in the basic formulæ of humanity, or in any noble ideogram of that sort.

The principle cannot have been present to the minds of the Brethren concerned in the Revival in 1717, for their Regulations were intended only for the Lodges of London and Westminster. Speedily, however, the unexpected and unprecedented growth of the Order must have rendered it necessary for the maintenance of due discipline. At the present time, almost every Grand Lodge in the World has given its implicit or explicit adhesion to some modification of the principle, which may thus claim to that extent, and no more, the force of an Established Usage, though it can never be classed as an Ancient Landmark.

The current view taken in the last century of the grounds on which the doctrine is based may be gathered from an anonymous pamphlet published in the interest of the premier Grand Lodge, and entitled "*A Defence of Free-Masonry as Practised in the Regular Lodges, Both Foreign and Domestic, under the Constitution of the English Grand-Master*," London, 1765.¹

The paragraph bearing on the point runs as follows:—

"But the *English* Masons should be cautious with whom *they* converse, as there are many *irregular* Masons, *i.e.*, made in *Lodges* under the title of *Ancient* or *York*, who some time ago pretended to be *constituted* or *authorized* by the Grand-Master of *Ireland*, who (bye-the-bye), I am credibly informed, refused to countenance them, as it would be highly absurd for one Grand-Master to constitute Lodges in the Territories of another."

Here there is no question of an Ancient Landmark. The writer rightly considers that such territorial interference is to be treated as an absurdity.

It is worth remarking that the Grand Lodge of Ireland was the first, as far as the present writer knows, to embody in its Regulations an implicit recognition of the principle. Our Grand Lodge, on 3rd November, 1768, approved of the following Regulation:—

"XXVII. No army lodge shall for the future make any townsman a mason, where there is a registered lodge held in any town where such lodge do meet; and no town lodge shall make any man in the army a mason where there is a warranted lodge held in the regiment, troop, or company, or in the quarters to which such man belongs. And any army or other lodge making a mason contrary to this rule, to be fined one guinea."

It follows, as a logical consequence, that, since there are territorial limitations to the jurisdiction of each subordinate Lodge, there must be analogous limits to the jurisdiction of each Grand Lodge, which is composed of such subordinate units.

The Law itself was strictly enforced, as our Grand Lodge Minutes show, and, with some modification, is still borne on our Statute Book.

As far back as 1796, our Grand Lodge carried the principle into international practice. In the preceding year, a Petition was received from Bros. James Wilcocks, Angus McPherson, and William Ross, of the "*Loyal Inverness Fencibles*" for a Warrant. The Grand Lodge declined to entertain the Petition, and desired the Petitioners to make application to their own Grand Lodge at Edinburgh.² We might express surprise that they had

¹ This quotation has been verified, with fraternal courtesy, by Bro. H. Sadler, sub-librarian of the Grand Lodge of England, who turned the pamphlet to good account in his slaughtering rejoinder to Bro. Jacob Norton's recent animadversions on the Royal Arch degree. The only copy of the pamphlet known to exist in the United Kingdom was secured for Grand Lodge Library by the prevision of Bro. W. J. Hugan, who was the first to direct attention to it in *The Origin of the English Rite*, 1884. A second copy is to be found in the magnificent library of R.W. Bro. E. T. Carson, of Cincinnati.

² *Minutes* of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, under date 4th February, 1796.

not done so in the first instance, if we did not know the great popularity of Irish Warrants in the Army, and had not, besides, some reason to believe that Irish work and methods were favourably known to the Brethren of Inverness. In a recent number of our *Transactions*,¹ Worshipful Bro. W. H. Rylands, A.G.D.C., has noted the services of Capt. John Gregor, the most prominent member of the old Lodge of Inverness. Bro. John Gregor, on his retirement from the Army in 1764, joined the Lodge in his native town, and straightway "from his great ability and strength in Masonry, was unanimously elected Master, which important chair he filled for ten years." Where had Bro. John Gregor attained this remarkable skill in Masonry? The answer is easy. The famous Regiment in which he had served, the 42nd Highlanders, or Black Watch, then known as Lord John Murray's Regiment, had at work within it, from 1749 to 1815, an Irish Military Lodge, No. 195 on our Register. What more natural, then, than that Inverness Military Brethren should apply for a Warrant to the Grand Lodge with whose work they were familiar, and under whose auspices their great exemplar, Lieut. John Gregor, had been trained?

The object of the present paper is to supply some details of two Lodges warranted in England, and one in France, by the Grand Lodge of Ireland before the doctrine of the Exclusive Jurisdiction of Grand Lodges had come into being. These are the only three instances that can be traced in which the Grand Lodge of Ireland, during its whole career, has invaded the territories of another Grand Lodge.

In the official list of Lodges, published in 1804, by Bro. C. Downes, Whitefriar Street, Dublin, printer to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, there is a list of "Warrants held in Foreign Countries" under the authority of our Grand Lodge, comprising the Provincial Grand Lodge of Barbadoes, and fifteen subordinate Lodges in various parts of the world.

Of these fifteen Lodges, eight are said to be in the West Indies, two in the Isle of Man, one in New York, one in Baltimore (North America), one in France, and two in England. It is only with the three last mentioned Lodges that we propose to deal in the present NOTE, though we hope to consider the remainder of the list on some future occasion. The list itself is perplexing, for the other Lodges were not founded in Foreign countries, but in British possessions, and the locality of at least one Lodge is not borne out by the original entry in our Grand Lodge Register.

I.

In the year 1745, the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ireland—the title Most Worshipful had not yet come into fashion—acceded to the petition of Bros. Jacob Brooker, John Auger, Thos. Blumfield, and five others, and in accordance with the Irish custom granted a charter for a Lodge to be held at Norwich. This city was almost half-way between the rival Grand Lodges of York and London. The reason for the application being made to Dublin, rather than to either of the English Grand Lodges may possibly be found in the inter-communication between the silk weavers of both cities. The staple manufacture of Norwich was bombazine, a fabric closely corresponding to the well-known poplins of Dublin, so that skilled artisans from either city could be sure of finding employment in the other.

Bro. Henry Sadler has recently shown in the columns of *The Freemason* that the Irish weavers of Manchester, in 1795, got up a Lodge for themselves, and what happened at the end of the last century may very well have happened fifty years before. Against the probability of this surmise, however, must be reckoned the fact that none of the applicants for the warrant of 1745 bear Irish names. Nor has R.W. Bro. Hamon Le Strange, D.G.M. of the Province of Norfolk, been able to find any local evidence of such a discontented Irish colony as is implied in the hypothesis. Local investigations alone can determine why Norwich brethren sought an Irish Warrant.

We append a photographic facsimile of the original entry in the Grand Lodge Register of Ireland.

This facsimile is one-half the original size, and represents a quarter of the original page, the remaining three-quarters being perfectly blank. After the Lodge had obtained the warrant it apparently made no returns, nor gave any such signs of life as could be entered in the Register.

We have elsewhere shown that the contemporary practice of the Grand Lodge of England did not contemplate the issue of a Charter or Warrant to a subordinate Lodge. Hence, the warrant under consideration was the first under which any Lodge on English soil was constituted.

¹ A.Q.C., vol. VII., part ii., p. 88.

Are Quatuor Coronatorum.

4 th 148. Admitted the City of Norwich and Hampshire England 24 July 1745	When Admitted	When Made Master	When Made Warden
1 Jacob Brooker		24 July 1745	
2 John Aunger			
3 Thos Blumfeld			
4 Thos Brown			
5 Thos Briggs			
6 Ben Cooper			
7 Clement Loring			
8 John Pearce			
24 July 1745		24 July 1745	

We have taken the opportunity of reproducing this entry in facsimile in order that Masonic students should now for the first time be enabled to see for themselves the earliest method of Registry in use in our Grand Lodge Records. The provision made for recording the date of the Installation of officers is most suggestive, and shows the importance attached to the Installation ceremony.

II.

When the Grand Lodge of the Antients began its career, the majority of its adherents seem to have belonged to the lower middle classes. The disparity in social condition between these worthy brethren and the candidates for the Irish Bar who were eating their Terms at the Middle Temple in 1754, will go far to explain why these Templars sought and obtained a Warrant from their own Grand Lodge at Dublin. The Irish Work was so different from the Ritual developed by the Grand Lodge of the Moderns, that these Irish Law Students could hardly be expected to range themselves under the banner of the premier Grand Lodge. Indeed, the Grand Lodge of Ireland, all modern assertions to the contrary notwithstanding, seems never to have been in fraternal intercourse with the Grand Lodge of the Moderns, after the rival organization of the Antients had been established. So far as his researches have gone, the present writer has been unable to find in our records any official recognition of the Grand Lodge of the Moderns by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Whenever the Grand Lodge of England is mentioned in our records, it is always the Grand Lodge of the Antients that is meant. As early as 1758, our Grand Secretary, John Calder, assures Laurence Dermott "that the Grand Lodge of Ireland did mutually concur in a strict Union with the Antient Grand Lodge in London, and promised to keep a Constant correspondence with them."¹ As late as April, 1813, when the Articles of Union seemed to hang fire, the members of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, in Stated Communication assembled, loyally threw their weight into the scale of the Antients, by passing the resolution "that they do not feel it possible to make any order for the admission of Modern Masons into Ancient Lodges" until the Union shall have been consummated.²

On the other hand, the *personnel* of the Antients was not attractive to Irishmen of the comparatively high social position implied in residence at the Middle Temple.

We append a transcript of the original entry in our Register:—

No. 247, held in the Middle Temple, London. Meets at the King's Head Corner of Chancery Lane, 8th May, 1754.		When admitted.	When made Master.	When made Wardens.
1. Thos. Knox Gordon, Esq. ^r	}	1754	8th May, 1754	} 8th May, 1754
2. Charles Bruce, Esq. ^r				
3. Joseph Kane, Esq. ^r				
4. Andr ^w . Span, Esq. ^r				
5. John Tunnadine, Esq. ^r				
6. Capt. Jno. Anstruther Fitzgerald				
7. Rich ^d . Power, Esq. ^r				
8. Doc ^r . Rich ^d . Brouncker				
9. Mich ^l . Barrett, Esq. ^r				
10. Thos. Naughton, Esq. ^r				
11. Geo. Hart, Esq. ^r				
12. Thos. Kingsbury, Esq. ^r				
13. Samuel Close, Esq. ^r				
14. Thos. Nicholls, Merch ^t .				

All these names have a prefix or affix indicating their rank, a distinction quite unusual in other entries of the period. Among them are a Captain, a Doctor, and a Merchant; all the rest are styled Esq.^r. The desire of marking social status is evident.

Out of the fourteen foregoing names we have been able to trace eight as belonging to members of the Irish Bar, regularly entered at King's Inns, Dublin.

¹ Sadler, *Masonic Facts and Fictions*, chapter v.

² *Minutes of Grand Lodge of Ireland*, under date April, 1813.

Thos. Knox Gordon, admitted to King's Inns,	Easter Term, 1755.
Charles David Bruce	Trinity Term, 1757.
Joseph Kane	Hilary Term, 1757.
Andrew Span ¹	Michaelmas Term, 1754.
John Tunnadine	Easter Term, 1756.
Richard Power	Hilary Term, 1757.
Thomas Naughton	Hilary Term, 1758.
Thomas Kingsbury	Michaelmas Term, 1758.

The sole military member of the Lodge, Capt. John Anstruther Fitzgerald, was probably borne on the Irish Establishment, for Ireland had then a military organization distinct from that of England. At any rate, we have been unable to find his name in the English Army List of 1755.

Neither this Lodge, nor that at Norwich, made any returns to the Mother Grand Lodge. The Irish authorities of 1809 were as completely in the dark about their proceedings as we are. There is extant a letter from Bro. W. F. Graham, Deputy Grand Secretary of Ireland, to Bro. Edwards Harper, of the Grand Lodge of the Antients, dated 2nd May, 1809, in which the writer asks for any information Bro. Harper may have concerning these Lodges. Bro. Graham's words are "There are two numbers to which I have put *query*, 148—247, formerly carried to England, about which I wish you would cause enquiry to be made, as no communications have been received from them for a number of years." Bro. Harper's reply has not come down to us, but its purport is plain enough, for both Lodges were omitted from the Irish list at the next opportunity.

III.

In 1773, Freemasonry in France was completely disorganized. In the previous year, the Grand Lodge of France had been overthrown, and the Grand Orient invented to take its place, or, speaking more plainly, to usurp its functions. This latter organization, headed by the Duc de Chartres, better known as Philippe Égalité, at once blossomed into a full-blown and, after the French fashion, sublimely symmetrical Constitution, with Montmorency, Duc de Luxembourg, as Director-General, to superintend three Chambers to which was appended a National Grand Lodge. This Constitution, also after the French fashion, did not last unchanged throughout its very first session. The National Grand Lodge straightway lost its separate existence, and was merged into another Chamber. The wearisome details are to be found in Thory, *Acta Latomorum*, and in such recognized historians of French Freemasonry as Ragon and Rebold.²

During this chaotic period, the premier Grand Lodge of England warranted several Lodges in France, notably The Lodge Candour, at Strasbourg, in 1772, and The Lodge Parfaite Amitié, at Avignon, in 1785, while the Grand Lodge of the Antients, not to be behindhand, warranted another at Brest in 1773.³ Similarly, the Grand Lodge of Ireland warranted the Lodge of which we now, for the first time, publish the official Register. This is the only Lodge that ever worked under an Irish warrant on the Continent of Europe.

No. 503. Held in Beziers, in Languedoc, in France. Dated 5th August, 1773.	When admitted.	Master.	Warden.
1. The Count of Villeneuve	5th August, 1773.	5 Aug st ., 1773	5 Aug st ., 1773
2. Fran. P. Burton, Esq.			
3. M. — Davillon			

Cancelled by order of Grand Lodge, 7th October, 1813.

Béziers, in the Department of Hérault, is a stagnant little town, in population, industry, and importance, much the same to-day as it was when the Warrant was granted in 1773. The staple manufactures, then as now, were woollen and silk, presenting a curious resemblance to those of Dublin and Norwich.

¹ Died, 1757.

² The two later historians profited by the invaluable researches of Kloss, the prince of German historians. The English reader will find a summary in Findel's *History of Freemasonry* (1st period of Freemasonry in France), and something more than a summary in Gould's *History of Freemasonry*, vol. iii., chap. 25. Before the resolute reader has mastered the details, he will appreciate the epithet applied to them in the text.

³ Particulars of these Lodges will be found in Bro. John Lane's *Masonic Records*.

The name of the Senior Warden supplies the link between the Brethren at Béziers and at Dublin. Fras. P. Burton, Esq., became in process of time better known as the Rt. Hon. Francis Pierpont (Burton) Conyngham, who succeeded his uncle, Earl Conyngham, in 1781, as second Baron Conyngham, from whom is descended the Marquess Conyngham of the present Peerage.

We have been unable to trace any connection between the other founders of this Lodge and the Freemasons of Dublin, except what is implied in the application for a Warrant. The Comte de Villeneuve was the head of an old Provençal house, that had taken part in the Albigensian crusade. The name is not unknown in French Freemasonry. M. l'Abbé de Villeneuve was invited, as a prominent Freemason, to the famous Paris Conventions of 1785 and 1787, to which Grand Secretary Heseltine, General Rainsford, and other English Brethren were invited.¹ But he did not attend as representative from Béziers. That position was held by M. l'Abbé Rozier, who had played a conspicuous part in the squabbles at the foundation of the Grand Orient in 1773, when he seems to have championed the cause of the provincial Grand Lodges. The name of the Junior Warden, M. Davillon, smacks of the *haute bourgeoisie*.

Like the above-mentioned Lodges in England, the Lodge at Béziers seems to have had no subsequent communication with its mother Grand Lodge, and its brief history ends with the epitaph—

“Cancelled by order of Grand Lodge, 7th Oct', 1813.”

NOTE TO ABOVE.—The doctrine of Sovereign, Exclusive, or Sole Jurisdiction, for it is known by all these terms, is of gradual growth in Masonry. In the main and simplest form it is merely that every Grand Lodge shall have the sole right of warranting Lodges in its own district, state, or country. Thus stated, almost all the Grand Lodges of the world explicitly or implicitly give it there adherence. Until lately however there were marked exceptions and some few still exist. For instance: In the Prussian States there were formally three Grand Lodges who were under the direct protection of the King of Prussia, and by a royal decree only the Lodges dependent from them were acknowledged as legally existing in the possessions of the Prussian crown. In the rest of Germany were five other Grand Lodges and by a law thus purely governmental they were consequently hindered from establishing Lodges in Prussia. The Prussian Lodges however were not debarred and did not refrain from establishing Lodges throughout Germany. This one-sided arrangement has lately ceased owing to legal proceedings which resulted in a judgment that the royal decree was no longer in force, so that within the last year or so, other Grand Lodges have established Lodges in Berlin itself. There thus now exists in Germany an arrangement very similar to that existing in our own Colonies, where England, Ireland, and Scotland hold concurrent sway. The exception in Germany is, I believe, still the Grand Lodge of Saxony, which by a decree of the State reserves recognition to those Lodges only under its own territorial Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodges of Germany have however never given their assent to the doctrine as respects foreign countries, and have, within recent years, warranted Lodges at the Cape, in the United States of America, and elsewhere, and although these Lodges may have since been absorbed into the territorial Grand Lodge, this has only been the result of circumstances and not due to the action of the German authorities, who have always refused to withdraw their warrants. England gave its adherence to the doctrine of Sovereign Jurisdiction as early as 1770, when in acknowledging the new Grand Lodge of the Netherlands, it agreed to refrain in future from establishing any new Lodges in that country, but it explicitly insisted upon the right of such Lodges of its constitution in Holland as chose to adhere to their English jurisdiction being allowed to do so undisturbed. This is the principle which the Grand Lodge of England has ever since maintained, and the furthest extent to which it has gone in the recognition of the doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction. After recognising a new Grand Lodge it refrains from warranting Lodges in that district, but it does not in any way undertake to force its daughter Lodges to sever their connection and throw in their lot with the new constitution.²

But in America the doctrine has been considerably extended. It is there held that if Lodges in a sovereign State warranted by a body or bodies outside that State, combine to form a Grand Lodge of the State, not only is that Grand Lodge a legal body, but that all other Lodges in the State are bound immediately to join the new Grand Lodge, severing

¹ Thory, *Acta Latomorum*, Paris, 1815, Vol. II., *pièce* No. XIII.

² With this position, the Grand Lodge of Ireland, has always heartily concurred, and our American Brethren cannot yet have forgotten its sturdy maintenance in the case of Irish-born Lodges in Canada. In any discussion on the subject, it must be accepted as a fundamental proposition that the doctrine is, in the first instance, due to the action of the two oldest Grand Lodges in the world. It seems impossible to resist the conclusion that when the Law is to be interpreted, the limitations laid down by the authorities that enacted it, must be accepted as part of the Law.—W. J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY.

themselves from their own mother, and that if they fail so to do, they become clandestine and out of the pale of Masonry. With this extension of the doctrine England has on several occasions refused to comply. In some British Colonies which have erected Grand Lodges of their own, the American doctrine finds favour and is even looked upon and spoken of as a landmark of the Craft, which is of course pure nonsense.

But the Americans have even gone further; from granting exclusive jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge over all Lodges in the State, they are now proceeding to assert the exclusive and perpetual jurisdiction of individual Lodges over any candidate for Freemasonry who has once applied to them. It is maintained that if a candidate has applied to a Lodge for initiation and been rejected, no other Lodge anywhere, at any time, after any lapse of years, can accept such candidate until the Lodge formerly objecting to receive him shall have waived its right and given permission to proceed. The Grand Lodges of the United States are however not yet unanimous on the point, some contending for, others against the doctrine.—G. W. SPETH.

The trio of "Lost Lodges" so interestingly described by Dr. Chetwode Crawley, puzzled me exceedingly some years ago, when I saw it in the very rare List of Lodges attached sometimes to the "Ahimon Rezon" of A.D. 1804, but quite separately published. My researches on the subject were fruitless, but it is most pleasant to find our distinguished Brother in Ireland has been so successful.

It is most noteworthy that we know nothing of the No. 148 at Norwich of A.D. 1745, and the No. 247, Chancery Lane, London, of A.D. 1754, both of Irish origin, for so far, not a scrap of evidence has been traced in this country of either organization. All we can say is, they must have been warranted, as described, and though they might not have done any work, their existence in this country for sometime during the last century is clearly proved by our zealous member.

With respect to the *third* of the series we are equally in ignorance, but having been domiciled in France A.D. 1773, we need not wonder as to our failing to trace either its origin or work.

A curious paper might some day be written on *Friendly Invasions by Masonic Lodges*, for what with those of a military character belonging to Ireland and Scotland, and others started by French Prisoners of War in England from about 1760 to far on in this century, we have had brethren at work, hailing from other jurisdictions, which possibly, in some measure, had affected the mode of conferring the ceremonies, as at Bristol and elsewhere.

I beg to thank Dr. Crawley for his capital paper, and am now waiting impatiently for his next.—W. J. HUGHAN.

