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**IRISH FREEMASONRY**

**THE MARENCOURT CUP AND  
ANCIENT SQUARE PRESERVED BY  
LODGE 13, LIMERICK.**

**BY**

**BRO. HENRY F. BERRY  
(SUBSEQUENTLY TWISS),  
FIRST WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF THE LODGE OF  
THE RESEARCH NO. CC, IRELAND.**

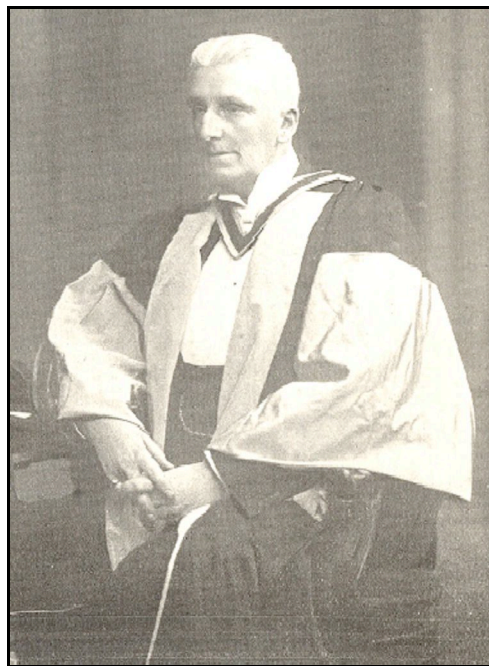
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**BRO. HENRY F. TWISS, LITT. D.,  
FIRST WORSHIPFUL MASTER,  
LODGE OF RESEARCH CC.**

#### OUR FIRST WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

Brother Henry F. Twiss, whose portrait appears here, taken in his robes as Doctor of Literature of Dublin University, was appointed to the position of Worshipful Master by the Grand Lodge in the Warrant of 12 March, 1914, constituting a Lodge of Research in the City of Dublin. No worthier choice could have been made considering the position of Dr. Twiss in the Irish literary world and his knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, Masonry. The ability he showed in editing the Statute Rolls of Ireland, whilst Assistant Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, the numerous contributions made by him to the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy (of which he was Secretary to the Council for some years) and to the Journals of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, and his selection by the Council of the Royal Dublin Society—to write a history of that body, fully justified the distinction which his *Alma Mater* conferred on him in granting him the degree of Litt. D. In Masonic circles in Dublin he has long been a well known and honoured figure. His knowledge of the craft and his passion for research found an outlet in the pages of the *Quatuor Coronati*, a Lodge in which he holds office, so that, on the institution of the Lodge of Research in Ireland, his appointment as Worshipful Master was not only an acknowledgment of his work in the past, but a guarantee that under his auspices the Lodge would be worthily started on its career. During the most of his life he has been known by the patronymic of Berry, but he has recently changed his name to Twiss. His wise counsel and his courteous presence will long be remembered by the Members of the Lodge of Research, who, together with his many friends will always hold him in the deepest Fraternal esteem.

HERBERT WOOD.

—\*— Ars —\*—  
Quatuor Coronatorum

BEING THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE  
QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE NO. 2076, LONDON.



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## THE "MARENCOURT" CUP AND ANCIENT SQUARE,

PRESERVED IN THE UNION LODGE, No. 13, LIMERICK.

BY BRO. HENRY F. BERRY, I.S.O., P.M., LODGE 357, I.C.



IN the long roll of Irish Lodges, No. 13 stands only second in point of antiquity to No. 1, Cork, whose warrant dates from 1731. No. 13 was founded 22nd November, 1732, and like No. 1 is still flourishing and full of vitality. From one of the lists given in Dr. Chetwode Crawley's *Cuementaria Hibernica*, it appears to have been meeting in the year 1735, on the first Monday in each month, at Mr. Samuel Barrington's in Limerick, but as the present minute books only commence in 1793, there is no material for any account of the early history of this ancient and distinguished Lodge.

During the Easter recess of 1903, it was my great privilege to attend a meeting of Lodge 13, on the introduction of Bro. Canon Maurice W. Day, chaplain, and to see the Third Degree conferred by the then W.M. Bro. Lee, and his Officers, in a manner worthy of the best traditions of Masonic ceremonial. The Marencourt cup and old square, which form the subjects of this paper, were exhibited. Having recently stated my desire to prepare a communication relative to them for the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, Bro. Ellis Goodbody, the present W.M., kindly granted permission for a photograph of the cup to be made, Bro. Day supplying extracts from the Lodge Minutes. I think we are much indebted to the officers of No. 13, and to Bro. Day, for their fraternal goodwill and assistance.

On returning to Dublin, hoping the story of the cup would be new to Bro. Chetwode Crawley, those acquainted with our most learned Irish Masonic historian will not be surprised to hear that he met me with the information that so far back as 1895, he himself had printed the story of the Marencourt cup. In April and May of that year Bro. Crawley had contributed papers entitled "The 'United Sisters' and 'Le Furet,' an episode in the History of the Irish Craft" to the *Masonic Visitor—the Journal of Irish Freemasonry*, a publication which ran a short and chequered career.

Two articles have recently appeared in the *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*—one in vol. xvi., p. 171, and the other in vol. xvii., p. 17—under the title "Masonic Chivalry," dealing with the subject of the Marencourt incident, in which are reprinted the documents used by Bro. Chetwode Crawley, and which had originally appeared in the *Limerick Chronicle* newspaper contemporaneously with the events narrated. These articles will have given the Brethren a great deal of information on the subject, and it might seem that their publication in the columns of our Journal had done all that I had contemplated. Inasmuch, however, as a photograph of the cup accompanies this paper, while some Minutes of Lodge 13, which appear not to have been previously used, together with some facts gleaned from other sources, are available, I think it well to present the entire story in narrative form, using as authorities the resolutions of Grand Lodge, Lodges 271 and 952 Limerick, and extracts from the *Limerick Chronicle*, which appeared, for the first time, in Bro. Crawley's work and in the above-mentioned articles.

The events about to be recorded took place at the end of the year 1812, and the early part of 1813, a period when England and France were engaged in deadly conflict,

when the Peninsular War was at its height, and Napoleon, the evil genius of Europe, was just being forced to retreat after his disastrous expedition into Russia. Occurring as it did at such a juncture, the Marencourt incident is all the more a subject of wonder. At a time when the evil passions of our common humanity were being aroused and inflamed between our countrymen and those subject to the sway of Napoleon, a Frenchman, moved by the strength of the tie that binds in one the hearts of all true Masons, bestows on British subjects their liberty! The tale, romantic and unparalleled as it is, affords a striking tribute to the disinterestedness and self-sacrifice cultivated by the spirit and genius of Masonry.

On the 6th of November, 1812,<sup>1</sup> the schooner, *United Sisters*, of Poole, Joseph Webb, master (Thomas Hammond, owner), bound from that place to Bristol with a cargo of pipeclay, was boarded and plundered about four miles off Start Point, by *Le Furet* (*Anglicé*, the *Ferret*) a French privateer, hailing from St. Malo, and commanded by Captain Louis Marencourt. Webb had only been detained on board the privateer for a couple of hours, when the sloop, *Three Friends*, of Youghal, James Campbell, master, coming from Southampton, hove in sight, and was quickly captured by *Le Furet*. Finding that her lading consisted only of bricks and hoops, Marencourt, who was a member of the Masonic order, directed her to be scuttled and sunk, but (as one of the accounts has it) on searching her papers and discovering Campbell's certificate as a Master Mason, he countermanded the order and restored Campbell his ship. The cup dedicated to Captain Marencourt bears an inscription which puts a different complexion on the affair, and its wording has a far more abiding interest for Craft Masons than the mere finding a certificate could have. It records that the "*signals of Masonry having been exchanged between the Commanders*," Marencourt *instantly* bestowed his ship, &c., on Campbell. This makes the incident of far deeper significance to a Master Mason, and trebly enhances the importance of the event in a Masonic point of view. While it is possible that at their meeting on board, the two men may have Masonically recognized one another by signs, the wording of the inscription, and the peculiar circumstances of the occasion render it far more probable that when Campbell found himself in danger of capture, he made from his ship the *signals* familiar to the initiated, on the possibility of their being attended to.

Webb, the master of the first vessel captured by *Le Furet*, would appear not to have been a Mason, as, had he been one, the Lodges which voted resolutions of thanks to Captain Marencourt for his fraternal assistance to Bro. Campbell, would assuredly have included his name in their acknowledgments. Mason or not, however, it is certain that Webb and his crew were also liberated, and he too was given back his ship. Marencourt's generosity in this instance may possibly have been due to Bro. Campbell's intercession. A *carte d'échange*—a document drawn up in triplicate, was signed by Marencourt, Webb and Campbell; Joseph Webb merely designates himself as Captain of the *United Sisters*, Poole, while James Campbell styles himself Master Mason of No. 13. This document, which was dated on board *Le Furet*, 12th November, 1812, makes no mention whatever of Campbell, and he appears to have signed more in the capacity of a witness. It is solely conversant with Webb, and as it contains no condition attaching to Campbell's obtaining his freedom, there is a very strong inference that Marencourt treated his brother Mason in quite a different manner from that in which he treated an outsider. Here again is strikingly illustrated the trust and confidence reposed in one member of the Order by another, even though complete strangers,

<sup>1</sup> This is the date given in the various accounts, but the *carte d'échange* mentioned below was dated 13th November, while the inscription on the cup has 2nd February, 1813.



and a short time previously bitter foes. Webb is required to swear an oath that he will faithfully observe his compact, while it is evident that Campbell obtained his liberty unconditionally.

The *carte* certifies the release of Webb's ship, himself and his crew, as prisoners of war, on condition that he, on his word of honour and oath, would make every effort to procure the liberation of Bro. Joseph Gantier, who had been taken on 16th February, 1812, on board the French schooner, *Confiance*, and detained a prisoner on board the prison ship, *Crown Prince*, at Chatham. Should he not succeed within two months, Webb bound himself to repair to France, engaging himself in the meantime not to bear arms against that country. Bro. Campbell, having signed the *carte* as a Master Mason, probably promised to assist in obtaining Gantier's release by every means in his power, but whether this object was attained we are unable to ascertain. Government would, under all the circumstances, be willing to mark its sense of Marencourt's generosity in releasing two British ships, their crews and cargoes, by a speedy order for the Frenchman's restoration to liberty, thus obviating the necessity for one, if not two, British subjects being compelled to place themselves in captivity. Such a course would, however, have been contrary to the ordinary practice of belligerents.

Does not the entire story present a touching picture of the nature of the Masonic bond? Two brethren meet on the high seas as deadly foes, when, on discovery of the relation subsisting between them, by means of signals well understood by the Craft, the victor offers his captive release. Meanwhile, all his thoughts are with a fellow-countryman and brother—a prisoner in England—for whose freedom he devises the plan and dictates the terms of the *carte d'échange* with which we have been dealing.

The chances of war are proverbially fickle, and it soon fell to the lot of the noble-hearted Marencourt to occupy the position so recently filled by Campbell and Webb. On the 6th February, 1813, the privateer, *Le Furet*, which found itself once more in English waters, was chased by His Majesty's sloop, *Wasp*, and when off Scilly, being forced to leeward on the *Modeste*, a British frigate, the privateer was captured by that vessel, which was commanded by Captain J. C. Crawford. *Le Furet* is described as a remarkably fine ship, 170 tons, 14 guns, 98 men, and she is stated to have sailed only the previous day from Abreval.

The following copies from Admiralty documents place beyond question the dates and occurrences.

Admiralty (Captains' Journals 2552)			
H.M.S. <i>Modeste</i> Feby 6 1813 Saturday			
H.	Courses	Winds	A.M.
1	E S E		Fresh breezes and cloudy.
5	E b S		At 6.30 saw 2 strangers to westward.
7	E b N		At 8 D <sup>o</sup> W <sup>r</sup> made sail. At 8.40 answered signal for an enemy from the <i>Wasp</i> , made all sail in chase of a Schooner to windward, fired several guns at d <sup>o</sup> .
9	E N E		
10	N b E	W N W	At 10.30 she struck under French colours.
11 } 12 }	up North off N E b N		She proved to be the <i>Le Furet</i> Privateer of 14 Nine Pounders and 98 men. Out pinnace, sent her and the Jolly Boat for Prisoners.

H.M.S. *Modeste*, Sunday, Feb. 7, 1813.

P.M.

at 1, came to with the best bower at Spithead and moored ship.

Wednesday, 10th.

P.M.

at 3, sent the French prisoners to the prison ship.

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Admiralty, Secretary, Miscellanea, 357.

Name of Prize.	Nation	Class	No. of Guns.	No. of Men.	By what Ship taken.	When.	Captain's Name.
Furet	French	Priv.	14	98	Modeste	6 Feb. 1813.	J. C. Crawford.

Poor Marencourt was not fortunate enough to find in the commander of a British man of war one who could, even though a Mason, be permitted by the laws of his country, or the rules of the service, to bestow on a captive of war the precious gift of liberty, as a gallant corsair, like himself, was able to do. He was accordingly sent first to the prison ship at Spithead, and subsequently, it is believed, to Plymouth, where it is matter of history that at this time large numbers of French prisoners of war were confined in the Mill Prison. Bro. J. T. Thorp has shown ("French Prisoners' Lodges") that some Freemasons among them held a Lodge, called the "Amis Réunis." The Plymouth Lodge (Prince George) No. 79, which was in full working order at the time, no doubt, did anything in its power to render imprisonment more tolerable to such of the captives as belonged to the Craft, but as it ceased to work in 1828, and its records are not now forthcoming, we are unable to afford any information. The resolutions passed by Lodge No. 271<sup>1</sup> Limerick, and the Rising Sun Lodge, No. 952<sup>2</sup> Limerick, the terms of which appeared in *A.Q.C.*, vol. xvi., p. 171, were forwarded through the Plymouth Lodge. The first was dated 18th February, 1813, and the second 24th February, 1813, and as the members of each had become aware of Marencourt's captivity, there can be no doubt that these fraternal expressions of admiration for his conduct, and sympathy in his misfortune must have touched the prisoner's heart, and afforded him deep satisfaction. Lodge 952 transmitted a copy of the resolutions to the Earl of Donoughmore, Grand Master of Ireland, in the hope that some steps might be taken by those in authority with a view to Marencourt's release; search has been made in the records connected with this prerogative of the Executive, but without success. Through what means the desired end was achieved is not clear, but Capt. Marencourt was ere long set at liberty and returned to France.

The resolutions mentioned above were forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, which passed a resolution that a committee, consisting of the Grand Officers, be appointed to determine on measures proper to be taken on behalf of Grand Lodge, commensurate with the circumstances of the occasion, adequate to the merits of Captain Marencourt, and expressive of its feelings. Nothing further appears on record.

It seems strange that while these resolutions of two other Limerick Lodges were duly registered, no contemporary minutes or resolutions of Lodge 13 — that to which James Campbell himself belonged — would appear to have been entered in the Lodge books. They have been carefully searched, and the following are all that are now

<sup>1</sup> Founded 1756, ceased 1844.

<sup>2</sup> Founded 1804, ceased 1821.



ARS QUATUOR CORONATORUM



THE "MARENCOURT" CUP.



extant in relation to an episode of such interest to No. 13, which must have been discussed at several meetings, whose proceedings should have been duly recorded.

In an old minute book of the Lodge, on two pages which had been left blank between entries for 11th March and 6th April, 1813, (Bro. Denis Lenegan being then W.M.) is found this entry, made by Bro. Michael Furnell. "24 Feb., 1844. Having ascertained from the records of 271 and of the Star in the East (? Rising Sun) that "on the 11th March, 1813, the Union Lodge, No. 13, voted the silver vase, value £100, to Capt. Marencourt with an address, and that the Secretary must have intended this "blank for the minutes which were omitted, I have copied the following from the "*Limerick Chronicle*. M. Furnell, K.H. Chev. de Sol and Gd. Master."

Then follow the resolutions, letters, etc., which appeared in the *Limerick Chronicle* of 28th November, 1812, and 17th February, 1813, and are reprinted in the articles entitled "Masonic Chivalry" in this Journal.

These being the facts as disclosed by the minute book of Lodge 13, we have to fall back on the *Limerick Chronicle* of 17th February, 1813, for copy of an address, without date, to Captain Marencourt, which is stated to have been prepared, and purports to be signed by Thos. Wilkinson, W.M., and Charles Grace, Secretary. The hon. secretary of the Lodge informs me that Bro. Denis Lenegan was W.M. in 1813, and it seems unaccountable that the former name should be appended to the document, which will be found in *A.Q.C.*, vol. xvii., p. 18. From its wording, the cup would seem to have been ready for presentation by 17th February, 1813, though the inscription on it does not bear date until 1st May, 1813.

One does not like to impute carelessness to Bro. Grace, the secretary, but the omission of a proper contemporary minute is most regrettable. Bro. Furnell was a highly distinguished and zealous mason, who, for a number of years, was Provincial Grand Master of North Munster, and whose name still lives in the title of the "Furnell" Chapter of Prince Masons (Rose Croix) No. 4, Dublin. He died at an advanced age in 1867, when his fine collection of Masonic books was placed at the disposal of His Grace the Duke of Leinster, Grand Master of the Order in Ireland, and the officers of the higher grades of Masonry here; the greater number of them are now in Freemasons' Hall, Dublin.

The cup, with cover, of solid silver, which was voted to Captain Marencourt by Lodge 13, stands 18½ inches high. The cover is surmounted by a small figure, representing the W.M. of a Lodge in evening dress, with hat covering his head, clothed in collar and apron, with a gavel in his hand. It bears the following inscription:—"To Capt<sup>a</sup> Louis Mariencourt | of the French Privateer *Le Fureé* | To Commemorate the Illustrious Example of Masonic Virtue | his conduct to Capt. Cambell displays | The Brethren of Lodge No. 13 on the Registry of Ireland | Present and Dedicate this Cup | Limerick May 1, 1813. | On the 2<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. the Brig *Two Friends* became the Prize of | the *Le Fureé*. The signals of Masonry were exchanged | between the Commanders & instantly Capt. Mariencourt | bestowed his Ship his Cargo & his Liberty on Capt<sup>a</sup> Cambell."

On the other side—*Sit Lux & Lux Fuit*.

The cup was manufactured in Dublin by J.S., A.D. 1813. The initials are those of three Dublin Silversmiths of the period—John Smyth, John Somers and John Sherwin. The last named only became a Freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company in 1812, while John Smyth appears in the list of Dublin traders for the first time in 1813. As so important a work would hardly have been entrusted to beginners, the cup may probably be assigned as the work of John Somers, who was Warden in 1813.

In the *Freemasons' Quarterly Review* for 1841 is an account of a dinner of Lodge 13, at which the vase or cup was filled with mulled claret, and the Brethren present drank to the memory of Captain Louis Marencourt, of the Privateer *Le Furet*.

The cup itself is a very solid and enduring memorial of the events we are recording, but certain discrepancies and inaccuracies in the inscription cannot fail to be noticed. Chief among them is the date assigned for the incident which led to its presentation. All the printed accounts agree in giving 6th November, 1812, but as the *carte d'échange* was dated 12th November, and was signed on board, this latter is more likely to be correct, so that the date inscribed on the cup must be a blunder. Then the name always appearing as Marencourt is here Mariencourt, and as the Captain spelled his name in the former fashion, when signing the *carte d'échange*, this should be the correct form. In the cup, the vessel commanded by Campbell is called the *Two Friends*, while the printed resolutions, &c., always speak of it as the *Three Friends*.

As before noticed, Marencourt was understood to have learned Campbell's Masonic standing through finding his M.M. Certificate among papers on board, but the cup emphatically records the fact that the *signals* of Masonry were exchanged between the two.

The date of the dedication of the cup was 1st May, and as Marencourt had been set at liberty some time previously, it was forwarded to France, for presentation to him through the Grand Lodge of that country. He had, in the meantime, quitted France, and news of his death in Africa having arrived, the cup was sent back to Limerick. That it was not immediately restored to Lodge 13 appears from the following entries in the minute book: "3 Feb. 1820. Resolved that the W.M. and Bro. Villiers do wait " before the next monthly day on Brother John Brown requesting from Him the cup " which he now Holds and which was to be presented by No. 13 to Br. Jas. (*sic*) " Marriencourt, whom we lament is now dead."

" May 2, 1820. The silver cup voted in the year 1813 to Brother Mareincourt " for his very distinguished conduct towards a British crew not having been presented, " in consequence of his lamented death, and it appearing that the cup remained with " Brother John Browne, who had it from Brother Chaytor a past master of this Lodge,<sup>1</sup> " a deputation from this body having, agreeably to a resolution of the 3<sup>d</sup> February last, " waited on Brother Brown, he in a handsome manner restored it to the Lodge, and it " is now in care of the master for the time being. Resolved therefore that thanks are " due and hereby given to Brother Brown for the manner in which he preserved the " cup and his brother-like conduct to the deputation."

During the eighty-four years that have elapsed since these words were penned, the Marencourt cup has never passed out of the immediate custody of the Lodge officials, who, with pardonable pride and jealous care, guard this precious memorial of its connexion with one of the most romantic episodes in the history of Irish Craft Masonry.

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Lodge 13 also carefully treasures an ancient square, which must have been used by Operative Masons; it bears the inscription:—

I will strive to live | 1507 with love and care |  
Upon y<sup>e</sup> level | By y<sup>e</sup> square |

The square hangs framed under glass in the Lodge-room, and was " Presented to " Brother Furnell by Bro. James Pain, Provincial Grand Architect." In the *Freemasons'*

<sup>1</sup> Bro. Thomas Chaytor was W.M. for the year ending 27th December, 1812.



*Quarterly Review*, 1842, p. 288, Bro. Furnell, under date of 27th August, 1842, printed a short note on this relic of antiquity, accompanying which is a facsimile sketch. He says that Bro. Pain, in 1830, had been contractor for re-building Baal's Bridge in Limerick, and on taking down the old structure, he discovered under the foundation stone at the English town side, this old brass square, much eaten away. In the facsimile sketch, Bro. Furnell puts the date as 1517, which is a mistake, as the square bears the date 1507. A heart appears in each angle.

Ball's (or Baal's) Bridge is a beautiful structure, of a single arch, built in 1831, to replace an ancient bridge of the same name, which consisted of four arches, with a range of houses on one of its sides. The date of the erection of this ancient structure has not been ascertained, but possibly the old square, dated 1507, may have been placed under the foundation stone in that year. In any case, Bro. Furnell informs us that the old bridge is mentioned in records of 1558.

In a most interesting and valuable paper on a "Diary of the Siege of Limerick Castle, 1642," *Journal*, R.S.A.I., 1904, p. 163, Mr. M. J. McEnery, M.R.I.A., reproduces a facsimile of a Map of Limerick, taken from Speed's Map of Munster, 1610, which shows the old bridge, called in the reference the *Thye* bridge; also portion of the city of Limerick, *cir.* 1590, from Mr. T. J. Westropp's copy of a map of Limerick in the Library, Trinity College, Dublin, wherein the same bridge is shown, and called in the reference the *Tide* bridge.

James Pain, a distinguished architect, was born at Isleworth in 1779. He and his brother, George R. Pain, entered into partnership, subsequently settling in Ireland, where James resided in Limerick and George in Cork. They designed and built a number of churches and glebe houses. Mitchelstown Castle, the magnificent seat of the Earls of Kingston, was the largest and best of their designs. They were also architects of Cork Court-house and the County Gaol, both very striking erections, and of Dromoland Castle, the seat of Lord Inchiquin. James Pain died in Limerick 13th December, 1877, in his 98th year, and was buried in the cathedral church of St. Mary in that city.

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DR. CHETWODE CRAWLEY, *Grand Treasurer of Ireland*, writes:—

It is not often that the readers of our *Transactions*, or, indeed, the members of any learned Society, find placed before them an exploit, so interesting as that of the generous Capt. Marencourt, narrated by an historical expert so capable as Bro. H. F. Berry, Assistant-Keeper of the Irish Records. His treatment of the episode leaves nothing to be added and nothing to be desired.

The present writer conceives himself to be in a position to speak with some show of authority on the point. Just ten years have elapsed since he went over the same ground, and, for the first time, reproduced the contemporary entries in the *Minutes* of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. These entries embodied the newspaper paragraphs afterwards made use of by R.W. Bro. Michael Furnell, who seems to have been the first to attempt to investigate the matter.

The curious square found at Baal's Bridge, Limerick, seems to deserve further attention at Bro. H. F. Berry's capable hands. It cannot have been an Operative Mason's tool, and its true position in the development of Speculative Symbolism has not yet been determined.

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Remarks were added by Bros. SHACKLES, RYLANDS, BREED, CASTLE, and Canon HORSLEY, and a vote of thanks to Bro. Berry was unanimously passed.