

**“THE STORY OF LOST ARCHIVES OF THE
GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND”
(EXCERPT FROM *CAEMENTARIA HIBERNICA*)**

BY

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**GRAND TREASURER,
GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND.**

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W.BRO. DR. W.J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY

NOVEMBER 15, 1843 - MARCH 13, 1916

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***

Excerpt from Caementaria Hibernica,
Fasciculus I., by W. J. Chetwode Crawley, LL.D., D. C.L.,
Grand Treasurer G. L. Ireland. (Privately printed, and
long out of print.)

Enclosed herewith are (1.) accurate reproduction of the First
Lodge Charter ever issued, and (2.) facsimile of the first seal ever
used by a subordinate Lodge of Freemasons.



The Story of the Lost Archives.
of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

THE Grand Lodge of Ireland is comparatively poor in archives, owing partly to the disinclination of the Craft to commit to writing anything beyond the barest memoranda, and partly to the loss or destruction of our records at the beginning of the present century.

In the year 1768, Bro. John Calder was succeeded, as Deputy Grand Secretary, by Bro. Thomas Corker, who had been associated with him, and who discharged the duties of that office continuously till his death in January, 1801. In an evil hour, the Grand Secretary, Bro. Gorges Darcy Irvine appointed Bro. Alex. Seton, Barrister-at-Law, as Bro. Corker's successor. In those days, the records of Grand Lodge seem to have been kept at the private residence of the Deputy Grand Secretary, for we find that Bro. Seton, as soon as he received his appointment, went straight to the house of his predecessor, and carried off "a hackney coach full" of books, manuscripts, and various other articles belonging to Grand Lodge. This load of papers he never returned to the custody of Grand Lodge. The facts are stated in the Bill which opens the pleadings in the suit instituted by the Grand Lodge, before the Right Honourable Thomas, Lord Manners, Lord High Chancellor of Ireland, to recover their property from Bro. Seton, who had meantime started the so-called Grand Lodge of Ulster on his own account.*

* The history of this short lived schism will well repay attention, being exactly the kind of sedition which our English Brethren used to image to themselves as the Grand Lodge of the Antients. The essential difference is that the Ulster Schismatics had only superficial grievances, and represented no such deep rooted principle as gave strength to the Antients. Hence the contrast between their fates,

This Bill describes the organization and objects of "The Friendly and Charitable Society known by the name of Freemasons," and goes on, with all the artificial artlessness of Lawyers' English, to recite that poor Bro. Corker had been

"in a very delicate state of health for a long time, during which period Alexander Seton, Barrister-at-Law, had secured to himself the promise of the reversion of the said office of Grand Secretary's clerk, expectant after the death of the said Thomas Corker, and to which, immediately upon that event, he was appointed by Gorges Darcy Irvine, the then Grand Secretary. Your suppliant further shows that the said Alexander Seton, after having been so appointed, went to the house of the said Thomas Corker, and demanded admission, from his widow, into the office of her late husband, where he kept the Books and Muniments of the Society of Freemasons, and having gained admission, he continued for many hours, and after inspecting the said Thomas Corker's books and papers, conveyed and carried away a hackney coach full, with other matters, the particulars of which he has never communicated, nor did he ever return or make any account thereof."

The legal documents in this famous case are still preserved in the Archives of our Grand Lodge, and have been discussed at some length by two well-known students of our history, V. W. Bro. Francis C. Crossle, of Newry, and Bro. Henry Sadler, Sub-Librarian of the Grand Lodge of England. The original pleadings are signed by the famous Daniel O'Connell, who was at the time a prominent and trusted member of the Order, and who acted as our counsel throughout the devious windings of the protracted legal proceedings.*

Our readers will readily understand that even the most fully stocked archives must seem somewhat barren, after such a wholesale depletion as is implied in the loss of "a hackney coach full" of documents.

A tradition is still current that this was not the first, or the only, loss our records sustained. We have found no absolute confirmation of this vague and widespread rumour. Perhaps some investigator, more fortunate than ourselves, may succeed in following up the subjoined clue, if clue it can be called. About eighteen months before his definite appointment as Deputy Grand Secretary, Bro. Corker, who was in his private capacity a Surgeon and Truss-maker of repute, removed from Pill Lane to a more pretentious residence in the Hay Market, November, 1766, and inserted the following advertisement in a leading Dublin newspaper of the time:—

"Nov. 11, 1766. Lost: In removing, last week, from Pill Lane to Surgeon Corker's house in the Hay Market, a small Hair Trunk, marked with the letters T.C. containing Deeds and other Family Papers, of no use but to the owner. Whoever brings it to Mr. Corker, at this house aforesaid, shall receive Ten Guineas reward."

N.B. Genteel Appartments to be let; enquire at above."

(*Sleater's Pub. Gazetteer*, 9 to 11 Nov., 1766.)

*The Great Agitator's connection with Freemasonry did not escape the notice of the learned German, Findel, (*History of Freemasonry*), who, however, adds some misplaced comments, which his English translator caps with the astounding misstatement that O'Connell was chosen Grand Master in the year after his initiation.

The reward was considerable, as the value of money then went, but the advertisement was repeated more than once, leading to the suspicion that it proved ineffectual. Can the papers in the missing box have been part of the archives of the Order? At any rate, not a scrap remains of our earlier records : the Registers that exist seem to have been written up just about the time of the loss of the Hair Trunk.

Hence, it will be seen that our investigations into the early stage of our Grand Lodge must depend, to a greater extent than in the sister countries, on the data afforded by documents in the possession of private Lodges. Until these have been brought to light, we must be held only to grope in the dark, and such a work as the present can only be taken as a basis for a future edifice.*

The Warrant of the First Lodge of Ireland.

Bearing date 1st February, 1731.

The first of these private documents, if we may so call them, is the famous Warrant of the First Lodge of Ireland, which by the courtesy of R. W. Bro. Anderson Cooper, Deputy Grand Master of the Province of Munster, we have been enabled to reproduce, and to which we have assigned, as of right, the post of honour as our frontispiece. Let us premise that it is an attempt to restore the Warrant to its original state, with an accuracy guaranteed by the resources of photography, under the direction of experts in archaeological reproduction.†

The aspect of the restored Warrant, as it stands in the forefront of our volume, is far from suggesting the time-worn appearance of the original. Besides the ordinary effacement of writing and discolouration of parchment, common to all documents of its age, it shows marks of wear and tear, entailed by the vicissitudes of its history. In particular, it has been folded and refolded so often, as to well-nigh obliterate some of the characters in the endorsements. This folding was due to the custom, in those early days, that the warrant should be handed, in open Lodge, by each Worshipful Master to his successor, who folded it up, put it in his pocket, and produced it at each Communication of the Lodge. Under

* Our fellow workers in sister jurisdictions, more fully equipped with unimpeachable and accessible records, can realize our difficulties, when we point out that in Ireland no Brother before the present writer has attempted to compile a list of the Brethren whom our Grand Lodge has honoured by election as Grand Officers. Even the list of Grand Masters, in our official Calendar, is due to the researches of Bro. W. J. Hugan, P.G.D. of England.

† We take the opportunity of recording our grateful thanks to Bro. Henry F. Berry, M.A., of the Public Record Office, Ireland (W. M. Trinity College Lodge No. 357 I.C.) and to Mr. F. Compton Price, the well known palæographical expert, who has so often placed his talents at the disposal of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, for their skilled services in the decipherment and restoration of the document. We use no figure of speech when we characterize those services as invaluable. The former gentleman, in particular, devoted a portion of his well earned vacation to personal verification of the document.

such treatment, the seal has long since gone the way of all things fragile, but we elsewhere reproduce a facsimile of it, taken from an impression that has survived on another Warrant of the same date. For the rest, the skill of our experts has deciphered and reproduced all that is still legible; the blanks are left to speak for themselves.

The First Warrant.

The Warrant itself is not only the oldest document of the kind now in existence, but is actually the first Warrant ever issued in any Jurisdiction. During the first forty years of its existence, the Grand Lodge of England did not issue a single Lodge Charter or Warrant. It was only when the Irish-born Grand Lodge of the Antients had enforced the example, that the Moderns followed the practice of the Grand Lodge of Ireland: a practice, the propriety of which was beyond doubt or cavil, and which, possibly, further commended itself by hazy traditions of similar documentary evidence of legality, formerly present in each operative Lodge. Our obligations to the pioneers of Masonic History are so great, that we can well condone the lack of legal training and exact knowledge, that has led them to ascribe the force of Warrants or Charters to Deputations, which are concerned merely with the ceremony of constituting a Lodge. It is of the essence of a Charter or Warrant, that it should be a document solemnly executed, and delivered to the parties to whom rights are conceded, to be by them preserved, and produced as formal evidence of their title to privileges therein granted by some Body or Authority, legally possessed of the power to make such grant. It is idle to attribute such a character to the Deputations, and the misnomer is unworthy of the reputation for accuracy so well won by the Modern School of Historians. To persist in its use would be to perpetuate a terminology slipshod in expression, misleading in meaning, and false in fact.

The doctrine that the Grand Lodge of England is thus indebted to our Grand Lodge will appear novel to the English Craft, and we propose to state plainly the grounds for our opinion.

The Germ of the Warrant.

The more closely we study the customs of the Medieval Fraternity, the deeper we find the roots of usages which seemed at first sight to originate at the Revival. Our Medieval Brethren had no Warrants or Charters, it is true, but the principle that the Lodge must be Perfect and

Regular seems to have obtained amongst them. The Regularity of the Lodge, we believe, depended on the presence of the Plan, which was naturally in the custody of the Master workman, "which can draw his plot and set accordingly, having charge over others."* This Plan was the evidence of the lawfulness of the assemblage of the particular knot of Freemasons, and proved their right to meet together in secret conclave for instruction. In the examination of a Steinmetz, given by Findel, the applicant to join a Lodge scores his first point, by saying, "With your favour and permission, God bless the Plan, and all who stand here around us;" showing the Plan to have been a prominent feature of the Lodge at Labour.†

During the decay of Freemasonry between the Reformation and the Revival, while the discontinuance of great ecclesiastical buildings was annihilating the Operative Lodges, and before the Speculative Freemasons had grown to be a power in the land, it seems to have been enough for a knot of Freemasons to have labour on hand, to justify them in forming a Lodge, then and there, to perform such labour, of whichever kind it might be. Nor is it easy to see what substitute they could have had for the Plan, until the process of evolution had constituted a central authority, a Grand Lodge, capable of issuing a Warrant.

The Early Practice of the Premier Grand Lodge.

The early practice of the Grand Lodge of England, as a matter of fact, did not contemplate the issue of such a Warrant as is adopted by all Grand Lodges of to-day. When certain Brethren had presented to Grand Lodge a petition to be Constituted as a Lodge, the Grand Master signified his acquiescence in the prayer of the petition, and either constituted the Lodge in person, or issued an Authorization or Deputation to some competent Brethren to perform the ceremony. The fact of the Constitution was then reported to the proper authorities, and duly registered in the Books of Grand Lodge. A typical instance of this will be found in the annals of the Lodge of Felicity, No. 58, which was constituted 24th August, 1737. The actual wording of the petition is as follows :—

" To the Right Honble. and Right Worshipfull
EDWARD EARL OF DARNLEY Grand Master
JOHN WARD Esq. D.G.M., Sr. ROBT.
LAWLEY Bart. and WM. GRÆME D.M.
& G.W.

We whose names are hereunto Subscribed being free and accepted Masons and so made in regular Lodges.

* Cf. *Editor's Introduction*, p. 12 note.

† The credit of this suggestion belongs to Bro. G. D. Burtchaell, M.A., Secretary of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland. See *Masonic Visitor*, No. VII.

Beg leave to meet at the house of our Brother Joseph Parsons at the Gun Tavern in Jermain Street and that your Lordship and your Grand Officers will be pleas'd to constitute us into a regular Lodge that we may secure the benefit & Prililedge of all our Regular Lodges: promising obedience to your Lordship and your Grand Officers and that we will pay all due Obedience to the Regulations that have been or shall be made for the Government of the Craft and (as in Duty bound) shall ever pray

B. BARRON Master

B. BARRETT

B. MONKMAN

} Wardens

B. LYON Secretary "

(and 22 others, who each sign with the prefix B[rother].)

To this, the Grand Master affixed his sign-manual in the following terms :—

"I grant the prayer of the above petition and do appoint Wednesday the 24th Aug. 1737 for the Constitution at 8 in the evening.

DARNLEY G.M."

In due course, the certificate of Constitution was furnished in the following terms :—

"We whose Names are hereunto subscribed did meet at the house of Our Brother Joseph Parsons the Gun Tavern in German Street and did then & there constitute the before written Petitioners into a regular Lodge in full form and did appoint Bro: Wm. Baron Master and Bro: Isaach Barrett & George Evans Monkman Wardens,

DARNLEY G.M.

ROBT. LAWLEY pro D.G.M.

W. GRÆME S.G.W.

THOS. SLAUGHTER J.G.W.*

This Lodge never obtained a Charter of Confirmation, and has the distinction of working to-day under its original constitution, of which the foregoing document is the genuine and sufficient chronicle.

The annals of the Peace and Harmony Lodge, No. 60, afford another example. A petition similar to the foregoing having been presented by Bro. GEORGE GARRETT and twelve other masons "made in Regular Lodges," the Grand Master endorsed his assent in the usual way.

"London April y^e 28th 1738.

I grant the Within Petition and do Appoint Wednesday
the 3rd of May For the Bretheren to Attend me at 7 o'clock
In the Evening

CAERNARVON G.M."

In due course, the ceremony of Constitution was performed by the Grand Master in person :—

"London May the 3d 1738 . . .

Wee the under Written did meet at the House of Our Bror. William Overy The Signe of the Angel & Crown in Crispin Street Spittle Fields, and did then and there, Constitute the Before Written Petition

* W. Smithett, *History of the Lodge of Felicity*, 1887, page 11.

oners, into a Regular Lodge In full form—and did Appoint Our
 Bror George Garrett Esqr Master
 And our Bror Mr. Timothy Hooks Senior Warden
 And our Bror William Chomly Junior Warden

CAERNARVON G.M.

J. WARD D.G.M.

GRAHAM S.G.W.

ANDRW. ROBINSON J.G.W.*”

It will be observed that these documents do not purport to be Warrants in the accepted sense of the word; they simply chronicle the fact of Constitution, and are intended to supply a lawful basis for Registration. The documents themselves might or might not be preserved by the Lodge as interesting memorials of the ceremony; in the majority of instances, they were not so preserved. The idea of a Charter, to be retained by the Lodge, had not yet presented itself to the English Brethren.

Such was the practice with regard to London Lodges. In the provinces a more elaborate system was adopted. An authorization to constitute by proxy for the Grand Master was issued, as with the famous Exeter Lodge No. 39,† a copy of which is given on next page. The most cursory perusal will show that it is not a Warrant, but a Deputation of purport similar to the London examples.‡ The document can claim to be, as far is known, the oldest of its kind in existence, and comes nearest in point of interest and antiquity to our Irish Warrants.

The premier Grand Lodge continued this method of constituting Lodges, till the advent of the Grand Lodge of the Antients compelled it to set its house in order. We know that its Lodges were thus constituted till the close of 1753, because the Deputation of Lodge No. 85 bears date, 10th November, 1753. As the present Warrant of Lodge No. 96 bears date, 25th June, 1828, we can go a step further, and fairly infer that the practice still obtained at the formation of that Lodge on 2nd Dec., 1756. Otherwise, the Lodge would have neither wanted nor accepted a Charter of Confirmation.

In the following year, the Irish procedure was silently adopted by the Moderns, as it had been by the Antients, who steadfastly maintained the practice of the Grand Lodge of Ireland from which their leaders hailed.

We append a transcript§ of the earliest form of Warrant (using the term in its proper sense) issued by the premier Grand Lodge, and we have placed it, for purposes of comparison, in juxtaposition with the Exeter Deputation.

* Peace and Harmony Lodge, Chronicle of *Celebration of the 150th Anniversary*, 3rd May, 1888. (pp. 4, 5.) In these quotations, the variegated orthography of the originals has been preserved.

† Hugan's *Origin of the English Rite*; Hope's *History of Lodge No. 39, Exeter*.

‡ When the Lodge was constituted by a Provincial Grand Master, the Metropolitan precedent was followed, with such local amendments as might seem expedient.

§ We owe this transcript to the care and courtesy of Bro: H. Sadler, Sub-Librarian of the Grand Lodge of England. The Warrant of the Patience Lodge, No. 97, Sunderland, bears date, 14th Jan., 1757.

Montague G. M.

Deputation (Constitution) of St. John the Baptist's Lodge, Exeter.

No. 39 Grand Lodge of England.

L.S.

Greeting.

W

HEREAS, a Petition has been presented to us, and signed by several Brethren residing in and about the City of Exeter, humbly praying that they may be constituted into a regular Lodge.

These are therefore to Impower and Authorize our Right Worshipful and well-beloved Brethren, John Bury Esq.; and Mr. Thomas Jeffreys, or either of them, to convene our Brethren at Exeter, aforesaid, who have signed the said Petition; and that the said John Bury Esq.; or Mr. Thomas Jeffreys, do, in our place and stead Constitute a regular Lodge in due form (they, the said John Bury Esq.; and Mr. Thomas Jeffreys, taking special care that they, and every of them have been regularly made Masons), with like Privileges as all other regular Lodges do enjoy; and that they be required to conform themselves to all and every the Regulations contained in the printed Book of Constitutions, and observe such other Rules and Instructions as shall from time to time be transmitted to them by us, or Thomas Batson, Esq.; our Deputy Grand Master, or the Grand Master, or his Deputy for the time being; and that they send to us, or our Deputy, a List of the Members of their Lodge, together with the Rules agreed on to be by them observed, to the end that they may be entrid in the Grand Lodge Book, and upon the due execution of this our Deputation, the said John Bury Esq.; or Mr. Thomas Jeffreys, is hereby required to transmit to us, our said Deputy a Certificate, under both or either of their hands, of the time and place of such Constitution, in order that it may be entered in the Book of regular Lodges.

Given under our hand and Seal of Office, this Eleventh day of July, 1732, and in the Year of Masonry, 5732.

Wm Reid, Secretary,

By the Grand Master's Command.

Thos. Batson, D. G. M.

Geo. Rooke,

Ja. Smythe,

G. Wardens.

Warrant of Lodge of Friendship, No. 100, E.C.

(GRAND LODGE OF THE MODERNS.)

L.S.

Bearing date 25th March, 1757.

"CAERNARVON, G.M."

"To all and every our Right Worshipful Worshipful and Loving Brethren :
We JAMES BRYDGES, MARQUIS OF CARNARVON, Grand Master of the Ancient
and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, send Greeting.

Know ye that we at the Humble Petition of our Right Worshipful and well
beloved *William Wickes*, *Levi Barlow*, *Samuel Clark*, and several other
Brethren residing in the City of Norwich in the County of Norfolk and
confiding in the care of you the said *William Wickes* that all and every the
said Brethren have been regularly made Masons Do hereby constitute you and
the said Brethren into a Regular Lodge of free and accepted Masons And do
further of the great Trust and confidence reposed in you the said three above
named Brethren hereby Appoint you the said *William Wickes* to be Master,
the said *Levi Barlow* to be S.W. and the said *Samuel Clarke* to be J.W. for the
opening the said Lodge and for such further time only as shall be thought
proper by the Brethren hereof It being our Will that this our Appointment of
the above Officers shall in nowise affect any future Election of Officers of the
Lodge But that such Elections shall be regulated agreeably to such By Laws
of the said Lodge as shall be consistent with the General Laws of this Society
contained in the Book of Constitutions And we do hereby Will and Require you
the said *William Wickes* and the future Masters of the Lodge for the time
being to take especial care that all and every the Brethren of the said Lodge
do observe perform and keep all and every the Rules Orders and Regulations
contained in the Book of Constitutions (Except such as have been or may be
repealed at any Quarterly Communication or other General Meeting) together
with all such other Rules Orders Regulations and Instructions as shall from
time to time be transmitted by us or THOMAS MANNINGHAM M.D. our Deputy
or by any of our Successors Grand Masters or their Deputy for the time being
And that you and such Masters of the Lodge for the time being do from time
to time cause to be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose an Account
of the proceedings of the Lodge together with all such Rules Orders
Regulations as shall be made for the good Government of the same And that
it be in no-wise omitted at least once in every year to send to us or our
Successors Grand Masters an Account in Writing of the said Proceedings and
copies of all such 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 suit the circumstances thereof and reasonably be expected towards the
General Charity And we do moreover hereby Will and Require you the said
William Wickes as soon as conveniently may be to send me an Account in
Writing of what shall be done by Virtue of these presents Given at London
under our hand and Seal of Masonry this 25th day of March A.D. 1757,
A.L. 5757.

By the Grand Masters Command,

(Signed) THOS. MANNINGHAM, D.G.M.,

Witness: J. REVIS, G.S."

The example set by the Grand Lodge of Ireland appears to have commended itself to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, which, very soon after its organization in 1736, issued Warrants after the Irish manner. But it will be remembered that the Scottish Lodges of 1736 had, for the most part, been in existence from the days of the Operative Craft, and the documents issued to them could not be other than Warrants of Confirmation.*

The Early Practice of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The doctrine and practice of the Grand Lodge of Ireland were characteristically different from those of the premier Grand Lodge, and the principles on which they were based have been adopted, in the long run, by every Grand Lodge in the world. We can gather from our records and traditions, that our Grand Lodge, from the first, subordinated the Registration to the actual issue of a Charter, which should give to the Brethren the material evidence of their Regularity, showing "the authority under which their meetings are held." From the earliest times, the Irish doctrine has been that the actual document must be on view in the Lodge-room when at Labour. At no period was it held to be enough that the Lodge should have been duly Constituted and Registered, or even that a Warrant should have been issued. It was indispensable that the Warrant itself should be actually in possession of the Lodge, and open to inspection throughout the Labour. The first entry of the earliest Lodges on our Grand Register consists merely of the date on which the Warrant was issued, and takes no account of any such preliminary steps as were current in England. Hence, an almost superstitious reverence has grown up round the parchment. Within living memory, it was not unusual to hold the Warrant over the neophyte so as to impress on him, by material symbolism, that the ceremony was performed "under the Warrant."

The Warrants issued by the GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND, in the year 1731, can justly claim to have been, directly or indirectly, the mould on which all existing Grand Lodge Warrants have been modelled.

The Mitchelstown Lodge.

At first sight, it appears hard to understand why one of the first Warrants issued by the Grand Lodge of Ireland,† and invested with precedence over all subsequent Warrants, should have been granted to a Lodge meeting in an

* We desire to express our indebtedness to the published works and the private communications of Bro. W. J. Hughan and Bro. Henry Sadler; without their fraternal aid, the argument would have been indeed inconclusive, through lack of verified facts. It would, however, be a sorry return for their kindness, if the present writer were to allow these eminent Brethren to be held responsible for his collocation of the facts, or the cogency of his argument. In this, as in many another instance, the positive merits are theirs; the possible errors are his own.

† The first batch of Warrants seems to have been signed, sealed, and delivered without numbers; the numerals now borne on their margins having evidently been affixed at a later date.

obscure town in the South of Ireland. For its original destination was not Cork, but Mitchelstown. Consideration of the circumstances will, we apprehend, make clear the motives which actuated the Grand Lodge of Ireland, though, it must be remembered, we have not a remnant of contemporary records to help us.

At the time of the establishment of the Grand Lodge in Dublin, there had been already in existence, for several years, a Grand Lodge in Cork, and we have abundant proof that the South-eastern districts of Ireland were hotbeds of Freemasonry. It was an object of paramount importance, to the founders of the Grand Lodge in Dublin, to conciliate the Southern Craftsmen, and to induce them to give in their adhesion to the new authority. The claims of the Southern Brethren could not be slighted, for the Grand Master at Dublin was the very nobleman who was titular head of Munster Freemasonry.

In his stately mansion at Mitchelstown, Lord Kingston, long after he had ceased to be Grand Master, continued to endear himself to the Craft by the lavish hospitality characteristic of Ireland in the last century.* The little town itself was held by Lord Kingston in the hollow of his hand, so to speak. The vast Cork estates of the family centred there, and there, within a stone's throw of the village, afterwards grew up that munificent Foundation, the College of Mitchelstown, provided for by Lord Kingston's will.†

What could be more natural, then, than that the first Warrant should be issued, in enthusiastic haste, to Brethren, who were found ready to work under it in the very heart of the Munster District, beneath the eye of the Grand Master himself? Of course, it would have suited better, if Brethren in Cork had been found willing to accept it. But the Munster minute-book, 1726-1733 A.D., shows pretty plainly that the Cork Lodges, working apparently from Time Immemorial, were disinclined to give up their independence, and owed, rather than paid, allegiance to even their own local Grand Lodge. So the authorities had to put up with Mitchelstown.

Warrant No. 1, A.D. 1731.

The traces of haste are plain on the face of the Warrant. It seems to have been a tentative form, which, even in the opinion of the authorities who issued it, required verbal emendation before it could be finally adopted for future Warrants, and the erasures and corrections are faithfully reproduced

* A memorable instance of this hospitality occurred in 1746, when the hopes of the Stuart dynasty were crushed at Culloden. In celebration of the Hanoverian victory, Lord Kingston entertained the Brethren at Mitchelstown on such a scale of splendour that the *Metropolitan Journals* chronicled the circumstance. This instance is doubly noteworthy, because it not only shows the number of eminent Freemasons in the South of Ireland, but also because it militates against the idea that Irish Freemasonry was connected, through the Chevalier Ramsay, with the cause of the Stuarts.

† Millikin, *Historico-Masonic Tracts*, Cork, 1848. Mitchelstown, (or Mitchellstown, as it used to be indifferently spelled), lies at the foot of the Galtee Mountains, the loftiest inland range in Ireland. It is situated about 130 miles from Dublin and 30 from Cork, near the marches of four counties, Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, and Waterford. Its population is under 2,500, considerably less than one-half what it was in Lord Kingston's time.

in our frontispiece. We append here a detailed list of the erasures, drawn up by the experts we have mentioned before. We may remark that one other Warrant of this type is known to be in existence, now bearing the number 7 (not No. 2, as one would expect), but similar in all other respects. That is, it is signed by the same Grand Officers, countersigned by the same functionary, and marked with the same erasures. It is to the preservation of the seal on this document that we are indebted for the facsimile of the first seal of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, which we give elsewhere.

The Warrant issued a few months later to Lodge No. 2, Dublin, is still in the possession of that Lodge, and shows that the printer had made the corrections which are here made by the pen of the Secretary.

Explanatory List of Erasures, etc.

The Preamble, or heading, remains exactly as it was originally printed.

1st line.	Body of Warrant.	The printed word expunged is the word " <i>Right.</i> "
7th "	"	The printed word expunged is the word " <i>Right.</i> "
9th "	"	The printed words expunged are completely beyond decipherment: judging from the context and the space, the words may be " <i>loving Care.</i> "
10th "	"	The printed word expunged is the word " <i>said.</i> "
11th "	"	The printed words expunged are the words " <i>to be Master and.</i> "
13th "	"	The printed word expunged is the word " <i>said.</i> " Furthermore, in this 13th line the manuscript words " <i>of Mitchellstown</i> " have been erased, and the words " <i>of Cork</i> " substituted by the hand of Robert Davies, the Grand Officer who authorized the transfer of the Warrant.
21st "	"	The printed figure at the end of this line has been erased for the purpose of substituting the figure 1, which is in manuscript; the date standing, originally, 1730, the year for which the preamble was printed.
22nd "	"	In erasing the last printed figure of the Year of Masonry, (which stood, originally, 5730) in order to substitute the figure 1, the preceding figure, 3, suffered slightly in the operation, rendering necessary a touch of the pen. Bro. Berry says: "as now standing, one would say the figures 31 had both been added in MS."

The Signatures to the Warrant.

The signatures of the Grand Officers have all been verified, and the endorsement of 10th August, 1776, is in Bro. Robert Davies' own hand.

The name of the functionary who registered the first Warrants, and who subscribes himself "Tho. Griffith Secretary" does not otherwise occur in our records, and his existence is completely ignored in the official History by

Edward Spratt, published in the year 1751. The present writer, however, discovered that Griffith officially subscribed the other Warrant of the same date, issued to the extinct Lodge No. 7, and has had the further good fortune to light upon some traces of his connection with Freemasonry. The scanty notices present such a lively picture of the spirit of the Fraternity, and of the customs of the time, that no excuse is needed for reproducing them.

Bro. John Pennell, who published the first Irish Edition of the *Constitutions* in the year 1730, undoubtedly acted as Secretary till his death in 1739, and the difficulty is to ascertain the nature of the duties discharged by Bro. Griffith. The probable, almost the certain, explanation is, that Bro. Pennell acted as Grand Secretary, with Bro. Griffith as his Deputy or Clerk, and that Griffith's appointment was purely personal, and not officially recognised by Grand Lodge. The office of Grand Secretary was not usual in other Grand Lodges till a much later period, but is definitely recognised by Spratt in his account of our Grand Lodge.

The first occurrence of Bro. Griffith's name in a contemporaneous publication is contained in the following paragraph, extracted from the Dublin *Evening Post*, 4th to 8th March, 1734-5 :—

“The Most Ancient and Rt. Worshipful Society of Free Masons, being assembled at the Grand Lodge, on Tuesday last, and taking into consideration the great and publick affront given them by Mr. Griffith, in chusing so vile and obscene a Play for their Entertainment, as that called *The Country Wife*; and likewise by omitting several Entertainments, mentioned in his printed Bills, viz., a grand Piece of Musick, Dancing, the Frost Scene, &c. And they highly resenting so flagrant and palpable an indignity done them, did (among other things) resolve, That the said Griffith ought never to have any Recommendation from the Grand Lodge, and hope the future Grand Officers will never encourage him.”

In our Introduction, we have called attention to the high standard of morality aimed at by our medieval Brethren, and here, in the earliest days of our Grand Lodge, we find the same spirit actuating the Irish Craft. When we come to treat of Bro. Pennell's *Book of Constitutions*, we shall see that the main bulk of the Brethren were merchants and traders, skilled artisans and master-workmen. These are the classes, sound in morality and straightforward in action, that have ever formed the backbone of the nation, and we confess to no small feeling of pride that the Dublin Brethren fell no way short of the healthy traditions of their class; nay, they were among the foremost in making a stand against immorality in high places. We may well doubt whether there could be found in Europe a theatrical audience, composed of other than Freemasons, that would have thus dared to censure the handiwork of the wittiest playwright of his time, the masterpiece of a man of letters so famous that the greatest poet of the century was fain to call himself his pupil.*

* Pope's expressions of grateful obligation to Wycherley are well known.

Though this severe censure of Wycherley's notorious play must be held to have been deserved, yet its publication did not seem to the Craft, on reflection, to have been justifiable. After the next meeting of Grand Lodge, the following disclaimer was inserted in the issue of the same newspaper for 5th to 8th April, 1735:—

“The Resolution of the Grand Lodge of the Right Worshipful Society of Free Masons, mentioned in this paper of the eighth of last month, was not *printed* by order of the Grand Lodge.”

Again, we find Bro. Griffith's name appearing as *bénéficiaire* at a theatrical performance, given under the auspices of the Fraternity, of which the record thus runs in *Pue's Occurrences*, 8th to 11th December, 1739:—

“On Thursday last, there was a grand meeting at the Eagle Tavern on Cork Hill, of the Antient and Right Worshipful Society of Free and Accepted Masons.—Present the Right Hon'ble and Right Worshipful Lord Viscount Mountjoy, Grand Master of all Ireland, the R. W. Cornelius Callaghan Esq. Deputy Grand Master, the Right Hon'ble Lord Kingston, the Right Hon'ble Lord Nettervil, the Right Hon. Lord Kingsland, Sir Redmond Morris, — Fitzgerald, Knight of the Glin, Robert Callaghan Esq, William Annesley Esq, George Lewther, Esq, Rowen Southwell, Esq, Loftus Jones Esq, John Baldwin Esq, William Hamilton Esq, Thomas Callaghan Esq, Robert Reilly Esq, Mr. Edward Martin, one of the Grand Wardens, — O'Connor Esq, Andrew Crufty, Edward Hussey Esq, Mr. Hans Bailee, Mr. Thomas Mills, and Mr. Thomas Griffith, Secretary. At dinner, they drank many loyal Healths; in the evening they went to the Theatre Royal in Aungier St., to see the comedy called the Relapse, or Vertue in Danger, for the benefit of Mr. Griffith. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and the Noblemen who had been Grand Masters, sat at the Upper end of the stage; the Gentlemen rang'd on benches on each side, with aprons and gloves. They all joined in the chorus of Mason Songs, sung between the Acts, which greatly delighted the audience, which was the most splendid that ever was seen upon the occasion—there was a Prologue and new Epilogue, and notwithstanding the House was greatly crowded, everything was performed with great order and decency.”

The quaint picture of the stage garnished by the presence of noblemen and gentlemen in full Masonic attire, seated during the actual performance of the comedy, makes us realize the difficulties against which the actors of that day habitually contended. The List of Brethren present, also, is extremely valuable; many of the names will be found in the catalogue of the Grand Officers, which we have published elsewhere.

Bro. Griffith is styled Secretary in this account, and there is reason to suspect that this was his last appearance in that capacity, for Spratt records that at the ensuing Communication of Grand Lodge, 30th January, 1739 [1740], John Baldwin, Esq. succeeded Bro. John Pennell as Grand Secretary. Poor Bro. Griffith does not seem to have found favour in the eyes of the new Pharaoh, for Bro. Baldwin's first exercise of authority was to appoint “Brother Richard Pindar to be his Deputy.” So Bro. Griffith goes out of the story.

The Endorsements.

The first endorsement is in a large bold hand, with a signature which has baffled the keenest scrutiny. It tells us that the Warrant had been missing, and we know, from the meagre list given by Spratt in the pamphlet of 1744, appended to Dr. Dassigny's *Serious and Impartial Enquiry*,* that No. 1 was at that time vacant. But the most interesting part of the endorsement is that "we Derive under No——." After the "No" there come traces of some letter or characters apparently written continuously, without lifting the pen. This missing character, or contraction, our experts have failed to decipher, though there are unmistakable traces of some curvilinear shape, which we have purposely left indefinite in our reproduction. Every student can form his own guess at what stood there originally. To set an example, the present writer suggests that the word was "NONE", and that the writer meant to convey that the Cork Lodge, in whose custody the Warrant then lay, worked independently, being in reality the Mother-Lodge of Cork, the GRAND LODGE OF MUNSTER, fallen from its high estate, but carrying on its legitimate work, without any Charter from what it might very fairly regard at its new-fangled rival in Dublin. We have seen that, as a matter of fact, the Cork Brethren had provided themselves with a Charter or authorization from the Corporation of their city, five years before the Grand Lodge at Dublin came into being, 1730, A.D. When the endorsement was written, there must have been among the members many who were thoroughly cognizant of the circumstances, and there were probably some who had themselves taken part in a transaction which had occurred barely thirty years before. Even when the doctrine was accepted that every Lodge must have a Warrant, all the members must have been well aware that no authorization from the Grand Lodge at Dublin was needed to add legality to their Lodge.

One thing is clear to our mind: the Lodge now known as No. 1 on the Irish Register cannot have worked under this Warrant till the year 1754, and, almost certainly, did not do so till the year 1776. The first point is obvious from the language of the first endorsement, which expressly states the Warrant to have been "long missing." The second endorsement, written and signed by Robert Davies, Deputy Grand Master of Munster, leaves little room for doubt on the second point. He states, in so many words, that this Warrant "many years dormant, has been revived by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and is hereby transferred" to the Cork Lodge; words which he could not have used with propriety, if it had been the authorization under which the Lodge had previously worked.

* See the reproduction by Bro. Richard Jackson, Leeds, 1893, to which Bro. W. J. Hughan, who had already republished *The Enquiry* in his *Masonic Memorials*, contributes an invaluable Introduction.

Legitimate Non-Warranted Lodges.

In our Introduction, we have laid stress on the influence which independent St. John's Lodges showed themselves able to exert, from time to time, in making head against the tendency of the Grand Lodge of England to sanction deviations from the Ancient Way.* We have no reason to doubt that, in Ireland, Lodges of this type were relatively quite as numerous, and their influence quite as potent. That their existence has passed without notice is not wonderful, seeing that the whole History of the Craft in Ireland has been ignored.

When dealing with the brief records of this very Grand Lodge of Munster† we had occasion to call attention to legitimate, but non-Warranted, local lodges, of which only inferential and traditional traces remain.

Similarly, our Dublin records, scanty as they are, leave no doubt of non-Warranted Lodges continuing at work after the formation of Grand Lodge. The Warrant of Lodge No. 2 bears date, 4th Oct., 1732, but by a happy chance the page in our earliest Register still survives, on which it is entered under the date "22nd of May, 1727." True, this Register was written up about the year 1760, from such earlier records as then survived. But the authorities of the day would never have countenanced such an entry in the very front of their Grand Lodge Books, if they had had any misgiving on the point, and the event must have been within the memory of living men. In the interval between 1727 and 1732, the Lodge cannot have had a Warrant.

We are not so fortunate in the record of Lodge No. 3; the pages containing its Registry, and many another besides, have long been missing. But its Warrant cannot, at all events, have been of earlier date than that of No. 1. Here another stroke of fortune comes to our aid. Our Grand Lodge was presented a few months ago with a remarkably well-preserved copy‡ of Anderson's *Constitutions* of 1723, bearing, emblazoned on its sides, the following inscription:—

[*Front.*]

THIS BOOK OF
CONSTITUTIONS
BELONGS TO THE
WORSHIPFUL LODGE
HELD AT THE BLACK LYON
ARRAN LANE DUBLIN 1730

[*Back.*]

THIS BOOK IS THE
GIFT OF THE WORTHY
BROTHER, MR. JOHN MEEK,
MEMBER OF THE SAID
LODGE

* In this connection, Bro. Henry Sadler's *Masonic Facts and Fictions* must be carefully studied.

† Cf. Bro. Gould's *History of Freemasonry*, Vol. iii.

‡ The gift of W. Bro. H. E. Flavell, of our Grand Secretary's Office.

A contemporaneous MS. note at the end of the volume appries us that this Lodge, which the inscription shows us at full work in the year 1730, was Lodge No. 3. During the interval that elapsed before it got a Warrant, its work was legitimate. We know nothing more of No. 3, save that it was active in 1744, and that it became extinct before the close of the century. The present Lodge, No. 3, has a Warrant dated 1805, and is noted in the official list of 1806 as "revived in Cork."

Seeing how the case stood with these Lodges, the earliest on our Grand Lodge Roll, it is no wonder that the Brethren, who had united to form the Grand Lodge, found the old St. John's Lodges inconveniently slow in accepting Warrants. The Grand Secretary, Bro. John Pennell, inserted the following advertisement in No. 104, of *Pue's Occurrences*, under date, 26th December, 1732 :—

"WHEREAS there are several Lodges of Free Masons, congregated in several Cities and Towns in this Kingdom, without a Warrant under the hand and Seal of the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Nettervill, Grand Master of all Ireland, Right Hon. Lord Viscount Kingsland, Deputy Grand Master, Dr. James Brennan and Robert Nugent Esquire, Grand Wardens. It is therefore ordered that all such Lodges do apply to the Secretary, Mr. John Pennell, in St. Patrick St. Dublin, and take out true and perfect Warrants, and be inrolled in the Grand Lodge Book, or they will not be deemed true and perfect Lodges.

Signed (by order

JOHN PENNELL,
Secy."

Eight years later, the same newspaper was again made use of by Grand Lodge, for a similar purpose. In the issue dated 24th June 1740, there is what we now call a paragraph-advertisement—our ancestors had the thing, if not the word—phrased thus :—

"N.B.—Such Lodges as have not already taken out Warrants are ordered to apply for them to John Baldwin, Esq. Secretary to Grand Lodge, or they will be proceeded against as Rebel Masons.

Signed by order,

JOHN BALDWIN,
Secretary."

The existence of the Warrant of Lodge No. 25, Youghal, signed by Lord Kingsland, and bearing date 30th November, 1733, had long been suspected ; the original has most fortunately been recovered, and has been placed at our disposal by R. W. Bro. Anderson Cooper. The peculiarity of the document is that it was granted to one of the Lodges that accepted Bro. Pennell's invitation to "take out true and perfect Warrants." The exordium speaks of continuing* an old, not of erecting a new, Lodge, and runs thus :—

"Whereas our Trusty and Well-beloved Brothers *Thomas Cooke*,

* The word *continue* is written in, apparently in Bro. Pennell's own handwriting.

Robt. Gore and Maurice Power have besought us that we would be pleased to Continue a Lodge of Free Masons," &c., &c., &c.

So far, we have drawn our examples from the Metropolitan and Southern districts, but, as late as the beginning of the present century, the existence of such Lodges was fully recognized in the North of Ireland. The author of a scarce pamphlet † published in 1812 may be taken as expressing the Ulster view :—

"The Lodges of Free Masons at that time [1720—1730 A.D.] spread over the country were very numerous, and had assembled and worked in the same manner that their Brethren of England had done, previous to the establishment of a Grand Lodge, and without any warrant of constitution. Many, or almost all the Dublin Lodges adhered to the rules and regulations prescribed for them by the Grand Lodge, but numbers of country Lodges refused to acknowledge their superiority, and to take out warrants from that Body. This was productive of much mischief in the country, as those Lodges who had fallen in with the views of the Grand Lodge, reviled the others as irregular Masons, and branded them with the epithet of Hedge or Bush Masons, which created much ill blood between the parties, and many battles ensued at Markets, fairs, or such places of public resort. Disputes and quarrels of this nature, have, however, long ceased to disturb the harmony of the Craft, and Masonry, till within these few years, flourished in Ireland without any discord, until the unhappy differences commenced, which gave rise to the present publication."

It follows, then, that if the First Lodge of Ireland worked for the first half-century of its career without a Warrant from the Grand Lodge at Dublin, its work was not the less legitimate on that account. Rather the contrary, for in so doing it stood within the Ancient Landmarks of the Craft.

We have been at some pains to set this in a clear light, as the proposition that a Lodge could be at once un-Warranted and legitimate is entirely opposed to Irish conceptions, and had to be established before our surmise as to the illegible character in the endorsement could be entertained.

The Minute of 1761.

Resuming our inquiry into the history of the Warrant, the next piece of evidence is supplied by the Minute of 1761, of which we give a facsimile. Obviously, the new Secretary, Bro. Jno. Calder, who had succeeded Bro. Spratt, 1758 A.D., was scandalized by the occurrence within his jurisdiction of a Lodge, which claimed priority over the rest, which had no regular Warrant, and which, we have grounds for believing, never made any returns,

† This pamphlet owed its publication to the Ulster schism, and is armed with a title page of stupendous length, beginning "An Enquiry into the late disputes among the Free-Masons of Ireland," and closing with the imprint "Belfast: printed by Joseph Smyth, High St., 1812,"

and, worst of all, never paid any dues.* The result of his well-meant applications, "addressed to no Master or Body," was to set the Cork Brethren in a ferment. They met together, and drew up the annexed protocol, the original of which is naturally regarded by our Munster Brethren as only less sacred than the Warrant.

By an odd chance, when so many of the really important records have disappeared, a chronicle of the matter mentioned in the latter part of the Minute is still extant in our Grand Lodge Books, in which Lodge No. 95 is entered as

"Held in the City of Cashell, 1st December, 1738."

After some score of names have been inscribed as members, the following Memorandum is written across the page:—

"This Warrant was Established in the City of Cork by David Fitzgerald, Esqr., P.D.G.M. M[unster] on the 24th June, 1750, but was neglected to be Registered accordingly, and a Duplicate thereof was given to the above named Bn, which appearing to the Grand Lodge, they have ordered the Duplicate to be Cancelled, & have Confirmed the Original to the Bn, whose names follow.

Dublin, the 1st August, 1771."

Brethren of the Irish Constitution are not so prone to plume themselves on the antiquity of their Mother Lodge as our good Brethren across the Channel: Lodge No. 95 does not claim an antiquity greater than 1771.

* The views of our Cork Brethren on the payment of dues to Grand Lodge are thus stated, with characteristic warmth of language, sixty years later.

"At a Provincial Grand Lodge Held at the Commercial Buildings, the 14th day of April 1819,
Present:

JUSTIN M'CARTY, Esq. Provincial Grand Senior Warden,
in the Chair,

And Lodges No. 1, 3, 8, 15, 25, 27, 28, 41, 49, 67, 71, 84, 95, 99, 385, and 495,—and several P.M. of different Lodges.

"The following Resolutions were unanimously entered into.

"Resolved—That we conceive enforcing the payment of Dues and Fines from any Lodge is contrary to the ancient acknowledged constitutions and true principles of Free Masonry.

"Resolved—That although it appears by the Quarterly Sheet of the 24th June, 1819, that the ancient and Original Warrants of Lodges No. 28, 31, and 277, have been declared cancelled by the Grand Lodge, for being in arrear of such dues and fines, we feel ourselves bound by the ancient and unalterable constitutions of Free Masonry, to consider these Lodges at full work, and to recognize them and their Members accordingly.

"Resolved—That the Members of Lodge No. 125, now held in Ballincollig (which is a new or modern Warrant, issued by the Grand Lodge, neither agreeable to ancient usage, or to the ancient form of Warrants held by the Lodges of this Province) cannot therefore be recognized by this Provincial Grand Lodge of Munster; or permitted to sit here, as under that Warrant.

"Resolved—That for the purpose of continuing the Charity Fund, established in this Province, (at the disposal of the Grand Provincial Lodge of Munster) we voluntarily agree to subscribe thereto; and that such subscription shall be transmitted by several Lodges to the Provincial Grand Treasurer, as the proper person to receive such funds, and to be disposed of by the Provincial Grand Lodge, agreeable to ancient and established usage.

"Resolved—That the warmest thanks of this Provincial Grand Lodge are due, and are hereby given, to our Brother Justin M'Carty, Esq. Provincial Grand Senior Warden, (acting Provincial Grand Master) for his cordial, steady, and zealous exertions in the preservation of our ancient and legitimate rights, as a Provincial Grand Lodge, and for his gentlemanly and masonic conduct on all occasions, when the interest of Freemasonry is concerned.

"Resolved—That a Copy of the foregoing Resolutions be transmitted to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

"Resolved—That a Copy of these Resolutions be forwarded to every Lodge in Munster.

Signed by order,

OSBORNE EDWARD BARBER,

Dep. Prov. G. Sec: Pro Temp."

Tuesday June 16th 1761 and of Masonry 5761

At a grand Committee held at the House of Brother John Hedneth at the Globe Tavern in the City of Corbe under the sanction of N^o 1, 27, 28, 67, 95, 167, 224, 267 and 347. the first Matter debated was the Validity of N^o 1 which was disputed by the grand Sec^y John Galtier as appears by his Letters and notes addressed to no Master or Body, after a most mature and deliberate scrutiny the Warrant N^o 1, was declared valid and the grand Committee was pleased to come to a Resolution to support it in its Dignity and Privileges in full Force and Execution in this City. The next Matter debated ^{was the Validity} of the Warrant N^o 95 formerly held in the City of Canshell in the County of Tipperary and rescued from thence by Order of the Right Worshipfull David FitzGerald Esq^r Deputy grand Mast^r of Munster for Mal Practice this Matter appeared so glaringly oppressive and over bearing that in a short time their Worships confirmed the Warrant and ordered the Execution to continue in full Force by their Authority and it is resolved that the Transactions of this general Committee should be inserted in every Lodge Book of this City.

N^o 1. Dom. James Galtier Mast^r N^o 95. Jeremiah Callahan Mast^r Signed by Order
 John Hedneth Sec^y William Gaultier } W^m Roe. P. D. S. M
 James Galtier }
 John Hedneth }
 John Hedneth }

N^o 27. Benjaⁿ Wood Mast^r N^o 167 W^m Connell Mast^r
 James Galtier } Dan^l Sheehan } Wardens
 W^m Hedneth } Sean Mahony }

N^o 28. W^m Bennett Mast^r N^o 224 W^m Gregg Mast^r N^o 347 W^m Knight Mast^r
 John Hedneth } W^m Knight } Wardens
 The Oliver } Dennis Ruf }

N^o 67 John Logan Mast^r N^o 267 W^m Harting Mast^r
 W^m Harting } W^m Harting }
 Rich^d Bourke } Rich^d Barry }

As the facsimile is reduced to one-fourth the size of the original document, we give a letterpress version for facility of reading :

TUESDAY, JUNE 16th 1761, AND OF MASONRY, 5761.

“At a grand Committee held at the House of Brother John Hodnett at the Globe Tavern in the City of Corke under the Sanction of Nos. 1, 27, 28, 67, 95, 167, 224, 267 and 347, the first matter debated was, the Validity of No. 1 which was disputed by the grand Secy John Calder as appears by his Letters and notes addressed to no Master or Body, After a most mature and deliberate Scrutiny the Warrant No. 1, was declared valid and the grand Committ[ee] was pleas'd to come to a Resolution to support it in its Dignity and Privileges in full Force and Execution in this City. The next matter debated [was the Ualidity] of the Warrant No. 95 formerly held in the City of Cashell in the County of Tipperary and rescued from thence by Order of the Right Worshipfull David Fitz Gerald Esqr Deputy grand Mast; of Munster for Mal Practices this matter appear'd so glearily oppressive and over bearing that in a short Time their Worships confirm'd the Warrant and order'd the Execution to continue in fu l Force by their Authority. And it is resolv'd that the Transactions of this general Committ[ee] shou'd be inserted in every Lodge Book of this City.

Signed by Order

JN: ROE P.D.G.M.

No. 1.

DOM: SARSFIELD Mast^r
RICHARD HODNETT } Ward:
SAM^L PRICE

No. 95.

JEREMIAH CALLAHAN M^r
WILLIAM GRANELL } Ward^{ns}
THO^S CURTIS

No. 27.

BENJAN SWETE Mast^r
JAMES WALSH
W^M VERLING W.P.G.

No. 167.

W^M CONNELL Mast^r
DAN^L SHEEHAN } Ward^{ns}
KEAN MAHONY

No. 28.

THO^S BURNETT M^r
JEREM: SHEEHAN } Ward
THO^S OLIVER

No. 224.

WILL^M GREGG Mas^r
W^M KNIGHT } Wardens
DENNIS KEEF

No: 67.

JOHN LOGAN Mas^r
EDW^D HARTSTONGE } Ward^{ns}
RICH^D BOURKE

No. 267.

WILL^M CHARTRES Mast^r
RICH^D BARRY } Ward^{ns}

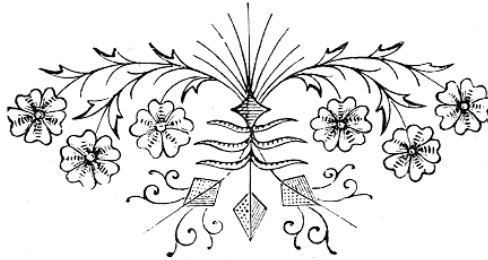
No. 347.

W^M KNIGHT } Warde[ns]
DENNIS KEEF

As time went on, the relations between Grand Lodge and the First Lodge became less strained: neither party could deny the legitimacy of the other's claims. In the year 1776, Bro. Robert Davies was appointed by the

Grand Master, the Earl of Mornington (father of the Duke of Wellington), Deputy Grand Master of Munster, for the purpose of bringing about an amicable settlement, and his career in office proved so acceptable that he was reappointed next year, 1777, by the succeeding Grand Master, William, Duke of Leinster. The gratifying result of his labour of love is shown in the second endorsement, written in his own hand, as is also the word *Cork* replacing *Mitchelstown* on the face of the Warrant.

The patents of his appointment constitute him DEPUTY Grand Master of Munster, holding directly from the Grand Master himself, without the intervention of a Provincial Grand Master. This provision is unusual, and the patents are in other ways so interesting that, if circumstances permit, copies of them will be given in FASCICULUS II., which will deal with the period.



Y^o.
Kingston: G. M.

Netterville D. G. M.

No. (1.)



Donsonby

G. W.

By the Right Worshipful and Right Honourable Lord KINGSTON, Grand Master of all the Lodges of Free Masons in the Kingdom of IRELAND, the Right Honourable the Lord Netterville, Deputy Grand Master, the Honourable William Ponsonby and Dillon Pollard Hamson, Esquires, Grand Wardens.

WHEREAS Our Trusty and Well-beloved Brothers, ^{Cooke} John Freke and Thomas Esqrs. James Condon and Florence McCarthy have besought Us, that We would be pleas'd to Erect a Lodge of Free Masons in the town of Mitchellstown and of such Persons, who by their Knowledge and Skill in Masonry, may contribute to the well Being and Advancement thereof. We therefore duly weighing the Premises, and having nothing more at Heart, than the Prosperity and true Advancement of Masonry, and reposing special Trust and Confidence in Our Trusty and Well-beloved Brothers, the said John Freke & Tho. Cooke James Condon & Florence McCarthy of whose Abilities and Knowledge in Masonry, We are satisfied; Do, by these PRESENTS, of Our certain Knowledge, and meer Motion, Nominate, Create, Authorize, and Constitute the said No. 1 Lodge the said Master, of the sd. Lodge & the sd. Freke & Cooke, to be Master and Warden of a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, to be held by them and their Successors lawfully admitted in the town of Cork, for ever. AND We do hereby Give and Grant unto the said Master & said Wardens & the rest of the Worshipfull Bre [three] n and their Successors, full Power and lawful Authority from Time to Time to proceed to Election of new Master and Wardens, and to make such Laws, Rules, and Orders, as they from Time to Time shall think Proper and Convenient for the well Being and Ordering of the said Lodge; reserving to Our Selves and Our Successors, Grand Masters and Grand Wardens of IRELAND, the sole Right of deciding all Differences which shall be brought by Appeal before Us and Our Successors, Grand Masters or Grand Wardens of IRELAND. IN WITNESS whereof, We have hereunto set our Hands and Seal of Office this first Day of February in the Year of our Lord God, 1731, and in the Year of Masonry, 5731.

Intratur per

Tho. Griffith, Secretary.

*This War! So Long
Missing thank God is
revived, & I found the
same On record, tho'
we Derive Under No.*

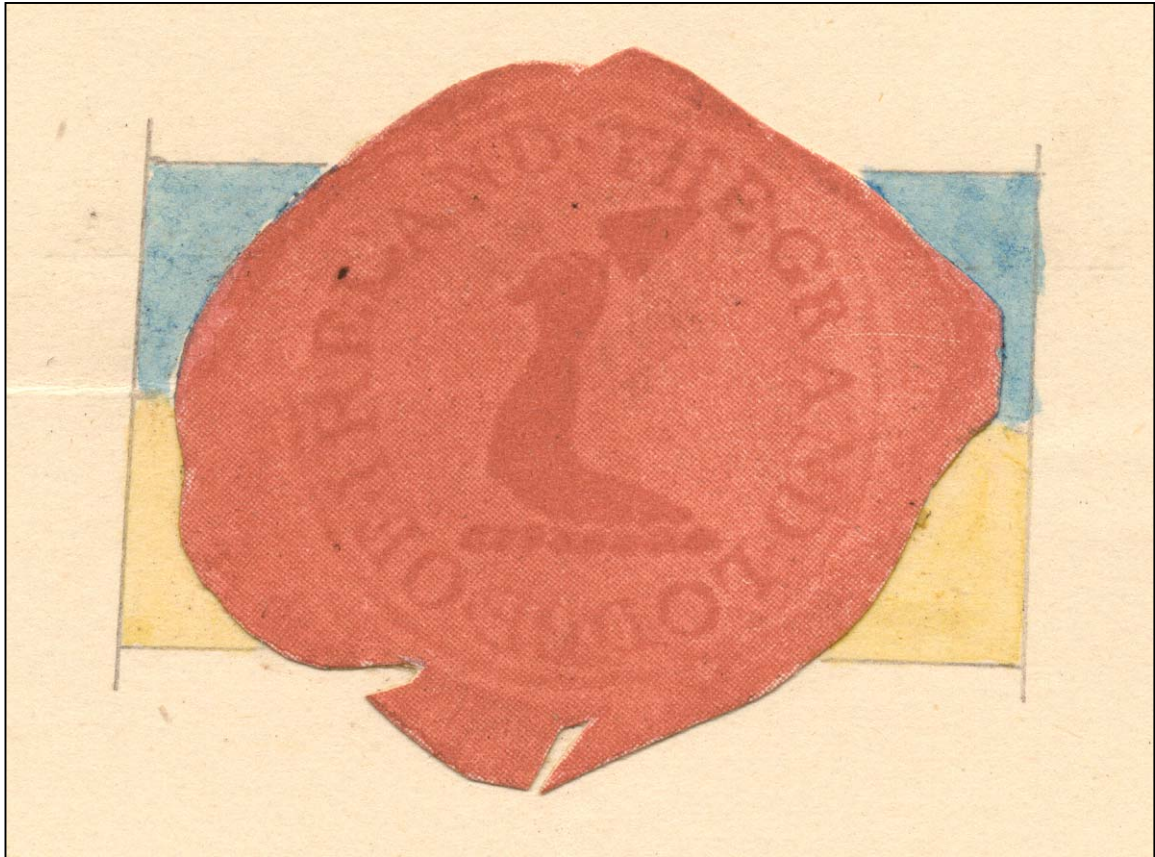


May the 2^d, 1754.

Ed:

This is to certify that this Warrant, No. 1 granted to be held in the Town of Mitchelstown & many years dormant, has been revived by the Grand Lodge of Ireland & is hereby transferred to be held in future in the City of Cork by the presentt Master & Wardens and their Successors for ever Given under my Hand in Provincial Grand Lodge in the City of Cork this 10th Day of August 1776 and of Masonry 5776. _____ Robert Davies, P.G.M.M.

FROM W. J. GHETWODE CRAWLEY,
LL.D., D.O.L., F.R.G.S., F.G.S., F.R.HIST.S., ETC.



THIS GRAND LODGE SEAL WAS USED ON EARLY MANUSCRIPT CERTIFICATES – 1725 TO 1772 – SHAPE, CIRCULAR; SIZE, ONE IN DIAMETER. IT CONSISTS SIMPLY OF A NAKED EMBOWED ARM GRASPING A TROWEL, SURROUNDED BY THE WORDS “THE GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND” THE IMPRESSIONS WERE MADE ON RED WAX. OVER TWO SHORTS PIECES OF RIBBON - ONE OF BLUE AND ONE OF GOLD - DRAWN THROUGH TWO SLITS IN THE PAPER OR PARCHMENT. THIS SEAL WAS THE FIRST SEAL SPECIALLY DESIGNED BY ANY GRAND LODGE, (“IRISH MASONIC CERTIFICATES” LODGE OF RESEARCH No. 2429, LEICESTER, TRANSACTIONS 1903).