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# NOTES ON IRISH FREEMASONRY, No. VI

## THE WESLEYS AND IRISH FREEMASONRY

BY

BRO. W.J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY, LL.D.
SENIOR GRAND DEACON, IRELAND.

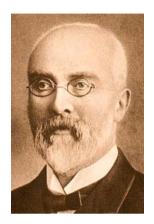
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# W.BRO. DR. W.J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY NOVEMBER 15, 1843 - MARCH 13, 1916

WILLIAM JOHN CHETWODE CRAWLEY, FOR MANY YEARS HEAD MASTER OF THE QUEEN'S SERVICE ACADAMY, 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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(Trans. Quatuor Coronati Lodge, vol. xv., 1902, pp. 100-124).

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#### THE WESLEYS AND IRISH FREEMASONRY.



N 1725, a wealthy Irish landowner, Garrett Wesley, M.P., of Dangan Castle, Trim, Co. Meath, found himself childless and without hope of issue, seeing that he was now enfeebled in health and well stricken in years. The family was Anglo-Norman, and claimed descent from a Knightly Standard-bearer, whom Henry II. had rewarded after the manner of the time, for doughty deeds in the invasion of Ireland, by

generous grants of other people's property. The case stands on all fours with that of the Dillon family. The services were similar, the recompense was similar, and even the estates were contiguous. The first Wesley of Dangan, whom we can identify, was Christopher, son of Sir Richard Wellesley or Wesley, who served the office of High Sheriff of Meath in the time of Henry V. The name had been spelt indifferently Wesley, Westley, Westly, or Wellesley. Branches of the family under these designations were known to exist in England, though the connections in Ireland were mostly on the side of the distaff, and consequently bore other patronymics. Casting about for an heir, Garrett Wesley bethought him of the prolific family of the Wesleys of Epworth Vicarage in Lincolnshire. Besides the remote relationship indicated by the name, this family was already connected with Ireland, the mother of the contemporary Vicar of Epworth being an Annesley, a near relative of the Irish Earl of Anglesey.

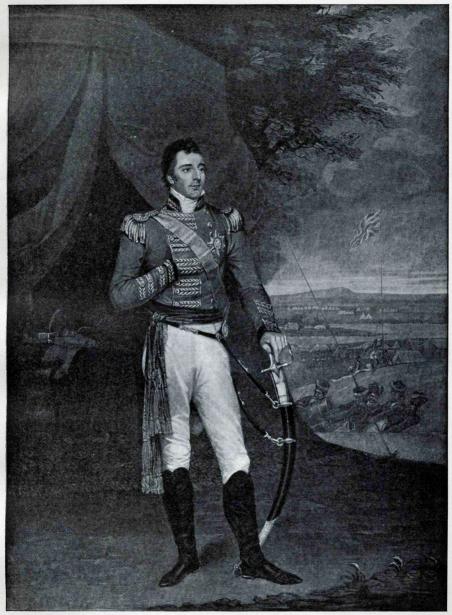
Having satisfied himself of the relationship, Mr. Garrett Wesley undertook to provide for the education of one of the Epworth family, Charles Wesley, who happened to be the eighteenth child of that prodigious brood. The lad was an unexceptionable choice. He was frank in disposition, sunny in temperament, and brilliant in intellect. He fully justified Garrett Wesley's opinion of his merits by becoming Captain of Westminster School. But, as his brother the Rev. John Wesley, informs us in a valuable biographical fragment preserved in the authoritative collection of his Works, Charles declined to go to Ireland. The University career opened to him by his position as Captain of Westminster School seemed to him the higher preferment. There are still with us those who think he was right.

Disappointed in his attempt to secure an heir bearing the veritable name that had so long been associated with the estates, Garrett Wesley bequeathed his property to his distant cousin, Richard Colley, M.P., who was a Wesley by the female line, on condition of taking the name of Wesley.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See The Dillons, A.Q.C., 1899, vol. xii., p. 23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> There has been some dispute whether Charles was the seventeenth or the eighteenth child. The latest investigation holds him the eighteenth. The misplacing of a child or two in numerical order, or even an error in the gross total, would be excusable at Epworth.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Works of the Rev. John Wesley, A.M.; Wesleyan Conference Office; London, 1870, etc. See, also, Life of Rev. John Wesley and of his brother Charles, by Rev. Henry Moore, London, 1824, vol. 1., p. 152.



Rob! Home pinx !

Cha! Turner fculp?

COL. THE HON. ARTHUR WELLESLEY, Actat. 29.
FROM A PROOF BEFORE LETTERS IN DR. CHETWODE CRAWLEY'S COLLECTION.

[When the portrait, originally painted in India by Robert Home before 1800, came to be engraved by Chas. Turner in 1810, it was simultaneously published in Calcutta and in London. In the engraving, the subject was decorated with the insignia of the Order of the Bath, and designated by his new title of Rt. Hon. Viscount Wellington.]

Garrett Wesley died soon after young Charles Wesley's determination to forego his prospects in Ireland, and the estates fell in to Richard (Colley) Wesley on 23rd September, 1728.

Richard Wesley continued to sit in the Irish House of Commons as member for Trim till 1746, when he was raised to the Upper House by the title of Baron Mornington. He was succeeded by his son Garrett, who thus became, in 1758, 2nd Lord Mornington. Two years afterwards, in 1760, he was further raised, in the Irish Peerage, to the titles of Earl of Mornington and Viscount Wellesley, the first occurrence of this spelling of the name in connection with this Colley branch of the family.

Garrett, 1st Earl of Mornington, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1776, was a nobleman of uncommon and refined talents. No catalogue of English Musicians would be complete without prominent mention of his name. Who that hath ears to hear is not familiar with the classic glees "Here in cool grot," and "Come, fairest Nymph"? The Earl of Mornington stands alone among his peers in having won from the University of Dublin the degree of Mus. Doc., which was conferred on him in 1764. It was even whispered that he owed his promotion from Baron to Earl to George the Third's appreciation of his musical talents. George III. was said, in the irresponsible chatter of Court circles, to be not undesirous of showing that the fashion of Kings had changed since the days when George II. was heard to declare "he hated Boetry and Bainting." The Earl begat sons worthy of him. Four of them won each a separate peerage for himself by conspicuous merit. The eldest, who succeeded him as 3rd Baron and 2nd Earl of Mornington, Grand Master of Ireland in 1782, became Marquess Wellesley, the mightiest Satrap that ruled our Indian Empire since Warren Hastings' day. The second son attained the title of Lord Maryborough, as a reward for long and steady services in high Offices of State, ranging from that of Chief Secretary for Ireland to that of Chancellor of the Exchequer. The third was the Duke of Wellington. The fourth, Lord Cowley, is not yet forgotten by reason of adroit and successful diplomatic service during the anxious years that saw the unsettling and the resettling of Europe in the early nineteenth century. The fifth of his sons entered the Church, and became a Prebendary of Durham. It is to be regretted, for the sake of symmetry, that his ecclesiastical preferment stopped short of a bishopric. Had he attained the episcopal bench, we should have had the unprecedented sight of five brothers sitting together in the House of Lords, each with a title of his own. Nevertheless, when we come presently to track out the changes of name and style in the various members of the Dangan family, the proverbial "man in the street" will probably find the catalogue intricate enough, without any episcopal addition.

Taking both the Epworth and the Mornington branches into account, it might be hard to determine whether the famous name of Wesley stands out more prominently in the civil, or in the military, or in the religious annals of the English-speaking race.

Each of the branches, Epworth and Mornington, came into touch with Irish Freemasonry more than a century ago, and it is well to clear up, for the present generation, two points of contact about which some unnecessary obscurity has arisen.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The fact of four brothers sitting together in the House of Lords, each with a separate and independent peerage is unparalleled in the annals of the English or Scottish Aristocracy. But there is a precedent in the case of Richard Boyle, the Great Earl of Cork (1620-1643), whose four sons sat together in the Irish House of Lords. Another son of the Great Earl declined a peerage. He was the Hon. Robert Boyle, who, by his researches in Natural Philosophy, has conferred more lasting honour on the family name than could have been done by any addition to its list of Peerages. Lodge's Peerage of Ireland: Dublin; 1754; vol. i., p. 92.

#### L-REV. JOHN WESLEY AND THE LODGE AT DOWNPATRICK.



ARAGRAPHS have appeared from time to time, in the Masonic Press, both of this country and of the United States, asserting, with some circumstantiality of detail, that the Rev. John Wesley, A.M., the Founder of Methodism, was a member of the Craft, and that he had been initiated in an Irish Lodge. Last year, R.W. Bro. W. H. Beamish, D.G.M. of the Province of Munster, called attention to a definite statement that the initiation of this great man had taken place in the

Lodge at Downpatrick.

The matter seemed worth investigation, for there does not exist a Society or Order, of which the glory would not be enhanced by the admission of a proselyte whose influence, direct or indirect, on the minds of earnest men is deeper and wider to-day than on the day of his death, and of whose probity and capacity in the affairs of this world there could be as little doubt as of his piety and enthusiasm in the concerns of the next.

The evidence bearing on the Rev. John Wesley's connection with the Craft consists of entries in the records of the old Lodge, No. 367, at Downpatrick, corroborated by the corresponding entry in the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The Union Lodge of St. Patrick, No. 367, naturally takes its name, like the town in which it is held, from the Patron Saint of Ireland. Though the Apostle to the Irish vies with Homer in the number of his birthplaces, yet all accounts concur in placing his reputed burial place in the immediate neighbourhood of Downpatrick, where he died at the patriarchal age of 126, or of 116, or, at the least, of 84 years. By the rules of the game, a Patron Saint is entitled to an incredibly long life, or a blazing martyrdom. In witness of which, and of much more, the Saint's relics were preserved in the town till the Reformation. The original Warrant, under which the Lodge was erected, was issued 4th June, 1761, bearing the number it still holds. The Lodge fell under the censure of Grand Lodge in 1845, and appears to have ceased work in 1847, but it was revived in 1855 under a warrant bearing the original number.

The original entry is as follows:

EXTRACT FROM LODGE-BOOK OF
UNION LODGE OF St. Patrick, No. 367, Downpatrick.
[Folio 115: 1788.]

" 115 John Wesley.

Entred & Pas'd this 3 Day of Same time & £0 5 5 October 13 Jno. Wesley Rais'd  $0 \ 2 \ 8 \ 1\frac{1}{2}$  Rec.d.  $2 \ 8 \ 1\frac{1}{2}$  Rec.d.  $2 \ 8 \ 1\frac{1}{2}$ 

Recd Certificate

[The word Rais'd was originally written after the word Pas'd, but was erased apparently by the same hand, and at the same time.]

The Lodge Records, from which these entries are extracted, are in the custody of the Union Lodge of St. Patrick, No. 367, Downpatrick. They consist of two Account books, rather than Minute books, dating respectively from 1765 to 1783, and from 1784



EXTRACT FROM ACCOUNT BOOK OF UNION LODGE OF ST. PATRICK, NO. 367, I.C., SHOWING ENTRIES RELATING TO JOHN WESLEY, 1788.

From photograph by Bro. Thomas Mason, Dublin.

to 1793. The former is of the usual foolscap size, and comprised originally about 200 pages, of which many are now missing. The later Lodge-book consists of an ordinary unruled commercial Day-book of the period. It measures nearly 16 inches by 61 inches, and contains between 240 and 250 pages, mostly numbered as folios. Both books had suffered much from the wear and tear of more than a century, when they were rebound in 1900, with a care that reflects credit on the Lodge. Both books are similar in contents. The later one is mainly concerned with the members' accounts between 1784 and 1793, but it comprises, also, sundry miscellaneous items, such as an uncompleted catalogue of members' names, some notes of the election of officers, and a variety of memoranda, among which the most valuable is a set of the Bylaws then current, "to be read every Lodge night." As these Bylaws are provided with a precise date, the point in which most early Bylaws are deficient, and as they explain the odd sums John Wesley was called on to deposit, no apology is needed for subjoining a transcript. The reader will bear in mind that, till the Union of 1801, the currency of Ireland differed from that of Great Britain, and that the British shilling was worth 13d., Irish currency. Thus the sums of 5s. 5d. and 2s.  $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. were the equivalents in Irish coin of the British crown and half-crown respectively.

#### "BYE LAWS for Down Lodge, No. 367.

- "1st That Every Person proposed as a candidate for Admission shall Deposit the sum of 5.5.5d the Monthly Night whereon he is proposed, and if found acceptable to the Master Wardens and Brethren he shall be admitted the Monthly Night following, or if he chooses to call a Night of Imergency in the Intermediate time at his own Expense he paying for admission the sum of £1 2 9 [clause obliterated] Exclusive of the Crown originally deposited.
- 2<sup>ndly</sup> That every Member attend at the Lodge Room every Monthly Night precisely at the hour appointed by the Master in decent apparel and perfectly sober, that the business of the Lodge may commence, and be Ended at a reasonable time, and any member absenting himself on said Nights without a satisfactory reason shall forfeit the sum of 2d for each Night and if he neglect to pay said Fine every three months at Least [clause obliterated] he shall be reported to the Committee by the Secretary.
- 3. That when the Lodge is opened every Member must observe due Silence properly respecting the chair and not move from place to place without permission obtained [clause obliterated] from the Master or his Deputy.
- 4. That any Member appearing drunk at the opening of the Lodge will not be admitted that Night and shall pay the sum of 1<sup>s</sup> 1<sup>d</sup> for said offence and if found to continue the practise to be expelled as an Improper Member of such society, and the person who shall so far insult the Meeting as to raise Disputes subversive of Decency and good order shall first be fined 1<sup>s</sup>. 1<sup>d</sup>. and if he shall Murmur show dissatisfaction or refuse to pay such fine that he shall be immediately expelled said society and his Name and the Nature of his offence reported to the Grand Lodge there to be in record against him for ever.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The thanks of all students of Masonic history are due to the Brethren of the Downpatrick Lodge, and especially to the Secretary, W. Bro. Wm. Neill, not only for the enlightened care they have bestowed on their Archives, but also for the facilities they fraternally afforded for the inspection and collation of their records.

- 5th That any Member who shall swear or blaspheme while the Lodge is open shall for the first oath forfeit 1th for the second 2th for the third the remainder of the british sixpence and for every succeeding oath one British Sixpence.
- 6. That whatever Grievances or Dispute may arise shall be reported to a Committee [clause obliterated] and whoever refuses to comply with the Decisions of said Committee shall be considered as a disturber of the Harmony that ought to subsist as amongst Brothers and treated accordingly.
- 7. That the Master Give orders to the Secretary to have all the Members summoned to the Lodge Room the Monthly Night before the two St. John's Days then and ther to consider and sit upon Matters for Dining together or any other business proper for the occassion and any Member who will not pay due attention to his summons shall be [clause obliterated] subject to the decision of said Committee.
- 8 [Clause obliterated] Every new admitted Brother to pay the Secretary one British shilling and Every Brother who shall draw or Lodge a Certificate one British shilling N.B. The Secretary is to purchase out of said payments proper Ribbons and Wax for Certificates.
- 9. [Obliterated, and noted in margin "Not Resolved."]
- 10. That the Tyler is to receive from Every New admited Brother 1s. 1d., Every Night of Imergency Do., and Every Monthly Night [clause obliterated] 1s. 1d. from the Body at Large.
- 11. That the Secretary is to read these Regulations every Monthly Night imediately after the Lodge is open.
- The foregoing Resolutions after being read were unanimously agreed to by the undersigned Members this 25th Day of January 1785 (it being the Monthly Meeting)."

[51 signatures follow].

It will be noted that clauses here and there have been obliterated, and that, in one case, a Bylaw has been rejected in its entirety. Lapse of time has dulled the obliterating marks, so that we can decipher the quaint old rule as it originally stood.

"Not any member who shall be found so mean as to disclose any Transactions of the Lodge (Even to an absent Brother) shall be held unworthy of such Society, and censured as a Committee shall think proper."

This construction of the obligation of secresy seems to have been too trenchant and farreaching even for close and canny Ulster Brethren.

The entry in the Register of Grand Lodge gives the name as Jno. Westley, a common variant of the spelling. He appears to have been registered, with a score of others, on 17th November, 1788, and his Grand Lodge certificate appears to have been issued on the following day. Only a few of the Brethren registered in the same batch took out their certificates from Grand Lodge. The document involved the payment of an extra fee, and few provided themselves with Grand Lodge certificates, unless they contemplated a change of district, and, even then, many were contented with a recommendation, or demit, from the subordinate Lodge.

These entries go to show that a certain John Wesley was regularly "made a Mason" in October 1788, by the Lodge at Downpatrick. It might even be surmised that he was a bird of passage, because the chief value of the certificate issued to him in November of the same year was to identify a Brother on his travels, and because no trace has been discovered of any resident of the name in the little town. It is known, too, that the Rev. John Wesley visited Downpatrick more than once between 1778 and 1789. Thus there appear to be some grounds for the assumption that the Rev. John Wesley was a Freemason: the more so, as it turns out that his nephew, Samuel Wesley, was admitted into the Craft, a very few weeks afterwards in the same year, 1788.

Further examination of the facts and more accurate comparison of the dates will, however, enable us to settle the question of identity.

It was in the course of the unparalleled missionary supervision bestowed by the Rev. John Wesley on his ever widening flock that Downpatrick was visited by him. Born in 1703, John Wesley had reached the culminating point of a distinguished University career by obtaining a Fellowship at Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1726. In 1735, he accompanied General Oglethorpe's philanthropic colony to Georgia, where his College companion and fellow Evangelist, George Whitfield, came in contact with the Freemasons of Savannah, at their Grand Feast, on St. John's Day in Summer, 1738. The curious memorandum on the subject left by Whitfield, and copied by Dr. Robert Rawlinson, will be found in our Transactions. Wesley adopted from Whitfield the practice of itinerant open-air preaching, and supplemented it with a personal superintendence of his flock that caused him, during the last fifty years of his life, to cover more miles than any contemporary traveller in or out of Christendom. During all those years, his movements were noted with the greatest exactness in Diaries and Journals, and these have been included in the great definitive edition of his Works, published under the auspices of the Wesleyan Conference.

The Rev. John Wesley first visited Downpatrick in 1778, being then seventy-five years of age. He spent some days (June 11-15) in the town, and his Journal shows that he was not insensible to the sylvan beauty of the neighbourhood. He returned in 1785 (10th June), in 1787 (12th June), and for the last time, in 1789, (10th June). It will be remarked that all his visits to Downpatrick were paid in June, evidently for convenience of travelling. His health began to fail soon after his last visit to Ireland, and he died in London, 1791, in the eighty-eighth year of his age. Thus he was not at Downpatrick in 1788, and from his Journal we can tell where he really was in October of that year. Here are his movements between the 1st and 17th October, inclusive:—

1788, October 1,-London to King's Lynn.

,, 3, 4, 5,—Norwich. ,, 6,—Lowestoft.

8,—Yarmouth.

", 9, 10, 11, 12, -Again at Norwich.

13,-Wallingford.

,, 14,-Witney.

15,—Oxford.

", 16,-High Wycombe.

, 17,-Back to London.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Masonic MSS. in the Bodleian Library, A.Q.C., 1898, vol. xi., pp. 15, 34. Opportunity may here be taken to draw attention to a singular error in Dr. Richard Rawlinson's letter to Towle, in which the Freemasons' hospitality is quoted from George Whitfield's Diary: the 24th June, 1738, did not fall on a Friday, but on a Saturday. The misdating of the entry is probably due to a clerical error, for there is not wanting contemporary evidence that the incident occurred on Saturday, 24th June, 1738.

The foregoing Itinerary shows that the John Wesley who was made a Mason in Downpatrick on the 3rd and 10th October, 1788, could not have been the Rev. John Wesley who was engaged in his ministerial duties at Norwich and its neighbourhood on those very dates.

Further, we can show, from the same authoritative source, that up to the seventieth year of his age, the Rev. John Wesley was not a Freemason. By a carious coincidence, the fact is made certain by an incident that occurred to him when travelling in Ireland, in a county conterminous with that in which Downpatrick is situated. Writing under date of June, 1773, he sets down the following in his Diary:—

"Fri. 18.—I went to Ballymena, and read a strange tract, that professes to discover "the inmost recesses of Freemasonry," said to be "translated from the French original lately published at Berlin." I incline to think it was a genuine account. Only, if it be, I wonder the author is suffered to live. If it be, what an amazing banter on all mankind is Freemasonry! And what a secret it is which so many concur to keep! From what motive? Through fear—or shame to own it?"

Wesley's Journal (authorised edition) vol. iii., p. 500.

The tone which the Rev. John Wesley adopts towards Freemasonry in the foregoing passage, and the semi-credulity with which he accepts the possibility of the genuineness of this spurious Ritual, show conclusively that he was not a Freemason. Indeed, he could not have had the slightest inkling of our tenets or our practices. For the tract was evidently "Solomon in all his Glory"; a production which has the merit, in a Freemason's eyes, of putting intruders off the scent. The pamphlet was first published in London in 1766, and repeatedly republished in both London and Dublin. It is little more than a translation of Le Macon Démasqué, Londres, 1751, which, in its turn, is the lineal descendant of L'Ordre Trahi, Amsterdam, 1745. This latter, again, comes from the same root as the earlier Masonry Farther Dissected, London, 1738.1 Although these spurious Rituals are anonymous or pseudonymous, they are of great value to the student of Ethics, as they show what outsiders were prepared to believe concerning Freemasonry. For the human mind cannot help assuming the likelihood of that which it would like to believe. Even the keen intellect of the Rev. John Wesley did not rise above the common law. Staggered though he was by the incongruity between the absurdity of the secret professedly divulged and the fidelity with which that secret had been admittedly kept, he busied himself with finding reasons for the co-existence of these incompatibilities rather than with weighing the pretensions of the informer or the authenticity of the information.2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See A.Q.C., vol. ix., p. 83, vol. xiii., p. 149. This series of Spurious Rituals is of Continental origin, and differs essentially intreatment from the series of which Prichard's Masonry Dissected may be taken as the type.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Eighteen years after John Wesley had thus recorded his opinion of Freemasonry, Methodism and the Craft came again into contact in Ireland, but this time at the opposite extremity of the Island. In 1791, the year of Wesley's death, the Rev. Charles Graham, a zealous preacher held in high esteem by Wesley himself, visited Mallow, and preached an open-air sermon. He chanced to take up his position beneath the windows of a room where a Lodge was wont to meet. The Brethren could not but hear the preacher's voice. Having closed the Lodge, they lingered on, attracted by his fervour. "They grew intent on the service, and at its close, respectfully requested the preacher to enter the Lodge-room." He, accordingly, says his biographer, with a somewhat clumsy, though well-intentioned, adaptation of Masonic phraseology, "Ascended the Ladder, laid Justice to the Rule, and Righteousness to the Plummet, and Squared off at least one Living Stone for our Spiritual Building; and, by so doing, made a sure home for our Ministers in coming years, whereby a whole family became partakers of the Grace of Eternal Life." Quoted by Rev. C. H. Crookshank, M.A., Londonderry, from The Apostle of Kerry; or, The Life of the Rev. Charles Graham, by Rev. G. Campbell, p. 51.

Some corroboration of the Rev. John Wesley's initiation might be thought to be obtained from the fact that his nephew, Samuel Wesley, attained high rank in the Craft. Indeed, we are indebted to the researches of Bro. Henry Sadler for proof that the seeming coincidence was even closer than had been suspected. For, as we have already intimated, the initiation of Samuel Wesley in London trod close upon the heels of the initiation of John Wesley in Downpatrick. But the circumstances of Samuel Wesley's career show that there was no connection between the events.

Samuel Wesley was the second son of the Rev. Charles Wesley, the former Captain of Westminster School, who, after declining Garrett Wesley's heritage had blossomed into the most melodious hymn writer that has ever graced the Christian Church. He was born in 1766, so that he was 22 years of age when initiated on 17th December, 1788, in the famous Lodge of Antiquity, then No. 1 on the Register of the Grand Lodge of the Moderns. It is beside our purpose to speak of his marvellous musical abilities, further than to relate that he placed them unreservedly at the service of the Craft. He was appointed Grand Organist on 13th May, 1812, being the first to hold that office. In truth, the post appears to have been created for him, in recognition of his professional services to Grand Lodge, for Bro. Henry Sadler has found reason to believe that he presided over the musical ceremonies of Grand Lodge before 1812. He was in his place as Grand Organist at the Grand Assembly, which ratified the Articles of Union, 1st December, 1813, and at the inaugural Communication of the United Grand Lodge which was happily established by those Articles. He was reappointed annually till 1818, when he was succeeded by a Brother of equal musical renown, Sir George Smart. Wesley's withdrawal from office was caused by a relapse into acute mental depression, from which he had suffered at intervals, and from which he only recovered temporarily. He died in 1837, after prolonged retirement from public life.1

Bro. Samuel Wesley earned the gratitude of three great Institutions which do not often concur in returning thanks. In 1813, he composed and conducted a Grand Anthem for Freemasons, in honour of the Union of the Grand Lodges of England, and received the enthusiastic commendations of his Brethren. A few years later, he composed a Grand Mass for the Chapel of Pope Pius vi., and received an official Latin letter of thanks from the Sovereign Pontiff. As a sort of counter-balance, he composed, for the Church of England, a complete set of Matins and Evensong, which at once took rank among our most esteemed Cathedral Services.

It will be seen that the career of the versatile and eccentric Grand Organist has no bearing on the question of the initiation of his great uncle, the Rev. John Wesley.

Reviewing the circumstances of the supposed initiation of the Rev. John Wesley, in the Lodge at Downpatrick, we are driven to the conclusion that the idea is altogether illusory, and based on a palpable confusion of identity. Equally convincing is the proof that the veritable John Wesley had not been admitted to the Craft at any date previous to his visit to Ballymena, in June, 1773, and that, up to the seventieth year of his age, he entertained but a dubious opinion of Freemasonry and its secrets. This last consideration compels us to the further inference that he did not join the Craft at any subsequent period of his life. Otherwise, the surprising change of opinion involved could not fail to have been chronicled in his copious and accurate Journals and Diaries.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Samuel Wesley's morbid fits of depression were the result of an injury to the head received in early life by an accidental fall. Particulars will be found in an obituary notice in the Freemason's Quarterly Review for December, 1838, which is otherwise unsatisfactory from the Freemason's point of view, as little or no information is given about his Masonic career.

#### II.—THE HON. A. WESLEY AND THE LODGE AT TRIM.

"Most people are unaware of the fact that the hero of Waterloo was christened Arthur Wesley, and that he did not use the surname of Wellesley till he was twentynine years of age, when his eldest brother, Lord Mornington, adopted that spelling of the family name."—Reviews of Sir Herbert Maxwell's Life of the Duke of Wellington: London, 1899. Quoted in Athenœum, No. 3772, 10th Feb., 1900.



T might well be supposed that every detail throughout the life of so conspicuous a personage as the Duke of Wellington must be known with an accuracy beyond cavil or question. In reality, this is not the case.

"The fierce white light that beats upon a throne"
leaves the shadows all the denser in the corners. The birthday and
the birthplace of the Duke of Wellington have been matters of dispute.

The Duke himself always kept the 1st of May as his birthday, though the testimony of his old nurse put the event a week later, and ascribed to Dangan Castle, the family seat beside Trim, the honour of being his birthplace. The Duke's adoption of the 1st of May for his birthday has supplied a graceful link between the Great Captain and the Freemasonry of to-day. In 1850, the Duke of Wellington stood Godfather to an infant Prince who chanced to be born on the 1st of May. The baby, Prince Arthur Patrick, has grown into a soldier worthy of his great sponsor, and is at this moment Grand Master of England. The truth appears to be that the Duke of Wellington was born on 29th April, 1769, some three months before Napoleon, and that the event occurred at 24, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin, just eight doors from the house in which these lines are penned.

The Duke was the foremost Englishman of the century. He was the scion of a titled family, to whose entails and successions genealogical accuracy was of the last importance. His life was the focus of the public gaze. Yet the details of his boyhood and youth are all but unknown. Sparse as they are, they are quite different from what the Duke's after-life would lead his biographers to expect. Stiff, slow and taciturn, undistinguished in the classroom or the playground, the boy was the despair of his too-exacting mother. "I vow to God," on one occasion gloomily exclaimed the Countess, "I don't know what I shall do with my awkward son Arthur!" On another, she is said to have supported his application for a Commission by declaring that "the boy was only fit food for powder." Nor was the boy's upbringing satisfactory to the biographers. It is an article of popular belief that the Great Duke was indebted to Eton for his education, and that he gratefully declared that "the battles of the Peninsula were won on the playing fields of Eton." This is little better than popular fantasy. The Duke was at Eton, but his stay there is to be counted by months rather than by years, and it had no effect, as far as can be traced, on his education. Nor is there any foundation whatever for attributing to the Duke such an absurd eulogy on the games of Eton. The boy was removed from Eton at fourteen; then his real education began, and it was all on the Continental system. He was placed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For long the date of the Great Napoleon was similarly in dispute. He post-dated his birth by a year, so as to make it subsequent to the annexation of Corsica by France, in order that he might claim to be a French citizen by birth.



EARLY PORTRAIT MEDAL OF HON. A. WESLEY,
STRUCK ON HIS ELEVATION TO THE PEERAGE AS EARL OF WELLINGTON, CO. SOMERSET.

(From Dr. Chetwode Crawley's Collection.)



MORNINGTON HOUSE (NOW NO. 24) UPPER MERRION STREET, DUBLIN, THE BIRTHPLACE OF HON. A. WESLEY, DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

From Photographs by Bro. L. R. Strangways, M.A., J.W. Trinity College Lodge, No. 357, I.C.

[BIRTHS.--" In Merrion-street, the Rt. Hon. the Countess of Mornington, of a son."

Freeman's Journal, 2nd-6th May 1769.]

under a private tutor at Brussels, one M. Goubert, with whom he resided a year. Thence he was transferred to a celebrated French Academy at Angers, where he remained till he was gazetted to a Commission in 1787. This Academy was under the direction of a well-known French Engineer, named de Pignerol, who seems to have been the prototype of the "Army crammer" of to-day. Just at the same time, a young Corsican of noble birth, Napoleon Buonaparte by name, was studying kindred subjects at the regular French Military College at Brienne. Both pupils seem to have profited by their studies.

Now, when the date of such a man's entry into this world is a matter of doubt, if not of error, to himself; when the details of his early manhood belie the expectation of the popular biographer, it is no wonder that the circumstances of his entry into Freemasonry have been a matter of uncertainty and misapprehension. Some of the uncertainty must be ascribed to the frequent changes of name and the numerous titles of nobility that make it hard for the untrained genealogist to identify the various members of this great family. Hence, it is worth while, even at the risk of recapitulation, to set the sequence of names and titles in clear order.

The first change of name is that involved in the succession to the estates of Garrett Wesley, of Dangan. In our introductory paragraphs, we have seen that he was, above all things, desirous of perpetuating the name of Wesley. Accordingly, he stipulated that his heir, a cousin seven times removed, should assume the name of Wesley in lieu of Colley. This latter name had, itself, a variation, Cowley, which stood to it much in the same relation as Wellesley did to Wesley. The heir soon bettered matters by submerging his new name in the title of Lord Mornington. His son raised the title to an Earldom, with the subsidiary title of Viscount Wellesley. This latter formed the courtesy title, by which the heir to the Earldom was known during his father's lifetime.

His son, again, added to the Irish titles an English peerage under the style of Lord Wellesley, of the Co. Somerset, dated October, 1797. Concurrently with this English title, he altered the spelling of the family name from Wesley to Wellesley, and the spelling was adopted by all the members of the family. Notably, it was adopted by the Hon. A. Wesley, who thenceforward signed as A. Wellesley, till he entered on that splendid career which gave him a new patent of nobility and a new signature every year.

Nor did the changes of style end for the Earl of Mornington when he added the English peerage to his Irish titles. His brilliant services in India made him the Marquess Wellesley. In like manner, two of his younger brothers William and Henry, merged the fresh spelling of their surname in brand new peerages, one as Lord Maryborough, the other as Lord Cowley, the antique form of the long-discarded surname Colley. The former had already masked his identity under the compound surname of Pole-Wesley, to be further concealed under the title of Lord Mornington when he succeeded the Marquess Wellesley in the Irish Earldom. His son, before he succeeded to the Earldom, carried the scientific accumulation of surnames to a pitch that brought upon him the good-humoured raillery of the satirist. The well-known

¹ There does not appear to be any foundation for the suggestion that the change of spelling was intended to mark the disapproval with which the Earl of Mornington was supposed to regard the Rev. John Wesley. The letters in which the Earl explains at length to his cousin, Sir Chichester Fortescue, his reasons for resuming the old form of the name, have recently been published (dthenœum, 10th Feb., 1900), and give no countenance to the supposition. Indeed, such a motive would be so inconsistent with the well-known liberality and breadth of the Marquess Wellesley's opinions, that it would need very clear evidence to give it probability.

couplet more than hints at the inability of the titled spendthrift to keep his money.

"Bless every man possessed of ought to give!

Long may Long-Tilney-Wellesley-Long-Pole live!"

Loyal Effusion, by W. T. F. (Rejected Addresses).

The poet was slightly in error in the sequence of the names, which apparently should run William [Pole-Wesley] Pole-Tylney-Long-Wellesley. This portentous compound was assumed on the bearer's marriage with the daughter and heiress of Sir James Tylney-Long.

Amid such a kaleidoscopic galaxy of names, the unpractised reader might well be excused for doubting whether the unostentatious A. Wesley, who signed the Rule-book of the Lodge at Trim in 1790 could be the same as the multinominal Grandee, who, in 1815, had acquired more Titles of Nobility and Orders of Knighthood than any man in Europe. The fact remains that, notwithstanding the plethora of names and titles, there were only six male representatives of the Dangan Wesleys in the closing quarter of the eighteenth century, and of those six, three were Freemasons.

The Lodge to which these eminent Freemasons belonged was held at Trim, the county town of Meath. The Warrant was No. 494, and was issued 7th May, 1772. It was signed by William Robert, 2nd Marquess and 21st Earl of Kildare, afterwards Duke of Leinster. His Grace was Grand Master of Ireland in 1770-1 and 1771-2, and again in 1777-8. His name will be best known to English students as that of the Grand Master of Ireland who, in conjunction with the Grand Master of Scotland, took a prominent part at the Installation of the Duke of Athole, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Antients, which was then recognized as the Grand Lodge of England, to the exclusion of the Grand Lodge of the Moderns.

In the closing years of the eighteenth century, the Lodge might almost be considered the family Lodge of the Wesleys of Dangan, just as the borough of Trim was their pocket borough. According to Irish practice, the Warrant erected a Lodge at Trim, without specifying the hostelry which was to give it shelter. There is evidence that the Lodge met sometimes in the Grand Jury Room; the Grand Jury was Irish correlative of the modern County Council.¹ There is little doubt of the correctness of the tradition that the Lodge met in Dangan Castle itself, as often as the convenience of the Grand Master or the well-being of the Lodge demanded it.

The Lodge recruited its candidates from an exceptionally high stratum of society. All the early members are registered with the affix, "Esq." or "Gent.," or some other affix, showing them to have belonged to the landed or professional gentry. The seventh on the list is entered as "Thomas Crawley, Esq., M.D.," He might have been—may one say, he ought to have been?—an ancestor of the present writer. But such is the want of foresight often displayed by our predecessors, that Bro. Thomas Crawley did not take advantage of his priority in time and proximity in space to insert himself in our genealogical tree.

This omission is the more to be deplored, as Bro. Thomas Crawley was a worthy representative of the hospitable Irish gentry.

"The Free and accepted Masons of Saint John's Lodge No. 494, held at Trim, are requested to meet their Worshipful Master, Dr. Thomas Crawley,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Roll Book of the Trim Lodge: "1790, St. John's Day [27th Dec.] To tyling the Grand Jury Room...2.0."

at his House, on the 24th inst., being their Patron Saint's Day, to Breakfast; walk in Procession to Church; hear a Sermon suited to the Occasion; dine in their Lodge Room, and install new Officers.

By Order.

Trim, 7 June, 1774.

HENRY REYNOLDS, Sec."1

It happens that we can glean from the Records of the Lodge the meed of success that attended Dr. Thomas Crawley's hospitable efforts to support the dignity of the Chair. At that meeting, nineteen Brethren paid quarterage amounting to £6 13s.  $9\frac{1}{2}d$ .; arrears and fines came into the amount of £3 17s.  $5\frac{1}{2}d$ ., and the collection in Church was £2 12s.  $10\frac{1}{2}d$ . Three Distressed Brethren were relieved with, £1 2s. 9d., 15s.  $8\frac{1}{2}d$ ., and 11s.  $4\frac{1}{2}d$ ., respectively. The officiating clergyman was allowed 10s. 10d. for expenses. All these sums are in Irish currency.<sup>2</sup>

The Lodge flourished at Trim as long as there were resident gentry in the neighbourhood to supply material for its support. But times changed. The Mornington family ceased to reside at Dangan Castle. The centralization involved by the legislative Union of Great Britain and Ireland stripped the provincial centres of the latter country of any attraction for county magnates. The Roman Catholic Church began to act on the Bull against Freemasons, which had, till then, been allowed to remain dormant, or, in ecclesiastical phrase, "unpublished" in Ireland. The number of Lodges on the Register of Ireland fell from over a thousand to one-half of that number. Even a temporary schism, the so-called Grand Lodge of Ulster, was not wanting to depress the cause of Freemasonry in Ireland. The Lodge at Trim dwindled. In 1838, only three members remained in the town. They had paid all dues to Grand Lodge out of their own pockets, and had thus kept the Warrant in a sort of skeleton vitality, in the hope that some day the dry bones might arise and walk. Wearied by the long-drawn-out struggle, they presented to Grand Lodge, in 1838, a Petition, which is not without its pathetic side. In that document, which is extant in the archives of the Lodge, the three Brethren, Christopher Carleton, Samuel Beckett and J. E. Scott, state they were each over 70 years of age, and that they were the sole surviving members in Trim, and that they were incapacitated by age from working the Lodge. They therefore prayed Grand Lodge to entrust the Warrant to certain Brethren resident in Dublin, where the Lodge could be maintained. The Dublin Brethren whom the Trim Lodge had affiliated for this purpose were wellknown and zealous members of Lodge No. 2. The Petition found favour in the eyes of Grand Lodge, and the Dublin Lodge has ever since worked under the Warrant originally granted to Trim.

In 1856, the Lodge again fell upon evil days; this time, from internal causes. The membership fell away, and the Warrant was temporarily taken over by Grand Lodge, in trust for the members. But the matter was speedily set straight, and the Lodge started again on a career of usefulness and prosperity, which it has maintained uninterruptedly to the present day.

The extant sources of information concerning Lodge No. 494, in the eighteenth century, consist of two MS. books, supplemented by the Register of Grand Lodge. The MS. books are denominated respectively the Rule Book, and the Roll Book, and are preserved with exemplary care by the admirable Secretary of the Lodge, R. W.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Advertisement in Faulkner's Dublin Journal, Thursday-Saturday, 9-11 June, 1774.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Roll Book (Treasurer's Accounts) of the Lodge at Trim; sub anno MDCCLXXIV.

Bro. John Parkinson. The books are in their original binding, and their respective titles of Rule Book and Roll Book are still quite legible on their sides. There was another, and more important book, called the Transaction Book, which appears to have been in existence as late as 1850, but has since, alas! disappeared.

The Rule Book consists of an ordinary 8vo. MS. book of about 150 leaves; the Roll Book of a large folio MS. book of about double that number of leaves. The paper in both is of uncommonly good quality, and the same may be said of the binding, which has resisted the wear and tear of a hundred and thirty years. The Rule Book is so called because it contains the sets of By-laws which have from time to time been adopted by the Lodge, and to which the newly-made Mason was required to append his signature. It is to this fortunate custom that we are indebted for the preservation of the Mornington and Wesley signatures.

The Roll Book contains a list of the members of the Lodge during the eighteenth century. It was designed to record their attendance at Lodge meetings, their subscriptions, their fines, and, in fact, to serve generally as the Treasurer's Book. From its pages we learn the dates on which the candidates paid their admission fees, and the regularity with which they discharged their quarterage, as long as they continued on the books. Thus we shall be able to fix very closely the date of the future Duke of Wellington's initiation, and the number of years he remained a subscribing member of the Lodge.

The third source, the Register of Grand Lodge, gives us very little help. In the first place, the members of the Trim Lodge were registered in batches, comprising the candidates of a whole year, or even longer. The date appended in the Register is merely that of the whole batch being entered by the Deputy Grand Secretary, not that of the degrees being conferred. Secondly, the years for which we require the Register, are precisely those in which the Deputy Grand Secretary, "worn out with age and infirmity," was paying less and less attention to his duties. Thirdly, though the two Earls of Mornington are duly entered amid their respective batches, yet the Hon. A. Wesley's name could not be registered, or even returned, inasmuch as he was not a Master Mason.

The Rule Book contains three sets of By-laws. The first set, adopted on the 21st July, 1772, continued in force till after the removal of the Lodge to Dublin. The second set was adopted 27th May, 1843. The third bears the date 15th December, 1851. Each set is followed by the signatures of the members on whom they were binding, and marks an epoch in the modernising of the Lodge. But it is with the first set alone that our present enquiry is concerned.

The same considerations which impelled us to reproduce the By-laws of the Downpatrick Lodge, are even more imperative in the case of the Trim code of 1772. The same explanation, too, applies to the odd sums to be paid as dues. For instance, the sum of 7s.  $0\frac{1}{2}$ d., payable as quarterage, is simply the total of thirteen weeks at 6d., British, a week, transferred into Irish currency.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>We are greatly indebted to R. W. Bro. Parkinson, and to the Brethren of the Trim Lodge, for permission to make extracts from the Books. It is an open secret that Bro. Parkinson has in hand a History of this noteworthy Lodge.

#### RULES

#### AND ORDERS

# TO BE KEPT AND OBSERVED BY THE SEVERAL AND RESPECTIVE MEMBERS

of

Lodge No. 494, in Trim.

- RESOLV'D. That we the Master Wardens and rest of the Fraternity 1st. of Lodge No. 494 now in Lodge assembled, considering that concord and Unity is the foundation whereon the Harmony Tranquility and happiness of any Society do depend: Do therefore declare that the Glory of our God, the Honour of our King, the well being of our Brethren the protection and advancement of our Ancient and Honourable Craft, are the sole motives for forming these rules, which shall be binding on us and all others who may hereafter become members of this Lodge, and that these rules shall be read at the coming in of every new Brother, or as often as the Master shall think fit.
- ORDER'D. That each and every member of this Lodge, do meet at the house, or place appointed by the Master and Majority of this Lodge, to hold a Lodge on every second Tuesday at the hour of Six until Nine, from the Twenty ninth day of September, to the Twenty fifth day of March, and from the Twenty fifth day of March to the Twenty ninth day of September, at the hour of Seven until ten, in Fines of the Afternoon, and if the Master absent himself on said Lodge nights after the hour of meeting, he shall pay One British Shilling to the Box of this Lodge, each Warden for the like offence nine pence, each Deacon Eight pence, and each Member not attending on Lodge nights, Sixpence, over and above the Lodge dues, except he makes a Lawfull excuse.
  - 3rd. ORDER'D. That if any Member of this Lodge do presume to Curse or Swear or take God's name in vain while the Lodge is open, each offending member shall pay two shillings and two pence to the Treasurer's box.
- ORDER'D. That every member of this Lodge do pay to the Master for the time being, Seven shillings and one half-penny each quarter day, as and for his quarterly dues of this Lodge, out of which the Master is not to spend each Lodge night, more than ten pence for each Brother which shall be present on such night, and the rest at the end of each quarter, to be deposited by the Master in the Box of this Lodge, to be distributed in Charity, or as the Master and the Majority of the Brethren shall think proper.
- 5th. ORDER'D. That one month before each of our Patron Saint's days, new officers be chosen, the master shall name three of the Brethren, Chosing Master one of whom to be chosen Master, by Ballot; and the Wardens to and name two each, and be also Balloted for, as wardens, and such officers, Wardens. be returned to the Grd. Lodge on or before St. John's day in June every year.

Hours of meeting.

absence.

Quarterage.

An old Mason becoming a Member.

6th. ORDER'D. That an old Mason who is desirous of becoming a Member of this Lodge, must be recommended by a Member of the same, to be ason a person of unblemish'd character, and be Ballotted for, and thereby Gain the unanimous consent of all the Members then present, each person so admitted, shall pay as a fine of entrance Eleven Shillings and four pence ½ to the Box and one shilling to the pursuivant of this Lodge.

P'sons
proposing to be
Members.

Sum payable

on

addmittance.

ORDER'D, That any person who is proposed to be made a Mason in this Lodge, must be Ballotted for the Lodge night after he is proposed, and gain the unanimous consent of all the Brethren then present; and that no Brother may plead Ignorance, it is further ORDER'D that the said person's name, occupation, and place of Residence be Incerted in the summons's for the night of Ballot, reserving-NEVERTHELESS, power to the Master to Summon a Lodge of Emergency, and therein Insert the name of the person proposed, who, on good cause, may be Ballotted for and made that night, and such person so admitted shall pay two pounds five shilling and sixpence, and one British Half Crown to the Tyler, out of which the Master is to defray the usual Expenses, procure Aprons for the Master and Wardens, and Register the said Brother in the Grand Lodge Book; and if the Secretary on notice from the Master, shall neglect to have sd. Brother so register'd on or before the second Lodge night after sd. Brother is compleated, he shall be fined one British Half Crown.

Secy.
to Register.

ORDER'D if any person applies to be made a Mason in this Lodge, if the person he applies to shall make him clandestinely, or be aiding or assisting in the aforesaid Method, such person so offending, shall be expelled this Lodge, and notice thereof shall be given to the Secy. of the Grand Lodge.

Making Clandestinely.

8th.

ORDER'D, That every member of this Lodge do meet at a Dinner on each of our Patron Saint's days, and every Member shall pay towards sd. dinner three shillings and three pence, every absent Member to pay as if present, that sd. Dinner be provided by the Master and Wardens in conjunction, in such manner and in such place as they shall think fit, and that Immediately after dinner, the old Officers do Install the new ones in their places, the Master refusing to serve, shall pay five British Shillings, and on refusal of a Warden three British Shillings, and of a Deacon, two British Shillings, to the Box of this Lodge.

Dining on St. John's Day.

Installing

New Officers.

10th.

Improper

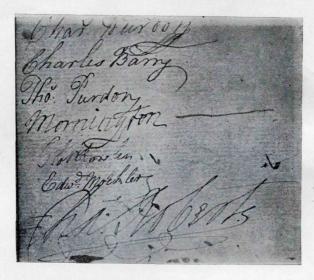
behaviour.

ORDER'D That each member of this Lodge, do Obey the Master in all reasonable matters, and call him worshipfull during Lodge hours, and any person not observing the Master's usual signal for silence, or who shall interrupt a Lesson, spoil Harmony, or behave himself in any Respect unbecoming a sober Brother, shall for every such offence pay thirteen pence to the Box of this Lodge.

11th.

Receiving
a Visitor.

ORDER'D That if any person belonging to a Regular Lodge shall be desirous of becoming a visitor of this Body, he shall be accepted, unless there shall appear just cause to the contrary, and such Visitor shall be clear of the Reckoning on the first visit.



EXTRACT FROM RULE BOOK OF TRIM LODGE, NO. 494, I.C., CONTAINING SIGNATURE OF RT. HON. GARRETT [WESLEY, 1ST] EARL OF MORNINGTON, MUS. DOC.

GRAND MASTER OF IRELAND, 1776-7.



EXTRACT FROM RULE BOOK OF TRIM LODGE, NO. 494, I.C., CONTAINING SIGNATURE OF RT. HON. RICHARD [WESLEY, 2ND] EARL OF MORNINGTON, (MARQUESS WELLESLEY, K.G., K.P.)

GRAND MASTER OF IRELAND, 1782-83.

Junr. Warden to collect Reckoning.

12th. ORDER'D, That the Junior warden or whoever acts for him shall have the care of the Reckoning, and give notice when there is as much liquor in as comes to each man's proportion, and if the same be over run, he shall be Liable to pay the over plus; no person is to call for Liquor without the Leave of the Junior Warden otherwise he shall pay four pence.

13th.
All fines
to be pd. off.

14th.

ORDER'D, That all dues, fines, and forfeitures, be cleared off the last Lodge night in every Quarter at farthest, on due notice being given by the Secretary, or be excluded this Lodge.

Tyler's
Emoluments.

ORDER'D, That the Pursuivant attending this Lodge, do receive for his trouble one British Shilling each Lodge night, over and above all emoluments, which he may be entitled to under the foregoing Rules, together with all such other Gifts & Grants from this Lodge, as he, or any future Tyler, or Pursuivant may merit.

15th. ORDER'D, That if any Member be guilty of any crime or Irregularity not specified in these Rules, he shall be dealt with as the Master and Majority of the Brethren present shall think proper; and that all these Rules and each of them, do stand and remain in full force, unless altered by a Majority in full Lodge assembled PROVIDED any of them do not make void or take away the energy and force of any of the Rules, orders or Regulations of the Grand Lodge, as farr as they extend to Inferiour Lodges;

SIGNED at our Lodge Room, held in Trim aforesaid, the 21st day of July, 1772, and in Masonry 5772.

The first of the signatures of the three Dangan Freemasons is that of Garrett, Earl of Mornington, Mus.Doc. He was installed and proclaimed as Grand Master of Ireland on St. John's Day in Summer, 1776, and served the office till St. John's Day in Summer, 1777, when he was succeeded by the Duke of Leinster. The Treasurer's account informs us that the Earl was proposed on 4th July, 1775, by Bro. John Boulger, one of the founders of the Lodge. The way this fact comes to be noted is that in compliance with the Lodge custom, half the entrance fee, one guinea British, was deposited at the time of proposing a candidate.2 In due course, the second half of the entrance fee3 was paid. In the Roll of Subscribing Members prefixed to the Treasurer's books the Earl is entered as a Master Mason.4 The Earl seems to have been a fairly regular attendant when within his cable-tow, and to have been rigorously The Earl died a comparatively young man, having only reached his 45th year. But he had greatly impoverished his estates, which he left in a sadly encumbered condition. His heir, Richard, 2nd Earl, made it his first duty to discharge his father's debts; with more filial zeal than worldly wisdom, some of his family

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Duke undertook the office then for the second time. He had already been Grand Master, 1771-2, and had signed the Warrant of the Trim Lodge.

 $<sup>^2</sup>$ 4th July, 1775.—"To Deposit by Bro. Boulger, proposing the Earl of Mornington...1 . 2 . 9."—Roll Book of Trim Lodge.

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  28th July, 1775.—"To Balce. red. this night on admission of Lord Mornington...1 . 2 . 9."—Roll Book of Trim Lodge.

<sup>4&</sup>quot; Lodge, 29th July, 1775.

<sup>&</sup>quot;51...The Earl of Mornington...Raised a Master Mason."-Roll Book of the Trim Lodge.

thought. Hence we are not surprised to find from the Treasurer's book that the son cleared off the arrears, due by the father to the Lodge, within a few weeks of the latter's demise.1

Immediately afterwards occurs the entry of the payment of the new Earl's entrance fee, all in one lump sum. It is characteristic of the man that he paid his quarterage in advance.2 He was probably initiated at that meeting, for we find him in the prefixed List of Subscribing Members under date of 31st July, 1781.3 The Earl was not as constant in attendance as his father. He lived much in England, and made his early mark in politics rather as a member of the English House of Commons than as a member of the Irish House of Lords. He was installed and proclaimed Grand Master of Ireland on St. John's Day in Summer, 1782, in succession to the Earl of Antrim, who had the honour of being also Grand Master of the "Grand of Lodge of England according to the Old Institutions." But he continued to show interest in the Lodge at Trim, till he embarked on that wider ocean of Imperial politics which engulfed the minor interests of Dangan. The only occasion on which he came into contact with Freemasonry after he had acquired the title of Marquess Wellesley-if it can be called contact—was during an unlucky episode in his first Viceroyalty of Ireland. The Marquess, in 1822, endeavoured to put down a civic custom which was most distasteful to Roman Catholic citizens. He became unpopular with the more bigoted adherents of Protestant ascendency. An organized riot took place on a Command Night at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, and amongst the watch-cries of the rioters was one reviling him as a Freemason.

The third of the Wesleys of Dangan to sign the Roll Book of the Trim Lodge was A. Wesley—the Honourable Arthur Wesley, afterwards the Duke of Wellington, then a subaltern in the 12th Light Dragoons. As doubt has been expressed as to his Regiment and rank, we append a schedule of the commissions he held during the period covering his connection with the Lodge.4

Ensign	73rd Foot (Highlan	nd Regt.)	7th March, 1787.
Lieutenant	75th Foot		25th December, 1787.
,,	41st Foot		23rd January, 1788.
,,	12th Light Drag	goons	25th June, 1789.
Captain .	58th Foot		30th June, 1791.
,,	18th Light Drag	oons	31st October, 1792.
Major	33rd Foot		30th April, 1792.
LieutColone	el "	3	0th September, 1793.
Brevet-Colon	iel "	*	3rd May, 1796.

He reached the full grade of Field Marshal within ten years from this last date.

As has been seen in the case of the Hon. A. Wesley's father and brother, no dates are appended to the signatures in the Rule Book. But the corresponding entries in the Treasurer's Book show that the Admittance fee of the future Duke of Wellington was

<sup>1 17</sup>th July, 1781.—"Ld. Mornington for the arrears of the late Earl of Mornington ... 2. 2. 3." The Earl had died on the 22nd May, 1781.

<sup>217</sup>th July, 1781.—"The present Earl of Mornington's admission fee...2. 5. 6."—"His quarterage forward...7. 0½."—Roll Book of Trim Lodge.

3."77. Richd., Earl of Mornington...31st July, 1781."—Roll Book of Trim Lodge.

4 If one may hazard a guess, the object of this constant shifting from Regiment to Regiment was

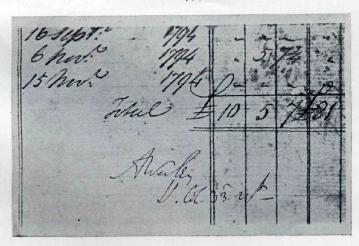
to retain him in Dublin, attached to the Viceregal Court. He was appointed aide-de-camp to the Lord Lieutenant (the Marquess of Buckingham) in November, 1787, and re-appointed by the succeeding Lord Lieutenant (the Earl of Westmoreland), so that he held the post till he went on active service with his Regiment in 1793.

A.D. 1790.



EXTRACT FROM RULE BOOK OF TRIM LODGE, NO. 494, I.C., SHOWING SIGNATURE OF HON. A. WESLEY, A.D.C. TO THE LORD LIEUTENANT, DEC., 1790.

A.D. 1794.



EXTRACT FROM REGIMENTAL ACCOUNTS OF 33RD REGT. OF FOOT, SHOWING SIGNATURE OF
HON. A. WESLEY, LT.-COL. COMMANDING, 1794.

(From Dr. Chetwode Crawley's Collection.)

paid on the 7th December, 1790, as was also the Admittance fee of another candidate, Captain William Foster. 1 The latter candidate proceeded to the degree of Master Mason, and was duly registered as such, which enables us to work back to the date of his initiation. The signatures of both candidates appear in juxtaposition in the Rule Book, the former immediately above the latter. As they paid together, and signed the By-laws together, the presumption is that that they were initiated together. If so, they must have been initiated at that same meeting, or at the next meeting, which the credit side of the Treasurer's accounts shows to have taken place on the 14th December, 1790. This is plain from the List of Subscribing Members prefixed to the Roll Book.2 In this List, Lieut. William Foster is entered as of 27th December, 1790, and the List in every case gives the date on which the member became a Master Mason. He must, therefore, have been admitted at either of the meetings immediately previous to that of the 27th December, when Capt. William Foster was registered. In any case, the Honourable Arthur Wesley must have written his name before the next signatures, Capt. Samuel Forster and Dr. Wm. Milling Speer, who paid their Admittance fees and became Master Masons in 1791.

All the circumstances point to the meeting of 7th December, 1790, as the date of the Duke's Initiation. The tradition of the Lodge places the scene of the Ceremony at Dangan Castle.3 If so, the other two meetings held respectively on the 14th and the 27th December are put out of Court on the spot. The meeting of the Trim Lodge on St. John's Day in Winter, 1790, was held in the Courthouse, and not at Dangan Castle. Nor can the meeting of 14th December have been held at the Castle. The Treasurer's accounts show that the Brethren paid for their wine on that occasion. This item of account disposes at once of the Lodge having met that night under the Earl of Mornington's hospitable roof. There remains only the 7th December as a possible date for the ceremony, if it was performed at Dangan Castle.4

The same date, 7th December, 1790, is assigned to the initiation by a printed source of information to which we can attach weight. In 1847, R. W. Bro. Michael Furnell published a little volume containing his official Addresses and other articles of interest, amongst which is a brief Chronology of important events in Irish Masonic History.<sup>5</sup> Under the date 7th December, 1790, he records that

> "The Duke of Wellington was initiated in No. 494, at Trim, of which Lodge his Grace's father, grandfather, and brother, Earls of Mornington, had been Masters."

Taken by itself this testimony would not be worth much. It contains an obvious error. His Grace's grandfather never was Earl of Mornington, nor could be ever have been Master of the Lodge, for he died in 1758, fourteen years before the Lodge was erected. But in 1847, the Transaction Book was extant. The Duke himself was alive. Bro. Furnell evidently made inquiry. In republishing the Chronology next year as an

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>7th December, 1790. "To Capt. Wm. Foster's admittance fee...2. 5. 6.

To Honble Capt. Wesley's do. .. 2. 5. 6."-Roll Book of the Trim Lodge."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>"97. Wm. Foster, Lieut....27th Decr., 1790."—List of members, Roll Book of Trim Lodge.

<sup>3</sup> As far back as December, 1836, Bro. Christopher Carleton communicated to the Freemason's Quarterly Review the traditional account of the Duke of Wellington's connection with the Trim Lodge. Bro. Carleton, a venerated member of the Lodge, whose name we have already chronicled as the mainstay of the Lodge during its last days at Trim, was a man of veracity and honesty beyond suspicion. But he relied solely on tradition, and his account leaves much to be desired -and more to be corrected.

Rules and Regulations, etc., by Michael Furnell, 33°, etc., 1847. Printed by Brother James D. Goggin, Provincial Grand Printer and Stationer, 41, Rutland Street, Limerick.

Appendix to the first *Freemasons' Calendar* of Ireland, he took occasion to correct the error. We can, therefore, infer that if he had found any other error in the original statement, that also would have been corrected.

Independently of the entries we have quoted from the Treasurer's Book, the external exigencies of the Hon. A. Wesley's career, indicate December, 1790, as the date of his admission to the Trim Lodge. In that month he was actually seeking the suffrages of the electors of the borough. What could be more natural than that he should seek to ingratiate himself with the local Freemasons by joining the local Lodge? That he did ingratiate himself is plain enough. He was returned for the Session opening 20th January, 1791, and retained his seat till the dissolution in 1796.

It must be confessed that the verb "to ingratiate" is not easily conjugated with F.M. the Duke of Wellington as its subject; the more so as the Iron Duke, some fifty years later, declined to associate himself with the Lodge or with Freemasonry. But that was fifty years later. The newly appointed Aide-de-camp, the young Parliamentary hand, the Entered Apprentice Fremason, plunged into the boisterous gaiety of the Viceregal Court, and sowed his wild oats after the manner of the generation. Who shall say that he was the worse for it? Who shall say that the process was not a necessity for the education, nay, for the emancipation of "the slender blue-eyed, hawk-nosed, and rather sheep-faced boy," whom his mother believed to be hopelessly deficient in ability? Semel insanivinus omnes.

The Honourable Arthur Wesley's contemporaries thought little of him. Sir Jonah Barrington, M.P. for Tuam, in the Session of 1790-1796, thus describes him:

"He was then ruddy-faced and juvenile in appearance, and popular enough among the young men of his age and station; his address was unpolished; he occasionally spoke in Parliament, but not successfully, and never on important subjects; and evinced no promise of that unparalleled celebrity and splendour which he has since reached. . . . I became rather intimate with Capt. Wesley, and perceived certain amiable qualities [in him], which a change of times, or the intoxication of prosperity, certainly in some degree tended to diminish."

Lord Plunket, a member of the same Parliament, has left on record an instance of his youthful colleague's inattention to the business in hand, when serving on Committee.

A more serious escapade of his Grace's Wesley days has been chronicled by Mr. F. T. Porter, Magistrate of the Head Police Office, Dublin. It will be best to let the Police Magistrate tell his story in his own racy words.

"Towards the close of the last century an aide-de-camp of the then viceroy was indicted, at the Quarter Sessions, for the larceny of a handsome walking-stick, and also for assaulting the gentleman who owned it, and who was moreover, a Frenchman. The transaction arose in a house of a description unnecessary to be particularized. An affray took place, the Frenchman was kicked down stairs, and lost his cane, which was alleged to have been

<sup>3</sup> This is hardly accurate, or Sir Jonah Barrington's standard of importance differs from ours, as

London, 1869.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Freemasons' Calendar, A.D. 1848, A.L. 5,848, compiled by the Ill. Brother M. Furnell, Dublin. To be had at the Grand Secretary's Office, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Compendium of Irish Biography, by A. Webb, Dublin, 1878, p. 552.

the Hon. Arthur Wesley on at least two occasions advocated Catholic Relief.

\*Personal Sketches of his own Time, by Sir Janah Barrington, edited by Townsend Young, LL.D.;

wrested from him by the aide-de-camp. The charge of larceny was absurd, and the grand jury ignored the indictment. But the assault could neither be denied nor justified, and the traverser submitted pleaded 'guilty,' and was fined five pounds. The punishment did not cure his propensity for beating Frenchmen and taking their sticks. On the 21st of June, 1813, he beat Marshal Jourdan, at Vittoria, and captured his baton; and on the 18th of June, 1815, at Waterloo, he beat the greatest Frenchman that ever lived, Napoleon Bonaparte. I do not feel justified in naming the delinquent aidede-camp, and perhaps the reader may think it quite unnecessary that I should."

Skilful as is the worthy magistrate's method of story-telling, something remains to be told. A Masonic thread has to be interwoven with the Coan veil so deftly thrown over the incident. We trust we are casting no serious slur on the memory of Bro. Emanuel Zimmermann, when we record that local tradition associates his name with the Hon. Arthur Wesley's boyish brawl. At the close of the eighteenth century, M. Zimmerman held a high position in Dublin as a teacher of the French Language. His position in the development of Freemasonry in Ireland is no less prominent, though it has never before been made public. In conjunction with another French Freemason, M. P. Laurent, he supplemented the H.K.T. degrees which already existed in Dublin, by introducing in 1782 the High Degrees, which ultimately blossomed into the Ancient and Accepted Rite.2 He was the central figure of the original Chapter of Prince Masons -a degree now known as 18° Ancient and Accepted Rite—which claims to have been at work continuously from M. Zimmerman's day to the present.3 But that is another story, and would take us too far afield from our gossiping survey of the habits and methods that explain the Hon. Arthur Wesley's attitude towards Freemasonry.

So different is the outward show of the Arthur Wesley of those early Dublin days from the popular ideal of the Iron Duke that his latest biographer paints him as "the impressionable, pleasure-loving aide-de-camp who lost his heart to the influence of Kitty Pakenham's bright eyes and soft cheeks." Pledge his troth the young Subaltern did, and the Major-General redeemed the pledge more than twelve years later. But in the meantime, the lady's family would have none of the marriage. The Mornington estates were heavily loaded. The Hon. Captain Wesley's private income was only £125 a year. Without the Earl of Mornington's help the aide-de-camp could never have kept his feet in the Viceregal whirl. But that help was always forthcoming. The devotion of the elder to the younger brother was almost touching. It is not the least feather in the

Dublin, 1869, where the tale is told more baldly.

MS. Historical Sketch, by Ill. Bro. John Fowler, preserved in the Archives of the Supreme Council of Ireland.

<sup>3</sup> Two circumstances arrest the Masonic Student's attention. First, the circumstance that the High Degrees were brought into Ireland, directly from the Continent, four years before the date which even the most imaginative champions of the Berlin Constitutions have chosen for those doubtful documents. Secondly, the circumstance that M. Zimmerman's Prince Masons were recruited exclusively from Brethren who had already received the H.K.T. degree. This requirement, unusual, if not unknown elsewhere, earmarks the source whence the Degree spread to Bristol. When the Prince Masons' Degree appears a few years later in that city, its membership is restricted to the H.K.T. Encampment, which had itself been probably introduced from Ireland.

<sup>4</sup> Life of Wellington, by Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P., London, 1900; Vol. I., p. 79. The story of the Duke of Wellington's early engagement and long subsequent marriage possesses all the highest elements of romance, and it is a pity it did not turn out better. But the popular biographies go too far when they heighten the effect by making the lady lose her beauty through an attack of small-pox in the

interval. This is pure invention.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Gleanings and Reminiscenses, by Frank Thorpe Porter, M.A., J.P., Barrister-at-Law, &c.; Dublin, 1869; p. 81. See also The Sham Squire, and the Informers of 1798, by W. J. Fitz Patrick, LL.D.; Dublin, 1869, where the tale is told more baldly.

cap of that great ruler of men, the Marquess Wellesley, that he believed in Arthur Wesley when nobody else, not even his own mother, believed in him. The Marquess had the rare power of knowing a Man when he saw one. Even in the matter of making himself agreeable to the burgesses of Trim, the Marquess was not disappointed in the opinion he had formed of his brother's capabilities. In a letter to Sir Christopher Fortescue, dated 20th June, 1796, the Earl of Mornington writes thus:

"My dear brother Arthur is now at Portsmouth, waiting a wind for India. The station is so highly advantageous to him that I could not advise him to decline it. But I shall feel his loss in a variety of ways, most bitterly, and in none more than in the management of Trim, where, by his excellent judgment, amiable manners, admirable temper and firmness, he has entirely restored the interest of my family."

The popular idea gives the Iron Duke little credit for artistic accomplishments. Yet it is certain that the Hon. Arthur Wesley spent much time playing the fiddle in those unrecorded Dublin days. He kept up his practice after leaving Ireland, and used to play habitually during his early Indian campaigns. He is reported to have given it up quite suddenly, and with such completeness that the very remembrance of it died out among his friends. Indian gossip has it that on one occasion during the Mahratta War the enemy's envoys, who came to discuss some important proposals, found him playing the violin. The grave Orientals were betrayed into showing surprise at finding a soldier so employed. The victor of Assaye found their judgment just, and never again played the fiddle.

What we can glean of the lighter social side of the Hon. Arthur Wesley's character during the years he was connected with Trim presents an equal contrast to the uncouthness of his school days and the severity of his martial career.

From every point of view, then, it was worth the while and within the power of the candidate who was standing for the Borough of Trim, in December 1790, to ingratiate himself with the Freemasons of the town.

No doubt, to a young man of his habits, the idea of joining the Lodge presented itself rather as a social event in an electioneering campaign, than as a solemn and serious covenant.

Nevertheless, there are not wanting signs that the Hon. Arthur Welsey was not altogether unmindful of his responsibility towards the Society that had admitted him. Though he never got beyond the Entered Apprentice Degree, yet he continued a subscribing member of the Lodge till his Indian campaigns severed his connection with Trim.

He is entered in the Treasurer's accounts as having paid his quarterage in advance on 25th June, 1792.<sup>3</sup> This entry apparently precludes the possibility of previous arrears. He is again credited with payment of his quarterage on 27th December of the same year.<sup>3</sup> This entry is initialled by H [enry] R [eynolds], one of the founders of the Lodge, who seems to have acted as Secretary for more than a quarter of a century. When these initials are appended to the entries, the members credited with the payments seem not to have been present. Hence we can infer that such payments as are thus initialled, were handed to the Secretary outside the Lodge. Next year, two entries occur which

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Correspondence and Diaries of Right Hon. J. W. Croker, edited by L. Jennings: London, 1894. Vol. I., p. 337.

<sup>2</sup> 1792, June 25.—"To quarterage pd. now in advance; the Mr. ...14.1. Do. Br. Wesley...14.1."

<sup>-</sup>Roll Book of the Trim Lodge.

3 1792, 27th December.—"Br. Honble. A. Wesley...H.R. ...14.1."-Roll Book of the Trim Lodge.

show that arrears had somehow occurred. On 24th June, 1793, the Honble A. Wesley is credited with payment of quarterage. Later in the year, he is credited with a further payment of quarterage "due last December." On 27th December, 1793, his quarterage is again paid per H.R.<sup>2</sup> In the following year, the Hon. A. Wesley's quarterage on St. John's Day in Summer, but this time per the W.M.<sup>3</sup> The entries for 1795 show that the Hon. A. Wesley overpaid the quarterage. Both on the 12th June and on the 24th June his payments of quarterage are carried to credit, being apparently paid in advance.<sup>4</sup> This is confirmed by a note, in the Secretary's hand, to the same effect.

These entries show that the Hon. A. Wesley continued a subscribing member of the Lodge at Trim from December, 1790 to December 1795. Though he paid his quarterage, public and private duties kept him away from Trim in the interval. The first three years he spent at the Viceregal Court and in the Irish Parliament, the last two mostly on active service with the Duke of York's Army. But on the St. John's Day, 1795, on which his dues were last paid, he was actually within hail of the Lodge. The famous letter in which the disgusted soldier seeks employment in the Civil Service was dated "Trim, June 25, 1795." Three months later the Hon. A. Wesley embarked on foreign service, and never afterwards recovered touch with Freemasonry.

Though the Duke of Wellington's direct connection with Freemasonry ends here, we get a curious side-light on his Grace's attitude to the Craft at a later date. Shortly after the Duke's death, his old Peninsular comrade, Lord Combermere, as Provincial Grand Master of Cheshire, presided over a great gathering of the Brethren of the Province at Macclesfield. Naturally, the veteran was deeply affected by his great chief's recent death, and took occasion to mention the Duke's early connection with Freemasonry. We give the contemporary report of Lord Combermere's words.

#### Macclesfield, 27th October, 1852.

"In the course of the evening, the noble Pro.G.M., in returning thanks for the proposition of his health, made the following allusion to his late lamented chief's (the Duke of Wellington's) connection with Masonry, which at once sets at rest the question of that immortal hero having been a Brother Mason. 'Another year,' said the noble Pro.G.M., 'had rolled over, and many changes had taken place. Amongst the foremost to be regretted was the death to the nation of his Commander, the Great Wellington. He had been associated with him since 1793. Perhaps it was not generally known that he was a Mason; he was made in Ireland; and often when in Spain, where Masonry was prohibited, in conversation with his Lordship, he regretted repeatedly how sorry he was his military duties had prevented him taking the active part his feelings dictated; for it was his (the Duke's) opinion that Masonry was a great and royal art, beneficial to the individual and to the community. Could they, then,' added the noble lord, with feelings of deep emotion, 'could they, then, depart from that great edifice without

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>1793, June 24.—"Br. Honble. A. Wesley...H.R. ...14.1."——July 16th.—"To Br. Honble. A. Wesley's arrears due last Decr. ...H.R. ...14.1."—Roll Book of the Lodge at Trim.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>27th Dec., 1793.—"Br. Wesley...H.R. ...14.1."—Roll Book of the Lodge at Trim.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>1794, 24th June.—"Br. Wesley...[per] the Mr. ...14.1."—Roll Book of the Lodge at Trim.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>1795, June 12.—"To Do. [quarterage] Br. Wesley, per the Mr....carried to credit...14.1." 1795, St. John's Day, June 25.—"To Do. [quarterage] Br. Wesley...carried to Ct....14.1."—Roll Book of the Lodge at Trim.

The toast was duly honoured."1

Lord Combermere is an unexceptionable witness as to the main facts. But we must take into consideration the length of time since the conversations took place, the age of the speaker, and the circumstances in which he spoke. In the Peninsular days, the Duke may well have had a fresher memory of the Old Lodge at Trim. But it is not given to everyone to reproduce exactly the words of a conversation of nigh fifty years before. Somehow, the words are a misfit in the Duke's mouth. One cannot avoid the suspicion that the fervour of the eulogy may have been due to the orator rather than to the interlocutor. The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.

The Old Lodge failed, as we have seen, to maintain its foothold at Trim, when the local gentry thinned out. In 1838, as soon as the Lodge had been transferred to Dublin, the new Secretary, Bro. Edward Carleton, an eminent Dublin attorney, wrote to the Duke of Wellington, soliciting his patronage, and asking permission to call the Lodge by his Grace's name. The Duke was now in his sixty-ninth year. Nigh half a century had passed since the Hon. A. Wesley had signed the Rule Book at Trim. More than a quarter of a century had passed since the conversations with Lord Combernere. The Duke was in no compliant mood. Already that year he had refused the Lord Rectorship of Glasgow University, alleging it would make him sail under false colours. He meted out the same measure to Bro. Carleton's request.

"London, August 13, 1836.

The Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Mr. Carleton. He perfectly recollects that he was admitted to the lowest grade of Free Masonry in a Lodge which was fixed at Trim, in the County of Meath.

He has never since attended a Lodge of Free Masons. He cannot say that he knows anything of the Art.

His consent to give this Lodge his Name would be a ridiculous assumption of the reputation of being attached to Free Masonry; in addition to being a misrepresentation.

The Duke of Wellington hopes, therefore, that Mr. Carleton will excuse the Duke for declining to comply with his suggestion.

W. Carleton, Esq., No. 14, Dame Street, Dublin."

The Lodge was nettled at the rebuff, and did not care to make the letter public, though its general purport leaked out. The reticence was unfortunate, as it started a suspicion that the Duke had never been a member of the Lodge at Trim. Few knew that one A. Wesley had signed the Rule Book in 1790. Fewer still could be sure that the signature was that of F. M. the Duke of Wellington.

Accordingly, when a casual correspondent in the Freemason's Quarterly Magazine asserted that certain phrases in a letter from the Duke made it impossible that he should have been a Freemason, the assertion found ready credence.

The matter came about in this way. The Duke died, full of years and honours, on the 14th September, 1852. In the course of the ensuing year, fraternal tributes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Freemasons' Quarterly Magazine and Review, 31st December, 1852. See also Military Lodges, by R. F. Gould: London; p. 105. History of Freemasonry, by R. F. Gould, London, 1886, vol. II., p. 254.

Lucher August 13 . He take if Welley to Le fer faither rusther to lowed hade of hee Maining we which was fried it in to lesewhy of

AUTOGRAPH LETTER OF F. M. THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON 1838

attended a. hospe her Mainer. De Carris Say This to herous acce, They of the wit, Les Consent office This Lodge Der Name londs be a nouveres affection of the Refurbation of leaver attailed to pres Meurice, in addition to its beening de numehrerentative

AUTOGRAPH LETTER OF F. M. THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

were paid to his memory by sorrowful survivors. Remarking on one of these eulogies, a correspondent forwarded to the *Freemason's Quarterly Magazine* for March, 1854, the following letter which we reprint verbatim et literatim. It is well to add that nothing else is known of the writer, in Masonry or out of it.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' QUARTERLY MAGAZINE.

St. Germains en Loge (sic), March 6th, 1854.

Dear Sir and Brother,

In reading the last number of the Freemason's Quarterly Magazine, I observed that at the Festival of the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge for North Wales, the Provincial Grand Master, Sir W. W. Wynn, in proposing the health of Lord Combermere, said:—'As Welshmen, we must all be proud to think that three Peninsular Brothers were present at the funeral of the illustrious Brother, the Duke of Wellington.' Now I have been writing for the last five years, a work to be entitled the 'Ancient Builders of the World,' intended to furnish a history of Ancient Masonry and Modern Freemasonry, and among several subjects, I was anxious to have the name and date of reception into Freemasonry of every illustrious man, whether a warrior, philosopher, or poet, &c. For this purpose, I wrote to the Duke of Wellington, and the following is his reply:—

'London, October 13, 1851.

F. M. The Duke of Wellington presents his compliments to Mr. Walsh. He has received his letter of the 7th ult. The Duke has no recollection of having been admitted a Freemason. He has no knowledge of that association.

I am perfectly aware that many lodges which met immediately after the death of the Duke, drank his memory in silence; but is it not a curious fact that the Duke should disavow his knowledge of any intimacy with such a fact? I have looked into several Masonic biographies, and cannot find his name; and it is also a curious thing that the old Napoleon's name, although he was a Mason, does not appear but in one work, and that of the French author, Clarel. I have troubled you with this, thinking it might be interesting.

Yours fraternally,

J. W."1

From the foregoing letter, ill-considered beyond the bounds of good taste and ill expressed to the verge of bad grammar, we gather that the writer had sought to extract from the Duke the details of his initiation, and of his connection with the Craft. The writer is quite unknown. The letter is without guarantee of anthenticity. But the smug effrontery of the application, and the Duke's swashing counter-blow are in such exquisite keeping that we cannot but accept the documents. Se non è vero, è ben trovato. The grim old soldier, then in his eighty-second year, met the impertinent inquirer with the blunt retort that he had "no recollection" of the ceremony, and "no knowledge of that Association." How could the Duke have written otherwise of an evening spent more than sixty years before, in a state of society and at a stage of character that could

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Freemasons' Quarterly Magazine (New Series), Vol. II., No. V. (31st March, 1854), p. 88.

not but seem to him ages on ages away? The roystering aide-de-camp, the fiddle-playing subaltern, the electioneering candidate, the casual Freemason, must have loomed dimly before those aged eyes, like unsubstantial shapes from a dead and buried world.

The impertinent inquirer, whose general ignorance leaks out through every sentence of his letter, had a particular ignorance of the Duke's letter of 1838. All unwitting of the existence of A. Wesley, who had been for five years a subscribing member of the Old Lodge at Trim, the impertinent inquirer read into the Duke's curt phrases a denial that he had ever been a member of the Craft.

In accordance with the traditions of Irish Freemasonry, the Trim Lodge kept silence. The letter in which the Duke acknowledged he had been admitted a Freemason in "the Lodge fixed at Trim," was never made public. The letter to Mr. J. Walsh. which that worthy construed into a denial of Freemasonry, was widely circulated. The Duke's character, habits of life, and methods of thought, gave little hold to the claims of Freemasonry. The repeated variations of name and title, all in one generation of one family, stood as stumbling-blocks in the way of verification. The incomprehensible relations between the Wesleys, whom everybody knew to be Methodists, and the Wellesleys, whom everybody knew to be champions of Orthodoxy in Church and State, contributed a fresh element of perplexity. The Many failed to see how the tradition about A. Wesley and an Irish Freemasons' Lodge had any bearing on the English National Hero, or on the Ducal House of Wellington, whose family name they understood to be Wellesley. The Few were compelled to suspend their judgment, seeing that the evidence was insufficient, both on the side of Biography and on the side of Freemasonry. Thus the tradition connecting the Duke of Wellington with the Old Lodge at Trim came near to being set down on all hands as on a par with the rumour connecting the Rev. John Wesley with the Old Lodge at Downpatrick.

The events commemorated have passed into the domain of Ancient History. Now, for the first time, an attempt has been made to gather the various threads of action into one skein, and to trace through the many-coloured tangle the filament that bound the Wesleys to Freemasonry.

Poets, philosophers, and preachers have not yet grown weary of using the great names of the Wesleys

"To point a moral, or adorn a tale."

But the moralists have missed one source of prophetic speculation. It has ever been a favourite theme with them to forecast what might have happened if Lieut.-Col. A. Wesley had been granted his request to leave the Army and join the Civil Service. We make bold to suggest a more specious and alluring excursion into the shadowy realms of "The Might-have-been." What if Charles Wesley, the Captain of Westminster School, had closed with Garrett Wesley's generous offer and become the heir to the Dangan estates. On the one hand, what would have been the turn that the development of Methodism would have taken, and what would have been the reaction on Protestantism? On the other hand, what would have been the fate of Europe and India without a Wellington or a Wellesley?