

## **Laying the foundation stone. Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary.**

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# Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary.

## LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

(Reprinted from *The Rotherham and Masbro' Advertiser*, Saturday, January 22nd, 1870.)

On Wednesday last the foundation stone of Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary was laid with masonic honours, by Earl De Grey and Ripon, K.G., Lord President of the Council, Deputy Grand Master of England, and Provincial Grand Master of the West Riding. The want of a hospital for Rotherham and its populous district has been felt and acknowledged for many years, and this want has been rendered still more urgent by the accidents peculiar to the trade of the town and neighbourhood. In numerous instances of personal injury sustained by workmen the sufferings of the unfortunate have been greatly intensified by their removal to the Sheffield Infirmary, and in some cases death has been hastened by the journey. Realising their responsibility under such circumstances the principal inhabitants of Rotherham decided that their town should no longer be destitute of a hospital. The Dispensary in College-street has rendered good service to the afflicted, but its incapacity to meet the emergencies of the town and district has long been evident. The present Dispensary, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1828 by the late Earl Fitzwilliam,—the cost being £2,000,—will be merged into the new hospital.

### THE HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT.

The first proposition for building a hospital was introduced to the public in February, 1863, when Mr. Yates, of Oakwood House, offered a plot of land near the College, Masbro', together with a contribution of £500, on these conditions—that half an acre of some adjoining land were purchased, and that an expenditure of £2,000 were incurred. A committee was formed, of which Mr. Yates himself was chairman, but the matter was allowed to rest, and was not revived until Decem-



ber, 1867, when a meeting was held at the Mechanics' Hall, and another committee appointed to further the desired object. This committee met on January, 2nd, 1868, and after passing a resolution as to the desirability of erecting an infirmary in the neighbourhood of Rotherham, decided upon attempting to raise £6,000 for that purpose, and appointed sub-committees to make inquiries as to a suitable site, and to receive subscriptions. Considerable progress was made during that month, both as regards the site and the constitution of the proposed new hospital; and a magnificent subscription of £1,000 towards the building fund promised by Miss Nightingale, of Rotherham, gave a vigorous impulse to the movement. On the 6th of March, in the same year, a largely attended meeting, presided over by Earl Fitzwilliam, was held in the Mechanics' Hall, to learn the feeling of the inhabitants upon the matter. At this meeting it was unanimously decided to proceed with the undertaking. A fresh start was then made, and the reorganised committee, of which Mr. Yates was appointed chairman, Mr. Guest, vice-chairman, and Mr. John Barras hon. sec., went vigorously to work. It was again decided to raise the sum of £6,000, and £1,500 was fixed upon as the maximum amount to be expended in the purchase of a site.

#### THE SITE OF THE BUILDING.

A piece of land situated at St. Ann's Hill, Rotherham, engaged the attention of the committee, but when they were about making a purchase another and more suitable site was introduced to their notice. This was a piece of land, four acres in extent known as Babb's Croft, situated on the right hand side of the Doncaster-road, opposite the Congregational Church. It was the joint property of the Earl of Effingham and Lord Howard, and was valued at nearly £700 more than the committee had arranged to expend in the purchase of a site. This difference, however, the generous owners offered to contribute as their subscription to the building fund, and before the end of October, 1868, the land in question became the chosen site. The next task was the selection of a suitable design for the new building. Architects were invited to compete, three prizes amounting altogether to more than £100 being offered by the committee. The successful competitors were Messrs. Mallinson and Bakewell, of Leeds; the second prize being awarded to Messrs. A. Crombie and Sons, Dumfries; and the third to Messrs. Hill and Swann, of Leeds and Sheffield. The contract was subsequently let to Messrs. Askew Brothers, Parkgate, for £4,680; the original estimate of the architects £5,197 having been reduced by £517. A description of the building has already appeared in the *Advertiser*.



## THE SUBSCRIBERS.

The appeals of the committee, from the earliest stages of the movement, have been favourably received. In addition to the handsome subscriptions of Miss Nightingale, the Earl of Effingham and Lord Howard, many other liberal donations were given to the good cause, among which the following may be mentioned:—Earl Fitzwilliam, £500; Messrs. Guest and Chrimes, £250; Messrs. Yates, Haywood, and Drabble, £250; R. J. Bentley, Esq., J.P., £250, with an annual subscription of £20; the Rotherham Gas Company, £105; Messrs. J. and J. Charlesworth, £100; Messrs. Harrison and Camm, £100; Messrs. J. N. Mappin, 100; G. S. Foljambe, Esq., £100; Aldwarke Main Colliery Company, £63; Messrs. Rhodes and Harvey, £60; Owen's Company, Limited, £52 10s.; G. W. Chambers, Esq., J.P., £50; Mr. W. Corbitt, £50, and £5 annually; Mrs. Thompson, £50; Mr. F. Edwards, £50; Mr. Joseph Badger, £50; Messrs. Morgan, Macaulay, and Waide, £50; Steeplechase Committee, £50; Masbro' Stove-Grate Company, £50; Mr. C. L. Coward, £50, and the conveyance, &c.; Mr. H. Wigfield, £50; Messrs. Beatson and Co. (glass works), £50; and Mr. Geo. Dawes, £50. Many noble subscriptions from the workmen of the district were also promised, those employed at Messrs. Guest and Chrimes promising in two years £250; Messrs. Yates, Haywood, and Co. ditto, £100; Earl Fitzwilliam's Colliery ditto, £100; Messrs. Charlesworth's Colliery, £100; Midland Iron Company, £90; Messrs. Corbitt and Co. in two years £60, and an annual subscription of £25; Baths Foundry in two years £50; Messrs. Harrison and Camm, £40, &c., &c. The total sum promised amounts to upwards of £6,000, which will about cover the probable cost of the building and land. The internal fittings, &c., of the new hospital, will necessitate a further outlay, and it is anticipated that additional contributions amounting to £1,500 or £2,000 will be needed.

## THE CEREMONY.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone was attractive and imposing. At twelve o'clock most of the shops in the town were closed, and from that hour the people gave themselves up to rejoicing. At a few minutes past one o'clock the procession started from the Mechanics' Hall, accompanied by several bands; and all along the prescribed route the greatest pleasurable excitement was manifested. The bells of the Parish Church rang merry peals, flags were suspended, and every window from which the procession could be witnessed contributed its quota of spectators. The Freemasons of Rotherham were favoured with the presence of a large number of distinguished brethren from all parts of the county, and there



were also visitors from neighbouring counties. In the morning, the Grand Lodge of Yorkshire was held at the Mechanics' Hall, under the banner of the Phoenix Lodge, and there was a large attendance of the brethren of the craft. The Phoenix Lodge was presided over by Brother Parker, and Brothers Perrot and Saville were the wardens. The Right Hon. the Earl de Grey and Ripon, Deputy Grand Master of England and Provincial Grand Master of Yorkshire, occupied the chair, and was supported by Brother Bentley Shaw, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. After the Provincial Grand Lodge had been duly opened and certain business had been transacted, the brethren formed in the order of procession—junior lodges first—some of the lodges being preceded by their banners, the brethren in the clothing, jewels, and collars of their respective ranks. The brethren were marshalled by Brother Major Nelson, the Provincial Grand Lodge Secretary. The procession marshalled by Mr. Superintendent Gillett, moved in the following order :

Superintendent Gillett, mounted, with a body of police.

Rotherham Volunteer Band.

12th Company of 4th W.Y.R.V., commanded by Captain Harrison and Ensign Harrison.

36th Company of the 4th W.Y.R.V., under the command of Captain Robinson.

Board of Health Fire Engine and Brigade.

Lodges of South Yorkshire Miners' Association.

National Independent Order of Oddfellows, with banner. Parkgate Brass Band.

Nearly 500 members of the British United Order of Oddfellows, including the following lodges :—Normansell, Parkgate, Good Samaritan, Havelock, Bentley's Hand of Friendship, Hand of Providence, Milton, and Knight of the Garter, marshalled by Brothers Greaves and Norburn.

Whiston Brass Band.

Nearly 1,000 members of the Manchester Unity Order of Oddfellows, including the following lodges :—Parkgate, Quarryman's Pride, Queen Victoria, Fitzwilliam, Star of Providence, Covenant, Bud of Hope, Phoenix, Fountain of Friendship, Good Intent, and Lord Milton, under the leadership of P.G.M. Stother, P.G.M. Seddon, P.G. Purnel, and P.G. Gibbs.

Wath Brass Band.

About seventy members of Court Rother 2286, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, conducted by P.C.R. Seymour.

Rawmarsh Board of Health.

Rotherham and Kimberworth Board of Health.

Rotherham Board of Guardians.

Grammar School Boys, to the number of forty, in charge of the Rev. J. J. Christie, head master; and Mr. Searle, assistant-master.

Students of the Independent College, Masbro', fourteen in number, accompanied by Dr. Falding, principal of the College.

Donors and Subscribers.

Ministers of Religion.

Representatives of Neighbouring Towns.



Magistrates.

Feoffees.

Dispensary Committee.

Medical Profession.

Hospital Committee.

Grafton's Brass Band.

Freemasons.

Rotherham Troop of Yeomanry, under the command of  
Lieut. the Hon. H. Fitzwilliam and Cornet Bentley  
Police.

The route of the procession was along Bridgegate, Wellgate, Mansfield Road, Talbot Lane, High-street, to the site in Doncaster Road. Here a large platform had been erected, but the inclemency of the weather only allowed a small number to avail themselves of the position. After some preliminary movements,

The Right Hon. the Earl FITZWILLIAM, K.G., stepped forward and said: My Lord, I am desired, as chairman of the Committee, to ask you to lay the foundation-stone of this Public Hospital. (Applause.)

The Right Hon. the Earl DE GREY and RIPON K.G.: My Lord Fitzwilliam, I shall have great pleasure in performing that honourable function. (Cheers.)

JOHN GUEST, Esq., then came forward, and addressing the Right Worshipful Master, said: My Lord De Grey and Ripon, Mr. Dixon has very handsomely presented the Committee with this trowel, and mallet, and I, as the organ of the Committee, have great pleasure in handing them to your lordship. (Cheers.)

Beautifully engraved on the silver trowel is the following inscription:—

"Presented to the Right Hon. George Frederick Samuel Earl de Grey and Earl of Ripon, Viscount Goderich, Baron Grantham, and a Baronet, Lord President of Her Majesty's Council, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Deputy Grand Master of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England, and Provincial Grand Master for the West Riding of Yorkshire, on the occasion of his laying the foundation stone of the Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary, by the donor, Wm. Frederick Dixon, Esq., J.P., and D.L., on behalf of the committee and subscribers, January 19th, 1870."

The trowel and mallet are enclosed in a neat case, the gift of Mr. J. G. Needham, silversmith, College-street, Rotherham.

Brother Major Nelson, the Provincial Grand Secretary, then mounted the dais, and read the contents of the document inserted in the phial about to be placed in the cavity of the stone, as follows:

"On Wednesday, the nineteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and in the thirty-third year of the reign of Her Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, in the presence of the Right Honourable Earl Fitzwilliam, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Lord



Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and of a great Company of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood assembled for the purpose, including the representatives of all the public institutions, the professions and manufactures of the district, the corner stone of the building to be called the Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary, intended for the gratuitous relief of bodily sickness, and to be erected by the free contributions of the people of the town and vicinity, aided in a great measure by the liberality of Miss Nightingale, the Earl of Effingham, Earl Fitzwilliam, the proprietors of large manufactures, and the workmen employed therein, was, and with full Masonic honours, according to the ancient customs, by the Right Hon. Earl de Grey and Ripon, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Lord President of her Majesty's Council, Deputy Grand Master of England, and Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire, in the hope that the building may be successfully completed, and be long maintained for its benevolent purposes. Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward men."

The band of the Rotherham Rifle Volunteers then played the "Old Hundredth," after which

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPLAIN (Rev. Dr. Senior, of Wakefield) then prayed in the following terms:—

O great and glorious Architect of the Universe, by whose creative fiat all things were made, we, the frail creatures of Thy providence assembled on this occasion, humbly implore Thee to pour down Thy blessing and favour upon this our undertaking. Grant, O blessed Father, that from the foundation stone this day to be laid there may in due time arise a structure perfect in its parts and honourable to the builder; and grant that here, in this sacred and hallowed building, Thy blessing may rest upon all. Defend, we pray Thee, every one employed on this building from peril, or loss of limb or of life; and grant that Thy blessing may attend this and every other undertaking for the welfare of this populous parish, and for the good and the benefit of those who are distressed and infirm. Prosper thou our undertaking, O Lord, and bless our work to Thy glory and the benefit of the afflicted and the distressed.

The RIGHT WORSHIPFUL MASTER, amid cheers, spread the mortar, and then the stone was slowly lowered "with three distinct stops," the band playing "Rule Britannia." Brother Edward Armitage presented the plummet, Brother Peace presented the level, and Brother Bentley Shaw the square. The just position and form of the stone having been thus proved, Brother Seebohm delivered the mallet, with which the Right Worshipful Master gave three taps.

Then Brother Brittain ascended the dais and produced the cornucopia, from which the Right Worshipful the Master took corn to spread upon the stone, at the same time saying:—I scatter corn in sign of wealth and plenty.

From Brother Matthews the Right Worshipful Master took the vessel containing wine and poured



its contents over the stone, saying, "I pour wine in sign of joy and cheerfulness"; after which,

The Right Worshipful Master took the ewer of oil from Brother Holroyd, and pouring it on the stone said, "I pour oil in sign of peace and happiness."

The Rev. WALTER SENIOR, LL.D. (officiating as Provincial Grand Chaplain), then offered up the following prayer:—

Father of Mercies and God of comfort, we thank Thee for this and every opportunity of showing our devotedness and zeal to Thee, and also our charity towards our brethren in affliction. Bless, O Lord, this our undertaking, and accept this our offering and tribute of thanksgiving. Bless this neighbourhood with plenty of corn and oil and wine. May it flourish not only temporally but spiritually; and grant Thy benediction on the building to be erected on this foundation, that it may prove a blessing to the neighbourhood at large. O, Lord, be with us; dismiss us with Thy blessing; and may we ever learn to adorn the Craft with wisdom, and fervency, and zeal, that, when our labours here are ended, we, with those who are near and dear to us, may be thought worthy to be exalted to that grand and glorious asylum and infirmary above, where Thou reignest, glorious Architect and Grand Master for ever.

The RIGHT WORSHIPFUL MASTER then stepped upon the stone, amid hearty applause, and said: My Lord Fitzwilliam, Ladies, and Gentlemen.—I am sure that after the long time you have been waiting here at this season of the year, I shall best consult your feelings if I detain you but a few moments; but at the same time I cannot resist offering to you my hearty congratulations upon the event of this day, because it seems to me that it is a just subject of congratulation to this neighbourhood that we have successfully laid the first stone of a building which is to be dedicated to purposes so useful, and which we trust may speedily be brought to a satisfactory completion. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) For none can doubt, I think, that the object for which this building is designed, is one of the best objects upon which money can be spent—the relief of human suffering, and the affording to our sick and injured neighbours the means of recovery from the illness or the accident with which in the chances of this life they may have been afflicted. (Hear, hear.) And, ladies and gentlemen, I rejoice to understand that the subscriptions that have been raised for this good work have been contributed by all classes of this important community. (Hear, hear.) I understand that among the subscribers are many of the working class; and nothing can be more gratifying than to learn that those among them who have been fortunate in life have been ready to come forward with their subscriptions—small it may be in amount—but rendered valuable by the spirit by which they have been actuated in giving them.



(Cheers.) Ladies and gentlemen, earnestly do I trust that this building may rise a worthy institution, worthy of this great and increasing community, and that it may in coming years confer a benefit upon the people of your neighbourhood. (Applause.)

Brother Major NELSON called upon the assembly to give three cheers for Lord de Grey and Ripon, and the call was cordially responded to. Hearty cheers were also given for Lord Fitzwilliam, for the committee of the institution, and for the success of "the Public Hospital;" after which the band played "God save the Queen," and the proceedings terminated, the Masonic procession being re-formed in reverse order, the Right Worshipful Master returning to the Provincial Grand Lodge at the head of the procession of Freemasons.

### THE BANQUET.

At three o'clock a banquet was held in the Mechanics' Hall, when a large and influential assemblage of guests sat down to luncheon, prepared by Mr. Brown, of the Prince of Wales Hotel, Masbro'. The Right Hon. Earl Fitzwilliam, K.G., presided, and the noble chairman was supported on the platform by Earl De Grey and Ripon, K.G., D.P.G.M., and P.G.M., West Yorkshire; Lord Milton, M.P., Bentley Shaw, Esq., J.P., P.G.D., D.P.G.M.; the Rev. Jos. Senior, LL.D., P.G.S., P.P.S.G.W.; the Hon. and Rev. P. V. Saville, M.A., Pro. S.G.W.; Edward Armatage, Esq., Pro. J.G.W.; R. R. Nelson, Esq., P.D.P.G.M., P.G. Sec.; Charles Oldroyd, Esq., P.P.G.R., Pro. G. Sec.; James Peace, Esq., P.P.G.W.; Henry Inchbold, Esq., P.P.G.P. and W.M., Leeds; T. W. Parker, Esq., W.M., Rotherham; the Mayor of Sheffield, the Rev. R. Mosley, and the Rev. H. M. White. The Vice-Chairmen were—Mr. G. Haywood, Mr. John Guest, Mr. Joseph Badger, and Captain Harrison. The company in the body of the hall was chiefly composed of ladies and gentlemen resident in Rotherham and neighbourhood, and, amongst others, included the following:—Mr. R. B. Shaw and lady friends, the Rev. Dr. Falding, the Rev. J. J. Christie, the Rev. W. J. Gates, the Rev. J. S. Balmer, the Rev. W. Blazeby, Mr. and Mrs. Drabble, Mrs. G. Haywood, Mr. R. Haywood, Mrs. Guest, Mr. and the Misses Corbitt, Mr. and Mrs. John Brown, Mr. and Mrs. F. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. S. Brown, Mr. Knight, Mr. Crowther, Mr. and Mrs. Perrott, Professor Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Smith, Mr. Kitchingman, Mr. H. Flintham, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Nightingale, Mr. Law, Dr. Wilkinson, Mr. Thompson, Mr. G. Shaw, Mr. Bohn and Mr. Collinson, of Sheffield, &c., &c. During the banquet the Rotherham Volunteer Brass Band played selections of music.

The CHAIRMAN having given "The Queen, the



Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family."

EARL DE GREY and RIPON, who was received with loud and prolonged cheering, rose and said:—I rejoice to find that, according to this programme, it falls to my lot to propose to you "The Health of the Army, Navy, Yeomanry, and Volunteers." (Cheers.) I rejoice at this because I know that that is a toast which is always received with enthusiasm whenever it is proposed in this country, and I rejoice at it also because no man can be more convinced than I am of the vast importance to this country of the efficiency of our military forces. (Hear, hear.) It is, my lord, the great problem of the day in respect to these forces to discover how they may be rendered most efficient in time of war, at the least cost to the country in time of peace. (Cheers.) And difficult as that problem is, I can assure you it will be the earnest endeavour of her Majesty's Government, so far as be in their power, to solve it. (Hear, hear.) I need say nothing of the army or the navy; their services are written on the most glorious pages of English history, and are known to you all. But although they have borne with honour the flag of England in the storm of battle in every part of the world, no less, perhaps, ought to be our gratitude to those other forces whose duties lie more at home, who have less opportunities of distinguishing themselves in the field, and who are devoting themselves day by day, and night by night, to prepare that best defence of nations, which consists in an adequate preparation for the hour of danger. (Cheers.) But perhaps I may be permitted to make one addition to this toast, because I see that there is not included in it the name of the Militia. (Hear, hear.) Now, great as is the value to this country of the Yeomanry and the Volunteers, we ought not on these occasions as it seems to me to forget their elder sister, the Militia of England. (Cheers.) I give you "The Army, Navy, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers." (Loud applause.)

THE REV. DR. FALDING in rising to propose the next toast was well received. He said: My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen, in the absence of Mr. Yates, through indisposition, it has fallen into my hands to propose the toast which stands in connection with his name. I need not attempt to express the opinion of this assembly as to the merits of the toast which I have to propose. My Lord Fitzwilliam lives amongst his neighbours and friends, who hold his lordship in great respect,—I may say in very deep affection. (Applause.) I need not therefore describe the many excellent qualities of heart and life which endear his lordship so much to his neighbours, nor speak of the manner in which the county magistrates fulfil their arduous and honourable duties. (Cheers.)



I am quite sure that this company will join with great enthusiasm in the toast of "The Lord-Lieutenant of the West Riding and the County Magistrates." (Loud Applause.)

The toast was drunk with much enthusiasm.

The Noble CHAIRMAN, who was received with loud cheering, said : It is with the greatest gratification that I rise to respond to the toast proposed by the Rev. Dr. Falding, and not only for the toast but for the very kind way in which that toast was offered for your reception. But it is not in the capacity of Lord Lieutenant that I wish to return thanks on the occasion, but rather as the chairman of the Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary. (Cheers.) When the proposal was first made that an institution of that sort should be established in this town, it met with my most warm approbation. (Hear, hear.) I thought, looking back at what Rotherham was when I was a child, that the time had arrived when it could no longer be without that most important institution—a public hospital and dispensary. (Hear hear.) You all know what Rotherham is now, but few of you know what it was at the time I first knew it. There are now, I believe, within a mile on either side of us a population of not much less than 50,000 persons ; but when I knew the town first, its fullest, extent of population was somewhere between 4000 and 5000. (Hear hear). You will see then that the hospital and dispensary had become absolutely necessary for the town ; and I am most glad to think that all classes in and around Rotherham have taken their share in bringing the movement to a successful issue. We are indebted—excuse me making use of the term—to that noble nest egg of Miss Nightingale's—(cheers)—to enable us to begin efficiently with the good work. In addition to that noble gift, persons of every class have given their large sums as well as their mites, and when a movement like ours is taken up by every class there is every prospect of its being brought to a successful issue. (Cheers.) I don't know whether I ought to now allude to the various donations which have been given from time to time, but I am bound to bring before this assembly a most noble donation which as yet cannot have been known to any of you, as it has only reached me yesterday afternoon. I mean the donation of Mr. J. N. Mappin, who on behalf of his fellow creatures in this town, has placed in my hands the noble sum of £500. (Loud cheers.) There was not a great deficiency of funds even before this donation arrived ; and if others will follow Mr. Mappin's noble example, it will be easy indeed to put the coping-stone upon the building, the foundation stone of which has been laid to day. (Cheers.) As there are so many toasts on the list, and thinking that it is unnecessary to say much on these occasions, I will not say any more on my own



account, but will at once proceed to propose the healths of my friends and superiors, and leaders, Lord Zetland, the Grand Master of England; and and Earl de Grey and Ripon, the Deputy Grand Master. (Cheers). Everyone in Rotherham, if they feel as I feel, must appreciate the kindness, of a gentleman in Lord de Grey's position coming amongst us to do an act like this which he has done to-day. (Hear, hear.) We shall all drink with enthusiasm to his health and long happiness, and as he has once made his appearance amongst us, we hope it will not be the last time we shall see his face. (Cheers.) I beg to give you "The health of Lord Zetland, Lord de Grey and Ripon, and Officers of the Grand Lodge." (Cheers.)

Earl DE GREY and RIPON, in responding said: On behalf of my noble friend, our most worshipful Grand Master, on my own behalf, and that of the other officers of the Grand Lodge of England, I beg to return you all my warmest thanks for the manner in which you have been pleased to receive the toast so kindly proposed by my noble friend in the chair. I can assure you that there mixes but one feeling of regret in my mind in connection with the toast, and that is that I fear this is one of the last occasions upon which it will be my duty, or that of any other Freemason, to return thanks for Lord Zetland as our most worshipful Grand Master. Those of you in this room who do not belong to our craft must of course be ignorant of the especial service which Lord Zetland has rendered to Freemasonry now for more than a quarter of a century—(hear, hear)—but I am confident that there is no one in this room who has the honour and happiness of knowing Lord Zetland, whether it be as the Lord Lieutenant of a neighbouring Riding, or whether it be only as a fellow Yorkshireman, who will not be convinced that he must have rendered great service to any institution which has had the good fortune to be under his guidance for so long a period. (Cheers.) I believe I speak the unanimous feeling of the craft when I say it is with sensations of poignant regret that we find that in his lordship's opinion the time has come when we must lose his services as our Grand Master; but I am confident that it will be a great satisfaction to him to learn that his name has been received so warmly on an occasion like this—that one more proof has been given by the bretheren of the craft of their high estimation of the work which for 25 years he has done for them. (Cheers.)

The MAYOR of SHEFFIELD proposed the next toast; "The Archbishop, clergy, and ministers of all denominations." He congratulated the people of Rotherham upon the good work which they had commenced that day, a work which had become a necessity in the town in consequence of the great increase of population, and the large number of



works there were in the town. Accidents in those works must constantly occur, and therefore the necessity for a hospital was most apparent. The hospitals in Sheffield were very largely used; indeed, by some statistics which were furnished last year, he found that their benefits had been shared in by no less than one-third of the population. (Hear, hear.) His Worship regretted the absence of the Archbishop, but said it gave him pleasure to see the unanimity which seemed to exist among the clergy and ministers of other denominations in the district.

The Rev. J. SENIOR, (Past Grand Chaplain of England) in responding said: I have great pleasure indeed in responding on behalf of the Archbishop, the clergy of the province, and the ministers of other denominations. I most sincerely wish, —and I am sure you all join with me in the wish, —that the Archbishop had been able to be present with us to-day; for I well know his kindly heart, and I am sure it would have given him much pleasure to have taken part in the labour in which we this day have been engaged. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. J. GATES also responded on behalf of the ministers of other denominations. He heartily endorsed the sentiment which had been so liberally expressed by the preceeding speaker. (Applause.)

The Noble CHAIRMAN next proposed the "Health of Earl De Grey and Ripon as the Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire." His lordship humourously alluded to the fact that they had already drunk Earl De Grey's health but, as it required a little renovating, he was sure the company would have no objection to drink it again. Indeed, so far as he was concerned, it would give him much pleasure to do anything which would make Earl Grey a stronger and a more efficient member of society than before. (Cheers and laughter.) He was sure they all appreciated his lordship's kindness in coming amongst them; because they well knew that if a Cabinet Minister had not a great deal to do, he ought to have. (Hear, hear and laughter.) He ought perhaps to propose Lord Grey's health as being a Cabinet Minister, but he would propose it as being the Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire. (Cheers.)

Earl DE GREY and RIPON, who was again received with loud cheers, said:—I rise, my lord, to obey orders, and I will not quarrel with you, though you have made me do a double amount of work, because by your kindness in thus proposing my health, you have obtained for me the great gratification of the friendly reception which you, ladies and gentlemen, have been pleased to accord to me. (Hear, hear.) What is there which is more likely to renovate a man's health than talking with his mother Yorkshire? (Laughter.) Sure at least I am of this, that speaking for myself, I



always feel greatly the better for mingling once more among my kind friends in the West Riding, to whose kindness and confidence in former days I owe so deep a debt of gratitude—a debt which will never pass from my recollection. (Cheers.) And certainly if there be any class of persons in the country who need to have their health strengthened to the utmost by every possible means it does appear to me that it is—in these days—a Cabinet Minister just before the Meeting of Parliament, for difficult indeed is the task, and heavy are the responsibilities which now devolve upon anyone who is connected with the government of the country. (Cheers.) But it is not as a Cabinet Minister that I appear before you this evening. I am here in a different capacity, as the Provincial Grand Master of the Ancient Order of Freemasons—(cheers)—but I cannot help thinking that there are many present to-night who may be inclined to ask, “What business have Freemasons to meddle with the Rotherham Hospital?” (Hear, hear, and laughter.) Now, the outside world is apt to be sceptical, and I see before me, happily in large numbers, the fairest and most influential portion of the community, many of whom I fear are not always inclined to look with the most friendly eyes upon Freemasons, because—and I cannot deny that it is not open to the charge, and a very grave one it is—we are so ungallant a society as to exclude the ladies from amongst us. (Laughter.) It does, however, appear to me, though I am not going to divulge the secrets of the craft—(laughter)—that nothing could be more fitting, and nothing more natural, than that the Masonic body should have gladly accepted the invitation which you made to them to be present upon this occasion, and to conduct the ceremony of laying the first stone of this valuable institution. (Hear, hear.) I say this because, without entering upon those hidden mysteries to which the vulgar cannot be admitted, my noble friend (Earl Fitzwilliam) cautions me and says that this not very complimentary to the ladies—(laughter)—but the truth is I have heard so many hard things said about Freemasonry that I now feel inclined to pay them back in their own coin. (Laughter.) We have a right to take a part in ceremonies of this description, inasmuch as one of the first and most fundamental principles of our society is that we should devote ourselves to works of charity. (Hear, hear.) And can there be a work of charity of which we can be more certain that it is a sound one, and one deserving of support, than the erection of an hospital? (Hear, hear.) We live in times when men are forced to ask themselves many difficult questions upon the subject of public and private charity. We have too many reasons of different kinds for doubting whether much that is called charity really works for good.



(Hear, hear.) There can, I think, be no question that the indiscriminate almsgiving which was once so much approved of, in the light and experience of modern times must be condemned as an undoubted evil—(hear, hear, and cheers)—and so it is when we are asked to take part in any charitable work. there are many considerations to be looked at upon every side, that a man has to ask himself very often whether he is quite certain that in yielding to his natural inclination to aid in that which is undertaken with the best intentions, he is doing good to his neighbour or to his country. But there can, I think, be no question of doubt in the mind of any man in the case of an hospital. (Hear, hear.) There can be no doubt as to the sufferings it is intended to alleviate; there can be no doubt as to the efficiency of the remedies which you endeavour to apply to that suffering; and no man can question—as it seems to me—the outlay for that purpose, for it is an outlay of the best possible description. (Cheers.) Well, then, if it be so, we of the Masonic craft—who boast, and boast truly, when we look at our ancient principles, that foremost amongst those principles stands the sacred name of charity—are bound to come forward upon occasions of this kind if it is acceptable to the managers of institutions like the present. (Cheers.) We are bound to do our part—small indeed it is—in that good work in which we are engaged. Therefore I can say, not for myself only, but I am confident for every one of my Masonic brethren, that we are rejoiced to come here to-day to add—if we have been able to add—anything to the interest or solemnity of the occasion. (Cheers.) Heartily then do I thank you for the honour you have done us, and for the warm reception you have been pleased to accord to us. I am glad to find that in the programme of this evening's toasts you are invited to drink success to the Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary, and to couple with it the name of Mr. Barras, the honorary secretary. (Loud Cheers.) Our presence here is of itself a sufficient testimony of the value which we as Freemasons attach to the work in which you are engaged. If it is gratifying indeed to see that in a town like which, within the memory of my noble friend, as he has told us this evening, has increased from between 4000 and 5000 inhabitants within a small circuit to something like 50,000 within the same circuit; it is gratifying indeed to see that with the vast increase of population and the great increase of wealth which has accompanied it there has also been, and there is in an increasing degree, a readiness to attend to all the wants of the population, and to provide for those who may suffer, whether by the accidents which are necessarily attendant on such industry as is carried on here, or by other visitations of Providence; to provide for them the means of medical attendance and all



other comforts which may be suitable for them in their unfortunate position. (Cheers.) On that ground I heartily congratulate you upon the work which you have begun to-day, and I trust it may be brought to a successful issue. I think we have had to night proof of the public spirit of this district in the magnificent donation which has been announced from the chair. (Cheers.) If you are fortunate here in Rotherham in possessing such citizens as the gentleman who has given that splendid donation, I am rejoiced to hear that you are more fortunate yet in the munificence of the ladies of the neighbourhood. When I first took up this list of toasts, I was struck by seeing the toast of the "donors," coupled with the name of Miss Nightingale. (Cheers.) As this is the first occasion on which I have had the pleasure of visiting your neighbourhood, it was perhaps not unnatural that the first thought that suggested to my mind was, "Here is another good work of her whose name is a household word in England, Florence Nightingale." You seem to be particularly fortunate in Rotherham. As Englishmen, you have your right to be proud of Florence Nightingale, and you have a Miss Nightingale of your own, who has given in the most magnificent manner the best proofs of her zeal. (Loud Cheers.) She heartily deserves our warmest congratulations. I need hardly tell you that I shall watch with the greatest interest the progress of this building, and I trust that the dimensions that are now planned may be the commencement of a yet more magnificent structure. (Cheers.) Most heartily do I now invite you to drink prosperity to so noble and valuable an institution as will be the Rotherham Hospital and Dispensary. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. J. BARRAS, in rising to respond, was received with enthusiastic cheering. In the course of his remarks he said that it was stated when they commenced the movement which they had now so happily inaugurated that it was impossible to build an hospital in Rotherham. They had only laid the foundation stone of the building that day, but he felt as confident of the ultimate success of the work as if the building were erected. (Cheers.) They had already a good deal of the money required—indeed they were not at all short of money—but more was needed. Lord de Grey had very properly spoken upon the subject of indiscriminate charity. That kind of charity, he believed, had been a great failing, and the best means of preventing much indulgence in indiscriminate charity would be for those who were accustomed to give their alms in that way to send them to the committee of the Rotherham Hospital, as they would then be convinced that they would be properly applied. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He had filled many public offices, but he had never experienced greater pleasure than in serving the committee of the Rother-



ham Hospital. (Hear, hear.) Whatever had been said outside, there had been but one opinion in the committee-room, that was: they wanted an hospital and a common determination they would have one. They had worked with that object, and there was no doubt of their ultimate success. (Cheers.)

Earl DE GREY and RIPON then proposed "The Deputy Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire, Bentley Shaw, Esq., J.P., P.G.D., and the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge," and said he always felt a deep and increasing sense of gratitude to Mr. Bentley Shaw for the manner in which he had for many years discharged his duties, and rendered him most valuable assistance. (Applause.) His (the speaker's) other vocations of a public description called him very much to London and necessarily occupied a large portion of his time; and it would be simply impossible that the duties of his office could be properly discharged if he had not efficient aid in the person of his Deputy. (Applause.)

Mr. BENTLEY SHAW, who was loudly cheered, in returning thanks, assured the company that that day had been a most interesting and a happy one to him. Connected as he had been by ties of family relationship with the good old town of Rotherham for more than 30 years past, and connected as he now was by closer and still stronger family ties, the gratification he had enjoyed in being permitted to take a humble part in the most interesting ceremonial at the stone was far higher than any words of his could describe. (Hear, hear.) The only drawback to his enjoyment was the absence of Mr. Yates, of Oakwood. (Hear, hear.) He dare say most of them were aware that he had been suffering lately from a severe attack of bronchitis, from which, however, he (Mr. Shaw) was glad to say he was now recovering. But the stern decree went forth from his medical adviser, Dr. Shearman, that he was on no account whatever to go out of doors, and to that decree Mr. Yates had felt it his duty to lend a most willing, though at the same time a disappointing, obedience. He was commissioned by Mr. Yates to tell them that his interest in that noble institution, the Hospital, was not one whit abated, that in point of fact his sympathy was not only deep but deepening, and that he was willing to do all in his power to bring it to a successful issue. (Cheers.) Mr. Yates felt it a great deprivation to be absent from that assembly, where he had hoped to have had the honour and privilege of supporting the noble Lord in the chair. (Hear, hear.) Allusion had been made in the course of the evening to many contributions that had come in from the working classes. That was one of the most gratifying features of the work in which they were engaged: and such was the community of feeling and interest, such



the sympathetic connection between the rich, and the noble, and the middle, and the lower classes of that district in the work, that it would not only ensure for the Hospital a large measure of support, but it would tend to make it a permanently useful and valuable institution in the town. (Cheers.)

The Noble CHAIRMAN gave the health of "The Building Committee and Architects."

Mr. WM. BAKEWELL returned thanks, and assured the company that no effort on the part of the committee or the architects should be wanting to carry the work in which they were engaged to a successful termination. (Cheers.)

The Rev. Dr. FALDING proposed the toast of "The Medical Profession: coupled with Dr. Shearman." In the course of his remarks he observed that the carrying on of the Hospital in the future depended entirely upon the unremunerated toils and disinterested services of the medical gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood. (Hear, hear.) They were told that the age in which they lived was a mercenary age, an age in which no one did anything for nothing. If that was true of any class, it did not certainly apply to the medical profession in general, and certainly not to the medical gentlemen of Rotherham. (Hear, hear.) When they bore in mind the long and expensive training which was required to fit medical men for their profession; when they remembered also how uncertain and often how long delayed success was, and how short and precarious the season in which a medical man could hope to make provision for his family and profit for himself; when they recollected all this, they might wonder that the medical men of the town should be the very first and foremost in promoting an institution which would damage no one's pecuniary interests but their own, and which would tax no person's time so much as theirs. (Cheers.) Notwithstanding that, the medical men of the town had been as zealous and earnest in promoting the institution as any of the rest of the inhabitants of the town. (Cheers.) The rev. gentleman said that Dr. Shearman was a gentleman eminent in his profession, and well known for his scientific attainments. He had taken a leading and earnest part in the steps which had led to the proceedings of that day; and they relied very much upon his counsel and help for the completion of the undertaking. (Cheers.)

Dr. SHEARMAN, in rising to respond, was warmly received. He said: On behalf of the Medical Profession of Rotherham I beg to thank you for the kind reception you have given to their claims; and on my own behalf, I fear I do not deserve the eulogium which Dr. Falding has so kindly passed upon me, although I thank him sincerely for his high opinion. For forty years I have witnessed the agony, misery, and suffering of those unfortu-



nate workmen who have met with severe accidents in their daily labour, requiring the immediate combined skill and attention of the best informed in my profession, whose sufferings have been tenfold increased by their removal seven or eight miles in carts, cabs, and by rail to the Sheffield Infirmary, where, on their arrival, they have been found, in consequence of the effects of the journey, totally unfit to undergo the necessary operations, which, if performed before the nervous system had suffered such agony, would have been successful ; and they have died in consequence. It is for this reason, alone, I have for so many years been anxious to see an Hospital established in Rotherham, solely to save the lives of those hard-working men who, by their daily toil and endurance, have tended to enrich our large manufacturers and made them wealthy. This is, therefore, to me, a day of great rejoicing, feeling—as I do—that after I am dead and forgotten, the poor labourer will have the benefit of the best medical and surgical skill, on the very spot on which he has received his accident. I again thank you for your kind compliment to my profession. (Loud applause.)

Mr. GEORGE HAYWOOD proposed "The Donors," coupling with it the names of Miss Nightingale, Earl of Effingham, Earl Fitzwilliam, and Mr. J. Mappin. In the course of his remarks the speaker adverted to the handsome generosity of the donors, and to the feelings which may have probably influenced non-subscribers in hitherto withholding their subscriptions.

The Rev. H. M. WHITE gave the next toast, "The Feoffees, Board of Guardians, and Board of Health," coupling with the toast the name of Mr. J. Guest.

Mr. GUEST, in responding, assured the company that it would be a most congenial duty on the part of the feoffees to second the noble and generous efforts which had been made by all ranks and grades in the town to raise an hospital. The feoffees were animated by an earnest desire to dispense the important trusts committed to them in the best way they possibly could for the advantage of the town, and he believed it would be their will as well as it would be in their power to give the institution substantial help. (Cheers.) Referring to the work which had been done by the old Dispensary, he stated that during the 64 years it had been established it had treated about 100,000 cases, with the smallest possible outlay. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. BADGER briefly gave "The Health of the Visitors," which was responded to by Mr. OLDROYD.

Mr. B. SHAW proposed the "Phoenix Lodge of Freemasons," which was responded to by Mr. T. W. PARKER, W.M.

The Rev. W. BLAZEBY, B.A., in humorous terms, proposed "The members of other secret and sick



societies," coupling with it the name of Lord Milton, M.P.

Lord MILTON, who was received with loud cheering, said: Allow me to thank you, Mr. Blazeby, most heartily for the kind but somewhat overdrawn compliments which you have been pleased to pass upon my name; and permit me to say how much I regret that when I come to look at what I have to respond to I find myself utterly incapable of responding. The rev. gentleman who so kindly proposed the toast mentioned my name in connection with secret societies. (Laughter.) Now it is evident there is no secret at all in the matter if he knows that I belong to such a society—(laughter)—and I find it impossible to respond for that which does not exist. So far for the first part of the toast; and with regard to the second part, which refers to sick societies, I must deny that I am a member of a sick society. (Laughter.) A sick society means, I suppose, a body of men who are sick. (Laughter.) I am unable to respond to the toast in the way in which it is worded. I shall, however, take the liberty of responding for the societies to which I belong, and to explain what they are. They are societies which are very well indeed—(laughter)—they are prospering, they are thoroughly Yorkshire in their tone, and they are healthy in themselves, in order to protect those who happen to be sick. I thank you on behalf of the Oddfellows, the Free Foresters, and the society which bears my name. I am sure the members of these societies will feel very grateful for the kind way in which you have spoken of them, and we shall always remember that, although we may not be Freemasons, we have as many secrets as the Masons have. (Laughter.) I believe, however, if there were any secrets in Masonry they would have been found out long ago, especially by the ladies—(laughter)—and I am inclined to think that the little banter we have heard about ladies wishing to know the secrets of Freemasonry is got up with the view of keeping their interest in the Order. (Renewed laughter.) If they got to know what those secrets were they would know quite as much as the rest of you, and their interest in Freemasonry would at once cease. That is something like the real origin of the secrets of Freemasonry. (Cheers and laughter.)

The toast of the ladies brought the proceedings to a close.

During the evening a party of singers, under the direction of Mr. C. Harvey, of Sheffield, sang a selection of glees in good style.

In the course of the proceedings cards soliciting donations to the building fund were sent round to the company, and afterwards announced by the Chairman. The largest donation was that of £50 contributed by Messrs. Armstrong and Co., New York, whose workmen are also subscribers to the amount of £30.



