



Lord Combermere was a very able cavalry commander in charge of Wellington's cavalry in the Peninsula from 1810 onwards. He was Sir Stapleton Cotton in those days and had served in the Light Cavalry, gaining experience in the Netherlands, the Cape and India. He gained distinction at the battle of Salamanca in 1812 and the Siege of Bhurtpore in 1826. He held the post of Colonel of the 1st Life Guards (Gold Stick) for 36 years from Sept 1829 - Feb 1865.

HISTORY OF COMBERMERE LODGE

No. 752 (Originally: No. 1054)
On the register of the United Grand Lodge of England



AUSTRALIA, Opening of the Combermere Lodge at Collingwood

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A number of Freemasons of Collingwood, feeling the want of a second Lodge in that thriving district, have united together and formed one at the Zetland Hotel, East Collingwood, with the title of the Combermere Lodge, and under the English Constitution - the first Lodge holding under the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

The Combermere Lodge is to meet (until a warrant from the Grand Lodge of England be obtained) under a dispensation from the Honorable Captain Clarke, MLA, the Prov. G.M. of Victoria. The Master of the Lodge is to be Mr. J. J. Moody, town clerk; his Wardens, Messrs M. Hall and T. G. Atkinson, and the Treasurer and Secretary, Messrs John Barnet and Charles Le Cren; with other officers.

The lodge was named "Combermere" in honour of the celebrated Field Marshall, Viscount Combermere, G.C.B., &c. &c., Prov. G.M. of Cheshire and whose Prov. G. W. Bro. Moody was for some years when resident in this country.

The Lodge room is spacious, being about 44 feet long and 15 feet wide, and proportionally high. The walls were of oak, formed in panels, segmental styles and dados, enriched with mouldings, surmounted by frieze and cornice of the Corinthian order; the whole highly varnished, the woodwork being painted and finished in unison.

The dais for the Master, and those for the Officers, and the floor along the centre, are to be covered with painted canvas in mosaic, with indented border, and along the side with carpet. The room is fitted with splay-backed cedar seats upholstered with crimson maroon. The panels in the walls are to contain, in heraldic shields, the emblazoned arms of Lord Combermere and of Captain Clarke, the Prov. G. M. of Victoria, with various emblems and devices, and portraits of celebrated Freemasons.

A superb canopy of blue and white damask with cornice of white enamel, gold, and crimson is placed over the Masters chair and the windows are tastefully draped with the same material.

The Master and Wardens chairs are upwards of six feet high, in oak, a combination of the Elizabethan and Renaissance styles. They are enriched with ornamentation, in relief, on the backs, sides, arms, and legs, with gilt emblems at the backs, of the rank of the respective occupants, and upholstered with crimson damask, Three magnificent columns, of the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian orders of architecture, upwards of six feet high, each comprising pedestal, shaft, capital, and entablature, adapted from the best examples of Palladio¹ and Scamozzi², and every part being in

¹ **Andrea Palladio** (30 November 1508 – 19 August 1580) was an [Italian](#)^[1] architect active in the [Republic of Venice](#). Palladio, influenced by [Roman](#) and [Greek architecture](#), primarily by [Vitruvius](#), is widely considered the most influential individual in the [history of Western architecture](#). All of his buildings are located in what was the Venetian Republic, but his teachings, summarized in the architectural treatise, [The Four Books of Architecture](#), gained him wide recognition

² **Vincenzo Scamozzi** (2 September 1548 – 7 August 1616) was a [Venetian architect](#) and a writer on architecture, active mainly in [Vicenza](#) and [Republic of Venice](#) area in the second half of the 16th century. He was perhaps the most important figure there between [Andrea Palladio](#), whose unfinished projects he inherited at Palladio's death in 1580, and [Baldassarre Longhena](#), Scamozzi's only pupil.

The great public project of Palladio's that Scamozzi inherited early in the process of construction was the [Teatro Olimpico](#) at Vicenza, which Palladio had designed in the last months of his life.

true architectural proportion, are placed respectively near the Master's and Wardens chairs. The shafts were formed from graduated conchoid diameters, from elaborate drawings to full size. These columns are richly gilt in water gilding, mat and burnished, and are placed on triple plinths, in mosaic.

Three pedestals, of the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian orders of architecture, are placed respectively before the Master's and Wardens chairs, and are in the same strict architectural proportion as the columns. These pedestals are of cedar finished in white enamel, with gilt Masonic emblems in front of each. Upon each of the pedestals is a gavel, in oak, enriched with ornamentation in relief, of the Corinthian order, and partially gilt, with Masonic emblems thereon of the respective Officers for whose use they are designed. Upon the Ionic and Corinthian pedestals are to be placed small columns of these orders, in white and gold. On the Master's pedestal is a crimson velvet cushion, on which is placed an illustrated quarto Bible, elegantly bound and tooled, with gilt metalled edges, and massive gilt clasps. The name of the Lodge is in gilt letters on the cover and on the first page, in illuminated ornamental letters, in the style of the illuminated missals of the middle ages, executed by an accomplished scribe.

An upholstered oak stool, of mediaeval pattern, with floral embellishments in relievo, is placed near the entrance, where is a sword, whose blade, hilt and guard are of beautiful workmanship. An antique winch, lever, and ashlar, tools of the various degrees, rough ashlar, jewels chastely engraved with the rose, shamrock, and thistle, &c., will complete the paraphernalia of this elegantly furnished Lodge.

The Combermere Lodge was opened in due form at four' o'clock on February 10th, there being a strong attendance of Masons among whom were the RW Prov, G. M. Capt. Clarke; the R,W. Prov.G,M., under the Irish Constitution, the Mayor of Melbourne, Prov, Grand Officers, Worshipful Masters, and other well known Brethren. Bro. J .J. Moody, P. Prov. J.G.W. for Cheshire, was formally installed as W. M. of the Combermere Lodge.

After the ceremony of inauguration was completed, the Brethren withdrew from the Lodge room in which the installation banquet was then laid. About seventy Brethren sat down to table, presided over by the W, M. of the Combermere Lodge, Bro. Moody; the S.tW. of the Lodge, Bro. M. Hull, acting as croupier. To the right and left of the chair respectively sat Capt. Clarke and the Mayor of Melbourne³. The cloth having been removed, and thanksgiving sung, the usual toast were drunk and responded to.

The toast of "Our Brethren of, and the Army of India" was received with Masonic honours.

Bro. Clarke, R. W. Prov. G.M. for Victoria, responded in a feeling speech, in which he called upon the Brethren to be true to the principles of their Order, and show charity on any occasion when it was more than ordinarily demanded,

3 John Thomas Smith, Mayor: 1857–1858

Freemasonry had its beginning in Victoria on December 23rd, 1839, when twenty-one Freemasons met for the purpose of establishing a Lodge. Shortly afterwards, a petition containing twenty-five signatures was prepared and forwarded to “Rt. Wor. Bro. Geo. R. Nichol, Prov. G. M. of Australasia”, Bro. Geo. B. Smythe being designated the first W.M., Bro. W. Meek S.W. and Bro. Isaac Hind J.W. In due course a Dispensation Warrant arrived and on the 24th March, 1840, just 118 years ago, the first Masonic Lodge in Victoria, Lodge of Australia Felix, was duly constituted and consecrated, under the English Constitution, as No. 697 E.C., later 474 E.C., (now No. 1 V.C.). Three years later, the first Lodge under the Irish Constitution, Australia Felix of Hiram was opened on June 24th, 1843, by dispensation, but not warranted until 1847 as No. 349 I.C. (now No. 4 V.C.), whilst the first Lodge under the Scottish Constitution, Australasia Kilwinning, No. 408 S.C., later 349 S.C. (now No. 2 V.C.), was opened in May 1844.

Over the passage of years, the number of Lodges under the three Constitutions increased and it was found expedient to form Provincial Grand Lodges. The E.C. brethren formed the Prov. G.L. of Victoria in 1857, R. W. Bro. Capt. Andrew Russell Clarke (afterwards Major-Gen. Sir. Andrew Russell Clarke, G.C.M.G.) being installed as R. W. Prov. G.M. of Victoria on the 9th March of that year. The District G.L. of Victoria was named in 1867.

The first attempt to form a Grand Lodge of Victoria appears to have been made in 1863, by a number of prominent Masons, principally from Lodges under the Irish Constitution. Petitions were forwarded to the three Provincial Grand Lodges, but they did not receive favourable consideration. By 1865 the matter had been widely discussed, however no action resulted. In 1881, Australian born Sir Wm. J. Clarke, Bart, M.L.C., initiated into the Irish Constitution in Tasmania, became Prov. G.M. of Victoria (I.C.) and in 1882 was prevailed upon to accept the combined offices of District and Provincial Grand Master under the English, Irish and Scottish Constitutions, this exerting considerable influence regarding the welding together of the three ruling bodies.

The year 1883 witnessed the opening of the Grand Lodge of Victoria with Bro. Geo. S. Coppin as Grand Master. At the end of six years the G.L. was comprised of 16 Lodges, whilst there were 121 other Lodges in Victoria. Bro. Coppin was succeeded by Bro. J. B. Patterson and Bro. D. Munro in office as Grand Master. The majority of the Lodges, however, remained aloof and recognition was never accorded by the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland and Scotland.

Towards the end of 1887 a visit to Victoria by the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro. G.M. (England) was the means of consolidating the movement towards local autonomy and on May 30th, 1888, a meeting of W.M.'s and P.M.'s took place, when it was resolved to take steps to form a United Grand Lodge of Victoria.

At the time of formation, the new Grand Lodge included a total of 136 Lodges, being made up of 92 E.C., 16 I.C., 12 S.C. and 16 V.G.L. Three Lodges under the English Constitution held aloof viz. — Meridian Lodge of St. John, No. 729, The Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1058 (both of which joined the V.C. a few months later) and The Combermere Lodge, No. 752 E.C.



The Earl of Zetland Hotel
23 Stanley Street, East Collingwood
Ca. 1862 (©State Library of Victoria)

THE COMBERMERE LODGE.

First promoted in 1857, Combermere was formed under a Dispensation Warrant issued by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Victoria early in 1858 with the number 1054. On March 29th, 1858, Provincial Grand Lodge granted a dispensation "Since last Quarterly Meeting announced to Mariners Lodge, Melbourne, Sandridge Marine Lodge, Combermere Lodge, East Collingwood". (*Extract from Proceedings Prov. Gnd. Lodge (Vic.) 1858*). Unfortunately, the early records of the Lodge, prior to 1899 have been lost, although the original Register containing names of all members since the inception of the Lodge is existent and still in use.

However, the minutes of Lodge Meetings, correspondence, etc., or such other material as would provide information concerning Lodge happenings, especially during its formative years, being unavailable; it has been particularly difficult to ascertain items of factual historical interest for presentation to the members of Combermere at the Centenary meeting of the Lodge.

One of the most striking features of our Centenary year is the fact that our present Master, Bro. C. W. Hyndman, is a third generation member of the Lodge. His grandfather, the late Bro. Chas. Hyndman, was initiated on the 17th February, 1887, and his father, Wor. Bro. V. L. Hyndman, P.M., O.G.R., on the 21st November, 1909. He is also a fourth generation Mason, his great grandfather was an officer of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Victoria (I.C.) in the year 1860.

It is noteworthy also that the Centenary not only marks the passing of 100 years since the inauguration of the Lodge, but also a century of allegiance to that great and glorious mother of all our Constitutions, the United Grand Lodge of England.

At a meeting held at the Swan Hotel, Gertrude Street, "East Collingwood" on October 29th, 1857, the Lodge took form and the first entry in the Lodge Register is so dated, the following being mentioned as "Founders of the Lodge":— Joseph John Moody, Melmoth Hall, Thomas Greenhall Atkinson, John Barnett, Charles Le Cren, Arthur Thomas Porter, Samuel Turner, Smith Wallworth, and Henry George Keane. A further meeting was held on November 6th, 1857, and the Register shows an accession of 15 members, making 24 in all.

The first Installation was held on February 10th, 1858, at the Earl of Zetland Hotel, 9 Stanley Street, Collingwood. The Inaugurating Officer was Rt. Wor. Bro. Captain Andrew Russell Clarke (afterwards Lieut.-General Sir A. R. Clarke, G.C.M.G.) First Prov. G.M. of Victoria E.C., the Installing Officer being Henry Wallace Lowry, who installed:—

W.M.—Joseph John Moody
S.W.—Melmoth Hall
J.W.—T. A. Atkinson
Chap.—Rev. C. P. M. Bardin
Treas.—John Barnet
Secty.—Chas. Le Cren
S.D.—A. T. Porter

J.D.—B. L. Webber
D.C.—Wm. H. Bucirde
Org.—C. J. Feinagle, Gd. Org.
Sr. Steward—Isaac Watson
Jr. Steward—Jos. C. Passmore
I.G.—Jas. H. Gill
Tyler—John Taylor Smith

A banquet in honour of the occasion followed and as a matter of interest, the Menu is here reproduced:

<p>— THE COMBERMERE LODGE BANQUET —</p> <p>held Wednesday, 10th February, 1858 at 4 o'clock p.m.</p> <p>— Earl of Zetland Hotel — Collingwood.</p> <p>THE BILL OF FARE</p> <p>Soups</p> <p>Mock Turtle Ox Tail A La Julienne</p> <p>SHERRY</p> <p>FISH</p> <p>Sehnapper, Eels, Eels Matelottes</p> <p>MADEIRA</p> <p>BOILED AND ROAST</p> <p>Roast Turkey (Sauce Robert), Boiled Turkey (Oyster Sauce), Sucking Pig, Roast Geese (Apple Sauce), Roast Ducks, Roast Fowls, Giblet Pies, Boiled Fowls a la Victoria, Hams (garnie), Tongues (garnie).</p> <p>SPARKLING HOCK & CHAMPAGNE</p> <p>ENTREES</p> <p>Cotelettes a la Maitre D'Hotel. Rissoles a la D'Artois, Hindustan Cutlets, Lobster Patties, Oyster Patties, Lobster Salad.</p> <p>HOCK</p> <p>VEGETABLES</p> <p>Peas au naturel, Beans a la Bretonne, Cauliflower, Vegetable Marrow, Potatoes (various styles)</p> <p>ENTREMETS</p> <p>Cabinet Puddings, Waterloo Tarts, Victoria Puddings, Orange Tarts, Sutherland Puddings, Plum Puddings, Creamed Tarts, Creamed Apple Tarts, Jellies, Blancmanges, Rissoles Fourree, Compotes (various).</p> <p>CHAMPAGNE</p> <p>DESSERT</p> <p>Pineapples, Peaches, Grapes, Olives, Apples, Italian Pastry, Almonds, Raisins, Figs, Greengages, Nuts, Walnuts, Apricots, Cherries, Nectarines.</p> <p>LIQUEURS</p>
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N.B. There were 70 persons at banquet and 19 toasts were honoured during the proceedings, members of the Band of H.M. 40th Regiment were in an adjoining room and played the airs in the lists of TOASTS, and other enlivening strains.

The cost of the banquet was £68/15/0, whilst an amount of £5/0/0 was paid for the presence of the band; the Lodge members paid £1/1/0 each for tickets of entry.

In the following year 34 additional members are listed. As will be readily understood, the majority of the members in the first year were joining members. In 1858, no less than 18 Initiations were carried out, the meetings of February 24th and July 21st being particularly interesting, with 5 candidates presented on each occasion.

MEETING PLACES OF COMBERMERE.

As previously mentioned, the preliminary or founders' meeting was held at the Swan Hotel, Gertrude Street, East Collingwood, on October 29th, 1857. However, subsequent meetings were held as follows:— Earl of Zetland Hotel, 9 Stanley Street, Collingwood 1858

Grace Darling Hotel, Smith Street, Collingwood 1861

Swan Hotel, Gertrude Street, Fitzroy 1861

Masonic Hall, Lonsdale Street, (East) Melbourne 1868

Freemason's Hall, Collins Street, Melbourne 1886

A notice was issued dated April 8th, 1886, summoning members to a special Meeting at 25 Collins Street "to sanction the removal of the Lodge to the Freemason's Hall", where it has since remained. When first warranted, the Lodge No. was 1054; in 1866 subsequent to a re-numbering of many lodges under the U.G.L. of England, the number was changed to 752. A co-incidence is here noted, the warrant of the Lodge was proclaimed by M.W. The G.M. The Earl of Zetland when the lodge was meeting at the Earl of Zetland Hotel and afterwards we received the new number 752 E.C., formerly the number of the Zetland Lodge, London.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

Record of meeting of Combermere Lodge held at the Swan Hotel, Fitzroy, 11th July, 1864.

Lodge was opened for the following business:—

To ballot for, as a Candidate for Initiation, Mr. James Cattach, Licensed Victualler, Smith Street, proposed by Bro. J. C. Pettal, seconded by P.M. Bro. Moody.

Initiation Mr. James Cattach.

Passings: Bros. H. D. Brown, D. Comfort.

Raisings: Bros. P. M. Goll, C. Wilms, J. G. Pettal and Constantine.

Lodge opened at half-past seven o'clock.

Bro. Wm. Le Cron, W.M., Porter, S.W., Tillett, J.W.

Minutes of Preceding Lodge were read and confirmed. Ballot was taken for Mr. Cattach, who was accepted and being in attendance was duly installed into the mysteries of the Entered Apprentice Degree. Bros. Gill, Wilms, Pettal and Constantine then presented themselves as Candidates for the 3rd Degree and having proved themselves in the former degrees were entrusted and retired.

Lodge was then opened in the 3rd Degree and those Brethren were admitted and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason. Grand Lodge Certificates were then given Bros. J. P. Bowring, H. E. Trubenbach, Peter Hansen and Geo. Baker.

Lodge was resumed in the First Degree.

A letter from the Wor. Master, Linton Lodge, relative to a subscription in aid of a widow of a deceased Bro. was read.

The W.M. asked if any Brother present knew anything about the matter. None of the members of the Lodge had any knowledge of the applicant, Bro. Past Master Taafe stated that he had been in several Lodges where a similar application had been made and that most of them subscribed, he also stated that he thought the application was worthy of support.

Bro. Jun. Warden Tillet proposed that a sum of £2/2/0 be paid to the fund. Carried unanimously. Another application for relief was read from a Brother, but as he was unknown to any present, the Wor. Master was authorised to visit and relieve him.

Two Brethren were nominated to attend the Ball Committee.

A Candidate was proposed for Initiation and the Lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

Record of Meeting in 1888 (from "The Keystone").

The regular meeting of Combermere was held on Thursday evening the 15th November, in the Freemason's Hall, Collins Street.

Bro. J. Talbot Brett presided and there was a large attendance of members and visitors.

The business was confined to raisings, there being no fewer than 10 Candidates, one of them being Bro. Melton Prior, Special Artist of The Illustrated London News, who returned to England the following day. The 10 Candidates were divided into three sections which necessarily consumed a long period of time, while the musical interludes were curtailed and in some parts omitted. This detracted much from the impressiveness of the ceremony which, had all the Candidates been taken together, could have been performed with the due elaboration and deliberation it demands. The W.M. was assisted by several of the P.M.'s present. It was getting just on 11 o'clock when the proclamations were put, prior to closing the Lodge.

A memorable meeting was that held on the evening of the 16th January, 1896, when H.E. Lord Thomas Brassey (proposed 19th December, 1895), Governor of Victoria, was balloted for and admitted as a joining member, from the "Apollo" Lodge, Oxford. A few months later he became the M.W. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, in which office he continued until 1900, returning to England in that year. The Lodge Treasurer must, have experienced a most trying time as on the evening mentioned the guests numbered 408.

A meeting of more than usual interest occurred on March 17th, 1910, when, by special arrangement, a combined meeting of Combermere and the Lodge of Australasia No. 3 V.C. took place.

This was occasioned by the Lodge Room usually occupied by the latter Lodge being unavailable, although the reason for this is not given in the recorded proceedings. The work on the notice papers of both Lodges was that of the Third Degree.

The joint meeting was arranged at the last moment prior to opening, no notice of the unavailability of the room having previously been given.

The Raising of the Candidates, one from each Lodge, was satisfactorily carried out by the respective W.M.'s assisted by various P.M.'s. The Minute Book also records "At the conclusion of the business of the Lodge, the Brethren adjourned to the Supper Room where a very pleasant hour was spent and the friendship of the two Lodges under the English and the Victorian Constitutions was still further strengthened.

At another meeting shortly after the opening of the Lodge, a Brother rose requesting permission to retire, because of the presence of another Brother with whom he refused to sit in Lodge. The Wor. Master informed him of the procedure he should adopt, that of requesting the Brother to whom he objected to retire with him to settle their differences.

This advice being refused, the Brother intimated his intention of retiring whether granted permission or not. After he had done so, a P.M. and the Brother to whom objection had been made, left the Lodge Room in an attempt to arrange matters, but found that the recalcitrant one had left the building after having been reprimanded by the Tyler for using abusive and obscene language. Needless to say, it was his last appearance at Combermere.

But the meeting which was to have far reaching effects was that which took place on 18th April, 1889, the business being election of officers, also discussion regarding secession from the United Grand Lodge of England and affiliation with the newly formed United Grand Lodge of Victoria.

Feeling with regard to the latter subject had divided the Lodge for some considerable time, one party holding that a Lodge warranted under one Constitution could not continue under another, without first dissolving and reforming. These members were, no doubt, greatly influenced by warnings previously received from the District Grand Lodge of Victoria, especially during the early 80's when Masters of Lodges were instructed to forbid discussion of topics relative to the formation of a Grand Lodge of Victoria.

The leaders of the secession party had resorted to threats and warnings and it was said that this party — a majority in the Lodge — was actuated more by external pressure than by inward conviction.

The election of Officers and the Installation of that year had been put forward a month for some reason and when the Jr. Warden was nominated for election as Master Elect (the Sr. Warden apparently not desiring to offer himself), Bro. Past Master Henry, Secretary of the Lodge and leader of the secession party, objected on the grounds that the Jr. Warden had not served twelve full months as Warden. Bro. Past Master Lamonby quoted Grand Lodge precedent and the Jr. Warden was duly elected.

It is difficult to understand the reason for Bro. Henry's objection to the election of the Jr. Warden, or just what difference it made, but the incident was sufficient to cause a bitter quarrel between the two groups, which was echoed in the daily press and Masonic journal.

Henry and Lamonby were journalists, the former owning a paper which circulated in South Melbourne, whilst Lamonby was a staff writer employed on a Metropolitan daily. Both wrote to the press letters containing somewhat violent accusations much too long to permit of relation here.

Bro. Lamonby pleaded that one Lodge should remain loyal to the English Constitution and Combermere could afford to be that Lodge without causing offence to the new Grand Lodge, or enmity from the subordinate Lodges.

The question being put to the vote, a victory was obtained by the secessionist group, but only by a bare majority. Afterwards, the representatives of that majority took the Warrant away, petitioning the M.W. Grand Master U.G.L. Vic. for a charter under the new Constitution for another Combermere Lodge, but Sir William J. Clarke (who was a member of Combermere at that time) declined to allow the old name to be used; he also ordered the return of the Warrant.

However, many of the majority party resigned from Combermere, forming a Lodge under the Victorian Constitution, known as the Davies Lodge (No. 138 V.C.). This was the first Lodge to be consecrated under the new regime.

NOTABLE MEMBERS:

It is interesting to note the connection of Combermere Lodge, since its inception, with names of early citizens of Melbourne, names still prominent in the commercial life of the City.

John Zevenboom of Fitzroy, described as a Brushmaker, was initiated in 1864 and installed Master in 1869. Four years later, his brothers, Abraham and Doris, became members, the former occupying the Master's chair in 1872. The firm of Zevenboom is still in existence. The Lodge Register contains names of other members who were prominently connected with businesses still being conducted, as John Laughton, Ironfounders, George Fincham, Organ Builder, E. G. G. Smythers, Wine Merchant, Hugh Victor McKay, inventor of many agricultural implements and founder of the great enterprise which still bears his name.

Other members of the Lodge who were citizens of importance and may be mentioned:— Sir William J. Clarke, Prov. G.M. Victoria (I.C.) joined in 1882, resigning, he rejoined as Dis. G.M. Victoria (E.C.). On the foundation stone in the main entrance of the Freemason's Hall his name is engraved as District and Prov. Grand Master of the English, Irish and Scottish Constitutions in Victoria; he became first Grand Master, U.G.L. (V.C.), Geo Peake, Musician, Chas D'Ebro, Engineer and Architect of many stately City buildings, Walter Bretschneider, Artist, Sir Edward Fitz-Gibbon, C.M.G. first Chairman Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works, Lorci Thomas Brassey (joined 1896), Governor of Victoria, who succeeded Sir Wm. J. Clarke as Grand Master U.G.L. (V.C.). Agar Wynne, M.H.R. became Post Master General and Solicitor-General, Lt. Col. C. B. Storey was administrator Northern Territory, Marshal Lyle, an eminent Barrister, Sir Samuel Gillott, Lord Mayor of Melbourne, William Tyson Kendall, who established the first Veterinary College in Australia (his son, Col. W. A. Kendall, is at time of writing, the senior member of Combermere and was for some years its Secretary), Dr. N. H. Fairley of the Royal Institute of Research India, S. N. Rodda, Principal Royal Melbourne Technical School, Iev. E. Rodda, P.G.C. (V.C.), a leading churchman, was Chaplain of the Lodge, Sir E. V. Nixon, well known accountant and Director of many companies. During World War II, he was appointed Director-General of Finance. Lt.-Gen. G. F. Wooten, Wm. Burston was Chief Inspector of Education and Secretary of the Lodge, D. Lennan, well known agricultural implement maker, W. Pitt, M.L.C., leading Architect, designed and supervised erection of the Princess Theatre. A. Peck was also an Architect of considerable standing and noted as an ocean cruising yachtsman. At the age of 68, he sailed his yacht "Utekiah II" on a visit to the South Pacific Islands. Sir Geo. Cuscaden, Principal Medical Officer, 3rd Military District, was also Secretary of the Lodge, Sir Robt. Best, Minister for Lands and Commissioner for Trade and Customs, Rev. F. C. Crotty (afterwards Bishop of Newcastle). M.W. Bro. Dr. A. T. Holden, C.B.E., V.D., D.D., B.A., P.G.Ch. (Eng.) P.G.M. (V.C.) and Chap.-Gen. A.M.F. His Honor Judge C. Book, p.G.M. (V.C.) became an Honorary Member, as did also W. J. Byrne P.G.M. (V.C.). Many others could be added and it requires, but a cursory study of the Lodge Register to realise the most important part played by past members in the development of the State of Victoria.

During the life of Combermere, no less than 1185 members (initiated and joining) have been registered. Apparently it has held some attraction for members of the Medical profession, 58 members being described as Surgeons or Medical Practitioners, whilst 12 are mentioned as Professors of Music, 2 Professors of Dancing, and one Professor of Elocution, Sea-faring members Master Mariners, Ship's Engineers, etc. number 19.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP. (As in 1958)

An unusual and pleasant feature of the current membership of the Lodge is the very apparent “family” atmosphere prevailing. Reference has already been made to our Master being a “third generation” member. To-day the father, Wor. Bro. V. L. Hyndman, P.M., O.G.R., is in office as Almoner, his son, Bro. C. W. Hyndman, occupying the Master’s chair.

Other family groups were:—

FATHER	SON
Wor. Bro. W. G. Hull, P.M., O.G.R.	Bros. W. L. and G. M. Hull.
Wor. Bro. H. Wilcox, P.M.	Bro. G. Wilcox.
Wor. Bro R. L. Tombs, P.M.	Wor. Bro. J. H. Tombs, P.M.
Bro. W. A. Withers.	Bro. C. Withers.
Wor. Bro. C. E. Selway, P.M.	Bro. E. C. Selway.
Bro. E. A. Douglas	Bros. G. H. and F. E. Douglas.
Bro. K. R. Gilbert	Bro. R. G. Gilbert.

Groups of Brothers:—

Wor. Bro. David Bain, P.M., O.G.R. Bro. D. G. Bain. Wor. Bro. G. A. Wharington, P.M., O.G.R. Wor. Bro. J. A. Wharington, P.M. and Bro. R. W. Wharington. Wor. Bro. G. K. Holdsworth, P.M. Bro. A. B. Holdsworth. Bros. W. R. B. and D. S. Waterworth. Bros. P. E. and Capt. R. L. Shimmin, R.A.N.
These 13 family groups comprise 29 members.

In 1950, a visit was received from R.W. Bro. Sydney A. White, P.G.W. Grand Secretary (afterwards Sir Sydney A. White, K.C.V.O.), who had journeyed to Australia to represent the M.W. the Grand Master at the Jubilee celebrations of the Grand Lodge of Western Australia.

It was the first recorded visit to Combermere of a high ranking Grand Lodge Officer and the Installation Meeting which was to be held on 15th June was put forward to Friday, 9th June, to enable the Grand Secretary to be present thereat. He was also entertained at Luncheon by the Master, Past Masters and Wardens when he was made the recipient of a presentation in the form of a handsome wooden cigarette box. He presented to Combermere a small model of the Peace Memorial Temple in London, which is usually to be seen in the North of the Lodge on the Secretary’s table.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED GRAND RANK.

It would appear that in former years it was customary for Grand Lodge to confer high ranking Grand Lodge Honors upon Combermere Brethren, but for a considerable time, with one exception, the only Honors which have come our way, have been those of Overseas Grand Rank. Following is a list of Combermere members, recipients of Grand Lodge Honors and Overseas Grand Rank.

J. J. Moody, P.P.G.D. (Lincolnshire) P.P.G.W. (Cheshire).	W. L. Hyndman, O.G.R.
W. F. Lamonby, P.A.G.D.C., P.G.D.C. (V.C.), P.P.G.W.,	T. H. Ford, O.G.R.
P.P.G. Reg., etc.	F. S. Berry, O.G.R.
J. J. E. Wilmott, P.G.D.	H. B. Andrew, O.G.R.
Sir Samuel Gillott, P.A.G.D.C.	A. R. Mitchell, O.G.R., P.J.C.D. (V.C.).
E. A. Williams, P.G.S.W.	W. G. Hull, O.G.R.
F. W. Morton, P.G.S.W. (V.C.).	A. T. Bright, M.A., M.Sc. O.G.R.
E. Rodda, P.G.C. (V.C.).	E. J. Loof, O.G.R.
J. Talbot Brett, P.G.D.	D. Bain, O.G.R.
	W. C. Sangster, P.G.St.B.
	H. H. Stappers, O.G.R.

C. Le Cren, P.G.S.D. (V.C.)
 Wm. Burston, P.A.G.D.C.
 E. A. Kendall, P.G.St.B.
 W. L. Edge, P.D.G.W. (Punjab).
 W. A. Kendall, P.G.St.B.

G. A. Wharington, O.G.R.
 J. Elfick, P.P.G. Treas. (Essex).
 W. W. Davies, P.J.G.D. (V.C.).
 C. H. Book, K.C., L.L.B., P.G.M. (V.C.).
 W. J. Byrne, P.G.M. (V.C.).

PAST MASTERS OF THE LODGE.

1858-59	J. J. Moody	1875	H. W. Langlands
1860	C. L. Cren	1876	G. Gordon Ross
1861	A. T. Porter	1877	J. Braim
1862	H. C. Freame	1872	T. J. Jackman
1863	R. J. Cartwright	1873	A. T. Porter
1864	W. Le Cren	1874	J. A. Roberts
1865	F. B. Force	1875	H. W. Langlands
1866	G. W. Tillet	1876	G. Gordon Ross
1867	I. Waterman	1877	J. Braim
1868	B. L. Webber	1879	W. J. Runting
1869	I. Zevenboom	1880	Chas. Shaw
1870	H. Vine	1881	Chas. Shaw
1871	T. W. Pearson	1882	Chas. Shaw
1872	A. Zevenboom	1883	J. J. E. Wilmott
1873	A. T. Porter	1884	W. F. Lamonby
1874	J. A. Roberts	1885	W. Henry

PAST MASTERS OF THE LODGE (Cont.) —

1886	T. Hayden	1933	R. O. Japp
1887	J. F. Crane	1934	A. T. Bright
1888	J. T. Brett	1935	J. W. B. Ulph
1889	R. B. A. Vergoe	1936	E. G. Loof
1890	W. R. N. Vergoe	1937	J. W. Manning
1891	J. B. Simmons	1938	David Bain
1892	A. Knight	1939	G. A. Wharington
1893	A. Thompson	1940	H. H. Stappers
1894	E. L. Oldfield	1941	J. A. Fleming
1895	Dr. F. W. W. Morton	1942	F. G. Allen
1896	Dr. Geo. Cuscaden	1943	H. Wilcock
1897	G. Hall	1944	R. L. Tombs
1898	Wm. Burston	1945	W. C. Sangster
1899	Dr. Wm. Moore	1946	C. F. Mitchell
1900	J. McN.Campbell	1947	F. Boxall
1901	J. Champion	1948	J. G. Wharington
1902	D. M. Williams	1949	R. A. Fitts
1903	Dr. H. F. Lawrence	1950	J. Elfick, Jr.
1904	Sir S. Gilliott	1951	H. A. L. Fishley
1905	P. J. Wilkinson	1952	J. H. Tombs
1906	Dr. R. L. McAdam	1953	C. Grummitt
1907	Dr. G. T. Howard	1954	G. T. Baldwin
1908	S. S. W. Hall	1955	E. C. Selway
1909	A. Peck	1956	G. K. Holdsworth
1910	E. A. Kendall	1957	C. W. Hyndman
1911	W. A. Troedel	1958	E. A. W. Douglas
1912	W. F. Wyatt	1959-60	E. W. Eveleigh

1913	W. A. Kendall	1961	J. Lewis
1914	V. L. Hyndman	1962	F. S. Sturrock
1915	F. S. Graser	1963	N. J. Medlin
1916	H. Kendall	1964	T. J. Owers
1917	D. Burston	1965	P. L. Wilson
1918	G. Peacock	1966	H. G. Hobson
1919	T. H. Ford	1967	H. F. Bird
1920	L. N. Rodda	1968	H. G. Gaudie
1921	C. D. Lennon	1969	A.W. F. Carlson
1922	E. Cottrell	1970	A. R. Carlson
1923	F. P. Tonkin	1971	D. J. Catchpole
1924	F. L. Berry	1972	R. G. Kempster
1925	G. J. Mackay	1973	R. J. Lee
1926	H. Lieweilyn	1974	W. A. Binding
1927	Marshall Lyle	1975	E. W. Craig
1928	B. J. Westcott	1976	D. V. Goland O.B.E.
1929	H. C. Crickmer	1977	M. J. Bortnoski
1930	H. B. Andrew	1978	A. J. Nichols
1931	A. R. Mitchell	1979	R. G. Gilbert
1932	W. G. Hull	1980	C. R. Mills

HISTORY OF VISCOUNT COMBERMERE.

The Rt. Hon. Stapleton — Stapleton Cotton, Viscount and Baron Combermere and a Baronet, G.C.B., G.C.H., G.T.S. and K.F., a Field Marshal in the Army, Colonel of the First Regiment of Life Guards, Constable of the Tower of London, and Lord Lieutenant of the Tower Hamlets, was the second son of Sir Robert Salisbury Cotton, fifth Baronet and many years M.P. for the county of Cheshire, by Frances, daughter and co-heir of James Russell Stapleton, Esq., and was born at Llewonny Hall, Denbighshire, in 1773.

Adopting for his profession a military career, he was gazetted in February 1790 as second Lieutenant in the 23rd. Welsh Fusiliers, from which he was afterwards promoted to a Captaincy in the 6th Dragoon Guards Carabiniers.

In 1798, commanding the 25th Light Dragoons he took part in the memorable campaign against Tipu Sultan, including the Battle of Mallavelly and the siege of Seringapatam, under General (afterwards, Lord) Harris.

On the suspension of active hostilities in Hindustan, Major General Cotton, to which military rank he had been advanced, proceeded to the Peninsular in 1807, in command of a Brigade of Cavalry consisting of the 14th and 16th Light Dragoons, signally distinguishing himself during the campaign in the North of Portugal, including operations at Oporto and at the Battle of Talavera in Spain. In 1809, the local rank of Lieutenant-General was conferred upon him, and he was appointed to the command of the entire Allied Cavalry, which he held until the termination of the war in 1814, taking part in the various actions fought in covering the retreat from Almeida to Torres-Vedras, the Battles of Fuentes-d'onor and Salan-ianca, where he was second-incommand.

He was frequently mentioned in the despatches of Lord Wellington, and received the thanks of both the Houses of Parliament. In 1809, on his father's death, he succeeded to the Baronetcy (his elder brother having died some years previously), and in 1814 his services were rewarded with a Peerage, a coronet having been bestowed upon him by the name, style and title of Baron Combermere of Combermere Abbey, in the County of Cheshire.

He was not present at the Battle of Waterloo, but was appointed immediately afterwards by Lord Wellington to the command of the Army of Occupation in France. In 1817 he was appointed to the Governorship of Barbadoes, and in 1820 to the command of the Army in Ireland, which post he held until 1825, when he was nominated to the rank of Commander-in-Chief of the Armies in India, where considerable resistance by native forces had brought to a standstill the military operations of The East India Company. By the capture of Bhutpore, a fortress hitherto considered impregnable, the campaign was successfully concluded.

Because of his masterful handling of the forces employed and the brilliant strategy displayed, Combermere's reputation was considerably enhanced. He was thanked by the Governor-General and both Houses of Parliament, being advanced in the Peerage to the dignity of Viscount.

In 1830 he returned to England and in the same year was appointed Provincial Grand Master, Cheshire; in which office he remained until 1865.

During his stay in India, he was initiated, passed and raised in the "Star in the East" Lodge No. 69, E.C. Calcutta. The dates of his initiation and passing are unknown, owing to the condition of the Minute Book of 1827, only one page being legible. It reads— "Friday, 22nd October, 1827, at a M.M. Lodge held at the house of our R.W.M.

Present:

R.W.M. Birch

M.W.P.M. Blackquire

W.S.W. Auley

W.J.W. Strettel

S.D. Vaughan — pro tempore

J.D. Strong — pro tempore

Brothers: Barlow, Castely, Cleland, Hon. C. Lindsay.

Visiting

Brothers: Col. Lindsay, Col. French, Capt. Agnew.

Opened the Lodge in due form.

Read the proceedings of last Meeting which were approved and recorded.

Brother Viscount Stapleton, Lord Combermere, having duly served his apprenticeship and having duly passed to the 2nd degree, is reported in attendance at the outer door of the Temple and craving to be admitted to the 3rd degree. After due examination and the usual preparations are reported satisfactory, he is admitted to the Lodge and duly raised to the High and Sublime degree of a M.M. according to ancient form and the usual ceremonies.

There being no further business, closed the Lodge in due form, with a solemn prayer, retired to a brotherly banquet.

(Signed) W. Auley — Offctg. Sec."

Lord Combermere became Master of the Lodge in 1830, but resigned on leaving India.

Such was the illustrious Mason after whom our Lodge was named and who, by special bequest, bequeathed to us the right to have engraved upon our P.M.'s jewel, and included in our Badge, his Coat-of-Arms.

JOSEPH JOHN MOODY, FOUNDER OF THE COMBERMERE LODGE.

Right Worshipful Bro. Joseph John Moody, first Master of the Combermere Lodge, came to Victoria in 1852. He was brought to the Colony to occupy the office of Town Clerk of the Municipality of East Collingwood, the first Municipality to be established outside that of Melbourne. However, he was not installed in that office until 1855, in which year the Municipality was proclaimed.

It might be mentioned that he had obtained considerable experience in civic affairs as Shire Clerk in the County of Lincolnshire. He had also gained Masonic eminence, with the rank of Past Prov. Grand Deacon (Lincolnshire), also Past Prov. Grand Junior Warden (Cheshire). It was with this latter distinction that he served under R.W. Bro. Lord Combermere, District Grand Master, from which circumstance the name of our Lodge is derived. He had been Past Master of Lodge Unity, No. 403 (Cheshire), Virtue 177 (Lincolnshire), also Lodge Lindsay No. 602.

Arriving in Victoria, he became a member of Australia Felix Lodge No. 697 E.C. (now No. 1 V.C.), also of the Lodge of Australasia No. 776 E.C. (He was Master of Australia Felix Lodge in 1853-4-5).

In 1862, he was appointed by the Government to be the first Chairman of the newly formed Charities Committee. This body later became known for many years as the Charities Board and today (1958) as the Hospital and Charities Commission.

In 1863, he promoted the idea of establishing a home for “aged and decayed Freemasons”, and taking advantage of a strong Masonic feeling in the McCulloch Government then in power, was able to influence the passing of a Bill, setting aside by Colonial Land Grant of a piece of land, in extent 5 acres and 21 perches, known as No. 3 Punt Road for the purpose mentioned, the Act being passed in November, 1864. It may be mentioned that J. J. Moody was appointed by Parliament as the first (and at that time only) Trustee.

Three years passed before, in 1867, sufficient funds to fence the property were available and on 17th May of that year, three District and Provincial Grand Lodges were opened in the Prahran Town Hall by the English, Scottish & Irish Constitutions, after which the brethren marched to the site when the land was dedicated and foundations of the first two cottages laid.

He became District Grand Warden in the Dist. G.L. of Victoria (E.C.) and was appointed Installing Warden in that District G.L.; he died in 1881.

ARMS OF VISCOUNT COMBERMERE.

Reference was made in the foregoing to a bequest made by Viscount Combermere granting the use of his Coat-of-Arms to the Lodge.

Here is a description of the same, written in 1913, by W. Bro. Wm. Burston P.M., P.A.G.D.C., P. Secretary and Chap.

“On that Coat-of-Arms, as I have stated, are various emblems. The small azure shield has on it three bales of cotton, emblematical of the family name. They look like three eights and may also be considered to have a Masonic reference so well known to you Brethren. This little blue shield, with the open hand and red heart in the centre, the insignia of a Baron, is a representation of the medal presented by the King to the first Viscount Combermere after the battle of Salamanca.

Over this medal, on the right, is a falcon with wings expanded and holding in the right claw a belt. On the left a Cavalry Officer of the 3rd Regiment Light Dragoons in full charge and over this is a scroll with the word Salamanca in gold letters. The whole is supported by two falcons, each supporting a spear with a standard flowing from each, the whole having a warlike appearance.

On a scroll underneath appears Lord Combermere’s motto. “Utraque Fortuna Paratus”. (Ready, prepared for adventure or adversity, literally “Prepared in all circumstances”).

From references I have consulted, the Coat-of-Arms appears to have undergone some modifications in later years.

The remaining parts of the jewel require no explanation from me as you are well aware of the significance of the Square, Compasses and the 47th Proposition, and if not you will have many opportunities of having them explained in future Lodge meetings.”



EXTRACT FROM FIRST CASH BOOK.

Financing the commencement of the Lodge was accomplished in a somewhat simple manner. Five of the founders, Moody, Atkinson, Barnett, Freame and Le Cren, gave promissory notes for £20 each, these being discounted by the English & Scottish Bank, the charge for same being £2/7/8, with interest payable monthly. The transaction was finalised in November 1858.

The joining fee was £1/1/-, a similar amount accompanying propositions and the Initiation fee was £4/4/-.

In May, 1858, various amounts are shown subscribed to Indian Relief Fund, later on it is described as the "Indian Famine Relief" and subscriptions were continued up to 1877. Other organisations to whose funds amounts subscribed appear more or less regularly are:— Melbourne Hospital, Masonic Charitable Institution, Melbourne Orphanage, Children's Hospital, Austin Hospital and Masonic Hospital (London).

Benevolent and Charity disbursements figure more frequently on the accounts than would be the case to-day, there being many instances of applications for relief. During the first World War, quite a number of contributions are shown to French and British Red Cross Societies, King George's Fund for Sailors, Prisoners of War at Ruhleben, just to quote a few. But it would seem that Combermere's major effort in this direction was made in 1945 and 1946 when a Food Parcels for Britain project was carried out, some 1500 parcels being sent to various addresses in Great Britain.

Payments of "2/- to Tyler for cartage of Tracing Boards, borrowed from Collingwood Lodge" appear, and on June 27th, 1860, there is an entry "By subscription to Raffle for Tracing Boards" (Bro. Aresti) £1/0/0, which would seem to indicate that either somebody was disposing of those useful ornaments, or that Combermere had adopted the usually accepted means of conducting a raffle for the purpose of "raising the wind" in order to purchase a set.

The Treasurers of the Lodge's early years were, evidently, Brethren of most amiable nature, as there are a number of payments for such items as "Refreshments for Columns Committee £2/4/0' ditto for "Bye Laws Committee", 17/6 also for "Refreshments to Chair etc."

Two entries of interest are "February 27th, 1858, "Cash paid to Emory for Combermere Arms, £5/0/0", also that of "May 1st, 1860', to Stokes for Lodge Seal £2/15/0".

The Cash Book balance for the first year apparently caused a little trouble, being shown as "Cr. Balance £21/10/5". Written in another hand writing, is "error, say 17/-", underneath is the uncompromising statement (by the Treasurer) "say correct Balance £21/10/5".

In September, 1874, there appears an entry "to inspecting Organ £2/2/-". In the same month is shown "W. H. Fincham Purchase of Organ £275/-/-". It seems that considerable trouble was experienced with this instrument as there are quite a few payments for "fixing Organ", "repairs to Organ" and "Overhauling Organ"; also for hire of Organ (presumably whilst the Lodge's instrument was undergoing repairs). About the same time, we find accounts for "Choir expenses", "purchase of music". Apparently it was customary to supply refreshments for Choir Members when at Rehearsal as the item "Refreshments for Choir" appears at frequent intervals. Combermere's Choir enjoyed a considerable reputation amongst the various Lodges until quite recent years when, for reasons known to and regretted by many of us, it was discontinued.

Scanned from a copy of an original booklet dated 20th February, 1958.

Past Masters of the Lodge (continued from page 11)

1981	R. T. Bennett
1982	E. A. Weiss
1983	D. N. Wilcock
1984	A. Rye
1985	J. Wilkie
1986	H. H. Cheah
1987	D. G. Huggins
1988	W. H. L. Law
1989	H. T. Cheah
1990	E. G. Bruce
1991	F. C. J. Ho
1992	D. Mills-Franklin
1993	C. R. Lim
1994	N. J. Gaudie
1995	A. W. F. Carlson
1996	D. E. Oliver
1997	G. J. Y. Hui
1998	P. D. Griffiths
1999-00	A. H. Sachak
2001	D. A. Cunningham
2002	J. J. Craney
2003-4	A. R. Carlson
2005-6	K. Daghish
2007	R. D. Gordon
2008	C. M. McCready
2009	D. S. Forbes
2010	R. T. Bennett
2011	C. H. B. Lee
2012	P. N. Martin
2013	

Sir William John Clarke:

Sir William was proposed and balloted for on 18 October 1883, being D.G.M.I.C., and resigned in September 1885. He was subsequently proposed as a re-joining Member on the 15 March 1888 and balloted for, as a re-joining member, on 19 April 1888.

On the formation of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria in 1889 he was installed as the first Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria.

He remained a member of Combermere Lodge until his death on the 15th May 1897. (The second recording in the Lodge Register shows his date of death as 15 April 1897)



[La Trobe Picture Collection](#),
[State Library of Victoria](#),
H6257

William John Clarke (1831-1897), by Johnstone, O'Shannessy & Co, c1885

Extract from “The Victorian Craftsman” July 1, 1940

COMBERMERE LODGE, No. 752, E.C.

Several Grand Officers of the Victorian Constitution visited this grand old English Constitution Lodge, which is the only one of its kind in the State, on June 20. The delegation was headed by R.W. Bros. C. H. Book, K.C., D.G.M., and G. B. Leith, P.S.G.W.

Bro. H. H. Stappers was Installed by W. Bro. G. A. Wharington the Master, and the Proclamations made by W. Bro. W. G. Hull, who also presented the W.Ts. in each degree.

The Address to the Master was given by W. Bro. J W. Ulph, after which W. Bro. Stappers invested his Wardens on the S. side of the Pedestal. W. Bro. A. Bright, who is Asst. Secretary, delivered the Address to the Wardens, and the Pillars were presented by W. Bro. A. R. Mitchell.

The remaining officers were then invested by W. Bros. W. Ulph, V L. Hyndman, E. G. Loof, G. J. Mackay and T. H. Ford. The address to the Brethren was then delivered by R.W. Bro. C. H. Book, D.G.M., Vic., after which he presented a P.M.'s jewel to W. Bro. David Bain, who had rendered good service during his term as Master.

Overseas Grand Rank has been conferred upon W. Bro. W. G. Hull, who is a fine D.C., and he was presented with a set of appropriate regalia by R.W. Bro. G. B. Leith, P.S.G.W. Vic.

A happy hour was spent in the S., and after the toast of the Grand Master of England had been honoured the toast of the Grand Master of Victoria was a fraternal gesture. The latter toast was responded to by W. Bro. Unsworth Smith, P.J.G.D.