

**THE ATHOLL LODGES: THEIR AUTHENTIC  
HISTORY. BEING A MEMORIAL OF THE  
GRAND LODGE  
OF ENGLAND. "ACCORDING TO THE OLD  
INSTITUTIONS." COMPILED FROM  
OFFICIAL SOURCES**

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"According to the Old Institutions." Compiled from Official Sources by Robert Freke Gould

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**ROBERT FREKE GOULD**

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BY  
ROBERT FREKE GOULD,  
*Author of "The Four Old Lodges."*

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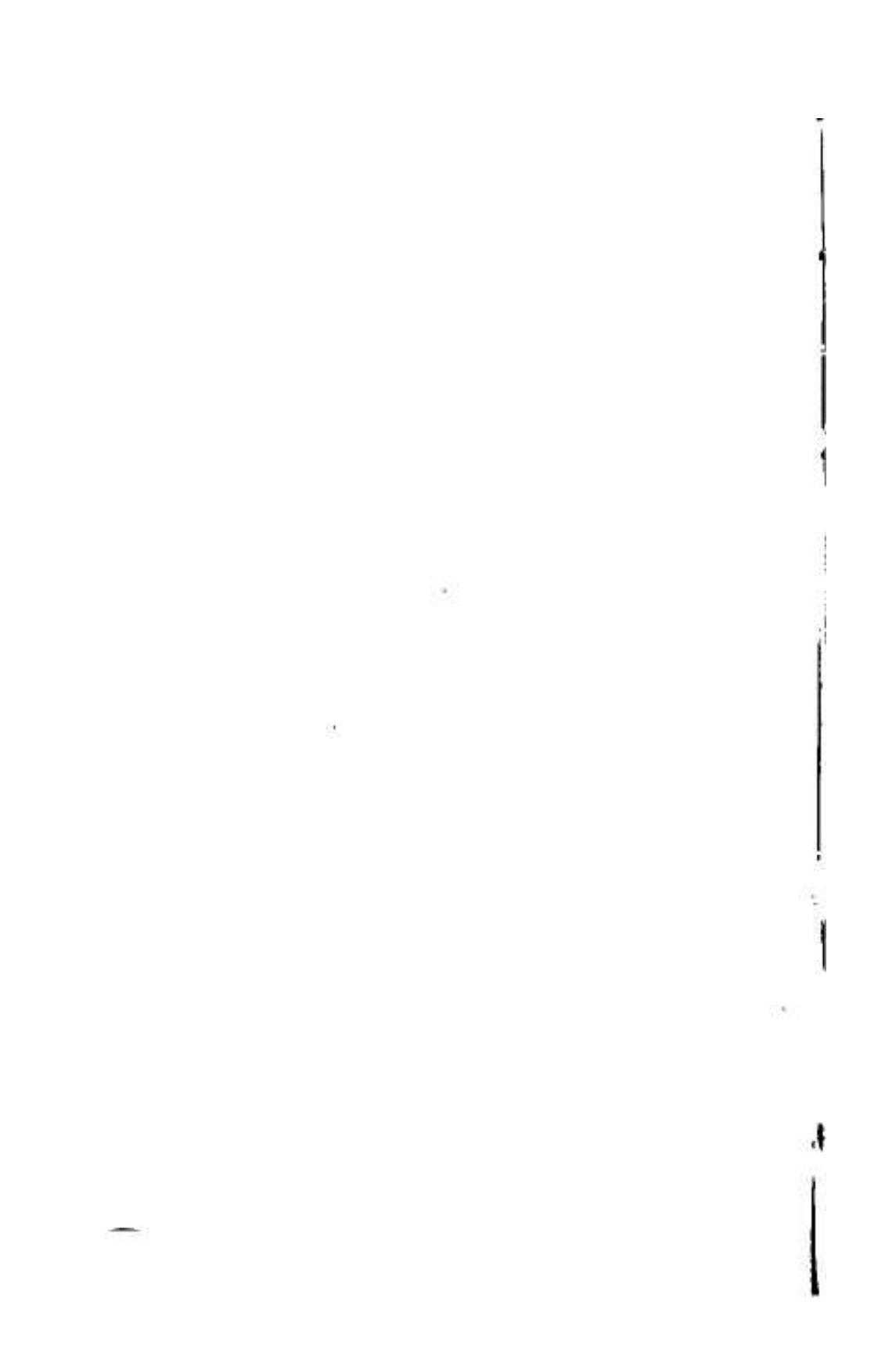
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Inscribed  
TO  
JOHN HERVEY, ESQ.,  
GRAND SECRETARY,  
AS  
A SLIGHT TOKEN OF PERSONAL ESTEEM,  
AND  
IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION  
OF  
MUCH ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE,  
FRATERNALLY RENDERED,  
WHILST INVESTIGATING THE ANCIENT RECORDS  
OF WHICH  
HE IS THE HONOURED CUSTODIAN.





## PREFACE.

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DURING the last century, there were *four* Grand Lodges of England, viz. :—(1.) *The* Grand Lodge of England, 1717; (2.) The Grand Lodge of *All* England [York], 1725; (3.) The Grand Lodge of England “according to the old Institutions,” 1753; (4.) And the Grand Lodge of England, “South of the Trent,” 1779. Of the foregoing, Nos. 2 and 4 succumbed to adverse fortune, leaving the Grand Lodges established respectively in 1717 and 1753, to continue their rivalry alone, from 1790 to 1813.

The *junior* of these two bodies originated in the secession of numerous brethren about 1738, from the *parent* Grand Lodge of English Masonry, which they averred had adopted *new* plans and departed from the *old* landmarks. The Schismatics, therefore, in reverting [as they alleged] to the “old forms,” arrogated to themselves the title of “Ancient” Masons, bestowing upon their rivals the odious appellation of “Moderns,” and by these distinctive epithets they have since been generally described.

Towards the close of the Eighteenth Century, the two Grand Lodges became further distinguished

from each other, by the names of their respective Grand Masters : Thus, whilst brethren holding under the "Regular" or "Constitutional" Grand Lodge [1717], were indifferently classed, as "Prince of Wales" Masons or "Moderns." Those under the jurisdiction of the "Seceding" Grand Lodge [1753], were styled "Atholl" Masons or "Ancients."

Annual lists of their subordinate Lodges were published by the "Moderns," who, moreover, were in the habit of filling gaps on the roll, caused through lapse or erasure, by *closing up the numbers*, or, in other words, by *re-numbering* their Lodges ; this process being resorted to, in 1740, 1756, 1770, 1781, and 1792.

The "Ancients," on the contrary, never had recourse to a general re-numbering, but filled *their* gaps by the promotion of junior Lodges to such of the *earlier* numbers as became vacant. Each alteration of the kind, creating a *further* vacancy lower down on the roll, which in turn was the object of competition between the more junior Lodges. Unlike the "Moderns," they published no lists of their Lodges for more than *half a century* after their Grand Lodge was established ; the first printed roll of the "Atholl" [or "Ancient"]

Lodges appearing in their Book of Constitutions, or "Ahiman Rezon," for 1807.

The present work is an attempt to elucidate the early history of the "Atholl" Lodges, and in the furtherance of such purpose I have carefully examined all the "Records" of the "Ancient" Grand Lodge, consisting of the Grand Lodge and Stewards' Lodge Minutes, and the Register of Lodges and their members.

Much has been done in this field of inquiry by Bros. Hughan and John Constable, but in his transcripts of old "Atholl" warrants, the latter brother having been restricted to the publication of documents relating to *existing* Lodges only, the constant numerical changes produced by the frequent sale and purchase of warrants, *with their resulting ramifications throughout the entire roll of the "Ancients,"* are obviously very imperfectly recorded. These old warrants, moreover [especially the earlier ones], are very misleading, from the erroneous *endorsements* that have been placed upon them by Grand Secretary Leslie and Deputy Grand Secretary Harper.

The warrants of Lodges appear, in the first instance, to have borne the dates on which they were granted *in* Grand Lodge. At a later stage,