

9120

*[Faint, illegible handwriting]*

John Snow

Portington

John Snow

Installation Ceremony  
for Officers of a Subordinate Lodge  
after the Bath of Office

The following Prayer

An omnisciently great & glorious Lord  
Supreme grand architect  
God

of ~~the Universe~~, in the spirit  
of meekness, and humility, we  
thy servants assembled on this  
anniversary, would address thee,  
as that being who in the  
beginning said "Let there  
be light" and there was  
light" whose omniscient word  
crushed the jarring ele-  
ments, and whose almighty  
power marshaled them into a  
Universe complete, formed  
the planetary system, and  
gave birth to nature — we  
adore thee as the first cause of

all things, the fountain of  
Light, of life, and Love, for  
whose pleasure all things  
were created and made. — We  
thank thee that in giving  
man existence thou hast  
formed him for social and  
active life, thou hast gra-  
-ciously constituted the powers  
of the mind: for the attain-  
-ment of that wisdom and  
knowledge necessary to the  
happiness of man. Thou  
hast permitted him to form  
those society relations which  
furnish him with the means  
of improving his mind in the  
science of Virtue, and of cultivating  
the social affections, among  
the many societies that exist  
we thank God for the institution

of that of which we are mentioned  
and for the promotion of which  
we are assembled this day. will  
the Lord bless us in all our  
virtuous endeavours to promote  
the happiness of man may  
we make a wise improvement  
of every opportunity we enjoy of  
assembling together, so that it  
may never be said we have  
laboured in vain, or spent our  
strength for nought - may  
brotherly love prevail and  
unanimity and peace be our  
constant attendants - bless  
the brethren of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge  
we humbly beseech thee, in  
all their labours of Love -  
to dispense light, and knowledge  
and may those who from time  
to time shall be admitted  
and received into this retreat

of friendship, become so  
enamoured with the beauty,  
and order of the place as ear-  
nestly to desire more light  
will the almighty in divine  
benevolence bless the officers  
of this Lodge - may all their  
labours in the masonic vineyard  
be blessed to the benefit of  
mankind, may they enjoy the  
heartfelt satisfaction of seeing  
the situation of man rendered  
more blessed by their endeavours  
their brethren, and Companions  
enjoying the pleasing reflec-  
tion consequent on a well  
spent life, and the pure  
principles of masonry flour-  
ishing around them will God  
bless them with full affection  
and confidence of their brethren

and friends through life, - die in  
peace, and be raised to life and  
immortality - We approach  
Thee with reverence and in love  
thy blessing on thy servant who  
has been appointed to preside  
over them fill his heart with  
thy fear, that his tongue,  
and actions may pronounce  
thy glory, make him steadfast  
in thy service, grant him firm-  
ness of mind, animate his  
heart and strengthen his  
endeavours, may he teach  
thy judgments and thy laws,  
bless him O Lord, and bless  
the work of his hand among  
his flock in this town, and  
more especially within our  
mystick walls - Vouchsafe  
thy blessing to all our brethren

wherever dispersed and grant speed  
-ly relief to all who are either  
oppressed, or distressed we affection-  
-ately commend to thee all  
the members of thy whole  
family. may they increase  
in the knowledge of thee  
and in the love of each other  
finally may we finish all our  
work here below with thine  
approbation and have our  
transition from this earthly  
abode to the mansions of  
never ending bliss thee to enjoy  
thee forever & ever and thine  
shall be the glory and the  
Praise world without end, amen

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The G. M. then says Brethren having  
approached the sacred volume and become  
qualified for installation I shall now  
proceed to install you into your several  
offices agreeable to ancient usage & custom

The S. G. M.

then presents the master  
elect & says M W G M I present  
my worthy Brother who has been  
elected master of this Lodge  
to be installed as such I  
find him to be of good morals  
and of great skill true & trusty  
and as he is a lover of the whole  
fraternity wheresoever dispersed I  
doubt not that he will dis-  
-charge his duty with fidelity

The G. M. then addresses him

W. Brother

I feel much satisfaction in  
performing my duty on the  
present occasion by installing  
you into the office of master  
of this Lodge. It is an office  
highly honourable to all



who dilligently perform the  
important duties annexed to it  
your reputed masonic ~~knowledge~~  
however precludes the necessity  
of particular enumeration of  
those duties, I shall therefore  
only observe that by a frequent  
recurrence to the Constitution  
and general regulations, and a  
constant practise of the several  
Lectures, and Charges, you will  
be best able to fulfill them  
and I have no doubt that the  
Brethren who are chosen to  
preside with you will give  
strength to your endeavours and  
ably support your exertions. —

Previous to your investiture  
it is necessary that you should  
signify your assent to the

ancient charges, and regulation  
which point out the of a master  
of a sudge Viz —

You agree to be a good man  
and true and strictly to obey the  
moral law —

You agree to be a peaceable  
subject and cheerfully to conform  
to the laws of the country in  
which you reside —

You promise not to be  
concerned in plots and conspira-  
cies against Government, but  
patiently to submit to the  
Decisions of the supreme Legis-  
lature.

You agree to pay a  
proper respect to the civil  
magistrate, to work diligently  
live creditably, and act hon-  
ourably by all men —

you agree to hold in veneration  
the original rules and patrons  
of the order and their regular  
successors, supreme and subordi-  
-nate, according to their several  
stations, and to submit to the  
award, and resolutions of your  
Brethren, when convened, in every  
case consistent to the constitu-  
-tions of the order. —

You agree to avoid private  
pique, and quarrels, and to  
guard against intemperance  
and excess. —

You agree to be cautious  
in carriage, and behaviour con-  
-tious to your Brethren, and faith-  
-ful to your lodge. —

You promise to respect  
genuine Brethren and to discour-

tenance imported and all de-  
-sented from the original plan  
of masonry —

You agree to promote the  
general good of society to  
cultivate the social virtues  
and to propagate the knowl-  
-edge of the art —

You promise to pay hom-  
-age to the Grand Master for  
the time being, and to his  
officers when duly installed  
and strictly to conform to every  
edict of the grand lodge  
or general assembly of masons  
that is not subversive to the  
principles, or ground work of  
masonry —

You admit that it is not  
in the power of any man or  
body of men to make innovation in  
the body of masonry —

You promise a regular attendance on committees and communication from the grand lodge on receiving proposals and to pay attention to all the duties of masonry on convenient occasions —

You admit that no new lodge shall be formed without permission of the grand lodge; and that countenance be given to any irregular lodge nor to any person clandestinely initiated therein it being contrary to the antient charges of the order —

You admit that no person can be regularly made a mason in, or admitted a member of any regular lodge without previous notice and due inquiry into his character —

you agree that no visitors  
shall be received into your lodge  
without due examination and  
producing proper vouchers of  
their having been initiated  
in a regular lodge —

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The G. M. then addresses the  
master W. J. These are the  
antient charges and regulations  
of masons do you submit to  
them and promise to maintain  
and support them as all  
masters have done before you.

G. M. — in consequence of  
your cheerful conformity to  
those antient charges and  
regulations, you are now to  
be installed master of this  
lodge in full faith & confidence  
of your skill & capacity to govern the  
same

G. M., I now with pleasure  
invest you with this badge  
of your office which is the square  
it being the proper masonic  
emblem of your office is con-  
stantly to remind you of the  
Duty you owe to the lodge  
over which you are appointed  
to preside - - -

As the various implement  
of our profession are emblematic  
of our conduct in life  
it is necessary on this occasion  
that you should be presented  
with them - - -

G. M. I will first present  
you with the Holy writings  
that great light in masonry  
will guide you to all truth,  
it will direct your paths to  
the temple of happiness & point  
to you the whole duty of man

The square teaches to regulate  
our actions by rule & line &  
to harmonize our conduct  
by the principles of morality  
and virtue —

The compass teaches to limit  
our desires in every station, that  
rising to eminence by merit  
we may live respected & die  
regretted —

The rule directs that  
we should punctually observe  
our duty; press forward in the  
path of virtue and neither  
inclining to right, nor to the  
left, in all our actions have  
eternity in view —

The line teaches the  
criterion of moral rectitude to  
avoid dissimulation in conversa-  
tion and action, & to direct our  
steps to the path which leads  
to immortality



The book of constitution you  
are to search at all times cause  
it to be read in your lodge that  
none may pretend ignorance of  
the excellent precepts it enjoins

Lastly you receive in  
charge the bye laws of your  
lodge which you are to see  
carefully and punctually  
executed

senior Warden

G M Brother you have  
heard the charges & regulations  
recited to your master &

I now with pleasure invest  
you with this badge of your  
office which is the Level the  
level demonstrates that we are  
descended from the same stock,  
partake of the same nature  
and share the same hope, though  
distinctions among men are necessary

to preserve subordination yet  
no eminence of station should  
make us forget that we are brethren  
-er for he who is placed on the  
lowest spoke of fortune's wheel  
may be entitled to our regard,  
because a time will come &  
the wisest know not how soon  
when all distinctions but that  
of goodness will cease & death  
the grand leveler of all  
human greatness reduce us  
to the same state

your regular attendance &c

Junior Warden

As you have heard the charges  
I now with pleasure invest you  
with this badge of your office  
The plumb admonishes us to  
walk uprightly in our several  
stations ~~to holding~~ to scale of justice

in equal poise & to observe  
the just medium between in-  
temperance & pleasure & to  
make our passions & prejudices  
coincide with the line of our  
Duty — to you with such  
assistances as may be necessary  
is entrusted the examination of  
visitors, & the introduction of  
candidates, to your care is also  
committed the superintendance  
of the craft during the hours  
of refreshment it is therefore  
indispensably necessary that  
you are not only temperate &  
discreet in the indulgence of your  
own inclinations but carefully  
observe that none of the craft  
be suffered to convert the purposes  
of refreshment into intemperance &  
except — your regular attendance &

Treasurer presented & invited

The qualities that should  
recommend a treasurer are  
accuracy & fidelity, accuracy  
in keeping a fair & minute  
account of all receipts and  
disbursements, fidelity in  
carefully preserving all the  
property & funds of the lodge  
that may be placed in his  
hands & rendering a just  
account of them whenever  
he is called upon for that  
purpose - I presume your  
respect for the institution  
your attachment to your lodge  
& your regard for a good name  
which is better than precious  
ointment will prompt you  
to the faithful discharge of your office

secretary introduced & inverted  
The qualities that should recom-  
-mend a secretary are punctuality  
in attending the meetings of the  
Lodge, correctness in recording  
their proceedings, judgment in  
discriminating what is proper  
& what is not proper to be  
committed to writing - regular-  
-ity in making his annual returns  
to the Grand Lodge, integrity in  
accounting for all monies that  
may pass through his hands &  
fidelity in paying the same  
over into the hands of the treasurer  
The possession of the good Qualities  
I presume has designated you as  
suitable candidate for this import-  
-ant office and I cannot entertain  
a doubt but you will discharge  
its duties beneficially to your Lodge  
& honorably to yourself & when

you shall have completed the  
record of your transactions here  
below & finished the term of your  
probation ~~here below~~ may you  
be admitted into the celestial  
Grand Lodge of saints & angels  
& find your name recorded in  
the book of life eternal

Stewards

Parsons omitted

Brother you are elected steward  
of this lodge - it is your province  
to see that every necessary prep-  
-eration is made for the con-  
-venience, and accomodation, previous  
to the time appointed for meeting  
you are to see that the implements,  
& furniture, are properly <sup>disposed</sup> in  
suitable array for use whenever  
they may be required & that they  
are secured when the business of  
the lodge is over - you are to  
see that necessary refreshments

are provided, & that all your  
Brethren & particularly visitors  
are suitably provided for you  
are to be frugal and prudent  
in your disbursements & to be  
careful that no extravagance  
or wast is committed in your  
Department & when you have  
faithfully fulfilled your  
stewardship here below may  
you receive from heaven the  
happy greetings of well done  
good and faithful servants -

**Syler** \_\_\_\_\_

You are appointed Syler of  
this Lodge I invest you with  
this implement of your office  
as the sword is placed in the hands  
of the Syler to enable him more  
effectually to guard against the  
approach of cowards, & evesdroppers

& suffer none to pass or cease  
but such as are duly qualified  
so should it morally serve  
a constant admonition to  
us to set a guard at the entrance  
of our thoughts, to place a watch  
at the door of our lips; to post  
a sentinell at the avance of  
our ~~thoughts~~, actions, thereby  
excluding every unqualified  
and unworthy thought, word or  
deed, & preserving our consciences  
void of offense towards God and  
towards man

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As the first application  
from visitors for admission  
into the lodge is generally  
made to the tyler - at the door  
your situation will often pre-  
-sent you to the observation  
of strangers; it is therefore  
essentially necessary that he  
who sustains the office with



which you are intrusted should  
be a man of good morals, steady  
habits strict Discipline, temperate  
affable & discreet, I trust that  
a just regard for the honour and  
reputation of the institution  
will ever induce you to perform  
with fidelity the trust reposed  
in you & when the door of this  
earthly tabernacle shall be  
closed may you find an abundant  
entrance through the gates  
into the temple & city of our  
God

---

Address to the Master

Worshipful Brother

Having been honoured with  
with the free suffrages of the  
members of this Lodge you are  
elected to the most important  
office which is within their power  
to bestow their expression of their  
esteem and respect should flow  
from you corresponding sensations

and your demeanour should be such  
as to repay the honour they have  
conspicuously conferred upon you  
by an honourable & faithful dis-  
-charge of the duties of your office

The station you are called to  
fill is not only important as  
it respects the correct practice  
of our rights & ceremonies &  
the internal economy of the  
lodge over which you preside  
but the publick reputation  
of the institution will gen-  
-erally be found to rise or fall  
according to the skill, fidelity,  
& discretion with which its cer-  
-emonies are managed or in pro-  
-portion as the characters and  
conduct of its principal officers  
are estimable or censurable

You have accepted a trust  
to which is attached a weight

of responsibility that will re-  
-quire all your efforts to discharge  
honourably to yourself & satisfacto-  
-rily to your Lodge you are to see  
that your officers are capable  
& faithful in the exercise of  
their offices, should they lack  
ability you are expected to  
supply their defects, you are to  
watch carefully the progress of  
their performances & to see that  
the long established customs of the  
<sup>institution</sup>  
~~fraternity~~, suffer no derangement  
in their hands.

So you sir the craft have  
a right to look for the exam-  
-ple of sincere & unaffected fra-  
-ternal love, & while in godly  
sincerity you possess this amiable  
quality you retain their confidence  
& they hasten with pleasure to  
perform your will.

It is yours to watch with a vigilant eye & to see the papers are well guarded to urge the sentinals to the faithful performance of their duty, that you may be forewarned of all approaching danger it is yours to fly to the post attacked & to meet the enemy at the threshold, to observe with care the first dawning of discord, enmity, jealousy, or party-  
prejudices, & endeavour by all the persuasive eloquence of which you are master to repel the foe lest confusion prevail among the workman

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For a pattern of imitation consider the great luminary of nature which rising in the East regularly diffuses light & lustre to all within its circle. in like manner it is your province to spread & communicate light & instruction to brethren of your lodge. Forceably impress upon them the dignity & importance of masonry & seriously admonish them never to disgrace it. — Charge them to

practise out of the lodge all those  
duties which they are taught in it  
& by amiable, discreet, & virtuous  
conduct to convince mankind of  
the goodness of the institution  
so that any one is said to be a  
member of it the world may  
know that he is one to whom  
the burdened heart may pour  
out its sorrows - To whom distress  
may prefer its suit. whose hand  
is guided by justice, & his heart ex-  
panded by benevolence - Finally  
by a diligent observance of the  
by laws of your lodge, the consti-  
tutions of masonry - & above all  
the Holy scriptures which are given  
as a rule & guide to your faith  
you will be enabled to acquit  
yourself with honour & reputation  
& lay up a crown of rejoicing  
which shall when time shall be  
no more

Address to the senior warden

may your column ever prosper  
brother S.W. that strength which is necessary  
to carry into effect & complete those plans devised  
By the light of emblem of  
your office

Brother S.W.

May your column ever prosper that  
strength which is necessary to carry  
into effect & complete those plans  
devised by the wisdom of the East —

By the light of ~~your column~~  
that emblem of your office you  
are taught to divert your mind of  
Pride ostentation, hypocrisy and  
Deceit, for by it we are reminded  
that we are all partakers of the  
same common nature, descended from  
the same stock, & share of the same  
blessed hope & though distinctions  
among men are necessary to preserve  
subordination yet no eminence to  
which merit may be exalted should  
make us forget that we are one saved  
band of brother & fellows —

It is yours to instruct the younger  
brethren in the moral use of the

plumb, square, & level that they  
may be enabled to walk uprightly  
before God, & man squaring their  
actions by the sublime principles  
of virtue as they travel on the level  
of time to that undiscovered country  
from whose bourne no traveler return

It is your to see that none go away  
dissatisfied, may you execute the  
important Duties of your office with  
honor to yourself & satisfaction  
to your Lodge, that when the sun  
of life shall set in the west and  
close your existence here on earth may  
you have the felicity of having  
drooped beneath the western horizon  
without a cloud to cast a gloom  
upon the mind, but departing  
in peace enjoy you God's Sovereign  
in your bright world of celestial  
glory

---

Address to the J W  
Brother J W

It is your province to notice the  
progress of the march of day

as he illumines the earth with his  
cheering rays - so it is yours to call  
the labourer from his toil when  
the sun pours his beating rays  
from the southern line - you need  
not be informed, at this time,  
that the beauty of your column  
is temperance & sobriety, hence it  
is necessary you drop the timely  
word of caution <sup>by</sup> your example  
impress ~~impress~~ upon the mind  
the necessity of avoiding intemperance  
lest the excellent beauty of your  
column be veild in darkness and  
the workman thrown into confusion

And when the great watchman  
of israell whose eye never slum-  
bers nor sleeps shall relieve  
you from your post on earth  
may he permit you in heaven  
to participate in that divine  
food & refreshment which is  
"such as the saints in glory love"  
"And such as Angels eat"



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Adapt to the office generally  
better in office

Precepts & example should ever  
advance with an equal pace those  
moral duties which you are required  
to teach unto others you should neglect  
to practice yourselves -

Do you desire distinction among  
your brethren? Be sure that your  
claims to preferment are founded  
upon superior attainments, let  
no ambitious <sup>motives</sup> be suffered to  
induce you to envy or supplant  
a brother who may be considered  
as better qualified than yourself  
but rather let a laudable emu-  
-lation induce you to strive to  
excel each other in improvement  
& discipline, ever remembering  
that he who faithfully performs  
his duty even in a subordinate  
or private <sup>station</sup> is as justly entitled  
to esteem & respect as he who is  
invested with supreme authority

Address to the Brethren

Brethren of Lodge

Such is the nature of our institution that some must of necessity rule & teach so others must of course learn to submit & obey. Humility in both is an essential duty the <sup>officer</sup> you have elected to govern your lodge are sufficiently conversant with the rules of propriety & the laws of our institution to avoid exceeding the power with which they are entrusted & you are of too generous disposition to envy their preferment. I therefore trust you will have but aim to please each other & unite in the grand design of being happy & communicating happiness

Finally my brethren as the aspi-  
-ciation has been perfected in  
in so much unanimity & concord  
in which we greatly rejoice so  
may it long continue may  
you long enjoy every satisfaction  
& Delight which disinterested  
Friendship can afford may  
Kindness & brotherly affection  
Distinguish your conduct as  
men & as masons, Within  
your peaceful walls may  
your children children cel-  
-brate with joy & gratitude  
the transactions of our auspicious  
solemnities - may the tenets  
of our profession be trans-  
mitted through your lodge  
pure & unimpaired from  
generation to generation

<sup>may the exercises of your charity</sup>  
May you zealously endeavour to  
imitate the example of him  
on whose natal you are assembled  
& whose virtues you commemorate  
may you shine as burning lights  
in the masonic temple, keep  
the unity of the spirit in the  
bonds of peace; that you may  
seriously yield obedience &  
proper assistance to those  
you delight to honour —

May pure benevolence in  
copious, reviving, console and  
animating streams flow from  
the threshold of the sanctuary  
& invite down the blessings  
of heaven upon you —  
may your memories be had  
in everlasting remembrance  
by those who have been glad

by your Charities - may your  
graves be kept green by the  
Tears of gratitude & affection  
may conscious integrity support  
you through all your trials &  
afflictions while traveling  
the rugged path of life  
confidance in your heavenly  
Father soften the pillow  
of Death and the attendant  
Angel conduct your  
spirits to the mansions  
of rest

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Installation ceremonies of  
the Officers of a subordinate  
written & arranged by John Snow

June 24<sup>th</sup> 1819 —