

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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THE INSTALLATION OF H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

THE instructions as to the dress and regalia to be worn at the approaching ceremony of the Installation of the M.W.G.M., are at length issued, and will be found elsewhere in our columns. Evening dress (or black frock coat) with white gloves and full Masonic clothing, is to be the attire. Masters, Wardens and P.M.'s will, in addition, wear the collars and jewels of their respective offices, as likewise will Provincial Grand Officers the collars and jewels of the Lodges and offices respectively, by virtue of which they are members of Grand Lodge. No jewels or emblems are to be worn, save those appertaining to Craft or Royal Arch Masonry. Non-commissioned officers of the regular army in full dress uniform, will be held to be considered in evening dress, but volunteers are not to appear in uniform. Brethren are advised to take with them their Grand Lodge Certificates, so as to satisfy the Stewards of their personal identity. The ticket, which must be produced whenever required by the Stewards, is to be regarded in the light of an engagement by the holder, whose name is thereon, that he will conform to all the regulations, made by authority of the G.M. Seats will be determined by ballot; coats and hats must be taken into the hall, but placed under the seats, out of view. As to the ceremony itself, which is attracting so much attention, not only in the Masonic world, but generally, our readers perhaps are aware that it will take its place in the annals of our Order, as being not only one of the most interesting, but also as one of the most prominent events in its history. The first heir apparent to the British throne, who became a Mason, died before he had, to use a familiar phrase, made his mark in Masonry. The second, his grandson George, Prince of Wales, who became G.M. in 1790, was, let it be borne in mind, Grand Master in the days when our Order was divided by an unfortunate schism of long duration into Moderns and Ancients. The union of the Grand Lodges of these sections into our United Grand Lodge, was accomplished, when H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex held the supreme authority, and he became the first Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England. But His Royal Highness was far removed from any chance of succeeding to the throne, for the Princess Charlotte was then alive, and between her and him there were still several Royal Dukes nearer than he. But H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is the first heir apparent to the Crown of the United Kingdom, who has been chosen Grand Master of the Order in England. In one sense there is nothing very remarkable in this fact. But future generations of Freemasons will scarcely notice the circumstance, that between the Princes George and Albert Edward, no one else had borne the title which the heir to the Crown has been known by, since the birth of Edward, the Second of his name, in the Castle of Carnarvon. They will only remember that the latter was the first heir apparent, who was also G.M. of the United Grand Lodge of England. That his rule as G.M. may be both long and prosperous, both to himself and the Ancient Order he presides over, is the earnest prayer of every member!

THE SATURDAY REVIEW AND FREE- MASONRY.

OUR contemporary, the *Saturday Review*, has been making merry at the expense of the Freemasons. The proceedings of the Great City Lodge, upon which we commented last week, have, it seems, afforded scope for the display of the usual vinegar and gall. Whether the critic was unequal to the occasion, or the subject was too commonplace for a superfine writer, we know not; but it is quite certain that the lucubrations of the *Saturday Review* are not characterised by the usual brilliancy which we generally look for in its pages. The writer opens fire by the time-worn remark that the rites of Masonry can embody no secrets of consequence, or they would long since have become the common property of the world. He insinuates that Masons are frivolous people, who are fond of medals and orders, who puff themselves up with empty importance by means of ridiculous titles, and whose chief business it is to meet and dine together in great good fellowship. If the latter were indeed the only purpose for which modern Masonry exists, it would scarcely deserve the sneers of our superfine critic. Dining out is an eminently English institution, and the cultivation of the social qualities in which, notwithstanding our love for good cheer, we are, as a nation, so deficient, should surely be regarded as a useful expenditure of time and talent. But it is scarcely necessary to assure the *Saturday Reviewer* that Masonry does not exist for merely convivial purposes, and that its disciples are, as a body, too sensible to care much for the paraphernalia of office. Our Reviewer knows all this as well as we do, but it is a maxim amongst critics of a certain school to seize upon the prominent features of an adversary's case and hold them up to popular ridicule. On precisely the same principle a Billingsgate or Dublin fishwife will roundly abuse her opponent for having a bald head, or a hook nose, or red hair; the lady means nothing by her high-sounding adjectives, and, to do the *Saturday Review* justice, we do not think that it means any harm to Masonry. The inexorable columns of the paper must be filled, and if a writer is hard up for a subject for ridicule, Masonry will doubtless serve as well as any other. There is indeed just this peculiarity about the Order, that its proceedings, or at all events such portions of them as can be made public, may readily be rendered ridiculous by an unscrupulous writer. Nothing is easier than to make free of a subject one does not understand, but when the wit lacks information he must not be angry if those who could instruct him should call him a fool for his pains.

Masonry in these days does not need an apologist, and we could well afford to permit the critic of the *Saturday Review* to pass unnoticed, were it not that such sneers as his, if unheeded by us, may be regarded by the public as incontrovertible truths. If we were to refuse to plead, it might be held that judgment had gone against us by default. We cannot indeed lift the veil which hides the secrets of Masonry from view. Were it possible for us to do so our critic might find that there is really something more than mere idle ceremonial in them. Possibly he might discover in the formula some remarkable "survivals" which would rather astonish him. It is not our business to prove that Masons are all eminently sensible men, who care nothing for the regalia of the Craft. Some few amongst us may think the colour of an apron trimming of importance, or the affix of honorary initials a desirable ornament to a name,

just as in the outer world there are people who value the ribbon of an order of knighthood, or who think they are lifted head and shoulders above the common herd when our Gracious Sovereign confers upon them the rank of C.B. All this indeed is beside the real question, which is not whether some Masons are weak and vain, or whether the secrets of the Order are worth knowing, but whether Masonry really exists for any useful purpose. Here indeed we encounter a real difficulty. Our critic may be one of those hard-headed persons who do not believe in relieving the suffering and distressed. If, however, he is of opinion that systematic charity is a good thing, then we think he will need little persuasion to admit that the Masons are doing a good work. The sums expended every year by Grand Lodge alone in relieving cases of distress are very large, but nearly every Lodge has its benevolent fund, and no sick or distressed Mason of good character need ever seek parish relief. Something is always done to help a brother to meet the reverses of fortune. Any Mason who knows much of the working of the Order could point to numerous cases in his own locality, in which the brethren have thrown a plank to a sinking comrade. Many a small tradesman has met fate and his creditors with a smiling face, after a full confession of his difficulties to his Lodge. The abounding benefactions of Grand Lodge have made many a widow's heart sing for joy, and the orphan who eats the bread of Masonic charity, without a sense of degradation, has cause to rejoice that an Order exists which fosters ideas that are amongst the exploded fallacies of a certain school of political economists, but which will always hold sway over the hearts of men as long as the golden rule is regarded as an article of faith. Masonry, in truth, is a grand corporation, which exists for the purpose of spreading the principles of Benevolence and Charity. Some of the wisest and best of men have not disdained to proclaim themselves members of the Fraternity, and at this moment the brightest and best members of the Bench, the Bar, and the Church, are brothers. No man is a worse citizen for being a Mason, and we may say, with perfect truth, that many of our brethren, who, before they joined the Order, were not remarkable for benevolence, have had their charitable impulses quickened and strengthened by association with those who have made the practical morality of Christianity a corner-stone of the Craft.

We do not indeed object to a little harmless laughter over ceremonial which is Greek to the general public, but we should have thought that the practical work of Masonry is well enough known to writers who are supposed to keep a keen watch over the passing events of the day. To assert, as our contemporary does, that a Society, which has always numbered amongst its workers the most illustrious persons in the country, has no *raison d'être* for its existence, betrays woeful ignorance of facts which are the common property of the public. We have never, indeed, as a body made any undue parade of the "mysteries" of the Order, but the Saturday Reviewer seems to imagine that we have set ourselves up as theriavals in business of the old established shop for that article which has existed from time immemorial at Rome. We appreciate at its true value the unfortunate animosity which has been displayed towards Masonry in modern times by successive Popes, but that animosity we believe arises from a misconception of the scope and aims of the Order. Masonry has never attempted to touch upon the conflicting claims of any section of the Christian world, nor has it ever ventured to interfere with the due allegiance a brother owes to the religion which rules his conscience. Idle terror of Masonry, as a possible political weapon, has no doubt inspired the curses which have been thundered against us from the chair of St. Peter. In a recent issue we proved that these fears were absurd, but, although we do not hope to convert Pius IX., we confess that we should be glad to make a convert of our critic. He will find the Fraternity sound at core on many of the important questions which lie at the root of citizenship. He may learn, perhaps, that the Mason is not only a good fellow at table, but that he is a peaceful and loyal subject, a good father, and, whatever his creed, a religious man. We refer our readers to another column for the article which has given rise to these comments.

CHARITY STEWARDS AND CHARITY JEWELS.

LAST week "Regalia" raised, in these columns, an important question connected with the permission to wear Charity Jewels. The case, as stated by our worthy Brother, lies in a nutshell. This jewel was instituted by H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, to be worn as a mark of distinction by those Craftsmen who have twice served the office of Steward to one or other of our Charities, and a bar or clasp is added for each subsequent Stewardship a thus decorated member may fill. But this distinction is granted without regard to the amount of contributions that may have been brought to the funds of a charity by the recipient's exertions, the bare fact that he has served two Stewardships entitling him to the honour. Now "Regalia" argues, there is a certain degree of unfairness in this. Usually, and very properly, he says—in effect, if not in words—the man who labours actively in the cause of charity expects no recompense. Virtue, in this, as in other cases, is its own reward. But in our Order we have a decoration specially awardable to those who devote themselves to, or undertake this particular kind of duty, and while some among them are very active and very successful, others are sometimes inactive, and of no great service to the cause. Why should the inactive and the active be similarly rewarded? We all covet permission to wear so honourable a distinction, but is it quite fair that one Brother should earn it, in a certain sense, by payment, while another earns it by hard work? There is, we admit, some force in "Regalia's" suggestions. Yet we see, also, many difficulties in the way of a reform that shall give general satisfaction. We do not say such a reform is impracticable. But while a general rule occasionally gives rise to some amount of dissatisfaction, the question of comparative merit is nearly sure to entail bitter jealousies among all classes, and continually. Whether we regard the aggregate of a Steward's list, or the number of contributors to it, or whether we compare the personal liberality of one with the known energy of another, which way soever, in fact, we turn, in our endeavours after reform, we shall still find ourselves met by objections innumerable, and all, more or less, tenable. Suppose, for instance, we try to estimate the relative merits of two Stewards by the amount they are severally the means of adding to the funds of a Charity. We shall, perhaps, encounter some such difficulty as this. A, in his two Stewardships, collects fifty guineas the first time, and sixty guineas the second; but his list, in the first instance, is made up by the contributions of ten persons, while on the second occasion thirteen contribute to it. B, in his two Stewardships, collects first twenty-five guineas, and then twenty guineas; forty persons assisting him in his first year, and thirty-six in his second. Thus A, from the narrow field of twenty-three, obtains one hundred and ten guineas in his two years of office, B only forty-five guineas from a field of seventy-six. Shall we say that either A with the larger result, but far narrower field, or B with the larger field but smaller result, is not worthy of the decoration. Both have done good service, but one has canvassed more, the other benefits—in a pecuniary sense—the cause of the Charity more. Again, if we take into account the number of those who contribute to the lists, let us imagine that C and D, in their two Stewardships obtain exactly the same amounts, viz., forty guineas in their first, and forty-five guineas in their second, or together eighty-five guineas each. C's eighty-five guineas, however, represent the aggregate of the contributions of eighty-five persons, while D's were the joint contributions of one hundred and eleven. Both canvassed about the same number of individuals, but C met with some thirty rebuffs, while D encountered only perhaps seven or eight. E again, is prepared, or say, he is solicited to become a Steward on two occasions. He is a man of rank in his Lodge, possesses, moreover, ample means, but his engagements prevent him making any great personal exertion. So, as "Regalia" suggests, in addition to his Steward's fees, he heads his list with the required donation of ten guineas. Can we argue, with any show of reason, that E is not entitled to the honour of a Jewel? These are only a few of the cases that might be brought forward, in order to show the difficulties which any measure of reform will be sure to meet with, and how necessary it is to be cautious, so as to avoid offence to any among the numerous classes of brethren who take upon themselves the duties of Stewardship, but the subject, we repeat, is a proper one to discuss. At the same time,

we confess that, for ourselves, we cannot offer any well matured plan that will meet the not unreasonable objections of "Regalia." True, it has occurred to us on the spur of the moment that a similar practice might be adopted in bestowing this decoration as is followed in the army, in decorating those who have taken part in a campaign for which a medal and clasps are awarded. In this case the medal is given to all who served with the army up to a certain date, but a clasp or clasps are given only to the officers and men actually present in one or more battles. Thus all who joined our army in the Crimea up to a certain date received the Crimean medal, but only those received the clasps, severally added for Alma, Balaklava, Inkermann, Sebastopol, who were present in those engagements. Similarly, permission to wear the jewel might be granted to every brother serving the office of Steward, while a clasp would indicate that he had collected for one of our Charities the sum (say) one hundred guineas or more. The addition of a second clasp would show that he had collected twice that sum, and soon with each additional clasp. There are perhaps objections even to this slight modification of the present system. It occurred to us only at the moment of writing, and we have not, therefore, had time to give it much consideration. Crude as it is, however, we offer it, simply in order to show our interest in the subject matter of "Regalia's" letter. It only remains to add that our columns will be at the disposal of any other Brethren who may be anxious to express their views. The subject is worth "ventilating," if only in order to ascertain a means by which any heart-burnings at present existing may be removed.

We need not touch upon the variations from the existing regulations as to the eligibility of a brother to wear this jewel. These are sufficiently explained in a letter we publish from Bro. Binckes. We may add, however, our expression of approval of the very excellent rule, which now awaits confirmation at the courts of the Girls' and Boys' Schools, to be held on the 10th and 12th instant respectively. This, as Bro. Binckes suggests, will probably "be a stimulus to activity, and, at the same time, be regarded as something in the shape of a reward for labour."

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Brethren to appear in evening dress (or black frock coat), white gloves and full Masonic Craft clothing.

Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters must, in addition, wear the collars and jewels of their respective offices.

Provincial Grand Offices, the collars and jewels of the Lodges and Offices respectively, in right of which they attend as Members of Grand Lodge.

Non-commissioned Officers of the regular service in full dress uniform will be considered in evening dress. Volunteers must not appear in uniform.

No jewels or emblems to be worn but those appertaining to Craft or Royal Arch Masonry.

Brethren are recommended to bring their Grand Lodge certificates, as they cannot be admitted unless the Stewards in charge of the entrance are satisfied of their identity.

Tickets are to be produced for inspection whenever required by the Stewards on duty.

The places in the hall have been determined by ballot.

A seat is provided for every brother to whom a ticket has been issued. Brethren are, therefore, expected to proceed quietly to the places assigned to them.

Brethren bringing coats and hats must take them into the Hall, and place them under their seats, out of view.

The use of this ticket is an engagement by the brother named thereon to conform to all the regulations made by authority of the Grand Master.

By command of the M.W. Grand Master,

JOHN HERVEY, G.S.

FIRST ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF LANARKSHIRE AT ST. MARK'S HALL, GLASGOW.

On Wednesday, the 31st ult., a festival, got up by all the First Principals in the province, was held in St. Mark's Hall, under the presidency of Companion F. A. Barrow, the Provincial Grand Superintendent of Lanarkshire, who was supported on his right by Companions Duckett P.Z. of 73, J. Fraser P.G.S.N. and J. Balfour Scribe E. of 73, P.G.P.S., and on his left by W. Smith P.G.H.,

J. Miller Z. 50, J. Duthie Z. 67, and G. W. Wheeler Z. of 73. The Chaplains were Companions A. McTaggart M.A. P.G. Scribe E. and T. Halket Z. of 113 P.G. Treasurer. Full justice having been done to the very excellent and abundant *menu* provided by Companion S. M'Phee, Companion Barrow gave a brief but terse opening address, comparing the three Craft degrees to a school, in which every man should be taught the plain duties of life, but the Royal Arch Degree was the College, wherein all the higher branches of knowledge that tend to adorn and beautify the mind, are taught those that fit us for the highest stations in society, in fact he considered it the head of universal Masonry; there were higher degrees but they were merely what are called the Christian orders, and, though excellent in themselves, from their demanding a basis in Christianity as a requisite to admission, they cannot be considered so high as the Royal Arch. He believed the present very successful meeting was to be the means of still further spreading the Order. He then read letters of regret for non-attendance from several companions, and proposed the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft," followed by "The Prince of Wales and the other members of the Royal Family," "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," and "The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland," paying some well-merited compliments to that body, and regretting that they had not been able to send a deputation to this meeting, as the Grand Scribe E. stated in reply that he had four other invitations for that day. Comp. W. Smith then proposed "The other Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapters." He was proud to be able to recognise the work that was being done by Companions of this degree, and that they, as Masons of Scotland, might be now the means of taking a leaf out, he did not mean with regard to working but with regard to their Benevolent Fund. As a Mason of some years standing, and one who formerly took an active part in this City, he knew that a great advance had been made in this direction, but there was still room for improvement, though we were about on a level with France and some of the Continental Chapters, and even with Ireland, but America was ahead of us, and in England the magnificent benevolent institutions quite put us to the blush, and concluded by saying that he was proud to propose the other Grand Bodies (cheers). Comp. R. Wylie said the toast with which he had been entrusted, might be considered as the toast of the evening, and he was glad that it would not require many words from him to commend it to their notice. It was "the Provincial Royal Arch Chapter for Lanarkshire," with which he coupled the name of Comp. Barrow, remarking that the Grand Chapter could not have made a wiser selection than they had done, by placing Comp. Barrow at their head. This was not flattery, but the simple truth (cheers). Comp. Barrow said he was proud to think that his efforts to further the cause of Arch Masonry in the provinces should have met with such a hearty recognition. He was not a talker, but a worker, and this would stimulate him to fresh work. It was fifteen years since there had been an united meeting in the province like this. As most of them knew, when Dr. Walker Arnott resigned the position of Provincial Grand Superintendent, no one was appointed in his place for several years. Since he had received his commission, with the assistance of the Prov. Grand Office bearers and the support of the principals of the Chapters, he had been enabled to raise the spirit of Arch Masons, and with their aid it would yet take a still higher stand. Comp. J. Balfour—in proposing the next toast, "Daughter Chapters,"—called on all the Principals to reply on behalf of their own Chapters, and in the course of his remarks recommended a closer intercourse between the Chapters of the province. Comp. Miller, Z 50, thought some of the apathy which had been spoken of arose from the fact that too often the first Principals were chosen from those who, like himself, had filled the chair of Craft Lodges in former years, and then felt too old to learn a new and long ritual. Comp. Duthie, Z 67, had not the same fault to find, but his difficulty was to get proper officers to assist in the work. Comp. Wheeler, Z 73, was proud to say he had no fault to find with his officers, they were generally in their places. He would recommend a Chapter of Instruction be got up by all the Principals, that they might not only learn the work, but all work alike, and that they should not retain a first Principal so long in his chair. He had known in that province two Companions, one who had filled the chair nine, and the other ten years; they complained they could not get sojourners to learn the parts; was it any wonder, when they considered that he was only a very subordinate officer in rank, while his work was nearly as much as that of 1st Principal, if he saw there was no chance of his ever rising to fill the chair? Comp. J. Brodie Z. 79 said, after long pending sleep their Chapter had only just been resuscitated, and he must say it was entirely owing to the kindness of the members of other Chapters that he had been able to work at all. Some of the other Principals having replied, the next toast, "The other Orders of Masonry" was proposed by Croupier A. McTaggart, who alluded to the dispute respecting the antiquity of Masonry. Comp. W. Philips, in an effective speech, gave "The Visiting Companions." Comp. J. Duthie Z. 67, then proposed "The Benevolent Institutions." J. Halket Croupier, Provincial Grand Treasurer, replied that the Grand Chapter had voted £30 in a recent case of great distress, and then proposed "The Press," after which Companion Wheeler, in a hamorous speech, proposed "The Ladies," which was followed by the concluding remarks of the Chairman.

Votes of thanks were then passed to Companion M'Phee, the purveyor to the Committee; to Comps. R. Fraser, J. Fraser, J. Miller and W. Barr, to whom the solos of the evening had been entrusted, and to the Chairman.

The singing of "Old Lang Syne" brought this highly successful meeting to a close.

CHINESE CARVING.

FOR Sale, an elaborately carved Set of Ivory Chessmen. The Kings stand 8½ inches high, the other pieces in proportion. Knights and Pawns on horseback, all mounted on stands, with concentric balls. Can be seen, and full particulars obtained, on application to W. W. MORGAN, 67 Barbican.—*Advt.*

FREEMASONRY IN THE CITY.

FROM THE "SATURDAY REVIEW."

IT is a common opinion of those who are not Freemasons that if there were anything in Freemasonry it would have been found out long ago. We may go with the holders of this opinion to this extent, that if you do not want to be found out the best way is to have no secret. It is, however, impressive to ordinary minds to talk mysteriously where no mystery exists; and we cannot help remarking that, if Mr. Disraeli is not a Freemason, the Prince of Wales, for the advantage not only of the Order, but of society in general, should insist on making him one. He would be far away the best speaker at a Masonic dinner that ever came out, and would discourse on the antagonism between Popery and Freemasonry with that vague eloquence which is his peculiar gift.

An "emergency meeting," or, in other words, a dinner of the Great City Lodge of Freemasons, was held on Saturday last, at the City Terminus Hotel, to celebrate the facts that the Lord Mayor is a member of this Lodge and a Past Master of the Order, that the Prince of Wales is Grand Master of the Order, and that Masonry is generally looking up. A speaker, who described himself as "father of the Grand Officers of England," assured the meeting that Masonry was making great strides, and he added a caution, which strikes us as hardly snitable to the Great City Lodge, that in all their members quality, and not quantity, should be considered. We would desire to speak with respect of the "quality" of a Lord Mayor, remarking, at the same time, that the "quantity" of him is likely to be more conspicuous. The "Great City Lodge" probably deserves its name by the greatness of its individual members as well as by their number and importance. The same speaker was less intelligible when he warned his hearers against seeking Masonry for "private purposes." The assumption that the Order exists for any purpose at all except good fellowship is perhaps difficult for outsiders to realize. Men appear to become Masons because they like it, and if you do a thing to please yourself you may be said, without any unpleasant imputation, to do it for a private purpose. Almost any kind of association may be useful to its members. A man becomes, when he is young, a member of the Grocers' or Fishmongers' Company; and perhaps, when he is middle-aged or old, he rises to be a governor, sits at well-furnished dining-tables, and helps to dispose of valuable patronage. A lawyer or man of business may do himself some good and no harm by becoming a "Grocer" or "a Fishmonger," and in the same way it may be useful to become a "Mason." To impute or disclaim "private purposes" in such an act seems to us superfluous. Freemasons meet and dine together, and good dinners promote good feeling, and they may, if it so pleases them, describe themselves as carrying out their "guiding principle" of "peace on earth" and "goodwill amongst men," by holding an "emergency meeting" for dinner and other purposes at the City Terminus Hotel. This style was invented by the author of the lines:—

The naked every day he clad
When he put on his clothes.

Perhaps, however, we come as near to the "guiding principle" of Freemasonry in this way as in any other. It means good dinners, and good dinners mean whatever after-dinner speakers say they mean. If Mr. Disraeli were a Freemason, he would make a speech which nobody could understand, and which everybody would feel to be grand, solemn, mysterious, and suggestive of obscure dangers to the human race, which could only be averted by the potent organization to which the speaker had the happiness to belong. Vague talk about "the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man," together with "purple" titles, and an appeal to what may be called the "clubbable" instinct of man, make up Freemasonry as seen from the outside. The "purple" is rivalled or burlesqued by the "regalia" of the Good Templars, and this and several other associations have indulged in the cheap pleasure of equally sonorous titles. If a retail tradesman finds satisfaction in being called a "W.P.M.," he is not more silly than certain persons of both education and position who have created themselves Knights of the Orders of the Temple and St. John. The love of these distinctions pervades all classes of Englishmen and Americans, and among them the "purple" of Freemasonry is like the "purple" of the Roman Emperors beside the robes of European Kings. The antiquity and utility of the Order are unquestionable. Masons in the middle ages were necessarily a wandering Craft. They passed from place to place in quest of work, and where they came they needed means to discover themselves to their brethren, and claim their hospitality and help. In the middle ages writing was a rarity, and it was always liable to be forged, and hence the utility of some sign of membership known only to the brethren. This account of the Order and its use could be embellished by poetical, or religious, or technical language to any desired extent, to the satisfaction of all Masons, and without harm to anybody else. The antipathy of the Pope to the Order may be sufficiently explained on the principle that two of a trade never agree. The genuine old-established shop for mysteries is kept by the successor of St. Peter, and all other wares claiming to be of the same kind are spurious. But, notwithstanding the Pope's hostility, it appears that the Freemasons have established a Lodge in Rome, and this fact is regarded as almost equally important with the existence of a Lord Mayor of London, who is a member of a Lodge and a P.M. Indeed, it seems to be anticipated that with the speedy growth of civilisation and enlightenment "emergency meetings," followed by dinners, will be held in Rome. "We shall, I trust," says a speaker, "soon hear of meetings like this, where the chief civic dignitaries of Rome will meet their brethren under the banner of a Great City Lodge." We may hope that when "the chief civic dignitaries of Rome" become Freemasons, their quantity as well as quality will be acceptable to their English brethren. Perhaps by that time turtle-soup and punch will be available upon

"emergency" at Rome, and no modern representative of the "lean and hungry" Cassius will then be eligible for "purple."

The present year is likely to be, in a Masonic point of view, eventful. The Prince of Wales will be installed as Grand Master in a large and noble Hall, which has been, indeed, erected for other purposes, but will now be sanctified and made honourable by the ceremony. Solomon, as we all know, was a Freemason, but it is thought that Solomon, in all his glory, would have been nothing to the installation of the Prince of Wales. The Lord Mayor acknowledges that he has been negligent of his own Masonic duties, and perhaps he and others may have been stimulated to perform those duties zealously by the fact of the Prince of Wales being Grand Master. The object of the Prince of Wales, and of Masons generally, is, according to the Lord Mayor, to insist that "light shall prevail," whereas the Pope goes in for darkness. A society which has the Prince of Wales for its leader and the Pope for its enemy has a double claim on the sympathy of Englishmen, and if it were possible for Englishwomen to become Freemasons we are sure that under such interesting circumstances they would do so. We believe that there never was a female Freemason, or at least only one, whose picture sometimes serves at village ale-houses as the sign of the "Quiet Woman." But although Englishwomen cannot love a society of men which keeps or professes to keep a secret from them, they cannot hate that which the Pope condemns and the Prince of Wales supports. We must own indeed that the desire of the Grand Master that light shall prevail still leaves in some obscurity the principles of the Craft. A speaker at the dinner assured his hearers that these principles were made manifest by the working of the Great City Lodge. But this, again, is vague and intangible. To say that the object of Freemasons is that "everything that is good, graceful, honourable, and beneficial, shall stand upward and be put forward," is merely to say that Freemasons are good Christians and good citizens, which we could readily believe without earnest and reiterated assertions.

It is well-known that the builders of the Tower of Babel were the first, or among the first, Freemasons, and King Solomon was one of the most distinguished members of the Order. The institution has been continued, at least in imagination, down from these remote times in uninterrupted succession to the present day. It is, indeed, objected that this unbroken tradition, if it existed, must have kept alive and handed down much information that has, on the contrary, been utterly lost. But this objection would not be likely to prevail after dinner. It is at any rate as easy to believe that Freemasonry existed under Solomon as to find the origin of chivalry in the Trojan war. Indeed, the Freemasonry of the middle ages, in which bishops were associated, resembled the orders of knighthood of which the same ages were prolific. The connexion between the practical Masonry which built cathedrals, and the speculative Masonry which forms lodges, is no doubt perceived by the same discerning eyes which can trace the line of official succession from King Solomon to the Prince of Wales. To less acute observation it would appear, however, that Freemasonry declined and almost perished before the Reformation, and only revived in England about the time of the Civil War. Whether it revived or survived, it had wholly lost any practical character at the beginning of the eighteenth century; but from that time onwards, dukes, princes, and other distinguished persons have held its offices in England, and it spread from this country to Continental Europe, where it encountered opposition and persecution, which were not unnaturally provoked by the real or affected mystery of its proceedings. The charge against Freemasonry that it was an organized conspiracy against religion and government is not likely to have been at any time or place well founded. But it is not wonderful that such a charge was made. The probability is that there neither was nor is anything that is good or bad to conceal; that Freemasonry is only an innocent mystification, and that its symbols and instructions, whatever meaning or purpose they may originally have had, are now merely forms retained by the brethren of "free and accepted Masons" for the purpose of conferring peculiar importance on harmless social meetings. When cigars are kindled towards the close of a Masonic dinner, members may assert, and outsiders would be uncivil if they denied, that the great principle "that light shall prevail" is being supported.

M.W. Bro. J. G. Fleming has been elected Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana, and Bro. J. C. Batchelder, M.D., Grand Secretary.

The Grand R.A. Chapter of Louisiana has elected M.E. Comp. S. J. Powell as Grand High Priest, and M.E. Comp. J. C. Batchelder, M.D., Grand Secretary.

Ill. Comp. W. R. Whitaker has been chosen M.P. Grand Master of the Grand Council, R. and S.M., of Louisiana, and Comp. Gustavus Sontag, Grand Recorder.

M.W. Bro. N. Van Slyck, Grand Master of Rhode Island, has been invited by the City Commissioners of Providence to lay the corner stone of the New City Hall of that city. The ceremony will take place either in May or June next.

The annual assembly of the Grand Council of Royal, Super-excellent, and select Masters of Pennsylvania, was held in the City of Harrisburg, on Wednesday evening, 17th February 1875, when the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year: Comp. Christian F. Knapp, of Bloomsburg, M.P. Grand Master, Comp. Geter C. Shidle, of Pittsburgh, R.P.D. Grand Master, Comp. M. Richards Muckle, of Philadelphia, R.P.I. Grand Master, Comp. Wm. J. Fordney, of Lancaster, R.P. Grand P.C. of W., Comp. James Brown, of Pittsburgh, R.P. Grand Treasurer, Comp. Chas. E. Meyer, of Philadelphia, R.P. Grand Recorder. The next meeting of the Grand Council will be held at Lancaster, on the 3rd Wednesday in February 1876.—*New York Courier*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

All Letters must bear the name and address of the Writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

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CHARITY STEWARDS AND CHARITY JEWELS.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—No one can, by any possibility, be more anxious than myself to bear willing and grateful testimony to the value of the services rendered to the Masonic Institutions by brethren who undertake the arduous and responsible duties of Stewards at the Anniversary Festivals. It is the intensity of this feeling which induces me to reply to the letter under the above heading, in your last number, signed "Regalia."

From a tolerably long experience I can adequately appreciate both the "commendable zeal," by which, as a rule, the Stewards are actuated, as well as the "sacrifice of personal ease and convenience," absolutely necessary for a due performance of the duties involved in the acceptance of a Stewardship. Further, I would give credence to no man who, with any knowledge of humanity, would dissent from your correspondent's axiom, "the expressed approbation of our fellow beings is exceedingly gratifying." As an illustration of this is cited the "Honourable testimonial of Masonic Charity and Benevolence, instituted by H.R.H. Augustus Frederick Duke of Sussex M.W. Grand Master,"—commonly known as "The Charity Jewel"—"to be worn as a mark of distinction" (pursues "Regalia") "by those who have served at least two Stewardships to either of the Charities." Then follows the pertinent question, which, by the way, may be asked over and over again with reference to distinctions conferred outside, as well as within Freemasonry:—"Are those privileges bestowed equitably upon the deserving, or indiscriminately distributed?" My object in asking permission for space for a reply to your correspondent, is not to discuss this much vexed question of merit, but to point out that the premises upon which "Regalia" bases his complaints are not sound, and therefore, that many of his arguments cannot be sustained, *e.g.* :—

1. The Charity Jewel is not conferred upon a Brother who serves certain Stewardships, and, therefore, there cannot be a question between the deserving and the undeserving.

2. A Brother observing the stipulated conditions attached to the institution of the "Honourable Testimonial, &c.," has the privilege of wearing the Jewel by paying for it out of his own resources.

3. The stipulated conditions (not as at the date of institution, but now in force) are, the service of the Stewardship for each of two of the three institutions, and not "twice for either institution," qualifying, at the same time, for not less than a Life Governor, by a donation of ten guineas (or ten pounds in the case of the Benevolent Institution), with the right to add a bar for the Stewardship for the third Institution, or for a subsequent Stewardship for either of the two Institutions first served.

For these regulations the governing bodies of our three Institutions are in no way responsible. They are ordered to be observed by Grand Lodge, and the executives have only to see that they are complied with.

Recognising, however, the varying merits or deserts of brethren acting as Stewards, and desirous to reward those who exert themselves in the discharge of their onerous duties, the following rule has been adopted by special courts of the Boys' and Girls' Schools, which await confirmation at the respective courts on the 10th and 12th of April, *viz.* :—"Every Steward making a donation, at an anniversary festival, if not less than ten guineas, shall be entitled to additional votes at each election of girls/boys, as follows: For the first stewardship, one additional vote; for each subsequent stewardship, with a similar donation, two additional votes, with the following new law:—Every Steward, at the anniversary festival, who shall procure donations or subscriptions to the extent of not less than fifty guineas, in addition to his personal donation, shall receive one additional vote at each election of girls/boys, and a further extra vote for every additional sum of not less than fifty guineas." This, it is hoped, will be a stimulus to activity, and, at the same time, be regarded as *something* in the shape of a reward for labour.

The facts I have stated with regard to the conditions attached to the Charity Jewel, will, I think, answer much of the remaining portion of your correspondent's letter. There is one point, however, to which he gives prominence, and that is—the practice, hitherto prevailing, more or less often, of the Secretary of an Institution assisting the weak list of a Steward by placing upon it donations paid direct to the office, without instructions as to their destination. Candidly, I admit, having regard to the exertions of Stewards as a competitive body, the practice is indefensible. Unquestionably credit is obtained for work not done, and a brother who has never asked for a single donation, may, by the means referred to, be placed in a position of proud pre-eminence as compared with a fellow Steward who has laboured strenuously, but without corresponding results.

Let me assure you that it is with no wish to render myself unduly prominent that I have taken the opportunity of replying to your correspondent's letter. Without the slightest knowledge of who he may be, I recognise in him one thoroughly imbued with real energy and conscientiousness. Let him bear in mind the wonderful difference between our Charitable Anniversaries now and fifteen years ago; let him understand the difficulties we have to contend with, into the particulars of which I do not care now to enter; let him believe in the earnest desire, on the part of the executive of

each Institution, to give not only every credit, but all possible reward, to the brethren who, year by year, so cheerfully come forward to maintain the prestige of "Masonic Charity;" and let him, while—not without justification, perhaps—criticising both the mode and the modicum of reward, cheer himself with two considerations, the one (almost using his own words), the gratification derived from well-doing, the other, "Everything comes to him who waits."

On the important question raised by your correspondent, there is much more to be said, but this letter has reached its limit.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES,

Secretary, Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

London, 29th March 1875.

THE ENSUING ELECTIONS TO THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—I have seen, in last week's number of your contemporary, the *Freemason*, a letter from Bro. Hughan, in which he analyses the claims of the seventy-nine candidates—thirty-one girls and forty-eight boys—at the approaching elections, to fill the twenty-one vacancies—thirteen girls and eight boys—in the Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys and Girls. Now I am aware Bro. Hughan is a most energetic and one of the most active-minded members of our Order. What he says, therefore, is—apart from all ordinary considerations of courtesy—not lightly to be regarded. Yet, I submit, with due respect for his eminence as a Craftsman, that the principle on which he has conducted his analysis is most emphatically wrong, while the conclusion he apparently suggests is most unfortunate.

I will first give the substance of his letter, premising that I accept his figures unreservedly.

He gives his readers to understand that the result of his scrutiny of the voting papers is to the following effect. Of the thirty-one girl candidates, one has applied twice before, two once, eighteen apply now for the first time. Twenty-six are fatherless, one motherless, two parentless, two have parents still living. The average period for which the fathers subscribed to Grand Lodge (or their Lodge) is nine years, but one had been a member for one year only, one for not three years, seventeen for less than nine years. The subscriptions of "the average nine years' members with their initiation fees would," he reckons, "cover the cost of the maintenance of the candidates if all were elected for about six months." Again two only of the fathers subscribed to the Masonic Charities, and "four are said to have subscribed through their Lodges, whatever that may mean." A similar scrutiny in respect of the forty-eight boy candidates has this result:—1st application twenty, 2nd eleven, 3rd ten, 4th two, 5th two, 7th two, 8th one. Fatherless forty, parentless six, two have their parents still living. The fathers of forty-five subscribed, on an average, during eight and a half years, but only six contributed to our charities. Their average contributions, together with their initiation fees, would suffice to maintain the forty-eight candidates for about four months. Thus, "out of seventy-nine candidates for twenty-one vacancies in the Royal Masonic Institutions for girls and boys, the fathers of only eight of the children subscribed to either of the Masonic Charities during their lifetime, or presumed prosperity, and their average subscriptions and fees together, contributed to their Lodges for all purposes, would scarcely pay for the maintenance of one of each of their children at either of the institutions for six months."

Now, I maintain the principle of this scrutiny is erroneous, while the inference Bro. Hughan, I presume, would have us draw—namely, that those candidates are the most eligible, whose fathers contributed to our charities, is most unfortunate. Nay more, it is illogical and directly at variance with all past experience. Let me try to demonstrate these propositions.

Assuming, of course, the equal ability to contribute to our charities of the fathers of all these 79 candidates, then, *ceteris paribus*, I admit Bro. Hughan is right. But I will ask him or any man, Is this likely, in the case of so considerable a number of candidates, whom the mere accident of a common adversity has brought together into this particular class of applicants for relief? Shall we find even two cases of this, or any other set of candidates, more or fewer, in which the grounds of the applications are the same or even similar? By which I understand—whose fathers, being of equal rank socially, having equal means, and only equal claims upon those means, were thus able to contribute equally to our institutions. Shall we not rather find something like the following among the fathers of these candidates? And first, as to means. A few perhaps were rich enough to become life governors or life subscribers, or occasionally annual subscribers, to one or more of our charities. A still greater number were able to contribute an occasional half-guinea or five shillings, which helped to swell the stewards' lists at the annual festivals. Of the rest, the majority were unable, while a narrow margin—writing of Masons, I suppose it to be a narrow one—were unwilling to contribute. But assuming them to be equal in respect of means, I pass next to the question of position. We shall find some were gentlemen, some professional men, some commercial men, some wholesale and some retail tradesmen, some clerks, while a few perhaps belonged to the mechanic class. Now, it is beyond dispute that the demands on a gentleman's purse are greater than on a tradesman's, on a tradesman's greater than on a mechanic's. What is a necessary to a gentleman, is a luxury to a trader; what a necessary to a trader, is a luxury to the mechanic. Take, for instance, the case of two men, one an officer in the army, the other a tradesman, and each possessing an income of £500 per annum. The former will be pinched for means, while the latter is comparatively

well-to-do. Or, I will take a small shopkeeper clearing £200 per annum of profits, and a master workman earning £4 per week wages. The latter is decidedly the better off of the two. Again, when an officer dies, his appointment dies with him. When an artist dies, the brain that conceived, and the hand that fashioned the saleable statue or picture are at rest. When the mechanic dies, the implements of his art and the remembrance of his skill alone remain. But the trader leaves behind money value in the shape of stock, and the good will of his business. Here, then, are elements of inequality, which it were folly to ignore. But assuming equality of means and position, we must still consider other circumstances. Some had large, some small families. Some had, some had not, other relatives dependent on them for support. In some families sickness prevailed largely, in others it was rarely, if ever, present. In some cases these and like conditions may have come together, in others separately. Lastly, some may have been good Masons, as they were good men, others indifferent Masons, as they were held indifferently in public estimation as men. And having analysed the claims of these seventy-nine candidates, with a due regard to each of these several conditions, and having found in each case, as I think we shall find, such inequalities as I have described, it still remains for us to make one final analysis, in order to ascertain the relative merits of the several candidates. We must put all these grounds of consideration together, and then only shall we truly know which of the candidates are most deserving of your support and patronage. And how puzzled we shall be! We shall find perhaps that A was a good Mason and charitable, but he had a small family. B, an equally good Mason, was unable to give, for his family was numerous. C was a gentleman with a small family, but the claims on his purse were heavy. D had means, but likewise a sick wife, and one or two brothers to help forward in life. E, who was on the road to fortune, died prematurely. And so on, through the category. My algebra, I fancy, is somewhat rusty, but I think the permutations and combinations of all the *pros* and *cons*, that might be urged in connection with these seventy-nine candidates, would prove very formidable.

Bro. Hugban, I fear, has fallen—unwittingly, no doubt—into the very common error of generalising. He attempts to apply one uniform test to all cases alike, quite forgetting that the merits of the candidates are, perhaps, as various as the candidates themselves are numerous. Nor has he made any allowance for another point not altogether unworthy of consideration. Though Masons, as such, may exercise a firmer control over their likes and dislikes, they cannot wholly rid themselves of them. Bro. Jones will support the *protégé* of Bro. Brown rather than of Bro. Robinson. He knows well enough that neither of his worthy brethren would solicit support for an undeserving object, but he is associated in business with Bro. Jones, or was at school or college with him. It is the misfortune of those who seek to establish one law which shall be generally applicable to all, to find—I was going to say any number of—cases which positively refuse to be generalised. Perhaps some one may say, "Pity 'tis, 'tis true," yet true it is undoubtedly.

One further remark I venture to offer. Among the candidates for the Girls' School are four whose fathers "are said to have subscribed *through their Lodges, whatever that may mean.*" Bro. Hughan calls this "an equivocal form of contribution." Permit me to suggest a solution of the riddle. These brethren possibly were able to afford only such small subscriptions as would not entitle them to rank with annual subscribers. Their contributions found their way into the coffers of the institution for which they were intended, through the stewards who may have represented their Lodges at the annual festival or festivals. Or, perhaps, the Lodges of which they were subscribing members, held one or more Life Governorships, the money for which was provided out of the corporate funds. The members of a Lodge so subscribing, would have each an equal share with his fellows in this or other Life Governorships, and might therefore be said "to have subscribed *through their Lodges.*" I can solve other people's propositions no more than Bro. Hughan. I only suggest one or other of these solutions.

I think I have shown the principle of Bro. HUGHAN's scrutiny is wrong. I am certain it would be most unfortunate if we gave or withheld our support in the case of a particular candidate on the sole ground that his or her father had or had not contributed to our "charities" during his "lifetime, or presumed prosperity." It is illogical on the not unnatural presumption, that those who have been able to bestow charity on others, have, or ought to have been able to bestow something on their own families, who, therefore, stand less in need of assistance.

I fear I am trespassing too largely on your valuable space, but the issue raised is an important one, and I hope this will be deemed some excuse for the length of my letter.

Fraternally yours, Q.

THE CHEVALIER RAMSAY AND FREEMASONRY.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

Sir,—In your issue of the 13th inst., Bro. Farlan, I perceive, asks certain questions as to the connection of the Chevalier Ramsay with Freemasonry, and also, whether any evidence thereon exists among the archives of the Grand Lodge of England. The latter point I can offer no opinion upon, but in my occasional reading of Masonic literature, I have found two or three passages which may be of interest to Bro. Buchan, if he be not, at least, already familiar with them. The first I have extracted from Thory's *Acta Latomorum* on *Chronologie d'Histoire de la Franche-Maçonnerie Française et Étrangère*, and is to this effect :—

“ Cette année, le chevalier baron écossais Ramsay jette, à Londres, les fondemens d’une Maçonnerie nouvelle qu’il faisait descendre des croisades, et dont il attribuait l’invention à *Godfrui¹ de Bowillon*. Il prétendait que la Loge de St. André, à Edimbourg, était le chef-lieu du véritable Ordre des Francs-Maçons, lesquels étaient les descendans des chevaliers des croisades. Il conférait trois grades,

The date assigned to this in 1728.

The second is from a foot-note at p. 205 of Findel's *History of Free-masonry*.

"It has been stated, more than once, that he was in London in 1728, to lay the foundation of this new Masonic system, but Kloss contradicts this; he was only once in England, and that in 1730, to receive the degree of Doctor of Law.

I have noticed references in other works, but none seem to afford anything conclusive. For my own part, I should hardly like to accept the statement on such, in my opinion, insufficient data as I have seen.

Yours fraternally, W. M.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Letters and communications must be addressed to the Editor of
THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, 67 Barbican, London, E.C.

P.Z. 1744.—See Bro. Hughan's Memorials of the Masonic Union of A.D. 1813, a notice of which appeared some time since in these columns.

Q.R.--We have no wish to involve ourselves in controversy of any kind.

L.L.—We cannot undertake the task. It hardly comes within our province.

S.G.—You will most likely obtain it at Bro. Spencer's, Great Queen Street.

REVIEWS.

All Books intended for Review should be addressed to the Editor of The Freemason's Chronicle, 67 Barbican, E.C.

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MAGAZINES OF THE MONTH.

Fraser opens with an article on the "Portraits of John Knox," with six illustrations. So admirable a sketch of a man so eminent in history as the great Scottish divine is not often to be met with elsewhere in the pages of periodical literature, unless it be, perhaps in those of the quarterlies, or of *Blackwood*. There are three sources of interest attaching to this particular article. In the first place, it is a life-like sketch of a great man. In the second, it discusses the merits of sundry portraits of the great Reformer, and their claims to being received as genuine. In the third place, there is but one man living from whose pen it could have emanated—unless we are woefully mistaken—and that is Mr. Thomas Carlyle. We claim no special merit for this discovery, for the likeness to such works of his as *The French Revolution*, *Sartor Resartus*, &c. is unmistakable. Of the other articles, we would draw attention to a description of "Tetuan," and sundry suggestions as to "Recruiting and the Militia," by two officers of Her Majesty's Service, who are clearly at home in this very intricate subject. "The Secret Papers of the Empire" offer some very sad disclosures as to the great rottenness of things in France during the few years that preceded the late disastrous war. George Hoggan M.B. and C.M. writes very strongly against the cruel practice of "Vivisection," which, if what he urges can be substantiated, is far more commonly practised than the public have the slightest idea of. The number, which is *facile princeps* of those that have appeared during the last six or eight months, closes with an account of "Three Experiments in Co-operative Agriculture."

Tinsleys', as we remarked last month, is chiefly to be admired for the excellence of its serial fiction. It is difficult, perhaps, to follow the threads of four different stories which run together, but the difficulty is materially lessened, when the constructive powers of the writers are as conspicuous as in these cases, and where the several narratives flow on so smoothly. We have a slight preference—but this, after all, is purely a matter of taste—for Mr. Farjeon's tale, "Love's Victory," and "With Harp and Crown." But almost of equal excellence with the serials, are the shorter tales and papers. Dr. C. Maurice Davies is agreeably chatty in his "Social Status Quo." "Dreams of a German Jew No. II., and "Mistaken Identity," are very readable. There is, too, a gracefully-written Troubadour song from the pen of Dr. Davies, bearing the title of "Love's Concentrated Kiss," and the treatment is quite in consonance with this class of poetry.

The career of Jabez Clegg in the "Manchester Man" is the principal feature of *Cassell's Family Magazine*. Last month we left poor Jabez struggling for dear life in the swollen Irk, and we now find him escaping as by a miracle from the terrible risk to which he was accidentally subjected by his rough enemies of the grammar school. After his recovery he is apprenticed to Mr. Ashton, whose favour he at once secures by the steadiness of his conduct, his application to work, and the perfect truthfulness of his character. Clearly Jabez, as he deserves to be, is on the high road to fortune. Our readers, too, will find the other serial, "Pretty Miss Bellow," quite as interesting as in previous numbers. The other contributions are varied in character but there is not one among them we should like to have seen omitted. A family magazine being the fittest place for articles on domestic matters, it is not surprising to find some such excellent papers as those on "How to give a nice little dinner?" "How shall I furnish my bed-room?"—a most important question as regards home comfort—

and "Chit-Chat on Dress," by "Our Paris Correspondent." "Hints and Topics for April" treat of matters appropriate to this month, while "The Gatherer" has picked up, and offers us sundry hints, more or less valuable, *de omnibus rebus*.

Mayfair, which is issued quarterly, has reached its third number, and contains a fair amount of readable matter. "A Night Piece" is an effective picture. "Songs of an Old Man," by Frederick Tennyson, are not unworthy of a Laureate's brother. "Gwendraeth," by Helen C. Watney, is a tale worthy of a place in any periodical. "The Christmas Triad—Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe," by Eleanor Stredder, shows merit.

"The Key of the Church," by Johnny Ludlow, is, in our opinion, the best contribution to the *Argosy*. Few men write more cosily than "Johnny." The characters he introduces are sterling, and the treatment of his generally too short tales is exceedingly happy. The present is incomplete as yet. "About Dogs" contains nothing very remarkable, but the writer, Miss Alice King, has a very pleasing style of saying her say. "The Début of Mademoiselle Agatha" records an incident—real or imaginary matters little—in French theatrical life. Our readers will be pleased with it.

In *Macmillan* we have read an excellently written account of the "Tercentenary Festival at Leyden," which, being somewhat less remote than Khiva or the North Pole, has not attracted the attention among English journalists which the occasion demanded. The worthy Hollanders were long our rivals at sea and in commerce, but the time has long passed since we exhibited our respect for each other by mutual hard knocks. In their struggle for independence during the reigns of William III. and Anne, and, undoubtedly, since the time of the French Revolution we have been hard and fast friends. It would certainly not have been an ill-timed compliment to these ancient friends and allies of ours to have obtained worthy records of so memorable a celebration as was the late Tercentenary in honour of the establishment of the Leyden University. Mr. Freeman contributes a good descriptive paper on the "Roman Diggings," conducted by Cavaliere Rosa, and there is a worthy memoir of the late "Sir Arthur Helps" by John Hullah, whose estimate of the late Clerk of the Council's merits is a perfectly just one. There is, too, a paper on "The French Theatre under Louis XIV.," by Henry M. Trollope, which deserves to be read.

Cornhill contains an article on "The Cost of Living,"—a subject which most of our readers, we imagine, cannot fail to be deeply interested in. The analysis is clearly made, and we do not think that many will be found who will raise objection to the writer's conclusions. There is a short tale, "The Marriage of Maria Fergus," while, in the way of serial fiction, we have the two admirable stories, "Three Feathers," by Mr. Black, and "Miss Angel." We cannot say we are much taken with the illustrations which accompany these tales.

In *Blackwood*, "Alice Lorraine" is concluded. Poor Alice, whom we left, last month, bent on seeking death in the Woeburn, to escape the hateful marriage with Stephen Chapman, is, with much difficulty, rescued, and, still greater difficulty, brought to life again; but Sir Roland, when the news is suddenly told him, is seized with an apoplexy, and only rallies after a long time. Meanwhile, a key, which proves to be that of the mysterious casket, on whose contents are supposed to hang the fortunes of the Lorraine family, is found. The casket is opened, and some magnificent jewels are the result. The price of certain of these more than suffices to restore the £50,000, of which Hilary had been robbed in Spain. He rejoins the army, therefore, again distinguishes himself—but not on the staff—both in the Peninsula and at Waterloo, where he loses his arm. In the short interval between the peace of 1814 and the latter campaign, he marries Mabel, whose brother, Charley, marries a daughter of the fine old sporting parson, the Rev. Struan Hales. Alice becomes Mrs. Aylmer, and all goes merrily as a marriage bell, save that Nancy Stilgoe, the witch, is drowned in the Woeburn, which afterwards dries up, and the Chapmans come to grief, but not very seriously, on quitting Combe Lorraine the day Alice tries to kill herself. As to the rest of the number, we need only say that "The Abode of Snow" contains an admirable description of the Vale of Kashmir, and that the closing article is a political one—that is almost a matter of course.

The *Contemporary* is a good number, the most noticeable articles in it being an historical one by Peter Boyne, on "The Covenanters, Charles II., and Argyle," a carefully written thesis by Prof. Whitney, in answer to the inquiry "Are Languages Institutions?" No. V. of Julian Hawthorne's "Saxon Studies," and a most elaborate contribution by Mr. St. George Mivart, on the highly attractive question of "Instinct and Reason." Mr. Mivart is an authority on this subject, his essay, therefore, is very well worth reading.

The *Gentleman's* is fully up to its standard, and contains, in addition to those interesting serials, "Dear Lady Disdain" and "Al Lyn Sahib," and the usual "Table Talk," a very beautiful poem by Robert Buchanan, "The Spirit of the Snow." This we take to be the gem of the number. There is too, a description of "At Niagara and Elsewhere," by George Dawson. Two other articles—"The Physiology of Esprit" and "In the Ladies' Gallery" of the House of Commons understood—deserve to be mentioned.

Mrs. Edwardes's tale, "Leah: a Woman of Fashion," is still deservedly the chief attraction in *Temple Bar*, which further contains some excellent papers. Such are "Beaumarchais," "The French Wilkes," "The Shah, and what he did not see," "Old Folks and Young," by the author of "Things." It were unjust to pass unnoticed "Injun Joe," one of the best poems of its kind we have read of late. "A Lost Love at Pornic" is a capital tale for half an hour's leisure reading.

Puzzledom still flourishes in *Good Things*, under the auspices of Mrs. Broderip. Besides this, Henry Kingsley contributes Part I. of "A Chat with Boys about Dogs." George Harper writes of "Charles Lamb as a Bluecoat Boy," and there is a tabulated statement, which

will be continued, of "Our Common Inland Birds," so arranged as to give the name of species, situation and structure of nest, number of eggs, and other particulars. The arrangement is excellent, and affords a good opportunity for youngsters to pick up a little knowledge of that of which, at all events, very many town boys are ignorant.

The *Leisure Hour* and *Sunday at Home*, are good sound publications, containing both entertaining and instructive information on a great variety of subjects. *Chambers's Journal* has, *inter alia*, an account of some highly interesting discoveries connected with the character and career in the Excise of the Poet Burns. As Burns was a Brother, and likewise W.M. of his Lodge, anything that throws further light on his history, cannot fail to awaken the curiosity of our readers. *Once a Week* is greatly improved in its illustrations, which, since the commencement of the new series, were not greatly to be commended. In *All the Year Round*, our readers will find much to interest them, such as Mr. Edmund Yates's serial, "A Silent Witness," "Criticism Extraordinary," and a brief history of Gloucester Cathedral. In the *Saturday Journal* are the concluding chapters of "The Sherlocks," and a short account of "The Moorish Conquest of Spain."

It seems strange we should find in *Colburn's New Monthly* the memoirs of Charles Kingsley and Sir Arthur Helps, when, only a month or two since, we had occasion to speak of a short memorial poem, in *Macmillan*, [by A. H.], the latter in honour of the former. But six weeks passed ere the writer of that short poem had passed away likewise, and now, in the pages of the same magazine, we see their memoirs side by side. These are most likely to attract the attention of our readers, but we may also commend to them the serials, and a "Visit to the Isle of Amsterdam."

Daily contains an account of the University Boat Race, a fourth chapter of "Frank Raleigh of Watercombe," and "Our Van," well crowded with excellent matter. The portraits are of Mr. H. Spencer Lncy, and Jnpp, the eminent Surrey professional.

If our readers would study some good dramatic criticism, we beg to refer them to the *Westminster Papers*, in which they will find "Dramatic Notes" that are worth reading. The remarks, among "Whist Jottings," on the subject of "Bad Habits," may be studied also with great advantage.

Obituary.

We regret to have to record the deaths of three well known and highly respected members of the Craft. Bro. J. W. Reed, who died on 22nd March, at the early age of 29 years, was initiated in the Royal Oak Lodge, No. 871, 22nd Jan. 1868. After filling several offices, he was installed W.M. in Feb. 1872. He was Life Governor to the Boys' and Girls' School, and served as Steward to the former Charity. He was exalted in the Pythagorean Chapter, No. 79. He died of consumption, after a lingering illness; he was buried on Thursday, the 25th March.

Bro. Francis Robinson Hood died, at his residence, Salmon-street, Deptford, on Thursday, 25th March 1875. He was initiated in the Royal Oak Lodge, No. 871, on 22nd February 1871, and continued a subscribing member until his death. He never took office in the Lodge, as he entered the Order late in life, and was in ill health for many years before his decease. He was an annual subscriber to the Boys' and Girls' Schools. He held a prominent position in the town in which he resided, and no brother could be more respected. He leaves a widow and family to lament their loss.

Bro. J. T. Holmes Fudge died on Thursday morning, 18th March. He was initiated in the Perfect Ashlar Lodge, on 7th November 1867, he being the first person initiated after the Lodge had been consecrated, on 3rd October 1867. He served every office in the Lodge, and was, last year, S.W. His wife died a short time before the election of W.M. last year. When his turn came for election, in consequence of his loss, and failing health, he declined being elected into the chair. He, in a quiet and unobtrusive manner, worked well in the cause of Masonry, and was an annual subscriber to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. He has left nine sorrowing children to lament the bereavement they sustained in the death of one of the best of fathers.

The death was recently announced of Bro. David Osment, the description of whom, by a contemporary, as the "Father of the Freemasons" is, in the sense intended, most probably correct. Bro. Osment was born on Midsummer Day 1775, and was, therefore, within a little over three months of completing his century. He was initiated in 1819, and held the office of Tyler to his Lodge for about twenty years. Bro. Osment was, about 1850, elected an annuitant of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. He enjoyed good health to the very last, being only confined to his bed for three days previous to his death.

THE THEATRES, &c.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.—This evening, *UN BALLO IN MASCHERA*. On Monday, *ROBERTO IL DIAVOLO*. On Tuesday, *NORMA*. On Thursday, *L'AFRICAINA*. At 8.30 each evening.

DRURY LANE.—Monday and Wednesday next, at 8.0, *OTHELLO*. The opera season will commence on Saturday, 10th April.

HAYMARKET.—This day (last time), at 7.30, *OUR AMERICAN COUSIN* and *THE LOAN OF A LOVER*. On Monday will be revived *DAVID GARRICK* and *THE LITTLE TREASURE*.

ADELPHI.—At 7.0, *SARAH'S YOUNG MAN*, *NICHOLAS NICKLEBY*, and the *BELLES OF THE KITCHEN*.

PRINCESS'S.—At 7.30, *ROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS*.

LYCEUM.—At 8.50, *FISH OUT OF WATER*. At 7.45, *HAMLET*.

OLYMPIC.—At 7.0, *TWENTY MINUTES WITH A TIGER*. At 7.30, *THE TWO ORPHANS*.

STRAND.—At 7.0, *INTRIGUE*. At 7.30, *OLD SAILORS*. At 9.15, *LOO AND THE PARTY WHO TOOK MISS*. On Thursday, 8th, *INTIMIDAD*.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 7.45, *SWEETHEARTS* and *SOCIETY*.

GAIETY.—At 8.0, *ROSE MICHEL*.

GLOBE.—At 7.0—*THE GUINEA STAMP* and *BLUE BEARD*.

ST. JAMES'S.—At 7.45, *BRIGHTON* and *CONRAD AND MEDORA*.

ROYALTY.—At 7.30, *FARCE*. At 8.15, *LA PERICHOLE*. At 10.15, *TRIAL BY JURY*.

VAUDEVILLE.—At 7.0, *A WHIRLIGIG*. At 7.45, *OUR BOYS*. At 10, *A REGULAR FIX*.

CHARING CROSS.—At 7.30, *DRAWING THE LINE*. At 8.15, *THE NEW MAGDALEN*.

OPERA COMIQUE.—This evening (last time), at 8.0, *LA FAMILLE BENOITON*. On Monday, *LES TRENTE MILLIONS DE GLADIATOR*.

ALHAMBRA.—At 7.15, *THE GOOSE WITH THE GOLDEN EGGS*. At 8.0, *WHITTINGTON*.

CRITERION.—*LES PRES SAINT GERVAIS, &c.*

COURT.—At 7.30, *SHORT AND SWEET*. At 8.20, *LADY FLORA*.

SURREY.—At 7.0, *FARCE*. At 7.30, *HAMLET*.

PHILHARMONIC.—At 7.30, *THE OLD LOVE*. At 8.45, *THE TALISMAN*.

SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.—*HAMILTON'S NEW EXCURSIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD*.

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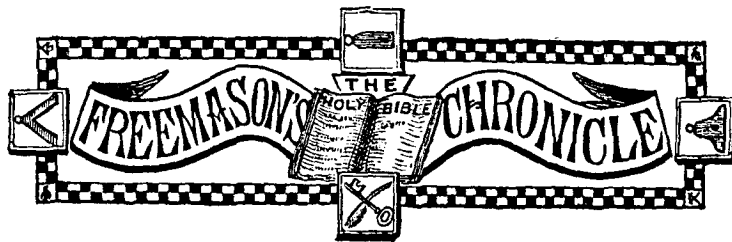
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

DOINGS OF THE WEEK.

EASTERTIDE inaugurates the out-door holiday season. Few, we imagine, can have had much fault to find with one very important element in pleasure. The clerk of the weather has not been latterly very considerate, but in one respect he has favoured us. There has been little risk of getting wet, though great, of catching cold. The keen East wind has blown through and through us, and seemingly all round us. That we have survived the trial, is a subject of great thankfulness. But we have no particular affection for March winds, however seasonable they may be. We seem to prefer something slightly more genial. We are advocates for thoroughness in most matters, but the perishing thoroughness of a Nor'-Easter is one of the things a "fella" certainly has no hankering after. However, sufficient for the time is the wind thereof. We are blown, as regards this particular grievance.

A holiday without sport were, in some respects, an absurdity. It is a matter of course, then, that all who had time, money, or inclination, have been indulging in laborious pleasure. By this we mean, they passed several hours, on one or more particular days, in reaching some particular spot. Then they ate and drank, as suited them, and then they spent several hours in returning home. This we believe to be an Englishman's idea of pleasure. Ten hours' close packing in a fusty-musty railway carriage, plus two hours of scramble for something to eat and much to drink. Such is the average Briton's idea of relaxation from labour. We would, for ourselves, far rather labour. We keenly appreciate "nothing." The sensation of nothing to do or to say, to the man who has been saying or doing much for a long series of months, is simply delicious.

Good Friday was the opening day of the Easter Holidays. The wind being high, and the day just outside one of the limits within which watercarts are engaged to lay the dust in our thoroughfares, progress through the streets was, to say the least, attended with much discomfort. Clearly, the ghost of red-tapeism haunts those to whom the government of our roadways is entrusted. Or, it may be, some eminent authority is in search of a new thing about road making, or perchance a precedent is wanting. Meantime, the wind has blown and the dust has risen, while the watercarts, till this week, have been conspicuous by their absence. This is what we call being a practical people, the truth being that in this and other matters of a similar kind we set common sense wholly at defiance. However, old Jupiter Pluvius being favourable, London, in spite of the wind, set forth in its thousands and ten thousands in search after pleasure. We are not ubiquitous. To record, therefore, what happened in all directions is impossible, even were it desirable. We flatter ourselves, moreover, that our theory and our practice are always on good terms with one another. We saw great crowds, and a good deal of rough horseplay, and that rough *badinage* which passes with the cockney for wit. Among the most noteworthy matters to be chronicled must be mentioned the great wrestling *fête*, at Lillie Bridge, of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Society, which is not merely a society for encouraging this particular kind of sport, but also a benefit society, which finds funds for indigent members. Formerly this annual festival of the two northern counties was held in the Agricultural Hall. Last year, however, they took to the West Brompton Grounds, and were so satisfied with the result as to renew their acquaintance with it this year. There was a goodly array of entries, including most of the best men of the day, while the spectators are estimated to have reached the very respectable figure of 6000. The result, we imagine, must have been highly gratifying, both as regards the spectacle and the society's funds. More wrestling followed on Saturday, but of the catchhold kind, so that Cumberland and Westmoreland were able to meet Devon

and Cornwall and Lancashire. There was also a novel kind of sport—novel, at least, as regards appearance at our athletic meetings—in the shape of rope-pulling, besides a race for watermen and apprentices, the first prize being an outrigger, presented by Mr. J. G. Chambers, the second, a pair of sculls. For the rope-pulling, gangs of men from the Blues and Coldstreams entered, the latter being victors in the final. If our readers would know what this "revival" is like, we refer them to any Boys' Own Book of Sports and Pastimes. We remember, years ago, to have seen in one of these an illustration of two men pulling vigorously, each trying his hardest to drag his opponent over and beyond a certain line. The game, we think, was called, in those days, French and English, and the contrast between the two men was very flattering to our national vanity. One, the Englishman, looked as solid and substantial as his own native prize beef, and taking it very leisurely, while "Mounseer," who was long and thin, not to say skinny, was pulling his very hardest.

For the last two or three years the great volunteer field day on Easter Monday has not come off. Each successive year attempts have been made to revive it, but without success. The railway companies find it as much as they can manage to carry the thousands upon thousands of excursionists. We do not think this failure is matter for very serious regret. We fancy very few volunteers increased their store of military knowledge on the occasion. The most they brought away with them was, perhaps, a dim recollection of having marched past H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief, or of the general appointed by him, of having marched up one hill and down another, fired away many rounds of blank cartridge—whether into friends or the enemy was, we believe, a matter of indifference—and got home, in somewhat loose formation, about the small hours of the morning. As far as our humble opinion goes, we think the plan of field days on a less ambitious scale, and involving less fatigue, is far preferable. Or a good march out is a sensible plan for combining the three objects of pleasure, healthy exercise, and adding to one's military experience. The most considerable of these smaller reviews or sham-fights came off at Putney, about 3,000 men being present, under the command of Lord Ranelagh on the one hand and Lord Truro on the other. Some of the volunteer regiments in the north of London had a field day in the Alexandra Park, while the 37th Middlesex marched, on Good Friday, to St. Albans, the headquarters for the night being fixed at Bro. Marks's establishment, the "Peahen," the men being billeted in the town. On Saturday the corps marched to Hertford, headquarters being fixed at the Salisbury Arms, and the men billeted, as at St. Albans, throughout the town. A church parade was held on Sunday, and on Monday the corps returned. This is about the most admirable kind of mixed pleasure and military training the most enthusiastic volunteer can wish for.

We hardly know if we are to consider the Arthur Orton demonstration in Hyde Park on Easter Monday, under the presidency of Dr. Kenealy, among the legitimate amusements and entertainments of the season, and whether it will be the first of a series of annual meetings to be held while the convict is in prison. As the congregation round about a particular spot of many thousands of people, this demonstration may be held to have been a great success. What moral effect it may or will have on the people of England, we do not feel ourselves competent to say. Those who benefited most were, no doubt, the pickpockets. Those who must feel the most delighted are the—more or less—650 members of the House of Commons, who now know there is one of their number who can play his part so admirably, as does the elect of Stoke.

The London Operatic Season has begun, the Royal Italian, Covent Garden, having been opened on Tuesday with a very effective rendering of "Guglielmo Tell." This was followed, on Thursday, by Weber's "Der Freischütz," and this evening will be given Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera." Thus Mr. Gye has some ten days' start of his rival at Her Majesty's, Drury Lane, Mr. Mapleson's campaign not opening till the 10th inst. We do not anticipate there will be any special departure from the usual programme. Doubtless the *répertoire* at each house will be pretty much what it has been in past years. Signor Vianesi conducts at the Royal Italian, while Bro. Sir M. Costa will resume the *bâton* at Her Majesty's.

The strike, unhappily, still continues in South Wales, nor see we much hope of any settlement of the dispute.

Some of the collieries, however, it is proposed to re-open at the wages prevailing in January 1870, the plan being to give the locked-out colliers the opportunity of earning money, equal in amount to what they are entitled to receive in the shape of relief from the Poor Law Authorities. It remains to be seen if the proposal of the masters will be accepted, for the Merthyr Guardians seem to have their doubts as to the propriety of the plan. Meanwhile, there is no evidence of yielding on the part of the men, who have held sundry meetings, and decline to be the first to make any advances to the masters.

The death of General Sir John Cheape, G.C.B., Colonel Commandant Royal (late Bengal) Engineers, is the third we have had to announce during the past few weeks. This distinguished officer was born in 1792, and was in his 83rd year therefore. He entered the Royal Engineers in 1809, and served with the forces, under the late Marquis of Hastings, in the Pindarree War of 1815-16. He served also in the first and second Burmese Wars, being in the latter, second, and, on the departure of General Godwin, first in command of the army. He was also chief engineer at the siege of Mooltan in 1848, and was made a C.B. for his eminent services during the campaign.

On Tuesday the Mansion House was the scene of a very ancient ceremony. The Christ's Hospital boys, to the number of some 650, marched in procession from Newgate Street to the Mansion House, in order to receive the usual Easter gifts from the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor. A number of ladies and little children are always present in the saloon where the ceremony takes place, in order to witness it. Major Brackenbury, the Warden of the School, presented the boys in turn as they passed before his Lordship. The Grecians receive a guinea, probationers half-a-guinea, monitors half-a-crown, and the rest a shilling, the money being all bright and new from the Mint. Each boy afterwards is regaled with buns and a glass of wine. They then march home again. The Lady Mayoress, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff and Mrs. Ellis, Mr. Sheriff and Mrs. Shaw, Mr. Alderman Sidney, Mr. Alderman and the Misses Carter, and others, were present.

The chief news from St. Andrews is the installation of Dean Stanley as Lord Rector of the University on Wednesday, on which occasion he delivered the usual inaugural address, a marvel of eloquence, which was highly appreciated by the students for whose benefit it was spoken.

Almost the only item of news from abroad is that Marshal MacMahon has been decorated with the insignia of the Order of the Golden Fleece. The Emperor of Germany is sufficiently restored to health to have been enabled to pay a visit of congratulation to his Chancellor, Prince Bismarck, on the occasion of the latter's birthday. In Italy, and throughout Austro-Hungary, little else is talked about beyond the approaching visit of the Emperor to Venice, which is fixed, we believe, for the 5th. From Spain there is nothing further of importance, either in the way of war news, or of a nearer approach of peace.

The 6th annual concert of the A B and C Divisions of Police, on behalf of the Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage, was held on the 23rd ult., at St. James's Hall, and attracted a crowded and fashionable audience. Great credit is due to Bro. Jas. Mott, for his exertions on this occasion. He is a thorough musician, and on every occasion when the services of his talented daughters, Misses Emily and Lilly Mott are required, they are always ready to assist. Mr. Sims Reeves was announced to attend, but indisposition prevented him being present, which was sincerely regretted. Miss Edith Wynne, Miss Matilda Scott, and Miss Emily Mott (whose voice is visibly improved) sang charmingly. Miss Lilly Mott played very cleverly on the piano. Messrs. Cummings, Coates, Mr. Lewis Thomas, and Mr. Howard Reynolds, on the cornet, were listened to with pleasure, and several encores resulted. The band of the A division, under the able direction of Mr. Allcock, played very artistically, and, judging from the numbers present, it is to be hoped that the surplus will add to the funds of this excellent charity.

Those of our readers who stand in need of instruction in the business of the Craft, will be pleased to hear that Brother Crawley acts as Preceptor at the "Railway Tavern," Railway Station, Fenchurch Street, on Monday

evenings, 7 to 9; at the "Royal Edward," Triangle, Hackney, on Tuesday evenings, 7.30 to 9.30; and at the "Hercules Tavern," Leadenhall Street, on Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 9.30.

Although it is rather early in the season for flower shows, yet Bro. Cutbush, who is well known in connection with the cultivation of charming varieties of the Hyacinth, opened his extensive grounds on Easter Monday to the public, 2,500 persons passed through his greenhouses during the day, and the exhibition is to continue, daily, until the 10th instant. We may mention that Bro. Cutbush this week obtained, at the Royal Botanic Society's Flower Show, the first prizes in two classes of Hyacinths, the first prize for Tulips, and the second for Azaleas. We understand that there was a tie between himself and another exhibitor in connection with this latter flower, and, in consideration of Bro. Cutbush having carried off three first prizes, he was awarded a second prize for what, under any other circumstances, would have carried off the first.

Bro. Eames, W.M. of the Neptune Lodge, No. 22, and Bro. C. Hogard P.M. 205, have been elected by the members of their respective Lodges to serve as Stewards at the Installation ceremony on the 28th instant.

THE DRAMA.

Easter Entertainments—Rose Michel—Trial by Jury—The French Plays.

THE Easter novelties are not so numerous as usual this year, but two or three of them are of sufficient importance to call for notice. Foremost of these comes *Rose Michel*, at the Gaiety, a powerful melodrama of the old fashioned type, which, in its original form, has had a great success in Paris. The story runs thus:—*Rose Michel*, the wife of a French innkeeper, has a daughter, who is about to be married. The only difficulty in the way is with regard to the "dot," which the father, like a miserly ruffian as he is, refuses to furnish. The mother resolves to steal the money, but, in the meanwhile, a guest, the Count de Grandchamp, arrives at the inn, and arouses the cupidity of Michel, by informing him that he has with him a large sum of money. To secure this booty, the innkeeper murders the Count, and throws his body into the Seine. *Rose* has been a witness of the deed, and, in a scene of great power, taxes her husband with the crime, she however hesitates to denounce the assassin, for fear of destroying her daughter's chance of marriage, although she uses her utmost endeavours to dissuade her daughter from the marriage. At last, influenced by the fact that an innocent man is being punished for her husband's crime, she accuses him of the deed, and is shot down by the sentinels. The English adaptation is rather faulty in places, and some passages seem rather to incline to bathos, but a little ingenuity might easily get over these defects, and the really excellent acting of the piece would then produce its due effect. Mrs. Gladstone, as *Rose Michel*, affords an admirable specimen of her power as an actress of tragedy, and her rendering of the part is very fine. Mr. Cowper sustains, with great art and force, the rôle of the miserly innkeeper, and Mr. Ryder, Mr. Maclean and Miss Hollingshead are also seen to good effect.

Trial by Jury, at the ROYALTY, is a play that will probably become widely popular. It is called a dramatic cantata, and its authors are Mr. W. S. Gilbert and Mr. Arthur Sullivan. Brimful of humour, and enlivened by some capital music, it is altogether a most delightful little piece, and furnishes a very welcome addition to the attractions of this theatre. It is, besides, exceedingly well acted by Mr. F. Sullivan (the Judge), Miss Nelly Bromley (Angelina), and Mr. Fisher (Edwin). When we add that the subject of the piece is an action for breach of promise before an English jury, it will be seen what excellent scope the subject affords for fun and satire.

Undisheartened by his misfortune of last year, M. Pitron, the enterprising manager of the French plays in London, has issued his prospectus for another season, and his company are now actually in possession of the OPERA COMIQUE THEATRE. *La Famille Benoiton* has been chosen for the opening piece, and the performances during the past week have been deemed more than satisfactory. Some hopes are held out, that Mdlle Croizette, who has lately acquired so great a reputation on the stage of the Theatre Française, will this year pay a visit to London. We wish M. Pitron every success.

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MASONIC BANQUET AT BODMIN.

WE are indebted for the following account of this banquet to the *Western Morning News*:—

In recognition of the valuable services rendered to Freemasonry by the V.W. Bro. Capt. Colvill, S.G.W. of Cornwall, the brethren of Lodge One and All, No. 330, of which Capt. Colvill is I.P.M., decided to entertain him last evening at a banquet given at the Royal Hotel, Bodmin. The banquet, which was admirably served, was numerously attended, and the manner in which Capt. Colvill's name was received was a proof of the high estimation in which he is held by the Craft throughout the county. Unfortunately, Capt. Colvill was unable to be present, severe illness preventing him from leaving bed, and general regret was expressed at the cause of his absence. As however, invitations had been sent to distant parts of the county, and also to the adjoining province of Devon, the banquet could not be postponed. The banquet was presided over by V.W. Bro. F. J. Hext, P.M. 330, P.P.G.S.W., and the vice-chair was occupied by V.W. Bro. R. Rich, P.M. 330, P.P.G.J.W. Among the other brethren present were Bros. Thomas Solomon, P.M., 331, P.P.S.G.W.; W. J. Hughan, P.M., 131, P.S.G.D. of England, P.P.G. Sec. of Cornwall; Rev. A. H. Ferris S.W., 496 P.G. Chap.; R. John P.M., 131 P.P.G.D.C.; J. Q. Couch P.M. 330, P.P.J.G.W.; W. Couch P.M. 856, P.P.J.G.W.; W. Guy P.M. 496, P.P.G.D.C.; Captain R. Edyvean P.M. 330, P.P.G.S.B.; J. R. Collins P.M. 330, P.P.G.S.B.; P. J. Wallis P.M. 330, P.P.G.R.; J. Hele, Mus. Bac., W.M. 330, P.P.G.O.; Hon. E. F. Leveson-Gower M.P.; H. S. Stokes, Clerk of the Peace for Cornwall; J. Crang, Mayor of Bodmin; T. Olver, jun. W.M. 331; A. C. Sandoe P.M. 330; C. Truscott P.M. 496; T. Webber S.W. 75; J. Bartlett W.M. 856; W. Tomkin P.M. 977; R. S. Olver P.M. 330; T. Hawken S.W. 330; W. Rowe J.W. 330; J. Fly S.W. 1247; S. Treval D.C. 330; G. Garland, Organist 330; W. H. Beacock J.D. 330; O'Neil I.G. 330; C. Mutton D.C. 1205; C. D. Stentiford S.S. 159; W. Garland S.S. 70; J. Hawke S. 330; H. Lander, R. Adams, G. Vincent, E. T. Crabb, C. Crabb jun., J. Oliver, Martyn, Stribley, T. Hamley, Evelyn, Roberts, and P. Carroll.

The toast list commenced with "The Queen and Craft," proposed by the Chairman, and most cordially received by the brethren.—The Chairman then gave "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M., the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon M.W. Pro. G.M., and the Grand Lodge of England," and in so doing referred to the great Masonic gathering at Plymouth in August last. Such a gathering was, he believed previously unknown, and it proved the strength of Masonry. Freemasonry was progressing, and he thanked God for it. In those days they wanted men to reflect and not to be carried away by the speeches of men going about the country for a variety of purposes. With the toast he coupled the name of a brother most distinguished in Masonry, a man of very high position in that county, a man who had worked very hard for Freemasonry—(loud applause)—a man tried and proved, and who, although young in years, was old in Masonry. (Renewed applause.)

The V.W. Bro. W. J. Hughan, in replying, mentioned that although the Grand Lodge of England was only founded in the last century, it had already instituted, directly or indirectly, a hundred Grand Lodges, with ten thousands subordinate lodges, and three millions of members. Referring to the antiquity of Freemasonry, he remarked that he had before now tried trace its origin, but he had failed to do so; and lately he had become a wise man, and had given up the task. Freemasonry had been condemned with regard to its relations to religion, to the State, and to society in general. Yet scarcely in England, or in any other country, was there a Lodge which had not a minister for its chaplain. Little was known of the great good being done by the Grand Lodge, and by the great Masonic charities. The annual income of Grand Lodge was £20,000, the voluntary contributions to the great London Masonic charities amounted to £20,000, and the total income of Lodges in England and of those abroad in connection with the English Grand Lodge was £150,000. Altogether about a quarter of a million was raised annually by the brethren under the Grand Lodge of England, and he believed most of this money was very carefully disbursed. Greater attention was now being paid to education by the brethren than formerly, and one province alone was educating fifty children, and an adjoining province forty children. The children of deceased brethren were being educated, and aged brethren and the widows of brethren were being taken care of. Such an institution could not be inimical to true religion. And then with regard to its relation to the State, the Prince of Wales was about to be installed as Grand Master of the Order, and no one in his senses would endeavour to pull down his own throne.

The Chairman next proposed, in eulogistic terms, the toast of "The Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, Grand Master of Cornwall, and the Grand Lodge of Cornwall."

Bros. Solomon and Couch replied.

In giving to toast of the evening, the Chairman paid a high tribute to Captain Colvill, both as a Freemason and also as a governor of Cornwall County Prison.

The next toast was that of "The Chairman," proposed in happy terms to Bro. Stokes, and as happily acknowledged. Both Mr. Stokes and Mr. Hext mentioned instances of great kindnesses and sacrifices made by one Freemason on behalf of the other.

Bro. Leveson-Gower, M.P., then proposed "The visitors," and remarked that it gave him great pleasure to see that so many visiting brethren had assembled to do honour to Capt. Colvill. Freemasonry was not a limited fraternity, and he thought that the more Freemasons from different places met together the more would those truly Masonic feelings of benevolence and goodwill be extended. One of the great evils of the present day was a widespread feeling of jealousy. There were jealousies between town and country, jealousies between county and county, and jealousies between country and

country, and one of the pre-eminent merits of Freemasonry was that it knocked down those jealousies.

Bros. Solomon, Webber, Truscott, Guy, Stribley, and Johns acknowledged the toast, which had been very cordially received.

Bro. Rev. A. H. Ferris gave "The W.M. and Officers of 'One and All' Lodge," which Bros. Hole, Hawken, and Rowe acknowledged.

"The Banquet Committee," "The Past Masters of 330," and "The Ladies" were also toasted, and the banquet, which had been admirably conducted, was brought to a conclusion.

A FLOWER SHOW IN SPRING.

OUR worthy Bro. James Cutbush (Wm. Cutbush & Son), whose name has been for some years closely associated with the cultivation of the Hyacinth, has thrown open his Nurseries at Highgate to the public during the Easter holidays. The whole of his collection of this charming household flower are now, and will be for another week, in fine perfection. They are attractively arranged, with other decorative plants, such as showy tulips; camellias, clean and healthy; azaleas, literally a blaze of flower; cyclamen, charmingly beautiful; stately palms, and hundreds of other flowering plants, which we cannot undertake to name. The Hyacinth, however, holds the post of honour in the collection. Some examples are of a very choice kind, but the majority are such as those supplied by Bro. Cutbush to his clients at a cheap rate in the autumn. We were much pleased with the dark blue Angus, Baron von Tuyl, Lord Melville, King of the Blues, Marie, and amongst the light blues with Grand Lilas, Charles Dickens, Czar Peter. The darker kinds, such as General Havelock, La Nuit, and Mimosa are well worthy of attention. The most attractive amongst the reds are Garibaldi, Linnaeus (bright), Mdme. Hodson, Mrs. Beecher Stowe, Lord Macanlay, Solfatara, and Florence Nightingale. Amongst whites, there are some charming spikes of bloom. La Grandesse stands out very prominently, as does one named Mrs. James Cutbush, both of these are new; then comes Mont Blanc, Alba superbissima, Grandeur, a Merveille blush and Queen of the Netherlands; In yellows Ida is very beautiful, and so is Duke of Malakoff, buff striped. Those of our readers who are interested in floriculture, would do well to pay Bro. Cutbush a visit, they will find very much to admire, and may carry away a few ideas for the management of the garden, which may be of value. We learn that the number of visitors on Monday was over 2,500, the majority of them were of the well-to-do-classes, but every decently attired person was allowed to pass in. We congratulate Bro. Cutbush upon the success which has hitherto attended his exhibition, and we cannot but think that pure recreation of this kind, if it were more general, would help to wean the working classes from the degrading pleasure to which many amongst them fall victims at this holiday season.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY NEWS.

FRIDAY.

THE bank directors decided at their meeting yesterday to continue the rate of discount at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as it is expected there will be a continuance of bullion movements in favour of the bank in consequence of the demand for gold for export having entirely ceased, and the favourable state of the foreign changes.

The return of revenue to 31st ult. shows that the estimates of the Chancellor of the Exchequer have been more than realised, the surplus amounting to nearly half a million. Considering the great amounts of taxation which, last year, were remitted, notably the sugar duty, estimated at £2,000,000, and the horse duty at £480,000, together with the decrease in the Income Tax of £1,540,000, this result is very satisfactory. The Customs, Taxes, Income Tax, Post Office and Crown Lands show an increase, while the Excise, Stamps, Telegraphs, and Miscellaneous, are below the estimate. Consols are quoted at 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 93 for money or account.

The prospectus has been issued of the Borough of Hackney Public and Masonic Hall Company Limited, with a capital of £10,000 in shares of £2 each. The prospectus states, that the building, which is in course of erection, will comprise a Hall, capable of holding 1,000 persons, and suitable for Public and Masonic Meetings, Musical and other Entertainments, together with smaller rooms adjoining, for the accommodation of Lodges, Clubs, Committees and private parties. The site, which occupies a central position in the Borough, has been obtained on very favorable terms, and is situate in close proximity to rail, tram and omnibus, by which the City and West End may easily be reached.

At the annual general meeting of the Law Union Fire and Life

Insurance Company, held on Wednesday last, it was announced that 5,151 fire policies had been issued during the year ended 30th November 1874, yielding, in new premiums, £7,656 2s 9d, and in the life department 261 policies, insuring £207,460, yielding, in new premiums, £8,122 7s, and that the assets of the company were £125,588 15s 10d. A dividend and bonus together of 15 per cent. were declared.

A dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income tax, was declared at the annual meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of Scotland, held on 30th ult., the profits for the year, together with £15,854 brought forward, amounting to £191,493. The reserve fund and the balance carried forward amount to £401,493.

The directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, will recommend, at the meeting to be held on 21st inst., a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and that £20,000 be carried to reserve fund, leaving a balance of £7,260.

The directors of the New London and Brazilian Bank have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The English railway market is, on the whole, dull, the principal exception being Chatham and Dover, which are quoted, Ordinary, at 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 28 $\frac{1}{2}$; and Preference, at 81 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 81 $\frac{1}{2}$. Other prices are as follow:—South Eastern Deferred, 110 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 110 $\frac{3}{4}$; Brighton, 98 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 98 $\frac{3}{4}$; Metropolitan, 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 84; District, 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 37 $\frac{3}{4}$; Sheffield, 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 78 $\frac{1}{2}$; Great Northern (A), 154 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 155; and Caledonian, 103 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 103 $\frac{3}{4}$.

The North British Railway Company opened three branch lines on the 1st inst.—viz., the Boroughbridge and Knaresborough, the Kirbymoorside and Pickering, and the Loftus and Saltburn.

Foreign Stocks are tolerably good, except Peruvian, which are quoted, 6 per Cents. at 69 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 70 $\frac{1}{2}$, and 5 per Cents. at 53 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 54 $\frac{1}{2}$; Egyptian of 1868 are at 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 84 $\frac{1}{2}$, do. 1873, 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 80 $\frac{3}{4}$; Khedive 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ ex. div., Turkish 5 per Cents. 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 43 $\frac{3}{4}$; do. 1869, 53 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 54 ex. div., do. 1873, 52 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 52 $\frac{3}{4}$ ex. div., do. Band C. 82 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 82 $\frac{3}{4}$; Italian 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 71 $\frac{3}{4}$, French 5 per Cents. 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 101 $\frac{3}{4}$, Spanish 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 23 $\frac{3}{4}$, and Uruguay 55 to 55 $\frac{1}{2}$.

In Telegraphs the principal feature is the decline of Anglo-Americans, which have reached 68 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 68 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Bro. Colonel Thomas S. Martin, who fell at the head of his regiment (11th Pennsylvania Volunteers), in the second battle of Bull Run, on the 30th of August 1862, was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, being at the time of his death an officer of Industry Lodge, 131, A.Y.M., a member of Excelsior Mark Lodge, No. 216, and of Oriental H.R.A. Chapter of this city. When killed, he had on his body a large, beautiful Masonic mark, in the shape of a Maltese Cross, of solid gold, which was not recovered with his body. In the month of September 1866, Bro. Matt. F. Ash, Jackson, Mississippi, and member of Jackson R.A. Chapter, No. 6, while on a visit to Corpus Well, a watering-place, in Hinds County, found in the possession of one of the guests, named Thad. Miller, from Yazoo River, "formerly of the 18th Mississippi regiment, Longstreet's corps, of the now defunct C.S.A." a Maltese Cross, bearing the name of T. S. Martin, with the names of various Lodges and Masonic symbols engraved thereon. Mr. Ash and Mr. Miller addressed some letters on the subject of this cross to the officers of Industry and Oriental Lodges to New York, instead of to Philadelphia, which were handed to Bro. James M. Austin, M.D., the Grand Secretary of New York, who had in turn transmitted them to the Grand Secretary, Bro. John Thompson, of this city. Mr. Miller said in his letter, dated Vicksburg, 11th September 1866, "I do not desire to retain the cross, heretofore held as a trophy, and as it might afford the nearest relative of the former Thomas S. Martin, a pleasure to have it, I will, upon application to me of the nearest relative, with a certificate from Industry Lodge, No. 131, accompanying said application, forward the cross by express. It was captured near the body of a Federal officer, near Gettysburg." The widow of Colonel Martin, residing in this city, having been furnished by Masonic friends with the necessary certificates of Industry Lodge and of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, then wrote to Mr. Miller, enclosing said certificates the receipt of which he acknowledged, 11th October 1866, stating in his letter that "the cross would be forwarded by Messrs. Johns, Lee and Johns, of Vicksburg, as soon as he could return to his home on Yazoo River, which will be in two weeks." Nothing, however, was heard of the cross until last Saturday. Henry Gorman, Esq., of this city, connected, with Adams' Express Company, a member of the Masonic Fraternity, in conversation with a gentleman of that establishment, Mr. Roberts stated that he intended joining the Masonic procession on the occasion of the laying of the corner-stone of the Masonic Temple. Mr. R. was not aware that Mr. Gorman was a Mason; and in further conversation, added, that he had, within the last week or two, found a Masonic cross among the unclaimed packages. Upon showing it to Mr. Gorman, the latter immediately recognised in the name of Thomas S. Martin a bosom friend, former fellow member of the Washington Grays. He at once communicated with Mrs. Martin, to whom this memento—so dear to herself and children—was restored on Monday last. The package had been misdirected, and had been lying in Adams' Express office for one year and nine months. Almost six years have elapsed since this Masonic mark, lost on the battle-field of Bull Run, and found on the battlefield of Gettysburg, was returned to the lawful heirs of its rightful owner.—*Philadelphia Keystone.*

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

We shall be greatly obliged if the Secretaries of the various Lodges throughout the kingdom would favour us with a copy of their summonses each time of issue.

SATURDAY, 3rd APRIL.

General Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
308—Affability, Private Rooms, Buttons, Stansfield.
1458—Truth, Royal Archer Inn, Manchester.

MONDAY, 5th APRIL.

12—Fortitude and Old Cumberland, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
69—Unity, London Tavern, Bishopsgate.
72—Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
83—United Lodge of Prudence, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
144—St. Luke's, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall-street.
188—Joppa, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
256—Unions, Freemasons' Hall.
1319—Asaph, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 29—Old King's Arms, Freemasons' Hall.
37—Anchor and Hope, Freemasons' Hall, Bolton.
50—Knights of Malta, George Hotel, Hinckley.
53—Royal Sussex, Masonic Hall, Bath.
113—Unanimity, Bull Hotel, Preston.
154—Unanimity, Masonic Hall, Wakefield, Yorks.
381—Harmony and Industry, New Inn, Over Darwen.
1009—Shakspeare, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
1077—Wilton, Red Lion Hotel, Blackley, near Manchester.
1211—Goderich, Masonic Hall, Leeds.
1239—Wentworth, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
1302—De Warren, Masonic Hall, Halifax, Yorks.
1519—Albert Edward, Albion Hotel, Clayton-le-Moors.
K. T. 29—Faith, Masonic Hall, Bradford.

TUESDAY, 6th APRIL.

Colonial Board at 3, Freemasons' Hall.
7—Royal York, Freemasons' Hall.
18—Old Dundee, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
101—Temple, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
217—Stability, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
765—St. James', Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
1259—Duke of Edinburgh, Cape of Good Hope Tavern, Commercial-road.
1261—Golden Rule, Cafe Royal, Regent-street.
1298—Royal Standard, Marquess Tavern, Canonbury.
1472—Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich.
R. A. 169—Temperance, White Swan Tavern, Deptford.
57—Humber, Freemasons' Hall, Hull.
70—St. John's, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth.
103—Beaufort, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
124—Marquis of Granby, Freemasons' Hall, Durham.
265—Royal Yorkshire, Masonic Hall, Keighley, Yorks.
1134—Newall, Freemasons' Hall, Salford.
1322—Waverley, Church Inn, Hurst Cross, Ashton-under-Lyne.
381—Cloues, Thompson's Hotel, Clones, Ireland.
M. 161—Walton, St. Lawrence Boys' School, Kirkdale.
R. A. 296—Loyalty, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
R. A. 600—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Bradford, Yorks.

WEDNESDAY, 7th APRIL.

511—Zetland, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
R. A. 55—Constitutional, Red Lion, Leytonstone.
R. A. 34—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Leeds.
R. A. 1125—St. Peter's, Masonic Hall, Tiverton.
71—Athol, Masonic Hall, Severn-street, Birmingham.
81—Doric, Private Room, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
94—Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall, Sunderland.
298—Harmony, Masonic Rooms, Rochdale.
645—Humphrey Chetham, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
678—Earl Ellesmere, Church Hotel, Kersley, near Bolton.
838—Franklin, Peacock Hotel, Boston.
992—St. Thomas, Griffin Hotel, Lower Broughton.
1144—Milton, Ryecroft Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne.
1271—Earl of Durham, Freemasons' Hall, Chester-le-Street.
M. 36—Furness, Hartington Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness.
R. A. 300—Perseverance, Pitt and Nelson Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne.

THURSDAY, 8th APRIL.

10—Westminster and Keystone, Freemasons' Hall.
19—R. Athelstan, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
91—Regularity, Freemasons' Hall.
206—Friendship, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
263—Bank of England, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
534—Polish National, Freemasons' Hall.
657—Canonbury, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
879—Southwark, Southwark Park Tavern, Southwark.
1076—Capper, Marine Hotel, Victoria Docks, West Ham.
1216—Macdonald, Head Quarters 1st Surrey Volunteer Corps, Brunswick-road, Camberwell.
1471—Islington, Cock Tavern, Highbury.
R. A. 73—Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
R. A. 140—St. George, Globe Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich.
R. A. 619—Beadon, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall-street.
97—Palatine, Masonic Hall, Sunderland.
112—St. George's, Masonic Hall, Exeter.
139—Britannia, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
854—Albert, Duke of York Inn, Shaw, near Oldham.
1055—Derby, Knowsley Hotel, Cheetham, near Manchester.
1147—St. David, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
K. T. Mount Grace, Masonic Hall, Stockton-on-Tees.

FRIDAY, 9th APRIL.

36—Glamorgan, Freemasons' Hall, Cardiff.
134—Caledon, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
157—Bedford, Freemasons' Hall.
458—Aire and Calder, Ouse-street, Goole.
697—United, George Hotel, Colchester.
815—Blair, Town Hall, Hulme.
1101—Harrogate and Claro, Masonic Rooms, Harrogate.
1121—Wear Valley, Talbot Hotel, Bishop Auckland.
1420—Earl Spencer, Freemasons' Hall, New Wandswoth.
R. A. 33—Britannia, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 61—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Halifax.
R. A. 462—Bank Terrace, Hargreaves' Arms Hotel, Accrington.
K. T.—St. Joseph, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
K. T.—St. George, Freemasons' Hall, Oldham.
K. T.—St. John of Jerusalem, Masonic Hall, Todmorden.

SATURDAY, 10th APRIL.

Quarterly Annual Court, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 12.
108—London, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
173—Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall.
1361—United Service, Greyhound, Richmond, Surrey.
1446—Mount Edgcombe, Swan Tavern, Bridge-road, Batterssea.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—145—St. Stephen, St. James's Hall, Writer's-court.
TUESDAY—1—Mary's Chapel, Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo-place.
WEDNESDAY—2—Canongate, Kilwinning-street, St. John's Chapel, St. John's-street.
R. A. 1—Edinburgh, Freemasons' Hall.
THURSDAY—8—Journymen, Blackfriars-street, High-street.
FRIDAY—56—Canongate, Kilwinning-street, St. John's Chapel, St. John's-st.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Grand Master's Lodge, No. 1.—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on the 15th ult., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street. There were present Bros. G. Payne W.M., E. Thompson D.D. Chaplain, R. H. Giraud T., J. Case P.G.S. Secretary, I. T. Smith S.D., R. Gooding B.A. M.D. J.D., S. Rawson P.P.G.M. China, D.C., E. Fenner Steward. Past Masters W. S. Gover P.G.S., W. A. Colls P.G.S., E. Bayley P.G.S., W. H. Wilkins P.G.S., Sir F. Wyatt Truscott, Alderman, &c., H. Bigg P.G.S., F. Bennock P.G.S., W. H. Trego P.G.S., and H. Sanderson P.G.M. Bengal. Bros. G. C. D. Albiac, G. R. Steel, A. Hyam, T. Gretham, J. Conder, W. Ellis Alderman and Sheriff, J. H. Fitch, A. B. Friend, and several other brethren. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Mr. J. Slater, who was initiated into Freemasonry as an E.A.P. The Lodge was opened in 3rd degree, and Bro. G. R. Steel was raised to M.M. The Lodge was resumed in 2nd degree, and Bro. Alderman Ellis was passed to the Fellow Craft. The Lodge was resumed in 1st degree, and closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet. The following visitors were present:—R. Bradley P.P.G. Registrar Berks and Bucks, E. Wilson W.M. 1464 S.W. 2, J. Silbourne 1, H. S. Hill Harmony Lodge, A. H. Neuffert 18, H. Green P.M. 256, T. Gentham 2, C. Gale S.W. 1347, J. H. Owens P.M. 4, A. G. Tomlyn P.M. Celtic Lodge, Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Enoch Lodge, No. 11.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, 30th ult., for the purpose of electing a Steward to serve on the 28th instant at the Installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The votes of the brethren were unanimous in favour of the W.M., Bro. Bradstreet.

Lodge of Prosperity, No. 65.—The Installation meeting of this Lodge, whose working is appreciated by all who have visited it, was held on the 25th March, Bro. Davey W.M. in the chair. Bros. Carruthers S.W., Goodwin P.M. Treasurer, J. Rich Secretary, and Past Masters E. C. Mather, J. Bellerby, Arnold, Forbes, J. L. Mather, Cook and Cornwall. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were duly read and confirmed. A Board of Installed Masters was then formed, and Bro. Leins was presented for the purpose of Installation, and that ceremony was rendered by Bro. J. L. Mather in an impressive and perfect manner. At the conclusion of the addresses, he was deservedly congratulated by the brethren and visitors for the admirable manner in which he had performed the ceremony. The W.M. having been saluted according to ancient form, invested his officers, viz.: Bros. Davey I.P.M., Bowyer S.W., Daniels J.W., Goodwin P.M. Treasurer, Rich Secretary, Birch S.D., Brain I.G., Stanley and Matthews Stewards, J. L. Mather D.C., and Speight Tyler. Bro. J. L. Mather was unanimously elected to act as Steward at the Installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as M.W.G.M. Several brethren were proposed as auditors, and the brethren, numbering ninety-six, adjourned to a very splendid banquet, *a la Russe*, provided by Bro. Ritter, whose catering for the comforts of the brethren deserves special commendation. Grace having been sung by Bros. Seymour Smith, Frank Elmore and Lester, the W.M. proposed the health of H.M. the Queen, and, with feelings of great pleasure, said that three scions of Royalty were Freemasons, and Her Majesty was one of the patrons of our Order. (Loud cheers.) The "National Anthem" was then sung, Bro. Frank Elmore giving a new verse,—

"Great Architect above,
Shield with Thy mighty love,
This Lodge from harm.
Oh, may our Order shine,
And fight with strength divine,
'Gainst all our foes and Thine,
Saved by Thine arm."

The W.M., in proposing the toast of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as M.W.G.M., said he was proud to mention that name, not only as head of our Order, but also as the future King of England. (Loud cheers.) The W.M., in proposing the toast of the Pro. G.M., mentioned his qualifications to occupy the chair in the absence of the M.W.G.M. He then, in proposing the health of the Earl of Skelmersdale D.G.M., spoke of the merits of that noble brother. He was proud to see so excellent a representative as that of Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary, who had honoured them by his presence. (Cheers.) That worthy and distinguished brother had endeared himself by his urbanity and thorough knowledge of his arduous duties, and his presence was an honour to any Lodge he might visit. (Cheers.) Bro. John Hervey, in rising to return thanks for the Grand Officers, spoke of the great event of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Installation, and also of the merits of the Prov. G.M. and the Deputy Grand Master, whose qualifications were always fully appreciated. Bro. Sir Albert Woods, in

conjunction with that noble brother, had been working night and day to organize such a meeting at the Albert Hall as would never be witnessed again. (Cheers.) Bro. Davey I.P.M., in felicitous terms, proposed the toast of the W.M., he was one that all who knew respected, and he was able to carry out every duty the Lodge required of him. The W.M. briefly responded to the toast, and proposed the health of Bro. Davey I.P.M., who had zealously discharged his duties to the satisfaction of the brethren—he should be proud to follow in his footsteps. He was pleased to present, in the name of the Lodge, a very elegant gold P.M. jewel, and also a valuable gold watch, to that worthy brother. He hoped he might live long to enjoy them. Bro. Davey suitably returned thanks for the valuable gifts. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the installing master, Bro. J. L. Mather P.M. He had to thank that brother for the Masonic instruction imparted by him, and which enabled him (the W.M.) to occupy the chair of the Earl of Zetland Lodge, and also of this influential Lodge. Bro. E. C. Mather P.M., who is a Steward for the Girls' School, returned thanks for the Masonic Charities. The toast of the visitors found an able exponent in Bro. Baxter P.G.S. Bros. Bowyer, Rich, and Daniel, returned thanks for the Wardens and officers. The Tyler's toast concluded a very delightful evening; Bro. Speight efficiently discharging his duties as toast-master. The visitors were Bros. J. Hervey G.S., Baxter P.G.S., McConbin P.G.S. (Berks and Bucks), Price 657, Harriess P.M. 73, Wilson P.P.G.J.W. (Essex), Fysh 1364, C. Benson 192, Foote W.M. 948, S. Lazarns P.P.G.W. (Wilts), Watkins W.M. 212, Davis 188, Verdun 188, Frank 212, A. Borgen 188, Hinchins 569, H. M. Levy P.M. 188, &c. Several excellent glees and humorous songs were given during the evening. Bros. F. Elmore, Lester, Seymour Smith, &c., specially distinguishing themselves.

Egyptian Lodge, No. 27.—A meeting was held on Thursday, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. S. R. Lambie. The meeting was very fully attended by lay members, in addition to a strong body of Past Masters, among whom were Bros. H. G. Buss Treasurer, J. B. Poole Secretary, C. Atkins, F. Harrison, W. H. Libbis, D. H. Jacobs, T. Sheppard, H. F. Hoare, John Conlts, and C. B. Payne. After one brother had been raised to third degree, a gentleman was initiated. The sum of 10 guineas was voted to the list of Bro. Poole, who had been appointed a Steward for the next festival of the Girls' School. During the evening the Treasurer of the Lodge, Bro. Buss, in returning thanks for the toast of "The Past Masters," drew attention to the benevolent fund which had been established in connection with the Lodge during the last two or three months. By the assistance of the brethren, though it had been established only so short a time, the fund already amounted to over £150, and it was intended to invest £100 of this sum next week. Additions, however, to the fund should constantly be made; he was not in favour of a large sum being accumulated; the fund was intended to assist cases of distress, not to be hoarded, and from time to time he hoped to see it contribute in a liberal manner to the three great Masonic charitable institutions. He also informed the brethren that within the last 14 years the Egyptian Lodge had subscribed more than £400 to these institutions before the benevolent fund was established.

Justice Lodge, No. 147.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the White Swan Inn, on Wednesday, 24th ult., for the purpose of nominating a Steward to assist at the Installation of the Prince of Wales as W.M.G.M. The W.M., Bro. John Roper, was present, as were also his Officers and a goodly number of brethren, also P.M.'s George Bolton, Bartlett Treasurer, G. Chapman Secretary, Batt, Cavell, and several others. The choice of the brethren fell upon Bro. G. Bolton, who was elected unanimously. This being the whole of the business for which the brethren were called together, the Lodge was closed in due form and adjourned.

Joppa Chapter, No. 188.—A convocation of this Chapter was held on Wednesday, the 31st March (in lieu of the ordinary meeting of the last Monday in the month), at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street. Comps. H. M. Levy M.E.Z., M. Emanuel H., M. J. Emanuel J., S. V. Abrahams P.Z. Treasurer, P. Dickenson S.E., S. Jacobs P.S., and P.Z.'s S. Lazarus, S. Pollitzer and E. P. Albert. The Chapter was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Ballots were taken for the following brethren, viz., Bros. L. Klein 183, M. S. Phillips, D. Davis 141, J. Granebaum W.M. 1017, L. Davids 188, P. A. Morse 1017, and J. Row 454, who were duly exalted into R. A. Masonry by Comp. S. Pollitzer, assisted by Comps. S. V. Abrahams and Emanuel, their working being perfect. A sum of £2 2s was voted to be placed on the list of the M.E.Z., Bro. H. M. Levy, who is a Steward at the forthcoming Festival of the Boys' School in June. The Chapter was then closed, and the company sat down to a capital banquet provided by Comp. Jennings, and superintended by Comp. Keeping; the W.M. gave the usual loyal and R. A. toasts. Some elegant speeches were made, and Bros. J. H. Ryley, Dickenson and D. Davis contributed to the harmony. The visitors were Comps. Herf Z. elect 180, Cramp, Nassau Chapter, New York, and Rossne (Polish National Chapter).

Euphrates Lodge, No. 212.—The above Lodge met on the 24th ult., at Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons' Avenue, Bro. May W.M., Cutler S.W., Bassett J.W., Watkins P.M. Treasurer, Coverley P.M. Secretary, Halsey S.D. Woods I.G. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Messrs. Roberts, Chapman, Myers and Droscher were initiated. Bro. Hammond P.M. was elected Steward for the Installation meeting of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren, about 40 in number, sat down to a very sumptuous banquet,

provided in Bro. Gosden's best style. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and complimentary speeches. The visitors were, Bros. Bowren P.M. 933, Treager 15, Wilcox 975, Leslie 1306, Baker 1326, Price 1327, and Pierrepont 1365.

Virtue and Silence Lodge, No. 332.—A meeting was held on Thursday, 18th ult., at the White Lion Hotel, Hadleigh. There were present Bros. A. K. Haslett I.P.M., A. J. Grimwade S.W., W. C. Eltham J.W., F. Grimwade S.D., W. Mackney J.D., S. Cooper I.G. P.M.'s W. Hart P.P.G.J.D., E. B. Powell P.P.G. Super., W. Gardiner P.P.G.P., A. Pettit P.P.G.A.D.C., and several other brethren. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The Lodge was then opened in the second and third degrees, when Bro. Hitchcock was raised to the sublime degree. The Lodge resumed in first degree, when Bro. King, having answered the questions satisfactorily, retired; the Lodge being resumed in second degree, Bro. King was passed to the F.C. degree. The Lodge was then closed and adjourned. The above ceremonies were rendered by Bro. Hart P.M. in a most solemn and impressive manner.

Royal Oak Lodge, No. 871.—An emergency meeting of the above Lodge was held at the White Hart Tavern, High-street, Deptford, on 25th March. S. O. Lewin W.M., Myatt S.W., J. J. Pake J.W., W. Andrews P.M. Treasurer, F. Walters P.G.P. Secretary P.M. and Secretary, R. Harman D.C., H. J. Fisher Organist, and Bros. Williams, Jones, Firth, Meers, E. James, Good, R. Harvey, J. Allen, J. Phillips, G. Porter, Barr, J. Rennie, &c. The Lodge was opened, and Bros. G. Jones, and T. Firth were raised to the third degree, and Bro. J. T. Phillips was passed to the second degree, by Bro. G. Andrews P.M., in his usual perfect manner. Bro. Andrews was elected to act as Steward at the Installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. A letter of condolence to the widow of the late Bro. Reed was proposed and carried.

Excelsior Lodge, No. 1155.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the Sydney Arms, Lewisham, on Tuesday, 23rd ult., to nominate a Steward to assist at the Installation of the Prince of Wales as M.W.G.M., the W.M. Bro. Bear presided, supported by the following:—Bros. Hose S.W., G. Bolton P.M. Treasurer, C. G. Dilley P.M. Secretary, Carver P.M., J. Roper, Scott, Wilson, Welstead, Watson, Smith, and several others. The Lodge was opened, and the choice of the brethren fell upon Bro. Bear, the W.M. The Lodge was then closed, and adjourned till the first Thursday in April.

Acacia Lodge, No. 1209.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on Saturday, the 20th ult., at the Prince Alfred Hotel, Southall. Bro. Chas. Horsley P.P.G.R. (Middlesex) occupied the chair, owing to the sad death of the W.M. Bro. Limpus P.G.O. (Middlesex) P.M., F. Walters P.G.S. (Middlesex) Secretary, C. Stalin P.M., C. A. Fenice S.W., C. G. Rushworth J.W., J. W. George J.D., and Bros. Wilson, Paulson, Davis, Smith, Tebb, Darcy, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. Wilson was raised to the 3rd degree, and Bros. Paulson and Davis were passed to the degree of Fellow Crafts, by Bro. Charles Horsley P.M. P.P.G.R. (Middlesex), in a solemn and paustaking manner, showing the Masonic qualifications of that talented brother. It was unanimously voted that letters of condolence should be sent to the widow of the late lamented W.M., Bro. Limpus, and also to the widow of the late respected Bro. Sillifant, the Treasurer of the Lodge. Bro. Tebb was proposed as a Steward for the Girls' School. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to slight refreshments. Bro. J. W. Baldwin W.M. 1423 was present as a visitor.

Upton Lodge, No. 1227.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the Spotted Dog, Upton, on Monday, 22nd ult., to nominate a Steward to assist the Grand Stewards at the Installation at the Albert Hall, on the 28th April. The W.M. Bro. G. Levick presided, supported by his officers, as follow:—Bros. A. Holtham S.W., J. L. Mather P.M. J.W., Posener S.D., G. Brown I.G., F. C. Kinnear W.S., P.M.'s B. Picking, G. T. English, R. W. Goddard Secretary, R. Bolton, G. Bratton I.P.M.; Webster, White, Page, Merrill, Hart, Oldroyd, Tuttle, and several other brethren. The Lodge was opened, and the Secretary, Bro. Goddard P.M., read the communication from Bro. J. Hervey, Grand Secretary, relating to the installation of the Prince of Wales as M.W.G.M. It was proposed by Bro. G. Bratton P.M., and seconded by Bro. G. T. English P.M., that the W.M., Bro. Levick, be the Steward to represent this Lodge at that Festival, which was carried unanimously, and the Lodge was then closed and adjourned.

Earl of Zetland Lodge, No. 1364.—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Old Town Hall, Mare Street, Hackney, on Saturday, 20th March. The W.M., Bro. John L. Fysh, presided, supported by his officers as follow:—Bros. Wright Treasurer, Gompertz J.D., H. F. Lowe D.C., T. H. Haskins Organist, J. G. Pockett Steward, P.M.'s W. Bristo Secretary, and L. A. Lewis; G. J. Pope, T. Fitzgerald, W. T. Morris, W. Fieldwick I.G., J. Crosbie, A. G. Challis, O. Dilmarr, H. Cooper, W. Green, A. Bissinger, F. Kearney, R. Buckler, J. S. Ashburner, J. B. Ferdinando, D. H. Feltham, B. Humphrey, F. H. Dalton. The following brethren were among the visitors, viz., Bros. F. Keene 378, G. W. Saul D.C. 1201, J. B. Shackleton 1326, W. Speth S.D. 183, J. W. Hill J.D. 1278, J. Evans 139, J. Johnson S.W. 301, E. W. Burr 1158. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Messrs. R. T. Giles, J. A. Vickers, G. Haddock, J. Tattersall, and S. T. Shuttleworth, which proved in their favour. The

Lodge was opened in the 2nd degree, and Bros. Bissinger and Cooper answered the questions leading to the 3rd degree; the Lodge was then opened in 3rd degree, and these two brethren were raised to the M.M. degree; the Lodge resumed in 1st degree, and Bros. Anning and Mitchell were entrusted, and retired; and the Lodge having been resumed in 2nd degree Bros. Mitchell and Anning were passed to that degree; the Lodge was resumed in 1st degree, and Messrs. Giles, Vickers, Shuttleworth, and Haddock, being in attendance, were initiated into Freemasonry as E.A.P. The Lodge was then closed in due form, and adjourned till the third Saturday in April.

Gladsmuir Lodge, No. 1385, Barnet.—The members of this Lodge met at the Red Lion Hotel, Barnet, on Wednesday, 31st March, on an emergency summons. The W.M., Bro. Hayward Edwards, presided, and was supported by Bros. J. Cutbush S.W., Dr. Livingston J.W., F. Young S.D., G. Askew Secretary, and Bros. Wingham, Euerby, Yolland, Cranston, Brown, &c. The Lodge was opened to the 2nd degree. Bro. Abbott having proved his efficiency was entrusted, and retired. The Lodge was then opened in the 3rd degree, and Bro. Abbott was raised to the sublime degree by Bro. John Lowthion P.M. and W.M. 1479; the ceremony being rendered in a most impressive manner. After the discussion of several matters in connection with the Lodge, the brethren adjourned to slight refreshment, provided by Brother Fisher.

Langthorne Lodge of Instruction, No. 1421.—The brethren of this Lodge were enabled to enjoy a thorough Masonic treat on Wednesday last, the 31st ult., upon which occasion the fifteen sections were worked in the Lodge room, at the Swan Hotel, Stratford, E., the chair being occupied by Bro. Cundick, J.W. of the Lodge; Bro. T. J. Baines P.M. 554 acting as S.W.; and Bro. Land W.M. 742 as J.W. The Lodge was opened at 7 p.m., at which hour a large number of brethren had assembled to witness the excellent working of Bro. Cundick and the brethren who had undertaken to work the various sections. The Lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the former meeting read and duly confirmed, the seven sections of the first lecture were worked by the following brethren, viz.:—

1st Section . . .	Bro. Burdett 1293.
2nd do.	„ Mortlock P.M. 194.
3rd do.	„ Horsley 933.
4th do.	„ Coombes J.D. 554.
5th do.	„ Lattrell P.M. 1056.
6th do.	„ Pinder 554.
7th do.	„ Austin P.M. 933.

The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and the sections of this lecture worked as under, viz.:—

1st Section . . .	Bro. Boulton 1056.
2nd do.	„ Walters 933.
3rd do.	„ Myers 820.
4th do.	„ Barnes P.M. 554.
5th do.	„ Pinder 554.

The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and the concluding sections worked, viz.:—

1st Section . . .	Bro. Berry S.W. 554.
2nd do.	„ Austin P.M. 933.
3rd do.	„ Musto 554.

The Lodge was resumed in the first degree, and a cordial vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Bro. Cundick and the brethren who had so kindly undertaken the working of the various sections, after which a number of brethren were proposed as joining members, and the Lodge was closed. It has rarely been our good fortune to witness such excellent working as that of Bro. Cundick and his friends. The able manner in which the questions were put, and the equally able manner in which they were answered by the brethren, reflected the highest credit upon all concerned. We are unable to furnish the names of the whole of the brethren who were present, the number being about fifty, but amongst them we observed the following:—Bro. Burdett, Cundick, Barnes, Land, Mortlock, Horsley, Coombes, Lattrell, Pinder, Austin, Boulton, Walters, Myers, Barry, Musto, Robbins, Sharp, Mandy, Massa, Rivett, Taylor, Tucker, Stees W.M. Langthorne 1121, Owen (S.W. Langthorne), Ashdown (P.M. and Secretary Langthorne) Holliday, Webster, Morley, and a number of others. The brethren separated shortly before 11 p.m., highly delighted with the proceedings of the evening.

Ivy Lodge, No. 1440.—A meeting of this flourishing and rapidly-increasing Lodge was held at Bro. Flock's, the Windsor Castle Tavern, Southwark Bridge Road, B. C. Smith W.M. G. Mattock S.W., J. J. Cantle J.W., J. Nokes P.M. 87 acting P.M., E. Thurtle Treasurer, C. S. Jolly P.M. 87 Secretary, C.F. Poupard S.D., L. Cornelissen J.D., W. Ashwell I.G. The Lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the two former meetings read and confirmed, Bro. D. H. Ashford was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Bro. G. Mattock, S.W. and W.M. elect, was then presented to the Lodge, and he was duly installed by the retiring W.M. in a very able and perfect manner. The W.M. having been saluted in ancient form, invested his officers. The newly-installed W.M. then showed his proficiency for office, by initiating Messrs. R. McCowan, Gloag, and A. H. Miller into the Order, in an impressive and perfect manner, that redounded to the credit of the Lodge. The W.M. then presented the I.P.M., Bro. Smith, in the name of the Lodge, with a very elegant P.M. jewel, and a beautifully illuminated testimonial, engrossed on vellum, framed and glazed, signed by every brother in the Lodge, as a token of esteem and regard. Bro. Smith having suitably replied, the Lodge was then closed, terminating the first session, and the brethren adjourned to Bro.

Spencer's, Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, whose catering gave great satisfaction. The W.M. proposed the usual routine toasts, including that of the visitors, among whom were Bros. C. A. Cottebrune P.G.P., J. Terry P.M. and Secretary R. M. B. Institution, Welsford P.M. 805, Lancaster P.M. 1194, Meredith P.M. 1257, Sargent P.M. 548, Frampton P.M. 142, Bond P.M. 87, Millhouse P.M. 228, Whiting P.M. 87, Watts 1446, A. K. Smith 87, Drew 749, and several others. Some excellent speeches and songs were given, and the brethren separated at an early hour.

MASONIC FAIR PLAY.

FROM THE SCOTTISH FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE.

WE have had our attention drawn by one of our reporters to the issue of a contemporary, called the *Freemason*, published in London, on the 20th March, wherein, with other matter, there is a letter under the title of "Masonic Fair Play," reports of meetings in connection with the Scotch Lodges, No. 202, St. Clements, 116, Royal Arch Lodge, and No. 177, Old Monkland St. James. The letter referred to embodies a complaint against a London Masonic paper (evidently the *Freemason's Chronicle*) of having recently published what had once formed part of a leading article in the *Freemason*. Now, the article in question was fairly enough placed in the columns of the *Freemason's Chronicle*, and the name of the paper, *Pomeroy's Democrat*, from which it was extracted was stated. If the last-named journal did not in the same way acknowledge the *Freemason*, then the blame rests with it. However, let that be as it may, what we want to direct attention to is this: In the same issue of the *Freemason* in which this letter on Fair Play appears, there also appears, without any acknowledgement, copies of the reports, *verbatim et literatim*, of the three Lodges above mentioned, which appeared in our issue of the 15th March. We say these reports have been cut from our magazine and reprinted by our contemporary, because they were made by our own reporter and first published by us, and also because two slight errors in our issue have been most faithfully reproduced by our contemporary. Now, we respect greatly both the editor and publisher of the *Freemason*, but must at the same time, in our own interests, and purely in self-defence, point out this fact to our subscribers. Had the representative here of the journal referred to acted towards us in a fair manner, even this appropriation of our contents would perhaps not receive notice. If its boast as to circulation be correct, surely it does not need to "appropriate" from our humble columns to keep up that circulation. What are we to think of a journal that, in its leading article, talks of "its enterprising and fraternal publisher" thus:—"His motto has been 'Anspicium melioris cœvi,' and we trust that the sympathy of our great Order may yet be extended to his efforts on behalf of literature, and reward his zealous energy and self-sacrifice," &c. "The position of the *Freemason* is not only one of which our publisher may be proud, as it is his own creation," &c. Such are the preliminary remarks which our contemporary writes in its leading article, in the most self-complacent manner, and then quietly turns to the subject in hand, which happens to lie on the other side of the Atlantic. We really do marvel at the strange combination of the "leader," the "letter," and the "reports," all in one and the same copy, and cannot refrain from quoting, for the edification, we hope, of our contemporary, the author of "Hudibras":

"These are the great performances that raise
Your mighty parts above all reach of praise;
And give us only leave to admire your worth,
For no man, but yourself, can set it forth;
Whose wondrous power's so generally known:
Fame is the echo, and her voice your own."

The following statement shows the receipts for traffic on the undermentioned railways for the past week, as compared with the corresponding week in 1874:—

Railway.	Miles open. 1875	Receipts.	
		1875 £	1874 £
Caledonian	737		
Glasgow and South Western	315½	15,573	13,948
Great Eastern	763	50,185	44,159
Great Northern	517	51,814	50,484
Great Western	1,525	98,186	99,651
Lancashire and Yorkshire	430	71,243	63,722
London and Brighton	376½	32,326	24,001
London, Chatham and Dover	153½	18,322	14,081
London and North Western	1,582½	163,532	161,727
London and South Western	—	36,477	32,417
London, Tilbury and Southend	45	1,418	1,335
Manchester and Sheffield	259½	31,012	31,000
Midland	944½	118,185	104,055
Metropolitan	8	9,030	8,619
„ „ District	8	5,036	4,332
„ „ St. John's Wood	1½	470	439
North British	839	39,840	38,605
North Eastern	1,379	125,555	118,807
North London	12	7,092	7,033
North Staffordshire Railway	190	10,883	10,065
„ „ Canal	118	1,642	1,664
South Eastern	350	35,281	29,637

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