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CONCERNING LORD CARNARVON'S SPEECH AT THE INSTALLATION.

WE refrain from criticising the letter of Bro. W. P. Buchan which appeared last week in our columns. Though the remarks of the Pro Grand Master need no defence, we cannot allow Bro. Buchan's attack to pass without a commentary. Bro. Buchan says that, "according to the records he has perused, our Freemasonry is *not* of great antiquity, for no evidence has been produced of its existence even so recently as two hundred years ago." He probably intends this assertion to be taken in the spirit, not in the letter, for he must have read the record of Ashmole's initiation (A.D. 1646) and the strictures of Dr. Plot (A.D. 1686), which prove Freemasonry to have been in active operation two hundred years ago.

Painstaking investigators have of late endeavoured to clear away all rubbish from the history of our Order. Some have made a clean sweep of all which does not bear the word *Freemasonry*, written or printed; others, conceding a certain antiquity to the title, deny that the Freemasonry of to-day is the same thing, and say that whereas we are *speculative*, the earlier Freemasons were *operative only*.

Upon reviewing the vast scientific knowledge of the old artificers, the moral doctrines symbolised by them in stone, and the natural secrets which remain thinly veiled in our ceremonial, we rest convinced that the pregnant symbolism common to them and to us must always have been speculatively applied.

The *name* Freemasonry but not the *system*, might be of modern origin; the *detail* of our Ritual, but not its *tenour* we know to have been altered; symbols may have been degraded or promoted, but their meaning is the same which was understood ages ago.

The *nature of a secret Society* has not been sufficiently allowed for by some of its critics. The fate of its records was no concern of any State or Municipal body; the chain of its vitality was *oral*, and not written; any significant scrap which may have been recorded, it was the duty of the members to destroy. *The tests applicable to ordinary history are useless with respect to Freemasonry*: we might as well direct a microscope to the stars.

Our case stands thus: Numerous recorded symbols of important truths may be traced back "to a great antiquity—an antiquity ascending into the sphere of immemorial tradition;" their expression and meaning are attested by a variety of independent evidence and by monuments which cannot lie. That these symbols, with the moral doctrines they involve, have been the property of certain associations of artificers in every age, is equally demonstrable. Names may change with language, ceremonies be modified by opinion, formulæ be distorted; but all we can learn of the ceremonies and organisation of the Dionysiacs, the Architectonici, the Steinmetzen, Freemasons, &c. show a relationship which cannot be attributed to chance, whilst their symbols and moral doctrines are so similar that in most respects they appear identical.

Rank and file there must always have been, ignorant of the designs they helped to execute, but the Architects were evidently masters of that speculative symbolism which knits all science into itself, confirming harmonial proportion in both operative and speculative rule. The pyramid was a gigantic symmetry, it was also an instrument of geometry and astronomy. Stonehenge is a marvel of engineering, not less so of mathematical precision as an observatory. More than one ancient edifice displays the two columns of our speculative Temple in such manner as

not to be mistaken for anything except those expressly designated in our Lodges. Other significant indications abound. The Architects of King's College, Cambridge (called *Freemasons* upon the building contracts) produced a roof which was the despair of Wren. These we cite to show that scientific secrets were handed down and that, though some are lost their framework survives, which we call SPECULATIVE FREEMASONRY.

There is ampler evidence of the antiquity of our Society than of other institutions which have survived the lapse of time, but the class of evidence is dissimilar. The philosopher will not refuse to admit the force of special proof for special subjects. The sophistry which ignores it, is capable of denying the Christianity of to-day to be a lineal descendant of the early Church.

To conclude—the Church of Rome is an unwilling witness. It brands us as a survival of a sect of the Manichæans.* Being well aware that our system was taught in secret long ere its Pontiffs arrogated a monopoly of moral truth, and that our symbols are keys which unlock the same treasure as does the triple cross, it has never relaxed deadly hostility. Had it the power, it would exterminate us as unsparingly as it did the Waldenses and Albigenses; the cruel sufferings of our brethren in Germany, Spain, Portugal, and Italy are fresh in our remembrance; and only the *secular power* is wanting, to enable our enemy to continue that barbarous persecution, even in the face of the public opinion of an enlightened age.

It would be painful for us to wield a pen in aught that resembles controversy with a Brother who when in Lodge will think with us. Whilst trusting with reverence that the magnitude of objects in the past may not lead us to overlook facts which are before us, we would warn that short sight which discerns only objects in immediate proximity, and for which the glories of the landscape have no existence.

MASONRY AND THE OUTER WORLD.

IT is, perhaps, natural that the Installation of the Grand Master should have attracted much public attention to an Order the scope and aims of which are but little understood by the outer world. The old vulgar misconceptions are, indeed, passing away, but instead of them others are rising up, which, though totally unfounded, may, if not contradicted, pass for truth. Masons, indeed, do not care much for public opinion; they are fully conscious that the principles of the Craft are strictly in accord with religion and morality, and they do not trouble themselves to meet or refute all the idle rumours to which the uninitiated have given currency. It is, however, our duty, as Masonic journalists, to notice anything which may be of interest to the Craft, and it has been our pleasure recently to quote opinions of the press in reference to the Installation ceremony, which, in some degree, reflect the prevailing ideas in the popular mind. We might, indeed, have quoted coarser diatribes than those of the *Saturday Review*, but it is not necessary to search the sink-holes of journalism for opinions. The general tone of the public mind is highly favourable to the claims of Masonry, as a valuable institution for the promotion of charitable objects and fraternal feelings amongst mankind. Yet, in some quarters an im-

* See Cuccagni (Abbé) *Dissertazione, Che la Setta dei Liberi Muratori è una Diramazione, una Propaggine, un Ramo della Setta dei Manichæi*; and other documents.

pression appears to prevail that Masons are primarily a dining body—that they meet to dine and toast each other in bumpers, and that the charity of which the Order boasts is a secondary object with the great mass of the Fraternity. Mr. Heckethorn, in his work on secret societies, has the impudence to say that Freemasons are a vain and frivolous body, much addicted to dining out, and utterly deficient in mental endowments. This charge would be laughable if it were not advanced seriously by an author who affects to have studied the Order with some attention. We do not know whether Mr. Heckethorn has ever been initiated. We are inclined to think that he is one of the outside world; and if he is, his judgment, merely based, as it is, upon what he has read in the public press, is as false as it is silly. We have referred, recently, at length in these columns to the great charitable and educational work which the Order is doing in this country, and we need not now repeat ourselves for the purpose of refuting this trenchant critic. We are perfectly well assured that practical Masonry is in no need of defenders; but when we are charged with vanity, and with a general deficiency in mental culture, we scarcely know whether such sweeping and groundless assertions are worthy of a serious reply. If Masons were in the habit of parading the insignia of the Order in public, they might, with some show of reason, be charged with vanity and frivolity, but the trappings of State are strictly confined to the seclusion of the Lodge, and if we are indeed vain, the gratification of our vanity is confined to a narrow circle. The Lodge is the only field for the display of ribbons and medals, and a high functionary, or, as the *Saturday* sneeringly puts it, “a Grand something or other,” if he has no rank in society, is plain Mr. Jones or Smith, as the case may be, as soon as he returns to the outer world. We might have supposed the fact that Masonry comprises a large number of members who are remarkable for their mental endowments would have been known to Mr. Heckethorn, and that his native modesty, if he has any, would have restrained him from making a charge which betrays his own emptiness of mind. The man who ventures to call any large section of his fellow creatures fools, must either be a gloomy cynic and misanthrope, or a very silly person; we are inclined to think he is the latter.

But writers nearer home have taken the trouble to make vague charges against the brotherhood, which, in consequence of their vagueness, do not admit of any detailed reply. A portion of the press seems to be of opinion that it is a safe and proper thing to indulge in sneers, or to assume a patronising tone whenever the subject of Masonry turns up. The *Times*, for example, is a conspicuous offender in this respect, and its remarks upon the Installation ceremony drew from us a few words of criticism, which we fancy very accurately characterised its general tone and policy with reference to the Fraternity. It cannot afford to ignore us altogether. The Order is too important to be passed by in silence, but it can patronise us, and the patronage of the *Times* is somewhat irritating. If it has any specific charges to bring against Masonry, we shall be glad to hear them. If it is of opinion that we fail in our duties as private citizens, or if, in spite of its protestations to the contrary, it is secretly of opinion that the Order on the Continent is generally used as a political machine, we shall be glad to meet the great thunderer on its own ground. Indeed, we shall be very glad to encounter those of our critics who indulge in occasional sneers at the Craft, if they will be good enough to tell us what serious objections they have to advance. We do not intend to permit any grave imputation to be passed over in silence; but the misfortune is that our critics will not condescend to be serious. They attempt to conceal their ignorance under a cloud of words, and appear to imagine that surmise or mild abuse will pass for argument. Laughter at what appears to be the grotesque side of Masonry is no doubt harmless enough, and no Englishman who is worthy of the name was ever yet turned aside from a serious purpose by so weak a weapon as ridicule. We are a sturdy people, and do not mind a little banter, and, with regard to Masons, we may say, as we have said before, that they are by no means thin skinned. It takes a great deal to put them out. They have never yet expressed the slightest inkling of annoyance at the flattering but grotesque imitations of the ceremonial of the Order in which some of the more important of the friendly societies indulge. If the Oddfellows or Foresters think that the practical work for which they are banded together can be best conducted in secret assemblies, and with an

array of signs and passwords, Masons are the last persons in the world who would feel inclined to throw stones at them. Fair play is the watchword of Englishmen, and we, who profess to be gentlemen, should be the last to imitate the snobbish cynicism of the *Saturday Review*. We do not attack any section of the outer world, and if we complain of misrepresentation, our complaints are primarily grounded on the fact that our critics will not step into the arena of fair discussion. If Masonry is too strong for serious argument, it certainly is not vulnerable to the shafts of ridicule.

But we occasionally meet in society with persons who are anxious enough to know all that we can tell them of the scope and aims of the Order, and who profess to be willing enough to submit themselves as candidates for initiation, if we can prove to their satisfaction that their worldly interests will be advanced thereby. We need not say that these persons are not of the class who make useful and zealous Masons. The moment a man, apparently anxious for information, talks of his personal interests, we have done with him. Masonry has little or nothing to do with personal interests. It may, indeed, happen that a man of business, who has become a Mason from the purest motives, finds that from a merely selfish point of view he has acted wisely. The principles of brotherhood which are cherished by us, teach us all to help one another. But no Mason, we take it, would care to give the fraternal grip to a man who thought only of selfish interests. We demand some show of disinterested generosity on the part of those who are ambitious to join our ranks. In an age of frivolity Masonry is one of the few institutions which is guided by great moral principles. Our theological critics would perhaps do well to remember this when writing their diatribes against the Order. Mgr. Dupanloup, the celebrated Bishop of Orleans, has recently written a pamphlet, in which he declares that Freemasonry is not only the radical negation of Christianity, but of all kinds of religion, as well as of social order, political liberty and universal peace. This is trenchant criticism indeed, and, like most reckless statements, it is at once answered by conspicuous facts which are known to all the world. Marshal MacMahon, for example, to say nothing of numbers of illustrious Frenchmen whose names we might mention, is a Mason. The Bishop therefore has virtually asserted that the President of the French Republic is an enemy of religion and social order. Our quick witted neighbours will not be slow to characterise an absurdity so gross as this, and the bishop's ill-advised pamphlet will possibly do infinitely more damage to the cause he has at heart than it can ever inflict upon the Craft. A reckless statement of this kind never emanates from a secular opponent. The Church, however, must be permitted the privilege of selecting its own weapons; and if its champions choose to indulge in palpable misstatements, which refute themselves, it is scarcely our business to attempt the conversion of enemies who, for the purposes of controversy, can evolve an ideal Fraternity out of the depths of their own inner consciousness.

THE “NEW ATLANTIS.”

THERE are those who think the great Lord Bacon may have had in his mind the Society of Freemasons when he wrote his *New Atlantis*; that, in fact, the Society or Order of Solomon's House or the College of Six Days' Work, therein described, is meant to be typical of our Order. Much, of course, is added in the description of this College or Society which belongeth not to Masonry, yet is there enough to justify, or, at all events, to excuse the idea. We bear in mind, of course, the view that the present era of speculative Masonry dates from 1717 only, while Lord Bacon died in 1626, or nearly a century before. But it is reasonable to suppose that speculative Masonry did not spring into being suddenly, as, in the Greek Mythology, did Minerva form the brain of Zeus. It is quite within the limits of probability that an era of speculative and operative Masonry combined, preceded that of speculative Masonry pure and simple. The learned philosopher John Locke, in a letter to Thomas Earl of Pembroke, under date 6th May 1696, on the subject of an old Masonic manuscript remarks, “I know not what effect the sight of this old paper may have upon your Lordship: but for my own part, I cannot deny that it has so much raised my curiosity,

as to induce me to enter myself into the Fraternity, which I am determined to do (if I may be admitted,) the next time I go to London, and that will be shortly." Whether John Locke ever became a Freemason is one question, but the freedom with which he speaks of "entering" himself "into the Fraternity," as though it were no uncommon occurrence for men who were not operative Masons to be so entered, must be a fact of singular virtue in the minds of all who date the speculative origin of our Order anterior to 1717. Again, it is most unlikely that Payne, Antony Sayer, Desaguliers, Anderson, and others, who were the leading spirits in bringing about the Revival of our Order, became Masons at the time of such revival. Findel, no mean authority, says, at p. 136 of his History, "This, then,"—that is, the reorganisation of our Order—"took place forthwith, as several brethren united for this purpose, among whom were—King, Calvert, Lumley, Maddens, &c. At their head was Dr. J. Theophilus Desaguliers, * * * George Payne, a learned antiquarian, was his chief supporter, as was also Dr. James Anderson, a Scotch Presbyterian minister in London." Then there is the well known extract from the diary of Elias Ashmole: "I was made a Freemason at Warrington, Lancashire, with Colonel Henry Mainwaring, of Kertlingham, in Cheshire, by Mr. Richard Penket, the Warden, and the Fellow Crafts, on the 16th October 1646." And be it remembered that Lord Bacon's death had occurred only *twenty* years previously. Far be it for us, however, to plunge into, probably, an interminable argument as to the origin of speculative Masonry. Our purpose is far simpler. We desire only to indicate the grounds of that belief, which, at the outset, we said some people accepted, to the effect that in the *New Atlantis*, Lord Bacon may have had speculative Masonry in view when he pictured therein the Society of Solomon's House.

The early part of this fable is briefly told. A ship on its way from Peru to China and Japan is driven northwards by stress of weather, till it sights an unknown land. It enters, at length, "into a good haven, being the port of a fair city," and the crew, many of whom are sick, are all eager to land. But they are forbidden. A boat puts off, and one of the natives presents a scroll with this inscription: "Land ye not, none of you, and provide to be gone from this coast within sixteen days, except you have further time given you: meanwhile, if you want fresh water, or victual, or help for your sick, or that your ship needeth repair, write down your wants, and you shall have that which belongeth to mercy." Ultimately they are permitted to land, and are established in the strangers' house, everything being done to make them as comfortable as possible. During the early part of their stay they are visited more than once by men of eminence, who tell them, as much as it is permitted to tell, of the history of the country. Their first visitor is a priest, who is also governor of the strangers' house. He concludes his hospitable message with these words: "He was a priest, and looked for a priest's reward, which was our brotherly love, and the good of our souls and bodies." The same governor visits them the day following, and invites inquiries, prefacing his invitation with these words: "We of this island of Bensalem (for so they call it in their language) have this, that by means of our solitary situation, and the laws of secrecy which we have for our travellers, and our rare admission of strangers, we know well most part of the habitable world, and are ourselves unknown. Therefore, because he that knoweth least is fittest to ask questions, it is more reason, for the entertainment of the time, that ye ask me questions than that I ask you." He then relates, at their request, how Christianity was introduced into the island by Bartholomew the Apostle. The following day the governor re-visits them, and enters, at length, into a history of the country, but especially how it is the people know of other countries, being, at the same time, themselves unknown. He tells them how "there reigned in this island, about one thousand nine hundred years ago, a king, whose memory of all others we most adore, not superstitiously, but as a divine instrument, though a mortal man; his name was Solomon, and we esteem him as the lawgiver of our nation. This King had a large heart, inscrutable for good, and was wholly bent to make his kingdom and people happy." He, finding the country large and fertile enough for the maintenance of its people, and wishing to perpetuate its happy and flourishing estate, "therefore amongst his other fundamental laws of this kingdom he did ordain the interdicts and prohibi-

tions which we have touching the entrance of strangers, which, at that time, though it was after the calamity of America, was frequent, doubting novelties and commixture of manners." Yet he likewise "preserved all points of humanity, in taking order and making provision for the relief of strangers distressed." It was this king who erected and instituted the Order or Society of Solomon's House—dedicated to the study of the works and creatures of God. This,—namely that the house is denominated of the King of "the Hebrews,"—the governor says, "maketh me think that our King finding himself to symbolise with that King (Solomon) of the Hebrews, which lived many years before him, honoured him with the title of this foundation. And I am the rather induced to be of this opinion, for that I find in ancient records this Order or Society is sometimes called Solomon's House, and sometimes the College of the Six Days' Works, whereby I am satisfied that our excellent King had learned from the Hebrews that God had created the world, and all that therein is, within six days, and therefore, he instituted that house for the finding out of the true nature of all things, whereby God might have the more glory in the workmanship of them, and men the more fruit in their use of them, did give it also that second name." But though this King thus forbade intercourse with other nations, he ordained that every twelve years two ships should go forth either carrying a mission of three fellows or brethren of Solomon's House," for the purpose of obtaining "knowledge of the affairs and state of those countries to which they were designed, and especially of the sciences, arts, manufactures and inventions of all the world; and withal to bring unto us books, instruments, and patterns in every kind." The ships carried food and treasure for buying such things and rewarding such persons as they might think fit. "Now," adds the governor, "for me to tell you, how the vulgar sort of mariners are constrained from being discovered at land, and how they that must be put on shore for any time, colour themselves under the names of other nations, and to what places those voyages have been designed, and what places of rendezvous are appointed for the new missions, and the like circumstances of the practice, I may not do it, neither is it much to your desire. But thus you see we maintain a trade not for gold, silver, or jewels, nor for silks, nor for spices, nor any other commodity of matter, but only for God's first creature, which was light; to have light, I say, of the growth of all parts of the world." Next follows an account of a reverent custom, known as the feast of the family, to which two of the company are invited. This is granted to any man that shall live to see thirty persons descended of his body and alive together, and all above three years old to make the feast, which is done at the cost of the State. We cannot fully describe the manner of this custom. Suffice it to say that the father of the family, who is called "the tirsan," two days before, chooseth three of his friends, and, with the assistance of the governor of the city or place where the feast is to be celebrated, and in the presence of all his family who are summoned to attend him, they consult together as to the good estate of the family. "There, if there be any discord or suits between any of the family, they are compounded and appeased; there, if any of the family be distressed or decayed, order is taken for their relief, and competent means to live; there, if any be subject to vice or take ill courses, they are reprov'd and censured." On the feast day the "tirsan" occupies a chair on an half pace—or dais—at the upper end of the room, his family ranging themselves against the wall at his back, and upon the return of the half pace, in the order of age and regardless of sex. Over this chair is "a slate," round or oval, and of ivory curiously wrought with silver and silks. Then enters a taratan, or herald, with two pages on either side, one carrying a roll of parchment, the other "a cluster of grapes of gold with a long foot or stalk." The herald, with three courtesies or inclinations, advances to the foot of the half pace, reads aloud the scroll, which is the King's charter, signed with the King's seal, the tirsan standing up the while, supported by two of his sons. Then he giveth the charter to the tirsan, and likewise the cluster of grapes, "which is of gold, both the stalk and the grapes, but the grapes are daintily enamelled"—if the males of the family be the greater number, purple with a little sun set on the top; if the females, greenish yellow with a crescent. Then follows the dinner, at which he is served by the males only of his family, the females standing about him, and at the tables below the half pace are placed the invited guests.

At the end a hymn is sung, generally in praise of Adam, Noah, and Abraham, and a thanksgiving for the nativity of our Saviour offered. The tirsan having previously given the cluster of grapes to that one of his sons he has chosen to live in his house with him, and who is hence known as "the son of the vine," and having banquetted, retires for the purpose of private prayer, and on re-entering blesses each one of his descendants both male and female, saying, "Son of Bensalem, or daughter of Bensalem, thy father saith it, the man by whom thou hast breath and life speaketh the word; the blessing of the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace, and the Holy Dove be upon thee and make the days of thy pilgrimage good and many. "Then, if there be any—not above two—sons of eminent merit and virtue, the tirsan presents each of them with "a jewel made in the figure of an ear of wheat," and, laying his arm over their shoulders says, "Sons, it is well you are born, give God the praise, and persevere to the end."

Next the spokesman of the company makes the acquaintance of one Joabin, a Jew, "for they have some few stirps of Jews yet remaining among them, whom they leave to their own religion." This Jew is a wise and learned man, and after discoursing on the laws and customs as to marriage among the people of Bensalem, he remarks, "and they (the people of Bensalem) say that reverence of a man's self is, next religion, the chiefest bridle of all vices." But Joabin is suddenly called away in order to prepare to entertain one of the fathers of Solomon's House, whose coming is announced, though the cause thereof is kept secret. But he promises to give them a good place to witness the formal entrance into the city of this important personage, of whom the inhabitants had seen none for a dozen years. A description of the visitor, and the procession that attends him, is given, but, more fortunate still for the strangers, the company are informed, a few days later that the father is anxious to see them and that he will hold private conference with one of them, meaning also to give them his blessing. Accordingly, on the appointed day the father imparts to one of them "a relation of the true state of Solomon's House," setting forth firstly the end of its foundation—which is the knowledge of causes and secret motions of things, and the enlarging of the bounds of human empire, to the effecting of all things possible; "secondly, "the preparations and instruments," the brethren have for their works; thirdly, "the several employments and functions whereto the fellows are assigned; " and, fourthly, "the ordinances and rites" which they observe. For the preparations and instruments we must refer our readers to the work itself, as the description would occupy too much space. The employments and functions include, first of all, twelve that sail into foreign countries under the names of other nations (concealing their own), in order to bring back books, abstracts, patterns. These are called "merchants of Light." There are three who collect the experiments in all books—these are "depredators;" three "that collect the experiments of all mechanical arts, and also of liberal sciences, and also of practices which are not brought into acts." These are the "mystery men." Then there are three "pioneers" or "miners," who try new experiments; three "compilers," who "draw the experiments of the former four into titles and tables, to give the better light for the drawing of observations and axioms out of them;" three "dowery men" or "benefactors," who look into the experiments of their fellows with the view to extracting from them "things of use and practice for men's life and knowledge, as well for works as for plain demonstration of causes, means of natural divinations, and the easy and clear discovery of the virtues and parts of bodies;" three "lamps" who take care out of the former labours and collections "to direct new experiments of a higher light, more penetrating into nature than the former;" three "inoculators" who execute and report the experiments so directed; "three interpreters of nature who raise the former discoveries by experiments into greater observations, axioms, and aphorisms," and lastly, "novices and apprentices, that the succession of the former employed men do not fail," besides attendants and servants, male and female. "And this," adds the father, "we do also; we have consultations which of the inventions and experiences which we have discovered shall be published, and which not; and take all an oath of secrecy for the concealing of those which we think meet to keep secret, though some of those we do reveal sometimes to the State, and some not." They have galleries for their ordinances and

rites, and "certain hymns and services, which we say daily, of laud and thanks to God for his marvellous works; and forms of prayers imploring his aid and blessing for the illumination of our labours, and the turning them into good and holy uses." The father, then invoking a blessing on the one to whom he had imparted this relation of the state of Solomon's House, and giving him permission to publish it to other nations, departs, leaving, however, a bounty of two thousand ducats for the company of the vessel which had found so grand a haven of refuge in the time of their distress.

With this interview the fable of the *New Atlantis* ends. Whether Lord Bacon may or may not have had Freemasonry in his mind when he wrote this work, of which the foregoing is a summary, is a question we leave to other and more inquiring minds to solve. But it cannot be doubted that between the system above propounded and the system of Masonry are many strong points of agreement.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS,

THE second Meeting of the Board of Stewards for the Seventy-seventh Anniversary Festival was held on Wednesday, 12th May 1875, at Freemasons' Hall, at 5 o'clock. The chair was taken by Bro. Rucker P.G.S., and the business consisted of receiving a report from the sub-Committee appointed to inquire into the facilities for holding the Festival at the Alexandra Palace; to consider the arrangements for the Festival; to appoint Ladies' Stewards; and general business.

At the former meeting, held on Tuesday, 27th April, the following brethren were unanimously elected officers of the Board of Stewards: President, Right Hon. Lord Balfour, of Burleigh, P.G.S.W.; Acting-President, W. Bro. J. A. Rucker P.G.S.D.; Acting Vice-President, W. Bro. J. M. P. Montagu D.P.G.M. Dorset; Vice-Presidents, the Vice-Patrons and Vice-Presidents of the Institution; Present and Past Grand Officers; Present and Past Grand Stewards; Present and Past Provincial Grand officers; Hon. Treasurer, W. Bro. R. B. Webster, No. 1320 and P.M. 140; Hon. Secretary, W. Bro. Frederick Binckes P.G. Steward, Secretary to the Institution, who read the minutes.

It was resolved that the sum to be deposited by each Steward to the fund for defraying the expenses of the Festival be £2 2s; this to include dinner ticket for Steward; and 15s for each lady's ticket. That the musical arrangements of the Festival be referred to a sub-committee, consisting of the President, Acting-President and Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Bros. Dubosc, Levy and Rosenthal; and that they report their proceedings to the next meeting. That it be left to the Hon. Sec. to provide badges and wands for the Stewards, and the other usual requisites for the Festival. All these propositions were carried.

It was resolved that in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable that the ensuing Anniversary Festival be held at the Alexandra Palace. That the following brethren be a committee to enquire as to the facilities and arrangements for giving effect to this resolution, and to report to the next meeting of the Board:—Bros. I. Abrahams, J. Bingemann, H. Dubosc sen., W. R. Marsh, C. J. Morgan, S. Rosenthal, T. J. Sabine, John Seex, W. Stevens, H. Stewart, G. W. Verry, J. Wordsworth. These brethren having visited the Palace, announced that the arrangements for the holding of the Festival were satisfactory. It was then proposed that the brethren and the ladies should dine together, the dinner to consist of hot fish, soup, and vegetables, supplemented by a cold collation. H.R.H. the M.W.G.M. had expressed himself satisfied with these arrangements, provided the brethren assembled should not, beyond the precincts of the rooms, shew any display of Masonic clothing. Bro. F. Binckes, Hon. Sec. then announced that it was intended the Festival should take place on the 30th of June, but he had been informed by Bros. Bertram and Roberts that the Licensed Victuallers' Dinner had been previously arranged for that day, consequently it was proposed that the Festival should take place on the 7th July, subject to the approval of the M.W. the Pro G.M. the Earl of Carnarvon. It was also moved and carried that the brethren wear Masonic clothing, and also appear in morning dress, and the ladies in bonnets. The foregoing resolutions having been regularly proposed and agreed to, Bro. H. M. Levy proposed, and Bro. Wilkins seconded that a vote of thanks be accorded to Bro. J. R. Rucker P.G.S., acting President, for the able manner he had filled the chair, not only on this occasion, but at all times. The next meeting is announced for the 2nd of June. The following brethren were present, viz.:—R. B. Webster 140, H. Harker P.G.J.D. Hants, J. A. Rucker P.G.D., J. Bingemann 55, J. Clever 12 and 171, J. Compton 55, J. Waterworth 60, C. W. Gray 22, J. H. Harmsworth 1178, J. J. H. Wilkins 73, S. Rosenthal, W. Lane 28, R. R. Davis 256, Wm. Stephens 1365, Fred. Adlard 7, J. Winkfield P.G.J.W. Berks, F. R. Vine 173, J. H. Leggett 145, Henry Venn, C. Barker 831, W. H. Farnfield 907, H. Braun 766, C. J. Morgan 8, W. C. Parsons 180, E. F. Foord 404, Watson Surr 91, and H. M. Levy P.M. 188.

ODE

On the Installation of H.R.H. Prince of Wales

AS MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER,

AT THE

ALBERT HALL, 28th APRIL 1875.

By Bro. WALTER SPENCER, of LODGE 263.

REMOEST Past hath left its prints sublime :

Its ruined Temples everywhere remain,
 Admonishing through change of place and time
 By monuments not thus bequeathed in vain,
 That all things here must suffer change—save TRUTH.
 Like sand by sand earth's crust is worn away,
 For Continent and ocean change, as youth
 Changes to age, as night succeeds to-day.

Review the vanished Empires of our earth
 Which budded, ripened—and then faded out
 Until, down-trodden in a wintry dearth,
 Their very names become the sport of doubt!
 Reckon the leaders who have toiled and wrought
 To leave their marks on Hist'ry's page—in vain,
 Whose cherished visions have been brought to nought,
 Whose praises never can be sung again!
 Think of the great thoughts that have flashed to light;
 Thoughts to inspire the coming time and mind,
 Whose authors rest neglected, in the night
 Which gave a brighter dawn unto mankind!
 Even Religion—see how changed at last
 The Creeds that millions clung to in the Past!

Is there an Ideal in whose spirit-youth
 There lives enshined an everlasting Truth?
 Is there a ray beaming through Hist'ry's night
 Which emanated from the primal Light
 Revealing antient symbols, that reflect
 The fiat of the world's Great Architect?

Yes! Nature's Truths extending through the Past
 As through the Present, shame Man's changeable tale;
 The antient Landmarks founded deep, to last,
 Those primal Truths in graven symbols veil.
 Our allegory claims them for its own,
 Echoing a voice which, laden with their lore
 Through ages gone, repeats in earnest tone
 Their solemn formulæ for evermore
 And teaches Masons, an immortal lot
 In "Universal Charity" to found,
 Whose centre may be struck at every spot
 And whose circumference no space can bound.

Those Truths, to us in allegory told,
 With Light in the beginning had their birth;
 The banded wisdom of the wise of old
 Their moral treasure guarded for the earth.
 And ever with the Sun, that from the East
 Will to'ards the West its living radiance shed,
 The sacred flame to glow has never ceased
 Which for our use departed Brethren fed
 That we might tend it in our turn: the while
 They numbered years in stone on Carnac's bed,
 Recorded Seasons on Stonehenge's pile,
 Or named the Stars from off the Pyramid.

We work by the inexorable Laws
 Which the great Cosmos owns for rule of right,
 Nor waste our strength upon the quips and flaws
 Over which some dispute and bigots fight!
 We gaze up at the canopies of stone
 That from the ground aspire to reach the skies,
 And (claiming antient Masons' art our own
 By which our spiritual temples rise)
 Acknowledging a great Ideal divine
 Embodied thus by Masons' toil and sighs
 Feel, that the altars which those fanes enshrine
 Are hallowed by the thoughts we symbolise!

FREEMASONS work for love unto the art,
 Not for the hire alone to serve the Lord;
 Infusing fervour into every part
 Which grows an earnest of our rich reward.
 For at the last, our earthly labours done,
 If worthy, the Great Architect's commands
 Will raise each like a proved and perfect stone
 Into a Temple builded not with hands.

And here—the heirs unto the men of old
 Will emulate their fervency and zeal:
 Joining in courses of symmetric mould
 To strengthen and adorn the commonweal.
 Though dying dogmas shun the Mason's light
 Nor brook the Level laid upon the priest,
 Here may the FREE of every creed unite
 Where one rule tries the greatest and the least!

The SONS OF TOLERANCE assemble here,
 Christians or Jews, Parsees or Musulmen.
 The same Great Architect we all revere
 With those of yore, bonded by Truth as then.

Under our PRINCE a living dome we build
 The polished keystone of whose crown is he;
 And each for ever in the Temple filled
 The Masons'-word seals thrice—

FIDELITY!!!

For God said:

"In STRENGTH will I establish this mine house TO STAND FIRM
 FOR EVER."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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THE PRESS AND THE CRAFT.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—Like yourself, I have been rather amused at the sudden, and, in some cases, somewhat forced enthusiasm exhibited by many of the leading journals, in connection with the recent Installation of the Prince of Wales as our M.W.G.M. The fact of a Prince of the Blood Royal having been elected to this exalted position will, no doubt, account for this display of feeling towards us, for what Royalty not only honours, but belongs to, must have some elements of good in it. Accordingly the *Times* is grandly condescending to our Order. It is playful at the outset, but its playfulness has something elephantine about it. The merits of a Society which, in its revived form, has been before the world for over a century and a half can hardly have been unknown to the "leading journal." But while it has passed with scant notice, or no notice whatever, the festivals of our great charities, it now finds itself, as it were, constrained to record the grand ceremonial of Wednesday. Otherwise, the sad spectacle would have been offered to the world of the lesser lights of journalism taking the shine out, to use a familiar phrase, of their more brilliant compeer. The *Daily Telegraph*, as might have been expected, is flippant for, "It is its nature to." It affects also a certain air of mystery, in order, no doubt, to reconcile its description of the scene both inside and outside the Royal Albert Hall, with the well-known secrecy of the Craft. And as mystery is thought to imply more or less of fussiness, the picture was vouchsafed us of Grand Stewards and Officers ecstatically advancing without apparent rhyme or reason to some unknown point, and then subsiding listlessly into their seats again. Had it recounted the exact number of times that any one of the Grand Stewards looked wistfully up at the ceiling, the effect would have been equally impressive. Genial Mr. Punch anticipated the event, *more suo*, with much kindness. It, too, "cut" a joke or two at our Order, but his jokes were neither elephantine nor silly. You have already commented on two recent articles in the *Saturday Review*, I need say, therefore, but little as to your remarks. Your reply to, or commentary on the second of these articles is one of the most admirable specimens of leader writing I have seen. I read not a few papers in the course of a week, and, in common with a great many other people, both Masons and others, I rejoice "muchly" that you have administered so able a rebuke to the priggish impudence of the *Saturday Review*. A man, according to its ideal, should be a trained and educated cynic is too respectable a term—ready to snap and snarl at everything that is decent and of good repute. The *Standard* seems to me to have acted towards us in the manner most becoming an important journal, and not only as regards this particular event, but generally. Festivals at which between £3,000 and £7,000 are subscribed towards the support of the indigent members of our Order, or of the children of deceased members, receive a degree of notice not unworthy such grand illustrations of charity. In its account of Wednesday's ceremony it was neither condescending, as was the *Times*, nor flippant, as the *Daily Telegraph*, nor impertinent, as the *Saturday Review*. It treated the event in a plain unsophisticated style, and I think you, Sir, and the Order generally, will not fail to recognise the value of this difference of treatment.

Yours fraternally, T.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The event of the day in Freemasonry, viz. the Installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as M.W.G.M. will, no doubt, cause a great accession to our Order, but it should be the duty of every brother, as custodian of our Masonic honour, to see that no one enter our ranks unless he be of good character and strict morals. A Mason should be one to whom the burdened heart can pour forth its sorrows, and a little caution is all that is required in selecting good and worthy men. Many country Lodges hold meetings, wherein the merits of candidates for ballot are discussed, and if not found suitable it is suggested to the proposers and seconders that they should withdraw the names. By this means that great stigma, blackballing is avoided. It is easy to get into the Order, but difficult to exclude members. Lodges, where brotherly love should exist, are frequently scenes of discord, which is oftentimes caused by one brother, who, knowing our ritual perfectly, and having a thorough knowledge of our Book of Constitutions, will shew that a little learning is dangerous. Good and influential Lodges have nearly been broken up by the acts of one who ought never to have been introduced, and it is to be hoped that brethren will now more than ever be guarded in introducing into the Order those whose characters will not bear the fullest investigation.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,
 Yours fraternally,
 A PAST MASTER.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

THE second of our Great Anniversary Festivals, that of the Girls' School, took place at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, on Tuesday evening last, under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, R. W. Brother David Henry Stone, Junior Grand Warden, supported by a large assemblage of distinguished Masons from London and the various Provincial Lodges. The banquet was served under the personal superintendence of Bro. Francatelli, and reflected much credit upon his skill as a caterer. The Lord Mayor, on rising to propose the health of "Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen," was most enthusiastically received. He briefly proposed the toast, which was very loyally responded to. The next toast was "His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Patron and President of the Institution. The Princess of Wales, Patroness, and the other Members of the Royal Family." The Chairman said this was the first time he had had the pleasure of proposing the toast in its present form. It was gratifying to all present to know that His Royal Highness the W.M.G.M. was President of the Institution. All agreed that the Prince and the Duke of Connaught were good Masons, while the Princess of Wales had endeared herself to every Englishman. "The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, Most Worshipful Pro. Grand Master," was next proposed, the Chairman saying he had only to refer to the way in which the Earl had performed his duty, at the Installation, under the painful circumstances of his late bereavement, to commend the toast to all present. "The Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers present and past," coupled with the name of Lt.-Col. Burdett, P.S.G.W. Middlesex, followed, and was briefly responded to by Col. Burdett. The Earl of Jersey then rose, and stated that he was privileged, with the consent of the Lord Mayor, to propose the next toast. It required no words of his to commend it to their notice: it was the health of "The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, Bro. David Henry Stone, Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden of England, and Chairman of the day." They were all under great obligations to the Chairman, whose duties in the great City occupied so much of his time, for being present to-night. The Lord Mayor responded, and referred to his appointment to the Junior

Warden's Chair by the M.W.G.M. He said that he considered the honour due to the Corporation more than to himself as an individual member of that body. He then proposed the toast of the evening—"Success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls," and the "Health of the Treasurer, Bro. S. Tomkins," referring in eulogistic terms to the efficiency of the training carried out at the Institution. He had advocated the cause of many charities, but none with greater pleasure. He had had a recent opportunity of judging for himself, and all he had witnessed on the occasion of his visit when the prizes were distributed had impressed him with the value of the Institution as an educational establishment. There were 149 or 150 girls in the School, but why should they not double this number? and to do this they must have more funds; they had a nest egg, it was true, but a time of adversity might come, and he urged all present to provide against such a calamity. Brother Tomkins replied to the toast, and then called on Bro. R. W. Little, Secretary of the Institution, to read the amount on his several lists, which amounted in the aggregate to £7,269 3s, a result which was received with enthusiasm by all present. The remaining toasts, viz., "The Vice-Patrons, Vice-Presidents, Trustees, various Committees, and Medical Officers;" "The other Masonic Charities, and success to them, viz. The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution;" "The Stewards of the day, Bro. John B. Monckton, President; thanking them for their services;" "The Ladies; with thanks for their attendance;" having been duly honoured, the assembled company joined the ladies. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Kerr Gedge, who was assisted by Miss Josephine Sherrington, Madame Thaddeus Wells, Miss Florence Winn, Madame Varley Liebe; Bros. Hodges, Wilford Morgan, Winn, and De Lacey. Bro. W. H. Thomas presiding at the Piano-forte. Amongst those present were Bros. Sir A. Woods G.D.C., Fenn Assistant G.D.C., J. Henry G.S., Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G. Chaplain, J. Rucker P.G.D., Sutcliffe P.G.M., H. Browse P.G.D., J. Nunn P.G.S.B., J. Symonds P.G.D., Alderman and Sheriff Ellis, F. R. Vine, Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor, Mr. Paas P.G.S., J. B. Monckton, President to the Board of General Purposes. J. Boyd P.G.P., J. Coutts P.G.P., P. Matthews, T. Cubitt P.G.P., Rev. J. Vaughan, J. L. Thomas, Jabez Hogg P.G.D., H. Levander, E. P. Albert Asst. G.P., B. Head G.P.D., Mason P.G.S.B., Hyde Pullen, P.G.D., Little, Binckes, Terry, Dodson 188, J. S. Sweasey, &c.

We subjoin the several Steward's Lists, together with the numbers of the Lodges and Chapters contributing, and the amount forwarded by each, to the above Institution:—

LONDON.				LONDON—continued.				PROVINCES.								
		£	s	d			£	s	d			£	s	d		
T. W. White, Grand Steward	...	34	13	0	Lodge					Berkshire and Bucks	...	75	2	0		
Lodge					192 Bro. Geo. Newman	...	47	5	0	Bristol	...	66	13	6		
1 Bro. J. Paterson, Alderman	...	52	10	0	194 "	Dr. R. Fowler	...	67	4	0	Cheshire	...	21	0	0	
2 "	Thomas Greetham	...	44	2	0	197 "	Geo. Findlay	...	37	16	0	Derbyshire	...	10	10	0
4 "	J. S. H. McEwan	...	51	9	0	198 "	H. C. Lambert	...	22	1	0	Essex	...	86	6	6
5 "	Fras. Morgan	...	60	18	0	227 "	Percival Sandford	...	24	3	0	Herts	...	17	17	0
8 "	T. Lewis Geiger	...	19	19	0	231 "	G. N. Ibbetson	...	28	9	0	Kent	...	142	3	0
10 "	Rev. T. Cochrane	...	57	15	0	235 "	H. Robinson	...	43	1	0	Lancashire—East	...	42	0	0
11 "	E. J. Bradstreet	...	32	0	6	256 "	J. A. Farnfield	...	37	16	0	Ditto West	...	63	11	0
14 "	A. J. Bristow	...	21	0	0	259 "	F. W. Ramsay	...	11	11	0	Lincolnshire	...	63	0	0
15 "	Henry Martin	...	88	4	0	534 "	John Boyd	...	21	0	0	Middlesex	...	581	19	0
18 "	J. F. Huggins	...	34	13	0	657 "	W. H. Stevens	...	102	18	0	Monmouthshire and South Wales	...	464	10	0
21 "	J. K. Stead	...	48	6	0	715 "	J. Clemmans	...	21	0	0	Oxfordshire, including a donation				
R. A. 21 Bro. Griffiths Smith	...	17	17	0	733 "	J. Cooper	...	40	0	0	from Prince Leopold (10 guins.)	52	9	0		
Lodge					781 "	John Wright	...	52	10	0	North Wales	...	90	6	0	
22 Bro. G. Phythian	...	52	10	0	822 "	Percy Trower	...	52	10	0	Shropshire	...	21	0	0	
23 "	Henry Venn	...	10	10	0	860 "	Dr. J. C. White	...	47	5	0	Somersetshire	...	64	19	6
27 "	J. B. Poole	...	73	10	6	862 "	W. J. Hargrave Jones	...	29	8	0	Suffolk	...	75	13	0
28 "	Chas. Bell	...	37	16	0	907 "	Thos. Griffiths	...	43	1	0	Surrey	...	77	2	0
33 "	Wm. Sugg	...	78	4	6	933 "	J. G. Stevens	...	142	16	0	Sussex	...	21	0	0
34 "	H. Dubosc	...	15	15	0	R. A. 1056 Bro. Elias Gottheil	...	31	10	0	Warwickshire	...	34	13	0	
46 "	Dr. I. J. Paul	...	24	3	0	Lodge					Yorkshire N and E Riding	...	580	17	0	
59 "	Fredk. Lough	...	115	10	0	1118 Bro. W. E. Blakeway	...	21	0	0	Yorkshire West	...				
65 "	E. C. Mather	...	30	9	0	1150 "	J. B. Monckton	...	26	5	0					
66 "	J. A. Rucker	...	52	10	0	1196 "	R. H. Pearson	...	24	13	6	MISCELLANEOUS.				
91 "	T. R. Marshall	...	40	19	0	1257 "	Jno. Elliott	...	24	13	6	J. E. Saunders	...	10	10	0
95 "	Geo. S. Ayres	...	39	18	0	1260 "	Geo. Harrison	...	33	12	0	W. R. Woodman	...	10	10	0
99 "	G. D. Stibbard	...	87	3	0	1328 "	J. L. Thomas	...	133	7	0	Rev. P. M. Holden, Palestine Rose				
101 "	Thomas Beard	...	16	16	0	1329 "	E. Clark	...	48	17	0	Croix	...	31	10	0
143 "	G. N. Strawbridge	...	72	9	0	1339 "	C. Hammerton	...	10	10	0	Capt. Cockle, Red Cross Premier	10	10	0	
145 "	Geo. Parkess	...	31	10	0	1348 "	J. Palmer	...	174	0	0	Wm. Richard, Red Cross, 17	...	16	16	0
162 "	G. C. Capper	...	30	9	0	1361 "	R. H. Thrupp	...	44	5	0	T. W. Murley, M. 144	...	34	1	0
174 "	Chas. Lacey	...	109	4	0	1383 "	W. Hyde Pullen	...	170	2	0	A. Mansfield	...	10	10	0
177 "	W. J. Ferguson	...	31	10	0	1397 "	Dr. J. H. Galton	...	23	12	6	D. Nichols	...	39	18	0
179 "	Jas. Kew	...	40	0	0	1425 "	A. H. Longhurst	...	33	1	6	A. Twymann	...	10	10	0
180 "	A. Cameron	...	23	12	0	1426 "	N. B. Headon	...	211	1	0	E. C. Woodward	...	16	16	0
180 "	W. H. Pannell	...	26	5	0	1471 "	J. L. Mather	...	49	7	0	J. Mason	...	15	15	0
181 "	W. Sharratt	...	29	8	0	1475 "	A. H. Watkins	...	57	15	0					
185 "	J. H. Ross	...	52	10	0	1489 "	W. J. Murlis	...	120	0	0	FOREIGN.				
185 "	J. Constable	...	420	12	0	1491 "	S. Poynter	...	118	0	6	E. Tyrell Leith, Bombay, 549	...	21	0	0
					1524 "	J. B. Shackleton	...	52	10	0	Total	...	7268	3	0	

Thirteen Lists to come in.

PRIZE DAY AT THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

It is an annual and a wise custom that, preceding a Festival of the Masonic Institutions, those who had consented to act as Stewards should, in conjunction with their friends, have an opportunity of witnessing the noble charity that they have been so zealously working for. It gives them an incentive to place on their respective lists sums of money that, in after years, they may be proud of; they, their wives and children may see the good work that has been done, and feel a pride in what they are doing. The chairman, who acts as president generally, has been selected to give the prizes on these occasions, and this year it has fallen to the lot of one who had been chosen by his fellow-citizens as their chief magistrate. The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, who takes a lively interest in the Schools, arrived early on Saturday last, and inspected the building, both expressing their satisfaction at the admirable manner in which all the arrangements were conducted. The company then assembled, and the following programme was most successfully carried out:—

"The Lord is Great"—Haydn—16 hands on 4 pianos.
 "See the Conquering Hero"—Handel—24 hands on 4 pianos.
 Recitation—"William Tell"—Gurney—Bessie L. Morris.
 "Marche aux Flambeaux"—Scotson Clark—8 hands on 4 pianos.
 Part Song—"The Stars are with the Voyager"—Hatton.
 Recitation—"The Heart's Charity"—Eliza Cook—Mary Young.
 Quartette—"Coronation March from Le Prophète"—Meyerbeer—16 hands on 4 pianos.
 "Invitation à la Valse"—Weber—8 hands on 4 pianos.
 Recitation—"Louis XI. et François de Paul"—Delavigne—Leila Lucy Caparn and Jessie M. Blair.
 "Overture to Zampa"—Herold—16 hands on 4 pianos.
 Part Song—"I know a Bank"—Horn.
 Solo—"Sonata"—Hummel—Florence S. Groves.
 Recitation—"Der Taucher"—Schiller—Maria L. Flintoft.
 "Selection from Preciosa"—Weber—16 hands on 4 pianos.

The Lady Mayoress then proceeded to distribute the three principal prizes to the following pupils:—

Maria Louisa Flintoft, £5 for taking Honours in the Cambridge Examination, given annually by Brother William Winn.
 Leila Lucy Caparn, the Gold Medal for General Proficiency (Maria Louisa Flintoft having gained it last year), given annually by Brother William Paas, with £5 given annually by Brother William Winn.
 Mary Eliza Earle, the Silver Medal for Good Conduct, given annually by the Institution, with £5 given annually by Brother William Winn.

The prizes given annually by the Institution were distributed by the Lord Mayor as under:—

Elizabeth Hutchinson (Pupil Teacher) for Passing Senior Cambridge Examination.	
Maria Louisa Flintoft	for Taking Honours Cambridge Examination.
Leila Lucy Caparn	" Passing Cambridge Examination.
Lillian Mary Nelson	" Passing Cambridge Examination.
Florence Sarah Groves	" Music.
Jessie Maria Blair	" French.
Mary Alice Estham	" General Usefulness.
Alice Mand M. Batley	" General Usefulness.
Amy E. Mills	" Needlework.
Mary Eliza Earle	" Needlework.
Ada Gertrude Chapman	" Machine work.
Lucy Kate Clemence	" Writing.
Melora F. Goodridge	" Music.
Frances Harryman	" General Proficiency 2nd Class.
Katharine Emery	" General Proficiency 3rd Class.
Catherine J. Scurr	" General Proficiency 4th Class.
Frances Gardner	" Good Conduct (among the little girls).

By Brother Joshua Nunn, for Fancy Work:—

Clari R. A. Bindon, Ada Sarah Rose, and Henrietta J. Featherstone.

By Brother Raynham Stewart, for Dictation:—

Mabel H. Crampton	1st Class.
Melora F. Goodridge	2nd Class.
Harriett Cartwright	3rd Class.
Mary C. A. Sargent	4th Class.

By Brother Rev. P. H. E. Brette, D.D., for French:—Leila Lucy Caparn.

By Mrs. Brette, for Music:—Louisa Hole.

By Mrs. Crick, for Elocution:—Florence S. Groves, Mary Young, and Bessie L. Morris.

By Brother John M. Clabon, for Good Conduct:—Josephine L. Bignell and Ada Kate Kelly.

By Brother Joseph Starkey for Drawing:—Mary Theresa Claisen and Leila Lucy Caparn.

By Brother Collard Montrie, for Music:—Mary Theresa Claisen.

By Brother Louis Hirsch, for German:—Maria Louisa Flintoft.

By Brother H. W. Hemsworth, for Amiability, as voted by her School-fellows:—Jessie Maria Blair.

An adjournment for refreshment then took place, after which the Calisthenic display, for which the pupils of our Schools have now acquired so great a reputation, was given, and afforded the utmost satisfaction to all the visitors. Dancing ensued, and it was a late hour before the doors closed on those who had attended this most enjoyable gathering. We cannot better close our notice than by expressing the general feeling of all assembled at the excellence of the arrangements. Every visitor was unanimous in praise of the manner in which the instruction seemed to be imparted, while the happy faces and cheerful conduct of the pupils denoted that all that could be done for their health and comfort was attempted by the House Committee and Miss Davis, the mistress of the school. Among those present were

Colonel F. Burdett P.G.M. Middlesex, Bros. J. Symonds P.G.D. J. Rucker P.G.D., T. Cabitt P.G.P., J. Nunn P.G.S., T. White, Rev. J. M. Vaughan, R. W. Stewart, H. Levander, C. Hogard, J. Constable, J. Ross, J. Faulkener, H. Dicketts P.G.S., B. Head, J. C. Mather, Newman, J. Stevens, P. Matthews, E. Cox, Stephens, H. Pannell, Burrell, W. C. Murlis, Mander, A. D. Loewenstark, Griffiths Smith, H. Massey, Thompson, H. M. Levy, Tattershall, F. Binokes Sec. Boys' School, Jas. Terry Sec. R.M. Benovolent Institution, H. Muggeridge, Harriss, &c.

The regular meeting of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons was held on Wednesday, the 12th inst., Bro. Benj. Head V.P. in the chair. Bro. James Terry read the minutes of the former meeting, which were unanimously confirmed, also the report of the committee. A letter was read from Bro. Dr. Strong, the Hon. medical attendant of the Asylum, thanking them for having placed his name on the list of Vice Presidents. A vote of thanks, proposed by Bro. Griffiths Smith P.G.S., and seconded by Bro. J. Smith P.G.P., was also accorded to Bro. Cutbush, for presenting to the Institution twelve Rhododendrons. The names of those brethren qualified to serve on the committee for the ensuing year were then read, and there being one vacancy, Bro. Robert Wentworth Little, Secretary Girls' School, was elected to fill that office. There were present Bros. Dr. Erasmus Wilson, T. Cubitt, J. Smith, W. Stephens, Griffiths Smith, J. Newton, C. E. Lacey, J. G. Farnfield, R. W. Stewart, C. Hogard, L. Stean, W. Hilton, J. Stevens, H. Massey, H. M. Levy, &c.

Bro. Clarence Holt, the eminent tragedian, leaves London, on Whit Monday, for a Provincial tour. During his engagement he will appear in his character delineations of the great creations of Shakspeare, Sir W. Scott, and the late Charles Dickens.

At the meeting of the Committee of the House of Commons, on the Religious Worship Facilities Bill, on Tuesday, the 11th May 1875, the Rev. Canon Gregory of St. Pauls, and the Rev. Daniel Ace, D.D. of Laughton, near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire (the latter well known in Masonry), were examined as to their experience in Church and Parochial Matters, and both the eminent divines were complimented, and thanked by the Chairman, for the important information they had given to the Committee on the subject of their investigation.

Bro. Henry Bocking, the celebrated buffo-vocalist, known professionally as Harry Cavendish, is now recovering from his late severe accident. A complimentary benefit will be given to him, under the patronage of Colonel Fraser C.B., and an influential number of Stewards, on Thursday the 27th inst., at the Concert Hall, Store Street, Bedford Square. Several talented artistes are announced to appear.

On Wednesday, the 221st anniversary festival of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy was celebrated under the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. The service was choral, the choir consisting of some 250 voices, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. F. W. Farrar D.D., head master of Marlborough, and a Chaplain in ordinary to Her Majesty. In the evening, a distinguished company were entertained in Merchant Taylors' Hall, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presiding. Among the guests were the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of London, Llandaff, Carlisle, Hereford, Rochester, Chichester, and others. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London were among the principal speakers. Contributions were acknowledged to the extent of £19,796.

A deputation of ladies and gentlemen waited, on Monday afternoon, on Mr. Disraeli, at his official residence in Downing Street, for the purpose of bringing under his notice the present state of the law of copyright. Among the speakers were Mr. Tom Taylor, Mr. G. A. Sala, and Mr. Charles Reade. Mr. Disraeli, having listened most attentively to the remarks of these gentlemen, promised to give the subject his most anxious consideration.

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THE THEATRES, &c.

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HER MAJESTY'S OPERA, DRURY LANE.—This evening, IL TALISMANO. On Monday, FAUST. On Tuesday, LA SONNAMBULA. On Thursday, LUCREZIA BORGIA. At 8.30 each evening. On Monday, morning performance of IL GLADIATORE, at 2.30. On Wednesday and Friday evening, at 8.0, SIGNOR SALVINI.

HAYMARKET.—At 7.30, A FAIR ENCOUNTER, DAVID GARRICK, and DUNDREARY MARRIED AND SETTLED.

ADELPHI.—At 6.45, TURN HIM OUT, NICHOLAS NICKLEBY and THE BUNCH OF BERRIES.

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

LYCEUM.—At 6.50, FISH OUT OF WATER. At 7.45, HAMLET. On Saturday, a morning performance at 2.30 only.

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

STRAND.—At 7.30, AN EARNEST APPEAL. At 8.0, WEAK WOMEN and INTIMIDATION.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 7.45, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.

GAIETY.—At 8.0, FRENCH COMIC OPERA.

GLOBE.—At 7.0, EAST LYNNE and BLUE BEARD.

ST. JAMES'S.—At 7.30, A PHENOMENON IN A SMOCK FROCK, TOM COBB and TRYING IT ON.

ROYALTY.—At 7.45, THE SECRET. At 8.15, LA PERICHOLE. At 10.15, TRIAL BY JURY.

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

SURREY.—At 7.30, AMBITION and KATHERINE AND PETRUCCIO.

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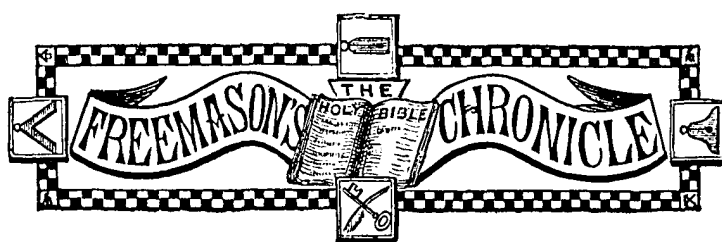
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

THE WEEK THAT IS PAST.

FRIDAY'S sitting in the House of Lords was occupied chiefly with the Regimental Exchanges Bill, the second reading of which was moved by the Duke of Richmond. Viscount Cardwell, the Secretary of State for War under the last Government, moved the virtual rejection of the measure, but the Earl of Derby, the Duke of Cambridge, from a military point of view, Lord Penzance and the Marquis of Salisbury supported it, the principal speakers in opposition being Lord Sandhurst, who caused no little sensation by citing the case of a regiment, some of whose officers years ago had exchanged apparently to avoid a dangerous service; the Duke of Argyll and Earl Granville. On a division, the numbers were, contents 137, non-contents 60, thus giving the substantial majority which the Marquis of Salisbury asked for. On Monday, on the report of amendments to the Agricultural Holdings (England) Bill, the Duke of Richmond consented to an amendment being inserted in clause 2, to the effect that so far as yearly tenancies are concerned, the operation of the Act should be postponed till 14th February 1876. An amendment of Lord Penzance, defining "letting value," was agreed to, after some discussion, and among other amendments clause 15 was omitted, while an addition was made to clause 33, giving power to the landlord to obtain a change from the tenant in certain cases by ascribing the duration of the change, and providing for the application of the Act to Crown and Duchy lands. The report was then agreed to, and the third reading fixed for Thursday. On Tuesday, the Earl of Shaftesbury moved the second reading of the Chimney Sweepers Bill, which was agreed to, as was also that of the Artisans' Dwellings Bill. The Regimental Exchanges Bill passed through Committee, Lord Sandhurst offering further explanation of the statement made the Friday previous, the Duke of Richmond adding a few words also on the same subject. On Thursday, the second reading of the Pollution of Rivers Bill was agreed to, after a long and nearly exhaustive debate. Then the Agricultural Holdings (England) Bill was read a third time, and passed, and the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill a second time. The Regimental Exchange Bill a third time, and passed. On Friday, the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill passed its final stages. On Friday, in the House of Commons, after the usual questions were disposed of, the House went into Committee

of Ways and Means, and on the resolutions as to Brewers' Licences, Mr. Gladstone rose and made a somewhat short attack on the Budget, especially as regards the anticipated surplus, and the plan proposed for the reduction of our debt; the Chancellor of the Exchequer defending certain points with great vigour. Mr. Lowe, as an ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, naturally offered some remarks, and Mr. Ward Hunt, both as an ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer and a present First Lord of the Admiralty, defended the Government. Among the other speakers were Messrs. Dodson, Childers, and W. H. Smith. The resolution as to the Brewers' License Duty was then agreed to, as was another on the Gun License Duty. The Budget resolutions were then reported, and the House resumed, adjourning shortly after. On Monday, on the order of the day for the consideration of the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill amended, Mr. Butt moved a new clause, which the Solicitor-General for Ireland agreed to, and the Marquis of Hartington supported; thereupon the clause was read a second time and was added to the Bill. Other amendments were proposed, most of them, however, being rejected, a few, to which the Government acceded, being agreed to. The third reading was then fixed for the day following at 2 p.m. Among the other business transacted was the second reading, *pro forma*, of the Land Titles and Transfer Bill, it being understood that the discussion should take place on the motion for going into Committee. On Tuesday, the statement of the Hon. W. Bourke, in answer to Sir C. Dilke's enquiry as to the relations between France and Germany, was felt to be reassuring, and was cheered accordingly. Shortly afterwards, on the order for the third reading of the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill, Mr. Butt moved that it be read a third time that day six months, but the amendment was rejected by 287 to 70, and the Bill passed its third reading amid cheers. An amendment to a similar effect, by Mr. Richards, on the order for the second reading of the Bishopric of St. Albans Bill, experienced a similar fate, being defeated by 273 to 61. The Committee on the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill was then resumed, an amendment by Mr. Muntz to Clause 21 being rejected, but one by Mr. Bell, subject to some alterations proposed by Dr. Lyon Playfair, was agreed to. The report of Mr. Justice Lush, relative to the Norwich petition, to the effect that Mr. Tillett was not duly returned, owing to improper practices by his agents, was read. When the sitting was resumed, at nine o'clock, the Speaker called upon Mr. J. Barclay, who had a motion on the paper relative to Land Tenancy Laws (Scotland), when it was found that only 36 members were present, and accordingly the House adjourned. On Wednesday, the Coroner's (Ireland) Bill and an Infanticide Bill were read a second time. On Thursday, a number of questions were, first of all, answered. Then, on Mr. Disraeli's motion, that the House adjourn till Thursday, a long and somewhat desultory conversation took place as to the course of public business, after which the House went into Committee on the Sale of Food and Drugs Bill, from which it at length emerged, all the remaining clauses being agreed to. The second reading of the Metropolis Gas Companies' Bill, moved by Sir J. Hogg, stands adjourned, as does the House, till Thursday next.

On Friday, the Queen again held a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace. There were present the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Connaught, Prince Louis of Hesse. Several presentations were made in the Diplomatic circle, which was numerous attended, as was the General circle. About 200 presentations were made. The expectation that Her Majesty would be present at a field-day at Aldershot, on Monday, on which occasion the whole of the troops would be mustered, was not realised. The field-day was held, however, though the absence of the Queen caused no small amount of disappointment to the spectators.

On Wednesday, a State Concert was given at Buckingham Palace by command of the Queen. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, the Dukes of Connaught and Cambridge, and the Duke and Duchess of Teck were present, and there was a large and distinguished company also invited. The programme of the music included selections from the works of Gounod, W. S. Bennett, Verdi, Mozart, Benedict, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and other eminent composers. Among the vocalists were Mesdames Edith Wynne and Patey, Chris-

tine Nilsson, Mdle. Albani, M. Maurel, Signor Campanini, Messrs. E. Lloyd and Santley, while the band and chorus were selected from the Italian Operas, the Philharmonic and Sacred Harmonic Societies, together with Her Majesty's Private Band.

On Tuesday, the anniversary meeting of the Royal Lifeboat Institution was held in the Egyptian Hall, at the Mansion House, by the kind permission of the Lord Mayor. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, who was accompanied by the Duchess, presided, and there were present, the Duke of Northumberland, Lord Lawrence, Earl Fortescue, Earl Percy, Sir G. Broke Middleton Bart., and others. The officers, at the head of whom was the Duke of Northumberland as President, having been elected for the present year, the Duke of Edinburgh pointed out the admirable condition of the Society, which now had a fleet of 250 Lifeboats, established at various parts along the coasts of the United Kingdom, and congratulated the Institution on the success of its efforts to save life. Mr. R. Lewis, the secretary, then read the report, from which, *inter alia*, it appeared that the receipts of the Institution for the past year amounted to over £33,500, of which £7,213 was the result of special gifts for ten lifeboats, while the expenditure, including liabilities, exceeded £32,363. Lord Lawrence moved, and Count Schouvaloff seconded, a resolution that the report should be accepted, and this was agreed to unanimously. The Lord Mayor next proposed, and Earl Percy seconded, a resolution to the effect that the Royal Lifeboat Institution should command the most enthusiastic assistance. This was carried, as was another, proposed by Mr. Thomas Chapman, the chairman, and seconded by Admiral Geo. Wm. Tarleton, that the thanks of the meeting are due to the coxswains and crews for their valuable services. A vote of thanks was then passed to the Lord Mayor for the use of the Hall, and then the Duke of Northumberland proposed a vote of thanks to the Duke of Edinburgh for being present, and also presented to him and the Duchess, on behalf of the British residents, the models of two lifeboats on the auspicious occasion of their marriage, the Duke suitably acknowledging both the thanks and the gift. The Duke and Duchess had been previously received by the Lord Mayor, there being present several members of the Corporation and others, for the purpose of being presented with the service of plate voted to their Royal Highnesses on the occasion of their marriage. The gift, which is valued at 3,000 guineas, consists of a large centre-piece with candelabra, in oxydised silver. The platform is 5ft. 10in. in length, and 2ft. 6in. wide. The height of the candelabra with the piece is 3ft. 3in. The centre-piece represents the "Triumph of Venus, born by the Sea." At the base are Tritons, supporting on the one hand the Royal Arms of England, on the other those of Russia. Various other devices there are, all illustrating the profession to which His Royal Highness belongs, but save in these the service has been made to match other plate of the Duke's. The ceremony of presentation occupied only a few minutes, after which there was a *dejeuner* in the Long Parlour, over which presided the Lord Mayor, who had been the spokesman on the part of the Corporation in presenting the service to their Royal Highnesses.

There have occurred two shipwrecks, one of which, off the Scilly Islands, as regards loss of life, is of a most terrible character. The vessel was the screw steamer Schiller, belonging to the German Transatlantic Steam Navigation Company at Hamburg, whither it was bound from New York at the time of its destruction. There appears to be no mystery whatever about the origin of the disaster. On Friday afternoon a fog set in, when at length her captain deemed it prudent to reduce the speed one-half. The passengers had been told that they might expect to see land on Friday evening, about 8 p.m., but this was impossible, owing to the fog, and about 10 o'clock the vessel struck with a fearful crash. Then followed a most terrible scene. All order, all control over the frightened passengers appears to have been at once lost. Captain Thomas, who commanded the ill-fated ship, appears to have acted with courage, but his efforts were ill-supported by other members of the crew, who looked immediately after themselves, regardless of the poor women and children. There were on board in all 355 people, of whom 101 were officers and crew, the rest being passengers, 59 first class, 75 second, and 120 steerage. There were aboard also the Australian Mail, some 250 bags, and a large quantity of specie. Of the 42 announced to have been saved, 28 were of the crew—over 27 per cent—while the fourteen passengers, including

one woman, represent a per-centage of a little over $5\frac{1}{2}$. How many more might have been saved had the crew seconded the efforts of their gallant captain, it is impossible to say. It is hardly likely that over six-sevenths of those on board would have perished, had the crew done its duty. Germans may sneer at Englishmen as an almost, if not quite, effete race, but we cannot picture to ourselves an English crew acting in so unmanly a fashion. The other wreck is of the steamer Cadiz, off Brest, early on Saturday morning. Of the 66 persons on board, viz. 31 crew and 35 passengers, only four appear to have been saved. Had there been time to carry out the orders of the captain, who seems to have maintained his presence of mind, and the boats been lowered, every soul on board might have been saved. One other casualty must be noted. The Bessemer steamship made the passage, on Saturday, from Dover to Calais in an hour and a half, but on entering Calais harbour, the vessel, it seems, refused to answer her helm. The consequence was that about 50 feet of the pier were carried away, and a slight amount of damage done to the vessel itself.

The Alexandra Palace, on its most attractive days, appears to have been very unfortunate as regards the weather. The day of the opening was dreadfully wet, and the Saturday after, when the first of the series of Saturday Popular Concerts was given, was almost as moist a day. However, the damp weather does not seem seriously to have damped the ardour of the patrons of the new Palace. If not present in as great numbers as would have been the case had the days been brilliant, there were strong musters on both occasions. On Wednesday, the Coaching Club made it the limit of their first drive out this season. There were, of course, a great number of people on the look out for their arrival, and a proportionate excitement as the teams made their appearance, one after the other. On Monday, which is Whit Monday, and one of the Bank Holidays, there will be a whole host of attractions, among them an athletic meeting. There will also be a grand concert in the Great Central Hall, under the direction of Sir Julius Benedict. Among the artistes announced to appear are Mdlle. Titiens, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Santley. The Palace orchestra and the bands of the Grenadier, Coldstream, and Fusilier Guards will take part in it. There will also be a balloon ascent at 3 p.m., Wombwell's Menagerie open during the day, and performances at Hengler's circus, besides other attractions. On Whit Tuesday also there will be a special programme.

In the world of sport there has been plenty doing. The Royal London Yacht Club had its opening cruise on Saturday, Erith being, as usual, the rendezvous. The London Athletic Club held a meeting at Lillie Bridge the same day, the most noticeable event of the meet being the success in the half-mile of Slade, the champion miler, who beat Gibb the other day in a four mile race. This clearly proves that Slade is as good at the short as at the long distance, for he won easily, by 12 yards, in 2 min. 2 sec. Then there has been the Bicycle race between Oxford and Cambridge, from St. Albans to Oxford, a distance of 52 miles. The Cambridge champions were the Hon. J. Keith-Falconer, F. Lindley Dodds, and H. M. Bowen, all of Trinity College; while D. Crofton (Worcester), E. B. Poulton (Jesus), and H. Smith (Balliol), were the Oxford representatives. The race ended in favour of the Cantabs, Keith-Falconer coming in first by a good mile, Dodds being second, and Crofton, whose upset was caused by the small boys at the beginning, third. The start took place from outside the "Peahen" (Bro. Marks), and the distance was run in 4 hours 9 min. 24 sec. The Hon. J. Plunket and Mr. J. G. Chambers started the men, and timed the finish with a Benson's chronometer. In Cricket, there have been one or two Colts' matches—notably Colts of North v. those of South, at Lords, the former winning in a single innings with 12 runs to spare, and the Derbyshire Colts match. The Lords and Commons played the Household Brigade at Prince's Ground on Saturday, the latter being disposed of for 115, while the former put together 169 for the loss of eight wickets, Lord Harris batting finely for 75. On Monday commences, at Lords, North v. South, for the benefit of the Marylebone Club Professional Fund.

We publish elsewhere in our columns the result of the recent Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; the amount received being over £7,200, with 13 lists still outstanding. There thus only remains to

be held the Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, for which the Secretary, our respected Bro. Binckes, has been working with such marvellous energy ever since the Festival of 1874. A little bird has whispered in our ear that Bro. Binckes means to outdo both the Benevolent and Girls' Institutions, and will be content with no less an amount of sterling coin than is represented by 10 with three ciphers annexed. We sincerely hope his anticipations will be fully realised, especially as the Boys' School has no endowment Fund.

MASONIC BANQUET IN HULL.

From the HULL PACKET AND TIMES.

THE brethren of the Humber Lodge, No. 57, of Free and Accepted Masons celebrated the forty-eighth anniversary of laying the foundation stone of the Freemasons' Hall, in Osborne-street, on Friday evening. At seven o'clock the Lodge was opened in the first degree, the Worshipful Master, Bro. Jonathan West, presiding. At the conclusion of the business, a sumptuous banquet was provided by Bro. H. Preston, I.P.G. of the Lodge, when nearly seventy of the brethren sat down, the company including the Worshipful Masters of the Kingston and Minerva Lodges, the Constitutional Lodge, of Beverley, the Crystal Palace Lodge, Kew, and many Past Masters and officers. The Worshipful Master was supported by Bro. John Pearson Bell M.D., P.S.G.D. of England, and W.D.P.G.M. of North and East Yorkshire; Bro. W. Tesseyman P.M. (Chaplain of the Lodge); Bro. Acton, P.M. of the Crystal Palace Lodge, No. 742, Kew; Bro. Joseph Wynn W.M., Bro. John Kemp P.M., and Bro. S. Findlater, P.M. of the Constitutional Lodge, No. 294, Beverley; Bro. J. Fearne Holden P.M. P.S.G.D.; Bro. Emes, W.M. Minerva Lodge, No. 250, and Bro. Garforth, W.M. Kingston Lodge, No. 1010, Hull; Bro. H. Preston I.P.G.; Bro. John Wilson P.M.; Bro. Martin Kemp P.M.; Bro. Vivian P.M.; Bro. Banks Hay P.M.; Bro. John Hudson P.M.; Bro. T. Taylor J.D.; Bro. J. E. Winspear I.G.; Bros. Thos. N. Middleton, R. Boggett, James Walker, H. J. Amphlett, T. D. Wing, R. Beeveas, W. Rymer, J. B. Salvidge, J. Chappell, J. Priest, W. J. Norton, F. Roose, Thos. Cook, Geo. E. Selby, Evelyn Cooke, H. Searle, S. Newlove, N. Armstrong, B. Cohen, J. Scott, — Brochner, G. Cartwright, J. B. Hodgson, J. Hutchinson, R. Linging, T. Hopwood, C. J. Rust, &c. The vice-chairs were filled by S.W. Bro. Francis Summers (Sheriff of Hull), and Bro. H. Toozes, in the room of the J.W., Bro. T. Thompson, who was prevented by indisposition from attending on the occasion. Bro. W. D. Keyworth P.M. acted as Director of Ceremonies, in the absence of Bro. A. W. Ansell; and Bros. E. Kidd, Adam Shand, and A. Loftus jun. officiated as Stewards. After the repast, the "Queen and the Craft" was proposed, followed by the toast of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W. Grand Master," in giving which

Bro. West W.M. said he felt quite sure every member of the Craft must have rejoiced on that eventful day when his Royal Highness was installed; and those who were fortunate enough to witness the ceremony at the Albert Hall would never forget it. (Applause.) The ceremony was a most imposing one, and the appearance of the Hall, thronged with so large an assembly of distinguished Freemasons, baffled all description. The speech of the M.W. Grand Master must have awakened the most gratifying feelings in the heart of every brother present. His Royal Highness said he himself should never forget that day; nor would any of those who received from his lips the watchword "Loyalty and Charity." (Cheers.)

The next toast given from the chair was that of "The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon Pro G.M., the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale R.W.D.G.M., the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland R.W.P.G.M. of North and East Yorkshire, and Bro. John Pearson Bell M.D., P.G.S.D. of England, W.D.G.P.M. of North and East Yorkshire, and P.M. and Trustee of the Humber Lodge." (Cheers.) Whilst they had such noblemen at their head there could be no fear of the prosperity of the Craft. The Deputy Grand Master of the Province had honoured them with his presence on this occasion. (Applause.) In every part of the Province he was deservedly esteemed, and his ready acquiescence to the many calls made upon him by the various Lodges proved that he had Masonry at heart, and that it was his desire to do all he possibly could to promote the interest of the Craft. The Humber Lodge had great cause to be thankful that they had a Past Master holding so distinguished a position, and the frequent acts of kindness he displayed towards the Lodge placed them under a deep debt of gratitude to him. Therefore he (the speaker) had great pleasure in coupling Bro. Dr. Bell's name with the toast he had proposed—"Our Masonic Rulers." (Cheers.)

The W.D.P.G.M., in responding, expressed his sense of the honour conferred upon him by being called upon to return thanks for the toast just proposed. With regard to the names which had been mentioned, he reminded them that the Earl of Carnarvon stood in the same position as he would do if he were in reality the Grand Master of England. The M.W. Grand Master being, as they all rejoiced to know, a member of the Royal Family, had the prerogative of having under him a Pro G.M., who was only appointed when a member of Royalty was Grand Master. They must look, therefore, upon the Earl of Carnarvon as in reality their Grand Master, and upon Lord Skelmersdale as his deputy. With regard to his own excellent chief, the Earl of Zetland, he (the speaker) had the pleasure of meeting him the other day in Grand Lodge, when his lordship expressed his gratification that everything was going on so harmoniously and well in the Province. He also trusted that, as there was to be a meeting of the Board of Benevolence at Scarborough next month, as many of the members of the Provincial Grand Chapter as could make it convenient would endeavour to be present. Now that they had Royalty so nearly allied to the Craft, he trusted it would go on and prosper still more in the future than it had done in the past. (Applause.) With the greater impetus that had been given to Freemasonry it would behove them to be more careful as to admission into the Order, and

he trusted that the various Lodges would take this matter into their serious consideration. They did not require numbers as much as stability in membership. The question also presented itself of increasing the fees to Grand Lodge, and no doubt that was a matter which would soon receive due attention from the private Lodges throughout the kingdom. With regard to the position of Masonry, the Craft never appeared under more auspicious circumstances than it did at present. (Hear, hear.) Never in its history was it so popular as at this moment, and the speaker contrasted the present aspect of the Order with that which it presented half a century ago. Fifty years ago society was exclusive, but now it had become more diffused and general in its lines of demarcation. Freemasonry was now a society composed chiefly of the middle classes, and never was it more deservedly popular. To maintain this popularity ought to be the aim of every member of the Fraternity, who ought to feel that the character of the Society depended in a great measure upon himself individually. Therefore, every one ought, as far as he could, to act in accordance with the tenets and principles which had been taught him in his Lodge. (Applause.) With regard to the attacks that had been made upon Freemasonry, he thought the demonstration the other day in the Albert Hall set at nought whatever might have been said by the detractors of the Craft. (Applause.) There could be no doubt at all of the loyalty of the Order; they should not have had the Prince of Wales at their head if there had been the slightest feeling of disloyalty amongst any of them. Therefore he felt quite happy that the aspersions recently cast upon Masonry had been completely met by the demonstration to which he had alluded. In a violent attack made upon them by the *Saturday Review*, the writer seemed to labour under the impression that Masons were a lot of men who merely boasted of having built the Tower of Babel, and of being fond of good dinners. (Laughter.) Well, if they built the Tower of Babel, it showed they were "bricks;" and the term "brick" in common parlance, signified a good fellow. (Laughter.) As for a good dinner, a writer who replied to the *Saturday Review*, hinted that he who penned the attack would himself not object to one. (Laughter, and hear, hear.) It had been said, moreover, that Masonry taught nothing but the "Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man." Well, if that were all, there was a great deal in such a belief. Many did not believe in the fatherhood of God, and as to the brotherhood of man, if they could meet in unity and harmony in their Lodges, sinking all political and religious differences in their aim to benefit and elevate each other, they were content to do so. As long as the universality of Freemasonry was maintained it must go on and prosper, and he for one was content to allow the outer world to think that the "Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man" was the keystone of the Masonic structure. (Cheers.)

Bro. J. Fearnie Holden P.M. P.S.G.D. next proposed "The Founders of the Humber Lodge," in doing which he referred to it as a pleasurable yet somewhat melancholy duty. The esteemed Deputy Grand Master of the Province had alluded to the present popularity of Freemasonry compared with that which it enjoyed fifty years ago; and he (the speaker) was reminded that the Craft was in a somewhat critical position when this now prosperous Lodge was founded. Those brethren who came out with much regret from the Lodge in which they had worked with peace, but animated by a sense of duty to themselves personally, and to the Craft, displayed an amount of moral courage that did them infinite honour. (Hear, hear.) If success was to be taken as any criterion of right movement and right beginning, the successful issue of the Humber Lodge had indelibly stamped its approval upon what was done by its founders. He had said this toast was tinged with a certain amount of melancholy, for he could hardly be sanguine that any of the founders were at present amongst them. Having inaugurated their good work they had been removed to the Grand Lodge above—to that bourne from whence no traveller returned. Those grand principles of Masonry, which they taught and inculcated so successfully, and which their successors were proud, by God's blessing, to promulgate and keep secret amongst them—had attained to full fruition; and faith had been swallowed up in sight—in the great personal Fatherhood of God, the Great Jehovah, creator of all things in heaven and earth. That faith, which enabled them to thread their first steps in Masonry, had been directed by the Eternal Providence, whose presence they had now doubtless realised. He called upon them, on the anniversary of the foundation of this Lodge—which might be said to be an "All souls' day" to them—to wish the pious prayer that their ancient forefathers uttered in the holy Temple at Jerusalem, "May they rest in peace, and may their works follow them." The toast was received in solemn silence.

Bro. Martin Kemp P.M., in replying, expressed the regret, which all the brethren present would share, he felt that one who usually spoke to this toast was not amongst them. Their Bro. Alderman Seaton had been summoned to the bedside of perhaps his dying child, and it therefore devolved upon him to say a few feeble words in response to the toast that had just been proposed. The duty reminded him that he was growing an old man—at all events, an old Mason; and the time might not be far distant when they too might be numbered with those who founded this prosperous Lodge. Time was passing away so rapidly that it behoved them to make the best use of it they could, and to emulate the example of those who had left their mark in Masonry. They rejoiced in having so many visiting brethren present on this auspicious occasion, and to be able to inform them that the success of the Humber Lodge, which now numbered over 280 members, was greater than its founders could ever have ventured to anticipate.

The Deputy Grand Master of the Province then proposed the "healths of the Worshipful Master and Officers of the Humber Lodge" a toast which he knew would be received with the utmost cordiality. (Applause.) It was 33 years since he had the honour of filling the chair as W.M. of this Lodge; and he had peculiar pleasure in proposing the toast that had been entrusted to his hands. The W.M., he need hardly say, had much more important duties to discharge than were required of him 33 years ago. In the first place, the

Lodge was not then so strong in numbers; still the brothers met with the greatest regularity, and worked hard to maintain the prestige and character of the Lodge. The speaker alluded in humorous terms to matters of detail, contrasting the conduct of business in the olden times with that which now prevailed; and said that the oftener he had the opportunity of attending the meetings of this, his mother Lodge, the more he felt attached to it. (Cheers.) He felt proud at seeing it presided over by such a Master as he who now occupied the chair whom he wished long life and prosperity. He hoped that Bro. West might long be spared amongst them to be an ornament to Masonry, and to give them the benefit of his experience and aid. With regard to the other Officers, they had then as Senior Warden their worthy Sheriff of the borough, who discharged the duties of his office in a manner that did him great credit. (Applause.) It was a source of congratulation and advantage to the Lodge that Bro. Summers should be able to come amongst them so frequently, considering his numerous public and private engagements. It spoke well for his zeal and love of Masonry to see him come so regularly to his Lodge as he did. He regretted the absence of the Junior Warden, but he felt sure that Bro. Thompson and the rest of the Officers were most desirous of doing their duty; and, in conclusion, he wished for the Lodge a year of unexampled prosperity. (Cheers.)

Bro. Jonathan West W.M. acknowledged the compliment that had been paid to him, and expressed his earnest desire to do his duty to the Humber Lodge and to the Craft. They had gone on very pleasantly in the past, and nothing but the utmost good feeling had prevailed amongst the brethren. This was a subject of great congratulation in so large a body. Everything had been exceedingly prosperous, and it was his desire that the same harmony and good understanding should prevail during the whole time that he should remain in office. (Applause.)

Bro. Francis Summers S.W. also responded, and, in the course of his remarks, expressed the pleasure he felt at the prosperity of the Lodge, and his readiness to assist the W.M. and his brother officers in furthering the interests of the Lodge and the Craft generally. He and the W.M. had worked most harmoniously together, and he was sure that at the termination of his year of office the brethren would have no reason to regret the choice they made when they appointed Bro. West. (Cheers.)

Bro. H. Tooze responded on behalf of the J.W., who was prevented by illness from attending on the occasion, and whose absence they all regretted.

Bro. John Wilson P.M. then gave "The Worshipful Masters, Officers, and Brethren of the Sister Lodges," Bro. Emes, the W.M. of the Minerva, and Bro. Garforth, W.M. of the Kingston Lodges, responding in suitable terms. Bro. Emes proposed "The Trustees, Treasurers, and Past Masters of the Humber Lodge," for which toast replies were made by the W.D.P.G.M. and P.M. Bro. Banks Hay, as one of the treasurers.

The W.D.P.G.M. next gave "The Masonic Charities," in doing which he designated Charity as the keystone of Masonic structure, and congratulated the members of the Humber Lodge on the position of its benevolent fund, which, he believed, already amounted to something like £5,000. The provincial benevolent fund, which he had the gratification of founding some ten or twelve years ago, was also in a prosperous condition; and it was pleasing to reflect that since its establishment not a single application for relief from that fund had appealed in vain. (Applause.) He then exhorted the Brethren to support these excellent institutions in which the children of indigent Masons were educated, clothed, and maintained, as well as the asylum for decayed Masons and their widows. And he would here remark, as a proof of excellence of the education imparted in the schools to which he had referred, that out of 18 boys who went up last April to the Cambridge Middle-class Local Examinations no less than 16 passed, which he thought would be regarded as most gratifying. (Applause.) As to the Girls' school, he was pleased to learn that upwards of 1,000 girls had been educated, clothed, and maintained in that Institution, from the benefits of which about 150 girls were now receiving. It was still more gratifying to him to know that after those girls left the school they were still taken cognisance of and it was a fact of which they might feel justly proud that not a single girl had ever cast any discredit on the Institution. With regard to the annuitants he hoped the present candidate, Mrs. Stuart, would be elected in the course of the next few days. About 170 boys were now being cared for in their school. Speaking of the Royal Benevolent Masonic Institution for aged Masons, the speaker said that on the list of annuitants there were now 120 aged Masons and 115 widows—the former receiving £36, and the latter £28 per annum. (Applause.) In addition to this they had the privilege of residing in the comfortable Asylum at Croydon. The schools cost in maintenance about £5,000 a year each, and the annuitants nearly £3,000—raised almost entirely by voluntary subscriptions. Moreover the Grand Lodge, through the Board of Benevolence, annually dispersed in charity about £3,000—without reference to country or creed. (Applause.) In conclusion he appealed to the brethren to support these institutions, and said he was no advocate for the giving of large sums by a few, but every individual should give something, and not rely upon donations from the rich. (Hear, hear.) These references to the Masonic Charities were received with the most enthusiastic applause.

Bro. Vivian responded to the toast, speaking in eulogistic terms of the charitable institutions in connection with Freemasonry.

Bro. F. Summers proposed "The Visiting Brethren," the toast been acknowledged by P.M. Bro. Acton, on behalf of the Crystal Palace Lodge, No. 742, and Bro. H. J. Amphlett for the Alexandra Lodge, No. 1511, Hornsey. Bro. T. Taylor J.D., gave "The Absent Members of the Humber Lodge, especially the sea-going Brethren;" and the list closed with "Prosperity, Unanimity, and Perpetuity to the Humber Lodge." The proceedings were interspersed by some excellent songs and recitations, and the gathering was characterised by the utmost harmony and good feeling throughout.

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, 15th MAY.

- 1185—Lewis, King's Arms Hotel, Wood Green.
308—Prince George, Bottoms, Eastwood, Yorks.

MONDAY, 17th MAY.

- 1—Grand Masters', Freemasons' Hall.
8—British, Freemasons' Hall.
21—Emulation, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
58—Felicity, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham.
1159—Marquis Dalhousie, Freemasons' Hall.
1201—Eclectic, Freemasons' Hall.
61—Probity, Freemasons' Hall, Halifax.
77—Freedom, Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend.
85—Faithful, Swan Inn, Harleson, Norfolk.
89—Unanimity, Astley Arms Hotel, Dukinfield.
102—Unanimity, King's Arms, North Walsbam.
139—Britannia, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
264—Nelson of the Nile, Freemasons' Hall, Batley.
293—King's Friends, Lamb Inn, Nantwich.
302—Hope, Masonic Hall, Bradford.
307—Prince Frederick, White Horse Hotel, Hebden Bridge.
359—Peace and Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Southampton.
408—Three Graces, Haworth, Yorks.
424—Borough Lodge, Masonic Hall, Gateshead.
466—Merit, George Hotel, Stamford Baron, Northampton.
467—Tudor, Red Lion Hotel, Oldham.
613—Unity, Masonic Hall, Stockport.
703—Clifton, Clifton Arms Hotel, Blackpool.
721—Independence, Bar's Hotel, Chester.
840—Scientific, Victoria Hotel, Wolverton.
872—Lewis, Masonic Hall, Whitehaven.
925—Bedford, Masonic Hall, Birmingham.
941—De Tabley, Royal George Hotel, Knutsford.
1030—Egerton, Heaton Norris, near Stockport.
1170—St. George, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
1614—Thornhill, Masonic Room, Dearn House, Lindley, Yorks.
R. A. 37—Concord, Freemasons' Hall, Bolton.
R. A. 128—Prince Edwin, Bridge Inn, Bury.
R. A. 139—Paradise, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
R. A. 277—Tudor, Angel Hotel, Oldham.
R. A. 281—Rowley, Athenaeum, Lancaster.
R. A. 361—Industry, Norfolk Arms, Hyde.
R. A. 827—St. John's, Masonic Temple, Dewsbury.

TUESDAY, 18th MAY.

- Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
165—Honour and Generosity, London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street.
194—St. Paul's, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
704—Camden, Bull and Gate Tavern, Kentish Town.
857—St. Mark's, Half Moon Tavern, Herne Hill.
R. A. 19—Mount Sinai, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
R. A. 186—Industry, Freemasons' Hall.
51—Angel, Three Cups Hotel, Colchester.
57—Humber, Freemasons' Hall, Hull.
126—Silent Temple, Cross Keys Inn, Burnley.
310—Union, Masonic Rooms, Carlisle.
402—Royal Sussex, George the Fourth, Nottingham.
592—Cotteswold, King's Head Hotel, Cirencester.
667—Alliance, Masonic Temple, Liverpool.
696—St. Bartholomew, Dartmouth Arms Hotel, Wednesbury.
897—Loyalty, Fleece Inn, St. Helens.
979—Four Cardinal Virtues, Crewe Arms Hotel, Crewe.
986—Hesketh, Grapes Inn, Croston.
1042—Excelsior, Freemasons' Hall, Leeds.
1075—St. Manghold, Masonic Rooms, Ramsey.
1166—Clarendon, Queen's Hotel, Hyde.
1214—Scarborough, Station Hotel, Southill, Batley.
1256—Fidelity, Black Bull, Poulton.
1276—Warren, Stanley Arms, Seacombe.
R. A. 350—Meribah, Grapes Inn, Stoneclough.
R. A. 995—Furness, Masonic Temple, Ulverstone.
K. T.—United Preceptory, &c., Palatine Hotel, Manchester.

WEDNESDAY, 19th MAY.

- General Committee of Grand Lodge, and Lodge of Benevolence, Freemasons' Hall, at 6.
174—Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street.
190—Oak, Freemasons' Hall.
193—Confidence, White Hart, Abchurch Lane, at 7.30 (Instruction).
619—Bendon, Greyhound Tavern, Dulwich.
700—Nelson, Masonic Hall, William Street, Woolwich.
969—Maybury, Freemasons' Hall.
1382—Corinthian, George Inn, Gleugall Road, Isle of Dogs.
R. A. 1395—St. Marylebone, British Stores, New Street, St. John's Wood.
20—Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity, Sun Tavern, Chatham.
86—Loyalty, Royal Hotel, Prescott.
116—Royal Lancashire, Swan Hotel, Colne.
128—Prince Edwin, Bridge Inn, Bolton-street, Bury.
221—St. John, Commercial Hotel, Bolton.
243—Loyalty, Masonic Hall, Guernsey.
246—Royal Union, Freemasons' Hall, Cheltenham.
258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike.
277—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Oldham.
287—Unanimity, Dog and Partridge, Stockport.
288—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Todmorden.
290—Huddersfield, Masonic Hall, Huddersfield.
311—South Saxon, Freemasons' Hall, Lewes.
320—Loyalty, Junction Inn, Mottram.
323—Concord, Golden Ball Inn, Stockport.
325—St. John, Freemasons' Hall, Salford.
368—Samaritan, George Hotel, Sandbach.
369—Limestone Rock, Swan Hotel, Clitheroe.
380—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Morley, Yorks.
387—Airdale, Masonic Hall, Westgate, Shipley.
461—Fortitude, Queen's Arms, Newton Moor.
454—Faith, Gerard's Arms Inn, Ashton-in-Mark.
603—Belvidere, Star Hotel, Maidstone (Instruction).
504—Berkhamstead, King's Arms, Berkhamstead.
533—Eaton, Bull's Head, Congleton.
550—Harmony, Wheatsheaf Inn, Ormskirk.
551—Faith, Drover's Inn, Openshaw.
591—Buckingham, George Hotel, Aylesbury.
610—Colston, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
625—Devonshire, Norfolk Arms, Glossop.
633—Yarborough, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
654—Peveril of Peak, Crown Hotel, New Mills.
679—St. Davids, Black Lion Hotel, Aberdare.
758—Ellesmere, Freemasons' Hall, Runcorn.

- 823—Everton, Masonic Temple, Liverpool.
910—St. Oswald, Masonic Hall, Pontefract.
962—Sun and Sector, Portland-square, Workington.
1004—Athol, Douglas Hotel, Douglas, Isle of Man.
1019—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Wakefield.
1070—Starkie, Black Horse, Kirkham.
1086—Watson, Masonic Hall, Kirkdale.
1129—St. Chad, Roebuck Hotel, Rochdale.
1161—De Grey and Ripon, Corporation Hotel, Ardlwick.
1182—Duke of Edinburgh, Coffee House, Wavertree.
1218—Prince Alfred, Commercial Hotel, Mossley.
1301—Brighthouse, Masonic Rooms, Brighthouse, Yorks.
1334—Norman, Freemasons' Hall, Durham.
1346—Victoria, Cross Keys Inn, Eccles.

- R. A.—Unity, Wheatsheaf, Ormskirk.
R. A. 1045—Stamford, Town Hall, Altrincham.

THURSDAY, 20th MAY.

- House Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
55—Constitutional, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street.
169—Temperance, White Swan, High Street, Deptford.
813—New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton.
1278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Approach-road, Victoria-park.
1320—Blackheath, Crown Hotel, Blackheath.
1365—Clapton, White Hart Hotel, Clapton.
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road.
R. A. 5—St. George's, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 733—Westbourne, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood.
R. A. 742—Crystal Palace, Thicket Hotel, Anerly.
R. A. 834—Andrew, Clarendon Hotel, Hammersmith.
42—Relief, Albion Hotel, Bury.
56—Howard, Town Hall, Arundel.
98—St. Martin's, Board Room, Town Hall, Burslem.
203—Ancient Union, Masonic Temple, Liverpool.
208—Three Grand Principles, Masonic Hall, Dewsbury.
215—Commerce, Commercial Inn, Haslingden.
267—Unity, Macclesfield Arms, Macclesfield.
268—Union, Queen's Arms Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne.
275—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Huddersfield.
283—Amity, Swan Inn, Haslingden.
286—Samaritan, Green Man Hotel, Bacup.
332—Virtue and Silence, White Lion Inn, Hadleigh.
336—Benevolence, Jolly Sailor, Marple.
337—Candour, Commercial Inn, Uppermill, Yorks.
343—Concord, King's Arms Hotel, Preston.
344—Faith, Bull's Head, Radcliffe.
345—Perseverance, Old Bull Hotel, Blackburn.
346—United Brethren, Royal Oak Inn, Clayton-le-Dale.
350—Charity, Grapes Inn, Stoneclough.
361—Industry, Norfolk Arms, Hyde.
367—Probity and Freedom, Bull's Head Inn, Smallbridge, near Rochdale.
369—Limestone Rock, Swan Hotel, Clitheroe.
425—Cestrian, Grosvenor Hotel, Chester.
439—Scientific, Private Room, Bingley.
462—Accrington, Hargreaves Hotel, Accrington.
531—St. Helen's, Masonic Hall, Hartlepool.
600—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Bradford.
605—Combermere, Seacombe Hotel, Seacombe.
630—St. Cuthbert's, Parson Lane, Howden.
777—Royal Alfred, Angel, Guildford.
940—Philanthropy, Freemasons' Hall, Stockton-on-Tees.
950—Hesketh, Fleetwood Hotel, Fleetwood.
1011—Richmond, Crown Hotel, Salford.
1032—Townley Parker, Howard's Arms Hotel, Whittle-Springs.
1042—Excelsior, Masonic Hall, Leeds.
1125—St. Peter's, Masonic Hall, Tiverton.
1227—Upton, Spotted Dog Tavern, Upton, Essex.
1299—Pembroke, West Derby Hotel, West Derby.
R. A. 97—Strict Benevolence, Masonic Hall, Sunderland.
R. A. 204—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
M.M. 46—Union F.C., Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
M.M. 122—Percy, Freemasons' Hall, Stockton-on-Tees.
K. T.—Fearnly, Masonic Temple, Dewsbury.

FRIDAY, 21st MAY.

- Annual General Meeting of Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Freemasons' Hall, at 12.
House Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
6—Friendship, Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's.
143—Middlesex, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
201—Jordan, Freemasons' Hall.
152—Virtue, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
219—Prudence, Masonic Hall, Todmorden.
401—Royal Forest, Hark-to-Bounty Inn, Slaidburn, Yorks.
516—Phoenix, Fox Hotel, Stowmarket.
652—Holme Valley, Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth.
830—Endeavour, Queen's Arms, Dukinfield.
837—Marquess of Ripon, Town Hall, Ripon, Yorks.
993—Alexandra, Midway Hotel, Levenshulme.
1034—Eccleshill, Freemasons' Hall, Eccleshill, Yorks.
1102—Mirfield, Assembly Rooms, Mirfield.
1108—Wharfedale, Private Room, Westgate, Otley.
1311—Zetland, Masonic Hall, Leeds.
1339—Fenwick, Masonic Hall, Sunderland.
R. A. 521—Truth, Freemasons' Hall, Huddersfield.

SATURDAY, 22nd MAY.

- 1297—West Kent, Forest Hill, Sydenham.
149—Peace, Masonic Rooms, Meltham.

IRELAND.

- WEDNESDAY—9—Muses, Masonic Hall, Dungannon.
161—Excelsior, Tuam, Galway.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

- THURSDAY—49, St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.
226—Portobello, Royal Hotel, Bath Street.
R. A. 152—Perseverance, Lodge Room, 86 Constitution Street.
FRIDAY—R. A. 83—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Egyptian Lodge, No. 27.—This old established and flourishing Lodge met on Thursday, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Bro. S. R. Lambie W.M. in the chair, Hales S.W., supported by the officers, H. G. Buss P.M. Treasurer, Poole P.M. Secretary, Past Masters C. Atkins I.P.M., J. Coutts P.G.P., D. H. Jacobs, Libbes, T. Sheppard, and a numerous assemblage of the brethren. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. J. Riches was passed to the second degree. Messrs. H. Nixon and Mr. Alfred Nixon were initiated into the Order. Arrangements were made for the summer banquet, and the brethren were requested

to give in their names to the Hon. Secretary. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet provided by Bro. Clemow, and superintended by Bro. Knill. The loyal and Masonic toasts were given, Bro. J. Conitts P.G.P. responding for the toast of the Grand Officers, and Bro. Atkins I.P.M. for the Past Masters. The toasts of the Wardens, Officers and Tyler concluded one of those agreeable meetings which have now become identified with a visit to this old established Lodge.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—The meeting was held on 10th of May, at the Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell Green. Present—Bros. Walker W.M., Garbett S.W., Gardiner J.W., Stock S.D., Read J.D., Hill I.G., Killick Secretary, Defriez Treasurer, P.M. Bro. Beckett Preceptor. Visitors: Bros. J. Lenzil P.M. 754, and a numerous gathering of members. Business transacted:—Lodge opened in due form, minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. Bro. Defriez answered the usual questions, was entrusted, and retired. Lodge opened in second degree, and Bro. Defriez passed to the degree of F.C. Bro. Morrison answered the questions leading from the second to the third degree, and was raised to the degree of M.M. Lodge resumed to the first degree. The W.M. vacated the chair and Bro. Killick became W.M., and rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Defriez candidate. As the following Monday will be a Bank Holiday, the Lodge was adjourned until the 24th inst. The fifteen sections will be worked in this Lodge on Monday, the 31st inst. All Masonic business being ended, the Lodge was closed in due form.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, 193.—The 15 sections were worked in this Lodge of Instruction on the 12th instant, by Bro. Joseph Crawley P.M. 174, who officiated as W.M., assisted by Bros. Walker, Honeyman, Webb, Horsley, Griffiths, Gottheil, Hill, Constable, Gross, Brown and Bloomfield. The W.M. performed his task with consummate efficiency, in spite of an awkward drawback, caused by brethren who had placed their names upon the list for a portion of the work failing to put in an appearance. It would certainly be advantageous if, before a Brother agrees to perform such a duty, he were to reflect whether his presence on the specified occasion might be reasonably relied upon. Volunteers, however able, frequently find themselves unprepared when suddenly called upon, and thus the general harmony of the evening's work is marred by the neglect, wilful or otherwise, of the thoughtless. The members of the Lodge, however, expressed their satisfaction at what had been done, by conferring a vote of thanks and honorary membership upon Bro. Crawley, who, in thanking the brethren for the favour, hoped to show his gratitude by more frequent attendance, and by his endeavours of assistance whenever opportunity served. Bros. Horsley Honeyman, Hill, Gross and Brown, who did excellent service during the proceedings, were unanimously admitted joining members. The attendance was tolerably large, considering the time of year, and the officers were as follow: Honeyman S.W., Woodward J.W., Fells S.D., Webb J.D., E. Gottheil P.M. Preceptor, John Constable P.M. Treasurer, J. K. Pitt Secretary, Isaac Botibol I.G., Geo. Christopher Tyler.

Bank of England Lodge, No. 263.—The last meeting of the season took place at the Albion Tavern, on Thursday 13th instant. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Junior Grand Warden, honoured the Lodge with a visit after the banquet, and was received with most cordial and fraternal greeting.

Shakspeare Lodge, No. 284.—Met on the 11th May 1875, at the Masonic Rooms, Warwick. Present—Bros. J. G. Moore W.M., F. Haynes M.D. S.W., S. Clark Smith J.W., Placknett S.D., Machen D.P.G.M. D.C., Harris and Brown Stewards, G. Wilson M.D. I.G., Parser and Burrows Tylers, S. W. Cooke P.P.S.G.W. Secretary. Past Masters Bros. Ridley, Cutting, Rev. P. S. Harris, Lieut. Col. Machen. Business transacted:—Raising of Bro. Thurstfield M.D. The Lodge proceeded to refreshment, and entertained at banquet Bro. Kain, of the William Preston Lodge, who is also an old member as well as the oldest P.M. of the Shakspeare Lodge.

Tullamore Lodge, No. 321.—A meeting was held on 10th May 1875, at Court House, Tullamore. Present:—Bros. Major S. B. Kekewich W.M., Wm. D. Whelan S.W., Wm. R. Wade J.W., Donald A. Bradley S.D., E. H. F. Royce J.D., Rev. John Low Chaplain D.C., Captain T. A. Peirce J.P. P.M. Steward, W. S. Hackett I.G., Wm. Bagnell Tyler, W. H. T. Love Secretary, Paul Fawcett P.M. Treasurer. The usual routine business was transacted, and a candidate proposed for initiation. Lodge closed in peace, love and harmony. It is gratifying to us to add that at no period of this Lodge's history—and this extends over a period of 116 years—has it been in a more flourishing condition than at present. This happy state of affairs is traceable to the action of those who calculated upon a totally different result, not only to this Lodge in particular, but to the Craft in general.

Royal Union Lodge, No. 332.—A meeting was held on 10th May 1875, at Chequers Hall, Uxbridge, Middlesex. Present:—Bros. E. C. Woodward W.M., Davis S.W., T. Swallow J.W., Holliday S.D., Webb J.D., Dairy Asst. D.C., Dayson and Cook Stewards, Hawkins I.G., Longstaff Tyler, Wm. Coombes P.M. and P.P.G.S.B. Secretary, Conlton P.M. Treasurer. Past Masters Bros. B. H. Swallow and Weedon. Visitors Bros. Brown P.M. 780, Morrell P.M. 111, Cooper Secretary 538, Smith 753, &c. Minutes read. Messrs. Partridge, Tait, Fowler, Rowles and Hill initiated; Bros. Girardet, Arnold, Allen and Perkins passed; Bros. Clayden and Meadows raised. Adjourned to a very good banquet, provided by Bro. Moore. The work was ably performed by the W.M. A very pleasant evening was passed.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction.—The fifteen sections were worked at the above flourishing Lodge of Instruction on

Tuesday, 11th of May, at Bro. Aller's, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, under the able presidency of Bros. Crawley the Preceptor, Wallington S.W., Webb J.W. The sections were worked in an admirable manner by the following brethren:—Nos. 1 Bro. Lowe, 2 Webb, 3 Allen, 4 Wallington, 5 Crawley, 6 and 7 Horsley; 2nd section, Nos. 8 Bro. Hill, 9 Crawley, 10 Horsley, 11 Gross, 12 Christian; 3rd section, Nos. 13 Bro. Wallington, 14 Brown, 15 Webb. Amongst the brethren present we observed Bros. Cambridge, Cull, Smith, Cheshire, Worsley, Allen, Brown, Prestage, Cruttenden, Folliot, Wintle, &c.

Excelsior Lodge, No. 1155.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, 6th May, at the Sydney Arms Tavern, Lewisham Road. Bro. D. Bear W.M., Hose S.W., Roper J.W., C. G. Dilley P.M. Secretary, G. Bolton P.M. Treasurer. Past Masters Carver, W. Watson P.G.S., Simmons, Littlecot and Moore. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Mr. Jas. White having been balloted for, was initiated into the Order. A Board of Installed Masters was then formed, and Bro. Hose S.W. and W.M. elect was duly installed into the chair by Bro. G. Bolton P.M., in a very perfect manner. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Bro. Bolton was justly complimented by the brethren and visitors for the impressive manner in which he had conducted the beautiful service. The W.M. having been saluted, invested his officers:—Bros. D. Bear I.P.M., J. Roper S.W., J. Wilson J.W., G. Bolton P.M. Treasurer, C. G. Dilley P.M. Secretary, Archer S.D., Welstead J.D., J. W. Keigwin I.G., Bray M.C., Goddard P.M. Tyler. This selection appeared to give unqualified satisfaction. Bro. Bear I.P.M. proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes to Bro. G. Bolton for the able manner he had performed the ceremony of installation. Bro. Carver P.M., in very eloquent terms, presented Bro. Bear I.P.M. with a very elegant gold Past Master's jewel in the name of the Lodge; he hoped he might live long to wear it as a memento of kindness and brotherly love. Bro. Bear, in suitable terms, responded. A sum of £10 10s was proposed to be placed on the list of the W.M., who is a Steward for the Annual Festival of the Boys' School on the 7th July. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren, 34 in number, sat down to a very sumptuous banquet, provided by the worthy host, Bro. Watson. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were then given. The W.M., in proposing the health of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M., alluded to the magnificent reception he received at the Albert Hall. Every brother in the Order was proud to see him in that position. (Cheers.) Bro. White returned thanks for the toast of the newly initiated. Bros. Pattie, Thuo and H. M. Levy returned thanks for the visitors, and, in the course of their remarks, paid a deserved compliment to the W.M. for his able and genial conduct, and also to Bro. G. Bolton P.M. Bro. Bear I.P.M. proposed the toast of the W.M., whom he characterised as a thorough good Mason, and one who was competent to perform the duties of the chair. The W.M. suitably responded, and then proposed the toast of the Past Masters. He had a great personal feeling in proposing that toast, for they, on every occasion, had rendered him much valuable assistance. He hoped to do his duty to their satisfaction, and he sincerely regretted (through illness) the absence of one whom all respected, viz. Bro. N. Wingfield. Bro. Moore P.M. responded to the toast, and thanked the W.M. and the visiting brethren for their kind expressions. He also thanked their worthy Preceptor Bro. Dilley P.M. The toast of the Wardens and Officers followed. The W.M. then said he hoped the brethren would not part without drinking the health of the worthy Host and Hostess, who had so satisfactorily catered for them. Bro. Watson returned thanks, and the Tyler's toast brought a very agreeable evening to a close. Some capital harmony emanated from Bros. Bear, Simmons, Burney, Wilson and Welstead. The visitors were Bros. J. Patte P.M. 147, Tibbals 169, Debae 169, Satch 79, H. M. Levy P.M. 188, Thuo 435 Salisbury.

Harrow Lodge, No. 1310.—This Lodge met on Tuesday, 4th May, at the Railway Hotel, Harrow. The Lodge was opened at 3 p.m. by Bro. W. H. Green P.M. and Secretary, in the absence of the W.M., Bro. George Smith, who, however, arrived a few minutes later. The officers being Bros. John Harrison S.W., Frederick Harrison J.W. and W.M. elect, John Coutts P.G.P. P.M. and Treasurer, W. H. Green P.P.G.D.C. Middlesex, P.M. and Secretary, Hammond S.D., Spells I.G., &c. Mr. Alfred Clement was initiated into Freemasonry in the W.M.'s usual able manner. The Lodge was then duly opened in second and third degrees, and Bro. F. Harrison J.W. was installed into the chair of K.S., by Bro. Coutts P.G., assisted by Bro. Smeed P.P.G.W. Middlesex (both of whom are members of the Harrow Lodge). The W.M. then appointed his officers, viz.:—Bro. George Smith I.P.M., Bro. John Harrison S.W., Hammond J.W., John Coutts P.G.P. P.M. Treasurer, W. H. Green P.P.G.D.C. Middlesex P.M. Secretary, Kipps S.D. and Organist, Spells J.D., Taylor I.G., Tarryer D.C., Bavin Tyler. Bro. George Smith I.P.M. and Bro. F. Harrison W.M. were recommended for Provincial Grand Office. The Lodge was then closed in due form, and the brethren (about 30,) adjourned to the banquet, where the usual Masonic toasts were given, and a handsome P.M.'s jewel presented to Bro. George Smith I.P.M. The meeting was attended by numerous visitors, amongst whom we noticed:—Bros. Col. Burdett R.W.P.G.M. Middlesex, Veal P.M. 889, P.G.D. Surrey, Waghorn P.M. 946, Bro. Darke P.M. 1275, Walker 382, Wragham 619, Anderson 619, Dodman 879.

ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in solemn form. R.W. Bro. Dr. Hamilton in the chair. Eight candidates were admitted, and received the exalted degree of Knight Rosae Crucis of Harodine Kilwinning. The impression made by the most quaint and striking ceremonial of this ancient Order, and by the singularly perfect working of Dr. Hamilton, General Clerk, and their efficient officers, will not soon be effaced from memory. The ceremonies were of two hours' duration, and though the labours be arduous, the result is the most effective conceivable.

REVIEWS.

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

The Groundwork of Freemasonry. — An address delivered by Bro. Robert Bell at the third annual social meeting of the brethren of Lodge "Mother Kilwinning," resident in Glasgow and neighbourhood, 24th April 1875. Glasgow: John Tweed, 9 Howard-street.

Bro. Bell's address is governed mostly by common sense, which is after all paying it and him a far higher compliment than if we had enlarged on his wonderful powers of oratory, the depth of his learning, and so forth. Bro. Bell is simplicity itself in his treatment, and common sensible in his remarks, these latter being devoted to what are taken as "the three parts of the groundwork on which our Order is founded," namely, *Brotherhood, the Bible, and Solomon's Temple.* As an appropriate specimen of what a short Masonic address should be, we cordially commend this, on *The Groundwork of Freemasonry*, to the notice of our readers.

MAGAZINES OF THE MONTH.

SECOND NOTICE.

In the *Gentleman's* are a short sketch of "Gambetta" by "Spec-tavi," an account of "The late John Mitchel and the Young Ireland Party," by a "Young Irishman of '48," with a comparison of the merits of "Mr. Irving and Signor Salvini," in which the Hamlet of the former is, to our mind, too lightly estimated. We are promised next month a sketch of "The Member for Stoke," by "The Member for the Chiltern Hundreds," and in July, the opening chapters of a new novel by Mr. R. C. Francillon, the author of "Olympia."

There is, in the *Cornhill*, an admirable article on "The Art of Furlishing," an account of the "Success of the Transit Expedition," and the conclusion of a biographical sketch of the artist, "Luca Garavelli." In the way of fiction we have the three tales "Miss Angel," "The Marriage of Moira Fergus," and "Three Feathers" continued. It is a great pity the illustrations are not on a better footing with the contents.

Belgravia is admirably illustrated, and contains a variety of light readable papers, with the further advantage of not having a heavy uninteresting tale to overweight it. Amongst the most noticeable of the contents are No. III. of Mr. Compton Reade's "Oxford Raffles," Mr. J. H. Eyre's "Brighton Reminiscences," in which we are introduced to the Pavilion, and its illustrious occupant, George Prince of Wales; a paper by Mr. T. H. S. Escott, on "Thespis and Themis;" and further chapters of "Hugh Milton," in which are narrated some important incidents in the story. "The Family Ghost" is an amusing tale.

Our readers will find some rather dry, but very sound, readable matter in *Macmillan*. Such, for instance, is the paper on the "Irish Land Question," the treatment, thus far, of which is a success, from the writer's view. F. J. G. contributes an elaborate notice of Sir Henry Rawlinson's recently published essays on "England and Russia in the East," and the closing article on "The Foreign Loans Committee," by W., is worth studying. There is, too, a sketch by Mr. J. Delaware Lewis, of "Eton thirty years ago," in which the system of teaching, and the disciplinary arrangements are shown to have been scarcely what we should have expected in the most eminent of our great Public Schools.

The *Scottish Freemasons' Magazine*, in its last issue, contains an article on the recent Installation, which our contemporary must excuse us for saying is in very questionable taste. It is not for us to analyse the feelings of English Masons generally, but we do not think that flunkeyism had much to do with the recent excitement at the Prince's election. Nor do we think the terms which are applied, either directly or by inference to His Royal Highness, are such as should have been used. They are, to say the least, un-masonic.

The *Westminster Papers* contain a good translation of some criticisms by J. Berger of Grätz, on "The British Problem Tourney," and some admirable "Dramatic Notes," besides the usual array of Problems and Whist Hands.

Chambers's Journal opens with a well-written paper, by William Chambers, of "The Story of Kitty, Duchess of Queensbury." Kitty, of course, fills the greater part of the sketch, but the whole family of the Queensberrys, from the 1st Duke in the reign of Charles, down to "Old Q.," who died in 1810, appears. We have noted also an article on "Free Libraries," "Recollections of Old Coaching Days," by W. Chambers, which will be read with avidity by those who take an interest in the present coaching "revival." An article "About Spiders" is far more engaging than its subject is attractive to look at. There are also a notice of the fourth Report of the Historical Manuscripts' Commission, and an amusingly written paper entitled, "Animal Volunteers," the gist of which may be gathered from the answer of a sentry at some cavalry barracks to the inquiry if a certain dog, always at the gates, had a master in the Regiment. "No, sir," replied he, "but I'm thinking he wants to enlist. Dogs often come to us in this way." The two articles on "Lancashire Recreations" will be found also very interesting.

The most attractive reading in the *Argosy* is Johnny Ludlow's contribution—"The Syllabub Feast." This completes the story commenced last month in "The Key of the Church." Of course "the murder's out" in the present paper, and everybody comes round to a proper sense of everything. "An Unsolved Mystery," and the "Penalty of Genius," as well as the serials—in fact, the whole number is very readable. This literary *Argosy* is certainly a rich one.

The *Leisure Hour* is very well illustrated, and contains several articles of an instructive and entertaining character. Such for instance is "Franking Brothers," or a glance at the Post Office of last

century, and long, therefore, before Sir Rowland Hill's system of Penny Postage had come into force. Of another, but equally agreeable style, are the articles headed, "Under Canvas: A Lady's adventures in the Himalayas," a region which not many ladies are venturesome enough to traverse. Then there is an account of "The Palaces of Old London," many of which were situated in parts of the city where the present generation of Londoners would hardly expect them to have been, while others were located at some distance from the city, as at Kew, Richmond, Eltham. The "Original Fables" are pleasant reading, and Dr. Rimbault contributes an excellent paper on "Some of the Characteristics of National English Tunes," abundantly illustrating it by such specimens as "The Old Lancashire Hornpipe," "The King's Jig," and others.

Sunday at Home, which is the companion publication of the foregoing, contains, likewise, a goodly programme of articles, appropriately illustrated. Both these periodicals are specially adapted for the instruction of children, and, indeed, "children of a larger growth" need not hesitate to consult their pages. Among the more noteworthy contents of the present number of *Sunday at Home* are an account of the "Tombs of the Ming Emperors in China," an "Anecdote of Sir William Napier," and Part VII. of a description of "Jewish Life in the Time of our Lord," by the Rev. Dr. Edersheim. Some of the poetical contributions are fair specimens of fluent versification.

"Give me a grip of your Hand," a New Masonic Song. London: Hopwood and Crew, 42 New Bond Street.

"GIVE ME A GRIP OF YOUR HAND" is not by any means a bad title for a song dedicated to the Craft, but, as the terminating line of each stanza, the words do not lend themselves to poetic expression. The hypothetical cases set forth by the author as fitting occasions for "gripping the hand" are sufficiently comprehensive in scope, for they range from the patriot and "Statesman too," through the Doctor of Medicine, the Soldier and the Tar, to the Man of humble means. Such amiable sentiments as these are likely enough to be effective with the music-hall audiences; the song is intended to amuse, and, when sung in the dramatic style which is Mr. Macdermott's peculiar merit, we have little doubt that they are so. We give the author credit for the best intentions in dedicating his verses to the Craft; but we fear, that, like his brother poet's "Ode to Posterity," they will never reach the address.

THE DRAMA.

"Weak Woman" at the Strand.—Recent Announcements.

THE name of Mr. Byron has lately become as much identified with the Strand Theatre as that of the late Mr. Robertson was with the Prince of Wales's. This close association with any one theatre must be prejudicial to the work of any dramatist; having to write pieces suitable to the particular theatre, and to describe characters suited to the peculiarities of a particular body of artists, he falls into one groove, and his productions are wanting in variety. "Weak Woman" is a piece precisely similar in character to "Old Sailors," its predecessor. With only the merest skeleton of a plot, its dialogue is smart, and on that, and the closeness of the acting, the piece depends. A somewhat eccentric gentleman, lately deceased, has bequeathed his fortune to one of two sisters, his nieces, on condition that until both are married, neither shall disclose which is the lucky legatee, this condition being apparently made in order that both may secure disinterested husbands. The hand of one, Lilian, is already secured by a young farmer, a neighbour; the other, Helen, the supposed heiress, is an object of attraction to two country worthies, and she is also loved by a poor cousin, a disinherited son of her benefactor, whom the girls have engaged to manage the estate. This gentleman, Frederick Fanshawe by name, thinks it would be mercenary to make love to Helen, and, in order to conceal his affection for her, somewhat coolly pays attentions to Lilian; but on discovering a later will constituting him the heir, he no longer seeks to disguise his feelings, and at once offers himself to Helen. She, thinking that he has discovered that she is the heiress, orders him out of the house which he knows to be his own. A farewell visit sets matters right, and the curtain falls on a double wedding. Miss M. Terry is a graceful Lilian, and Miss Ada Swanborough as Helen plays better than she has hitherto done; Mr. Vernon is the cousin, and is extremely well suited to the part; his pleasant bearing and careful acting would be of service on any stage. Mr. C. H. Stephenson plays the part of a doctor, a friend of the family. This is a class of character in which Mr. Stephenson has had good experience, and in which he always appears to advantage. Mr. E. Terry manages to extract much fun out of "Captain Ginger," one of the country fortune hunters. The piece is received with every sign of favour, but it cannot be called a good comedy: the plot is conventional, the characters stereotyped. It is probable that anything written by Mr. Byron, and played by the STRAND company, would find favour in the eyes of a STRAND audience, but Mr. Byron knows how little the long run of a play is a proof of its intrinsic merit, and he should remember that pieces like "Weak Woman," however successful for the time, are unworthy of his great reputation and his undoubted ability.

Mr. Albery's new comedy entitled "The Spendthrift," will be produced at the OLYMPIC on Monday, the 21st inst.

The CHARING CROSS re-opens to-night, with a new play, "Jeanne Dubarry," in which Miss Edith Lynd will appear, and a new operetta, in which Miss Kate Santley will no doubt charm her numerous admirers.

We believe that the next novelty at the ST. JAMES'S will be an operetta, of which the libretto will be contributed by Mr. Gilbert, and the music by Mr. Sullivan.

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