

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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STABILITY OF MIND.

WE believe it was the late Lord George Bentinck who once announced, in the House of Commons, that the Prime Minister of England should be a man of stable mind. The announcement raised many a smile, for Lord George was a prominent man on the turf, and the idea not unnaturally suggested itself that he had borrowed his figure of speech from something intimately associated with his favourite pursuit. However this may be, there is undoubted truth in the statement that men in responsible situations, whether English premiers or in a more limited sphere of action, must possess firmness in a degree more or less conspicuous. Centuries before the nobleman we have referred to uttered his unintentional witticism, a familiar Roman Poet had sung, in one of his most famous odes :

*Iustum ac tenacem propositi virum,
Non civium ardor prava jubentium,
Non vultus instantis tyranni,
Mente quatit solidâ.*

Stability of mind was a quality that was highly valued by the Romans, and even the Consul Terentius Varro, whom Hannibal defeated at Cannæ, was publicly thanked, because he had fought on to the last, gallantly, if unsuccessfully, and had not despaired of the Republic. It is scarcely less esteemed among Englishmen. It must be a national quality, indeed, or how else shall we explain the proverbial obstinacy, the bull dog tenacity of purpose so universally exhibited by our people. We never know when we are beaten; that is, theoretically, perhaps, we are beaten, but as a matter of fact we go on fighting, and issue victorious from the contest. But while we have exhibited this trait in nearly all our national undertakings, whether peaceful or warlike, it is by no means certain that we are equally careful to preserve our good fame in matters of less importance. In smaller circles firmness of mind, we fear, is not as highly valued as it should be. Men with a will of their own are not always selected to fill positions of responsibility. Other considerations are too often taken into account, and not unfrequently with consequences most pernicious. For instance, a new scheme, requiring the most dexterous management, is oftentimes conducted by one who is incapable either of coming to any settled conviction, or of abiding by it when formed. Every momentary consideration exercises a certain influence upon his mind. In fact, to use a familiar expression, he blows hot and cold almost in the same breath, and the result, we repeat, is, in nine cases out of ten, most pernicious, if not absolutely fatal to the enterprise. Take again, our Masonic Lodges. Their government does not often present difficulties of a very serious character, such as the display of a little firmness on the part of the W.M. will not readily overcome. Yet the conduct of our Lodges is not always satisfactory. Confusion, jealousy, narrow-minded cliquism occasionally manifest themselves, to the very serious disturbance of harmony. Were the Master only to show a little tact, and had he the courage not only to form an opinion but to abide by it, all would go well. This does not always happen. Such a W.M. is easily moved by the influence that is immediately present. He is swayed hither and thither, as a shuttlecock is tossed to and fro by the players, and the consequences to his Lodge are the reverse of edifying. In Masonry a distinct policy is laid down for all. There can be no two opinions as to the nature of the obligations we take upon ourselves when we join the Order. Yet while the outward forms may be strictly

observed, for the want of a little firmness on the part of those in office, the inner life of the Lodge, the inter-relations of its members towards each other, may entail a good deal of ill-feeling. Such a state of things is seldom, if ever, apparent when the W.M. has a will of his own—by which we do not mean that he is an obstinate man, who turns a deaf ear to every suggestion that is offered, and who never consults his Lodge. The man we mean was aptly described by Horace, as being one who

*Nec sumit aut ponit secures
Arbitrio popularis auræ.*

He should have a policy, and act up to it, modifying it, perhaps, to suit the ever varying circumstances of his position and that of the brethren he is associated with, yet never losing sight of the main principle of such policy. It is no good having weathercocks or trimmers to rule our Lodges, we want men of stable minds, and possessing sound common sense; we want men in eminent positions, who can guide us through a difficulty, if one arises; not men who, in such cases, must appeal to others for advice and assistance. Many a Lodge has come to grief for want of a little tact and firmness in its rulers. Masons, as a body, possess many eminent qualities, but they do not leave outside the portals of the Lodge the innumerable weaknesses which are incident to human nature. A ruler of Masons must possess the same qualities as any other ruler, and among those qualities none should be more conspicuous, or is more essential, than Stability of Mind.

THE MASONIC FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL, DUBLIN.

WE have just received a copy of the report of this Institution for the year 1874. Taking it as a whole, the account it renders must be looked upon as satisfactory. The revenue for the year, as compared with that of 1873, shows the considerable decrease of £349 2s 6d, which, we are told, however, is due to the presence, in the latter year, of certain exceptional items. The expenditure is slightly greater, but that calls for no special comment, and the capital has been increased by the investment of £100 in Masonic Hall Company shares. There is an increase in the annual subscriptions of £40, but as there had been a decrease in 1873 under this head, to the extent of £183 10s, this source of revenue is still below what it was in former years, and the loss arises "not from any want of new names in the subscription lists," but "from a loss of subscribers previously known as supporters of the School." As yet the Governors, who fully recognise the importance of increasing the accommodation of the School, have been unsuccessful in obtaining an eligible site for the new premises they are about to erect, but they think it probable that "the arrangements for this purpose will be completed before the next report." Under any circumstances, however, all the available capital of the School will be required for the erection of a suitable building, and, consequently, the annual income will be seriously diminished. Hence the necessity for increased activity among the Craft in Ireland, in supporting this admirable Institution. Of the other subjects touched upon we may note briefly that, taking all things into account, the health of the pupils was satisfactory. The results of the recent examination are highly gratifying, and show the improvement which has been made. Lastly, a tribute of respect is paid to the memory of the late Duke of Leinster, whose

munificent support of the School was far greater than is generally known, and a hope is expressed that, under the auspices of the Duke of Abercorn, the new Grand Master, its career will be as useful as in the past. An analysis of the financial portion of the report seems not undesirable.

The receipts amount to £3,162 4s 5d. This sum includes a balance from the previous year of £747 4s 8d; dividends and interest £358 11s 7d; annual subscriptions £931 19s 0d; life donations, both individual and official, £505, together with donations from Lodges, &c. and sundry, £123 11s 6d; net receipts at annual meeting £305 6s 2d, collections at Governors' breakfasts £21; contributions from Grand Lodge, including annual grant of £125, £169 11s 6d. The amount of the expenditure £1,903 18s 6d, is distributed thus: provisions £610 15s 5d; clothing and repairs £306 11s 10d; coals, gas, and chandlery £90 17s 0d; furniture, house repairs, and painting £102 1s 11d; medicine, &c. £34 13s 10d; postage and advertising £5 9s 8d; books, printing, stationery and music £110 1s 6d; rent, insurance, and taxes £35 16s 3d; apprentice fees and expenses £41 16s 4d; outfits for pupils leaving, £19 11s 10d; carriage, railway and incidentals £42 9s 3d; salaries and wages £503 13s 8d, including an annuity to former matron of £52, and collector's commission £46 12s 0d; and purchase of twenty Masonic Hall Shares £100. This leaves a balance in bank of £1,158 5s 11d. Why so considerable a balance, somewhat over one-third of the total receipts, is retained at bank is not explained, nor are we told if, at the close of the account, there were any outstanding liabilities. These are two points of no little importance. As regards the former, a few hundreds, say £500 or £600, would seem to be all that is required to meet the current expenses, while, as to the latter, it were as well if a statement of the School's assets and liabilities were furnished. It makes the account more complete, and enables the reader to judge at a glance whether the position of the asylum is or is not satisfactory from a pecuniary point of view. The stock account shows invested property to the extent of £3,682 2s 1d. Of this amount £2,737 2s 1d are in Government stock, £4,650 in railway securities, while £1,295 are in the Masonic Hall Company, being £5 shares, bearing five per cent. interest.

There can be no question that the foregoing statement, respecting which we have found it necessary to offer only one suggestion, is satisfactory. A previous falling off in the receipts is partially recovered. The invested property of the School has been slightly increased, and there is a good round sum in hand. There are forty girls on the establishment, and four vacancies have been declared for the next election. As evidence of the care bestowed on the education, it was stated, at the annual meeting and distribution of prizes, held in the Exhibition Palace, on 20th April 1875, under the presidency of the M.W.G.M. the Duke of Abercorn, that some of the pupils competed at the Royal Dublin Society's Art Examination, of whom one obtained a certificate from the Council of Education, South Kensington, while two others received certificates from the Royal Dublin Society.

It only remains for us to offer our hearty congratulations to the governing body on the success of their efforts, not only to maintain, but to extend the efficiency of the School over which they preside, and we trust their hopes of increased support from our brethren in Ireland will be amply realised. The establishment of such institutions as this and its companion school for boys, of whom there are 23 maintained by the Order at the Rev. Bro. S. S. Skeens, Adelaide Hall, Merrion Square, is one of the justest sources of pride with Freemasons. But in Ireland, as in England, their claims to support must be pressed, both in season and out of season, on the notice of all the Craft throughout the country. We imagine that, with an energetic body of stewards, as capable as they are sure to be enthusiastic, the generous instincts of Irish Masons will not be appealed to in vain on behalf of this charity. In such case we may anticipate the hope of the governors, that the School may be doubled, will be realised at no distant period. But even as the case stands now, our Irish brethren have every reason to be proud of what they have done.

THE EGYPTIAN PRIESTS.

(FROM THE FRENCH OF J. L. LAURENS.)

OF all the institutions which have appeared in the world, and the memory of which excites our curiosity, there

is not one of which so many marvels are recorded as that known in olden time by the name of the Egyptian Priests. These were, properly speaking, not ministers of religion. The word rendered "priests" has been improperly translated, and, in the language of antiquity, has a meaning widely different from that which we apply to it among ourselves, but above all having due regard to the initiation of the Priests of ancient Egypt, the word "priest" is synonymous with "philosopher." Thus to define properly the Egyptian Priests, we must look upon them as the Egyptian Philosophers, and then we shall form a just idea of the initiation of the Priests of ancient Egypt.

The origin of initiations, of manifestations, and of mysteries is lost in the obscurity of time. The Egyptian Priests were not, it seems, the inventors, for the History of the World by Thoth, and his successor, the Phœnician Sanconiathon, speak of them. Eusebius, who has preserved and transmitted to us fragments of this Sanconiathon, speaks of them likewise in relation to the Cabiric Gods. Sanconiathon, far more ancient than Moses, was written after the great Thoth, who, without doubt, is the same as Hermes, the first Mercury of Egypt, about eight hundred years later; and if we take into account that Herodotus only wrote a very long time after Sanconiathon, we shall easily arrive at the conclusion that the Egyptian Priests were not the first who practised the evidences, mysteries, and ceremonies of initiation. What seems probable is, that the Egyptian Priests possessed themselves of the idea of those ancient and venerated mysteries in order to form of them a rational system, from which they have derived all those benefits which have made them celebrated; for we do not find that before their time initiation had led to results so vast and so happy.

Egypt, the cradle of the arts and sciences, was likewise that of philosophy, of that science, inspired into man, which led him from natural effects to a knowledge of the first principle, of that knowledge which came from heaven for the happiness of the world, which mankind would have degraded and corrupted, and which, in spite of falsehood and ignorance, will preserve for ever among men the purity of their origin in order to console virtue and confound imposture.

The Mercuries, those beings allegorical or real, for we only know of them by their names, and the benefits they conferred, established in that happy country the central point of all those sciences, the possession of which ennobles man, by directing him in his weakness towards that state of perfection to which, by every dictate of nature, he aspires. It was from this concentration of light that burst forth in all parts of the world those brilliant, but passing rays, by means of which the sage distinguished the truth through the darkness and dazzling illusions with which falsehood and error unceasingly surround it. Hardly had men felt the importance of truth than they applied themselves to the study of those sciences which lead to a knowledge of it, and though it will be always accompanied by certain tokens, which easily determine its character, deceit will not be slow to assume its name, or to grace ignorance with it, and so impose upon the credulous, by spreading error under the name of truth. It was this strange travesty which caused so many disorders, divided so many societies, disturbed the harmony of mankind, and menaced its moral equilibrium. Truth, in fact, is an absolute need for man. The necessity for cultivating it, and preserving it from the fatal attacks of error, has been recognised from the moment when nations, united in grand sodalities, had need of the aid of morality, and of the repressive influence of laws so as to procure internal order, and thus establish the happiness of society.

The institution of the Egyptian Priests appears to have been merely a confederation of wise men, united for the several purposes of studying the art of governing men, and of centralising the dominion of truth, regulating its growth, and preventing its too dangerous dispersion. In order to attain this end, it was necessary to search, prove, and dispose the hearts of men; above all, it was necessary to oppose an impenetrable veil to curiosity, to menace indiscretion, and to trace around each of those confederated together the circle within which he must confine himself. To this end it was necessary to instruct, and arouse the springs of the imagination, and even to call in the aid of spells and illusions, in order to persuade and dispose, for experience proves beyond question that men must first traverse the circle of error before they can arrive within that of truth.

Such was the system of the association of the Priests of ancient Egypt. It was composed, particularly, of certain wise men, known in old times by the profundity of their knowledge, and by them it was directed towards the attainment of that one purpose which its founders had proposed to themselves. Initiation was the rock against which either indiscretion or mediocrity dashed itself. Proofs, combined together with skill and a discernment far from ordinary, kept away all those who were unfit to take part in the general working of the confederation, and often men who had no other recommendation than that of their rank, of fortune, or of qualities wholly superficial, received at their initiation nothing more than the knowledge of vague and indeterminate ideas. This adoption, which was simply honorary, was often nothing more than a link which, by attaching such men to the confederation, held captive all evil purposes, repressed vice, and converted into a useless member one whose enmity might possibly be dangerous. It is to this wise policy, this scrupulous care, that the Egyptian priests owed the progress of their Order, as well as the respect which accompanied it and determined its high destinies.

The Order comprised three classes, in each of which the members had their several duties well defined, and always in accordance with their natural tastes and the means at their disposal. The first class comprised the prophets or judges, the astronomers and the geometricians. The Hierogramists or Sacred Scribes formed the second class. They determined, by means of their hieroglyphic characters, all ideas moral, religious, and political, and preserved the central storehouse of historical facts. In the third class were comprised the Comastæ, who presided at the sacred banquets, the Zacori, the Neocori, and the Pastifori, who had charge of the temples and the decoration of the altars. The singers, the sealers or stampers, the medicine men, the embalmers and interpreters also belonged to this class.

Each class was presided over and directed by a number of ancients or *élites*, who were joined together and formed a supreme council. This assembled secretly. Its existence was unknown to the other members, and it issued decisions or oracles, the execution of which was as scrupulously observed as though they had emanated from God. It is to these extraordinary means that we must attribute that unity which impelled the three classes of the Order to move ever in one uniform direction. Above all, it is to the secret and invisible operations of the supreme council of ancients or *élites* that we must attribute the uniformity of movement and tendency on the parts of this body, the composition of which extended to all parts of the universe. Whenever it had cognizance of some man, whose wisdom, talents, or merits had acquired claims on the respect or esteem of nations, the order of the Egyptian priesthood sought every possible means for initiating him into their ranks. By this wise policy it was that it attracted to itself all men of talent, of virtue; in a word, of every quality that excites the interest of mankind. Thus it was it influenced all these, and moulded their services, so as to be governed by its system, its views and disposition. It is owing, then, to this concentration of all the sciences and of all means, that the order of Egyptian Priests is indebted for the distinguished honour in which it was held, and antiquity, and for all these wonders, the memory of which, though weakened by the prejudices of our customs, still excites our curiosity, and provokes the admiration of *savants*.

The Egyptian priests were looked upon by all the nations of the East as extraordinary, raised infinitely above all others. They were so in fact, for they held rank next after kings. If wealth, immunities, and the highest privileges were accorded them, it was because, being the sole depositories of the mysteries of religion, and of every science, respect and esteem followed them everywhere. It was because the prince himself, obliged to be initiated before ascending the throne, of which they had constituted themselves the promoters and support, obtained only among them the knowledge requisite to govern his kingdom, remained attached to them for the sake of his own interests, and often delegated to them a part of his authority, in certain cases, when such delegation amounted to an absolute duty. But all these honours and distinctions, far from weakening the ties which bound the prince to his people, served only to strengthen them by that influence, which the priests were called upon to exercise, on the one hand, over the power of the sovereign, and on the other, over the obedience of his people.

It was no easy matter to be initiated into the mysteries

of the priesthood proper. It was necessary to possess eminent qualities; in a word, to offer as a guarantee of fidelity, and of the fulfilment of those duties which the Order expected from every candidate, actual abilities, the certainty of which was scrupulously inquired into, and approved by every refinement of skill and policy, before initiation. Thus, among the Egyptians, the character of an initiate into the mysteries of the holy priesthood acquired so great a reputation, that princes, heroes, and philosophers, considered they had only reached the extreme limit of their glory when they had obtained the honour of this rare distinction.

The knowledge of the Egyptian Priests was immense. We know them to have been the fathers of astronomy and geometry. The study of nature was familiar to them in a climate in which everything invited them to curious and learned researches, and in a country where nature hid nothing but what as secrets could be investigated in a manner equally facile and curious. This is why Egypt was, at one time, the resort of all men of eminence. Four colleges, established herein, and governed by the priests or initiates, offered to all strangers the means of acquiring knowledge or satisfying their curiosity. It was in that of Thebes that Pythagoras acquired his science of numbers. Thales and Democritus went to study at that of Memphis, and Orpheus is said to have found there all the material requisite for his mythology. Plato and Endoxus tarried for some time in that of Heliopolis, and perfected themselves, the one in morality, the other in the science of mathematics. Lastly, Lycurgus and Solon, who found in that of Saïs all the secrets of legislation, afterwards astounded the whole world by their profound political wisdom.

The Egyptian priests must not be confounded with those sacred despots who, making a wicked use of their pretended intimacy with the gods sought, by imposture and cruelty, to lay the foundations of a sacrilegious authority. Priests and philosophers at one and the same time, the wise men of ancient Egypt governed nations, not by violence and oppression, but by means of a gentle persuasion, the secrets of which they had obtained in a profound study of men's nature, and by a policy at once luminous and complete. It was with all these advantages on their side that they combined, for the maintenance of law and the supreme authority, with two other powers, those of the princes and castes. This form of government, so foreign to our customs and habits, cannot be appreciated by people little accustomed to the genius of antiquity. It can only be fathomed by those who, in studying history, pay less regard to the sequence of events than to the moral and political causes which have induced their occurrence.

(To be continued.)

REPORT TO GRAND CHAPTER OF PRINCE MASONS, IRELAND.

BY HON. JUDGE TOWNSHEND, SOVEREIGN OF THE ORDER, 2ND APRIL 1875.

THE salient features of this Report cannot fail to excite the interest of our readers, and especially of our Brethren in Ireland. Naturally enough the first point to which the President of Grand Chapter refers is the death of his immediate predecessor, the late Duke of Leinster, whose presidency over the Chapter had endured so long, and been attended with results so beneficial. Nor is the memory of one other prominent officer passed over in silence. The late General Dunne, who had long held the office of Grand Standard Bearer, and conjoined with it that of Grand Deacon, is spoken of in fitting terms of eulogy, as having earned the respect of every class in the community by the faithful discharge of his military and civil duties, and especially of the Craft for whom he had ever laboured so cheerfully and so assiduously. Passing thence to the main objects of his address, and having regard to the reports which he had delivered in his previous capacity of Vice-President, Judge Townshend notes with satisfaction that in point of numbers the Order has doubled itself in the course of the last twenty years, the average rate of increase having been ten per annum. In 1854 there were 144 subscribing members, and now there are 290. Of these 197 members belong to the Dublin Chapters, and the remaining 93 to Provincial Chapters, the greatness of the difference being accounted for by the fact that of the thirteen Rose

Croix Chapters in Ireland, no less than eight are in Dublin. As regards this increase, however, Judge Townshend utters a note of warning, which may be heeded equally by other sections of Masonry. He remarks, "the increase of this Order may be either a subject of congratulation or very much the contrary. It is true of it, as of the human frame, —the cessation of its growth may be taken to indicate the first beginning of its decay, yet it may grow too fast, or grow too large, to be in a perfectly healthy condition." Mere numbers, in fact, though oftentimes a subject of congratulation, as indicative of strength, are not necessarily so. Judge Townshend considers it but just that the Rose Croix Chapters should not be precluded from extension while the general body of Masonry is increasing in numbers; but he is very properly anxious that this extension should be regulated judiciously, so that the high character of the Order may experience no detriment. As to the number of Chapters there were seven in 1854, and there now thirteen, but no new warrant has been applied for since 1872. Here again, Judge Townshend, quoting a statement of his in a former address to Convocation, cautions Grand Chapter against too great facility in granting new warrants. "I should have you," says he, "grant new warrants with a very cautious hand, having regard to a great many circumstances which would not be taken into account if you were to grant them merely to gratify a few individuals, however estimable in character or anxious for the extension of the Order. We must not either withhold promotion from men who deserve it, nor make promotion too cheap, too easily had, too common to be thought very well worth having. I have stated this much for your consideration, knowing, as I do, that I incur the risk of displeasing many who may hear me, because it is my duty to point out a danger, and it will be yours to avert it, if you can, by good sense, discretion and circumspection." These are words of wisdom, on which it behoves every branch of Masonry to reflect. It is far more important that our brethren should be good representative members, who will spread the fame of our Order, and make it respected in the outer world than that we should aim at securing mere numerical strength. The next point to which the President reverts is the possibility, that as Grand Chapter has now become a numerous body, and is generally well attended, an attempt may be made to entrust a portion of its business to a committee. To this he thinks there is no valid objection, but he expresses a hope that the important trust of passing candidates will never be thus delegated. Once already, he notes, such an experiment had been tried, and proved a signal failure, Grand Chapter having very speedily taken back this most important duty under its own immediate superintendence. For though, as Judge Townshend argues, Grand Chapter may not be infallible, yet there is greater likelihood that, by its strict examination into the character and fitness of all candidates, the purity of the Order will be maintained than if these inquiries were entrusted to a committee, or left to subordinate Chapters. The latter are represented in Grand Chapter, and hitherto the system has worked admirably. Thus it is from no distrust of Subordinate Chapters that the President favours the retention of the present system, but evidently the maxim, "Leave well alone," has a strong influence upon the mind of our distinguished brother, and very properly so say we.

As to the relations presently existing among the several Chapters, these, we are told, are perfectly harmonious, there having been no complaint whatever raised by any single member of any one of them. What interchange of communication with Chapters of the Order in other countries there has been, has been of the friendliest character. Financially, too, the Order is in excellent plight. There now stand to the credit of Grand Chapter over £200 of Government Stock. The year 1875 opened with a cash balance in hand of £98 17s, while of a further sum of £76 15s then due to it, over £25 have been since paid to its account. Of the stock, £100 was invested last year, while as to the cash balance, it is considerably more than double what it was in the year 1872. Grand Treasurer, Bro. Charles T. Walmisley, who has resigned the office of Assistant Secretary General, but still retains his Treasuryship, announces also that all claims made upon Grand Chapter have been satisfied, that there are none outstanding, or if they are, they are of very trifling amount, and have not been settled only because they have not been presented for payment. In other words, there is no debt impending over the Order.

Bro. Townshend next points out that a Revised Code of rules for the governance of the Order has been under consideration for some time past, but that it is not yet finally arranged. A few insignificant alterations in the existing code will be introduced, but "those relating to the 15th, 16th, and 17th Degrees of the 'Ancient and Accepted Rite'" will be of greater importance, involving, as they will, fresh arrangements, by means of which "Chapters will be enabled to qualify candidates for future elevation to our own ranks." Any opinion upon the propriety of the new regulations had better perhaps be reserved till the Code is actually promulgated. We shall then be in a position to judge of the nature of these changes as well as of their probable influence over the future of the Order.

With the remarks on Masonic ceremonials, and the necessity there is for studying them thoroughly, we concur most fully. Too many of us are content to observe them outwardly, but are careless about penetrating the beauties they are intended to symbolise. A thorough Mason is one who can read and convey to others, if necessary, the hidden meaning of our symbols. Brother Townshend further notes that the compact of 1836, "by which the several governing bodies of the Masonic Order had agreed to recognise and act upon each other's orders of suspension or expulsion" no longer exists, and a brother suspended or expelled by the Rose Croix Grand Chapter may yet "enjoy all the privileges of fraternity in a Master's Lodge." On the wisdom of this step Bro. Townshend offers no opinion. With regard to that portion of his concluding remarks, in which the President almost apologises for holding that distinguished position, we may at least remark, that if the present address were the only evidence before the world of Bro. Townshend's fitness for so high a position, we should still esteem it a piece of good fortune in the Rose Croix Grand Chapter that it is presided over by so able and so earnest a ruler. Judge Townsend not only has a sense of his important duties, but he fulfils them admirably, and none, we think, who read this address of his will come to any other conclusion.

FATALISM.

A FRAGMENT FROM THE ISLE OF MINDORO.

A PERI in a Nautilus-shell floats o'er a placid sea,
Gently wafted along by the swell of zephyr minstrelsy;
In her fragile couch, at ease reclined, the broad expanse she views,
Where ripples flow and sunbeams glow in pearl and opal hues.

To the balmy wind that wafts behind two tender sails are spread,
Above the nude and polished hood, which arches o'er her head,
Whilst tiny feelers trail beneath to warn that none intrude,
Ready to shrink to parent sheath before encounter rude.

The sunbeams gleam in a sparkling dream, the ocean lightly heaves,
Or wavelet breaks upon foamy flakes that drifting seaweed leaves;
The boat is borne in Orient morn, 'mid islets in verdure spread,
Where seabird-flocks on the coral rocks and the face of the cliffs are bred.

But when noon is past and the evening blast troubles an angry sky,
When a haze is shed o'er the sunset red, and clouds come drifting by,
Ere the chills of eve come shuddering up, she folds each silken sail,
The Nautilus closing its open cap, contracts its feelers frail,

And sinks down deep to the ocean-bed where no tidal current flows;
There in the dome of her pearly home the Peri enjoys repose,
And anchored safe in nether groves or in white basaltic cave,
The winds howl o'er their booty fled and the upper surges rave.

'Tis thus the Peri's journeys are, so fair and bright and free,
'Mid heav'nly scenes and sounds upon the bosom of the sea:
Never a fear of danger there, nor care for future day,
But lapt in sweet serenity she floats and dreams away.

O Man! Allah Akbâr has aye a Providence for thee.
Life, Light and Love on thee bestowed transcend all ills that be.
Enjoy the calm, sleep through the storm, nor dream of aught but bliss!
The sun is bright, thy blood is warm, what would'st thou more than this?

Or if the hurricane should burst and Nature roar in pain,
'Tis Allah's will that on thee soon the sun shall shine again:
The morrow brings its own resource, and Time is ever new,
Life, Light and Love are all of course, then trust in Allah too.

WALTER SPENCER.

BURDETT COUTTS' LODGE, No. 1278.

PRESENTATION OF CHAIRS,
BY THE BARONESS BURDETT COUTTS.

ON Thursday afternoon the members of the Burdett Coutts Lodge, with a large attendance of ladies, met at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, for the purpose of having presented to the Lodge, by the Baroness Burdett Coutts, three splendid carved oak chairs, to be used by the W.M. and Wardens of the Lodge which bears her ladyship's name. The time fixed for the interesting proceedings was five o'clock, and punctually to that hour the Baroness—who was accompanied by Mrs. Brown, the Countess Beauchamp, Lady Augusta Paulett, Lady Charles Wellesley, Miss Wellesley, Mr. and Mrs. Otway, the Hon. H. Ryder, Mr. J. K. Aston, Professor Tennant, Mr. W. H. Wills, and Mr. G. C. Silk—arrived at the Hall. The room at Freemasons' Hall selected for the presentation of the three chairs was the Zetland Room, wherein hangs the beautiful painting of Sir Christopher Wren, and this room was laid out for the occasion with the greatest care by Mr. C. B. Payne, the Grand Tyler of England. The three gift chairs were in their places, and were splendid specimens of carving. They were formed of the best English oak, surmounted each by a silver plate, with an inscription denoting the giver and the date of presentation, beneath which were the Baroness's arms, and the particular Masonic emblems signifying the place of the chairs in the Lodge.

So soon as the distinguished visitors had taken their places, Bro. Jas. Terry, who was the first W.M. of the Burdett Coutts Lodge, and who presided on the present interesting occasion, briefly announced the business they were assembled upon, and the programme was commenced by the singing of the hymn, "Bear ye one another's burdens." The Baroness then formally presented the chairs to the Lodge, saying she trusted they would be occupied by brethren as distinguished in Freemasonry as those who had gone before them. She noticed, with satisfaction, on the Master's pedestal, the volume of the sacred law which she had presented to the Lodge six years ago. Bro. Jas. Terry, in the name of the Lodge, accepted the gift of the chairs at her hands, and reiterated her wish that they might be filled by brethren who would be an ornament to the Order. Then taking possession of the Worshipful Master's chair himself, he called on the Senior and Junior Wardens, Bros. Crutch and Toye, to be seated in the other two. This done, the Secretary, Bro. G. W. Verry, read the following address of thanks:—

TO THE BARONESS BURDETT-COUTTS.

MADAM,—The Worshipful Master, Wardens, and Brethren of the Burdett Coutts Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons desire to express their thanks for the interest which your Ladyship takes in the Lodge, and the patronage which you have extended to it.

We thoroughly appreciate your goodness in having conferred upon us a splendid and costly copy of "The Law of the Lord," which is "light to our feet, and a lantern to our way."

We also gratefully acknowledge your more recent benefaction of three beautiful Chairs, for the official use of the principal officers of the Lodge.

To your Ladyship acts of benevolence are customary and constant, and we trust that you will never have cause for regret for this new direction which you have given them.

It affords this worshipful Lodge the highest satisfaction to find that a lady of your rank and intelligence is able to set aside the prejudices which so many entertain towards a Society the most powerful and benevolent, as well as the most honorable and ancient, in the world.

We desire to express the hope that the example that your Ladyship has set in this respect will be followed by other good and kind ladies, as it has in so many other particulars been happily imitated. As the Bible always remains open in a Freemason's Lodge, we shall be reminded of you by the most sacred associations; and as our officers fill those Chairs, and ensure law and order, we shall naturally remember how much you have done to harmonise all classes of the people with lawfully constituted authority, and in peaceful social fellowship.

We sincerely pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may build up for you great happiness here and hereafter, and that He who is "Light," may illumine your path, and conduct you to the World where the Sun of His Glory never sets.

Signed on behalf of the Lodge, this 29th day of July 1875.

The Deacons of the Lodge, Bros. Lloyd and Crouch, then handed the address to the Baroness. It was handsomely engrossed, and was enclosed in an album case. The presentation was most graciously received, and her ladyship made the following reply:—

Worshipful Master, Wardens and Brethren,—In tendering you my sincere and hearty thanks for the address you have just read, I must avail myself of the opportunity offered to express the grateful

pleasure I feel, as the daughter of a Mason, that in the Lodge which you wished should bear my name, there will remain embodied the memory of my loyal, true-hearted, single-minded father, so long the representative of the liberties of the City of Westminster. In receiving the Bible for the table of your Lodge, and in the chairs which I now present for the use of the Officers, you have also conferred a favour upon me, though, like skilled Craftsmen in the art of kindness, you have made the recipient appear the donor, and the courtesy and hospitality you extend to me and my friends to-day is one more of the many illustrations of that law of kindness which rules your beneficent and ancient Society. I earnestly reciprocate your wishes for myself, and that we may all rest in Him who is "Shadow as well as Light," for the Lord God is a Sun and Shield: The Lord will give grace and glory, and no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.

It was then moved, seconded, and unanimously carried, that the reply should be recorded on the minutes of the Lodge, and after the hymn, "O Lord how joyful 'tis to see," the ceremony of presentation was concluded, and the whole party adjourned to an elegant déjeuner, at which the Baroness's health was proposed in glowing terms by Bro. Terry, and drunk with great heartiness. Shortly after, the Baroness and her friends left, under the conduct of the Chairman and Stewards. On their return, Bro. Terry stated that he had been commissioned to say, on behalf of Lady Burdett Coutts, that she had never spent a more pleasant evening, and that her ladyship had invited the members of the Lodge and their ladies to her garden party at Holly Lodge next Monday, and that he and the worthy Secretary, Bro. G. W. Verry, would be pleased to receive the names of those brethren who might desire to accept this kind and gracious invitation. The remainder of the evening was spent in a most enjoyable manner, and the company separated greatly pleased with the day's proceedings.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF
HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire was held at the Town Hall, St. Albans, on Wednesday last, under the Banner of the Halsey Lodge, No. 1479.

T. F. Halsey, Esq., M.P., Provincial Grand Master, presided, and there were present the following Provincial Grand Officers, W. Bros. H. C. Finch P.G. Registrar, W. Wilson P.G.J.W., F. H. Wilson Iles P.G. Sec., A. J. Copeland P.G. Treas., The Rev. Lewis Deedes P.G. Chap., T. S. Carter P.G.S.D., E. Lacey P.G.J.D., W. Outbush P.G. Supt. Works, J. P. Cocks P.P.G.J.W., S. Austin P.P.G.S.B., J. Terry P.G.D.C., M. Heywood P.G. Org., W. H. Rowe P.P.G. Supt. Works, R. A. Wright P.P.G.S.D., and many other brethren.

The Minutes of the last Provincial Grand Lodge were read and confirmed.

The Report of the Committee as to the Bye Laws was read, and the Bye Laws were carefully considered and adopted.

The following brethren were appointed Prov. Grand Officers for the year ensuing:—

Bros. J. Sedgwick P.M. 404 D.P.G.M. (reappointed).
J. Lowthin P.M. 1385 and 1479 P.G.S.W.
J. Copestick W.M. 869 P.G.J.W.
H. C. Finch P.M. 404 P.G. Reg. (reappointed).
F. H. Wilson Iles P.M. 404 P.G. Sec. (reappointed).
The Revs. Burchell Herne P.M. 404 } P.G. Chaplains.
and C. C. Mayo 869
E. Palin W.M. 404 P.G.S.D.
J. W. J. Gifford W.M. 409 P.G.J.D.
Hayward Edwards W.M. 1385 P.G. Supt. Works.
J. Terry P.M. P.G.D.C. (reappointed).
Young 1327 P.G.A.D.C.
J. G. Yolland 1385 P.G.S.B.
Laxton W.M. 504 P.G. Pur.

A. Godson S.W. 1479, I. N. Edwards J.W. 1479, Blenkinsop S.W. 404, Foster 504, Sheldon 1327 and Gilbert 1327 P.G. Stewards, Thomas 404, T. Wright 403 P.G. Tylers (reappointed).

£20 was voted to the Boys' School, £10 to the Restoration of St. Albans Abbey, £5 each to Bros. Wilson Iles P.G. Sec. and T. S. Carter W.M. 403 to purchase the Steward's Jewel, in commemoration of the Grand Master's Installation, they having served the Office of Steward for the Province, and £5 5s to purchase a jewel for Bro. W. Wilson P.M. 504 for his services for several years as P.G.D.C.

INAUGURATION OF THE MAURITIUS LODGE
OF HARMONY.

THE inauguration of this new Lodge, No. 1535, under the constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, took place in the Temple of the Loge La Triple Espérance, when the installation of Bro. Col. O'Brien and subsequent investiture of Officers was held. In the unavoidable absence of the Sen. P.M. in the Colony, the W. Bro. Geo. Levison I.P.M. Lodge of Friendship and the W. Bro. J. Melville Mason presented the W.M. to the Lodge, who received the honour of installation at the hands of Bro. Bewsher W.M. of the British Lodge.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

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SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN A FREEMASON?

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have read Bro. Yarker's remarks, at page 53, containing the quotation from Aubrey's Natural History of Wiltshire, to the effect that, on the 18th May 1691, Sir C. Wren "is to be adopted;" but it so happens that "is to be" and *was* are not quite the same, for, as "there is many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip," it is possible he never was "adopted" at all. Of course we are told, in Preston's Illustrations, that Wren was a great Freemason, and got on to be a Grand Warden, in 1663, and a Deputy Grand Master in 1666, but as these two dates occur a considerable time prior to the morning of 18th May 1691, when even his adoption was still in the womb of futurity, it must be acknowledged that there do exist some little difficulties in the matter! It so happens also that there were no such Masonic "Grands," as above spoken of, before A.D. 1717.

As to the words "higher class," in any published work of date A.D. 1722, referring to "the degree of Royal Arch," that appears to me to be a wonderful stretch of imagination—about as good as Wren's 1663 Grand Wardenship.

As to Bro. Yarker's "pre-1717 inventions," it will be time enough for him to speak of them, as existing about 1717, after he has proved that the three first degrees of Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master existed before 1717. As yet, neither he nor any other person has ever done so.

No Masonic "Grand Lodge" existed before 1717, and no body of Masons whatever existed before 1717 who practised the ceremonies and promulgated the principles of our 1723 Speculative Freemasonry.

Yours fraternally,

W. P. BUCHAN.

OUR FREEMASONRY.—THE MARK DEGREE.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In the *Manchester Courier* of the 22nd July there is a history of the Mark Degree, asserting that it is of such antiquity that its origin "is lost in the mists of antiquity." I cannot believe that the writer of the article would willingly state what is false, but I wish to call attention to it, because brethren should be careful what statements they make to intending members. Masonry becomes a most abominable evil when its organisation is made use of to circulate all kinds of crude and untrustworthy statements; and I have of late years frequently seen even untruthful calumnies, detrimental to the standing of persons whom I know to be good and trustworthy Masons; but I do not wish to pursue this phase of Masonry,—the product of its over popularity.

The writer upon Mark Masonry to whom I have alluded says, rightly enough, that—"In A.D. 1593 William Schaw, Master of Works, to King James VI., ordered the Marks of all Masons to be inserted in their work. In the 17th Century the Kilwinning Lodge made members choose their Marks, and charged them 4s each for the same. In 1778 the Banff Operative Lodge resolved: That in all time coming all Members that shall hereafter rise to the degree of Mark Master Mason shall pay one Mark Scot; but not to obtain the degree of Mark Master before they are passed Fellow Craft; and those that shall take the degree of Mark Master Mason shall pay 1s 6d sterling for behoof of the Lodge. None to attain the degree of Mark Master Mason until they are raised Master. In 1865, the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland reported, through a committee: In this country, from time immemorial, and long before the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland (in 1736), what is now known as the Mark Master's degree was wrought by the operative Lodges of St. John's Masonry." Then the writer attempts to claim an ancient standing for the degree in England, and asserts that it was practised before 1813.

When the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland passed this Committee report, they must have had an eye upon the siller; the report is quite untrustworthy and unfounded. Everything can be proved; if I am wrong in my statements let it be proved. But I make the statement, without fear of proof in contradiction, that neither the degree of Mark Mason or that of Mark Master was in being any length of time before the Minute of 1778 at Banff. In Scotland, every Apprentice Mason was a Mark Mason, whilst the Mark Master, or the brother who had power to select and register the Mark, was probably the Secretary of the Entered-Apprentice Lodge. This is so apparent that I am astounded that any Mark Master can so far allow his imagination to run away with his wits as to make these assertions of antiquity; for neither Mark Mason nor Mark Master had any ancient ceremony. The Marks themselves were often handed down from father to son, they were made of all forms suitable for the chisel, Masonic symbols, and even in early times Runic and other alphabetical characters; the system was continued as a necessary part of the trade from ancient times. It may have been, and probably was made a portion of the speculative lodge system of registration in 1593, by the order of Wm. Schaw, for it is noteworthy that there is not a single line of any kind to be found in old English manuscripts or minutes to indicate that this system of Mark registration existed in South Britain in the Speculative Lodges of the Operatives. In the North, therefore, the Mark degrees, as such, became a

necessity when the English ceremonies were introduced. There is no doubt that a Mark degree existed in England before 1813, that it was propagated by Finch, and that Grand Lodge at that time pronounced it an imposture. The rituals were very various, some only consisted of passages of Scripture, some had no legend, others only asserted that Marks were used at Solomon's Temple (no doubt of it, they were used everywhere, by every operative in his own pecuniary interests, like seals and written signatures), whilst a third ceremony was given along with a Red Cross degree of the building of the second Temple. The present ceremony is a modern Scottish invention—a fact of which I am quite certain, as I myself introduced it for Bros. Collins and Ridgway into Lancashire and Cheshire, and even since then it has been greatly improved. The latter brother has my time immemorial certificate, which I should be glad if he would return.

Mark Masonry, properly represented, may be made very useful, but it will not be by their present policy, or by an alliance with such Orders as the Trinitarian bodies, Templars, Sovereign Princes, Imperial Knights of Constantine, and such like. "Let every tub stand upon its own bottom."

Truly and fraternally yours,

JOHN YARKER P.M. Mark.

Manchester, 23rd July 1875.

P.S.—I think it desirable to remind your readers that the old English Excellent, Super-Excellent Degrees, were the "Veils," and have not a moiety of resemblance to the recently imported American nonsense, the illegitimate offspring of certain degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. Next week, if you will allow me, I will return to the Old System of High-grade Masonry.

THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have read Bro. Binckes' letter in your last issue, and also your remarks upon the same, and I am constrained to express my unbounded astonishment at the tone Bro. B. assumes, as well as the offensive manner in which he refers both to yourself, Mr. Editor, and the Head Master of the Boys' School.

I can speak very positively, in the name of a large section of the Masonic community,—There are many errors of management at Wood Green, and it behoves the Committee to rectify them as speedily as possible. One thing is certain, no Head Masters will permit Secretaries to assume their functions.

Yours fraternally,

A LIFE GOVERNOR.

P.S.—I have been a school manager for thirty years, and, as such, may trouble you again.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have read, with great interest, your two powerful articles on the Boys' School, and also the letter from the retiring masters, and while I cannot but deplore the existence of such a state of things, I do hope the brethren will take up the matter in a Masonic spirit—"of fair play." It is a simple thing to get at what specific charge is brought against Rev. Bro. Perrott. Most Masons go by a great fact; thus, before Bro. Perrott undertook the Head Mastership of the Schools, the boys were a long way behind others at the examination, whereas since Bro. Perrott commenced, they have passed up nearly to the top of the list, and with credit to their master and themselves. This speaks volumes, more than all this letter writing, &c. Many Masons now think, from the tenor of Brother Binckes' letter in your last, that it is simply a question, or rather quarrel, between Bro. Perrott and Bro. Binckes. If this is so, the Committee are to blame, as if each had maintained his own position all the discord would not have risen. Let Bro. Binckes be Secretary and Bro. Perrott Head Master; Masons desire the education of the boys sent to the schools by them, not personal matters, which myself and others think is at the bottom of all this. Bro. Perrott offered and challenged an investigation as to his conduct—will Bro. Binckes do the same?

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

ONE INTERESTED IN THE SCHOOLS.

The first Masonic Lodge of Jerusalem is a beautiful illustration of the cosmopolitan nature of the principles of Brotherly love in practical operation. The Master of that Lodge, who is now lecturing in this country, says: "The Master is an American, the Past Master an Englishman, the Senior Warden a German, the Junior Warden a native, the Treasurer a Turk, the Secretary a Frenchman, the Senior Deacon a Persian, and the Junior Deacon a Turk. There are Christians, Mohammedans and Jews in the Lodge."—*Pomeroy's Democrat*.

"It is not the chief end of Masonry to make Masons, notwithstanding a laudable desire to recognize among our numbers good and true men wherever they may be, and yet we find the feeling prevails with a great many that when there is no work there is no necessity of attendance of their part. No greater mistake than this could be made, as upon the attendance of the membership, and the interest engendered thereby, depends the very existence of the Chapters."—*Grand Chapter of Maryland*.

The Grand Orient of Portugal has forty-eight Lodges affiliated with it, some of which are located in Portugal and others in Spain.

REVIEWS.

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

THE QUARTERLIES.

THERE are two or three articles in the *Quarterly* which we think our readers will peruse with more than the ordinary amount of pleasure. The subject of Ballooning, for instance, is one which invariably exerts a most fascinating influence. A balloon ascent at one of our places of public entertainments is pretty sure to draw more than the average number of attendants. And if so, it is not surprising that a carefully prepared essay on "Balloons and Voyages in the air?" should be likely to prove popular with the readers of the *Quarterly*. The writer traces Ballooning from the very earliest efforts of the two Montgolfiers and M. Charles, down to the more elaborate experiments of our own Mr. Coxwell and the attempts to utilise balloons during the Franco-German war. Having done this, he then notes the special difficulties against which aeronauts have hitherto in vain contended in guiding the aerial machine. They can rise or fall at will, but they cannot guide it at will, and till this difficulty is solved voyaging in the air will be attended with extreme peril. All the most important experiments in directing balloons are mentioned, particular stress being laid on those of M. Giffard and the more familiar M. Dupuy de Lôme. This article is followed by one on "The 'Theatre Français.'" This too, chiefly, is historical, the writer taking us back to the reign of Louis le Grand, when there existed at Paris several theatrical companies, ultimately, in 1680, amalgamated into one body under the name of "Comédiens du Roi." Thence up to the present period the progress of the French Drama is skilfully traced to all the most eminent writers, such as Lorneille, Racine, Beaumarchais, Molière, and actors such as Floridor, Madame Champmezelé, Baron, Leconvreur, Le Kain, Mdle. Clairon, Mdle. Mars, Mdle. Rachel, and others being introduced, and their influence and style discussed at considerable length and with great judgment. That the English theatrical world will derive both pleasure and instruction from this paper seems unquestionable. The visits to London recently of certain members of the Comédie Française, have created no small amount of enthusiasm for the "French plays," and the French actors who have come over, and performed to densely crowded houses, cannot but feel flattered at the reception they have experienced from their English audiences. Next comes a capital essay on "Falconry in the British Isles." There is still, we believe, attached to the Court an Hereditary Grand Falconer—our respected Bro. the Duke of St. Albans, Prov. G.M. for Lincolnshire, but Falconry, as a sport, has almost, if not entirely, died out. Yet it was held in high esteem among princes and nobles in the olden time, and a few there are who practise it even now in certain localities, with a considerable amount of success. "The Memoirs of Count de Ségur," which tell us more about Napoleon than we have known hitherto, give us also an insight into his character, which, numerous as are our histories of the First Emperor, cannot, from the close intimacy with him of the Count, be otherwise than admirable. This, also, we commend to the notice of our readers, as a paper in every way worthy of their attention. In fact, the whole number is excellent, but the articles we have named possess a more general interest.

In the *Edinburgh* we have noted specially the paper headed "On the Physiological Influence of Alcohol." The bases of this essay are by such well known authorities as Dr. Richardson, Dr. Thudicum, Dr. August Dupré, and Dr. Anstie. The baneful influence of alcohol, when imbibed in excessive quantities, on the human system is pointed out, and especially on the brain and softer tissues of the body. In the course of this interesting article we noted several important facts, and one or two singular illustrations mentioned by Dr. Anstie of the influence of alcohol for good. One is the case of an old soldier "who had lived for twenty years upon a diet composed of a bottle of unsweetened gin, and 'one small finger-length of toasted bread' per day, and who maintained the structures of his body for this long period upon that very remarkable liquid." The other is that of a young man eighteen years of age, so reduced by an attack of acute rheumatism that he could retain no food of any kind upon his stomach. "He was consequently maintained for several days upon an allowance of twelve ounces of water and twelve ounces of gin per day. His recovery under this treatment was very rapid and complete, and almost without any trace of the emaciation and wasting that ordinarily follows upon such a disease." The "life and works of Thorvaldsen" form the subject of the first article in the number, and this, again, is sure to prove attractive to the general bulk of our readers, who are familiar enough, no doubt, with the name of the great Danish sculptor, even though they may have had no opportunity of studying any of his *chef d'œuvres*. Another highly valuable contribution is a notice of certain works by "Sir H. S. Maine on Early Institutions," in which the Irish are shown to be clearly allied to the Aryans, and many points of similarity between Irish and Aryan customs are noted. After quoting Sir H. Maine's description of an Irish "Sept" from the Brehon Tracts, the writer remarks, "The primary conception of the 'Sept,' therefore, was that of a group connected by blood, and of a primitive Aryan type; but gradually acquiring the proprietary rights which seem to be the first signs of progress, though they were still overshadowed and controlled by ideas of more ancient modes of ownership once dominant among Aryan races. As in the case, however, of the 'Gens' and the 'House,' other elements besides the related kinsmen had entered, as we have seen, the 'Sept;' and it contained classes, which, though regarded as component parts of the collective 'Family,' were, nevertheless, in various degrees of dependence. Celtic Ireland certainly abounded in slaves; and in the lauded arrangements of the 'Sept' we find orders of free and servile clansmen, known in the Brehon Tracts by the curious names of 'Ceile,' 'Saer-stock,' 'Daer-stock,' and 'Fuidhir' tenants, and evidently analogous in some respects to the freemen and villeins of the feudal

manor. In addition, the power of the chief of the 'Sept' had a constant tendency to extend itself, and to supplant every other kind of authority; we see the chief absolute in his own domain, encroaching on the common lands of the 'Sept,' and increasing the number of 'Fuidhir' vassals; and here, again, we perceive an approach to the peculiarities of the feudal system. It is evident, therefore, that the 'Sept' bore marks, in some of its features, to what we can only call the growth and progress of Feudalisation, and these small units of Celtic society at once disclosed what is most archaic in the venerable forms of Aryan life, and the effects of comparatively modern changes." A notice of Mr. Carlyle's "Early Kings of Norway," which originally appeared in *Fraser*, and the closing article on the relations between "England and Russia in the East," based on certain papers by that eminent geographer, Sir Henry Rawlinson, together with an educational paper, entitled "Education of the children of the State," are also to be commended.

The *St. James's Holiday Annual* for 1875 includes a number of highly interesting contributions, the majority of which will enable the reader to spend a leisure hour or two very agreeably. Not the least attractive of these is the Editor's paper on "North Polar Exploration." The subject has been handled in many periodicals, but in none more successfully than in this number of the *St. James's*. Moreover, Mr. Mayer has done his best to give an air of novelty to a theme which has already passed through at least a score of variations, by dwelling more in detail on some of the more recent expeditions, and notably on that of the *Polaris*. There is, perhaps, but little to say that is new about "The Land of Windmills," or, in other words, about Holland, but Mr. Buckland has made his paper readable. We think he might have paid less attention to the pictures and museums, and more to the many great public works which have been undertaken at sundry times, such, for instance, as the draining of the Haarlem Lake, the North Holland Canal, &c., &c. The former are noticed at length in the guide books, but the latter fare a little worse in this respect, and receive therefore less than their due share of attention from the British travelling public. Yet they are stupendous undertakings, worthy of the people who have set a limit to the encroachments of the sea. Of the other contents, we would call attention to the story by Mr. Thos. Carlisle, "The Convict Cousin," with which the number opens. Out of every day materials, Joe Dyde, George and his Wife, and Major Ledbitter, who are personages familiar enough to all readers of fiction, Mr. Carlisle has woven a capital little story, and in doing so has shown that he possesses more than the average amount of constructive ability. His dialogue, too, is well and smartly written, while the *dénouement* when the Major's "little game" has been played out unsuccessfully, is quite dramatic in its effect. The rest of the papers are, pretty well on a par with those we have referred to, and most of the illustrations are well drawn.

In the *Masonic Review* (Cincinnati, Ohio) we have noted especially an admirably written extract from the "address of C. H. Kingston," R.E.G.C. of Pennsylvania, to the Grand Commandery, and a paper by Bro. Cornelius Moore, the editor, on "The Charges of a Freemason." In both is visible the earnest spirit of a genuine Mason, and our readers cannot fail to profit by the advice so earnestly given by the writer. One other article well deserves to be read, and that is a sketch of "Mozart as a Freemason."

Among the contributors to the *New England Freemason* for May last, the name of one, at all events, will be familiar to our readers, that of Bro. Hughau; who supplements a former sketch of the Old Constitutions of England, by M.W. Bro. J. T. Heard, which had appeared in a previous number of this periodical, with some very interesting details about editions which Bro. Heard had passed over in silence. There is also the first of a series of articles on the "Old Halls in London associated with Masonry," Stationers' Hall being the subject of the present account. "Italian Freemasonry" is also passed under review, the materials being derived for the most part from certain of the London dailies.

The fourth number of the *Canadian Masonic News* is fully equal to its predecessors, as may be judged from one of its articles, which we recently quoted in *extenso*. There is also an account of the "Organisation of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba A.F. and A.M.," this having been found necessary in consequence of the distance of the Manitoba Lodges from the meetings of Grand Lodge of Canada. Delegates from the Lodge attended at Winnipeg on 12th May, and after a variety of necessary resolutions had been agreed to unanimously, the election of Grand Officers for 1875-6 was proceeded with, M.W. Bro. Rev. Dr. Clarke, Winnipeg, Past Gr. Chaplain, G.L. of Quebec, being elected G.M., R.W. Bro. Hon. W. N. Kennedy, Winnipeg, D.G.M., and R.W. Bros. Jas. Henderson, Winnipeg, and S. L. Bedson, Stone Fort, as G. Senior and Junior Wardens respectively. R.W. Bro. John Kennedy was chosen Grand Treasurer, and R.W. Bro. John H. Bell, Winnipeg, as Grand Secretary.

This month's number of *Charing Cross* contains the introduction and Chapter I. of a new story by G. Somers Bellamy, entitled "Two Wedding Rings," a prettily told story by Frank, and bearing the title of "How Kate Challenger was Wooded and Won," and some good musical and dramatic criticism. There is too "Proven," a tale in two parts, which deserves to be read.

The *London and Brighton* contains a very good programme, many of the contributions being very well written, and some highly interesting. Such are "Ulster Folk Lore," "Mesmerism, a Fabulous Legend," by Clarissa Arlo, and a neat set of verses "A Fragment," by Mrs. Riddell. Nor must we overlook "A Hard Run, and what came of it," which will serve admirably to wile away half-an-hour's leisure. Indeed, both this and the preceding magazine, the *Charing Cross*, contain some excellent light reading, the fiction being on a level with the average of magazine tales.

We have received also, but somewhat late, the July number of *Le Monde Maçonnique*, which, from the brief glance we have been able to give it, appears to be quite on a par with its usual high standard of merit. We have marked one or two extracts for quotation next week.

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VOLUME I.

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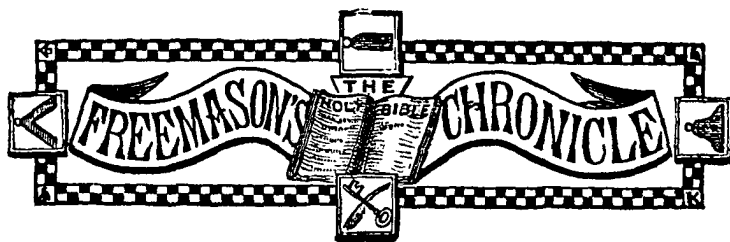
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

FOR some reason or other the Government appear to be singularly reticent as to the conduct of public business during the rest of the Session. Earl Granville, for instance, on Friday evening, asked the Duke of Richmond as to what Government Bills would be proceeded with, and what, if any, abandoned, but he failed to elicit more than a general statement containing information already known to the House. Earl Delawarr having moved for and obtained certain papers relating to the Agricultural Children Act, and the Earl of Harrowby having asked the Under Secretary for War whether an examination in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales was deemed a necessary introduction to Her Majesty's Cavalry and Infantry, Lord Strathnairn moved a resolution respecting admission into the Military Service by means of competition, but after a speech from the Under Secretary and a few remarks by other noble Lords, the motion was withdrawn. Lord Blachford's request for papers relating to the revised constitution of Natal was acceded to by the Earl of Carnarvon. The second reading of the Entail Amendment (Scotland) Bill was moved by the Lord Chancellor, and after observations from the Earl of Camperdown, the Duke of Buccleugh and others, was agreed to. Other Bills were then advanced a stage. On Monday, the Earl Beauchamp having brought up a message from the Queen, on the subject of the recent resolution respecting the Irish peerage, and Lord Penzance having put a question to the Colonial Secretary, touching an act for the compulsory purchase by the local government of land in Prince Edward's Island, which had been assented to by the Lieut. Governor of the Colony, the Lord Chancellor moved the second reading of the Statute Law Revision Bill. This was agreed to, and then Lord Stratheden and Campbell moved two resolutions having reference to the Ottoman Porte on the one hand, and a certain identic note presented in October of last year to that power by Austria, the German Empire, and Russia, and a treaty between Austro-Hungary and Roumania. A long and interesting debate, in which the Earl of Rosebery, Lord Hammond, and the Earl of Derby took part, followed, when, as regards the first resolution, it was got rid of by the previous question, while the second was withdrawn. The Conspiracy and Protection of Property Bill and the Employers and Workmen Bill were then passed through their second reading. On Monday the Entail Amendment (Scotland) Bill passed through Committee after a brief debate, in which the Earl of Camperdown, Lord Napier and Ettrick, and Viscount Cardwell took part. In reply to a question from Earl Delawarr, respecting the defunct Merchant Shipping Bill of the Government, the Earl of Malmesbury announced that Ministers proposed to introduce a measure which would give the Board of Trade greater power than it now possessed, of stopping unseaworthy ships from putting to sea, and that this would continue in operation for a year, so that there would be ample time for a more elaborate Government measure, dealing fully with the subject, to be passed. On Thursday, the Conspiracy and Protection of Property, and the Employers and Workmen Bill passed through Committee, the Lunatic Asylums (Ireland) Bill passed its second reading, and the Report on the Entail Amendment (Scotland) Bill was agreed to, after an amendment by the Earl of Camperdown on Clause 12 had been defeated by 28 to 22.

In the House of Commons, at the morning sitting on Tuesday, sundry questions were first put and answered, and then the House went into Committee on the Agricultural Holdings Bill. An amendment of Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, that ten years instead of seven should be the maximum of unexhausted improvements in the second class, was rejected by 196 to 138. In connection with the third class, an amendment to omit the words, "as the taking of a crop" from the section of the clause providing that the taking of a crop shall be considered an exhausted

improvement was proposed, but the proposal was defeated by 248 to 29. A motion by Mr. Hunt to insert "seed" and "hay" was carried by 268 to 77. An amendment of Sir G. Campbell on Clause 7 was accepted by the Government, and agreed to by the House. At the evening sitting, the subject of the New Opera House, proposed to be erected on the Thames Embankment, was introduced by Colonel Beresford, but his motion was negatived. A long discussion ensued on the Enclosure of Commons. The subject of Police Cells was brought up by Sir W. Frazer, soon after which the House was counted out. On Monday, Sir C. Adderley gave notice of the introduction of a temporary measure relating to unseaworthy ships, for the better protection of life, Mr. Roebuck having previously moved that Mr. Plimsoll's Bill on the same subject should be fixed for Thursday. Later on, the House resumed the consideration of the Agricultural Holdings Bill at Clause 7, and after a long and searching discussion, reached the 15th Clause, when progress was reported. After this the remaining clauses of the Militia Laws Consolidation and Amendment Bill were gone through. On Tuesday, Mr. Dillwyn questioned the Premier as to the progress of business, after which a motion by Mr. W. H. Smith, to the effect that Government orders should take precedence on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, was carried by an overwhelming majority—178 to 19. The House then resumed Committee on the Agricultural Holdings Bill, and having reached the 43rd Clause, progress was reported, the sitting having, as usual, been suspended at seven o'clock and resumed at nine. On Wednesday, the debate was resumed on the same Bill, during the early part of the sitting, at Clause 43, and when the crucial Clause of the Act, Clause 45, was reached and agreed to by the House, after division—178 for, and 116 against—progress was reported, in order that Sir C. Adderley might ask for leave to introduce a Bill re unseaworthy ships. The object of the measure, which will remain in force for one year, is to give the Board of Trade greater power than it already possesses to stop the departure of ships deemed to be unseaworthy. For this purpose the Board of Trade will have the right to appoint officers at various ports, who may, *proprio motu*, and without reference to the Board of Trade, stop all ships which appear to be overladen. Leave was given, and the Bill was read a first time, the second reading being fixed for two o'clock on Friday. After this the House rose. On Thursday, at the commencement of the sitting, Mr. Plimsoll apologised frankly for his impetuous language of that day week, upon which Mr. Disraeli moved that the resolution calling upon the Speaker to reprimand the hon. Member for Derby be discharged. This was done accordingly. The House then went into Committee again on the Agricultural Holdings Bill, Mr. Dillwyn first blocking the way, by proposing that progress be reported, in order to enable Mr. Plimsoll to proceed with the second reading of his Merchant Shipping Bill. It transpired, in the course of the somewhat heated debate which followed, that Mr. Plimsoll was anxious that the Government Bill should take precedence of his, and, accordingly, Mr. Dillwyn's motion was withdrawn. The remaining clauses having been discussed *seriatim*, and the points on which the Government laid the greatest stress having been agreed to, though not without several divisions, the Chairman was ordered to report the Bill as amended, and the House accordingly resumed. The Militia Laws Consolidation and Amendment Bill having been read a third time, and other measures having been dealt with, the House rose at a quarter past one.

It is long since the annual meeting at Wimbledon, of the National Rifle Association, has been so unfortunate in respect of weather. During the whole of the fortnight over which it extended it rained almost without intermission, and those who camped out must have had experiences of mimic campaigning not always of the most agreeable character. However, the weather would seem to have had little, if any, effect upon the shooting, which appears to have been quite up to the average. In some cases, indeed, some splendid scores were made, notably by Lieutenant Birch, Leeds Rifles, who made 50, the highest possible score at 500 yards, ten shots, and so became the winner of the Any Rifle Association Cup, which, according to general expectation, had already been secured by one of the American team, with a score of 49. So sanguine, indeed, were the latter of carrying the cup back with them that they had already wired their success under the Atlantic, and great, of course, must have been their chagrin when they found themselves so unexpectedly *birched* out of their looked-for honour. To recapitulate even a tithe of the winners of import-

ant prizes would occupy far more space than we can devote. Suffice that all the recipients of prizes were heartily cheered by their friends and comrades, and that not a few names which for years have been associated with victory at Wimbledon figured among the fortunate ones. Thus, Lieutenant Fenton 77th Foot, won Lloyd's cup with 67 out of 75 points, distance 1,000 yards, and also the Dudley prize, with 44 out of 50, ten shots, same range. Sir H. Halford carried off the Duke of Cambridge's for military breech loaders, 15 shots, 1,000 yards, score 55. Mr. Edward Ross won the Albert Prize, second stage 1,000 yards, Private Burgess, the Prince of Wales's prize, and the Oxfordshire Yeomanry, Colonel Lloyd Lindsay's Prize. Among the winners, who, in addition to the above, met with the heartiest reception, were the Harrow Boys, who won the Ashburton Shield, Cambridge, who carried off the Chancellors' Shield, the Canadians, who took the Rajah of Kolapore's Cup, Major Fulton, of the Americans, the Irish eight, winners of the Elcho Challenge Shield, Captain Easton, winner of the St. George's Vase and two other prizes, and above all the hero of the year, Captain Pearse, of Devon, who received the Queen's Prize and the Gold Medal and Badge of the N.R.A. When the distribution was over, a long interval elapsed ere the march past began, but this went off extremely well, though shorn of its principal attraction, the regular cavalry and artillery, which generally put in an appearance. The Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, distributed the prizes, and said a few kind words to those who received their well-won laurels at her hands. It only now remains for the Volunteer Artillery meeting to be held at Shoeburyness, and then the leading incidents of the volunteer year 1875 will have passed away.

The Autumn Manœuvres closed with a grand review of the two army corps, which have been engaged for the last fortnight in testing their efficiency. The review was held in the Long Valley, in the presence of H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, who was accompanied by a numerous and brilliant staff, including many foreign officers of distinction. The troops mustered close on 20,000 men, with 108 guns, and their behaviour appears to have drawn very warm expressions of praise from the Commander-in-Chief. The regiments were not numerically strong, but they seem to have some good material in them, good "food for powder," in spite of the outcry about weak, ill-conditioned youths. But 20,000 men is not a large army in these days, when even a small State like Belgium has its 100,000 men under arms.

This summer will long be remembered as one of the most disastrous to our harvest. The root crops, we believe, are in fine condition, though there is a talk of the potato disease having appeared. But vast quantities of hay have been lost, and barley and oats have likewise suffered to an almost equal extent. *A propos* of this, a Mr. W. A. Gibbs has invented a new machine for drying hay, and there would seem to be an excellent opportunity now for him to test its merits. If it answer the expectation of the inventor, this hay-making machine will certainly be serviceable in such a climate as ours. We may hope it will prove to be a success, though we greatly fear it will be of little use in restoring the present damaged hay crops to anything like their original value. While on matters agricultural, we may mention that the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland's Show was opened on Tuesday, at Glasgow. The display of implements was on a very large scale, and included this of Mr. Gibbs; while the entries for cattle, horses, sheep, swine, poultry, and agricultural produce, were satisfactory both as to quality and numbers. Among the shorthorn prize winners, may be mentioned the famous Lord Irwin, the Duke of Nosta, and two of the latter's progeny. The exhibitors included the Queen, the Dukes of Richmond, Athole, and Buccleugh, the last of whom won many prizes, the Earl of Ellesmere, who distinguished himself in swine, and Lord Chesham, who was among the prominent sheep winners. There has been held also, at Norwich, the East of England Horse Show. On Friday next, the International Dog Show opens, at Manchester; on Tuesday, the Dublin Horse and Rose Show. Saturday will be the first day of a Pony Show at Lillie Bridge.

The most important event in the sporting world is the Goodwood meeting, at which their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales have been present as guests of the Duke of Richmond. Fortunately the weather this week has been magnificent, and those who attended the meeting had a grand opportunity for enjoying themselves.

The chief event on Tuesday was the Steward's Cup, for which 22 appeared at the post. Trappist won by two lengths of Coomassie, in rear of whom by three lengths was Berryfield, the favourite, Killiecrankie, being among those who pulled up before reaching the post. On Wednesday, the Goodwood stakes was won by Freeman, ridden by Fordham, Bertram coming in second, a length behind, and Escort only half a length to the bad third. Thirteen started, and the race—two miles and a half—was run in 5 mins. 1 sec. Thursday was the cup day, the winner of the leading event being Lord Ailesbury's *Aventurière*, Scamp coming in second, and Trent third. In cricket there has been one first class match, Gloucestershire v. Yorkshire, played at Brammall ground, Sheffield, on Monday and the two following days, for the benefit of the veteran, J. Thewlis. The latter county won by seven wickets, chiefly owing to the brilliant batting of Greenwood, who made 52 and not out 24, Lockwood who made 74 and not out 39. Mr. W. G. Grace again made one of his brilliant three figure innings, 111, and at his second attempt he put together 43, but the rest of his team, with the exception of Messrs. Matthews (11 and 23), Monckland (14 and 17) and Bush give him but little support. The scores were Gloucestershire 194 and 107, Yorkshire 211 and 93, with three wickets down. After a hard fight Lancashire has beaten Kent; the former compiling 164 and 118, the latter 145 and 105. Barlow (31 and 45) for Lancashire, and Mr. C. Absolom (63 and 17) and Lord Harris (7 and not out 49) for Kent, were the principal scorers. In the Rugby v. Marlborough match, the latter were all out for 23, while Rugby amassed 156 in its first innings. In the second attempt the Marlborough fared somewhat better, and when stumps were drawn on Wednesday, had put together 83 for the loss of five wickets, G. P. Wilson being not out 32. On Thursday, play was resumed, Marlborough again appearing at the wickets, but they only succeeded in carrying their score to 98, and thus Rugby won in one innings by 35 runs. Next week is the great cricket festival at Canterbury, lasting all the week through. The three matches will be Gloucestershire and Kent v. All England, M.C.C. and Ground v. Kent and gentlemen of Kent v. I Zingari. Of other sporting events we may note the Grand International Polo and Pigeon Shooting Match at Brighton, to-day, and Monday, the Royal Yacht Squadron Regatta, at Cowes, which will be held from Tuesday to Friday next, both days inclusive, and shortly the South Coast Regattas will be in full swing, and we hope will meet with the usual support from the holiday folks, whom, doubtless, the fine weather will take in their thousands to the various watering places along the South Coast.

The hospitalities of the Mansion House are being dispensed with a liberality which is in the highest degree creditable, both to our respected brother, the Lord Mayor, and the great and ancient city, of which he is this year the chief magistrate. On Thursday, he gave a grand International Municipal Banquet, there being present the French Ambassador, the Japanese Ambassador, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, M. Ferdinand Duval, Prefect of the Seine, with other French prefects and mayors, the Burgomasters of Brussels, Antwerp, and Amsterdam, the Mayors of Turin, Florence, Quebec, Toronto, together with the Lord Mayors of Dublin and York, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and the municipal chiefs of all the most important towns in the United Kingdom. It is long, indeed, since so distinguished and so thoroughly civic a gathering has been seen within the walls of our Lord Mayor's residence. As a matter of course, the banquet passed off amid the greatest enthusiasm, and will doubtless prove a fitting inauguration to other international courtesies *en tapis*.

The Alexandra Palace Directors have at length—provided the present brilliant weather continue for a reasonable length of time—a chance of showing what their Palace and grounds are capable of affording in the way of entertainments. Not that we have not had already many opportunities of testing their directorial powers, but great as have been the numbers which, on occasions such as Whit Monday for instance, have visited the Muswell Hill Grounds, a continuance of this weather will tax them still further. To-day with its International Fête will, we hope, bring thousands of visitors. The special programme for Monday, the Bank Holiday, may not improbably assemble a good century of thousands, while the agreeable Summer Evening Promenade Concerts are sure to prove as attractive in the future as they have been

thus far. One of the chief features to-morrow and next week will be the presence and performances of the splendid band of the Garde Républicaine, which has been allowed to visit London by special permission of the President, Marshal MacMahon, and General Cissey.

The Crystal Palace has held a goat show, but one of the grand attractions of the year will come off to-day, when Mr. Sims Reeves holds his Annual Benefit Concert.

We note in the musical world that Her Majesty's closed on Saturday, with the performance of "*Lohengrin*," for the benefit of Mr. Mapleson, whose efforts to meet the wishes of his patrons are too well known to require comment. On Wednesday Mdlle. Titiens, who is about to leave England for the United States, gave her first benefit concert at the Albert Hall, and achieved a most brilliant success, not only as regards the programme provided—at which many of the most eminent *artistes* assisted—but from the numerous company which assembled to do honour to this popular singer.

As regards foreign news, the most important relates to Spain and the Herzegovina. The Turks have not yet put down the insurrection in the latter, and there is no knowing how soon in all Eastern difficulties, the slightest spark may kindle into a flame, and set all Europe in glowing heat. As regards the former country, it is evident the Carlists, as we fully imagined, are equal to a good deal more beating yet, before their utter extinction can be announced by the Madrid Government. There has been a succession of Alphonsist victories, and what then? Carlism still rears its head in proud defiance. Will the end of this miserable war precede the Greek Calends or *vice versa*?

The final meeting of the Board of Stewards of the 77th Anniversary Festival of the Boys' School was held on the 22nd inst., at Freemasons' Hall, and was numerously attended. Bro. I. M. S. Montague, D.P.G.M. Dorset, was unanimously voted to the chair. Bro. F. Binckes, Hon. Sec., read the minutes relating to the Anniversary Festival, when it was resolved—that the Board of Stewards of the recent Festival desire to place on record the cordial approval of the alteration of the date of holding the Festival. They also desire to bear their unqualified testimony to the excellence of the banquet supplied by Messrs. Bertram and Roberts, and to the admirable manner in which those gentlemen gave effect to the wishes of the Board; and, further, their approbation of the system, inaugurated on the late occasion, under which ladies and brethren dined together at the same tables; no untoward event of any kind having occurred to interfere with, or militate against, the success of the assembly. The accounts rendered by Bro. Webster were very satisfactory, there being 301 ladies and 381 brethren present, and there were 159 stewards. The amount realised was £12,704; and 39 stewards at present not having made their returns. A sum of ten guineas was usually voted to be placed on the list of the Treasurer, but, having sufficient funds in hand, it was augmented to 25 guineas. A sum of ten guineas to Bro. Taylor, for services rendered by him on the occasion of the Festival. A sum of £60 bonus to Bro. Binckes was proposed by Bro. S. Rosenthal, and seconded by Bro. H. M. Levy, and also a cordial vote of thanks for his indefatigable exertions in not only arranging this Festival, but also former ones, thus contributing to the success of the Institution. Bro. F. Binckes, in returning thanks for the vote, said it was pleasing to him to receive so many expressions of satisfaction on the part of the Stewards. Bro. S. Rosenthal, in glowing terms, proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Montagu, the acting President, who had so ably presided over them, and also for his great exertions in the cause of the charity. Bro. Montagu returned thanks, and the last meeting of the Stewards' of the Festival of 1875 was dissolved. There were present Bros. R. B. Webster Treasurer, S. Rosenthal, G. W. Verry, W. Lane, F. Adlard, W. C. Parsons, J. Bingham, A. Barfield, J. Healey, J. Wright.

The General Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, met on Thursday, the 29th, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Bro. Benjamin Head in the chair. Bro. Robert Wentworth Little, the Secretary, read the minutes of the last General Committee. The Quarterly General Court was read and adopted, also the report of the Audit Committee was read, showing a balance of £5,486 2s 6d, and the sum of £3,000 was ordered to be

invested in the 3 per cent. reduced Consols, and candidates were placed on the list. The following brethren were present—J. Nunn, J. Boyd, H. A. Dubois, J. Rucker, F. Binckes, H. W. Hemsworth, L. Sabine, Griffiths Smith, T. White, A. H. Tattershall, H. Massey, A. H. Diaper, C. Moutrie, H. M. Levy, &c.,

THE THANET CONCLAVE OF KNIGHTS OF ROME, AND OF THE RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE, No. 121, MARGATE.

THIS Masonic and Military Grade of Masonry is, we are pleased to find, making great progress in the province, and it was with pleasure that we witnessed the consecration of this new Conclave in the town of Margate, on Wednesday 21st July. Nothing could have been more favourable to the success of the inauguration than the gratuitous assistance so kindly afforded to its Sovereign, his Officers and Sir Knights Companions, by the V.I. Sir Kt. R. Wentworth Little P.G.S.G. Grand Treasurer, &c., the Ill. Sir Kt. H. A. Dubois Aast. Grand Treasurer, &c., the Ill. Sir Kt. the Rev. P. M. Holden P.S., and other eminent members of the Grand Council and Senate in the performance of the ceremonies.

Prior to the inauguration and enthronement of the M.P.S., and consecration of the Vy. Eus., the acting Principals installed the following brethren:—Bro. W. H. Charrington P.M., Bro. Hy. Botting P.M., Bro. Wm. Wells P.M., and W.M., all of the Royal Alfred Lodge, No. 777, Guildford, and Bro. H. C. Fuhr, P.M. of the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 199, Dover, and Bro. Geo. Hills of the Lewis's Lodge, No. 429, Ramsgate.

The M.P.S. having duly installed and given offices to Sir Knights T. M. Compton, Vy. E. W. Searles S.G., H. Spurrier J.G., W. H. Hennah H.P., J. Bristed T., F. L. Silani R., J. W. Smith P., G. Hills S.B., A. J. Cave H., W. K. Treeves D.C., J. McCubbin 1st A., H. E. Davis 2nd A., A. Aubrey O., H. C. Fuhr S., R. J. Feakins S¹, they were allotted stalls in the new Conclave. The M.P.S., Sir Kt. Man-nering W. Bolton, was then enthroned, and the Vy. Eus. Sir Kt. T. M. Compton consecrated, and the solemn proceedings of dedication and inauguration were continued.

The petition and warrant were read by the Recorder. The Grand High Prelate, the Very Ill. The Rev. P. M. Holden, delivered the Grand Charge and Traditional History of this Order, with marked emphasis and effect, and the newly installed M.P.S. (to whom the Companions are indebted for the formation of this Conclave) with his Vy. Eus. and Officers closed the proceedings, and the Sir Knts. went to the King's Head Hotel to enjoy the magnificent banquet provided for them by the host, Bro. J. Smith. The usual toasts of this Order were given and received, but time would not permit us to remain longer than to hear the first one or two, on account of the inevitable "LAST TRAIN UP," and we regretfully took our departure. The great success that has attended the formation of the Thanet Conclave must be a source of considerable satisfaction to its founders, and they should ever feel indebted to the members of the Grand Council and Senate, and the M.P.S. of the De Shurland Conclave, No. 92, Sir Kt. John Hancock, who afforded them so much assistance.

The Conclave now musters some twenty Knights, residing in Thanet and its environs, and several in Surrey, and about ten more brethren have been duly elected, whose installations will shortly take place, so the Thanet Conclave is likely to become a numerous and popular one, and we wish it continued prosperity.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF ENGLAND.

THE following is the agenda paper of the Quarterly Communication, to be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C., on Wednesday, the 4th day of August proximo, at seven o'clock in the evening punctually:—

The minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation to be read for confirmation.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 21st April 1875, to the 21st July 1875, both inclusive, which they find to be as follow:—To Balance 21st April £810 1s 6d, to subsequent receipts £273 19s 9d, total £1,084 1s 3d. By purchase of £500 Consols at 94 and commission £470 12s 6d, by disbursements during the quarter £158 9s 8d, by balance £308 0s 2d, by balance in unappropriated account £146 18s 11d, total £1,084 1s 3d, which balance is in the hands of Messrs. Willis, Percival and Co., Bankers of the Grand Treasurer.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following petitions:—

1st. From Comps. Thomas Ward as Z., James McIntyre as H., Arthur John Randell as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the British Kaffrarian Lodge, No. 853, King William's Town, Cape of Good Hope, to be called the "St. George's Chapter," and to meet at King William's Town, South Africa.

2nd. From Comps. the Rev. Robert Bowden as Z., Frederick Duffy Bewes as H., Philip Damerel Michelmores as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Devon Lodge, No. 1138, Newton Abbot, to be called "The Devon Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Newton Abbot, in the County of Devon.

3rd. From Comps. George Davenport Pochin as Z., Carl Johann Wilhelm Gotz as H., Joseph Mackie as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Architect Lodge, No. 1375, Didsbury, to be called "The Architect Chapter," and to meet at the Didsbury Hotel, Didsbury, in the County of Lancaster.

4th. From Comps. William Green Brighten as Z., Charles Hammerton as H., Charles Henry Benham as J., and six others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Stockwell Lodge, No. 1339, Tulse Hill, to be called "The Stockwell Chapter," and to meet at the Tulse Hill Hotel, Tulse Hill.

5th. From Comps. William Stuart as Z., John Richard Bull as H., Alfred Cookson as J., and eight others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Stuart Lodge, No. 540, Bedford, to be called "The Stuart Chapter," and to meet at the Swan Hotel, Bedford.

6th. From Comps. Alexander Lodwick Irvine as Z., George Waterall as H., Samuel Harford Wagstaff as J., and ten others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Macdonald Lodge, No. 1216, Camberwell, to be called "The Macdonald Chapter," and to meet at the Head Quarters of the 1st Surrey Volunteer Rifle Corps, Flodden Road, Camberwell.

7th. From Comps. William Wells as Z., Butler Wilkins as H., Frank George Buckle as J., and nine others, for a Chapter to be attached to the St. Peter's Lodge, No. 412, Peterborough, to be called "The St. Peter's Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Peterborough, in the County of Northampton.

8th. From Comps. James Dickeson Terson as Z., Edward Wickens Fry as H., William John Adcock as J., and eight others, for a Chapter to be attached to the Peace and Harmony Lodge, No. 199, Dover, to be called "The Peace and Harmony Chapter," and to meet at the Royal Oak Hotel, Dover, in the County of Kent.

The foregoing Petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the Prayers thereof be respectively granted.

(Signed) JOHN SAVAGE,
President.

Obituary.

BRO. RICHARD BATTERSBY, OF BURY (LANCASHIRE).

ON Wednesday afternoon, the 21st inst., while the steamer Nelson (Captain Roskell) was returning from Morecambe to Blackpool, with excursionists, an object resembling a human body was seen floating below the mouth of the river Lune, some three or four miles from shore. A boat was at once lowered, and Captain Roskell and two of the crew proceeded to the spot, and succeeded in recovering what the Captain had good grounds for believing to be the body of Bro. Richard Battersby, late of Parsons Lane, Bury, aged 27, who, along with Bro. R. W. O'Neil, lost his life while yachting in Morecambe Bay on the afternoon of the 20th May last. A reward of £50 had been offered for the recovery of the body, and we need hardly say that the seafaring folk along the coast of Morecambe Bay and its approaches had long kept a sharp look out. The body, when picked up, was enveloped in a mackintosh—which he wore when he and Bro. O'Neil fell into the sea—that had no doubt tended to preserve it. From personal acquaintance with the deceased, Captain Roskell had no doubt it was the body of Bro. Battersby, the long submersion in the sea not having altogether obliterated the means of identification, and on an examination of the deceased's clothes, subsequent to the landing of the body at the South Pier, Blackpool, there were such evidences found—cards, envelopes, &c., bearing his name and address—as left no room for any doubt on the point of identity which might have previously existed. Mr. J. T. Newbold, The Springs, Bury, happened to be in Blackpool at the time, and hearing of the discovery of the body he proceeded to look at it, and was enabled (though not without some difficulty) to identify it by the features as the body of Bro. Battersby. All doubt, therefore, being removed, the family of the deceased at Bury were communicated with, and due preparations made for handing the body over into their charge.

Although the body had been upwards of sixty days at sea, it was in a fair state of preservation when found. The pockets of the mackintosh were turned inside out, but none of the other pockets appeared to have been disturbed, and the watch, notes, and loose cash that the deceased had taken out with him were all found; likewise the ring he wore when the accident occurred. The body was picked up some five miles from where the accident happened, and there is reason for supposing that it has never been washed out of the Bay into open sea. It is thought that the body had floated only the day on which it was picked up—the features being then quite white—and that up to that period it had either been sanded over or entangled among the sea weed, which on breaking up had released the body.

An inquest was held on the following day, and a verdict of "accidentally drowned" returned.

The funeral of the deceased took place on Saturday morning last, in the family vault at St. Paul's Churchyard, Bury.

As the funeral party entered the church, Bro. J. R. Fletcher, P.M. Lodge 191, played Mendelssohn's Funeral March on the organ, and as they left he played "Dead March" in *Saul*.

Just before the coffin was lowered to its last resting place, Mr. T. Battersby, brother of the deceased, laid a floral cross on the lid, and handsome wreaths of flowers were placed thereon by Bro. G. O'Neil and Mr. J. H. Openshaw.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—When the weather is hot it will be found that persons who suffer from swelled feet and ankles, varicose veins, ulcers, and sores of all kinds, and, in fact, from any skin disease, feel these complaints more troublesome and aggravating than at any other time of the year, they will soon find relief in the use of these remedies, for if the wounds or ulcers are dressed with this Ointment, it at once soothes the irritability of the skin, causes the discharges to lose their acrimonious character, and lessens any inflammation that may be present. It cannot be too widely known that these twin remedies are the most powerful of anti-febrile and anti-inflammatory agents we possess.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

We shall be obliged if the Secretaries of the various Lodges throughout the Kingdom will favour us with a list of their Days of Meeting, &c. as we have decided to insert only those that are verified by the Officers of the several Lodges.

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MONDAY, 2nd AUGUST.

37—Anchor and Hope, Freemasons' Hall, Bolton.
113—Unanimity, Bull Hotel Assembly Rooms, Preston.
133—Harmony, Ship Hotel, Faversham.
156—Harmony, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth.
251—Loyal, Freemasons' Hall, Queen Anne's Wall, Barnstaple.
303—Benevolent, Masonic Hall, Teignmouth.
381—Harmony and Industry, New Inn, Over Darwen.
423—Yarborough, Masonic Hall, Market Place, Gainsborough.
431—St. George's, Masonic Hall, Suffolk-street, Shields.
597—St. Cybi, Marine Hotel, Holyhead.
804—Carnarvon, Town Hall, Havant.
850—St. Oswald, Assembly Rooms, Market Hall, Ashbourne.
977—Fowey, Masonic Rooms, Fowey.
1009—Shakespeare, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
1050—Gundolph, King's Head Hotel, Rochester.
1077—Wilton, Red Lion Hotel, Blackley, near Manchester.
1302—De Warren, White Swan Hotel, Halifax, Yorks.
1519—Albert Edward, Albion Hotel, Clayton-le-Moors.

TUESDAY, 3rd AUGUST.

Colonial Board, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.

57—Humber, Freemasons' Hall, Osborne-street, Hull.
70—St. John's, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth.
103—Beaufort, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
252—Harmonic, Freemasons' Temple, Stone-street, Dudley.
265—Royal Yorkshire, Masonic Hall, Hanover-street, Keighley.
393—St. David's, Masonic Hall, Parade, Berwick.
421—Loyal Lodge of Industry, Freemasons' Hall, South Molton.
660—Camalodunum, Freemasons' Hall, New Malton, Yorkshire.
948—St. Barnabas, Masonic Room, Linsdale, Leighton Buzzard.
1134—Newall, Freemasons' Hall, Salford.
1322—Waverley, Church Inn, Hurst Cross, near Ashton-under-Lyne.
M.M. 161—Walton, St. Lawrence Boys' School, Kirkdale.

WEDNESDAY, 4th AUGUST.

Grand Chapter, at 7.

193—Confidence, White Hart, Abchurch Lane, E.C., at 7.30. (Instruction.)
74—Athol, Masonic Hall, Severn-street, Birmingham.
137—Amity, Masonic Hall, Thames-street, Poole.
164—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, London Hotel, Sidmouth.
168—Mariners, Masonic Hall, Guernsey.
252—Bedford, Private Rooms, Abbey, Tavistock.
298—Harmony, Masonic Rooms, Rochdale.
299—Emulation, Bull Hotel, Dartford. (Instruction.)
327—St. John's, Lamb and Lion, Wigton, Cumberland.
406—Northern Counties, Freemasons' Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
503—Belvidere, Star Hotel, High Street, Maidstone. (Instruction.)
645—Humphrey Chetham, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
678—Earl Ellesmere, Church Hotel, Kersley, near Bolton.
838—Franklin, Peacock Hotel, Boston.
992—St. Thomas, Griffin Hotel, Lower Broughton, Manchester.
1085—Hartington, Masonic Hall, Gower-street, Derby.
1144—Milton, Ryecroft Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne.
1206—Cinque Ports, Bell Hotel, Strand-street, Sandwich.
R. A. 126—Nativity, Cross Keys Inn, Burnley.
R. A. 221—St. John, Commercial Hotel, Bolton.
R. A. 304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, St. George's-street, Leeds.
M.M. 36—Furness, Hartington Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness.

THURSDAY, 5th AUGUST.

24—Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Freemasons' Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
110—Loyal Cambrian, Bush Hotel, Merthyr Tydvil.
230—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Carlton Hill, Leeds.
300—Minerva, Pitt and Nelson Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne.
317—Affability, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
362—Doric, Private Rooms, St. Peter-street, Grantham.
442—St. Peter's, Masonic Hall, Boroughbury, Peterborough.
509—Tees, Freemasons' Hall, Wellington-street, Stockton-on-Tees.
531—St. Helen's, Masonic Hall, Hartlepool.
637—Portland, Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent.
650—Star in the East, Pier Hotel, Harwich. (Instruction.)
1234—Brent, Masonic Hall, Globe Hotel, Topsham.
1304—Olive Union, Masonic Hall, Banks-street, Horncastle.
1367—Beamin-ter Manor, White Hart Hotel, Beaminster.
1504—Red Rose of Lancaster, Swan Hotel, Padilham, near Burnley.

FRIDAY, 6th AUGUST.

1278—Burdett Courts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
44—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
219—Prudence, Masonic Hall, Todmorden.
242—St. Georges, Town Hall, Doncaster.
306—Alfred, 23 Albion-street, Leeds.

K.T.—Loyal Volunteers, Queen's Arms, Ashton-under-Lyne.

SATURDAY, 7th AUGUST.

General Committee Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.

1458—Truth, Royal Archer Inn, Manchester.

IRELAND.

MONDAY—5—Waterford, Masonic Hall, The Mall, Waterford.
116—Carlow, Masonic Hall, Carlow.
122—Patrick, Masonic Hall, Dungannon, co. Tyrone.
TUESDAY—30—True Blue, Killvleagh, co. Down.
303—Ballymahon, Court House, Ballymahon.
719—St. Albans, Private House, Main-street, Newtownlimavady, Derry.
831—Clones, Thompson's Hotel, Clones, co. Monaghan.
935—True Blue, Anne-street, Wexford.
WEDNESDAY—51—Temple, Masonic Rooms, Belfast.
70—Waringsford, Tullyniskey, Down.
232—Desmond, Masonic Hall, Newcastle West, co. Limerick.
THURSDAY—32—Royal Shamrock, Lodge Room, Olave's Place, Waterford.
111—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Belfast.
372—Gilhall, Princes-street, Dromore, co. Down.
555—Harmony, Masonic Rooms, Francis-street, Fermoy.
FRIDAY—97—Hirams, Masonic Hall, Arthur Square, Belfast.
110—Kilrea, Kilrea, co. Derry.
164—Commercial, Masonic Hall, Londonderry.
228—Gorey, Gorey.
891—St. John's, Town Hall, Enniskillen.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—Quarterly Meeting of Grand Lodge.
429—St. Kentigern, Royal Hotel, Penicuik.
TUESDAY—5—Canongate and Leith (L. and C.), 86 Constitution-street.
THURSDAY—97—St. James, St. James Hall, Writer's-court.
FRIDAY—291—Celtic of Edinburgh and Leith, Ship Hotel, East Register-street.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—This Lodge held its regular weekly meeting on Wednesday, the 26th July, at the Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell Green. Present—Bros. Halford W.M., Crutch S.W., Isaac J.W., Killick Secretary, Defriez Treasurer, Walker S.D., Saul J.D., Stock I.G., Christopher Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Beckett Preceptor, Killick sen., and a large muster of the members. Business—Lodge opened in the usual manner, and the minutes of previous meeting confirmed. Bro. Percy raised to the degree of W.M. 1st section of 3rd lecture worked by the Preceptor, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Beckett's adjourned motion to alter Bye Law 7 was then considered, and, being seconded by Bro. Percy, was carried unanimously. Bros. Saul, Percy, Stock, Beckett, and Killick were appointed a committee to consider the removal of the Lodge, and also a revision of the Bye Laws, and ordered to present their report at the next Lodge meeting. Next Monday, being a Bank Holiday, the Lodge was adjourned until the 9th August, and closed in Masonic form.

Prince Edwin Lodge, No. 128, Bury.—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, 21st July. Present—Bros. Warwick Wood W.M., W. S. Barlow S.W., J. Senior J.W., Edward Robinson S.D., Thomas Ramsbottom sen. J.D., Thomas Wood Tr asurer, Thomas Ramsbottom jun. Secretary, Joseph Wolstenholme I.G., Wright Greenhalgh Tyler. Visitor—Bro. G. Brown I.G. Egerton Lodge, No. 1392. Business—Mr. Samuel Wrigley was ballotted unanimously and initiated, and Bros. J. Tattersall and John Pilling were raised. Two propositions for initiation were received.

Lodge of Lights, No. 148, Warrington.—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday evening last. The W.M. Dr. John Bowes P.M. P.Z. Past Prov. G. Reg. Cumberland and Westmoreland was supported by Bros. W. H. Robinson S.W., Thos. Tunstall J.W., Jos. Pickthall S.W., J. R. Young J.D., C. E. Hindley I.G., W. Sharp P.M. Treasurer, W. Mossop P.M. Prov. G. Steward, W. Richardson P.M. W.M. No. 1250, G. A. Clark, John Dimmelow, Charles Crosier J.W. No. 1250, W. Crompton, Jabez G. Hughes, Thos. Jones, Jno. Armstrong, Jas. Hannah Tyler. Visitors—Bros. P. J. Edelsten W.M. 1134, J. R. Tomlinson W.M. 368, J. W. Sanders 1219, J. H. Galloway 1250. The Lodge was opened in due form with prayer, when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and declared to be correctly recorded. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bro. James Paterson claimed advancement, and having sustained his claim was entrusted. On re-admission, Bro. Paterson was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. in ample form by the W.M., the working tools being explained by the S.W. The Lodge was closed down to the first degree, when the following gentlemen, who had already been approved, were separately introduced and initiated by the W.M., viz.: Messrs. S.E. Johnson, A. Peake and B.L. Pierpoint. Bros. Robert Vawser C.E. and Thos. Sutton were proposed as joining members; and a gentleman as a fit and proper person for ballot. The Lodge was closed in harmony.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—This Lodge held its weekly meeting on Wednesday, the 28th July, at the White Hart Tavern, Abchurch Lane. Present—Bros. Blinkhorn W.M., Abell S.W., D. Posener J.W., J. Constable Treasurer, Gomm S.D., Blackhall J.D., Franks I.G., Christopher Tyler. P.M. Brother Gottheil Preceptor. Business—The first ceremony was rehearsed by the W.M., who showed considerable proficiency in his work. The first three sections were worked by Bro. John Constable, assisted by the brethren. The proceedings ended, and the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, 4th August 1875.

Everton Lodge, No. 823, Liverpool.—Another of the numerous installation ceremonies which take place in connection with the Liverpool Lodges at this season of the year was performed at the Masonic Hall on Wednesday evening, when Bro. Thomas Shaw was placed in the W.M.'s chair of the Everton Lodge, No. 823. There was a very large and influential gathering, including a number of W.M.'s, P.M.'s, and officers from other Lodges. The ceremony of installation was very ably performed by Bro. W. Cottrell, the I.P.M., to whom was presented a very handsome P.M.'s jewel, as a token of the respect felt for him by the brethren at the close of his year in the chair. The following were invested as the officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. W. Wilson S.W., J. Houlding J.W., W. J. Lunt P.M. Treas., H. Ashmore Secretary, J. Goodman S.D., J. S. Cathbert J.D., P. W. Oglesby I.G., T. Webster S.S., J. J. Boyle J.S., T. H. Careful A.S., J. Holland P.M., D.C., and A. J. Fishlock. The annual installation pic-nic took place at Parkgate on Thursday, and was generally voted the most enjoyable ever held in connection with the Everton Lodge. There were altogether about 250 ladies and brethren present, and as the weather was delightfully fine the enjoyment was all the greater. The catering of Bro. Acton, of the Union Hotel, Parkgate, gave universal satisfaction, dinner and tea being served in a large marquee erected on the grounds of the pleasantly situated hotel. The amusements of the large party were very varied, comprising dancing, boating, donkey and other races, &c., and the "outers" returned to town shortly before eleven o'clock.

Lebanon Chapter, No. 1326.—A convocation of this new

and flourishing Chapter was held on Saturday, at the Red Lion, Hampton. The Chapter was opened by Comps. F. Walters P.Z. as Z., S. Wickens H., and W. Hammond J. The election for the officers were unanimous, and Comp. W. Smeed P.Z. exalted Bro. W. Mitchel, and afterwards Comp. S. Wickens was installed Z., by Comp. W. Smeed, who inducted W. Hammond H., H. A. Dubois J. The ceremonies were performed in Comp. Smeed's usual impressive manner. Comp. J. Hammond was invested Treasurer, F. Walters P.Z. S.E., E. Hopwood S.N., E. Gilbert P.S., Rev. P. M. Holden 1st Asst. and Chaplain, W. Mitchell 2nd Asst., J. Wallis D.C., H. Potter W.S. A five guinea P.Z.'s jewel was voted to Comp. J. T. Moss I.P.M., for services rendered by him to the Chapter during his occupation of the chair. Several candidates were proposed for exaltation, and the Chapter was closed. A banquet followed. The visitors were Comps. R. Watts P.Z. 185, F. Binckes P.Z. 10, R. W. Williams 79, H. J. Green 79, and several others.

Anchor Lodge, No. 1337.—The monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, the 21st day of July, at the Masonic Rooms, Durham House, Northallerton. There was a moderate attendance of the brethren. The officers present were—Bros. C. Waistell P.M., J. Fairburn W.M., G. F. Clarkson S.W., the J.W., S.D., J.D. and I.G. being prevented from attending, their places were filled by Bros. M. Walmsley, R. Palliser, C. Ashton and T. Bell, T. Bell Secretary, E. Wilkinson Tyler. The Lodge was opened in due form at 8.30. The minutes of the previous Lodge were read and confirmed. There being no other business the W.M. closed the Lodge at 9.15, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The W.M. then proceeded with the toasts, commencing with the Queen and the members of the Royal Family. To the toast of "The Visiting Brethren" Bro. J. Walker, of the Landmark Lodge, Chicago, responded. The last toast was given and the brethren separated after a very pleasant evening.

Fermor Hesketh Lodge, No. 1350.—This Lodge held its installation meeting on Thursday, 15th July, at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool. Present—Bros. Dr. J. W. Bennett, W.M., R. Collinson S.W., W. H. Cooper J.W., J. O. Samuels Secretary, T. A. Collinson I.P.M. Treasurer, Dr. Pierce S.D., W. P. Evans J.D., S. Johnston P.M. D.C., T. Kay Steward, T. F. Cooper I.G., W. H. Ball Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. T. R. Hughes, Dr. Samuels, Dr. Crawford, Johnstone, Collinson and Harbord. Visitors—Bros. P.M. Buck P.P. Chaplain Shropshire, and V.W.P.M. Goggin P.P. Chaplain of West Lancashire, J. P. Platt, A. J. Platt Provincial Officer, Cheshire, P.M. Mewburn, &c. Business—Installation of W.M. by P.M. Collinson. Banquet in evening; usual Masonic toasts. J. T. Evans, Esq. was initiated.

Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, No. 1507.—The weekly meeting of this Lodge of Instruction was held on 23rd July, at the Metropolitan Club, King's Cross. Bro. Side as W.M., Jas. Willing jun. S.W., Shand J.W., W. M. Stiles Secretary, Scales I.G., T. Adams P.G.P. Preceptor, and Bros. Caret, Jones, Cox, Fowler, Yeomans, Tetterborn and Rapkin. The Lodge having been opened and the minutes confirmed, the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Fowler acting as candidate. The ceremonies of passing and raising followed, Bro. Caret acting as candidate. The first and second sections of the first lecture were worked by the brethren, assisted by Preceptor Adams. Bro. Jas. Willing jun. was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and the meeting was adjourned until the following Friday.

The Hyde Park Lodge of Instruction, No. 1425.—This Lodge met on Monday at the Westbourne Restaurant, Crown Road, Bayswater. Bros. Savage W.M., Miles S.W., Cole J.W., Read Secretary, Bryett S.D., W. M. Stiles J.D., Ormiston I.G., Gellion and Alexander. The Lodge having been opened, and the minutes confirmed, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Gellion acting as candidate. The 3rd degree was then worked, Bro. Stiles acting as candidate. Great credit is due to the acting W.M. for his able delivery of the ceremonies and his lecture on the tracing board of the 3rd degree. Bro. Miles was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST YORKSHIRE.

FOR the first time since January 1874, when an Emergency Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire Freemasons was convened for the purpose of attending the obsequies of the late Dr. Fearnley, Deputy Prov. Grand Master of West Yorkshire, a Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire Masons was holden at Dewsbury on Wednesday, 21st July. At the installation of the Right Worshipful Brother Lieut.-Colonel Sir H. Edwards, Bart., J.P., D.L. as Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master of West Yorkshire, which took place at a Lodge held at Halifax, on the 21st of April, the Grand Lodge was invited by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge of the Three Grand Principles, No. 208, Dewsbury, to hold its next meeting under their banner, and the invitation was accepted. We have every reason to believe that on no past occasion has there been so large a gathering of the Craft in Dewsbury, or the district, as that assembled in the spacious Lodge room in Long Causeway on Wednesday, and the members were as enthusiastic as the assembly was large in numerical strength. The meeting was regarded as a most important one in consequence of an announcement having been made that the province had determined to make some recognition of its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by W. Brother Bentley Shaw P.G.D. of England, as Deputy Prov. Grand Master, during the past eleven years. This took the form of a magnificent and richly chased "Corbeille à fleurs," in the Byzantine style, parcel gilt, with scroll handles and chased silver shields, bearing arms and inscription, value 300 guineas. The large shield bears the arms of Bro. Bentley

Shaw, and the following inscription:—"From the Freemasons of the Province of West Yorkshire. Presented to Bro. Bentley Shaw J.P. and D.L., P.G.D. of England, Woodfield House, Huddersfield, in acknowledgement of distinguished services, as their Deputy Provincial Grand Master, from 30th March, A.L. 5864, to 21st April, A.L. 5875." The "Corbeille à fleurs" stands on a handsome ebony pedestal, with chased silver shields, one containing the arms of the Craft, and the other the following inscription:—"Presented by the Right Worshipful Master Lieut.-Col. Sir H. Edwards, Bart., and T. W. Tew, J.P., on behalf of the 59 Lodges of the Province of West Yorkshire." The plate was purchased from Bro. Manoh Rhodes P.M. P.P.G.W. of Bradford. Long before noon—the Provincial Grand Lodge being called for an hour later—the brethren from all parts of the province, but more especially from the Lodges in Dewsbury, Batley, Mirfield, Heckmondwike, Cleakheaton, and Morley began to assemble at the Masonic Hall, and before the commencement of the proceedings no fewer than 55, from a total of 59, Lodges in the Province were represented by Masters, Past Masters and Officers. On each side of the building were placed rows of seats for the accommodation of the brethren, the centre, as well as the platform, being reserved for the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The Masonic jewels and clothing presented a marked contrast when compared with the full evening dress worn by the members; and the sun shining, as it did during the whole of the proceedings, through the stained windows, assisted in making the scene a very pretty one. At 12.45 p.m. the Lodge of the Three Grand Principles was opened up in the three degrees, by Brother Thos. Wells W.M. and his officers; and shortly after one o'clock the Prov. Grand Lodge made its appearance in the usual form. The Right Worshipful Brother Sir H. Edwards Prov. Grand Master having taken his seat, and prayer having been offered and a portion of Holy Scripture read by the Prov. Grand Chaplain, Sir Henry was saluted according to ancient custom in a very enthusiastic manner by nearly 200 brethren from 55 of the 59 Lodges in the Province. He was supported by W. Bro. Thomas William Tew J.P. Deputy Prov. Grand Master, 910, Pontefract, W. Bro. Major Thomas Gouldburn Parker Prov. S.G. Warden, 401, Slaidburn, W. Bro. William Henry Brittain Prov. J.G. Warden, 139, Sheffield, W. Bro. Rev. Arthur Wolfe Hamilton M.A. Prov. G. Chaplain, 139, Sheffield, W. Bro. Rev. George Samuel Danbar M.A. Prov. G. Chaplain, 910, Pontefract, W. Bro. Robert I. Critchley J.P. Prov. G. Treasurer, 203, Dewsbury, W. Bro. Edmund Minson Wavell jun. Prov. G. Registrar, 61, Halifax, W. Bro. Henry Smith Prov. Grand Secretary, 387, Wakefield, W. Bro. William Tasker Prov. S.G. Deacon, 61, Halifax, W. Bro. Thomas Heaton Prov. J.G. Deacon 275, Huddersfield, W. Bro. C. Mandall Hartley Prov. G. Sup. of Works 212, Doncaster, W. Bro. William Roddewig Prov. G.D. of C., 296, Sheffield, W. Bro. James Beck Prov. G.A.D. of C., 289, Leeds, W. Bro. Frederick Crossley Prov. G.S. Bearer, 1231, Elland, W. Bro. Frederick Whitworth Nicholson Prov. G. Organist, 1031, Eccleshill, W. Bro. Adolph E. Powolny Prov. G. Pursuivant, 1211, Leeds, W. Bro. John Richardson jun. Prov. G.A. Pursuivant, 1001, Harrogate, W. Bro. John R. Armitage Prov. Grand Steward, 302, Bradford, W. Bro. Jno. Ibberson Prov. Grand Steward, 1102, Mirfield, W. Bro. Allen Jackson Prov. Grand Steward, 521, Huddersfield, W. Bro. Geo. Haigh Prov. Grand Steward 149, Meltham, W. Bro. John Marshall Prov. Grand Steward, 1283, Sowerby Bridge, W. Bro. Henry Ward Prov. Grand Steward, 1018, Bradford, W. Bro. Joshua Lee Prov. G. Tyler, 290, Huddersfield, and Bro. Jonas Sheard Prov. G.A. Tyler, 203, Dewsbury.

The Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master, on rising to acknowledge the salute, was loudly cheered, and when the enthusiasm had subsided, he cordially thanked the brethren for attending the meeting. He said he felt they had paid him a great personal compliment—one that he did not expect even from the Masons of West Yorkshire as their representative. In return he desired to say that he was proud to represent such a province as that of which he had the honour to be the head; he could assure all present that his best endeavours should always be used, not only for the Freemasons of West Yorkshire, but also for his brethren throughout the United Kingdom. (Applause.) He had not been for the past 25 years a Mason without understanding its principles and without having gained some faith in his brethren. (Applause.) He believed that a good Mason was a man of unsullied honesty and integrity; and he had learned, from experience, to trust a brother until he found his faith misplaced. If a man once suspected his neighbour,—if suspicion gained possession of the heart,—all trust and credit ceased, and anything but good was the result. In conclusion, Sir Henry said the gathering of the Craft, which he had the honour of addressing, was a credit to the province; and he cordially and fraternally thanked all present for the honour they conferred upon him personally by attending in such large numbers. (Cheers.)

The W. Deputy Prov. G. Master, Bro. T. W. Tew, J.P., having been saluted by the brethren, thanked the meeting for the kind sentiments expressed towards the Prov. Grand Master, and for the cordial reception they had given to himself (the speaker). He most cordially, heartily, and fraternally thanked them. He desired to state that when the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master installed him as Deputy Provincial Grand Master he felt there could be no better way of appreciating the honour conferred upon him than by making a personal visit to all the Lodges in the province. He had already been to a great number, and had, on every occasion, met with the greatest kindness and hospitality. (Cheers.) He intended to continue his visits, and hoped by so doing—and thus assisting in promoting the study of Freemasonry—he would not misplace the confidence of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Sir Henry Edwards, had placed in him. (Cheers.)

The Deputy Prov. G. Master next read the roll of Lodges, and some other routine business having been transacted,

The Right Worshipful P.G. Master, Sir Henry Edwards, after a few preliminary remarks, said:—Brethren,—If you refer to the summons convening this meeting you will observe that one of the most pleasing duties which it is possible to fall to the lot of any living being now devolves upon me, in presenting to our much-esteemed

Brother Bentley Shaw a piece of plate, which you have provided for that purpose. I sincerely congratulate myself on being selected to discharge this pleasant duty, inasmuch as it enables me, whilst speaking your sentiments, to express my own sense of the great and lasting obligations which Brother Shaw has laid upon us all by the manner in which he has discharged his various and important duties whilst holding the position of Deputy Prov. Grand Master of this province during the period of eleven years just expired. Any words of mine are inadequate to the faithful description of the feelings of respect and admiration with which we all regard Brother Shaw; and the only circumstance of regret with which the assumption of my present office was associated was the fact that those services, found to be so useful and valuable to my predecessor, could not be continued to my advantage. Bro. Shaw's exertions in promoting the best interests of our noble institution are well-known, both in the province and in other parts of England. During eleven long years he has exercised his fraternal—nay, even paternal—supervision of the business of this great province, and has seen the Lodges and the members thereof increase in numbers and influence. He has also aided and directed the great current of practical charity which has so greatly increased the means and spheres of usefulness of the several charities of our Order; and it is no figure of speech, nor unwarrantable statement of facts, to say that in all these great movements the name of Brother Shaw has been so indelibly impressed upon the minds of West Yorkshire Masons as to be admired by the present and future generations of the brethren of the Craft. Brother Shaw, permit me, therefore, to tender for your acceptance this token of the respect and admiration which the brethren of this province desire to confer upon you; and also permit me to say, on their behalf, that, beautiful as it is as a work of art, it possesses a far higher value than its material worth ten thousand times told. It is the freewill offering, and also the symbolical expression of the affectionate regard of a body of men intimately and agreeably associated with you in the business of the province,—men whose only regret, while making this presentation, is that they will, in the future, lose the advantage they have long enjoyed, and appreciated in the past, of working under the influence of your general character and conduct as their Deputy Prov. Grand Master. I trust that you will live long to look on this beautiful gift, which I am sure is a token of the good feeling that exists between you and the brethren of the province of West Yorkshire. (Loud cheers.)

Deputy Prov. G. Master Bro. Tew said he cordially responded to the sentiments expressed by the Provincial Grand Master. Although he had only known Bro. Shaw since he (the speaker) was appointed a Prov. G. Lodge Steward in 1864, he could bear testimony to his indefatigable zeal. He was possessed of great urbanity of character, and this had endeared him to all. His unvaried zeal and untiring industry—which was the foundation of great blessings—in the cause of Freemasonry, was such that only once throughout the eleven years he had been Deputy Provincial Grand Master in 1864, had he missed attending the Provincial Grand Lodge. Then it was through domestic affliction. It became now his (Bro. Tew's) privilege to respond to the sentiments of the Prov. Grand Master in offering him (Bro. Shaw) the substantial sympathy of the 59 Lodges of the West Yorkshire province. The speaker concluded by hoping he would take with him into his voluntary retirement, as he was sure he would, the best wishes of the Masons of West Yorkshire—a body which, he trusted, Bro. Shaw would live long to adorn. (Cheers.)

Bro Bentley Shaw, who was visibly affected on rising to respond, after the cheering that greeted him had subsided, said:—Most Worshipful Sir, Officers and Brethren,—You have often heard my voice; often have I had the privilege of addressing you, but I have never had so much difficulty before the present time in making my sentiments known to you. Your generous gift—your generous memento of my connection with the Masons of West Yorkshire has almost overwhelmed me. You must not measure my thanks by any words I may use, as I feel unequal to the task. I have often asked myself,—what have I done to deserve this signal of your favour? I have often asked,—what have I done to warrant such a proof of your love and esteem? All the answer that I can find is, that, while I had the approval of my conscience and of my God, I have striven to do my duty and all I possibly could to preserve Freemasonry. (Cheers.) Yet I feel how utterly unworthy I am to be the recipient of such a mark of your favour. (No, no.) I never dreamed of it. I may truly say that I never worked for this beautiful piece of plate; and in answer to the many questions which I have this day put to myself, I can find but one reply, and that is—a deep consciousness that I am unworthy of it. (No, no.) But let me endeavour to thank you for the valuable present you have given me—a present which is a beautiful work of art. I shall always value it—not only for its worth, its classic, and, at the same time, its chasteness of design, its rich ornamentation and its general beauty, but more than this, I shall value it because of the genuineness of feeling you have displayed towards me. I cannot fail to value it because it is an expressive symbol of generous hearts.

Yours and mine are

“Hearts bound up together,
Firm bound in fraternal love.”

It will help me to think of the eleven years connection with you. It will also assist me in making me do my duty. My family will always prize it for my own sake, as well as yours. (Cheers.) I shall take care that it is handed down as a sacred heirloom. I take the liberty here of thanking the committee of selection for the handsome present; and yourself, Most Worshipful Grand Master, as well as Lady Edwards—(cheers)—who, if I am correctly informed, have greatly assisted the committee in their choice. (Hear, hear.) I desire to say here that it is a matter of congratulation that the present has been made to me in the good old town of Dewsbury—(cheers)—the town where Dr. Fearnley, my predecessor, lived, was loved, was honoured, and died. I am glad, too, that it has been your province, Most Worshipful Grand Master, to present me with this handsome gift; for, eleven years ago, I well remember, when your Right Worshipful's predecessor conferred the honour of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, you, sir, were on my right hand. I am glad that you are present to-day. I accept the gift with gratitude and deep humility. I trust that, as Sir Henry Edwards has said, I shall never cease to promote Freemasonry until my heart has ceased to beat and my breath has left me. Let my last words be that you will show affection to the Grand Master of England, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales—(cheers)—to Sir Henry Edwards—(cheers)—and to his coadjutor, Bro. Tew. May this great and influential province of the West Riding ever stand first and foremost in all that is beautiful and good, useful and happy in Freemasonry. May that noble column, symbolised by wisdom and strength and beauty, whose pedestal, shaft and capital have been founded, upraised and crowned by the indomitable skill, energy and self-denying efforts of her numerous sons stand inviolable amid the raging billows and rude shocks of time, seeing that it has its foundations, as I trust it ever will have, in heaven-born and heaven-approving charity. Bro. Shaw, who at periods evinced great emotion, and consequently was but indistinctly heard, then resumed his seat, amidst immense cheering.

The Right Worshipful Grand Master announced that Bro. Bentley Shaw had received from the Grand Master of England a patent appointing him a P.G.D. of England—a remark which elicited a hearty outburst of cheering. Some routine business having been transacted, the Prov. Grand Lodge and the Lodge of the Three Grand Principles were closed.

At the close of the Lodge Business the brethren adjourned to the Church of England Boys' School, where a banquet was served up in the most *recherché* style. The arrangements were well carried out by the Stewards, and the cusinary department reflected great credit upon the ability of Bro. and Mrs. Petty, both of whom succeeded in winning high encomiums for the way the dinner was placed on the table. The edibles were such as would satisfy the most fastidious, while the wines were of the choicest vintage. The Right Worshipful Prov. G. Master, Sir Henry Edwards, occupied the chair, and he was supported by the before-mentioned, as well as a large number of influential members of the Craft. After the repast, the health of her Majesty the Queen was proposed by the Chairman, and this having been duly honoured, a similar compliment was paid to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family. Sir Henry Edwards, in very eulogistic and Masonic terms, gave the toast of the Most W. G. Master of All England, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., and the Most W. Pro Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, and this was received in a very enthusiastic manner. The health of the R. W. Deputy G. Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Skelmersdale, and the Officers of Grand Lodge Present and Past was the next toast given by the Chairman, and then the W. D. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Tew, proposed the health of the R. W. Prov. G. Master, Sir H. Edwards, who responded in suitable terms; and in conclusion gave the toast of the W. D. Prov. G. Master, whose name was received with loud cheers. After a suitable response, Bro. Sir H. Edwards gave the health of the W. Past D. Prov. G. Master, Bro Bentley Shaw, J.P., P.G.D. of England; who, in a speech of some length, again thanked the province for the presentation made to him. Bro. Manoah Rhodes P.M. paid a high compliment to Mrs. Bentley Shaw, whose health was drunk. Bro. Shaw responded in feeling terms. The remaining toasts were “The Masonic Charities,” proposed by Bro. Jo. Ibberson, and responded to by Bro. Henry Smith P.M. Prov. G. Sec., Wakefield; “the W. Masters and P. Masters of Lodges,” proposed by Bro. B. Shaw, and acknowledged by W. Bro. Thos. Wells W.M., Dewsbury, and W. Bro. Cocker P.M., “The Visiting Brethren” and “Lady Edwards and the Ladies.” The speeches, which were truly of a Masonic character, were interspersed with selections of vocal music rendered by Bro. B. Watson, 974, Bro. H. Mitchell, 387, Bro. Thornton Wood, 1018, and Bro. J. L. Atherton, 439:—Bro. F. W. Nicholson, Prov. G. Organist, presiding at the pianoforte. The proceedings terminated between six and seven o'clock. The next Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at Sheffield.—*Dewsbury Chronicle*.

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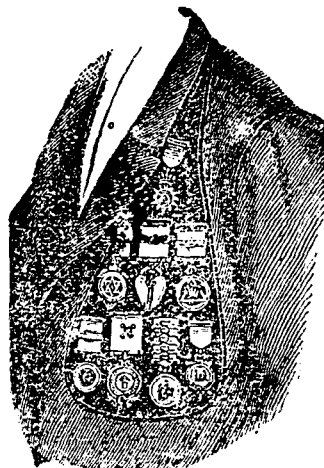
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