

THE

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A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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CHARITY.

THE season is at hand when the virtue of Charity is either practised or assumed. In saying this we have no wish to imply that people exhibit a lack of this virtue at other seasons, but somehow it has grown into a custom that almsgiving, and, generally speaking, goodwill towards our fellows, should be indulged in more prominently now than at other times. Never a day passes but the papers contain all kinds of appeals to the benevolent to contribute to the wants of their poorer brethren; and there is hardly a journal which does not contain lists of charitable donations to this or that Institution or person, or, it may be, to the poor-box, so that our magistrates, before whose notice so many cases of pitiable distress are being continually brought, may have funds with which to relieve them. We may regard this custom as essentially Christian, because the birth of Christ inaugurated a new dispensation of love. We may associate it only with the special rigours which prevail in winter. We may regard it from a business point of view, as marking the close of one year, when we consign all unpleasant memories to oblivion, and the beginning of another, when we look forward cheerfully, and hope for continued or increased prosperity. At such a time the most selfish person can hardly avoid wishing that others may fare well likewise. However, it matters very little why we are or appear more charitable now than at other seasons. It is a subject for congratulation that, in this world of care and strife, where people are ever jostling and tripping up their neighbours, in the hope of bettering themselves at the expense of others, one period of the year should be specially set apart for the cultivation or exhibition of goodwill.

But while we are grateful for even the smallest of blessings, and the periodical dispensation of charity is a very considerable blessing, we are oftentimes disposed to ask ourselves whether charity has not grown to be more of a business than it was formerly. We cannot traverse the commercial portion of the metropolis, or even the one street of a small country village, without noting how careful, how considerate are the preparations for this Christmas charity. We see everywhere announcements of "Christmas Presents," "Presents for the Million," comprising almost every variety of article, from the penny drum or trumpet to the costliest jewellery. And too often people buy these things as a matter of course, and give and receive them as a matter of course, quite as often as for any sense of pleasure that is felt in the giving or receiving. Again, this Christmas charity is oftentimes a tax upon those whose means are limited. People give without regard to their ability, but simply because it has come to be a custom to give, just as it was the practice, if a man ate a chop in a friend's house, to give a gratuity all round to the servants. Others give from more selfish motives. It has been said that gratitude is a kindly sense of favours to come, and a good many people make presents now in the firm belief that it will be a source of profit to them in the coming year. We may almost imagine there are some people who keep a set of books in which they record their charitable, as in their business books they record their commercial transactions. Then a balance is struck, and the amount of profit and loss on charity is ascertained. We shall be told, of course, that in thus estimating the charitable deeds peculiar to this season, we are taking the lowest possible view, that we have in us no sense of charity whatever, or we should not thus analyse the motives of people in doing

good. It is far pleasanter, of course, to look at things from the rosy point of view, and to believe that all the world now and at all times, is animated by the best and purest and most disinterested motives. Were it likely to do good to make this affirmation, we should not hesitate for one moment to make it. We would far rather think good than evil of other people, but thinking will not alter facts. It is true beyond question—pity 'tis, 'tis true—that people often dispense Charity from a sense of pride, because they will not be outdone by their neighbours, or of ostentation, because they love to hear themselves assessed at more than their true value, or from a still less honourable motive, because they look to profit by their good deeds. Equally true is it that Charity is far too often a tax, and people give who can ill afford it simply because it is customary. Yet good cometh of this evil, and, save in the last case mentioned, some folk benefit by the gifts that are given, be the motives of the donors what they may. Therefore it is, we have said it is matter for congratulation that one season of the year should be specially set apart for the exhibition, or it may be, the cultivation of good will.

Having exhausted, or at all events said all we care to say as to the Charity that is mere counterfeit, having noted that all that is set down as Charity must not be taken as such; let us turn for a few moments to the far pleasanter picture, and consider what is that Charity which is not counterfeit. Charity is that virtue which all Masons humbly strive to illustrate by every act and deed of their daily life. In fact, Masonic, like Christian, Charity, embraces all the other virtues. It includes, though it is not confined to, almsgiving. But this form of Charity must not be exercised either indiscriminately or inconsiderately. We must not give to our own detriment. In the bestowal of alms we must discriminate between those worthy and those unworthy to receive, giving what we can afford to give only to the former; for, as one of the greatest of ancient philosophers said, "the mis-placing of a benefit is worse than the not receiving of it; for the one is another man's fault, but the other is mine. The error of the giver does oftentimes excuse the ingratitude of the receiver; for a favour ill placed is rather a profession than a benefit." Nor is this form to be measured by the extent of what is given. The widow's mite which she cast into the treasury was as acceptable as the most lavish of gifts. It is not the value of what is given that we regard, but the spirit of the giver. It by no means follows that the rich man who gives his guineas is a charitable man, yet a poor man who thoughtfully expends a shilling on some worthy object is worthy of the highest praise. But charity, as we have said, is something more than almsgiving. The man who has it is ever kind, without envy, without boastfulness, without pride. Charity delights in whatever is good and true and beautiful; it is full of pity for whatever is evil and false and ugly. And though a man possess all the other virtues, yet will they avail him not, if he possess not charity. But perhaps a brief extract from the writings of an eminent Mason of a day gone by will best illustrate this virtue. "In order to exercise this virtue," the late Bro. Hutchinson, in his *Spirit of Masonry*, "both in the character of Masons and in common life, with propriety, and agreeable to good principles, we must forget every obligation but affection; for otherwise it were to confound Charity with duty. The feelings of the heart ought to direct the hand of Charity. To this purpose we should be divested of every idea of superiority, and estimate ourselves as being of equality, the same rank and race of men; in this disposition of mind we may be susceptible to those sentiments

which Charity delighteth in; to feel the woes and miseries of others with a genuine and true sympathy of soul. Compassion is of heavenly birth; it is one of the first characteristics of humanity. Peculiar to our race, it distinguishes us from the rest of creation." And again, "The objects of true Charity are merit and virtue in distress; persons who are incapable of extricating themselves from misfortunes which have overtaken them in old age; industrious men, from inevitable accidents and acts of Providence, rushed into ruin; widows left survivors of their husbands, by whose labour they subsisted; orphans in tender years, left naked to the world." The man who is thus animated towards these objects is indeed a charitable man.

MASONIC PORTRAITS (No. 7.)

THE GOWNSMAN.

THE legal profession is not generally popular with the mass of Englishmen. It is true that the old people, who declare that they "hate a lawyer like poison," are rapidly dying out from amongst us; but the multitude are still disposed to regard an advocate as a person who is paid to tell fibs, while the more thoughtful and the educated maintain that the superficial studies of the barrister, although they quicken the least nobler of the intellectual faculties, do not afford scope for the play of those higher powers of mind which are indispensable in the statesman. A lawyer is seldom a statesman, he is rarely a profound thinker, or a student of science. He acquires a knack, which is common enough to journalists, of quickly "getting up," as it is phrased, any subject that he may find it necessary to understand. An advocate in Court will astonish you by his apparent knowledge of medical science, by his apparent mastery of the details of architecture or engineering, or by an apparent acquaintance with the technicalities of the naval profession. All this knowledge, however, is, in nine cases out of ten, "got up" specially, and it is at once discharged from the mind, when the occasion for its use or display has passed by. The basis of the man's mind is law; he approaches every question which may be submitted to his judgment with a legal bias, and can no more forget his training than an opera dancer can lay aside her over-developed limbs with the silken hose with which she covers, but does not conceal, their abnormal proportions. The superficial quickness of the legal intellect is, no doubt, useful in the ordinary relations of life. The lawyer cannot help weighing evidence, or exposing defective logic, even when he has put off his professional harness. Perhaps he sometimes forgets that the bad logician may have a good case, or he ignores the weight of the evidence which has been clumsily presented, or made to prove too much. The practice of dialectics is not always an advantage to the cause of truth. A man who is skilled in the art of tripping up an opponent, is sometimes too much taken with the sport to think of the consequences. In overthrowing a clumsy foe, he may often forget that he sometimes gives truth an ugly fall, and ranges himself for the moment upon the side of the "father of lies."

We are glad, however, to know that we have in the ranks of Masonry many gownsmen, who use their knowledge and display their dialectic skill for the good of the Order. It is in the nature of Masonry to gather to itself all that is best and brightest in the learned professions, and we expect these specially skilled brethren to open the stores of their knowledge for us, just as the Church of Rome, in the days of its glory, expected the poets and musicians to devote their genius to the service of the Church. The man who is conversant with those principles of eternal justice which constitute the science of Equity, may often display his knowledge with advantage in the Lodge room. If, for example, he is high in office, and conversant with Masonic jurisprudence, he may help to illumine those debatable points of our law which have often exercised the minds of the brightest members of the Order. The gentleman whose portrait we are about to sketch is, we need scarcely say, a lawyer, and wears, with honour and distinction, the silk of a Queen's Counsel. His high office in the Order renders him a conspicuous person in Grand Lodge, and few who have ever seen him in his place, at the extreme end of the Dais, on the proper right hand, can forget his striking appearance, or peculiar

characteristics. His natural advantages but serve to adorn those mental gifts for which he is remarkable. In the prime of life, of middle stature, and florid complexion, his handsome features are marked with those traces of thought and care which are the result of many a battle at the Bar, and much burning of the midnight oil over briefs and books of legal lore. He and that "Distinguished Mason," whose portrait we sketched some time since, might almost be termed twin brothers. He usually sits with his head resting in his hand, the fore finger extended and pressing upon the angle of the forehead. The attitude at once reminds a spectator of the famous portrait of Sterne. It is the attitude of a thinker and a wit. Beside him lies his satchel, gorgeously embroidered with the symbols of the Order, and doubtless crammed to repletion with papers. His duties, we need scarcely say, are agreeably performed. Whenever a dispute arises between any of the brethren who are under the sway of our Constitution, his profound knowledge is always called into play, and so wisely has he hitherto held the scales of justice that his decisions have never been reversed by Grand Lodge. At the last Quarterly Communication he had to decide upon an appeal by Bro. Robert Levingstone, of Poona, and so clear and so masterly was the judgment of our original upon this somewhat difficult case, that it was at once unanimously allowed. But although he can hold the scales of justice thus evenly, it has been noticed that he sometimes shows a decided bias in Grand Lodge in favour of the privileged denizens of the Dais. It is said that when any brother below ventures to bring forward a question it is not received by him with that degree of favour which he usually accords to those who immediately surround him. This partiality, if it be such, may be unconsciously exercised, or it may be that those who have suffered from his inexorable logic are not always fair judges of his conduct. An earnest man, with a good idea to develop and press upon the attention of his brethren, has, perhaps, little patience for those refinements of temperament with which the legal mind can make the worse appear the better reason. Our foregone conclusions may run in the direction of truth and justice, but it is not always possible to induce either an opponent or a judge to take our stand point, and look at the thing through our eyes. Our hero may sometimes err in favouring those whose worldly rank or Masonic importance entitle them to consideration, but no one can say that he willingly, and with his eyes open, employs either his logic or his learning to crush the least experienced Mason who may venture to address the Lodge. He is a good speaker, but perhaps exhibits a little of the manner of the Bar, and somewhat of what Dickens called the "Jury droop" when he is addressing a Masonic audience. These slight defects of oratory are, however, characteristic of lawyers, who usually regard every subject under discussion as a "case," and if they are not called upon to exercise judicial functions, they cannot help taking sides, nor can they ever realise that an audience is not a jury, sworn to give a true verdict according to the evidence. Of the social qualities of our hero, we need scarcely speak; he is genial at the table, and, like a true gentleman, he puts every one at his ease. It is not for us to say how often his talents have been exerted to support some dignitary of the Order, who, without such aid, might have made a sorry figure.

"As Æneas

Did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulders
The old Anchises bear"—

So has he, doubtless, oft upheld a tired or dull Cæsar of the Order, when sinking, under the weight of his Masonic harness, into a troubled Tiber of difficulty and confusion.

The brethren of the Panmure Lodge, No. 720, have it in contemplation to give a Masonic ball, under the dispensation of Grand Lodge, the proceeds to be devoted to Masonic Charities. Either of the undermentioned would be pleased to receive assistance from members of the Craft, who may desire to act as Stewards and members of a Committee, in order to carry out the scheme.

CHAS. PULMAN W.M. 720, J.W. 1420, W.M. M.M. 139,
British Museum, W.C.

BENJN. RICHARDSON, Secretary 720, D.C., M.M. 139,
3 Ramsden Road, Balham, S.W.

CHAS. P. MCKAY I.G. 720, Sec. M.M. 139,
53 Bryne Road, Balham, S.W.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

IN compliance with a requisition presented to Bro. Robert Wentworth Little, S.G.W. Middlesex, Sec. to the Institution, a special meeting of Governors and Subscribers was held on Saturday, at Freemason's Hall, Great Queen Street, Bro. Lieut.-Col. Creton P.G.D. V.P. in the chair. Bro. Little read particulars of the scheme, which was recommended by the Special Committee of the General Committee, and by them passed into this Court. It provided for the erection of a large new hall, with a covered way between it and the new laundries in the grounds. The cost of these additions, which would provide for the accommodation of 94 extra children, was estimated by Bro. Massa, the architect, to cost £20,790. The adoption of this report was proposed by Bro. T. W. White, and seconded by Bro. H. Dubois. Bro. Dr. Ramsey asked whether the sum named in the estimate would cover the whole expense. The Chairman said that, after full consideration, the Committee believed it would be much under the estimate. Bro. R. W. Stewart enquired whether the architect's commission was included in the estimate, which would amount to something like £1250. Bro. Massa said it was not included in the estimate, but it would amount to £1200. The Chairman said the Committee were of opinion that, instead of patching it up to increase the accommodation, as had been the case for the last dozen years, at a cost of something like £16,000, they would be acting more wisely to incur a larger expenditure at once, and erect a building that was equal to their requirements. Bro. Kenyon objected to the large outlay; he said the present position of the School was not healthy, being surrounded by houses, and would shortly be hemmed in closer; by spending £21,000 they would be reducing their annual income £1,000. While they had the responsibility of providing for 94 extra girls a more healthy spot might be selected; and, as an amendment, he moved its rejection. Bro. H. Browne P.G.D. also spoke on the subject. Bro. W. Winn informed the meeting it had already been ascertained that £1,200 had not been included in the architect's commission, and a further charge would be required for the furniture of the new building. Bro. Dr. Ramsey asked the chairman as to the healthiness of the present building, and was informed by him that there had been but two deaths in seven years. Bro. Raynham W. Stewart, spoke of utilising the Infirmary, Dining Hall, &c., at a cost of £1,000, but submitted to the decision of the committee, and their adoption of the proposed scheme. Bro. Herbert Dickett P.G.S. testified to the healthy condition of the present site, and adduced as evidence that two Royal Commissions had been entrusted with enquiry for Patriotic School. The Parish had also built a district workhouse there. Col. Burdett, P.G.M. Middlesex, thought the neighbourhood was being too much built on to admit of the School being healthy, and he believed in a short time the whole place would be densely populated. After some further discussion, Bro. J. Smith P.G.P. proposed, and Bro. John Boyd P.G.P. seconded, that the whole matter, together with any further schemes, be referred back to the committee, who were nominated. The following Life Governors: Bros. Poynter Kenyon, D. Rolls, J. Smith, Roebuck, Dr. W. Ramsey, G. Kenning, Fish, and W. Stephens. A vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman. There were present—Bros. Col. Burdett P.G.M. Middlesex, J. Symonds P.G.D., H. Browne P.G.P., J. C. Parkinson D.P.G.M. Middlesex, T. J. Sabine, H. Dickett, John Boyd P.G.P., J. Smith P.G.P., H. Massey, Poynter, Berry, D. Rolls, W. Smeed, R. W. Stewart, T. W. White, S. Rawson D.G.M. China, Massa, Tattershall, F. Binckes, H. M. Levy, G. Kenning, C. Lacey, Fish, Davage, E. H. Thiellay, Farnfield, Griffiths Smith, J. M. Vaughan, J. M. Montague.

BRO. C. DUVAL'S ENTERTAINMENT,

In Aid of the Funds of the Cheshire Educational Masonic Institution.

CHESHIRE stands well among our Provinces in the support it extends to our principal Charitable Institutions. It has, moreover, a Masonic Educational Institution of its own, in which the brethren naturally take pride, and which they strive most earnestly to make as efficient as possible. As a means to this end, an entertainment was organised in aid of the funds of this Institution, on the evenings of the 6th, 7th and 8th instant, under the patronage of Right Hon. Lord de Tabley R.W.P.G.M., Bro. George C. Legh D.P.G.M., and the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and the Masters, Wardens, and Officers of Lodges 477 and 537, Birkenhead; 605 and 1276, Seacombe; and 1289, Rock Ferry. This series of entertainments was held on the 6th inst., at the Concert Hall, Liscard; on the 7th, at the Queen's Hall, Birkenhead; and on the 8th, at the Rock Hotel Assembly Rooms, Rock Ferry. They were given solely by Bro. Charles Duval, an Irish brother, Lodge 139, Ireland, and R.A. Chapter 73, Limerick whose talents as a mimic and vocalist have been so generally and so deservedly recognised by the press, both here and in Ireland. The programme consisted of his "Odds and Ends," and included his recitation of "The Bells," and his impersonation of a variety of characters, such as "Signor Howlini," "Chawley of Ours," "Captain Rattlecash," "Betsy Scrubbe," "Colonel Peppard," "Miss Dashaway," "Professor Dullbore," "The Town Crier," &c. He gave, also, of his Specialities, such as "His Original Burlesque Science Lecture," "His Tragedy in Five Acts," "His Double Characters and Duets in Two Voices," &c., &c., together with sundry from his repertoire of songs which includes "The Agony Column," "Off to Pancheston," "The Race of Life," "The Maid of All Work," "Little Bynkes," and "Barney and Mary." On each evening the Lodges mustered in considerable strength. The entertainment was

admirably given, and the reception accorded to our talented brother was in the highest degree enthusiastic, worthy alike of the skill of the performer, and the purpose for which his entertainment was given. As a result, Bro. Duval handed over to the Cheshire Educational Masonic Institution the sum of £30, being one-half of the nett proceeds. We trust the example of the Birkenhead and neighbouring Lodges may be followed, not only in Cheshire, but in other of our provinces, and in the metropolis likewise. We feel sure Bro. Duval would meet with a hearty welcome everywhere, and that his great talents would be duly appreciated by the Craft throughout England. We must not be understood as suggesting that Bro. Duval's ability should be utilised for the cause of charity to his own detriment. We are aware of the heavy calls made upon him, and those similarly engaged. It is possible to enlist the services of a popular artist without trespassing on his good nature. It is a common thing to get up some dramatic, musical, or other entertainment in aid of the funds of some charity. The Committee of Management take all the risk, and if the performance is successful, the performer and the charity are alike advantaged. We merely throw out this as a hint to those zealous in the cause of charity. Many a man will purchase tickets for such an entertainment who would not otherwise heed much the divine claims of charity.

IMPROMPTU SONG.

Written and Sung at the Annual Meeting of the "Alexandra" Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Hornsea, 15th December 1875.

I'm going to sing a little song, and do as I'm requested,
'Tis all about a gathering in which you're interested;
The noblest set of men I've known, e'er since that I was born, sec,
Are the members of the "Alexandra" Lodge, that's down at Hornsea.

Attention pay,

You may depend, I'll not offend,

By what I say.

'Tis just about a year ago, you all recorded votes, Sirs,
And elevated to the East, our worthy Brother OATES, Sirs;
Right well he has performed his part, he's played no paltry pranks, Sirs,
But as the Ex-MAYOR truly says, "he's deserving of our thanks," Sirs.

Attention pay, &c.

He was very soon surrounded by a lot of noble swells, Sirs,
And first and foremost in the lot, was Brother B. L. WELLS, Sirs;
He was not "up" in Masonry; but now he "gets on faster,"
And this evening you've elected him to be your future Master.

Attention pay, &c.

For another able officer you have not to look far, Sirs,
There, in the South, you will perceive our Brother WILLIAM CARR, Sirs;
I'm very sure you'll all agree that he has done his duty,
And if he glides into the West you'll see more of his beauty.

Attention pay, &c.

There, in the North East, you may see our Brother MATTHEW HOCKNEY,
I know no word to rhyme with his, except the name of Cockney;
I use this word advisedly—it does not mean disgrace, Sirs,
But it testifies he's wide-awake, whenever he takes his place, Sirs.

Attention pay, &c.

Then COLBECK, as our "laugh and split," is really quite elated,
When he gets a candidate who wants to be, by you, initiated;
While from our worthy Secretary you often get good wiggings,
So if you don't behave yourselves I'll send for Brother LIGGINS.

Attention pay, &c.

Brother THOMPSON, as your Treasurer, has done his duty fine O!
And proved that he is competent to take care of the rhino,
His balance-sheet is gratifying; your good applause, he's won it,
The only wonder in my mind is—how the deuce he's done it.

Attention pay, &c.

Our Inner Guard a true man is, right well the work he tackles,
A very useful little man is our good Brother SHACKLES;
While in our Outer Guard we have a man who doesn't tire
In keeping off intruders—I mean our Brother CRIER.

Attention pay, &c.

Our Past Masters, to help us on, are never slow or tardy, [HARDY;
We've had friends WELLS and BROOKE to-night, and likewise Brother
We value their assistance—I'm certain you'll not doubt it,
We should not have got on so well if we had been without it.

Attention pay, &c.

Our Lodge began with thirteen men, but all were good and true, Sirs,
And at the end of our first year, we numbered forty-two, Sirs;
You'll find at end of '76, our brotherhood excels, Sirs,
For we mean to rally round our Master—Brother B. L. WELLS, Sir.

Attention pay, &c.

Then fill your glasses to the brim, and take your time from me, Sirs,
Success to "Alexandra"—the jewel of Hornsea, Sirs;
I'm sure the brethren understand the confidence I feel, Sirs,
You all will labour in the cause with "fervency and zeal," Sirs.

Attention pay, &c.

THE ANTIQUITY OF MASONRY.

REPRINTED FROM "THE NEW ENGLAND FREEMASON."

An Address delivered before the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, at the Quarterly Communication, 8th September 1875, by R.W. Charles Levi Woodbury, Past Deputy Grand Master.

A LITTLE more than a century and a half ago, Freemasonry, except for mystic purposes, suspended handicraft labours, and devoted itself to the speculative part of the art. Before that time both kinds were carried on together, surely as far back as the oldest (A.D. 1599) Lodge record which has survived to our day. How much earlier Masonry included speculative subjects is a question where opinions have varied, and men have been inclined to dogmatize variously. Masonry is the oldest art whose works are extant. To the Freemason it would be interesting to know if it had, as our traditions say, always a speculative side, and also whether it has had a continuous existence as an art, or has at times been lost and again invented or rediscovered. These are the questions I propose to examine to-night. If the art of Masonry was speculative as well as practical, in ancient times, and yet was lost afterwards, our claim to antiquity could not mount higher than the period of its rediscovery; but if there has been a constant succession, all evidence of speculative opinions is of historical value.

Without troubling you with my opinions, I shall lay before you some evidence gathered on the descent and the early organization of Masonry, not claiming that these facts are conclusive, but asking whether they do not justify further research into this interesting subject.

It will be admitted that if we find fragments of usages, designs, as well as tools and methods of work of the ancient Masons in use in the same Craft in modern times, an inference of a continuous channel of descent is presumptively established. It will not be disputed that the ancestors of modern Masons, like other men, lived in those days; that then commerce existed, people migrated, barbarians became civilized by contact with enlightened people, arts were transmitted through castes, counting a descent thus for thousands of years in some countries, and elsewhere by initiation and instruction, from generation to generation. Thus, Masonic organization, supported by successive initiation of apprentices, may have existed from the early times. Let us enquire whether Masonry has not always been a spiritual man of brains and brawny arms, uniting the best culture, learning, intellect and taste of its time with practical, hard-working art.

In the remains of the most ancient religions which have been handed down to us are found esoteric and exoteric doctrines, together with particular initiations through which the select few were gradually raised to the knowledge of the mysteries and higher thoughts included in their rituals and dogmas.

The earth is strewn with the wrecks of ancient temples, whose relics attest that all religions had recourse to the Masonic art to express their highest acts of devotion and oblation. The adepts who constructed them must have held intimate relations with the hierarchies of those creeds whose symbols and mysteries are entwined in the temples of their faith. The antiquarian draws with confidence from the forms and symbols of these ruins testimony to supplement the meagre remains handed down through literary channels, and we also may find something there of the organization and lore of those early Freemasons that will be instructive to compare with things of to-day.

There are strong reasons for thinking that the art of Masonry was not an original discovery in each of the various ancient centres of civilization. It is probable that it was invented, cultivated and developed in some centre, and from thence was carried by its professors to other and growing countries, at the invitation of religious or political rulers, to give enduring expression to the feelings of reverence of the people, and to the exposition of dogmas, by embodying in holy and public buildings symbols and configurations designed to recall to the mind important doctrines of their theology. Such, indeed, is one of the objects of Masonry at this day.

The travelling propensities of the great master workmen of antiquity are verified by the records. We find Greeks of celebrity working in Asia Minor; and even working in Egypt under the Macedonian dynasty. Thus, Cleomanes planned the city of Alexandria; and Dinocrates not only rebuilt the Temple of Diana at Ephesus, in Asia Minor, but was long engaged in important works at Alexandria; and Sostratus, of Gnidus built the Pharos at Alexandria. We find also Hermodorus, of Salamis, and Samus and Batrachus, of Laconia, and Apollodorus, of Damascus, erecting important temples at Rome. Four masters worked on the foundations of the Temple of Jove at Athens. Ictinius, with the aid of Calicrates and perhaps other Masters, built the Parthenon. We also read in Chronicles that King David gathered and set the strangers—Masons—to hew wrought stones to build the house of God. In Kings we find that Masons were sent from Tyre to King Solomon, and that Hiram's Masons and stone-squarers and Solomon's Masons and stone-squarers did hew the great and costly stones to lay the foundation of the Temple. In those ages it thus appears that art was not translated to another country, any more than true art now can be, by imitation, but that practical, skilled workmen themselves travelled to the place, and established the style sought for by making the moulds and plans of the details, instructing, overseeing the construction, and governing the workmen.

The Master Mason's talent is manifested in every curve and joint, and even in the very setting of the work. Plato says, in the "Eleatic Stranger," "The master workman does not work himself, but is the ruler of the workmen." "He contributes knowledge, but not manual labor, and may, therefore, be justly said to share in theoretical science. But he ought not, when he has formed a judgment, to

regard his function at an end, like the calculator; he must assign to the individual workmen their appropriate task, until they have completed the work."

Plutarch says of Phidias, the celebrated sculptor, who was the chief superintendent of all the works of Pericles: "He directed all, and was chief overseer of all for Pericles." Able writers on architecture, commenting on these and other evidences, affirm that in the Greek, Egyptian and Mediaeval Architecture, the architect was always a master workman, personally skilled in the manual part of the art, to whom the beauty, solidity and invention in their structures are due, and are now calling for a return to that relation, declaiming that their late separation into distinct branches is deteriorating to art itself.

The organisation thus shadowed out has three degrees: the tyro or apprentice, the trained and educated craftsman, and the Master Mason, who combined the skill of all the others with the high theoretic science and skill as a manager and overseer in architectural matters. It was his genius that gave form and style to the venerated Temple, from its foundation to its last coping stone, and compelled the warm sandstone and the cold marble to become a symbolic witness of the esoteric as well as the exoteric faith of the employers. It was he who, as the progress of kindred sciences afforded new knowledge, applied it to his art, whether in the line of strength, grace, beauty, or economy.

The ancient Master Mason, as a result of the reliance of ancient religions on monumental symbology, necessarily had intimate relations with the religious chiefs of the country where he practised his art, had perfect knowledge of their esoteric symbology, planned and executed the forms in which they were established on the monuments; his successors also were their pertinacious conservators: thus grew the conventional in religious Masonry.

One historian of Egypt (Sharp) affirms that even from the earliest times these sculptors and designers of the temples were of the priestly caste or order of society; and another celebrated investigator of Egyptian antiquities, Wilkinson, also includes "the sacred sculptors, draftsmen and Masons" in the priestly grade. They were the only Egyptian Craft, except land surveyors, elevated to this social rank.

The priestly caste had, we know, those mystic initiations which spread from ancient Egypt over the world, and of which so much has been written. Whether the Masons were initiated in all or only a part of these mysteries can only be inferred, but we may infer that higher initiations were conferred as the candidate advanced in his art.

Vitruvius defined Masonry, near 2,000 years ago, as "A science arising out of many other sciences, and adorned with much and varied learning." Plato, as we have seen, four centuries earlier, spoke of it as a science. Solomon and Hiram of Tyre, we have seen, considered the loan of Master Masons as worthy to be repaid by the concession of twenty cities; and the description of his varied talents, in King Hiram's letter, accords with the requisite talents elsewhere demanded for the grade.

Those who conceive the Mason as a mere wall-builder have need to enlarge their understanding.

An able reviewer of Fergusson's History of Architecture, in the "London Quarterly," says, "To those but little educated in the ways of art the master workman is a mystery, his influence and existence are half doubted, half denied, or wholly misconceived."

In the true antique spirit do our old Constitutions inculcate the study of the seven liberal arts. It was through these that the Fraternity advanced their art from rude beginnings until there arose a creative intellect from among them, who could embody all extant, mystical, cosmic science into one temple, symbolical and monumental of the speculative science shut within the breasts of Master Masons, open to those who held the key, but sealed to the uninitiated and profane.

Such a monument, signed astronomically with the date of its construction, was the Pyramid of Gizeh; contrived by its initiated and learned builders not only to embody their religious mystery, but to be capable of yielding to the analysis of the future antiquarian and physicist the key to the knowledge of the state of Astronomy, Geodesy, and kindred arts at the era of its construction. Such, also, were probably the builders of the palaces of Babylon and Nineveh, whose hidden stores of knowledge are now being revealed to us.

In like organization, and possibly of like caste, were the devoted bands of more creeds than one, who, united with brotherly love, raised the first temple at Jerusalem, and those, too, who, fresh from the Chaldean plains, laboured with Nehemiah or Zerubbabel, their swords girded to their sides, to rebuild and restore the despoiled dwelling place of the God of Israel. Was there no initiation in things sacred among these Syrian builders also? Was there no hidden wisdom, no speculation on ineffable things in their Craft?

What mystery the inspired psalmist hangs about the corner-stone! How grandly the author of Job puts, in the words of the Almighty, the Masonic character of his work of creation: "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who hath laid the corner-stone thereof? When the morning stars sang together, and the sons of Elohim shouted for joy." How, also, the prophet Amos describes the Lord standing on a true wall with the implements of the Masonic Craft, a plumb line or a trowel in his hand, declaring he will set a plumb line in Israel. Was not the Masonic artisan favoured of Heaven? Did not Aholiab and Bazaleel work on plans communicated through Moses, "with every wise-hearted man in whom the Lord had put wisdom and understanding?" Had Hiram and his craftsmen no aid from inspired kings and prophets in those works whose forms, ornaments, and structure typified occult mysteries? Have the three great creeds of this day, the Christian, the Jewish or the Mahomedan, ceased to reverse, in that long perished Temple, the symbol of holy aspiration? There is no need to multiply illustrations of the speculative science

of the early Masonic Craft. Let us consider the traces of a succession in the Craft of Masonry.

In the old Masonic MSS. of Constitutions, printed in fac-simile from manuscript No. 23,198, edited by Matthew Cook, and written probably in the 15th century, Nimrod charges (fol. 380) the Masons, whom he sends to his Cousin Assur, to build a city, that they serve Assur faithfully, but that "ye govern you against your lord" (Assur) "and among yourselves."

This Masonic tradition of the Eastern life of their Craft is curious when we reflect that to this day strangers in the East are governed by the laws and council of their own country, rather than of the nation they sojourn among. Such a system applied to sojourning Masons of one country, protected by their own country, working together in another, would naturally produce the organization of Freemasonry. In this light we find the Latin vulgate carefully distinguishes Hiram's Masons from Solomon's Masons (Kings v. "cæmentarii Hiram.") Early as this MS. bears date, it must be admitted that some of the organisation of speculative Masonry is shown in this extract. The free spirit of self-government sheds a ray of light here of great significance.

The brother who believes there is something in Freemasonry deeper than its admirable morality and generosity, something that underlies and gives expression to its universality, something behind its symbols that has brought from antique times a flavour like the odour of Shittim wood of the tabernacle, may boldly enter on the investigation; and if his industry never slackens, his faith never tires, and he has access to the means of investigation, light from the East will break on the mysteries of that strange gem bearing the seals of the royal Solomon, and his right royal Phœnician brother which is before him.

Andrea, in A.D. 1610, in his confession of R. & C., wrote, "He who can see the great letters and characters that God wrote on the edifice of heaven and earth, and can use them to his profit, is already prepared for us, though himself unaware of it."

It is my purpose here not to enter the hidden wisdom of this royal and reverential art, nor to discourse of those mysteries of that Craft of which the same author says, "God has surrounded us with his cloud, that to us, his servants, no force can be applied or directed, so that, had he the eye of an eagle, no one could see or recognise us."

ARCHITECTURAL LINKS.

By the aid of antiquaries and archæologists, facts may be established, from which the inductions of transmission of the Masonic art necessarily follow.

Reading the stone records from the vantage ground of antiquarian investigators, you will find yet extant many bonds uniting the past with the present.

Masons' Marks are the marks the various craftsmen put upon their work to indicate to the overseer who has done the job, in order that, the quality being inspected, it may be measured and paid for.

The industry which unlocked the Egyptian hieroglyphics, and the cuneiform of the Chaldees, which has given access to the Vedas and the Zend Avesta, will aid the Masonic student in this undertaking also.

They are still in use in operative Masonry and were particularly and memorably known in speculative Masonry long before attention was directed to the subject in connection with Oriental antiquities.

These marks, many of them identical, have been traced on the stones in great religious works, in all ages of which remains exist. The Gothic Cathedral and the Roman Basilica show them. Sir Gore Ouseley, sixty years ago, thought he had found the relics of an extinct and novel language on the stones at the ruined city of Persepolis; what he copied turned out, on subsequent investigation, to be Masons' marks.

The investigations of Col. Warren, under the auspices of the Topographical Engineers of England, lately made on the site of the Temple of King Solomon, at Jerusalem, have been fruitful in this particular. In the lower courses of the wall which sustains the platform whereon the Temple stood, the courses now covered fifty to ninety feet deep with broken work and other débris, he found abundance of these Masons' marks on the stones lying in the courses, and also in the vaults and tunnels under the platform. There for near three thousand years they have remained hidden from human sight. Scholars recognize many of these marks as Phœnician characters, thereby giving another confirmation to the declaration of Kings and Chronicles that the craftsmen and Art of Masonry were imported into Jerusalem from Phœnicia.

Still other researches in Palestine, since attention has been drawn to these witnesses on the state of the art, have discovered them, at the ruins of Palmyra in the desert, upon some mosques of early date, also in Hebron and many other places in Syria; and one authority says that on Egyptian temples, far earlier in date than the Temple of Solomon, the like marks are found still fresh, after thirty-five centuries. Some of these marks of Masons have another purpose, viz., to connect the stone with the plan of the building, and indicate the course in which it is to be laid and its position. Simple as this link in the chain of evidence may appear, it not only connects the antique with the modern Masonic art, but is a source of other important deductions.

In India, also, these Mason marks are found in the stones of ancient temples, and, what is remarkable, often in conjunction with several symbols of Masonic Lodges of to-day. The scholars and philologists who have gone so far in collecting evidence of Aryan origin and migration have considered all these marks with that purpose in their minds: and many are struck with the number of them which resemble or are identical with the ancient caste marks of India.

I regret I cannot reproduce here the drawings of these marks; some are to be found in Lyon's History of Masonry in Scotland, others in King's Remains of Gnostic Art; and others in Jennings' recondite work on a branch of our Craft; others are found in the Orient, unveiled, and in the recovery of Jerusalem; others doubtless exist in works to which my attention has not been called. Some

I have seen in the Nabethian alphabet. In due time archæological students will collect and discourse on the teachings of the whole; forming, as they do, a chain of evidence of the progress and succession, of the Masonic art, through many peoples and many ages, we must regard the further prosecution of their labours on these simple relics with the deepest interest. It is argued by learned architects, and I believe now conceded, that the arch can be traced from the era of the Pyramid to the present time; and Wilkinson says even the pointed Gothic and Saracenic arches are deducible from the earliest Egyptian. Various columns and styles of architecture of ancient ages retaining their conventional proportions and capitals, sometimes with a few modifications, but oftener in purity, are accepted and in use to-day.

(To be continued.)

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS: WINTER SPECIFICS.—All can estimate the disadvantages to the human system from breathing foul air, such as must necessarily be inhaled during our winters. The safest correctives and best purifiers of the blood are Holloway's Balsamic Pills, which are too well known and too highly esteemed to require commendation here. Besides cleansing the system, they improve the appetite, render digestion perfect, admirably regulate the liver, increase the secretion of the kidneys; they mildly yet effectually act upon the bowels, without griping or causing any inconvenience. So long as human nature remains what it is, every person will now and again require regulation of organs, disordered by irregular or too generous living, and too liberal potations.

THE DRAMA.

"Broken Hearts," at the Court Theatre.

MR. GILBERT'S dramatic works have been wanting, hitherto, in one quality essential to their success, that of sympathy: whilst pointing out, with exquisite accuracy of touch, the weaknesses of mankind, and depicting, with admirable satire, its follies and petty vices, they have usually failed to rouse in the breast any feeling of tenderness or pity. His pen has been dipped in gall with no admixture of the sweet milk of human kindness: his writings have been polished as gems; they have afforded a treat to the intellect, and food for the brain, but they have failed to awaken the heart. From this reproach he has at length freed himself by the production of one of the most delicate dramatic poems to be found in our literature; a poem worthy of a place beside "Une Nuit d'Octobre," of Alfred de Musset, possessing all its dreamy passion, all its twilight tenderness, all its quiet, deep undercurrent of feeling. There is no satire here, no contemptuous mocking of the frailties of common humankind; but, in its place, a love story, exquisitely delicate in construction, and told in language worthy of its theme. To a mysterious island, unknown to mortals, have retired several maidens, with hearts broken by the deaths of their loves; amongst these are two sisters, Lady Hilda, who had secretly loved Prince Florian, and retired from the world on hearing of his drowning at sea; and Vivir, who, though heartwhole, accompanied her sister out of sympathy with her grief. The boundless capacity of loving which women possess require still some object on which to find its exercise, and Lady Hilda chooses a fountain as her substitute for Prince Florian, whilst Vivir pours out her pure adoration to a sun-dial. On this same island chance throws Prince Florian, shipwrecked, but not drowned; he possesses a veil, conferring invisibility on its wearer, and, overhearing the addresses of the maidens, responds in place of the respective objects of their love. Done out of a spirit of boyish frolic, this has the saddest effect. Hilda's love for him is returned, but Vivir is left to cherish a hopeless passion. On being told by Florian, with great tenderness, the real state of affairs, she murmurs with sad foreboding,—

"No need; I know the rest.

The maiden dies—she pardons him, and dies."

Hilda's attempt to save her sister, by giving up her lover, only leads us to the inevitable end. A death scene of true pathos closes the sufferings of the gentle Vivir. We have omitted the story of the dwarf monster, as it seems to us rather an episode than necessary to the framework of the plot. Mr. Gilbert was right, we think, in committing the gossamer web of his play to the tender care of supernaturals rather than to the rough handling of mortals. The emotions played on are too sensitive, the feelings too fine to bear the rude contact of a workaday world. The dialogue is admirably written, the many speeches replete with poetry of thought, and elegance of diction. The acting is worthy of the piece; Miss Bessie Hollingshead, as Vivir, gained complete hold of the sympathy of her audience; in appearance, in gesture, and in expression, she realised completely the fine and charming but luckless maiden. A performance so natural, and so full of artless beauty, has not been seen on our stage for years. Mrs. Kendal gave full effect to the greater dramatic power and more intense passion of Hilda, the two parts contrasted well; one all gentle unstudied grace, the other varied by bursts of rage, despair, and passionate love. The part of Florian is not one which makes any severe call on the resources of an actor; Mr. Kendal is all that is required, frank and free, with a certain nobility of bearing. Mr. Anson plays the part of the Dwarf Monster, hopelessly in love with Hilda, and when he has acquired sufficient boldness to give his passion full play, his rendering will be a very striking one. The play is admirably placed on the stage. On account of its literary worth, its skilful workmanship, and admirable acting, this play deserves to be more successful than any produced of late years.

"The Royal Institution of Great Britain has now for its opposite neighbours the well-known firm of Messrs. Felton and Sons, proprietors of the popular 'Spécialité' Sherry, whose unbounded success in the sale of this wholesome wine has compelled them to remove from Conduit-street to their present handsome, extensive and convenient premises in Albemarle-street."—*The Morning Post*, 12th July 1875.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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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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MASONIC STUDIES.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The interest I have for many years past taken in the promotion of what may with propriety be termed "Masonic Studies" will, I trust, be sufficient apology for troubling you with a few further remarks upon this truly important subject.

To dispel the darkness which, Masonically speaking, shrouds the mind of the vast majority of brethren, and to induce them to seek the light of knowledge, is a problem which has exercised the ingenuity of those who work steadily, though unostentatiously, in the cause of Masonic education, but, it must be confessed, with no appreciable success. Sundry schemes have from time to time been devised to attract attention to the places where instruction is willingly and gratuitously given, but to little purpose. The reason for this apathy is, however, not difficult to discover. To lay the foundation upon which to build a radical reform in this respect, it will have to be made clear, in the first place, that promotion in a Masonic Lodge is utterly unobtainable without the possession of such abilities as will not fail to ensure a masterly finish of the work. And secondly, brethren should be made to understand that the incapable aspirant to a dignity for which he is conspicuously unfitted will be certain to earn for himself only derision and contempt. In your able remarks upon this subject you properly advise diligent application to study, and constant, or at least frequent, attendance at Lodges of Instruction. The wisdom of this course admits of no dispute; indeed, to my mind, there is no alternative. To learn from manuscript or private verbal instruction is all very well, and no doubt affords considerable assistance to the student, but I assert that without constant practice in a Lodge of Instruction, failure, comparative or complete, is sure to be the result. This opinion will, I believe, be endorsed by all. But although the necessity of this course is universally acknowledged, yet how few there are who take the trouble to profit by the opportunities these Lodges afford, and it must be stated there are fewer still who take any steps whatever to acquire the rudimentary knowledge necessary to produce even a superficial show of fitness for the high post it is their ambition to attain. Why would they? So long as brethren are permitted to graduate in the minor offices, though lamentably inefficient; so long as they are advanced to the higher honours, until reaching the precincts of the Master's chair; and so long as elections are carried on without reference to capabilities, and merely as a matter of course, this deplorable state of things will remain uninterrupted. There are some, however, who are sufficiently conscientious, at the twelfth hour, to obtain from one source or another, a smattering of the ritual; then the aid of the Lodge of Instruction is invoked, regular attendants obligingly give up their offices to gratify the new-born enthusiasm of this eager searcher after knowledge; the Preceptor, with infinite patience, tries his best to instil some of the most necessary information into the pupil who, to attain proficiency, ought to have commenced his studies years earlier; and when everything has been done that could be accomplished within the extremely limited period at command, and all possible efforts are exhausted, in nine cases out of ten, in the end, the student proves a complete and unmitigated failure. But what of that? He has attained the summit of his desires; previous experience assures him that his incompetency will be no bar to his obtaining, at the end of the term, a handsome complimentary testimonial, in the shape of a costly glittering jewel, and being henceforth ranked amongst the rulers of the Craft. His desire for further instruction is dead, he speedily forgets the little he knew, he is complacently content, and the Lodge of Instruction beholds him no more. And from this class are recruited those who, having gathered such questionable laurels it was in their power to win, and hopeless of pushing their way to higher elevations, shrink into utter insignificance, and sometimes repay the many favours bestowed upon them by heaping obloquy and scattering disparaging epithets upon a society into which they ought never to have been admitted, and whose members have ever dealt with forbearance and good natured indulgence with all their shortcomings. It is scarcely an enviable task to enumerate the evils which afflict an order of which one is proud to be a member, but it is somewhat conciliatory to reflect that he who earnestly desires its progress and prosperity must not shrink from the performance of duties, however repugnant and unpalatable. It has been too long the injudicious practice to bestow praise freely where none is deserved, and to withhold just censure where it is absolutely needed. Such a policy can scarcely be productive of any desirable result, but I look forward, with hope and confidence, that, by the aid of the Masonic press, and the influence of intelligent working brethren, the sad abuses which disgrace and disfigure our procedures, will eventually be abolished.

Yours fraternally,

E. GOTTHEIL.

BRO. DR. OLIVER'S TWO POSTHUMOUS WORKS

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Since the appearance of your Review of these valuable works, I have run through them, and would venture

to offer a few remarks upon them. There are a class of Masons to whom both may be exceedingly useful, though I much question whether they can be considered perfect exponents of the subject of which they profess to treat.

There are three classes of modern Masons, who profess to make enquiries into the Pythagorean doctrine of numbers (vide Dr. Oliver's *Pythagorean Triangle*), viz.: the Rosicrucians, the Hermetic Philosopher of the Ancient and Primitive Rite, and the Royal Oriental Order of the Sal Bahe. Like Dr. Oliver's knowledge, that of the first is merely exoteric, for neither of them seem to perceive the gist of the matter, namely, the doctrine of the geometrical nature of the divine mind, out of which springs this exposition of numbers. This grand idea, Pythagoras gained either from the Egyptians or the Brahmins, who had it in common from a primitive source, but, in all probability, Pythagoras learned it in Egypt. The two last named Orders, or the Oriental Orders of Freemasonry, offer a general development of the esoteric idea, the one from Khamitic, the other from Aryan sources, and to those Dr. Oliver's work will be welcome, as a valuable collection of facts upon the point. The work on the *Discrepancies of Freemasonry*, in spite of some minor errors and slips in the relation of fact, offers most valuable information and suggestions upon the difficult points of Freemasonry; but the real nature of the *vesica piscis* escapes recognition, although the learned brother gives such a valuable exposition of its geometrical qualities.

Bro. John Hogg has rendered a real service to the Craft in the publication of these two works, and should the last help on the so much needed revision of the Lodge lectures, the subject of the first cannot altogether escape recognition in the lecture of the Fellow Craft.

I remain, yours fraternally,

JOHN YARKER.

THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR SCHOOLS, &c.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In accordance with my promise, I now ask you to favour me with a space to show "how, among the first fruits easily gathered by a strong governing body, such as that proposed by M. A., would be an ample provision for all approved candidates for election."

I confine myself to this one advantage to be gained by a strong government, not merely on account of its importance, but also because I think other points will be far better handled by brethren who can describe themselves (as does M. A., in your paper of 20th November) as having "a considerable acquaintance with some of our large schools."

As regards the Boys' School:—

In October 1874 there were 45 approved candidates, of whom 14 only could be admitted.

In April 1875 there were 48, elsewhere stated 49, approved candidates, of whom 8 only could be admitted.

In October 1875 there were 58 approved candidates, of whom 9 only could be admitted.

In other words, the Managers of the Institution came before us last October with the humiliating confession, "Here are 58 boys, whom we ought to take by the hand, and want of funds will compel us to decline aid to 49 of them."

This cry of distress implies that the governing body has not felt strong enough (and, constituted as it is, I should have been astonished if it had) to call on brethren for a very small thing, from such a Fraternity as ours.

A glance at the ages of the non-elected candidates, and a comparison of page 35 of the report published in June 1874, will show that an additional £3 5s (Three pounds, five shillings) a year from each of our 1,500 Lodges would amply provide for the expenses of all these children, even if new site and buildings are required.

I imagine no one will maintain that our resources are already so heavily taxed as to make this small sum a serious addition to our expenditure.

I refrain from giving the figures, because I hope brethren will work them out for themselves, from the reports of various years, when they will, I think, be amazed to find that I have not understated the average contribution required.

Lists of approved candidates, of whom five-sixths are to be, at least for a time, rejected, are not creditable to us. They are spots in our feasts of charity which a strong government would easily remove.

Yours fraternally,

HEREOWEARD.

SMALL EXTRAVAGANCES.—If any who read these lines are conscious that their pockets are made of such materials that whatever money is put into them will burn a hole until it gets out, I would advise them, whenever they take the air, to leave their money at home, or, better still, to keep an exact account of every halfpenny they spend. It is astonishing how foolish small extravagances appear, when they have to be put down in black and white, after the temptation to indulge in them is over. And they must be put down in detail, and not conveniently classed together under the general heading of "sundries." The item "sundries" is never admitted into well-kept household accounts. No one who has not tried it would believe what a check it is upon personal expenditure to keep a thorough account of money spent, and not only a check, but a help; for prices may be compared, and thus lessons learned from experience.—From "*Cassell's Family Magazine*" for October.

REVIEWS.

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

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The Discrepancies of Freemasonry. Examined during a week's gossip with the late celebrated Bro. Gilkes and other eminent Masons, on sundry obscure and difficult passages in the Ordinary Lodge Lectures, which, although open questions in Grand Lodge, constitute a source of doubt and perplexity to the Craft. By the Rev. G. Oliver D.D., Past M.P.S., Grand Commander S.G.I.G. 33° for England and Wales; Past D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; Past D.P.G.M. for Lincolnshire; Honorary member of numerous Lodges and Literary Societies in every quarter of the Globe. Author of "The Revelations of a Square," "The Book of the Lodge," "Historical Landmarks," &c. With numerous diagrams. London: John Hogg and Co., Paternoster-row. 1875.

CONCLUDING NOTICE.

THERE remain now only two discussions on which to offer any comment. The subjects of the former of these are "The Travelling Mason. The Sacred Name. Discrepancies in the Work. Removal of Landmarks. East and West. Types of Christianity." The discussion chiefly turns on the present and former rituals, and the meaning of certain terms and phrases as used therein. Several different views are expressed, as indeed is but natural where a number of men of different temperaments, sundry of whom are predisposed to cavil at any opinion, no matter how logical, that may be set before them. For the discussion we must refer our readers to the book itself, as extracts would convey but a very imperfect idea of its character, while a summary would occupy too much space. The argument, however, be it said, is very skilfully conducted, and containing, as it does, many references to catechisms no longer in use, and of which some, no doubt, are ignorant, the chapter cannot be otherwise than interesting, especially as regards the Travelling Mason, and the various reasons assigned by various authorities for his travelling in the First and Second Degrees Eastward, and in the Third Westward.

In the last discussion, while sundry of those present at the five previous meetings are unable to attend, two new characters are present, of whom one is described as a captain, while the other is a merchant, who is anxious to be initiated, and at the same time wishful to learn, as far as it may, consistently with the vows of secrecy, be divulged to him, some idea of the art of Masonry. We cannot say we are by any means pleased at the appearance of the former of the two newcomers, who is thus described:—"Our brother, the Captain, was in reality a lieutenant on half-pay, and the superior title was accorded to him by courtesy. He resided in a neighbouring village, and occupied his leisure time in the honourable and useful employment of superintending the National School there, and leading the church psalmody, with nasal correctness, on the Sabbath Day. He was passionately fond of his glass, if obtainable at the expense of a friend; and when favoured with an opportunity, he seldom failed to improve it to his own satisfaction, if not to the gratification of the company present, to whom, after a certain period of his potations, he became rather annoying; for he would sneeze and snort and stamp, and perform a number of other antics more extraordinary than pleasing, and kept (sic) up a continual fire of nautical phrases and snatches from an old song, which, in the early part of the evening, he would persist in singing from end to end; but, fortunately, after a few glasses he became stupefied, his memory deserted him, and he generally stopped short after a single stanza. He had an inveterate habit of quoting passages, whether applicable to the subject in hand or not, from the Church Catechism which he taught the children of his school. This was often extremely offensive, although he was perfectly unconscious of it, and altogether indifferent to the convenience or comfort of any one except himself. He had a favourite dog, called Toby, an ugly, pug-nosed, vicious brute, which at such times he was in the habit of summoning, though not present."

No one will be surprised to hear that this Captain was not of much account as a Mason, but we are surprised that Dr. Oliver should have introduced such a personage into the company of gentlemen, nor are we by any means satisfied with the reasons he assigns, which are these, "I have introduced these impertinences here, not merely because they actually occurred on this occasion, and constitute the type of a character from which it is to be feared few of our Lodges are exempt, but also as a lesson to others, who may be addicted to the practice of disturbing the serious proceedings of Masonry by absurd buffoonery, wretched attempts at wit, and unmeaning exclamations." We think it was unwise to mar the general effect of the book, which, whether we agree with the opinions expressed in it or not, is certainly entertaining, simply because a boorish brother dropped in and made all but himself wretched and uncomfortable for the whole evening. Poor Bro. Gilkes was very seriously disconcerted by the Captain's numerous and inane interruptions. Of course, in the presence of a profane, the discussion is far more guarded, and is limited almost entirely to such enlightenment as Bro. Gilkes and the others feel themselves justified consistently with their obligations in offering to the intending candidate. Perhaps the most interesting part of this eminent brother's exposition relates to the Points, which at first somewhat confuses the candidate, though he afterwards remarks, "If your illustrations are all as interesting as this, I anticipate a fund both of instruction and amusement from my initiation."

We shall conclude this portion of our remarks by quoting the last two paragraphs in confirmation of certain remarks we have really felt it our duty to offer.

"You will also observe, my good friend," I said, "that the capacity of a candidate for place and power, or, in other words, for a higher office in the Lodge, can only be estimated from his antecedents, for who would back a losing horse? Experience is the touchstone of merit, and I can assure you that, unless you prove yourself

zealous and attentive to the preliminary duties of the Lodge, by being constantly present, uniformly diligent and obedient, and anxious on all occasions to improve yourself in Masonry, you will never be fit for a leader, nor is it likely that your fellows will confer upon you that most unmistakable token of their confidence—the uncontrollable power of regulating their proceedings.

"And lastly," Bro. Gilkes concluded, "I would impress it firmly on your mind, that whoever accepts the office of W. Master, stakes his reputation and character as a Mason on maintaining and preserving the status and prosperity of the Lodge during his term of office; and both will be grievously imperilled if, by supineness, mismanagement, or any other influential cause, the community which have entrusted their vital interests to his charge shall find reason to repent of their choice. And so, brethren, I give the right word and right point of a Mason—ADIEU."

Having thus gone, at considerable length, through this work, it only remains for us to say that, taken as a whole, it forms a capital addition to Masonic Literature. There are theories in it we do not approve, nor do we think they will meet with the approval of our readers. But though we dissent from certain of the propositions as laid down in these pages, we none the less admire the skill and ingenuity which the author has displayed, and the enthusiastic love of Masonry which is conspicuous in, we might almost say, every sentence.

The Commencement of the Second Christian Epoch. By a Christian. Caxton Printing Works, Beccles, Suffolk.

WE have read the title-page of this book most carefully. We have only glanced at the contents. We confess we regret the time thus wasted. The work treats "of the re-organization of the Universal Church of Christ; public laws and society throughout the world, according to the New Christian Dispensation of common sense." We have never heard of any antagonism between Christianity and common sense, either in the age that is, or in the ages that have gone by. There are millions on millions of our fellow men who worship God, but not as Christians worship Him—these we respect. There are a few who profess to worship no God—such we abhor. But a Christian who describes the "New Christian Dispensation," as being that "of common sense," insults the Christianity he professes to believe in. If Christianity is only now entering, or about to enter upon the epoch of common sense, how must we describe the epoch that is, or is about to be concluded?

We are told the "book is purposely not entered at Stationers' Hall, that any of the people may be free to print it." We imagine few will evince their lack of common sense by availing themselves of the opportunity. Nay, more, we hold the publication of such a work to be highly injurious to a community which is mostly Christian, and, accordingly, we urge our friends not to waste their time in reading it.

Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.—The Quarterly Communication was held at Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, in the Grand Lodge Room, at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, 15th of December, in the absence of the three Grand Principals by Comps. Majoin Hamilton Ramsay, of Garion, as Grand Z., G. W. Wheeler Z. 73 as Grand H., D. Mitchel Grand Treasurer as Grand J., L. Mackensy W.S. was in his place as Grand Scribe E., J. Duthie Z. 67 as Grand 1st S., Dr. Carmichel 2nd S., and H. J. Shields, 33 degree Z., 143 as 3rd Grand Sojourner. The Grand Chapter having been duly opened by the three Acting Grand Principals, the G.S.E. read the minutes of the last quarterly meeting, which were confirmed; he also read the minutes of several committee meetings, and the Finance Committee's report, showing that the Chapter is in a very flourishing financial condition, and recommending the investment of an additional £300. Proxy commissions were read from three different Chapters, and sustained presents were received and suitably acknowledged from the Grand Chapters of Pennsylvania and Colorado. Three applications for new charters, as recommended by the committee, were then considered, and one for the town of Rothsay, to be called the St. Blave, recommended by Chapter 75, Glasgow, was granted, to be No. 163. A second Chapter for the City of Dundee was then granted as No. 164, and one for Castol, in South Africa, recommended by the District Superintendent, was also granted, to stand as No. 165. Comp. W. M. Bryce P.Z. No. 12, brought forward the motion of which he had given notice, "That in future the hour of meeting be 6 p.m.," seconded by Dr. Carmichel, and supported by Comps. Wheeler, Duthie and Shields, as it would give the Chapters in the West of Scotland an opportunity of attending the meetings and returning the same night. Comp. R. J. Brown, of Edinburgh, also supported, as he knew the Edinburgh would not wish to monopolise all the management of the Order. Comp. Murray, Edinburgh, promised to substitute five for six, seconded by Comp. Barry of Dundee. Comp. Abbot, Leith, seconded by Mitchell, promised that it be retained at 8 p.m., the original motion for six being withdrawn in favour of five o'clock, which was carried by a large majority. A correspondence was read by the G.S.E. from the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, in which they said they had forwarded a commission in favour of Comp. L. Mackensy G.S.E., to represent them at the G.C., he had replied, stating that he already represented the Grand Chapter of Oregon, and suggesting that three names should be sent for them to select from. They had rejoined, still wishing to appoint him; as it was an innovation in their general practice he thought it best to lay the matter before Grand Chapter. Comp. Shields explained that in America it was quite usual for a Companion to hold two or more such appointments. It was then moved and carried, that, in deference to the wishes of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, we receive Comp. Mackensy as their representative to this Chapter. (Cheers.) The commission was then read, and Comp. Mackensy having expressed the fraternal feelings of the G.C. of Pennsylvania, the acting G.Z. made a suitable reply, requesting their representative to convey to them how fully we appreciated and reciprocated these feelings. This being all the business, the Grand Chapter was closed in due form.

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



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.,

Most Worshipful Grand Master, &c., &c., having been graciously
pleased to accept the special Dedication,

A SPLENDID

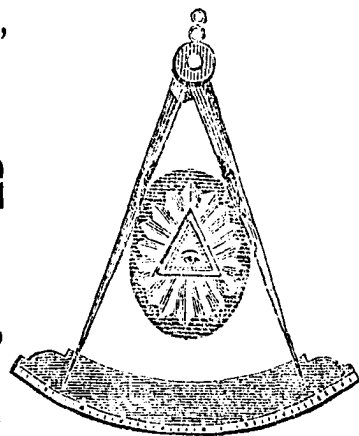
HISTORICAL STEEL ENGRAVING

WILL SHORTLY BE PUBLISHED,

OF THE

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IN THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL,

By BRO. EDWARD JAMES HARTY, S.D. No. 1201.



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THE THEATRES, &c.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.—On the 27th December, CINDERELLA.
DRURY LANE.—This evening (last time). At 7.0, THE WHITE HAT. At 7.45, SHAUGHRAUN, and A NABOB FOR AN HOUR. On 27th December, WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT.
HAYMARKET.—At 7.30, A HAPPY MEDIUM, and MARRIED IN HASTE.
LYCEUM.—At 7.0, THE DAY AFTER THE WEDDING. At 8.0, MACBETH.
ADELPHI.—At 6.45, QUICKSILVER DICK. At 7.30, LITTLE EM'LY, and THE GOOSE WITH THE GOLDEN EGGS.
PRINCESS'S.—At 7.0, FAINT HEART NEVER WON FAIR LADY. At 8.0, RIP VAN WINKLE, and HEAD OF A CLAN.
OLYMPIC.—At 7.0, THE SERGEANT'S WEDDING. At 8.0, BUCKINGHAM.
STRAND.—At 7.0, TWO TO ONE, A LESSON IN LOVE, and LOO, AND THE PARTY WHO TOOK MISS.
VAUDEVILLE.—At 7.30, A WHIRLIGIG, OUR BOYS, and A FEARFUL FOG.
GAIETY.—At 7.15, OPERETTA. At 8.0, PAUL PRY. At 9.0, TOOLE AT SEA. At 10.0, ICI ON PARLE FRANCAIS. On Wednesday, TOTTLE'S.
MIRROR.—At 7.0, THE HALF CROWN DIAMONDS. At 8.15, ALL FOR HER.
GLOBE.—At 7.30, MAN IS NOT PERFECT, BLUE BEARD, and CRY-
PHOCONCHOIDSYPHONOTOMATO.
PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 8.0, MASKS AND FACES.
ROYALTY.—At 7.30, LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT, and TRIAL BY JURY.
OPERA COMIQUE.—At 7.0, PROOF POSITIVE, BLACK EYED SUSAN, and A TEMPTING BAIT.
COURT.—At 7.30 A MORNING CALL, BROKEN HEARTS, and UNCLE'S WILL.
CRITERION.—At 8, OLD PHIL'S BIRTHDAY, and A TRIP TO INDIA.
ALHAMBRA.—At 7.15, NEW FARCE. At 8.0, SPECTRESHEIM. At 10.0, THE FLOWER QUEEN, and BALLET. On Friday, LORD BATEMAN.
ALEXANDRA PALACE.—This day, Concert, &c. On Tuesday, and during the week, GRAND CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME, &c. Open Daily.
CRYSTAL PALACE.—This day, CONCERT, &c. Open daily, AQUARIUM SKATING RINK, &c.
POLYTECHNIC.—The GEOLOGICAL PIANO; OR, MUSICAL STONES NEW MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT by Mr. Damer Cape. FLAMES AND FLARES. THE PRINCE OF WALES' VISIT TO INDIA, WITH PHOTOGRAPHS. Many other Entertainments. Open twice daily, at 12.0 and 7.0. Admission, 1s.
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SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.—MAZEPPA, this evening at 7.0.

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THE LONDON MASONIC CLUB.

THE CLUB Premises, situate No. 101 Queen Victoria-street, are now being fitted up, and will be shortly opened to the Members. In order to secure the advantages offered to the first subscribers, application for Membership should be sent in at once to the Secretary, from whom all necessary forms and information may be obtained.

J. A. LATHBURY, Secretary.

Temporary Offices: 37 Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

FOR AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF FREEMASONS,

CROYDON.

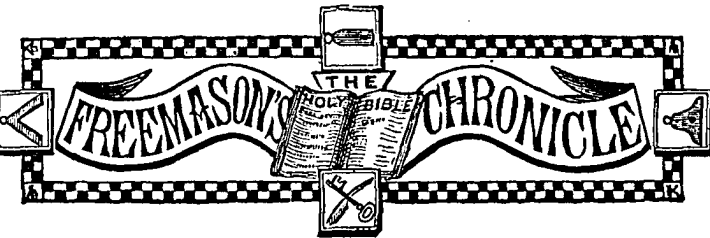
AN Entertainment will be given, at the Oriental Buildings (adjoining the District Railway Station), New Bridge-street, E.C. (gratuitously lent for the occasion by Bro. Major Wieland), on Thursday, 23rd December 1875. At 6.30 p.m. Tickets 2s and 1s. Apply to Bro. T. W. Ockenden, Manager, 36 Finsbury-square, or to Bro. J. Terry, 4 Freemasons' Hall, W.C.

FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be held at the Offices, 67 BARBICAN, LONDON, E.C., on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., at 5 o'clock.

By order,

JOHN CONSTABLE,
Assistant Secretary.



67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THERE is nothing particularly exciting at home just now, so the public mind is chiefly directed towards the approaching festivities. Smithfield Market—we still retain the name, though the ancient market has long since disappeared, and but little remains to mark its site—is crammed with Christmas beef. The new Poultry Market adjoining, is a much more comfortable place to be jostled in than old Leadenhall. It is a commodious building, only lately opened to the public. East and West, and South and North, are evidences in well nigh every street that our Christmas carnival will be on as grand a scale as ever, nor is Covent Garden, with its piles of oranges and nuts, and other fruits, behind the rest of the world in preparing for the eventful period. When the proper time comes we shall make a point of wishing all our readers the compliments of the season. May they have the maximum of pleasure with the minimum of bile to follow.

The Queen is still at Windsor, and, in company with all the members of her family, paid her annual visit to the Mausoleum of the late Prince Consort, on Tuesday, the 14th instant, being the fourteenth anniversary of his death. A special service was afterwards performed in memoriam of the sad occasion. On Wednesday the infant daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh was christened, in St. George's Chapel, in the presence of the Queen,

acting as sponsor for the Empress of Russia, the other sponsors being H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, H.R.H. the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (represented by H.R.H. Princess Christian), H.I.H. the Cesarewitch (represented by the Russian Ambassador), and H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, for whom Prince Leopold stood proxy. The infant Princess was christened Marie Alexandra Victoria. The ceremony was strictly private, following, as it did, immediately on the sad anniversary of the day previous. On the evening of the same day H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, with her children, left Marlborough House, *en route* for Copenhagen, where she will spend Christmas, remaining there till about the time when her husband may be expected from India. The Duke of Connaught has gone on a visit to our Minister in Morocco, Sir J. Drummond Hay, in order to enjoy some boar hunting, with spears, in the interior of the country. He is expected to remain for a few days.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has at length reached Madras. After visiting Madura, where he was received with the usual demonstrations of enthusiasm, His Royal Highness set out for Trichinopoly, which he left for Madras on the 12th, reaching the latter city the following morning. His reception was brilliant, the Governor, Commander-in-Chief, the Chief Justice, and the native Chiefs being in attendance, awaiting his arrival at the railway station. There was also a large assembly of Europeans and natives. His Royal Highness having replied to the address presented to him, set out for Government House, where quarters had been provided for him, passing through two dense lines of natives, who lined the route the whole distance, and who exhibited every mark of cordiality and respect. A levee was held at 1 p.m., and the Prince's bearing toward the Rajahs who were present is said to have produced a most favourable impression on their minds. A banquet followed in the evening, followed by fireworks, the whole town being brilliantly illuminated. The day following, being the anniversary of his father's death, His Royal Highness remained in the strictest seclusion. To-day he sails for Calcutta.

The Court of Queen's Bench has lately been the scene of a somewhat important trial, at which the Lord Chief Justice presided, and in which a Mr. Stacpoole, lately an officer in the 78th Highlanders, sought to recover damages from Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie, who commands that distinguished regiment, for having, by unfair treatment, driven him from the regiment. Evidence having been heard on both sides, and Counsel having severally addressed the jury, a verdict for the defendant was given, after only a few minutes' deliberation.

The Dog Show at the Alexandra Palace has proved a magnificent success. There were as many as 1,039 entries, including some 1,500 dogs, of well nigh every size and breed. There were 10 bloodhounds, in two classes, eighty-six mastiffs, in five classes—two champion, and three others, including one for puppies—some magnificent specimens of the St. Bernard, both rough and smooth-coated, Newfoundlanders, Deerhounds, and Greyhounds. Then followed a tremendous array of Pointers (large, medium, and small size), Setters (English, black and tan, and Irish), Retrievers (black, and others than black), Water Spaniels, and other varieties of Spaniel, together with a few Otter Hounds. Then followed Fox Terriers, Sheep Dogs, both rough-coated and smooth, Dalmatians, Bull Dogs, large and small, Bull-terriers, large and small, with other varieties of Terrier, and also a numerous entry of fancy dogs, Pomeranians, Pugs, Maltese, King Charles's Spaniels, Blenheims, and Toy Terriers, besides nearly forty entries of puppies in two classes, sporting and non-sporting. The work of judging went on all Tuesday, and the decisions of the judges appear to have given general satisfaction, though not a few of the exhibitors imagined they ought to have received a commendation, while others, no doubt, quarrelled with the places assigned them. The show was a grand one, and included among the finest specimens of almost every variety of breed. A Black Newfoundland was marked dangerous, and people properly gave him a very wide birth. Among the exhibitors were both the Prince and Princess of Wales.

On Thursday afternoon H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh laid the first stone of the new National Opera House, to be erected on the Victoria Embankment. A marquee had been erected for the accommodation of those invited to be present, being somewhere about 1500 in number, and the bands of the Coldstreams and the Honourable Artillery

Company, with a guard of honour, were in attendance. The Duke, on his arrival, was received by Sir James Hogg, Chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Works, Mr. F. Fowler, the architect, and Mr. J. H. Mapleson, the director of the National Opera. An address to His Royal Highness having been read and responded to, the stone was laid with the usual forms and amid the cheers of those assembled. A luncheon was afterwards given at the St. Stephen's Club, the Duke of Edinburgh proposing the toast of the occasion, namely, "Prosperity to the Grand National Opera House." Another lunch also came off in honour of the event at Willis's Rooms. Bro. Mapleson presided, and there were present the majority of the members of the Board of Works, with a number of ladies and other guests. This, too, passed off very successfully. Bro. Mapleson certainly has our best wishes for the success of his project.

The Duke of Richmond, President of the Council, made a long speech on Wednesday, at the annual dinner of the West Sussex and Chichester Agricultural Society. In the course of his remarks his Grace defended the policy of the Government in restricting the traffic of cattle, pointing out that it was in the power of the English local authorities to stop all movements of cattle, when necessary in consequence of any outbreak of disease; that in Ireland the Orders of Council were differently carried out, there being in that portion of the Kingdom but one central authority, acting under the direction of the Irish Executive. The Ministry had not thought it wise to impose more severe restrictions on the movements of cattle. His Grace illustrated his case by quoting his own experience as one of the largest stock owners in the County of Sussex.

On Wednesday was a kind of full dress rehearsal of the annual play at Westminster. The selection this year is the Andria of Terence, and, according to the accounts published in the daily papers, the performance passed off very successfully for a first night. The dormitory where the play is acted was crowded, a considerable number of the spectators being ladies. On Thursday, the winter speeches and prize distribution came off at St. Paul's School. There were present a large number of the friends of the boys, together with a pretty strong muster of old Paulines. The speeches comprised the usual selection from the Greek, Latin, French, and English Drama, with other pieces specially adapted for recitation.

Another dreadful catastrophe has lately happened at Bremerhaven, a considerable number of people having been killed and injured by an explosion of dynamite on board the Mosel; but this is now ascertained, not to have been an accident, but a deliberate act on the part of a man named Thompson, who has since died, but who, previous to death, confessed that he had deliberately planned the destruction of the vessel. There has also occurred a terrible colliery explosion in Belgium, by which over a hundred lives have been sacrificed. Over 120 dead bodies have been recovered from the Swaithe Colliery. There appears to have been neglect somewhere in connection with the wreck of the Deutschland off the Kentish Coast. Though in the neighbourhood of two lightships, which signalled in the usual manner with rockets, and though it was known at Harwich that assistance was required, none was rendered till many hours after the vessel struck the rock, and consequently more lives were lost than would have been the case had assistance come more promptly. The loss of this vessel gave rise to a brief debate in the German Parliament, when one or two of the speakers expressed themselves somewhat bitterly.

There is news from Africa of the safe arrival, at Louisa, of the Livingstone East Coast Expedition, under the command of Lieutenant Cameron, R.N. From a telegram from that officer, to Sir H. Rawlinson, President of the Royal Geographical Society, it appears that the expedition was compelled, by adverse circumstances, to abandon the Congo route, but it followed the waterbeds lying between that river and the Zambesi.

Arrangements have been made by the Admiralty, by which Mr. Allen Young, the Arctic traveller, will communicate with Smith's Sound in the summer of 1876, in the hope of obtaining some news of the proceedings of the Arctic Expedition under Captain Nares.

At a meeting of the Common Council held on Thursday, the question of widening London Bridge came under discussion. The Bridge House Estates Committee brought up their report, in which they recommended that the bridge be widened in accordance with the plan of Bro. Horace Jones, the City Architect. A long discussion followed, the result

being that the motion for the adoption of the report was lost by a majority of eight votes in a Court composed of ninety-eight members. The debate was accordingly adjourned.

The Shakers appear to have been having rather an uncomfortable time of it at Bristol, and other places. So great was the uproar in Colston Hall, when it was attempted to hold a meeting, that Mrs. Girling was not even heard, and none of the girls appear to have received any inspiration to indulge in a gay and festive dance. So vehemently was the dissatisfaction of the visitors expressed, that the Shakers abandoned the platform, and the assembly was only dispersed by extinguishing the gas.

The interest in Paris centres, for the moment, in the election, by the Legislative Assembly, of its seventy-five life members of the Senate. By a combination of the Legitimists with the Left, the latter appears to have achieved a great success. What effect this will have on the future Government of France is not yet apparent, but already there are rumours of a resignation of M. Buffet's Ministry. Telegrams have reached Constantinople from the officer in command of the Turkish forces in the Herzegovina, to the effect that the insurgents have been defeated, with very considerable loss. It also appears that the Sultan's Firman, guaranteeing certain important reforms in the Sultan's dominions, has been published, but a doubt exists whether these reforms will ever be worth much more than the paper on which they are written. It is further believed that the publication of this Firman is not particularly relished by the three great Eastern Powers of Europe, the Empires of Russia, Germany, and Austria. Very likely not, if the report be true, that the promised reforms are more extensive than those which the Powers in question were about to urge, for Turkey thus takes the wind out of her neighbours' sails. The situation of affairs in Spain remains unchanged. The Italian government, having bought up the railways, are now, it seems, about to adopt, in great part, General Garibaldi's scheme for improving the navigation of the Tiber. According to the latest advices from the Straits Settlements the Malays, variously estimated at from 400 to 800, have been utterly routed by a small detachment of English troops. If the rumours, on which the *Standard*, in a recent issue, contained some lengthy comments, be true, it is not unlikely we may have another Ashantee war. The King of Ashantee, and a former tributary, the King of Juabin, are at loggerheads, and the aspect of things is said to be so serious that Governor Strahan has ordered a hundred Houssas to the frontier, with a view to learning the true state of things and protecting, if necessary, the interests of the tribes which enjoy our protection.

We (*New Zealand Herald*) understand that the Masonic brethren of the English Constitution in this Province intend applying to the Grand Master, the Prince of Wales, for the institution of a Provincial Grand Lodge, and also to nominate for approval the name of a brother as Provincial Grand Master.

Bro. W. H. Hook, the respected organist of the Great City Lodge, announces an evening concert, for Wednesday, 22nd inst., at the Angell Town Institution, Gresham Road, Brixton. Bro. Hook will be assisted by the members of the choir of St. James, Camberwell; Misses M. Woodville, Melville, J. Maas, A. Bliss, Florence Woodville, Edith Blair, Laura Clement; Bro. Chaplin Henry, Lindsay Sloper, H. Walker, H. Daniel, G. T. Carter, Alfred Pittman, C. Morgau, &c.

As will be seen by an advertisement in another column, an entertainment is announced on behalf of the Aged Freemasons' Institution, at the Oriental Buildings (adjoining the District Railway Station), New Bridge Street, E.C., on Thursday next; Bro. Major Wieland has gratuitously lent the Hall, and tickets may be obtained of Bro. Ocken-den 1512, manager, 36 Finsbury Square, or of Bro. Terry, 4 Freemason's Hall, W.C.

CLUB HOUSE PLAYING CARDS.—Mogul Quality, picked 1s 3d per pack, 14s per dozen packs. Do. seconds 1s per pack, 11s per dozen packs. If by post 14d per pack extra. Cards for Piquet, Bezique, Ecarté, &c., Mogul Quality 10d per pack, 9s per dozen packs.—London: W. W. Morgan, Barbican, E.C.

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.

SATURDAY, 18th DECEMBER.

R. A.—Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.

SUNDAY, 19th DECEMBER.

54—Hope, Spread Eagle, Rochdale. (Instruction.)

MONDAY, 20th DECEMBER.

8—British, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C.
45—Strong Man, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell, at 8 (Instruction.)
185—Tranquillity, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C., at 5.
77—Freedom, Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend.
236—York, Masonic Hall, York.
359—Peace and Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Southampton.
466—Merit, George Hotel, St. Martin's, Stamford Baron, Northampton.
872—Lewis, Masonic Hall, Whitehaven.
925—Bedford, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham.
1037—Portland, Royal Breakwater Hotel, Portland.
1141—Mid Sussex, Assembly Rooms, Horsham.

TUESDAY, 21st DECEMBER.

Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
30—United Mariners, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
73—Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, at 6.30.
57—Humber, Freemasons' Hall, Osborne-street, Hull.
402—Royal Sussex, George the Fourth, Nottingham.
592—Cotteswold, King's Head Hotel, Cirencester.
660—Cumalodunum, Freemasons' Hall, New Malton, Yorkshire.
696—St. Bartholomew, Dartmouth Arms Hotel, Wednesbury.
1006—Tregulow, Masonic Rooms, St. Day, Scorrer, Cornwall.
1046—St. Andrew, Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey.
1089—Du Sherland, Fountain Hotel, Blue Town, Sheerness.
1228—Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone, at 8. (Instruction.)
1325—Stanley, Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Lancashire.
1427—Percy, Masonic Hall, Mable-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
1470—Chiltern, Town Hall, Dunstable.

WEDNESDAY, 22nd DECEMBER.

Lodge of Benevolence, Freemasons' Hall, at 6.
193—Confidence, White Hart, Abchurch-lane, E.C., at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
117—Salopian of Charity, Raven Hotel, Shrewsbury.
503—Belvidere, Star Hotel, High-street, Maidstone. (Instruction.)
1222—St. Mow, Masonic Hall, High-street, Weston-Super-Mare.

THURSDAY, 23rd DECEMBER.

House Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
34—Mount Moriah, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C.
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W. at 8. (Instruction.)
1260—Hervey, 152 Fulham-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
78—Imperial George, Assheton Arms Hotel, Middleton, Lancashire.
100—Friendship, Crown and Anchor Hotel, Quay, Great Yarmouth.
594—Downshire, Masonic Temple, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool.
1145—Equality, Red Lion Hotel, Accrington, Lancashire.

FRIDAY, 24th DECEMBER.

House Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
1278—Burdett Counts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)

IRELAND.

MONDAY—494—Dublin, Freemasons' Hall, Dublin.
795—Ashfield (Cootehill) Private Room, Cootehill, County Cavan.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—44—St. Luke, Freemasons' Hall.
TUESDAY—36—St. David, Ship Hotel, East Register-street.
405—Rifle, Freemasons' Hall.
WEDNESDAY—112—St. John Fisherrow, Royal Hotel, Musselburgh.
THURSDAY—392—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall.

GLASGOW DISTRICT.

MONDAY—332—Union, 170 Buchanan-street.
556—Clydesdale, 106 Rose-street.
St. Mungo Encampment, K. T., 213 Buchanan-street.
TUESDAY—0—Mother Kilwinning, Old Masonic Hall, at 5.0 p.m.
3 bis.—St. John's, St. John's Hall, Buchanan-street.
73—Thistle and Rose, 170 Buchanan-street.
87—Thistle, 30 Hope-street.
437—Govandale, Portland Hall, Govan.
WEDNESDAY—510—Maryhill, 167 Muir-street, Maryhill.
570—Dramatic, 213 Buchanan-street, at 3.0 p.m.
THURSDAY—653—St. Vincent, 162 Kent-road.
FRIDAY—R. A. 79—Commercial, 30 Hope-street.
321—St. Andrews, Public Hall, Alexandria.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

St. John's Lodge No. 3 (bis).—This old and influential Lodge met in their own hall, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, on the 14th inst. Bro. Wm. Bell R.W.M. in the chair. The business opened with the affiliation of three joining members, D. Willis of 73, W. Keer of 419, and J. Andrews of 553, after which the Master, in that impressive style for which he is noted, initiated the following seven gentlemen:—J. Park, J. A. Jardine, S. Paton, A. Morrison, D. Gardner, D. Stone, and R. J. Donaldson. The nomination of officers took place. Bro. Bell having refused to stand again, Bros. Neilson D.M., Larn S.W., and Dalzeils Treasurer were nominated to fill the chair for the ensuing year, so the brethren have a good choice.

Egyptian Lodge of Instruction, No. 27.—This Lodge of Instruction held its usual weekly meeting at Bro. Maidwell's, "The

Hercules," Leadenhall Street, on Thursday evening last, 16th December. Present—Bros. Brient W.M., Hollands S.W., Williams J.W., Grammer Hon. Sec., Atkins P.M. Treasurer, Hewlett S.D., Horsley J.D., Cohen I.G., Bro. Austin P.M. Preceptor, and numerous other brethren. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Rudderforth, having answered the usual questions, was entrusted. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd sections of the lecture were worked by Bro. Brient, assisted by the brethren; the Lodge was closed in the third degree. The 4th section of the second lecture was worked by Bro. Brient, assisted by the brethren. All Masonic business being ended, the Lodge was then closed in ancient form. The attendance of members of this Lodge of Instruction is requested for next Thursday, 23rd December, when a notice of motion, by Bro. Horsley, to change the meeting from Thursday to Wednesday, will be discussed.

Chapter 50, Glasgow.—This Chapter held its regular meeting on Thursday, 9th December, at 213 Buchanan-street. Comp. J. Miller P.G.S.B. the Z. presiding. The Chapter was opened in the Excellent degree, with J. Duthie as S.W., J. Louttit J.W., C. McKenzie, when Bro. M. Murdoch was elevated to that degree by Comp. McMercer, S. of Chapter 87. The Royal Arch Chapter was then opened, with Comp. J. Miller Z., J. Duthie, Z. of 67, as H., J. Louttit J., C. McKenzie 1st S., R. Mercer 2nd S., and J. Robinson as 3rd S., when Bro. McMurdoch was exalted to that degree by Comp. Duthie in his usual style. No other business offering the Chapter was duly closed. Amongst the visitors, was Comp. R. Campbell of Chapter 147, New Brunswick.

St. Andrew's Chapter, No. 69.—This Chapter, by a dispensation from the Supreme Chapter, held its election meeting on 14th inst., T. D. Humphries, Dr. Ph., Z. presiding. The following Companions were all unanimously elected:—T. D. Humphries Z., G. Heron H., J. M. Oliver J., Hugh Wright Scribe E., J. Fash N. J. Blackwood Treasurer, Wm. Thomas 1st S., R. B. Prout 2nd S., Jas. Gibson 3rd S., D. Ramsay Janitor. At the request of the Chapter, Comp. Wheeler Z., of 73, with the assistance of Jas. Balfour, P.Z. of 73, then proceeded to instal those Companions into their respective offices. The Z., on resuming the chair, forcibly impressed on the officers the necessity of their punctuality in attending to their respective duties, as, without they set a good example, they could not hope that the Chapter could prosper. He then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Comps. Wheeler and Balfour, as without their aid to night, as well as on many previous occasions, the work of the Chapter would have been left undone. He was thankful for their services in the past, but hoped the new officers would learn their duties so as to require less help in future. The Lodge was then duly closed.

Temple Lodge, No. 101.—The ordinary monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, the 7th inst., at the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street. There were present—Bros. Clarke W.M., Flack S.W., Thomas J.D., Pettifer I.G., and P.M.'s Wynne, Farthing sen., Scott, Hastelow, Bond, Cox, Reynolds, May, Grimbly, and Farthing jun., as well as numerous other brethren. Mr. John Robins was ballotted for, and unanimously elected, after which he underwent the ceremony of initiation. Bro. Lozenden was passed to the 2nd degree. The ballot was then taken for the W.M. and Treasurer for the ensuing year, when Bro. Flack S.W. was unanimously elected to the former, and Bro. Bond P.M. was re-elected to the latter office. Bro. Taylor was unanimously elected, by show of hands, to the office of Tyler. The brethren subsequently adjourned to banquet.

Robert Burns Chapter, No. 143.—This Chapter held its regular meeting on Saturday, 11th inst., at Holytown. A Lodge of Most Excellent Masters was opened, H. J. Shields Z. presiding, when Bro. Thos. Woods was advanced to that degree, Comp. Wheeler, Z. of 73, conducting through the veils. The Chapter was then opened, H. J. Shields Z., D. Barker H., T. Laird J., Wm. McMurdo acting as T., J. McMurdo S.E., G. W. Wheeler acting as 1st S., D. Lelly 1st S. acting as 2nd, and W. Patterson 3rd S. At the conclusion of the ceremony, which was very ably worked, Comp. Shields said they had a very pleasant duty to perform, but he would request Comp. Wheeler to do it. Comp. Wheeler then, in the name of the Chapter, presented Comp. Wm. McMurdo with a very handsome P.Z.'s jewel, paying him a well merited eulogium, not only for his exertions in forming the Chapter, and presiding over it for years, but for his eminent services in the Craft. Comp. Wm. McMurdo made a suitable reply, thanking the Companions, and promising not to relax his efforts now that he had left the principal chair.

St. Rollox Chapter, No. 144.—This Chapter held its regular meeting on Friday, 10th inst. A Lodge of Most Excellent Masters was opened, J. Annand, J. McLeish M.E.M., and D. Gilchrist S.W., when G. W. Wheeler, Z. of 73, conferred that degree on Bro. P. Young. A Chapter was then opened, J. Annand Z., J. McLeish H., and G. W. Wheeler acted as J., when Comp. H. J. Shields, Z. of 143, exalted the same Bro., Comp. Allen for the first time acting in a most efficient manner as 1st S.

Prudent Brethren Chapter, No. 145.—A Convocation of this Chapter met on Tuesday, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Comps. John Boyd P.Z. in the chair, C. A. Long H., Thomas Bull J., J. Last P.Z. Treasurer, G. S. States P.Z. S.E.; and P.Z.'s H. Dicketts, W. Platt, &c. The Chapter was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. The elections for Principals took place, who were, Comps. C. A. Long M.E.Z., T. Bull H., and C. Moody J. Comp. John Boyd P.Z. installed those Companions into the three chairs in a very perfect manner. Ballots were taken for the admission of Comps. J. H. Leggott, Chapter 1056, and C. T. Pringle, Chapter 211, as joining members. Ballots were also taken for the admission of Bros. W.

Miller 1257, E. W. Braine 65, W. R. Williams 145, N. B. Headon P.M. 1246 and Masters 145, and being unanimous in their favour, were duly exalted into Royal Arch Masonry. The investiture of officers then took place:—Comps. J. Last P.Z. Treasurer, G. S. States P.Z. S.E., Parkins S.N., E. H. Thiellay P.S., Cox 1st Ass., Venn 2nd Ass. The Chapter was then closed, and the Companions sat down to a very sumptuous banquet. The M.E.Z. then proposed the usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts, and presided with great ability, showing the judicious selection the Companions had made. Comp. Walford P.Z., in proposing the toast of the M.E.Z., in the course of his speech said how pleased he, as well as every member of the Chapter, was to see him, on the night of his installation, perform the ceremony of exaltation in so efficient a manner. The newly-exalted companions severally returned thanks for the toast. Comp. C. A. Cottebrune P.Z. returned thanks for the Visitors, and complimented the Chapter on their excellent choice of the M.E.Z., and also the other Principals, who were all so perfect in their working, that it was pleasure to witness it. The toast of the H. and J. was responded to by Comps. T. Bull and Moody. Comp. E. H. Thiellay P.S. returned thanks for the toast of the officers. The Janitor's toast was given, and the company separated. The visitors were Comps. C. A. Cottebrune P.Z. 177, Barnes Amor (Regularity Chapter), Read P.Z. 1319, H. Massey P.Z. 619, Bond, Lux 186, White, and H. M. Levy P.Z. 188.

Temple Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 173.—This Lodge held its regular meeting at the Green Dragon Tavern, Stepney, on Monday, the 13th inst., Bro. Charles Lacy W.M. presided. The business commenced in the usual form, and in the course of the evening Bros. Posener, Weingott, Turquand and Boulton were advanced to the degree of Mark Masters. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted in favour of Bros. Geo. Verry as W.M., T. Mortlock P.M. Treasurer, and Grant Tyler. After slight refreshment, the usual toasts were briefly given, and with some songs by Bros. Stuttivant, Kinnear, Mortlock and Joy, the proceedings terminated.

Caveac Lodge, No. 176.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on 11th inst., at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, Bro. J. Brockett Sorrell W.M. in the chair, assisted by Bros. P. A. Nairne I.P.M., W. M. Goss S.W., W. J. Stride J.W., J. Brockett Sorrell jun. S.D., Stanfeld J.D., G. K. Lemann P.M. acting as I.G. The meeting was duly opened, and the minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary, Bro. Charles T. Dorey P.M., and confirmed. Bros. Beaumont and Griffiths were examined, and afterwards raised to the 3rd degree, after which Bros. Akenhead and Morice were passed to the 2nd degree. The Lodge being resumed to the 1st degree, several matters were brought forward, and then duly closed with solemn prayer. The brethren then adjourned to a very sumptuous banquet, presided over by the W.M., and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly responded to. The health of the W.M. was proposed by Bro. Nairne in eulogistic terms, and acknowledged in a few well chosen sentences. The health of the Visitors (of whom were present, Bros. W. G. Moore W.M. 534, Waterworth P.M. Ghion Lodge 49, and Edward B. Grabham P.M., Felix Lodge 1494), was responded to by Bros. Moore and Waterworth, who spoke of the magnificent rendering of the ceremonies by the W.M., whose year of office promises to prove a brilliant success. The toast of the Officers was acknowledged by Bro. Goss S.W., and after the enjoyment of a most pleasant evening, the banquet concluded with the Tyler's toasts.

St. James's Union Lodge, No. 180.—A numerous assemblage of the brethren met on Wednesday, the 14th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Present—Bros. W. C. Parsons W.M., Gillard S.W., F. Annett J.W., Robinson P.M. Treasurer, H. A. Stacey P.M. Secretary, Pillin S.D., Smith J.D., Harrison I.G., Farwig W.S.; and P.M.'s Bros. Z. Herf I.P.M., G. Bubb, J. R. Stacey, Stonor, Smithett, Cameron, and Hamilton. The Lodge was opened according to custom. Bro. Green was raised to the 3rd degree, and Mr. L. Reibold was initiated. The ceremonies were very perfectly and impressively rendered by the W.M., the officers exhibiting a thorough knowledge of their duties. The election for W.M. then took place, and Bro. Gillard S.W. was unanimously chosen. Bro. Robinson P.M. stated he had been Treasurer for some years, and he hoped during that period he had given the brethren satisfaction, but he begged most respectfully to resign that office, and he was sure he had a worthy successor in Bro. Bubb P.M., who was afterwards unanimously elected. Bro. Gilbert was re-elected Tyler. Bro. Stonor P.M. was elected Treasurer of the Benevolent Fund. Bros. Stollard, Farwig and Pilliner auditors. Bro. Smithett P.M. proposed that the usual Past Master's Jewel be presented to the W.M. on his returning from the chair. A vote of thanks was recorded on the minutes to Bro. Smithett P.M., for the able manner he had discharged his duties as Treasurer. It was then proposed that the annual ball should take place, in connexion with the Lodge, for the purpose of increasing the Fund of Benevolence. Bros. Pinto Leite J.W. 795, and W. Sharpe 795, were proposed as joining members. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren, numbering 76, adjourned to the Crown Room, where a sumptuous dinner and dessert was provided by Bro. Fraucatelli, and superintended by Bro. Knill. The W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. Bro. Smithett P.M., in eulogistic terms, proposed the health of the W.M., whom he characterised as a good Mason, and one who had conducted the duties of the chair in a very efficient manner. (Cheers.) The W.M. thanked the brethren for their kind expressions; he hoped that during his year of office he had given them satisfaction. The toast of the Newly Initiated followed. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the W.M. elect, which was received very enthusiastically, and was duly responded to. The toast of the Visitors was responded to by Bros. J. Sadler, Swallow, H. M. Levy and others. H. A. Stacey, Father of the Lodge, returned thanks for the Past Masters. The toast of the Officers afforded Bro. Annett J.W. an opportunity of showing his "quality," and the Tyler's toast concluded a very delightful evening.

enhanced by the harmony of Bros. G. Bubb and H. Sydney, Bro. Hart accompanying on the piano. The visitors were Bros. Randall 1470, May 1470, Williams 32, Mower 12, Weil 238, H. M. Sydney 34, Blake 23, Leighton Werner 504, Cowan 1572, J. H. Sadler W.M. 795, J. Blum W.M. 1017, R. Caffett 145, Swallow W.M. 1563, Otway 1470, Randall and H. M. Levy P.M. 188.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—This Lodge held its usual meeting on Wednesday, the 15th December, at Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, E.C. Present—Bros. S. Hickman W.M., D. Posener S.W., Tollis J.W., J. K. Pitt Secretary, J. Constable Treasurer, Hollands S.D., Croaker J.D., Biddle I.G., Christopher Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. E. Gottheil Preceptor, Bloomfield, and Loewenstark. Business—Lodge opened, minutes were read and confirmed. The first section was worked by the W.M., assisted by the brethren. The W.M. then, in the most impressive manner, worked the ceremony of installation, and inducted Bro. Posener into the chair of K.S. The ceremony was rendered in a faultless and impressive way, and the brethren expressed their gratification at the Masonic accuracy shewn by Bro. Hickman. Bro. Loewenstark proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Hickman, which was, seconded by Bro. Gottheil. Bro. Hickman, in reply, referred to the assistance he had received in his preparation from Bros. Gottheil, Constable, and Bloomfield, by whose kindly aid he had been able to work the ceremony, and he was gratified to know that his exertions were appreciated by the brethren. Bros. J. T. Briggs 157, H. J. Gabb 813, R. M. Clarke 1321, and Joseph Davis 188 were elected members. There were upwards of 40 present.

Star Lodge, No. 219.—This Lodge held its regular meeting in their own hall, 12 Trongate, Glasgow, on Monday, 13th December, Bro. John Morgan R.W.M. in the chair, Harn S.W., Meaning J.W. The Auditor's report and printed balance-sheet were presented to the Lodge, showing a marked improvement in their financial position. The following candidates having been approved of, were then introduced and initiated:—Martin McLymont, John McMurry, and Parlam McFarlane. The Lodge was then opened in the 2nd degree, and Bro. George Westcall and George Farret, along with two brethren of the St. Andrew Lodge, 465, were passed to the Fellow Craft degree, both ceremonies were impressively wrought by Bro. Morgan, with a fulness which is very seldom heard in a Lodge at ordinary workings, introducing in fact a good portion of the lectures. At the conclusion, the P.M. of 128, and Secretary of 360 were affiliated as honorary members.

Lodge of Fortitude, No. 281.—The ordinary meeting of this Lodge was held on the 8th inst., in the Athenæum, Lancaster, when a considerable number of members were present, Bro. E. Airey I.P.M. occupying the Master's chair. Mr. Richard Stanton was initiated into the mysteries of the Craft. Bro. Thomas Atkinson S.W. was unanimously elected as W.M. for the ensuing year, and the installation will take place on the 29th inst., at two o'clock. The Treasurer and Tyler were re-elected. The Lodge closed in peace and harmony.

St. George's Lodge, No. 333.—This Lodge met at 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow, on the 8th inst., when Bro. Winton P.M. installed the following brethren:—Alec Thomson as R.W.M. (re-elected), J. Winton D.M., J. McFarlane S.M., J. Findey S.W., J. Farsyth J.W., R. Anderson T., A. Dunn S., R. Munro S.D., J. Hill J.D., A. Boyd Chaplain, J. Clark S.S., J. Martin J.S., J. Mellow M.C., A. McIntyre S.B., R. Finlayson J., R. Adams A., A. Fash P.G.S., G. Christie I.G. and A. Wright Tyler. Bro. Winton then presented the Lodge with a large Past Master's Jewel. Bro. Thomson, on behalf of the Lodge, thanked Bro. Winton for his valuable present, as also for his services in installing the officers. The Lodge then went to refreshment, and spent a couple of hours very pleasantly, giving the usual toasts appropriate to the occasion.

Athol Lodge, No. 413.—This Lodge held its installation meeting on Tuesday, 14th of December, at St. Mark's Hall, Glasgow, when J. Miller P.M. P.G.D. of M., installed the following brethren: Bros. John Wallace I.P.M., James Louttit R.W.M., Neilson D.M., Baikie S.M., J. Leitch S.W., Holmes J.W., P. Agnew Treasurer, R. Graham Secretary, Burnet Chaplain, Robinson S.D., Wm. Grindley J.D., O'Brien P.G.S., Coxhead I.G., and R. Gardner Tyler. The Lodge was then called to refreshment, and the usual toasts given. The new Master in giving that of the retiring officers, said no one could have worked on more amicable terms with the Lodge and its officers than their late Master. Bro. J. Wallace replied, stating the pleasure he had felt while occupying that seat, and he had been able to leave the Lodge £20 richer than it was last year; he would now call on them to toast their new Master, who he felt sure would carry them on to increased prosperity. Bro. Louttit, in replying, said he felt out of place in that chair as he was no orator, and was without experience in the duties of a chairman, but so far as regarded the working of the ceremonies, he should be more at home there. Bro. J. Booth, the new Master of 87, replied for the visitors, and Bro. R. Camplere of Lodge 22, New Brunswick, to that of Freemasonry all over the world.

Fidelity Lodge, No. 430.—A very numerous attended meeting of this Lodge was held at the Queen's Arms Hotel, Dukinfield, in the Province of Cheshire, on Wednesday, the 8th December. The Lodge was opened by Bro. Isaac Buckley W.M. We are unable to give a complete list of brethren present, but the following were appointed and installed officers of the Lodge, by Bro. P.M. Holmes, viz:—Bros. Wm. Williamson Anderson W.M., J. Buckley I.P.M., Sam Scott S.W., J. W. Watson J.W., J. A. Smith Treasurer, Geo. Robert Hall Secretary, Jas. Eaton J.D., Sutton I.G., Thos. Raw Tyler. The officers were addressed and invested by the newly installed W.M., and the charges were given by Bro. Jos. Burton P.M. 268. A handsome Secretary's jewel, with an inscription, was presented by Bro. Eaton P.M. to the late Secretary, Bro. Sam Scott, for services

rendered to those six brethren who attended the installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. A very excellent banquet followed the installation ceremony, graced by a numerous array of visitors, amongst whom may be mentioned, Bros. John Yarker P.M. 430, and P.S.G.W. of Greece, Jas. Holmes P.M. 268, and P.P.G. J.D. of E.L., Jno. Eaton P.M. and P.P.G. Supt. of Works of E.L., Walter Newton P.M. 268, W. H. Holt W.M. Milton Lodge, &c., &c. There were also present Bros. Nield P.M., Eaton P.M., James Garforth, Walter Garforth, Walter Johnson P.M., G. Burrows P.M., John Burrows, Cummings, &c., &c.

St. Peter's Lodge, No. 481.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, the 13th December 1875, at Freemasons' Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Present—Bros. James Spearman P.G.S. of W. W.M., J. D. Stevens S.W., H. Sewell J.W., Armstrong acting as Secretary, George Thompson P.M. Treasurer, Rd. Eynon S.D., H. S. Turner J.D., J. Grist Steward, H. C. Carr I.G., H. C. Martin P.M. Tyler; P.M.'s Bros. J. Cooke I.P.M., Smaile 541 P.G.S.W., Robson 48 720, S. H. Harris 406; Visitors Bros. J. M. Lissack 27, Barker S.W. 1342, Wood 48, H. S. Mendelssohn 48, Knox W.M. 406. Business—Lodge opened in solemn form. Mr. Knowles was regularly initiated into the Order by the W.M. Bro. Anderson, after due examination, was passed to the F.C. degree, and two brethren, having proved their efficiency, were raised to the sublime degree of M.M.'s in a most able manner by the W.M. During refreshment, and in response to the toast of the visitors, Bro. P.M. Smaile P.G.S.W. took occasion to compliment Bro. Spearman on the manner he had gone through the three degrees that night; anything more solemn or perfect than the rendering of the beautiful ritual of the three degrees he had never heard. This opinion was freely endorsed, amidst great applause, by several P.M.'s and distinguished Masons present.

Benevolence Lodge, No. 489.—This Lodge held its ordinary meeting on Thursday, the 9th of December, at the Masonic Hall, Bideford. Present—Bros. Rev. Thomas Russell, J.G.W. Devon P.P.G.C. Oxon, W.M., P. M. Smaile S.W., S. S. Crawys J.W., H. M. Burrow Secretary, R. Dymond S.D., S. Goode J.D., G. W. Vincent D.C., R. Wilkinson Steward, J. Allan I.G. P.M. Bro. W. L. Vellacott, and several other brethren. Business—Bro. Cann was raised to the Sublime Degree; other matters connected with the business of the Lodge were discussed and despatched. The W.M., before closing the Lodge, referred to their late Tyler, Bro. John Venton, whom they had that day committed to the grave. The deceased Bro. was the first initiate of the Lodge, thirty-two years ago, and had passed sixty-three out of the seventy-three years of his life in the unbroken employment of the same firm.

Polish National Lodge, No. 534.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 9th December, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Present—Bros. W. G. Moore W.M., F. Rath S.W., Cumming J.W., Pass Secretary, Boyd Treasurer, Ebner S.D., Aspinal J.D., Jagielski D.C., Taylor I.G. P.M. Bro. Mercik. Visitors—Bros. Cox W.M. 1257, Goss S.D. 870. Business—Bro. Hayday was passed. The W.M. offered himself as a Steward for the Girls' School.

Dalhousie Lodge, No. 860.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Thursday, the 9th December, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Present—William Henry Wallington W.M., C. Knox S.W., Allen J.W., L. F. Little P.M. Secretary, Dallwood P.M. Treasurer, Dr. White S.D., Mason J.D., Dobson I.G., Cheshire Steward, Gilchrist Tyler, P.M.'s Dallwood, Bates, Underwood and Thompson. Business—Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken for Messrs. Thos. Pinn and James Gawthorp Kitchingman, which proved unanimous in their favour. The first named gentleman was then initiated into the Order. Bro. Jones was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M., and Bros. Laudegram, Burteton and Johnson were passed to the second degree. The Lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to the banquet; the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. Bro. Dollwood I.P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., expressed himself highly gratified at the excellent way in which the working in Lodge had been conducted, observing that the rendering of the three degrees he had never heard surpassed. Several songs were sung, by the W.M., Bros. Knox, Dobson, &c., in excellent style, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Strawberry Hill Lodge, No. 946.—The regular monthly meeting of the above was held on Wednesday, at Grotto Hotel, Cross Deep, Twickenham. Present—Bros. J. Hayward W.M., Johnson S.W., Wolgemuth J.W., J. R. Stedwell P.G.S., W. Platt P.M. Secretary, J. W. Price S.D., C. Woodman J.D., and P.M.'s Bros. W. Smeed P.G.J.W. Middlesex, Whitley P.G.J.D., and W. Waghorn I.P.M. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Messrs. Atkins and Harrison being in attendance, were initiated into the Order by the W.M. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to a capital banquet. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and after some very good singing, by Bros. Platt, Johnson, C. Wood, man and Whitley, the brethren returned to town.

Montefiore Lodge, No. 1017.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, numerous attended by the brethren and distinguished visitors, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Present—Bros. Grunbaum W.M., Blum S.W., L. Jacobs Treasurer, E. P. Albert Assistant Grand Pursuivant P.M. Secretary, and P.M.'s De Solla, Eskell, S. V. Abrahams, Pollitzer, Loewenstark, Blumenthal, &c. The Lodge having been opened and the minutes confirmed, Bro. E. P. Albert presented Bro. J. Blum S.W. and W.M. elect to the Lodge. A board of installed Masters having been formed, he was duly installed by Bro. S. V. Abrahams P.M., whose rendering of the ceremony met with the warmest encomiums. The W.M. then invested his officers: Bros. Grunbaum I.P.M., V. Myers S.W.,

Gulliford J.W., S. Albu S.D., L. Jacobs Treasurer, E. P. Albert Assistant G.P. Secretary, Salomons J.D., Hochfield I.G., Hand D.C., Brale Steward, and Smith Tyler. The sum of 20 guineas was proposed from the funds of the Lodge to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, for Life Governorships, which was carried unanimously. Bro. S. V. Abrahams P.M. then presented the returning W.M. Bro. Grunebaum, in the name of the Lodge, with a very elegant P.M.'s jewel and a gold watch, as a mark of their regard and esteem. Bro. Grunebaum suitably returned thanks for the valuable presentation, after which the Lodge was closed, and a very sumptuous banquet followed. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, Bros. Wright G.P. and E. P. Albert responding for the toast of the Grand Officers. A special toast was given to Bro. Diosy, of the Polish National Lodge, who eloquently responded. Bro. H. G. Buss P.M. 27, P.G.R. Middlesex, and several brethren responded to the toast of the Visitors, who were, 42 in number. The toasts of the W.M., Past Masters and Officers followed, and the brethren passed a delightful evening. The W.M. provided a musical treat, under the direction of Bro. E. P. Van Noorden, Organist of the Lodge, who was supported by Bros. Donald, King, Large, Mason and Lawler. Among the visitors were Bros. Wright G.P., H. G. Buss P.G.R. Middlesex, Hickman W.M. 188, M. Alexander P.M. 188, L. Alexander P.M. 188, Israel Abrahams P.M. 188, B. Abrahams P.M., Demerara, O. Roberts I.P.M. 188, Ross W.M. 185, C. Hogard P.M. 205, P.G.S.B. Essex, Diosy 534, Robinson 1502, Woolf 1423, Chambers 141, E. Schumann 183, Freystadt, S. Abraham late 188, Diespecker 73, H. D. Marks 1502, E. Rimmell, Tongue 534, L. M. Myers 188, Spiers late 1364, Davis, E. J. Harty 1201, A. Myers, W. Aronsberg, &c.

Grey Friars Lodge, No. 1101.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 8th December, at the Masonic Hall, Reading. Present—Bros. John T. Freeman Prov. G.S. Berks and Bucks W.M., Edward Margrett S.W., W. P. Ivey P.M. Secretary, W. G. Flanagan S.D., R. Dowsett Organist, Ferguson and Newman Stewards, J. Early Danks I.G., W. Hemmings Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Chancellor, Egginton, and Brown. Business—To confirm the minutes of the last regular Lodge. To raise Bro. Cottrell. This ceremony was performed in a most impressive manner. It was announced that the approaching ball should be an invitation one, therefore the names of the stewards will not be published. Mr. Thomas Simonds, of Newlands, was proposed and seconded for initiation.

Devon Lodge, No. 1138.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, the 7th December, at the Masonic Hall, Devon-square, Newton Abbot. Present—Bros. W. R. King W.M., B. Prowse S.W., J. S. Saunders J.W., Jno. Olver Secretary, R. L. Lloyd Treasurer, Wm. Harris S.D., E. Huxtable J.D., C. Stevens Steward, R. Croke I.G., Jno. Haywood Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. H. G. Beachey, P. D. Michelmore P.G. Steward, George Stockman jun.; Bros. B. Stooke, W. Ryder, C. D. Beddek, W. H. Banfill, L. E. Bearne, Jno. Williams, H. S. Gaye, T. J. H. Westall, H. Voysey, H. Martin, Fitz M. Martin, Dr. W. L. Pope D.D. P.P.G.C. Business—Lodge opened, minutes of last meeting confirmed. Bro. Oliver was elected W.M., and Bro. R. L. Lloyd re-elected Treasurer for the ensuing year. It was then proposed, seconded, and unanimously carried, that the banquet which takes place the first regular meeting in January be provided by Bro. King, of the Queen's Hotel. Bro. Colonel Beddek, being about to proceed to India, asked for his necessary certificate, and for his name to be retained on the list of members during his absence, which was readily complied with. Bro. Beachey P.M. announced to the brethren that, having obtained a warrant for an Arch Chapter in connection with the Devon Lodge, the consecration would take place on the 13th January 1876. The Lodge was then closed.

Hereward Lodge, No. 1232.—This Lodge held its meeting on Wednesday evening, 8th of December, at Bourn, Lincolnshire, and unanimously confirmed their previous lodge minutes, in their election of W.M. for the ensuing year, when the Rev. Daniel Ace, D.D., P.P.G.C. for Lincolnshire, of Lodges Nos. 660, 1232, and 1482, and at present Grand Chaplain of Royal Arch Chapter Provincial, and Mark Grand Lodge Provincial for Lincolnshire, was duly installed W.M. of Hereward Lodge, No. 1232, Bourn, Lincolnshire, 1875-76. The brethren were favoured with the distinguished presence of two of the Secretaries of our Masonic Charities in London, to do honour to the new W.M. One of those gentlemen attested that he had known their new W.M. for nearly twenty years, both as a clergyman in the metropolis, and as a member of the Craft; and in every relation of life he had proved their new Master as a gentleman of the highest honour and integrity. Several high officers, very eminent in the Craft, would have been present had not the weather proved extremely inclement. The brethren, however, who assembled on this auspicious occasion, spent a most enjoyable evening, not the shadow of a shade to disturb their harmony. The speeches too, delivered, were admirable, especially those of our London Secretaries on the utility of our Masonic Charities and their urgent claims for support. The Lodge at Bourn has very creditably for sometime past worked its way successfully under difficulties, and it is confidently expected that the new Master, with the Past Masters, and other honoured brethren, will fully prove that the Hereward Lodge has undeniable claims for distinction and success, to which it is entitled by charitable exertions and quiet perseverance in well doing.

The Gilbert Greenall Lodge, No. 1250.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, the 14th of December, at the Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street, Warrington. Present—Bros. William Richardson W.M., C. Crosier J.W., T. Auckland Secretary, T. Sutton Treasurer, J. Hannah I.G. Visitors—Bros. D. W. Finney P.M. P.Z., &c., Brierley, Woods, Mossop, and Hawkins. The business was of the ordinary routine character. One candidate was proposed for initiation. The brethren afterwards adjourned for refreshment.

Commercial Lodge, No. 1391.—This Lodge held its 70th meeting on Saturday, 11th of December, at the Masonic Hall, Leicester. Present—Bros. R. A. Barber jun. W.M., E. Mason S.W., B. Moore J.W., J. Ewing Sec., A. Chamberlin S.D., Geo. Matt J.D., C. J. McBride D.C., H. Meadows and J. W. Hunter Stewards, E. H. Butler I.G., C. Bembridge Tyler. P.M. Bro. Geo. Clifton. Visitors—Bros. S. S. Partridge Prov. G. Sec. P.M. 523, J. T. Thorp W.M. 523, A. Sargeant P.G.S., A. Palmer P.M. 279, &c., &c. Business—Mr. E. T. Hutchinson was ballotted for, unanimously elected, and initiated by the W.M.; the first lecture on the tracing board was afterwards impressively given by Bro. Ewing, Sec.; over thirty members were present, both in Lodge and at the supper table; the usual toasts were given by the W.M., and a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close shortly before eleven o'clock.

Baldwin Lodge, No. 1398.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Monday, the 13th December, at the Castle, Dalton-in-Furness. Present—Bros. Frederick Bell S.W., John Walton J.W., Robert Blake Secretary, C. Godby J.D., Rev. J. M. Morgan P.G.C. Chaplain, William Pratt Tyler. P.M. Bro. William Whiteside. Visitor—Bro. R. Cowdery. Business—Bro. W. Whiteside P.M. conducted the Lodge during the unavoidable absence of Bro. Clarke W.M., and several matters relating to the welfare of the Lodge were brought forward.

Era Lodge, No. 1423.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Saturday, the 11th inst., at the King's Arms Hotel, Hampton Court. Present—Bros. J. W. Baldwin W.M., E. H. Thiellay P.G.A.G.P. Middlesex S.W., J. Baxter Langley J.W., T. J. Sabine P.P.G.S.B. Middlesex, Treasurer, F. Walters P.P.G.P. Middlesex Secretary, E. W. Devereux S.D., S. Wolff J.D., A. Loos I.G., B. Wright D.C., and P.M.'s J. T. Moss P.P.G.R. Middlesex, H. A. Dubois P.P.A.G.D.C. Middlesex, &c. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. A. Rambelow, F. Henrenx and F. H. Harvey were raised to the 3rd degree. The Bye-laws of the Lodge were read, and the election for W.M. then took place, which was unanimously in favour of Bro. J. Baxter Langley; J. T. Sabine was re-elected Treasurer, and F. Gilbert Tyler. The Audit Committee was appointed, and a jewel, of the value of 12 guineas, was voted to the W.M. on his retiring from the chair. A petition on behalf of a distressed brother was received and duly signed. It was then resolved that application be made for a new Chapter, entitled the "Era." The Lodge was then closed, and refreshment followed labour.

The Great City Lodge, No. 1426.—The members of this prosperous Lodge assembled in goodly array on Saturday last, the 11th inst., at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street. The Lodge was opened punctually at the time appointed on the summons, by the I.P.M., Bro. Nathan B. Headon, who was supported by Bros. J. Hamilton Townend, the W.M. of the Lodge, James Stevens P.M., Edward Moody P.M. Secretary, John Seex S.W., Blackie S.D., J. W. Catchpole J.D., Thomas D.C., W. H. Hook Organist, Charles Taylor 1st St., W. Steadman Tyler, &c. The Lodge was opened with the usual preliminaries, after which the candidates for raising were examined as to their proficiency, which resulting satisfactorily, Bro. Headon raised Bros. Wright and Wynne. Bro. James Stevens then took the chair, and raised Bros. Evenett and Cadot. The remaining candidates for the sublime degree, Bros. W. E. Thompson and Bertram, were then introduced, and were raised, the ceremony being performed by Bro. Thompson P.M. 177. In each case the ceremony was conducted in a most able and impressive manner. Bro. J. H. Townend now took the chair, and passed Bros. Powell, Keith Frith, Laggard and Hudd. The Lodge was resumed to the 1st degree, and a ballot was taken for Messrs. Julius J. Wyler, Robert Lawson, John March Ginders, and Clement Royd, which was unanimous. Messrs. Shore, Atkins, Wyler, Lawson and Ginders, were then severally initiated into the Order by the W.M., who performed the ceremony in a most perfect manner, Bro. Stevens describing the working tools. Bro. Moody's motion (that from the 1st January 1876 the Initiation Fee be raised to ten guineas) was then discussed, and on being put to the meeting, was unanimously carried. After the transaction of other business the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to supper, which was served in an ample manner. On the removal of the cloth the W.M. briefly spoke to the several Loyal and Masonic toasts. To that of Lord Skelmersdale and the rest of the Grand Officers, Bro. John Boyd P.G.P. replied: he referred to the gratification it had afforded him to be present at the Consecration of the Great City Lodge, and he now, on this, his first visit since that occasion, complimented the members on the great success they had achieved. The toast of the Visitors was replied to by Bro. Little, who was followed by Bro. Swallow, who thanked the brethren for the kind invitation which they had given him, as the W.M. of the City of Westminster Lodge, to pay them a visit; he only regretted that he had not been able to bring more of his officers with him. Bro. Swallow concluded by expressing a hope that the W.M. and Officers of the Great City Lodge would honour the City of Westminster Lodge with their company on the occasion of its next meeting. Bro. Townend, on behalf of the Officers of his Lodge, said he should have great pleasure in paying the return visit. During the evening Bros. Stevens, Hook, Middleton, Bertram, and others, gave some capital songs, and the proceedings did not conclude till a very late hour had been reached. Amongst the visitors were Bros. John Boyd P.G.P., R.W. Little G.S.W. (Middlesex), Secretary Girls' School, J. G. Yolland G.S.B. Herts, Swallow W.M. City of Westminster, White J.W. City of Westminster, Simpson 405 Sco. Con., Ebbatt 463, Allison 186, Charles Palmer McKay 720, Marsden 205, Portway 1260, W. W. Morgan 1385, J. K. Pitt 463, Walters 1445, Dr. O'Connor 363.

Alexandra Lodge, No. 1511, Hornsea.—The annual meeting of the brethren of this Lodge was held at Hornsea, near Hull, on Wednesday afternoon, when the W.M., Bro. Thos. Oates, presided. There was a large attendance, including several past

officers of rank. P.M. Bro. John Thompson felt gratified in presenting his first annual statement, as it showed such success and progress as was almost unparalleled in any young Lodge. It was started just a year ago with only 13 members, and he could now boast of 42; the Lodge had paid a very heavy sum for expenses, which was always incidental to a new Lodge, and still it completed its year with a balance in hand. The election of W.M. for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, and the choice of the brethren fell unanimously on Bro. Benjamin L. Wells, who had officiated as S.W. during the past year. P.M. Bro. John Thompson was re-elected Treasurer and Bro. Crier Tyler. A vote of thanks to the retiring Master, for his praiseworthy efforts in conducting the affairs of the Lodge, was proposed by P.M. Bro. Charles Wells (ex-Mayor of Hull), and seconded by Bro. J. Brooke Prov. S.J.D. and W.M. of the Minerva Lodge, No. 254. This was carried with acclamation, and W.M. Bro. Oates briefly acknowledged the compliment paid to him. The ceremony of installation will take place on Wednesday, the 12th of next month, when a large and influential attendance is expected. At the conclusion of the Lodge business, the usual loyal and Craft toasts were honoured, and the proceedings were enlivened with some excellent songs, one being an *impromptu*, written by a member of the Lodge, and was received by the brethren with hearty applause.

Addiscombe Lodge, No. 1556.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on the 11th instant, at the Alma Tavern, Addiscombe. Present—Bros. S. T. Turquand W.M., T. F. Mullett S.W., J. Parsons Smith J.W., W. S. Masterman acting P.M., H. E. Frances P.G.D. Treasurer, Gray S.D., Pill J.D., L. Turquand I.G. and thirteen other brethren, including Bros. Pettitt No. 95, and Broomhall No. 778, who were visitors, when Bros. Lowrie and Wheeler were able raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. Bro. Foster was passed to the second degree, and Bros. Godwin, Colstor and Davis were duly initiated into the Order. At the consecration of the Lodge, in August last, there were only seven members, since that period twelve brethren have been initiated, and two joining members have also been added, making the number on the roll at the present time twenty-one; this large increase in so short a period fully justifies the brethren who exerted their influence in forming this Lodge, and proves that such a step was absolutely necessary to meet the requirements of the neighbourhood. An excellent banquet was provided, to which the brethren did justice, after which the usual Masonic toasts were duly given, and responded to most heartily. Bro. Broomhall, in his reply on behalf of himself and brother visitor, expressed his pleasure and surprise, that in a country Lodge the ritual and ceremonies were worked with such accuracy, order, and solemnity, equal indeed to any working he had heard in a London Lodge. The brethren separated with general congratulations and hearty good wishes.

Duke of Connaught Lodge, 1558.—This new Lodge held its second regular meeting at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, on Thursday, the 19th inst. Present—Bros. W. Snowden W.M., W. S. Cackett S.W., T. Sleep J.W., J. Dann P.M. and Secretary, W. Mitchell S.D., A. Runacres J.D., J. Kemp I.G., W. Chalk W.S., F. Geider Tyler; also Bros. C. E. Power, T. Taylor, C. Sims, E. Pearman, W. Rowlands, J. E. Pentreath, G. Harris, J. H. Swan, J. Emins; also Visitors, Bros. C. B. Wright, Asaph 1319, S. J. Harvey, Royal

Jubilee 72, C. E. Towell, Victoria 1356, J. M. Walters, Westbourne 133, T. T. Dryson, Royal Union 382. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes confirmed. The W.M. vacated the chair, and Bro. P.M. Dann officiated. Bros. Power, Taylor, Sims, Pearman and Pentreath were duly passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. A ballot was taken for Bro. W. Rowlands, of the Royal Jubilee Lodge, No. 72, as a joining member, which being unanimous, Bro. Rowlands was admitted and enrolled as a member of the Lodge. Ballots were taken for Messrs. G. Harris, J. H. Swan and J. Emins, and those gentlemen were regularly initiated. The W.M. resumed the chair. The Secretary read a copy of a communication from Grand Lodge, dated 7th December 1839. Bro. Sleep J.W. moved that the question of raising the initiation fee, from five to seven guineas, be taken into consideration. Bro. Mitchell S.D. seconded the motion, which was carried by a large majority. Bro. John Morgan Walters, of the Westbourne Lodge, No. 733, was proposed as a joining member. Candidates for initiation were proposed. All Masonic business being ended, the Lodge was closed and adjourned till the second Thursday in January next. The brethren then went to refreshment, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, and the remainder of the evening was spent in a most happy and convivial manner.

Morecambe Lodge, No. 1561, Lancaster.—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the North Western Hotel, Morecambe, on the 3rd inst., Bro. Dr. J. D. Moore W.M. occupying the Master's chair. There were several members present from the Lancaster Lodges. Bros. Ward and Bannister were passed from Entered Apprentices to Fellow Craftsmen, and at the close of the charge the W.M. (Bro. Dr. Moore) gave a lecture on the Second Degree, which was highly appreciated by those present. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Stovey 281, for his present to the Lodge of an oil-cloth. Two candidates were proposed for initiation, and the Lodge was closed in peace and harmony.

City of Westminster Lodge, No. 1563.—The second meeting of this Lodge, since its consecration, was held on the 9th inst., at the Café Royal, Air-street, Regent-street. The W.M. and officers were all in their respective places. Bros. Swallow W.M. (P.M. of the Royal Union Lodge, Uxbridge), the Rev. P.M. Holden S.W., White J.W., C. A. Cottebrune P.G.P. Treasurer, Scott (P.M. 749) Secretary, Phillip S.D., Turner J.D., W. C. Parsons (W.M. 180) I.G., Shand D.C., Hutchinson W.S., and Bros. Willis, Gibson, Worrell, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Bishop, Turner, Browning and Hart being duly qualified, were passed to the 2nd degree, and Mr. Gardner was balloted for, accepted, and initiated into the Order. The working was perfectly rendered, and with due solemnity. The bye-laws proposed were submitted to the Lodge by the Secretary, when it was proposed by Bro. W. C. Parsons I.G., and seconded by Bro. Shand D.C., "That the same should be printed, and a copy sent to every brother of the Lodge, so that they should be fully discussed at the next meeting." This was carried unanimously. The Lodge was then closed until the second Thursday in January. A very excellent banquet followed, and after the removal of the cloth the W.M. presided, giving the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, and a most enjoyable evening was passed. Bro. Lancaster S.W. 1201 was present as a visitor.

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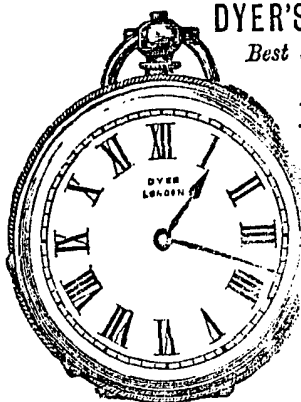
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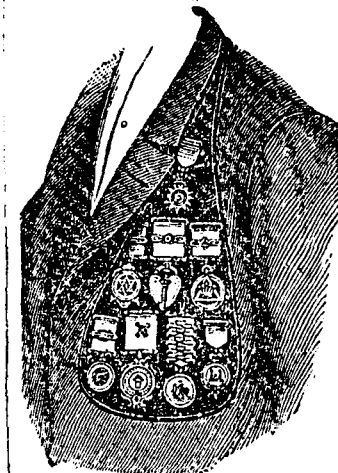
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