

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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BETWEEN 1776 AND 1876.

AS centennial celebrations appear to be the order of the day among our Transatlantic friends, there is a certain propriety in calling attention to the fact that only a few weeks are wanting to complete a century since our Freemasons' Hall, in Great Queen-street, was opened and dedicated, in solemn form, to the service of the Craft. Preston, in his *Illustrations*, says, that "In commemoration of an event so pleasing to the Society, it was agreed that the anniversary of the ceremony should be ever after regularly kept." Whether Grand Lodge will think it worth while to note the centennial anniversary by any special ceremony, is a question which Grand Lodge alone is competent to decide. As the leading organ of the Craft, however, in this country, we may be pardoned for thinking this an opportune moment for contrasting the present condition of our Order with what it was a hundred years ago, when, for the first time in its history, the Grand Lodge of England found a settled habitation not unworthy of its high position. Lord Petre, whose full-length portrait must be familiar to members of Grand Lodge as one of the series of portraits which adorn its walls, was Grand Master both when the first stone was laid in May 1775, and when the hall was solemnly opened and dedicated on the 23rd May of the following year. The Craft of the day were much indebted to his lordship for the active zeal he showed in promoting its interests and extending its influence. During a reign of five years, extending from 1772 to 1777, Lord Petre never missed an opportunity of doing what lay in his power to advance the well-being of the Society. He granted several provincial deputations, and many new Lodges were added to the roll, so that, to use Preston's words, "under his banner the Society became truly respectable." But in his day the world of Masonry by no means enjoyed a perfect tranquillity. The schism which had existed some years had become more pronounced than ever by the election of the Duke of Athol to be Grand Master of the so-called Ancients, and hardly had Lord Petre vacated the chair of the Moderns in favour of the Duke of Manchester, when troubles arose within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England—as contradistinguished from the Grand Lodge of *all* England under the *old Institutions*—itself. A dispute arose between it and the Lodge of Antiquity, owing to some members of the latter having attended St. Dunstan's Church and marched to the Mitre Tavern in full Masonic costume. The dispute became further embittered, and at length the Lodge of Antiquity withdrew its allegiance from Grand Lodge, published a manifesto in vindication of its conduct, and avowed alliance with the Lodge of York. Happier influences, however, in time prevailed. In 1790, the difference was healed, and the Lodge of Antiquity resumed its position on the roll of Grand Lodge. But in spite of such partial drawbacks, the cause of Masonry made considerable progress, especially in the East, where the eldest son of the Nabob of the Carnatic was initiated, and honoured by Grand Lodge with the present of an apron elegantly decorated, and a handsomely bound copy of the Book of Constitutions, of which a new edition had been published in 1775. This present the young Indian Prince suitably and gratefully acknowledged in a letter to the Grand Master. In 1782 His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, who, with his brother of Gloucester, had been initiated into Masonry in the year 1766, was elected Grand Master—the Duke of York having been initiated the year previous—and appointed the Earl of Effingham to be Acting or Pro Grand

Master. In 1786, Prince William (afterwards William IV.) was initiated in a Plymouth Lodge, and the year following Geo. Prince of Wales and the Duke of York became Masons, His Royal Highness the Grand Master presiding in person at the initiation of the two last. The beginning of this year was further marked by the opening, in London, of the Grand Chapter of Harodim, while in 1788 a still more important event occurred, namely, the institution of the Girls' School, under the patronage of Her Grace of Cumberland, and mainly by the exertions of the Chevalier Ruspini. The beginning was small, only fifteen children being taken into a house, rented for the purpose at Somers Town, on 1st January 1789; but since then it has grown so considerably that close on one hundred and fifty girls are now maintained and educated at the expense of the Craft, and no long time hence the number will be increased to over two hundred. At the Grand Feast, held on the 2nd May 1790, the Grand Master presided, attended by his nephews, the Prince of Wales and the Dukes of York and Clarence, and some five hundred brethren, and the occasion was made memorable by the reinstatement of the Lodge of Antiquity in all its privileges. This, however, was the Duke of Cumberland's last public appearance as Grand Master. He died soon afterwards, and the Prince of Wales was unanimously chosen his successor. On the 2nd May 1792, the Prince was formally installed, to the satisfaction of the whole Craft, among those present at the ceremony being the Duke of York and Lord Rawdon, Acting Grand Master.

In June 1793 was published the first Masonic magazine, bearing the title of *The Freemasons' Magazine or General and Complete Library*, the *Freemasons' Calendar* having made its appearance in 1776. In 1797 were published the attacks of the Abbé Barnet and Professor Robison on Freemasonry. Both these writers abused it most heartily, but the latter, in a second edition, was pleased to except the English Freemasons from the charges he brought against them. Four years later were taken the first steps towards effecting that union between the rival English Grand Lodges, so happily accomplished in 1813, under the auspices of the Dukes of Kent and Sussex. The attempt was unsuccessful, but the idea was not lost sight of. Earl Moira, visiting Scotland a little later, presented to the Grand Lodge of that country a faithful picture of the condition of Masonry in England, and this led to a closer intimacy between the Scottish and English (Moderns) Grand Lodges, the Prince of Wales being even elected Patron of the Order in Scotland (1806). The Irish Grand Lodge also made closer acquaintance with the English Grand Lodge, and as Scotch and Irish Masonry had previously inclined towards the ancients rather than the Moderns, these closer ties with the latter were not without their influence on the Grand Lodge of the former. We need not, however, go further into detail respecting an event in our history with which our readers must be so familiar. Suffice it say that the Duke of Sussex, having succeeded his brother the Prince of Wales, on the latter becoming Regent, as Grand Master of Masons (Moderns), and the Duke of Athol having in 1813 resigned the chair in favour of the Duke of Kent as Grand Master of the Ancients, the two became one Grand Lodge, and a schism, extending over a considerable part of a century, was happily determined in the month of December 1813. But we have digressed somewhat from the strict order of events. In 1791 the Masonic Boys' School, under the auspices of the Ancients, came into being. An Act was also passed for the more effectual suppression of secret societies established for seditious and treasonable purposes. From this Act all

Lodges of Freemasons were, on certain conditions of registration, specially and by name exempted. The same year the Grand Lodge of Sweden, by its National Grand Master, Charles, Duke of Sudermania, made advances to the Grand Lodge of England for an alliance, the result being that Baron de Silverhjelm was received by the latter as the representative of the Grand Lodge of Sweden, and allowed a seat in the English Grand Lodge. On the last day of the year 1809 the Prince of Wales, as Grand Master, laid the foundation-stone of Covent Garden Theatre, with the customary formalities. On the 27th January 1813 the Earl of Moira, who was about to proceed to India to take up his appointment of Governor-General, was entertained at a grand banquet at Freemasons' Hall, and presented with a magnificent jewel as a token of the respect and affection in which he was held by the Craft. In 1812 Lodge 31 of Liverpool was erased from the list of Lodges, for disobedience to the orders of Grand Lodge, and a similar sentence was passed upon Sea Captain's Lodge, No. 140, of the same town, for a somewhat similar offence. In 1823 the Duke of York was formally installed as Master of the Prince of Wales's Lodge, H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex himself performing the ceremony; and in 1827 the Duke of Clarence succeeded to the chair of that Lodge, his brother the Grand Master again officiating in person. At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held in March 1828, no less than fifty-nine Lodges were struck off the books, and their warrants declared to be forfeited for having failed to make any communication or return of dues to Grand Lodge. But such interruptions to the even progress of Freemasonry were happily few and far between. During the Grand Masterships of the Duke of Sussex, the Earl of Zetland, and the Marquis of Ripon, the Order rapidly increased, both in strength and influence. The number of its charitable institutions was further increased by the establishment in 1838 of a Royal Benevolent Asylum for aged and indigent brethren, and this has since been enlarged so as to include provision for a number of Masons' widows. The first annual meeting of the subscribers was held in 1843. In 1838, a magnificent testimonial was presented to the Grand Master for his invaluable services to Masonry during his long tenure of office, and especially for the distinguished part he played in uniting the rival Grand Lodges. In 1845, this testimonial was presented to Grand Lodge by his widow, the Duchess of Inverness. To enumerate more of the important events which have occurred during the last thirty years were out of place in a brief sketch like this. But from what we have noticed it will be apparent to all, that Freemasonry has prospered in the century that has so nearly lapsed since Freemasons' Hall was formally dedicated by Lord Petre. Then there were rival bodies of Masons, now there is but one body. Then the Lodges were numerous, now they are still more numerous. There were more Provinces in those days perhaps, for then the American Provinces were subordinate to one or other of our Grand Lodges, but now they are more consolidated, and exist, not only now as then in the East and West Indies, but in China and Japan, in Australia, New Zealand, and for aught we know to the contrary, there may soon be one in our newest acquisition, the Fiji Islands. There were learned brethren in those days, whose efforts to throw light on our history were highly appreciated. Now we have a Masonic literature and a Masonic Press. In fine, what we were then in numbers and in importance, we are now to the extent of ten or even twenty fold; and we have the satisfaction of knowing also that outside the limits of this earliest home of modern Freemasonry, the Craft is in a flourishing condition in well nigh all countries. That it may remain so both here and abroad is, we are well assured, the earnest hope of every true brother.

MASONIC PORTRAITS (No. 26).

AN ANCIENT BRITON.

"Time was, when clothing sumptuous, or for use,
Save their own painted skins, our sires had none;
The hardy chief, upon the rugged rock,
Washed by the sea; or on the gravelly bank,
Fearless of wrong, reposed his wearied strength."

THOSE obscure writers who are engaged in the congenial, because obscure, task of pedigree hunting, might, if they were so minded, write a series of terrible

satires on the vanity of mankind. They might tell us, if they cared to adhere to the exact truth, that two-thirds, perhaps we might say three-fourths, of the genealogical trees which adorn the halls of some families are ingenious fictions. They might show us all the details of the process through which the eager *parvenu* passes who endeavours to affiliate himself to some grand trunk line of remarkable men. Or they might write a series of agreeable papers upon the charming fictions which abound in standard works that profess to give the history of the landed gentry, or the titled persons who constitute the aristocracy of this country. The public would be amazed if they were made familiar with the composition of the present House of Peers. In common parlance the Peers are said to trace their descent from the Conquest; but in point of fact the titles are of far more recent date. The two oldest peerages date from the thirteenth century, and the ancestors of three-fourths of the existing House have been raised to the rank of hereditary legislators within the last two centuries. The tracing of a pedigree, in clear and solid links, to the time of the Plantagenets for example, is an exceedingly difficult task, and the majority of persons who find it necessary to be descended from "Somebody," are compelled to perform a back somersault into the dim obscurity of the past, by way of bridging over the huge gaps which time may have made in the family records. A man who can satisfactorily trace his family back to the age of the Stuarts does not, however, find it difficult to perform this feat of genealogical gymnastics. He quietly and coolly turns head over heels through two or three centuries, and informs the world, through the very accurate pages of Burke, that the founder of the family was "Warden of the Marshes in the reign of Edward the First." The statement may be difficult to prove, but it is also equally difficult to refute, and as far as we can judge, we see no reason why an ambitious hero, fresh from the accolade of the sovereign, should not at once date from the founding of Rome or the grounding of the Ark on Mount Ararat. But although there are often difficulties in the path of the *parvenu*, difficulties which do not indeed present any serious obstacle to the pedigree hunters, or the officials at Herald's College, there are many quiet unobtrusive families in our midst who can readily and satisfactorily trace their descent without the factitious aid of the hired triflers with old MSS. The hero of this sketch is one of those fortunate persons. He comes of an old Welsh family, who occupied the soil before the Norman invader set foot upon our shores. His family has flourished for centuries in South Wales, and possibly his remote ancestors traded with those adventurous sailors of Tyre who came to Britain for the purpose of exchanging the products of civilisation for the mineral wealth of the island. He was born at the close of the first quarter of the present century, and his earliest associations are connected with the soft and charming scenery of the Principality. He was educated at Christ's Collegiate School, Brecon, and completed his studies at King's College, London. On leaving College, he entered the architectural profession, and had the honour of studying under Sir Charles Barry, who was then engaged in the erection of the Houses of Parliament. Having mastered his profession, he was appointed to a post in the Ordnance Department of the Civil Service, and still has the honour of serving his country. During his official career he has designed and superintended the construction of many large and important works, and, among others, the Victoria Hospital at Netley. Several years of his public life have been spent in the West Indies, chiefly at Antigua, one of the leeward Caribbees.

He was initiated in Masonry in the year 1848, in the Albany Lodge, Newport, Isle of Wight (151), and in the same year was passed and raised in the Caledonian Lodge, Grenada, one of the most beautiful islands of the Caribbee group. In the years 1851-2 he was W.M. of St. John's Lodge, Antigua (492). On his return to England, he joined the St. Thomas's Lodge, and passed the chair in 1871. He was an active promoter of the Granite Lodge (1328), and acted as first P.M. He still holds the office of Secretary; and the Lodge, mainly through his exertions, has become, in the short space of five years, one of the most prosperous in the metropolis. He is a P.M. of the Campbell Lodge (1415), and now holds the office of Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works for the Province of Middlesex. He was exalted in 1866, in Chapter 13, Union Waterloo, Woolwich, of which he was M.E.Z. in 1872. He is P.S. of the Imperial Council of the Red Cross of Con-

stantine, an 18° Mason, is K.T. and VIII. of the Mystic Order of Rosicrucians, and is a Mark Master of distinguished ability. He is a Life Governor of all the Masonic Charities, has served the Stewardships of the Girls' School and the Benevolent Institution, and has brought to the treasuries of those foundations subscriptions which have rarely been exceeded in amount by an individual. He yields to none in his zeal for Masonry, and in social life he is a great favourite. His conversational powers are considerable, and he bears the stamp of a man who has travelled and has seen the great world.

MASONRY AND MASONIC HISTORY.

ONE of the greatest misfortunes under which Freemasonry has laboured, one of the principal reasons why it has brought upon itself so much ridicule, has been the audacity with which many of its teachers have manufactured for it a history extending over the whole period of the world's duration. When the earlier writers of the present speculative period of the Craft ventured upon the task of demonstrating that Freemasonry had existed through all times, that, if not Adam, at all events the Patriarchs, and subsequently King Solomon, sundry of the prophets, the two St. Johns, with other and less important saints of a later creation, were Grand Masters of the Order; when they laid it down that among the earliest works on which the Masonic body was engaged was the building of the Tower of Babel, that the secrets of the art were engraven on a monument of stone, and have been preserved—the secrets, not the stone—from before the flood till comparatively modern times; when they sought to prove, or, be it said rather, when they assumed off-hand that every worthy school of philosophers, ancient and modern, had somehow contributed to the establishment of an Order of speculative Freemasons; when, we say, our early historians endeavoured to prove thus much, they committed a grave and serious error, the consequences of which are felt even now, and will be felt for generations to come. Not, as we take it, that they ever seriously intended these statements of theirs to be accepted as statements of fact. They were so anxious to make it manifest that the system of Masonry had always existed that they must needs clothe it with all the paraphernalia of dates, personages, and occurrences, the result being, as we have indicated, that the outer, or what we call the profane, world has laughed at us ever since, while even the most enlightened Craftsmen are fain to admit there are not unreasonable grounds for this ridicule. With all due respect to those able brethren who did so much towards the revival of our Order, and those almost equally illustrious members who immediately followed them, we of this generation flatter ourselves we are somewhat wiser. We are not less firmly persuaded than they were that our *system* has existed through all ages, but we do not, as they did, go the length of connecting it with well known historical personages. We do not, at least till modern times, quote chapter and verse from the world's annals for its various institutions. We do not trace a regularly connected history of it as we trace a history of Great Britain, of France, or of Germany. We believe that when men, by nature gregarious, became practically so, when they formed themselves into communities and built themselves habitations, then that system of morality which we call Masonry became essential. It could no longer be each man for himself, but each for the whole body. Man, to a certain extent, and very properly, lost a part of his individuality. He was henceforward a member of a society, the welfare of which depended on the concurrence in feeling and action of the component members. In order to secure this concurrence it became necessary to lay down certain rules of conduct which all should equally observe. These rules were so framed as to secure the greatest amount of general, with at the same time the least detriment to individual, happiness. Thus it was that men no longer followed indifferently the bent of their own inclinations, but so shaped them as to avoid conflict with the inclinations of their fellows. Hence laws and a government became necessary, the former to regulate the conduct of members towards their fellows, and the latter to enforce such laws in the general interest. No doubt a variety of motives, prominent among them being the innate love of their own species, induced men, in the first instance, to herd together. But once societies of men were established,

the necessity for sinking the individual in the general interests became apparent. Then there gradually arose the sense that men dwelling together should not only not act indifferently to each other's welfare, but should strive by every means in their power to be of service to their neighbours, such service not being detrimental to their own interests or those of their families. In time differences arose as to what was that common interest before which all separate interests should shrink into comparative insignificance. Then came other difficulties and other changes, so that at last the simple rules which sufficed for the government of societies in their earliest infancy were found of little or no use at all. A system of laws, therefore, which should strictly define the inter-relations to each other of the several members of a society became necessary, and this system was still further enlarged, as societies multiplied and began to struggle among themselves for supremacy. This, as regulating the usages of individuals and communities towards each other, and the ethics or morality which must govern such usages, may be described appropriately as a system of morality, and this system it is which for more than a century and a-half has been denominated Freemasonry. The two main principles enunciated in this morality are a reverence for the Supreme Being, who created all things, and a love of our neighbour; and though, in the course of ages, these principles have been again and again ignored or forgotten, though they have been again and again perverted to other than their legitimate purposes, and have been made to assume different aspects under different conditions, so that even the most strenuous believers in their virtue could hardly have recognised them, they still remain the chief influence for good over all mankind. In the sense that Freemasonry is neither more nor less than this very system or code of morals which has thus prevailed everywhere, to a greater or less extent, we are right in ascribing to it an origin which is almost co-existent with time itself.

And this Freemasonry, how has it been handed down to us, and by whom? By the wise and prudent of all ages and countries. These recognised the grand yet simple truth that a love of God is the prime element in all religions, and that a love of man is at the root of all systems of government. They went even further than this. They proclaimed it as an absolute truth, that this love of God, without which there could be no true religion, was yet independent of the forms and ceremonies of religious worship, and that the love of man, to the promotion of which all laws are directed, was in no wise dependent on any form of government. This is the grand truth which has been handed down to us from the remotest antiquity, by the sages of India and of Egypt, the philosophers of Greece and Rome, the inspired writers of the Jews, the fathers of the Christian Church, in the book of Mahomet. This is the one universal article of faith which has been held of all men—that is to say, of all who have had any faith to hold—since the world began. This, indeed, is the catholic or universal faith—there is one God whom it is the duty of man to worship, and who wills that men should love one another. This is the one common ground on which all men, having in them a true sense of religion, are agreed. This is the faith of Masonry, or rather this *is* Masonry; and hence it is that Masonry is a body to which men of every variety of religious persuasion may fitly belong. We believe in God, but we bind no man as to his particular mode of worshipping Him. And so, too, with the different forms of Government which prevail in different countries. Obedience to the laws of our country or of the country in which we are momentarily residing is enjoined on all of us Masons, and most willingly do we render such obedience. The end of all government, be it monarchical, oligarchical, or democratical, is to secure the greatest possible amount of good for the governed. It matters not if we are the subjects of a king or the citizens of a republic, it is equally our duty to observe those laws which have been enacted for the common good, and at the bottom of this duty towards the state or community in which we live or are sojourning is the duty we owe to our neighbour. This is Masonry in its civil aspect.

But we have digressed somewhat from the original purpose of our article. We began by pointing out that Masonry had endured much ridicule by reason of the over zeal of many of its teachers, who, not content with tracing the great truths it inculcates to the earliest times, must needs clothe it with all the external pomp and circumstance of an actual and authentic history. The legends

we have adopted as conveniently prefiguring certain truths, the symbols we employ, the mysteries we gradually unveil to the initiate, as he makes further progress in our science, and the secrecy we observe in all Masonic labours, all these have been quoted against us for the purpose of showing either that we are a parcel of silly fools or a dangerous body, with sinister aims and objects in view. As regards the former of these two characters which are ascribed to us, we fear we are indebted for it to the efforts of sundry well-meaning, but ill-advised and probably feeble-minded brethren, who, in their desire to laud Masonry, bestowed on it a circumstantiality it never could have had. It is to them we owe that marvellous jumble of statements which, till of late years, has passed current as the history of Freemasonry. It is they who have so confounded truth with fiction that even the clearest sighted student of our honoured Order can hardly define the limits which separate the one from the other. They have mixed up the history of Masonry as a science with that of Masonry as a corporate body, and the result has been far from edifying. As regards the other character attributed to us—that we are a dangerous body—it is absolutely untrue, and we fear those who bring this accusation against us are aware of its untruth. But here again we fancy the perverseness of many members has had, and has now a little to do with the origin of this charge. They cannot, or will not, see the difference between divulging the mysteries of the Craft which it comes within the obligation of all Craftsmen to keep secret, and allowing a proper amount of publicity to the meetings and doings of the Order. We have all read of the brother who objected to Masonic books of any and every kind. He had never read one, and never meant to read one, but he was persuaded the publication of any Masonic matters was at variance with Masonic law, and had he had his will would have ruthlessly destroyed every scrap of paper that contained a single reference to the Craft. Masonry, however, has nothing to fear from its deeds being publicly canvassed. Our Craft is open to scrupulous investigation by all who are so minded, provided they are reputable persons, and so eligible for admission into our Order. Any free man may offer himself as a candidate; if elected, he in time becomes acquainted with all our mysteries, and it rests entirely with himself whether that acquaintance shall be limited or extensive. There are certain things he must keep secret for sufficient reasons, but apart from these there is absolutely no limit to what he may say privately or publicly of Freemasonry. Indeed, the more widely it becomes known what Masonry is, the more generally is it esteemed. Of this we have daily evidence in the greater freedom we enjoy everywhere, the ever increasing number of those who enrol themselves under our banners, and we may safely venture to add, in the more and more determined attempts to bring us into ill repute, merely because we recognise the right of others to think and act according to the dictates of their own conscience.

Here, for the moment, we pause in our remarks, having regard to the space at our disposal and the patience of our readers.

The General Meeting of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls was held on Thursday, the 27th instant, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Bro. T. W. White P.G.S. presiding. Bro. Robert W. Little, the Secretary, read the minutes of the former meeting, also the House and Audit Committee's Report of the 27th instant, which were confirmed. Two candidates were placed on the list. The nominations of the House and Audit Committees were handed in, and a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for his able presidency. There were present Bros. H. Browne, J. Symonds, Dr. Woodman, J. Nunn, J. Boyd, Col. Peters, J. Massa, B. Head, H. Dicketts, Griffiths Smith, Venn, R. B. Webster, F. Binckes, Peacock, C. Moutrie, S. Rosenthal, Major Finney, J. G. Marsh, Snow, H. Massey, A. H. Tattershall, H. A. Dubois, J. Rucker, Steed, and H. M. Levy.

The Manchester Lodge of Instruction, No. 179, is held every Saturday evening throughout the year, at eight o'clock, at the Yorkshire Grey, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square. Bro. Ash, P.M. 179, is the Preceptor, and Bro. J. Kew, P.M. 179, is the Treasurer.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

WEDNESDAY was the anniversary of the Installation of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as Most Worshipful Grand Master, and although it was known that the Prince would not be present at the Quarterly Communication there was a goodly attendance of the Brethren. New seats had been erected, and the magnificent carpet which was used at the Albert Hall had been laid down, and presented a most charming effect. At five o'clock a procession of Grand Officers was formed, and escorted the Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master the Earl of Carnarvon into the Temple. Grand Lodge was duly constituted. Colonel Burdett, Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex, acted as Deputy Grand Master, and the Wardens' chairs were severally filled by Brothers F. Pattison and John Havers.

Bro. John Hervey, Grand Secretary, read the minutes of the former Communication, which were confirmed. The M.W. the Earl of Carnarvon then announced that the Prince of Wales, whose absence they all regretted, had been pleased to appoint him Pro Grand Master, an announcement that was received with loud cheers. He further announced that his Royal Highness had appointed the R.W. the Earl of Skelmersdale Deputy Grand Master. The other Grand Officers were then appointed as under:—

The Earl of Donoughmore	R. W. S. Grand Warden.
The Hon. Lieut.-Col. Vernon ...	R. W. J. Grand Warden.
The Rev. Spencer Robert Wigram } The Rev. C. W. Arnold	V. W. Grand Chaplains.
Samuel Tomkins	V. W. Grand Treasurer.
Æneas J. McIntyre	V. W. Grand Registrar.
John Hervey	V. W. Grand Secretary.
Ernest Wendt	V. W. Grand Secretary for German Correspondence.
Lieut.-Col. Birchall	W. Senior G. Deacons.
T. W. Boord, M.P.	
E. Barron	W. Junior G. Deacons.
J. M. Case	
F. Cockerill	W. G. Superintendent of Works.
Sir A. Woods	W. G. Director of Ceremonies.
W. Rhys Williams	W. Assist. G. Dir. of Ceremonies.
W. F. Nettleship	W. Grand Sword Bearer.
Wilhelm Kuhe	W. Grand Organist.
E. P. Albert	W. Grand Pursuivant.
S. Foxall	W. Assistant G. Pursuivant.
J. Payne	Grand Tyler.

The following Brethren were selected as the Grand Stewards for the year:—

Brothers George N. Johnson (President), George R. Thervill (Treasurer), Charles J. Morgan (Hon. Secretary), S. Pearce, A. Meadows, W. H. Clarke, W. B. Colman, A. C. Sadler, T. Wilson, W. N. C. D'Arcy, F. Farnan jun., G. F. Humphrey, A. J. Hollington, W. L. Wheeler, J. T. Wimperis, W. R. Winch, T. G. Bullen, J. Scott.

It was then proposed and carried that Bro. Wright should have the rank of Past Grand Pursuivant, and take his place on the dais. Grand Lodge was then closed.

The usual banquet which followed, was presided over by the M.W. the Pro Grand Master, who was supported by Bros. Col. Burdett, John Havers, Platt, Sir J. Hayes, S. Tomkins, Major Creaton, Leith Townsend, Æ. McIntyre, J. Hervey, J. B. Monckton, Rev. R. S. Wigram, E. Wendt, Case, Wyke, B. Head, Glaisher, Dr. Tenterden, F. Pattison, Rev. C. J. Martyn, Rucker, Burchell, Boord, Fenn, Vernon, Arnold, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Dumas, Murton, Baker, Clabon, Head, Plucknell, Sir A. Woods, Philbrick, Sir W. C. Hutton, &c.

So soon as grace had been sung the Chairman rose and spoke as follows:—

I sincerely regret that through unexpected circumstances I am obliged to retire from the chair this evening. I had hoped that His Royal Highness, our Grand Master, might have returned to England in time to have filled this place on this the great anniversary of the Masonic year. Unfortunately he has not been able to reach this country in time. I had also hoped that my noble brother, Lord Skelmersdale, as Deputy Grand Master, might have been present, but he has unhappily been obliged to absent himself in consequence of a great family affliction. The task, therefore, has fallen upon me suddenly and without notice, and I regret to say that business over which I have really and literally no control obliges me to leave you immediately. It is personally a matter of extreme regret, but all my brethren in this room know me so well that they are aware it is with the greatest reluctance that I tear myself from this assembly, and that I would not do so if the necessity was not absolutely imperative. In taking my leave of you, I venture to express the hope which I know exist in the minds of every Mason in this room, that before long His Royal Highness our Grand Master may once more be with us. I am satisfied that whenever he returns he will

receive one of those enthusiastic welcomes such as he can receive nowhere out of the Craft. His Royal Highness has, for the last few months, been pursuing a journey not only of great personal interest, but also performing a great and high political duty. He has passed through the length and breadth of our Indian Empire, and by his conciliation and gracious manners, and by his political tact, has successfully discharged a great public duty (cheers). On the other hand, we may also feel with great satisfaction that while he has discharged those great political duties, he has never been forgetful of those Masonic obligations which he undertook here. Throughout the length and breadth of India he has received deputations and uttered speeches with reference to Masonry which have given us all the greatest delight. He has discharged Masonic duties at Gibraltar; he is, I perceive, about to discharge similar duties at Lisbon; and if he deliberately omitted to perform Masonic duties at Malta it was due to his appreciation of the political circumstances of the island. In short, wherever His Royal Highness has been during the last few months he has maintained and raised to a still higher point the credit and character of English Masonry (cheers).

The noble Earl then vacated the chair in favour of Colonel Burdett. The following toasts were afterwards done ample justice to:—

1. "Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen."
2. "H.R.H. the Princess of Wales."
3. "H.R.H. the Grand Master."
4. "The M.W. the Pro Grand Master."
5. "The R.W. the Deputy Grand Master."
6. "The Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland."
7. "The R.W. the Provincial Grand Masters."
8. "The R.W. the Grand Wardens and other Grand Officers, Present and Past."
9. "The Masonic Charities."
10. "The Grand Stewards of the Year."

Col. Burdett prefacing each of them with a few appropriate remarks. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. W. Kuhe G.O., who further divided the labours of Conductor with Bro. W. Ganz P.G.O. The lady singers were Madame Liebhart, Miss Annie Sinclair, and Madame Osborne Williams, who sang the songs and parts assigned to them with excellent taste and skill. The male vocalists were the following Craftsmen, namely, Bros. George Perren, Large, Carter, and Theodore Distin, and they, too, fulfilled their several parts with an ability that was very generally and very highly appreciated.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

On Wednesday evening, the 26th of April, at the Masons' Hall Tavern, a room of which was kindly lent for the occasion by Messrs. Bell and Co., a meeting was held for the purpose of establishing an "Old Scholars' Re-union." Dr. Morris, the Head Master of the School, presided. A very pleasant evening was spent, to which Messrs. Bell and Co.'s kindness greatly contributed.

The old scholars who were present subscribed towards a prize, to be awarded (with the sanction of the House Committee) to the best boy in "Science." The Secretaries of the Re-union are Messrs. George W. Martin and F. H. Read, 17 Offord-road, Barnsbury, N., who will be glad to receive the names and addresses of former pupils. They will also have much pleasure in receiving the names of such subscribers to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys as may choose to become Patrons of the "Re-union."

GRAND CHAPTER.

The Quarterly Convocation of Grand Chapter will be holden on Wednesday next, at 7.0 p.m. Business:—The Installation of Principals and appointment of officers.

Report of Committee showing balance in favour of Chapter for the past quarter of £779 9s 11d.

Petitions for Warrants received for—

The Hamer Chapter	...	...	...	...	1393
" Gosport "	...	...	...	...	903
" Zetland "	...	...	...	...	1071
" Era "	...	...	...	...	1421
" Lewis "	...	...	...	...	1185

MARRIAGE.

FORD—GOTT.—On the 27th inst., at Barking Side Church, by the Rev. T. A. Walker, Bro. George Ford (185) to Caroline Amy, eldest daughter of James Gott, Esq., of Forest House, Barking Side, Essex.

MYSTERIES OF MASONRY.

From "POMEROY'S DEMOCRAT."

A CORRESPONDENT writes as follows:—"I saw a communication, signed J. O. W., portraying the beauties of Masonry. He writes of three Union soldiers who were taken prisoners by the Confederates, and one of them, being a Mason, was liberated and sent home. Now, I understand that Masonry teaches its member to obey the laws of the country in which they live. It is true, this man violated no law in becoming a prisoner, yet his captors or guards had no more right to liberate him because he was a Mason than a sheriff would have to liberate a criminal for the same reasons.

"When a man joins the Masons, I understand he takes some kind of an obligation. When a man enlists in the army to fight for his country, he also takes an obligation. Now the question I ask you, as a consistent Mason and honest editor, which is the superior?"

Replying to the above, we can only tell what we should do, as a man, a Mason, and a human being accountable to himself, his obligations and his God.

If there should come an edict from our Government for us to renounce Masonry or be considered a traitor to the Government, we should pay no attention to anything that interfered with our obligations as a Mason, because they in no wise interfere with our duty to our country or to our family.

Were we a sheriff, whose duty it was to hang a man for murder, we should hang him, no matter if he were the Worshipful Master of our Lodge, or our senior in Masonic rank. Were we a detective, and sent to arrest a criminal, we should arrest him if he were the highest Mason in the world.

As our correspondent says, the war prisoner violated no law. We should have let him go had he asked it as a Mason. But to come out of the tall grass so that the man who wishes information can see our blue plume, here is just what we would do.

We should honour all trust confided to us. We would never enlist to fight in an army without permission to spare the life of a Mason when we knew the applicant for mercy to be a Mason. If drafted in a war service, we never should take the life of a Mason knowing him to be such. If we were in command of a regiment of troops, and every one of our men had a dead sure thing of killing every man of a regiment of the enemy, and if that regiment of the enemy should as one man give the hailing sign of distress, we should command our regiment to fire about four hundred feet above their heads, then walk up and ask the officer in charge of the men whose lives we had spared to shake hands and surrender.

The good Mason would not ask us to do anything that would lower us in the estimation of good people, or to peril our reputation unless there was such need for him to ask help, that, in justice to others and to all, we could not refuse.

Were we on the ground to kill our mortal enemy in a duel, and he should give the hailing sign of distress in time, we should walk up and shake hands with him. Had we felled him to the earth and he then should appeal to the Masonic element in our heart, we should take him up tenderly, restore him to life, or follow him to the grave as a brother. Masonry commands us to the law and its defence, but in street fight, or in battle, we should spare the life of every Mason who on such account asked for mercy. We should be true to our first obligation, and never take upon ourselves another to conflict with the first till the first was thrown off.

Were we in command of an army, and the General in command of our enemy likewise a Mason, we should entertain him at our tent, escort him to his lines, return to our place, then go forth to fight, and whip him and his army if we could. Then we should gather from the wounded those who were Masons, taking care of them before caring for our own men who were not. We should ask no odds or favours because we were a Mason, except a clearly defined duty to some helpless, hapless loved one demanded that he live, but not at the expense of our honour.

Masonry asks us to do nothing that is dishonourable. But it teaches us to cultivate mercy and humanity. To build mankind into better conditions. To keep our tongues silent when silence is the wiser and better thing.

Should we see a brother Mason doing a wrong, and all men err at times, we should go and tell him kindly, privately of it, and not trumpet it to the world. We should hold his secret, take it to our heart, as we would our own. If we saw him stealing, we should prevent the outrage upon the law. Should we see him in a room alone with a man or woman, we should walk away and consider the meeting was for an honourable purpose, and not go out in hot haste to start a scandal. Should he come to us in secret soreness, sickness, or sorrow of body or soul, we should apply remedies, and draw between him and the public eye a screen till he was made well. Should he be bad, we would try to make him good. Should he be weak, we should try to make him strong. Should he be penitent, we should forgive him.

And this we should do as a man—as a Mason, Brother, Companion, Sir Knight, Prince of Jerusalem, Knight of Mercy, &c., to the end of our degrees in a Brotherhood that builds the noble soul into a condition of manhood of which those who are not Masons have not the pleasure of contemplating.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Few persons are so favoured by circumstances, or so fortified by nature, as to enable them to pass unscathed the sore trials of an inclement season. With catarrh, coughs and influenza every where abounding, it should be universally known that Holloway's Ointment, diligently rubbed upon the chest, checks the worst assaults of these maladies, and securely wards off more grave and dangerous diseases of the throat and lungs. The truth of this assertion must remain unquestioned in the face of thousands of unimpeachable living attestors, who have personally derived the utmost possible benefits from this simple treatment, when their present sufferings were appalling and their future prospects most disheartening; both remedies act admirably together.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

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MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Nothing is more worrying than an enigma unsolved, and the correspondence in your valuable paper raises many points which ought to be elucidated. It seems to me somewhat of an anomaly for the editor of a newspaper to publish to the public the letters he receives, and not attempt to answer his correspondents, but it is a practice which obtains in journalism, and therefore, I suppose, I must not grumble, but it seems to me desirable that you should establish some "Masonic Notes and Queries," so that difficult questions may receive elucidation. I hope that simultaneously with this letter may appear replies to some queries I have put, for to my mind Masonic Jurisprudence is but little understood amongst the brethren, and I fancy that the diverse opinions and rulings of W.M.'s of Lodges would if reported to Grand Lodge be severely censured, though such brethren may err through ignorance and through following established custom, which too much in the Craft seems to override our written law. I should almost suggest that instead of publishing correspondence you should publish "Answers to Correspondence" in which some of the difficulties under which brethren labour might be removed.

Yours truly and fraternally, P.M.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I was glad to see the letter of P.M. in last week's CHRONICLE, and I hope some well qualified brother will be able to send such a reply as will set the matter at rest. The idea is prevalent that no brother is entitled to wear his collar of office out of his own Lodge; my opinion is, that a Master or Warden who appears without his collar of office in any Masonic assembly is guilty of a breach of the article on Regalia referred to by P.M. This collar marks his position as a member of Grand Lodge, where he would not be admitted without it, and the same rule ought to apply to other Lodges, provincial or private. As no officer of a private Lodge other than I have mentioned is by right of office a member of Grand Lodge, I am not quite certain whether it is correct for him to wear his collar in strange Lodges, but I should like to hear the opinion of some more experienced brother on this point.

Yours fraternally, P.M. 425.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As regards the inquiry made by "P.M." in your last week's issue, as to whether or not the general practice is wrong, that officers of Lodges visiting in other Lodges do not wear their collars and jewels, it seems to me there can be no question as to its impropriety, if the Constitutions are to be observed to the very letter. Whatever is the proper costume for an officer in his own Lodge must be the proper costume for him to wear when visiting another Lodge. I can see no reason whatever for a W.M. objecting to a brother obeying the written law literally, but, for aught I know to the contrary, there may be a *lex non scripta* as well as a *lex scripta*, bearing upon this particular point. It may, for instance, have grown into a confirmed custom for Lodge officers visiting other Lodges to wear whatever jewels they may be entitled to wear, but not their collars. Why this should have grown into a custom is not material; but if it is a custom, and has been so long and is so generally followed as to be regarded almost with the force of law, there appears to be no serious reason why a literal fulfilment of this particular constitution should be insisted upon. It may be that a visitor does not appear in full Masonic clothing out of courtesy to the officers of the Lodge he is visiting, so that it shall be manifest to all that in its W.M. and Wardens, and them only, is vested the government of the Lodge. Or it may be a case of a visitor, who is (say) a W.M. of another Lodge, has, by virtue of his office, no authority outside the limits of his own government. Whatever the reason, it hardly seems to me a matter of great moment whether the law or the custom is followed. Only a W.M. should not rebuke a visiting brother who prefers the literal interpretation.

In certain cases I think it would be better not to observe too literally what is written. For instance, Bro. S. C. is a private member of Lodge 5000, but he is W.M. of Lodge 5001. When he attends the former it seems to me only in accordance with good taste, and the position he occupies in that Lodge, that he should wear only the clothing of a private member.

It is a question I should like to see argued, but not one on which I feel competent to offer any opinion that could carry weight.

Yours fraternally, L.Q.

SYMBOLISM.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—The symbolism of Masonry should be studied by every Mason. Can you tell me the application of the 47th Problem 1st book of Euclid to Freemasonry, and why it forms a part of a Past Master's jewel of office?

Yours truly,

ENQUIRER.

CONSECRATION OF ST. CUTHBERT'S LODGE
MARK MASTER MASONS, No. 192.

IT has been the wish for some time of the brethren in Berwick-on-Tweed to have a Lodge of Mark Masters. Several brethren of the St. David's Lodge, No. 394, were advanced in the "time immemorial" Northumberland and Berwick Lodge. A warrant was applied for and granted, and a meeting was fixed for the 17th instant, at the Masonic Hall, Berwick-on-Tweed. The brethren assembled at 2 o'clock, and received the Provincial Grand Lodge. Under the guidance of Bro. W. Foulsham P.G.O. (England), P.G.D.C., a voluntary was played. The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened by the Prov. G.M., Bro. Rev. Canon H. B. Tristram, LL.D. F.R.S., R.W. Prov. Grand Mark Master, assisted by Bros. T. Y. Strachan D.P.G.M.M., W.E. Franklin P.G.J.W., Bowron P.G.J.W., Rev. E. L. Marrett P.G.C., W. S. Hughes G.I.G., &c. The brethren of the new Lodge were arranged in order, and the Provincial Grand Master then addressed them, and the acting Secretary stated the wishes of the brethren, to which the W.M. Designate, Bro. George Moor, replied. The Rev. Canon Tristram then gave a very learned and historical oration on the origin of Mark Masonry as well as that of Craft Masonry, referring to several valuable discoveries he had made during his several visits to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. This was listened to with rapt attention, and delighted every brother present from the eloquent and impressive manner of its delivery. This was followed by the annexed anthem:—

Mark Masters, all appear
Before the Chief Overseer;
In concert move;
Let Him your work inspect,
For the Chief Architect,
If there be no defect,
He will approve.

Hiram, the widow's son,
Sent unto Solomon
Our great key-stone;
On it appears the name

Which raises high the fame
Of all to whom the same
Is truly known.

Now, to the praise of those
Who triumphed o'er the foes
Of Mason's arts;
To the praiseworthy three,
Who founded this degree;
May all their virtues be
Deep in our hearts.

This was sung by a very efficient choir outside the Lodge room, and had a charming effect. A prayer was then offered by the P.G. Chaplain. The corn, wine, and oil was carried round the Lodge, amid solemn music, and the Anthem, "Glory be to God on High," was then chanted. The second portion of the consecration prayer was then offered up, the R.W. the P.G.M.M. then dedicated and consecrated the Lodge, the Hallelujah chorus being sung. The D.P.G.M.M., Bro. the Rev. T. Y. Strachan, in a very impressive manner, installed Bro. G. Moor W.M. designate, and delivered into his hands the warrant of the newly consecrated Lodge. Bro. Moor then invested his officers:—Bros. A. Winlaw S.W., J. R. Forbes J.W., C. Hopper M.O., R. Weatherhead S.O., J. Oswald J.O., R. Thompson S.D., J. C. Bell J.D., and G. T. Stevens I.G. The Grand Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the King's Arms, where a sumptuous banquet was provided, which was presided over by the R.W. the Prov. Grand Mark Master, who was supported by the Deputy P.G.M. and the P.G. Officers, the vice-chair being occupied by Bro. G. Moor, the W.M. The usual Loyal toasts were given. The P.G.M., in felicitous terms, proposed the health of the R.W. Bro. the Earl of Limerick, G.M.M. of England, and coupled with it the name of Bro. W. Foulsham G.M.O., to whom he paid a deserved compliment for his zeal and devotion to the cause of Freemasonry. Bro. Foulsham returned thanks, and, in the course of his remarks, expressed the pleasure he experienced at being present, more especially to hear the admirable oration given by the R.W. the P.G.M. He, as well as every one present, was deeply impressed by the excellent manner every arrangement had been carried out, and he said if he had rendered any service to the Craft he was amply repaid by the kind manner his name had been mentioned. The Deputy P.G.M.M., in proposing the health of the P.G.M.M., said he knew that every brother in the Province felt it an honour to have at their head so distinguished and learned a brother as their Provincial Grand Master, who was acknowledged to be a profound scholar and a deep thinker, and whose researches had gained him a reputation which had made his name a household word in every learned society throughout the world. It was mainly due to him that Mark Masonry had spread and flourished in the Province. The P.G.M. who, on rising, was received with enthusiastic cheers, said he thanked the brethren for the way in which they had received his name, and assured them it gave him the greatest pleasure to have the opportunity of consecrating a new Lodge in the Province. He thanked them for their kind expressions. He then rose and said, he had the pleasure to give them the toast of the evening, and that was the health of the W.M. and Officers, and prosperity to the St. Cuthbert's Lodge; he hoped they would go on increasing, and that peace and harmony would prevail. He spoke of the beautiful new Lodge room, which does the Berwick Lodge so much credit for their untiring zeal and energy, and which other Lodges in the Province would do well to imitate. The W.M., Bro. G. Moor, said he thanked the P.G.M. for the kind assistance they had received from him, and hoped their future conduct would always meet the approval of the Provincial Grand Lodge; that would be their constant aim. Bro. Foulsham proposed the toast of the D.P.G.M., Bro. Rev. T. Y. Strachan, in a very eloquent speech, who, in reply, thanked the brethren for the kind manner his health had been proposed; he hoped each succeeding meeting of the P.G.L. might be even happier than the last. Bro. Strachan (of London) returned thanks for the visitors, many of whom were from Durham, Stockton-on-Tees, &c. The whole proceedings were of a very edifying nature. Bros. Hopper and Bell contributed to the harmony, Bro. J. E. Robson P.G.O. rendering valuable assistance.

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 Three Heavens.—By the Rev. JOSIAH CRAMPTON, M.A., rector of Killisher, author of "The Lunar World." London: William Hunt and Company, Holles-street, Cavendish-square, and Ave Maria-lane, Paternoster-row. 1876.

THERE is no science so intimately associated with Freemasonry as the science of astronomy, which, to quote the ancient manuscript, edited a few years since by Bro. Matthew Cooke, "teacheth man the course of the sun, and of the moon, and of the stars and planets of heaven." We may add, too, that the study of no other science is so interesting, nor do we find as strong evidence in any other of that wondrous power of the Great Architect of all things. It is hardly possible for any one who has given his mind to the contemplation of the heavens not to believe in the existence of one Supreme Being to whom the whole universe is indebted for its existence. Masons may or may not have time or inclination for scientific research, but their leading principle is a recognition of and reverence for God, and sundry of their most significant emblems are deduced from this particular science of astronomy. Whatever then confirms their belief in, and enhances their respect for the G.A.O.T.U., whatever throws additional light on the marvels of the aerial world must necessarily exercise a great influence over the mind of the earnest Mason. Astronomy, however, is an abstruse subject, and its study is, or till lately was, almost wholly confined to men of great scientific attainments. Thanks, however, to the efforts of these latter, we possess nowadays many a simple key to the inner mysteries of science. Hardly a year passes but some popular treatise on one or other of its branches makes its appearance, and all the world may know in part what till now has been hidden from all but savants. Such a work is the one now before us, the *Three Heavens*, in which the writer explains to us, in clear and simple language, the most remarkable phenomena of the worlds of air and stars, and demonstrates, both from astronomical and scriptural evidence, the existence of a third, or heaven of heavens. In reading it, we shall not find ourselves troubled with expositions more difficult of comprehension than the subjects they are meant to expound. We experience little or no difficulty in gathering the author's meaning, nor is there the slightest mystery as to the object with which the book is written. This, indeed, is plainly set forth in the introductory chapter. There we are told the purpose of the work is threefold. "First, from among the first and second heavens, the region of sky and stars, to trace the design and purpose of their Maker, to see the hand that is Divine through all, and further, believing, as he does, that one God is the author alike of *Nature and Revelation*, to exhibit the wonderful analogy which exists between them, and to show that if the heavens be described in the Bible, the great truths of the Bible are written equally in the heavens as well as on the earth; that the mighty agencies unfolded in nature present symbols and illustrations innumerable of the great spiritual truths taught in the scriptures and illustrated with a force and felicity of expression that no mere statement of doctrine could give, and an aptness and intentional fitness for each other that would be well represented by the fitness of a key for a lock and a lock for a key." Thus the reader will not only gain an insight into a number of important scientific truths, but will learn how those truths are so many illustrations of the Creator's power. The author shows that science and religion go hand in hand, that each bears undeniable witness to the truth of the other, and that the teachings of the materialist, who sees no trace whatever of a Divine agency in the wonderful operations of nature, are utterly false.

The work, as may be judged from its title, is in three parts. The first treats of the World of Air, the second of the World of Stars, the third of the Heaven of Heavens, the abode of God himself. In the first of these parts we have described the Air, Clouds, Miraculous Clouds, Thunder-storms, Thunder-storms in their moral aspect, and the inhabitants of the air. The second deals with Infinite Space, Infinity of Space, the Stars, the Planets, Mercury, Venus, Mars, &c., &c., the Asteroids or Minor Planets and Meteors, the Moon, the association of Comets and Star-showers, Nebulae, and the system of the Universe. Under the third head, two classes of evidence—astronomical and scriptural—are offered, with a view to prove the reality of the existence of the third Heaven, or Heaven of Heavens. Where the ground travelled over is so extensive, it is somewhat difficult to select a passage or passages for the purpose of illustrating the author's treatment. We are persuaded there is no portion of the work which is likely to induce in the reader a sense of weariness. He is far more likely, indeed, to devour the book hastily than cast it aside from a feeling that it bores him. However, as space forbids us following Mr. Crampton through the whole of his admirable treatise, we cannot do better, perhaps, than select his chapter on "Clouds," as exhibiting the author's style of handling his subject. After some preliminary observations on the nature and wonders of the Cloud-world, Mr. Crampton considers them, in the first place, from a scientific view, and then, in reference to the miraculous part they have "performed in the history of the Old and New Testament, where we find them connected so frequently and so directly with the power and presence of Jehovah, and as instruments in his hand for the preservation of His people." Meteorologists, we are told, have classified them with a considerable degree of success. But though they are ever changing in appearance, though their composition is found to vary, "the substance of which every cloud is composed is mainly or essentially the same, water being the chief ingredient, though existing in them in a great variety of modification and quality; from the light and apparently dry and filmy gauze vapour to the blackest and densest thunder-cloud or watery shower bath; from the apparently solid white mountains of stainless snow or wool, that seem

motionless as the terrestrial giants beneath them, to the light drifting mist that hangs midway between the craggy hill top and its bases, or the flying scud that hurries by on the wings of the wind at 50 or 100 miles an hour. All these have their own different densities and ingredients, electricity forming a most frequent and essential one; but all are of water in some form or other as their basis, in a condition called aqueous vapour,—not altogether yet understood, and quite distinct from its usual and simple condition of water." How clouds are formed, what mysterious power "first forms and then keeps a cloud suspended in a distinct and definite shape in the clear sky," this ever has been, and, in spite of the wonderful strides we have made, still remains the great problem of the day. The cause of their formation is in part known, but "the actual transition from clear vapour to the cloud condition cannot be followed or traced by any human being nor thoroughly understood; while the assuming and maintaining a definite form for the same reason is, in a great measure, an equal mystery." And so, too, with their change of shape, which even now cannot be satisfactorily accounted for. Another mystery only partially solved by modern science is the formation of a rain-cloud. "In attempting to follow the process from water to vapour, and vapour to cloud, and cloud to rain, electricity and temperature are stated to be the causes, which doubtless they are in some way; but how it is effected cannot be so easily explained." The general principle is affirmed with confidence, but "the secret power that effects those wondrous transformations cannot be understood nor fully followed; notwithstanding the fact that, by a beautiful experiment, artificial clouds have been formed recently, in the lecture room, upon the principles we have remarked; but, having done it, the fact is elicited, but the mystery remains." Then the writer proceeds to show, as far as he can, what are clouds and how they are formed, and to explain "their motion, by which they distribute and disperse their benefits over the globe." As regards the motive power, the wind is their chief agent; but other causes are at work, among them "electricity, which had a hand in their formation," and the "alteration of temperature which is continually occurring in the atmosphere, and by which, in their transformation from vapour to cloud and cloud to vapour again, they are alternately made to ascend or descend like balloons, or to move forward to a more rarified portion of the atmosphere." Then we advance a stage farther and consider "the general and obvious purpose fulfilled in clouds as prognostics of the weather." In relation to this we are told the various kinds of clouds and what they severally indicate. Thus, there is the *cirrus* or *curl-cloud*, seemingly "a beautiful snowy, fibrous-looking, delicate cloud, generally at a great elevation," though "it descends near the earth when it is about to predict a storm; and is then clearer than when it is at its usual height." This is called the Proteus of the sky, and is generally indicative of variable weather, with wind or rain. Next we have the *Cumulus* or mountain-cloud, which is "considered to prognosticate the approach of fine weather." The next "division of clouds is *stratus*," a "terrestrial rather than a celestial cloud, and includes those creeping mists that are seen to rise, especially in summer, from low fields and valleys and marshes." Then we have the *Cirro Cumulus*, usually, but not always so, the forerunner of fine weather; the *Cumulo stratus*, commonly known as the mackerel sky, the sure fore-runner of wind and unsettled weather; and the *nimbus* or storm-cloud.

Such, in outline, is Mr. Crampton's chapter on Clouds, and our readers may judge for themselves of the kind of method he employs in his long and elaborate account of the *Three Heavens*. It is a fair specimen of his writing and of his simple fluent style of treatment. Had we time or space we might dip further into his interesting volume. In such case, however, we should be, to some extent, robbing the reader of the pleasure of satisfying his own curiosity. We therefore take leave of Mr. Crampton's work in the belief that it will find that degree of favour with the public to which it is certainly entitled. We may note, moreover, that scattered here and there throughout the work are a number of illustrations, which add considerably to its value, while Parts I. and II. each have an appendix. The Contents Tables, too, are somewhat more than a bare enumeration of the different sections and sub-sections of the work, and may be regarded rather in the light of synopses, describing the arguments followed in the several chapters.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

W. J. S.—The Portrait shall appear in two or three weeks. Many thanks for the facts you have so kindly supplied.

W. M.—We will treat on the subject next week.

E. J.—The number you refer to has since been reprinted.

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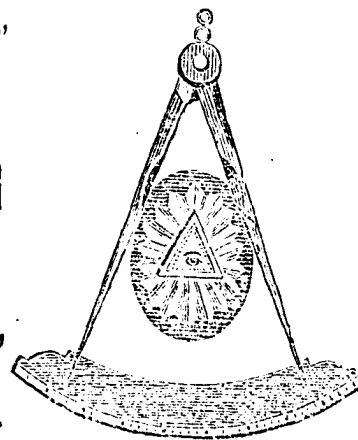
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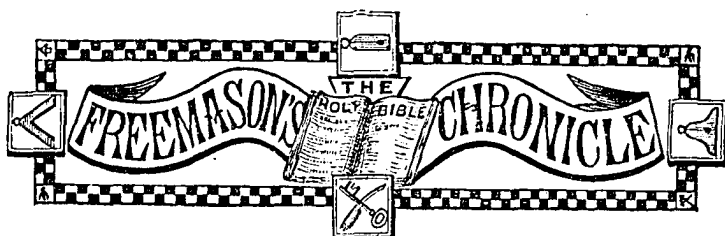
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THE House of Lords re-assembled, after the Easter recess, on Thursday, but the business of the evening possessed no great interest. The Commons met on Monday, and devoted the greater part of the sitting to discussing, in Committee, further clauses of the Merchant Shipping Bill, Clauses 14 and 15 being agreed to, after sundry amendments and divisions. Previously, Mr. Fawcett asked the Prime Minister if he would afford him any facilities for bringing on his motion of censure on the Government, or, as Mr. Disraeli suggested, on the House of Commons, in reference to the Royal Titles Bill, but

Mr. Disraeli declined to disturb the arrangements of the House for public business. On Monday, the attention of the Government was called, by Sir C. Dilke and Mr. Thornhill, to certain somewhat alarming telegrams from Barbadoes, in which the state of that island was described as very deplorable. The answer of Mr. Lowther was reassuring, and news from Governor Hennessey, of a satisfactory character, has since arrived. Mr. H. Tracy then called attention to the navigation of Her Majesty's ships, but the subject was too dry and uninteresting, or the speakers, of whom there were several, too prosy, for the House was counted out at a little after half-past seven o'clock. On Wednesday, Mr. Forsyth, one of the members for Marylebone, moved the second reading of the Womens' Disabilities Removal Bill, the object of which is to extend the Parliamentary franchise to single women, widows or spinsters, who, either as owners or occupiers, possess the necessary property qualification, or bear their share of the fiscal burdens of the country, but the House were not of Mr. Forsyth's way of thinking, even though Mr. Disraeli supports that gentleman, for they rejected the measure by 239 to 152. On Thursday, after a long wrangle about Mr. Fawcett's notice of motion on the Royal Titles Bill, the House went into Committee on the Merchant Shipping Bill, and some further progress with that measure was made.

Her Majesty returned to England on Saturday, reaching Windsor Castle a little before seven o'clock in the evening. On Thursday last the Prince of Wales reached Cadiz, whence he set out immediately for Seville. Here three officers of King Alphonso met and welcomed him, and formally invited His Royal Highness to visit Madrid, the invitation being cordially accepted. On Tuesday, the Prince reached the Spanish capital, Mr. Layard, the English Minister, having gone as far as Aranjuez to meet him, while the King, with a numerous staff, the Captain-General and Governor of Madrid, and the Ministers, met him at the railway station. On the platform were the English residents, who cheered him repeatedly. The King and Princes then drove to the Palace, where a suite of apartments had been prepared for the latter. Among the festivities prepared for His Royal Highness was originally included a bull-fight, but the idea was subsequently abandoned, as the Prince expressed his inability to be present. On Wednesday was held a review of the Madrid garrison. The troops, which were drawn up in the courtyard of the Palace, consisted of four regiments of cavalry, ten batteries of artillery, and two divisions of infantry. The King and Prince and the Duke of Connaught were attended by a numerous staff, including several generals, and having taken up their position, the march past began, and lasted an hour and a half. Thursday, the King and Princes were to start for Toledo, the visit being so arranged as to allow of their return to Madrid in time for the opera. The day following the Escorial will be visited, and then the Duke of Connaught will leave for France on his return home. There will be a banquet the same evening, and to-day a grand reception at the English Embassy. On Sunday the Prince leaves for Lisbon, and will be met at the frontier town of Elvas by the Ministers and Aides-de-camp of the King of Portugal. Lisbon will be reached in the afternoon of

Monday, and after a stay of some days, His Royal Highness will sail for England on the 7th prox., so that he may be expected to reach Portsmouth on the 11th or 12th of the month. The reception at Guildhall of the Prince and Princess by the Corporation of London is fixed for the 19th, when there will be a grand banquet, followed by a ball. The invitations to the former will be limited to 500, while those to the ball will number somewhere about 3,000. Some time after his return the Prince is expected to visit Chester, where he will re-open the Cathedral, which has lately been restored, at the expense of several thousand pounds.

Our Grand Festival, of which we give an account elsewhere, was held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall. The Earl of Carnarvon presided in Grand Lodge, and during the banquet that followed, but later in the evening, his Lordship was compelled, by business engagements, to leave, and vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Colonel Burdett, P.G.M. Middlesex. The remainder of the evening passed very enjoyably. Bro. Lord Skelmersdale, D.G.M., was prevented attending by reason of the demise of his near relative, the Dowager Countess of Derby.

On Tuesday, the new Chapel of Keble College, Oxon, built by the munificence of the late Mr. William Gibbs, was opened with much ceremony in the presence of the great dignitaries of the University, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Visitor of Keble, the Marquis of Salisbury, Chancellor, Mr. Gathorne Hardy, one of its representatives in Parliament, Lord Selborne, and others. Later in the day, the foundation stone of the new Hall, the funds for the erection of which have been presented to the College by some unknown benefactors, was laid by the Marquis of Salisbury.

The funeral of the late Lord Lyttelton, Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, and Chairman of the Endowed Schools Commission, took place at Hagley, on Saturday. All the members of his Lordship's family were present, with the exception of his eldest son, who is travelling abroad, and who, in all probability, is still in ignorance of his father's death. There attended also a large number of friends, including Mr. Gladstone, the ex-Premier, and his eldest son, Mr. W. H. Gladstone, Earl Spencer, Lord Wenlock, Col. Clive, &c., &c. The Bishop of Oxford, assisted by the Warden of Keble, and Mr. Sneyd, the curate of Hagley, officiated. The late Lord was one of the most brilliant and accomplished scholars of the day, and was beloved and respected, not only by his numerous circle of friends, but generally throughout the county. Many of his Lordship's translations from the Greek and Latin classics have appeared at different times, and in all were displayed both elegance and ripe scholarship.

On Friday last a terrible accident occurred in a railway tunnel in South Wales. A quantity of dynamite, amounting to about 150 lbs., was stored in a hole for the purpose of being used, as required, in firing successive drifts; when owing, it is believed, to the overturning of a lighted candle on the box of primers, an explosion took place. Some thirty men were at work at the time, of whom fifteen were killed, while the rest were much exhausted by the poisonous fumes of the after-gases of the explosion, two of them being, in addition, badly wounded. Considerable damage has also been caused to the tunnel, portions of the masonry arching having fallen in, and the timber framing having entirely disappeared.

The Guardians of the Croydon Workhouse do not appear to exhibit any strong feeling of consideration for the unfortunate casuals who are obliged to seek refuge in their wards from Saturday till Monday, nor can they have a very high sense of decency. It seems it is the custom of the officials to take away the clothing of those casuals who enter on Saturday evening, and not return it till the Monday morning, the consequence being that the unfortunate creatures spend Sunday in bed, and almost in a state of nudity, nor were they afforded any opportunity for washing. No less than forty-four men and a number of women were thus treated a Sunday or two ago. The reason assigned by the Guardians for this extraordinary practice was, that there were no wards for them to sit in. It was said the difficulty could be met by providing two additional rooms, one for the men and the other for the women; and the matter was thereupon referred to the Building Committee for consideration and report. An admittedly disgraceful fact, it seems to us, requires neither consideration nor report, but prompt remedy. Were it a question of providing kennels for a number of dogs, no

doubt the needful provision would be made at once. If the Croydon Workhouse officials were compelled to pass a few Sundays in bed without clothing, they would find it, perhaps, somewhat uncomfortable, and be a little more considerate towards their poorer fellows.

Our cavalry are among the best in the world, and what with polo and tent-pegging they seem well on the way towards excelling even themselves. Recently the 5th Royal Irish Lancers have held an amateur circus at Aldershot, the general in command, Sir Thomas Steele, having readily accorded his permission. On Thursday of last week, the gallant regiment held an equestrian performance, and the feats they performed were marvellously well done, almost equalling those of the most renowned circus performers. They went through the Lancers, cleared bars, threw somersaults over several horses, exhibited performing ponies and dancing poodles, and enacted the "scenes of the circle" with complete success, sundry of the officers taking part with the men in the display. With such incitements to pleasure as these, life at Aldershot must be pretty enjoyable, in spite of hard drill and long field days.

Passing to the more regular sporting news, we record the commencement, this week, of the racing season. The Epsom Spring Meeting began on Tuesday, when the City and Suburban was run for, and Mr. Vyner's Thunder, carrying 9 st. 4 lb., bore off the handicap, a good three lengths ahead of Little Harry, Merry Duchess being third. The day following Prince Soltykoff's New Holland won the Great Metropolitan Stakes, Whitebait and Freeman being second and third respectively. Shortly it will be our duty to chronicle the winner of the Two Thousand, and yet a few weeks more and the Derby of 1876 will be among the events that have happened.

On Saturday, the Alexandra Palace First Amateur Bicycle meeting took place. As the weather was fine, the attendance of visitors was very considerable. There were only two events on the programme, the first a five-mile champion race for a cup, value twenty-five guineas, which will become the property of whoever wins it three times in the season, a gold medal being awarded to the winner of each race, and a silver medal to the second. Five started, of whom Mr. Keith-Falconer proved the winner, doing his five miles easily in 17 minutes 52 seconds. The five mile handicap was run in six heats, the winners of which, with one exception, faced the starter in the final. In this, too, Mr. Keith-Falconer proved victorious, beating Mr. Mackinnon (300 yards start), by only twelve yards, however, in the excellent time of 16 minutes 28 seconds.

The same day the London Athletic Club held their second Spring Meeting in the Old Deer Park, Richmond, the attendance of friends and visitors being unusually large. The first event was a boys' handicap for lads under 17. The race was run in heats, the winner of the final being a nine year old youngster, by name Harrison. Of the other events Shearman walked over for the Hundred Yards, H. O. Moore won the 600 yards Challenge Cup, Gilbert the 180 yards handicap, Gilbert the Hurdles, Harrison the Quarter Mile, A. Hardie (120 sec.) the Two Miles walking and T. Parish (150 yards) the Open Mile Handicap. At Lillie Bridge the same afternoon, was held the annual athletic meeting of St Paul's School, in the presence of a large and fashionable attendance, the band of the First Middlesex Engineers being present, and playing a choice selection of music. The most distinguished performer was W. T. M'Murtrie, who won the Cricket Ball with a throw of 95 yards, the Hundred Yards, Class I., the Long Jump, Class I., besides being second in the Hurdles. He was also winner of the Fives Championship, played for on the 5th instant, and, with Lemon, of the Double handed over sixteen.

On Monday the annual presentation of prizes to the successful members of the Inns of Court Rifle Volunteers took place in the Hall of Lincoln's Inn. The Earl of Cadogan, Under Secretary of State for War, presided, and there were present Major General McMurdo, Baron Pollock, Justice Grove, Major Charley, M.P., &c. The Volunteers, who were drawn up so as to form three sides of a square, in the absence of Lieutenant Colonel Bulwer, were under the command of Major Russell. The Earl of Cadogan, before presenting the prizes, offered a few remarks on the volunteers, and testified the great interest taken in them by the War Office. He also expressed his satisfaction with the condition of the regiment before him and his regret at the absence of its commanding officer. The winner of the Three Star Badge, as best shot, was Corporal Cotton,

Q.C., the other winners of first prizes being Private Baird, Serjeant Langford, Private A. P. Humphrey, Private Stute, Serjeant St. John Clarke and Serjeant Glin. Major Russell having thanked his Lordship for presiding, the proceedings, which were of short duration, terminated. As we are now entering upon the volunteer season, we shall doubtless have many such meetings to record.

On Wednesday died, in her 71st year, the Dowager Countess of Derby, widow of the late Earl, thrice Premier of Great Britain, and mother of the present Earl, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for the second time. The late Countess was second daughter of the first Lord Skelmersdale, and was born in 1805. In 1825 she married the late Earl of Derby, by whom she had three children; the present Earl and his brother, the Hon. F. Stanley, M.P., North Lancashire, and the Hon. Emma Charlotte Stanley, married in 1860 to Colonel Talbot, brother of the Earl of Shrewsbury. All her children were with her when she expired.

Notice has been given by the Admiralty that the Yacht Pandora, Captain Allen Young, will visit the Arctic Regions in the course of this summer, for the purpose of communicating with the depôts of the Polar Ships, Alert and Discovery. She will leave Portsmouth on the 25th prox., and Captain Young will be the bearer of all letters that may be sent and entrusted to him for delivery. These letters will be deposited at the depôts at the entrance of Smith's Sound, on the chance that Captain Nares may be able to communicate with them by means of a small sledge party in the autumn of this year. Under these circumstances there is, of course, some uncertainty as to the letters actually reaching their destination. As weight is a matter of consideration, the friends of the officers and crews are requested to make their communications as light as possible.

A series of eminently satisfactory experiments are being made at Woolwich with the 81-ton gun. Different kinds of powder are used, and the charges vary from 210lbs. to 280lbs., the weight of the shot, however, being in certain rounds 1,465lbs., and in others 1,259lbs. The authorities appear to be well satisfied with the tests to which the gun has been subjected. What charges and what weight of shot will be required when we have arrived at the 160-ton gun we know not, but if matters go on at this rate we shall have guns powerful enough to project a house for a distance of a score or two miles. We pity the unfortunate people who may chance to get in the way of one of these monster projectiles. We fancy not much of them will be left.

The unhappy Eastern Question is still on the carpet. The Turks are reported to be on the point of making a second and more vigorous attempt to victual Nicksich, and for this purpose Moukhtar Pacha has received, or shortly will receive, considerable reinforcements. It is also stated that Russia and Austria will prevent any chance of the present conflict extending, and have already indicated to the Sultan that no attack on Montenegro will be permitted. If Russia will also forbid the Prince of Montenegro from countenancing the attacks of Montenegrins on Turkey, she will be meting out justice with an even hand. What is sauce for the Turkey goose should be sauce for the Montenegro gander. But whatever truth there may be in this report, both Russia and Austria will be doing good service if they confine the struggle within its present limits. The danger to the peace of Europe lies in Servia or Montenegro being permitted to side against Turkey. There is little chance of the Sultan attacking them if they will only remain peaceable. A dreadful calamity is reported from Rouen. The Théâtre des Arts was burnt down on Wednesday evening, fortunately before the time fixed for the admission of the public, or the loss of life, deplorable as it is even now, would have been still more deplorable. The company were preparing for the performance of M. Thomas's Hamlet when the fire broke out; and so rapid was the spread of the flames that most of the chorus singers and figurantes found it impossible to escape. The number of fatal casualties is not yet known, but the remains of eight bodies have already been dug out of the ruins, and there are quite fifty bad cases in the hospital. It seems the 74th Regiment highly distinguished itself in its attempts to save life and property. Unhappily four of the men were killed and some fifteen wounded. The fire has caused the utmost consternation among the inhabitants. It is due entirely to the absence of wind, and the energy of the firemen, that a considerable portion of this

ancient Norman city was not burnt down. As it was, several of the neighbouring houses were set on fire and partially destroyed. From Berlin we hear that the proceedings of the Imperial Court of Discipline at Potsdam, against Count Arnim, were to have commenced yesterday. The news from the United States refer chiefly to the approaching impeachment of General Belknap, and his recent examination of General Schenck.

A special meeting of the Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, in accordance with a requisition received according to Rule 8, was held on the 25th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Bro. Col. Creaton P.G.D. V.P. in the chair. Bro. James Terry, Secretary, read the notice of motion for which the meeting was convened—"To consider the propriety of altering Law 4, page 12, of the Rules and Regulations, by substituting the figures £40 instead of £36 for the male annuitants, and Rule 4, page 13, by substituting the figures £32 instead of £28 for the female annuitants." This was proposed by Bro. Col. Creaton P.G.D., and seconded by Bro. H. M. Levy, and was carried unanimously. Bro. Griffiths Smith P.G.S. proposed that the best thanks of the meeting be accorded to Bro. Col. Creaton for the able manner he had presided, and this was also carried. The brethren present were Bros. C. Hill, S. Rawson, Griffiths Smith, H. G. Buss, T. Cubitt, C. Webber and H. M. Levy.

We understand that the R.W. the Provincial Grand Master of Essex, Bro. Robt. J. Bagshaw, has decided to hold his Grand Lodge for 1876 at Dovercourt, near Harwich, on the 30th prox., and that he has signified his intention of appointing to the respective Wardens' chairs the W.M.'s of the two Colchester Lodges—Bros. A. R. Clench and Alfred Welch.

We regret to have to announce the death, which was caused by an accident, of Mrs. Maidwell, wife of Bro. T. Maidwell (27).

We most strongly protest against the action of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations, St. Stephen's-chambers, Bridge-street, Westminster, S.W.—Honorary Secretaries, J. E. Gorst and Edward Neville—in issuing blank forms of petition to the Masters of our Lodges for them to get signed in favour of the Queen assuming the title of Empress! It is monstrous that any such attempt should be made to mix up politics with Freemasonry. We tell the Secretaries of these Associations—if they know it not already—that Freemasonry distinctly forbids all political action on the part of its members, that is, in their Masonic capacity. Brethren, scout such proceedings!

As we announced last week, Bro. the Right Honourable Lord Leigh, P.G.M. of Warwickshire, presided, on Wednesday, at a meeting of the Grand Lodge of that Province, specially convened at Nuneaton, for the purpose of assisting to lay the foundation stone of a new Church, on the site of the Old Abbey Church of that town, and for this purpose the W.M. of the Lodge of Antiquity lent the mallet which Sir Christopher Wren used when performing a similar ceremony for St. Paul's Cathedral. The Lodge met, and was opened by his Lordship, at 1 p.m., at the Town Hall. A procession was then formed, consisting of the brethren of several Lodges and the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and having reached the spot marched round to the East-end, where Bro. Lord Leigh took up a position near the stone. Prayer having been offered by Bro. the Rev. W. Randall P.G. Chaplain, the Chairman of the Building Committee presented the inscription and copies of the proceedings to the P.G.M. Lord Leigh then, first of all, gave a brief history of the mallet he was about to use, and the gratification he felt in using it on the present occasion. He then laid the stone with the usual ceremonies, and afterwards addressed all present at considerable length. The trowel, of solid silver, and having an appropriate inscription, was presented to Lord Leigh.

AN ARGUMENT THAT LAUGHS IN
YOUR FACE.

From "THE KEYSTONE."

TO say nothing of the sin of Masonry, its childishness is excruciating. So said the Pittsburg *United Presbyterian* of last week. Let us see what reasons there are to support this opinion.

A brother is in distress. Misfortune has clouded his path; the dull times have touched him in basket and store; disease has laid its heavy hand upon him; even death has entered his circle, and snatched a loved one from his family. In this time of sore trial and trouble he is not left comfortless. His brethren not only sympathize with him, but they aid him. There is a Mystic Tie that encircles all who have knelt at the altars of Masonry, whereby they are knit together into one family of brethren, who not only rejoice with each other in times of rejoicing, but also mourn with each other when in adversity. No cloud without a silver lining can overshadow a Mason. No blow can fall so heavily upon him that its force will not be broken by the interposition of a friendly arm. He is comforted, relieved, uplifted. He is never friendless, because he is a Mason. This is one of the "sins of Masonry." It is the friend of those who might otherwise be friendless.

By a dispensation of Providence a brother is suddenly taken from his family—death strikes down the head of the house. The death of a child brings sorrow into a household; the death of a wife is a greater affliction; but the death of a husband and father is a staggering, almost deadly blow, to all that are left behind. His place and office are peculiar. He is the adviser, the care-taker, the bosom friend of all. No one who is left can fill his place. But there is another relation in which he stands to them, the breach of which is apt to leave them most helpless of all. He was the support of the family. By strenuous industry he supplied them with all of the necessities, and many of the luxuries of life; but now those gifts, which came so regularly, and apparently so naturally, come no longer. The mill has ceased to grind, and the feed is not forthcoming. Oh the terrible pangs of want, both mental and physical! Oh, the anguish of making your wants known to the careless world. But there is a brotherhood that cares for the widow and the orphan of every departed brother. And it does not dole out its gifts by measure, doing so much and no more—its gifts, like its sympathies, are measureless. The widow is relieved, the orphans are rescued from want—both because the husband and father was bound to the Craft by fraternal ties. This is another of the "sins of Masonry."

The last sad rite of earth—burial, is to be performed, and the remains of a brother are to be committed to earth, dust to dust, ashes to ashes. We have all attended Masonic funerals. Generally the Church performs its rites first, and Masonry afterwards; but it is not always so. Sometimes a clergyman goes to the house of death, but demurs to going farther; but Masons always, when requested, bury their dead. We have stood by an open grave, yes, and uttered the last fond fraternal words which a brother so lovingly pronounces over the remains of a member of the Craft, when not a word had been previously, or was to be subsequently spoken by another. The Church was not fulfilling its office, and if Masonry had not been true to the call of humanity and brotherhood, the body of him who was once a living man would have been buried like a dog—no word spoken or prayer uttered, but only the dead inhumanly thrust out of sight. When the fraternity steps in and modestly performs its funeral office, the brethren appearing without any insignia or distinction, excepting a small blue ribbon on the lappel of their coats, and a sprig of evergreen in their hands, this is still another of the "sins of Masonry."

We might enumerate other sins, but it is unnecessary, for they will readily suggest themselves to the reader's mind. Let us turn now to those aspects of the brotherhood that are "excruciatingly childish."

A brother, weary with the toil of business, and perhaps the misfortunes of adversity, which he has to endure alone, or perhaps has a wife and children to share with him—one or two, or it may be three nights in a month, goes to Lodge, Chapter and Commandery. During this small fraction of his time, thus devoted to the Craft, he finds himself in the fellowship of Brothers and Companions—those who have assumed the same vows of fraternal regard to him that he has to them. He is at once in a charmed circle. No one who has not been in that circle can understand its magic. There is full and free expression of opinion there—not the jarring opinions of the world, but the fraternal opinions of brethren. There is sympathy, harmony, love. As the ancients said, "the gods draw like to like, by some mysterious affinity of souls." What a picture is this. Its "childishness is excruciating."

A Masonic Temple is to be dedicated to Truth, Virtue and Benevolence, and the brethren assemble to perform the solemn ceremonies, with happiness expressed in their countenances and indelibly stamped on their hearts. Within its walls the one true and living God, of Jew and Gentile, is to be invoked, and the Holy Bible is always to be open upon its altars, as the rule of our faith and the guide of our lives. For men to meet and indulge in any ceremonies for such a cause is "excruciatingly childish." Yes, faith is childish, for the Great Light says, "whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." But why further multiply examples? Is it not equally childish to participate in a Masonic funeral, or to listen with the teachable spirit of children to a Masonic lecture upon the foundation principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, that underlie the Craft? But the argument, so to speak, "turns around and laughs in our faces," and we laugh too at the puerility of those who would have us believe that, "to say nothing of the Sin of Masonry, its childishness is excruciating."

THE MASONIC APRON.

WE take the following from the very sensible report of Bro. Shaffer, G. Lecturer to the Grand Lodge of California, at its last session:—

To show how much good has been accomplished by the practice of presenting the lambskin to initiates, I will relate the following incidents, which have come under my own observation. A certain man, before leaving his old home in the east, had been made a Mason, but since coming to the Pacific coast had not visited a Lodge, and had fallen into evil paths and been led into dissipation. One day, when looking over some articles in his trunk, he came upon a forgotten package which, when opened, was found to contain his lambskin apron—for the Lodge wherein he was made a Mason had made it a custom to present each member with this emblem of Masonry. The sight of the spotless vestment, more ancient than the golden fleece or Roman eagle, aroused a flood of recollections in his bosom. In imagination he was carried back to his old home, where he had been honoured and respected—to the time when he stood in the north-east corner, a just and upright man, where it had been given him strictly in charge ever to act and walk as such. He asked himself whether he had fulfilled the charge? whether he had walked as an upright man? He felt that he had not. The spark of manhood which still lingered in his bosom was strong enough to kindle a glowing fire. He put the apron away and went forth, determined to conquer the terrible demon that had been leading him on to the abyss of destruction. He made himself known to some of the Masons of this city, frankly admitted his wrongdoing, and asked them to assist him in reforming. A helping hand was extended, the strong grip was given him, and by its aid he was lifted out of the depths into which he had fallen, and once more stood a just and upright man. He is now honoured and respected by the workmen of the Temple, instead of being an outcast and disgraced. The other case occurred in the interior of Mexico. A brother was travelling through that country, where he contracted a fever and soon became delirious. Those with whom he was domiciled examined his baggage for the purpose of getting him some clean linen, and found a lambskin apron. It was immediately recognized, for those into whose hands he had fallen were Masons. It is needless to say how tenderly he was cared for; how carefully his nurses attended upon him until the last moment came; and then, how reverently they closed his eyes and laid him beneath the earth. The written record on the lambskin furnished the brethren with the necessary information to communicate with the Lodge of the deceased, and send to his friends such property as he left behind.—*Masonic Jewel*.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

The following statement shows the receipts for traffic on the undermentioned railways for the past week, as compared with the corresponding week in 1875:—

Railway.	Miles open. 1876.	Receipts.	
		1876 £	1875 £
Caledonian	739	54,851	51,193
Glasgow and South Western.	315½	16,279	17,492
Great Eastern	761½	47,658	48,553
Great Northern	540	53,296	53,211
Great Western	2,008	131,529	126,092
Lancashire and Yorkshire	437½	70,073	61,445
London and Brighton	378	31,177	31,310
London, Chatham and Dover	153½	19,434	16,910
London and North Western	1,588	170,764	168,297
London and South Western	—	39,035	37,513
London, Tilbury and Southend	45	1,473	—
Manchester and Sheffield	259½	25,534	32,042
Midland	982½	107,722	114,803
Metropolitan	—	—	—
" " District	8½	5,642	5,324
" " St. John's Wood	—	—	—
North British	844½	42,945	44,951
North Eastern	1,400½	118,786	127,651
North London	12	7,704	7,184
North Staffordshire Railway	191	9,266	10,564
" " Canal	118	1,410	1,722
South Eastern	350	36,904	32,190

THE IMPUDENCE OF FREEMASONS.—Grace Greenwood, who is now sauntering through Europe, and writing most charming letters to the *New York Times*, has a good-natured fling at the Freemasons for interfering with her plans. She left Vevey for Chillon for the purpose of visiting the far-famed dungeon in which Byron's mythical prisoner was confined. Unfortunately she arrived at Chillon the day before that of the banquet to be given to the visiting brethren by the Masonic Congress of Lausanne, which was than in session. Of course she was refused, and she vents, in a pleasant way, her spleen at the disappointment. "We passed over the moat, we attained the very gate of the castle, when we were stopped by a gendarme, who informed us that the historical old edifice was closed for that day and the next, by order of the governor, who was about to give in its halls a grand Masonic entertainment. It seemed a sort of anachronism, but really this insolent Order is ordering everything and pushing its way everywhere. If the New Jerusalem should come down, the Masons would hold a lodge in Solomon's Temple the first thing."—*Voice of Masonry*.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

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

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SATURDAY, 29th APRIL.

193—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
R. A.—Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.

MONDAY, 1st MAY.

45—Strong Man, Old Jerusalem, St. John's-square, E.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)

37—Anchor and Hope, Freemasons' Hall, Church Institute, Bolton-le-Moors.
53—Royal Sussex, Masonic Hall, Old Orchard-street, Bath.
119—Sun, Square and Compasses, Freemasons' Hall, Whitehaven.
133—Harmony, Ship Hotel, Faversham.
156—Harmony, Hayshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth.
199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover.
338—Vitruvian, Royal Hotel, Ross, Herefordshire.
441—Three Grand Principles, Red Lion Hotel, Petty Curry, Cambridge.
478—Churchill, Masonic Hall, Alfred-street, Oxford.
1045—Stamford, Town Hall, Altrincham.
1051—Rowley, Athenaeum, Lancaster.
1264—Neptune, Masonic Temple, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool.

TUESDAY, 2nd MAY.

Colonial Board, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
55—Constitutional, Wheatsheaf, Hand-court, W.C., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
860—Palhouse, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1261—Golden Rule, Regent Masonic Hall, Air-street, Piccadilly.

51—Angel, Three Cups Hotel, Colchester.
120—Paladin, Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford.
158—Adams, Masonic Rooms, Victoria Hall, Trinity-road, Sheerness-on-Sea.
493—Royal Lebanon, Spread Eagle, Gloucester.
558—Temple, Town Hall, Folkestone.
731—Londesborough, Victoria Hotel, Bridlington Quay.
847—Fortescue, Masonic Hall, High-street, Honiton, Devon.
948—St. Barnabas, Masonic Room, Linsdale, Leighton Buzzard.
1002—Skildaw, Lodge Room, Market-place, Cockermouth.
1031—Newall, Freemasons' Hall, Islington-square, Salford.
1138—Devon, Masonic Hall, Devon-square, Newton Abbot.
1228—Pencontree, Red Lion, Lextonstone, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1322—Vavley, Calceonia Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne.
1336—Square and Compass, Wynnstay Arms, High-street, Wrexham.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd MAY.

Grand Chapter, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
193—Confidence, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, at 7. (Instruction.)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)

137—Amity, Masonic Hall, Thames-street, Poole.
294—Harmony, Masonic Room, Ann-street, Rochdale.
326—Moira, Freemasons' Hall, Park-street, Bristol.
42—Sincerity, Angel House, Northwich, Cheshire.
471—Silurian, Freemasons' Hall, Dock-street, Newport.
615—Humphrey Chetham, Masonic Room, Cross-street, Manchester.
1114—Milton, Commercial Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne.
1167—Alnwick, Masonic Hall, Market-place, Alnwick.
1206—Cinque Ports, Bell Hotel, Sandwich.
1323—Talbot, Masonic Rooms, Wind-street, Swansea.
1363—Tyndall, Town Hall, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucester.
1479—Halsey, Town Hall, St. Albans.

THURSDAY, 4th MAY.

3—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., Fitzroy-sq., at 7.0.
17—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W. at 8. (Instruction.)
554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
1260—Hervey, 152 Fulham-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
1489—Marquess of Ripon, Albion, Albion-road, Dalston, at 7.30. (Instruction.)

31—United Industrious, Guildhall Concert Room, High-street, Canterbury.
41—Royal Cumberland, Masonic Hall, Old Orchard-street, Bath.
123—Lennox, Freemasons' Hall, Richmond, Yorkshire.
219—Mariners, Masonic Temple, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool.
251—Trinity, Craven Arms Hotel, Coventry.
269—Fidelity, White Bull Hotel, Blackburn.
297—Countessmere Union, Macclesfield Arms, Macclesfield.
309—Harmony, Red Lion, Fareham.
380—Pomfret, George Hotel, Northampton.
442—St. Peter's, Masonic Hall, Boroughbury, Peterborough.
650—Star in the East, Pier Hotel, Harwich. (Instruction.)
792—Pelham Pillar, Masonic Hall, Bullring-lane, Grimsby.
1012—Prince of Wales, Derby Hotel, Bury, Lancashire.
1074—Underley, Masonic Room, Market-place, Kirkby Lonsdale.
1282—Anchorage, Forester's Hall, Brigg, Lincolnshire.
1284—Brent, Masonic Hall, Globe Hotel, Tipton.
1331—Aldershot Camp, Assembly Rooms, High-street, Aldershot.

FRIDAY, 5th MAY.

933—Doric, Earl Grey Tavern, Mile End-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
1278—Burdett Courts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
1365—Clapton, White Hart, Clapton, 7.30. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)

574—Loyal Berkshire of Hope, Council Chamber, Newbury.
799—Invicta, Corn Exchange, Queen-street, Ashford.
1232—Athelstan, Town Hall, Atherstone, Warwick.
1287—Chorlton, Masonic Rooms, Chorlton Cum Hardy.
1561—Morecambe, Athenaeum, Lancaster.

SATURDAY, 6th MAY.

General Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
193—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
R. A.—Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

MONDAY.

154—Unanimity, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.
1108—Wharfedale, Private Room, Boroughgate, Otley, York.
1211—Goderich, Masonic Hall, Gt. George-street, Leeds.
1239—Wentworth, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
1302—De Warren, White Swan Hotel, Halifax.
1542—Legiolium, Masonic Hall, Carlton-street, Castleford.
R.A. 330—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Commercial-street, Morley.

TUESDAY.

265—Royal Yorkshire, Masonic Hall, Hanover-street, Keighley.
1214—Scarborough, Wilton Arms Hotel, Batley.
R.A. 296—Loyalty, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
R.A. 600—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford.

WEDNESDAY.

253—Amphibious, Freemason's Hall, Heckmondwike.
380—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Commercial-street, Morley.
910—St. Oswald, Masonic Hall, Ropergate, Pontefract.
R.A. 304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds.

THURSDAY.

208—Three Grand Principles, Masonic Hall, Dewsbury.
275—Harmony, Masonic Hall, South Parade, Huddersfield.
289—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds.
337—Candour, Private Rooms, Commercial Inn, Uppermill.
974—Pentelpha, New Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford.
1231—Savile, Royal Hotel, Elland.
1513—Friendly, King's Head Hotel, Barnsley.

FRIDAY.

242—St. George's, Victoria Room, Doncaster.
306—Alfred, Masonic Hall, Kelsall-street, Leeds.
401—Royal Forest, Hark-to-Bounty Inn, Slaithburn.
521—Truth, Freemasons' Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, Huddersfield.
652—Holme Valley, Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth.
837—De Grey and Ripon, Town Hall, Ripon.
1034—Eccleshill, Freemasons' Hall, Eccleshill.

SATURDAY.

149—Peace, Masonic Rooms, Meltham.
308—Prince George, Station House, Bottoms, Eastwood.

DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND.

MONDAY.

431—St. George's, Masonic Hall, Norfolk-street, North Shields.

TUESDAY.

124—Marquis of Granby, Freemasons' Hall, Old Elvet, Durham.
393—St. David's, Freemasons' Hall, The Parade, Berwick-on-Tweed.
R. A. 111—Vigilance, Freemasons' Hall, Archer-street, Darlington.

WEDNESDAY.

94—Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall, Queen-street, Sunderland.
406—Northern Counties, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
1274—Earl of Durham, Freemasons' Hall, Chester-le-street.

THURSDAY.

24—Newcastle-on-Tyne, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street-west, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
509—Tees, Freemasons' Hall, Wellington-street, Stockton-on-Tees.
531—St. Helen's, Masonic Hall, Regent's-square, Hartlepool.
636—De Ogle, Masonic Hall, Morpeth.
659—Blagdon, Ridley Arms Hotel, Blyth.
1379—Marquess of Ripon, Freemasons' Hall, Archer-street, Darlington.

FRIDAY.

1230—Barnard, Witham Institute, Barnard Castle.
1557—Albert Edward, White Hart Hotel, Hexham.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Northumberland and Berwick Lodge of Mark Master Masons.—The regular monthly meeting of this ancient Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Wednesday, 26th April, Bro. Ridsdale acting as W.M. in the absence of Bro. Holmes P.G.J.W. Present—Bros. Hughes S.W., Franklin J.W., Cockburn M.O., Dr. Armstrong S.O., Bell acting as J.O., R. Armstrong S.D., Bell J.D., Salmon I.G. Bro. Sims, of the Walker Lodge, 1342, was duly advanced as a serving Brother to this degree, and the Lodge adjourned in harmony till September.

Metropolitan Chapter.—The regular weekly convocation hereof was held on Tuesday, 25th inst., at the Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, E.C., present the following:—Comps. G. Newman M.E.Z., J. Constable H., J. I. Mather J., Thos. W. White Scribe E., J. Wyer Scribe N., R. Wright P.S., R. Berridge, A. A. Drew, W. H. Green, P. Wagner. Upon the confirmation of the minutes of the previous Convocation, the M.E. rehearsed the ceremony of exaltation, Comp. Berridge acting candidate. Comp. A. A. Drew was elected a joining member. We again urge upon the Companions generally to attend this, one of the few Chapters of Instruction; it is ably and well conducted by those whose praises we have so often sung.

Egyptian Lodge of Instruction, No. 27.—This Lodge held its usual weekly meeting at Bro. Maidwell's, The Hercules, Leadenhall-street, on Thursday evening last, 27th April, at 7.30. Present—Bros. Hollands W.M., Rudderforth S.W., Salmonese J.W.,

Horsley S.D., Crane J.D., Blackhall I.G., Grammer Hon. Sec., Austin Preceptor, Atkins Treasurer, and several other brethren. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. It was then unanimously resolved "That the brethren having heard with profound grief of the sad bereavement which Bro. Maidwell has sustained in the death of his wife (by accident) desire to tender him their fraternal and heartfelt sympathy in his great affliction." It was then proposed by Bro. Horsley, seconded by Bro. Rudderforth, and carried unanimously, that, on account of the death of Mrs. Maidwell, the Lodge be closed and adjourned to the following Thursday evening at the usual hour. Bro. Lake having been elected a joining member, the Lodge was closed in ancient form.

Lodge of Faith, No. 141.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, 25th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Bros. J. Waygood W.M., M. Davis S.W., Mallett J.W., Carter P.M. Treasurer, W. Stewart P.M. Secretary, C. Dailey as S.D., Rumble as I.G. P.M.'s Kennett, Themans, C. C. Taylor, Hopwood, and Bros. Clark, Walls, Bartlett, Browning, Iles, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Ginz, Manley and Kendall were raised to the 3rd degree. Bros. Smith and Leftley were passed to the 2nd degree, and Mr. M. R. Barrett was duly initiated into the Order. Bro. Hopwood announced his intention to act as Steward for the Boys' School at the next anniversary festival, and a sum of five guineas was voted from the funds to be placed on his list. The Lodge was then closed. Bros. J. Wright W.M. Southern Star, Brown 511, Cook 382, and Professor Simmons, Dalhousie Lodge, were present as visitors.

Manchester Lodge, No. 179.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on the 20th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. J. Kew P.M. occupied the chair. Benet S.W., D. Albuquerque J.W., W. Hughes P.M. Sec., Ayres S.D., D. M. Belfrage J.D., H. C. Green Assistant Sec., H. A. Lovett I.G., Fugsley D.C., Parsons W.S. P.M.'s Tyrell and W. Stuart; and Bros. Jackson, Bridgman, Dettmar, Dickeson, J. G. Webb, H. J. Banks, B. Neale, E. Stoers, R. Webb, Reynolds, &c. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. Brown was raised to the 3rd degree, and Bros. Osmond, Hughes and Dickeson were passed to the 2nd degree, by Bro. Kew. The W.M., Bro. J. Bart, having arrived, a ballot was taken for the admission of Mr. A. Milward, who was afterwards initiated into the Order by the W.M., in a very perfect and careful manner. Bro. J. Kew P.M. proposed, and Bro. Benet S.W. seconded, that a summer banquet take place on the 4th Thursday in June, at the Crown, at Broxbourne, this was carried. The Lodge was then closed until October, and the brethren partook of a capital banquet, provided by Bro. Clemow, and superintended by Bro. Smith. The W.M., who very genially presided, gave the Queen and the Craft. In proposing the toast of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M., the W.M. said he hoped on his return he would meet with a hearty reception from every loyal subject, but none more hearty than from his brother Masons. The toasts of the Prov. Grand Master and the Deputy G.M. followed. In proposing the toast of the newly initiated, Bro. Burt said he was one only to know to respect, and from the attention he had paid to the ceremony he was sure he would be a credit to the Order. Bro. Milward, in a very appropriate speech, acknowledged the complimentary remarks of the W.M. The toast of the visitors found an able exponent in Bro. Davis W.M. 382, who said one of the greatest pleasures in visiting Lodges was to listen to the ceremonies being perfectly delivered, and they had been done so this evening. The admirable working of Bro. Kew spoke for itself, while the able way in which the ceremony of initiation had been worked by the W.M. was a credit to so young a member of the Order. He then, in the name of the visitors, thanked the W.M. for the kind hospitality afforded them. Bro. J. Kew P.M. then proposed the toast of the W.M., and congratulated the brethren on the selection they had made; they had seen his capabilities for presiding over them, and he was sure that while he occupied his exalted position perfect harmony would prevail. The W.M., in reply, thanked Bro. Kew for his kind expressions, and the hearty response the brethren had given. He hoped, on leaving the chair, that those expressions might be reiterated. (Cheers.) The W.M., in proposing the toast of the Past Masters, regretted there were no more present, but Bros. Kew and Stuart were a host in themselves. They had seen how the former had performed the ceremony that evening; he, as well as Bro. Stuart, whom they all respected, were not only capable but willing to render their valuable services on every occasion. Bro. Kew responded, he was proud to say every Master who had occupied the chair knew his duty, and on leaving the chair their services were always to command. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the Officers; no Lodge could have better working Masons to assist in carrying out the duties; many among them were as capable as he, and as perfect in their knowledge of Freemasonry. Bros. Albuquerque and Belfrage returned thanks. The Junior Officers severally responded to the toast, and the Tyler's toast followed. Some very excellent harmony was given by Bros. Milward, Husk, Parsons, and Dickeson. The Visitors were Bros. W. Davis W.M. 312, C. Munus 1107, Bye 141, Carrington 1314, and H. M. Levy P.M. 188.

Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, 24th April, at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C., Bro. Joseph D. Barnett W.M. in the chair. There were also present Bros. John Peartree S.W. and Treasurer, David Posener J.W., P. Levy Secretary, Geo. Pare S.D., Bailey J.D., Croaker I.G., A. Posener D.C., Sadlier W.S., Beckett Tyler; also Bro. John H. Ross I.P.M., and Past Masters S. Solomon, Holbrook, H.

Myers, John Constable, N. Gluckstein, E. Gottheil, and an average number of brethren. The business of the evening included the raising to the third degree Bros. Lowenthal, Upson, and Harris; passing to the second Bro. Staley, and initiating into the ancient mysteries Mr. William Marsden Smith. Two applications for temporary relief having been submitted for consideration, the sums of £3 3s and £1 1s respectively were voted to the distressed applicants. Upon the conclusion of the business the members and visitors adjourned to partake of refreshment, after which the usual toasts were briefly given, and as briefly responded to. Bro. S. Solomon P.M., as President of the Benevolent Fund, in his reply, pointed out the great services the existence of this Fund has enabled the Lodge to render. He would not appeal for contributions on this occasion, the brethren having liberally subscribed at a former meeting, and the newly initiated brother had also given his donation. The fund has now reached a considerable amount, and he was quite sure, should circumstances require it, additional contributions will be readily forthcoming to keep it at its present figure. The W.M. proposed the health of the Past Masters, coupling with it the name of Bro. Ross the I.P.M., who replying, complimented Bro. Barnett on his abilities, and the efficiency with which he conducted the affairs of the Lodge. Bro. Masterman W.M. 452, responding as a visitor, mentioned that his father had been initiated in this Lodge in 1807, of this fact he had not been aware until he perused the History of the Tranquillity Lodge, which has been so ably compiled by Bro. John Constable, and by whose kindness he has the gratification and pleasure to be present to-night. Bro. W. E. Gompertz complimented the W.M. on his working, and Bro. McNiven expressed his satisfaction with the hospitality and enjoyments he had been permitted to partake of and to participate in. The S.W. promised to do his best in any position he may be placed in, and the J.W. assured the brethren that he is trying to qualify himself for the chair, should they in due time be pleased to elect him to that dignified post. The S.D. replied in suitable terms, and the J.D. complained that as a minor officer he ought not to be called upon, and expressed a hope it would not occur again. Very excellent singing by Bros. Child, Bailey, McNiven, Thompson, Constable and Hart contributed to the pleasures of the proceedings. The visitors were Bros. B. S. Masterman P.M. W.M. 452, H. Wellard I.G. 1319, J. Harris late 185, N. Reed I.G. 765 and J.D. 1572, W. Stohrtoker S.W. 1572, W. Thompson 72, D. McNiven 1426, H. A. Hart 1339, W. E. Gompertz P.M. 869, P.P.G.O. Essex.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—This Lodge held its usual meeting on Wednesday, 26th inst., at Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall-street, E.C. Present—Bros. Nelson Reed W.M., Abell S.W., Croaker J.W., J. K. Pitt Sec., Hollands S.D., Walker J.D., Triggs Steward, Sayer I.G., Christopher Tyler; P.M.'s Bros. E. Gottheil Preceptor, N. Gluckstein, Bloomfield and Hogard. Visitors—Bros. W. H. Meyers P.M. 820, G. Walters S.W. 1598, W. Gibbs 1260, and Abrahams 185. Business—The Lodge was opened and minutes read. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Turner acting as candidate. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, the ceremony of passing was worked, Bro. Staley being candidate. The Lodge was then opened in the third degree; the ceremony of raising rehearsed, with Bro. Fenner as candidate. Bros. Myers, Gibbs and L. Abrahams were admitted joining members. A vote of thanks was proposed by Bro. Turner, seconded by Bro. Hollands, to Bros. Turquand and W. W. Morgan, for assisting to furnish the Lodge with a set of new collars. The Secretary was instructed to forward a letter of condolence to Bro. Maidwell, who lost his wife by an accident which occurred while visiting some friends in Wales. Bro. Abell will preside on Wednesday next. The first drawing of No. 2 Tranquillity and Confidence Life Governorship Association took place after the proceedings of the Lodge were over. Bro. Hogard P.M. 503 drew the successful number.

Percy Lodge of Instruction, No. 198.—This Lodge meets at Bro. Fysh's, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, corner of Church-road, Islington, every Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. On Saturday the 29th inst., the Fifteen Sections will be worked by Bro. G. Ward Verry P.M. 554, commencing at 7 o'clock.

Northern Counties Lodge, No. 406.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, the 24th April, being St. George's Day, at the Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Present—Bros. Kuox W.M., Munday W.M. elect S.W., Halliday J.W., Thos. Armstrong Sec., R. Armstrong S.D., Page J.D., Salmon I.G., Sims Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Hughes I.P.M., Ridsdell, Cook, Rev. S. H. Harris, &c. Visitors Bros. Cockburn W.M. 24, Spearman W.M. 481, Dean J.W. 541, Rev. E. Cohen 481, &c. Business—An unusually large number of candidates were balloted for, and, with two exceptions, all were declared duly elected. After initiating a candidate into the mysteries of our Order, the W.M. proceeded to instal his successor, Bro. Munday, into the Chair of K.S. in a most able and effective manner. It has become a noteworthy circumstance in the Lodges of this Province that most of the Masters perform the ceremony of installation for their successors, an example that might be advantageously copied. After installation the W.M., Bro. Munday, appointed his officers as follow:—Bros. Halliday S.W., Thos. J. Armstrong J.W., R. L. Armstrong Secretary, J. Page S.D., R. G. Salmon J.D., G. M. Lex S.S., Solomon M. Harris J.S. The brethren then adjourned to a banquet, held at the Turk's Head Hotel, and afterwards the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were ably given by the newly-installed W.M.

United Lodge, No. 697.—The annual festival of this Lodge was celebrated on Friday, 21st April, with great eclat. A large

number of brethren assembled in the Lodge room, soon after two o'clock, for the purpose of witnessing the installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. A. R. Clench, who had been re-elected to fill the chair he has so worthily occupied during the past twelve months. The important and impressive ceremony was ably performed by the V.W. Bro. the Rev. Chas. J. Martyn, Past Grand Chaplain of England, and at the conclusion the W.M. appointed and invested the following as his officers:—Bros. T. W. Naylor S.W., W. H. Bateman J.W., Rev. T. C. Brettingham Chaplain, T. Eustace P.M. Treas., T. Rix P.M. Sec., Geo. Harvey S.D., C. E. Denton J.D., R. Emson I.G., H. Everitt and A. Adams Stewards, C. Ganner Tyler. At six o'clock the brethren sat down to a banquet, under the presidency of the W.M., who was supported on his right and left by the R.W. Bro. R. Bolton-Barton, LL.D., P.G.M. Western India, Bros. the Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G.C., John Wright Carr Prov. Grand Secretary, Col. Burney, A. Welch W.M. 51, T. J. Ralling Sec. 51, the Rev. Eustace H. Crate P.M. 697, William Bowler P.M. 51, G. Gard Pye S.W. 51, J. Hills P.M. 1224, H. Welham 1224, G. Grimwood W.M. 1224, Basham Sec. 653, and between 30 and 40 visitors and brethren.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.—This Lodge met at the Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, on Tuesday, 25th April. Bro. Pinder, W.M. of the Faith Lodge, No. 15, presided. Bro. P.M. Austin S.W., Cambridge J.W., Loveluck I.G., Wallington P.M. Preceptor. Lodge opened in due form, and the fifteen sections were then worked by the following brethren:—1st Lecture—Bro. Smith 1, Wallington 2, Austin 3, P.M. Musto 4, Tarquand 5, Austin 6, Horsley 7. 2nd Lecture—Cambridge 1, Horsley 2, Ellis 3, P.M. Howe 4, Lowe 5. 3rd Lecture—Wallington 1, Job 2, Perrin 3. The whole of the working, both of the W.M. and the brethren, was exceedingly good, and the W.M. expressed himself highly gratified at having had the opportunity of presiding on the occasion; that was the first Lodge of Instruction he had joined, now some eight years ago. It was also where he had gained the most of his Masonic knowledge. There was a good muster of the brethren.

Pelham Lodge, No. 939.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 20th of April, at Worksop. Present—Bros. F. Vernon Russell W.M., Wm. Mallender S.W., Edward Baxter Sec., Thos. Henderson J.D., John Appleton I.G., Thos. Mallender Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Hy. Hodgkinson, Hy. Shaw, George Baxter; and Bros. Rev. E. Hawley, King and Hett. Business—The neglect of the Prov. Grand Master in not summoning Prov. Grand Lodge was freely commented on, and the Secretary was ordered to write to Prov. Grand Secretary on the subject, and to request that his letter be forwarded to the proper quarter.

Montefiore Lodge, No. 1017.—This Lodge met on Wednesday, 19th inst., at the Regent Masonic Hall, Air-street, Regent-street. Bros. J. Blum W.M., J. Lazarus P.M. as S.W., Gulliford J.W., E. P. Albert P.M. A.G.P. Sec., L. Salomon J.D., Hochfield I.G., Brull D.C. and P.M.'s J. De Solla, Eskell, Grunnebaum, S. Pollitzer, &c. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. Guttman was passed to the second degree. The Lodge was then closed, and a capital banquet followed, where the usual toasts were done justice to. Bro. P. Albert A.G.P. returned thanks for the Grand Officers. The toasts of the W.M., P.M. and Officers were given, and the brethren separated. Bro. Dr. Hersiger de Berne 1298, Dr. Louis Eisler (Arbach, Hungary) and Webb 382 were present as visitors.

Urban Lodge, No. 1196.—"Saint John's Gate," Clerkenwell, has long been noted as one of the relics of the London that is past. Garrick there made his *début* in the Hall which is over the gateway! 'twas in the Coffee Room Dr. Johnson presided over the Urban Club, and 'twas there also that Oliver Goldsmith spent most of his ready cash. With such reminiscences as these it would be impossible for any to enter the "Hostelrie of St. John" without some feeling of awe and respect, and this feeling would be deepened and intensified were they to attend a meeting of the Urban Lodge of Freemasons, which sprung out of that literary club. This Lodge held its last meeting for the present session on Tuesday last, 25th April. Present—Bro. Japheth Tickle W.M. in the chair, supported by Bros. J. Pearson I.P.M., J. Simpson S.W., E. G. Legge J.W., Dr. Carpenter Secretary, Blatchford S.D., Lehmeier J.D., Heath I.G., Marsh P.M. D.C., Rev. Darly Reade Chaplain, Loverdo W.S., and a good muster of members. There were likewise present as visitors, Bros. Caravoglia, Donald King, Righton, Homer 1426, Watts, Hepburn 902, Hill 140, Strawson 36, Roberts 1426, Pogmore 1333, Wall 65, Kidder 12, Bass, &c., Steedman Tyler. The ballot having been taken for Mr. Thomas Milbourn and Mr. W. T. Buck as candidates, and also for Bro. Butler as a joining member, which proved unanimous, Bro. Marsh P.M., by the courtesy of the W.M., in his usual solemn and impressive manner, raised Bro. Fairchild to the sublime degree of a M.M.; after which the W.M. initiated Messrs. Milbourn and Buck. After the business of the Lodge terminated the brethren adjourned to the banquet hall, where an elegant but substantial repast had been prepared by the host, Bro. Gay.

"Course followed course, and round the bottle flew,
Laughter and mirth prevailed amongst the crew."

The toast of the Queen and Craft was proposed by the W.M., and drank with a great degree of loyalty; whilst that of the Grand Master was received with fervour such as is seldom witnessed, and many whispered, as they raised their glasses to their lips, "God give him safe return," and as Brother Lehmeier, seated at the piano,

played "God Bless the Prince of Wales" such a hearty chorus of voices joined in the refrain that showed too plainly to be mistaken how sincere and heartfelt were the wishes for the Prince's welfare. The toast of the "Initiates" over, the W.M., in eloquent terms, proposed the toast of the "Visitors," who, in response, bore testimony to the efficient working of the Lodge, and its hospitality, and heartily wished the W.M. a happy and prosperous year of office. Dr. Carpenter, the secretary, having in his response to the toast of the Past Master's referred to the flourishing state of the finances, Bro. Terry, in a very eloquent speech, pleaded for the Masonic Charities, and urged that the Urban Lodge should give, in its abundance, a sum sufficient to endow their W.M. as a Vice-President of one of the Masonic Institutions. During the evening the brethren were favoured with some very fine songs from Bros. Caravoglia, Donald King and Righton, and Bro. Lehmeier delighted all his hearers with the exquisite amount of pathos and expression he displayed in his rendering of Thalberg's "Home, Sweet Home." Bro. Fairchild also gave a recitation, "My Pipe," with great dramatic force, which showed he possessed histrionic powers of no mean order. The brethren separated at half-past eleven, having passed a most happy and enjoyable evening.

Chiltern Lodge, No. 1470.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, the 18th of April, at the Lodge Room, Town Hall, Dunstable. Present—Bros. F. Howell W.M., A. W. Haselgrove S.W., Randall J.W., Saunders Sec., Sinkwell S.D., Warren J.D., Teale I.G., Day Tyler; and Bros. Bullans, Beart, Crew, Monk, &c. Business—After the Lodge had been duly opened and the minutes confirmed, the S.W. gave the charge to Bro. Crew (time not permitting on the night of his initiation); the W.M. then asked the necessary questions, and when the Lodge had been opened in the proper degree, Bro. Crew was duly passed and retired. The Lodge was then opened in the 3rd degree, and Bro. Beart was raised, the ceremony being one of the most perfectly rendered by all those engaged since the formation of the Lodge, and as a consequence the candidate was made fully conscious of its impressive character. The Lodge was duly closed to the first degree, when a joining member was proposed, and arrangements made for a regular subscription to the Masonic Charities, shortly after which the brethren adjourned.

Duncombe Lodge, No. 1486, Kingsbridge.—The installation of the W.M. elect will take place at the King's Arms Hotel, on Monday, 8th May, at one o'clock. It is hoped that the venerable P.G.M. Rev. J. Huyshe will attend, and the Deputy P.G.M. Bro. Metham is likewise expected to be present. A banquet will take place after, tickets for which may be had, and all other particulars of the Secretary, Kingsbridge.

THE DRAMA.

Signor Rossi—The Criterion—The Alhambra.

SIGNOR ROSSI has made his *début* on the English stage, in the character of Hamlet, and with but indifferent success. It is only fair to him to say that he was suffering at the time from a severe hoarseness, and therefore acted under manifest disadvantage. Nor can this character in the hands of a foreign artist be held as a sufficient test of his capabilities. An English audience is of necessity somewhat prejudiced in favour of the one particular conception of the character to which it has been accustomed. And when a foreign artiste presents an entirely different conception, assumes, for example, as in the case of Signor Rossi, that Hamlet was in reality mad, and that his pretence of assuming madness was in reality but an eccentric form of madness itself, it is scarcely possible but that an unfavourable impression should be produced. We would hesitate therefore to express any decided opinion of this actor's powers until we have seen him in another character.

The Great Divorce Case, at the CRITERION, is a play that should be seen by all who enjoy a hearty laugh. Like the popular *Wedding Bells*, it is an adaptation from the French, and the merriment which it evokes is of a similar side-splitting character. The piece is very fairly cast, Mr. Wyndham, Mr. J. Clarke, and Mr. Righton taking the principal male rôles, and Miss Harriet Coveney, Miss Bruce, and Miss Vining the principal female.

The Voyage dans la Lune is a new opera-bouffe, from the fertile pen of M. Offenbach, and is now being performed with great success at the ALHAMBRA. The idea was probably suggested by the well-known story of M. Jules Verne, but the plot is altogether different. Mr. J. D. Stoye and Mr. Paulton sustain the most important characters, infusing into them a large amount of humour and merriment, and they are supported by Miss Rose Bell, Miss Munroe, and Miss Chambers. Of the piece itself we may say, that it contains not a few taking airs, some cheerful choruses, an abundance of humorous dialogue, and that it is mounted with elegance and taste.

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HER MAJESTY'S OPERA, DRURY LANE.—This evening, FAUST. On Monday, LA SONNAMBULA. On Tuesday, SEMIRAMIDE. On Thursday, LA TRAVIATA. At 8.30 each evening.

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HAYMARKET.—At 7.30, A ROUGH DIAMOND. At 8.15, MEDEA.

STRAND.—At 7.30, A LESSON IN LOVE. At 9.15, L'AFRICAIN, &c.

GAIETY.—At 7.45, BLUE DEVILS. At 8.30, MY AWFUL DAD. At 10.30, COOL AS A CUCUMBER.

CHARING CROSS.—At 8, ALL FOR THEM. At 8.45, STARVATION REFUSING PLENTY SUBJECT. At 9.45, YOUNG RIP VAN WINKLE.

OLYMPIC.—At 7.30, FASCINATING FELLOWS. At 8.0, THE GASCON. At 10.45, VESTA'S TEMPLE.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 7.45, QUITE BY ACCIDENT. At 8.0, WRINKLES.

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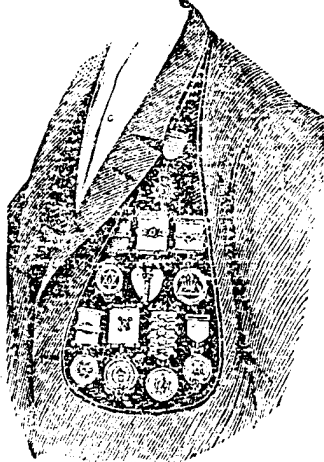
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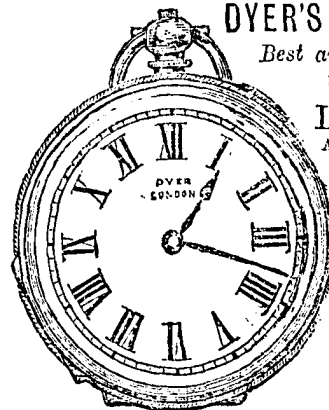
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