

THE
Freemason's Chronicle ;

A WEEKLY RECORD

OF

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

VOLUME V.

LONDON:
W. W. MORGAN, 67 BARBICAN.

1877.

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SPECIAL COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE.

IT will be seen elsewhere in our columns that on Wednesday was held, by order of the Pro Grand Master, a Special Communication of Grand Lodge, the purpose being to receive and recommend—or otherwise as the case might be—for adoption at the next regular meeting of Grand Lodge, the Report of the Special Committee appointed to consider the most suitable way of commemorating the auspicious visit to, and safe return from India, of Grand Master His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The Pro Grand Master presided in person on this important occasion, and there was a large attendance of brethren present. Lord Carnarvon, in his capacity of Chairman of the Special Committee, himself submitted its Report for the adoption of Grand Lodge. The proposition they offered was, to the effect that a sum of £4000 should be handed over to the National Lifeboat Institution for the purpose of building and endowing two additional Lifeboats, to be placed at two different spots on the English coast, where their services would be most needed, a Sub-Committee being further appointed in order to confer with the authorities of the Institution as to the fittest places for stationing the boats in question. His Lordship strongly urged on the brethren present that the proposition should be recommended to Grand Lodge for adoption at its next regular Communication, and in doing so, exhausted well nigh every argument that could be suggested in support of his motion. As regards our Charities, his Lordship pointed out, on the one hand, that they were not in need of funds. They had but to indicate to the brethren the sum that was required to keep them in sound working order, and the brethren took care there should be no deficiency in the amount required. On the other hand, this was undoubtedly an occasion on which the beneficence of the Craft might legitimately be extended to objects outside the pale of Masonry. It was a visit which had excited the enthusiasm of the whole nation, and a safe return home from which had been the subject of general thanksgiving throughout the whole of the British Empire. Thus, the appropriation of this money might be regarded in the light of a thank-offering to the G.A.O.T.U., who, in His infinite wisdom, had watched over and restored to us, in health and strength, the eldest son and heir of our Most Gracious Sovereign. The proposition was seconded by Lord Leigh, Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire. An amendment was then moved and seconded by Bros. J. G. Marsh and Baxter Langley respectively, to the effect that the Freemasons' Lifeboat, presented, a few years since, to the Lifeboat Institution, and now stationed at North Berwick, should be endowed to the extent of £1,500, that a sum of £1,000 be given to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and £1,000 to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, while a further sum of £2,500 should be handed over to the Boys' School, for the purpose of founding, in connection with it, a Prince of Wales's Scholarship. An appeal, however, was made by the Rev. Bro. Simpson to Bros. Marsh and Langley to withdraw their amendment, and it was likewise pointed out by the Grand Registrar, Bro. McIntyre, that to move an amendment under the circumstances was out of order, as Grand Lodge had been convened with the one object of receiving the report of the Committee, and accepting or rejecting it, as might seem fit to the majority of those present. Thereupon, the Pro Grand Master submitted the report for adoption, and it was

declared to be adopted unanimously, though many of the brethren gave no indication whatever of the opinion they held.

So much for the events of this Special Communication. When, however, we come to examine the character of the proposal, we confess to feeling a certain sense of disappointment. We have, from first to last, inclined to the belief that the most fitting memorial of the Grand Master's safe return from India would be a special grant of money to each of our Charitable Institutions. They sorely need it. Their sphere of operations is becoming larger and larger every year. The number of candidates for election on the lists is always hugely in excess of the number of vacancies. True, the subscriptions and donations of Craftsmen are on a very munificent scale. But we may not always be in a position to reckon on a continuance of this munificence. A time of commercial distress, or a grave political crisis may so affect the ability of Craftsmen to contribute, that, with all their old will to give as freely as ever, they may yet lack the means to do so. In such case, the benefits of our Institutions must be curtailed, at a time when those benefits are most likely to be needed, or the Institutions must use their invested moneys, or, having none, run into debt. Our Charities are not endowed, at least to any appreciable extent, as are so many other similar institutions scattered throughout the country. They depend for the greater part of the funds necessary to maintain them in good working order on voluntary contributions. Any increase, therefore, of their invested moneys, how small soever, speaking comparatively, it might be, would be of infinite and lasting service to them. There is, be it remembered, no narrow-minded selfishness in advocating gifts of so special a character to our several charities, nor need such gifts be absorbed in the general body of donations, and so lose their distinctive character. A Prince of Wales's endowment fund for each of our Charities would be a fitting memorial of an event in his life we are all so anxious to commemorate, worthy alike of the Body which grants it and the Grand Master in whose honour it is granted. This, in our honest opinion, would have been the most suitable way of commemorating the visit and return home, and we regret the Special Committee have not elected to recommend some such proposition for acceptance by Grand Lodge.

As to the proposition itself, as submitted and approved, and now only awaiting confirmation at the meeting of Grand Lodge in March next, taking it on its merits, and apart from the views to which we have already given expression, we do not know of any proposal more likely to command general acceptance. The Institution, whose funds it is thus proposed to augment so considerably, is one of the noblest of which even England, with all its splendid charities, may honestly feel proud. Its labours are arduous and unceasing, and the services it renders to our common humanity are such as must command the admiration of the whole world. Those whose knowledge of the seas which gird this happy little island of ours, is derived from a holiday visit to one of our fashionable watering-places, can form little idea of the dangers which await the tempest-tossed mariner when he finds his ship driven, slowly perhaps, but surely, towards our rock-bound coasts. And those, too, whose experience of ocean-travel is limited to a pleasure trip on board some yacht or passenger-boat at the best season of the year, can in no wise gauge the perils which those encounter who man the lifeboat in order to rescue their fellow creatures from a terrible death. There is, indeed, no service so skilfully and courageously per-

formed as that of our Lifeboat Institution, and it is certain there is no service for which there is greater need. The lifeboats stationed along our coast-line are numerous, but not numerous enough for the demands that are constantly being made upon them. Many a stout ship goes down, many a score of lives are lost which would be spared to us were the means of rescue more numerous. The dreadful accounts of disasters which have figured so conspicuously in our daily contemporaries during the last few days are evidence enough that we are still insufficiently furnished with life-saving apparatus. Therefore it is we have said there is no Institution throughout all England we should more gladly see benefited substantially than the Lifeboat Institution. The whole world will, to a certain extent, benefit by the gift, and Grand Lodge will have the gratification of feeling that it has adopted a right worthy plan for commemorating the most auspicious event in the recent history of our Craft, though not, in our opinion, *the* most worthy. Nor must it be forgotten that, barely two years since, when a proposition was made to vote £100 from Grand Lodge funds towards the endowment of the existing Freemasons' Life Boat already referred to, the motion was rejected, one of the grounds urged against the proposal being that the funds of Grand Lodge were intended for Masonic purposes only. Thus, by their present action, our rulers are to some extent stultifying themselves. The endowment of our Charities is a legitimate Masonic purpose, and certainly the endowment of Lifeboats is as much outside the main object of Freemasonry now, as in the first quarter of the year 1874. We repeat our opinion, that the Masonic Charities should have received, each of them, a handsome contribution from Grand Lodge Funds, to be known always as the Prince of Wales's Endowment. But as this, it seems, is not to be, we cannot but state our belief that the Special Committee have made the second best proposal it was in their power to make.

TOLERANCE AND INTOLERANCE.

OUR readers must not run away with the notion that all Masons practise what they profess. We are no more free from human infirmity than the rest of our fellow-creatures. We all of us have our special idiosyncracies, and are not always sufficiently careful to sink them in the company of our fellows. Were brethren as disposed to study the beauties of Freemasonry as they are prone to cultivate the fourth degree, the Fraternity would rub on the better for this disposition. But precept and practice do not always go hand in hand together; there is even at times a very strong antagonism between the two. We ought to be perfect illustrations—as perfect, that is to say, as men can be; we ought, we repeat, to be perfect illustrations of all the cardinal virtues; but we are not, and perhaps in no one particular do we more exhibit the innate weakness of our humanity than in the tenacity with which—paradoxical as it will seem to many or most of our friends—we cling to the vices of tolerance, and neglect the virtues of intolerance. We are tolerant to a fault in many instances—that is, we exhibit forbearance towards many things and on many occasions which we have no business to, or, at all events, which it were better we should not, exhibit. We are also intolerant to a fault—that is, we are not always as forbearing towards our fellows as we should be. This is what we mean by saying that we cling to the vices of tolerance, and eschew the virtues of intolerance, so that our readers need have no fear on the score of our perfect orthodoxy. But to the proof of our proposition.

Is it not within the knowledge of every one of our readers that all of us endure what ought not to be endured, on the plea that harmony and good fellowship require us to do so? We see around us brethren who are as careful in ignoring the fundamental principles of the Craft, as they should be in observing them. We give them all credit for possessing the will to observe them, but they lack the courage to exercise that will. They allow the natural vices of their disposition to ride roughshod over the beautiful teachings of our Society, and the consequence is their whole Masonic career is, in very truth, a lie. Setting aside the infirmities of our humanity, for which, indeed, we have already made sufficient allowance, we find there are many who neglect their duties, or defy our principles almost as a matter of course. For instance, we are enjoined to study

the doctrines of Masonic science, yet we study them not, or only in a perfunctory sort of way. We are taught to speak well of a brother in his absence as well as in his presence, and if that cannot be done honourably and with propriety, to observe silence! Yet there are far too many who are slanderously given; or, we should rather say, there is a good deal of backbiting among Craftsmen. It is gently insinuated by some one that Bro. So-and-So is not the model Mason he appears to be. True, he is active and attentive in the fulfilment of his duties, but then he has some purpose to serve in being so. He is a subscriber to our Charities, but he takes good heed beforehand to satisfy all his own luxurious wants. He is a zealous official, but in private life he has, or is said to have many and great infirmities, and to indulge them incontinently. These backbitings, of course, are only ordinary weaknesses to which all men yield more or less at home, but the Mason who yields to them is guilty of a two-fold crime. The religion he professes teaches him to behave towards others as he would have others behave towards himself; and the Masonic obligations he contracts long after he has imbibed his first lessons of religion enjoin on him the fulfilment of the same righteous duty. There is, then, in the case of the Mason who neglects the observance of what he has been taught is right, in the first place, an infraction of religious duty, and secondly an infraction of Masonic duty, the latter being, in our opinion, the more blameworthy of the two, seeing that, in a certain sense, Masonry is higher than any or all religious faiths. It includes them all, for no man can become a Mason who does not at least solemnly declare himself to be of some religious persuasion. And as the whole is greater than any one of its parts, so is Masonry, in this sense, greater than any or all of the religions it includes, or requires its members should profess. Far be it from us to prefer, ordinarily, a system of morality to any religious creed. We are merely now indicating that the Brother who violates his Masonic oath—and the backbiter does so unquestionably—is doubly guilty, towards his religion and towards Freemasonry. Moreover, there is no such thing as free will in being a religious man—the forms of religion are a matter apart and may justly be left to one's own conscience—but men become Freemasons voluntarily. We are, however, digressing, and must return to the main purpose of our article. We have said there is much backbiting among Craftsmen. There is also much ostentation, which exhibits itself principally in a love of vain display. The original simplicity of the Craft is lost sight of in the painful eagerness with which so many among us strive after Masonic decoration. We see no particular harm in a brother wearing a score or two of jewels, but we see great harm in the jewels being assumed to be the evidence of a Mason's worth. The Charity Jewel, for instance, was instituted as a reward for meritorious exertion in the cause of our Institutions, but many brethren virtually purchase the right to wear them. They serve the requisite number of stewardships, paying their own subscriptions, but concerning themselves little about the further duties of the office. There are numbers of brethren who wear several P.M.'s jewels. In many instances they are the just reward of superior merit, but in many also they are merely the evidence that the wearer has been W.M. of, and subscribes to, a corresponding number of Lodges. Sometimes, too, we see a brother wearing a P.M. jewel, who, during his term of office as W.M., properly fulfilled no single duty of the Mastership, and who is, in fact, almost as ignorant of Lodge duties as the initiate of yesterday. We are not citing imaginary cases, but cases which are generally known to have occurred, and we ask our readers, is it not carrying Tolerance to a fault when we sanction or connive at these evils? We go further, and ask, Is it not worth while making a vigorous effort to repress them? The backbiter would soon find his occupation gone if brethren resolutely declined to hear his tittle-tattle. The silly ambition to be covered with jewels and gold would quickly give place to loftier and worthier aims, if the practice of wearing so many decorations were discouraged. As a rule, men in high places in the State are simpler in their habits and personal adornment; the higher their position, the greater their merit. Let this be the case in Freemasonry. Let a brother's worth be judged more by his ability, and less by the number of his jewels, and we shall approach more nearly to the true principles of our Craft.

The endurance of these evils of which we have spoken is one of the foremost vices of Tolerance. Let us now turn

for a moment to what we have called the virtues of Intolerance. We have said there are many among us who are intolerant to a fault, who make no allowance whatever for the frailty of human nature, but condemn utterly, without one spark of charitable feeling, the faults to which this or that brother is unfortunately given. This kind or degree of intolerance is the least likely to prove of any effect, the last that will bring about a reform in the conduct of the condemned brother. Intolerance becomes a tyranny when it closes all the avenues against his reinstatement in the good graces of the Craft. It was said, on a certain memorable occasion, by one of the greatest teachers of Morality the world has ever seen—by the greatest Teacher in the estimation of some hundred millions of our fellow-creatures—"Let him that is without sin cast the first stone." This implied that before utterly condemning, before showing ourselves wholly intolerant towards the sins which others commit, it is well we should bear in mind that we are not ourselves entirely without stain. When, then, a brother errs in his conduct, let us not send him to Coventry, but rather encourage him, by that kind forbearance which a sense of our own frailty will suggest, to repent him of the evil he has done. The just condemnation of human error must be tempered with mercy, which blesseth him that sheweth it as well as him towards whom it is shown. It is no duty of ours to condemn utterly the man who has sinned. Charity—that Charity which is the proudest boast of our Freemasonry—requires rather that we should encourage him to abandon his evil ways. We must be intolerant of error, but virtuously so; and this is what we mean when we exhort our friends to remember the virtues of Intolerance. We have a mind to prolong the subject, but we have said enough to fulfil our original aim, which was to show that even the virtue of Tolerance may have its vices, and the vice of Intolerance its virtues. As Charity is the main-spring of Freemasonry, and the avoidance of error and the encouragement of rectitude are among the leading principles which Charity inculcates, we exhort our readers to be neither tolerant nor intolerant to a fault; and we do this in the name of that Charity without which Freemasonry is nothing worth.

Le Monde Maçonnique announces, that with the concurrence of Grand Master Mazzoni, the Lodge *Tito Vezio*, of the Orient of Rome, is about to establish a Masonic Mutual Benefit Society, and that, in all probability, it will be a great success. The same journal announces that Bro. Pasquali, of Turin, is engaged in writing a history of Piedmontese Freemasonry, and also that a certain militant priest of Corsica is about entering the lists against Freemasonry, and will commence his onslaught by translating the pamphlet of Bishop Dupanloup.

The *Masonic Jewel* for last month records the death of Bro. Dr. John Dove, Grand Secretary of the Masonic Grand Bodies of Virginia, at the ripe age of eighty-four. Bro. Dove was, it seems, the oldest Grand Secretary in the world at the time of his decease, having been elected Grand Secretary of the Grand Chapter of Virginia in 1813, and of Grand Lodge in 1832. In 1822 he was a Deputy District Grand Master, and had also at different times held the offices of Grand Junior and Senior Deacon, and Grand Junior Warden. He was the author of several Masonic works, the most valuable among them being his "Masonic Text Book," containing a history of Freemasonry and Digest of the Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Virginia. He was born in Richmond, Va., in September, 1792, and was initiated into Freemasonry in St. John's Lodge, No. 36, of that city, in 1813. He joined the Randolph Lodge, No. 19, at an early date, and remained a subscriber to both these Lodges till his death. He was also honorary member of several Lodges and Chapters, and two Lodges in his native State bear his name. One who knew him well speaks of him thus: "Dr. Dove was a model man, kindly, courteous, intelligent, and considerate to all; he was an honour to his native City and State. But it was as a Freemason he was best known. Never father loved a child more devotedly than John Dove loved Masonry. Never child loved a father more devotedly than the Masons of Virginia loved John Dove." He was buried with Masonic honours by St. John's Lodge, No. 36, assisted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia and the Masonic bodies in and near Richmond.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

THE PROPOSED INDIAN THANKOFFERING.

ON Wednesday evening an Especial Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, was held at Freemasons' Hall to receive and consider the Special Committee's Report on the most appropriate mode of commemorating "the Most Worshipful Grand Master's safe return from India." The Temple was thickly filled, and a great many of the brethren could not obtain seats. The Earl of Carnarvon, Right Worshipful Pro Grand Master, presided, having the Earl of Donoughmore S.G.W. in his place, Bro. F. Pattison as J.G.W., Lord Leigh as D.G.M., and Lord de Tabley as Past G.M. Among the other brethren who were present were Bros. ZE. J. McIntyre (J.C. G.R.), the Earl of Limerick, Sir Albert Woods (Garter) G.D.C., Dr. Rhys Williams A.G.D.C., Gen. Brownrigg Prov. G.M. Surrey, Capt. Platt P.G.D., Bro. S. Tomkins G.R., Rev. Sir J. Warren Hayes, Bro. W. Ganz, Brackstone Baker, Clabon, Joshua Nunn, Rev. R. J. Simpson, Bro. Grissell, Revs. C. J. Martin, S. R. Wigram and C. W. Arnold, Bros. Hervey Grand Secretary, S. Rawson P. District G.M. of China, Rev. A. B. Frazer, Bros. Boord M.P. G.D., A. J. Filer P.G.S.B., Cottebruno, James Mason, James Glaisher, J. A. Rucker P.G.D., Thomas Cubitt P.G.P., Joseph Wright, E. P. Albert, S. G. Foxall, Raynham Stewart, J. M. Case G.D., &c. The dais was quite full.

After Grand Lodge had been formally opened, Grand Secretary, by direction of the Earl of Carnarvon, read the following report of the special committee:—"The committee have carefully considered the matters submitted to them, and beg to report as follows:—1st. That the sum of £4,000 be voted for the Royal National Life-boat Institution, for the purpose of founding two life-boat stations in perpetuity, and in such localities on the English coast as the sub-committee hereinafter mentioned shall decide; 2nd. That a sub-committee, consisting of the Right Worshipful Pro Grand Master, the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, and the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon, be appointed to wait on the Secretary of the Royal National Life-boat Institution, with full powers to arrange all matters as to locality, details, &c; 3rd. That a memorial tablet be erected in Grand Lodge in commemoration of the event."

The Earl of Carnarvon rose, amidst loud cheers, to propose, "That this report be now received, and that the scheme which it proposes be recommended for adoption to the next Quarterly Communication. In doing so he said that his general duty in that chair and his desire was to act simply as a speaker, to offer no personal opinion, and not to influence in any degree the resolutions which might be arrived at. His general duty, to which he desired to confine himself, was to regulate the proceedings, and to see that they were conducted with that propriety and dignity which befitted this great meeting of Freemasons of England. But on that evening there were exceptional circumstances, and he passed beyond all that limit and took upon himself, as chairman of the special committee, to make a special and exceptional recommendation to Grand Lodge. Under those circumstances he asked the brethren to give him that cordial support which he had invariably met with at their hands. The committee, of which he was the chairman, met, and he wished, in the first instance, to do that committee the simple justice of saying that no inquiries could have been fuller, no discussions could have been more exhaustive, no attention could have been more patient than that which the committee gave to the question before them. They were a committee which represented very fully the opinions of the Craft. Each separate opinion that could find favour with the Craft, either in its general body or in its individual section, were fully brought forward and discussed, and he had now, as the chairman of the committee, to present the brethren with their resolutions, which embodied in fact the report which had been read by the Grand Secretary. The cause of their attendance in Grand Lodge that night was due solely and entirely to himself. He felt—and felt strongly—that in a matter of this sort and of this importance, where such an unusual course was proposed, it was due to the Craft that every conceivable opportunity for discussion should be afforded, and the fullest publicity granted, that no one should have a right hereafter to say that a course had been adopted without the full knowledge and sanction of the Craft, as represented in Grand Lodge. This was his excuse for putting the brethren to the trouble of coming to an especial meeting of Grand Lodge. He hoped that the resolution which he proposed would meet with no opposition. He did not ask this for himself, though he was entitled to look for the brethren's support; but he asked it in consideration of the importance of this question, and above all of the illustrious person in whose name and for whose sake he was now proposing it (hear, hear). It was not so long since his Royal Highness made that most remarkable progress through India that he need recall any of its special incidents to the brethren; it was doubtless fresh in their minds how his Royal Highness passed through the length and breadth of that wonderful—he might almost say fabulous—empire, which it was the boast and glory of the English Crown to hold as its own. They would remember how he passed from one native state to another; how the whole pageantry, so to speak, of Indian pomp, was unrolled before him; and how he, the first of English princes, became acquainted, as it were, both with the public and the private life of the great chiefs of that vast dependency (hear, hear.) It was not merely a matter of private interest and of legitimate curiosity; he fulfilled from his (Lord Carnarvon's) point of view a great public duty (hear); he learned a lesson that no books, no public offices, no documents could possibly have taught him; he saw the inner life of India; and he returned more fitted to advise and to govern than when he left these shores. He discharged a great public duty, and he discharged it well; and when he returned to this country he met with a welcome and a reception such as no Prince of Wales ever met with before. From one end of the country to the other there ran a thrill of congratulation that he had been preserved through all the difficulties and the perils of this long journey, and that he had been restored, as they truly hoped, for the good

and the welfare of the country. But if that was the welcome throughout the length and breadth of the land, nowhere was it more strongly felt, nowhere was it more heartily expressed, than it was among the Freemasons of England (hear, hear). Their object that night was to find some means by which they could, so far as they were concerned, erect a memorial of that successful progress of their illustrious Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; and at the same time record their thankfulness to the Great Architect of the Universe that it had pleased Him to preserve his Royal Highness through all those perils and difficulties, and restore him back to us in England. As far as finance was concerned there was no difficulty. Happily for Freemasons, unlike almost every other society, this difficulty did not exist. Their funded property afforded them the means of being just and even generous. Their annual surplus was not less than £3,000. The difficulty really was, according to an old French proverb, the embarrassment that proceeded from an excess of wealth. It was difficult to select the object to which their money should be appropriated. At former meetings of Grand Lodge there was some difference of opinion on the point. Many different schemes were proposed, all admirable in themselves. It had been proposed to devote a sum to the restoration and decoration of certain old churches that were more or less connected with Masonry. It was also proposed, at another time, to devote a certain portion to the foundation of scholarships. It was also proposed (and this had at one time found great favour with him) to appropriate it to the charities of Freemasonry (great cheering). He perfectly understood that cheer, and heartily sympathised with it. Had he seen his way to devote this money to the charities, he should have been the first to come forward and give his voice in favour of it. But it was not from want of consideration or predilection for that course that he had come to a different conclusion. If they adopted that course they must either create a new charity, give to one of the old charities exclusively, or divide among the three charities equally. He was opposed to the foundation of a new charity, and he thought the Grand Lodge would not be prepared to devote the money to one only of the existing charities. As to its being divided among the three charities, it appeared to him that it would then be a paltry sum. The charities were the great jewel in the Masonic crown, and if any money was wanted for them it could be got immediately by the voluntary subscriptions of the craft. In illustration of this he submitted to the brethren an experience of his own. He took the chair for the Boys' School the year before last, and over £13,000 was raised on that occasion. Did they mean to tell him, or any one else, that the Boys' School needed the paltry addition of £1,500? If the Boys' School needed funds they had nothing to do but to appeal to the Craft for what they wanted. Therefore he appealed to the brethren not to do the Masonic Institution the wrong and the injustice of applying this money to them; let them not stop the free flowing fountain of benevolence which was ever running in their behalf. The object of the present vote was to record a particular event in history in which the Grand Master of Freemasons played an important part. He thought the brethren had gone along with him so far. He would ask what were the objects to which they should look in this case? They were—Firstly, that any memorial they might create should be special and definite; secondly, that it should be lasting; thirdly, that it should be inseparably connected with some great case of charity; fourthly, that it should go beyond the bounds of the Craft, and embrace the whole nation; and, lastly, that it should be connected with something in which they knew the Grand Master took a lively interest. The present proposition satisfied all these conditions. This memorial would be lasting; it would not be only for a few years one that was to be the sport of the winds and waves, to be worn and torn, and to disappear in time; but it was to last in perpetuity, and to record, as long as the waters washed our shores, the intention and purpose of Grand Lodge. He had gone into the matter carefully, and he found that by arrangements with the Life-boat Institution they could, for £4,000, furnish two life-boats. The cost of one boat would be about £550; her transport to her place of destination, £150; a building for housing her from decay £350. Her maintenance would be £70 a year, which would require £2,000 at 3½ per cent.; but as the Life-boat Institution extended over a large area, they could afford to do it at a cheaper rate, and they would pledge themselves for £1,000 a year to maintain the life-boat. Therefore, £4,000 would be enough for the two. He thought this was a very satisfactory bargain. He was aware that in a matter of this sort one person would like one thing, and another person another; but he would put it to them that they should forego to a certain extent their own individual opinions. They were met together for a great purpose, and had no private or selfish interests or objects in view. He would exhort them to endeavour at once to act with unanimity. He thought that the foundation of two life-boats would satisfy all the conditions he had mentioned. It was special and definite, lasting and permanent, and unquestionably charitable. It was national as well as Masonic, and no one could doubt that the Prince of Wales took the liveliest interest in it, because on one occasion he had Presided at its Anniversary Festival. They would not go far astray in giving it for the endowment of two lifeboats. The gift would be made in the cause of Masonry. Masons were on board most ships, labouring in many a gale. Those who had heard the howling of the wind during this last week, those who had listened to the touching services in many of our churches,

“For those in peril on the sea,”

still more, those who, under such circumstances had had a father or mother, brother or sister, relation or friend, on board those ships, would feel that such a grant as he now asked the brethren to make did not really fall beyond the circle of Masonry. True it was that in a certain sense such a vote appealed, beyond Masonry, to the whole outward world, and he, for one, rejoiced when, once in a way, they could put forth a hand to the outer world, and show they were united to it by the common ties of humanity and sympathy—that they could give the lie to what had been so often urged against the Order, that it was a mere selfish body, actuated by selfish motives and

selfish feelings. He rejoiced to give a practical proof in refutation of such a vile calumny as that. Sometimes it was said that Masonry was a mere benefit society. Freemasons, who knew its principles better, and saw its workings more intimately, were aware that there was no truth whatever in such an assertion, and he ventured to think that they who that night recorded by their vote their assent to his proposal would do a great and signal service to English Freemasonry throughout the whole of the world. One word more. This proposal might be better, or it might be worse; he believed it to be good; he believed it to be one of the very few proposals which could be made that on the whole comprised all the conditions that he had mentioned, and which recommended it alike to Freemasons and to others for the objects it had in view. He ventured to put it to Grand Lodge that this vote should be absolutely unanimous. He trusted sincerely that there would be no one single voice raised in opposition to it. Under ordinary circumstances he courted criticism, he rejoiced in criticism, but he would ask them, that, having remitted this question to a Committee, that Committee having given the fairest, fullest, and most impartial consideration to it, the brethren who had appointed the Committee should forego, so far as they conscientiously could, their individual desires (which, he admitted, were perfectly legitimate in every one), and, if it was possible to do so, give the resolution a cordial and unanimous approval. He asked this, not for the sake of the Committee, not for the sake of the Chair from which he was addressing them, but specially for the sake of the particular object they had in view, and of the illustrious person their Grand Master, with whom that object was indissolubly connected, and for whose sake he would not have, if it were possible, the slightest difference of opinion on the subject (loud applause).

Lord Leigh seconded the motion. He regretted very much the absence of the Deputy Grand Master, who was to have seconded the resolution. He was pleased, however, himself to have the honour of doing so, but his task was an easy one, as the noble Earl had fully, ably and feelingly gone into the whole subject. He must, however, be permitted, on his own part, and on behalf of the Province over which he had the honour of presiding, for six and twenty years, to express the great pleasure it had given him to hear read the resolution which had emanated from the Committee. He agreed with all the remarks of Lord Carnarvon when he said he rejoiced to think that they stepped beyond Masonry with the proposed memorial. He agreed with the noble Earl that it was an unusual subject, and that they ought to show the great world outside Masonry that they were capable of stepping outside their circle, and associating others than their own body with them. The three great Masonic Charities were nobly supported, and if they wanted more support they could not require that paltry £3,000 or £4,000 which was represented by this vote. Lord Carnarvon had said that there were many Masons on board different ships; he, Lord Leigh, might go beyond that, and say that there were tens of thousands of their brethren on the broad seas who might require their assistance; on this ground, therefore, he appealed to his brethren to carry the resolution. He could not conceive a more English mode of assisting charity than for such a great maritime nation to assist their brethren on the seas. He might add for himself, and also for his Province, which numbered a very large body of Freemasons, that they all most cordially agreed with the proposition which had been made. (Applause.)

Bro. W. R. Marsh, amidst loud and continued expressions of dissent, addressed Grand Lodge in opposition to the vote, and submitted an amendment, to the following effect: That £1,500 be applied to endow the Freemasons' Life Boat already stationed at North Berwick. That £1,000 be given each to the Girl's School and Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and £2,500 to found a Scholarship for the Boys' School, this amendment Bro. J. Baxter Langley seconded, upon which Bro. E. J. McIntyre explained that an amendment could not be received, whereon Bro. Marsh moved that the report be referred back to the Committee. However, Bro. J. Baxter Langley and Bro. Marsh subsequently withdrew their amendment, and the resolution was put to Grand Lodge and carried unanimously, amidst hearty cheering.

The Earl of Carnarvon complimented Bro. Marsh and Dr. Baxter Langley on their good feeling, which, he said, all the brethren appreciated; and he requested Grand Secretary to make a formal note that the resolution had been accepted unanimously.

We learn from the *Masonic Journal* of Greensboro', N.C., that the Grand Lodge of North Carolina held its ninetieth Session at the Hall in the City of Raleigh, on Tuesday the 7th ultimo and three following days. The Grand Master, Bro. Geo. W. Blount, presided, and was supported by his Grand Wardens and other Officers, there being present about two hundred representatives of the Lodges under this jurisdiction. On the second day, the Grand Officers were elected for the ensuing year, namely, Bro. H. H. Munson, Grand Master, and Bros. R. M. Hardec, and J. C. L. Gudger, Grand Senior and Junior Wardens respectively, while Bros. W. E. Anderson and D. W. Bain were re-elected, the former Grand Treasurer, and the latter Grand Secretary. The various Committees having delivered their several reports, and Grand Lodge having accepted them, in some cases with, in other cases without amendment, and having promulgated certain resolutions thereon, the installation of the Grand Officers was held on the evening of the third day. On the last day, further business was transacted, and the Lodge was then closed in ample form and amidst the greatest harmony.

PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE.

CONSECRATION OF STARKIE LODGE, No. 1634.

ON Wednesday, 27th ult., the anniversary of the festival of St. John, a new Lodge was consecrated and constituted at the Railway Hotel, Ramsbottom. Hitherto there had been no Masonic Lodge in Ramsbottom, and brethren resident there had to travel a number of miles, either to Bury on the one hand, or Haslingden on the other, in order to participate in the proceedings incident to the mystic Craft. Wednesday's ceremony was numerously attended, and passed off with great eclat. About ninety of the brethren were present from different parts of the province of East Lancashire, including the following Provincial Grand Officers:—Colonel Le Gendre, N. Starkie R.W. Provincial Grand Master, William Harrison S.G.W., of Samlesbury Hall, near Preston, Thomas Charlton G. Registrar, Manchester, John Tannah G. Secretary, Bolton, W. O. Walker S.G.D., Bury, John Pilling G. Superintendent of Works, Bacup, C. M. Jones G. Director of Ceremonies, Rochdale, J. H. Sillitoe assistant ditto, Manchester, James Mills G.S.B., Heywood, Thomas Hargreaves G. Organist, Haslingden, Westray Benn assistant G. Pursuivant, Bacup, Rawdon Ashworth P.G.S., Joseph Handley P.P.G. Treasurer, Bury, Henry Maiden P.P.G.S.B., Bury.

The proceedings commenced about half-past two o'clock in the afternoon. Bro. S. Porritt P.M. opened a Craft Lodge to the third degree, after which the R.W. Prov. Grand Master and his officers were admitted in procession, and Bro. Le Gendre Starkie having taken his seat in the W.M.'s chair the ceremony commenced, and was performed in a most impressive manner. Bros. A. Wroe, S. Bailey, J. Simpson and Kershaw, of Bury, sang the anthems and musical responses most effectively, Bro. J. R. Fletcher, of Bury, officiating as accompanist. The petition and warrant of the new Lodge—which bears the name "Starkie," No. 1634—having been read, and the petitioning brethren having signified their approval of the officers named in the warrant.

The Prov. Grand Master delivered a short oration on the nature and design of Freemasonry. In the course of his remarks he said he hoped that the brethren composing this new Lodge would maintain the dignity and unity which were so essential in Masonry, and which would not only be a credit to themselves, but would show to the outer world that there was something more than mere banquets. Far be it from him to say they should not have their banquets and convivial meetings. He did not see, in their own precepts nor yet in any system of morality, why men should not meet together to enjoy themselves; but when they had certain rules laid down, as they had in Freemasonry, that those enjoyments should be fraternal and rational, a Mason who outstepped them and transgressed his obligations was much more culpable than the man who had never been taught them or had the principle brought before him. He wished them to be very careful, concerning character and antecedents, as to who they elected into this Lodge, so that no trouble need be experienced by having among them persons who joined Masonry for ultimate ends of their own, and not for the good of society. The Christmas of 1876 had brought to them the nativity of their Lodge, and he hoped it would be a Christmas hereafter which to the poor might be a benefit, to the oppressed a solace, and to the well-doing a source of brotherly association whereby they might receive benefit.

The remaining portion of the ceremony was then proceeded with, and the consecration being completed, the Prov. Grand Master vacated the chair in favour of the installing master, Bro. W. O. Walker, who installed Bro. Henry Heys as the W.M. of the Lodge, following which Bro. Jos. Handley invested the W.M.'s officers, viz., Bros. Thomas Peak S.W., Samuel Porritt J.W., George J. Cottrill S.D., Samuel Wilson J.D., Samuel Horrocks I.G., Lawrence Stead Ch., John Spencer D. of C., George Thorpe Treasurer, Hazell Imeson Secretary, Henry Leo Sladin Organist, Abel Booth T., John Schofield and Thomas Smith Stewards.

This being completed, the Prov. Grand Master returned his hearty thanks to the Provincial Grand Officers for the assistance they had given him, and especially acknowledged his obligation to Bros. W. O. Walker and Jos. Handley for the admirable manner in which they had performed the installation and investiture respectively. They were not, he was happy to say, under the necessity of procuring extraneous aid from other provinces. It was an honour and credit to the province to have brethren who could perform the ceremony as it had been performed that day, and it was no small gratification to him to know that he had officers under him who were capable of doing their duty, and ever willing to do it, in a manner that could not be beaten by the officers in any other province.

The Prov. Grand Master and his officers then retired, and the W.M. closed the Lodge in due form, announcing that the regular meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of every month. It may be stated that the Lodge furniture, &c., of an unusually rich and costly description, and excited much admiration on the part of the visitors.

The brethren subsequently adjourned to St. Paul's school-room, which had been appropriately adorned, with a variety of festoons, mottoes, &c., and where a most substantial banquet was served, to a company of 93, by Bro. John Roston, of Bolton. The chair was occupied by Bro. Heys, who was supported by the Prov. Grand Master and his officers. In the course of the evening a number of choice songs, duets, and glees were given by the vocalists already named as sustaining the musical part of the consecration ceremony; a song of Bro. J. R. Fletcher's, sung by Bro. Wroe—"Here's to his health"—being enthusiastically encored.

The W.M. proposed in succession "The Queen," "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W. Grand Master," "H.R.H. the Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal family," "The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, M.W. Pro Grand Master, the Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, and the Grand Officers past and present," and "Colonel Le Gendre N. Starkie, R.W. Prov.

Grand Master. In giving the latter toast he referred in terms of high praise to the good qualities of Bro. Starkie, and said that they must all feel that the Lodge No. 1,634 had not been misnamed in being styled after him. (Cheers.)

The Prov. Grand Master, on rising to respond, met with a perfect ovation. After some preliminary observations, he said Masonry was a system which, if properly and duly studied, would elevate a man in his social position—would elevate his thoughts and inspire him with ideas whereby he could not only ameliorate himself, but also be of great advantage to his brother citizens. Freemasonry was open to the world—to all who believe in Him who is the Great Architect of the Universe. An atheist or deist could not conscientiously enter within the precincts of their Order, but a man was allowed that grand liberty of conscience whereby he could make himself known to be a good citizen, a moral man—and there was no morality without a certain amount of religious feeling—and an obedient citizen to the civil law. Everything noble, generous, and sublime that a man could wish constituted the elements of the great cardinal virtues, the basis and bulwarks of their Order—Faith, Hope and Charity. Would anyone tell him that in this large province of East Lancashire over which he ruled—with its muster roll of 3,880 to 4,000 brethren—Freemasonry had not done good? As this was the christening day of one of the junior members of his provincial family of 84, he thought it would not be inopportune if he gave them a few statistics relative to their numerical position. There were 41 Provincial Grand Lodges in England and Wales, and 37 District Grand Lodges in the colonies and foreign parts, giving a total of 78 under the Grand Lodge of England. There were on the register of the Grand Lodge of England 1,648 Lodges, dividing which by the 78 Provincial or District Grand Lodges they had an average of 21 Lodges to each province or district. How did they stand in the province of East Lancashire? Why they had 84 Lodges, or nearly one-twentieth of the whole of the Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England. Taking Lancashire as a whole—84 in the East, and 74 in the West province, or a total of 158 Lodges—they had nearly one-tenth of the whole of the Lodges on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England. He did not think the accusation had ever been made of Lancashire people that they were wanting either in enterprise or acumen; they did not take things up with a futile notion. It was with great pride when he came through those valleys to see how his friends had made fortunes for themselves by their industry and enterprise and knowledge of commerce; and when he found those men likewise great advocates of Freemasonry, it was still more gratifying to him that he held the high and honourable position which he had among them, because they must have taken up Masonry in a very earnest and proper sense, or he should not have found their Lodges so strong and flourishing. This portion of Christmastide had been one of the happiest days he ever spent in his life, and he thought that if Dickens, the great master of Christmas literature, had been a Freemason and could have been with them that day, and have described the proceedings of that day, it would have formed a chapter that would have been eagerly perused by the Masons of Lancashire, and never have been forgotten. It was likewise the Festival of St. John, and he had never spent a happier St. John's Festival than this one. He congratulated Bro. Heys upon being the first Master of this new Lodge, and he must also congratulate them upon the Lodge furniture. He was a sort of provincial octogenarian, and he trusted that his family of 84 Lodges might thrive apace, and that his rule over them might be long. He trusted they might steer clear of all shoals, and that they would keep their charities well supplied with funds, remembering that charity should begin at home. Let not the outer world have to accuse them of indifference or neglect in respect to poor and distressed Masons or their children. They had to be judged by the world, and the world judged very fairly by men's actions. Let them show an example to others, proving by their actions that they wished to enhance the value of morality, pay respect to religion, obey the civil law, and, whatever their political or religious opinions, prove themselves loyal and true to those who were above them; so that as they passed away they might be remembered as men who worked for the good of their country, their neighbours, and the Almighty. (Cheers.)

Bro. Peak proposed the health of "George Mellor, Esq., W. Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and the Prov. Grand Officers, present and past," and Bro. Harrison responded. Bro. Hargreaves proposed "The new Lodge," and Bro. L. Stead responded. The Prov. G.M. gave the next toast, "The newly-installed Master," and expressed much pleasure at the selection which had been made; to which the W.M. responded in appropriate terms. "The Officers of the Lodge" was proposed by Bro. George O'Neil P.M. 191 Bury, and responded to by Bro. Peak; "Masonic Charities," proposed by Bro. Heywood, of Clayton-le-Moors, and responded to by Bro. Spencer; "The Visiting Brethren," proposed by Bro. Porritt, and responded to by Bro. Smothurst; and the Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a close.

Renew your subscription promptly.

We must row with the oars we have, and, as we cannot order the wind, we are obliged to sail with the wind that God gives.

Nobility of birth is like a cipher; it has no power in itself, like wealth or talent, but it tells with all the power of a cipher when added to either of the other two.

Freemasonry has its history—a history full of generous and noble deeds, well worthy to be preserved and cherished through ages to come. She has survived the vicissitudes, the wars and revolutions of nearly thirty centuries; has witnessed the rise and growth of all the civilised nations on the face of the globe.

Death comes equally to us all, and makes us all equal when it comes. The ashes of an oak in a chimney are no evidence of how high or how large it was; it tells me not what flocks it sheltered when it stood, nor what men it hurt when it fell. The dust of a great person's grave is speechless too; it says nothing—it distinguishes nothing.—*Masonic Advocate*.

NEW ZEALAND.

FILES of New Zealand papers to hand this week contain some items of interest to the Craft. The *Thames Advertiser* of the 17th November gives a report, extending over five columns, of the opening of a new Lodge under the English Constitution, at the Thames Goldfields, of which we give a condensed account:—

On the 16th November, the Corinthian Lodge was consecrated at the Thames. The ceremony was largely attended, not only by the Thames Masons, but by Masons from other parts of the province. The Corinthian Lodge is the first under the English Constitution started at the Thames, and the first in the North Island province since the appointment of Bro. Sir Donald McLean as P.G.M. under this Constitution. It was intended that the P.G.M. himself should have inaugurated the Lodge and installed its W.M., but Sir Donald McLean, finding himself unable to attend, appointed Bro. M. S. Leers, P.M. of the Prince of Wales Lodge, E.C., Auckland, acting D.P.G.M. for the occasion. The Prov. G.M. could not have made a better selection, Bro. Leers being an enthusiastic Mason, very popular amongst the brethren and thoroughly well up in Masonic usages. He was accompanied from Auckland (a distance of 40 miles) by Bro. T. Jenkins P.M. and Prov. G.D.C. Berks and Bucks, Bros. Reece P.M. Ara Lodge I.C., Dyson P.M. Ara Lodge I.C., G. S. Graham P.M., Gossett, Prince of Wales Lodge E.C., W. R. Robinson P.M. Ara I.C., Prince of Wales E.C., Dr. Dawson, Prince of Wales Lodge, Rev. C. M. Nelson, Prince of Wales Lodge. Visitors from Mackaytown and the Ohinemuri district also attended, and amongst these were Bros. A. J. Allom, D. H. Bayldon, J. Hayman, Ara Lodge, and W. Climo, Lodge of Light I.C. Bro. Keddel P.M. from Coromandel was also present. In fact, the interest shown by the brethren under all three Constitutions was most gratifying. The Sir Walter Scott Lodge S.C. and the Lodge of Light I.C. having assembled at the Masonic Hall, a Provincial Grand Lodge was opened by the Dep. Prov. Grand Master, who read his warrant, under the hand of the Prov. G. Master, empowering him to officiate on the occasion. The following brethren were appointed to act as Prov. Grand Officers *pro tem*: Bros. G. S. Graham Prov. S.G.W., W. R. Robinson Prov. I.G.W., C. M. Nelson Prov. G. Chaplain, W. Davies Prov. S.G.D., J. Reece Prov. J.G.D., Jenkins Prov. Director of Ceremonies, A. Brodie Prov. Grand Pursuivant. The Prov. G. Lodge having been duly saluted by the brethren present, the ceremony of Consecration of the new Lodge began, and the choir sang an anthem, Bro. Bell presiding at the harmonium. The Prov. G. Chaplain read the first seven verses of the 95th Psalm, and pronounced an invocation to the Great Architect of the Universe to bless the object of the present assembly. The Grand Officers and Past Masters then marched round the hall (the choir in the meantime singing the usual music), and poured out the customary oblations of corn, wine, and oil, and the Chaplain having invoked the Divine blessing on the officers and members of the new Lodge, and on the brethren scattered throughout the world, and the usual responses and honours being given, the Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies, proclaimed the Corinthian Lodge, duly constituted according to ancient usage. The Prov. Grand Chaplain then read a selection from the 8th chapter of the First Book of Kings; after which the Rev. James Hill delivered an oration. Bro. E. T. Wildman, the W.M. designate, was then duly installed into the chair of K.S., the acting Deputy Prov. G.M. acting as installing Master, and he afterwards appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. L. Ehrenfried S.W., H. Goldsmith J.W., the Rev. V. Lush Chaplain, F. R. G. Woodward Secretary, J. Osborn Treasurer, T. Bell Organist, G. Best S.D., D. Boone J.D., Hopkins I.G., O. Garrett Tyler. The brethren afterwards marched in procession to the Anglican Church of St. George, where the order for evening prayer was conducted, and the Prov. Grand Chaplain preached from Hebrews viii. 1, "Let brotherly love continue." A Grand banquet wound up the day's proceedings, this was held in the Academy of Music, where the usual loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts were duly given and honoured, and where the brethren spent a most pleasant evening, every satisfaction being expressed at the very able manner in which Bro. M. S. Leers had discharged the onerous duties of his office. The gallery of the banquet room was occupied by a number of the fair sex, invited by the brethren, who appeared much interested in the proceedings.

"From all parts of the Waikato," says the *Waikato Times*, "there was a large muster of the brethren of the mystic tie assembled at Hamilton East, on the 9th November, to lay the foundation-stone of a Masonic Hall for Waikato. At the conclusion of the ceremony the brethren sat down to a sumptuous dinner, after which the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and responded to."

SCOTLAND.

FESTIVAL OF ST. JOHN'S DAY.

ST. JOHN'S DAY is kept by most of the Scotch Lodges as a high festival. They generally speak of "St. John's Masonry," when their English brethren would describe it as Craft Masonry. From the numerous reports that have reached us we select brief notices of some of the more important meetings. In Glasgow perhaps the most influential was that of

St. John's Lodge, No. 3 bis.—The meeting was held in the Lodge's own hall, under the presidency of the retiring Master, Bro. D. M. Nelson, who said he considered it a higher honour to have been Master of this, the oldest Lodge which had preserved its ancient records, than even that of holding the position of G.S.D., to which

he had been recently elected by the suffrages of the brethren in the West of Scotland.

Commercial Lodge, 360, under the presidency of Bro. J. Munro R.W.M., J. M. Oliver D.M., and other officers, also held a highly successful meeting, as did **St. Mungo, No. 27**, and **St. Vincent, No. 553**. Space forbids our noticing other of the Glasgow Lodges.

Auchterarder.—Bro. B. Malcolm was installed as R.W.M. and A. G. Reid as Secretary, after which a torchlight procession was formed through the "Lang Toun," and although the deep snow somewhat impeded the march of the brethren, yet it added to the effect of the torches.

Beith, No. 157.—After electing and installing Bro. William Gray as R.W.M. for the ensuing year, the members dined together at the Town Hall.

Creif.—Captain Moray, of Blair Drummond, was installed as R.W.M., the brethren afterwards holding high festival.

Dundee, with its seven Lodges, showed its appreciation of the day, by four of them supping at their respective Halls.

Grangemouth, No. 391.—Elected and installed Bros. Selkirk and Watts as R.W.M. and Secretary, and concluded their proceedings with a supper.

Hamilton and Hawick both had suppers, with P.G. Officers present.

Millport, though only an island, was as demonstrative as the main land. The R.W.M. elect, Bro. Wishart, was unable to be present, having met with an accident of a serious nature during a recent storm, but his place was ably supplied by the Rev. H. H. Richmond D.M., who has recently been appointed as Chaplain to the "P.G.L. of Argyll and the Isles."

Rothsay St. John's, No. 292.—At the adjacent island of Bute, the members, under the presidency of Bro. A. Duncan, to the number of about fifty, supped together at Bro. Keeble's, the Victoria Hotel. Both Lodge and Chapter in Rothsay are in a flourishing position.

Stirling No. 30.—Installed Bros. R. Brown and Hawkhire as R.W.M. and Sec., and then dined together in the Corn Exchange. Amongst the Visitors was the Provost of the borough and the Provincial Grand Master, General Sir James E. Alexander, of Westerton. No. 76 also celebrated the day by supping together at their own hall.

Thornhill No. 252.—Held its election during the day, and installed Bro. J. Sutton as Master. In the evening they had a supper, when the Master dwelt on the fact that they had a benefit society in connection with the Lodge, which had a reserve fund of upwards of £100, recommending other Lodges to follow their prudent example. The Blair Dalry Lodge, No. 290, the Melrose St. John, and several other Scottish Lodges, have also benefit societies in connection with them, the officers being elected by the Lodges, and the membership confined to the brethren of the Lodge. Some think this but a sorry kind of substitution for the English style of the Lodge of Benevolence, and the Institution so ably conducted by Bro. Terry, though most Lodges have a private benevolent fund as well, which grant relief in small sums to worthy brethren.

Thistle and Rose Lodge, No. 73, Glasgow.—Held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., when the new R.W.M. opened it, with Bros. G. M. Donald I.P.M., A. McLeod S.W., John Kay as J.W., in place of his brother William, R. M. Richard Secretary, J. S. Ampleford Treasurer, and the rest of the Officers were in their places. Bros. James Crossley and Duncan McIntyre were raised to the 3rd degree by Bro. G. W. Wheeler, after which the brethren celebrated the new year by an hour's harmony.

St. Mungo Encampment K.T.—Held an emergency meeting on the 3rd inst., at 3 p.m. Sir Knight W. F. Shaw M.E.C. presiding, there were present Sir Knight T. Clavahan P.E.C., J. O. Park D.C., G. W. Wheeler Prelate, J. Ferguson T., J. Tweed S.C., McClanachie J.C., D. Baker 1st A. de C., H. J. Shields 33° P.E.C., Munnobtain Commander, J. Kay, J. B. Hardie, Reddie Carrie, and also, as visitors, Sir Knights D. Russel and D. Ramsey.

LODGE "CANONGATE AND LEITH, L. & C." No. 5.

ODE FOR ST. JOHN'S NIGHT, 27th DECEMBER 1876.

Tune—"Lead kindly Light."—Hymns Ancient and Modern.

HAIL! holy Light, with five mysterious rays,
Nor fierce nor wan;
Monarchs have fed and prophets watched thy blaze
In ages gone:
Hail! holy Light, thou star of brotherhood,
O! bless us still, and guide us to the Good.
Hail! Master* bright, twice raised to yonder throne
The Light shines on,
Thou soul of truth, that Love declares His own
When time is gone,
All joy be thine; oh! reign supremely blest,
Till angel signs shall ope the Lodge of rest.
Hail! Wardens true, and all the mystic tie
Hlas bound in one;
Behold the glorious Light that streams on high,
Each faithful son:

In compass and on square to order stand,
Till Death shall knock by the Supreme's command.

PETER GARDNER, *Poet Laureate*.

* Bro. J. Laurie, Grand Secretary of Scotland.

THE DRAMA.

The Pantomimes—Drury Lane—The Adelphi—The Surrey—The Aquarium—National Standard—The Princess's—The Strand—The Gaiety—Opera Comique—The Royalty.

RESUMING our notes on the various Christmas productions, DRURY LANE, of course, commands our first attention. The subject of the pantomime this year—which, again, is from the pen of our perennial friend, Mr. E. L. Blanchard, is the well-known story of the *Forty Thieves*. Every one is familiar with this story, and Morgiana, Ali Baba, and Cassim are amongst one's earliest acquaintances. It is needless, moreover, to assure our readers that the tale does not suffer in the telling; for there is not a man living, if we except, perhaps, Mr. J. R. Planché, who can render an Eastern legend or fairy tale like Mr. Blanchard. The piece is full of fun and vivacity, from the first rising of the curtain to the final transformation scene. Amongst the exponents of the story the Vokes family occupy their usual foremost position. Mr. Frederick Vokes figures as Ali Baba, Miss Victoria as Morgiana, Miss Jessie as the Captain of the Thieves, and Mr. Fawdon Vokes as Hassarac. The company has been further reinforced this year by a most marvellous donkey, which certainly ought not to pass unnoticed. The animal wags his ear and winks his eye in a most knowing fashion, and his tail is a perfect cyclo-pædia of expression. Altogether the pantomime at Old Drury must be pronounced a most decided success.

At the ADELPHI, Mr. Chatterton presents a decided novelty. While the successful drama of *The Shaughraun* follows its course uninterrupted at night, a morning pantomime is provided for the juveniles. Unlike other pantomimes, however, it is played entirely by children. The piece is based on the story of *Goody Two Shoes*, and clever children from all parts of the country have been engaged to sustain the leading rôles. The idea is a good one, and the programme will probably be largely patronised during the holiday season.

Despite his recent financial embarrassments, Mr. William Holland, "the people's caterer," is once more to the fore at the SURREY. The pantomime, *Jack and Jill*, or, *Harlequin Sing a Song of Sixpence*, the *Demon Blackbird*, and the *Good Fairies of the Gold and Silver Ferns*, is the production of Mr. Frank W. Green. It is an amusing piece, with an abundance of the popular melodies of the day interspersed, and it is mounted with great splendour. Mr. Holland may be congratulated on his success.

The AQUARIUM pantomime is entitled *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, a title that somewhat unfairly hides the fund of humour and comicality which the piece contains. The scenic effects are very fine, and the acting leaves nothing to be desired. A little army of children, clad in mail, and armed with lances, and the various other accompaniments of a mamaline Tournament form perhaps the most striking feature in the performance. But where all is good, it is difficult to award the palm of merit.

The NATIONAL STANDARD pantomime is based on the same story as that of Drury Lane, and in magnificence of scenery and splendour of appointments the one theatre may be considered not altogether an unfair rival of the other. Here the part of *Ali Baba* is sustained by Mr. Cyrus Bell, whilst Miss Rose Bell, late of the Alhambra, appears to great effect in the character of the Captain of the Forty. Miss Frederica Taylor, in the part of Hafiz (son of Ali Baba), Mr. Orkins in that of Cassim Baba, and other established favourites make a cast of even excellence throughout.

FREEMASONRY AT BEVERLEY.

From the Hull and Lincolnshire Times.

THE installation of Bro. George Ford as Worshipful Master of the Constitutional Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons took place on Thursday evening, at the Assembly Rooms, Norwood, Beverley. There was a moderate attendance of the brethren, at seven o'clock, including several Provincial and past officers, together with some Visitors from the Humber Lodge No. 57 Hull, the York Lodge No. 236 York, the Alexandra Lodge No. 1511 Hornsea, &c. The chair was taken by the retiring W.M. Bro. Tom Turner, who opened the Lodge in due form, and afterwards performed the solemn rite of installation in accordance with the ancient formularies of the Craft. The newly-installed Worshipful Master then invested his officers for the ensuing year as follows:—Bros. Tom Turner I.P.M., Henry Grover S.W., T. C. Heselton J.W., W. E. Dixon P.M. Sec., J. F. Wynn P.M. Orator, J. Ford S.D., Findlater J.D., J. B. Naylor D. of C., Eli Bryan I.G., Thomas Marshall P.M., M. Wray Steward, Steele Caterer, and Waudby Tyler. The usual charges having been delivered, and other business transacted, the Treasurer's report was read, from which it was shown that there remained a balance of over £46 in favour of the Lodge. At the conclusion of the interesting proceedings, the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Burrell, of the White Horse Hotel, where there was a goodly muster, under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. George Ford. The W.M., in suitable language, expressed his thanks to Bro. Turner for the kind manner in which he had performed the ceremony of installation, and hoped that the I.P.M. and other officers would support him, as he felt convinced they would do, during his year of office. Bro. A. Shepherd P.M. P.P.G.S.D. moved that the very valuable services rendered to the Lodge during the past year by Bro. Tom Turner be recorded on the minutes. Although he had removed from Beverley, yet he had at some inconvenience attended meetings regularly, and had by his experienced aid rendered great service to the Lodge. (Applause). Bro. R. Norfolk P.M., seconded the motion, which was carried amidst great applause. The Immediate Past Master, in acknowledging the compliment paid to him, assured the

brethren of the pleasure it had afforded him to render any little service he could to the brethren, and he hoped the time would not soon come when his interest in the Lodge should be diminished. (Applause). It had been a source of unfeigned pleasure to him to install his old friend, Bro. Ford, to whom he wished a happy and successful year of office. He was supported in the chair by Bros. S. T. Camidge P.M. P.P.G.O., W. D. Keyworth P.M. P.P.G. Superintendent of Works, Tom Turner I.P.M., W. E. Dixon P.M. P.P.G.S.D., R. Norfolk P.M., T. Marshall P.M., J. F. Wynn P.M., &c. The vice-chair being ably filled by Bro. A. Shepherd P.M. P.P.G.S.D. At the conclusion of a very sumptuous repast, the customary Loyal and Craft toasts were given from the chair and most enthusiastically received.

Bro. R. Norfolk P.M. then gave the health of the Immediate Past Master, Bro. Tom Turner. (Applause). They must all acknowledge the valuable aid they had always received at Bro. Turner's hands, and the efforts he had put forth for the furtherance of Masonry generally. His heart was thoroughly in the cause, and his whole actions testified that he wished to see it progress. Bro. Turner had risen rapidly through the various grades to the highest position in the Lodge, and this was due to the very high esteem in which he was held among the brethren. (Applause.) He trusted their excellent I.P.M. might long be spared to maintain his connection with the Old "Constitutional" Lodge, and that his zeal in the furtherance of the interests of the Craft would be as marked as it had been in the past. (Applause.)

Bro. Tom Turner I.P.M., in responding, thanked the officers and brethren sincerely for the support they had accorded to him during his year of office. He must say he felt some regret that he had not discharged his duties to his own satisfaction, for living out of the town it was not always possible for him to remain during the whole time their meetings lasted. That absence, however, he was glad to say, would be only temporary, when he hoped to be able to meet them more regularly. (Applause.) He should be happy to assist the new Master in every possible way; and he trusted the brethren would rally round him in such a manner as would render his year of office a happy and successful one. (Applause.) Bro. Ford had been the Treasurer of the Lodge for many years, and had managed their funds in the most satisfactory way. They were now entrusting him with higher duties, and he had every confidence their new Master would acquit himself with satisfaction to all who took an interest in the Lodge. (Applause.)

Bro. Geo. Ford W.M., who was received with prolonged applause, thanked the brethren for the cordiality with which he had been received, and assured them he should endeavour to discharge the duties of the exalted office to which they had elected him to the best of his ability. (Applause.)

Bro. J. F. Wynn P.M., in proposing the Health of the Visiting Brethren, spoke of the value of an interchange of thought and action between members of the various Lodges. Nothing more tendered to promote the grand principles that the Craft inculcated, than these reciprocal visits, not only because the brethren became better acquainted with each other, but also because they afforded an opportunity of observing the manner in which the ceremonies were conducted in various Lodges (hear, hear). By this means they caught the spirit which pervaded all the Masonic symbols, and he felt certain if they studied the principles of Masonry, as depicted on those emblems—he might say the ethics of Masonry—it would elevate them in the standard of human excellence, and raise Masonry into that estimation which it so justly merited. It was well known that Masonry was not only the most ancient, but also the most honourable institution that ever existed, inasmuch as it inculcated the highest principles of piety and virtue, amongst all its genuine purposes (applause). He hoped they would strive to rise in intellectual knowledge, in accordance with the principles which Masonry taught them, if so, it would not only make them better members of society, but would tend to influence their homes, and make home what it ought to be, the scene of mutual happiness and love. That influence, like the circle in the water, would extend, not only to the benefit of this Lodge, but of all other Lodges, and through them to the whole human family. (Applause.)

The toast, having been received with the utmost cordiality, was acknowledged in suitable terms by Bro. Camidge, P.M., P.P.G.O., on behalf of the York Lodge, by Bro. W. D. Keyworth, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. Works for the Humber Lodge, and by Bro. H. J. Amphlett for the Alexandra Lodge, Hornsea.

Several other toasts followed, and the proceedings—which were of a very harmonious and interesting description—were enlivened by some excellent songs, &c.

MISTAKES IN FEEDING FOWLS.—We need not stop to prove that as an egg contains animal food in its most concentrated natural form—a fact well known to all physicians—its regular production must demand a regular and sufficient supply of food adapted to produce it. There is an amazing difference between the appetites of hens which are not laying and those which are, or are about to commence. Hence the starving system of feeding poultry can never afford any return; and fowls which are only allowed to eat "what they pick up," will, in England at least, rarely produce anything worth speaking of. In America and the colonies, where grain is little thought of, and abounds to some extent all over the farm, or in the English stack-yard at harvest seasons, it may be different; but, as a rule, chance feeding will always result in very chance receipts, added to which birds thus left to forage for themselves will in many cases lay away, where their eggs can never be found. But in general the mistake is the other way; and with respect to adult fowls we have not the slightest hesitation in saying that at least three-fourths of all kept by the middle classes, excepting those of experienced "fanciers," have far too much to eat. Farmers' fowls get far too little; other people's mostly the reverse. They get fat; and a fat hen is never a good layer, while a pampered male bird is lazy, if not altogether useless for purposes of breeding.—From "The Illustrated Book of Poultry."

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References to the leading banking and commercial firms in London and the Provinces, and to numerous brethren whose sons are now, or have been, educated at the College. Prospectus forwarded on application to the Principal.

The duties of the next Term will commence on Monday, 22nd January.

LONDON MASONIC CLUB,

101 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.

ON and after the 1st February 1877, an Entrance Fee of 5 guineas will be imposed on New Members, the Annual Subscription remaining as heretofore, 5 guineas Town Members, 3 guineas Country Members.

Lodges requiring accommodation should make immediate application to the Secretary.

For all particulars and forms of application, apply to the Secretary, at the Offices,

37 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, E.C.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS,

St. John's Hill, Battersea Rise, S.W.

OFFICE: 5 Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C.

PATRONS:

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., &c., M.W.G.M., President.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

A QUARTERLY General Court of the Governors and Subscribers of this Institution will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, London, on Saturday, the 13th day of January 1877, at Twelve o'clock precisely, on the general business of the Institution, to place candidates on the list for election in April next, and to declare the number of girls then to be elected.

Also to consider the following notice of motion:—

By Colonel Creaton, J.P., Vice-Patron and Trustee:

"That the sum of £500 additional be granted to complete the amount required, agreeably to tender for the New Laundry."

R. WENTWORTH LITTLE,

P.P.S.G.W., and P.G. Sec. Midx., Secretary.

The Eighty-Ninth Anniversary Festival will take place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on 9th May 1877, on which occasion the Right Hon. the Lord Suffield, K.C.B., R.W. Provincial Grand Master for Norfolk, will preside.

Names of Stewards will be thankfully received by the Secretary, and as the School is now being enlarged to accommodate 60 additional girls, the Craft are earnestly urged to support this Institution.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

FOR

AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF FREEMASONS.

THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL OF THIS INSTITUTION will take place on Monday, the 12th February 1877, at Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, London, upon which occasion

H.R.H. Prince Leopold, K.G., &c., &c.

R.W. Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire,

has graciously signified his intention of presiding.

Brethren desirous of accepting the office of Steward upon this auspicious occasion will greatly oblige by forwarding their names, as soon as convenient, to the Secretary, who will gladly give every information required.

JAMES TERRY, Prov. G.D.C. Herts,
Secretary.

* H.R.H. Prince Leopold has been pleased to alter the day of the Festival from Wednesday the 14th February (being Ash Wednesday) to Monday the 12th.

4 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

EASTERN STAR LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Members of this Lodge of Instruction will be held at the Royal Hotel, Burdett Road, Mile End Road, on the evening of Monday, 15th January 1877, at 7.30 precisely.

OBJECT: "TO DETERMINE UPON THE FUTURE OF THE LODGE."

THOS. J. BARNES, Treasurer.

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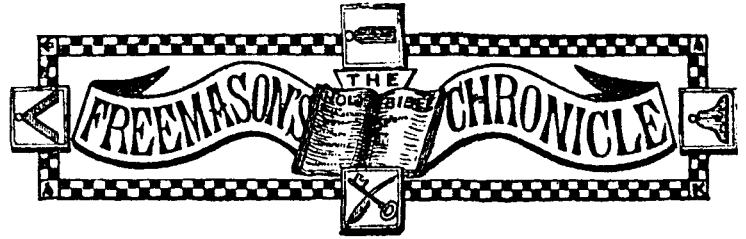
The Volume contains the following:—

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|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. OUR LITERARY BROTHER. | 17. THE CHRISTIAN MINISTER. |
| 2. A DISTINGUISHED MASON. | 18. THE MYSTIC. |
| 3. THE MAN OF ENERGY. | 19. A MODEL MASON. |
| 4. FATHER TIME. | 20. A CHIP FROM JOPPA. |
| 5. A CORNER STONE. | 21. A PILLAR OF MASONRY. |
| 6. THE CRAFTSMAN. | 22. BAYARD. |
| 7. THE GOWNSMAN. | 23. A RIGHT HAND MAN. |
| 8. AN EASTERN STAR. | 24. OUR CITIZEN BROTHER. |
| 9. THE KNIGHT ERRANT. | 25. AN ABLE PRECEPTOR. |
| 10. THE OCTOGENARIAN. | 26. AN ANCIENT BRITON. |
| 11. A ZEALOUS OFFICER. | 27. THE ARTIST. |
| 12. THE SOLDIER. | 28. THE FATHER OF THE LODGE. |
| 13. FROM UNDER THE CROWN. | 29. A SHINING LIGHT. |
| 14. OUR HERCULES. | 30. AN ART STUDENT. |
| 15. A MERCHANT PRINCE. | 31. THE MARINER. |
| 16. THE CHURCHMAN. | 32. A SOLDIER OF FORTUNE. |

33. "OLD LOG."

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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THE event of the week is, undoubtedly, the solemn proclamation of Her Majesty, at Delhi and the chief cities in our Indian Empire, Empress of India. Delhi, it will be remembered, was the capital of the old Mogul Empire, of which most of the other princes of India were vassals, and from which we first obtained permission to erect factories for the purpose of trade, in the early part of the 17th century. It was, therefore, the fitting place for the most important of the ceremonials to take place, namely, that in which the Viceroy himself took a leading part. The event passed off most auspiciously. There was a grand gathering from all parts, of the principal vassals of India. The diplomatic and consular bodies were strongly represented. The splendid display made by the chiefs was in keeping with the occasion, and there was a fine body of troops, numbering some 15,000 men, of all arms of the service, present as an illustration of our Imperial Power. The Viceroy played his part vice-regally, and the usual salutes announced the event to the population of the Imperial city of the old Moguls. A new Order of Knighthood has been instituted in commemoration of the event, while numerous appointments and promotions in connection with the Order of the Star in India have further signalled it. We note, for the benefit of those who have objected to the assumption by her Majesty of the Imperial title, on the ground that the more ancient and honourable title of Queen would be lost sight of, that the National Anthem of "God save the Queen" was played, at the fitting moment, by the military bands. So long as our National Anthem is what it is, there need not, we imagine, be any fear of the Queenly title yielding precedence to the Imperial. The same formal proclamation of her Majesty's assumption of her Indian title was made simultaneously in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and other cities.

Wednesday was an important day in the history of our Craft. A special meeting of Grand Lodge was convened on that day, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Special Committee appointed to consider the fittest means of commemorating the Grand Master's visit to India. A full report of the proceedings will be found in another part of our columns, and also our remarks on the nature of the proposition, so that no further comment here is necessary.

The almost daily record of storms and inundations is very terrible to read. There has been nothing of what is known as genial Christmas weather, but a warm spring temperature and a succession of tremendous gales and storms of rain almost unprecedented, even in our fickle climate. Hardly, indeed, has any part of the country escaped without sustaining damage more or less considerable. Turn we in which direction we may, we hear of rivers rising and flooding the country for miles and miles on either side of the banks. The towns along our southern coast have suffered severely. The pier at Eastbourne has been washed away, and the officials had a narrow escape of being washed away with it. Seaford, a few miles from Newhaven, has been inundated. The piers at Brighton and Hastings experienced some rude shocks, and indeed all the favourite sea-side resorts of our London population have latterly had a hard time of it. In Scotland, the storm has been terrific. In the valley of the Thames, the country for miles around is under water, and so, too, has it been the case in the valleys in the Midlands and to the West and East of England. In London the Thames rose, in the early part of this week, and caused immense loss of property in the low lying districts, especially along the southern shore. But, fortunately, the inhabitants had received warning of the threatened rise of the river, and had made preparations accordingly. At sea, ships have been driven out of their course, and many have perished. There has, too, been serious loss of life as well as of property. In fine, we have latterly had a continuance of

stormy weather such as few people remember to have visited us for many a long year.

From the annual report, just issued by the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, it appears that during the 52 weeks of the year 1876 the births registered in London numbered 127,015, and the deaths 77,411, the difference being 49,604, which represents, of course, the year's growth of population. This means an increase of over half a-million for the decennial period which elapses between one census and another. The birth-rate was equivalent to 36.5 per 1,000 as against 35.7 for the preceding year, while the death-rate was slightly increased, being 22.2 per 1,000 as against 21.5 for 1875. The more fatal diseases appear to have been small-pox, which shows an increase of 660 over last year; measles, which has caused 314 more deaths, and diarrhoea 320. On the other hand, scarlet fever has declined by 1,354 fatal cases, other fevers by 108, diphtheria by 187, and whooping-cough by 493. The number of marriages in the year was 33,248, of which 6,500 were celebrated in the March quarter, 8,689 in the June quarter, 8,883 in the September quarter, and 9,176 in the December quarter. Of the persons married 4,612 were widowers and 3,309 widows. While as to age 1,531 men and 5,532 women were under the age of 21.

One of those fine-spirited men of energy to whom this country is so largely indebted for its commercial success, died on Friday last, at the age of seventy-three. Sir Titus Salt, Bart., was the son of a woolstapler near Bradford, and was born in September 1803. He devoted himself in early life to the manufacture of stuffs, but his success in life is in the main attributable to his being the discoverer for practical purposes of the wool or hair of the alpaca. In 1836 he showed some cloth manufactured from this to a Liverpool broker. In 1848 he was elected mayor of Bradford. In 1851, his works at Saltaire for the manufacture of the new material were commenced, and in 1853, on the anniversary of his fiftieth birthday, they were opened for business purposes. In 1859, he entered Parliament, as one of the members for Bradford, but resigned in 1861. He was a magistrate for this town, and also on the commission of the peace for the West Riding of Yorkshire, while he was also a deputy lieutenant for the latter. In 1857 he filled the office of President of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, and in 1869 had the honour of a baronetcy conferred upon him. His works at Saltaire furnished employment to a large number of persons, there having been, according to the last census, 820 houses occupied by 4,389 persons. In 1863 he erected baths and washhouses for his people, besides schoolrooms and a congregational church, the latter at a cost, with the site, of £10,000. In 1871 he gave a beautiful park of fourteen acres in extent for the use of the public; and, besides these acts of beneficence we have mentioned, distinguished himself by innumerable acts of charity towards the inhabitants of his neighbourhood, and especially towards his workpeople. Indeed, his contributions to charities and public donations during the last quarter of a century, are said to have amounted to some hundred thousand pounds. Be this as it may, he was a very worthy man, and deserved his success.

The year opened more auspiciously as regards the prospects of peace, now, however, the political horizon is again clouded and the outcome of the conference presents, at present, a very gloomy aspect. It is said that Turkey declines to yield on those points submitted for her acceptance which affect her Sovereign independence. In some quarters, indeed, it is rumoured that she has declined even to entertain the various propositions that have been presented by the Ministers of the Great Powers. If this be the case, the future would indeed be a sad one, for Russia, in the general opinion, has gone too far to recede from the advanced position she took up on the 1st November last. However, the armistice as between the late contending powers has been prolonged for a further period of two months, and the Russian army in Bessarabia is said to be quite unfit to take the field. It is rumoured also that Russian enthusiasm for the Slavonic cause has calmed down greatly since the return home of the officers and soldiers engaged in the recent Servian campaigns. If this be the case, and Turkey shows herself not too unyielding, there is hope after all that the peace of Europe may not again be disturbed. That the present time, however, is a critical one may be gathered from the fall in stocks which has occurred on most of the European Exchanges. One thing is certain amid all these painful uncertainties, and that is, that the conduct of our special ambassador the

Marquis of Salisbury is both firm and conciliatory, as befits that of a great civilized power like ours. Whatever may betide us we shall have great reason to be proud of his conduct throughout these difficult negotiations. He has upheld the dignity of the British Crown in the most trying circumstances. It is not England that will lose in public estimation by her conduct throughout this critical negotiation.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

THE first meeting of the Board of Stewards was held on Monday, the 4th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street. Bro. Jas. Terry announced that H.R.H. Prince Leopold would take the chair on the 12th February (the 14th being Ash Wednesday). Bro. J. March Case G.J.D. was elected to the chair, Bro. S. Tomkins G. Treasurer was appointed Treasurer, Bro. Jas. Terry Secretary to the Board. He announced that up to the present time there were 221 stewards. Bro. Dawkins, manager of the Tavern, produced his bill of fare, which was accepted, and the price of the tickets fixed at 21s, ladies' tickets 10s 6d each, and that the sum of 30 guineas be disbursed. Bros. Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G.C., S. Rosenthal, C. J. Levitt, and H. M. Levy, were appointed a Musical Committee. After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting was adjourned to the 29th January at 4 o'clock. Among those present were Bros. G. Ward Verry, W. Hall, S. Rosenthal, G. Lambert, Faulkner, W. Baldwin, Rev. J. R. Simpson, H. Massey, Foxall, H. M. Levy, Levitt, Turner, Ferguson, Rowley, &c.

LIFEBOAT SERVICES IN 1876.

THE Lifeboats of the National Lifeboat Institution during the storms of the year which has just closed rendered goodly service in saving life from shipwreck on various parts of the coasts of the United Kingdom. 498 lives were rescued by the Society's Lifeboats during the year, in addition to 18 vessels saved from destruction. In the same period the Lifeboat Institution granted rewards for saving 85 lives by fishing and other boats, making a total of 583 lives saved last year, mainly through its instrumentality. It should be also stated that the launches of the Lifeboats, unattended with positive results, have, as in previous years, been during the year very frequent. But on such occasions there is no time for hesitation, and the Lifeboat proceeds out at once to offer help, which, as it often happens, the vessel in distress may not, from various subsequent causes, ultimately need. Altogether, since its formation the Society has contributed to the saving of 24,372 shipwrecked persons, for which services it has granted 968 Gold and Silver Medals, besides pecuniary rewards to the amount of £50,020. The character of these noble Lifeboat services has varied much, some having been performed during the darkness of the night, others in the daytime; but nearly all have been rendered during stormy weather, which would have prevented any ordinary open boat from accomplishing the rescue. Again, it is most gratifying and encouraging to know that, notwithstanding the peril and exposure incurred by the gallant crews last year, only one life was lost from the 256 Lifeboats of the Society, although about 12,000 men were out in them on all occasions during the twelve months. We feel assured that an Institution so truly national and benevolent in its character will maintain its firm hold on British sympathy and support; and that while it continues to pursue its course of usefulness with unabated vigour, the support and appreciation of the public will be proportionately liberal. We will only add that contributions in aid of the great and important work of the National Lifeboat Institution are received by all the Bankers throughout the United Kingdom, and by the Secretary at the Institution, 14 John Street, Adelphi, London.

A meeting of this institution was held on Thursday at John-street, Adelphi, Mr. Thomas Chapman in the chair. The meeting expressed great gratification at the fact that, at a special meeting of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons, it was recommended that two life-boat stations should be provided and endowed by the Freemasons of England, at an expense of £1,000, in thankfulness for the safe return from India of the Grand Master, the Prince of Wales. The thanks of the institution, inscribed on vellum, were voted to the Rev. Henry R. Wilson, curate of Drumberg, for going out in the Ballywalter life-boat, during a very strong gale from the south-east, and in a heavy sea, on the 15th ult., when she was the means of saving the crew of five men from the brigantine Jenny Lind, of Whitehaven, stranded on the rocks off Ballywalter. The sum of £12 19s 6d was also granted to pay the expenses of that lifeboat service. Other rewards, amounting to upwards of £400, were also granted to the crews of various lifeboats of the institution for gallant services during the late severe and long-continued storms. Payments to the amount of £3,700 were ordered to be made on the 256 life-boat establishments of the society.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Safety Amidst Danger.—Surrounded on all sides by the cause of diseases (especially if the old proverb hold, "As the day lengthens, the cold strengthens"), man must keep up constant watch if he would retain or recover his health. These purifying Pills present the most certain and effectual means of removing all noxious matters from the blood, at the same time that they regulate any disordered action which their presence has induced, and particularly preserve against congestion, irritation, and inflammation of the throat and its lining membrane extending through the lungs. The harmless and strengthening balsams of which Holloway's Pills are composed, render them peculiarly well adapted for the young and delicate, who can with impunity only bear tender treatment.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

SATURDAY, 6th JANUARY.

General Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
 198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
 1572—Carnarvon, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
 1622—Rose, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell.
 Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.
 1458—Truth, Private Rooms, Conservative Club, Newton Heath, Manchester.

MONDAY, 8th JANUARY.

45—Strong Man, Old Jerusalem, St. John's-sq., Clerkenwell, at 8. (Instruction.)
 174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
 104—St. John's, Ashton House, Greek-street, Stockport.
 119—Sun, Square and Compasses, Freemasons' Hall, Collogo-st., Whitehaven.
 411—Commercial, Flying Horse Hotel, Nottingham.
 589—Druids' Love and Liberality, Masonic Hall, Redruth.
 650—Star in the East, Pier Hotel, Harwich.
 665—Montague, Royal Lion, Lyme Regis.
 893—Meridian, National School Room, Millbrook, Cornwall.
 1021—Hartington, Masonic Hall, Custom House Buildings, Hindport-road, Barrow-in-Furness.
 1069—United Brothers, Castle Hotel, Southsea.
 1253—Travellers, Queen's Hotel, Manchester.
 1398—Baldwin, The Castle, Dalton-in-Furness.
 1611—Eboracum, Micklegate, York.

TUESDAY, 9th JANUARY.

46—Old Union, Westminster Palace Hotel, Westminster.
 55—Constitutional, Wheatsheaf, Hand-court, W.C., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
 65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
 108—Percy, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, E.C.
 860—Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
 1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Hotel, High-st., Wapping, at 8. (Instruction.)
 1472—Henley, Railway Tavern, Stratford New Town, at 8. (Instruction.)
 1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
 1604—Wanderers, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 R.A.—Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, at 6.30.
 93—Social, Freemasons' Hall, Norwich.
 181—United Chatham Lodge of Benevolence, Assembly Rooms, Old Brompton, Kent.
 272—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Main Ridge, Boston.
 284—Shakespeare, Masonic Room, High-street, Warwick.
 626—Lansdowne of Unity, Town Hall, Chippenham.
 892—Royal Edward, Royal Oak, Leominster.
 903—Gosport, India Arms Hotel, High-street, Gosport.
 1250—Gilbert Greenhall, Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street, Warrington.
 1465—Ockenden, Talbot Hotel, Cuckfield, Sussex.
 1593—Royal Naval College, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.

WEDNESDAY, 10th JANUARY.

Committee, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
 9—Albion, Regent Masonic Hall, Air-street, Regent-street, W.
 15—Kent, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.
 87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth.
 147—Justice, White Swan, High-street, Deptford.
 193—Confidence, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, at 7.0. (Instruction.)
 862—Whittington, Black Bull, Holborn, at 8. (Instruction.)
 1185—Lewis, King's Arms Hotel, Wood Green, at 7. (Instruction.)
 1196—Urban, The Three Bucks, Gresham-street, at 6.30. (Instruction.)
 1298—Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
 1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
 R. A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
 R. A. 1365—Clapton, White Hart Tavern, Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
 199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover. (Instruction.)
 204—Calceonian, Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester.
 225—St. Luke, Coach and Horses Hotel, Ipswich.
 606—Benevolence, Private Room, Prince Town, Dartmoor, Devon.
 851—Worthing of Friendship, Steyne Hotel, Worthing.
 972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury.
 1101—Grey Friars, Masonic Hall, Reading.
 1209—Lewises, Royal Hotel, Ramsgate.
 1248—Denison, Grand Hotel, Scarborough.
 1342—Walker, Stack Hotel, Walker-on-Tyne.
 1434—Nottinghamshire, George Hotel, Nottingham.
 1520—Earl Shrewsbury, Public Rooms, Cannock, Staffs.
 1632—Llanidloes, Trewythen Hotel, Llanidloes, North Wales.

THURSDAY, 11th JANUARY.

3—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-st., Fitzroy-sq., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
 15—Kent, Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
 27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
 206—Friendship, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, E.C.
 263—Bank of England, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
 435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
 534—Polish National, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 860—Dalhousie, Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
 1321—Emblematic, Tulse-hill Hotel, Tulse-hill.
 1426—The Great City, 111 Cheapside, E.C., at 6.30. (Instruction.)
 1489—Marquess of Ripon, Albion, Albion-road, Dalston, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
 1612—West Middlesex, Railway Hotel, Ealing, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
 35—Medina, 85 High-street, Cowes.
 97—Palatine, Masonic Hall, Toward-road, Sunderland.
 112—St. George, Masonic Hall, Fore-street Hill, Exeter.
 216—Harmonic, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.
 333—Royal Preston, Castle Hotel, Preston.
 339—Unanimity, Crown Hotel, Penrith, Cumberland.
 469—Hundred of Elloe, Masonic Rooms, London-road, Spalding.
 477—Mersey, 55 Argyle-street, Birkenhead.
 546—Etruscan, Masonic Hall, Caroline-street, Longton, Stafford.
 732—Royal Brunswick, Royal Pavilion, Brighton.
 739—Temperance, Masonic Room, New-street, Birmingham.
 915—Abbey, Abbey Council Chamber, Abingdon, Berks.
 1035—Prince of Wales, Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool.
 1055—Derby, Knowsley's Hotel, Cheetham, Lancashire.
 1098—St. George's, Private Room, Temperance Hall, Tredegar, Mon.
 1141—Milton, Commercial Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne.
 1204—Royd's, Imperial Hotel, Malvern, Worcestershire.
 1416—Falcon, Masonic Hall, Castle Yard, Thirsk.
 1429—Albert Edward Prince of Wales, Masonic Hall, Newport, Monmouthshire.
 1457—Bagshaw, Bald Faced Stag, Buckhurst-hill.

FRIDAY, 12th JANUARY.

766—William Preston, Feathers, Upper George-st., Edgware-rd. (Instruction.)
 933—Doric, Earl Grey Tavern, Mile End-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
 1227—Upton, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, E.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
 1269—Hervey, Punch's Tavern, 99 Fleet-street, E.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
 1278—Burdett Courts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
 1365—Clapton, White Hart, Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
 36—Glamorgan, Freemasons' Hall, Arcade, St. Mary-street, Cardiff.
 697—United, George Hotel, Colchester.
 1087—Beauldesert, Assembly Rooms, Corn Exchange, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
 1289—Rock, Bedford House, Bedford Road, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.
 1336—United Military, Masonic Hall, Plumstead.

SATURDAY, 13th JANUARY.

Quarterly General Court, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
 198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
 1323—Granite, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1426—The Great City, City Terminus Hotel, E.C.
 1391—Commercial, Freemasons' Hall, Leicester.
 1556—Addiscombe, Alma Tavern, Addiscombe.
 Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

MONDAY.

296—Royal Brunswick, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
 1221—Defence, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds.
 R. A. 151—Unanimity, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.
 R. A. 302—Charity, New Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford.
 R. A. 306—Alfred, Masonic Hall, Kelsall-street, Leeds.
 R. A. 495—Wakefield, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.

TUESDAY.

495—Wakefield, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.
 603—Zetland, Royal Hotel, Oleckheaton.
 1522—Olicana, Crescent Hotel, Ilkley.
 1545—Baildon, Masonic Room, Northgate, Baildon.
 R. A. 265—Judea, Masonic Club, Hanover-street, Keighley.
 R. A. 289—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds.

WEDNESDAY.

1018—Shakespeare, Freemason's Hall, Salem-street, Bradford.
 R. A. 259—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike.

THURSDAY.

139—Britannia, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
 R. A. 275—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, South-parade, Huddersfield.
 R. A. 1214—Scarborough, Wilton Arms Hotel, Batley.

FRIDAY.

453—Aire and Calder, Private Rooms, Ouse-street, Goole.
 1001—Harrogate and Claro, Masonic Rooms, Parliament-street, Harrogate.
 K. T. Hope, Freemasons' Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, Huddersfield.

SATURDAY.

R. A. 308—Affability, Station House Hotel, Bottoms, Eastwood.

Lodge La Tolerance, No. 538.—The installation meeting was held on Thursday, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Bros. C. F. Burmeister W.M., H. Wood S.W., Walters J. W., J. Kench P.M. Treasurer and Acting Secretary, and Past Masters Bros. Lindus, Wilson and Sly. The Lodge was opened and the minutes confirmed. The W.M. raised Bro. Frank. Bro. H. Wood S.W. and W.M. elect was then presented to the Lodge, and a Board of Installed Masters was opened. Bro. H. Wood was duly installed by Bro. J. Kench P.M., in a manner that reflected great credit. The brethren having saluted the W.M., he invested his officers, C. F. Burmeister I.P.M., Walters S.W., Quitman J.W., Kench P.M. Treas., Child Secretary, T. Cooper S.D., Marshall J.D., Williams I.G., Dudgeon D.C., Humphreys W.S., Swares Steward. The W.M., in a very genial manner, addressed appropriate remarks to each brother on his investiture. Bro. Seymour Smith presided at the harmonium. The W.M. said he had great pleasure to inform the brethren that, by the unanimous votes of the brethren, they had decided to present Bro. Burmeister with a Past Master's Jewel. He had discharged his duties ably. Bro. Burmeister, in feeling and appropriate remarks, returned thanks for the valuable gift. The Secretary stated that Bro. Humphreys had presented the Lodge with an elegant album, where he hoped the portraits of the members would be placed. The W.M. also presented the Lodge with two Deacon's wands. Votes of thanks were unanimously accorded to the brethren. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to an excellent dinner and dessert, provided by Bro. Dawkins. Grace having been said by the Rev. P. M. Holden, the W. M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. Bro. Burmeister I.P.M., said the Gavel had been placed in his hand for a pleasurable duty, that was to propose the toast of Bro. Moore, the W.M. He hoped he would be spared for many years to be among them; he was one whom they all respected, and who he was sure would carry out every detail to their satisfaction. (Cheers.) The W.M. responded to the toast. It was his pleasure to do all he could to give satisfaction to the Lodge; he, however, had to follow a good predecessor. He gave a poetical idea of the good fellowship that sprang from Masonry; he might claim many brethren amongst those who he saw surrounding him. The next toast was that of the "Visitors." The distinguished brethren present they were all pleased to see. Bros. Rev. P. M. Holden, Swallow, Harrison, and H. M. Levy responded, and each one paid a compliment to the working of the I.P.M., the Installing Master, Bro. Kench, and the hospitality of the Lodge. The W.M. in eulogistic terms spoke of the excellent qualifications of the I.P.M. Bro. Burmeister, who they were all proud of. He had discharged each duty required of him, and he hoped that every brother would drink the toast with the enthusiasm it merited. Bro. Burmeister said he was one of the oldest members of the Lodge. He felt it an honour to be among them as a Past Master, and he hoped to be with them for many years, to look after the interests of the Lodge. The W.M. was pleased to see among them five Past Masters. All knew their value, and the manner every one had discharged his duty in the chair. He hoped they would give them a hearty fire. The toast was responded to by Bros. Wilson, Sly, Kench, and Lindus. The W.M. next gave "The Officers." All were qualified to fill any office required of them; while they had such brethren he was sure the Lodge would flourish. This toast having been responded to, the Tyler's was given. Bros. Seymour, Smith, Mutton, Crump, Simmonds, and Davis contributed to the harmony. The Rev. P. M. Holden gave a recitation. The visitors were—Bros. Gumerall 1228, Rev. P. M. Holden W.M. City of Westminster, T. Fox P.M. 19, C. J. W. Davis W.M. 382, Maybrick 1491, W. J. Crump 58, H. M. Levy P.M. 188, B. Swallow P.M. 1653, J. Denton P.M. 837, P.P.G.D.C. West Yorkshire, S. Cooper 1017, S. Smith 742, Mutton 1228, S. Harrison, Stanhope Lodge.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Egyptian Lodge of Instruction, No. 27.—Met on 4th January at Bro. Maidwell's, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street. Present—Bros. Powell W.M., Hill S.W., Biddle J.W., Hollands S.D., Hewlett J.D., Levy I.G. Past Masters Bros. Davis, Webb Preceptor. Visitors—Bros. Hogarth and Horsley. The Lodge was opened. The ceremony of initiation was ably rehearsed by Bro. Powell, Bro. Davis P.M. candidate. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th sections of the Lecture were worked by Bro. Hewlett, assisted by Bros. Webb and the brethren. A vote of thanks was recorded to Bro. Powell for the able manner he worked the ceremony for the first time in this Lodge. Bro. Hill was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Nothing further offering, the Lodge was closed.

Prosperity Lodge of Instruction, No. 65.—Held at Bro. Maidwell's, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, on 2nd Jan. Present—Bros. Hill W.M., Bedell S.W., Ellis J.W., Maidwell S.D., Sayer I.G., Symonds, Baxter, Daniel, Hollands, Davey P.M., Richards, Marks, Dart, Hewlett. After Lodge had been opened, and the minutes confirmed, the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Hewlett candidate. Bro. Dart answered the questions leading to the second degree, and was entrusted. The Lodge resumed to the second degree, and Bro. Dart was passed. The Lodge resumed to the first degree, and the first and second sections of the Lecture were worked by Bro. Ellis, assisted by the brethren. Bros. Symonds, Hewlett and Dart were elected members. On the ensuing Tuesday arrangements will be made for the annual banquet.

St. John's Lodge, No. 70.—The annual meeting of this Lodge was held at the Masonic Temple, Plymouth, on the day of St. John the Evangelist. The minutes having been confirmed, two gentlemen were ballotted for, and, having been duly elected, they were initiated. This ceremony was performed by the W.M., Bro. Thomas. The next business was the installation, which was also conducted by the retiring W.M., Bro. H. W. Thomas, who very ably installed his successor, Bro. Richard Pengelly S.W. He had the able assistance of the W. Bros. J. J. Avery, Gover, Westcott, V. Bird, and a large Board of Installed Masters. The officers appointed for the ensuing year were:—Bros. H. W. Thomas I.P.M., J. Arnold S.W., Samuel Roach J.W., L. D. Westcott P.P.G.S. Works, Treas., J. B. Gover P.P.G.A.D.C. Sec., J. Lean S.D., J. Willcocks J.D., C. Stribling P.G.S. D.C., E. Tout A.D.C., H. Arnold Org., W. Odam I.G., J. Fox S.S., H. Richardson J.S., T. Smith Tyler. The usual business consequent at the yearly meeting having been transacted, the brethren adjourned to the Globe Hotel, where the banquet was held, which, as on former occasions, was all that could be desired. The W. Master proposed The Queen, the Patron of the Order, which was received with the usual enthusiasm. W. Bro. Stribling, in proposing the health of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the M.W. Grand Master, alluded to the eminent services rendered to the Order by its illustrious head; our Grand Master always efficiently performs his duty, and had been ably assisted by the Grand Officers. W. Bro. J. B. Gover proposed the toast of the R.W. P.G. Master, the Rev. Bro. Huyshe the R.W., Bro. L. P. Metham D.G.M., and the Officers past and present of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Devon. He said that the name of Bro. Huyshe was always identical with pure Freemasonry. As a landowner and landlord, he was universally respected; as a magistrate, his decisions had never been questioned, because he always tempered justice with mercy; as a clergyman, he was the venerated adviser and helper of his parishioners, in fact, no one of them ever wanted either the necessities or comforts of life, because Bro. Huyshe, or his amiable wife (who was a Mason in heart and practice), always cared for every poor and needy person in their district; as a Freemason, the Prov. Grand Master was respected throughout the length and breadth of England; his experience of more than half-a-century, his munificent donations and subscriptions to every charity, whether inside or outside of the Order, and the high and exalted positions he had filled in every degree, had caused him to be regarded as 'one of the pillars of the Order, whilst in his own Province of Devon, over which he had ruled for a quarter of a century, he was universally beloved. Bro. Metham was also known far and wide for his practical Masonry. The Female Orphan Asylum at Stoke would be a lasting monument to him; it would remain, when marble memorials have crumbled into dust, a lasting tribute to his indomitable energy and perseverance. As the second ruler in the province, he was always accessible, always ready to give advice and assistance to his brethren, however humble, and he had done very much to raise the tone of Freemasonry in Devon. The P.G. officers, past and present, were the right men in the right place. The Masons of Devon need never be ashamed of their officers. The Rev. W. Whitley returned thanks for the Past Grand officers. He endorsed all that had been said by the proposer. As to the practical Masonry of the P.G. Master and the D.P.G. Master, their names were household words, and their example, if followed by all the brethren, would cause Freemasonry to assume a higher position than even the exalted one which it at present held. W. Bro. Curtis P.G.S.W., in returning thanks for the P. Grand officers, said it occurred to him that Bro. Gover had remarked, some years ago, that the Grand officers were always the best Masons, and accepting that as a truism, he had much pleasure in occupying the proud position of Senior Grand Warden. His name had been mentioned on many occasions as a beggar, he was proud of the name; he had begged before for other Charities. He was begging now for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows; and having carried up a large amount for that Institution, he hoped at no very distant period, to ask the cordial co-operation of the brethren to a new Charity, to be introduced by the R.W. Bro. Metham, and to be called "The Huyshe Educational Fund," its object being to

clothe and educate the sons and daughters of deceased or indigent Freemasons. W. Bro. Westcott proposed the R.W. Bro. the Earl Mount Edgcumbe P.G.M., the R.W. Bro. Sir F. M. Williams D.P.G.M., and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Cornwall. He alluded to the rapid progress of the Order under the genial sway of the present rulers; the courtesy and urbanity of manner of the P.G. Master was widely known and appreciated, and the cordial manner in which he had acted with Devon, on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Plymouth, had cemented the two provinces. He also bore willing testimony to the eminent services rendered to the Craft by the W. Bro. Hughan P.G.D. of England, who was an authority, not only in his own province, but throughout the world. He regretted that a previous engagement prevented the noble Earl Mount Edgcumbe, and indisposition prevented Bro. Hughan from being present. Bro. H. Clarke S.W. of Lodge 1071, Cornwall, returned thanks, reciprocating all kindly feelings. R.W. Bro. Moore (the Mayor of Plymouth) proposed the health of the W. Master, Bro. Pengelly. He said, his short experience in the Order had taught him that no one could be unanimously elected to the proud position of W.M. of such an influential and numerous Lodge as St. John's, unless he had proved himself to be worthy of the proud position which he held; from what he knew and what he had heard, he believed that Bro. Pengelly would preserve the prestige of his Lodge, and he sincerely wished him a very successful year of office. The W. Master, in a few well chosen words, returned thanks; He thoroughly appreciated the high honour of presiding over the senior Lodge of this portion of the province. He knew he could always rely on the assistance of the Past Masters, and he hoped his officers would be punctual in attendance, and perfect in their duties. Bro. J. J. Avery proposed the health of the I.P.M., Bro. Henry W. Thomas, who had well and efficiently performed his duties for the past year. Under his presidency, there had been nothing but peace and unanimity; there had been a large increase of members, a large increase of subscriptions to various charities, a marked improvement in working, and he handed to his successor the warrant pure and unsullied. The brethren of the Lodge, duly appreciating his services, had resolved to present him with a P.M.'s jewel. It was not a vote from Lodge funds, but a gift from the members individually, to mark their appreciation of the efficient services rendered by Bro. Thomas. During his Mastership the Lodge had been very happy and prosperous. He left the chair with the warmest wishes of the brethren for his continued health and prosperity, and all hoped that he might be long spared to continue his very valuable assistance to the Lodge. Bro. Thomas said he was taken by surprise, and could not find words to express his thankfulness to the brethren for their generous and thoughtful kindness. He should always set a high value on the jewel just presented, not on account of its intrinsic value, although that was considerable, but because of the true brotherly feeling manifested towards him by every member of the Lodge. He was very glad to think that faults of which he was conscious had been overlooked by the brethren, they had each and all done their utmost to make his year of office a pleasant and prosperous one, and they had succeeded. The amount of work done had been very large. Their donations to different charities bore favourable comparison with any other Lodge in the province, and their funds were in a flourishing condition. He left the chair with regret, because of its many happy associations, but he was proud to think that whilst there he had, however undeservedly, won their approbation, and he should ever remember with gratitude their many kindnesses. The W.M. proposed the healths of the Wardens. Bro. J. Arnold had been constant in attendance, and efficiently performed his duties. Bro. S. Roach was an old Mason, he was highly respected by his brethren, and he was sure he could rely upon the Wardens carrying out their duties to the satisfaction of the Lodge. Bro. J. Arnold thanked the Lodge for his position in it; he would endeavour faithfully to carry out the duties of his office. Bro. S. Roach said that from various causes he had been prevented from attending Lodge so often as he could have wished, but he fully intended being present on every possible occasion. He had a high respect for the Order. None could fail to be impressed with the loyalty and power for good which was contained in Freemasonry. Bro. Thomas proposed the healths of the Treasurer and Secretary. A Lodge owed a great deal to these officers; their work was arduous and continuous. Their Treasurer was always at his desk, ever ready to receive dues and fees, and equally ready to expend. He occupied a proud position in the Lodge, and deservedly so. The Secretary had for many years occupied his position, to the satisfaction of all. His Masonic experience was invaluable, his advice and assistance were always available, and he was sure that the Treasurer and Secretary had the respect and best wishes of the members. Bro. Westcott returned thanks to the brethren for their renewed confidence. His motives were to so manage the funds that there might always be an available balance, but when votes were made for any charity it had never been his custom to see which side the balance stood; he was only too happy to pay. He congratulated the Lodge on its present financial position. Bro. Gover said his position was no doubt highly honourable, but the Secretary was very generally the scapegoat for the sins of the Lodge, and it required some amiability of temper to bear the faults of others in addition to his own. He, however, always acted with the best possible intentions, and if in the execution of his duties he inadvertently offended any one, he assured them that it was not intended; that he aimed to please every member, and preserve intact the dignity and honour of his mother Lodge. The Worshipful Master proposed the Past Masters. Few Lodges were so favoured with large attendances of P.M.'s as Lodge 70. They could always be relied upon for advice and assistance, thus rendering the duties of the chair comparatively easy. W. Bro. Holmes could speak for all the others, they were always happy to be of assistance to the W.M., or to fill any vacant office, however humble. W. Bro. Andrews proposed the Assistant Officers, without their constant attendance, and knowledge of their duties, the work of the Lodge could not be carried on with effect; he thought it was the toast of the evening. W. Bro. C. Stribling P.M., &c., thought

the Assistant Officers would be equal to any occasion; the W.M. might rely upon them. W. Bro. Du Pré proposed the Visiting Brethren. He thought his was the toast of the evening. It had been his lot to travel over the world, and whether in India, America, or any part of Europe, he had always received a hearty welcome and invaluable advice. Lodge 70, like every other Lodge, was always delighted to have visitors, they could not come too often, or in too great numbers. He should ask the W.M.'s of Lodges 105 and 156, and W. Bro. Vincent Bird, the Treasurer of the Three Towns Casual Relief Fund to respond. W. Bro. Twose 105, and W. Bro. J. Y. Avery 156, reciprocated all the kind wishes of the proposer, and enforced the principle that it was the duty, as well as the pleasure of Masons to visit each other as often as practicable. W. Bro. V. Bird in the course of his remarks adverted to the Educational Scheme which had been previously spoken of by Bro. Curteis. Years ago he had advocated it; had recently endeavoured to initiate it; and was ready to support it in a practical way, and to the best of his ability. Bro. Gover said that, notwithstanding what had been uttered by previous speakers, they came now to the real toast of the evening, they could do without assistant officers, they might, however, hardly do without Masonry, but it was quite impossible to exist without the ladies. All true Masons were poets, all true poets were Masons, and from time immemorial had united to bear willing testimony to the influence of the better and fairer part of mankind. Truly they were "ministering angels." He could not understand how a bachelor could exist, but he knew all who were happily married sympathised with them in their unhappy condition. Bro. W. F. Moore, with much pleasure, returned thanks, although his idea was that it should have been the pleasant duty of a younger bachelor, still he would yield to none in his respect and admiration of the ladies, for whom he esteemed it an honour to respond. The Rev. W. Whitley proposed the last toast. Our Poor and Distressed Brethren. In Masonry the poor were never forgotten, the charity of the Order was universal, and he appealed to the brethren to keep up their high prestige, and to go on in a pure rivalry to do good to their fellow men. The enjoyment of the festivity was much enhanced by excellent songs from Bros. Thomas, J. J. Avery, J. Y. Avery, Mitchell, Goodchild, and others, who were accompanied by the Organist, Bro. H. Arnold. Bro. Twose gave some readings in his usual brilliant manner. The following brethren were present:—Bros. R. Pengelly W.M., H. W. Thomas I.P.M., W. F. Moore 156, Rev. W. Whitley S.W. 156 P.P.G.C., V. Bird P.M. 954 P.P.G.T., E. A. Davies P.M., P.P.G.S. Works, J. D. Westcott P.M. P.P.G.S. Works, J. B. Gover P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C., R. B. Twose P.M. and W.M. 105, J. J. Avery P.M. P.G. Treasurer, C. Stribling P.M. P.G.S., J. E. Curteis P.M. P.G.S.W., J. Du Pré P.M. P.P.G.D.C., H. F. Hearle P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C., F. P. Holmes P.M. P.P.G.S. Works, J. Hiffley P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C., W. Browning P.M. P.P.G.D.C., H. Hearle W.M. 1255, J. Watts P.M. P.P.G.S., W. K. Michell P.M. P.P.G.D.C., W. M. Andrews P.M., &c., J. H. Keats S.W. 1247, F. W. Westlake, M. Williams P.M. 105, G. Thorne, E. Lean, S. Roach, J. Arnold, H. Arnold, J. Richardson, Farthing, Mitchell, Fox, Williams, Tout, Holloway, Adams, Tarrant, Cooper, Boon, Popkiss, Griffin, Symons, H. Clarke 1071 S.W., Smith, Goodchild 1247, Lewis 1247, T. Cuming. Letters of regret of inability to be present from various causes, and conveying best wishes, were read from the R.W. Bros. L. P. Metham D.P.G.M. &c., Earl Mount Edgecumbe P.G.M. Cornwall, W. J. Hughan P.G.D. England P.P.G.S. Cornwall &c., Charles Godtschalk P.G.J.D. &c., R. R. Ellis P.M. 105, C. Mutton 1205 J.W. and others. The dinner was supplied in Bro. Watts' usual style, the viands being varied, ample in quantity, and excellent in quality; the wines all that could be wished, and the attendance unusually good—all things tending to mark the Festival of Lodge St. John for 1876 with a white stone.

Royley Lodge, No. 105.—This Lodge held its installation meeting on Monday, the 1st of January, at the Masonic Rooms, Athenæum, Lancaster. Present—Bros. Henry Longman W.M., Thomas Jack S.W., J. L. Bradshaw P.M. as J.W., J. Daniel Moore P.G.S.B. of England Secretary, W. J. Sey Prov. G.D. Treasurer, N. W. Helme S.D., J. J. Crookell as J.D., George Taylor I.G., Allanson and Beeley Tylers. Past Masters—Bros. Captain C. H. Garnett W.M. 1561, E. Simpson P.M. 281, R. Taylor W.M. 281, A. Sherriff, J. T. Jackson, G. H. Chippendale, W. C. Edmonds, E. G. Paley, J. Aldons. Visitors—J. Bottomley 139, R. Pandolfini 281, J. Roberts 662, &c. Business—Bro. Paley, a re-joining member, was elected. Bro. Dr. Moore then took the chair, and installed the W.M. elect, Bro. T. Jackson. The following were the officers appointed:—Bros. N. W. Helme S.W., A. Sherriff J.W., Sly Treasurer, Moore Secretary, G. Taylor S.D., J. T. Jackson J.D., W. C. Edmonds I.G., Aldons Organist, Allanson and Beeley Tylers. The I.O. gave appropriate addresses to each officer on his being invested, and afterwards gave charges to the W.M. and brethren. Charge to Wardens being given by Bro. Longman I.P.M.

Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement.—On Tuesday last, at the Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, the Chapter was opened by the following officers:—J. Constable M.E.Z., C. Nash, H. J. Clever J., Thos. W. White Scribe E., J. W. Berrie Scribe N., J. Boyd Treasurer, A. Barfield P.S. The ceremony of exaltation was completely rehearsed by the officers, Comp. Thos. Massa, Acting Candidate. The following Comps. were elected for the ensuing fortnight:—G. K. Lemaun Z., C. Nash H., J. W. Berrie J., A. Barfield S.N., J. Clever P.S. Companions J. Clever, A. Barfield, E. Letchworth, and W. Miller Goss were elected members. Besides those already enumerated, there were present E. H. Finney, W. H. Green, C. W. Noehmer, G. A. Smith.

Royal Gloucester Lodge, Southampton, No. 130.—On Wednesday, the 27th of December, Bro. Robert Sharpe, Past Prov. Grand Organist, was installed the Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The ceremony was performed by the Grand Secretary

for the province of Hants and the Isle of Wight, P.M. Le Feuvre, in the presence of a goodly number of brethren, twelve past masters forming the board of Installed Masters. At the conclusion of the ceremony, which was performed in a most impressive manner, and subsequently acknowledged by a special vote of the Lodge, the newly-installed Master invested his Officers as follows:—Bros. C. J. Phillips S.W., C. W. A. Jellicoe J. W., Rev. E. Y. Nepean Chaplain, J. E. Le Feuvre P.M. Treasurer, J. R. Weston P. M. Secretary, J. Cole S.D., Jennings J.D., H. M. Pike Organist, Moyer I.G., Robertson and Obree Stewards, Biggs Tyler, and Headlam and Varo Assistant Tyler. Before the Lodge was closed a grant was made to the Masonic Charities, and a Past Master's jewel voted to the retiring Master, Bro. W. J. Hickman, in recognition of his services during the past year.

Lodge of Lights, No. 148, Warrington.—On Thursday, 28th December, the brethren of the Lodge of Lights, No. 148, met in the Masonic Rooms, Sankoy-street, to celebrate their 111th anniversary, and to instal in the chair of K.S. Bro. Thomas Tunstall, Past S.W. A large number of members and visitors assembled to do honour to the new Master, who, though the youngest Mason who has filled that office in their Lodge for many years, gives promise of being a most efficient Master, and one in whom the brethren have great confidence that the prestige and usefulness of the Lodge will not deteriorate. The Lodge was opened in due form, at three o'clock p.m., by Bro. William Robinson, the retiring W.M., assisted by Bro. Henry Poynter W.M. 948, P.M. 1087, P.P.G.P., Prov. G. Reg. Berks and Bucks, Z. 948, &c., as S.W., and Bro. D. W. Finney P.M. 148, P.M. 1250, P.Z. 148, &c., as J.W. The Board of Installed Masters was opened in ample form, and the ceremony of installation was most efficiently performed by Bro. Robinson, who is the first retiring Master that has exercised his privilege in this respect for many years. Bro. John Bowes P.M. 148 P.J.G.W. Cumberland and Westmoreland, assisted Bro. Robinson, and gave the addresses to the Master, Wardens, and brethren, in that emphatic and perfect style for which Bro. Bowes is so widely known and so deservedly famous. Before the Lodge was closed, the Treasurer's accounts for the past year were read and passed, and ordered to be printed and circulated. We were pleased to notice that, although large sums had been voted to the central and provincial charities, a good balance was left in the hands of the bankers. The brethren passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Bro. Robinson, and a P.M.'s jewel was cordially voted to him for his able conduct while in the chair. Bro. Hannah, who had faithfully filled the office of Tyler for about ten years, now resigned that position, and was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Lodge. The Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren separated in harmony. Among the members present were:—Bros. T. Tunstall W.M., W. Robinson I.P.M., J. Pickthall S.W., John R. Young J.W., J. Armstrong Treasurer, John Bowes P.M. Secretary, Dr. Alfred H. Young S.D., James Paterson J.D., T. M. Pattison Organist, Dr. G. W. Joseph I.G., Thomas Domville Tyler, James Hepherd P.M., John Harding P.M., C. E. Hindley, T. Grime, T. W. Thorpe, E. Edwardson, Charles Skinner, John Laithwaite, A. Peake, J. Dimmelow, T. Jones, H. Ferguson, C. Savago, C. Ekkert, E. P. Sherwood, John Pierpoint, Robert Gibbons, James Hannah. Visiting brethren:—Bros. R. Brierley P.M. 1250, J. Kenworthy 1565, W. S. Hawkins P.M. 1250, D. W. Finney P.M. 148, P.M. 1250, P.Z. 148, Henry Poynter W.M. 948, Z. 948, Prov. G. Reg., &c., F. C. Hunt P.M. 43, L. R. Barnes P.M. 113, W. Richardson P.M. 1250, &c., &c. At five o'clock p.m. the brethren reassembled at the Lion Hotel for their annual banquet, which was served by Bro. and Mrs. Pratt in their best style. Upon the removal of the cloth the W.M. gave the toast of "The Queen," the brethren singing the National Anthem, led by Bro. Pattison. The next toast was that of "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," after which "God Bless the Prince of Wales" was sung, Bro. Pattison again leading. The W.M. then entrusted his Gavel to Bro. Hepherd P.M., who proposed, in most glowing terms, the health of the M.W.G.M. of England, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. In the course of his remarks Bro. Hepherd impressed on the brethren the fact that the Craft generally did not want patronage, yet was glad to receive support from those who were high in authority and position. The toast of "The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master," was proposed in suitable terms by Bro. Robinson, followed by a song, "The Village Blacksmith," from Bro. Dr. Joseph. Bro. Robinson proposed "The Health of Lord Skelmersdale, R.W. Prov. G.M., the Hon. F. A. Stanley, R.W.D.P.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers," song from Bro. W. Milner. Bro. Pickthall S.W. proposed the health of the Prov. G.M.'s of East Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmoreland, Cheshire, and other neighbouring provinces, coupling with the toast the names of Bros. Bowes P.G.J.W. Cumberland and Westmoreland, and Bro. Poynter Prov. G.Reg. Berks and Bucks. Bro. Bowes, in response, thanked the brethren for the uniform kindness he received from the Lodge. He felt no little pride in being a member of 148, and of the training he had received in that Lodge. He had filled all the offices, and had worked all the ceremonies, and felt inward satisfaction that his services had been so highly appreciated by the officers and brethren; he should always feel happy in placing his services at the command of the W.M. Bro. Poynter, who upon rising was greeted with applause, thanked the brethren, both on behalf of himself individually, for the kindness he always received when he came amongst them, on behalf of the Lodge 948, of which he is the present Master, for the post of honour they had accorded to him in the Lodge that afternoon, and on behalf of the province of Berks and Bucks, which he represented. He remarked that Sir Daniel Gooch Prov. G.M., and the Rev. J. Studholm Brownrigg D.P.G.M., were good men and true Masons. They had the good of Freemasonry at heart, and worked hard to further the interests of the Lodges which were under their supervision, and they dispensed honours to the different Lodges in the province without fear or favour. With regard to Lodge 948, it was one that was doing its work faithfully and well, but it was greatly indebted to Lodge 148

for its able and efficient Installing Master, Bro. Bowes, of whose services the Lodge of St. Barnabas was glad to avail itself at their last annual meeting. Moreover, Bro. Bowes had promised to repeat his visit for a similar purpose next year. (Applause.) The toast of the evening was "The Health of the new W.M. Bro. T. Tunstall," proposed by Bro. Robinson I.P.M., who complimented him on his accession to the chair, which had hitherto been filled by Masters much older both in years and in Masonry. But the efficient discharge of his duties in the minor offices was a guarantee that the office of W.M. would be well and ably filled during the next twelve months. Bro. Tunstall, who on rising to respond was greeted with several rounds of applause, said that though young in years he was not deficient in Masonic zeal. He should endeavour to hand down the office of W.M. to his successor with the same lustre with which he had received it. He hoped the brethren would not expect too much from him, but would render him all the assistance they could in his new office. It would be his constant aim and pleasure to enhance the interests of the Lodge and the comfort of the brethren while he presided over them in the capacity of W.M. Before sitting down he proposed "The Health of the P.M.'s and Officers of the Lodge of Lights, 148," which was suitably replied to by Bro. Robinson. The toast of "The Visiting Brethren" was proposed by the W.M., and responded to by each respectively. "The Success of the Masonic Charities" was given by Bro. Bowes, and responded to by Bro. Gibbons, who remarked that next to the Gospel Freemasonry taught the grandest principles under the sun. He felt thankful that the Craft so well looked after the aged, and took such care of the sons and daughters of deceased brethren. He concluded by recommending the Masonic charities to the increased support of the members of the Craft. The Tyler's toast brought this very pleasant gathering to a close.

Lodge of Joppa, No. 188.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, the 28th inst., at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, City. Present—Bros. A. G. Dodson W.M., M. Spiegel as J.W., E. P. Albert G.P. Secretary, A. Auerhaan Treasurer, H. Hymans S.D., H. P. Isaac as J.D., Campion I.G. Past Masters Bros. L. Alexander, I. Abrahams, S. Hickman, &c. The Lodge was opened, and ballots were taken for the admission of Messrs. Wilenski, Buck and Lenzburg, who were duly initiated into the Order. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren separated.

The installation meeting was held on Monday, the 1st January, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, and was well attended. The chair was taken by Bro. A. G. Dodson. Present—Bros. Miller S.W., L. Lazarus J.W., E. P. Albert G.P. Secretary, L. Auerhaan Treasurer, M. Spiegel S.D., Campion I.G., D. C. Woodstock Tyler, P.M.'s L. Alexander, S. Hickman, H. Berkowitz, M. Alexander, H. M. Levy, O. Roberts, and I. Abrahams. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the former meeting and of emergency meeting were confirmed. Messrs. W. R. Blanks and B. Althorp were initiated into the Order. Bro. L. Lazarus S.W. and W.M. elect was then presented to the Lodge, a procession was formed, and the brethren proceeded to an adjoining room, where a Board of Installed Masters (numbering 22) was opened. Bro. Lazarus was then installed into the chair, by the retiring W.M., Bro. A. G. Dodson, who rendered the ceremony in a fluent and perfect manner, he at the conclusion receiving hearty congratulations from all present. The brethren then returned to the Lodge room, where the W.M. was saluted. He then invested his officers, Bros. Miller S.W., M. Spiegel J.W., L. Auerhaan Treasurer, E. P. Albert G.P. Secretary, H. Hymans S.D., Campion J.D., R. Baker I.G., H. P. Isaac D.C., P. E. Van Noorden Organist, S. Genese and Snelling Stewards, Woodstock P.M. Tyler. A distressed brother was then relieved with a small gift. Five gentlemen were proposed for initiation. The resignation of two members was accepted. The selection of officers by Bro. Lazarus appeared to give great satisfaction. After this the Lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. W. G. Jennings, and superintended by Br. Keeping. Grace having been said, the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," and the National Anthem was sung. The toast of "H.R.H. the M.W.G.M." was next given, and that of the Pro. G.M. and Deputy G.M. In the course of his speech the W.M. said they were honoured by the selection that had been made of Bro. E. P. Albert, their respected Secretary, for a Grand Officer's post. They had a Past Grand Officer with them, Bro. Wright, and he would also couple his name with the toast. Bro. E. P. Albert could say very much on behalf of the Grand Officers, but if he spoke for himself he might be thought egotistical. The Grand Officers were always ready and willing to do all that was required of them. Bro. Wright P.G.P. followed. However pleasing it was to be a G.P., they had to rely on the assistance of the Scrutineers, who always do their duty, and their duty was very arduous. All have to thank them, for their exertions always result satisfactorily. The W.M. then proposed "Prosperity to the Joppa Benevolent Fund," and he called on Bro. L. Alexander, P.M. and President, to respond. Bro. Alexander said he was pleased to hear the expressions of the brethren as the name of the Benevolent Fund was introduced. The V.P.'s and the Committee are pleased to hear that their exertions have been appreciated. The Fund was instituted in 1849, by Bro. Carrobutt P.M. It was a Fund from which large sums were given. The Secretary read the report of the audit meeting of the Fund, which stated that the amount in hand now reached £1269 4s. The W.M. announced that through the liberality of the brethren who had severally contributed that evening, the amount of £17 1s 6d had been raised. Bro. Dodson I.P.M., in proposing the health of the W.M., said it afforded him a great amount of pleasure to have the honour of performing this duty. He was pleased to find Bro. Lazarus on his right hand. He had for many years been working from the bottom of the tree, with a view to get to the top, and he (Bro. Dodson) hoped Bro. Lazarus would have health and strength to carry him through his year of office. He had been associated with him for many years, and he felt the Lodge would never regret the selection they had made.

Bro. Lazarus returned thanks for the kind way in which Bro. Dodson had spoken of him. It was six years since he had to return thanks there as an Initiate. He had many friends in the Lodge whom he had known from boyhood. During his year of office he hoped his duties would be conducted to their satisfaction. Bro. Lazarus then proposed the toast of "The Initiates," some of whom were introduced at the emergency meeting on Thursday last. All had shown that the seeds of charity were sown in their breasts; each contributing liberally to the Benevolent Fund (cheers). The toast was responded to in excellent speeches by each initiate. The W.M. next proposed the health of "The I.P.M." Bro. Dodson. Their worthy brother has many friends, and all have seen how he has conducted himself during his year of office. He had now great pleasure in placing on his breast a jewel, that had been presented to him by the Lodge of Joppa, as a mark of respect and for the high estimation he is held in. Bro. Dodson thanked the brethren very much for their kindness. He could not say how grateful he felt. The expressions given utterance to could never be forgotten by him. The jewel, which was of elegant design, and bore an appropriate inscription, was then handed round the Lodge. The W.M. gave the toast of "The Visitors," they were a numerous and distinguished body; he would call on Bro. V. Myers W.M. 1017 to respond. Bro. Myers said there were many more Past Masters present who were far more eloquent than he; but, on behalf of those brethren, he felt great pleasure in responding to the toast. The toast of "The Past Masters" was coupled with the name of Bro. M. Alexander, who said he felt gratified in returning thanks. He had the pleasure, six years since, of initiating the W.M., and it was gratifying to see him in the chair. He was a credit to the Lodge. The toast of the Senior Officers was replied to by Bros. Miller and Spiegel. After due honour had been paid to the Press and the Junior Officers, the Tyler's toast was given, and the brethren separated. An excellent concert, under the direction of Bro. P. E. Van Noorden, Organist to the Lodge, was given, the artistes being Miss Alma York and Madame Viney, and Bros. Arthur Thomas, H. Brerton, Benjamin, and Heino Hugo. The Visitors were:—Bros. J. Wright P.G.P., J. Constable P.M. 185, Friedlich 1017, J. Austin P.M. 933, J. Anshell 1404, J. S. Sweasey 1423, V. Myers W.M. 1017, H. Massey P.M. 619, J. Gaskell P.M. 1076, Ridler 219, S. M. Lazarus P.M. late 188, L. Gompertz 205, A. Myers 185, J. Lawrence, S. Webb P.M. 193 and 1287, A. Mellhuish 55, J. Davis 205, H. J. Baker 869, Partridge 1445, J. D. Barnett W.M. 185, A. La Room 1365, Brooke 1381, Fletcher 180, W. Tait 534, Yeakon P.M. 1139, Barton 1530, I. Botibol 1201, E. Willie 1305, Emanuel 1563, B. Groner 1613, S. Genese P.M. late 205, Captain Evens late 1017, W. Joyce 1158, G. E. Williams 933.

Paisley St. Mirren Lodge, No. 129.—The members of this Lodge met in their Lodge-room, Moss-street, on Wednesday evening last, for the purpose of celebrating the 128th Anniversary of St. John. Upwards of forty brethren sat down to supper. The R.W.M. Bro. George Fisher occupied the chair, supported by Bros. John Carswell P.M., Alex. McLeod P.M., Thos. Bustard D.M., Peter Blair Treasurer, R. C. Kilgour Secretary, &c. The Senior and Junior Wardens, Bros. T. J. Bustard and R. C. McLeod, acted as croupiers, and were supported by Bros. P. Moir S.D., Wm. Russell J.D., Wm. Scott Jeweller, J. Barnett S.D., W. Craig I.G., &c. The supper having been done justice to, and the cloth removed, the Chairman proposed the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts, also, "The Grand Lodge of Scotland," "The Grand Lodges of England and Ireland," "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East," coupling the latter with the name of Bro. A. McPherson P.G. Treas., who ably responded. Bro. J. Carswell P.M. proposed the toast of "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," in his usual pithy and humorous style, to which Bros. A. McPherson, H. Craig and P. Moir replied respectively. An important feature of the evening's proceedings was the presentation of a handsome timepiece to the worthy and respected Deputy-Master of the Lodge, Bro. Thomas Bustard, bearing a token of the esteem and regard in which he is held by the members of St. Mirren's Lodge. The R.W.M. made the presentation, to which the recipient briefly and feelingly replied. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening "Paisley St. Mirren Lodge, No. 129," took occasion to remark on the unusually prosperous state in which the Lodge now was, having at last balance a sum of £37 to their credit, and also having added to their membership during the year 47 initiates, all which augured well for the future prosperity of the Lodge. Other toasts were proposed and responded to during the evening. Some excellent songs were rendered by many of the brethren, and Bro. A. Hardie, Direc. of Music, ably presided at the harmonium. During the evening, deputations were despatched to Lodges Prince of Wales, No. 426, Renfrew, Houston St. Johnstone, No. 242, Johnstone, St. John's, 3 bis, Glasgow, and Renfrew County Kilwinning, No. 370, Paisley, and deputations were received from Prince of Wales Lodge, Renfrew, and Renfrew County, Kilwinning, Paisley.

St. David's Lodge, No. 393, Berwick.—On Wednesday, 27th Dec., the brethren celebrated the festival of St. John. At four o'clock the Lodge was opened in due form. Bro. J. A. Forbes was installed as W.M., the installing officer being Bro. R. Thompson P.M. The W.M. then appointed his officers for the ensuing year as follows: Bros. Heron S.W., J. J. Oswald J.W., R. Weatherhead Treasurer, Adam Winlaw P.M. Secretary, Rev. T. Procter Chaplain, R. Craik S.D., J. Teague J.D., G. Moor D.C., R. Roxburg I.G., W. Weatherston, G. Lamb and J. Moor Stewards, and A. F. Turnbull Tyler. After the installation ceremony the brethren dined together. Bro. J. Carr was purveyor and the excellent manner in which the dinner was provided and placed on the table gave great satisfaction. The W.M. presided, Brother Heron S.W. occupying the vice chair. The usual toasts were given and responded to, and altogether a very pleasant evening was spent.

Cornubian Lodge, No. 450, Hayle.—The annual festival of St. John was held on Wednesday, 27th ult., at the Freemasons'

Hall. The Lodge was opened at noon by Bro. George Stevens W.M., to transact the following business:—To collect the dues. To receive the Treasurer's statement of accounts. To ballot for Bro. Frank Harvey P.M. P.P.G.S. of Works, nominated for re-election as Treasurer for the ensuing year. To instal the W.M. elect, Bro. Gilbert B. Pearce. To invest the officers. To elect a Tyler. To appoint a committee as required by Bye-Law, No. 14, viz., "A committee shall be annually appointed on the day of the annual festival, consisting of the W.M. and his Wardens, the Secretary, and three Past Masters, for the purpose of making all necessary inquiries respecting any candidate for admission who may be unknown to a majority of the brethren, and their report to be made to the Lodge previous to the ballot being taken." To consider the following proposition by Bro. John Coombe P.M., &c., of which notice was given at the last regular meeting. To solicit subscriptions on behalf of the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and the Benevolent Fund; also for Boys' and Girls' Schools. After which the brethren will adjourn to the banquet. After the ordinary business had been transacted, the Lodge was opened in the second degree. Bro. George Stevens, the retiring W.M., installed Bro. G. B. Pearce as W.M. for the ensuing year, and a board of installed Masters was formed by Bros. James Mudge P.P.G.J.W., N. J. West P.P.G.R., J. Coombe, P.P.G.J.D., C. Trevithick P.P.G.D.C., J. P. Smith P.P.G.S.D., C. Ellis P.P.G.S.D., F. Harvey P.P.G.S. of Works, G. H. Enstice P.P.G.S.B., John Rosewarne P.P.G.S., H. J. Warren, Frank H. Pool, James Pool, I. G. Osborn, &c. Among the visitors were Bros. John Hocking P.P.G.J.W., John Thomas W.M. elect Druids Lodge, 589, Redruth, J. J. Taylor S.D., Mount Sinai Lodge, 121, Penzance and others. The ceremony was performed in a very impressive manner, and the Worshipful Master then appointed his officers for the ensuing year, namely:—Bros. George Stevens I.P.M., Edward Hodge C.E. S.W., H. H. Trevithick J.W., Frank Harvey Treasurer, J. P. Smith Secretary, Bigglestone Spray S.D., T. Mills J.D., H. Broad D. of C., Adams I.G., Harvey and Gilbert Stewards, J. V. Bray Tyler. Bro. John Coombe P.M., &c., was appointed Steward of the Royal Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund; also appointed to receive subscriptions for the Boys' and Girls' Schools. After the Lodge was closed, the brethren adjourned to the White Hart Hotel, where a banquet was served by Miss Oliver. Bro. Mudge proposed the health of the Provincial Grand Master, the Earl of Mount Edgumbe, in an exceedingly happy manner, and it was enthusiastically received, as was also the toast of the Health of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Reginald Rogers, proposed by Bro. West. The W.M., in the course of replying to the toast of his health, pointed out what Freemasonry was, and what it was not, and exhorted the members of the Lodge to maintain the honour and reputation of the Craft unsullied, especially asking them to use the utmost caution in introducing new members, as he did not want to make a large number in his year of office, preferring that the candidates should be good men, and true; members should see that the candidates' character, were such that the brethren would be pleased to have them filling the highest offices in the Lodge.

Lodge of Unity, No. 613, Southport.—The annual meeting of this large and flourishing Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on St. John's Day, when an unusually large number of members and visitors assembled. The Chair was occupied by the W.M., Bro. Cory, assisted by his officers. After the confirmation of the minutes, the Lodge was opened in the 2nd degree, when Bro. John Bowes P.M., Prov. G.J.W. Cumberland and Westmoreland, was invited to take the chair as installing Master. The W.M. elect, Bro. George Bailey, presented by Bro. Cory, was installed in ample form. Bro. Bowes delivered the address to the W.M., Wardens and brethren. The whole ceremony was rendered in a manner that elicited the warm approval of all present. The Lodge having been closed down, a gold P.M.'s jewel was presented by the Lodge to the I.P.M., Bro. Cory, for his efficient services during the past year. A vote of thanks was recorded on the minutes to the installing Master. The banquet was served at the Scarisbrick Hotel, in Bro. Watson's best style. The chair was occupied by the newly installed W.M., who was supported by Bros. Bowes, Henry Poynter P.M., Prov. G. Reg. Berks and Bucks, D. W. Finney P.M. P.Z., &c., Cory I.P.M., Roberts P.M. Prov. G.D. of C., and about fifty other brethren. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. Some excellent music, rendered by an amateur string band, composed of members of the Southport Lodge, enlivened the after dinner proceedings.

William Preston Lodge of Instruction, No. 766.—This Lodge held its meeting on Friday, the 30th of December, at the Feathers Tavern, Upper George-street, Edgware-road. Present—Bros. G. W. West W.M., George Tribbel S.W., John Murch J.W., Ang. Braun Secretary, S. Kennard Treasurer, Evans S.D., J. Davison J.D., H. Cooper I.G. Past Master Bro. Rudderforth Preceptor. Visitors—Bros. Nichols, Captain Boniface, Cleghorn, Coates. The Lodge was opened in due form. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. ably rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Coates acting as candidate. Bro. Coates then answered the questions for passing, as did also Bro. Evans. Bro. Rudderforth worked the first and fourth Sections. Bro. Cleghorn, of No. 1287, was unanimously elected a member. Bro. Tribbel was chosen W.M. for the ensuing meeting. The Preceptor, Bro. W. H. G. Rudderforth, then proposed that this Lodge of Instruction should become an annual subscriber to the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE. This was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Bro. Rudderforth dwelt with considerable eloquence upon this subject, intimating it was not only interesting but also necessary for every brother to make himself acquainted with what passes in the Masonic world; he trusted that other Lodges who did not already subscribe would follow suit. The Lodge was then closed.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.—A meeting was held at Bro. Allen's, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, on Tues-

day, 2nd January. Present—Bros. Barker W.M., Saunders S.W., Dallas J.W., Lovelock S.D., Williams J.D., Perry I.G., Ashburner P.M. Preceptor *pro tem*, and several brethren. Business—The Lodge was opened in due form, in the 3rd degree, and closed down to the 1st. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Brown acting as candidate. The Lodge was then resumed to the 2nd, when the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Weige candidate. The Lodge was resumed to the 1st degree. Bro. Dallas worked the 1st section of the Lecture, assisted by the brethren. It was resolved, on the motion of Bro. Lovelock, seconded by Bro. Weigo, that, owing to the absence of the Secretary, the reading of the minutes of last Lodge meeting be deferred till next Lodge night. Bros. Woodfall, of the Earl of Zetland 1364, and Davies, of the Burdett Coutts, were duly elected members. Bro. Saunders was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. All Masonic business being ended, the Lodge was closed with solemn prayer, and adjourned till Tuesday, 9th January. Bro. Worsley, the worthy Secretary, has since informed us that his not being in his place was not his fault, but that of the railway company, a breakdown on the line having occurred, which stopped the trains running to Bethnal Green, thus preventing his reaching the Lodge during the evening.

Royal Albert Chapter, No. 907.—The regular Convocation meeting of this Chapter and Installation Meeting took place on the 27th Dec., at the White Hart Tavern, Abchurch-lane. Present—Comps. W. Smeed P.G.T. Middlesex P.Z. 946, as M.E.Z., C. Nash H. The Chapter was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. H. P. Moore and J. Burne 162, were exalted into R.A. Masonry. Comp. W. Smeed P.Z., then installed Comps. Nash M.E.Z., Dennis J., Mitchell S.E. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Comp. Smeed for the able manner he had installed the Companions in their various offices. The Chapter was then closed, and a banquet was provided. The M.E.Z. gave the usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts and an agreeable evening was passed. Comps. W. Smeed P.Z. 946, and R. Boncey were present as visitors.

Friendship Lodge, No. 928.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, the 2nd January, at the Masonic Hall, Petersfield. Present—Bros. Lewis A. B. Cole W.M., Joseph Cole W.M. elect S.W., M. P. Creadon J.W., W. B. Edgeler Secretary and Treasurer, J. P. Cordery S.D., Pierson J.D., F. C. Masters I.G., Chas. Knight Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Findley, Masters, Gammon, &c. Visitors—Bros. Ubsdell P.M. 487 P.P.G.D.C., Willson P.M. 342, Friedebury 342, Turney W.M. 342, Groy S.W. 342, Payne J.W. 342, Holbrook 309, &c. Business—Bro. Head was raised to the degree of a Master Mason. Bro. Joseph Cole was installed as W.M. for the current year, and invested as his officers Bros. Creadon S.W., Pierson J.W., J. P. Cordery S.D., Masters J.D., Nockolds I.G., Edgeler Treasurer and Secretary. The ceremony of raising and installing the W.M. was performed by Bro. W. B. Edgeler in a very clear and effective manner. After the ceremony the brethren adjourned to the Dolphin Hotel, to a banquet, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

St. Augustine Lodge of Instruction, No. 972.—This Lodge holds its meetings at the Guildhall Hotel, Canterbury, every Wednesday evening, with the exception of the second Wednesday in each month, which are the regular Craft nights. On a recent occasion, the Secretary, Bro. S. F. Pringuer, read a summary of the working during the past year, from which it appears there were 38 meetings, and an average attendance of 14. The initiation ceremony was gone through on six occasions, and the charge was given three times. The passing was rehearsed four times, and the charge given once. The raising was given twice, and also part of the installation. The lecture on 1st Tracing Board was given three times, and that on the 2nd twice. The whole of the sections of lecture in 1st degree and part of 2nd were worked on various occasions, seven of the brethren taking part in them. The present W.M., Bro. J. Welsh, is the Instructor, and his deputies are P.M.'s Pilcher and Walker.

Gundulph Lodge, No. 1050.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Monday, the 1st of January, at the King's Head Hotel, Rochester. Present—Bros. Thomas Wakon W.M., John P. Griffin, S.W., Mark Barnes J.W., Thomas Wyles P.M. Treasurer, Frederick C. Abbott J.D., William Wood D.C., J. Barrell Steward, W. Henderson acting I.G., Fearn Tyler. Past Masters Bros. T. Wyles, G. H. Curel, T. W. Newton. Visitors—Bros. Rowland and Satchel. After the minutes had been confirmed, Bro. Frank Colson was passed, and Bro. J. Winneford was raised.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—145—St. Stephen, St. James's Hall, Writer's-court.
TUESDAY—1—Edinburgh, Mary's Chapel, Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo-place.
WEDNESDAY—2—Canongate, Kilwinning, St. John's Chapel, St. John's-street.
R.A. 1—Edinburgh, Freemasons' Hall.
THURSDAY—3—Journymen, Blackfriars-street, High-street.
FRIDAY—R. A. 56—Canongate Kilwinning, St. John-street.

GLASGOW AND THE WEST OF SCOTLAND.

All the Meetings are at 8.0 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

MONDAY—102—St. Mark's, St. Mark's Hall, Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
" 219—Star, 12 Trongate, Glasgow.
" 362—St. Clair, 25 Robertson-street, Glasgow.
TUESDAY—413—Athol, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
" 419—Neptune, 35 St. James's-street, Glasgow.
" 441—Glasgow, 22 Struthers-street, Glasgow.
" 556—Clydesdale, 106 Rose-street, Glasgow.
R. A. 69—St. Andrew's, 25 Robertson-street, Glasgow.
WEDNESDAY—4—Kilwinning, 24 Dunbarton-road, Glasgow.
" 178—Scotia, 12 Trongate, Glasgow.
" 333—St. George, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
" 510—Maryhill, 167 Main-street, Maryhill.
R. A. 113—Partick, School-room, Douglas-street, Partick.
THURSDAY—570—Kilmuir, Freemasons' Hall, Springbourne, Glasgow.
FRIDAY—R. A. 79—Commercial, 30 Hope-street, Glasgow.
SATURDAY—R. A. 143—Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall, Holytown.

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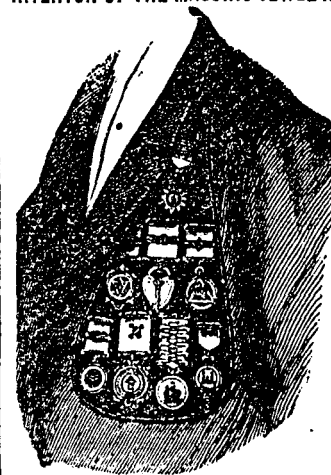
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