

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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THE SO-CALLED GERMAN QUESTION.

LAST week the demands on our space were such that we could only indicate in one brief sentence the fate of Bro. Simpson's resolutions in Grand Lodge. These, it will be in the recollection of our readers, were three in number. The first was merely to the effect that certain petitions to Grand Lodge on this question, to the number of three should be received. The second offered for the consideration of the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes in Berlin certain recommendations, having for their object the removal from its Constitutions of what may be most fittingly described as the Jewish disabilities. In the last, it was respectfully submitted that the Grand Master should bring these two resolutions formally under the notice of the Berlin Grand Lodge in the manner His Royal Highness might consider most expedient. Their fate we stated briefly. The first was accepted; the second and last were withdrawn. The speech which Rev. Bro. Simpson delivered in support of his motion was of a temperate character, while at the same time he had no difficulty in proving to Grand Lodge that the Berlin Grand Lodge was not acting in accordance with the true principles of Freemasonry. What he said was well said and to the point, and Bro. Hutton, who seconded him, albeit the remarks he made were few in number, was equally prominent. The opposition was led by Lord Tenterden, who was supported by Bro. Erasmus Wilson and the Grand Registrar, and the Pro Grand Master closed the debate by suggesting that the first of the propositions should be accepted, and the other two withdrawn. This course was, as we have said, adopted, and so the matter stands for the present.

We cannot but admit that the reasons advanced by Bro. Simpson's opponents were of a weighty character. Lord Tenterden showed that during the whole period of its existence, from 1740 till now, the Lodge of the Three Globes had been a Christian Lodge. At different times the question of revising their Constitutions had been discussed, and the general feeling had always been in favour of retaining them unaltered. Bro. Bent pointed out that Swedish Freemasonry was on the same footing as this particular branch of German Freemasonry. The Pro Grand Master admitted that, so far as his individual opinion was concerned, he regretted the course which the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes had followed; but he pointed out that we could not take up the same position with regard to it as we had thought it wise to take up towards the Grand Orient of France. That body had made a startling innovation, but the Grand Lodge of the Three Globes was adhering to its old landmarks. But he cited the statements made by Lord Tenterden, which, he ventured to say, were new to most of those present, as evidence that the subject was not fully understood in this country. There was always time for them to consider and reflect on what should be done, and so avoid placing themselves in a dilemma. He acknowledged that he was in doubt whether they were not exceeding their authority in making such recommendations to the German Grand Lodge, and if such were the case, they might find themselves in a position which would cause them very great regret. Moreover, the Grand Master—if it were agreed that he should be requested to convey these resolutions, and it turned out that they could not be sustained by argument—would be in a predicament which it would be painful for him to occupy, and from which he would have some difficulty in extricating himself. He therefore put it to

Grand Lodge whether, having waited so long, they might not wait a little longer, and he added that he had faith in the wisdom and expediency of this counsel, to which, he was sure, no exception could be taken. We admit there is much cogency in this reasoning. In the first place, while we have no hesitation in declaring, as we have done already on more than one occasion, that it is not in accordance with the spirit of Masonry to exclude any person merely for his religious opinions, we must admit that the manner of proceeding, as suggested by Bro. Simpson, was very unlikely to bring out the desired end. We can imagine the resolution passed by Grand Lodge and submitted to the Emperor of Germany, as head of the Berlin Grand Lodge, by our Grand Master; and there is little doubt that, to put the matter in a somewhat familiar way, we should be given to understand that we were interfering with the internal regulations of an independent Masonic body with which we had no concern whatever. And what then? It cannot be denied that it is with Freemasonry as it is with Christianity. There is a common basis on which the systems as practised in different countries rest, but there are points of greater or less value on which we are all agreed to differ, and this is the one point as between the G.L. of the Three Globes and the United Grand Lodge of England, on which they are at issue. We say that men of all creeds are eligible for admission into the ranks of the Fraternity. They say it is only those who belong to this or that denomination of Christians, none others being admissible. It may also be urged against us that within the limits of our government we virtually sanction this spirit of exclusiveness, for are there not on the roll of our Grand Lodge various Lodges which virtually exclude all but those who follow this or that profession or calling? If, then, you allow this in your own jurisdiction, how in justice can you call upon another Grand Lodge to remove those disabilities which it has imposed for so many, many years? This, we say, is what might be advanced against us in the event of such a recommendation as Bro. Simpson suggested being forwarded; and such a course of argument would necessarily place our Grand Master in a very painful predicament. But though we think the manner in which it was proposed to submit this question is open to strong objection, and though we fully recognise that the matter is not one which calls for hasty and ill-considered action, we still think that something should be done to obtain, if possible, a just recognition by the Grand Lodge of the three Globes of the universality of Freemasonry; and we know of no other body which has so much right to press the question in a becoming manner on the notice of our German brethren than the Lodge of England, which, as we pointed out in a former article, is, beyond all doubt, the Mother Grand Lodge of well nigh all the other Grand Lodges in existence, and was certainly the first in order of time as regards organisation. Thus any proposition that emanated from our Grand Lodge would be certain to carry weight with it, and would doubtless receive that attention which it deserved. As regards the comparison between the case of the G. Orient of France and that of the Berlin Grand Lodge, with all deference to the opinion of the Pro Grand Master, we think this part of his argument is weak. The former has just made a startling innovation in its declaration of the Principles of Freemasonry in the direction of a too lax inclusiveness; the latter has throughout erred in its notions of true Masonic principles in the direction of exclusiveness; and, albeit the step which the one has just taken may be more damaging in its consequences, there will be many ready to charge us with

partiality, if in proportion to the relative magnitude of the offences we are not equally urgent in our endeavours to uphold the integrity of Freemasonry. We admit no harm will be done by waiting some little time longer, and we trust that what is done will be worthy of our high position in the Masonic world; but when the appointed time is come, we trust that some resolute action will be taken.

MASONIC PORTRAITS, No. 53.

ACHILLES.

ULYSSES.—Time hath, my Lord, a wallet at his back,
Wherein he puts alms for oblivion:
Those scraps are good deeds past; forgot as soon
As done The cry went once on thee,
And still it might; and yet it may again,
If thou would'st not entomb thyself alive,
And ease thy reputation in thy tent.

ACHILLES. Of this my privacy
I have strong reasons.

Inde fit, ut raro, qui se vixisse beatum
Dicat, et exacto contentus tempore vitæ
Cedat, uti conviva satur, reperire queamus.

IT is remarkable to note how the virtues by which the good old heroes of antiquity were distinguished are again and again reproduced in men of modern times. Those who figure in the poems of Homer may have been real or ideal personages; but, as he has described them, they are all perfect pictures of men, such as history tells us have flourished in different ages and countries. If we scan the records of any nation, we shall find that at some epoch or other in its career it was able to boast of its Agamemnon, the *primus inter pares*, who generally, if not invariably, displayed consummate skill and tact in ruling men. Equally certain are we to discover among its worthies a wise Ulysses, ever ready with some sage counsel, ever fertile in expedient; a venerable Nestor, looked up to and respected of all men for the deeds and events associated with his youth and manhood; an Ajax Telamon, of giant strength, and with the courage of a lion, but intellectually dull; a valiant Hector on whose skill and prowess the safety of all depends; an Achilles, terrible in warfare, so that none may withstand him, hot-tempered and imperious, resentful of the slightest affront, yet generous and high-souled withal. Even in the narrow circle to which the personal experience of each among us is necessarily limited, there will be found those who, if not exactly possessing the attributes of a hero, are nevertheless distinguished by many sterling qualities, little short of heroic; and these folk being very human have in them likewise some of the weaknesses of humanity. They labour steadfastly in the station of life in which they are placed; they accomplish great things, and win for themselves golden opinions from all classes of men. Yet are they, at the same time, too retired or too sensitive, too impetuous or too exacting; hence the world in which they move and have their being gets occasionally a little out of gear. Trifling differences, generally begotten of the imagination rather than having a real existence, occur, and there is a break in the continuity of its happiness, which is remediable when found, but which, like the fault in a telegraphic cable, must be found before it can be remedied. However, all is soon set straight again. The differences are removed and forgotten, or, if remembered, it is only that people may smile over the trifling impatience of each other which had momentarily disturbed the general equanimity.

The brother whom we are about to introduce to our readers we have named Achilles, because, like that valiant and impetuous Greek, he is, we regret to say, spending his time just now in comparative retirement. Into the cause of such retirement it is no business of ours to inquire. Suffice it to say that, like "Great Thetis' son," he has done great things in Freemasonry, and unless we have formed a most erroneous estimate of the man, he will, if his life is spared, render if possible still more signal services to the Royal Art. His is, indeed, a career of which any Craftsman might well be proud, and which not a few among us might find it difficult to parallel. He was initiated in the Indefatigable Lodge—a most appropriate name, having regard to such a brother—No. 288, Swansea,

on the 27th May 1856, and in the following December was appointed Secretary of his Lodge. So ably did he perform the onerous duties of that office that in due course he became Junior, and then Senior Warden; and in December 1859 he was elected Worshipful Master of the largest and most influential Lodge in South Wales. Truly a result of which even an "Indefatigable" has every reason to be proud! But great as were these exploits, he has again and again surpassed them since. His administration of the Lodge was so remarkably successful that in 1864 we find him again occupying the same exalted position, and his second year of office was still more profitable. Not only were the ceremonial workings performed with an exactitude, a fidelity, and an ability seldom surpassed, but for the first time in the history of the Province lectures were given, Lodges of Instruction held, and the working of the sections introduced. Repeatedly during the term of his second Mastership were the three Lectures gone carefully and conscientiously through; and on the concluding evening of the series, with our brother in the chair and ably assisted by his staff of officers, the whole fifteen sections were worked to the great delight and edification of a Lodge crowded with members and visitors from all parts of the Principality. On retiring from the Mastership, such had been the zeal and ability of our worthy brother that he was able to say, with becoming pride, that the Lodge had not only increased in numbers, but likewise in popularity and importance, and that every one of his officers was well qualified to fill the chair. The exact value of this statement may not be appreciated perhaps just now; but there are those living who can remember a far different state of things, when the work of this Lodge, and indeed of most of the Lodges in the Province, was done by one brother, to whom by long usage it had been invariably entrusted. Under these circumstances our readers will hardly need to be told that at the close of his second year of office the members of the Lodge took the opportunity of presenting to him, not only a costly Past Master's jewel, but likewise a massive silver claret jug and a beautifully illuminated address, expressive of their admiration of the valuable services he had rendered. He has also filled the chair of the Talbot Lodge, No. 1323, Swansea, of which, indeed, he was founder; and it may be mentioned incidentally, as showing his popularity and the respect in which he was held, that in this case all his officers were Past Masters and had obtained Provincial honours. He is likewise an honorary member of the "Cambrian," No. 364, Neath; "Afan," No. 833, Aberavon; "Caradoc," No. 1573, Swansea; and "Merlin," No. 1578, Pontypridd—all in his own Province—and of St. Peter's, No. 476, Carmarthen, in the Western Province of S. Wales.

In Royal Arch Masonry our respected brother has been equally active, and has achieved equal success. Exalted in the Virtue and Hope Chapter, No. 237, Swansea, he held successively the office of P.S., Scribe N. and Scribe E., and in due course the chairs of J., H. and Z., the last for a period of two years, and again a second time after a brief interval. He also founded and was first M.E.Z. of the St. David's Chapter, No. 364, Neath, and of the Talbot, No. 1323, Swansea; and rendered valuable assistance to his friends and companions in the Western Division in resuscitating the Merlin Chapter, No. 476, Carmarthen, of which he is a P.Z. He is further an honorary member of the St. Elliw Chapter, No. 671, Llanelly, which he had the privilege of consecrating. He is the oldest Mark Master Mason in South Wales, having been advanced in the Bon Accord Lodge, London, in October 1858. He was, also, founder and first Worshipful Master of the Mansel Mark Lodge, Neath, and of the Talbot, Swansea. He was installed a Knight Templar in the St. George's, formerly the "Cross of Christ," Encampment, London, in December 1857; is founder and Past E. Commander of the Palatine Encampment, Swansea, and has filled the office of Grand Captain of Lines and Grand Chamberlain, as well as that of Prov. Sub-Prior of South Wales. He was admitted to the Rose Croix, 18°, in the Metropolitan Chapter in July 1858, and received the 30° in October of the same year. We may add that he was installed a Knight of Malta in the Cœur de Lion Encampment, Oxford, in March 1868.

But many and great as are the distinctions we have thus far recorded, we are far from having completed the list of his achievements. We have, indeed, as is usually done in writing such sketches as this, reserved the crowning triumphs till the very last, so that they may stand out in boldest relief. As far back as the year 1859 our esteemed

brother, though then only, as it were, in his Masonic childhood, was chosen by the then Prov. Grand Master, Colonel Kemeys-Tynte, to be Provincial Grand Deacon, and on the accession to office, in 1865, of the late deeply-lamented Prov. G.M., Bro. Theodore Mansel Talbot, he was selected to fill the important post of Dep. Prov. G.M., and this he held uninterruptedly till the death of his chief last year. How he performed the arduous duties which devolved upon him is in the recollection of all who know him. Indeed, without vanity he may look round upon the evidence of his labours everywhere visible, and exclaim, "*Si monumentum queris, circumspice.*" We have but to ask any Mason in South Wales to describe the present condition of the Province as compared with what it was before our brother's wise administration, and there will be but one opinion expressed, and that in the highest degree favourable. And in order to understand what his labours must have been to have produced such magnificent results, it is only necessary to point out that the Province includes the three counties of Glamorgan, Brecon, and Radnor, and that there are eleven Lodges, several of which are twenty, thirty, and even fifty miles distant from the home of our brother. Yet this dispersion of the Lodges over so considerable an area was little heeded by him, and there is now no Province under the United Grand Lodge of England which can boast a higher degree of efficiency. No wonder his praises have been the theme of every tongue in South Wales, and that the knowledge of his merits having reached the ears of our rulers in Great Queen-street, he should at length have had bestowed upon him the much-coveted honours of the so-called "Purple" of Grand Lodge. In April of this year he was made a Grand Deacon of England, and the appointment gave the greatest satisfaction to the brethren, not only in his own, but likewise in the adjoining Province. Many travelled long distances in order to attend Grand Lodge on the occasion; and had there been a longer notice, there is no doubt that many more would have been present. As it was, the Lodges in Swansea, Neath, Llanelly, Carmarthen, Aberystwith, Brecon, Pontypridd, &c., were represented by brethren of high standing.

We have, however, said enough in proof of our brother's commanding merits, at least in respect of this portion of his career. But there are other achievements of his, in the field of Charity, which demand our attention, and to which we fear we shall find some difficulty in rendering our just tribute of praise. Before the days of the late Prov. Grand Master, the contributions to our several Institutions had been comparatively small in amount, nor was there any systematic attempt made among the South Wales Lodges to secure a larger share of support for them. It was felt that this state of things was unworthy of the Province, and, after many consultations among the leading brethren it was resolved to adopt a system of Steward representation. Early in 1864, the Prov. G.M. had an interview with the Secretary of the Boys' School, the result of which was the introduction of our "Achilles" to "Our Hercules," just a fortnight before the annual Festival. It is needless, of course, to say that the latter furnished his new friend with all the needful material for the brief campaign; and how successful Achilles was may be gathered from the fact that he was able to attend the Festival, in company with several friends, with a list amounting to two hundred guineas. The year following the Girls' School had the advantage of his advocacy, and at a later period he completed the round of his Stewardships by handing Bro. Terry a list of £325 for the Benevolent Institution, thereby gaining for himself the position of Champion Steward for the year. But these are not the only good that has resulted from the new system. Regularly every year since it was inaugurated, has the Province been represented by some energetic Steward, and the annual contributions to the several Institutions have been in the aggregate, and taking the lowest estimate, at the rate of £300.

That one who has thus distinguished himself in the ranks of the Craft and rendered such signal services to our noble Institutions should carry with him into his retirement from active work the love and respect of all who have been associated with him, be it never so humbly, is a matter of course. Already, as our readers will remember, at a Special Meeting of the Grand Lodge of his Province, a highly complimentary resolution has been passed, and ordered to be illuminated and presented to our worthy brother. Since then, many of his old colleagues have quietly and unostentatiously arranged that there shall be a further and fuller

recognition of his labours. As a first and most graceful act in this direction, his name has been added to the list of Vice-Patrons of the Boys' School—the Institution which reaped the benefit of his earliest labours in the cause of Masonic Charity; and the surplus that remains will be devoted to the purchase of a handsome addition to his library, in the shape of some hundred volumes of standard literature.

Thus far have we contented ourselves with tracing his Masonic career, and marking the exploits by which it has been distinguished; but it is impossible to conclude this sketch without some reference to those social virtues which are in truth his principal characteristics. To fully appreciate these, we need do little more than refer to the intimate relations which existed between him and his lamented chief. How cordially and harmoniously they laboured together was, of necessity, known only to a few; but there is hardly a Craftsman in the Province who will not have attributed to their unity of thought and action, the successful administration which is a source of such intense pride to every one. All must have felt, even if they had no certain knowledge, that mutual love and respect, super-added to great abilities in the Chief and his Deputy, formed the groundwork of their common labours, and the cause and origin of their joint success. Yet it was not alone in the Council Chamber, in Lodge, Chapter, or Conclave, that the talents of Achilles were so conspicuous. There, of course, in all the pomp and circumstance of official dignities, he would certainly be the admired of all admirers. But to know him thoroughly, it was necessary to meet him in the quiet social circle, when, having laid aside the gilded trappings of his high Masonic rank, he might be seen presiding as the genial host, the successful organiser of country-trip or pic-nic, and even—infandum!—of "the going down to the sea in ships," the "guide, philosopher, and friend," whose very strictures were passed in all kindness, though at the moment they may have fallen on inappreciative ears. Here it was that Achilles was seen at his best, mirthful himself and the cause of mirth in others, ready at all times with quip, jest, or merry conceit, and joyful always the more he saw others rejoice. Nor must we pass unnoticed what is not so generally known of our brother, that he is a man of literary tastes, and gifted, in no ordinary degree, with the "poetic fire." Few have more largely studied "the world in books," and few are so fortunate in the possession of a well-stored memory. Had he, indeed, wooed the poetic muse with a constant passion, instead of indulging in fitful capricious flirtations with her, his contributions to "Verses of Society" would have placed him in the same category with a Locker or a Praed.

Our task is now ended. We fear the lights and shades may have been put in weakly and ineffectively. It may be, in fact, that our sketch is an etching rather than a portrait; but there are many who can fill in the lines necessary for its completion, and to others we assign the agreeable task of revelling in the "Pleasures of Imagination."

Our readers will have seen that the effort to raise a subscription for the widow of the late Bro. Goddin, or, as she has died since the proposal was first started, for her orphan children, has been attended with a fair measure of success. This week we are able to announce that a sum of nine guineas has been remitted by the Great City Lodge, and £4 5s by the Cripplegate Lodge. We believe we are right in saying that great praise is due to our worthy Bro. Steedman for his zeal in bringing this most deserving case under the notice of these two Lodges. We hear it is proposed to endeavour to get one of the children into an Orphan School, and we sincerely hope that funds will be subscribed so that this excellent scheme may be realised.

The ceremonies of Consecration and Installation will be rehearsed in the Crusaders Lodge of Instruction, No. 1677, at the Old Jerusalem Tavern, St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, on Thursday evening next, the 20th inst., at 7 p.m., by Bro. James Terry, Prov. D.C. Herts, P.M. 128, 228, 1336, P.Z. 174, 975, and Secretary to Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

The ceremony of Installation will be worked in the Jordan Lodge of Instruction, at the Devonshire Arms, Devonshire-street, on Tuesday next. Bro. Koester will occupy the chair.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

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CALLING OFF.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I thank "Peter Gower" very much for his letter. Before writing I had looked up Oliver as an authority, but he leaves the question raised by me untouched—not so Mackey, in his "Encyclopædia of Freemasonry," who declares himself in favour of a Lodge being "called off" and "called on" again next day, or at any intervening time before the next regular meeting, for the completion of business in hand and unfinished, the hour for "calling-on" being distinctly given out by the W.M. before the dispersal. I know that no Lodge can be "adjourned," as was said in my first letter; but this is a distinct point, apart from adjournment.

Let us suppose, *exempli gratia*, that the consideration of an important question which must be decided within, say forty-eight hours, has reached a certain point, and that the hour is eleven o'clock at night, the Lodge is held on licensed premises, and so, even if desirable, the sitting cannot be prolonged; a Lodge of Emergency is out of the question, as requiring seven days' notice, how is the business in hand to be disposed of? Can the Master cause the Lodge to be called off for refreshment, giving the brethren warning that he will call on again the next evening at such an hour?

Bro. Mackey evidently thinks this would be a legal step, but then, of course, he regards it from an American point of view, and we know that such a course is not unfrequently practised in the United States.

I should like to hear some more opinions on this point, which seems to me of very great importance.

I am, yours fraternally,

11th December 1877.

A YOUNG W.M.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have had some conversation on this subject with a Mason from Hull, who informs me that a case in point occurred within his experience, when the W.M. called off the Lodge for refreshment at a late hour, the business not having been completed, and called on again the next evening but one, when the remainder of the work was disposed of, and the Lodge closed.

RENUMBERING LODGES.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I cannot say I agree with "FAR EAST," that the time has arrived "when the Lodges may with propriety be renumbered, and a fictitious appearance of numerical strength avoided." We all know that the Lodges on the roll of our or any other Grand Lodge do not follow each other in regular numerical sequence, and that there are certain to be many Lodges which have either dropped from the roll altogether, or are momentarily in abeyance; but the renumbering of our Lodges should not be made at too short intervals, or they will scarcely know themselves. I have gone through the list in the new G.L. Calendar, and I find that out of 1725 Lodges, 122 have ceased working,—it may be wholly or for a time only,—or are now under other Masonic governments. Of these there are only six in the first 200, and five in the second 200, while there are twenty-four in the third 200, thirty-five in the fourth, twenty-seven in the fifth, nineteen in the sixth, four in the seventh, and two in the last 325. Thus there are actually 1603 Lodges in full working order out of 1725, or, as seven other warrants have been granted since the publication of the Calendar, 1610 Lodges out of 1732. No advantage would be gained by renumbering. No. 199, for instance, is no doubt very happy as it is, and would be no happier if converted into No. 193; and so on with the others.

After the Union, the Lodges of course were renumbered, and 647 (now 339) was the last on the roll. They were numbered again in 1832, after the lapse of eighteen years, and 647 became 424. They were again numbered in 1863, and 424 became, as it is now, 339. Thus eighty-five Lodges had ceased to be out of 424, whereas now there are only about half as many more which have dropped from the roll out of four times as many. I cannot call to mind the number struck off in 1863, but if we put it down at about 200, I fancy I shall be near the mark. That certainly might have given an air of fictitious numerical strength, but this cannot be said of the roll as it is now, with 1610 working Lodges out of 1732, or in round figures sixteen out of every seventeen.

I do not think numbers should be disturbed on light grounds, or too frequently.

Fraternally yours,

NUMERO UN.

MASONIC LITERATURE.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Are you, or any of your readers, aware of the existence of a work on Freemasonry, written by one "Galiff," a Swiss? I am anxious to see a copy, if possible, and shall feel obliged for any information as to where one can be procured.

I am, yours fraternally,

11th December 1877.

MASONIC STUDENT,

THE GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your last issue a short article upon the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of England, relative to the delinquency of the Grand Orient of France, concludes thus: "With these remarks we leave the matter in the hands of the Committee." This determination will, I have no doubt, be approved of by most; indeed, no one can justly find fault with it *per se*. Still, it appears to me that before, and even during the deliberations of the Committee, a free and fearless exchange of opinion upon a subject affecting the entire brotherhood might not perhaps be unprofitable, and may perchance lead to a decision more in conformity with justice and equity towards those who are innocent of any deviation from the fundamental principles of the Order, but run the risk of being involved in the general condemnation. As the matter stands at present the brethren appointed to determine upon the course to be pursued by the English Grand Lodge must naturally and necessarily act upon and be guided by a foregone conclusion. By its act, the Grand Orient virtually ignores the belief in the existence of a Deity which is repugnant to the human mind, and startling to the general intellect. It is, therefore, quite evident that English Masons neither can nor will continue fellowship with those who base their system of ethics upon such a doctrine of negation. A doctrine which none know better than the French has ever tended to retard, and in its very essence must always mar the universal spread of those truly humanitarian ideas which include the exercise of every virtue, and which can only be effectually and logically inculcated in conjunction with a firm and unhesitating faith in God. Notwithstanding this, I would continue to plead for circumspection and calm deliberation before it is finally resolved to sever the bonds of friendship and brotherhood, and that nothing be done calculated to cause regret hereafter. It were better to err on the side of leniency, for a breach which takes a few moments to effect might require a decade to repair. It should be borne in mind that it is not the first time by many that the French have made innovations more or less pernicious, which, however, in process of time and consequent change of circumstances fell into desuetude and were eventually abolished. The Committee might do well also to take into consideration the volatility of the French mind, with its peculiar characteristics and idiosyncrasies, always restless and desirous of change, no matter in what direction. In their recent act, which it is in no way desirable entirely to exonerate, it is just possible they were actuated not by any desire to dethrone God, or inculcate disbelief, but by their inborn habit of constant changeableness. There are many other views more or less feasible, which present themselves in the contemplation of the situation. One of which will, I dare say, be pronounced purely imaginary, yet still I deem it worthy of reflection. It is an established fact, and of late ample proof thereof has not been wanting, that to a certain portion of devotees, Masonry is simply abhorrent. At all events, they exert themselves to make the world understand that such is the case. The cause of this antagonism is, however, not far to seek. A Society which is a most potent medium for the advancement of enlightened ideas, and advocates as well as upholds entire freedom of conscience can scarcely hope for sympathy or encouragement from those whose every principle is of a totally opposite character. Now, the influence of these zealous, but confessedly unscrupulous servants of their church, is most powerful, and their peculiar tenets not only permits, but enjoins, them to employ any and every means, without limit or circumscription, to obtain a desired end. They will strive to attain, and do but too often succeed, in occupying the highest positions in committees, corporations, or institutions, which it is their cherished object to destroy. Might it not therefore be possible that the unwarranted step taken by the Grand Orient is after all the result of a so far successful conspiracy to deal a staggering blow at Freemasonry, by inducing weakness arising from disunion, and undermining the whole fabric by making it hateful to the conscience of the civilised world. I would therefore suggest measures should be taken to enter into communication with the protesting Lodges, and assure them of vigorous assistance and co-operation in any attempt at reorganisation they might possibly contemplate. That would be the surest way to thwart the enemy's sinister designs, and at the same time convince the authors of the innovation of the futility of their attempt to destroy the order as it existed in the past and remains in the present, built, as it always has been, upon eternal and unalterable principles, to meddle with which must end in the discomfiture and final destruction of any one tempted to undertake the graceless task.

Yours fraternally, E. GOTTHILF.

Obituary.

We regret to record the death of Bro. Robert Bell, for many years the most eminent Commander of St. Mungo Encampment of Knights Templar, Glasgow. Bro. Bell was an enthusiastic Mason, and ably fulfilled the most varied offices in several Lodges. Last year he went out to America, at his own expense, as one of a Deputation to the American Knights Templar, upon the occasion of the opening of the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, and was then made honorary member of the Philadelphia Commandery, No. 4, and Cyrene, No. 34, Columbia, Pennsylvania. He was also presented with a gold medal, in commemoration of his visit. The funeral ceremony was performed with Masonic honours, deputations from many Lodges accompanying the procession. He leaves a widow and three sons to lament his loss.

THE HAMMERSMITH LODGE OF MARK MASTERS, No. 211.

ON Saturday, the 8th inst., the V.W. Bro. Binckes G. Sec. M.M.M. was the officer who, as representing the Grand Master, consecrated the above Mark Lodge, at the "Windsor Castle Hotel," King-street, West Hammersmith. At about 4 o'clock Grand Lodge was opened. V.W. Bros. F. Binckes G.S. as W.M., Jas. Stevens P.G.J.O. S.W., W. Mann P.G. Reg. J.W.; W. Bros. F. H. Cozens P.G. Org. Organist, J. Poore G.I.G. I.G., H. W. Binckes G. Assist. Sec. Sec. In response to the V.W. Master, Bros. John Mason, J. W. Baldwin, T. C. Walls, W. Dunham, E. J. Harty, and F. Walters answered as the petitioners for this Mark Masters' Lodge. The Assist. G. Sec. then read the Grand Master's Warrant, declaring the Hammersmith Lodge, No. 211, a regularly constituted Lodge of M.M.M. on the G. Registry of England and Wales, &c. The V.W. Master expressed his regret at the unavoidable absence of Bro. Rev. P. M. Holden. The V.W. Brother, in a forcible and eloquent speech, pointed out the early trials which this beautiful degree had encountered and overcome; he elevated the hopes and aspirations of the brethren by predicting a rapid and universal course of prosperity for the Order. In its connection with Craft Masonry its members were some of the most distinguished lights of the day, and as a body we were as loyal to the Craft and our country as any other branch of the Order. Bro. Binckes concluded an able discourse by exhorting every member of that Lodge and every brother present to strive and make themselves ornaments to the Order of which, as being members, they ought to feel proud. The anthem was then sung by the brethren, accompanied by Bro. Cozens on the organ. V.W. Master then proceeded with the consecration in due and ancient form, assisted by Bros. Levander, Wilkins, and Cottebrune. The solemn and beautiful ceremony having been performed, Bro. Levander presented Bro. Jno. Mason (W.M.M. designate) to the V.W.M., when the customary questions were put, acknowledged, and verified. Bro. Jno. Mason was then installed, and received the salutations and best wishes of the brethren. At this stage of the proceedings Bro. Col. F. Burdett, Prov. G.M.M. of Middlesex, was announced, and received with the customary honours. The W.M.M. elect then installed his officers, viz.: Bros. J. W. Baldwin S.W., T. C. Walls J.W., W. Dunham M.O., E. J. Harty S.O., F. Walters Sec., D. Smith Assist. Sec. Bro. Walters, in proposing a vote of thanks to V.W. Bro. Binckes and the other officers for assisting in carrying out the programme of the day, read a list of names of brethren who were nominated as hon. members of the Lodge, viz.:—Bros. Col. F. Burdett, F. Binckes, J. Stevens, W. Mann, T. Poore, H. C. Levander, J. J. Hooper Wilkins, H. Binckes, J. B. Shackleton, C. A. Cottebrune. V.W. Bro. F. Binckes returned thanks on behalf of himself and the brethren whose names had been associated with his. The Lodge was then closed, each officer elected being at his post, and it was the current expression that each knew and performed his duty admirably. We may add that rarely has a Mark Lodge started with more genial, better informed, or more energetic officers, and in wishing the Hammersmith Lodge of Mark Master Masons every prosperity, we feel sure it must become, as Bro. F. Walters anticipates, a "complete success." The brethren then sat down to banquet, provided by Bro. Gilbert, and passed a most enjoyable evening. Among those present were Col. F. Burdett P.G.M.M., F. Binckes G. Sec., J. Stevens P.G.J.O., W. Mann P.G. Reg., Thos. J. Sabine P.G.A.D.C., H. C. Levander P.M. G.R., J. B. Shackleton P.G.D.C., R. P. Tebb P.G. Supt. Works, C. A. Cottebrune P.G.S.B., Thos. Poore G.I.G., F. H. Cozens P.G. Org., H. Binckes G. Assist. Sec., J. Homes P.M. Keystone 107, Malta, S. M. Davies 16 Ottawa, Canada, G. H. Thiellay W.M. St. Marks, John Dixon P.M. 22, Southwark, M. D. Loewenstark, J. H. Adams, J. Barney, E. J. Harty Bon Accord, W. E. Williams, H. A. Dubois P.M. St. Marks, C. Horsley I.P.M. No. 1.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

WITH this number of *Tinsleys'* we reach the end both of Mrs. Alexander Fraser's story of "A Maddening Blow," and of Mr. Frank Barrett's "Two Knaves and a Queen." We cannot say that either of them is a very striking story, but in both there is capital writing to be met with in several of the chapters. The characters generally are well drawn and from nature, and there is exhibited in both more than average skill in the construction. "A Summer Dream," by Horace Lashbrooke, is a short pathetic story, such as we should like to meet with more frequently in our magazines, and there is much to be commended in "Bonnell Thornton," by J. Cannon, the "Viking's Ransom," and "A Freak of Nature." Mr. Francis H. Emery's poem on "Rest" we take leave to quote:—

Through all starlit summer night
Instinct with dreams, with fancies bright,
A maiden passed.
Through all the night, so still and sweet,
She heard the nightingale entreat
Her love to last.
The vision-haunted lonely shore
No other sound nor being bore,
A pictured dream!
But still the night, in dewy tears,
Bewailed the bitter by-gone years
With grief supreme.
But where the river coldly shone,
The maiden's destination won,
She paused and wept.
A struggle brief, a sobbing cry,
Again the river rippled by,
The lilies slept.

Cassell's Family Magazine rejoices in two new serial stories. "Time shall try" is the title of one, and F. G. M. Notley the author, while the other is named "Suspense," and is written by the author of "A Hard Case." The former opens with the visit of a Mr. Haslam, and in the second chapter is a very graphic description of a shipwreck, which results in the loss of forty-two lives. Mr. Haslam distinguishes himself in the attempt to rescue as many as possible of those aboard the ill-fated vessel, and succeeds in reaching a young lady, though at the moment of bringing her to shore he is struck senseless by a heavy spar, and his intended return to London is thus delayed. So seriously is he hurt, that the papers all announce his death in the attempted rescue. We cannot judge yet of what the story will be like, but the first instalment augurs well for what is to follow. In "Suspense" the story opens at a secluded country house in Hampshire, where a gentleman named Warley and his two daughters reside. The early life of these two young ladies must have been passed very monotonously. Their mother had died some years before the story begins, and their father had kept very much to himself. But their retirement is at an end, for Mr. Warley receives and entertains for a fortnight two gentlemen, one a Mr. Godwin Fletcher, cousin of their late mother, and the other a Mr. Thomas Wilson, son of an old friend of his. In this case, too, we must wait till we can form any judgment, contenting ourselves with the remark that the opening chapters are pleasantly written. The rest of the number is excellent. There are few higher authorities on the subject of "What to eat, drink, and avoid" than Mr. A. G. Payne, the able editor of Cassell's *Dictionary of Cookery*, and those who are beginning to be nervously anxious about their preparations for the approaching Christmas festivities will find it to their advantage to read his paper on "Christmas Fare." And as intellectual amusement is commonly part of Christmas entertainment, Mr. G. Manville Fenn does good service in telling us "How to Act a Charade." Phillis Browne's contribution, entitled "Christmas Games for Everybody," is useful as well as opportune; and there is a short and pretty poem called "The Carol Singers," the illustration to which—and a very good one it is—forms the frontispiece to the number. "Popular Papers on English Law," "The Buried Bungalow," a short story by Berwick Howard, "English Ladies at Washington," "Winter Climates for Invalids," by a Family Doctor, "Rounds, and how to sing them," are in their several way excellent. The illustrations are generally up to the mark.

In the present number of *The Countries of the World*, Dr. Brown takes us rapidly through Virginia, North and South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and other of the United States, describing their resources, the principal cities and towns, any local peculiarities among the inhabitants, and their most attractive scenery. The illustrations are many in number and admirable in quality, among the best being those of a "View of Balcony Falls, James River, Virginia," "View of Grandfather Mountain (5,897 feet), North Carolina," "Loading Cotton at Savannah," "View on one of the Tributaries on the St. John's River, Florida," "Forest Scenery in Florida," and the "Interior of the Mammoth Cave, Kentucky."

SWEDENBORGIAN RITE.

A MEETING of the Liverpool Lodge, No. 6, Reginald Young P.M. W.M. in the chair, took place on the 10th inst., when the following brethren were elected and initiated into the Rite:—Bros. Joseph Wood, Richard Litler Fryer, and William Rawstrow Twist. On the same evening, at a meeting of the new Royal Oscar Lodge, No. 9, Liverpool, Bro. Thomas Clark P.M. W.M. the following brethren were elected and initiated:—Bros. Thomas Smyth, Robert Pearson P.M. 673, P.Z. 220, and David Jackson S.W. 673, P.S. 220.

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE BRO. GODDIN, OF LODGES 1076 AND 1437.

Amounts previously acknowledged	20	16	0
Voted from The Great City Lodge, No. 1426	5	5	0
Subscribed by the members of ditto	4	4	0
Subscribed by the members of the Cripplegate Lodge, No. 1613	4	5	0
Bro. Watkins P.M. 112	0	5	0
	£34	15	0

ERRATA.—In Bro. D. P. Owen's letter, last week, for "Senior Past Warden" read "Senior Past Master." For "I claim the rank," &c. read "I do not claim the rank," &c.

In our notice of the "L.P.P." or Leicester Pork Pie, last week, the name of the makers should have read Vickers, Collyer and Dunmore.

The installation meeting of the De Loraine Lodge, No. 541, will be held on Friday next, the 21st inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Central-buildings, Grainger-street-west, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Bro. George Bingham Dean is the W.M. elect. The ceremony will be performed by Bro. E. D. Davis P.P.G.S.W., Prov. G.D.C.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Rheumatic Pains, Tic-Doloroux.—These diseases are unfortunately very prevalent in this country, and are frequently most distressing, sometimes for years baffling all medical skill to alleviate the sufferings of the victim. In no case have Holloway's Ointment and Pills failed to produce a cure. The Ointment exerts a peculiar and soothing influence over the nerves and muscles, relaxing spasms and subduing pain. The attack soon becomes milder, and the intervals between the paroxysms longer; until they cease altogether. The Pills restore the body from a weak and debilitated condition to a state of health and strength. Persons bedridden for months with rheumatic pains and swellings, after using the Ointment, have been cured in an incredibly short period.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Merchant Navy Lodge, No. 781.—The regular meeting was held on Wednesday last, at the Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Limehouse. Present—Bros. W. Hallett W.M., Daniells P.M. as S.W., J. W. Breden J.W., E. T. Read P.M. Sec., J. Wright P.G.P. Treas., Scheerboom S.D., Rawo J.D., Ives Steward, Ould I.G., Steedman Tyler. The Past Masters of the Lodge were well represented, while the list of Visitors comprised the names of Bros. J. G. Hilliard W.M. 174, J. D. Gray 366, E. J. D. Bradshaw 898, Jas. Gale 898, F. Garbett W.M. 1178, Thos. Forsyth 1259, W. W. Morgan 1385, S. J. Turquand P.M. 1556, &c. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were read and confirmed. The ballot was successfully taken for Messrs. W. H. E. Orchart, George Simmonds, and William J. Knight, and these three gentlemen were initiated into the Order. Bro. Pringle was next passed to the 2nd degree, and the ceremonial portion of the day's proceedings was brought to a conclusion by the raising of Bro. Day. The whole of the work was performed by Bro. Hallett, who acquitted himself most satisfactorily. Two petitions were then introduced, and it was decided the Lodge should recommend them to the Board of Benevolence. The Lodge was now closed. A capital repast was then served, and the good things provided were thoroughly appreciated. The W.M. presided, and when the table was cleared, gave the Loyal and Masonic toasts in quick succession. Bro. Wright P.G.P. replied for the Grand Officers. The health of the W.M. was given by Bro. Medland I.P.M., and Bro. Hallett gracefully acknowledged the compliment. To the health of the Initiates, each of the newly-made brethren addressed a few words in acknowledgment. The several visitors bore testimony to the admirable way in which the W.M. and Officers had carried out their duties. During the evening some excellent songs and recitations were given; Bros. Palmer, Sheerboom, Norton, Dickinson, and several others favouring the company. Bro. Palmer rendered valuable assistance as accompanist.

Lily Lodge of Richmond, No. 820.—Held an emergency meeting on Tuesday, the 11th of December, at four p.m., at Bro. Palmer's, the Greyhound, George-street, Richmond, Surrey. Present—Bros. T. Weaver W.M., Hubbard S.W., Lamb J.W., Kyezor S.D., Dean J.D., Courlander I.G., Myers D.C., Giles Treasurer, Reynolds Secretary; Bros. Palmer, Phillips; Bateman I.P.M., P.M.'s Myers, Koch, Jones, Sims; Bro. Phillips W.M. of Rose of Denmark, Blasby, Costelow, &c. Lodge opened in due form; the ballot for Mr. Cheswass proving satisfactory, he was initiated into the mysteries of the Craft by the W.M., who exhibited great proficiency. Lodge was then called off for refreshment; it resumed in due time, and the business was proceeded with. The brethren afterwards adjourned to host Palmer's magnificent banquetting-room, and sat down to one of his most *récherché* repasts. The customary toasts, both Loyal and Masonic, had due honours paid them. Bro. Bateman I.P.M. offered a few feeling and appropriate remarks upon recent events connected with the Lodge. Bro. Myers P.M. also addressed the brethren; he trusted the members might henceforth meet, work, and separate with such feelings of regard for each other that nothing in future could disturb.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.—Held its weekly meeting on Tuesday, the 4th instant, at Bro. Smyth's, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston. Bro. J. Lorkin W.M., C Lorkin S.W., Christian J.W., Barnes S.D., Stevenson J.D., Mardell I.G., Dallas Sec., Smyth Treasurer, P.M. Wallington Preceptor; Bros. Carr, Forss, Finch, Sanders, &c. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Sanders candidate. The Preceptor then occupied the chair, and opened the Lodge in the second degree. Bro. Carr having answered the necessary questions, was raised to the degree of a M.M. The W.M. then resumed the chair, and regularly closed down to the first degree.

On Tuesday last. Present—Bros. C. Lorkin W.M., Bonner S.W., Stevenson J.W., Wardell S.D., Lines J.D., Smyth I.G., Dallas Sec., P.M. Wallington Preceptor. After observance of formalities, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Slaiter candidate. Bro. Weige having answered the necessary questions, the Lodge was opened in the third degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. The Preceptor gave the Traditional History. The Lodge was then regularly closed down to the first degree. Bro. Slaiter, of Lodge 804, was elected a member. Bro. Bonner will preside next week.

Grey Friars Lodge, No. 1101.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 12th December, at the Masonic Hall, Reading. Present—Bros. Arthur Welch W.M., W. G. Flanagan S.W., J. Early Danks J.W., W. P. Ivey P.M. Sec., J. T. Stransom Treas., W. Ferguson S.D., J. H. Hawkes acting J.D., R. Dowsett I.G., W. Hemmings Tyler. Past Masters Bros. Brown, Chancellor, Margrett; Bros. Pulley, Cottrell, Hunt, &c. The Lodge was opened, the minutes of the last regular meeting read and confirmed. The Treasurers account, as audited in October, was passed, with complimentary remarks on the financial state of the Lodge. A vote of five guineas was unanimously passed towards the testimonial to be presented to Bro. Biggs P.P.G. Sec. of Berks and Bucks. Bros. Pulley, Cottrell, and Hunt were unanimously elected on the permanent Committee. The Secretary read a letter which he had received from the P.D.P.G.M. of the Province, accompanying a petition to the M.W.G.M. of England, to grant a separation of Berks and Bucks into two distinct Masonic Provinces. It was unanimously determined by the Lodge that they would not concur in the petition. The Chaplain brought before the Lodge the case of a distressed brother, not a member, who was very ill, and sadly in want; the sum of five guineas was immediately voted, and the call being urgent, at the suggestion of Bro. Chancellor, the Treasurer at once paid the amount. It was intended to hold a Lodge of Instruction at the close of the

business, but the various discussions took up so much time that the idea was abandoned. The Lodge was closed according to ancient form.

Upton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1227.—Held its weekly meeting at Bros. Bolton and Lane's, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, on Friday, the 7th instant. Bros. Smith W.M., Lane S.W., Crouch J.W., Fenner Preceptor, Townsend Secretary, Hill S.D., Simmonds J.D., Hine I.G.; also Bros. Bolton, Cleverley, Posener sen., Posener jun., Strond, Campbell, Kent, &c. Lodge opened, and the minutes were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed by the W.M., Bro. Cleverley acting as candidate. The first section of the lecture was worked by Bro. Fenner, the second by Bro. Campbell, and the third by Bro. Fenner, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Lane was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Lodge was then closed in due form and adjourned. The ceremony of installation will be rehearsed in this Lodge of Instruction by Bro. Crouch, the W.M. of West Kent Lodge, No. 1297, on Friday, the 21st instant, when it is hoped there will be a good muster of P.M.'s and other brethren. Chair to be taken at eight p.m. punctually.

Finsbury Park Lodge of Instruction, No. 1288.—Held at the Finsbury Park Tavern, Holloway, Friday, 30th Nov. Bros. John Walker W.M. No. 27 (Egyptian) W.M., Thos. Press J.W. 1695 S.W., H. B. D. Dunn S.D. 1695 J.W., Woolley S.D., R. C. Frampton J.D. 1695 J.D., Jeffreys W.M. Burgoyne I.G., P.M. L. R. Rogers Preceptor, and other brethren. Lodge opened, and the minutes were read and confirmed. Lodge opened in second degree. Bro. Frampton, candidate for raising, was examined as to his proficiency, was entrusted and retired. Lodge opened in third degree, and ceremony of raising was rehearsed. Lodge resumed to first degree, and Bro. Dunn offered himself as a candidate for initiation, and the ceremony was rehearsed.

The Great City Lodge, No. 1426.—A meeting was held on Saturday, the 8th inst., at the Cannon-street Hotel, when the following brethren were present:—R. Stanway W.M., Jas. Freeman S.W., G. W. Blackie J.W., Headon P.M. Treas., E. Moody P.M. Sec., W. H. Catchpole S.D., Amor J.D., Kibble D.C., Gerge Jenkins Org., Charles Taylor I.G., W. H. Hook 1st Steward, Richard Hooker 2nd Steward; John Seex I.P.M. Visitors—Leonard Benet W.M. 187, W. W. Snelling 880, H. White 183, J. Simpson jun. 539, Allan Williams 610, C. G. Breden Marcons 1341, W. W. Morgan 1385, R. Sherrington 1541. The Lodge was opened at 3.30, and the minutes were read and received confirmation. The ceremonial portion of the day's proceedings commenced with the raising of Bros. Frost, Nosedá, W. T. Bertram and Mozley. The examination of these brethren evidenced they had paid attention to the acquirement of a proper knowledge of what is required from them ere they can be considered efficient in their duties, and Bro. Stanway performed the ceremony in a most careful and effective manner. The ballot was now taken for Mr. Tom Rennie Vowles, and proving unanimous, that gentleman was received into our Society. Several matters in connection with the Lodge were then discussed, after which Bro. Moody read the letter which was printed in the columns of this journal on 17th November, from Bro. Lacey P.M. 174, on behalf of the widow and children of the late Bro. Goddin. Bro. Moody made a most forcible appeal to the members of his Lodge, and stated that since the letter he had read appeared, the widow Goddin had departed this life, leaving the children entirely destitute. Deep sympathy was expressed by several brethren present, who stated that the distressing circumstances of the case were known to them, and Bro. Headon P.M. formally moved that the members vote a sum of five guineas from the Samaritan Fund of the Lodge. This proposition was seconded by Bro. Baber, and on being submitted by the W.M. received unanimous approval. A second application for relief was then considered; but in this instance the brethren decided that it was a case they could not entertain. The Lodge was then closed. Afterwards the brethren partook of refreshments, which were served in the Egyptian Room, and ample justice was done to the repast. This being an "off-night," the W.M. stated he should not trespass on the time of the brethren by making lengthy speeches, but would at once proceed to bring the Loyal toasts before them. The health of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen was then given. This was followed by that of the M.W.G.M., and Lord Carnarvon, and the Earl of Skelmersdale, with the other Grand Officers, was next given. Each of these toasts was well received. Bro. Seex then proposed the health of the W.M., who replied in most felicitous terms. Before sitting down, Bro. Stanway made a few remarks on the distressing case which had been brought under the notice of the Lodge by Bro. Moody. The esteemed Master stated that a worthy brother who had been obliged to leave early, had made a suggestion to him that the amount realised by the Charity Box on that evening could not be better applied than by the brethren supplementing the gift made in the Lodge by appropriating the amount to the fund being raised for the orphan children of the late Bro. Goddin. Bro. Stanway said their absent brother had practically illustrated his interest by leaving with him 10s to be devoted to this charitable purpose. With these remarks he would start the box upon its mission, and leave the result in the hands of the brethren. On the box being returned, Bro. Stanway declared the amount realised amounted to £1 1s, and this was immediately increased to £4 4s, thus making the amount contributed by the Great City Lodge £9 9s. Bro. Morgan acknowledged the magnificent generosity of the brethren; he trusted their kind act would be imitated by the members of other Lodges; from his personal knowledge he knew the case was a most deserving one. The remaining toasts were then given. Bros. Seex and Headon replied for the P.M.'s. Each of the Visitors addressed a few remarks, and the Officers severally acknowledged the compliments paid them. The proceedings of the evening were enlivened by songs and recitations,

Duke of Connaught Lodge of Instruction, No. 1524.

—Held at Bro. G. Ferrar's, Havelock Hotel, Albion-road, Dalston, on Wednesday, the 5th inst. Present—Bros. H. Meyer W.M., J. Lorkin S.W., Dignam J.W., Brasted S.D., C. J. Olley J.D., C. Lorkin I.G., Geo. Ferrar Treas., E. Dietrich Secretary, Fieldwick Preceptor, and Bros. R. Fisher, R. Olley, Batchelor, Polak, Jameson, Marsh, Little, Crane, Jones, Mears, T. J. Ainsley, &c. The Lodge was opened in due form, with solemn prayer. The minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, the second ceremony was rehearsed, Bro. Crane candidate. The W.M. worked the first section of the first lecture. Bros. Ainsley Yarborough Lodge, Jersey No. 244, and Albert Mears Lodge of Prudent Brethren No. 145, were elected members. Bro. C. Lorkin will preside at next meeting.

Eboracum Lodge, No. 1611.—The regular meeting of this

Lodge was held on Monday evening, Bro. T. B. Whytehead W.M. presiding, supported by the officers, and about twenty brethren and visitors. After the reading of the minutes, the W.M. said he wished to take the earliest opportunity of thanking the brethren for the hearty manner in which they had supported him on the occasion of the installation banquet on the previous Tuesday. He had received several letters from visitors who were present, expressing the pleasure they had experienced, and he felt that much of this was due to the very kindly and cordial spirit evinced by the brethren. He felt more than ever the responsibility, as well as the privilege, of presiding over a Lodge whose members had such a thorough appreciation of the excellencies of Freemasonry in its best sense. The W.M. then stated that Bro. George Simpson, Master of Ceremonies, who so ably represented the Lodge at the Aged and Benevolent Festival last year, had expressed himself willing to undertake the duties this year, and he felt sure the Lodge would only be too happy to accept his valuable services; an announcement which was greeted with hearty applause. The bye-laws were then read by the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations of the Lodge, after which the W.M. said that he had much pleasure in appointing Bro. the Rev. J. Metcalfe Chaplain of the Lodge. The I.P.M., Bro. Thomas Cooper, then gave the explanation of the Third Tracing Board. The names of two gentlemen were proposed and seconded as candidates for initiation, and the Lodge was closed in due form.

West Middlesex Lodge, No. 1612.—An emergency

meeting was held at the Ealing Institute on Saturday, 1st December, at seven p.m. Bros. Beasley W.M., H. Kasner S.W., A. J. Burr J.W., J. Green S.D., H. E. Tucker J.D., J. C. Roe P.M. Secretary, J. Brown Treasurer, W. Seward jun. I.G., F. Delavanté Organist; Bros. Porter, Campfield, Parsons, &c. Bros. A. Jones and Clark were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. Bros. W. Nye and Day were passed to the second degree. Lodge then resumed to the first degree, when four gentlemen were proposed for the ballot at the next meeting. The whole of the ceremonies were conducted in the most able and impressive manner by the W.M., Bro. A. Beasley.

This Lodge held its regular meeting on Saturday the 8th inst., at 2.30 p.m. Bros. A. Beasley W.M., Kingston I.P.M., H. Kasner S.W., A. T. Burr J.W., Gomm S.D., Compton J.D., H. E. Tucker I.G., S. Dyer D.C., J. C. Roe Sec., T. Brown Treas., F. Delavanté Org.; W. Goss W.M. 780, Legrey and J. Gunner Gomm, Fisher, Porter, and Pooley. Lodge opened in due form, the ballot was taken for Messrs. T. Ackworth and J. S. Edmeston; it proved unanimous; the Lodge was then opened in second degree, and Bros. Maling and Etienne underwent a satisfactory examination and retired; Lodge was then opened in the third degree, and these two brethren were admitted and raised to the sublime degree. The W.M. most impressively conducted the solemn proceedings. Lodge was then closed in the third degree, and resumed to the first, when Bros. Gunner and Wright having replied to the necessary questions, were, at the request of the W.M. of 780, duly passed to the degree of Fellow Craft. After closing in the second degree, Messrs. Acworth and Edmeston received Masonic light. Lodge was then closed in due form. The brethren adjourned to the Railway Hotel to dine; when the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given and cordially responded to. During the evening the brethren sang some capital songs, and a great treat was afforded by the Organist of the Lodge, Bro. Delavanté, introducing his accomplished daughter, who sang "Tell me, my Heart," "The distant shore," &c. Miss Delavanté's talents are well known, and require no praise from us; suffice it, she sang in her accustomed brilliant manner, and greatly delighted her hearers.

West Middlesex Lodge of Instruction.—Thursday evening, 29th November, at the Feathers Hotel, Ealing. Bros. J. W. Fisher W.M., J. Green S.W., A. J. Burr J.W., H. Kasner S.D., E. C. Porter J.D., S. Dyer I.G., H. E. Tucker Treasurer, P.M. Bro. J. C. Roe; Bros. Nye, Gunner, Pooley, Wills, &c. Ceremony of initiation rehearsed, Bro. E. Gasson candidate, after which the W.M. gave the charge in the first degree most impressively. Bros. H. Stevens Johnston, Costelow, Sterndale Bennett, Wright, &c., were unanimously elected members. Bro. Tucker, Treasurer, and Bro. Stephens were elected honorary members. A vote of thanks was passed to the W.M.

On Thursday the 6th inst., at 7.30 p.m. Present—Bros. J. Gurr W.M., H. Kasner S.W., E. Garron J.W., E. C. Porter S.D., A. Pooley J.D., J. R. Fernée I.G., H. E. Tucker Treas.; J. Johnson, W. Seward jun., Wright, Jones, T. W. Fisher, H. Stephens, and others. Lodge opened up to the third degree, when the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Johnson candidate. Lodge was closed down to the second degree, Bro. Tucker gave the lecture on the tracing board, much to the pleasure and instruction of the brethren. Bro. Allen was elected a member. A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. H. E. Tucker for the treat he had afforded the brethren. Lodge was then closed in harmony, and was adjourned until Thursday next, Bro. Kasner having been voted to the chair for that occasion.

Earl of Carnarvon Lodge of Instruction, No. 1642.—

Met on Friday, 30th ult., at the Mitre Hotel, Goulborne-road, Notting-hill. Present—Bros. Penn W.M., Smout sen. S.W., Tettouborn J.W., Spiegel S.D., Kelly J.D., Woodmason I.G., Savage P.M. Preceptor; Bros. Marlis P.M., Lichtwitz, Wood, Krabb, Collett, Newland, &c. Business—The W.M., who occupied the chair for the first time, rehearsed the ceremony of raising, Bro. Kelly being candidate; also that of initiation, Bro. Krabb being the candidate. The proposition of Bro. Spiegel, which has been twice adjourned, to subscribe £5 5s to Bro. P.M. Stephens' list, as Steward for the Girls' School, was again brought forward by Bro. Marlis P.M., and carried unanimously. The Lodge of Instruction has only been in existence since January 1876, and by thus becoming Life Subscriber to the Girls' School testifies to its prosperity. A cordial vote of thanks was proposed to Bro. Penn, for the excellent manner in which he had worked the ceremony of raising.

Beaconsfield Lodge, No. 1662.—A general meeting of the

members of this Lodge was held at the Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow, on Saturday, 1st Dec. Present—Bros. W. T. Christian W.M., W. Groome S.W., W. G. Hallows as J.W., J. Pinder P.M., F. Hallows Sec., T. Franklin S.D., J. H. Cambridge J.D., A. Oldroyd I.G., T. Upward Organist, A. Delvalli W.S., Marsh as Tyler. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last Lodge meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. Stringer and Burnand, and Bro. C. Haines, of the Henry Mugeridge Lodge, candidates for raising, were examined and entrusted, and in due course were introduced and raised to the sublime degree. The Lodge was resumed, and two gentlemen who had been previously balloted for were initiated into the Order. The Lodge was then closed in due form, and adjourned until Saturday, 2nd February. After business the brethren sat down to a banquet, which was served in the style so well known to the brethren of this Lodge. The usual toasts were given by the W.M., and were heartily responded to. There was a large number of members and visitors present, who fully appreciated the comforts provided by the esteemed host and hostess.

Wentworth Lodge, Sheffield, No. 1239.—The annual

festival of this Lodge was held on Monday, 3rd December, in the New Masonic Hall, Surrey-street. Among the brethren present were Bros. Tew J.P., Deputy Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire, M. M. de Bartolomé P.P.G.W., C. F. Matier P.G.W. Greece, Ensor Drury P.P.G.W., Alex. Hay P.P.G.S.B., H. J. Garnett P.P.G.S.B., Robert Arnison P.P.G.S.B., T. M. Ramplen P.P.G.D. Lines, Walslaw P.P.G.D.C., the Rev. Canon Blakeney, Vicar of Sheffield, W. Jervis, Worshipful Master Britannia Lodge 139, B. Saville Worshipful Master Phoenix, Rotherham 904, Jendwyne Worshipful Master Scarsdale, Chesterfield, 581, also Bros. T. B. Whytehead W.M. Eboracum Lodge 1611 York, Past Masters Hayes, Pawson, Bennett, Wostinholme, Scargill, Tindall, White, and a number of brethren, many of whom had come from a distance. The Lodge was opened by the retiring W.M. Bro. S. B. Ellis, who installed his successor, Bro. W. R. Thomas M.D., as Worshipful Master. Bro. Dr. Thomas then invested his officers as follow:—R. Renton S.W., J. Clark J.W., H. J. Garnett P.P.G.S.B. Treasurer, to which office—which he has so worthily held for many years—he was re-elected by the brethren at the last meeting. C. Hill Secretary, J. E. Darling S.D., H. T. Holmes J.D., G. Bennett P.M. M.C., J. Broadhead I.G., Nixon S.S., T. Blair J.S. Bro. Tindall was then unanimously re-elected Charity Steward for the ensuing year, and great satisfaction was expressed by the brethren for the zeal and energy evinced by Brother Tindall in the discharge of his duties. After the ceremony of installation was over, the brethren repaired to their large banqueting hall, where a most sumptuous repast awaited them, at which about eighty were present. The toast of the Queen was, as it usually is among Freemasons, most heartily responded to by the brethren, and that of the Prince of Wales the Grand Master of the Freemasons of England was equally well received. The applause of the brethren was elicited when the toast of Sir H. Edwards, Bro. Tew, and the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge was given, as they considered that the Lodge had been highly honoured by the presence of Bro. Tew the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Dr. Bartolomé, the senior Freemason of Sheffield, and so many officers from Provincial Grand Lodges, at this the first installation in the new and commodious Hall. Then followed the toast of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Dr. Thomas, which was received with enthusiasm by the brethren, as also was that of Bro. Ellis I.P.M. and Installing Officer, who was highly complimented by the W.M. for the perfect manner in which he had discharged the responsible duties of his office during the past year, and the ability with which he had gone through the ceremony of installation that evening, Bro. Ellis being the first Master of this Lodge who had installed his successor. A number of other toasts were given, and altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent. Bro. Suckley kindly presided most ably at the fine new organ. Messrs. Walker and Hall lent a number of magnificent épergnes for the occasion.

THE TURCO-RUSSIAN BATTLEFIELDS.—In the anticipation that the fall of Plevna may eventuate in the cessation of hostilities between Russia and Turkey, we hear that Messrs. Gaze and Son, the well-known tourist directors of London, propose, as soon as practicable, to organize two parties for visiting the scenes of the recent struggles in Europe and Asia. It is intended that one of these parties shall proceed to Vienna and along the Danube, visiting Bucharest, Giurgevo and Kustchuk, thence to Plevna and the Balkan Range. The other tour is proposed to include Athens, Constantinople and the Black Sea to Trebizond, and thence to Kars, Erzeroum and Mount Ararat. We believe that it is intended that a preliminary journey shall be undertaken to make the necessary arrangements, and that a limited number of person can join Messrs. Gaze on these expeditions. We should think that the great interest of such tours would induce many to desire to accompany the parties.

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His Grace the DUKE OF MANCHESTER,

R.W. Prov. G.M. for Norths and Hunts,

Has graciously signified his intention of presiding.

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

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

4 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

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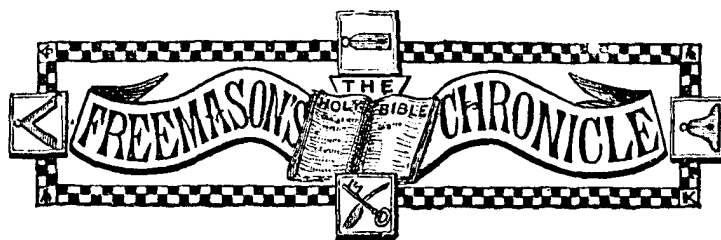
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OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THE Court is now at Windsor, where a Council was held on Wednesday, at which the Queen presided. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Earl of Beaconsfield, the Earl of Derby, and the Right Hon. R. A. Cross were present. Lord Justice Thesiger was introduced and sworn in as a Privy Councillor. Previous to this, the Chinese Minister had an audience, the Earl of Derby, Foreign Secretary being present, as well as Sir Thomas Wade and Dr. Macartney, interpreter. Afterwards Her Majesty conferred the honour of knighthood on Mr. Bryan Robinson, late Judge of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, Mr. James Bain, late Lord Provost of Glasgow, and Mr. Andrew Barclay Walker, late Mayor of Liverpool. On Tuesday afternoon the Queen, accompanied by the Princess Beatrice, visited London, and called on the Duchess of Cambridge at St. James's Palace, and the Princess of Wales at Clarence House. Early in the week the Prince of Wales, who paid a visit to the Cattle Show on Monday, in company with the Crown Prince of Hanover, went down to Ashford House, Kent, the seat of his brother, the Duke of Edinburgh, for a few days' shooting.

The Cattle Show has attracted its thousands of visitors during the week. The early part of Monday was devoted to the judging, and in the afternoon those of the public who cared to pay the sum of five shillings were admitted. Since then a shilling has sufficed, and the number of visitors on the very first of these days was over 28,000, while the crowds appeared to have been as great on each of the following days. The Champion Plate, given by the Agricultural Hall Co. Limited, for the best beast in the show, was awarded to Mr. N. Catchpole for his Pride of Thorndale second, which took the first prize of £20 in class 14 for shorthorned heifers not exceeding four years old, the silver cup value £50 for the best heifer, and the Silver Breed Cup of £40 for the best animal of the breed. He was, however, very closely run by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's Devon steer, which was adjudged the first prize of £25 in its class, and also the silver breed cup value £40, for the best Devon, as well as the £50 for the best steer or ox in the different classes. The Prince also carried off a second prize of £15 in class 12, for shorthorned steers not exceeding three years and three months, and a second prize in class 3, Devon steers or oxen above two years three months and under four years six months, and was highly commended in class 1. The Queen was highly commended in class 6 for Hereford steers, and carried off the first prize for Hereford steers in class 7, and the first in class 32. Her Majesty's exhibits in the pigs' classes received no awards. Among the other principal prize winners were Mr. Henry Page, of Walmer, and the Earl of Powies in the Hereford classes, Mr. Alfred Agate, of Horsham in the Sussex classes, Mr. J. J. Colman, M.P., in the Norfolk and Suffolk, Sir W. G. G. Cumming and Sir W. C. Trevelyan in the Scotch Highland breed, Mr. R. Jardine and Sir W. Cumming in the Scotch polled, and Mr. R. H. Harris, Lord Lovat, Sir W. C. Trevelyan, and the Earl of Darnley. Lord Walsingham was successful in the sheep classes, and the Earl of Radnor with his pigs. The show of agricultural implements was on a large scale, and of unusual excellence.

Several speeches have been made this week by leading politicians, the most important being those of Mr. Gathorne Hardy at Edinburgh, Lord John Manners at Grantham, and the Solicitor General at Oldham. Mr. Hardy referred as a matter of course to the Eastern question, but in what he said the right hon. gentleman was very reserved. One remark of his must be noted, to the effect that he could not understand it possible for terms of peace to be arranged without this country having a voice in the matter. It is also worth while noting that a Cabinet Council was fixed for yesterday, and that Parliament stands

prorogued to the 17th January next, when we presume it will meet for the despatch of business in the event of an earlier meeting than usual being necessary.

News reached Lloyd's on Friday last that the Union Company's mail steamer *European* was lost off Ushant on the Wednesday previous. She was a fine vessel, of 2272 tons gross register, and 1400 horse power. Fortunately, the passengers, crew, and mails were all saved. Another mail steamer, the *City of Berlin*, which left New York on the 24th ult., and was due off Ireland on the 2nd instant, broke her shaft when six days out, and in consequence did not reach her destination till the 9th instant, in tow of the *City of New York*. Thus the anxiety which had been aroused respecting her safety was dissipated.

The Mansion House Indian Famine Relief Fund had, according to the last account, reached the sum of £487,000, including the £6,000 now under transmission from Sydney. Of this £470,000 has already been remitted to India. Reports from the afflicted districts, while they show the terrible loss of life which has taken place, speak of the signs of improvement which are everywhere visible among the population.

A singular case was brought before the Worship-street Police Court on Friday last, when a Miss Lena Chester was charged with an attempt to bribe John Partridge, gaoler of the Mansion House Police Court, by offering him £500 to procure the release from the prison van of Fred. Dimsdale, a person charged with felony at that Court. Partridge's evidence and that of a police officer, whom he had called in and secreted under the table while the lady was conversing with him, having been given, the woman was remanded, Mr. Bushby the magistrate consenting to take bail in two sureties of £100 each, and the accused in double that amount during the remand.

It seems the health of the Pope, who has attained an almost patriarchal age, is in a very critical state. His Holiness is confined to his bed by a wound or wounds in his leg, but he is able at times to receive visitors. The rumours are very contradictory, some being to the effect that he is recovering strength, while others represent him as enduring great sufferings.

The political state of France is becoming more and more critical every day. The attempt by M. Dufaure to form a Ministry entirely failed, and now an attempt to form a Ministry of Combat is being made, but it remains to be seen what success will attend the efforts of M. Batbie who is charged with the business. There is no doubt that the protracted struggle between the Marshal and the Left is exercising a very depressing effect on the trade of France and especially of the capital, and more than one Deputation has waited upon the President urging him to put an end to the present grave uncertainty. Whether he will invite the Senate to grant a second dissolution of the present Chamber, or what will be done is unknown. There have been rumours that the President contemplated resigning his office, but this would probably make matters worse. However, we shall no doubt shortly learn the course which events are likely to take, and we trust, whatever may happen, that it will be for the good of France.

The news of the week from the seat of war is the most important we have yet received. Plevna has fallen. On Sunday morning Osman Pasha made a desperate effort to break through the Russian lines. He succeeded in forcing his way into the enemy's entrenchments, but fresh obstacles met him at every step, and after five hours' hard fighting, he turned to re-enter Plevna, but found the enemy had already anticipated such a movement. At length, with his men being shot down in all directions, and himself wounded, he surrendered unconditionally to the Emperor of Russia, with his whole army, which is variously estimated at from 30,000 to 40,000, including 10,000 killed and wounded. Thus, after holding the Russians at bay for five months round a fortress which he himself had created, the gallant Turk has had to succumb after a supreme effort to break out, and then only when his men were reduced to their last scrap of food—barely a few ears of corn daily. Such a magnificent defence as this will place Osman Pasha among the most distinguished warriors of the day, and even his enemies have been struck with admiration at the superb valour he has shown. And well, indeed, may they do so, for it is probable the loss he has inflicted on them far exceeds the total number of troops which have been under his command from first to last; and had the other Turkish Generals followed his example, the Russians might have

been driven back over the Danube. It is said the Czar, when Osman surrendered his sword to him, magnanimously restored it, and placed his own carriage and escort at the disposal of the beaten chief. The Russians and Roumanians entered Plevna the same afternoon, and the Grand Duke Nicholas and Prince Charles slept in the town, the inhabitants of which were found to be in terrible want of food. We have not yet heard of the Russian losses, but they must have been very heavy, if it be true that three whole regiments were nearly cut to pieces. The capture of this stronghold will place 100,000 at the disposal of the Grand Duke for further operations. If the weather clears up, we shall, no doubt, hear of the Russians attempting to carry the war south of the Balkans, and advancing on Adrianople. Mehemet Ali Pasha has been recalled to Constantinople, and the position of the force lately under his command will be seriously jeopardised. Suleiman Pasha has been unable to make further progress against the Czarewitch, though there is a rumour of more fighting on the Lom. From Asia, the news is very meagre, but the anxiety of the moment is as to the political rather than the military aspect of things, and of this we shall know more anon.

Since the above was written intelligence has been received from Paris of the failure of all attempts on the part of M. Batbie to form a Ministry, and M. Dufaure was again summoned by the Marshal. This time he has succeeded, and the list of the new cabinet has been already announced. One other item of news has arrived. The Turkish Parliament has been again opened, by the Sultan in person, the Imperial address being read by one of the high Turkish dignitaries.

We have great pleasure in announcing that the pupils of Bro. Westfield, of Leyton College, Essex, will give their winter entertainment on Thursday next. Several brethren have placed their sons under Bro. Westfield's charge, and he always extends a most cordial welcome to all who visit his establishment on these occasions. We do not doubt we shall have the pleasure of chronicling, in our next issue, another successful gathering.

According to the *Freemasons' Repository*, the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick held its tenth annual Communication in the City of St. John, on the 26th and 27th October, when Bro. Robt. T. Clench was elected Grand Master, Bro. Edwin J. Westmore Dep. G. Master, Henry Driffell Sen. G. Warden, James Boone Jun. G. Warden, James McNichol jun. G. Treasurer, and William F. Bunting G. Secretary. The receipts for the year were reported as 1,660.96 dollars, and the total membership 2,236. Action is already being taken to rebuild and reform another library in place of that destroyed by the great fire, and the reprint of the Proceedings will soon be commenced, so that it is hoped and expected that another year will almost obliterate the effects of the misfortunes which have befallen the Grand Lodge. The following resolution as to visitors was adopted:—"That any brother hailing from a Lodge beyond the jurisdiction of New Brunswick, desiring to be received as a visitor in any Lodge within the province, and who cannot be vouched for, shall, previous to undergoing an examination, be required to produce a certificate from the Grand Lodge to which he belongs; and if he cannot produce a certificate, no examination shall take place, and he shall be refused admission."

From a notice of the installation meeting of the Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1653, Sydney, which appears in the *Australian Freemason* for the month of October, we learn that the following are the Officers for the present year, namely, Bros. Thomas James Bowyer M.A. W.M., Hugh Kennedy I.P.M., Dr. W. T. G. Bedford S.W., Rev. Dr. White J.W., W. Clark Treasurer, W. B. Stevens Secretary, T. Moser S.D., F. J. Armstrong J.D., G. F. Stephen I.G. Bro. Bowyer subsequently presented a very handsome gold Past Master's jewel which had been voted by the Lodge in token of its sense of the services he had rendered during his year of office. We notice also with pleasure that there is a Lodge of Instruction in Sydney, which meets every month, and is doing very admirable service,

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

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

—:O:—

SATURDAY, 15th DECEMBER.

- 108—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
1361—Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Mare-street, Hackney.
1624—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Pimlico, at 7. (Instruction.)
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.

MONDAY, 17th DECEMBER.

- 45—Strong Man, Old Rodney's Head, 12 Old-st., near Goswell-rd., at 8. (Inst.)
174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
180—St. James's Union, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
185—Tranquillity, Guildhall Tavern, Gre-ham-street, at 5.
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Hotel, High-st., Wapping, at 8. (Instruction.)
1425—Hyde Park, The Westbourne, Craven-rd., Puddington, at 8. (Instruction.)
1489—Marquess of Ripon, Pembury Tavern, Amhurst-rd., Hackney, at 7. (Inst.)
1623—West Smithfield, New Market Hotel, King-st., Snow-hill, at 8. (Inst.)
1625—Tredegar, Royal Hotel, Mile End-road, corner of Burdett-road. (Inst.)
London Masonic Club Lodge of Instruction, 101 Queen Victoria-st., E.C., at 6, on 2nd and 4th Mondays in each month.
102—Unanimity, Kings Arms, North Walsham.
236—York, Masonic Hall, York.
330—One and All, Freemasons' Hall, Bodmin.
331—Phoenix of Honour and Prudence, Public Rooms, Truro.
350—Peace and Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Southampton.
388—Prudence, Three Tuns, Halesworth, Suffolk.
424—Borough, Freemasons' Hall, West-street, Gateshead.
466—Merit, George Hotel, Stamford Baron, Northampton.
588—St. Botolph, Corn-exchange, Sleaford.
622—St. Cuthbert, Masonic Hall, Wimborne.
703—Clifton, Clifton Arms Hotel, Blackpool.
720—Pannure, Balham Hotel, Balham.
725—Stoneleigh, King's Arms Hotel, Kenilworth.
985—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Holbeach.
1037—Portland, Royal Breakwater Hotel, Portland.
1141—Mid Sussex, Assembly Rooms, Horsham.
1188—Benevolence, Town Hall, Sherborne.
1199—Agriculture, Honey Hall, Congresbury.
1238—Gooch, Prince Alfred Hotel, Southall.
1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury, at 8 p.m. (Instruction.)
1486—Duncombe, King's Arms Hotel, Kingsbridge, Devon.
1502—Israel, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool.
1564—St. John, Prince of Wales Tavern, Knaphill, Surrey.
1575—Olive, Corbet Arms, Market Drayton.
R. A. 296—Loyalty, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.

TUESDAY, 18th DECEMBER.

- Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
30—United Mariners, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
55—Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton-bldgs., Holborn, at 7. (Inst.)
65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
73—Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
95—Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
177—Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
201—Jordan, Devonshire Arms, Devonshire-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
551—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney. (Instruction.)
753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)
860—Dalbousie, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1420—Earl Spencer, Swan Hotel, Battersea Bridge, S.W.
1446—Mount Edgumbe, 19 Jermyn-street, S.W., at 8. (Instruction.)
1471—Islington, Three Bucks, Gresham-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
1472—Henley, Railway Tavern, Stratford New Town, at 8. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement, Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, at 7.
213—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, Theatre-street, Norwich.
248—True Love and Unity, Freemasons' Hall, Brixham, Devon.
381—St. David, Masonic Rooms, Bangor.
402—Royal Sussex, George the Fourth, Nottingham.
411—Union, Masonic Hall, Reading.
1006—Tregulow, Masonic Rooms, St. Day, Scorrier, Cornwall.
1113—Anglesea, Bull Hotel, Llangefin.
1427—Percy, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle.
1470—Chiltern, Town Hall, Dunstable.

WEDNESDAY, 19th DECEMBER.

- Lodge of Benevolence, Freemasons Hall, at 6.
174—Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
193—Confidence, Railway Tavern, London-street, at 7. (Instruction.)
538—La Tolerance, Horse and Groom, Winsley-street, W., at 7.45. (Inst.)
781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, at 7.30. (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.)
1288—Finsbury Park, Finsbury Pk. Tav., Seven Sisters-rd., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1349—Friars, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars, E.C.
1507—Metropolitan, Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1673—Langton, London Masonic Club, 101 Queen Victoria-street, E.C., at 7.
R. A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
R. A. 1385—Clapton, White Hart Tavern, Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
121—Mount Sinai, Public-buildings, Penzance.
175—East Medina, Masonic Hall, John-street, Ryde, I.W.
199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover. (Instruction.)
200—Old Globe, Private Rooms, Globe-street, Scarborough.
221—St. John's, Commercial Hotel, Town Hall Square, Bolton.
592—Cotteswold, King's Head Hotel, Cirencester.
606—Segontium, Masonic Hall, Carnarvon Castle.
631—Scarsdale, Masonic Hall, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
683—Isca, Freemasons' Hall, Dock-street, Newport, Monmouthshire.
755—St. Tudno, Freemasons' Hall, Llandudno.
969—Sun and Sector, Assembly Rooms, Workington.
1040—Sykes, Masonic Hall, Great Driffield.
1086—Walton, St. Lawrence Boys' School, Kirkdale.
1129—St. Chad's, Roebuck Hotel, Rochdale.
1164—Eliot, Private Rooms, St. Germain's, Cornwall.
1337—Anchor, Masonic Rooms, Durham House, Northallerton.
1352—Duke of Lancaster, Athenaeum, Lancaster.
1443—Salem, Town Hall, Davlish, Devon.
1511—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Hornsea.

THURSDAY, 20th DECEMBER.

- House Committee, Girls' School, at 4.
3—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-sq., at 7. (Instruction.)
15—Kent, Chequers, Marsh-street, Waltham-stow, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30. (Instruction.)
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8. (Instruction.)
169—Temperance, White Swan, High-street, Deptford.
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8. (Inst.)
613—New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton.
1139—South Norwood, Public Hall, South Norwood.

- 1237—Great Northern, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1339—Stockwell, Half Moon, Herne-hill.
1349—Friars, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
1426—The Great City, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, E.C. at 6.30. (Instruction.)
R. A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)
M. M.—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.30. (Inst.)

- 56—Howard, High-street, Arundel.
313—Concord, Militia Officers' Mess Rooms, Starkie-street, Preston.
523—John of Gaunt, Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, Leicester.
663—Wiltshire of Fidelity, Town Hall, Devizes.
636—De Ogle, Masonic Hall, Morpeth.
659—Blagdon, Ridley Arms Hotel, Blyth.
1332—Unity, Masonic Hall, Crediton, Devon.
1432—Fitzalan, Wynnstay Arms, Oswestry.
1612—West Middlesex, Feathers Hotel, Ealing, at 7.30. (Instruction.)

FRIDAY, 21st DECEMBER.

- House Committee, Boys' School, at 4.
Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
25—Robert Burns, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
766—William Preston, Feathers Tavern, Up. George-st., Edgware-rd. (Inst.)
834—Ranelagh, Bell and Anchor, Hammersmith-road. (Instruction.)
902—Burgoyne, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales-road, Kentish Town. (Inst.)
933—Doric, Lion Tavern, Carlton-square, Mile End, at 8. (Instruction.)
1056—Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, 155 Fleet-street, E.C. at 7. (Instruction.)
1227—Upton, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, E.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
1260—Hervey, Punch's Tavern, 99 Fleet-street, E.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
1278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
1298—Royal Standard, Castle Tavern, Highbury, at 8. (Instruction.)
1365—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1612—E. Carnarvon, Mitre Hotel, Goulborne-rd, N. Kensington, at 7.30. (Inst.)
48—Industry, Freemasons' Hall, West-street, Gateshead.
127—Union, Freemasons' Hall, Margate.
347—Noah's Ark, Wagon and Horses Hotel, Tipton.
516—Phoenix, Fox Hotel, Stowmarket.
541—De Lorraine, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street-west, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Installation.)
780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, at 7.30. (Instruction.)

SATURDAY, 22nd DECEMBER.

- 198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
1624—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Pimlico, at 7. (Instruction.)
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

SATURDAY.

- 308—Prince George, Station House, Bottoms, Eastwood.

MONDAY.

- 61—Probity, Freemasons' Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax.
264—Nelson of the Nile, Freemasons' Hall, New-road, Batley.
302—Hope, New Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford.
307—Prince Frederick, White Horse Hotel, Hebden Bridge.
403—Three Graces, Private Room, Haworth.
R. A. 139—Paradise, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
R. A. 827—St. John's, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury, Yorks.

TUESDAY.

- 1214—Scarborough, Wilton Arms Hotel, Batley.

WEDNESDAY.

- 253—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike.
380—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Commercial-street, Morley, near Leeds.
337—Airedale, Masonic Hall, Westgate, Shipley.
910—St. Oswald, Masonic Hall, Pontefract.
1019—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.
1351—Brighouse, Masonic Room, Bradford-road, Brighouse.
1615—Prince of Wales, 69 Little Horton-lane, Bradford.

THURSDAY.

- 208—Three Grand Principles, Masonic Hall, Dewsbury.
275—Harmony, Masonic Hall, South-parade, Huddersfield.
337—Candour, Private Rooms, Commercial Inn, Uppermill.
600—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford.
1042—Excelsior, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds.

FRIDAY.

- 401—Royal Forest, Hark to Bounty Inn, Slaidburn.
652—Holme Valley, Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth.
1031—Eccleshill, Freemasons' Hall, Eccleshill.
1102—Mirfield, Assembly Rooms, Eastthorpe, Mirfield.
1311—Zetland, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds.
R. A. 521—Truth, Freemasons' Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, Huddersfield.
R. A. 837—Marquess of Ripon, Town Hall, Ripon.

SATURDAY.

- 149—Peace, Private Rooms, Meltham.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

- MONDAY—41—St. Luke, Freemasons' Hall.

- TUESDAY—36—St. David, Ship Hotel, East Register-street.
405—Ride, Freemasons' Hall.

- WEDNESDAY—160—Roman Eagle, Iona Hotel, 82 Nicolson-street.

- THURSDAY—48—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 152—Perseverance, Lodge Room, 86 Constitution-street.

- FRIDAY—R. A. 83—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Kent Lodge, No. 8.—Met on Wednesday, the 12th instant, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-field. There were present—Bros. S. Wharman W.M., Colman's-bridge S.W., Ginman J.W., Sleeman P.M. Treas., Dukes P.M. Sec., C. A. Bull S.D., W. Levy J.D., A. B. Lipscombe I.G., E. Wells D.C., Barlow P.M. Steward, James Pinder I.P.M., Past Master Martin, and an average number of ordinary members. The Visitors were Bros. F. B. Butterworth and Lockhurst, both of 1604, W. Holt 928, Bolton 356, Lyons S.W. 1287, Charles Manns 1107, and E. Gottheil P.M. 185. In the course of the evening Bro. Vallentine was raised to the third degree. A candidate proposed for initiation was rejected, in spite of the excellent character given of him by the proposer, seconder, and several other brethren, who enjoyed his acquaintance. When Lodge business was ended, an adjournment took place to the Holborn Restaurant, where an ample and exceedingly well-served repast was prepared, superintended by the courteous and indefatigable Bro.

Hamp. The comfort of the brethren and visitors was vigilantly attended to by the almost paternal care of the deservedly popular Past Master Barlow, Steward of the Lodge. The W.M., in rising to propose the various toasts, explained at the outset his inability, as a foreigner, to express himself with sufficient fluency, and would therefore restrict his remarks to as few words as possible. He then briefly gave the Loyal and Masonic toasts, which obtained a cordial reception. Bro. James Pinder proposed the health of the Worshipful Master, who, he thought—and indeed was sure it was the opinion of the members also—had most satisfactorily proved his fitness for the position he occupies, and has conducted the affairs of the Lodge in a manner hardly anticipated when he was installed in the chair. The W.M. expressed his thanks, and submitted the Past Masters. Bro. May in his reply said, Bro. Wharman had certainly surprised them all by the way he did his work, especially considering the disability he labours under in not being a native of this country. To the health of the visitors each replied in their turn. Bro. Sleeman responded for the Treasurer and Secretary: What he had to say on occasions such as this was very stereotyped; he was much obliged for the cordiality with which this toast had been received, and could only assure them of his readiness to receive their money, but at the same time of his pleasure in dispensing it for their comfort and enjoyment. The Officers, who were well spoken of by the W.M., severally responded. Bro. Cambridge the S.W. observed that the brethren must have been well pleased with the progress the subordinate officers had made in the discharge of their duties, and without any desire to make invidious comparisons, could not resist mentioning the S.D., the excellence of whose working could scarcely be surpassed. Bro. Barlow, who was loudly called upon to say a few words, stated he was well pleased if the brethren were satisfied that he faithfully attended to their wants. He would now ask a very exceptional favour of the W.M., namely the loan of the gavel. He admitted that, except for the I.P.M. to ask for such a thing is almost, if not quite, unprecedented. When, however, the W.M. and brethren had been made acquainted with his purpose, they would perceive his justification. He would ask them to fill bumpers, and drink to the health and prosperity of their I.P.M., Bro. James Pinder, who this day enters upon his thirty-third year. They will, therefore, not be surprised at his extraordinary request, and pardon the liberty. Bro. Pinder, it must be said, is frequently a funny fellow, but they all knew he had Masonry thoroughly at heart, and was never weary of exerting himself for the benefit of the Craft in general, and the Kent Lodge in particular. Bro. Pinder did not think he should have to rise to respond to any toast. The meeting of the Kent Lodge on his natal day had occurred once before since he joined it, and would do so every six years; he therefore trusted it may take place ten times more in his life. Such a thing might not be impossible. The late Bro. Richard Barnes had been a member for over sixty years. He did not expect the mention of his name would have met with so cordial a reception, and desired the brethren to accept his most heartfelt thanks. Some excellent songs were given by Bros. Wells, Lipscombe, Lockhurst, Valentine, Holt, Butterworth, Munns, and Pinder. The brethren separated with fraternal good wishes.

Temple Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 173.—Met on Monday, the 10th inst., at the Green Dragon Tavern, Stepney-green, E. Bros. E. Gottheil W.M. in the chair, Marsh S.W., Mole J.W., Geo. Verry P.M. Sec., T. Mortlock P.M. P.G.S.B. Treas., Wallington M.O., N. Gluckstein S.O., Barratt as J.W., Sturtevant S.D., Turquand J.D., Defriez I.G., G. Hollington R.M., Grant Tyler. Bros. Brayshaw and Cuthbertson were advanced. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted in favour of Bro. Marsh W.M., Mortlock Treas., and Grant Tyler. The usual sum was voted for a P.M.'s jewel, to be presented to Bro. Gottheil at the next meeting, upon his retirement from the chair. A sum of £2 2s was also voted for the benefit of the widow of the late Bro. Ray, a highly respected member of this Lodge. Bro. Ray was but 36 years old, a man of fine proportions and full of health; just beginning to make his way upwards towards competence, when a two days' painful illness cut short his career. He leaves, besides the widow, six young children. After the Lodge business was ended, supper was served. Next came the customary toasts, some singing, and a vast deal of merriment. The brethren then separated at a very respectable early hour.

Thistle Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 8.—This ancient Lodge met on Friday, the 7th inst., at 2 Westminster Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W. There were present Bros. Charles Lacey W.M., J. L. Thomas S.W., J. Mander J.W., T. Mortlock acting I.P.M., J. W. Figg P.M. Treas., C. A. Cottebrune P.M. Sec., Swallow M.O., Kelso J.O., J. H. Leggott S.D., Burrell J.D., Mason I.G., P. Masters Baber, W. Mann, &c., and a considerable number of brethren. Amongst the visitors were Col. F. Burdett Prov., Grand Master for Middlesex and Surrey, F. Davidson Grand Treas. and Prov. D.G.M., Lt.-Col. Shadwell Clark P.M., J. Boyd, W. G. Goodliff W.M. No. 7, E. Gottheil W.M. 173, T. W. Murley, &c. After the Lodge was opened, and the minutes confirmed, Col. Burdett was, by command of the W.M., saluted with five, in honour of his position as Prov. G.M., for which the Colonel returned thanks for himself and the Province he represented. Letters were read from two brethren, whose names appeared on the agenda as candidates for advancement, apologising for their inability to be present on that occasion. The W.M. then invited Bro. T. Mortlock to occupy the chair for the purpose of installing the W.M. elect. This he proceeded to do, in his well-known unassuming yet genial and pleasant manner. Bro. J. L. Thomas, the new W.M., invested his Officers as follow:—C. Lacey I.P.M., James Mander S.W., B. H. Swallow J.W., J. W. Figg P.M. Treas., C. A. Cottebrune P.M. Sec., J. Oliver M.O., Kelso S.O., Leggott J.O., Burrell R.M., John Mason S.D., Treadwell J.D., W. J. Collins I.G., E. Farwig D.C., E. Scheiman Steward, E. Hart Organist, J. T. Woodstock Tyler. The W.M. then rose and said that his first duty as Master of the

Lodge was an extremely pleasant one, namely, to place upon the breast of Bro. Lacey a jewel, in recognition of his great services to the Lodge, in token of the high esteem he is held in by the brethren. Bro. Lacey having briefly expressed his thanks, the Lodge was closed, and adjourned to banquet; after which the proceedings were of the customary character. Proposing the health of Her Majesty, the W.M. designated the Royal lady as the mother of England. This was followed by the National Anthem, sung by Bro. Mortlock, accompanied on the harmonium by Bro. Hart. Next came the health of the Earl of Limerick M.W.G.M.M. The W.M. was sure that toast would find an echo in the breast of every one present. Two evenings ago, as well as on former occasions, he had attended a meeting of the Grand Mark Lodge, at which the noble Earl presided, and he could bear testimony to his amiable qualities as a man, as well as to his abilities as a Mason. (Cheers.) He would next propose the health of Lord Skelmersdale, the present D.G.M. and M.W.G.M. elect, and include the Grand Officers Past and Present. It needed no words of his to remind them how well qualified for their duties the officers were in their respective positions. He was desirous to be brief in his remarks, especially in the formal toasts; he, however, could not possibly allow the opportunity to pass without reverting to one of their most honoured Past Grand Officers, namely Lord Carnarvon, a Past G.M.M., who presided at the last meeting of the Grand Craft Lodge, and whose impressive address upon the question of the Grand Orient will not soon be forgotten by those who had the pleasure to listen to it. (Loud applause.) He would couple with this toast the name of a brother who is not only a Prov. G.M., but also Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters, namely, Bro. F. Davidson. Bro. Davidson thanked the W.M. and brethren for their kindness; he said it gave him great pleasure to be present on the occasion; he had known Bro. Thomas for some years, as a zealous and energetic worker both in Craft and Mark Masonry. After some remarks about the degree in general, he observed that the Thistle Lodge in point of age took precedence of the Grand Lodge itself. The W.M. then submitted the name of Col. Burdett, and remarked that name was always received with pleasure and enthusiasm in the City of Westminster. Col. Burdett, who was received with great cheering, said, he felt very much the kindness of his reception. That form of expression he had without doubt used on many former occasions, but could assure them never with greater sincerity than on the present. There were many brethren present at that table whom he had had the pleasure of meeting many times before, and some also whose faces seemed familiar, and it would afford him the highest gratification if they would make themselves known. He felt in every respect the responsibility of his high position as Prov. G.M. of Middlesex and Surrey, and was sure they would be glad to learn that the Province was in a satisfactory condition. Indeed, the same might be said of Mark Masonry in general, which was gaining daily in strength and influence. He must express his great pleasure in having visited the Thistle Lodge, one of the oldest in England; it had no doubt originated from Scotland. He would beg them to accept his acknowledgments for their kindness and hospitality. Bro. Lacey I.P.M. then proposed the health of the W.M., and concluded his remarks by reminding the brethren of the honour they did themselves by placing Bro. Thomas in his present position. Bro. Thomas, in his response, desired the acceptance of his sincere thanks for the complimentary manner in which his name had been mentioned and received. Ever since the year 1852, when his first entrance into the Order took place, there were many occasions such as the present, when, upon being placed at the head of Lodges and Chapters, in the regular as well as in those technically termed side degrees, he always boasted that particular time to be the proudest moment of his life. However anomalous it might appear, on each occasion he truly felt what he said, and was almost inclined again to repeat the sentiment, for it is a proud position to be at the head of one of the most ancient Mark Lodges in England. It was difficult for him to find words adequately to express his sense of the high honour, and it was his deepest wish and hope to promote the prosperity of the Thistle Lodge, as well as the Mark degree in general, which, to his mind, was the keystone which compressed the noble arch of a beautiful whole. Pride in antiquity is pardonable, but ought, he thought, to be subordinate to higher qualities, and, therefore, he trusted that the "Thistle" might be made *par excellence* the best Lodge on the roll. (Cheers.) He would now propose the Visitors, and would couple with that toast the name of Bro. Shadwell Clark, who, in his reply, said that a serious responsibility had been thrust upon him, especially as among the visitors there were some whose eloquence might have done greater justice to the response. He was sure they were all excessively obliged for so kind a reception, and truly felt their lines had indeed fallen in pleasant places on the present occasion. The W.M. was his personal friend, and he had therefore been well gratified to see him placed in the first chair of the Thistle Lodge, which had furnished so many officers to the Grand Mark Lodge of England. He would reiterate his sincere thanks for their hospitality, and would long remember, with pleasure, the kindness of his reception. The W.M. then proposed the health of the P.M.'s, whom he designated as second to none in the Mark degree; every one of them had done good suit and service to the Lodge. Bro. Lacey I.P.M. replied. He was only a newly fledged P.M., and a great deal could not as yet be expected of him in that capacity, but he would promise to exert his abilities to promote the welfare of the Lodge. The remaining P.M.'s and the rest of the officers severally responded. The W.M. announced himself as Steward for the Mark Benevolent Fund; he intended to head his list with £5 5s, and persuasive Bro. Cottebrune succeeded in collecting an additional £10 10s from the brethren. The Tyler's toast brought the interesting proceedings to a close.

Albion Lodge, No. 9.—This Lodge met on Tuesday, the 4th December, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. Present—Bros. Scott W.M., Palmer P.M. S.W., Blackman J.W., Abbott P.M.

Sec., Moring P.M. Treas., Harvey S.D., Robey J.D., S. Coste P.M. D.C., E. Coste P.M. Steward, Forbes Organist, Thompson I.G., J. Rawles Tyler. Past Masters Bros. E. Storr, Marsh, W. Willing, Vallentine, Friend, Cater, &c. Visitor—Bro. W. Lewis, City of London Lodge, No. 901. The ceremonial portion of the evening's proceedings comprised the raising of Bros. J. P. Endean and Alfred Endean; the passing of Bro. G. S. Gregory; and the initiation of Mr. Edward Bradley. This being night for election of W.M., Treasurer of Benevolent Fund, and Tyler, resulted as follows:—F. McCarthy S.W. as W.M., T. Moring P.M. Treas., J. Vallentine P.M. Treasurer Benevolent Fund, J. Rawles Tyler. It was proposed and carried unanimously that Bro. W. T. Scott W.M. should be presented with a P.M.'s jewel, for the able manner in which he had carried out the duties of the chair during his year of office. An Audit Committee was appointed, and the Lodge was closed.

Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19.—At a meeting held at the Cannon-street Hotel, on Thursday, 13th instant. Bro. John Charles was unanimously elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. Owing to the recent sudden death of Bro. T. L. Fox, of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, and for many years a much respected Past Master of the Lodge, the brethren appeared in mourning, as a slight mark of the esteem in which he was held.

Egyptian Lodge of Instruction, No. 27.—Held at the Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., Thursday, 6th December. Present—Bros. Norden W.M., DaSilva S.W., Hunter J.W., Webb J.D. and Preceptor, Campbell I.G., W. J. Rawley acting Secretary; also Bros. Musto, Stephens, Calverley, Hogarth, Posener jun., &c. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed by the W.M., Bro. W. J. Rawley candidato. Bro. Webb, assisted by the brethren, worked the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th sections of the Lecture.

On Thursday, the 13th inst., Present—Bros. Webb as W.M., Barnes P.M. as I.P.M., Rudderforth S.W., Ellis J.W., Grammer Secretary, Da Silva S.D., Hunter J.D., Maidwell I.G. The Lodge having been opened, the W.M. proceeded to work the Fifteen Sections, assisted by the following:—Bros. Appleby, Da Silva, Norden, Ellis, Harris, Rudderforth, Barnes, Wharman, Hewlett, Grammer, Musto, Maidwell, and Taylor. After other business, the Lodge was closed.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—At the Old Rodney's Head, 12 Old-street, Goswell-road, on Monday last, the 10th inst., there were present Bros. R. Pearcy W.M., Powell S.W., Crawley J.W., Stock acting Preceptor, Fenner Sec., Moseley S.D., J. W. Smith J.D., Gibbs I.G., Christopher Tyler; also Bros. Kidder, Trewinnard, Halford, Isaac, Wing, Hallam, F. Sillis, Heinrich, &c. Due regard being paid to the formalities prescribed by custom, minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Sillis of Domestic Lodge, No. 177, answered the usual questions leading to the second degree, and was entrusted. Lodge was advanced to the second degree, when the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of passing, in his usual excellent manner, Bro. Sillis acting as candidate. Bro. Heinrich answered the usual questions leading to the third degree, after which the W.M. worked the first, second, third, and fourth sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. Lodge was closed in the second degree. Bro. Heinrich, of the United Strength Lodge, No. 228, was elected a member. Bro. Powell was appointed W.M. for the ensuing week.

Constitutional Lodge of Instruction, No. 55.—This Lodge held its weekly meeting on Tuesday, the 11th of December, at Bedford Hotel, Southampton-buildings. Present Bros. J. S. Brown W.M., Miroy S.W., Hallam J.W., Dickins Sec., J. H. Dodson S.D., Linscott J.D., Cooper I.G.; Past Master Bro. Bingemann Preceptor; Tate, Cornu, Tranter, Clennell, Abell, and several others. The Lodge having been opened in due form and with solemn prayer, the minutes of preceding meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Tranter, a candidate for passing, having answered the usual questions, the Lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Tranter passed to degree of F.C. The first, second, third and fourth sections of the lecture were worked by the W.M. Bros. Sanders, Bramham and Perken were elected members. Bro. Miroy was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. All Masonic business being ended, the Lodge was closed in perfect harmony and adjourned to Tuesday, 18th December.

London Masonic Club Lodge of Instruction, No. 58.—A meeting was held on Monday last, at the Club, 101 Queen Victoria-street, E.C. Present:—Bros. C. E. Smith W.M., Joseph Langton S.W., Sharrett J.W., J. E. Shand Sec., C. J. Hogg Treas., A. Triggs S.D., J. Turner J.D., W. Smallpeice Preceptor, Bauman I.G.; Strauss and others. Visitors—Bros. Marner, Brittain, and E. Trigg P.M. 861. Lodge opened in due form, and minutes of last meeting were confirmed. Ceremony of initiation was rehearsed. Lodge advanced, and the third degree was rehearsed. Lodge closed down to first degree. Bro. Langton S.W. was elected W.M. for next meeting, which was adjourned, over Christmas, until Monday, 13th January 1878. Two brethren were elected members, and the Lodge closed in the usual manner.

Prosperity Lodge of Instruction, No. 65.—At Bro. Maidwell's, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, 4th Dec. Bros. J. S. Fraser W.M., W. Fraser S.W., Norden J.W., Sayer S.D., Daniel J.D., Glass, Hollands, Grammer, West. The ceremonies of instruction and passing were rehearsed, Bros. Grammer and Hollands candidates. Bro. Fraser vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Daniel, who

worked the third degree, Bro. Grammer candidate. Bro. Fraser resumed the chair, and closed down in the third and second degrees. Bro. Wm. Fraser was elected W.M. for the ensuing Tuesday. Bro. Rudderforth was elected Preceptor for the ensuing year. Bros. Maidwell Treas. and Hollands Sec. The sum of £1 1s was voted to Bro. Terry towards the annual entertainment given to the old men and women. This we trust will be followed by other Lodges of Instruction. We may state that, to assist the Charities, the annual subscription to this Lodge of Instruction has been raised, and the weekly fee has also been increased.

Ancient Ebor Preceptory, 101, K.T.—The regular meeting for the election of E.P. took place on Tuesday evening, in Freemasons' Hall, York, E. Sir Knight T. B. Whytehead E.P. presiding. On the scroll being taken the unanimous vote of the members was found to have fallen upon Sir Knight the Rev. W. Valentine, who was declared duly elected, and who returned thanks to the members. E. Sir Knight Thos. Cooper P.E.P. was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, and Sir Knight Ward was re-appointed Equerry. A candidate for installation was proposed and seconded, and the Preceptory was closed in ancient form.

St. James's Union Lodge, No. 180.—The regular meeting was held on Tuesday, the 11th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Bros. A. L. Annett W.M., Pillin S.W., E. Farwig J.W., G. Bubb P.M. W.M. 795 Treasurer, H. A. Stacey P.M. Secretary, Ward S.D., Wade J.D., Fletcher I.G., J. R. Stacey P.M. D.O., J. Wood W.S., Hart Org.; P.M.'s Bros. Cameron, Stoner, W. C. Parsons, L. Herf, Robinson, J. R. Stacey, and Bros. Pinto Leite, Maxted, Pearce, Baker, Cundall, Green, Symons, Bishop, Dilley, Miles, Sarto, A. W. Staden, Shelley, Van Duren, Bunting, Warner, &c. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. Miles jun. was raised, and Bro. Sayle was passed; Messrs. John Huy, L. Leper, and A. Wertheimer were duly initiated, the latter, through the courtesy of the W.M., by Bro. G. Bubb P.M. Bro. Arthur Swanborough, No. 1319, was elected a joining member. All the ceremonies were perfectly and impressively worked. The election for W.M. then took place, and Bro. Pillin S.W. was unanimously chosen. The W.M. congratulated the brethren on the excellent selection they had made; Bro. Pillin had shown his proficiency in every office he had held. The W.M. elect suitably replied. The election for Treasurer then took place, and Bro. G. Bubb was unanimously re-elected, amidst the congratulations of the W.M. and every member present. Bro. Bubb, after thanking the members, said he was pleased to state the Lodge was free from debt, and had a balance of £30 in hand. Bro. Stoner was elected Treasurer to the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge. Bros. Wade, Baker and Bishop were appointed Auditors. Bro. Gilbert P.M. P.G. Tyler Middx. was re-elected Tyler. Mr. P. Joseph was proposed for initiation at the next meeting. Bro. W. C. Parsons I.P.M. then proposed that a Past Master's jewel be presented to the retiring W.M., for the able and efficient manner in which he had conducted the duties during his year of office. This was seconded by Bro. Cameron P.M., and carried unanimously. It was proposed and seconded that the annual ball take place, as usual, in February. Bro. Stoner P.M. announced that he would act as Steward for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution at the next Anniversary Festival, when the R.W. the Duke of Manchester will take the chair. The Lodge was then closed until January. The brethren adjourned to the Crown room, where a very sumptuous banquet and dessert was provided by Bro. A. Best and superintended by Bro. Dawkins. Grace having been said, the W.M. in brief terms, proposed the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts; the National Anthem and God Bless the Prince of Wales was sung. The W.M. then gave what he might call the toast of the evening, the health of the newly initiated brethren. The Lodge was favoured by their introduction; they came on the recommendation of highly esteemed members, and he hoped in due time to see them occupy the chair of the Lodge. The initiates in appropriate terms severally responded to the toast. Bro. W. C. Parsons I.P.M. gave the health of the W.M., who had faithfully discharged his duties, and had given satisfaction to every one connected with the Lodge. He called on the brethren to wish him long life and prosperity, and he trusted they might see him among them for many years. (Cheers). The W.M. thanked Bro. Parsons for the kinds words he had uttered on his behalf. If he had met with the approbation of the brethren he was content; his only aim was to promote the welfare of the Lodge, whose interests he had at heart. The health of the joining members Bros. A. Swanborough and Powell P.M. 25 was given, and this was followed by the Visitors. Bros. A. Swanborough, Powell, H. Lumley, and H. M. Levy responded, and all complimented the W.M. on his work and able presiding. Bro. Annett then proposed the toast of the W.M. elect. He considered that a very important toast, Bro. Pillin was well known to all. He (the W.M.) could say with confidence that he was one able to discharge his duties to the satisfaction of every brother of the Lodge. He would ask them all to drink to the health and prosperity of their brother, and wish him a successful year of office. Bro. Pillin said he had worked up from the lowest office in the Lodge, and now he felt proud to hold the highest honour the Lodge could confer on him. He hoped to have the assistance of that honoured band, the Past Masters. Bro. W. C. Parsons returned thanks in appropriate terms for the Past Masters, and the W.M. then gave the health of the Treasurer and Secretary, Bros. G. Bubb P.M. and H. A. Stacey; the latter brother was the father of the Lodge, and Bro. Bubb was one who to know was to respect. He had that evening been re-elected, and we hope he may continue among us for many years. Bro. Stacey returned thanks in an excellent speech, and was followed by Bro. Bubb; the funds of the Lodge were in a flourishing condition, and could any Treasurer wish more. After due honour had been paid to the Officers, the Tyler was summoned. Bros. Pillin, Cantle, Warner, Webb, and Foster contributed to the

harmony, Bro. Hart Organist accompanying them. The visitors were Bros. S. D. Costa Andrade 1261, E. Swanborough J.W. 1319, Saxby 1095, Jarvis 540, Hancock 1587, H. Durlacher 4, Dobbing 1673, Lester 1361, Innes 795, C. Beck 1158, Briddlecombe 707, Cantle 1441, Barker 65, Neustadt 1017, H. Lumley, J. Farnie, McKay, Blake 295, Beale 1673, Powell P.M. 25, H. M. Levy P.M. 188.

Confidence Lodge, No. 193.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday last, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Lodge was opened by H. T. Reed W.M., with J. B. King P.M. as S.W., H. Leah J.W. and W.M. elect, J. Shackell P.M. Sec., G. F. S. Warne P.M. Treas., T. Biddle S.D., R. Footit P.M. J.D. P.M.'s Bros. F. Bonney, S. Webb, H. Webb, D. B. Kershaw, &c. After the usual preliminaries the W.M. raised Bro. Alfred F. Holt, and passed Bros. Frank Silvester and Richard Pye, after which Mr. Robt. W. Roxby was initiated. The next business was the installation of W.M. for the ensuing year; this was most impressively performed by Bro. Reed. At the conclusion of the ceremony and after Bro. Leah had received the salutations of the brethren, he proceeded to invest the following as his Officers:—J. B. Biddle S.W., R. Footit P.M. J.W., G. F. S. Warne Treas., J. Shackell Sec., W. James S.D., B. Lemere J.D., Hall I.G., S. Webb P.M. D. of C., H. Webb P.M. Steward, T. Ryloy re-appointed Tyler. A vote of thanks was proposed and carried with acclamation to the Installing Master in recognition of the way in which he had performed the duties of his office. There being no other business, the W.M. closed the Lodge. Among the Visitors were T. H. Edmands G.S. Lo., T. J. Maidwell 27, J. Driscoll 30, &c., J. Newbon 46, H. Salter 72, J. Tanner P.M. 101, &c., W. Stuart 141, &c., R. Macpherson 141 S.C., W. H. Beauchamp 167, W. Rawley and I. Battram 174, M. Cohen P.M. 185, T. E. Walters 188, A. Godfrey late 193, E. H. Laxton 511, J. L. Anderson 554, W. T. Hesketh 711, T. C. Walls Provincial Grand Organist Middlesex, J. Morris 901, C. T. Goshon 902, F. Johnson 933, W. T. Lover 1178, G. J. Jupe W. M. 1287, N. Fortescue 1303, C. G. Hill 1366, W. W. Morgan jun. 1385, A. H. Goggs 1527, T. W. Clarke 1567, H. W. Clemow 1589, F. W. Bromley 1658, N. G. Western 1693, &c. At the conclusion of the banquet, the W.M. gave the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts. In introducing that of the initiate, he trusted their new brother would advance in Freemasonry, and eventually occupy the chair of the Lodge. The W.M. distinctly remembered the time when he was initiated, and the impression it made on his mind; he hoped that the ceremony of the evening had made a like impression on Bro. Roxby. The initiate briefly replied; he was pleased to have become a member of the Lodge, and was extremely gratified at the reception accorded him, which far exceeded his expectations. The I.P.M. in giving the toast of the W.M., referred to his having so efficiently filled the minor offices of the Lodge. In his position as Master the brethren were not yet in a position to form an opinion, but he had no doubt that all the duties of that office would be performed by Bro. Leah in as creditable a manner as had been his previous attempts. Bro. Leah in reply expressed his intention of carrying out all the duties of the chair to the best of his ability; he would do all he could for the Confidence Lodge, and for the members thereof. He then proposed the health of the Visitors. He was gratified at seeing so many present, to each of them he tendered a most hearty welcome. Bro. Edmands, of the Grand Stewards Lodge, replied. The next toast the W.M. considered the principal one of the evening; he referred to that of the P.M.'s. The Confidence Lodge had had many good Masters, but few, if any, superior to Bro. Reed. If the brethren considered the way in which he had performed his duties, they would agree that the jewel he, as W.M., was about to present on behalf of the Lodge, was richly deserved. He was sure the other Past Masters were ever ready to come forward and devote their energies for the benefit of the Lodge. Bro. Reed, on behalf of the Past Masters, tendered his hearty thanks. He assured the brethren that he did not enter the office of Master without some trepidation. If he had pleased the brethren he had pleased himself. Freemasonry had often proved a boon to him, in forming and cementing true friendships. He considered he had that evening been promoted to what he would call the House of Lords of Freemasonry. To the toast of the Treas. and Sec. Bro. Shackell replied. He had been many years a member of the Lodge, and he felt very proud when he occupied the chair thereof. The Officers were given and acknowledged by the S. and J. Wardens. Bro. P.M. Webb proposed the health of Bro. Fred. Clemow, who suitably acknowledged the hearty good wishes of the brethren. The Tyler was summoned, and his toast concluded the proceedings of the evening.

Percy Lodge of Instruction, No. 198.—A meeting was held on Saturday, 1st inst., at the Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, Islington, N. Present—Bros. Garbett W.M., Gibbs S.W., Sparrow J.W., Killick Sec., Halford Treas., Powell S.D., Western J.D., and Bedwell I.G. Formalities complied with, and the minutes confirmed, the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. C. Lorkin being candidate. Several sections of the first lecture were worked by the Preceptor, assisted by Bros. Moss and I. P. Cohen. Bros. G. Archbald 807 and C. Harris 185 were elected members, and Bro. Gibbs appointed W.M. for the next meeting.

Jordan Lodge of Instruction, No 201.—On Tuesday, the 11th December, at the Devonshire Arms, Devonshire-street, Portland-road. Present—E. White W.M., Carter S.W., Long (W.M. Westbourne) J.W., Fox Sec., Hiscox Treas., Hurdell S.D., Franks J.D., Martin I.G. P.M.'s Ash, Emanuel, Sherman, &c. Business—The Lodge was opened in due form with solemn prayer, and the minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed. The fourth section of the first lecture was worked by the W.M., after which the Lodge was opened in the second and third degrees. The ceremony of raising

was rehearsed, Bro. Emanuel candidate; the W.M. performed the ceremony in a very impressive manner. He then resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and worked the second and fifth sections, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Long proposed, and Bro. Carter seconded a vote of thanks, to be recorded on the minutes, to the W.M. for the very able manner he had worked the ceremonies; carried unanimously. Bros. White and Carter were elected members of the Lodge. Bro. P.M. Kew will occupy the chair on Tuesday evening next, when the ceremony of installation will be worked.

Etonian Lodge, No. 209.—Held its monthly meeting on Tuesday the 4th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Windsor. Present—Bros. C. D. Hume P.G.S. W.M., R. Roberts P.G.S. S.W., E. Schiemann J.W., The Rev. J. Studholme Brownrigg Chaplain, J. O. Carter P.P.G.D.C. P.M. Sec., Wilson P.M. Treas., Nicholes S.D., Pears J.D., Tolley P.M. Org., Evans Steward, Cousins I.G., Kent Tyler. P.M.'s Stacey, Reid, Dixon P.P.G.D.C., Denne, Bryett P.G.S.W., McIlwham, Hopwood, Long, Stedwell. Visitors—Bros. Spicer W.M. 569, Masters 145, Green P.M. 27, Harris 1351 and 1567, Thompson 55, Date 34, Tarling 780, Arnold 382, Cole 742, Benson S.W. 1613, Lay 569, Powell P.M. 771, and Johnson 771. Messrs. Fairclough and Harris were initiated; Bros. Riley and Stollery passed, and Bro. Perks was raised. Bro. Schiemann J.W. was elected W.M. for the ensuing year (the S.W. Bro. Roberts being already the W.M. of the Crystal Palace Lodge, 742). Bro. Wilson P.M. was unanimously re-elected Treasurer. The usual Past Master's Jewel was voted to the W.M., to be presented at the conclusion of his year of office.

St. Michael's Lodge, No. 211.—A meeting was held on Tuesday, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Bros. Alfred Green W.M., A. Guttmann S.W., Jas. A. Withers J.W., D. Drysdale Sec., Greenwood Treas., Dr. Waters I.G., T. C. Speight Tyler. There were also present several of the Past Masters, and a fair attendance of members. Preliminaries being formally complied with, and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, Bro. Henry Green jun. was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, Bro. A. Green giving a most effective rendering of the ceremony. The ballot was taken for Bro. Neocles G. Mussabini, of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2 S.C. It proved satisfactory, and that brother took his seat as a member of the Lodge. After routine business, and a notice of motion to be brought before the members at the next meeting, the Lodge was closed. The brethren then partook of slight refreshments, and spent an hour or two in social converse, and in listening to some capital songs, &c.

Prosperity Chapter, No. 290, Huddersfield.—The regular Convocation of this Chapter was held on Wednesday, the 5th inst., at the Masonic Hall, South Parade. The Chapter was opened punctually at seven o'clock, by Companions Wm. Schofield P.Z. (who acted in the absence of Comp. W. Harrop), Jno. W. Turner H., and Wm. Smith P.Z. (who acted for Comp. Allen Haigh, who was also absent). There were likewise present Comps. Jno. Rhodes P.Z., B. Hutchinson P.Z. Treasurer, Wall as S.E., Faner S.N., E. Dyson P.S., Mitchell and Lewis Brierley Assist. Soj., and several others. The minutes of last Convocation having been read and confirmed, the business was proceeded with:—to revise the bye-laws of the Chapter, in accordance with suggestions from Prov. Grand Chapter; after the completion of which the Chapter was closed, and the Comps. retired to the banquet hall, where they spent an hour in refreshment and enjoyment, paying due honour to the toasts which were brought to their notice, and separating with every wish for the prosperity of Royal Arch Masonry.

La Tolérance Lodge of Instruction, No. 358.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on the 12th inst., at the Horse and Groom, Winsley-street, Oxford-street, W., when there were present Bros. T. W. Cooper W.M., Jupe S.W., Pratt J.W., Pierpoint S.D., Mead J.D., S. A. Cooper I.G., T. A. Adams P.G.P. P.M., C. Davies Treas., J. Hurdell Hon. Sec., and others, numbering twenty-four in all. The Lodge having been opened in due form, and the minutes read and confirmed, the first section was worked. Bro. Adams then took the chair, to rehearse the installation ceremony, Bro. T. W. Cooper being presented as W.M. elect. The M.M.'s having retired, a Board of Installed Masters was formed. Bro. Jupe W.M. No. 1287 was installed *pro tem* during the absence of Bro. Cooper. The brethren having been re-admitted, Bro. Cooper took the chair, and was saluted according to ancient custom, and then, in well chosen words, invested his officers as above. Bro. Adams gave the Ancient Charges in his most effective style. The second and third sections were worked. Bro. Langdon of the mother Lodge was elected a member. A cordial vote of thanks to Bro. Adams brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

Northern Counties Lodge, No. 406.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, 5th Dec., at the Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. W. Munday I.P.M. presided, supported by the following Officers:—Bros. J. S. B. Bell as S.W., R. L. Armstrong J.W., J. Page Sec., W. Shepperd Prov. G. Organist, Organist, G. W. Lax J.D., S. M. Harris I.G., G. Dumford Steward, G. S. Sims Tyler. Past Masters Bros. W. Foulsham and W. S. Hughes. The Lodge being opened, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. Lightfoot and Milburn were passed to the F.C. degree, and Bros. Bielby, Hogg, Daniels and Barrick were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masous, both ceremonies being given by Bro. Munday I.P.M. On the Lodge being resumed in the first degree, Bro. Armstrong, the J.W., announced with much regret the death of Bro. Panchon, who had been for 25 years the Treasurer, and who had well been called the Father of the Lodge. It was unanimously resolved

that the Lodge go into mourning for three months, as a mark of respect to his memory. Bro. John Risdale was nominated as Treasurer for the remainder of the year. Apologies were read for non-attendance from the W.M., S.W., and S.D. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshments, the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts being duly honoured. The Visitors were Bros. Dean W.M. elect 541, Lewis Yoll 43, J. H. Bernstone 1119, and J. Redpath 242.

St Peters Lodge, No. 481.—The regular meeting of this Lodge took place on Monday, the 10th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Bro. Richard Eimon W.M. in the chair, supported by the following Officers:—Bros. H. S. Sewell I.P.M., R. L. Armstrong S.W., J. Cook P.M. J.W., G. Thompson P.M. Treas., C. J. Gibben Sec., G. Watson S.D., J. Usher J.D., Duckett I.G., Goss and Printic Stewards, G. S. Sims Tyler. The Lodge being opened, the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed, the Lodge was then opened in the second degree, and one brother was passed, the Lodge was then opened in the third degree, and two brethren were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. Both ceremonies being given by the W.M. in a very perfect manner. The Lodge was then closed and the brethren adjourned to refreshment. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts meeting with a hearty response. The visitors were Bros. Dean W.M. elect 541, J. Wood J.W. 48, R. G. Salmon S.D. 406, S. M. Harris I.G. 406.

Polish National Lodge, No. 534.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday last, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Bro. J. H. Cummings occupied the chair, and was assisted by Bros. J. T. Ebner S.W., J. Aspinall J.W., W. Paas P.M. Sec., Past Masters Bros. F. Rath, J. Boyd, &c., Dr. Jagielski J.D., J. Lancaster D.C., G. E. C. Jackson I.G., &c. There were present as visitors Bros. W. Saegert P.M. 548, C. J. Reed of No. 393 Pennsylvania, Lipscombe No. 15, W. W. Morgan jun. 1385. Mr. O. Bryant was initiated by the W.M., after which, on the proposition of Bro. Dr. Jagielski, seconded by Bro. Dr. Jackson, the Lodge presented the I.P.M. Bro. Rath with a Commander's White Eagle, in recognition of his services to the Lodge. The vote having been suitably acknowledged by Bro. Rath, the W.M. proceeded to close the Lodge. Before this was done Bro. Rath delivered the Charge, to the great delight of the members. The brethren now adjourned to banquet, which was well provided by Bro. Best. On its completion, the W.M. proposed the toasts of the Queen and the Craft, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M., the 1ro G.M., the D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, each of which were enthusiastically acknowledged by the brethren. Bro. Rath next proposed the health of the W.M. In doing so, he considered he was fulfilling the duty imposed on the I.P.M. of bringing out a time-honoured sentiment—the health of the occupier of King Solomon's chair. Both in Lodge and at the table, the Master shows that he is capable of performing the duties of the Lodge with credit. The brethren having honoured the toast, the W.M. proceeded to acknowledge it. He was sincerely thankful for the kind and flattering way in which he was always received in the Lodge. He had been somewhat nervous in working the ceremony of the evening, but trusted that would wear off. He hoped that during his term of office the brethren would be very careful before introducing a candidate to ascertain that he was of good character. He had not had the pleasure of proposing the toast of the Initiate before. He trusted their new brother would take all the interest in the Craft which his duties would permit, and would eventually show that Masonry is more than

a name. Bro. Bryant, in reply, stated that he had listened to the remarks of the W.M. with satisfaction. He fully appreciated the honour which had been paid him in admitting him a member of the Lodge. He would devote himself conscientiously to fulfil any duties which might fall upon him. He trusted that whatever he did might prove beneficial to the Lodge. Although one's name does not appear to the world as a great luminary, we can all do our duty, and in doing this do all that is required of any one. The W.M. now gave the toast of the Past Masters, of whom the Lodge had about ten. He regretted that on the present occasion they were not more numerous represented. They, however, had Bro. Rath the I.P.M., who was in himself a tower of strength. Since he had been in the Lodge all must have seen in him a zealous brother; in every position he has occupied he has carried out the duties with credit. It is hard enough for an Englishman to master the various ceremonies, but when a brother who comes from abroad fills the chair as Bro. Rath did, it reflects still greater credit. He feared it would be many years before the Lodge had another such Master as Bro. Rath. Those of the members present who witnessed the Installation Ceremony, must admit that it was performed to perfection. The W.M. briefly referred to other of the Past Masters, and then called upon the brethren to drink to their health, which done, Bro. Rath replied. He considered he should be exempted from speaking to the toast of the Past Masters. He had not yet passed enough to know much about them. He tendered his thanks for the kind remarks of the W.M., both on his own account and on behalf of the other Past Masters. He considered them the reserve force of a Lodge, ever ready to do any service for the brethren, at any emergency. They should ever urge on the children of the Lodge, and stand as an example for them. The next toast was that of the Visitors. To one of the number, Bro. Saegert, is mainly due the credit of having instructed the various officers in their duties; he is ever ready to coach them up, and generally to help them. The other visiting brethren he was pleased to see, and tendered them a hearty welcome. Each replied to the toast, after which the W.M. gave that of the Officers. Without good assistants he considered a Master would be lost. He felt highly gratified at the way in which he was supported. Each of his officers being, in his opinion, perfect in the performance of their respective duties. The Officers having severally responded, the Tyler was summoned, and concluded the proceedings. Several of the members displayed their vocal abilities during the evening.

Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement.—On Tuesday, at the Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michaels-alley, Cornhill, E.C. The three principal chairs were occupied by Comps. F. Brown, W. E. Gompertz and J. B. Sorrell; T. W. White was S.E., A. A. Drew S.N., J. High P.S., G. L. Walker acting candidate. There were also present Comps. J. Peartree, J. Constable, R. Z. Bloomfield, E. Gottheil, J. Legg, S. H. P. Moore, H. Darey. The exaltation ceremony was performed, in which Comp. F. Brown, as First Principal, especially distinguished himself. There was nothing superficial in his rendering of that very difficult ceremony, but ample evidence of its being the result of diligent and intelligent study. A proposition, made by Comp. J. Constable, to subscribe £1 1s towards defraying the expenses of a Christmas Entertainment to be given by Bro. J. Terry to the annuitants at Croydon, was unanimously approved of. It was then agreed that, in consequence of the approaching holidays, the standing orders should be suspended, and that after next Tuesday the meetings should be adjourned until the 8th January 1878. The following Comps. were then elected officers:—W. E. Gompertz Z., J. B. Sorrell H., A. A. Drew J., J. High S.N., J. Constable P.S. These to retain their positions until the second Tuesday in January inclusive.

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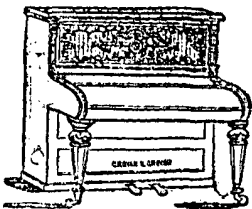
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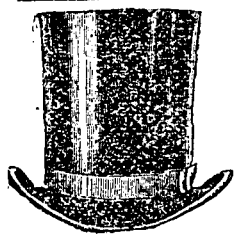
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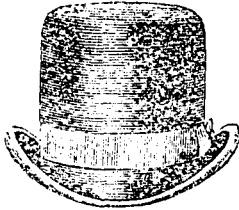
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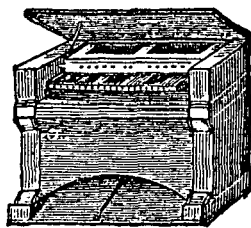
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