

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

SANCTIONED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

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ANALYSIS OF THE SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

IT may suit some people to sneer at the analytical articles which we have latterly been in the habit of placing before our readers. Nothing, after all, it is urged, can surpass in value the simple list itself. No regrouping the figures will affect the total, and, moreover, anybody can analyse if he chooses. Nevertheless, we humbly submit that, while it is quite possible for people to make their own analyses, if only they know how to set about them, ours have not been without their value. They have called forth criticisms sometimes favourable, sometimes unfavourable. One of them was, on one occasion, publicly assailed by a distinguished brother, who, on grounds we were at once able to point out were erroneous, imagined we had written something intentionally disparaging to his province. We know, too, they are very narrowly scanned, and the slightest mistake, be it an obvious slip of the pen or a mere clerical error, is immediately brought to our notice. Were these analyses of little or no value, they would pass unnoticed. If they were written with a view to give offence, they would be contemned by all, nor would any brother who had any self-respect condescend to notice them. But they are written impartially, temperately, and with the sole desire to promote the cause of our Charitable Institutions. They are what they profess to be—simple records of facts and nothing else. We point out what has been done by certain in sundry places, we make apparent what has not been done in other places. We praise where praise is due. We offer every palliation and excuse we can think of for any shortcomings which may be noteworthy. Under these circumstances we feel we have reasonable grounds for continuing these articles; at all events, so long as the kind attention paid them by our readers justifies their continuance. And it is in this spirit we set about our task in the present instance, and the one return we ask for is, that our readers will give us credit not only for that impartiality we have always, and not unsuccessfully, striven to show, but, likewise, that our one object in criticising the list is to benefit our Institutions.

We will, first of all, draw attention to one of those errors which will occur even in the best regulated institutions. Indeed, in the hurry and excitement of the Festival, and considering that fresh lists are being received up to the very last moment, we are surprised these mistakes are not of more frequent occurrence. As our readers are aware, the sum announced to have been contributed was £11,090 9s 6d, and there were nine lists to be sent in. This amount was distributed as follows:—Metropolis, with 116 Stewards, £6,062 7s; Provinces, with 104 Stewards, £4,969 4s 6d; Colonial, one Steward, £58 18s. The actual figures should have been:—Total, £10,936 7s, of which £6,003 4s Metropolitan, £4,874 5s Provincial, and £58 18s Colonial. Thus the true total is less by £154 2s 6d than the announced total. The list as it appeared in these columns last week has been cast and recast. We have taken the precaution to have our own totals officially verified, and the result is what we have stated. The separate items were in every case correct to date, but, in the hurry of the moment, the aggregate was overstated. However, if we may judge from the experience of previous Festivals, there is every reason for believing that the total sum as it was given in the first instance will be exceeded. The outstanding lists have yet to be furnished, while those already sent in are being swelled by smaller or larger

amounts, which keep passing into the coffers, or, at all events, to the credit of the R.M.B.I., by driblets. Thus we have no grounds for changing our opinion that Bro. Terry and his Board of Stewards have every reason to be satisfied with the result of their very laudable efforts. Over £11,000 must be set down as the net proceeds of the Festival just passed, and under the circumstances in which the country is placed, we may fairly state this as magnificent. So much for the general result. We pass now to the amount as distributed, and we find that the number of Metropolitan Lodges which sent representatives to the Festival was 108, for one of which two members acted, and there were four Chapters which sent up Stewards. The honour of having contributed the highest individual amount in these Lodges belongs to Bro. T. S. Taylor of the Yarborough Lodge, No. 554, of Stepney, whose list reached the handsome total of £260. Friends in Council, No. 1383, by the hands of Lt.-Colonel Shadwell Clerke sent £202. Bro. H. Vickery of Peckham Lodge, No. 1475, followed closely, with the sum of £192 1s, and then came Bro. C. A. Murton, representing the United Lodge of Prudence, No. 83, the members of which made his list up to £188. The other Stewards who sent in three figure lists were Bro. Daniel Holmes of the Islington Lodge, No. 1471, with £165; Bro. Wm. Hallett of the Merchant Navy Lodge, No. 781, of Limehouse, £158 10s; Bro. J. Matthew Klenck of Paxton Lodge, No. 1686, Sydenham with an even £150; J. I. Cantle of the Ivy, No. 1441, Camberwell, with £133 5s; Comp. John Newton of the Rose of Denmark Chapter, 975, of Kew, with £120; Bro. George J. Grace of Mount Lebanon Lodge, No. 73, Southwark, £116 10s; Bro. Chas. J. Perceval of Sincerity, No. 174, £109 15s; and Bro. James Hill of United Strength Lodge, No. 228, with £100. Thus, in the Metropolis the honour of heading the list belongs to an East End Lodge. The West End had an able representative, and did its duty so well as to take the second place. Then followed a Southern Lodge, while a Northern Lodge stood fifth, so that contributions flowed in liberally from all quarters. The number of Lodges represented rather better than two-fifths of the total number in the Metropolitan district, and of these we find that Nos. 2, 5, 8, 10, 18, 21, 22, 23, 28, 33, 179, 256, and 657, which have been represented at each of the three Festivals during the past three years, again figure in the list. Others again, if not regularly represented, are very frequently, while some few are, unfortunately and invariably, conspicuous by their absence, though it by no means follows as a matter of course that they do not contribute either to this or our other Charities. As our readers know well, absence from the Festival does not imply absence from the list, published annually, of donors and subscribers to the Charity. It is further worthy of mention, that of the new Lodges consecrated only last year no less than seven sent up Stewards, and one of these brethren is a three-figure representative (Bro. Klenck, No. 1686, £150).

We must now direct our attention to the Provinces, of which there are forty-one, besides three groups or districts which have no Provincial Grand Lodge. Twenty six of these sent representatives, so that there were eighteen absentees, of which four, namely, Bedfordshire with five Lodges, Cambridgeshire with four Lodges, Worcestershire with ten Lodges, and the Isle of Man with three Lodges, have not been represented at any of the Festivals which have taken place since the CHRONICLE was first published. The other absentees are as follow:—Cumberland and Westmoreland (nineteen Lodges), but it was represented last year, and also at the Boys' Festival in

1876; Durham (twenty-five Lodges), which, however, contributed liberally in 1877 to both the Boys' and Girls' Schools, and to the Boys' in the two preceding years; Herefordshire (four Lodges), which has not figured at any Festival since that of the Girls' in 1876; Leicester and Rutland (ten Lodges), which gave just over £400 last year to the Boys' School, and contributed in 1876 to the R.M.B.I. Lincolnshire has twenty Lodges, but though it is not included in the present list, it has never failed in its duty, and has freely given in 1875, 1876, and 1877, to one or other of our Institutions. Monmouthshire, with its eight Lodges is another absentee, but it sent a representative last year, in the person of Dep. Prov. G.M. Bro. Homfray, whose list presented the handsome total of £210. Norfolk can boast of fourteen Lodges, six of which are situated in the thriving city of Norwich; but it has given at the three preceding Festivals of this Institution, and also handsomely supported its Provincial Grand Master, Lord Suffield, when he presided last year at the Girls' Festival. Northumberland has eighteen Lodges, one-half of them in Newcastle-on-Tyne; but it supported the Boys' School both last year and the year before. North Wales and Salop musters twenty-five Lodges, but it supported both our Schools last year, and moreover the Sir Watkin Testimonial for a perpetual presentation to the Boys' is in course of being raised, so that we must not be surprised that our brethren of this Province should find it necessary for the present to limit their attentions to this particular task. Both divisions of South Wales, the Eastern with its eleven, and the Western with its eight Lodges, are unrepresented on this occasion; but both figured in the Boys' list last June, and contributed to the same Institution in 1875 and 1876, and to the Benevolent in the latter year. Warwickshire has twenty-nine Lodges, and of these no less than sixteen belong to Birmingham; but it gave over £467 at this Festival last year, and the munificent sum of £2,000 to the Boys' School in 1876, when its Provincial Grand Master presided. The Channel Islands (four Lodges) and Jersey (seven Lodges) are also unrepresented, but they contributed to the Girls' in 1876. So far we have dealt with absentee Provinces, and we must remind our readers again that it does not follow of course that these Provinces do not contribute in the course of the year to this particular Institution; and in the majority of cases we have shown they do contribute to the sister Charities, or have done so to one or more of them at previous Festivals. We cannot, of course, expect of them too much; and of two courses, it certainly seems better that a Province, unless it be a very considerable one indeed, had better concentrate its efforts, and send up, in turn, a handsome list or lists to one Institution; than that it should distribute its efforts among all three. But in the case of the regular absentees whom we have named above, we would suggest to Bro. Terry and his brother Secretaries, whether it would not be as well if they gave these Provinces the opportunity of contributing. We can well imagine that, at all events, Beds, Cambs, and Worcester—for the Isle of Man is somewhat remotely situated—would like to contribute, and we throw it out as a suggestion to Bros. Little and Binckes, whose Festivals have yet to come, that they should pay a flying visit to these Provinces, or if that be out of the question, that they should delegate the task of awakening a certain interest in our Institutions to some well-known and influential brethren hailing from those Provinces. We offer this suggestion on the ground principally that we do not like to see the names of certain Provinces invariably absent on these occasions.

As to the Provinces which sent up Stewards, we note that Berks and Bucks (sixteen Lodges), sent up seven Stewards, and their lists, with a contribution of ten guineas from Provincial Grand Lodge, presented a total of £157 9s. The Lodges represented were the two Windsor, Etonian, No. 209, and Windsor Castle, the Newbury Lodge, No. 574, Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope, the two Maidenhead Lodges, St. John's, No. 795, and Ellington, No. 1566, St. Peter and St. Paul, No. 1410, Newport-Pagnell, and Watling Street, No. 1639, of Stoney Stratford. This contributed at all three Festivals last year, the two Schools in 1876, and all three Institutions in 1875. Bristol (eight Lodges) sent up a representative, hailing from the Beaufort Lodge, No. 103, and his list yielded £134 15s. Last year, by the hands of its Provincial Grand Master, the Earl of Limerick, it gave £161 8s to the Benevolent, and was a contributor to all three Charities in 1875. Cheshire has a strong array of thirty-nine Lodges. Three of these—a

Stockport, No. 104, a Crewe, No. 321, and a Birkenhead, No. 537, sent up together £172 2s, by the hands of seven Stewards, five of whom belonged to the Stockport Lodge, St. John's, No. 104. It was a contributor at the Boys' and Benevolent last year; indeed, in only one out of the last ten Festivals has it been an absentee. Moreover, it has a perpetual presentation to the Boys', and an Educational Institution of its own, which, from an account we published last year in these columns, is, as our readers are aware, in a very flourishing condition. Cornwall has twenty-seven Lodges, and was represented by its Prov. Grand Master, the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, and Bro. Hughan. The former had a list of £460, the highest individual list, not only in the Provinces, but in the whole body of Stewards, while Bro. Hughan sent up £110. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that at the Boys' Festival in 1876, the latter brother was Steward, when his list was between £400 and £500, so that its contribution this year of £570 is highly creditable. Derbyshire was another Province which was fortunate in obtaining the services of its Prov. Grand Master (the Marquis of Hartington) as Steward. It has eighteen Lodges, and, in addition to his lordship, Bro. T. A. Turner, of Mundy Grove Lodge, No. 506, Shipley, acted as Steward, the total of their two lists being £170—namely, Lord Hartington's £155, and Bro. Turner's £15. Last year it supported the Boys' and the Benevolent, and the former also found favour in its sight in 1875 and 1876. There was a representative of Dorsetshire in the person of Bro. J. M. P. Montagu, Past Dep. Prov. G. Master, whose list of contributions amounted to £150. Last year its list at this Festival was over £300, £180 to the Girls in May, and over £80 to the Boys in June. It freely contributed to the Benevolent in 1876, and the Boys in 1875 the very handsome sum of £633, so that, albeit there are only thirteen Lodges in this Province, it is a foremost contributor to all our Charities. Devonshire has forty-six Lodges, and one of these—the Loyal, No. 251, of Barnstaple—is represented, while one of its twenty-six Chapters also sent up a Steward. The lists of these two amounted to £110. This is as much as could have been expected, for last year its contribution to the Benevolent was only a little short of £600, and, indeed, it has been absent only at one out of the last ten Festivals. The three Stewards from Essex raised among them £88 16s. It has sixteen Lodges, three of which—No. 160, of Rochford, No. 453, of Woodford, and No. 1000, of Southend—were represented by the three Stewards already referred to. Its contribution to the Benevolent last year was over £113, and to the Boys £75 16s. In 1876, it gave £144 18s to the Boys, and has been a contributing Province at eight of the last ten Festivals. Gloucestershire (fourteen Lodges) had a single representative, in the person of Bro. H. Godfrey, of Foundation Lodge, No. 82, of Cheltenham, whose list yielded £118. Last year its contributions to our three Charities slightly exceeded £500. It figured likewise as a supporter of the Boys both in 1875 and 1876. Hants and the Isle of Wight has thirty Lodges, and two of these—the Carnarvon, No. 804, of Havant, and the Gosport, No. 903, of Gosport—made up between them £70 7s 6d. It must be remembered, however, that at the Festival of the Boys' School in 1877, when its Provincial G. Master, Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., presided, its contributions reached £624 1s, while in May last it gave £222 to the Girls, and was down last February for £171 5s to the Benevolent. It has only been once absent, from the Festivals of the last three years, and Bro. Terry, therefore, has every reason to be satisfied, even though his contribution this year falls short of what it was in 1877. Herts (ten Lodges) sent up six Stewards. The aggregate of the six lists was £645 11s 6d, of which £300 was the result of Bro. Iles's exertions on behalf of the Province, while Bros. James Boatwright, of the Hertford, No. 403, Hertford, James Shilcock, of the Cecil, No. 449, Hitchin, Henry Hollis, of the Berkhamstead, No. 504, Berkhamstead, W. W. Morgan jun., of the Gladsmuir, No. 1385, Barnet, and Comp. G. Ward Verry, of the Gladsmuir Chapter, made up the remaining £345 and odd shillings among them. To Bro. W. W. Morgan jun. we may offer our congratulations on the success of his first appearance in the capacity of Steward. Bro. Morgan jun. is only a very young Mason, but he has shown there is good work in him, the result of his first effort being £146 18s, and this has since been increased to £160. About one-half of this was raised by the sale of shilling tickets, on the principle so successfully carried out by Bro. J. Constable, and but a small portion of the other moiety came from his Lodge, so that Bro. Morgan must have worked hard to

bring together so respectable a sum. It is, indeed, to his labours that Herts is indebted for the premier place among the Provinces; for if we leave out the result of the tickets for Life Subscriberships, we shall find that W. Yorkshire and Cornwall were ahead of it. Kent (forty-three Lodges) contributed £270 15s, by the hands of six Stewards, who represented—one for each Lodge—the Freedom, No. 77, Gravesend, the Holmesdale, No. 874, Tunbridge Wells, the Lord Warden, No. 1096, Deal, the Cinque Ports, No. 1206, Sandwich, the Acacia, No. 1314, Bromley, and the Sandgate, No. 1436, of Sandgate. Last year its contribution to the Benevolent just exceeded £478, the result of the labours of ten Stewards; but as this Province makes a point of being represented regularly at each recurring Festival, we cannot be surprised there should be an occasional falling off. Be it remembered, however, that the sum contributed at this latest Festival raises its total for the last ten anniversaries to £3,431 4s 6d, or an average of £343 per Festival. East Lancashire (eighty-six Lodges) would no doubt send in a more formidable array of subscriptions, but for the fact of its having an Educational Institute of its own; but though it is down for comparatively small sums, it makes a point of being represented always, and this year the duty has fallen on Bros. C. F. Matier and G. P. Brockbank, the former for the Humphrey Cheetham, No. 645, and the latter for a new Lodge, the St. George's, No. 1723, Bolton. Last year the Province sent up for this Festival just over £330. W. Lancashire (seventy-seven Lodges) is down for £330 3s, the aggregate of seven lists. Bro. R. Wylie, we may presume, did duty for the whole Province, and his list of £180 will account for more than half of the total contributions. Bros. W. Harrison (Unanimity, No. 113, Preston), J. Daniel Moore, M.D. (Fortitude, No. 281, Lancaster), James Platt (Fermor, No. 1313, Southport), and G. Davenport Pochin, W. H. Buckley, and Lieut.-Colonel Birchall (all acting for Architect, No. 1375, Didsbury), made up the rest. Last year it gave £185 17s, with one list outstanding, to the Boys', £380 16s to the Girls', £149 17s 6d to the Benevolent, or about £650 in all; while in 1876, when its Provincial Grand Master, Lord Skelmersdale, was President for the Benevolent, its contributions reached beyond the sum of £1,500. Middlesex (twenty-seven Lodges) is another of the Provinces—such as Kent, East and West Lancashire, &c.—which makes a point of sending up Stewards to every Festival. One-third of its Lodges and two Chapters contribute, by the hands of twelve Stewards, a sum of £201 14s 6d, and thus raise the total of its contributions since January 1875 to over £3,770, or an average of £377 per Festival. The greatest efforts of Middlesex are in support of the Girls, a fact which will excite surprise in no one, seeing that Bro. Little, the Secretary of that Institution, is Dep. Prov. G. Master. Thus over £2,000 went into the coffers of the Girls' in 1875, 1876, and 1877, but the Benevolent is fairly well supported, and received in 1877, £329 5s; in 1876, £198 2s; and in 1875, £166 7s. Of course it was to be expected the Duke of Manchester, as Chairman, would receive the warm support of the Province over which he has so long presided; but Northampton and Hunts is not a large Province, and numbers only eight Lodges, yet its contributions, including the personal donation of the Prov. G. Master, reached the sum of £300, Bro. Butler Wilkins Dep. P.G.M., Bro. E. Cox, of the Pomfret, No. 360, Northampton, and Bro. Rob. H. Griffin, of St. Peter's, No. 442, Peterborough, acting apparently as joint Stewards for the Province. This Province has now played its part at five Festivals out of the ten which have taken place since the beginning of 1875. Notts, as a Province, though it has nine Lodges, is without any Prov. Grand Lodge organisation, but the Newark-on-Trent was represented by Bro. William Newton, and gave a small sum. The Province figured at the Boys' Festival last June, a single Steward taking up a list somewhat over the average, and in spite of its disorganised state it has supported the Girls' and Boys' in both cases at the Festivals of 1876 and 1877. Oxon (eight Lodges) sends two Stewards, Bro. Rev. H. Deane, Apollo University, No. 357, and Bro. N. O. Wakeman, Churchill, No. 478, Oxford. Last year, when its Provincial Grand Master, Prince Leopold, was only prevented by his health from presiding at the Benevolent Festival, it raised £279 13s, and there is this further to be said in its behalf, it has been present regularly at all the last ten Festivals. Somersetshire (nineteen Lodges) sent two Stewards, representing Lodges No. 446 (the Benevolent, Wells) and No. 814 (the

Parrot and Axe, Crewkerne), and the Royal Cumberland Chapter, No. 41, Bath, sent also a small amount. Last year it gave over £253 to the Benevolent, and over £58 to the Boys'. Staffordshire (twenty-one Lodges) had the misfortune to lose its Prov. G. Master last year, but four Stewards, representing three Lodges, took up £156 7s. Last year it gave £145 to this Institution, over £160 to the Girls', and £149 2s to the Boys'. Suffolk (nineteen Lodges) sent £94 2s, by Bros. W. Clarke, G. H. Grimwood, and John L. Clemence, representing Lodges No. 114 ("British Union," Ipswich), No. 1224 ("Stour Valley," Sudbury), and No. 1452 ("St. Margaret's," Lowestoft.) Last year it gave £111 14s to the Benevolent, and £115 10s to the Boys', and is, moreover, constant in its support of our Institutions. Three Stewards, Bros. J. R. Boor (St. George's, No. 370, Chertsey), C. H. Edmands (Frederick of Unity, No. 452, Croydon), and H. W. Charrington (Wey Side, No. 1395, Woking), did duty for Surrey, with its eighteen Lodges. Their joint contributions only amount to £66 18s; but last year it gave just over £111 to the Benevolent, over £40 to the Girls', and over £90 to the Boys'; and in 1876 it raised over £210 for the last mentioned Institution. Here, again, we have an instance of praiseworthy support administered regularly. The honour of representing the nineteen Lodges of Sussex is shared—somewhat unequally, however—between a Brighton Lodge (the Royal Brunswick, No. 732) and a Lewes Lodge (the Pelham, No. 1303). The total of the two lists is £84 10s. Last year the same towns enjoyed the same honour, and together they made up a list of over £150. It also contributed over £270 to the Boys' Festival in June last, and over £233 to the Girls' in May. It was, further, a supporter of the Boys' in 1876 to the extent of over £200. Little Wilts (ten Lodges) does its duty regularly and liberally, one Steward for the whole Province, and a total of £164 11s, being the result on this occasion. Last year its Prov. Grand Master, Lord Methuen, was Steward for this same Institution, and his list just exceeded £273. It also supported "Our Boys" to the extent of £142 16s, and the Girls' to that of £122 14s; in fact, it has only been unrepresented at one out of the last ten Festivals. N. and E. Yorkshire (twenty-five Lodges) sent up three Stewards, representing two Lodges, the aggregate of their lists being, however, small. It also contributed moderately to the Boys' and Benevolent last year, and we think it might bestir itself more actively on these occasions. West Yorkshire, as usual, has a long array of Stewards, and the goodly total of £603 5s. This follows immediately on a sum of £766 10s given to "Our Boys" in June last, and makes the total of its contributions to our Charities at ten Festivals £5,287 6s, giving an average slightly in excess of £528 per Festival. The Benevolent has received from this Province the sum of £1,945 15s at the last four Festivals. We need not say more than this; to do so would be "to gild refined gold."

We have now completed our task. We have done our best to render justice to all Lodges and Provinces, and if we have felt it to be our duty to remark on any apparent shortcomings, we trust it will be admitted we have done so, not in a captious or complaining, but in a kindly spirit, and with the sole desire to animate brethren to further honourable rivalry—within, of course, the just limits of their ability—in the sacred cause of Charity.

The final meeting of the Board of Stewards of the recent Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will be held at Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 26th inst., at four o'clock p.m., for the purpose of auditing, and, if approved, of ordering payment of the accounts in connection therewith. The Secretary will be in attendance throughout the day to receive such donations and subscriptions as may have been paid to the Stewards, and to take instructions as to the collection of the unpaid accounts.

The Fifteen Sections will be worked in the Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193, at the Railway Tavern, London-street, Fenchurch-street, on Wednesday next, the 27th inst., at 6 o'clock precisely. Bros. J. E. Ives, No. 781, W.M.; T. J. Barnes P.M. 933 and 554 S.W., J. Andrews J.D. 1227 J.W., E. Gottheil Preceptor I.P.M.

FIRST LECTURE.—Bros. Biddle, Hallam, Scheerboom, Ellis, C. H. Webb, Andrews, and W. Hogg.

SECOND LECTURE.—Bros. W. J. Rawley, W. Musto, Ould, T. J. Barnes, and J. Shepherd.

THIRD LECTURE.—Bros. M. Clegg, J. Taylor, and Myers.

INSTALLATION MEETING OF THE TRAN- QUILLITY LODGE, No. 185.

NEVER has been recorded in the annals of this Lodge, nor, indeed, it may with truth be asserted, in those of few other Lodges, even of the highest standing and reputation, such an immense and influential gathering, which a combination of highly interesting circumstances brought about on Monday, the 18th inst., at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C. There was nothing on the agenda of an unusual or extraordinary character, but it became pretty generally known that during the evening, besides the installation of the W.M. and appointment of Officers for the year, no less than three testimonials, to members of the Lodge, would on that occasion be presented. The Lodge was opened at an early hour by Bro. John Peartree W.M., who, with his usual skill and thoroughness, conferred the third degree upon Bros. Barnes, Kosminsky, and Muhsam. By this time the Lodge had assumed a most picturesque appearance. Grand Officers, in their purple trappings, Provincials in a paraphernalia of a somewhat lighter tint, Past Grand Stewards in crimson, and Officers and Craftsmen in collars and aprons of white and azure, together with numerous glittering jewels, with which Past Masters and guests were profusely decorated, presented a *coup d'œil* not easily to be forgotten, the effect of which was greatly heightened by the heavy crimson curtains, gilded mirrors, and general furniture of the room, and the glass chandeliers whose numerous jets shed brilliancy upon the scene. Bro. J. D. Barnett P.M., who was appointed installing master, having ascended the chair, Bro. David Posener P.M. was duly presented, and Bro. Barnett at once proceeded to instal him, in accordance with the immemorial custom of the Order. The new Master appointed his Officers as follow:—Bros. George Pare S.W., W. D. Bayley J.W., John Peartree I.P.M. and Treasurer, Phil Levy Sec., F. Croaker S.D., J. B. Barber J.D., T. W. C. Bush I.G., G. Bilby P.M. Organist, D. Sadleir Steward, Potter Tyler; each investiture being received with every mark of satisfaction. The W.M. then decorated the retiring Master with a handsome gold Past Master's jewel, and Past Master Sydney delivered a speech full of affectionate feeling, and, in the name of the brethren, presented Bro. Peartree with an elegant silver salver, most elaborately engraved, upon which appeared the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. John Peartree P.M., by the brethren of the Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185, in recognition of the ability with which he has presided as W.M. during the preceding year, and as a token of their esteem for the zeal displayed by him as Treasurer during the past eighteen years. February 18th 1878." The same sentiments, in an abbreviated form, also appeared on the reverse of the jewel. Bro. Peartree briefly, but evidently with heartfelt sincerity, expressed his thanks and his sense of appreciation of the flattering remarks which accompanied the gift. A splendid silver tea and coffee service, including a very handsome table kettle, was next placed in front of the pedestal. Bro. Saul Solomon P.M., the oldest member of the Lodge, rose, and addressing Bro. John Constable P.M. assured him of the high estimation in which he was held by every one of the brethren, and the admiration, which by extraordinary energy and zeal in the cause of Charity, he has succeeded in securing to himself. The name of Bro. Constable, the speaker ventured to assert, was as well known throughout the Craft as that of the Grand Master himself. It was but a few short years ago that Bro. Constable entered the Order, and his name was already a household word among Masons. The Lodge of Tranquillity has every reason to be proud of having him as one of its members, and the brethren, anxious to give some extra proof of their feelings towards such a zealous, and he might say, talented brother, resolved to present him with the small testimonial now before him. It was, however, not him alone, but for Mrs. Constable that the gift was intended. All were well aware of the not unfrequent murmurings of the ladies, and small blame to them, at the repeated absences of their husbands, who, while enjoying themselves abroad, are obliged to leave their partners in cheerless loneliness at home, and in this instance the accomplishment of the charitable enterprises must of necessity have caused these absences to be most frequent and protracted. It had, therefore, been suggested that some acknowledgment to Mrs. Constable for so much self-denial would be just and desirable. Divers difficulties, however, presented themselves against this course, and it was at length resolved to present it in the present form. Bro. Solomon concluded a very effective speech with sincere wishes for the welfare of Bro. Constable and his family, a sentiment which was loudly cheered by the whole assembly, and considerably prolonged, while that brother attempted to say a few words in reply. This to him was an almost impossible task under the circumstances. He therefore begged to be forgiven, as his emotions were such as to preclude him speaking at length, and he implored the brethren to allow his feelings to plead his gratitude. The inscription upon the teapot was to the following effect:—"Presented to Bro. John Constable P.M., by the brethren of the Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185, in recognition of the great services rendered by him in the cause of the Masonic Charities. February 18th, 1878." A poor brother from Manchester, highly recommended, appealed for some help, and who, upon the application of Bro. Gottheil P.M., the W.M. relieved with the sum of £3 3s from the funds of the Lodge. The brethren were next called off for refreshment. Upon entering the banqueting hall, the eye was gladdened by the gay and festive appearance of the boards. Vases, epergnes, and a variety of quaint stands were filled with the brightest and most delicately-tinted flowers, whose mingled perfumes scented the room, while the variously coloured crystals, placed at regular intervals, were tantalisingly suggestive of pleasures in store. The viands were prepared by Bro. Silver, who, as was speedily proved, had exerted his culinary talents to do honour to the occasion. The wines were choice and abundant. It is, therefore, not surprising that the enjoyment was unalloyed and universal. The banquet over, grace was sung by Bros. George Perren, Buckland, and Baxter, and then eloquence had its turn. The W.M. drew enthusiastic cheers from the

brethren when, in proposing the health of the Queen, he spoke of the anxiety which must possess the gracious Sovereign in the present grave and critical condition of State affairs, which, he was sure, entitled her to the sympathy, not only of Masons, but of every true-hearted Englishman throughout the world. H.R.H. the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Lords Carnarvon and Skelmersdale, especially the latter, and the rest of the Grand Officers, each received a fair share of eulogium and hearty response. The venerable Bro. John Hervey G.S., who occupied a position to the left of the W.M., responding, referred to the excellent Masonic qualities of Lord Skelmersdale; and amongst other matters mentioned, in proof, if any were needed of that noble brother's zeal, that last week he installed a Companion in the First Principal's Chair, and shortly will do the same to the Grand Superintendent of a Province. He likewise spoke in high praise of the Masonic talents of Bro. John Boyd, as exhibited only a week ago at the Public Night in connection with the Prudent Brethren Chapter, and of the services done in Grand Lodge by Bros. T. Cubitt and E. P. Albert. The W.M., whose health was proposed by the I.P.M., replied in a few well chosen words, especially referring to the circumstance that it had been his lot to work his way up from the very lowest grade to his present rank. This fact alone was sufficient to render his position of the highest value to him. For the Visitors, Bro. James Terry replied in his pleasantly clear and distinct manner, and took occasion to congratulate the Lodge upon its distinction by possessing such a member as Bro. Constable, through whose instrumentality the Charities had been so immensely benefited. He must also express his admiration of the manner in which Bro. J. D. Barnett had performed the ceremony of installation. He had had opportunities of witnessing that duty performed many hundreds of times, but never in the whole course of his long experience had it been his good fortune to listen to such an exposition of the ritual. Bro. Barnett had not done his task parrot-like, but had grasped its spirit, which enabled him to give his utterances with unsurpassed eloquence. Bro. Sydney spoke for the P.M.'s. He had not the opportunity of being frequently among them, and could therefore be of very little service to the Lodge. He was however, extremely pleased to find it so prosperous, and that it was not only making progress in wealth, but—what was of vastly greater importance—in intelligence. Bro. Saul Solomon P.M. responded for the Committee of the Benevolent Fund. He had often had to do duty in this capacity as President of the Fund, and on such occasions as these to make appeals for its maintenance and support. He was glad to say there was now no necessity to ask for help, as the fund now consisted of no less a sum than £800, and here they might allow it to remain for the present. There seems no immediate prospect of a drain on its resources, and he trusted none might be made for many years to come. But should necessity arise, he was confident an appeal to the brethren would be munificently responded to. The W.M. then proposed the health of his Officers, of whom he spoke in most flattering terms, and made it the occasion of presenting to Bro. W. Dunster Bayley J.W., a handsomely illuminated testimonial on vellum, in a valuable gilt frame, the reason for which was embodied in the resolution thereon inscribed, which reads as follows:—"Presented to Bro. W. Dunster Bayley J.W., for his valuable services, in having obtained from the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, a re-transfer to the Lodge of Consolidated 3 per cent. Stock, the dividends whereon had remained unclaimed for a number of years; and the brethren further desire to assure Bro. Bayley that his genuine kindness upon all occasions will be ever remembered with feelings of brotherly esteem. 18th Feb. 1878." Bro. Bayley in returning thanks said, that this testimony of goodwill was very pleasant, although when undertaking so small a service any acknowledgement in any shape was entirely unanticipated by him. As long as he had been connected with the Lodge nothing but most unfeigned kindness had been shown him by every one of the brethren, and he could give an assurance that he would make it his duty and pleasure to further in every possible respect the prosperity of the Lodge. The Tyler's toast ended a remarkably pleasant and eventful evening. During the intervals the company were entertained with some truly artistic singing. Bro. Geo. Perren, being in excellent cue, was vociferously encored after singing "The Thorn," by express desire. Bro. Buckland was highly amusing, but no opportunity was, unfortunately for the assembly, afforded to Bro. Baxter for the exercise of his sweetly melodious voice, except in a glee. The P.M.'s present were:—Bros. S. Solomon, M. Harris, C. Herrman, J. D. Barnett, N. Defries, N. Moss, R. Z. Bloomfield, J. Constable, S. Moss, J. H. Ross, N. Gluckstein, A. E. Sydney, and E. Gottheil. The Visitors were—W. Bro. John Hervey G.S., F. Binckes Sec. R.M.I.B., Jas. Terry Sec. R.M.B.I., Albert P.G.P., John Boyd P.G.P., J. T. Miller W.M. Joppa, M. D. Loewenstark W.M. 1668, A. M. Cohen W.M. 205, W. H. Gulliford W.M. 1017, S. Wharman W.M. 15, G. H. Felton W.M. 1613, Julius Arnsberg P.M. 1161, D. H. Jacobs P.M. 27, E. Pollitzer P.M. 1017, R. Fenner P.M. 820, E. Palhurst P.M. 188, 1017 P.G.P., Dr. Mickleby P.M. 449, H. M. Levy P.M. 188, E. Bowyer P.M. 1580, I. Cohen 360, W. Payne Treas. 1602, Greenfield 1602, T. Stephens 1475, Pollayer from Vienna, Jas. Wayland 1227, H. C. Felton 1185, 299, Rndderforth J.W. 1668, H. Aarons W.S. 1668, R. Clark 1613, W. D. Sky 1227, Parker 861, C. Harris, Geo. Hamilton J.W. 861, Geo. Perren 23 and 288, Geo. Buckland 1319, and Baxter.

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

On 15th inst., at the Mitre Hotel, Goulborne-road, Notting-hill. —Bros. Smout sen. W.M., Spiegel S.W., Tettenborn J.W., Woodmason S.D., Bolton I.G., Murlis P.M., Penn W.M., Adkins, Hutton, Lichtwitz, Whitaker, Eskell, Oldrey, Chalfond, and others. The Lodge was opened, and the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Oldrey being the candidate. Bro. Penn then took the chair, and worked the ceremony of raising, Bro. Adkins being the candidate. Bro. Spiegel was elected W.M. for Friday, 1st March, on which occasion he will give the Lecture of the first Tracing Board.

NEW ZEALAND.

THE mail just arrived brings us the following Auckland items:—

The installation of officers of Lodge St. Andrew took place on 21st December, at the Lodge Room, Masonic Hotel. There was a very large attendance, including visitors from all the other Lodges, and amongst them we noticed Bros. P.M.'s Niccol, Heather, Burns, Lodder, Willcocks, and the Rev. C. M. Nelson W.M. Prince of Wales Lodge. Bro. Walker, the outgoing and incoming R.W.M., presided, and having opened the Lodge in the first degree, and raised it to the third, the brethren were called on to receive Bros. the Hon. F. Whitaker R.W.P.G.M., Anderson R.W.P.S.M., and Tyler R.W.P.G. Secretary. The Provincial Grand Master was escorted to the chair. He nominated Bro. P.M. Niccol as Installing Master, and the following officers were duly obligated, invested, and installed as officers of the St. Andrew Lodge for the ensuing year:—Bros. W. C. Walker R.W.M. (elected for the third time), T. Whitson R.W.D.M., F. M. Hewson S.W., G. R. Hendry J.W., J. Lewis Treasurer, G. Payne Secretary, J. McEwen S.D., S. McCosky J.D., M. Gallagher Senior Steward, W. H. Niccol Junior Steward, J. Hughes I.G., C. Porter Tyler. The installation ceremony was carried out in a very impressive manner, and at the close of the proceedings Bro. the P.G.M. gave a short address, stating his intention of devoting time and attention to the working of the Lodges under his control, and said that his presence that night on the occasion of the installation of the Officers of the St. Andrew's Lodge was only the commencement of many attendances. After the R.W.M. had thanked the brethren for the high honour conferred on him in electing him for the third time to the chair of the St. Andrew's, the Lodge was closed in form, and the brethren adjourned to the dining room, where an excellent repast was provided for them.

The installation and investment of officers of the Ara Lodge, I.C., took place at the Masonic Hotel, on 27th December. Amongst visitors present on this, the installation of officers of the oldest Masonic Lodge in New Zealand, were Bros. W. P. Pierce R.W.P.G.M. I.C., G. S. Graham R.W.D.G.M. E.C., Rees P.M. P.G. Sec., Burns P.M. P.G.D.C., Heather P.M. P.G.R., Dr. Kidd P.G. Chaplain, Rev. C. M. Nelson D.G. Chaplain and W.M. Prince of Wales Lodge, W. L. Mitchell P.M., W. Lodder P.G. Treasurer, G. H. Lavers D.G.S.W., W. H. Skinner P.M., Cole P.M. and D.G.J.D., W.M. Waitemata Lodge, and other visitors. Bro. Heather opened the Lodge in form, and raised it to the third degree. When officiating as Installing Master, he installed and invested Bro. M. M. Levy as W.M. for the ensuing year. Bro. Levy then invested the following Officers:—Bros. E. S. Willcocks S.W., E. W. Page J.W., Rees P.M. Treasurer and Organist, Mitchell P.M. Secretary, Dr. Kidd P.M. Chaplain, T. E. Durance S.D., J. B. Crowther J.D., C. S. Weston J.D., F. G. A. Kummer and G. Thorne jun. Stewards, and C. Porter Tyler. After the installation service, the brethren sat down to an admirably prepared spread, laid by Bro. Hood, to which ample justice was rendered.

The installation of officers of the Lodge United Service (I.C.), took place at the Lodge Room, Masonic Hotel, on 28th December. There was a fair attendance of members of the Lodge and visiting brethren. Amongst the latter were Bros. G. P. Pierce R.W.P.G.M. (I.C.), G. S. Graham R.W.D.G.M. (E.C.), Cole W.M. Lodge Waitemata, and other dignitaries of the Order. Bro. Redfern opened the Lodge and raised it, after which Bro. P. M. Burns, who had been appointed Installing Officer, installed and invested Bro. Francis Roycroft W.M. The ceremony was conducted in a highly dignified and impressive manner, as were also the subsequent charges, &c., which were delivered by Bro. Burns. Bro. the W.M. elect being himself installed, then invested the following Lodge Officers:—Bros. J. Goodacre S.W., W. J. Sniter J.W., Batt P.M. Treasurer, Burns P.M. Secretary, B. Holmes S.D., D. Hamilton J.D., Melton and Sutherland Stewards. The proceedings having terminated and the Lodge closed, the brethren adjourned to an admirably served repast, which was laid in the hotel dining room.

According to ancient custom the members of the Tongariro Masonic Lodge, English Constitution, assembled within the walls of their Lodge room, on the evening of St. John's Day, to assist in the installation of office bearers for the ensuing year. The attendance of members was unusually numerous, and included many visitors from sister Lodges. The choice of the members this year fell upon Bro. Edward Hardcastle, the respected R.M. of the district, and we think the brethren of the Craft may be congratulated upon obtaining the services of so able a Master. The retiring Master, Bro. John Fleetwood, acted as Installing Officer, and was assisted by Bro. J. W. Robinson, as Director of Ceremonies. The following brethren were then formally installed in their respective chairs:—Bros. Edward Hardcastle W.M., Edward Wright S.W., J. P. Watt J.W., J. G. Woon S.D., J. D. Tripe J.D., B. N. Manley I.G., T. Read Tyler, C. H. Ashforth Secretary, J. Bridge Treasurer, and J. R. Rees Chaplain. The choral service was supplied by Bros. J. G. Woon, J. G. Baker, Culpan, Holden, and Sheriff, with Bro. Crawford presiding at the harmonium. The impressive ceremony of installation was carried through with excellent effect.

During the evening the Installing Officer took occasion to present to the Secretary, Bro. C. H. Ashforth, a testimonial expressive of the esteem in which that brother was held by the members of the Tongariro Lodge. The testimonial was in the form of a very valuable and handsome gold watch, bearing the following inscription:—“Fidelis usque ad mortem.” Presented as a souvenir to Bro. C. H. Ashforth, by the members of the Tongariro Lodge No. 705 E.C., after nine years zealous services as Secretary. St. John's Day, 27th December 1877, Wanganni, N.Z.” Bro. Fleetwood, in making the presentation, said the testimonial only expressed the unanimous feeling of the members, and was a token of their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by their Secretary during the many years he had filled that important office. He trusted that Bro. Ashforth

would long retain his post, as he felt sure he would always retain the respect and good will of the brethren. Bro. Ashforth acknowledged the receipt of the testimonial in appropriate terms. He said that the services he had rendered the Lodge had always been given with great personal pleasure. He felt exceedingly grateful to the members for their substantial mark of esteem, and trusted that he would long be spared to continue in office as Secretary.

The installation having been duly completed, the brethren adjourned to Bro. Howe's Commercial Hotel, where a banquet had been prepared in a manner befitting the reputation of this hostelry. The chair was occupied by the W.M. Bro. Hardcastle, supported by Bros. H. S. Harrison, W. H. Watt, Major Noake, and C. H. Borlase. The toast list embraced the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts, and also the special toast of “Secretary, Bro. Ashforth,” which was proposed by Major Noake. The speaker referred in eulogistic terms to the lengthy services of the Secretary, and the admirable manner in which the duties of the office had been carried out. He (Major Noake) being one of the earliest members of the Lodge could speak with some authority on the subject, and therefore it afforded him the very greatest pleasure in proposing the toast. Bro. Ashforth, in responding, again thanked the members for their confidence and good wishes.

The brethren separated after spending a very enjoyable reunion.

The installation of Master and Officers of the Lodge of St. John, took place in the Masonic Hall, Kelvin-street, Invercargill, on 20th December last. It speaks wonders for the growth and vitality of Freemasonry when it can be stated of this, one of the youngest daughters of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, that in the small space of eight months it has grown to a membership of about forty-five, well on for half of that number having been initiated in the Lodge itself. The meeting was presided over by Bro. Henry Feldwick, the retiring R.W.M., who also acted as Installing Master, honoured by having for his supporter no less distinguished a Mason than Bro. William Caldwell P.M. No. 432 S.C., a Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and 33°; he was also assisted by P.M.'s Wade and Jacobs of Lodge St. John, Bro. A. C. Henderson W.M. of the Southern Cross Lodge E.C., P.M.'s Bros. W. Craig, W. Moffet, and J. T. Martin, and Bro. F. H. Monckton W.M. of the Aparima Lodge E.C.; Bro. Chapman Jacobs acted as Director of Ceremonies, the Rev. W. H. Dean, Chaplain of the Southern Cross Lodge, as Chaplain, and Bro. John Feldwick presided at the organ. The R.W.M. elect, Bro. Horatio Wragge, having been introduced to the Installing Master, was duly installed, and subsequently saluted by the members in their various degrees. The other officers were then invested and instructed in their duties, which being done, Past Master Bro. Caldwell delivered to the Master, Wardens, and fellows, eloquent, though eminently practical addresses on the duties they owed to each other, and to the Craft in general. The newly installed Master then returned thanks to the presiding officer, the Hundredth Psalm was sung, and the ceremony of installation brought to a close by a prayer offered by the Acting Chaplain. The following is the complete list of Officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. Horatio Wragge R.W.M., Henry Feldwick I.P.M., J. H. Kerr D.M., E. R. C. Bowen S.M., F. W. Burwell S.W., D. Hunter J.W., Chapman Jacobs P.M. Treas., John Thomson Secretary, George McLeod S.D., R. Gilchrist J.D., John Feldwick Organist, Thomas Findlay I.G., A. Munro Tyler. After the installation, the usual votes of thanks were returned—to P.M. Bro. Caldwell, who had kindly attended from Dunedin, and another to the members of the Southern Cross Lodge for the use of their fine hall. The Lodge having been closed, the brethren thereafter adjourned to their own hall, in rear of the Prince of Wales Hotel, where a repast was served by Bro. Richard Powell in a style that could not have been surpassed anywhere.

HONOURS TO A PLYMOUTH FREEMASON.

At the last meeting of the Cornwall Rose Croix Chapter, held at the new Public Rooms, Truro, the Rev. George Ross, M.A., M.W.S. in the chair. It was proposed by Bro. William James Hughan 30° P.M. W.S., seconded by Bro. Colonel John W. Peard 30° P.M. W.S., and agreed to by a unanimous vote, that—

“In appreciation of his valued services to this Chapter, from its inauguration in 1875 to the present, Bro. Richard Rodda P.M. W.S. of the Huyshe Chapter, Plymouth, be elected the Premier Honorary Member of the first class.”

We congratulate our distinguished Brother on such a special mark of confidence and good will, especially under such happy auspices, and as we hear effect is to be given to the vote by having it illuminated, we are glad to know the fact will be pleasantly and permanently chronicled.

Lodge of Israel, Liverpool, No. 1502.—The third Annual Ball in connection with this flourishing Lodge took place on the 13th inst., at the Adelphi Hotel, and the well-known enthusiasm of the brethren at the head of affairs was conspicuously displayed, inasmuch as a most enjoyable and successful gathering was the result. The ball was in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge (the first introduced into this province), which has now at its disposal no less a sum than £150. The arrangements were admirably carried out by the committee, which, among others, comprised Bros. Alex. Jones W.M., A. I. Henochsberg I.P.M., R. Robinson P.M., A. Lyons Treasurer, B. Woolf, S. Schonstadt S.W., and H. M. Silver Hon. Sec. There were in all about 170 present, the brethren appearing in full Masonic clothing. The supper and refreshments were of a most *récherché* character. Great praise is due to the excellent manner the entire arrangements were carried out by the band of Stewards, headed by their indefatigable Captain. Bros. A. I. Henochsberg P.M., S. I. Henochsberg S.D., and A. Hart were untiring in their duties as M.C.'s.

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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LODGE VICTORIA IN BURMAH.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In my communication of the 28th October last, I explained to you the proceedings which had taken place relating to the exclusion of Bros. A. L. Vaillaut, T. N. Seymour, J. C. Jordan, E. P. Dover, and J. C. Marsh from Lodge Victoria in Burmah, No. 832, in consequence of their having opposed the election and installation of Bro. the Rev. J. E. Marks, and if I mistake not you have received copies of the papers relating thereto. You were pleased to express an opinion in the columns of your paper favourable to the contention of these brethren. You are aware that at the Quarterly Communication of the 5th December last, the Grand Lodge was pleased to decide, that Bro. the Rev. J. E. Marks election and installation (he not having served the office of Warden for a whole year) was illegal and invalid, and peremptorily directed the restoration of the excluded brethren to Lodge No. 832. The Grand Secretary communicated the result of the appeal direct to the appellants, and to the W.M. of No. 832, which communication was received on the 10th instant. At the next regular meeting of the Lodge, on the 11th inst. (which, by a singular coincidence, was the very day and occasion last year on which the charges were brought against these brethren), the five brethren presented themselves at their Lodge, and requested to be allowed to take their places in the Lodge, when they were informed by a P.M., who is also the D.D.G.M., the I.P.M. being also present, that their attendance at Lodge was premature, and that they could not be admitted; the brethren pleaded the peremptory orders of the Grand Lodge, that they had come in a friendly spirit, &c., but all to no purpose. It was admitted that similar orders had been received from the Grand Lodge, but these could not be attended to, as the Grand Lodge had based its decision in ignorance, and had made some mistake in procedure, so the brethren had to go back, looking considerably small, disappointed and crest fallen. If the Lodge now appeals to the Grand Lodge against its own ruling, months will elapse before these brethren will or may be restored to their full privileges. Dear Brother, what do you call this, contumacy or rebellion? What is the punishment?

It is worthy of note that when the Lodge was opened, and the W.M. elect had been installed, the Grand Secretary's letter was read and disposed of as above reported, although the W.M. had only a few minutes before sworn "strictly to conform to every Edict of the Grand Lodge!" Alas! how lightly do such obligations set upon the consciences of some.

In my last communication I concluded thus—"So Masonic irregularity and official high handedness join hands, and pursue a crooked career, knowing that no one, not even the District Grand Master can or will intervene. This is a sad, but truthful state of affairs in this district at present, and yet I fail to see any escape from such a chaotic condition." Is not the above an exemplification of what I have already stated? I understand an appeal will be made to the District Grand Lodge.

Yours fraternally,

A LOOKER ON.

RANGOON, 19th Jan. 1878.

HOW TO PROVIDE FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE CHARITIES.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I put a solution of this simple problem before my brethren with the hope that every one who has moral courage will exert himself to condemn a wrong; and having recognised the right course, will pursue it to the end.

Let the Charities have your first consideration and support, and make everything subservient to them. This will meet the case without any difficulty, and without any brother having to subscribe an extra penny.

A case has been brought to my notice where £230 was spent on refreshments, and £4 on the Charities. I ask, is not this a case of gross improvidence? and does it not show that brethren of honourable and religious motives should seek to reform this terrible abuse, by which so many thousands of the funds of our Lodges are prostituted to purposes opposed to the sublime principles of Masonry?

A brother may be in wealthy circumstances to-day, to-morrow he may lose his appointment, however lucrative, through indiscretion or other causes. His bank may break; his business fail; his life may be prematurely taken, and his widow and fatherless children may be left on the mercy of the world. Are these questions unworthy of consideration? and are they not suggested by a proper feeling towards those bound to us by the most sacred ties?

Brethren whose health is their capital, and who move in a humble sphere, will see that they stand on the edge of the precipice, close to penury, and it behoves them to be provident.

I would say to such, Seek to know the amount spent last year on refreshments and on the Charities. You know not what day may make your wife a widow.

I anticipate the disfavour my appeal will meet with, but the honest brother who looks to himself, his family, and the Charities, will rightly appreciate my motive. I feel I am discharging a conscientious duty to God, the Craft, and the Charities by making this appeal, which I do with as much earnestness as affection.

It may be asked what I would have done. Let the brethren decide to meet every legitimate case of distress that arises. The Secretaries of our Institutions, having access to the Grand Lodge Register—with the number of members in each Lodge—can easily apportion the amount required, and send to the various Lodges particulars of the sum wanted. The Lodges should then vote the amounts from their funds. By this course no individual would be taxed, but refreshments should be limited, after due provision had been made for the requirements of the Charities. I trust I shall not appeal in vain when I urge the brethren not to throw away their funds.

Surely, whilst God is bountifully helping us, we ought to help ourselves.

The Grand Officers, the Provincial Grand Officers, the Clergy, and all who wish to reform the abuses, and uphold the prestige and high character of Masonry will not fail, I am sure, to use their influence to promote the exercise of heaven-born charity.

Brothers, the adoption of the course I commend to you will help to relieve your anxiety when your dying hour shall come. For the honour of the Most High, for the good of these excellent Charities, and for the interest of those most near and dear to you, be united; persevere, and may God fully reward you.

I am, &c.

W. DARLEY P.M.

12 Batsfoot Road, Deptford.
18th February 1878.

Traduction.

A.: L.: G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: l'Univ.:

GRAND ORIENT DE FRANCE.

O.: de Paris, le 30 Janr. 1878, E.: V.:

Au E.: G.: F.: Loth, Garant d'amitié du Gr.: O.: de France près la Grande Loge d'Ecosse.

SIR AND DEAR BROTHER,—You ask if a candidate who should, on presenting himself to a Lodge, declare that he is an Atheist, and does not believe in the G.A.O.T.U., would be admitted? Here is my answer:

1. French Masonry does not believe that there exists Atheists in the absolute sense of the word.

2. It believes there are among men different ways of conceiving and comprehending the existence of a Supreme Law or a Supreme Being.

3. Proclaiming liberty of conscience as the birthright of every one, it thus thinks that it cannot impose any particular religious belief.

4. It leaves upon these delicate questions every member free, and excludes none on account of religious persuasions.

5. Not having to ask a candidate whether he believes or not in God, since it would have been necessary to make some sort of definition in reference to the matter (a thing which has always led to some very regrettable discussions), French Masonry will not have to discuss the question you put, as such a question would not, under present circumstances, have its *raison d'être*, and, therefore, could not logically be raised in Lodge.

6. It is in this view, and to appease all minds, in the body of the Lodges under our jurisdiction, that a modification of our Constitution took place.

7. However, if despite of all, such a case as the one referred to should present itself, the Lodge certainly would not fail to consider whether it is in the presence of a "stupid atheist or a vain bully," (*fanfaron vaineux*), or before a mind whose superior acquirements might justify an exception in his behalf. It is thus that Gr. O. formerly counted among its illustrious members the eminent astronomer Lalande, and the great philosopher Helvétius, and others, who openly professed atheistic principles.

8. I have already told you, Dear Brother, and I repeat, nothing has been changed in the practices of French Masonry. Without troubling itself with religious beliefs, and disclaiming to lay on any restriction, it admits into its bosom all good men following the moral law, according to the spirit as well as the letter of the old Masonic Charter, and the rule laid down by Anderson.

9. Not being a religion, it has suppressed from its constitution a dogmatic formula that in 1849 cropped in; a formula which seemed to make of the French Rite a particular one, as it was written neither in the Masonic Code of England, Ireland, or Scotland, nor in that of any other country!

10. Being neither Atheist nor materialistic, as is proved by its official declarations, the Grand Orient has preserved, without, however, making it obligatory, the old Masonic motto—"A la gloire du Grand Architecte de l'Univers"—which is as much scientific and philosophic as, perhaps, religious, whether it be considered as a figurative allusion to our Grand Master Hiram, or as a glorification of labour, that labour which, by the French Constitutions, is imposed upon all true Masons.

I could not, Dear Brother, personally resolve the question you put me otherwise than by the above explanations; and I trust that you will find them satisfactory, and that they will have an echo in many hearts and minds.

Receive, Dear Brother, the assurance of my devoted and fraternal feelings.

Le chef du Secretariat,

THEVENOT.

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NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Polish National Lodge, No. 534.—On Thursday, the 14th inst., the brethren of this Lodge met at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, when the following Officers were present:—Bros. Cumming W.M., Rath I.P.M., Ebner S.W., Aspinall J.W., Boyd P.M. Treas., Paas P.M. Sec., Taylor S.D., Dr. Jagielski J.D., Dr. Corrie Jackson I.G., Lancaster D.C., together with several Past Masters. The Visitors were Bros. Saegert P.M. 548, Alais P.M. 834, Thomas 969, J. Boyd 23, Hasler 610, Hayes 619, Smith 228, Milinson 1201, Jekyll 1319. The Lodge was opened and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, it was then advanced, and Bro. Bryant was raised. The Lodge was resumed in the first degree, and the W.M. presented Bro. Bryant with the distinctive jewel which the members of the Polish National Lodge, by the special permission of the Grand Lodge of England, are allowed to wear. He called on Bro. Rath I.P.M. to explain to Bro. Bryant the peculiar meaning of the decoration. This Bro. Rath did in the following words: Bro. Bryant,—In giving into your custody the jewel of our Lodge, and by placing the same on your breast, I am conferring on you an honour of which you may justly be proud. There are not many Lodges, either in England or elsewhere, which are so distinguished. The jewel of the Snow White Eagle, with wings spread heavenward, is a token of so exceptional a favour that when you come to understand its real meaning you will be doubly proud to wear it. A White Eagle is but an heraldic symbol, but this represents the Polish National Eagle, and it must in your heart signify the token of honour, and of steady resistance, even unto death, to all oppressors of liberty. Let its symbolic wings always remind you of the undying spirit of freedom, love, and charity to all men, of whatsoever nationality or creed. Let its silvery white colour be a mark of singleness of purpose, disinterestedness of aim, and purity of motive. Let the fact of its being an eagle remind you that it is the kingly bird which was privileged to stand by the side of Jupiter, to carry the thunder, and, while it is strong and mighty, it soars superior to low passion and narrow minded motives. The W.M., in the name of the Lodge, thanked the I.P.M. for his kindness. There was now another matter which engaged the attention of the brethren—namely, the presentation, by the W.M., in the name of the Lodge, of the Commander's White Eagle to the I.P.M. The W.M. in a few words reminded the brethren that it was the first time in the history of the Lodge that such a distinction had ever been paid to a P.M. The gift was made to show how they appreciated the noble conduct of Bro. Rath during his year of office; he concluded by hoping that he (Bro. Rath) might live many years to wear it. Bro. Rath felt as though the kindness and consideration of the brethren towards him, knew no limits. The honour which they had that night conferred on him, by the presentation of the Commander's White Eagle, filled his breast with sentiments, to express which his lips refused to find words sufficiently suitable. The honour of the Commander's Eagle had been conferred on but few. It had been far from his hopes and expectations ever to attain it when he first entered on his duties in the chair. In looking back on his term of office, he could but ask himself what had he done to merit such a distinction? He could not find an answer; except, perhaps, that he had struck out boldly to accomplish his work. If Eagles were the true symbols of merit, then the Polish Eagle, for which he entertained such feelings of veneration, on account of its great historical value, was certainly the one distinction which he should esteem most; and, far from daring to be the Commander of the heraldic King, he would on all occasions, when his zeal for charity, humanity, or any other Masonic precept should fail him, fly for protection and shelter under the mighty wings of this "Prince of the Spheres," so that it might, with a few flaps of its powerful wings, lift him again into those pure regions where all sordid considerations of self vanish, and where nothing but noble instincts and the loftiest of all virtues, the disinterested love of our fellow man, reigns supreme. Bro. Rath concluded by once more thanking the brethren for their generous gift, of which he should never cease to be proud. The Lodge then voted ten guineas each to the Boys' and Girls' Schools, to be placed respectively on the lists of Bros. Rath and Boyd, who are Stewards for those Institutions. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet, which was provided in Bro. Best's first class style. After the Loyal toasts the gavel was entrusted to Bro. Rath, who proposed the health of the W.M. All were eager to do honour to the toast of the Master. His (the speaker's) task was therefore a light one. In one respect, however, he felt some diffidence, inasmuch as the brethren of the Lodge had grown to be such excellent spokesmen and orators that it became more and more difficult to say any thing which should prove worthy of their attention. If he dismissed the subject with a few neatly turned phrases, none would be the worse for it, and he might be contented thus to have fulfilled his duty. But the W.M. had toiled and worked for the weal of this community for seven long years, until he attained the summit of the ladder, and he is doing his utmost during his tenure to hold and keep them together by the bonds of friendship and goodwill. There is no doubt that we have sailed through the greater part of our present year in as pleasant a manner as we could possibly have wished, and from day to day our happiness and comfort has been increasing. If this is not a sign of ability on the part of the head of this republic, and of qualities well befitting the ruler of a Lodge, he was unable to find any. Where all were glad to be happy, where not a discordant sound is to be heard, where, in fact, life flows in an even and prosperous stream, there surely good men abide,—

"Wo man singt da lass dich nieder,
Böse menschen haben keine lieder!"

A truism of the divine Schiller he was anxious to apply to the Lodge.

"Abide where people laugh and sing,
For wicked spirits have no such thing."

This was the sum total of praise which they could that night bestow

on the W.M., and he trusted that they would thereby make him as happy as he had endeavoured to make them. The W.M. thanked the brethren for the flattering way in which they had received the toast, and assured them that he had the interest of the Polish National Lodge at heart. He had always endeavoured to promote harmony and good fellowship at the different meetings of the members, and trusted that he had given the brethren satisfaction. He then asked the brethren to drink the health of the I.P.M., and briefly reminded them how Bro. Rath had striven to uphold and maintain the character of the Lodge during his year of Mastership. Bro. Rath acknowledged with thanks the kind sentiment expressed by the W.M., and to which the members had so heartily responded. In Masonry we have our symbols—the Sun, the Moon, and the Master of the Lodge. Now the Sun, of course, is the centre of our system, and whether from a dread of being lonely, or because he is too aristocratic a planet, he has an attendant attached to his body, which is the Moon; the pale Moon, who looks like the powdered footman of a grand lady, revolving round and round a centre of attraction, and borrowing all his lustre from the fountain of light. If, however, the Moon has but a secondary position in this great system of globes, her influence is none the less great. Why, does not the heart of this earth beat towards the Moon, through the palpitation of the sea, in an unceasing ebb and flow? And who has ever been in love and not appealed to the help of the benevolent Moon? Are not stanzas and rhymes made to the moon? Is not she the bearer of innumerable love letters? And, perhaps, if the truth were known, we might find out many a love letter which has slipped through her fingers from an ardent planet into the hands of Master Sun. The place of the Moon is thus such a one of which anybody might feel proud, and I am thinking that, having been placed next to the W.M., who represents the Sun, and been entrusted with the duties of the Moon, I may rest perfectly contented with what little I can do. If, in acting as chaperon I have been able to please the W.M. and brethren, I feel that I am amply rewarded. The Health of the Visitors was coupled with the names of P.M.'s Saegert and Alais, who suitably responded. The Health of the Officers was well received, and responded to by Bro. Jagielski. During the evening, some excellent songs and recitations were given by the brethren. The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a close.

Eleanor Lodge of Instruction, No. 1707.—At a meeting held at the Angel Hotel, Edmonton, on Wednesday, the 20th inst., the Fifteen Sections were worked by the following brethren:—Bros. Turquand P.M. 1556 W.M., Pinder P.M. 15 and 1662 S.W., Christian W.M. 1662 J.W., Tanner W.M. 1707 I.P.M.

FIRST LECTURE—First section, Bro. Hunt 1662; second section, Bro. Pringle 781; third section, Bro. Francois S.D. 1685; fourth section, Bro. Christian W.M. 1662; fifth section, Bro. Killick W.M. 1693; sixth section, Bro. Andrews S.D. 1227; seventh section, Bro. Hewlett 141.

SECOND LECTURE—First section, Bro. Brasted 1524; second section, Bro. Powell J.W. 184; third section, Bro. Garrod 785; fourth section, Bro. Pinder P.M. 15, 1662; fifth section, Bro. Garnett J.D. 1701.

THIRD LECTURE—First section, Bro. Tanner W.M. 1707; second section, Bro. Garnett J.D. 1662; third section, Bro. Taylor D.C. 554.

The working throughout was marked by the proficiency of each brother who took part on this occasion. At the close, Bro. Turquand was complimented (and that deservedly) for the efficient manner in which he had conducted the lectures, and as a mark of respect was elected an honorary member, as also was Bros. Pinder and Christian, who ably assisted him. A vote of thanks was recorded to the remainder of the brethren. There was a good attendance, and several brethren present expressed the pleasure they had experienced in being present. Thus terminated a most enjoyable evening.

We are informed that it is the intention of the brethren of the Lodges in Canterbury, namely, United Industrious, No. 31, Saint Augustine, No. 972, and Royal Military, No. 1449, to invite the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent to hold their Annual Festival for this year in that fine old city. Twenty-one years have elapsed since Prov. Grand Lodge assembled there, and several circumstances combine to make this a most fitting opportunity for the visit to be repeated. The three Lodges, amongst whom a most fraternal feeling exists, will send a joint invite, and it is intended that a right royal reception shall be accorded to the Craft. There is no place in Kent in which such conveniences exist, and which has such ample accommodation for large gatherings. Moreover, Canterbury is easy of access from all parts of the Province, and in the event of the invitation being accepted we anticipate the muster of brethren will be larger than has ever yet taken in Kent.

The Ball of the New Concord Lodge, No. 813, will take place at Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, W.C., on Monday, 4th March next. Bro. T. Adams's celebrated quadrille band is engaged, and dancing will commence at 9 o'clock. The charge for tickets, which will include refreshments and supper, are for ladies 10s 6d, gentlemen 12s 6d.

At the Festival on the 13th inst. a part of an Arch Jewel was lost either in the Banqueting Hall, or in the Temple. The finder will oblige if he will forward the same to our Office.—ED, F.C.

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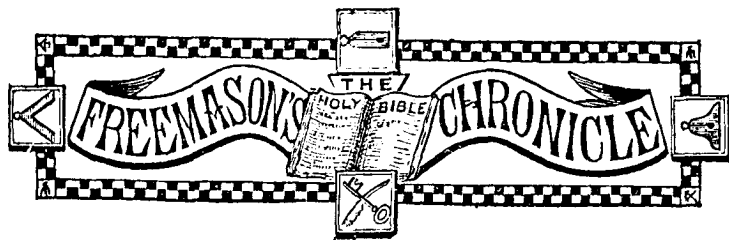
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THOUGH there is great anxiety in Parliament, there is little to record of moment in connection with the one absorbing topic of the day. In the House of Lords on Thursday last, the Earl of Derby was questioned as to the passage of the Dardanelles by our Fleet, and made answer in accordance with what he knew. The Lord Chancellor afterwards moved the first reading of a Bill on Territorial Waters. On Friday, Lord Stratheden and Campbell gave notice of his intention to move a certain resolution on Monday; but when that day arrived, the Earl of Derby pressed his lordship not to bring it forward, stating that in the event of his persisting, it would be the duty of the

Government to support the previous question. Earl Granville spoke in a somewhat similar strain, and so the resolution was not moved. The same evening, other questions bearing on the Eastern Crisis were asked and answered, or not answered, according to the exigencies of the service. On Tuesday, the Foreign Secretary felt it his duty to decline giving any information in reply to a question by the Duke of Argyll.

In the House of Commons, very similar questions have been put by different members. On Thursday, after the Chancellor of the Exchequer had replied to sundry of these, Mr. E. Jenkins delivered himself of a speech on the second reading of the Consolidated Fund (£6,000,000) Bill. He would have done better to have held his tongue. When this and the Exchequer Bonds, &c., Bill had received a second reading, Mr. Selater Booth rose and moved the second reading of the County Government Bill, the debate, on the motion of Lord E. Fitzmaurice, being adjourned to Monday. During the rest of the sitting, the House was in committee on the Irish Closing Bill. On Friday, after the usual array of questions had been disposed of, Mr. O. Morgan rose and moved his resolutions on the Burial Question. This occupied the greater part of the evening, and on a division, Mr. Morgan was defeated by 242 to 227, the result causing the Opposition to cheer loudly. On Monday, the adjourned debate on the County Government Bill was resumed, and in the result the Government carried the second reading by 231 to 63. On Tuesday, a resolution was moved by Mr. Meld on the subject of the Borough Franchise, and though opposed by the Government, it was only by the narrow majority of eight that he was beaten, the numbers being—for Mr. Meld on's resolution, 126; against it, 134. The same evening, the second reading of Sir John Lubbock's Ancient Monuments Bill was carried by 64 to 56—majority eight. On Wednesday, the second reading of the Waste Lands (Ireland) Bill was moved by Mr. MacCarthy, but was opposed by the Government, Mr. James Lowther appearing for the first time as Irish Secretary, and on a division, was lost by 147 to 118.

The Queen with the Princess Beatrice, and attended by the members of the Court, left Osborne for Windsor, on Friday. She reached the Castle at a quarter past two p.m., and shortly afterwards the Earl of Beaconsfield arrived and had an audience of Her Majesty. Yesterday was fixed for Her Majesty to hold a Council, and on Thursday next she will hold a Court at Buckingham Palace. A levee is also announced to be held on the 11th March, by the Prince of Wales on behalf of Her Majesty. His Royal Highness and his brother the Duke of Connaught left London last week for Berlin, in order to be present at the marriage of their niece, Princess Charlotte of Prussia, with the hereditary Prince of Meiningen, and of the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of Prince Frederick Charles, the Red Prince of the Franco-German war, with the hereditary Prince of Oldenburg. Their Royal Highnesses reached Berlin on Friday last, and the marriages were solemnised on Monday, in the Chapel of the Royal Castle, in the presence of the Emperor and Empress of Germany, all the Prussian Princes and Princesses, the King and Queen of the Belgians, the English Princes, and a number of German Princes. After the ceremony, the newly-married couples received the congratulations of their parents and the assembled Princes. Supper was then served, and after supper came the torch dance in the White Hall, and in which the brides and bridegrooms walked through the Hall some twenty times. The event was marked in England by a Royal Salute of Osborne House, by H.M. Ironclad "Hector," on the day of the marriages. Among the presents, which the Queen gave her grand-daughters, were a pair of pearl and diamond earrings, a dress trimmed with Honiton lace, and a quantity of stuffs of Irish and Scotch manufacture.

There was a brilliant gathering on Tuesday, at the meeting held that day at Hopping Hill, Lamport, near Southampton, under the auspices of the Pytchley Hunt, among those present being the Empress of Austria, the Princess of Wales, the Crown Prince and suite, the Duke of Teck, and Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck, the Duke of Grafton, the Earl and Countess Granville, the Earl and Countess Spencer, the Countess of Westmoreland, Lord Suffield, &c., &c. The Empress of Austria presented two cups. One, value £120 for hunters not tenant-farmers, was won by Captain Middleton's Piccadilly, the other, value of £80 (with £100 added), for tenant-farmer hunters, was won by Mr. Watson of Bedford. The Kelmarsh Challenge Cup, value £150, was won by Captain Manning's Twilight, the Pytchley

Hunt Cup, by Captain Middleton's Minotaur—this was however disqualified by losing a weight—and the Selling Stakes by Goldcoat, the property of Captain Soames of Scaldwell, Hon. Secretary to the Hunt. Her Imperial Majesty left Cottesbrooke for London the day following, and set off immediately for the Continent, travelling *via* Calais to Vienna. Her son, the Imperial Crown Prince, was at a grand ball on Thursday, given at Kimbolton Castle, by the Duke and Duchess of Manchester. Yesterday he was to have visited the Queen at Windsor, and to-morrow, he will leave England on his return home.

Warlike preparations are being urged forward with all possible rapidity in all our dockyards and at Woolwich Arsenal. Stores are being shipped off to the Mediterranean for Malta and the fleet as fast as the transports can be loaded. Orders are being given to various contractors for the supply of waggons, stabling, &c., &c. A Government agent has been this week at Bristol with instructions to purchase 5,000 horses, at, it is said, £50 each. All our vessels of war, ironclads and gunboats, and every class of intermediate vessel, are being got ready, and several battalions at Aldershot are at once to receive their regimental transport such as they require for a campaign. The men at our dockyards are working overtime; in fact, there is no doubt about the earnestness with which our preparations to meet all eventualities are being pressed forward, and there is equally no doubt that a very considerable hole will be made in the six millions voted by the Parliament for this special service between now and the 31st March. Our Mediterranean Fleet, moreover, is now reinforced by the Channel squadron, consisting of four huge ironclads, the Minotaur (flagship), Black Prince, Resistance, and Shannon. Thus, if war should unfortunately come, it will not be the fault of the Government if John Bull is not in good fighting trim, far better, indeed, than we were when the Crimean war broke out.

Of course, meetings continue to be held, the majority of them being with a view to support the Government. One took place on Saturday afternoon in Trafalgar-square, when from 2,000 to 4,000 were gathered together, and resolutions were passed in favour of the Government. One is fixed for to-morrow (Sunday) in Hyde Park, and one was to have been held at the Agricultural Hall on Thursday, when Mr. Gladstone and some of his supporters were to have been present and addressed the people. However, the conveners thought it would be better to postpone it. We think they acted wisely in so doing, for there was every probability of a shindy taking place, as is evident from the fact that the police had made great preparations, and were to be present outside the Hall in considerable force.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress attended in State on Saturday last at the Alexandra Palace, when a grand entertainment was given in aid of the victims of the war, the whole of the proceeds, after actual expenses had been paid being handed to the Committee acting under his lordship for the Baroness Burdett-Coutts' Compassionate Fund. The entertainment was on a most extensive scale, and included a ballad concert in the Central Hall, dramatic performance, with the transformation scene of the pantomime—Vertumna and the Swallows—Mr. Conquest, the first act of the Pink Dominoes, patriotic songs, the Mohawk Minstrels, and the British Army Quadrilles, which last awakened the most intense enthusiasm amongst the audience. The whole concluded with a grand display of fireworks by Mr. James Pain.

The thirteenth annual report of the Trustees of the Peabody Fund is very satisfactory. They mention that a sum of £12,065 has been received from an anonymous source towards the general purposes of the fund, the amount of which, at the end of the year 1876, was £643,316, and by the end of the year 1877 had been increased to £677,165. £72,627 had been spent during the year in the purchase of freehold property, and the erection of new buildings. Of this £25,000 was paid for Rochester Buildings, Old Pye Street, the property belonging to Mrs. William Gibbs, who sold it far below its real value, as she felt it would be better managed by the Peabody Fund. The trustees up to the present time have provided accommodation for 2,341 families, numbering upwards of 10,000 persons. The weekly earnings of the heads of these families ranged from £1 0s 10d in Shadwell to £1 6s 3d in Southwark, the average rent being 4s 2d per week. The net income derived from the occupied buildings is about 3¼ per cent. per annum upon the cost. The number of persons in residence

at the end of last year was 8,658, and the death rate 20·3 per 1,000.

Cabinet Councils were held on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and no wonder, considering how critical a state of things prevails in the political world, and that at any moment we may wake up and find ourselves engaged in war with Russia. However some silly people, like Sir Wilfrid Lawson, the Parliamentary temperance leader, may try to ridicule the efforts of Ministers to steer the vessel of the State through the perils to which she is surrounded, there is little doubt the great majority of the nation have the greatest confidence in their zeal and anxiety to preserve the honour and interests of Old England. Some of the most influential Liberals have given their adhesion to the Government.

Pope Pius IX. is dead, and another Pope, by the title of Leo XIII., occupies the Chair of St. Peter in his stead. The new Pope was chosen on Wednesday, the Cardinals having met in secret conclave the day previous. The Pope Elect is Cardinal Pecci, and according to the different accounts we have seen, His Holiness appears to be a man admirably suited, by birth, culture and mind, for the exalted position he is to hold. Leo XIII. was born in 1810, and is therefore in the full maturity of his powers.

The speech of Prince Bismarck on Tuesday in the German Parliament was looked forward to with amazing interest by the whole of Europe, but now it has been uttered, no one seems to know exactly what to make of it. Or rather, perhaps, everybody may read it any way he chooses to interpret it. The gist of the speech appears, so far as it is possible to probe it, that he is friendly with Austria, and has no feeling of antagonism towards England. Peace, he thinks, will come, and he is resolved to do nothing, and will advise the Emperor to do nothing, but watch, as heretofore, over German interests. It will be only when these are affected that the Prince will feel it his duty to counsel his Imperial Master to draw the sword in their defence. The same day the Austrian Reichstag and the Hungarian Diet met, and in both houses the Ministers present expressed the views of the Emperor as to the crisis. In both these speeches, there will be noticed the greatest clearness and precision. Both Prince Auersperg in the Reichstag, and Herr Tisza in the Diet, declared there were certain of the peace preliminaries which it would be impossible to reconcile with the safety of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, and that no conditions would be accepted which in any way affected the security of the people. Now it is certain that as the peace preliminaries stand now, Austro-Hungary would be ruined if they were permitted to remain. It is possible, therefore, that though Austria may not make common cause with this country, she has yet further and greater complications for her with Russia in store.

As to the state of things in the East, peace negotiations between Russia and Turkey are still in progress, though the latter can do little but sign any terms that may be demanded cannot but be very clearly seen. Constantinople is at the mercy of the invader, for the lines, which might have offered a strenuous resistance for some months to come, have been virtually surrendered to the enemy, or rather, the Turks have given up all idea of defending them, and the Czar's forces are so close at hand that there is nothing to prevent them advancing and taking possession of them without firing a shot. Meanwhile, there is no doubt that Russia is continually pouring fresh troops into Roumania, that she is hastening the manufacture of torpedoes, supplying her armies in Bulgaria and Roumelia with fresh ammunition and supplies of all kinds. Where her money comes from is not very material. Either that or credit must be at her disposal, or the efforts she is making could not last a week. In Asia the latest news is that the Turks had gained some advantages, but intelligence had at length arrived of the signature of the armistice, and military operations were therefore immediately stopped. However, it is the political not the military aspect of things which is uppermost in the minds of every class of people, and there is no good attempting to shut our eyes to the fact that, to use a common expression, there will be a pretty kettle of fish to fry. Roumania, who came so gallantly forward to assist the Czar in his greatest difficulties last summer, is growing more and more dissatisfied with the treatment she is receiving back. There is no concealment that Russia will take back Roumanian Bessarabia if Austria will allow it. Moreover, the Roumanian railways are virtually taken possession of by Russia, and the Czar's

ally is thus virtually made his slave. Servia too is dissatisfied that her claims are made so light of. Then there is the insurrection still raging in Thessaly, where, according to all accounts, the insurgents seem to be inflicting defeat after defeat on the Turks. As regards the English Fleet, six huge ironclads and as many smaller vessels of war have passed the Dardanelles. Two of the former are off Gallipoli, guarding and keeping open the Straits, and four are about fifteen miles from Constantinople. Some of our despatch boats are in the Bosphorus, and another portion of our Fleet is in Besika Bay, just outside the Dardanelles. But what will be the upshot of all these complications it is impossible to tell. We can but go on hoping that Europe will be spared another and more terrible war than any that has raged in it this century.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE Lodge of Benevolence met on Wednesday evening, in the Board Room, Freemasons' Hall. The three chairs were occupied by Bros. J. M. Clabon, Joshua Nunn, and James Brett. Bro. John Hervey attended as G.S., Bro. H. G. Buss as Assistant Grand Secretary, and Bro. A. A. Pendlebury as clerk. Among the other brethren were Bros. S. Rawson, James Mason, J. M. Case, Col. Burney, Joseph Smith, John Coutts, C. A. Cottebrune, John Boyd, E. P. Albert, S. G. Foxall, Thomas Cubitt, Rev. Dr. Brette, H. C. Levander, Griffiths Smith, Herbert Dicketts, John Constable, E. F. Storr, H. Garrod, H. Bartlett, L. Stean, Alfred Moore, C. P. Cobham, C. J. Alphonse, John White, W. Smeed, Arthur E. Taylor, George States, Charles Atkins, Alfred Ireton, J. M. Klenck, Nelson Reed, G. M. Taylor, Walter Hopekirk, L. Beck, E. B. Grabham, J. Dixon, O. Roberts, R. F. Gould, E. H. Hewitt, E. J. Cabbery, H. C. Reeves, E. E. Cooper, S. Mallett, H. Massey, E. S. Barr, B. Meyer, Edwin Harden, H. C. Soper, S. R. Speight, G. Pitt Lewis, T. E. N. Greenwood, Joseph Wright, G. M. Wohlgemuth, W. Sayer, M. E. Frost, J. G. Defries, and many others. The Lodge having confirmed the grants made at the last meeting of the Lodge, to the amount of £335, considered the new petitions. There were a smaller number of these on the paper than has been the case for a long while, there being only twelve to be relieved, or considerably less than half the number that the Lodge has been accustomed to for many months. Out of the twelve cases, only one did not find a seconder for relief. The remaining eleven had grants made to them, of £335, the highest grant being £100, and the lowest £5. The others received sums of £50, £30, £20, and £10.

The Bayard Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1615, was consecrated on Saturday, under unusual circumstances. Our readers are aware that in this instance the ordinary rule of not granting a warrant for the formation of a Chapter in connection with a Lodge which had not been three years in existence was departed from. Bayard Lodge was chartered less than two years since, but its services to Freemasonry have been so great, and its members are so distinguished by their zeal and ability, that a departure from the law was considered justifiable. Thus, on Saturday, there was a very numerous gathering of R.A. Companions, and the ceremony of consecration was undertaken by Lord Skelmersdale Grand H., there being likewise present, among others, Colonel Burdett Prov. G. Superintendent Middlesex, Lieut. General Brownrigg Prov. G. Sup. Surrey, Comp. Aen. McIntyre Grand Registrar, Comp. John M. P. Montagu Prov. G. Sup. Dorsetshire, Sir M. P. Costa, Captain N. G. Philips Grand Scribe N, Comp. P. De Linde Long G.P.Soj., Lieut. Colonel Shadwell Clerke, General H. Clerk, Comps. S. Rawson, J. B. Monckton, H. D. Sandeman, Rev. C. W. Arnold, Colonel Somerville Burney, C. E. Willing Grand Organist, Colonel Randolph, Sir Thomas Dyer, the Chevalier Habicht, Col. A. W. Adair, Captain F. Percy, Captain Wemyss, &c., &c. Comps. General Brownrigg and Lieut. Colonel Shadwell Clerke assisted his lordship in the ceremony of consecration, while the organ was presided over by Comp. Willing. When the ceremony was over, Colonel H. S. Somerville Burney, Comp. F. Richardson and Captain R. P. Leeson were installed as M.E.Z., H. and J. respectively, the last installation being

performed by Comp. Hervey Grand Scribe E. Votes of thanks were then passed to Lord Skelmersdale, and the others who had taken part in the ceremonies of the day; then the officers were appointed, and the Chapter having been closed, the Companions adjourned to a banquet at the Grosvenor Gallery, New Bond-street, Colonel Burney and the second and third Principals presiding at the festive board.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

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

SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY.

108—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, at 8.

MONDAY, 25th FEBRUARY.

4—Royal Somerset House and Inverness, Freemasons' Hall.
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.)
548—Wellington, White Swan, High-street, Deptford, at 8. (Instruction.)
704—Camden, Red Cap, Camden Town, at 8. (Instruction.)
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Hotel, High-st., Wapping, at 8. (Instruction.)
1425—Hyde Park, The Westbourne, Craven-rd., Paddington, at 8. (Instruction.)
1439—Marquess of Ripon, Pembury Tavern, Amhurst-rd., Hackney, at 7. (Inst.)
1615—Bayard, 33 Golden-square.
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.)
1632—Stuart, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell.
London Masonic Club Lodge of Instruction, 101 Queen Victoria-st., E.C., at 6, on 2nd and 4th Mondays in each month.

48—Industry, Freemasons' Hall, West-street, Gateshead.
1177—Tenby, Royal Assembly Rooms, Tenby, Pembroke.
1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury, at 8 p.m. (Instruction.)

TUESDAY, 26th FEBRUARY.

14—Tuscan, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
55—Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton-bldgs., Holborn, at 7. (Inst.)
65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
92—Moir, Criterion, W.
141—Faith, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
145—Prudent Brethren, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
177—Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
186—Industry, The Restaurant, 2 Westminster-chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.
205—Israel, Cannon-street Hotel.
554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney. (Instruction.)
753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)
860—Dulhouse, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1196—Urban, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C.
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 6.30.
R. C.—Palestine, Masonic Hall, Golden-square.
21—Newcastle-on-Tyne, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-st., Newcastle, 7.30. (In.)
253—Tyrian, Masonic Hall, Gower-street, Derby.
310—Union, Freemasons' Hall, Castle-street, Carlisle.
357—Apollo University, Masonic Hall, Oxford.
573—Perseverance, Shenstone Hotel, Hales Owen.
1016—Elkington, Masonic Rooms, New-street, Birmingham.
1358—Torbay, Town Hall, Paignton.

WEDNESDAY, 27th FEBRUARY.

193—Confidence, Railway Tavern, London-street, at 7. (Instruction.)
201—Jordan, Devonshire Arms, Devonshire-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
538—La Tolerance, Horse and Groom, Winsley-street, W., at 7.15. (Inst.)
781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
862—Whittington, Red Lion, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street, 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.)
1278—Burdett Coutts, Saluon and Ball, Bethnal Green-road, at 8.30. (Inst.)
1288—Finsbury Park, Finsbury Pk. Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1707—Eleanor, Angel Hotel, Edmonton, at 8. (Instruction.)
R. A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
R. A. 1365—Clapton, White Hart Tavern, Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury.
996—Soules, Eagle Hotel, East Dereham, Norfolk.
1039—St. John, George Hotel, Lichfield.
1119—St. Bede, Mechanic's Institute, Jarrow.
1511—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Hornsea, at 7. (Instruction.)
1566—Ellington, Bell Hotel, Maidenhead.
M.M.—Northumberland and Berwick, Masonic Hall, Maple-st., Newcastle.
R.C.—Philips, Athenaeum, Lancaster.

THURSDAY, 28th FEBRUARY.

House Committee, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Croydon, at 3.
General Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
3—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-sq., at 7. (Instruction.)
15—Kent, Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30. (Instruction.)
65—Prosperity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8. (Instruction.)
99—Shakespeare, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8. (Inst.)
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.)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion Road, Dalston.
1563—City of Westminster, Regent Masonic Hall, Air-street, Regent-street, W.
1612—West Middlesex, Feathers Hotel, Ealing, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
R.A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)
78—Imperial George, Assheton Arms Hotel, Middleton, Lancashire.
100—Friendship, Crown and Anchor Hotel, Quay, Great Yarmouth.
111—Restoration, Freemason's Hall, Archer-street, Darlington.
807—Cabbell, Masonic Hall, Theatre-street, Norwich.
969—St. Edward, Literary Institute, Leek, Stafford.

FRIDAY, 1st MARCH.

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, Duke's Head, 79 Whitechapel-road, 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.)
 1288—Finsbury Park Master Masons' Lodge of Inst. Finsbury Park Tavern, at 8.
 1298—Royal Standard, Alwyne Castle, St. Paul's-road, Canonbury, at 8. (In.)
 1365—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
 1613—Cripplegate, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
 1627—Royal Kensington, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1642—E. Carnarvon, Mitre Hotel, Goulborne-rd, N. Kensington, at 7.30. (Inst.)
 R. A. 79—Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, London-street, Greenwich, at 8. (Inst.)
 127—Union, Freemasons' Hall, Margate.
 539—St. Matthew, Dragon Hotel, Walsall.
 574—Loyal Berkshire of Hope, White Hart Hotel, Newbury.
 601—St. John's, Wrekin Hotel, Wellington, Salop.
 680—Sefton, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.
 709—Invicta, Corn Exchange, Queen-street, Ashford.
 780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
 839—Royal Gloucestershire, Bell Hotel, Gloucester.
 998—Welchpool, Board Room, Railway Station, Welchpool.
 1333—Aethelstan, Town Hall, Atherstone, Warwick.
 1367—Chorlton, Masonic Rooms, Chorlton Cum Hardy.
 1528—Fort, Red Lion Hotel, Newquay, Cornwall.
 1557—Albert Edward, Bush Hotel, Hexham, Northumberland.
 1561—Morecambe, Masonic Hall, Edward-street, Morecambe, Lancashire.

SATURDAY, 2nd MARCH.

General Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
 142—St. Thomas, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C.
 198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
 860—Dalhousie, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston, at 8. (Instruction.)
 1572—Carnarvon, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
 1622—Rose, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell.
 1634—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Pimlico, at 7. (Instruction.)
 Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8.
 1223—Amherst, Kings Arms Hotel, Westerham, Kent.
 1458—Truth, Private Rooms, Conservative Club, Newton Heath, Manchester.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—349—St. Clair, Freemasons' Hall.
 TUESDAY—151—Defensive Band, Alexandra Hall, 420 High-street.
 „ R. A. 40—Naval and Military, Freemasons' Hall.
 WEDNESDAY—112—St. John Fisherrow, Royal Hotel, Musselburgh.
 THURSDAY—302—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall.
 FRIDAY—291—Celtic of Edinburgh and Leith, Ship, E. Register-street.

WEST YORKSHIRE.**SATURDAY.**

1462—Wharnccliffe, Rose and Crown Hotel, Penistone.

MONDAY.

R. A. 302—Charity, New Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford.
 R. A. 418—Regularity, Masonic Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax.

WEDNESDAY.

304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Gt. George-street, Leeds.
 439—Scientific, Private Room, Bingley.
 1283—Ryburn, Private Rooms, Town Hall-street, Sowerby Bridge.
 R. A. 258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike.
 R. A. 387—Moravian, Masonic Hall, Westgate, Shipley.

THURSDAY.

904—Phoenix, Ship Hotel, Rotherham.
 R. A. 275—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, South-parade, Huddersfield.
 R. A. 1214—Scarborough, Scarborough Hall, Caledonia-road, Batley.

FRIDAY.

242—St. George, Guildhall, Doncaster.
 306—Alfred, Masonic Hall, Kelsall-street, Leeds.
 521—Truth, Freemasons' Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, Huddersfield.
 837—De Grey and Ripon, Town Hall, Ripon.
 1648—Prince of Wales, 69 Little Horton-lane, Bradford.

SATURDAY.

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

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Egyptian Lodge of Instruction, No. 27.—At the Hercules Tavern, 119 Leadenhall-street, E.C., on Thursday. Bros. Maidwell W.M., Richards S.W., Chapman J.W., Coulson S.D., Kemp J.D., Cuthbertson I.G., Grammer Hon. Sec., Webb Preceptor, and other brethren. After opening, Bro. Harvey, of Lodge No. 1216, was instructed in the answers to the questions of the second degree, and retired. The Lodge was opened to the third degree, and the ceremony was rehearsed, Bro. Norden candidate. The W.M. gave the Traditional History. The first and second sections of the first lecture were worked by Bro. Ellis, assisted by the brethren. Bros. Kemp 27, Wills 209, Harvey 1216, and Butler 414, were elected members. It was announced that the Annual Banquet would take place on the 4th Thursday in March.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—At the Old Rodney's Head, 12 Old-street, Goswell-road, on Monday, 18th February 1878. Present—Bros. Stock W.M., Hallam S.W., Wing J.W., Tolmie Preceptor, Fenner Sec., Sparrow S.D., J. W. Smith J.D., Elliston I.G., Christopher Tyler; also Bros. Percy, Halford, Isaac, Trewinnard, Johnstone, Sillis, Dybdahl, Alford, Moseley, Robinson, Banks, G. E. Cook, Currey, &c. Preliminaries having been duly observed, the Lodge was advanced to the second degree. Bro. Sillis gave proof of his proficiency and was entrusted. Lodge was then

opened in the third degree, and the ceremony of raising was excellently rehearsed by the W.M., the traditional history being given. Bro. Tolmie worked the last section of the Lecture, assisted by the brethren. Lodge being resumed to the first degree, Bro. Percy worked the second, and Bro. Tolmie the fifth sections of the Lecture, assisted by the brethren. Bro. C. M. Dybdahl, the W.M. of the Salisbury Lodge, No. 435, was elected a member. Bro. Hallam was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and the Lodge was closed.

Constitutional Lodge of Instruction, No. 55.—On Tuesday, the 19th of Feb., at the Bedford Hotel, Southampton-buildings. Present—Bros. Laker W.M., Soper S.W., Abell J.W., Cooper S.D., Bramham J.D., Linscott I.G., Bingemann Preceptor; Bros. Panter, Abell, Cornu, &c. After opening, with customary formalities, Bro. Panter was raised to degree of M.M. The three sections of the lecture were worked by Bro. Bingemann. The Lodge was closed down, and Bro. Soper was elected W.M. for next meeting.

Prosperity Lodge of Instruction, No. 65.—At Bro. Maidwell's, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, 19th February. Bros. Bone W.M., Fraser S.W., Sayer J.W., Forrest S.D., Harris J.D., Maidwell, Hayes, Hollands, Rudderforth, D. Posener, Wm. Fraser, Wharman, Daniel, Gladwell, Hill, Campbell. After opening, Bro. Maidwell answered the questions leading to the third degree, and in due course was raised. The Lodge was closed in the third and second degrees, when the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Daniel candidate. Bro. F. S. Fraser was elected W.M. for the ensuing Tuesday. A vote of thanks to Bro. Bone was recorded on the minutes, for the efficient manner he had worked the ceremonies for the first time in this Lodge of Instruction. Bro. Bone responded; he was pleased to belong to such a Lodge of Instruction. Bros. Daniel, Wharman and Gladwell gave notice that they intended to act as Stewards for the approaching Girls' School Festival. After a pleasant evening the Lodge was closed in due form.

Borough Lodge, No. 124.—The installation meeting took place on Monday, the 18th inst, at the Half Moon Hotel, Gateshead-on-Tyne, Bro. Anderson W.M. in the chair. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting confirmed. Bro. Marchent now took the chair, and Bro. P. J. Jackson J.W. and W.M. elect was presented by Bro. Anderson. All below the rank of P.M. then left the Lodge, and on being re-admitted, were informed by Bro. Marchent that during their absence Bro. Jackson had been regularly installed into the chair of K.S.; he was accordingly proclaimed and saluted; he invested his Officers for the ensuing year as follow:—Bros. Anderson I.P.M., Lowick S.W., J. W. Mackay J.W., J. Marchent P.M. Treas., E. A. Gibson Sec., J. R. Furness S.D., J. Briden J.D., J. D. Doyes I.G., J. Redpath and J. Nicholson Stewards, Curry Tyler. Bro. Marchent then gave the usual charges, doing the whole ceremony in a most impressive manner. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren, numbering about seventy, sat down to a most excellent banquet, provided by mine host Bro. Pearson. Grace having been said, the W.M., in giving the first toast, said, as loyal men and Masons, he called on them to drink the health of the Queen, after which the National Anthem was sung, which was followed by the health of Princess of Wales and rest of Royal Family. The W.M., in giving the health of the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M., said words would fail to convey to the brethren his many good qualities, but he hoped he and Masonry might long be spared and flourish. Song, "God Bless the Prince of Wales." The next toasts were the Prov. G.M., the D.G.M., and Officers of the Grand Lodge. The W.M., in proposing the health of the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, John Fawcett, and Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, coupled with the toast the name of the Prov. G. Sec., Bro. Crook, and said they were honoured by his presence, as well as of other Officers of the P.G.L. The more you see of him the more you see to admire and honour. In reply, Bro. Crook said it was a pleasure for him to have to reply for the oldest Provincial Grand Master now in England; he hoped the P.G. Officers had done their duty; at any rate, they endeavoured to. He thanked them very heartily for the way in which the toast was received, and before sitting down he called on the brethren to drink to the R.W. Prov. Grand Master and Officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Northumberland, coupling the name of Bro. E. D. Davis P.G.D.C. Bro. Davis, in reply, said Bro. Crook had, in high and flattering terms, eulogised the Prov. G.M. the Earl Percy, and he was delighted to have to return thanks for him; he had the benefit of the advice of their P.G.M., and in all matters of Masonry there was but one accord between the two Provinces; he thanked them very much, and he felt sure there was not a Mason in the Province but would use his best endeavours for the Craft, whether it be in this Province or his own. He was delighted that such unanimity existed between the two Provinces. Long might it last. Bro. Anderson I.P.M. then gave the health of the W.M., and in the course of his remarks, said it must indeed be a pleasure to him to see how they had rallied round him to-day; they had come near and far to do him honour, and from the knowledge he had of him as his J.W., he was confident he would make an excellent Master, and when they again met this time next year, he hoped there might be as large and influential a gathering. He called on the brethren to drink the toast in full bumpers. The W.M., who on rising was most enthusiastically received, expressed the pleasure and pride he felt in the position he occupied, and thanked the brethren for placing him there; he prayed for strength and health, so as to discharge his duty with credit, that in a year's time, when he handed the Lodge over to his successor, it might be in as happy a state as he now found it. Bro. Wraith P.M. gave the health of the Installing Master, and said the way he had given the ceremony must have been very impressive to every one present. Bro. Marchent P.M. replied, and said whatever he could do for the Borough Lodge he did with the greatest pleasure,

Ever since he had been a Mason he had taken a sincere liking to the Craft, and the more he studied the more he saw to admire; they were a body of men both loyal and honourable. He then, in eulogistic terms, proposed the health of the I.P.M., Bro. Anderson, who said, in returning thanks for the honour done him, he never could have had so prosperous a year if it had not been for his Officers; he therefore gave the health of the Past and Present Officers, which was replied to by Bros. Wraith P.M., the S.W. and J.W. Bro. Crook P.G.S. then gave the Masonic Charities, and said he was about calling a meeting, in March, of the Masters and Wardens of the several Lodges, with a view to form a Charity Committee for the purpose of concentrating the voting power of the Province, and he called on the brethren to subscribe freely to the Charities, which were the pride of the Craft. The toast of the Visitors was duly honoured and responded to. The Tyler's toast then concluded a most enjoyable evening, which had been enlivened by some capital harmony, rendered by Bros. Riddle, Cook, Gibson, Smith, Jackson, Mackay, &c. The visitors were Bros. Crook Prov. G. Sec. Durham, R. Hudson Prov. G.D.C. Durham, W. Liddle P.P.G. Sec., J. Cook P.P.G.S.W. Northumberland, E. D. Davis Prov. G.D.C. Northumberland, T. Cochran P.M. 24, P.P.G. A.D.C. Northumberland, T. Halliday W.M. 406, Prov. G.P., Sinclair P.M. 48, McCulloch W.M. 1643, J. Wood S.W. 48, J. E. Robson P.M. 48, T. S. Miller S.W. 424, T. G. Smith S.D. 991, A. Comble Sec. 1643, J. Duckett I.G. 481, Morris 406, S. M. Harris I.G. 406, &c.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—This Lodge held its usual meeting on Wednesday, the 20th February, at Railway Tavern, Fenchurch-street. Present—Bros. D. Posener W.M., Walker S.W., Bone J.W., J. K. Pitt Sec., Tollis S.D., Meyers J.D., Batyie I.G., Christopher Tyler. Past Master Bro. Gottheil Preceptor. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Pitt candidate; also that of initiation, Bro. Biddle candidate. Announcement was made that the Fifteen Sections would be worked on Wednesday next, 27th inst., at 6 o'clock, Bro. Ives to preside.

Percy Lodge of Instruction, No. 198.—On Saturday, the 16th February, at Bro. Fysh's, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road. Present—Bros. Lorenzo M. Bedwell W.M., J. Crosbie S.W., Fenner J.W., Killick Sec., Halford Treas., Ross S.D., Varley J.D., J. Gibbs I.G. After opening, the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Dybdahl candidate. The sections of the third lecture were then worked. Bro. Roberts 1693 was elected a member. Bro. Crosbie was appointed W.M. for the ensuing week. The annual supper will take place on Monday next, the 25th inst.

Israel Lodge of Instruction.—The Annual Dinner of this Lodge took place at Bro. Yetton's, the Rising Sun, Globe-road, Bethnal Green, on Wednesday, the 20th inst. Bro. A. M. Cohen, W.M. of the Mother Lodge, presided, and was supported by a goodly attendance of the members of this popular Lodge of Instruction. The S.W. and J.W.'s chairs were respectively filled by Bros. Job and Stevens. The repast was capitally served, under Bro. Yetton's personal superintendence, and on the removal of the cloth, Bro. Cohen, who throughout exerted himself in a most genial fashion, gave the customary toasts. Altogether, a most pleasant evening was spent, though regrets were expressed at the unavoidable absence of some prominent members.

York Lodge, No. 236.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday evening, the W.M., Bro. Valentine, presiding, supported by Bros. W. Cowling P.M. 236, J. Todd P.M. 236, R. Davison P.M. 236, T. B. Whythead W.M. 1611, the officers of the Lodge, and a good attendance of brethren. After an initiation and a raising, it was resolved (notice having been given on the summons), on the motion of Bro. Cowling P.M. Treasurer, that the initiation fee of the Lodge should be raised from six to ten guineas, and the joining fee from two to three guineas. In moving the resolution Bro. Cowling gave several reasons why he considered the step desirable; a great outlay had been undertaken by the old brethren, and he thought those who profited by their efforts should contribute more towards the Lodge funds; the Lodge was also very numerous, and the additional fee would have the effect of bringing up a better class of candidates; the Past Masters of the Lodge were also all in favour of the increase. The resolution was put and carried. Four candidates were proposed, and the Lodge was then closed.

William Preston Lodge of Instruction, No. 766.—On Friday, the 15th of February, at the Feathers' Tavern, Upper George-street, Edgware-road. Present—Bros. George Tribbel W.M., W. Hill S.W., S. Nichols J.W., Aug. Braun Secretary, Rudderforth Preceptor, Kidman S.D., J. C. Hayes J.D., Heath I.G.; and Bros. West, Hall, Webster, and Murch. Business—The Lodge was opened in due form in the first degree. The minutes were read and confirmed. Bro. Hall offered himself as candidate, and the ceremony of initiation was most ably rehearsed by the W.M. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Kidman answered the questions for raising. Lodge was then opened in the third degree, and Bro. West took the chair and performed the ceremony of the sublime degree, to the edification of the brethren. A brother in distressed circumstances, by vote of the Lodge, was relieved. Bro. P.M. Braun was requested to rehearse the installation ceremony on Friday, the 22nd inst., Bro. Rudderforth as Master elect. Lodge was then closed in due form.

Windsor Castle Lodge, No. 771.—The annual meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, St. Albans-street, Windsor, on Tuesday,

12th February, at 3.30 p.m. The Lodge was duly opened with solemn prayer by Bro. Scott W.M., assisted by the Officers. Bro. John S. Tolley presided at the organ, and was assisted in the musical part of the ceremonies by Bro. J. Large, of Westminster Abbey, and Bro. Thorpe Briggs, of St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The minutes of the last regular Lodge were read by the Secretary and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Mr. R. Whincup Murrell, of Vale College, Slough, and declared unanimous. The R.W. the Prov. G.M. of Berks and Bucks, Bro. Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P., was then announced, and was received by the Lodge with full Masonic honours. Mr. R. Whincup Murrell, being in attendance and properly prepared, was regularly initiated into Masonry by the W.M. Bro. J. S. Tolley P.M. P.Z. P.G.N. Berks and Bucks, then took the chair as Installing Master, and proceeded to open the Lodge on the square, when Bro. William Valentine Brown S.W. was presented by Bro. Scott as the W.M. elect, to receive the benefit of installation; the qualifications for the office having been recited, the ancient charges were read and assented to, and the obligation as W.M. elect regularly administered. The Lodge was opened on the centre, and a Board of Installed Masters declared; Bro. W. V. Brown was regularly placed in the chair of K.S.; Bro. T. H. Scott was invested with the collar of I.P.M. and presented with a Past Master's jewel; the B. of I.M.'s was then closed. The W.M. next appointed and invested his Officers for the ensuing year, as follow:—Bros. F. Fleck S.W., W. S. Cantrell J.W., the Rev. Arthur Robins Chaplain, John Whitehouse the re-elected Treasurer, John S. Tolley Sec., J. S. Barton S.D., F. Manley J.D., R. G. Barton I.G., J. Goddard D.C., G. Fountain S., R. Hannis S., and Nowell Tyler; the appointed Auditors for the year were Bros. R. G. Barton and William J. Goddard. The installation was afterwards carried out in its entirety, and with the care which always characterizes the working of this Lodge. The Lodge was resumed to the First Degree, and, after the usual questions, was closed in due form and with solemn prayer. A distinguished number of visitors graced the Lodge by their presence, amongst whom were Bros. the R.W. the P.G.M. of Berks and Bucks, Sir Daniel Gooch, Bart., M.P., Schiemann P.M. 209, R. Roberts S.W. 209, J. Nicholls J.W. 209, J. Whitfield P.M. Grand Stewards' Lodge, J. Wilson P.M. 209, G. W. Dixon P.M. 209, J. O. Carter P.M. 209, G. Biggs P.M., H. Bosley P.M., H. H. Hodges P.M., T. Pycroft P.M., W. Skindle, Phillip Lovegrove 209, and Bryett P.M., &c. The brethren of the Lodge were represented by the above newly invested Officers for the ensuing year, and Bros. W. H. Bingham P.M., E. Grisbrook P.M., G. H. Powell P.M., W. Goddard, L. M. Nixon S.W. 1501, G. Kennedy, W. J. Goddard, F. Willett, A. Roberts, J. Lester, E. Davey, W. Seymour, R. W. Murrell, C. Jones, and Bro. James Watson J.P., late of the Bengal Civil Service. The banquet was served at the Castle Hotel, by Bro. F. Fleck, the proprietor, to whom all praise must be given for the elegant manner in which the repast was placed on the tables. The W.M. gave, in a most enthusiastic manner, the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts, and during the evening a choice selection of songs and glees were rendered by Bros. Large and Briggs, assisted by Bro. J. S. Tolley Sec., who presided at the pianoforte. After a very pleasant evening the brethren separated at an early hour.

Royal Alfred Lodge of Instruction, No. 780.—At the Star and Gar, Kew Bridge, on Friday, the 15th, at 7.30. Bro. Gomm W.M., Blasby S.W., Erwin J.W., Goss S.D., Franckel J.D., Costelow I.G., Roe Preceptor, Gunner Sec. Bros. Acworth, Parker and others. Lodge opened in due form and minutes confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Kyezor candidate. Bro. Gomm performed his maiden ceremony with great care. Bro. Parker then answered the questions and was entrusted. Lodge was opened in second degree, and Bro. Parker was passed by Bro. P.M. Roe. Lodge resumed to first degree. Bro. Franckel begged to present the Lodge of Instruction with a splendid oil painting, by a German artist; the same to be disposed of, and the proceeds spent in providing the Lodge of Instruction with new collars and anything else that might be required to complete the furniture. The unanimous thanks of the members were returned to Bro. Franckel for his generous gift.

Merchant Navy Lodge of Instruction, No. 781.—Held its weekly meeting on Wednesday, the 20th Feb., at the Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, E. Bros. Breden W.M., Robinson S.W., Scherboom J.W., Breden Sec., Ives Treas., Williams S.D., Clegg J.D., Jones I.G. Bro. Chapman and others were also present. Lodge opened in due form. Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed. Bro. Chapman, candidate for passing, was asked the usual questions and entrusted. Lodge opened in the 2nd degree, and the ceremony of passing was worked by the W.M. Lodge opened and closed in the 3rd degree. Lodge resumed in the 1st degree, when the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd sections of the lecture were worked by Bro. Ives, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Maxwell, of the Wanderers' Lodge, was elected a member. Bro. Robinson will preside at the next meeting, 27th Feb.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.—On Tuesday, the 19th inst., at Bro. Smyth's, the Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston. Bros. Allen W.M., Brasted J.W., Slater S.D., Bedwell J.D., Defriez I.G., Dallas Sec., Smyth Treas., P.M. Wallington Preceptor; Bros. C. Lorkin, J. Lorkin, Dignam, McClean, Carr, Fenner, Davis, Somers, Ashburner, Finch, Young, &c. The Preceptor opened the Lodge to the third degree, and in his usual impressive manner installed Bro. Allen. The ceremony of raising was then rehearsed, Bro. J. Lorkin candidate. The Preceptor gave the traditional history. Bro. Fenner worked the last section of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. Bros. Wyman, of Lodge 1614, and Bedwell, of Lodge 861, were elected members. Bro. Brasted was appointed W.M. for the ensuing week.

Whittington Lodge of Instruction, No. 862.—This Lodge held its weekly meeting on Wednesday, the 20th of February, at the Red Lion, Poppins-court, Fleet-street. Bros. Snelling W.M., Abell S.W., Stacey J.W., Gates S.D., Thompson J.D., Vizzard I.G., P.M. Bro. Long Preceptor, and several others. Business—After the confirmation of the minutes, the third ceremony was impressively performed by the W.M., after which the Lodge was resumed to the 2nd degree, and the lecture appertaining thereto worked by the brethren. Bro. Stacey P.M. and Bro. Vizzard were elected members. A vote of thanks was passed to the W.M., and the Lodge closed. The Fifteen Sections are to be worked in this Lodge, by Bro. Tate, on Wednesday, 6th March.

Wandsworth Lodge, No. 1044.—A meeting of this Lodge, which is now the largest in the district, was held at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Wandsworth, on Wednesday, under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. H. R. Jones. Among the brethren and officers present were:—Bros. W. A. Morgan S.W., A. N. Newens J.W., W. J. Huntley J.D., J. J. Holland I.G., H. Wilson Treasurer, J. Frost Secretary, S. Steed Tyler; P.M.'s Bros. J. G. Carter, J. G. Kowney, E. H. Boddy; and Bros. F. Reed, S. C. Landon, R. H. Walker, H. J. Newens, G. W. Smith, J. W. Haines, G. Clark, H. Price, G. Fortescue, and others. The ballot, which proved unanimous, was taken for Mr. J. W. Marshall, of Balham. Bro. H. J. Newens was passed to the second degree. Mr. Percy V. Denham, proposed by Bro. A. A. Denham (of the *Mild Surrey Gazette*), and seconded by Bro. J. J. Holland, was ably initiated by the W.M. Bro. W. H. Price was raised to the degree of M.M., and Bro. H. J. Newens was passed to the second degree. After some formal business, the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

Hartington Lodge, No. 1085, Derby.—The annual installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 5th inst. at the Masonic Hall. Present—Bros. W. Heathcote P.G.D. of C. W.M., S. Pipes P.P.S.G.D. and I.P.M., M. H. Bobart P.P.S.G.W. Treasurer, George Pipes S.W., J. Heathcote J.W., M. B. Hextall Secretary, S. Steele J.D., J. E. Russell M. of C., W. L. Dod as Organist, W. Butterfield as I.G., J. O. Manton S.S., W. Stone Tyler, W. Naylor P.G. Sec. and P.P.S.G.W., F. Iliffe P.P.J.G.W., Leech, Stokes, Griggs, Shepherd, Parkins, Lane, Mainprize, Gore, Walters, Popplewell, Coulthurst, Ratcliffe, and Pragnell. Visitors—T. Cox P.P.S.G.W. and P.G. Treasurer, J. Smith P.P.J.G.W., G. T. Wright P.P.J.G.W., A. G. Taylor W.M., Tyrian, J. Brown W.M. Arboretum, T. Roe jun. P.M. 802, F. Small P.M. 787, W. Cox P.M. Hartington, Barrow-in-Furness, E. R. Ward S.W. 253, T. Merry W.M. elect 731, and T. Cay 802. The Lodge was opened at 6.30 p.m., and after the usual preliminary business, Bro. M. H. Bobart took the chair, and Bro. George Pipes was presented to him for the benefit of installation. The ceremony was ably performed, the customary addresses being delivered in a most impressive and efficient manner in the several degrees. The newly appointed Master invested Bros. J. Heathcote S.W., W. B. Hextall J.W., M. H. Bobart Treasurer, J. O. Manton Secretary, S. Steele S.D., J. E. Russell J.D., T. H. Hepworth M. of C., G. F. Edwards Org., W. Butterfield I.G., J. D. Hart S.S., J. Pakeman J.S., and W. Stone Tyler. He then rose to perform the pleasing duty of presenting a handsome P.M.'s jewel to his predecessor, Bro. W. Heathcote, subscribed for by the members of the Lodge. The jewel is a fine piece of workmanship. The accounts of the Lodge were afterwards presented by the Auditors, and Grand Lodge certificates were handed to, and signed by the brethren entitled to same. A circular from the P.G. Sec., on behalf of the Institution for Aged Freemasons, was then read, and the sum of five guineas voted towards the funds of the Charity, to be placed on the list of the R.W.G.M. of the Province, the Marquis of Hartington, who had undertaken to act as a Steward at the Annual Festival. Two gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation into the mysteries of the science, and, after "heartily good wishes" from the visiting brethren, the Lodge was closed in ancient form. The brethren proceeded from their labours to a sumptuous banquet, and the evening was subsequently enlivened by conspicuous musical talent.

Lord Warden Lodge, No. 1096.—The fortnightly meeting of this prosperous Lodge was held at the St. George's Hall, Park-street, Deal, on Friday, the 15th inst. There were present Bros. Thomas Ayling I.P.M. in the chair, T. J. Usher P.M. P.P.G. Regist. and Sec., Rev. J. B. Harrison P.M. and Chaplain, E. Kirby S.W., J. Laggett J.W., J. Home S.D., W. Ryder J.D., J. Carpenter I.G., S. Willey D.C., S. Holgate Tyler, J. C. Cross, F. R. England, G. Chandler, H. McDermott, W. Carterfield, F. Haslip, and Henry Bartholomew. Visitor—J. Sylvester, of the Scotch Constitution. Lodge opened in ancient form; minutes read and confirmed, Lodge opened in the second degree. Bros. Haslip and Bartholomew, candidates to be raised, were examined, found proficient, and entrusted. Lodge opened in the third degree, when Bros. Haslip and Bartholomew were duly raised. The Lodge was closed in the third and second degrees. A candidate was proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and the Lodge was closed in due form. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, when the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given. Bro. Ayling, in responding to the toast of the evening, his health, said it gave him great pleasure to know he had performed the duties of the chair to the satisfaction of the brethren. He was sorry their W.M. was unavoidably absent, but trusted he would be with them at their next meeting. The health of Bro. Sylvester was then very cordially drank, and he, in responding, paid the Lodge a high compliment; he particularly referred to the I.P.M.'s able and impressive manner, and to the way in which he had performed his duties. Bro. Laggett announced to the Lodge the gratifying results of his efforts as Steward at the late Festival in aid of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons. He had been able to collect the sum of £70; he found this amount placed him at the head of the list of Stewards for Kent; he thought

this, for his first try, was very gratifying. Bros. Sylvester, Ayling, Usher, Ryder, Carpenter, and Bartholomew kindly entertained the brethren with songs, &c.

Grey Friars Lodge, No. 1101.—Held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 13th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Reading. Present Bros. Arthur Welch W.M., W. G. Flanagan S.W., J. Early Dank J.W., W. P. Ivey P.M. Secretary, W. Ferguson S.D., E. J. Blackwell J.D., T. Newman D.C., W. Ridley and J. H. Hawkes Stewards, R. Dowsett I.G., P.M.'s Bros. Freeman Hurley, Weightman Margrett; Bros. Heathcote, Pulley, Hinkins, Creed, Bailey, Hunt, Rhind. Visitors—Bros. Pocock I.P.M. 414, Bradley J.W. 414, C. G. Hawkes 414. Business—The Lodge was opened, the minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for two candidates for initiation, one was rejected, and the other elected. The W.M. proposed, and Bro. Hurley P.M. seconded, that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow of Bro. Chancellor. P.M. Weightman proposed, and the W.M. seconded, that mourning should be worn at the next Lodge, this to be notified on the agenda paper. The I.P.M. Bro. Margrett presented the Lodge with a polished oak case, containing the working tools of the three degrees, which the W.M. accepted, and for which he returned thanks. After receiving nominations for joining members, the Lodge was closed.

Upton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1227.—At Bros. Bolton and Lane's, the King and Queen, Norton Folgate, on Friday, the 15th inst. Present—Bros. Wallington W.M., Smith S.W., Lane J.W., Fenner Preceptor, Townsend Sec., Posener jun. S.D., Da Silva J.D., Hine I.G.; also Bros. Bolton, Cleverley, Hunter, Ellis, Ashburner, Tatton, Campbell, &c. The usual formalities having been gone through, the Lodge was advanced to the third degree, and the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of raising, the traditional history being given, Bro. Hunter candidate. Lodge resumed to the second degree, and the ceremony of installation was rehearsed by Bro. Wallington, Bro. Ellis being W.M. elect. Lodge resumed to the third degree, and Bro. Ellis worked the third section of the Lecture, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Ashburner, of the Burdett-Countts Lodge, No. 1278, was elected a member. Bro. Smith was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Bro. Wallington for presiding in this Lodge for the first time, and for rehearsing the ceremony of installation.

Finsbury Park Master Masons' Lodge of Instruction, No. 1288.—Held at Finsbury Park Tavern, Holloway, 15th February. Bros. J. R. Rogers P.M. Preceptor, Jeffreys W.M., Dunn jun. S.W., Press J.W., Frampton S.D., Thompson J.D., Cox I.G., and other brethren. Lodge opened, minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Edmunds, candidate for passing, was examined, entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Bro. John Walker I.P.M. 27 was then presented as W.M. elect, and a Board of Installed Masters having been formed, Bro. Jeffreys installed the candidate, and afterwards gave the addresses. Bro. Dunn jun. was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed officers in rotation. It was then proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously, that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes to Bro. Jeffreys, for the very able manner in which he had rehearsed the ceremony of installation.

Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507.—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Wednesday, the 20th inst. The Lodge was opened at half-past four o'clock by the W.M., Bro. R. S. Kingham, assisted by Bro. J. J. Michael P.M., Bro. T. A. Adams P.G.P. as acting I.P.M., Bro. W. M. Stiles Sec. and J.D., Bros. J. Douglass S.W., C. J. Scales J.W., W. Side S.D., Colls I.G., H. Stiles D.C., G. Clark W.S., H. Lovegrove Steward. There were present Bros. Raney, Gilbert jun., Edmonds, Brammell, Saintsbury, Hatch, Hewison, H. Clark, J. J. Steele, Beattie, Cruikshanks, Holden, Lea, Channing, Killingback, Grant, Kearns, Tombs, and a number of brethren, including Visitors, Bros. Dwarber P.M. 55, 1589, Meyers 1621, Fisk 212, Baker P.M. 753, Pickard J.W. 753, Poulton 192, 1604, Urick W.M. 144, Burgess 1604, Unite P.M. 144, and Hancock. The minutes having been read and confirmed, Bros. Holden, Lea, Channing, Steele, Ward, Kearns, Grant, and Cruikshanks were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. Bros. F. W. Dimsdale, H. A. Dimsdale, and W. E. Smith were passed to the second degree. Messrs. E. R. Freebody, A. Gemmell, C. Turner, and C. W. Blake were elected, after ballot, and the first three were duly initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. It was unanimously resolved that an application should be made for a Chapter to be attached to the Lodge; Bro. J. Willing P.M. Treas., T. Williams I.P.M., and Ferguson P.M. 177 are the three principals designate. After the transaction of some routine business, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet provided by Bro. F. H. Clemow in his usual style. Fifty-five members of the Lodge were present, and eleven visitors. The usual toasts were given, and the proceedings were enlivened by the vocal efforts of Bros. Cruikshanks, Michael, Hewison, and Hatch.

Duke of Connaught Lodge of Instruction.—At the Havelock Hotel, Albion-road, Dalston, on Wednesday evening, 20th inst. Present—Bros. H. Myer W.M., McMillan S.W., Slater J.W., Bonner S.D., Jameson J.D., Pollack I.G., Fieldwick Preceptor, G. Ferrar Treasurer, E. Dietrich Secretary, and a large number of brethren. The Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of raising. The Lodge was then closed down to the first degree, and the W.M. worked the first three sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. A cordial vote of thanks was

unanimously voted to Bro. H. Meyer, for the able manner in which he had conducted the duties during the evening. Bro. McMillan was appointed W.M. for the ensuing week.

New Finsbury Park Lodge, No. 1695.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday last, at the Finsbury Park Tavern, under the presidency of the following Officers:—W. T. Purkiss W.M., Eldridge acting S.W., T. Press J.W., H. B. D. Dunn S.D., R. C. Frampton J.D., Verry Tyler. The business consisted of raising Bros. James Newling Thompson, George David Edmunds, Thos. Crane, and George Benjamin Carey; this was ably performed by Bro. Linton Raynon Rogers, who, at the solicitation of the W.M., occupied the chair; upon the Lodge being closed the customary banquet followed, which was well served by Bro. Joseph Pigott. After the cloth had been removed the set formula of Loyal and Masonic toasts was proceeded with. Bro. Rogers, in responding to the toast of the Visitors, acknowledged the honour he felt in having been allowed to perform the work in the Lodge, and assured the brethren such mark of appreciation would be long remembered. Bro. Constable also replied; he congratulated the brethren upon the selection they had made in their W.M.; something more than mere parrot-like repetition of ritual was required of a W.M.; Bro. Purkiss possessed all those good qualities which should characterise a Mason, and he hoped that steps would be taken by the brethren to acknowledge the gift of three handsome mahogany pedestals which had been presented by Bro. Purkiss. In reply to his health, submitted by Bro. Rogers, the W.M. said that although he had been twenty-one years a Mason, he had never previously taken any active part in the duties of a Lodge; he now found himself occupying a position of which he was justly proud. He had the pleasure of representing the Lodge as Steward at the recent Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent

Institution, and took up what might be considered a fair sum for so young a Lodge. The reason he had not been more pressing in his solicitations was, that he intended to be Steward for both the Boys' and Girls' during the present year, and hoped the brethren would not fail to support him upon each occasion. The Officers and Secretary replied severally to the toast of their health; we congratulate these brethren on their efficiency; to Bro. Rogers, the Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction, is to be attributed this feature; his painstaking care can be testified to by all who know him. The following were present:—A. J. Berry Sec., H. B. Thompson, T. Jackson M.C., Alfred Westerby 185, Tibbetts 59, P. Dunn 1288, J. F. O'Connor Wood 1288, Searle 1288, Stannard 1572, Wilkinson 167. Some excellent songs were sung, by Bros. Rogers, Stannard, H. B. D. Dunn, and others, but the most amusing contribution was by Bro. Verry, a contribution he designated by the title of "The Roaming Flies."

Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement.—The weekly meeting was held at the Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, on Tuesday, 19th inst. Present—G. Newman Z., F. Brown H., J. B. Sorrell J., G. L. Walker S.N., W. Grist P.S., Comps. S. F. Catterson, A. L. Annett, F. Buckland, N. H. Cohen, H. Lovegrove, P. Wagner, T. Cull. The ceremony was rehearsed, Comp. H. Lovegrove candidate. The Minutes were then read, and the officers appointed for the next fortnight. Comps. F. Brown to be Z., Sorrell H., Grist J., Wagner S.N., and Cull P.S. Comp. Henry Lovegrove, of the Royal Jubilee Chapter No. 72, was elected a member. The Chapter was then closed and adjourned. Companions are particularly desired to note that the Chapter now meets at half-past six o'clock, instead of seven as formerly.

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DRURY LANE.—At 7.0, THE DAY AFTER THE WEDDING, and THE WHITE CAT.

HAYMARKET.—At 7.30, FARCE. At 8.15, TWELFTH NIGHT.

ADELPHI.—CARL ROSA OPERA COMPANY.

PRINCESS'S.—At 7.0, OUT TO NURSE. At 7.45, JANE SHORE.

OLYMPIC.—At 7.0, AN OBJECT OF INTEREST. At 8.0, TURN OF THE TIDE.

STRAND.—At 7.30, FAMILY TIES. At 9.30, DORA AND DIPLUNACY.

GAIETY.—At 7.30, THE GRASSHOPPER. At 9.15, FAUST.

GLOBE.—At 7.0, MY WIFE'S OUT. At 7.45, A FOOL AND HIS MONEY and ICI ON PARLE FRANCAIS.

VAUDEVILLE.—At 7.30, A WHIRLIGIG. At 8.0, OUR BOYS, and A FEARFUL FOG.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 8.0, DIPLOMACY.

LYCEUM.—At 7, THE IRISH TUTOR. This evening, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, THE BELLS. Tuesday and Friday, THE LYON'S MAIL, &c.

OPERA COMIQUE.—At 8, THE SPECTRE KNIGHT, THE SORCERER, &c.

COURT.—NEW MEN AND OLD ACRES, &c.

CRITERION.—At 7.30, THE PORTER'S KNOT. At 8.45, PINK DOMINOES.

ST. JAMES'S.—At 7.30, THE MAGPIE AND THIMBLE. At 8.15, AS YOU LIKE IT.

DUKE'S.—At 7.30, FARCE, and MAMMON.

FOLLY.—LES CLOCHES DE CORNEVILLE, &c.

ROYALTY.—At 7.30, PAUL PRY. At 9.15, MADCAP.

QUEEN'S.—At 7.30, COMEDIETTA. At 8.0, THE LANCASHIRE LASS.

ALHAMBRA.—At 7.20, FARCE. At 8, WILDFIRE. On Monday, LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT.

PHILHARMONIC.—At 7.30, SARAH'S YOUNG MAN. At 8.30, GENEVIEVE DE BRABANT.

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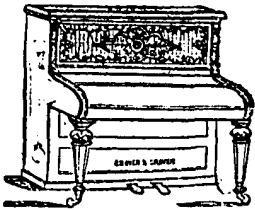
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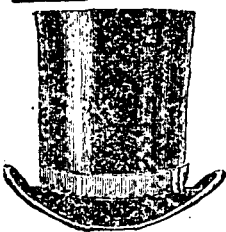
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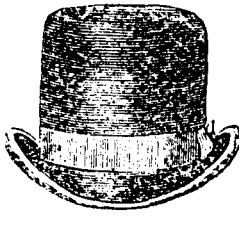
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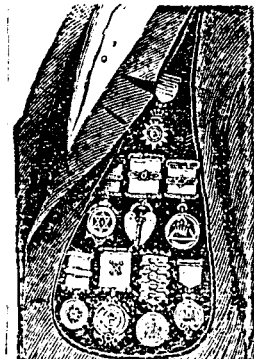


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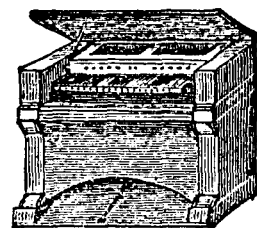
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