

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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FRATERNAL RECOGNITION.

WE are very pleased to learn that the Grand Lodge of New Zealand has decided, after a long debate in a regular Quarterly Communication, to approach the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland for a removal of the differences at present existing between the mother Grand Lodges and themselves; and we hope the request from the Colony will be received in a truly fraternal spirit, in which case there can be no doubt as to the result, for, as we have previously argued, it is absurd to longer refuse recognition to a body as important as this Grand Lodge has become, besides which the spectacle of the home Grand Lodge sulking with its children is anything but an edifying spectacle; is, in fact, a glaring disgrace to the Masonic Order, in face of its professed principles of Brotherhood.

The brief report that has reached us as to the action of the New Zealand authorities merely records that the question of approaching the home Grand Lodges was the principal item of debate at the Quarterly Communication held at the end of October, at Christchurch, the long debate that followed in regard to the question being of a most friendly and cordial character, and resulting in the carrying of the motion, with but three dissentient voices. This is virtual unanimity, and goes far to prove that the Masons of the colonial Grand Lodge are anxious to do their part in healing the difference between themselves and the parents to whom they formerly owed allegiance. The question now arises, how will the request be received in this country—shall we have a repetition of the “tweedle dee, tweedle dum” policy that has marked some previous discussions of a somewhat similar nature, or shall we witness an outburst of Freemasonry pure and simple on the part of the Mother Grand Lodge of the Order, that body which should set an example of Fraternal spirit to the world? In other words, will our Grand Lodge decide the question as one of right or one of might?

We maintain, and we rejoice to know there are many like us, that the Masons of New Zealand who have decided to appeal to the home authorities for fraternal recognition have a perfect right to receive it, while on the other hand England—and, on the same basis, Scotland and Ireland also,—has the right to refuse it; but we trust such an unmasonic course will not be even suggested, although we are afraid to hope that right will in this case be allowed to be quietly swallowed up by right.

We venture to think it is more than probable that when the matter comes on for consideration on this side it will be discussed purely on legal grounds, without the introduction of the spirit of Freemasonry or that fraternal regard for the feelings of others which should, to our thinking, form the prime factor in the discussion; but the future alone will decide this, and in deciding it will also give evidence to the world at large as to how much sincerity there is in the boasted

benefits of Masonic fellowship. It may be urged we are meeting troubles half way in thus expressing our views as to what is likely to happen, but we are informed on very good authority that many of those who take a leading part in directing the affairs of Grand Lodge are bitterly opposed to any concession being made—they have the power to demand the full pound of flesh, and nothing short of it will satisfy them. It therefore remains for those who look upon Freemasonry as something more than mere profession, to bestir themselves, and guard against the chance of surprise, that factor which has wrecked many a desirable proposal brought forward for discussion in our Grand or Subordinate Lodges.

We may be wrong in the line of argument we use in connection with this recognition question, but it seems to us to be the common sense principle when we consider the professions of Freemasonry, which should really govern the matter, and the proportions of the body asking for Fraternal recognition from their old rulers. It is satisfactory to know that the New Zealand Grand Lodge has already established communication with thirty-five Grand Lodges, a number we hope to see increased ere long by the addition of England, Scotland and Ireland to the list.

DERBYSHIRE.

THE gathering which took place on Monday afternoon, the 14th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Derby, will not readily be forgotten by those who were privileged to participate in it. Mark Masons came from all parts of the country to testify their interest in the inauguration of the Province of Derbyshire, and their personal regard and goodwill to its first ruler. The handsome edifice was crowded, and among those present were many Brethren whose Masonic zeal and influence are widely known.

The circumstances leading up to the constitution of the Derbyshire Province are entitled to some notice. Locally speaking, Mark Masonry is an institution of recent growth. Practically, it dates from the establishment of the Derby Lodge, some fifteen years ago. True, the Duke of Connaught Lodge had then been some time in existence, but it is to the remarkable success which attended the movement in the county town that the recognition of Derbyshire as a prosperous home of the degree must be attributed. The consecration of the William Kelly Lodge at Burton-on-Trent, the Dove Valley Lodge at Ashbourne, the Ilkeston Lodge, and the St. Martin's Lodge at Alfreton led to a large increase of numerical strength; indeed, Derbyshire speedily became the most important branch of the United Province to which it was attached.

In process of time suggestions were made as to the advisability of running Derbyshire as a separate Province, but the Brethren were reluctant to sever their allegiance to so eminent and venerable a chief as Bro. Wm. Kelly, the oldest of Provincial Grand Mark Masters. It was not until after the decease of this estimable gentleman that decisive steps were taken to split up the old Province of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, and Rutland. There was no hesitation on the part of the Most Worshipful Grand Master to extend to this county the distinction of a separate Province, and when it subsequently transpired that his Royal Highness had appointed as its first Provincial Grand Master a Mason so able, so experienced, and personally so popular as Bro. Abraham Woodiwiss, it was felt that the cause

in Derbyshire was morally bound to gain in influence and in prosperity.

Bro. Woodiwiss, for many years, has worked unceasingly to promote the general interests of the Masonic body, but his intimate friends have not failed to perceive that for the Mark Degree he has always exhibited a particular fondness. Having served nearly all the Offices and passed through the chair of the Derby Lodge, and obtained the honour of Provincial Senior Grand Warden, Bro. Woodiwiss's services received substantial recognition at headquarters, the honour of Grand Master Overseer being conferred upon him. The Board of General Purposes next claimed his attention, and for some time past he has been an active member of that body. He has now been chosen to bear a responsibility greater, but that his ability and tact will enable him to give a good account of himself, no one competent to judge entertains the least doubt. It may be added that the rest of the old Province has been sub-divided, and that Lord Euston, not content with the almost continuous demands made upon his time by the duties of Pro Grand Master of England, has consented to preside over the new Provinces of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

Monday's installation ceremony was preceded by an ordinary meeting of the Derby Mark Lodge, presided over by Bro. Wm. Cooper. After it had been closed, the Earl of Euston entered, accompanied by a number of Grand Officers, and was received and saluted with the customary formalities.

Lord Euston was supported by Bros. C. Letch Mason Prov. Grand Master of West Yorkshire (who acted as Deputy Grand Master in the unavoidable absence of Viscount Dungarvan), Colonel Cook P.G. Master of Middlesex (Senior Grand Warden), C. H. Driver P.G.O. (Junior Grand Warden), Charles Belton P.G.O. (Grand Inner Guard), J. B. Cockburn G.D.C. (Director of Ceremonies), and the Rev. W. Trevor Parkin Prov. G.C. (Chaplain).

After the observance of divers formalities, including the production and examination of the patent of appointment granted by the Prince of Wales to the new Prov. Grand Master, Brother Woodiwiss was admitted into the Lodge, escorted by a group of Past Masters, two of whom carried the various emblems of his high office. The patent was then read, and the ceremony of installation duly carried into effect by the Earl of Euston, with much impressiveness. In the course of a brief address concerning the nature of his duties and the qualifications of the office to which Bro. Woodiwiss had been appointed, the Pro Grand Master took occasion to express the pleasure he derived from being present on that occasion. He had followed Bro. Woodiwiss's career with deep interest, and had formed the highest opinion of his zeal and ability. That his appointment would be amply justified by results he entertained no doubt whatever.

Bro. Woodiwiss having been formally proclaimed and saluted proceeded to appoint as his Deputy Bro. Edward C. Milligan, Buxton, to whose long and honourable Masonic career he referred in appreciative terms.

After the transaction of some further formal business the Prov. Grand Master proceeded to appoint and invest his Officers in the following order :

Bro. John Howell (Ashbourne)	-	-	Senior Warden
W. Beadon Woodforde (Derby)	-	-	Junior Warden
J. R. Fielding (Alfreton)	-	-	Master Overseer
Walter Tatam (Ilkeston)	-	-	Senior Overseer
A. Wither (Ashbourne)	-	-	Junior Overseer
Rev. T. Orrell (Foremark)	-	-	} Chaplains
Rev. C. W. Groves (Ripley)	-	-	
Wm. Cooper (Derby)	-	-	Treasurer
Percy Wallis (Derby)	-	-	Secretary
Wm. Whittaker (Derby)	-	-	Registrar
Geo. Tarver (Burton-on-Trent)	-	-	Senior Deacon
Diamond (Alfreton)	-	-	Junior Deacon
T. Stacey (Swadlincote)	-	-	Inspector of Works
J. H. Orme (Buxton)	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
W. Elphinstone (Shipley)	-	-	Assist. Director of Cers.
Slack (Buxton)	-	-	Sword Bearer
Beardmore (Ashbourne)	-	-	Standard Bearer
W. L. Dodd (Derby)	-	-	Organist
T. H. (Harrison) (Derby)	-	-	Assistant Secretary
Hern Burton-on-Trent)	-	-	Inner Guard.

Bro. Woodiwiss expressed his gratitude for the honour conferred upon him. It was an honour, he said, which he had neither coveted or expected, but one he was deeply sensible of. Especially complimented did he feel by reason of the willingness shown by the Pro Grand Master to instal him, and his presence that day attended by so many eminent Grand Officers. Incidentally, Bro. Woodiwiss alluded to the labours of the late Bro. Kelly, and to the esteem entertained for him. Turning to the future, he invited the co-operation of all Mark Masons in the Province. If they were to succeed, it must be by united effort. He had, he believed, secured the support of an able Deputy in the person of Bro. Milligan, but he looked to every Officer and every member of the rank and file to assist him. He paid high tribute to the zeal and capacity of Bro. Percy Wallis, to whom they ought all to feel indebted for accepting the arduous position of Provincial Secretary. In

conclusion, he said they had done a great deal of work in the past, but there was a great deal to be done in the future. He saw no reason why they should not look for the establishment of a Mark Lodge in every centre of population in the county.

Various business committees were appointed, and a hearty vote of thanks having been passed to the Earl of Euston and the Officers of the Grand Lodge for their services, and suitably acknowledged by his lordship, the Lodge was closed.

It ought to be added that the whole of the arrangements passed off admirably, thanks in no small degree to the skill and assiduity displayed by Bro. Percy Wallis, who, as acting P.G. Secretary, had been actively employed for several weeks past in preparing for the occasion.

Later in the evening the Brethren, to the number of about 120, dined together in the Athenæum Room, under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master. An elegant banquet was capitally served by Miss Baker, the manageress of the Royal Hotel, and elicited the warmest expressions of approval. The toast list was a brief one.

In the course of the evening the Prov. Grand Master referred to the nomination of Bro. Percy Wallis for the office of Grand Treasurer, and having dwelt upon the many claims of that Brother upon their gratitude and esteem, urged upon all qualified to vote in Grand Lodge to attend on the day of election, and see that the interests of their friend were not neglected.—“Derby Daily Telegraph.”

“Ye Olde Friends” third annual Smoking Concert (organised by the Managers of Messrs. Spiers and Pond) with take place at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, W.C., on Thursday, 7th prox., commencing at 8 p.m. Mr. James Bailey will take the chair, and will receive the support of an influential Committee, including several names well known to the frequenters of this popular firm's establishments.

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A suggestion has been made that a suitable Memorial should be erected over the remains of the late lamented Brother Alfred Welch, of Colchester, the cost to be met by voluntary subscriptions. Bro. Welch being so widely known and respected by Members of the Craft the Committee working in the matter are anxious that all who knew him should have an opportunity to contribute. With this view, the subscription has been limited to 5/-, and this amount may be sent to Brother T. J. Ralling P.A.G.D.C. Prov.G.Sec. Essex, or either of the following: Claude E. Egerton-Green W.M. 51, Geo. N. Watson W.M. 697, R. Haward Ives M.E.Z. 51, and John J. C. Turner W.M. 145 Mark.

“A SPRIG OF ACACIA.”

THE death of George Pole Britten on Tuesday last, says the “Westminster Gazette,” revives the recollection of a man who had somewhat peculiar notions with regard to the dispensing of charity. The “Times” says he had for some years carried on business in Manchester goods in Friday Street, but ultimately, to use Lord Beaconsfield expression, was a man, not who retired from business, but a man from whom business had retired. As a Freemason and member of the old Lodge of Unity, No. 183, when he became qualified to sit on the Board which gives relief out of the Freemasons Fund of Benevolence, he originated a system of proposing very large grants, his foundation principle being that, however well off a petitioner had been prior to his misfortunes, the Board should grant him such a sum as would completely reinstate him in his former position. Of course the principle was absurd, but by his proposals month after month, and year after year, the grants were larger than they had ever been before, a majority of members frequently adopting Mr. Britten's view. The fund, which had for many years been steadily added to annually, had a capital of about £52,000, the income being sufficient for the expenditure; but Mr. Britten's propositions ran away with all the income, and the capital had to be encroached upon. At last, however, he was himself a petitioner, and he received a grant of £200, since which time he never appeared at the Board, and the grants subsequently have not come up to his standard. Mr. Britten, after his failure in business, was elected to the £40 annuity of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, but was obliged to relinquish it shortly on obtaining admission to the munificent charity of Morden College, Blackheath, where he expired at the age of sixty-eight.

GREAT respect was shown the memory of Bro. Joseph Johnson, late of Brixham, who died at Exeter on 29th ult., in his 79th year. He was one of the oldest Past Masters of True Love and Unity Lodge, and was borne to the grave by eight of the Past Masters of that Lodge.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

ON the 10th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Maple Street, Newcastle, Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., M.P., Provincial Grand Superintendent Designate of the Province of Northumberland was duly installed in the office of first Principal, the ceremony being performed by Comp. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Third Grand Principal England, who was accompanied by Comp. E. Letchworth Grand Scribe E.

A feeling reference was made by the presiding Officer to the loss sustained by the Grand Chapter in the death of Colonel Addison Potter, C.B., the late Prov. Grand Superintendent. He then referred to the excellent choice of the First Grand Principal of England (H.R.H. the Prince of Wales) in appointing Sir M. W. Ridley to the high office of First Principal of the Chapter of Northumberland. Sir Matthew White Ridley was installed to the chief office of Northumberland by Comp. Beach, who said he had the greatest pleasure in doing so.

After the installation, Comp. J. G. Youll, Newcastle, was appointed by the Prov. G. Superintendent as Prov. G.H., and Comp. A. Winlaw, Berwick, as Prov. G.J., Comp. G. E. Macarthy was elected Prov. G. Treasurer, and the Prov. Grand Superintendent appointed the following Officers:—

Comp. Thos. Purvis	-	-	-	Scribe E.
W. M. Lyon	-	-	-	Scribe N.
T. J. Armstrong	-	-	-	Registrar
W. F. Carmon	-	-	-	Principal Sojourner
J. J. Forster	-	-	-	1st Assistant Sojourner
A. T. Aitchison	-	-	-	2nd Assistant Sojourner
R. G. Salmon	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
W. Tweedy	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
George Spain	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
William Green	-	-	-	Assist. Dir. of Ceremonies
Roger Brand	-	-	-	Organist
Wm. Davidson	-	-	-	Assistant Scribe E.
Joshua Curry	-	-	-	Janitor.

Comp. J. G. Youll was appointed a Trustee, in the place of the late Comp. J. H. Bentham.

The Prov. Grand Superintendent thanked Comps. Beach and Letchworth for their presence, and the ceremony in which they had taken the chief part that day. He expressed his thanks for his appointment to that high office, which should have his best efforts according to his time, and he was sure he would have the help of many able and willing Officers. He referred with regret to the loss Masonry had sustained by the deaths of Col. Addison Potter, C.B., J. H. Bentham, Adam Robertson, and Thomas Dinning, and made suitable allusion to the excellent work they had done in the Province. The Chapter was afterwards closed.—“Newcastle Daily Journal.”

CONSECRATION: SHERBORNE CHAPTER.

AN interesting ceremony was performed at Stroud, on the 8th inst., when a new Royal Arch Chapter, for which a warrant was issued by the Grand Chapter of England nearly twelvemonths ago, was consecrated and formally constituted in accordance with the impressive ritual of the Order. The degree of the Holy Royal Arch is a recognised branch of Craft Masonry, the complement of the three regular degrees, and its Chapters are usually affiliated to Craft Lodges. The Chapter opened is attached to, and bears the name of, the senior of the two Lodges meeting at Stroud, the Sherborne, No. 702; but its membership will be supplied by both of the Stroud Lodges, and by the other Lodges of the mid Gloucestershire district to which it is convenient.

The Sherborne is the fourth Chapter in the Province of Gloucestershire. The three previously existing chapters are located, one at Cheltenham and two in the city of Gloucester.

That at Cheltenham is known as the Chapter of Unanimity, and is attached to the Foundation Lodge, No. 82. It holds the premier position by virtue of its seniority, and as being affiliated to a Lodge which was founded in Cheltenham in the year 1753, and which has now met in the town of its origin and in a hall built by the liberality of its members for the past seventy-five years.

The senior of the two Chapters at Gloucester is attached to the Royal Lebanon Lodge, No. 493, and was consecrated in the year 1876; the other bears the name of the Lodge Royal Gloucestershire, No. 839, and was consecrated and opened twelve years ago, the late Col. Shadwell Clerke Grand Scribe E. of England presiding at the ceremony. At that time the Prov. Grand Chapter of Gloucestershire had not been formed; but Comp. Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach was made the first head of the new Chapter with a view to its formation, which took place in the year following.

The present opening of a fourth Royal Arch Chapter is therefore the first ceremony of the kind since Provincial Grand Chapter was constituted. Its foundation is justified by the prosperity of the Chapters already established; but, as a fact,

the increase of Royal Arch Masonry is likely to be largely promoted by a recent relaxation of the conditions of membership on the part of the Grand Chapter, and no long interval is now likely to occur before the ceremony at Stroud is repeated in connection with other flourishing Lodges in the Province.

The warrant for the formation of the Sherborne Chapter was granted on the petition of the following Companions of the Royal Arch degree, viz., the Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G.Soj. of Eng. Grand Supt. of Suffolk, Dr. J. Partridge P.Z. P.P.G.D.C., W. Warman P.Z., J. Albin Roberts P.Z. P.P.G.J., General Vizard, A. R. Grieve P.Z. P.P.G.R., James David P.Z. P.P.G.R., E. N. Witchell P.Z. P.G.D.C., E. Lea, R. J. Weston Prov.G.S.B., J. Kyle, Rev. W. Lyon, E. Hulbert, M. F. Wood, J. H. Daniels, J. Brown, A. G. Spire, and R. W. Northcott, who are founders and first Members of the Chapter.

The ceremony of consecration was performed by the Grand Superintendent the Right Hon. Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, Bart., assisted by Comp. R. V. Vassar-Smith Prov.G.H., and J. Bruton Prov.G.J., as Principals.

The usual formalities were observed in the opening of the consecrating Chapter and then the charter or warrant of the new Chapter having been presented and read, Comp. Martyn, in eloquent terms, addressed the Companions on the origin and principles of the degree and on the lessons inculcated by its symbols.

Next followed the office of consecration as prescribed by the time-honoured ritual of the Order. The anthem, “Behold how good and joyful a thing” was succeeded by a dedicatory prayer and invocation, and then the three Principals perambulated the Chapter bearing richly chased vessels containing corn, wine, oil, and salt, with which in succession the floor of the Chapter room was sprinkled. Grains of corn were scattered as an emblem of Plenty; wine was poured out as a sign of Joy and Cheerfulness; oil was sprinkled as a token of Peace and Unanimity, and salt was offered as a symbol of Hospitality and Friendship. Each oblation was marked by the reading of an appropriate Scripture extract and by the choral rendering of a verse of a hymn.

The ceremony closed with the formal dedication of the Chapter by prayer, and then an appropriate anthem was sung before the new Chapter was duly constituted by the installation of its future Principals and Officers.

The service throughout was an impressive one, its effect being much added to by the excellence of the musical arrangements, for which the Prov.G.Organist, Comp. J. A. Matthews was responsible.—“Cheltenham Examiner.”

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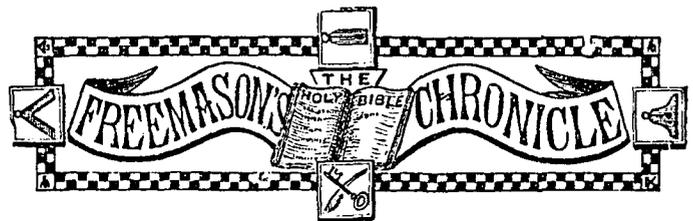
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SATURDAY, 19TH JANUARY 1895.

WEST LANCASHIRE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

THE forty-sixth annual ball in aid of the funds of this Institution took place on Tuesday, at the Town Hall, Liverpool, and was one of the most successful ever celebrated. The whole of the proceeds emanating from the ball goes to the charity, which benefits annually to the amount of £400. The West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution educates and clothes some 400 orphans of Masons, and it is supported solely by Lodges belonging to the Province of West Lancashire, says the "Liverpool Post." The ball was held under distinguished patronage, there being present the Countess of Lathom, the Hon. Lady Skelmersdale, the Countess of Derby, Lady Claude J. Hamilton, and the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Liverpool; the Earl of Lathom, the Earl of Derby, Colonel Le Gendre N. Starkie, Bro. Robert Wylie, Lord Skelmersdale, and the Provincial Grand Officers of West Lancashire.

Needless to add, the worthy Secretary A. E. Povey S.W. 241 was indefatigable in his efforts. The ball was largely attended, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, the grand suite of rooms presenting a most animated and charming spectacle. The insignia of the Brethren and the charming dresses of the ladies all tended to add to the glittering scene. Dancing commenced early, and was kept up with unabated spirit till the small hours. A most satisfactory programme was arranged by Bro. George Eyton P.M. 2215. The supper and refreshments, as provided by Bro. Thomas Wood 1547, were all that could be desired.

It may be interesting to our readers to state that our late Bro. Sir Edmund Lechmere occupied the novel position of proprietor of the village public-house, which he supplied with home-brewed, unadulterated beer, made from pure hops and malt. He insisted that the sale of food should be encouraged, as he was convinced that a good deal of the harm caused by drinking is due to the fact that people do not eat at the same time. He therefore instructed his manager to ask the customers to have a bit of bread and cheese, and always to supply eggs and bacon. In order to encourage the sale of tea, coffee, and non-intoxicants, Sir Edmund allowed his representative a commission on everything sold except beer, cider and spirits.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

—:o:—

GLOVES IN FREEMASONRY.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—When passing through the third degree recently I was much impressed with the history, so circumstantial in its detail, relating the death of H. A., which was so clearly told by our excellent W.M. But one particular struck me as being somewhat strange. It was mentioned that at the funeral, the fifteen Fellow Crafts attended "clothed in white aprons and gloves." Now, I have always understood that gloves were only introduced about the tenth century, and as the episode related is supposed to have occurred at the time of the building of King Solomon's Temple, I would be obliged if you could inform me whether it is possible that gloves were actually worn, or whether the allusion is allegorical?

Yours fraternally,

A DOUBTFUL NOVICE.

London, 15th January 1895.

[If our evidently young Brother will consult the Talmud he will find that gloves are mentioned therein as being worn by the Jews in the time of Joshua, who lived and reigned a considerable period before Solomon; therefore there is no anachronism in the traditional history as he appears to insinuate.—Ed. F.C.]

THE RIGHTS OF PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In the report of the Lodge of Joppa in your last issue I notice that a Provincial Grand Officer replied to the toast of the Grand Lodge. As this was presumably allowed by the Master of the Lodge, may I ask whether it is in accordance with Masonic etiquette that an Officer of a Province is allowed to respond for Grand Lodge, even if their should be no Grand Officer present?

Yours fraternally,

M.M.

COINAGE.

AT the second social evening in connection with the Affability Chapter, No. 317, held at Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, on Saturday, 8th ult., Comp. William Charlton, J.P., gave a lecture on "Coinage," illustrated with specimens.

Comp. Charlton said, that at the request of Comp. Thomas Plumpton he had brought with him a large number of Coins, of which he promised to give them some particulars; the lecture being of a comprehensive nature and embracing the subjects of Ancient, Scriptural and Modern Coinage. The lecturer said there is a great value attached to this study, and that many sciences were indebted to Coinage. Architects for instance were enabled by Coins to get an idea of what Public Buildings were like in the times of the ancient Greeks, and of Buildings that were destroyed years ago, and if it had not been for the ancient Coins and Medals we should not have known what the Temple of Diana was like. He also said that Geography and History were to a certain extent related to Coins, for some Coins have the boundaries of States on them, and many facts of history which people possess, would never have been written had it not been for Coins. He further said that Sir Isaac Newton, the great English philosopher, whilst writing the work on ancient phrenology, consulted Coins, and obtained from them no less than 2,000 names of the provinces and rulers, &c. Also records of popular games were recorded on the Roman Coins.

After speaking fully as to the advantage of Coinage and the different Sciences that were indebted to it, he gave a short description as to the materials used in the Coins and the making of them. He afterwards exhibited a large number of Coins and described them separately, to the great interest of the audience. Amongst others shown were two specimens of Coins made of platinum which were struck by Nicholas, the Emperor of Russia, and glass Coins used by the Arabs, also a number of ancient British Coins, as well as a number of the American Coins.

At the close of this interesting paper, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Comp. Charlton, and a discussion took place.

A curious custom in Armenia is that of admitting a young man into a guild or corporation of artisans. On the completion of his son's apprenticeship, the father invites the masters of the Craft to a feast, and when the toast of the day is about to be given, the candidate runs to the middle of the room and falls upon his knees. Approaching him, his own master inquires if he is persuaded that he can conscientiously call himself a master workman, and upon receiving a reply in the affirmative, boxes the youth's ears three times, and from that moment the lad becomes entitled to have his name enrolled on the strength of the Craft and to set up in business on his own account should he care to do so.—"Exchange."

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We understand it has been arranged to hold a Masonic Festival Service at the Quadrant Church, Highbury, on the fourth Sunday in February.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

We shall be pleased to receive particulars of Masonic meetings for insertion in our columns, and where desired will endeavour to send a representative to report Lodge or other proceedings.

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

THERE was a large gathering of members and visitors on Monday, at Auderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on the occasion of the annual meeting of this well-known Centenary Lodge, when Bro. Francis Haines the Senior Warden of the past year was installed as its ruler for the current one.

Bro. Belchamber I.P.M. officiated as Installing Master, and he having regularly inducted Bro. Haines into the chair, that Brother appointed the following as the Assistant Officers: F. S. Plowright S.W., T. Kington J.W., B. D. Kershaw P.M. Treas., Walter Wood P.M. Sec., E. Pennock S.D., G. Spice J.D., J. W. Simeons I.G., G. P. Nightingale P.M. D.C., John E. Fells P.M. Steward, Walter Cutting A.D.C., Sidney W. Fells Assistant Steward, L. G. Reinhardt Tyler.

After the different addresses had been delivered the Master was at once called upon to prove his efficiency in the work, three gentlemen presenting themselves for initiation. They were regularly admitted to the benefits of the first degree by the new ruler, who thus early gave evidence of capability and promise of success in this direction while the Lodge is under his rule.

The following Past Masters were present at the meeting: Bros. B. D. Kershaw (1869) Treasurer, J. E. Fells (1882) Steward, J. Smith (1883), W. Wood (1884) Secretary, S. Smither (1889), J. Hart (1892), W. Belchamber (1893), and Sam. Webb, one of the oldest living Past Masters of the Lodge, who was last year elected as an Honorary Member, in recognition of his long association with and work for the Lodge.

The Visitors included: Frank Swinford I.G. 2272, R. E. Gilmour J.W. 1950, F. W. Clayton 1553, J. Laurence 1326, John G. McEwen I.P.M. 1507, F. J. T. Aushorn 1981, J. Milroy 2255, E. G. Cherry I.P.M. 861, J. Falconer 3, R. D. Heckels 1601, E. W. Hattersley 2262, F. J. Sheppard 3, E. Stratford 179, J. Bunker 1153, W. H. G. Rudderforth P.M. 1663, T. Dally 1475, R. V. Davies P.M. 1283, W. F. Grimmett 15, T. J. Perkins P.M. 1208, A. A. Wilson 1589, T. Bachelor 45, W. W. Morgan 177, J. D. Simmons 2396, D. A. Sheppard 1339, H. W. Humphreys 1638, H. Broadway 1320, A. T. Yardley 901, John W. Elam 1238, L. Lake 87, &c.

At the conclusion of the banquet the Worshipful Master proceeded to give the usual toasts. He regarded the Grand Master as one of whom the whole Craft might well be proud; not only did the Prince of Wales take a personal interest in the Craft whenever the opportunity occurred; he also seemed to have the welfare of the Order at all times at heart.

Bro. Belchamber submitted the toast of the Worshipful Master—a toast which was of great importance, and of considerable interest to the Lodge. In Bro. Haines he trusted they had one who would do much for them. With all due respect to the other Past Masters of the Lodge, he ventured to think their present ruler would prove to be one of the most perfect Masters the Confidence Lodge had ever known.

In reply, the Worshipful Master tendered hearty thanks for the kind reception that had been accorded him. He fully appreciated the high dignity associated with the office they had placed him in, and hoped to satisfy them in what he undertook. He had felt great interest in the work of the Lodge since he had joined it, and had worked hard in the offices to which he had been appointed, with one object in view—that of ultimately rising to the chair of the Lodge, for he looked upon the humble representation of King Solomon as the highest ambition of a Freemason.

The toast of the Initiates was next given from the chair, Bro. Haines tendering them a cordial welcome as members of the Confidence Lodge, and hoping they would each, in turn, rise to high dignity within it.

Bro. Westgate felt it a great honour to have been initiated that day. The remarks of the Worshipful Master had aroused in him a desire to reach the chair—it was very certain he was particularly near it at that moment, but he hoped he might get yet nearer, rise, in fact, to regularly occupy it. He should certainly strive to win that distinction by good work and diligent attention to the duties of the Craft.

The other Initiates likewise responded to the toast.

The health of the Visitors was next submitted, the Master offering them a hearty greeting, and assuring them it was at all times the desire of the Confidence Lodge members to entertain their guests in the best possible way.

The toast of the Visitors was acknowledged by several members among that body, who, however, did not depart far from the usual laudatory utterances under this head. The W.M. was congratulated on his elevation to the Mastership, was complimented on the ability he had already displayed in the chair, and regarded as particularly fortunate inasmuch as he had risen to the highest position in the Lodge within five years of his initiation.

Bro. Rudderforth, replying as a Visitor, referred to his long association with the Lodge in years gone by. He had been initiated in the Lodge some thirty-one years before, and was always pleased to visit the scenes of old acquaintanceship.

The W.M. now submitted the toast of the Installing Master, Brother Belchamber. It was difficult to imagine how the Lodge would have got on without Bro. Belchamber, who had truly been a good friend to the Lodge and every member of it.

Brother Belchamber tendered his thanks for the toast, assuring the Brethren he had done the very best in his power, and that he believed to be the duty of every Mason. If he had given satisfaction it was a great gratification to him, and as he had won the thanks of the Lodge it was all he required.

The W.M. next proposed the health of the Treasurer, Secretary and Past Masters of the Lodge, to which Bro. Wood first responded. He desired to tender thanks both on behalf of the Treasurer (who, unfortunately, was not now with them) and for himself. He was indeed proud to be re-appointed to the office of Secretary, and hoped he might continue to give satisfaction in the duties attached to it. He had striven during his Mastership to advance the interests of Freemasonry in general and the Lodge of Confidence in particular, and hoped he might have health and strength to continue doing so for many years yet to come.

Bro. Fells also responded. It was gratifying to him to feel the Brethren were satisfied with what he did in the office of Steward. He was also pleased to witness the true friendship, peace, harmony and concord that existed in

his dear old Mother Lodge of Confidence, of which he had been a member twenty years that night.

Other of the Past Masters added words in reply to the toast, saying it was their heart's desire to see the Lodge go on in such prosperity as was evidenced by the meeting that night, which was as successful as any held for very many years. The Master had shown, by his work that evening, how capable he was, and it was fair to anticipate success under his rule.

Bro. Smithers, in the course of his reply, said a pleasurable feature presented itself in the fact that the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens were all initiated by him during the year he was at the head of the Lodge. He well remembered the night they were admitted—there were five initiates on that occasion, four of whom were then present, three of them being, as he had said, at the head of the Lodge.

Bro. S. Webb was also called upon. Up till last year he had been an active member of the Lodge, now he enjoyed the rank of Honorary Member, thanks to the good feeling evinced by the Brethren of the Lodge. During the thirty-four years he had been a subscriber he had seen much of the ups and downs of the Lodge, but there was one noticeable feature in connection with it—the attendance appeared to have remained all but stationary—a good round eighty-four or thereabouts. As one of the Past Masters he was very well satisfied to think the Lodge had not deteriorated or decayed, and he thought he might say it was progressing—it would not be much good if it did not. He considered the present Master a very young Mason to be in the chair, a few years ago such rapid promotion would not have been possible in that or many other Lodges, but he felt sure that merit had secured him the position, and that the Lodge would reap advantage from his ruling.

The toast of the Officers was acknowledged by the Senior Warden, who assured the Lodge he should endeavour to do his best to fill the honoured office then occupied by Bro. Haines should it be the good will of the members to elect him to it next year. For the Officers generally he might say all would endeavour to emulate the working of the Past Masters of the Lodge in years gone by.

Several other of the Officers also acknowledged the toast, which was followed by that of the Tyler, who brought the proceedings to a close in the usual way.

The toast of the Visitors was followed by a song by Bro. Frederick Stephens that met the most hearty reception. "The Lost Promenade" has been set by Bro. Stephens to the music of "The Lost Chord," and is one of the best parodies we have heard for some time, dealing with much of what was brought into notoriety a few weeks back in connection with the licensing question at the Empire Theatre. The song was the feature of a successful musical programme, which, however, included several other enjoyable numbers, the whole being under the direction of Bro. Arthur Weston, who was supported by Miss Emily Davies, Miss Ernestine Handcock, Bro. Frederick Stephens and Bro. Frank Swinford.

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DORIC LODGE, No. 933.

THE ordinary meeting took place on Tuesday, 8th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, Bro. W. A. Moss W.M.

The ballot for Mr. Harry Joseph Seal proving unanimous, the ceremony of initiation proceeded, P.M. Barnes taking the S.D. chair, P.M. J. H. Brown the duties of J.D., and Bro. Duffield those of the I.G., illness and business claims having (as was subsequently explained) prevented the attendance of some of the Lodge Officers.

The initiation having been completed by the W.M., the next business was the report of the Audit Committee, to which Bros. Chalmers and Caslake gave verbal support as Auditors. The accounts showed that by judicious management there was an excellent credit balance, says the "East London Observer."

The election of W.M. for the ensuing year was then taken, and the S.W. having intimated that he was not desirous of taking the chair, Bro. Caslake J.W. who has been a member for upwards of fourteen years, was unanimously elected.

Bro. R. Ayton P.M. was again chosen amid complimentary remarks as Treasurer, and Bro. Rawles as Tyler.

Among the other business was the proposal of Mr. J. T. Ayton as a member of the Lodge, which his father, Bro. R. Ayton, made with obvious pleasure, Bro. R. Ayton jun. seconding.

Lodge being closed, adjournment was made to a capitally served supper, accompanied with frugal refreshment, and this being disposed of, the W.M. gave the customary toasts.

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THE GREAT CITY LODGE, No. 1426.

A REGULAR meeting of this Lodge was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, on Saturday, 12th inst., and was well attended, the reputation for perfect working deservedly enjoyed by the present ruler attracting numerous visiting Brethren.

The Lodge was opened at half-past four by the Worshipful Master Bro. John K. Gwyn who was supported by the following Officers:—Bros. R. Brookman S.W., F. E. Bailey J.W., R. Fendick Treas., James Stevens Sec., G. M. Fraser S.D., R. Lawson J.D., J. H. Guyton D.C., E. Wareham Org., R. Thomas and James Boyton Stewards, R. Potter Tyler. Past Masters G. W. Robson, D. T. Keene, G. W. Blackie and R. Greening; Bros. F. G. Joy, J. K. Hooper, J. W. Colmer, and others.

Amongst the visitors were Brothers Walter Lawley W.M. 2348, R. H. Crowden P.M. 1297, T. W. Ockenden P.M. 1512 1656 1768, George Goodes P.M. 192, J. Oldis P.M. Sec. 1288, J. C. Yates P.M. 1366, J. M. Murphy S.D. 1745, C. J. Dredge 624, G. M. Spang 2030 and E. J. Parkington 1793.

The Lodge work comprised the raising of Bro. Wareham, and the initiation of Mr. William Pardon, both ceremonies being carried out with that strict care and attention to the minutest detail of correct ritual for which the Great City Lodge has been and still is celebrated. There was a rather more than usual amount of routine business on the agenda, but it was methodically despatched and at the appointed early hour the Brethren dined together and subsequently spent a most enjoyable and harmonious evening.

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PROVINCIAL.

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DORIC LODGE, No. 81.

THE anniversary meeting was held at Woodbridge, on Friday, 11th inst., when Bro. George Booth jun., the eldest son of the Treasurer of the Lodge, was installed Worshipful Master for the ensuing year.

The installation ceremony was impressively performed by Bro. Walter

Brooke P.M., at the conclusion of which the Worshipful Master appointed and invested his Officers.

The installation banquet followed at the Bull Hotel, and this was splendidly served by Bro. W. Miles. Letters of apology for inability to attend were received from several Brethren, three of whom were incapacitated by illness.

Bro. W. P. T. Phillips, in proposing the Prov. Grand Master Lord Henniker, said that his Lordship had sent a letter expressing regret at being unable to be present that evening. He was very anxious to be present at one of their meetings, but would rather it should be one of their ordinary gatherings, for he had not recovered from the depression consequent upon the death of his wife. They knew the interest his Lordship took in the Province, not only in Masonry, but in all matters; he was desirous to make the best selection of Officers, and had in every way shown that he was a man of whose work they might all be proud.

The Worshipful Master next gave the Deputy Prov. Grand Master the Rev. C. J. Martyn, and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers, present and past, and in doing so remarked that their genial Brother the D.P.G.M. would have been present had it not been for a prior engagement.

Bro. A. W. Cobbold, in proposing the toast of the evening, the Worshipful Master, said he wished he could thoroughly do justice to the toast. Many of the members of the Doric were inhabitants of Woodbridge or its immediate neighbourhood, and, therefore, knew him better than he (the speaker) did himself; but in one way they could not know him better than he did, and that was in the thorough way in which Bro. Booth had backed him up as S.W. during the past year. The unanimity of the choice of the Lodge in electing Bro. Booth as W.M. for the ensuing year was evidence of their appreciation of his worth, and he was sure that it was to the advantage of the Lodge.

The Worshipful Master, in response, said there was an old saying that a man had no honour in his own parish, but he supposed the exception went to prove the rule, for as one born and bred in Woodbridge, and as having lived all his life there—although not at present a very long one—he took it that a signal honour had been conferred upon him that night in appointing him to the highest office that a Lodge could bestow. He confessed that when he first entered the Doric Lodge he aspired to filling the various offices, and he frankly asserted his belief that all Brothers should form similar aspirations. He was keenly alive to the responsibilities devolving upon him as Master, but these responsibilities, he felt, had been materially increased by the zeal and assiduity which had characterised the discharge of the duties of the office by his predecessor, and whose year of presidency was a record one in their annals. He believed that during his connection with the Lodge there had never been so much work as during Bro. Cobbold's year of office; he had set him an uncommonly good lead, which he would to the best of his humble ability endeavour to imitate.

Other toasts followed. The evening altogether was a most pleasant one, says the "East Anglian Daily Times," several musical Brethren contributing to the harmony.

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ROYAL GLOUCESTER LODGE, No. 130.

THE Lodge celebrated the Festival of St. John on Thursday, 10th inst., when Bro. J. Harrison Hogge J.W. was installed in the presence of a large gathering.

The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. J. Cole, who was thanked for his services.

The retiring Master Bro. Harfield was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for the efficient manner in which he had fulfilled the duties of the chair during his year of office, and it was resolved that the Lodge present him with a Past Master's jewel.

At the conclusion of the business the Brethren adjourned to a banquet, laid by Mr. Sharp, of Above Bar, under the superintendence of the D.C. The newly-installed W.M. presided. The usual round of toasts was gone through.

The health of the W.M. was cordially drunk, and there was an all round expression of wish that he would have a year of office pleasant to himself and prosperous to the ancient Royal Gloucester.

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ALL SOULS LODGE, No. 170.

ON Thursday, 27th ult., at the annual festival, held at Weymouth, Bro. J. Howard was installed Worshipful Master for the year. There was a good attendance of members and Visiting Brethren. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. A. Rayner.

The banquet took place in the handsome banquet room attached to the Lodge, when the newly-installed Master was supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Colonel Brymer, M.P.) and other distinguished members of the Craft.

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LODGE OF FORTITUDE, No. 281.

THE installation festival of this Centenary Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Church Street, Lancaster, on Wednesday, 9th inst., when there was a large attendance of members and Visitors to witness the installation of Bro. J. H. Parker.

Bro. J. R. B. Pilkington was elected as the Lodge representative on the Charity Committee for West Lancashire.

Brother J. W. Wearing, before closing the year of his office as W.M., presented a magnificent silver loving cup, as a memento of a most pleasant year of office. The gift was accepted by Bro. Parker W.M., on behalf of the Lodge, in suitable terms. The inscription on the cup is as follows:—

Presented to the

Lodge of Fortitude, No. 281,

by W. BRO. JAMES WILLIAMSON WEARING W.M. P.S.G.D.,
9th January 1895.

After the usual congratulations had been given, the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the King's Arms Hotel, where a repast was supplied by Mr. J. Ducksbury, and was greatly enjoyed, under the genial presidency of the W.M.

The customary toasts were honoured, and a capital programme of music was rendered.

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EAST SURREY LODGE OF CONCORD, No. 463.

THE meeting at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on Wednesday, the 9th inst., was presided over by Bro. J. R. Mosse W.M. Prov. G.S.D.

After the initiation of a candidate the W.M. addressed the Secretary, Bro. Woodward, as follows:—This being your twenty-fifth year as invested Secretary of this Lodge, the Brethren have desired that such an occasion should not pass unnoticed. The manner in which you have discharged the duties of your office during this long period—duties by no means light or easy—and your continuous labours to promote the welfare of this Lodge, and to maintain its position in the Province of Surrey, are well-known and appreciated. I am therefore deputed by the Brethren of the Lodge to request your acceptance of this cheque, together with the accompanying diamond ring as a token of their esteem and as some slight acknowledgment of your valuable services so freely given.

Bro. Woodward, in a few well chosen remarks, thanked the W.M. and the Brethren of the Lodge for their generous and valuable gift, as a reward for Secretarial services for twenty-five years, and said he would defer any further remarks until the banquet.

The Lodge was closed, after several new members had been proposed.

At the banquet, Bro. F. West Dep. Prov. G.M. for Surrey, in returning thanks for the Grand Officers, said he attended by the desire of several Grand Officers of England, and also at the wish of the Prov. G.M. for Surrey Col. Noel Money, C.B., to congratulate Bro. Woodward on the well-deserved recognition of his lengthened services. Bro. West passed a high eulogium on the said Brother, and remarked that in his official capacity he had to visit many Lodges in the Province, and whenever Bro. Woodward's name was mentioned, it was always received with enthusiasm.

Bro. Woodward, in further acknowledging the handsome presentation, remarked that during his twenty-five years as Secretary, about 130 Lodge meetings had been held; he had only been absent from one of these meetings and that through illness—a record for which he ought to be deeply thankful. He concluded by wishing all the Brethren that greatest of all blessings, the blessing of health, and a full share of this world's prosperity in the new year.

The massive gold ring (18 carat), with a faultless diamond, bears the inscription:—

Presented to
Bro. C. H. W., 25 years Secretary of Lodge No. 463,
January 1895.

BELVEDERE LODGE, No. 503.

ON Tuesday, 8th inst., after the usual monthly meeting, the whole of the members of the Lodge were entertained to a banquet, at the New Inn Hotel, Maidstone, by the Mayor Bro. G. F. Baker, who is a Past Master of the Lodge. His Worship presided, and was supported by Bro. Potter W.M., the Officers of the Lodge, sixteen Past Masters, and others—in all nearly sixty Brethren being present.

After the usual Loyal toasts, the health of Bro. Baker was cordially responded to by the Brethren, who much appreciated the Mayor's kindly remembrance of his Mother Lodge, thus early during his official year.

LINDSEY LODGE, No. 712.

THE annual installation took place on the 4th, at Louth, when Bro. I. J. Colbridge was installed W.M.

In the evening a banquet took place at the Masons' Arms Hotel, when Bro. Sissons D.P.G.M. of Lincolnshire, and Visiting Brethren from Grimsby, Lincoln, Market Rasen, Alford, and other places were present. A letter was read from the Earl of Yarborough, expressing regret that duties at Quarter Sessions prevented his attendance.

FRANKLIN LODGE, No. 838.

ON the 4th the Brethren celebrated the Festival of St. John, at Boston. By a special dispensation from the Provincial Grand Master the Lodge was held in the Assembly Rooms, and there was a large attendance of Brethren.

Bro. R. J. Newcomb was installed Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, the installation ceremony, which was choral, being beautifully rendered by Bro. G. H. Gregory P.P.G.Org.

The customary banquet took place at the Peacock and Royal Hotel in the evening.

ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE LODGE, No. 839.

THE Provincial Grand Master Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, Bart., P.G.W. and his Deputy Bro. R. V. Vassar-Smith P.G.D., attended by several present Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, paid an official visit to this Lodge at Gloucester, on Monday, 7th inst., the occasion being marked by a large attendance both of members of the Lodge and visitors from other Lodges of the Province.

The Worshipful Master of the Royal Gloucestershire for the present year is Bro. James Bruton, who fills the chair of the Lodge for the fourth time, having been first elected to that office in the year 1880, and who this year holds the distinguished position of Senior Warden of the Province. The demonstration on Monday evening was a testimony of the personal respect in which he is held, and of satisfaction with the compliment the Prov. Grand Master had paid him.

ST. ANNE'S LODGE, No. 970.

THE installation meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, East Looe, on Wednesday, 2nd inst., when Bro. Henry Shapcott was installed by Bro. J. Doney P.M. 856 P.P.A.G.D.C., assisted by a board of fifteen I.M.'s of St. Anne's Lodge, also visiting Bro. Major Shanks P.M. P.P.G.S.W. (Devon).

The addresses having been delivered, a vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Doney, as the working of the installation in his hands gave the greatest satisfaction to all; his delivery of the Ritual was very impressive and dignified, and his conduct of all points of the ceremony precise.

Other business having been transacted, the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the Looe Hotel, where an excellent banquet was served by Mrs. L. A. Cook. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured.

Bro. J. Newland, in responding for the visitors, remarked that he had visited all the Lodges in the Province, but had never before seen seventeen Past Masters all belonging to one Lodge present at the banquet.

ST. KEW LODGE, No. 1222.

THE installation took place on Tuesday, 1st inst., at Weston-super-Mare, the ceremony being performed by the D.P.G.M. Bro. R. C. Else. There was a large attendance of members and visiting Brethren, and the new W.M. Bro. W. H. Webb invested his Officers for the year.

After the business the Brethren dined together in the hall, the catering being entrusted to Bro. C. Cornelius, who served a really excellent dinner.

ST. JOHN LODGE, No. 1247.

THE annual meeting was held on Thursday, 10th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth, when Bro. S. A. Maitland was installed W.M. by Bros. Mayne, Lord, Barter, Parkhouse, and J. Kinton Bond.

The retiring Master Bro. H. T. C. Tucker was prevented from attending through serious illness, and there were many expressions of regret at the cause of his absence.

ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

THE annual meeting and Festival of St. John in connection with this Lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on Friday, the 4th inst. There was a good attendance of members and visitors, prominent amongst whom were:—Bros. W. T. Hesketh P.M. acting W.M. D.C., C. H. Beever I.P.M., Alfred Pickford S.W., Chas. Rawle J.W., W. D. Fryer P.M. Treas., Henry Nall P.M. Sec., Thos. A. Holland S.D., J. Coupland I.G., Wm. Rushton Organist, Ed. M. Bebeec, A. Redfern, John M. Crone, T. R. E. Birkett Stds., Jno. G. Bromley P.M., Arthur A. Moss P.M., Council. John Bradshaw P.M. P.G.J.D., Jno. Southam P.M., Jas. Laidlaw P.M., Ed. Roberts P.M. (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE), Baron E. de Minciaky, Sam Tiller, W. J. Bull, H. W. Bloomer. Visitors:—Bros. John Chadwick P.G.Swd.B. Prov.G.Sec. (E.L.), M. Thomas P.M. 2363 P.P.G.D., J. M. H. Blamey W.M. 163, John Travers W.M. 1357, Samuel Hind W.M. 1493, Wm. Boden W.M. 2449, A. K. Boothroyd W.M. 2359, S. Phillips I.P.M. 1493, T. S. Griffiths P.M. 645, Frederick Renshaw P.M. 1387, E. Winterbottom P.M. 1773, and others.

Bro. Hesketh P.M. who held a triad of offices as acting W.M., Dir. of Cers. and Installing Master, did not lose any time in approaching the principal business of the day, and a Board of Installed Masters was quickly formed.

With his usual courtesy, Bro. Chadwick Prov.G.Sec. (E.L.) consented to interrogate Bro. Pickford upon the Antient Constitutional Charges, to which the Worshipful Master-elect indicated a ready compliance.

The task of installing Bro. Pickford into the chair of K.S. was performed by Bro. Hesketh with remarkable celerity, and the various Past Masters who assisted him seemed to have caught the infection, for quickly but without any undue haste they accomplished their allotted tasks, and the proceedings were brought to a close long before the time announced for the banquet. The latter, which was produced under the personal superintendence of Mrs. Langford, of the Hall, was in every way so satisfactory as to receive the commendations of members and visitors alike.

The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts followed, the same being relieved by songs, &c., given by Bros. Nall, Thomas, Hesketh, Rushton, Bygrave, Albert, Jarrett, &c., a very pleasant evening being the result.

There were so many excellent speeches delivered that it would almost be invidious on our part to single out any for especial mention. We shall be pardoned, however, if we make an exception with regard to the toast of the newly-installed W.M., and his reply to the same. This was proposed by Bro. Hesketh, who, after expressing the pleasure he had derived by installing Bro. Pickford, reverted to his early associations with the latter. He had watched Bro. Pickford work from step to step in Masonry, until by sheer merit alone he had gained the distinction of W.M., and this fact would redound to his credit.

Bro. Pickford W.M., said, in response, that this period of his existence—the time when he was made Worshipful Master of the Architect Lodge—was a most trying one to him; it was, however, not only trying, but gratifying. He could heartily thank all of them for their numerous kindnesses to him, which he sincerely hoped would never prove to have been misplaced. It was Bro. Hesketh who had introduced him into the Lodge, and there could not be a better time than the present for a father to receive the thanks of his child, which he readily accorded to him for the trouble he had taken in the ceremony of that day. As he had told them before, he had felt on the night of his initiation that he should like to aspire to the chair of K.S., and now he had reached that position he was more than gratified. He now promised that he would try to do his best, and if there was one thing more than another for which he would be noted during his year of office it would be short speeches. Bro. Pickford concluded by wishing his auditors "a happy and prosperous year."

TRAFFORD LODGE, No. 1496.

THE regular meeting of this Lodge was held at the Western Hotel, Moss Side, Manchester, on Monday, the 14th inst., among those present being: Bros. Percy E. Land W.M., Francis Long I.P.M., Ramsey Knight S.W., Chris. A. H. Preston J.W., Geo. Burslem P.M. Treasurer, J. C. Gillman P.P.S.G.D. Secretary, W. Yeaton S.D., John Done J.D., H. Russell I.G., H. P. Jones P.M. P.P.G.R., John W. Rathbone P.M., John Morris P.M., Jos. Kershaw P.M., H. S. Johnson, Walter Lees, Thomas Jackson, J. Yule Deeley, Chas. F. Davies, H. Mogridge, J. H. Rowse.

Visitors: W. Keys I.G. 1345, D. S. Higson W.M. 324, E. Nickson 1045, J. Hotheral 645, F. H. Krause 2144, John Allen Organist 2231, Alex. R. McLeish 322, W. H. Moss 2359, Wm. R. Schofield 1161, H. Vaughan 1633, E. H. Flower P.M. P.G. Tyler E.L. Tyler.

The Lodge was opened in due form, when the minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. Ballots were taken for Mr. Hermann Leigh Newberry Preston, Solicitor, Manchester, and Mr. Chas. Harold Moss, Commercial Traveller, Manchester, the result in each case being unanimous.

The Brethren then adjourned for tea, and on re-assembling Mr. H. L. N. Preston was initiated by the W.M., Mr. C. H. Moss by Bro. J. Rathbone P.M., and the Working Tools presented to both by the J.W.

Bro. J. H. Rowse having satisfactorily answered the necessary questions was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by Bro. G. Burslem P.M., and the Working Tools presented by the S.W., the working in each case being everything that could be desired. After the Brethren had expressed hearty good wishes the Lodge was closed.

At the social board which followed, after the Loyal toasts had been honoured, the health of the Initiates and the newly raised Brother was

proposed, heartily received, and duly responded to. The various toasts were relieved by songs and recitations given by Bros. Allin, McLeish, Lissenden Lees and Mogeridge, Bro. Allin presiding at the pianoforte.

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COLERIDGE LODGE, No. 1750.

THE installation took place on Wednesday, 9th inst., when Bro. H. S. Newnham was inducted to the chair of K.S. The ceremony was ably performed by the Right Hon. Viscount Dungarvan Prov. Grand Master of Somerset, in the presence of forty Brethren.

The Brethren subsequently adjourned for the banquet at Regent House, where the customary Masonic toasts were honoured.

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ABBEY LODGE, No. 2120.

ON Wednesday, 9th inst., there was one of the most numerous assemblages of Brethren that has ever taken place in the Masonic Hall, Chertsey, the occasion being to assist in the installation of Brother Thomas Dix.

The duties of the I.P.M. Bro. C. Welch were well and thoughtfully carried out, indeed so much so that he received the praise of Bro. Col. Noel Money Prov. G.M. Surrey.

It should be stated that according to routine, the Master's chair should this year be occupied by Bro. James Webb, but as he at the present time holds the office of W.M. of the Bisley Lodge, he could not accept both honours without a special dispensation.

After the installation, a very beautiful silk banner emblazoned with gold was presented to the Lodge by I.P.M. Welch. The names of the Past Masters of the Lodge will be recorded on the banner.

The banquet took place at 6 o'clock, and was served in Bro. Mason's very best style, and this is saying a good deal, remarks the "Surrey Herald."

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LONGSIGHT LODGE, No. 2464.

THE regular meeting was held at the Club House, Birch Lane, Longsight, on Wednesday, the 2nd inst., the following being present:—Bros. H. Grimshaw W.M., W. Gadd S.W., Alu. Lloyd Higginbottom J.W., Fred. G. Berry P.M. Treas., Councilor John Phythian Sec., E. H. Rison Assist. Sec., H. Sheard S.D., W. H. Wilson J.L., C. S. Cotton J.G., T. T. Jones Organist, H. Wood, W. A. Bacon, F. Giammer, Alu. Edouard Stewards, Councilor Thos. Uttley I.P.M. P.F.G.A.D.C. (West Yks.), F. W. L. (I.P.M. P.F.G.D. D. of C.), Edward Roberts P.M. (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE), Thos. Glyn, Cecil R. Edge, C. Coatman, L. R. Entwisle, Thos. Plumpton. Visitors:—Bros. James Robinson I.P.M. 1219, F. Kildale Bowley I.P.M. 2216, Arthur C. K. Smith 317, E. O. Ritsen 1161, Wm. H. Ashworth 1730.

The members had been summoned to an early meeting in the expectation that four ceremonies would be gone through: one candidate, however, did not put in an appearance, and the work performed was a ceremony in each degree.

A ballot having been successfully taken for Mr. John William Fitton, Manager, Ardwick, that gentleman was initiated by Bro. Phythian, which ceremony was followed by the passing to the degree of F.C. of Bro. Cecil R. Edge, by Bro. Uttley; this in turn was succeeded by the raising to the sublime degree of Bro. L. R. Entwisle, the W.M. in the latter instance being responsible for the ceremonial. The working tools in each degree were presented and explained by Bro. Higginbottom.

At the festive board which followed, many of the members, and all of the Visitors, contributed towards a very pleasant evening.

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PYTHAGORAS CHAPTER, No. 88.

A REGULAR convocation was held last month at the Chapter Room, Lion Hotel, Cambridge. The Provincial Grand Superintendent of Cambridgeshire Companion Col. R. Townley Caldwell was amongst those present.

Bros. J. West Knights and F. W. Bird were balloted for, unanimously elected, and subsequently exalted by the M.E.Z. Comp. Holland was elected as a Joining Member. The work of the Principal Sojourner was ably performed by Comp. Banham, fully sustaining the prestige of this ancient Chapter. The lectures were afterwards delivered by the present Principals, and by Comp. B. Chennell P.Z.

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When the Sibyl found that Tarquin would not purchase her nine-volume novel at the published price, she considerably burned three of the parts and then demanded the same sum for the remainder; repeating the crematory operation until at length she extorted from the unfortunate monarch for three tomes the amount she had originally demanded for the complete set. Messrs. Erskine and Co. have a more gentle method of getting subscribers to improve their minds by reading the works they produce. Mr. George Lane, licensed victualler, Hyde Street, Poplar, takes an interest in the deep mysteries of Freemasonry, and ordered from the firm named their history of the Craft, in two volumes, which he afterwards refused to accept. When they were tendered to him in his bar he declared he would not touch them with a poker. Whether his choice of that particular article with which not to touch the books arose from his experience of the part a poker is popularly supposed to play in the rite of Masonic initiation was not disclosed, the fact remained that he would have nothing to do with the "History of Freemasonry." Did Messrs. Erskine act in the unreasonable manner of a Sibyl? Not at all; they paid the volumes into the Bow County Court, and then sued the publican for £2 10s as their value. In the tribunal over which Judge French presided, the two large folio volumes were laid before Mr. Lane; and his honour briefly said, "Now pay for the books you ordered." "Oh, certainly, if you say so," answered the licensed victualler, "but won't you tell them to send the books home?" "No," said the inexorable Augur, "you caused them to be brought here, and you must carry them home yourself." "But look how heavy they are," cried the purchaser; "fancy having to carry them all the way to Poplar! They are enough to break a man's back." The judge would have nothing to say further on the matter. The books were there to take or leave, as the defendant liked—but he must pay for them. Mr. Lane staggered out of the court under the weight, not of the Masonic secrets, but of their history, sumptuously bound in two volumes.—"Daily Telegraph."

The association of the Masonic body with the restoration of the west front of Bath Abbey Church dates back something like thirty years, but the work undertaken has never been accomplished. Is it not time either that the project was abandoned or a serious attempt made to carry it out? Other people may be more sanguine of the success of the latter than we confess we are, but looking at the generally depressed state of everything, and the laudable desire of the Brethren to maintain their own noble charities, the prospect of being able to raise a considerable sum for a work of church restoration seems doubtful indeed. There is, we believe, something like £300 or £400 in hand; would it not be well to spend this money on some other part of the fabric, say the window in the south transept, or even add it to the organ fund? Of course it is safe where it is—in the bank—and it is accumulating, but at what rate? The question, we venture to think, is one that may well engage the attention of the Craft.—"Bath Chronicle."

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An old Past Master of East Greenwich, alluding to the notes on Freemasonry in the "South Eastern Herald," sends that paper a story which relates how Freemasonry saved the lives of seventy Frenchmen. Bro. Major Harry Stephenson (a relative of the great engineer), from whose lips he heard the narrative, learnt that San Antonio, the governor of Mexico, had ordered seventy Frenchmen to be shot, simply because they had followed his army for the sale of nicknacks. Bro. Stephenson protested before San Antonio, and told him that if he shot the Frenchmen the British fleet should bombard Vera Cruz. The governor, in a rage, ordered that Stephenson's sword be taken from him, and himself shot with the rest. Knowing that Antonio was a Mason, and that his own life had been spared in consequence, Stephenson appealed to his honour as a brother, and ultimately obtained a promise from him that he would not shoot himself, and that he would spare the Frenchmen if he could get them away. Happily he found a vessel about to sail for France, and begged a passage for them. On his return to England he found a badge of the Legion of Honour awaiting him.

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Referring to the political agitations in Italy, the "Tablet" says Signor Crispi's old friends, the Freemasons, are taking active steps in his behalf. It is true he is accused of political corruption, and that his name is linked with scandals of European magnitude, but his past career is invoked to show that a Brother of his services should not be deserted. There is considerable difference of view among the Masons, one party urging that the agitation against Signor Crispi has exceeded the limit of decency, while another contends that though he is an enrolled member of the Society, he is really outside the organisation. In support of this last view the celebrated speech at Naples is cited. According to a correspondent of the "Times," political considerations seem to have taken the precedence, and the tendency is to leave out of consideration all the accusations against Signor Crispi; but the Grand Master keeps a severe reserve, seeing that the general decision is not yet apparent, but is certainly not in favour of his personal friend, Signor Crispi.

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The Installation meeting of the Manchester Lodge, No. 179 was held on Thursday, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, under the presidency of Bro. J. R. Hughes W.M., who formally opened the proceedings. Bro. James Kew P.M. subsequently assumed command, and installed Bro. Thomas Simpkins as Worshipful Master for the year. The other business included a raising, and two initiations. We shall give a full report of the proceedings in our next issue.

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Freemasonry is something more than a meeting round the social board, said a Visitor at a recent meeting. Having knocked about the world for twenty years and been a Mason for the last six, he could bear testimony to the great advantage it was to a man as soon as he began to travel. In South Africa his experience was that Masonry was a sure passport to immediate help whenever it was wanted, every Mason being ready to do what he could for a Brother, even though he had never met him before.

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The Rev. Charles Edward Shirley Woolmer, M.A., vicar of Sidcup, after whom the new Lodge at that town was named, was married at Chislehurst on the 2nd inst., to Miss Edith M. Bros, a brilliant amateur musician.

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The second annual ball of the Etruscan Lodge, No. 546, was held at the Town Hall, Longton, on Thursday, 3rd inst., and proved a great success.