

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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REMOVAL OF THE BOYS SCHOOL.

ALTHOUGH the statement issued by the Board of Management of the Boys School, giving the reasons for the proposed removal of the School from its present position, may be said to cover every section of the controversy, we cannot regard it as wholly satisfactory; or perhaps it would be more correct to say, we are disappointed at the way in which the Board has dealt with the subject. They have simply collected what has been urged in days gone by as to the unsuitability of the site, rather than give a "Statement of reasons for the proposed removal of the School."

It is probably true the course they have adopted will serve the end they have in view almost as well as an independent expression of their views would do, but we think they have made a mistake in not going further than they have done. If their plans are as far matured as they should be, in view of the present position of affairs, they should have been able to give an estimate of the probable cost of removal, including the erection of new School accommodation for, say, 400 pupils—that is a long jump, we are aware, beyond the present arrangements, but if a new School is erected the plans should be based on such a number of scholars, even if a portion of the work is arranged for completion at a later date.

We cannot help the feeling, after a perusal of the Statement, that the Board of Management regard themselves as being in a very strong position, and, it may even be, look upon the necessity of issuing this Statement as a trouble they should not have been subjected to. We know they have the confidence of a considerable section of the English Craft, but that is not everything; a small opposition to the proposed removal might so seriously affect the project as to make it desirable to postpone the matter, at least for a time; whereas we believe that a little tact displayed towards those who are not at present fully convinced as to the desirability of removal might produce actual unanimity on the point; and surely no one will argue that such a result is not worth striving for, nay, it is even worth doing much to secure.

We do not like to criticise too freely the Brethren who give so much of their time to the management of the School. We are prepared to agree with their own opinion of themselves, expressed in the Statement, that they are representative and business men, but which one of them read the Statement, and the different Appendixes issued with it, through from beginning to end before its publication? Trifles, it is well known, often lead to the most important results, and that being so we may point out that the Board of Management has apparently left much of their Statement to chance, else they would not have permitted the palpable error on page 8, where a paragraph relating to the clothing of the pupils is taken from the Report of the Committee of Investigation of 1889, not in its entirety, as would have been justifiable, but in a mutilated form, with the result that it is ungrammatical, the "clothes" of the pupils being spoken of as "it." The "it" in the Report referred to a sample of "clothing" examined by the Committee.

Of course this is a very trifling matter—unworthy of notice many will say—and we only refer to it in support of our contention that the Board of Management has not entered with spirit into the preparation of their Statement, which they might easily have made a forcible and convincing argument in support of the contention that removal is both desirable and necessary. They have evidently felt so strong in the position they occupy, and which it must be distinctly understood has been given them by regular votes at General Courts, that they have not thought it worth while to meet the objectors to the scheme and argue the different points with them. Going to the end of the work, to Appendix I. we find another illustration of want of personal interest.

This Appendix is a table showing place of origin of 278 Boys on the books of the Institution on 1st January 1896, and their cost. It is explained that where a Boy's father belonged to more than one Province the cost is divided pro rata, and the same should have been done in the column giving the number of Boys, which is misleading and quite useless as it stands, a fact that is clearly demonstrated when one adds up the record, and finds that 325 Boys are charged to the different Districts, whereas the number to be dealt with was only 278. This is another trifle, it is true, but would it have occurred if the Board had entered into their self-imposed task with enthusiasm?

Having got rid of these small items we must express our entire disapproval with at least one of the conclusions arrived at by the Board of Management. The Board answers the argument of those—ourselves among the number—who contend that the extension of the work of the Institution should be to provide grants in aid of education and clothing outside of the Institution, by saying this question was settled as far back as 1851, when the first school-house was arranged for. Is this the sort of answer to carry weight with those who think with us it would be far better to make an experiment in this direction, rather than sacrifice thousands of pounds over a forced sale of the existing property? Certainly not, and we consider one of the weakest points in the Statement is this relying on what our grandfathers did in 1851 in regard to education, as an answer to a straightforward proposition for 1897. The question of education at the two periods is so altered as to make comparisons between them too absurd to be deserving of serious consideration, without proper allowances being made.

It seems to be recognised that the removal of the School will entail a loss of some £70,000 out of the £100,000 spent on the land and buildings at Wood Green. Can it be wondered at, therefore, that many Brethren want to be fully convinced of the necessity for a change before they agree to help to bring it about? and even those who are convinced that a change is desirable are to be excused for urging the possibility of an alternative scheme at less cost. Certainly it is a very great pity the Board of Management did not see their way to make out a good case in favour of the removal, rather than content themselves by throwing together a number of outside opinions and comments.

REMOVAL OF THE BOYS SCHOOL.

THE following is copy of the "Statement of reasons for the proposed removal of the School from its present position," prepared by the Board of Management, and issued to the Subscribers this week:

The Board of Management desires to place before the Subscribers a statement of the reasons which have prompted it to advise the Quarterly Court to remove the Institution from Wood Green into the country.

The Report of the Committee of Investigation of 1888-9, presided over by the V.W. Bro. His Honour Judge Philbrick, Q.C., Grand Registrar, served as a text-book for the enlargement and re-organisation of the Institution, and the Provisional Management Committee of 1888-91, and subsequently the existing Board of Management, have endeavoured to carry out the recommendations therein made.

In that Report (see Appendix A.) several structural defects in the school-buildings were pointed out as calculated to hinder the work, notably an insufficiency of class-room, bathing and lavatory and infirmary accommodation, and the absence of proper playing and recreation grounds.

As a striking comparison with the state of affairs existing in 1888, referred to in the Report, attention is drawn to the report of the Medical Officer to the Board of Management on 26th June 1896. (See Appendix B.)

In 1890 the Quarterly Court granted authority for an expenditure of £6,500 to carry out a part of these necessary works, with the addition thereto of a swimming bath.

The matter was constantly before the Committees of Management, but it was felt that it would be unwise to add to the existing buildings on the present site or to construct a swimming bath, as it would still further curtail the playground accommodation, which was in their opinion totally insufficient.

By a readjustment of the Preparatory School buildings and the conversion of the large assembly hall into a schoolroom, the pressing difficulties as to the class-room accommodation were removed at a small cost, but it is obvious that such temporary expedients could not be of the satisfactory nature required for the increased number of boys.

It will be remembered that at the anniversary Festival in 1891 the Earl of Lathom, M.W. Pro Grand Master, who presided, drew particular attention to the undesirable site on which the School was placed. His remarks, as reported in the "Freemason," are attached hereto. (See Appendix C.)

This opinion of so eminent a representative of the Craft could not be ignored, and confirming as it did the views taken by the various Management Committees from 1888 onwards, the Board of Management brought the matter before the Quarterly Court in April 1892, and that Court authorised the Board to entertain negotiations for the sale of the Wood Green property with a view to the removal of the School. (See Appendix D., Part 1.)

Since 1892 the matter has received the constant attention of the Board, and in April last, finding no progress could be made without larger powers being granted, the Board asked the Subscribers assembled in Quarterly Court for power to sell the present site, buy a new one, and erect a School thereon, and this was thereupon agreed to. (See Appendix D., Part II.)

The Board desires to place before the Subscribers the reasons which have actuated it in pressing this matter to a definite issue, and the foregoing resumé of the history of the case will, it is hoped, convince the Craft that the Board has not proceeded in the matter with undue haste or without due consideration, but that, on the contrary, the question has been a constant source of discussion and anxiety since 1888, and has been laid before the Craft on several occasions. (See Appendix E.)

It is contended by some that the extension of the work of the Institution should be to provide grants in aid of education and clothing outside of the Institution, and not to increase the numbers maintained in the School. The Board can only answer this contention by pointing out that this question was settled as far back as 1851, when the first school-house was arranged for, the Subscribers of that day condemning the system practiced before that time, which some would now desire to revert to. (See Appendix F.)

The Board has already an experience on the matter, for by reason of there being accommodation in the School at the present time only for 259 boys, whilst 278 have been elected to its benefits, 19 boys are necessarily educated out of the Institution.

The Board is of opinion that to increase the number of these "out-educated" boys is a waste of energy and of money, and that the mere "grant in aid" system is not the highest form of the work of an Institution such as this.

There can be but slight supervision over such boys, or over the "grant in aid," and that great blessing which the School life

tends to bring to the orphan—the management standing in the position of the lost parent or parents, and endeavouring throughout his career to train him for a position in after-life which they do their best to secure for him on leaving the School—is altogether missing in such cases.

The excellent dietary given and the medical care exercised over the boys in the Institution builds up their bodies, and in this way prepares them best for their work in after-life.

Again, the demand upon the Institution is for boys to be educated, clothed, and maintained in the Institution. After election, each parent or guardian has the option given him or her for the boy to be educated in or out of the Institution.

In no case has it been known that preference has been expressed for out-education, a convincing proof that they fully appreciate the advantages of the public school life given therein.

The course of modern education has greatly altered during the present generation, and particularly in the last decade.

To adapt the existing buildings to the requirements of the present day would necessitate the addition of new Class-rooms, Science Lecture-Room and Laboratory, Shops for Technical Classes to extend the work already carried on of Printing, Book-binding, Carpentry, and Engineering, besides the Swimming Bath before alluded to (the absence of which has long been felt to be a blot on the School), at a total estimated initial cost of at least £10,000.

It is also generally admitted that the present rooms are insufficient for the existing number, and that extensive alterations would have to be made to perfect the work.

For the reasons above named, and having regard to the fact that every increase of building lessens the present inadequate playing-ground space, the Board cannot advise the outlay of so large a sum on the present site.

The total area of the property is thirteen-and-a-quarter acres, of which the school buildings and grounds immediately adjacent occupy eleven-and-a-quarter acres, whilst the only playing-field worthy of the name is but two acres in extent. Hence playing-ground accommodation has to be found at a considerable distance from the School, involving loss of time and discipline. (See Appendix A., Note III.)

The Institution is always open for inspection by Subscribers and friends.

All who visit the Institution are struck with the undesirable surroundings. These, in many ways, are not conducive to the health of the boys, both physically and morally, and much expense to ward off illness has had to be incurred in consequence.

The School has increased by "leaps and bounds." Only eleven years ago the number of boys receiving benefit was 215, now it is 278, of whom 16 are retained for higher education over the age of 15 years. (See Appendix G.)

The Board feels that its policy to extend the advantages and improve the educational curriculum has met with the entire approval of the Craft, this being fully shown by the generous contributions given during the past six years. (See Appendix H.)

We are now face to face with this fact. Forty-four candidates seek election in October, and there are only ten vacancies. To increase this number by four, the Board has had, most reluctantly, to reduce the number of boys to be retained after January next for higher education, from sixteen to twelve.

The Board feels that the Craft in contributing so generously each year is practically asking for an extension of the benefits to a greater number, and thus relieve the list of candidates.

This extension cannot be made on the present site, therefore, it is necessary to go further afield.

It is true that the total cost of the present site and buildings extending over a period of upwards of forty years, has been about £100,000, and that a loss must of necessity be made in disposing of them. It will, however, be well to bear in mind that in the assets of the Institution they have only been entered as £30,400.

The Board will use every endeavour to dispose of the property to the best advantage, and it is fully expected that a much larger sum than this will be obtained.

The Board is convinced that a removal further into the country will secure the following advantages:—

1. A School and grounds self-contained with ample accommodation for 50 or 100 more boys than at present receiving benefit, and even more, should the next generation require it.
2. An extension of the Educational curriculum—
 - (a) In Science and Art Teaching,
 - (b) Technical Classes,
 - (c) In extending to a larger number of deserving boys the advantages of higher education beyond the age of fifteen years.
3. A saving in the cost per head, viz.:—
 - (a) In Management and Establishment charges;

(b) In Rates;

(c) In cost of water, &c.;

and that, as a necessary consequence, any loss of capital in disposing of the present site will be regained by the greater benefits to be conferred, and the economy to be made in the working of a school adapted for our present and future needs.

The Board has pride in pointing to its successful management and to the great strides and successes of the school during the past few years (See Appendix H.)—the members can claim to be representative and business men, and they confidently submit the matter to the judgment of the Craft.

The Institution is within two years of celebrating the hundredth year of its existence. For more than one-half of that time its operations were limited, and have left no mark in history; the record of the real progress of the School dates from the present generation, and at no time has it shown such activity and usefulness as at present.

Let the Institution be still more progressive, moving with the times, and let us celebrate the Centenary by laying the foundation of a "greater" school, which can be pointed to by the Craft as a lasting memorial of their generosity.

Signed, on behalf and by order of the Board of Management,

RICHARD EVE, Chairman

GEORGE EVERETT

W. FENTIMAN SMITHSON } Vice-Chairmen.

Issued by order of the Board of Management to each Subscriber, with the Voting Paper for the October Election,

J. M. McLEOD, Secretary.

6 Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street,

London W.C., 8th September 1896.

Appendix A.

Extracts from the Report of the Committee of Investigation presented to the Quarterly Court held 26th April 1889.

"The main building was designed to accommodate 100 boys and the necessary staff of masters and attendants. At the present time about 200 boys are housed, fed and instructed therein, and in certain respects the accommodation is deficient and unsatisfactory.

Most of the class-rooms in use are dark and cheerless in daytime, and are only adapted for from one-half to two-thirds of the numbers taught in them, circumstances which in our judgment tend to produce unsatisfactory physique and absence of vivacity in the pupils.

We ascertained that in the alterations made since first construction one-half the bath-room accommodation was removed and no substitute provided, in other words, half the accommodation is now provided for double the number of boys, so that the bathing accommodation now left is four times too small according to the original design.

The building used as an infirmary does not permit of effectual isolation in infectious or contagious cases, nor, if an outbreak of illness occurred, are its capabilities adequate. When the Institution is in a position to carry out the work, a properly designed infirmary is a necessity. The playground for the main school is small, too small indeed for the present number of pupils, unless they have daily access to a more extensive recreation ground. The 'field' which is made to serve this latter purpose is totally unfit, owing to its being situated on a slope, and though the prejudicial consequences to the health and well-being of the boys thus arising were forcibly pointed out sixteen years ago by Dr. Barry, and though the opportunity of rectifying the evil has been open to the authorities since the acquisition of Kent House, in 1877, no step appears to have been taken by them in the matter.

In the Junior School this want is still more urgent. Not only is their asphalted play-ground inadequate in size, but it is enclosed and shut in with fences, which for a great part of the year hinder the free access of light and air, and render it a totally unfit place for the recreation of the younger children. The junior pupils have also to make use of the 'field' as a recreation ground.

The soil of this field is a retentive clay, so stiff as to prevent its use in wet weather.

We noticed that the general appearance of the boys was pale, and their manner spiritless. We attach great importance to these questions of proper play and recreation grounds, which require immediate attention.

We carefully observed the boys in play hours and when at dinner. We were unfavourably impressed with their general appearance, and remarked the deadness and want of activity they displayed. There was a lack of animation even in their games. The physique is low, and they crowded aimlessly about the playgrounds (where we watched them unobserved) in a manner very different to healthy boys at play. This was especially obvious in the younger boys, and we attribute it in part to the insufficient playgrounds, and over-long hours of study. All suffer from what was described to us as 'the dreadful monotony.'

We have already mentioned that the school library is now locked up. We found no access to the books has been allowed for some time. This ought at once to be altered.

Complaints of the quality of the clothes supplied were laid before us. We arrived at the conclusion it is of inferior quality. No difference in the under-garments was formerly made between summer and winter. As to the towels, each is used in common by several boys.

Apart from the deficiency in warm bath accommodation already noted, the plunge bath is neither in construction, mode of heating, or user, satisfactory.

Owing chiefly to the cold and the absence of proper warming of the larger class-rooms, but in part to the want of proper exercise and low tone of health, the boys generally have been subject to chilblains, often of a severe character."

NOTES TO APPENDIX A.

BATHING ACCOMMODATION.—Two of the "dark and cheerless" class-rooms were converted by the Committee of 1889-90 into shallow baths to

remedy this, but this supply is still insufficient. The plunge bath at the end of the gymnasium is only seventeen by fourteen feet in size, yet nearly every boy in the school has learned the rudiments of swimming in it.

INFIRMARY.—By an exchange of residences, the original residence of the Head-Master became the Infirmary in 1889. A serious outbreak of mumps and scarlet fever in 1891-2 soon proved the necessity for a Sanatorium. A house in the neighbourhood was rented, and is still held as a Sanatorium. Though involving considerable expense, the Board has the satisfaction of knowing that by this means the School has been freed from the spread of infectious illness.

PLAYING GROUND.—The policy of the present Board has been to encourage outdoor exercise and the playing by every boy of football and cricket. The result is shown that the boys are now robust and full of spirits. But for a school of the present size at least forty acres of good playing field accommodation is required. For the past three seasons a field of twelve acres has been hired for football practice, but its distance from the School is a serious drawback, nor can it be obtained for cricket.

SCHOOL LIBRARY.—The present Board has greatly developed this, and now there are 2,500 volumes in the Library. In addition, the original School-room has been converted into a Reading-room, which is well supplied with periodicals and newspapers. The boys not only read, but their reading is directed and supervised. But this room is not large enough, and part of the gymnasium has had to be taken as a supplementary reading-room, besides which the junior school-boys have to use a Class-room.

CLOTHING.—The present management has made a complete change, and the points referred to by the Investigation Committee have been altogether remedied.

HEATING ARRANGEMENTS.—These were altered by the Committee of 1889-91, and no cause for complaint now exists.

Appendix B.

Report of the Medical Officer to the Board of Management on 26th June 1896:—

"During the term that is now coming to its close there has been but little illness, and that of a comparatively trifling kind. I have this afternoon made my usual monthly inspection of the boys, and wish I could claim for all of them that they were strong, robust, muscular lads, but unfortunately and inevitably their parentage will not allow all to be that, but I am very pleased to be able to say that they are in a remarkably good state of health owing no doubt in great part to their regular and well-ordered mode of life, good food, judicious clothing, well-aired class-rooms, and last, but not least, to their being encouraged in all their outdoor games and pursuits. I will go further, and say that during the few (6½) years I have been connected with this Institution, I have never seen these boys looking more healthy and happy."

Appendix C.

Extract from the speech of the Right Hon. The Earl of Lathom M.W. Pro Grand Master Vice-Patron and Trustee of the Institution, delivered when presiding over the 93rd Anniversary Festival, held at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, 24th June 1891.

"From an historical point of view he could quite understand how very disappointing it must be to a Head-Master and those who worked with him to find that their pupils were taken away from them, or rather left them just at the age at which a boy was beginning to show his best ability. He wished it were possible to keep them at school longer; if it were one year more it would be something; if it were two it would be better, for then these boys would be able to compete fairly and on a better basis than they were now able to compete for scholarships with other boys. Of course that was a matter for the Committee, and he had no doubt they would give it their best consideration. If Masons paid a very high price for the education of these boys, it must surely be worth while carrying that out thoroughly; carrying the education to its fullest extent, and fitting the boys for any walk in life they might have the opportunity of entering. He did not say that anything was left undone that ought to be done; but still, when they were doing a work it might perhaps be well to consider whether they could not do something more. He was now going to touch upon a point which would be perfectly new to many of the Brethren, if not all of them. Before very long it might have to be considered whether it would not be for the benefit of the School to remove a little further into the country. The present quarters, as the Brethren knew, were located on a terribly sticky, clayey soil.

"Everyone knew a clay soil was not conducive to health. No one purchasing a place would choose a clay soil. There were plenty of sites with a gravel soil to be got, and what a pleasant thing it would be to visit the School if it were in the country on a gravel soil. Of course it was a financial question and required very great care and thought. He mentioned the subject as a caution to those who wished to have more school buildings erected on the same site, because he could tell them it was mere waste of money. If they went on building it would militate against the value of the site in the market. He did not know the value of the place, but he did know that if they covered it with buildings they would not realise what they would want for the site when they desired to get rid of it. There was another reason for his wishing that they should leave the present site, the appearance of the surroundings.

It was surrounded now by very small tenements indeed. That was not what they should have around a great school like this, for this was a great school. He threw this out as a hint, it might not be acceptable to the Committee or the Brethren, but he thought it was worth thinking over."

Appendix D.

PART I.

The Resolution passed by the Quarterly Court of 8th April 1892 was as follows:—

"That in view of the favourable opinion that was expressed upon the suggestion of the desirability of changing the site of the Institution, made by the M.W. Pro Grand Master the Earl of Lathom, at the last Festival, the Quarterly Court authorises the Board of Management to entertain negotiations for the realisation of the Estate of the Institution to the best advantage, and to report thereon to the next, or, if necessary, to a Special Court."

PART II.

The Resolution passed by the Quarterly Court of 10th April 1896 was as follows:—

"That the Quarterly Court of Governors and Subscribers of 8th April 1892, having authorised the Board of Management to entertain negotiations for the realisation of the Estate of the Institution to the best advantage, and the Board having determined that it is desirable to remove the Institution from Wood Green to some more eligible site where sufficient space for an enlarged school-house and play-ground accommodation would be available, this Quarterly Court hereby authorises the Board to purchase a site and to erect thereon a new school, and to dispose of the present land and premises to the best advantage."

Appendix E.

In addition to the above resolutions, carried after full discussion by the Quarterly Courts, the following report was issued to each Subscriber with the voting papers in March 1896:—

"The Board has continuously had under serious and careful deliberation the question referred to it by the Quarterly Court of 8th April 1892, as to the disposal of the present site and buildings, and the removal of the School to a less crowded neighbourhood.

Practical proposals to secure this desirable extension and development of the School will shortly be placed before the Subscribers."

Appendix F.

Rule VII of the Institution, published in 1812:

"That until a sufficient fund can be raised for building or purchasing a school-house, the children be annually provided with decent and appropriate clothing and properly instructed in reading, writing and arithmetic, at respectable schools adjacent to their parent's residence."

Extracts from Minutes, 6th December 1851.

Resolved unanimously:

"That it is essential to the future prosperity and usefulness of this Institution to take measures for adding to its existing system an establishment for the maintenance, as well as education of the sons of indigent and deceased Freemasons."

Steps were immediately taken to raise a "Building Fund," and the first building was opened in August 1857. It is thus clear from the records of the Institution that it was always the intention of the original founders to build a school-house for maintenance, but it took fifty-eight years from the foundation to bring about the desired end.

Appendix G.

Table showing numerical increase of School, subject to sundry fluctuations, since foundation.

1798 (Year of Foundation)	6 Boys	1866	100 Boys
1801	24	1869	110
1809	40	1872	115
1810	50	1873	125
1813	55	1874	153
1817	65	1876	158
1818	70	1877	166
1823	about 60	1878	195
1826	about 43	1881	198
1827	50	1884	215
1828	55	1886	242
1834	about 50	1887	258
1835	about 55	1888	263
1838	60	1890	264
1839	65	1891	255
1842	70	1892	263
1862	72	1893	268
1865	80	1894	276
		1895	277

1896 278 Boys, of whom 84 are London, and 194 are Provincial.

Appendix H.

RESULTS AT PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, 1895-6.

LONDON UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION, DECEMBER 1895.

First Division.—J. A. Coupland, aged 16 years, 9 months.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS, DECEMBER 1895.

Seniors (Age 16 to 18).—8 boys entered and all passed. Average age 16 years.

Juniors (Age up to 16).—35 boys entered: 2 Second Class, 1 "Distinction" Mathematics; 7 Third Class, 1 "Distinction" Mathematics, and 1 "Distinction" Arithmetic; and 21 other passes. Average age 14½ years.

Preliminary.—32 boys entered; 30 passed, 1 "Distinction" Geography. Average age 13 years, 5 months.

Total, 68 Certificates, 9 "Honours," and 4 "Distinctions."

N.B.—During the six years of the present management, 174 Candidates have passed the "Junior," and 15 the "Senior" Cambridge Local Examinations, 51 of whom gained "Honours" and "Distinctions."

In addition to these public examinations the whole School is annually examined by the Cambridge University Syndicate, and a copy of the Examiner's Report was issued to each Subscriber with the April voting paper.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART, SOUTH KENSINGTON, MAY 1896.

39 Certificates were gained.

N.B.—During the seven years of the present management 340 Candidates have passed the Examinations in Mathematics, Drawing, Sound, Light and Heat, Physiology, Physiography, Magnetism and Electricity, and Geology.

TRINITY COLLEGE (LONDON) MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATIONS, 1891-4. 19 Certificates in Intermediate and Junior Divisions.

SHORTHAND (PITMAN'S SYSTEM).

60 Certificates and 10 Memberships of the Phonetic Society have been gained during the last three years.

ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE SOCIETY, 1895.

The Medical Officer (Dr. Porter) delivered a series of Lectures, and 20 boys entered for the Examination; 14 passed.

This is a totally new departure in the work of the School. The boys were prepared by Dr. Porter, and the proof of the pains he took is in the result.

The additions to the curriculum during the past six years are:—

1. The South Kensington Science and Art Course, including Trigonometry, Chemistry, Geology, Physiography, and Geometrical Drawing.
2. The Senior Cambridge Local.
3. The London Matriculation.
4. Shorthand.
5. Vocal Music (throughout the School).
6. Carpentry.
7. Printing.
8. Bookbinding.
9. Physical Training; formerly it was a mere Squad Drill.
10. The provisions of a Reading Room and additions to the Library.
11. The Theory of Music.

Besides which the Standard of nearly every subject, notably in Latin, French, and Mathematics has been raised.

In addition new Indoor and Outdoor Games are in full progress, notably Chess and Draughts, Fives, Hockey, &c., &c.

Attention may here be called to the fact that complete equipments of fire appliances and escapes have been added by the present management, and the boys are regularly drilled in the use of same.

Appendix I.

Table Showing Place of Origin of 278 Boys on the Books of the Institution on 1st January 1896, and their cost.

NOTE.—Where the boy's father belonged to more than one Province, the cost (which is calculated on the average gross expenditure of the past three years) is divided pro rata.

No. of Boys.	Father's Province.	Gross cost. £ s. d.	No. of Boys.	Father's Province.	Gross cost. £ s. d.
84	London	£3,567 6 4	6	Middlesex	230 12 11
1	Bedfordshire	46 2 7	2	Monmouthshire	92 5 2
3	Berkshire	138 7 9	2	Norfolk	69 3 11
1	Bristol	23 1 4	1	Norths. and Hunts.	46 2 7
2	Buckinghamshire	46 2 7	6	Northumberland	253 14 2
2	Cambridgeshire	92 5 2	1	Nottinghamshire	46 2 7
8	Cheshire	253 14 2	3	Oxfordshire	115 6 5
4	Cornwall	138 7 9	4	Shropshire	184 10 4
4	Cumberland & Westmorland	184 10 4	5	Somersetshire	176 16 8
9	Derbyshire	322 18 1	6	Staffordshire	222 19 2
5	Devonshire	207 11 8	5	Suffolk	199 17 10
7	Dorset	299 16 9	5	Surrey	184 10 4
3	Durham	92 5 2	6	Sussex	246 0 6
11	Essex	376 14 6	8	Warwickshire	269 1 9
6	Gloucestershire	253 14 3	1	Wiltshire	46 2 7
0	Guernsey	—	6	Worcestershire	207 11 8
10	Hants & I. of Wight	361 6 10	6	Yorkshire N. & E.	276 15 6
2	Herefordshire	69 3 11	10	Yorkshire West	430 10 9
9	Hertfordshire	299 16 10	2	North Wales	92 5 2
2	Jersey	92 5 2	5	South Wales East	207 11 8
17	Kent	761 2 7	0	South Wales West	—
10	Lancashire East	338 5 7	1	Isle of Man	46 2 7
11	Lancashire West	392 1 11	13	Foreign Stations	515 2 2
4	Leicesters. & Rutland	115 6 6			
6	Lincolnshire	192 4 0			
					£12,823 18 2

J. M. McLEOD,

Secretary.

We are pleased to learn that a Benevolent Association has been formed in connection with the Lewisham Lodge of Instruction, No. 2579, to enable Members and their friends (ladies and children are eligible) to become Life Subscribers or Governors of either of the Masonic Institutions. It is proposed to commence the Association on the first Wednesday in October, and the Hon. Secretary (Bro. Edward Hall, 17 Mount Pleasant Road, Lewisham, S.E.) will be glad to hear from Brethren and others desirous of taking up shares (£5 5s each). The Subscriptions will be 1s per share per week, and a charge of 1s per share will be made to cover cost of printing, &c. The Lewisham Lodge of Instruction meets every Wednesday evening throughout the year, at the Black Bull Inn, Lewisham High Street, at 8 o'clock.

The Duke of Connaught Lodge of Instruction, No. 1524, will re-open for the season this evening (Saturday), at the Lord Napier, West Side, London Fields, Hackney, where the weekly meetings will be held at 8 o'clock.

The regular meetings of the Friars Lodge of Instruction, No. 1349, will be resumed for the season on Monday next, at the Plough Tavern, Mile End Road, at 8 o'clock.

EMILE ZOLA ON FREEMASONRY.

VIDE "ROME" (TRANSLATED).

ONE day the Cardinal spoke to him of Freemasonry, with such icy rage that he was abruptly enlightened. Freemasonry had hitherto made him smile: he had believed in it no more than he had believed in the Jesuits. Indeed he had looked upon the ridiculous stories that were current—the tales of mysterious, shadowy men who governed the world with secret incalculable power—as mere childish legends. In particular he had been amazed by the blind hatred which maddened certain people whenever Freemasonry was mentioned. A very distinguished and intelligent prelate declared to him, with an air of profound conviction, that on one occasion, at least, in every year each Masonic Lodge was presided over by the Devil in person, incarnate in a visible shape! And now he understood the rivalry, the furious struggle of the Roman Catholic Church against the other Church, the Church of over the way. Although the former counted on her own supremacy, she none the less felt that the other, the Church of Freemasonry, was a competitor, a very ancient enemy, who claimed to be more ancient than herself, and whose victory always remained a possibility. The friction between the two was largely due to the circumstance that they both aimed at universal sovereignty, and had a similar international organisation, a similar net thrown over all nations, and similar mysteries, dogmas, and rites. It was deity against deity, faith against faith, conquest against conquest; and so, like competing tradesmen in the same street, they were a source of mutual embarrassment, and one of them was bound to kill the other. . . . The last Roman princes had thought themselves compelled to become Freemasons in order to render their difficult position more easy, and ensure the future of their sons. But was this true? Had they not yielded to the force of social evolution? Again, would not Freemasonry eventually be submerged by its own triumph—that of the ideas of justice, reason, and truth, which it had defended through the dark and violent ages of history. It is that which constantly occurs—the triumph of an idea kills the sect that has propagated it, and renders its apparatus both useless and ridiculous. Carbonarism did not survive the conquest of the political liberties it demanded; and the day that the Catholic Church crumbles, after having accomplished its work of civilisation, the other Church, the Masonic Church across the road, will in a like way disappear, its task of liberation ended. Now-a-days the famous power of the Lodges, hampered by traditions, weakened by a ceremonial which provokes laughter, and reduced to the simple bond of brotherly agreement and mutual assistance, would be but a sorry weapon of conquest of humanity, were it not that the vigorous breath of science impels the nations onward, and helps to destroy the old religions.

The Anti-Masonic Congress is placed under the guardianship of the Virgin Mary, Help of Christians and Refuge of Sinners, of St. Michael the Archangel, and of St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, who, when a young man, having followed the teachings of the Manichees, whose errors have been revived, was converted to the Church of Christ, and was one of the most ardent opponents of the sect. Again, the Congress is to be essentially Catholic, and, therefore, guided by sentiments of charity towards all Brethren misled by passion, &c. No one can be admitted to its labours but those who profess absolute obedience to the Church and its visible head on earth, the Roman Pontiff. The Congress is to be held in the historical and charming town of Trent, from the 26th to the 30th instant. A large cosmopolitan attendance is expected. The object of the Congress is to give a full report of the evils, moral and material, inflicted upon the Church and society by the Masonic sect, and to seek a remedy in the establishment of a permanent international organisation against Masonry. National committees have been formed in each nation—as yet not in this land—for the admission of members, the preparation of useful and critical propositions to be presented to the Congress, and the commissioning of competent representatives who are well acquainted with the dogmas and the working of Masonry. Each member pays a fee of eight shillings towards the expenses of the Congress, and is entitled to receive gratis a copy of the acts of the Congress. A good number of priests are offering Masses, and many faithful are offering Communions and prayers for the success of the Congress and the conversion of Freemasons. Numberless adhesions to the Congress are sent in from all parts of the world, coming from cardinals, bishops, statesmen, religious communities, and Catholic associations. The Holy Father has given his full approval of the coming Congress. The Emperor of Austria is going to be represented at the sittings of the Congress. One must bear in mind that the religious persecutions against the Vatican, the religious Orders, the Catholic schools, &c., almost all over the world, are the daily and perseverant work of

the secret and overt enemies of the Church. Adhesions may be sent to the President, Commendatore Guglielmo Allata, Via Fornari Nuo, 16, Rome; or to Father Clemente, Slough, Bucks. —“Irish News.”

A regular crusade against Freemasonry seems to have been undertaken by Rome, and may have consequences on the Continent which are not altogether pleasant to contemplate. The Pope has blessed an anti-Masonic Congress. Freemasonry, he declares, is becoming more pernicious than ever. Another adjective which he attaches to the Freemasons is “malignant.” “Secret societies,” he lays down, “are everywhere a menace both to Church and State.” English Freemasons justly wonder at what they regard as the wild injustice of the Pope’s accusations, and they marvel at Papal intolerance. They often ask themselves what is the real reason for the apparently invincible hatred of the Roman authorities for bodies which, in England at all events, are innocuous and even beneficent. It cannot be the secrecy which surrounds the society. The Order of Jesuits is a secret society, yet it is not suppressed. But all secret societies are swept up in one condemnation because the societies were secret which helped to bring about the Italian revolution. Then comes the question of Masonic ritual, which might be used by Romanists and Anglicans and Nonconformists together, and this religious association becomes a positive sin in the eyes of the Roman Church. But the real hostility, we imagine, has been provoked by the conviction of the Vatican that the Pope is a prisoner in his palace of ten thousand rooms, because of the activities of the Masons and other secret bodies which not only had a political policy inimical to the Temporal Power, but also, by their ceremonial, gave at least some satisfaction to the religious instinct. Nevertheless, the attempted crusade against Masonry will be disturbing if it revive the ancient bitterness which once existed, and leads to the closer political reorganisation of the Continental Masons. They have shown before now that if they are attacked they know how to retaliate.—“Western Morning News.”

The letter from the Pope in reference to the Anti-Masonic Congress ends with an appeal to those Freemasons who were once good Catholics to return to the Church.

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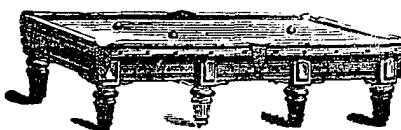
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Every Friday Night at 10.10 p.m. for Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Plymouth, Devonport, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Newquay, Truro, Falmouth, St. Ives, Penzance, Scilly Islands, for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

12.25 midnight for Chepstow, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Llanelli, Carmarthen, Pembroke Dock, Tenby, Cardigan, New and Old Milford, &c., for 7 or 14 days.

Every Saturday, 7.55 a.m., for Minehead, Lynton, Lynmouth, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Plymouth, Tavistock, Launceston, Devonport, Newquay, Truro, Falmouth, St. Ives, Penzance, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

8.5 a.m. for Wellington, Shrewsbury, Church Stretton, Leominster, Hereford, Oswestry, Welshpool, Aberystwyth, Llangollen, Corwen, Bala, Blaenau, Festiniog, Dolgelly, Barmouth, Harlech, Criccieth, Chester, Birkenhead, Liverpool, Rhyl, Llandudno, Bettws-y-Coed, Bangor, Carnarvon, Llanberis (for Snowdon), &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

8.40 a.m. for Weston-super-Mare, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Kingswear, Dartmouth, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

9.30 a.m. for Douglas, Isle of Man, for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

11.15 a.m. for Frome, Shepton Mallet, Wells, Yeovil, Bridport, Dorchester, Weymouth (for the Channel Islands), Portland, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

12.5 noon for Newbury, Severnake, Marlborough, Devizes, Trowbridge, Warminster, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

12.40 p.m. for Clevedon, Bridgwater, Taunton, Minehead (for Lynton and Lynmouth), Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Wellington (Som.), Tiverton, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

4.5 p.m., for Swindon, Cirencester, Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Hereford, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

6.15 p.m., for Chippenham, Bath and Bristol, for 3, 10 or 17 days.

10.10 p.m. for Swindon, Weston-super-Mare, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Kingswear, Plymouth, Truro, Falmouth, Penzance, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.

Thursday, 24th September. 3.35 p.m. for Cork.

Friday, 25th September. 6.10 p.m. to Waterford, Dungarvan, Lismore, Clonmel, Tipperary, Kilkenny, &c.

Friday, 18th September. 4.45 p.m. to Belfast, Armagh, Enniskillen, Larne, Giant's Causeway, &c.

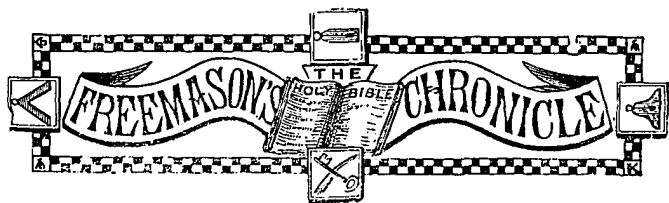
Thursday, 24th September. 6.10 p.m. to Killarney.

Cheap Third Class Return Tickets are issued Daily, by certain trains to Windsor 2/6, Burnham Beeches 3/-, Maidenhead 3/-, Henley 3/6, Goring 6/-, &c.

Tickets, pamphlets and Lists of Farmhouse and Country Lodgings can be obtained at the Company's Stations and at the usual Receiving Offices.

Ordinary and Excursion Tickets to Ireland, by the Great Western Railway route, are now issued at the Irish Railways Committee Office, 2 Charing Cross.

J. L. WILKINSON, General Manager.



SATURDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 1896.

CORNWALL.

THE arrangements are now completed for the holding of the Provincial Grand Lodge at the St. John's Hall, Penzance, on Tuesday, the 22nd inst. At noon the Brethren will walk in procession to the Parish Church for divine service, when the annual sermon will be preached by the Rev. H. W. Millett

Prov. Grand Chaplain. The procession will subsequently be reformed and return to the hall for the conclusion of the business. Sir Charles B. Graves-Sawle, Bart., Deputy Provincial G.M. P.G.W. England will preside, in the unavoidable absence of the Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe, the esteemed Prov.G.M. Numerous reports will be read for confirmation, and various statements will be made as to the arrangement of local and general funds in reference to the charities. The votes will also be taken for the vacancies in the Cornwall Masonic Annuity and Benevolent Fund. The satisfactory condition of all the Institutions will be again a source of thankfulness and congratulation on the part of officers and subscribers. The Officers of the Province for 1896-7 will be appointed and invested, and three Brethren will be appointed to past rank, as authorised by Grand Lodge, to commemorate the twenty-first year of the Grand Mastership of the Prince of Wales. A special presentation will be made to Bro. E. D. Anderton, the indefatigable Provincial Grand Secretary, of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter regalia, by the Brethren of the Province, and as the subscriptions have been so numerous there will also be a presentation of plate, Bro. Anderton's services being so warmly and deservedly appreciated. —“Western Morning News.”

A Norwich telegram states that the Prince of Wales will attend the performance of the Norwich Musical Festival on 7th October. He will be the guest of the members of the County Club, and during his stay in the city will, as Grand Master of the Craft, unveil the bust of Lord Suffield Provincial Grand Master for Norfolk, which has been subscribed for by the Freemasons of his Province.

An excellent picture was obtained of the Officers and Brethren who attended the Provincial Grand Lodge of Norfolk in July. The whole of the eighty faces in the group are exceedingly clear. In the foreground are Sir Francis Boileau, Sir Kenneth Kemp, Bro. Hamon le Strange, and other prominent Masons of the Province. The picture has been on view at Mr. Gavin's Studio, St. Giles's Street, Norwich, says the “Eastern Daily Press.”

Bro. Henderson, of Stemster, in opening a Masonic bazaar at Wick, said there were many ideas about Masonry which were quite erroneous, and for that the comic papers were to a considerable extent responsible. When a man was represented as returning home late at night in a helpless condition, the explanation which he was usually represented as giving to his wife was that he was attending a meeting of his Lodge, but he could safely say that, however much better a man was made by becoming a Mason, he was never made worse. Principles were inculcated by the Craft which, if they were followed out, would make men better citizens and better husbands and fathers, for they taught that in all the affairs of life a man should conduct himself justly, uprightly, and well. There were many widows and orphans who had reason to be thankful that their husbands and fathers belonged to the Craft. He thought the ladies who had taken such an active part in preparing for the bazaar deserved special thanks, because it might be said that they were, to a large extent, working in the dark, but he hoped that they were satisfied from what he had said that the objects for which the meetings in that hall would be held would be philanthropic, benevolent, and patriotic.

The Breve addressed by the Pope to Cardinal Agliardi, the President of the Anti-Masonic Congress, was published on the 4th, says the Rome correspondent of the “Standard.” His Holiness expresses his great satisfaction at the assembly of the Congress, and declares his opinion that Freemasonry is becoming more pernicious than ever. The Congress, he thinks, is a proof that the people of Europe are beginning to understand that Secret Societies are everywhere a menace both to Church and State. It should endeavour to discover an efficacious means of combating and counteracting the designs of the enemies of the Catholic faith, and of protecting the masses against the errors of a malignant Association.

Speaking of the “Breve” addressed by the Pope in regard to the Anti-Masonic Congress, the “English Churchman” says: “If the Pope would consent to substitute ‘Jesuits’ for ‘Freemasons,’ we should be ready to agree with him. The day may yet come when English statesmen will have to put in force the law, which is now a dead letter, expelling the Jesuits from this country, for the reason that they are ‘a menace both to Church and State.’”

CORRESPONDENCE.

—:o:—

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. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

—:o:—

APPROACHING OUR RULERS.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Being anxious to enter into the subject of "Uses and abuses of Freemasonry," I communicated with, and received from the Prov.G.Sec. a letter from which I extract the following:—"I regret I cannot see my way to grant your request," i.e., an interview. Further he writes:—"I consider the printed circulars bearing your name to be an impertinent attempt to interfere where you have no right to do," the impertinence being the pointing out that some Lodges in the Province were swamped with honours, whilst others equally deserving were left high and dry, a remedy for which could easily be found were he (the Secretary) to state the circumstances fully to the R.W.P.G.M.

I would now ask the favour of the opinion of your readers whether the Provincial Grand Secretary may or may not be approached on matters of vital importance to the Craft?

Yours fraternally,

EDGARDO A. GAYNE P.M.

SERVICE QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your last issue contains two items which raise doubts in my mind as to what is proper in Masonic practice. In the one instance, on page 111, you give a letter wherein the writer says that a Junior Warden never attended during his year of office, after his actual investiture; and in the other, on page 118, you report the installation of the Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 2555, stating that he was "installed into office in his absence" (which was caused by ill-health).

Now, what I want to know is the standing of Brethren who are in such positions as here referred to.

1. Is the Junior Warden eligible for the Master's chair—the necessary qualification, as set down by Law 130 of the Constitutions, being that a member must "have served for one year the office of . . . Warden in a regular Lodge"—and, if so, is it understood that a member who does nothing in his office as Junior Warden is supposed to have qualified by "service"?

2. Is a Worshipful Master, installed into office by proxy, supposed to have complied with the requirements of Law 9, which lays it down that a Brother must be "regularly elected and installed as Master," and fill "that office for one year" in order to be qualified to sit in Grand Lodge as a Past Master?

It seems to me that both my questions must be answered in the negative, even if the investiture as a Warden or installation as a Master, by proxy, is not distinctly illegal; but on the other hand I believe it is a common practice for Wardens to absent themselves from their offices and yet claim they are qualified by the necessary year's "service." They are Wardens in fact, if not in practice, and as such are eligible for preferment.

In the case of the Master installed by proxy I see that he was already a Provincial Officer, and, it may be, had already passed the chair, and on that account I by no means desire my queries to be regarded as anything like personal matters. I only ask what is the standing of Officers who are in the position of the two referred to above?

Yours, &c.,

ON THE ROAD.

REVIEW.

Books intended for Review should be addressed to the Editor, "Freemason's Chronicle," New Barnet.

—:o:—

The Great Pyramid. By John Chapman, F.R.Met.Soc. London: J. S. Virtue and Co., Limited.

Bro. Chapman has acceded to the request of many of his friends, and has issued in one volume the series of papers on the Great Pyramid that appeared in our own and other columns a few months back, and which at that time created considerable interest among those who are acquainted with some one or other of the modern theories in regard to this great monument of the past. Bro. Chapman's latest contribution to the literature of the subject will, we hope, prove a useful aid towards the fulfilment of the work he and others are so anxious to see completed.

We may mention that the late Astronomer-Royal for Scotland (who is a standard writer on the Great Pyramid), finding that Bro. Chapman was yielding to the wishes of a number of friends who have investigated the subject, by reprinting the matter, expresses his opinion of the merit of the work as follows:—"My dear Mr. Chapman,—I am very glad to hear that you are taking up in succession each notable part of Great Pyramid, and describing it up to the extent of modern knowledge of it. Such a publication, if allowed to be complete, must produce considerable effect." Bro. Chapman has dedicated the book to the writer of this kind and complimentary note, in the following terms: "Respectfully dedicated to C. Pizzi Smyth, LL.D., F.R.S.E., F.R.A.S., &c. (late Astronomer-Royal for Scotland), in grateful appreciation of his distinguished skill and efforts in unveiling the grand truths contained in the Great Pyramid." The work is published at 2s 6d.

Owing to extensive alterations at the "Castle," Holloway Road, the meetings of the Royal Standard Lodge of Instruction, No. 1298, usually held there on Friday evenings, cannot be commenced until after November. Members will be duly advised when the Lodge resumes, or of any alteration of address, should that course be decided upon.

CHRISTIANITY AND FREEMASONRY.

THE following further letters have appeared in the "Church Times," in answer to the one we recently extracted:

SIR,—May I be allowed, as a Churchman who found Masonry incompatible with Churchmanship, to add my testimony to the case against the Craft?

Enough has been said as to the gross absurdity of identifying the purely modern invention of "speculative" Masonry with the ancient Masonic Guilds, and of claiming William of Wykeham and Peter de Rupibus as members of the fraternity now governed by the Grand Lodge of England. Such nonsense is of a piece with the foolish legends of the craft—as, for instance, that it owes its introduction into this country to St. Alban the Martyr. But there is another and a more practical way in which the matter may be considered. If there is one thing against which every Churchman in the present day is bound to exert all his influence and energies, it is, as your columns abundantly testify, undenominational religion.

Now, as everyone knows, Masonic ceremonies are performed with religious worship, the Deity being conceived and addressed as the Grand Architect of the Universe. In the act of worship the Catholic is required to ignore the last Divine Revelation of the Godhead, and to join with Jews and Turks and Unitarians on the lower footing of a Faith which is neither more nor less than Unitarianism. True, that in England the large majority of Masons are Christians, perhaps even Churchmen. Yet I ask, where is the consistency of voluntarily joining a religious society based upon agreement as to the Monotheistic idea underlying the Jewish, Mohammedan, and Christian faiths, and then protesting against the application of such a principle of agreement to the religious education of the young? I ask again, how can a priest accept the chaplaincy of a Lodge, and have to submit to a reprimand from the W.M. if he inadvertently (!) name the name of Christ in saying grace (as I know from personal knowledge has been the case), or if in his lectures he tries by a sidewind to give a Christian dress to Masonic precepts?

Believe me, Sir, the association of Churchmen with Masonry is one of the strongest arguments in favour of undenominationalism; and I, for one, am at a loss to understand how anyone that is opposed to the latter can have anything to do with the former.

ONCE A MASON.

3rd August.

SIR,—It is, of course, difficult to know whether it is necessary or worth while to reply to the accusations and statements of your correspondents (every one anonymous) who out of the plenitude of their partly necessary ignorance attack Freemasonry, which is interesting and dear to so many of your readers. But silence might be considered identical with being silenced. Let me say, therefore, that none of the craft have any need to be taught that one of our parents, and only one, is the ancient Guild or Trades Union of operative Masons. That exists no longer, and we make no pretence of being it, although many individuals, as your correspondent "Architect" might know, like Sir Christopher Wren, have been both operative Masons or builders and also Freemasons in the present meaning of the word. Let me say also that he builds on a non-existent foundation when he says twice over that infidels can join our brotherhood. It is impossible, unless they perjured themselves, and their disbelief was unknown to their proposers and all members of the Lodge.

"Architect" also describes the secrets, which he cannot know, as childish, and as given amidst farcical surroundings. Does he not consider that the character and reputation of many well-known Masons—say, the Bishop of Llandaff, the Deans of York, Rochester, and Hereford, and the Archdeacon of London—is such as to give an assurance to the outside public that he speaks unadvisedly with his lips? Again, he speaks of the "absurd symbolism" of the emblematic tools of Masonry. He might as well speak in the same terms of St. Paul's symbolising of the weapons and armour of his military wardens. One of the minor benefits of Freemasonry is that it kept alive a knowledge of the truth and value of symbolism and ritual when the abomination of desolation in the Georgian period had nearly abolished the capacity and the desire to understand that anything might underlie the material and the external.

Again, his confusion between faith and the Catholic faith deprives his argument of any force, unless he means that one is never to join any society, even an architectural one or a trades union, unless all members thereof are Catholics. It is just this narrowness that has worked untold harm here and abroad; which also on the Continent is chiefly responsible for the masculine revolt from a representation of religion which has become not altogether unworthy of its nicknames, Clericalism and Papalism. He seems able also to distinguish between a morality which emanates from Christ, and some other morality which he imagines to be that which Masonry teaches and practices. I am unable to follow him. Masonry has no distinctive morality, any more than the church of England has any distinctive doctrines apart from those of the Catholic Church; but it does most usefully, impressively, and continuously impress the morality of the cardinal and the theological virtues upon those who, either from infrequent attendance at church, or, perhaps, still more from the common neglect of priests and preachers to give definite moral teaching, are in danger of forgetting that doctrine needs a moral basis. Any priest who becomes a Mason neither adds to his knowledge of doctrine or morals, nor has to surrender one jot of what he possesses and treasures; but when he observes the value of the constant inculcation of a high ideal of morality, and moreover of the advantage to the inner man of a system that requires that reverence shall be given to order and symbolism, then he will not want to ask whether the Pope has been inspired or rightly persuaded to anathematise generally what only locally has become degraded.

J. W. HORSLEY.

SIR,—The correspondence upon Freemasonry which has appeared in your columns is very interesting to Christians in general, and to Catholics in particular. It raises a question which many like myself have been in doubt how to answer when appealed to, as to (1) the lawfulness of joining secret societies; and (2) their usefulness. Your correspondent "Offeiriad" has given voice to the distrustful feelings of many Catholics in regard to the craft. His question was, "Is it advisable, or even allowable, for Catholics in England to be Freemasons?"

Surely so reasonable a question should have met with courteous consideration by clergymen of the Church of England who have been able to reconcile their consciences to continue the exercise of their ministry with membership of a secret society. But none of the letters in your last week's issue deal with this question at all, although they appear to have been

written by gentlemen who have held high offices in the craft. Instead of straightforward answers as to the advantages which a Catholic would gain by becoming a Freemason we are treated with vague generalities.

Mr. Horsley says:—"It does not profess to be Christian, yet it never can be anti-Christian. Further dogma we leave to the priests and ministers of religion outside. We assert none, but neither do we controvert any."

Is this the language of a member of the Church of England? Is this the attitude of mind which is produced by Freemasonry?

If so, the reply to "Offeiriad's" question must be evident to every Churchman.

It is certainly not advisable that anyone holding Catholic principles should join a secret society which is elastic enough to include "men of all classes, nations, races, colours, and creeds," as Mr. Horsley says Freemasonry is. If it includes, as is admitted, Jews, Mussulmans, Unitarians, Buddhists, etc., I cannot see how any man having faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ could feel comfortable in such society, for it would seem from the admissions of your correspondents that Freemasonry professes indifference, if not contempt, for dogma of any kind. This fact probably explains why Freemasons commonly avoid to mention the name of "God," preferring to speak only of "the Great Architect of the Universe," whom, apparently, they wish to distinguish from the Almighty God whom all Christians adore.

I am amazed at the statement of "Atticus" that he believes in "the immense services which the craft has rendered to the church in former days, of which so many glorious monuments survive, not the least being Winchester Cathedral, which enshrines the ashes of two of our most illustrious brethren—viz., William of Wykeham and Peter de Rupibus." This, like the other childish fables which Freemasons are in the habit of putting forth, has long been ridiculed by all historical scholars, as well as by intelligent members of the craft. Let me refer "Atticus" for his information to the "History of Freemasonry," recently written by Mr. Gould, a high officer of Grand Lodge, and dedicated, by permission, to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Grand Master of Grand Lodge in England. Mr. Gould states emphatically that the craft possesses no documents older than 1717, when the first Lodge was established at Masons' Hall, in London. "Atticus" would confer a great favour on the public if he could show any evidence, either direct or collateral, that Freemasonry was ever heard of before that date.

A cause must be bad, indeed, if it requires to be supported by false statements and suggestions.

A. J. D.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space for a line or two in reply to "Architect's" remarks on my last. The traditions of our Order not only claim relationship to the Guild referred to, but shows it to have existed many centuries anterior to the period when it devoted itself to the work of church building. From the time of the Renaissance the craft lingered on in obscurity, though never entirely extinguished, until the present Constitution was formed under Sir Christopher Wren, and the various Lodges under it applied themselves as speculative Masons to the construction of moral temples—though the craft has not entirely abandoned its practical co-operative character, as anyone may observe when the brethren are called upon to aid in laying the foundation-stone of a church, or other important public edifice: such was notoriously the case when our Royal Grand Master performed work of that nature at Truro. Of our speculative duties a good general idea may be obtained by the perusal of our late Brother Longfellow's poem, entitled "The Builders." I may add that what I have learned as above stated has been confirmed by my observation of certain monuments and other details in some ancient cathedrals and churches both at home and abroad. As to the payment of fees, that is by no means the only condition of admission, as a ballot and examinations are both required.

ATTICUS.

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES.

—o:—

Gaiety.—Two talented and highly esteemed Brothers have contributed a successful "domestic musical play" for the patrons of this lively little house. It is called "My Girl," and is written by Bro. James T. Tanner, the music being composed by Bro. F. Osmond Carr. The plot, though exceedingly interesting, is subservient to the handsome and charmingly dressed damsels who sing and dance by the hour together, the clever topical songs with innumerable encores, and the vivacious acting of the leading gentlemen. A touch of pathos runs through the play, but a Gaiety piece cannot be taken seriously, and so it sparkles along like a bumper of champagne until the fall of the curtain. Miss Ellaline Terriss enacts the heroine May, with all her accustomed verve and sprightliness, and Miss Katie Seymour fairly bewilders us with twinkling feet. Mr. C. Ryley is a dignified Vicar, Mr. Louis Bradfield sings well and looks the part of Theo, and Mr. W. H. Rawlins is admirable as the Financier, Von Fontein. A very droll performance is given by Bro. John Le Hay as the Jewish bucket-shop keeper, who poses in his advertisements as a Scotchman. Messrs. Paul Arthur, Fred Kaye, Leslie Holland, and a bevy of beautiful girls fill the numerous other characters, so that altogether the new piece fairly sustains the reputation of the house. That business is satisfactory is proved by the balance sheet recently issued, the profits for the year amounting to £20,840 15s 3d. This enables the Directors to pay off a large portion of the mortgage, and declare a dividend of 15 per cent.—a result of good management.

Lyric.—We are pleased to hear that, in answer to many requests, Bro. Wilson Barrett has decided to issue a book of his excellent piece "The sign of the Cross," which will be before the public before long, and will no doubt be as generally commended as the dramatic production has been.

The talented children of Bro. George Rackstraw P.M. of the Lodge of Freedom, assisted by several friends, will give a performance of Shakespeare's fairy comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the new Public Hall, Gravesend, on Wednesday, 30th inst. An excellent orchestra has been engaged, and the choruses will be sung by children who are being specially trained. The proceeds of the entertainment will be devoted to the Restoration Fund of the old Parish Church at Gravesend.

Bro. CHARLES MORTON, the popular manager of the Palace Theatre, has been very ill of late, but has now been able to resume duty. Miss Lottie Collins has returned to this house, with new songs, which have caught on considerably.

Bro. SIR HENRY IRVING announces the production of "Cymbeline" at the Lyceum Theatre, on Tuesday, 22nd inst.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

—o:—

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.

—o:—

CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

—o—

UPTON LODGE, No. 1227.

THURSDAY witnessed the completion of one of the most successful years in the history of this Lodge, and the commencement of a new one which gives every promise of adding to its reputation and extending its usefulness. The meeting was held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street Station, and was attended by some fifty Brethren, among whom were several visitors, who were entertained in the hearty manner for which the members of this Lodge have already acquired a wide reputation, and were afforded a Masonic treat in Lodge, the work of Bro. Jeffery W.M. being such as to afford enjoyment to all who appreciate a perfect rendering of our ritual and ceremonies.

Bro. E. M. Jeffery, the Master of the past year, was supported by Bros. G. A. Peters S.W. W.M.-elect, H. Hyde J.W., C. Gieseke P.M. Treas., C. J. Free P.M. Sec., W. A. Bray S.D., H. B. Brown J.D., W. H. W. Sherwin as Organist, H. J. Rowberry Steward, John Stroud, C. Schmidt and Edwin Hill Past Masters, several other members of the Lodge, and the following Visitors:—D. J. Witte 1327, J. Jervis I.G. 1425, W. H. Turner 2291, J. W. Isaac 79, J. A. H. Maller 1867, E. Andrew 1602, W. W. Morgan 177, C. G. Musgrave 1598, W. Ferris 1901, T. W. Fisher P.M. 192, J. Corthine I.G. 1668, R. Beswick I.P.M. 11, H. Stallard P.M. 1613, G. Norris 79, H. C. Cultriss 217, T. Robinson 2396, A. Clark P.M. 1668, and others.

The Lodge was regularly opened and the minutes of the last Lodge and of an emergency meeting were confirmed, after which Mr. John Bell was proposed as an initiate, duly elected, and admitted in form. Two other candidates, Bros. Hille and Noble, were raised to the third degree, and then the report of the Auditors was presented and received, the thanks of the Lodge being afterwards voted to them for their work.

The annual installation was the next ceremony, Bro. G. A. Peters being presented to the presiding Officer by Bro. C. Schmidt P.M., and regularly placed in the chair for the ensuing year. The new Master appointed his Officers as follow: Hyde S.W., Bray J.W., Gieseke P.M. Treas., Free P.M. Sec., Brown S.D., A. Butcher (who was unfortunately absent through ill health, a fact that called for general regret on the part of the members) J.D., Rowberry I.G., Schmidt P.M. D.C., W. J. Carroll and G. Schaerer Stewards, Bowler Tyler.

In re-investing Bro. P.M. Gieseke as Treasurer the Master expressed the hope he might be spared for many years to continue in the office of Treasurer—to the manifest advantage of the Upton Lodge, and the satisfaction of its members. Similarly, in investing Bro. Free with his collar, Bro. Peters said the Lodge was extremely fortunate in having so praiseworthy and careful a Mason as its Secretary, a remark that was fully endorsed by the members, who are quite alive to the fact that their wishes are studied, and their Secretarial work is in good hands when entrusted to Bro. Free, who has now held the office of Secretary since 1884, with the exception of the time he spent in the different chairs of the Lodge, over which he presided as Master in 1888.

The Worshipful Master received the hearty congratulations of the Brethren, coupled with good wishes for the future prosperity of the Upton, and a candidate having been proposed for initiation at the next meeting the W.M. proceeded to close the Lodge, after which the company adjourned to the banquet room, where in due course the customary toasts were given.

The Loyal toasts and those in honour of the heads of the Order having been disposed of, the Immediate Past Master rose to propose that of the W.M.—a sentiment he felt to be the most important they would be called upon to consider that evening. The Upton Lodge now had a Master in the chair who would be able to perform the ceremonies as ably as any one of those who had preceded him. He had filled the office of Secretary of the Lodge of Instruction for some years, and had therein acquired knowledge that would be of great service to him in his new post, the duties of which he would no doubt discharge as ably as he was accustomed to fulfil those in the school attached to their Lodge.

The toast was followed by the appearance of the two infant daughters of the Worshipful Master, who gave a pianoforte duet in excellent form, and won the heartiest applause of the company, their performance, indeed, being the event of the evening's musical programme.

The Worshipful Master first tendered his thanks for the proposition and hearty reception of the toast given in his honour. It was with the greatest of pleasure he presided over the Lodge for the first time. He had looked forward to that night for many years, and had striven to qualify himself for the post he now had the pleasure of filling. He might say that ever since his introduction into Freemasonry he had been far from a drone in the Masonic hive, and he hoped he had learnt sufficient to enable him to conduct the affairs of the Upton Lodge in such a way as to ensure its prosperity during the year before them. He hoped to have the regular attendance and hearty support of every member of the Lodge during his term of office, as he felt that with it all would be well with them, and their prosperity would be continued.

The toast of the Immediate Past Master was next on the list, and the W.M., in proposing it, said the way in which the ceremonies of the day had been performed was a great credit to the Brother who had just completed his term of Mastership—the work having really been perfect. The three addresses were particularly worthy of mention, they having been rendered in such a way as to win the approval of everyone present. Looking back on the past year it might truly be said they could not wish for a more genial Master than Bro. Jeffery had proved himself to be during the time he had presided over the destinies of their Lodge, and this being so he had particular pleasure in presenting him with the Past Master's jewel provided by the Lodge, and which he might say carried with it the regard and esteem of every one of its members, whose earnest wish was that Bro. Jeffery might live for many years to wear it in their midst. To still further mark their appreciation of the services of the Immediate Past Master the members had subscribed among themselves for a ring which it was his pleasure to hand to Bro. Jeffery, for his wife,

in the hope that she would accept this memento of her husband's presidency over the Upton Lodge.

The Immediate Past Master tendered his sincere thanks for the token the members had been good enough to present him with that night, and likewise for the very handsome present they had provided for his wife. He assured them that while he fully appreciated all the kind things that had been said about him he really felt he had but done his duty while in the chair of the Lodge, the occupancy of which was an honour calling for the fullest attention on the part of the one who filled it. He thanked them for all the kindnesses they had shown towards him, and assured the Lodge that if at any time his services could be of use to the members they would be at their disposal. He would always be pleased to do anything to advance the interests of the Upton Lodge.

The expressions of gratitude on the part of the members towards the Master of the past year did not, however, end here, the Brethren whom he had initiated during his term of office having subscribed among themselves for a special testimonial, in the form of a handsome ring bearing the arms of the Lodge in coloured enamel, which was presented at this stage of the proceedings. The initiate of the year who had been chosen as spokesman said he felt sure all would agree with him that the past year's work of Bro. Jeffery in the Upton Lodge had been of a grand and exceptional character he had performed the business of the Lodge in a style that had won general approval, and his initiates had felt they could but present him with some little token of their appreciation. The result was that a ring had been subscribed for by his brother initiates and himself, and in handing it over to Bro. Jeffery he could but hope it would cause him to remember from time to time the gratitude of the Brethren initiated during his year of office, and teach him to feel that although he had passed from the chair of the Lodge yet he still had the esteem and regard of its members. This presentation, like the ring for Mrs. Jeffery, was a very pleasing specimen of the jeweller's art, and both were admired when they were passed round the Lodge. We believe both were supplied by Bro. Carroll, the present senior Steward of the Lodge, who has also been entrusted with similar commissions by the members in years gone by, to their evident satisfaction.

Bro. Jeffery, in acknowledging this third presentation, said he should regard it as one of his most treasured possessions. He did not know how to express his gratitude, but assured his initiates, as he had already told the other members of the Lodge, that he would be ready to advance the interests of the Lodge whenever it was possible for him to do so.

The W.M. now submitted the toast of the initiate, to whom he tendered a hearty welcome, feeling convinced their new member would prove an acquisition to the Lodge. Bro. Bell acknowledged the toast.

The health of the Visitors was coupled with the names of Bros. Morgan, Musgrave and others, and in the course of their replies reference was made to the hearty way in which the affairs of the Lodge were conducted, the general good feeling that seemed to prevail, and the genuine satisfaction expressed by the members towards those who were primarily responsible for the conduct of affairs.

In proposing the toast of the Treasurer and Secretary the Worshipful Master became alive to the fact that the evening was far advanced, and in order to save time asked the Brethren to include with the toast the health of the other Past Masters. He again spoke of the great advantage the Lodge enjoyed in having Bros. Gieseke and Free in office as Treasurer and Secretary, and referred to the services the other Masters had rendered to the Lodge in the past.

This toast having been honoured that of the Officers was given, and shortly afterwards the Tyler brought the proceedings to a conclusion with the customary formalities.

We are very pleased to see from the Balance Sheet that the Lodge is in a healthy condition, having upwards of £155 in the Bank and in the Treasurer's hands, in addition to a substantial amount of other outstanding assets, and this despite the fact that the Upton is recognised as among the most benevolent London Lodges, ever ready to do its best to relieve the cry of distress when uttered by either of its former members.

The Brethren seem quite at home in their present quarters at the Great Eastern Hotel, to which they removed in January 1895, having for ten years previously met at the Three Nuns, Aldgate (the first meeting being held there on 19th February 1885), where they made such advances as to place them in a high position among the Masonic Lodges of the metropolis, and which position we hope they will not only maintain, but considerably advance in their present comfortable home.

INSTRUCTION.

ST. JOHN LODGE, No. 167.

AN exceptionally large meeting was held at the Court House, Harlesden, on Thursday, with Bro. S. Hussey W.M. 1637 W.M., W. E. Priest S.W., Moss J.W., W. Hillier P.M. Preceptor, G. Chapman Asst. Sec., W. R. Plaford P.M. acting Secretary, A. Collman S.D., Tebbit P.M. J.D., W. Jefferson I.G.

The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Tomsett candidate. The Lodge was called off and on, and afterwards advanced, the ceremony of passing being rehearsed, with Bro. Chapman as candidate. Bro. Priest was elected to the chair for next meeting.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE, No. 538.

ON Wednesday evening, at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford Street, W., Bro. W. Truman W.M., G. Hill P.M. S.W., T. Clear J.W., A. Terry S.D., H. Parker J.D., F. Evans I.G., J. Paul P.M. Preceptor, W. E. Willby P.M. Sec., F. W. Smale P.M. Assistant Sec., W. Proctor P.M., Wynman, Mason, Goldstein, Beedle, Cumberland, Leather, Sturgess, Thom P.M. Deputy Preceptor, Cross, and others.

The S.W. worked the second section of the first lecture. The W.M. rehearsed the second ceremony, with Bro. Goldstein as candidate. Bro. Hill was elected to preside at the next meeting.

WESTBOURNE LODGE, No. 733.

A MOST successful meeting was held at the Oliver Arms, Westbourne Terrace North, Harrow Road, on Tuesday, when the chair was occupied by Bro. R. J. Hearnden, with T. Mogford S.W., G. D. Mogford W.M. 2362

J.W., Knight S.D., Butters J.D., Wynman I.G., R. J. Rogers P.M. Treas. and Sec., H. Dehane Preceptor.

The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Knight candidate. By request Bro. R. Rogers P.M. took the chair, and rehearsed the ceremony of passing, Bro. Hearden candidate.

The Bye-Laws were read and approved of, and ordered to be printed. Bro. T. Mogford was elected W.M. for next meeting.

BURGOYNE LODGE, No. 902.

AFTER the summer recess the weekly meetings of this Lodge were resumed at the Coach and Horses, 348 Clapham Road, S.W., on Thursday, the 3rd inst., when there was a good assemblage of Brethren, under the presidency of Bro. Eidmans as W.M., with Bro. Baldwin S.W., Morris J.W., Rashleigh S.D., Parsons J.D., McLewin I.G., Wyer acting Preceptor, Rashleigh Treasurer, Cowland Secretary, and others.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Oscroft candidate. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. Haycroft was entrusted and ably raised as a Master Mason.

A vote of thanks was ordered to be recorded on the minutes to Bro. Eidmans for the excellent rendering of the ritual for the first time in this Lodge.

Bro. Baldwin was elected W.M. for the ensuing meeting.

HYDE PARK LODGE, No. 1425.

AT Bro. E. Stevens's, Prince of Wales Hotel, Bishop's Road, Paddington, on Monday, Bro. Harris W.M., G. D. Mogford W.M. 2362 S.W., Smith J.W., Handover S.D., Hillier P.M. J.D., H. Dehane P.M. Sec., Ferguson P.M. Preceptor, Riemann, R. J. Rogers P.M., Clark P.M., Middleweek, Campbell P.M., and several others.

The Lodge was opened to the second degree, and the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony, Bro. Riemann as candidate. Afterwards, by request of the W.M., Bro. Past Master Rogers assumed the chair and rehearsed the ceremony of raising, Bro. Campbell candidate.

Bro. G. D. Mogford was unanimously elected W.M. for next meeting.

BROMLEY ST. LEONARD LODGE, No. 1805.

ON the 9th inst., at the Bow Bells, Bow Road, E., Bro. G. H. Fennell W.M., F. A. Slater S.W., W. Joss J.W., F. Thornton Sec., H. M. Pollock S.D., A. Crabb J.D., W. Johnson I.G., J. De Casseres P.M. Preceptor, J. Oxley P.M., J. Gibbs P.M., Shadrake, Parker, Absalom.

The Lodge being opened Bro. Shadrake answered the questions leading to the second degree, and was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, he acting as candidate. The Brethren assisted Bro. P.M. Oxley to work the first, third and fourth sections of the lecture, and Bro. Oxley assisted Bro. De Casseres to work the second section. Bro. A. Crabb 1849 was elected a member, and Bro. F. A. Slater to the chair for Wednesday next.

PROVINCIAL.

LODGE OF SYMPATHY, No. 483.

THE usual monthly meeting was held at the Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend, on Wednesday. Bro. Lygo I.P.M. presided in the absence of the W.M. who arrived later, and was assisted by the Officers.

After the Lodge had been opened and the minutes confirmed, the ballot was taken and proved unanimous in favour of Mr. Henry William Webster, Master Mariner, who, being in attendance, was admitted and regularly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Craft, the ceremony being performed by Bro. Lygo.

Bro. Forss W.M. then took the chair, and opened the Lodge in the second degree. Brother F. Pettingall having proved his proficiency, was passed.

Bros. W. Attwaters and Thomas E. Braine answered the usual questions, and were subsequently raised to the sublime degree. The two last ceremonies were rendered by Bro. Forss in his customary admirable manner.

Bro. William Hawker was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. George Martin for the fifty-first time Tyler of the Lodge. Two candidates were announced for the next meeting, and, Bro. Forss having received the hearty good wishes of the Brethren, the Lodge was closed in perfect harmony and the Brethren adjourned to supper.

ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

A MEETING was held at the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on Friday, 4th inst., Bro. Chas. Rawle W.M. The day, which was nearly as miserable as a penitential psalm, although it had the effect of diminishing the attendance of Brethren did not dequantitate the work announced for performance, the Worshipful Master and his Officers acquitting themselves with credit in the preliminary duties of Craft Masonry. Nor did the heavy and continuous downpour of rain, which seemed to beat a Te Deum on the roofs, have anything like a depressing effect upon those present, for at the festive board which followed Lodge business, Bros. Beever P.M., Rushton Org., Klindworth, Bloomer, E. P. Woodhouse 1387, and others, sang and recited with the zest of professionals.

CENTURION LODGE, No. 2322.

AN emergency meeting was held at the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on Monday, 7th inst., for the purpose of raising Bros. Capt. J. E. R. Hall, Major H. J. Widdows, and Capt. H. S. Hardy.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read for information the three ceremonies were very excellently performed by Bro. Surg.-Capt. Arthur H. Smith Worshipful Master, whilst Bro. Col. Henry L. Rocca P.M. P.P.G.J.D. presented and explained the Working Tools.

Besides those above mentioned, there were present:—Bros. Major Fred Pratt I.P.M., Capt. Geo. Kershaw S.W., Capt. T. W. Ashworth J.W., Rev. E. Bigoe Bagot P.M. P.P.G.C. Chap., Surg.-Capt. J. J. Kent Fairclough Sec., Major John P. Peacock J.D., Capt. Jas. Andrew P.M. P.P.G.D.O., Surg.-Lieut. J. Turville Smith, Lieut. Geo. Keys, and Capt. Arthur Galloway.

NEXT WEEK.

Further particulars as to place of meeting of the undermentioned Lodges are given in the Freemasons' Calendar and Pocket Book (published by Grand Lodge, for the benefit of the Charity Fund).

Monday.

- 1366 Highgate, Midland Grand H'tl.
1922 Earl of Lathom, Camberwell
2426 Wood Green, Wood Green
37 Anchor and Hope, Bolton
40 Derwent, Hastings
68 Royal Clarence, Bristol
75 Love and Honour, Falmouth
104 St. John, Stockport
105 Fortitude, Plymouth
106 Sun, Exmouth
151 Albany, Newport, I. of Wight
189 Sincerity, East Stonehouse
237 Indefatigable, Swansea
240 St. Hilda, South Shields
292 Sincerity, Liverpool
296 Royal Brunswick, Sheffield
297 Whitham, Lincoln
303 Benevolent, Teignmouth
314 Peace and Unity, Preston
330 One and All, Bodmin
411 Commercial, Nottingham
589 Druid Love & Lib., Redruth
632 Concord, Trowbridge
643 Royal, Filey
665 Montagu, Lyme Regis
721 Independence, Chester
797 Hauley, Dartmouth
884 Derwent, Wirksworth
893 Meridan, Millbrook
941 De Tabley, Knutsford
1174 Pentangle, Chatham
1221 Defence, Leeds
1237 Enfield, Enfield
1302 De Warren, Halifax
1350 Fernor Hesketh, Bootle
1380 Skelmersdale, Liverpool
1408 Stamford & Warrington, St'yg'e
1436 Castle, Sandgate
1449 Royal Military, Canterbury
1611 Eboracum, York
1618 Handyside, Saltburn-by-Sea
1656 Wolsey, Hampton Court
1730 Urnston, Urnston
1792 Tudor, Harborne
1885 Torridge, Great Torrington
1914 St. Thomas, Kidsgrove
1948 Hardman, Rawtenstall
1952 High Peak, Chapel-en-le-Frith
1966 Fidelity & Sincerity, Wellington
2144 De Tatton, Altrincham
2185 Ardwick, Manchester
2376 Carnarvon, Leyland
2422 Ebbisham, Epsom
2457 St. Anne, St. Anne's-on-Sea
2505 County Palatine, Birkdale
2584 Queen Victoria, Manchester

Tuesday.

- Board of General Purposes, 5
704 Camden, Anderton's
857 St. Mark, Camberwell
1805 Bromley St. Leonard, Bromley
2045 Wharton, Willesden
2191 Anglo-American, Criterion
160 True Friendship, Rochford
213 Perseverance, Norwich
223 Charity, Plymouth
366 St. David, Milford
384 St. David, Bangor
418 Menturia, Hanley
452 Frederick of Unity, Croydon
476 St. Peter, Carmarthen
484 Faith, Newton-le-Willows
551 Yarborough, Ventnor
560 Vernon, Stourport
624 Abbey, Burton-on-Trent
667 Alliance, Liverpool
681 Scarsdale, Chesterfield
789 Dunheved, Launceston
814 Parrett and Axe, Crewkern
830 Endeavour, Dukinfield
958 St. Aubin, Jersey
979 Four Cardinal Virtues, Crewe
990 Neyland, Neyland
1006 Tregullow, St. Day
1089 De Shurland, Sheerness
1214 Scarborough, Batley
1225 Hindpool, Barrow-in-Furness
1276 Warren, Seacombe
1424 Brownrigg of Unity, Old B'pton
1427 Percy, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1482 Isle of Axholme, Crowle
1551 Charity, Birmingham
1570 Prince Arthur, Liverpool
1764 Eleanor Cross, Northampton
1787 Grenville, Buckingham

- 1893 Lumley, Skegness
1902 St. Cuthbert, Bedlington
1903 Pr. Ed. Saxe Weimar, P'tsm'th.
1941 St. Augustine, Rugeley
2146 Surbiton, Surbiton
2155 Makerfield, Newton-le-Willows
2316 Princes, Liverpool
2360 Victoria, Southport
2407 Hicks-Beach, Stroud
2572 Tyldesley, Tyldesley

Wednesday.

- 1278 Burdett Coutts, London Tavern
1382 Corinthian, Cubitt Town
1624 Eccleston, Criterion
2241 Cordwainer Ward, C'non St. Ho
2266 Cator, Beckenham
20 Rl. Kent Antiquity, Chatham
86 Loyalty, Prescot
121 Mount Sinai, Penzance
137 Amity, Poole
178 Antiquity, Wigan
200 Old Globe, Scarborough
210 Duke of Athol, Denton
221 St. John, Bolton
243 Loyalty, Guernsey
246 Royal Union, Cheltenham
258 Amphibious, Heckmondwike
261 Unanimity & Sincerity, Taunton
285 Love & Honour, Shepton Mallet
311 South Saxon, Lewes
320 Loyalty, Mottram
325 St. John, Salford
342 Royal Sussex, Landport
368 Samaritan, Sandbach
376 Perfect Friendship, Ipswich
380 Integrity, Morley
451 Sutherland, Burslem
537 Zetland, Birkenhead
580 Harmony, Ormskirk
581 Faith, Openshaw
591 Buckingham, Aylesbury
592 Cotteswold, Cirencester
610 Colston, Bristol
662 Dartmouth, West Bromwich
68 Isca, Newport, Mon.
697 United, Colchester
726 Staffordshire Knot, Stafford
818 Philanthropic, Abergavenny
823 Everton, Liverpool
865 Dalhousie, Hounslow
910 St. Oswald, Pontefract
934 Merit, Whitefield
938 Grosvenor, Birmingham
950 Hesketh, Fleetwood
962 Sun and Sector, Workington
972 St. Augustine, Canterbury
1040 Sykes, Driffeld
1086 Walton, Liverpool
1129 St. Chad, Rochdale
1136 Carew, Torpoint
1161 De Grey & Ripon, Manchester
1179 Rutland, Ilkeston
1193 Doric, Wymondham
1212 Elms, Stoke Damerel
1246 Holte, Aston, Warwicks
1301 Brighouse, Brighouse
1334 Norman, Durham
1353 Duke of Lancaster, Lancaster
1511 Alexandra, Hornsey
1576 Dee, Park-gate, Cheshire
1634 Starkie, Ramsbottom
1638 Brownrigg, K'gston-on-Thames
1774 Mellor, Ashton-under-Lyne
1783 Albert Edward, Huddersfield
1797 South Down, Hurstpierpoint
1988 Mawddach, Barmouth
2135 Constance, Consett
2153 Hope, Gosport
2203 Farnborough & N.C., Farnboro'
2258 West. Dist. U.S., E. Stonehouse
2283 Euston, St. Neots
2355 Chantrey, Dore
2412 Ashfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield
2475 Border, Blackwater

Thursday.

- House Committee, Girls School, 4.30
813 New Concord, Guildhall Tavern
1365 Clapton, Great Eastern Hotel
1420 Earl Spencer, Lavender Hill
1613 Cripplegate, Albion
1623 West Smithfield, Freemasons'h.
1716 All Saints, Poplar
42 Relief, Bury
56 Howard B'ly Love, L'hampton
57 Humber, Hull
98 St. Martin, Burslem
116 Royal Lancashire, Colne
203 Ancient Union, Liverpool
208 Three Gd. Principles, Dewsbury
230 Fidelity, Devonport
245 Mechanics, Jersey
267 Unity, Macclesfield
268 Union, Ashton-under-Lyne

- 275 Harmony, Huddersfield
276 Good Fellowship, Chelmsford
283 Amity, Haslingden
286 Samaritan, Bacup
318 True and Faithful, Helston
322 Peace, Stockport
332 Virtue and Silence, Hadleigh
337 Candour, Uppermill
343 Concord, Preston
345 Perseverance, Blackburn
350 Charity, Farnworth
363 Keystone, Whitworth
367 Probity & Freedom, Rochdale
394 Southampton, Southampton
425 Cestrian, Chester
430 Fidelity, Ashton-under-Lyne
489 Benevolence, Bideford
523 John of Gaunt, Leicester
600 Harmony, Bradford
630 St. Cuthbert, Howden
659 Blagdon, Blyth
663 Wiltshire of Fidelity, Devizes
710 Pleiades, Totnes
758 Ellesmere, Runcorn
802 Repose, Derby
940 Philanthropy, Stockton
1000 Priory, Southend
1011 Richmond, Manchester
1037 Portland, Portland
1042 Excelsior, Leeds
1164 Eliot, St. Germans
1184 Abbey, Battle
1235 Phoenix St. Ann, Buxton
1299 Pembroke, Liverpool
1332 Unity, Crediton
1386 St. Hugh, Lincoln
1393 Hamer, Liverpool
1432 Fitz-Allan, Oswestry
1459 Ashbury, West Gorton
1534 Concord, Prestwich
1562 Homfray, Risca
1594 Cedewain, Newtown, Mont.
1776 Landport, Landport
1821 Atlingworth, Brighton
2091 Castleberg, Settle
2268 Hallamshire, Sheffield
2305 Stour, Ashford, Kent
2325 Rose of Lancaster, Southport
2341 Clemency, Oldham
2390 Exmoor, Minehead
2430 Runnymede, Wraysbury
2523 Roll Call, Hounslow
2555 England Centre, Weedon

Friday.

- Board of Management, Boys School, 2.30.
975 Rose of Denmark, Kennington
2346 Warrant Officers, F'masons'-hall
152 Virtue, Manchester
347 Noah Ark, Tipton
355 R'l. S'x. Emulation, Swindon
401 Royal Forest, Slaidburn
426 Shakespeare, Spilsby
445 Fidelity, Towcester
460 Sut'land Unity, N'castle-u-Lyme
516 Phoenix, Stowmarket
541 De Loraine, Newcastle-on-Tyne
566 St. Germain, Selby
652 Holme Valley, Holmfirth
712 Lindsey, Louth
993 Alexandra, Levenshulme
1034 Eccleshill, Eccleshill
1108 Royal Wharfedale, Otley
1224 Stour Valley, Sudbury
1232 Hereward, Bourn
1311 Zetland, Leeds
1330 St. Peter, Market Harborough
1357 Cope, Sale
1739 Carnarvon, Swadlincote
1773 Albert Victor, Pendleton
1794 De Vere, Nottingham
2005 Brooke, Chingford
2063 St. Osyth Priory, C'ct'n-on-Sea
2078 St. Lawrence, Scunthorpe
2231 Talbot, Stretford
2447 Palatine, Manchester

Saturday.

- 1329 Sphinx, Camberwell
1767 Kensington, Kensington
2308 Viator, Anderton's
149 Peace, Meltham
308 Prince George, Eastwood
336 Benevolence, Marple
444 Union, Starcross
1126 Oakwood, Romiley
1326 Lebanon, Feltham
1556 Addiscombe, Croydon
1597 Musgrave, Hampton Court
1871 Gostling Murray, Hounslow
2035 Beaumont, Kirkburton
2318 Lennox Browne, B'khurst Hill
2437 Downshire, Wokingham
2508 Thomas Ralling, Chingford

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BULLS.

III.

PERHAPS the best definition of a "bull," was that given by an Irishman, who, passing through a field of cattle with a friend, remarked to the latter, "When you see a number of cows all lying down, and there's one of them standing up, sure that's a bull."

Bulls from Westminster.—Mr. Reynolds, once member for Dublin, said amidst great laughter, that "Cardinal Wiseman was born of Irish parents, in Seville, Spain, he lived there until he was seven years old, and after that visited his own native county of Waterford."

The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain once declared that during the angriest moments of an exciting Parliamentary debate he is able to keep as cool as a cucumber. But one night (July 1893), on arriving at the House to find hon. members discussing the manner in which he coquetted with the Irish party in the days that are passed, he was momentarily disconcerted, otherwise he would hardly have begun his speech with the following delightful bull:—"I have not been in the House long enough to have heard what has taken place in my absence."

Mr. W. Field, the Irish M.P. (St. Patrick's, Dublin), is said to be not only a picturesque figure in the House of Commons, but an excellent hand at bulls. A short time ago (June 1896) he said, "The population of Ireland has been decimated under English rule to the extent of two-thirds." He is also author of the following solecism:—"The time has come, and is rapidly arriving."

A Home Rule Senator once asserted in the House of Commons that in the county which he had the honour to represent, the Quarter Sessions were held once a month.

Proud of it.—An Irishman at a temperance meeting very boastingly referred to his standing in society, and said that "he had been a working man ever since he was born."

Accounting for the Mortality.—It was an Irish coroner who, when asked how he accounted for the extraordinary mortality in Limerick, replied sadly, "I cannot tell, it must be that there are people dying this year who never died before."

Posthumous Works.—An Irish student was once asked what was meant by posthumous works. "They are such works," answered he, "as a man writes after he is dead."

Quite Time.—I cannot say whether the following bull is really an Irish one, having seen it under more than one guise. My authority, however, claims for it an Irish extraction, although I have more than once heard the late Rev. William Gaskell (husband of the famous Manchester authoress), assert that the incident really occurred during the Chartist Riots. A poor Irish peasant was floundering through a bog on a small pony. In its efforts to push on, the animal got one of its feet entangled in the stirrup. "Arrah, my boy!" exclaimed the rider, "if you are going to get up that way, it's time for me to get down this," and immediately dismounted.

Who put it in?—A rich bull is recorded of an Irishman at cards, who, on inspecting the pool, found it deficient. "Here is a shilling short," said he, "who put it in?"

A vain search.—It was an Irishman who wanted to find the place where there was no death, so that he might go and end his days there.

Blaming his Physician.—You may have heard the story of an Irishman who nearly died, according to his own account, through the treatment of his physician, who, he declares, "drenched him so with drugs during his illness, that he was sick for a long time after he got well."

An Irishman's Invective.—A son of Erin, having quarrelled with another, left him with this vicious remark,—"Ye spalpeen, may ye niver be where I heartily wish ye!"

Steele's Bull.—Perhaps one of the best known, but at the same time one of the richest specimens of a "rale Irish bull," which has ever fallen under my notice, was perpetrated by the clever and witty, but blundering Irish knight, Sir Richard Steele, when inviting a certain English nobleman to visit him. "If, sir," said the knight, "you ever come within a mile of my house, I hope you'll stop there."

His Reason for Leaving.—An Irish gentleman visiting some friends, was received with so much hospitality, and drank so very hard, that he departed in a shorter period than was expected or desired; and when asked the reason, very gravely remarked, that "he liked the company so very much, and ate and drank so incessantly of what they had so lavishly provided, that he was sure, if he had lived there a month longer, he would have died in a fortnight."

Irish Duelists.—An Irishman challenged a gentleman to fight a duel. The latter, who somehow forgot to attend the appointment, met accidentally that same day the offended party, who thus addressed him:—"Well, sir, I met you this morning, but you did not come; however, I am determined to meet you to-morrow morning whether you come or not." We wonder if the gentleman who displayed such a reluctance to be present was the same who declared "he would not fight a duel, because he was unwilling to leave his old mother an orphan."

The Rear in the Front.—An old lady was one day walking along a country-road, as quietly as any old lady could walk, when suddenly her indignation was aroused, on beholding the untidy abode of a small Irish farmer, who chose to have his office-houses, cesspool, and dunghill right in front of his dwelling-house, whereupon the old lady exclaimed:—"Dear me, dear me, how I do hate to see a house with its rear in the front."

Acknowledging a compliment.—On another occasion, when acknowledging some handsome compliments paid her by a young Englishwoman, this same lady exclaimed, "Ah! my dear Lizzie, how kind of you to think so highly of me as you do! How different you are from other ill-natured girls I know!"

Where was the Bull?—"As I was going over the bridge the other day," said a native of Erin, "I met Pat Hewins. 'Hewins,' says I, 'how are you?' 'Pretty well, thank you, Donnelly,' says he. 'Donnelly,' says I, 'that's not my name.' 'Faith, then, no more is mine Hewins.' So with that we looked at each other again, an' sure enough it was nayther of us. And where is the bull in that now?"

Providence and another Woman.—It must have been a twin-sister of this gentleman who, having been nearly drowned by falling into a well, committed a very rich bull when she piously and thankfully declared that "only for Providence and another woman, she never would have got out."

A Soldier's Bull.—At Waterloo, a Highland regiment and the Scots Greys met in the thickest of the fight, and raised the cry of "Scotland for ever!" An Irish dragoon who was present, fired by the same enthusiasm, shouted, "And ould Ireland for longer!"

A Sailor's Bull.—That was a very funny remark of the sailor who, tired of coiling a very long rope, said, "O, hang it, they have cut the end off!" and for humour was closely allied to that of the Irishman who observed that "he had reached fourteen years of age before he was in his native land."

Contradictory.—A veteran Irish sergeant was giving evidence against a private, who had been confined for being drunk on sentry. "This man," deposed the sergeant, "was on his post quite motionless and spacheless with drink. He didn't challenge, but was reelin' about with his eyes shut, and lookin' straight in front of him, and when I spoke to him, sir, he used very insubordinate language."

An Officer's Commands.—An Irish officer, giving orders to a sentinel commanded him "not to stir a foot, but walk up and down, and see what he could hear."

Method for Expediting Business.—An opposition member of the Irish Parliament had appointed a day for a popular motion on some national subject, and for nearly a month was daily moving for official documents as materials for illustrating his observations. When the night for the discussion arrived, those documents appeared piled upon the table of the House in voluminous array; and the orator, preparatory to his opening speech, moved that they be now read by the clerk, in order the better to prepare the House for more clearly understanding the observations he was about to submit. Several members observed that the reading would occupy the whole night, while others shrunk silently away, unwilling to abide so formidable a trial of their patience. Sir Boyle Roche, however, hit upon a happy expedient for obviating the difficulty, by suggesting that "a dozen or two of committee clerks might be called in, and each taking a portion of the documents, all might be read together, by which means they could get through the whole in a quarter of an hour."

This suggestion, offered with profound gravity, was so highly ludicrous, that the House joined in an universal laugh, and the question was actually postponed for the night, to give time for the mover to form a more succinct arrangement for introducing his motion.

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The Theatres, &c.

Globe.—8, The Journey's End. 9, Charley's Aunt. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
Gaiety.—8-15, My Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Adelphi.—8, Boys Together.
Avenue.—8-15, Monte Carlo. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Shaftesbury.—8, The Little Genius. 10-30, La Goulue.
Duke of York's.—8, The Gay Parisienne. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Lytic.—8-15, The Sign of the Cross. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-30.
Savoy.—7-30, Weather or No. 8-30, The Mikado. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Comedy.—Closed until 24th September.
Criterion.—8-15, Outward Bound. 8-45, A Blind Marriage. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Terry's.—8-15, The Man in the Street. 8-50, My Artful Valet. Matinée, to-day and Wednesday, 3.
Opera Comique.—8, Newmarket. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
Garrick.—On Tuesday, Lord Tom Noddy.
Daly's.—8-15, The Geisha; A story of a Tea House. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Vaudeville.—8-15, Papa's wife. 9, A night out. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
Princess's.—8, In sight of St. Paul's.
Parkhurst.—Popular companies and newest pieces, changed weekly.
Alhambra.—7-45, Variety Entertainment. 8-15, Irish Ballet Divertissement. 10, Rip Van Winkle. 9-30, The Animatographe.
Empire.—7-40, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet Divertissement, La Danse. Cinematographe. Second edition of Faust.
Palace.—8-0, Variety Entertainment, Tableaux Vivants, &c.
Royal.—7-30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2-30.
Oxford.—7-30, Variety Entertainment. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Olympia.—Grand Pleasure Gardens. Variety Concerts, &c.
Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily. Varieties, &c.
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Mohawk Minstrels.—(Agricultural Hall.)—Daily.
Madame Tussaud's (Baker Street).—Open daily