

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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PUBLIC DISPLAYS.

A FEW weeks back we raised our voice against the practice that has become very prevalent in our midst, of holding so-called Masonic Church Services; and we did so because we disapprove of the outside show associated with such public parades, which, as we then argued, are quite unnecessary from a Churchman's point of view, as vain exhibitions of fancy clothing and jewels; and most objectionable in connection with Freemasonry, whose members should be above the cheap notoriety to be gained by public displays of their regalia. We have not had to wait very long for a full justification of the indignation we then felt, or a vindication of the opinions we expressed in regard to this question, which has now forced its way to the front in so prominent a manner as to call for some definite action at the hands of our governing authorities.

It will be in the minds of our readers that among other members of the Craft who have recently given their support and encouragement to this particular form of Church Service was Bro. William Shurmur P.G. Standard Bearer of England, who, as a Churchwarden of St. Mary's, Walthamstow, acted as President of the Committee of Freemasons formed to arrange a Service to be held at that Church—to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty's reign, and, by means of a gold and silver collection, assist the Church Dilapidation Fund. Bro. Shurmur was warmly supported in his endeavours by well known Brethren of the district, among them being Bro. James Speller P.M. 2374 P.P.G.D. Essex, Bro. J. H. Wildash P.M. 1662 2472, Bro. W. Gower P.M. 2472 W.M. 2501, Bro. C. J. R. Tijou P.A.G.P., Bro. Richard Kershaw P.M. 2374 Sec. 2256, and many others, and the Service, held on the 18th inst., proved alike interesting to those who took part in it, and of material benefit to the Church Fund with which it was associated, the collection, together with subsequent subscriptions, amounting to £45 15s.

Up to this point our readers will naturally wonder in what way this particular Service endorses the opinion we entertain as to the desirability of allowing such gatherings, and to enlighten them we must refer to an article on the subject in the "Walthamstow Reporter" of last week, wherein a very scurrilous attack is made upon Bro. Shurmur and the others who worked with him in this matter. Of course we and those who know Bro. Shurmur and his friends who are personally attacked can look with contempt on the utterings of the "active progressive radical" who airs his views in the "Reporter," but that does not do away with the bad impression created in the district, where Freemasonry will for a considerable period be looked upon with a certain amount of suspicion by those who have read or heard of this latest "exposition" of its principles; while the honesty of its actions may even be doubted by some who—probably much against their inclination—will be persuaded that where there is so much smoke there must be some fire.

It is to guard against such abusive attacks upon Free-

masonry as this that we recently urged the desirability of refusing permission for these Church Parades, and we now repeat our warning to the Craft that no good is likely to arise from such public exhibitions of our regalia—they only open the way to disgraceful attacks such as the one under notice, and, to our mind, possess little or no advantage from the Freemason's point of view. It is true they have suddenly become popular, but so would other public displays, if the authorities of the Craft allowed them, among a certain class of gaily be-decked Brethren. In other words, the Craft must be protected against itself, and one way to do this is for our rulers to step in as they have done before, and put the foot firmly down on the practice of making public displays of Masonic regalia, whether they take the form of Masonic Church Services, Masonic Funerals, or Masonic anything else. Nine cases out of ten it will be found that the aid of Freemasonry is only sought for mercenary purposes, and while there is little for the Craft to gain there is a very great risk of its losing much—in the way of reputation, dignity, and good name.

We shall probably best convince our readers that these displays may be made the means of most undesirable onslaughts upon the Craft and individual Brethren by quoting from the utterings of the writer in the "Reporter." He starts by saying:

"It is not our intention to examine or comment upon the principles of Freemasonry as a craft, society, or fraternity. We desire simply and briefly to point out how Freemasonry, or, rather, how the members of Freemasonry in Walthamstow are used by crafty and designing 'brothers' for Tory political and Church of England sectarian purposes."

He then refers to a little incident relating to a recent local School Board election, and, returning to the subject of the Church Service of the previous Sunday, refers to it as a public illustration of the manner in which the Freemasonry Craft, or, rather, the Freemasonry Brethren of Walthamstow are used for sectarian purposes.

Having quoted the circular letter and form of subscription sent out by Bro. Shurmur and the members of his Committee the writer continues:

"Let us briefly examine the above precious documents. It will be noted that the circular-letter is addressed from the residence of Mr. William Shurmur, who signs it not only as Past Master and Past Grand Standard Bearer of England, but also as Churchwarden of St. Mary's Church. This fact alone stamps the whole affair as absolutely sectarian. All the signatories are Tories or apostate Liberals of the most venomous type, chief among the latter being the ponderous Wildash and Mr. 'Sammy.'"

* * * * *

We venture to think we have said enough to prove our statement that Freemasonry in Walthamstow is used for Tory political and Church of England sectarian purposes. We know that a few earnest Liberals and Radicals are members of the local Craft. Are they content to allow themselves to be used to promote objects with which they cannot have the least possible sympathy?"

There is only one way to stop such abuse as this—to prohibit exhibitions likely to give rise to it. Will the authorities of the Craft regard the case in that light?

BERKS AND OXON.

AMONG the notable events which have signalised this notable year must be included the annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masons of Berks and Oxon, held with unqualified success on Wednesday, 14th inst., under the banner of the Porchester Lodge, No. 27, at Newbury—the oldest in the Province, the Worshipful Master for the current year being Bro. E. Hill, who, with the Officers and Brethren, was most energetic and painstaking in carrying out the local arrangements.

Since the resignation of the Earl of Jersey, some years ago, when his lordship left England to fill a Colonial Governorship, this Province has been presided over by Viscount Valentia, M.P., who is extremely popular in the Masonic world, as elsewhere, and it was a source of great pleasure and satisfaction to the Brethren on Wednesday to be favoured with the presence of their distinguished chief.

The Province comprises six Lodges, and it is the usual practice to visit each Lodge in succession, a pleasing feature in connection with the Mark Provincial Grand Lodge being that ladies are enabled to join the Brethren in their festivities after the transaction of the ordinary business. In fact, there is a growing tendency towards making Masonry attractive to the gentler sex, who are not only admitted to the festivals occasionally held in behalf of the funds of the great Charitable Institutions of the Order, but also to Lodge gatherings known as "ladies' nights." Hitherto river trips have generally been associated with the Provincial Grand Lodge meetings, but on the present occasion a lovely drive through a picturesque tract of country formed an attractive item in the programme, Bro. Charles E. Keyser Past Master of the Porchester Lodge having generously invited the Brethren and their lady friends to pass the after part of the day in the charming grounds of Aldermaston Court.

The Brethren from different parts of the Province began to arrive in Newbury between ten and eleven o'clock, and the preliminary Committees were held at the Municipal Buildings, which had been placed at the service of the Masons, the Town Hall having been fitted up as a Lodge room by Bro. J. B. Ingram, and the Council Chamber being apportioned to the use of the P.G. Officers. The bulk of the Brethren and ladies, however, reached Newbury by the midday train, and while the official business was being disposed of the lady visitors, who were received at the Municipal Buildings by Mrs. Hill, wife of the Worshipful Master, were conducted by Bro. Stephen Knight jun. over the Parish Church and other buildings of interest, with which they appeared much pleased.

The Porchester Lodge met at 12 o'clock, and appointed Past Masters Keyser, Cosburn, Head, Harrold, and Belcher to receive Lord Valentia and the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge, who walked in procession to the Town Hall, and were accorded the usual honours.

Viscount Valentia having opened the Lodge in due form, the anthem "Hail, Eternal, by Whose aid all created things were made" was sung.

Brother W. Ravenscroft, of Reading, the indefatigable Prov. Grand Secretary, read the roll of the Prov. Grand Lodge Officers, who severally responded, after which the roll of the individual Lodges was called.

The minutes of the Provincial Grand Lodge, held under the banner of the Jersey Lodge, at Maidenhead, last year, having been read and confirmed, the Prov. Grand Secretary presented his report of the various Lodges, which was of a satisfactory character, showing an increased number of advancements. The report was unanimously adopted, as also was that of the Provincial Grand Treasurer Bro. E. Margrett, the financial position of the Province exhibiting a decided improvement.

The Provincial Grand Master, in complimentary terms, proposed the re-election of Bro. Margrett as Provincial Grand Treasurer, which was seconded by the Deputy Prov. Grand Master Bro. John Tomkins, and unanimously adopted.

The Provincial Grand Secretary read letters of apology for non-attendance from several Brethren.

Bro. W. B. Reed W.M. of the Leopold Lodge, Reading, invited the Provincial Grand Lodge to assemble in that town next year.

The Prov. Grand Master thanked Bro. Reed, and said he felt quite sure that on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge and the Brethren generally, he might safely accept the kind invitation just given. They had a pleasant recollection of the cordial reception they had always met with at Reading, and they would be only too pleased to visit the town next summer.

The Provincial Grand Secretary moved a vote of thanks to the Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of the Porchester Lodge, for the kind and hospitable manner in which they had received the Provincial Grand Lodge on this occasion, which was only another instance of the good feeling and fellowship which the Newbury Masons always extended to visiting Brethren. The Prov. Grand Treasurer said the arrangements for the reception

of the Provincial Grand Lodge had undoubtedly involved the expenditure of much time and trouble, and it afforded him much pleasure to second the motion.

Lord Valentia said he most cordially supported the resolution, and he felt sure that all the Brethren were grateful for the kind reception given. The proposal was then carried by acclamation, and Bro. Hill W.M., in reply, assured Lord Valentia and the Provincial Grand Lodge that it had given him and the Brethren of the Porchester Lodge great pleasure to receive them, and they hoped to be honoured with another visit from the Provincial Grand Lodge in due course.

The Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year were then appointed and invested as follow:

Bro. John Tomkins	-	-	-	Deputy
Charles E. Keyser	-	-	-	Senior Warden
Charles Batting	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. A. T. Morland	-	-	-	Chaplain
Edward Margrett	-	-	-	Treasurer
Alfred E. Preston	-	-	-	Master Overseer
William R. Nicholas	-	-	-	Senior Overseer
G. H. Annetts	-	-	-	Junior Overseer
J. N. Day	-	-	-	Registrar of Marks
W. Ravenscroft	-	-	-	Secretary
Issac Fowler	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
W. B. Biddles	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
Robert C. Davey	-	-	-	Inspector of Works
F. A. Sargeant	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
W. A. C. Slay	-	-	-	Assist. Dir. of Cers.
E. R. Bourne	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
C. H. Dodd	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
Algernon M. Shepherd	-	-	-	Organist
W. C. Long	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
A. H. Bull	-	-	-	Inner Guard
R. C. Farr	-	-	-	Stewards
J. Moore	-	-	-	
W. Hemmings	-	-	-	Tylers.
G. Norwood	-	-	-	

The names of Brethren willing to represent the Province at the next Festival in aid of the Mark Benevolent Fund having been received, the concluding anthem, "Supreme Grand Master, God of Power, be with us in this solemn hour," was sung, after which the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed.

Through the liberality of the W.M. Bro. Hill, light refreshments were served to the Brethren and their lady friends, by Mr. John Staples, of Northbrook Street. Shortly before three o'clock the party, numbering nearly a hundred, took their seats in several roomy brakes, and drove, via Pyle Hill, Greenham and Crookham Commons, Brimpton, and Wasing, through the village of Aldermaston to Aldermaston Court, the stately seat of Bro. Keyser, overlooking the pretty valley of the Kennet, through a scene of fresh-mown meads and waving corn-fields, now rapidly assuming a golden hue under the influence of the powerful rays of the sun. The number of visitors was materially increased by arrivals of Brethren and ladies who had been unable to proceed via Newbury, and it is almost needless to mention that the whole received a most cordial greeting from Bro. and Mrs. Keyser.

The weather was splendid, and one and all expressed their appreciation of the natural beauties of this well wooded estate, the ancient oaks attracting special attention. Some of the visitors repaired to the lake, and enjoyed a little boating, while others strolled about the park and grounds, which, together with the mansion and its many art treasures, were thrown open to inspection. Bro. Keyser conducted a numerous party to the Parish Church, which the squire is restoring in a very perfect manner at his own cost. The interesting features of the sacred edifice were described, after which Bro. Keyser led the way through the shady yew tree walks and other attractive spots in the immediate neighbourhood of the house. Towards five o'clock the whole party congregated on the south lawn and terrace, where they were photographed by Mr. Walton Adams, of Reading, after which there was an adjournment to a spacious marquee, beneath which the visitors partook of a recherche banquet, on the kind invitation of Bro. Keyser, who presided.

Grace was sung by Bros. Percy Coward, Malcolm Boyle, Wilfrid Kearton, and Bertram Mills, of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, who also contributed greatly to the pleasure of the company by their vocal performances during the remainder of the afternoon, the accompanist being Brother W. B. Chapshaw P.P.G.Org. Bucks. A formulated toast list was dispensed with, and, owing to the shortness of time, the speeches were curtailed.

Bro. Keyser, in eloquent and befitting language, dwelt upon the blessings which had been enjoyed during the long reign of Her Majesty, and proposed the toast of the Queen and Mark Masonry, which was drunk with enthusiasm, and the National Anthem was sung.

The Chairman next proposed the health of the Grand Mark Master the Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family.

Bro. Martin proposed, as a two-fold toast, the health of the Grand Mark Officers and that of the Provincial Grand Master Viscount Valentia. Whatever his lordship took in hand he did most thoroughly. As Provincial Grand Master he discharged

his duties most satisfactorily, and they all felt glad to be honoured with his presence on that occasion.

Lord Valentia, in responding, expressed his gratitude for the kind reception accorded him. He regretted that his numerous engagements had prevented him visiting the various Lodges in the Province as often as he could have wished, and he assured them it was through no lack of interest that he had not been amongst them more frequently. If, however, he gave them satisfaction, it would give him great pleasure to continue to hold the high office, to which some years ago the Grand Master did him the honour of appointing him.

His lordship proceeded to propose the health of the Deputy P.G.M. Bro. Tomkins, and the rest of the Provincial Officers present and past. Bro. Tomkins made a suitable response.

Lord Valentia proposed the health of the host and hostess, Bro. and Mrs. Keyser, observing that Bro. Keyser had not only shown himself to be an expert and indefatigable Mason, by the excellent work he had done in this Province, but he had also been most kind and hospitable, and they all thoroughly appreciated the generous entertainment of that day, and the privilege of enjoying a visit to that beautiful spot. Bro. Keyser's lines had evidently fallen in pleasant places, and they all hoped that he and Mrs. Keyser and family would long be spared in health and happiness.

Bro. Keyser, in reply, said that Mrs. Keyser and himself were only too delighted to receive and entertain their Masonic and lady friends, and they hoped the visitors had enjoyed their short stay at what he believed was one of the prettiest places in this part of England. He hoped they would all return home with pleasant recollections of their visit to Aldermaston.

The toast of the Mark Benevolent Fund was then honoured, and a sum of upwards of £8 was collected at the tables for the same.

The health of the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the Porchester Lodge was also drunk, thanks being tendered to them for their admirable arrangements for the reception of the Prov. Grand Lodge.

The Tyler's toast was given, after which the company rose.

The repast was served in a manner which reflected much credit upon the butler and domestic staff of Aldermaston Court. After a short interval the brakes were drawn up in the courtyard, and the visitors took leave of the host and hostess, who were vociferously cheered.—"Reading Mercury."

NORFOLK.

THE Prov. G. Lodge was held on the 22nd inst., at the Town Hall, Great Yarmouth. It is four years since a similar meeting took place in the favourite seaside town, and the gathering on the present occasion was, perhaps, even larger than that held in 1893.

At 2 o'clock the brethren began to assemble under their respective banners, and at 2.30 the procession of present and past Officers filed into the room. Unfortunately Lord Suffield Provincial Grand Master could not be present, owing to a family bereavement. However, his place was ably filled by Deputy P.G.M. Bro. Hamon le Strange.

On the roll of the Lodges being called each proved to be represented, and the minutes of the previous meeting were then confirmed.

The Grand Registrar read his return of the Lodges for the past year, from which it appeared that there had been 55 initiations in the Province during the twelve months, and that the subscribing members now reach the total of 801.

The Prov. Grand Treasurer presented the balance-sheet, which was adopted, and the various recommendations of the Board of General Purposes were agreed to. The Charities Committee presented a report, which enumerated the local cases dealt with, and further referred to the large sums that had been subscribed to the three great Masonic Institutions. With regret it was announced that after many years' valuable work as Secretary Bro. H. G. Barwell felt compelled to resign his position. The kind offer of Bro. Captain Mills to fill the vacancy was hailed with great satisfaction.

Bro. B. B. Morgan, who was the only brother nominated, was elected P.G. Treasurer. Bros. A. N. Mann and G. A. Fuller were re-appointed Auditors.

Each of the Lodges meeting elsewhere than at Norwich was presented with a framed photograph of the bust of Lord Suffield, which was unveiled by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in October last. Before asking the Worshipful Masters of the twelve country Lodges to accept these gifts, which had been subscribed for by the members of the city Lodges, Bro. Hamon le Strange explained the circumstances which brought about this graceful act. After the transaction of some general business the Grand Lodge was closed in due form.

At the commencement of the proceedings, a vote of

condolence was passed to Lord Suffield, on the bereavement which caused his involuntary absence.

The Deputy Prov.G.M., on behalf of Lord Suffield, invested the following as the Officers for the ensuing year:—

Bro. E. Reeve 52	-	-	-	Senior Warden
G. H. L. Blake 313	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. L. G. Pollard 313	-	-	-	} Chaplains
Rev. A. J. Groom 107	-	-	-	
B. B. Morgan 213	-	-	-	Treasurer
C. B. Cross 943	-	-	-	Registrar
G. W. G. Barnard 943	-	-	-	Secretary
J. Francis 1808	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
C. L. Page 93	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
C. Hall 100	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
G. C. Maynard 1193	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
W. Welsford 1500	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
E. Smith 1114	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
E. Austin 807	-	-	-	} Standard Bearers
F. Vincent 996	-	-	-	
A. A. Bobby 1741	-	-	-	Organist
W. Oliver 943	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
T. Peake 107	-	-	-	Pursuivant
A. H. Beesley 2237	-	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
C. J. Muriel 52	-	-	-	} Stewards
W. T. Dawson 93	-	-	-	
F. W. Jennings 1741	-	-	-	
W. H. Jones 1808	-	-	-	
W. H. Simms Reeves 2237	-	-	-	
E. F. Jarvis 2602	-	-	-	} Tyler.
Ephraim Hollidge	-	-	-	

At 4.30 members assembled at the Priory Hall, where they formed in procession and went from thence to the parish church, where Divine service was held. The special Psalms used were 122 and 133, and the lesson was read by Bro. the Rev. L. G. Pollard Provincial Grand Chaplain. The choir sang Garrett's grand and most appropriate anthem, "The Lord is loving unto every man," and the hymns used were, "Fight the good fight," and "Through the night of doubt and sorrow," the latter being sung during the offertory. The sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. Charles John Martyn, M.A., Past Grand Chaplain Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Suffolk.

The Rev. Brother took for his text Proverbs xi., 24—"There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth." He said that if they would only give themselves the trouble to look upon the facts concerning their daily lives, they would come to the conclusion that according as they sowed so would they reap. This was fully proved on all sides; love beget love, and the reverse was also true, and if they thought of only their own selfish pleasures they could not be surprised if they did not get all those things they might imagine were due to them. It was the same physically and morally, and if men tried to live righteous, sober, and godly lives, putting their trust in their Saviour, and doing their duty towards God and man, they could look forward to the glorious prospect open to all who have lived righteous lives. One of the greatest and noblest characteristics of their Order was that of sympathy; not only in financial matters, but in sympathising with the sorrows and trials of their fellow men. When they were asked what was that great Order to which they belonged there were many answers that might be given. They could say in words familiar to the most junior Mason of the Order that Freemasonry was a great society veiled in allegory and illustrated in symbol; and if asked what they wanted with allegory and symbol they could give a satisfactory answer and relate the charitable work done by the Order. It might be objected that Christianity was sufficient for all this, but they knew as well as he did that in dealing with the world they had to deal with people as they were, and not as they would have them be; and it was because people set up a standard for themselves of right and wrong that there were so many bickerings in the world. If everyone lived up to the principles of Christianity there would be no necessity for Freemasonry, but it was just because human nature was very weak that they would be foolish to neglect any agency that would help their fellow men. It was the same with the temperance pledge, which was found to be a great help to many. Christians would tell them what they ought to do, but men wanted the help of such orders as theirs. Founded as it was upon the purest principles of piety and virtue, Freemasonry extended a hand to relieve the distressed and to speak a kindly word of sympathy that was often so needful. People would again say that Christianity taught all this, but he would repeat that if they could get anything to help them on their way through life they would be foolish not to adopt it. In comparing the Order with what it was when their royal Grand Master first became connected, he referred them to the vast sums of money spent in the cause of charity since that time. During the past twenty years a thousand new Lodges had been founded, and it was not too much to say that this was due to the way in which the Order had striven to put before its members their duty in supporting and aiding those who most needed it. During the present year £50,000 had been devoted to the Boys and Girls Schools and to the Aged Benevolent Institution; £15,000 had also been contributed by the Order as a public offering of

thankfulness. Loyalty and charity had ever been the distinguishing mark of the Masonic Order, and therefore when people pointed to them and accused them of all manner of faults against God and religion, they had nothing to do but to point to the way in which their Lodges were conducted, their business being preceded and ended with prayer. It should be remembered that it was no use pluming themselves upon the great Masonic privileges that existed, they must try to show to the outside world that there was that about their Order which made them better men and better in all their relations in life. Sometimes they were twitted with loving fine decorations and jewels, but did not the Army, Navy, and diplomacy, and every other order adopt its distinctive dress? They were also accused of being a festive society, but he knew of no organisation, charitable or otherwise, that was not occasionally supported by a dinner or similar function. Every Master of a Masonic Lodge promised at the time of his installation to guard against intemperance himself and to avoid quarrels and other matters detrimental to brotherly love, and woe be to him who fell short in his duty in this respect and did not impress the same principles upon the members under his charge.

In conclusion, he charged them to remember that as Freemasons they had great responsibilities and serious and solemn duties to perform, to which they had pledged themselves. Every moral and every good and excellent virtue was taught them by the text, but there was a great deal more to be done. Freemasonry was valuable in bringing together men of every kind, who would otherwise have been estranged towards each other; it also provided a general platform on which they could meet and grasp each others' hands without a tinge of jealousy, and Jews, Mohammedans, and men of every description could thus meet together. When a member was received into the Order, no mention was made of a man's political or religious opinions, so long as he believed in the one true God.

He was sorry to have to believe that there were a few who boasted about the liberality of the Order, but who never contributed a sixpence of their own to any special object of charity. But he was glad also to know that this reproach was passing away. He charged them finally so to live and act that when it pleased the Almighty Architect and Ruler of the Universe, their Heavenly Father, to ask an account of their past lives (though there might be much to lament), they would have the knowledge that they had tried to do their duty, and although in justice God's fiat of condemnation might be deserved, yet they would be saved by the infinite mercy of Jesus Christ, their Redeemer.—"Eastern Daily Press."

SHROPSHIRE.

AS we stated last week, a sermon was preached by the Rev. H. R. Cooper-Smith, D.D., P. Grand Chaplain, at Shrewsbury, on the occasion of the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held there on the 14th inst., the text being Acts vii, 26: "Sirs, ye are brethren."

Having introduced his sermon with a reference to the sense of brotherhood which existed among the children of Abraham, the preacher said they who were gathered there that day were looking at the great principle from a double point of view. They were Christians, attending a Christian service, worshipping in a Christian Church. They were also Masons, bound together by peculiar ties of brotherhood and fraternal affection, bound to set forth in themselves, by their lives and actions, the truths and beauty of those principles which they professed. As Christians and as Masons they were there on common ground. That great truth, "Sirs, ye are Brethren," applied to them in either capacity. There was not, and could not be, any incompatibility between the two aspects of their character.

Strange mistakes had been made respecting the Masonic brotherhood by those who were not included therein. There were those who supposed that Freemasonry was in itself a religion, and must therefore be in some sense a rival, even an antagonist to that which they held to be the only true faith. Well-meaning, but mistaken persons had supposed that because a man was a Mason, he must from that fact be something less than a Christian. He had himself received a letter imploring him to give up the supposed errors of Masonry, as not being consistent with the Christian religion, of which he was an ordained minister.

From the wording of the letter, it appeared that a similar one had been sent to all the clergy who were known to be Masons, and he might say that it appeared incidentally that many hundreds, if not thousands of the clergy were known to be Masons also. He had been reading only lately in the memoirs of a good and holy bishop of their Church, extracts from articles written by him, holding up Masonry to condemnation, as containing false religious teaching. He was not a Mason. He (the

preacher) believed he completely misunderstood what he supposed to be their principles. Masonry was not a religion, and only by a strange misconception could it be supposed that it was. But there was one qualification which must distinguish every Mason. Masonry pre-supposed and required a belief in God as a condition of membership, and rigidly excluded any person who said in his heart "there is no God." The unbeliever could not be admitted within its pale. But this led him to a second objection, widely felt and forcibly explained in many countries. If it was not a religion, it had been said, it was at any rate opposed to Christianity. Masonry, like all good things, was capable of being abused. It had been abused in times past. In some countries in previous generations he feared it must be admitted that masonic meetings had been held for other than Masonic purposes. But they would know that a good Mason must be loyal as well as God-fearing, that if at any time Masonic meetings had been perverted, either for purposes of conspiracy against the existing government, or the promulgation of what was called free-thought, those who held them or took part in them had acted contrary to the rules and principles of the Craft. Subjects of political or religious difference were, ipso facto, excluded from their services.

Masonry must not be judged by the abuses that might have been suffered to disguise its true principles, and here and now in our own country they might boast that those true principles were loyally held and faithfully expounded. It was no doubt within the recollection of many present, how some years ago a great and leading body of Masons in another country repudiated that condition which they held to be vital to Masonry—the belief in God. The matter was then brought before the Grand Lodge by the then Deputy Grand Master, by the direction of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, and by a formal resolution the Grand Lodge of England repudiated the false doctrine of the Grand Orient of France, and from that time they had refused to recognise those who were initiated under its Warrants as genuine Masons. They could only recognise as Brethren from the Masonic point of view those who acknowledged the universal Fatherhood of God, in so far as admission to their Order was concerned.

Holding then firmly these tenets, Masonry, thought not a religion, so far as being inconsistent with a Christian profession, postulated the belief in God as our Father. They as Masons at any rate were bound to show their real and firm belief in the brotherhood of man. They boasted, and were justified in boasting, that Masonry extended over the four quarters of the globe. Further, they claimed for it that its influence had been and was a beneficent one, drawing closer the family ties which existed between brethren, sons of one Father.

On an occasion like the present they might well consider one tie which brought out wider Brotherhood, if he might so call it, of English Masons, or those who were subject to the Grand Lodge of England. They had at their head the heir to the throne, but more than that they had as their patron one who was the daughter and mother of Grand Masters. The Queen was their patron, and that fact appealed to a special filial sentiment in them all, and at such a time as that emphasised the relations in which they stood to her and to each other. Whatever might have been the case in other countries, and at other times, the loyalty of English Masons was undoubted. Their service that day was the expression of the deep feeling of love and gratitude that had risen in their hearts as they celebrated the completion of sixty years of her rule, and while they looked up to her, who had been in so marked a manner the mother as well as the Queen of her people, they were forcibly reminded of their attitude towards each other.

Then, again, looking at Masonry in its wider aspect, they cultivated not merely that fraternal feeling, not merely the grace of brotherly love, but relief and truth also formed part of their profession. From that point of view they recognised this family tie between all mankind. In a special and restricted sense it might be said to any gathering of Masons, "Sirs, ye are brethren." But as Masons they recognised not only that peculiar bond, but they also admitted their brotherhood with all who were made in the image of God. Their Order, great as it was from its universality and from the loftiness of its principles, would yet be but small were these principles but only binding on them with regard to their fellow-Masons. They were universal in their application. But if their general sense of brotherhood with all mankind be so strong, what should he say respecting their special duty towards those of their own Craft?

The brotherhood of Masons embraced both rich and poor. Not without a glow of pride did they recall the great efforts that had been and were being made among Masons for the support of the poorer brethren among them, and for the maintenance and education of their orphan children. Speaking as one who had acted on the Board of Benevolence, and who for more than twenty years had taken a warm interest in their noble charities, he said during that time a wonderful development had been

witnessed in the resources of their charitable institutions, and, alas, the need for that development had been proved by the large increase in the number of deserving applications. Would that all such could be promptly relieved. £50,000 was now annually raised for that purpose. The total sum was constantly increasing, but the number of applications increased very rapidly. As their alms that day would therefore be devoted to the special fund raised in that memorable year to strengthen and supplement their Provincial Charitable Association, as they thought of the general needs of their institutions and the desirableness of securing provision through them for any of the poor and distressed of their Province, they would, he was sure, not turn a deaf ear to the appeal.

After the luncheon, also referred to in our last week's report, the customary toasts were honoured.

The Provincial Grand Master began the toast list by proposing the health of her most Gracious Majesty the Queen. He said most of them were aware that in recent years he generally made no lengthy speech in introducing the subject which always headed their toast list, but he was sure they would forgive him if he made an exception on that occasion, and referred shortly to the recent celebration of the longest reign in English history. They were all conscious of the fact that the private character of Her Majesty, as sovereign and woman, had done much to intensify the loyalty and enthusiasm of all her subjects. The celebrations in London not only brought out manifestations of the people's loyalty, but also their appreciation of the present happy position of the British Empire. Happily, this subject had gone out of the unfruitful domain of party politics. There had been other empires in the history of the world as powerful and quite as pronounced as our own, but we were proud in the knowledge that the motto of our empire had been to combine the two great principles of dominion and freedom, both of which no doubt did appeal to Brethren of the Craft. They were accustomed, not only to universal brotherhood, but to a large amount of local freedom also. Further, they had a centre of unity as the landmark to which all availed. In these circumstances let them hope that the Queen and the Craft would always enjoy mutual prosperity, so that Masons might ever be found prepared to give a hearty response to the toast.

The Provincial Grand Master, again rising, asked the Brethren to drink to the health of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. Most Worshipful Grand Master. He said many of them were glad to be present a few weeks ago at the great Masonic meeting at the Albert Hall, London, over which the Prince presided with his usual dignity and affability. Let them hope His Royal Highness would live for many years to come, so that the Craft might enjoy his sympathy and patronage, and a continuance of that prosperity which had been so remarkable under his rule.

Bro. R. G. Venables Deputy Prov. Grand Master was heartily received on rising to propose the Prov. Grand Master Bro. Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart. He said that those unconnected with the Province must have been struck with the admirable way in which Sir Offley conducted the business of the Provincial Grand Lodge. They, as members of the Province, appreciated his services most highly, and hoped he would live long to reign over them.

The Prov. Grand Master, who was enthusiastically cheered, said he had nothing to add to what he had been saying for the past twelve years. It was a great satisfaction to him, as well as a comfort, to know that he had more than three hundred friends in that Province upon whose cordiality and sympathy he could always rely. Though not a very large Province it was one of which any Provincial Grand Master might well be proud of having to preside over.

Before sitting down, Sir Offley wished to give the toast of the Visitors, some of whose names he mentioned. He wished to associate with the toast more particularly the name of his old friend, Bro. the Rev. Cooper-Smith Past Grand Chaplain, with whom he spent his days of Masonic infancy at Oxford. Knowing his great zeal for the Craft, and his good nature, he was anxious that the sermon should be preached by him, which he had done at great inconvenience to himself. He thanked him very heartily for doing so, and for his fraternal kindness, which, he was sure, all present appreciated.

The Rev. Cooper-Smith suitably replied, and said he was much struck with the manner in which the business of the Provincial Grand Lodge was conducted that morning.

Brother J. W. Bromley Prov. G.S.W. Staffordshire also responded, and said he would return home with pleasant recollections of his visit to that Province.

The Prov. Grand Master then gave the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. R. G. Venables and the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge present and past. He said that since they had last met Bro. Venables had taken to himself some heavy additional labour, principally in connection with the county. He had taken the great responsibility, among others, of looking after the county roads. He rather fancied that Bro. Venables contemplated imitating their more ancient Brethren, who re-built Jerusalem,

and that he would some day meet him with a trowel in one hand, and a steam roller in the other. They heartily wished him much power to be able to do the work. The Prov. Grand Master also referred in high terms to other Officers of the Lodge.

Bro. Venables returned most sincere thanks. He could hardly thank the Prov. Grand Master sufficiently for keeping him in his post as Deputy for the past twelve years without re-electing him. However, he was still a deputy, and he thanked him for the honour.

His Worship the Mayor (Bro. E. Cresswell Peele) also replied. He felt a considerable amount of embarrassment in responding to the toast. During the past few months it had been his task to inflict many speeches upon many a patient audience, and his experience had been that the less one knew about the subject on which he was speaking the more one could say about it. But, unfortunately, he knew so very much about the toast with which his name had been associated that, as he said before, he felt a certain amount of embarrassment in replying. He had had the honour of serving the office of Provincial Grand Deacon under a former Provincial Grand Master, but he was inclined about thirteen years ago to take some relief from the duties of a Mason, and therefore he little thought he should be called upon to say something that day.

Bro. W. Adams P.P.J.W. gave the Masonic Charities, and Bro. J. Bodenham Past A.G.D. of C. responded.

The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to an end.

The arrangements were in the hands of a committee, consisting of Bros. Captain Williams-Freeman, W. H. Spaul, W. Baxter and V. C. L. Crump, and the satisfactory way in which everything passed off is evidence of the efforts they must have put forth in order to make this meeting one of, if not the most successful in the history of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The brethren who took part in the day's proceedings were presented with interesting souvenirs of the meeting in the shape of two programmes, one giving the orders of procession to and services in St. Chad's Church, and the other a menu card and toast list, giving the names of the Provincial Grand Officers. The programmes contained the arms of the Province and those of Sir Offley-Wakeman emblazoned in colours, and formed an attractive memento of the occasion. They were printed at the offices of Messrs Woodall, Minshall and Co., Oswestry.—“Oswestry Advertiser.”

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						S	
London (Euston)	dep.	a.m. 9 30	a.m. 10 40	a.m. 10 55	p.m. 1 30
Rhyl	arr.	—	3 45	4 3	6 50
Colwyn Bay	"	—	4 20	4 30	7 11
Llandudno	"	—	4 20	4 55	7 32
Penmaenmawr	"	—	4 49	5 23	7 50
						p.m.	
Bangor	"	3 35	5 8	5 46	8 9
Pwllheli	"	5 20	7 15	—	F
Oriccieth	"	5 20	7 15	—	—

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FRED. HARRISON, General Manager.

Euston, July 1897.

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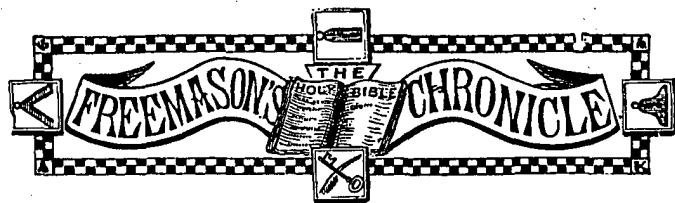
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SATURDAY, 31st JULY 1897.

CEREMONY IN HERTS.

IN delightful weather, the foundation-stone of the Victoria National School was laid at Berkhamsted, on the 13th inst., with imposing Masonic ceremonial, upon the excellent site in Prince Edward Street which Mrs. Lionel Lucas so generously presented to the Rector and Churchwardens. The proceedings were graced by the presence of many ladies, while about a hundred Masons joined in the procession, the ceremony of the stone-laying being performed by the M.P. for the division, Bro. T. F. Halsey Prov. Grand Master of Hertfordshire.

A special Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, whence the Brethren proceeded in Masonic dress to the site, where the Chaplain (Rev. S. Clarke) offered up prayer, and the Rector, addressing the Provincial Grand Master, requested him to lay the foundation-stone.

Addressing the Brethren, the Provincial Grand Master said it afforded him very great pleasure to be able to respond to the Rector's call to lay the foundation-stone of these new schools at Berkhamsted. He thought it would be the subject of much satisfaction for all time in that Her Majesty's Jubilee had been celebrated in such a fitting and commemorative manner, as on that occasion. It was indeed a fitting and lasting memorial of the Queen's sixty years of beneficial reign, a reign conspicuous for enormous intellectual progress, that schools should be founded in which the youth of the day should be educated to know their duty to Queen and country. Speaking with some knowledge of the locality, he could say that the people of Berkhamsted had good reason for congratulating themselves upon the great progress which had been made during the past sixty years. Berkhamsted had ever been loyal, and a striking proof of its loyalty had been shown in a recent publication of a Texas paper, which contained reports of the celebration of British subjects, and in which he noticed that one of the most eloquent speeches made had been delivered by a former resident of Berkhamsted, Mr. Chas. Timson. Berkhamsted had well borne its share in the recent jubilees, and was trying to bear its share in the progress the nation was making throughout the world. He hoped the local progress might be accelerated by the schools, the foundation stone of which he was about to lay, and that future students would carry with them from that corner of the nation to the uttermost parts of the earth that exemplary loyalty and excellence of living which all others might advantageously copy. It was in that hope he attended to respond to the call of their Rector, to lay the foundation stone of the schools, which were to be built on that site.

The Provincial Grand Secretary then read the following inscription on the stone:—

"Victoria National Schools.

This stone was laid by

T. F. HALSEY, Esq., M.P., R.W. Prov. Grand Master of Hertfordshire,
13th July 1897,

of the 61st year of the reign of Queen Victoria."

The Provincial Grand Treasurer then deposited the phials containing the customary coins, and a parchment, in the cavity prepared for them. On the parchment were the following words:

"These Schools were built to commemorate the sixty years' reign of Queen Victoria, and for the instruction of children in the definite principles of the Church of England, and this corner stone was laid with Masonic ceremonial on the 13th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1897, and the 61st year of the said reign, by Thomas F. Halsey, Esq., the Rt. Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire, and for twenty-two years Member of Parliament for this Division of the county.

ARTHUR JOHNSON, M.A.,
Rector of Berkhamsted St. Peters.

AUGUSTUS F. BIRCH, M.A.,
Rector of Northchurch.

EDWIN J. PEARSON, J.P., and
THOMAS PENNY,
Churchwardens, Berkhamsted St. Peters.

JOHN ASHBY,
Churchwarden, Northchurch.

THOMAS PETERS,
Master of the Boys' School.

CHAS. H. REW,
Architect."

On the silver trowel, presented to the Member, appeared the words:—

Presented to

THOMAS F. HALSEY, Esq., M.P.,

as a memento of the 13th July 1897.

The Victoria National Schools, Berkhamsted St. Peters.

The stone having been adjusted by the Provincial Grand Master, the cornucopia containing the corn, and the ewers with the wine and oil were next handed him, the corn being strewn and the oil poured over the stone with the usual ceremonies, and after other observances the procession was reformed and returned to the Masonic Hall.

Cheers were given for Mrs. Lionel Lucas, and subsequently about sixty of the Brethren sat down to a banquet prepared by Host Hibbert, at the King's Arms Hotel.

In proposing the health of the Provincial Grand Master the Rector accorded him the hearty thanks of himself and parishioners for his kindness in attending that afternoon to lay the foundation stone of their new Schools.

The Provincial Grand Master suitably responded, and again assured the Brethren that it had afforded him real pleasure to be able to attend.—"Hemel Hempstead Gazette."

DURHAM CHARITY.

THE general meeting of the Charities Committee of the Province of Durham was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Durham, for the election of the Officers and other business. The following were re-elected:—Chairman, Bro. Thomas Coulson, South Shields; Vice-Chairman, Bro. C. S. Lane, West Hartlepool; Treasurer, Colonel Rowlandson, Durham; Secretary, Bro. John Robinson, Darlington; Auditors, Bro. F. H. Bennett, West Hartlepool, and Bro. B. S. Beckwith, Darlington. The Finance Committee were also elected, and a number of petitions were considered. A proposal from the Committee appointed by the last Provincial Grand Lodge to name the Benevolent Fund, recently established, the Hudson Benevolent Fund, in recognition of the services of Bro. Robert Hudson Prov.G.Sec., was adopted.

NORFOLK.

AFTER the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, held on the 22nd inst., at Yarmouth, as reported elsewhere in this issue, a banquet, served in Bro. J. W. Nightingale's best style, was held in the Minor Hall of the Royal Aquarium. Bro. Hamon le Strange presided, and was supported by most of the Brethren who had attended the earlier functions of the day.

Bro. McLeod, the Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, was present, and made a strong appeal on behalf of the Institution he represents. It is hoped by means of the Centenary celebration, and by increased subscriptions from the Provinces, to largely extend the splendid work carried on by the Institution. Before the company separated the Yarmouth Brethren were cordially thanked by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the excellent arrangements they had made for the comfort of those attending Grand Lodge.

THE MASONIC LIFE-BOAT.

THE Quarterly Journal of the Royal National Life-Boat Institution, dated for August, records a service by the "Albert Edward" stationed at Clacton, and one of the two Life-boats presented to the Institution by the United Grand Lodge of England, in commemoration of the safe return from India of the Most Worshipful Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, which was launched in answer to signals of distress, and helped to assist the brigantine "Patho," which had run on to the sands. There was half a gale blowing at the time, from the N.E., accompanied by a heavy sea, snow and thick weather.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

A SAD fatality occurred on Friday, 23rd, when Mr. William S. Morgan, brother of the founder of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, met with an accident at East Finchley Station, that resulted in his death from shock following severe injuries a couple of hours later. The deceased gentleman was not a member of our Order, but was well known to many of those who worked together in connection with the earlier issues of this paper, while in his own particular circle he was regarded with the greatest respect and esteem, being of a most amiable and benevolent disposition. His sad ending not only came as a great shock to his many friends, but has created a blank in many quarters which it will be impossible to fill. The funeral took place on Thursday, at Highgate cemetery.

ROYAL ARCH.

—:o:—

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

A QUARTERLY CONVOCATION of the Supreme Grand Chapter will be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Wednesday next, 4th August, at six o'clock in the evening, punctually.

BUSINESS.

The Minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation to be read for confirmation.

To announce the appointment of Companions to Past Grand Rank in commemoration of the completion of the 60th year of the reign of her Majesty the Queen.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the Accounts from the 21st April to the 20th July 1897, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:

To Balance, Grand Chapter	...	£435	14	8		
Balance Unappropriated Account	...	195	17	8		
Subsequent Receipts	...	438	7	8		
					£1,070	0 0
By Disbursements during the Quarter	...	£390	6	1		
Balance	...	485	2	11		
Balance Unappropriated Account	...	194	11	0		
					£1,070	0 0

which Balances are in the Bank of England, Law Courts Branch.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following Petitions:—

1st. From Companions Robert Clay Sudlow Past Dep.G.D. of C. as Z, Henry S. Wellcome as H, Frederick C. Van Duzer as J, and ten others for a Chapter to be attached to the Columbia Lodge, No. 2397, London, to be called the "Columbia Chapter," and to meet at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, London.

2nd. From Companions Henry Thomas Edward Holmes as Z, John Parkin Hewitt as H, Thomas Edmund Barker as J, and fifteen others for a Chapter to be attached to the Wentworth Lodge, No. 1239, Sheffield, to be called the "Milton Chapter," and to meet at the Freemasons' Hall, Surrey Street, Sheffield.

3rd. From Companions Lieut.-Col. Charles James Hamilton as Z, the Rev. John Edward Player as H, John Creery as J, and eight others for a Chapter to be attached to the Radnor Lodge, No. 2587, Folkestone, to be called the "Radnor Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Folkestone.

The foregoing Petitions being regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be granted.

The Committee have also received Memorials, with extracts of Minutes, for permission to remove, from the following Chapters:—

"The Highgate Chapter, No. 1866, from the Gate House Tavern, Highgate, to Beale's Restaurant, Holloway Road, Holloway, London."

"The Mount Lebanon Chapter, No. 73, London, from the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, to the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, London."

The Committee being satisfied of the reasonableness of the above requests, recommend that the removal of these Chapters be sanctioned.

(Signed) GEORGE DAVID HARRIS, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

21st July 1897.

o o o

CALEDONIAN CHAPTER, No. 204.

ALTHOUGH Thursday, 15th inst., was the warmest day of the year there was an equal warmth on the part of the numerous Companions assembled at the regular meeting of this Chapter, which was honoured by the presence of the Provincial Grand H. Col. Beswicke-Royds.

The Chapter was opened with commendable punctuality, and the proceedings were carried out in the most perfect manner, indeed our excellent Companions Mamelok, Swinn, Lowery and Cliffe were at their best, which, coupled with the presence of several members of the Manchester Cathedral Choir, who rendered charming aid with Nat Dumville's musical service, led to general approbation.

It was in no way surprising therefore that the Exaltees Bros. Butterworth and Gibson expressed themselves in such feeling terms of appreciative thanks to those who took part in the ceremony, and to those who introduced them—using their own terms—to a truly Masonic and deeply impressive treat.

Bro. Lawrenson's exaltation was deferred, owing to his unavoidable absence, until September.

The proceedings terminated in perfect harmony, peace and goodwill.

Criterion.—Bro. Charles Wyndham, having decided to take a well deserved holiday after a successful season, has relinquished the cares of management of this Theatre to Mr. C. Horniman, who has provided an entertainment perfectly suited to the summer evenings. It is a three act farce entitled "Four Little Girls," and is written by Mr. Walter S. Craven. The plot is most complicated, and of the customary Criterion order, being, however, most highly diverting and received at its termination with unstinted applause. The principal part is that of Jakel Muggeridge, a scotch tutor to two young fellows who have married without their fathers' consent, and as he is afraid of losing his employment if the secret be discovered, is obliged to cover himself with subterfuges, which supply the necessary intricacies to this style of farce. Mr. James Welch plays this character with unflinching energy, and sends the audience into roars of laughter. Miss Violet Lyster and Miss Mabel Beardsley, as the girl-wives, are excellent, while Miss M. A. Victor and Miss Emily Nuller represent the housekeepers of the two fathers as amusingly portrayed by Messrs. J. H. Barnes and William Blakeley. One of the most striking efforts of the farce was the artistic rendering of Charlotte, the slavey, by Miss Sydney Fairbrother. It is a piece to be seen and enjoyed.

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

—: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:—

Monday.

113 Unanimity, Preston
119 Sun, Sq. & Compass, Whiteh'v'n
156 Harmony, Plymouth
328 St. John, Torquay
331 Phoenix Ho. & Prudence, Truro
431 St. George, N. Shields
622 St. Cuthberga, Wimborne
850 St. Oswald, Ashbourne
977 Fowey, Fowey
1045 Stamford, Altrincham
1071 Zetland, Saltash
1211 Goderich, Leeds
1239 Wentworth, Sheffield
1254 Semper Fidelis, Exeter
1264 Neptune, Liverpool
1573 Carodoc, Swansea
1954 Molesworth, Wadebridge
2166 Cotchele, Calstock
2586 St. Nicholas, Scarborough

1461 Clausentum, Woolston
1549 Abercorn, Great Stanmore
1660 Arlecdon, Frizzington
1736 St. John, Halifax
1862 Stranton, West Hartlepool
2382 Loyal Hay, Hay

Thursday.

742 Crystal Palace, Sydenham
1790 Old England, Thornton Heath
2580 Crouch End, Highgate
24 Newcastle O.T., Newcastle
110 Loyal C'brian, Merthyr-Tydvil
123 Lennor, Richmond, Yorks
195 Hengis, Pournemouth
219 Prudence, Todmorden
249 Mariner, Liverpool
266 Naphtali, Heywood
269 Fidelity, Blackburn
289 Fidelity, Leeds
294 Constitutional, Beverley
295 Combermere Union, Macclesfield
317 Affability, Manchester
509 Tees, Stockton
531 St. Helen, Hartlepool
637 Portland, Stoke-upon-Trent
703 Clifton, Blackpool
792 Pelham Pillar, Grimsby
856 Restormel, Lostwithiel
1231 Savile, Elland
1284 Brent, Topsham
1304 Olive Union, Horncastle
1384 Equity, Widnes
1565 Earl of Chester, Lymm
1829 Burrell, Brighton
1899 Wellesley, Sandhurst
2261 Armitage, Milnsbridge
2321 Acacia, Bradford
2496 Wirral, Birkenhead

Friday.

1489 Marquess of Ripon, Highbury
2511 St. John at Hackney, Hackney
242 St. George, Doncaster
291 Royal Philanthropic, Highbridge
306 Alired, Leeds
426 Shakespeare, Spilsby
516 Phoenix, Stowmarket
521 Truth, Huddersfield
566 St. Germain, Selby
712 Lindsey, Louth
837 De Grey and Ripon, Ripon
936 Adair, Aldeburgh
998 Welchpool, Welchpool
1224 Stour Valley, Sudbury
1230 Barnard, Barnard Castle
1648 Prince of Wales, Bradford
1664 Gosforth, Gosforth
1754 Windoor, Penarth
2433 Minerva, Birkenhead

Saturday.

308 Prince George, Eastwood
336 Benevolence, Marple
1223 Amherst, Riverhead
1550 Prudence, Plymouth
1929 Mozart, Croydon
2442 St. Clement, Leigh
2541 St. Andrew, Avonmouth

Tuesday.

171 Amity, Ship and Turtle
70 St. John, Plymouth
103 Beauford, Bristol
124 Marquis of Granby, Durham
158 Adam, Sheerness
252 Harmonic, Dudley
265 Royal Yorkshire, Keighley
364 Cambrian, Neath
393 St. David, Berwick
421 Loyal of Industry, S'thmolton
510 St. Martin, Liskeard
558 Temple, Folkestone
660 Camalodunum, New Malton
673 St. John, Liverpool
734 Londesborough, Bridlington
847 Fortesque, Honiton
960 Bute, Cardiff
974 Pentalpha, Bradford
1002 Skiddaw, Cockermouth
1244 Marwood, Redcar
1780 Albert Edward, Southampton
1785 St. Petroc, Padstow
2129 Dorothy Vernon, Bakewell
2561 West Essex, Buckhurst Hill

Wednesday.

Grand Chapter at 6.
74 Athol, Birmingham
94 Phoenix, Sunderland
137 Amity, Poole
159 Brunswick, East Stonehouse
168 Mariner, Guernsey
282 Bedford, Tavistock
298 Harmony, Rochdale
326 Moira of Honour, Bristol
327 St. John, Wighton
406 N'thern Counties, N'castle-on-T.
417 Faith & Unanimity, Dorchester
429 Royal Navy, Ramsgate
838 Franklin, Boston
970 St. Anne, East Looe
1003 Prince of Wales, Jersey
1013 Royal Victoria, Liverpool
1063 Malling Abbey, West Malling
1085 Hartington, Derby
1167 Alnwick, Alnwick
1431 St. Alphege, Solihull

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

DOMATIC LODGE, No. 177.

AN emergency meeting was held on Friday, 23rd inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street.

In the absence of the W.M. Bro. T. N. Morris the chair was occupied by Bro. T. H. Hobbs I.P.M., who was supported by Bros. W. S. Andrews S.W., W. J. Ferguson P.M. as J.W., G. Everett P.G.Tr. Treasurer, Thomas Morris Sec., John Anley S.D., W. Hanes J.D., T. S. Smith I.G., P. S. Wallis D.C., F. G. Newell A.D.C., T. C. Edmonds P.M. Tyler; also H. N. Price P.M. P.G. Standard Bearer, E. White P.M., A. Piper P.M., G. Johnson, M. Van Heck, J. B. Ellison, F. Williams, J. Webster, E. G. Godfrey, J. Blades, A. O. Cook, A. E. H. Poole, John Robinson, F. A. Cassini, A. S. Greenlade, A. Collinson, J. M. Butler, T. H. Payne, and several others.

Amongst the Visitors were Bros. H. Pulman P.G. Standard Bearer W.M. No. 3, W. Chappel W.M. 1425, W. Collinson I.G. 1425, and others.

The Lodge was opened in due form, the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Lodge was advanced to the second degree, and Bro. F. Williams, M. Van Heck, T. B. Ellison and G. Johnson were examined and entrusted. Lodge was opened in the third degree and these Brethren were subsequently raised as Master Masons.

Lodge was resumed to the first degree and Bros. A. H. Poole, A. C. Cook, and E. G. Godfrey were presented to be passed as Fellow Crafts; they were examined and entrusted, and the Lodge being advanced, they were duly admitted to the second degree. We must heartily congratulate Bro. Hobbs upon the altogether admirable way in which he worked both the degrees, the ceremonies were most impressively given, and showed that the excellent working of yore was not forgotten.

Bro. T. Nixon Morris W.M. having arrived assumed his proper position in the Lodge as W.M., and on Mr. Arthur Collinson being regularly presented as a candidate for initiation proceeded to admit that gentleman to a participation in our mysteries.

Lodge was afterwards closed and the Brethren adjourned to a banquet, which was served in the excellent style for which Bro. Clemow's establishment is so famous.

Later on the usual loyal toasts were heartily proposed from the chair and received with enthusiasm by the company.

Bro. T. H. Hobbs I.P.M. had much pleasure in proposing the health of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge, and this toast having met with a hearty reception by the Brethren, was acknowledged by the W.M., who thanked his predecessor for having discharged the work of the meeting in his absence, affording further evidence of the desire of the Past Masters to advance the welfare of the Lodge.

The guests responded to the toasts of the Visitors, and the newly admitted Brother to that given in his honour. Other toasts were proposed and acknowledged, the proceedings being terminated by the Tyler, in the usual way.

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EARL OF CARNARVON LODGE, No. 1642.

THE annual summer trip and banquet in connection with this Lodge took place on Monday, 19th inst. The company left Paddington soon after 9 a.m. for Maidenhead, and at Boulter's Lock embarked on a commodious steam launch for conveyance to Reading. Luncheon was served at the Ferry Hotel, Cookham, at noon, and Reading was reached at 5.30, after a most enjoyable trip. A recherche dinner was supplied by Bro. Flanagan, at the Great Western Hotel, and the members and their guests departed for London by the 9.25 train, in the reserved saloons, which had been brought on from Maidenhead in the morning. The proceedings throughout were of a most enjoyable character.

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INSTRUCTION.

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ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

A MOST successful meeting of this hard working Lodge took place on Thursday, at Bro. W. T. Purkiss's, Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, when the Preceptor Bro. R. H. Williams P.M. fulfilled the duties of the chair as W.M., and was most ably assisted by Bro. J. Dennis P.M. as S.W., Justin Allen J.D., T. J. Larkman P.M. Treas., J. H. Cumming P.M. Sec., W. Hide S.D., A. England J.D., T. M. Ridley I.G., E. H. Wilcox Steward, F. Craggs P.M., Barton Jones P.M., C. Jacob, R. Goff, R. Robinson, W. Langdon, R. Steel, J. Wynman, H. T. Johnson, and others.

Visitors:—Bros. Fullwood, Thomas I.P.M. 25, Edward Fox P.M. 1275.

The Lodge was opened to the second degree, and the ceremony of installation was rehearsed, Bro. J. Dennis P.M. being presented by Bro. Barton Jones and afterwards installed, proclaimed, and saluted as W.M. He then, in most able manner, invested his Officers, after which Bro. R. H. Williams P.M. Sec. gave the three different addresses, which were a great pleasure to listen to, being given without the slightest hitch.

Bros. Fox and Fullwood were proposed and unanimously elected as members, both suitably responding.

Bro. R. Robinson will preside on Thursday next. Brethren wishing to join will receive a hearty welcome.

The Lodge meets every Thursday, at 7.30—under the able tuition of Bro. R. H. Williams P.M. as Preceptor, of whom we may say with confidence that he tries his utmost to instruct every Brother alike.

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PROVINCIAL.

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ROYAL BRUNSWICK LODGE, No. 732.

THE members of this Brighton Lodge spent a pleasant time on Saturday, 17th inst. They decided to hold an outing, and for that purpose made arrangements to visit Boulogne on the "Brighton Queen." Most of the members took their wives, so that the party was a numerous and jolly one.

Special arrangements had been made for their comfort. The catering on the boat is in the hands of M. Paul Curonico, of the Empire Buffet, New Road, Brighton, and his reputation is such that one can always be certain of faring splendidly. Thus the lunch, which the party took in a private saloon on the outward journey, and the "high tea" coming back, were both thoroughly enjoyed.

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ST. JOHN LODGE, No. 1343.

BRO. EDWARD AYRES presided at the first meeting after his installation, on Wednesday, at the Masonic Hall, Grays, Essex. He was assisted by his Officers: Bros. Joseph Weymouth S.W., G. H. Silverwood, M.A., LL.B., J.W., F. W. Pelling P.P.G.S. I.P.M., Charles Westwood P.G.A.D.C. Treas., H. C. Borradaile P.P.G.S.B. Secretary, Robt. Walker I.G., J. G. Wingrove P.P.G.O., Fred Dorman Steward; together with Bro. Robert Atkins P.M., Robert Matthews, W. H. Brough, A. C. James, John Sievewright, W. M. Taylor, W. Brown, G. Cunningham, Robert Renton, D. Pean, B. D. Borradaile, Herbert E. Brooks, George E. Gilbert, John Higgins, Frank Spurr, Elliott G. Fletcher, W. Daines, J. W. Barefoot.

Visitors:—Bro. J. Wesley Ward, of William Preston Lodge, No. 766, W. H. Peacock, of Rothesay Lodge, No. 1687, Orlton Cooper P.M., St. Michaels, No. 211.

The Lodge was duly opened, after which the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Herbert Manning answered the usual questions of an Apprentice, was entrusted and retired. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bro. Manning was passed as a Fellow Craft, and was invested with the badge of that degree. The ceremony was very ably performed by Bro. Ayres.

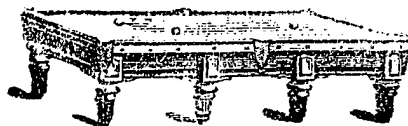
The Lodge was then called off for a short time, pending the arrival of Bro. H. C. Borradaile, who, by the kind permission of the W.M., was to initiate his second son, Mr. Marcus Abraham Borradaile, into the Order. On the re-assembly of the Brethren, the W.M. resigned the chair to Bro. Borradaile, who then impressively performed the ceremony of initiation, and thus the son became the brother of his own father.

The W.M. now resumed the chair, and proposed that the sum of five guineas be voted from the funds of the Lodge towards the Relief Fund now being raised for the assistance of the Farmers of Essex after the recent disastrous storm. Bro. Borradaile, in seconding the proposition, gave some details as to the awful effects of the storm, and the vote was passed nem con.

The W.M. suggested that a Masonic Church Service should be held in October next, to celebrate the centenary of a Service held at Grays in August 1797. A committee, consisting of the W.M., Past Masters and Officers of the Lodge, was appointed to carry out the details, and Bro. Westwood accepted the post of Secretary. Bro. Weymouth said that Bro. Delafield, the vicar, would place the Parish Church at the disposal of the Lodge for the occasion, and would give every assistance. He trusted the several Lodges of the Province would also be represented at the gathering.

A candidate was proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and the closing hymn having been sung the Lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and the Brethren adjourned to supper, after which a very pleasant evening was spent.

Brother the Rev. Dr. Stewart recently delivered a lecture in the Parish Church, Peterhead, on the principles underlying Freemasonry. After referring to the antiquity of the Craft he said all were aware of the extraordinary ideas which some people had of what is taught in the Lodge, and what was associated with its character. Many jokes had been based, and much humour of a kind had been expended upon the things which had been said and done in the name of Freemasonry. They knew that there were things unhappily practiced which would not bear investigation, and that, for some reason or other, had been allowed to exist when they ought to have been crushed out. One of the principles of Masonry was that there should be liberty; and that liberty gave itself such free scope that it occasionally degenerated into licence. He warned the members that this licence was not in anywise implied in one's connection with this Craft. Where it existed at all it was in direct antagonism to that which was taught and believed by every honest hearted Brother. He had heard of Masonic Lodges which had been supposed to be merely kept up for the express purpose of being scenes of revelry and drunkenness. They that understood the true meaning of Masonry knew that that was impossible. On some occasions the carnal man might assert himself, and, instead of the ordinary bodily refreshment, which might be held necessary after hard toil, there were indulgences; and these became known outside the Order. They had heard of the triple principles which were asserted first of all in the French revolution at the end of last century, where they talked of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. These principles had been connected with Masonry in a very emphatic way by some of the very best writers. They could not be true to the principles of the Craft unless they recognised mankind as in the sight of the great Almighty all equally his servants. The secrets which were reserved from the uninitiated were necessary for the carrying on of the work of the Order. If they were true to the Masonic creed, then this would be a better world by far than it ever had been.—"Buchan Observer."



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HOAXES.

(Continued from p. 31.)

HOAXING A REPORTER.—Mr. James Grant, in his "History of the Newspaper Press," describes a mistake which was the outcome of a hoax played by one reporter upon another in the House of Commons. It was at the beginning of the present century, and the occasion was a debate on the question of the employment of English labourers, and being unusually dull, a drowsy reporter named Morgan O'Sullivan, just imported from Tipperary, asked the only other reporter in the gallery to allow him afterwards to copy his notes, as during the proceedings he intended to take a nap. The other, Peter Finnerty, agreed, and Morgan soon dropped into a sound sleep, from which he did not wake for an hour, when he immediately questioned his friend as to whether anything of importance had transpired. Finnerty, seeing a good chance for a joke, said that a very important discussion had taken place upon the virtues of the Irish potato, and described one speech in such glowing terms that Morgan became thoroughly excited, and was eager to take down the particulars.

Peter, affecting to read from his note-book, commenced thus:—"The honourable member said that if—"

"Be aisy a little bit," interrupted Morgan, "who was the honourable member?"

Peter, hesitating for a moment—"Was it his name you asked? Sure it was Mr. Wilberforce," and continued: "Mr. Wilberforce said that it always appeared to him beyond all question that the great cause why the Irish labourers were, as a body, so much stronger and capable of enduring so much greater physical fatigue than the English, was the surpassing virtues of their potato. And he—"

"Peter, my dear fellow," shouted Morgan, at the mention of the Irish potato, "this is so important that we must give it in the first person."

Peter then resumed:—"And I have no doubt that had it been my lot to be reared in Ireland, where my food would have principally consisted of the potato—that most nutritious and salubrious root—instead of being a poor, infirm, shrivelled, stunted creature you, Sir, and honourable gentlemen, now behold me, I would have been a tall, stout athletic man, and able to carry an enormous weight."

Here Morgan O'Sullivan observed, looking his friend eagerly in the face, "Faith, Peter, and that's what I call thrue eloquence! Go on."

"I hold," continued Mr. Wilberforce, "that root to be invaluable; and the man who first cultivated it in Ireland I regard as a benefactor of the first magnitude to his country. And more than that, my decided opinion is that never until we grow potatoes in England in sufficient quantities to feed all our labourers, will those labourers be so able-bodied a class as the Irish. (Hear, hear! from both sides of the House.)"

Peter went away direct to the office of the paper, the "Morning Chronicle," for which he was employed; while Morgan, in perfect ecstasies at the eulogium which had been pronounced on the virtues of the potatoes of "ould Ireland," ran in breathless haste to a publichouse, where the reporters, who should have been on duty for the other morning papers, were assembled, and having communicated to them the important speech which they had by their absence missed, they asked him to read over his notes to them, which Morgan readily did. They copied them verbatim, and not being at the time in the best possible condition for judging of the probability of Mr. Wilberforce delivering such a speech, they repaired to their respective offices, and actually gave a copy of it into the hands of the printer. Next morning it appeared in all the papers except the one with which Peter Finnerty was connected. The sensation and surprise it created in town exceeded everything. Had it only appeared in one or two of the papers, persons of ordinary intelligence must at once have concluded that there was some mistake about the matter. But its appearing in all of the journals except one, and that one at the time not so well known as at other periods of its history, the fact forced, as it were, people to the conclusion that it must have been actually spoken. The inference was plain—a strait-jacket and a keeper for Mr. Wilberforce. In the evening the House met as usual, and Mr. Wilberforce, on the Speaker taking the chair, rose and begged the indulgence of the House for a few moments to a matter which concerned it, as well as himself personally. "Every honourable member," he observed, "has doubtless read the speech which I am represented as having made on the previous night. With the permission of the House I will read it." (Here the honourable member read the speech, amid deafening roars of laughter.) "I can assure honourable members that no one could have read this speech with more surprise than I myself did this morning when I found the papers on my breakfast table. For myself, personally, I care but little about it, though if I were capable of uttering such nonsense as is here put into my mouth, it is high time that, instead of being a member of this House, I were an inmate of some lunatic asylum. It is for the dignity of this House that I feel concerned; for if honourable members were capable of listening to such nonsense, supposing me capable of giving expression to it, it were much more appropriate to call this a theatre for the performance of farces than a place for the legislative deliberations of the representatives of the nation."

It was proposed by some members to call the printers of the different papers in which the speech appeared to the bar of the House for a breach of privilege, but the matter was eventually allowed to drop.

A CURIOUS PAVEMENT.—According to Warton, the laureate, that eminent antiquary and collector of ancient books and manuscripts Thomas Hearne was once made the subject of a waggish trick. There was an ale house at Oxford, known by the sign of "Whittington and his Cat," and here the antiquary was taken one night that he might see a newly-discovered tessellated Roman pavement in the kitchen of the house. This, which was nothing more than the floor curiously paved with the bones of sheep's trotters neatly arranged in compartments, did not impress him favourably at first sight as to its ancient origin; but, being reminded that the Standsfield Roman pavement upon which he had just finished a dissertation was dedicated to Bacchus, his doubts were easily removed, and he quaffed bumper after bumper of the best ale the house could afford in honour of the pagan god. As the liquor began to assert its potency, the faith and enthusiasm of the antiquary increased, and he became thoroughly convinced of the ancient character of the pavement. He accordingly went down on his knees to make a closer inspection, but was so completely overcome that he was obliged to lie on the floor till the discoverers of the pavement assisted him home to his lodgings, and saw him safely put to bed.

NEWSPAPER HOAX AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—An account of the celebrated hoax in connection with the "English Mercurie," is thus described in Chambers's "Book of Days":—"We fancied we possessed in our great National Library at the British Museum a real printed English newspaper two centuries and a half old. Among the Sloane MSS. is a volume containing what purported to be three numbers of the 'English Mercurie,' a newspaper

published in 1588: they profess to be Nos. 50, 52, and 54 of a series, and they give numerous particulars of the Spanish Armada.

Where they had remained for two centuries nobody knew; but they began to be talked about at the close of the last century—first in Chalmers's "Life of Ruddiman," then in the "Gentleman's Magazine," then in Nichols' "Literary Anecdotes," then in D'Israeli's "Curiosities of Literature," then in the English Edition of "Beckmann," then in various English and foreign Encyclopedias, and then, of course, in the cheap popular periodicals. So the public faith remained firm that the "English Mercurie" was the earliest English newspaper. The fair edifice was, however, thrown down in 1839. Mr. Thomas Watts, the able assistant librarian at the British Museum, on subjecting the sheets to a critical examination, found abundant evidence that the theory of their antiquity was not tenable. Manuscript copies of three numbers are bound up in the same volume, and from a scrutiny of the paper, the ink, the handwriting, the type (which he recognised as belonging to the Caslon foundry), the literary style, the spelling, the blunders in fact and in date, and the corrections, Mr. Watts came to the conclusion that the so-called "English Mercurie" was printed in the latter half of the last century.

The evidence in support of this opinion was collected in a letter addressed to Mr. Panizzi, afterwards printed for private circulation. Eleven years later, in 1850, Mr. Watts furnished to the "Gentleman's Magazine" the reasons which led him to think that the fraud had been perpetrated by Philip York, second Earl of Hardwicke; in other words, that the earl, for some purpose not now easy to surmise, had written certain paragraphs in a seemingly Elizabethan style, and caused them to be printed as if belonging to a newspaper of 1588. Be this as it may concerning the identity of the writer, all who now look at the written and printed sheets agree that they are not what they profess to be; and thus a pretty bit of national complacency is set aside; for we have become ashamed of our "English Mercurie."

THE BOTTLE HOAX.—We are told in the "Gentleman's and Scot's Magazine" (1749) that there took place in London a bubble or hoax, which somewhat agitated the public mind. A person* advertised that he would, on the evening of 16th January 1749, at the Haymarket Theatre, play on a common walking cane the music of every instrument then used, to surprising perfection; that he would, on the stage, get into a tavern quart bottle, without equivocation, and while there sing several songs, and suffer any spectator to handle the bottle; that if any spectators should go masked, he would, if requested, declare who they were; and that in a private room he would produce the representation of any person dead, with which the person requesting it should converse for some minutes, as if alive. The prices proposed for this show were—Gallery, 2s; pit, 3s; boxes, 5s; stage, 7s 6d. At the proper time the house was crowded with curious people, many of them of the highest rank, including no less eminent a person than the Culloden Duke of Cumberland.† They sat for a little while with tolerable patience, though uncheered with music; but by-and-bye, the performer not appearing, signs of irritation were evinced. In answer to a sounding with sticks and catcalls, a person belonging to the theatre came forward and explained that in the event of a failure of performance, the money should be returned. A wag then cried out that if the ladies and gentlemen would give double prices, the conjurer would go into a pint bottle, which proved too much for the philosophy of the audience. A young gentleman threw a lighted candle upon the stage, and a general charge upon that part of the house followed. According to a private letter, to which we have had access (it was written by a Scotch Jacobite lady), "Cumberland was the first that flew into a rage, and called to pull down the house. . . . He drew his sword, and was in such a rage that somebody slipped in behind him and pulled the sword out of his hand, which was as much as to say, 'Fools should not have chopping sticks.' This sword of his has never been heard tell of, nor the person who took it. Thirty guineas of reward are offered for it. Monster of Nature, I am sure I wish he may never get it!"

The greater part of the audience made their way out of the theatre, some losing a cloak, others a hat, others a wig, and others hat, wig and swords also. One party, however, stayed in the house in order to demolish the inside; when, the mob breaking in, they tore up the benches, broke to pieces the scenes, pulled down the boxes, in short dismantled the theatre entirely, carrying away the particulars above mentioned into the street, where they made a mighty bonfire, the curtain being hoisted in the middle of it by way of flag.

There is a want of explanation as to the intentions of this conjurer. The proprietor of the theatre afterwards stated that, in apprehension of failure, he had reserved all the money taken, in order to give it back, and he would have returned it to the audience if they would have stayed their hands from destroying his house. It therefore would appear that either money was not the object aimed at, or, if aimed at, was not attained by the conjurer. Most probably he only meant to try an experiment on the credulity of the public.

The bottle hoax proved an excellent subject for the wits, particularly those of the Jacobite party. The following advertisement appeared in the paper called "Old England":—"Found entangled in a slit of a lady's demolished smock-petticoat, a gilt-handled sword of martial temper and length, not much the worse of wearing, with the Spey curiously engraven on one side, and the Scheldt on the other; supposed to be taken from the fat sides of a certain great general in his hasty retreat from the Battle of Bottle-noodles in the Haymarket. Whoever has lost it may inquire at the sign of the Bird and Singing Lane in Potter's Row."

UTOPIA.—An unconscious hoax was perpetrated by Sir Thomas More when his visionary romance of Utopia was first issued, the imaginary description of an island supposed to have been discovered in America being accepted with credulous innocence even by learned men of the day who ought to have known better.

Cresacre More, who wrote the life of his ancestor (Sir Thomas), accentuates the above fact. He says:—"But the book that carrieth the prize of all his Latin works of witty invention in his 'Utopia.' Many great learned men, as Budæus and others, upon a fervent zeal, wished that some excellent divines might be sent thither to preach Christ's Gospel; yea, there were learned divines here among us at home very desirous to undertake the voyage!"

THE CASTLE OF OTRANTO.—This story was first published in the year 1764, by Horace Walpole anonymously, as a work found in the library of an ancient Roman Catholic family in the north of England, and printed at Naples in black letter, in 1529. "I wished it to be believed ancient, and

* Supposed to be the facetious Duke of Montagu.

† Called the "Bloody Butcher," on account of his cruel slaughter of the defeated adherents of the Young Pretender.

almost everybody was imposed upon," said the author. The ancient romances contain nothing more incredible than a sword which required a hundred men to lift it; or a helmet that by its own weight forces a passage through a courtyard into an arched vault, big enough for a man to go through; yet the locality is real, and is a massive fortress at Otranto, situated at the southern extremity of the kingdom of Naples.

BANNISTER'S IMITATION OF HIMSELF.—It is related by Henry Barton Baker, in his book, "Our Old Actors," that during the lesseeship of Elliston, at Manchester, he played a trick that justly reprov'd provincial self-conceit. "Jack" Bannister being in the city, he conceived the joke of putting him in the bills for a small part in a comedy, under an assumed name, and announcing that between the play and the farce, the gentleman would attempt a scene from "The Children in the Wood," after the manner of the celebrated Mr. John Bannister. On this evening the actor played in his best style, but had not uttered many words when the audience began to hiss, and very soon there arose cries of "Off, off," and the hissing and clamour rose to such a height that he was obliged to retire. On the Saturday one of the newspapers declared it was the vilest attempt at imitation that had ever been offered to the public.

HOAXING THE WINE MERCHANT.—It would appear almost impossible to reconcile such actions as vulgar hoaxing and merciless duping with an intellect like that of Sheridan's. Yet so it was, and some of the incidents of his life reflected anything but lustre upon his genius and learning. On one occasion, his supplies of wine having been stopped, he invited his wine merchant to dinner when entertaining the leaders of the opposition. Upon the tradesman's arrival Sheridan had the audacity to despatch a messenger for a plentiful supply of Bacchanalian liquor, which was unquestioningly sent, and the wine merchant, whilst having the pleasure of hearing his own wines criticised, was utterly unconscious of the fact that he had been decoyed there and made the victim of a shameful joke.

HOAXING THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—One of his many most impudent hoaxes was that inflicted upon the Honourable House of Commons itself, and thus described by a modern writer:—"Lord Belgrave had made a very telling speech, which he wound up with a Greek quotation, loudly applauded. Sheridan had no arguments to meet him with so, rising, he admitted the force of his lordship's quotation, of which he probably did not understand a word, but added that had he gone a little farther, and completed the passage, he would have seen that the context completely altered the sense. He would prove it to the House, he said, and immediately rolled forth a grand string of majestic gibberish so well imitated that the whole assembly cried 'Here, here!' Lord Belgrave rose again, and frankly admitted that the passage referred to had the meaning ascribed to it by the honourable gentleman, and that he had overlooked it at the moment. At the end of the evening Fox, who prided himself on his classical lore, came up to him and said, 'Sheridan, how came you to be so ready with that passage? It is certainly as you say, but I was not aware of it before you quoted it.'

Sheridan was wise enough to keep his own counsel for the time, but must have felt delightfully tickled at the ignorance of the would-be savants with whom he was politically associated."

Elegant Ciceronian attempts are not now (as they were in Sheridan's time) so frequently indulged in by members of the House of Commons. Perhaps the undoubted classical erudition of the "Grand Old Man" of Hawarden Castle and of Mr. John Morley may have exercised a restraining influence upon theatrical displays of this kind, and we may believe this to be so by the explanatory admission of Mr. Labouchere (editor of "Truth"), who once perpetrated a similar joke to the one just described. The hon. member for Northampton stated that "he dare not have done it had Mr. Gladstone been in the House at the time." It appears that in one of his speeches he remarked:—"As the Greek poet very finely writes," and then descended into perfect gibberish. His fellow politicians, who gravely listened to him, afterwards congratulated the hon. member upon the erudition which he had displayed; those, however, who have followed the career of Mr. Labouchere can imagine in what manner he would receive such fulsome flattery.

THE MOON HOAX.—"Soon after the visit of the great astronomer, Sir John Herschel, to the Cape of Good Hope, a New York paper gave detailed accounts of the men, brutes, plants, &c., which had been discovered on the surface of the moon. The description was supposed to have been taken from the 'Edinburgh Journal of Science'; but when a reprint was made in England this reference was omitted.

It appears that more than one newspaper was taken in by the article. A devout believer in the wonderful discovery announced in his columns:—"Sir John Herschel has added a stock of knowledge to the present age which will immortalise his name, and place it high in the page of science." Another says:—"Happily, however, those who impudently or ignorantly deny the great discoveries of Herschel are chiefly to be found among those whose faith, or whose scepticism would never be received as a guide for the opinions of other men."

THE WALT WHITMAN HOAX.—There is a good story told in MacLise's "Portrait Gallery" about Mr. W. M. Rossetti, author of "Lives of Famous Poets," who once "laid a cunning plot to test the gullibility of the public in matters of taste and criticism by digging up an American 'poet' who had never written a word of poetry in his life; and who, in all he had written, was bombastic, coarse, conceited, and irreverent, or generally meaningless. He reprinted him in England, wrote an eulogistic preface, and engaged some really clever fellows—Professor Dowden, A. C. Swinburne, Robert Buchanan, &c.—to aid the scheme by unstinted and indiscriminate laudation. The bait took. Men who had never read Washington Irving or Whittier echoed the cuckoo-cry, and 'Walt Whitman' was the noblest Transatlantic 'tone' yet heard! Professor Bayne, in an able article in the "Contemporary Review" (December 1875), pretty well shook the bran out of the puppet 'poet'; but the impetus he got at starting still carries him on, and like a spent ball he may yet roll on languidly for a time."

"Book of Rarities," by EDWARD ROBERTS P.M.

The present run of "My Friend the Prince" will terminate after Friday evening, 6th August, in order to give the members of the Company a much needed rest prior to the provincial tour, after which the play will be resumed at the Garrick. In the interim, Mr. Brickwell has arranged with Mr. George Edwards for a fortnight's run of the celebrated musical success "In Town," with a colossal company, prior to their departure for America. After the run of "In Town" Offenbach's comic opera "La Perichole" will be staged, with Miss Florence St. John in the title role, supported by powerful company, including Messrs. John Le Hay, Fred Kaye, &c.

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