

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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COSMOPOLITAN MASONRY.

PRESSURE of work nearer home has prevented our referring at length to the progress of Freemasonry in the Transvaal, as specially exemplified in the erection and dedication of the new Masonic Temple in Johannesburg, the proceedings on which latter occasion are fully recorded elsewhere in this issue. The report we are able to give may well be preserved and referred to as evidence of the cosmopolitan character of Freemasonry, and the way in which members of the different Constitutions can and do work together in promoting the principles of the Craft.

It is in such places as Johannesburg of to-day that meetings of Brethren from all parts of the world are more likely to occur than in the old established centres of civilisation, and it is really only in such places that the officials of different Constitutions can combine in the work, and demonstrate to the world that Freemasons are not influenced by the jealousies and spirit of competition which prevail in so very many other directions under similar circumstances. When we read that the dedication ceremonies were attended by some three hundred Brethren we can well believe it was no mere boast on the part of the speakers to say that Lodges in all parts of the world were represented, while we can equally join in the enthusiasm with which the leaders of the Craft in this far off region regard the possibilities of the future.

Freemasonry possesses many attractions for the steady stay-at-home citizens of the older countries, but how much more so is it of interest, and likely to be of assistance, to strangers or new settlers in a district so rapidly rising into prominence as the Transvaal and neighbourhood. It removes barriers and paves the way to friendships of inestimable value, and in so doing becomes a mighty factor in the march of progress and civilisation. Much more might be written on the text supplied by the particular report we refer to, but deeds are far more expressive than mere words; and consequently we think it better to refer our readers to the report itself, where they will find ample evidence of good work accomplished on behalf of the best principles of the Craft, by Brethren of such widely different nationalities as to afford unmistakable evidence of the universality of Freemasonry.

TRUE MASONRY.

IT is not often Masonic bequests figure in the wills of departed members of the Fraternity, although it might well be imagined that the organisation of Freemasonry particularly lends itself to the continuance of the charitable ideas of those of its members who find themselves in the position to leave something to be expended after their death in works of benevolence. Even the vast Funds of the English Craft are greatly neglected in this particular,

it seldom happening that the Benevolent Institution or either of the Educational Charities receives a legacy, although they each number many wealthy members of the Craft among their most enthusiastic workers.

An example has just been set by a Scottish Mason that might well be followed by Brethren of other Constitutions, our own in particular, and we believe that if one of our wealthy members would start the ball rolling others would soon follow on in the good work, and if the different donors had not the satisfaction of seeing what was done with their money they would at least enjoy the pleasure during their closing days of feeling that others would have occasion to remember them with gratitude and thankfulness.

The benefaction we refer to was announced at last week's communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and consists of a sum of £1,350 left by Bro. William Ferguson, lately of Brooklyn (subject to the life rent of his widow), to erect a home in Forfarshire for the benefit of poor widows of deceased Brethren who, at the date of their death, were in good standing of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Here is the nucleus of what may some day become a national monument to the kind-heartedness of Freemasonry, and while we congratulate our Brethren across the border on the good fortune that has fallen upon them we hope other members of their Constitution, as well as Brethren under the rule of the Grand Lodge of England, will make similar bequests when they are deciding how to distribute the good things of this world which kind fortune has placed at their disposal.

There is one matter of regret, we have since learnt, in connection with this bequest—the legality of the will may be questioned in the American courts by some of the relations of the deceased. It will be unfortunate if the claims of the Scottish Brotherhood cannot be sustained.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge—the occasion also being in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen—was held at the Cathedral Library, Hereford, on Monday, 8th. A large number of Brethren were present, but the Prov.G.M. Brother Sir J. R. Bailey was unfortunately unable to attend.

At one o'clock Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in the Cathedral Library by Bro. H. C. Beddoe Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who explained that the absence of Sir Joseph Bailey was in consequence of his having been summoned to the bedside of his mother, who was seriously ill.

In proposing the adoption of the report of the Herefordshire Masonic Charity Association Bro. T. Godwin Chance, the newly-elected Secretary, spoke in warm terms of the great services rendered to Masonic charity in this Province by the late Secretary Bro. William Earle, who had inaugurated the Association and piloted it for the long period of 20 years, during which time a sum of over £1,000 had been paid to the great Benevolent Institutions, and a most cordial

vote of thanks was passed by Provincial Grand Lodge to Bro. Earle, in recognition of his zeal and service.

On the proposition of Bro. Beddoe, seconded by Bro. the Dean of Hereford, the following address was voted to Her Majesty the Queen:—

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Province of Herefordshire humbly approach your Majesty, desiring to offer their loyal congratulations on the completion of the 60th year of your Majesty's glorious reign. They tender thanks to the Most High for the great benefits which have been extended to the Empire under your Majesty's sway during past years, and pray that it may continue to be blessed with a lengthened period of peace and prosperity.

It was proposed by Bro. Thos. Smith P.M. P.P.S.G.W., seconded by Bro. E. Maddison, and carried, "That the sum of thirty guineas be given from the Funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys."

On behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Beddoe appointed and invested the Provincial Officers for the ensuing year, as under:—

Bro. W. R. Stafford 120	-	-	-	Senior Warden
John Marchant 120	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Hereford	-	-	-	Chaplain
J. E. S. Hewitt 338	-	-	-	Treasurer
A. Cutfield 338	-	-	-	Registrar
Edward Maddison 751	-	-	-	Secretary
William C. Gethen 120	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
William F. Marvin 338	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
W. W. Robinson 120	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
S. G. Yates 338	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
J. Wellington Lloyd 2240	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
Z. B. Evans 751	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
G. R. Sinclair 120	-	-	-	Organist
A. G. Hudson 892	-	-	-	Pursuivant
H. H. Parry 120	-	-	-	} Stewards.
G. W. Starr 751	-	-	-	
H. Gosling 892	-	-	-	

After the Provincial Grand Lodge had been closed the Brethren formed in procession at the Cathedral Library, and on arrival at the cloister door were met by the Cathedral Choir, preceded by the Organist Bro. G. R. Sinclair P.G.O. On reaching the nave of the Cathedral the procession halted and opened to the right and left, and faced inwards, so as to leave a passage for the Deputy Provincial Grand Master up the centre, he being preceded by the Sacred Law, the Prov. G. Chaplains, the acting Deputy P.G.M., the Standard Bearer, and Sword Bearer.

The Jubilee hymn "O King of Kings," was sung as a processional, and, the Brethren having taken places reserved for them in the nave, Bro. the Rev. J. Hampton P.M. P.P.G. Chaplain Worcestershire opened the service. Bro. the Rev. H. A. Barker S.D. 120 P.P.G. Chaplain read the lesson.

The Dean based his sermon on 1 Peter ii., 17, "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."

After the sermon Bro. G. R. Sinclair played a voluntary on the organ, during which a collection was made for the Royal Masonic and Herefordshire Masonic Charities.

After the service the Deputy Prov.G.M. presented to each of the youthful bearers of the Sacred Law a volume of Holy Writ, as a memento of the occasion.

Subsequently over a hundred Brethren dined at the Green Dragon Hotel, under the presidency of the Acting Provincial Grand Master, when the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given and honoured.—"Hereford Mercury."

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

THE Quarterly Communication was held in Edinburgh, on Thursday, 4th inst., the Grand Master Lord Saltoun presiding.

The Grand Master made suitable reference to the death of the Duchess of Teck, who, he said, had endeared herself to many, especially the poor. The Grand Master and Secretary were requested to prepare a minute of condolence and transmit the same to the Prince of Wales, as patron of Scottish Freemasonry, for submission to the Royal Family.

The Grand Master reported that in accordance with the resolution of Grand Lodge in 1896—before he was in the chair—to hold a Masonic bazaar in 1900, a meeting had been held that day, but that the Committee had a feeling that owing to the exhibition in Paris in 1900, and in Glasgow in the following year, and for other reasons, it might be well to postpone the bazaar. On his suggestion the Committee were empowered to change the date if they thought advisable, after communicating with the Lodges in the colonies and dependencies.

It was intimated that a bequest of £1,350 had been left

by William Ferguson, lately of Brooklyn, subject to the life-rent of his widow, to erect a home in Forfarshire for the benefit of the poor widows of deceased husbands who at the date of their death were members in good standing of the Grand Lodge. The meeting then proceeded to the nomination of members for election as office-bearers, the Grand Master being nominated for re-election.

It was agreed that the District Grand Master of the Transvaal be allowed the same extension of power as is enjoyed by the Grand Master of all Scottish Freemasonry in India, so far as appointing by commission properly qualified Brethren to officially visit such Lodges within his Masonic jurisdiction as it may be impossible or inconvenient for himself, his Depute or Substitute, to visit annually, as directed by the Constitution.

CHURCH SERVICES.

A SPECIAL service for Freemasons of the Three Towns and neighbourhood was held on Sunday afternoon at St. Paul's Church, Devonport, the object being to assist the funds of the Royal Albert Hospital. Most of the Lodges in the locality were represented. The service commenced with the processional hymn "Through the night of doubt and sorrow," followed by a skilfully executed violin solo by Bro. H. R. V. Ball, L.R.A.M. Prayers were intoned by Bro. the Rev. A. J. Hamlyn, vicar of St. Paul's, and the special lesson was read by Bro. the Rev. S. S. Browne, chaplain to the Plymouth Division of the Royal Marines. Bros. R. J. and P. Wright rendered with beautiful effect the duet "Go baffled brother," from "Samson," and Bro. P. Wright also gave the solo, "Lord God of Abraham," from the "Elijah." Bro. the Rev T. C. Lewis P.M. P.P.G.C., rector of Dodbrooke, preached a suitable sermon from the words "Given to hospitality." The Rev. Brother said the word hospitality had very different meanings, but St. Paul in using it as an exhortation to the Roman Christians elevated it to a Christian duty. The spirit of true Christianity was embraced in the use of charity, which was a special Masonic virtue and the highest ornament that adorned the profession. There was a wonderful esprit de corps in the Masonic Order, and whenever a touching appeal was made to its members their generosity was never lacking. If help to such a noble Institution as the Royal Albert Hospital appealed to their generosity as Freemasons, should not their hearts respond and their pulses quicken when such an appeal was made to them as members of the great family of God and subjects of Christ's kingdom? The offertory amounted to £5 13s 5d.

WITH Masonic pomp the Royal Parish Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields was formally re-opened in the afternoon of Sunday, after elaborate re-decoration and improvement, the entire cost of which was defrayed by the fortunate individuals who witnessed the Jubilee Procession on the 22nd June from that favoured vantage point. Over 300 members of the Craft assembled in full clothing—a dispensation having been obtained from his Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master—and the service breathed the spirit of Masonry throughout. Archdeacon Stevens Past Grand Chaplain preached the sermon, and nearly a dozen Grand Officers attended, including Bro Robt. Grey P.G.W., Bro. J. W. Woodall P.G.Treas., and Bro. W. M. Stiles P.G.Treas. During the singing of the hymn, "When the Architect Almighty," an offertory was taken for the Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys and Girls.

We are told there is a good work open to Bible students associated with the Craft, in providing a few texts for Masonic Church Services other than 1 Peter ii, 17, which, from such frequent repetition, is being worn somewhat threadbare. We have already had to refer to the absence of Freemasonry from many so-called Masonic sermons, and it now seems that our Chaplains are not only at a loss for Masonic ideas, but also deficient in that originality which should be so important a feature in the work they are called upon to carry out. From the incessant harping on the one string it would almost appear that our clerical friends are engaged in a competition to decide who can build the best discourse on exactly the same foundation. Masonic toasts are bad enough as specimens of the same old rigmale time after time; surely Masonic sermons, now that they are becoming so very popular, should not follow the same dreary course.

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The Duke of Devonshire Provincial Grand Master of Derbyshire has accepted the office of Mayor of Eastbourne, and Lord Langatock Provincial Grand Master of the Eastern Division of South Wales that of Monmouth.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

THE annual inauguration meeting of the William Stuart Preceptory, No. 76, was held at the Masonic Hall, Aldershot, on Monday, 25th ult., the principal business being to receive the report of the Audit Committee and to inaugurate the new Preceptor, W. Bennett. Provincial Priory being called for the same day at 3 p.m., it necessitated the William Stuart Preceptory meeting an hour earlier, in order to welcome the High and Eminent Prior on his arrival. H. Lehmann P.E.P. opened the Preceptory, and after the minutes had been confirmed, W. Bennett was inaugurated into the office according to ancient rite, and with all the ceremonial observances of the Order, the ceremony being performed by J. Youd P.E.P.

Punctually at three o'clock the Grand Prior W. W. B. Beach, M.P., entered the Preceptory, attended by a numerous retinue of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers. They were received according to ancient custom under an arch of steel, and Provincial Grand Priory was then opened. After letters of apology and regret had been read from Surgeon-General A. K. Prescott, Colonel W. Campbell, A.D.C., Captain G. Hearn, Major F. Newman, and others, the business was proceeded with. The accounts were passed, twenty guineas was voted to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, the new Provincial Officers were appointed, and alms were collected from the fratres. Provincial Grand Priory was closed in ancient and solemn form, and an adjournment was made to the dining hall, where the E. G. Prior presided and gave the usual toasts appropriate to the occasion, says the "Aldershot News." To the Great Priory Officers the Great Prelate responded, and to the Provincial, J. Youd replied.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CRAFT.

THE Brotherhood of Free and Accepted Masons, world-wide in its branches, and unremitting in its exertions on behalf of suffering humanity, extends over almost all the countries of Europe, America, Australia—in fact, the habitable globe. In accordance with the Charter words of the remarkable Confraternity, it is founded on "the practice of social and moral virtue," its watchwords being "Charity and Truth." During the present century swarms of books and pamphlets, some friendly and some inimical to Freemasonry, have been published illustrative of its history, ritual, tendency, and benefits. This ancient Brotherhood pursues its course of Benevolence and fellowship, embracing every spot on earth. The sceptred monarch, the royal prince, the peer, the peasant, the millionaire, the humble artizan, all find a place within its ample folds. No higher tribute can be paid to the meaning and working of the Masonic Order than the diversities of opinion respecting the origin of the Brotherhood. Some of its more enthusiastic friends insist that the origin of the Society dates from the Creation, and others from the dedication of Solomon's Temple at Jerusalem. Those curious on the point will find in books treating of the subject that the Freemasons are entitled to trace the origin of their Order so far back as ancient Babylon, Nineveh, and Tyre. When almost virtually extinguished in mediæval Europe the Brotherhood, which some discover the parentage of in various very ancient Societies of Masons properly so-called, received a welcome in England. Among British kings the Order was honoured by such patrons as Alfred the Great, Edward the Confessor, Edward III., and Henry VII. Such regal favour suffered a temporary interruption in the case of Queen Elizabeth, who on one occasion despatched a band of soldiers to break up a meeting of a Grand Lodge of Masons. The tables were turned upon Her Majesty, as her troops enrolled themselves Freemasons, and brought home to the Sovereign such glowing accounts of the devotion of the members of the Brotherhood to the Crown as quite allayed the suspicions of Royalty. When Sir Thomas Gresham, Architect of the Order, built the Exchange, Elizabeth of herself changed the name in compliment to the Freemasons into Royal Exchange. The well-known Inigo Jones, a member of the Craft, drew up for King James I. plans for the banqueting house at Whitehall Palace, and the stately gallery in Somerset House. Sir Christopher Wren was Deputy Grand Master of the Freemasons of England in 1666, the year of the great fire of London, and afterwards reared from those ashes in renovated splendour St. Paul's Cathedral and several of the other Parish Churches of the metropolis. King Charles II. was a member of the Confraternity, and frequently the merry monarch attended meetings of the Order. The Grand Lodge of Freemasons in Ireland was established in the year 1730, and since then has grown and flourished. The first Freemason Lodge in France, on the English model, was established in Paris in 1725; in Germany, at Hamburg, in 1735, and in America five years previously. In the beginning of the eighteenth century a material alteration took

place in the four English Lodges of that period. The Society was changed into one which had nothing to do with building or architecture, but of which "Brotherly love, relief, and truth" were to be the essential characteristics. Within living memory witness the magnificent educational and boarding Institutions at Ball's Bridge and Clonskeagh. The Freemason Confraternity have proved themselves public benefactors in Dublin and throughout the country. In Ireland the Order is headed, and we may add adorned, by such a Grand Master as His Grace the Duke of Abercorn.—"Irish Times."

IS HE WORTHY AND WELL QUALIFIED?

YOU have often heard this question asked and answered. Have you ever heard it answered in the negative? We have not. The answer is always the same, "He is." Can it be possible that all who knock at the door for admission are worthy and well qualified? Surely not; experience teaches differently. Many are admitted who prove by their daily walk of life that they were worthless, and not fitted to receive and appreciate the divine truths and sublime lessons taught in Masonry. A candidate to be worthy, should be entitled, by reason of his excellence, dignity, virtue and moral qualifications, to have the respect and esteem of all who associate with him. To be qualified to receive the degrees, he should have the natural abilities to enable him not only to receive but to impart instruction; a drone who reaps the benefits and sucks the honey of our Order is despised and loathed by all. Ever remember that it is quality, not quantity, that is essential in the selection of new members. No strong, harmonious Lodge can otherwise exist. Your accepted candidates should be men of honour and high reputation. Ask of a candidate, "Is he good and true? Will he keep the faith? Is his heart right? Is he strong in his manhood? Has he the good will and respect of his neighbours?" If he is incorrupt at heart, honest, and by nature faithful, nothing more need be asked; be sure he is all this. We should not overstep the bounds of good judgment in our desire to increase the number of members in our Lodges. Remember that a Lodge small in numbers, but of active intelligent workers, bound together by the bonds of love, good will and undying trust in one another, is of greater worth than one filled with unworthy, unqualified members, lacking the great principles of truth and sincerity. We should exercise that vigilance which will guide us to success. Think well before you permit one to enter who will cause discord and bring reproach upon our beloved Order. It is your obligated duty to make faithful use of the ballot box; it is a shield placed in your hands to be used to protect the Order, and to prevent the admission of unworthy material among the faithful. Admit none who are unworthy of your association either publicly or privately. You are establishing a precedent, that will be followed by those whom you admit. Your record will be reviewed in the future; set an example and aid to build up the Order. The foundation of Masonry is a belief in the one living and true God, charity, truth and justice. No material to mar its symmetry and beauty should be placed in the building, whose spire pierces the clouds of heaven. Be courageous, true and faithful in the discharge of your duty and you will receive your merited reward.—C. S. G., in the "Orient."

The consecration of the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Lodge, No. 2675, took place on Wednesday with considerable success. Our report is held over until next week.

When we added the note last week as to the amount subscribed for the new organ at St. Clement's Church, Ilford, we thought the appeal had been singularly successful. It appears our informant erred so far as to put an "0" too much on the total, which should read £60, not £600.

The various Lodges in Bradford and district have arranged to hold their annual ball at the Technical College, on the 15th of December. The ball last year was a great success, and a handsome surplus was handed over to the Widows and Aged Freemasons Fund. This year the proceeds will be given to the West Yorkshire Masonic Educational and Benevolent Fund.

We take the opportunity of rectifying an oversight in our report of the installation meeting of the Sharmur Lodge, No. 2374, we having omitted to mention the musical portion of the programme, which, under the direction of Bro. J. F. Haskins, Ph.D., &c., P.Prov.G. Organist Essex and Herts, proved very enjoyable. Our old friend was assisted by his daughter, Miss Cecilia Haskins, Miss Jessie Browning, Bro. Egbert Roberts P.M. P.G.O. Essex, Mr. Herbert Stockwell, and Mr. Ben Johnson jun.

MASONRY ON THE RAND.

TUESDAY, 14th September, marked an important epoch in the history of Freemasonry in Johannesburg, to wit, the dedication of the new Masonic Temple, erected conjointly by the Golden Thistle (S.C.), Johannesburg (E.C.), and Star of the Rand (N.C.) Lodges, which have hitherto carried on their work in the old Masonic Temple in Rissik Street. The ceremony was attended by one of the largest and certainly the most representative gatherings of Masonic Brethren ever witnessed in the Transvaal. Altogether fully three hundred members of the mystic Craft assembled, and these included not only large deputations from all the local Lodges, but representatives from almost every country in the world.

The ceremony was ably conducted by the Officers, Bro. J. Waldie Peirson delivering the Oration on the objects of Freemasonry. By direction of the presiding officer a special vote of thanks to the builders was recorded on the minutes.

From the Lodge room the Brethren adjourned to the banqueting hall, where an excellent cold repast was served. Bro. J. R. Harrison D.D.G.M. (S.C.) presided, supported on the right by Bro. P. van Os, and on the left by Bro. H. F. E. Pistorius. There was again a very large attendance.

The toast of His Honour the President, the Queen, and the Craft, was given from the chair.

Bro. J. Rothkugel proposed the Grand Masters.

Bro. Alf. Dawe was called upon to respond on behalf of the Scotch District Grand Lodge, as, owing to indisposition, the chairman did not feel equal to the task. He remarked that it was just ten years since the Golden Thistle Lodge, the first started in Johannesburg, received its Charter, and as they were aware the Lodge was of a thoroughly cosmopolitan character. Within the last two or three years there had been a decided leaning towards unity on the part of the different Constitutions represented in Johannesburg, and that spirit would prevail still more when the work of the District Grand Lodges was carried on in the same form as the District Grand Lodges of England and Scotland were at present. He hoped that the time was not far distant when the Netherlands and Irish Lodges would be represented by Districts of their own.

Bro. P. van Os responded for the Grand East of the Netherlands, remarking that Bro. Lewis, the Deputy Grand Master in Capetown, had asked him to represent him there, and it would afford him very great pleasure to tell him what had taken place.

Bro. Pistorius, in responding for the District Grand Lodge of the Transvaal under the English Constitution, said the various District Grand Lodges performed their duties impartially, as in all Masonic Institutions should be done. The harmony which existed among the Lodges of the various Constitutions had increased since the establishment of the District Grand Lodge. They had represented there Lodges working under the Scotch, English, Netherlands, and Irish Constitutions; and probably among the Brethren present there were representatives from Lodges all over the world. That showed how cosmopolitan Freemasonry was, and how broad was the platform upon which they stood. Let them remember they were all working for the one object—Brotherly love, relief, and truth; let them inculcate that lesson in all their work, and prove in their own daily life and actions the beneficial effects of Masonry and that they were not only prepared to show charity towards their distressed Brethren, but to any person who needed their assistance.

Bro. Pistorius, in proposing the toast of the evening, "Success to the New Temple," said there was not a Brother present who would not join heartily in this toast. As they were well aware, the new Temple had been erected under the auspices of the Scotch, the Netherlands and the English Constitutions. That in itself was sufficient indication of the broad lines upon which they, as Masons, were established. They had met there that evening to consecrate the Temple to Freemasonry, and he hoped that the principles of the Order would continue to be inculcated and carried on from generation to generation in that building. The success of Freemasonry depended not upon the number of Brethren they initiated into the Craft, but upon their seeing that they got brethren who would make respectable members, not only of the Craft, but of the community. That was the way in which they would make not only Masonry, but that Temple, prosperous, and the great object of the three united Lodges who had built that Temple was to see that end achieved. They had made a very good start. They had that evening, he supposed, one of the finest meetings of Masons that they had ever had in Johannesburg, and he hoped that in the future the building would see many such gatherings, and that the Brethren would all unite to make that Temple as prosperous as all Freemason institutions should be. He called upon them to drink prosperity to the new Temple.

Bros. G. Rideal and P. Van Os each acknowledged the toast in a sentence.

Bro. B. A. Hall also replied, and in doing so said he could assure them, on behalf of the Johannesburg Lodge, that it would be the aim of every member, from the youngest Entered Apprentice to the oldest Past Master, to render the new Temple as great a house of harmony as the old Temple. He looked upon the Temple as a splendid monument to Freemasonry. He would not say it was the best in South Africa, but he would say it was one of the best in the world, and he knew it ought to be from the amount of labour bestowed upon it. Not only was the Temple a monument to Freemasonry, but it was also, he thought, a monument to one of the principles of Freemasonry—brotherly love. When they met together as Masons all thoughts of differences of nationality were thrown aside, and at heart they were brothers. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that now they had got a suitable home they would have more English Masons becoming affiliated with the Craft in Johannesburg.

Bro. Vogts, who also responded, said he trusted the Brethren would do all they could to make the Lodges worthy of the beautiful Temple they met in.

Bro. G. Bingham replied on behalf of the Abercorn Lodge (I.C.).

Bro. J. da Silva, in submitting the toast of the Consecrating Officers, paid a tribute to the efficiency with which those brethren performed their duties. Proceeding to allude to one of the principles of the Craft—relief—he remarked upon the gratifying success which attended the inauguration of the Transvaal Masonic Educational Institution—an Institution which, he felt sure, would in the near future become one of the greatest ornaments of the Transvaal. He mentioned that next year's festival would be held under the auspices of the Transvaal. He felt confident that their work in this direction was only beginning. They had other goals to which they hoped to lead the Brethren in the near future. One of these was the establishment of an institution for aged and distressed Freemasons. Let them not think that those in authority were too ambitious or trespassing too much on their generosity. It was not so. A small amount from each brother would give such a sum as would not only enable them to carry forward the Educational Institution, but also to establish a Fund for the relief of the distressed. He merely threw this out as a suggestion. It had already received the approval of most of the Officers of the District Grand Lodge. Proceeding, he remarked that he was sorry to say that although they had, on a rough computation, some ten to fifteen thousand Freemasons in the State, there were not more than from five to six thousand affiliated with the Lodges there. He held that it was the duty of every one of those ten thousand unattached Brethren to become affiliated with one or other of the Lodges in the Transvaal. In one district of the Witwatersrand alone he knew there were several hundreds of unattached brethren, who gave as an excuse that they had no Lodge in their district. He appealed to those present to urge upon such Brethren that they owed it as a duty not only to themselves, but to their wives and families, to become affiliated with one of the Lodges, so that, if they needed it, they might participate in the advantages which it was intended to provide. He called upon them to drink long life and happiness to the Consecrating Officers.

Bros. Harrison, Van Os, and Pistorius replied.

Bro. J. H. Parker, in a happy speech, gave the toast of the Building Committee, and paid a warm tribute to the twelve Brethren who composed the Committee, remarking on the fact that they had kept within the funds placed at their disposal, so that that night the Temple was practically free of debt. This showed marvellous strength of character. It now remained with the Committee to beautify and adorn the Temple which they had erected. In this connection the speaker remarked that Bro. G. Rideal had volunteered to decorate one of the panels in the vestibule at his own expense. Hardly had he done so, when Bro. Rothkugel asked: "What will it cost—£40 or £50?" On receiving a reply in the affirmative, he said: "I will also do one."

Brothers Boyes, Rothkugel, and Rideal acknowledged the toast.

A number of other toasts followed.

Bro. Alfred Dowling, in giving that of the Architects and Builders, spoke in eulogistic terms of the manner in which they had carried out their respective commissions. The toast was coupled with the names of Bros. W. Reid, Lamplough, and Kerr.

The proceedings terminated shortly before midnight.

THE TEMPLE DESCRIBED.

Masonry, in Johannesburg in particular, and the Transvaal in general, had made such rapid strides during the past few years that the accommodation afforded by the Jeppe and Rissik Street Temples has proved altogether inadequate, and some two years ago it was decided to realise on the site of the latter and erect a new hall in Plein Street. A strong working committee was appointed; negotiations proceeded satisfactorily; barriers were surmounted; eventually arrangements were completed; the

foundation stone was laid in November last; and gradually stone by stone, brick by brick, floor by floor, the structure developed, until at last the handsome and commodious Temple that now stands out in majestic prominence came into existence, and will, immediately after the consecration, be tenanted by no fewer than six Craft Lodges, and double that number of Chapters and other exalted bodies. The whole of the Lodges that have hitherto met in Rissik Street will be translated from the old home to the new. The change will be welcome, for the former is inadequate, inconvenient, uncomfortable; while the latter is serviceable, cosy, and central. On Wednesday night the District Grand Lodge of the Scotch Constitution of the Transvaal met in the new Hall, and on Thursday the investiture of Officers of the Golden Thistle Lodge took place there.

The external appearance of the Plein Street Temple is particularly pleasing, its massive porchway, which stands boldly out across the pathway, giving it an imposing appearance. The interior throughout is exceedingly pretty, admirably appointed, charmingly fitted and furnished, emblematically adorned and decorated, and splendidly lighted and ventilated. The main Lodge room is a perfect marvel of architecture and workmanship; the banquetting hall unusually bright and cheerful-looking, while all the Chapter and ante-rooms are patterns of taste and skill.

The corridors and vestibules on the ground floor have been prepared for ornamental glazed tiles, which have yet to arrive. Decorators are now busy finishing off the ceilings and hanging specially imported dados and ornamental ceiling coverings of anaglypta of the latest designs. The interior finish is in no way secondary to the exterior, the glazing and furniture being new in character, and the plaster as smooth and white as the finest marble. The latter is finished throughout in a special cement, and relieved in various ways by arches, piers, panels, and other devices, combining in producing a pleasing appearance.

On the right and left of the first corridor on the ground floor are to be found the library, committee, and ladies and gentlemen's cloak-rooms. The inner vestibule contains a memorial tablet in marble on which are inscribed the names of the Trustees and Building Committee. From one end of the inner vestibule access is gained to a large banquetting hall, 48 by 36 feet, with a specially constructed floor of pitch pine boards. A series of decorated pilasters traverse the four sides of the room, above which is an entablature with enriched cornice. Adjoining the banquetting hall is a refreshment room, in which is a pair of lifts running to the kitchen on the top floor.

Perhaps the most striking feature on the ground floor is the staircase and approach thereto. These are at the far end of the inner vestibule, separately ached off, panelled and decorated. They are mainly of teakwood, hand-polished. A nine feet circular window, fancy glazed, lights this part.

The first floor is mainly taken up with the Chapter room, 49 by 25 feet, and the Lodge room, 49 by 36 feet. On this floor there are also a number of other rooms for Chapter and Craft purposes. The Lodge room ceiling is handsomely covered and groined, and the room is lighted from above. The walls of this room have piers and cornices similar to those in the banquetting hall, but much more ornate in appearance; Corinthian style predominating.

The Chapter room is in the front of the building, and finished off in the most chaste fashion, quite in keeping with the other portions of the building, the ceiling being broken up into panels by massive beams.

The kitchen and caretaker's residence are on the top floor. The sanitary arrangements are perfect. The accommodation is detached, and situated in the centre of the yard-space provided on the ground floor. The total area of the stand is 100 by 50 feet, into which the required accommodation has been compactly arranged.

Electric lighting has been installed throughout. The fittings are very choice, this part of the work having been entrusted to Mr. McInnes. Messrs. Holloway Bros. are the contractors, and Messrs. Arthur and Walter Reid the architects, to whom praise is due for the excellence of the design and completeness of the work.

The following gentlemen composed the Building Committee: Bros. W. B. Boyes Chairman, J. Rothkugel Vice-Chairman, A. Dowling Secretary; G. S. Rideal W.M., J. Thompson S.W., T. Gibson J.W. (Golden Thistle Lodge); F. H. de Ross W.M., P. van Os S.W., and D. Lavine J.W. (Star of the Rand Lodge); and R. E. Hall W.M., B. A. Hall S.W., and G. S. B. Andrews J.W. (Johannesburg Lodge). The Trustees are:—Bros. J. Rothkugel (Golden Thistle), T. J. Smith (Star of the Rand), W. B. Boyes (Johannesburg).—"Johannesburg Star."

The weekly meetings of the Friars Lodge of Instruction, No. 1349, will in future be held on Thursday evenings, at 8 o'clock, at the Plough Hotel, Mile End.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

—:o:—

INCREASE OF PROVINCIAL HONOURS.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—Some time ago you stated in the CHRONICLE that: "The announcement made by the Earl of Lathom Pro Grand Master, to the effect that some suggested alterations in the disposal of Provincial honours should have his attention, will be hailed with delight by Brethren in the larger Provinces of England, where, as is often pointed out, the possibilities of conferring distinction on Craftsmen who have earned preferment are very small, by reason of the regulations of the Craft limiting the number of annual appointments."

I should like to know what, if anything, is likely to be the outcome of the "suggested alterations." Perhaps you or some of your readers will kindly oblige me with information on this head.

The question of alteration in the present method of disposal of Provincial honours is, in the opinion of many, one that cries aloud for consideration and amendment, especially in the larger Provinces.

Yours, &c.,

Tu. CA.

THE FIFTEEN SECTIONS

WILL be worked in the undermentioned Lodges, on the dates given:

In the Ranelagh Lodge, No. 834. First Lecture on Friday, 19th inst., Second and Third Lectures on Friday, 26th inst., at the Six Bells, Queen Street, Hammersmith, commencing at 8 p.m. Bro. William Hillier P.M. 1366 2090 Preceptor of St. John Lodge of Instruction W.M., J. Knight J.W. 861 S.W., W. J. Coplestone P.M. 834 J.W., A. Williams P.M. 834 2090 Preceptor of the Lodge I.P.M., W. Hinds W.M. 185 Treasurer, F. Craggs P.M. 834 Secretary.

First Lecture, Bros. W. Hide P.M. 1275, P. Cronin S.W. 1512, R. Phillips W.M. 834, L. J. Powell J.W. 2246, W. J. Coplestone P.M. 834, W. Williams P.M. 834, and Robert Reid S.W. 1275.

Second Lecture, Bros. James Banks S.W. 834, A. J. Clayton Organist 865, W. J. Coplestone P.M. 834, Robert Reid S.W. 1275, F. Craggs P.M. 834.

Third Lecture, Bros. A. Williams P.M. 834, W. Hinds W.M. 185, and W. Williams P.M. 834.

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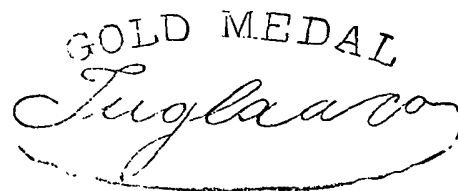
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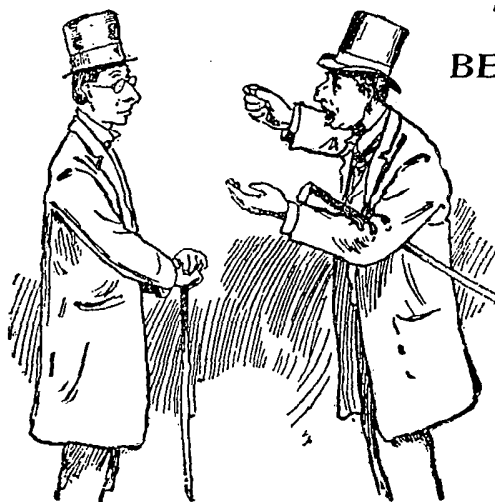
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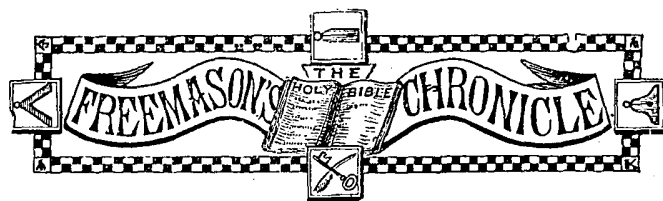
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SATURDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 1897.

NEW HALL AT EBBW VALE.**T**HE new Masonic Hall erected by the Glyn Ebbw Lodge of Freemasons was opened with befitting ceremony on Wednesday, 3rd inst., in the presence of a large attendance of the Brethren. Mrs. Wilputte, wife of Bro. N. L. Wilputte I.P.M., opened the outer door; Mrs. Lyons, wife of Bro. M. J. S. Lyons W.M. of the Lodge, the hall proper. The rooms are beautifully designed. At two p.m. the Lodge was held, when Bro. David Hughes was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year by Colonel C. R. Lyne D.P.G.M. The installation banquet was held at the County Hotel.**NEW HALL AT SUTTON.****A**T a cost of between £3,000 and £4,000 the Brethren of Sutton (Surrey) have just provided themselves with a Masonic Hall in Grove Road. The building was formally opened by a dinner by the directors, and the first Masonic function took place in it on Saturday, 9th inst., when Bro. Thomas Cookes was installed W.M. of the Lorne Lodge.

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

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

Monday.

8 British, Freemasons'-hall
21 Emulation, Albion
185 Tranquility, Guildhall Tavern
720 Panmure, Balham
862 Whittington, Freemasons'-hall
901 City of London, Guildhall Tav.
907 Royal Albert, Freemasons'-hall
1506 White Horse o' K't., HlbrnV.Hl.
1537 St. Peter, Westminster, Crtrn.
1657 Aldersgate, Albion
1694 Imperial, Westminster
1728 Temple Bar, Anderton's
2060 La France, Café Royal
2489 Willesden, Willesden Green
2545 Iris, Rainbow Tav., Fleet St.
2563 Justicia, Freemasons'-hall
37 Anchor and Hope, Bolton
77 Freedom, Gravesend
148 Lights, Warrington
236 York, York
248 True Love & Unity, Brixham
312 Lion, Whitby
359 Peace & Harmony, South'pton
377 Hope & Charity, Kidderminster
382 Royal Union, Uxbridge
424 Borough, Gateshead
455 Perseverance, Kettering
466 Merit, Stamford Baron
827 St. John, Dewsbury
840 Scientific, Wolverton
872 Lewis, Whitehaven
925 Bedford, Birmingham
949 Williamson, Monkwearmouth
986 Hesketh, Croston
1030 Egerton, Heaton Norris
1113 Anglesea, Manai Bridge
1141 Mid-Sussex, Horsham
1146 De Moulham, Swanage
1199 Agriculture, Yatton
1208 Corinthian, Dover
1255 Dundas, Plymouth
1337 Anchor, Northallerton
1443 Salem, Dawlish
1477 Sir Watkin, Mold
1502 Israel, Liverpool
1631 St. Andrew, Gorleston
1674 Caradoc, Rhyl
1748 Castlemartin, Pembroke
1814 Worsley, Worsley
1909 Carnarvon, Nottingham
2049 Eilan Vannin, Douglas, I. of M.
2069 Prudence, Leeds
2074 St. Clare, Landport
2081 Golden Fleece, Leicester
2114 Prudence, Liverpool
2208 Horsa, Bournemouth
2289 Blundellsands, Great Crosby
2295 Scarisbrick, Southport
2309 Christopher, Eton
2327 St. Oswin, North Shields
2349 West Lanc. Century, Blackpool
2373 Hardwick, Chesterfield
2425 Ecclesburne, Duffield
2432 Duchess of York, Manchester
2557 Temperance, Newcastle-on-T.

Tuesday.

Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, at 5.
30 United Mariner, Guildhall Tav.
73 Mount Lebanon, Southwark
95 Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle
162 Cadogan, Freemasons'-hall
194 St. Paul, Cannon St. Hotel
435 Salisbury, Freemasons'-hall
704 Camden, Anderton's
857 St. Mark, Camberwell
1805 Bromley St. Leonard, Bromley
2021 Queen Westm'ster, Holb'n R'st.
2022 Haven, Ealing
2408 Hampstead, Haverstock Hill
2500 Old Boys', Criterion
213 Perseverance, Norwich
223 Charity, Plymouth
293 King Friends, Nantwich
384 St. David, Bangor
386 Unity, Wareham
414 Union, Reading
418 Menturia, Hanley
432 Abbey, Nuneaton
452 Frederick of Unity, Croydon
468 Light, Birmingham
476 St. Peter, Carmarthen
551 Yarrowburgh, Ventnor
560 Vernon, Stourport
660 Camalodunum, New Malton

667 Alliance, Liverpool
681 Scarsdale, Cnesterfield
830 Endeavour, Dukinfield
958 St. Aubin, Jersey
960 Bute, Cardiff
1006 Tregulow, St. Day
1046 St. Andrew, Farnham
1075 St. Maughold, Ramsey, I. of M.
1089 De Shurland, Sheerness
1096 Lord Warden, Walmer
1225 Hindpool, Barrow-in-Furness
1276 Warren, Seacombe
1410 S. Peter & S. Paul, N'p't Pagnell
1424 Brownrigg of Unity, Old B'pton
1427 Percy, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1551 Charity, Birmingham
1570 Prince Arthur, Liverpool
1621 Castle, Bridgnorth
1764 Eleanor Cross, Northampton
1787 Grenville, Buckingham
1893 Lumley, Skegness
1894 Hershel, Slough
1903 Pr. Ed. Saxe Weimar, P'tsm'th.
1941 St. Augustine, Rugeley
2146 Surbiton, Surbiton
2155 Makerfield, Newton-le-Willows
2316 Princes, Liverpool
2351 Ermine, Lincoln
2360 Victoria, Southport
2407 Hicks-Beach, Stroud
2530 Shirley Woolmer, Sidcup
2536 Staines, Staines
2572 Tyldesley, Tyldesley

Wednesday.

General Committee Grand Lodge and Board of Benevolence, at 5.
Grand Stewards, Freemasons'-hall.
7 Rl. York Perseverance, Albion
140 St. George, Greenwich
174 Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern
190 Oak, Freemasons'-hall
700 Nelson, Plumstead
969 Maybury, Lincoln-Inn's-Fields
1044 Wandsworth, Wandsworth
1150 Buck'gham & Chandos, F.M.H.
1278 Burdett Courts, London Tavern
1349 Friars, Ship and Turtle
1382 Corinthian, Cubitt Town
1507 Metropolitan, Anderton's
1539 Surrey Masonic Hall, C'mb'rw'll
1571 Leopold, Southwark
1624 Eccleston, Criterion
1673 Welcome, Holborn Viaduct H'tl.
1677 Crusaders
2241 Cordwainer Ward, C'nion St. Ho
2272 Rye, Peckham
2345 Duke of Fife, Clapham Common
2348 Lombardian, Ship and Turtle
2361 Cricklewood, Frascati
2409 Woodgrange, Forest Gate
2456 Chaney Bar, Hall Lincoln Inn
2589 Borough, Bridge House Hotel
20 Rl. Kent Antiquity, Chatham
121 Mount Sinai, Penzance
127 Union, Margate
137 Amity, Poole
175 East Medina, Ryde
178 Antiquity, Wigan
200 Old Globe, Scarborough
210 Duke of Athol, Denton
221 St. John, Bolton
243 Loyalty, Guernsey
246 Royal Union, Cheltenham
261 Unanimity & Sincerity, Taunton
285 Love & Honour, Shepton Mallet
311 South Saxon, Lewes
325 St. John, Salford
342 Royal Sussex, Landport
376 Perfect Friendship, Ipswich
451 Sutherland, Burslem
537 Zetland, Birkenhead
581 Faith, Openshaw
591 Buckingham, Aylesbury
592 Cotteswold, Cirencester
610 Colston, Bristol
662 Dartmouth, West Bromwich
68 Isca, Newport, Mon.
726 Staffordshire Knot, Stafford
823 Everton, Liverpool
874 Holmesdale, Tunbridge Wells
889 Dohie, Kingston-on-Thames
934 Merit, Whitefield
938 Grosvenor, Birmingham
950 Hesketh, Fleetwood
962 Sun and Sector, Workington
972 St. Augustine, Canterbury
1019 Sincerity, Wakefield

1040 Sykes, Driffield
1086 Walton, Liverpool
1114 Joppa, Fakenham
1129 St. Chad, Rochdale
1136 Carew, Torpoint
1246 Holte, Aston, Warwicks
1294 St. Alban, Grimsby
1301 Brighthouse, Brighthouse
1323 Talbot, Swansea
1334 Norman, Durham
1353 Duke of Lancaster, Lancaster
1511 Alexandra, Hornsey
1634 Starkie, Ramsbottom
1774 Mellor, Ashton-under-Lyne
1797 South Down, Hurstpierpoint
1842 St. Leonard, St. Leonard's
1973 Saye & Sele, Belvedere
1988 Mawddach, Barmouth
2050 St. Trinians, Douglas, I. of M.
2135 Constance, Consett
2153 Hope, Gosport
2203 Farnborough & N.C., Farnboro'
2258 West. Dist. U.S., E. Stonehouse
2412 Ashfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield
2434 Anderida, Eastbourne
2475 Border, Blackwater
2502 Gatwick, Horley
2514 City, Liverpool
2587 Radnor, Folkestone

Thursday.

House Committee, Girls School, 4-30
23 Globe, Freemasons'-hall
49 Gihon, Guildhall Tavern
55 Constitutional, Cannon St. Ho.
63 St. Mary, Freemasons'-hall
169 Temperance, Deptford
179 Manchester, Anderton's
181 Universal, Albion
657 Canonbury, Holborn Rest
733 Westbourne, Holborn Rest
813 New Concord, Guildhall Tavern
1287 Great Northern, Freemasons'-h.
1365 Clapton, Great Eastern Hotel
1420 Earl Spencer, Lavender Hill
1475 Peckham, Camberwell
1598 Ley Spring, Anderton's
1901 Selwyn, Peckham
2310 London Scottish Rifles, Crit'ion.
42 Relief, Bury
56 Howard B'ly Love, L'hampton
57 Humber, Hull
98 St. Martin, Burslem
100 Friendship, Great Yarmouth
203 Ancient Union, Liverpool
230 Fidelity, Devonport
245 Mechanics, Jersey
267 Unity, Macclesfield
268 Union, Ashton-under-Lyne
280 Worcester, Worcester
286 Samaritan, Bacup
322 Peace, Stockport
343 Concord, Preston
345 Perseverance, Blackburn
350 Charity, Farnworth
363 Keystone, Whitworth
367 Probity & Freedom, Rochdale
394 Southampton, Southampton
425 Cestrian, Chester
430 Fidelity, Ashton-under-Lyne
489 Benevolence, Bideford
523 John of Gaunt, Leicester
600 Harmony, Bradford
605 Combermere, Birkenhead
659 Blagdon, Blyth
663 Wiltshire of Fidelity, Devizes
758 Ellesmere, Runcorn
777 Royal Alfred, Guildford
802 Repose, Derby
833 Afan, Aberavon
900 St. George, Tewkesbury
939 Pelham, Worksop

940 Philanthropy, Stockton
1000 Priory, Southend
1011 Richmond, Manchester
1037 Portland, Portland
1042 Excelsior, Leeds
1184 Abbey, Battle
1299 Pembroke, Liverpool
1332 Unity, Crediton
1386 St. Hugh, Lincoln
1393 Hamer, Liverpool
1432 Fitz-Allan, Oswestry
1459 Ashbury, West Gorton
1464 Erasmus Wilson, Gravesend
1470 Chiltern, Dunstable
1512 Hemming, Hampton Court
1534 Concord, Prestwich
1562 Homfray, Risca
1594 Cedewain, Newtown, Mont.
1776 Landport, Landport
1821 Atlingworth, Brighton
1869 Sandown, Sandown, I. of W'ht.
1872 St. Margaret, Surbiton
1887 St. Hilda, Wallingford
1892 Wallington, Sutton
2107 Etheldreda, Newmarket
2158 Boscombe, Boscombe
2226 St. David, Rhymney
2268 Hallamshire, Sheffield
2302 St. Mary, Southwell
2305 Stour, Ashford, Kent
2325 Rose of Lancaster, Southport
2341 Clemency, Oldham
2430 Runnymede, Wraysbury
2523 Roll Call, Hounslow
2555 England Centre, Weedon
2570 Prince Llewellyn, Cardiff

Friday.

Board of Management, Boys School at 2-30.
143 Middlesex, Albion
975 Rose of Denmark, Kennington
1118 Oxford and Cambridge, F.M.H.
1623 West Smithfield, Freemasons'-h.
1962 London Rifle Brigade, And't'n's.
2157 St. Mark's College, H'lb'rn Rest
2346 Warrant Officers, F'masons'-hall
2524 Train Bands, Finsbury Barr'ks.
152 Virtue, Manchester
271 Royal Clarence, Brighton
347 Noah Ark, Tipton
541 De Loraine, Newcastle-on-Tyne
993 Alexandra, Levenshulme
1108 Royal Wharfedale, Otley
1311 Zetland, Leeds
1330 St. Peter, Market Harborough
1357 Cope, Sale
1389 Fenwick, Sunderland
1773 Albert Victor, Pendleton
1794 De Vere, Nottingham
2063 St. Osyth Priory, C't'n-on-Sea
2231 Talbot, Stretford
2447 Palatine, Manchester

Saturday.

715 Panmure, Cannon Street Hotel
1139 South Norwood, S. Norwood P.
1329 Sphinx, Camberwell
1364 Earl of Zetland, Guildhall Tav.
1732 King's Cross, Anderton's
1767 Kensington, Kensington
2308 Viator, Anderton's
416 Surrey, Reigate
811 Yarrowburgh, Brighton
1126 Oakwood, Romiley
1556 Addiscombe, Croydon
1871 Gostling Murray, Hounslow
2035 Beaumont, Kirkburton
2318 Lennox Browne, B'khurst Hill
2437 Downshire, Wokingham
2458 Eton, Eton
2548 Herga, Harrow

National Skating Palace.—Another sign that winter is upon us is the announcement of Fancy Dress Balls. The management of this popular place of amusement took "Time by the Forelock," and so getting ahead of its rival at Covent Garden by a week, gave a Fancy Dress Carnival on Lord Mayor's night, which was very fully attended. A dozen handsome and useful prizes were offered for the best costumes for ladies and gentlemen, and the competition thus evoked must have caused hard work to the judges. The plain evening dress of the men was not too conspicuous, and many of the garments worn were admirably suited to the occasion. But the ladies naturally carried off the palm in this direction, by their charming and tasteful costumes, several being fanciful in the extreme, and all being much admired. The ice was in splendid condition, and lovers of the art availed themselves to the fullest extent of the privilege afforded them. Round and round they went, an endless throng, cutting all sorts of figures and enjoying themselves to their heart's content, while the excellent orchestra played the liveliest of dance music. It was indeed a brilliant scene and strongly contrasted with the November gloom and fog outside. The Palace as a rule is open all day long, and the entrance fee entitles the visitor to half-an-hour's instruction should he or she desire it. Besides the skating there is a mysterious performance twice a day by Monsieur De Kolta, which is decidedly clever.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

—:o:—

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

—:o:—

ROYAL ARCH.

—:o:—

HIGHGATE CHAPTER, No. 1366.

THE regular convocation was held at Beale's Restaurant, Holloway Road, under the presidency of Comp. R. Pain Walkden M.E.Z.

The Chapter being opened, the minutes were read and confirmed. Bros. William Beale and Ellis were duly exalted, the ballot being unanimous, by Comp. Walkden in a very impressive and earnest manner, and from the deep attention paid by the candidates they evidently felt the obligation they were taking upon themselves, and were very much impressed with the beautiful ceremony.

This being election meeting, Comp. Walkden was unanimously re-elected, thus proving the great esteem in which he is held by the Companions of the Chapter, and an acknowledgment of his zeal on its behalf.

The M.E.Z. thanked the Companions for their support and confidence, and expressed a desire that the Chapter would prosper in its new home.

The Chapter was then closed, and the Companions adjourned to an excellent banquet under the personal superintendence of Comp. W. Beale, and that they fully appreciated the service was evident by the unstinted praise they expressed.

The M.E.Z., in giving the toasts, was brief, but to the purpose.

Past Principal Yeates proposed the toast of the M.E.Z. He had given a specimen of his working by the perfect and impressive manner in which he had discharged his duties that day.

In replying, the M.E.Z. said they knew he took great interest in the welfare of the Chapter, and was very desirous of its success. They had been for many years at the Gatehouse, Highgate, but the Companions thought a change desirable. The Mother Lodge had removed to the Midland Grand Hotel, with advantage, and he hoped the same success would attend the Chapter in its new home. Comp. Beale was anxious to give them every convenience and comfort, and they had seen how very admirably the rooms were suited to Masonic purposes. He thought there was a great future for the Chapter.

The M.E.Z., in proposing the toast of the Visitors, regretted there were not more, but those present were very valued Companions, and all grand workers in the Royal Arch; he felt very proud to welcome them to the Highgate Chapter.

Comps. Bailey, Walter George, Fred Varley, and Rothschild replied in terms complimentary to the M.E.Z., on the perfect way in which he had discharged his duties, and congratulated him on his re-election.

Comp. George, when replying, said the Companions had an excellent opportunity to learn the beautiful ceremony by attending the North London Chapter of Improvement, where they would be received with the greatest courtesy.

The toast of the Officers followed, and the Janitor's toast closed a very happy and successful evening.

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TRUTH CHAPTER, No. 1458.

THE first annual meeting was held at the Mosley Hotel, Manchester, on Thursday, 23th ult., Comp. Buckley Carr P.Z. 993 P.P.G.D.C. Z. The Companions were duly installed into the several positions, viz.: Councillor Samuel Irvine Mills as Z., Robert Caldwell as H., and George T. Lenard as J., the Installing Principal being Comp. Carr, who also delivered the lectures.

A very pleasing incident of the evening was the presentation of a jewel to Comp. Carr, being that of First Principal and Founder combined. Comp. Mills made the presentation, and spoke in very graceful terms of the work which Comp. Carr had performed, not only in connection with Royal Arch Masonry, but also in the Craft. The jewel, which was a very handsome one, bore the following inscription:—

Presented by

the Companions to

Ex. Comp. BUCKLEY CARR P.Z. P.P.G.D.C.,

for services rendered as First Z. of the Chapter.

28th October 1897.

A capital banquet followed, Loyal and Royal Arch toasts being agreeably relieved by songs, recitations, &c., given by members and visitors alike. Among the latter we noticed Comps. John Williams P.Z. 955 P.P.S.E., C. W. Godby P.Z. 325 P.Prov.1st A.S., D. Conway P.Z. 152, Charles Swinn P.Z. 204 P.P.G.S.Br., W. B. Midgley Z. 1055.

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MARK MASONRY.

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ALDERSHOT MILITARY LODGE, No. 54.

A MEETING of the members was held at the Masonic Hall, Aldershot, on the 21st ult. The agenda contained the names of six candidates for advancement. Three of the six, Bros. Clarke, Hodges, and Foster, were present, each being a Master Mason of Aldershot Camp Lodge, No. 1331. Additional interest was given to this meeting by the prospect of hearing the new W.M. Bro. John Jenkins-Kennett perform the ceremony for the first time during his year of office, and certainly the promise given by his work during the time that he had fulfilled the subordinate Offices in the Lodge was amply realised on this occasion, says the "Aldershot News," and many of the veteran Past Masters, Bros. Richardson, Lehmann, and Solomon, were loud in their praises of the work.

Bro. A. Milne, who represented the Lodge at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting was then invested as a Provincial Grand Inner Guard, in recognition of his zealous and constant endeavours to promote the general interests of the Degree. This honour, which gives general satisfaction to the Brethren

of his Lodge, is well merited. A new feature was the enjoyable after meeting, at which the majority assisted, and at which all old friends were remembered and many new ones made.

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COPLEY LODGE, No. 111.

AT a meeting held at the Masonic Hall, Great George Street, Leeds, on Tuesday, 2nd inst., Brother James Wood Blackburn was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year by Bro. Wm. Flockton P.M. P.P.G.S.O.

The Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy, the Prov. Grand Secretary, and other Provincial Officers were present, also several other Visitors.

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CRAFT: PROVINCIAL.

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LODGE OF INTEGRITY, No. 163.

IT had been arranged that at the close of the regular business of the above Lodge, held at the Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday, the 27th ult., the remainder of the evening should assume that of a musical character, with a sufficient interlude for an excellent supper. Lady and gentlemen friends had been invited, the company numbering between eighty and ninety, and the time passed merrily away.

At the onset, Bro. Herbert A. Owles W.M. cordially welcomed those present on behalf of himself and members of the Lodge. He reverted to the long programme which had been carefully prepared, and hoped the items composing it would be enjoyed by all. He said it was not often they had the pleasure of seeing ladies among them—in fact, during his membership of the Lodge he could not remember a similar instance, but having happily commenced this new departure, he sincerely hoped it would be the forerunner of many a similar enjoyable gathering. In this go-ahead 19th century, the fair sex seemed to vie with that of the stronger in every phase of life, and it might not be improbable to see in the future a lady Worshipful Master. If such an eventuality should occur, and the lady performed the duties with credit to the Lodge, and to herself, he failed to see what there could be to grumble at. In the hallowed chamber where they were assembled the walls were practically festooned with secrets, and it might be possible for their lady guests to satisfy their curiosity, and learn something before they departed. He might add for the information of the curious that the torture chamber was close by, where the victim, or candidate, passed a preparatory purgatory before being admitted into the sanctuary—this no doubt would interest them. He again expressed great pleasure in seeing the ladies, with their Masonic and other friends, and hoped the evening would be an enjoyable one to all concerned.

The programme was then proceeded with, the first item being a pianoforte duet (Masaniello overture) by Mrs. and Bro. R. W. Nuttall. This was followed by the well-known glee "Who will o'er the downs," by the Integrity choir, after which the services of Bro. Nuttall were again requisitioned in the song "Thy sentinel am I." Then the "Come sweet morning" of Miss Teggin, a young lady who is well-known at the Manchester concerts as a semi-professional singer, was rendered in a voice of extraordinary sweetness and plangency. Bro. Fred M. Whittle added a little surprise by way of an oboe solo (Fantasie), which was well given. The only recitation of the evening was that demanded at a moment's notice from Bro. J. M. H. Blamey P.M., the subject being the late Professor Aytoun's "Charles Edward at Versailles." Bro. Blamey has a dignified presence, and is a perfect master of elocution, and the concluding lines of this remarkable soliloquy:

"Bitter tears and sobs of anguish,
Unavailing though they be,
Oh! the brave—the brave and noble—
That have died in vain for me!"

sent a visible thrill through a rapt and appreciative audience, who cheered him to the echo at the close.

Bro. Ben Williams P.M. has often treated us to the song "Queen of the Earth" at former meetings in connection with the Lodge, but probably he was never heard to better advantage than on this occasion. Bro. F. Simpson was also at home in a brilliant pianoforte solo from "Faust." The "Kerry Dance," a song given by Mrs. S. Williams, was rendered with great taste, and received a hearty encore, a similar reception being accorded to the song of Mrs. Nuttall, entitled "The gift." The song, "Uncle John," by Mrs. Scott, was a very engaging specimen of the old ballad, and gave great satisfaction. A vocal duet from "Maritana," entitled "Of Fairy wand," fully tested the operatic powers of Bro. Owles W.M. and Miss Teggin, and was a great success. The commanding appearance of Bro. Owles stood in great contrast to that of Miss Teggin, who seemed, by comparison, one of those little editions of female kind bound in duodecimo, pleasing and ever acceptable to the studious.

Several other numbers were given, including a vocal duet, songs, trios, and glees, the various accompanists being Bros. Nuttall, Simpson, and Bridge Hopkinson P.M.

Toasts of the Queen, our guests, and the W.M. were honoured and duly responded to.

Bro. R. Alf. Hepworth P.M., in welcoming the Visitors, did so in his usual felicitous manner.

Bro. Whittle proposed the health of the W.M., explaining that as he (Bro. Whittle) had personally some interest in preparing the programme, he was desirous that it should be carried out satisfactorily, and he believed that there were very few who would go away dissatisfied. To Bro. Owles he gave a great amount of credit for the success of the evening, for his zeal had been beyond all praise. There was another whose name ought not to be omitted, to whom their thanks were largely due for the pleasant function of that evening, namely the Secretary Bro. J. H. Studd.

The W.M., in reply, pointed out that Bro. Whittle had discharged his portion of the work in connection with the meeting in a very excellent manner, and he deserved every praise. He had been told that it was twenty years ago since ladies had been invited to lend their graceful presence to a Masonic meeting in connection with the Lodge of Integrity, but if it rested with him, such a lapse should not occur again.

Bro. B. Wilmot responded to the toast of the Ladies, in a speech which was full of humour and apt references.

Among the Visitors we noticed Bros. Thomas Threlfall P.M. 1773 992 P.P.G.S., Thomas T. Sefton P.M. 1773, J. H. Waddington Chap. 2363, and W. Hughes 2447.

We understand that the ladies have prevailed upon Bro. Owles to hold a soiree or ball before his period of Mastership terminates, which will be duly announced.

TYRIAN LODGE, No. 253.

THERE was a large gathering at the Masonic Hall, Derby, on Tuesday, 2nd inst., on the occasion of the 112th annual festival of this Lodge—the mother Lodge of the Province of Derbyshire. The W.M.-elect was Bro. A. Woodiwiss P.M. P.P.S.G.W., and amongst those present were several distinguished Visitors. The Installing Masters were Bros. Eastwood I.P.M., Cutting, Marsden, and Cox.

An interesting feature of the proceedings was the presentation, on behalf of some members of the Lodge, of full dress and undress Grand Lodge clothing to Bro. S. Cox, upon whom has been conferred the honour during the Jubilee year of appointment as Past Assistant Dir. of Cers. of the Grand Lodge of England. The presentation was made by the Worshipful Master, who in a few well-chosen sentences spoke of the honour done to Bro. Cox as having been earned by long services to the Craft, and of the pleasure which his selection had given to his friends in the Lodge and the Province.

Brother Cox having replied, the Lodge proceedings shortly afterwards closed.

The annual banquet was subsequently held in the Athenæum Room, and was excellently served by Miss Frost, the manageress.

The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were submitted from the chair, Bros. Piper and Sir Thomas Roe replying for the Provincial Grand Officers, which was given by Bro. Sir Henry Bemrose.

The toast of the W.M. was submitted by Bro. Manton S.W., who referred to the great satisfaction which it gave the Lodge to elect so prominent a Mason as Bro. Woodiwiss to the Mastership.

The W.M. was warmly greeted, and in replying to the toast he made an interesting reference to Sir Abraham Woodiwiss's connection with the Devonshire Lodge, and to his own Mastership of the Arboretum Lodge, in Derby.

SINCERITY LODGE, No. 292.

THE members held their annual Ladies' re-union, at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, on Monday, 8th inst. The chair was occupied by the W.M. Bro. J. Roberts, who was supported by Past Masters and Officers of the Lodge. A large number of members, with their wives and friends, sat down to dinner, provided by the management. A good programme of vocal and instrumental music was given by the members and their friends, and altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent.

AIRE AND CALDER LODGE, No. 458.

THE Lodge has recently acquired new premises for their meetings. A suite of rooms above the Custom House, Goole, has been furnished and fitted up at a considerable expense, and will now form a very fitting Lodge room, Banqueting room, and ante-room. The relics which were rescued from the debris of the Market Hall fire, the old Lodge room being at the Market Hall, have been preserved and framed, and are accorded a place of honour in the new rooms. One meeting has already been held in the new quarters, but they will not be formally dedicated until the installation of the new W.M. in a few weeks time.

WAVENEY LODGE, No. 929.

THE installation meeting was held on Wednesday, 3rd inst., at the King's Head, Bungay, among the visitors being Bro. N. Tracy Prov. Grand Secretary P.G.Std.Br. England. Bro. H. J. Hartcup P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C. was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year by Bro. W. H. Mann P.M. P.P.G.J.D.

KINGSTON LODGE, No. 1010.

AT the regular meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd inst., at the Masonic Hall, Kingston Square, Hull, Bro. W. F. Harris J.W. was elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. Bro. Robert Hodgson P.M. P.P.G.D. was elected Treasurer for the third year, and Bro. H. Williams was appointed Tyler.

ABBEY LODGE, No. 1184.

THE installation meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Battle, on Thursday, 28th ult., when there was a large gathering of members, and visitors from neighbouring Lodges.

The Lodge having been duly opened, the W.M.-elect Bro. George Smith, of Haywards Heath, Deputy Chief Constable of East Sussex, was presented and installed into the chair in a most impressive manner by Bro. the Very Rev. E. R. Currie, who was assisted by various Past Masters of the Lodge.

The banquet took place in the evening, in the Assembly Room of the George Hotel, and the W.M. presided. The banquet was served in splendid style by Host Wagstaff, and the Stewards were commissioned to convey to him the appreciation of the W.M. and the Brethren present for the pains he had taken for their comfort, and for the great taste displayed in the decorating of the table and the room.

DUKE OF CORNWALL LODGE, No. 1529.

AT the regular meeting, held at St. Columb, on Wednesday, 3rd inst., Bro. J. King-Martyn S.W. was duly installed in the chair of King Solomon by Bros. E. Forbes Whitley and Carus Wilson.

HOMFRAY LODGE, No. 1562.

THE installation of Bro. Tom Davies as Worshipful Master took place on Thursday, 28th ult., he being installed by Bro. Joseph James, in the presence of Lieutenant-Colonel Lyne D.Prov.G.M.

EBORACUM LODGE, No. 1611.

THE installation of Bro. John Thos. Chambers S.W. took place on Monday, 8th inst., at the Masonic Hall, St. Saviourgate, York, in the presence

of a large gathering of Members of the Craft. The ceremony was performed by Bro. F. W. Halliwell, the retiring Worshipful Master, assisted by Bro. J. L. Spetch P.M., and Bro. F. H. Vaughan P.M. Subsequently Bro. Chambers appointed and invested the Officers for the ensuing year.

The Preceptor of the Lodge is Bro. J. Smith P.M., and the Librarian Bro. T. B. Whytehead P.M. P.G.S.B. Eng. P.P.S.G.W.

The installation banquet took place in the evening at the Royal Station Hotel.

WINDSOR LODGE, No. 1754.

THE annual festival was held in the Masonic Hall, Penarth, on Friday, 5th inst., when the installation of Bro. Ralph Crossling S.W. for the ensuing term took place, the ceremony being performed by Bro. Charles A. Young Prov.G.S.Wks.

The annual banquet was held at the Esplanade Hotel.

HORSA LODGE, No. 2208.

THERE was a large gathering at Bournemouth, on Monday, 18th ult., when the annual festival and installation took place. The Provincial Grand Master Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., was among those who honoured the occasion by his presence.

Bro. G. E. Bridge S.W. was installed in accordance with ancient custom by the W.M., and the addresses to the Officers were impressively delivered by the Provincial Grand Master.

A beautiful Past Master's jewel had been subscribed for by the Lodge for presentation to the retiring Worshipful Master, as a memento of his year of office, and in recognition of the very efficient way in which he had performed his duties.

The installation banquet was provided at the Grand Hotel, the proceedings in connection with which were of a special character. There was more music and less speech-making than usual—which was a pleasant innovation, says the "Bournemouth Guardian"—and an elaborate and highly-ornamental programme had been specially prepared for the occasion.

In proposing the toast of the Provincial Officers the W.M. expressed his high appreciation of the honour which the Provincial G.M. had done the Lodge by being present at their proceedings that day.

The Prov.G.M., in responding, referred to the great increase in Freemasonry which was manifest throughout England, and, he might say, also throughout the world. It behoved them all the more, therefore, to act up to the high principles of their Masonic life, to maintain the high position which it had held in the past, and to see that it held it in the future.

The Prov.G.M. proposed the health of the W.M., and wished him a happy year of office, and the W.M. responded in a very practical and happy speech.

MINNEHAHA MINSTREL LODGE, No. 2363.

THE annual meeting and Festival of St. John took place at the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on Monday, 25th ult., Bro. Fred Hilton P.M. P.P.G.D.C. Worshipful Master. There was a good attendance both of members and visitors, the Lodge in the latter instance having been a great plagiarist, for it drew a goodly number of distinguished Brethren from almost every direction, who were anxious, no doubt, to hear the fine musical ceremonial which is an especial adjunct to the yearly function in connection with this Lodge.

The principal business of the day was that of installing Bro. Edwyn A. Smith S.W. into the chair of K.S., the Installing Master being the retiring W.M., who had the assistance of the following Officers: Bro. M. Thomas P.P.G.D., who gave the address to the W.M.; Bro. Cyril H. Beever, who addressed the Wardens; Bro. Henry Nall P.P.Gr.Tr. (W.L.), who presented and explained the Working Tools of the various degrees; and Bro. Seth Wrigley P.G.J.D. D.C., who invested and addressed the following Officers: —Bros. Thomas Hamnett S.W., Sam Luke J.W., F. W. Wollaston P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C. Chap., Joseph Hilton Treas., C. H. Beever P.M. Secretary, S. H. Stubbs S.D., F. Todd J.D., W. H. Purdy Organist, Dr. W. F. Dearden I.G., Harry Bowes, S. L. Watts, H. B. Muir, and E. Parnell Stewards.

As will be seen, Bro. Thomas retires from the position of Secretary, a post which we believe he has held since the formation of the Lodge; but as Charity Representative he still remains in active touch with the other Officers. His relinquishment of Secretarial duties has been occasioned by failing health, which we, in conjunction with his Minnehaha friends, deeply regret.

Lodge business was succeeded by one of those excellent banquets which are typical of the Spiers and Poud management. A capital musical programme had been prepared, every item being of a superior kind. The contributors were Bros. Nall, Beever (fairy bells), Chas. Harrop Prov.S.W., Thos. Black P.M., W. C. Jones P.M., F. Todd J.D., G. R. Ward, of Minnehaha Minstrel celebrity, and H. B. Muir. We need add no more to prove that the long sederunt after dinner was a very enjoyable one.

Among the visitors we noticed Bros. Capt. Clement R. N. Beswicke-Royds Dep.Prov.Grand Master, John Chadwick P.M. 44 P.G.Sd.Br. Eng. P.P.G. Sec., Councillor Jas. J. Lambert P.G.D. Eng., Alfred Hebden P.M. 1458 P.P.G.D.D.C., Harry Perry P.M. 2447 P.G.J.D., R. Duxbury P.M. 1778 P.P.G.Sd.Br., Rev. Canon John Henn W.M. 2109, G. W. Thornhill W.M. 204, Arthur A. Moss P.M. 1375 P.G.D. (W.L.), C. R. Harman W.M. 1055, E. Lowe W.M. 2482, Councillor Saml. I. Mills P.M. 1077 2584, Chas. Klindworth 1375, J. D. Harker 2349, and others.

ASHFIELD LODGE, No. 2412.

THE annual installation was held in the Town Hall, Sutton-in-Ashfield, on Wednesday, 20th ult. The Worshipful Master-elect was Bro. J. D. Bailey, of Nottingham, and the Installing Master Dr. F. K. Tweedie.

ST. TRILLO LODGE, No. 2569.

THE annual installation took place on Friday, 5th inst., at Colwyn Bay, when Bro. James Porter P.M. was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, the Installing Master being Bro. J. G. Tuxford P.M. P.P.G.J.W.

CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

THE regular meeting was held on Monday, 8th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, under the presidency of Bro. Thomas Kingston W.M., who was supported during the evening by Bros. E. Pennock S.W., G. Spice J.W., W. D. Kershaw P.M. Treas., E. J. Davey P.M. Sec., F. S. Plowright I.P.M., Jas. Smith, Samuel Smither, W. Belchamber, John E. Fells (Steward), G. P. Nightingale, Joseph Hart and Francis Haines Past Masters; I. W. Simeons S.D., Walter Cutting J.D., Sidney W. Fells I.G., E. H. Lough Organist, Thomas Wiffen Assistant Steward, L. G. Reinhardt Tyler, several other members of the Lodge, and the following Visitors: Bros. James Morris 1624, E. Stratford 179, W. E. Kingston 771, and A. W. Smith S.W. 463.

After the formal opening of the Lodge and the confirmation of the minutes, the Lodge was advanced, and Bro. Baker was raised. The ballot was taken for a candidate for initiation, who was accepted, but not being present his initiation was postponed for a future meeting.

Bro. Joseph Hart P.M. was elected as a re-joining member, and a motion standing in the name of Bro. J. E. Fells P.M. was carried, to the effect that the sum of two guineas be awarded from the Benevolent Fund towards defraying the printing expenses of Bro. J. Smith's candidature for the R.M. Benevolent Institution.

Other business having been disposed of the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to supper, following which the usual toast list was gone through, interspersed with some excellent songs, &c., the Organist of the Lodge Bro. Lough presiding at the piano, and doing much to add to the comfort and enjoyment of those present.

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ASAPH LODGE, No. 1319.

THE installation meeting and banquet were numerously attended on Monday, 1st inst., says the "Stage." Proceedings were opened in Freemasons' Hall at 1.30 p.m., and a full muster of members and friends was in evidence. In consequence of the enforced absence of the W.M. Bro. Samuel Johnson, who is on tour with Sir Henry Irving's company, Bro. James Edward Hamilton acted as the Installing Master, and, with great earnestness and sincerity, installed Bro. William John Holloway.

The new Master invested as his Officers Bro. C. D. Powell J.W., C. Wellard P.M. Treasurer, W. A. Tinney P.M. Secretary, C. E. Tinney P.M. Organist, Charles Frere S.D., J. W. Matthews J.D., Algernon Syms I.G., Louis Honig Steward, and J. Gilbert Tyler. Bro. Luigi Lablache he appointed S.W., Sam Johnson I.P.M., Akerman May and Frank Wheeler Assist. Stewards, and W. Lestocq D.C., being unfortunately absent, their investiture was postponed.

The balance sheet showed how admirably the business arrangements had been carried out, for a large balance was in favour of the Lodge, and its Benevolent Fund was also well to the good.

After the business of the day had been transacted the Brethren adjourned to the Freemasons' Tavern, where they sat down to a magnificent banquet, over which the new W.M. Bro. Holloway presided. The majority of the members of the Lodge being associated with the drama, and their attendance at the theatres at an early hour being necessary, the speeches were, as a consequence, short.

Bro. Cruikshanks P.M., in giving the health of the W.M., dwelt upon the good qualities of the new Master at some length.

In answer, Bro. Holloway spoke of his Australian career. He was an Australian Mason, and his Brethren at the other side of the world at that moment would, he felt sure, be drinking his health. He concluded a pleasant and forcible speech by quoting the lines set down in the toast list, "I count myself in nothing else so happy as in soul remembering my good friends."

The W.M. then gave the toast of the Immediate Past Master. Unfortunately, he said, Bro. Sam Johnson was away with his chief, Sir Henry Irving, and could not be with them. But they could drink his health all the same. His work during the year had been good, and his genial and kindly nature had endeared him to all. He would also ask them to drink the health of the Installing Master, who had so admirably done his duties.

To this Bro. Hambleton, in response, said that he had received a letter from the W.M. Bro. Johnson, who wrote that he was with them all in spirit.

The toast of the Visitors, proposed by the W.M., was replied to by Bros. Bolton and Denby.

Bros. Edward Swanborough and C. S. Jekyll responded to the toast of the Past Masters, and for that of the Charities Bro. McLeod answered with an eloquent appeal on behalf of the Institutions.

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GALLERY LODGE, No. 1928.

THE members held their final meeting of the year at Anderton's Hotel, on Saturday evening, 6th inst., presided over by the Worshipful Master Bro. G. Tarran, when Bro. Samuel James was unanimously elected Master for the ensuing year.

At the subsequent dinner an excellent musical entertainment was provided by the Westminster Glee Singers Bros. George May, Charles Ackerman, Harper Kearton, and W. H. Brereton, Bro. Dalgety Henderson, and Bro. B. C. Hastwell. The Organist of the Lodge Bro. H. E. Peacock acted as accompanist. Bro. Charles Bertram also exhibited some of his clever card tricks.

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BLOOMSBURY RIFLES LODGE, No. 2362.

BEING the night for the annual election of Worshipful Master, Treasurer and Tyler for the ensuing year, there was a large attendance on Wednesday, at the Head Quarters of the Corps, Chenies Street, W., and a most enjoyable and successful meeting resulted. The Lodge was presided over by Bro. Thomas W. Mogford W.M., with Bros. G. D. Mogford I.P.M., J. L. Miller S.W., G. W. Barter J.W., Surgeon Lieutenant-Col. H. R. Meyers P.M. Treas., Sergeant Jackson Crow Sec., C. E. Gilbert S.D., G. Chandler J.D., Sergeant G. Groom I.G., C. E. Cowtan Org., G. Stevenson and C. W. Steel Stewards, S. Ingram Tyler; Captain Claud Scott P.M., Harry Sillis P.M., G. E. Grimes P.M., W. S. Hall, R. Laurie, W. J. Lewis, E. E. Milner, C. W. Potter, H. Cowtan, H. Milner, C. M. Steel, C. W. Patter, J. Greenfield, W. J. Lewis, F. Bradford, J. T. Ball, H. Fowler, H. J. Hagon, H. Gray and others.

Visitors: Bros. G. Knight P.M. 1585, George Weaver J.W. 733, H. Bagnall I.G. 733, J. Wynman, and several others.

The Worshipful Master opened the Lodge punctually at the appointed

time, and the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Brothers H. Milner and H. J. Hagon, who were initiated at the previous meeting, attended to be passed to the second degree. They were examined and entrusted, and retired.

The Lodge was opened in the second degree and those Brethren were passed as Fellow Crafts—the perfect working of the Worshipful Master being so well known requires no further reference here.

The election row took place for Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, and proved unanimous in favour of Brother J. L. Miller S.W., which result was received with marked satisfaction. Brother Miller, in acknowledgment, thanked the Worshipful Master and Brethren for having elected him Master of the Lodge, and felt that with the able assistance of Brother Mogford W.M. and the Officers he would be able to do much to give satisfaction.

The Treasurer and Tyler were re-elected.

Brother H. R. Meyers P.M. Treasurer proposed that a Past Master's jewel should be provided for presentation to the present Worshipful Master on the completion of his term of office.

Brother George Mogford I.P.M. proposed that the sum of five guineas be handed to the Head Quarters fund, which was seconded and agreed to.

The report of the Auditors was received and adopted.

During the proceedings, Past Master Sillis informed the Worshipful Master and Brethren that there was a Brother below asking for assistance, which was liberally afforded.

A few new members were proposed for next meeting, and after several communications had been read, and hearty good wishes tendered, the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the Mess Room, where an excellent repast was provided.

The cloth being removed the usual Loyal toasts were honoured, the W.M. especially alluding to the sympathy offered on all sides to Her Majesty the Queen in her late bereavement.

The I.P.M., in introducing the toast of the Worshipful Master, said that night was the last occasion on which he should have the pleasure of proposing the toast, at least in his present position as I.P.M. He was sure the Worshipful Master had given satisfaction. His working generally, and that evening in particular, was perfection.

The Worshipful Master was received with quite an ovation. He rose with a certain amount of regret, because he did so for the last time as their Worshipful Master. They had all been kind to him, and he thanked the Officers and each member for their hearty assistance during his year of office, particularly Bros. Meyers Treasurer and Jackson Crow Secretary.

The W.M. in eloquent terms proposed the health of the Past Masters, coupling with it the name of the I.P.M. and Brother Captain Claud Scott Founder and first Worshipful Master of the Lodge. He considered no Worshipful Master could have more excellent Past Masters than were to be found in the Bloomsbury Rifles Lodge.

The Immediate Past Master, in reply, said it was with much pleasure he acknowledged the toast. He was always willing to do anything to further the interests of the Lodge, and to assist in the working of the beautiful ritual. It was also pleasing to know that the Father of the Lodge Past Master Scott was to reply after him, and he hoped that he was satisfied with those he first introduced into Freemasonry. He thanked all the Brethren on behalf of the Past Masters and for himself, for the great and kind reception they always received at their hands. They would ever strive to deserve its continuance.

Bro. Capt. Scott said it was with the greatest of pleasure he rose to reply as first W.M. of the Lodge. The working he had seen that day was perfection. The Past Masters were happy to attend as often as possible. He sincerely thanked them for the cordial manner in which they received the toast.

Bro. Sillis P.M. also responded in suitable terms.

The W.M. next had much pleasure in proposing the Visitors, among whom were Bro. G. Knight P.M., Bro. G. Weaver, Bro. H. Bagnall, and Bro. Wynman. He had much pleasure in saying that Past Master G. Knight had joined their Corps, and if he made as excellent an Officer as he was a Past Master in the Craft he was sure they would become proud of him.

Bro. Knight, in reply, said he was pleased he had joined the Bloomsbury Rifles, because he saw many familiar faces there, Brethren he met in several Instruction Lodges, notably the Westbourne. Since he belonged to the Corps he was pleased to say he had made many friends, and he hoped to continue doing so in future.

Bro. Weaver in his jolly manner next responded, thanking the W.M. for his kind reception.

Bro. Bagnall was also very pleased to have been invited by Bro. Miller the W.M.-elect. The working he had witnessed was a treat to every Brother.

The next toast was the W.M.-elect who, in reply, said he was pleased they were satisfied with the working of the Officers. He thanked them for electing him W.M., and if he got the same kind support as his predecessors had done he felt sure they would be satisfied.

The W.M. then proposed the health of the Caterer of the Lodge Bro. Stickland, who had served them so well during the year, everything being most satisfactory.

Bro. Stickland, in acknowledgment, was very pleased to hear the W.M. and Brethren were satisfied. He thanked them for the compliment they had paid him, and hoped he would continue to win approval, as it was a great Masonic pleasure to him.

Other toasts followed, that by the Tyler bringing a most pleasant evening to a termination.

Several songs were given during the evening, by Bros. C. E. Cowtan, Knight, Harry Cowtan, George Mogford, and others, while the hearty accompaniment of a canary which happened to be in the room called for general comment.

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ALLEYN LODGE, No. 2647.

A MEETING of the members was held at the Half Moon Hotel, Dulwich, on Saturday, 30th ult., Bro. C. J. Axford P.P.G.D.C. Middlesex W.M. occupying the chair.

The opening business being concluded, Bro. F. J. Ritson was passed to the second degree, and Bros. Mars, Harwood, and Austin raised to the third degree, the working being performed in an admirable manner by the Worshipful Master.

Bro. J. Longhurst Treasurer provided a pleasant surprise to the Brethren, by presenting to the Lodge a very handsome photographic album. A well-deserved vote of thanks, carried by acclamation, was accorded, to which Bro. Longhurst suitably replied.

After the closing of the Lodge, the Brethren adjourned to a well-served supper, the W.M. presiding, and a very pleasant and successful evening was brought to a close.

INSTRUCTION.

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ROYAL ATHELSTAN LODGE, No. 19.

THIS Lodge, which was recently removed from the Blue Post to the more accommodating room of our esteemed Bro. C. J. Coombs W.M. of the Royal Alfred Lodge, No. 780, Host of the Cambrian, Glasshouse Street, Regent Street, W., assembled on Sunday, at 7.30, when Bro. J. Moar W.M. of the New Concord Lodge, No. 813 presided as W.M., and was assisted by the following Officers and Brethren: A. Carlstrom S.W., A. A. Butcher J.W., C. A. Cottebrune P.M. P.Z. P.G. Pursuivant England (for over thirty-two years Secretary of this Lodge of Instruction) acting Preceptor, C. H. Denny P.M. acting Secretary, L. Lake S.D., Coombs W.M. 780 J.D., Fred Trotter 2182 I.G., C. R. Knight, F. W. Kerswell, B. H. Swallow P.M., J. Wynman, R. Whitting P.M. 87, C. Morrison W.M. 1608, &c.

The Lodge was opened and the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. intimated to the Brethren his intention of rehearsing the ceremony of initiation, for which Bro. F. W. Kerswell offered himself as the candidate. After this the W.M. proposed rehearsing the ceremony of passing, for which Bro. C. R. Knight, acting as candidate, was examined and entrusted. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and the ceremony of passing gone through. This being completed the W.M. intimated his intention of rehearsing the ceremony of raising, for which Bro. C. Morrison W.M. of the Kilburn Lodge offered himself as candidate. He was examined and entrusted, the Lodge advanced to the third degree, and the ceremony of raising rehearsed. This and the former degrees were rehearsed in excellent manner, the W.M. receiving well earned compliments for the skill he exhibited in giving the three degrees, including the traditional charge of the final, in such able and faultless manner.

The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, when Bro. Carlstrom S.W. was elected W.M. for next Sunday.

The W.M. had much pleasure in announcing that the Fifteen Sections would be worked on a later Sunday, and that the annual supper would take place the following day. After a few more transactions the Lodge was closed in due form.

The Lodge meets every Sunday, at 7.30, and Brethren will do well to pay it a visit, the arrangements being all that can be desired.

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WESTBOURNE LODGE, No. 733.

THERE was a very good meeting of this well known Lodge on Wednesday, at the usual quarters, the Oliver Arms, Westbourne Terrace North, Harrow Road, W., under the presidency of Bro. C. E. Lilly as W.M., with Bros. J. L. Miller S.W., G. W. Barter J.W., H. Dehane P.M. Preceptor, R. J. Rogers P.M. Treas., G. Mogford P.M. Sec., G. Weaver S.D., H. Bagnall J.D., E. Thomas I.G., T. Mogford W.M. 2362, G. A. Knight P.M., Meeks, J. Wynman, C. T. Brown W.M. 733, E. White, Jackson Crow.

The W.M. intimated his intention of rehearsing the second degree, for which Bro. G. Knight offered himself as candidate. He was examined and entrusted, the Lodge was opened in the second degree, and the ceremony was rehearsed. The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and then called off and on. On account of previous engagements the W.M. had to retire, and the chair was occupied by Bro. T. Mogford W.M. 2362, who resumed the Lodge to the second degree, and rehearsed the ceremony of installation, Bro. J. L. Miller being presented as W.M.-elect, by Bro. G. Mogford P.M. acting D.C. After the obligation the W.M. advanced the Lodge to the third degree, and the W.M. was installed and saluted in the three degrees. The different addresses were delivered by Bro. Thomas Mogford with his usual ability, and to the great satisfaction of every Brother. The new chief in an able manner invested his Officers.

The W.M. resumed his chair, and Bro. Miller was elected W.M. for Tuesday week, next Tuesday being Officers' night.

It was agreed that a hearty vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes for the excellent working of the installation by Bro. C. T. Brown W.M. 733 which he performed for the first time last week, and the compliment was duly acknowledged.

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RANELAGH LODGE, No. 834.

ON Friday, 5th inst., at the Six Bells Hotel, Queen Street, Hammersmith, Bro. J. Worth W.M., W. Hide P.M. S.W., H. Scharien P.M. J.W., A. Williams P.M. Preceptor, F. Craggs P.M. Sec., James Banks S.D., W. G. Palmer J.D., A. J. Dalton I.G., Robert Reid Steward, W. J. Coplestone P.M., W. W. Williams P.M., W. T. Ridgway, J. J. Lewen, J. Knight, C. Woods.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Ridgway acting as candidate. Bro. Worth vacated the chair of Worshipful Master in favour of Brother Preceptor. The first section of the lecture was worked by Brother Hide, and the seventh section by Bro. Reid. Bro. Ridgway answered the questions leading to the second degree, and retired.

The Lodge was opened in the second degree and the first section of the lecture was worked by Bro. Banks, the questions being put by Brother Preceptor and Bro. Knight acting as S.W. The Lodge having been resumed in the first degree, Bro. Hide was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and Bro. Knight was elected a member. The Lodge was then closed. The Sections will be worked in this Lodge on Fridays, the 19th and 26th instant.

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UPTON LODGE, No. 1227.

THE popularity of Bro. B. Stewart P.M. 1278 and 2411, who presided on the occasion of the working of the fifteen sections in this Lodge of Instruction, attracted an excellent gathering on Monday, at 7 o'clock, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street.

Bro. Stewart was ably assisted by the following Officers: Bro. B. DaCosta P.M. S.W., L. A. DaCosta P.M. J.W., A. P. Bebrouth I.P.M. acting Preceptor, C. J. Free Treasurer, G. A. Peters P.M. 1227 Secretary, W. J. Carroll Assistant Secretary, J. Smith P.M. Preceptor S.D., H. Emden J.D., J. Cohn I.G., John Boswell Steward, while among others present were Bros. Canall, J. Gaskell P.M., J. Ribbons, J. Davis, H. Hyde, C. Fore jun., Frederick Toyé P.M., G. A. Fischer, J. Dancyger, S. Emden, J. W. Rozier, J. Boswell, T. Feistel, J. Wynman, B. Wood, I. Goldston, F. H. Johnson, H. Brack, R. Green, G. Frazer, J. Brown, A. Hone, H. R. Bower, and several other members and Visitors.

The Lodge was opened in regular form, and the minutes were read and confirmed. The sections of the first lecture were worked by Bros. E. Daniel P.M. 2411, G. W. Box (in the absence of Bro. G. Haysom), J. Smith Preceptor

(in the absence of Bro. H. Ffrench Bromhead P.M.), S. Vernon, B. DaCosta P.M. 1349, I. Goldston Steward 1349, and E. Jennings 2411.

The Lodge was opened in the second degree, when the sections were worked by Bros. A. T. Arter P.M. (in the absence of Bro. C. Nash Fox P.M.), John Ribbons Steward 2411, T. Blyth J.W. 2411, James Oxley P.M. 1306, and Pringle P.M.

The W.M. opened the Lodge in the third degree, and the sections were worked by Bros. A. P. Bebrouth W.M. 2411, L. A. DaCosta P.M. 1349, and J. Davis (in the absence of H. Harris P.M.) The working being ended the Lodge was closed down and well deserved compliments were paid to the Brethren for their rehearsal of the different sections, especially to those Brethren who were unexpectedly called upon to give sections for which other Brethren were down on the programme, but who were unavoidably prevented from being present.

It was proposed by Bro. J. Smith P.M. Preceptor, seconded, and unanimously agreed to, that a hearty vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes to Bro. B. Stewart P.M. 1278 the W.M. of the meeting, for the most perfect and able manner in which he had fulfilled the duties of the chair.

The W.M. acknowledged the compliment paid him, and thanked Bro. Smith and the Brethren for the vote of thanks. He also sincerely thanked the Officers for their kind assistance.

The W.M. proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded to those Brethren who had worked the different sections in such excellent manner, and called upon Bro. Pringle to respond, which was done in a very becoming way.

It was proposed by Bro. Smith, and seconded by Bro. C. J. Free, that Bro. J. Gaskell P.M. be elected an Honorary Member, he having been a member of the Craft for over forty years, and a member of their Lodge for several years. Bro. J. Gaskell, although eighty years old, was firm and hearty, and he was very pleased to say, was enjoying the best of health.

He acknowledged the compliment in a strong voice, saying that he loved Freemasonry; still attended different Lodges of Instruction during the week, and strongly advised younger members of the Craft to do the same.

After other compliments had been passed and acknowledged the Lodge was closed.

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WOODROW LODGE, No. 1708.

CONSIDERING the unfavourable weather, a very good meeting was held on Monday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, at the usual quarters at Bro. W. H. G. Rudderforth's "Stone's" Restaurant, 24 Panton Street, Haymarket.

Bro. C. Woodrow P.M. Preceptor acted as W.M., with Bros. A. W. Musk S.W., J. A. Klempner S.W. 1632 J.W., I. W. Simeons Sec., F. Walker S.D., E. R. Wetton J.D., C. W. Dyer I.G., Rudderforth P.M., A. H. Musk, L. Mutter, A. Espezel, H. G. Hyem, E. Nice, J. Wynman, C. T. Baker, J. Morris, and others.

The Lodge was regular opened, and then the W.M. kindly vacated the chair in favour of Bro. J. M. Klempner J.W., whose chair was taken during the ceremonies by Bro. E. Nice. Bro. Espezel offered himself candidate for the second degree, was examined and entrusted. Lodge was advanced and the ceremony of passing rehearsed in a perfect manner. The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and Bro. Hyem offered himself as a candidate, the ceremony of initiation being rehearsed. By special desire of the W.M. Bro. Nice J.W. gave the ancient charge, to the great satisfaction of every Brother present. Bro. A. W. Musk was unanimously elected W.M. for next Monday.

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TERRIERS LODGE, No. 2184.

THE afternoon meeting of this Lodge took place on Wednesday, at three o'clock, at the Sir Sidney Smith Tavern, Chester Street, Kennington, Bro. Riley W.M., C. Wetton S.W., J. Levey J.W., A. Darch P.M. Preceptor, E. Sinclair P.M. Secretary, C. Wise P.M. S.D., W. West J.D., W. A. Husk I.G., T. Holland, A. Sinclair, and J. Wynman.

The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. T. Holland was examined and entrusted for the second degree, and the Lodge being advanced, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed in a perfect manner. By desire of the W.M. Bro. C. Wise P.M. Deputy Preceptor worked the first section. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and closed down to the first.

It was proposed by Bro. Darch, seconded by Bro. Levey, and unanimously agreed to, that a hearty vote of thanks be put on the minutes to Bro. C. Riley W.M., for his excellent and faultless working of the second degree, and for having closed down the Lodge in such an able manner, this being the first occasion on which Bro. Riley had acted as W.M. The compliment was duly acknowledged.

Bro. Wetton was elected W.M. for next Wednesday week, the annual dinner being fixed for Wednesday next, at three o'clock. We are sure the Brethren will have a very enjoyable afternoon, under the able presidency of Bro. A. Darch P.M. the able Preceptor of the Lodge.

On 1st January next "The African Critic" will be incorporated with a new paper to be called "The Critic," which Mr. Henry Hess will issue from 156-7 Leadenhall Street, London, E.C. As the title indicates, the object of the new journal will be to extend the field of criticism in other directions. Politics, Finance, and Sport are to form the main features of the new production, but Music and the Drama, Literature and Art, and Woman's Sphere will not be neglected. "The Critic" will be issued on Saturdays, price 6d, and will consist of sixty-four pages, in form and shape similar to its well-known parent.

Dr. Barnardo's "Night and Day" for November repeats the story that so many public charities have had to tell, namely, that owing doubtless to the many funds now making their drafts upon the benevolent, receipts have seriously fallen off, and that there is urgent need of immediate help to maintain the efficiency of the work. Severe retrenchments have been effected, and yet the well-known Homes, which have rescued 32,000 boys and girls, and which have nearly 5,000 children now under their care, are crippled for lack of the needful income. The late Mr. Mundella devoted his last public utterance to a warm eulogium of the boarding-out methods of the Homes, although he admitted that at first he had "grave doubts" about these methods. Yet his conclusion is: "Would to God the same methods were introduced into the system of the administration of the whole of the poor law children of the country." During the year the Homes have emigrated 664 trained boys and girls to Canada and the Colonies, making a total of 9,396.

The Theatres, &c.

Her Majesty's.—8.15, The Silver Key. 10.15, Katherine and Petruchio. Matinée, Saturday, 2.15.
 Lyceum.—8, Hamlet. Wednesdays, 2 only.
 Drury Lane.—7.45, The White Heather. Matinée, Saturday, 1.45.
 Haymarket.—8.15, The Little Minister. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
 Lyric.—8.15, The judgment of Paris. 9.15 Fashionable intelligence. 10, The Cat and the Cherub. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
 Adelphi.—8, In the days of the Duke. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
 Garrick.—8.20, La Périochole. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Daly's.—8.15, The Geisha; A story of a Tea House. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Vaudeville.—8.15, The Cape Mail. 9, Never again. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
 Prince of Wales's.—8.15, La Poupée. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Savoy.—7.40, Old Sarah. 8.20, The Yeoman of the Guard. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Gaiety.—8, The Circus Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
 Terry's.—7.50, Apron Strings. 8.20, The French Maid. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.30.
 Criterion.—8.15, The Liars. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
 St. James's.—8, The Tree of Knowledge. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
 Comedy.—8.10, The Guinea Stamp. 9, One Summer's day. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
 Court.—8.30, The Vagabond King. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Shaftsbury.—On Wednesday, The Scarlet Feather.
 Princess's.—8, Two little Vagabonds. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
 Royalty.—8.15, A bit of old Chelsea. 9, Oh! Susannah! Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Parkhurst.—Next week, at 8, Private Secretary.
 Grand.—Next week, Under the Red Robe.
 Alhambra.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. Victoria and Merrie England. Cinematographe views of the Jubilee Procession.
 Empire.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet, Monte Cristo, &c.
 Palace.—8, Variety Entertainment, New American Biograph, &c.
 Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2.30.
 Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
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