

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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THE BENEVOLENT FESTIVAL.

ON Wednesday next the Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows will be celebrated, and we are pleased to think that this, the first Festival of the year on behalf of the great Charities of English Freemasonry, promises to be a much greater success than many of us dared to hope, after the Centenary which produced so much for the Boys last year.

It is indeed most gratifying to learn that Bro. Terry Secretary of the Institution has been able to enlist the services of some four hundred Brethren to act as Stewards on the occasion, in support of the Right Hon. Lord Llangattock Provincial Grand Master of the Eastern Division of South Wales, who has kindly undertaken the duties of President for the year; and with so strong a Board of workers we may reasonably look for a satisfactory result.

The necessity for a substantial contribution year by year for this Institution is manifest when we refer to the fact that the amount paid annually in annuities is no less than £16,384, distributed among 202 aged Brethren, and 275 widows of deceased Craftsmen, the assured income of the Institution being a most insignificant proportion of this large amount. Further than this, we may point to the large number of 126 approved candidates waiting for their turn to participate in the bounty of the Craft through this grand Fund, with, so far, only twenty-three vacancies between them.

While we should like to see the work of the Institution widely extended—particularly this year, when the Widows' Branch of the Fund celebrates its Jubilee—it would be most unwise for the Committee to take upon themselves any new responsibilities unless they see their way perfectly clear to meet them. This can only be done by the hearty and general support of the Craft year by year at the Anniversary Festivals, and we sincerely hope next week's celebration may be so successful as to allow of some increase being made to mark the special feature of the Jubilee, to which we have just referred.

FREEMASONS IN PUBLIC.

IT will be seen in another part of our issue that Archdeacon Sinclair P.G. Chaplain referred in the course of his sermon at St. Mark's, New Barnet, on Sunday afternoon, to the criticism which has been offered (in our pages and elsewhere) as to the desirability of continuing public displays of Freemasons in connection with Church Services.

It will be in the memory of our readers that we expressed ourselves as strongly opposed to the practice, and we are still of the same opinion so far as the London district, and other large centres are concerned. There was nothing, however, at which the

most fastidious could have found fault in connection with the public procession of Freemasons at New Barnet on Sunday, and we imagine the same can be said of similar gatherings, under like conditions, in other suburbs and quiet districts throughout the country. We should, therefore, most certainly be sorry to hear that any hard and fast prohibition had been found necessary, to put an end to public appearances of members of the Order under such circumstances, but at the same time we hope the question will be fully considered, as we believe the authorities of the Craft are now doing, so far as the metropolitan district is concerned, as it is well known some very disagreeable things have been said and done at Masonic displays held in the midst of crowded neighbourhoods, and it is quite time something was done to prevent the recurrence of some regrettable incidents which have occurred, in spite of the best efforts put forward to prevent them.

It seems to us, for instance, about time to look fully into the matter when we find a clergyman unconnected with our Order arranging a special Masonic Service in his church, and explaining to a full congregation that having heard of the great Masonic Charities and the large contributions collected on their behalf, he had enlisted their support, and trusted those present would enable him to complete the restoration of his Church. If that was not trading on Freemasonry, by an outsider, we should like to know what is, and in face of such occurrences it is certainly time for Grand Lodge to step in and show exactly where the line should be drawn, although, as some may urge, the fact that a dispensation was granted from Grand Lodge in this case, may be accepted as evidence that the authorities did not consider the fact of the clergyman being a non-Mason any bar to the association of Freemasonry with his work of Church restoration.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall, London, Bro. J. H. Matthews in the President's chair, and Bros. D. D. Mercer and Henry Garrod in the Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents' chairs.

The Board of Masters was first held, and the paper of business for Grand Lodge of 1st March was read.

At the Board of Benevolence the Brethren had to consider twenty-seven cases for relief, and during a sitting of two hours they dismissed four, deferred one, and granted £530 in relief to the remaining twenty-two, in two sums of £50 each, five of £40 each, two of £30 each, six of £20 each, three of £10 each, and four of £5 each.

By the kind invitation of Bro. Oscar Barrett, the pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, at Wood Green, attended the performance of "Dick Whittington," at the Royal Adelphi Theatre, on the 8th inst., and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

NEW CHURCH AT FELIXSTOWE.

THE progress of additional work towards the completion of the new church of St. John the Baptist, at Felixstowe, was signalled by a very interesting ceremony which took place on Thursday afternoon, 26th ult.

The new work will consist of a chancel forty feet by twenty-five feet; a morning chapel for daily services, on the North side, thirty feet by twenty feet; clergy and choir vestries on the South side, divided by a wooden partition which can be removed so as to form one large room, thirty-five feet by thirty feet, for "meetings, etc.," and an organ chamber over the choir vestry. The chancel will be divided from the nave by a low brick and stone screen, four feet high, and the vestries and morning chapels will also be divided by screens. It is estimated that 250 additional seats, which are very much needed in the summer season, will hereby be provided, and that the cost will be £2,715, of which amount £800 has been subscribed, while the remainder (pending the receipt of further contributions) will be advanced by Messrs. Barclays' Bank, on the guarantee of Captain Pretymann and others. The architects are Sir Arthur Bloomfield and Sons, and the building contract is in the capable hands of Mr. Fred C. Thurman, of the Walton Works.

The vicar of the church (Rev. J. G. Munday) was Worshipful Master last year of the Felix Lodge, No. 2371, and this circumstance—together with the fact that other prominent members of the congregation are "good Masons"—was doubtless the initial cause of arrangements being made that the corner stone should be laid with Masonic ceremonial. Lord Henniker Prov. G. Master summoned an especial Provincial Grand Lodge for the purpose at the Victoria Hall. Although his Lordship could not attend personally, his place was taken by that genial Master of the Craft the Rev. Charles J. Martyn P.G.C. D.P.G.M., and the Brethren, responding to the invitation with characteristic loyalty, assembled in imposing force from all parts of the district.

The weather was delightfully fine and bright, and there was a large gathering outside the church of Felixstowe residents, and visitors from Ipswich, before the special service commenced. After transacting the usual formal business of Provincial Lodge, the Brethren were marshalled by Bro. J. M. Franks as Grand Director of Ceremonies, assisted by Bro. N. Tracy P.G.Std.B. Eng. Prov.G.S., and wearing full Masonic Craft clothing, with "aprons outside their coats," the procession was a picturesque spectacle. There were Tylers with drawn swords (sadly in the need of burnishing, by-the-way), and bearers of banners, cornucopias, and ewers, of plumb rule, level and square, of Corinthian, Doric and Ionic lights, and other emblems that were to the uninitiated mystic and wonderful.

The church was crowded as the Brethren took their places in reserved seats, and were followed by the officiating clergymen—the Vicar (Rev. J. G. Munday) and the Rev. G. Hodges, Vicar of St. James's, Bury St. Edmund's, who wore their regalia as Freemasons—at the head of the surpliced choir.

The service was a shortened form of evening prayer, with special Psalms (84 and 122) and a most appropriate lesson from the Old Testament. In the first part the hymns sung were, "Pleasant are thy courts above," and "Christ is our Corner Stone."

The Rev. G. Hodges preached from the text (I Kings v., 17)—"And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house." In his opening remarks, he indicated the argument of an excellent discourse. The first or foundation stone, he said, was laid at the north-east corner of the building; in that position the corner-stone of the chancel of the Church in which they were assembled would that day be laid with all the dignity of Masonic ritual. There was a peculiar fitness in that function being discharged by a religious body of Freemasons, and that for three reasons—in the first place, they acknowledged God as the Great Architect of the Universe; in the second, they claimed descent from King Solomon, the great Temple builder; and, in the third place, they had a mystical interpretation for all things material. Upon these points the preacher dwelt with striking eloquence and earnestness.

The service in church closed with the hymn, "O Lord of Heaven, and earth, and sea." Mr. T. Palmer was at the organ, and the singing of the large choir was highly commendable.

The procession was then re-formed, and joined by

members of the Building Committee, who were not amongst the Masons. Two other clergymen were also present in their surplices, the Rev. C. J. S. Ward (curate of St. John Baptist), and the Rev. S. Banks (vicar of Trimley). When those who were officially assisting had marched out by the western door, the congregation left by the south porch, and the whole assembly presently met again in front of the new buildings. The clergy, choir, and members of Provincial Lodge ascended a platform which had been built in front of the corner stone; the great body of Freemasons stood in a line below, and the general public took up every available "coign of vantage," watching the proceedings with unabated interest, although the bitter north-east wind caused obvious discomfort.

The Masonic ceremony for such occasions is not unfamiliar, and scarcely calls, therefore, for detailed notice. In reply to the formal request of the Chairman of the Building Committee (Rev. J. G. Munday), the Rev. C. J. Martyn said he should be most happy to do all he could to assist this most good and excellent work. Then, addressing the assembly as "men and Brethren," he declared that the Masons had amongst them, concealed from the eyes of all men, secrets which could not be revealed, and which no man had discovered—secrets which were lawful and honourable, however, and not repugnant to the laws of God or man—and that they were bound by solemn obligations to assist in the erection of handsome buildings, to be serviceable to the Brethren, and those who feared God, the Great Architect of the Universe. Prayer was offered by Bro. Munday as Prov. G.C. Bro. N. Tracy read the inscription on the stone, as follows:—

A.M.D.G.

This stone was laid by the

Rev. C. J. MARTYN P.G.C.,

Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Freemasons of Suffolk.

26th January 1899.

—a copy of the "East Anglian Daily Times," and one or more current coins of the realm, were placed in the aperture beneath; and, under the direction of Mr. Thurman, the stone was lowered to its place. The acting Prov. G.M. spread the mortar; he tested the work, and announced that he found the stone to be level, plumb, and square, and that the Craftsmen had laboured true and trusty; he scattered corn on the stone, as an emblem of peace and abundance; he poured wine and oil upon it as emblems respectively of joy and happiness, peace and unanimity; and, finally, having inspected the plans, presented by Bro. H. J. Wright, he requested that the work should be proceeded with speedily, and completed as soon as possible. The singing of the well-known hymn, "Now thank we all our God," closed an impressive function, which had been very smoothly and successfully discharged.—"East Anglian Daily Times."

CHURCH SERVICE AT NEW BARNET.

ACCORDING to programme a Masonic Service was held on Sunday, at St. Mark's Church, New Barnet, and proved a most unqualified success, despite the fact that some of the wisacres of the district—members of the Craft as well as outsiders—look upon the result as far from satisfactory. An active experience of close on a quarter of a century places us in a position to form an opinion on the subject, and were it necessary we could produce particulars of some dozens of such meetings in proof of our contention that the result so far at New Barnet is not only eminently satisfactory, but is far above the average for such gatherings. We suppose there always will be grumblers and objectors in connection with Freemasonry, just as there are in every sphere outside of the Craft, and it only remains for the workers in a cause to so persevere as to prove that opposition can be surmounted, and unfair criticism can be nullified. It may not be possible to always convince objectors, but it is generally within the power of a body of zealous Brethren to put their critics to shame—and we shall be very much surprised if this does not happen in connection with the course the local Freemasons have adopted to help the new church of St. Mark, at New Barnet, and its respected pastor, Rev. Bro. C. Arthur Lane Chaplain 1996.

The Service was held under a dispensation from the Provincial Grand Master of Hertfordshire Bro. T. F. Halsey, M.P., who, in wishing every success to the project, regretted it was not possible for him to be present, and was attended by some 120 Brethren, most of them residents of the surrounding neighbourhood, but in a few cases visitors from afar,

Bro. E. C. Mulvey P.P.G.A.D.C. Herts P.G.P. England acted as Director of Ceremonies, and was assisted by Bro. W. Lewis P.M. 1385 P.P.G.A.D.C. Herts, with Bros. W. W. Morgan and S. Turnbull as Stewards, and F. S. Plowright P.M. 193 and Frank Mason P.M. 1385 P.P.G.W. Herts as Secretaries.

As soon as possible after the arrival of the special train from London the Brethren marched in procession to the Church, where every seat save those reserved for the Masons was already occupied, and were followed by the Clergy and choir, many of whom wore the regalia of the Craft outside their surplices.

Rev. Bro. C. A. Lane read the prayers, Rev. Bro. A. Dawson Clarke P.M. the special lesson, and Bro. Ven. W. M. Sinclair, D.D., Archdeacon of London, Canon of St. Paul's, and Past Grand Chaplain of England preached the sermon. Bro. Fred Paterson P.P.G.O. Herts directed the musical arrangements, while Bros. H. Cribb, John Probert, Horace Ward, and Holden Walker rendered special aid by singing the Anthem. Our esteemed Brother Sinclair's sermon was as follows, preached from I Kings vii, 13, and following verses:

King Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work. For he cast two pillars of brass, of eighteen cubits high apiece: and a line of twelve cubits did compass either of them about. And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin (that is, He shall establish): and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz (that is, In it is Strength).—I Kings vii, 13, and following verses.

Freemasonry is a principle which has existed in all stages of civilisation. The state in which we know it of a vast Brotherhood of amateur Masons, who are not really builders, but who, as everybody knows, have adopted the signs and symbols of the building Craft to express their own secret principles, is as far as we know about two-and-a-half centuries old. The first instance of a gentleman or amateur being accepted into one of the Lodges of the old building Crafts is that of Elias Ashmole the antiquary (afterwards Windsor Herald to King Charles II.) who, along with Colonel Mainwaring, was entered at Warrington in 1646. It is believed that there are now more than 10,000 Lodges, and more than 1,000,000 members. The conception of Freemasonry implies, like the Christian Church, cosmopolitan or universal Brotherhood, and was impossible to the ancient world, or until the Brotherhood of man was taught by Jesus of Nazareth. But the principle of sacred, moral, and religious Societies on the one hand, and the principle of Brotherhoods of the building Craft on the other, are as old as civilisation itself; and it is of these two that Speculative Freemasonry is the modern representative. The principle of moral and religious societies is represented in ancient times by the Pythagoreans and the Eleusinians among the Greeks, by the Essenes among the Jews, and by the Carmathites and Fedavi, who were the mystic Rationalists of the Mahometans. But the true historical precursors of our modern Brotherhood of Freemasons were the mediæval building corporations, who may themselves have a remote connection with the East, while amongst the Romans there were collegia, or skilled fraternities for the same purpose. These Roman collegia had an exchequer, an archive, patrons, religious ceremonies, an oath, a benefit and burial fund, and a register. Their officers were masters, wardens, recorders, and censors, and they instructed their apprentices to a certain extent in secret. There can be no doubt that such Fellowships existed for centuries in Gaul and Britain, and it is probable that they deposited in these countries the tradition of their ideas and habits. And again at a later period there was a distinct invitation sent from the West to the building corporations of Byzantium; the reforms of the Emperor Leo, who was zealous in breaking down Christian idolatry, inclined the Masons to avail themselves of the opportunity. The European building societies themselves, however much they owed to the traditions of the Roman skilled fraternities, and of these building societies from the East, were independent and original growths. Of these the most distinctive type is found in the Steinmetzen (Stonemasons) of Germany. The *liberi muratores*, or Freemasons, grouped themselves round the monasteries. As architecture developed, and with increasing wealth the Church gradually undertook larger and nobler works, the societies of Craftsmen gradually assumed a more definite and more durable form. The taste and science of Gothic Architecture were to a large extent the possession of the *Bauhütten*, or wooden booths, where the stone-cutters during the progress of the work kept their tools, worked, held their meetings, and probably also

took their meals and slept. Hence our modern institution of the Lodge. In the 12th century there are distinct traces of a general association of these Lodges throughout Germany, acknowledging one set of Craft laws, one set of secret signs and ceremonies, and, to a certain extent, one central authority, in the Grand Lodge of Strasburg.

The Jewish and Arabian symbols which were so popular in these Crafts are supposed to have been introduced by Albertus Magnus early in the 13th century. But the traditions may have come from the East long before; and as we are tracing the history of societies that considered their own special principles and ritual secret and sacred, we can put no limit as to the antiquity of these traditions. In any case, to all societies of builders the account of the construction of the Temple at Jerusalem by the most famous of all builders, King Solomon, has always been of the profoundest interest. And that is the reason why I have placed the account of Solomon's chief constructor, Hiram of Tyre, and his skilful and mystic performances, at the head of this address.

The privileges which one of these ancient German Lodges was able to give to its Masters, Speakers, and Journeymen were chiefly a share in the administration of Justice, in the election of Officers, in the banquets, and in works of charity. There was a solemn initiation; and instruction was given to all apprentices in both architecture and its allegorical meaning. When an apprentice had served his time and finished his year of travelling, he was entitled, if of good character, to receive the Password and Salutation. He took an oath of secrecy, on the Bible and other sacred symbols, and drank the Loving-Cup. The three great lights, the hammer or gavel, the gold, blue, and white colours, the sacred numbers 3, 5, 7, and 9, and the interlaced cords, all had their traditional meaning.

The atmosphere of these mediæval building societies seems even at an early date to have been favourable to liberty of thought and religious toleration. Hence they were prohibited at the Romish Council of Avignon, in the year 1326.

The authority of the Grand Lodge was recognised at the great assemblies of Ratisbon and Strasburg in 1459, the statutes of which received imperial confirmation. It was legally destroyed by an imperial edict in 1741.

England had imported much of her Lodge organisation and learning from Germany. The causes which led to the introduction of the new class of members, the amateurs, such as you and I, and which gradually converted operative into Speculative Masonry, were inevitable.

In the first place the old secrets of Gothic Masonry became obsolete through the spread of the classical and Renaissance architectures. Inigo Jones, and his patron Lord Pembroke, had been studying them on the continent and brought them to England. Inigo Jones was Patron of the Freemasons from 1607 to 1618. He invited several Italian artists to join the body.

Secondly, the disorder of the Civil Wars prevented meetings, and tended to disorganise the Masonic connection.

Again, the growing spirit of the Reformation in religion gave men a freedom of speech which superseded the secret freedom of the old Craftsmen. Toleration was soon a political fact.

Fourthly, Science took a new departure from the time of Bacon. The interrogation of nature was preferred to legend and allegory. The glorious outburst of science fostered the idea of a new humanitarian society, and at the same time kept up its direct connection with the old, and with a past that was lost in the mist of antiquity, by adopting the ancient symbols of fellowship. It was under this impulse that a General Assembly of Masons was held in 1663, at which the old catechisms were revised, and a series of new statutes passed.

The reconstruction of London after the fire, the building of St. Paul's Cathedral, and the patronage of the immortal Sir Christopher Wren, kept up the interest in the movement; and at last a formal resolution was passed that the Masonic privileges should no longer be confined to operative Masons.

The modern phase of English Masonry may be said to have begun in London on 24th June 1717, when the four London Lodges having erected themselves into a Grand Lodge, named their first Grand Master. The leading spirits were the Huguenot, Desaguliers, the well-known populariser of Natural Science; and James Anderson, a Scotch Presbyterian Minister, who compiled the "Book of Constitutions." From this time new Lodges could only be formed by Warrant from the Grand Lodge. In 1721 the Duke of Montagu was elected Grand Warden. About the same time the Committee of Charity was formed, which has since raised and expended

very large sums for the relief of distressed Brethren, and built the Boys and Girls Masonic Schools at Battersea Rise and Tottenham.

In the latter part of the 18th century the ancient York Lodge of practical Masons put in a rival claim to be Grand Lodge, or Supreme Authority. The schismatics were known by the red colour of the Royal Arch degree, the orthodox by the blue of St. John of Jerusalem. In 1813 a Union was at last brought about by the Queen's father, the Duke of Kent, by her uncle the Duke of Sussex, and by the Duke of Athole, between the rival Grand Lodges of London and York, and it was henceforth known as the United Grand Lodge of England.

Such is a brief sketch of the history of Masonry as known to the world, and it is a history of which we may well be proud.

Brethren, it is well known that our Fraternity is famous for the celebration of the Brotherhood of man, and for the cultivation of Universal Goodwill. Whatever may be the case in foreign countries, in our own Freemasonry has always gone hand in hand with religion. It has emphasised the great Christian virtue of Brotherly kindness, uniting men of different ranks and often opposite views in mutual esteem and respect. It is impossible in a mixed audience to particularise its moral aims; it is sufficient to say that none who join it can fail to be impressed for good.

Brethren, I ask you to cultivate in all the relations of life, whether in Masonry or without, that spirit of Brotherhood. Too many are the divisions which separate us in many ways in the complex civilisation in which we live. The temper which you learn in our Craft you will do well to extend to all the children of the Divine Father of mankind. The proud look, the cold hand, the unfeeling heart, the angry tongue, the quarrelsome disposition are altogether unfitting to those who have learnt the lessons of our Association.

Too little is thought in these our times of the fear of God, much of our life seems spent without any reference to Him. The recollection of His Presence alone can curb our wayward wills, and nerve us to high resolves and wholesome activities. It is one of the glories of English Freemasonry that in all our ways we acknowledge God.

And there is another thought I should wish to leave with you. In these days of universal hurry we do not stop enough to consider whether our words are wise and our actions well considered. Dash and vigour, and the qualities that excite admiration and amusement are the most popular, not the quiet ways of calm deliberation and serious thought. If any of us can by word or example increase the respect for wisdom and understanding, and make men desire those great gifts for themselves, we shall be conferring a benefit on the general character of society. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and he that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Fidelity is another principle which cannot be too highly prized. We are living in an age of restlessness, unsettlement and change. Principles are easily abandoned, and friends shaken off. The old virtue of faithfulness to our own convictions, and loyalty to our friends is greatly to be desired and honoured. The world is too much given to gossip, and few indeed are able to hold their tongues even about secret things if they can raise a laugh. A tale bearer revealeth secrets, but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter. A faithful man shall abound with blessings; but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. The Lord preserveth the faithful. The very fact that the secrets of Masonry are so well kept is a perpetual witness to us of this high quality.

Seriousness and dignity again greatly add at fitting times and on proper occasions to the impressiveness of life. Nothing is more tedious than the perpetual jester. Every household should have its own little forms of courtesy and ceremony to smooth roughness and difficulties, and to banish insolence, rudeness, contempt, and excessive familiarity.

Lastly, our Craft is by all the world accepted as an example of wise and well-thought almsgiving.

Will you not as Masons show your faith by your works? Will you not, as members of that great and world-wide confraternity let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven? "He shall establish:" "In it is strength:" those two ancient mystic sentences of the mighty Craftsman Hiram have a message for us which crosses the long sequence of the centuries. If all our works are begun, continued, and ended in the fear of God, He will indeed establish and secure them,

and be their strength and their sure protection. "Establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it." "Be Thou our strength every morning: our salvation also in the time of trouble!"

There had been some criticism in Grand Lodge on holding such services, as some thought they ought not to go out of their own circle. He had sent in a strong defence in favour of public services, because while there was not much they could tell the public about Freemasonry, they could show by common worship their interest in religion and works of charity. Church building was one of those works, and when he told them that the population of the country increased every year by 350,000, a good deal of which came to the suburbs, they could see the need of building churches. That beautiful Gothic church, designed by the first architect of the day, a man who had charge of Westminster Abbey, had had already spent on it £7,000, and would require £7,000 more to finish it. At present they needed a temporary annexe to serve as chancel and vestry, which would cost £600; and if the Freemasons of the district felt interest in the place and raised £50 as was proposed, it would provide an oak altar, and perhaps prie dieu desks and sanctuary chairs could be added.

The offertory—which was taken by Bros. Letts, E. Monson, Lewis, Salisbury, T. W. Scales, S. Turnbull, F. G. Mason, E. C. Mulvey, and F. C. Collingwood—realised £22 10s, and it is hoped to leave this amount in the hands of the Churchwardens free of all charges, a fund raised by the Brethren to cover the expenses of postage, printing, &c., having reached £6 previous to the Service, with other promises which it is expected will cover the necessary outlay. In addition to this the Brethren of the district have set themselves the task of raising a fund which they hope will reach £50 at least, so as to provide the new altar for the Church, as a special Masonic gift, and towards this £13 13s was promised previous to Sunday afternoon, so that the result of the Masonic Service at its termination was upwards of forty guineas, with many promises of further amounts yet to come—no mean contribution, as we said at the outset.

The following is a list of those who responded to the invitation of the Committee to support the Church Service: T. H. Martin P.P.G.S.B. Herts, W. Lewis P.P.G.A.D.C. Herts, F. C. Collingwood P.P.G.S.B. Herts, F. Paterson P.P.G.O. Herts, F. G. Mason P.P.G.W. Herts, C. W. P. Dyke P.P.G.J.D. Dorset, J. F. Collinson P.P.G.S. of Works, Joseph Copestick P.P.J.G.W. Herts, A. J. Norrington P.P.G.P. Somerset, I. N. Edwards P.P.G.S.W. Herts, P. Monson P.P.G.S. of Works Middlesex, C. W. Allen P.P.G.A.D.C. Herts, G. R. Newman W.M. 1673, R. Cranston W.M. 1385, W. A. Board W.M. 1996, J. A. Witthaus W.M. 185, I. Marchand P.M. 1572, J. R. Hill P.M. 1572, W. Curry P.M. and Treasurer 2331, John Falconer P.M. 2509, A. Lefebvre P.M. 1950, W. H. Wellsman P.M. 1589, J. McLeod Rainsford P.M. 1385, H. Tippet P.M., Rev. A. Dawson Clarke P.M. and Chaplain 1718, F. S. Plowright P.M. 193, F. W. Moss P.M. 228, John Cooper P.M. 3, W. J. Collens P.M. 766, R. J. Voisey P.M. 1329, C. Dunlop P.M., F. A. Moss 228, H. W. Bleaney 1549, F. H. Ing 1549, G. N. Croger 1549, F. Pruden 1549, H. Rogers, A. Shilling 213, E. Jefferson 1572, W. H. Cross 2509, R. Davidson 289 (S.C.), W. W. Morgan 177, A. W. Letts 2509, J. Harris Browne, W. Cutbush, W. H. Cannon 2509, E. T. Jenkins 611 (S.C.), J. Gibson, Chas. Ellis 1385, J. H. Craig 188, W. Wood 2509, S. Turnbull 2509, C. F. R. Payne 4, A. O. Miller 228, W. W. Gabell 2509, G. W. Salisbury 2432, E. L. Walsh 2509, John Probert, Donald King, L. A. Lockwood 2509, J. W. Saunders 102, C. A. Cooke 1385, Herbert Catford 127, A. W. Toms 157, G. W. Rowe 587, G. E. L. Buchner 2353, T. W. Scales 186, J. Jay 1507, Hugo Hempel 2353, J. A. Lowe 3, J. Bartlett 1637, F. M. Gye 1949, C. Jarratt, Herbert Crimp 1694, R. J. Goddard 2054, J. Railton (S.C.), J. Beale, E. Jones, Smith, and many others.

The North London Masonic Benevolent Ball was held last week, and was a great success, the splendid accommodation of Freemasons' Tavern being taxed to its fullest capacity. Brother Herbert Campbell presided in the principal supper room, and gave the usual toasts in his own genial way, amongst the respondents being that droll, Daniel Leno, Esq., and the talented Grand pantomime merchant, Bro. Harry Randall. Dancing was kept up to a late hour to the music of Bro. Hiram Henton's band. It is expected from the remarks of Hon. Secretary Edwards that a substantial sum will be handed over to the Masonic Charities, says our old friend the "Merrie Villager," in the "Islington Gazette."

The annual Masonic ball of the Arkwright Lodge, No. 1495, took place at the New Bath Hotel, Matlock Bath, on the 9th inst., and was in every way a success. The company numbered upwards of sixty.

A hand-painted dinner service has been presented by the members of the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Lodge, No. 2675, to the Rev. C. C. Hoyle S.D. of the Lodge, on the occasion of his marriage.

SOLICITING.

GRAND Master Griffin, of Wisconsin, severely condemns the growing practice of soliciting persons to become Masons. If the guilty persons are Officers of a Lodge they should be suspended; if private members and the Lodge refuses or neglects to deal with them, the Charter should be arrested. In this connection he also said that he was fully persuaded that no city of less than 20,000 inhabitants is large enough for more than one Masonic Lodge. Where in such localities there are two Lodges an unhealthy rivalry is liable to spring up in which each Lodge, being ambitious to outdo the other in the amount of work done, falls into the error already alluded to of soliciting candidates, and permits some very poor material to be worked into the Masonic Temple—material that afterwards produces disturbance, and is liable to bring the Order into disrepute. No doubt, however, the rigid enforcement of the law forbidding soliciting will, to some extent, remedy the evil.—Ex.

UNSUITABLE ADMISSIONS.

NOTWITHSTANDING all that has been said and written in the matter of unsuitable admissions into the ranks of Freemasonry, the subject is not exhausted, neither are the apparent results commensurate with the energy expended, so that if the object sought is to be achieved those who fully realise the evils of the present laxity must be prepared to go on "pegging away," and keep the question ever green before the Brethren. The Grand Master has on more than one occasion taken "Unsuitable admissions" as a text, and strongly exhorted Brethren not to countenance them in any way. At a very recent function the presiding Grand Officer strongly impressed on Brethren the necessity of exercising the same critical scrutiny before admitting strangers into their Lodge that they would prior to receiving them into the privacy of the home circle. And it may be accepted as a perfectly safe rule that the person whom you would not admit to your home is unfit to be received into companionship in the Masonic family, which professes, and should strictly practice, the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. This wholesome truism, when fearlessly expounded, either in the Lodge-room or at the festive board, is invariably cheered to the echo.

But mark the difference between precept and practice! Grand Lodge, actuated by a laudable desire to cope with the difficulty, places the onus of properly investigating the character of the applicant for admission on the shoulders of the principal Officers of the Lodge—the W.M. and the Wardens. In some instances this duty is performed with the utmost care and fidelity, but we regret to have to say these cases are a very small minority of the whole, and this almost recognised laxity offers a sort of official loophole for unsuitable admissions.

A recent case in one of our principal cities furnishes a startling example of the perfunctory manner in which the investigation is sometimes conducted. A person was proposed, balloted for, accepted, and, we believe, placed on the agenda for initiation, but, fortunately for the Lodge, did not come forward, and subsequently absconded under the worst possible circumstances, warrants being issued for his arrest on charges of felony. Now, by his own showing, from letters sent by him to the newspaper press, he had for some time previous to his application for membership into a Masonic Lodge been engaged in the most questionable transactions, in company with a class of the most doubtful commercial morality. It is true, he held a public position in the city, and that his family connections were most reputable, which only goes to show how much is taken for granted in such a case.

It may be said that it is easy to be wise after the event, and that the Master and Wardens could not discover his nefarious transactions when it was not till a period subsequent to their investigation that they came to light and were made public. This is quite true, but his previous associations were not by any means hid from the public gaze, and surely Freemasonry more than any other institution should judge a man by the company he keeps. We emphatically assert that, notwithstanding his local position and the respectability of his family connections, his intimate association with jockeys, horse-trainers, book-makers, and the class known as Spielers, should have constituted an absolute bar to admission into Freemasonry. To plead ignorance of these facts is a tacit admission of the failure of investigation. Naturally, members place every reliance on their principal Officers and readily adopt their reports on the characters of candidates. But, again we reiterate, too much is taken for granted. Under Article 96, B. of C., a very serious responsibility is cast on the W.M. and his Wardens, and if these Officers properly perform their duties at least 50 per cent. of unsuitable admissions will be avoided. These are the plain, incontrovertible facts, and it is

no use mincing the matter. If the Craft is to become the medium for the impress of the hall-mark of respectability on persons of doubtful character, or a refuge for every scoundrel who happens to wear a black coat, then no wonder need be felt if an exodus of respectable members takes place, and the stream assumes continually increased proportions. W.M.s and Wardens, look to it.—"New Zealand Craftsman."

CORRESPONDENCE.

—:o:—

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

All Letters must bear the name and address of the writers, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

—:o:—

VOUCHING FOR CANDIDATES.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I notice in your report last week of the meeting of the Lodge of Sympathy, No. 483, held at Gravesend, on the 8th inst., that the Worshipful Master declined to submit the name of a candidate for initiation, "because neither the proposer or seconder were present to vouch for him." All honour to that worthy Master, say I, and however inconvenient it may have been to the candidate, he has only to thank the Brethren who proposed him for any trouble caused. The Master was clearly within his rights, and indeed I consider it was his duty to act as he did under the circumstances. There is too great a laxity shown in these matters. Rule 183 of the Book of Constitutions urges upon Masons the necessity of making due inquiry into the characters and qualifications of candidates, lest discredit and injury be brought upon our ancient and honourable Fraternity. I have recently been informed of so scandalous a case in this connection that I hesitate to mention it, but the truth is vouchsafed by a well known Brother. The name of a person was proposed at a certain Lodge, and upon inquiry being made it was ascertained that the man was an ex-convict. He was very properly rejected. He then proceeded to another part of the country where he was unknown, and was eventually initiated into the Order. Now, what inquiry was made by the proposer and seconder, in each instance, into the antecedents of this person? Both have violated their Obligation, and it may be have brought discredit upon their Lodge. Too much notice cannot be given as regards candidates for initiation, and their sponsors should be made aware of their responsibility. Would it not be a good plan to print the Rule 183 on the summons whenever initiates are proposed?

Yours fraternally.

P.M.

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Other nights vacant.

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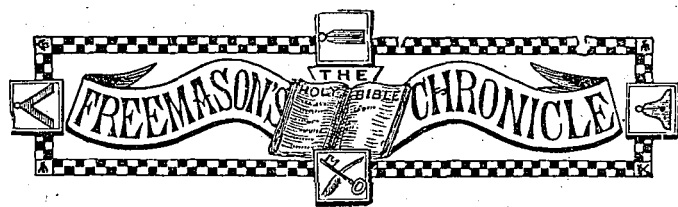
Under the distinguished Presidency of

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LORD LLANGATTOCK,
R.W. Prov.G. Master for South Wales (E.D.).

Brethren are earnestly solicited to accept the Stewardship upon this most important occasion, being the **Jubilee Festival of the Widows Fund**, especially considering that the income during the past year was not sufficient to meet the expenditure, and to kindly forward their names as soon as possible, with full particulars, to

JAMES TERRY (Pat., P.G.Swd.B.), Secretary,
by whom the same will be gladly received, and who will thankfully acknowledge same.

Office—4 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.



SATURDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY 1899.

FREEMASONRY IN NORWICH.

WE have pleasure in reproducing the following, the fourth of a series of articles on "Norwich Club Life," from the "Norfolk Standard." Fascinating as the subject is, even to one not of the Craft, the question of the origin of Freemasonry must be left outside the scope of these papers. We must take up our story with its beginnings in Norwich, which, according to Mr. Hamon le Strange's interesting work on the subject, would be in the early part of the last century. In his table of Norfolk Lodges Mr. le Strange gives the first place to that held at the Maid's Head, in Wensum Street, an ancient hostelry which has been the rendezvous for many societies of one kind and another, and which has a history equalling in interest any other hotel in the county. The Warrant of the Maid's Head Lodge bore date 1724, and its first Master was Edward Prideaux, son of the famous and learned Dean of Norwich of that name. Francis Franke, Registrar and Chapter-Clerk at the Cathedral, was another valued Brother; and amongst other names of the earlier members occur those of William Crowe, Mayor in 1747; Bartholomew Hamond, Mayor in 1760; Nathaniel Roe, Sheriff in 1737; Thomas Johnson, Sheriff in 1736; and John Ewan, Deputy Town Clerk of the city. County families were equally well represented with civic notabilities, and the familiar names of Bulwer, Berney, Astley, Pratt, Hobart, Bedingfeld, Gurdon, Jerningham, and others occur on the rolls. The Maid's Head Lodge was erased from the roll in February of 1809.

Twelve years after its foundation, a Lodge called the Union was founded at the King's Head, in the Market Place, and subsequently amalgamated with another which was inaugurated at the Blue Boar, in 1765, and had for some time been held at the Gate House, on Tombland.

By 1818 Union Lodge was the senior of the Province, and it received a large accession of members when in that year "Coke o' Holkman" accepted the Provincial Grand Mastership, the Rev. Jeremiah Ives, member of a well-known local family, being initiated and raised for almost the sole purpose of acting as his Deputy. Among the more remarkable members of this Lodge may be mentioned Old Crome, initiated in 1813; his son, John Berney Crome, Worshipful Master in 1832 and 1833; John Sell Cotman, who was made in 1830—a trio of artists of whom local Freemasonry may well be proud. Other names occurring are those of Edward Lombe, William Foster, the Rev. Sheldon Jodrell (of Saxlingham), Francis Morse (of Norwich), John Unthank (of the same city), Kerrison Harvey, John Barwell, and the Hon. E. V. Harbord, afterwards Lord Suffield, who joined the Lodge in 1835. The Lodge is still extant, and numbers amongst its members H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Lord Suffield P.Prov. G.M., Bro. Hamon le Strange Prov.G.M., Sir F. G. M. Boileau, and Lord Amherst of Hackney, who also has lately been the moving spirit in the compilation of an interesting history of this old-established Lodge.

Unity Lodge, removed to Lowestoft in 1814, was originally held at the Bear, its Warrant dating from 1747. There was also, from 1749 to 1809, a Lodge taking its name from the Union Coffee House, at the corner of London Street and the Walk, which subsequently met at the Maid's Head; and another at the Green Dragon, not far away, which assumed the equivocal title of the Eleusinian Mysteries. This was erased in 1853.

Swaffham New Lodge had its origin in Norwich, in 1751, at the famous Hole-in-the-wall Tavern, in St. Andrew's, but was removed to Swaffham in 1807, and erased twenty years later. The Angel Lodge at Yarmouth dated from 1751, but was removed to Norwich in 1823, to disappear eight years afterwards. Lodge Faithful, removed to Harleston in 1854, also began in Norwich, its Warrant dating from 1753. The Chequers (1754) was removed to Writtle, in Essex; and the Shoulder of Mutton (1755) to Walsingham, but neither is on the present roll of Lodges, having been erased in 1828 and 1791 respectively. Lodge Social, founded at the Flower in Hand in 1755, is still extant, and so is Lodge Friendship, originating at the Dove, in 1757, and removing to Yarmouth in 1846. Unanimity Lodge, at North Walsham, was also a Norwich Lodge, dating from 1758. In the ten years from 1760 to 1770 no fewer than six other Lodges were started, all but one taking their names from the taverns at which they were held, and not one of which has survived to the present day. One was declared vacant for irregularity, two were cancelled, and one lapsed. The Shakespeare Lodge, founded in 1792 at the Little White Swan, was removed to Warwick in 1808.

The Theatrical Lodge was held at the Waggon and Horses. Its existence was one of some thirty years—in fact, from 1797 to 1828. The mention of this Lodge calls to mind the famous Masonic "bespeaks" which were wont to be accorded at the Theatre years ago, but which have now become utterly obsolete. There was an old and respected comedian, a Mason, who was in special favour, not only with city Brethren, but also with that more august body, the Provincial Grand Lodge; for several years he had an annual benefit, which was made the occasion of quite a demonstration on the part of his Masonic friends. On the 28th May, when "Pearson's Night" came round, the Brethren met at the Angel (subsequently the Royal), and after "an agreeable, cheerful, and harmonious afternoon," they went in procession to the theatre, where they were received by "a large, polite, and brilliant appearance of ladies and gentlemen, who expressed their satisfaction by every mark of attention and respect." The plays were Steele's "Conscious Lovers" and "High Life below Stairs," and a Mr. Brown enlivened the proceedings with some Masonic songs, "having by that means the pleasing opportunity of conveying to the fair ladies who honoured them with their appearance a faint idea of their innocent cheerfulness at their convivial meetings." After the performance the Brethren returned to the Lodge Room, and partook of "a handsome cold collation."

The Masons were also supporters of the Norwich Theatrical Fund for decayed actors, established in the last century, when Brunton was manager at the Theatre, and in existence as far down as 1832. In 1827 there was a rupture, and Provincial Grand Lodge, through its Secretary Bro. J. Barwell, inserted an advertisement in the Norwich papers, to explain why the "bespeak" on behalf of the fund was not given, it being alleged that on the previous occasion Manager Wilkins had appropriated half the receipts, without the knowledge or sanction of the Brethren, to himself. The misunderstanding was, however, soon cleared up, and the bespeak was given in the following year as usual. In 1832, on a similar occasion, Miss Noel was down to speak a Masonic address, and no doubt this was no more than the general custom—in fact, there is some evidence that such was the case even on "bespeaks" on the part of private gentlemen. A further flavour was given to the programme by "The Entered Apprentice" song, which was sung by Brother Harrison. The

plays were "She Stoops to Conquer" and "The Illustrious Stranger."

Nor was the circus entirely ignored, for in 1857 Union Lodge voted a guinea to Bro. Hernandez, who had the misfortune to break his leg while performing in the ring at Norwich.

To return to the list of Lodges. One styled "The 11th Regiment of Foot" originated in 1798, and died out in a very few years. There was also another Unanimity, which lasted from 1831 to 1851, and was then erased. Cabbell (1860), Sincerity (1863), and Walpole (1874) call for no remark. They flourish still. Lodge festivities, of which Mr. le Strange's books give some quaint and interesting particulars, cannot be dealt with here, but we must devote a line or two to the higher circles of the Craft.

Provincial Grand Lodge dates from 1758, when it was founded at a meeting of the Angel Lodge, at Yarmouth, the first Prov. G.M. being Edward Bacon, of Earham, the son of Waller Bacon, M.P. for Norwich in six Parliaments. It is worth noting that this gentleman, together with the other three Prov. G.Ms. of the last century, Sir Edward Astley, Henry Hobart, and General Bulwer, were initiated in or were members of the old Maid's Head Lodge.

Royal Arch Masonry was worked at Yarmouth and known to Norwich Brethren in 1763, and at the Gatehouse on Tombland there met, according to an old topographical work, "Royal Arch Masons, Knights Templars, and Grand Chapter of Harodim." Belzoni, the traveller, on his visit to Norwich in 1821, was made a Knight Templar.

Of these Lodges and their members much more might be written, and, as a matter of fact, a great deal may be read in the two works referred to in this article, and to them the reader is now respectfully referred, with an acknowledgment on the part of the writer for information contained therein and utilised for the purposes of this article.

The Theatres, &c.

Avenue.—8, The Rift within the Lute. 8.40, Lord and Lady Algy. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Comedy.—8.15, Milord Sir Smith. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday 2.30.
Court.—8.15, For Love of Prim. 9, A Court Scandal. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Covent Garden.—Friday, 24th February, Grand Carnival, 11 p.m.
Criterion.—8.15, Nicolette. 8.45, My "Soldier" Boy. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Daly's.—8.15, A Greek Slave. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Drury Lane.—7.30, The Forty Thieves. Matinée, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 1.30.
Duke of York's.—8, Red Roses. 8.45, The Adventure of Lady Ursula. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
Gaiety.—8.15, A Runaway Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
Garrick.—8, The Three Musketeers. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.15.
Globe.—8.30, Ours. Matinée, Saturday.
Haymarket.—8.10, A Golden Wedding. 9, The Manceuvres of Jane. Wednesday and Saturday, 2.15.
Her Majesty's.—8.15, The Musketeers. Matinée, Saturday, 2.15.
Lyceum.—8, The Only Way.
Lyric.—8, Little Miss Nobody. Matinée, Thursday and Saturday, 2.30.
Opera Comique.—Twice Daily, Alice in Wonderland.
Prince of Wales.—8, Coquette. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Princess's.—8, The White Heather. Matinée, Wednesday, 1.45.
Royalty.—8.15, Confederates. 9, A Little Ray of Sunshine. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Savoy.—8.20, The Lucky Star. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Shaftesbury.—8, The Belle of New York. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
St. James's.—8.30, The Ambassador. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
Strand.—8.15, An Empty Stocking. 9, What happened to Jones. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
Terry's.—Wednesday, 22nd February, Sweet Lavender.
Vaudeville.—8, A Bad Penny. 9, On and Off. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Alexandra.—Next week, The Three Musketeers.
Dalston.—Next week, Mariners of England.
Grand.—The Great Ruby. Matinée, Wednesday, 1.30.
Parkhurst.—Next week, The Little Minister.
Queen's Opera House, Crouch End.—Next week, The Geisha.
Alhambra.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. Jack Ashore, &c.
Aquarium.—Varieties, Minting, Paula, The Great Dive, 10, 2 and 7.
Empire.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet Alaska, &c.
London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainment.
Oxford.—Variety Entertainment.
Palace.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. New American Biograph, &c.
Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2.30 also.
Tivoli.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. Saturday, 2.15 also.
Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily, Pantomime, Santa Claus.
Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
Madame Tussaud's (Baker Street Station).—Open daily. Portrait models of modern celebrities, &c. Father Christmas and Monster Lucky Tub.
Olympia.—Barnum and Bailey's Show.

All books, &c., intended for review should be addressed to the Editor, Freemason's Chronicle, New Barnet.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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ALFRED NEWTON LODGE, No. 2686.

IT was the unanimous opinion of the members of this flourishing Lodge, and those who had the privilege of being present at the very enjoyable gathering, the first annual banquet, concert, and Ladies' night of the Lodge, at the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, on Saturday, the 11th inst., that the function was a decided success.

It was aptly described as a Ladies' night, and their charming costumes, with the Brethren in their Craft and Royal Arch clothing, gave the banquet room a very effective appearance.

The reception took place at 6.15, and the banquet at 7 o'clock.

Bro. Alderman Alfred J. Newton P.M., the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge, which was consecrated early last year, and who is connected with the well known Harrod's Stores, presided at the banquet table, supported by Bro. J. J. Thomas Past Grand Standard Bearer I.P.M., H. J. Thomas P.M., and many others, accompanied by their lady friends. A superb banquet was supplied, which reflected great credit on the management of the Royal Palace Hotel.

The toasts were few, and the speeches commendably brief.

The Queen, and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M. were proposed by the President.

The Ladies, given by Bro. J. J. Thomas, was responded to by Bro. H. K. Newton, in a happily chosen speech.

The President was proposed by Bro. A. J. Naughton S.W., in felicitous terms.

During the banquet a selection of music was rendered by Miss F. E. Tipper (Piano), Miss G. Tipper (Violin), Mr. Masters (Cornet), and Mr. Tipper (Double Bass).

The excellent concert was contributed to by Madame Lytton, Miss Greta Williams, Miss Eleanor Jones, Mr. Emlyn Davis, Mr. T. Crook, Master Bernard Crook, Mr. Carrington Willis (Recitations), Bro. W. E. Buchanan, and Bro. Harry Tipper P.A.G.P. P.M. 185, &c., who gave splendid Hand Bell solos. Bro. William Windsor Organist of the Lodge ably presided at the piano.

The general arrangements were carried out in a highly successful manner by a representative Committee, composed of Bros. A. J. Newton P.M. W.M., J. J. Thomas P.G.Std.Br. I.P.M., A. J. Naughton S.W., D. F. Norrington J.W., J. Baily P.M. Treasurer, W. B. Abbott P.M. and Secretary (to whom especial praise is due), H. K. Newton Assistant Secretary, Bros. R. W. Burridge, Strutt, Rix, Thwaites, Windsor, Jupe, Heighington, Catchpole, H. Burridge, J. Naughton, Brock, Robinson, Caseley, Garton, Heath, Jessop, Pearce, LeSeur, Redgrave, and Vernon.

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DUKE OF CORNWALL LODGE, No. 1839.

ON Saturday, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, W.C., this popular Lodge was presided over by Bro. W. Wright W.M., with C. H. Knuth I.P.M., F. H. Stollery S.W., J. Perrins J.W., John Culver P.M. Treas., J. W. Dewsnap P.M. Sec., A. E. Turner S.D., A. J. Blake J.D., T. J. Jackson I.G., A. Perkins, and H. King Stewards.

There were also present Past Masters H. Cattermole, G. Heinekey, W. H. Lowry, J. Bladon, and the following other members of the Lodge: Bros. John Tucker, C. Bailey, A. Noel, H. J. Bulford, J. L. Castiglione, H. King, T. Ayres, H. B. Garrett, C. W. Payne, G. Broad, G. Moore, R. Shears, W. Perrin, W. Gifford, C. W. Davies, &c.

The Visitors included Bros. F. Cave 1767, H. Wagstaff I.G. 2466, J. Jefferson Org. 2271, and J. Wynman.

The Lodge being opened, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

There being no working some important discussions took place. A sum of money was granted to a Brother. The resignation of a member was accepted, with regret. Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren adjourned to partake of an excellent repast, Bro. W. Blanchette as usual looking after the comfort of the company.

The cloth being removed the W.M. in an eloquent speech gave the Loyal toasts, which were warmly received.

The I.P.M. proposed the health of the W.M. He considered this a well-deserved toast. The present Master of the Lodge was a good worker, and a good ruler, and he therefore had no hesitation in calling upon them to give him an exceptional bumper, to which the Brethren heartily responded.

The W.M. thanked the I.P.M. for his kind remarks, and the Brethren for receiving the toast in so cordial a manner. His study was the harmony of the Lodge, and as long as that existed the Lodge would flourish. He was sorry there had been no working that night, but no doubt they would make up for it at the next meeting.

The W.M. now had very much pleasure in giving the toast of the Visitors, and hoped that each had spent a pleasant evening.

Bro. Cave said it was an unexpected pleasure to see Bro. Wright in the chair of W.M. He had known him for many years, and he thanked Bro. Past Master Cattermole for having introduced him as a Visitor in the Lodge. He had spent, and was then spending a very pleasant evening.

Bro. Jefferson also thanked Bro. Cattermole for having invited him. He, like Bro. Cave, was also an old friend of the Master's. He was pleased to see that the W.M. made such an excellent ruler of the Lodge, and complimented him for not alone studying the harmony of the Brethren, but that of their wives, sisters and sweethearts, by providing for them a Ladies' night, which he was informed had been a great success.

In proposing the toast of the Past Masters the W.M. referred to Bro. Dewsnap as the only survivor of the Founders of the Lodge. It would be very difficult to find a better set of Past Masters than they had in the Duke of Cornwall Lodge.

These compliments were highly appreciated, and a suitable response was made by each of the Past Masters present.

The W.M. gave the toast of the Treasurer and Secretary. Bro. Culver was a very careful man, and well looked after the funds of the Lodge. At the same time he was always willing to render any assistance required of them. Concerning Bro. Dewsnap, there was nothing too much for him to undertake on behalf of the Lodge. He was in reality a hard working member. He did not know to how many other Lodges he belonged, but it seemed to

him that he had a special regard for that Lodge in particular. He did not mind what he did for the welfare of the Duke of Cornwall Lodge.

The Treasurer, in reply, said the time was getting on, and he hoped the next Officer who would be Master of their Lodge would take the same interest in it as the present ruler did. He also congratulated the W.M. on the successful night he provided for the Ladies, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed themselves. He was also pleased to say the Lodge was on the right side in regard to finances.

Bro. Dewsnap likewise thanked the W.M. for his kind remarks. Concerning the Ladies, over whom the W.M. presided for the first time—the entertainment was a grand success. He felt Bro. Jackson also deserved great compliments and thanks for his exertions, and the interest he had taken on the occasion of the Ladies visit. He assured the W.M. that personally he was always willing to give every assistance that was required of him.

The Officers toast was next given and responded to.

Bro. Jackson was pleased to hear such kind remarks as had been uttered that night. What Bro. Cave said about a happy meeting was perfectly right, but the Duke of Cornwall Lodge always had happy meetings. Whatever assistance he could render he would be pleased to afford.

Other toasts followed, concluding with that by the Tyler, who brought a very pleasant evening to a conclusion.

We especially compliment the Brethren who, by contributing to the harmony of the meeting, added greatly to the pleasures of the evening, these including, among others, Mr. Sam Clare (nephew of the W.M.), who was several times encored; Bros. Cave, W. Perrins, Jackson, Shears, and others. Bro. Jefferson presided at the piano.

ST. MICHAEL LODGE, No. 211.

THE annual festival of this ancient and popular Lodge took place at the Albion, Aldersgate Street, E.C., on Tuesday, with considerable success. Bro. Albert H. Collings W.M. presided for the last time during his year of office, and was assisted by his Officers, a full muster of other members, and a good number of Visitors.

The Lodge was formally opened, after which the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Joseph Spawforth answered the usual questions leading to the second degree, and was subsequently passed as a Craftsman.

Bro. Ernest Charles Collings W.M.-elect was presented in due form, and having signified his assent to the ancient charges and regulations was duly obligated. A Board of Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. Ernest Collings was regularly installed as Master of the Lodge. Both the ceremonies were very ably rendered by Bro. Albert Collings, in spite of severe indisposition.

Upon the return of the Brethren the new Master was proclaimed and saluted in the various degrees, and the Warrant of the Lodge was entrusted to his keeping. His first duty was the investiture of his Officers, which he performed with courtesy and tact. They were as follow: Frederick W. Berry S.W., G. F. Johnson J.W., Alfred Green P.M. Treasurer, William Radcliffe P.M. Secretary, Orlton Cooper P.M. D. of C., Howard E. Mullins S.D., C. J. Pinnell J.D., W. M. Sutton I.G., D. F. Latham Organist, James Loverseed Steward, and W. Barnes P.M. Tyler.

A pleasing innovation was made with regard to the addresses; the first was given by Bro. A. E. Spawforth, the second by Bro. Orlton Cooper, and the third by Bro. Albert Collings. Those present testified their appreciation of the idea.

The Auditors' report upon the finances of the Lodge, which were in a satisfactory condition, was accepted and ordered to be entered on the minutes. A sum of ten guineas was voted to Bro. A. B. Spawforth, to head his list as a Steward for the Masonic Institution for Girls. A Committee was appointed for the General Purposes of the Lodge, and there being no further business, the Visiting Brethren tendered their congratulations to the new Master and the Lodge was closed.

The installation banquet was served in the handsome Crown Room, and was worthy of the reputation of Bro. W. G. London. The menu card was specially designed by Brother Ernest Collings, who is an accomplished draughtsman, and will doubtless be kept as a pleasing souvenir of the occasion.

The customary complimentary toasts were drank, and many speeches of the usual order made. During the evening a Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Albert Collings in recognition of his services during the past year; and an excellent entertainment was provided, in which Miss Marie Kehrein, Miss Marion Lewis, and Bros. Wallis Arthur, Harrison Brookbank, and Signor Maggi took part.

In addition to those above mentioned there were also present Bros. George Cockrell P.M., E. Stainforth, J. Spawforth, Philip J. King, A. W. Battey 141, J. E. Higginson P.M. 1791, A. Stanley J.W. 2222, C. Morell P.M. 141, R. W. Larter P.M. 1791, F. J. Burton P.M. 1672, H. Wright P.M. 1572, Dr. C. M. Simpson 2410, H. Kemp I.P.M. 862, H. Goldstein S.W. 2265, R. Grant I.P.M. 2310, W. G. Jennings, S. L. Isaacs 2265, T. E. Roberts 1672, Will Sparks Secretary 2705, S. Maggi 1678.

CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

THE regular meeting of this popular Lodge took place on Monday, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., when Bro. George Spice, who was installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge at the previous meeting, and who had already gained the high esteem of the Brethren, presided, and had the support of the following: Bros. E. Pennock I.P.M., J. W. Simeons S.W., W. Cutting J.W., J. E. Fells P.M. Treas., E. J. Davey P.M. Sec., S. W. Fells S.D., Metcalfe Baillie J.D., W. Belchamber P.M. D.C., E. H. Lough Org., J. Wiffen I.G. Past Masters F. S. Plowright, Francis Haines, T. Kington, S. Smithers, B. Kershaw, Nightingale.

Among others present were Bros. H. Jones, G. Barratt, M. Madders, A. Gordon, J. Cutton, W. Hattersley, G. Favrand, W. Carr, W. Haughton, W. Speller, A. Jay, C. Cornish, F. Richardson, W. Flannery, H. King, Frank Fells, G. Butcher, H. Brooks, &c.

The Visitors included Bros. E. D. Tupper 159 Camberwell, Australia, Rev. C. Arthur Lane Chaplain 1996, J. K. Pitt P.M. P.P.G.D. Surrey, W. Latham 1962, A. S. Bird 1805, T. George 1981, David Corré 1489, J. Wynman, and others.

The Lodge being opened, the minutes were confirmed, and then the W.M. advanced the Lodge to the second degree. Bro. Flannery was examined, and having answered the questions to the satisfaction of the Lodge he was entrusted. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bro. Flannery was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and Bros. Gordon and W. Hattersley answered their questions, were entrusted, and the Lodge being resumed in the second degree, they were admitted as Fellow Crafts. The W.M. gave further proof of his ability and knowledge of Freemasonry by initiating four gentlemen: Mr. Joseph Fells, Mr. Manfield Martin, Mr. Henry Bigg, and Mr. Joseph Webber, into the mysteries of Freemasonry. We have seldom heard the three ceremonies more perfectly rendered than was the case on this occasion, and we compliment the Lodge on having so excellent a ruler as Bro. Spice.

Bro. Pennock I.P.M. proposed that the sum of ten guineas be voted to an Officer of the Lodge. Bro. Kington proposed that a like sum be placed on the list of the W.M., who will represent the Lodge as a Steward at the Festival of the Benevolent Institution next week. Bro. Plowright made a proposition, and all three grants were unanimously agreed to.

After well deserved greetings had been accorded the W.M., the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the banqueting room, where an excellent repast was provided, Bro. Collins, as usual looking after the comfort of the company.

The regular toast list was gone through, and during the evening some excellent songs were given. Bro. George Barratt, who sang the "Soldiers of the Queen," was deservedly encored. Bro. J. W. Simeons S.W., whose sweet voice was highly admired, rendered several songs. Bro. Plowright Sec. was also well received, while Bro. Brooks and several others likewise added to the enjoyment of the evening.

INSTRUCTION.

BRONDESBURY LODGE, No. 2698.

ON the 6th, at Bro. Coxen's, the Earl of Derby, High Road, Kilburn, Bros. A. R. Greaves W.M., C. J. Greaves S.W., J. W. Goodwin J.W., A. F. Hardymont Prec., R. J. Campbell P.M. Treas., H. Willsmer Sec., W. G. Coxen S.D., J. Buck J.D., G. Palmer I.G., A. E. Horstead Org., J. W. Smith P.M., A. Marks, Leavers, Bore, Pearce, Turner, G. Coxen, Fraser, Schomberg, Wynman, &c.

The ceremonies of passing and raising were rehearsed. In the former degree Bro. F. Haydon acted as candidate, and in the latter, Bro. Marks. The Lodge was resumed to the first degree. Bro. Hardymont Preceptor proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes, for the excellent way in which the W.M. had rehearsed the two ceremonies, including the traditional history of the third degree, for the first time in the Lodge. Bro. Campbell had very much pleasure in seconding the proposition, feeling sure the Brethren of the Brondesbury Lodge were proud of having such perfect workers in their midst as the W.M., who was an ornament to the Lodge, and having been initiated only about ten months ago the work he had done that evening was not alone a great credit to himself, but to the Lodge likewise.

Bro. Greaves thanked the Brethren for their kind remarks, and hoped to do still better on a future occasion.

Bro. C. J. Greaves was chosen to preside on Monday, the 20th inst., the next meeting being the night of the Annual Supper. Bro. S. P. Turner was elected a member.

ON Monday night, Bro. A. F. Hardymont W.M. 2698 J.W. 1500 S.D. 1489 and Preceptor of this Lodge of Instruction presided over a company numbering 45, on the occasion of its first annual supper. Bros. Albert H. Oldrey P.M. S.D. 2698, and Harry Willsmer Secretary occupied the vice chairs.

The Chairman was immediately supported by Bros. R. J. Campbell P.M. and Treasurer, Geo. Coxen Treasurer Mother Lodge, James Gawthrop W.M. Orpheus Lodge, and G. P. H. Stringer; Bro. Oldrey by Bros. J. M. Goodwin, T. Battrum S.D. and Steward of Mother Lodge, Pearer and F. Crook 2698. The Secretary had for his supporters the esteemed host Bro. Wm. G. Coxen, Gordon, Larnar, Paul Davis, Fleming, and M. Strang.

Amongst others who were present may be mentioned Bros. Aylett, H. Crook, G. Barker, G. D. Fraser, A. E. Horstead Organist, Hammerton, Leavers, Lewin P.M., Line, Marks, Palmer, Symonds, Dunnaway, Wheeler, Walker, E. G. Platt, Schomberg, Hawes, Chappell, Keizer, and others.

An excellent musical evening and a few toasts brought to a close an exceptionally enjoyable and successful meeting.

Great credit is due to Bro. W. G. Coxen, for the admirable supper and the perfect arrangements made for the comfort of members and visitors.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Arthur E. Horstead, with Mr. A. Horstead at the piano.

Bro. J. Gawthrop, Chappell, Hardymont, Campbell, Fleming, Strang, Dunnaway, and Messrs. Griffin, Foxall, and others contributed to the harmony of the evening.

A feature of the meeting was a very tasteful programme, with portrait of the President of the evening introduced into a pretty Masonic design by Bro. Secretary Willsmer, which was greatly admired, and being quite a surprise to the company was all the more generally appreciated.

EARL OF CARNARVON LODGE, No. 1642.

ON Friday, 10th inst., at Bro. Darby's, Elgin Hotel, Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill, W., Bros. A. England W.M., W. H. Handover S.W., W. R. Flack J.W., G. Davis P.M. Prec., E. Rogers P.M. Treas., W. J. Mason P.M. Sec., Leslie Standing S.D., W. H. Cave J.D., H. Armfield I.G., G. Knight P.M., F. L. Chandler P.M., T. H. Darby, G. Gidley, J. Wynman, J. Millington P.M., W. Hatton P.M., J. Chapman, &c.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Gidley candidate. This was followed by the second ceremony, with Bro. G. Knight as the candidate. Bro. Handover was elected W.M. for next meeting.

It was proposed by Bro. Flack that the Fifteen Sections should be rehearsed at an early date, which was seconded by Bro. G. Davis the Preceptor, and unanimously agreed to.

WOODROW LODGE, No. 1708.

AT Bro. Rudderforth's (Stone's) Restaurant, Panton Street, Haymarket, on Monday, 6th inst., Bros. R. Cawley W.M., W. West S.W., J. E. Culverhouse J.W., J. Walker S.D., H. J. Rose J.D., W. E. Davis I.G., C. E. Wetton P.M. Assist. Prec., J. W. Simeons Sec., Making P.M., Rudderforth P.M. Treas., Cousins P.M., S. Fiminger, Amato, V. Weston, W. Speller.

The ceremonies of passing and raising were rehearsed, Bro. Speller being

the candidate for the former, and Bro. Rudderforth P.M. for the latter. Bro. W. West was elected W.M. for the next meeting.

ON Monday afternoon, 13th inst., Bros. W. West W.M., J. Culverhouse S.W., F. Walker J.W., C. Wetton P.M. Dep. Prec., J. W. Simeons Sec., H. J. Rose S.D., S. Firminger J.D., W. Davis I.G., Rudderforth P.M., C. H. Perry, W. Cawley, F. Westcott, H. Cousens, F. Louis, W. Simms, T. Detrez, P. Amato, J. Wynman, &c.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Makings candidate. Bro. Williamson answered the questions leading to the second degree, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed.

Bro. Culverhouse was chosen W.M. for the next meeting, and Bro. Perry was elected a member.

PROVINCIAL.

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WIRRAL LODGE, No. 2496.

THE annual meeting and festival of St. John took place at the Masonic Hall, Cloughton Road, Birkenhead, on Thursday, 2nd inst., Bro. George Proudman P.M. P.G.Std. Bearer being the installing Master, supported by Bros. Alderman Thomas Shaw P.M. P.P.G.W., Councillors E. G. Mason P.M. P.P.G.D. (Deputy Mayor) who presented the W.M.-elect, Bro. James T. Thompson P.M. P.P.G.R. (Mayor of Birkenhead) for installation, and James Gamlin P.M. P.P.G.D., who acted respectively as Senior and Junior Wardens and Inner Guard.

The following Past Masters also assisted in the ceremony: Bros. A. E. Coveney P.P.G.D., and Councillor A. H. Rigmaiden the retiring Master.

The newly installed Master appointed and invested his Officers, as follow: Bros. Rigmaiden I.P.M., Alderman James Woodstock S.W., James Smith J.W., J. Millward Hughes P.P.G.O. Secretary, Richard Powell P.P.G. Stwd. Treasurer, John Carter S.D., J. J. Elliott J.D., Councillor R. Rowland Hughes I.G., W. Cannon, H. G. Baty, J. T. Morgan, G. Wilson Stewards, W. A. Weston Org., and H. M. Holtaway Tyler.

Among the Visitors were Bros. George Brown P.M. P.P.G.S.W., John Armstrong P.M. P.P.G. Supt. Works, Lilley Ellis P.M. P.P.G.D., Joseph Clarke P.M. P.P.G. Assist. Sec., A. Saunders P.M. 477, R. Robinson P.M. 477 P.P.G. Supt. Works, J. McLeary P.M. 477, W. H. Jones P.M. 605, J. E. Tomlinson W.M. 605, Owen Jones P.M. P.P.G.S.B., J. Pruddah P.M. 241, R. C. Davies W.M., J. E. Gabbutt P.M.

Bro. Thompson presided at the festival of St. John, when Loyal and Masonic toasts were pleasantly varied by songs, &c., the contributors being as follow: Solos "National Anthem," "Simon the Cellarer," "The Worshipful Master's Song," by Bro. Proudman. Solos "An Evening Song," and "Mary," by Bros. Thomas Barlow and E. G. Mason.

After the banquet, which was of a most recherché character (admirably served by Bro. Dan Baker), the health of the W.M. was proposed by Bro. Rigmaiden, who said he was proud to welcome Bro. Thompson to the chair he had just vacated, not only for the high position he held as Chief Magistrate of no mean City, but also for his great personal qualities, his kindness of heart and genial nature. Not the least of his many admirable qualifications for the honourable position he had just assumed was the innate modesty with which he bore the blushing honours that had lately been showered upon him, and which appeared to be an attribute only possessed by noble minds, and one that endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. He concluded by wishing him a year of happiness equal in every respect to the one just passed.

The W.M., who, on rising to respond, was enthusiastically received, said he thanked most heartily and sincerely the I.P.M. for the pleasing terms in which he had proposed the toast of his health, and for the good wishes he had expressed, and the Brethren for the great honour they had that day conferred upon him in placing him in the highest position the Lodge had in its power to bestow upon any of its members. He was not unmindful of the self abnegation of Bro. Woodstock S.W., and also the other Officers of the Lodge, for having so generously given way in order that he might occupy the exalted position in which he then stood.

During the evening a Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Rigmaiden, together with a beautiful bracelet set with diamonds for Mrs. Rigmaiden, subscribed for by the Brethren of the Lodge, and in proposing the health of Bro. Rigmaiden and his wife, the W.M. in an eloquent speech said he congratulated him on having completed a very successful year in the chair, and wished both he and his wife health and prosperity for many years to come.

The retiring Master said he accepted with pleasure the delicate tribute to a wife's sympathy for Freemasonry and acknowledgment of her self abnegation of the society of her husband while away from the domestic hearth on Masonic duties, and assured the Brethren that the valuable and chase ornament would ever be worn by his wife with pride and kindly recollection of her husband's connection with the Wirral Lodge.

The W.M., in proposing the health of the Installing Master Bro. Proudman, referred in eulogistic terms to the excellent work performed by him, and said he was delighted to have been placed in the chair of the Lodge by such a worthy and distinguished Brother. He highly complimented him on the very efficient and conscientious manner in which the ceremony had been performed, and had much pleasure in presenting him with a souvenir, which would enable him to look back with pleasure on that day's proceedings. He (the Mayor) had also much pleasure in handing a small present to each of the Officers who had assisted in the ceremony.

Bro. Proudman, in responding, said the work he had performed had been a labour of love, and he considered it both a pleasure and a privilege; further, that an honour had been conferred upon him in selecting him for the duty. The other recipients of the Worshipful Master's favour suitably acknowledged the gifts.

The proceedings on this occasion were unique. The W.M. was presented by two Ex-Mayors, and he, the present Mayor of the Borough, to mark the occasion, as already stated, presented the Installing Master and his assistants each with a handsome and valuable present.

During the evening the Secretary read letters of apology from Bros. Sir Horatio Lloyd, and W. R. Brewster, Mayor of Bootle, regretting their inability to be present, at the same time congratulating the W.M., and wishing him a pleasant year of office.

The Worshipful Master Bro. J. T. Thompson is the present Mayor of Birkenhead, a Past Master of No. 477, and P.P.G.Reg. He is the leading Solicitor in the town, head of the firm of Messrs. Thompson, Hughes and Matthison; and has been a prominent member of the Town Council for a number of years. He was one of the Founders of the Wirral Lodge, and has filled the office of Treasurer since its consecration.

Bro. Geo. Proudman the Installing Master is Past Master of the Royal Victoria Lodge, No. 1013, West Lancashire, and the Wirral Lodge, No. 2496, Birkenhead, of which he was one of the founders, and is at present Charity Representative. He was appointed by Earl Egerton and Viscount Salford Prov. G. Standard Bearer for the current year. He is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the Masonic Order of Knights of Rome, and the Red Cross of Constantine, also a K.H.S., and Knight of St. John the Evangelist, and Divisional Grand Chamberlain of those Orders; Principal Steward of the Cestrian Conclave; Life Governor, Chester Benevolent Institution, and Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. He is a very prominent and expert Freemason, popular, and highly respected in Cheshire and West Lancashire, and beloved by all who have the pleasure of knowing him.

DE TATTON LODGE, No. 2144.

ON Wednesday, 8th inst., the Lodge was opened at the Town Hall, Altrincham, Cheshire, by Bro. J. A. Lord W.M., at 5:50 pm.

The minutes of previous meetings were read and confirmed, and all business being ended the Lodge was closed in peace and harmony at 6:10 p.m.

The Brethren, with their wives and friends, afterwards sat down to a banquet, which reflected great credit on the Committee of Management, especially on Bro. C. P. Hill Steward, who was principally responsible for the arrangements.

On the removal of the cloth the company were entertained with song and recitation by Mrs. Newman (Halle's Concerts), Bro. J. H. Greenwood (the popular humorist), Bro. Piston, Bro. W. Booth, Mr. Perrin, Bro. H. O. Lord J.W., and Bro. Green.

The usual Loyal and patriotic toasts were proposed and duly honoured.

The toast of the Worshipful Master was proposed by Bro. Simpson P.M. P.P.G.D. who expressed, on behalf of the Brethren, their regard and esteem for the W.M., pointing out the zeal with which he entered into everything connected with Freemasonry. He coupled with the toast the health of Mrs. Lord.

The Worshipful Master suitably responded, and Mrs. Lord expressed her thanks for the kindly way in which the toast was received.

The Worshipful Master next proposed the toast of the I.P.M. Bro. C. Kenworthy, which was suitably acknowledged.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to dancing, and altogether a most enjoyable time was spent.

ANNUAL BANQUET AT THE SPATEN RESTAURANT.

THE second annual banquet at Bro. Charles Riemann's Spaten Restaurant, 33 Newgate Street, E.C., took place on Monday, when there were about 100 guests present. Among others we had the pleasure of seeing Bro. R. J. Rogers P.M. Westbourne Lodge, Bros. John Gale, C. Strohalm and his father, J. Beynon, Henry Kohler, J. Wynman, and several others.

The chair was taken by J. W. Thomas, Esq., member of the Board of Guardians of the City of London, with Lieut. C. O. Miller as Vice-Chairman, in the unavoidable absence of C. Val Hunter, Esq.

After an excellent banquet, which was served in such perfect style as would not have disgraced any of the best Hotels of the metropolis, the chairman gave the toast of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and the other members of the Royal Family, and in doing so specially spoke of the harmony that existed between England and Germany, fostered as it was in no small measure by the cordial relations between the Royal families of the two countries.

The next toast the chairman had very much pleasure in giving was that of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, Father of their Fatherland, which toast was most enthusiastically received, also with musical honours.

The chairman next submitted what he considered was the toast of the evening, the health of their genial friend Herr Charles Riemann. The banquet he had provided was most excellent, and it would be very difficult to find a better caterer than he in the City of London, especially in that part of the city where they were then assembled. He could say with confidence that the articles he sold were all that could be desired, while the house was conducted in so perfect a manner as to give him great credit. But it was not alone he, but Mrs. Riemann also, who deserved great praise. The lady-like manner in which she attended to the numerous customers led him to the conclusion that the only thing that remained was to wish Herr Riemann and his better half every prosperity. The chairman felt sure the company would join him most heartily in the toast.

Bro. Riemann, in a few but appreciative words, thanked the chairman and company for their very good wishes, both on behalf of his dear wife and for himself. He assured them that he would endeavour to give still more satisfaction in the future, than he had given in the previous year.

Bro. Henry Kohler said that Herr Riemann and his wife deserved the fullest support. They always attended to their customers with the greatest courtesy, and their wines and viands were perfection. The bountiful supper he had provided that evening was a fair sample of what the house was capable of, and it would be very difficult to find anyone to improve upon it.

Several other toasts followed, and some excellent songs were provided, amongst others who contributed to the harmony being Miss Annie Patrick, who was deservedly encored, Mr. Jul. Shilling presiding at the piano. During the evening a flashlight photo of the company was taken.

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES.

—:o:—

Avenue.—The last performances of "Lord and Lady Algy" at this Theatre are announced, and those who have not yet seen this really delightful comedy are recommended to do so. It is one of the very few pieces that can be seen more than once with equal pleasure.

Globe.—Bro. John Hare will this evening revive Robertson's favourite comedy "Ours" here, and will sustain his original character of Prince Perovsky.

Arrangements have been completed for the National Sunday League's series of oratorio performances and concerts at the Alhambra, Leicester Square. "The Messiah" will be given on Sunday, 19th inst., at seven o'clock.

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.

- 1 Grand Masters, F.T.
- 8 British, Freemasons'-hall
- 21 Emulation, Albion
- 185 Tranquillity, Guildhall Tavern
- 862 Whittington, Freemasons'-hall
- 901 City of London, Guildhall Tav.
- 907 Royal Albert, Freemasons'-hall
- 1506 White Horse o' K't., Hibernia V.H.
- 1537 St. Peter, Westminster, Crtn.
- 1657 Aldersgate, Albion
- 1694 Imperial, Westminster
- 1728 Temple Bar, Anderton's
- 2489 Willesden, Willesden Green
- 2545 Iris, Rainbow Tav., Fleet St.
- 37 Anchor and Hope, Bolton
- 61 Probity, Halifax
- 77 Freedom, Gravesend
- 85 Faithful, Harleston
- 89 Unanimity, Dukinfield
- 148 Lights, Warrington
- 236 York, York
- 248 True Love & Unity, Brixham
- 264 Nelson of the Nile, Batley
- 312 Lion, Whitby
- 359 Peace & Harmony, South'pton
- 377 Hope & Charity, Kidderminster
- 408 Three Graces, Haworth
- 424 Borough, Gateshead
- 433 Hope, Brightlingsea
- 455 Perseverance, Kettering
- 466 Merit, Stamford Baron
- 467 Tudor, Oldham
- 613 Unity, Southport
- 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
- 1170 St. George, Manchester
- 1199 Agriculture, Yatton
- 1208 Corinthian, Dover
- 1238 Gooch, Twickenham
- 1255 Dundas, Plymouth
- 1280 Walden, Saffron Walden
- 1286 Bayon, Market Rasen
- 1312 St. Mary, Bocking
- 1337 Anchor, Northallerton
- 1443 Salem, Dawlish
- 1502 Israel, Liverpool
- 1542 Legiolium, Castleford
- 1575 Clive, Drayton
- 1600 Hamilton, Alford
- 1631 St. Andrew, Gorleston
- 1674 Carodoc, Rhyl
- 1814 Worsley, Worsley
- 1833 St. Keyna, Keynsham
- 1909 Carnarvon, Nottingham
- 2049 Eilan Vannin, Douglas, I. of M.
- 2069 Prudence, Leeds
- 2074 St. Clare, Landport
- 2081 Golden Fleece, Leicester
- 2086 Dacre, Stevenage
- 2114 Prudence, Liverpool
- 2187 Adur, Henfield
- 2208 Horsa, Bournemouth
- 2289 Blundellsands, Great Crosby
- 2295 Scarisbrick, Southport
- 2327 St. Oswin, North Shields
- 2349 West Lanc. Century, Blackpool
- 2425 Ecclesburne, Duffield
- 2482 Duchess of York, Manchester
- 2557 Temperance, Newcastle-on-T.

Tuesday.

- Board of General Purposes, F.M.H. 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
 - 1339 Stockwell, Camberwell
 - 1695 New Finsbury Park, Via. H'tl.
 - 2021 Queen Westm'ster, Holb'n R'st.
 - 2022 Haven, Ealing
 - 2045 Wharfen, Willesden
 - 2500 Old Boys', Criterion
 - 160 True Friendship, Rochford
 - 213 Perseverance, Norwich
 - 223 Charity, Plymouth
 - 366 St. David, Milford

- 384 St. David, Bangor
- 414 Union, Reading
- 418 Menturia, Hanley
- 432 Abbey, Nuneaton
- 452 Frederick of Unity, Croydon
- 468 Light, Birmingham
- 476 St. Peter, Carmarthen
- 484 Faith, Newton-le-Willows
- 551 Yarborough, Ventnor
- 560 Vernon, Stourport
- 624 Abbey, Burton-on-Trent
- 667 Alliance, L.L. arpool
- 681 Scarsdale, Chesterfield
- 789 Dunheved, Launceston
- 814 Parrett and Axe, Crewkern
- 830 Endeavour, Dukinfield
- 958 St. Aubin, Jersey
- 979 Four Cardinal Virtues, Crewe
- 990 Neyland, Neyland
- 1006 Tregulow, St. Day
- 1046 St. Andrew, Farnham
- 1075 St. Maughold, Ramsey, I. of M.
- 1089 De Shurland, Sheerness
- 1096 Lord Warden, Walmer
- 1214 Scarborough, Batley
- 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
- 1482 Isle of Axholme, Crowle
- 1551 Charity, Birmingham
- 1570 Prince Arthur, Liverpool
- 1621 Castle, Bridgnorth
- 1764 Eleanor Cross, Northampton
- 1787 Grenville, Buckingham
- 1823 Royal Clarence, Clare
- 1893 Lumley, Skegness
- 1894 Hershel, Slough
- 1902 St. Cuthbert, Bedlington
- 1903 Pr. Ed. Saxe Weimar, P'tsm'th.
- 1941 St. Augustine, Rugeley
- 2001 Narberth, Narberth
- 2146 Surbiton, Surbiton
- 2155 Makerfield, Newton-le-Willows
- 2316 Princes, Liverpool
- 2360 Victoria, Southport
- 2407 Hicks-Beach, Stroud
- 2521 Noel-Money, Weybridge
- 2530 Shirley Woolmer, Sidcup
- 2536 Staines, Staines
- 2572 Tyldesley, Tyldesley

Wednesday.

- Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, for aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons.
- 2 Antiquity, Freemasons'-hall
 - 201 Jordan, Freemasons'-hall
 - 212 Euphrates, Holborn Restaurant
 - 822 Victoria Rifles, Freemasons'-hall
 - 898 Temperance in East, Poplar
 - 1017 Montefiore, Café Royal
 - 1589 St. Dunstan, Anderton's
 - 1718 Centurion, Inns of Court Hotel
 - 1768 Progress, Freemasons'-hall
 - 1818 Clapham, Criterion
 - 2395 Avondale, Brixton
 - 2455 St. Martin, Charing Cross
 - 2562 Papyrus, Criterion
 - 32 St. Geo. Harmony, Liverpool
 - 76 Economy, Winchester
 - 82 Foundation, Cheltenham
 - 86 Loyalty, Prescott
 - 128 Prince Edwin, Bury
 - 163 Integrity, Manchester
 - 220 Harmony, Garston
 - 250 Minerva, Hull
 - 257 Phoenix, Portsmouth
 - 258 Amphibious, Heckmondwike
 - 301 Apollo, Alcester
 - 304 Philanthropic, Leeds
 - 320 Loyalty, Mottram
 - 329 Brotherly Love, Yeovil
 - 341 Wellington, Rye
 - 368 Samaritan, Sandbach
 - 372 Harmony, Budleigh Salterton
 - 380 Integrity, Morley
 - 387 Airedale, Shipley
 - 409 Stortford, Bishops Stortford
 - 439 Scientific, Bingley
 - 461 Fortitude, Newton
 - 464 Cambrian, Haverfordwest
 - 533 Eaton, Congleton
 - 540 Stuart, Bedford

- 555 Fidelity, Framlingham
- 580 Harmony, Ormskirk
- 606 Segontium, Caernarvon
- 651 Brecknock, Brecon
- 697 United, Colchester
- 724 Derby, Liverpool
- 785 Twelve Brothers, Southampton
- 818 Philanthropic, Abergavenny
- 887 Leigh, Birmingham
- 910 St. Oswald, Pontefract
- 996 Sondes, East Dereham
- 1024 St. Peter, Maldon
- 1039 St. John, Lichfield
- 1083 Townley Parker, Manchester
- 1119 St. Bede, Jarrow
- 1193 Doric, Wymondham
- 1219 Strangeways, Manchester
- 1265 Vale of Catmos, Oakham
- 1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge
- 1363 Tyndall, Chipping Sodbury
- 1493 Robin Hood, Eastwood
- 1520 Earl Shrewsbury, Cannock
- 1543 Rosslyn, Dunmow
- 1544 Mount Edgumbe, Camborne
- 1633 Avon, Manchester
- 1645 Colne Valley, Slaithwaite
- 1663 Hartismere, Eye
- 1714 Albert Edward, Yorktown
- 1723 St. George, Bolton
- 1756 Kirkdale, Liverpool
- 1760 Leopold, Scarborough
- 1775 Leopold, Church
- 1783 Albert Edward, Huddersfield
- 1808 Suffield, North Walsham
- 1809 Fidelis, Guernsey
- 1854 Weald of Kent, Tenterden
- 1953 Prudence & Industry, Chard
- 1967 Beacon Court, New Brompton
- 1984 Earl of Clarendon, Watford
- 1989 Stirling, Cleator Moor
- 2019 Crook, Crook
- 2064 Smith Child, Tunstall
- 2120 Abbey, Chertsey
- 2149 Gordon, Hanley
- 2186 Striguil, Chepstow
- 2216 Egerton, Swinton
- 2283 Euston, St. Neots
- 2320 St. Martin, Castleton
- 2355 Chantrey, Dore
- 2357 Barry, Cadoxton
- 2385 Godson, Oldbury
- 2435 Wineslai, Winslow
- 2444 Noel, Kingston-on-Thames
- 2448 Bradstow, Broadstairs
- 2571 Holmes, Newcastle-on-Tyne
- 2583 St. Thomas, Tibshelf

Thursday.

- General Committee, Girls School, Freemasons' Hall, at 5.
- 22 Neptune, Guildhall Tavern
 - 34 Mount Moriah, Freemasons'-hall
 - 65 Prosperity, Guildhall Tavern
 - 66 Grenadiers, Freemasons'-hall
 - 99 Shakespeare, Albion
 - 507 United Pilgrims, Southwark
 - 858 South Middlesex, Fulham
 - 861 Finsbury, Great Eastern Hotel
 - 871 Royal Oak, Deptford
 - 1563 City of Westminster, Café Royal
 - 1601 Ravensbourne, Lewisham
 - 1608 Kilburn, Regent Street
 - 1816 Victoria Park, London Tavern
 - 1974 St. Mary Abbott, Kensington
 - 2264 Chough, Cannon Street Hotel
 - 39 St. John Baptist, Exeter
 - 51 Angel, Colchester
 - 71 Unity, Lowestoft
 - 78 Imperial George, Middleton
 - 111 Restoration, Darlington
 - 116 Royal Lancashire, Colne
 - 129 Union, Kendal
 - 202 Friendship, Devonport
 - 208 Three Gd. Principles, Dewsbury
 - 275 Harmony, Huddersfield
 - 276 Good Fellowship, Chelmsford
 - 283 Amity, Haslingden
 - 318 True and Faithful, Helston
 - 332 Virtue and Silence, Hadleigh
 - 337 Candour, Uppermill
 - 346 United Brethren, Blackburn
 - 348 St. John, Bolton
 - 361 Industry, Hyde
 - 450 Cornubian, Hayle
 - 456 Foresters, Uttroter
 - 469 Hundred of Elloe, Spalding
 - 475 Bed. St. John Bap., Luton
 - 590 La Cesaree, Jersey
 - 594 Downshire, Liverpool
 - 630 St. Cuthbert, Howden

- 636 De Ogle, Morpeth
- 707 St. Mary, Bridport
- 710 Pleiades, Totnes
- 761 St. John, Dursley
- 787 Beaureper, Belper
- 807 Cabbell, Norwich
- 809 United Good F'ship., Wisbech
- 904 Phoenix, Rotherham
- 935 Harmony, Salford
- 966 St. Edward, Leek
- 1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
- 1097 St. Michael, Tenbury
- 1130 Rutland, Melton Mowbray
- 1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath
- 1163 Emulation, Birmingham
- 1164 Elliot, St. Germans
- 1166 Clarendon, Hyde
- 1235 Phoenix St. Ann, Buxton
- 1313 Fernor, Southport
- 1322 Waverley, Ashton-under-Lyne
- 1345 Victoria, Eccles
- 1392 Egerton, Bury
- 1404 Saint Vincent, Bristol
- 1418 Fraternity, Stockton-on-Tees
- 1437 Liberty of Havering, Romford
- 1501 Wycombe, High Wycombe
- 1505 Emulation, Liverpool
- 1519 Albert Edward, Clay'n-le-Moors
- 1578 Merlin, Pontypridd
- 1626 Hotspur, Newcastle-on-Tyne
- 1630 St. Michael, Coventry
- 1705 Prince of Wales, Gosport
- 1763 St. Mary, Thame
- 1817 St. Andrew, Shoburness
- 1884 Chine, Shanklin, Isle of Wight
- 1957 Grove, Hazel Grove
- 1971 Ald'shot, Army & Navy, A'shot.
- 2017 Duke of Portland, Nottingham
- 2028 Granite, Narborough
- 2091 Castleberg, Settle
- 2101 Bramston Beach, Godalming
- 2131 Brownlow, Ellesmere
- 2189 Ashburton, Ashburton
- 2195 Military Jubilee, Dover
- 2214 Josiah Wedgewood, Etruria
- 2215 Anfield, Anfield
- 2263 St. Leonards, Sheffield
- 2269 Peace, Wigan
- 2335 Cycling and Athletic, Liverpool
- 2375 Hilbre, Hoylake
- 2387 Manchester Dramatic, M'chester
- 2418 Hedworth, South Shields
- 2462 Clarence, West Hartlepool
- 2463 Bootle-Wilbraham, Knotty Ash
- 2474 Hatherton, Walsall

Friday.

- Council Boys School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4
- 197 Jerusalem, Freemasons'-hall
 - 569 Fitz-Roy, Head Qrs. H.A.C.
 - 2000 Earl of Mornington, Café R'y'l.
 - 355 R'l. S'x. Emulation, Swindon
 - 401 Royal Forest, Slaidburn
 - 404 Watford, Watford
 - 426 Shakespeare, Spilsby
 - 445 Fidelity, Towcester
 - 460 Sut'land Unity, N'castle-u-Lyme
 - 516 Phoenix, Stowmarket
 - 566 St. Germain, Selby
 - 602 North York, Middlesbrough
 - 652 Holme Valley, Holmfirth
 - 712 Lindsey, Louth
 - 810 Craven, Skipton
 - 951 Prince of Wales, Stow-on-Wold
 - 1034 Eccleshill, Eccleshill
 - 1074 Underley, Kirkby Lonsdale
 - 1224 Stour Valley, Sudbury
 - 1232 Hereward, Bourn
 - 1303 Pelham, Lewes
 - 1385 Gladsmuir, Barnet
 - 1391 Commercial, Leicester
 - 1435 Amesley, Nottingham
 - 1712 St. John, Newcastle-on-Tyne
 - 1739 Carnarvon, Swadlincote
 - 1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge
 - 2078 St. Lawrence, Scunthorpe
 - 2371 Felix, Felixstowe
 - 2415 Tristram, Shildon
 - 2431 Kingsley, Northampton

Saturday.

- 1541 Alexandra Palace, Holborn
- 1584 Loyalty and Charity, Frascati
- 1706 Orpheus, Holborn Restaurant
- 149 Peace, Meltham
- 308 Prince George, Eastwood
- 336 Benevolence, Marple
- 1462 Wharnccliffe, Penistone
- 2201 Earl of Sussex, Brighton

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

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