

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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REPROPOSING REJECTED CANDIDATES.

IT has often been a matter for complaint that candidates rejected in one Lodge—presumably for good and sufficient reasons—have found no difficulty in securing initiation in some other, either in the immediate neighbourhood, or further afield; and at times Brethren have come forward with propositions having for their object the checking of this practice, which, it must be admitted, appears somewhat of an anomaly; for if a man is really unworthy of admittance into Freemasonry through one Lodge, how can he be considered eligible in another?

It seems this difficulty is not confined to England alone, some of our Scottish Brethren being equally concerned in the matter, as is evidenced by a proposition set down for consideration at next week's meeting of that Grand Lodge, in the following terms: "That all application forms for membership shall contain the query, Have you ever made application for initiation before: if so, state what Lodge?"

We can well believe that the author of this proposition is actuated by the best of motives, in thus attempting to remedy what has long been regarded as a flaw in the Masonic system, but how does he propose to utilise the information secured, even if he is able to convince his Brethren that the new regulation is a desirable one, which we very much question his ability to do?

It must be distinctly understood in this connection that it is the secrecy of the ballot that has to be dealt with, and it is impossible to carry out any law that attempts to violate this great principle of Freemasonry. Let us suppose a candidate rejected on the ballot; he and his friends may be wholly at a loss to account for the verdict, or they may not desire to say all they know. On the other hand, it is a well established fact that Brethren do occasionally violate their obligation, by casting a black ball against a candidate out of personal pique or for some unworthy purpose; is such a candidate to be utterly excluded from Freemasonry, and if not, what is the use of the proposition submitted for the consideration of the Grand Lodge of Scotland?

A gratifying feature of the recent Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, proving that those closely connected with its management are generous and active in bringing the necessary funds to aid its work, is shown by the fact that twenty members of the Board of Management and the Secretary acted as Stewards, their combined lists amounting to £1,895 4s 6d, and twenty-one members of the "Committee Dinner Club" served the office, the aggregate amount of their lists reaching £979 2s 6d.

At the banquet following the business meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex, the Prov. Grand Master invited the Brethren of the Province to pay him a visit next year at Warwick Castle, and to "take a lady a-piece with them" to meet Lady Warwick. The invitation was received with loud and prolonged applause.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THIS Provincial Grand Lodge was held under the banner of the Herschel Lodge, in the Masonic Hall, of the Leopold Institute, Slough, on Thursday, 13th inst., when there was a large attendance of Brethren from all parts of the Province, including the Provincial Grand Master Lord Addington, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. J. E. Bowen, Bro. W. Woollett Prov. G. Secretary, &c.

The Provincial Grand Master and his Officers entered the Lodge Room in procession, and the Lodge was opened in solemn form.

After the roll of the Lodges had been called, Bro. James Stephens Secretary submitted the report of the Charity Committee, which was considered eminently satisfactory.

The balance sheet submitted by the Treasurer Bro. J. J. Simcox showed a satisfactory balance in hand. The Provincial Grand Officers were then appointed and invested, and after further business had been transacted it was decided to place fifty guineas out of the Provincial Grand Lodge funds on the list of the Provincial Grand Master, who is to preside at the Annual Festival of the Old Peoples' Institution in February next.

The Brethren afterwards dined together under the presidency of Lord Addington, at the Royal Hotel, Bro. H. Vallis catering well.

After dinner the Prov. G. M. proposed the toast of the Queen and Craft, which was most loyally received.

In responding to the toast of his health, which was received with much enthusiasm, Bro. Lord Addington said it was characteristic of Englishmen that they should look up to those who led them. Boys at school always thought the captain of the eleven was a paragon of perfection, while the stroke of a boat was always thought to be the best man, although there might be much better oarsmen in the boat than him. He was afraid his position was very much like that, but as long as he had their confidence he should esteem it a privilege to do what he could for that great charitable organisation. Charity, after all, was the chief of the virtues, and a man who was a good Mason was certainly a better Christian. He spoke with regret of the loss the Province had sustained in the death of their esteemed Brother, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, and thanked Bro. Woollett for the trouble he had taken in compiling the new Masonic calendar. He found that in Buckinghamshire there were no fewer than 612 Masons in the nineteen Lodges which comprised the Province, while another Lodge was about to be consecrated. He was also pleased to know that those 612 members had no fewer than 938 votes for the Boys Masonic Institution, 650 for the Girls, and 1,440 for the Old People—a very satisfactory state of affairs. In conclusion, he proposed the health of the Deputy P. G. M. Bro. J. E. Bowen, who, he said, did the greater part of the administrative work of the Province.

Bro. Bowen suitably responded, and proposed the Visitors. The remaining toasts were the Provincial Grand Officers Present and Past, the Herschel Lodge, and the Tyler's toast. A programme of music was rendered by the Windsor Glee singers.

DURHAM.

THE annual Provincial Grand Lodge and Chapter meetings have just been fixed—the Provincial Grand Chapter to meet at Stockton-on-Tees, at 3.45 p.m., on Wednesday, 16th September; and the Provincial Grand Lodge at the Town Hall, Gateshead, on Tuesday, 26th September. Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., will preside at both meetings.

CHURCH SERVICE.

AS a preliminary to the Annual Communication at the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, in Hokitika, a special service was held in All Saints Church, on Sunday, 23rd April.

The Brethren assembled in the Town Hall, shortly after two, and having clothed, marched in procession to the church, where they were received by Bro. Rev. H. G. Hawkins, Vicar of All Saints, Bro. Rev. W. Ronaldson, and Bro. Ven. Archdeacon Wright, the officiating Chaplains.

Special hymns and lessons were arranged for the service, and a collection was taken up in aid of the Widows and Orphans Fund. A most excellent sermon was preached by Bro. Ven. Archdeacon Wright, who took as his text II. Chron. vi. 1 and 2, I. Kings viii. 12 and 13:

Four philosophers are discussing the Being of God. The first says: "There is no God." This is the atheist, whose folly is condemned alike by the Inspired Word and by modern science. The second says: "I cannot tell whether there is a God or not, and therefore I do not think about it." This is the agnostic. It is an intelligible position, although it is overlooked that such an one elevates his want of faith into a confession of faith. The third says: "I cannot be sure that God is, nor what He is, but I think He is, and I act upon this supposition." It is probable that there were Athenians who, while they erected an altar to Agnosto Theo, still worshipped, if in ignorance. The fourth says: "God is. He dwells in thick darkness. I see him not clearly, but I worship, and build Him a house to the glory of His name." Such was the position of King Solomon, and such the position of those who now represent him. Jehovah said that he would dwell in thick darkness. Where and how did He say so? By his words and works. By his name, "I Am." By the works of nature which we see around us. God said unto Moses, "I am that I am. Say unto the children of Israel, 'I Am hath sent me unto you.' This is My name for ever, and this is My memorial unto all generations." It is a name full of the deepest meaning. It asserts the self-existence, the eternity, and immutability of the Deity. Only God can say "I Am." His creatures are not, except as He gives them life and keeps them living. We are what God has made us and He enables us to be. He is that He is the only self-existing, self-upholding Being, God over all and in all. "I Am" expresses also the eternity of the Godhead that was, and is, and is to come. Past and future are included in this name, or rather there can be no past nor future in respect of God. His years are not spent as ours are, like a tale that is told. What God is He has always been and always will be. The world is full of God. Lift up your eyes, stretch out your hands, He is imminent in the universe. He is not far from any one of you. You cannot touch or handle, you stand afar off, and the mountain burns with fire, and blackness, and tempest, but He is nigh at hand. You see not His face, it is invisible. But He is here as truly and really as the light, the gravity, the electricity, which we cannot see. There are forms by which He manifests Himself. His power, His wisdom, His beauty, these three great realities speak to us of Himself.

Look at the mighty forces of nature. See the ebb and flow of the tide—the hurrying to and fro of the sea. A power known and felt. Examine it as you will. Exalt their power and order, define their nature, trace their method and relations. What is the source of that power? They bear witness to a power unknown—that power we call God. Men may deny that design is properly applicable to the processes of nature. They say, we have no right to do as Paley did in the last century, to reason from the analogy of a watch and a watchmaker to a world and a worldmaker. But we see in this wonderful and vast design a wisdom beyond that of man. It is the Divine wisdom who fashions all things after His own will. We walk along the sea shore. We look up at the rainbow. We say in our modern manner, "it is but the refraction of certain rays of light in certain drops of water." God says, "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass when I bring a cloud over the earth that the bow shall be seen in the cloud, and I will remember my covenant. I will look upon it that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." But not merely in nature is the Great Architect of the Universe to be seen and known and worshipped. Solomon says: "Jehovah has said that He will dwell in thick darkness. I have surely built thee an house to dwell in—a settled place for thee to abide in for ever." The

Temple which he built at Jerusalem was the outward expression of his belief in God.

Let us clearly understand for what purpose King Solomon built and dedicated the Temple. It was to express to his people and to surrounding nations that there was one people who would have constantly before their eyes the existence of God. We need not enter into any elaborate details as to the structure of the Temple. Its general idea may be grasped, but not its variety. It was not a large building, 90 by 35 by 45 high would not seem significant to us of vastness and immensity. Its gold and precious stones, although considerable, would not appear large when measured by the output of gold at the present day, or counted by the side of jewels of an Indian monarch. But it had a symbolical meaning far reaching. Some have regarded it as a symbol of the universe; some of heaven; some of the Church of God; some of the Temple as the palace of Jehovah, with its vestibule, audience, hall, throne, and offerings; and some, as Luther, as an emblem of human nature. As the Temple consisted of the court, the sanctuary, the oracle, it became the symbol of body, soul, and spirit. And while the opinion is but an opinion, it gives us an opportunity of examining its parts with reference to the present occasion.

1. The Court. What is man? A profound thinker, Cardinal de Ronald, has said:—"Man is an intelligence assisted by organs." In bodily formation man is an animal, but he far surpasses the animal in the intent of his intellectual faculties. As the traveller came within view of King Solomon's Temple he might look upon its structure, examine its stones, stand amazed at its golden gates, but that material structure was but an outward envelope. The spiritual would not be seen. So a man. His frame, in all its beautiful form, is only the external; the soul is that which gives life to the body. The body is the body which the Great Architect of the Universe gave. It is established in strength. But without the soul there is no life. God breathed into man the breath of life, and man became a living soul. The holy place was that part of the building within the porchway or entrance. It was the part where the worship of the Unseen Jehovah was carried on. Man is made capable of worship; he feels his dependency upon God. But we must go further. We pass within the veil, we are in the innermost sanctuary—the oracle. Man is now the recipient of the Divine spirit. He can now say, as Solomon did, "Arise, O Lord God, thou and the ark of thy strength." It is the whole man, body, soul, and spirit, which stands as the manifestation of God. The Temple was the visible symbol of the Most High, a fold seen and known of men, but that Temple has passed away. Man himself has become the Temple of God. In his highest development he carries out in every respect God's will.

The two great features of our Institution—the two great pillars upon which it rests and which makes it stable, are Righteousness and Charity. The true Freemason—the one who enters into the deep spirit of its meaning, finds himself ever growing nearer to the G.A.O.T.U. Not the mere outward form, however noble, but the inner spirit—the Godlike spirit in that which is the manifestation of the Deity. As we walk in righteousness, as the Sacred Law becomes our guide, as we follow its precepts, we walk amongst men as those who are not only joined together in unity with one another, but are also part of the great brotherhood in heaven above. Charity is outward expression. In the spirit of the chapter read to-day, 1 Cor. xiii., we walk through the world. Charity never faileth. It is our great privilege to show by our works that we recognise and follow the teaching of the volume of the Sacred Law. In the old country our Masonic Institutions form an important part of our work. And while in this new country we are but in the days of small things, to what heights can this noble Order rise when its members are united in the pursuit of righteousness, and show forth in their lives the lessons of true charity. Our Fraternity, says one writer, based on the existence of God and truth of immortality, is neither a religious sect nor political party. But its aims and offices are the promotion of the knowledge amongst men of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Let us carry out the spirit of true Freemasonry, and while we reverently acknowledge that the Almighty still dwells in the thick darkness, while oftentimes we do not see clearly the working of His will, while the glorious temple on Mount Moriah has vanished—Man, man, in his threefold nature—body, soul, and spirit—made for the glory of God, exhibits the word and will of God, and by acts of righteousness and charity shows to the world that Freemasonry looks to Him who dwells in the thick darkness, and forms for Him a house which shall be a habitation for Him for ever.—"New Zealand Craftsman."

ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH MASONRY.

THE Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland will be held on Thursday next, 3rd August, at the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, an item of the Agenda being a recommendation from Grand Lodge Committee that Earl Amherst be appointed Grand Representative from the Grand Lodge of Scotland near the Grand Lodge of England.

EAST ANGLIA.

THE following Officers were appointed at the meeting of this Prov. G. Mark Lodge reported in our last issue :

Bro. H. J. Wright	-	-	-	Senior Warden
G. W. G. Barnard	-	-	-	Junior Warden
G. H. Lovewell Blake	-	-	-	Master Overseer
G. Ivers Bland	-	-	-	Senior Overseer
H. C. Monteith	-	-	-	Junior Overseer
Rev. Dr. Cunningham	-	-	-	Chaplain
Francis Curry	-	-	-	Treasurer
S. R. Anness	-	-	-	Registrar of Marks
C. Denton Leech	-	-	-	Secretary
W. Kemp	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
S. H. Sharman	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
Arthur J. Wells	-	-	-	Inspector of Works
C. E. Boughton	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
Capt. R. J. Carthew	-	-	-	Assist. Dir. of Cers.
W. Patrick	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
C. E. Holland	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
John Thompson	-	-	-	Organist
E. Sparke	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
F. H. Potts	-	-	-	Inner Guard
John Hewitt	-	-	-	Tyler.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Northumberland and Durham is announced to be held at the Freemasons' Hall, 18 Grainger Street West, Newcastle, on Thursday, 3rd August, the Provincial Grand Master Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., presiding. The meeting is expected to be honoured with the presence of Bro. the Earl of Euston Pro G.M.M.

THE DUTIES OF MASTERS.

THE Worshipful Master of a Lodge is an officer whose duties are multiform and manifold. Those who suppose him to be merely a figure-head make a gross mistake. True, he is an imposing figure; true, this figure has a head; but while all eyes look to him, and all ears are open to him, and he is "monarch of all he surveys," if this imposing figure expects the office to take the place of the man, or supply his deficiencies, he is woefully mistaken. No one should aspire to be the Worshipful Master of a Lodge, the ruler of a host of his Brethren, the arbiter of the Craft, who is not possessed of wisdom, learning, judgment, tact, and whose heart is not overflowing with Brotherly love.

Many Brethren appear to think that if they know the work they are qualified to sit in Solomon's seat. Solomon did not think so. He qualified himself for the right performance of all his duties by first asking from the Grand Architect wisdom, and obtaining that wondrous gift from His dispensing hand. What the Master needs to-day is WISDOM—wisdom in all things, not only that petty wisdom, that technical wisdom, that narrow wisdom, which qualifies merely for the performance of one duty, but that enlarged spirit of understanding which is as broad as the office the Master holds; that appreciation of all the needs of his Brethren whom he has been selected to preside over; that devotion to duty which waits not to be sought, but goes out to find occasion for the exercise of the beneficent prerogatives with which his office is endowed. Symbolically he is a luminary, actually he should be a dispenser of light. The sun should shine. And yet, how many suns are obscured by clouds? How many Masters are servants? How many Secretaries are Masters?

Of course a Master should be a good worker. The Master who cannot work is an absurdity. Work is one of his primary functions. If he cannot work he should not be Master. And he should not only work, but work well. In this era of light and knowledge the ignorant are wilfully and inexcusably ignorant. The prevalence of Schools of Instruction renders it absolutely unpardonable for a Master of a Lodge now to be unable to do his own work. But work is not the whole of Masonry; no, not by a vast deal.

An important part of the duty of a Master is the government of his Lodge. To do this with justice and equity requires the possession and exercise of knowledge, wisdom and prudence. He who rules at discretion should rule with discretion. A Master should be acquainted with the main provisions of the Ahiman Rezon, or Constitutions of the Craft, with the Bye-Laws of his own Lodge, with the decisions of the Grand Lodge, the usages, customs

and Landmarks, and with Masonic parliamentary law. Without a knowledge of these he will suffer his Lodge continually to go astray and fall into difficulties which will draw down upon it Masonic penalties, necessarily administered in the way of corrective action by the supreme Masonic authority.

Another duty which the Master owes to his office to perform is a personal oversight of his fellow-members, especially when they are in sickness or distress. His Brethren are a part of himself, and when one suffers he should suffer with him to the extent of relieving the suffering, in accordance with his own and the Lodge's ability. The sick, the dying and the dead are especially the charge of the Worshipful Master. Their condition he should report to the Lodge, so that it may minister to their needs. But primarily, they are under his charge, and for them he should hold himself Masonically responsible.

Another duty which is his is to maintain harmony and fraternal feeling throughout the membership of the Lodge. He will always be favourably listened to on account of the dignity of his office. He can wield an influence for good which no other member can. Hence he is derelict in the exercise of his functions if he is not continually labouring to promote universal good feeling in the body of the Craft over which he presides. A harmonious Lodge is a successful Lodge. A harmonising Master makes a harmonious Lodge.

The Lodge which has for its Master a Brother who knows the work and performs it impressively; who knows Masonic law and executes it impartially; who is paternal as well as fraternal in his oversight of his fellow-members, and who ever has in view the promotion of universal harmony—such a Lodge is a true Masonic Lodge, the Master is a true Master, and the Masonry therein taught and exemplified is pure and undefiled.—"Keystone."

UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD.

"UNIVERSAL Brotherhood!" That we may obtain a true understanding of these words, let us do a charitable and unselfish act to the poor, the needy, the sick and the helpless, and feel for once the barriers of every-day hardness fall away at the glad and grateful expression called forth by our loving deed. This will give us a tangible something which the mind may realise and grasp, thus giving meaning to an expression which to many has no special significance. The warm glow of love and compassion passing between the one doing and the one receiving is a new born fire, a spark from the Divine Man, which permeates the whole being with a new life, once experienced never to be forgotten. This is the true source of brotherhood—brotherhood of a kind scarcely to be conceived by the men of to-day, but which many men in all ages have laboured to bring about and make universal. They have been those who were more or less initiated into the mysteries of life, and have realised the necessity of bringing into the world of forces this living fire, and they know full well that its only source is in the hearts of men, from whence it must spring into the world to envelop all men with its force and power. The mystic tie existing between all who have laboured and are labouring still exists. The principle of brotherhood, in its best sense, underlies our beautiful Masonic art, and has been the corner stone of its foundations from time immemorial. The same influences which stimulated our ancient Brethren are still at work, and our ranks are being slowly but surely swelled by those who have learned that without keeping alive this small flame of Divine Love the world would soon go down in ignorance and darkness.

Suppose, for a moment, that this work became universal, what would be the result? In a few years the sword would be hung in the hall; there would be no armed ships; deadly explosives would be forgotten; centralisation of immense wealth on one hand and deepest poverty on the other would cease; crime would lose its attraction for men; and our prisons would stand useless. But in this modern world of ours, outside the ranks of those who are earnestly working for a nobler manhood, the gospel of every man for himself meets with approbation, and selfishness is on every side. The use of power for one's own purposes is never questioned; on the contrary, it is believed to be right and proper.

Yet this is but repeating the same things which existed in Rome fifteen hundred years ago. Men have not yet been taught wisdom from the past, and they have not yet grasped an incentive to aid them to reach to the ideal. That incentive must be given, otherwise there will be no change. For the purpose of giving and fostering this incentive have our noble Masonic Institutions existed from time immemorial. They gather the flower of the world into a bond of Brotherhood, and the day will come when our noble teachings shall encircle the whole family of mankind, for when they are ready to receive the benefits of universal Brotherhood, Freemasonry will open its doors to them with gladness.—"Freemason's Magazine."

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.

557 Loyal Victoria, Callington
1177 Tenby, Tenby
1753 Obedience, Okehampton
2279 Thornham, Thornham
2553 Rufford, Nottingham

Tuesday.

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

Wednesday.

Grand Chapter, at 6.
74 Athol, Birmingham
94 Phoenix, Sunderland
137 Amity, Poole
159 Brunswick, East Stonehouse
168 Mariner, Guernsey
282 Bedford, Tavistock
298 Harmony, Rochdale
326 Moira of Honour, Bristol
327 St. John, Wigton
406 N'thern Counties, N'castle-on-T.
417 Faith & Unanimity, Dorchester
429 Royal Navy, Ramsgate
838 Franklin, Boston
970 St. Anne, East Looe
1003 Prince of Wales, Jersey
1013 Royal Victoria, Liverpool
1063 Mallory Abbey, West Malling
1085 Hartington, Derby
1167 Alnwick, Alnwick
1431 St. Alphege, Solihull
1461 Clausentum, Woolston
1549 Abercorn, Great Stanmore
1660 Arlecdon, Frizzington

1736 St. John, Halifax
1862 Stranton, West Hartlepool
2382 Loyal Hay, Hay

Thursday.

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

Friday.

1489 Marquess of Ripon, Highbury
2511 St. John at Hackney, Hackney
242 St. George, Doncaster
291 Royal Philanthropic, Highbridge
306 Alfred, Leeds
521 Truth, Huddersfield
837 De Grey and Ripon, Ripon
936 Adair, Aldeburgh
998 Welchpool, Welchpool
1230 Barnard, Barnard Castle
1648 Prince of Wales, Bradford
1664 Gosforth, Gosforth
1754 Windsor, Penarth
2433 Minerva, Birkenhead

Saturday.

1223 Amherst, Riverhead
1550 Prudence, Plymouth
1929 Mozart, Croydon
2442 St. Clement, Leigh
2541 St. Andrew, Avonmouth

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

THIS Company issue ordinary as well as excursion tickets at their principal City and West-end Offices, and this arrangement is probably never so much appreciated as during the week preceding the Bank Holiday, when large numbers of people avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded for obtaining tickets at their own time and without the crowding and worry inseparable from a large railway station at holiday seasons. The fares charged are the same as at Paddington. The following are the offices at which tickets are issued, viz.:—193 and 407 Oxford Street; 181 Tottenham Court Road, W.; 53 New Oxford Street; Gloucester Mansions (10 Cambridge Circus), Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.; "The Piazza," Covent Garden; 269 Strand; 26 Regent Street, S.W.; 29 Charing Cross; 17 Brompton Road; 4 Holborn Circus; Nag's Head Yard, 137 Borough High Street, E.C.; 118 Minories, E.; 5 Arthur Street East, London Bridge, E.C.; 82 Queen Victoria Street; 67 Gresham Street; 4 Cheapside; and at the L.B. & S.C. Company's Excursion Office (under Grand Hotel), Trafalgar Square. Tickets can also be obtained at Clapham Junction; Kensington (Addison Road); Uxbridge Road; Hammersmith, and other stations.

The booking offices at Paddington station will be open for the issue of tickets all day on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th August, and the tickets issued (except those for specified excursion trains) will be available for use on any of those days.

To meet the expected additional traffic by the ordinary trains on Saturday, 5th August, the Company will run in duplicate the 11.45 a.m. and 3.0 and 9.0 p.m. trains from London to the West of England, the 4.45 and 6.50 p.m. trains to the North, and the 12.0 noon train to Weymouth, Hereford, and South Wales. The first portion of the 11.45 a.m., 3.0 and 9.0 p.m. trains will leave Paddington at 11.38 a.m., 2.55 p.m., and 8.55 p.m. respectively, but the first portions of the other trains will leave at the advertised times, and the second a few minutes afterwards, the long distance

passengers being as far as possible taken in the first portion, but with a few exceptions both trains will stop at the advertised stations to take up and set down passengers.

Fast excursion trains leave Paddington every Wednesday for Shrewsbury, Aberystwyth, Dolgelly, Barmouth, Llandudno, &c.; and at midnight every Wednesday for Cardiff, Swansea, &c.; every Thursday for Clevedon, Taunton, Tiverton, &c., and at midnight for Chester, Liverpool, &c.; every Thursday and Friday night, to Weston-Super-Mare; every Thursday, Friday night and Saturday, to Dawlish, Teignmouth, Falmouth, Penzance, and other resorts in the West of England; every Thursday and Saturday, to Bridgwater, Minehead, Torquay, Kingsbridge, &c.; every Friday, to Newbury, Devizes, &c., and at night to the Scilly Islands; every Friday and Saturday, to Saverne, Marlborough, &c.; every Friday night and Saturday, to Exeter, Plymouth, &c., and to Douglas (Isle of Man); every Friday and Monday, to Swindon, Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Hereford, &c.; every Saturday, to Frome, Yeovil, Dorchester, Weymouth (for the Channel Islands), Lynton, Lynmouth, Ilfracombe, Llanecston, &c.; and every Saturday and Monday, to Bath, Bristol, &c.

Cheap half-day excursions are also run every Monday (except 7th August to Maidenhead, Marlow, Aylesbury, &c.; every Tuesday, to Abingdon, Oxford, and Blenheim and Woodstock; every Wednesday, to Reading, Newbury, Marlborough, Devizes, &c.; and every Thursday, to Stratford-on-Avon, Banbury and Leamington.

Passengers are booked every Saturday to Guernsey and Jersey, via Weymouth, and the short sea passage to the Islands, by the trains leaving Paddington at 8.50 a.m. and 9.45 p.m. Third class return tickets, available for a fortnight or less, are issued at a fare of 24s 6d. There is now a daily daylight service from Weymouth to Guernsey and Jersey, in addition to the night boat.

On Wednesday, 2nd August, an excursion will run to Cheltenham, Worcester, Malvern, Hereford, &c.; on Thursday, 3rd August, to Cork and Killarney; on Friday, 4th August, to Stratford-on-Avon, Crewe, Manchester, Waterford, Killarney, Belfast, Giant's Causeway, &c.; and at midnight, to Cardiff, Swansea, Oxford, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Chester, Birkenhead, Liverpool, &c.; on Sunday, 6th August, to Gloucester, Cheltenham, Weston-Super-Mare, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Plymouth, &c.; and at midnight, to Oxford, Leamington, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, &c. On the Bank Holiday, excursions will run to Reading, Goring, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Weston-Super-Mare, Gloucester, Cheltenham, &c.

Excursions will be run to London from most of the principal stations, and cross country trips have also been arranged.

Cheap tickets are issued daily from London and many suburban stations to Staines, Windsor, Taplow, Maidenhead, Henley, Goring, Wallingford, and other riverside resorts. These tickets can be obtained during the whole of the summer months. The train service to and from the riverside stations has also been considerably improved.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

ON Bank Holiday, 7th August, and on the previous Saturday, certain booked trains will be discontinued, of which due notice will be given by special bills at the stations.

For the convenience of the public the Midland Railway Company have arranged that the Booking Offices at St. Pancras and Moorgate Street Stations shall be open for the issue of tickets all day on Friday and Saturday, 4th and 5th August. Tickets to all principal stations on the Midland Railway will also be obtainable beforehand at their City and Suburban Offices throughout the metropolis. The tickets obtained at these Offices will be available from St. Pancras Station, and will be issued at the same fares as charged at that Station, and dated to suit the convenience of passengers.

Cheap excursion trains will be run from London on Friday night, 4th August, to Stirling, Perth, Aberdeen, Inverness, &c., for 4 or 10 days, and to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfries, Castle Douglas, Ayr, &c., for 4 and 10 days, by which trains third class return tickets will be issued at a single fare for the double journey, available for 16 days. Cheap excursion tickets will be issued from London (St. Pancras) to Dublin, Belfast, Londonderry, &c., and excursion tour tickets to the North of Ireland, on Friday, 4th August (see bills for times, fares, routes, &c.). On Saturday, 5th August, a cheap excursion train will be run to Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Leicester, Nottingham, Melton, Burton, Derby, Manchester, Liverpool, Blackburn, Bolton, Preston, Wigan, Blackpool, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury, the Furness District, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Barnsley, Keighley, York, Hull, Scarborough, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle, Carlisle, &c., for three or six days. On Monday, 7th August, day trips will be run from London (St. Pancras) to Southend-on-Sea, St. Albans, Harpenden, Luton, Bedford, and Kettering; a one, two, or three days trip to Leicester; a one, two, four, or five days trip to Birmingham; and a two or five days excursion to Manchester. Tickets for these trains for starting from St. Pancras Station can be obtained on the two days previous to the running of the trains at the above-named offices.

Cheap season excursion tickets are now issued each Saturday, until 30th September, from London (St. Pancras) to Matlock, Buxton, Liverpool, Southport, Blackpool, Lytham, St. Anne's-on-Sea, Scarborough, Bridlington, Whitby, Morecambe, Lancaster, the English Lake District, &c., available for passengers to return in either three, eight, ten, fifteen, or seventeen days, and to the Isle of Man on Friday nights and Saturday mornings for three, eight, ten, fifteen, or seventeen days. Fortnightly excursions to Northallerton, Richmond, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle, and Berwick will be run on alternate Fridays, from 4th August to 29th September inclusive, leaving St. Pancras at 8.30 p.m., and affording facilities for four, ten, or sixteen days' stay. Cheap week-end tickets are issued every Friday and Saturday from London (St. Pancras) and other principal Midland Stations to numerous seaside and inland holiday resorts, including the "Peak" District of Derbyshire, Yorkshire, the North East Coast, Morecambe, Dumfries, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Greenock, Melrose, Edinburgh, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, &c., &c. The tickets are available for return on the following Sunday (where train service permits), Monday or Tuesday, and those issued on 4th and 5th August will be available for return up to Wednesday, 9th August.

A cheap excursion train will be run to London on Saturday, 5th August, from Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, &c., for 3, 4, or 7 days; and from Carlisle, Keighley, Bradford, Leeds, Barnsley, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Rochdale, Burton, Derby, Lincoln, Nottingham, Leicester, &c., for six days; also from Liverpool, Southport, Warrington, &c., for 3 days. Passengers will be booked by these trains at cheap fares to Brighton and other South Coast Stations, for 8, 12, or 15 days; and to Paris and other places on the Continent, having the

privilege of returning within 16 days. On Monday, 7th August, cheap day excursion trains to London will be run from Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Bedford, Luton, St. Albans, &c.; a 2 and 4 days trip from Bradford, Leeds, Barnsley, Sheffield, Chesterfield, Blackburn, Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Stockport, &c.; and a 1, 2, and 5 days trip from Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, &c.

Cheap daily and week-end excursion tickets are issued from St. Pancras and other Midland Stations to Southend-on-Sea, by the new and shorter route, via the Tottenham and Forest Gate Line.

For holiday companions, travellers cannot do better than secure copies of the new publications which have just been issued by the Midland Railway Company, including "Country and Seaside Holidays," 1899 (an illustrated guide, with list of furnished apartments in the country and by the seaside); "Choose Aye the Middle Course," an illustrated account of the most interesting route to Scotland; "Pocket Guide to the Midland Railway"; "Pocket Diary and Guide to the Isle of Man and English Lake District"; "The Peak of Derbyshire"; "Scotch Tourists' Programme," &c. The books may be obtained at any Midland Station or agency.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

THIS Company announce that on Friday night, 4th August, and each alternate Friday until 29th September (for 4 and 10 days), cheap excursions will leave London [Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E.), Victoria (L.C. & D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.], for Northallerton, Darlington, Richmond, Durham, Newcastle, Alnwick, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Dundee, Oban, Fort William, Aberdeen, Inverness, and other stations in Scotland. Passengers holding 4 days' tickets return on Tuesday following date of issue, and those holding ten days' tickets return on Monday week following date of issue.

Tickets at a single fare for the double journey will also be issued by above excursions to places named, available for return by one fixed train on any day within sixteen days, including days of issue and return.

On Saturday, 5th August, cheap fast excursions will also leave London [Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E.), Victoria (L.C. & D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross, &c.], for the principal stations in the Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and North Eastern districts, returning on 7th and 10th August.

Cheap excursions will also be run to Skegness, Sutton-on-Sea, and Mablethorpe, on Saturday, 5th August, for 1, 3, or 4 days; Bank Holiday, 7th August, for 1 day; and to Skegness only on 8th August for 1 day; from Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross, Finsbury Park, &c.

On Bank Holiday, 7th August, cheap day excursions will be run to St. Albans, Hertford, Wheathampstead, Harpenden, Luton, Dunstable, Hitchin, Baldock, Royston, Cambridge, Biggleswade, Sandy, Tempsford, St. Neots, Huntingdon, and Peterboro', from Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross, (G.N.), &c.

The cheap week-end tickets usually issued each Friday and Saturday will also be issued on Friday, 4th August, and Saturday, 5th August, returning on Sunday, 6th August (if train service admits), Monday, 7th August, Tuesday, 8th August, or Wednesday, 9th August, except tickets to Skegness, Sutton-on-Sea, Mablethorpe, Woodhall Spa, Cromer, Sheringham, North Walsham, Mundesley-on-Sea, and Yarmouth, which are available for return on day of issue, or any day up to and including Wednesday, 9th August (if train service admits).

To prevent inconvenience from crowding at the Company's principal terminal station, King's Cross, tickets, dated in advance, will be issued at King's Cross (G.N.R.), Victoria (L.C. & D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, and suburban stations, and at the Company's ticket offices throughout the metropolis.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.

THIS Company announce a number of summer excursions from the new station at Marylebone, and no doubt they will be largely patronised by holiday seekers who desire to see for themselves the new country so recently opened up by the extension of this Company's system to the metropolis.

Fortnightly excursions will be run to Northallerton, Darlington, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c., for 4, 10, or 16 days, and like trips are also arranged to Ireland, via Liverpool, for 16 days.

Every Friday and Saturday until further notice excursions will be run to Douglas (Isle of Man), for 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days; and every Saturday to a large number of other holiday resorts, in Lancashire, Yorkshire, &c.

Special trips are arranged for the Saturday preceding the Bank holiday, and following Saturdays, to a large number of the best known tourist centres of the north, and in many other ways the needs of the public will be catered for by this latest addition to the great trunk lines running to and from the metropolis, with results which, in view of the ever increasing growth of holiday traffic on all our railways, must be of benefit to the tired Londoner seeking rest and change away from the great city.

Mr. Thomas Smith, the founder of "Smith's Advertising Agency," has written a retrospect of his experiences, under the title "Twenty-one years in Fleet Street," which may be regarded as a speaking testimony of the advantages of his "Successful Advertising." Mr. Smith not only blows his own trumpet, but adds such a mass of outside testimony to his ability as to fully justify the "flourish." We have often looked with envious eyes on our namesake, "Fleet Printing Works," at St. Albans, the "country quarters" of this go-ahead firm, and compared the surroundings with what our forefathers had to be content with, in the "good-old times." The workpeople, if no others, have to thank such firms as Messrs. Smith, for the altered conditions of labour—one of the results of their enterprise.

THE quarterly issue of the "Life-boat," the journal of the Royal National Life-boat Institution, devotes special attention to a report of the dinner over which our Grand Master presided in May last, after having accepted the post of President of the Institution. Details are also given of some excellent services rendered by the boats, which now number 295. Funds are much needed to maintain these, and also provide rewards for saving lives from shipwrecks on our coast, the number so dealt with last year being 756.

DEVONSHIRE.

THE annual Provincial Grand Lodge is to be held in the Drill Hall, Tiverton, on Thursday, 10th prox., at 3.30 p.m. The Committee of Petitions will assemble at the Town Hall, at one p.m. The railway arrangements for both meetings will be as usual. The luncheon, at two p.m., will be served in the Public Schools, St. Andrew Street. Tickets to be obtained on or before the previous Saturday from Bro. J. W. A. Pleass, Angel Hill, Tiverton.

There are now fifty-nine Lodges in the county of Devon, having some 3,900 subscribing members; financially and numerically the Province never having been so prosperous as now. A number of reports will be read for adoption, and the Officers for the year ensuing will be appointed and invested by the Provincial Grand Master the Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, C.B., M.P., who is one of the most popular and esteemed Masonic rulers in the country.

R. M. I. BOYS.

WE have much pleasure in announcing that Ewart Richardson—one of the boys retained for higher education—has passed in the first division of the London University Matriculation at the examination held recently. Richardson's success is the more creditable as he was entered for the examination in January, but could not sit, on account of ill-health at that time, and since leaving the School has had no tuition. Six boys have now passed in the first division, and one in the second division, during the past four years.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex was held on Wednesday, at Tilbury, and proved in every way a success. A full report of the proceedings will appear in our next issue.

SPIERS & POND'S STORES

(No Tickets Required),

QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.,

Opposite St. Paul's Station

(L. C. & D. Rly.).

PRICE BOOK (1,000 pages),

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GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHANNEL ISLANDS, Via Weymouth.

**BEST ROUTE
AND SHORTEST SEA PASSAGE.**

TWO EXPRESS SERVICES DAILY.

**JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER SERVICE.
Week-days.**

	Day Service.	Night Service.
PADDINGTON dept.	- 8.50 a.m.	9.45 p.m.
WEYMOUTH „	- 1.30 p.m.	2.15 a.m.
GUERNSEY arr.	- 5.30 „	6.30 „
JERSEY „	- 7.30 „	9.0 „

JERSEY dept. 8.30 a.m.

GUERNSEY „ 10.15 „

PADDINGTON arr. 7.15 p.m. by Special Boat Train.

CHANNEL ISLANDS EXCURSIONS EVERY SATURDAY by DAY and NIGHT SERVICES, for a fortnight or less. Return Fare, 24/6.

During JULY, AUGUST, and SEPTEMBER, SPECIAL FAST EXCURSIONS, for a week, a fortnight, &c., will leave PADDINGTON STATION, as under :—

EVERY WEDNESDAY, to SHREWSBURY, Welshpool, ABERYST-WYTH, Llangollen, Corwen, Bala, Festiniog, DOLGELLEY, BARMOUTH, Rhyl, Llandudno, Bettws-y-coed, Carnarvon, Llanberis (for SNOWDON), &c.

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT, to Chepstow, Monmouth, Newport, CARDIFF, SWANSEA, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY, to Clevedon, TAUNTON, Tiverton, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT, to CHESTER, Birkenhead and LIVERPOOL.

EVERY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHT, to WESTON.

EVERY THURSDAY, FRIDAY NIGHT, and SATURDAY, to Dawlish, Teignmouth, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Newquay, Truro, Falmouth, St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY and SATURDAY, to BRIDGWATER, MINE-HEAD, TORQUAY, Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY, to NEWBURY, Devizes, TROWBRIDGE, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT, to the SCILLY ISLANDS.

EVERY FRIDAY and SATURDAY, to SAVERNAKE, Marlborough, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT and SATURDAY, to EXETER, PLY-MOUTH, &c.; and to DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN).

EVERY FRIDAY and MONDAY, to SWINDON, Stroud, GLOUCES-TER, Cheltenham, HEREFORD, &c.

EVERY SATURDAY, to FROME, Shepton Mallet, Wells, YEOVIL, Bridport, Dorchester, WEYMOUTH, Portland, Lynton, LYNMOUTH, Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE, Yealmpton, Tavistock, Launceston, &c.

EVERY SATURDAY and MONDAY, to BATH, BRISTOL, &c.

EVERY MONDAY (except 7th August), HALF DAY TRIP to Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne End, MARLOW, Wycombe, AYLES-BURY, &c.

EVERY TUESDAY, HALF DAY TRIP to Culham, Radley, Abingdon, OXFORD, and BLENHEIM and WOODSTOCK.

EVERY WEDNESDAY, HALF DAY TRIP to READING, Newbury, Hungerford, Savernake, Marlborough and DEVIZES.

EVERY THURSDAY, HALF-DAY TRIP to STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Banbury, and LEAMINGTON.

WEDNESDAY, 2nd August. To Chipping Norton, CHELTENHAM, WORCESTER, Malvern, HEREFORD, &c., for 7 days.

FRIDAY, 4th August. To Market Drayton, Crewe, Stockport, MANCHESTER, &c., for 7 days, and to STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Dudley, &c., for 3 or 6 days.

FRIDAY MIDNIGHT, 4th August. To Oxford, Leamington, BIR-MINGHAM, Wolverhampton, &c., for 3 or 6 days; and to CHESTER, Birkenhead and LIVERPOOL, for 6 days.

FRIDAY MIDNIGHT, 4th August (for 3, 6 or 13 days) and WEDNES-DAY MIDNIGHT, 9th August (for 8 or 15 days) and EVERY WEDNESDAY until further notice, to Chepstow, Newport, CARDIFF, SWANSEA, Llanelli, Llandovery, Carmarthen, TENBY, Pembroke Dock, Cardigan, Goodwick, MILFORD, &c.

SUNDAY, 6th August, to CIRENCESTER, Stroud, GLOUCESTER, CHELTENHAM, &c., for 1, 2, 5, 9, 12 or 16 days.

SUNDAY, NIGHT 6th August. To Weston-Super-Mare, Bridgwater, Taunton, EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, TORQUAY, PLYMOUTH, &c., for 1, 6, 8, 13 or 15 days.

SUNDAY MIDNIGHT, 6th August. To OXFORD, Leamington, BIRMINGHAM, Wolverhampton, &c., for 1, 2, 4 or 5 days.

MONDAY, AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY. To READING, Pangbourne, Goring, Wallingford, Faringdon, SWINDON, &c., for day trip; to Bath, Bristol, Weston-Super-Mare, &c., for 1, 2, 6, 8, 13 or 15 days; and to Cirencester, Stroud, GLOUCESTER, CHELTENHAM, &c., for 1, 4, 8, 11 or 15 days.

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.

THURSDAYS, 3rd, 17th, 31st August, 14th and 28th September, for CORK and KILLARNEY.

FRIDAYS, 4th, 18th August, 1st, 15th, and 29th September, for WATERFORD, Dungarvan, Lismore, Clonmel, Tipperary, Kilkenny, KILLARNEY, BELFAST, Armagh, Enniskillen, Larne, GIANT'S CAUSE-WAY, &c.

CHEAP DAY THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS are issued DAILY by certain trains to WINDSOR (2s 6d), MAIDENHEAD (3s), Marlow (3s 6d), HENLEY (3s 6d), Goring (5s 6d), &c.

Tickets, bills, pamphlets and COUNTRY LODGING LISTS, can be obtained at the Company's Stations, and at the usual Receiving Offices.

J. L. WILKINSON, GENERAL MANAGER.

THE CASTLE HOTEL, EAST MOLESEY, Adjoining Hampton Court Station,

FACING THE RIVER AND PALACE.

Special Provision for Lodge and other meetings, including

A MASONIC TEMPLE

with ample Ante-Rooms, Banquet Hall, and every convenience

FIVE LODGES ALREADY MEET HERE.

Ample accommodation in the new wing of this old-established and noted Riverside Hotel for Banquets for any number up to 100. Every convenience for Ladies' Gatherings. Spacious landing to river, whence Steam Launches can start. Specimens of Menus, with prices, sent on application.

TWO BILLIARD TABLES. GOOD STABLING ACCOMMODATION.

STEAM LAUNCHES AND SCULLING BOATS

provided at the shortest notice.

Tariff, &c. of Bro. JOHN MAYO, Proprietor.

STAR & GARTER HOTEL, KEW BRIDGE,

Brother Capt. W. T. PURKISS, V.D., Proprietor.

The accommodation at this Popular Establishment for

MASONIC LODGES AND CHAPTERS

Will be found of the Most Complete and Perfect Character.

The Lodge Rooms are Commodious and well Appointed. The Banquet Hall will seat over 100 Guests.

The Culinary Arrangements embrace every modern feature.

Special Facilities for Wedding Breakfasts, Soirees, Concerts, Balls, and Evening Parties.

The Stock of Wines comprises all the Best Known Brands, and will be found in Perfect Condition.

Private Rooms for Large or Small Parties. Good Stabling.

Scale of Charges and further particulars on Application.

The Royal Alfred Lodge, Chiswick Mark Lodge, Loyalty and Charity Lodge, Rose of Denmark Chapter, St. Mary's Chapter, and Royal Alfred Lodge of Instruction hold their meetings at this Establishment.

HOTEL RONVEAU, Golden Square, Regent Street, London, W.

Two Minutes from Piccadilly Circus.

ACCOMMODATION FOR MASONIC MEETINGS.

WINES, SPIRITS & CIGARS OF THE BEST QUALITY

Good Cuisine.

Moderate Charges.

LEON PETER, Proprietor.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY. CHEAP AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

WEDNESDAY, 2nd AUGUST, and each Wednesday until 20th September (for 8 days), to SKEGNESS, SUTTON-ON-SEA and MABLETHORPE, from King's Cross (G.N.), at 8.45 a.m.; and to SHERINGHAM, CROMER (Beach), MUNDESEY-ON-SEA and YARMOUTH (Beach), from King's Cross (G.N.), at 10.15 a.m.

FRIDAY night, 4th AUGUST, and each alternate Friday until 29th September (for 4, 10 and 16 days), to NORTHALLERTON, DARLINGTON, RICHMOND, DURHAM, NEWCASTLE, ALNWICK, BERWICK, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, PERTH, DUNDEE, ABERDEEN, INVERNESS, OBAN, FORT WILLIAM and OTHER STATIONS IN SCOTLAND from Woolwich (Arsenal), Woolwich (Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E.), Victoria (L.C. & D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

SATURDAY, 5th AUGUST, and each Saturday until 30th September (for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days), to BRIDLINGTON, FILEY, SCARBOROUGH, WHITBY, ROBIN HOOD'S BAY, SALTBURN, REDCAR, TYNEMOUTH, WHITLEY, CULLERCOATS, LIVERPOOL, SOUTHPORT and DOUGLAS (Isle of Man), from Moorgate, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

SATURDAY, 5th AUGUST (for 3 and 6 days), to the principal Stations in LINCOLNSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE, LANCASHIRE, YORKSHIRE, and NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT, from Woolwich (Arsenal), Woolwich (Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E.), Victoria (L.C. & D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

To SKEGNESS, SUTTON-ON-SEA and MABLETHORPE, SATURDAY, 5th AUGUST (for 1, 3, or 4 days), and BANK HOLIDAY, 7th AUGUST (for 1 day); also to SKEGNESS only, 8th August (for 1 day), from Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), Holloway, Finsbury Park, Hornsey, Wood Green, New Southgate and New Barnet.

BANK HOLIDAY, 7th AUGUST, for one day to ST. ALBANS, HERTFORD, WHEATHAMSTEAD, HARPENDEN, LUTON, DUNSTABLE, HITCHIN, BALDOCK, ROYSTON, CAMBRIDGE, BIGGLESWADE, SANDY, TEMPSFORD, ST. NEOTS, HUNTINGDON and PETERBORO' from Moorgate, King's Cross (G.N.), Finsbury Park, &c.

THE CHEAP WEEK-END TICKETS usually issued each Friday and Saturday will also be issued on Friday, 4th August, and Saturday, 5th August, the short date Tickets being available for return on the following Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, except Tickets to Skegness, Sutton-on-Sea, Mablethorpe, Woodhall Spa, Cromer, Sheringham, North Walsham, Mundesley-on-Sea and Yarmouth, which are available for return on day of issue or any day up to Wednesday, 9th August.

For particulars of fares, times of departure and return, see Bills, to be obtained at any of the Company's stations or town offices.

CHARLES STEEL, General Manager.

MIDLAND RAILWAY. BANK HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS, From St. Pancras and City Stations.

Scotland.

FRIDAY, 4th AUGUST, to EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, Dumfries, Ayr, Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, and ALL PARTS OF SCOTLAND, allowing of return up to 16 days.

Principal Towns and Seaside.

Saturday, 5th AUGUST, to BIRMINGHAM, Nuneaton, Hinckley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, MATLOCK, BUXTON, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, Blackpool, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Hull, SCARBORO', MORECAMBE, THE LAKE DISTRICT, and other HOLIDAY RESORTS in Derbyshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the North Eastern District, &c., returning on 7th or 10th August.

MONDAY, 7th AUGUST, to SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ST. ALBANS, HARPENDEN, LUTON, BEDFORD, KETTERING, LEICESTER, BIRMINGHAM, and MANCHESTER, returning as per bills.

Summer Season Excursions.

For particulars of Season Excursions to ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT, THE ISLE OF MAN, MORECAMBE, LANCASTER, LIVERPOOL, SOUTHPORT, BLACKPOOL, MATLOCK, BUXTON, SCARBORO', BRIDLINGTON, the NORTH OF ENGLAND, and SCOTLAND, see special bills.

A Fortnight in Ireland.

CHEAP TICKETS are now issued to DUBLIN, and South of Ireland, LONDONDERRY, BELFAST, PORTURUSH; also EXCURSION TOUR TICKETS to BELFAST, and the NORTH OF IRELAND. See bills for times, fares, routes, &c.

Cheap Week-end Tickets

are now issued every Friday and Saturday from LONDON (St. Pancras) and other principal Midland Stations, to the CHIEF SEASIDE and INLAND HOLIDAY RESORTS, including the Peak District of Derbyshire, Yorkshire, the North East Coast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dumfries, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Greenock, Melrose, Perth, Dundee, &c., &c., available for return on the following Sunday (where train service permits), Monday or Tuesday. Tickets issued on 4th and 5th August will be available for return up to 9th August.

TICKETS, WEEK-END EXCURSION PROGRAMMES, LODGINGS, LISTS, BILLS, &c. may be had at the MIDLAND STATIONS and CITY BOOKING OFFICES, and from Thos. Cook and Sons, Ludgate Circus and Branch Offices.

GEO. H. TURNER, General Manager.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.

SUMMER HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS FROM LONDON (MARYLEBONE):

On Fridays, 4th and 18th August, 1st, 15th and 29th September.

To Northallerton, Darlington, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c. (for 4, 10 and 16 days).....at 7.45 p.m.

To Ireland (via Liverpool) for 16 days.....see bills.

Every Friday and Saturday (until further notice).

To Douglas (Isle of Man) for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days, at 10.30 p.m. Fridays, 5.15 a.m., 8.0 a.m., and 4.0 p.m. Saturdays.

Every Saturday (until 30th September) for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days

To Blackpool, St. Ann's, Lytham, Fleetwood, Liverpool (Gen.), Southport, Chester.....at 10.0 a.m.

To Bridlington, Filey, Scarborough, Whitby, Robin Hood's Bay, Saltburn, Redcar, Tynemouth, Whitley, Cullercoatsat 8.0 a.m.

On Friday and Saturday, 4th and 5th August (for 3 days).

To Rugby, Leicester, Loughboro', Nottingham, Sheffield, Penistone, Stockport, Warrington, Liverpool and Manchester, at 10.30 p.m. Friday, and 5.20 p.m. Saturday.

On Saturdays, 5th, 19th, and 26th August (for 3 or 6 days).

To Bridlington, Carlisle, Filey, Middlesborough, Newcastle, Scarborough, South Shields, West Hartlepool, York.....at 8.0 a.m.

To Knutsford, Northwich, Southport, Widnes, Wiganat 10.0 a.m.

To Ashton, Barnsley (Court House), Cleethorpes, Gainsboro', Grimsby, Guide Bridge, Huddersfield, Hull (Corporation Pier), Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester (London Road), Nottingham, Oldham, Penistone, Retford, Rotherham, Masboro', Rugby, Sheffield (Vic.), Staley Bridge, Warrington, Workson, &c.at 10.25 a.m.

To Brackley, Bulwell Common, Chesterfield, Eekington, Hucknall, Lutterworth, New Basford, Staveley Town.....at 4.0 p.m.

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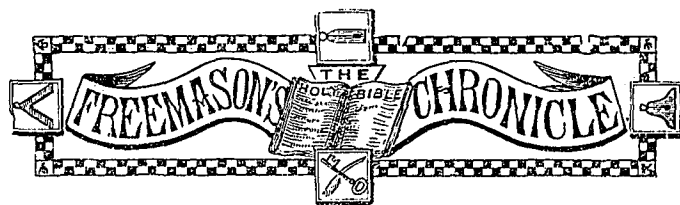
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SATURDAY, 29TH JULY 1899.

MASONIC HALL AT POULTON.

WITH becoming ceremony the new Masonic Hall which has recently been erected in the Market Square, Poulton-le-Fylde, for the Fidelity Lodge, No. 1256, was consecrated on Thursday, 20th inst., by Bro. Robert Wylie P.G.D. England D.P.G.M. West Lancashire.

Before the ceremony luncheon was provided in the hall for the visiting Brethren.

Lodge was formally opened by Bro. Wylie, in the absence of the Earl of Lathom, and he performed the ceremony in an able and impressive manner. There was a large attendance.

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Criterion.—8.15, First in the Field. 9, The Wild Rabbit.

Daly's.—8.15, A Gaiety Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.

Garrick.—8.15, Our John. 8.45, Halves.

Globe.—8, The Gay Lord Quex. Matinée, Saturday, 2.

Lyric.—8.30, El Capitan. Matinée, Thursday, 2.30.

Savoy.—8.30, H.M.S. Pinafore. Trial by Jury. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.

Shaftesbury.—8, The Belle of New York. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.

Alexandra.—Next week, A little ray of sunshine.

Grand.—Next week, Carl Rosa Opera Co.

Alhambra.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. Red Shoes. A Day Off, &c.

Aquarium.—Cairo to the Cape. The Great Fight. Varied Performances twice daily.

Empire.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. Round the Town again, &c.

London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainments.

Oxford.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. Saturday, 2.30 also.

Palace.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. New American Biograph, &c. Saturday, 2 also.

Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2.30 also.

Tivoli.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. Lottie Collins. Saturday, 2.15 also.

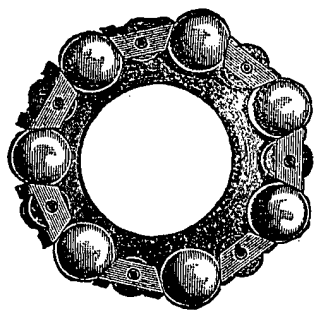
Alexandra Palace.—Varied attractions daily. Fireworks, Thursday and Saturday, &c.

Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily. The Dream of Whitaker's almanack. Polo by Limelight.

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

—:o:—

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

—:o:—

CRAFT: PROVINCIAL.

—:o:—

LODGE OF FREEDOM, No. 77.

THE 148th installation of this ancient Lodge took place with great success on Monday, 17th inst., at the Public Hall, Gravesend, where the Lodge is now permanently in residence. Bro. George Masters W.M. presided for the last time before handing over the Warrant to his successor; and the occasion was graced by the attendance of several Grand and Provincial Officers and the Masters of the surrounding Lodges, whose names are given below.

Bro. Masters opened the Lodge in the first and second degrees, and then resigned the chair in favour of Bro. William Russell P.A.G.D.C. Eng., who had kindly undertaken to perform the installation ceremony. Bro. Russell requested Bros. C. W. Spriggs, Geo. Naylor, R. J. Beamish, and Thos. Deane to assist him as Wardens, D.C., and I.G. respectively.

Bro. John Solomon W.M.-elect was presented by his predecessor Bro. Masters, and was regularly installed into the chair of his illustrious namesake, with all the ancient traditions. Upon the re-admission of the Brethren Bro. Solomon was saluted in the three degrees, and was proclaimed Master by Bro. Russell.

The W.M. then invested his Officers for the ensuing year, addressing to each a few words of advice and congratulation, which will tend doubtless to cause all those Brethren to loyally assist so genial and courteous a Master: Joseph Davis S.W., F. W. Martin J.W., Rev. A. Jackson Chaplain, Frank Hitchens P.P.G.R. Treasurer, J. P. White P.M. Secretary, E. B. Wilks S.D., Robert Matthews J.D., J. G. Prevost I.G., R. J. Beamish P.M. D.C., H. E. Porter A.D.C., W. B. Sargeant Organist, Joseph Solomon Prov.G.S. Senior Steward, E. J. Bennett, D. J. Williams Assist. Stewards, George Martin (for the 54th time) Tyler.

Addresses to the Master, Wardens, and Brethren generally, were delivered by Bro. Russell in his usual dignified and deliberate manner, of which the Brethren signified their approval by cordial Masonic applause. Upon their termination the Audit Committee presented their report, the accounts showing an enviable state of affairs, with a substantial balance in favour of the Lodge.

Bro. George Masters I.P.M. was elected as Charity Steward for the ensuing year, upon the proposition of Bro. Frank Hitchens, which was seconded by Bro. A. Jackson, and carried unanimously. Bro. Masters returned thanks for the appointment, and promised to fulfil the duties to the best of his ability.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Bro. Russell for his services as Installing Master, and ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Lodge, which was suitably acknowledged.

A Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Masters, in recognition of the successful and genial manner in which he had fulfilled the duties of Master during his year of office. Bro. Masters briefly returned thanks, and the W.M. having received the congratulations of the visiting Brethren, the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the Town Hall, which was courteously placed at the disposal of the Lodge by the Corporation, and where the installation banquet was served by Bro. John Simpson, of the Old Falcon Hotel.

Those present included Past Masters Bros. W. Russell P.G.A.D.C. Eng., R. J. Beamish, Thos. Deane, W. Harding, H. Doughty, Joseph Solomon, J. A. Whitfield, William Barlow, Frank Hitchens, Rev. Augustus Jackson, J. B. White, George Rackstraw, J. Gunn, R. C. Fowle; Bros. W. B. Sargeant, J. Simmons, R. H. Drennan, D. J. Williams, W. Thornton, W. E. Cunningham, J. J. Goldfinch, E. J. Brewster, E. W. Bill, E. B. Wilks, Joseph Davis, E. C. Paine, F. W. Martin, &c.

Among the Visitors were Bros. Alfred Spencer P.G.S.B. Provincial Grand Secretary, George Naylor P.M. 20, C. W. Spriggs W.M. 1026, Robert F. Whur W.M. 901, Thos. E. Dexter W.M. 158, Fred Mitchell W.M. 1464, J. Maynard W.M. 1424, W. G. A. Stephenson S.W. 1424, H. T. Davis 1719, J. S. Dyke W.M. 2046, C. F. Bow W.M. 503, F. J. Hawkins 860, George Knowles P.M. 2305, M. Killick W.M. 2038, W. G. Head W.M. 2305, A. C. Clout J.D. 1269, W. Tillott Barlow I.G. 1464, J. Weymouth I.P.M. 1343, Hedley W. S. Oaks W.M. 20, Harry Price P.G.S.B. Eng., Ernest Ingman S.D. 483, Alfred J. Walklin W.M. 483, A. J. Engley W.M. 299, H. E. Parsons W.M. 1837, W. Spencer Bowen J.W. 483.

Bro. Solomon, when rising to propose the health of the Queen, was greeted with long continued applause, thereby proving his popularity with the Brethren. He drew attention to the excellent musical programme prepared for their delectation, and hoped the speeches would emulate the soul of wit.

Due respect having been paid to the usual Loyal toasts, Bro. Alfred Spencer replied for the Officers of Grand Lodge, and said that no people better appreciated the Masonic qualities of Earl Amherst than the Brethren of Kent. His great interest in Freemasonry certainly entitled him to his present position in the Craft, and he hoped he might long live to rule over them.

This kindly sentiment was repeated by Bro. Beamish in proposing the health of the Provincial Grand Master, who had been their chief for nearly thirty years. Bro. Joseph Solomon responded for the Provincial Grand Officers.

Bro. Masters proposed the health of the Worshipful Master. He made a humorous allusion to the fact that last year they had Masters as the Master of the Lodge, and now they had a Solomon in the chair of King Solomon. Their present W.M. was a good and ardent Mason, one who also showed great earnestness in the Craft. He had filled every Office in the Lodge, so he was sure to make a good Master, and maintain the prestige of the Lodge of Freedom.

Bro. Solomon, in reply, said that as he was not a good speaker he found it somewhat difficult to propose the toasts of others, but he found it still more difficult to reply to the kind words that had fallen from his predecessor. This was one of the happiest days of his life, as he had now attained the chair, after having filled the various offices. He had endeavoured to qualify himself for the high position to which they had elected him, and they might be assured that he would do his duty, so that at that time twelve months hence they might say he deserved their commendation.

Bro. William Russell made an earnest appeal on behalf of the Masonic Charities, for which Bro. Morrison McLeod Secretary of the Boys School responded, and gave some interesting details of each Institution.

Bros. Bow and Walklin responded for the Visitors, and thanked the Lodge for their kind reception and lavish hospitality.

Bro. Wm. Russell, having been complimented by the W.M. upon the magnificent manner in which he had performed the installation ceremony, hoped that Bro. Solomon would work up the ritual so as to carry out his duty by installing his successor. He was pleased to notice that the Brethren were breaking away from the obsolete old fashioned working, as it was very much to the advantage of Freemasonry that only one method of working should obtain.

Bro. Fred. Mitchell, in a stirring speech, proposed the Past Masters, who were, he contended, the back-bone of the Lodge. He referred to those present in genial terms, and urged the Brethren to do all in their power to assist them in supporting the dignity of the Lodge.

Bro. Masters responded, and said that his term of office had been a year of infinite pleasure, the climax having been reached that day, when the Brethren had expressed their satisfaction at his endeavours, and had rewarded him with the handsome jewel.

Bros. Joseph Davis and F. W. Martin, the Wardens, replied for the Officers, and assured the W.M. of their hearty support while he occupied the chair.

This concluded the long list of speeches, and it was a late hour when worthy Bro. Martin made his appearance and brought the proceedings to a close with the Tyler's toast.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bros. Davis and Matthews, and included the engagement of the Watson String Band (which played some capital selections during the dinner), Miss Beatrice Willey, Miss Susetta Fenn, Bros. Charles Ellison, Charles Ackerman, Fred Cozens, and D. J. Williams.

DE WARREN LODGE, No. 1302.

THE Brethren, with their wives and a few friends, had a very pleasant outing to Lougill on Thursday, 20th inst., the London and North Western Railway Company providing them with a saloon. Bentham was reached about 10.45 a.m., where conveyances were provided for the rest of the journey to Lougill. The road is of a switchback character, and from every point of view there is a charming panorama of wild and rugged scenery. Lougill was reached at the time appointed, when a sumptuous dinner was laid out in the garden, to which ample justice was done, everyone expressing their satisfaction at the efficient catering of Miss Wilson. The afternoon was spent in an agreeable manner, tea being also served in the garden.

The return journey was commenced about 5.45, in order to catch the express from Morecambe, which the Midland Railway Company had kindly consented to stop to pick up the party at Bentham. All arrived safely in Halifax about 10 p.m., after one of the most agreeable outings the Lodge has had.

LEBANON LODGE, No. 1326.

THE installation meeting was held on Saturday, 15th inst., at the Railway Hotel Assembly Rooms, Feltham. Brother Gordon Larnar was the Worshipful Master-elect, in succession to Brother A. Russell, and his popularity among the Craft was shown by the fact that between sixty and seventy Brethren assembled to do honour to the occasion. After the usual business had been transacted the W.M. was installed, with the customary ceremonies, and on assuming office he appointed his Officers.

An adjournment was then made to the banqueting room, where the company sat down under the presidency of the new Worshipful Master to a most sumptuous repast, served in his best style by Host H. P. Harris. Subsequently a musical evening was spent, songs being given by Brothers Carl Brandt and Hy. Hall, and Mr. Frank Hook, Bro. Eustace Wallace officiating at the piano.

LIVERPOOL LODGE, No. 1547.

ON Wednesday afternoon, 12th inst., the popular Lodge which takes its name from the city of Liverpool held its annual installation at the Temple, Hope Street, Liverpool, the attendance being both numerically and influentially larger than is usually the case. The customary preliminary business was transacted, and the Master-elect presented. After due installation he at once proceeded to invest his Officers.

A presentation of a Past Master's jewel was made to the Immediate Past Master Bro. George Haynes, for his valuable services during the past year.

Subsequently the Brethren had a most recherché banquet, at which the Loyal and Masonic toasts met with cordial reception.

The health of the newly-elected Worshipful Master was received with unbounded enthusiasm.

His Worship the Mayor of Bootle and Sheik Abdullah Quilliam responded for the visitors.

ROLL CALL LODGE, No. 2523.

THE fifth annual installation meeting was held at the Oddfellows Hall, Hounslow, on Thursday, 13th inst., and besides the local members of the Craft who assembled to take part in the ceremony several representatives of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex were present.

Bro. John Price, well-known and highly esteemed in military and civilian circles, was installed Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, the ceremony being most ably carried out by Bro. W. J. Gardener P.P.G.S.D. Middlesex.

After the business had been transacted about 50 Brethren assembled at a banquet served in most approved style by Bro. W. H. Duffy. The new W.M., who presided, had a very cordial reception when his health was proposed, and in fact the greatest cordiality characterised the whole gathering, which was considered to be the most successful yet held by the Lodge.

TRAVELLERS LODGE, No. 2609.

ON Saturday afternoon, 15th inst., a river picnic was held under the auspices of this Chester Lodge, when about forty members and their

wives and friends embarked from Capner's on the steamer "Volunteer," and left the Groves soon after two o'clock. On arrival at Eccleston a short walk brought the company to Eaton Hall, where they were shown through the interior, while some found time to view the magnificent gardens, which were in the pink of condition. Another pleasant walk through the fields to Aldford, and the party found themselves confronted with well-laden tables at the Aldford Institute (by kind permission of Archdeacon Goldwyer-Lewis), served by Messrs. Bolland, of Chester.

At the conclusion of the repast, "Non nobis" having been sung, a move was made towards the Iron Bridge, where the steamer was in waiting to convey the party further up-river. Glorious sunshiny weather favoured the event, and the glimpses of camp-life seen along the banks were quite exhilarating. The heat was tempered by a refreshing breeze, and the river journey, which extended beyond Almere Ferry, in fact, close to the mouth of the Alyn, was exceedingly beautiful, the well-wooded banks, with ever and anon a peep at the Welsh mountains, making up a sylvan scene that could hardly be surpassed. An added pleasure was the provision of vocal music by Bro. Robinson, who, in conjunction with Messrs. Huxley, Snelson, and Skeldon, rendered a choice selection of quartettes, which were interspersed with songs from various members, and the time passed pleasantly along until Chester was reached about half-past nine. The Secretarial arrangements were admirably carried out by Bro. G. T. Lodge I.G.

METROPOLITAN.

EARL OF CARNARVON LODGE, No. 1642.

ON Thursday, 13th inst., the members held their annual up-river trip and banquet. The arrangements for the day were admirably carried out by Bros. S. H. Parkhouse Treasurer and Reuben C. Green Secretary. The popular Worshipful Master of the Lodge Bro. W. R. Hatton was present, together with Bro. H. Handover S.W., Bro. S. Ransom J.W., and other members.

The party, which included a number of friends of the Lodge, left Paddington for Henley-on-Thames, calling at Ealing instead of Westbourne Park, the alteration being made owing to the number of members of the Lodge who live "Westward-ho." After a quick run down by rail luncheon was served at the Royal Hotel, Henley, after which the party, which included a number of ladies, whose varied dresses lent an additional attraction to the already beautiful scene, proceeded up the river in the steam launch "Fashion." After a most enjoyable trip through the finest places on the upper Thames, the party returned to Reading, where an admirable banquet was served at the Great Western Hotel. The party numbered 74, and everyone expressed pleasure at the success of the outing.

DUKE OF FIFE LODGE, No. 2345.

THE annual summer outing of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, 11th instant.

The Worshipful Master Bro. A. Robertson, aided by his Secretary Bro. W. Folkard P.M. P.Z., and Bro. T. Morris P.M., had made all arrangements, and the result, as hitherto, was a splendid success.

The party, numbering some fifty-eight, and consisting of the Brethren, their wives and sweethearts, and many other ladies and friends, met at Clapham Junction at the opportune time of 9.30. Two saloon carriages and a reserved carriage were attached to the 9.41 train, and made a nice passage, without stopping, to Windsor, where the pretty steam launch "The Royal" was waiting. When all were aboard, the piano was sounded and, to a glorious march, the launch started beautifully for Great Marlow. "The Crown," in its usual style put on a sumptuous banquet, and the toasts of the Queen, the W.M., and the Ladies, were duly given. The reply to the latter, by Bro. W. Folkard P.M. was very humorous, and, as usual, in his quietly funny vein.

The return journey was exceedingly enjoyable, and songs were continuous with rattling good choruses. Tea was partaken of at the "Ferry Hotel," Cookham, and then a quick run to Windsor was made. The party arrived at Clapham before eleven, having had a most enjoyable and charming day.

INSTRUCTION.

PRINCE FREDERICK WILLIAM LODGE, No. 753.

ON Tuesday, at Bro. Crocker's, the Crown Hotel, Aberdeen Place, Maida Vale, N.W., Bros. M. E. Swan W.M., J. H. Craig S.W., W. Smith J.W., J. L. Goldstein acting Prec., H. J. Thomas P.M. Sec., W. J. Stratton P.M. Treas. S.D., H. D. Wall J.D., F. Crocker I.G., W. Ord, W. Yeo, J. Wynman.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Ord acting as candidate. Bro. Goldstein worked the first section of the lecture. The W.M. announced his intention of rehearsing the second degree, for which Bro. Yeo offered himself as candidate. Having answered the questions in a perfect manner, he was entrusted, the Lodge was opened in the second degree, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. This being the first time we have had the pleasure of witnessing the working of Bro. Swan we take the opportunity of congratulating him on the excellent way in which he fulfilled the duties of the chair.

Bro. J. L. Goldstein will preside on Tuesday next.

Another ballot (the fourth in four weeks) was taken in connection with the Benevolent Association of the Lodge, and proved in favour of Bro. F. Crocker, the host of the Hotel.

EYRE LODGE, No. 2742.

ON Wednesday, at Bro. C. Murless's, the Eyre Arms Hotel, St. John's Wood, N.W., Bros. S. A. Weeden W.M., W. Mitchell S.W., J. E. Dewhurst J.W., H. J. Weston P.M. Prec., P. J. Weeden Sec., C. Murless S.D., G. W. Jordan J.D., J. E. Cosham I.G., H. Vigers, J. Wynman, and others.

Bro. Weston Preceptor worked the first section of the Lecture. The W.M. next rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, in perfect style.

Bro. C. Murless, the host of the Hotel, presented the members with the Officers' collars and jewels, a very welcome addition to the furniture of the

Lodge (they were supplied by the well known firm of C. Weeden and Sons, 2 Rydon Crescent, Clerkenwell). By special desire Bro. Weston invested the Officers, using the new collars; Bro. S. A. Weeden acted as D.C.

Bro. Weston, in highly complimentary and well deserved terms, thanked Bro. Murless, on behalf of the Lodge, for his elegant present, and at the same time expressed the hope that it would not be long before Bro. Murless would wear the collar as Worshipful Master in the Lodge. He further proposed that a hearty vote of thanks should be passed to Bro. Murless, and recorded on the minutes, for his kindly action, which, it is hardly necessary to state, was cordially and unanimously agreed to. It is pretty generally recognised that our Lodges of Instruction—in the metropolis more particularly—have a marked effect on the progress of Freemasonry, and it is such actions as are here recorded that go far to ensure their success. We can but add our good wishes to the many expressed on the occasion; we hope the collars will be worn out in the cause of Freemasonry.

Bro. Murless said it was a great pleasure to him to have rendered the Lodge a service, and he was sure that he could not have done better than provide collars and jewels for actual use. It was a considerable advantage to be present at such meetings as they held; he knew several Brethren had greatly benefited by the able instruction they had received from Bro. Weston, and he hoped the Brethren would attend as regularly as possible. He felt that a Lodge of Instruction in the neighbourhood had been greatly wanted.

Bro. Weston also proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be passed, and recorded on the minutes, for the able manner in which the W.M. had fulfilled the duties of the chair for the first time.

Bro. Weeden, in appreciative terms thanked the Preceptor for his very kind expressions, and hoped in the future to do still better.

Bro. Dewhurst proposed that Bro. Wynman be elected an Honorary Member, which was seconded by Bro. Murless, unanimously carried, and suitably acknowledged.

Bro. W. Mitchell was elected W.M. for Wednesday next.

We again remind our readers that the Eyre Lodge of Instruction meets every Wednesday, at 8 o'clock, and is under the able preceptorship of Bro. H. J. Weston P.M. P.P.G.S. of W. Middlesex. Brethren seeking Masonic knowledge or Fraternal association could hardly do better than visit the Lodge; they may rest sure of receiving a most hearty welcome.

ROYAL ARCH.

PLUME CHAPTER, No. 1024.

THE annual installation meeting was held at the ruins of St. Peter's Church, Malton, on Wednesday evening, 19th inst., when Comp. J. J. Turner installed Comp. C. R. Finch as M.E.Z., Comp. Dr. Galpin as H., and Comp. J. P. Sayer as J.

The Installing Principal was assisted by Comp. T. J. Ralling.

The Companions subsequently dined at the Blue Boar Hotel, the banquet being well served by Mrs. Hickford.

The universality of Freemasonry, especially as associated with the cause of charity, was once more attested at last night's meeting of the Board of Benevolence constituted by the Grand Lodge of England. There were thirty petitions before the Brethren, and the circumstances of the different cases were very distressing. While several of the petitioners were from Lodges in the London district, others hailed from New Zealand, the East and West Indies, and the Channel Islands, with a fair sprinkling from the Provinces, principally the northern. A total sum of £690 was voted, and one of the petitioners relieved was the widow of a Brother who was drowned in the Stella disaster, and to whom a child has been born since.—"Birmingham Daily Post," 21st July.

A Committee of Scotch Brethren have been appointed to confer with the Railway Companies on the question of minimum fares to Edinburgh on the occasion of the Grand Lodge and Grand Committee meetings. If successful it is expected the concession will greatly increase the attendance at those meetings.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

THERE died on Tuesday, 18th inst., and was buried at Kensal Green, an eminent Brother, who was also a distinguished man outside the Masonic Order, Bro. Henry Maudslay, member of the Institute of Civil Engineers. The Maudslay firm of engineers is among the most celebrated in the world, and the fact that a very large number of Government contracts for the supply of marine engines go to them is the best testimony to the firm's fame. Henry Maudslay, as a Freemason, always stood in the first rank, says the "Birmingham Daily Post," and one of his Lodges was a working engineers' Lodge, which appropriately bears the name Vitruvian, it being an old Lodge, as its number (87) would convey. The Maudslay works are in Lambeth, and the Vitruvian Lodge used to meet in College Street, Belvidere Road, and at one time it was largely composed of Maudslay's men, as many of these, before going out to engagements in India and the colonies, qualified for wearing the mystic badge.

CONSECRATION.

EAST SURREY LODGE.

ON Wednesday, 26th inst., the Earl of Onslow Provincial Grand Master of Surrey consecrated this new Lodge, No. 2769, at Oxted. Brother T. H. Roberts was the Worshipful Master Designate.

The Provincial Grand Master of Devon the Hon. Sir S. Northcote, Bart., C.B., M.P., has accepted an invitation of the Committee to open the new Victoria Wing of the Tiverton Infirmary, on 10th August next, the day on which Provincial Grand Lodge will meet in that town. The ceremony, which takes place at 12 o'clock noon, will not be of a Masonic character, but the Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. John Stocker has been specially directed to invite the Brethren to attend and support him on the occasion. The Committee have intimated their intention of making no collection or appeal for contributions.

The current Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Scotland contains a detailed list of the subscriptions from the daughter Lodges on behalf of the extended scheme of Scottish Masonic Benevolence and the Khartoum College Fund. For the Annuity Fund £494 3s 7d was subscribed from 202 Lodges, and subscriptions for the College Fund amounted to £301 15s 4d. The subscriptions from the Lodges in the Glasgow Province top the lists, with £94 13s and £101 3s. The Princes Lodge (607), while not subscribing to the home fund, appears as subscribing £85 18s to the College Fund.

We congratulate Bro. Charles Wyndham on the success that attended his farewell performance at the Criterion Theatre, the whole of the receipts of which—free of outgoings—he promised to devote to the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, with the result that the handsome donation of £1,485 8s 6d has been sent by our worthy Brother to aid the Fund inaugurated by our Grand Master. Surely we may repeat our query of a few weeks back: "Would not the occasion be a fitting time to announce our respected Brother as Sir Charles Wyndham?"

The Province of Devon has a candidate for one of the vacancies in the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys in October, and Cornwall has another for the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. The applications are unusually few for the ensuing elections from the West of England, there being none from either Somerset or Dorset, and only one each from Devon and Cornwall.

Brother Major F. W. Allan S.G.W. presided at the July meeting of the Scottish Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund, held in Edinburgh, when sixteen cases were considered and grants made to fifteen of these in sums of from £3 to £10, amounting in all to £84. The remaining case was sent back for further information.

EACH DEGREE'S GREAT LESSON.

THE particular lessons developed in the ritual of each degree of the series of which the Royal Arch is the summit and perfection, may be summarised as follow: Entered Apprentice, secrecy; Fellow Craft, science; Master Mason, immortality; Mark Master Mason, charity; Past Master, self-control; Most Excellent Master, reward of merit; and the Royal Arch, realisation of the object of Masonic labour, the lost found. It is by and through these steps and degrees that Masonic ritualism reveals the truth to the worthy. To the unworthy the doors of Freemasonry should never be opened, nor the veils of her symbolism drawn aside; but to the just, the upright and the humane, who would penetrate her arcanum and enlist in her service, the invitation still is: "Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."—George McGown, G.L. New York.

Garriek.—Dr. Conan Doyle's play "Halves" will conclude its summer season at this Theatre on Friday evening next, 4th August, and resume its successful career the first week in September. The last matinée for the present will take place on Wednesday next.

ANTIQUITY AND EVOLUTION OF MASONRY.

WHILE the antiquity of our Order is a subject of pride and has been the boast of Masons generally, yet but few even of its most devoted followers have any conception of its greatness, or of the time when, by whom, or for what purpose it was organised. The time when dates so far back into the dim past that its origin is shrouded in mystery. That nearly two centuries have passed since it assumed its present organised form and status is an uncontroverted fact admitted by all. But that it had an existence long prior, with its Lodge and its general assemblies, though with less cohesiveness and system, is equally certain. Documentary evidence of great antiquity and the more recent researches of English historians have demonstrated to the thinking men of the world, as well as to Masons, that the institution of Freemasonry had an existence and was recognised as such in the early centuries of the present dispensation. This in itself proves an antiquity of which all may well be proud. But when we consider the principles it then, as now, advocates; those principles that lie at the foundation and constitute the corner-stone of natural or true religion, we can but believe that even in those early days Masonry, having the same teachings and striving for the accomplishment of the same designs, was for its devotees an ancient, a venerable institution, one dating back, it may be, into the prehistoric ages of the world. And more, we are also inclined to accept the views lately advanced by some Masonic writers that in its origin as well as in its principles, it was divine, or at least was founded by those who were actuated and inspired by intelligences from the highest spheres; those who in their earthly life had mourned over and vainly endeavoured to correct the baneful influence of the priesthood and those high in authority, who, in the name of religion, a "revealed religion," so claimed, but which evidently came from sources as corrupt as themselves, were constantly leading the people farther and farther away from the only true religion, the natural, the only one which presents to the world in the fullest sense and in all which those endearing words imply, the Fatherhood of God, and that the same would promote the happiness of mankind both here and hereafter. That good and true men who had in this life and by all known means vainly striven to check the growing depravity so prevalent among all classes, and to relieve them from the bondage in which they were held by a corrupt priesthood, should, after entering into a higher life lose all interest in those left behind, we cannot believe. Rather, we think that with a clearer vision and higher aspirations, their sympathies would be deepened, and their efforts for the welfare of those left behind strengthened. Naturally seeking the society of and affiliating with those of like aspirations, but with an added experience and more thorough investigation, they were by this unity of purpose enabled to devise the methods and formulate a plan for an earthly association of a similar nature and having a like concentration of effort. This influence being brought to bear upon the minds of good men and true in this life, no doubt brought them into a closer relationship and inspired the zeal necessary for the accomplishment of the purpose designed. The association thus formed—inchoate though it must have been—proved a strong magnet in attracting others of like minds from all classes: all striving for the same purpose, the cultivation and perpetuation of a religion founded upon the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, a religion which was the antithesis of the so-called "revealed religion," as relating to the character and attributes of the Deity, as well as in the influence upon the world. This new religion taught a worship inspired by love, and by fraternising together upon the same principle it sought to bring mankind into a closer relationship, and by the cultivation of this spirit of Brotherly love bring about that harmony so essential to the advancement of mankind from the realm of darkness in which they had so long been sunk, and by elevating them morally, socially and intellectually, bring them into the light of true manhood. Gladly were such teachings accepted by the good and true of all classes. The learned and those skilled in the arts and sciences, as well as the unlettered, came freely into its ranks, until in the course of time its influence became such as to bring upon it the opposition of those who for their own selfish purposes had so long kept the people in darkness and depravity. So bitter became the persecution by the Priesthood and their blind followers that it became necessary to hold meetings in crypts, caves and secret places, and for self-protection and as a means of recognition to use signs and passwords. As a further safeguard a symbolic language was adopted, one well known to themselves, and by means of which each could confer with the other and convey a meaning and give instruction in terms understood only by themselves. So cautious were they in their admission of members that none were received until after a long probation, and when by passing through tests the most severe they had proved themselves faithful, trusty and worthy. But, as "the blood of the martyr has ever been the seed of the church," so this bitter persecution served not only to intensify the zeal of the members, but it brought the institution to the attention of many others, who,

accepting its principles and teachings, were ready to unite in the grand design of promoting the welfare and happiness of mankind.

Thus this institution, small at first and feeble, soon grew to strength and importance, until its off-shoots or prototypes could be found in all portions of the known world, and in time it became the conservator, as well of the arts and sciences as of religion and morals, and the progenitor and promoter of civilisation. This is no fancy picture drawn from imagination. That an institution such as we have described had an existence in the earliest ages of the world's history is not to be denied. One generally known as "The Mysteries," but at different periods and in different countries more particularly designated as "The Osiric," "The Mithriac," "The Dionysiac," or "The Eleusian," all of which with others having a unity of design and a purity of doctrine which clearly proved a common origin and one outside of and distinct from the popular theology and the revealed religions of those days. Unlike them, they taught the worship of one God, that the soul was immortal, while their precepts were of such a character as to insure happiness both here and hereafter for all who conformed to them.

When we consider that the Institution of Freemasonry is identically the same in its teachings and purposes, that like them it has a universal language, its signs, passwords and symbols, may we not with propriety claim for it not merely a common but an identity of origin? Some may not accept this opinion, and endeavour to controvert it as to its human as well as Divine origin, yet none can prove their falsity, nor can they but admit of the reasonableness of our deduction.

The rolling years, the lapse of centuries, has evolved changes in its form and makeup. Crudities natural to its incipiency have been removed. In the advancement of civilisation and the more general diffusion of intelligence, less attention was paid to the dissemination of the arts and sciences. No longer claiming exclusive control over these, its operative features were dropped or so merged as to be added to and become an important part of its symbolic language.

The evolution of the ages has brought such changes in the moral and theologic thought of the world that it may be claimed by some that Freemasonry has outlived its usefulness, that there is no longer a necessity for its existence as an Institution, but until that time shall come when "the mountain" of the Lord's house shall be established upon the tops of the mountains, when the establishment of the principles taught by the Prince of Peace shall become universal, will true Masonry have accomplished its mission. Its signs, passwords and symbolic language, no longer necessary as a protection against persecution, will still continue to be a universal language, uniting good men and true of all nations, sects and opinions, into one common Brotherhood.—
"Masonic Tidings."

ON Monday next the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company commences the usual autumn season. A new Chinese opera, "San Lin," libretto by H. Blau, music by Victor Hollander, will be performed on Thursday, 3rd August. The composer has been decorated by his Royal Highness the Duke of Coburg, to whom the opera is dedicated, with the diploma and the medal for science and art.

BRO. CHARLES WYNDHAM entertained the members of his company and staff (numbering close upon 100) to supper at the Criterion after his farewell performance of "Rosemary" on Friday of last week, and was presented by them with a very beautifully carved and inscribed solid gold pass-key for his new theatre. The article is an exquisite example of the goldsmith's craft, and was specially designed and manufactured by the Goldsmiths and Silver-smiths Company.

Alhambra.—On Monday evening next the management will introduce five new items into their programme. Probably the most novel and interesting of these will be two little niggers from Kentucky. They are well known in the States as Turner's Piccaninnies. The other new turns will be Albertus and Bartram, club jugglers; Powers Bros., Cycle Comedians; Fish and Quigg, grotesque artistes; and Mdle. Leodiska's Performing Cockatoos. Next week will also be the last of the popular spectacular ballet "The Red Shoes," and the last six nights of Miss Letty Lind are also announced.

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