

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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LOYALTY OF THE CRAFT.

PERHAPS at no time in the history of Freemasonry has the loyalty of its members been more manifest than is the case just now, when troubles in South Africa have aroused the enthusiasm of all classes of the community, but—we think we are justified in saying—particularly those associated with the Ancient Order of Freemasonry.

In all parts of the country we hear of collections being made at the festive board of the Craft in aid of one or another Fund started on behalf of the "Absent-Minded Beggars" of the Empire, and we are proud to say that the result is invariably such as the members of the different Lodges may be proud of.

Can any better answer than this be given to the insane abuse levelled against us from time to time by members of the Romish Church, which abuse has once again broken out in the correspondence column of the "Catholic Times," as a reference to another part of this issue, where we reproduce three recent letters, will prove. We feel some amount of satisfaction in connection with this latest attack, however, as even the most bitter of the writers seems to be of opinion that it is only a very small "external" section of the Craft—none of which appear to be associated with the English Order—which is to be condemned, while the other, the "internal" section, is worthy of praise. As we have recently observed, the time may not be very far distant when even the Romish Church and Freemasonry, in its true sense, will work hand in hand in the great design they both profess—of benefitting the human race.

A Church Service in aid of the War Fund and under Masonic auspices is to be held in Edinburgh on 4th February, and will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. Colin Campbell, of Dundee, Grand Chaplain, while the reading will be undertaken by the Hon. James Hozier, M.P., Grand Master of Scotland. Lord Rosebery has intimated his intention of being present at the Service if possible.

The accounts of Bro. David Reid Grand Treasurer of Scotland, showing the income and expenditure of Grand Lodge for the quarter ending 13th January 1900, gives the number of entrants during that period at 2,107. The total income amounted to £2,319 1s 8d, and the expenditure, including £246 0s 6d paid into Benevolent Fund and £105 paid into the War Fund, amounted to £1,226 14s 11d, leaving a balance of £1,092 6s 9d in excess of expenditure.

The votes and interest of Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys are earnestly solicited on behalf of Albert Dingley, aged 9½ years, son of the late Bro. George Dingley, who was initiated in the Harrow Lodge, No. 1310, on 4th July 1893, and remained a subscribing member until the time of his death, which took place on 11th December 1898, leaving a widow and seven children (one a cripple) unprovided for. The case is strongly recommended by all the members of the Harrow Lodge, No. 1310 (of which the father was J.W.) and by many other Brethren.

CONSECRATIONS.

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COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS LODGE.

THE necessary Warrant having been granted by the Grand Master, Bro. E. Letchworth, F.S.A., Grand Secretary consented to consecrate this Lodge, No. 2795, on Saturday, 13th inst., at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, on which occasion he was assisted by Bros. Perceval A. Nairne P.G.D. as S.W., F. Mead P.G.Swd.B. as J.W., Rev. Canon Brownrigg P.G.Chap. as Chap., Frank Richardson P.G.D. as D.C., J. M. McLeod P.G.Swd.B. as I.G.

The interesting and beautiful ceremony proceeded upon the customary lines, Bro. Letchworth being heard at his very best. It was a day that will live long in the memory of those who had the good fortune to be present.

The Lodge was formally dedicated and constituted, and the ceremony concluded with the Patriarchal Benediction.

Upon its termination a Board of Installed Masters was formed, when Brother R. A. Tidmas P.M. 1815 the W.M.-designate was presented to Brother Letchworth, who formally installed him in the chair as the first Master of the Lodge.

Having been proclaimed and saluted in the three degrees, Bro. R. A. Tidmas W.M. invested the following Officers: Bros. Herbert O. Budd S.W., Thomas Elliott J.W., John Irwin Sec., B. Kench S.D., C. W. Bailey J.D., Chas. Hall Simmons I.G., John M. Maynard D.C., John Poole Robinson and Alexander Allen Stewards. These ten Brethren are also the Founders of the Lodge.

Upon the conclusion of the addresses, which were impressively delivered by Bro. Letchworth, the W.M. proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Consecrating Officers for their services, and that they should be elected Honorary Members of the Lodge. The proposition was seconded by Bro. Budd S.W., and carried unanimously.

Bro. Letchworth, in acknowledging the compliment, said as the mouthpiece of his colleagues he must express the very great pleasure it had given them to be present, and to consecrate the Lodge, which they hoped would have every success and prosperity.

The Consecration banquet was served in the handsome Dining Room of the Hotel, and reflected very great credit upon the staff of the establishment.

Bro. Edward Terry P.G.Treasurer responded for the visitors in a humorous speech which was heartily enjoyed. He said he could not claim to be a Commercial Traveller, although he had frequently to take orders—not the kind of orders that made the Rev. Bro. T. H. Russell smile. He said he noted a train on the Founders' jewel, and he could fancy it was labelled "Edward Terry's Company, for Glasgow." He wished the Lodge every prosperity and success.

The Officers of the Lodge having been complimented the proceedings were brought to a close with the Tyler's toast.

THE first regular meeting was held at the Hotel Cecil, on Saturday, 20th inst., and subsequent ones will be held at the Hotel Cecil the third Saturdays in January, February, March, October, and November.

Bro. R. A. Tidmas W.M. was in the chair, and after the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the consecration meeting a successful ballot was taken for five joining members.

A dispensation was then read from Grand Lodge, when six gentlemen were balloted for, the result proving unanimous, viz.: Messrs. Frederick Coysh, William Walter Gibbings, John James Hanson, Rev. William Henry Maynard, M.A., Morris William Coopman, and Harry Enderby. They were

initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry in a most impressive manner by the W.M.

This Lodge, though the youngest, bids fair to be one of the most popular in London.

JOHN BRUNNER LODGE.

SUPPLEMENTING our brief report of last week we learn from a local account of the proceedings that Sir John T. Brunner P.S.G.W. of Cheshire and P.M. of the Sincerity Lodge of Northwich has taken a very warm and practical interest in the movement for the establishment of this Lodge, and its success was assured when he readily assented to a unanimous request that he should become the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge, which it was decided should be designated by his name, the number on the roll of the Grand Lodge being 2799. The Brethren will hold their meetings in the Brunner Guildhall, recently presented to Winsford by Sir John.

The consecration meeting will certainly be regarded as a landmark in the history of Cheshire Freemasonry. The gathering of Masons was probably unique, in that it included not only most of the leading Provincial Officers, but also representatives of no fewer than forty-six out of the fifty-four Lodges in the Province, and when Sir Horatio Lloyd took his seat in the chair of Consecrating Officer the large room of the Guildhall was simply crowded.

It may be of interest to note that amongst others to whom invitations were sent were the Provincial Grand Officers, the Founders, the W.M. of every Lodge in the Province, and all the members of St. John Brunner's Mother Lodge—the Sincerity, No. 428, Northwich.

The menu was a very handsome production, and will no doubt be treasured by the guests as a souvenir of the occasion. It was specially designed and lithographed in Masonic blue and gold. The first page of the cover was adorned with various Masonic emblems and the complete arms of Sir John Brunner, with the motto "Bibe si sapis." On the second page were miniature portraits of all the Officers, while the third bore the names of the Founders, and the fourth a reproduction of the Founders' jewel, the centre of which contains the Brunner Arms. A four-page inset, printed in blue and gold on perfection art paper, was devoted to the menu, wine list, toasts, and musical programme.

Bro. Sir John Brunner presided over the banquet, and Bro. Dunn acted as Director of Ceremonies.

The W.M. proposed the Loyal toasts.

In submitting the health of his Honour Judge Sir Horatio Lloyd and the rest of the Prov.G. Officers, Sir John Brunner said: It has been to me a great pleasure that we have had Sir Horatio in the chair at the Consecration ceremony, and it is now an equal pleasure to me that I call upon you to drink his health as a response to him for what he has done in his kindness to us to-day. Brethren, as a loyal Mason, I pay my homage to my superior Officer, but I am bound to declare that it gives me equal, perhaps greater, pleasure to give a cordial fraternal welcome to our friend, an upright, clear-headed, courteous judge, a genial, hearty, pleasant friend, whenever one meets him. Brethren, I ask you to drink not only to the health of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, but to our friend and Brother. The toast was drank with great cordiality.

Sir Horatio Lloyd, in responding, said: I am quite sure that you will give me credit for sincerity when I say that I am at a loss to find words adequately to respond to the very kind way in which my old friend, Sir John Brunner, has been good enough to mention my name to you, or to you for the hearty reception which you have given to this toast. I assure you it is no affection on my part to say, as I do most sincerely, that I have had one of the greatest pleasures of my life in being here to-day. I consider this an unique occasion. I have been nearly fifty years a Mason and I can honestly say that I never remember a ceremony which gave me more unalloyed pleasure than the one we have gone through to-day. Never in my experience have I known an occasion where the Worshipful Master of a Lodge invited the Master of every other Lodge in the Province, and out of the fifty-four Lodges in this Province I am told that there are forty-six Masters here to-night. All I can say is, "Where are the other eight?" I most heartily say I am sorry for them; I hope they have gone to the front—there is no other excuse for them. They ought to be here, because it is an occasion which will long live in our memories. I congratulate you, Worshipful Master, most heartily upon the success of this event, because I am sure it is to a great extent due to your personal popularity. I have known a great deal of Winsford through-

out my life. I have been counsel for the River Weaver for I do not know how long, and I have heard of Winsford since I was a baby; but I do not think I should have come here to-day had it not been for Sir John Brunner. I have now to propose the health of our host, which I know you are all anxious to drink. It gives me the greatest personal pleasure to be present to inaugurate this Lodge, and to help in installing my friend, Sir John Brunner, as your Master. I am sure you could not possibly have begun under better auspices; it is a good omen for the Lodge, and I most heartily wish you every success. I am sure you will always deserve it if you only act up to the principles which have been the rule of life of your Worshipful Master. I give you with all sincerity and heartiness the health of Sir John Brunner our W.M. The toast was received with the greatest possible enthusiasm. Bro. Pritchard sang "Here's to his health," and the whole of the guests upstanding joined heartily in the chorus. Loud cheers were given for Sir John, and also for Lady Brunner.

Sir John Brunner, in reply, said: If our friend Sir Horatio Lloyd had an excuse for saying that he was at a loss to find words to acknowledge the kindness that had been shown to him, I am sure, Brethren, you will excuse me if I also find myself wanting in words to express my appreciation of the warmth of the welcome you have given me, for the outpouring of friendly feeling and fraternal love that you have shown to me during the last three minutes I assure you has been overwhelming. Brethren, I thank you, and I tell you from the bottom of my heart that I hope that I may live and die as a worthy Mason.

Other toasts followed.

We understand steps are to be taken for the foundation of a Lodge in connection with the Protographic profession in London. There is a feeling that when the principles of Freemasonry become known among the profession it will create that sociability and brotherhood which is now so lacking, and will tend to the ultimate good of photography in general. We hope to give some further particulars in a later issue.

MASONIC AID FOR WAR VICTIMS.

THE following additional sums have been acknowledged on behalf of the different London relief Funds started in connection with the South African campaign:

DAILY TELEGRAPH FUND.

	Shillings.
Ordnance Lodge, No. 2399	420
Duke of Clarence Lodge	344½
Beadon Lodge, No. 619	320
Unity Lodge, No. 1637	210
St. Mary Abbott Lodge, No. 1974	210
United Service Lodge, No. 215 (I.C.)	100
Unity Lodge, No. 132	70
Chaucer Lodge, No. 1540	50
Noel-Money Lodge, No. 2521	36½
Sub-Urban Lodge, No. 1702	20

The Provincial Grand Master of Devonshire Lord Northcote of Exeter was entertained on Tuesday by the members of the Devonian Club, to a banquet at the Holborn Restaurant, on his appointment as Governor of Bombay. Mr. Jesse Collings, M.P., who presided, in proposing the toast of "Our Guest," declared that all Devonians, no matter what their politics, rejoiced at the honour which had been conferred upon the noble lord. No better choice could have been made, and they might rest assured that he would maintain the high traditions established by the great men who had made India what she is. Lord Northcote, who received quite an ovation in rising to reply, admitted that, with the famine and the plague staring him in the face, his task in Bombay was no light one, but it would be his desire to rule the Province in a spirit of sympathy with all classes of the population. For the next five years he should be absent from the county which he knew and loved so well, and although he could not hope that his name would be written large on the scroll of fame as a Devon worthy, he trusted that on his return it would be said of him that nothing in his conduct had tarnished or diminished its honour. Among the other speakers was Sir William Walrond, chief Ministerial Whip in the House of Commons, who remarked that the Government, like the Army in South Africa, had a stiff fight before them, but, whatever the result, they would adopt the memorable words of Sir Redvers Buller to his army, "There will be no turning back."

CHURCH SERVICE.

A STRIKING Service was that which last Sunday was held in the Parish Church of All Saints, Portsea. The church itself is a large edifice, built with huge galleries, which alone are capable of affording accommodation to some thousand or more people. The chancel, which was one of the latest of Sir Gilbert Scott's productions, is a remarkably beautiful and well proportioned building, with a vaulted roof of carved stone, and with great width and length of floor space. The nave is seated for about nine hundred persons. Altogether the structure, albeit somewhat cold of aspect when empty, is one of those churches excellently calculated to display the extent and to arouse the devotion of a great congregation.

Within its walls assembled, on Sunday afternoon, many hundreds of the Freemasons of South Hampshire, intent on taking part in the special Masonic Service "on behalf of the Brethren in South Africa." Seated in long rows were to be observed the members of the "Free and Accepted Order," wearing the regalia of the Craft. Amongst the large majority of black coated Brethren a few scarlet-clad soldiers, and here and there a blue jacket, each with the regalia of white and blue worn over his uniform, lent a vivid touch of picturesque contrast. From the galleries looked down a throng of non-Masonic worshippers, who joined with heart and voice in the prayers and intercessions offered; whilst of the choir, which had been largely augmented for the function, many members were distinguished by their insignia as Officers of the Order. Of the several clergy present all except one were Masons—the vicar, the Rev. W. Hawksley, wearing the collar and jewel of a Past Provincial Grand Chaplain; the Rev. H. Watts, who intoned the Litany, showing the elaborately embroidered collar of a Past District Deputy Grand Master of Manitoba; and the Rev. S. B. Taylor, Vicar of Milton, representing, as a Past District Grand Chaplain, the Masons of the Indian Dependency.

The processional hymn, which was sung with a vast volume of sound by all present was, curiously enough, that which is reported to be the best loved song of President Kruger, "O God, our Help in Ages past." After the recitation of the Confession and the reading of the Absolution, Psalm xx. was sung, and Exodus xvii. 8 to 13 read as the lesson. Then in beautiful and sonorous unity was repeated the Creed, to which succeeded Versicles and Collects, of which the most notable was couched in somewhat quaint and archaic phraseology. Thus it ran:—

Almighty and Eternal God, we, the frail creatures of Thy providence, humbly implore Thee to pour down upon our Brethren in South Africa, in their present need, the dew of Thy divine blessing. Sanctify them with Thy grace, strengthen them with Thy mighty power, and enrich their minds with true and genuine knowledge, so that they may the better be enabled in their time of adversity to unfold the beauties of true godliness, to the honour and glory of Thy Holy Name. Endue them with such fortitude that in the hour of trial they fail not, but that, passing safely under Thy protection through the dangers of this sublunary abode they may finally ascend to those immortal mansions whence all goodness emanates; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the course of a special Litany prayers were offered for "Those Rulers in our Craft and others of our Brethren who are in danger or anxiety in South Africa;" and for "the Grand Chaplain of our Order and other ministers of Thy Word and Sacraments in South Africa"; whilst the touching petition "that it may please Thee to take into Thy gracious keeping the souls of those who fall, and to present them faultless before the Throne," moved many hearts. The sermon was preached by the vicar, who chose as his text the words, "We be brethren" (Genesis xiii. 8).

The hymn which was sung during the collection had been specially written by Mrs. Hawksley for the occasion. The service, which lasted but an hour, ended with the Benediction and the singing of the Freemasons' version of the National Anthem. The collection, which was devoted to the Mayor of Portsmouth's South African War Fund, amounted to the sum of nearly £60.—"Church Times."

The annual supper of the New Cross Lodge of Instruction, No. 1559, will be held on Tuesday next, at the Kemble's Head, Long Acre, W.C., at 7.30 p.m., under the presidency of Bro. J. D. Graham Preceptor of the Lodge.

TRUE MASONRY.

THE following interesting extracts are taken from the Oration delivered by Bro. Rev. Dr. Cockrem, on the occasion of the recent consecration of the new Lodge at St. Albans. Our Reverend Brother said the Abbey of St. Alban is distinguished amongst all its compeers as being the one upon which the first labours of an organised Craft were employed. The legendary story of our Order, attached to those ancient charges of which we only possess garbled and inaccurate transcriptions even in the 15th century, contains, amidst the mist of legend, some precious solid facts of truth and history. In that story St. Alban is credited with being the first to introduce the art of Freemasonry into England. Careful researches have rendered it extremely probable that, though the martyr had no connections with our Masonic history, yet that the name of St. Alban is closely associated with the earliest introduction of a Masonic body into this country. When King Offa determined to establish a religious order and build an abbey, he had to procure a foreign master and foreign chaftsmen to design and carry out his intentions. Whether in doing so he sought the assistance of Charles the Great, or Charles Martel in procuring these workmen, and whether they were Nemausian Greeks, as some think, from Nimes, or members of the Collegium Fabrorum at Rome as others suggest, there are at least strong grounds to believe that these men came over as a regular organised body, with their own rules of work, their own rates of pay, and their own regular assemblies. And this organisation would be secured to them by charter from the king, as the condition of their coming. We may suppose that they would absorb by degrees into their own Lodges the native workers, whom they would instruct in the art, and so Craft Masonry became implanted on English soil. It is much to be regretted that the subsequent Danish wars and the disorganisation which they caused brought this first establishment of our Masonic body to an untimely end. But within two generations it was revived at York, and received its charter from King Athelstan, since which time it has been a corporate society with many vicissitudes, but always in existence.

Passing from the historic survey, the orator went to the critical, and from that part of his address we take the following, as it is of perennial interest to all Masons:—The members of this far-reaching Fraternity of ours are truly and really Masons. Our structures have, it is true, no material existence, yet they are of the highest importance in the world; they are not fairy palaces, which like a dream melt into nothingness as the morning mists at dawn of day, but they possess solid qualities which will depend on and add to the reputation of the builder. It is in the power of each Mason to mar his work, and so spoil the fair reputation of the whole. For what purpose do we now erect Lodges, hold our regular assemblies, perform Masonic ceremonies, and are brought into one organised body? Is it for the purposes of mere social and convivial society? Every true Mason will give an emphatic, "No." Is it to be a mere benevolent society, which amasses vast sums to relieve the destitute and distressed of their body, whether they be orphan sons and daughters, or widows of their deceased members, or those Brothers upon whom fortune has frowned? Again the true Mason will answer "No; this, but more than this." Brethren, do not each of you recognise from your knowledge of the secrets and mysteries of the Craft we pursue so eagerly and love so much that there is far more than this in a true ideal of Freemasonry? We, as our Operative Brethren of twelve centuries ago, are engaged in the construction of a building which demands all our energies, all our skill, a building for which we must have a skilful apprenticeship, in the erection of which we need deep instruction from a master mind, and in which we are assisted by the contemplation of other men's work; a building, moreover, which we shall never complete, but which, in proportion to the excellence of our work, will preserve our name amongst men, will be an honour to our Craftsmanship, an abiding influence on all within its sphere, and which, unlike the structures of the operative mason, massive though they be, will be eternal. For this truly Freemasonic structure is character, and character in the individual is the goodly stone of which the whole structure of our Order—the new and sublime Order of Architecture—is composed. Founded on three grand principles, illuminated by three great lights, and supported by three grand pillars, Freemasonry furnishes all the apparatus necessary to attain this desirable object of every true Mason's existence. All its ceremonies, all its formulæ, point to the same end, and secrete and enshrine the great secrets which lead to success.

CATHOLICS AND FREEMASONRY.

THE following letters have appeared in the "Catholic Times," in response to the article of our contemporary which we quoted in our issue of the 6th inst.:

SIR,—Now that the "Great Protestant Heresy," the latest and most outrageous of all, is dying an ignominious death in the sight of all men, you do well in drawing into the light a more insidious and more deadly enemy of Christianity than all the other sects put together.

Freemasonry, under the specious guises of "Benevolence" and "the Brotherhood of humanity," is, in its ultimate term, nothing but the old serpent with his old lie: "If ye follow my counsel ye shall be as gods."

Not formally opposing Christianity—it is too cunning to deny openly the manifestly true and good—Freemasonry never once names, or refers to in the most distant way, in any of its rubrics or formularies, Our Divine Lord. It quotes, indeed, "the Grand Architect of the Universe," but it is clear that in the Masonic mind he or it or them may be "a mixture of gases," or "matter and force," or Jupiter, or Satan himself. For to him in all ages numbers of men have turned with the salutation: "Evil! be thou my Good."

Substantially true, Father Coppen's book, noticed in your issue of 22nd December, is not new. "A False Brother" put it out forty years ago. His name was sent in red to every Lodge in the world. Whether or no he escaped the doom of traitors is not known, but his revelations remain. They amount to this—that the "secret" of the thirty-third degree is the worship of Satan; or, in other words, the emancipation of humanity from the moral law.

Externally, Masonry may be traced through its whole course. Its beginning was at the moment when the first Rebel, shouting his war cry "Non Serviam," drew with him one-third of Heaven, and began that strife between good and evil which rages to-day, and will continue till the end. We are told that the inception of the revolt was in the command "Let all the angels of God adore Him." The proud spirit of Lucifer, conscious of his own magnificent endowment, refused to bow in worship to the Sacred Humanity of Christ, and elected to reign in hell rather than serve in Heaven.

Translated into the world by Adam's fall, the conflict has raged till now, under a thousand forms always to the same end—the attempt of Satan to rob mankind of its so dearly purchased inheritance. From the Christian era the war has been carried on by the Sects; the Arians and Manicheans of earlier time, the Rosicrucians and Illuminati of the Middle Ages, the Masons of our own day. The latter are direct heirs to every old form of diabolism. They got their chance in 1789-93. Students of the French Revolution cannot fail to note that, while its origin was in hunger, a different and evidently diabolic spirit soon entered into its direction, under which

"France got drunk with blood to vomit crime,"

and proved to the world how near the civilised man remains to the savage when his passions get freeplay. God's providence intervened, and raised Napoleon to evoke order from chaos, and to bring to a close the open triumph of Satan.

But the Revolution still "marches on," and the new triple lie of "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" has multitudes of followers, who believe that emancipation from the "sweet yoke of Christ" will bring the Millenium, the earthly paradise of humanity.

Freemasonry has two lives—an external and an internal—not only distinct, but more or less opposed. To the one belong all the Brethren who really believe that the Sect is a Benevolent and beneficial organisation, which in various ways does many good offices to its members. To this section belongs the vast majority of the Order in Great Britain and other countries where the Christian idea dominates. The inner life is known to very few; even of the chiefs of the Order. For example, we may take it as certain that the late Grand Master of England (Lord Ripon) or the present (the Prince of Wales) are not admitted to the Secret Cabinet. How could the latter be when one of the Masonic postulates is "Humanity will never start on its upward course till the last king is strangled with the entrails of the last priest."

The contrary is exactly true. Society will never be healthy until it has evicted the infamous Sect which has for one of its watchwords, "Ecrasez l'infame" applied to Christianity.

Here in Ireland we have good reason to hate this abominable conspiracy. Reigning in the Castle of Dublin, it pervades the whole administration; the Bench; the Bar; the magistracy. It dominates the railways; the large trade enterprises, and manufactures. It is a cancer eating into the life of the country. It is not fitness or merit for any large position that qualifies, but principally the "grip" and the "sign." Nay, the Government itself does not always prevail against the Order. Mr. Balfour declares that the Irish Catholic nation has a supreme right to a fit School of Higher Studies, but a savage, a devil worshipper in fact (though he may not be conscious of it)

"A loyal Orangeman,
From Portydown upon the Bann,"

declares that it must not be given—And it is not!

From the day the Church "by law established" was disestablished, the ascendancy party has closed up its ranks and is preparing to fight to the death. Every Orangeman who can pay the fees has become a Mason, and the former organisation is always available in support of the latter. This union (Orange and Mason) poisons life in Ulster, and gives rise to those scandalous scenes in that Province most hurtful to Ireland and disgraceful to civilisation. The later development of the war against Christianity must take one or another Masonic line, and it therefore becomes one of the first duties of Catholic journals and of all men of light and leading, to watch every movement of the Sect, and drag forth its iniquities to the light of day and to the condemnation of all men of good will.

Yours, &c.,

CATHOLICUS.

SIR,—It is very difficult to sift the chaff from the wheat from "Catholicus'" letter on this subject, but, an ounce of fact is better than a ton of theory. I enclose you pages from this week's official organ of Freemasonry, the ancient charges, from which you will see that Freemasonry has nothing in its charges and covenants (or oaths) detrimental or antagonistic either to the Christian religion or to the Catholic Church. In fact, the charge enclosed of Thomas Foxcroft, dated 1699, opens with this invocation: "In the name of the great and holy God of Heaven, the wisdom of the Son, and the goodness of the Holy Ghost, three Persons and one God, be with us now and ever. Amen." Then follows: "Fear God and keep His Commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Then a history of Freemasonry, followed

by fifteen charges. The first charge is this: "That ye shall be true men to God and His Church, to use no error or Heresy by your understanding, or by wise men's teaching," &c.

Now, Sir, neither in this original charge nor in any book published by the Craft, so far as the covenant or oath above mentioned, have I ever read one word against the Catholic Church. All the absurd things mentioned by "Catholicus" or Father Coppen or a false Brother to the contrary are the baseless visions of ignorant minds.

If "Catholicus" has any authentic documents relating to his absurd statements, something that can be tested by an appeal to facts and realities, then we may see where the truth really lies. At present to mix up Satan, Adam, the Arians, the French Revolutionists, Orangism, and Masonry, and then declare that they are all Masonry and it is the enemy and foe of the Catholic Church, is simply the act of a dreamer, and a baseless and ridiculous and unproved assertion.

Yours, &c.,

40 Spondon Road, Tottenham.

T. MAY.

SIR,—With reference to the letter written by "Catholicus" on Freemasonry, which appears in your issue of 5th January, I gather that Freemasonry is opposed to all Christianity. I, as a Catholic, abhor the sect because the infallible Church of Christ condemns it; and, while not questioning the decision of the Church, I fail to see how Freemasonry can, as "Catholicus" puts it, consist of the worship of everything that is contrary to the teaching of Almighty God.

"Catholicus" in his letter states that "Freemasonry has two lives—an external and an internal—not only distinct, but more or less opposed." He then goes on to state that "To the one belong all the Brethren who really believe that the sect is a benevolent and beneficial organisation—and it is to this section that the vast majority of the Order in Great Britain and other countries where the Christian idea dominates belong." If this is true, might I ask how the Order (i.e., the internal section) uses the external section for the furtherance of its aims? Further, "Catholicus" states that "The inner life is known to very few, even of the chiefs of the Order." If this is so, and the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of the sect in England is ignorant of the ultimate aim and end of its teaching, who then are the real governors, and where is their seat of government? I always understood that a large number of the nobility and aristocracy were Freemasons. If the end of Freemasonry is the destruction of Christianity and of monarchy, would not the nobility and aristocracy be the chief sufferers, so far as worldly matters go?

I know many Christians (Protestant), including clergymen, who are professed Freemasons, and as far as I am aware they are very earnest, God-fearing men, to whom such anti-Christian teaching would be abominable, and I cannot believe that these men would plot for the destruction of all Christian belief, or could be used as tools for that purpose.

Yours, &c.,

FREDERICUS.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

THE funeral of the late Bro. Edward James Grubb took place on Monday, and was attended by a large company of Brethren. The first part of the service was conducted at St. Augustine's Church, Bristol, at the entrance to which the coffin was met by the Revs. W. F. Yates Rooker, G. W. Pitt, and J. Fountaine P.P.G. Chaplain. Freemasons lined the path on either side, and as the coffin was carried into the church (as the organist played "O rest in the Lord") they also followed in procession. The Masons included representatives of neighbouring as well as Bristol Lodges. From the deceased's Lodge, Royal Clarence, No. 68, of which he was a member for many years, there were present a considerable number; while the St. Keyna, No. 1833, Keynsham, and the Eldon, No. 1755, Portishead, with which Bro. Grubb was connected for some time, were also represented. The Ancient Order of Free Gardeners, of which the deceased was a member, was also represented. The vicar recited the opening sentences, and the lesson was read by the Rev. J. Fountaine, after which the hymn, "Peace, perfect peace," was sung. As the coffin was slowly carried from the church the organist played the Dead March from "Saul." The coffin, covered with beautiful wreaths sent by members of the deceased's family and several Lodges, was conveyed in an open hearse to Clifton Churchyard, where the service was concluded by the graveside. The coffin bore on a plate the emblems of our Order, the name of the deceased, his age (65 years), and the date of death (17th January).

BRO. JAMES BUNKER P.M. Southern Star Lodge P.Z., &c., and for a number of years an energetic member of the Board of Benevolence, and Treasurer of the Duke of Connaught Lodge of Instruction passed away on Friday of last week, after a serious illness of over twelve months duration. Our Brother was a most enthusiastic and popular member of the Craft, and a great many will miss his genial presence at the many Lodges he was in the habit of attending. The funeral took place at the Ilford Cemetery, on Thursday.

AT the moment of going to press news reaches us of the death of Bro. Walter Martin P.A.G.P. of England, one of the most popular of London Brethren, whose funeral, which took place on Thursday, was attended by a very considerable number of Craftsmen. We shall pay a further tribute to the memory of our departed Brother in our next issue.

Sonnets of the Greek Mythology, No. 4.

TO TERPSICHOE.

YE earthly sounds be silent! Let my ear
 Bask in the melting music of thy strains—
 Strains which come not to this terrestrial sphere,
 But are eternal on thy heavenly plains.
 Thy voice is wedded to the sacred lyre
 Thy nimble fingers touch with such sweet might,
 With power achillic that can never tire
 Nor ever fail to give supreme delight.
 Now wavering like a gentle zephyr breeze—
 Now trembling like the wavelets on the shore,—
 Now like the thunderings of the storm-tossed seas—
 Making the mighty cringe beneath its roar,
 Then, light and gentle as the bulbul's notes
 It softly dies, and silent from us floats.

CHAS. F. FORSHAW, M.A.

Bradford.

Books of the Day.

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Books, Music, &c. intended for review, should be addressed to the Editor of the Freemason's Chronicle, at Fleet Works, New Barnet.

—: o :—

Missionary travels and researches in South Africa, including a sketch of sixteen years' residence in the interior of Africa. By David Livingstone, with portrait and full-page illustrations (2s).—Ward, Lock and Co., Limited.

RICH folk can indulge in expensive works when they first appear, but the "res angusta domi" so often dominate the homestead that the reprinting of lengthy books in one volume is an inestimable boon to many readers. We are always pleased when the public obtain plenty for their money, and shall indeed be delighted to welcome an unabridged Gibbon in one large octavo—double-barrelled pages—when any publisher sees fit to undertake such an issue. Messrs. Ward, Lock and Co. have sent us the Missionary Travels of Livingstone in one volume—the first of their new series of the "Minerva Library." It contains six hundred pages of narrative, written by one of the foremost of the sons of time; an excellent likeness of the author; more than a dozen equally excellent illustrations, and an elaborate and exhaustive index; the price is—two shillings! Surely this is one step beyond anything before accomplished. We wish to make no invidious comparisons; but even those who have upon their shelves the cheap edition of Dr. Nugent's translation of the life of Benvenuto Cellini, or Messrs. Ward, Lock and Co's edition, in one volume, of Hallam's "Literature of Europe," will acknowledge the justness of our remarks. Hilpa and Shalum might nourish their minds for a small outlay by the purchase of such books as those forming the "Minerva Library." Dr. Livingstone, with that modesty which is invariably associated with true greatness, thought but little of his own narrative. But readers of this volume—and we trust they will be many—will discover for themselves that the great pioneer is invariably interesting and instructive. If the forthcoming volumes of this series are as good as the first the venture should prove a great success.

Journal of Researches into the natural history and geology of the countries visited during the voyage of H.M.S. "Beagle" round the world. By Charles Darwin, M.A., F.R.S., with a biographical introduction (2s).—Ward, Lock and Co., Limited.

We are glad that Messrs. Ward, Lock and Co. have issued this volume again. Those who love an interesting narrative can hardly be disappointed when perusing this famous Journal; while those given to scientific pursuits may profit from every page. The only one of Darwin's many works written in anything like popular form, it has earned a steadily increasing reputation. The rest of Darwin is, by the nature of the subject matter, "caviare to the general." Specialists interested in the mysteries of human evolution may carefully assimilate the "Origin of Species" and "Descent of Man"; but the mass of mankind will always, we apprehend, know Darwin chiefly through their acquaintance with the work before us. Whether the publishers of the "Minerva Library" intend to re-issue all the works formerly brought out in that library we do not know; but we think they have done wisely in again offering to the public this journal of a voyage round the world. Critics often tell us that a particular volume is indispensable. Frequently this recommendation means nothing, and may safely be ignored; but no gentleman of wide and discursive tastes would care to own that he had never even looked into this book—this narrative from the pen of "the Newton of Biology." We are glad to think that in spite of the truly enormous output of rubbish intended to do duty as "literature" the publishers of this handsome volume have sufficient faith in the public taste to warrant its re-issue.

Jack and Jill's Journey. A Tour through the Plant Kingdom. By Phoebe Allen. Illustrated by Dr. Henry Godfrey (3/6).—Wells Gardner, Darton and Co.

Men must be taught as though you taught them not. So, at least, wrote Pope. Miss Allen evidently holds similar views in regards to children, and has in this volume put them to admirable use. The acquisition of a knowledge of botany is here rendered an agreeable recreation, rather than a task. The classic fable is reversed; for in place of the labour of a mountain to bring forth a mouse we have a really valuable result from a very small effort. Tempora mutantur. We cherish painful recollections of our struggles to master the elements of botany from the pages of a venerable "manual" which we will not name. When we compare that volume with the work of Miss Allen, and place its wood-cuts side by side with the drawings by Dr. Godfrey, we fully appreciate the excellence of this book that Messrs. Gardner have sent us. "Jack and Jill's Journey" is a veritable romance of the world of Plants, and those who wish to know more of this fairyland in the realms of vegetation must consult the continuation of the narrative in the "Sun-Children's Budget" issued by the same publishers. Perhaps the Wheat-ear's story of its own existence and functions is one of the best passages the author has given us. The verses are of very unequal merit; some are worthy of the late Lewis Carroll, while others—as the old critics were wont to say—are fit only for the bellman. Books on botany were, in the good old days, dry as Dryasdust himself. To those who would realise fully how well such books are now "got up" we commend Grant Allen's "Story of the Plants," and the lavishly illustrated volume that lies before us.

MESSRS. HENRY SOTHERAN AND Co. have sent us a prospectus of a new edition, in one volume 4to, of "A Breath from the Veldt," by Mr. John Guille Millais, F.Z.S., &c. Those who are fond of narratives of sport and adventure among big game; those who have read again and again the articles by Sir Henry Pottinger in the "Fortnightly Review," those who have outgrown their classical predilections and prefer Du Chaillu, Mr. Selous, and Mr. Rider Haggard to any of those venerable worthies upon whom they were nourished at school; will accord a very hearty welcome to so fine an edition of this work. Such a sumptuous tome would have delighted that student in the famous hostelry of Sudbury Town. The twelve full-page electro etchings are a prominent feature of the issue, the more so as they are from drawings executed by an eminent artist who has seen "big game" in their haunts, and has, as he tells us, spent three years upon the preparation of these illustrations. The price of the work is two guineas net. We venture to anticipate that it is cheap at the figure. We know from experience how cheap a volume may be at a guinea, how dear at a shilling!

Just published, Crown 8vo., Cloth, 5s.

MILITARY LODGES. The Apron and the Sword, or Freemasonry under Arms; being an account of Lodges in Regiments and Ships of War, and of famous soldiers and sailors (of all countries), who have belonged to the Society, together with biographies of distinguished Military and Naval Brethren, and anecdotes showing the influence of Masonry in warfare. By Robert Freke Gould (late 31st Foot, barrister-at-law) Past Senior Grand Deacon of England, P.M. Nos. 92 and 2076 London, 153 Gibraltar, 570 Shanghai, and 743 1st Batt. East Surrey Regiment, &c. Author of "The History of Freemasonry," and other Works.

Gale and Polden, Ltd., 2 Amen Corner, London; and Aldershot.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- A History of Socialism. By Thomas Kirkup. New edition, revised and enlarged (7s 6d).—Adam and Charles Black.
- Wireless Telegraphy popularly explained. By Richard Kerr, F.G.S. With a preface by Sir W. H. Preece, K.C.B., F.R.S. New and revised (fourth) edition (1s).—Seeley and Co., Limited.
- Holmby House. A tale of old Northamptonshire. By G. J. Whyte-Melville. Illustrated by Lucy E. Kemp-Welch (3s 6d).—Ward, Lock and Co., Limited.
- Racing. By W. A. C. Blew, M.A. (3s 6d).—R. A. Everett and Co.
- Through fire to fortune. By Mrs. Alexander, author of "Brown, V.C.," "A winning Hazard," &c. (6s).—T. Fisher Unwin.
- The Sun-Children's Budget. Edited by Phoebe Allen and Dr. Henry W. Godfrey (6d quarterly). Vol. I.—Wells Gardner, Barton and Co.
- The Age of Johnson (1748-1798). By Thomas Seccombe (3s 6d).—George Bell and Sons.

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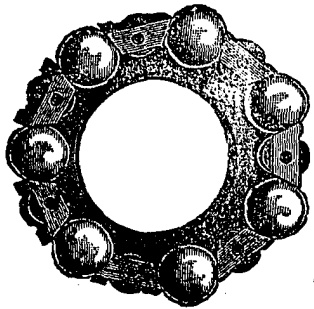
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They are a most Wonderful Medicine.

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RHEUMATISM.

GOUT.

RHEUMATISM.

GOUT.

RHEUMATISM.

15 Sunbeam Terrace, Beeston Hill,

Leeds, Yorkshire, 24th Jan. 1898.

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Brethren are earnestly solicited to accept the Stewardship upon this most important occasion, and to kindly forward their names as soon as possible, with full particulars, to

JAMES TERRY (Pat., P.G.Swd.B.), Secretary,

by whom the same will be gladly received, and who will thankfully acknowledge same.

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THE BUNCH OF GRAPES,

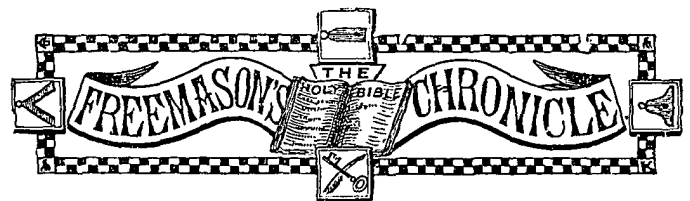
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The Confidence Lodge of Instruction meets at this establishment every Wednesday evening, at 7-30.

Bro. C. J. GOOVEARTS, Manager.



SATURDAY, 27TH JANUARY 1900.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THIS Board met on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. The presiding Officers were Bros. J. Matthews President, D. D. Mercer Senior Vice-President, and George Graveley P.G.P. as Junior Vice-President. The Grand Secretary Bro. E. Letchworth, Bro. W. Dodd, and Bro. G. S. Recknell represented the official department.

A large number of Brethren attended. A list of twenty-six petitions had to be considered, and in the course of the sitting one was dismissed, and five were deferred. Four petitioners were recommended to Grand Lodge for £50 each. The Grand Master was asked to sanction £40 being given in two cases, £30 in four cases, and £25 in one. Three sums of £20 each were voted, four of £10, and two of £5.

R. M. I. GIRLS.

THE Festival over which the Right Hon. the Earl of Lathom Prov. G.M. W. Lancs has promised to preside is that of 1902—not next year's celebration as stated in our last issue.

Homes of English Freemasonry.

II.—THE HOLBORN RESTAURANT.

VOLTAIRE used to sneer at England as a country which had one sauce and eighty religions. But things have changed since Voltaire, in lodgings in Maiden Lane, made the acquaintance of the Cider Cellars, and marvelled at a British fondness for fizzing sausages and mashed potatoes, and such simple dishes of the kind, washed down by huge bumpers of beer. In those days such a place as the Holborn Restaurant is now was never dreamed of. For an antithesis to the Cider Cellars, with their uncouth and unlovely surroundings, by all means go to the Holborn, and moralise on the mutability of things. Of all the social changes that have taken place in the Queen's reign there is none so great as is indicated in the evolution of the huge restaurants of the present day; and among them all one must single out the Holborn as holding a position that is quite unique. For while built in a palatial style, equipped regardless of expense, and providing for some four thousand people every day meals served with the greatest culinary excellence, it is absolutely the only modern restaurant where a man can go and order a modest chop, and be served with exactly the same courtesy and consideration as though he was dining *en prince*.

The Holborn Restaurant is one of the newest of our Homes of Freemasonry. But while new in point of age it is important in point of size; already upwards of sixty-five Lodges meet and dine here; and half as many again, who meet elsewhere, journey hither when business is over, to enjoy the creature comforts which they cannot get in such variety anywhere else. So quickly did the popularity of the Holborn grow among Masons that the management decided to build a Temple in which Freemasons could meet, and a more gorgeous temple does not exist on the face of the earth; nor one so thoroughly up to date. Big enough to hold the largest meetings that will ever be likely to be held here, the furnishing has been carried out regardless of cost. The simple dignity of the customary Masonic furniture is an admirable foil to the oriental magnificence of the decorations. To be seen at its best, it must be visited when the electric light is turned on. Then hundreds of concealed lights, and hundreds of visible lights, shed a special glamour over the scene—even the "candles" are surmounted by electric glow lights instead of the customary wick; and the very fine organ in the corner is supplied with air by an electric motor. Among its architectural features is a magnificent dome, and some splendid pillars; while the general scheme of colouring is in gold. Some first-class portraits are seen of the Masters of the earliest Lodges to meet here: the Lodge of Prosperity, and the Mount Edgecumbe. There are also some fine old carved chairs of the Strong Man Lodge, and a magnificent gilt chair, with shield shaped back, belonging to the St. Luke Lodge, and said to be at least a hundred years old.

In addition to the New Temple there is the old one, which was the first used; and which was merely a large apartment adapted for the uses of Freemasonry. It is still used, owing to the excess of applications for meeting rooms; and it is undoubtedly very comfortable. Then, the business meetings having been held either in the New Temple or the old one, members have the choice for other functions of as fine a suite of rooms as is possible to find in London, for the Holborn Restaurant has increased by leaps and bounds; new wings are constantly being added, until there seems no finality. The more the accommodation provided, the greater the demand for it.

The oldest inhabitant of Holborn would not have to tax his memory very much to recollect when a timber yard stood here. Then a swimming bath was built, and this not proving a great success it was turned into the Holborn Casino. This had had a limited run when a New York firm turned it into a restaurant; and finally, on the 6th April 1874, it commenced its present run of popularity as the Holborn Restaurant. From the first it has been conducted on the principle of supplying the maximum of culinary taste, and the best of everything, at the most moderate of rates. The half-crown table d'hotes are as *recherché* and elegant, as regards the dishes, as any at three times the price further west. They are served in palatial rooms, on tables elegantly laid—in fact with just the same good taste and the same expensive adjuncts as though the diner was sitting down to a two guinea banquet, and doubtless, more than all this elegance and profusion, what has made the Holborn thoroughly popular is that the man of moderate means can enjoy his moderate repast in comfort—not only the comfort of having a good chair, at a speckless and handsomely arranged table, but the comfort he appreciates still more, of knowing that the waiter is giving him just as much attention, and is as ready to attend to his slightest wishes, as though he was spending a lot of money. At the Holborn no waiter ever makes a guest "feel small" or mean; he never suggests either expensive dishes or expensive wines, he will hand you a bottle of water with just the same attentiveness as though it was a bottle of the choicest champagne; it is one

feature of the place which the Manager—himself one of the most courteous of men and long respected by his Brother Masons—has brought to perfection; and it exists nowhere else.

It is a difficult matter to give any adequate idea of the Holborn Restaurant, or the numerous halls, saloons, banquetting chambers, grill rooms, bars, buffets, and accessories, of which it consists. There are so many of them; they are of such different sizes; suitable to so many purposes; and so constantly in use that there are endless streams of life and gaiety flowing through the many entrances and exits. Numerous Masonic dinners, several balls, a few private dances, a coming of age or call to the bar dinner or two; several smoking concerts, a theatrical entertainment, and private gatherings of all kinds—all going on at once—show the inexhaustible capabilities of the place. And yet there is never any crushing, no one is in anybody else's way, and no matter how many dinners there may be at once, or at different periods, everything is up to time, and is splendidly served, whether the dinner is for a dozen friends, or whether it is a public banquet for a thousand people. The place seems a labyrinth to the visitor; but so thoroughly is everything managed that there is much more personal comfort to be experienced here than in a small place which might be considered more easy to control. And when one considers the prodigality with which the place has been built, it appears marvellous that lunches and dinners, prepared in a way that will satisfy a gourmet, can be provided at such low rates. For the building itself is undoubtedly one of the most unostentatiously beautiful pieces of public architecture in London. The grand staircase, with its double flight, in carrara marble, with balusters of alabaster, cannot be excelled in beauty in any public place in the country. The main walls too, in all parts of the building, are panelled in marble, with margins of alabaster; and throughout the place one sees evidence, not alone of unlimited resources, but of artistic taste. The Grand Salon, where one lunches superbly for half a crown, or can have a chop for the nimble ninepence, is a luxuriant chamber, which is given regal proportions by its three tiers of balconies, supported by solid white marble columns, enriched with gilded capitals. Here, too, a fine band plays for table d'hôte dinner, at which for a few shillings one dines royally.

Space will not admit any attempt at details of the vast resources of the place, but one would like to linger over the matchless elegance, and splendid accommodation of the King's Hall. For big Masonic banquets, for balls or re-unions of any kind, it has the great advantage of having a commodious crush room, a smoking lounge, and of being in close proximity to other rooms which can be used in conjunction with it. Then there is the Royal Venetian Chamber, for large dinners; the Queen's Salon and the Prince's Salon, quite close to the Masonic Temple and specially useful for Lodge dinners; the Duke's Salon, for private dinner parties; the Colonel's room, for more select parties; and quite a host of other rooms, small and large, with buffets, smoking rooms, oyster bars, other bars, and all the familiar accommodation scattered all over the place. The profusion of everything is only excelled by the good order and good taste which puts everyone at ease, and leaves everyone in good humour.

The growth of the Holborn—as it is familiarly and affectionately termed—is eminently characteristic of the times. How many old and historic inns have disappeared from the thoroughfare, while this new one has been growing! The "Old Bell," almost the last of the old mediæval inns with their open wooden galleries, has gone, and its great wooden gates have been chopped up for firewood. The "Horse and Groom" and "Ridley's" have gone more recently. The "George and Blue Boar," where Cromwell and Ireton seized a compromising letter from Charles I. to his Queen, went long ago, to make room for the Inns of Court Hotel. The whole of the ancient thoroughfare from end to end is eloquent of progress and advanced taste. Few are left of the historic old buildings, and they are disappearing rapidly. Little remains of the squalid region around Kingsgate Street and Fulwood's Rents, which Dickens pictured so graphically. Big modern premises are replacing small dingy rookeries; no neighbourhood has progressed so much. No wonder the Holborn Restaurant, with its big enterprise, its common sense management, its appeal to all classes, has grown and prospered. It was the first to realise that people liked good food, not only well prepared, but moderate in price, and served amid elegant surroundings. It decided to bring the highest flights of the culinary art within the easy reach of the people, and it has scored—at is deserved to do—one of the greatest commercial successes of the century.

An invitation ball, in aid of the Craft Charities, was given by Bro. James Clarke W.M. and Officers of the Baring Lodge, at the Grand Hotel, Cromer, on the 11th. This, the second one held under the auspices of the Lodge, was in every respect a great and entire success.

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.

79 Pythagorean, Greenwich
1615 Bayard, 33, Golden Square
1745 Farringdon (Without), Via. H'tl
62 Social, Manchester
353 Royal Sussex, Winshill
557 Loyal Victoria, Callington
1110 Tyrian, Eastbourne
1177 Tenby, Tenby
1218 Prince Alfred, Mossley
1258 Kennard, Pontypool
1688 Buxton, Buxton
1753 Obedience, Okehampton
2229 Lathom, Southport
2279 Thornham, Thornham

Tuesday.

141 Faith, Anderton's
299 Emulation, Dartford
310 Union, Carlisle
597 St. Cybi, Holyhead
1358 Torbay, Paignton
1479 Halsey, St. Albans
1566 Ellington, Maidenhead
1636 St. Cecilia, Brighton
1650 Rose of Raby, Staindrop
1779 Ivanhoe, Sheffield
1896 Audley, Newport, Salop
1942 Minerva, Fenton
2351 Ermine, Lincoln
2358 Mona, Castletown
2414 Wychwood, Burford
2549 Benevolentia, Woodford

Wednesday.

822 Victoria Rifles, Freemasons'-hall
898 Temperance in East, Poplar
1768 Progress, Freemasons'-hall
76 Economy, Winchester
163 Integrity, Manchester
187 Rl. Sussex Hospitality, Bristol
304 Philanthropic, Leeds
321 Unity, Crewe
439 Scientific, Bingley
461 Fortitude, Newton
540 Stuart, Bedford
651 Brecknock, Brecon
996 Sondes, East Dereham
1083 Townley Parker, Manchester
1119 St. Bede, Jarrow
1219 Strangeways, Manchester
1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge
1714 Albert Edward, Yorktown
1775 Leopold, Church
1793 Sir Charles Bright, Teddington
1953 Prudence & Industry, Chard
1989 Stirling, Cleator Moor
2064 Smith Child, Tunstall
2186 Striguil, Chepstow
2330 St. Lawrence, Pudsey
2571 Holmes, Newcastle-on-Tyne

Thursday.

10 W'minster & Keystone, F.M.H.
45 Strong Man, Guildhall Tav.
192 Lion & Lamb, Cannon St. Hotel
227 Ionic, Criterion
231 St. Andrew, Freemasons'-hall
538 La Tolerance, Freemasons'-hall
1178 Perfect Ashlar, Southwark
1216 Macdonald, Camberwell
1351 St. Clement Danes, Holb'n R'st.
1361 United Service, Café Royal
1425 Hyde Park, Paddington
1672 Mornington, Holborn Via. H'tl.
1707 Eleanor, Great Eastern Hotel
1724 Kaiser-i-Hind, Café Royal
1765 Trinity Col., 13, Mandeville Pl.
1772 Pimlico, Westminster
1790 Old England, Thornton Heath
2271 St. Pancras, Midland Grand Ho
2291 West Ham Abbey, Stratford
2411 Clarence & Avondale, Lyt'nst'n
2512 Fulham, Fulham
2550 Piccadilly, Piccadilly
2580 Crouch End, Highgate
24 Newcastle O.T., Newcastle
31 United Industrious, Canterbury
38 Union, Chichester
41 Royal Cumberland, Bath
110 Loyal C'brian, Merthyr-Tydvil
114 British Union, Ipswich
123 Lennox, Richmond, Yorks
195 Hengis, Pournemouth

219 Prudence, Todmorden
249 Mariner, Liverpool
254 Trinity, Coventry
266 Naphtali, Heywood
269 Fidelity, Blackburn
289 Fidelity, Leeds
294 Constitutional, Beverley
295 Combermere Union, Macclesfield
300 Minerva, Ashton-under-Lyne
305 Apollo, Beccles
309 Harmony, Fareham
317 Affability, Manchester
360 Pomfret, Northampton
362 Doric, Grantham
419 St. Peter, Wolverhampton
446 Benevolent, Wells
462 Bank Terrace, Accrington
509 Tees, Stockton
531 St. Helen, Hartlepool
539 St. Matthew, Walsall
633 Yarborough, Manchester
637 Portland, Stoke-upon-Trent
703 Clifton, Blackpool
792 Peiham Pillar, Grimsby
803 St. Andrew, Biggleswade
856 Restormel, Lostwithiel
913 Pattison, Plumstead
976 Royal Clarence, Bruton
1012 Prince of Wales, Bury
1231 Savile, Lland
1284 Brent, Topsham
1304 Olive Union, Horncastle
1324 Okeover, Ripley
1379 Marquess of Ripon, Darlington
1384 Equity, Widnes
1473 Bootle, Bootle
1500 Walpole, Norwich
1504 Red Rose of Lancaster, Padstun
1513 Friendly, Barnsley
1557 Albert Edward, Hexham
1565 Earl of Chester, Lymm
1639 Watling St., Stony Stratford
1770 Vale of White Horse, Faringdon
1829 Burrell, Brighton
1874 Lechmere V'nt'r, Balsall H'th
1899 Wellesley, Sandhurst
2043 Kendrick, Reading
2169 Osborne, East Coves
2261 Armitage, Milsbridge
2321 Acacia, Bradford
2342 Easterford, Kelvedon
2350 Corinthian, Hindley
2386 Clarence, Chester
2496 Wirral, Birkenhead

Friday.

90 St. John, Albion
142 St. Thomas, Ship and Turtle
554 Yarborough, Fenchurch Street
890 Hornsey, Anderton's
1489 Marquess of Ripon, Highbury
1627 Royal Kensington, F'masons'-h.
2233 Old Westminster, Café Royal
2467 Pickwick, Anderton's
2511 St. John at Hackney, Hackney
44 Friendship, Manchester
242 St. George, Doncaster
306 Alfred, Leeds
521 Truth, Huddersfield
574 Loy. Berkshire Hope, Newbury
601 St. John, Wellington, Salop
698 Ryde, Ryde
709 Invicta of Ashford, Ashford
751 Eastnor, Ledbury
837 De Grey and Ripon, Ripon
936 Adair, Aldeburgh
998 Welchpool, Welchpool
1009 Shakspeare, Manchester
1230 Barnard, Barnard Castle
1295 Gooch, New Swindon
1375 Architect, Chorlton-cum-Hardy
1405 Southwell, Nottingham
1458 Truth, Manchester
1561 Morecambe, Morecambe
1648 Prince of Wales, Bradford
1664 Gosforth, Gosforth
1754 Windsor, Penarth
1838 Tudor Rifle V'nt'rs., W'v'h'pton
1993 Wolseley, Manchester
2433 Minerva, Birkenhead
2491 White Rose of York, Sheffield
2494 Humber Installed Masters', Hull
2569 St. Trillo, Colwyn Bay

Saturday.

1572 Carnarvon, Albion
1622 Rose, Camberwell

1928 Gallery, Anderton's
1949 Brixton, Kennington
2466 Cheerybles, Freemasons'-hall
1388 Canynges, Bristol
1466 Hova Ecclesia, Brighton

1550 Prudence, Plymouth
2096 George Price, Croydon
2493 Vale of Eden, Appleby
2499 North Kent, Bexley Heath
2541 St. Andrew, Avonmouth

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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.

CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

METROPOLITAN LODGE, No. 1507.

THE regular meeting of this Lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., on Wednesday, 17th inst., Bro. Barry I.P.M. acting as Master, in the absence through illness of Bro. Hawkins W.M.

There was a goodly array of Officers, Brethren and Visitors, among the former being Bros. E. G. Steer S.W., A. C. Bradbury J.W., F. J. Perks Sec., W. R. Thompson S.D., T. L. Eames I.G., and Whitehead Tyler; and among the latter Bros. Thos. Gibbs J.W. 2754, W. Inman S.D. 2246, H. S. Inwood 2332, H. G. Hart Secretary 2506, P. J. Oliver 834 P.P.G. Organist, W. W. Small W.M., G. Stevens Organist 2417, and C. J. Simmons-Jaques 1524.

Among the members were Bros. J. W. Edey, T. Tinsley, F. Read, A. R. Aston, F. A. Sharp, C. A. Weeden, C. Larder, H. Allen Ashton, G. T. Williams, Thos. Turner, Sydney Presburg, W. J. Griffin, A. G. Chadwick, W. Wittenbridge, E. Blackney, H. Wells, J. W. Houndball, A. Moore, W. J. Rundle, E. A. Gosnay, H. Shorton, W. E. Rickards, G. B. Perry, J. W. Timberlake, J. Hess, A. P. Innocent, G. A. Alcock, A. Clayton, G. J. Jones, &c.

The minutes of the previous Lodge meeting were read and confirmed. Three ceremonies were performed, namely Bro. Alfred John Carpenter was raised; Bros. Sydney Presburg, Moise Bril, and Ernest Blackman passed; and Mr. Wm. J. Sellick Easterbrook initiated.

On the motion of the Secretary £5 5s was unanimously voted to the "Daily Telegraph" Soldiers Widows and Orphans Fund, thus regularly confirming a previous gift of that amount.

The acting W.M. gave a good and impressive rendering of the three ceremonies.

At the banquet which followed, Bro. Barry I.P.M. gave the Queen and Craft, the Grand Master and other Officers, the Visitors, the initiate and other customary Masonic toasts, which were interspersed with songs, recitations, &c. Bro. O. J. Simmons-Jaques recited Ray-Brown's rousing poem "Kissing Cup's race" and the acting W.M. sang "The Absent-minded Beggar" in good style.

LONDON RIFLE BRIGADE LODGE, No. 1962.

THIS Lodge, which has now entered on the eighteenth year of its existence, held its installation meeting on Friday of last week, at Anderton's Hotel.

Named after the celebrated volunteer regiment of the metropolis, the London Rifle Brigade, its membership is confined to officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of that corps, says the "City Press." Since its consecration it has never lacked recruits from that famous military body, and it has produced some of the finest workers in the Masonic Craft, besides being an enthusiastic supporter of the charities of Freemasonry.

It was presided over on Friday evening at the opening by its Worshipful Master Bro. Farnham Flower Grimes.

Several of the Brethren wore their volunteer long service medals. The first work of the Lodge was the passing of Bro. T. Merritt and Bro. C. Folliott to the second degree, a ceremony performed, as usual in this Lodge, by the Worshipful Master with great ability. Bros. H. E. Warcup and C. E. Taylor were unable to be present, as they had joined the City Imperial Volunteers, and had to attend the service at St. Paul's Cathedral. Much regret was expressed at their enforced absence, as the Lodge was anxious to wish them God-speed.

The Audit Committee's report was adopted, and then Captain A. Haig-Brown P.M. and Secretary was asked to perform the installation ceremony. Captain Haig-Brown thereupon took the chair of W.M., and, on presentation by Bro. A. H. Huding P.M. D.C., installed Bro. William Henry Latham S.W. and W.M.-elect as the Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year.

Bro. C. W. Potter, who had been selected by the W.M. as his Inner Guard, had joined the City Imperial Volunteers, and was among those who left for South Africa on Saturday week. Consequently, as he was not able to attend to be invested, another Brother was appointed to act for him, so that he might not lose his seniority as an Officer of the Lodge.

A handsome jewel of a Past Master was presented to the Immediate Past Master, who returned his acknowledgment. After this a hearty vote of thanks was ordered to be recorded on the minutes to the Immediate Past Master for his handsome present to the Lodge of new collars and chains for the W.M. and his Wardens. The Worshipful Master said he felt exceedingly proud at being the first wearer of the new collar.

The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren adjourned to a banquet, afterwards honouring the usual toasts. The music with which they were interspersed was performed by Mr. Arthur Court, Miss Masie Riversdale, Mr. Rowland Henry, and Miss Gertrude Macaulay. Mr. Frank Swinford P.M. P.Prov. Grand Organist Middx. acted as the musical director.

A special toast was drunk "To our Comrades in South Africa." In the course of the evening Bro. Haig-Brown P.M. Secretary presented his New Year's card to all the Brethren. It was in the following words: "The Secretary tenders to the Members and Friends of the London Rifle Brigade Lodge, No. 1962, Heartly and Affectionate Greetings. May the New Year be Happy and Prosperous to All, and Our Brethren Soldiers of the Queen have a Safe and Glorious Return to Dear Old England. January 1900."

INSTRUCTION.

CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

THE usual weekly meeting was held at the Bunch of Grapes, Lime Street, on Wednesday, and was well attended, Bro. Simons W.M. of the Mother

Lodge being in the chair. The remaining Officers were Bro. Immediate Past Master Spice Preceptor, Davey P.M. S.W., Metcalfe Baillie J.W., Goodchild S.D., Bushell J.D., Done Inner Guard, J. K. Pitt P.M. Sec.

The Lodge was opened and advanced to the second and third degrees. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Pitt acting as the candidate. The Lodge was then resumed to the first degree, and Bro. Clark answered the questions, after which the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Clark candidate. The Preceptor complimented the Officers on their working.

WANDSWORTH LODGE, No. 1044.

ON Tuesday, 9th inst., at St. Mark's School Room, Battersea Rise, Clapham Junction, S.W., Bros. Hudson W.M., Morrell S.W., Downton J.W., Welsh Treasurer, Bolton S.D., Casey J.D., Wiles I.G., Moorhead Secretary, A. C. A. Higerty Preceptor, King P.M., Kingston W.M., A. E. McCamley W.M. 1585, F. W. King, Cornish, G. T. Dobson, C. J. Simmons-Jaques, Wood W.M. 2417, Williams, Moore, Judd, Baker, Lyons, West, &c.

The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. F. Baker acting as the candidate.

The Audit Committee presented the Balance Sheet for 1899, in which it appeared the following sums had been voted to Masonic Charities: £5 5s to the Boys, £5 5s to the Girls, and £5 5s to the Benevolent. The Lodge had also contributed a further sum of £5 5s to the "Daily Telegraph" Soldiers Widows and Orphans Fund. After other disbursements there still remained a sum of upwards of £10 in the hands of the Treasurer. Some of the foregoing sums were obtained by ballot by Brethren who had attended the Lodge during the year. The audited Balance Sheet was adopted, on the motion of Bro. Higerty Preceptor, seconded by Bro. King P.M.

The election of Officers was then proceeded with, the following Brethren being elected to their respective posts: Preceptors, A. C. A. Higerty P.M. P.Z. P.P.G.W. Berks, J. Carter P.M. 1044, and Gandy S.W. 946; Treasurer: Bro. Welsh P.M. 141, Secretary: Bro. Moorhead P.M.; Assistant Secretary: Bro. Casey J.D. 2417; Committee: Bros. Kingston W.M. 1044, Wood W.M. 2417, G. T. Dobson, C. W. Cornish, and F. Baker.

The W.M. gave the charge after initiation. The Lodge was opened in the second and third degrees. After further business the Lodge was closed in due form.

ON the 16th inst., Bros. Kingston W.M., Bray S.W., Wiles J.W., Cornish S.D., F. Baker J.D., Morrell I.G., A. C. A. Higerty Preceptor, W. G. King P.M., G. B. Wood W.M., W. Bolton, C. J. Simmons-Jaques, G. Downton, G. T. Dobson, P. S. Howe, G. F. Williams, C. W. Cornish, F. W. Baker, Moorhead P.M. Secretary, Welsh P.M. Treasurer, and others.

The W.M. opened the Lodge in the three degrees, and rehearsed the ceremony of raising, Bro. Hudson acting as candidate. The Lodge was called off and on. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of passing, Bro. Hudson still acting as candidate. After other business, and the Preceptor complimenting Bro. G. B. Wood on being installed W.M. of his Mother Lodge, the proceedings were brought to a close.

NEW CROSS LODGE, No. 1559.

ON Tuesday, at Bro. L. Lake's, the Kemble's Head, Long Acre, W.C., Bros. A. Swash W.M., E. Beadle S.W., W. Menninger J.W., N. Jacobs P.M. acting Prec., W. Knill acting Sec., B. G. Lacy S.D., G. Faaz I.G., W. Quinton, L. Lake, J. Wynman, G. W. Kriegbaum.

The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Kriegbaum acting as candidate. The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, and then called off and on. Bro. Beadle was elected W.M. for Tuesday, 6th February.

The Annual Supper will take place on Tuesday next, at 7.30, when Bro. J. D. Graham P.M. Preceptor of the Lodge will preside.

WOODROW LODGE, No. 1708.

ON Monday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, at Bro. Rudderforth's (Stone's) Restaurant, Panton Street, Haymarket, Bros. N. Cawley W.M., W. West S.W., T. Burgess J.W., C. Woodrow P.M. Prec., C. Wetton P.M. Dep. Prec., J. W. Simeons W.M. 193 Sec., H. J. Cousens P.M. S.D., J. W. Ollington J.D., W. Hann I.G., T. F. Strutt W.M.-elect 2664, J. Wynman, J. Lobb, A. Mann, G. Baker, B. Calot, C. Carpentier.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Lobb acting as candidate. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and the work of installation was rehearsed, Bro. T. F. Strutt being presented as W.M.-elect and Bro. Cousens acting as D.C. After the obligation the Lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bro. Strutt having taken the chair was saluted and proceeded to invest the Officers. Bro. Cawley delivered the three addresses without the slightest hitch.

Bros. T. F. Strutt W.M.-elect 2664 and C. Carpentier 1563 were elected members, which compliment was acknowledged by both.

Next Monday is at the disposal of the Preceptor of the Lodge.

ROYAL VICTORIAN JUBILEE LODGE, No. 2184.

(LATE TERRIERS.)

ON Wednesday afternoon, at three o'clock, at the Dover Castle Hotel, Westminster Bridge Road, the chair was occupied by the popular Secretary of the Lodge Bro. J. Newstead, who received the support of Bros. T. F. Strutt S.W., W. Newton J.W., A. Darch P.M. Prec., Cecil Merry S.D., Redman J.D., P. Page I.G., G. Clark, B. Cohen, J. Wynman, W. Shaw W.M. 1772.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Clark acting as candidate. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Cohen, and the Lodge was opened in the second degree. Bro. Clark answered the questions, was entrusted, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed.

This being the first time we had had the pleasure of seeing Bro. Newstead in the chair of W.M. we congratulate him on his excellent work.

Bro. Darch P.M. Preceptor of the Lodge will occupy the chair on Wednesday next, and intends to rehearse the three degrees. We are sure to see an exceptionally good attendance.

Bro. Darch reminded the Brethren that the Annual Supper would take place on Tuesday, 13th February, at 7.30 sharp, and that on the occasion the Brethren would have the pleasure of entertaining their lady friends.

WALTHAMSTOW LODGE, No. 2472.

ON Monday, at Bro. Mears's Lord Brooke Hotel, Walthamstow, Bros. C. Horst W.M.-elect 1471 W.M., L. Taylor S.W., T. J. Parkins J.W., W. West Dep. Prec., J. Clark P.M. Sec., J. Budd Treas., M. Bleick S.D., A. G. Hopkins J.D., W. Hooker I.G., J. Ives P.M. D.C., J. R. Carter W.M. 2501, G. Stubbings, A. Oakden, J. T. Stewart, C. Papworth, G. J. Westfield P.M., J. H. Tailby, W. Watkins, J. P. Watts, S. C. Bottin, R. Darling P.M., J. Wynman, J. R. Friend, G. Bargin, A. Allwell, J. Stacey W.M. 2472, G. J. Edkins, F. A. Amos, W. G. Hale W.M.-elect 1446.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. J. T. Stewart acting as candidate. The Lodge was called off and on. The W.M. rehearsed the second degree, for which Bro. Carter acted as candidate.

Bro. L. Taylor was elected to preside on Monday next.

EYRE LODGE, No. 2742.

ON Wednesday, at Bro. C. Murless's, Eyre Arms Hotel, St. John's Wood the Brethren assembled in the large Masonic Hall, the regular meeting room being engaged by members of the Artists' Club. Bro. G. E. Thompson acted as W.M., with E. Lillie S.W., A. G. Archer J.W., H. Weston P.M. Prec., C. Murless Treas., W. C. Bercy Sec., W. Knill S.D., T. Marks J.D., G. T. Smith I.G., J. Mason P.M., J. D. Graham P.M., R. G. Kuox, A. J. Barrell, J. Wynman.

The Lodge being formed the W.M. proposed to rehearse the ceremony of initiation, for which Bro. Knox offered himself candidate. The ceremony being ended, Bro. Weston delivered the addresses, and continued by working the second ceremony.

Bro. Wallis was elected a member, and Bro. Lillie W.M. for next meeting.

SUPPER OF THE FRIARS LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1349.

THIS annual event took place on Thursday evening, 25th inst., at the Aldgate Distillery, Aldgate, when fifty Brethren supported the W.M. of the Mother Lodge Bro. M. Corper.

Upon entering the Lodge room the eye was charmed by the delightful arrangement of the decorations on the tables; the menus were particularly up to date, the front page being printed in gold and colours, and having a direct allusion to the patriotic feeling now prevailing. The supper was provided by and served under the personal superintendence of Bro. Morris Abrahams, and gave great satisfaction.

After supper the W.M. gave the usual toasts, Loyal and Masonic, that of the Visitors receiving special attention, and being responded to by Bro. A. Alvarez.

The toast of the Preceptor was coupled with that of the Secretary, and met the heartiest reception at the hands of the assembled company.

Nothing could be happier than the responses of these Brethren, the Preceptor telling in as many words how glad he felt at seeing so many Brethren before him, and hoping they would do their best to be with him every Thursday evening; and if they could not come to him he would be pleased to meet them at his house, and teach them there.

The Secretary Bro. T. Davis made a happy retort when he said he had been twitted with being very conservative, but he was sure they would say he was very liberal after they had gone through that evening's programme.

Bro. D. Moss P.M. responded for the Charities, and incidentally mentioned that his list would amount to a most magnificent sum.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Emerson, and were of high class character. The recital of the "Absent-Minded Beggar," by Miss Handel Rosalki, resulted in an encore, and the sum of £2 15s 0d being put in her "little tambourine." The Violin Solo by Miss Lelia Rawson was finely rendered, and as an encore she gave "Irish Melodies."

Such old favourites as Bros. M. DaCosta P.M., Ernest Hart, Morris Abrahams and Goodman met with a great reception. A pleasing feature of the evening was the singing by Miss Sadie Abrahams, aged nine years, of "The girl of my heart." Nothing could have been more finished than the singing of comic songs by Miss Levy, who certainly could not be more than thirteen years old. The singing of God save the Queen brought the proceedings to a successful close—a happy and enjoyable night for the "Merry Friars."

PROVINCIAL.

ST. JOHN LODGE, No. 1343.

THE Worshipful Master of this very successful Lodge, Bro. G. H. Silverwood, M.A., presided at the monthly meeting held at the Queen's Hotel, Grays, on Wednesday. He was supported by his Officers, and there was a numerous attendance of the members, and Brethren from surrounding Lodges.

The minutes having been passed, the ballot was taken for Mr. William Henry Umfreville as a candidate for Freemasonry, who being duly approved was admitted and regularly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Order. Bros. Edward Warne and C. M. Shiner were passed to the second degree; and Bros. J. W. Sweetland and A. Bevan were raised and invested as Master Masons. The first and second of the ceremonies were admirably worked by Bro. Silverwood, whom we must congratulate upon the care and attention he has devoted to the duties of his Office. By his perfect and intelligent rendering of the ritual he not only performed his work to the satisfaction of the Lodge, but created an impressive lesson upon the candidates that ensures a lasting effect upon their minds. This is as it ought to be. The same remarks will apply to Bro. Joseph Weymouth I.P.M., who performed the ceremony of passing in a highly creditable manner, while the whole of the work was enhanced by the way in which the Deacons conducted the candidates through the ceremonies.

Bro. Charles Asplin S.W. proposed certain alterations in the Bye-laws, for the purpose of reducing the liabilities of the Lodge, which were directed to come up for consideration at the next meeting. A sum of ten guineas was voted from the funds to head the list of the W.M., who will act as Steward at the next Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows. This bringing the business of the Lodge to a conclusion it was duly closed and the Brethren adjourned.

ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

THE regular meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on Friday, 5th inst., Bro. John Mann Crone W.M.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, a successful ballot was taken for Bro. William Peters Bellerby, Manufacturer, Heaton Chapel, Agricola Lodge, No. 1991, who was desirous of becoming a joining member, after which Bro. Alfred Pickford P.M. D.C. treated the Brethren to a fine exposition of the third degree tracing board, the explanation being attentively listened to.

At the festive board, Loyal and Masonic toasts were given, also songs and sketches, a pleasant evening being spent. The next meeting, to be held on Friday, 2nd February, will be a Ladies' night, and especial arrangements are being made to provide an interesting and varied programme.

CASTLEBERG LODGE, No. 2091.

IN response to a very cordial invitation, received from Brother John Mann Crone S.D. Worshipful Master-elect, we were present at the annual meeting of this Lodge, held at the Ashfield Hotel, Settle (West Yorks), on Thursday, 11th inst., which was characterised by several as the largest gathering in its history.

At mid-day we and Bro. Crone, accompanied by half-a-dozen Past Masters of the Architect Lodge, No. 1375, West Lancashire (in which Lodge Bro. Crone holds the position of W.M.), together with the S.W. (Bro. Hugh W. Bloomer) and other members, as also several Brethren from other Lodges, to the number of twenty or thereabouts, left Manchester in a special saloon, and arrived at Hellefield in time to partake of a slight repast, one just sufficient to wet the appetite for more substantial things which were to follow Lodge business at Settle.

Upon the arrival there of the Manchester contingent, Lodge was opened by Bro. S. Parker W.M. After the reading of the dispensation necessary under the circumstances, and the confirmation of minutes, the ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Thos. Brayshaw P.M. P.P.G.Reg. Secretary, assisted by Bros. J. Lund Brayshaw P.P.G.D. D.C., W. J. Waugh P.P.G.Reg., Dr. F. E. Atkinson Treasurer, Chas. E. Bygrave, Dr. C. W. Buck, and E. Handby, the latter also distinguishing himself by a very fine rendering of the solo "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (St. Paul). We must not forget to mention that the singing of the hymn, "Lead, kindly light," at the opening of the third degree, had a very imposing effect.

Bro. Crone, the newly-installed W.M., in a neat and appropriate speech, presented to the retiring Master a Past Master's jewel, the gift of one of the members, whilst Bro. Parker, following a custom which has obtained since the formation of the Lodge, in turn presented to the members a very fine portrait of himself, the same being destined to adorn one of the walls of the handsome Lodge room, in company with those of his fourteen predecessors.

The following is a list of Officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. J. L. Kidd S.W., C. F. Armistead J.W., Rev. R. C. Garnett Chaplain, Rev. A. Crofton Treasurer, Thos. Brayshaw P.M. P.P.G.R. Sec., H. B. Shepherd P.M. S.D., Chas. E. Bygrave P.M. J.D., J. Lund Brayshaw P.M. P.P.G.D. D.C., E. Handby P.M. I.G., C. A. L. Swale Tyler, J. L. Kidd, C. F. Armistead Stewards, E. Handby P.M. Charity Steward and Almoner.

Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from Bros. Wm. Goodacre P.G.S.B. Eng. Prov.Gr.Sec. West Lancs, Walter Newton P.M. 268 830 1322 P.P.G.D. East Lancs and Cheshire Mayor of Ashton-under-Lyne, J. J. Lambert P.M. 1387 P.G.D.Eng. P.P.G.Reg. West Lancs, A. Cross P.P.G.D. West Lancs, Capt. Roper (Keighley), Capt. Dewhurst (Skipton), who has just gone to take command of volunteers in South Africa, Ed. Wilson (Leeds) Dep. Prov. Gr. Master, and others.

The Festival of St. John took place in the large dining room of the hotel, which had been especially adorned for the occasion. The banquet expeditiously served by the proprietor (J. W. Dugdale) was of that recherché description a sight of which would have made the ascetic mouth of Thomas Parnell's hermit water—he whose meagre diet is described as

"Our food the fruits, our drink the crystal well."

Loyal and Masonic toasts were agreeably varied by songs, recitations, &c., the contributaries being Bros. E. Handby, Chas. E. Bygrave, C. W. Buck, C. A. L. Swale, Hy. Nall P.M. 1375 P.P.G.Tr., Alfred Pickford P.M. 1375 (after whose appreciable rendering of Bro. Rudyard Kipling's "Absent-Minded Beggar" the amount of four guineas was collected on behalf of the local war fund), Wm. Lea S.D. 1375, Edward Roberts P.M. 1459 Prov.G.Tr. East Lancs, and others. Bro. Hanson (Bingley) kindly officiated at the pianoforte.

In proposing the health of the Queen Bro. Crone said the first toast he was about to submit required but few words from him to commend it, and perhaps on the present occasion brevity would be the wisest course to adopt, seeing that the mind of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen was almost distracted by the enormous loss of life which had taken place in the efforts to maintain our supremacy in the Transvaal. Let them show their sympathy by drinking her health most enthusiastically.

Of the Prince of Wales and the Grand Officers present and past, he felt to tell them that the Grand Master was one of, if not THE best who had graced that position, was to impart information which they were already familiar with. In him they had a ruler of whom they were all proud, and those who, like himself, had had the privilege of seeing him at his post could judge of his variety of powers, his graceful and elegant bearing, and his easy performance of the duties of his high station. They were also justly proud of the other Grand Officers, and he asked them, on behalf of the members, to extend a cordial welcome from West Yorkshire.

In proposing the Right Hon. W. Lawies Jackson, M.P., Prov.G.Master, Bro. Richard Wilson Deputy, and the Prov. Grand Officers present and past of West Yorkshire and other Provinces, Bro. Crone said the toast was one which came nearer home, and which applied to them in a strictly local sense. Every governing body must have its supreme head, and also its sub-divisions, for the easier transaction of business. They looked to the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy, and the Provincial Officers for guidance and support, which was never withheld. They had with them that night Provincial Officers from their own Province, and representatives from surrounding ones, to all of whom they tendered a most hearty welcome.

Bros. J. R. Hartley 810 P.P.G.D.C., A. G. Collins P.M. 1375 P.P.G.D.C., G. S. Tatham P.M. 1074 P.P.S.D., J. W. Clayton P.M. 2457 P.P.G.S.B., and Edward Roberts responded.

Bro. Crone afterwards alluded in feeling terms to the death of Bro. Throup P.M., a founder of the Castleberg Lodge, and his memory was toasted in solemn silence.

The health of the Worshipful Master was proposed by Bro. Chas. Bygrave P.M., &c., who gave a very interesting account of his own early acquaintance with Bro. Crone, and also reverted to the latter's connection with the Architect Lodge, No. 1375, West Lancs, of which he was the present Worshipful Master.

We may add here that immediately following Bro. Crone's installation, last March, his portrait and an account of his Masonic career appeared in this journal, to which we would refer our readers.

Bro. Crone W.M., in responding to the toast of his health, said he did not claim the power of imagination which could find expression in glowing terms and high-sounding words and phrases. He left that to those possessed of ability in that direction, and would himself try to be guilty of nothing worse than that of uttering a few truths, with a bit of old English common sense thrown in. He wished he could feel he deserved one half of what Bro. Bygrave had said of him. He assured him, and all of them, that he considered it a very great honour to have been installed W.M. of the Castleberg Lodge, and he took it as a high compliment to his Mother Lodge, for, as Yorkshiremen they were far too cute to place any Brother in the chair without having made sure that he was a fit and proper Mason to occupy it. He was afraid he had not been able to prove his fitness by the manner in which he had attended to the duties of 2091, living as he did so far away, and thus he took it as an additional honour to his Mother Lodge, for they must consider he had been well trained there. Some of them had paid him visits at Chorlton-cum-Hardy, and had been well received. He assured them that on future occasions they would be heartily welcome. He promised he would try his utmost to maintain the position in which they had placed him with all the dignity it demanded, and would endeavour to the best of his ability to perform its duties so that when his term of office was completed they would be able to say he had justified the confidence they had placed in him. That night he felt proud of his position in Freemasonry, being Worshipful Master of two Lodges, a position that did not fall to the lot of every Brother. Again he thanked them from the bottom of his heart for their kindness.

Bro. Thos. Brayshaw proposed the health of the I.P.M., saying there was an old maxim well known to them all, "the king is dead, long live the king." So with the Worshipful Masters—they enter into the body of "have been," and as one of those who had been in the rank he was glad to welcome Bro. Parker, who, only a year ago had been questioned by himself as to whether he could faithfully accept and discharge the duties of Worshipful Master. Bro. Parker had promised to do so, and he was glad to state that at the end of the I.P.M.'s labours the office had not suffered any deterioration at his hands. He was cordially welcomed among the Past Masters, and it was hoped that this day would be marked with a red stone in his life.

Bro. Parker thanked the Brethren for the handsome manner in which they had received the toast of his health. His year of office had been a most pleasant one, and he had to thank the Past Masters for that. To Bro. Brayshaw especially he was under a deep obligation.

Bro. Nall proposed the Castleberg Lodge, to which Bro. Thos. Proctor P.M. responded.

Bro. W. J. Waugh P.M. proposed the health of the Visitors, which was responded to by Bros. Varley Sellars P.M. 810, R. Harrison W.M. 810, P. Lloyd Rees 1055, G. Webster W.M. 1074, J. G. Bromley P.M. 1375, and E. Roberts P.M. 1459.

Other toasts followed.

Among those whose names have not been mentioned there were present Bros. N. W. Helme P.P.G.W. W.L., J. Roper I.P.M. 1074 P.P.G.J.W., T. A. Holland P.M. 1375, E. M. Beebe 1375, W. J. Flint 1375, E. Sharratt 1375, and J. Lingard 1375.

SYMPATHY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 483.

ON the 22nd inst., at the Star Hotel, Gravesend, under the Preceptorship of Bro. H. Forss, Bros. William Hawker W.M., R. J. Beamish S.W., Ernest Ingram J.W., Percy Bowen Sec., O. Cooper S.D., J. Hewison J.D., Wm. Buckland I.G.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. H. T. Davey being the candidate. Bro. Axcell was elected to take the chair at the next meeting.

A ballot for a Life Governorship from the Lodge Benevolent Fund was taken, Bro. Blinn being the successful drawer.

WARNER LODGE, No. 2256.

ON Friday, 19th inst., the regular weekly meeting was held at the Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford, when Bro. W. W. West Deputy Preceptor of the Walthamstow Lodge of Instruction, No. 2472, acted as Worshipful Master, with J. R. Carter W.M. 2501 S.W., G. B. Benson J.W., C. T. Papworth Sec., D. C. Rhodes Preceptor acting S.D., J. T. Inkpen J.D., J. Ives P.M. I.G., &c.

The Lodge was opened to the third degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed.

The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and Bro. Carter was elected to preside at the following meeting.

AT a recent meeting of this Lodge the Brethren presented their Secretary Bro. C. T. Papworth with a very handsome testimonial, consisting of a beautiful silver cigar case suitably inscribed as follows:—

From the members of

THE WARNER LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 2256.

Christmas 1899.

We add our congratulations to Brother Papworth on receiving so handsome a present. May he use it in good health for many years, "in a very liberal manner," is the earnest wish of his friends.

The Lodge meets every Friday at 8.15, and Brethren residing in the neighbourhood could not do better than pay it a visit. They will receive a most hearty welcome.

I R E L A N D .

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NELSON LODGE, No. 18.

THE installation meeting of this, the premier Lodge of Newry, took place in the beautiful and comfortable Masonic Hall situate in Downshire Road, on Thursday, 4th inst., and was a brilliant gathering in every respect.

After the installation of Bro. William Fraser as W.M. the following were invested as Assistant Officers for the year: Bros. Benjamin Beamish S.W., Henry Smart J.W., W. Harris S.D., F. S. Wade J.D., F. S. D. Mears I.G., F. C. Orosbie Prov.G.S. Sec., H. H. Handcock Treas.

The Brethren who acted as D.C. were Bros. J. Hunter Moore P.M. and J. L. D. Mears P.M. The ceremonies were conducted in excellent form, and with commendable promptitude. The dinner was served in the dining hall, in Bro. F. Joos's usual satisfactory manner.

After the Loyal and Masonic toasts an excellent programme of music was rendered by Bros. Benstead, R. Erskine, R. Dempster, and G. Alderdice.

Among the visitors present were Bros. G. R. A. Glenn 51 V.C., W. C. M. Smith 27 (Newry), E. Biggar (Dundalk), H. L. Booth 697 (Warrenpoint).

ST. JOHN LODGE, No. 697.

THIS Lodge assembled for the purpose of installing its W.M., at the Masonic Hall, Duke Street, Warrenpoint, on Friday, 5th inst. Previous to the chief ceremony Bro. Dale was passed to the second degree by Bro. Francis P.M.

The Officers for the year are: Bros. Givem W.M., Saunders S.W., Lightbody J.W., Hayer S.D., Booth J.D., Grandy I.G., Robb Tyler, Rev. Dr. Glenny Chaplain, Jones Secretary, Dr. Bell Treasurer.

The Lodge presented Bro. the Rev. Dr. Glenny a suit of Grand Lodge regalia, as a mark of their regard.

Bro. W. Jones P.M. Secretary was presented with a purse of gold, as a token of esteem and appreciation of his services as Secretary during a term of twenty-five years.

Among other Brethren present were: Rev. Dr. Naylor Chaplain, Bond P.M., Burns P.M., Smith, McKey, J. Dale, W. Dale, Carey (E.C.), Sims, Sharman, Harris, McGibney, Ingram, &c.

The dinner was served in excellent style at the Crown Hotel, under the supervision of Bro. Dale—in itself a guarantee of an especially pleasant evening.

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The Theatres, &c.

Adelphi.—8, Two Little Vagabonds. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
Avenue.—8, An old Admirer. 8.45, A message from Mars. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
Comedy.—8.15, Money. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Court.—8.30, A Royal Family. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Criterion.—8.15, A pretty piece of business. 8.50, The Masked Ball. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Daly's.—8.15, San Toy. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Drury Lane.—1.30 and 7.30, Jack and the Beanstalk.
Duke of York's.—8, A bad Penny. 8.30, Miss Hobbs. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
Garrick.—7.30, Puss in Boots. Matinée, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 1.30.
Globe.—8, The Gay Lord Quex. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
Haymarket.—8, The Bugle Call. 8.50, She stoops to conquer. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.15.
Her Majesty's.—8, A midsummer night's dream. Matinée, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, 2.
Lyceum.—2.15, and 8.15, The Snow Man.
Lyric.—8, Florodora. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Prince of Wales's.—8, The Only Way. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
Princess's.—8, How London lives.
Royalty.—8, The Sacrament of Judas. 9.15, The Canary.
Savoy.—8.15, The Rose of Persia. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Shaftesbury.—8.15, The Mystical Miss. Matinée, Wednesday, and Saturday, 2.15.
St. James's.—Thursday, 1st February, Rupert of Hentzan.
Strand.—8.15, The Grey Parrot. 9, The wrong Mr. Wright. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
Terry's.—9, What happened to Jones. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
Wyndham's.—8.15, Dr. Johnson. 9, David Garrick. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Alexandra.—7.30, Sinbad the Sailor. Matinée, Thursday and Saturday, 1.30.
Grand.—8.30, The Forty Thieves. Matinée, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, 1.30.
Opera House, Crouch End.—8, Cinderella. Matinée, Thursday and Saturday, 2.30.
Surrey.—7.45, Little Goody Two Shoes. Matinée, Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, 1.30.
Alhambra.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. Napoli, &c.
Aquarium.—The world's great Show. Varied Performances, daily.
Empire.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. Ordered to the Front. Round the Town again, &c.
London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainment.
Oxford.—7.30, Variety Entertainment, &c. Saturday, 2.15 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. La Belle Siffreuse, &c. Saturday, 2.15 also.
Agricultural Hall.—8, Mohawk Minstrels. World's Fair, &c.
Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily. 3 and 8, Grand Circus, Pantomime, &c.
Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
London Hippodrome.—2 and 7.45, Giddy Ostend, &c.
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Polytechnic.—3, Our Navy, &c. Saturdays, 3 and 8.

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F. R. W. HEDGES, Secretary,

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