

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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OUR FIRST CARE.

THE present is not the first occasion on which we have used this title under similar circumstances; but there is ample excuse for the repetition, and the text seems to us so appropriate that we have no hesitation in once again putting it at the head of our remarks. Our first care—the first thought of the year in connection with the great Charitable Institutions of the Craft—is most appropriately associated with our old folk: the Brethren who have worked for the Craft in years gone by, and have helped to make the Order what it is to-day, or their Widows. They have laboured for our advantage in the past; how appropriate that those among them who need assistance should be first provided for year by year in the great work of Masonic benevolence as carried on by the present generation, and it is in furtherance of this object that we again direct the attention of our readers to the Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, which is to be held on Tuesday, 27th inst., under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master of Buckinghamshire the Rt. Hon. Lord Addington.

We cannot by any means be accused of taking a gloomy view of affairs if we say that we regard the near future of the Masonic Institutions with considerable concern. It seems almost impossible that the Charities of Freemasonry, in common with other permanent funds, can be kept up to ordinary standard just now, in face of the many special calls made upon the liberality of the entire nation, in connection with the war in South Africa; and it is accordingly with very much gratification we are able to state that the work of supporting the Chairman of the Benevolent Institution for the year appears to be progressing most satisfactorily, and we may now confidently hope that the result to be announced on Tuesday week will not be so far behind the average of recent years as many anticipated.

It is very gratifying to find Lodges in all parts of the country voting sums of money in support of our Benevolent Institution, almost as readily as they would have done had there been no special calls upon their resources, and we sincerely hope it will be found that individual members of the Order are equally ready to support our first, and, in the opinion of very many, our most deserving Fund of Masonic Benevolence. We trust the Chairman of the year will be so liberally supported by his own Province, and by members of the English Order generally, that in due course the worthy Secretary of the Institution Bro. James Terry may be enabled to announce yet another brilliant achievement on behalf of the cause with which he has been so long associated—the world-famed Benevolent Institution of English Freemasonry.

Bro. Taylor Worshipful Master of the Columbia Lodge, in London, has notified President McKinley of the latter's election as an honorary member of the Lodge.

NEW TEMPLE AT HORNSEA.

THE Masonic Temple, to which we briefly referred in a recent issue, is a two-storey building, and is constructed of red and white bricks, with stone dressings and rusticated quoins. On the upper floor there is a beautiful Lodge room, with large ante-room and lavatory. The Lodge ceiling is shaped and panelled, and round the room has been constructed a raised platform. Over the dais is an ornamental arch and keystone supported on fluted columns, with carved Corinthian caps. The building has been designed by Bro. P. Gaskell P.M., of the firm of Freeman, Son, and Gaskell, of Hull and Hornsea. The cost of the land and building was about £650.

On the occasion of its dedication the Worshipful Master Bro. W. L. Harrison opened the Lodge in ancient form and the ceremony proceeded.

The work of dedication was most solemn and impressive, and will long be remembered by all present. The Lodge had been duly constituted, and at a given signal the Organist commenced playing a suitable march. The doors were then thrown open, and the Provincial Grand Officers, bearing the elements of consecration, entered the Lodge in procession, Bro. Peck bringing up the rear, and taking the chair of Worshipful Master. By successive stages the new Temple was consecrated to "Freemasonry, virtue, and universal benevolence." Bro. J. G. Wallis P.M. officiated as D.C., and Bro. P. Gaskell P.M. as Chaplain.

Next came the ceremony of installing Bro. G. W. Brown S.W. as the new Master. The ceremony was performed by Bro. W. L. Harrison, the retiring Master, assisted by Bro. Past Master Redfern. This part of the afternoon's proceedings was equally as successful as the first, and the new Master took his seat on the dais amid the hearty good wishes of the assembled Brethren for a prosperous and happy New Year.

Before the closing of the Lodge the Worshipful Master expressed the thanks of himself and his Brethren to the Provincial Grand Secretary for the obligations he had placed them under in consenting to fill the place of Lord Bolton.

On the call of Bro. Past Master Wallis, hearty votes of thanks were also given to Bro. Past Master Gaskell, the Architect; Bro. Past Master Redfern, the Hon. Solicitor; and to Bro. W. L. Harrison I.P.M., for doing a large amount of gratuitous work in connection with the new Lodge. Bro. Blashill, amid warm applause, presented the Lodge with a new pianoforte, subscribed for by some of the members. Bro. Past Master Harrison, on behalf of himself and the Worshipful Master, asked the Lodge to accept curtains, poles, &c., for the Lodge room, and Bro. W. Thirsk presented the Lodge with a Chaplain's collar and Steward's jewel. These gifts were received with acclamation.

The installation banquet followed.

The Sections of the first degree will be worked in the New Concord Lodge of Instruction, No. 813, at the Farleigh Hotel, Amhurst Road, on Wednesday next, commencing at 8 o'clock; and those of the second and third degrees the following Wednesday. The chair will be taken by Bro. H. G. Gush P.M. 1541 Preceptor of the Lodge, with Bros. J. A. Powell Treasurer and E. G. Platt S.W. 1327 as his Wardens.

A Masonic concert was held in the large hall of the Ilfracombe Hotel on Tuesday evening. Although most of the reserved seats had been previously taken, the severe snowstorm (a most unusual event in Ilfracombe) kept a great many from attending. The Brethren of Lodge Concord appeared in Masonic clothing.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE.

REPLYING to the toast of the Grand Officers, at the annual banquet of the Charity Lodge, Plymouth, Bro. F. B. Westlake Prov. G.S.W. P.D.G.D.C. of England said the conferring of a Grand Lodge collar upon him had met with the cordial approval of the Brethren who knew him best, and it was that which gave the honour its greatest value for him. With the honour came great responsibility, for the Craft was one of the greatest institutions of the world, spread all over the world, and the duty of the Grand Lodge was to administer its affairs and bring the whole into harmony. The Grand Lodge regarded with some anxiety the great number of initiations, and looked to the W.M. of each Lodge to be jealous that those only should be admitted who were calculated to become Brethren of whom they would be proud.

Eighty new members were enrolled by the Liverpool Masonic Cycling Club last year, and the present fully paid-up membership is one hundred and forty-three. The Club is open to cycling Masons residing in the Provinces of West Lancashire and Cheshire; it is not restricted to members of any Lodge, and in its ranks are representatives of no fewer than forty-six Lodges. Every member of the Masonic C.C. is insured against accident whilst cycling, and the Club is affiliated to the Liverpool Centre N.C.U. at its full strength. At the annual general meeting it was shown that the substantial sum of £27 6s had been subscribed to various local charities by the club last year, five guineas of which was given to the Reservists' Fund. Bro. J. Campbell Robinson was elected President, Bro. H. Robinson Captain, Bro. T. B. Harrison Hon. Treasurer, and Bro. Harry Lord, 17 Beresford Road, Liverpool, Hon. Secretary.

At the installation meeting of the Mount Edgcumbe Lodge, No. 1446, on Saturday, at the Holborn Restaurant, Bro. G. M. E. Hamilton P.M. Secretary was presented with a Secretary's jewel, together with a silver tea service for Mrs. Hamilton. The inscription on the silver tray was as follows: "Presented to Bro. G. M. E. Hamilton P.M., together with the jewel, by the members of Mount Edgcumbe Lodge, No. 1446, as a mark of esteem, and in recognition of his valuable services as Secretary, 1891-1900."

We are pleased to welcome a new Lodge of Instruction, held under the sanction of the Earl's Court Lodge, No. 2765, at the Greyhound Hotel, Kensington Square, on Wednesday evenings. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, when several members were elected.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sinclair, a Brother of Past Grand Chaplain the Archdeacon of London, is going to the front from India. He served in the Ashanti and Tirah campaigns.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

BRO. Edward Francis Ralling, a member of the Angel Lodge, No. 51, and brother of Bro. Thomas J. Ralling Provincial Grand Secretary of Essex, died very suddenly on Saturday, 10th inst. It seems that the deceased—who has for many years been assistant to Messrs. Smart, contractors, of Nottingham—was returning to the office, between eleven and twelve, after transacting some business, and on reaching the entrance was seen to fall. Assistance was promptly rendered, and a medical man living close by was called in, but he pronounced life to be extinct. The matter was reported to the Coroner, but as the medical man was able to certify the cause of death to be apoplexy, he did not consider an inquest necessary. Bro. E. F. Ralling, who was in his 51st year, leaves a widow but no family. The remains of the deceased were interred in Nottingham Church Cemetery on Wednesday, amongst the floral offerings being a handsome wreath from the Executive Committee of the Nottingham Hospital Saturday, in which movement the late Bro. E. F. Ralling took a deep and active interest.

NEWs has been received by cable of the sudden death, at Holmesdale, Darlington, Western Australia, of the Hon. J. G. H. Amherst, a member of the Legislative Council of the colony. Mr. Amherst, who was fifty-three years of age, was a brother of Earl Amherst Pro Grand Master of England. Much regret is felt in the West of England at the unexpected death.

CHURCH SERVICES.

AS what may be termed their official contribution to the War Relief Funds, the Freemasons of the Edinburgh Metropolitan District and Province of Midlothian organised a special service in St. Giles' Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, 4th inst., which came off under distinguished auspices, and was a great success. The result will be an important addition to the Lord Provost's Fund, to which the money is to be sent. As patrons of the Service appeared the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Corporation of Edinburgh, and General Chapman, with the Scottish headquarters military staff; the several Lodges of the district took up the matter in a hearty spirit, and the public generally also evinced much interest in it. One fortunate circumstance also was that the Committee enlisted the aid of Madame Ella Russell, the distinguished prima donna, to sing at the function, and that gifted lady travelled specially from London to be present on the occasion, and gave her services without fee or reward. The result was that the Cathedral was crowded in every part by an audience numbering, it was said, between 3,000 and 4,000, and though a trifle slow at the outset, the proceedings subsequently were of an impressive character, and were followed with the utmost attention.

The Masonic Brethren mustered in the Parliament Hall, and thence, in their regalia, marched to the Cathedral, which they entered by the west door. They were accommodated in the nave and transepts. Thirty-five Lodges were represented, and in all 674 Brethren were present. The public had seats in the nave aisles, the Moray aisle, and near the throne gallery; and every part of these sections of the building was densely crowded. The procession of clergy, who were escorted to their places at the communion table by the beadle of St. Giles, included the Rev. Dr. Colin Campbell, V.D., Dundee, Grand Chaplain; Bro. Rev. Archibald Fleming, Tron Church, Edinburgh; the Rev. T. D. Fraser, the Rev. John Stirton, the Rev. A. R. Yeoman, and Mr. H. G. Donald. The military staff included General Chapman; Colonel Jerrard, chief staff officer; Captain Dundas, D.A.A.G.; Captain Metcalfe, District Inspector of Musketry; Captain Moulten Barrett, A.D.C.; and Colonel Sir William Dick Cunynghame, A.D.C.; and many were glad to see present also a detachment of the Imperial Yeomanry in their khaki uniforms, who were accommodated in the two front seats of the south transept.

Grand Lodge walked up the centre passage preceded by the Grand Sword Bearer, and the Brethren received these high Masonic dignitaries upstanding. Among those in this part of the procession were the Hon. James Hozier, M.P., Grand Master of Scotland, the Right Hon. the Earl of Haddington Past Grand Master, Robert F. Shaw Stewart Acting Grand Master Depute, John M. Martin Acting Substitute Grand Master, Major F. W. Allan Acting Senior Grand Warden, D. Murray Lyon Grand Secretary, David Reid Grand Treasurer, &c., &c.

Last of all came the civic procession, with the halberd-bearers and sword and mace. The members of the Corporation, who were in their robes of office, included Lord Provost Mitchell Thomson, Bailies Mackenzie and Hay, Dean of Guild Ormiston, Treasurer Cranston, Convener Field, and several Councillors.

While the audience gathered, the band of the Gordon Highlanders, placed in the gallery above the north doorway, played a paraphrase on the well-known "Loreley" air, and Brother John Hartley, who was at the organ, rendered a processional march. The Rev. Archibald Fleming conducted the first portion of the devotional service, which commenced with the singing of the Hundredth Psalm. The singing was admirably led by a special choir under the baton of Brother J. A. Moonie. The lessons were read by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master Mason of Scotland the Hon. James Hozier, M.P., in a clear and distinct voice, which was well heard over the Cathedral. The first lesson was followed by the singing by Madame Ella Russell of the lovely Handelian air, which is known in its English version under the name of "O, heavenly rest." The prima donna was in splendid voice, and gave a cultured and wholly artistic rendering to the air, which she, at the same time, suffused with a sweet devotional feeling. Her singing seemed to awaken a tender chord of sympathy throughout the large audience, and many could be seen affected to tears. M. Chollett played a charming violin obligato, and the accompaniment on the organ left nothing to be desired. Madame Russell was again heard with wrapt attention in the solo part of the Mendelssohn anthem, "Hear my prayer," the first half of which was rendered with fine

dramatic effect. In the second half, the solo, "Oh, for the wings of a dove," was given with a lightness and beauty of vocalisation and delicacy of feeling which worthily interpreted both words and music. The choir sang the chorus with great taste.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Campbell, from the text, I Peter ii 17—"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." Dr. Campbell said that the Masonic readers of the Epistles of St. Peter might well be pardoned if they claimed the Apostle as one of the Brethren. Again and again he inculcated in terse language most, if not all, of the principles of Masonry. He exhorted his readers to be compassionate one towards another, to love as Brethren, to be pitiful, to be courteous, to add to their Godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity; and in the verse quoted he bade them, in even more pointed phrase, honour all men, love the brotherhood, fear God, honour the king. These precepts embodied well-known Masonic principles, if they were also Christian; and they testified that Masonry and Christianity were not only not antagonistic, but truly identical in many features, and that both were moulded on essential truths as to the relations of God and man, and man with his brother. And this was a fundamental note of Masonry that no man was to be regarded as a chattel, tool, or slave, but everyone was to be recognised as having some native worth, and, therefore, deserving of honour in virtue of his divine lineage and origin. Further, Masonry enjoined loyalty to the Constitution and laws of the land.

The Craft was indeed a Secret Society, but it was not a conspiracy against the throne, or the law of the land, or the principles of social order. The fear of God was an eminently Masonic principle, and it shared with every theistic religion, Christianity included. In one sense, indeed, Masonry was broader than Christianity, for under its insignia might be met Jew, Mohammedan, Parsee, and Buddhist, as well as Christian, in acknowledging the unity of God. It was, therefore, the greatest calumny to say that Masonry was Godless, because the history of Masonry, its ceremonial and ritual, its symbols and essence, were interfused and permeated with the idea of the one God, the maker of heaven and earth; and to deny the existence of the Deity was to remove one of the foundation stones of the Order. Its labour now was not the rearing of edifices, but the building up of charity and good works, the help of the helpless, the relief of the poverty-stricken Brother, and the care of the widow and orphan. Doubtless its first charitable duty, like that of Christianity, was "to provide for its own, especially for those of its own house," but it did not end there. It would be a Masonry with maimed rites that would withhold its hand from helping others than their own.

Hence it was peculiarly fitting that they were met that day, drawn together by a sacred cord of sympathy towards their suffering brothers and sisters whom the present war had plunged into grief; and if there was one virtue or grace more than another that had taken lodgment in the heart of Masonry, it was that of benevolence. And if a common sorrow united men closely, so did a common danger. The present war, whatever controversies surrounded it, whatever losses it might entail, was remarkable for the splendid revelation that it had welded together a brotherhood of Britons at home and in our Colonies such as we had never seen before. Never was there such enthusiasm in our nation, and was it not a convincing proof that the heart of the youth of the nation was still sound and true, and, on the whole, uncorrupted amid the allurements of modern life? War might be, and was, an evil, but not an evil without a good, and the demonstration that these past few months had given of the qualities of our race and the strength of our Empire was well worth a hundred fights. Let it be theirs, therefore, said Dr. Campbell, in conclusion, to help with all their might those that were left behind, to sustain the strain, and to alleviate the sorrow when it came with their compassion and their charity.

A collection was afterwards taken, which, with the amount realised for tickets, and not including several special donations, amounted to £585. Another feature of the Service much appreciated was a march up the centre passage of the nave and chancel by the pipers of the Gordon Highlanders, who played the "Flowers of the Forest" as a lament for our dead heroes. The proceedings were brought to a close by the singing in a spirited fashion of the National Anthem, by Madame Russell, the choir and congregation, accompanied by the organ and the band.

It should be mentioned that the service was arranged by a Committee, under the chairmanship of Bro. W. W.

Robertson, Bro. Frank M. H. Young acting as Hon. Treasurer, and Bro. R. Wood Hawks as Hon. Secretary. Colonel Ivison Macadam rendered capital service as Chief Marshal.

In the course of the evening the Hon. James Hozier, M.P., Grand Master, accompanied by Bros. W. W. Robertson, R. F. Shaw Stewart, Colonel Ivison Macadam, and R. W. Hawks, waited on Madame Ella Russell at the Royal Hotel, and tendered her their thanks for her services. The Grand Master, in expressing on behalf of the Masons their appreciation of Madame Russell's kindness, said that the Masons, not only of the Metropolitan District, but of all Scotland, were deeply sensible of how much they were indebted to her singing for the success of the service that day. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh and Lord Haddington had desired him to express their personal thanks to her. The Grand Master concluded by presenting Madame Russell with an elegantly-bound copy of the programme of the day's proceedings, containing an address signed by himself and by the Lord Provost. Madame Russell expressed her sincere thanks for the souvenir. She was exceedingly gratified to think that her aid had been so appreciated by the Masons. She always gave something annually to Edinburgh, and this year it was though the Masons she was enabled to conform to her usual practice.

ON Sunday, the 4th inst., a Masonic Service was held in the Concert Room, Grey Abbey, under the auspices of Grey Abbey Star of the Ards Lodge, No. 183 (I.C.) in aid of the Soldiers Widows and Orphans Fund, and also of the Down Masonic Orphan Fund. The Brethren assembled at the Masonic Hall, and marched in procession to the Concert Room, where the usual order of procedure having been observed, the Service was commenced with prayer and the singing of the 100th Psalm.

Major-General Montgomery read the Lesson from the 21st chapter of Revelations, after which Bro. the Rev. Dr. Greer, M.A., preached from Genesis xiii 8, on the words—"We be Brethren." He concluded an eloquent sermon by referring in sympathetic words to the objects to which the offertory would be devoted. The Service concluded with the benediction, after which the entire assembly joined in the rendering of the National Anthem. The offertory amounted to upwards of £16.

CANON TRISTRAM'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

THE celebrations in connection with the golden wedding of the Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., LL.D., F.R.S., of the College, Durham, and Mrs. Tristram, were commenced on the 3rd inst., when a series of Masonic presentations were made to Canon and Mrs. Tristram. The uniqueness of the occasion was fully testified to by the large attendance, at which the worthy Canon and Mrs. Tristram received the hearty felicitations and congratulations of their numerous friends and well-wishers.

The first of the presentations on Saturday was made at the residence of Canon Tristram, in the College, Durham, where Canon and Mrs. Tristram received a deputation from the Mark Masons of the Province of Durham and Northumberland. The deputation, who were received in the large drawing-room, consisted of Colonel Angus D.P.G.M.M., Bro. John Redhead P.P.S.G.W., Bro. John Straker Wilson P.P.S.G.W., and Bro. John Heppel Prov.G.Sec.

Bro. Colonel Angus, on behalf of the Mark Masons of the Province, then asked Canon and Mrs. Tristram's acceptance of a fine antique silver-gilt loving cup and a pair of fine antique silver-gilt Twirley fruit bowls, a description of which has already appeared, whilst to Mrs. Tristram personally was presented a diamond brooch.

In making the presentations Col. Angus spoke of the great esteem in which Canon Tristram was held among the Mark Masons in the Province over which he had for so many years presided with such acceptance and ability, and said that the deputation had come there to offer to him and Mrs. Tristram their hearty congratulations upon an event which was seldom given to men to see. They wished to express to them their loving affection for the Canon's own strong personality. From the lowest elevated Brother to the highest Officer in the Craft there was one universal feeling of joy on that occasion, and they could only hope that when the shadows began to fall, and he was gathered to his fathers, that not only might men rise up to call him blessed, but that there might be men not only ready and willing, but able, to take up

the noble work which he would have laid down. The articles which they brought for Canon and Mrs. Tristram's acceptance were not only a memento of the happy day upon which they trusted Monday's sun would rise, but were also some recognition of Canon Tristram's long connection with the Craft; but at the same time they were only a mean expression of what they wished to convey.

Mrs. Tristram, at the conclusion of Colonel Angus's remarks, feelingly observed that such loving affection savoured more of heaven than earth—the gold of that land was good.

The Rev. Canon Tristram made a feeling reply, in the course of which he said that words failed to express all that he felt. For nearly half a century he had had the privilege of belonging to that Order. He had tested its value no less at home than in other countries, and at home especially since he had the privilege of belonging to that Province, which he entered as an ordinary Mark Mason some forty years ago. He had found among the circle of its Brethren true and thorough friends, who had been of immense value to him in discovering how much there was in human nature which only required to be brought out to show the affection and regard that one found there; in fact he was so often reminded, that it had done for him far more than he had done for it. He could only say that next to the bond of Christianity, the ties of religion, the ties that bound one to one's own country and to one's church, there were none so beloved or so far-reaching as that tie in which they were bound in that Order, and of which those magnificent gifts reminded him. Long after they were gone, long after they were forgotten except in name, those gifts would, he trusted, remind posterity afterwards of the kindness, goodwill, and affection with which he was most undeservedly blessed by the Brethren throughout that Province.

Afterwards, at the Masonic Hall, Durham, there was an exceedingly large gathering of the Craft Masons of the Province of Durham for the purpose of making a further presentation to Canon and Mrs. Tristram. In the unavoidable absence of the Provincial Grand Master Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bro. Professor Philipson, of Newcastle, presided, and there were loud cheers when the Chairman led into the handsome Lodge Room Mrs. Tristram, the Canon following, accompanied by his eldest daughter, Mrs. Holland. Most of the members of the family were present, four generations being represented. Most of the Provincial Offices were represented, and the whole arrangements were admirably carried out in charge of a local Committee, of which Bro. R. Hauxwell P.P.G.S.B., of the Norman Lodge, was Hon. Secretary; Bro. R. Hudson Provincial Grand Secretary and P.G. Sword Bearer of England supervising the arrangements generally. A large number of letters of apology were received, including Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., and Sir Thomas Richardson, M.P.

The proceedings commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, after which the Chairman proceeded to make the presentations. In doing so he traced at some length Canon Tristram's Masonic, ecclesiastical, literary, archaeological, antiquarian, and ornithological career, and spoke of the high position which in all these varied departments he had attained to. Irrespective of his high position as a divine, his life had been spent in making himself of use to all that he had been brought in association with. Besides all the other positions which he had occupied Canon Tristram was a traveller of renown. There were few countries that he had not visited, and if he might specify one it would be when he was appointed a member of the Palestine Exploration Commission, as the result of which he not only gave them a graphic history of that great country, but of his studies of the fauna and flora of Palestine, whilst as an archaeologist he had given them a succinct account of the early type of arts and the Masons Marks who were employed in the substructures of the Temple.

In asking Canon Tristram's acceptance of the gifts before him they were to show their regard and respect for him as a Mason, a divine, a scholar, a naturalist, an archaeologist, and a traveller of renown, added to which they ventured to say that he was not only a gentleman of literary culture but of general culture. Canon Tristram's fame was not local alone; it was national. On behalf of the Masons of the thirty-seven Lodges and the thirteen Chapters in the Province Professor Philipson then handed to Canon Tristram the solid silver tea and coffee service and silver tray, all of which bore suitable inscriptions.

Canon Tristram, in replying, said that he was simply overwhelmed by the appalling kindness of his Brother Masons of every degree. That was the climax, the crowning point

of a succession of honoured demonstrations from his Brother Masons which he had had the privilege to enjoy since by their favour he was placed in that conspicuous position amongst them. Masonry had been to him one of the recreations of his life. He had not done nearly what he ought to have done, especially in the matter of Provincial visits, but that was simply because he could not get thirty-six hours work into twenty-four. One great privilege of Masonry which was not to be found in any other organisation was not only the advantages which it gave to one when in a foreign land or in a strange country, but the brotherhood which it created and developed among all classes of society at home. They met on the level of the square, they knew no restriction whatever between those who were Masons. He felt that that was carrying out the true ideal of Christianity, of true equality in a way that no other human organisation ever did or ever could do. He loved Masonry, and should love it to the end of his days. In conclusion, Canon Tristram referred to the unique and wonderful privilege which he enjoyed of seeing around him all his children and his grandchildren except two noble fellows, one of whom was serving his Master Christ, in India, whilst the other was going to serve his Queen and country in South Africa. He should never forget that day's gathering as long as he lived.

Bro. W. Logan then presented to Mrs. Tristram a diamond bracelet, in felicitous terms. The loving cup was afterwards passed round at the invitation of the Marquis of Granby and Norman Lodges, and the proceedings shortly afterwards terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

On the 3rd inst. the members of the Alexandra Lodge, Hornsea, entertained to dinner in the new Masonic Hall the workmen who had been engaged in the construction of the building. About forty sat down, presided over by the Worshipful Master Brother G. W. Brown, who was supported by Brother P. Gaskell P.M., and Mr. Charles Stephenson (builder). After dinner the Loyal and Patriotic toasts were submitted from the chair, and musically honoured. Brother P. Gaskell submitted "Our Guests," coupling with it the names of the various masters of the branches of trade connected with the construction of the building, whom, he said, had carried out their work to the satisfaction of himself.

The presentation to Bro. Ben DaCosta Preceptor of the Israel Lodge of Instruction, No. 205, will take place on Wednesday next, 21st inst., at the Rising Sun, Globe Road, Bethnal Green, E., at eight o'clock, and in view of the very hearty way in which Brethren have responded to the appeal to do honour to our worthy Brother we anticipate an exceptionally strong gathering.

The tenacity with which some Brethren hold to Office in Grand Lodge has caused a good deal of trouble and dissatisfaction in recent years in more than one Jurisdiction, and in order to lessen the discontent in Scotland it is proposed to secure a lapse of one year before a Brother can be promoted from one Office to another.

The Grand Lodge of Canada contemplate the voting of one thousand dollars to the Patriotic Fund, and the Grand Chapter of the Province (Ontario only in each case) has given three hundred dollars. Doubtless Quebec and the other Provinces in the Dominion will also vote large sums for the same purpose.

Sonnet.

MY VALENTINE.

'TIS almost Spring—we look for balmy days
Days when the veins of earth feel warmer blood,
When birds and flowers appear once more to praise
The Maker, Ruler, Giver of all Good.
But all around is snow—the air is chill—
Keen Winter's blast has killed the kindly ray;
All, all is cold—the very heart seems still
'Neath curdling blasts it meets on every way.
Yet 'mid it all eternal sunshine dwells:
For she who gave me birth is still my own;
And love for her bursts Wintry bonds and swells
Until it reigneth on her Summer throne;
Where all is bright and Heaven itself doth shine
Upon the face of my dear Valentine.

Bradford.

CHAS. F. FORSHAW, LL.D.

Books of the Day.

—o:—

The Pith and Marrow of the Closing and Coming Century and related position of Freemasonry and Jesuitry.—The T.P. Company, 144 Madison Avenue, New York (English Agency, 8 Vernon Place, London, W.C.).

THIS is a somewhat extraordinary pamphlet, but it is evidently written for the delectation of the people of the United States in general, and our American Brethren in particular, rather than for English consumption. The author writes under the nom de plume of "Rameses," but the work is apparently issued by some philanthropic Society, since it is stated that the proceeds are to be devoted to "Brotherhood Humanitarian work"—whatever that may be. Commencing with an introduction of common place platitudes, expressed with somewhat too much prolixity, in which references are made to the Dreyfus case, the Spanish-American war, the Panama Canal, and other general topics in vogue last year, the writer proceeds with an impeachment of Jesuitry as the cause of all the evil that exists among nations, in the shape of inhumanity, tyranny, craft and injustice. It is no news to Freemasons that Roman Catholicism, and the Jesuits especially, are opposed to our Order; but we are not prepared to go the length to which the writer would lead us. Our Order is founded upon the purest principles of piety and virtue, and we believe that it will rise superior to this or any other Society arrayed against it. The cure for bigotry is education; and as Freemasonry is spread over the four quarters of the world, and is annually increasing its members by leaps and bounds, we have no fear that its "old, persistent and relentless Jesuitical enemy" will ever prevail against it.

Who's Who 1900. An Annual Biographical Dictionary. Fifty-second year of issue (3s 6d net).—A. and C. Black.

MANY things have been put forward from time to time as "the eighth wonder of the world." For our part, we consider the modern biographical dictionary has a strong claim to the distinction. The evolution of such compilations has been rapid, and their sale great. The reason is not far to seek. Some folk are too worldly-minded to read a Bible, some too pious to read a novel, some too shallow to care for criticism, some too prosaic to care for poetry. But the biographical dictionary is a bait suited to every fish. It satisfies our curiosity, and curiosity, like the poor, is always with us. Nobody is ashamed to be seen poring over "Who's Who." Miss Lydia Langrish would have revelled in its revelations. Many a man who knows to his cost how hard it is to climb "the steep where Fame's proud temple shines afar" has looked into "Who's Who" with just half a hope that his name may figure in its pages. Perhaps the most remarkable feature in regard to this publication is its cheapness. The amount of labour necessary to the accurate compiling of such a work may truly be described as enormous; yet this volume can be bought for the price of a cheap novel. We looked into many of the biographies, and were gratified to find how correct they appear in those matters of detail in which it is so easy to err. One error, and only one, caught our eye: Mr. Clement Shorter is named as editor of the "English Illustrated Magazine," he resigned that post just a year back. The present editor is Mr. Bruce S. Ingram. The system adopted throughout the work in the case of men of letters could hardly be bettered, and the list of their publications in chronological order is of great use to all engaged in criticism. For this reason we are particularly glad to welcome the fifty-second volume of "Who's Who." With this at our elbow we are indeed thoroughly furnished unto every good work.

A Short History of the Expansion of the British Empire, 1500-1870. By William Harrison Woodward (4s).—Cambridge University Press.

THIS volume is published at a very opportune moment. It should prove a marketable ware, for the expansion of our Empire is just the one topic upon which everybody is willing to converse. We believe, however, that we do no injustice to the multitude when we say that very few persons have any very extensive knowledge of the history of that expansion in the past. It is sixty years since an eminent critic, writing in the "Edinburgh Review," expressed his wonder that the actions of many of our great enterprisers in the East excited so little interest among ourselves. He questioned whether one Englishman in ten could name the victor at the battle of Buxar, and regretted the apathy of readers in regard to the wonderful rise of our Indian Empire. Whether we are now better informed upon these topics we will not attempt to say; but such volumes as that before us leave little excuse for our ignorance, be it great or little. The early history of our Empire's growth is largely bound up with the history of our adventures by sea, and to those who desire to read afresh the history of our "expansion" we recommend a careful study of Southey's "Lives of the British Admirals," and of this volume from the Cambridge University Press. We need hardly say that it is carefully written, and is a work which bears on almost every page evidences of a scholarly precision and taste. We are furnished with a table of dates, from the days of Columbus, Cabot, and Vasco da Gama, at the close of the fifteenth century, to the granting of the three great African charters, and the establishment of responsible Government in Western Australia and Natal recently. The movements of Drake and of Raleigh appear to us particularly well summarised; but the treatment of African exploitation is hardly so satisfactory. There are some excellent maps, which we hope will be well used; for in the study of such a subject a thorough use of maps is most essential. We suggest that it would be very useful if publishers would print educational works of this description on soft, rough paper, similar to that now much used for reprints of standard literature. As it is, we cannot lay this volume upon the table without it closing "of its own sweet will."

A Secret of the North Sea. By Algernon Gissing (6s).—Chatto and Windus.

MR. ALGERNON GISSING should prepare for rough weather ahead; for we are told that the way of transgressors is hard. He has transgressed many of the pseudo proprieties of prose fiction, and we think it probable that, in circles which we could indicate, this story of Northumbrian life, love and hatred will be received somewhat scornfully. Mr. Gissing sedulously shuns the much frequented pathways of gushing sentimentality; he refrains from indulging his readers with parlour small talk or kitchen scandal. He has borne in mind Cowper's dictum that God made the country, and man made the town, and has given us a strong story of north country life beside the sea. His materials are more slender than the materials frequently used by novelists to far less purpose, but they are eminently suited to his particular gifts and limitations, and afford ample room and verge enough for the play of passion. By the skilful delineation of some half-dozen characters of quite uncommon stamp he has put upon his stage such a powerful company that we are deeply interested in the very complex play of circumstance which happens to them

all, from that Saturday afternoon at Cuddy's Cove, when Margaret Straughan sent the letter to the Link House, on to that Christmas Eve when two or three matters are adjusted, matters of moment which frequently transpire at the close of novels. Mr. Gissing's characters stand out very vividly before us as we finish reading this Secret of the North Sea. There is none of that shadowy, indistinct presentation which is perhaps more common in our own literature than in the literature of France. In Dumas, in Emile Souvestre, in Balzac, in Pierre Loti, everything and everybody is very real; but we are not sure that they are more real than in the novels of Mr. Gissing. There is Matthew Beadnell, the "Stunner," a man of sterling character and moral worth, with just the least resemblance to John Brodie; there is Crumstone, who devotes the whole of his life energies to his sole ambition of compassing the ruin of the "stunner," and whose character we can best describe by saying that it is about on a par with the character of the Tiger Beetle—a comparison which Mr. Gissing, who is, we believe, a naturalist, will readily comprehend. There is "Perry," so thoroughly boyish in his early days, so healthy a man in the sequel; there is the "Kittiwake," rescued from the waves by "Perry" as a child, and rescuing him from the perils of bachelorhood at the last, but the right moment. There is Lylliard, and there are others; but of those we cannot stay to talk. To us, the paramount charm of this book lies in the author's great reverence and love for Nature in her every phase, for the moan of the wind and the sobbing of the sea, the way of the sea-fowl on the shore, the cry of the whaups across the water, the voice of the lark and peewit on the links. Further, this volume is one of those from which you may select several episodes which read admirably as short stories, quite apart from their associations with the context. In proof of this we may remark that our contention holds good at the very commencement of the book; for the return of "Perry" is a story in itself.

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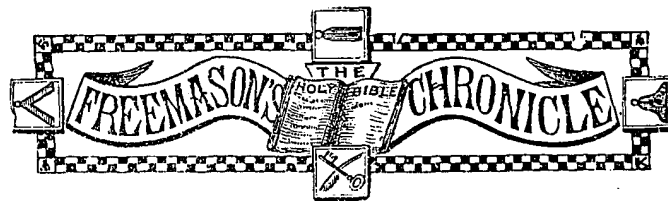
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SATURDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY 1900.

WEST LANCASHIRE CHARITY.

ON the 7th inst. Bro. R. Wylie D.P.G.M. presided at a series of meetings at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, the object of which was to advance the interests of the West Lancashire Alpass Benevolent Institution, founded for the purpose of granting annuities to the widows of Freemasons. There was a large attendance of members from all parts of the Province.

The bye-laws were revised and amended, the object of the alterations being in the direction of making the Charity more in consonance with the benevolent spirit of the Fraternity.

At the meeting of the Annual Court of Governors, Bro. G. Harradon P.P.G. Treas. Hon. Treasurer of the Institution submitted the financial statement, showing that the expenditure for the year had been about £1,100, this sum being increased by £50 in view of the new recipients of the Charity who were elected in course of the meeting. The invested capital of the Institution now amounts to upwards of £8,000. At a meeting of the Court of Governors Bro. G. Barclay P.P.G.D. was again elected Honorary Secretary, Bro. G. Harradon Honorary Treasurer, Bro. J. J. Lambert Past G.D. England Honorary Solicitor, and Bros. J. Platt P.P.G.D., W. Savage P.P.G. Treas., and P. Lloyd P.M. 1356 Auditors. Bro. Wylie was appointed a Trustee of the Charity, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Bro. Pierpoint. The reports were adopted, and the proceedings, which lasted upwards of four hours, closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

DUBLIN CHARITY.

THE monthly meeting of the Board of Governors of the Masonic Female Orphan School was held on the 6th inst., at the School House, Balls Bridge, when the following reports of the results of the examinations recently held in religious knowledge by (1) General Synod of Church of Ireland, and (2) Presbyterian Church were read. General Synod—"All the 63 girls who were examined passed, and 45 of them received prizes. Marion Vance, whose answering was 98 per cent., won the first place in Ireland in the Middle Grade, and was awarded the Morgan Jellett Memorial Exhibition of £6. Two girls, Zoe McLenahan and Louise Hill, gained the first and second places in Ireland in the Junior Grade, and were awarded silver medals. Of the 45 girls in the prize list 29 were in the first class, and 16 in the second class.

Presbyterian:—"Ten girls were examined, all of whom passed, gaining four prizes, viz.—One first and one second in the Middle Grade, one first and one second in the Junior Grade."

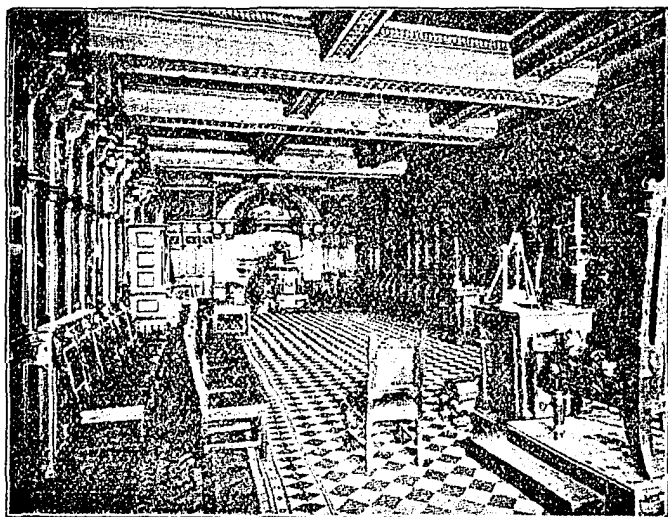
The Rt. Hon. Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Provincial Grand Master Hants and Isle of Wight had arranged to instal the W.M. of the Chine Lodge, No. 1884, last month, but was unfortunately unable to carry out his intention through having fallen a victim to the prevailing influenza epidemic. The D.P.G.M. Bro. Goble, and the Prov.G.Sec. Com. H. G. Giles, R.N., and other Provincial Officers were, however, present. In the regretted absence of the Provincial Grand Master, the duty of installation was undertaken at short notice by a Brother of the same exalted rank, Col. H. Lumsden Provincial Grand Master of Aberdeenshire, and this circumstance distinguished the ceremony in a unique manner, for as the Provincial Grand Secretary remarked there was no previous recorded instance, so far as he was aware, of a Provincial Grand Master under the Scottish Constitution installing the Worshipful Master of a Lodge in England. The ceremony in the crowded Lodge was impressively conducted, the principal portion being performed by Col. Lumsden, and the concluding portion by Bro. H. W. Daws P.M., some fifty Past Masters being present and assisting, in addition to many other Brethren.

Homes of English Freemasonry.

III.—THE HOTEL CECIL.

THERE is always something attractive about whatever is old—old wines, old houses, old friends, and so on. There are many places, including many restaurants, that would lose all their charm if it was not for their age, and for associations which make one forgetful of discomforts. But for luxurious ease, for splendour of appointments which please the eye, for up-to-date excellencies of cuisine to titillate the jaded appetite, you must turn to one of the gorgeous new palaces of ease which have sprung up of late years west of Temple Bar. And among these the first that one would patronise is the Cecil: that greatest caravansary of the world, which has turned "Hobbs's Folly" into a palace of entertainment which leaves nothing to be desired. When the suggestion was made that this huge barrack-like building—as it then was—should be utilised for hotel purposes people shrugged their shoulders and prophesied dire disaster. It stood upon two and a half acres of ground, extended from the embankment to just behind the shops in the Strand, and had been built for offices and flats. It was a tremendous undertaking to adapt it to hotel purposes; but it was undertaken with a light heart, and the result has justified the enterprise—there is no more successful hotel, and no more desirable place of residence than the Hotel Cecil. With its southern front rising to a height of 200 feet, and its pure architectural design, it is one of the principal sights of London; and its situation is unrivalled; it is easy of access from the city, and centrally situated for the theatres and show places of the metropolis.

It is not surprising that with its vast accommodation the Hotel Cecil should have speedily become a Home of Freemasonry. Some twenty-six Lodges have already taken up their habitation here, and are thoroughly satisfied with their palatial surroundings. The "Temple," which has been specially constructed, is undoubtedly among the most attractive places of meeting in the country, as the accompanying photograph evidences:



The Brother who sees it for the first time feels that it is the very *beau idéal* of a Masonic Temple. There is richness and elegance, without anything tawdry or garish. The walls are panelled in carved oak up to the frieze, which is deep and suggestive of tapestry. At each end are alcoves containing marble fire-places, and the ceiling, which is deeply panelled, is painted with Masonic emblems and devices. The chairs are of carved oak; and the whole of the furnishing suggests that no expense has been spared to make the Temple attractive. Immediately beside the Temple is the Grand Hall, which is used for the big banquets; and in close proximity is the Victoria Hall, for smaller assemblies. The Grand Hall is a really beautiful apartment, both architecturally, and in its embellishments. The Victoria Hall is scarcely less ornate; while the smaller dining rooms, such as the Richlieu, are as cosy and comfortable as they are elegant in furnishing and decoration. In fact, the palatial style of the building furnishes the dominant note also of every part of the hotel. In every little detail it is luxurious; and after a business meeting it is exceedingly refreshing to dine in the midst of such surroundings. So famous has the Cecil become for public banquets and dinners, that a vast proportion of such functions now take place here. It is also being largely used for private gatherings. A significant instance is to be found in the fact that during the last two seasons the Prime Minister has held his reception to the Ambassadors and Representatives of Foreign Courts, in honour of the Queen's birthday, at this Hotel. These gatherings had never been held previously anywhere but at the Premier's town residence. Perhaps Lord Salisbury feels specially at home here, as the Cecil stands on the site of the town house

which, in the time of Elizabeth, the first Marquis of Salisbury built on the slope between the Strand and the river. But it is no isolated instance, as many other private functions take place here; while as a Home of Freemasonry it is likely to grow in popularity. One great recommendation it has to Freemasons, so many of whom are business men, is the marvellous completeness of the place. It is as self contained as a complete community under one roof. Anything that a diner could possibly want to make himself completely presentable before he appears in public can be purchased, and he can not only "fix" himself up under the most luxurious circumstances, but can get a shave without having to go out in quest of a barber's shop. Or, if he has forgotten some little bit of business, he can attend to it, and post his communications on the premises.

An idea of the enormous capacity of the banqueting side of the Hotel is shown by the fact that no fewer than 2,000 covers have on several occasions been laid for various dinners taking place on the same evening. The Grand Hall accommodates 600 persons, the Victoria Hall 350, the Richlieu 150, the Medicis 150; while smaller rooms are the Pompadour, Blenheim, Empire, Louis XV, and Louis XVI, the names of these indicating the style of adornment. And though the surroundings are so luxurious, the prices are exceedingly moderate, *recherché* dinners being provided from five shillings and sixpence per head upwards. Here, for instance, is the menu of the Consecration banquet of the Mizpah Chapter, held in December last:

Wines.		* Menu. *
Chablis Moutonne,		Royal Natives.
Vintage 1893.		Tortue Claire. Bisque d'Ecrevisses.
PUNCH.		Torbotin au Champagne.
Pommery and Greno,		Eperlans à l'Anglaise.
Vintage 1893.		Marmite de Cailles à la Truffes.
LIQUEURS		Rocher de Foie Gras en Belle Vue.
ASSORTIES.		Selle d'Agneau aux Pointes d'Asperges.
Château Mouton		Pommes au Beurre.
Rothschild,		Sorbet Palermitaine.
Vintage 1890.		Poularde en Casserole.
Cockburn's		Salade.
Fine Selected		Endives Belges à la Crème.
Port,		Timbales de Poires d'Arenberg.
Vintage 1865.		Glace Comtesse Marie.
		Petits Fours.
		Laitances sur Toast.
		Dessert. Café.

The vast resources of the place enable the management to do wonders in the way of providing menus that challenge comparison not only for price, but for attractiveness, with any hotel in the world. Only a few days ago a quite *recherché* installation banquet was provided for the St. Thomas Lodge, which, as will be seen from the following, was calculated to delight all palates:

Wines.		* Menu. *
PUNCH.		Hors Œuvres Variés.
Maderia,		Tortue Claire. Tortue Liée.
East India, very old.		Turbotin à la Normande.
Liebfraumilch,		Aiguillettes d'Eperlans.
Vintage 1880.		Terrine de Cailles à la Truffe.
Deutz and Geldermann,		Mousse de Jambon au Champagne.
Gold Lack, Ex. Sec.,		Quartier d'Agneau, Sauce Menthe.
Vintage 1892.		Pommes Nouvelles. Petits Pois.
(Magnums)		Caneton de Rouen à la Presse.
G. H. Mumm, Ex. Dry,		Salade.
Vintage 1892.		Gronstades de Pointes d'Asperges.
(Magnums)		Charlotte Russe. Gelée aux Fruits.
		Parfait au Moka.
		Crevettes à l'Indienne.
		Dessert. Café.

With such a desirable Temple to meet in, and with such catering as this, the Cecil will undoubtedly go on and prosper among Freemasons, and not only will it commend itself to them, as

Freemasons, but also for the many other purposes for which an hotel is useful. No such public rooms are to be found anywhere else. There is a drawing room with a terrace lounge, a reading room and library, a smoking room, an American Bar Lounge, a Salle à Manger, a grill room and a restaurant, all luxuriously appointed. The Restaurant, situated in the western corner of the south block, is one of the largest and most commodious in the world. It is 80 feet long by 60 feet wide, with a corridor overlooking the river and the beautiful Victoria Gardens. The ceiling, magnificently decorated with mouldings in purple and gold, and lighted by numerous electroliers, is supported by twelve massive pillars of elegant design. The tables in the terrace are eagerly sought after, and during the season it is advisable to book places. Undoubtedly the most brilliant crowd in London is to be seen of an evening during dinner and supper; and what is popularly known as the dinner of London, the "Cecilia Dinner" is served here each evening from 7.30 to 9.30.

Space will not permit more than the briefest allusion to the other characteristics of the place—the 700 bed rooms, luxuriously furnished; the suites of rooms all self contained, so that the bachelor, or the family, can live as retired and secluded from the world, if they please, as in their own house. Big as it is the place has proved all too small to meet the requirements of the guests; and there is now in process of construction a frontage to the Strand which, when completed, will make it a really mammoth Hotel, far in advance of any of the huge establishments of America, and certainly far in advance of anything yet constructed in Europe.

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

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

Monday.

1 Grand Masters, F.T.
8 British, Freemasons'-hall
21 Emulation, Albion
185 Tranquility, Guildhall Tavern
862 Whittington, Freemasons'-hall
901 City of London, Guildhall Tav.
907 Royal Albert, Freemasons'-hall
1506 White Horse o' K't., HlbrnV.Hl.
1537 St. Peter, Westminster, Crtrn.
1571 Leopold, Southwark
1657 Aldersgate, Albion
1694 Imperial, Westminster
2489 Willesden, Willesden Green
2545 Iris, Rainbow Tav., Fleet St.
37 Anchor and Hope, Bolton
77 Freedom, Gravesend
148 Lights, Warrington
236 York, York
248 True Love & Unity, Brixham
312 Lion, Whitby
359 Peace & Harmony, South'pton
377 Hope & Charity, Kidderminster
424 Borough, Gateshead
455 Perseverance, Katering
466 Merit, Stamford Baron
827 St. John, Dewsbury
872 Lewis, Whitehaven
925 Bedford, Birmingham
949 Williamson, Monkwearmouth
986 Hesketh, Croston
1030 Egerton, Heaton Norris
1113 Anglesea, Manai Bridge
1141 Mid-Sussex, Horsham
1146 De Moulham, Swanage
1170 St. George, Manchester
1199 Ariculture, Yatton
1208 Corinthian, Dover
1238 Gooch, Twickenham
1255 Dundas, Plymouth
1337 Anchor, Northallerton
1443 Salem, Dawlish
1477 Sir Watkin, Mold
1502 Israel, Liverpool
1631 St. Andrew, Gorleston
1674 Carodoc, Rhyl
1748 Castlemartin, Pembroke
1814 Worsley, Worsley
1833 St. Keyna, Keynsham
1909 Carnarvon, Nottingham
2049 Eilan Vannin, Douglas, I. of M.
2069 Prudence, Leeds
2074 St. Clara, Landport
2081 Golden Fleece, Leicester
2086 Dacre, Stevenage
2114 Prudence, Liverpool
2208 Horsa, Bournemouth
2289 Blundellsands, Great Crosby
2295 Scarisbrick, Southport
2327 St. Oswin, North Shields
2349 West Lanc. Century, Blackpool

2373 Hardwick, Chesterfield
2425 Ecclesburne, Duffield
2482 Duchess of York, Manchester
2557 Temperance, Newcastle-on-T.

Tuesday.

Board of General Purposes, F.M.H. at 5.
30 United Mariner, Guildhall Tav.
73 Mount Lebanon, Southwark
95 Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle
162 Cadogan, Freemasons'-hall
194 St. Paul, Cannon St. Hotel
435 Salisbury, Freemasons'-hall
1339 Stockwell, Camberwell
1695 New Finsbury Park, Via. H'tl.
2021 Queen Westminster, Holb'n R'st.
2022 Haven, Ealing
2045 Wharton, Willesden
2500 Old Boys', Criterion
213 Perseverance, Norwich
223 Charity, Plymouth
293 King Friends, Nantwich
378 Loyal Welsh, Pembroke Dock
384 St. David, Bangor
386 Unity, Wareham
414 Union, Reading
418 Menturia, Hanley
432 Abbey, Nuneaton
448 St. James, Halifax
452 Frederick of Unity, Croydon
468 Light, Birmingham
476 St. Peter, Carmarthen
506 Mundy Grove, Shipley Gate
551 Yarborough, Ventnor
560 Vernon, Stourport
660 Camalodunum, New Malton
667 Alliance, Li. arpool
681 Scarsdale, Cuxterfield
830 Endeavour, Dukinfield
958 St. Aubin, Jersey
960 Bute, Cardiff
1006 Tregulow, St. Day
1046 St. Andrew, Farnham
1075 St. Maughold, Ramsey, I. of M.
1089 De Shurland, Sheerness
1096 Lord Warden, Walmer
1225 Hindpool, Barrow-in-Furness
1276 Warren, Seacombe
1410 S. Peter & S. Paul, N'p't Pagnell
1424 Brownrigg of Unity, Old B'pton
1427 Percy, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1551 Charity, Birmingham
1570 Prince Arthur, Liverpool
1621 Castle, Bridgnorth
1764 Eleanor Cross, Northampton
1787 Grenville, Buckingham
1893 Lumley, Skegness
1894 Hershel, Slough
1903 Pr. Ed. Saxe Weimar, P'tsm'th

1941 St. Augustine, Rugeley
2146 Surbiton, Surbiton
2155 Makerfield, Newton-le-Willows
2316 Princes, Liverpool
2360 Victoria, Southport
2407 Hicks-Beach, Stroud
2530 Shirley Woolmer, Sidcup
2536 Staines, Staines
2572 Tyldesley, Tyldesley

Wednesday.

General Committee Grand Lodge, and Board of Benevolence, 5.
7 Rl. York Perseverance, Albion
140 St. George, Greenwich
169 Temperance, Deptford
174 Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern
190 Oak, Freemasons'-hall
969 Maybury, Lincoln-Inn's-Fields
1044 Wandsworth, Wandsworth
1150 Buck'gham & Chandos, F.M.H.
1349 Friars, Ship and Turtle
1382 Corinthian, Cubitt Town
1507 Metropolitan, Anderton's
1539 Surrey Masonic Hall, C'mb'rw'll
1624 Eccleston, Criterion
1673 Welcome, Holborn Viaduct H'tl.
1677 Crusaders,
1681 Londesborough, Café Royal
2266 Cator, Beckenham
2272 Rye, Peckham
2345 Duke of Fife, Clapham Common
2348 Lombardian, Ship and Turtle
2361 Cricklewood, Frascati
2409 Woodgrange, Forest Gate
2589 Borough, Bridge House Hotel
20 Rl. Kent Antiquity, Chatham
121 Mount Sinai, Penzance
127 Union, Margate
137 Amity, Poole
175 East Medina, Ryde
178 Antiquity, Wigan
200 Old Globe, Scarborough
210 Duke of Athol, Denton
221 St. John, Bolton
243 Loyalty, Guernsey
246 Royal Union, Cheltenham
261 Unanimity & Sincerity, Taunton
285 Love & Honour, Shepton Mallet
311 South Saxon, Lewes
325 St. John, Salford
342 Royal Sussex, Landport
376 Perfect Friendship, Ipswich
451 Sutherland, Burslem
537 Zetland, Birkenhead
581 Faith, Openshaw
592 Cotteswold, Cirencester
610 Colston, Bristol
662 Dartmouth, West Bromwich
68 Isca, Newport, Mon.
726 Staffordshire Knot, Stafford
750 Friendship, Cleckheaton
823 Everton, Liverpool
874 Holmesdale, Tunbridge Wells
934 Merit, Whitefield
938 Grosvenor, Birmingham
950 Hesketh, Fleetwood
962 Sun and Sector, Workington
972 St. Augustine, Canterbury
1019 Sincerity, Wakefield
1040 Sykes, Driffield
1086 Walton, Liverpool
1114 Joppa, Fakenham
1129 St. Chad, Rochdale
1136 Carew, Torpoint
1161 De Grey & Ripon, Manchester
1179 Rutland, Ilkerton
1212 Elms, Stoke Damerel
1246 Holte, Aston, Warwicks
1294 St. Alban, Grimsby
1301 Brighthouse, Brighthouse
1323 Talbot, Swansea
1334 Norman, Durham
1353 Duke of Lancaster, Lancaster
1403 West Lancashire, Ormskirk
1511 Alexandra, Hornsey
1634 Starkie, Ramsbottom
1774 Mellor, Ashton-under-Lyne
1797 South Down, Hurstpierpoint
1842 St. Leonard, St. Leonard's
1868 Unity, Oldham
1973 Saye & Sele, Belvedere
1988 Mawddach, Barmouth
2050 St. Trinians, Douglas, I. of M.
2135 Constance, Consett
2153 Hope, Gosport
2203 Farnborough & N.C., Farnboro'
2258 West. Dist. U.S., E. Stonehouse
2259 St. Nicholas, Thorne
2412 Ashfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield
2434 Anderida, Eastbourne
2475 Border, Blackwater
2502 Gatwick, Horley
2514 City, Liverpool

Thursday.

General Committee Girls School, F.M.H., 5.
22 Neptune, Guildhall Tavern
34 Mount Moriah, Freemasons'-hall
65 Prosperity, Guildhall Tavern
66 Grenadiers, Freemasons'-hall
99 Shakespear, Albion
507 United Pilgrims, Southwark
858 South Middlesex, Fulham
861 Finsbury, Great Eastern Hotel
871 Royal Oak, Deptford
1563 City of Westminster, Café Royal
1601 Ravensbourne, Lewisham
1608 Kilburn, Regent Street
1816 Victoria Park, London Tavern
1974 St. Mary Abbott, Kensington
2264 Chough, Cannon Street Hotel
39 St. John Baptist, Exeter
51 Angel, Colchester
78 Imperial George, Middleton
111 Restoration, Darlington
129 Union, Kendal
202 Friendship, Devonport
346 United Brethren, Blackburn
348 St. John, Bolton
475 Bed. St. John Bap., Luton
590 La Cesaree, Jersey
594 Downshire, Liverpool
636 De Ogle, Morpeth
707 St. Mary, Bridport
784 Wellington, Deal
787 Beaureper, Belper
807 Cabbell, Norwich
809 United Good F'ship., Wisbech
904 Phoenix, Rotherham
935 Harmony, Salford
966 St. Edward, Leek
1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
1097 St. Michael, Tenbury
1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath
1163 Emulation, Birmingham
1166 Clarendon, Hyde
1313 Fermor, Southport
1322 Waverley, Ashton-under-Lyne
1345 Victoria, Eccles
1392 Egerton, Bury
1404 Saint Vincent, Bristol
1418 Fraternity, Stockton-on-Tees
1437 Liberty of Havering, Romford
1501 Wycombe, High Wycombe
1505 Emulation, Liverpool
1519 Albert Edward, Clayt'n-le-Moors
1578 Merlin, Pontypriid
1626 Hotspur, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1630 St. Michael, Coventry
1705 Prince of Wales, Gosport
1817 St. Andrew, Shoburness
1884 Chine, Shanklin, Isle of Wight
1957 Grove, Hazel Grove
1971 Ald'shot, Army & Navy, A'shot.
2017 Duke of Portland, Nottingham
2101 Bramston Beach, Godalming
2131 Brownlow, Elmsmere
2195 Military Jubilee, Dover
2214 Josiah Wedgewood, Etruria
2215 Anfield, Anfield
2263 St. Leonards, Sheffield
2269 Peace, Wigan
2335 Cycling and Athletic, Liverpool
2375 Hilbre, Hoylake
2387 Manchester Dramatic, M'chester
2418 Hedworth, South Shields
2462 Clarence, West Hartlepool
2463 Bootle-Wilbraham, Knotty Ash
2474 Hatherston, Walsall

Friday.

Council Boys School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
197 Jerusalem, Freemasons'-hall
569 Fitz-Roy, Head Qrs. H.A.C.
2000 Earl of Mornington, Café R'y'l.
602 North York, Middlesbrough
810 Craven, Skipton
1303 Pelham, Lewes
1385 Gladsmuir, Barnet
1391 Commercial, Leicester
1435 Annesley, Nottingham
1712 St. John, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge
2371 Felix, Felixstowe
2415 Tristram, Shildon
2431 Kingsley, Northampton

Saturday.

1541 Alexandra Palace, Holborn
1584 Loyalty and Charity, Frascati
1706 Orpheus, Holborn Restaurant
1462 Wharnccliffe, Penistone
2048 Henry Levander, Harrow St'n.
2201 Earl of Sussex, Brighton
2421 Carrington, Amersham

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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ROYAL ATHELSTAN LODGE, No. 19.

THE one hundred and thirty-first Anniversary Festival of this excellent Lodge took place on Thursday of last week, at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., with remarkable success, a large number of Brethren, including a goodly array of Grand Officers, attending to take part in the interesting proceedings.

Bro. John Henry Merrett presided for the last time upon the termination of his year of office, and opened the Lodge soon after five o'clock, when the preliminary business was quickly transacted.

Bro. Digby-Green Treasurer presented the Auditors' Report, which was received, adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Lodge. Bro. William John Hiam, of the Earl of Zetland Lodge, No. 1364, was balloted for and accepted as a joining member. Bro. Merrett announced his intention of going up as a Steward at the approaching Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, whereupon the Lodge voted five guineas to head his List of Subscriptions on that occasion. In consequence of a communication from Bro. Morrison McLeod, Secretary to the Boys School, it was resolved that any votes due to the Lodge from the Masonic Charities should in future be sent to the Secretary, to be accounted for by him.

After the Lodge had been opened in the second degree, the chair was assumed by Bro. Witham M. Bywater P.G.Swd.B., who had kindly consented to undertake the Installation ceremony. All Offices were declared vacant, and Bro. Bywater appointed the following Brethren to assist him:—G. W. Capel P.M. as S.W., G. R. Carsberg P.M. as J.W., E. G. Young P.M. as J.D., and Wm. Pound P.M. as D.C. Bro. Money Marsland W.M.-elect was duly presented, when Bro. Bywater addressed the Brethren in accordance with ancient custom, and recited the qualifications requisite for the office of Master, to all of which Bro. Marsland agreed, and also signified his assent to the charges and regulations of the Order. The Brethren then retired, when a Board of Installed Masters was formed by twenty-seven Past Masters, and Bro. Money Marsland was regularly installed as Master of the Lodge. The ceremony was conducted with quiet dignity by Bro. Bywater, now in his 77th year, and his subsequent delivery of the addresses met with manifest approval from those present.

Upon the re-admission of the Brethren the newly installed Master was saluted in the three degrees, and the ancient Warrant of the Lodge was entrusted to his keeping.

The following Officers were appointed and invested: Martin Pulvermann S.W., Octavius Marsland J.W., Arthur Digby-Green P.M. Treasurer, John Walter Barnes Secretary, Maurice Miroy S.D., Arthur Collings Burnley J.D., Thomas Edward Williams I.G., W. M. Bywater D.C., William Pound Steward, W. P. C. Everden Organist, and George Gilbert Tyler.

One of the first duties of the new Master was to present the Past Master's jewel voted by the Lodge to his predecessor, which he did in a neat little speech in which he hoped that Bro. Merrett would consider it as a reward for hard work faithfully carried out during his Mastership, and as a pleasant souvenir of his year of office. He read the inscription on the jewel, which was as follows:—

Presented

by the Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19, to

Bro. JOHN HENRY MERRETT P.M.,

in recognition of his ability, courtesy and zeal while presiding over the Lodge as Worshipful Master for the year 1899-1900.

Bro. Merrett briefly returned thanks for the handsome gift, which he would always wear and consider as a mark of the esteem of the Brethren. He then proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Bro. Bywater for the admirable manner in which he had carried out the installation ceremony. It was at the earnest solicitation of the W.M. that he had so kindly undertaken the duty, and he was sure they would agree with him that it could not have been more beautifully rendered. Bro. Marsland seconded the proposition, which was carried with acclamation, and briefly acknowledged by Bro. Bywater.

The Secretary read several letters from Brethren regretting their inability to be present. Three candidates and one joining member were proposed for acceptance at the next meeting, and the resignation of a Brother was received with regret. There being no further business the Visiting Brethren tendered their congratulations to the Worshipful Master, and the Lodge was closed in due form.

The Installation Banquet was served in the fine Hall of the Terminus Hotel, and did justice to the cuisine of the establishment. The principal table was graced with the handsome silver loving cup presented to the Lodge by Bro. Bywater upon the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his initiation. Upon the conclusion of the dinner the customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were submitted by the Master, and heartily received by the Brethren.

Bro. Ernest M. Money P.A.G.D.C. responded for Officers of Grand Lodge, and drew attention to the large sums raised by Freemasons for the various War Funds. The Craft might be proud of the gallant Brethren fighting for their Queen and Country in South Africa, amongst whom were numbered Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener, and Lord Valentia. He took the opportunity of expressing the satisfaction and gratification of the Grand Officers present at the admirable manner in which Bro. Bywater had performed the ceremony in the Lodge.

Bro. Merrett I.P.M. then rose and said he had the honour for the first time to propose the health of the Worshipful Master, and he was sure that everyone would join him in wishing Bro. Money Marsland a very happy and successful year of office. He would promise that all the Officers would unite to do all in their power to further that end.

The Worshipful Master, who was received with continuous rounds of applause, said, in reply, that he was a man of few words, and quite unable to express his thanks for their kind reception. He was quite aware of the onerous duties and responsibilities of his position, but with their assistance he hoped to merit their confidence and esteem.

In proposing the Past Masters, Bro. Marsland drew attention to the long roll of worthy and able Brethren who had preceded him in the chair. Bro.

Merrett had just handed over the reins of office to him, and all knew the kind manner in which he had carried out the duties of Master. Several of the Past Masters had taken part in the ceremony that afternoon, and as to the Installing Master, he could only say that Bro. Bywater was their stoutest pillar, and they were all proud of him. He called upon them to drink the toast in a hearty manner.

Bro. Bywater, in reply, said he felt greatly indebted to the Brethren for their kind appreciation. He was now in the 54th year of his membership of the Lodge, and he always looked forward with pleasure to their meetings, where he found friendly hands on all sides.

Bro. Merrett also responded, and took occasion to thank his Officers for their assistance during his year.

Bro. James Dix P.M. (who was installed as Master forty years ago) proposed the Visitors, of whom there was a long list. The Lodge was proud to see them, and equally pleased to extend its hospitality to them. He hoped they had all enjoyed themselves, and that they would soon come again.

Bro. T. A. Bullock P.G.Swd.Br. returned thanks, and expressed his deep regret at the great loss the Brethren had sustained by the death of Bro. Charles R. Barnes, who had been for so many years a support and stay of the Lodge as its Secretary.

Bro. Jack declared it was always a privilege to attend the Royal Athelstan Lodge and listen to the dignified working of Bro. Bywater, which was an intellectual treat.

Bro. Sorrell, Treasurer of the City Masonic Club, who also spoke to the toast, said it was the penalty of growing old to see one's friends pass away, and he regretted to notice many changes in the Lodge since his last visit.

Bro. Thomas responded for the Masonic Charities, to which he had devoted considerable time and attention during his Masonic career. He considered that no Institutions could be better managed; and he was sure that the 250 Girls and the 290 Boys on the roll of the Schools would reflect credit upon them in years to come. The 500 Old People were always well looked after, and were made as comfortable as circumstances would permit. He was glad that the I.P.M. was going as a Steward to the Festival on the 27th inst., and hoped he would be well supported, as they required a large annual sum to keep them going.

Bros. A. Digby-Green Treasurer, and John W. Barnes Secretary briefly acknowledged the toast in their honour; and the Officers having been similarly complimented, the Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a pleasant conclusion.

A very interesting musical programme was provided by Bro. Septimus Marsland, in which he was assisted by Madame Beatrice Marsland, Madame Edytha Rimmer, and Bro. Charles B. Gammon. Miss May Drysdale added some well delivered recitations.

The Visitors were Bros. John Read P.G.Std.B., E. M. Money P.A.G.D.C., E. Hobbs P.P.G.D. Essex, J. J. Thomas P.G.St.B., A. C. Spaul P.G.Std.B., W. G. Kentish P.G.Std.B., T. A. Bullock P.G.Std.B., J. Brockett Sorrell P.M. 1260, Ben. Hooker P.M. 1260, G. C. Jack W.M. 2470, E. J. Turnbull P.M. 1524, C. J. Wilkinson-Pimbury P.M. 1997, J. Simmons 77, W. Perkins 2470, E. Hobday 1437, A. W. Ball J.W. 1916, Louis A. Cope 1471, J. H. Barnes J.W. 2127, W. C. Arthous 1329, H. Tufnell P.M. 700, H. Jenkins 1005, A. A. Wallet 18, K. M. Yeoman S.W. 2467, H. W. Lee P.M. 2549, E. H. Davis 455, S. F. Mackway P.M. 2310, R. Bassett P.M. 172, R. Manual P.M. 1196, E. J. Freeman 1613, F. H. Mabbett 1364, F. Cole 2470, H. R. Romnay I.P.M. 18, J. B. Bott P.M. 1839, J. T. Fielder W.M. 2096, F. J. Pulman J.D. 538, W. Hooker P.M. 1556, Murray L. Russell P.M. 95, T. Bailey 2523, F. J. Minter I.G. 1365, Orlton Cooper P.M. 211.

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CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

AT Anderton's Hotel, on Monday, 12th inst., the regular meeting of this Lodge took place, those present including Bros. John Wyatt Simeons W.M., Sidney B. Fells S.W., Metcalf Baillie J.W., E. T. Davey P.M. Secretary, J. E. Fells P.M. Treasurer, G. Spice I.P.M., F. S. Plowright P.M., G. P. Nightingale P.M., S. Smithers P.M., T. Wiffin S.D., G. F. H. Bushell J.D., Robert M. Owen I.G., Francis Haines and W. Houghton Stewards, E. H. Lough A.D.C., L. H. Reinhardt Tyler; Alfred Jay, G. Solomon, J. G. Goodchild, G. Barlow, C. Wright, W. Scones, G. T. Baker, C. Cornish, J. N. Osborn, G. Kimber, G. F. Carr, John H. Bigg, J. J. Webber, J. Staal, W. M. Martin, A. Delmonti, M. Madders, S. Foreman, Fred. W. Clark, H. King.

Visitors: Bros. J. K. Pitt 463 P.G.S.B. Surrey, W. H. Latham W.M. 1963, W. H. G. Rudderforth W.M. 2742, W. Warwick W.M. 765, George Chapman 27, B. T. Penny 956 (Johannesburg), A. E. Penny 2626, O. G. Nichols 867 (Trinidad), W. Morant 1624, R. Moore 1278, R. B. Hopkins 1381, E. C. Wetton W.M. 2763.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. George Kimber was raised, Mr. David Hart was balloted for, and Bro. Frederick William Clark (of the Fellowship Lodge, No. 2535), was elected a joining member.

An honorarium of ten guineas was voted to the Secretary for services rendered, and the sum of ten guineas was placed on the W.M.'s list for the Old People. Bro. Simeons, in thanking the Lodge, told the Brethren he had the handsome sum of one hundred and twenty guineas on his list. Bro. O. G. Nichols, of Lodge 867, Trinidad, was proposed as a joining member.

At the supper which followed, the usual toasts were honoured. Bros. Rudderforth, W. H. Latham, Warwick, Penny, Nichols and Pitt responded for the visitors. The musical portion of the programme was well supported by Bros. Davey P.M., Rudderforth P.M., Wiffin, Madders, Owen, Barrett, and J. Morant.

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ST. MICHAEL LODGE, No. 211.

THE installation meeting of this ancient Lodge took place on Tuesday, at the Albion, Aldersgate Street, E.C., when Bro. Ernest C. Collings installed his successor Bro. Frederick William Berry as Worshipful Master.

The following Officers were appointed and invested for the ensuing year: Bros. G. F. Johnson S.W., Howard E. Mullins J.W., A. B. Spawforth P.M. Treasurer, William Radcliffe P.M. Secretary, C. J. Pinnell S.D., William Sutton J.D., J. Loverseed I.G., E. T. Stainforth Organist, and P. J. King Steward.

A Past Treasurer's jewel of the value of five guineas was unanimously voted to Bro. Alfred Green, who has been compelled to relinquish the position in consequence of ill health.

The new Master next proceeded to initiate Mr. James Boyce and Mr. Charles Horatio Owen, and proved his capacity for his position by the very able manner in which he performed the ceremony.

After the business of the evening had been disposed of, the Brethren and their visitors were regaled with an excellent dinner, provided by Bro. W. G. London; and a very pleasant musical entertainment was given by Bro. John A. Collings, and Company.

SKELMERSDALE LODGE, No. 1658.

AN emergency meeting was held on Wednesday, 7th inst., at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, under the presidency of Bro. W. Croxson Worshipful Master, who was supported by Bros. R. Gabell (W.M.-elect) S.W., T. J. Rawlings J.W., W. H. Boys P.M. Sec., James Farmer S.D., E. S. Rice J.D., J. B. Thorneloe I.G., Herbert Townsend acting Organist, J. Whiteman Tyler; Past Masters Earle D. Side I.P.M., H. B. Buckridge, R. Rowlands, Humphrey Cohens; with Bros. B. Cohen, J. W. Tratt, F. A. Marlow, W. Edwards, J. H. Danson, W. R. Knapman, S. Morris, G. F. Wetgen, R. D. Godfrey, R. Symons, W. Sandell, L. G. Bell, E. A. Wass, J. Smith, R. H. Alabaster, J. C. Davis, W. Clarkson, E. Smyth, W. R. Hummerston, F. Nilen, Percy Nilen, J. Pickering, W. Biles, C. W. Lubbooth, D. Gunton, T. Hebble, W. Clarkson, W. J. Perrin, W. Kuipers, J. R. Papworth, R. S. Buckridge, and several others.

Amongst the Visitors were Bros. W. Foster 619, A. Harris W.M. 1381, H. Townsend 2466, J. Wynman, &c.

After the usual formalities the Lodge was opened to the second degree, and Bros. L. G. Bell, J. H. Danson, R. D. Godfrey, and W. R. Knapman answered the questions and were entrusted.

The Lodge was opened in the third degree and those Brethren were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, and took their seats among the Brethren as such.

The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and Bros. G. F. Wetgen and W. Clarkson were examined and entrusted; they being afterwards passed to the degree of Fellow Craft.

The Lodge was again resumed to the first degree, and Messrs. Walter James Bishop, Fred Oliver Bridge, and Herbert Gibbons were duly initiated into the mysteries of Ancient Freemasonry, by desire of the W.M. Bro. Humphrey Cohen P.M. giving the ancient charge.

The W.M. proposed that a vote of sincere regret be passed on the death of their Treasurer Bro. Hill. It was only a few days before his death the W.M. had been in communication with Bro. Hill, and he need hardly tell them how it had upset him to hear of that Brother's sudden death. The members of the Lodge knew their Treasurer as one of the very best; and he was beloved by all who knew him. He felt he need not say more to ensure the unanimity of the Lodge in this matter, and therefore moved that a letter expressing their great regret, and tendering their sincere condolence, be sent to the wife of their old friend, saying how much the members of the Lodge felt for her and her family in their great loss.

Bro. Side I.P.M. said he was indeed sorry to have to support the proposition, but their departed Brother fully deserved all the honour they could pay him. He had known Bro. Hill for upwards of fifteen years, and he considered his death a severe loss to the Lodge; it would have been impossible to find a Brother better suited to the office than he had been.

Bro. Gabell W.M.-elect proposed that a Past Master's jewel be presented to Bro. Croxson W.M., at the installation meeting, when he would close his year of office. Bro. Rowland, in seconding, said the honour they intended to pay Bro. Croxson was richly deserved. Bro. E. D. Side I.P.M., in supporting the proposition, said the gift would be only the smallest expression of gratitude they could show to their W.M., who had proved himself a really perfect worker of the ceremonies of Freemasonry.

The Lodge was now closed, and the Brethren repaired to the banquet room, where an excellent repast was provided, and the customary toast list afterwards given, but, out of respect to the memory of the late Treasurer, the toasts were honoured in silence.

Bro. Side asked those Brethren who had been initiated by Bro. Croxson during his year to pay him a special compliment. It was gratifying to see no less than twenty of the members respond to this call, affording proof of Bro. Croxson's activity in the chair during his year.

The Charity box was passed round, and a sum of £1 6s 9d was collected, which was added to by Bro. W. Biles, so as to make even money, £1 10s.

Bro. Side now proposed the health of the Master, who in responding said he would have been able to look back upon his year of office as perfection but for the unfortunate circumstance that at the end of it they had lost such an excellent supporter and worker as their late Treasurer, and he felt all equally deplored with him the loss the Lodge had sustained. At the same time he sincerely thanked the Officers and Brethren for their very kind support during the year. He had striven to give satisfaction, and by their kind remarks he almost felt he had succeeded in doing so.

The W.M. next proposed the toast of the Initiates, which was warmly received.

In reply, Bro. Bishop said he was pleased he had been initiated into the Craft, and thanked Bro. Croxson for having proposed him as a member of the Lodge. He trusted the Brethren would never have occasion to regret receiving him, but rather that he might become a credit to the Lodge.

Bro. Gibbons thanked the W.M. for his kind remarks. He had been deeply impressed with the initiation ceremony, and felt he should never forget it.

Bro. Bridge also responded, in similar terms.

The toast of the Visitors was next submitted by the Master, who tendered the guests a most hearty welcome.

Bro. Harris replied, tendering the thanks of the guests, and complimenting the Lodge on the work done that day, as also did other of the Visitors.

The W.M. now gave the toast of the Past Masters and Secretary. He felt no Master could speak more highly of such Brethren than he was able to do in reference to the members of the Skelmersdale Lodge. The Secretary responded.

PROVINCIAL.

—:o:—

LODGE OF INTEGRITY, No. 163.

THE annual meeting and Festival of St. John took place at the Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday, 31st ult., Bro. Hy. R. Yates W.M.

The principal business was that of installing Bro. J. H. Studd into the chair of K.S. The ceremony was performed by the W.M., assisted by Bro. J. Wildgoose P.M. P.P.G.J.D.

We append a list of Officers for 1900, viz.: Bros. Robt. Race S.W., H. E. Massie (W.M. 1459) J.W., T. H. Scholfield P.M. F.P.G.R. Treasurer, R. W. Nuttall Secretary, J. M. H. Blamey P.M. P.G.J.D. D.C., John Townsend S.D., F. M. Whittle J.D., B. Wilmot I.G., Alfred Eastwood Organist, John Studd P.M. P.P.G.D.C. Charity Representative, F. Simpson, G. R. Jury, J. W. Scott, G. Challinor, T. R. Jackson, E. B. Beesley and A. D. Pixton Stewards.

The Festival of St. John was held in the large dining room of the Hall, a very excellent programme having been provided, which consisted of songs and instrumental pieces.

LODGE OF SYMPATHY, No. 483.

A MEETING was held on Wednesday, at the Royal Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend, when Bro. John N. Willis (the Mayor of the Borough) W.M. presided, and was supported by the following Officers:—Bros. W. Spencer Bowen S.W., Ernest Ingram J.W., T. T. Hogg Treasurer, A. Ronaldson Secretary, James Hewison acting S.D., G. A. Grant acting J.D., C. Percy Bowen I.G., and Robert Matthews Organist.

The Lodge was opened and the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. The ballot was taken on behalf of Messrs. David Thomas Mulley, Alexander Holland, Charles Fothergill, and Thomas George Letten, as candidates for Freemasonry, and all were approved.

Bro. Willis being engaged to attend another function in the town, then vacated the chair, which was assumed by Bro. R. J. Beamish, who opened the Lodge in the second degree. Bros. H. J. Simmons, H. T. Davey, and H. Denton proved their proficiency as Craftsmen, and were subsequently raised to the rank of Master Mason. The ceremony was very ably performed by Bro. Beamish, who was heard at his best. The chair was then taken by Bro. A. J. Walklin, when Messrs. Holland, Fothergill, and Letten, together with Mr. Vivian Denton, previously balloted for, were admitted, and regularly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Order. Bro. Edwin Jones was passed to the second degree.

The last two ceremonies were rendered in a masterly manner by Bro. Walklin. Praise must also be accorded to the Officers, who were perfect in their respective duties, thereby ensuring a due effect to the beautiful ritual and a lasting impression upon the candidates. Notice must further be taken of the appropriate music performed by Bro. Matthews, which tended so greatly to enhance the work in the Lodge.

Bro. Walklin proposed that the sum of ten guineas be given from the funds of the Lodge, to be placed on Bro. Hawker's list, as he is going up as a Steward for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, which was seconded by Bro. Beamish and carried unanimously.

One candidate for initiation and one joining member were nominated for acceptance at the next meeting, and there being no further business the meeting adjourned.

ZETLAND LODGE, No. 603.

THE regular meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Bath Road, Tofts, Cleckheaton, on Tuesday, 13th inst., when there were present Bros. H. E. Hodson W.M., Armitage acting I.P.M., Dr. S. Halliday Chaplain, Stocks P.M. Prov.G.S.D., S. Law P.M. P.P.G.W., Hardill, F. Newsome S.W., R. W. Warrenner J.W., J. Clough P.M. Treasurer, L. R. Wood Secretary, Chas. F. Forshaw LL.D. (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE) acting S.D., A. Heaton J.D., R. E. Jackson D.C. I.G., A. Townsend Organist, A. Drake O.G., and Bros. Powell, Hudson, Birkhead and Hertel.

The Lodge was opened and the minutes confirmed, after which a Finance Committee and a House Committee were elected for the ensuing year. The bye-laws of the Lodge were read by the Secretary.

The Lodge being closed in peace and harmony the Brethren adjourned for refreshments and the rest of the evening was spent in a convivial manner.

The Worshipful Master Bro. Hodgson has the confidence and good-will of all the members, and his able efforts to elevate his Lodge to the front rank in the Province of West Yorkshire is meeting with the hearty support of his Brethren, who are determined to assist him in his laudable efforts.

ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

THE regular meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on Friday, 2nd instant, Brother John Mann Crone Worshipful Master. Being the penultimate night of the financial year, the election of Officers took place, which resulted in the unanimous selection of Bro. Hugh W. Bloomer S.W. as Worshipful Master, Bro. A. Redfearn as Treasurer (re-elected), and Bros. Nall P.M., Smith, and Lingard as Auditors. The installation of Bro. Bloomer will take place on the 2nd proximo.

A sumptuous dinner had been arranged for, to which, immediately after Lodge business, the Brethren adjourned, being accompanied thither by ladies and several gentlemen visitors, among the latter being Messrs. K. Ross, Purcell, Morton, and Dent. Loyal and Masonic toasts were submitted and enthusiastically received.

In proposing the health of the Queen, Bro. Crone W.M. spoke of her as the mother of Masons in England, and the most prominent historical personage of the age, who had endeared herself to all by her domestic virtues, her long and glorious reign, and her ability to conduct the affairs of the state in such a manner as to gain the universal esteem of her subjects. He added the sympathies of all right-minded individuals must be extended to her at the present time, in the great mental strain she had to bear in the knowledge that she was daily losing brave and noble soldiers, who willingly sacrificed their lives in fighting for herself and country.

Bro. Nall proposed the toast of the Worshipful Master, paying him a very high compliment for the way in which he had carried out whatever he had undertaken, with minute detail. He reverted to the picnic in the summer, and also spoke of the present meeting, both very great successes, for Bro. Crone invariably put forth his best efforts to make everybody comfortable and happy.

In answer, Bro. Crone said it was always difficult to reply to the toast of one's own health, and especially so when proposed by such a dear and old friend as Bro. Nall, and when received in the manner it had been that night. It had been submitted often during the past twelve months, and apparently with good effect, for he never enjoyed better health than he had done during the time of occupying his present position. He had replied so often to the toast that he was afraid they would be tired of hearing him. He did not intend to make a speech, and thereby take up their time, as they had provided a programme which he hoped would meet with their approval, and he was sure they would enjoy the after proceedings better than listening to his talk. When he was installed as Worshipful Master he started with the full intention of trying to do his duty in every particular, and if he had succeeded in but a small degree he had only done his duty, and any credit due to him must be reflected on his Officers, who had willingly complied with every wish which he had expressed. Their devotion to him as W.M. had been unbounded, and while thanking Bro. Nall for his kind personal allusions, he felt he must also thank those who had so nobly assisted him during his year of office.

Bro. Crone then proposed the health of the W.M.-elect. After thanking him in a special manner for the loyal support which he had accorded to him, he said the old adage, "the king is dead, long live the king," was recently applied to himself, and on the present occasion he could apply it with equal fitness to the Brother who had that night been chosen to succeed him in the chair. Not long ago, within those doors, Bro. Bloomer had been so elected,

He began to feel in effect that Bro. Bloomer had already given him the kick out, but he would keep him in suspense for another month. He had his good qualities, but he also possessed many faults and failings, which he would not stop to point out then. They had both been born in Masonry at the same time, and had been fast friends since. He congratulated the Brethren upon the admirable choice which they had made, feeling sure that Bro. Bloomer would fully justify the confidence they were about to repose in him.

Bro. Bloomer, in reply, tendered his heartiest thanks to the W.M. for alluding to his defections, which he acknowledged, but still hoped that Bro. Crone and the Brethren generally would be lenient towards him. He promised that no pains should be spared on his part to uphold the prestige of that honoured Architect Lodge, reverting at the same time to its many charities, and the good feeling existing among its members.

Bro. Crone then submitted the toast of the visitors. The next and last toast was one of great importance. It went without saying that on an ordinary Lodge night the members of the Architect Lodge were always pleased to see Brethren from other Lodges, but on an extraordinary evening like that—when besides non-Masons they were honoured by the presence of so many ladies, they would be sadly wanting in those feelings of generosity which as Masons they professed, if they did not accord to the visitors a most hearty and cordial welcome. He was delighted to see them, and hoped all would spend a most enjoyable evening together.

Bro. Rawle P.M. having responded on behalf of Mrs. Rawle, who had been called upon for a few words, Bro. Albert Jarratt spoke, making a racy and vigorous speech. All present were deeply impressed with the remarkable simplicity of his language, combined as it was with an intensely vivid description, and a wonderfully graphic power of utterance; the silence, almost palpably felt, which he exacted from his audience being an eloquent commentary on his oration.

Bro. James Lambert P.M. congratulated the W.M. upon the splendid gathering of that night, and as an Officer of Grand Lodge alluded in flattering terms to the position which the Architect Lodge had attained in West Lancashire, the largest of the Provinces, which contained more members than any other in England. Mr. Dent and Bro. Morton also spoke.

The company then retired to a room which had been specially furnished for their reception, and here they were entertained by the efforts of a few musical Brethren, including Bros. Hy. Nall, Riley Walker, John Grimshaw, J. Smith, Ridsdale Bowley, and others.

The now well-known Masonic ode, "In praise of the Divine," was rendered, the accompanists being Bros. C. Tallent-Bateman, and Dr. Henry Watson, the respective author and composer. Bro. Alfred Pickford P.M. D.C. recited the "Absent Minded Beggar," and the collection which was made resulted in a sum of £5. This was the third time upon which Bro. Pickford had distinguished himself in Bro. Kipling's poem, and the gross amount realised by his efforts reaches the magnificent total of £12.

At the close of the entertainment dancing was indulged in, which lasted far on into the matin.

METROPOLITAN: INSTRUCTION.

CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

NOTWITHSTANDING the meeting of the Mother Lodge being held on Monday, a large number of Brethren and Visitors attended the Lodge of Instruction at the Bunch of Grapes, Lime Street, on Wednesday evening.

The Officers were Bros. Latham W.M., Davey S.W., Done J.W., Clark S.D., Bird I.G., Pitt P.M. Secretary, Spice I.P.M. Preceptor.

The commanding figure of Bro. Latham and the earnestness and feeling he put into his exposition rendered him a typical W.M. The Preceptor was in grand form; not a single slip in the ritual escaped his notice. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Goovaerts as the candidate. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Johns as the candidate. The Lodge was eventually closed down and the Brethren adjourned to the fourth degree. As a hint to visiting Brethren we may add: they know how to cook a chop at the Bunch of Grapes, and how to serve it.

WOODROW LODGE, No. 1708.

AT Bro. Rudderforth's (Stone's) Restaurant, Panton Street, W., Bros. J. E. Culverhouse W.M., J. F. Strutt S.W., W. Hann J.W., C. Woodrow P.M. Preceptor, C. E. Wetton P.M. Assist. Preceptor, T. Burgess S.D., J. W. Ollington J.D., P. Page I.G., W. H. G. Rudderforth P.M., H. J. Cousins P.M., W. H. Making P.M., R. Cawley W.M., W. West, H. Pion, Horace Page, Walter Gibbs, J. G. Lobbs, A. Myall, A. Bird, J. Connington, Charles Murless, and others.

Bro. Murless answered the questions and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Brother P.M. Making answered the questions, and a raising was rehearsed; the W.M. giving the Traditional History and Tracing Boards.

Bro. F. A. Grilles J.W. William Preston Lodge, No. 766, was elected a member, and Bro. T. F. Strutt S.W. Henry Muggeridge Lodge, No. 1679, W.M. for Monday next.

EARLS COURT LODGE, No. 2765.

THE first meeting was held on Wednesday evening, 14th inst., at the Greyhound Hotel, Kensington Square, when there were present Bros. Lieut.-Col. G. E. E. Blunt P.P.G.S.W. Middx. W.M., T. C. Dyer S.W., P. Howard J.W., J. Worth Preceptor, J. Cox Prov.J.G.D. Middx. Deputy Preceptor, J. W. Facey Treas., Albert J. Taylor Sec., S. W. Keene P.P.G.P. Middx. S.D., J. H. King J.D., E. Johnson I.G., H. G. Cox Stewd., W. R. Flack P.M., T. Leete, J. Davis, W. James, J. May, H. O. Sanders, J. J. B. Gilbert, T. M. Ross, R. M. Fleming, J. Harris, J. E. Gentle, R. Dixon, E. W. Tucker, H. Webster, W. S. Lyon.

The minutes of the preliminary meeting were read and confirmed, the Secretary read the draft of proposed bye-laws, which were approved of by the Brethren. The W.M. proposed a vote of thanks to the members of the Dalhousie Lodge for their kindness in lending their furniture to the Lodge. This was seconded by Bro. J. H. King, and carried unanimously. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. J. Worth Preceptor, and the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Harris being the candidate.

Bro. Dyer S.W. was elected to occupy the chair on Wednesday next. After other business the Secretary informed the W.M. and Brethren that he

had received several letters from Brethren expressing their regret at being absent through illness, and sending their heartiest wishes for the welfare of the new Lodge.

A great number of Brethren were elected members of the Lodge, and a very successful first meeting was brought to a close.

The Theatres, &c.

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Avenue.—8, An old Admirer. 8.45, A message from Mars. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.

Covent Garden.—Tuesday, 27th February, Grand Fancy Dress Ball.

Criterion.—8.10, Dr. Johnson. 9, His Excellency the Governor. Matinée, Saturday, 3.

Daly's.—8.15, San Toy. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.

Drury Lane.—7.30, Jack and the Beanstalk. Matinée, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 1.30.

Duke of York's.—8, A bad Penny. 8.30, Miss Hobbs. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.

Gaiety.—8, The messenger Boy. Matinée, Saturday, 2.

Garrick.—Tuesday, 20th February, 8, Bootles Baby.

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, Wednesday, and Saturday, 2.

Lyceum.—8, Henry V. Matinée, Saturday, 2.

Lyric.—8, Florodora.

Princess's.—8, Drink.

Royalty.—8.15, Mrs. Jordan. 9, Magda.

Savoy.—8.15, The Rose of Persia. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.

St. James's.—8.30, Rupert of Hentzau. Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30, The prisoner of Zenda.

Strand.—8.15, The Lady Bookie. Facing the Music. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.

Wyndham's.—8.30, Dandy Dick. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.

Alexandra.—Next week, Why Smith left Home.

Grand.—Hearts are Trumps.

Opera House, Crouch End.—Next week, 8, The Manœuvres of Jane.

Alhambra.—7.45, Variety Entertainment. Napoli, &c.

Aquarium.—The world's great Show. Varied Performances, daily.

Empire.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. 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.

Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily.

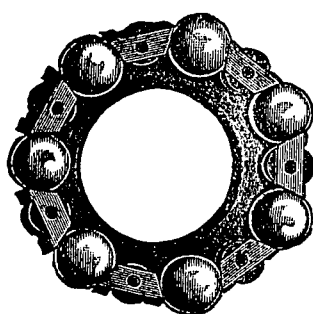
Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.

London Hippodrome.—2 and 7.45, Giddy Ostend, &c.

Madame Tussaud's (Baker Street Station).—Open daily. Portrait models of modern celebrities, &c.

Moore and Burgess Minstrels (St. James's Hall).—Every evening at 8, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 3 and 8.

Polytechnic.—3, Our Navy, &c. Saturdays, 3 and 8.



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