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MASONIC INTELLIGENCE. WEEKLY RECORD 0 F

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SATURDAY, 3rd AUGUST 1901.

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ESSEX.

THE members of this important Masonic Province have lately been holding high festival, and we think we may say the event of last Saturday—when a number of Brethren and Ladies visited Warwick Castle, at the invitation of the Provincial chief the Earl of Warwick and the Countess-will for many years be regarded as a red letter day in the Masonic annals of the county; while the annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge, which preceded it by a few days, and was held at Loughton, may be included among the successful gatherings

of the Craft in this division of England.

The visit of the Brethren of Essex and their Ladies to the Earl and Countess of Warwick, at Warwick Castle, was an event which had been looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation for a long period, and the most sanguine expectations were fully realised, if we may exclude the one drawback that a heavy downpour of rain early in the day not only tended to dampen the spirits of the company, but considerably upset the arrangements that had been made for their entertainment at Warwick Castle. However, the rain ceased at Warwick about noon, and by the time the guests arrived there was little to show of the deluge that had been exper-

ienced during the night and early morning.

The company—which numbered upwards of four hundred Ladies and Brethren-left Paddington by a Great Western special saloon train, and made a splendid run to Warwick, without a stop, in just under two hours. They were met at the station by a number of members of the Shakespeare Lodge, No. 284, headed by Bro. Col. Cooke, J.P., and conducted to Warwick Castle, where they were welcomed on the lawn by the Earl and Countess of Warwick, their daughter Lady Marjorie Greville, and the Countess of Rosslyn (Lady Warwick's mother). Lord Warwick at once expressed his regret that the inclement weather had necessitated a change in the programme, for whereas it had been arranged to have the luncheon in a marquee in the Castle grounds the downpour of rain had compelled them in the early morn to seek other accommodation, which he was pleased to say had been found in the Shire Hall, kindly lent for the occasion by the municipal authorities. Only those who have had to arrange for a party of close upon five hundred can appreciate the amount of labour this alteration entailed, but under the personal supervision of the Earl of Warwick, who we are assured worked most zealously, as the "fine old English gentleman" he is, all was successfully accomplished, and few of the guests experienced any inconvenience from the change, the only matter of regret in this connection being the necessity of dividing the party, the large Hall being hardly commodious enough to allow of the whole company being seated in the one room.

The luncheon was splendidly served, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the many guests, whose appetites had been wetted actually as well as figuratively—by the morning's travel.

The Earl of Warwick rose at the conclusion of the repast, and was most heartily received by the company. He said it was not proposed to have toasts, as he knew their time was very valuable, but they could not separate on such an occasion as that without drinking the health of His Majesty the King. Freemasons were no politicians, but they were loyal subjects. They all knew what a source of strength to the Order his Majesty had been during the time he had ruled over them. He felt it was needless to assure the ladies present that the Freemasons were all loyal subjects; they knew the Brethren were; and he felt the ladies were also; and therefore he knew all would join with him when he asked them, with all humility, to drink the toast of His Majesty the King.

The toast was received with enthusiasm, the band playing "God save the King," and the company singing it most heartily.

Bro. Richard Clowes P.G.Standard Bearer, and one of the most active members of the Province of Essex, then rose. It was his privilege to have the honour of proposing a toast which he knew needed no words of his, because it was the toast of one whom they all delighted to honour. When he looked around that room and regarded the large company which had assembled at the kind invitation of the Earl and Countess of Warwick he almost imagined he was in Essex really the whole of the Province seemed to be there on that The Earl and Countess had kindly invited the occasion. Essex Freemasons and their lady friends to spend the day at Warwick Castle, and he was sure they were delighted to see that they had responded to the call of duty in such large numbers. He had no doubt that all present felt how fortunate they were in having such a Provincial Grand Master as their distinguished host, and it was also very kind of the Countess to allow the Masons of Essex to come there, and to welcome them so graciously, after keeping her husband away from her on so many occasions as they had done. It proved the Countess had the good of Masonry at heart, and extended the hand of sisterhood to those who came from Essex. He proposed the health of their Host and Hostess, the Earl and Countess of Warwick. The toast was heartily drunk, and accorded full musical honours.

The Earl of Warwick, who received another ovation on rising to respond, said their time was very brief, and so his speech should be very brief also. That visit had been a long looked for pleasure on the part of Lady Warwick and himself, and they had anticipated the enjoyment of receiving the Essex Brethren-with whom he had been so pleasantly associated—and their wives and children. It had been his wish to meet the Essex Brethren in Warwickshire, where they had some interesting old places and historic relics to see, similarly as they had in Essex. The visit to Warwick must, he was sure, have been a great tax on their energies. He especially thanked the ladies for attending in such numbers, and was glad they were not frightened at the terrible weather. They had hoped to entertain the party in the gardens of Warwick Castle, but that had been prevented. Thanks to the kindness of the Warwickshire County Council they were able to accommodate them in the Shire Hall that afternoon. He said it was now proposed to go for a few minutes to the church, but not to stop long. Naturally he was very proud of his old home, and he wanted for it the lion's share of their attention. On arriving at the grounds the usual and inevitable photograph would be taken. He hated the photographer, but they had among them a photographer from Essex, Brother F. Spalding who was excepted. Afterwards they would inspect the Castle, and walk about the grounds, while at fifteen minutes past six those of the party who were returning to town would have to be at the railway station, as the train would leave punctually, and it might not be so pleasant for any who were left behind to be forced to stay as it would be for them to put them up if they had the accommodation. They owed a deep debt of gratitude to their old friend Bro. Ralling for the excellent arrangements he had made, and if any breakdown had occurred, it was no fault of his, but due to the weather. For the information of those who were staying over Sunday, the Earl stated that it was intended to drive to Kenilworth in the afternoon, returning by Stoneleigh Abbey, Guy's Cliff, &c., and by the kindness of Lord Leigh they would be able to inspect his park at Stoneleigh Abbey. This was always closed on Sundays, but his lordship, being a zealous Freemason and the oldest of the Provincial Grand

Masters of England had on this special occasion given the

Brethren of Essex leave to visit it.

The Earl and Countess then led the way to the interesting Church of St. Mary, the principal features of which were pointed out, including the Beauchamp Chapel, which is interesting as having been built to contain the remains of the great Earl of Warwick, an effigy of whom in full armour is recumbent upon an altar tomb. The electric organ, at which the organist officiated, was also admired. A move was then made to the Castle grounds and after the photographic group had been taken the party dispersd to inspect the glories of the Castle, Lord and Lady Warwick and their daughter being most assiduous in pointing out the most interesting features. At the conclusion of the inspection of the state rooms, with their priceless collection of paintings and antique furniture, the party passed through the armoury, which contains one of the finest collections of ancient armour in the kingdom, and from thence into the grounds, where the famous "Warwick Vase" was an object of great interest. The Earl also conducted a party of ladies in his electric launch for a trip on the Avon, which was very highly appreciated by those who had the privilege of taking part in it. Others wandered along the battlements and visited the famous dungeon, while many strolled about the Park and the banks of the river, obtaining at intervals magnificent views of the stately park. Most of them found their way back to the lawn in front of the Castle, where they were able to contemplate the grandeur of the scene, with Guy's Tower, Cæsar's Tower, and the unfinished Bear Tower, the whole range being joined by ramparts and embattled walls of great strength. The arched gateway was formerly defended by two portcullises, one of which is still in use and is regularly closed at 10 p.m. Everyone was greatly impressed by the grandeur of the scene and felt what a privilege they had enjoyed in visiting it under such happy auspices. By six o'clock the party had gradually melted away, the great majority wending their way to the Great Western station, from whence they were conveyed back to town by special train.

Between 120 and 130 of the party were conveyed in brakes to Leamington, under the guidance of the Provincial Grand Secretary, where apartments had been prepared for them at the Regent Hotel and Clarendon Hotel. After the process of settling down had been completed, dinner was served in both Hotels and the evening spent in social converse. On Sunday morning the party attended divine service at the Parish Church, and other places of worship, and after luncheon assembled at the Regent Hotel, from whence they were driven to Kenilworth, passing on the way through the magnificent parks of Stoneleigh Abbey, which, by special permission of the Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, had been thrown open to the Masonic visitors. Much interest was taken in the ruins of the famous Kenılworth Castle, and after lingering there some time a move was made to the Abbey Hotel for afternoon tea, and the pleasant drive back to Leamington was by Guy's Cliff and Warwick. Monday was devoted to a visit to Stratford-on-Avon. Leaving the Regent Hotel, Leamington, about 9.30, in seven or eight large brakes, the beautiful drive through some of the most charming scenery in Warwickshire was safely accomplished and Shakespeare's birth-place was reached a little before noon. Here Bro. Dr. Greene W.M. of the Swan of Avon Lodge, Bro. Bird P.M., and other members of the Lodge met the visitors, conducting them to the great poet's birth-place, the grammar school where he was educated, and the Shakespeare Hotel with its five gables and interesting associations, &c., &c. At one o'clock all assembled in the Town Hall where, by permission of the Mayor, luncheon had been prepared. It was hoped that the Earl and Countess of Warwick would have been present, but at the last moment a communication was received that they had been unexpectedly prevented. His Worship the Mayor was also unable to be present on account of an unexpected engagement. Bro. T. J. Ralling Provincial Grand Secretary presided, supported by the members of the Swan of Avon Lodge, and the daughter of Bro. Bird.

At the conclusion of the meal the health of His Majesty the King was drunk, and the Chairman then proposed the health of the Worshipful Master and members of the Swan of Avon Lodge, with thanks to them for their kindness in devoting the day to the visitors. In making arrangements for this day's excursion the chairman said he had received invaluable assistance from the local Brethren, not only in

regard to what they had already seen, but what was to follow. He associated with the toast the name of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge and Miss Bird, for whom he would ask her father to reply

her father to reply.

Bro. Greene in responding as Worshipful Master of the Swan of Avon Lodge, said that himself and the other Brethren had been most pleased to do all in their power to render this visit a pleasant and successful one. They were naturally very proud of Stratford, and well gratified to see so many visitors from a distant county. Bro. Greene then explained the afternoon's programme and concluded by thanking the company for drinking his health.

Bro. Bird followed in similar strain, remarking that both himself and daughter had felt it a great pleasure to assist in

the day's proceedings.

Bro. H. A. Baxter W.M. of the Waltham Abbey Lodge, No. 2750, said before they separated he desired on behalf of the company present, to propose the health of, and a hearty vote of thanks to their Provincial Grand Secretary. They had enjoyed a great treat in the excursion in which they were participating, and they all felt that it was entirely due to the energy and foresight of Bro. Ralling. As a proof of their thanks he had been commissioned to present to Mrs. Ralling a gold bracelet, and to Bro. Ralling himself a silver salver and a purse of gold. This announcement was received with loud and long applause, during which Bro. Baxter handed the bracelet to Mrs. Ralling and the salver and purse to Bro. Ralling. Bro. Baxter added that of course there had been no time to have an inscription put on the salver, but he read a written inscription which it is proposed to have engraved on it.

Bro. Ralling, whose rising was the signal for renewed cheering, said they had now given him the hardest task he had had throughout the proceedings, viz., how adequately to thank them for this thoughtful present. He felt bound to say that this excursion had cost himself and wife a considerable amount of anxiety, and the only reward they had looked for was that it should be a great success. He thought up to the present success had been achieved, and he felt sure when they had finished the afternoon's programme they would feel they had had a most interesting experience. Himself and wife would value most highly the gifts that had been so kindly made, and they would be a reminder to them in after years of the generosity with which their efforts had been met.

An adjournment was then made to the church, where the vicar, the Rev. George Arbuthnot, M.A., was in attendance and most kindly pointed out the salient features of this The greatest interest of course, centred interesting edifice. round the tomb of the Poet, and the stone, which according to unbroken tradition, covers his remains. In describing the pulpit erected by Sir Theodore Martin, in memory of his wife, Helen Faucit, he awakened particular interest in the minds of the Colchester visitors by pointing out that the centre figure is that of St. Helena, the mother of Constantine. He also incidentally alluded to the controversy which had taken place over the erection of a mural monument to the memory of the famous actress, in which Miss Marie Corelli (who resides at Stratford-on-Avon) took so prominent a part. Another object of great interest was the old parish register, in which are entries of Shakespeare's baptism and burial, while of the monuments one of the most interesting is that of Susannah, the poet's elder daughter, the wife of Dr. John Hall, because the lines on it distinctly assert the genius or wit of the poet.

Leaving the Church the company passed along by the river's bank to the Memorial Hall, where so many relics of While here the party were Shakespeare are deposited. visited by Miss Marie Corelli, who very kindly pointed out many interesting features. While in the theatre Miss Corelli said there was a great feeling of regret among Stratfordians that Sir Henry Irving had, up to the present, not produced a Shakesperian play there. In reference to the memorial tablet to Miss Helen Faucit which is in a prominent place in the Hall, Miss Corelli claimed that she had acted quite right in her opposition to the erection of the tablet in the chancel of Stratford Church, as the position in which Shakespeare's medallion was exhibited on it was a distinct indignity to the poet. There was no objection to its being put in some other part of the Church, but the donor would not consent to this. The prominent feature of the Memorial Hall Grounds is the Shakespeare monument, the gift of Lord Ronald Gower to the town of Stratford, the figures on which were modelled by the

donor himself. In pointing out this gift Miss Corelli said that Stratford received these and other gifts to the memory of Shakespeare with complacency, which it could well afford to do, as being the birthplace of the greatest man that ever lived. Miss Corelli's visit was a very interesting feature of the afternoon, and before leaving the Provincial Grand Secretary expressed to her the thanks of the ladies and Brethren for honouring the occasion by her presence.

On leaving the Hall a visit was paid to Shakespeare's garden and the famous mulberry trees. After afternoon tea at the Town Hall the party remounted the brakes and Leamington was safely reached soon after six o'clock. A hasty dinner followed and a special train conveyed the party saftely to town, all agreeing that they had had one of the most enjoyable excursions in which they had ever participated, and heartily hoping that at some future time a similar

gathering might be organised.

It only remains to add that the comfort of the visitors was admirably provided for by the manageress of the Regent Hotel (Miss Miles), and the manager of the Clarendon Hotel (Mr. A. Kerridge) while the manager of the Regent stables (Mr. Robinson) was indefatigable in attending to the details of the drives. Mr. and Mrs. Smith, of Stratford, were also highly complimented on the excellence of the luncheon provided. The train arrangements were in the hands of Mr. E. Murphy, the Birmingham District Superintendent of the Great Western Railway.

THE annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex was held on Thursday, 18th ult., at the Public Hall, Loughton, when the Provincial Grand Master the Earl of Warwick presided, supported by Bro. Richard Clowes as Deputy Prov.G.M., and representatives of every Lodge in the county.

The minutes of the last annual meeting having been confirmed the Prov. G. Sec. Bro. T. J. Ralling announced the different communications received and which included letters of regret at inability to attend, from the Pro G.M. of England, the Provincial Grand Masters of Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, the Isle of Man, Middlesex, the Grand Secretary Bro. E. Letchworth and others.

The roll of Lodges was called, and representatives duly answered from each. The Report of the Board of General Purposes and also that of the Charity Committee were then

presented and adopted.

Bro. James Terry P.G.Sw.B. Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, addressing his lordship and the Brethren, said he had been directed by his Committee to attend the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and to ask his lordship's acceptance of an engrossed vellum, in recognition of Lord Warwick's services as President of the last Festival of the Benevolent Institution. On that occasion every Lodge in the Province had been represented, by a total of 105 Stewards, with a total subscription of £4,000, while the general result of the Festival, supported as it was by Stewards from all parts of the country, was the splendid total of upwards of £25,000. He desired to first read the words of the address, and would afterwards ask his lordship to accept at his hands the expression of thanks of his Committee, the members of which were most grateful to his lordship for his efforts and to the many Stewards who supported him. Bro. Terry then read the address, which was handsomely engrossed, bound, and suitably inscribed, and said that if his lordship would do the Committee the honour of accepting it at his hands they would be delighted.

The Provincial Grand Master, in acknowledging the compliment, remarked that when asked to preside at the Festival he felt some misgiving as to whether, considering the immense amount of subscriptions the country had lately been called upon to give, it was a fitting opportunity to ask the Province to support him. He was, however, perfectly astounded at the result, and he confessed that he never felt so proud of his Province as he did then. He might say, in answer to the very kind words that had come from Bro. Terry in thanking them for what they had done, that he could take back to his Committee the hearty acknowledgment of the Essex Brethren for having thus thanked them for their efforts. The past year had been a most memorable one for them, and events had occurred which touched them as Masons. Prominent among them was the death

of Her Majesty the Queen who, although not a Mason herself, that being contrary to the rules of the Institution, was their Grand Patron, and had shown them an example which might well be followed by every member among them. Then that unfortunate death had necessitated the resignation of the Grand Master who, for upwards of a quarter of a century, had so ably ruled over them. The presidency of Freemasonry was one of the most pleasing of the many duties which fell upon the Prince of Wales, and he felt sure his Majesty left the chair of Freemasonry with the very greatest regret. Fortunately he had a most efficient successor, to whom he could entrust the control of the Craft, in the person of his own Brother H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. At the commencement of the King's Masonic reign Essex had fifteen Lodges, with a membership of 700 Brethren; now they had forty-four, with a roll of 2,500 members. It was a source of great gratification to the Brethren of Essex to see that the Province continued to do so well, and that Freemasonry was so popular with them. They were all loyal to the throne, and with the desire of promoting the principles of the Craft had managed to keep themselves free from the taint of politics. He had already alluded to the support accorded him on the occasion of his Chairmanship on behalf of the Benevolent Institution—he was all through it doubtful as to the result, and never would even form an estimate of what would be the outcome, but he was perfectly astonished at the very large amount collected and exceedingly proud when his dear old Province of Essex came forward with so handsome an amount as £4,000. were looking forward to an addition to the number of their Lodges, a new one having been sanctioned at Chingfordand he felt it would be one likely to prove an addition to the strength of the Province. Lord Warwick spoke of the Festival held at Dunmow some years back, which being so successful had inspired him with the idea of having a gathering of Essex Freemasons at Warwick Castle. He was pleased to hear how readily the suggestion had been taken up, and assured them that the Countess and himself would do their very utmost to ensure the enjoyment of all who were present. He was looking forward to the pleasure of welcoming some four hundred visitors on the occasion, and promised to do all in their power to make them comfortable. He felt his duty towards Essex came before that of any other division of Freemasonry.

His lordship announced that Col. Lockwood would continue to act as Deputy, and then proceeded to appoint the

Provincial Grand Officers for the year, as follow:

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Bro. Howell J. J. Price 2561
Walter J. Tull 2508
Rev. Elsan I. Colnett 1457
Chas. J. Smith 2504
W. G. Synnot 2339
Thos. J. Ralling 51
Jethro Ambrose 1457
R. A. Panchaud 1457
Percy E. Beard 1734
A. J. Constable 2006
W. S. Page 453
A. Lucking 160
                                                                                                                  Senior Warden
Junior Warden
                                                                                                                  Chaplain
                                                                                                                   Treasurer
                                                                                                   ...
                                                                                                                  Registrar
                                                                                                                   Secretary
                                                                                                   ...
                                                                                                                  Senior Deacon
Ditto
                                                                                                                 Ditto
Junior Deacon
Ditto
Supt. of Works
Dir. of Ceremonies
Dep. Dir. of Cers.
Assist. Dir. of Cers.
Ditto
                                                                                                   ...
                                                                                                   ...
           A. Lucking 160
J. H. Bridgman 2255
William Leghorn 2734
                                                                                                   ...
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                                                                                                   ...
           Leo Taylor 2501
Arthur S. Gardiner 2707
Charles R. Allen 2749
J. Phillips Sayer 1024
Arthur Hodsell Brooks 1977
                                                                                                                            Ditto
                                                                                                   . . .
                                                                                                                  Sword Bearer
Standard Bearer
                                                                                                   ...
                                                                                                                           Ditto
           Sidney Hann 2005
W. L. Crow 2717
                                                                                                                  Organist\\
                                                                                                                  Assistant Secretary
Pursuivant
Assistant Pursuivant
                                                                                                   ...
                S. Wilkinson 1280
           J. S. Wikhison 1200
John Wright 1543
W. J. Johnstone 1312
Alfred Ford 2757
F. A. Strattord 1437
H. R. Peake 650
                                                                                                                  Steward
Ditto
                                                                                                   ...
                                                                                                   ...
                                                                                                                             Ditto
                                                                                                   ...
                                                                                                                             Ditto
                                                                                                   ...
           G. Ackerman 2734
C. H. Archer 697
A. W. Martin
                                                                                                                             Ditto
                                                                                                  ...
                                                                                                                              Ditto
                                                                                                                   Tyler.
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An addition of 2,284 names as members of Lodges under the Scottish Constitution was made to that Grand Lodge during quarter ending 13th July. The income from all sources amounted to £2,240 14s, and the expenditure, including £134 16s 6d to the Benevolent Fund, amounted to £1,017 13s 8d, leaving a balance to the good of £1,223 os 4a.

UNSEASONED MATERIAL.

AT about this time of the year the good housewife looks around for bargains in furniture; several new pieces are needed in the house. She bought a new sideboard last year; it was cheap. She thought she had secured a great bargain, but during the winter, when a steady fire was kept in the dining room, the bargain creaked and cracked and warped and fell apart—fell to pieces, and the discovery was made (too late) that it was no bargain at all; it was "trash," one of those sideboards made in a hurry, of unseasoned wood, made at wholesale rates, in a factory, and made without any regard to durability, only hurried through the factory hands so as to get the cash returns.

So it is with many of our good Brethren. They take unseasoned wood, unfit material, into their Lodges, and hurry it through their factory hands without due regard for durability, and when the fire of time burns all winter and all summer, these members fall apart, fall away. They have not been made thorough Masons. They were made at wholesale, at factory rates, at full speed, hence fall apart, fall away from Masonry and from their Lodges.

An experienced housewife will select carefully, will not buy unless actually needed, and then secure a good, solid piece of furniture, which will be a joy to her, will be useful

and durable.

So should our Masters and Brethren be careful in the selection of their material, have it well "seasoned," made Mason through and through, with an eye to their remaining with us and help us in our good work, and not bring in any trash and discover too late that they have made a mistake, that they have injured their Lodge, have injured the Craft, and have injured their own reputation as good Masons, or as wise, judicious Masters. All for what? To secure alleged bargains, to swell their membership, to "beat the record"; and in return for all their trouble and work they have trash -trash, unfit material, unfit members, who go as fast as they come, and too often leave behind them an odour at once repulsive and injurious to those who have suffered from the presence of this unseasoned wood.

Far better to add five or six good, earnest, true Masons to your roll than twenty careless and indifferent members, who care neither for Masonry, for their Lodge, or, for that matter, care nothing even for the very Master who rushed them through the Lodge; and they swell the great army of unaffiliates, and good men among us wonder why so many Masons are annually stricken from the roll. Why? Because they are not properly seasoned; they were not subjected to a thorough examination by the Committee, and were rushed through the degrees to get cash returns, to "beat the record," as so many silly Masters term it.—" Hebrew Standard."

*********** SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE.

NO one who has made a study of Freemasonry can doubt that its symbology originated from a true system of Its symbolic language is at once primitive and exact. It instructs the mind by speaking directly to the eye. It has its foundation in the very nature of man, and aspires to satisfy some of his absolute wants. Let us exhibit some of

the interesting proofs of these assertions.

All the ancient character writings were figurative. spicuous examples of these are the Egyptian and Mexican hieroglyphics. We term them picture-writings. Represent hieroglyphics. ations of animate creatures, birds, beasts and fishes; the circle, the triangle, the right angle, and other similar figures, pictured to the minds of those who beheld them words and ideas supposed to be more or less cognate. Akin to these is the symbolic language of Freemasonry. All of the implements of Masonry speak volumes to the initiate. They have a language that is peculiarly their own. The Square and Compasses, the Plumb and Level, the Gavel and twenty-four inch Gauge, are not merely the tools that Operative Masons use in their work, but they are spiritualised and elevated to the rank of teachers of truth. No uttered sentence from the mouth of man can speak more forcibly than they do, and few, very few, as forcibly. Neither spoken nor written language can supersede them. Originated in the earliest ages of the world, they are suitable for all, and destined to last through all ages. Freemasonry is full of such symbols. Not only the working tools of the Craft, out all of its emblems, teach its lessons by the same powerful medium of pictorial analogy.

Who in the Fraternity has not beheld, in the language of the immortal Burns, in his "Farewell to the Brethren of St. James' Lodge," "That hieroglyphic bright, Which none but Craftsmen ever saw."

From the opening of the Lodge to its close this symbology claims the Mason's attention. Now it is the sun, the majestic orb of day, then the Holy Bible, God's superlative gift to man; but always it is some representative of a noble and lasting truth, that needs to be indelibly impressed upon the mind and heart of the initiate and Freemason.

Notice, here, how the symbology of the Craft unmistakably testifies to its antiquity. It is the language of primitive man. It is inwrought in Masonry. It is a part of its construction, not of its ornamentation. It is an original Freemasonry copied nothing, creation, not an adaptation. while all other secret societies have attempted to copy it. the Craft had originated in modern times, it might have had some few of the characteristics to which we are referring, but it could not possibly have had them all. To suppose such a thing would be to imply a miracle. Freemasonry has been, through all the changes of all the ages, a true restoration, and we know of no instance in the world's history where a society, a people, or a religious denomination, has so jealously and successfully perpetuated itself, in spirit and in form. In this respect it is incomparable. All over its face are the wrinkles of age. Centuries have come and gone, and yet it remains—itself, through all the ages. In the words of Tennyson's exquiste idyl, "The Brook," it says: "Men may come and men may go, But I go on for ever.'

Say what you will, all men respect that which is honoured with age. A man who is not only a good man himself, but whose father and grandfather were reputable and honoured before him, will be respected the more, in a republic as well as in a monarchy. A noble character which has been perpetuated through a line of ancestry is something to boast of. It is only when Peter the Great is succeeded by Peter the Little, that one is justified in decrying the laudation of ancestry. With all reverence be it said, but is not this very attribute of superlative antiquity, and of unqualified goodness, power and glory, one of the elements which go to compose our regard for the Grand Architect of the Universe Himself? God existed from the beginning—He is without years. He is our Creator and the Creator of all men from the beginning -therefore we worship Him. He antedates all thingstherefore we honour Him. And, be it said again with all due reverence, as we worship the Maker of our body, soul and spirit (for each one of us is a trinity in unity), so we honour the Craft that made us a Mason. Without it we should be unmade, be a profane, be of the earth, earthymayhap even an anti-Mason; but as it is we are, again in the language of Burns, of the number of "Ye favoured, ye enlightened few."

The symbology of Masonry is exact. rtain sound. It cannot be mistaken. It speaks no uncertain sound. Whether the symbol be the All-seeing eye, or the letter G; the Compasses or Square; the setting Sun or the common Gavel, each and all are object lessons that are taught in no other school on earth save that of Freemasonry. Once taught they forever after teach themselves. Once seen, they are never forgotten. Worshipful Masters die; generations of Freemasons pass away; individual Lodges even perish, but the symbology of the Craft is as indestructible as the Craft itself.—"Keystone."

BELLE STEAMERS. DAILY SEA TRIPS from FRESH WHARF, LONDON BRIDGE:

- 9.15. Daily to Southend, Walton, and Clacton and back same day; and daily, Fridays excepted, to Felixstowe, Harwich, Ipswich, changing at Walton.
- 9.35. Daily to Margate and Ramsgate and back same day.
- 10.0. Daily, Fridays excepted, to Walton, Southwold and Yarmouth direct.
- 2.0. Husbands' Boat to Margate and back every Saturday.
- Trips round the Nore every Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Thursday, calling at Southend on Saturdays.

Trains in connection on L.T. and S. Railway. All return tickets available during the season.

Time Tables, Tickets, &c., apply at the Piers and the COAST DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, 33 Walbrook, E.C.

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NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE.

THE Marquess of Zetland Provincial Grand Master, supported by Lord Bolton Deputy Provincial Grand Master and a large number of present and past Officers, attended the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge in the Spa Theatre, Scarborough, on Friday, 26th ult. There was a large gathering of Brethren from all parts of the Province.

The Treasurer's statement of accounts was accepted, and

the report of the Board of Benevolence confirmed.

Lord Zetland appointed and invested the following as his Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year:

Bro. Hon. W. G. Algar Orde-Powlett ...

Ernest F. Taylor ...

Rev. S. McKinnon Thompson, B.D.

Rev. L. S. Robinson, M.A. ...

Chas. E. Brittain ...

M. C. Peck ... Senior Warden Junior Warden Chaplain Ditto Registrar Secretary Senior Deacon James Milestone
J. T. Hansell
T. H. Dunn
W. H. Robinson Ditto Junior Deacon ... Ditto
Supt. of Works
Dir. of Ceremonics
Dep. Dir. of Cers.
Assist. Dir. of Cers.
Sword Bearer
Standard Bearer W. H. Robinson
Geo. Eckles
J. G. Wallis
James Hornsby
William Hodgson
Charles H. Dodsworth
F. Gilling
H. Taylor
Richard J. Pitcher, Manual Pit ... ••• Ditto Richard J. Pitcher, Mus. Bac. Thomas B. Redfearn John H. Hill Organist ... Assistant Secretary Pursuivant ... Charles Travess Tyler.

Lord Zetland, in his annual charge, said that the chief event of the year had been the accession of the Most Worshipful Grand Master to the Throne of their vast Empire, and the installation of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught as His Majesty's illustrious successor, which grand ceremonial took place in the Royal Albert Hall, and was attended by upwards of 9,000 Brethren. After referring to the loss, through death, of everal eminent Brethren, his lordship said the late Bro. W. H. Cowper had in his will stated the following, which would be heard with touching interest by the Brethren:—"To my Brother Freemasons—I leave my best wishes and earnest desire that the high principles of the Craft will ever be upheld." After eulogising the services of the late Bros. Andrew Farmer, Col. R. G. Smith, John Blenkin, E. Cooper, and J. T. Seller, his lordship expressed the hope that they might find worthy successors, able and willing to mulate their good examples, and carry on the work of the Craft with equal zeal and fidelity. He had received the invitation of the North York Lodge, no. 602, at Middlesborough to hold the next meeting there, and had resolved to accept the same. The meeting would be unusually interesting, as the Jubilee of the Lodge would be celebrated on the occasion. His Lordship concluded by thanking the members of the four Scarborough Lodges for the hospitable manner in which they had entertained the Brethren.

The annual banquet subsequently took place at the Grand Hotel, presided over by the Marquess of Zetland, at which the Loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

A BUSY and eventful life closed on Friday morning, 12th ult., when Sir Robert George Raper, who had been no less than ten times Mayor of Chichester, expired at the age of seventy-four years. For many years he took what might be termed an hereditary interest in Freemasonry, his grandfather having been a prominent member of the Craft for upwards of fifty years, celebrating his jubilee in 1838, and also being Provincial Grand Secretary. Sir Robert was Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Union, No. 38, on two occasions, the last being in 1881, when he installed Lord March as his successor. He had also been First Principal of the Cyrus Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The late Sir Walter Burrell Provincial Grand Master made him Junior Grand Warden of Sussex.

THE death occurred of Bro. County Alderman Llewelyn Davies, of Bryngelly, near Swansea, on the 17th ult. He was one of the best known public men in West Wales, being a member of nearly every public body in the district and a prominent Oddfellow and Freemason. He was also

identified with numerous industrial undertakings, and held some important private appointments. Bro. Davies had not of late enjoyed good health, and some weeks ago he went to Llandrindod. He derived some temporary benefit from the change, but on his return home a relapse set in. An operation was performed, but, though the patient rallied, there were little hopes of recovery, and Bro. Davies passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family.

THE funeral of the late Bro. H. F. Hearle took place on the 19th ult., at Plymouth Cemetery. Previous to the interment there was a brief service at Christ Church, where the Revs. W. Howard Coates and R. W. G. Pound officiated. The first named, in the course of a brief address, said Bro. Hearle had been called to his rest after a long illness. For twenty-five years our late Brother had been Treasurer of Lodge Harmony, No. 156, and had always taken a prominent part in Freemasonry. He was a Past Provincial Officer of Devon, his rank having been that of A.G.D.C. Several Masons attended the funeral, for which the Brethren of the Harmony Lodge sent a handsome wreath.

Much regret was felt in Scarborough on Tuesday afternoon, 16th ult., at the death of Bro. Edward Cooper Past Master of the Old Globe Lodge, No. 200, and who at one time was Chairman of the Scarborough Masonic Club. Deceased, who was a bachelor, tifty-seven years of age, had been spending his holidays with his brother at Waltham, in Leicestershire, and whilst returning to Scarborough had caught a chill, which developed into congestion of the lungs, and afterwards to pneumonia. Bro. Cooper was very popular in Scarborough cricket circles, having founded the Saint Nicholas Club, and was formerly a member of the Committee of the Scarborough Club.

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SATURDAY, 3RD AUGUST 1901.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE July meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening of last week, Bro. J. H. Matthews President in the chair, Bros. D. D. Mercer and Henry Garrod, Senior and Junior Vice Presidents also attending. Brother Letchworth Grand Secretary, Bro. W. Dodd and Bro. G. S. Recknell attended in their official capacity, and several other Grand Officers were present, including the Rev. Sir Borrodaile Savory G.Chap., the Deputy G. Registrar Bro. Vesey Fitzgerald, K.C., Bro. W. M. Bywater, and Bro. W. Kipps.

After confirming the recommendations to the Grand Master at the June meeting to the extent of £460, the Brethren dealt with twenty-two new cases. They disposed of the list; deferring two, which were not complete. petitioner in one case had died since petition was presented Grand Lodge was recommended to confirm a grant of £50 to one petitioner. Three petitioners were recommended for the Grand Master's approval of £40 each, and four of £30 each. Eight grants were made of £20 each, and four of £10 each. The total was £490.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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We shall be pleased to receive particulars of Masonic meetings tor insertion in our columns, and where desired will endeavour to send a representative, to report Lodge or other proceedings. We do not sanction anyone attending Lodge meetings as our representative without a specific invitation.

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

-:0:

Duke of Connaught Lodge, No. 1558.

The Brethren of this Lodge held their summer outing last month, voyaging by the Clacton Belle to Margate and Ramsgate. A very enjoyable day was spent.

The W.M. Bro. Geo. B. Catt was supported by the I.P.M. Bro. Harry Lewis, Bro. Taylor P.M. Treasurer, Bro. F. V. Catt P.M. Secretary, and many other Brethren, ladies and friends. After dinner the Loyal toasts were honoured. Some of the party landed at Margate, while others went on to Ramsgate. The return journey was completed in good time, and the Brethren, on dislanded at Margate, while others went on to Ramsgate. The return journey was completed in good time, and the Brethren, on dispersing, congratulated the W.M. on the success of the trip, and hoped to meet again under similar circumstances.

Lewisham Lodge, No. 2579.

THE regular meeting was held at Lewisham Parish Hall, Lady-

well, on Saturday, 13th ult.

The W.M. Bro. Harry Lewis performed the ceremony of initiation, this making the sixth initiate since he was installed, and brings his year of Office up to second only to that of Bro. Christopher Sims, the first Master. There was also work in the second degree. second degree.

Guardian Lodge, No. 2625.

The members of this Lodge had their annual outing last month, and spent a most enjoyable day.

The party assembled at Paddington, and travelled in saloon carriages to Henley-on-Thames, where luncheon was provided at the Red Lion Hotel. Afterwards the company proceeded by launch up the river to Windsor, where dinner was served at the White Hart

Hotel.

The Master proposed the toast of the King, and it was enthusiastically honoured. The toast of the Ladies was humorously given by Bro. Churchwarden Dennis, and ably acknowledged by Bro. Walter Chapman. The toast of the Worshipful Master was submitted in eulogistic terms by Bro. R. H. Barton, and the other toasts included the Immediate Past Master, the Treasurer, the toasts included the Amazon Secretary, and the Officers.

INSTRUCTION.

Confidence Lodge, No. 193.

Confidence Lodge, No. 193.

This old established Lodge of Instruction held its regular meeting on Wednesday, at the Hercules, Leadenhall Street, E.C. On this occasion there was not a quantity of members present, but having Bro. Metcalfe Baillie S.W. of the Mother Lodge in the chair there was quality of working. The initiation ceremony was rehearsed, including the ancient charge. We were pleased to notice that the W.M. did not unnecessarily hurry over the work, but rendered every word distinctly. The charge, in particular, was most impressively rendered. Credit is also due to Brother Russ who acted as J.W. and Bro. Booth as I.G., both of them being very young members of the Order, only thus far admitted to the degree of Fellow Craft.

The Lodge meets regularly during the summer; the room is

to the degree of Fellow Craft.

The Lodge meets regularly during the summer; the room is beautifully ventilated, and the genial host does everything in his power for the comfort of the Brethren.

Brother W. Chittock, a young but promising Brother, was unanimously elected W.M. for Wednesday, when no doubt we shall have the pleasure of attending and giving a favourable report of the preceedings. the proceedings.

New Cross Lodge, No. 1559.

ON Tuesday, at the Kemble's Head, Long Acre, Bros. T. Woods W.M. 87 W.M., G. Faaz Secretary S.W., R. Fitch J.W., J. D. Graham P.M. Preceptor, R. Knill acting Sec., C. Hancock J.D., J. Sutcliffe I.G., A. J. Swash P.M., W. B. Smith, J. Wynman. The usual formalities having been observed the Lodge was opened in the second degree. Bro. Sutcliffe having offered himself as candidate was examined and entrusted. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and the ceremony of raising was gone through. The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, when Bro. Smith answered the questions, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed.

answered the questions, was entrusted, and the coronary was rehearsed.

We congratulate Bro. Woods W.M. of the Vitruvian Lodge, No. 87, on his perfect working; there was not the slightest hitch or hesitation, and as a result the ceremonies were impressively rendered and highly appreciated by the Brethren.

Bro. Faaz was elected W.M. for next meeting, and his excellent working being well known we expect to see a very good attendance. The Lodge meets during the summer on Tuesdays, at 8 o'clock. Bro. J. D. Graham P.M. Preceptor will be pleased to render any assistance that is required, and visitors will receive a hearty welcome.

PROVINCIAL.

Royal Union Lodge, No. 382.

The usual bi-monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, 15th ult., at Uxbridge, when the following were present: Bros. J. T. Anderson W.M., A. J. Hanson I.P.M., Harvey P.M., Reed P.M., Wilson P.M., Foyer P.M., A. Newman S.W., J. R. Thonger J.W., W. Hardy S.D., G. Birch J.D., Whitaker I.G., H. W. Nicholson P.M. Sec., Blackwell, W. Reed, C. Franklin, Brownscombe, Twamley, and several others.

The Lodge was duly opened by the W.M., and Bros. Murray and Beville having answered the usual questions retired. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bros. Murray and Beville were passed.

Beville were passed.

Beville were passed.

The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, when a ballot was taken for Mr. R. Smith and Mr. G. N. Pratt, who were unanimously elected and were duly initiated into Freemasonry.

The W.M. informed the Brethren that he had hoped, from a communication which had been received from the Provincial Grand Secretary, that the Provincial Grand Lodge would have been held in Uxbridge this year, but he was sorry, as they all knew, that Uxbridge had not been favoured. He trusted that next year the meeting would be at Uxbridge.

On the proposition of Bro. A. Hanson I.P.M., seconded by Bro. Mercer P.M., that Bro. W. H. Reed P.M. should be nominated for the Provincial Treasurership for 1902, a Committee was formed to forward his candidature. Bro. W. H. Reed has taken a very great interest in Masonry, and is a Life Governor of the three Institutions.

Institutions.

The Lodge was regularly closed until 16th September next.

Everton Lodge, No. 823.

INSTALLATION OF BRO. WALTER E. FERMOR.

INSTALLATION OF BRO. WALTER E. FERMOR.

On the 17th ult., the members of this Lodge held their annual installation at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, close upon 150 Brethren assembling to take part in the ceremony.

At the opening of the Lodge Bro. George J. Bridgman occupied the chair, and afterwards officiated as Installing Master. The W.M.-elect was presented by Bro. J. J. Boyle P.M. P.P.G.S.B., who was assisted by Bro. R. W. Gow P.M. P.P.G.S. of W. The beautiful ritual was impressively performed, following which Bro. Fermor invested the Officers.

At the banquet which followed, the usual Masonic toasts were given, and during the evening the following Brethren contributed towards the musical proceedings: Bros. Ben Roberts, Arthur Weber, E. Meredith, Eaton Batty, and G. H. Readdy.

The returing W.M. Bro. G. H. Bridgman was presented with a beautiful Past Master's jewel and other tokens of regard, his term of Office having been specially successful.

Alexandra Lodge, No. 993.

THE Brethren of this Lodge, which holds its meetings at the Midway Hotel, Levenshulme, had their annual picnic last month. Accompanied by their wives and friends, the Brethren left London Road Station, Manchester, by the 9.25 a.m. train for Ashbourne, saloons being specially provided. The visitors made the Ashbourne Hall Hotel their headquarters for the day, luncheon at eleven o'clock and dinner at 5.30 being important features in the day's programme. The weather was fine, and the district of Ashbourne afforded much to interest and to enjoy.

Bowen Lodge, No. 2816.

INSTALLATION OF BRO. PERCY G. MALLORY.

THE installation of this very successful Lodge was held by dispensation of the Prov. Grand Master Lord Addington at the Town Hall, Chesham, on Saturday, 20th ult., the Hall having been very tastefully decorated for the occasion, and when set out as a Masonic

Hall, Chesham, on Saturday, 20th ult., the Hall having been very tastefully decorated for the occasion, and when set out as a Masonic Lodge was equal to any in the Province.

There were present Bros. F. S. Priest P.M. 1637 Prov. Grand Standard Bearer Bucks W.M., J. J. Simcox P.M. 1501 P.P.G.Treas. Prov. G.J.W. I.P.M., Wm. T. Reeve Knapp S.W., Percy G. Mallory J.W. W.M.-elect, Rev. C. E. Roberts W.M. 2492 P.P.G. Chap. Prov. Grand Sec. Bucks. Chaplain, J. L. Goldstein P.M. 2265 Treasurer, H. D. Woods Secretary, Thos. B. Fourmy S.D., T. Golby J.D., F. Cave I.G., Carl Ornstein D.C., Harry Dunaway Organist, H. A. Moore and Alex. McBain Stewards, and J. W. Smith P.M. Tyler; also the following members of the Lodge, Bros. Harold Coxon, F. Lewis, Andrew Cowley, Albin L. Hunt, W. J. Abbott, James Herbert, Harry Allen, Geo. F. Woods, W. J. Akers, George Ayers, George Dainty, Charles Hibberd, and W. D. Miller. The visitors were as follow: Bros. Frank Milman 855 P.M. P.P.G.W. Glos., H. Trask P.P.G.Supt. of Works Bucks., Thos. Tare P.M. P.P.G.Supt. of Works Oxon, W. J. Nash P.M. 321 P.P.G.W. Cheshire, W. J. Stratton P.M. 2743, W. F. Gallion P.M. 2319, Frank Crocker W.M. 2786 Prov.G.S.B. Herts., Stanley W. Ball P.M. 2361, Charles Pinkham J.W. 2361, J. R. Campbell P.M. Marquis of Ripon Lodge, B. Haylor S.W. 2361, F. Ward J.D. 1598, C. Cowley 2361, Robert Haylor 2361, G. Hipwell Green 2361, Max Lichtenberg 1637, C. E. Morris 2698, George Barnes 382.

The Lodge having been opened, the Secretary read the dispensation from the Prov.G.M. sanctioning the meeting and of an emergency meeting were read and confirmed.

George Dainty and Charles Hibberd, having been elected and being present were regularly initiated into Freemasonry by the W.M., thus making fourteen initiates during his year of

Office.

A presentation of a Past Master's jewel was made to Bro. J. J. Simcox for his services as acting I.I.M. during the first year of the Lodge's existence, which was suitably acknowledged.

Bro. Percy G. Mallory was duly and regularly installed as W.M. by the I.P.M. in a very able and impressive manner, he also giving the three addresses with much feeling.

The W.M. appointed and invested his Officers as follow: Bros. W. T. Reeve Knapp S.W., Thos. B. Fourmy J.W., C. E. Roberts Chaplain, J. L. Goldstein Treasurer, H. D. Woods Sec., T. Golby S.D., F. Cave J.D., Carl Ornstein I.G., H. A. Moore D.C., H. Dunaway Organist, McBain and Harold Coxon Stewards.

The I.P.M. Bro. Priest was presented with a very handsome Past Master's jewel, as a token of regard, and esteem for the able manner in which he had performed the duties of Master for the

manner in which he had performed the duties of Master for the year. This was suitably acknowledged.

Bro. Fourmy proposed, and Bro. Jas. Herbert seconded, Bro. George Barnes, of the Royal Union Lodge, No. 382, as a joining

After hearty good wishes to the new W.M. the Lodge was closed

in peace and harmony.

The Brethren then adjourned to the Victoria room of the Crown Hotel, where host Bro. W. D. Miller had provided an ample banquet,

Motel, where host Bro. W. D. Miller had provided an ample banquet, which was greatly appreciated.

After the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts, a very pleasant evening was spent, the following musical Brethren adding to the harmony: Bros. F. Golby, F. Lewis, T. B. Fourmy, F. Ward, A. Cowley, Harold Coxon, F. Cane, H. Dunaway, G. F. Woods, with C. Winterbon, R.A.M., accompanist.

During the evening Bro. Secretary Woods presented a very interesting report of the year's working, of which the following is a summary.

a summary.

As this was the first ordinary Installation meeting of the Bowen As this was the first ordinary installation meeting of the Bowen Lodge he thought it might be interesting to the members of the Lodge, and also to the visiting Brethren there assembled that evening, if he gave a short report of the progress the Lodge had made during the first year of its existence. For the information of the Brethren who might not be so informed, he would state that several Brethren who were in the habit of frequently meeting together thought it expedient to start and create a new Masonic Lodge at Chesham. Lodge at Chesham.

A form of Petition was applied for, and suitable rooms were obtained at the Crown Hotel, as a meeting place.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. Bowen was asked if he would consent to the Lodge bearing his name; this he willingly agreed to. A meeting was called by the W.M. designate,

at the request of several of the Founders, and all the preliminaries and necessary arrangements were made at that meeting. The Petition was unanimously recommended by the Wycombe Lodge, No. 1501, duly signed by the Prov. G. Master, and forwarded to Grand Lodge.

Grand Lodge.

The first meeting, being the Consecration and the Installation of the first W.M., was held by dispensation at the Town Hall, Chesham, on 7th July 1900. Bro. J. E. Bowen Dep. Prov. G. Master acted as Consecrating Officer, and was assisted by several very prominent Buckinghamshire Freemasons, the Prov. G. Master Lord Addington being present. The Lodge was formed with seventeen Founders, and Bro. Priest became its first Master.

The first year of the Bowen Lodge had been one of great prosperity, and the members could certainly congratulate themselves on the success obtained. During the year eight meetings has been held, being three emergency meetings besides the five regular ones.

regular ones.

The W.M. had had a most successful year, one far in excess of his and their expectations. He had had a considerable amount of work to do (having had fourteen initiates), which he had carried through in a most exemplary manner.

through in a most exemplary manner.

It was an acknowledged fact that for a Provincial Lodge to be successful it must have local support. In this respect they were certainly to be congratulated, as five of the Initiates were residents of Chesham or the near vicinity. They also were most fortunate in having as a joining member Bro. Lowdes, of Chesham, a Brother who would undoubtedly shed lustre on the Bowen Lodge.

The W.M., as representative of the Bowen Lodge, took up the handsome sum of £101 to the Girls Festival, the second highest list in the Province—not a bad start for a young Lodge. Another matter which he could not pass over without comment was that three of the Initiates went up as Stewards unattached during the

matter which he could not pass over without comment was that three of the Initiates went up as Stewards unattached during the first year of their Masonic career. He was also pleased to state that the Lodge had been highly distinguished by three of its members being awarded Provincial rank, the first W.M. Brother Priest having been invested as Prov. G. Standard Bearer, Brother Simcox as Prov.G.J.W., and the Chaplain as Prov. G. Secretary.

They had all seen the balance sheet, which he thought was satisfactory; everything the Lodge possessed was paid for, and they did not owe a penny; besides which they had a fairly good balance.

In conclusion he said his sincere and heartfelt wish was that the Bowen Lodge would continue to prosper, and become influential in diffusing the true spirit of Freemasonry in Buckinghamshire for many years.

A very successful meeting was brought to a close with the Tyler's toast.

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

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK. Monday.

Tuesday.

2738 Army and Navy, Anderton's

Monday.

119 Sun, Square & Compasses, Whitehaven 156 Harmony F.M.H., Plymouth 331 Phœnix of Honour & Prudence, Truro 431 St. George, F.M.H., North Shields 467 Tudor, F.M.H., Oldham 622 St. Cuthberga, F.M.H., Wimborne 850 St. Oswald, Town Hall, Ashborne 977 Fowey, F.M.H., Fowey 1045 Stamford, Town Hall, Altrincham 1071 Zetland, F.M.H., Saltash 1211 Goderich, F.M.H., Leeds 1230 Wentworth, F.M.H., Sheffield 1264 Neptune, F.M.H., Liverpool 1573 Caradoc, F.M.H., Swansea 1954 Molesworth, F.M.H., Wadebridge 2078 St. Lawrence, F.M.H., Wadebridge 2078 St. Lawrence, F.M.H., Scarborough

2738 Army and Navy, Anderton's

70 St. John, F.M.H., Plymouth
103 Beaufort, F.M.H., Bristol
124 Marquis of Granby, F.M.H., Durham
158 Adam, Britannia, Sheerness
252 Harmonic, F.M.T., Dudley
265 Royal Yorkshire, F.M.H., Keighley
364 Cambrian, F.M.H., Neath
378 Loyal Welsh, F.M.H., Pembroke Dock
386 Unity, Town Hall, Wareham
393 St. David, F.M.H., Berwick
421 Loyal Industry, F.M.H., Southmolton
448 St. James, F.M.H., Halifax
510 St. Martin, F.M.H., Liskeard
558 Temple, F.M.H., Folkestone
660 Camalodunum, F.M.H., New Malton
673 St. John, F.M.H., Liverpool
734 Londesborough, F.M.H., Bridlington
847 Fortescue, F.M.H., Honiton
660 Bute, F.M.H., Cardiff
967 Three G. Principles, F.M.H., Penryn
974 Pentalpha, F.M.H., Bradford
1002 Skiddaw, Masonic Rooms, Cockermouth
1244 Marwood, F.M.H., Redcar

1780 Albert Edward, F.M.H., Southampton 1785 St. Petroc, F.M.H., Padstow 2120 Dorothv Vernon, Town Hall, Bakewell 2689 King's Court, F.M.H., Gillingham 2815 Southport Temperance, Southport

Wednesday.

Grand Chapter, at 6.

2739 Verity, Cafe Monico

2739 Verity, Cafe Monico

74 Athol. F.M.H., Birmingham

94 Phænix, F.M.H., Sunderland

137 Amity, F.M.H., Poole

159 Brunswick, F.M.H., East Stonehouse

168 Mariners, Masonic Temple, Guernsey

282 Bedford, F.M.H., Tavistock

298 Harmony, Masonic Room, Rochdale

326 Moira of Honour, F.M.H., Bristol

417 Faith & Unanimity, F.M.H., Dorchester

429 Royal Navy, Royal, Ramsgate

681 Scarsdale, F.M.H., Chesterfield

750 Friendship, F.M.H., Cleckheaton

946 Strawberry Hill, Albany, Twickenham

970 St. Anne, F.M.H., East Looe

1003 Prince of Wales, Mas. Tem., Jersey

1063 Malling Abbey, F.M.H., W. Malling

1085 Hartington, F.M.H., Derby

1167 Alnwick, F.M.H., Alnwick

1354 Marquis of Lorne, F.M.H., Leigh

1431 St. Alphege, George, Solihull

1461 Clausentum, F.M.H., Woolston

1354 Marquis of Lorne, F.M.H., Leigh 1431 St. Alphege, George, Solihull 1461 Clausentum, F.M.H., Woolston 1549 Abercorn, Great Stanmore 1660 Arlecdon, F.M.H., Frizington 1736 St. John, F.M.H., Halifax 1862 Stranton, F.M.H., West Hartlepool 2259 St. Nicholas, Masonic Rooms, Tho 2450 Loxfield, Maiden's Head, Uckfield

Thursday.

2809 Capital and Counties, Hotel Cecil

130 Royal Gloucester, M.H., Southampton 333 Royal Preston, Castle, Preston 369 Limestone Rock, Swan, Clitheroe 381 Harmony & Industry, M.H., Darwen 437 Science, F.M.H., Wincanton 816 Royd, Falcon, Littleborough 973 Royal Somerset, F.M.H., Frome 991 Tyne, F.M.H., Wallsend

1099 Huyshe, F.M.H., Stoke
1145 Equality, Red Lion, Accrington
1182 Duke of Edinburgh, M.H., Liverpool
1387 Chorlton, M.H., Chorlton-cum-Hardy
1416 Falcon, F.M.H., Thirsk
1583 Corbet, Whitehall House, Towyn
1697 Hospitality, Royal, Waterfoot
1750 Coleridge, Public Hall, Clevedon
1992 Tennant, Masonic Temple, Cardiff
2234 Onslow, F.M.H., Guildford
2262 Dagmar, Anglers Rest, Wraysbury
2285 Eden, Masonic Rooms, Workington
2449 Duke of York, Albion, Manchester
2606 Fforest, Masonic Rooms, Treharris
2619 New Brighton, Victoria, New Brighton
2806 Three Pillars, Parish R., Cockington

Friday.

Friday.

36 Glamorgan, F.M.H., Cardiff

81 Doric, Private Room, Woodbridge

170 All Souls, F.M.H., Weymouth

458 Aire and Calder, F.M.H., Goole

516 Phænix, Fox, Stowmarket

526 Honour, Star & Garter, Wolverhampton

1001 Harrogate & Claro, F.M.H., Harrogate

1087 Beaudesert, Ass. Rs., Leighton Buzzard

1102 Mirfield, F.M.H., Mirfield

1121 Wear Valley, F.M.H., Bishop Auckland

1428 United Service, F.M.H., Landport

1605 De la Pole, F.M.H., Hull

1676 St. Nicholas, Cen. M.H., Newcastle-o-T.

1715 A. J. Brogden, M.H., Grange-o-Sanda

1083 Martyn, Town Hall, Southwold

2554 Manchester, F.M.H., Manchester

2558 Furnival, F.M.H., Sheffield

2608 Headingley, Parochial Institute, Leeds

2674 Ravensworth, F.M.H., Gateshead

2677 Calcaria, Masonic Rooms, Tadcaster

Saturday.

1685 Guelph, Town Hall, Leyton

869 Gresham, Great House, Cheshunt

1423 Era, Albany, Twickenham
1637 Unity, King's Head, Harrow-on-the-Hill
1755 Eldon, Royal, Portishead
2278 Kingswood, Crown, Broxbourne
2442 St. Clement, Bell, Leigh
2757 Charles Dickens, King's H., Chigwell

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS OF MASONRY.

AT the closing meeting (for the season) of the Regents Park Lodge of Instruction, on Monday, 22nd ult., a lecture was delivered by Bro. Dr. Mordaunt Sigismund on the above subject.

Bro. Sigismund said: Not the least of the virtues of our Craft is, or should be, truth. At some of the Masonic Lodges on the continent, an eye-illuminated adorns the chair of K.S., symbolical of the All-Seeing Architect of the Universe. In Synagogues, over the receptacle of the Scrolls of the Law, the words "know thyself" meet the eye of the worshipper. Fancy for the moment—my Brethren—that over the chair at which I momentarily preside you perceive those words of deep significance, KNOW THYSELF, encircled by a halo. Conjure up, furthermore, a mirror in my hand in which your features are reflected. Supposing that amongst you there is one with tolerably good features but instead of an aquiline nose a turned up one; another with the most symmetrical Grecian features, yet a scarcely perceptible squint in one eye. Would you—woman-like—be angry with the mirror for reflecting beside the regular handsome features, the turned-up nose or the squint? No. If therefore I say anything not exactly pleasing to your palate, blame the mirror and not me. Were I to dwell upon the grandeur of our Order, a whole night would barely suffice. The incalculable benefit it has conferred on society at large, you are all aware of. Its ranks are recruited among crowned heads, princes and rulers. Society's most influential members, men of eminence, savants, leaders in arts and science, in diplomacy, in politics, in the financial world, besides good, excellent men in the lower ranks of life—among the unprivileged classes: none the less worthy for that—who vie with each other in this legion of fervent worshippers of The Beneficent One, to emulate the examples of those who have gone before us, to shed light—where hitherto darkness alone has reigned supreme;

each other in this legion of fervent worshippers of The Beneficent One, to emulate the examples of those who have gone before us, to shed light—where hitherto darkness alone has reigned supreme; to assuage suffering, and instil into our work something of the true spirit of the Most High.

Unlike the divisions in other Orders—so numerously represented in this as in other countries; unlike the nobility—commencing with the simple Knight—up the ladder—to the Prince of the blood; our beloved Order is a true democracy. Masonry is a great leveller! If the precepts taught by us were only followed, we should no longer have to wait for the millenium. Do we practice what we preach? Ah, that "If" and "Do"! There is a concealed venom of the most deadly nature in those two little words of two letters. Yet our Order is no long-faced sanctimonious one, as the K. and F. degree and a certain portion of our ritual in which the chastity of our wives, sisters, and daughters alone are indicated will testify. Our Order is indeed a Creed; a cult it is called on the continent, where they can boast of but little religion. The Germans have practically no religion; Masonry there is the substitute; our German Brethren call every one outthere is the substitute; our German Brethren call every one outside the pale of Masonry profane. The French, Italians, and Belgians belong to the Roman Catholic religion, and from the moment they join our Craft the enlightened and liberal Church of Rome excommunicates them. With them therefore our Order

becomes their Creed.

becomes their Creed.

Let us now, my Brethren, have a glance how our Order compares with other orders. The oldest order extant is the Spanish Golden Fleece. Ask any inhabitant of the Antipodes what he knows of it, and ninety-nine out of a hundred will answer that they neither know, or care to know. The Golden Fleece of that country alone he is thoroughly acquainted with. The great orders of this realm;—cross but the Channel, and not one in ten thousand will know anything of even the most exalted order of this country. How different is it with our cherished Order; in the American swamps and the burning sands of Arabia, the Australian bush and the Indian jungle, the Mexican ranches and the icefields of Iceland and Labrador; in the joss-house of China, as well as in the civilised cathedrals and other fanes; in the as well as in the civilised cathedrals and other fanes; in the deserts of the Sahara—up to the very apex of the Pyramid of Cheop; is there a part of the globe where our Order is unknown or where it is not recognised? It is a jewel which dazzles the eyes of the profane!

eyes of the profane!

I recollect, whilst on the continent in 1888 I read the account of the proceedings at the Albert Hall in June of that year, when over £52,000 was collected for Masonic Charity, my hearers, German Brethren, could not credit their ears. Only recently, at the Installation of the Grand Master it was announced that during the Grand Mastership of the Prince of Wales no less than two million pounds was spent in Masonic Charities. Does that not speak with the voice of the trumpet and silence the traducers of our Order? We should consider our Order as a Messiah descended direct from Heaven in the form of a little square and compass.

compass.

Words are inadequate to depict its glory, its refulgent light, its splendour. The prayers and blessings of the widow and orphan shower upon our little emblem. With us it might with truth be said that the giver is as much blessed as the receiver. Such is the Order we belong to. The practical, visible proof of the beneficence of our Craft, is undoubtedly greatest among the English speaking Fraternity.

Let me now lift the veil of the obverse side of the medallion. Let me now lift the veil of the obverse side of the medalhon. Again, I reiterate, if it is in the slightest degree unpalatable, blame the mirror, not me. A bitter pill is often not less efficacious because it is not coated with sugar; the surgeon can only hope to heal a wound by inserting the probe deeply, regardless of the momentary pain he inflicts; pray, pray, my Brethren, do not let a single word of what I am about to utter offend, much less wound you; it is the love I hear our Order which imperatively demands you; it is the love I bear our Order which imperatively demands

that I should lay some of the sores on the Masonic body bare, so that in the end we might hope to cleanse and ultimately heal them.

A glimpse at our recruiting system will perhaps best explain imperfections in our ranks. In this country a candidate will A gimpse at our recruiting system will perhaps best explain the imperfections in our ranks. In this country a candidate will rarely—if ever—receive any opposition. Investigations, inquiries into the antecedents of the would be member, are practically nil. The Secretary of a Lodge, with or without the introduction of a member of the Lodge, is generally ready to be the proposer, and without the slightest difficulty he will induce some other Brother to "second." The chief, the sole question which may for a moment disturb the equilibrium of the Secretary—or some other "worker" for the good of the Lodge—will probably be whether the cheque will duly put in its appearance. Opposition the candidate need only fear if he has a personal enemy in the Lodge. Does interest play any part in the desire to join the Craft? I fear I may say without any hesitation, yes! A late distinguished Brother told me that he had been very much urged by Masonic friends, "and"—added he—"it has paid me well." That, my Brethren, is applicable in a considerable degree to Brethren in the higher spheres fully as much as to those of the more humble ranks—to the aristocrat as well as the plebian. That, my Brethren, is the primary cause of the numerous black sheep, of the pariahs in our midst.

ranks—to the aristocrat as well as the plebian. That, my Brethren, is the primary cause of the numerous black sheep, of the pariahs in our midst.

How different it is on the continent. You will all have recognised by my "Globe trotting" lecture that I am not passionately in love with the Germans either individually or collectively, I must, however, give them their due. In that country a candidate's whole past life is thoroughly investigated, a committee is generally appointed for the purpose, and it is rarely that less than three months are devoted for that purpose. Here, I was once present at a Lodge when the candidate in the E.A. degree, when asked whether he had anything to give, &c., brusquely, and with a certain degree of vehemency, replied, "I have given quite enough to-night for my entrance fee, and I refuse to give more." The W.M. gave a "sweet-sour" grin, and the Brethren a titter, and the ceremony continued as if nothing had happened. This excellent and promising Brother was a prestigateur or, vulgarly speaking, a conjurer. When I was on the point of joining the Craft the Secretary—a good old fossil—now retired to the G.L. above, in answer to my request that he would name some distinguished member of the Lodge, complied by giving Judah Benjamin, ex-minister of War and Vice President of the defunct confederate State of America. Subsequently I discovered that the distinguished member was only a namesake of the celebrated American lawyer and ex-vice President.

Unhappily the K. and F. degree plays a very considerable part in our Order; it is true that the stomach is very often the vestibule, which naturally leaves room only for an atrophised heart. How often do you find that Brethren arrive only just in time for closing of Lodge and the opening of the portals to the K. and F. degree. When work in Lodge is not followed by that degree, very, very many Brethren will be conspicuous by their absence.

There is—I grieve to say—an excess of publicity given by individual Masons to symbols. These are not always a

their absence.

There is—I grieve to say—an excess of publicity given by individual Masons to symbols. These are not always absent in commercial intercourse—over shops and in shops. Of the latter I had ocular proof only a few days ago, when in the Restaurant (superior class) of a Brother. Whilst you are discussing your viands, the benevolent features of the host—life size—look down upon you with that mystic gaze, which must of necessity exercise its magic influence on the gazer. Our Brother is not only invested with the Masonic apron, but proudly wears the sash of the R.A.—and now, let any one dare, within sight of the keen gaze of that Field Marshal depicted on the wall, grumble at the food, wine, or cigars. The private drawing room, or even the privacy of the or cigars. The private drawing room, or even the privacy of the bed chamber, would—in my opinion—be a far more proper place to exhibit his Masonic paraphernalia. Is this a solitary case? Alas!

The very foundation of our Order, Brotherly love and Charity, is often manifested within the Lodge; does it accompany many of the Brethren into the "profane" world?

Masonry undoubtedly engenders good-fellowship and sociability, if, however, it stops there with many Brethren they might have found those in the clubs of the upper classes, and in the convivial

friendly societies of the lower.

A certain amount of knowledge is required to enable a Brother to occupy the chair of K.S. Is that requisite knowledge always evinced? Between the ah-ah's of some and those who aspirate and occasionally do actual violence to the King's English I scarcely know which to choose

I scarcely know which to choose.

I once visited a very aristocratic Lodge, in fact, I was made a F.C. there; the W.M. opened and closed the Lodge with many ah-ah's and drawls—stumbled at almost every third word and had to be helped out by the P.M. who actually did the work of the degree. The P.M. was the Chaplain of the Lodge.

At the hangueting table, the occupant of k S is chair per-

degree. The P.M. was the Chaplain of the Lodge.

At the banqueting table, the occupant of K.S.'s chair performed his onerous duties with eclat. This, however, I am glad to admit; in the bourgois Lodges the Brother elected to the chair, as a rule, does his work without assistance.

At times the pronunciation may grate somewhat upon the hearer's ears, and I have occasionally asked myself whether I do not prefer after all the reading of the ritual—as it is on the continent. Remember, my Brethren, the W.M. will only read out of a huge MS. those parts which are published here for the guidance and instruction of Brethren; S., W. and T. are not written down. A clergyman will read his lesson from the pulpit, although thoroughly computent to dispense with the look. It is although thoroughly competent to dispense with the book. It is

in order that there should be no mistake in either word or syllable; surely it is far more impressive to hear the Pastor read the Lesson, in good English and faultlessly, than hear him recite, trusting to his memory, which often fails him! I hear you cry "Innovation"! No, my Brethren, I have no desire to introduce any innovation, I am merely pointing out the impression the educated and refined foreign Brother, visiting certain Lodges in this country, must receive.

this country, must receive.

In non-English speaking countries those and those only who are thorough Masters of their native language would aspire to the chair. Not only are those chosen able to speak their language fluently, but their social rank thoroughly qualifies them for their elevated functions. Is that always so in this country? Take

a quiet glimpse at the mirror!

I was once present at a Lodge when the W.M.-elect, a former member of the Cabinet, whom the Lodge honoured by giving the name of his baronial seat to their Temple, thanked the Brethren in the following words—I vouch for their accuracy:—"Since you force me to accept it, I suppose I must; I will do all I can to help you." At the banquet which followed, the blue-blooded

Brother was conspicuous by his absence!

Title-worship should not exist in our ranks; I have already Title-worship should not exist in our ranks; I have already said our Brotherhood is a true democracy, but I fear, nevertheless, that such is not dead amongst us. At the Mark Grand Lodge a Brother official in my hearing, in referring to the expected visit of the Earl of piously raised his hand, pointing to the ceiling, as if to invoke the blessing on such men for condescending to patronise them. Bah! Masons in the higher spheres are as a rule tepid; in the Lodge, many work badly, it is a fashion to join a Society which was presided over by H.R.H. They deem it a favour they confer upon the Craft by joining it, whereas in reality it is Masonry which casts a lustre on them!

Shall we wash a little family linen? What I am about to Shall we wash a little family linen? What I am about to relate to you is strictly true. Not only have I full faith in the Brother who has confided in me, but I have verified all the minutæ, and I vouch for the veracity of every word. I am not going to lay bare before you the hidden secrets and mysteries of Masonry, for with these I have no doubt you are amply acquainted, I desire but to lay before your eyes a human heart which has become transcendent by suffering. A Brother, well known to me, was overwhelmed by a catastrophe which for a time literally paralised his mental faculties. I am not at liberty to give you the nature of the abyss into which he was suddenly hurled, suffice it that he left his residence, and during a period of over a year, the nature of the abyss into which he was suddenly hurled, suffice it that he left his residence, and during a period of over a year, wandered about not unlike a wild animal wounded to the death. To lay violent hands upon himself he had religious scruples; without this cowardly act—said he—the end is sure to come soon. He did everything in his power to reach the goal. At times nature demanded its due; the stomach rebelled and demanded food. He screwed up sufficient courage to write to the Secretary of his Lodge. Ten guineas was sent him. Very soon that disappeared. He carefully avoided all friends and former acquaintances, and at last fell so low, from affluence to penury—nay, to absolute starvation. Without a shelter, hungry, and in a state of unspeakable abject misery, he happened to see in the "Morning Advertiser" a list of the various Lodges meeting from day to day. In his halcyon days he was an enthusiastic Mason, and charity was not unpractised by him; why not procure sufficient to keep body and soul together, at one of the Lodges? Hunger is an imperious Master! He selected a Lodge which met at the most unlikely place where he might be recognised. Not possessing a imperious Master! He selected a Lodge which met at the most unlikely place where he might be recognised. Not possessing a single penny, he walked up to the "Castle." Timidly he sought the Tyler and sent in his Certificate. After waiting below for one hour and a half, the Tyler brought him back his Certificate and two shillings. My poor Brother begged the Tyler to accept the florin. Somewhat astonished, the Tyler nevertheless accepted the douceur. Our Brother, not having broken his fast on that day, walked back to town and spent the night under the canopy of heaven. The following morning, he noted down a Lodge about to meet in the evening at Anderton's Hotel. Of course I abstain from mentioning names. The Secretary condescended to see him, and informed him that, to his great regret, the Lodge had no funds at its disposal. "Why do you not apply to Grand Lodge?" That had indeed been suggested to our Brother before, but he had so strong an abhorrence for that step, to have his name published, possibly even to meet some member on the Board of Benevolence to whom he had on some previous occasion administered a philipic, that he could not bring himself to make that Benevolence to whom he had on some previous occasion administered a philipic, that he could not bring himself to make that reasonable and proper application. The day following he went to a Lodge at the "Albion." In the ante-chamber he found the Tyler, not unlike Dickens's Bumble, but instead of the gold lace and brass buttons, he was decorated with the emblem of his Office, and was leisurely quaffing Sherry. Without moving from his chair, the oracle scrutinised the Certificate and delivered himself thus: "I cannot trouble the Secretary or the W.M. as Lodge is now working, and it is useless for you to wait, for I am certain that nothing will be done for you." At another Lodge, the following evening, held—if I remember rightly what my Brother told me, and I do not find it on the notes I have taken—at the London Tavern, our poor Brother remained for nigh on two hours on and I do not find it on the notes I have taken—at the London Tavern, our poor Brother remained for nigh on two hours on the stairs, in order that Brethren ascending might not see him, and was finally informed by—from what I understood my friend to say—the W.M., when the Brethren were descending to the banqueting room, "I regret we can do nothing for you; you should apply to Grand Lodge." The following day, barely able to crawl, literally dying from inanition, he met a Brother high in Masonry. "Don't you know me? I am so and so "—"Oh! I think I do."—"I am in a terrible plight, in the direct distress. I waster Masonry. "Don't you know me? I am so and so"—"Oh! I think I do."—"I am in a terrible plight, in the direst distress. I want

to go to , where I shall probably meet a friend. Lend me sufficient to take me there" (half-a-crown). "After all, I cannot bring your name to my recollection" came from the excellent Brother with his fine patriarchal beard. "Surely, sir, you remember me! I have frequently bought things at your depot, and it is not so very long since I sent you a contribution of one guinea for a Masonic purpose, an appeal for which was in your . . . "No! I do not remember; the best thing for you to do is to apply to Grand Lodge and I will endorse it." "But, supposing I felt inclined to do so, which I do not, it would take days or even weeks before anything could be done by Grand Lodge, and I so much wish to go to . . . "Ah, I am truly sorry, but I must be off."

That afternoon our Brother saw that a Lodge of Instruction would meet at 7, at an Inn in Moorgate Street, there he went. After an interval a Brother came down and handed him nine or ten shillings. It was the Joppa Lodge of Instruction.

That puts me in mind, my Brethren, that Anti-Semitism, which holds its Hydra head so high in Germany, has gain a a footing even here. I have, with intense pain, witnessed this in one or two Lodges; due, I have no doubt, to petty jealousies of certain Brethren; otherwise I can see no reason why four distinct Lodges should be pre-eminently Jewish. It is true, caste reigns supreme in our Order; there are Lodges of all shades and classes; the Bar, the Stage, Literature; the community of Uncles, those excellent philanthropists, down to the Dairymen; not to forget the "Barnatti" Lodge. I wonder is there no "Sam Lewis" Lodge? or was he no member of our Fraternity? That might not indeed be so very unappropriate, my Brethren, for I hear that not only was he charitable during his life-time, but very much more so after his death! A paradox. Is that not wrong? Caste in a democracy! Decidedly that state of things should not exist. On the continent, all over, it is absolutely unknown.

What do you think of the extract from the "Daily Telegraph"

reproduced last week by the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, recounting how a prisoner at one of the metropolitan police courts was severely reprimanded by the magistrate, for "making mysterious signs with his hands," when before him on a charge of travelling on the London and Brighton line without a ticket?

Might that not be one of the reasons why so many withdraw from our fold? I can hear you ask, "where is the remedy?" I will tell you. Masonry is a temple, every one of us an administering priest in that temple. We should not open the portals of that temple too wide! On the continent it is so very different; there, if any fault is to be found on that score, it is that the

portals do not open wide enough.

Let us endeavour to eliminate the parasites and teach others to emulate our example. Let us not permit the precious jewel we possess to be defiled, or even touched by unclean hands.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer at its conclusion

conclusion

Grand.—The management of this Islington theatre offer their patrons a special attraction next week, when will be presented the great Adelphi drama, "The Trumpet Call," with a strong company, and all the original effects. There will be a matinee on Bank Holiday. We notice some specially good companies have been booked for this house in the near future.

Collins's.—While in Islington the other evening we called in at the famous Music Hall on Islington Green, where we found a large audience greaty enjoying the good things provided. Some specially good turns have been booked for the holiday week by the genial manager Mr. Charles Hector.

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Note.—These inclusive fares are at the rate of about 105 6d per day, or less than the cost of simply staying at a fairly good hotel. For itineraries, route map, and all information apply to General Steam Navigation Co., 55 Great Tower Street, E.C.

Company's Illustrated Guide free on application; by post, 2d.

NOVEL ENTERTAINMENT.

IN introducing this week an innovation in Masonic entertainment we feel we are treading on somewhat dangerous ground-dangerous because we fear there are so few Brethren among us capable of supporting the innovation, while we dread to think of what might happen if the feature we refer to became popular, without ability on the part of its patrons to save us from what might prove to be terrible ordeals. Our Bro. Dr. Forshaw, of Bradford, is regarded as a born poet. But not only does he shine as a composer; he also has a wonderfully retentive memory, and boasts that he can quote a verse from some of the many works he had read to suit any subject or theme placed before him. He is accustomed to put this to the test when, finding himself at a Masonic social party volunteers are asked for to add to the entertainment. On a recent occasion his offer was accepted, with the result that he was asked by the company to deal with the following list of mixed subjects:—Babies, Faith, Hope, Charity, A pot, Christmas, Friendship, The Woods, Weather, Morning, Night, Women, Summer, Whisky, and Us. We think those who read the accompanying lines, with which Bro. Forshaw responded, will agree that he ably acquitted himself, but whether sufficient enthusiasm will thereby be evoked to bring to light a number of imitators we do not know-or whether they would be appreciated we hardly venture to think; the possibilities of such a result are perhaps out of place during the dog days. For the present we can only compliment Bro. Forshaw on his selections, which were as follow:

BABIES.

Crowing, laughing, screaming, wild, Little winsome, pattering child; Outstretched hands and eager face, All his actions full of grace. Such a darling chubby boy, Brave one moment, then so coy; He is worth his weight in gold, Fearless little two year old.

Faith and trust beget belief, Parents they to glad relief, Faith will lead, and trust will guide, Confidence will walk beside.

HOPE.

Hope, like a magnet stretches forth her hand And nestles to us when we most her need; She to the sorrowing proves a friend indeed-She is the harbour where 'tis safe to land.

CHARITY.

How beautiful and soft and clear,
Sounds the dear name of charity,
They shall in spotless robes appear
If they have this, and purity.

A POT.

Some say he's Arthur Orton, And some say that he's not, That his head is thick and empty, Like a forty shilling pot.

CHRISTMAS.

Thrice welcome, Father Christmas,
A pleasant guest art thou,
With thy mistletoe and holly, And brightly laurelled brow.

FRIENDSHIP.

True friends are like the wayside flowers We love to meet with on life's way, They cheer our dullest, darkest hours, And lighten all the dreary day.

WEATHER.

Sometimes it's wet weather, sometimes it's cold weather, sometimes it's hot weather, and some-times it's dry weather; but whether it's cold, or whether it's hot, we're obliged to weather it, whether or not.

MORNING.

Up and away like the dew of the morning, . Toiling aloft to its home in the sun, So let us steal away, gently and lovingly, Only remembered by what we have done.

THE WOODS.

In sylvan woods in blest July,
You'll see the merry youngsters hie;
A prattling group of children gay,
You'll find where'er you take your way;
Children who know not yet a sigh.
And blithe they shout if they should spy
The nest of some wild bird hard by,
And shrill they scream when glad they play,
In sylvan woods.

NIGHT.

Sun of my soul, Thou Saviour dear, It is not night if thou be near; Oh may no earthborn cloud arise, To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes.

WOMEN.

O woman, in our hours of ease, Uncertain, coy, and hard to please, And variable as the shade, By the light, quivering aspen made. When pain and anguish wring the brow, A ministering angel thou.

SUMMER.

When lovers choose a quiet nook, To watch the rippling of the brook; When children gaily romp and sing, And with their shouts the woodlands ring; When you can scent the new-mown hay, From pleasant meadows far away, Then you may know that Summer bright, Woos all her lovers with delight.

WHISKY.

My name is Pat. I'll tell ye that, I come from Dublin City O! With my Shillelagh under my arm, And a bottle of Irish Whisky, O!

US.

Be to every man just, and to woman Be constant, and tender, and true; For thine own do thy best, but for no man Do less, than a Brother should do.

****** NEW MASONIC BODIES.

WE are glad to see a growing disposition in the Masonic Grand Bodies in this country to discourage the formation of new bodies, except under the most urgent necessities. A few years ago, say forty or fifty, a "sufficient number" of Brethren had but to petition the Grand Master for a dispensation to form a new Lodge and the privilege was at once granted. In this way twenty, or thirty, or forty new bodies were brought into existence in a single year in this State. In many instances they were creatures of ambitious men, or of disgruntled members, and the spirit which actuated formation of the Lodge became a feature of its condition.

We would not say that the formation of the many Lodges in those years immediately following the union of the St. John's Grand Lodge and the Grand Lodge of New York, and those after the civil war, was not wise, for the circumstances surrounding Masonry at those times justified the creation of the means for disseminating Masonic light. The long years of stagnation and inactivity that existed during the prevalence of the schisms in the Grand Lodge, and the disturbance of all business and social conditions by the war, necessarily caused a loss of interest and a curtailment of usefulness in Masonry. As the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt by every man building over against his own house, so the walls of Masonry were rebuilt by those who established new Lodges in order to revive the work, and extend its benefits.

Most of the Lodges formed during these years were wisely governed and firmly established, and have continued a useful existence to the present time. Not all of them have had uninterrupted prosperity, and not all have grown to be strong, but each one has been in a measure useful. Under the conditions existing when they were formed, their organisation was proper and served a good purpose. They assisted isation was proper and served a good purpose. They assisted in building up the Fraternity, and were all, as it were, recruiting stations, and those forming them, being impelled by a commendable desire to build up their particular bodies, became factors in rehabilatating the Grand Lodge.

At the present time Masonry all over the country is in

a most prosperous condition, and its gains have been larger during the past few years than ever before in the history of the institution in this country. In New York the membership is over one hundred thousand, and its financial strength is very great. This is in the aggregate. There are a number of weak Lodges, whose organisation was a mistake, for they have maintained a struggling existence. We have recently have maintained a struggling existence. been struck with the refusal of some Grand Masters to grant dispensations for the formation of new Lodges, using the arguments in some cases that the territory in which the Lodges were proposed to be established was not sufficiently populous to justify the expectation that a Lodge could be properly supported; and in other cases, that the formation of new Lodges would weaken those whose territorial jurisdiction would be affected by them.

There are too many small, weak Lodges in the country, and it certainly is unwise to increase their number. In some jurisdictions, until very recently, there was a number of Lodges whose representatives to the Grand Lodge drew from the treasury of the Grand Body a larger sum for mileage and per diem than they paid into it. This has necessarily a weakening influence, and is an unfair taxation of the healthy to support or keep alive the unhealthy. This condition became so obnoxious as to call for legislation forbidding any Lodge to draw from the treasury of the Grand

Lodge a greater sum than it contributed.

There are two things to be considered in the formation of a new Lodge: First, does the locality promise a self-sustaining body? Second, will the organisation of a new Lodge be an injury to those already working in the neighbourhood? The mere convenience of a few Brethren should not enter into the matter at all; neither should the ambition of some to hold office, or to be considered as the "father" of a Lodge influence "the powers that be" to grant a There is no credit in establishing a weak dispensation. Lodge, any more than there is in planting a dwarfed, half dead, scrub oak.

We are glad to know that the greatest care is being exercised in all grand jurisdictions in investigating the country in which the petitioners for new Lodges reside, and the motives for desiring to form them.— New York Masonic Standard."

Quarterly Convocation of Grand Chapter of England will be held on Wednesday next, when the business as set out in the agenda we published last week will be dealt with.

Some interesting particulars and illustrations of the new Chapter Room for the Grand Chapter of Scotland are given in the "Building News" of the 27th ult. The double page illustration of the interior impresses one with the beauty and usefulness of the new building.

The sad sea waves are no longer sad! Our cheerful Bro. Charlie Collette, who is travelling round the south coast, has set them all a'smiling. His performances of "What Happened to Jones," his revivals of "My awful Dad," and his own world-renowned farce "Cryptoconchoidsyphonostomata" are drawing crowded houses everywhere. His coast tour extends from Great Yarmouth to Torquay. Next week he and the races will be the chief holiday attractions at Brighton.

********** BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Disciple. By Paul Bourget .-- T. Fisher Unwin. The Mystery of Mr. Bernard Brown. By E. Phillips Oppenheim. Illustrated (3s 6d).—Ward, Lock and Co., Ltd. The Seven Houses. By Hamilton Drummond. Illustrated by A. Forestier (6s).—Ward, Lock and Co., Limited.

LIVING in one of the most picturesque and interesting suburbs LIVING in one of the most picturesque and interesting suburbs of the great metropolis we take especial interest in any effort made to render it better known and more popular, and accordingly we are pleased to refer to the effort of Bro. Richard Anderson in this direction. He has had three pretty views taken of Hadley Church and Hadley Woods and these, together with photographs of the interior and exterior of the Hadley Hotel—of which he is the proprietor—he proposes to have on exhibition at the Great Northern terminus at Kings Cross, Broad Street and other stations from whence frequent trains run to New Barnet Station, which is within a mile of his establishment. The three views selected by Bro. Anderson should be enough to tempt the lover of nature to pay a visit to the famous Wood and the very interesting old Church at Hadley, with its beacon still standing, and likely to be again used, in connection with the state ceremonial of the coronation in June next, as it was on each of the Jubilee celebrations of the late Queen.

OWING to the popularity of their present arrangements the New Palace Steamers, Ltd., have decided not to make any material alteration in their Bank Holiday sailings. The Palace Steamers "Royal Sovereign" and "Koh-i-noor" will sail at their usual times from Old Swan Pier to Southend, Margate and Ramsgate, the latter vessel doing her popular Husbands' Boat trip to Margate to-day (Saturday). "La Marguerite" will sail her usual trips to Margate on Saturday and Sunday, 3rd and 4th inst., and to Boulogne and back on Bank Holiday Monday. On this date the summer fêtes at Boulogne commence; horse racing, and all kinds of continental gala amusements will be in full swing, making an extra attraction at this already most attractive watering place. A very pleasant stay can be made from the Monday to Wednesday. The trip to Calais and back on Thursdays is steadily increasing in popularity with the London, Southend and Margate trippers, they evidently appreciating a visit to this French port (which is of such historic interest to Englishmen) together with the popular times of sailing.

THOSE of our readers who make use of the excellent service of the Belle Steamers would do well to send for the Company's official guide, which will be sent post free. The guide contains much interesting and useful information of a descriptive character concerning the daily trips to the various ports where the famous Belle Steamers call; it is admirably illustrated throughout, and has also a capital map of the route. We would specially direct the attention of our readers to the development of Clacton, Walton, Felixstowe, and Southwold made by this Company. On Friday next 100 plots of valuable Freehold Building Land at Southwold will be offered at auction by their direction, and should find a ready sale. Further particulars may be had of the Coast Development Company, Limited, 33 Walbrook, E.C.

THE attention of our readers is directed to the special cheap excursions which the Midland Railway Company have arranged, leaving St. Pancras at 11.20 a.m. for five consecutive Saturdays commencing 10th August. Two classes of tickets will be issued, one available for eight days, and the other for sixteen days. Special facilities will be granted to the excursionists for combining a tour to the Trossachs, Loch Katrine, Loch Lomond, the Clyde and Crinan Canal, &c.

************ THE THEATRES, &c.

--:o:--AVENUE. 8.30, The Night of the Party. Matince, Wednesday, 2.30. COURT. 8, The Sorrows of Satan. Matince, Wednesday, 2. DALY'S. 8.15, San Toy. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30. GAIETY. 8, Toreador. Matinee, Wednesday, 2. GLOBE. 8, H.M.S. Irresponsible. Matinee, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30. GLOBE. 8, H.M.S. Irresponsible. Statistics, Saturday, 2.30.
Gr. QUEEN STREET. 8.15, A royal betrothal. 9, Charley's Aunt. Matinee, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.

LYRIC. 8, The Silver Slipper. Matinee, Wednesday, 2.30.
PRINCE OF WALES. 8, A Previous Engagement. 8.45, The Man from Blankley's. Matinee, Saturday, 3.

SAVOY. 8.15, The Emerald Isle. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
SHAFTESBURY. 8.30, Japanese Plays. Matinee, Wednesday, 2.30.
VAUDEVILLE. 8, You and I. 9, Sweet and Twenty. Matinée, Wednesday, 3. Wednesday, 3.
WYNDHAM'S. 8.30, My Bachelor Past.
GRAND. Next week, 7.45, The Trumpet Call.
SURREY. Next week, 7.45, Mysteries of London.
ALHAMBRA. 7.45, Variety Entertainment, The Gay City, Inspiration &c. AUARIUM. Varied performances, World's Great Show, &c. CANTERBURY. 8, Variety Entertainment. EMPIRE. 8, Variety Entertainment. Les Papillons, &c. LONDON PAVILION. 7.45, Variety Entertainment. Saturday,

LONDON PAVILION. 7.45, Variety Entertainment. 2.30 also.

METROPOLITAN. 8, Variety Entertainment. OXFORD. 8, Variety Entertainment. Saturday 2.15 also.

PALACE. 7.45, Variety Entertainment. American Biograph, &c. ROYAL. 7.45, Variety Company. Saturday, 2.30 also.

TIVOLI. 7.30, Variety Entertainment. Saturday, 2.15 also.

CRYSTAL PALACE. Varied attractions daily. Grand Naval and Military Exhibition. Fireworks every Thursday and Saturday.

EARL'S COURT. Military Exhibition.

EGYPTIAN HALL. 3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.

LONDON HIPPODROME. 2 and 8, Varied attractions.

MADAME TUSSAUD'S (Baker Street Station). Open daily.

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