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THE PHILOSOPHY OF FREE-  
MASONRY.

## CHAPTER FOURTH.

## THE LODGE.

The lodge is a type of the world. Above hangs the sky, our feet tread the earth; beside us, in the pillars, rise the trees. We hear the warbling of birds; the sighing of the winds; the rustling of leaves; the chirm of water-courses. We see before us the glories of creation; the many coloured flowers; the honey-laden bees; the wonders of the sky. The lodge is a peaceful world, where the sound of war is unheard; the bray of the trumpet and the roar of the cannon is unknown; and even the mallet stroke falls upon the ashlar unpercussioned. The Masonic world is one of love. There all are knit by the mystic chain of fraternity. The world without may hustle in wild fury; kingdoms fall; but the silent brotherhood in peace and tranquility pursue their studies, asking but leave to live, to perform acts of charity, and to improve their understandings so as to comprehend the Great Light. Anywhere can a lodge be held; on the lofty mountain's top; in the lowly valley; upon the sea-swept shore; or out where the billows roll in majestic sullen grandeur; anywhere, where the Omniscient Eye can look down and view men of different creeds and nations, of different ranks and talents, joining together in harmony to celebrate those mysteries, which raise mankind from out the mortal slough, and teach them in spirit and in truth by the bond of brotherhood, to acknowledge God as our Father.

And herein lies the true theology of a Mason. Rising above the petty, because earthly barriers, of the flesh and of the world, mind rules supreme, and he acknowledges all mankind as so many rays shot from the sun, the I Am; proceeding from the I Am, to beautify and adorn the checkered scheme of the creation, and when that purpose is served to return to its source of existence. Not alone were lodges held on the tops of eminences and in valleys, to keep off the prying worldling's eye; but that the brethren might see around and above them the infallible proof of the existence of a Divine Creator, that they might ever hold Him before their thoughts; knowing that to Him they were bound sooner or later to give an account of their life upon earth; and that in the harmony of creation, they might learn to live in harmony with their brethren, and with the world. Man's study is to understand his Creator; and this is the chief end of the studies of a Freemason. There is not a symbol in the lodge, but which points this out. From the Tyler's Sword to the

Blazing Star, all point direct to God, the first cause, and as we view in the delicate whirl of the shell; the magnificent tinting of a leaf; or in the ravishing music of a bird; the power, the might and the majesty of the Creator; so in benevolent actions, noble sentiments and truthful lives, we mark afar off, the attributes of One, who put us here, for the purpose of enlarging our sympathies, and educating our minds, so as to approach in some degree to His own perfection. The lodge is not only a world, but a church, the church of the One, true and perfect.

The two pillars between which we pass are types of life and death, the two certain things in our existence, and forces us to remember the pregnant saying of the French philosopher, that the moment we are born, is a step towards the grave. The space between the pillars emblemizes the world's dearth, beyond which we can only arrive at fruition, by taking the book of the Law as our Guide, and keeping our eyes fixed upon the light. And as that light casts its rays upon every object in the lodge, revealing each brother as he stands in his proper place, to the view of all, so we should ever remember that what would cause us to blush with shame, if done before the eyes of the lodge, should cause us to entertain a deeper sense of fear to do it in the presence of that Sleepless Eye.

"My murder'd corpse from man, beneath this sod  
You hide, and yet you hide it not from God."

So sings Callimachus, yet how little do we in our every-day actions remember that our hid-away vices from the sight of man, our breaches of Masonic principle are still distinct to the view of the Searcher of Hearts; that our secret springs of action are all known to Him, and however much, and however successfully we may glaze over our failings to man, these cannot be glazed over, nor hid from the sight of God. If we believe at all in our Masonic obligations, we must believe this, and however much we may indulge in speculation as to the rise of the Order, we cannot doubt that the purpose of its foundation, was to draw together into one body, men of diversent creeds for the glory and honour of God.

Light must exist in the lodge. Total darkness is impossible. True that light may become obscure, the fitting type of the doubts and difficulties which beset the mind of man at nearly every stage. Yet the light is still shining. 'Post tenebras spero lucern.' 'I hope for light after darkness,' is the cry of every candidate, for "Lux umbra Dei," light is the shadow of God. As the Israelites were led at day by the cloud, and at night by the pillar of fire, so the Mason is led by the lights of Freemasonry, out of the land of Egyptian or ignorant bondage, across the Red Sea of doubt, to the Promised Land of a knowledge of God. But the Mason must know how to understand and use that light, otherwise its radiance will become a conflagration, burning up and obliterating the very primary knowledge of a god. It is possible to find the light too powerful, for as the material light will blind the eyes of man, so will the spiritual, unless approached under the safeguard of Faith, destroy the mental eyes, producing darkness, which to the victim will seem light, and thus intensifying the original disaster; for, to be ignorant of one's errors, and to suppose falsehood to be truth, presents a phase of disease, almost hopelessly incurable. Too many noble minds have been perverted by an injudicious use of the light, and like the power of the Rosicrucian

sage, while for a time the servant and slave of the rash neophyte, when he imagined himself perfect in the love of the master, then the spirit turned and tore him into pieces. A power unjustly acquired, or improperly understood, is a fire in flax, which will end in destruction.

The lodge is a world in itself, a church, and it is also a home, a home composed of many sons, and one Father. In Masonry having but one object, the honour and praise of God, it necessary follows that as Freemasons we must respect and love each other as brethren. The meetings of the Craft are well guarded against discord, although the fallibility of our nature, oftentimes overlooks these barriers. A brother should be listened to with respect, however much we may differ from his opinions. Rancour should never enter our lips, and even rebuke should be tempered with brotherly love: No word should pass a Freemason's lips, but what should bear the impress of this virtue, and he errs in every respect, either as a Freemason or a man, who allows bitterness to wring the withers of a brother. Peace, the calm peace of home, with all the domestic virtues brought into operation, should characterize our meetings; otherwise our lodges cease to be what they profess, and are an insult to the fraternity, and also to God.

ERROL.

## ENTERTAINMENTS AT CHESTER.

The eighth of the series of these popular entertainments was held in the Music Hall on Saturday evening last, when the Hall was crowded. The Chairman (Alderman W. Johnson, J.P.), in introducing the Brothers Wardropers, said it was feared at one time that they should not have that evening's entertainment, in consequence of the serious illness of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, but he was sure they would all rejoice with him to learn that the Prince was favourably progressing in health. (Loud and prolonged applause.) The entertainment was divided into two parts; and in the interval, Alderman W. M. Williams, J.P., came on the platform and read the latest bulletin from Sandringham, announcing that His Royal Highness was progressing satisfactorily. He then intimated that Mr. J. Owen (Owain Alaw) had volunteered to sing "God bless the Prince of Wales," to words specially written for that occasion by Mr. E. Cletwr Jones, who was connected with the Irish mail service, and was very well known in Welsh circles.

An original song, or rather prayer, was then sung by Mr. Owen with great feeling and pathos, and the vast audience joined most heartily in the chorus. The effect was most striking, as each one seemed to enter into the sentiments of the chorus and sing with heart and voice.

WHISKEY.—Of all spirits consumed in England none have increased in consumption to the same extent as whiskey, and this is in a measure accounted for by the great improvements that have taken place in distillation, and the large amount of capital invested in its production, both in Scotland and Ireland. But, after all, the distillation of the article is not the only important point; for, as is also the case with brandy, the value of whiskey depends to a great extent on its age. We know of one London firm—W. and A. Gilbey—who have about 3000 puncheons (300,000 gallons) always maturing in bond, and for this purpose they have lately adapted a building well known to most travellers by the London and North Western Railway as the "Round House" at Camden—a building originally erected by the railway company at considerable expense as an engine house. Here are stored large stocks of all the most famous whiskeys of Ireland and Scotland. Were the system pursued by this firm more generally followed, it is not difficult to imagine a time when whiskey would be a strong competitor with brandy, more especially should the French government be induced to charge an export duty on Cognac brandy.—*Standard*, 20th December.

## NOTICE.

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All communications for THE FREEMASON should be written legibly on one side of the paper only, and, if intended for insertion in the current number, must be received not later than 10 o'clock a.m. on Thursdays, unless in very special cases. The name and address of every writer must be sent to us in confidence.

## The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1871.

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The Editor will pay careful attention to all MSS. entrusted to him but cannot undertake to return them unless accompanied by postage stamps.

1871.

THE close of a year marks a point in human existence, as well as in the annals of time. It is an epoch when reflections on the past, and resolves for the future, are rife within the breasts of men; and if such self-review be not seldom profitable to individuals, the rule will doubtless hold equally good when we extend its application to large societies, and even to nationalities. Let us pause, therefore, beside the couch of the dying year, and recount what it has done for us as members of the Masonic Fraternity; let us commune with ourselves upon the results which have been achieved by the Order—rejoicing in its triumphs, and lamenting its failures, if, unhappily, failures there have been. Taking England as our first example, beyond question the Craft has greatly flourished in our midst during the past year. Our Charities have not been neglected; in fact, the stream of benevolence seems to flow faster every year. At the Festival of the Institution for Girls, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presided, and eloquently pleaded the cause of the School, which, as every one knows, is most admirably conducted, an advantage which indeed is enjoyed by all our Institutions. The illness and recent danger of the Heir Apparent have brought home to our hearts many pleasing features in his character as a Mason, and we all unite in the hope that His Royal Highness may long be spared to grace our assemblies

with his presence, and to stimulate others to the faithful performance of those Masonic duties which are incumbent on every brother, be he prince or peasant. It may, however, be doubted whether the extraordinary progressive increase in numbers of the English Craft, which commenced some few years ago, and which still continues, is to be accepted, without reserve, as a real benefit to the Order. Of course, every one likes to see his own lodge flourishing, and by the introduction of new members pecuniary prosperity is assured. But it must not be forgotten that numbers do not always indicate strength, and that substantial influence may be sacrificed at the shrine of Pluto. Even if a large proportion of the augmented incomes of our lodges found its way into the coffers of our benevolent institutions, we should still be disposed to recommend greater stringency in the selection of candidates. How much more so, however, when we have reason to fear that the larger the income the greater the luxury which prevails. Expensive habits become the handmaids of a plethoric purse, and a splendid surplus is too frequently swallowed up in copious libations of the rarest wines. We know that efforts have been made to stem the tide of extravagance, but hitherto without visible effect, and, mainly, because those efforts, although well-meaning, are misdirected, aiming at the total abolition of pleasures which, when moderately enjoyed, are both natural and innocent. Hence, lodges which are founded on the principles of entire abstinence from meat and drink, after a painfully ascetic career of brief duration, usually end by hungering after the fleshpots of Egypt, and, like most converts, astonish the "moderates" by their new-born zeal in the matter of viands and vintages. Nothing can be gained by the adoption of an extreme policy; but it is certainly the duty of every right-minded Mason to discourage the excessive appropriation of lodge funds for merely convivial purposes. It is for these reasons that we would earnestly urge the necessity of caution in the admission of candidates. We do not want men who are allured into the Order by the prospect of a good dinner, and who, after their initiation, take more interest in a bill of fare than in the advancement of Freemasonry. Rational enjoyment of the good things of this life, proportionate refreshment after labour, none but a fanatic would withhold; but the festive meetings of Freemasons ought to be sanctified by the reflection that we have not left higher claims unsatisfied, or paramount duties unfulfilled. Turning to Scotland, we are glad to note that the dry bones are shaking with no uncertain sound, and that our Caledonian brethren will soon possess a fund of benevolence worthy of themselves and of the ancient renown of the Scottish Craft. The progress of the Order in Ireland is, on the whole satisfactory, although, if we may believe whispers, grievances are not quite unknown amongst the brethren. Let us hope, however, that by the infusion of

a more liberal spirit into the administration of Irish Masonic affairs, discontent may be nipped in the bud, and all rivalries cease, save a generous emulation in the work of doing good. We regret very much to find that the true principles of Freemasonry are so little understood in France, and that our French brethren should allow themselves to become the dupes of political theorists. The sentiments openly expressed by French lodges towards German Masons, the attitude of the Grand Orient on the subject of Masonic jurisdiction in America, and the recent removal of several important Masonic landmarks, make us greatly fear for the future of French Freemasonry. In other parts of Europe the Fraternity is spreading apace—a Grand Lodge has been formed in Spain, and its members may now be counted by thousands. Crossing the Atlantic, we are delighted to record the well-being of the Order in the United States. There the Craft is firmly established, and increases in popularity every day; but, like ourselves, let us hope that our American brethren are not adding too rapidly to their numbers. By the mission of the Marquis of Ripon to Washington, and the Masonic demonstration of friendship with which he was received, much has been accomplished towards consolidating the good feeling and harmony which ought ever to prevail in the relations between two kindred nations. Our fellow-subjects, the Canadians, are vying with the Canadians in their support of the Craft—the Grand Lodge of Canada boasting nearly eleven thousand members, and the new Grand Lodge of Quebec about fifteen hundred. It will thus be seen that, although our Masonic review of 1871 is not all *couleur de rose*, our cause for joyfulness far exceeds our reason for regret. In a vast organization like that of Freemasonry, we cannot expect that none will be stragglers from the ranks; but let us win them back by patience, let us strengthen them with words of wisdom, and encourage them to march shoulder to shoulder with us again in the army of progress. We will now conclude by expressing our personal thanks to the brethren of every country or clime who have so nobly supported THE FREEMASON during the year 1871; and, without putting forward any plausible plea, we again solicit a continuance of their goodwill. It shall be our aim to maintain this journal in its acknowledged position as the true organ of the Craft, and by strict impartiality in judgment, and fidelity to the principles of Freemasonry, we hope to merit the esteem with which our labours have hitherto been honoured. May each and all of us enjoy a

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

BREAKFAST.—EPSS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills.—*Civil Service Gazette*. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"JAMES EPSS & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." Also, makers of Epps's Milky Cocoa (Cocoa and Condensed Milk).

### Multum in Parvo, or Masonic Notes and Queries.

#### PROV. GRAND LODGES IN SCOTLAND.

Bro. Chalmers I. Paton should inform himself better before taking it upon him to declare the law in reference to the constitution of Provincial Grand Lodges in Scotland. It is nearly ten years since the Grand Lodge of Scotland found, "That, on a sound interpretation of the Laws of Grand Lodge, a Provincial Grand Master has power to appoint, by Commission, from time to time, a Provincial Grand Depute and a Substitute Master, two Wardens, a Secretary and Chaplain, all of whom must be Master Masons, having a residence in the province, but NOT necessarily Masters or Wardens of lodges within the province." During nine of the ten years in which I have held a Wardenship in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, I have not been a Master or Warden, *de facto*, of any lodge—no such qualification being necessary.

D. MURRAY LYON.

I do wish that Bro. Chalmers I. Paton would be more careful, and not make so many mistakes. He is telling us that the officers of a Prov. G.L. in Scotland must be all of them, "*de facto*, a Master or Warden of some lodge in the province." Now, that is wrong, for at present in Glasgow, *e.g.*, several of the Prov. G.L. office-bearers are neither the Master nor the Warden of any lodge. Further, in Grand Lodge Laws, the rule is simply: "All of them (the office-bearers) must be Master Masons on the roll of the Grand Lodge, members of lodges within the province, and resident in the district for the greater part of the year."

I lately saw it stated also in an American paper that the age when candidates were first admitted in Scotland was twenty-one; but that, also, is a mistake, as the rule says: "Every candidate shall be at least *eighteen* years of age before being entered an Apprentice." Then, further on, we are told that, two weeks after, he may be made a Fellow-Craft, and in other two weeks a Master Mason.

GLASGUENSIS.

Bro. Chalmers Izett Paton, the new Lyncurgus of Freemasonry, at page 789, tells us that the Provincial Grand Officers in Scotland "must be a *Master or Warden, de facto*, of some lodge in the district, none other are qualified to hold the offices." Cap. xiii., Provincial Grand Lodges, sec. iii. of the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, enacts that these officers "must be *Master Masons* on the roll of the Grand Lodge, members of lodges within the province, and resident in the district for the greater part of the year." Bro. Paton advertises a work upon "Freemasonry and its Jurisprudence," price 10s. 6d.; had he not better become a student of its jurisprudence, and cease to play the roll of a teacher?

MAX.

#### PROV. GRAND SUPERINTENDENT FOR GLASGOW.

At length, we are to have somebody to look after us in Glasgow; but the nominee of the Grand Chapter will not suit. We require a companion of marked ability—one who understands our laws, and who has displayed tact and talent in presiding over our deliberations. We want a working Mason, not an ornamental; and it is to be hoped that the Grand Chapter will permit the province a say in the election of its future chief.

R.A.M. (Glasgow).

#### "SCOTCH MARK MASTERS."

Under the above heading, and at page 789, I find "An English Mark Master" stating that the Royal Arch is "inferior in antiquity, as well as in merit," to the Mark Degree. Now, that, according to all the real evidence yet produced, is simply a mistake, as we can admit the existence of the Royal Arch in the fourth decade of the last century, whereas we have no evidence of the existence of any Mark Degree until some time *after* that.

W. P. BUCHAN.

#### "QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION."

I would, with "Errol" and Leo," see our Craft progress with the age. As for the so-called "Ancient Landmarks," nobody knows what they were, much less what they are. All thinking men must admit that the time now devoted to committing the ritual to memory would be better devoted to the preparation of lectures, &c., on social, moral, and philosophic topics, and that intellectual improvement should be our aim. Lodges of Freemasons in this country are of three kinds. Firstly, we have the select London lodge (an agreeable one to belong to), which is little more than an exclusive dinner club, to be a member of which it is necessary to be a Mason. Then, we have the rich provincial lodge, which is nothing more than a benefit society with a Masonic apron on. The great mass of our lodges are mere manufactories of Masons, where men are initiated, passed, and raised, and the best of them disappointed, or even disgusted.

With all due deference to P.M. Bro. Howard, I do not consider that our obligation forbids the plan I advocate.

In taking up this question, I have but one object—to make our venerable Order something better than it is. We have lost the spirit, and cling obstinately to the empty form.

LL. W. LONGSTAFF,  
P.G.W. N. and E. Yorkshire.

Bro. Longstaff remains untouched in his fortress. "A Masonic Student," and the other opponents, have not advanced a single argument against his propositions, nor does Bro. Howard, by referring to the OB., improve their position. I have the following questions to put, which will bring the subject to a bearing: 1. Who is custodian of the ritual, by whom its purity is guarded, and additions or subtractions prevented? 2. What are the secrets we are sworn to preserve inviolate? If we are to keep secret the ritual, then, I am much afraid, every Grand Lodge, and every brother who has written upon Freemasonry, have broken the OB. Every student knows what value to put upon oral narration, and I have little faith in the ability and faithfulness of many of our self-constituted Masonic instructors. I stand upon this ground furthermore. The heads of the Order in New York have published the rituals. If they have not broken their OB., and are still recognised as brethren, why should the British brethren be under the penalties?

RANDOLF HAY.

#### ANTIQUITY OF THE ORDER.

The following is a letter from a Right Worshipful Master of a Scottish lodge to a Senior Warden of an English lodge:—

"During the summer of this year I resided at Melrose, and from time to time visited the Abbey, a superstructure of great beauty, and most interesting to every one, more especially to Freemasons who are instructed in the symbolical teachings of

our speculative science. They render a most beautiful system of religious thought. I made a special point to inquire if any documents could be shown whereby our Order could be traced further back than 1717, whereby the modern idea, or 1717 theory, could be upset; and I find that a lodge of Freemasons is still in existence, carrying on the same system that they did nearly 200 years ago. I called on the Secretary, and was shown a minute book of date 1678, and also informed that the Freemasons have had since 1683 the privilege of sittings in the Abbey; but about sixty years ago they were transferred to the new church, and which they still continue to hold as a right for services rendered in past times. The reason I say the same system that they did nearly 200 years ago is this: I entered into conversation with an old Mason, whose father belonged to the lodge, and he told me that his father told him his grandfather was a member of the Melrose Lodge, and that their style of working was the same as at present. I made a calculation from this, and it took me back nearly 200 years. Another most important fact is, that they still have the original letter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, inviting them to join under it at its formation; but to this they have never agreed, and they still remain an independent and self-supporting lodge, declaring they are the descendants of those Freemasons who built the Abbey in 1136, being thus four years older than the Mother Kilwinning Lodge, which has always been talked of as the oldest lodge; but, certainly, not so old as the Melrose Lodge, which I visited during my stay to witness their working, which, in every essential point, is similar to our own.

"Excuse brevity.

"I remain, yours fraternally,  
"RIGHT WORSHIPFUL MASTER (S.C.)"

#### THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The following bulletin was issued on the 28th instant:—

"Sandringham, Thursday (Noon).

"His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has passed a good night. Strength is slowly returning.

(Signed) "W. JENNER, M.D.

"W. GULL, M.D."

#### IMPORTANT WORK ON MASONIC MS. CONSTITUTIONS.

Bro. Hughan, of Truro, Cornwall, is now preparing for the press a work, to be entitled "The Old Charges of British Freemasons." The celebrated MS. belonging to the Lodge of Antiquity has been carefully transcribed for its pages, of the year 1686, and a *fac simile* page will be introduced as a frontispiece. About a dozen other Masonic MSS. will be printed in the volume, and a careful sketch will be given of all the existing MS. Constitutions of the Freemasons. The aim of the work will be to place in the hands of all students the whole of the valuable MSS. on Masonry in one volume, for convenience of reference, and for the information of the Craft universal. The cost of the work is not to exceed *five shillings* per copy, and Bro. Hughan will be glad to receive the names of subscribers *as soon as possible*, as the more brethren that subscribe the less will be the charge per copy. Lodges ordering a dozen copies will receive *thirteen*, and so on in proportion. We shall also be pleased to receive the names of intending subscribers at our office.

## Original Correspondence.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents.

## "A BODY WITHOUT A HEAD."

(To the Editor of *The Freemason*.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your quotation from the *Keystone*, Philadelphia, U.S., respecting the action of the "Grand Orient de France" in relation to a Grand Master, is certainly an evidence that other editors speak as warmly (or even more warmly) than you on the subject. The *Keystone* is a most respectable and well-conducted Masonic paper, and its articles are always carefully written; and I feel sure that its verdict will be the general opinion of American Freemasons. For myself, I do not believe in the abolition of the office of Grand Master, which the Grand Orient has done; but, at the same time, I cannot see that such conduct warrants us in withdrawing entirely from that Body. If a Grand Lodge errs, cannot we practise leniency and forgiveness? As Masons, we should "Bear and forbear." I would rather accept the remarks of "Errol," page 705, on the "Philosophy of Freemasonry," than the severe strictures of the *Keystone*, in this case.

Yours fraternally,

W. J. HUGHAN.

## PRINTED RITUALS.

(To the Editor of *The Freemason*.)

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—At page 710, "Randolf Hay" states that "the American brethren have published authorised rituals of all Masonic degrees." I would be pleased to have Bro. Randolf Hay—if that is your correspondent's real name—state in *THE FREEMASON* what proof he has of this assertion. There have been numerous "*Exposés*," as they are termed, published by irresponsible, anonymous, and perjured men in this country, principally in the city of New York, from the republication in that city of Pritchard's "*Jachin and Boaz*," first published in England about the middle of the past century, to the present time—all purporting to be the true ritual of Freemasonry as practised in the lodges in America; but, certainly, I have no knowledge—and I think I am quite conversant with all printed books concerning Masonry in America, having been for twenty years more or less engaged in Masonic literature—I say I have no knowledge of ever having seen, or heard of, an authorised version of the esoteric work of Freemasonry.

The peculiarity of what is known in this country, generally, as the York Rite, or English Freemasonry, is, that, under the E.A. obligation of that Rite, *no such version can be made*; and as it is this Rite that is alone recognised and worked by ninety-nine-hundredths of the lodges in North America, of course such a thing as an "authorised ritual" for the lodge degrees cannot be made without infraction of obligation by that body of Masons, great or small, which "authorised" its publication; while, to have such version authoritative, it should be the authorised work of the representatives from forty-seven Grand Lodges, representing more than 8,000 lodges, and 500,000 Masons, in general convention assembled.

In 1843, a convention of delegates from about a dozen of our Grand Lodges then extant assembled at Baltimore, Maryland, by which some changes were made in the ritual to overcome the facility with which impostors gained access to lodges, from their study of the *exposés* published during the anti-Masonic excitement which prevailed in the eastern and middle States, chiefly, between 1826 and 1836; but there was no ritual, authorised or otherwise, published by that convention, as the result of its labours. The changes made, having reference and use mainly in the examination of visitors, were orally communicated by the delegates to

their respective Grand Lodges, in connection with their official reports, and thence, and in like manner, disseminated among the lodges represented in those Grand Lodges.

"Uniformity of the unwritten work" is a matter that has been treated with considerable attention at various times in this country, and its importance magnified with some success by those brethren known as Masonic lecturers; but as such uniformity, to be complete and perfect, is impossible without the agency above indicated, and the consequential agency of an authorised printed and uniform ritual, carefully, generally, and authoritatively disseminated, and its constant use enforced, in every lodge in North America—numbering, as I have stated, more than 8,000 at the present time—such uniformity in the letter of the ritual has never been attained; and from the fact that the assembly of such a convention for such a purpose—judging by past experience—may be regarded as an impossible event, it is not probable such uniformity ever will obtain. Were there for all North America but one Grand Lodge, instead of forty-seven co-equal, independent bodies, and the subject of ritualistic literal uniformity considered by that single Grand Lodge of paramount importance, it is probable that, by the assembled wisdom of such a body, it would be deemed expedient to surmount the objection which denies to the adherents of the York or English Rite the printing of the secrets of Freemasonry; but, as it is, there is no reason not to believe that adherence to the *spirit* will continue to be regarded as sufficient, and satisfactory, and preferable to the infraction of their E.A. obligation by those who would do so by a determined persistence in the attainment of what many look upon as unimportant, and that is, complete uniformity in the letter of the ritual everywhere to obtain.

I remain, fraternally yours,

AN AMERICAN FREEMASON.

Cincinnati, O., Dec., 1871.

## STAFFORDSHIRE MASONIC CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION.

The members of this association held their second half-yearly meeting at Burton-on-Trent on Wednesday, the 13th inst. The brethren, on their arrival at Burton-on-Trent at 1 p.m., were met by Bro. Starey, W.M., and other brethren of the Abbey Lodge, under whose guidance they visited the breweries of Messrs. Allsopp and Sons, and then proceeded to those of Bass and Co., where they were met by Bro. Robinson, P.M. The lodge-room of the Abbey Lodge was reached by four o'clock. In the absence of the President, R.W. Bro. Tudor, D.P.G.M., who was prevented attending by the state of his health, Bro. Starey was voted to the chair. Letters were read from the R.W.P.G.M. the Earl of Shrewsbury, from the D.P.G.M., and other members, who were unable to attend.

The Secretary (Bro. J. Bodenham, P.M., 726) reported that the brethren who were successful at the last meeting had each selected the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys as the charity in which they wish to become life subscribers.

The Treasurer (Bro. J. Pilling, W.M., 726) reported that the number of members was increased to forty-one, and the sum available for ballot at that meeting was thirty guineas.

A ballot was accordingly taken for six life subscriptions, which were drawn by the following brethren: John Upton, P.M. 624, Burton-on-Trent; J. C. Marson, J.D. 726, Stafford; Earl of Shrewsbury, Prov. G.M. Staffordshire; T. Salt, P.M. 726, Staffordshire; G. S. Tudor, D.P.G.M. Wolverhampton; J. H. Slaney, P.M. 601, Wellington.

On the proposition of the Secretary, seconded by Bro. Robinson, it was unanimously resolved that the R.W.P.G.M. the Earl of Shrewsbury be, with his consent, nominated patron of the Association.

Bro. Robinson, P.M. 624, and Bro. Marsh, P.M. 460, were appointed auditors.

It was decided that the next meeting should be held at Trentham on Wednesday, the 5th June next. Votes of thanks to the Burton brethren for the use of the lodge-room, and the general courtesy they had shown in securing to the strangers present an agreeable and interesting visit to the town, and to the Chairman, closed the proceedings.

After an excellent dinner at the Saracen's Head, the non-resident members left Burton at seven o'clock. The meeting was most successful, and augurs well for the prospects and stability of the Association.—*Staffordshire Advertiser*, December 16, 1871.

## MASONIC FUNERAL AT PLYMOUTH.

Mr. William Ball died on Thursday se'night at his residence in Gloucester-street, Morice Town, aged 85 years, Mr. Ball was formerly an employé in the Devonport dockyard, but he had for several years retired from the active labours of life. He was one of the oldest Freemasons in the province of Devon, both in Masonic as well as natural age, having been initiated into the mysteries of the Craft as early as 1814 through Lodge Friendship, No. 202. This lodge is now the oldest in Devonport, and the largest in the province. Bro. Ball passed through its W.M.'s chair half a century since, and has subsequently given much service to the lodge. The brethren believe that the lodge's resuscitation from a very low ebb at one time was in a great measure due to Mr. Ball's exertions, and under those circumstances the W. Brother has been held in high respect by the brethren of the lodge, and in accordance with his request he was buried by them with full Masonic honours. The usual requisite permission was obtained from the Grand Officers, and invitations were extended by Lodge Friendship to the brethren of the neighbouring private lodges to join in the ceremonial. In the breakfast-room at Moorshead's Royal Hotel, Devonport, which was tastefully fitted up as a lodge-room for the occasion, over 300 brethren assembled after noon. Lodge Friendship was opened in due form by W. Bro. J. Purse, the W.M., supported by his officers, Bros. E. D. Parnel, S.W.; G. W. Phillips, J.W.; W. Kelk, Treas.; H. Minell, Sec.; J. Amor, S.D.; W. T. Pengelly, J.D.; W. Carne, I.G.; and P.M.'s W. Bros. E. Murch, J. B. Price, H. Welch, S. Keys, J. Fox. Capt. Shadwell Clerke, P.M. 349, and 1205, S.P.G.W. of Devon, and Capt. Shanks, I.P.M. 189, J.P.G.W. of Devon, were also present. The opening service of the Order for the burial of the dead, in which W. Bro. E. Murch, P.P.G.O., was the leading officiate, was solemnized in the customary form. The lodge was then adjourned, and the brethren, having provided themselves with sprigs of cassia and herbs emblematic of the Order, left the hotel in procession for the residence of the deceased brother. The following lodges were represented in the procession: Nos. 1255, 1247, 1212, 1205, 1136, 1099, 1091, 954, 230, 223, 189, 159, 156, 105, 70. The junior lodges led the way, each lodge walking in the following order:—

The Tyler, with his sword;  
The Stewards, with white rods;  
The brethren, out of office, two and two;  
The Secretary, with a roll;  
The Treasurer, with his badge of office;  
The Senior and Junior Wardens, hand in hand;  
The Past Masters;  
The Master.

The lodge to which the deceased brother belonged walked in the following order, all the members having flowers or herbs in their hands:—

The Tyler;  
The Stewards;  
Martial Music [Drums muffled, and Trumpets covered];

The members of the lodge;  
The Secretary and Treasurer;  
The Senior and Junior Wardens;  
The Past Masters;

The Holy Writings, on a cushion, covered with black cloth, carried by the oldest member of the lodge present, Bro. Langmead;

The Master;  
Choristers, singing an anthem.

The Devonport Rifle Volunteers' band attended. From the deceased's residence to the place of interment, the Plymouth cemetery, the Masonic procession preceded the hearse and mourning coaches, the band playing appropriate music and the choristers occasionally singing. Bros. J. Fox, W. Carne, T. Pengelly, W. Moore, W. Amor, Worth, H. Rockett, and J. Ash, officiated as bearers. In the cemetery the brethren formed round the grave, where, after the usual service in the Cemetery chapel, and the lowering of the coffin into the grave, R.W. Bro. L. P. Metham, the D.P.G.M. of the province, delivered over the remains of the deceased

brother the very forcible and impressive burial charge of the Order. To this the R.W. Brother added a few remarks appropriate to the occasion. The ceremony of taking an earthly farewell to the brother was then gone through by the brethren present. The sprigs of cassia and herbs, and a broken Steward's rod, were cast into the grave, and the procession was re-formed and returned to the hotel, where the lodge was closed. The following officers were among the brethren present in addition to those named: W. Bros. R. R. Rodd, P.P.G.W.; V. Bird, P.M. 954; H. F. Smith, P.M. 954; J. Ellis, W.M. 1212; J. F. Hifley, P.M. 223; J. G. Richards, P.P.G.J.D.; J. W. N. Hawton, P.P.G.D.C.; W. Foxwell, P.M. 1071; M. Paul, W.M. 954; E. Aitken Davies, P.M. 1099; J. B. Witheridge, P.M. 223; J. May, P.M. 223; J. Montgomery, P.M. 223; J. N. Blake, P.M. 230; J. B. Ryder, P.M. 1136; E. Poor, P.M. 1136; grandson of the deceased. — *Western Morning News*.

#### MASONIC FESTIVAL AT HANLEY.

On Tuesday last the celebration of the festival of St. John was held by the brethren of the Menturia Lodge, No. 418, Hanley. The lodge was opened at three o'clock in the lodge-room at the Mechanics' Institution, and the ceremony of installing Bro. E. E. Scrivener as W.M. for the ensuing year was at once proceeded with, the immediate Past Master, Bro. Thomas Taylor, efficiently discharging the duty of Installing Master, assisted by Bros. W. H. Hales, P.M., P.P.G.A.D.C., J. S. Crapper, P.M., P.P.G.A.D.C., and J. B. Piercy, P.M., P.P.G. Superintendent of Works. The W.M., Bro. Scrivener, having been duly installed, appointed the following brethren as his officers: Bros. Thomas Bickley, S.W.; Dr. J. Craig, J.W.; the Rev. J. Westbury, P.G., Chap. and also S.D.; J. S. Crapper, Treas.; J. Montford, Sec.; J. B. Piercy, M.C.; H. Bailey, J.D.; G. Pitchford, I.G.; J. Wain, Org.; and T. Palmer, Tyler. Before the lodge was closed, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Dunedin, P.M., P.P.G.C., expressed his gratification at once more being able to attend his mother lodge, and meet the brethren of No. 418; at the same time, he was afraid that it would probably be the last opportunity he should have of doing so for a considerable period, in consequence of his recent appointment removing him so far away. His lordship gave a very interesting account of the prosperity of Freemasonry in the Australian colonies, and stated that on his recent visit there he had been very heartily received by the brethren, who had displayed to him the greatest kindness and hospitality, and he was well assured that Freemasonry in reality existed throughout the civilised world.

The brethren then adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Halsey, at the Saracen's Head Hotel, and which was attended by about forty brethren. The W.M. presided, and was supported by the following past and present officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge: Bros. G. Sargeant, P.M., P.P.G.J.W.; Thomas Twyford, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; J. C. Daniel, P.M., P.P.G.P.; George Hulme, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; H. Parker, P.M., P.P.G.J.W.; J. Warner, P.M., P.P.G.P.; G. Outrim, P.M., P.P.G., Sup. of Works; C. Turner, P.M., P.P.G.S.D.; also C. Marsh, W.M. 460; F. Ryles, W.M. 98; J. W. Thomas, P.M. 637; A. E. Wedgwood, 451; A. G. Prince, S.W. 546; E. Ball, 287; &c. The usual loyal toasts were duly proposed by the W.M., who in very feeling terms alluded to the recent illness of her Majesty the Queen, and also to the very dangerous illness of the Prince of Wales, "Past Grand Master of England," from which he sincerely hoped he was recovering, and which had called forth in such a spontaneous manner the loyalty and sympathy of all classes of society. The usual Masonic toasts were then proposed, and duly responded to by various brethren. The meeting was much enlivened by the musical efforts of Bros. Thomas, J. R. White (375), R. I. Baker, Wedgwood, Crapper, Montford, &c., and a very pleasant evening was passed by the brethren assembled.

#### BANQUET OF THE DEVONSHIRE LODGE No. 625.

On Wednesday, 29th ult., a grand banquet took place at the Norfolk Arms, Glossop, Derbyshire, when several distinguished local gentlemen were present: amongst whom we noticed Bros. Vertegans, P.M., P.P.G.A.D.C.; Grundy, P.M., P.G.J.D.; Hall P.M., P.G.S.B.; Bramhall, W.M.; Dr. Rhodes, P.M.; Calder, S.W.; Dawson, J.W.; Cox, S.D.; Hardman, J.D.; Ford, I.G.; Irlam, S.; and Stafford (Mayor of Glossop); Sir Knight J. W. Mason, (30°); and Curtis; Davis, Senr.; Paterson, Hodgson, Collier, Garlick, Ardern, Nield, Higginbottom, Mather, Darnelly, Barlow, Whittaker, Fielding and several others.

After dinner in the large hall, the company adjourned to the lodge room, where the W.M. (Bramhall) proposed the following toasts:—"The Queen," "The Prince of Wales, Past Grand Master of England," "The Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," "The Right Honourable the Marquis of Ripon, Most Worshipful Grand Master of England," "The Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon, Most Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of England." After which he remarked that he felt proud of the position they had thought proper to place him in, and there was one thing he wished to express, that he should support the Masonic Charities to a greater extent than had been done in that lodge previously. The past year had proved one of the most satisfactory they had ever seen, and he trusted that the officers and members would assist him to sustain the high position that the Devonshire Lodge now held.

Bro. Calder proposed "The Most Honorable the Marquis of Hartington, Provincial Grand Master of Derby, H. C. Okeover, Esq., Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Derby," after which a song was sung by Bro. Ford, in excellent style.

Bro. Vertegans proposed the "Worshipful Master," after which another song was rendered by Bro. Dawson.

Bro. Hall proposed "The Immediate Past Master," and in a short but pointed manner supported the opinions expressed by the W.M.

Bro. Cox proposed "The Past Masters of the Lodge," after which a song was excellently rendered by Bro. Higginbottom.

Bro. Grundy proposed "The Visiting Brethren," and said it was exceedingly pleasant for him to have seen the progress of the lodge for the past two years, and he hoped that the officers and members would assist the W.M. for the ensuing year. He wished to say that the Devonshire Lodge could afford £10 10s. towards the Boys' Orphan School, which would entitle them to two votes.

Bro. Vertegans remarked that he supported what Bro. Grundy had said, and he felt certain that the proposed grand object would be carried, and though he could go into statistics, time would not permit, yet he ventured to say that he had no doubt but that the brethren would support the pure philanthropic motive.

The Mayor of Glossop (Bro. Stafford) endorsed the opinions of Bros. Vertegans and Grundy; and proposed "The Masonic Charities." He rejoiced to hear the noble opinion brought to bear upon the Boys' Orphan School. In his time he had seen great changes take place in the position in families—some, through the sudden bereavement of a brother, had been brought low, and the children left almost destitute; and as men, even elevated in social position, they are, nevertheless, equal as men, which is the glorious object of our institution.

**HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.**—Much watchfulness must be exercised as winter advances, and the earliest evidences of ill-health must be immediately met and removed, or a slight illness may result in a serious malady. Relaxed and sore throat, diphtheria, quinsy, throat cough, chronic cough, bronchitis, and most other pulmonary affections, will be relieved by rubbing this cooling Ointment into the skin as near as practicable to the seat of mischief. This treatment, both simple and effective, is admirably adapted for the removal of these diseases during infancy and youth. In checking the chronic catarrh and cough of old age, Holloway's remedies will be found especially serviceable, as they prevent congestion in the delicate lining of the throat and chest. —[Advt.]

#### Reports of Masonic Meetings.

[With a view to increase the circulation, and consequently the usefulness, of THE FREEMASON, it is suggested that Lodges, &c., desiring reports to appear in the paper, should take a certain number of copies in proportion to the space required for the report.]

#### THE CRAFT.

##### PROVINCIAL.

**PLYMOUTH.**—*Lodge Fortitude, No. 105.*—On Friday evening, the 22nd inst., was witnessed one of the most interesting assemblages of Masons for the purpose of the installation of the Worshipful Master that has occurred in the province for some time past. The large hall of the Huyshe Masonic Temple was literally crowded; among a large number we counted fifteen Past Masters, and a most respectable sprinkling of past and present Prov. Grand Officers. The chair was taken by the W.M. Bro. Bignell, who opened the lodge in the first degree, and, having passed it to the second degree, Bro. R. Rodda, P.M., P.P.G.R., took the chair, and most efficiently installed, as one of King Solomon's successors, Bro. Martin Williams, a most industrious Mason, and one who has most worthily won his position by his great attention to the duties of all the minor offices through which he has most creditably passed from the Inner Guard to the chair. It is fully anticipated that Bro. Williams will acquit himself honourably in the arduous duties attached to the important position for which he has so assiduously laboured, and to which he has been unanimously elected. The W.M. then appointed as his officers: Bros. Bignell, I.P.M.; W. H. Anthony, S.W.; T. Carey, J.W.; S. Jew, P.M., P.P.G.T., Treas.; J. Rowe, P.M., P.P.G.T., Sec.; R. Twose, S.D.; Rogers, J.D.; Bunce, I.G.; Jamer S. The musical arrangements of the evening were under the direction of Bro. Cox, P.M. The brethren were highly pleased with the ceremony, and more especially with the Installing Master's unique charge to the Wardens, which was most novel, and given in Bro. Rodda's best style. The annual banquet is to take place at the Globe Hotel in the last week in January next, and of which the brethren will be duly advised by circular.

**LEICESTER.**—*John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 523.*—This lodge held its regular meeting at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on the 21st inst., under the presidency of Bro. W. Sculthorpe, W.M., nearly all the officers being present. A goodly number of the brethren assembled, and amongst the visitors were: Bros. Clement Stretton, W.M., E. J. Crow, W.M.-elect, and several brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 279; D. Davis, Faith Lodge, No. 141; James Dawson, 84; R. Chamberlain, 755; J. B. Hall, 1031; and T. White, 1034. After the confirmation of the minutes, Bro. Tibbetts was raised to the third degree, and Mr. George Staynes, who had been elected at a previous meeting, was initiated into the mysteries of the Order. A candidate for initiation having been proposed, and the other business disposed of, the lodge was closed in harmony, and the brethren retired for refreshment.

**HARTLEPOOL.**—*St. Helen's Lodge, No. 531.*—The brethren of the above lodge held their annual meeting at the Masonic Hall, Regent-square, on Thursday, the 21st inst. The installation of W.M. for the ensuing year was performed by Bro. Ald. George Moore, M.D., P.M., and P.P.G.J.W., in a most impressive manner, the W.M.-elect being Bro. John Hunter, jun., S.W. The officers were appointed as follows: Bros. R. Ropner, I.P.M.; J. H. Attley, S.W.; S. M. Glendinning, J.W.; T. M. Procter, Treas.; W. Pearson, Sec.; T. Turnbull, S.D.; T. J. Johnson, J.D.; W. Fleetham, I.G.; J. J. Armstrong, P.M., D.C.; W. Shaw, D. Collins, and B. Wolstenholme, Stewards; and J. Mowbray, Tyler. After the installation ceremony, Bro. J. J. Armstrong, P.M., on behalf of the members of the lodge, presented Bro. R. Ropner with a beautiful jewel, and, after the presentation had been acknowledged, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Cleveland Hotel (Bro. C. Humble's), where a sumptuous banquet awaited them, the W.M. presiding.

**OAKHAM, RUTLAND.**—*Vale of Catmose Lodge, No. 1265.*—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Agricultural Hall, on Wednesday, the 20th instant. Present: Bros. J. C. Duncombe, P.G.A.D.C. for Norths, and Hunts., P.G.J.G.D. Leicester and Rutland, W.M. (presiding); T. G. Bennett, S.W.; T. Markham, P.M., as J.W.; H. Newcome, J.D.; J. Bailey, I.G.; J. Read and William Crowson, Stewards; and other brethren. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, when the ballot was taken for Mr. William Keep, Chief Constable for Rutland, which proved unanimous in his favour, and he

being in attendance, was most ably and impressively initiated by the W.M. Bro. Joseph Bennett was then invested as the Secretary by the W.M., after which the lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren proceeded to refreshment.

**WALTHAM NEWTOWN, HERTS.**—*King Harold Lodge, No. 1327.*—This lodge met at the Britannic, on the 19th inst. The lodge was opened in due form, presided over by Bro. W. C. Barnes, the W.M., and supported by Bros. Parker, S.W.; Young, J.W.; and West and Lacy, P.M.'s. There were also present: Bros. F. Hodges, S.D. *pro tem.*; W. Mooney, J.D. *pro tem.*; J. Noyce, I.G. *pro tem.*; Barwick, Treas.; Rielly, Sec.; Cox, Tydeman, Barnett, Purkis, Creed, Sheldon, and others. Visitors: Bros. Gaskell and Henderson, P.M.'s 1076. Bro. Creed was raised, and Bros. Barnett and Purkis were passed, the whole of the Ceremonies being ably performed by Bro. Barnes, the W.M. The lodge was then closed down, and the brethren retired for refreshment. During the evening the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. In proposing "The Healths of the Past G.M.'s of England," Bro. Barnes alluded in pleasing terms to the gratifying intelligence of the great improvement in the condition of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, P.G.M. The toast was most heartily responded to. The brethren separated at an early hour.

### ROYAL ARCH.

#### PROVINCIAL.

**LANCASTER.**—*Rowley Chapter, No. 1051.*—An emergency meeting of this chapter was held on Friday, the 22nd instant, at the Masonic Rooms, Athenæum. The chairs of the Principals were occupied as follows: Comps. Moore, P.Z., as M.E.Z.; Hall, H.; and Bagnall, P.Z., as J. There were also present: Comps. Whimpray, E.; Sly, as N.; W. Barker, Treas.; E. Simpson, P.S.; E. Airey and W. Heald, as Asssts. S.; Watson, Janitor; and a goodly number of companions. The ballot was taken for Bro. William F. Robinson, of the Union Lodge, No. 129, Kendal, and was declared to be unanimous in his favour. He being in attendance, was duly exalted to the degree of Royal Arch by Comp. Dr. Moore, the Acting M.E.Z., who afterwards delivered the mystical lecture of the degree, the symbolical and historical lectures being given by Comp. Hall, H., and the important duties of P.S. being undertaken by Comp. Simpson.

### MARK MASONRY.

**BOLTON.**—*St. John's Lodge, No. 2 (S.C.)*—The regular meeting of the above lodge was held on Wednesday, the 6th inst., when there were present: Bros. Thomas Entwistle, R.W. Prov. Grand Mark Master of Lancashire; G. P. Brockbank, P.S.G.W.; Robert Harwood, P.J.G.D.; Thomas Morris, John Brandwood, and Robert Whittaker, P.M.'s; also Bros. William Hamer, James Newton, Makin, Luthy, Alcock, Rutter, Horrocks, John Harwood, Grime, Brown, Young, W. H. J. Jones, Richardson, Greenhalgh, and others. The lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the last regular meeting read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Bro. Swarbrick, of Lodge 178, Wigan, who was unanimously elected. The Master-elect, Bro. Robert Harwood, Prov. J.G. Deacon of Lancashire, was then duly installed into the chair by the R.W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Entwistle, after which Bro. Wm. Hamer, the S.W.-elect, and Bro. James Newton, the J.W.-elect, were inducted into their respective offices, and the remainder of the office-bearers were appointed and invested—viz., Bros. George Makin, M.O.; Robert Luthy, S.O.; John Alcock, J.O.; J. W. Taylor, Reg.; W. H. J. Jones, Sec.; G. P. Brockbank, Treas.; Jas. Horrocks, Conductor; J. M. Rutter, S.D.; John Harwood, J.D.; James Brown, Timekeeper; Robert Grime and James Richardson, Stewards. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren proceeded to refreshment.

### ORDERS OF CHIVALRY.

#### RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE.

**LEICESTER.**—*Byzantine Conclave, No. 44.*—The members of this conclave met at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on the 13th instant, the chair of C. being filled by E. Sir Kt. G. Toller, jun., Hon. P.S., in the unavoidable absence of the M.P.S. E. Sir Kt. the Rev. Dr. Haycroft, K.G.C., Hon. P.S., and H.P., assisted as Viceroy. The conclave having been opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, Bro. John E. Hodges, of John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 523, who had been elected at a previous conclave, was installed as a knight of the Order. The ceremony of installation was conducted by Sir Kt. Toller with the ability which always marks his work in other Masonic degrees. The charge of the Order, composed by

the H.P., was delivered by that Sir Knight in a most solemn and impressive manner. A letter from the M.P.S., the Ill. Sir Kt. W. Kelly, Int.-Gen. Leicestershire and Rutland, expressing his regret at being prevented by illness from attending the conclave, was read. The conclave was subsequently closed in peace and harmony.

#### KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

**PRESCOT.**—*The William de la More Encampment.*—The first annual meeting of this encampment (since its removal from Manchester) was held on Friday afternoon, the 8th instant, at the New Court Room, Prescott, for the purpose of installing in succession to Sir Knt. James Turner Hall, Sir Kt. James W. J. Fowler, P.G. Supt. of Works, Eminent Commander for the ensuing year. The imposing ceremony of installation was performed in a most feeling and impressive manner by Sir Kt. W. H. Wright, the Eminent Deputy Provincial Grand Commander, assisted by Sir Kt. Crankshaw, P.E.C., and others. After the installation, the Eminent Commander appointed and invested his officers as follows: Sir Kts. Reginald Young, Prelate; Samuel Morris, 1st Captain; George Turner, 2nd Captain; Philip Whittaker, Registrar; James T. Hall, P.E.C., Treasurer; Joseph K. Smith, Almoner; Daniel W. Winstanley, 1st Standard-bearer; Thomas Clarke, 2nd Standard-bearer; William Doyle, Expert; John E. Jackson, Captain of Lines; Henry Scott, 1st Herald; John Lloyd, 2nd Herald; Thomas Sephton, Equerry. At the conclusion of the business, the encampment was closed in due form, after which the Sir Knights, to the number of about twenty, adjourned to the Royal Hotel, Prescott, and dined together, the E.C. presiding. At the banquet table the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and great sympathy was expressed at the allusion, by the E.C., to the serious indisposition of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

### METROPOLITAN MASONIC MEETINGS

For the Week ending Friday, January 5, 1872.

The Editor will be glad to have notice from Secretaries of lodges and chapters of any change in place or time of meeting.

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 30.

Star Lodge of Instruction (1275), Marquis of Granby, New Cross-road, at 7; Bro. C. S. Dille, Preceptor.  
Mount Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, at 8; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.  
South-Eastern Masonic Charitable Association, New Cross Branch.

#### MONDAY, JAN. 1.

Lodge 12, Fortitude and Old Cumberland, Ship & Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street.  
" 25, Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall.  
" 72, Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.  
" 83, United Lodge of Prudence, Albion Hotel, Aldersgate-street.  
" 144, St. Luke's, Masons' Hall, Basinghall-street.  
" 171, Amity, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.  
" 188, Joppa, Albion Tav., Aldersgate-street.  
" 1319, Asaph, Freemasons' Hall.  
Chap. 28, Old King's Arms, Freemasons' Hall.  
Strong Man Lodge of Instruction (45), Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, at 8; Bro. James Terry, Preceptor.  
Sincerity Lodge of Instruction (174), Railway Tavern, Fenchurch-street Station, at 7.  
Camden Lodge of Instruction (704), Adelaide Tavern, Haverstock-hill, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.  
Eastern Star Lodge of Instruction (95), Royal Hotel, Mile-end-road, at 7.30; Bro. E. Gottheil, Preceptor.  
British Oak Lodge of Instruction, Bank of Friendship Tavern, Mile End, at 7 for 8.  
St. James' Union Lodge of Instruction (180), Horse and Groom Tavern, Winsley-street (opposite Pantheon), Oxford-street, at 8; Bro. J. R. Stacey, Preceptor.  
Wellington Lodge of Instruction, White Swan Tavern, Deptford, at 8; Bro. C. G. Willey, P.M. 1155, Preceptor.  
St. John of Wapping Lodge of Instruction (1306), Gun Tavern, High-street, Wapping, at 7; Bro. T. Mortlock, Preceptor.

#### TUESDAY, JAN. 2.

Colonial Board, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.  
Lodge 7, Royal York, Freemasons' Hall.  
" 9, Albion, Freemasons' Hall.  
" 172, Old Concord, Freemasons' Hall.  
" 765, St. James's, Market Tavern, New Weston-street, Bermondsey.  
" 1257, Grosvenor, Caledonian Hotel, Apelpth.  
" 1259, Duke of Edinburgh, New Globe Tavern, Bow-road.  
" 1261, Golden Rule, Masons' Hall, Basinghall-street.  
" 1298, Royal Standard, Marquess Tav., Canonbury.  
Chap. 169, Temperance, White Swan, Deptford.  
Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, Portugal Hotel, Fleet-street, at 7; Comp. Brett, Preceptor.  
Domestic Lodge of Instruction, Palmerston Tav., Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, at 7.30.  
Faith Lodge of Instruction, Artillery Arms, Rochester-row, at 8; Bro. C. A. Cottelbrune, Preceptor.  
Yarborough Lodge of Instruction, Green Dragon, Stepney, at 8; Bro. Isaac Saqui, Preceptor.

Royal Union Lodge of Instruction, Horse and Groom Tavern, Winsley-street, Oxford-street, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.

Prince Fredk. William Lodge of Instruction (753) Knights of St. John's Tavern, St. John's-wood; Bro. F. G. Baker, Preceptor.

Sydney Lodge of Instruction (829), Cambridge Hotel, Upper Norwood, at 7.30.

Ben Jonson Lodge of Instruction, Ben Jonson, Goodman's-yard, at 8.

Florence Nightingale Lodge of Instruction, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich, at 7.30.

Prosperity Lodge of Instruction, Gladstone Tavern, Bishopsgate-st. Within, at 7.30; Bro. Bolton (W.M. 1227), Preceptor.

St. Marylebone Lodge of Instruction (1305), British Stores Tavern, New-street, St. John's Wood, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.

#### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3.

Pythagorean Lodge of Instruction (79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich, at 8; J. Robt. Nash, Preceptor.

United Strength Lodge of Instruction (228), the Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales' Road, Kentish Town, at 8; Bro. J. N. Frost, Preceptor.

Israel Lodge of Instruction, Rising Sun Tavern, Globe-road, at 7.30; Bro. Isaac Saqui, Preceptor.

New Concord Lodge of Instruction, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton, at 8.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, Railway Tav., London-street, City, at 7½.

Peckham Lodge of Instruction, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham; Bro. David Rose, Preceptor.

Temperance in the East Lodge of Instruction, George the Fourth, Catherine-street, Poplar.

Stanhope Lodge of Instruction, Thicket Hotel, Anerley, at 7.30 p.m.; Bro. H. W. Lindus, Preceptor.

#### THURSDAY, JAN. 4.

Lodge 45, Strong Man, Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.

" 136, Good Report, Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.

" 192, Lion and Lamb, Terminus Hotel, Cannon-st.

" 231, St. Andrew's, Freemasons' Hall.

" 538, La Tolerance, Freemasons' Hall.

" 554, Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.

" 1155, Excelsior, Sydney Arms, Lewisham-road.

" 1351, St. Clement Danes, King's Head Htl., Strand.

The R.A. Chapter of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7; Comp. Brett, Preceptor. Work twelve clauses of four sections.

Fidelity Lodge of Instruction (3), Goat and Compasses, Euston-road, at 8; Bro. T. A. Adams, Preceptor.

Panmure Lodge of Instruction (720), Balham Hotel, Balham, at 7; Bro. John Thomas, Preceptor.

Finsbury Lodge of Instruction, Jolly Anglers' Tavern, Bath-street, City-road; Bro. Stean, Preceptor.

United Mariners' Lodge of Instruction, Three Cranes, Mile-end-road, at 8; Bro. T. J. Barnes, Preceptor.

St. George's Lodge of Instruction (140), Globe Tavern, Royal Hill Greenwich, at 8.

Chigwell Lodge of Instruction, Bald-faced Stag Hotel, Buckhurst Hill, at 7.30.

#### FRIDAY, JAN. 5.

Lodge 800, Hornsey, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.

Chap. 3, Fidelity, London Tavern, Bishopsgate.

Unions Emulation Lodge of Improvement for M.M.'s, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.

Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, Portugal Htl., Fleet-street, at 7; Bro. Brett, Preceptor.

Belgrave Lodge of Instruction, Duke of Wellington Htl. Spring-gardens, Charing-cross; Br. Pulsford, Preceptor.

Doric Lodge of Instruction, Three Cranes Tavern, Mile end-road, at 8; Bro. Isaac Saqui, Preceptor.

Stability Lodge of Instruction, Guildhall Tavern, 33, Gresham-street, at 6; Bro. H. Muggidge, Preceptor.

Robert Burns Lodge of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8; Bro. W. Watson, Preceptor.

Burgoyne Lodge of Instruction, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales' Road, N.W., at 8.

St. Luke's Lodge of Instruction (144), Gladstone Tavern, Brompton-road, S.W.

United Pilgrims' Lodge of Instruction, Duke of Edinburgh, Shepherd's-lane, Brixton, at 7; Bro. J. Thomas, P.M., Preceptor.

Duke of Edinburgh Lodge of Instruction, Silver Lion, Penny-fields, Poplar, at 7; Br. D. S. Potts, Preceptor.

St. James' Lodge of Instruction, Gregorian Arms Tavern, Jamaica-road, Bermondsey, at 8.

Temperance Lodge of Instruction, Victoria Tav., Victoria-road, Deptford, at 8.

Burdett Coutts Lodge of Instruction (1278), App. each Tavern, Approach-road, Victoria-park, at 8; Bro. Geo. W. Verry, Preceptor.

Clapton Lodge of Instruction, White Hart, Clapton, at 7.30; Bro. John Saunders, Preceptor.

Pythagorean Chapter of Instruction (No. 79), Prince of Orange, Greenwich-road, at 8; Comp. W. West Smith, Preceptor.

THE BEST FIRST.—Turner's Tamarind Cough Emulsion for the Throat and Bronchia, 13½d. and 2/9 per bot.—All wholesale houses in London and Liverpool, and any respectable Chemist.—[Advt.]

" MORE than a year ago one of my children was attacked with bronchitis, and, after a long illness, was given up by all physician as 'past cure.' I was then induced to try your Vegetable Pain Killer, and from the time I began the use of it the child rapidly got better, and it is now strong and healthy.—JOHN WINSTANTLEY, 10, Whittle-st., L'pool, 1869.—To P. D. & Son."