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VOL. 7, No. 303.]

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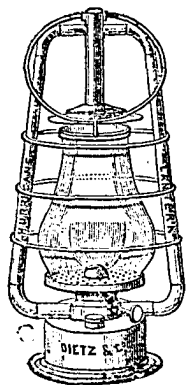
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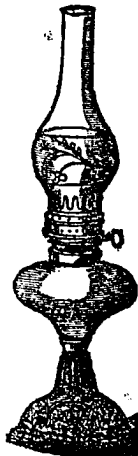
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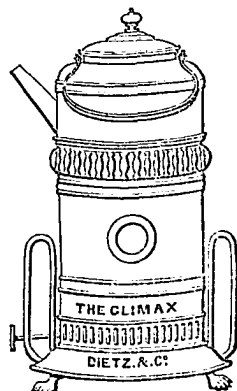
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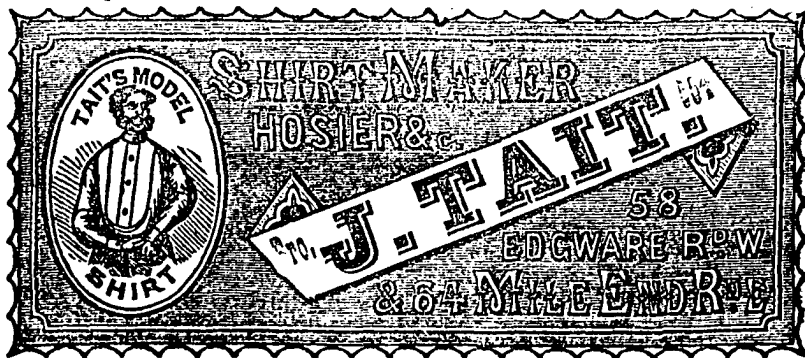
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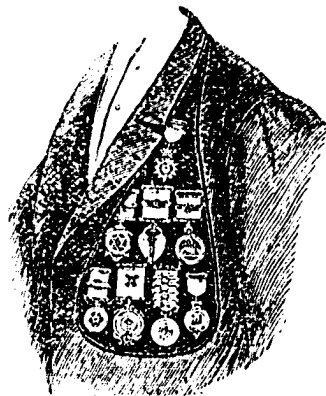
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REPORTS OF MASONIC MEETINGS.

Craft Masonry.

BATH.—*Lodge of Honour* (No. 379).—Summons having been issued for the annual festival meeting of this lodge, to be held at the Masonic Hall, the brethren assembled at 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14th, and soon after that time the lodge was opened in the first degree by Bro. Phillips, W.M., assisted by the following officers, Bros. Davis, I.P.M.; J. S. Bartrum, P.M. and W.M. elect; Cooke, acting as S.W.; Simmons, W.M. of 41, acting as J.W.; Culliford Hopkins, Secretary; Barter, P.M., Treas.; Dr. Hopkins, P.P.G. S.W. for Warwickshire, acting as S.D.; White, J.D.; Col. Ford, P.M. 53, acting as D.C.; Smythe, I.G. In addition to these and many members of the lodge, there were present Bros. Else, Prov. G. Secy., Major Preston, W.M. 41; Helps, I.P.M. 53; Gen. Doherty, P.M. 53; J. Stothert, P.P.G.S.W.; Lord, P.M. 53; Smith, P.M. and Treas. 53; Shum, P.M. 53. The minutes of the previous lodge meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the second degree and Bro. Leir was presented as a candidate to be raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The usual questions were put to him and considered to be satisfactorily answered, after which he was entrusted and dismissed for preparation. The lodge was opened in the third degree, and after the customary arrangements had been made, the candidate was re-admitted and raised to the third degree by the W.M., who also gave him the traditional history on which this impressive ceremony is based. The working tools were explained by the Secretary. The lodge was resumed in the second degree, and the chair was taken by Bro. J. Stothert, who had undertaken to perform the duties of Installing Master. Bro. J. S. Bartrum was presented by Bros. Davis and Phillips, W.M.'s. After the initiatory address, the ancient charges were read by the Secretary, and assented to, and the usual obligation of W.M. elect was administered. The lodge was resumed in the third degree. The brethren below the chair were dismissed, a Board of Installed Masters was constituted, and Bro. Bartrum was, according to ancient form, inducted into the chair of K.S. for the third time. The Board was closed, the brethren were re-admitted, and Bro. Stothert ably and impressively conducted the usual proclamations, processions, and salutations, concluding by giving the addresses to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren. At the proper places during these proceedings, the W.M. invested Bro. Phillips as his I.P.M., and the following as his officers for the next year. Bros. Cooke, S.W.; H. Gore, J.W.; C. S. Barter, Treas.; H. Culliford Hopkins, Secretary; W. S. Dickenson, S.D.; Smythe, J.D.; Bush, D.C.; Leir, I.G.; Gazzard, Tyler. On the proposition of Bro. Phillips, seconded by Bro. Davis, votes of thanks were passed to the visiting brethren for their attendance, among whom were specially named Bro. Stothert, for his valuable help as Installing Master, Bro. Col. Ford as D.C., Bro. Dr. Hopkins as S.D., and Bro. Else for coming so far in his official capacity as Prov. Grand Secretary. The W.M. addressed the brethren on his installation in very impressive and kindly terms, such as to convey the idea, that with the know-

ledge of his previous efficiency in the same capacity, he is determined zealously to perform his duties, and at least maintain, and, if possible, raise the status of the lodge. Some discussion took place as to the formation of a lodge of instruction, further consideration of which was postponed to the next meeting. The W.M. brought before the brethren, in a very feeling manner, a melancholy circumstance which had just occurred—no other than the sudden death, a few hours previously, of the resident Curator of the Masonic Hall and Tyler of the Royal Sussex Lodge, at an advanced age—78; reminding the brethren of the solemn lesson taught to all, especially in connection with the ceremony of the third degree, which had just been administered. He recalled to the minds of such as had been present in that room exactly a week ago, the energy and zest with which the old man had responded to his re-appointment as Tyler of the Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 53; the heartiness with which he entered into all Masonic proceedings, and the fidelity with which he performed his duties, as far as his failing strength would allow. The W.M. concluded by proposing that a letter of condolence should be forwarded to the children of the deceased, which was seconded by the S.W., and passed. The proceedings of the evening were brought to a close by a vote of thanks, carried by acclamation, to Bro. Phillips, for the ability and skill with which he had ruled the lodge during the past year, to which the I.P.M. made an appropriate reply. The lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and with solemn prayer, at a quarter past seven, and the brethren adjourned for a banquet at the Castle Hotel.

HARTLEPOOL.—*St. Helen's Lodge, Hartlepool*, (No. 534). The annual installation meeting of this lodge was held at the hall belonging to the Craft, on Thursday afternoon. The W.M. elect (Bro. Wm. Pearson) was installed by Bro. J. Hunter, jun., P.M., Bro. J.W. Sivewright, P.M., acting as D.C. At the close of the ceremony, the W.M. elect appointed the following officers, viz:—Bros. T. Johnson, S.W.; T. Fleetham, J.W.; W. Fleetham, Secretary; W. Shaw, S.D.; D. Collins, J.D.; T. M. Proctor, Treasurer; F. H. Bennett, I.G.; and W. Mudd and R. Robson, Stewards. After the completion of the ceremony, the brethren present adjourned to the Cleveland Hotel, where an excellent repast was served by Mr. C. Humble. The W.M. elect presided, and a most enjoyable evening was spent, the usual Masonic toasts being duly honoured.

TOTNES.—*Pleiades Lodge* (No. 710).—The usual monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall on Thursday, the 17th inst., Bro. William Bennett Maye, W.M., in the chair. There were also present Bro. R. H. Watson, P.M., J.W.; Bro. H. J. Presswell, I.P.M.; Bro. W. Cuming, P.M., Sec.; Bro. J. Heath, P.M., P.P.J.G.D.; Bro. W. H. Taylor, Org.; Bro. S. Woolley, Treas.; Bro. J. Crocker, Tyler; Bro. C. A. Wallis, Bro. J. C. Challoner, and Bro. T. Luscombe, Visitor, Bro. Shanks. The lodge was duly opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A candidate for the third degree was unavoidably absent. There being no other business, the lodge was closed in ancient form and with solemn prayer.

ABERYSTWITH.—*Aberystwith Lodge* (No. 1072).—The ninth anniversary meeting of this prosperous and well-worked lodge, and the installation of its W.M., was held at the Masonic rooms at the Belle Vue Royal Hotel, Aberystwith, on Thursday, the 10th inst.:—Bros. G. T. Smith, P. Prov. S. G. Warden, W.M., supported by the R.W. the Prov. G. Master, (Major J. A. Lloyd-Phillips); the Worshipful D. Prov. G.M. of Monmouthshire, (Capt. S. G. Homfray); James Terry, P.M. (Secretary R. M. Benevolent Institution), Prov. G. D. Cers., Herts; G. Ward Verry, P.M. Yarborough, No. 554; E. L. Cole, P. Prov. G.D., P.M. 1072; C. Rice Williams, M.D., P.M. 1072; and the other officers and members of the lodge. The lodge having been duly opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and Bro. John Vaughan, P. Prov. G. Supt. W. was

ballotted for and unanimously re-elected Treasurer for the ensuing year. Lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Stanley John Balcombe, S.W., Prov. G. Secretary, had the honour of being presented to the Installing Master (Bro. G. T. Smith) by the R.W. Prov. G.M., who, in addition to the usual formula of introduction, bore high testimony to the great fitness of Bro. Balcombe for the honour about to be conferred upon him, referred to the admirable manner in which he had filled nearly every office in the lodge and the zeal and ability he had displayed and the great assistance he rendered to him (the Prov. Grand Master) as Provincial Grand Secretary. Lodge was then opened in the third degree and a board of Installed Masters having been formed, Bro. Balcombe was duly installed in the Chair of K.S., according to ancient rite. The brethren below the chair were then re-admitted, and the W.M. was duly proclaimed and saluted in the three degrees. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers for ensuing year:—Bros. G. T. Smith, P.M., P. Prov. S. G. Warden, I.P.M.; Edward Hamer, P. Prov. G. Supt. Works, S.W.; Jonathan Pell, P. Prov. G. Dir. Cers., J.W.; Rev. John Jones, Chaplain; John Vaughan, P. Prov. G. Supt. Works, Treasurer; C. Rice Williams, M.D., P.M., Secretary; A. J. Hughes, Prov. G. Sword Bearer, S.D.; Griffith Jones, J.D.; Benjamin Ellis Morgan, I.G.; Henry Culliford, Dir. Cers.; D. Vaughan Rees, Tyler. The Installing Master gave the customary addresses to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren in a very able manner, receiving well-earned encomiums from the numerous P.M.'s present. We have on many occasions referred to Bro. Smith's working in terms of high praise, and on last Thursday evening it was, as near as possible, perfection. The W.M. then rose and proposed "That the cordial and hearty thanks of the lodge are due, and are hereby tendered to the W. Bro. George Tempany Smith, I.P.M., P. Prov. S.G. Warden, P. Prov. G. Sec., for his untiring exertions, and for the manner in which he has conducted the business of the lodge." Carried unanimously. The R.W. Bro. Major F. A. Lloyd Phillips then advanced, and, in the name of the lodge, presented to Bro. G. T. Smith a P.M.'s Jewel. In placing it on his breast, Bro. Lloyd Phillips explained that he had that pleasure, not only as the Prov. G. Master, but as a simple member of 1072, and that having witnessed Bro. Smith's exertions for the benefit of his lodge, and of Masonry in general, it afforded him great pleasure to have been selected to decorate so worthy a Mason with so handsome a jewel, and to accompany it with an assurance of the most affectionate thanks of them all. In conclusion the R.W. Brother added that he hoped that Bro. Smith—although he had for four years filled the chair of K.S. in the Aberystwith Lodge, would not consider himself as put upon "the shelf," but that he would continue to assist to preserve the lodge by giving to its present and future W.M.'s such assistance and support as they would stand in need of. Bro. Smith was visibly affected by the unexpected presentation, a P.M.'s jewel never having been presented in this lodge to its retiring Master until the present occasion. He returned thanks, saying that although without egotism, he could fairly say he had given some amount of time and attention to the interests of Masonry, more particularly to the welfare of 1072, and of the province in which he had had the honour to hold a high office, he had not anticipated that his poor services would receive such a substantial mark of recognition. The brethren having thought differently, he (Bro. Smith) could only bow to their decision, and in so doing offer to them his hearty thanks, assuring them that he would be always ready to do his best for the Craft. He was especially delighted to have the pleasure of installing his dear friend and brother Balcombe in the chair that evening. He knew of few brothers so deserving of occupying that position, and he thought he might congratulate him upon that condition in which the lodge was handed over to him, and the brethren on being presided over by such a Master. In conclusion Bro. Smith hoped that 1072 would have a happy and prosperous year

under its new W.M., and assured him and the members that each and all should have his hearty co-operation. The I.P.M. gave notice that in January he should propose that the day of meeting be changed from Thursday to Monday, and that he should also submit a resolution with regard to the surplus fund of the lodge, the Masonic institutions being anxious to relieve the brethren of their overplus. The lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet. The cloth being removed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly proposed and responded to; those of the "R.W.P.G.M.," and "The Visitors," (coupled with the names of the W. Brothers Homfray, Terry, Verry and Parry), "The W.M.," and "The Installing Master," being received with applause. "The Masonic Charities," was ably brought before the brethren by the I.P.M., who referred to the notice he had given in open lodge. To this toast Bro. Terry responded in his well-known and impressive manner, giving facts and statistics in proof of the claims the various charities had on Freemasons in general; and, with regard to the institution he had the honour to represent, on the lodges of this province in particular, as (continued Bro. Terry), "without wishing to press the claims of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution unduly on your notice, I cannot do my duty thereto without reminding you that the province of which your lodge is an unit has two annuitants on the funds of that institution, while your province does not subscribe as many shillings per annum as they receive pounds. I therefore hope that my Bro. Smith's proposal will receive your attention, and that you will respond liberally thereto. The brethren spent a very pleasant evening, the enjoyment of which was considerably enhanced by some excellent songs by Bros. Homfray, G. J. Smith, J. R. Rowland, Wm. Jones, (of Llwyn-groes), &c. The dinner and wines fully sustained the reputation of Bro. Pell, the worthy host of the "Belle Vue."

MACDONALD LODGE (No. 1216):—On Thursday, the 10th inst., a meeting of the Macdonald Lodge was held at Brunswick-road, Camberwell, the head-quarters of the 1st Surrey Rifles. The W.M., Bro. Messenger, presided and performed, in a style worthy of imitation, one raising and two initiations. In these ceremonies he was assisted by the officers of the lodge, Bros. Hastie, S.W.; Larlham, J.W.; J. J. Curtis, Secretary; Capt. Styan, Treasurer; Hammond, S.D.; Carnel, J.D.; Fountain, I.G.; Grant, T.; G. H. N. Bridges, I.P.M.; James Stevens, P.M.; Geo. Waterall, Wagstaff; and lodge of about thirty members. On the completion of the two ceremonies of raising and initiation, Bro. James Stevens, P.M., proposed that the sum of £20 be given to the Masonic Benevolent Institution, and placed on the list of the Steward of this lodge for that institution's festival on the 27th January, Bro. Bridges having undertaken the office. The thanks of the St. John the Baptist Lodge, Exeter, were conveyed to the Macdonald Lodge by Bro. James Stevens, for the gift it had made to the widow of a late brother of the former lodge. Several propositions were then taken for the ensuing meeting, and the lodge was closed in regular form. The brethren afterwards repaired to the refectory, where the wife of Sergeant Kethro, who has the management of the canteen of the volunteer corps, had prepared a delightful repast. On the clearing of the cloth, the toasts were proposed and honoured in due form, and such as required responses found able sponsors in the brethren whom they called upon. The meeting was a particularly successful one, and was remarkable for its great sociality.

SHEFFIELD.—Wentworth Lodge (No. 1239):—The installation of the Worshipful Master of this lodge—Bro. F. M. Tindall—took place Monday, Dec. 7th, in the Masonic Hall, Surrey-street. The installation ceremony was performed by Bro. Matthews, P.M., in a manner which won the approbation of all present. After this ceremony the Worshipful Master appointed his officers as follows.—Bro. W. White, S.W.; Bro. S. B. Ellis, J.W.; Bro. H. J. Garnett, P.M., P.P.G. S.B. Treas. R. Renton, Sec.; Bro. Dr. Thomas, S.D.; and Bro. C. Harvey, J.D.; Bro. A. Pfeilschmidt, P.M., Organist; and Bro. J. Clarke, I.G.

The brethren afterwards adjourned to the Cutlers' Hall, where more than seventy sat down to a very excellent and well-served dinner, where nothing desirable was wanting. Amongst those present—which included a very large proportion of Past Masters and Provincial Grand Officers of West Yorkshire, residing in Sheffield—were Bro. H. Smith (Wakefield), P.G.S. West Yorkshire; Bro. J. M. Hewitt, J.P. (Chesterfield) P.M. 681, P.P.G.S.W. Derbyshire; Bro. G. Haslehurst (Chesterfield), P.P.J.W. Derbyshire; Bro. Ramplen, 904, (Grantham), P.P.G.S.B.; Bro. Dr. Foote (Rotherham), P.M.; Bro. J. Fawcett, (Rotherham), S.W.; Bros. Hodges and Wordsworth, Penistone; and Bro. R. Holmes, Manchester. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and received with much fervour; and the health of the "Worshipful Master of the Wentworth Lodge," which might be regarded as the toast of the evening, was drunk with more than usual enthusiasm. There was a board of Installed Masters, 19 in number; and 14 lodges were represented.

ROCK FERRY.—Rock Lodge (No. 1289):—The last regular meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, the 11th inst., at the new rooms in Bedford House, Bedford-road, Rock Ferry, and was one of the most numerous attended since the formation of this lodge, five years ago. Amongst the visitors and members were Bros. W. Bulley, P.G.J.W.; J. P. Platt, P.P.J.G.W.; Dr. Spratley, P.P.S.G.D.; Salmon, P.S.G.D. (Cheshire), and P.G.S.B. (N. W. and Shropshire); Worrall, P.G.S.B.; Stevenson, P.P.G. S.B.; Friend, P.P.J.G.D.; Wilson, W.M. 537, and others, including brethren from Crewe, Chester, and Liverpool. Mr. Harrison, of Field House, Litherland, was initiated, after which the ceremony of installation of Bro. Ellis as W.M. was performed by Bro. Friend. The W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bro. Bolton, S.W.; Dr. Paton, J.W.; Stevenson (re-elected), Treasurer; Pearson, Secretary; Stanton, S.D.; Wallace, J.D.; Townsend, I.G.; Holloway, Tyler. Two joining members and one candidate for initiation were proposed, and the brethren then adjourned to refreshment, and a very pleasant evening was passed by all, the lodge being finally closed shortly after ten o'clock.

Scotland.

BUSBY.

LODGE BUSBY ST. JOHN'S (No. 458):—A festival of the members of this lodge, with their friends, was held on Friday evening, 11th inst., in Bro. Wilson's Hall, Busby. Not a few of the brethren, owning No. 458 for their mother, now live in Glasgow, and these drove up from the city in a couple of omnibuses, each drawn by four horses, and which remained similarly to convey them back to their homes again. The occasion included a soiree, concert, and ball, the chair up to the latter being occupied by Colonel Mure, M.P. for Renfrewshire, and R.W.P.G.M. of Ayrshire. There were also on the platform, Joseph C. Wakefield, Esq., and Bro. Chas. C. Wakefield; Rev. Mr. Elder, Mr. John Macadam, Bros. Alpine McGregor, R.W.M. 458; Alex. Thomson, R.W.M. 333; Bro. Wilson Robertson, P.M. 333; and James Wilson. After justice had been done to an ample tea, the chairman delivered a short address, in which at the outset, he had, he said, to congratulate the Craft on the fact that at the head of the Freemasons of England was now his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and it was the privilege of Masonry to show to the world a society where the highest and the lowest could meet together as equal brethren. Referring to one of the chief ends of Masonry, viz., benevolence, the speaker said that when he became P.G.M. of Ayrshire, he made it a stipulation of his accepting office that there should be something tangible done in this direction, something that would bear good fruit, and at the present moment they gave £20 a year each to assist a certain number of students of promise at college. Freemasonry was one of the most wide-spread and best regulated institutions in the world, and what he wanted to point out to the Freemasons present was, what a powerful agent it therefore was, and what an amount of good it

ought to do. It was all very well to turn out at processions and meetings, wearing decorations, but it was far better to remember that these were only the outward signs of what was real and tangible and good. As he had said, they had the power of doing much more in the way of benevolence than they were doing or had done; and it behoved them to exercise it. In the course of few miscellaneous remarks of more general application, the Chairman stated that they had not yet got the length of having ladies as members of the Order; the reason being that they (Freemasons) were convinced that the ladies had so much power otherwise, that it might be dangerous to give them more. In conclusion he said he had one word for those who did not belong to the Order, and that was—belong to it. He knew all the secrets of Freemasonry; he knew that it had no vices and many virtues, therefore he said—join it. The concert proceedings were then entered upon, the vocalists engaged being Miss Young, Bros. Moors and Hanthorne, and Mr. Kelly. At suitable intervals in the course of the evening, short addresses were delivered by Bros. J. C. Wakefield, Wakefield, jun., Robertson, and others. The concluding assembly was kept up with spirit until an advanced hour, under the superintendence of Bro. J. N. Grant, M.C.

STIRLING.—Stirling Rock Chapter (No. 2):—The companions of this chapter met in Thistle-street Hall on Dec. 12th for the election of office-bearers, when the following were unanimously appointed, viz., Geo. Miller, Z.; R. Wolstencroft, H.; John Finlayson, J.; George Christie, Past Z.; Thos. Turnbull, H.; Alex. Hay, Proxy Z.; Wm. Maclea, S.E.; Robert Dow, S.N.; Jas. Mathie, Treas.; Jas. Brown, 1st Sojourner; Geo. Watson, 2nd Sojourner; Thos. Herald, 3rd Sojourner; Thos. Robertson, Janitor. Thereafter some candidates were proposed and accepted for exaltation at the next meeting. The First Principal elect promised to do his best for the chapter's prosperity, and what he lacked in ability he offered to make up in zeal. An adjourned meeting was held for refreshment at which song and sentiment, interspersed with toasts, were freely exchanged.

CAMPSIE.

LODGE CALEDONIAN ST. JOHN, R.A., (No. 195):—A special meeting of this old established lodge was held within their hall at the Lennox Arms Hotel, Campsie, on Saturday, 12th inst., for the purpose of installing office-bearers appointed for the ensuing year. A deputation from Glasgow, consisting of Bro. A. McTaggart, P.G. Sec.; John Fraser, P.M. 87; John Stewart, P.M. 195; A. Arrick Smith, P.M. 254; conducted the proceedings, the first-named presiding, and the others officiating as S.W., Inner Guard, and J.W., respectively. The three first-named brethren are all members of the Royal Order for the West of Scotland, and so far as we know, such a conjunction officiating at an installation of lodge office-bearers is unprecedented. The following is the list as then installed:—Dr. Andrew Thomas Wilson, R.W.M.; Peter Robinson, D.M.; James Martin, S.M.; Robert Torrance, S.W.; Wm. Gray, J.W.; John Fiddes, Treas.; Jas. M. Neilson, Sec.; P. Robertson, Chaplain; Alex. Brown, S.D.; David Rodger, J.D.; Francis Paterson, S. Steward; Andrew White, J. Steward; Robert Murray, B.B.; Andrew Hosie, Banner Bearer; Alex. Kincard, I.G.; Alex. Lindsay, O.G.

LODGE ST. GEORGE (No. 333) met in St. Mark's Hall, on 9th inst., Bro. John Winton, the retiring R.W.M., in the chair. After the minutes of previous meeting had been read and adopted, the lodge proceeded to the installation of the office-bearers elected for the ensuing year. Bro. Alex. Thomson having been installed as R.W.M. by Bro. Thos. Halkett, P.M. 102, the remaining office-bearers were installed in an impressive manner by Bro. Wm. Robertson, P.M. 333; the following being the list as it now stands:—Alexander Thomson, R.W.M.; Jas. Finlay, S.M.; Jas. Forsyth, S.W.; Archibald McIntyre, Sec.; Thos. S. Thomson, Treas.; John Clark, Chaplain; Jas. Allan, S.D.; Thos. Hill, J.D.; Jno. McDonald, Architect; Robert Allen, Jeweller; Adam Boyd, M. of C.; A. McIntyre (2), S. Steward; William Miller, J. Steward; Wm. Smith, Standard Bearer; George

Cranston, P.G.S.; Alex. Wright, I.G.; W. G. Hickson. There being no further work on the trestle-board, the brethren adjourned to refreshment, when amongst other toasts proposed to were "The Past Office-Bearers," coupled with P.M. Bro. Winton; "The New Office-Bearers," acknowledged by the R.W.M.; and "The Visiting Brethren," coupled with the name of Bro. J. W. Burns, R.W.M. 87 (Thistle); &c.

GLASGOW.

ST. MUNGO ENCAMPMENT.—An emergency meeting was held on the 7th Dec., 1874, in their hall, 213, Buchanan-street, to move the adoption of Sir H. Shank's resignation as E. Commander, which office he held for a few weeks with much acceptance, to elect another E. Commander and other important business. The adoption of Sir Knt. Shank's resignation was moved by Sir Knt. Adams, seconded by Sir Knt. M'Kenzie, and unanimously approved of. The re-election of our Past E. Commander, Sir Knt. Robert Bell, was moved by Sir Knt. G. B. Adams, seconded by Sir Knt. J. E. Spiers in his usual happy style, supported by Rev. J. C. Stewart, and unanimously and heartily agreed to. The honour was accepted by Sir Knt. Bell on the condition that the encampment would prepare itself for next election. Sir Knt. R. Bell expressed his desire to form a class in the encampment for military drill, which was approved of. The bye-laws and annual festival were afterwards considered and happily disposed of. The encampment was then closed according to ancient military form.

MASONIC ORATION.

DELIVERED BY BRO. THE REV. A. A. BAGSHAW, M.A., P. PROV. G.C., P.S.G.W., ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE MASONIC HALL AT DERBY.

Right Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Grand Officers, Worshipful Masters, Officers, and Brethren of the Masonic Lodges of the Province of Derbyshire,—It is with heartfelt pleasure that I am allowed to address you on this happy occasion, when such a large gathering of Masonic brethren of the Province and many visitors have met together to open our new hall, which does credit to our brother the architect, the builder, and all the workmen engaged. We are assembled here to-day, in the name of the G.A.O.T.U., first to thank him that the work is completed without one casualty; then, in brotherly love, to consecrate this building for the purposes of Freemasonry. Were Freemasonry more generally understood, we should hear no foolish talk about its work; but our deeds must from circumstances be veiled from all but those who have been admitted into the Craft in a properly constituted assembly of Masons, under the warrant of the Grand Lodge of England. The answer we must always give those who speak evil of us, should be quietly and gently to say, "We have certain signs and tokens by which we unlock those secrets which are peculiar to Freemasonry, and which would be useless to those who have not taken upon themselves the obligation of Masonry." That there is much good in our Craft must easily be proved by our deeds, not words. Actions can only bear the test! Look at our Order, how it has increased within a very few years. In 1813-14, when the two Grand Lodges (called Ancient, or York, and Modern) were joined, the Duke of Kent, father of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, being Grand Master of one, viz., York; and the Duke of Sussex, uncle to her Majesty, Grand Master of the other, the elder Duke resigned, in brotherly love, his office, and from thenceforth under the latter Royal Duke we became the Grand Lodge of England. All unpleasant feelings were then buried in oblivion, and our Craft derived the highest benefit from such an union. Under the successive Grand Masters lodges increased and flourished, until this year our Past Grand Master of England, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, was called to the Masonic position of Chief, and in course of time will, according to our Constitutions, become our Grand Master. We must all agree that, under such a head, Freemasonry can never be accused of anything approaching to disloyalty, or that our secrets can be of such a nature as to deserve any charge of suspicion. Though Freemasonry has

flourished so much in late years, still we have many who are anxiously watching to see us make some fatal mistakes. Surely, brethren, if we continue to hold on by our great landmarks, especially the volume of the Sacred Law, we shall not in our day, nor at any future period, give our enemies cause to rejoice in our discomfiture. Brotherly love, relief, and truth, carried out in their integrity, will bear many assaults, and come forth, like gold from the furnace, more pure than ever. But, brethren, that this may be so, we must be more than ever careful whom we admit into the Craft. Neither friendship, nor relationship by blood should ever betray us into recommending as a fit and proper person to be admitted into Masonry one who cannot control himself in his family circle, amongst his friends and acquaintances, and in his professional calling. Bad or vicious temper, fretful temper, dissatisfied temper, must be carefully avoided, since the harmony of a lodge might be seriously damaged by one such admission. During the last year our neighbouring Grand Lodges in Ireland and Scotland have had to mourn the removal of their Grand Masters by death; they have our sincere sympathy. May those who succeed them have great wisdom given them, that their Grand Lodges may flourish more and more, and cordially glad shall we be in their prosperity. We to-day have to rejoice at the success Freemasonry has achieved in this province. We have our R.W.G. Master present to consecrate this lodge for the purposes of Freemasonry. This hall has long been desired, and perseverance has at length crowned the efforts of the province. Too much praise cannot be given to those who have undertaken the work, and they all deserve our most sincere thanks, which I am sure each brother in the province does most cordially at this time give them. In the year 1813-14 I believe there were only two lodges with proper warrants in existence in Derbyshire, so as to place them on the roll of lodges. Now, in the year 1874, we can say with thankfulness we have seventeen warranted and good lodges. In the year 1813 there were only on the roll 339 lodges, according to Bro. Hughan's account; now we have now 1,515 lodges. The number of brethren I think we must not dare to specify; still at a low computation there must be from 60,000 to 70,000 members working under the Grand Lodges of England. But in the universe it is computed that our Order is reckoned by hundreds of thousands. For wherever we go we shall be sure, where the name of the Most High is known, there we shall find brethren. Thus our signs, tokens, Volume of the Sacred Law, and jewels, each cannot speak any other language than our own. The field of Masonry in its benevolence is unbounded; to stretch out the hand of relief, and to soothe sorrow. The more we study Freemasonry, the greater beauty shall we see in all the language used, in our jewels and insignia of office; and those much valued aprons we wear must ever remind us how carefully we should guard our steps in the way which is right. None can appear in a lodge excepting properly clothed; so must we see to it that we be properly clothed for the Grand Lodge above. Much more is required of us than we have hitherto done in this province. Our brethren need to be reminded often of their obligations to the aged, the destitute, also the orphan girls and boys belonging to those who in their earlier and more sunny days have toiled for the good of Masonry. I am aware that many lodges have done much, very much to show that our brotherly love is real. Still there are many lodges which have not done as much as they might for the good cause of brotherly love and relief amongst us. Systematic benevolence, if properly carried out by those brethren who are not very affluent, can do wonders by small self-denying acts; it must not be by fits and starts, but by steady perseverance in well-doing. Most heartily do I, as a Derbyshire Mason, congratulate the fraternity to-day on our work. May we prosper in the future by watching well each step we take, and by having our hearts beating in unison with the brethren of our neighbouring provinces, and by a dutiful allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England. God save the Queen.

CONSECRATION OF A LODGE AT BARNSELY.

The ceremony of consecrating the newly constituted Lodge of Freemasons, at Barnsley, was performed on Thursday, the 10th inst., with the full ritual of the Craft. This lodge, we may state, rises upon the ashes of an old one, which, some years ago, sank into abeyance, and inherits the name "Friendly," though the number has, of course, passed away, the present lodge being No. 1513 on the Grand Roll of England.

Bro. Bentley-Shaw, D.P.G.M., conducted the ceremony of consecration, which took place in the Temperance Hall, and was supported by a large attendance of Provincial Grand Officers and Brethren, generally, from Sheffield, Wakefield, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Halifax, Doncaster, and other places.

The brethren of St. George's Lodge (242) Doncaster, more especially, mustered in strong force under their W.M. (Bro. F. O. Walker), the closest relationship having already been cemented between the Barnsley and Doncaster Lodges.

The ceremony itself was throughout very impressive—the anthems, more particularly, being exceedingly well rendered. After the consecration, the installation of Bro. Richard Carter, P.P.G.W. (Mayor of Barnsley, was proceeded with, Bro. Ensor Drury, P.P.G.D., officiating as Installing Master.

The W.M. subsequently invested his officers as follows:—Bro. Jno. Semple, S.W.; Bro. Thos. Braithwaite, J.W.; Bro. James Gration, Treasurer; Bro. J. H. Gration, Secretary; Bro. J. J. Freeman, S.D.; Bro. F. K. Beardsall, J.D.; Bro. W. S. Unsworth, Organist; Bros. Henry Lane and Jno. Wade, Stewards; and Bro. Jno. Sutton, I.G.

The brethren subsequently adjourned to the King's Head, where a very handsomely-appointed banquet was served, covers being laid for upwards of 70.

Bro. Carter, W.M., presided, supported by Bro. Bentley-Shaw, the Rev. Bro. Loosemoor, of Bowling, P.G.C.; Bro. Ensor Drury, and others

SUDDEN DEATH OF A BROTHER IN LODGE.—

A very sudden death occurred at the meeting of St. Luke's Lodge, No. 225, held at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Ipswich, the occasion being the annual installation of W.M. and officers. Amongst those installed was a well-known Ipswich tradesman, Bro. Stephen Burdett King, who was chosen as Worshipful Master. After the ceremony of installation had been concluded, Bro. King proceeded to appoint and invest his officers, and, on the completion of that portion of his duties, was seized with faintness, and left the lodge in charge of his Immediate Past Master (Bro. James Turner). The brethren, noticing his symptoms appeared rather severe, immediately sent for his medical adviser, Dr. W. P. Mills. Mr. Jennings, an army surgeon, who was in the hotel, rendered every assistance possible, but without avail, Bro. King having breathed his last in about fifteen minutes from the time of his first attack. Dr. Mills had been in attendance upon deceased for more than a month, and it is supposed that his death is the result of heart disease. The sad occurrence cast great gloom over the assembled brethren, who spent the remainder of the evening in solemn silence. The following officers had been appointed:—Bro. S. B. King, W.M.; Bro. W. T. Jobson, S.W.; Bro. W. Daking, J.W.; Bro. A. Barber, Secretary; Bro. James Clarke, Treasurer; Bro. W. T. Westgate, D.C.; Bro. Taylor, S.D.; Bro. Hillyard, J.D.; Bro. Diaper, I.G.; Bro. Spalding, Tyler. The sudden demise of the W.M. will necessitate a fresh election of Worshipful Master.

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Special Attractions for the Christmas Holidays

Now added, PORTRAIT MODELS of Dr. KENEALY (from sittings), the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, the Czar of Russia, Sir Garnet Wolseley, the Shah of Persia, Marshal Bazaine, Marshal MacMahon, Mr. Charles Dickens, Mr. H. M. Stanley, Dr. Livingstone (some valuable relics belonging to the great African explorer), Sir Samuel Baker. Also new, superb, and costly Court Dresses.

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Births, Marriages and Deaths.

MARRIAGE.

JENNINGS—BRASIER.—Dec. 22nd., 1874, at St. Peter's, Thanet, by the Rev. Aug. F. Tollemache, Thos. E. Jennings, of 2, Gray's Inn Square, London, to Elizabeth Martha, eldest daughter of Bro. W. C. Brasier, P.M. and Treas., Union Lodge (No. 127), Margate.

Answers to Correspondents.

All Communications, Advertisements, &c., intended for insertion in the Number of the following Saturday, must reach the Office not later than 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening.

All Communications should be sent to 198, Fleet Street.

The following communications stand over and will appear next week:—

Letters from W.W.S.; P.M. 186; M.M. 1233; H.M.G.; Reports of Lodges, 114, 131, 376, 1339, 1423, E.C.; 87, 354, 360, 437, 503, 543, 553, S.C. Mark Lodge, St. John's, Chapter 41, E.C., 50, S.C. Rose Croix Chapter, Victoria. Obituary—Bro. Capt. W. H. Lee.

The Freemason,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1874.

CHRISTMAS.

"Christmas comes but once a year," says an old rural saw, and though often made use of in a perverted sense, and for a spurious plea, yet there is, we feel bound to say, a good deal of truth and meaning in the ancient adage. For Christmas seems always to draw near with a special greeting—a peculiar presence of friendliness and pleasantness to us all. There are very few to whom it is not given on Christmas Day to form part of a Christmas gathering, and many have been looking forward through months of hard work to the Christmas holiday, and the Christmas merry meeting. Were we a very serious, or professedly religious journal, we should feel bound to say something on the religious side and teaching of Christmas; but, as we are only a Masonic paper, we will content ourselves, "for the nonce," with looking at Christmas from a mundane point of view, not, indeed, forgetting its religious aspect or truth, but leaving them to abler teachers and special exponents. Charles Dickens, in the inimitable pages of "Pickwick," saw long ago the touching

side of Christmas, even as a family episode in the onward and hurrying years of life. Some of our readers will remember at once, we doubt not, those indescribably graceful sentences in which he summons up the vision of the old past Christmas of our human experience, with its gracious memories and bettering sympathies. And his words still are most true in all their ring of genuine eloquence, and pathos, and can still be read and thought over with equal profit and pleasure. Yes, Christmas is indeed a happy time to many an assembled family party, a sort of decking of the home shrine with all the most fragrant flowers of household affection and domestic peace. Old and young are gathered in the old "homestead," round the one "hearthstone." The elders are there with their tales of wise warning, their counsels of experience; youth is there with its quips and pranks, and "wreathed smiles," and overflowing spirits, and undimmed mirth. All meet at last, who have not met for months, and perchance for years, all assemble together, and rally around the old "home banner," torn and faded though it be, if only for a few short hours, perhaps not to meet for months, or even years again. Many a Christmas meeting in our happy land manages to bring together all that is truest in age, all that is pleasantest in youth, all that is tenderest in life. We who are getting on in the world, we who are either grown weary or woebegone, or cold or callous, we shall not again listen to such joyous strains of innocent mirth and softest harmony as we heard in that Christmas family party, many a long year ago! No! to-day, as we are greeted once again with the shouts of merriment and the uproar of "misrule," when we are listeners perforce once more to the "carols" of Christmas, the songs of innocence and the voices of melody, we are carried back inevitably, in the spirit of our minds, to another day and a far off scene. We recall a happy gathering in "Old Lang Syne," of all that was dear and tender, and fond and true, and we remember a happy Christmas, a very happy Christmas time, when we were young and gay, and when those laughing boys and prattling maidens—now very old boys and very old girls indeed, were beginning to tread with us the daisy-spangled meadows of life's young morn. But we must not get sentimental. Christmas has no need of sentimentality, as it offers to us all that is true and healthy, all that is gracious and most sympathetic, alike in present associations, and bygone memories, Christmas has a charm and affection for us all, whatever our age may be, and well it is, we think, that it is so. Without moralizing too much, or in any way "preaching," so to say, we are of opinion that we all may discern what a wise and good national institution it is, which makes our Christmas festival annually a season of family reunion, and home geniality. Once a year amid the dark hours of a closing December, after the yule log is duly burned according to ancient and mystic precedent, our whole English domestic life seems to assume, if it be possible, a deeper hue than ever of personal affection, unity, and association. Before that the old year has faded utterly away—before that a new year has dawned upon us all, our Christmas festivities have brought

together relations and friends, old folks and young folks, the little girls and the little boys, a large and most important element in our floating population, to keep their Christmas holiday. And if at this season of general pleasantness and contentment, of open-heartedness and affection, if amid the tokens of plenty and the sounds of gaiety, the good things of earth, our hearts are open to the woes and the wants of others—then whatever our own gratification may be, in our own Christmas family circle, that gratification will assuredly be augmented, in proportion as we have put off our ingrained selfishness, and have thought of and cared for others. For it seems to be a necessary accompaniment of extending civilization, though why we know not, that we too often witness still marked contrasts between wealth and poverty, abundance and want. When our Christmas trees are lighted, when our comfortable board is spread, when the stately sirloin, or the golden turkey, or the steaming mince pie, or the capacious plum pudding, are hailed one and all with the outburst of childhood's welcome; there are some sad sights to be seen and remembered, in this world and metropolis of ours. Dives is still here, and Lazarus is still at his gate. There are haunts where the light never enters, rooms, overcrowded rooms, on which the sun never shines. There are pestilential fever, and depressing ague, and contagious maladies, stalking among densely populated alleys and localities, and amid our own plenty and ease to-day, the evidence of splendour, the luxury of wealth, there may still be beheld the wasted face of hunger, the pallid form of sickness, the foul pallet on which the fever-stricken patient is lying, or that sad scene where the feeblebody is slowly yielding to the insidious advances of fatal disease, amidst sights of shame, and sounds of misery. Christmas then ever seems to whisper to us all amidst our own festivities and our home happiness to think of others who have none of these things, and know of none of these rejoicings. Christmas seems to tell us all, whether old or young, that our best Christmas feast will be that which is sweetened by the memory that we have ourselves personally, if humbly, endeavoured to lighten one load of sorrow, to smooth one brow of care, to aid one suffering and afflicted fellow-creature. Never at a time, probably, was there more doing, by good and praiseworthy persons, and in refuges, and homes, and hospitals, and asylums, to mitigate suffering, and to befriend the friendless than now, but still we think that it is, and ever will be, a very seasonable reminder which Christmas brings to us all alike, year by year, amid the cries and clamour of our poor common suffering humanity; "Go and do thou likewise." Amid the echoes of our Christmas rejoicings, amid the carols of this festive and rejoicing season, amid the pure and pleasant flow of friendship and goodwill, the best and the truest of all associations will be those which tell us of kindly labours of love done in the true and unostentatious spirit of loving charity, and which are doubly blessed by the thanks and happiness of those whom our solicitude has tended, whom our fraternal benevolence has relieved. May Christmas be indeed a happy Christmas to all our readers and to their families; to all, old or

young, who shall meet each other, in all of heart affection, amidst the splendour of a Christmas Tree, or the merriment of a Christmas reunion. May all our Masonic young; our "Lewises;" our "later productions," and highly commended and commenable "little maidens," enjoy a very happy Christmas, amidst the as yet untinged brightness of unsevered affection. May this old year, now passing to its rest, close in all of peace and harmony and goodwill to our Masonic Brotherhood everywhere; to our Cosmopolitan Order: and, we say it in all of true Masonic sympathy, in relief and beneficence to poor and distressed Masons in all parts of this wide world. And, above all, for it is indeed a true Christmas wish—may the departure of 1874 help to usher in, if by slow degrees, more and more a fraternal and Masonic bond of union amid the severed sections and distant nations of the whole human race. SO NOTE IT BE.

CHRISTMAS DAY 1874.

WRITTEN FOR THE "FREEMASON."

What chimes are ringing in my ears
At this happy Christmas time,
Bright visions, loving greetings
And memories sublime,
All gather round the human heart
As the years speed fast away
And we still are all alive and well
To greet another Christmas Day.

Another year of earthly life
Is fading from our view,
The Calendar of Time is closing
Alike for me, for you,
And some we miss most sadly
From festive scene and cheer,
Are still before our tender gaze,
The fair, the fond, the dear.

For Christmas 'midst its happy strains,
Its sounds of human mirth,
Has ever a solemn meaning
For all loiterers on earth;
As it takes us in its message
To hearts all dead and cold,
To the blessed words by angels sung
On that sacred day of old.

"Glory to God!" we hear e'en now,
"Be given by your race
To Him who looks down from on high,
In all of saving grace.
Peace and goodwill to all mankind,
In love all true and bright,
Must fill your lives with gentle works
Your minds with thoughts of right."

And we who work on still to-day
A true Masonic band;
Who calmly joined together
A mystic circle stand;
E'en we can gladly welcome
The angel song once more,
As we gather few and weary
On life's advancing shore.

Some are now missing from our Lodge
We used to know so well,
On others Time's benumbing hand
Has cast its icy spell;
The pleasant voice is faltering,
The loving heart is still,
The warm true hand we clasp no more,
Nor trust to the Trusting Will.

Change has been here to sadden
Some prosperous scene of years;
Sorrow has sent its shadow
Of wistful, blinding tears.
And we who gathered gladly
In that humble "upper room,"
Are wandering on in sever'd lots,
Or in silence or in gloom.

Our roll-call yearly lessens;
Kind faces age and jade.
And younger voices fill with glee
Each porch and colonnade.
New hopes, new plans, new ways prevail;
The old has given way
To the fresher, ardent yearnings
Of a younger, blither day.
And ten years hence how many
Will then have ceased to meet
Where many a loyal Brother
Hastens with willing feet,
Ten years from hence when Christmas
Asserts its genial sway,
How many full of light and life
Must then have past away.
So let us while the hours remain
While year gives way to year,
As Masons good and faithful
With brethren near and dear,
Still seek to carry out those words
Which angels sang above
For God on high, for Man on earth,
In reverence and love.
And thus in tones of sympathy,
By many a kindly deed
For all who are sadly suffering,
For all in woe and in need
Our hearts will open warmly
Amidst our Christmas fare,
For the orphan and the friendless,
For poor Masons everywhere.
A. F. A. W.

Original Correspondence.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for, or even as approving of the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish, in a spirit of fair play to all, to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.—Ed.]

MASONIC PORTRAITS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—
Referring to the suggestion of "T. P. C.," in your issue of December 5th last, I think the hint thrown out a good one, and am pleased to see you invite opinion—which shows you are prepared to do it if you can gain supporters. I certainly think well-executed portraits of prominent members in the various degrees of Freemasonry, or arranged in emblematical groups, would very much increase the value and interest of your paper; but I would even go further than "T. P. C.," and suggest you give, from time to time, engravings of the halls, temples, &c., in all parts of the globe—especially the new ones which are being constantly opened. Let these be really first-class, and you would soon double the circulation of the Freemason. If, however, you found the expense too great, you might announce that on such a day you should issue an extra supplement, containing engravings of so-and-so, which would be charged one penny extra. This might be done every two, three, or four weeks.

I hope you may be able to entertain this in your arrangements for the New Year.

I am yours fraternally,
Qx.

IS THE POPE A FREEMASON?

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—
Referring to the photograph sent to you from Constantinople by Bro. Geo. Laurie, and your questions, Whence did he obtain it? and, What is the name of the photographer? I, too, am possessed of a carte-sized photograph by his holiness in Masonic regalia, which I purchased a few years ago at a Masonic conversazione at Liège; it is photographed by I. J. Leken, Verviers. The subscription is "P. Mastai Ferretti, et excommunicavi meos fratres meâ culpa." I have no doubt that there are other of the Rifle volunteers who have a like reminiscence of their visit to Belgium, and of the hospitality of their continental brethren.

Yours fraternally,
H. HOWARD HODGES, P.M. 795.
Maidenhead, Dec. 12th, 1874.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

To the Editor of The Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother.

I have read with very great interest, the leader in your last number, under the above heading, relative to the status of a non-subscribing P.M., on his again rejoining his lodge after discontinuing being a member thereof for two years. You say "It appears to us, we speak deferentially, that on his rejoining his lodge, he resumes his position as a P.M., but loses his status as Senior P.M., and for this reason, A. has subscribed in all up to the present time, eight years, excepting two, during which he intermitted, B. has subscribed eight years without intermission, and became therefore Senior P.M. A clearly cannot jump over B's head on rejoining the lodge, and B, not A, continues to be Senior P.M." You will pardon me for saying that I cannot agree with you in these remarks, I say that B cannot jump over A's head and become his Senior P.M., he may by chance become the oldest subscribing P.M. of the lodge, but he cannot in point of time become his Senior P.M. You go on to say "any other rule or ruling would lead to endless controversies and hopeless anomalies in our lodge system and our lodge qualification." How so? allow me to ask. It appears to me a very great anomaly, that a P.M. of forty years standing in his lodge should by simply leaving it for two years be at once converted, as by magic, into the youngest P.M., and have his name put at the bottom of the list of P.M.'s. This is what Lord Dundreary would call, "one of those things no fella can understand."

In conclusion you say, "We believe that what we have now laid down is entirely in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Book of Constitutions." I venture to say that you can find nothing contained in the Book of Constitutions to support your argument in "letter" and and I have very grave doubts in the "spirit" of that book. All I can find in it is that a P.M. by ceasing to be a subscribing member to any lodge for a certain time loses his membership of the Grand Lodge and nothing more. If I am wrong I shall be very glad to be corrected.

By giving this a place in your next paper you will oblige, yours very fraternally,
AN OLD P.M.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

In reply to M. S. I would respectfully say that the Senior P.M. referred to would undoubtedly again rank as such by rejoining his lodge, as the words "that privilege" (page 18 Constitutions) can only refer thereto. To regain his privilege of membership of Grand Lodge it would not be absolutely necessary for him to be again installed Master of a lodge, but appointment to a Wardenship would give it to him. If I am right in this, surely there is something wrong in the constitution.

Yours fraternally,
E. F.

12th Dec., 1874.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have read with interest the letter in your last paper under the above heading, and I shall be very pleased to see your opinion and that of our legal brethren on the point therein contained, as it is an important one. I am of the same opinion as your correspondent "M.S.," but some are, I believe, of a contrary one.

Yours fraternally,
SUNDIKOS.

To the Editor of the Freemason.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I venture to question the propriety of the allusion to me at the close of your leading article on "Grand Lodge" in last week's issue.

The sarcasm I laugh at, the logic I do not comprehend, the argument I cannot understand.

Without the slightest knowledge of the scope or tendency of the remarks I was anxious to

make on a most important subject, you give the M.W. Pro Grand Master credit for the "greatest tact" in "stopping" their utterance. I should be the last in the world to doubt the discretion of the M.W. Pro Grand Master, but this does not imply an approval of the manner in which you draw attention to it.

You express your opinion that "in such a discussion, from his official position, Bro. Binckes is a little out of place, as Secretary of the Boys' School, somewhat of an interested party, in all good faith, in the consideration of such a motion."

This is an exact reflex of the spirit in which legislation with reference to our Masonic Institutions has been and is conducted,—ignoring, wherever and whenever possible, the evidence, views, opinions, and ideas of those who, from intimate knowledge and practical experience, ought to be—and with all deference, I submit, are—best qualified to guide—I don't say to direct—those before whom the various important questions connected with the welfare of the Institutions are brought for consideration.

The *raison d'être* of this I can divine to my own satisfaction, but do not care to define at this present writing.

You proceed, "What our Bro. Binckes' opinions on the subject are we do not know, and if he likes to favour the Craft with them in our columns, we shall be most happy to afford him the means of doing so."

Surely, as an interested party (though "in all good faith,") my remarks would, "from my official position, be a little out of place"—equally when published in the columns of the *Freemason*, as if orally expressed in Grand Lodge—and therefore I decline your offer, not caring to subject myself to your criticism until you shall feel disposed—after due reflection shall have freed you from prejudice—to regard from a more just and equitable point of view those whose judgment might be allowed to have some weight in connection with the work in which they are specifically engaged.

Thus much I may inform you that the amendment I hoped to have been permitted to propose, would have met with the full concurrence of Bro. Clabon, (whom I regret having been unable from circumstances, to see previous to the meeting of Grand Lodge), and in proposing it I should have availed myself of the opportunity to place some few facts and figures before the numerous assemblage of brethren, of which I feel confident, not nine out of ten of our younger brethren are aware.

I am, Sir and Brother, yours faithfully and fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES.

December 15th, 1874.

THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have the pleasure to enclose you the memorial from the Knights Templar of Dorset, which was received by the National Grand Prior last Friday, and accepted by him for discussion at the next meeting of the N. G. Priory. At the same meeting, a memorial from Lancashire was accepted.

Allow me to suggest to the Knights Templar of England and Wales that each Preceptory (Encampment) should, after the example of Lancashire, send up a separate memorial in a registered envelope.

I am, Sir, yours fraternally,
A.P.G.C.

"To the very High and Eminent Great Prior of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple, and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta, in England and Wales and the Dependencies thereof.

"The respectful Memorial of the Sir Knights Members of the Province of Dorset in Provincial Priory assembled, sheweth:—

"That your Memorialists view with regret and disapprobation many of the changes introduced into the Constitution of the Order, by the newly enacted Statutes of the Convent General; and desire to call attention to the fact that the first

notice of the new Statutes being prepared, was only issued at a very short period before the meeting of Grand Conclave, in December, 1872; and that that notice only intimated that those Statutes would be laid on the table, and in no way conveyed an impression that it would be sought at once to pass them into Law.

"Your Memorialists respectfully represent that the Statute, enacting that matters recommended by the Report of the Committee might be passed into Law without notice being given thereof in the Summons, was never intended to apply to alterations and innovations so extensive as are comprised in these new Statutes.

"That by reason of the hurried manner in which these new Statutes were brought forward and passed into Law, no consideration could be given to their probable effect, and to the expediency of their enactment; and your Memorialists as well as the general body of the Order were utterly debarred from any opportunity of discussing or considering them."

"That the experience since acquired of the effect and working of these new Statutes, convinces your memorialists that they are detrimental to the best interests of the Order, and must inevitably in the course of time thin its ranks and weaken its influence."

"That it is undesirable to drop the title "Masonic," seeing that it is as Freemasons, that the Order enjoys immunity from penalties, under the provisions of the 39 Geo. III. Cap. 79 and 57 Geo. III. Cap. 19, that the existing Order of the Temple has ever been a Masonic Order; and that it is of importance to declare to the outside world that it still is and ever will be a Masonic Order; and so entitled to the Privileges of Freemasons.

"Your Memorialists further consider that many of the changes of the nomenclature of the Order, are injudicious and unnecessary, and only tend to confusion; and that, if intended to identify this Order with the actual Knights Templar, such identity is unwarranted by any authority, and deprives this Order of its original and legitimate claim to be treated as an integral portion of the entire system of Freemasonry.

"Your Memorialists are firmly of opinion that the abolition of Past Rank, and the substitution of appointments during pleasure, instead of annual ones, is most injudicious and will tend to a practical monopoly of office by a few Knights, whilst the great body of the Order is deprived of any incentive to energy and zeal. Few Knights will care to accept Great or Provincial Great offices, which confer nothing but temporary rank, and of which after the period of service of office has past, they can preserve no distinguishing mark or memorial, whilst at the same time a legitimate means of raising funds for Great Priory and Provincial Priors is virtually abolished, as Knights will not be disposed to pay Fees of Honour for a mere ephemeral distinction; and the newly created honours of "Knight Commander" and "Knight Grand Cross" being life appointments, limited in number, and attainable only at the pleasure of the "Grand Master," will not form a compensating fund for Great Priory, and leave the Provincial Priors with no permanent distinction whatever to confer on their members.

Your Memorialists firmly believe that in consequence of these recent changes and of the manner in which they were introduced to the Order, a very serious and deep dissatisfaction is spreading throughout its ranks; and they respectfully pray that Great Priory will be pleased forthwith to take measures for obtaining from each Preceptory the opinions of its members upon the present position and probable future prospects of the Order under the operations of these new Statutes; and that the result of such enquiries may be laid before Convent General for its consideration; and that it be requested that a Special Meeting of that body may be summoned to meet in London at an early day, for the full and open discussion of the momentous questions which present themselves.

Signed, on behalf of the Provincial Priory of Dorset,

‡ C. J. VIGNE, Prov. Prior.

‡ THOS. COOMBS, Prov. Sub Prior.

19th November 1874.

BRO. J. G. FINDEL, THE MASONIC HISTORIAN, RESPECTING COMENIUS AND FREEMASONRY.

To the Editor of the *Freemason*.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

I have received the following from my friend and brother, Findel, and hasten to make his communication known to the many readers of the "*Freemason*."

I am not prepared to endorse the views of our esteemed brother without further examination, but I hope the Masonic students interested in the subject will not fail to give the matter their close attention, for Bro. Findel is respected as a Masonic historian wherever the literature of the Craft is valued, though of course many differ as to the origin and character of the society, which he has sketched in such a masterly manner in his "*History of Freemasonry*."

Fraternally yours,

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

TRURO 19th Dec. 1874.

COMMUNICATION BY BRO FINDEL.

"In the writings of Amos Comenius, especially in his '*Panegersia*' and '*Opera Didactica*,' there are many passages of pure Masonic character, and so strikingly similar to the words used by Bro. James Anderson, and in our Rituals, that Bro. C. Krause, the German philosopher and Masonic author could not help believing that Dr. Anderson must have been familiar with these sources.

Krause gives, in his work, "*Kunsturkunden der Freimr. - Conderchalt*," iv. p. 15—59, a translation, from Latin, of some passages out of Comenius's "*Panegersia*," and other quotations in his "*Tagblatt*."

The works of Comenius have been published in Germany lately.

I have not time enough, neither can I translate into English readily; so I shall be obliged if my dear brethren in England and the United States will have a number of passages from Comenius's writings of a Masonic character translated into their mother tongue.

I can only give a few of them.

Comenius says he purposes to show that the true welfare of the human race is founded on three things—

Philosophy, Religion, and Politics.

Who does not think here of the three pillars (or principles) of Masonry?

The fruits of these, he says, are Wisdom, Piety, and Peace.

Comenius speaks of the great society, or fellowship ("*maximi collegii*,") which composes the whole human race dispersed over the face of the earth.

Who does not here think of the form and extension of the Lodge and the Grand Lodges of the Universe?

The world (Comenius observes) is naturally one whole, and should become so also spiritually and morally. We all live in this our common dwelling-place, and should be united to teach the true and good, we should walk the three-fold way of Unity, Simplicity, (humility), and Freedom in perfect harmony with one another. Look on God, who is one All, and desires that we, His image, should all become one. Comenius also alludes to the "centre of Unity" like one of "Old Charges," and in his society he will comprehend all men without any reference to their occupations, (professions), religious sects, or nationalities, &c., &c., (quite Masonic), and says that they should teach with one another in peace with attention and earnestness and in the manner of friends. He uses also the word Brother.

I am sorry that I cannot translate more and better to prove that Comenius in his works (published 1702) has depicted the whole plan, purpose and the principles of the Craft, in such a manner that it is reasonable to suppose that Bros. Anderson and Desaguliers were familiar with his writings and followed in his steps.

BRO. J. G. FINDEL.

Leipzig, Dec., 1874.