

THE FREEMASON.

The Organ of the Craft, a Weekly Record of Progress in
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HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, THE M.W. GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND; HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF IRELAND
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OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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IT is gratifying to feel that we are within measurable distance of the appointment of an independent Committee of Inquiry into the management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys and that, at an early date, there is a possibility that the determined hostility which has been exhibited towards its executive officers during the greater part of the current year will be put a stop to and the governing body be able to show it is entitled as much as ever to the confidence of the Masonic public. It is still more gratifying to know that the proposal for the appointment of this independent Committee of Inquiry has emanated from the House Committee itself, which has been the subject of so much virulent abuse and which has adopted this course in the belief that it will prove the most conducive to the interests of the School. That Committee would have been fully justified in regarding its re-election to office last month by an overwhelming majority of votes as a conclusive answer to the charges so unscrupulously advanced against its administration of the School. But instead of contenting themselves with this renewal of the confidence previously reposed in them, the members composing the House Committee have voluntarily announced their desire that a Committee of Inquiry into their conduct should be appointed, so that the whole body of English Freemasons may be as satisfied as they are themselves of the purity and impartiality of their government. Accordingly when the General Committee holds its regular meeting to-morrow (Saturday), a notice of motion for the appointment by the Quarterly General Court on the 27th inst. of a Special Committee of Inquiry into the management of the Institution will be handed in and the election of the brethren to serve on this Committee will then rest with the general body of Governors and Subscribers. There is, however, one suggestion it occurs to us to make, namely, that the members of the House Committee, both as individuals and collectively, should abstain from either recommending or taking part in the election of the members of this Special Committee. It is before all things imperative that the brethren who serve on this Committee should be the elect of the Governors and Subscribers, so that their perfect impartiality may be above suspicion. It stands to reason that they must be well qualified for the task they are about to enter upon, as well as men of weight and influence, in whose judgment the whole English Craft is ready to repose entire confidence. But there is a good deal of malignant feeling prevalent just now in sundry quarters, and the House Committee will lose much of the additional respect to which their present action entitles them, while the Governors and Subscribers will lose most of the advantages which may be expected to result from the proposed inquiry, if the election or selection of the brethren to serve on the Committee is not made independently of the House Committee or any of its members. We have no fear of the inquiry being conducted too minutely—on the contrary, we are of the same mind in this matter as the House Committee, and most devoutly hope that every, even the smallest, detail will be made, if it should be thought necessary or expedient, the subject of the most rigid scrutiny. All the scrutiny in the world would probably be unavailing to satisfy the malignity of the authors of the anonymous circular, but that will be a matter of indifference if the more reasonable of the critics are satisfied that the election of the Special Committee is an open one, and free from any intervention whatever on the part of the members of the House Committee.

IT is not our intention to examine particularly the various items contained in the tabular statement which appeared in our advertisement columns a short time since, and in which it was sought to institute a comparison between the cost per boy in the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and the cost per child in four other Institutions, in three of which the children were of both sexes. But it is our duty to caution our readers against allowing themselves to be influenced by a comparison which is obviously unjust, and, indeed, we might go further and say, impossible, under the circumstances. If, for instance, a comparison between the cost per head per annum in any two Institutions is to possess any real

value, the conditions under which they exist must be as nearly alike as possible. That is to say, the children should be of the same sex in both cases; they should be as nearly as possible of the same social status in both cases; and the cost of living should be about the same in the localities in which the Institutions are respectively situated. But the compiler of this tabular statement has carefully ignored these conditions. The Masonic Boys' School contains 258 boys, but the Commercial Travellers' Schools contain 217 boys and 124 girls, or, 341 children in all; the London Orphan Asylum, 496 children; and the British Orphan Asylum, 118 boys and 98 girls, or, 216 children in all; and, therefore, to establish anything like a just comparison between our Boys' School and the other three Charities, the expenditure incurred by the latter in respect of girls should have been omitted from the calculation. Or, the expenditure of our Girls' School, including both Ordinary and Special, so far as might be necessary, should have been added to the former, and the cost per child reckoned on a basis of 258 boys and 242 girls, or 500 children together. Had the latter of these courses been adopted, the comparison would have remained in favour of the three non-Masonic Charities, but the difference in the cost per child between them and the two Masonic Charities conjoined would not have been so conspicuous. Again, Bro. GREATBATCH, in the first footnote appended to his statement, remarks of "the expenditure of the London Orphan Asylum" in 1888 that it "was unusually heavy in consequence of an outbreak of sickness," and that "the average cost per head at that institution in previous seven years was £31 8s. 7d." But as Bro. BINCKES, in his speech at the Festival, very properly pointed out, there was an outbreak of scarlet fever in our Boys' School in the autumn of the same year. Then, as regards the item of "Rates and Taxes," to which Bro. BINCKES also referred on the same occasion, the expenditure per child under this head at Wood Green was £2 1s. 2d.; in the Commercial Travellers' Schools, 18s. 6½d.; in the London Orphan Asylum, 10s. 10d.; in the British Orphan Asylum, 8s. 0½d.; but only a partial critic would hold the Executive of our Boys' School responsible for this excess of expenditure in an item over which it is impossible they can exercise any control. In a second footnote, Bro. GREATBATCH estimates "the actual cost" per boy at Wood Green at £50 16s., as against £41 13s. 10d., which is the average fixed by the Committee, and remarks that the said "actual cost" is "exclusive of any charge for rent, although £94,650 has been expended on the establishment at Wood Green." He very considerably says nothing about "charge for rent" in connection with the four non-Masonic Charities he has selected for the purposes of his comparison, neither does he tell us anything about the sums, if any, which they have expended on their respective establishments. But as he lays some stress on the £94,650 which has been expended at Wood Green it is only just to the management of the Institution to point out that the handsome buildings which have been erected from time to time at Wood Green and the 16 acres and upwards of valuable land in close proximity to, and easily accessible by rail or omnibus from, the Metropolis, represent a by no means inconsiderable "value received" even for so large an outlay. Other remarks might be added in explanation of other heads of expenditure—especially as regards the three sums of "office," "salaries," and "wages," which certainly do not increase "pari passu" with an increased number of children—but what we have said already will no doubt serve the purpose we had in view in offering these criticisms, and will prevent our readers from accepting a comparison which is founded on unequal or dissimilar data, and which, in the nature of things, therefore, must be utterly misleading.

THE statistical and other information which was submitted to the Prov. Grand Lodge of Berks and Bucks at its annual meeting, at High Wycombe, on Monday, the 25th ult., was in all respects satisfactory. The Prov. Grand Secretary was able to report an increase during the past year in the membership of the province—from 794 to 834, while the Charity Fund of Prov. Grand Lodge had been able to furnish contributions to our Charities amounting to 105 guineas (£110 5s.) Moreover, the Prov. Grand Master had occasion to congratulate the brethren on an addition of two new lodges to the muster roll of the province, so that in lodges, in membership, and pecuniarily the past year has been one of considerable prosperity with our Berks and Bucks friends. We congratulate them on the progress they have made, and we trust they will continue to work on as steadily and surely in the future as in the past. They have an excellent ruler in the person of Bro. Sir DANIEL GOOCH, Bart., who has been at the head of the province for some 20 years, and their affairs are well administered under his superintendence by his Deputy, Bro. the Rev. J. S. BROWNRIFF, P.G.C., Bro. C. STEPHENS, Prov. G. Treas.—who, we regret to learn, was absent from Prov. Grand Lodge in consequence of illness—and Bro. R. BRADLEY, Prov. G. Sec. The Prov. Grand Officers, also as a body, do their duty thoroughly, so that it is not surprising, after all, that matters should have gone on so satisfactorily.

We occasionally hear of cases in which brethren who have had Blackballing friends rejected as candidates for initiation or membership determine to avenge what they conceive to be a studied insult to themselves by blackballing indiscriminately and mercilessly every candidate, no matter how excellent his credentials or how influential his sponsors, who may afterwards offer himself for joining or initiation. Conduct of this kind is utterly indefensible, but, unfortunately, it is difficult to bring it home to the offender, who usually continues, therefore, to get off scatheless. In the United States, however, when it is possible to trace home to a particular Mason anything in the way of deliberate and malignant blackballing, the offender, if convicted, is very summarily treated. In the address of Comp. HENDERSON, G.H. Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania, we gather that it reached him in the course of his duty that a candidate for exaltation and membership in a subordinate chapter had been rejected, and that, on hearing of his fate, a companion, who was a friend of the applicant, openly declared "that it would be a long time before anyone else received the Degrees in that chapter." Accordingly, Comp. HENDERSON gave orders to the District Deputy G.H. Priest to ascertain if the facts were as reported, and, if so, to prefer charges against the offending companion, and in the event of their being proved, to expel him from R.A. Masonry. It cannot be said that the punishment ordered in this case is excessive, and it will be a great boon to Masonry, if, when similar cases occur here, it is found possible to treat them in a similarly severe fashion. We fully agree with Comp. HENDERSON that, "when a companion so far forgets his manhood and his Masonic obligations as to stoop to wholesale blackballing for no better motive than revenge, it is time he was made to understand that he cannot vent his spleen in any such unbridled manner, and that Freemasonry has a method by which she can purge herself of all such disturbers of her peace and harmony."

GRAND LODGE SEALS OF THE "ANCIENTS."

By BRO. H. SADLER.

Since my last article on the subject of seals in No. 1001 of the *Freemason*, I have been favoured with a sight of the warrants of Nos. 1, 11, and 15, neither of which bears a seal corresponding with the date of issue, the two first mentioned having Kirk's seal of 1775, and the latter that of 1792. To the best of my belief I have now seen all the warrants granted by the "Ancients" prior to 1760 known to be still in existence, and, strange to say, not one of them but has a seal of a much more recent period than that which it originally bore.

It seems to me that there is something more in this than mere accident, for—supposing all the seals to have become damaged, or even entirely detached—I see no reason why they could not have been replaced by fresh ones of the same period, and from the same die. The original seal might possibly have been lost or mislaid; but, from what is known of the characteristics of its custodian (Dermott), I think this most improbable.

In my last I expressed a hope that some of our brethren who have made a special study of this interesting subject might be able to throw some light on the official seal of the "Ancients" prior to 1760, but having up to now met with no response, I suppose I may fairly, although reluctantly, conclude that they are not more fortunate than I am in this respect. I will, therefore, without further delay, place on record what little further information I am in possession of, as by so doing I may possibly contribute towards the elucidation of what has hitherto been regarded as an "Ancient" mystery.

It is a noteworthy fact that the records of the "Ancients" contain no reference to the purchase or presentation of a seal before the year 1760, and yet they evidently had one in use, as I have already shown, for several years previous to that date; neither is a seal mentioned amongst the articles handed over to Dermott by his predecessor, John Morgan, on the 5th February, 1752, but in the transactions of the 14th September in the same year a "Grand Seal" is distinctly referred to. Now, I feel sure that had a seal been delivered to Dermott on his accession to the office of Grand Secretary, he would not have omitted to notice the fact in recording the transfer of the "books, &c., &c." It seems to me, therefore, highly probable that some time between these dates Dermott had designed a seal, and got it engraved at his own expense, as was undoubtedly the case with those subsequently adopted, that is, so far as the design is concerned. With regard to the seal of 1760, there is nothing on record to indicate that it had ever been ordered by Grand Lodge, and judging from the wording of the entry in the minute book the following year, I should surmise that Dermott had the seal engraved on his own responsibility, and paid for it himself, but afterwards concluded that Grand Lodge could very well afford to refund the money, and therefore handed in his bill.

On page 125 of "Masonic Facts and Fictions," I have referred to Dermott's Certificate "under the seal of the Grand Lodge of Ireland," and, whatever that seal may have been, it is not unlikely to have served as a pattern for the first seal of the Irish or "Ancient" Grand Lodge in London.



The seal here depicted under letter A. is No. 8 on the plate of Seals in the work just quoted, and was used by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, certainly as far back as 1731, and is almost identical with one in use by that Body as late as 1807. In "Ahiman Rezon, 1764," Dermott gives the upraised hand grasping a trowel as the crest of "the Arms of the operative or stone Masons," on what authority I know not, as I have no recollection of having elsewhere met with this crest in connection with these Arms, and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, I shall be disposed to believe that Dermott, in surmounting the three Castles or Towers with the hand and trowel, indulged in a flight of fancy, as he certainly did with regard to the two others as supporters, which, so far as I can learn, were never used by the Masons Company, but properly belong to the armorial bearings of the Marquess of Carnarvon, and were probably adopted as a compliment to that nobleman, he being Grand Master of the "Moderns" at the time the seal was ordered to "be cut." However that may be, it is quite clear that the device of the hand and trowel was used as a seal by the "Ancients" in England as well as by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, although I have hitherto been unable to find direct evidence of its official use by the authorities of the former body. With the exception of the minute books, registers, and a few warrants and certificates, we have nothing in the archives of the Grand Lodge of a documentary nature appertaining to the Ancient organisation, dated further back than

about 1790, and very few letters and returns from lodges prior to 1800, but some of those we are still in possession of I have carefully examined for the purpose of this paper, and although I have not searched a fourth part of them I found evidence that eleven different lodges on the "Ancient" list prior to the Union used a seal with the hand and trowel. The numbers of these lodges were 39, now 44; 62, now 62; 94, now 80; 140, erased; 148, now 115; 153, now 117; 275, erased; 289, now 211; 296, erased; 297, now 215; and 311, erased. Amongst a variety of other seals I noticed some which appear to have been suggested by the seal of 1760 as represented in my last article under letter B, and I have no doubt whatever that some at any rate of the eleven I have mentioned were adopted because a similar seal had been affixed to the warrants of the body from from which these lodges emanated. I have shown in "Masonic Facts and Fictions" that the warrants of the "Ancients" were sometimes described as "Irish warrants," and their lodges "Irish lodges," although the leaders themselves never acknowledged their real origin, and in my opinion the most feasible explanation of the removal of the old seal from original warrants and a new one being so hastily made in 1760 is to be found in an evident desire, from motives of policy, to "hide their trail," they wishing to pose as Ancient Masons of England, not as brethren from another jurisdiction. It is unnecessary to describe these eleven seals in detail as they all bear a general resemblance to the one here shown under letter "D," but are in every case somewhat larger. Only one other has the motto "Grip Fast the Light," and that is the seal of original No. 297, which has also "The Ancient Night Templers Lodge, Manchester," in the outer circle.



I have chosen the seal of No 39 as an illustration, because I consider it the oldest of the batch, and it probably served as a pattern for some of the others belonging to younger lodges in the neighbourhood of Manchester; it was copied by W. H. Rylands from an impression on a letter bearing date 5th December, 1803, and was certainly used by the lodge up to 1832, for it appears on a document of the year 1816, the number having been altered to 59, the number given to this lodge after the Union, and a few days ago Bro. John Chadwick, Prov. Grand Secretary of East Lancashire, gave me a wax impression from the identical seal (for it is still in existence), with the number again altered to "52," this being its number from 1832 to 1863.

Bro. John Lane, in his *Masonic Records*, gives the date of the original warrant of this lodge as 18th June, 1755, and there can be no doubt that it bore the seal used at that period by the "Ancient" Grand Lodge; it seems to me quite natural, therefore, that when the lodge ordered a seal for its own purposes it should have copied the one on the warrant, if not, whence the idea of the design and the curious motto "Grip Fast the Light?" which in my opinion has an unmistakable flavour of "Dermott" about it. Perhaps some of our specialists can tell us something more about this "motto." I have never seen it on a *bona fide* Irish seal, nor indeed anywhere else besides on these seals of the "Ancients."

From certain marks still visible on such of the early warrants as have come under my notice it appears that the seals originally affixed thereto were about the same size as this old seal of No. 39, and, under all the circumstances, I trust I shall not be thought to have overstrained my imaginative powers if I suggest that by substituting "Ancient Grand Lodge, London," for "Friendship Lodge, &c.," we may have in this seal a very probable representation of the first official seal of the "Ancients."



The seal here delineated under letter E, although not directly appertaining to the "Ancients," is, I think, of sufficient importance for reproduction, especially as very little seems to be known of it even by special students, for I am not aware that it has been included with other Grand Lodge seals which have already appeared in different Masonic publications.

Bro. Rylands first called my attention to it during the preparation of the plates for "Masonic Facts and Fictions," and also sketched it for insertion, but as I could not well find a place for it without disturbing others which seemed to have a more direct bearing on the chief subject of that work, it was reluctantly left out. It represents a seal used by the Grand Lodge of Ireland in the latter half of last century, but owing to the lamentable loss of the early records of that body, no information can be obtained as to the period when it was first used, nor when it was discontinued. It was not even mentioned by the late Bro. Oldham in our correspondence on Irish seals last year, the substance of which is given on pp. 128 and 129 of the book just referred to, and his not having sent me an impression of it amongst the others leads me to think that he was not even aware that such a seal had ever been used by his Grand Lodge. His long illness prevented further enquiries on the subject, but a few months back our obliging and learned brother, Dr. Chetwode Crawley, of Dublin, was good enough to endeavour to find out its history; and having spent a day "in such researches as were available," he says—"I regret exceedingly to have found absolutely no information about the seal." I have two impressions of it on Irish Grand Lodge certificates of the years 1793 and 1801; another of 1788 has evidently had a similar seal, which is now missing. According to the "notes" of Bro. Rylands, it was in use as far back as 1772, and, in my opinion, if we could but get at the truth, we should find that its introduction was many years earlier; indeed, I am inclined to think that it is this seal which Bro. Oldham referred to in connection with some marks on a warrant of 1760.*

Perhaps Bro. Hughan, who is doing such good service by publishing transcripts of old Irish warrants, may be able to throw some light on the matter.

There are certain features in this seal which seem to merit special attention, as indicating an affinity more or less remote with the seals of the "Ancients." For instance, the band, Latin motto, and the flaming sword may have suggested to Dermott the design for the seal of 1760, given in my last article. It is equally possible that the cherubim, central shield, and the inscription in Hebrew first gave rise to the idea of the seal of 1775, which seal was, I have no doubt, afterwards adopted by the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

I may as well mention that the meaning of the Hebrew motto on this Irish seal may be found in *Ecclesiastes* vii., 23—"All this I proved by wisdom," whilst that on the English seal of 1775, as is well known, signifies "Holiness to the Lord." I think I have now placed on record all, or nearly all, the knowledge I possess with regard to the Grand Lodge seals of the "Ancients," not that I consider the subject exhausted, far from it; and I hope at no distant period to learn what additional light can be thrown on them by those who have made a special study of seals, and have more extensive means of acquiring information.

* See "Masonic Facts and Fictions," p. 129.

MASONIC FESTIVAL IN BRUSSELS.

From some notes which have been kindly placed at our disposal by certain English brethren who were present at a grand banquet given to Bro. Pierre Tempels, of Brussels, on the 23rd ult., we are enabled to present our readers with what we hope may be regarded by them as an interesting picture of a Belgian Masonic Festival at the present time of writing.

In Belgium, as most persons are aware, there exists a sharp division of political sentiment between the Clericals and the Liberals, and this cleavage is reflected in the lodges. Recently, the former party has got the upper hand, and their predominance in the Senate and Chamber has, not unnaturally, operated to the prejudice of the latter, especially in a Masonic point of view, since it is almost entirely from those who are adherents of the Liberal party that the recruits are drawn who fill up the gaps in, and swell the ranks of, the Freemasons.

In a country, therefore, where the minds of a vast majority of the population are in a condition of moral thralldom, where the Papal influence has lately acquired a new lease of power, and where men of moderate opinions carefully abstain from doing anything that may tend to embroil them with either of the political parties, it rarely happens that any prominent official so far possesses the courage of his opinions as to publicly avow an interest in, and to participate in Masonic fellowship with, a class of persons to whom even the rites of the Church are denied by the priests whose office it is to administer them.

Bro. Tempels, however, is a brilliant exception to the almost general rule, and there can be little or any doubt that his sturdy independence as a high official on the Civil Staff of the Army has contributed not a little to the affectionate respect with which he is regarded by the general body of Belgian Freemasons.

Not, indeed, that the claims of Bro. Tempels upon the gratitude and esteem of his brethren are exhausted by the preceding reference, for it is in the capacity of a sagacious ruler of capitular Masonry during the past six years that this distinguished brother displayed the qualities which, in the opinion of those most competent to judge, amply justified the compliment paid to him by so large and representative a body as were assembled in the Grand Hall of the Lodge and Chapter "Des Amis Philanthropes," Brussels, on the 23rd ult.

Some of the English brethren, from whose notes these particulars are extracted, were not members of what are familiarly termed the "Higher Degrees," and therefore took no part in the opening feature of the Festival, which was a meeting of the Rose Croix Chapter "Des Amis Philanthropes," under whose banner all the proceedings of the evening were conducted.

The preliminary business having been disposed of, the chapter was lowered to the Third Degree, and the visitors of distinction—including many members of the A. and A.S.R., 33°, who had been present throughout the entire proceedings—were admitted in procession—the guest of the evening bringing up the rear—and saluted by the Belgian Masons in a manner peculiar to brethren in the 18°.

Shortly afterwards, a general move took place, and the chapter, with its guests, marched slowly to the Grand Hall, where the banqueting tables had been set out, the National Anthems of Belgium, England, Holland, and France being played in succession as the brethren advanced to their seats.

At the upper end of the Hall, on a slightly elevated plane, was a high or cross table, and in the body of the room were three long tables arranged lengthways with the Hall, and at right angles to the dais.

The brethren seated at the cross-table were as follows: In the chair, Bro. De Vergnier, M.W.S. of the chapter; on his right, Bros. Desmond, Grand Master of French Masons (under the title of President of the Council of the Order); Van Humbeeck, Dep. Sov. Grand Com. of the Sup. Council of Belgium, Past Grand Master, &c., formerly Minister of Public Instruction; Van Osenbruggen, Sov. G. Com. of the Scottish Rite in the Netherlands, member of the Second Chamber of the States-General; R. F. Gould, P.G.D. England, W.M. of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076; Couvreur, Past G. Master of G.O. of Belgium, formerly Vice-President of the Chamber of Representatives; Baron Creutz, Rep. of the G.L. of Sweden at the G.O. of the Netherlands; G. W. Speth, Sec. of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, London; Macé, Member of the French Senate; Buls, Burgomaster of Brussels; and G. Jottrand, G. Chancellor of the Sup. Council of Belgium, Ex-Deputy to the Chamber. On his left: Bros. P. Tempels, President of the Court of Military Justice, retiring M.W.S. of the chapter, and the guest of the evening; H. D. Sandeman, G. Sec. Gen. Sup. Council of England; Rev. F. Liefink, G. Orator of the G.O. of the Netherlands, member of the States-General; E. Reisse, Dep. Grand Master (G.M. Adjoint) of the G.O. of Belgium; Capt. J. Van Lelyveld, G. Dir. of Cer. of the G.O. of the Netherlands; Verhoogen, Sec. of the Chapter Union and Progress, Bruxelles; Van Meinen, Orator of the Chapter Amis Philanthropes, Bruxelles; Bergé, W.M. Union and Progress; Prince de Looz Coriwarem, of Liège; Cohen, of Brussels; and Paris, De Paesse, and Marx, of the chapters at Charleroy, Mons, and Ghent, respectively.

The three long tables in the body of the hall were presided over by Surveillants, and about 75 brethren were seated at each, or some 225 in all; among them being a number of English Masons from Antwerp, who were readily distinguished by the colour of their aprons. Members of the 18th and Superior Degrees wore the sashes of their respective ranks, but the officers and members of foreign Grand and private lodges who attended as Craft Masons were attired in the ordinary regalia of their respective grades.

The banquet having duly progressed through its first stage, the dessert was placed on the table, and, the hall being properly tyled, the PRESIDENT rose, and in a short speech of great eloquence proposed the first toast, "King and Fatherland." This having been duly honoured, the *parole* was given to the GRAND MASTER of the CEREMONIES, who spoke from the lower end of the hall, in the King's name. After alluding to the benefits which the King believed the Craft conferred upon his subjects in general, and promising them continued protection, he insisted upon the loyalty which he expected from them in return. Grasping a brimming bumper of champagne, he concluded with the words—"I, as representing his Majesty, now drink to the welfare and health of my faithful subjects of the Belgian Craft," emptied the glass in due form, and dashed it violently to the ground, where it was shivered into atoms.

The PRESIDENT next proposed the Supreme Rulers of the foreign brethren present in the following order: "Her Majesty the Queen of England, the King of Holland, and the President of the French Republic." Thus far, all the brethren remained standing, but they now resumed their seats, which, for the most part, they retained without again rising, save for the purpose of honouring a toast, or of addressing the assembly. The exceptions to this general rule were the brethren seated on what may be termed the outer circle of the body of the hall, or in other words, the Surveillants, who presided over the three tables arranged longitudinally in the apartment, and the brethren to their right and left, whose places at the banquet were nearest to the two walls of the room. Thus, the Vice-Presidents, as we should term them in England, and the brethren on their right and left, whose backs in either case were nearest to the wall, remained standing throughout the various speeches, while the remainder of those present retained their seats, except as above stated, or unless the word was given that all present were expected to rise to their feet.

To assist the Chairman (or President) in the discharge of his onerous duties, our Belgian brethren resort to an expedient that we might do well to introduce into this country. The high, or cross-table, as with ourselves, is intended for the superior officers of the Masonic body giving the entertainment, who, together with the visitors of distinction, face the body of brethren sitting as it were below the salt. But in Belgium two brethren at least sit at the cross-table with their backs to the body of the hall. These are Stewards or *aides de camp* to the Presiding Officer, and their places at the banquet we are endeavouring to describe were exactly opposite to those of the brethren on the immediate right and left of the Chairman, which gave that functionary an uninterrupted view of the meeting over which he was presiding, while at the same time seating within easy earshot a couple of vigilant Craftsmen, who succeeded to admiration in discerning and rightly interpreting the slightest hint from the chair. These brethren were constantly on the move, and it was quite a rare occurrence to find them both seated at the same moment. Conspicuous above all, was their attention to the visitors, whose glasses they inspected at ever-shortening intervals, and replenished according to the carrying capacities of the representatives of the various foreign nationalities.

The PRESIDENT then rose and proposed "The Health of the Guest of the evening, Bro. P. Tempels." At every mention of his career, as an official of the State, as a foremost man in literature, science, jurisprudence, politics, or as a Mason who had devoted his best energies to the purification of their system, to a revision of their ritual and to the consolidation of their relations with foreign jurisdictions, the orator was greeted and encouraged by enthusiastic cheers. At a given signal the excellent portrait of Bro. Tempels, destined for the hall, was unveiled, and the cheering renewed. The President then turned to Bro. Tempels and pinned upon his breast the handsome jewel voted to him by the two Rose Croix Chapters of Brussels, and folding him in a close embrace kissed him upon both cheeks. The cheering here became deafening, and the great majority of those present left their seats to clink glasses with the hero of the hour. Quiet being at length restored, Bro. Tempels, in a speech of much force and considerable humour, replied at some length, but, as our correspondents are not skilled in the art of stenography, we can only give a condensed sketch of an address which we are assured would well merit being reproduced in its entirety.

Bro. TEMPELS begged most sincerely to thank the last speaker for his too partial appreciation of his little book "Les Francsmaçons," and for his generous praise of any benefit he had been able to render to the Craft in Belgium. He trusted his efforts in both directions had been successful, but he must decline to take all the credit to himself. For his own part, he would take that opportunity of thanking several brethren for the great assistance they had always rendered him (the speaker here mentioned several by name). As for his treatise, he would like to reinforce the arguments he had used; but the time and circumstances were perhaps not quite fitting. Masons should ever have before them the claims of intellectuality and the perfecting of their morals, but they acknowledge also the existence of certain hours when all other thoughts give place to the sweet pleasures of friendship, hours of delight when, assembled round the hospitable board, they forget the world outside the charmed circle, with all its cares and misery, injustice and strife, and give up their very souls to the fascination of fraternal converse; when joy blossoms amidst the flowers and crystal, and where sound sense more often prevails than in great orations and heated polemics. He then took up his parable against political discourses in lodge, and against empty and sterile declamation. "They remind me," said he, "of that would-be *dame spirituelle*, of whom it was said that when she had perpetrated a *bon mot* on an emetic, she was surprised not to find herself purged. If at table we are not always great philosophers and statesmen, we are at least always honest philosophers and men of common sense. When we show our friends the bottom of the bottle, we also offer them the depths of our hearts." Reverting to the Rose Croix Chapter, Bro. Tempels then described its work: To undertake only such studies as each one might prosecute fruitfully, to enter upon them seriously, without foolhardiness, without prejudice, and to guard against the possibility that any incident of their work should disturb the harmony which should exist amongst all Masons. The chapters in Belgium enforced fidelity to this twofold rule; he trusted that the lodges would soon return to a like course [the orator here alluded to the unfortunate line of conduct for some time pursued by the lodges, from which it is the desire of the older Masons to wean them]. Between the two rites (Scotch and modern French) there was only a difference of method and a difference of age. We (*i.e.*, the Scottish Masons) are the veterans, our rôle is that of a compensated balance. The younger Masons, with their youthful vigour and ardour, are the main-spring. Wanting the balance, the main-spring would unwind itself to no purpose; wanting the spring, the balance would be useless. After alluding to the life and activity in the chapters, Bro. Tempels made an eloquent appeal to the Grand Orient of the Netherlands, represented by its Grand Officers at that table. He thanked the various illustrious guests individually for the honour they had done him by their presence. Turning to Bro. Desmond, Grand Master of France, he said that no one could be better placed than he was for appreciating the grandeur of the rôle played by the Craft, and the beneficial influence it was capable of exerting, if faithful to the Old Charges, in a country where political passions ran so high, and irritated one set of citizens against the other to the point almost of endangering the public weal. He thanked Bro. Sandeman and the Supreme Council of England; Bro. Gould, Past Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge, W.M. of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, the learned historian, whose great work had created a new epoch in the study of Masonic antiquity; and Bro. Speth, the courteous and indefatigable Secretary of this same lodge of the Quatuor Coronati, the fame of which had encircled the globe. "In every country," he continued, "lodges are necessarily coloured by the national temperament, and the circumstances of their surroundings; but I maintain that all Masons should ever turn their faces to England, as to the paternal roof, just as believers in our faith lift their eyes to the East, whence came their hope and their ideal. On the other hand, those who have remained in their father's house should remember, more than is often the case, the younger members of their family who have left its shelter. Every mark of sympathy on the part of the Grand Lodge or Supreme Council of England would be a powerful encouragement on the Continent; every verdict pronounced by them on the conduct of Continental Masons would have a salutary influence, so long as the admonition recalled the spirit of the Old Charges, *i.e.*, liberty and tolerance dominating party or national quarrels."* Bro. Tempels remarked that some three weeks back he had been fortunate enough to be present at the annual meeting of the Grand Masters of Germany, and had been a witness to the elevation of their ideas and aspirations. Many of those illustrious brothers had decided to be present that evening, but the melancholy death of the Emperor had prevented their attendance. The Grand Master of Switzerland also was debarred from being with them by illness. "If," he said, "a mere feeling of amity has been sufficient to almost assemble around this board a great number of the heads of European Masonry, I am assuredly justified in hoping before my death to see such a re-union in the interest of the Craft universal. That day would be the starting point of a new epoch in the history of the Craft, one in which its universality would be affirmed in spite of parties and nationalities. I have no great faith in those numerous assemblies called 'convents,' but I believe we should not be disappointed in expecting valuable

* It may be as well to explain that in Belgium the lodges show a tendency to meddle with political questions. The chapters admit to their Degrees only such Masons as are free from this defect, and seek to induce the lodges to give up a practice which can only result in misfortune to the Craft. In this undertaking they naturally desire the support of our own Grand Lodge, with which they earnestly desire to exchange representatives, and it is somewhat difficult to make them understand that we cannot recognise a Supreme Council in any way.

results from periodical meetings, attended, as in Germany, by the Grand Masters. Then should we see our Institution, founded as it is upon a like respect for all religions and systems of philosophy, imposing no particular faith upon its members, and remaining strictly outside all politics, become the most powerful agent of moral and social progress ever invented by man."

The word was then given to Bro. JOTTRAND, the Grand Chancellor General, who delivered himself of a comprehensive toast, including "The Supreme Council, the Grand Orient, the Chapters and Lodges of Belgium, the Scottish Rite in Holland, the Grand Orient of France, the Supreme Council of England, the Grand Lodge of England, the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, and the Grand Orient of Holland," coupling with each body the name of one of the distinguished guests present and seated at the High Table.

Bro. VAN OSENBRUGGEN replied for the Scottish Rite in Holland; Bro. REISSE for the Belgian Grand Orient; and Bro. DESMOND, Grand Master of France, for the Orient of that country.

Bro. SANDEMAN (speaking in fluent French) replied on behalf of the Supreme Council, 33°, of England, and thanked the brethren present for the cordial manner in which the toast of English Freemasons had been proposed and received. Being a foreigner, and consequently unaccustomed to deliver speeches in the French tongue, his remarks would be brief; but his words would not be the less sincere, as they would come from his heart. The aim and the object of Freemasonry was the same everywhere, viz., the progress of humanity, help to the indigent, and brotherly love among themselves. Some people supposed that because Freemasonry was open to all it was without religion and without politics. He contended that such persons erred. Freemasonry had both its religion and its politics; the religion of a Freemason was a belief in God; his politics, a prompt and cheerful obedience to the laws of the country in which he had been born, as well as of that in which he resided. Bro. Sandeman then gave an account of the three great Masonic Charities of England, stating that an annual festival was held for each, at which sums varying from £12,000 to £15,000 were ordinarily collected, adding that at a recent festival of the Institution for Girls, which was honoured by the presence of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as President, and which, being a Centenary Festival, was naturally an exceptional occasion, a collection was announced amounting to 1,250,000 francs. (Applause.) That was, he submitted, a very large sum. Before concluding, Bro. Sandeman adverted to the hearty manner in which they dedicated the second toast of the evening to her Majesty the Queen of the British Realm. Englishmen, he said, were all proud of their Queen—they loved and respected their Queen—not only as a Queen, but also as an example to all women in the world, whether as a daughter, a wife, or a mother. (Applause.) On behalf, therefore, of the English brethren present, he thanked them for their gracious compliment to the English country. Finally, he thanked them heartily and sincerely for the opportunity of being present at a festival given in honour of a brother who had done so much for Freemasonry in Belgium (Bro. Tempels), for their general kindness, their great hospitality, and, above all, for the fraternal sentiments which evidently characterised Freemasonry in Belgium as well as it did in all parts of the civilised globe.

Bro. R. F. GOULD said that the previous speaker, though attired that evening in the regalia of the A. and A.S.R., 33°, held higher rank than himself under the Grand Lodge of England, and therefore he (Bro. Gould) considered that it would be unnecessary for him to do more than express his full concurrence in all that had fallen from Bro. Sandeman with respect to the practical working of that body. His further observations would also be of a brief character, as he felt constrained to address the brethren in his own native tongue, and should leave to his *compagnon de voyage*, the Secretary of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, the task of pulling the labouring oar in the enterprise upon which they had jointly embarked. But there were, after all, a number of English brethren present, besides many others to whom the English language was as familiar as their mother tongue, and to each of those classes he would therefore in some measure address himself. Various governing Masonic bodies were represented that evening at the hospitable board of "Les Amis Philanthropes," and it might be asked on what grounds were the two representatives of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge—Bro. Speth and himself—bracketed, if he might use the expression, with the distinguished brethren around them, who hailed respectively from Grand Lodges, Grand Orients, and Supreme Councils. To that a two-fold answer might be returned, the first and most important being that while a due subordination to Masonic authority was undoubtedly one of the first obligations cast upon a member of the Craft; a proper comprehension of the general scheme of Masonry—of its past history, and of the aims and principles of the existing Society—was equally incumbent upon the Freemason who was imbued with a genuine love of the Institution. The advancement of Masonic knowledge was the mission to which the Quatuor Coronati Lodge was dedicated, and constituted in fact the *raison d'être* of its existence. How far the lodge had fulfilled its self-appointed mission it was not for him to say, though the few words he had to add would to some extent supply the answer, and at the same time explain more particularly the reason why the Master and Secretary of the lodge were taking part in the festival of that evening. It was the desire of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge to unite by a closer tie than the ordinary bond of Masonry the wide band of students who were interested in Masonic research. For that purpose an Outer or Correspondence Circle had been instituted, and among the brethren who had joined it was Bro. Tempels, to do honour to whom all present that evening were assembled. The Master and Secretary of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge had therefore attended very willingly at the complimentary banquet given to a member of the literary society attached to that body, and nothing could have given them greater pleasure than to find from the testimony of all those brethren with whom they had conversed since their arrival in Brussels, that the estimate they had already formed of his great services to Freemasonry was adjudged to be a correct one. There remained, however, one pleasing task, but that he should perform a little later, and with the assistance of Bro. Speth, who would next proceed to address them in a language with which they were more familiar.

Bro. SPETH, speaking in French, said: "My first duty is to express on behalf of my W.M., Bro. Gould, and myself, our high appreciation of the compliment paid us in associating our names with those of the distinguished brethren and bodies included in this toast, and more especially of the loving kindness and fraternal courtesy extended to us at this board. Apart from the fact that Bro. Tempels and your Supreme Council are members of our literary society or Correspondence Circle, we came amongst you as strangers, but shall leave you firmly convinced that we are parting from true and trusty friends and brothers. The warmth that pervades our hearts would find poor expression in words, even were I using my mother-tongue, but fettered as I am by the use of a language with which I have been unfamiliar for some ten years past, I despair of conveying any adequate idea of the state of our feelings. We have met here this evening to do honour to one of the foremost Masons in Belgium, a brother who is at the same time in the front rank as a man of letters, law, science, and politics. He is also foremost in another sphere. When 16 months ago we founded our Correspondence Circle, now numbering some 330 members of all nations and kindred, Bro. Tempels was one of the very first to apply for admission. His clear intellect at once grasped the value of the work to which we had dedicated our efforts, and his application for membership arrived within a month of the issue of our first circular. Let me here assure him that of all our Circle he is not the last in our regard. If any proof were wanting of his right to our loving consideration, that proof is ready to hand, in a book written by him entitled 'Les Francsmaçons.' This work has been translated into German, and one chapter was given in English in our 'Transactions.' If it be asked why the whole has not been rendered into English, the answer is prompt. With the

exception of some unnecessary historical remarks which are open to adverse criticism, the whole teaching of the book is in exact accordance with English doctrine and dogma. Its translation was therefore unnecessary. If you will kindly bear in mind that I am an Englishman, a matter, I presume, of no great difficulty—for my speech bewrajet me—you will acknowledge that such a statement, deliberately made, involves very high praise. Every word of doctrine, every precept of morality, every injunction of charity, forbearance, and temperance, every assertion of individual liberty contained in that work, is in complete accordance with our ideas, and merits your own serious study. Rumours reach us from Belgium of Masonic acts which we must brand as *un-Masonic*; we are unable to approve at all times your practice; but this I will safely say, if you adopt for your theory and standard the exposition of our Bro. Tempels, and strictly conform thereto, then shall we in England be able to concur in all your actions, and unreservedly approve your ways. Some few months back our lodge resolved to adopt a medal to be worn at will by every member of our Lodge and Correspondence Circle. The dies for this medal are now complete, but only one medal has as yet been struck, which medal I now hold in my hand. Neither the W.M., nor myself, nor any member of our lodge has yet received a medal, although in a very short time, I have no doubt, it will possibly be worn by thousands. The medal in my hand differs in no respect from that which would be worn by the greatest of Masons were he a member of our Circle, save that it bears the name of Bro. Tempels and the words "from No. 2076, 23/6/88," on the rim. This medal, the first ever completed, the W.M., Bro. Gould, will now, on behalf of our lodge, present to Bro. Tempels, and long may he preserve health and strength to wear it among you. Let it be a token of the tie which binds him, and through him, all Belgian Masons, to the Lodge Quatuor Coronati."

During the latter part of this speech Bro. Gould left his place, and advancing to Bro. Tempels, whose radiant countenance expressed his pleasure, pinned the jewel to his breast. The whole proceeding, which was, of course, quite unexpected, was the cause of evident gratification to the brethren present, and was attended by much cheering.

Quiet being at length restored, Bro. LIEFTINK, the Grand Orator of the G.O. of the Netherlands, replied for that Body in Dutch (or Flemish), a language almost as universally understood in Belgium as French.

Here it becomes necessary to interrupt our narrative in order to explain one peculiar feature of lodge life in Belgium. It would appear that in Antwerp there are many resident business men of American, Scottish, Irish, and English birth, not a few of whom are Masons. These brethren were naturally desirous of meeting as a lodge, and eventually gained their ends by joining the Lodge "Les Eleves de Themis" at Antwerp, which works in Flemish. Since that date every officer in the lodge has had an English-speaking Deputy, and the lodge meets under these Deputies at stated intervals, works in English according to the ritual of the Grand Lodge of England, admits English-speaking candidates, and wears English clothing. The appearance of a score of English aprons and collars amongst the regalia of the G.O. of Belgium, which is quite different, was sufficiently striking. We are informed that these brethren were overjoyed to welcome the British visitors, and Bro. Speth, who on several occasions left his seat to sit amongst them in the body of the hall, each time experienced great difficulty in regaining his place, and is very enthusiastic in his praise of the fraternal feeling shown him. But to proceed with our report,

Bro. GEO. RICKARD, the Immediate Past Deputy Master of the lodge, next claimed the *parole*, and addressing Bro. Tempels in English, thanked him for the services he had rendered them, in particular for facilitating the arrangement above alluded to.

Bro. TEMPELS then proposed "The Health of the Ladies, and especially of the wife of the President." Handing Bro. De Vergnier one of the huge bouquets which graced the banqueting table, he begged him to give it to her with the fraternal regards of the brethren present.

About this period of the evening the proceedings seemed to pass by an easy transition to the final, or conversational, stage, and though speeches still continued to be delivered, they in no wise interrupted the general flow of language, which, in a more subdued key, was taking place in every portion of the Hall. Nor did the obvious fact that their eloquence was falling upon deaf ears in any way discourage a certain number of orators, from whose gesticulations alone could any idea be formed of the subject matter of their various discourses. Coffee soon after made its appearance, and the Stewards proceeded to divide the remaining bouquets among the company, handing bunches of roses to each guest seated at the High Table. While this was taking place, a well-known Brussels singer, whose name escaped our correspondents' recollection, was introduced. He was borne into the Hall astride a beer barrel, and deposited on the dais. Attired in a flowing flaxen wig and beard, with shirt open at the chest, and a skin thrown over his shoulders, this impersonator of Gambrinus flourished a huge Delft mug in his hand, and intoned some ancient drinking song to a spirited air; but, as far as the words are concerned, the buzz of conversation was so great, that our correspondents could arrive at no conclusion with regard to the language used by the vocalist, who, for all they knew to the contrary, might have been chanting his ditty in one of the choicest of the Olympian dialects.

On the following day a very pleasant excursion was made by a few of the brethren, including Bros. Tempels, Desmond, Sandeman, Baron Creutz, Van Osenbruggen, Lieftink, Cohen, and others, to Dinant, on the river Meuse, distant some 60 miles from Brussels, where they passed a very pleasant day and evening, returning to Brussels on the Monday. During this outing a great deal of discussion naturally took place as to the subject of differences in feeling and in working Freemasonry in various countries; but in everything which passed, a most thorough goodwill and cordiality prevailed, and we have it verbally from Bro. Sandeman, who was the only Englishman present at the excursion—Bros. Gould and Speth having been reluctantly compelled to turn their faces homewards on the 24th ult.—that nothing could possibly exceed the kindness and cordiality which he received at the hands of the brethren with whom he was associated on that occasion.

In conclusion, it may be remarked that the numerical strength of the Belgian lodges is, in most cases, sufficiently large, according to our insular notions, to justify a considerable sub-division of their component atoms.



The Medal above referred to, of which we annex an engraving, was manufactured by Bro. George Kenning.

The two lodges in Brussels, we are informed, each numbers between four and five hundred members. The Rose Croix chapters, though unduly strong, from an English point of view, are less unwieldy than the lodges, and, curiously enough, in moral sentiment, the two sets of bodies are the veritable antipodes of each other, the lodges being arrayed on the side of progress—a term in Belgium, as in France, rather implying a descent from liberty to licence, while the chapters supply the useful function of a drag, which prevents the brethren of the "Blue Degrees" from advancing too far in the direction of either socialism or innovation.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF KENT.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge took place on Wednesday, the 27th ult., at Sittingbourne, under the presidency of the R.W. Bro. Earl Amherst, P.G.M., assisted by Bro. James Smith Eastes, D.P.G.M., and a host of the Kentish brethren, representing the whole of the lodges in the province. The entertaining lodge was the St. Michael's, No. 1273, and right royally did our worthy Saints do the entertaining. The whole of the High-street was one great panorama of flags and banners, the latter bearing mottoes appropriate to the occasion, and all welcoming to St. Michael's. The lodge was held at the Crescent-street School Rooms, which were handsomely decorated for the occasion, every convenience being at hand for the reception both of the P.G.M., his Officers, Past and Present, and the brethren generally.

Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous Provincial Grand Lodge meetings at Dartford and Maidstone, the latter for the purpose of conferring Jubilee Grand honours, were confirmed. The honour of nine was then paid to the P.G.M., who "greeted the brethren well," and the honour of five was accorded to the D.P.G.M., who thanked the brethren for their kindness. The Treasurer's accounts were taken as read. The esteemed Prov. Grand Treas., Bro. B. K. Thorpe, P.M. 709, P.G. Std. Br. England, was re-elected with acclamation, and that brother returned thanks.

The following brethren were then appointed Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year:

Bro. W. J. Harris, P.M. 1273	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" S. W. Shaw, P.M. 1965	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. C. E. Shirley Woolmer, M.A., P.M. 1209	...	...	Prov. S.G. Chap.
" Rev. W. H. Bond, M.A., P.M. 1273	...	...	Prov. J.G. Chap.
" B. K. Thorpe, P.M. 701, P.G. Std. Br. England	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" A. Spencer, P.M. 1063, P.G. Swd. Br. Eng. (re-appointed)	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" John Burton, P.M. 874	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" Thomas D. Hayes, P.M. 913	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" F. W. Underdown, P.M. 133	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" C. C. Walter, P.M. 1208	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" W. W. Woodruff, P.M. 1206	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" John S. Ancomb, P.M. 503	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" J. C. Biggs, P.M. 77...	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" John F. Solly, P.M. 784	...	...	Prov. D.G.D.C.
" William Elliott, P.M. 1854	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" George Kennedy, P.M. 1536	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" Thomas W. Wallis, P.M. 483	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" E. B. Moody, W.M. 1967	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" William Tice, P.M. 31	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" William Jude, P.M. 1063	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" Edward Ayre, P.M. 2099	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" John S. G. Ranger, P.M. 184	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" H. Wootton, P.M. 127	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" W. J. Smith, P.M. 199	...	...
" Lewis B. Biggs, P.M. 1050	...	...
" W. H. Marcolyn, P.M. 1209	...	...
" F. Wood, P.M. 1973...	...	...
" Daniel Grinstead, P.M. 1692	...	...

Thirty pounds was voted to each of three distressed applicants, two members and one member's widow of the province. Twenty-one pounds was voted to each of the following lodges: Nos. 1965, 1967, 1973, for the Boys' School, Girls' School, and Benevolent Institution, and £21 each for Nos. 1464, 1531, 1536, 1678, 1692, and 1725, for the Girls' School; 250 guineas were voted to the list of the P.G.M., who represented the province at the late Girls' School Festival, when the lodges of the province subscribed 1000 guineas to purchase a Perpetual Presentation to that School, which, added to the P.G.M.'s list, made up a grand total of £1323.

A motion moved by the Prov. GRAND TREASURER—"That in future the Prov. Grand Secretary should find two sureties in the sum of £250 each"—was carried with two dissentients.

The lodge was then adjourned, and the brethren proceeded to St. Michael's Church, kindly lent for the occasion by the rector, the Rev. H. Venn, M.A., where the Rev. Prov. G. CHAPLAIN preached an eloquent sermon from the 1st chap. Kings, 1st verse.

On reassembling at Prov. Grand Lodge, votes of thanks were accorded to the Rev. H. Venn and the managers of the Schools for their kindness in placing the church and schools at the service of the brethren; also to the authorities for the use of the Town Hall for the banquet, and Prov. Grand Lodge was closed.

The banquet was laid at the Town Hall, which was handsomely decorated with flags of all colours and nations, choice ferns, flowers, and mottoes, the majority of which bore unmistakable evidence of the loyalty of the Craft in Sittingbourne, to the Queen especially, and to the Order also. "Best obedience to our Queen," "Here's a Health to the Queen and a lasting peace." On a splendid banner hanging from the front of the gallery was the legend—"God bless our mother Queen;" "Surround Victoria's throne with peace," "Success to the Province of Kent," "Welcome to St. Michael's," &c., &c., being among those most conspicuous both inside and outside the building. A portion of the Royal Engineer Band played selections during dinner, under the lead of Sergt. Renece, their fine rendering of a walse which introduced the familiar strains of "The Entered Apprentice's Song" being re-demanded amid hearty applause. The Stewards, including the following brethren of the lodge, and others, Bros. F. Seale, P.M.; J. M. Goldfinch, P.M. 133, P.P.J.G.D., Mayor of Faversham; C. Burley, Black, Moseley, Scoones, H. Irwin Morris, Sutton, Seager, Waite, and Greenstead, were simply indefatigable in their endeavours to secure the comfort of the brethren, while their hospitality was unbounded. The P.G.M., D.G.M., and a select number of distinguished Masons, including the Senior Present and Past Grand Officers, were seated on a raised platform, from whence every part of the room was visible; and when we say that there were some 250 diners, we feel sure our readers will appreciate the labours of the organisers to ensure success, which was undoubtedly achieved up to the hilt.

Among the other brethren present, whose names we could decipher on the attendance book, were: Bros. C. F. Matier, P.G. S.B. Eng.; Rev. H. Cummings, M.A., P.M. 1837, P.P.S.G.W.; Dr. H. Penfold, M.D., P.M. 1174, P.P.J.G.W.; Rev. T. S. Curteis, M.A., F.S.A., P.M. 1414, P.P.G.C.; H. H. Green, P.M. 709, P.P.G. Reg.; T. S. Warne, P.M. P.P.S.G.W.; W. T. Wiggins, S.D.; S. A. Field, P.M.; G. Camel, J. Jarvis, and W. Robins, of 20; J. Plant, P.M. 31, P.P.G.O.; G. T. King, P.M., P.P.A.G.P.; T. R. Champion, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; and R. J. Beamish, J.D., of 77; G. Peden, J.W.; and C. Kingsmill, W.M., of 125; A. Wootton, P.M. 127, P.P.J.G.W.; J. W. Penton, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; W. H. Drake, P.M., P.P.G.O.; F. Giraud, P.M., P.P.J.G.D.; J. E. Ratcliffe, W.M.; W. Stewart, and W. J. Clarke, J.W., of 133; W. Carpenter, P.M., P.P.G.P.; A. Spears, P.M., P.P.J.G.D.; H. Sole, P.M.; A. Auty, W.M.; J. Lee, S.W.; A. S. Baskett, J.W.; G. T. Green, P.M.; D. W. Griffiths, J.D.; T. Vinnicombe, and J. Phillips, of 158; S. Varren, P.M., P.P.G.P.; W. Tanner, P.M.; W. S. Baldwin, J.W.; and R. L. Thompson, of 184; G. Adamson, P.M., P.P.S.G.W.; F. W. Prescott, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; J. Bussey, P.M.; and W. Cessford, P.M., P.P.G.P., of 199; N. Martin, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; T. Wills, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W.; J. Brock, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; W. Grieg, P.M., P.P.G.P.; F. Snowdon, W.M.; T. Jenkins, S.W.; C. Hind, J.W.; and J. G. Turner, D.C., of 299; G. Eve, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; and

C. Horton, of 429; H. Doughty, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; A. Ronaldson, W.M. 483; J. R. Foord, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; W. Hope, and F. Oliver, of 503; W. Dunk, W.M.; A. J. Crane, P.M.; and G. Spurgin, of 553; J. Brothers, P.M., P.P.G.R.; P. Phelps, P.M.; T. Edwards; S. W. Shaw, P.M.; Rev. D. G. Padgen, S.W.; and C. Loud, of 709; W. B. Bacon, P.M. 874, P.P.J.G.W.; P. A. Frost, P.M. 784; B. Rix, W.M. 874; C. Coupland, P.M., P.P.J.G.W.; A. Penfold, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; E. Denton, P.M., P.P.J.G.D.; W. B. Lloyd, P.M.; H. Mason, P.M.; E. Palmer, P.M.; C. Jolly, P.M. (Hon.); and W. G. Lloyd, S.D., of 913; R. Westwood, W.M.; T. Crump, P.M.; E. Plume, P.M.; H. F. Pringeur, S.W.; A. Walker, J.W.; E. Wits, J.D.; H. Mount, F. Fagg, and A. Edmonds, of 972; F. J. Homan, P.M., and J. W. Nash, of 1050; F. Gordon, W.M., and J. Barton, I.G., of 1063; W. Pannell, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W., and W. J. Gardner, of 1089; H. Chambers, P.P.G.S.B., and J. W. Court, P.M., of 1096; J. Wright, W.M., and W. Gadd, of 1208; M. W. West, P.M., P.P.G.P.; S. G. Phillipot, M. H. Gill, S.W.; and C. Godsmark, I.G., of 1209; G. Payne, P.M., Treas.; H. Morris, S.W.; T. Dowling, W. Roots, D. Court, J. Longhurst, P.M.; J. A. Moxey, A. J. Lee, J.D.; and C. Waite, of 1273; W. Seaman, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; E. Coste, P.M., P.P.G. Reg.; E. Elverston, J.W.; J. Wyer, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; H. Bond, P.M., P.P.A. G.D.C.; and G. R. Bolton, P.M., of 1314; H. Naylor, 1449, P.P.G.S.B.; G. F. Carnel, P.M. 1414, P.P.J.G.D.; C. Burley, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; J. R. Behenna, P.M. 1531, P.P.A.G.P.; J. King, W.M., and W. Dickens, S.W., of 1692; C. T. Smith, S.D. 1426; L. Seager, J.W. 1213; W. B. Hughes, P.M. 1678; W. Tylden-Pattison, W.M. 1885; B. Lightfoot, 1915; S. Filles, 1967; J. Naylor, 1449; H. Smith, S.D. 1348; L. J. Adams, 2099; W. Wallis, S.W. 1531; R. Derry, P.M. 158, P.P.G. Std. Br.; A. Develin, W.M. 1449; J. Reeves, P.M. 1915, P.P. A.G.D.C.; G. Barton, P.M. 915, P.P.G.D.C.; G. Champion, P.M. 27; H. Laurance, P.M., and W. Elliott, P.M., of 1854; H. V. Lloyd, 73; L. Watson, 1817; H. Price, P.M. 177; T. Green, P.M. 1967; Capt. G. Spinks, P.M., P.P. G. Std. Br.; and E. B. Moody, W.M. 167.

Grace having been sung, The Prov. GRAND MASTER gave the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," followed by that of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Grand Master of England," observing that he did not think the toast wanted many words from him to recommend it to their notice. His Royal Highness had reigned over them for the last 13 years, during which time the Craft had grown in strength, and their Grand Master in their affections. Never was that better exemplified than at the recent gathering at the Albert Hall. He asked them to drink the toast with all the heartiness in the world.

The next toast was that of "The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, the M.W. Pro G.M., the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Lathom, the D.G.M., and the Grand Officers, Present and Past." After referring in graceful terms to the many eminent services rendered by the two distinguished noblemen above mentioned, and to the zealous yet courteous manner in which they carried out the duties of their high office, he called the attention of the brethren to the fact that they had three Past Officers of Grand Lodge present, in the persons of Bros. Eastes, Thorpe, and Spencer. As Bro. Eastes would have to reply to a toast later on, he should couple the one now before them with the names of Bros. Thorpe and Spencer. He was sure that those two excellent brethren and Masons had the good wishes of every Mason in the province. They had had the honour of being invested by the Prince of Wales, and with that toast they would offer them the frankincense of their hearts.

Bro. SPENCER, in reply, thanked the brethren for the enthusiastic reception of the toast, and in referring to the magnificent gathering at the Albert Hall, when he, Bro. Thorpe, and others were honoured at the hands of the Grand Master, thought that if in ancient times their brethren went into the M.C. of K.S.T. to receive their wages, and did so without scruple or diffidence, might they not say that the leaders of the Craft, whose wages were the honours bestowed by H.R.H., were fully justified in accepting them without scruple or diffidence. He thanked them for the toast, his lordship for the kind terms in which it was proposed, and the brethren for their hearty reception of it.

Bro. THORPE also thanked the brethren, and assured them that he felt it a great privilege to be a Grand Officer, more especially under the very peculiar and flattering circumstances in which the office was conferred by H.R.H. their Grand Master.

Bro. EASTES then rose to propose the toast of the evening, that of "The R.W. Bro. the Earl Amherst, Provincial Grand Master." He asked the brethren to charge their glasses, because he knew very well they would not like to drink the toast without doing so. It was one they all felt deeply in their hearts, and no one present would feel that he had done justice to it unless he drank it in bumpers. He felt it a great privilege to propose the toast which was always enthusiastically received by the brethren in their several lodges, but especially at such gatherings as that. It had been said to him by many Masons in London, when speaking of the immense strides Masonry had made in the Province of Kent, and of the unanimity and concord that prevailed among the brethren, "Yes, you have such an excellent Prov. G. Master, and if we had one like him we could do as well." Now he, Bro. Eastes, thought there was something in it. He had been told of some P.G. Masters who kept the brethren of their provinces waiting as much as three quarters of an hour for their meetings, &c.; that he did not think was right. There was a great deal in personality, and unless a P.G.M. identified himself with the feelings of those he reigned over, he would never be so popular, and he might say beloved, in his province as their P.G.M. was in his. The P.G.M. embodied the good qualities both of P.G.M. and P.D.G.M., and he hoped, and they all hoped, he would long be with them. He would now give them a short statement of the progress made in the province since their P.G.M. took over the reins of government in 1860. They had at that time 17 lodges with 810 members; fourteen years after, in 1874, they had 38 lodges and 1770 members; and in fourteen years after, that is the present year of 1888, they had 57 lodges and 3100 members. He then referred to the splendid work done by the province at the late Girls' School Festival, and said they might well feel proud of such a province and such a Master, and while they had his lordship at their head there need be no fear that Freemasonry would do other than flourish and make itself respected in the Province of Kent. (Loud and continued cheering, the toast being drunk with musical honours.)

"Come into the garden, Maud," and "The Bay of Biscay" were then sung by one of the musical brethren.

His LORDSHIP, on rising to respond, was greeted with successive rounds of cheers and "Kentish fires." He said there was one thing that always surprised him at such gatherings as the present, and that was that the songs were so seldom appropriate to the toasts. Now in the present case why should he be asked to take a "walk in a garden?" or to "lay all that day, in the Bay of Biscay, oh?" Now, if it had been that fine old song "All very fine and large," he could have understood it, for then it would have been appropriate to the kind yet flattering remarks of that brother the P.D.G.M. However, he thanked them for their hearty reception of the toast, and could assure them that as long as he occupied the office he now held nothing should be wanting on his part for the success of the province, for no one who had the feelings of humanity in his heart could do otherwise than be touched by the kind and generous manner in which he was always received by the Masons of Kent, and as long as he held the office he trusted that good feeling would continue. They all knew that the affairs of such a large province demanded the closest attention. That year they had not added to the roll of the province any new lodges, and he felt that it would be a hard thing to find a corner in it to put a new one in. They were in a good position and increasing in strength of numbers, and the good work of the Craft nowhere was in a happier condition than in the Province of Kent. He should be very sorry to see any of the old lodges dying out, and so long as they kept up their present status there was no fear of

such a thing happening. The P.D.G.M. had alluded kindly to the 25 years or so that he had ruled over the province, but no success could attend, or would have attended, that rule unless the brethren were actuated by the highest and noblest principles; and to the fact of those high and noble principles guiding the actions of the brethren, and to that alone, he attributed the great success of Freemasonry in that, the Province of Kent. If they had not added to the roll of lodges during the past year they had in another direction scored a great and startling success. Two nights before the late great meeting at the Albert Hall he was asked by H.R.H. their G.M. what were the prospects of the meeting, and he told H.R.H. that he would "cut the record." H.R.H. almost apologised for it, and said they would cut the record in the Province of Kent; and they did so, for theirs was the greatest amount subscribed by any province, and he should have liked every one there to have been present when the list was called over, they need not have blushed for the honour of their province. They had now a Perpetual Presentation to the Girls' School; they had a greater number of votes; they had shown their loyalty to the Queen, and to H.R.H. their G.M.; and he felt sure that those who were not present, when they saw in the Masonic papers the amount subscribed by Kent, the pleasure they must have felt recouped them for any endeavours they had made to ensure the success of so grand and gratifying an object. In every case when they were called upon the Province of Kent nobly responded; they had done so twice in the past, and if any special call was made upon them they would do so again; but he hoped there would not be a special call on them for some years to come. If better times came they would have the "golden birds" in their pockets; and the glorious principles of Freemasonry calling them to the front, they would do their duty cheerfully. They held a good position, which could only be retained by showing that Freemasonry flourished in the province, and so long as they did that his services would always be at their disposal. He trusted the time would never come when his name would be received with less enthusiasm than it had been that day, for if that time ever came he should know that there was no longer, as there was now, a united and prosperous province to rule over. (Loud and continued cheering.)

The next toast was that of "The D.P.G.M., Bro. Eastes," and in giving it his LORDSHIP spoke of the immense amount of work done by Bro. Eastes in the province, the success of which was eminently due to that brother. He had always considered it a lucky day for him when he got Bro. Eastes to take the position. The duties were not always pleasant, but whether or not they were always done with tact and judgment. For himself, he never wished to have a better friend or a better adviser than the worthy brother on his right hand, and he trusted many years would pass before he missed him from his right hand. He felt sure that their brother deserved the collar given him by his Royal Highness, and hoped he might live for many years to wear it, and that the toast might be ever as heartily received as he felt sure it would be by them now.

Bro. EASTES, who was received with enthusiasm, said he felt it very difficult to express himself adequately for their very kind reception of the toast. He felt it a most gratifying thing to be spoken of so highly by their esteemed Prov. Grand Master; to be called his friend and adviser was ample reward for anything he had done in the past or could do in the future. He looked upon Masonry as a sort of luxury, and the work attached to his office as a little enjoyment. He had taken a great interest in the Girls' Schools movement, and was proud of the success that had attended it in the province, as the fund asked for was assured. After a lengthy and eloquent address our distinguished brother resumed his seat amid cheers.

Bros. HARRIS and COUPLAND having responded for "The Provincial Grand Officers," Bro. ADAMSON gave a lengthy account of the Masonic Charities, especially with reference to the provincial work.

Bro. Capt. KNIGHT responded for "The Visitors."

"The Committee of the St. Michael's Lodge" was the next toast, for which the WORSHIPFUL MASTER responded.

The Prov. GRAND MASTER gave the Tyler's toast, and then the meeting broke up.

Bro. T. W. Page had charge of the musical arrangements, and Bro. Drake accompanied on the piano. The vocalists included Bro. Page, Mr. Tufnell, Miss Merydith Elliott, and Miss Ada Beck. The whole affair was most delightful and the arrangements perfect.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

The annual general convocation of this Provincial Grand Chapter was held pursuant to summons at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, under the auspices of the Chapter of Fortitude, attached to St. John's Lodge, No. 279.

The Chapter of Fortitude having been opened at 4.15, the Grand Superintendent and his officers were received, and Provincial Grand Chapter was opened. There were present the following officers: Comps. William Kelly, F.S.A., F.R.H.S., Grand Superintendent; S. S. Partridge, P.G.S.B., Prov. Grand H.; Walter S. Allen, Prov. Grand J.; Rev. C. Henton Wood, M.A., Prov. G. Scribe E.; William Vial, Prov. G. Scribe N.; Joseph Tuckfield, Prov. G. Treas.; William A. Musson, Prov. G. Registrar; John Dove Harris, P.Z. 279, Prov. G. Std. Br.; Miles J. Walker, Prov. G.D.C.; and Thomas Dunn and James Tanser, Prov. G. Janitors. The chapters were further represented by Comps. Edgar Taylor, P.Z. 279; T. A. Wykes, P.P.G.O.; J. Young, P.P.G.S.N.; T. Colman, P.P.G. Treas.; S. E. Johnson, P.Z. 779; J. Harrison, J. 279; H. G. Marriott, 279; E. Jeeves, J. 1130; S. Knight, Treas. 279; F. G. Boden, S.N. 279; S. A. Marris, 279; G. T. Willan, P.Z. 1130; Thomas Corcoran, P.S. 1007; C. Lowerstein, 1007; and others.

Comp. Rev. Wathen Wigg, P.Z., representing the Province of Norths and Hunts, was present as a visitor.

The business was of a formal character. The roll of Provincial Grand Officers was called, but there were several absent, whose excuses were accepted. The subordinate chapters were called, and all were represented.

The minutes of the last annual convocation, held at Loughborough, 24th May, 1887, were read and confirmed.

The Treasurer's abstract of accounts, which had been circulated with the summons, was received, approved, and passed with a hearty vote of thanks for his past services. He was then unanimously re-elected.

The Provincial Grand Registrar's report showed a small increase in the number of subscribing members.

The Grand Superintendent then appointed his officers as follows, and, with the exception of two, who were unavoidably absent, they were invested:

Comp. S. S. Partridge, P.G.S.B., P.Z. 279, Z. 1560	...	Prov. G.H.
" Joseph Young, P.Z. 279	...	Prov. G.J.
" Rev. C. Henton Wood, P.Z. 279	...	Prov. G.S.E.
" John Hassall, Z. 779	...	Prov. G.S.N.
" Joseph Tuckfield, H. 779	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" Edgar Taylor, P.Z. 279	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" G. T. Willan, P.Z. 1130	...	Prov. G.P. Scj.
" J. H. Marshall, J. 1007	...	Prov. G. 1st A. Soj.
" Chas. Lowenstein, S.N. 1007	...	Prov. G. 2nd A. Sj.
" Edwd. Simpkin, J. 779	...	Prov. G. Swd. Br.
" S. E. Johnson, P.Z. 779	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" Miles J. Walker, P.Z. 1150	...	Prov. G.D. of C.
" Edmund Jeeves, J. 1130	...	Prov. A.G.D. of C.
" John Harrison, J. 279	...	Prov. G. Org.
" James Tanser, Janitor 279	...	Prov. G. Janitor.

The GRAND SUPERINTENDENT having enquired for propositions as usual, a number of apologies for unavoidable absence were received from Past Provincial Grand Officers and others, and were accepted. Regrets for inability to be present, accompanied by "Hearty good wishes," were received from Comps. Sir Francis Burdett, Bart., G. Supt. Middx.; Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie, G. Supt. E. Lancs.; John Woodall Woodall, P.G.P.; Percy Wallis, Prov. G.D. of C. Derbyshire; and Silver Hall.

Comp. Rev. S. Wathen Wigg tendered hearty greetings from Comp. Butler Wilkins (D.G. Superintendent in charge), of the Province of Norths and Hunts.

Provincial Grand Chapter was closed; the Grand Superintendent and his officers retired; and the Chapter of Fortitude was closed.

The annual banquet followed. Owing to various local causes, the attendance was small; but under the genial presidency of Comp. Kelly, and owing to the careful arrangements of Comps. John Case and H. G. Marriott, of the Chapter of Fortitude, those who were so fortunate as to be present passed a very pleasant time. The usual toasts were honoured, and several good songs were sung.

CONSECRATION OF THE BARNATO LODGE, No. 2265.

The consecration of the Barnato Lodge took place on Thursday, the 28th ult., at the Cock Hotel, at Highbury. The ceremony was performed by the V.W. Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, P.G.D., G. Sec., assisted by R.W. Bro. Lord J. Taylour, J.G.W., as S.W.; V.W. Bro. F. A. Philbrick, G. Reg., as J.W.; V.W. Bro. Rev. George W. Weldon, P.G. Chaplain, as Chaplain; W. Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.D., as D. of C.; and V.W. Bro. Robert Berridge, J.G.D., as I.G. The musical arrangements, which were excellent, were under the direction of W. Bro. W. A. Barrett, G. Organist.

The brethren having assembled in the lodge room, the Consecrating Officer, with his assistant officers, together with such other Grand and Provincial Grand Officers as were present, entered in procession at 4.30 p.m., when the Presiding Officer took the chair, and appointed his temporary officers as above indicated, after which the lodge was opened in the three Degrees. The following anthem, the words of which were written by Bro. W. A. Barrett, G. Org., and the music composed by Henry Gadsby, was then sung:

Great Architect on High,
Who by Thy power the heaven and earth sustained,
Whose loving eyes descry
The place and task of all, for each remaineth
As when Thy ordinance issued first,
Made order out of chaos burst.

Give us who seek to spread the light,
Which guides each path, directs each mind,
And moves all souls in concord bright,
Give us good grace Thy will to find,
And in the way of duty
To bear and cheer us on, so deign
That daily we may near attain
To wisdom, strength, and beauty.

May work thus laid in order true
To offices of love subtend,
May we in peace our work pursue,
In harmony our labours end,
To Thee Great Architect all praise.
All meed of gratitude be given,
Who pleased man's erring soul to raise,
By mystic secrets near to heaven.

The PRESIDING OFFICER then addressed the brethren in regard to the object for which they had met together, after which the CHAPLAIN, by his direction, offered up the customary prayer.

The D. of C. then addressed the Consecrating Officer, and, by his direction, arranged the founders of the new lodge before him; and when that had been done, he read out the petition of the founders, and also the warrant which had been granted by the M.W.G.M. authorising the formation of the Barnato Lodge, in answer to the prayer of the petition, and designating Bro. Joseph Da Silva, P.M. 205, as W.M.; Bro. Maurice Jacob De Leeuw, S.W.; and Bro. Lion Kool, J.W.

The CONSECRATING OFFICER then enquired of the brethren ranged before him whether they approved of the officers named in the warrant, and the brethren having signified their approval in Masonic form, the CHAPLAIN, at the request of the Presiding Officer, delivered the following address on the nature and principles of the institution:

It is quite in accordance with the fitness of things that I should not trespass unduly upon your attention on this occasion by delivering what is technically termed "an oration." The object of such a feature in the programme of the consecration of the lodge will be amply secured if I briefly remind the brethren of the leading principles upon which the Craft is founded, and of the brilliant illustration which those principles receive in the benevolent exercise of Masonic Charity, and the pure and disinterested policy which forms the basis of our unanimity and goodwill. The main feature of our Order is the cultivation of brotherly kindness and Charity in the truest sense of that word. By Charity we do not mean simply the giving of money. To give your neighbour money is, after all, to give him little, if you do not also give him love; bread when hungry, medicine when sick, shelter, and fuel, and a bed to lie on; these are not all that man needs from his fellows—kind offices and kinder prayers; smiles for his joy and sympathy with his sorrow—a word of hope, a look of love—for these things rather a man will bless us living and when dead. Handiwork and money wages is not the sole bond of union between man and man. Men were not made to be mere buyers and sellers, masters and servants, but brethren and neighbours—fellow-worshippers of the same God, and fellow-heirs of the same destiny. And I do not hesitate to say that there is no society on earth in which these principles are more strictly enjoined, and more faithfully carried into practice than in that to which as Freemasons we have the privilege to belong. One of the most eminent of French philosophers—distinguished as a very clever but somewhat cynical writer—says that "Friendship is a community of interests, not of souls." Such was the opinion expressed by Rochefoucauld when surveying the moral condition of society in his day—and no doubt there is much truth in the caustic criticism of this witty and accomplished scholar. But I fearlessly appeal to the matured experience of every Freemason in proof of the assertion which I am about to make so far as it regards the character of the Craft that among Masons "friendship is a community of souls, and not of interests." Men who have had practical experience of the world in its many phases of social and religious developments frankly and freely admit the efficacy and value of the friendly intercourse which exists among men outside the mystic circle of Freemasonry. But, while giving full and ample credit for the existence of kindly feelings, and amiable impulses, and generous acts of beneficence in the uninitiated world outside our Order, I do not hesitate to say, after a fair and accurate comparison of the Masonic

and the non-Masonic worlds, that true brotherly love and disinterested benevolence, are, somehow, more generally exhibited, and form a closer bond of union among the brethren of the Craft than among the ordinary ranks of the uninitiated world outside. If any of the Craft enrolls his name as a brother amongst us in any other spirit or for any other purpose, he is acting in direct violation of the solemn warning he receives at his initiation, and by such unworthy conduct he is breaking in pieces the machinery which has been set in motion with the view of producing true and upright men, and high-minded and honourable Masons. If then we are really anxious to maintain the interests and to augment the credit of our Order, we must try to cultivate a spirit of unselfish disinterestedness in all our dealings with the brethren, and prove by our practical sympathy with them that the cement which binds us together is something more permanent and enduring than a desire to promote our personal aggrandisement by the shrewd calculations of self-seeking caution. Finally—Freemasonry in a special manner recognises the universal brotherhood of man. No matter what colour the sun may have burnt upon the cheek, or into what form of social relationship the circumstances of life may have moulded our individual history so long as we are free men, and professed believers in the existence of the One True God, and of the continuity of life after death, we are eligible for admission into the mysteries of Freemasonry. And it is important to bear in mind that not only do our principles present a perfect uniformity all over the civilised world, but our ritual too is one and the same everywhere. There is not a single sentence in it more specially adapted to Great Britain than to the United States of America, or India, or to the Colonies, or even to those countries whose languages are altogether different from our own. The moral principle of our Craft undergoes no change by the dialect in which it is spoken. Neither time, place, nor circumstances, cause any variation in the articles of our Masonic creed, nor do they loosen the tie that unites the whole body of the Craft in the bonds of fraternal unity and personal goodwill. And where any attempt has been made to alter the fundamental principles of our Order, Grand Lodge has not hesitated to cut off such offenders by the stern policy of excommunication. There is no class of men among whom you find more unity than among Masons. We are not like a bag of beautiful marbles, each good in its way, but also isolated in its influence, but are like the mortar that binds stone to stone till the building is strengthened and consolidated by universal cohesion. Brethren, these are some of the main features which characterise our Order—disinterested friendship—unity of aim and purpose—and the practical organisation of a universal Brotherhood. May this lodge now consecrated ever strive to maintain these principles in their active exercise and integrity, and may each of its members be a faithful exponent of the moral features of which I have here briefly reminded you, and thus be as faithful in your transmission of these principles to posterity as antiquity has been faithful to you.

A second anthem (133rd Psalm) was next sung by the musical brethren—
Behold how good and joyful a thing it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity.
It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down unto the beard, even unto Aaron's beard, and went down to the skirts of his clothing.
It is like the dew of Hermon which fell upon the hill of Zion.
For there the Lord promised His blessing, and life for evermore. So mote it be.

Then followed the dedication prayer—first portion, after which the brethren all turned towards the East, and the Consecrating Officers delivered the invocation.

The CHAPLAIN then read the portion of Scripture appointed for the occasion—II. Chron. chap. ii., v. i. to 16.

The lodge board was then uncovered, and the Presiding Officer and his Wardens, bearing the elements of consecration, marched in procession to solemn strains of music, round the lodge three times, halting in the East after each circuit. During the first circuit the brethren sang—

When once of old, in Israel,
Our early Brethren wrought with toil,
Jehovah's blessings on them fell
In showers of Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

During the second circuit the brethren sang—

When there, a shrine to Him alone
They built, with worship sin to foil;
On threshold and on corner-stone
They poured out Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

During the third circuit the brethren sang—

And we have come, fraternal hands,
With joy and pride, and prosperous spoil,
To honour him by votive hands
With streams of Corn, and Wine, and Oil.

The Presiding Officer then proceeded to dedicate the lodge, and the brethren sang the anthem

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth
Pleni sunt cœli et terra
Gloriæ tuæ.
Amen.

The Chaplain then proceeded three times round the lodge with the censer, after which the second part of the dedication prayer was offered up; and the Presiding Officer then proceeded to constitute the lodge; after which the brethren sang the anthem.

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same My name shall be great among the Gentiles, and in every place incense shall be offered unto My name and a pure offering, for My name shall be great among the heathen, saith the Lord of Hosts. So mote it be.

And the ceremony was brought to a close with the patriarchal benediction.

The lodge was then resumed in the Second Degree, and the W. Bro. Joseph Da Silva was installed into the chair of K.S. according to ancient form, the ceremony, of course, being performed by Bro. Col. Clerke, the Consecrating Officer.

Bro. Da Silva proceeded to invest his officers, of whom the following is a list: Bros. C. F. Hogard, acting I.P.M.; Maurice J. De Leeuw, S.W.; Lion Kool, J.W.; Joel Joel, Treas.; M. J. Jessop, Sec.; T. Honey, S.D.; E. J. Acworth, J.D.; J. Manger, D.C.; Maurice Bash, I.G.; S. B. Joel and J. B. Joel, Stewards; and J. A. Walkley, Tyler.

After the delivery of the customary addresses by the Installing Officer to the newly-installed Master, and to the Wardens, and the brethren,

The W.M. then rose and said the first duty he had to perform was to ask the lodge to pass a vote of thanks to Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, the Grand Secretary, for the very able and efficient manner in which he had performed the ceremony of consecration; and that he should be elected an honorary member of that lodge.

The proposition was seconded by the S.W.

The W.M. then said he had, at the same time, in the name of the founders of the lodge, to ask Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke to accept one of their founders' jewels. The founders hoped that he would have long life and health; that he would wear it upon some occasions, and that it might

come to be considered by him as not the least memorable among the many jewels with which he was decorated.

Bro. SHADWELL H. CLERKE said he would lose no time in rising to thank the founders for the three-fold compliment which they had just paid him. It was, in fact, a great pleasure for him to come to consecrate that lodge. He felt sure that the lodge was worthy of being started, and it was, therefore, a great and sincere gratification to him to be there that day. As regarded the honorary membership which had been bestowed upon him, he hoped he should occasionally have an opportunity of attending their meetings and seeing how they progressed, and, lastly, he had to thank them very much for that very beautiful and valuable jewel with which they had been so good as to invest him. He should prize it very much, and wear it very often, and it would serve to remind him of the very pleasant occasion on which they had met to consecrate the Barnato Lodge.

The W.M. said the next pleasing duty that he had to perform was to ask the lodge to pass a vote of thanks to the Grand Officers who had assisted in the ceremony of consecration, and also to ask them to accept the honorary membership of the lodge; a hearty vote of thanks to R.W. Bro. Lord John Taylour, J.G.W., as S.W.; V.W. Bros. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., G.R., as J.W.; Rev. George W. Weldon, P.G.C., as Chaplain; W. Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.D., as D.C., and Bro. Robert Berridge, J.G.D., as I.G., for the part they had taken in the consecration of the lodge, and that they be elected honorary members.

The motion was seconded by the S.W., and carried unanimously.

Bro. Lord JOHN TAYLOUR acknowledged the compliment in a few appropriate words.

The W.M. said he had now to ask the lodge to pass a vote of thanks to their W. Bro. C. F. Hogard, who had worked very hard at the formation of the lodge, and to elect him a non-compounding member of the lodge, which his assistance had so largely contributed to bring into existence.

This motion was also seconded by the S.W., and carried unanimously.

Bro. HOGARD begged to return the lodge his hearty thanks for passing that resolution. He admitted that he had had a good deal of hard work in connection with the Barnato Lodge; but he assured them that it was a labour of love to him to help forward the good work. He hoped that he should yet have more work to do in assisting the Master and Officers in performing their duties, and it would at all times give him the greatest pleasure to do all he could to promote the welfare of the lodge.

A Committee was then appointed to frame the by-laws of the lodge.

The following gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation: Mr. Henry Isaacs Barnato, aged 39, 12, Maida Vale, W., diamond merchant, proposed by Bro. Joseph Da Silva, W.M., and seconded by Bro. M. J. Jessop, Sec.; Mr. Edward Lawrence, aged 28, Brooklyn, Sidcup, Kent; share dealer; Mr. Isaac Van Stavaren, aged 26, 26, Woburn-square, W.C., diamond merchant; and Mr. Israel Aaron Rosenthal, aged 30, The Dovecot, Burton-road, Kilburn, N.W., diamond merchant, proposed by Bro. Joseph Da Silva, W.M., and seconded by Bro. M. J. De Leeuw, S.W.

The following joining members were proposed: Bros. Solomon Barnato Joel, Montefiore Lodge, No. 1017, 20, Devonshire Terrace, Hyde Park, W., diamond merchant; Isaac Barnato Joel, Montefiore Lodge, No. 1017, 20, Devonshire Terrace, Hyde Park, W., diamond merchant; Joseph Israel, Peace and Harmony Lodge (Dutch Constitution), Dutoitspan, S.A., 13, Northampton Park, E., merchant; Abraham Levy, 152, Sutherland Avenue, W., share dealer; Henry Lane, Marquis of Ripon Lodge, No. 1489, 27, Harrington-square, N.W., gentleman; Jacob Otto Schuler, Zetland Lodge, No. 511, The Abbey, Herne Hill, share broker; Morris Abrahams, Athole Lodge, No. 591 (S.C.), Kimberley, S.A., diamond and share broker; Michael Joseph, Kent Lodge, No. 15, land agent; Richard Granichstaden, Humanitas Lodge, Vienna, 38, Shepherd's Bush Green, W., diamond merchant; Isidore H. Gluckstein, Israel Lodge, No. 205, Edgware-road, cigar merchant; James Wyatt, 107, Gloucester-road, South Kensington, merchant; and Alexander Goldstone, Pontiac Lodge, Illinois, America, 86, Guildford-street, Russell-square, W.C., diamond merchant; proposed by Bro. Joseph Da Silva, W.M., and seconded by Bro. M. J. De Leeuw, S.W.

The lodge was then closed in due form, and the members and their guests adjourned to the banquet room, where a sumptuous dinner was served. The tables were profusely decorated with roses and other flowers which gave them a brilliant and picturesque appearance.

At the close of the banquet a number of loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed, which were heartily received and responded to.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER said that the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft," was one which he knew would be received with acclamation, as they all loved the Craft; and her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen was the Patron of it.

The next toast was "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales." The WORSHIPFUL MASTER said he knew that this toast would be received with the utmost enthusiasm and therefore he should not dwell upon it, but simply ask the brethren to rise and drink to the health of their M.W.G.M.

This toast also having been duly honoured,

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER said that the next toast which he had the honour to propose was one which they would all drink with a great deal of pleasure. He was going to couple together toasts No. 3 and No. 4 on the programme, and he was sure that the brethren would give that toast a especial welcome because some of those who were embraced in it were intimately connected with the proceedings of that evening. They desired to drink to "The Health of the Grand Officers," and especially to thank those Grand Officers who had come that evening to consecrate the Barnato Lodge, for the cheerful readiness with which they had that evening come out to Highbury and started the Barnato Lodge. For that the brethren had to return them their grateful thanks. He must ask all the brethren to drink to "The Health of the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master; the Earl of Lathom, Deputy G.M.; and the rest of the other Grand Officers, Present and Past," more especially those Grand Officers who had assisted at the consecration of the lodge that evening. He should ask the brethren to rise and drink that toast, with which he should couple the names of Bro. Lord John Taylour, J.G.W., and Bro. the Rev. Geo. W. Weldon, P.G. Chap.

Bro. Lord JOHN TAYLOUR said that he regretted extremely, as far as he himself was concerned, that an abler representative of the Grand Lodge had not been called on first to return thanks for that toast which had been

so cordially received. He might say that the Grand Officers were gratified to come, whenever the call upon their time admitted of it, to assist on occasions like the present; instead of being a source of trouble to them, it gave them real pleasure to promote a worthy object.

Bro. WELDON, P.G.C., said that after what Bro. Lord John Tylour had said with regard to returning thanks for the Earl of Carnarvon, and the Earl of Lathom, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past, he felt himself very much behind and in the shade; but it gave him much more than ordinary pleasure to return thanks to the W.M. and brethren for the kind way in which they had received that toast, for the lavish hospitality which they had put before them, and the extreme amount of sobriety with which that hospitality had been received. He was not going to trespass on their attention that evening; he had tested that sufficiently by the oration that he had delivered and he had nothing now to add about the principles of Freemasonry. He found himself that evening placed in a most extraordinary position which appeared like the effects of a feverish dream. If he looked through the window on one side and counted 13 lamps, at that spot was the home which he occupied six years ago, and if he looked through the window on the other side he saw the towers of the church in which he officiated for six months. Little did he then think that he should be a guest that evening at the Old Cock to return thanks for the Grand Officers. If at that time he had been supposed to be a guest at the Old Cock he might have found it difficult to keep his reputation, but standing as he did then among brethren who were prepared to vouch for his integrity he felt himself freed from the trammels of convention. But he was in a position of extreme difficulty in which he felt it difficult to express his feelings. That evening he had heard over and over again the name of Kimberley, the last town in which had lived his son, who was a Mason and who had now gone to the Grand Lodge above. Kimberley was a place which he trusted he should yet visit for that son's sake, and he was looking now upon some who he was sure would then give him the right hand of fellowship, and with whom a friendship might be cemented upon the diamond fields of South Africa. No matter what colour the sun may have burnt upon the cheek; no matter what religious or social relationship he had stood in towards them, he and they stood there upon the same grand level of universal brotherhood. Apart from all differences of social position they were all men and brethren, and he trusted that the recollections of the meeting would go with them when they went forth into the world, and that they would never forget the evening at the Old Cock.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER said he was then going to make a slight alteration in the toast list. He was about to exercise his discretion in making that alteration, and when he had explained what he meant he hoped they would accede to it and say that he was right. He was about to drink to the health, success, and long life of the gentleman after whom this lodge was named; for though he was not a brother yet he was about to become one. He asked them to drink to "The Health of Mr. Henry Isaacs Barnato, first candidate for Initiation in that lodge and after whom it was named." The toast would be drunk with musical honours.

Mr. BARNATO was here admitted to the room, and in returning thanks said he was sorry that he was not in a position to address them as brothers. That introduction was rather a surprise to him as he had thought that he should be left outside. There was only one thing he could say, namely, that it would give him much pleasure when at a very short date he should be able to call them brethren.

The W.M. then rose and said that the toast he had then the honour to propose was one that they usually gave in a way that should be appreciated. That night they had enrolled many brethren, but among those brethren none could be received with greater honour than their V.W. Grand Secretary, Bro. Shadwell H. Clerke. The number of years he had been connected with Freemasonry had been identified with the marvellous progress of the Craft throughout the empire, and his indefatigable exertions in carrying out the duties of his office had endeared him to the hearts of those who had to be in contact with him. He felt sure that not only those Freemasons who had known Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke prior to that meeting would join in drinking this toast, but also those who had been brought in contact with him through the formation of that lodge. He would ask them all to rise and drink to "The Health of V.W. Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke."

Bro. Col. SHADWELL H. CLERKE said it was not only a duty but a pleasure for him to respond to the best of his ability to that toast. But he should be a very unkind friend to the lodge if he were to take up the time by making a long and stupid speech. Besides he had been talking to them for a couple of hours already. He would therefore confine himself to assuring them that he had had great pleasure in performing the small amount of work which he had that day done, and in expressing his acknowledgments to those brethren who had so ably assisted him on that occasion, to Lord John Tylour and Bro. Philbrick who had acted as Wardens, to Bro. Weldon, P.G. Chap., who had delighted them with his oration, and to Bro. Frank Richardson for the assistance he rendered as D.C. Without their assistance he (Bro. Clerke) would have been nowhere. For himself and for them he might say that when they had good materials to work upon they were always very glad to do their Masonic services. He had then to ask the brethren to drink to the health of the distinguished brother whom they had appointed as their first Master. It was a very great honour, because the W.M. of a lodge worked up by seniority, but when a body of men came together who said we will have a new lodge, and the biggest swell and best fellow of the lot is the man we are going to make W.M. And that had fallen to the lot of Bro. Da Silva. Bro. Clerke said he remember installing him into the chair of a Royal Arch Chapter, and was quite sure that the brethren had as the first Master got the right man in the right place, because the man who in 11 years had achieved two Masterships must have great administrative and great executive capacity. At the same time he was to be congratulated at the honour his founders had done him in designating him Master of the lodge. He would not detain them longer but would ask them to join him in drinking to "The Health of the first Master of that which promised to be a most flourishing lodge." Bro. Col. Clerke added that he had explained to Mr. Barnato that the ceremony which they had gone through that day was preparatory to the ceremony which he would himself shortly go through, and he (Bro. Col. Clerke) hoped that he should have the opportunity of witnessing such ceremony. They had the tongue of good report already about Mr. Barnato, and they greeted him there as the godfather of the lodge very heartily.

Bro. DA SILVA said that he had to return them his very sincere thanks for the very enthusiastic manner in which his health had been drunk. He took it as a compliment as much to himself personally, and as a tribute, and as a salutation to the Barnato Lodge. He took it, coming from the Grand Secretary, as welcoming them among the numerous lodges

in London. He did not think after the very lengthy speeches which had been made that evening as to the Barnato Lodge that he should make an explanation as to why the lodge had been founded, but the reason of its existence was to re-unite under the banner of English Freemasonry very many Freemasons initiated under the banners of foreign Constitutions who came to abide once more in England, the founders of the lodge wished once more to re-unite, and very many brethren who were constantly returning to England after years spent under the burning sun of Southern Africa—the founders wished to re-unite them under the banner of Freemasonry, so that they could hold out the boast that the sun was always at its meridian with respect to the members of our ancient Order. The founders likewise desired to commemorate the lodge by its name with that wonderful diamond industry but of a few years' growth, but which had made its mark in the history of the world, and when that history came to be written, its fabulousness, its grandeur, its splendour would far outshine any dreams of the fairy tales. They could not find language to express the wealth of those diamond mines. The Barnato mine was the largest and most wealthy mine in the world. The riches that had already been taken from this mine was fabulous. It was true its wealth could be measured, but when it was measured it seemed to be the ransom not of princes and kings, but of kingdoms and nations. And he must say that much in addition, that its wealth was unfathomable, for though they had already sunk to many thousand feet, they had not reached the bottom pit yet, so that for 20 years to come, and 20 years after that, they would be able to extract diamonds from the bowels of the earth. It was to commemorate in their name that wonderful industry they had adopted as their emblem the diamond itself, not as when taken from the mines in its rough state, but as it was when it had passed through the hands of the skilled craftsman, cut, bevelled, and brought into perfect form; and when they wore it, it could by its lustre and bright rays represent the Barnato Lodge, and would for ever shine like a bright star throughout the universe. Even more on behalf of the lodge itself than on his own behalf, he begged to thank them for the hearty reception they had given to the Barnato Lodge.

The W.M. said the next toast he had the honour to give was that of "The Visitors." They were honoured by the presence of a large number of visitors; and he was sure he hoped that the members of the Barnato Lodge would always hold out the hand of welcome towards visitors. Without detaining them longer he would give them that toast, coupling with it the names of Bros. J. L. Mather, P.A.G.D.D.C.; C. McKay, and Dr. Woodman.

Bro. Dr. WOODMAN, in the absence of Bro. J. L. Mather, said he felt himself very highly honoured in being called upon to return thanks for the visitors. For the unbounded hospitality the lodge had shown them he returned them the most cordial thanks of the visitors; and he might say that the Old Cock had done its best to welcome those who had assembled under its hospitable roof. From the first moment of his arrival he felt himself upon classic ground, and now he felt as if he had been reading "King Solomon's Mines."

Bros. MCKAY, and A. J. HENOCHSBERG also responded.

The W.M. said there was one thing in Freemasonry that they all had to remember—a duty which was taught to all Freemasons at their initiation—that of Charity. He rose now to propose a toast that he hoped and sincerely trusted would always be remembered by the members of the Barnato Lodge—"Success to the Masonic Charities." The Masonic Institutions meant a provision for the poor and needy; which, given in view of the vicissitudes of life, might mean a provision for some then present and for their children. However, some one else would have to speak on that subject; but he wanted the brethren to drink to the success of the Institutions with the utmost enthusiasm; he wanted them to drink to it, not only with their hearts, but, if possible, with their pockets, and he would couple with the toast the name of Bro. Binckes, the Secretary of the Boys' School.

Bro. BINCKES, in reply, said that he was sure that by the numerous and distinguished brethren who were there present, and who took an active interest in the great Masonic Institutions, the toast would be most welcome, and the representatives of the Institutions were deeply grateful that on an occasion such as that a place had been found for that toast, and, for himself, he did not hesitate to say that he felt himself singularly complimented in having to respond to it. But he did not arrogate to himself with reference to the one Institution with which he was associated, but thanked them on behalf of all the Institutions. He felt a peculiar interest in that lodge, because he had a material interest in one of the South African diamond mines, and he was delighted to be there to be one of themselves, though at the moment not the recipient of any benefit—(a laugh)—it was an entirely prospective benefit, which he hoped to live to see a reality. Bro. Binckes cleverly made the boasted wealth of the mines a text from which to argue that some of the overflow from this plethora of wealth should naturally be expected to find its way to the Masonic Institutions—a hope which, no doubt, will be realised.

The toast to "The Secretary and other Officers of the Lodge" was responded to by Bros. JESSOP, the Secretary; HOGARD, the acting I.P.M.; and the Wardens of the Lodge.

One or two additional toasts—including "The Health of Bro. Bernard Barnato"—were also drunk before the Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

During the intervals between the speeches the company were entertained with some excellent vocal music by Miss Kate Flinn, Miss Agnes Janson, Miss Louisa White, Bro. R. De Lacy, and Bro. Lawrence Fryer.

CONSECRATION OF THE MANCHESTER CHAPTER, No. 179.

This chapter was consecrated at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Thursday, the 14th ult., Comp. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, G. Scribe E., performing the ceremony, assisted by Comps. F. A. Philbrick, H. Truman Wood, and Rev. R. J. Simpson. At the conclusion of the ceremony Comps. Walter Hopekirk, Henry Albert Lovett, and James Kew were severally installed First, Second, and Third Principals, and the other officers were appointed and invested, namely: Comps. Walter Dickeson, S.E.; W. F. Hughes, S.N.; T. Ellwood, P.S.; E. C. Mulvey, 1st A.S.; T. W. Cain, 2nd A.S.; L. Bénéret, Treas.; and Whitehead, Janitor.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Comp. Schartau; while as regards the manner in which the ceremonial work was done, it is needless to say that it reflected the greatest credit on Comp. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke and his coadjutors. The visitors included Comps. Col. Ramsay, District Grand Superintendent of Malta; Smith, M.E.Z.; Edmonds, Dicke, P.Z.; and others.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

Saturday last was gala day at the Institution, it being what is popularly known as "Old Pupils' Day," and advantage was taken to open the place generally to visitors. About 60 old pupils attended during the day and they were received by Bro. Frank Richardson, chairman of the month, with Bros. Sir John Monckton, Thos. Fenn, Peter de Lande Long, Charles Hammerton, J. H. Matthews, and Edward Letchworth, of the House Committee. The whole of the Albert Hall programme was gone through, the exercises and marching being performed on one of the lawns, which had the most pleasing effect. Amongst the guests were Bro. Sir Edmund Lechmere, Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire, and Lady Lechmere, the Rev. Prebendary Whittington, Bro. Berridge, the Rev. Hayman Cummings, Dr. Purchase, Bros. Chas. Cheston, Herbert Jackson, George W. Rush, Charles W. Stephens, and others.

At the end of the proceedings Bro. Sir Edmund Lechmere and the Rev. Prebendary Whittington (the latter not a Mason) addressed the children and expressed the great gratification they had experienced in seeing them so proficient in all their work, the Prebendary particularly remarking upon the excellence of the music and recitations.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

A SCHOLARSHIP WON BY A PUPIL DURING HIS HOLIDAYS.

On Wednesday morning the staff at Wood Green were delighted to hear that J. B. G. Templeman, 14½ years of age, has taken the second place in an examination in which 183 lads competed, and the boy was praised for his mathematical work.

It has been agreed that Templeman shall be allowed to complete his time in the School, and that the scholarship shall be open to him when he leaves the School.

We hope that his success will inspire him to use his undoubted talent more than he has done, and we should advise him not to neglect his lesson in Greek and German, and would remind him that with perseverance he may make his way to one of our Universities.

SUMMER OUTING OF THE STABILITY LODGE, No. 217.

The summer outing of the above lodge took place on Thursday, the 28th ult. Arrangements had been made by which the lodge and the friends of the members went to Clacton-on-Sea in the splendidly fitted new boat, "The Clacton," which regularly runs to Clacton-on-Sea during the summer. The party started from the Old Swan Pier, London Bridge, at half-past nine in the morning, and, in spite of a few slight showers, had very enjoyable weather for the trip. The party did not land from the boat at Clacton, but noticed with great pleasure that the brethren of that town had raised the Masonic ensign on the pier in honour of the visit.

Amongst those present were: Bro. Gorrie, W.M., and Miss Gorrie; Bro. Eckersall, S.W., and Mrs. Eckersall; Bro. Addington, P.M., Mrs. and the Misses Addington; Bro. Hinks, Treas.; Bro. Hinks, jun., P.M.; Bro. Marfleet, P.M., Mr. Marfleet, jun., and Miss Marfleet; Bro. Nixon, Sec., and Miss Nixon; Mr. and Mrs. Hancock; Bro. Taylor, P.M. (the father of the lodge), and Miss Taylor; Mr. Woolmer, jun., Bro. Tennant, Mrs. Tennant, and Mrs. Tennant, jun.; Mr., Mrs., and Miss Wilson; Bro. and Miss Cubbon; Mr. and Mrs. Fisher; Mr. and Mrs. King; Bro. Page, P.M., and Mrs. Page; Bro. Cowley, W.M. 1622, and Mrs. Cowley; Bro. D. Rose, P.M. 1622 (the respected Preceptor of the Rose Lodge of Instruction); Bro. Beachamp and Mrs. Beachamp; Bro. Charlie Woods, 1869, and Mrs. Woods; Bro. C. H. Stone, 1641, and Mrs. Stone; Mr. Larrit, sen., Mr. Larrit, jun., Mr. Trot, Mr. Balmro, Mr. and Mrs. Kelley; Miss Boosey, Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Mills, Bro. Hardmann and Mrs. Hardmann; Bro. Brown, Bro. Berty, Bro. and Mrs. Edwards, Bros. Itter, Garner, and Owen.

The creature comforts of the party were well looked after by Bro. Smith, the Steward of the "Clacton," who formerly was at Anderton's Hotel.

Arriving at London Bridge at 11 p.m., the party landed, well satisfied with the pleasant day that had been spent on board, and with pleasant anticipations of another similar delightful day in the future. The pleasing strains of the band added greatly to the enjoyment of the day.

THE ANNUAL PICNIC OF THE EBORACUM LODGE, No. 1611.

The annual picnic in connection with the above lodge was held on Tuesday, the 26th ult., the locale being the Dukeries, Nottinghamshire. The members accompanied by their wives and sweethearts arrived at Worksop at 9 o'clock, where they partook of breakfast at the Lion Hotel. Justice having been done, the party left Worksop for Clumber, the mansion of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle. After viewing the house and lake from the bridge the party proceeded to Thoresby, the mansion of Earl Manvers, and had the gratification of inspecting one of the most beautiful and finished modern residences in England. On driving from Thoresby to the Major Oak, the woodland prospects were delightful. On alighting from the carriages the green sward was quickly transformed into an elegant refectory—to the gratification and enjoyment of 36 hungry and thirsty souls. Time flies, the horn was sounded, the glades of merry Sherwood are left behind, and they were hurrying through the Park at Welbeck until they halted at the "Larder of the famous outlaw," Robin Hood. There the company were enlivened by the song of "The Carrier Dove," sung in excellent form by Bro. J. E. Wilkinson.

Proceeding onward Welbeck Abbey was soon in sight with its grounds and gardens, its subterranean passages, and magnificent buildings. After taking a rapid survey of the wonders of Welbeck Abbey, the mansion of his Grace the Duke of Portland, the road to Worksop was again taken, where, thanks to mine host of the Lion, an excellent dinner was provided on arrival there, which was presided

over by the Worshipful Master, Bro. W. B. Dyson. Dinner over the W. Master proposed the usual loyal toasts which were drunk with musical honours.

The W.M. then in felicitous language gave "The Ladies," and coupled the name of Bro. Wm. Brown, I.P.M., who responded for the fair sex.

The last toast, "The Health of the W.M. of the Eboracum Lodge," was then proposed, and right heartily received to the strains of "For he's a jolly good fellow."

The W.M. thanked the ladies and brethren for receiving the toast in such a hearty manner, and said that their thanks were also due to the organiser of the trip, Bro. James Kay, who carried out all the arrangements in a very satisfactory manner.

The party then wended their way to the station, when after a pleasant railway journey the northern metropolis was reached at 10 o'clock, after a most brilliant day's outing.

ANNUAL PICNIC OF THE LOGIC CLUB.

The annual picnic in connection with this club took place on Thursday, the 28th ult., in the pleasant neighbourhood of Epsom. The members met at Mortimer-street, and drove away in four-in-hand coaches under the guidance of the Deputy Preceptor, Bro. G. E. Fairchild. The Preceptor, Bro. John Maclean, accompanied the party during the morning, having to return to town by train to attend to his professional engagements. The lovely scenery for which Surrey is noted was much appreciated, and the weather was all that could be desired for driving purposes—cool and refreshing to a degree. Passing through Ewell a halt was made at a charming spot half-way between this and Epsom. The cloth was spread upon the green sward, and the members did justice to an enjoyable luncheon, after which the journey was continued to Box Hill. The weather became threatening and rain appeared upon the lovely scene, which precluded the genial W. Master of the Wharton Lodge from delivering his lecture and story of his recent journey through the Continent of Europe; however, this was partly recompensed for by an excellent banquet at the Burford Bridge Hotel, under the genial presidency of the Deputy Preceptor, Bro. G. E. Fairchild. Amongst those present were Bros. R. P. Stevens, W.M. City of London Lodge; W. Thomas, W.M. Wharton Lodge; Grove, W.M. Crystal Palace Lodge; Mostyn, Potter, Kent, Kirkaldy, Greenway, Dr. Duke, Browning, Harris, Hyman, Allcorn, Fendick, Fisher, Freeman, Prince, and the Hon. Secretary, Bro. J. P. Fitzgerald.

REMOVAL OF THE TOWNLEY PARKER LODGE, No. 1032, WHITTLE SPRINGS.

The leafy haunts of Whittle Springs may not be known to the brethren of the mystic tie generally, but to those who are more fortunate in the possession of such knowledge, and who during the palmy days of the lodge's existence have had opportunities of seeing the place and of visiting the brethren of No. 1032, there are many happy memories, which doubtless will now change to heartfelt regrets. Time, the immutable, has changed the circumstances under which the lodge then existed, and which made it so successful. Many members of the Craft, then resident in the surrounding towns of Chorley, Preston, Leyland, Blackburn, Bolton, and Wigan, loved the place, and looked forward with anxious eyes to the date of the lodge's "next happy meeting" in the spacious halls of "the hotel," situated within the picturesque grounds of these once famed medicinal springs. Many old and revered members have passed away; younger brethren are scattered throughout the land; new lodges have sprung up in surrounding towns to supply the Masonic necessities of the residents therein; and even "the springs" have changed hands, and are now turned to other and more profitable uses. It has been decreed that No. 1032 shall in future find "a local habitation" in the Masonic Rooms situated in the Town Hall building of Chorley, three miles distant, and that its meetings shall no longer take place amidst the leafy walls, the flowery walks, and the sprinkling fountains of its first home. At its last April meeting, Bro. J. B. Cardwell, P.M. (one of the owners of the "springs"), generously and spontaneously insisted that he could not consent to the removal, without some outward and visible recognition of the circumstances, and to mark his sense of the importance of the change, its probable effect being for the good and welfare of Masonry, and he therefore invited the W.M., officers, and brethren of No. 1032 to dinner on the last occasion of the lodge meeting at Whittle, and he kindly extended the invite to the W.M. and officers of Ellesmere Lodge, No. 730, 40 brethren in all being invited.

Accordingly the brethren of the two lodges met on Thursday, the 21st instant, and the lodge was opened by Bro. Jos. Hopkinson, P.M. 1032. After business of a routine character was transacted, Bro. John Hurst, of Lodge 1256, was elected a joining member, and the ballot was taken, on the proposal of Bro. Cardwell, for Mr. Miles Melbourne Williams, M.D. The ballot was declared to be unanimous in his favour, and it is to be regretted that his professional duties prevented his initiation on this last occasion. The lodge then proceeded to discuss the case of a poor brother who was sick and in distress, and it is especially noteworthy, that the very last minute entered on the books of the lodge, at Whittle Springs, records an act of benevolence and charity to one of its original founders. The duty was also imposed upon Bro. J. Heald, P.M. 730 and 1032, of obtaining further assistance of a voluntary kind from brethren in favour of this sick brother. The lodge was closed.

At 7 o'clock the brethren commenced to dine, the viands being choice, excellent, and well served, Bro. J. Hurst being the caterer. Bro. J. B. Cardwell presided at the after-dinner proceedings, supported on his right by Bro. J. H. Hopkinson, W.M. 1032, and on his left by Bro. L. Eccles, W.M. 730.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and "The Health of our Host, Bro. Cardwell," was ably proposed by the WORSHIPFUL MASTER of 1032, and seconded by the WORSHIPFUL MASTER of 730, who briefly alluded to the generous nature of Bro. Cardwell in all cases of need (Masonic and otherwise), his kindly disposition and good nature—he being essentially—"a man that I love and honour with all my soul, and my heart, and my duty." The toast was received with enthusiasm and loud applause—"Kentish fire"—being led by Bro. Jas. Corbitt

P.M. 1032. "Absent Brethren" had a toast to themselves, special mention being made of Bro. J. M. Kerr, P.M. 730, P.P.G.S. of W. West Lancs, now resident in India—and "Auld Lang Syne" was sung in his honour.

The evening was pleasantly spent, Bro. Holland assisting with elocutionary efforts, and Bros. Widdows, Heald, Bruce, and Jolly, assisted vocally. Not the least part of the entertainment came from Bro. T. Sharples, P.M. and Treas. 730, who gave his inimitable "Knives to grind," in an excellent manner.

TESTIMONIAL DINNER TO BRO. J. CONNER, P.P.G.S. LANARK, AT THE SANDOWN HOTEL.

A complimentary dinner to Bro. James Conner, 1369, was given at the Sandown Hotel, on Tuesday evening, the 5th ult., to celebrate the occasion of presenting that brother with a testimonial in token of the respect and esteem he was held in during the time he was in the position of Traffic Manager to the Isle of Wight Railway Company.

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his remarks, paid a very high compliment to Bro. Conner for the able manner in which he had discharged his duties, and expressed the pleasure it had afforded him to preside on the occasion. He also alluded to the wide-spread popularity enjoyed by Bro. Conner in the Island; and his remarks having been fully endorsed by the Vice-Chairman, he handed to Bro. Conner a purse containing a cheque for £60.

Bro. CONNER duly acknowledged the gift, and expressed his gratification, above all things, at the kindly spirit which had been exhibited towards him during his sojourn in the Isle of Wight.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. W. C. SMITH, P.M. 1563.

On Friday evening, the 23rd ult., a numerous gathering of brethren assembled at the Criterion, Piccadilly, to present a testimonial to Bro. W. C. Smith on his leaving London for the north of England, and in recognition of his services as Preceptor of the Eclectic, Emblematic, Covent Garden, and Londesborough Lodges of Instruction, which position he has held for many years. The testimonial consisted of an illuminated address in a handsome oak frame, presented by Bros. Harnell and Noakes, forty guineas enclosed in a silken purse, beautifully worked with Bro. W. C. Smith's monogram in silver on sky blue satin, the work of Mrs. G. Reynolds, the wife of the esteemed Secretary of the Covent Garden Lodge of Instruction, and a chaste gold brooch, set with brilliants, in a case bearing a suitable inscription, for Mrs. W. C. Smith.

On the motion of Bro. G. F. SWAN, Secretary of the Emblematic Lodge of Instruction, Bro. G. Reynolds was unanimously elected to the chair, and on rising said it was with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret that he rose to present the testimonial which had been subscribed by the members of the various lodges of instruction of which Bro. Smith had been Preceptor. They all knew with what success he had filled that onerous position, for if it had not been for him they would not have been able to do their work in the manner they did, for which they owed a deep debt of gratitude of which that testimonial was the expression. He trusted T.G.A.O.T.U. would spare him for many years to come to enjoy his well-earned repose, when he would have the consolation of remembering that he had left behind him the fruits of his labours, not only in their hearts but in their heads.

Bro. W. C. SMITH, who spoke with great emotion, thanked the brethren most sincerely for the very handsome and valuable testimonial which they had presented to him. He could assure them he felt quite unworthy of it, for if what he had done had in their opinion rendered him in any way worthy of such an offering, it had been indeed a labour of love. The many happy hours he had spent with the brethren he should always remember as some of the most pleasant in his life. His devotion to the work had at times strained the affection of husband and wife through his being so much from home, but he was pleased to say it had always ended happily. It was with great regret that circumstances had carried him away from London, but in his distant home he should always remember the great kindness that had always been extended towards him, which had culminated in this expression of their appreciation of his humble services. Words failed him to thank them sufficiently for their very great kindness, which was the jewel he should of all others value the most. He wished them all and their lodges of instruction prosperity and success.

At the end of the proceedings a number of the brethren sat down to a dinner served in the Glee Room, to which Bro. W. C. Smith was invited. After a sufficient time had been pleasantly spent in doing justice to the good things provided,

The Chairman, Bro. REYNOLDS, proposed, in felicitous terms, the toast of "The Queen and the Craft."

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing "The Health of Bro. W. C. Smith," said he proposed that toast with a great deal of pleasure. They all regretted that he was going away from them, as he had always served them truly and faithfully, but trusted that at no very distant time he would find it convenient to pay them a visit, when he would have accorded him a hearty welcome. They would always remember him with feelings of gratitude for the very able manner in which he had conducted the work in the various lodges of instruction with which he had just severed his connection.

Bro. SMITH, in reply, spoke at considerable length, tracing his career as Preceptor from the time he joined the Emblematic Lodge of Instruction to the present time. He thanked the brethren most heartily for the enthusiastic manner in which they had drunk his health. He should always remember with pride the great honour they had conferred upon him in the handsome testimonial he had just received. He begged once more to thank them for the very great kindness and courtesy he had always received at their hands.

Several other toasts, including "The Chairman," "Vice-Chairman," "Committee," and "The Secretaries of the various Lodges of Instruction," were proposed and responded to in suitable terms, thus bringing to an end a most memorable and enjoyable evening.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF MIDDLESEX.

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June 30th, 1888.

A MEETING

of the Provincial Grand Chapter will be held at THE GREYHOUND HOTEL, HAMPTON COURT, On SATURDAY, JULY 14th, at Three o'clock p.m. precisely.

By command of the M.E. Grand Superintendent.
J. F. H. WOODWARD, P.G. Std. Br.,
Provincial Grand Scribe E.

The BANQUET will take place at the GREYHOUND HOTEL at 5 p.m.

TICKETS, 6s. 6d. each, exclusive of Wine.

N.B.—Companions intending to remain for the Banquet are requested to send their names to the Prov. G.S.E., with a remittance, before Wednesday, the 11th of July, as Tickets will not be issued after that date.

Trains leave Waterloo, 1.50, 2.10.
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Provincial Grand Officers are requested to be punctual in their attendance.

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The ANNUAL BANQUET will be held at the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W., at 6.30 precisely—Members paying 10s., and Visitors £1 1s.

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TESTIMONIAL to Bro. THOMAS POORE, P.M., P.Z., P.M. (Mark), P.W.C.N. (Ark Mariners), P.T.I.M. (Cryptic Degrees), 18°, &c.

IN consideration of the long services devoted to the cause of Masonry in its various grades by this highly-esteemed brother, and in recognition of his abilities as an energetic and courteous Preceptor, the undermentioned brethren have kindly placed their names on the Committee,

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| W. Bro. Alfred Williams (Chairman). | W. Bro. H. Lovegrove. |
| V.W. Bro. D. P. Cama (Vice-Chairman) | " F. Bennett. |
| V.W. Bro. H. B. Marshall. | " Capt. J. E. Anderson. |
| W. Bro. Baron de Ferrieres. | " G. Graveley. |
| " Maj. G. Lambert. | " E. Storr. |
| " George Kenning. | " T. Clarke. |
| " G. Lilley. | " C. Slater. |
| " W. R. Palmer. | " H. H. Shirley. |
| " T. C. Walls. | " R. B. Bryant. |
| " H. J. Lardner. | " J. Voisey. |
| " J. L. Mather. | " G. W. Marsden, jr. |
| " C. F. Matier. | " G. Allen. |
| " T. Cubitt. | " C. Pulman. |

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Star Chapter of Improvement 1 1 0

Cheques and P.O.O. may be made payable to Bro. H. J. Lardner (Hon. Treas.), St. Clement's House, Clement-lane, E.C. Brethren desirous of co-operating with the Committee are requested to communicate by letter with Bro. T. C. Walls (Hon. Sec.), East Temple Chambers, E.C.

The Committee have respectfully to request that those Lodges, Chapters, and Brethren who have kindly promised donations to this Fund, will at once forward the same by Cheque or Post Office Order to Bro. H. J. LARDNER (Hon. Treas.), St. Clement's House, Clement's-lane, E.C. The Fund will shortly close.
By order. T. C. WALLS, Hon. Sec.

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ANTHEM.—"BEHOLD HOW GOOD AND JOYFUL"

(Dedicated to Right Hon. the Earl of Mount EDGCUMBE, Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall),

Composed by Bro. C. E. JULEFF, P.P.G.O. Cornwall, Organist and Choir Director of Bodmin Parish Church.

PRICE 4d. of the Composer.

N.B.—This Anthem is already on several cathedral lists, and will shortly be in a second edition.

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To Correspondents.

The following communications were either received too late for publication or stand over for want of space:—

CRAFT LODGES—Angel, No. 51; Royal York No. 315; St. John's, No. 673; St. Aubyn, No. 954; Lodge of St. Peter, No. 1024; Lodge of Concord, No. 1135; Dundas, No. 1255; and Lodge of Fidelity, No. 1256.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS—Fidelity, No. 441.

Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of East Anglia.

Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Hants. and I. of Wight.

Masonic Presentation at Ilfracombe.



SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1888.

Original Correspondence.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have to crave the favour of space in your next issue to reply to the letter of Bro. Woods, and the remarks by Bro. Binckes on my statistics which appear in your report of the recent Festival. Until I saw Bro. Woods' letter I did not know that such an institution as the "Bancroft School" exists, nor do I now know anything respecting it. I took for comparison the four other institutions mentioned in my "analysis" (more particularly the Commercial Travellers' Schools), because I thought, and still think, them nearer akin to our own in their object, purpose, and method than any other institution is, and therefore fair basis for comparison. I have never, by word or implication, found fault with the expenditure of our Schools under the head of rates and taxes—no sane man would do so. I might readily have extended the comparison to the Licensed Victuallers' Schools, Clergy Orphans, Wolverhampton Orphans, Müller's, and many others, with comparisons not resulting more favourably to the management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. If Bro. Woods thinks that more light can be thrown upon the subject by further comparisons, I hope he will compile and publish the figures—I shall be very pleased to see them.

Our W. Bro. Binckes in his remarks refers to "slandrous, calumnious, and malicious statements," and if he classes my "analysis" therein it is not for me to object, because every figure which I have published referring to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys has been taken from the printed statement of accounts which Bro. Binckes sent to me. No slander, calumny, or malice has emanated from me on the subject, and I hope and trust will not do so hereafter. As to the inference that I drew attention to the cost of an exceptional outbreak of sickness at the London Orphan Asylum, but uncharitably withheld reference to a similar occurrence at the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, the reason is obvious, viz.—in the London Orphan Asylum the accounts revealed the fact; in the R.M.I. for Boys, they did not—how then could I be aware of the outbreak in the latter case? I have to-day gone carefully through the accounts again, and I cannot find therein any evidence that £400 was spent last year through special sickness as stated by Bro. Binckes at the Festival. I do not for a moment infer that his statement was incorrect. I only say that his own accounts do not exhibit the £400. The Chairman at the Festival referred to the Farm Accounts, and Bro. Binckes replied that "it was all nett profit," whereas his accounts show that it cost £108 7s. 11d. to secure £115 os. 4d. worth of produce, and that too without one penny being debited for capital expended on Stock, Rent, and Ratee, or Management, and in the R.M.I. for Boys the latter is not an unimportant item generally. Bro. Binckes appears to have seen my figures, but I have yet to learn that he or any one else disputes their accuracy. I claim, therefore, to have proved that each boy last year cost £50 16s. Why then did those in authority publish a statement that the average cost had only been £41 13s. 10d.? Moreover, if only 4 per cent. is charged on the expenditure at Wood Green as an equivalent for Rent, it brings the average cost per boy up to £65 7s. 9d.

If the majority of the subscribers do not consider this expenditure excessive, well and good, that will end all debate as to cost, but I and many others do consider it too much, and think that we ought to have, at least, one hundred more boys provided for (and that too in a real Masonic manner) on the present gross amount of expenditure.—I am, yours faithfully and fraternally,

E. V. GREATBATCH,
I.P.M. 418, P.G.S. of Wks. Staffordshire.

June 30.

POST OFFICE RED TAPE—A WARNING TO SECRETARIES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Some three weeks ago I had occasion to forward to the 400 members of our lodge and Correspondence Circle, a lodge summons and other printed matter, by book post under postal wrapper. In the hurry of affixing the stamps some 20 slightly overlapped the wrapper, thus preventing "the contents being easily withdrawn."—(see P. O. Guide, p. 3.) You will scarcely believe it, but each of these was charged for as a letter, the deficiency of postage being doubled, and marked "closed against inspection," which is downright untrue, because, the ends being open, every word of the contents could easily be read. This has naturally caused me and our members—to whom I hereby tender an apology—much annoyance, and if any of those intended for the Cape, India, or Australia have been similarly treated the actual expense will be considerable. Your insertion of this letter may act as a useful warning to lodge Secretaries to be very careful, for the meshes of the Post Office appear to be exceedingly fine. The curious part is that a packet "may be tied at the ends with string." Surely this closes it more effectually than my poor stamp, which can easily be torn through.—Fraternally yours,

G. W. SPETH,
Sec. Quatuor Coronati Lodge,
No. 2076.

3rd July.



RECORDS OF THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1887, Philadelphia. W. H. HOSKINS and Co., 1887.

These records contain a full account of the 34th Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, held at the Masonic Hall, Philadelphia, on the 24th and 25th of May, 1887. From this we learn that owing to the absence through a family bereavement of Sir Knight Geo. S. Graham, G.C., Sir Knight Lee S. Smith, Dep. G.C., presided, that there was a full attendance of Grand Officers and members, and that the meeting passed off satisfactorily. The address of the Grand Commander seems to have been a brief one, and the subjects dealt with by him to have been chiefly of a local interest. The Grand Treasurer's statement bespeaks a flourishing state of the Grand Commandery in the matter of cash, the receipts, including the balance brought forward from the previous account, amounting to close on £10,045 dollars, and the expenditure to 4313 dollars, the balance in hand at the close of the account being close on 5732 dollars. The report of the Grand Commandery shows that there are 61 commanderies on the roll, with a membership, so far as reported, of 7770 sir knights. The receipts for the year 1887-8 having been estimated at 4505 dollars, and appropriations amounting to 5045 dollars recommended, the city of Pittsburgh was designated as the meeting place of the next annual conclave, and the principal Grand Officers for the year elected, among them being Sir Knights Lee S. Smith, G. Commander; William H. Allen, Deputy G. Commander; M. R. Muckle, G. Treasurer; and Charles E. Meyer, G. Recorder. On the 25th May the Grand Officers were installed, and the new Grand Commander delivered an address of the usual character, at the close of which he was presented with a sword of honour by his commandery, in token of the respect and esteem with which its members regarded him. The remaining business needs no comment, but appended to this account is a long and interesting Report on Correspondence, which will well repay perusal.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA. Pittsburg: Jos. Eichbaum and Co., 48, Fifth Avenue, 1888.

This is a report of the proceedings of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Pennsylvania at its 42nd annual grand assembly at the Masonic Hall, Erie, on the 15th February, 1888, Comp. Chas. K. Francis, M.P.G.M., presided, and was supported by his Grand Officers and representatives of several subordinate councils. The annual address of the Grand Master is of more than usual interest, as it contains an inquiry into the history of the Cryptic Degrees, in which a mass of important information on the subject of Masonic Degrees appears to have been brought together. Then follow the reports of the Grand Treasurer and Grand Recorder, the former showing receipts including balance brought forward amounting to 2246 dollars, and expenditure 628 dollars, leaving a balance in hand of 1618 dollars. From the report of Comp. Chas. E. Meyer, G. Recorder, it appears there are 20 councils in active work with a total membership of 1436 companions. The Grand Officers for the year were elected, and Comp. Charles K. Francis declining re-election, Comp. John L. Young was chosen G.M.; Comp. D. A. Stevenson, Dep. G.M.; Comp. Joshua L. Lyte, Ill. G.M.; Comp. J. Wadsworth, G.P.C. of Wks.; Comp. James Brown, G. Treas.; and Comp. Charles E. Meyer, G. Recorder. The report on correspondence completes the volume.



784] ANOTHER MASONIC MS.

It is my privilege to again announce the discovery of another copy of the "Old Charges." It happened in this wise. Bro. John Lane and I were looking over a number of Grand Lodge Calendars, in the British Museum, and simultaneously exclaimed, "That's important writing at the end" of the Calendar of 1781. It turned out to be a copy of an "Old Charge" of about the same period as the Calendar, written on paper, and sewn up with the former; but there is no date in "water mark" or ought else to exactly fix the period of transcription; neither am I quite certain yet as to the original version, from which the document has been copied, though I fancy it resembles the "Bedford MS." in many respects. As to this and other points, I shall have a word to say on returning to Torquay in a few weeks' time. It is termed, "A copy of an ancient transcript. The Mason Constitution;" and quite a number of sub-titles are to be found throughout the MS., such as: (a) The Prayer at Admittance or Acceptance; (b) The Origin of the Science and how Founded; (c) The Original of the Science from the Scripture; (d) How it was found after the Flood; (e) When and where Masons were first so-called and made; (f) Nimrod's Charge; (g) Euclid's Charge; (h) Solomon's Charge; (i) The Form of the Oath; (j) Who shall administer the Oath; (k) Prince Edwin's Charges; (l) Practisers, &c. The Invocation begins with "The might of the Father of Kings, with the Wisdom of the Glorious Jesus." In the preface, mention is made of the "true Free Mason;" the two stones are described as "Marble and chipped Lattens;" "Hiram" is called "the Son of Ahihbal;" the wages paid were "two shillings and sixpence per week, and threepence *vest*" (whatever that may mean); and the sentence runs after the Oath (so-called), "Then after the Oath taken and the Book kiss'd, these following precepts and charges which He or they are, or is to keep, are to be read." "Prince Edwin's Charges" run from 1 to 21, and the "Practisers' Regulations" from 22 to 32, and then "The admonition to the old Masons after the reading your charges. Every man that is a Mason, either Master, Fellow, or Bro"—when the MS. abruptly leaves off. I shall consult with Bros. Gould, Rylands, and Speth, and then report in due course.
W. J. HUGHAN,



Craft Masonry.

QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE (No. 2076).

—This lodge met at Freemasons' Hall, on Monday, the 25th ult., to keep the Festival of St. John, when there were present Bros. R. F. Gould, W.M.; W. J. Hughan, W. Simpson, W. H. Rylands, G. W. Speth, W. M. Bywater, Dr. W. W. Westcott, and J. Lane. Of the Correspondence Circle the following attended: Bros. A. Howell, A. H. Bateman, D. P. Cama, S. Saunders, W. Rowley, R. A. Gowan, F. A. Powell, W. Watson, C. Kupferschmidt, H. Sadler, W. Lake, R. Eve, J. S. Cumberland, C. S. Lane, and Col. J. Mead. The visitors were Bros. T. W. Richardson, W.M. 2029; and S. L. MacGregor Mathers, 195.

After opening, the Worshipful Master announced that accompanied by Bro. Speth he had recently attended a meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands, June 17th, and a Masonic Festival in Brussels, June 23rd. On both occasions they had been treated with great kindness and cordiality, as representatives of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, a circumstance which he asked the Secretary to record on the minutes, and would himself again refer to at a later period of the evening. The following 38 lodges and brethren were admitted members of the Correspondence Circle, viz.: St. Paul's Lodge, No. 374, Montreal; York Lodge of Instruction, No. 2118, York, West Australia; Mirfield Lodge, No. 1102, Mirfield, Yorks; Mandalay Lodge, No. 2119, Burmah; Grand Council of the Order of the Secret Monitor; and Bros. C. P. Barnes, London; D. P. Masson, P.D.G. Treas. Punjab; Dhanjibore F. Camadore, Rawul Pindee, Punjab; J. W. Howard, Newara Eliya, Ceylon; J. Brown, Gora Gully, Punjab; J. L. Holland, Rawul Pindee; E. F. Stranack, Madras; J. R. Holmes, Gold Coast, Africa; A. M. M. Geesteranus, Dep. Grand Master of the Netherlands; J. P. Vaillant, G. Secretary of the G.O. of the Netherlands; D. B. Rush, Johannesburg, Transvaal; H. L. Stringer, Dist. G. Org. Hong Kong; Capt. W. S. Bellew, Blink-klip, South Africa; C. W. B. Geddes, Kimberley, South Africa; J. Terry, P.G. Swd. Br., Sec. of the R.M.B.I.; J. Shearman, P.J. G.W. Dorset; H. W. Peters, Kimberley; D. Mather, Kimberley; S. G. Foster, Kimberley; R. F. Wilson, Kimberley; H. Swift, Kimberley; F. Wood, Abbey Wood, Kent; A. C. Tanqueray, London; C. B. Cooper, London; H. J. Wade, Dist. G. Sec. Auckland, New Zealand; J. A. Cumbs, Port of Spain, Trinidad; C. F. Matier, P.G. Std. Br. London; A. R. Carter, Blackheath; J. R. Paton, Glasgow; J. D. Duncan, Glasgow; A. J. Kaufman, Dist. Dep. G.M. Pennsylvania; Dr. G. R. Welchans, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Ed. T. Schultz, P.G.W. of Maryland. The total of members admitted to the Correspondence Circle is thus brought to 346.

The following Report to the officers of the lodge was discussed and adopted:—Worshipful Master and Brethren—Your officers in Committee beg to report that a member of the Correspondence Circle, Bro. Alexander Howell, Southsea, in his zeal for the welfare of our Society, made, in a letter to the Secretary, dated 10th May last a suggestion which Bro. Speth has placed before us, and which we have taken into consideration and unreservedly approve. We therefore suggest that the Worshipful Master shall from time to time, as may appear advisable, appoint on the recommendation of the Secretary for the time being, and with the assent of the officers in Committee, some active and willing brother, who is a member of either the Inner or Outer Circle, to act as a local centre of information respecting the purposes of our Lodge and Literary Society. That said officer be designated "Local Secretary of the Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle." That as a general rule, the Province of which he is the local centre, shall, in England, be coterminous with the Province of the same name under the United Grand Lodge of England: but that if found desirable, each of such Provinces may be further sub-divided. That in the Colonies and abroad, such Provinces be formed from time to time, as may appear suitable. That the duties of a Local Secretary shall be to do his utmost, on every fit and proper occasion, to spread a knowledge of the objects and proceedings of the Lodge and Correspondence Circle; to receive and forward to the Secretary the names of applicants for admission to the Correspondence Circle; to assist the Secretary in collecting the dues from said Province when called upon to do so; and in general to make himself useful on behalf of the Lodge under the immediate direction of your Secretary. That to assist him in these duties he be kept supplied from Head Quarters with the necessary circulars and notices. That in addition hereto he be allowed to issue a printed circular or circulars of his own, should he think such action desirable; said circular or circulars to be subject to the approval of your Secretary for the time being. That on his sending in proper vouchers to the Secretary, a moderate amount (to pay for such printing), and all postage be refunded to him. That the local Secretaries being officers of the Correspondence Circle and not of the lodge, shall hold their offices from year to year without re-appointment. That it be thoroughly understood that such office is not one of mere honour and distinction, but shall in all cases be conferred either for service of the nature above described already rendered, or in anticipation of persevering efforts to increase the prestige and usefulness, and extend the sphere of the lodge and Correspondence Circle. We know that there are some, and we believe that there are many, of our members who will accept the office under the above conditions, rendering good suit and service, and proud of the distinction conferred upon them by the only lodge in the world devoted exclusively to literary research. We anticipate that the effects of such appointments will be beneficial to the lodge in every way; but we do not share the anticipations of Bro. Howell that the labours of the Secretary will be lightened, which was his hope and one of his chief reasons for formulating the scheme. Neither is it our intention that the appointment of a Local Secretary should deter any member from addressing the Secretary directly, if so inclined. Further we beg to suggest that the W.M. do immediately appoint Bros. A. Howell, Southsea, Local Sec. for the Province of Hampshire; J.

L. Atherton, Bradford, Local Sec. for the Province of West Riding, Yorks; W. Henderson, Hebron, Local Sec. for the Province of Gricqualand (West); and G. Gordon, Dunedin, Local Sec. for the Province of Otago, New Zealand. The first two have already expressed their willingness to the Secretary, and it is confidently believed that the others will gladly accept the office. And finally, that brethren in the several provinces who may feel willing and capable of undertaking these duties with credit to themselves and advantage to the lodge, be and are hereby invited to tender their services to the Secretary, who will submit their names to the W.M.

The discussion on Bro. Westcott's motion to carry out the special work of the lodge in the Third Degree, adjourned from last meeting, was then resumed.

Bro. W. J. Hughan suggested that, as the object of the mover had been sufficiently attained, by the ventilation of the subject at the last meeting of the lodge, it would, he thought, be most judicious, under all the circumstances of the case, if Bros. Westcott and Speth severally withdrew the resolution and amendment standing in their respective names, which, after a short discussion, was agreed to.

The Worshipful Master then mentioned the case of Mrs. Warren, a candidate for the benefits of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. Mrs. Warren, he observed, was the widow of the late Bro. H. G. Warren, Past G. Stwd., who was the editor of the "Freemasons' Quarterly Review" in 1853, of which, under the altered title of "Freemasons' Magazine," he became joint proprietor in 1855, and assisted in carrying on, under great difficulties, until 1861. Bro. Warren, he added, was the last person who delivered the Prestonian Lecture. With these brief observations, he should appeal with confidence to the members present to sanction the candidature of Mrs. Warren for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution being strongly recommended by the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, which was seconded by Bro. W. H. Rylands, and carried "nem. con."

The Worshipful Master said he had brought with him the short deed prepared for the carrying into effect the vesting of the lodge library in trustees, so as to ensure its passing to the Grand Lodge of England, in the event of the lodge, from any untoward cause, ceasing to exist; whereupon it was moved and seconded—"That the W.M. be empowered, with the assent of the officers in committee, to take the necessary steps to have the said deed finally executed," which, being put from the chair, was carried unanimously.

The Paper of the evening—entitled "Masters' Lodges"—was read by Bro. J. Lane, the author of "Masonic Records, 1717—1887." It was devoted to a consideration of the custom prevailing extensively right up to 1813 of holding special Masters' lodges in connection with the ordinary lodge, and literally bristled with data of great importance, the fruits of long years of study. Bro. Lane especially called attention to four lodges in the fourth decade of last century, the common characteristics of which were that, although numbered on the roll, and apparently unconnected with any other lodge, they never paid for a warrant, remitted fees, or attended Grand Lodge. Nos. 116, 117, and 120 were called Masters' Lodges, but No. 115 was styled "a Scots Masons' Lodge." It would be impossible here to enter into the curious questions thus raised and ably presented by our learned brother; we must refer our readers to the printed transactions of the lodge. Suffice it to say that a lively discussion ensued, in which Bros. Hughan, Gould, Speth, Cumberland, Rylands, Howell, and Westcott took part, after which a well deserved vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer.

Bro. Hughan moved "That the members of the Lodge Quatuor Coronati, No. 2076, London, composed exclusively of authors of works on Freemasonry, or of brethren possessing scientific, artistic, or literary qualifications, having taken note of the circular of the Grand Orient of Belgium reproduced at Part III. of 'Ars Quatuor Coronatorum,' are of opinion that 'The History of Freemasonry' by the W.M., Bro. R. F. Gould, P.G.D. of England, &c., is the most meritorious work, from a Masonic point of view, published in Great Britain between March 15th, 1879, and the present date. That Bro. Gould's work is not only critical but most exhaustive, as it treats of the origin, progress, and present condition of the various branches of the Craft in both Hemispheres, and is practically without a rival as a history. That the W.M. be therefore requested to compete for the Peeters-Baertsoen prize offered by the Grand Orient of Belgium; the lodge being strongly of opinion that no Masonic author is so well fitted to uphold the literary honour of England and of the Lodge Quatuor Coronati."

This was seconded and put by the S.W., Bro. Simpson, and carried "nem. con."

The W.M. said he was very greatly obliged to the lodge for the compliment it had paid him, but would express himself more fully on the subject when it became his duty to address the brethren after the adjournment to refreshment.

The routine business being concluded the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

The opening toasts having met with a loyal and fervent response, the W.M. next gave "The Grand Officers," coupling it with the name of Bro. Bywater, P.G.S.B., who responded, and then proposed "The Health of the W.M."

Bro. Gould, in acknowledgment thereof said, I shall now call upon you to observe our Festival of St. John, by drinking to the continued prosperity of the lodge and circle of the Quatuor Coronati, and in introducing the toast you will, I am sure, forgive me, if I blend with my remarks an allusion to the recent pilgrimage from which I have returned, as well as an expression of my own heartfelt thanks for all the kindly words said of me by Bro. Hughan in the lodge, and by Bro. Bywater at this board. The continued prosperity of both the Inner and Outer Circles of the lodge seems to me to require three chief conditions: the first, that the quality of our full membership should be maintained at a high standard; the second, that the lectures or papers read in lodge should be distinguished by such good workmanship as to render them of permanent value; and the third, that there should be no falling off, but on the contrary, a considerable increase in the numbers of our Correspondence Circle. With the first part of the toast I shall couple the name of Bro. Hughan, who is, as you are all aware, one of the most learned Freemasons in the world, and therefore a pattern and example for younger students; with the second part that of Bro. Lane, the lecturer of this evening; and with the third I shall associate the name

of Bro. Speth, to whose brilliant inspiration we owe the formation, and to whose indefatigable exertions we owe the rapid development of our Outer Circle. If I pass somewhat lightly over the first two names the reason will be obvious. All that I can tell you about Bros. Hughan and Lane you already know, but you do not know, and I feel convinced would like to be informed, a little in detail with regard to the opinion entertained of our lodge by the brethren in Holland and Belgium, with whom the Secretary and myself have so recently been associated. To begin, however, with Bro. Hughan. When a history of Freemasonry was projected in 1881 by the late Bro. Jack of Edinburgh, our brother was very naturally and properly asked to write it, but this he felt himself obliged to decline from considerations of health, his physical strength not being equal to the strain. He suggested, however, that the task should be confided to me, and promised that if I undertook it he would render me every assistance in his power. How this engagement was fulfilled to the letter I need not state, and shall only make the passing remark, that had our brother accepted Bro. Jack's offer I should have assisted him instead of *vice versa*, and there can be no doubt whatever that under those altered circumstances all which has been said in favour of my work, would have applied (and I believe with far greater force) to his. Masonic students, if they do not abound, are at all events less rare in this country than they used to be. But 20 years ago this was not the case. Then, indeed, the lamp nearly went out, and if to any one man is due the credit of preventing this catastrophe, it was to Bro. Hughan, who, when the light burnt dimly, supplied it with the fuel which alone saved it from becoming extinct. Next, as to the lecture of this evening, it is, I may justly say, worthy of Bro. Lane's reputation, but I shall go just a step farther and state, that no special study of a Masonic character has ever—to the best of my belief—resulted in a clearer and better analysis of obscure and somewhat doubtful points, within the limited compass of a paper or essay suitable for reading in a lodge. Thirdly, and with especial reference to the portion of the toast which I have associated with the name of Bro. Speth, let me state that we—as W.M. and Secretary of this lodge—attended the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Holland on the 17th ult. The invitation to be present and partake of the banquet was sent by the Grand Secretary, Bro. J. P. Vaillant, and our healths were proposed by the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Maas Geesteranus, both of these distinguished brethren being, I am gratified to say, members of our Correspondence Circle. Of the kindness and hospitality we experienced at the hands of our Dutch brothers I could speak at great length, but will content myself with the statement of a single truth, viz., that from the Grand Master downwards we were treated on all sides as brethren in the strictest sense in which the tie of our Fraternity can be regarded, and that the recollection will not easily fade from our memories of the personal consideration and attention shown to us by the Grand Master, Grand Orator, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Master of the Ceremonies (Bros. Van Diggelen, Lieftinck, Egeling, and Lelyveld), not to speak of the still closer relations which allied us to the Deputy G.M. and Grand Secretary, of whose thoughtful kindness in seizing upon the interval between the termination of actual work and the commencement of the banquet to show us the cherished treasures of their Grand Lodge, it would be impossible to speak too warmly. On the Saturday following, June 23rd, we were present at a great banquet given in Brussels, by the Rose Croix Chapter "Les Amis Philanthropes," to Bro. Pierre Tempels, a very prominent Belgian Freemason, but better known in this lodge as a distinguished member of our Correspondence Circle, and a valued contributor to our transactions. On that occasion, to the tribute paid to Bro. Tempels' worth, we also added our mite by asking his acceptance of our lodge medal in token of membership, the very first impression of which I took upon myself to present and invest him with in the name of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge. In Belgium, as in Holland, we were treated with the most fraternal cordiality, and it afforded me extreme pleasure to find that by the reading Freemasons in both these countries the labours of our Secretary, Bro. Speth, in devising and gradually perfecting a scheme for uniting the *litterati* of our Society by a closer tie than the common bond of the Craft, were as thoroughly well known, and as heartily appreciated as by ourselves. As a travelling companion our Secretary proved all that could be desired, and if I mention one blemish in his character it is merely to enhance by comparison the remaining excellences. His one defect is a chronic indisposition to regard the labours of any one day as complete, and justifying a short period of repose. So that if his project of an annual tour with the W.M. for the time being becomes a reality, I venture to suggest that in choosing my successor some attention to his physical qualifications will be desirable, and if a Master can be found who is able, on a pinch, to dispense with sleep altogether for a week or ten days, I believe it would be possible (but in no other way) for your W.M. to fulfil the high expectations of the Secretary, and at the same time drain fully to the dregs the brimming cup of hospitality so bountifully presented by our continental brethren.

The toast being very heartily responded to, Bro. Hughan thanked the W.M. and brethren. He said when the lodge was first mooted, years before it actually came into existence, he held aloof, because previous experiments in the same direction had lamentably failed. Almost against his better judgment he had been induced to back the petition for the warrant; but, having once cast in his lot, he was the last man who would shrink from devoting his best efforts to its welfare. As far as human foresight could tell, the lodge's success was now assured, and in his opinion the full membership of the lodge had already become one of the greatest honours attainable in the Craft. As regarded the "History," he would only say that had he undertaken it, he was convinced that Bro. Gould's assistance would have been as readily granted as in the actual case his own was. He believed other members of the lodge were actuated by similar feelings, and trusted that the demon of literary jealousy, now absolutely non-existent in the lodge, would never be allowed to enter in, and spoil their present unity of feeling. The "Quatuor Coronati" was instituted for the furtherance of Masonic research—let each brother, therefore, on every occasion cheerfully devote his best energies to the assistance of any literary project in hand, for the honour of their lodge, and the welfare of the Craft in general.

Bro. Lane said he was grateful for the hearing accorded him in lodge. If any brother had any new views to bring

forward which could be compressed into a paper, it was his obvious duty to do so through the medium of the lodge. That was only a debt justly due to the lodge, and fortunately it was also the best course for the brother in question to pursue, because by no other means could he without expense (or even with it), appeal to so large a number of interested readers and competent critics.

Bro. Speth thanked the W.M. and brethren, not only for the kindness shown him on the present occasion, but also for their unvarying readiness to fall in with any proposal which he considered might benefit the lodge. The last instance was that of the W.M. consenting, much against his first inclination, to accompany him to the Continent. He thought, however, the W.M. was now glad he had changed his mind. In the Old Charges it is enacted that "no fellow at any time go from his fellows of the lodge into any town adjoining except he have a fellow with him to witness that he was in honest place and civil company." The brethren would observe that the ordinance had been strictly carried out in their case, as, from the moment of starting till their return to Dover, they had never been absent from each other's sight for 10 minutes at a stretch, and they were both ready to vouch for the absolute propriety of the other's conduct and company. As the W. Master had fraternally found fault with him, he would not attempt to rebut the accusation, though he should venture to put in a plea of justification and to rely upon the final words which had been uttered from the chair as affording all the evidence that would be requisite to support it. The cordiality and warmth of their reception in Holland and Belgium had, indeed, exceeded by far his own most sanguine anticipations, but the appreciation of the special labours of the lodge, which they had everywhere met with, he regarded as of very hopeful augury for the continued prosperity of the Outer as well as of the Inner Circles of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge.

The remaining toasts were—"The Correspondence Circle," replied to by Bros. A. Howell and W. Watson, the latter of whom observed that he had travelled 200 miles to attend the meeting, and nothing had given him greater pleasure than to listen to the proceedings in lodge; "The Visitors," for whom Bro. Richardson made a suitable response; and a solemn toast in memory of the late Emperor Frederick, eloquently proposed by the S.W., Bro. Simpson.

DERBY.—Tyrian Lodge (No. 253).—A meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Gower-street, on the 26th ult., when there were present Bros. Rev. C. T. Bromwich, W.M.; W. Silver Hall, I.P.M.; R. L. Homer Mole, S.W.; J. H. Clarke, J.W.; Wm. Naylor, P.G.S.B. England, P.P.S.G.W., Prov. G. Sec., Treas.; H. V. Edwards, Sec.; A. Woodiwiss, P.M., as S.D.; T. H. Boam, J.D.; H. A. Bemrose, P.M., Prov. G.D.C., as I.G.; E. R. Ward, P.M., Prov. S.G.W., D. of C.; W. Stone, Tyler; M. F. Smith, Org.; T. Cox, P.P.S.G.W., Prov. G. Treas.; Percy Wallis, P.P.S.G.W.; J. B. Coulson, P.P.S.G.W.; Thomas Hall, P.P. J.G.W.; Dr. J. Murray Lindsay, W. H. Wheelton, J. O. Manton, P.P.A.G.D.C.; and the following visitors: Bros. J. Monck, W.M. 802; George Johnson, W.M. 1085; and others.

The lodge was opened by the W.M., and, on the motion of Bro. Percy Wallis, P.M., seconded by Bro. Thos. Cox, P.M., the Charity votes belonging to the different chairs of the lodge were ordered to be concentrated on the W.M.'s chair. Mr. H. M. Hobson, who had been previously elected, was then most impressively initiated by the W.M., the charge being well delivered by Bro. Clarke, J.W. After a candidate had been proposed by Bro. Mole, S.W., seconded by Bro. Wallis, P.M., the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the lower hall for refreshment.

LIVERPOOL.—Downshire Lodge (No. 594).—The annual installation meeting of the members of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 28th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street. After some preliminary business (presided over by Bro. W. Blunem, I.P.M.), the chair was taken by Bro. W. R. Roberts, W.M., who was supported by Bros. Isaac Turner, P.M., P.G.S.; W. H. Veevers, P.M.; W. Evans, P.M.; Edgar Dow, S.W., W.M. elect; A. Pedersen, P.M., Treas.; and other leading members. The visitors included Bros. W. W. Webster, W.M. 1713; R. J. Kynaston, P.M. 1393; A. H. Hallwood, W.M. 1505; R. Foote, P.P.G. Treas.; T. H. W. Walker, P.M. 1675; D. Gabrielsen, P.M. 1502; J. B. Mackenzie, P.P.G.D.; H. H. Smith, P.P.A.G.D.C.; and E. King-Ellison, W.M. 1350.

The presentation of Bro. Edgar Dow for installation was made by Bros. Evans and Turner, and the impressive ceremony was admirably performed by Bro. W. R. Roberts, the retiring Master, to whom a cordial vote of thanks was subsequently given. The following were the officers invested. Bros. William R. Roberts, I.P.M.; E. R. Latham, S.W.; D. Dunkel, J.W.; A. Pedersen, P.M., Treas. (re-elected for the fifth time); B. Allenby, Sec.; H. P. Cowell, Org.; J. Phelan, S.D.; J. Edwards, J.D.; A. Gunn, I.G.; P. Roose, E. R. Makin, and J. Solomon, Stewards; J. L. Houghton, P.M., D.C.; I. Turner, P.M., P.G.S.; and Malcolm, Tyler.

Before the business was closed, the I.P.M. was presented with a valuable jewel in recognition of his valuable services to the lodge. Bro. Casey served an excellent dinner, and a musical programme was given by Bros. Handford, Thierry, Williams, Gabrielsen, West, Barker, Kirkham, and Greenless.

WOOLWICH.—Florence Nightingale Lodge (No. 706).—The installation meeting of the above influential lodge took place on the 26th ult., at the Masonic Hall, William-street, when Bro. Dr. J. F. H. Botterell, W.M. elect, was, with the usual ceremonies, placed in the chair of the lodge and saluted with the honours due. The I.P.M., Bro. F. G. Nichols, was the installing officer, and did his work admirably. The new W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. S. H. Weston, S.W.; H. Christie, J.W.; Rev. R. Jamblin, M.A., P.P.G. Chap., Chap.; S. Clarke, P.M., Treas.; E. Denton, P.M., P.P.J.G.D., Sec.; C. J. Wharton, S.D.; W. E. Saltaw, J.D.; F. J. Down, I.G.; Capt. Eugene Sweny, P.M., D.C.; and M. Hewett, Stwd. At the conclusion of the ceremony, which was a most finished and masterly per-

formance, Bro. Nichols was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, the same to be inscribed on the minutes of the lodge, and was also presented with a handsome and valuable Past Master's jewel for service rendered to the lodge during the past year, and further as a mark of the esteem of the brethren. Bro. Nichols having returned thanks, the lodge was closed.

Among the other brethren present were Bros. Dr. H. Burnays, P.M.; N. D. Livesay, P.M.; Dr. A. Sharpe, P.M., P.P.S.G.D. Sussex; A. Burnett, P. J. Wheeler, and F. Hickson, of the lodge; C. H. Lawson, W.M. 913; R. J. Cook, P.M. 913; W. D. Keeble, S.W. and W.M. elect 913; W. Sanders, I.G. 913; W. C. Taylor, A.D.C. 913; G. W. Clifton, 913; D. K. Somers, 913; J. J. Collins, 913; B. Hammond, 913; R. J. Naylor, W.M. 700; W. Webber, J.W. 700; H. Atkins, P.M. 1261; E. Morris, J.W. 1789; C. Jolly, P.M. 1672; and others.

The banquet was served in the Hall, under the superintendence, and by, Bro. W. Moulder, P.M. Sidney Lodge, and was of the best.

"The Health of the Queen and the Craft," and that of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, G.M. of England," having been drunk, that of "The Pro and Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," was coupled with the name of Bro. Denton.

Bro. Denton said they had coupled his name with a toast to which he had no claim, as he most certainly was not an officer of the Grand Lodge of England, with whom that toast was always associated; but if they would allow him to speak then on behalf of the Prov. G. Lodge of Kent, in which he held the position of a Past Grand Deacon, he would do so with pleasure. Consent having been given, Bro. Denton went on to express his thanks, and assured them it afforded him very great pleasure to occupy such a position in such a province, where service of any sort under the Prov. G. Master, Earl Amherst, and the Dep. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Eastes, was an honour the proudest might aspire to. The officers of the P.G. Lodge did their best for the interests of the Craft, both in and out of the province, and on their behalf he thanked them for the toast.

The I.P.M. then said he rose with a great deal of pleasure to propose "The Health of the W.M. of the Florence Nightingale Lodge for the ensuing year," because of the valuable assistance rendered to him by Bro. Botterell during his year of office, and also with every confidence that he would fill his high office to their satisfaction. It might not be known to them all that Bro. Botterell had felt some little hesitation on taking office on account of his health, which he thought might not allow of him attending to the duties attached to it so much as he would like to do; but knowing their esteemed W.M.'s many excellent qualities, he thought that he (Bro. Botterell) might safely take the position, as he and they all felt it an honour to have such an excellent Mason at the head of their affairs. He trusted Bro. Botterell would go on, and as it was said in their Sublime ritual, "May God give him health and strength to carry out the duties of his high office." He asked them to drink the toast in bumpers.

Bro. Botterell, who was loudly cheered on rising to respond, said they all knew how pleased and proud he was to be the Master of their ancient and honourable lodge, but unfortunately he was compelled to say that he should not be able to attend to the duties—well, as Bro. Nichols had put it, "so much as he should have liked to;" but he felt some consolation in knowing that he left them in the hands of one who was not only fully able, but fully willing, to carry those duties out. He alluded to his friend, Bro. Fred. Nichols. If in the course of the duties he (Bro. Botterell) had to do, and did do, they should suffer from sins of omission, or commission, he trusted they would overlook it. He also felt a little comfort in going away to know that he left the lodge in good hands, and, further, that his health had been drunk by such splendid fellows as the members of the Florence Nightingale Lodge.

The names of Bros. Lawson, Jolly, and Naylor were coupled with the toast of "The Visitors," and, in reply, Bro. Lawson said that was the third time he had attended the Florence Nightingale Lodge during his year of office as Master of the Pattison Lodge, and had always found the right hand of fellowship held out to him by every one of its members. He felt sure that if the W.M. had an opportunity of doing any work, it would be done well. He wished him a speedy recovery to health and strength, and when he returned, well and able to carry out his duties, he would meet with the hearty support of every member of the lodge, and a welcome home by every Mason in the district.

Bro. Jolly having briefly responded, Bro. Naylor also wished the W.M. a speedy return to health, and a safe return to the lodge and brethren.

The Worshipful Master then, in eloquent terms proposed the toast of "The Past Masters," and, in response,

Bro. Nichols said he felt himself rather awkwardly placed in responding for the Past Masters, especially as he had only been one a few hours, yet he took it that the success of the lodge rested upon the Past Masters in a great degree, and he should be at all times willing to listen and learn at the hands of those who had preceded him, and as they had done to him so would he do all that he could to support the W.M. in carrying out the duties of his office. He would now leave the toast in the hands of

Bro. Clarke, who said that some 10 years ago he was much in the same position as Bro. Nichols was now, and knew very little about the duties and responsibilities of a Past Master, but so far as the working of the lodge was concerned, never had he seen it done better than at the present time. It was a pleasure to the Past Masters to know that. It showed that the brethren took an interest in the work, and that gave the old members an incentive to go on and keep up the lodge by every means in their power. He was sorry the W.M. was going away, but if there was one thing more than another that would help to bring him back it was the knowledge that he was the Master of the lodge, which would welcome him home with heart and hand. He cordially thanked them for the toast.

The toast of "The Officers" was coupled with the names of the S.W. and J.W., who severally responded.

"The Masonic Press" was responded to by Bro. Jolly, and then the Tyler's toast concluded the proceedings.

Bro. Nichols presided at the piano, and Bros. Clifton, Hammond, Nichols, Aglett, and Jolly sang or recited, thus adding their mite to the happy and harmonious occasion.

LIVERPOOL.—Derby Lodge (No. 724).—The yearly installation meeting of the members of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 27th ult., at the Masonic Hall, when there was a numerous attendance. Bro. W. Stephenson, W.M., presided, and there were also present Bros. Joseph Sharples, I.P.M.; Robert Cain, P.P.G.S.B.; Jacob Comins, P.M.; D. Davies, P.M.; J. W. Ballard, P.M., P.P.G.P.; George Gordon, P.M.; Daniel H. Ogley, S.W., W.M. elect; and Geo. Beeken, P.M., Treas. Amongst the visitors were Bros. R. T. Britten, I.P.M. 1756; O. W. Saunderson, I.P.M. 1609; E. Catrall, P.M. 203; J. Phelan, J.D. 594; G. A. Harradon, I.P.M. 1713; Thomas Roberts, P.M. 673; Walter C. Erwin, P.P.A.G.S.; Thos. Guile, W.M. 1325; John Williams, P.M. 1182, P.P.S.G.D., and others.

Bro. Ogley was presented for installation by Bros. Ballard, P.M., and Cain, and the ceremony was satisfactorily performed by Bro. Joseph Sharples, I.P.M. Bro. Ogley then invested his colleagues in office as under: Bros. W. Stephenson, I.P.M.; C. W. Higson, S.W.; T. H. Evans, J.W.; George Beeken, P.M., Treas.; Alfred Clayton, Sec.; R. H. Frazer, S.D.; Wm. Gosling, J.D.; C. G. Groves, I.G.; T. P. Hodgson, E. Roberts, jun., and S. S. Heath, Stwds; John Humphreys, P.M., D.C.; and W. Hudson, Org. Bro. M. Williamson was re-elected Tyler. Before the lodge closed, the W.M., Bro. Ogley, presented the I.P.M. with a beautiful Past Master's jewel.

CHORLEY.—Ellesmere Lodge (No. 730).—The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 27th ult., at the Masonic Rooms, Town Hall. Bro. Layland Eccles, W.M., opened the lodge, the following brethren being present, viz.: Bros. G. Tootell, S.W.; S. Farmer, J.W.; T. Sharples, P.M., Treas.; J. Bradshaw, I.P.M.; J. Hopkinson, P.M. 1032; C. C. Richmond, S.D.; B. P. France, R. G. Anderson, S. Widdows, Org.; P. Yates, P.M.; and J. Edge.

The minutes were read and confirmed, and the correspondence was read and laid on the Secretary's table. The lodge proceeded to elect the Worshipful Master and other officers for the ensuing year, and all the appointments were unanimous, as follows: Bro. Geo. Tootell, W.M.; L. Eccles, Treas.; T. Sharples, Stwd.; and J. Jolly, 1032; Tyler. On the proposition of Bro. T. Sharples, P.M. and Treas., Past Masters' jewels were voted to the present W.M. and the I.P.M. Bro. J. Sinclair, of 169 (S.C.), was elected a joining member. Bro. S. Farmer proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring W.M., and eulogised him for his great energy and successful working of the lodge; the motion was supported by several brethren, unanimously carried, and suitably acknowledged. The sum of £2 2s. was voted from the Lodge Charity Fund to be given to a brother now in sickness and distress, and several sums were given voluntarily to augment the same. A letter was announced by the W.M. as having been received from Bro. J. M. Kerr, P.M. 730, and P.P.G.S. of Wks., now resident in India, and the brethren hailed with delight the news that health and prosperity attended him. The lodge was then closed by Bro. L. Eccles, the W.M.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Harbour of Refuge Lodge (No. 764).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 26th ult., when a large number of the members and many visitors attended. The chair was taken by the W.M., Bro. Hans B. Olsen, and being supported by his officers the lodge was duly opened, and the minutes of the last regular lodge, at which Bro. H. Lamb, S.W., was unanimously elected as W.M. for the ensuing year, were read and confirmed, also the minutes of a lodge of emergency. The Treasurer's account, which had been duly audited, were read, and showed a substantial balance to the credit of the lodge. In due course the W.M. elect was duly presented by Bro. E. Hudson, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., to the W.M. for installation, and at a large Board of Installed Past Masters Bro. Olsen very accurately and with much care performed that ceremony. Bro. Lamb, after being placed in the chair of K.S., was duly saluted, and then invested Bro. Olsen as I.P.M. Bro. E. Hudson delivered the addresses in a very effective manner. The W.M. appointed and invested the following as officers for the year: Bros. J. Sinclair, P.M., P.P.G.I.G., as S.W.; W. Hodge, J.W.; J. Monkman, Sec.; R. Clennett, S.D.; T. H. Simpson, J.D.; W. Ryan, I.G.; E. Hudson, P.M., D.C.; J. E. R. Hurworth, Org.; C. Forslund and J. Lily, Stwds.; and W. Atkinson, Tyler. Bro. R. B. Harpley, P.M., had been unanimously re-elected Treasurer, an office which he has held to the satisfaction of the brethren for many years. "Hearty good wishes" were given by the visiting brethren and the lodge was closed.

Among those present were Bros. Harpley, Coxon, Hudson, Tate, Lane, Carter, Baumann, Mayson, Stonehouse, and Sinclair, all Past Masters of the lodge. Visitors: Bros. A. Knowles, P.P.G.D.; E. Nixey, W.M. 531, P.G. Stwd. of England; R. W. Simpson, W.M. 1862, Prov. G.D.; J. Metcalfe, P.M. 531; M. Harrison, P.M. 531; A. Farmer, P.M. 111, P.P.G.D.C.; W. Belk, R. Richardson, and C. Atbey, of 531; T. Metcalf, P.M.; W. Barlow, G. T. Walker, of 1862; T. W. Bagnall, 48; and others.

The banquet was held at the Royal Hotel, and served in the usual excellent manner, so well appreciated by the brethren of the Hartlepoons and neighbourhood. The W.M. presided, and was ably supported by more than fifty brethren and visitors.

After the usual loyal toasts had been given and responded to, Bro. Knowles proposed in a few but very expressive words "The Health of the W.M." whose career he had watched in Freemasonry, and heartily congratulated him on attaining the position as W.M. of a lodge to which he, Bro. Knowles, had been a regular visitor since its formation.

Bro. Lamb, who was received with applause, in responding, thanked Bro. Knowles for the manner in which he had proposed his health, he knew that Bro. Knowles had seen many good men and distinguished Masons occupy that chair, and it was pleasing to know that those Past Masters still took a very active interest in the lodge, so that whilst feeling diffident as to his own abilities, he hoped by their assistance and the good working of the officers to maintain the high position which the lodge had always held. Before sitting down he would propose "The Health of the Installing Master, Bro. H. B. Alsen, who had so well held the reins of office as W.M. for the past year. They all knew

what he had done during that time, and how he had upheld the dignity of the lodge in celebrating the Jubilee of her Majesty, when the foundation-stone of the new Municipal Buildings was laid with Masonic honours. Also in entertaining Provincial Grand Lodge when they met at West Hartlepool. His careful study of the details of the working of the lodge, and for the welfare of the brethren at the festive board, had proved to all who knew him what his qualities were, and it would be his aim, as their present W.M., to try and follow in the same way. He wished them to drink Bro. Olsen's health in a bumper, and wish him health, happiness, and prosperity.

Bro. Olsen having suitably replied, drew the attention of the brethren to the fact that he only returned the previous Saturday from the Masonic week in London, where he had attended Grand Lodge, also the distribution of prizes, and Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

The toasts of "The Visitors," "The Past Masters," and "The Officers of the Lodge" were duly given and responded to.

Bro. C. S. Lane, P.M., P.P.G.D., briefly but forcibly proposed "Success to the Masonic Charities," and pointed out that whilst the province had been represented by eight Stewards at the great gathering of the Girls' Festival, five of these were members of their own lodge No. 764, and hoped that the spirit of Masonic Charity for which the lodge had so long been known, would for ever continue.

Bros. Olsen and Foxton suitably responded, and thanked the brethren for what they had done, and with hopes for future success.

The Tyler's toast brought to a close a very pleasant and delightful meeting. The speeches were relieved by some excellent music given by Bros. J. Hunter, Baumann, Woolley, Kettle, and Barlow, under the direction of Bro. Hurworth, the Organist of the lodge. Bro. John Wilson presided at the piano.

ASHBOURNE.—St. Oswald Lodge (No. 850).—The anniversary meeting of this lodge was held in the Assembly Rooms on Monday, the 2nd inst., when there were present Bros. J. F. Donegani, W.M.; G. M. Huntley, I.P.M.; G. M. Bond, S.W.; J. R. Rigby, J.W.; P. R. Littleton, P.M., Treas.; J. Howell, P.M., P.P.G.W., Sec.; H. Twigge, S.D.; W. Davenport, J.D.; W. H. Tutt, P.M., P.P.G.O., Org.; W. A. Lytle, I.G.; R. Brown, Tyler; A. Stubbs, P.M., P.P.G.R. and P.P.G.W. Notts; W. Prince, P.M., Prov. G. Stwd.; J. Hill, P.M.; P. Wallis, P.M., P.P.S.G.W.; W. Barnes, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; J. H. Cooke, P.M.; T. O. Farmer, W. Lytle, P.M., P.P.A.G.P.; Wither, and Sanders. Visitors: Bros. T. Cox, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., Prov. G. Treas.; J. Worsnop, P.M., P.P.G.P.; G. Johnson, P.M., W.M., 1085; W. P. Edwardes, S02; Crapper, P.M., P.P.G.D. of C. Staffordshire; Hall, P.M., P.P.G.D. of C. Staffordshire; Hodgkinson, P.M., 456; W. H. Wheelton, 253; J. H. Day, W.M., 1324; A. E. Cokayne, P.M., W.M., 2129, P.P.G.S.B. Cheshire; and Hon. C. W. Trollope, S.D., 2129.

The lodge was opened by the W.M., who then proceeded to instal his successor, Bro. G. M. Bond, in which he was assisted by Bro. P. Wallis, P.P.S.G.W. The W.M. appointed and invested his officers: Bros. J. F. Donegani, I.P.M.; J. R. Rigby, S.W.; H. Twigge, J.W.; P. R. Littleton, P.M., Treas.; J. Howell, P.M., Sec.; W. Davenport, S.D.; W. A. Lytle, J.D.; R. Beardmore, D.C.; W. H. Tutt, P.M., Org.; A. M. Wither, I.G.; T. O. Farmer, Stwd.; and R. Brown, Tyler.

The attendance was limited, owing to the very wet weather, on which account numerous apologies were received. Hearty congratulations were tendered to the W.M. by those present, and, after a candidate had been proposed, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a banquet at the Green Man Hotel, where the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, that of "The new W.M." being received with especial cordiality.

NEWHAM-ON-SEVERN.—Royal Forest of Dean Lodge (No. 1067).—The annual festival of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 20th ult., at the Town Hall. Present: Bros. S. W. Woods, W.M.; W. G. Roberts, S.W.; S. W. Hadingham, J.W.; Rev. Dr. Lynes, P.M., Chap.; T. Cadle, P.M., P.P.G.P., Treas.; M. F. Carter, P.M., P.P.G.R., Sec.; W. Spence, J.D.; J. S. Carleton, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., D. of C.; John Shiles, Stwd.; Job Webb, Tyler; R. J. Kerr, P.M., P.P.S.G.W.; W. C. Heane, P.M., P.P.G.R.; A. Parker, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; A. Bright, T. J. Nundy, Wm. Jones, A. M. Irwin, and Chas. Carlisle. Visitors: Bros. R. V. Vassar-Smith, D.P.G.M.; Hy. Jeffs, P.P.S.G.W.; W. Griffiths, W. Renwick, W.M., 493, P.G.S.B.; D. R. Roberts, Stwd.; A. H. Roberts, S.W.; and J. J. Roberts, J.D. of 36. The installation of Bro. W. G. Roberts, S.W., was performed by Bro. J. Shaw Carleton, assisted by Bros. R. V. Vassar-Smith, D.P.G.M., W. C. Heane, and Thos. Cadle. The new W.M. afterwards invested the following as his officers: Bros. S. W. Woods, I.P.M.; S. W. Hadingham, S.W.; T. J. Nundy, J.W.; Rev. Dr. Lynes, P.M., Chap.; M. F. Carter, P.M., Sec.; Wm. Spence, S.D.; J. S. Carleton, P.M., J.D.; W. C. Heane, P.M., I.G.; John Shiles, Stwd.; and Job Webb, Tyler.

A banquet was afterwards served in the Town Hall, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

HALLIFORD.—Acacia Lodge (No. 1309).—The regular meeting of this select lodge was held on Tuesday, the 26th ult., at the Ship Hotel. There were present Bros. Henry Woods, W.M.; Hugh W. Dewes, S.W.; John Proffitt, P.M., P.P.G.R., Treas.; J. Davies, P.M., Sec.; T. N. Frost, S.D.; C. R. Tinker, J.D.; F. Walters, P.M., P.P.G.D.; C. L. Smiles, P.M., P.P.G.R.; T. Noton, P.M.; and others. The only visitor was Bro. J. L. Anderson, P.M. and Treas. 286, W.M., 554.

The W.M., Bro. Henry Woods, who was suffering from indisposition, and Bro. J. Proffitt, P.M., P.P.G.R., Treas., pleading slight ill-health, Bro. Frederick Walters, P.M., P.P.G.D., by the unanimous wish of the brethren and command of the W.M., took the chair and did all the business of the lodge. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Ballot was unanimous in favour of Mr. Barrass, who, being present, was introduced and duly initiated.

So well were the members pleased with the working that, on the motion made by the Treasurer, Bro. John Proffitt,

a vote of thanks was given to Bro. Frederick Walters, P.M., P.P.G.D., and father of the lodge (he having been their first W.M.), for the admirable manner in which he had done the initiation and presided over the lodge. Bro. Walters expressed his grateful thanks for the vote, and felt very sorry that, in consequence of a recent attack of paralysis and heart disease, he was not able to give it in his usual good form. Bro. Charles Robinson Tucker, J.D., announced that his list for the Boys was 20 guineas, including his own ten guineas. As there are but 20 members and some V.P.'s, and about two-thirds of the number are Past Stewards and Life Governors, his list was considered a very good one, taking into account the small number he represented. On the motion of the presiding W.M., Bro. Henry Woods (his fifth Stewardship) and C. R. Tucker were unanimously elected Stewards from the lodge to represent it at the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for 1889, and Bro. Hugh W. Dewes, S.W., for the Boys' School, 1889, was duly seconded by the zealous Secretary, Bro. J. Davies, P.M. Some names of candidates for initiation were given in, and the lodge was closed.

The usual *recherché* banquet followed, when Bro. Henry Woods, W.M., presided with his usual graceful efficiency. He expressed a hope of being in good health in July to do both initiation, and passing. Next meeting being election night Bro. Frederick Walters, P.M., P.P.G.D., gave a notice of motion "That the usual valuable P.M.'s jewel be voted from the lodge funds to the esteemed W.M., Bro. Henry Woods, for his efficient services."

INSTRUCTION.

RANELAGH LODGE (No. 834).—A meeting was held on the 29th ult. at the Six Bells Hotel, Queen-street, Hammersmith. Present: Bros. D. S. Long, W.M.; Higginson, S.W.; Woodard, J.W.; W. G. Coat, acting Sec.; A. Williams, S.D.; H. P. Williams, J.D.; F. Craggs, I.G.; J. Sims, P.M., Preceptor; Ford, P.M.; Stroud, P.M.; Cotton, Rice, W. W. Williams, Walker, and Burbrook (visitor).

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second and Third Degrees, and resumed to the First Degree. Bro. H. F. Williams, having given proofs of his proficiency, was entrusted. The lodge was resumed to the Second Degree, and the ceremony rehearsed. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree, and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sections of the Lecture were worked by the brethren, the W.M. putting the questions. Bro. Higginson was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week. After "Hearty good wishes," given and acknowledged, the lodge was closed.

EBURY LODGE (No. 1348).—A meeting was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Streatham, on Thursday, the 28th ult., when there were present Bros. D. Varrell, W.M.; Ingram, S.W.; Bull, J.W.; Warren, Preceptor; Thompson, Sec.; Hobbs, S.D.; Stevens, J.D.; Osborne, I.G.; Beavan, Harrison, Greggs, and Dale.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Warren delivered the several changes in connection with the installation ceremony. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Beavan candidate. Bro. Dale then delivered the First Lecture on the tracing board. The W.M. rose for the first time, when the dues were collected. Bro. H. A. Dale, 879, was elected a joining member. The W.M. rose for the second time, and Bro. Ingram was elected W.M. for the next meeting. It was proposed, seconded, and carried, that a hearty vote of thanks be given to Bro. Dale for the manner in which he delivered the First Lecture on the tracing board. The W.M. rose for the third time, and, there being no further Masonic business, the lodge was closed.

CHAUCER LODGE (No. 1540).—The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 3rd inst., at the Old White Hart Hotel, Borough, when there were present Bros. C. R. Williams, W.M.; J. Hattersley, S.W.; W. Steele, J.W.; S. Renaut, S.D.; W. Wingham, J.D.; Dunham, I.G.; H. C. Ball, acting Preceptor; F. Williams, Hon. Sec.; H. J. Chapman, T. Ladds, W. Roots, and others.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Chapman candidate. The W.M. rehearsed the investiture of officers. Bro. Chapman, having answered the usual questions, was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed, with Bro. Chapman as candidate. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The W.M. rose for the first time, and Bro. J. Dunham was elected a joining member. The dues were collected. The W.M. rose for the second time, and it was proposed by the Preceptor, and seconded by the J.W., that the S.W. be W.M. for the ensuing week—carried unanimously. The S.W. returned thanks, and appointed his officers. The W.M. rose for the third time, and it was proposed by Bro. Wingham, and seconded by Bro. Roots, that 2s. 6d. in the hands of the Treasurer, be allotted for and given to one of the Masonic Charities—carried unanimously. The lodge was then closed.

COVENT GARDEN LODGE (No. 1614).—The usual weekly meeting of this lodge of instruction was held at the Criterion, Piccadilly, S.W., on the 28th ult. Present: Bros. J. D. Graham, W.M.; F. M. Noakes, S.W.; J. D. Bromley, J.W.; W. Proudfoot, S.D.; H. G. Marsden, J.D.; J. Rowe, I.G.; W. Brindley, acting as Preceptor; G. Reynolds, Treas. and Sec.; T. E. Weeks, Tyler; W. Barnard, A. Samuelli, H. C. Chevalier, J. Skinner, E. Nice, C. W. Phillips, E. A. Morrison, A. Clark, C. Lambert, W. Hancock, G. F. Swan, G. H. Reynolds, R. J. Harnell, J. S. Morris, A. L. Bullen, T. C. Seary, J. Woodward, C. O. Burgess, and E. C. Mulvey.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. W. Brindley worked the 1st Section of the First Lecture. Bro. F. Fort having offered himself as a candidate for initiation, the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony. Bro. H. C. Chevalier, having offered himself as a candidate to be passed to the Second Degree, was duly examined, and retired. Lodge opened in the Second Degree. The W.M. rehearsed the Degree of F.C. Lodge resumed to the First Degree. On rising for the first time, Bros. H. Evenden, 749, and C. O. Burgess, 2191, were unanimously elected joining members. On rising for the second time, Bro. F. M. Noakes, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. On rising for the third time, Bro. G. Reynolds, in reply to questions put by the brethren, said that Bro. W. C. Smith's testimonial had been a success, and thanked all the Stewards who had assisted him. Bro. W. C. Smith had expressed himself as being delighted with the whole proceedings, and he proposed that a cordial and hearty vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes to Bros. Harnell and F. M. Noakes for the very handsome illuminated vote of thanks and frame. Seconded by the J.W., and carried unanimously. Bro. G. F. Swan proposed that a vote of thanks be sent to Mrs. G. Reynolds for the very pretty purse she had made for Bro. W. C. Smith, their late worthy Preceptor. He could assure the brethren it was much valued. Seconded by Bro. F. Kedge, and carried unanimously. Nothing further offering for the good of Freemasonry, the lodge was closed.

CREATON LODGE (No. 1791).—A meeting was held on Thursday, the 28th ult., at the Wheatheaf Hotel, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's Bush, W. Present: Bros. W. H. Chalfont, P.M., W.M.; E. Child, P.M., S.W.; Jennings, J.W.; J. Sims, P.M., acting Preceptor; E. Austin, P.M., Treas.; F. Craggs, Sec. (pro tem.); S. Cochrane, P.M., S.D.; Stanley, J.D.; H. Cotton, I.G.; A. Cavers, Stwd.; H. Purdue, P.M.,

J. H. Wood, P.M.; Arnott, Higginson, L. Cox, Woodard, and T. J. Head.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree. Bro. Woodard offering himself as a candidate for raising, was examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree, and the ceremony rehearsed, inclusive of the traditional history. The lodge was closed in the Third and Second Degrees. Bro. Child, P.M., was elected W.M. for the next meeting.

THE ABBEY (WESTMINSTER) LODGE (No. 2030).—A meeting was held on Friday, the 29th ult., at the King's Arms, Buckingham Palace-road, S.W. Present: Bros. Ray, W.M.; Badderty, S.W.; Piper, J.W.; Boulton, P.M., Preceptor; Gibson, P.M., Treas.; Coughlan, P.M., Sec.; Holland, S.D.; Moloney, J.D.; Rymer, I.G.; Brandon, P.M.; Montague, Roberts, and Dottrell.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Roberts being the candidate. The W.M. vacated the chair, which was taken by Bro. Gibson. Bro. Dottrell, a candidate to be passed to the Second Degree, answered the usual questions, and was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. Bros. Lewis, 1068, and Wake, 2030, were unanimously elected joining members. Nothing further offering, the lodge was closed.

LOUGHBOROUGH LODGE.—The usual weekly meeting was held on Monday, the 2nd inst., at the Gauden Hotel, Clapham-road Station (L.C. & D.R.), when there were present Bros. Folkard, W.M.; F. Hill, S.W.; Russell, J.W.; Jones, S.D.; Beavin, J.D.; Heathcote, I.G.; Westley, Preceptor; J. Andrews, Sec.; Winny, G. E. King, Poole, W. Smith, Cook, H. Price, and Newton.

Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The 1st Section of the Lecture was worked by Bro. Westley, and the 2nd and 3rd Sections by Bro. Andrews, each assisted by the brethren. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed by the W.M., with Bro. Winny as candidate. The W.M. rose for the first time, and the dues were collected. Bros. G. E. King, 1641, and Cook, 1963, were elected joining members. Those brethren duly returned thanks. The W.M. rose for the second time, and Bro. F. Hill was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Bro. Hill returned thanks, and appointed the officers in rotation. The W.M. rose for the third time, and the Secretary announced that he had been lately appointed Preceptor of the Domestic Lodge of Instruction, and invited any of the brethren who might have an evening to spare to help him at the Surrey Masonic Hall on Tuesdays at 8 o'clock. All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

Royal Arch.

CAMBRIDGE.—Pythagoras Chapter (No. 88).—A regular convocation was held in the chapter room at the Lion Hotel, on the 27th ult. The Principals' chairs were occupied by Comps. B. Chennell, P.Z., Z.; E. Hills, P.Z., H.; and W. I. Pashler, J.; whilst Comps. A. H. Moyes, P.Z., P.G.H., officiated as Scribe E.; T. Nichols, as Scribe N.; T. Hunnybun, as D.C.; Frank Piggott, as P.S.; C. F. Charlton, as 1st A.S.; and W. P. Spalding, as 2nd A.S.

The chapter having been opened and the minutes confirmed, the following brethren were balloted for and elected, viz.: Bros. Rev. John Imrie, of Etheldreda Lodge, Prov. G. Chap.; W. B. Sheppard, Etheldreda Lodge; and Clement H. Ellis, serving brother Scientific Lodge. The ceremony of exaltation was then proceeded with, and at its conclusion Comp. Piggott went through the Principal Sojourner's work. Then followed the lectures from the Principals' chairs. Comp. Pashler, J., gave that relating to the historic lodges; Comp. E. Hills described the symbols; Comp. Chennell described the jewel and banners; Comp. A. H. Moyes, the pedestal; and Comp. Chennell afterwards gave the signs in a most impressive manner. Comp. Chennell then presented a handsome set of banners, in the execution of which Miss Chennell had assisted. They were gratefully accepted in the name of the chapter by Comp. A. H. Moyes, who proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the First Principal, which was unanimously agreed to. Comp. F. Piggott then induced the chapter to acknowledge the kindness and artistic work of Miss Chennell in a suitable manner, for which purpose a Committee was appointed. The Principals and officers for the ensuing year were balloted for and elected as follows: Comps. B. Chennell, P.Z., Z.; W. I. Pashler, H.; T. Nichols, J.; A. H. Moyes, P.Z., P.G.H., Scribe E.; T. Jennings, jun., Scribe N.; F. Piggott, P.S.; C. F. Charlton, 1st A.S.; W. P. Spalding, 2nd A.S.; T. Hunnybun, D.C.; Ruston, Purchas, and Charlton, Auditors; and Collyer and Ellis, Janitors. The proceedings in chapter occupied about three hours, and it was generally agreed that the work all through was never better done. Comps. E. H. Jennings, 441, and Clarke, 2107, were amongst the visitors. The companions afterwards sat down to banquet.

CHORLEY.—Earl Lathom Chapter (No. 730).—The annual convocation of this chapter, and election and installation of officers was held on Monday, the 2nd inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Town Hall, Comp. Franklin Thomas, P.Z. 345, being the installing officer. The appointments to office were as follows: Comps. T. Sharples, Z.; T. Forrester, I.P.Z.; P. Yates, H.; J. Heald, J.; S. Widdows, S.E.; S. Farmer, S.B.; L. Eccles, Treas.; G. Tootell, Prin. Soj.; J. Corbitt, 1st Asst. Soj.; J. Hopkinson, 2nd Asst. Soj.; and J. Sharples, Janitor. Comp. F. Thomas was ably assisted in the work by Comp. R. Gornul, 345.

After the installation and investiture of the officers the chapter was closed, and the companions adjourned to the Imperial Hotel, where Hostess Stansfield had prepared a suitable repast. Loyal and Masonic toasts, &c., followed, and a happy evening was spent.

INSTRUCTION.

CAMDEN CHAPTER (No. 704).—A convocation was held at the Moorgate Hotel, Moorgate-street, on the 3rd inst. Present: Comps. G. W. Knight, M.E.Z.; G. Bolton, H.; J. C. Smith, J.; H. Slyman, S.E.; Ives, S.N.; G. Gregory, Treas.; Kauffman, P.S.; T. C. Edmonds, Preceptor; Kew, Gordon, Gross, Stubbings, Sieman, Whiting, and Tom.

The chapter was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Tom candidate. After rising for the first time, it was proposed and seconded that Comps. Tom and Stubbings should become joining members—carried unanimously. A vote of thanks was recorded on the minutes to Comp. Bolton for his kind support to the Camden Chapter of Improvement during his proprietorship of The Moorgate, and "Hearty good wishes" were expressed upon his retirement from the same. Comp. Bolton thanked the companions, and hoped he should often be with them. After "Hearty good wishes" to the M.E.Z., the chapter was closed. This chapter meets every Tuesday, at 8 p.m., at the above address.

STAR CHAPTER (No. 1275).—The usual weekly convocation of this chapter was held at the Stirling Castle, Church-street, Camberwell, on Friday, the 29th ult. There were present Comps. T. Grummant, P.Z. 1275, M.E.Z.; Moore, H.; W. Briant, J.; R. J. Voisey, P.Z. Treas.; F. Hillon, P.Z. 1275, Preceptor; C. H. Stone, S.E.; Woods, S.N.; Stone, P.S.; North, A.S.; J. Addington, H. 1275; G. Powell, M.E.Z. 1185; W. Eckersall, Murché, J. Hill, and R. C. Davis.

The chapter having been opened in due form, the minutes were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Eckersall personating candidate. The M.E.Z. rose for the first time, and Comp. G. Powell, M.E.Z. 1185, was, on the proposition of Comp. Murché, seconded by Comp. Davis, unanimously elected a joining member. Comp. Powell thanked the companions for electing him, and expressed his pleasure in attending the chapter. The dues were collected. The M.E.Z. then proposed the motion, of which he had given notice, viz.: "That the chapter adjourn for two months." Comp. Briant seconded the proposition, and Comp. Hillon expressed his opinion that, under the circumstances, it would be wise to do as was proposed. He, however, left the matter entirely in the hands of the companions, who carried it nem. con. The M.E.Z. rose for the second time, and, on the proposition of Comp. F. Hillon, P.Z., Preceptor, seconded by the proposition of W. Briant, J., it was unanimously resolved that Comp. Moore, H., should occupy the chair of M.E.Z. at the next meeting, which will be held on the first Friday in September. Comp. Moore returned thanks, and appointed his officers in rotation. The M.E.Z. rose for the third time, when Comp. Stone, S.E., reported the receipt of a letter from the Treasurer of the Poore Testimonial Fund acknowledging the receipt of the subscription of the chapter towards the same. Nothing more presenting itself for the good of R.A. Masonry, the chapter was closed.

Mark Masonry.

WHITEHAVEN.—Fletcher Lodge (No. 213).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, the 29th ult. Bro. T. Brakenridge, W.M., occupied the chair, supported by his officers, viz.: Bros. Rev. Jas. Anderson, S.W.; Geo. Dalrymple, as J.W.; W. J. Tyson, M.O.; H. Burns, S.O.; D. Atkinson, J.O.; G. W. Roll, Reg. and Sec.; J. Casson, S.D.; J. M. Clarke, J.D.; L. Taylor, D.C.; H. D. Cook, Org.; B. Taylor, I.G.; T. Mitchell, Steward; Thos. Richardson, Tyler; T. Atkinson, P.M., P.P.J.G.W.; R. D. Metcalf, D. Pattinson, and others.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. Four candidates were balloted for, accepted, and advanced to the Honourable Degree of M.M.M., viz.: Bros. Shepherd, Johnston, Blenkinsop, and Farquharson. On the motion of the W.M., three guineas were unanimously voted on behalf of Bro. Gardner's Stewardship to the Mark Benevolent Fund. With other routine business, the lodge was closed.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

NEWCASTLE - ON - TYNE.—Royal Kent Chapter (No. 8).—This chapter was opened, in the unavoidable absence of the M.W.S., by Ill. Bro. Hy. Maddison, 30°, P.M.W.S., on the 22nd ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Maple-street, assisted by the officers of the chapter. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. A letter of apology was read from Ill. Bro. C. J. Banister, S.G.I.G., 33°, he being unable to attend. Bro. Macarthy, a candidate, was perfected by the acting M.W.S. with great care and solemnity. Two joining brethren were unanimously elected. Business over the chapter was closed, and the brethren assembled in the banqueting hall to partake of an excellent dinner, under the presidency of the acting M.W.S., Ill. Bro. Hy. Maddison, 30°.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly proposed and responded to, songs and sentiments being dispersed between, and a truly happy and instructive evening was brought to its close with "Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again."

BOLTON.—St. Peter's Chapter (No. 31).—This chapter was opened by the M.W.S., Ill. Bro. J. D. Murray, 30°, assisted by his officers, on Saturday, the 30th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Institution-street. Ill. Bro. N. Clement Beswick Royds, S.G.I.G., 33°, Inspector-General of the district, and Ill. Bro. Charles James Banister, S.G.I.G., 33°, I.G. of the North-Eastern District, were received under an arch of steel and saluted. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Thomas Barton Tong was unanimously elected, and, being in attendance, was perfected by the M.W.S., assisted by the illustrious brethren of the 33°, Bros. Royds and Banister. Ill. Bro. C. J. Banister, 33°, in most feeling and sympathetic terms, proposed that a letter of condolence should be recorded on the minutes of the chapter, and a copy sent to the widow of their late dear Bro. G. P. Brockbank, 32°, P.M.W.S., and Treasurer, which was seconded by Ill. Bro. W. Taylor, 30°, P.M.W.S., and carried unanimously, and the Recorder instructed to prepare the same. Ill. Bro. W. Taylor, 30°, P.M.W.S., was unanimously elected Treasurer. The M.W.S. elect, E. and P. Bro. W. Nichol, was presented by the M.W.S., Ill. Bro. Murray, 30°, to Ill. Bro. Beswick Royds, 33°, for installation, which ceremony was performed by Bro. Royds with great care and solemnity. The M.W.S. then appointed the following officers: Bros. R. G. Brook, H. Prelate; A. Jeffries, 1st Gen.; Swindlehurst, 2nd Gen.; J. Barrett, Recorder; Ill. Bro. Huet, 30°, G.M.; Bros. Cunliffe, R.; Harwood, D. of C.; Edwards, Herald; Watson, C. of G.; Nicholson, Org.; Lathom, Almoner; Kennion and Forrest, Stewards; and Hickson, O.G.

Ill. Bro. Beswick Royds, on behalf of the chapter, presented the I.P.M.W.S., Ill. Bro. J. D. Murray, 30°, with a P.M.W.S.'s jewel, and placed it on the breast of that worthy brother, who in most suitable terms thanked the brethren for the handsome present and their kindness to him. Business of the chapter having ended the chapter was closed, and the ill. brethren retired under an arch of steel.

The banquet was held in the dining hall, and was all that could be desired, under the presidency of the M.W.S., Bro. Nichol, having on his right Ill. Bros. Charles James Banister, 33°; W. Taylor, 30°; S. Kelly, 30°; P.M.W.S. of the Talbot Chapter, Sheffield; Huet, 30°; Jeffries, Taberner, Tong, and others; and on his left Bro. Brook, H.P.; Ill. Bros. W. Thompson, 31°; E. W. Edwards, 30°; Bros. W. Morris, P.M.W.S.; Rev. R. Hammond Cotter, M.A., Powell, Swindlehurst, Barrett, and others. The vice-chair was occupied by the 1st General.

After grace the M.W.S. proposed in suitable terms

"The Health of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family," which were duly honoured.

The M.W.S. then proposed "The Health of the Supreme Council and their dear old friend Bro. Banister," who he was so pleased to see in such good health, and hoped that he might be spared for many, many years to come amongst them.

Bro. Banister, in rising to respond, was received most enthusiastically. He first of all thanked them very much for the honour in calling upon him to respond for the Supreme Council, and told the brethren that that august body were always glad to hear of the chapter in the North, and that he should report their kindness at head-quarters. He was sorry that their Ill. Bro. Royds, 33°, Inspector-General of the district, had to leave just after the chapter was closed, or he would have done greater justice to the toast. With regard to himself, he thanked them most sincerely for their great kindness always to him. He concluded his speech by proposing "Health, Happiness, and Prosperity to the M.W.S. and the Chapter."

The toast was cordially received by the brethren, and duly honoured.

The M.W.S. returned thanks in a humorous speech, and then proposed "The Health of the Members of the 32°, 31°, and 30°."

Ill. Bro. Thompson responded for the members of the 32° and 31°, and Ill. Bro. Taylor for the 30°.

Ill. Bro. C. J. Banister, 33°, in most suitable terms, and with great feeling, proposed that they should in solemn silence drink to the memory of their departed Bro. G. P. Brockbank.

This was reverentially done, and the same brother proposed also the same mournful honours to the late Emperor Frederick of Germany, who was the head of all Degrees in Freemasonry in that great country.

The M.W.S. proposed "The Health of Bro. Tong," who had been perfected into their excellent Christian Order that day.

Bro. Tong returned thanks to the M.W.S. and brethren, and expressed himself very much pleased that their late worthy Bro. Brockbank had proposed him as a candidate, and promised that he would attend to the admirable precepts taught in that beautiful Degree.

The M.W.S. proposed "The Health of the Visitors," and said they were always glad to see them amongst them, and he would couple the toast with the name of Ill. Bro. S. Kelly, 30°, P.M.W.S. of Talbot Chapter.

This toast was received most cordially, and with the usual honours.

Ill. Bro. Kelly, in thanking them for their kind hospitality, told the brethren that the Supreme Council were coming to Sheffield on the 20th inst., and he should be glad to welcome their M.W.S. at Sheffield, with as many of the brethren as would come with him.

Other toasts followed, and a truly happy and instructive evening was spent.

DERBY.—St. Mary's Chapter (No. 63).—The anniversary meeting of this chapter was held at the Masonic Hall on Tuesday, the 3rd inst., when, notwithstanding the weather, a beautiful display of roses was forthcoming. There were present on the occasion Bros. J. H. Lawson, M.W.S.; Percy Wallis, P.M.W.S., Prelate; Ill. Bros. Fitz Herbert Wright, 30°, 1st General; A. Schofield, 2nd General; Sir John Smith, P.M.W.S., Treas.; F. Campion, 30°, P.M.W.S., Recorder; W. S. Hall, G.M.; G. T. Wright, Raphael; W. Naylor, Herald; A. Woodiwiss, C. of G.; W. H. Marsden, Lieut. of G.; and W. Stone, Equerry. Visitor: Bro. S. G. Gilbert, 1st General and M.W.S. elect No. 17.

The chapter was opened by the M.W.S., the circular read, and the minutes confirmed, after which the ballot was taken for Bro. G. Morton Bond, W.M. No. 850, who was duly elected, and afterwards introduced and perfected S.P.R.C. by the M.W.S., assisted by Ill. Bro. F. Campion, 30°, P.M.W.S. Ill. Bro. Fitz Herbert Wright was then presented, and duly installed M.W.S. of the chapter by the M.W.S., who then appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. A. Schofield, 1st General; W. Silver Hall, 2nd General; Sir John Smith, P.M.W.S., Treas.; Percy Wallis, P.M.W.S., Recorder; G. T. Wright, G. Marshal; Abraham Woodiwiss, Raphael; Col. John Evans, Herald; W. H. Marsden, Org. C. of G.; and W. Naylor and J. E. Harrison, Lt. of G.; Ill. Bro. W. L. Ball, 30°, D.C.; and Bro. W. Stone, Equerry; after which the 3rd point was taken, and the chapter closed by Ill. Bro. Campion, P.M. W.S., 30°; and the brethren adjourned to a splendid banquet at the Bell Hotel, supplied in Bro. Rayner's well-known style.

The toasts of "Her Majesty the Queen," "The Supreme Council," "The M.W.S.," and "The Candidate" were duly proposed and honoured, and a very enjoyable evening was passed.

Many apologies were received, noticeable among which were those of Ill. Bros. H. D. Sandeman, 33°, and C. Fendelow, 33°; both Hon Members of the chapter, and also of Ill. Bro. Charles F. Matier, 32°, and Col. John Evans.

Allied Masonic Degrees.

MARYPORT.—W. M. Sewell Council (No. 11).—The annual installation of this council was held on Monday, the 11th ult. Bro. Col. F. R. Sewell, P.G.D., W.M., occupied the chair, supported by his officers. The minutes of the former council were read and confirmed, and Bros. E. B. Penrice, J. Paterson, and R. Brown were admitted to the Degree of High Priest in a most impressive manner, assisted by Bros. P. de E. Collin, P.M., P.G.W., and J. Nicholson, P.M. Bro. G. Dalrymple, W.M. elect, was then presented by Bro. Col. Sewell to Bro. Collin to receive the benefit of installation, and invested the following as his officers, viz.: Bros. Jas. Gardiner, S.W.; J. Clifton Thompson, J.W.; P. de E. Collin, P.M., Treas.; E. B. Penrice, Sec.; J. Paterson, S.D.; Thos. Mandie, J.D.; Jos. Eden, D.C.; J. Smith, Org.; J. Kendall, I.G.; R. Brown, Stwd.; and J. Messenger, Tyler. Bro. J. Hodgson and others were present. On the motion of Bro. Col. Sewell, supported by Bros. Nicholson and Collin, it was unanimously resolved that the council support Bro. Gardiner's Stewardship to the Grand Mark Benevolent Fund.

With other formal business the council was closed, and the brethren subsequently partook of refreshments.

Egypt.

ALEXANDRIA.—Zetland Lodge (No. 1157).—This lodge held a special meeting on Tuesday, the 19th ult., in the Masonic Hall, Okella Ralib Pascha, for the purpose of expressing their feelings of condolence and sympathy with German Masons in their recent extraordinary loss, viz., the death of Emperor Frederick III., Protector of Freemasonry in Germany. Masons of all nations who were in friendly relations with the Grand Lodge of England had been invited, and a good number were in attendance, most of the lodges of Alexandria being represented. The lodge-room was draped in accordance with Italian custom. Bro. P. Towrest, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. G. F. Hathaway, I.P.M.; E. Anselm, S.W. and Treas.; W. Getty, J.W.; F. Wakefield, S.D.; G. Sibbit, J.D.; Rothacker, I.G.; T. Bent, Sec.; and Macey, D.C.

The summons calling the meeting having been read, the W.M. rose and said: Brethren, it has been the will of the G.A.O.T.U. to call to the Grand Lodge above a great Mason, of the merits of that Mason I need not speak, for all here present are as well acquainted with them as I am myself, I therefore, without further preamble, bring the following motion before the lodge: Brethren, be it therefore resolved—"That this lodge expresses its sorrow for the great loss which the Craft in general and our German brethren in particular have suffered by the death of Brother his Majesty the Emperor Frederick III., and that this resolution passed in special lodge assembled for the purpose be communicated through Bro. Schinsinger to his lodge in Germany." The motion having been seconded by Bro. W. B. Anselm, S.W., and supported by the I.P.M., Bro. Hathaway, was carried unanimously, followed by the silent honours due to the exalted rank of that departed brother.

The W.M. addressing Bro. Schinsinger, of the German Consulate, Alexandria, said: My brother, this is the second time within a very short period that we have had to condole with you; we must say that Masonry in general, and the Craft in Germany in particular, has had a sore loss. There is, however, this satisfaction that our Royal brother who has gone to his rest in Grand Lodge above has not left an enemy behind; he has been a noble prince, an upright man, a good and true Mason. My brother, we ask you to tell your lodge what you have seen to-night, that we English Masons here in this country far from the land of our birth meet you and with us brethren who owe their allegiance to other countries to express our sorrow for the loss you have sustained. We want our brethren in Germany to know that with us the Masonic bond knows no country, no creed; that we in this cosmopolitan land, where so many petty jealousies exist, meet on one common ground, where we forget that we belong to different races and nations. In brief, he who has been called away to the Grand Lodge above has been your Sovereign. There is no doubt had it pleased T.G.A.O.T.U. to spare him longer he would have realised to your country as much honour and glory as his forefathers have done before him. He also in a certain sense belonged to us, first as a Mason, and second as the Consort of England's eldest daughter, who we as Masons true and loyal must and dare not forget.

Bro. Schinsinger replied thanking the lodge for its expression of condolence and sympathy, and said none could estimate the value of these acts of kindness, and nothing would tend more toward cementing the bonds of brotherhood by which our two great countries were bound together. He should not fail to communicate at once to his Grand Lodge the admirable sentiments expressed in the resolution and address.

Representatives from the various lodges took part in the meeting and expressed the feeling of sympathy evinced by the brethren of their lodges.

Nothing more appearing the lodge was closed and the brethren separated.

Obituary.

BRO. WILLIAM PHELPS.

The funeral of the late Bro. Wm. Phelps, lace manufacturer, of Nottingham, who died somewhat suddenly the previous Saturday afternoon at his residence, Carisbrooke House, the Park, took place on the 26th ult., in the General Cemetery. There being a large gathering of the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers, Present and Past, and also of the members of his own lodge, the Carnarvon Lodge, No. 1909, of which he was the much respected Treasurer. Bro. W. Phelps was initiated in 1873 in the Annesley Lodge, No. 1435, and was W.M. in 1879. He was one of the founders, in 1881, of the Carnarvon Lodge, No. 1909, and was Treasurer of the lodge until elected W.M. in 1884, after which he again returned to his old office of Treasurer. He was one of the promoters of the Carnarvon Chapter, No. 1929, in 1886, of which he held the office of H. at the time of his death. He was appointed by the Prov. Grand Master, the Duke of St. Albans, to the post of Pro. Grand Registrar in December, 1884. He took a very active and personal interest in the three great Masonic Charities, the Boys' and the Girls' Schools, and Benevolent Institution, having acted as Steward at their festivals, and was a Life Governor of each.

It is understood that the sum which is to be handed over to St. Catherine's Hospital, Westminster, by command of the Queen, being the surplus of the Women's Jubilee offering, amounts to £70,000.

The Prince of Wales presided at a meeting at Marlborough House, on Monday, of the organising Committee of the Imperial Institute, Bros. Lord Herschell, the Earl of Fife, the Lord Mayor, and Sir Frederick Leighton, with Bro. Sir Frederick Abel, Organising Secretary, and Bro. Sir Somers Vine, Assistant Secretary. This was the first meeting held since the grant by the Queen of the Charter of Incorporation, and, therefore, there was plenty of business to transact. From a report submitted by the Organising Secretary it appeared that, exclusive of the subscription from India, the funds available amounted to £310,000, and it was also stated that the foundations of the main buildings were completed in May last at a cost of £6000. On the motion of Bro. Lord Herschell, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to his Royal Highness for the zeal and energy displayed by him in connection with the Institute.



The regular monthly meeting of the Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will be held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday next, the 11th inst.

We beg to remind our readers that the General Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys will hold their regular meeting for the month at Freemasons' Hall to-morrow (Saturday), at 4 p.m.

The Duke of Cambridge dined with Bro. Sir Algernon and Lady Borthwick on Saturday last, among the guests invited to meet his Royal Highness being Bro. Lord and Lady Suffield, Bro. Lord and Lady Burton, and the Countess of Lathom.

Prince Albert Victor of Wales has sent a communication to the Bridlington Local Board, fixing Thursday, the 19th inst., as the day on which he will open the Beaconsfield sea-wall and promenade.

The 31st Exhibition of Dogs by the Kennel Club was opened at the Ranelagh Club, Barnes, on Tuesday, the number of entries being 1415 as against 1234 at the last ordinary summer show at the Royal Aquarium. The show will close to-day (Friday).

Bro. the Earl and Countess of Jersey Bro. Lord and Lady Charles Beresford, and the Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild were among the guests at the dinner party given by the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury at their residence in Arlington-street, on Wednesday. Her Ladyship afterwards held her second reception of this season at the Foreign Office.

Bro. the Lord Mayor presided at a meeting held at the Mansion House, on Monday, for the purpose of promoting an intended institution for the further development of teaching of operatic art in this country. Bro. Carl Rosa was among those present, and letters of regret at being unable to attend were read from Bro. Sir A. Sullivan, P.G.O., and others.

It is reported that the proceeds of the Military Tournament recently held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, amounted to £14,000, which will be paid over to the Cambridge Hospital for Old and Disabled Soldiers. This exceeds by £4000 the product of any previous tournament, and it has now been directed by the War Office that the event shall take place annually.

Among the company present at the recent marriage of Sir Charles S. Forbes with Miss Emma T. Maxwell, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Robert Maxwell, in St. Peter's, Eaton-square, and at the wedding breakfast afterwards, were Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Athole, Bro. the Earl of Fife, Bro. the Earl of Dunmore, Bro. the Earl and Countess of Airlie, Bro. the Earl and Countess of Rosslyn, and Viscount and Viscountess Strathallan.

Mr. Fred Horner's laughable comedy, in one act, entitled "On Toast" (which should have been produced at the Criterion last autumn), will now see the light for the first time at the Avenue Theatre at Mr. D'Albertson's matinee, on the 16th inst. The parts have been distributed amongst the following: Messrs. J. J. Dallas, H. Grattan, M. H. Grahame, Miss Emma Broughton and Miss Nelly Woodford. The plot has reference to the Jubilee Costume Ball held last year, and at which the Prince and Princess of Wales were present.

Bro. H. Homewood Crawford, Master of the Glovers' Company, accompanied by the Wardens and Clerk, attended at the Mansion House on Tuesday, for the purpose of presenting the Lady Mayoress with specimens of the handicraft of the Company, consisting of a dozen white and a dozen tan-coloured kid gloves, in commemoration of the Jubilee of her Majesty's coronation.

The annual show of the Royal Agricultural Society, which opens to-morrow (Saturday), at Nottingham, will be the largest since the International Show at Kilburn in 1879. The entries in the horse, cattle, sheep, and pig classes are 1875, against the 1833 of last year at Nottingham, and the 1823 of 1866 at Norwich, while the show of implements and machinery in motion will occupy 10,743 feet of shedding, as against 8217 feet in 1887. There will also be a working dairy, with trials in butter and cheese-making and horse-shoeing competitions.

LODGE GLASGOW KILWINNING, No. 4.—The brethren of this lodge held their annual excursion on Thursday, the 28th ult., this year making their way to the Forth Bridge works. The company met at the Queen-street Station of the North British Railway, and proceeded to Linlithgow, where they left the train. The view of the interesting pile of the ruins of Linlithgow Palace was very much enjoyed by the brethren, some of whom picked out a good few of the builders' marks on the ancient stones. The company returned to luncheon at the Star and Garter, and after a short rest mounted the coaches to drive to the South Queensferry side of the Forth Bridge. This drive was through a lovely bit of country, as, by the kindness of the Earl of Hopetoun, the party had special permission to drive through his policies. After inspecting the stupendous works and the bridge itself, the coaches were driven by another route back to Linlithgow, where dinner was served by mine host, and the brethren were in such a condition as to be able to pay their best regards to it. On the cloth being removed, the chairman, genial Bro. Gordon, proposed the usual, loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts, which were heartily responded to. The brethren spent a pleasant hour with song, toast, and sentiment before taking the train back to Glasgow.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—It is difficult to determine which is the more trying to health—intense cold or excessive heat, though everybody knows that the sudden transitions from the one to the other are prolific of disease, which may in most instances be repelled by an early resort to these purifying, regulating, and strengthening Pills. This well-known and highly-esteemed medicine affords a safe and easy remedy for almost every constitutional wrong which climates or dietetic errors can engender, and effectually removes any weakness self-indulgent habits may have induced. In all conditions of the system bordering on disease, such as are indicated by apathy, listlessness, and restlessness, Holloway's Pills will prove especially serviceable in begetting the vivacity appreciated by both sound and sick.

By command of the R.W.P.G.M.M., the annual Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Cumberland and Westmorland will be held at Maryport on Wednesday, the 18th inst., under the banner of the Whitwell Lodge, No. 151.

Bro. the Marquis and Marchioness of Hertford and family have left Eaton-square for Warwickshire.

Bros. Edward Ledger, John Maclean, and many others were present at the 49th annual meeting, held at the Lyceum Theatre, on Tuesday, of the subscribers and members of the Royal Theatrical Fund.

Bro. the Lord Mayor will give his usual dinner at the Mansion House to her Majesty's Ministers on the 8th August next.

Bro. the Lord Mayor will preside at a meeting which will be held to-day (Friday) at the Mansion House in support of the new Hospital for Women, Marylebone-road.

Bro. the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress entertained a numerous and distinguished company at dinner at the Mansion House, on Wednesday, in honour of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and the United States of America, the guests numbering close on 300.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and their three daughters arrived at Sandringham from Marlborough House on Wednesday afternoon, the Countess of Macclesfield, Miss Knollys, and Bro. Sir Francis Knollys being among the suite in attendance on their Royal Highnesses.

Bro. R. Jasper More has been appointed Chairman of the Committee of the House of Commons on Corn Averages, which will meet for the transaction of business on Tuesday next.

Prince and Princess Christian visited the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House on Tuesday and remained to luncheon.

The anniversary Festival in aid of the News-vendors' Benevolent and President Institution was held at the Cannon-street Hotel, on Wednesday, under the presidency of Viscount Lymington, M.P. The subscriptions in the course of the evening amounted to upwards of £450.

The Duke of Cambridge paid his annual visit of inspection to the Royal Military Asylum, Chelsea, on Wednesday, the inmates to the number of 480 being the orphan sons of soldiers who are being educated and trained either for military service or for civil life. After witnessing the boys' drills and hearing the report for the past year, his Royal Highness distributed the prizes and subsequently expressed his satisfaction with what he had seen.

Bro. Sir Robert and Lady Collins arrived at Windsor Castle on Wednesday and had the honour of dining with the Queen and Royal Family. Bro. the Earl of Limerick has succeeded Bro. Lord Balfour of Burleigh as Lord-in-Waiting.

Bros. Viscount Sherbrooke, the Earl of Fife, the Earl of Meath, Lord Stalbridge, and Lord Alcester attended the meeting of Liberal Unionist Peers which was held at the Earl of Derby's residence in St. James's-square.

The "Roman Coliseum" at the Italian Exhibition at West Brompton was formally opened to the public on Wednesday, and will doubtless prove a very great attraction. A series of games, such as formed the attraction in the best days of Imperial Rome, was carried out very successfully, and with every appearance of reality, while the procession at the close of the performance, when the gladiators, legionaries, and others marched past the Emperor Titus and his Consort, proved a very imposing spectacle.

Bros. J. T. Agg-Gardner, M.P., and F. Seager Hunt, M.P., were among the principal guests at the 82nd Anniversary Festival, at the Crystal Palace, on Tuesday, in aid of the Licensed Victuallers' School, the amount of the subscriptions announced in the course of the evening being about £6000. It appears that the number of pupils at present in the school is 217, and that the annual expenditure is £7500, the permanent income, arising out of dividends on funded property, being only £1500.

The final meeting of the Royal Commission for the Adelaide International Exhibition of 1887 was held in the Levee Room at the Horse Guards on Tuesday, under the presidency of the Duke of Cambridge, Bros. the Duke of Manchester, Sir F. Leighton, and Sir P. Cunliffe Owen being among the members present.

A drawing for three Life Subscriberships to the Royal Masonic Charities, in connection with the Second Covent Garden Lodge of Instruction Charitable Association, took place on Thursday last at the weekly meeting held at the Criterion, Piccadilly.

Bro. Horace B. Marshall, J.P., Earl Compton, Bro. Sir Charles Warren, Sir J. Parker Deane, Q.C., and the Hon. T. Allnut Brassey have become Vice-Presidents of the Bethnal Green Free Library, L.

NORTH-WEST LONDON DENTAL INSTITUTE.—Extract from *Kentish Town Magazine*, for April, 1886.—"The above-named Institute, under the special patronage of the Clergy, Medical Men, Gentlemen and Ladies of the N. and N.W. districts, affords in its daily and extensive practice, wondrous exemplification of the great progress that has been made in the science of dentistry during quite modern days, and also proves indisputably the great boon which the above-named Institute confers daily upon numerous sufferers. Defective teeth and gums are well known to be the foundation of the most painful complaints that afflict mankind, and that the several ailments of the mouth need the skilled attention of eminent scientists, if they are to be cured, or even alleviated, and in order that such skilled attention might be within the reach of all grades, the NORTH-WEST LONDON DENTAL INSTITUTE was established. Situated at 80, Fortess-road, Junction-road, Kentish Town, under the superintendence of Mr. A. W. FURBER, L.D.S., Royal College of Surgeons of England, assisted by a staff of skilled and qualified gentlemen, this Institute supplied artificial teeth; latest scientific improvements; extracts teeth, and performs all other necessary operations painlessly, and bestows benefits that cannot be over-estimated upon this portion of our largely-populated suburbs that would not seek the aid of Hospitals and Charities in the Metropolis. We may add that Mr. A. W. FURBER, L.D.S., R.C.S.E., has had 20 years' experience in hospitals and private practice, is of a very kindly disposition, and eminently fitted for the position that he holds, where he has earned the golden opinions of all who have consulted him. Mr. FURBER is also a well-known benefactor, having devoted ten years of his early practice to serve the poor, during which period his well-tutored and able hand relieved [free of cost] no less a number than 20,000 suffering patients."—Fees at this Institute are moderate, and free to "the Unemployed."

The consecration of the Anglo-American Conclave, No. 6, of the Order of the Secret Monitor, will take place at the Criterion, Piccadilly, on Thursday next, at 5 p.m. The conclave will be consecrated by Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, Grand Sec.

STAR CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—This chapter has adjourned for two months. When it resumes work Comp. F. Hilton, P.Z., Preceptor, intends, if possible, to regularly work one of the ceremonies of installation at each meeting, immediately preceding the rehearsal of the ceremony of exaltation. As this will be very valuable to Principals of chapters, we trust they will ably support him in the matter.

The annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Infant Orphan Asylum at Wansted took place at the Institution on the 28th ult., the prizes being handed to the successful competitors by Lady Randolph Churchill. The reports as to the health and progress of the children were very satisfactory, and the large attendance of friends and supporters of the Charity were delighted with the calisthenic and other exercises, which formed a conspicuous part of the day's programme.

Lieut. J. Macnab, chief examiner, Local Marine Board, Custom-house Arcade, Liverpool, has, we are pleased to say, just been installed W.M. of the Merchants' Lodge of Freemasons, 241, founded as far back as 1730. All who know Lieut. Macnab will congratulate him on his attaining so prominent a position in the Craft, and we are sure the Order will not suffer during his tenure of office. His ability to discharge the duties is well known and generally recognised. The members of the lodge and the visitors dined at Southport after the installation.—*Newcastle Journal of Commerce*.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have appointed Tuesday, the 17th instant, for their visit to Islington, in order to open the Great Northern Central Hospital.

We congratulate Bro. R. J. Voisey, P.M., P.Z., A.G.I.G. (Mark), &c., on the success of his company of boys on Friday, the 29th ult., when they succeeded in carrying off the banner presented by the Society of Arts, and which is annually awarded to the school in the Metropolis, which shows the highest proficiency in drill. Lady E. Hart-Dyke presented the banner on this occasion.

The *City Press* states that the new scheme for the conduct of Christ's Hospital is, with but few exceptions, almost identical with that issued by the Charity Commissioners two years since. It provides that the boys' school, which is to be erected in some convenient spot in the country, shall accommodate 700, permission being granted to increase that number to 850 as soon as the funds of the foundation permits. The girls' school is to accommodate 350, instead of 500 as provided by the former scheme. Besides these two establishments the scheme also provides that there shall be a preparatory school for 120 boarders, a science school for 600 scholars, and a girls' day school for 400 scholars. An important feature of the new scheme is that, while all the children are now boarded, educated, and clothed gratuitously, in future the governing body will be empowered to charge fees for a certain proportion of the young "Bluecoats."

THE BRITISH EQUITABLE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The report for the year ended the 31st January, 1887, which it was the privilege of the directors of the British Equitable Assurance Company to submit at the 33rd annual general meeting, at the Cannon-street Hotel, on the 30th May last, makes it clear that the policy which the management has uniformly pursued since the establishment of the company has been as uniformly attended with the most beneficial results. During the year itself 1783 new policies were issued, assuring to the holders the sum of £330,175, the premiums payable thereon amounting to £10,386. The payments under 480 policies amounted to £83,898 11s. 6d., and there was also paid in respect of policies surrendered a sum of £9186 16s. 7d. After satisfying all expenditures there remained a surplus of £64,760 6s. 2d. to add to the Accumulated Fund. The directors further report that they have now adopted as their basis of valuation the Institute of Actuaries Healthy Males Table, and have valued their liabilities at 3½ per cent. on ordinary whole life mutual policies, being about four-fifths of the whole business, and at 4 per cent. on the remaining fifth, the result showing a surplus in the Mutual Department of £65,957, out of which they recommend that a reversionary bonus be allocated to all policies effected on or prior to the 31st January, 1887, in force on the 1st June, on the following scale, namely: on whole life policies effected before 31st January, 1885, a bonus of 3 per cent. on the amount of such policies; on those effected between 1st February, 1885, and 31st January, 1886, a bonus of 2 per cent.; on those effected between 1st February, 1886, and 31st January, 1887, a bonus of 1 per cent.; and on all other policies effected on or before 31st January, 1887, and entitled to participate, a proportionate bonus to be determined by the Actuary. As regards the period of 33 years during which the Company has been in existence, the following gratifying facts are disclosed. There are now in force 28,226 policies, the sums assured by which amount to £5,260,235. The annual premium income is £1,567,764, and the income arising from interest and dividends £48,024, giving a total annual income of £2,023,322. The amount paid by the Company in claims and bonuses is £1,120,759, and for the surrender of policies £63,153. The percentage in hand of all net premiums required on all policies in force is 51.41; the cash in hand for every £100 assured is £23, and the year's premiums in hand are 7.83. The Accumulated Fund amounts to £1,206,570, the whole of which—excepting, of course, the cash in hand—is securely invested, principally in ground rents, mortgages, government securities, and loans on policies. The ground rents constitute 64 per cent. of the Fund, and with the exception of £38,108 are freehold, and the mortgages, forming 19.42 per cent. of the Fund, are on metropolitan house property. The above facts, which testify most conclusively to the excellence of the directors' management, show that the position of the British Equitable Assurance Company is thoroughly sound, and as there is little doubt that a policy which has proved so beneficial will be steadfastly maintained, we are justified in anticipating that the Company will be able to show a continuance of its prosperity at the close of every succeeding year.