

THE FREEMASON.

The Organ of the Craft, a Weekly Record of Progress in
FREEMASONRY, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART.

REPORTS OF THE GRAND LODGES ARE PUBLISHED WITH THE SPECIAL SANCTION OF
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
SIR ARCHIBALD C. CAMPBELL, BART., M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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THE PROVINCE OF DORSETSHIRE.

Bro. MONTAGU J. GUEST, Prov. Grand Master of Dorsetshire, had an easy and a pleasant task before him when he presided at the annual meeting of his Provincial Grand Lodge, at Beaminster, towards the close of last month. It was clear from the various reports which had been prepared for submission to the brethren that, in respect of numerical strength and as regards its pecuniary position, as well as from the activity and general attention to duty shown by the lodges, the province had well maintained its position during the past 12 months. Dorsetshire is by no means a strong province, the lodges on its roll being only 13 in number, but it has nevertheless acquitted itself admirably in the various spheres of Masonic duty, while the support it periodically renders to our principal Charitable Institutions would be highly creditable even if the province contained more lodges, and the roll of its subscribing members was longer. Its local Charity also, for the establishment of which we are in the main indebted to the generosity and energy of the Provincial Grand Master, is well organised, has a fair amount of accumulated capital, and has already been enabled to give valuable help to the local brethren and their families. Under these circumstances, therefore, it is not surprising that the address delivered to the brethren assembled in Provincial Grand Lodge by Bro. GUEST should have been almost from beginning to end a record of thanks and congratulation on the general character and result of the year's proceedings, the whole concluding with the expression of a hope—in which we most cordially join—that the reports of future years may show that Freemasonry in Dorsetshire had maintained and even improved upon its present position and prospects. One subject of regret was mentioned by the Provincial Grand Master—that Bro. S. R. BASKETT, one of the principal candidates at the recent election of a new Secretary to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, had not been successful. Bro. GUEST, however, consoled himself and the Province at large with the reflection that a good man had been elected in Bro. MCLEOD, and trusted that the new Secretary would prove himself to be an energetic and capable officer. Nor were the claims of Bro. BASKETT overlooked to a more solid consideration than mere sympathy and thanks, a contribution of £35 being unanimously voted by the brethren present towards the heavy expenses incurred by him during his recent candidature. In addition to this, he had the satisfaction of being presented with the Charity jewel, to which he had become entitled by his services as Steward to the Girls' School in 1885, the Benevolent Institution in 1888, and the Boys' School in 1889, the rule being, in accordance with a resolution passed by Provincial Grand Lodge at its meeting at Bridport, in 1881, that all brethren, on becoming entitled to three distinctions, should have them provided out of the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The resolution to admit ladies to the annual banquet of the brethren was referred to in our "Notes" of last week, and we need say nothing further now than that we hope the Committee to which the question—which was carried by a small majority only—has been referred, will report in favour of the resolution being carried into effect. Certain formal business brought the proceedings of the day to a close, and the brethren adjourned to the festive board, at which, in the unavoidable absence of the chief, Bro. J. M. P. MONTAGU, P.G.D. and P.D.P.G.M., presided. We heartily congratulate Bro. GUEST and the lodges and brethren of the province on the success of their recent meeting under the banner of the Beaminster Manor Lodge, No. 1367, the junior lodge in Dorsetshire.

THE SOURCE OF MASONIC SYMBOLISM.

A South African paper reports that a successful attempt has been made to establish on the Diamond Fields a "Local Correspondence Circle" in connection with the Lodge Quatuor Coronati, No. 2076, London, which was established in London in January, 1886, with the object of encouraging and advancing Masonic and archæological research. At the first meeting of the Kimberley Correspondence Circle which was held in the Masonic Temple, under the banner of the Cosmopolitan Lodge, with Bro. W. F. Cranswick presiding, Bro. Da Silva, who will be remembered by many of our readers as an active Metropolitan Mason, read a highly interesting paper on "The Source of Masonic Symbolism," in the course of which he said:—"In this age of progress, when the pursuit of science is the aim of almost every portion of civilised society, the study of a science that tends to consolidate and intensify the spirit of religion and the true essence of divinity, should be the one most studied by the grand majority. The various theories that have been put forward of late years by professed philosophers, such as Tyndall, Spencer, Huxley, Darwin, &c., have tended in some degree to destroy the true and absolute religious belief of many; and the theory of evolution by itself must be considered a direct attack on biblical history. Is it, therefore, to be wondered that a science such as Freemasonry, whose aim it is to 'beautify and adorn the inward man,' should at the present day be making such vast strides in its work of propagation? Freemasonry raises itself as a barrier against infidel science in aid of true religion, and by its teachings serve to prepare the mind of man for the due appreciation of the infinite. Many of the uninitiated look upon Freemasonry as a kind of solemn farce, combined with fantastic orgies; but we who are initiated into its mystery know that it is a system full of intellectual beauties and moral precepts, and there are again many among us who, looking deeper below the surface find in all its symbols greater beauties, greater truths, and still greater virtues. When the neophyte standing at the threshold acknowledges the belief in a divine creator, the spirit of religion is aroused which is continued through each gradation of the mystic ceremony.

"Mysticism in every form, from the earliest days has been associated with the propagation of religious ideas and theories. And there can be no doubt that Symbolical Freemasonry, as a mystic science, has been brought down from the various mystic doctrines of the Tenth to Thirteenth Centuries. The studies of the Pythagoreans, as also the Eleusinian doctrines had as their primary object, the adoration of a supreme being. The great secret society of Islamism in the Twelfth Century called the 'Assassins' had the worship of Allah continually enjoined on them. The Pythagorean theory, or rather belief, was that all things are number, or that number is the essence of everything. Aristotle says 'the Pythagoreans seem to have looked upon number as the principle and so to speak the "matter" of which existence consists.' They supposed the elements of numbers to be the elements of existence, and pronounced the whole heaven to be harmony and number. In addition, they believed in a peculiar system of astronomy, basing their ideas on the existence of a central fire, round which moved the ten heavenly bodies known to science in those days. The principal object by which the Pythagorean theory is known in these days was their belief in the transmigration of souls; this, however, need not concern us here this evening. The Eleusinian Rites were held at Athens to commemorate certain events in Grecian mythology. They had one great feature, apart from the most inspiring mysticism in the dramatic symbolism which described the revivification of the earth after the death of winter. This symbolism assumed forms which would explain their meaning even to the uninitiated. The grand ceremony of initiation, &c., into these mysterious rites lasted nine days, and were attended only by those who had been previously initiated into the lesser mysteries. The whole of the inhabitants of Athens attended some further ceremonies which

lasted until the eleventh day. Many of these rites and ceremonies were adopted by the followers of Pythagoras, and became part of the Pythagorean creed. The Assassins were a military branch of that secret religious sect of Islamism, whose first Grand Lodge was held at Cairo at the commencement of the tenth century. The Assassins, being more advanced, left the main body of this Order, and migrated to Persia, where they obtained possession of a strong fortress, called Alamet, and under their Great 'Sheik al Jebal,' or 'Old Man of the Mountain,' gained immense power over the surrounding countries. The peculiar tenets of this body were marked by the distinctive feature of secret assassination against all their enemies, and this formed the essential characteristic of the sect. They were ruled and governed on true Masonic lines. Under the Old Man of the Mountain were three Grand Priors who ruled over the three provinces to which their power extended. Next came a body of Priors who were fully initiated into the mysteries; but the main body were the Assassins proper; these were kept uninitiated, and the blindest obedience was exacted and yielded by them. They it was who would perform long and arduous journeys to assassinate those who had offended their order. Their lives they considered as nothing, and they would resign them at a word from their Sheik. In order to preserve subordination in their ranks, the Islam religion was rigidly enforced. A long list of their victims could be enumerated, and their power lasted nearly 200 years. In the year 1255 their stronghold was destroyed, and over 1200 Assassins were massacred, the rest were scattered far and wide, many returned to Cairo and Alexandria, where they, together with the other mystic societies, flourished side by side for many years. Although the Assassins could not in any way be called a Masonic body, yet their system of organisation and some of their ceremonies were afterwards adopted by the Cabbalists and introduced into their teachings.

"Thus, we find in Alexandria, during the 12th and 13th centuries, societies of religious teachings, Pythagoreans, Eleusinians Islamistic, Jewish, and Pagan, each differing in creed, yet all basing their various ceremonies on symbolism. Thus it came about that these gradually became merged in each other, and striving to penetrate through the impenetrable barrier of Nature, they founded a semi-neutral body, which, by absorbing most of their symbols, became the one great school of teaching for that and many succeeding ages, and, although at first founded on cosmopolitan opinions, became before long, the recognised school of Jewish faith and tradition. This was the 'Cabballa,' that mystic form of doctrine which by symbols was supposed to point out the true duty of man in every situation through life. These symbols were arranged in what we should term Masonic devices by square and by triangle, by the formation and peculiar arrangement of the letters of the alphabet, the combination of words in their Sephiroth, together with various symbols and signs used by the seers of old (the flight of birds, the force and duration of the wind, divination, and second sight). Bro. Gould, in his 'History of Freemasonry,' refers to the origin of the Cabballa as follows: 'Alexandria was an emporium, not only of merchandise, but of philosophy, and opinions as well as goods, were bartered there to the grievous corruption of sound wisdom, from the attempt which was made by men of different sects and countries, German, Egyptian, and Oriental, to frame from their different tenets one general system of opinion. The respect long paid to Grecian learning, and the honours it now received from the hands of the Ptolemies, induced others, and even the Egyptian priests to submit to this innovation. Hence arose a heterogeneous mass of opinions, which, under the name of eclectic philosophy, caused endless confusion, error, and absurdity, not only in the Alexandrian schools, but also among the Jews (who had settled there in very large numbers), and Christians; producing among the former that spurious philosophy which they called the Cabballa, and among the latter a certain amount of corruption, for a time at least, in the Christian faith also.' Bro. Gould then proceeds to point out how those doctrines became adopted by the Jews in particular. 'From this period there can be no doubt but that the Jewish doctrines were known to the Egyptians, and the Greek to the Jews. Hence Grecian wisdom being corrupted by admixture with Egyptian and Oriental philosophy, assumed the form of Neo Platonism, which, by professing a sublime doctrine, enticed men of different countries and religions, including the Jews, to study its mysteries and incorporate them with their own. The symbolical method of instruction, which had been in use from the earliest times in Egypt, was adopted by the Jews, who accordingly put an allegorical interpretation upon their sacred writings. Hence, under the cloak of symbols, Pagan philosophy gradually crept into the Jewish schools, and the Platonic doctrines, mixed first with the Pythagorean, and afterwards with the Egyptian and Oriental, became blended with

their ancient faith, in their explanations of the traditions. And the Cabbalists formed their mystical system upon the tenets taught in the Alexandrian schools.'

"The Cabballa treated of the mysteries of Divine nature and other sublime subjects, which after the manner of the Egyptian and Pythagorean mysteries, were revealed only to those who were bound to secrecy by the most solemn oaths. The cardinal doctrines of the Cabballa comprise—the nature of the Deity, the Divine emanations or Sephiroth, the Cosmogony, the creation of angels and import of the revealed law. The Divine emanations or Sepheroth are divided into 10 parts, corresponding with the 10 heavenly bodies of the Pythagoreans, and they are named the Crown, Wisdom, Intelligence, Love, Justice, Beauty, Firmness, Splendour, Foundation, and Kingdom. The principal book, what may be termed the bible of the Cabbalists, is named 'Zohar,' which means light, from the words 'Let there be light.' The Sephira are arranged in symbolical triads, and the Deity is called 'En Soph.' The Zohar says: 'Just as the "En Soph" is represented by the number three so all the other lights, *i.e.*, Sephiroth are of a three-fold character.' The Cabballa, since the thirteenth century, has likewise become the exclusive appellation of that system of theosophy which claims to have been transmitted uninterruptedly by the mouths of the patriarchs and prophets ever since the creation of man.

"Thus I have shown how these mysteries became adopted by the Jews, was incorporated into their religion, and became part of their teaching. The Jews, in their commercial pursuits, soon brought them to Europe, and many Cabbalistic schools were opened. In Italy especially the Cabbalistic doctrines took firm hold of the people, not only of the Jewish faith, for many of their symbolical observances were adopted by the Romish Church; and still continuing to flourish, we read that in 1450 a number of Jewish Converts in Spain published compilations of the Cabbalistic treatises, to prove from them the doctrines of Christianity, and in the sixteenth century Pope Sixtus was so convinced of the importance of these doctrines, that he had them translated for the use of divinity students. These doctrines were eagerly adopted by the various Monastic bodies, and the Benedictines in particular, who had ever made Geometry their favourite study, now with the sanction of their Pope, adopted the Cabbalistic teachings, and incorporated many of their symbols into their religious practices." Having shown the importance of the Cabballa to Symbolical religion, Bro. Da Silva proceeded to point out its importance to symbolical Freemasonry, and he concluded by saying,—“The Bible history permeating our ceremonies points to a source beyond the mediæval age, and to a source that had biblical symbolism as its basis. This is a sure proof that the Cabbalistic doctrines engrafted on to Freemasonry had given the Order the substratum of religion as its groundwork. Its foundation has been deeply laid in the adoration of the Deity, and he has cemented and adorned it with every moral and social virtue.”

The paper was most attentively listened to, and was followed by a paper contributed by Bro. R. F. Wilson, consisting of a *resumé* of a contribution in the last published transactions of the Quatuor Coronati, descriptive of some interesting Masonic discoveries in the Isle of Wight.

TRANSACTIONS, LODGE No. 2076, LONDON.

Part 2, of Volume III., "Ars Quatuor Coronatorum," just published, will prove to be one of the most interesting of the series, for although some portions are rather fanciful, the papers generally are of considerable originality, and especially so in relation to the curious subject of Masonry and Masons' marks. Whatever the genial Professor T. Hayter Lewis (J.W. 2076) touches, he does thoroughly, and always in a most suggestive manner. His paper and illustrations are of much value and interest, and alone are well worth the fee charged for the part. This paper must not be confounded with that read by him at Glasgow before the British Archæological Association, 1889, for this one differs in several respects, and appeals more to the Craft than the other did.

In both papers the author expresses his deep obligation to Bro. Gould's great History, and mentions other works in which the study of Marks is wisely treated. The Dictionary of the Architectural Publication Society ("Marks," by Mr. Wyatt Papworth, who is such a trusty guide) and the Sessional Paper 1868-9 of the R.I.B.A. ("Something about Masons' Marks in various Countries," by George Godwin Fellow, F.R.S., &c.), and others came in for praise, as they well deserve. The "Sessional Papers" noted have long been out of print. Some articles in the *Builder* for 1863 should likewise be consulted, as also the "Masonic Magazine" for September, 1881, in relation to Marks in Carlisle Cathedral* (four plates), &c.

* Photographs of these may be had from J. Denison, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

Our dear Bro. H. J. Whympier, C.I.E., has also done good work in this direction. He has copied many Allahabad Fort Marks, and written a valuable paper published in the "Masonic Record of Western India" for March and April, 1890.

The old "Freemasons Magazine" had often excellent articles on the subject, as in 1862 and 1868 by the late Bro. E. W. Shaw, and a capital collection from Kilwinning Abbey, in Bro. D. Murray Lyon's notable history of that old lodge. In the *Freemason* for November 13th, 1886, will be found a number of marks of the Masons then working on the Truro Cathedral, which I had from the clerk of the works; besides which, many other sources of information might be enumerated, as most of us students have made independent collections.

The value of the Paper by Professor Lewis is that the classes of marks are carefully handled by a brother who has studied the subject for many years, and who makes important suggestions concerning their origin and character, both in this country and abroad. The Paper must be read and diligently studied to be properly appreciated, and so should the two monographs by Dr. Westcott, S.D. 2076, and Bro. F. F. Schnitger, C.C., in relation to the Cabbala of H. Cornelius Agrippa. Those who are inclined to slight the teaching of the "Occult Philosophy" by that great writer may possibly give the work more attention after reading these two articles by experts in matters Rosicrucian and occult. I am not prepared to accept all their startling statements, though, at the same time, gratefully recognise the skilful manner they have handled the subject.

The "Mummers of Guisers," by Bro. W. Simpson, I.P.M. 2076, certainly confirms the statement of the gifted author that we need not confine our attention to the Eleusian mysteries for illustration of Rites allied to our own, and the "Mosaics at Morton," by Bro. S. Russell Forbes, is an able exposition of views on the question fully shared by me, and I thank him for thus so clearly defending and illustrating views which go to prove that the Mosaics at Morton are not Free Masonic.

Bro. Crow's paper on "Freemasonry in Holland" will be gladly perused by not a few brethren who desire information about the Craft in the Netherlands, and yet scarcely know where to obtain reliable facts. The sketch, all too brief, is very readable, and the peculiar constitution of the Ruling Bodies in that country is lucidly explained. The year 1731 is too early, however, for the beginning of Dutch Freemasonry by the chartering of a regular lodge at the Hague by the Grand Lodge of England was not until 1735 as No. 131. It was erased in 1769 as No. 71.* There was a special lodge held in 1731 for the initiation of the Duke of Lorraine, but it was not warranted or constituted in the regular way.

The information afforded by Bro. Lad de Malczovich, of Budapest, is a most welcome contribution, but I fear the elaborate paper "Brahminical Initiation," by Bro. W. Simpson, I.P.M. 2076, would not be an easy matter to treat Masonically, and so I drop it, able as it is undoubtedly. The discussion which followed its reading was of a very remarkable character, and abundantly illustrated the far-reaching influence of the lodge.

Reviews, Notes and Queries, Obituary, and Chronicle, mainly by our model Secretary, Bro. G. W. Speth, complete a part which throughout is a great credit to the lodge and all concerned in its preparation. I am astonished to find that neither the reprint of the "Constitutions, A.D. 1738," nor the Vol. 2, of the Transcripts of the "Cooke" and other MSS., have yet been cleared out. It seems to me inexplicable, as a guinea charged for both, might well be asked for either volume.

The frontispiece to this part is a splendid portrait of our esteemed Treasurer, Bro. Walter Besant, who is loved by thousands for his labours on behalf of those who cannot help themselves, and who is always at home in our students' lodge. God bless him!

W. J. HUGHAN.

THE PROPOSED NEW CODE OF LAWS FOR THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

(Continued from Page 115.)

As regards the further proposed new laws relating to "Quarterly" and "Special" Courts we note that under Law XXXI., paragraph 2, it is provided that "Twelve members shall form a quorum," which is certainly a more suitable provision than that contained in existing Law XXXII., paragraph 2, which enacts that only "Five members shall form a quorum."

Proposed Law XXXIII. provides that "The Court shall decide by show of hands; the Chairman, in his discretion, may direct the numbers to be counted." There is no such enactment in the existing laws.

Proposed Law XXXIV. and existing Law XXXIV. are set forth in language almost identical, only that the former includes "the suspension" as well as "the abrogation or alteration" of any existing law, as being among the things which cannot be done at a Quarterly Court unless due notice of motion to that end shall

have been given at a previous Quarterly Court or Council, and advertised in three of the London daily papers 10 days—the existing law says "six days"—prior to such meeting. Both laws require that "the minutes of such proceedings as are specified in this law shall not take effect unless confirmed at a subsequent Quarterly Court," and both enact that neither a "Quarterly" nor a "Special" Court "shall have power to cancel, or alter, the fundamental principle of the Institution—that its benefits shall be extended to the sons of brethren of every religious denomination."

Proposed new Law XXXV. enacts that "Patrons, Vice-Patrons, Vice-Presidents, Life Governors, Life Subscribers, and Annual Subscribers of one guinea of at least two years' standing shall alone be entitled to attend and vote at Quarterly or Special Courts;" which, as there is no such provision under the existing laws, we presume is intended as a precaution against the manufacture of annual subscribers for the purpose of rushing a particular motion through at some Quarterly or Special Court and securing its confirmation, in cases where necessary, at a subsequent Quarterly Court. If this is so, we see no objection to the proposed law; but otherwise, it seems rather hard that annual subscribers of only one year's standing should be excluded from taking part in the business of Quarterly and Special Courts.

Lastly, it appears desirable that the provision contained in paragraph 2 of proposed Law XXX., which forbids the decision of a "Special" Court being reconsidered at a subsequent "Special" or "Quarterly" Court until after a period of 12 months has elapsed, should be extended to the decisions of "Quarterly" Courts. There is, in our opinion, no reason why a distinction should be drawn between the decisions arrived at by the two classes of Courts. If those of the "Special" Court are to remain valid for 12 months, so likewise should those of the "Quarterly" Court.

Laws XXXVI. and XXXVII. concern the "Council" and correspond with present Laws XXXV. and XXXVI., which concern the "General Committee." As regards the proposed substitution of the term "Council" for "General Committee," we are not aware of any particular virtue attaching to the former which does not pertain to the latter. The body in question will do its work as effectively by whichever of the two designations it may be known, but, unless a special reason can be given in favour of the proposed change, we prefer that the title of "General Committee" should remain.

The constitution of the "Council" under Law XXXVI. will be the same as that of the "General Committee" under existing Law XXXV., and the duties remain almost the same. It has, however, been already provided—see proposed new Law XXIX., paragraph 1—that the Board of Management shall be elected by the Quarterly Court, and Law XXXVIII. enacts that the election of the said Board shall take place at the Quarterly Court in April. Consequently, there must be an error in including the election of the Board of Management among the duties of the "Council," or else the assignment of such a duty to the "Quarterly Court" must be wrong. If, however, we assume that it is the "Quarterly Court" which will elect the said Board, it will still rest with the "Council" to fill up "extraordinary vacancies" on the same Board, as they are defined in proposed new Law XLII., though it will certainly excite some curiosity to know why the Board should be elected by the Court and extraordinary vacancies filled up by the Council.

Under proposed Law XXXVII. the Council is to meet, not as the General Committee now does on the *first Saturday* in every month, September excepted, but on the *first Friday*, "except when that day shall fall on the Friday immediately before a Bank Holiday, when the meeting shall be held on the next following Friday," there being, as now, no meeting in the month of September. It also provides that "seven shall form a quorum," whereas the number under the existing law is "three."

Laws XXXVIII.—LV. concern the proposed "Board of Management" with its Finance and Petitions Committees, and though they are not all of them perhaps as clearly defined as they might be, there can be no doubt that the changes they introduce, if they are effectually carried out, will be a decided improvement on the present arrangements. These laws are intended to take the place of existing Laws XXXVII.—XLIX., and a comparison of the two groups with each other will bear out what we have said as to the new proposals being calculated to ensure a greater degree of efficiency in the management of the Institution. At present, as our readers are aware, the interior arrangements of the School are vested (1), for general purposes of administration and discipline, in a House Committee consisting of 12 Life Governors, elected at the June meeting of the General Committee, and (2), for financial business, in a Finance and Audit Committee, consisting of nine Life Governors, elected also at the June meeting of the same General Committee. In the election of these House and Finance and Audit Committees—to which indeed, in their respective spheres of duty, the full authority of the General Committee is delegated—no other restriction has been imposed than that the Life Governors so elected must be Freemasons. Hence, as London brethren are on the spot, while the Provincial brethren are scattered all over the country, it has only very occasionally happened that a country brother has been included among their members. The new laws, however, embody the following proposals: Firstly, instead of two Committees, one for administrative purposes, consisting of 12 Freemason Life Governors, and the other for finance and audit purposes, consisting of nine Freemason Life Governors, both being elected by the General Committee, there is to be a Board of Management, consisting of "30 Life Governors, being Freemasons," elected from the Council "at the Quarterly Court in April," the Treasurer and Trustees being, as now, *ex officio* members. Of these 30 brethren it is proposed that "fifteen" shall be "members of London lodges and 15 shall be members of Provincial Grand Lodges." Thus the Provinces, which certainly subscribe one half of the funds of the Charity, will have an equal voice with London in its general and financial administration, though it remains to be seen whether country members living at a distance will be as regular attendants at the Board meetings as their London colleagues. The nominations of brethren to serve on this Board—see proposed Law XXXIX.—must be made at the meeting of the Council in April, that is on the first Friday, or in the event of that being the Friday preceding a Bank Holiday, on the second Friday in that month, London brethren being nominated by a London brother and Provincial brethren "from time to time by the Provincial Grand Secretary of each province on behalf of such province, not more than one brother being nominated on behalf of any one province." Proposed Law XL. provides that "the election shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Book of Constitutions for the election of members for the Board of General Purposes"—see Book of Constitutions, Laws 255 and following—Scrutineers being appointed to take the poll, "which will remain open until 3 p.m." Proposed Law XLI. provides that, except in the case of those first elected, members shall be elected to serve for three years, but the members of the first elected Board will determine among themselves, "by ballot," at their first meeting after election, which particular 10 brethren (five London and five Provincial) shall retire at the end of the first year, which 10, similarly constituted, at the end of the second year, and which 10, similarly constituted, at the end of the third year. By this arrangement the proposed Board will be renewed as regards one-third of its members every year, while by providing that the retiring third shall always consist of London and Provincial brethren in equal moieties, the sub-division of the Board into equal moieties of 15 London and 15 Provincial members will be perpetuated. As there is nothing to the contrary contained in this or any other of the laws relating to the subject, we presume that the retiring one-third of the members will be eligible for re-election.

(To be Continued.)

* Vide Bro. Lane's "Masonic Records," 1717-1886.

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Dear Sir and Brother,
Yours fraternally,
EDWARD NELSON HAXELL, P.M.

PROVINCE OF NORTHS AND HUNTS.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE will be held at NORTHAMPTON, on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, at Two o'clock, when the CEREMONY OF CONSECRATION AND DEDICATION of the NEW MASONIC HALL, PRINCES STREET, by the R.W. Prov. G.M., Rt. Hon. the EARL OF EUSTON, D.L., will take place.

A BANQUET will be served at Four o'clock. Tickets, 6s. 6d. each. Applications for Banquet Tickets to be sent to the Secretary, Bro. J. J. HART, Masonic Hall, on or before the 20th September inst.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1890.

Masonic Notes.

The Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, held an emergency meeting on Thursday, the 4th inst., when among the distinguished brethren present were the visitors at our Grand Lodge of the previous evening, namely, Bro. Clifford P. McCalla, Grand Master of Pennsylvania; ERD. J. ROSS ROBERTSON, Grand Master of Canada, Province of Ontario; and Bro. Horner, Past Grand Master of Louisiana. We shall publish a full report of the proceedings in our next issue, and shall merely state here that a paper was read by appointment by Bro. McCalla on early Freemasonry in North America. The subject was handled with Bro. McCalla's usual ability—indeed, there is not a more competent authority on the subject—and was listened to with marked attention by those present. It will appear in due course in the published proceedings of the lodge, but in the meantime we shall give a short *resumé* of it in our next.

Bro. Ross Robertson, Grand Master of Canada, also though he deprecated the idea that he could follow in the footsteps of Bro. McCalla—having come quite unprepared to make a speech or deliver an address on Canadian Masonry—nevertheless gracefully responded to the invitation addressed him to make a speech, however brief, by giving an admirable and concise sketch of Freemasonry in British North America. At the same time, he scrupulously followed the example set by Bro. McCalla, by avoiding everything of a controversial nature. What he said, therefore, was listened to with unalloyed pleasure, so that, thanks to the courtesy of the two visitors, the lodge is to be congratulated on having scored a distinct success at the special meeting held on this particular occasion for the purpose of receiving these two distinguished visitors.

The ceremony of consecrating the new Masonic Hall at Northampton will take place on Thursday, the 25th inst. Bro. the Earl of Euston, Prov. G. Master of Northants and Hunts, will preside on the occasion, and will be assisted in his task by Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, G. Sec., and other Grand Officers, as well as by sundry of his own Provincial Grand Officers. A banquet will bring the proceedings of the day to a close.

We have been favoured by the Hon. Secretary of the Provisional Management Committee with a revised proof of the draft of the amended laws of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. The revise differs materially—so far as we have had time to examine it—from the draft as issued for circulation among Prov. Grand Secretaries and other brethren, and had we received it in the first instance, our criticisms on Laws XXI. and XXII., so far as they relate to "Life Governors" and "Life Subscribers," would have been unnecessary, as these are not included among the

classes of donors who, in consideration of certain additional donations, have allowed to them certain additional votes. In the further criticisms we may think it right to offer, we shall use the revised proof Bro. Attenborough has been kind enough to send us.

We have also had forwarded to us by Bro. S. R. Baskett, Honorary Secretary, copy of the tenth annual report of the General Committee of the Dorset Masonic Charity. From an examination of its contents, it appears that there is a slight increase in the number of donors and subscribers in 1889 as compared with 1888, there being 17 as against 16 of the former, and 258 as against 251 of the latter. The receipts show a total of £203 12s. for 1889, as compared with £195 13s. 9d. The sum disbursed in relief amounted to £130, and the expenses of management to £7 15s. 6d. It is obvious, therefore, that the favour in which this Dorset Masonic Charity is held by the brethren of the province is as high as ever.

A correspondent sends us a cutting from an evening paper referring to Grand Master Vrooman's recent visit to this country, and to an "interesting and amusing" account he is said to have given of his visit to a London lodge. We must decline to reproduce the paragraph in question, as we are quite sure, from what we know of Bro. Vrooman as a Mason and a gentleman, that he could never have uttered anything of the kind. The enterprising paragraphist has overshot the mark.

The St. Martin's Lodge of Mark Master Masons (No. 414 on the roll) was consecrated by the Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. Charles Fitzgerald Matier, assisted by the G.D. of C., R.W. Bro. Robert Berridge, on Tuesday, the 9th inst. The ceremony of installation was performed by W. Bro. Percy Wallis, P.G.D.

We understand it has been arranged that the consecration of the James Terry Lodge, No. 2372, shall take place at the Town Hall, Cheshunt, on Monday, the 29th inst. The ceremony will be performed by Bro. Thos. F. Halsey, M.P., P.G. Master Hertfordshire, who will be assisted by Bros. George E. Lake, D.P.G.M.; Charles Bullock, Prov. G. Sec.; and other Prov. G. Officers. The new lodge will rank as number 21 on the roll of the Province of Hertfordshire.

Freemasonry in Scotland has sustained a great loss by the death, in his 59th year, of Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Rosslyn, who was elected M.W. Grand Master of its Grand Lodge in 1870, in succession to the late Right Hon. Earl of Dalhousie. His lordship held office for some years, and rendered many valuable services during the period of his tenure. He was also a Past First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland, Grand Master of the Chapter General of the Order of the Temple, Deputy Grand Master and Governor of the Royal Order of Scotland, and M.P. Sov. G. Commander of the Supreme Council, 33rd, of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. In addition, he was the representative of the Grand Lodge of Scotland at our United Grand Lodge, and in that capacity was present at the installation of the Prince of Wales as M.W. Grand Master in 1875. We intend giving a full account next week of the Masonic career of this distinguished brother, who was no less popular among his English than among his Scottish brethren, and to whose widow and family we offer our respectful sympathies.

On Monday next, the 16th instant, the Royal Oak Lodge of Mark Master Masons will be consecrated at the White Swan, Deptford, by Bro. the Rev. Thomas Robinson, M.A., Prov. Grand Mark Master of Kent, who will be assisted by Bros. the Rev. Hayman Cummings, M.A., P.G.C. England, D.P.G.M.M.; C. F. Matier, P.G.W., Grand Secretary; R. Berridge, G.D.C.; the Rev. E. d'Auguier, Prov. S.G.W.; W. O. Kennett, P.J.G.W.; J. G. Podevin, Prov. G. Sec. Kent; and other Prov. Grand Officers. The principal officers designate of the new lodge are Bros. J. J. Pakes, W.M.; Jas. Geo. Thomas, S.W.; and Penrose Dunbar, J.W.

The *Canadian Craftsman* for August contains a portrait of M.W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, Grand Master of Canada—somewhat rough in execution, but truthful and characteristic. Bro. Robertson is a strong man, physically and mentally, and a zealous and ardent Mason, and his term of office will, we venture to prophecy, leave a mark on Canadian Masonry.

Correspondence.

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

THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW ZEALAND.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have searched for some years through the reports in the *Freemason* of the meetings of Grand Lodge, but have not found the ruling of the Grand Registrar to which you allude in your leader of the 23rd August. Can you kindly supply me with the date, as I imagine I must have overlooked the report?

Speaking with great diffidence, in my ignorance of the precise terms of the ruling, I cannot but think that there must be some misunderstanding, and that, with all deference to the Grand Registrar and Bro. Hughan, your view *should* be the correct one.

It may assist us to a correct understanding of Article 219 to refer to the Constitutions of 1873, "Private Lodges," Article 29, which ran "should the majority of any lodge determine to retire from it, the power of assembling remains with the rest of the members *who adhere to their allegiance*, but if all the members of a lodge withdraw, the warrant becomes extinct."

Article 219 provides that "should the majority of any lodge determine to retire from it, the power of assembling remains with the rest of the members; but should the number of members remaining at any time be less than three the warrant becomes extinct."

Article 221 provides that "should a lodge be dissolved the warrant shall be delivered up to the Grand Master."

How is it held that a lodge can be *dissolved*? I do not find any way provided.

If, as I gather, the ruling is to the effect that a bare majority can pass a resolution to *dissolve*, then we seem to come to a peculiar position.

Given a large lodge in which a small minority are in any way able to make matters so unpleasant that the majority determine to retire, the minority as long as there are three left can carry on the lodge. Can they be checkmated by the majority deciding to dissolve the lodge and surrender the warrant? I can hardly think so.

But if a bare majority *can* dissolve and surrender the warrant to join another Grand Lodge, and so commit a great injustice to a large minority, who wish to "adhere to their allegiance," surely they could do so in a case like I have put of an unpleasant small minority?

The occurrence of such a case, though, happily improbable, is not, as I know from experience, so impossible as never to have been considered.

If two-thirds are necessary under Article 167 merely to remove from one house to another, surely two-thirds at least should be necessary to transfer allegiance to a new supreme governing body?

There is one other article which, though not, perhaps, strictly applicable, is useful as a guide to the principle which should govern the question. I allude to Article 157, applying to military lodges—"surrender or exchange of warrant," as the *précis* in the margin puts it. "If the military body to which a lodge is attached be disbanded or reduced, the brethren shall transmit the warrant to the Grand Secretary, but if a *competent number* of the brethren remain together, they may apply for another warrant of the same number, to be holden as a civil lodge, at such place as may be convenient and approved of by the Grand Master. Such warrant to be granted without any additional expense."

The history of the last few years is instructive in these colonial matters.

In the interests of the minorities who may wish to "adhere to their allegiance," this matter should be put on a just and equitable footing.—Yours fraternally,

LEX SCRIPTA.

LADIES AT PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE BANQUETS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Your approval in your "Masonic Notes" of a proposal to admit ladies to Provincial Grand Lodge banquets rather astonishes me. Such an innovation could not fail in my humble opinion to be most fatal to the success of such meetings. There is the widest possible difference between our Charity Festivals and the banquets after the meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge, and I think the bulk of our brethren would seriously object, even at the former, to the ladies dining with us, however glad we are to join them afterwards. But at those festivals the brethren have come together to spend an evening, and there is no great difference as to the times of leaving or distance to go afterwards.

At a Provincial Grand Lodge it is very different as a rule. Many of the brethren—the majority, probably—have come long distances, and have to return the same night. The banquet is really "refreshment after labour," and time is generally too short already. It is, as a rule, only once a year that the brethren from the distant lodges meet, and the banquet is looked forward to as the opportunity—not to be found in Provincial Grand Lodge itself—of renewing old friendships and exchanging *Masonic* confidences, as to the welfare of

each other's lodge, or little knotty points on which the advice of brethren outside one's own lodge is acceptable. This mostly takes place after the welcome announcement that "the duty is now off tobacco"—an announcement looked for with longing generally by nine-tenths of the brethren. This would probably have to be a thing of the past, as well as all subjects of *Masonic confidence*, as the presence of covies, however charming, would interfere; and I cannot but think the opinion I have heard freely expressed upon the subject is not far wrong—"If you admit ladies to Provincial Grand Lodge banquets, you may as well do away at once with Provincial Grand Lodge meetings."

When some time back I delicately hinted in your "Masonic Notes and Queries," that I should not be averse to making the acquaintance of "eligible young ladies, relatives of my brethren of the mystic tie," I had not thought of Provincial Grand Lodge as the place to do so, and, even now, though situated as I am, I do not *quite* fancy that idea.

If it is wished to have the presence of the fair sex at meetings of Masons, by all means have a Provincial Charity Festival, or a Masonic picnic, or conversazione, or even that abomination, a Masonic (?) ball; but if Masonry is to be a serious business, and not merely an excuse for convivial and social meetings, do not let us hear of admitting them to the only meeting of the province we get in the year.—Yours fraternally,

BRO. CŒLEBS IN SEARCH OF A WIFE.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

913] RE-NUMBERING OF LODGES.

I am very glad to see that Bro. Henry Smith, the esteemed D.P.G.M. of West Yorkshire, has again objected to any new numeration, at least, for many years. I wrote some years ago to support his first letter on the same subject, and shall not fail to aid him in that respect on all lawful occasions. My good friend, Bro. Lane, who is the first authority on such a subject, supports us in objecting to a new numeration—say this century—and I feel assured all intimately concerned in such a matter will warmly second Bro. Henry Smith's well-timed protest.

W. J. HUGHAN.



Craft Masonry.

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS.

EAST GRINSTEAD.

Sackville Lodge (No. 1619).—The annual meeting of the above lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, on Tuesday, the 2nd instant. After the usual opening business, a Board of Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. W. H. Brown, S.W., was duly installed in the chair of K.S. in a very able and impressive manner by Bro. G. Mitchell, W.M. The newly-installed W.M. afterwards invested the following brethren as his officers: Bros. G. Mitchell, I.P.M.; G. Wilson, S.W.; J. J. Budd Budd, J.W.; E. A. Head, P.M., P.P.G.D., Treas.; A. M. Betchley, P.M., Prov. G.S.B., Sec.; W. Hosken, P.M., D.C.; T. Smith, P.M., S.D.; A. Roberts, J.D.; R. G. Payne, I.G.; J. Pickard, Stwd.; S. R. Scholefield, Org.; and J. Chitty, Tyler. A very handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. G. Mitchell for the valuable services he had rendered the lodge as W.M. during the past year.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Crown Hotel for refreshment, and thoroughly enjoyed a good dinner after work. Bro. Brown, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. R. Clowes, Prov. S.G.W.; V. P. Freeman, P.G.D., P.G. Sec.; E. A. Head, P.M.; A. M. Betchley, P.M.; C. W. Hudson, P.P.J.G.W.; G. S. Godfree, P.P.G.S. of W.; J. G. Calway, P.P.A. G.P.; W. Hosken, P.M.; J. Smith, P.M.; S. Wilson, W.M. 1303; W. Wright, P.M. 1303; S. Roberts, W.M. 1466; Fitzmaurice, W.M. 1465; J. W. Broad, W.M. 311; Anscumb, P.M. 1821; Harker, W.M. 732; S. Tanner, P.M. 311; and many other distinguished visiting brethren, together with nearly the whole of the officers and members of the lodge.

The usual Masonic toasts were given and suitably responded to, interspersed by a most excellent programme of music and recitations by Bros. Hudson, R. H. Davies, Cattle, S. Roberts, Syklemore, Grimwell, and others.

FRIZINGTON.

Arlecdon Lodge (No. 1660).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 3rd inst., Bro. John Wilkinson, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. J. Wakefield, S.W.; G. Dalrymple, P.M., P.S.G.W., as J.W.; M. Jones, Sec.; W. Robinson, S.D.; W. Shaw, J.D.; W. Barwise, D.C.; J. Webb, Org.; J. Armstrong, I.G.; W. H. Jones, Stwd.; C. Bland, Tyler; B. Craig, P.M.; J. Singer, W. Brown, E. Jackson, J. H. Jenkinson, and others.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes were read and confirmed, and one candidate was initiated and two passed to the Second Degree. Both ceremonies were given by the W.M. in a most perfect manner, and it is evident Bro. Wilkinson's year of office is going to be as prosperous as his predecessors, and another chair or two may be endowed before he parts with his collar of office. With "Hearty good wishes" from the visitors and other routine business over, the lodge was closed.

HAMPTON COURT.

Wolsey Lodge (No. 1656).—A meeting of the brethren of this lodge was held at the Greyhound Hotel, on the 8th inst., when the following were amongst those present: Bros. E. Dare, W.M.; R. Drummond, I.P.M.; H. Sapsworth, S.W.; Chandler, P.M., acting J.W.; Featherstone, Treas.; W. T. Peat, Sec.; Bond, J.D., acting S.D.; J. Hunt, I.G.; Rice and R. W. Simpson, Stwds.; F. Figg, Org.; J. Miles, Pattison, Smith, and Cooper. Bro. Room, the Prov. G. Sec., favoured the lodge with his presence.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were read by Bro. Peat and confirmed. Bro. Alfred Darling, was admitted to the lodge as a joining member. Bros. Pattison and C. R. Smith were passed to the Second Degree and Mr. G. Cooper was initiated, the W.M. performing the various ceremonies in a perfect manner. On the motion of the W.M., Bro. Howard H. Room, Prov. G. Sec., was elected an honorary member of the lodge in recognition of his zeal on behalf of Masonry in the Province of Middlesex. A notice of motion standing in the name of Bro. T. C. Walls, who was unavoidably absent—"That the sum of £2 10s. be voted to the Pension Indemnity Fund, R.M.I. for Boys"—was also agreed to. Bro. Chandler moved "that a vote of condolence and sympathy be forwarded to the family of the late Earl of Carnarvon, Pro Grand Master." This was seconded by Bro. Sapsworth, and agreed to. Bro. Peat proposed "That the lodge take into consideration the expediency of starting a Benevolent Fund," but, on the motion of Bro. Chandler, the question was deferred until the next installation meeting. A petition to the Board of Benevolence was presented for signature on behalf of a brother of another lodge, recommended by the Prov. Grand Secretary. A Past Master of the Wolsey Lodge mentioned that some years ago he was in the employ of the brother named as a traveller, and vouched for it that he was in every way an excellent employer and was always ready to assist brethren or others who might be in necessity or distress. The petition was passed round and signed by all present. The business being concluded, the lodge was closed.

The usual banquet followed, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent in song and toast, the former being rendered by Bros. Pattison, Miles, Figg, and Peat, and Bro. Gilbert (the Tyler) favoured the company with "The Entered Apprentice's Song."

HASTINGS.

Derwent Lodge (No. 40).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, when there were present Bros. W. S. Allen, W.M.; F. C. Edwards, S.W.; G. Russell, J.W.; F. Rossiter, P.P.G.D., Treas.; J. Pearce, P.M., Sec.; R. Walmsley, S.D.; G. H. Gage, J.D.; C. W. Duke, P.P.S.G.W., D.C.; C. J. Ticehurst, I.G.; L. J. Jukes, Stwd.; W. Leslie, Tyler; C. E. Botley, P.M.; F. Plowman, P.M.; P. Robinson, P.M.; T. W. Markwick, P.M.; T. N. Cole, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; W. H. Russell, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; R. Townsend, P.M.; Heaphy, Boyce, Tyrrell, McCormick, Tindall, Reed, Foord, Beck, and Southcombe. Visitors: Bros. J. Bartle, P.M. 1642; G. Richards, P.M. 1707; and T. W. Avis, J.D. 1184.

Bro. Southcombe was raised, and Messrs. Hickman and Bourn initiated, the work being done by the W.M. in his usual impressive and able manner. Bro. Cole, M.A., promised to read a paper at the next meeting on the "Antecedents of Masonry." A candidate having been proposed, the lodge was closed.

WHITEHAVEN.

Sun, Square, and Compasses Lodge (No. 119).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall, College-street, on Monday, the 1st instant. Bro. George Starkey, W.M., occupied the chair, supported by the following officers and members, viz.: Bros. Spencer Broadbent, S.W.; Rev. James Anderson, P.P.G. Chap., J.W.; W. C. Johns, P.M., P.G. Std. Br., Treas.; S. Hinde, Sec.; J. Thompson, Asst. Sec.; H. Meageen, S.D.; D. H. Cook, P.P.G. Org.; W. Gaffney, I.G.; J. Lachlison, Stwd.; Dr. Charles J. J. Harris, I.P.M.; Thomas Richardson, Tyler; J. Barr, P.M., P.P.S.G.W.; Thos. Studholme, P.M., P.P.G.P.; Thomas Allinson, P.M., P.P.G.P.; George Dalrymple, P.M., P.S.G.W.; R. Miller, A. Moordaff, J. Bird, E. Thornburrow, Thomas Miller, I.G. 1267; J. A. Parker, S.D. 1216; and others.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, after which Bro. Bird was raised to the Third Degree in an able and impressive manner by the W.M. Bro. Studholme, P.M., gave a notice of motion (to consider a scheme for local education), and with "Hearty good wishes" the lodge was closed.

Mark Masonry.

LEWES.

Lewis Lodge (No. 391).—The annual meeting of the above lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on the 2nd inst., when there were present Bros. S. R. Legg, W.M.; V. P. Freeman, P.M.; T. Trollope, M.D., Prov. G.M.; R. Clowes, W.M. 409; H. W. G. Abell, G. Std. Br.; C. Smith, P.D.P.G.M.; J. S. Roberts, Prov. G. Sec.; Dr. Lewis, W.M. 386; Dr. Goode, C. Briscoe, Roe, Buchanan, Histed, and the following members of the lodge: Bros. J. Adames, S.W.; J. H. Every, J.W.; W. W. Turner, M.O.; G. Holman, S.O.; W. Wright, Sec.; A. F. Lamette, S.D.; J. J. Abell, D.C.; S. R. Hunt, J. C. Corder, G. Wilson, and H. Hall, Tyler.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, Bro. J. Adames, S.W., was presented and duly installed in the chair as W.M. for the ensuing year by Bro. S. R. Legg, I.P.M., assisted by Bro. H. W. G. Abell. The W.M. then appointed the following brethren as officers for the ensuing year, and invested those that were present: Bros. S. R. Legg, I.P.M.; J. H. Every, S.W.; W. W. Turner, J.W.; G. Holman, M.O.; W. Wright, S.O.; A. F. Lamette, J.O.; Rev. W. A. Tooth, Chap.; J. Farncomb, Treas.; J. C. Corder, Sec.; R. Pidcock, R. of M.; J. J. Abell, D.C.; R. Weston, S.D.; W. Botting, J.D.; S. R. Hunt, I.G.; G. Wilson and S. Denman, Stewards; and H. Hall, Tyler. A very handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. S. R. Legg, the retiring W.M., for his valuable services in the chair during the past year.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren repaired to the Bear Hotel, and sat down to a banquet, served in the usual first-rate manner for which Bro. Whitcombe is famous.

Bro. J. Adames presided, supported by the above distinguished provincial and other brethren. The happiness of a very pleasant evening was considerably augmented by songs and recitations given by Bros. Clowes, Roberts, Dr. Goode, Histed, and others, Bro. Norman Roe presiding at the piano.

An announcement that the D.P.G.M. intended holding the Provincial Grand Lodge at Lewes on 14th October gave much satisfaction to the brethren.

Lodges and Chapters of Instruction.

CLARENCE LODGE (No. 263).—The usual weekly meeting was held on Thursday, the 4th inst., at Tupp's Restaurant, 8, Tottenham Court-road. There were present Bros. J. W. Cooper, W.M.; D. G. Imlay, S.W.; J. W. Drysdale, J.W.; W. H. Kirby, Preceptor; F. Mason, acting Sec.; D. D. West, S.D.; J. Thompson, J.D.; C. F. Cox, I.G.; H. Neville, H. E. Jay, R. Horne, C. W. Hurst, and J. H. Passmore.

The lodge being opened in due form, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second and Third Degrees, and resumed in the First, when the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed in a thoroughly efficient manner, Bro. Horne having kindly lent his services in the capacity of candidate. The charge was delivered by Bro. W. H. Kirby. The lodge having been resumed in the Third Degree, several items of detail in connection with the three ceremonies were rehearsed and practised by each of the members present in turn, the meeting thus proving eminently profitable as well as agreeable and entertaining. After closing in the Third and Second Degrees, the W.M. rose three times, during which Bro. Imlay was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing meeting. He appointed his officers in rotation, and announced that the work for consideration would be the ceremony of passing, an explanation of the tracing-board, and the three sections of the Third Lecture. All business being ended, the lodge was closed.

CAMDEN LODGE (No. 704).—The usual weekly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, adjoining the White Hart Hotel, 116, High-street, Lewisham, on Thursday, the 4th inst. Bro. J. A. Shelton presided as W.M., and amongst those present were Bros. C. G. Sheppard, S.W.; Walter Robin, Sec., as J.W.; James Stevens, P.M. and Preceptor; S. Lancaster, P.M., S.D.; J. Morley, J.D.; H. Cole, I.G.; T. White, F. Catt, S. Bedford, and others.

The lodge was opened, and the 1st Section was worked. The initiation ceremony was rehearsed, Bro. Catt candidate. The 2nd Section was then worked and explained, and the ceremony resumed to completion, Bro. Shelton carrying out the same in a very effective manner. Bro. Cole was elected a member. Bro. C. G. Sheppard was elected W.M. for the next meeting, to work the lodge in F.C., and Bro. Robin will officiate on the 18th inst. in the Third Degree. The lodge was closed, after an instructive evening.

ROYAL ARTHUR LODGE (No. 1360).—The above lodge resumed its meetings for the season on Thursday, the 4th inst., at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Wimbledon. Present: Bros. W. H. Wingfield, P.M. and Sec., as W.M.; Salter, S.W.; Wade, J.W.; G. King, P.M., P.Z., Preceptor; Bond, S.D.; Morris, I.G.; Lofts, and Butler.

The ceremonies of initiation and passing were rehearsed, Bro. Lofts acting as candidate. Bro. Salter was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and the lodge was closed.

HYDE PARK LODGE (No. 1425).—A meeting was held on Monday, the 8th inst., at the Porchester Hotel, Leinster-place, Cleveland-square, Paddington, W., when there were present Bros. C. G. Wetzlar, W.M. 141, W.M.; J. Cruttenden, S.W.; F. A. Barth, J.W.; W. H. Chalfont, P.M. 1425, Deputy Preceptor; H. Dehane, P.M. 1543, Sec.; W. J. Hakim, I.P.M. 141, S.D.; H. Campbell, J.D.; R. T. Godfrey, I.G.; O. W. Battley, Stwd.; and John Davies, W.M. 160, P.M.

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. After the usual preliminaries, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Davies being candidate. The W.M. then rehearsed the ceremony of installation, giving the addresses in a very able manner. Bro. Cruttenden was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and appointed officers in rotation. A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Wetzlar for rehearsing the ceremony of installation for the first time, which compliment was duly acknowledged. A vote of congratulation to Bro. W. Hillier was passed to him on the occasion of his silver wedding, and the marriage of his daughter on the same day. After "Hearty good wishes" the lodge was closed.

ISLINGTON LODGE (No. 1471).—The usual weekly meeting was held at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, on Tuesday, the 6th inst., when there were present Bros. John Petch, W.M.; D. C. Ritchie, S.W.; G. T. Chretien, J.W.; C. M. Coxon, Sec.; H. B. Harding, S.D.; R. Loomes, J.D.; C. Horst, I.G.; C. G. Gray, W. Rawes, J. M. Scarlett, P.M., Prov. G.W.; and H. J. Kimbell.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Gray being the candidate. Bro. Sutter answered the questions leading to the Second Degree, and was entrusted. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Harding, when the lodge was opened in the Second Degree. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Sutter being the candidate. The lodge was resumed in the First Degree. Bro. Rawes was elected a member of the lodge. Bro. Ritchie was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, appointing officers in rotation. Nothing further offering, the lodge was closed.

CREATON LODGE (No. 1791).—A meeting was held on Thursday, the 4th inst., at the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Goldhawk-road, Shepherd's Bush, W. Present: Bros. G. Higginson, W.M.; F. A. Barth, S.W.; A. Love, J.W.; John Davies, W.M. 169, Preceptor; W. H. Chalfont, P.M., Sec.; W. Jennings, S.D.; F. Woodard, J.D.;

H. Cotton, I.G.; D. Stroud, P.M.; W. Hillier, L. Cox, F. Stanley, H. D. Gilbert, W.M. 1828, and T. Head.

The 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 the W.M., assisted by the brethren. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. F. Stanley candidate. The 2nd Section was worked by the W.M., assisted by the brethren. Bro. F. A. Barth was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and after "Hearty good wishes" the lodge was closed.

CHISWICK LODGE (No. 2012).—A meeting was held on Saturday, the 6th inst., at the Windsor Castle Hotel, Hammersmith, W. Present: Bros. W. Hillier, W.M.; J. Cox, S.W.; Barth, J.W.; E. Ayling, Preceptor; J. Sims, P.M., Deputy Preceptor; J. Brown, Sec.; T. Willcox, S.D.; R. Kerr, J.D.; Harbord, I.G.; Macey, Stwd.; Speigel, P.M.; A. Williams, P.M.; J. Davis, P.M.; F. Craggs, J. Baxter, Dr. Stanley-Mansfield, G. McCrowe, and Hiscock.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. rehearsed the initiation ceremony, Bro. J. Davis acting as candidate. The 3rd Section of the Lecture was worked by the brethren, the questions being asked by Bro. J. Davis, P.M. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the 1st Section of the Lecture was worked by the brethren, Bro. J. Sims, P.M., asking the questions. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. On the usual rising, Bro. J. Cox was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. After "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed.

WARNER LODGE (No. 2192).—The regular weekly meeting of this lodge was held at Bridge Chambers, Hoestreet, Walthamstow, on Monday, the 8th inst., when there were present Bros. J. J. Briginshaw, W.M.; Richard Kershaw, S.W.; G. W. Knight, P.M., P.Z., J.W.; J. Wilson, P.M., P.Z., and James Pinder, P.M., P.Z., acting Preceptors; Wm. P. Allen, Sec.; Chas. H. Bestow, S.D.; Fred. Taylor, J.D.; Christian Horst, I.G.; W. Blenkinsop, Hon. Stwd.; J. Ives, P.M.; J. H. Wildash, P.M.; W. F. Stauffer, Urban Smith, Fry, P. D. Parsons, Geo. Long, Wilson, W. W. Cook, J. Alcock, and W. F. Bromhead.

The lodge was opened in due form, and, after the usual preliminaries, the ceremonies of initiation and passing were rehearsed in an efficient manner. Bro. R. Kershaw was elected W.M. for the ensuing meeting, and appointed his officers in rotation. There being no further Masonic business, after "Hearty good wishes" the lodge was closed.

HORNSEY CHAPTER (No. 890).—A convocation was held on the 5th inst., at the Porchester Hotel, Leinster-place, Cleveland-square, Paddington, W., when there were present Comps. J. Cruttenden, 779, M.E.Z.; W. H. Chalfont, J. 975, H.; E. C. Mulvey, M.E.Z. 2246, J. 2202, S.N. 179; John Davies, 733, Treas.; H. Dehane, P.Z. 890, S.E.; W. C. Williams, M.E.Z. 733, S.N.; W. Hillier, 834, P.S.; G. Swann, P.S. 733, 1st Asst. Soj.; J. C. Tilt, 862; and C. G. Wetzlar, J. 1604.

The chapter was opened, and the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. Comp. Mulvey, at the request of the M.E.Z., assumed the First Principal's chair. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Tilt being candidate. The officers were elected for the ensuing two weeks—Comp. Chalfont, M.E.Z. A vote of congratulation was passed to Comp. W. Hillier on the occasion of his silver wedding day and the marriage of his daughter. The M.E.Z. having risen the usual number of times, the chapter was closed.

STAR CHAPTER (No. 1275).—The opening meeting of the session was held at the Stirling Castle, Camberwell, on Friday, the 5th inst., and was in every way a success. Amongst those present were Comps. G. L. Moore, P.Z. 169, M.E.Z.; Capt. R. J. Vincent, P.Z., M.E.Z. 1329, H.; J. Hill, J. 1329, J.; F. Hilton, P.Z. 1275, S.N. 172, Preceptor; C. H. Stone, 1275, S.E.; C. Wilson, S.N. 1329, S.N.; Stone, P.S.; C. N. M. North, 1275, A.S.; Warren, P.Z.; Phillips, P.Z.; R. Davis; H. Martin, 1275; R. Kimpton, M.E.Z. 193; R. J. Voisey, P.Z., S.E. 1329, Treas.; Towers, 1275; Benedetti, H. 1275; J. Darwin Smith; Goodwin; Osterstock, 1185; Powell, P.Z. 1185; Eedle, Eckersall, 1275; Scott Young; Dickson, 1352; and W. Briant, 1329; while apologies for unavoidable absence were received from Comps. C. Woods, P.S. 1275; T. Grunmunt, P.Z. 1275; C. J. Smith, and Millikin.

The chapter was regularly opened. A conclave of Third Principals was formed, and Comp. G. Powell, P.Z., installed Comp. J. Hill, J. 1329, into the chair of J. A conclave of Second Principals was formed, and Comp. Capt. Vincent, P.Z., installed Comp. Hilton, P.Z., into the chair of H. A conclave of First Principals was formed, and Comp. Kimpton, Z. 193, installed Comp. Moore, P.Z., into the chair of M.E.Z. The whole of the installation ceremonies were excellently rehearsed, and delighted the Principals who were present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was very smoothly worked, Comp. Goodwin as candidate. Comps. Kimpton and Dickson were elected joining members, and returned thanks. Comp. Vincent was elected M.E.Z. for the next meeting, and appointed his officers in rotation. Comp. Osterstock having presented 200 copies of by-laws to the chapter, received most hearty thanks for so doing, and suitably responded. Comp. Hilton, P.Z., Preceptor, rose and thanked the companions for having so kindly made an effort to have a good opening night for this session. Comp. Stone, S.E., pointed out that that was the largest meeting the chapter had had, and expressed a hope that many Principals would take advantage of, and be present, at the regular rehearsal of the installation ceremonies each week. All business being ended, the chapter was closed.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The monthly meeting of the Committee of Management of this Institution was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday. Bro. Jabez Hogg, P.G.D., was in the chair, and there were present Bros. James Brett, P.G.P.; G. Bolton, J. J. Berry, R. Pittam Stevens, Geo. E. Fairchild, Joseph Freeman, Chas. J. Perceval, W. J. Murlis, W. H. Hubbert, E. West, A. Durrant, J. S.

Cumberland, J. A. Farnfield, P.A.G.D.C., Treasurer of the Institution; A. H. Tattershall, Wm. Bywater, P.G.S.B.; Thos. B. Daniell, Charles Kempton, Fred. Mead, P.G.S.B.; S. C. Haslip, H. Maudslay, P.G.D.; M. H. Making, and James Terry, P.G.S.B. (Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and verified, the Secretary reported the deaths of one male and one widow annuitant, and read a letter from Bro. Wiseman, of Brightlingsea, withdrawing a widow from the list of annuitants.

The Warden's report for the past month was read, and one petition (male) was considered and accepted, and the name ordered to be placed on the list of candidates for the election in May, 1891.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

SUMMER OUTING OF THE GEORGE GARDNER LODGE, No. 2309.

On Saturday, the 6th inst., the above lodge held its first summer outing, having engaged Bro. Tagg's steam launch, Princess Beatrice. The following members and friends assembled on Tagg's Island at 11 a.m., viz., Bro. W. B. Fendick, W.M., and five daughters; George Gardner, Mrs. Gardner, J. E. Greenaway, D. Stroud, Miss Venner, Bro. Berry and Mrs. Berry, Captain Lister, Landshurt, Roan, Wareham, Elliott, Stephen Caffrey, Wilcoxon, Vernon, J. Broderick, Pritchard, Mrs. Pritchard, Lewis, and Miss Smith, R. Dennis, Miss Strain, Bro. Biggs, Brown, Mrs. F. Fendick, Mrs. Lenord, J. James, and Mrs. James.

After taking on board some of the good things of this world, supplied by Bro. Benoist, they steamed away at 11.45, passing many beautiful houses and grounds looking at their very best, among them, we were informed by an enlightened boatman, being one belonging to a Mr. Groves, where the great actor, Garrick, resided. Altogether it was a pleasant journey up to Penter's Hook, several brethren at times singing to the accompaniment of an harmonium, played by Bro. Wareham.

Dinner partaken of, we came next to quite a fleet of house boats, viz., Notre Dame, Viking, Mayflouradours, Gorling, Dodo, Dioni, Mavis, Ark, &c., looking none the worse for their duties during the summer months. On the right the camp of the Thames Association, which seemed to be fully tenanted; higher up the Thames Sailing Club, with seven or eight craft in full sail, but scarcely moving, there being a dead calm nearing Old Windsor Lock.

Bros. Bellerby and Collins joined the party, the former bringing a newly executed photographic group of the members of the lodge, which was generally admired, executed by Messrs. Elliott and Fry, of Baker-street. Here was passed the Oxford boat, well laden. Passing Datchet several more house boats, and on to Windsor, arriving at 5 p.m. Here we turned for home. Halt was called at Datchet, and the male folk adjourned to Host Druce's, the house where the lodge partakes of its banquets, while the ladies partook of tea in the saloons. Again steaming away, we had more singing, in which Bros. Roan, Elliott, Berry, Landshurt, and Gardner in turn took part, with Miss Fendick reciting, also Bro. Stephen Caffrey and two of the Misses Fendick singing, all distinguishing themselves. The second meal having been disposed of, we neared the finish at Tagg's Hotel, when our day's enjoyment thus ended. The repetition next year will be anxiously looked forward to, and every one united in thanking the W.M. for his kind endeavours to please.

ANOTHER NEW LODGE UNDER THE E.C.

On the 5th ult., at Ahmednagar, a small military station about 200 miles from Bombay, a new lodge was consecrated by the name of "The Royal Connaught," being so named to mark the connection of our present D.G.M., H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. The ceremony of consecration, and installation of the W.M. Designate was performed by Bro. J. M. Shields, P.D.G.W., who came up from Bombay for the purpose. The event proved very interesting, as the founding of a new lodge is very far from an ordinary occurrence with those brethren whose lot it is to be scattered over the face of the globe, in either military or civil service, throughout the vast dominions owing allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, and more particularly in India where the stations of British residents are so few and far between; a fact which renders the settlement of a Masonic "Home" all the more difficult in isolated stations.

In the little station of Nagar there are not more than a dozen permanent British residents, still out of these were found a few "fraters" having an ardent desire to own a "home" under the auspices of the Mystic Fraternity in spite of the obstacles which apparently barred the way.

In the year 1882, and since then, more than one plan for forming a lodge in this place had been formulated, but owing to the paucity of brethren, and the unavoidable changes incident to a military career, and not least the want of accommodation, in spite of the energy and zeal of the promoters, the efforts had to be abandoned for the time.

With the kindly assistance of the members of Lodge Sphinx, No. 263 (I.C.), attached to the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers, and members of our own constitution and the S.C., together with the determined efforts of Bro. Surgeon E. L. Maunsell, Army Medical Staff (the first W.M.), an additional plank has been added towards

widening the Craft, and it is hoped that the energies of the brethren will be rewarded by finding as time rolls on that, if a small, at least a sound and useful plank has been added.

The building in which the lodge has been planted is a part of the old Mahomedan palace situated in the centre of the "Fort," the walls of which are a mile in circumference, away from all residences, and doubly secured from all cowans and intruders by ponderous doors, known as the "Elephant Gate," and by a "military guard." The rooms are spacious and lofty, and in a short time this youngest of lodges will boast one of the finest set of rooms in the Bombay Presidency. A few Parsee brethren merchants in the Station have performed their duty in being in at the foundation, and it is hoped that a few months will see the lodge fully equipped for all weathers. The military brethren who have so frequently shown how worthy they are to pioneer the Craft during their enforced stay from the Old Country, manfully joined the new venture, to give the lodge a fair start before they leave the Station a few months hence, to be replaced no doubt by others, let us hope, equally determined to help the Royal Connaught Lodge along. It ought in fairness to the Sphinx Lodge, No. 263 (I.C.), to be stated that it is mainly owing to their efforts that the new lodge has become an accomplished fact, as they had all the preliminary trouble in securing from Government, for Masonic work, suitable accommodation.

Considering the small Station, the muster was good, 22 brethren, out of whom 19 were on the petition-roll, were present. Bro. Shields performed the ceremony in a very able manner, and, with every confidence of success, installed Bro. E. L. Maunsell in the chair of K.S.

After the business, the brethren retired to the banqueting-hall for well-earned refreshment. The well-provided dinner was discussed to the satisfaction of all on a table which had been decorated, as only the ladies can decorate, by two of the principal ladies of the Station.

The usual toasts were given and heartily responded to, most of the brethren adding to the enjoyment by giving some excellent songs, and the meeting broke up at a most reasonable hour, with "Heartgood wishes" for the success of "The Royal Connaught" which numbers on its roll representatives of the English, Irish, and Scottish Constitutions, and may it flourish as long as the Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle.

The Consecrating and Installing Officer was Bro. J. M. Shields, P.D.G.W.

The officers of the lodge are as follows: Bros. Surgeon E. L. Maunsell, W.M.; T. Watson, P.M. (S.C.), S.W.; W. Atherton, J.W.; M. Sovabjee, Treas.; Jesse Eccles, Sec.; T. B. Oswald, P.M. (I.C.), S.D.; D. F. Mehta, J.D.; E. G. Campbell, D. of C.; Chas. H. Bassett, Org.; S. E. Ghaswala, I.G.; and Thos. H. Godfrey, Tyler; who, with the following, constitute the founders. Members: Bros. Major C. G. Collingwood, P.M. (I.C.); J. Shepherd P.M. (I.C.); E. B. Ruddock W.M. (I.C.); Lieutenant R. B. Page, Captain J. Davies, J. A. Crisp, H. D. Kettle, C. H. Wood, and W. V. Reardon. Visitors: Bros. Trot, W.M. (I.C.); and Dr. Hormusjee.

CROMER AS A PLEASURE RESORT.

Few places on our sea coast have of late years obtained so large a measure of popularity as Cromer. Being the northernmost point of the county of Norfolk, it is open to the fresh and invigorating breezes from the North Sea, and having a fine sea front, excellent boating and bathing accommodation and sands, varied and picturesque scenery inland, with many a quaint old church or hall, rich in historical associations, within easy riding or driving distance, it is almost yearly increasing in size and population, while at the same time it prides itself on retaining as many as it can of its old characteristics, as well as the simple and more obliging habits of half a century ago. Moreover, it is easily accessible from London, either by the Great Eastern Railway from Liverpool-street and St. Pancras Stations or from King's Cross, and as the train service is excellent and the fares moderate, there is little doubt that in a short time Cromer will prove a still more formidable rival to the older seaside resorts than it is now. Only last week, what is known as the East Cliff Estate was put up for sale by auction in the Town Hall. The auctioneer who presided on the occasion was Mr. A. J. Baker, and among the very numerous company present from Cromer itself and its immediate neighbourhood, from other parts of Norfolk and the Eastern counties generally, and from London, were Bros. B. Bond-Cabbell, J.P., who presided at the luncheon which preceded the sale, the Hon. Harbord Harbord, J.P., Bro. Sir Kenneth Kemp, Bart., J.P., Mr. Gilbert Stracey, J.P., Bro. S. Neale (Mayor of Hertford), Dr. McClure, Bros. Dr. Fenner, George Kenning (the Freemason), P. Soman, C. W. Bacon, Churchyard, and others. Both at the luncheon and in the sale-room there appeared to be a general concurrence of opinion as to the value for building purposes, of the property to be vended, and the opportunity which the sale would afford for developing the resources and the attractions of Cromer. It will be readily imagined, therefore, that the competition for the various plots, of which there were 96 sold, was very keen, the total amount realised being £7312, giving the formidable average of £1800 per acre.

The town itself is quaint and old-fashioned, and the streets, with the exception of the approach from the Norwich-road, narrow and tortuous. But there are some excellent shops, a library, Town Hall,

Post Office, and a fine old church in the early perpendicular style, in the centre of the town, which is now in course of being restored. The people, too, are civil and obliging. In the neighbourhood, or within easy reach, are Cromer Hall, the seat of Bro. B. Bond-Cabbell, whose father was Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk from 1854 to 1875; Gunton Hall, the seat of Bro. Lord Suffield, the present Prov. Grand Master; Felbrigg Hall, once the home of the Windhams; Blickling Hall, the birthplace of Anne Boleyn, and now the residence of the Marchioness of Lothian; Barningham Hall, built by Sir Thomas Paston in 1625; and Houghton Hall, the residence of the Walpoles, where, in the days when George II. was King, Frederick, Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Newcastle of that day were raised to the Degree of M.M.

The original town was "Scepdene," or "Shipdene," which was gradually washed away by the sea, Cromer, which was an adjoining hamlet, remaining. The encroachments of the sea, however, still continuing, Cromer is now protected from further inroads by a massive sea-wall. There are capital sands, bold, precipitous cliffs, on which stands a lighthouse visible for 20 miles and upwards in the direction of the sea; and in a very short time there will be erected a pier, the present jetty being too short for purposes of promenade. As for the climate, it is simply perfect, so that our readers who visit Cromer for the first time will have plenty to interest them, and an unlimited amount of pure and bracing air.

BRITISH EQUITABLE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The 35th annual report, which the directors of the British Equitable Assurance Company submitted to the shareholders at their annual meeting, on the 29th May last, showed that the business done by the Company during the year ending the 31st January, 1890, had been of a very profitable character. The sum of £41,114 had been laid by and invested, so as to produce an average rate of interest of 4 5-6ths per cent. In consequence, the Accumulated Fund of the company has been increased from £1,256,420 to £1,297,534, all of which is profitably and, at the same time, safely invested. Claims and bonuses to the extent of £96,800 were paid, and for surrenders £13,319, the former being less than had been provided for in the tabular statement, and the latter some £1218 less than in the previous year. The cost of occupying the new offices had neutralised the effect of the savings resulting from a reduction of expenses, but in the future there is reason to believe that considerable permanent reduction of expenditure will be effected. As regards new assurances, 1197 new policies were granted, the sum assured amounting to £214,853, and the amount paid annually in premiums thereon £6615. The report was accepted, and votes of thanks to, and confidence in, the Board—of which, by the way, Bro. W. H. Gover is Chairman and Managing Director—were passed by acclamation.



"Are you satisfied" were the only words addressed by Bro. Augustus Harris on Saturday night after the curtain had fallen at the close of the first performance of "A Million of Money." The audience unanimously seemed to hurl back at the lessee the word "Yes," and there is no room for doubt that Bros. Pettitt and Harris's new drama will hold its own until such time as the stage is needed for rehearsal of the annual pantomime. Bro. Harris for two seasons tried to break away from the traditional tone of melodrama and give us something of an historic and poetic nature, in the dramas of "The Armada" and "The Royal Oak," but as prisoners hug their chains so a large portion of the British public love the old form of Drury Lane drama, and cling tenaciously to it. We regret that Bro. Harris was not sufficiently supported to be encouraged to go on with his new style of plays, but Druriolanus is a man who adapts himself to circumstances, and as the people prefer to walk in the old paths he has with Bro. Pettitt given them now plenty of what they want, and they were not slow to mark their appreciation of "A Million of Money." For over four hours, including intervals, we witnessed the career of Harry Dunstable, who, in the person of Bro. Charles Warner, came on the stage saying "Home again!" a sentence which the patrons in front eagerly took up, and Bro. Warner at once became the recipient of rounds of applause and greetings on his return from Australia, where he has been for four years past. As might be expected from its title, the new drama is thoroughly up to date, and we suppose the groundwork is an allusion to the young gentleman who three years ago came into a million of money, and lost it all on the turf. The recent sending of the Guards from London to Bermuda forms another theme for the joint authors to work into their play. We cannot say much as to its originality, for its plot is much the same as those which have gone before it at various times, but it is quite clean in action and language, and its interest never slackens, and throughout it is full of grand situations. These are not just shot on to the stage for effect, but arise naturally out of the story, and help to illustrate

it with great brilliancy. Harry Dunstable has married secretly Mary, daughter of the Rev. Gabriel Maythorne, and has involved himself in debt through the influences of his so-called friend, Major Belgrave. A lawyer comes to inform him that he has inherited an enormous fortune, but believing it is another writ to be served he will not allow his identity to be known to the lawyer, who mistakes Tom Cricklewood for Harry Dunstable, and tells him of the death of the old uncle. Tom at once builds up castles in the air, but is presently undeceived. Young Dunstable when he becomes a millionaire does not spend his money or time well, for he embarks in all the follies of the day, and, of course, is the target for harpies ever on the look out for such folk. The Major finding he cannot get enough out of him through cards, gets a lady of bad character to appear at all sorts of public places with Harry Dunstable and so compromise him with his wife. This Stella St. Clair deserts her husband, who at last tracks her out, and denounces her in public, but, owing to the dreadful state he is in, having taken to drink to drown his cares, he falls down dead whilst exposing his wife. Dunstable's regiment is ordered abroad. He would fain make it up with his wife before going away. He assures her of his love for her, but the wicked Stella has just told her that she (Stella) is going with Harry, so that the wife lets her husband go away still unreconciled. Mary Dunstable had refused to be introduced to this bad woman, Stella St. Clair, who thereupon vowed she would avenge herself, and tells a lie in saying she is going abroad with Dunstable, and so makes Mary drink the bitter cup. Stella, after the death of the husband she has killed with her infamy, marries a brother officer of Dunstable's and so accompanies the regiment. On the voyage the ship is wrecked. Stella and Dunstable are on a reef, when the former dies of exhaustion, but not before she asks forgiveness for the wrongs she has committed. The hero does forgive her, and in due time gets home to clasp his arms round his wife, who is dreaming of him. His fortune is partially restored to him owing to the success of a gold mine he had embarked a lot of his capital in. Bro. Harris has done many fine things in stage effects, but never anything finer than the race-course scene. Nothing is wanted. Here we have Kempton or Ascot as they really are. Four-in-hand coaches, barouches, pretty ladies beautifully dressed, champagne luncheons, racehorses, and the race itself. If once "the scent of the hay was brought over the footlights," now we have the excitement of the race-course brought on to the stage. The scene of the departure of the Guards from Wellington Barracks to the tune of "The girl he left behind him" is equally exciting. The French Exhibition scene is another master-piece. The drawing-room in Squander Mansion, designed and fitted up by F. Litchfield, of Hanway-street, deserves special mention, owing to its completeness and reality. There is nothing in it of what is known technically as "property." All is of the very best workmanship, and art has been brought to bear largely in the scene. The ladies will admire and envy the silk hanging curtains and the exquisite piano, whose case is similar to that made for Collinson, of Regent-street. Of the acting we have little room left to speak. "A Million of Money" is not a play which permits of great individuality. All the parts are necessary to the play, but it is not possible to make one's part stand out prominently from the rest, though, to be sure, Mr. Charles Glenney made the hit of the evening owing to his very clever piece of acting as St. Clair. It is a small part for he dies in the third act, but Mr. Glenney must have said to himself "I have a poor part, but I will do my best and strain every nerve to get something out of it." Here goes; and he did, for he was called again and again before the curtain. Bro. Charles Warner, as the hero, carried everything before him. He was at his best in his denunciation of the evil woman. Bro. Harry Nicholls is always at home at Drury Lane, and we felt—doubtless others did—a strong wish for a little more of his humour. We hope he may be allowed to write in something of his own. Miss Millward's earnest passion and tenderness was well marked as the heroine. Miss Lingard made a splendid adventuress. We have never seen her in any other character than that of an angel of mercy, but she is at home equally as either. Miss Fanny Brough was lively in the comedy scenes. All the other numerous parts were well acted. Mr. Arthur Collins again shows his great aptitude as stage manager, for, on such a trying time as a first-night, every scene went without a hitch.

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