

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 CHARLES DALRYMPLE, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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THE CRAFT IN CHESHIRE.

It was almost a foregone conclusion that this year's annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire would prove a grand success. For many years past—indeed during pretty nearly the whole of the period Bro. Lord EGERTON OF TATTON has been in charge of its administration, the Province has exhibited a marvellous degree of activity. There was a time when it was content with giving a very moderate support to the Institutions of which English Masons are so justly proud. It did not entirely overlook their claims. Every now and then it figured in the yearly Festival Returns for a good round sum. But its principal efforts were directed—and not unnaturally directed—to the support of the children of its own members and their advancement in life. Its Educational Association, which was founded in the early sixties, when the late Bro. Lord COMBERMERE was Provincial Grand Master, very quickly developed into a well-conducted Charity, and became the means of dispensing among the children of reduced or deceased brethren many and substantial benefits, which have proved of incalculable value to its youthful *protégés*. To Lord EGERTON OF TATTON belongs undoubtedly the credit of having infused into the life of Cheshire Freemasonry a more vigorous degree of activity in its relations to the great Central Charities of our Order. And thus it came about that in 1888 it took a somewhat more prominent part than usual in the proceedings of the Girls' School Centenary. Then in 1891, when a determined effort was made by the Craft generally, under the auspices of the Earl of LATHOM, to restore the shaken fortunes of the Boys' School, it put itself generously forward and raised £1050 as its contribution towards that most desirable object. The year following it went still further and raised some £1990 for the Jubilee of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, the interests of its Educational Institute being in the meantime most religiously cared for, and, if possible, more generously promoted than in previous years. After this its interest in the Central Charities appeared to cease for a time, or rather should we say, was restricted to more modest subscriptions. But this was done only that the Province might be the better enabled to concentrate its efforts upon a benevolent scheme of its own on which it had set its heart, to wit—the foundation of a Provincial Benevolent Institution. Accordingly the lodges in the Province were thoroughly well canvassed by the promoters of the plan, with the result that a sum of close upon £3000 was raised and invested for the purpose of providing worthy old Cheshire Masons, who had fallen upon evil days, and their widows, with annuities on a small scale. Having fulfilled their object, they have since renewed their interest in the general Charities, and their Provincial Grand Master having kindly undertaken to preside at the Boys' School Festival for the current year, the Province was determined on showing its loyalty to its chief and forthwith raised the sum of £2000 in support of his chairmanship. Then both as regards the number of subscribing members on its lodge rolls and the funds of its provincial and private lodges, the reports have shown regularly for some years past that Cheshire is in a sound and healthy condition. It numbers close on 2250 lodge members, while the balances in favour of its Provincial and Benevolent Funds are by no means inconsiderable. It is not, therefore, surprising, after what it did in July for the Boys' School and with the full knowledge that its affairs were in a prosperous state, only rather more so than in preceding years, that when Lord EGERTON presided at the

recent annual meeting, and the Present and Past Officers of his Provincial Grand Lodge, and the representatives of the lodges under his lordship's charge, met together, as they did at Northwich on the 21st ult., the congratulations which passed between him and them should have been of the heartiest character imaginable, and that the prospects which await them both should have appeared to be more encouraging than they have ever been before during the term of his lordship's Prov. Grand Mastership. In short, Cheshire has acquitted itself splendidly during the past 12 months, and in congratulating the province, Lord EGERTON, and the brethren generally, we express the hope that the future may have in store for them a greater degree of success than even the present circumstances of the Province justify us in anticipating.

A "GUIDE, PHILOSOPHER, AND FRIEND."

We have read carefully and with a considerable amount of pleasure, the oration delivered by Bro. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Past G. Master, at the 75th annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Maine. Ordinarily, there is a strong family likeness about addresses of this kind. They are characterised as a rule by a marvellous display of glorification and congratulation. The modest Past is spoken slightly of, as having had little or no influence in developing the Present; the Present is extolled, at the very lowest, to the seventh heaven, while the Future, if all goes well, will undoubtedly prove worthy of being extolled to the seventy and seventh. But Bro. DRUMMOND has adopted quite a different course. In his address, which he devoted to a consideration of "Masonry, Past and Present," he has spoken with a judicial fairness which it is impossible too highly to commend. With him the Past is not, to use a familiar American expression, all "small potatoes," the Present is not all splendacious, and the Future is not necessarily going to be something superlatively magnificent. According to his idea, the Present is what it is because of the Past, and in many respects would have been far worthier of praise had it adhered more strictly to the principles laid down at the origin and during the early development of the latter, while the Future will become enlightened and all-prosperous according as the Present follows more closely than it has hitherto on the lines laid down by the early fathers of Masonry in this and other jurisdictions. It is evident that Bro. DRUMMOND has the courage of his opinions.

After a brief exordium, Bro. DRUMMOND went into an examination of the principles on which the Craft was founded, his remarks in this and the other sections of his address having reference to Masonry not merely in the jurisdiction of Maine but generally. It is, of course, unnecessary we should follow him closely in his declaration of these principles. What does concern us, however, is his statement that there have been departures from those principles and the moral he draws from them. As regards the case of "the powerful body," which, "for very many years recognised as Masonic, actually substituted the 'creative principle' for 'God,' thus blotting out the idea of the brotherhood of man as well as that of the fatherhood of God"—our readers know well the body he was referring to and the course adopted towards it by the Grand Lodges of the world. But they may not be as familiar with the fact that "some eminent Masons" have denied that "the Bible upon the Masonic altar is to be regarded as 'the revealed word of the everlasting God'" or "that a Grand Lodge has held that a Mason who had pub-

licly denounced the Bible (which was upon the altar when he was made) was guilty of no Masonic offence." The moral he deduces is that "a man who does not put his trust in God, or who does not recognise the Book of the Law, is not only not fit to be made a Mason, but if made, would be an element among us of the most dangerous character." It is, therefore, "the practical duty of all members, and especially of officers and Committees of lodges, to make strict inquiry into the character of candidates in this respect, and to accept no doubtful assurance, but to have satisfactory evidence that they are *really* 'duly and truly prepared' to be made Masons."

So far, there is nothing of an exceptionally novel or distinctive character about Bro. DRUMMOND'S remarks. As we proceed, however, we find him launching out into the severest condemnation of the many novelties which have forced their way into the Masonic creed of the present day in the jurisdiction of many Grand Lodges. Thus, in treating of "Masonic Relief," he, first of all, reminded those he was addressing that "Every Mason is bound to relieve the wants of a distressed worthy brother according to his ability." But both private and Grand Lodges have established Charity Funds, and though he is far from denying that "this is in accordance with Masonic principles, and is wise," yet he considers one evil has resulted—"the sense of individual obligation to relieve distress has been weakened." Again, he argues that the creation of these funds and the influence of other Societies which have been established on what he calls "the benefits and dues" system, by weakening our sense of individual responsibility have brought Freemasonry perilously near to these other Societies, it being "already the law of several Grand Lodges," that "only the Mason *who pays dues* is entitled to relief from lodge funds or from individual Masons," while "a few Grand Lodges have gone to the astonishing extent of prohibiting lodges and their members from contributing to the relief of Masons who do not themselves pay dues." The effects of these and other measures he describes are, in his opinion, "highly injurious to Masonry," and for these reasons:—"They not only tend to destroy the sense of obligation of the individual Mason to relieve distress and prevent the exercise of Charity by him," but they also "prevent the strengthening of the bonds of fraternity which the exercise of Masonic Charity always brings. Love for the Brotherhood grows by its exercise; the performance of the duties of Masonry increases our inclination to perform them; on the other hand, everything which tends to prevent the discharge of such duties weakens the Institution itself."

The tendency among Masons to permit and even encourage the introduction of innovations has, of course, its due share of attention, and Bro. DRUMMOND is undoubtedly right in his statement that it is more strongly exhibited by the youngest members of the Craft. "As Masonry," he says, "is better known, it is better appreciated. The greater one's experience, the less his inclination to make changes, and the more he feels that it is not safe to undertake to be wiser than the founders of an institution that has maintained its existence for so many years, in the storms of adversity as well as in the sunshine of prosperity, and that it is best to continue to build upon the foundations so wisely and enduringly laid."

In his remarks on the Ritual we need not follow him particularly; but there is one practice which he strongly and, in our opinion, most justly condemns—"that of conferring our Degrees upon 'classes of candidates.'" Says he: "The old usage and, as I believe, the evident meaning of the ritual require that every candidate shall go himself, *and alone*, through every part of our ceremonies."

Of the other matters which are considered there is only one to which we think it needful to refer, and that is "Fraternity." Here, again, Bro. DRUMMOND speaks very emphatically, and proposes one remedy which, we doubt not, will command the assent of most of our readers. He states it as a matter of fact—not, be it observed, a mere matter of opinion—that "the bonds of Fraternity among the Craft are not so strong as they once were, or as they were in the early days of this Grand Lodge," and he is convinced "that one cause of our loss in this direction proceeds from the failure of our members to cultivate intimacy with each other. The ritual and old usage contemplate

that the objects of lodge meetings are something more than to transact business and to do work." He considers that the revival of the old custom of having refreshments at lodge meetings would benefit Masonry. He is also under an apprehension that many lodges are too large. "It is," he says, "within our observation that the spirit of brotherhood exists more fully in our smaller lodges. It cannot be otherwise. In many lodges there are very few members who personally know all the other members—even those who reside in the immediate vicinity of the lodge. Candidates are admitted who become personally known to very many members when they meet each other for the first time in the lodge. It is utterly impossible that there can be any stronger bond of brotherhood in such cases than grows out of Masonic sentiment, unsustained by personal intercourse, and Masons should be such men as personal intercourse attaches more strongly to each other."

We regret we are unable to publish the whole oration; but what we have quoted and our remarks will show that Bro. DRUMMOND is a counsellor whom our Masonic brethren may be proud to follow.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England was held on Wednesday at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. There was a very good attendance of the brethren, notwithstanding the holiday season of the year. Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. G.M. of Hants and Isle of Wight, occupied the chair, having Bro. Lord Addington, the new Prov. G.M. of Buckinghamshire, as Deputy Grand Master. Bro. the Rev. R. J. Simpson, P.G.C., acted as Senior Grand Warden; and Bro. the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, P.G.C., as Junior Grand Warden. Among other brethren present were—

Bros. W. M. Stiles, G. Treas.; Alderman Dimsdale, P.G. Treas.; Dr. Balfour Cockburn, Prov. G.M. of Guernsey; Edwd. Letchworth, G. Sec.; R. Loveland Loveland, President of the Board of General Purposes; S. Cochrane, Past G. Treas.; Sir Albert W. Woods (Garter), &c., G.D.C.; C. E. Keyser, P.G.D.; Henry Smith, D.P.G.M. West Yorks, P.G.D.; W. F. Smithson, P.G.D.; R. Clay Sudlow, P.G.D.; E. M. Lott, P.G. Org.; J. E. Le Feuvre, P.G.D.; W. Lake, Asst. G. Sec.; J. S. Cumberland, G. Std. Br.; Henry Maudslay, P.G.D.; George Lambert, P.G.S.B.; George Read, P.G. Std. Br.; F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., G. Reg.; Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G.C.; Rev. H. R. Cooper Smith, D.D., P.G.C.; C. E. Keyser, P.G.D.; and R. Clowes.

Grand Lodge having been opened in form the GRAND SECRETARY read the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of June 5th, 1895.

On Bro. BEACH putting the motion—"The question is that the minutes of the last Quarterly Communication be confirmed,"

Bro. W. F. LAMONBY, P.M. 656, rose and said: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair,—I rise to move "That the minutes so far as regards the election of the Colonial Board be not confirmed."

Bro. BEACH, who remained standing after putting the motion addressing Bro. Lamonby, said: Will you take your seat, please? (Bro. Lamonby resumed his seat.) I understand the question to be raised is that the minutes are not to be confirmed because one brother who claims to have been elected should not be so because he is a member of a Colonial lodge. Now the Book of Constitutions lays down that it is desirable that one of the members should be so elected, but it does not render it compulsory. When the brethren of Grand Lodge voted on this question they had this matter considered, and if they had thought fit to elect a brother they might have done so; but such was not the case; the ballot did not go in favour of him.

Bro. W. F. LAMONBY: At the bottom of the poll.

Bro. BEACH: He was at the bottom of the poll. That being the case, I think it would not be advisable for Grand Lodge to revise its own decision on a former occasion, and therefore I cannot allow this question to be put, and I must rule it out of order.

Bro. W. F. LAMONBY: May I be permitted to ask you, Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, the meaning of those words that were not explained at the last Grand Lodge. It was intimated at the lodge that they could not be explained till after the election.

Bro. BEACH: What words?

Bro. W. F. LAMONBY: "When practicable." What does it mean?

[The words referred to occur in Art. 283, Book of Constitutions: "When practicable, three members of the Board shall be Past Masters of Colonial Lodges."]

Bro. BEACH: It means that if Grand Lodge thinks it fitting that certain brethren should be elected who are Past Masters of Colonial lodges it might be advisable to do so; but if Grand Lodge thinks it right to exercise its option the other way, two members instead of three, they have it in their own hand, they exercise their own judgment. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. S. R. BASKETT, P.M. 1367: Most Worshipful Grand Master, do I understand that the word "shall"—(Cries of "Order, order.")

Bro. BEACH: You are quite in order to put the question.

Bro. SAMUEL R. BASKETT: Do I understand that the word "shall" is not compulsory—"when practicable shall?"

Bro. BEACH: It does not lay it obligatory on Grand Lodge to do so if they do not so think fit. The question, "That the minutes of last Quarterly Communication be confirmed." On the contrary, if any.

The minutes were confirmed.

Bro. W. F. LAMONBY: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, I wish to intimate that I shall appeal against your decision. (Laughter.)

Bro. BEACH: The next business is the Report of the Board of Benevolence.

The Report of the Board of Benevolence having been read by the GRAND SECRETARY,

Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, P.G.D. (Bro. Robert Grey having left Grand Lodge) moved, and Bro. C. A. COTTEBRUNE, P.G.P., Junior Vice President of the Board of Benevolence, seconded, the confirmation of the following recommended grants:

A brother of the Waveney Lodge, No. 929, Bungay ...	£50	0	0
The widow of a brother of the Crichton Lodge, No. 1641, London ...	50	0	0
A brother of the Honor Oak Lodge, No. 1986, Upper Norwood ...	50	0	0
The widow of a brother of the Mersey Lodge, No. 477, Birkenhead ...	50	0	0
The widow of a brother of the Lodge of Unity, No. 183, London ...	100	0	0
A brother of the Lodge Albert Edward, No. 1429, Newport, Mon. ...	100	0	0

The recommendations were confirmed.

On the motion of Bro. LOVELAND LOVELAND, President, seconded by Bro. W. A. SCURRAH, in the absence of Bro. Dr. Ernest Pocock, Vice-President, the report of the Board of General Purposes was adopted as appeared in our last issue.

On the motion of Bro. Sir GEORGE DAVID HARRIS, President, and seconded by Bro. W. A. SCURRAH, the report of the Colonial Board was taken as read, and ordered to be received and entered on the minutes.

On the motion of Bro. J. H. MATTHEWS, P.D.G.D.C., seconded by Bro. SCURRAH, the Bulwer Lodge, No. 891, Constantinople, was ordered to be erased.

Bro. WILLIAM WOODWARD, P.M. 1920, then moved—

"That a Circular be issued from Grand Lodge setting forth the scheme suggested by him, under which the Freemasons of England would contribute to the Decoration Fund of St. Paul's Cathedral a sum sufficient for the completion of the Cupola and Transepts, that the opinion of the Craft be ascertained through such Circular, and that such steps be taken thereafter to secure the end in view as may commend themselves to Grand Lodge."

Bro. WOODWARD said: Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Officers, and Brethren,—I must apologise, Sir, for my absence on the occasion of the last meeting of Grand Lodge, but I assure Grand Lodge that my absence was due to an entire misunderstanding and that there was not the slightest—I am sure you will feel with me, Most Worshipful Grand Master and brethren—not the slightest disrespect intended to Grand Lodge by my absence. It was due entirely to a misapprehension on my part, that I was not in my place to support the motion on the agenda. Most Worshipful Grand Master and brethren, this subject which is to ask the support of Freemasons for the completion of the decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral, is to my mind a subject well worthy of the consideration and the sympathies of every Freemason in England. I am quite aware, Most Worshipful Grand Master, that differences of opinion exist as to whether that distinguished architect, Sir Christopher Wren, was ever a Grand Master, or whether or not he founded the Lodge of Antiquity; but I apprehend, sir, that this evening we are not concerned particularly as to whether Sir Christopher Wren was or was not the founder of that magnificent lodge. We are here to assent to the proposition that Sir Christopher Wren was the greatest architect that England has produced, and that he has, in erecting the structure of St. Paul's Cathedral—the most magnificent cathedral that exists in London or in any other city in the world, not only a magnificent one as an example of classic architecture, but the brethren who have with me visited Rome and examined the Cathedral of St. Peter's can come to only one conclusion as regards the exterior of that Cathedral of St. Peter's, St. Paul's Cathedral in London stands pre-eminently the most magnificent, as I say, the most magnificent Protestant cathedral in the world. We know this, that for over 200 years the interior of St. Paul's Cathedral has remained in its primitive state of bare stone form. We know that other citizens have decorated and furnished those magnificent edifices, but the Cathedral of St. Paul's,

situated in the most opulent and most distinguished city in the world, remains partly undecorated, and its bare surface of wall decoration as it was left by its architect, Sir Christopher Wren. Well, sir, the proposition that I have the honour to make to Grand Lodge is this—that I understand the sum required for the completion of the decoration of St. Paul's under the distinguished artistic capabilities of Mr. Penrose will amount to the sum of £110,000. ("Oh, oh," and hear, hear.) We know that the chancel has already been decorated at the suggestion and expense of those benevolent individuals who support the magnificent Cathedral. The estimate I have formed of the sum required to defray the expenses of the cupola and transepts which I propose that Freemasons should subscribe is a sum of about £30,000. My suggestion, sir, is this—that without infringing in the slightest degree upon the Charities which we all desire to support in Freemasonry—I apprehend, sir, that they are the Charities we should one and all support in the first instance—yet I believe, sir, from what I have gathered from Freemasons in general, that there will not be the slightest diminution of the contributions to the Charities if we support this magnificent project, which, I believe, will enhance Freemasonry in the eyes of the world.

Bro. Sir ALBERT W. WOODS, G.D.C.: Will you address the Grand Master?

Bro. WOODWARD: I do not propose to expend money on general decorations, but to concentrate our efforts on the transepts and cupola, and no one—

Bro. Sir ALBERT WOOD: You must address the Grand Master in the chair.

Bro. WOODWARD: What I suggest is this, that we should send out a circular inviting the opinion of Freemasons in general as to the advisability of the identification of Freemasonry with this grand project. I believe, Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, that if we send out some circular, the more I learn the more I gather the appreciation of Freemasons. I believe it will receive the assent and the strong support of Freemasons in general. Whether that be so or no, I do sincerely hope Grand Lodge will support me in this preliminary attempt—that I think Freemasons will aid the decoration of that edifice which is a national edifice; it is distinguished from all other edifices by being a national edifice. I do, Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, move—you will excuse me for having in making my observations omitted that reference to your Worshipful self which in the course of my observations I momentarily forgot—(hear, hear)—Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, I would ask Grand Lodge to agree to a circular being sent to every lodge in England asking the support of Freemasons in general to this decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral, which is a national work, and which I am sure, Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, will redound to the honour of Freemasonry in general and of Grand Lodge of England in particular.

Bro. HERBERT T. STEWARD, G. Supt. of Works: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair,—I rise to second the proposition which I think cannot fail to receive from lodges in all parts of the United Kingdom a definite opinion on the points which have been placed before Grand Lodge to-night by Bro. Woodward. I believe that the advantages of the proposition are so great that if it is supported by the lodges generally in England, it will undoubtedly encourage Freemasonry and for ever redound to the credit of our Craft.

Bro. BEACH: Brethren, it has been proposed and seconded that circulars be sent to lodges with a view to invite them to contribute to the decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Bro. the Rev. R. J. SIMPSON: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair,—I should wish, by the permission of this Grand Lodge, to propose an amendment to Bro. Woodward's proposition, and perhaps I had better at once read that amendment, because it will curtail the very few remarks I have to make—"That, whilst sympathising with the beautiful work of decoration which is being carried on in St. Paul's Cathedral, this Grand Lodge does not feel it expedient to vote a sum from its funds for such a purpose, however excellent in itself, and thinks that it should be taken up by Masons in their individual capacity as more appropriate."

Bro. PHILBRICK, G. Reg.: Most Worshipful Grand Master,—I think our distinguished brother can hardly have read or appreciated the motion. It is not directed to the funds of Grand Lodge, but to individual subscriptions from brother Masons privately. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. the Rev. R. J. SIMPSON: I daresay it will be in your recollection, sir, and in the recollection of several of our brother Masons here, that several years ago, on the return of the Prince of Wales, our Grand Master, from India, a sum of money was voted to do something as a memorial of that occasion, and a similar proposition to that now made by Bro. Woodward was made by an illustrious Freemason, who, perhaps, had the ear of

Grand Lodge more than any other Mason at that time—I mean the late Bro. John Havers. It was proposed on that occasion to carry out a scheme like that of Bro. Woodward's, but it was rejected by Grand Lodge by a majority of something like 10 to one. I do not mean to say that Grand Lodge to-day ought to be bound by the precedent, but I venture to think, for many reasons that will occur to brethren here present, it is a most questionable thing to make a grant of funds which are raised for Charitable purposes—

A BROTHER at the lower end of the hall: Most Worshipful Grand Master, I rise to order. Is this an amendment to be put to Grand Lodge first, or is it ruled out of order?

Bro. BEACH: I think it would be more convenient if the Acting Senior Grand Warden directed his observations to negating the motion made rather than moving the resolution he has done. It does not appear to me to be distinctly an amendment to the resolution proposed.

Bro. the Rev. R. J. SIMPSON: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair,—The amendment I venture to propose merely contains the gist of what I think should be done by Grand Lodge. I do not think I have for some years taken up the time of Grand Lodge even for five minutes, and therefore, I think on this occasion I might, in the interest of Freemasonry, move the amendment I have done. I know the work done at St. Paul's is a great work, and I appeal to Grand Lodge to pass this amendment. I will ask some brother to second it. There is, I would point out, very little difference between Bro. Woodward's motion and a motion asking for Grand Lodge funds. Bro. Woodward's motion does not ask Grand Lodge to grant a sum of money: but to send out a circular from Grand Lodge is after all extraordinary, and is next door to voting a sum itself.

Bro. F. A. PHILBRICK, Q.C., G. Reg.: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, my good friend, the acting Grand Warden, will permit me, I am sure, to say that I agree with him that if we send out a circular from Grand Lodge soliciting contributions we give the *imprimatur* of Grand Lodge to the motion, and, therefore, the honour of Grand Lodge is committed. Now, we have listened, I am sure, with delight to the very able speech of our Bro. Woodward. St. Paul's Cathedral dominates this great Metropolis, and without entering into comparisons which somebody has said "are odious," it is a monument of which this country may justly be proud. At the same time, sympathising most heartily with much that has been said, let us remember that Masonry is universal. (Hear, hear.) We have no right to lend the weight of this great assembly to anything that may be tortured or misconstrued into a departure from that great principle. (Hear, hear.) And while I, for one, am not afraid of my convictions, I yet feel that Grand Lodge might be involved in a position it could not in all cases justify if it lent itself to the restoration or the adornment of a building of a distinctly Protestant character. (Hear, hear.) I would rather that we maintain the catholicism—and I am not using the word "catholicism" in the sense of Protestant and Roman Catholicism—but I would rather that we maintain the catholicism in the sense of the universality of the Craft by saying that though we might sympathise greatly with any movement to extend the usefulness or increase the beauty of a national monument, yet when it is distinctly ear-marked with the religion of the State, as Masons we do not feel that we can entirely associate ourselves with it. I know the view is not popular; it does not express my own internal sentiments—I mean as an individual; but I am bound to be honest as your adviser, and to express what I feel as a Mason; and therefore I would suggest that if Masons like—and there are many reasons why they should, admirably set forth by our Bro. Woodward—why they should promote the ornamentation of a great national monument—the temple which distinguishes us as a Protestant nation, yet still as a Craft, the proudest boast of which is that we banish all those questions of politics and religion which divide people outside—(hear, hear)—but who unite on the broader basis on which we can shake hands and meet with a brother—grip the Jew, the Catholic, the Protestant, ignoring all minor divisions, rising superior to all those which separate the so-called Christian bodies, and resting on the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, I think this Grand Lodge will do well to abstain from supporting this movement. (Applause.)

Bro. the Rev. C. J. MARTYN, P.G.C., &c.: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair,—I have been a brother for five and thirty years, and I have had the honour of being a member of Grand Lodge, and for six and twenty of those I have sat on this dais as a Grand Officer, and I am sure you who know me will endorse with regard to me what Bro. Simpson said just now with respect to himself that my voice is not heard in Grand Lodge very often, and therefore I may be allowed to detain you for a few minutes while, on a question of this great importance, I uplift my voice in saying two or three words. I do think

with regard to this question, much as I bow to the decision of my dear old friend, Bro. Philbrick—because I know he is versed in every tradition of Masonic law—I think there is something to be said on the other side. The reason I brought it forward is this: I think St. Paul's Cathedral is a national thing, and I am perfectly sure that if a circular like that proposed was sent out it would be responded to; there would be no compulsion put on a single brother. I am convinced that numbers of our brethren—members of the Craft, not members of the State Church—would take part in assisting the decoration of such a magnificent cathedral as St. Paul's; they would not want a vote of Grand Lodge. What harm can be done in asking them first of all for their opinion? Then when their opinion is obtained it could be laid before Grand Lodge another time, and the Craft could be told this is the opinion of the Craft, and it could be acted upon. I was only the day before yesterday in the grand cathedral of Gloucester and I took some friends. I said, "Look at the magnificent reredos; that is the gift of Freemasons." Go to Tewkesbury, Peterborough, St. Alban's and see the gifts of the Freemasons there; and surely when those great works can be done I do not think it is too much to ask the Grand Lodge of England to assent to some further attempts being made to raise funds for such work. I would not wish it to be done by a snap vote; but I would say send out a circular. If they found the consensus of opinion is against the proposition it could be dropped, but I think it is a subject worthy of Grand Lodge and worthy of every single Freemason. (Cheers.)

Bro. RICHARD EVE, P.G. Treas.: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair,—I quite agree with our Brother Grand Chaplain in the feeling that he has with reference to the memorials of the Freemasons of England, and also with reference to St. Paul's Cathedral. I have no doubt that many would feel that it would be a very nice thing to say that the Masons of England have contributed a sum of £30,000 for the purpose of decorating St. Paul's Cathedral by the completion of the cupola and transepts of St. Paul's Cathedral. But, however much I sympathise with what he has said, I sympathise still more with what has been said by the Grand Registrar—that we are a body which recognises all creeds and all colours, and if Masonry is universal as we pretend—and we are universal—we take upon ourselves the privilege to bring within our flag of Freemasonry all colours and creeds, whether they be Parsees or Roman Catholics, or Church of England Protestant or Dissenter from the Church of England—we are all one when we come within that grand flag of universality; we are all in sympathy, recognising the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God—and we should be wrong, I think—and here also I agree—and it is not always I thoroughly agree with the Grand Registrar of England—(Laughter)—I thoroughly agree with his statements that we should be diverging from our principles if we should assent to the course suggested this evening, that we should put under the *imprimatur* of Grand Lodge a collection for the purpose of decorating any special building in England, however important it may be, and however much we may feel in its favour. I think it would be wrong on the part of Grand Lodge to do it. I feel that St. Paul's is a splendid monument of architecture, and it is a splendid monument, too, of Church of England worship. It is also a monument of Catholic worship in times past (Cries of "No, never.") The site is not only a splendid monument to the Catholic worship of England, but it is a monument also to Druidical worship, for there was a Druid Temple there. We have nothing to do with that: our system is cosmopolitan: we take in all creeds and all colours; and if we send out a circular from Grand Lodge for the purpose of getting £30,000 or any other sum of money to decorate St. Paul's, you may be asked to send out a circular for collecting money to decorate some mosques in other places for worshippers there who are members of our Craft. We are bound to consider the widest and broadest of the bases on which our foundation is placed. We acknowledge all creeds; we reject none; we embrace all those who believe in the Great Architect of the Universe; and either to encourage the one or the other, or go against one or the other would be to my mind not in pursuance of the feelings of Grand Lodge. (Hear, hear.) I cannot improve on the beauty of the expressions of our Grand Registrar; he has put the thing exceedingly well, and I am glad to agree with him. (Laughter.) However much we may thank Bro. Woodward for bringing the subject forward, we feel we cannot enter upon it now. There are splendid monuments of architecture on which the Masons of England have been engaged, where Masons of years ago have been useful in their time and day and generation; but I say it would be a mistake on our part if we did what Bro. Woodward proposes. I have heard Bro. Woodward most sympathetically; but at the same time I suggest that we do not entertain the scheme. We simply leave it for any brother to do as he likes, we let them do it individually,

but we take no part in it as a Grand Lodge where we recognise the white man, the black man, the red man, and the yellow man. (Cries of "Vote, vote.")

Bro. C. E. KEYSER, P.G.D.: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair and Brethren,—I do not intend to detain you for more than a minute, but as I was formerly Secretary to a movement similar to this some 20 years ago I think I may say a word. I think most of us have come to the decision that no initiative should be taken by Grand Lodge in a matter of this kind, because suppose our Bro. Woodward were to get together a number of the influential friends on a Committee and apply as we did in the case of St. Albans—say get the Grand Master and other influential Masons to support the movement, and also get individual brethren to come forward and help, of course the Masons of England should, without the assistance of Grand Lodge, carry out a part of the scheme which Bro. Woodward has so well put before us. It is a thing which would do us as Masons a deal of good if it was seen we took an interest in the work of decorating one of the cathedrals in London. I shall be pleased to give Bro. Woodward any information as to the working of the St. Alban's Committee which was not so productive of results as we hoped, but we gave a beautiful pulpit, which has a label on it—"Given by the Freemasons of England." He might take one transept or one bay and a transept: it will be a work which will redound to the honour of the metropolis in general, and our Craft in particular. If we agreed that Grand Lodge shall not take the initiative—and I fancy Grand Secretary and his officers have got quite enough to do without sending out circulars of this kind—I think if properly conducted, Bro. Woodward would get enough support in the Craft in their individual capacity to carry out part of the scheme of decoration that is now going on. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Alderman DIMSDALE, P.G. Treas.: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair,—No one feels more deeply and more sympathetically in this matter than myself, and yet I am unable to support this resolution in the terms in which it comes before Grand Lodge. We are asked to issue a circular and under the auspices of Grand Lodge to enlist the sympathy of the Freemasons generally for the decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral. Now, Most Worshipful Grand Master, I cannot support the resolution in those terms; but I should hope and trust that the moral weight of Freemasonry will be given to this great national undertaking; and feeling strongly upon this point, I trust that Grand Lodge will permit this matter to be deferred with the hope that our brother will re-adjust his resolution, and bring it before Grand Lodge in a manner in which we could receive it. I should deprecate as much as any brother in this Grand Lodge the hypothecating funds which should go legitimately to our Masonic Charities; but I fail to see why the great moral strength of Freemasonry should not be utilised, and legitimately utilised, to furthering this great national undertaking. It does not, I think, speak much for the great merchant princes and bankers of the City of London for two centuries that the metropolitan cathedral should remain in the scandalous position it is in at the present day; but we have to deal with facts as we find them. It is certainly true that we are non-denominational in our religion, and glory in it, and I hope we shall long be so; but we cannot ignore this fact—although our Grand Registrar may not have said so—we are established upon religion, and the continuance and continuity of Freemasonry depend entirely upon it—that is, a belief in the Great Architect of the Universe, and I hope that no notion will ever suggest itself to any Mason, whether it is St. Paul's or whether it is any other great national religious undertaking, that we should withhold ourselves with pleasure and with honour from supporting any religious undertaking in our midst. Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair,—I trust that our brother who brought forward this resolution will see that although I cannot—and I believe the great bulk of the brethren present cannot—support this resolution in the terms in which it is brought before us, our sympathy is with him, and that the best course I would with all humility suggest to him is that we defer this question for further consideration and leave the broad resolution. I think consequently he will have that support in Grand Lodge, and also by the Fraternity in general in his proposal. As I began, so I end. I cannot support this resolution in the terms in which it is put before us. I cannot suggest that we should coerce the Fraternity, but our moral support and our moral strength which may be given to advancing the great Masonic objects may draw the British public, and when Masons take up matters they will be a success and redound to the honour of the Fraternity.

Bro. the Rev. R. J. SIMPSON, P.G.C.: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, I ask leave to amend my motion. (Cries of "No, no," and "Vote, vote.")

Bro. BEACH: I think it would be much more convenient if no amendment is moved but that a decision be taken one way

or the other. I was about to endorse the views which have been put forward so well by Bro. Dimsdale, and suggest to Bro. Woodward that after he has put his views so admirably forward and the question having been debated so very excellently both one way and the other, whether he will not rest satisfied with the discussion that has ensued and consent to withdraw his amendment with a view to seeing whether any steps can be taken with the object of eliciting the support of the Craft without having an authoritative decision on the part of Grand Lodge at its meeting.

Bro. WOODWARD: Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair,—I have listened most attentively to the sympathetic speeches that have been made with reference to this motion, and I bow, sir, at once to your suggestion. After listening to the excellent speech of Bro. Dimsdale, I bow most respectfully, Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, to your suggestion that I withdraw the motion of which I have given notice. (Hear, hear.) I ask Grand Lodge, Most Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, to do all it can for the furtherance of this magnificent object. (Applause.)

Bro. BEACH: The question is that leave be given to withdraw the motion.

The motion was by leave withdrawn, and Grand Lodge was closed in form.

UNIFORMITY OF WORKING.

The following is the letter to which we referred in our "Notes" of the 24th ultimo:—

To the Editor of "The Australasian Keystone."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Referring to an article on the above subject in the *Keystone* of April last, I note your remark towards the close, as follows: "A similar attempt to 'improve' on our working was made some years ago, under the English Constitution, and the matter was referred to the then Grand Secretary of England, Col. Shadwell Clerke, who replied that the practices referred to were not used in well-worked lodges in England. This view was notified by the late Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, and the practice discontinued, so Installing Masters cannot claim ignorance as an excuse for ignoring the ways and customs of the Order."

Now, as the individual—I was then retiring from the chair of the Combermere Lodge, No. 752 (E.C.)—who introduced the so-called innovation into an installation ceremony, which I have never been ashamed of, as it has been practised without official interference for very many years in "well-worked lodges" in the North of England, I could have wished that you had directly mentioned my name in its connection. The fault at the time appeared to be based on the well-worn assumption that because certain brethren had never before seen or heard of a certain ceremony, perforce it could not possibly be correct.

I may here, however, beg leave to put forward the exact contention of the late Col. Shadwell Clerke, in reply to the then District Grand Secretary of Victoria (E.C.). In effect he said he was aware that such a ceremony was worked in some country lodges, but it was not the custom in the London lodges. Not a word of condemnation or charge of unconstitutional working was mentioned. The late Grand Secretary was too much of a diplomatist to commit himself in that direction, for the good and sufficient reason that the ceremony in question had never been officially interfered with.

As to the general subject of uniformity of working, it may interest yourself and the readers of the *Keystone* to know that the Grand Lodge of England has more than once deliberated thereon. This is the situation—in the country lodges the ritual is much diversified, the working of the last century being in many instances adhered to in its entirety; but in London, the two standards, known as the Emulation and "Stability" workings, are the rite. In all cases, however, the "essentials" are identical. The advocates of uniform working have now and again tabled motions in Grand Lodge, and on one occasion they carried their point, but the triumph was only temporary and came to nothing, inasmuch as the country lodges mustered their forces, when three months later the minutes came up for confirmation, and rescinded the uniformity resolution. Thus the vexed question has been at a standstill ever since, and will remain so. As a matter of fact, uniformity of working would be looked upon in England, from one point of view, as an attempt to interfere with time-honoured rights and usages, and so I apprehend it is considered in the older lodges of Victoria, but generally it would be considered as Utopian unless the hitherto unheard of resource of the ritual was resorted to.

But really the latter alternative, pernicious though it sounds, would be quite on a par with Victorian and New South Wales Masonry alike, seeing that both bodies have deemed it fitting to authorise the printing, publishing, and even advertising of rituals, a course of action which it may unhesitatingly be affirmed has never been promulgated in any other country of importance where English-speaking Masonry exists. I have not a copy of the New South Wales Constitutions at hand, but the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, beyond a shadow of a doubt, infringed an Article of its Constitutions when it presumed to scatter broadcast that which, by the laws and regulations of Masonry, is improper to be published. And that by so doing a bad example was set the young Masons of Victoria, goes without saying.—Yours fraternally,

W. F. LAMONBY, P.M. 99,
Past Senior Grand Warden (V.C.).

London, May 8th, 1895.

IN THE PRIVATE CHAPEL at Douglas Castle, Lanarkshire, on Thursday, the marriage took place of Lord Gillford, Lieutenant Royal Navy, eldest son of Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of Clanwilliam, K.C.B., and Lady Mary Elizabeth Margaret Douglas-Home, eldest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Home. The ceremony was conducted by the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, assisted by the Hon. the Rev. Canon Meade and the Rev. J. Maconochie, private chaplain to the Earl of Home.

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London, September, 1895.

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Union Lodge, No. 444, Starcross, Exeter	0	10	0
Col. R. B. Croft, J.P. (A)	2	0	0
Robert Grey, P.G.D. (A)	1	1	0
Aldrmn. Sir R. Hanson, Bart., M.P., P.G.W. (A)	1	1	0
E. Letchworth, Grand Secretary (A)	1	1	0
Col. H. Platt, J.P., P.G.D. (A)	1	1	0
W. R. Gamul Farmer, J.P., P.M. 1383 (A)	1	1	0
Anonymous	0	10	0
T. A. Argles, J.P. (A)	3	10	0
R. G. Glover, F.S.A. (A)	0	10	0
G. Goldney-Cary	0	10	0
Horatio Ward (A)	0	10	0
Col. G. E. E. Blunt, 1615 (A)	0	5	0
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Fire Premiums	£701,000
Life Premiums	232,000
Interest	171,000
Accumulated Funds	£4,44,000



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1895.
Masonic Notes.

There was a larger attendance than is usual at this time of year at the Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge on Wednesday, and the latter part of the proceedings was more interesting than had been expected. The Reports of the various Boards were passed almost without comment, but Bro. Woodward's motion calling upon Grand Lodge to issue a circular to its lodges on the subject of contributing to the Decoration Fund of St. Paul's Cathedral led to a long and animated discussion. The motion was ultimately withdrawn in response to an appeal from the M.W. Grand Master in the chair.

Bro. the Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro Grand Master, occupied the chair at the Quarterly Meeting of Mark Grand Lodge on Tuesday. There was a limited attendance, and the business, which was essentially of a routine character, was quickly disposed of, the Pro G. Master, before closing, expressing his thanks to the brethren who had attended, and congratulating them on the interest they took in the Degree, of which their presence in Grand Lodge was the outward and visible sign.

We heartily congratulate the authorities of the Girls' School and the many friends and supporters of that popular Institution on the announcement we are in a position to make—that Bro. the Earl of Yarborough, Provincial Grand Master of Lincolnshire, has undertaken to preside at the Festival which will be held in behalf of the School in May, 1896.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall will be held at the Star Hall, Saltash, on Monday, the 16th inst. The programme of business to be transacted is a tolerably full one, but there does not appear to be anything of a special character to be brought under the notice of the brethren.

We have been requested by the Proprietor of this journal to acknowledge, on his behalf, the very many letters of kindly and fraternal sympathy which he has received from members of the Craft on the loss he has sustained through the burglary that was successfully effected on these premises on the night of Wednesday-Thursday, the 21st-22nd ult. He has been greatly touched by these letters, many of which have been received from brethren with whom he has but a slight personal acquaintance.

We regret we should have assigned to Bro. Lamonby a rôle to which he tells us he is not entitled. We publish elsewhere the letter of his on "Uniformity of Ritual," which appeared in the *Australasian Keystone*, and from which we inferred that he regarded himself as "the accepted authority on ritual in this country." We were wrong, it seems, in our inference, and it only remains for us to make the *amende honorable*. Bro. Lamonby lays no claim to being the accepted authority on this subject in this or any other country.

We cannot, of course, hold ourselves responsible for the difficulty in which Bro. Lamonby is placed by this declaration. He has treated the pronouncements of a couple of Grand Secretaries on a particular mode of working the installation ceremony with scant courtesy, and has spoken almost scornfully of Emulation working. This might have passed without comment had he been a recognised authority on ritual. As he is not we can attach no greater importance to his remarks than to those of any other brother who knows there are sundry modes of working this particular ceremony—one which is Emulation and others which are not; or to put the matter slightly differently, one which is recognised of Grand Lodge as the official mode, if we may term it such, and the others which Grand Lodge does not recognise, though it does not interfere with those lodges in which they are practised.

As we have said before, we consider Grand Lodge acts wisely in not interfering with lodges in which unusual modes of work are adopted, so long as the essentials are upheld; but if it ever came about that Grand Lodge considered it to be its duty to forbid all other modes of working than that which it officially recognises or approves we think the pronouncements of its Grand Secretary would have a most decided "effect on Installing Masters in the Country." Bro. Lamonby does not appear to understand that the condemnation of a particular mode of working by a responsible officer of Grand Lodge carries with it just a trifle more weight than the condemnation of the same working by an irresponsible critic like himself, who, as he declares, is not an accepted authority on such matters.

As regards Bro. Sadler's "Notes on the Installation Ceremony," we are aware they contain that brother's opinions on the subject, but they also contain a number of facts which he has succeeded in unearthing as well as a number of other people's opinions, which are not unworthy of being treated with respect.

On Thursday next, the 12th inst., Bro. A. F. Godson, M.P., whom the M.W. Grand Master has appointed to succeed the late lamented Bro. Sir E. A. H. Lechmere, Bart., as Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire, will be installed in office in accordance with ancient usage. The ceremony will be performed by Bro. the Earl of Lathom, M.W. Pro Grand Master, who will be assisted by sundry Grand Officers, in the Shire Hall, Worcester, and will be followed by the usual banquet.

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.]

COLONIAL BOARD V. CAMBRIAN LODGE OF AUSTRALIA,
No. 656.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I am compelled to again ask your kind indulgence and permit me to correct the wilful misrepresentation of some of our opponents, and which is causing us great injury among our friends throughout the Empire. The statement openly made is that we have removed the cancellation from our warrant. There is, I understand, a photograph of the warrant with the disgraceful and unauthorised defacing printed matter upon it, in Grand Secretary's Office, so that you can verify any words here given, viz.: "Re-issued by the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. With an annexure in accordance with articles of union. The within named lodge having declared its allegiance to the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales is entitled to work only under its jurisdiction as more fully set forth in the 'Annexure,' under the hand of the Most Worshipful Grand Master."

The above quotation is every word which appears in red print on our warrant. As you will perceive, there is no signature, no date, no cancellation, and no seal, or mention of authority for disfigurement.

The last paragraph of the quotation is a falsehood. Are we bound to continue to promulgate falsehood? If so we have done wrong in wiping it off the face of the document, which never belonged to the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, but did belong, and does still belong to the United Grand Lodge of England.

Will the Grand Registrar, or any other legal member inform the Craft whether this document, unsigned and unstamped, would hold good in a Civil Court?

Will a banker cash an unsigned cheque? Will a Court hold an unsigned agreement binding on a party?

The writer, with full power of his lodge, has tried repeatedly to settle this long standing dispute, without seeking the ordinary civil remedies, as in the case of other persons' property." (See Grand Registrar to D.G.M. Otago and Southland).

I regret having to trouble you so often, but in the interests of justice, and as it is evident our own people have been made use of to carry out the exceedingly brotherly threat made some years ago by leading members of the so-called Grand Lodge of New South Wales that they would wipe out the English and Scotch Constitutions in this Colony. I ask your powerful aid and assistance.—I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

GEO. ROBINSON.

Sydney, 24th July.

Cambrian Lodge of Australia, No. 656.

P.S.—Will Bro. Grand Registrar inform your readers why Paddington Ionic, No. 2179, was dealt with in a similar manner to 656, when the former did not fall into the Local Grand Lodge for months after its inauguration?

BRO. WOODWARD'S MOTION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Permit me to offer a few words of explanation as to the part I ventured to take last night in Grand Lodge in reference to Bro. Woodward's motion. My attention was drawn to that motion for the first time only two or three minutes before we went into lodge, and I had only time to glance cursorily over it. Hence I hastily concluded that Bro. W's. object was to obtain a grant from Grand Lodge Funds for St. Paul's. In order, therefore, to avoid a possible conflict, to maintain what I honestly believe to be the broad Masonic principle so often referred to last night, and yet to soften down the refusal and prevent a blunt negative, I proposed the following amendment: "That while sympathising with the interesting work of Decoration at St. Paul's, this Grand Lodge does not deem it expedient to vote any grant from Grand Lodge Funds for that object." Of course, when I discovered from the remark of the M.W. Grand Master in the chair that this was not correspondent with the exact wording of the motion I was quite ready to correct my amendment accordingly, but I was only too glad to withdraw it in view of the appeal of the M.W.G.M. in the chair to Bro. Woodward to withdraw his motion, and of the graceful manner in which the latter assented.

Although, in "the letter," my amendment clashed with the motion, "in the spirit" it was substantially consistent, for—as Bro. Philbrick afterwards said—for Grand Lodge to vote a grant or to give its authority to issue a circular to raise funds came really to the same thing and involved the *imprimatur* of Grand Lodge. All of us must have sympathised with the object Bro. Woodward had in view and with the zeal he displayed in advocating it, but I venture to think that the discussion is a significant warning to all of us Masons to avoid proposing motions which may tempt us to "sail too near the wind," and to violate that wholesome and fundamental principle of English Freemasonry which prohibits all political or theological controversy.

Let me add one word as a voice from "the West" of Grand Lodge (the acoustic qualities of which are not of the first order). Would brethren speaking from the North or South sides (though, of course, addressing the chair) kindly remain on the square instead of generally turning to the east, whereby dozens of the brethren lose at least half their speeches, as I did in the case of Bro. Woodward and of some others.—I am, dear Sir and Brother, fraternally yours,

R. J. SIMPSON.

Richmond, September 5th.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTH WALES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

My attention has been drawn to an inaccuracy in your report of the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Wales, viz.: that "On the motion of Bro. Edwards a Charity Committee was formed." The motion of Bro. Edwards was not carried, but that of Bro. Benson was, *i.e.*, "That the by-laws of the North Wales Masonic Charitable Association be adopted as the Charity by-laws of the Province."

Hoping that you will be good enough to correct this.—Yours truly and fraternally,

HERBERT R. HEAP.

BOARDS OF INSTALLED MASTERS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have read with some degree of interest the letter of Bro. Lamonby in the *Freemason* of the 31st ult., particularly so as the ceremony of opening and closing a Board of Installed Masters at the installation ceremony to which he refers has long been practised in a number of lodges in Yorkshire, as well as in some other provinces. Some time since I was shown a printed circular that was issued a few years ago by the then Grand Secretary (the late Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke), which doubtless was aimed at the ceremony referred to, and which was characterised as being an American innovation and was denounced as spurious. I made inquiries at the time of several experienced P.Ms., one of whom informed me that the ceremony referred to was practised during his late father's lifetime in the South of England as well as in Yorkshire.

I have sometimes wondered whether the late Grand Secretary, Col. Clerke, issued the circular referred to with the authority of Grand Lodge or upon his own responsibility; if the former, perhaps some of your well-informed readers will be good enough to refer, those interested to the records of Grand Lodge where the matter is recorded. If the ceremony dates from the time of the Ancients, as Bro. Lamonby states, it is at least some justification for its continuance by those lodges where it has been in vogue for many years, and it occurs to me as being somewhat unbecoming on the part of Masons who use the Emulation working to speak of the ceremony as "spurious," as I remember a visiting Past Master once doing at an installation ceremony at which he was present.

Let it be clearly shown by sufficient authority that the ceremony is wrong beyond a doubt, and then probably it will be discontinued. I neither incline the one way or the other regarding it, but am looking for more light on the subject.—Yours fraternally,

EX-SECRETARY, P.M.

OUR BROTHER'S BED.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The list of contributors to this bed in the Free Home for the Dying shows that £28 12s. 2d. is now needed to complete the amount required for its maintenance this year, and, while thanking all the contributors, I would ask your readers, not only to send me their five shillings, but also to bring the Masonic bed before their respective lodges asking for a similar donation from the Charity Fund, which none will miss.—Very truly and fraternally yours,

W. PORTLOCK-DADSON, 1383, P.M. 1771, Hon. Sec.

251, Strand, W.C., August 31st.

Reviews.

"THE INDIAN MASONIC REVIEW"—printed by Addison and Co., Mount-road, Madras. The most important among the contents of the August number is the further instalment of "Masonic Knight Templary," in which is given the "Information for Ross of Auchlosin against the possessions of the Temple-lands;" a sermon preached at Holy Trinity Church, Bellary, on St. John the Baptist's Day last, by Bro. the Rev. N. G. Barry, District G. Chaplain, and an article on "Lodge Returns." The "Chips," or "Notes," are well written and there is a full supply of lodge and chapter reports. Prominent among the latter being that of the District Grand Chapter of Burma, at Rangoon, on the 13th June last.

"THREE EVENINGS WITH THE UNITED WARDS' CLUB OF THE CITY OF LONDON." By C. J. Cuthbertson, C.C., President, 1895. London: Printed for Private Circulation.—The contents of this very interesting pamphlet relate to the "Fire Brigade," "the Guildhall," and the "Westminster Tobacco Box." As regards the first, Bro. Cuthbertson acknowledges his indebtedness for many particulars to a little work just issued by the Sunday School Union, and entitled "Stories of the Fire Brigade." But though deriving much of his information from this source, Bro. Cuthbertson has, nevertheless, succeeded in compiling a very interesting paper, which he read before the members of the United Wards' Club on the 1st May last. The paper on the Guildhall comprises an account of a visit paid by the members to the Guildhall, Bro. Cuthbertson acting as cicerone-in-chief, and elucidating the history of the venerable building by the paper which he read on the occasion, and which is here reproduced. The third is also a paper, compiled by our worthy friend, on the famous Westminster Tobacco Box, which has been in the possession of the parish for about 180 years, and which through the courtesy of the Overseers of St. Margaret and St. John's, Westminster, the United Wards' Club was permitted to inspect in April last, and of which Bro. Cuthbertson has compiled a very readable sketch. The pamphlet containing these three papers is well printed, has several illustrations, and is a most creditable little compilation, which the members of the Club must be delighted to have in their possession.

"BACON-SHAKE-SPEARE PAMPHLETS." Birmingham: Walter Husband, 29, Sheepcote-street, Birmingham, 1895.—This is the third of a series of Pamphlets bearing this title, and contains "Notes on the Origin and Construction of the Pamphlets." As the title of the Pamphlets implies, they constitute an attempt to demonstrate a theory which has again and again been stated to the effect that if Bacon was not actually the author of Shakespeare's Plays, the two were associated together in their production. The notes in this Pamphlet are an attempt to demonstrate. "That both use the same expressions in hundreds of instances, teach the same lessons, reproduce and paraphrase the same authors, make the same errors, even in quoting an author, is readily acknowledged; yet when one or a dozen men upon different standpoints express their deep conviction that one is but the cover for the other; that the reforming poet-philosopher sought in a cramped and intolerant age to teach men under the mask of fools, clowns, and jesters, gracious lessons of mercy and charity, the simple enunciation of which theory is enough to place it out of court as fantastic and absurd." Notwithstanding this, the attempt has been again made in these Pamphlets, but whether the reader will consider it has been made with greater success than in previous instances we must leave it to him, after a careful study of the points enunciated in the pages of this No. III., to decide.

"GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES," &c., &c. Offices, Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, London, W.C.—This useful annual, which is published by Bro. George Kenning, 16, Great Queen-street, London, W.C., contains, as usual, the reports of the proceedings at the Special and Stated Communications of the Mark Grand Lodge held between the 1st July, 1894, and the 30th June, 1895, together with a statement of accounts, rolls of Grand and Provincial or District Grand Masters and of representatives, as well as of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner lodges. The particulars relating to these have been most carefully compiled from official sources, under the personal supervision of Bro. C. F. Matier, the Grand Secretary, and constitute a summary of what has happened during the past year, and of all needful information as to the organisation of the Degree. The work is most valuable, and should be in the possession of all Mark lodges.

"THE CANADIAN CRAFTSMAN"—Published by the *Canadian Craftsman Publishing Company of Toronto (Limited)*, 78, Bay, Toronto. The July number has some well written "Editorial Notes;" an article entitled, "Are we Bond or Free?" in which Bro. Ross Robertson's proposal to protect foreign work from being exemplified in lodges in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada except under very stringent conditions is condemned; an interesting account of the "Formation of the First Lodge in Manitoba," together with a report of the proceedings at the recent annual communication of the Grand Lodge of that Province, and last but not least, a sketch of "Kaiser William I. as a Freemason." Add to this that there is the usual budget of news, correspondence, and miscellaneous matters, and it will be seen at a glance that the number is exceptionally good.

"THE MASONIC GUIDE." Birmingham, Alabama. The most important article in the June number is that with which it opens, and in which "Three amendments to the Constitutions" are very carefully considered. These amendments are (1) Ineligibility of the Grand Master for two successive terms; (2) the reduction of the fees for Initiating, Passing, and Raising; and (3) the proposed increase of Grand Lodge dues from 50 cents. to one dollar per annum, the additional 50 cents. being set apart towards the founding of a Masonic Home. Our contemporary is in favour of the first-named, opposed to the second, and in favour of the third, but with the proviso that the attempt "be not made on a scale above our abilities." There is also an article by "G. S. M." on "The Bible," and a number of other contributions, to one of which in particular we have considered it our duty to refer at some length editorially—namely, the oration delivered by Bro. Josiah H. Drummond, Past Grand Master, at the 75th annual convocation of the Grand Lodge of Maine. We look upon this oration of Bro. Drummond as a most meritorious address, in the course of which he calls attention to some matters of great importance, and coming from a brother of such influence and experience as Bro. Drummond, we doubt not the oration was listened to with pleasure by those to whom it was addressed, and will be read with equal pleasure and profit by those who will find it in the printed Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Maine or in this magazine.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons was held on Tuesday evening, at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Bro. the Earl of Euston, Pro G.M., presided. Bros. the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, M.A., P.G. Chap., Prov. G.M. of Bucks, acted as Deputy G.M.; the Earl of Portarlington, S.G.W.; Frank Richardson, G. Reg., as J.G.W.; P. Wallis, G. Treas.; the Revs. H. F. Oliver, M.A., and W. Cree, G. Chaplains; R. Loveland Loveland, President of the General Board; C. F. Matier, G. Sec.; Dr. James Balfour Cockburn, G.D.C.; W. E. Chapman, G. Std. Br.; Major C. W. Carrell, P.A.G.D.C.; Richard Clowes, P.G.O.; C. F. Hogard, P.G. Std. Br.; S. R. Baskett, P.P.S.G.W. Dorset; William Vincent,

P.A.G.D.C.; Eugene Monteuuis, P.A.G.D.C.; Richard Eve, P.G.O.; Charles Belton, P.G.O.; Gordon Miller, P.G. Treas.; Frederick Bevan, P.G.O.; James Speller, and others were also present.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form, Bro. C. F. MATIER, G. Sec., read the minutes of the Quarterly Communication of June 4th last, and these, on being put to the meeting, were unanimously confirmed.

The following report of the General Board was laid before the brethren, being taken as read—each brother having a copy—and it was then ordered to be received and entered on the minutes, on the motion of Bro. LOVELAND LOVELAND, seconded by Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL BOARD.

During the three months ending 30th June, 1895, there have been issued Mark certificates, 283; total number registered, 34,472.

Warrant for one new lodge, 486, Star of Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Orange Free State, to be attached to the District of Natal.

Royal Ark Mariner certificates, 78; total number registered, 4591.

Warrant for one Ark Mariner Lodge—Abbey Lodge to be attached to the Abbey Lodge, No. 225.

H.R.H. the Grand Master has been pleased to re-appoint for a further term of three years R.W. Bro. Col. A. B. Cook as Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex.

H.R.H. the Grand Master has been pleased to appoint R.W. Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Onslow, P.G.W., Provincial Grand Master for Surrey.

The Board have to report that the following warrants have been returned: Economy, No. 52, and Finnemore, No. 358; Royal Ark Mariner: Finnemore, attached to No. 358.

FUND OF BENEVOLENCE.

The 27th Annual Festival was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on the 10th July, under the presidency of the R.W. Bro. the Lord Skelmersdale, Past Grand Warden, and Provincial Senior Grand Warden of Lancashire. The sum of £2110 was announced as having been paid and promised—a result on which the Board have great pleasure in congratulating the Board of Stewards.

The R.W. Bro. Charles Letch Mason, Provincial Grand Master for West Yorkshire, has most kindly consented to take the chair at the 28th Annual Festival, which will be held in July, 1896, and the Grand Secretary will be happy to receive the names of brethren willing to act as Stewards.

The Board recommend to Grand Lodge a grant of £25 to the widow of a brother of the Henniker Lodge, No. 315.

(Signed) R. LOVELAND LOVELAND, President.
FRANK RICHARDSON, Vice-President.
C. F. MATIER, G. Secretary.

Bro. LOVELAND LOVELAND then moved the confirmation of the grant of £25 to the widow of a brother of Henniker Lodge, No. 315. The brother had subscribed 10½ years to Mark Masonry, but unfortunately he left his widow unprovided for when he died.

Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON seconded the motion, which was then put and carried.

On the motion of Bro. LOVELAND LOVELAND, seconded by Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, the report of the General Board was then adopted.

Bro. C. F. MATIER, G. Sec., announced that Charity jewels and bars were in his office, and would be presented to any brother entitled to receive them, on making application after the present meeting.

Bro. the Earl of EUSTON, before closing Grand Lodge, said: Brethren,—Considering that this is the off-time of the year, and that not many persons are in town, I take this opportunity of saying that although there are not a great number of brethren here, I am only too pleased to meet those who are here, for it shows that they take an interest in the Degree. I may also say that we are going on prosperously, which must be very gratifying to all of you. Our receipts last year were exceedingly good in comparison with what they were the year before. I trust that we shall go on and prosper, and that the brethren will give that support to the Mark Degree in the future that they have given to it in the past. You know that I personally take a very great interest in the Degree, and that everything that occurs which is in its favour gives me extreme pleasure. Its best interests are always my first concern, and I experience great delight when I see that other brethren evince as much interest in it as you have shown to-night. (Cheers).

Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form.

LODGE RETURNS.

Few brethren who have not in their turn been decorated with the cross pens know what labour is involved, and what a burden of trouble is laid upon the devoted head of brother Secretary in the preparation of returns. That which is seen of the Secretary's labours is quite heavy enough. Preparation of and copying out minutes, the keeping and squaring of some 50 lodge, dinner, and Charity accounts, the correspondence with members, in addition to the multitudinous and multifarious duties laid upon him by the W.M. seem to constitute work enough for one man. Still all this is seen and commended and brother Secretary gets his due meed of *κῆδος* if all goes right. But it is all child's play compared with that which is not seen, and which is only grudgingly acknowledged if it goes all right,

but which draws down the scathing denunciations of the District Grand Master if it does not. Who that goes to District Grand Lodge can forget the mingled sorrow and anger with which the District Grand Master says that all the lodges with the exception of Lodge St. Simon Without have rendered returns to date, and the feeling of contempt and displeasure with which the wretched Secretary of that lodge is regarded by all present?

Who is there that has sat on the Board of General Purposes whose bosom has not glowed with Masonic indignation when the District Grand Secretary remarks that his statistics would have been quite complete and up to date but for the dilatoriness of the Secretary of No. ***? Everything that anybody present has ever heard to the disadvantage of that Secretary is at once retailed, and his Masonic character may be considered blasted, at all events for the next 12 months.

And then the enemies brother Secretary unconsciously makes. First there is the brother who has gone home on furlough and has decided to shed the light of his presence upon Grand Lodge, but who is driven away with ignominy from its portals because the annual return has not been made by his lodge. Then there is the W.M. of his lodge who expected District Grand rank, but who has not got it because his lodge returns were not to hand in time. Then among minor enemies there is for instance the joining brother, who lays down his inability to produce either his Grand Lodge Certificate or his Clearance ditto to the account of the lodge Secretary.

But were we to begin the enumeration of the troubles of the lodge Secretary the limits of an ordinary article would be very considerably exceeded, and we must proceed to discuss those items in his daily toil, which were described at the head of this paper.

The returns consist, first, of the quarterly returns sent to the District Grand Secretary, secondly, the annual return of members sent to the Grand Secretary, and the annual return of Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens, also sent home, and there are the occasional returns of initiations and ceremonial work. These latter may be briefly discussed, inasmuch as the practice is, in this country at all events, to send up the list with applications for Grand Lodge certificates concerned, say once in six months. All the same the initiate could make it very troublesome for his Secretary if he wished, by demanding Grand Lodge certificates at each stage of his Masonic career.

The annual return of W.M. and Wardens and Past Masters is a very simple affair. Simple as it is, however, many Secretaries manage to make mistakes. One of the commonest is to include Past Wardens, and to exclude worshipful brethren who are not Past Masters of the lodge. The reason for this last omission is that the young Secretary supposes that the worshipful brethren in question will be returned by the lodges of which they are Past Masters, and that to include them in his own return would be an unnecessary duplication and give the Grand Secretary trouble. Even if it did, he is paid £1000 a year for it, and in any case he may be trusted to look after himself. The reason would be a good one if all Past Masters kept their names on the books of the lodges over which they once presided, but this is not the case. It is an extremely important return as its absence may incidentally cause all sorts of inconveniences to the lodge, which would be under a sort of Masonic interdict.

We now come to the quarterly returns, and it is what may be called the cooly work in these which is so tiresome. True it is that in process of time a writer could be trained to do all the actual copying that is needed, but by the time the writer is properly trained, the Secretary's year of office comes to an end, and it has to be done *de novo*. In a well ordered lodge there exist duplicate forms of every return bound up into books, and the duplicate book of the quarterly returns is one of the most valuable possessions of the lodge, inasmuch as if it has been well and accurately kept from the beginning it contains the actual history of the lodge.

Each quarterly return is in a great measure a transcript of the last preceding. It differs from it, first by the addition of the names of new members, and an indication of members retired. This last is shown, not by omitting the name, as many Secretaries thoughtlessly do, but by a marginal note showing the circumstances under which retirement came about, whether the brother concerned was in arrears or not, whether he was granted a certificate. As to new members, if they joined from another lodge, it must be clearly shown whether a clearance certificate and the Grand Lodge certificate were produced. These are matters which every District Grand Secretary strongly insists on.

With regard to dues, it is provided that if a brother be in arrears, the fact may be noted marginally and dues held back. The value of this concession is not so much that the lodge is saved a few rupees, but that the District Grand Secretary is able to see whether the lodge by-laws be put in force as regards defaulting brethren. Inasmuch as each return is to a great extent a duplicate of the preceding one, it follows that it can be written out at any time in the quarter, and it is a good plan when sending it in to make a copy at once which will serve as the nucleus of the new one, and then all that remains to be done at the end of the quarter is to make the necessary additions and remarks, which will not take a quarter of an hour, and thus there is no reason whatever why the return should not be sent in actually to date.—*Indian Masonic Review*.

MASONIC RECEPTION AT ALDERMASTON COURT.

Accepting the fraternal invitation of Bro. Keyser, a distinguished member of the Masonic body, the officers and brethren of the Reading and Newbury lodges passed several hours most pleasantly at Aldermaston Court on Wednesday afternoon, the 21st ult. The majority of visitors from Reading drove over in two-horse brakes, but the Newbury brethren travelled by rail, the whole party reaching the stately residence in detachments between three and four o'clock. Brilliant weather favoured the outing, and the natural beauties of the picturesque and richly-wooded domain were seen at their best.

Bro. KEYSER gave his guests a hearty reception, and when they had all assembled beneath the shade of the wide spreading trees on the lawn overlooking the lake, the worthy owner proceeded to communicate to the visitors a mass of interesting information relating to the Manor of Aldermaston (*Alderman's-town*), of which there are authentic records dating back to the

time of Harold. The existence of a mansion on this commanding and delightful site is traceable to the eleventh or twelfth century, and Bro. Keyser spoke of the various families who successively held possession here down to the ownership of the late Mr. Higford Duval Burr, whose son, Mr. Higford, sold the property to the present squire, who has materially enlarged and improved the mansion, and opened up new drives. A gentleman of high attainments and refined taste, and also an accomplished antiquarian, Bro. Keyser has judiciously utilised his knowledge of architecture and art in rendering his new home extremely beautiful and comfortable, and he has, withal, manifested much hospitality since his residence here, and has shown the deepest interest in everything associated with the estate and its surroundings, realising to the fullest degree the truth of the maxim that the holding of property imposes upon its possessor certain responsible duties as well as recognised rights. Bro. Keyser gave proof of this by freely intimating that after he had "got over" the new works of the Court—which, by the bye, must have involved an expenditure of many thousands of pounds—he hopes to undertake the restoration of the parish church, which possesses some Norman carving, and examples of nearly all the later periods of architecture, rendering it an unusually interesting, although somewhat puzzling, object to antiquaries, the presence of whitewash and plaster making it difficult to define the original design, or trace out the subsequent additions and alterations.

Bro. Keyser's remarks upon the manor and mansion were supplemented with some observations by the Rev. J. M. GUILDING, who complimented Bro. Keyser upon the graphic way in which he had presented the facts.

Bro. Keyser also conducted the party through the principal rooms of the house, pointing out the additions and alterations that had been effected. After tea had been served, Bro. Keyser led the way through some of the wildest and most romantic portions of the park, halting to point out several of the venerable oaks which had braved the storms of a thousand years. The "snakery" which existed in the late Mr. Burr's time has disappeared, but the attractions of the park remain intact, and one and all of the visitors were charmed with the sylvan scenery, the stroll along the broad avenues, through the mossy yew tree walks, the curiously wooded dells, or along the banks of the lakes. Deer, disturbed by the approach of strangers, bounded away to their secluded retreats, and countless rabbits disappeared from view almost as soon as they were seen.

The brethren thoroughly enjoyed the outing, and tendered their warmest thanks to their host. Bro. W. J. MAURICE, W.M., speaking on behalf of the Union Lodge, observing that it was a matter for congratulation that such a splendid domain had passed into the possession of a gentleman who had already shown how much he appreciated it.

Bro. the Rev. J. M. GUILDING, W.M. of the Greyfriars Lodge; Bro. A. S. COOPER, W.M. of the Kendrick Lodge; and Bro. S. KNIGHT, W.M. of Lodge of Hope, also added a few words of thanks, and

Bro. KEYSER, in reply, said he regarded it as a privilege to have become the owner of such a beautiful estate in the Royal county of Berks, and it had given him much pleasure to receive the brethren of the Masonic lodges at Reading and Newbury, in two of which he had the honour of holding high office.

Among the guests in addition to those already mentioned were—

Bros. Charles Smith, C. Oades, M. J. Withers, J. W. Martin, Prov. G. Sec.; C. G. Hawkes, W. Sherwood, W. G. Millar, B. Ruddock, John R. Cook, F. Cooksey, R. Dowsett, W. G. Flanagan, J. S. Liddle, J. N. Day, S. Knight, jun., A. E. Stickland, H. Salt, J. M. Gilkes, G. J. Cosburn, Edwin Head, T. W. Graham, F. C. Fidler, J. Legg, A. W. Neate, W. Edmonds, J. Rolfe, J. Stradling, J. Howard, G. Elms, E. W. Goddard, R. E. Hodder, W. W. Ridley, E. W. Ridley, W. Ferguson, J. D. Brown, jun., W. B. Reed, E. J. Lewis, D. N. Heron, E. O. Farrer, E. H. Salmon, W. Hemings, W. Ravenscroft, W. Hickie, C. Slaughter, T. Sawyer, J. Greenaway, J. H. Hawkes, W. Collins, T. Mackrill, W. J. T. Stapley, D. Amos, T. F. A. Sargeant, G. F. Fuller, C. W. Sisley, E. Tunbridge, R. C. Nicholls, D. Haslam, R. Todd, Bonny, Goodacre, Sparrow, E. Simmons, C. Haslam, H. Blatch, Stollery, Roberts, Turner, Smith, and others.

The party quitted Aldermaston Court at about seven o'clock.

COMPLETION OF THE NEW MASONIC TEMPLE AT CARDIFF.

The new Masonic Temple at the corner of Guildford-crescent, Cardiff, is rapidly approaching completion, the work of converting the building to the purposes of the Craft having been most satisfactorily carried out by Mr. Evans, Cathays, the contractor. The brethren will shortly be in possession of what will undoubtedly be one of the finest Masonic Temples out of London. The alterations necessary in adapting the building to its new uses have met with the entire approval of the local lodges, while the furniture and appointments will be of the most sumptuous character, the whole of the former being of the best old English oak. Perfect harmony in the matter of colour and arrangement has been studied, and the interior will be in every respect luxurious in the extreme. We understand that the Right Hon. Lord Llangattock has fixed the 26th instant as the date for the performance of the inaugural ceremony, on which occasion it is expected that there will be a large gathering of prominent Masons from all parts of South Wales.

The Provincial Grand Lodge will hold its meeting on the same day, upon which also it is intended to consecrate the new Duke of York Lodge. Bro. C. E. Dovey, Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden, is to be the first Worshipful Master, and several of the Past Masters of the Bute Lodge are co-operating with him to make the event one memorable for its success in the annals of local Masonry. All the lodges of Cardiff will hold their meetings in the new temple when it comes into regular use, it possessing ample ante-room and general accommodation. Everything, in short, is being done to promote the comfort of the Masonic fraternity conducting their gatherings there. Extensive preparations are being made for the event on the 26th instant, when an unusually influential assemblage of Craftsmen is looked forward to.

GENIUS.

The chain of costly price
Which on the swan-curved neck of beauty lies,
Marvel of artist's skill to wond'ring eyes,
And elegant device :
Of purest metal made,
'Twere weak and useless—fain must we employ,
And call as friendly adjunct firm alloy,
To lend its strength'ning aid.
Genius, pure virgin gold,
If with true power 'twould seek to charm the soul,
And lead it captive by its sweet control,
Must in its breast enfold,
In friendship firm and sure,
A force of purpose to direct the will,
A long-tried judgment, with a practised skill,
Its object to ensure.
These are the links that bind
In one harmonious whole, and strength impart,
Which blend the soft emotions of the heart
With majesty of mind.

F. W. DRIVER, M.A., P.M.

62, Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, W.

MASONIC LODGE ROOM DESTROYED BY FIRE.

A little before three on Friday morning, the 30th ult., an alarming fire broke out on the premises of Messrs. Hind and Sons, bakers, &c., Market-place, Gainsborough. The fire, which arose through the overheating of a flue which is situated in an old building above, over which was the lodge room of the Yarborough Lodge, No. 422, rapidly spread, and the flames mounted high above the adjoining buildings, greatly alarming the occupants. Everyone in the vicinity was quickly aroused, and efforts were made to quench the blaze. Horses were conveyed to a place of safety and a quantity of goods removed. The fire was increasing in volume, but Bro. Liversidge and his son Charles penetrated the Masonic lodge room and did their best to save the archives and valuable clothing, &c., belonging to the lodge. Whilst doing so the roof and an old staircase fell with a crash, and it was with considerable difficulty and at much risk that both Bro. Liversidge and his son were enabled to escape, the latter having to break a window to do so, and take a drop of 15 feet, Bro. Liversidge being assisted from another window by Mr. Inskip. Still the flames grew, and an hour after the outbreak the horses were sent to the fire engine station, a considerable distance from the conflagration, and the engine arrived when all danger of spreading appeared averted. Had measures for putting out the fire been delayed until the arrival of the engine the whole market place might have been in flames. Fortunately Superintendent Edgley and an active posse of police, with Captain Jecock, had some hose, and were playing on the fire and had it practically under control when the brigade arrived with the engine.

The consequences of the fire would have been very serious had there been a breeze, as the bakehouse is in the midst of a nest of old buildings, all as inflammable as tinder.

Great damage has been caused to the bakehouse and lodge room, and a quantity of regalia and clothing destroyed, the ante-room being completely in ruins. A printer named Kirk had a narrow escape when the roof fell in. It is stated that the property is fully insured, but much inconvenience will result.

THE SPRING.

When winter 'neath his powerful force
Congeals the streamlet at its source,
And curbs the river's rapid course
With icy chain,
The little spring still upward flows,
Still lavishly its wealth bestows,
And winter vanquished truly knows
His fetters vain !
Thus, in the dark and wintry hour,
When sorrow o'er the heart will lower,
False friendship feels the freezing power
In deep distress,
Affection's spring no force can bind,
Up gush its waters unconfined,
Which God, in mercy, has designed
To soothe and bless !

F. W. DRIVER, M.A., P.M.

62, Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, W.

Craft Masonry.

St. Bede Lodge, No. 1119.

On the 28th ult. the annual meeting of the above lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Jarrow, for the purpose of installing the W.M. for the ensuing year, and the appointment and investiture of officers. Bro. J. Rigby, W.M., presided, and there was a large attendance of members and visiting brethren, amongst whom were Bros. E. J. Prince, P.M.; Geo. Davies, P.M.; N. K. Brown, P.M.; W. S. Whyte, P.M.; J. Armstrong, P.M.; H. Soderberg, P.M.; and Jas. Robinson, P.M. Visitors: Bros. S. Linsley, W.M. 240; J. S. Roy, W.M. 1643; J. Munro, I.P.M. 1643; G. J. Allen, P.M.; C. B. Ford, P.M.; and others.

The W.M. elect, Bro. R. Madgshon, was presented by Bro. John Taylor to the installing Master, Bro. Rigby, and the latter performed the ceremony in an able and impressive manner. Bro. Madgshon afterwards appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. Jos. Rigby, I.P.M.; W. F. Renton, S.W.; J. F. Douglas, J.W.; Thos. Robinson, Treas.; Geo. Davies, P.M., P.P.G. Stwd., Sec.; Thos. F. Renton, S.D.; H. Dancaster, J.D.; John Taylor, P.M., D.C.; J. W. Wilkinson, Org.; John Wood, I.G.; John Rutherford and Walter H. Pye, Stwds.; and F. A. Holmes, Tyler. The musical portion of the ceremony was admirably rendered by the lodge choir, Bro. Wilkinson officiating at the organ. Subsequently the new W.M. presented, on behalf of the members of the lodge, to Bro. Rigby a handsome jewel in recognition

of his services to the lodge as W.M. during the past year, and as a mark of esteem and regard. Bro. Rigby suitably replied, and the lodge was closed.

The annual banquet was afterwards held at Bro. J. Rutherford's, the County Hotel, Ormonde-street, Bro. Madgshon, W.M., presiding.

An excellent dinner was served, and the loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, the proceedings being pleasantly varied by musical contributions from several of the brethren.

Abercorn Lodge, No. 1549.

The installation meeting of this prosperous lodge was held at the Abercorn Hotel, Stanmore, on the 7th ultimo, the Worshipful Master, Bro. W. W. Mansfield, who was well supported, opening the lodge. The minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, a satisfactory report from the Audit Committee was presented. Bro. H. T. Smith was very ably raised by the W.M. to the Degree of M.M. The ceremony of installation was then proceeded with, Bro. R. W. Bibby, P.P.G.T., acting as D.C., and Bro. John Blackburn, S.W., was placed in the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom. The whole ceremony, with the addresses from the several chairs, was most efficiently rendered by the retiring Master, to whom was presented a handsome Past Master's jewel on completion of his labours. After investing the I.P.M., the W.M. appointed the following as his officers: Bros. H. W. Bleaney, S.W.; C. J. Veal, J.W.; E. Bamford, P.M., Treas.; C. Veal, P.M., Sec.; F. S. Conway, S.D.; E. Winterbottom, J.D.; F. S. Winkley, I.G.; R. E. H. Fisher, D.C.; and S. Ellis, Tyler. Letters of regret for absence were read by the Secretary, and kind greetings were received from the following visitors: Bros. Sidney Martin, 404, P.P.G.D. Herts; James Rogers, 1984, P.P.G.S.B. Herts; C. H. Peacock, 1984; Arthur Spicer, 1984; John Evans, 1987; T. Charles, 2548; R. T. Wreathall, 2548; C. P. Bellerby, 2021; F. J. Seabrook, 1613; Henry Orme, 100; Reginald Groome, 2190; C. Barnard, 1964; and J. C. Lake, jun., 2272. The following members were also present: Bros. C. T. Tolman, P.M.; R. E. H. Fisher, W. J. Overhead, H. Smith, J. Gurney, E. Bull, W. Truslove, W. V. Woodman, S. W. Hunt, W. Taylor, T. Ickeringill, G. H. Cheshire, F. Tootell, E. F. Jones, and G. W. Dickson.

The lodge having been closed, a most enjoyable banquet followed.

The W.M. was very happy in proposing the customary toasts, and all were equally responded to, between which Bros. Reginald Groome and Cecil Barnard contributed some excellent music and recitations, Bro. J. C. Lake presiding at the piano.

It may safely be said that the Abercorn Lodge equally in Charity, hospitality and Masonically keeps up its old reputation.

Lodges and Chapters of Instruction.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE, No. 144.

A meeting was held on Thursday, the 29th ult., at the Victoria Tavern, Gertrude-street, Chelsea, when there were present Bros. M. Matthews W.M.; White, S.W.; Thomas, J.W.; Carlstrom, Preceptor; Stutfield, Sec.; Austin, S.D.; Beauchamp, J.D.; Royle, I.G.; Lightfoot, Thwaites, Fleming, and Nicholls.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Lightfoot being the candidate. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Stutfield, who had previously answered the usual questions and been entrusted, being the candidate. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree, and called off and on. Bro. White was unanimously elected W.M. for the next meeting. After the third rising, the lodge was closed.

RANELAGH LODGE, No. 834.

A meeting was held on Friday, the 30th ult., at the Six Bells Hotel, Queen-street, Hammersmith, when there were present Bros. Edward Fox, W.M. 1275, W.M.; W. J. Coplestone, P.M., S.W.; William Hide, J.W.; A. Williams, P.M., Preceptor; F. Craggs, P.M., Sec.; E. F. Nash, S.D.; Joseph Cox, W.M. 865, J.D.; Robert Reid, I.G.; W. W. Williams, P.M.; R. H. Williams, P.M.; T. W. Biggs, W.M. elect 1275; P. Cronin, H. Bone, H. Atkinson, and J. J. Lewen.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. R. H. Williams offered himself as a candidate for raising, and was examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. Bro. Fox vacated the chair of W.M. in favour of Bro. Biggs, when the lodge was resumed to the First Degree, and the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. W. W. Williams acting as candidate. Bro. Coplestone was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and the lodge was closed.

HARROW LODGE, No. 1310.

A meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, the 30th ult., at the Waterloo Arms, High-street, Marylebone, W., when there were present: Bros. D. Baker, W.M.; E. Lewis, S.W.; T. West, J.W.; G. Wood, P.M., Preceptor; Jabez Mason, Sec.; Kelly, S.D.; Roberts, J.D.; S. Drewell, I.G.; J. Thom, P.M.; T. West, and G. Dingley.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of last lodge meeting were read and confirmed. The 3rd Section of the Lecture was worked by Bro. Mason, Sec. Bro. T. West answered the questions leading from the First to the Second Degree, and was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. West candidate. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree, and the 4th Section of the First Lecture was worked by Bro. G. Wood, Preceptor. The W.M. rose for the first, second, and third times. It was proposed, second, and carried unanimously, "That Bro. E. Lewis, S.W., be elected W.M. for the next meeting." All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The first meeting after the recess was held on Tuesday, the 3rd inst., at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. W. Hancock, P.M., W.M.; W. Rapley, S.W.; G. T. Peall, J.W.; G. Gregory, P.M., acting Preceptor; J. Petch, P.M., P.P.G.S.B. Herts, Treasurer; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; C. Smith, S.D.; R. P. Upton, J.D.; A. F. Hardymont, I.G.; J. Amand, J. E. Thomas, E. A. Wagstaff, J. H. Thurman, J. R. White, R. Scarlett, D. C. Attwater, G. Price, M. Tuck, P.M., P.P.G.S.B. Essex; W. A. Goring, and W. H. Smith.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Amand being the candidate. The lodge was opened in the Second and Third Degree, and the ceremony of raising rehearsed, Bro. Petch being the candidate. The W.M. gave the traditional history. The lodge being resumed in the first Degree, Bro. Rapley was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

KENSINGTON LODGE, No. 1767.

A meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 3rd inst., at the Town Hall Tavern, High-street, Kensington, when there were present: Bros. A. Williams, P.M., W.M.; A. F. Taylor, S.W.; H. G. Danby, P.M., J.W.; George Read, P.M., P.G. Std. Br. Eng., Preceptor; R. H. Williams, P.M., &c., Treas.; F. Craggs, P.M., Sec.; E. J. Green, S.D.; C. Ortnor, J.D.; C. E. Betts, I.G.; W. B. Neville, W.M. 1767; C. G. Hatt, P.M.; Lewis Beale, Maurice Moss, J. W. Facey, J. A. Battersby, A. J. Clayton, H. J. Seale, and S. Cochrane, P.G. Treas. England.

The lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Beale acting as candidate. The lodge was called off and on. Bro. Hatt having offered himself as a candidate for passing, he was examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. Bro. Taylor was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and the lodge closed.

Masonic and General Tidings.

BROS. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON and Sir M. White Ridley left town on Saturday last for The Wilderness, Sevenoaks, on a visit to Lord and Lady Hillingdon, and returned on Monday.

THE HEAT IN LONDON on Monday is reported to have been greater than in any city in England, the thermometer registering 80 degrees in the shade. At York it was only 75 and in Jersey 72 degrees.

THE CAVALRY DIVISION AT ALDERSHOT were exercised in outpost duty on Monday under the direction of Major-General Luck, Inspector-General of Cavalry, the line extending from Blackwater, through Hale, to Guildford.

THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR left town on Sunday last on leave of absence for his residence near Wiesbaden. During his Excellency's absence, Count Metternich, who returned from Scotland the day previous, will act as chargé d'affaires.

MR. HENRY CHAPLIN, President of the Local Government Board, visited the Farm Colony of the Salvation Army at Hadleigh, Essex, and spent several hours in examining minutely the various departments of the Colony and inquiring into its working.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Institute of Journalists was formally opened at Plymouth on Monday afternoon, when the members were most cordially welcomed by the Mayor on behalf of the Corporation and the inhabitants of the town generally.

THE DEATH, which took place suddenly at Malta, is reported of Captain A. Holme Sumner, who was a brother-in-law of Bro. Lord Fitzhardinge, and had married a sister of Bro. Sir Nigel Kingscote. He was formerly for many years Master of the Cotswold Hunt.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to approve of Bro. General Sir Redvers Buller remaining at the post of Adjutant-General to the Forces for a further term of two years from 1st October, when, in the ordinary course of things, he would have vacated the appointment.

LILIAN DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH, having concluded her visit to the Lord-Lieutenant and Countess Cadogan at Dublin, returned to town on Saturday last and at once proceeded to The Deepdene, Dorking, where she was joined by Lord William Berosford on Monday.

THE QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS, who was staying at Spa, was thrown from her horse while jumping a ditch and fell in the road, causing an injury to her head, from which the blood at once began to flow. However, her Majesty remounted, and rode back to Spa, her condition causing no anxiety.

ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON LAST his Highness the Shahzada paid a visit to St. Thomas's Hospital, over which he was conducted by the Dean and chief medical officers. His Highness was much impressed with what he saw and has since presented a sum of £150 towards the fund for opening the closed wards.

MR. FRANK MITCHELL'S team of English Cricketers commenced their tour of the States with a match at Station Island against New York in the presence of some 20,000 spectators. There were 12 on each side. New York in their first innings made 112, while the Englishmen made over 300, ultimately winning by eight wickets.

PROVINCE OF WEST LANCASHIRE.—By direction of Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Lathom, G.C.B., M.W. Pro G.M., Prov. Grand Master, a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Lancashire, for the transaction of the annual business of the province, takes place at the Town Hall, Bootle, on Friday, the 20th inst.

A GUNNER in one of the mountain batteries of the Royal Artillery who stands 6ft. 6in. is said to be the tallest man in the British Army, but a recruit who is only 21 years of age and stands 6ft. 5in. has just joined the Scots Guards, and it is just possible the latter, when straightened out by drill and exercise, may rival the gunner.

THE INSTALLATION of the Worshipful Master of the De la Pole Lodge, No. 1181, Seaton, took place on the 28th ultimo. Bro. A. W. Oakley, P.P.G.S.B. Devon, was unanimously elected to fill the chair for the second time. Sir Edmund de la Pole generously presented a buck from the Old Park at Shute to grace the table at the usual banquet which followed the installation.

AS A THREE-HORSE BRAKE laden with visitors was returning from Belton to Yarmouth on Monday one of the horses fell, and the brake was overturned. Four of the passengers were so seriously injured that they were treated at the Cottage Hospital and two at private houses, but the rest were found to be only slightly injured, and were forwarded to Yarmouth in other vehicles.

THE WESTBOURNE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 733, on the resumption of its regular weekly meetings at the Prince Alfred Hotel, 112, Queen's-road, Bayswater, W., on Tuesday, the 3rd inst., was attended by many of its old members, and an enjoyable Masonic and social evening was spent. On the 10th instant the W.M. elect will commence business punctually at 8 p.m.

A NOTABLE ADDITION to the Belgian Mail Service between Ostend and Dover has been made in the shape of the new steamer Rapide, which was tried on Saturday last, and proved herself well worthy of the name bestowed on her by running close on 21 knots in the hour. The Rapide is 320 feet long and 38 feet wide, inside measurement, and has been admirably fitted and appointed.

MR. AND MISS GLADSTONE arrived at Hagley Hall on Saturday last on a visit to Viscount and Viscountess Cobham. The Right Hon. Gentleman and Miss Gladstone having concluded their visit to Bro. Lord Norton, travelled by special train from Birmingham, while Mrs. Gladstone came direct from Hawarden. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone were most cordially greeted on their way to and from divine service at Hagley Church the following day.

BRO. SIR HENRY IRVING and Miss Ellen Terry left Waterloo Station on Saturday morning last for Southampton, where they embarked on board the American liner New York for a tour in the United States. The other members of the Lyceum Company proceed in the Red Star steamer Southwark. No less than 800 tons measurement of scenery, costumes, and other theatrical property have been dispatched to America for the use of the company during their tour in the States.

THE SHAHZADA NASRULLA KHAN and the members of his suite left Dorchester House on Tuesday for the Victoria Station of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company under an escort of the 1st Life Guards. His Highness was received by a guard of honour of the Coldstream Guards, with regimental colour and full band. The special train conveying the party left at 2 p.m. for Dover, where it embarked on board a special steamer for Calais en route for Paris. After a brief stay in the French capital his Highness will leave for Marseilles, where he will join the Clive, on board of which he will return to India.

AT THE EARLY AGE of 31, after a varied and most successful career, during which he has on several occasions displayed pronounced bravery, which has deservedly gained him recognition from the Board of Trade and the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society, Lieut. W. H. Bullock, R.N.R., has just been appointed to the command of the Pacific Liner Floridian, of which vessel he was for some time chief officer. Captain Bullock served as an apprentice on board the Steelfield, belonging to Messrs. W. H. Ross and Co., of Liverpool, and subsequently entered as an officer Messrs. Gracie, Beazley and Co.'s Australian Line. His first entrance into steam was as third officer of the old Cuban, of the West Indian and Pacific Company, since when he has rapidly risen to his present position. Bro. Bullock is a member and first initiate of the United Northern Counties Lodge, No. 2128, of which lodge his brother is also a member, and his father a P.M. and Secretary. Our columns have on more than one occasion recorded instances of Bro. Bullock's gallant conduct at sea.

"WHAT CANNOT BE CURED MUST BE ENDURED" need not be said to those who suffer from the effects of bad legs, scrofulous and scrofulous sores, as Holloway's Ointment and Pills are splendid specifics for these distressing afflictions. The earnest gratitude of thousands who have experienced the wonderful influence of these remedies, so that they have been raised from a position of prostrate helplessness to one of independence and comfort, is being constantly expressed, both personally and by letter. Their value is known throughout the world for every form of disease. In cases of indigestion, ague, fevers and disorders of the stomach and bowels, the Pills are an infallible remedy. For gout, rheumatics, neuralgia, &c., the Ointment is a blessing to thousands of poor sufferers.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT which appeared in this column last week that the meetings of the Board of Benevolence would in future be held at six o'clock instead of five was, we learn, incorrect. Our information was obtained from a circular issued, which contained, we are informed, a printer's error as regards the time of meeting. No change has been made, and future meetings will continue to be held at five o'clock.

A GREAT MASONIC BALL is to take place at Simla on Tuesday next, the 10th inst., at which Lord and Lady Elgin are to be present.

JULIA MARCHIONESS OF TWEEDDALE has been receiving a succession of visitors at Brahan Castle, where she will remain till October, when she leaves for India.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT left Victoria on Tuesday evening for Germany for the purpose of attending the funeral of the Grand Duchess of Oldenburg.

BRO. THE REV. T. SELBY HENREY, who has been spending his holiday in Switzerland and Northern Italy, has returned to town. During his tour he paid a short visit to Florence.

SURREY BY DEFEATING HAMPSHIRE in the early days of the present week, has succeeded in retaining the championship of the counties for another year. Lancashire was a good second, while Yorkshire stood next and Gloucestershire fourth.

KING HUMBERT, attended by a numerous staff, reviewed at Aquila the two army corps which had taken part in the recent army manoeuvres. On returning to the town his horse slipped and fell with him, but his Majesty quickly regained his feet and remounted.

LAST WEEK LONDON was not only almost the healthiest town in England, but about the healthiest town of any considerable size in the world. Its death rate was only 15.9 per 1000, the only towns with a lower rate being Bristol and Halifax. Burnley's return was 35.6 and that of Bolton was 34.1. Influenza has almost wholly disappeared for the time, the deaths ascribed to it being only three.

A HEAVY THUNDERSTORM passed over Cheshire and North Wales on Tuesday afternoon, the lightning being very brilliant, while the rain fell in torrents for a couple of hours. At Retford, in Notts, a boy who had been fishing and taken refuge under a tree was struck by lightning, rolled into the river, and taken out dead, while the wife of a labourer, only about 100 yards away, was blinded.

RAMSGATE REGATTA was held on Monday in exceptionally brilliant weather, the consequence being that the town was thronged with visitors. A very good programme of sport had been arranged by the Committee, the various events being very keenly contested. Afterwards there were aquatic sports, and in the evening fireworks, the town and the parade being also illuminated with Chinese lanterns.

A CORRESPONDENT has kindly forwarded the following: "That cats, though fastidious about wetting their feet, will dive like otters after fish, was attested by several members of the Piscatorial Society, assembled to their re-union at the Holborn Restaurant this week. One member had possessed a cat which, taken out in a punt, would dive with unerring aim after a fish, bring it on board, and then proceed to dive after others, being more interested in the sport than in the eating of her prey."

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING of the Isle of Axholme Lodge, No. 1482, was held on Tuesday last in the Masonic Rooms, Crowle. Present: Bros. C. Fox, acting W.M.; T. Stanforth, acting I.P.M.; R. Wood, Sec.; J. Constable, P.M.; J. F. Watson, Treas.; W. Pickering, S.W.; M. J. Behrendt, acting J.W.; G. F. Tyack, S.D.; H. Hoe, acting J.D.; J. H. Lee, Org.; A. W. Cundall, I.G.; W. E. Cranidge, and G. Naylor, Tyler. Bro. W. J. Tippet, 2373, was a visitor. Bro. W. E. Cranidge was raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M., the work being performed by Bros. Fox and Stanforth.

A REVIEW of the 2nd Durham (Seaham Harbour) Artillery Volunteers, of which the Marquis of Londonderry is commanding officer, and at which his lordship was present, was held on Saturday, great interest being displayed in the event, which was witnessed by the Marchioness of Londonderry, Lady Helen Stewart, Lord Reginald Stewart, Sir George Wombwell, Bro. Sir H. Williamson, and others. On Sunday last the New Seaham Cycle Club paraded in the grounds of Seaham Hall, and afterwards attended a religious service in a marquee erected on the lawn, Lord and Lady Londonderry being among the congregation.

THE INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT at Hastings has at length been brought to a conclusion. N. W. Pillsbury (America) was awarded the first prize of £150, his score being 16½; M. Tchigorin (Russia) taking the second prize of £115 with 16; E. Lasker (England) the third of £85 with 15½; Dr. Tarrarsh (Germany) the fourth of £60 with 14; Steinitz (America) the fifth of £40 with 13; E. Schiffers (Russia) being next with 12 and taking £30; whilst the seventh prize of £20 was divided between Teichmann and Bardeleben.

THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS on which the contest between the Defender and Valkyrie III. for the America Cup will be decided have been arranged. There will be five races over a course of 30 nautical miles, with a time limit of six hours, and the cup will go to the winner of three out of the five. The first race will take place to-morrow (Saturday), starting from Sandy Hook Lightship, the course being 15 miles to leeward or windward and return. There will be an interval of a day between the first and second races, and the latter will be over an equilateral course, each leg of which will measure 10 miles. Two guns will be fired, one as a preliminary signal, at 10.50 a.m., and the second as the signal to start, at 11 a.m.

PARTRIDGE SHOOTING commenced on Monday, and the reports from all parts of the country speak of the prospects of the season being exceptionally good. Shooting commenced in South Notts on that day in splendid weather, but only on a small scale, many of the county families not having returned from the moors. In Derbyshire the birds are said to be numerous, stronger and in better condition than usual, notwithstanding the extreme severity of the winter. Similar reports were received from Rutlandshire and North Northamptonshire, but sport was restricted, owing to the quantity of corn still standing. In South Lincolnshire, however, most of the corn had been carried, and there was an extensive range of ground available. In Cheshire, some good bags were made, while the keepers on the estates of the Duke of Westminster, Bro. Lord Egerton of Tatton, the Marquis of Cholmondeley, and others, report a successful breeding season, and the birds as being well developed and strong.

THE FIRST MEETING of the members of the Liverpool Dramatic Lodge, No. 1609, after the usual summer vacation, took place on Tuesday afternoon, the 27th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, where there was a numerous assembly of brethren. The W.M.'s chair was occupied by Bro. H. Heard, who has secured much popularity by the manner in which he has performed the duties attaching to that office during the past year, and after the transaction of the ordinary business, the brethren unanimously elected Bro. G. D. Clarence, S.W., to fill the position of Worshipful Master for the coming year, and Bro. W. Savage, P.P.G. Treas., was again selected by a unanimous vote to fulfil the duties of Treasurer. The Auditors (re-appointed) were Bro. Cantor, P.M., and Sandbrook, P.M. The W.M., S.W., J.W., I.P.M., Bros. Savage, P.M., and Light, P.M., were re-elected on the Committee of the Fund of Benevolence, and Bros. Mackenzie, P.M., Cantor, P.M., and Light, P.M., were delegated to represent the lodge on the Ball Committee. Bro. Mackenzie, P.P.S.G.D., was again chosen as the Charity Representative of 1609, and Bros. H. Heard, W.M., H. Round, P.M., and Dr. Goodwin, Sec., were appointed the Standing Committee of Inquiry.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY AND DONCASTER RACES.—During the race week the Great Northern Railway Company will have a service of 15 express trains daily from London to Doncaster. An additional special express will leave King's Cross for Doncaster each race day at 9.40 a.m., a luncheon car for first-class passengers being attached to this train. On Monday, the 9th instant, additional expresses will also leave King's Cross at 3.15 and 5.40 p.m. On "St. Leger" day, an express excursion will be run from Woolwich, Arsenal and Dockyard, Charlton, Maze Hill, and Greenwich, Spa Road, &c., to Doncaster, returning same day only. The low fare of 12s. 6d. will be charged. An express excursion will also leave King's Cross at 7.0 a.m., having connection with a train from Moorgate, Aldersgate, and Farringdon, returning either same day or on "Cup" day at 6.25 p.m. The low fare of 12s. 6d. will be charged. An additional express will leave Doncaster for London at 6.0 p.m. each race day, a dining car for first-class passengers being attached to this train on the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and to enable visitors from town to return immediately at the close of the races on "Cup" day, the 13th instant, special expresses will, on that day, start from Doncaster at 4.40 and 5.0 p.m., due to arrive at King's Cross at 8.0 and 8.20 respectively. On the latter train a dining car will be attached for first-class passengers. Third-class passengers will be conveyed by all trains.