

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 NEW BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

Those who may have read our article of last week on the proposed substitution of a single Board of General Purposes for the existing Board of General Purposes and Colonial Board, will have gathered from the general tenour of our remarks that we are very far from acquiescing in the opinions enunciated on the subject by "Lex Scripta." At the very outset, when the proposed change was brought under the notice of Grand Lodge, we expressed it as our belief that, as regards one of the main points to be considered, namely the transaction of Colonial business, it would not make any material difference whether the business was transacted, as at present, by a Colonial Board specially organised for the purpose of dealing with all matters relating to our Colonial lodges, or by a Colonial Committee of a General Board, which had been organised to deal with all matters affecting the well-being of our lodges both home and Colonial. Last week we stated this still more fully, pointing out very carefully that whether Colonial affairs were dealt with by a Committee or by a special Board, they would receive the same measure of consideration, and be decided in accordance with that spirit of absolute impartiality which has always characterised the proceedings of our Grand Lodge Boards, whether for General Purposes or for Colonial Purposes. We further expressed it as our opinion—an opinion which we know is held by very many of our readers—that though there would be no difference in the spirit in which Colonial business was transacted under the new arrangement, there was a very great probability, amounting almost to a certainty, that the decisions of the new Board, as it would be stronger both in its official and its elective sections, would be far more authoritative. Everything Colonial would in the first instance be carefully sifted by the Colonial Committee, which would report to the General Board; and the latter, having satisfied itself that its Committee had arrived at a just conclusion, would in turn report to Grand Lodge as to a supreme or final court, whose decision in all matters relating to the Craft must, in the nature of things, remain unquestioned. For these reasons we accepted the proposed change as one that might properly and with advantage be adopted. What further remarks we made had reference to the importance of the part reserved for the representatives of our lodges, that is, their Masters, Wardens, and Past Masters, on whom principally would devolve the duty of electing the lesser half of the new

Board. "Lex Scripta," however, is not in love with the proposed change. He thinks that a small and special Board, elected to deal with one special class of matter only, is "more likely to give the time and consideration required, and to feel more responsibility for their decisions, than a mere Committee having to report to the whole Board," and that there is nothing "to prevent the larger Board rejecting entirely the report and acting absolutely in opposition to the views of their Committee." As regards the former of these views, "Lex Scripta" appears for the moment to have overlooked the fact that the Committee of the new Board will be "special," like the Board that has been abolished, and that its members will have been elected "presumably for their special qualifications;" this cannot be said of the Colonial Board, as to which it is provided by Article 283, Book of Constitutions, that "when practicable, three members . . . shall be Past Masters of Colonial lodges." Hence, if the proposed Committee is composed wholly of Colonials it will be stronger in the matter of its "special" qualifications than the Board it supersedes, while if it should happen to be no stronger in this respect, it will undoubtedly be equally as effective as the present Board. But is there any reason, and, if so, what is the reason for supposing that a Committee will give less "time and consideration" and feel less "responsibility" than the present Board? The latter is as to one-third of its members, and the former is to be as to the whole of its members, specially qualified to deal with a special class of business. But, argues "Lex Scripta," that which is stronger in its essential qualification of Colonial knowledge and experience is merely "a Committee" which reports to a Board, while that which is the weaker in the same essential qualification is "a Board" which reports direct to Grand Lodge. But are we not—by which we mean not ourselves personally, but the general body of English Craftsmen—are we not, we repeat, reasonable beings, and, if so, how comes it that "Lex Scripta" has lost sight so entirely of the nature and attributes of reasonable beings as to invite us to believe that, while A and B are equally qualified to deal with a certain class of business, the former will not deal with it effectually because he is a member of a Committee, but the latter will deal with it effectually because he is a member of a Board? Or, to put the case as it is actually, and therefore still more forcibly, A, which is specially qualified as to the whole of its seven members, but reports to a Board, which in its turn reports to Grand Lodge, is less competent to fulfil its duties than that which is specially qualified only as to three-tenths of its members, but reports direct to Grand Lodge. And the reason assigned for this statement is because A is a Committee and B is a Board! There must, then, after all, be something in a name, when we are calmly and dispassionately invited by a brother in his sober senses to believe that men, who are specially qualified to fulfil certain duties will fulfil them as a Board, but not as a mere Committee of a Board.

As regards sundry of his other remarks, there is considerable force in what "Lex Scripta" says. Thus, as to obtaining the services of Colonial brethren, we shall be confronted with the same difficulty as hitherto in view of "the present system of canvassing and caucus arrangements." Indeed, the difficulty will be proportionately greater, seeing that the Committee of seven is to be composed, if possible, wholly of Colonials, while the Board has only three out of its 10 members Colonial. It is also most desirable that in the preparation of the arrangements for giving effect to the resolution of Grand Lodge, care should be taken to secure what is, after all, the main object of the new law, as it

was of the old, namely, that all business relating to our Colonial lodges shall be dealt with by properly qualified members; but the points he raises as to whether the circumstances which led to the establishment of the Colonial Board have been correctly or incorrectly described; whether the amount of business now transacted by that Board is greater, equal to, or less than the amount which was referred to the Grand Lodge authorities nearly 40 years ago; and as to whether Grand Lodge has, or has not decided to abolish the Colonial Board—these are matters about which we need not concern ourselves now. No doubt the Board of General Purposes will do its work thoroughly in settling the minor details of the new arrangement. The real difficulty will be found in securing the election of good men and well qualified to serve on the Board. This difficulty we pointedly referred to last week, and it is because we do not see our way to a solution of it that we regret Bro. LAMONBY was unable to be in his place and bring forward the resolution of which he had given notice against the practice now so commonly, and, indeed, so openly adopted of canvassing. We do not imagine that it would have the effect of putting a stop to canvassing; we fear the men of the "parochial" order of mind are not so easily abashed that even the strongest resolution of Grand Lodge against touting would exercise over them a deterrent effect; but it might have a salutary influence on the minds of the electors in the general body of Grand Lodge. Such a resolution might induce them not to elect those candidates for their support whose only qualification for office is the self-assurance they possess.

NEW ZEALAND.

It is deeply to be regretted that measures cannot be adopted which will have the effect of determining the present distracted condition of Freemasonry in New Zealand. It is no good retraversing the old ground of complaint about the disadvantages of concurrent jurisdiction. Every one is prepared to admit that the rule of one supreme authority is preferable to that of three authorities which are co-equal in all respects. But in spite of the petty tiffs and jars which occasionally arose to disturb the serenity of their relations, the brethren of the three Constitutions which occupied New Zealand conjointly before 1889 rubbed along fairly well together, while since 1889, when a so-called fourth Constitution appeared upon the scene, there has been nothing but the most complete, and at the same time, the most appalling, discord. The minor discords of former days may have been bad enough—we do not think they ever attained to such proportions as to justify such a description, but for the sake of argument we are willing to allow that they may have been so—but no one in his senses will deny that the transition has been from bad to worse, and the question which materially concerns every Mason who has at heart the true interests of the Fraternity is—How best can an end be put to a state of things which, if it continues much longer, will endanger the security of the Craft in New Zealand, and bring still more signal discredit upon the whole Masonic body? The question is a ticklish one to answer. The seceders are jubilant at the many accessions to their strength which have taken place since they set up their irregular Grand Lodge, and flouted their parent Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland in the face of all Masonry. They have won recognition from many Grand Lodges in North America and elsewhere, but not from the oldest and most experienced either in North America or the other countries where Masonry is established. They have grudgingly restored the warrants which they had appropriated to their own use, but they have not succeeded in ridding themselves of the very grave responsibility of having brought about a state of disorder which, as we have said, is a discredit to the whole community of Masons. On the other hand, there is a strong body of lodges which still remain true to their old allegiance, and while they so remain, there is little, if any, likelihood of the present unfraternal strife between them and the seceders being ended. On both sides, however, there must be many sound Masons of long experience, who may or may not have foreseen the disastrous consequences that were certain to follow upon any secession which was not acquiesced in

by a substantial majority of the lodges. Such men, whether seceders or loyalists, must yearn for a restoration of the old-time relations that existed everywhere throughout the Colony, and it appears to us that if, without prejudice to the rights and privileges of any one of the present discordant elements into which New Zealand Freemasonry is broken up, a conference could be arranged among the ablest and most trusted leaders of those elements, a step would be taken towards restoring the sorely-needed harmony and fraternal spirit, which prevailed only a few short years ago. Our "Ancients" and "Moderns" between 1751 and 1813 were more bitterly antagonistic to each other, and for a far longer period, than the present seceders and loyalists in New Zealand. But, after some 60 years of more or less open and declared hostility to each other, the rival Societies agreed to meet and settle their differences—which were far more important than those which presently divide the New Zealand Craft into two opposing camps—the one proviso insisted upon by each of the Societies being that the settlement should be honourable to both. If these "Ancients" and "Moderns," after 60 years of the bitterest rivalry in matters which each regarded as of vital importance to Masonry, were able to adjust their differences it ought not to be impossible for the Craft in New Zealand to resume their old relations of fraternal harmony, and establish some system of government for the whole body which shall be acceptable and, at the same time, honourable to all.

CONSECRATION OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA LODGE, No. 2584, AT MANCHESTER.

This new lodge, rejoicing in the above beloved name, promoted for the convenience of many distinguished Masons in the immediate neighbourhood, was consecrated on Thursday, the 12th instant, at the Conservative Club, Cheetham Hill. Bro. Col. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, P.G.M., was the Consecrating Officer, and was assisted in the performance of his important duties by Bros. James Heelis, P.P.G.W., as S.W.; J. J. Meakin, P.P.G.W., as J.W.; Rev. J. W. Challenor, Prov. G. Chap.; A. H. Duffin, P.G.D.C.; J. W. Allitt, P.G.P.; T. Wolstenholm, P.G. Org.; and a choir consisting of Bros. W. H. Kershaw, P.M.; Cuthbert Blacow, S.W.; J. Robinson, P.M.; A. S. Kinnell, and W. Dumville, P.M.

The commodious room had been specially decorated for the purpose, and its capacity was quite adequate for the large number of brethren who attended. The handsome furniture and ornaments of the lodge had been chosen with very good taste, and the regalia was all that could be desired. The founders—whose names follow—all wore magnificent founders' jewels, emblazoned with her Most Gracious Majesty's arms, and was a specimen of the finest craftsmanship. Everything was favourable, while by the forethought of Bros. Sam Mills, Wm. Bird Midgley, and T. Nesbitt, the whole arrangements for receiving guests were such that it was impossible for the gathering to be otherwise than a success. The whole of the officers seemed to work well with each other, and comparisons would be, under the circumstances, invidious.

The lodge was opened, and Bro. Col. STARKIE, P.G.M., said that the occasion on which they met was one of great importance, being none other than the consecration of a lodge for which a warrant had been granted by the M.W.G.M. The number in the province was now 111. The brethren could understand that new lodges were not warranted unless some very good and substantial reason were given for their existence. And it was most gratifying to him, as well as others, to see that Masonry flourished in the large and opulent city of Manchester, and in the great and influential Province of East Lancashire. Their Institution was founded upon the highest principles of morality, and those who had joined in the mysteries of the Order had learned by adhering to its tenets that they would be enabled to become better citizens, and better able to carry out the law of Charity towards their brethren and all mankind. He sincerely hoped that the new lodge would be distinguished for its excellence, and would be a worthy example to others, and a great success.

The PROV. GRAND CHAPLAIN, in an oration, said that, if the tenets and principles of the Order were carried out by the brethren in all the commonplace affairs of every-day life, Freemasons and Freemasonry, powerful as they were now, must become more effective still, because of the propagation of all that was right and virtuous. The term, "Freemason," ought to be synonymous with "true man." They knew that often it was so, although in Freemasonry, as in every profession or trade, every community and every system, there were those who were untrue to the principles and tenets handed down to them. Might they make that lodge an example of virtue and brotherly love to the sister lodges which should come after it!

The anthem followed—"Behold how good," rendered beautifully by the choir, under the direction of Bro. T. Wolstenholm, P.G. Org.

The ceremony was then proceeded with and completed, and Bro. Samuel Irvin Mills, P.M., was installed into the chair by Bro. J. H. Sillitoe. The following brethren then received the lodge collars: founders—Bros. Samuel Irvin Mills, P.M., W.M.; Charles Wm. Godby, P.M., acting I.P.M. and Treas.; Wm. Bird Midgley, P.M., S.W.; Thomas Nesbitt, J.W.; Thomas Syms, Sec.; Wm. Richardson, S.D.; John Foulkes, J.D.; Alpine Thos. McGregor, P.M., D.C.; Richard Harding Williams, I.G.; Jonathan Pollitt, P.M., Charity Representative; Wm. Moulton, Org.; Joseph King, James Parkinson, and Joseph Arthur Gee, Stwds.

Votes of thanks were given to the Consecrating Officer and a founder's jewel was presented to him.

The lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to a banquet, served at the Cheetham Town Hall. The usual toasts followed.

Immediately at the close of the consecration a telegram had been dispatched to her Majesty the Queen, and immediately preceding the first toast a most gracious reply came from her Majesty. Of course this incident caused a great deal of enthusiasm, and with a heart full of loyalty, Bro. S. MILLS, W.M., proposed the toast of "The Queen." He said the Queen, God bless her, is well known to you all as a great upholder of our ancient Institution no less than as a striking example of womanly goodness combined with imperial greatness. He also alluded to the message they had just received, and the lodge being the only one in the country bearing the name Queen Victoria, they would ally themselves more loyally, if possible, to the beloved Queen Victoria. He, therefore, asked them to be upstanding and drink the toast of the Queen.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER next said: The toast I now have the honour of proposing is that of "Our Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales." I need not here dilate upon the good and sterling qualities of our Grand Master, they are well known to you all, but this I must say, that a more painstaking, energetic, and hard-working Mason is not to be found in the Craft, and I am sure you will all endorse what I have said. I will, therefore, ask you to be upstanding and drink long life and prosperity to our genial Prince.

The other toasts followed, and were responded to most ably by various brethren, but want of space permits us giving them.

The following brethren were present:

Bros. A. H. Duffin, P.G.D.C.; J. H. Sillitoe, P.G.S.B., Installing Officer; E. Ashcroft, P.G.D.; W. H. Norton, P.G. Reg.; A. H. Jefferis, P.P.G.W.; A. H. William, P.P.G. Org.; G. S. Smith, P.P.G.O. East and West Lanes; J. Bee, P.A.G.D.C.; Thos. Wolstenholm, P.G.O.; Thomas Rigby, P.G.S.B.; James Bromiley, P.G.S.B.; W. Thornley, P.G.S.; John Wrigley, P.G. Treas.; James L. Smith, P.G.S.; Joseph Bridgford, P.P.G.P.; J. W. Allitt, P.G.P.; J. Newman Woolmer, P.A.G.D.C.; Jas. Andrew, P.P.G.D.; James Newton, P.G. Sec.; Thos. D. Foreman, P.G.D.; J. W. Millward, P.G.S. of Wks.; T. Ramsay, P.G.D.; John Cliffe, P.P.G.D.C.; George Jackson, P.D.G.S.B.; J. Hothersall, P.G.D.C.; W. Nicholl, P.P.G.T.; Thos. Knott, P.M.; Walter Bigg, P.M.; George Wheewell, P.M.; W. B. Akerman, P.M., W.M. 2584; T. Plumpton, S.W.; A. C. K. Smith, Sec. 2554; R. Barrow, P.M.; J. Pollitt, P.M.; J. Selby, P.M.; Chas. Dove; C. W. Hasmith; W. B. Midgley, P.M.; J. Howorth, P.M.; A. A. Millington, J. Hudson, W. M. Higginson, G. Froggatt, and R. H. Williams.

Copy of reply to telegram sent by the brethren of Queen Victoria Lodge:—

"O.H.M.S.—Windsor Castle, 7.30 p.m., December 12th, 1895. Samuel Irvin Mills, Town Hall, Cheetham, Manchester,—The Queen thanks you for kind message from Brethren of Queen Victoria Lodge of Freemasons. Signed, Private Secretary."

Copy of reply to telegram sent by the brethren of Queen Victoria Lodge:—

"W.M., Queen Victoria Lodge, Town Hall, Cheetham,—I thank the Brethren for their good wishes. "ALBERT EDWARD."

CONSECRATION OF THE RADNOR LODGE, No. 2587.

For some time past arrangements have been in progress at Folkestone for the consecration of the Radnor Lodge, No. 2587, and on Wednesday, the 11th instant, the long looked-for event took place in the Masonic Hall, in the presence of some 160 brethren, the Consecrating Officer being Bro. Earl Amherst, Prov. Grand Master, who was assisted in the duties of the day by Bro. E. Letchworth, F.S.A., G. Sec., with Bros. W. Russell, P.M. 77, Prov. G. Treas., as S.W.; W. Saunders, W.M. 558—now the senior lodge in Folkestone—as J.W.; the Rev. A. Jackson and the Rev. J. E. Player, Prov. G. Chaplains, as Chaplains; A. Spencer, P.G.S.B., Prov. G. Sec., as Sec.; Horatio Ward, P.D.G.S.B., P.P.G.W., as D.C.; J. B. Groome, Prov. G. Org.; and G. Peden, Prov. G.P., as I.G.

In addition, there were present the following, among others, Bros. the Earl of Radnor, Prov. G.M. of Wilts; H. D. Stock, P.P.J.G.W.; W. Francis, P.P.G.D.C.; Hughes, D.D.G.M. Malta; J. Terson, P.P.G.D.; R. Philpott, P.P.A.G.S.; R. Fynmore, P.P.G.S. of W.; J. Kennett, P.P.G. Org.; C. M. Layton, P.P.S.G.W. Herts; F. Hall, P.P.G. Reg.; G. H. O'Malley, P.D.G.S.B. Gibraltar; E. Hire, P.P.G.S.B.; J. H. Hallett, P.P.G.R.; Sibert Saunders, P.P.G.R.; J. T. Reeves, P.P.A.G. D.C.; and A. Samson, P.P.G.P.

Shortly after 2.15 p.m., the general body of the brethren having taken their seats, a procession, which included Bros. the Earl of Radnor, Prov. G. Master of Wiltshire; the Grand Secretary, and the Prov. Grand Officers and Prov. G. Master of Kent, was formed, and entered the room, and Bro. Earl Amherst having taken the chair, and appointed the brethren already named as officers for the day, lodge was opened, and the Prov. G. Masters of Kent and Wilts and the Grand Secretary were successively saluted with the honours due to their rank.

The opening hymn having been sung,

Bro. the Rev. J. E. PLAYER, as Chaplain, delivered the following oration on the nature and purposes of Freemasonry:

It has been the custom, from time immemorial, that on such an occasion as this a few words should be spoken on the nature and principles of our Institution. My object, therefore, in addressing you now, is to lay before you as clearly, and, having regard to the shortness of the time at my disposal, as concisely as I can the nature and purposes of Freemasonry; nor, in fulfilling this object, do I consider it necessary I should go very far outside the limits of that instruction which you have all received at the various stages of your career as Masons. In the earlier stages of that career you were told that Freemasonry is a system of morality. But as there is no form of religious worship which does not inculcate its system of morality, so can there be no system of morality which is not deeply

imbued with the spirit of religion. It is impossible for any one to be religiously good who is not at the same time a man of exemplary morals; and the converse proposition is equally true, that it is impossible for any one to be morally good in himself and towards his fellow-men without being actuated by a sense of true religion. Hence it is that a man who does not believe in the existence of a Supreme Being is ineligible to be received into our Society. Such a man if indeed there be such a one, which may well be doubted—would be unable to put in practice those principles of morality which it is the purpose of Freemasonry to instil into our minds. It would be an absurdity for the Master of one of our lodges to recommend to the serious consideration of one who has no faith in God the Sacred Volume of the Law, which is the basis of our Masonic faith and by the help of which, we are told, we shall be taught the important duties we owe to God, to our neighbour, and to ourselves. But because I tell you, as many others before me in the position I now occupy have told you, that Freemasonry is a system of morality, and that it is impossible for morality to be void of all sense of religion, you must not commit the serious error of imagining that Freemasonry is a religion, or that it was ever intended to be a substitute for religion. Freemasonry is the handmaid of religion, but it is not a religion in itself. In the words of our well-beloved Deputy Provincial Grand Master, whom may God speedily restore and long preserve to us, "Freemasonry is not religion, but it is the next best thing to it." Freemasonry is not religion, but it is religious, and the great text book of the Institution is the Holy Bible. Having described to you the nature of Freemasonry, let me enter upon the second part of my duty, that of explaining to you the purposes for which Freemasonry, in its present speculative form, was established. You are all aware, indeed the evidence of the fact is before you at this very moment, that the Volume of the Sacred Law, which, as I have said, is the basis of our whole system, and which was recommended to your most serious consideration immediately after your initiation into our mysteries, occupies the most prominent place in all our lodges. That Sacred Volume is the inspired Word of Him whom we all speak of with awe and reverence as the Architect and Supreme Ruler of the Universe. But it is not always the same Sacred Volume which occupies this place of honour. In lodges composed of members, who profess Christianity, it is the Holy Bible, and comprises both the Old and New Testaments. But in Hebrew lodges it would be the Old Testament only; in lodges of Mohammedans, the Koran; and in those whose members are attached to other faiths, the sacred writings of those faiths. But what becomes of the claim which Freemasonry has justly advanced of being a universal system in the face of this material, I will go further still, and say, these fundamental differences of religious opinion among its members? The answer to this question is immediate and clear. Religion is the basis on which Freemasonry is established, but it is Religion without the slightest trace of sectarianism. But the principles of morality, which are contained in every form of religious cult, are the same. I have said that a man who does not believe in God, cannot be a Mason, but Masonry takes no heed of the particular form which his belief may assume. The principles of morality are the same in all cults. The Mohammedan and the Brahmin, equally with the Jew and the Christian, know well that their duty to God consists in never mentioning his name but with that awe and reverence which are due from the creature to the Creator; in imploring His aid on all their lawful undertakings, and in looking up to Him, in every emergency, for comfort and support. They know, all of them, equally well, that the duty they owe to their neighbour is to act with him on the square, to render him every kind office which justice and mercy may require, to relieve his necessities and soothe his afflictions; and, generally, to do unto him as they would he should do unto them in similar circumstances. All of them know equally well that their duty to themselves consists in adopting such a prudent and well-regulated course of discipline as may conduce to the preservation of their corporeal and mental faculties in their fullest energy, to the end that they may be the better enabled to exert those talents with which God has blessed them, as well to His glory as to the welfare of their fellow creatures. They, all of them, are equally well aware that it is their duty to be exemplary in the discharge of their civil responsibilities, and to cultivate the practice of every domestic as well as of every public virtue. All of them alike recognise that it is their duty to be influenced by the dictates of prudence, temperance, fortitude, and justice, and, above all, of that Charity, without which, though they might possess all knowledge and all faith, and though they might bestow all their goods to feed the poor, it would profit them nothing in the sight of their Creator. In fine, Freemasonry is that code or system of morals without which no form of religion is perfect, while its purposes are to instil into the minds of those who freely and voluntarily enrol themselves under its banner to fulfil those duties and to cultivate the knowledge of those virtues which are possessed in common by all religious faiths; and my earnest hope and prayer is that those who have united to found the lodge, which is shortly about to be dedicated to God's service, as well as those whom they may hereafter admit into its fellowship, shall so order their lives, both in private and in public, as to be an honour to the Society of which they are, or shall be in time to come, members. May the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe rest upon you all; may the richest Benediction of the Eternal Father attend the work which has been so auspiciously begun here to-day; and may He, the Most High, grant to each one of us and to all our brethren, wherever they may be, a further mark of His most gracious favour at the last!

A beautiful and appropriate anthem, which had been specially composed for the occasion by Bro. the Rev. E. V. Eustace Bryan, who accompanied it, having been sung by a choir consisting of Bros. C. E. Perry, W. Francis, Rev. E. V. Bryan, Rev. C. F. Snaith, E. Pepper, Chaffer, F. Franklin, and Couchman, the ceremony of consecration was proceeded with and carried to a conclusion, and Earl Amherst having vacated the chair in favour of the Grand Secretary, the latter forthwith installed Lord Radnor in the chair as the first W.M. of the lodge, and his lordship having been formally saluted, appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers for the year: Bros. Capt. C. M. Layton, P.M. 200, P.P.S.G.W. Herts, acting I.P.M.; Lieut.-Col. W. Keily Westropp, P.M. 2195, S.W.; Lieut.-Col. C. J. Hamilton, W.M. 2195, J.W.; Rev. J. E. Player, P.M. 558, 2237, P.G. Chap., Chap.; F. Hall, P.M. 709, 558, P.P.G. Reg., Treas. (elect 1); A. H. Gardner, 558, Sec.; E. T. Ward, 284, S.D.; A. J. De Butts, 558, 2195, J.D.; Lieut.-Col. G. H. O'Malley, 278, D.C.; S. H. Greenstreet, P.M. 125, Org.; W. Chubb, P.M. 1436, I.G.; C. A. P. Osborne, 125, Capt. Lafone, 1665, and Lieut.-Col. F. A. Hutchins, 705, Stwds.; and G. Butcher, 125, 1436, 558, Tyler.

The thanks of the lodge and honorary membership having been voted to Lord Amherst and his officers, as well as to the Grand Secretary, for their services in connection with the inauguration of the lodge, and four candidates for initiation, as well as several joining members, having been proposed, the lodge was closed, and in due course the brethren adjourned to the Royal Pavilion Hotel, where, under the genial presidency of the newly-installed W.M., and to the number of 80 and upwards they partook of the sumptuous banquet which had been prepared for them by Bro. Spurgen, who well maintained the character of his establishment by the choiceness of his menu and the excellence of his arrangements generally.

At the conclusion of the repast,

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER proposed "The Queen and the Craft,"

after which the toast of "The M.W. the Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," was duly honoured.

The next toast, which was proposed by Bro. Earl AMHERST, was "The M.W. Pro G.M., the Earl of Lathom, G.C.B.; the R.W. Deputy G.M., the Earl of Mount Edgcombe; and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

This was responded to by Bro. E. LETCHWORTH, G. Sec., who, after thanking the company on behalf of those brethren whose names had been mentioned, but who were not present, assured them that it gave him great pleasure to have helped to start a new lodge, which he felt had so great a future before it.

The toast of "The Worshipful Master" was proposed by Bro. E. LETCHWORTH, who alluded to the honour he had had that afternoon in installing Lord Radnor as W.M. He was sure that under his lordship's able and genial rule it would be one of the most successful and prosperous lodges in the province.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER, in responding, assured them all of the pleasure it gave him to accept the office of the first W.M. He was never more pleased than when he was asked to take that office. He thought Folkestone was quite large enough, and there was plenty of room in it, for two lodges. He was sorry that he could not spend more of his time in Folkestone, but the fact was that his ancestors had handed him down a residence and large estates in Wilts, to which he was tied. He could not be in two places at once, and he could not be doing his duty in Wilts when he was with them in Folkestone, although he would much prefer his title to have been Earl of Folkestone instead of Earl of Radnor, a title which was conferred years ago on one of his ancestors, who was given a title which had lapsed. He could assure them that he had the best interests of Folkestone at heart, and he would do all he could for the town.

Bro. Lieut.-Col. HAMILTON, J.W., in a brief speech, proposed "The Visitors."

Bros. RUSSELL and C. J. SAUNDERS, W.M. 558, responded.

"The Officers of the Lodge" was next proposed by the WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

Bro. Lieut.-Col. W. K. WESTROPP, S.W., responded. He said if they looked around they would find that the church, the law, medicine, and the army had all their representatives in the officers of the Radnor Lodge. He trusted that they had gained some knowledge of that tact, courtesy, and good fellowship, which was so essential to the prosperity and well-being of every institution, and without which no lodge in Freemasonry could exist. On his own behalf, and he was sure he was expressing the sentiments of every officer of the lodge, when he added, on their behalf likewise, they were animated with the one desire to carry out with zeal, and to the best of their ability, the duties connected with their respective offices, and were impressed with the idea to forward its interests by every means in their power, and by their individual and combined action to render it worthy of their name, and as they hoped, in time worthy by its merits to rank at least as one of the foremost of the many lodges in the distinguished Province of Kent. When the centenary of the lodge came, he hoped that it would be found vigorous, prosperous, and happy, and that there would be an Earl of Radnor again to grace the chair.

The other officers who responded were Bros. E. T. WARD, S.D.; Lieut.-Col. G. H. O'MALLEY, D.C.; F. HALL, Treas.; and A. H. GARDNER, Secretary.

The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a close.

During the evening some excellent songs were given by Bros. Perry, Lafone, Clements, and W. Francis. The music at the banquet was arranged under the able direction of Bro. H. G. Clements, who also accompanied.

In the course of the proceedings a telegram was sent to the Deputy Prov. G.M., Bro. J. S. Eastes, P.G.D. Eng., conveying the "Hearty good wishes" of the brethren for his speedy recovery.

The following is a complete list of the founders of the Radnor Lodge, viz.: Bros. the Right Hon. the Earl of Radnor, P.G.M. and G.S. Wilts.; Viscount Folkestone, M.P., 778; Lieut.-Col. W. Keily Westropp, P.M. 2105; Lieut.-Col. C. J. Hamilton, W.M. 2195; Rev. J. E. Player, 558, P.M. 2237, P.G. Chap. Kent, P.P.G.C. Norfolk; Capt. C. Miller Layton, P.M. 200, P.P.S.G.W. Herts; Frederic Hall, P.M. 709, 558, P.P.G. Reg. Kent; W. Chubb, M.R.C.S., P.M. 1436; R. Ritchie, P.M. 171; A. J. de Butts, L.S.A., S.D. 2195, 558; E. T. Ward, J.P., 284; Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. Bevan Edwards, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.P.; Maj.-Gen. E. A. Wood, C.B., 349; Lieut.-Col. G. H. O'Malley, 271, P.D.G.S.B. Gibraltar; A. H. Gardner, 558; Rev. Claude Bosanquet, M.A., 558; Lieut.-Col. F. A. Hutchins, 205; Brig.-Surg. E. D. Tomlinson, M.D., 705; A. Atkinson, 558; Rev. Denman Dean, 558; Lieut.-Gen. Boldero, C.B., 515; C. A. P. Osburne, F.R.C.S. Edin., J.W. 125; C. E. Fitzgerald, M.D., 558; and Capt. Lafone, J.D. 1665.

CONSECRATION OF THE ROYAL VICTORIAN CHAPTER, No. 2184.

The consecration of the above chapter took place on Monday, the 9th inst., at the Phoenix Hotel, Rainham, Essex, Comp. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., G. Reg., Grand Superintendent of the Province, being the Consecrating Officer, assisted by the following Grand and Prov. Grand Officers: Comps. Dring, H.; A. G. Hayman, J.; Clowes, S.N.; T. J. Ralling, S.E.; and A. Lucking, D.C.

The chapter having been solemnly opened, the ceremony was proceeded with, and the whole of the impressive and beautiful ceremony was carried out in its entirety, the following oration being eloquently given by Comp. HAYMAN, the Provincial Grand J.

It is not without much misgiving that I find myself called upon to deliver the customary oration at the formation of this Royal Arch chapter. The fact that I am dealing with a subject so rich in interest and material, and so pure and elevated in tone as Freemasonry, would feign lead me to ask your most indulgent reception of the necessarily scant and brief remarks I shall venture to offer. The interesting and solemn occasion in which we participate to-day naturally leads us reverently to contemplate the sublime basis upon which our stupendous Order rests, to consider the influence and golden attributes which contribute to its stability, and demonstrate its usefulness and the obligations—the qualities of mind and heart, which are incumbent upon all those who, being Master Masons, are

seeking to complete their Masonic edifice by proceeding to the higher Degree of Holy Royal Arch. However beautiful and graceful other Degrees may be, the Royal Arch must ever be the very climax and cap-stone of the Order, for it deals with a theme which is before all other themes—the contemplation of Him who was, and is, and shall be, the same from everlasting to everlasting—all creation being dependent upon His Almighty Will. The religious principles on which the mighty Order rests are doubtless in the first instance common with that universal craving for a knowledge of God which has affected devout men in every age and every sphere, and it is this humble recognition of the Most High in the working of His Divine purposes which constitute us members of the same mystic fold, by acknowledging the One Supreme Creator and God whose triune attributes are infinite, omnipotent, and omnipresent. Masonry has had many subtle enemies within and without, alike among the cultured and the ignorant; her ceremonies have been denounced as trifling and profane, and her organisation as dangerous. Yet because of her sublime original, in the face of all opposition, the sun of Masonry shines with unabated vigour. The virtues which we profess and which so materially contribute to the stability of our Order—morality, benevolence, Charity, justice, truth and loyalty are the natural outcome of these religious principles, so closely allied the one to the other as to be beyond our power of divorce. I cannot here dwell on the cosmopolitan character of our principles and teaching, but we cannot forget that it is deep enough to furnish fields of research for the studious and broad enough to admit of a membership of nearly two millions of our fellow creatures speaking every language known to the civilised world. Men in the first rank of intellect and ability have directed their researches to the history of our mysteries and to the various studies of astronomical, chemical, and moral science which are elucidated and enunciated in our ceremonies and teaching, whilst the humblest who may enter the sacred portals of this august Degree with fitting reverence, and who ponder its meanings and mysteries cannot but find an incentive to cultivate his intellectual faculties as well as to model his life by the sacred dictates of morality and religion. To those who follow her teachings, and who seek for true knowledge, she offers ever new results and incentives to the praise and adoration of the Great Architect of the Universe. Not opposed to Christianity as some would think, but rather as the handmaid of religion, she pursues the even tenour of her way content with doing good, deriving the lessons she expounds in morality, wisdom, and Charity from a source which can utter no uncertain sound, the Volume of the Sacred Law. Thus by a proper study of Masonry, we may learn our duty to God and man. And lastly, will you permit me to refer to our obligations as Masons and their special bearing upon us on such an auspicious occasion as the present. The occasion of our convocation is a matter of congratulation to you, Most Excellent, as the Grand Superintendent of the province as well as for the founders of the chapter. Let us make the Victorian Chapter worthy of our ancient Institution, worthy of the province and of each other. It is feared by some (speaking of Masonry generally) that there is a tendency to endanger the dignity—and thereby the stability and usefulness—of our Order by opening her sacred portals too widely or without a due discrimination and searching enquiry. Alas! that this should ever be so. As to those whose object is to seek their own selfish advantage, by whom our sacred mysteries are but lightly esteemed, their solemn obligations but faintly realised, or those who, by any excess or want of self-restraint in word or act, are apt to encourage a flippant criticism of our sacred mysteries, or to bring discredit on our social recreations, of such Masonry can well afford to be without. Our strength does not consist in numbers, and our responsibilities to our solemn obligations and to each other are alike individual and collective. As has been truly said—"The strength of a noble edifice is estimated not by the size of its buttresses, or the number of its towers and arches, but by the strength of its foundations, the quality of its material, and the workmanship bestowed upon it." Let us not forget that in assisting in the inauguration of this chapter we are adding another to our obligations to exemplify the tenets of our sublime teaching. It enjoins us, by diligence and fidelity in the duties of our respective stations, by constancy and sincerity in our friendships, by a liberal and diffusive Charity, and by a blameless life, to show what happy and beneficial effects flow from our ancient and honourable institution. I cannot find more fitting words to close this address than in the charge so familiar to you—"When you quit this sacred retreat of friendship and mix again with the world, amid its cares and employments, forget not the duties which have been so frequently inculcated and strongly recommended in this supreme convocation. Be ye, therefore, discreet, prudent, and temperate. Remember that around this altar ye have voluntarily and solemnly vowed to befriend and relieve with unhesitating cordiality every brother who shall need your assistance, sympathy, or advice; that you have promised to remind him in the most gentle manner of his failings, and to aid in his reformation; to defend and vindicate his character when wrongfully traduced, and to suggest the most palliating and favourable circumstances even when he is justly liable to blame. Thus shall the world see how Masons love one another. But, my companions, you are to extend this noble sentiment yet farther. Let me impress upon your hearts that every human being has an undoubted claim on your kind offices, and while we more particularly recommend to your care the household of the faithful, we strictly enjoin you to carry comfort and consolation to all your fellow creatures in the hour of their need. Let it not be said that you have laboured in vain or wasted your strength for nought; for your work is before the Lord, your recompense is with your God. Finally, companions, be all of one mind, and live in peace with each other, and may the Most High God delight to dwell among you and bless you for evermore."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Comp. Kedle, P.Z. 141, inducted the M.E.Z. designate, Comp. C. Jolly, P.Z. 915 and 1472, into his chair of M.E.Z., and Comp. Jolly then installed his Second and Third Principals, Comps. T. Ringrose, 898, and J. S. Hammond, jun., 65, into their respective chairs of H. and J.

The following officers were then elected and invested: Comps. C. J. Gardand, S.N.; W. Harvey, S.E.; F. J. Eedle, I.P.Z. and Treas.; E. C. Talbot, P.S.; Joseph Cohen, 1st A.S.; J. Block, 2nd A.S.; H. Dow-White, D.C.; F. W. Robinson, Org.; G. Brown, Stwd.; and J. Ives, Janitor.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Installing Officers, the same to be inscribed on the minutes of the chapter, and they were elected, with acclamation, hon. members of the chapter and presented with founders' jewels, for all and several of which thanks were returned.

A list of some 30 candidates for exaltation and joining was then proposed, and the chapter was closed.

The banquet was elegantly served, and was well worthy of the esteemed caterer, Bro. Joyce.

The usual loyal, Grand, and Provincial Grand Chapter toasts were proposed and drunk with enthusiasm, Comp. PHILBRICK receiving an ovation when he rose to return thanks for the toast of his health, both as Grand Superintendent of the Province and Consecrating Officer.

Several other toasts followed, and that there is a grand future before the chapter may be inferred from the number and rank of the founders, who are as follows: Comps. Sir W. Abdy, Bart., J. 1024; W. C. Pritchard, 141; M. A. Blest, 913; F. W. Robinson, 1423; S. H. Holt, 1423; A. B. Remington, 720; and J. W. Stevens, 720.

The musical arrangements were in the hands of Comp. Frank Swinfen, Professor of Music, Trinity College, who composed the music for the anthems especially for the occasion, who, with Comps. G. May, A. Weston, E. Roberts, P.Z., and F. W. Stephens, not only sang the incidental music during the ceremony, but contributed ballads and glees during the after-dinner recreation.

Too much praise cannot be given to Comp. Eedle for his indefatigable work for the success of the chapter and its foundation.

Among the other companions present were: Comps. F. A. White, P.P. G.P.S.; J. H. Meggy, P.P.A.G.S.; R. Cushing, P.A.G.S.; J. Pinder, P.A.G.S.; A. Vandervoord, P.A.G.D.C.; H. Ives, M.E.Z. G.H.; W. Shurmur, P.P.G.J.; G. Cowell, P.P.G.S.; H. Dehane, P.Z. 214; J. Knight, J. Turner, H. Canning, P.Z. 13 and 1472; J. Savage, P.Z. 1472; and others.

INSTALLATION OF THE EARL OF ONSLOW, G.C.M.G., AS PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK MASTER OF SURREY.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Surrey was held at Maple Hall, Surbiton, on the 11th instant, when there was a large attendance of Mark Masons to witness the installation of Bro. the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G., as Provincial Grand Master. In the unavoidable absence of Bro. the Earl of Euston, Pro G.M., the interesting ceremony was performed by Bro. Viscount Dungarvan, Deputy G.M., assisted by Bros. C. F. Matier, P.G.W., Grand Sec.; Col. A. B. Cook, Prov. G.M. Middx., as Prov. S.G.W.; C. Belton, P.G.O., as Prov. J.G.W.; and J. Balfour Cockburn, as G.D.C.

The brethren in attendance included—

Bros. Viscount Dungarvan, Dep. G.M.; the Earl of Onslow, Prov. G.M. designate; F. West, Dep. P.G.M. in charge; Col. A. B. Cook, Prov. G.M. Middx.; C. Belton, P.G.O.; C. F. Matier, P.G.W., G. Sec.; S. G. Kirchoffer, P.G.O.; Raymond H. Thrupp, P.G.O.; J. Balfour Cockburn, as G.D.C.; T. F. Easterbrook, Prov. S.G.W.; R. A. Marshall, Prov. G.M.O.; W. J. Dyer, Prov. J.G.O.; Col. A. H. Bircham, Prov. G. Treas.; S. Lambert, Prov. G. R. of M.; A. H. Bowles, Prov. G. Sec.; Major G. H. H. Bridges, P.P.S.G.W.; C. T. Tyler, Prov. A.G.D.C.; W. Briant, Prov. S.G.D.; J. T. Rushton, Prov. J.G.D.; C. P. Passmore, Prov. G. Org.; E. Apelt, Prov. G.I.G.; W. H. Littleboy, Prov. G.S.B.; N. J. Churcher and C. B. Tubbs, Prov. G. Std. Brs.; C. W. J. Bird, S.W. 333; A. M. Kennett, 407; J. A. Farnfield, P.G.O.; T. White, 114; Rev. E. G. Houndle, 198; A. W. R. Sowman, 442; R. Stilemar, 114; H. Burgess, 198; J. D. Vicary, P.P.S.G.D.; E. L. Anderson, J.W. 451; J. A. Braik, 333; J. H. Cureton, 333; W. Featherstonhaugh, W.M. 451; J. B. S. Lancaster, P.M., P.P.G.D.; A. Lambert, S.W. 198; G. W. Fortescue, S.D. 451; J. Leech Barrett, S.O. 450; T. Pritchard, I.G. 451; E. A. Whitby, W.M. 333; C. Pulman, P.G.I.G.; H. J. Strong, W.M. 114; J. H. Robson, and J. Webb, P.G.S.

Prov. Grand Lodge was opened by Bro. F. West, Deputy P.G.M., and the minutes having been confirmed, the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Officers entered in procession, and were saluted.

The Deputy Grand Master having been informed that the Prov. Grand Master designate was without, the patent of appointment was produced and examined, and Bro. the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G., Prov. G.M. designate, was escorted into Prov. Grand Lodge by the Acting G.D.C., and a deputation of Past Masters.

The G. Sec. then read the patent, and prayer was offered by the Prov. G. Chaplain.

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER then addressed the Prov. Grand Master designate, and said they had met for a very interesting ceremony. It was a great pleasure to him to attend to instal Bro. the Earl of Onslow into the chair, but he had been asked to apologise for the M.W. Pro Grand Master, whose absence was owing to business he could not avoid. Grand Lodge had always looked upon the Province of Surrey as one of the most prosperous, and until lately it had been ruled over by one who was esteemed and beloved by all who knew him. H.R.H. the M.W.G.M. had now been pleased to appoint so distinguished a brother and so eminent a man as the Earl of Onslow, to whom it would be unnecessary to say anything of the duties of Prov. Grand Master, as, from his long experience, he was thoroughly acquainted with those duties, and they were all sure he would perform them well.

The Prov. Grand Master was then obligated and invested, duly installed in the chair, proclaimed by the G.D. of C., and saluted by the brethren.

Bro. Fredk. West was appointed Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and duly invested and proclaimed.

The roll of lodges in the province was called, and all were represented.

On the nomination of the DEPUTY PROV. GRAND MASTER, Bro. Lieut.-Col. Bircham was re-elected Prov. Grand Treasurer, and Bro. Potter was re-elected Prov. Grand Tyler.

The following Prov. Grand Officers were appointed and invested:

Bro. J. A. Farnfield	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" F. Flood	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" F. T. Rushton	...	...	...	Prov. G.M.O.
" Dr. H. J. Strong	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.O.
" W. G. Fenn	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.O.
" Rev. J. H. Robson	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. E. L. Houndle	...	...	...
" Lieut.-Col. A. H. Bircham	...	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" S. W. Lambert	...	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" A. H. Bowles	...	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" E. A. Whitby	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" E. Apelt	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" J. W. H. Littleboy	...	...	...	Prov. G.I. of W.
" Major Newington Bridges	...	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" C. Cheel	...	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" J. Webb	...	...	...	} Prov. G.S.Bs.
" D. Norman	...	...	...
" C. F. Passmore	...	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" A. W. R. Sowman	...	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.

Bro. C. Tyler	...	...	...	Prov. G.I.G.
" A. Lambert	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" W. P. Fuller	...	...	...
" C. J. Bird	...	...	...
" R. Potter	...	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.

The DEP. PROV. GRAND MASTER proposed that a cordial vote of thanks should be passed to the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Officers, to whom they were deeply indebted for the honour done the province by the performance of the installation ceremony.

The PROV. S.G.W. seconded the proposition, which was unanimously carried.

The DEP. GRAND MASTER, in reply, said these ceremonies were amongst the pleasanter duties the executive officers had to perform. They were pleased to be present, and thanked the brethren for the cordial welcome offered them.

The Grand Officers then retired, and, routine business having been transacted, the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in due form.

A banquet was subsequently held at the Assembly Rooms, Surbiton, at which the Provincial Grand Master presided, and afterwards gave the usual toasts.

"The Queen and Mark Masonry," and "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," were heartily honoured, after which

The PROV. GRAND MASTER said that the next toast he should wish to submit was that of "The Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro G.M.," and he should have liked to couple the name of that distinguished brother with it. They were not so fortunate, however, as to have the presence of the Earl of Euston, and they regretted this save for one thing, and that was they had had the opportunity of witnessing how admirably the duties of the office had been performed by his Deputy G.M., Viscount Dungarvan. Some of those who, perhaps, felt the burden of these high offices would appreciate how great was the consolation to them when they knew that if at any moment they should not be able to discharge the duties that fell upon them, they had at their hand such admirable and efficient Deputies as they had in Viscount Dungarvan. He ventured to congratulate his Royal Highness the Grand Master, and the Earl of Euston, Pro G.M., on having so distinguished a brother to assist them, and the brethren present having seen the manner in which Lord Dungarvan did the work, would be anxious to drink his health in the most cordial manner possible. They were also indebted to those officers of Grand Lodge who had come down there to assist them, and he might, perhaps, be permitted, on his own part, to express to them his personal gratification at the honour done him in attending on the occasion of his installation in the chair of Prov. Grand Master. He looked upon that as a very great honour, and thanked them personally.

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER said it was extremely kind of Lord Onslow to propose his health on that occasion. As he had told them before the Pro Grand Master was extremely sorry he could not attend, but if he had performed the ceremony in a way to give them satisfaction he was more than gratified. It was true that was his first visit to them in a Masonic way, although once a year it happened that some of them had a little business on the "rocky mountains" of Surrey. Masonry in Surbiton was, however, more pleasing and comfortable and he hoped to have some opportunity of coming amongst them again. He was certain the Grand Officers re-echoed that wish. He would next ask them to drink "The Health of the R.W. Prov. Grand Master." Mark Masonry owed a great deal to Lord Onslow because a good many years ago when Masonry was not in the same flourishing condition he took the greatest interest in the Degree. After being absent in other countries, and after many duties in the county, Lord Onslow still came back to his old love and undertook high office in Masonry. They hoped to see Lord Onslow in Grand Lodge when his numerous duties would allow him.

Bro. the Earl of ONSLOW, G.C.M.G., Prov. G. Master, returned sincere thanks for the reception of the toast and for the very warm support which he thought he might say he gathered from their attitude, it was their desire to accord him in his difficult position as head of the province. Lord Dungarvan had said he (the Prov. G.M.) had many functions to attend to, and so far as Masonry in Surrey was concerned he was not altogether unlike one of the characters in Gilbert's play, Poon Bah, whom they would recollect combined the offices of Lord High Chancellor and Lord High Executioner. When he contemplated the number of offices he had the honour to hold in Surrey he could not but think he should need the assistance and support of a number of Masons better qualified than he was to discharge those duties. It had pleased his Royal Highness to entrust to his care the province with which he had been connected all his life, where all his interests and affections lay, and he could assure them he should do everything in his power to show his Royal Highness and the brethren that the trust was not misplaced. In doing so he should have, in no small degree, to rely upon those able brethren who had devoted the whole of their life to Freemasonry, and whom he saw around him at Guildford when he was installed as Prov. Grand Master in the Craft and who had given him personally the most unswerving assurances of their fidelity and assistance. He only wished to say that of all the offices he had ever had the honour to occupy, whether under the Crown or in the county, there was none fulfilled so well with that Christian spirit of amity and good-fellowship as that of presiding over the Freemasons of Surrey.

Bro. F. WEST, Deputy P.G.M., replying for "The Provincial Grand Officers," said they all knew the Provincial Grand Master, who must be very popular amongst Freemasons in Surrey. They would all do their best to support their chief in the office he had undertaken, and which he held with so much skill and grace.

The Tyler's toast then concluded the proceedings.

A programme of music was performed under the direction of Bro. F. Bevan, P.G.O., in which the following assisted: Bros. H. Schartau, C. Ellison, and W. Bradford.

INSTALLATION OF THE PROV. PRIOR OF DEVONSHIRE.

The charming and picturesque little town of Barnstaple having been selected by the Prov. Prior designate of Devonshire for the scene of his installation, a very numerous meeting of the Order of the Temple was held in its Masonic Hall on Tuesday, the 10th inst., to witness the impressive ceremony. The Great Sub-Prior of England, Sir Knight the Earl of

Euston, took upon himself the duty of Installing Officer, and with the exception of Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., who, being abroad, was unable to take part in the proceedings, the staff which attended his lordship was the same as at the recent installation of Sir Knight the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., as Prov. Prior of Cheshire, namely, Sir Knights Dr. Balfour Cockburn, Charles Belton, Great Sub-Marshal, and C. F. Matier, Vice-Chancellor. A large contingent of sir knights attended from Plymouth and Exeter, and it is needless to say that in the hands of the Great Sub-Prior everything passed off most satisfactorily.

Prov. Priory having been opened, and the muster roll of Prov. Officers having been called, the minutes of the previous meeting, at Plymouth, in June, 1893, were read and confirmed.

The Great Sub-Prior having been announced, was received under the Arch of Steel, and assumed the throne. The arrival of Sir Knight Major G. C. Davie, G. Marshal, Prov. Prior designate, was announced by the G. Sub-Marshal, and on his admission,

The GREAT SUB-PRIOR demanded his patent, which was handed in and read, and the ceremony of installation was proceeded with, the Prov. Prior being obligated in the usual manner, and conducted under the Arch of Steel to the throne, invested with the insignia of his office, and installed. The Prelate having given the Benediction, the Prov. Prior was proclaimed and saluted, and the Great Sub-Prior and his officers retired.

The business of Prov. Priory was then transacted, and the Prov. Officers for the ensuing year having been appointed and invested, Prov. Priory was closed, and the Sir Knights dined together in honour of the occasion, under the presidency of the new chief.

ANNUAL SUPPER OF THE LANGTON LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1673.

The annual supper of this lodge of instruction took place at the White Hart, Abchurch-lane, E.C., on Thursday, the 5th inst., under the presidency of Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., G. Reg., who was supported by Bros. Richard Creed, G. Stwd.; E. M. Morriss, P.G. Stwd.; G. Anderson, P.G. Stwd.; G. F. Marshall, P.M., Preceptor; H. M. Hobbs, P.P.G.W. Surrey, member of the Committee and Past Preceptor; C. W. Mapleton, P.M., Treas.; C. J. Marrian, Sec.; Chas. Butler, P.M.; Robert Stuart, H. D. Blake, R. E. H. Fisher, A. C. Fisher, George Black, R. L. Franks, E. May, E. R. A. Adams, and others.

Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from Bros. R. Clay Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br., Vice-President; E. P. Debenham, P.P.G. Reg. Herts, Preceptor; and J. D. Langton, P.P.G.W. Surrey.

After full justice had been done to a very excellent repast, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

The PRESIDENT, in proposing "Success to the Langton Lodge of Instruction," dwelt on the admirable work accomplished year after year by this and similar lodges, and gave another proof of the great interest he takes in the "Langton" by kindly promising to attend again at an early date in the New Year to rehearse the ceremony of consecration.

Bro. PHILBRICK, Q.C., G. Reg., also complimented the lodge on the good average attendance that was maintained at the weekly meetings, and on the spirit of good-fellowship that was noticeable amongst the members.

Bro. MARSHALL, Preceptor, in reply, while deploring the unavoidable absence of his colleague, Bro. Debenham, asserted that during the many years he had occupied the Preceptor's chair, he never recollected a period when the lodge numbered amongst its members so many promising young Masons as at the present time.

Bro. HOBBS likewise replied, regretting that owing to ill-health he had been unable to continue to act as Preceptor, an office he had held in the past with so much pleasure in conjunction with Bro. Marshall.

In response to the toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary," Bro. MAPLETON said that the fact of the finances of the lodge being in such a very satisfactory condition was greatly owing to the kindness of their landlord, Bro. Geo. Anderson, P.G. Stwd. The lodge always had a substantial balance in hand, which was devoted entirely to Charity. Their Secretary, Bro. Chas. Marrian, was going up as Steward for the Girls' School next May, and in due course he, as Treasurer, would move that a sum of 10 guineas be placed on Bro. Marrian's list for that Institution.

It may be mentioned that the Degree worked each Thursday evening at the Langton Lodge is that appointed for the following evening at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. The meetings last from 5.30 p.m. till 6.45, and a plain dinner is served each evening after lodge is closed, for the convenience of those brethren who are unable to stay.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

On Monday afternoon, the 16th inst., Bro. Lord Herschell delivered an address at the Imperial Institute on the work of the Institute. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales presided, and among those present were Prince Nicholas of Greece, the Marquis of Lorne, Bro. the Duke of Fife, Lord G. Hamilton, Lord Playfair, Lord Thring, Bro. Sir Fred. Abel, and others.

Lord HERSCHELL stated that the object of his lecture was to answer the question—What was the use of the Imperial Institute? He accordingly proceeded to give a sketch of its work during the last three years. The collections contributed by the Colonies, represented by many thousands of specimens at the Institute, presented great interest to the merchant, the manufacturer, and the inquiring public, as illustrating the natural products of each country and the most important materials exported by each. They were, however, in several instances, very far from complete. The galleries, which were open to the public daily, were frequented not merely by casual visitors, from motive of curiosity or from general interest or a desire for the acquisition of knowledge of the resources of the Colonies; many persons who contemplated emigration availed themselves of the privileges of free admission to the collections, with a view to acquire special information. The

opening up of new sources of trade had also, on more than one occasion, to the knowledge of the Institute authorities, resulted from the information disseminated. Lord Herschell gave an account of the scientific examination of many of the products of the Colonies in the Research Department of the Institute. The inquiries bearing upon commercial, industrial and other subjects were remarkable in their variety. The library of the Institute numbered over 10,000 volumes, and the Chart Room contained about 800 maps. The Institute was but at the beginning of its operations. As to its finances, he said although they had put aside as an endowment fund more than a third of the total contributions, the income derived from that endowment did little more than pay rates and taxes. Their main source of income was the subscriptions of Fellows, of whom there were 8000. He wished the Fellows numbered 20,000. Other countries were following our example in having Imperial Institutes.

At the conclusion of the address,

H.R.H. the Prince of WALES said: Ladies and gentlemen,—I feel it would not be right if we were to separate without my expressing, on my own and on your behalf, our thanks to Lord Herschell for his most interesting address. He has gone most carefully, and as thoroughly as time would allow, through all the different points in connection with this institution, and given you a clear account of what we consider its usefulness, and of work we have done since its existence. I think you will agree with me that, though it is a young institution, we have not been idle, and we trust that after what has been heard today the public at large may think we have to some extent given them cause to think that this institution has not been useless. Most earnestly do I trust that we may get more Fellows. That is of the greatest importance as regards the work and the increase of our finances. It is also satisfactory to learn that this institution has become the parent of similar institutions in other countries. In conclusion, I wish to tender our grateful thanks to Lord Herschell, Sir F. Abel, Sir Somers Vine, and those other gentlemen who usually act under them for the indefatigable zeal they have given to the interests of this institution, and for having given so much of their valuable time.

The proceedings then terminated.

MASONIC PRESENTATION TO BRO. DR. AND MRS. WILLIAMS COCK.

A massive solid silver punch bowl was presented on Friday evening, the 13th instant, to Bro. Dr. and Mrs. Williams Cock, of 147, Queen's-road, Peckham, on the occasion of the celebration of their silver wedding. This gift, subscribed for at a few days' notice only, and confined to members of the Masonic Fraternity connected with the Rye Lodge and Rye Chapter (of both of which Bro. Dr. Cock was a founder), is handsome and valuable evidence of the high regard and hearty affection in which he is deservedly held not only by his Masonic brethren, but also by all who have the privilege of his acquaintance. By the position which he has attained in Freemasonry, and the services he has rendered to the cause, Bro. Dr. Cock has made a name for himself in the annals of the Craft. He is a P.M. of his mother lodge (the Musgrave, No. 1597), P.M. of the Raymond Thrupp Lodge, P.Z. of the Brooke Chapter, and P.Z. of the West Kent Chapter. He is now occupying the First Principal's chair in the Rye Chapter for the third year in succession (an honour rarely conferred). He was a founder of the Cornish Lodge (he being a Cornishman), and was advanced to the Mark Degree in the Hiram Lodge. He is a member of the Grand Metropolitan Chapter of the Rose Croix Degree, and a Life Governor of all the Masonic Charities, having served several Stewardships to each. Bro. Dr. Cock can, therefore, lay claim to no slight recognition and esteem on the part of those who truly love Freemasonry. The intrinsic worth of this offering is, after all, only a slight indication of the degree of admiration and respect entertained for him as "a man and a Mason" by the leading inhabitants of his neighbourhood, while the spontaneous support and cordial spirit with which the presentation was sprung as a total surprise upon the unsuspecting recipients, speaks well for the worthy way in which the secrets of the Craft are kept by its votaries. The numerous friends of the doctor and his good lady will doubtless feel gratified to hear of this pleasing expression of warm esteem and hearty good wishes for a long continuance of their united happiness and prosperity. The bowl, which is of a rich, yet chaste, Jacobean design, bears an appropriate inscription.

LADIES' NIGHT OF THE ALBION LODGE, No. 9.

It is an interesting fact worthy of notice that several of the oldest lodges in the Craft have taken a leading part in introducing a ladies' night as an annual fixture amongst the lodge meetings. This introduction has of recent years been steadily growing in popularity, and in many lodges the ladies' night is regarded by the members as certainly not the least enjoyable of the periodical gatherings. As one of the pioneers in this movement must be mentioned, the Albion Lodge, No. 9, which, with a strong executive—not forgetting an indefatigable Secretary, Bro. W. L. Harvey, P.M.—annually records a successful gathering of ladies, brethren, and visitors, and the greatest testimony that can be borne to the complete success of these meetings is the unanimous verdict that each function has been more enjoyable than the preceding one.

The ladies' night of the present season was held at the Holborn Restaurant on Tuesday, the 10th inst., when Bro. E. Stratton Gerrish, W.M., was supported by about 100 ladies and brethren, including Bro. H. S. Friend, P.M., Treas., and Miss Friend; Bro. W. L. Harvey, P.M., Sec.; Mrs. and Bro. S. H. Myers, S.W., W.M. elect; Mrs. and Bro. W. Dennis, J.W.; Bro. H. J. Cain, S.D.; Mrs. and Bro. F. Evans, J.D.; Mrs. and Bro. J. R. Francis, I.G.; Mrs. and Bro. Russell Beardmore, I.P.M.; Bro. S. Vallentine, P.G.P.; Mrs. and Bro. Tijou, P.A.G.P.; Mrs. and Bro. G. Pritchard, P.M.; Mrs. and Bro. Foan, P.M.; Mrs. and Bro. W. W. Lee, Prov. G. Stwd. Middx.; and many others.

The visitors found, on their arrival, that every possible arrangement had been made to ensure a pleasant evening. A reception was first held by Mrs. and Bro. Stratton Gerrish, W.M., and on the announcement being made that dinner was ready, friendly greetings and introductions were suspended, and an adjournment made to the banquet room. A choice menu was served in a manner that reflected the highest credit on all concerned.

At its conclusion the brethren were allowed to indulge in the soothing and fragrant weed, whilst the ladies enjoyed the consolation of a delicious bottle of

scent with which each member of the fair sex was presented as a souvenir of the occasion.

Next followed a few toasts, the speeches in connection with which were commendably brief and to the point.

"The Queen and Royal Family" was proposed by the WORSHIPFUL MASTER, and heartily honoured.

Bro. RUSSELL BEARDMORE, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the Worshipful Master," said that from the enthusiastic reception accorded the mention of the toast, he was assured he need say but little in connection with it. Bro. Gerrish, W.M., had been a good officer and a good W.M., and it was doubtful if the lodge ever had a more popular ruler. Under the present W.M.'s rule, the work had been well done, and they had had a most successful year. In this toast they ought also to combine the health of Mrs. Gerrish, and from the enthusiastic greeting given that name, he was of opinion that the "Worshipful Mistress" was even more popular than the W.M. If the brethren had known that lady as long as he (the I.P.M.) had, they would, doubtless, hold the same high opinion of her. He was not flattering, but simply saying what came from his heart, and he therefore asked all present to sincerely drink the toast.

The toast having been received with musical honours,

The W.M., in reply, thanked the I.P.M. and brethren for the reception accorded it. It was always difficult to speak of one's self, and, therefore, it was with great pleasure he found his wife's name included. But for her he should not have occupied that proud position and been W.M. of that old lodge, and probably not have known the I.P.M., who proposed him as a member seven years ago as an initiate. His wife was, therefore, the connecting link between that lodge and himself, and it was to her he owed the pleasant associations he had formed.

"The Ladies and Visitors" was the last toast given by the W.M. He said he could have wished the task had fallen to abler hands, but he was sure he should be excused if he failed to express the pleasure it had given the members to entertain the ladies. Proud as he was of their old lodge, he had never seen it to greater advantage than that night. He believed he remarked on a similar occasion that Masons were daily becoming alive to the fact that ladies had too long been precluded from their meetings, and were waking up to their duties and pleasures alike. He was sorry their Masonic grandfathers should have denied themselves the pleasures that might have been theirs for the asking. He hoped those ladies who had taken the trouble to come on the present occasion would confer the same pleasure on the members by accepting every invitation they received. They were also honoured by the presence of many visitors, to whom he extended a hearty welcome, and he hoped they had proved the fact that Masonry and hospitality go hand in hand. He should ask Bro. Harvey, P.M., Sec., to respond for the ladies, and Bro. Tijou, P.A.G.P., for the visitors.

Bro. W. L. HARVEY, P.M., Sec., said he had accepted many positions on behalf of their lodge, but never before had he been in his present predicament. To respond for the ladies was such a charming idea that he should have been glad of a few minutes' reflection to have endeavoured to do justice to the toast. The ladies had whispered to him that they had enjoyed themselves very much, and only wished these meetings were held quarterly instead of annually. As he should never have another opportunity, he thanked the brethren and ladies most sincerely for their company and for assisting in making that evening one of the most pleasant that lodge had ever had.

Bro. TIJOU, P.G.P., replied for "The Visitors."

A musical programme was then given under the direction of Bro. G. Pritchard, assisted by Miss Emily Foxcroft, Miss Dorothea Walenn, Master W. D. Pritchard, Bro. J. Probert, and Mr. David Devant, who gave a marvellous exhibition of feats of memory that must have aroused pangs of envy in the breasts of all those who aspired to be workers of the ritual of the Craft.

A dance was afterwards indulged in with unflinching energy until about midnight, when the company separated with many pleasant memories of the evening's entertainment, and a registered vow to be present at the next function of a similar kind whenever the opportunity occurred.

The Craft Abroad.

CONSECRATION OF THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM MARK LODGE, No. 486, BETHLEHEM.

Although a plant of recent growth in this remote town of the Orange Free State, Freemasonry has taken firm root, and is growing well. A development is evidenced by the fact that a lodge of Mark Master Masons, numbered 486 on the roll of the Grand Mark Lodge of England has just been consecrated here. Bro. Thomas Cook, the D.G.M.M. of Natal, was the Consecrating Officer, being accompanied, from Durban, more than 300 miles away, by Bro. the Rev. Dr. A. Illin, the D.G. Chap., who assisted most ably in the ceremonies of consecration and installation. The proceedings began at 3 p.m., on Wednesday, the 6th ult., when the lodge was consecrated and solemnly formed according to ancient usage. Bro. the Rev. W. Wilkinson Rider, who had the previous day been installed in the chair of the Craft lodge, was then most impressively installed as the first W.M. of the new lodge, and in due course installed Bro. W. E. Harvey as S.W., and Bro. Dr. G. F. Reid as J.W. After the usual addresses to the W.M. and Wardens by the D.G.M., and the transaction of some routine business, the lodge was called off until the evening. On resuming, the W.M. advanced eight candidates who had been duly elected, the Wardens and visiting brethren assisting most efficiently, and before closing invested several of the new officers. By acclamation, the D.G.M. and the D.G. Chaplain were elected honorary members of the lodge, in recognition of their valued services in journeying so far to consecrate the lodge, which compliment was gratefully and gracefully acknowledged.

The working in the Craft lodge on the previous day won high praise from the visiting brethren, and the founders of the new Mark lodge are resolved that it shall in no respect fall behind. In the main, the members of the one lodge will be the members of the other, with this difference, that brethren from a distance have already applied for advancement to the honourable Degree in this the only Mark lodge in the Orange Free State. It will, we trust, afford pleasure to lovers of Mark Masonry in England and elsewhere to know that in this distant place a few enthusiasts in this useful and attractive Degree are evidencing their faith by their works, and are endeavouring to bring the K.S. into prominence. It may not be out of place to make grateful acknowledgment here of the kindness and courtesy of our Pro G.M., Lord Euston, whose advice and help, willingly given to the W.M. and S.W. during their recent visit to England, were so effective in securing the warrant without loss of time. To the Grand Secretary also, our excellent Bro. Matier, grateful thanks are due for valued counsel given, which will assuredly lighten the labours of the founders of the new lodge.

Secret Monitor.

WINTER CONVOCATION OF GRAND COUNCIL.

The Grand Council of this Order met at Mark Masons' Hall on Friday, the 6th inst. In the unavoidable absence of the G.S.R., the Earl of Warwick, the chair was occupied by M.W. Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., Deputy Ruler of the Order, and the vice-chairs were filled by Bros. W. G. Lemon, LL.B., and J. Tickle, G. Treas. There were also present Bros. Col. H. M. Gordon, G.V.; H. W. Kiallmark, M.D., G.V.; J. J. Pakes, P.G.V.; J. J. Thomas, P.G.V.; A. F. Lamette, P.G.V.; A. Stewart Browne, P.G.V.; Dr. H. Roberts, P.G.B.B., and several other Grand Officers.

Letters of regret at unavoidable absence were read from brethren in Manchester, Bros. Hay, Sir Thos. Wright, Dr. Jessop, Shutt, Dr. Zacharie, P.G.S.R.; and several other brethren.

The minutes of the June meeting having been read and signed,

The GRAND TREASURER reported an income of about £130 during the year, and a balance of nearly £90 at present in the bank.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Tickle, G. Treas., and to Bros. J. J. Pakes, P.G.V., and H. T. Lyon, Pres. Board of Grand Stewards, who had acted as Auditors.

The GRAND RECORDER reported 181 registrations during the year, which appeared to be the largest number ever taken in a single year. He mentioned that the Earl of Euston Conclave had returned its warrant, and that a new warrant—No. 27—had been issued to Geelong, Victoria, Australia. He stated that the revision of the Book of Constitutions was still under consideration of the Committee, and that suggestions were invited on any points in which difficulty may have arisen.

Bros. Col. GORDON and H. W. KIALLMARK, G. Visitors for the year, reported that their frequent visits to conclaves had been productive of great pleasure to themselves, and showed that the Order was working most satisfactorily among the brethren. They had no doubt that if they were able to pay similar visits to conclaves abroad they would find an equally warm reception and equal, if not greater, enthusiasm.

The report of the Executive Committee was rather long, and, after being unanimously adopted, subject to small verbal alterations, was left in the hands of Bro. Philbrick and the Grand Recorder to be issued to all the conclaves.

We hope to give the report *in extenso* next week.

In moving the adoption of the report,

Bro. LEMON referred to certain comments which had been publicly made as to the genuineness of the claims put forth by the Order, and stated that he entered it under the auspices of the late Col. Shadwell Clerke, G. Secretary of the Craft, than whom no keener and no more faithful Mason ever breathed. He felt that for a body which had for its sponsors such brethren as he and others, present and absent, whom he need not name, it was rather late in the day for them to be asked to apologise for their existence. He pointed out that the body claiming to sit in judgment upon the Order was really a child of their own, having seen the light some years after the English Order was founded. He felt warmly on the subject, but had been led to make these remarks more in justice to the memory of the respected dead, than to defend his own position. He could have wished the report had been a little more drastic, but their motto was peace and friendship, and for his part he did not desire to retaliate.

The names of Bros. Lewis J. Thomas, P.G.S.R., and W. G. Lemon, P.G.S.R., were announced as those upon which the G. Supreme Ruler had fixed as representatives on the Executive Committee for the ensuing year.

The brethren present then elected Bros. J. J. Pakes, A. F. Lamette, and J. J. Thomas as the representatives of Grand Council.

Wednesday, June 17th, was fixed as the date for the Grand Festival of 1896.

Horatio Shirley Conclave, No. 5.

A meeting of the above conclave was held at the Holborn Restaurant, on Monday, the 25th ult., when there were present Bros. H. P. Hay, G.G., S.R.; J. Stephens, Penrose J. Dunbar, T. Cohu, J. T. Rowe, R. Finlayson, G. Capel, E. Glaeser, and O. Heinmann. Bro. J. Stephens was unanimously elected S.R. for the ensuing year; Bro. Major Penrose J. Dunbar re-elected Treasurer; Bros. Capel and Finlayson elected Auditors, and Bro. Shepperd, Sentinel. The usual P.S.R. jewel was voted to Bro. H. P. Hay for his valuable services during the year. Apologies were received from several brethren who were unable to attend.

A very pleasant evening was spent in conjunction with the members of the Cleve Fast Conclave, No. 8, who joined the brethren at the subsequent banquet.

Cryptic Masonry.

Grand Master's Council, No. 1.

A meeting of this distinguished council was held at Mark Masons' Hall on the 20th ult. Among those present were Comps. A. McDowall, T.I.M.; G. Powell, P.D.M.; W. A. Scurrah, D.M.; J. J. Pakes, P.C.W.; the Rev. C. E. Wright, G. Chap., Asst. Chap.; H. Briggs, Asst. Warder; H. J. Lardner, P.T.I.M.; G. Graveley, P.T.I.M., Treas.; Capt. T. C. Walls, P.T.I.M., Recorder; B. Stewart, Warder; J. T. Rogers, John Smith, and W. Mason Siles.

The minutes of the previous council having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken on behalf of W. Bro. and E. Comp. T. P. Dorman, and it being unanimous, he was admitted and greeted as a member of the Four Degrees, the ceremonies being ably rendered by Comp. H. J. Lardner, as F.I.M., assisted by Comps. Pakes, Graveley, and J. Smith. There were two other candidates, but they were unavoidably prevented from attending. Among those sending apologies for non-attendance were Comps. Lieut.-Col. G. Lambert, F.S.A.; Baron de Ferrieres, P.D.G.M.; R. L. Loveland, J.P., P.D.G.M.; the Rev. Dr. Lemon, P.G.C.; E. Storr, P.T.I.M.; D. P. Cama, S. H. Parkhouse, the Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., N. Prower, M.A., and others. The resignation of Bro. and Comp. F. Whythead, one of the oldest members, was received with regret. A vote of thanks was passed to Comp. Lardner for his services in the chair, and the council was closed.

The banquet was held at the Holborn Restaurant, under the presidency of the T.I.M.

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London, Dec., 1895.

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CHRISTMAS DAY, the trains will run as on Sundays, except that the 5.15 a.m. express from King's Cross (at ordinary fares) will be run to Peterboro', Bourne, Stamford, Grantham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Doncaster, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford and Halifax, stopping at the intermediate stations at which it ordinarily calls, and will be continued to York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Aberdeen, &c.

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12.30 midnight for Cardiff, Swansea, Llanelly, Llandilo, Carmarthen Junction, Haverfordwest, New Milford, &c., returning Thursday Night, December 26th.

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Derby, December, 1895.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1895.

Masonic Notes.

In the course of the next few days we shall be in the very thick of the festive season, and we gladly avail ourselves of the one opportunity that remains to us of wishing all our friends and supporters the customary hearty good wishes for a happy Christmas. May they and theirs enjoy themselves to their heart's content, not only at next week's festival, but on similar occasions for many, many years!

* * *

We tender our most respectful congratulations to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G. Master, on the auspicious event which has recently taken place at Sandringham. On the morning of Saturday, the 14th instant, the Duchess of York, whose *accouchement* had been expected daily for some little time past, gave birth to a son, and, according to the latest bulletins, her Royal Highness is rapidly recovering her health and strength, while the infant prince is reported well. No time was lost in conveying the news to the Queen at Windsor, and to Marlborough House and York House, St. James's, while an early telegram to the Lord Mayor (Bro. Sir W. Wilkin) enabled his lordship to make public in the City of London the news that yet another prince in the direct line of succession to the throne had been added to the family of our Gracious Sovereign.

It will probably be remarked by those who are fond of noting coincidences that the infant prince was born on the anniversary of the death of his great-grandfather, the Prince Consort, and of his great-aunt, the Princess Alice of Great Britain, Grand Duchess of Hesse Darmstadt. It is 34 years since the Queen had taken from her, after only a few days' illness, him who was the joy and mainstay of her life, her most intimate and trusted counsellor, her dearest and best friend, while 17 years have elapsed since she lost her much loved daughter who, with such filial piety, had watched over her father in his dying moments. May we hope that the birth of the little prince, who was ushered into existence on the anniversary of these terrible bereavements, may serve in some slight measure as an alleviation of these and the many other griefs which her Majesty has sustained during the long and prosperous years of her reign.

Our Folkestone brethren in particular, and the brethren of Kent generally, must be highly gratified with the proceedings which took place in the Masonic Hall, Folkestone, on Wednesday, the 11th instant, when the Radnor Lodge, No. 2587, was formally consecrated by the Provincial Grand Master of Kent, and started upon its career under the auspices of the distinguished brother from whom it derives its title, with every prospect of a long, useful, and prosperous future.

The "Radnor" is the 62nd lodge on the roll of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent, and it will be judged from the very full report we publish elsewhere that the Committee in charge of the arrangements for the day—which, we are informed, consisted of Bros. Lieut.-Col. W. K. Westropp, Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, the Rev. J. E. Player, E. T. Ward, Dr. de Butts, and some others—must have exerted themselves to good purpose, when everything passed off so splendidly. Nothing in the nature of a hitch appears to have occurred throughout the whole proceedings, while the genial and generous feeling which seems to have animated the whole body of assembled brethren speaks volumes in behalf of Freemasonry as it is practised in the "garden of England."

The consecration went well, and very naturally. The Radnor is the 44th that has been placed on the Kentish roll of lodges since Bro. Earl Amherst was appointed Provincial Grand Master, and, though he may not have consecrated the whole of them, it is within our knowledge that he has presided at this particular function in the case of the majority of the 44. As for the installation of Lord Radnor by the Grand Secretary, every one who has had the good fortune to be present at the solemn ceremony when conducted by Bro. Letchworth will be able to form his own opinion as to the manner in which it was done. Lord Radnor, too, was in his happiest vein, and in the appointment and investiture of his officers was the very personification of geniality and kindness. The speeches were brief, but to the point, as after-dinner speeches should be, while last, but not least, the dinner was a good one and well-served.

As for the lodge which has been thus brilliantly inaugurated, it starts with an array of 24 members, of whom a large proportion are brethren of standing in the Craft, while we are assured that recruits will be forthcoming in considerable numbers from the officers of the Dover Garrison, of the Canterbury Depot, and the Camp at Shorncliffe, as well as from the members of the East Kent, Dover, and other Kentish Clubs which interchange visits with the Radnor Club of Folkestone. Indeed, it rarely happens that a new lodge enters upon its career with such ample promise of new blood being infused into it from time to time as the Radnor Lodge, No. 2587. We sincerely trust these brilliant anticipations may be realised.

By the way, there are two things we have omitted to mention. In the first place, Bro. the Rev. J. E. Player, as Prov. Grand Chaplain of Kent, delivered an effective oration on the Nature and Purposes of Freemasonry. In the next place, Bro. Horatio Ward, of Canterbury, Past G. Std. Br. of England, did the lodge good service by lending his beautiful set of consecration vessels, but more especially by the admirable manner in which he discharged the duties of Director of Ceremonies during the greater part of the proceedings.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of Volume VI. of "Quatuor Coronatorum Antigraphia," edited by Bro. G. W. Speth, P.M., Secretary No. 2076. The Reprints contained in this volume are (I.) Facsimile of the "Inigo Jones MS.;" (II.) "Facsimile of the "Wood MS.;" and (III.) "Facsimile of the Lechmere MS." An introduction by the editor is furnished in the case of each MS., while in that of the Lechmere there is also a transcript. We purpose giving in our next issue, or, at latest, in the first number for the New Year, a review of these important additions to the long array of Reprints, for which we are indebted to the Quatuor Coronati Lodge.

General regret will be felt at the announcement of the death of Bro. Thomas Cubitt, P.G.P., who, till within the last few years of his life, took a very active part in Masonry. Bro. Cubitt, who was 76 years of age, was appointed Asst. G. Pursuivant in 1873 and was advanced to the Grand Pursuivancy the year following. At the close of his term of office he received the usual permission of the M.W. Grand Master to take his place on the dais. Our deceased brother was very highly respected, and we offer our respectful sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

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.]

"SITTING TOASTS."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Will any of your readers experienced in Masonic etiquette kindly give their opinion re "sitting toasts."

There is a custom in the neighbourhood of the lodge of which I am a member when toasting a brother below the rank of W.M. to give the firing in a sitting posture. I have had the pleasure of visiting many London lodges, also lodges in various provinces, but have no recollection of having seen this custom.—Yours fraternally,

December 16th.

P.M.

Reviews.

HISTORY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST LODGE, EXETER, NO. 39, of the Antient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons. By Andrew Hope, W.M., with introduction by William James Hughan, Past S.G.D. of Eng., &c., Exeter: Printed by R. H. Besley, 89, South-street.—It is to be regretted that Bro. Hope has been unable to write a continuous history from the year 1732 of this venerable lodge. Unfortunately those entrusted with the care of lodge minute books in former days—and even in the present day likewise—appear to have been exceedingly negligent in the fulfilment of their duty. They looked after the books while they were in their charge, but it never seems to have occurred to them that in the course of time they would be succeeded by other custodians and that it would be incumbent on them to make arrangements for the transfer of the records to their successors. The result is that except in the case of a small number of lodges, the minutes of our oldest lodges have long since disappeared, nor is there, we fear, the slightest hope of their ever being recovered. This Lodge of St. John the Baptist is a case in point. It was constituted at Exeter in 1732 and is thus the oldest purely provincial lodge in existence. Its minutes, if they had been preserved, would be invaluable, but beyond a few stray items of information obtained from other sources there are no memoranda—if we except that priceless treasure, the original charter of the lodge, dated the 11th July, 1732—relating to this lodge anterior to 1777. And the official memoranda when they do begin, describe the doings, not of the lodge in its entirety, but only when it met as a Master Mason's lodge, that is, for the transaction of business in the Third Degree. However, the year 1777 belongs to a fairly remote past, and if the minutes had been regularly continued from that time forward, we should probably have been the richer for much valuable information relating to a critical period in the history of our Society, a period when the strife between "Ancients" and "Moderns" raged very furiously, and occurrences may have taken place of which we know nothing, or about which we have been able to glean but little information. Unfortunately, there is a break in the continuity of these minutes, nothing being recorded during the 18 years that elapsed between 1785 and 1803. Then they are renewed, and after one or two entries there is a further break, but happily of only about 18 months instead of 18 years. This brings us to 1805, and from that time the minutes, though at the outset vouchsafing only the most meagre information, are continued. From this account of the materials to which Bro. Hope has been able to obtain access, it will be seen that he has had small chance of doing himself justice. It is evident that he knows how to go about a work of this kind. He seems to have consulted all the best works of reference, and to have betaken himself to those general store-houses of information, the records and registers of Grand Lodge and the local press, in the hope that he might be able to glean from them something of importance to compensate him for the absence of the lodge minutes. But his efforts do not appear to have been attended with results commensurate with the labour they must have entailed, some lists of members from the Grand Lodge Registers being the most important of the scraps of information he was successful in obtaining. But in spite of the shortcomings by which he has been hampered, he has compiled a very interesting record of our Lodge No. 39. He has reproduced the original charter, already referred to, as bearing date the 11th July, 1732. This valuable document contains the signatures of Viscount Montague, the Grand Master who granted it, and of Bros. Thomas Batson, D.G.M.; George Rooke and James Smythe, Grand Wardens; and William Reid, Grand Secretary; the names of the brethren mentioned in the body of the document being John Bury, Esq., and Mr. Thomas Jeffreys. There is also a facsimile of the portion of the 1734 list of lodges, published some years ago by Bro. Hughan, which contains the entry of the lodge, and from this it appears that in that list it figured as No. 97, meeting at the New Inn, while, in addition, there is a transcript from G.L. minutes of the 27th December, 1736, in which it is recorded that "Bro. Revis"—the then Grand Secretary—"offered to the Quarterly Communication the By-Laws of the Lodge at Exeter, which they directed should be read, which was done accordingly to the satisfaction of the Society." Bro. Hope has also discovered that in 1769, in the list of subscribers to Calcott's "Candid Disquisitions," are included the names of Bros. William Gardiner and Joseph Johnson, W.M. and S.W. respectively of the St. John's Lodge—as it had then come to be named—Exeter. This is all, however, that he has been able to tell us concerning the lodge prior to 1777. As regards the minutes of the "Master's Lodge," from that year to 1785, and renewed after an interval of 18 years, in 1803, an elaborate account had already been published by Bro. Hughan in the transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, and Bro. Hope has done well to obtain the sanction of that brother for the publication of his account in the lodge history. The reader who may not have seen this article will have no difficulty in picturing to himself that Bro. Hughan has accurately described these minutes, and has supplemented the description with many valuable comments of his own. Thus Bro. Hope's work as recorder does not properly begin till we reach the year 1805, when the minutes begin to be fairly regular. In his treatment of these he seems to have exercised much judgment. It is, of course, an open question whether in describing lodge minutes the better plan is to select the principal incidents recorded and note them in the order of their occurrence with as much or as little in the way of commentary as may seem necessary or desirable; or, to give a more or less continuous narrative of events under each successive Master. Bro. Hope has adopted the former of these alternatives, and gives us particulars only of those occurrences and Masters and members of the lodge which, in his opinion, deserve such prominence. But he has done this well without entering too much into detail and in a style which for its easy and regular fluency cannot fail to create a favourable impression on the minds of his readers. He has also been fortunate enough to give illustrations of the three Chairs, which are the special pride of the lodge, and which, to judge from his description of them, are more than usually elaborate, both as to their build, and in the ornamentation with which they are overlaid; and of the beautifully engraved plate of the old Lodge Summons, dating back to 1764, if not earlier still, which was discovered among some loose papers in 1882. There is also a facsimile of the centenary warrant granted by the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., in 1864, and full particulars as to the various numbers borne by the lodge, and the various places at which it has held its meetings. In short, though the history is of necessity wanting as to detail in earlier years, it is sufficiently ample and well connected during the present century, and if ever the missing minute books should turn up, there would be no difficulty in incorporating a *resumé* of their contents in Bro. Hope's work, and making of the two a complete history of the lodge, from its constitution onwards. It only remains for us to say that the work is dedicated to Viscount Ebrington, Prov. G.M. of Devonshire, and has the advantage of being prefaced by an introduction from the pen of Bro. Hughan, and saying this, we offer our very hearty congratulations to Bro. Hope on the admirable manner in which, considering the difficulties he has encountered through lack of the official records, he has done his work of compilation.

"WESTMINSTER." By Walter Besant, M.A., F.S.A., author of "London," &c. With an etching by Francis S. Walker, R.P.E., and 130 illustrations by William Patten and others. London: Chatto and Windus, Piccadilly, 1895.—This is a remarkable work by Sir Walter Besant, Treasurer of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, London, &c., and though it is intended to be the successor to "London," it is by far the more interesting of these two most readable books. Indeed, so happily and entertainingly has the worthy knight written "Westminster," that to not a few this handsome volume will be preferred to any of his others which have appeared from time to time; the last being thus the best. There are 10 chapters of absorbing interest, the first two being devoted to "The Beginnings" and "The King's Palace of Westminster," the three that follow concern the Historic Abbey, the sixth the Sanctuary, the seventh "At the Sign of the Red Pale," and the ninth relates to "The City." The concluding chapter concerns "The Streets and the People." There is also an appendix in reference to "The Court of Charles II." and a very useful index. It has been Sir Walter Besant's object to prove that, contrary to the general opinion, the Isl. of Bramble (Thorney Island) was a busy place of trade long before London existed at all. He has sought to restore the vanished Palaces of Westminster and Whitehall, and has portrayed "the life of the Abbey, with its Services, its Rule, its Anchorites, and its Sanctuary," and, moreover, has graphically exhibited "the connection of Westminster with the first of English Printers," concluding with an artistic description of "The place as a town and borough, with its streets and its people." This is pretty much for a volume of some 300 pages, and a task, or an achievement, quite impossible for ordinary mortals, but in the hands of this gifted writer, he has fully accomplished these high and extensive aims, the result being a work of sustained interest from first to last.

and of itself enough to hand down to posterity the name of Walter Besant as an able historian as well as a most successful novelist. The illustrations are a special feature of this beautiful volume for though so many as to absorb some five pages in their enumeration, they are all good, and not a few are of the choicest character, the typographical facsimiles being veritable gems. Copies may be had from any booksellers at 18s. each, or from the publishers, Messrs. Chatto and Windus.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

Voice of Masonry; Australasian Keystone; Indian Freemason; Round the World with Gen. John G. Smith, 1894-5; Sunday Times; Glasgow Herald; City Press; Quatuor Coronator Antigraphia, Volume VI.; History of Freemasonry on the Coast of Coromandel (Rev. C. H. Malden); The Craftsman; Philadelphia Keystone; Masonic Tidings; and The Pacific Mason.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

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OLD MASONIC MSS.

I shall be very pleased to correspond with any brother, or dealer, who has or knows of any copies of the "Old Charges" of the Freemasons similar to the one reproduced in this year's Christmas *Freemason*. It is most important that we should have all these documents carefully collated and described, as well as reproduced, when possible, for the information of Masonic students. I shall be happy to offer any information thereon, as well as to purchase or copy any such rolls or scrolls.

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W. J. HUGHAN.

A correspondent informs us that at a recent meeting, which was not entirely composed of Masons, and at which a Roman Catholic priest was present, a brother unmindful of his obligation about *heling*, spoke somewhat too freely of the Ars Quatuor Coronatorum as supplying light to the Craftsmen which was unknown to the *profane*. The Roman Catholic priest at once ridiculed the Masonic light and described it as "benighted ignorance." Our informant, therefore, invites us to administer advice to brethren about the necessity for being cautious, and also to furnish a few hints which may enable brethren to repel any future attack on our justly celebrated Quatuor Coronati Lodge. As to the necessity for exercising caution at all times and in all places, but more especially in mixed assemblies, there can be no doubt, and if there were any, the difficulty in which the careless brother referred to landed himself is in itself reason sufficient. As to the hints, we have consulted one of the founders of the lodge and he has very kindly placed at our disposal the following statement in reply: "The title 'Quatuor Coronati' for our distinguished literary lodge is not quite satisfactory from a Masonic point of view. It was the late Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford's suggestion. The fact is, according to the most reliable information on the subject, there were *four* officers of Rome and *five* sculptors, or Masons, martyred for their faith in Diocletian's reign. The names of one set having been lost sight of, the whole of the nine were included in the Four Martyrs," and though subsequently their names were traced, they have been practically thus combined down to the present time. The matter is exhaustively treated by Bro. Gould in his "History of Freemasonry," Chapter X., and in publications of the "Quatuor Coronati Lodge." We trust this answer, and the reference it contains, to the fuller explanation to be found in Bro. Gould's history, will enable our correspondent to defend successfully the Quatuor Coronati Lodge from the attacks of its vilifiers.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Robert Grey, President, presided. Bro. David Dixon Mercer, P.G.P., took his seat as Senior Vice-President for the first time. Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, P.G.P., Junior Vice-President, was in his official seat. Bros. Edward Letchworth, G. Sec.; W. Lake, Asst. G. Sec.; W. Dodd, W. H. Lee, F. Palmer, and H. Sadler, G. Tyler, represented the Grand Secretary's Department. The other brethren present were—

Bros. Charles J. R. Tijou, W. Fisher, George Graveley, William Vincent, T. W. Whitmarsh, S. Vallentine, Henry Garrod, George B. Chapman, Charles Dairy, S. H. Goldschmidt, J. Newton, James Bunker, Richard Eve, George R. Langley, W. M. Stiles, Walter Hopekirk, Walter Martin, S. V. Abraham, William A. Anson, M. I. Emanuel, J. R. Bottomley, E. W. Smith, W.M. 1816; A. H. Lilley, James Boulton, G. Powell, Bromley G. Allen, 945; Thomas Lewin, F. L. Chandler, Alex. B. P. Collins, George Willson, John E. Peters, George Abbott, H. Massey, George Wale, E. Apelt, G. E. W. Tucker, Lieut.-Col. E. W. Blunt, F. Mecey, Edmund J. Turnbull, C. Vandylin, Charles H. A. S. Harris, Frederick Thomas, Edwin Evans, Henry Ball, Walter Merritt, W. A. Scurrah, J. T. Rowe, M. Siegenberg, John K. Groom, T. H. Barker, W. H. Wellsman, D. A. Langdon, Charles Henry Stone, G. Booker, E. Salomons, E. W. Nightingale, George P. Gillard, and Edward Wavell.

Recommendations made to the Grand Master of grants at the November meeting, to the amount of £360, were confirmed. There were 47 petitioners for assistance on the new list, who were qualified through lodges in the London district, and at Deal, Sittingbourne, Barrow-in-Furness, Chiswick, Farnham, Malvern, Ramsgate, Tottenham, Carmarthen, Winchester, Appleby, Leeds, Jersey, Folkestone, Teddington, Todmorden, Woolwich, Oxford, Abingdon, Maidenhead, and South Shields. The consideration of these cases occupied the Board four hours and a quarter, during which time four of the petitions were deferred, a fewer number than is ordinarily the case. There was another exception to the general rule—not a single case was dismissed. The total sum voted was £925, or £20 more than at the November meeting, and £120 more than at the October meeting. Two cases were recommended to Grand Lodge for £50 each, three to the Grand Master for £40 each, five for £30 each, and two for £25 each. Fifteen immediate grants were made of £20 each, one of £15, and 14 of £10 each.

The PRESIDENT, before the brethren separated, wished them a very, very merry Christmas and happy New Year, and hoped they might be as happy that night 12 months as they were that night.

INTERESTING PRESENTATION TO BRO. JONES.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there was a full muster of the members of the Minerva Lodge at the Masonic Chambers, Hamilton-street, Birkenhead, on Friday evening, the 13th inst., under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. Wm. F. Robinson. It seems that during the Mastership of Bro. Sam. Jones, P.M., P.P.J.G.D., which closed a few weeks ago, a domestic event of rare occurrence took place at his residence, 13, Elm-grove, Birkenhead, being that of the birth of a son on the last day of his year of office.

A unanimous feeling was expressed among the members of the lodge that this was a suitable time to mark their appreciation of Bro. Jones as a man and a

Mason, by presenting him with such a token as befitted the occasion, viz., a silver cradle. After mature consideration on the part of the Executive, it was decided the presentation should take the form of a very handsome silver loving cup, suitably inscribed and embellished, with appropriate Masonic emblems. It is finished in plain burnished silver, with fluted side handles, and fluted band round the centre. On one side is engraved the bust of Minerva, copied from the antique model, and the following inscription: "Presented to W. Bro. Sam. Jones, P.M., P.P. G.D., by brethren of Minerva Lodge, No. 2433, as a token of esteem and to commemorate the birth of a son during his year as W.M. October 3rd, 1895." On the other side is engraved the volume of the Sacred Law, the square and compasses, and a Past Master's jewel. The loving cup stands on a solid ebony pedestal, bearing in silver a model of a cradle, being the emblem of the event.

Bro. ROBINSON, W.M., in making the presentation, dwelt at length on the great services rendered by Bro. Jones to the Craft, laying special stress on his profound knowledge of the ritual and the mysteries of Masonry, and expressing the warmest wishes of himself and members for the continued happiness of himself and family.

Bro. JONES, who was evidently surprised at the magnificence of the presentation, and was suffering from suppressed emotion, suitably replied, thanking the members for their handsome gift and hearty good wishes, and assuring those present that in the future, as in the past, his best services would be placed at the disposal of the Craft.

At an earlier stage of the proceedings an able paper was read by Bro. Capt. J. MACNAB, P.P.J.G.W. West Lancashire, on "The Origin and Perpetuation of Masonic Symbolism."

The visiting brethren present included Bros. J. Macnab, P.P.J.G.W. West Lancashire; J. Fletcher, P.P.J.G.D. West Lancashire; R. Robinson, P.M. 477; R. Parry, P.M. 1276; G. S. Browne, W.M. 786; C. Birchall, 1547; H. J. Cooper, 863 Port Elizabeth; Rigmalden, S.D. 2496; and others.

Craft Masonry.

St. George's Lodge, No. 242.

A meeting was held in the Masonic Rooms, Duncaster, on Friday evening, the 6th inst., when there were present Bros. J. H. Pawson, W.M.; C. H. Woodhouse, I.P.M.; F. Bridge, S.W.; F. H. Buckland, J.W.; P. Jenner, acting Chap.; F. Ranj, Treas.; H. C. White, Sec.; G. Smith, S.D.; W. W. Peacock, J.D.; F. Webb, D. of C.; S. Lester, I.G.; F. Duff, Org.; S. Castle and H. Foster, Stewards; J. Mason and C. Richardson, Tylers; W. Blake, S. W. S. Taylor, T. Bletcher, J. W. Turner, W. C. Wright, W. Goodair, J. F. Hanson, C. Hopkinson, H. Gunby, W. Stiles, and T. Anelay. Visitors: Bros. J. Constable, Secretary, T. Barber, S.W., and H. A. Fenton, J.W., of 2259; and S. T. Oates, 364.

Messrs. Christopher Porrett and E. E. Shires were duly initiated by the W.M., Bro. Buckland giving the working tools, and Bro. Bridge the charge. A candidate for initiation having been proposed, the lodge was closed.

The brethren afterwards retired to the ante-room, when a pleasant hour was passed in toast and harmony.

Unity Lodge, No. 613.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 9th instant, at the Masonic Buildings, Lord-street, Southport. The lodge was opened by Bro. R. W. T. Hatch, W.M., supported by his officers. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. installed his successor with great skill and ability. He appointed as his Installing Officers Bros. Richard Sharrock, P.P.D.G. D. of C., as S.W.; G. S. Smith, P.P.G. Org. East and West Lincs, as J.W.; and J. Lees, P.G.D., as I.G. Bro. James O. Platt, S.W., W.M. elect, was presented to the Installing Master by Bros. T. Adams, P.P.G.D.C., and John Hatch, P.P.G.D., who was duly installed into the chair of K.S. with great dignity, and saluted by 26 Past Masters present. After the usual formula, the brethren were admitted, and Bro. J. O. Platt, W.M., was proclaimed Master, and due honour was done him under the direction of Bro. Max Boyd, P.M., who also presented the working tools and gave the addresses to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren respectively. We were pleased to see our old friend, Bro. Saml. Kershaw, P.M., in his usual grand form, who invested and explained the jewels to each officer. The service was fully choral, under the direction of Bro. Walter Wilkinson, Organist. During the evening a Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Wm. Hatch, I.P.M., for his valuable services during the past year, and a most charming jewel was presented to Bro. T. Adams, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; it was of pure gold and of exquisite design, the workmanship being a combination of Past Master and Treasurer. It was presented on behalf of the brethren of the lodge by Bro. George Duxfield in most elaborate and flowing praise of Bro. T. Adams' sterling worth. Bro. Adams responded. The lodge did not forget the Charities—15 guineas was voted to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Bro. R. W. T. Hatch, I.P.M., acting as Steward, and also five guineas each to the local institutions, viz.: West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, West Lancashire Hamer Benevolent Institution, and West Lancashire Alpass Benevolent Institution. The following were invited as officers for the ensuing year: Bros. J. O. Platt, W.M.; R. W. T. Hatch, I.P.M.; S. Bramwell, S.W.; J. J. Broome, J.W.; the Rev. J. S. Gardner, M.A., P.M., P.P.G. Chap., Chap.; G. Duxfield, P.M., Treas.; John T. Gale, P.M., Sec.; A. A. W. Phillips, S.D.; P. Purser, J.D.; M. H. Boyd, D.C.; W. Wilkinson, Org.; W. Derry, I.G.; N. Shaw, A. S. Robson, R. Brittain, and John Hough, Stwds.; G. Rockcliffe, Tyler; and S. Kershaw, P.M., Almoner.

The following brethren were present: Bros. R. W. T. Hatch, W.M.; George Horsford, P.M.; John Hatch, P.M., P.P.G.D.; Max H. Boyd, P.M.; E. Bradshaw, P.M.; Thos. Hayward, P.M.; James O. Platt, S.W.; Sydney Bramwell, J.W.; Geo. Duxfield, P.M.; T. Adams, P.M., P.P.G.D., Treas.; John W. Gale, P.M., Sec.; J. J. Broome, J.D.; Walter Wilkinson, Org.; Alexander Phillips, D. W. Derry, Arthur Robson, and A. Shaw, Stwds.; G. W. Rockcliffe, Tyler; Richard Brittain, J. W. Munro, W. Crankshaw, P.M., T. W. Child, J. Hough, A. E. Connard, Fred. W. Smith, J. E. Hindle, Horace W. Hatch, J. T. Bennett, Thos. Seddon, H. V. Rooke, T. E. Williams, P.M.; S. Kershaw, P.M.; Jos. Fortune, and Fred. Walsley. Visitors: Bros. W. J. Brittain, P.M.; D. Galloway, P.M.; P. Rawsthorne, W.M. 2325; S. Thorpe, P.M.; James Iddon; Richd. Saarrook, P.P.D.G.D.C.; Robert Horsfall; G. S. Smith, P.P.G. Org. East and West Lincs; R. Smit; Joseph Lees, P.G.D.; Wm. Morecroft, W.M. 1313; T. J. Dewhurst; R. Hayes; Joseph F. Roberts, P.P.G.D.C.; S. Boyce, P.M.; W. J. Worden, P.D.G. Reg.; J. E. Fisher, and J. Rhodes.

Hemming Lodge, No. 1512.

A meeting of this lodge was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Hampton Court, on the 21st ult. Among those present were Bros. E. H. Trotter, W.M.; G. J. Tagg, J.W.; J. C. Jessett, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; Capt. T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G.S.B., Sec.; P. Cronin, S.D.; C. Wheatley, J.D.; G. Ransford, P.M., P.S.G.W. Middx., D.C.; H. Wheatley, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., H. Webster, and W. Hill, Stwds.; T. W. Ockenden, P.M., P.P.G.D.; W. Spearing, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; W. Fisher, P.M., P.P.G. Treas.; and J. W. Clarke, P.M.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. F. J. M. Edwards was passed to the Second Degree. Bro. G. J. Tagg, J.W., was unanimously elected W.M.; Bro. J. C. Jessett, P.M., Treas.; and Bro. John Gilbert, Tyler. A Past Master's jewel and collar were voted to the W.M. for his conduct in the chair. The sum of 10 guineas was voted to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution per Bro. E. H. Trotter as Steward for the Festival, 1895. The Secretary announced that "The Room Testimonial" would close on the 31st instant. A petition to the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys in favour of a son of the late Bro. R. Eales, P.M. 1512, and P.P.G.R., was signed.

The lodge was then closed, and a banquet followed, at which the usual toasts were given, and a most agreeable evening was spent.

Duke of Connaught Lodge, No. 1524.

A regular meeting of this prosperous lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 28th ult., when there was a full programme of work. The W.M., Bro. E. J. Turnbull, presided, and performed the various ceremonies with ability and impressiveness. The other officers and members present included Bros. W. Oakley, S.W.; Pearce, J.W.; W. H. Brand, P.M., Treas.; C. Lorin, P.M., Sec.; F. W. Rogers, I.P.M.; E. Dignam, P.M.; A. Ferrar, P.M.; R. Polak, P.M.; A. R. Olley, P.M.; W. Beasley, P.M.; J. H. Rich, P.M.; W. Simpson, P.M.; Frisby, J.D.; Felsenthal, Org.; W. Wright, and others. Visitors: Bros. R. E. Fairclough, P.M. 1365; Keble, J.W. 1662; Longmore, 2256; Johnsin, 813; and W. W. Lee, P.M. 1897, 2381, Prov. G. Stwd. Middx.

The lodge was opened and the minutes confirmed. Bros. May and Zender were raised to the Third Degree, and Bros. Hammond and James were passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft. Messrs. W. Harmer and R. Clinton were then initiated into Freemasonry. The elections were proceeded with and Bro. W. T. Oakley, S.W., was unanimously elected as W.M. for the ensuing year, and, having been heartily congratulated, briefly replied. Bro. W. H. Brand, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treasurer and Bro. Joes re-elected Tyler. A Past Master's jewel was voted to Bro. Turnbull, W.M., in recognition of his valuable services during the year.

Lodge was closed, and after banquet the usual toasts were honoured.

Bro. Rogers, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and said that Bro. Turnbull had proved himself an excellent Master, and had conducted the business of the lodge in a manner second to none of his predecessors. By his excellent rendering of the ritual the W.M. had well earned the jewel voted to him, and had fully maintained the high reputation of the lodge.

Bro. E. J. Turnbull, W.M., tendered sincere thanks for the hearty and enthusiastic manner in which the toast had been received, not only on that but upon every occasion on which he had had the honour to preside. That was probably the last occasion on which he would preside as W.M., and he should leave the chair with mingled feelings of regret and satisfaction. The feeling of regret was, however, very small, whilst the feeling of satisfaction was particularly strong. He regretted more particularly that he was unworthy of the very flattering comments made upon his poor abilities from time to time, and also regretted that his year of office was drawing to a close. These feelings were inevitable, but his satisfaction was great, for he conscientiously believed that every member would do him the credit of thinking he had done his utmost to maintain the honour, reputation, and dignity of the lodge since he had held the reins of office. He was thankful to the Great Architect for giving him health and strength to carry out his duties with some small degree of credit to himself and satisfaction to the lodge. He desired to express gratitude for the co-operation and kindly support he had received from every individual member. He hoped to be spared to be amongst them and assist them as far as he could, and as he had been assisted during the past 12 months. He expressed the fervent wish that every Master who followed him would endeavour to do his utmost to communicate happiness to the members.

"The Initiates" was followed by "The Visitors."

In reply to the latter toast, Bro. R. E. Fairclough, I.P.M. 1365, referred to his recent election as Precipitor of the Duke of Connaught Lodge of Instruction, and

Bro. Lee drew attention to the chapter attached to the lodge, which would gladly welcome any members desirous of joining Royal Arch Freemasonry.

"The I.P.M., Past Masters, and Treasurer and Secretary" was next given by the W.M., who bore testimony to the excellent services rendered by all, and expressed his gratification that Bro. Brand, P.M., had been re-elected Treasurer for the 15th time.

The W.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M. Elect," cordially congratulated Bro. Oakley upon his unanimous election, and assured him it was a very distinguished honour to occupy such an important position.

Bro. W. T. Oakley, S.W., W.M. elect, in response, said the W.M. had discovered more good qualities in him than he was aware he possessed. Whatever office he had taken in the lodge it had been his earnest wish to carry out to the best of his ability, and he believed, by the manner in which he had been elected, that he had given them satisfaction. He hoped to give them as much satisfaction in the duties of W.M. He was obliged to the Past Masters for their offer of assistance, and there was nobody more anxious to work in love and harmony with the Secretary than he was, for he had received the greater part of his instruction from Bro. Lorin, P.M., Sec.

Other toasts were given before the proceedings terminated.

Special mention should be made of an excellent musical programme, carefully prepared and admirably carried out by Bro. Felsenthal, Org.

Leopold Lodge, No. 1571.

On Monday, the 9th instant, at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, Bro. Hy. T. Meadows, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. W. Carly, P.M., Treasurer. A Past Master's jewel was voted to the W.M., Bro. Arthur Watts, for his services in the chair during the past year, who thanked the brethren for the honour conferred upon him.

In future the meetings of the lodge will be held on the third Wednesday in the months of January, February, March, October, November, and December. The installation meeting will consequently fall on Wednesday, the 15th prox.

Aldersgate Lodge, No. 1657.

An emergency meeting was held on Monday, the 16th inst., at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, when there were present Bros. George Rawlinson, I.P.M., acting W.M.; Septimus Croft, S.W.; W. R. B. Briscoe, J.W.; Rev. T. Selby Henrey, acting Chap.; George Kenning, P.M., Sec.; Thos. Briggs, S.D.; H. N. Bennett, J.D.; Edwd. Anderton, P.M., D.C.; H. Thomas, Tyler; Arthur B. Hudson, P.M.; John Larkin, P.M.; Rupert Smyth, and Clarence R. R. Hopper. Visitors: Bros. T. Selby Henrey, Chap. 192; Charles Garton, S.D. 192; W. S. Whitaker, P.M. 1572; and Dr. S. R. Lovett, P.M. 3.

The lodge being duly opened, a ballot was taken for Mr. Clarence R. R. Hopper, and the result being unanimously in his favour, he was initiated by Bro. George Kenning, P.M. The charge after the initiation was given by Bro. W. S. Whitaker in his usual masterly manner.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to dinner, the usual toasts being duly honoured.

The musical arrangements were ably carried out by Bro. G. H. Dawson, of the Guildhall School of Music.

Sir Charles Bright Lodge, No. 1893.

A meeting of this lodge was held at the Clarence Hotel, Teddington, on the 27th ult. Among those present were Bros. F. Chandler, P.M. 1656, P.P.G.P., W.M.; J. Russell, S.W.; W. Middleweek, P.M., as J.W.; R. W. Forge, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., Treas.; E. W. Warner, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., Sec.; W. Smith, S.D.; T. Middleweek, I.G.; and Capt T. C. Walls, P.M., P.P.G.W., P.G.S.B., E. Hall, and R. Goff, Stwds. Bro. Langley, P.P.G.D., was a visitor.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A long discussion then ensued as to the financial position of the lodge. Bro. Walls gave a notice of motion that the sum of 10 guineas be voted to the R.M.B.I., per Bro. F. J. Chandler, W.M., as Steward. A petition to the Board of Benevolence on behalf of the widow of an old and highly respected member of the lodge was signed. The Secretary reported that he had received a notice from the D.P.G.M. of the province to the effect that "The Eccm Testimonial" would close on the 31st inst. The lodge was then closed. Refreshment followed.

The Worshipful Master, in proposing "The Health of the Provincial Grand Officers," paid a high compliment to Bros. H. H. Room and G. R. Langley. He said that the first was a most zealous and genial Prov. Grand Secretary, and the latter an excellent Secretary to the Charity Committee of the Province.

Bro. Langley, in responding, made a very interesting speech in connection with the Charities.

A few other toasts were given and the brethren separated.

St. Nicholas Lodge, No. 2259.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 4th instant, in the Masonic Rooms, Thorne-present: Bros. G. Kenyon, W.M.; S. H. C. Ashlin, acting I.P.M.; T. Barber, S.W.; H. A. Fenton, J.W.; B. Maskill, Treas.; J. J. Littlewood, Chap.; J. Constable, Sec.; G. Eland, S.D.; E. J. Hirst, J.D.; J. H. Bletcher, Almoner; F. T. Turner, D.C.; W. P. Robotham, Org.; E. Simpson, I.G.; T. J. Smith, Stwd.; F. Pine, Tyler; A. L. Peace, T. R. R. Marsdin, R. Brew, E. Shillito, and J. Dugdale. Visitors: Bros. C. H. Woodhouse, I.P.M., J. H. Pawson, W.M., and J. T. Turner, of 242; and W. Chamberlain, W. Pickering, and J. T. Wresell, of 1432.

Mr. T. Tomlinson was initiated and Bro. E. Simpson was invested as I.G., after which the lodge was closed.

The W.M. had invited all the brethren to partake of supper at his expense, and Mrs. Marsh certainly carried out his wishes by providing an excellent spread.

The usual toasts and songs followed. Of course, the toast of the evening—"The Health of the W.M."—was enthusiastically received and Masonically honoured.

St. Aldhelm's Lodge, No. 2559.

A meeting of this lodge was held in the Schools, Branksome, on the 10th inst., when there were present Bros. Major W. Watts, W.M.; A. C. Kemble, S.W.; M. C. C. Burke, J.W.; R. Patey, Chap.; F. H. Cridland, Treas.; A. H. Yeatman, Sec.; F. Hew Cottam, S.D.; E. P. Oakley, J.D.; A. H. Lawton, D.C.; T. Gilt Bennett, I.G.; H. Beamish, Tyler; and C. Carter, P.M. Visitors: Bros. Woodford, P.M.; McCormick, Mate, White, and Francis.

The lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the precious meeting read and confirmed, the W.M. initiated Capt. Harrison (late 7th Fusiliers). The addresses were given by Bro. C. Carter, the charge by Bro. H. A. Lawton, and the working tools by the W.M. The lodge was then closed.

Scots Lodge, No. 2319.

This lodge held its "St. Andrew's" meeting at the Scottish Corporation Hall, Crane-court, Fleet-street, on the 28th ult., under the presidency of Bro. Joseph J. Whitehead, W.M. There were present on the occasion Bros. Thomas Grant, I.P.M.; John Page, P.M.; James Thompson, S.W.; H. Massey (160, P.M. 619 and 1028), acting J.W.; Alexander Ritchie, J.P., Treas.; D. A. Ross, Sec.; E. J. Gordon, P.M., J.D.; W. Craig, I.G.; J. Anderson, D.C.; A. Gordon, Org.; W. Laurie and T. Sandilands, Stwds.; W. Robertson, Tyler; Peter Maclean, Piper; A. D. Arnott, Peter Black, Balfour, D. Smith, J. M. Barclay, A. Macgregor, J. Plenderleith, J. Nicol, A. Whitehead, A. J. Macmaster, D. Charters, J. Macgregor, J. Bennett, and visitors, Bros. C. C. Thomas, P.M., Sec. 1598; J. Featherstone, 1656; C. F. Matier, Sec. 2205; E. Churchman, W.M. 1425; J. Lamb, 1672; and C. Alstrom, P.M. 2374.

After the minutes of the former meeting had been read and confirmed, the Auditors' report on the ball account was taken and adopted, and the general feeling was freely expressed that there had not been a more successful gathering in connection with the lodge than the last ball. Bro. A. D. Arnott was raised to the Third Degree, the W.M. and his officers performing the work admirably. Communications were read by the Secretary from Bro. Dr. Forbes, S.W., regretting his inability to attend on account of not having sufficiently recovered from his accident, and from Bro. D. F. Gellion P.M., who was prevented attending by being away from town, hoping the brethren would enjoy themselves and not separate without a reel. The W.M., in the name of the brethren, regretted these absences, as well as the absence of Bro. John Whitehead, P.M., and after the transaction of some other business, the brethren proceeded to banquet, which was excellently provided in the Scottish fashion.

The usual toasts followed, and the speeches, which were very brief, were interspersed with some capital vocal music by Bros. Churchman, W. Laurie, Ashley Gordon, Arnott, and Nicol.

Bro. Thomas Grant, I.P.M., proposed "The Worshipful Master," and said every brother must be as proud of Bro. Whitehead as he was. It was a very great pleasure for any P.M. of a lodge to have such a W.M., and all the members would rally round him. They had witnessed the style in which, during his year, he had performed the ceremonies of passing and raising, which was an earnest of the way in which he could do the installation when it next came round.

Bro. J. J. Whitehead, W.M., in responding, said what little things he might have done during his year of office, he could assure the brethren he was heartily pleased by the enthusiasm they had shown that evening for the efforts he had made. He felt confident that the brethren who would follow him would not do less than he had done, for the enthusiasm of the brethren would spur them on to achieve success. He himself deserved no thanks. The lodge of instruction was formed not by him, but by the brethren who had come up and supported him. That went a long way to prove that for enthusiasm no lodge in London could beat the Scots Lodge.

Bro. Alex. Ritchie, J.P., C.C., Treas., in replying to the toast of "The Trustee, the Treasurer, and the Secretary," said that after all the Secretary was the brother in the lodge who did the work, he had the grip of the £ s. d., and knew what all the brethren owed. St. Andrew's Day was the great day in the sacred walls of the Scottish Corporation, where they were doing a most charitable work. They had to be up and doing. Bro. Dr. Forbes, who was not able to walk without crutches, was as jolly and happy as ever, and the mantle that had fallen on the W.M. was not going to be disgraced on the 30th. He had 20 or 30 guineas, and if the brethren could give him an extra guinea he hoped they would do so. It was his pride and privilege to know that place was crowded with recipients of bounty, people who through no fault of their own had been brought down, old people who had been brought up in comfort, but who had lost husbands or sons who were their support. The cases were all carefully looked into by the Committee. And after all, Freemasonry was devoted to Charity. No charity was equal to it. It had its School for Girls, its School for Boys, and its Institution for the Aged, and when they considered that as much as £62,000 was subscribed in one year to these Institutions, it was a great work to do. Scotsmen were not to be left behind that. He asked the brethren to rally round the Stewards of the Scottish Corporation on St. Andrew's Day.

Bro. D. A. Ross, Sec., also replied, and was glad his energy was exerted in such a good cause.

Bro. J. J. Whitehead, W.M., in proposing "The Past Masters," said in the Past Masters they had some of the most worthy men a lodge could possess. They always gave to everything proposed by the W.M., which was most gratifying. In the I.P.M. they had a brother who had done all he could, and of Bro. Page also he could not say too much. Every meeting he (Bro. Whitehead) had called with regard to the lodge of instruction and the ball Bro. Grant had attended. There could not have been a better Past Master. Bro. Gellion would have been present, only he was out on a favourite pastime—shooting. Of Bro. Whitehead (the W.M.'s father) he must say he had to be excused because he was very heavily laden with business at present.

Bro. Thomas Grant, P.M., replying to the toast, said it was a pleasure for any Past Master of the Scots Lodge to see such an array of his officers going on to the chair by progressive steps. Any Past Master ought to be proud of it.

Bro. John Page, P.M., said that anything the Past Masters could do for the Scots Lodge they were ready to do, and that would always be the case. He had been delighted to see the work done so well by the W.M. that evening; it was a credit to the Past Masters as well as to the lodge.

All the visitors obeyed the Worshipful Master's command to respond to the toast of "The Visitors," and expressed the pleasure they had had in attending and seeing the work so well performed.

Bro. Gordon, J.D., in responding to the toast of "The Officers," said he had held a triple position, but it had afforded him the pleasurable opportunity of seeing the completion of his introduction of Bro. Arnott into Masonry. Although he had done Deacons' work several times he had never had the pleasure of assisting such a brother—a brother of such intellectual capacity. From the way he conducted himself it could be seen that Bro. Arnott had Masonry at heart, and he hoped he would be a member for many years to come. The visitors had eulogised the working of the lodge, and he thought that eulogy justified the pride of the lodge in having Bro. Joseph Whitehead as its W.M. Although he was a young W.M. they congratulated themselves on having such a W.M. among them, and they would support him. While they had him it would always be their endeavour to support him to the utmost of their ability, and in saying that he was stating the views of all the officers of the lodge.

Bro. W. Craig, I.G., also responded, and said that while the W.M. gave him any duties to perform he should be only too pleased to perform them.

The proceedings closed with "Auld Lang Syne."

Cornish Lodge, No. 2369.

A meeting of this lodge was held at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Saturday, the 14th instant. The W.M., Bro. J. Leach Barrett, occupied the chair, and there were also present Bros. Curnow, S.W.; the Rev. Professor Shutt'worth, J.W.; W. Lake, Treas.; R. Greenwood, Sec.; Rev. Geard, S.D.; J. Widger, J.D.; T. Hawken, I.G.; and many other brethren and visitors.

There were two candidates for initiation and two for passing, and the ceremonies were conducted by the W.M. and his officers in an excellent manner.

After the lodge was closed, the brethren sat down to dinner, under the presidency of the W.M.

The usual toasts were given and responded to, that of "The W.M.," proposed by Bro. Rawle, I.P.M., being especially well received.

Bro. Barrett, in reply, referred to the fact that he had had that evening the gratification of initiating his brother and his nephew, and alluded, in feeling terms, to the special satisfaction it had given him to introduce his brother into Masonry. He congratulated the lodge on its position and prospects, and expressed himself as satisfied that it would fulfil the aims and expectations of its founders. Before sitting down, the W.M. gave a cordial invitation to the members and their friends to be present at a dance at Freemasons' Tavern on the following Wednesday—an invitation, by the way, which was accepted by a large number.

On Wednesday evening Bro. Barrett had the satisfaction of meeting over 120 brethren and ladies as his guests. The gathering was an exceptionally pleasant and successful one. Dancing was kept up with much spirit to the music of the London Military Band, and "one and all" enjoyed themselves to their heart's content.

Lodges and Chapters of Instruction.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE, No. 538.

A meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 11th inst., at the Fratelli Restaurant, Oxford-street, W., when there were present: Bros. H. C. Parker, W.M.; L. G. Genese, S.W.; T. Smale, P.M., J.W.; J. Paul, P.M., Preceptor; W. E. Willby, P.M., Sec.; J. Mason, S.D.; J. Leather, J.D.; A. A. Butcher, I.G.; A. Kraus, P.M.; A. Tettery, T. R. Farrer, E. Bissell, Goldstein, R. Bidgood, and T. G. Evans.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. R. Bidgood answered the questions leading to the Second Degree. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. R. Bidgood being the candidate. The 2nd Section of the Lecture was worked by the Preceptor. The lodge was resumed in the First Degree, and at the first rising, Bro. John Goldstein, 2265, was elected a joining member, and the dues were then collected. At the second rising, Bro. L. S. Genese, S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. After the third rising, all Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 10th instant, at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present: Bros. R. P. Upton, W.M.; W. Rapley, S.W.; A. Oldrey, J.W.; W. Hancock, P.M., Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; J. E. Thomas, S.D.; A. F. Hardyment, J.D.; A. L. Gieve, I.G.; A. Oliver, P.M.; M. Tuck, P.M., P.P.G.S.B. Essex; J. W. Clarke, P.M.; C. Smith, M. Miroy, C. Nicole, J. Amand, S. Cloud, A. L. Langton, C. Weston, C. Isler, G. A. Hopkins, G. Yexley, and J. T. Hoare.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Yexley being the candidate. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and called off and on. Bro. Amand answered the questions leading to the Third Degree, and was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree, and the ceremony of raising rehearsed, Bro. Amand being the candidate. Bro. A. L. Gieve was elected a member of the lodge. Bro. Rapley was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

A meeting was held on Friday, the 13th inst., at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell. Present: Comps. Bannister, M.E.Z.; Block, H.; Dunn, J.; C. H. Stone, S.E.; Lewis, S.N.; Stone, P.S.; Hinton, and Telling.

The chapter was declared open, and the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Hinton personating the candidate. The exposition of the various banners in the Royal Arch was very ably given by the M.E.Z., for which he received the hearty thanks of the companions, who expressed a wish that he might repeat it at no distant date. After "Herryty good wishes," the chapter was closed.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RAILWAY FACILITIES.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

The Great Western Railway Company issue tickets at their City and West End offices. The booking office at Paddington Station will be open all day for the issue of tickets on December 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, and 24th. Ordinary tickets obtained in London between December 18th and 24th will be available for use on any day between and including those days. Cheap third class tickets at reduced fares will be issued from London to the Yeovil and Weymouth districts, to stations in the West of England, and to Guernsey and Jersey; similar tickets will also be issued from those districts to London (except the Channel Islands). On Tuesday night, December 24th, cheap excursions will be run from Paddington at 11.10 p.m. for Bath and Bristol; at 11.35 p.m. for Oxford, Worcester, Malvern, Hereford, Banbury, Leamington, Warwick, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Chester, Birkenhead, Liverpool, &c., at 12.30 midnight for Newport, Cardiff, New Milford, &c., and at 12.40 midnight for Gloucester, Cheltenham, &c. In order to meet the extraordinary demand upon the company's resources occasioned by the enormous parcel traffic despatched both from and to London at Christmas time, special fast trains carrying parcels only, and calling at the principal intermediate stations will run between London and Plymouth, Birkenhead, Worcester, and New Milford. On Tuesday, December 24th, the 5.0 p.m. and 12.15 midnight trains from Paddington to Plymouth will be extended to Falmouth and Penzance; and the 7.0 p.m. train from Paddington to Weston will run to Exeter. A special train will leave Paddington at 10.0 p.m. for New Milford, and will call at the same stations as the 9.15 p.m. ordinary train. A special express to Reading, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, &c., will depart at 11.50 p.m. The usual Sunday service of trains will be run on Christmas Day, but for the convenience of persons who are unable to leave town before the morning of Christmas Day, the 5.30 a.m. from Paddington will run as on week days to Oxford, Bristol, Weston-super-Mare, Worcester, Banbury, Leamington, Birmingham, Dudley, and Wolverhampton. This train will connect at Bathampton with the 8.47 a.m., thence to Frome, Yeovil, Dorchester, Weymouth, &c. The 12.15 midnight fast train from Paddington to Plymouth will be run at the usual times on Christmas night.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

The London and North-Western Railway Company announce that the ticket offices at Euston, Broad-street, Kensington, and Willesden Junction will be open throughout the day, from Monday, December 16th, to Monday, December 23rd, inclusive, so that passengers wishing to obtain tickets for any destination on the London and North-Western Railway can do so at any time of the day prior to the starting of the train. Tickets, dated to suit, the convenience of passengers, can be obtained at any time (Sundays and Bank

Holidays excepted) at the Town Receiving Offices of the Company. The ordinary service of express and mail trains will be supplemented by additional express trains as named below: On Tuesday, December 24th, a special train will leave Willesden Junction at 2.55 p.m. for Bletchley, Wolverton, Rugby, principal stations on the Trent Valley Line, and Stafford, in advance of the 2.45 p.m. ordinary train from London (Euston). The 4.30 p.m. train to Birmingham, will be divided—the first portion will run express to Coventry and Birmingham, and leave Euston at 4.25 p.m.; the second portion of the train will leave Euston at 4.30 p.m. as usual, and convey passengers for Northampton, Market Harboro', Melton Mowbray, Wellingboro', Rugby, Coventry, Birmingham, Walsall, Dudley, and Wolverhampton. The night Irish mail, due to leave Euston 8.20 p.m., will not leave until 9.5 p.m. The mail steamer for Kingstown will wait the arrival of the train at Holyhead. The 12.0 night train from London (Euston) due at Warrington at 5.15 a.m. on Wednesday, December 25th, will be extended from Warrington to Kendal and Carlisle as on ordinary week days. On Christmas Day a special train will leave Euston at 6.15 a.m. for Northampton, Rugby, Birmingham, Stafford, Stoke, Crewe, Manchester, Liverpool, Chester, Ireland, Lancaster, Preston, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c. The ordinary Sunday service of trains will be in operation. On Bank Holiday, Thursday, December 26th, the express trains usually leaving London (Euston) at 12.0 noon and 4.0 p.m. will not be run, passengers will be conveyed by the 12.10 p.m. and 4.10 p.m. trains respectively. The 4.30 p.m. train from London (Euston) to Birmingham and Wolverhampton, will also be discontinued, and passengers will be conveyed by the 5.0 p.m. train, except those for Market Harboro', Melton Mowbray, Nottingham, &c., who will travel by the 3.0 p.m. train from Euston. The 8.10 p.m. train to Tring, will not be run. Numerous residential trains will not run, particulars of which can be ascertained on reference to the Company's local notices. The up and down dining saloons between London, Liverpool, and Manchester, will not be run on Bank Holiday, but the Corridor dining car trains between London and Edinburgh and Glasgow will be run as usual. The Company also announce cheap excursions to Coventry, Leamington, Birmingham, South Staffordshire stations, Wolverhampton, Nuneaton, Liverpool, Warrington, Lancaster, the English Lake District, Manchester, Oldham, Stoke, Chester, North and South Wales, and the Cambrian Line, Shrewsbury, Carlisle, Scotland, Ireland, &c. For full particulars see special notices.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

The Midland Railway Company, to prevent inconvenience and crowding, have arranged for the booking offices at St. Pancras and Moorgate-street Stations to be open for the issue of tickets all day on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday, December 21st, 22nd, and 24th, and tickets to all principal stations on the Midland Railway can be obtained beforehand at the Midland Company's City and Suburban offices. The tickets obtained at these offices will be available from St. Pancras Station, and will be issued at the same fares as charged at that station, and dated to suit the convenience of passengers. Cheap excursion trains will be run from London (St. Pancras) and principal provincial stations to Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Dundee, Aberdeen, &c., on Tuesday, December 24th, for three or seven days, and December 31st for three or eight days, by which return tickets will be issued at a third class single fare for the double journey. The single fare tickets issued on December 24th will be available for returning on any day up to and including January 8th, 1896, and single fare tickets taken on December 31st will be available for returning any day up to and including January 15th, 1896. Cheap excursion trains will also be run from London (St. Pancras) on Tuesday night, December 24th, to Leicester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Derby, Newark, Lincoln, Burton, Manchester, Liverpool, Blackburn, Bolton, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, York, Hull, Scarborough, Newcastle, the Lake District, &c., returning December 26th or 28th. Cheap excursion trains will be issued from London (St. Pancras) and principal provincial stations on Thursday, December 19th, to Dublin, Cork, Killarney, Limerick, &c., via Liverpool, available for 16 days, on Monday, December 23rd, to Dublin, &c., via Morecambe, available for returning on December 28th or 31st, and January 2nd, 4th, or 7th, 1896; on Friday, December 20th, to Belfast, Londonderry, Portrush, &c., via Barrow, or via Liverpool, available for 16 days, and on Saturday, December 21st, to Londonderry, via Morecambe or via Liverpool, available for returning December 30th, or January 2nd via Morecambe, and on December 28th, 31st, January 1st or 4th, via Liverpool. Cheap excursion tickets will be issued from St. Pancras to Southend-on-Sea, Shoeburyness, and Malvern, on Tuesday, December 24th, available for return on the following Thursday and Friday. On Christmas Day cheap day excursion trains will be issued to Southend-on-Sea from St. Pancras, Kentish Town, Walthamstow, Leytonstone, and stations on the Tottenham and Forest Gate Joint Line. On Christmas Eve the pressure of traffic will be relieved by the running of duplicate trains from St. Pancras as circumstances may require. On Christmas Day the trains will run as appointed for Sundays, except the new paper express, leaving London (St. Pancras) at 5.15 a.m., which will run to Bedford, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, and Manchester, as on ordinary weekdays. On Thursday, December 26th, certain booked trains will be discontinued, of which due notice will be given by special bills at the stations.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

The Great Northern Railway Company announce that on Tuesday night, December 24th (for three and seven days) and Tuesday night, December 31st (for three and eight days) cheap excursions will leave London (Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard) Victoria (L.C. and D.), Moorgate, King's Cross (G.N.), Finsbury Park, &c.), for Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Dalmally, Fort William, Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverness, and other stations in Scotland. Passengers by the excursion on 24th return on Thursday, 26th, or Monday, 30th December, and those by the excursion on 31st December return on Thursday, 2nd, or on Tuesday, 7th January, according to period of ticket taken. Tickets at a single fare for the double journey will also be issued by above excursions to places named, available for return by one fixed train on any day within 16 days of issue and return. On Tuesday, December 24th, cheap three and five days excursions will also leave London (Woolwich, Victoria (L.C. and D.), Moorgate, King's Cross, &c.), for Cambridge, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Peterboro', Lynn, Norwich, Cromer, Yarmouth, Leicester, Spalding, Boston, Grimsby, Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, Burton, Burslem, Tutbury, Stoke, Newark, Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham, Huddersfield, Manchester, Liverpool, York, Hull, Bridlington, Maiton, Scarborough, Whitby, Stockton, Richmond, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesboro', Durham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, and other principal stations in the Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, and Yorkshire districts, returning on 26th and 28th December. On December 21st, 23rd, and 24th, additional trains will be run to meet requirements of traffic. The 10.30 p.m. express from King's Cross, on Tuesday, 24th December, will not run beyond Berwick on Christmas Day morning. Tuesday, December 24th, the 5.0 p.m. express from King's Cross will be continued to Melton Constable, calling at all stations east of Peterboro'. A special express at ordinary fares will leave London (King's Cross) at 12.0 midnight on Tuesday, 24th December, for Welwyn, Stevenage, Hitchin, Biggleswade, Sandy, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Peterboro', Spalding, Boston, Grimsby, Grantham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Newark, Retford, Doncaster, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Selby, York, &c. Christmas Day, the trains will run as on Sundays, except that the 5.15 a.m. express from King's Cross will be run, at ordinary fares, to Peterboro', Bourne, Stamford, Grantham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Doncaster, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, and Halifax, stopping at the intermediate stations at which it ordinarily calls, and will be continued to York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Aberdeen, &c. A special express conveying parcels only will leave London (King's Cross) at 10.15 p.m. on December 19th, 20th, 21st, and 23rd, for Lynn, Norwich, Yarmouth, Nottingham, Melton Mowbray, Leicester, Derby, Burton, Lincoln, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Keighley, Halifax, York, Hull, Newcastle, and all places in the North of England and Scotland. To prevent inconvenience from crowding at the Company's principal terminal station, King's Cross, tickets, dated in advance, will be issued at King's Cross (G.N.R.), Victoria (L.C. and D.), Ludgate-hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, Holloway, and Finsbury Park stations, and all the Company's receiving offices.

DEATH.

CUMT—On the 15th instant, at 9, Marriott-road, Tollington Park, N., Bro. Thomas Cubitt, P.G.P., aged 76 years.

Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. HENRY LOVEGROVE has repeated his success of last year by again winning the medal of the Leghorn Club and other prizes with his Italian fowls.

THE REV. W. EVANS HURNDALL, M.A., of Westminster Chapel, and Mrs. Hurndall, who were nearly suffocated by the fumes of a gas stove, are progressing favourably.

BRO. CAPT. LORD CHARLES BERESFORD, in command of the Medway Dockyard Reserve, has been granted 38 days' leave of absence and will start for the Mediterranean on January 4th.

THE ANNUAL prize distribution of King's College took place on Tuesday evening, the prizes being handed to their fortunate recipients by Mr. Christopher Heath, President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR to this country has very kindly consented to preside at the festival, which will be held at the Hôtel Métropole on the 6th February next, in aid of St. John's Foundation School for the sons of the Poorer Clergy.

THE QUEEN visited the Albert Chapel, Windsor Castle, on Tuesday afternoon and inspected the wreaths which had been placed near the Duke of Albany's tomb, and the chaplet of roses on the sarcophagus of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Bro. Lord Halsbury) visited Leeds on Wednesday, for the purpose of addressing the Leeds Law Students' Society, of which he is President. During his stay his lordship was the guest of Bro. W. L. Jackson, M.P., the Mayor of the city.

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princesses Victoria and Maud, and Prince Nicholas of Greece concluded their visit to the Queen, at Windsor Castle, on Monday, when they returned to Marlborough House, arriving shortly after 11 a.m.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to give orders for the appointment of Colonel Augustus C. F. FitzGeorge, Private Secretary to H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, to be an ordinary member of the Civil Division of the Third Class or Companions of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

ON MONDAY at the meeting of the Croydon County Council the Mayor, Mr. Alderman F. T. Edridge, announced the receipt of a letter from Bro. Sir Francis Knollys intimating that their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales would visit the town in May or June next and open the new municipal buildings.

THE NEW battleship *Magnificent* left Chatham amid the hearty cheers of the spectators on Tuesday afternoon for Sheerness, where she will complete her preparations before proceeding to Devonport. Among those who witnessed her departure were Bro. Captain Lord Charles Beresford, commanding the Medway Dockyard Reserve, and Captain Swinton C. Holland, A.D.C. of the Medway Fleet Reserve.

THE *Freemason* CHRISTMAS NUMBER.—To all brothers of the Craft this production will be very acceptable. It contains much information, and a facsimile of an ancient MS. copy of the constitutions and charges which the brethren will, no doubt, highly value. There is also a review of Masonic proceedings for the past year.—*South Wales Times*.

MICHAELMAS LAW SITTINGS end to-morrow (Saturday) when the judges will rise for the Christmas vacation. There will be no sittings in Court during vacation, but a judge will be in attendance at Queen's Bench Judge's Chambers, on the 27th inst. and on Friday, the 3rd prox.

THE QUEEN and the members of her family staying with her at Windsor Castle attended the usual service in the Frogmore Mausoleum on Saturday last, it being the anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort and the Princess Alice. The Bishop of Winchester and the Dean of Windsor officiated, and Bro. Sir Walter Parratt led the choir.

AN ANONYMOUS DONOR has presented the munificent sum of 3000 guineas to the Middlesex Hospital for the purpose of endowing one bed and two cots in perpetuity. In aid of the same hospital, an entertainment was given by the employés of the well-known firm of Marshall and Snelgrove, in St. George's Hall, Langham-place, on Saturday evening last.

A COURT LIVERY DINNER of the Pattenmakers' Company was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday, when the members, under the presidency of their Master, Bro. John Welford, entertained the Lord Mayor (Bro. Sir Walter Wilkin) and a distinguished company, among whom were Bro. Viscount Powerscourt and Sir J. Heron Maxwell, Alderman Sir Stuart Knill, and Bro. Alderman Sir H. E. Knight.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES left Marlborough House on Tuesday for Highclere Castle, near Newbury, on a visit to Bro. the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, travelling by special train, and arriving at his destination about 7 p.m. The party invited to meet his Royal Highness included the Earl and Countess of Westmorland, Viscount and Viscountess Chelsea, the Russian Ambassador, the Brazilian Minister, and the Earl and Countess Howe.

LYRIC THEATRE.—On Boxing Day there will be given in addition to the usual evening performance at 8.15, a special matinée at 2 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.) of the successful comedy opera, "The Bric-a-Brac Will," with Miss Florence St. John as Sylvia. The management asks us to draw attention to the fact that numbered and reserved seats in the upper circle, four shillings, may be booked in advance for the above and all other performances of "The Bric-a-Brac Will."

THERE WAS a large gathering at the Imperial Institute on Monday afternoon, when Bro. Lord Herschell delivered an address on "The Work of the Institute." The Prince of Wales presided, and among those present were Bro. the Duke of Fife and Lord George Hamilton, M.P.; the Marquis of Lorne, M.P.; Lord Playfair, Lord Thring, and Bro. Sir Frederick Abel and Sir Somers Vine. A vote of thanks to Bro. Lord Herschell was moved by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and suitably acknowledged.

THE FIFTH annual dinner in behalf of the Actors' Benevolent Fund was held at the Hôtel Métropole on Wednesday evening under the presidency of Sir Francis Jeune, among the principal guests being Sir Edwin Arnold, Bro. S. B. Bancroft, Sir F. Lockwood, M.P., Sir John Pender, M.P., Sir Eyre Shaw, T. H. Bolton, Lennox Browne, and E. Terry, Past G. Treas. Subscriptions were announced in the course of the evening amounting to £650, and it was further stated that under the will of the late Bro. David James the Fund had benefited to the extent of £10,000.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.—Commercial Travellers' Cloakroom Luggage.—Commencing on November 1st, books of cloakroom tickets for commercial travellers' luggage will be on sale. The tickets are issued for the convenience of commercial travellers to enable them to send their packages to the cloakrooms of the Midland Railway Company from their hotels, &c., and obtain possession of the packages on arrival at the station. A ticket will be required for each article, which will frank its deposit in the cloakroom for any period not exceeding 48 hours, after which time the usual charge for commercial luggage will be made in accordance with the Company's regulations. Books containing 30 tickets can be obtained at the station on payment of 2s. 6d. each.

THE *Freemason* for December 7th, published at sixpence, is a double number. It is beautifully printed on toned paper, and contains no less than 30 items of peculiar interest to members of the Fraternity. The opening article on the progress of Freemasonry in the United Kingdom is very instructive, and in other pages the doings of the Order abroad are ably dealt with. "Two Curious Certificates" (illustrated), "Shakespeare in Lodge" (illustrated), "Occurrences of the Year," and "Masonic Notices" and "Correspondence" form prominent features of the book. A complete tale, "The Hermit of Dunstanborough," a legend of Northumbria, by T. C. Walls, is also given. The work, which is really a Christmas number, is an excellent production, a copy of which Freemasons would do well to become possessed.—*Western Daily Mercury*.

EVERY HOME may shortly be supplied with electric light by a simple piece of mechanism placed over the kitchen chimney, if a new plan of Edison's for generating electricity directly from heat is successful. Thus the poorest person could have the benefit of a useful invention which is now regarded as a luxury only for the comfort of the rich. Mr. Thomas Holloway, however, has given a greater blessing to humanity than has yet been afforded by the most wonderful discoveries of science. His Pills and Ointment have succeeded in cases where the greatest authorities on medical treatment have failed. Whatever the condition of a patient may be, these medicines will effect a cure if such a thing is humanly possible.

WE REGRET that the report of the important meeting of National Great Priory at Mark Masons' Hall on Friday, the 13th instant, should have reached us so late that we are compelled to hold it over till next week.

WE ARE GLAD to hear that Bro. the Earl of Cork, who met with an accident while out hunting, and was seriously kicked on the face by his horse, is going on favourably.

AT THE BAZAAR recently held in Manchester on behalf of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children the sum raised amounted to close upon £10,000.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS the Prince of Wales has again sent a present of 30 pheasants to the Royal Eye Hospital, Southwark, for which funds are most urgently needed to open the closed wards.

THE MARCHIONESS OF LORNE has been graciously pleased to send a donation of £25 to the general fund of the Grosvenor Hospital for Women and Children, Vincent-square, Westminster.

THE PROPRIETOR of the *Freemason* publishes a Christmas Number with contents of special and topical interest to the members of the Craft.—*Star*.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES, the Princesses Victoria and Maud, and Prince Nicholas of Greece were present at the Haymarket Theatre on Wednesday evening, and witnessed a performance of "Trilby."

THE DUCHESS OF ST. ALBANS and Lady Catherine Beauclerk have left town for Bestwood Lodge, where Bro. the Duke of St. Albans and her Grace will entertain a large party of guests for the Nottingham Hospital Ball.

THE THIRD and last performance of the Westminster Play took place in the Old Dormitory of the School on Wednesday in the presence of a distinguished company, who heartily applauded. The "Adelphi" of Terence was the play chosen for the year.

THE QUEEN, accompanied by the Princess Henry of Battenberg and her children, and attended by the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, left Windsor Castle for Osborne on Wednesday, travelling *via* Basingstoke to Gosport and crossing thence to Cowes. Her Majesty will return to Windsor about the middle of February.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, attended by Bro. Col. Egerton, went to Henley Park on Wednesday morning on a visit to Bro. Lord and Lady Pirbright. A distinguished party had been invited to meet his Royal Highness, including the Infanta of Spain, the Marchioness of Tweeddale, Count Metternich, and Alderman and Mrs. Faudel Phillips.

TO-MORROW (Saturday) the Elizabethan Stage Society will give another performance of "The Comedy of Errors" in St. George's Hall, Langham-place, for the benefit of those who were unable to witness that recently given in the Hall of Gray's Inn. An Elizabethan stage will be especially erected in the Hall for the purpose of the performance.

BRO. THE REV. LORD VICTOR SEYMOUR, rector of Carshalton, preached the sermon at the inaugural service at the new church of St. Augustine, Archway-road, Highgate. The cost of erection up to the present time has been £10,000, of which £1500 has to be raised, but to complete the edifice an additional sum of £3000 is needed.

THE MAGNIFICENT MUSEUM of stuffed fish which adorns the Piscatorial Society's Holborn Restaurant Club-room has just been enriched by what is probably the largest trout on record, scaling 32 pounds, taken by Lieut.-Col. Andrew Haggard (brother of Rider Haggard, the novelist) in Lake Nepigon, Canada, and presented by him to the society.

A MEETING of the Royal Commission of the Patriotic Fund was held in the Commander-in-Chief's Levee Room on Tuesday, those present including the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Earl of Clanwilliam, Lord Chelmsford, Bro. Lord Herschell, Lord Welby, the Lord Mayor (Bro. Sir W. Wilkin), Sir Stuart Knill, Sir George Wellesley, and others.

THE FELTMAKERS' COMPANY give notice that, under Macham's Charity, they will, on Monday, the 13th prox., distribute the income of the trust amongst "decayed persons following, or who have followed, the business of manufacturing hats as masters and on their own account, who may be in want or necessity, such persons being of good character and behaviour, and having served a regular apprenticeship to such business." *Freemen or members of the company so qualified will be entitled to a preference. Forms of application may be had of Mr. Alfred Peachey, clerk to the company, 17, Salisbury-square, Fleet-street.—City Press.*

METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.—Bro. the Lord Mayor presided on Wednesday at the annual meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund, held at the Mansion House. There was a large attendance. The report of the Council for the year ending October 31st stated that the present year's collection amounted to a total of £60,361 4s. 2d., which was the largest amount gathered during the 23 years the fund had been in existence, the nearest approach being in 1894, when £43,679 was collected. In the present year the fund for the first time received dividends from the Court of Chancery on the Guesdon Legacy, £45,346, amounting to £904 for nine months, whilst amongst some extraordinary donations were a sum of £10,000 from Messrs. B. I. Barnato and friends, handed in in the form of a cheque for that amount, and a special Stock Exchange list from Messrs. Pim, Vaughan, and Company, and Messrs. Burdett and Harris, which produced £3,400. Before the close of the financial year, and since the distribution made in July last, the late Lord Mayor received nearly £16,000 in additional contributions, and a further payment of awards was made to various hospitals and institutions. The Committee desired to place on record their indebtedness to the late Lord Mayor and to Mr. W. G. Soulsby, who for 20 years has been private secretary to successive Lord Mayors.

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER of the *Freemason* contains much matter, both in fact and fiction, for the Craft which it so worthily represents. The stories and articles are all of a good standard.—*Dundee Advertiser*.

BANQUET TO BRO. SIR JOSEPH AND LADY RENALS.—Bro. Alderman Sir Joseph Renals, Bart., and Lady Renals, who are to sail to-day (Friday) for Australia, were entertained by a number of their friends at a complimentary banquet at the Grand Hotel, Charing Cross, on Monday evening. The invitation card set out that the dinner was given "as a token of esteem and regard" for the late Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. Mr. Richard Winch, the Chairman of the Committee, who had organised the banquet, occupied the chair, and amongst the 60 or 70 ladies and gentlemen present were Alderman Sir Stuart Knill, Bart., Mr. Alderman Newton, Bro. Deputy Gooding, Major Jameson, M.P., Major Roper Parkington, J.P., Mr. M. R. Webb, J.P., Major Joseph, C.C., Mr. and Mrs. Adams, Mr. W. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Froom, Mr. J. R. Laing, jun., and Mrs. Laing, Mr. G. Purvis (Messrs. Copestake, Lindsay, Crampton, and Co.), Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Feddon, Mr. and Mrs. Gelattley, Mr. J. B. Renals, Mr. J. H. Renals, Mr. A. Renals, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. T. Briggs, C.C., and Mr. C. A. Body, Hon. Sec. of the Committee. A band performed a selection of music during the dinner, which was of a *recherché* character. The toasts to Bro. Sir Joseph and Lady Renals were drunk with the greatest enthusiasm.

WILLS.—Estate duty has been paid on £116,038, the value of the personal estate of Mr. Charles Davison Cobb, of 60, Mark-lane, of the firm of Cockburn, Smithes, and Co., wine merchants, who died at Cumlodden, Argyle, N.B., on the 4th September last.—Estate duty has been paid on £94,528, as the value of the personal estate of B. O. Henry Bertie Watkin Williams-Wynn, of 23, Chesham-place, Nant-y-Meiched, Montgomery, and of Howbery Park, Oxford, J.P. for the counties of Denbigh, Salop, and Oxford, High Sheriff of Montgomery, 1872, Clerk of the Peace for the Tower Hamlets, who died on the 4th October last, aged 75 years.—Estate duty has been paid on £196,958, as the value of the personal estate of Sir Edward John Dean Paul, of 7, St. George's-place, and of Cambridge House, Twickenham, third baronet, who died on the 15th November last, aged 64 years, elder son of the late Mr. George Robert Paul, of Rodborough Manor, Gloucester, and cousin of the late Sir Aubrey John Dean Paul, third baronet, who died in 1890.—The will, dated December 7th, 1893, of Mrs. Mary Ann Jewell Allcroft, of 108, Lancaster-gate, who died on the 28th October last, the eldest daughter of Mr. John Blundell, of Imsbury Manor, Hants, and widow of B. O. John Derby Allcroft, of Dent, Allcroft, and Co., Wood-street, has been proved by her sons, Mr. Herbert John Allcroft, of Stokesay Court, Salop, and Mr. Arthur Raleigh Allcroft, of 3, Elm Park-gardens, by whom the value of Mrs. Allcroft's personal estate has been sworn at £13,208. She bequeaths £1000 to the British and Foreign Bible Society, £1000 to the Royal Hospital for Incurables at Putney, and £1000 to the Church Missionary Society.