

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;
RIGHT HON. LORD SALTOUN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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NEXT WEEK'S FESTIVAL.

The festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will take place in the great hall of Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday next, the 22nd inst., under the presidency of Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of JERSEY, G.C.M.G., Prov. G. Master of Oxfordshire, and from the announcements we have made from time to time during the last two or three months our readers will, no doubt, have gathered that the prospects which await us on this occasion are the reverse of encouraging. Many and many an ordinary Festival—that is to say, one that is uninfluenced by any specially favourable or unfavourable circumstances—has been held since it has devolved on us to declare so moderate a Board of Stewards as Bro. TERRY has succeeded in enrolling for Tuesday next. Last year, for instance, when the Duke of CONNAUGHT occupied the chair, there was a Board of 432 Stewards; in 1896, a Board of 395, which very successfully supported the chairmanship of Bro. Lord GEORGE HAMILTON; and in 1895 and 1894, under the presidency of Bro. Viscount DUNGARVAN, Prov. G. Master of Somersetshire, and the late Bro. Col. G. NOEL MONEY, C.B., Prov. G.M. of Surrey, respectively, the Boards were of considerable strength though less numerous than the two we have specified. In this case the ladies and brethren who have volunteered their services do not greatly exceed in number the half of last year's Board, and there is, therefore, no small amount of depression among the friends and supporters of the Institution, but more particularly among the members of the Committee of Management, upon whom, in association with the Secretary and his staff, rests the responsibility of raising the sum required to make good the year's deficiency of about £14,000. Occasionally it happens that the smaller Board is successful in raising a total of donations and subscriptions in excess of what may reasonably be expected; but £50 is a high list average, even when there are no special incentives for unusual exertion in another quarter, and it will need almost that average in order to obtain £10,000. However, we have no alternative but to resign ourselves to the inevitable, and next year, perhaps, there may be such a return as will compensate the Institution for the smallness of this year's total. One thing is certain—that everyone, from the Chairman downwards, will do their utmost for our Old People, as, indeed, all of them have been doing their best ever since the arrangements for Tuesday's celebration were completed.

As regards the strength of the establishment on the two Funds, it is hopeless to suppose that any additions to the number of Annuitants will be possible. The amount disbursed in annuities alone—to say nothing of the costs of management—is not far short of £16,500, and if the year's deficiency is not forthcoming there can be no fresh annuities created. Yet the number of candidates remains as formidable as ever, while the vacancies are few. As we mentioned last week, there are 57 approved applicants for the benefits of the Male Fund and 62 for those of the Widows' Fund, while the vacancies to be filled in May next are, thus far, only 22 in number, namely 14 on the Male and eight on the Widows' Fund, the three deferred in each case being included. Doubtless other vacancies will occur between now and the 20th May, and will be filled up in the usual manner at the annual meeting, but there is little likelihood of more than about one-fourth of the 119 candidates being elected, and therefore there will be not far short of 90 old folks in the most urgent need of the means of support who will of necessity remain unprovided for for at least another 12 months. This state of things is greatly to be deplored, but we do not see that anything can be done to reduce the number.

▲ All this we have stated in former articles, but as we have at the same time been careful to point out, our duty is to keep on pegging away, recapitulating the circumstances in which the Institution is placed, and renewing ever more and more earnestly our urgent appeals to the brethren for that support without which these Benevolent Funds cannot be maintained at their present strength, and which, it is no more than just to say, they are at all times so ready and willing to provide. May we then express the hope that even at this late period there may be some lodges and brethren who will give their services in connection with the Festival which will take place on Tuesday, the 22nd inst., in behalf of that most deserving Charity, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution!

BRO. J. H. DRUMMOND, PAST G. MASTER OF MAINE.

We mentioned some time since in our review of the concluding part of Volume X. "Ars Quatuor Coronatorum," that one of the most instructive papers it contained was that in which the story of Bro. J. H. DRUMMOND'S Masonic career was told by Bro. R. F. GOULD, and we promised that at no distant date we would draw particular attention to that memoir, our reason for so doing being, firstly, that the subject of it is one of the most distinguished among our American brethren, and in every way worthy on that account to be included in the roll of "Masonic Celebrities," whose career have been from time to time so ably described by Bro. GOULD; and secondly, because the memoir itself is of general Masonic interest. It is not necessary that we should recapitulate all the claims that Bro. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND has upon the respect of the Fraternity at large. It will be sufficient for us to state that he has presided over each of the Grand bodies—Craft, Royal Arch, Templar, and Cryptic—which are established in his native State of Maine as well as over the General Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch and General G. Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States and the Supreme Council, 33°, of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for the Northern Jurisdiction of the U.S.A. He is, too, one of the foremost, if not the foremost, member of the Corps of American reviewers or reporters of Correspondence, and

at the same time ranks among the highest authorities in American Masonry on the statistics and jurisprudence of the Craft. There is, indeed, no more highly cultured or more enlightened Mason throughout the American Union than Bro. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, and Bro. GOULD has described his career as such in a manner worthy alike of his own fame and of that of his American contemporary.

With such a mass of material from which to compile his chronicle, Bro. GOULD has, of necessity, been very sparing in his quotations of Bro. DRUMMOND'S opinions on the leading Masonic questions of the day; but he has quoted sufficient to show that Bro. DRUMMOND is in every way entitled to the respect in which he is universally held by his American brethren. Thus on the subject of the Negro Grand Lodges, when, in 1876, it was advocated by a Special Committee of the Grand Lodge of Ohio to recognise the African Grand Lodge established in the same State, Bro. DRUMMOND offered his most strenuous opposition to the proposal, pointing out that "it introduced into Masonry a distinction founded upon race and colour which is contrary to its fundamental principles," and—though this difficulty is fast disappearing—that it is directly opposed to what in American Masonry is a landmark, that "no one can be made a Mason unless he be *freeborn*." As regards the question of lodge refreshment, Bro. DRUMMOND is declared to be strongly in its favour, as appears from a statement that "a series of resolutions advocating a return to the old custom of having refreshments at meetings of the lodges was passed," at the instance of Bro. DRUMMOND, by the Grand Lodge of Maine on the 7th May, 1896. The following on the same subject is also very much to the point: "It has been often said that a Mason who goes to the lodge only when there are to be refreshments served might as well stay away. We do not so believe. A half-an-hour spent at the table over a very simple collation would cultivate intimacies more than a whole year of lodge meetings. An old friend of ours used to say—'Speeches are often interesting; but *toe-to-toe talk is what does the business*.' If we mingle the instruction of the lodge with the pleasure of social intercourse at the table, we carry out one of the original plans of Masonry."

Opinions occasionally differ as to the grounds on which one brother may vouch for another. Bro. DRUMMOND puts the matter clearly and concisely when he says: "A Mason is permitted to vouch for a brother in these three cases; 1. From having sat in lodge with him. 2. From having privately examined him, and 3, from positive and reliable information." From the paragraphs in which "Exclusive Jurisdiction" is referred to we take the following as more immediately concerning English Masons. "The British Grand Lodges recognise concurrent jurisdiction in British territory. The American doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction is *nominally* not recognised by the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland, but while *nominally* repudiating the doctrine, the Grand Lodge of each of these countries actually insists upon it in *its own case*, while denying it to others! As to the Dependencies of the British Crown, all these Grand Lodges recognise the doctrine of concurrent jurisdiction *among themselves*, but exclusive as to all the rest of the world, thus really maintaining the American doctrine. It is a question to which we have given much thought, and upon which we have not as yet come to a definite conclusion, whether in such a country a *Grand Lodge may not be recognised as legal*, but without exclusive jurisdiction." As regards the foregoing passage we may remark that in South Africa, while the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland exercise concurrent jurisdiction among themselves, that jurisdiction is not exclusive as against the lodges holding under the Dutch Constitution, many of which were established before the Cape became a British possession and have been allowed to remain under their own Grand Lodge. As regards the question of Grand Masters' Prerogatives, Bro. DRUMMOND, while he holds that "a Grand Master should never attempt to set aside the positive law of his Grand Lodge," is fain to admit that the prerogatives exist, and he illustrates his meaning by quoting the case of our JAMES II., who "lost his crown in 1689 in consequence of pushing his prerogatives beyond bounds. Still the existence of the prerogative was fully admitted." The difference between a "landmark" and a

"fundamental principle" is well put. "A 'landmark,'" says Bro. DRUMMOND, "is something set, and an 'ancient landmark' is one which has remained a long time. On the other hand, 'fundamental principles' are, like truth, from everlasting to everlasting. 'Landmarks' are of *human origin*, and 'fundamental principles' are GOD'S law. Belief in GOD is not a landmark of Freemasonry; it is a *divine* law; but the law, that only those who believe in GOD *can be made Masons* is a Masonic 'landmark.'" The following is also well worthy of being carefully weighed and considered: "The question of jurisdiction is threatening the friendly relations of Grand Lodges; the question of the *status* of non-affiliates is threatening the violation, if not the existence, of the ancient landmarks; and the question of Masonic relief is threatening one of the fundamental principles of the Institution, and turning it into mutual insurance company." With this we conclude our quotations, those already given being sufficient to enable our readers to estimate the merits of Bro. DRUMMOND as a foremost American Mason and the value of Bro. GOULD'S memoir of his Masonic career. Those who desire to know more about Bro. DRUMMOND are recommended to read, mark, learn, and digest this story of his Masonic life.

MASONIC VETERANS OF ILLINOIS.

The 12th annual report of the "Masonic Veteran Association of Illinois," has been published by order of the members, and like all the previous issues, is a very remarkable and deeply interesting volume.

The Society was founded in 1835 and now consists of 330 subscribing members who have each been actively engaged as Craftsmen for over 21 years (many for a much longer period), and 98 honorary members. The Venerable Bro. Gen. John Corson Smith has again been re-elected the respected Chief of this live Organisation; and there are also seven Assist. Chiefs. Bro. Gil. W. Barnard, of course, continues the esteemed Secretary and Treasurer, and the Registrar is the indefatigable Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, Bro. J. H. C. Dill. There are three Reverend Chaplains, a Marshal, four Stewards, and the Guard.

The annual meeting was held at the Mansion of General John C. Smith's, his beloved wife issuing numerous invitations to brethren and their dames the reception taking place from "Early candle-light until *Low Twelve*." The invitation circular has a tandem bicycle at foot, to suggest companionship and unity doubtless, and the summons sent to the venerable brethren was printed within an excellent reproduction of the old summons used by the "Grand Lodge of all England, at York."

Twelve deaths were reported, including our lamented friend, John Surtain, the celebrated engraver, known to many on this side of the "oig pond," his portrait and several of the others being given.

General Smith has always some surprises to introduce to his numerous friends scattered over the "Four Quarters of the Globe," and this time they are certainly fully equal to the previous reports.

The frontispiece is an engraving of a curious diploma of Currick-Fergus, said to be of 1726, two of the Veterans in Ireland being asked for their opinion. It cannot be of so early a period by some 50 or 60 years, but I await the estimate of my valued friend, Dr. Chetwode Crawley. The original copper plate still exists, but it is understood that either the year is not legible, or was meant to be filled in as A.D. 17— and A.M. 57—. Another important reproduction of an old certificate is of the year 1736, and seems to be a regular *Dimit* from a Craft lodge at Middletown, Connecticut; the seal has the well-known capital letters peculiar to the Mark Degree.

The Correspondence, in part printed in the Proceedings, is of a most interesting character, as it always is on such an occasion, one of the first communications being from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, thanking our *General* for the 11th Volume of the Veterans. The article that I wrote for the *Freemason* respecting the handsome address sent in the name of the Association by General Smith to her Majesty the Queen, last year, is reprinted in full; and my other article on *Masonic Veteran Associations*, published in the special *Freemason*, was also reprinted, by order of the members, "the beautiful illustrations which appeared in the original being omitted for want of the plates."

At refreshment, Veteran Brother Judge McCurdy and the oldest Veteran present, Bro. Theodore S. Parvin, the well-known Grand Secretary, of Iowa, delivered addresses, which were much appreciated, and are duly reported. The numerous letters that are given are of special value this time, as several are in facsimile, notably those from Bros. the Prince Abdul Rahman, of Johore, Fred. W. Byers (language of the Sioux Indians), John H. Soper (Sandwich Islands), C. D. Furdoonjee (Parsee), and others in Arabic and Spanish, making with the English seven languages in all.

The great attraction, however, is the lengthy paper by General Smith, entitled "*My Winter in the Tropics*," which is lavishly illustrated, and, beyond question, is one of our dear friend's best efforts. The Craft has not been forgotten in this valuable sketch, for Masonically and generally Jamaica has been most lovingly and thoroughly attended to, and I feel assured this last literary service rendered to the Fraternity by Past Grand Master John Corson Smith will long be gratefully remembered.

W. J. HUGHAN.

AN ADDRESS TO THE ROBERT BURNS LODGE No. 25.

By W. Bro. HENRY SADLER, ON THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 1898.

Worshipful Master—Before trying to redeem the promise made on the night of your installation—to come and talk to the brethren about the early history of their lodge—I think it might possibly interest them and also simplify my remarks if I were to give a brief sketch of Freemasonry in London at the period when this lodge came into existence.

It may be that some of the brethren present are more or less familiar with the circumstances which I am about to relate, and if that be the case I trust they will not object to hearing them again for the benefit of others who may not be so well informed.

Down to the year 1813, and for about 60 years prior to that period, there were two Grand Lodges in London, and in 1810, when this lodge was constituted, they were both active and prosperous, each having many subordinate lodges under its jurisdiction in nearly every part of the civilized world. The older of these bodies was established in the year 1717, and has been variously designated "The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England," "The Regular Grand Lodge," "The Modern Grand Lodge," and later, "The Grand Lodge under the Prince of Wales," George Prince of Wales, afterwards King George the Fourth, having been its Grand Master from 1790 to 1813.

The other Grand Lodge, the one from which this lodge emanated, started in the year 1751 as a Grand Committee which blossomed into a Grand Lodge two years later. This body was known as "the Grand Lodge of the Ancients" or, to give it its full description, "The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons according to the Old Institutions." Its members were also designated "Athole Masons," because two Dukes of that name had presided over them as Grand Masters. For the sake of brevity and as a simple distinction these two Societies were, and still are, referred to by Masonic writers as "Ancients" and "Moderns," the "Ancients" being the organisation of 1751, and the "Moderns" that of 1717.

At first sight this description of them naturally appears somewhat strange but it can be explained in this way.

The regular Grand Lodge of 1717, although undoubtedly the elder as an organised body, had, for certain reasons which were thought good at the time, so altered the ceremonies and deviated from the old customs of the Craft, that, according to their opponents of 1751, they had forfeited their right to the title of "Ancient," while they themselves, having preserved the traditional usages and ceremonies unaltered were the real Ancient Masons, and no doubt there was a certain amount of truth in these allegations. As may be readily imagined, a strong and bitter rivalry existed between the two Societies for many years, promoted and fostered I regret to say chiefly by the leading Masons on both sides. In fact it was at first a struggle for absolute power and supremacy on the part of the Moderns—the older and possibly more respectable community—and for existence as an organisation on the part of the Ancients, who were stigmatised by their rivals as seceders, schismatics, rebels, and even still more offensive terms were applied to them on the principle, I suppose, of any stick being good enough to beat a dog with.

For want of knowledge of the true circumstances, those epithets have been persistently applied to the Ancients by Masonic writers all over the world from about 1770, until 10 years ago, when I had the temerity, or impudence, as some considered it, to take upon myself the somewhat difficult task of trying to prove, with my pen, that the opprobrium which had been so freely showered upon them had no justification whatever; that on this particular subject Masonic historians were in error. I said then, and I say now, that there is not a particle of evidence in existence to prove, or even indicate, that a single member of the lodges that formed their Grand Committee in 1751 had ever belonged to, or owned allegiance to, the Grand Lodge of 1717; that all the available evidence bearing on the subject is strongly opposed to the theory of secession, and if they had not seceded from the older body they could not have been either schismatics or rebels, and we had no right to apply those epithets to them.

I said also that they had a better right to the title of "Ancients" than those who had modernized the ceremonies and departed from the old customs; that the term Ancient had no reference whatever to their age as a consolidated or governing body, but only to their customs and their mode of working, for they called themselves Ancients before they combined to form a Grand Lodge.

My opinions and evidence were published in 1887 in a small book, entitled "Masonic Facts and Fictions," wherein I stated that the greatest fiction in Freemasonry was the accepted version of the origin of the Ancient Grand Lodge. As may be supposed the advent of this book created no small sensation amongst the recognised historians of the Craft, and it naturally met with considerable opposition; but it is greatly to their honour and most gratifying to me that I am able to announce that most of my former opponents have since acknowledged their belief in the new and somewhat startling theory I then propounded.

I will give you, in as few words as possible, the substance of that theory. It was that the brethren who formed the Ancient Grand Lodge were not English Masons at all, but chiefly Irish Masons, with Irish customs and ceremonies, or old English customs and ceremonies, for, no doubt, the working was identical, or nearly so, in both countries before the English Grand Lodge sanctioned innovations.

I will readily admit that there might have been a few old English and Scotch Masons amongst them, but the great majority of them were undoubtedly Irish to the backbone.

I tell you, brethren of the Robert Burns Lodge, that no matter what their nationality may have been, you have reason to be proud of your Masonic ancestors, for I am strongly of opinion that had it not been for the pluck and perseverance of the "Irish swarm," as the late Rev. Bro. Woodford termed them, this grand old Order of ours would have sunk to a very insignificant position if it had not been "improved off the face of the earth" in the latter half of last century. Bro. Woodford, I may say, was one of the very few Masonic writers who accepted my theory as soon as it was published. Another eminent writer who strongly supported my views was Bro. George Blizard Abbott, whose opinions are of great value, for probably no one has devoted more time and study to this question than he has.

This epoch in the history of Freemasonry has peculiar attractions for me, for I happen to be, like yourselves, of "Ancient descent," my mother lodge having been constituted by the "Ancients" in 1801; but I must not dwell too long upon it or I shall not have sufficient time to fulfil the promise which is the purpose of my visit to-night.

In the course of years the anger of these two rival societies became softened, they found that neither of them could gain the mastery, and as they became better acquainted they learned to respect each other, and, naturally so, for they were both animated by the same noble motive—the dissemination of the grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

After several attempts in that direction, in the year 1809 active steps were taken by the "Moderns" to bring about an union with those they had at first treated with contempt and then with angry abuse and misrepresentation. It was not however until their Grand Lodge had passed the following resolution that the "Ancients" would listen to their overtures. Brethren, I will ask you to pay particular attention to the words of this resolution, "That this Grand Lodge do agree in opinion with the Committee of Charity, that it is not necessary any longer to continue in force those measures which were resorted to in, or about, the year 1739, respecting irregular Masons, and do therefore enjoin the several lodges to revert to the ancient landmarks of the society." Here we have two important admissions, first that they had departed from the ancient landmarks, and secondly, they were not certain when that departure had taken place. Now had they studied the subject and their own records and documents as much as I have done I think they would have been able to have placed the departure nearer 1730 than 1739.

Owing to the exertions of some of the more enlightened members of both Grand Lodges, an Union, on terms mutually honourable, was finally consummated in the year 1813, and this important event was ratified and confirmed with great rejoicing and much pomp and ceremony in our Grand Hall only a few yards from where we are now assembled. Since this period our Society has been known as the United Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of England.

Now, brethren, I think you all understand the meaning of the terms "Ancients" and "Moderns" as applied to the Masons of the past, and if you are not tired of my rather lengthy introduction, I will endeavour to make you acquainted with a few facts relative to the foundation and early history of your own lodge.

In the year 1810 there was held at the King's Arms, in High Holborn, a Lodge, No. 10 on the register of the Ancients. It is now No. 19, the Royal Athelstan Lodge. It was not customary with the Ancients to give names to their lodges, neither was it usual with their Masonic parent, the Grand Lodge of Ireland, nor, indeed, in the early days of the Grand Lodge of England. Another peculiarity of the Ancients was the frequent revival of dormant warrants and numbers instead of issuing new ones, when the petitioners for a lodge were willing to pay to the fund of Charity a sum over and above the regulation fee the amount varying according to the position of the dormant lodge on the register. This also was a custom of their Irish Masonic ancestors and I believe is still in practice in Ireland, or was until recently. The Lodge No. 11 was then dormant, or existing only on paper, as was also No. 16. Some of the members of No. 10, then a very numerous lodge, applied to the Grand Lodge for permission to revive No. 11, this was not granted, but they were allowed to take the vacant No. 16. However, as I have brought the original petition with me and a letter on the subject from your first Master those who like can presently read this portion of the lodge history for themselves and I will go on with my story.

This lodge was duly constituted as No. 16 on the 10th July, 1810. The names of the founders were Donald MacCraw, Master; James Mansfield, Senior Warden; Henry Terry, Junior Warden; and 12 others. Its first meeting place was at the house of one of its members, the Queen's Head, Crown Court, Soho.

I have already intimated that originally the Ancients were of rather a lower social grade than the Moderns, but with regard to the founders of this lodge they appear to have been a little above the average.

The first Master and Senior Warden were both law clerks, and the first Junior Warden was a banker's clerk; the rest of the founders comprised two tailors, two shoemakers, a saddle tree maker, a saddler, a linendraper, a baker, a watchmaker, a coal merchant, a licensed victualler, and a labourer, the latter being probably the Tyler. Now that is what I call a very representative gathering, and all from No. 10. The first Master was evidently from "over the border," and he would naturally bring others of his countrymen into the lodge.

In 1811 a Bro. James Ronalds joined from No. 10, and was Master in 1812. He must have been a person of good social standing and considerable Masonic attainments, as he was one of the nine distinguished Masons selected in 1813 by his Grand Lodge to combine with an equal number of the "Moderns" to form the Lodge of Reconciliation, a special lodge created in conformity with the Articles of Union to reconcile the ceremonial differences between the Ancients and the Moderns, and to arrange an uniform system of work for the future. You may be sure that their task was by no means an easy one, but by mutual concessions they seem to have got through fairly well, for the opening and closing of a lodge in the three degrees and the three ceremonies of initiation, passing, and raising, as recommended by them, were rehearsed in our hall in 1816, when they received the formal sanction of the United Grand Lodge. I believe that in this, as in most other matters connected with the union, the Ancients had pretty much their own way.

They were a hard-headed lot, those Ancients. In 1812 the lodge migrated to the Edinburgh Castle, in the Strand, but either the members or the landlords were rather hard to please in those days, for in 1814 we find the lodge located at the Hercules Pillars, in Great Queen-street.

I don't suppose you all know this house as well as I do, but if you look straight across the road when you leave these premises you may see it still standing very much as it was then, but with the modern addition of a plate-glass front and brilliant illuminations, and if you can picture to yourselves what it was like when glass was very expensive and gas had not come into general use, you will probably experience some little difficulty in believing that this lodge met there regularly for about five years. And this was not the only lodge that met in that house, for to my knowledge there were six others held there at different periods.

Some years ago I believe I was in the very room in which the lodges used to meet, but the house has been so much altered internally since then that it is difficult to recognise the room now, although from what I remember of it, it was a very different kind of room to what this lodge has been accustomed to for some years past.

During the first 36 years of its existence the lodge had 12 different places of meeting, the longest stay being at the King's Head, in Marylebone-street, where it remained 12 years. In 1846 it was removed to the Freemasons' Tavern, and in 1865 to the then new building of Freemasons' Hall next door, where it has remained ever since, so that for more than half a century its home has been on the Grand Lodge premises. May I congratulate the lodge on that fact, and may I also express a hope that it may so continue to meet for many years to come, for, in my opinion, the old proverb about a rolling stone is applicable to lodges as well as to individuals.

A word or two as to the number the lodge bears on the register of Grand Lodge. I have already told you that its original number was 16, and it so continued until the Union in 1813, when it was decided that the two senior lodges on the roll of each Grand Lodge should draw lots for priority. Here again fortune favoured the Ancients, for No. 1 of that body was the Grand Master's Lodge, constituted in 1759, and named after a similar lodge constituted in Dublin in 1749. No. 1 of the Moderns was a Time Immemorial lodge and one of the four old lodges that formed the Grand Lodge of England in 1717.

The Grand Master's Lodge drew No. 1, thus verifying the old saying, "there's luck in odd numbers," and the Lodge of Antiquity had, of course to take No. 2. No. 2 of the Ancients became No. 3. No. 2 of the Moderns, another Time Immemorial Lodge, became No. 4, and so on all through the list where practicable, but in consequence of certain old lodges being dormant they were not brought forward and hence No. 16 of the Ancients became No. 27 of the United Lodge.

The first renumbering of the lodges after the Union took place in 1832, meanwhile two lodges, Nos. 21 and 24 had been erased from the list bringing this lodge to No. 25.

At present there is but one vacancy in the list prior to No. 25, and I see no prospect of there being any more, so in all probability when the lodges are next renumbered this lodge will be No. 24.

Now as to the honoured name which this lodge bears. I have before remarked that originally lodges had no distinctive titles, they were only known by the names or signs of the taverns at which they were held, for they had no numbers prior to the year 1720, there not being sufficient lodges to require numbering. Amongst the old lodges many of these names still survive, for instance, No. 4, the Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge, formerly met in old Somerset House, No. 18, the Old Dundee Lodge, met at the Dundee Arms, Wapping, No. 22, the Neptune Lodge, met at the Neptune Tavern, Rotherhithe,

No. 23, the Globe Lodge, took its name from the Globe Tavern in Fleet-street. There are many others I could name, but these will no doubt suffice for the present purpose.

The practice of giving distinctive names to lodges irrespective of their places of meeting was of very slow growth and was not really compulsory except for new lodges until long after the Union. One I know, the present No. 27, had not a distinctive name until 1839. It is now the Egyptian Lodge and its members are popularly known as "mummies." This, the Robert Burns Lodge, was amongst the earlier of the Ancient Lodges to adopt a distinctive name, which it did in the year 1820, and what a grand name it is. I have been occasionally asked by seekers after knowledge whether Robert Burns ever belonged to this lodge. Of course, my reply has been that as he died several years before the lodge came into existence he could not have been a member of it, but he furnished it with a name of which the members may well be proud, for wherever the English language is spoken, wherever English literature has penetrated, is the name of Robert Burns held in the highest veneration, a veneration that will never diminish but will continue to increase as long as this world shall last.

Perhaps some of you may wonder why this particular name was chosen for an English lodge. If so you will wonder no longer when I tell you that from the first there was a strong Scotch element in it, and that amongst the names of the members when the title of the lodge was selected were such unmistakable Scottish names as Ramsay, Scott, Carmichael, Carstairs, Wilkie, Mackie, Macintosh, MacPherson, MacDonald, MacAllister and others of that ilk.

All honour to your Masonic forefathers who first conceived the idea of naming this lodge after Robert Burns. May it live and prosper as long as that honoured name shall be remembered!

In my opinion a more appropriate name could not have been selected than that of large-hearted Brother Robert Burns.

Nature made him a poet of the first order, and she also made him a Mason. Where can you find words with a more genuine Masonic ring in them than these?—

"Then let us pray that come it may,
As come it will for a' that,
That sense and worth o'er a' the earth
May bear the gree and a' that,
For a' that and a' that,
It's comin' yet for a' that,
That man to man the world o'er
Shall brothers be for a' that."

Yet popular as Masonry is and has been for a long period in the land of his birth, and as proud of him as his countrymen justly are, it is scarcely conceivable that until a comparatively recent period they never made up their minds to name a lodge after him. The Scotch are proverbially a cautious people, and they probably gave the subject much earnest consideration, but it was not, so far as I can learn, until 75 years after the death of their national bard that a Burns' lodge in Scotland was constituted. It is true that in 1848 a lodge was constituted in Nova Scotia, and another in New Zealand in 1877, both named after the poet and chartered by the Grand Lodge of Scotland; but they may be placed in the same category as this lodge; they were named by Scotchmen who had left their native land, and probably had no intention of going back.

On our own list we had until recently three, but we now have only two—this one and another in Manchester.

Amongst the large number of English-speaking Masons under different Constitutions in various parts of the world there are probably others, but, to the best of my knowledge, this lodge set the example to them all. In looking over the list of Scotch lodges recently I was forcibly struck with the large proportion of them named after saints. In a list of 423 lodges 186 have the name of some saint or other attached to them. We all know what a saintly race the Scotch are, but until I examined that list I had not the faintest idea that we ever had such a lot of saints in connection with Freemasonry. Now, Burns, I need hardly say, was no saint, nor did he ever pretend to be one, and this is the only way I can account for his name being omitted from the list of lodges for so many years and ultimately being brought in. Probably the Scottish Fraternity thought that after such a long array of saintly personages it might be an agreeable change to have just one sinner, so they pitched upon poor Bobbie Burns.

My personal recollection of this lodge extends only to about 32 years back, and at that time it was the most numerous lodge on these premises. The regular meetings were always held in the large room used last month, and on installation nights the banquet invariably took place in the Old Hall in which Grand Lodge now meets.

Many celebrated Masons have been initiated in the lodge, others equally celebrated have been joining members of it; many of them I have known personally. Time will not admit of my referring to them in detail, but I think the one best known to me was Bro. William Watson, familiarly known as "Old Billie," who joined from the Albion Lodge, No. 9, in 1839, was Master in 1842, and continued a subscribing member of it until his death in 1878. He was Grand Steward for the Globe Lodge, No. 23, in 1849, and was a celebrated worker both in the Craft and in the Royal Arch, and an authority on Masonic matters generally. I think his last Masonic performance was to instal me in the chair of Third Principal of my chapter. Many years ago he was one of the proprietors of the Freemasons' Tavern, and was for a long period the mainstay of this as well as several other lodges.

Should there be a brother in the room who has any curiosity as to the personal appearance of this old veteran, his curiosity may easily be gratified by paying a visit to the Grand Lodge Library where, thanks to the liberality of your I.P.M., Bro. Davis, there hangs a very good likeness of him as he was about the time I first knew him.

There was, however, one peculiarity about him which this portrait does not show, he was naturally partial to a good dinner, and was invariably in evening dress all day long, so as to be always ready to sit down at a moment's notice.

Now, brethren, I think I have detained you quite long enough, and if I say much more I fear you will never ask me to come again, but before I sit down, I should like to congratulate the lodge on what, for want of a more suitable expression, I shall call a clean bill of health. Like most other old lodges, it has had its periods of prosperity and of depression, but so far as I have been able to learn, during all the years of its existence, it has never been brought into conflict with the ruling powers of the Order. About 35 years ago the lodge got into troubled waters, but it came out of them with flying colours; in all probability owing to the skilful piloting of the veteran brother I have just mentioned.

There were certain members who made themselves very objectionable by the indiscriminate black-balling of candidates, for which offence the lodge very properly excluded them, whereupon they appealed to the Board of General Purposes against their exclusion. That Board resolved—"That under the circumstances, the Robert Burns' Lodge was justified in excluding the brethren from membership, and their appeal be dismissed."

I mention this case as a sort of warning—although I really think that the present members scarcely require any such warning—yet I earnestly hope that in your laudable endeavours to increase the membership of the lodge, you will be careful to ascertain the antecedents and disposition of all your candidates. Be jealous of the high character and stainless reputation of your old lodge, and always bear in mind that, although it be a very easy matter to unknowingly admit an objectionable member, it is extremely difficult to get rid of one.

Worshipful Master and Brethren, I thank you very much for your kind attention, and I sincerely hope I have not exhausted your patience. By way of conclusion, I will repeat a few words uttered by your famous namesake on a similar occasion to this, with the sentiment of which, I am sure, you will all cordially agree:

"Within this dear mansion may wayward contention
Or withering envy ne'er enter;
May secrecy round be the mystical bound
And brotherly love be the centre."

LADIES' NIGHT OF THE STRONG MAN LODGE, No. 45.

The ladies' night of the above lodge was celebrated on Monday evening at the Holborn, Bro. John Cuer, W.M., presided, and there were also present Bros. William G. Mills, I.P.M.; Tom C. Taylor, S.W.; William Briggs, M.A., LL.B., J.W.; G. G. Symons, P.M., Treas. and D.C.; Thomas J. Burgess, Sec.; T. Ockleford, S.D.; Edward T. Stafford, J.D.; John Jenkinson, I.G.; W. R. G. Emerson, C. J. Pond-Jones, E. J. Vidler, and T. H. Inchbold, Stwds.; T. L. Dennett, Org.; D. A. Langton, John Iriff, Henry Darell, Arthur Davies, E. M. Hall, A. G. Peckham, A. L. Guittaritz, Arthur Bagman, F. Bristow, John H. Selmes, Arthur Whitty, M. West, E. J. Vidler, J. J. Berry, Philip Sharpe, Frederick Gehringer, J. H. Grove, George Smith, Hall, G. F. Ward, J. H. Rake, and E. Mallett, P.M., Tyler. Among the visitors were Bros. W. C. Virgo, 1445; W. Keith, 1997; A. Harding, D.C. 1437; W. F. Driver, H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1928; W. B. Kenyon, J. R. Morrison, 907; Batchelor Roper, 907; Herbert Ballard, 907; Thomas Freeman, 34; C. J. Smith, W.M. 2765, 2504; A. Foger, I.P.M. 382; J. Skinner, 382; G. E. Gratton, S.W. 2765; A. D. Hawkins, 1816; and C. J. Brown, 2552.

The ladies present were Mrs. Cuer (wife of the W.M.), Miss Symons, Mrs. Burgess and Mrs. Alfred Burgess; Mrs. Ockleford, Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. Jenkinson, Mrs. Emerson, Mrs. Palmer, Madame Lovenez, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Vidler, Miss Vidler, and Miss Barnett; Mrs. Inchbold and Miss Inchbold; Mrs. Dennett, Miss Massey, Mrs. Virgo, Mrs. Driver, Mrs. Dell, Mrs. Matham, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Brush, Mrs. Gratton, Mrs. Smith; Mrs. Harnes and Miss Harnes; Mrs. George Smith, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Grover, Mrs. Kinross, Mrs. Charles Peckham, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. E. M. Hall, Miss Taylor, Miss Davies, Mrs. Bayman, Mrs. Whitby, Mrs. Selmes, Mrs. Bristow, Mrs. Bromley Hall, Mrs. Ballard, Mrs. Harding, Mrs. Gehrmger, Mrs. Darell, Mrs. Sammes, Miss Kenyon, Mrs. Rake, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Morrison, and Mrs. J. J. Berry.

The lodge was first held, but none but formal business was transacted, and after its closing, when the ladies arrived, they were conducted to the beautiful Masonic Temple of the Holborn, to view it, and to hear some nice music on the fine organ, played by Bro. T. L. Dennett, the Organist of the lodge.

The company subsequently sat down to a lovely banquet in the Venetian Room, and afterwards honoured a few toasts, including "The Queen," "The M.W.G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers," "The Worshipful Master and Officers of the Lodge," "The Ladies," and "The Visitors."

Bro. PHILIP SHARPE, in proposing "The W.M. and Officers of the Strong Man Lodge," said it afforded him much pleasure to accept the trust that had been placed in his hands—the duty of proposing the toast. It was always a pleasure to propose the health of the W.M. of that lodge. They had had excellent Masters in the past; they had an excellent Master that year. It was the same with the officers; they had had very excellent officers in the past, and they were proud to say they had them that year; and from those they had coming forward he might say they would have as good Masters in the future as they had at present and had had in the past. It was not so much his duty to call the attention of the brethren to the qualifications of the Master and the officers of that lodge; it was more his duty to explain to the ladies what excellent officers the lodge had. The brethren did not require him to say much about the officers; the ladies knew them only individually—the S.W., the J.W., and the rest of them—and they knew excellently well their failings; but, still more, they knew their good qualities. He had been told by his Mrs. W.M. — She knew him when he was in the chair; she used to tell him some of his little failings; but he assured the company those failings were not many, and his experience was by no means exceptional; for the wives and sweethearts of Masons knew those Masons had many more good points in their character than they had those little failings which qualified them. The management of and taking office in a Masonic lodge was a capital thing for husbands, fathers, and sweethearts; it made them good managers, and showed them what to do to rule others. He knew as a ruler at home how much the ruling of a lodge taught him how to rule at home. (Laughter.) Of course, he ruled at home; he was head of his establishment; he had been W.M.; but he knew the S.W. and J.W. were ruled by the same one who ruled the lodge at home. (Laughter.) Without going further into such a subject, he would say that those especially who knew the officers of the Strong Man Lodge—he was speaking to the ladies—knew what excellent officers they were. If they were anything at home like what they were in the lodge, they were models of husbands, fathers, brothers, and sweethearts; the lodge was proud of them, and the ladies, he knew, were also proud of them, or they would not be present at the lodge that night to support them. It was a sign that Freemasonry was loved not only by those who professed it, but by those who could not profess it; they felt they all had the gracious love of all the ladies. He called on the W.M. and the S. and J.W. to respond.

Bro. J. Cuer, W.M., in his reply to the toast, said that he, as Master of the Strong Man Lodge, gave all the brethren and ladies a hearty welcome that evening. He hoped they had all been pleased with what they had partaken of and witnessed, as well as with their reception. That was a night set apart entirely for the ladies, and he sincerely wished that the endeavours made to please them had met with their approval and that they had all enjoyed themselves. Again he thanked all the company most heartily for the cordiality with which they had accepted the toast.

After Bro. TOM TAYLOR, S.W., had said he could not add anything to the remarks of the W.M.,

Bro. WILLIAM BRIGGS, J.W., said he had heard that the speeches were to be short, and all commands from a W.M. must be obeyed. That night he was told that the junior officers or the assistants would not be included in the toast of "The W.M. and Officers," and that to that toast the W.M. was to reply only. Knowing that, he came there for a holiday, but somehow he heard that the Senior and Junior Warden were also to reply. At a former meeting he had said of toasts that they were of two kinds—the toast they got at breakfast and the toast they got at dinner; they were much the same, they were not worth much unless they were pretty well buttered. This toast had been received very well, and he thought after the brilliant concert and the scintillation of singing the company had had, together with the eloquence with

which the toast had been proposed, the best he could do was to obey what the W.M. had said that the speeches were to be short.

Bro. MILLS, I.P.M., proposed "The Ladies," and said it reminded him painfully of his inability to give the toast in the terms its importance deserved, but he was sure what was lacking in his style would be made up in the hearty response to the toast. Although the lodge's arrangements were such that they were unable on more than one out of six nights to invite ladies to their gatherings the Ladies' Night was one which stood out so prominently in their hearts as to dwarf all the other meetings into insignificance. In their high appreciation of the ladies, Masons were following in the footsteps of King Solomon—(laughter)—and other wise founders of the Order, who out of love for the ladies restricted the laborious work of Masonry to the hands of men. Hence, their inability to initiate ladies into those principles of which Masons were the happy guardians, and for the strict passing on of which they were responsible. The ladies by their presence to-night showed their sympathy for Freemasonry, a sympathy brought about by many causes, but largely, he would undertake to say, by the respect they had for many of Masons' most important rulers, and among other things by that outcome of Freemasonry which was prominently before them, the three Masonic Institutions. The lodge gave the ladies a most hearty welcome and the brethren sincerely trusted this lodge would ever be favoured by such distinguished gatherings as the present. He called on Bro. John Briggs, who had so ably assisted the W.M. and the other officers in the carrying out of the arrangements for this meeting, and in whose assistance the pleasure of the evening was largely due, to respond to the toast. Finally he would express the hope that the ladies' pleasure in coming was equal to that of the brethren in receiving them.

Bro. JOHN BRIGGS, in acknowledging the toast, congratulated the ladies on having such a champion as Immediate Past Master Mills; but not on having a little henchman coming after him and crying "Oyez, Oyez, Oyez." All Bro. Mills had said was thoroughly deserved, and if he had said 10,000 times more the ladies would have deserved 10,000 times more still. Speech in connection with the subject of the ladies was not difficult. They were sisters and friends of men whom they rejoiced to call brothers, and they treated them as sisters. These ladies knew something of Freemasonry; they knew when a sad accident occurred how Masons assisted. In a speech which had been made it was insinuated that ladies only took a small part in Masonry. He could tell the brethren that one country lodge with which he was connected had banners, and they were old; they were replaced by a new set, and the brethren were glad to hear they were the work of a sister of a member of the lodge. There was a Charitable Association in connection with the Strong Man Lodge, and the ladies were strongly represented in it. The lodge would be glad to see more. He would ask the ladies whether in responding to that toast he was correctly expressing their feelings when he thanked the brethren who drank their health. (Considerable laughter was caused by several ladies crying out "Oh, yes.")

Bro. SYMONS, P.M., proposed "The Visitors," and Bros. C. J. SMITH and H. MASSEY responded.

The variety entertainment provided for the brethren of the lodge, their ladies, and the visitors consisted of some excellent sentimental singing by Madame Alice Lovenez and Miss Hannah Hotten; Bro. R. B. Hopkins on the bells; and Bro. J. J. Berry; humorous songs by Bros. Tom Taylor and Tom Burgess; and Bro. Fred Russell's exquisite ventriloquial sketch with Coster Joe. Bro. W. Emerson, Stwd., presided at the piano.

ANNUAL CONCERT OF THE OLD MASONIANS.

The Old Masonians gave a concert on Thursday, the 10th instant, in aid of the Benevolent and Grant Fund of their Association. There was a goodly number of ladies and gentlemen present, who showed warm appreciation of the entertainment put before them. The programme was tastefully arranged, and the performance throughout was one of a charmingly varied nature, the artistes showing high musical ability and praiseworthy skill.

Undoubtedly the finest performance of the evening was "A May morning," by Miss Amy Sadler, who, in response to the encore which greeted her, sang "Rory O'More" in a manner that again charmed and delighted all who heard her. The comic element was supplied by Mr. R. Edington Bell, who sang "The very heavy villain" and the "Nightmare Song" from "Iolanthe," and Bro. Harold Williams, who, in a calm and philosophical style, admirably suited to the humour of the piece, recited "A Lawn Tennysonian Idyll."

For Mr. Bell's performance we have nothing but praise; he possesses a rich sense of humour, which he has no difficulty in bringing to the front in all his songs, while he emphasises his points not only with force and skill, but with the greatest delicacy and good taste.

Mr. James Portland, the well-known conjuror and society entertainer, kept the close attention of the audience for the best part of an hour, his performance comprising sleight-of-hand, shadow-picturing, and paper-folding feats of the highest order of skill.

Not by any means the least popular item of the programme was Romberg's Toy Symphony, given by members and visitors of the Association, under the conductorship of Mr. W. M. Saunders, which, on account of the singular character of the musical effects, evoked much interest and considerable mirth. The following also assisted: Misses Roxey McCulloch, Lottie Lewis, Messrs. Patrick O'Doherty, and W. M. Saunders.

The members of this Association would be very pleased to see any supporters of the School at their concerts and other meetings, particulars of which can always be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Horace Lewis, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF GRAND LODGE AND BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Masters and the monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence were held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. James Henry Matthews, President of the Board of Benevolence, presided at the Board of Masters, to which the agenda paper for Grand Lodge was submitted. He also presided at the Board of Benevolence, Bro. D. D. Mercer, Senior Vice-President, and Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, Junior Vice-President, occupying their respective chairs. There were also present Bros. E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; W. Lake, Asst. G. Sec.; W. Dodd, G. S. Reeknell, H. Sadler, Henry Garrod, Chas. J. R. Tijou, William Fisher, W. Russell, William Vincent, G. Std. Br.; E. C. Mulvey, S. H. Goldschmidt, E. W. Nightingale, William P. Brown, W. Kippes, William Vincent, P.G.C.; W. Wills, C. Pulman, John Ellinger, Walter Martin, R. Clowes, R. H. Smith, G. C., C. Chisholm, W. J. Ferguson, J. Harrison, A. C. Mead, A. Samson, J. S. Eidmans, Wm. H. Cummings, Henry A. Toias, Ludwig Gienze, W. Groome, W. Baddeley, Jas. P. Watts, Chas. Allen, J. P. W. Ker,

Robert Colvell, B. Kauffmann, Llewellyn J. Phillips, E. W. Marshall, M. Spiegel, H. Massey, W. Noble, Samuel West, George English, H. Gardiner, Walter Sykes, T. G. Daughy, A. E. Remington, Henry J. Moxon, Daniel Mayers, William Thomas, W.M. 2168; George V. Wood, P.M. 1608; James Hyhouse, William E. Jones, W.M. 206; John Stocker, W.M. 754; C. L. Dean, Sydney T. Klein, Edwin George, P.M. and Sec. 1489; A. J. Manning, H. Hawkins, P.M. 901; James Strong, R. Hovenden, W. Klingenstein, W. Dickeson, Albert Govin, R. Fielder, C. Smales, W.M. 1604; R. W. Barber, S. E. Williams, W.M. 749; H. Kemp, and H. Hyde, W.M. 1227.

The brethren first confirmed recommendations to the Grand Master made at the January meeting to the extent of £180. There were on the new list the names of 32 petitioners, whose applications were qualified through lodges in the London district, and at Eye, Tredegar, New Malton, Dover, Hythe, Chatham, Ross-Westland, N.Z.; Hurstpierpoint, Harwich, Birkenhead, Newport, Mon.; Grand Lodge of California, Wakefield, Sunderland, Sheerness, Great Yarmouth, Oxford, Meerut, Saltash, Shipley, Alnwick, and Mooltan. One of these was deferred and two were dismissed. The remainder were relieved with a total sum of £850. Two of the petitioners were recommended to the Grand Lodge for £100 each and one for £50. Three were recommended to the Grand Master for £40 each and eight for £30 each. Ten were relieved with £20 each; three for £10 each; and two for £5 each.

Craft Masonry.

Mirfield Lodge, No. 1102.

The regular meeting of the above lodge took place at the private rooms, Borough-gate, Mirfield, on Friday, the 11th inst. Like many similarly-situated lodges in West Yorkshire, Mirfield is self-contained, and steadily and unobtrusively pursues the even tenour of its way. Always glad to see visitors, it, however, in no sense seeks to advertise itself; it is content to do its work consistently and conscientiously, and is satisfied with the reward which such a course invariably affords. The meeting referred to was, however, exceptional in interest and importance, and on that account deserves a passing notice. It appears that the W.M. of the Mirfield Lodge, through the exigencies of business, is absent in Russia. Unable, therefore, to attend personally to his Masonic duties, he has deputed Bro. John Barker, P.P.G.S. of W., the oldest Past Master of the lodge, to act in his stead during his enforced absence. There are few better recognised men in West Yorkshire than Bro. John Barker. His mastery of the ritual, his zeal in the cause of Masonic Charity, and his general character for uprightness and steadfastness have combined to make him as highly respected as he is universally known. His working in the various Degrees, for he appears to be connected with all, is accurate and impressive. He has filled high positions in most of them, and for some years has held with distinction the important post of Deputy Prov. G.M. of the Mark Masons of West Yorkshire.

When, therefore, it became known that Bro. John Barker was about to initiate his own son into Freemasonry, his many friends took the opportunity of showing their respect and sympathy by attending to support him, and the day in the very commodious lodge-room displayed on the occasion in question quite an array of distinguished guests.

Bro. Barker opened the lodge at 6.30, assisted by the following brethren: Bro. C. E. Sutcliffe, I.P.M.; T. G. Howell, S.W.; J. Milner, P.M.; as J.W.; W. H. Wilson, P.M., Treas., as Sec.; F. H. Hare, P.M., as S.W.; Thos. Lang, P.M., as J.D.; W. H. Wilkinson, P.M., as I.G.; and John Cowgill, Tyler. This done, admission was given to the Deputy, Prov. G.M. for West Yorkshire, Bro. John C. Malcolm, P.G.D. of England. He was accompanied and supported by Bros. C. Letch Mason, P.P.G.W., Prov. G. Mark Master; G. H. Parke, P.P.G.W.; Jas. H. Gratton, P.M. 1513, P.P.G. Treas.; J. T. Last, P.M. 2321, P.P.G. Reg.; Herbert G. E. Green, P.M. 1019, Prov. G. Sec.; W. E. Smithies, P.M. 1231, P.P.G.D.; H. S. Holdsworth, P.M. 408, P.P.G.D.C.; J. W. Monckman, P.M. 1018, P.P.G.D.C.; Thos. Norfolk, P.M. 600 and 2669, P.P.G.D.C.; Joseph Matthewman, P.M. 1019, P.P. Asst. G. Sec.; Reuben Williamson, P.M. 521, P.P.G.D.; Richard Hodgson, P.M. 448; Walker Dyson, P.M. 2251; G. Martin, P.M. 702; S. Radcliffe, W.M. 1231; Charles Lingard, P.M. 1513; J. R. Noder, P.M. 1231; W. Sharp, J.W. 600; and many others. Mirfield Lodge, too, was well represented.

On reaching the pedestal, the acting W.M., Bro. John Barker, addressed the Deputy expressing the satisfaction of himself and the brethren of Lodge 1102 on receiving Bro. Malcolm at this his first visit as Deputy Prov. G. Master. He assured him of the loyalty and fealty towards himself as Deputy which the brethren felt, and expressed the hope that the conduct of the proceedings which he had honoured them by coming to witness, would meet with his approval. Bro. Barker concluded by tendering his gavel. Bro. J. C. Malcolm, in requesting the W.M. to keep his position, expressed his satisfaction that he had been able to come amongst them and knowing the reputation which the acting W.M. had acquired, he felt sure beforehand that everything would be conducted with propriety and decorum. The Deputy was then saluted as were the Provincial Officers, Bro. J. W. Monckman, P.M. 1018, acting as Director of Ceremonies. The work upon the agenda was at once proceeded with and Bro. Milner M. Milner was then duly passed to the Degree of F.C., the working tools being very ably presented and explained by Bro. W. H. Wilson, Treas. After the lodge had been closed in this degree, Mr. G. V. B. Barker was introduced, and most carefully and solemnly initiated by the acting W.M., his father. The working tools having been presented and explained by Bro. E. A. Hare, P.M., the delivery of the charge was postponed, and Bro. Barker, jun., retired. Announcement was made that the annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge was fixed to take place at Sheffield on Wednesday, the 6th of April next. Before finally closing the lodge, the acting Master in the chair expressed his sorrow that their W.M. should not be with them that evening, but he thought that Russia might fairly be considered beyond the length of his cable tow, and that his absence, though to be regretted, was unavoidable. On asking the usual questions, Bro. J. C. Malcolm, D.P.G.M., rose: He first thanked the brethren for their cordial salutation and the many expressions of welcome he had received. He was very pleased to be amongst them, especially on so interesting an occasion. He was not disappointed, nor was he surprised, for he was beforehand satisfied that the ritual would be rendered with all reverence, and that every thing else would be done strictly according to the Constitutions. Their acting W.M. was known to be an expert Mason and it must have afforded him especial satisfaction to have the privilege of initiating his own son into the Craft. The father had set a good Masonic example which he (the Deputy) felt sure the son would follow, and he hoped they would both live long to be ornaments to the Society to which they were all so proud to belong. After a few words in a similar strain from Bro. G. H. Parke, the W.M. expressed his thanks to the Deputy and to the many friends who had rallied round him on that occasion. He was, he assured them, very proud to see so distinguished an array in his support, and assured them that this expression of their sympathy was fully appreciated by him. He trusted that the good wishes of all so ably and so kindly voiced by the Deputy would be fully realised, and that the son, whom he had initiated that night, would in due course rise to occupy the position in the lodge now temporarily filled by himself, and would also gain the love and affection of his brethren.

After "Hearty good wishes" from all the brethren individually, the W.M. closed the lodge.

A very excellent supper followed, after which the loyal and Masonic toasts, usual on these occasions, were heartily given and loyally received.

The visit of the Deputy, Bro. J. C. Malcolm, appeared to gratify the Mirfield brethren immensely, and his reception by them was thoroughly cordial and must have been very gratifying. The meeting was a great success, and those responsible for the comfort and entertainment of the guests may certainly be congratulated upon the satisfactory manner in which they carried out their duties.

FROM MARCH 15th to 26th the extensive grounds of Earl's Court will be occupied by the National Sportsman's Exhibition. All requisites in connection with every sport and pastime will be represented, and a specially large section will be devoted to the wheel. The lake will be utilised for the trial of yachts and boats, and for the purpose of fly-casting competitions.

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GRAND LODGE DECISIONS

Extracted from the Authorised Reports of the Grand Lodge of England, during the past 25 years.

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EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT.

(Under the sanction of the Lodge of Unions), No. 256.
Meeting at Freemasons' Hall every Friday Evening, at Six o'clock, except during July, August and September.

THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL

has been appointed to take place

At FREEMASONS' HALL,

On FRIDAY, 25th FEBRUARY, 1898.

The Very Worshipful Brother

R. D. M. LITTLER, C.B., Q.C.,

Past Deputy Grand Registrar,

has kindly consented to preside.

The Lodge will be opened at 6 o'clock p.m. precisely.

W. Bro. R. CLAY SUDLOW, P.G. Std. Br., as W.M.

THE SECOND LECTURE WILL BE WORKED.

1st Section by Bro. A. D. Kennaby, 1965.

2nd " W. " Wm. R. Bennett, P.M. 1965.

3rd " " R. E. F. Lander, W.M. 2086.

4th " " Charles Lewis, P.M. 1706.

5th " " T. W. Allsop, P.M. 88.

W. Bro. E. CUTLER, Q.C., P.G. Org., will preside at

the Organ and play the following Selection as the

Brethren assemble:

- 1. { a. Prelude Edward Cutler
- { b. Fugue " " Handel
- 2. Overture to 'Sampson' " " Handel
- 3. { a. Prayer " " Wely
- { b. Offertory " " Wagner
- 4. Ent'acte, 'Lohengrin' " " Wagner
- 5. Meditation in G. Edward Cutler
- 6. Verset, F Major Guilmant
- 7. Menuet Bocherini
- 8. March, 'Tannhauser' Wagner

STEWARDS.

*V.W. Bro. Edward Letchworth, F.S.A., Grand Sec., Treasurer.

R.W. Bro. Sir John B. Monekton, P.G.W.

" Thos. Fenn, P.G.W.

" Robt. Grey, P.G.W.

V.W. " Rev. J. R. Simpson, P.G.C.

" Richard Eve, P.G.

" Treas.

" Judge Philbrick, Q.C., G. Reg.

" R. Love and Lovehand, Q.C., Pres. B.G.P.

" James Henry Matthews, P.H. of B.

W. " Peter De Launde Long, P.G.D.

" Frank Richardson, P.G.D.

" Ralph Gooding, M.D., P.G.D.

" Baron De Ferriers, M.P., P.G.D.

" Sir Bruce M. Seton, Bart., P.G.D.

" Sir Geo. D. Harris, P.G.D.

" Henry J. P. Dumas, P.G.D.

" J. C. Parkinson, P.G.D.

W. Bro. C. J. Andrews, 165

" Thos. Wm. Allsop, P.M. 88

" Francis J. Allan, M.D., 1768

" W. J. Armitage, 859

" P. S. Abraham, W.M. 2620

" Wm. R. Bennett, P.M. 1965

" A. M. Barnard, P.M. 1964

" R. L. S. Budham, 21

" Wm. E. Berryman, 518

" T. H. Burton, 857

" Lionel Cooke, 2108

" J. W. Drysdale, P.M. 263

" E. P. Debenham, P.M. 1479, P.P.G. Reg. Herts.

" M. B. Evans, W.M. 8, P.G. Std.

" L. F. Everest, W.M. 10

" Edwin Fox, 58

" J. W. Freeman, P.M. 117

" W. P. Fuller, P.M. 8, P.G.S.

" Sir Forrest Fulton, K.B., Q.C., W.M. 2205

" A. H. Gale, 2521

" James D. Graham, P.M. 1559

" S. G. Glanville, P.M. 8, P.G. Std.

" J. M. Grant, Jr., 176

" Geo. B. Hemming, P.M. and Sec. 256

" S. W. Hunt, 2518

" F. A. Jewson, P.M. 1818

" E. Lyon Kentes, 263

" A. D. Kennaby, 1965

" R. G. Fenn Kidson, 1820

" V. Collins Langlin, 2158

" Arthur C. Little, 2718

" Chas. Lewis, P.M. 1706, P.P.G.D. Essex.

" R. E. F. Lander, P.M. 2086, P.P.G.D. Herts.

* Members of the Committee. † Workers of the Sections.

W. Bro. J. Lancaster, P.M. and Sec. 531

" Fredk. Levy, 1261

" C. W. Mapleton, P.M. 256

" Chas. J. Marrian, W.M. 2180

" Daniel Mayer, W.M. 59

" W. H. C. Payne, 2

" Henry Pritchard, P.M. 263 and 1115, P.P.G. Treasurer, Middlesex.

" Geo. Powell, W.M. 56

" George W. Rankin, 1611

" F. T. Rushton, P.M. and Sec. 8, P.G. Steward.

" Joseph Russell, P.M. 8, P.G. Std. F. H. Rumsden, 162

" A. H. Rimbault, 1411

" A. E. Remington, W.M. 30

" John F. Roberts, 76

" M. Spiegel, P.M. 59

" Rev. C. W. Seivante, 1768

" Geo. R. Scott, W.M. 889

" E. H. Simmons, 2043

" T. Y. Strachan, W.M. 8, P.G. Std. F. A. Sarjeant, 1101

" Percy Sloper, 8

" H. Sumner, P.M. 1123

" Hy. A. Tobias, P.M. 1592, P.P.G. Supt. Wks. W. Lancashire

" Harry Townend, W.M. 2265

" F. Timbridge, 1101

" F. C. Van Duzer, 1635

" D. D. West, P.M. 108

" W. C. Wickham, 1635

" H. D. Willcock, P.M. 1166, P.J.G.W. Sussex.

" Hy. S. Welcome, P.M. 3, 2307

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R.W. Prov. G.M. for Oxfordshire.

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Donations and Subscriptions will be most gratefully acknowledged by any of the members of the Committee; by the Bankers, Messrs. Roberts, Lubbock & Co., 15, Lombard Street, E.C.; or by the Director, William Van Praagh, 11, Fitzroy Square, W.

TICKETS FOR THE SUPPER, including admission to the Lodge, 5s. each, may be had from any of the STEWARDS; of the Secretary, Bro. JOSEPH RUSSELL, 27 and 28, Milk-street, E.C.; and of Bro. W. G. KENTISH, The Glebe, Blackheath, S.E.

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Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1898.

It will be seen from our advertisement columns that the annual Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, the 25th instant. Lodge will meet at 6 p.m., when the Second Lecture will be worked, after which supper will be held in the adjoining room, the chair being occupied by Bro. R. D. M. Littler, C.B. Q.C., Past Dep. G. Reg. Tickets to include lodge dues and supper, but exclusive of wines, 5s. each. None but Master Masons are eligible to attend.

A very successful meeting of the Salisbury Lodge, No. 435, was held on Tuesday, the 15th instant, when Bro. T. Compton Stanley was installed into the Master's chair, before a representative Board of

Installed Masters. During the banquet the music of an orchestra, afterwards followed by a choice selection of concerted vocal music and songs, all under the direction of W. Bro. John Read, P.M., P.P.G. Org. Middx., was highly appreciated. Full particulars are promised for our next issue.

We have great pleasure in announcing that the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls has scored another success in connection with the Cambridge Middle Class Examinations. Twenty-one of its pupils were entered for the Preliminary, and of these all but two were successful in satisfying the Examiners.

Few among the Charitable Institutions which have recently been established appeal more strongly to the sympathies of the Craft than the "Home of St. Barnabas," which was founded in 1895 by Bro. the Rev. Canon Cooper, P.P.G.C. Sussex, for the purpose of providing "permanent homes for destitute and disabled clergymen of unblemished character." Its patrons are Bro. the Earl of Jersey, Prov. G. Master of Oxfordshire, and Bro. Lord Leigh, Prov. G. Master of Warwickshire, while among the members of the Council are Bros. the Very Rev. the Dean of York, P.G.C.; the Dean of Hereford, Prov. G.C. Herefordshire; the Ven. the Archdeacon of London, P.G.C.; the Rev. Canon Tristram, P.G.C., D.P.G.M. Durham; and the Ven. the Archdeacon of Essex, P.G.C. Three clergymen who are members of our Society have been already admitted to the Home, the latest case being that of a brother who had been for 15 years a subscribing member of his lodge, but is now sick and penniless. We strongly commend this useful institution to the support of our readers, in the hope that the list of subscriptions and donations from lodges and brethren may be appreciably increased.

Our Toronto brethren are to be congratulated on their good fortune in having secured for their meetings new premises which, from the description given of them in the *Canadian Craftsman* for last month, would appear to be in every way suitable for Masonic purposes. These new premises were formally opened by Bro. J. Ross Robertson, Past G. Master of Canada (Province of Ontario), on Wednesday, the 29th December, 1897, in the presence of some 150 Past Masters, among whom were Bros. the Rev. J. D. O'Meara, Past G. Master of Manitoba, and E. T. Malone, Dep. G. Master of Canada, and many other Past and Present G. Officers. Our contemporary has for its frontispiece an illustration of what is known as the "Blue Room," which strikes us as being a hall of ample proportions and in every way suitably fitted and appointed. Among those who have assisted in decorating the wall of this handsome apartment is Bro. Robertson, who, in the course of the proceedings at the opening ceremony, unveiled and presented to the Trustees of the Hall eight life-size portraits in oils of past Masonic notabilities, the most prominent of whom are Bro. William Jarvis, the first Prov. Grand Master of Upper Canada (1792-1817); Bro. Simon McGillivray, Prov. G. Master 1822 to 1840; and Bro. Sir Allan N. Macnab, who was Prov. G. Master from 1845 to 1857, and G. Master from 1857 to 1862. A cordial vote of thanks was passed by acclamation to Bro. Robertson for his generous and appropriate gift.

A quarterly communication of the District Grand Lodge of Queensland was held at Freemasons' Hall, Brisbane, on the 1st December last, under the presidency of Bro. Barron L. Barnett, P.G.D. England, Dep. District Grand Master as District Grand Master, and from the Treasurer's statement then presented it would seem that the District Grand Lodge is in a prosperous condition. On the general account the fixed deposits and balance in bank amounted together to £277, there being "other investments" amounting to close on £1439. On the Fund of Benevolence Account, the balance was in round figures £59, while the investments were not very far short of £2000. Before District Grand Lodge was closed, the District Grand Master in the chair brought to the notice of the brethren the death of Bro. G. B. Allen, Mus. B. Oxon., the District Grand Organist, whom every one honoured and respected for the geniality of his disposition and the reputation for talent he enjoyed in musical circles, but who had not been successful in life and had died in poor circumstances. He, therefore, invited District Grand Lodge to pass a vote of condolence with the widow and vote a sum of money sufficient to cover the funeral expenses. This was accordingly done on motion made, seconded, and carried *nem con.*, the

amount of the grant thus made being £25. The timely aid thus promptly rendered to the widow in her affliction is to be commended.

A feature of the proceedings at this meeting was the absence of any report from the District Board of General Purposes, the explanation being that, though the meetings of the Board had been regularly held, there was no business done of sufficient importance to need reporting. The Acting Dist. G.M. suggested that it would have been better had a purely formal report been presented just to show that the Board had met as required and done what it was called upon to do, and this suggestion appears to have been very favourably received by the brethren present.

The Philadelphia *Keystone* has in its issue of the 5th instant a very excellent article entitled "Improper Material," in which the necessity for inquiry into the character of candidates for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry is strenuously insisted upon. As our contemporary justly observes: "It needs no argument to prove the utmost importance of thorough investigation of the character of all applicants for admission into each and every Lodge of Freemasons wherever located. Improper material, if accepted anywhere, brings discredit everywhere." Remarks in a similar strain are being constantly addressed to the brethren here, more especially on those important occasions when new lodges are consecrated and the Consecrating Officer, in the exercise of his duty, considers it devolves upon him naturally to warn the members to exercise the greatest caution whom they admit to their lodge as members. We trust the advice tendered by our contemporary will have the desired effect among the lodges in Pennsylvania.

Lodges under the English Constitution transact their business in the First Degree on the ground that all who are subscribing members, of what grade soever they may happen to be, have an inherent right to a voice in all matters which affect the general welfare of the lodge as a corporate body. In the Grand Lodge jurisdictions in the United States—at all events, in most, if not in all, of them—business is transacted in the Third Degree, because a brother is, we suppose, not looked upon as a full-fledged Mason until he has obtained that rank. That the latter rule, however, is looked upon with considerable disfavour in sundry quarters is evident from the remarks which are to be found in the Ohio Report on Foreign Correspondence, under the head of "Washington, 1896." Moreover, the rule is of comparatively recent adoption, as witness the remarks *apropos* of the E.A.P. Degree in Rhode Island, of Bro. Thomas M. Reed, who states that "at a time not further back than 50 years ago," "in many Grand Lodge jurisdictions, the general business affairs of the lodges as now transacted in the Third Degree, were transacted while the lodge was open in the First Degree. Of this fact we have personal knowledge."

Upon this, the Ohio reporter, Bro. W. H. Cunningham, Past G.M., delivers himself as follows: "That this was almost, if not quite, the universal rule prior to 1845, and that the business originally transacted therein, with the right and privilege of Masons of that Degree of saying by their vote who or who should not be made Masons, and that they were deprived of their inherent rights and privileges without any voice or vote in the matter, would seem to have been perhaps sufficiently noted hitherto by the writer; but a return to 'the ways of the Fathers' is never too late, and the restoration of their rights to Entered Apprentices—of which they were unnecessarily and unjustly deprived, that the business of Freemasonry pertaining to its Degrees might correspond to usages prevalent in modern organisations—is certainly desirable, and is a sufficient reason for its further notice." Here, then, we have an acknowledgment by a competent authority (1) that the adoption of the rule as to the transaction of lodge business in the Third Degree "unnecessarily and unjustly" deprived the E.A.Ps. of "their inherent rights and privileges" and (2) that a return to the ancient ways is "certainly desirable." We do not always get such straightforward acknowledgments of error as this even from competent authorities in the United States of such exalted rank as Bro. Past Grand Master Cunningham of Ohio.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, attended by Bro. Major-General Sir S. Clarke, was present at the christening of the infant son of the Earl and Countess of Albemarle, at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, on Wednesday afternoon, and stood as a sponsor. In the evening his Royal Highness was present at the performance of "The Dove-cot," at the Duke of York's Theatre.

Correspondence.

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

THE NEW BOYS' SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The Committee, having accepted a very good design for the proposed School, have made a great mistake in allowing the architects to prepare the bills of quantities. The reasons against such a course are known to all who have anything to do with building.

A great reason seems to me that, having awarded one firm a job which will give them about five thousand pounds, some other brother should have had the thousand for preparing the quantities, especially as there are so many fully qualified and with special experience, such as Bros. Hunt and Steward, W. Farthing, McIntyre North, Heelis and Wrightson, Pain and Son, R. C. Gleed, and many others.

The best builders do not care to tender when the quantities are prepared by the architects of the building. (See the letter of the Secretary of the Builders' Association in the *Building News* last week).

An independent surveyor would be responsible for wages, while the Committee will be responsible in the present case; and there can be nothing said in favour of the course adopted, as architects do not, as a rule, keep a staff for quantity work, but put it out at half or two-thirds what they get, or employ men at so much per day to do the work.—Yours fraternally,

FAIR PLAY.

Reviews.

"FREEMASONS' CALENDAR AND DIRECTORY FOR THE PROVINCE OF DURHAM, 1898."—This valuable Annual, of interest far beyond the province, but naturally of special utility for the Craft in the county, is published early in the year, as usual. The province now numbers 37 lodges, with 2947 subscribing members, being an average of 80 to each lodge, probably the second highest in that respect in the provinces. The new lodge is No. 2674, Gateshead. There are 13 Royal Arch chapters in the province, according to the Calendar, but this total does not agree with the one published by the Grand Lodge, the latter including No. 1334, Durham, of A.D. 1832, which is not given in the local list, but for why does not appear. Out of the 12 Mark lodges that constitute the Province of Northumberland and Durham, eight belong to the latter county, these Bodies and all the other Masonic organisations being duly detailed in the fullest manner and ably arranged. There are two or three new features this time, one being particulars of the "Soc. Rosicr. in Anglia" (Province of Yorkshire) and a list of the places of meeting of the Prov. G. Lodge of Durham from 1860 to 1897. In addition to the "Durham Masonic Education Fund," having a capital of considerably over £2000, the "Hudson Benevolent Fund" is also noted, and bids fair to be a most valuable addition to the charitable organisations of the province. The testimonial to the indefatigable Prov. Grand Secretary, Bro. Robert Hudson, realised over 1000 guineas, which that excellent Craftsman declined to accept for himself, but preferred it should be devoted to those in needy circumstances in Durham, so that, as Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., remarked, many in the future "would bless their dear old friend, Robert Hudson." The province, however, wisely insisted on Bro. Hudson accepting a handsome service of silver plate. No brother has deserved better of his province, and it is a great gratification for the members to see that their esteemed Prov. G. Sec. is as able and willing to work on their behalf as ever.

"THE BERKSHIRE MASONIC REGISTER AND CALENDAR FOR 1898."—This neatly-printed and well-arranged annual, issued in good time and to date, is from the press of Bro. G. J. Cosburn, of Newbury, who also is the publisher. The editor is the respected Deputy Prov. G.M., Bro. J. T. Morland, M.A., P.G.D., in charge of the province, who has acted in such capacity since this very useful compilation was started. In our review of the last year's issue we ventured to suggest a few corrections; but as they are not inserted in the present edition, we suppose they must have been overlooked. According to the Grand Lodge Calendar, Colonel Deakin was appointed in 1773, not 1791, and the names of two subsequent Prov. Grand Masters are omitted, viz., Bros. Arthur Stanhope, of A.D. 1795, and Sir John Throckmorton, Bart., of A.D. 1817, and Bro. John Ramsbottom dates from 1833. Although not a large province, the editing of the directory must have involved considerable labour, for there are several lists of members under various headings, one including all who belong to a Craft lodge, Royal Arch chapter, or a Mark lodge in the province, alphabetically arranged, the registers of voters of the various Masonic Charities being also a laborious, but most useful, compilation. The province now numbers nearly 700 subscribing members, or an average of 42 to each lodge, and it is quite evident that under the charge of the D. Prov. G.M. it is enjoying considerable prosperity. The frontispiece for this year is devoted to an excellent portrait of the energetic Prov. G. Secretary, Bro. J. W. Martin, J.P., P.A.G.D.C. of England.

Craft Masonry.

Robert Burns Lodge, No. 25.

A meeting was held on Monday, the 7th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, when there were present Bros. W. Biddleley, W.M.; T. Jacobs, S.W.; A. Pinnington, J.W.; J. S. Elliott, Treas.; J. W. Harvey, Sec.; V. Rogers-Romilly, S.D.; Sydney Davis, J.D.; T. Hawkins, P.M., D.C.; Fred. Holden, I.G.; G. Harding, Tyler; H. L. Davis, I.P.M.; T. B. Fulwood, P.M.; A. E. Webster, W. C. Elsdon, A. Osborn, Oscar Osborn, N. Woolf, E. T. Ware, T. J. Carttar, L. Abrahams, Walter Schroder, E. W. Mathew, and E. Abrahams. Visitors: Bros. Henry Sadler, G. Tyler; E. C. Mulvey, G. Purst.; and T. Blundell, P.M. 742.

After the lodge was opened, the minutes of the installation meeting, which were somewhat lengthy, were read and duly confirmed. Bro. W. E. Mathew was then raised and Bro. E. Abrahams passed, both ceremonies being well rendered by the W.M. Several subjects were then discussed, and the lodge was closed.

The brethren adjourned to the Freemasons' Tavern, where a very excellent banquet was served.

After the usual toasts the ordinary routine was departed from and the brethren were favoured with a most interesting and instructive address by Bro. Henry Sadler, a full report being given in another column.

At its conclusion the brethren showed their appreciation and interest by asking Bro. Sadler many questions on the subject of his address.

The brethren were afterwards entertained by a piper of the Scots Guards, who discoursed some really splendid music, and finished with a Highland dance, this bringing to a close a very delightful evening, and proving that a departure from the orthodox rule is conducive to enjoyment.

Peace and Harmony Lodge, No. 60.

A meeting of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on the 28th ult. Among those in attendance were Bros. Debenham, P.P.G.D., G.S., W.M.; O. Polenz, S.W.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G.S., P.G. Std. Br. Eng., D.C., as J.W.; E. Rogers, P.P.G.D., P.G.S., Sec.; White, S.D.; Slade, J.D.; Dr. W.

H. Kempster, jun., P.M., P.G.S., as I.G.; H. J. Lardner, P.P.A.G.D.C., P.G.S., I.P.M.; Chancellor, P.M., P.G.S.; and H. Slade, P.M., P.G.S.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, an important amendment to one of the by-laws was carried. The nomination of a brother to represent the lodge as Grand Steward was postponed till the next meeting. A vote of condolence to the widow and family of the late Bro. Joslin, P.M., P.G.S., was passed, with many individual expressions of regret. Communications regretting inability to attend were received from Bros. H. Young, P.M., P.G.S., Treas.; J. Barton, P.M., P.G.S.; Dr. W. H. Kempster, P.M., P.G.S.; C. Robinson, P.M., J.W.; W. Thomas, P.M., I.G.; and others.

A notice of motion was given to vote 10 guineas from the funds to the Centenary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, per Bro. Debenham, W.M., as Steward, and the lodge was closed.

The banquet that followed gave unqualified satisfaction. Upon the removal of the cloth the customary toasts received full justice.

Bro. H. J. Lardner, I.P.M., submitted the toast of "The Grand Officers." In the course of his remarks he said that No. 60 was one of the distinguished 18 lodges which always had a representative of Grand Lodge in their midst. On that occasion they had the Worshipful Master occupying the position of Grand Steward, and without disparagement to those brethren in the lodge who had preceded him, the Board of Grand Stewards would have in him an excellent colleague. To save time, he would also propose "Bro. Debenham's health as W.M." Up to the present there had been no work in the lodge for him to do but there was plenty of time for the W.M. to distinguish himself as an exponent of the ceremonies.

This toast having been drunk with acclamation, the W.M. briefly responded to the effect, that the proposer of the toast had praised his qualifications too highly. However, he would say that whatever work was required of him either at the Board of Stewards or in the lodge would be loyally attended to.

"The Health of the Visitors" having been given and acknowledged, the toast of "The Past Masters" followed.

In submitting this pledge the W.M., in very feeling terms, spoke of the genial qualities and Masonic abilities of the late Bro. Joslin, P.M., whose premature death had been a terrible blow to his family. He should couple the toast with the name of Bro. Lardner, I.P.M., whose services when filling the office of Secretary to the Board of Grand Stewards had been so highly appreciated and whose recent work in the chair of No. 60 had been so reputable.

The brother thus distinguished having acknowledged the compliment, "The Health of the Treasurer and Secretary," responded to by Bro. Rogers, and "The Officers," replied to by Bros. Polenz and White, brought a very pleasant reunion to a termination.

Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192.

A meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 3rd inst., at the Cannon-street Hotel, when there were present Bros. C. Garton, W.M.; William Baker, S.W.; T. Selby Henrey, J.W. and Chap.; Cohu, Treas.; Legge, Sec.; Robeson, S.D.; Stokes, J.D.; J. Smith, D.C.; Welch, I.G.; Couchman, Tyler; Mower, P.M.; Hughes, P.M.; Abbott, P.M.; Williams, Peach, Rawkins, Collins, Ward, Miner, Wetton, A. J. Ripplin, Taylor, Francis, Lloyd, Farr, Hipwell, Bassett, Purbrook, Doody, Ferguson, Fishleigh, Roche, Lockett, Dixon, and Crawshaw. Visitors: Bros. C. W. Raymond, 2664; C. H. Ash, 193; W. H. Brough, 1342; and F. Joy, 1426.

The minutes of the two previous meetings having been read and confirmed, Bro. Taylor was raised, and Bro. Wm. Ward, 1246, elected as joining member. Bro. William Baker, S.W., was unanimously elected as W.M.; Bro. Thos. Cohu, P.M., re-elected as Treas.; Bro. Couchman, re-elected as Tyler; and Bro. Crawshaw, Ferguson, and Doody elected to serve on the Audit Committee. The by-laws having been read, notice of motion by Bro. H. Legge—that 20 guineas be placed on Bro. William Baker's R.M.I. Boy's list from the lodge, and that the usual Masonic jewel be voted to the retiring W.M. Notice of a candidate for initiation at the next meeting was given, and the lodge closed.

Harmony Lodge, No. 288.

The installation of Bro. Wm. H. Bailey took place on Wednesday, the 9th instant, in the Masonic Hall, Todmorden. The ceremony was gone through in a most beautiful manner by Bro. James Fielding, P.M. The following distinguished brethren were present: Bros. C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, D.P.G.M.; B. Lumb, P.P.G. Std. Br.; J. Blacks, P.P.G.P.; T. Uttley, P.G. Std. Br.; Wm. Cockcroft, P.P.G.D., 30°; T. Bates, P.P.G.D.; and a very large number of Past Masters.

After a most pleasant meeting in the lodge, the brethren adjourned to the White Hart Hotel to a most excellent dinner.

The brethren again returned to the hall for dessert, when a very good toast list was gone through, interspersed with songs.

Lodge of Affability, No. 317.

The Festival of St. John in connection with this ancient lodge was held on Thursday, the 3rd inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, when Bro. Aemilius Rottmayer, S.W., was duly installed as Worshipful Master by Bro. J. Smallpage Whitehead, W.M. A large number of visiting brethren were present including Bros. G. L. Vaughan, 1030, P.G. Reg.; H. J. Cutter, 44, P.P.G.D.; G. Brooks, P.A.G. Sec. Chestire; G. Balfe, 104, P.P.G.D.; T. Murphy, 37, P.G. Std.; G. H. Scott, W.M. 361; F. Robinson, S.D. 361; W. A. Boyer, S.W. 2554; F. Brindle, 2231; J. L. Hodgson, W.M. 897; R. V. Critchley, W.M. 1149; L. H. Keay, S.W. 1219; G. Heald, 2264; J. H. Walker, S.W. 361; T. H. Hall, P.M. 1458; J. Ryder, 645; E. Houghton, 993; J. Renshaw, P.M. 298, and others.

The lodge having been opened, and the minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed, the Auditors' report was presented and adopted. The ballot was then taken for Mr. W. H. Oliver, which proving unanimous, he was duly initiated into Freemasonry by the W.M. according to ancient custom. Bro. A. Allen, I.P.M., next presented the W.M. elect, Bro. Aemilius Rottmayer, to receive at the hands of Bro. J. Smallpage Whitehead, W.M., the benefit of installation, which ceremony was impressively performed by a Board of some 20 Installed Masters. The usual addresses were ably given by Bros. J. S. Whitehead, I.P.M.; F. Spencer, P.M.; and T. Bushell, P.M. The new W.M. invested his officers as follows: Bros. J. S. Whitehead, I.P.M.; W. Brocklehurst, S.W.; G. O. Whittaker, J.W.; S. Staton, P.M., Treas.; A. C. K. Smith, Sec.; A. Findlow, S.D.; J. Chenery, J.D.; J. Bladon, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., D.C.; J. H. Hill, Org.; H. A. Whaiter, I.G.; Collett, Edge, Lunn, and Bromley, Stwds.; and E. H. Flower, P.G. Tyler, Tyler. After the ceremonies were finished Bro. J. S. Whitehead, I.P.M., was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel voted by the lodge as a memento of his year of office. Three candidates for initiation were proposed by the W.M., and after "Hearty good wishes" from the visiting brethren, the lodge was closed.

The usual installation banquet followed the work of the lodge.

The customary loyal and Masonic toasts were given and cordially received.

Visiting Provincial brethren made special reference to the very creditable manner in which the ceremonies were performed by the W.M. and his officers.

Bro. A. Rottmayer, in replying to the toast of "The W.M.," spoke of the universality of Masonry which was evidenced by the letters and telegrams of congratulation he had received from friends abroad.

A very enjoyable programme of music, &c., was given by Bros. G. Balfe, P.M.; H. Walmsley, P.M.; J. S. Whitehead, I.P.M.; W. Brocklehurst, S.W.; A. G. Lunn, G. Bromley, and J. H. Hill, Org.

Windsor Castle Lodge, No. 771.

A large and influential gathering of brethren assembled at the Masonic Hall, 55, Alban-street, Windsor, on Tuesday, the 8th inst., to honour the installation of Bro. Alex. C. Layton, as W.M. There was a large number of visitors, some of whom held high rank in the Craft, amongst others being Bros. J. W. Martin, P.A.G.D.C., Prov. G. Sec. Berks; Margrett, Sec. to the Prov. Charity Committee; Sydney Smith, W.M. 299; G. Phillips, W.M. 915; C. Bating, W.M. 1501; F. J. Forss, W.M. 1536; J. D. Carter, W.M. 1891; J. S. Tavener, W.M. 2437; E. Prince, W.M. 2671; T. Pettit, W.M. 1887; R. Fox Warner, W.M. 2530, and others. Bro. J. T. Morland, P.G.D., the Deputy Prov. G.M. in charge of Berks, was, unfortunately, unable to be present, owing to the death of a relative.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, the D. of C., Bro. Page, announced that the Prov. G. Sec., Bro. J. W. Martin, was without. On his entry into the lodge he was received in due form and saluted. The W.M., Bro. C. F. Dyson, then duly installed Bro. Alex. C. Layton into the chair of King Solomon. The three addresses were also admirably delivered by Bro. Dyson. After the ceremony of installation, the W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. C. F. Dyson, P. Prov. G. Org. Berks, I.P.M.; W. E. Kingston, S.W.; G. Gray, J.W.; Rev. C. B. Lipscomb, Chap.; John Goddard, P.M., P. Prov. S.G.D.; Berks and Bucks, Treas.; Ernest Marshall, P.M., P. Prov. G. Std. Br. Berks, Sec.; T. Page, P.M., Prov. G.D.C. Berks, D.C.; Leonard Collmann, A.D.C.; Rev. F. F. Penruddock, S.D.; James H. Brooks, J.D.; E. A. Barrv, I.G.; T. G. Dyson, Org.; G. Mitchell and P. O. Coward, Stwds.; and G. H. Powell, Tyler. Bro. C. F. Dyson, I.P.M., was then presented with a handsome jewel, previously voted him by the lodge, as a slight recognition of the valuable services rendered during his year of office. A presentation was also made to Bro. W. G. Nottage, the retiring Secretary, to mark the appreciation of the members of the lodge for his indefatigable zeal and untiring energy during the time he held the office of Secretary, namely, from 1891 to 1898. This consisted of a massive marble timepiece and solid silver centre-piece, both bearing appropriate inscriptions.

The brethren then proceeded to the Guildhall, where an elegant banquet was served by Messrs. Layton Bros., at which the W.M. ably presided.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed, interspersed with a capital programme of music arranged by Bro. Percy Coward (who, unfortunately, was not able to be present owing to influenza).

The artistes were Miss Kate Cheery, Bros. George Stubbs, Harry Stubbs, Dodds, and Schneider, all of whom were in excellent voice, while Mrs. Percy Coward accompanied with her accustomed skill.

Kennington Lodge, No. 1381.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Horns Tavern, Kennington Park, on Tuesday, the 1st inst. Among those present were Bros. James Barry, W.M.; Colin Chisholm, S.W., Master elect; T. Davies, J.W.; R. C. F. La Feuillade, P.M., Treas.; J. N. Hearn, P.M., Sec.; W. H. Wolsey, S.D.; H. Pohl, I.G.; W. W. Westley, P.M., D.C.; R. B. Hopkins, Org.; A. Harris, Stwd.; H. Higgins, P.M.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G.S.B., P.G. Std. Br. Eng.; C. H. Kohler, P.M.; Foalé, P.M.; Lingley, P.M.; and Dr. Millsom, P.M. Among the numerous visitors were Bros. S. Cochrane, P.M. 3, P.G. Treas. Eng.; Donaldson, P.M. 1953; Miller, S.W. and Master elect 69; Stanton, 2266; and Walker, 2348.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. C. Chisholm, S.W., was duly presented and effectively installed as W.M. by Bro. W. W. Westley, assisted by Bros. Higgins, P.M., as S.W.; Foalé, P.M., as J.W.; R. La Feuillade, P.M., as I.G.; and Major Walls, as D.C. The officers appointed and invested were Bros. T. Davies, S.W.; W. H. Wolsey, J.W.; R. La Feuillade, P.M., Treas.; J. N. Hearn, P.M., Sec.; R. B. Hopkins, S.D.; H. Pohl, J.D.; A. Harris, I.G.; H. Linwood, Org.; G. Reddish and J. Court, Stwds.; R. W. Brading, A.D.C.; and L. G. Reinhardt, Tyler. A vote of thanks was passed and ordered to be entered on the minutes to Bro. W. W. Westley, P.M., for his excellent services as Installing Officer. Upon the motion of Bro. Major Walls, the sum of 15 guineas was voted to Bro. C. Chisholm, W.M., as Steward for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys' Centenary. A telegram of sympathy was forwarded to Bro. George Everett, P.M., P.G. Treas., who is still very much indisposed, and in due time a return message was received as follows: "A thousand thanks for all your kindness, which is greatly appreciated—Everett."

The lodge was then closed. A banquet followed.

The cloth having been removed, the customary toasts were duly honoured.

Bro. S. Cochrane responded on behalf of "The Grand Officers." In the course of his speech he feelingly alluded to the great bereavement that had fallen upon the Pro Grand Master. He also spoke in the most eulogistic terms of the distinguished brethren who formed the executive of Grand Lodge, and of their untiring and unselfish labours for the good of the Craft. In concluding his remarks, he said that the Kennington Lodge should be proud of the fact that it had two Past Grand Officers among its members, one of whom, he was sorry to say, had been ill many weeks. The lodge, that afternoon, had done a kindly act in sending a telegram to their sorely-stricken Bro. George Everett.

The I.P.M. proposed "The Health of the W.M." He said that Bro. Chisholm had shown that afternoon his aptitude for the work of a Master of a Freemason's lodge, as he had invested his officers in a highly satisfactory manner. The W.M. was a very frequent attendant at a lodge of instruction, and was a credit to the labours of the Preceptor.

The W.M., in reply, was very brief. He simply thanked the brethren for placing him in the dignified position of W.M. of so large and flourishing a lodge as No. 1381 undoubtedly was. As he told them on the night of his election, he should depend upon the loyal support of the Past Masters, who were important factors in the lodge, both as regards knowledge of the work and experience in the rules of Masonry.

Bro. Major Walls, having been called upon to propose "The Masonic Charities," at once acceded to the request, and gave a short history of the three great Institutions, and the excellent work that they were now doing.

The toast of "The Visitors" was coupled with the names of Bros. Donaldson, Miller, Stanton, and Walker.

Bros. Westley and Higgins responded on behalf of "The Installing and Past Masters."

The W.M., in giving "The Treasurer and Secretary," spoke in high terms of commendation of the respective services of Bros. R. La Feuillade and J. N. Hearn.

Bros. La Feuillade and Hearn responded.

"The Health of the Officers," coupled with the names of Bros. Davies and Wolsey, terminated the proceedings.

During the evening an excellent concert was provided under the supervision of Bro. Herbert Linwood, who was assisted by Bros. A. C. Hawkins, Tom Davies, Bob Rae, and Mr. Walter Crook.

An interesting feature of the meeting, and one which afforded great amusement, was the playing into dinner of the W.M. by a Highland piper, in the garb of Old Gaul. The same gentleman piped away most melodiously when the savoury *haggis* was brought in, and brought down the house when he gaily played "The Cock of the North."

Covent Garden Lodge, No. 1614.

There was a good attendance of brethren at the installation meeting of this successful lodge held at the Criterion, Piccadilly, on the 5th inst. The outgoing Master, Bro. John Mayo, was succeeded by Bro. Homer Price, who was installed in an able manner by Bro. C. O. Burgess, P.M., P.P.G.D. Surrey. The members present included Bros. John Mayo, W.M.; Homer Price, S.W.; H. G. Walker, J.W.; Geo. Colman, P.M., Treas.; Geo. Reynolds, P.M., Sec.; T. Middleweek (W.M. elect 1793), J.D.; J. Kellaway, I.G.; Geo. H. Foin, P.M., D.C.; C. O. Burgess, P.M.; A. L. Bullen, P.M.; Geo. Bond, P.M.; W. J. Thrussell, Org.; and others. Visitors: Bros. J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B.; J. Mason, P.G.S.B.; W. Dennis, W.M. 2473; H. J. Tomkins, I.D. 1669; H. Greener, J. Rowe, 2191; R. P. Upton, P.M. 1328; W. Hancock, P.M. 2191; E. H. Hubbard, 879; E. Parsons, 1627; H. A. Lewis, 2473; H. Cave, P.M. 1085; R. Parish, I.P.M. 1283; J. O'Connell, P.P.G.D.; F. Kedge, P.M. 749; C. W. Saffell, 860; A. Cogliati, P.M. 1559; J. S. Goldsmith, 2398; R. Sandlands, 2398; A. Weston, P.M. 1273; T. Pennington, P.M. 1638; W. W. Lee, P.M.; and others.

The opening of the lodge was followed by the confirmation of the minutes. Bro. T. W. Craft was then passed to the Second Degree, and Bros. Shiner, Orstein, and Soper, were raised to the Degree of M.M. The principal business on the agenda was then proceeded with, and Bro. Homer Price having been presented as W.M. elect was duly installed by Bro. C. O. Burgess, P.M., whose intimate knowledge of the ritual was evidenced by his very successful rendering of the ceremony. The following officers were appointed: Bros. H. G. Walker, S.W.; H. Keen (absent through illness), J.W.; Rev. P. M. Holjen, P.M., Chap.; G. Colman, P.M., Treas.; G. Reynolds, P.M., Sec.; T. Middleweek, S.D.; J. A. M. Kellaway, J.D.; Geo. H. Foin, P.M., D.C.; W. J. Thrussell, Org.; C. Pullen, I.G.; C. O. Burgess, P.M., M. C. Citreou, and J. Vowles, Stwds.; and R. F. Potter, P.M., Tyler. A Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. John Mayo, I.P.M., in recognition of the esteem in which he is held by

the lodge. Bro. Burgess, P.M., proposed, and it was unanimously resolved, "That the W.M. should represent the lodge as Steward at the Centenary Festival of the Boys' School," and 20 guineas was voted to complete the amount necessary to make the lodge Vice-President of that Institution. Bro. T. A. Dickson, P.M., an old and esteemed member of the lodge, was elected an honorary member with acclamation.

Apologies were received from the Grand Secretary, Grand Registrar, Asst. Grand Secretary, Sir Jacob Wilson, S. Hewett, P.M., and many others.

Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Victoria Hall, where a banquet of a *recherche* description was served under the personal superintendence of Bro. Levefre, the obliging manager of the Criterion. The tables were prettily decorated with flowers, the gift of the W.M.

Bro. John Mason, P.G.S.B., responding for "The Grand Officers," said the lodge was a dear old friend of his, he having deaconed the candidates in it 21 years ago. He was delighted to find the lodge in such a good way of progress.

Bro. John Mayo, I.P.M., said he felt proud to be in the position to propose "The W. Master." He had known Bro. Homer Price for some years and could remember his joining them, and he had watched their present W.M. from that time until the present and could say there was no more dearly loved brother in the lodge. They all appreciated the way in which Bro. Homer Price had carried out his duties and would say that no brother was more worthy of the chair. In congratulating the W.M. on attaining the position, he heartily wished him a successful year of office, feeling sure he would leave it with credit and honour to the lodge.

Bro. Homer Price, W.M., expressed his gratitude to the I.P.M. for the felicitous terms in which he had given the toast and the brethren for the enthusiastic way in which they had received it. He felt it was a proud moment to be their W. Master. He was pleased to say he had attained that position by purely Masonic and honourable means and no favour had been shown him, except the kindness of the brethren in electing him. He appreciated the honour deeply and would do his best to maintain the pure principles of Masonry in the lodge and in his conduct in the chair, and every brother should have his due. Nothing whatever derogatory to Masonry should take place if he could help it. He hoped before his year was over to revive the best traditions of the Covent Garden Lodge. He thanked them most heartily for the cordial reception given the toast, and assured them their confidence would not be misplaced.

The W.M. next gave "The I.P.M. and Installing Master," and referred to Bro. John Mayo, I.P.M., as an estimable man and excellent Mason, whose genial figure was familiar to them all. Bro. Burgess, P.M., the Installing Master, had conducted the installation ceremony in an admirable manner, and was always to be relied upon to render any ceremonies at short notice.

Bro. John Mayo, Immediate Past Master, said that ever since he had been a member he had endeavoured to do his best, as far as he could, for the good of the lodge and for Masonry in general. He was glad those efforts were appreciated, and he valued very highly the handsome jewel presented by his mother lodge. Every Mason should feel a desire to attain the chair of his mother lodge, and he would always find his reward, as he had done that night.

Bro. C. O. Burgess, P.M., in response, said the support the W.M. would receive from the I.P.M. was the best augury for the success of the lodge. They hoped that during the coming year the same geniality and thorough Masonic manner which had characterised the I.P.M. would be followed by the W.M., and the success of the lodge thereby maintained.

Bros. W. Dennis, W.M. 2473, and J. O'Connell, P.P.G.D. Surrey, responded for "The Visitors."

The W.M. next gave "The Masonic Charities," and announced that his list had that evening been increased to £66.

Bro. J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B., thanked the lodge for the sum voted and the members for their own donations. He was sure all would do their utmost to enable the W.M. to take up a list worthy of the best records of the lodge. That day he had received a telegram stating that 41 boys had passed the Cambridge Junior Local Examination—the highest number yet established. The Institution required additional funds to enable the new School to be built and to enable them to maintain a larger number of boys. He had to thank that lodge for past favours from Bros. G. Reynolds, P.M., and Foan, P.M., and others, and hoped the W.M. would beat all previous records.

Bro. John Mason, P.G.S.B., also replied, as representing the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

The W.M. in proposing the health of "The Treasurer and Secretary," said he felt he had two officers who were tried brethren, and who would give him during his year of office every support and assistance. Both were well known to the members of the lodge.

Bro. G. Coleman, P.M., Treas., thanked the W.M. for the kind manner in which he had spoken of him, and assured all present that he would do his duty to the lodge, take care of their funds, and he hoped that the W.M. would leave a larger balance in hand than his predecessor.

Bro. G. Reynolds, Sec., thanked the W.M. for the kind way in which he had proposed his health and the brethren for the hearty manner in which it had been received, and assured the brethren of the Covent Garden Lodge that since he had been its Secretary (10 years) he had always endeavoured to do his duty in more ways than one, and well he remembered when the brethren did him the great honour of electing him its Master. The lodge was in troubled waters, and thought he must give it up. The Treasurers and Secretary have done good work. The late Treasurer (Bro. Edward Jacobs, P.M.) met him in the Dungeons at St. James's-square as to what should be done, and the late Bro. G. H. Reynolds, P.M. (his son), said: "Governor, do not give it up, for you are not the man to desert a sinking ship." The ship was in troubled waters, and no mistake. It required careful steering, or it would have been on the Bell Rock. It is now in smooth water, but still requires good steering. When Master, the lodge was in heavy debt, and, thanks to the brethren of the past as well as the present, we are in a splendid position. Look what we have done during the past year—subscribed to the M.W. Grand Master's Hospital Fund, the Indian Famine Fund (Lord Mayor's), relieved a poor distressed brother, who was once a member of the lodge, and last, but not least, voted this evening £21 to the Boys' School Festival. During his Secretaryship he had paid upwards of £3000 into the bank to the credit of the lodge, and have now a handsome balance in hand, for which see balance-sheet for the past year. He heartily congratulated the W.M., and wished him a successful year of office and the lodge continued prosperity, with the sincere wish that all might work with that love and harmony which should at all times characterise Freemasonry as taught us in our beautiful ritual. The kindness and friendship he always met with cheered him on in his duties, and he hoped also always to merit their esteem, and, in conclusion, he wished them all well.

The toast of "The Officers" was next given, and responded to by the S.W.

The Tyler's toast brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

An excellent programme of music under the direction of Bro. Edgar Simons gave great satisfaction, and was much appreciated by all present.

Farringdon Lodge, No. 1745.

This civic lodge held a meeting at the Viaduct Hotel, Holborn, on the 31st ultimo, when there were present among others, Bros. J. Evans, W.M.; Witt, S.W.; H. J. Lardner, P.M., P.G.S., Treas., as J.W.; J. D. Webb, S.D.; P. Murphy, I.P.M.; Maj. T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G. Std. Br.; T. Simpson, P.M.; J. Young, P.M.; G. Herbert, P.M.; E. Shultz, P.M.; N. P. Lardner, P.M., acting Sec.; C. Bachoffner, P.M.; Dr. J. W. Hinton, M.A., P.M. 84, P.P.G.O., Org.; J. W. Gaze, C.C., P.M.; and E. Mallett, P.M. 141, Tyler. Amongst the visitors was Bro. the Rev. A. C. Fillingham, M.A.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. T. L. Pewtress was ably passed to the Second Degree by the W.M., who also gave the interesting explanation of the working tools of the F.C. A resolution to hold a ball, under the auspices of the lodge on the 23rd prox., was carried *non con.*, and a Committee was appointed to carry out the details thereof. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. W. H. Jackson, P.M., Sec.; J. Strugnell, P.M.; Dr. E. M. Lott, P.G.O. Eng., Org.; and others. The lodge was closed.

The members and their guests then partook of a banquet, which was well-served.

The long list of toasts received full justice.

"The Health of the Worshipful Master" was flatteringly proposed by Bro. P. Murphy, who said that the W.M. had evidently taken great pains to perfect himself in the work of the lodge. On the last occasion he initiated Bro. Pewtress in almost a faultless style, and that evening he had passed him as a F.C. in as good a manner. He (the speaker) personally should look forward to the W.M.'s work of the Third Degree with great interest.

The W.M. having replied, gave "The Visitors."

Bro. the Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., in response, said that he had visited No. 1745 several times, and he should look forward with pleasure to visiting it again. Among its members there were brethren for whom he entertained the highest feelings of respect, as he had received many acts of kindness from them. The lodge itself was a singularly happy one, and it was harmonious in more senses than one, as it possessed brethren of exceptional instrumental and vocal ability.

"The Past Masters" came next in order, and was responded to by Bros. Murphy, Young, Simpson, Herbert, Shultz, and Barhoffner.

"The Treasurer, Secretary, and Officers" was acknowledged by Bros. H. J. Lardner, P.M.; West, Webb, and Dr. Hinton.

During the proceedings Bros. Dr. Hinton, J. Young, G. Herbert, and E. Shultz instrumentally and vocally entertained the brethren; Bro. Fillingham recited; and Bro. T. L. Peatress gave two beautiful selections on the cornet, viz.—"Killarney," and "The lost chord," which created a good impression.

Rothsay Lodge, No. 1687.

A regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, on the 2d inst., when, in addition to various ceremonies being worked, handsome donations were made to the Charities. The sums required to complete a Vice-Patronship for the lodge to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls was 100 guineas and 140 guineas respectively, and these sums were unanimously voted on the proposition of Bro. Bolton, I.P.M. A similar event took place a few months since in reference to the Boys' School and the lodge in commemoration of the attainment of its majority, will thus contribute a total of over £350 to the Masonic Charities.

The members present included Bro. M. Wartmann, W.M.; J. Catten, S.W.; G. Herbert Burns, J.W.; W. Adams, P.M., Treas.; E. L. Valeriani, P.M., P.G.S.B., Sec.; L. Verdier, S.D.; R. Ballinger, J.D.; E. A. J. Mills, I.G.; Tito Mattei, Org.; T. J. Bolton, I.P.M.; A. Clements, P.M.; R. Shaw, P.M.; W. Shaw, P.M.; W. C. Parsons, P.M.; and others. Visitors: Bros. H. E. Reed, W.M. 2272; F. R. W. Hedges, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.G.; Jas. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; W. Nott, P.M. 861; C. W. Patten, 2362; Glover, 2593; Gannett, 1671; Klenek, P.M. 1686; W. Abrahams, 1777; W. W. Lee, P.P.G.D.; and others.

The minutes were confirmed, and several candidates were raised to the Third Degree and others passed to the Degree of F.C. On the proposition of the Secretary, Bro. Valeriani, a committee of five was elected to make the necessary arrangements for holding a ladies' banquet in July to commemorate the 21st year's existence of the lodge. Bro. T. J. Bolton, I.P.M., then proposed his notice of motion, which was unanimously carried, donating 100 guineas and 140 guineas to the R.M. Benevolent Institution and R.M.I. for Girls respectively. Bro. Bolton explained to the members that a good balance would still be left in hand, and the coming of age of the lodge would be worthily celebrated. The motion was seconded by Bro. Adams, P.M., and supported by Bro. W. C. Parsons, P.M. It was next resolved, on the proposition of Bro. Valeriani, P.M., that Bro. Bolton, I.P.M., should be elected Steward for the Benevolent Institution, and Bro. Adams, P.M., for the Girls' School, and that the sums voted should be placed on their respective lists. Bro. Hedges, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.G., who could not stay to the banquet, returned thanks, on behalf of the Girls' School, for the noble vote passed.

Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, which was followed by the usual toasts.

Bro. J. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I., briefly replied for "The Grand Officers," and was followed by

Bro. E. L. Valeriani, P.G.S.B., who said he did not believe for one moment that his own work had been singled out, but the honour conferred upon him was a recognition of the good work done by the Rothsay Lodge.

Bro. T. J. Bolton, I.P.M., proposed "The W. Master," and congratulated Bro. Wartmann on his return to good health. The W.M. had been such a good student of Freemasonry as to overcome all difficulties of language, and had worked the two Degrees well. The W.M. would, no doubt, complete his work by rendering the Third Degree during the year. They would drink the W.M.'s health and wish him a successful termination of office.

Bro. M. Wartmann, W.M., thanked the I.P.M. for his kind remarks. He tried to do his duty when he undertook the office and if he had succeeded in satisfying the lodge he was very pleased indeed. He had but one regret, and that was that owing to ill-health, he could not attend the previous meeting. The I.P.M. had used the word "foreigner," but in Freemasonry there was no distinction of tongue or rank and the word did not exist.

The W.M. next gave "The I.P.M.," and referred to Bro. Bolton's excellent work for the lodge. The I.P.M. had supported him to the best of his ability during the present year, and had rendered valuable assistance.

Bro. T. J. Bolton, I.P.M., said it was always a pleasure to be present, and, like the W.M., he was never absent except through unavoidable circumstances. He had only been absent once, and he hoped the Great Architect would spare him for many years to come. The assistance he had given the W.M. was a labour of love, and it would always be a pleasure to do whatever he could to assist the lodge. The W.M. had given him the privilege of proposing "The Masonic Charities." He was confident that the money voted from the lodge would be used in a good cause, for they had entire confidence in the management of the Institutions. Bro. Hedges had thanked them in lodge, and Bro. McLeod had also thanked them on a previous occasion. Bro. Terry was still present with them, and he had much pleasure in calling upon him to respond.

Bro. J. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I., in reply, said he ventured to think there was scarcely any lodge that within four months had voted 350 guineas in support of the three Institutions. The Benevolent Institution having received a larger sum in days gone by received the smaller amount now, for which they were none the less grateful. The confidence spoken of by Bro. Bolton would never be misplaced by either of the executive officers or their Committees. There was an enormous number of candidates seeking admission to the Benevolent Institution—121 candidates and only 16 vacancies—and what they would do in the coming year—which would be of the most barren kind—he knew not. That was simply because of the exertions made to render the Centenary of the Boys' School the most triumphant success their Charities had known. He was sure the expectations would be amply justified, and when the new building was put up, might he hope that the Old People and the Girls' would be again warmly supported. He thanked them for the invitation that night, for he had had great satisfaction in renewing associations with the lodge, at the consecration of which he was present. After nearly 21 years he was pleased to be with them again, and he was proud that in their coming of age they were celebrating it in a manner worthy of the occasion.

"The Visitors" was duly given and responded to, after which "The Past Masters, Treasurer, and Secretary" was also honoured.

Bros. Adams, P.M., Treas., and Valeriani, P.M., Sec., responded.

"The Officers" and the Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

Bro. Tito Mattei, Org., kindly presided at the pianoforte, and Bro. Maggi delighted the brethren with several songs. Bro. Verdier caused considerable amusement and wonderment by his clever execution of some difficult feats of conjuring.

Urban Lodge, No. 1196.

The installation meeting of this distinguished lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on the 8th inst. Bro. P. B. Hollick, the W.M., presided, supported by Bros. Paul Alliston, S.W., W.M. elect; J. Tickle, P.M., P.P.G. Reg. Middx., Treas.; F. R. Farrow, P.M., Sec.; C. E. Blore, S.D.; P. Haddon Davy, J.D.; F. Eckstein, P.M., D.C.; J. S. Mountford, P.M.; W. E. Haycock, P.M.; R. Manuel, P.M.; C. Hawksley, P.M.; R. S. Oakshott, P.M.; J. W. Tacon, P.M.; G. J. Liddle, H. Wildman, G. Micklewood, Saml. Hunt, and T. C. Edmonds, P.M., Tyler. Visitors: Bros. Thos. Briggs, W.M. 1657; F. P. Alliston, P.M. 2047; W. S. Lincoln, P.M. 534; Clement Alliston, I.P.M. 2047; C. W. Maun, 2150; J. F. Cartwright, P.M. 198; J. Wesley Ward, 766; Jas. Stillwell, 1228; G. Wilson Watts, P.M. 194; G. Russell, 180; and R. T. West, 1744.

The lodge was opened and the minutes of the previous meeting were read. Bro. J. E. Browne was elected as a re-joining member, and the Auditors' report was received and adopted. The next important business was the installation of Bro. Paul Alliston as W.M. for the ensuing year, and this duty was performed by the outgoing Master,

Bro. P. B. Hollick, in a manner that made it impossible to have been better carried out. The new W.M., in an effective and impressive manner, appointed and invested the following as his officers: Bros. P. B. Hollick, I.P.M.; C. E. Blore, S.W.; P. Haddon Davy, J.W.; J. Tickle, P.M., Treas.; F. R. Farrow, P.M., Sec.; W. Hubert Smith, S.D.; G. Yate Ashwell (absent through illness), J.D.; Fredk. Eckstein, P.M., D.C.; Harry Wildman, I.G.; J. W. Tacon, P.M., and G. J. Liddle, Stwds.; and T. C. Edmonds, P.M., Tyler. The delivery of the customary addresses was very ably rendered by Bro. P. B. Hollick, and in installing his successor he closed his career as ruler of the lodge with *délat*. The W.M., Bro. P. Alliston, stated that he was honoured to have been selected with Bro. R. Manuel, P.M., to go up as Steward for the forthcoming centenary festival of the Boys' Institution, and he (the W.M.) also for the Girls. Nine years ago he was introduced in the lodge by Bro. Edwd. Cherrill and the day following he mentioned to that brother what a great feat of memory the initiation ceremony appeared to him and that he thought it impossible for him ever to be able to occupy the chair, and Bro. Cherrill promised him that the day he was installed Master of his mother lodge and would go up as Steward for the Boys and Girls he would give him (the W.M.) 20 guineas to be placed on his lists. He had been installed that day, and faithful to his promise of so many years ago Bro. Cherrill had carried it out, and he held in his hand a cheque for the 20 guineas, which he should divide equally between the Boys' and Girls' Institutions. He urged the members to follow such a splendid example and make the sum for those two Institutions large in amount, and thus add honour to their good lodge.

Letters were read from many of the members regretting their inability to attend through illness. A gentleman was proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and the lodge was closed.

A banquet followed.

The Worshipful Master gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts in brief, but eloquent, terms.

Bro. P. B. Hollick, I.P.M., stated that it was his privilege and still more his pleasure to propose "The Health of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Paul Alliston." No words of his were needed, as the toast spoke for itself, but they all knew him so well that they could not applaud enough. He had gone through the chair in another lodge, while he had been plodding in the Urban Lodge. He was fair, straight, and persevering, and they were all with him in saying that they appreciated him as much as any W.M. who had gone before him in the lodge, and he felt that he would be a very great success.

The toast was drunk with acclamation, and

Bro. Paul Alliston, W.M., was enthusiastically received. He said that he was deeply grateful to Bro. Hollick for the terms in which he had proposed the toast and likewise to the brethren for the hearty manner in which they had received the same, as it would spur him on to carry out his duties with a light heart. It was a well-known rule that when a traveller was about to start on a journey he should not talk too much, as perhaps disaster might befall him. He did not intend to make long speeches, but he would do his very best to occupy the chair with dignity, and he hoped to be able to do everything to the happiness and to the prosperity of that, his mother, lodge.

In submitting "The Immediate Past Master, Bro. P. B. Hollick," the W.M. observed that anything he could say could not add lustre to his name, as the lodge had never had a better W.M. He then presented him with a Past Master's jewel, and said he hoped the Great Architect would grant him many years to wear it, and might it ever remind him of his very happy and successful year of office and the great things he had done for the lodge, which would never be forgotten.

Bro. P. B. Hollick, I.P.M., on rising to respond, received quite an ovation. He thanked them for the hearty way they had received the toast and for the handsome jewel, and said he supposed that every Master left the chair with some regret, because when the time came to vacate it they felt quite at home with the work of that office. In going through the chair he felt that he had succeeded a jewel, and he (Bro. Hollick) was now succeeded by another jewel in the W.M., who was excellent, and they could have no one better able to carry out the duties of that important office. Although he was out of the chair, he would give every support to the lodge, and he took that opportunity of tendering his best thanks to the Past Masters for their great assistance, as without it he would not have been able to have carried out his duties.

In giving "The Past Masters," the W.M. stated that a kinder set it would be difficult to find, and so long as the lodge possessed such good Past Masters, so long would it thrive, and he had much pleasure in coupling with the toast the name of Bro. J. Tickle, P.M.

Bro. J. Tickle, P.M., who had a hearty reception, responded. He said that if there was one thing to give a Past Master pleasure it was to see such a good W.M. as was theirs in the chair, and he had a good flow of language. The Past Masters were all agreed that the W.M. was one of the best, and they were honoured to have with them that evening the presence of Bro. Alderman Alliston, the father of the W.M., and it must be gratifying to the father to see his son installed. It would be a pleasure to him and to all the Past Masters to add, if it were possible, to the prosperity of the lodge, and they all wished the W.M. every happiness.

In proposing "The Visitors," the W.M. remarked that they were always welcome, and he was extremely pleased to see them at his installation, and he hoped they had had a jovial time. He thought he could not pay them a greater compliment than ask them to come again, and soon. He associated with the toast the name of Bro. Thos. Briggs, W.M. 1657, and if he might mention another, it would be his father, Bro. Alderman Alliston, P.M. 2047.

In response, Bro. T. Briggs stated that he appreciated the great compliment of his name having been joined with the toast. The visitors had been well received and entertained, and he thought they were all very much impressed with the grand working of the installing Master, Bro. Hollick, who gave the addresses in a manner that it would be difficult to excel.

Bro. Alderman Alliston, P.M., who was accorded a very hearty reception, also acknowledged the toast of the visitors. He said that no Mason or any man could but feel proud to see his son installed in the chair, and he could not hide the fact that for 37 years he and the W.M. had been closely connected. Bro. Tickle, P.M., had spoken too kindly of him, and the reception they had given him would touch the heart of any man. He had had the pleasure of attending the lodge on several occasions, and had always received every kindness at their hands. The installing Master, Bro. Hollick, had performed his duties in such a manner that it was a perfect treat to them all, and the members had made the visitors happy both in the lodge and at their festive board.

After several calls, Bro. Clement Alliston, I.P.M. 2047, also responded, remarking that all he could add to the two previous orators was "thank you."

The Tyler's toast ended a most enjoyable evening.

The intervals were enlivened by some capital recitations, songs, and sleight-of-hand illusions by Bros. Walter Churcher, G. Micklewood, Clement Alliston, P.M., Alderman Alliston, and Dr. Byrd Page.

Royal Arch.

Bisley Chapter, No. 2317.

The installation meeting of this flourishing chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Woking, on Thursday, the 10th inst. Present: Comps. C. T. Tyler, Prov. G.S.E., as M.E.Z.; J. H. Askham, P.Z., H.; J. W. H. Littleboy, J.; J. B. S. Lancaster, P.Z., S.E.; C. Pulman, P.Z.; A. G. Clinton, A.S.; W. S. Jackson, D.C.; J. B. Wood, Stwd.; A. M. Kennett, A. H. Gale, W. H. Shaw, H. B. Osburn, and R. F. Gould, P.Z. (Hon. Member). Comp. H. J. Bidwell, H. 2120, was a visitor.

The minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. A conclave of Second Principals was formed, and Comp. J. W. H. Littleboy, J., was installed as H.; a conclave of First Principals was next formed, and Comp. Littleboy was installed into the first chair. The other officers for the year are Comps. J. H. Askham, P.Z., H.; C. Pulman, P.Z., J.; J. B. S. Lancaster, P.Z., S.E.; W. S. Jackson, S.N.; J. Webb, Treas.; A. H. Gale, P.S.; A. G. Clinton, 1st A.S.; A. M. Kennett, 2nd A.S.; J. B. Wood, D.C.; H. B. Osburn, Stwd.; and G. J. Mason, Janitor. The promotion of the new M.E.Z. from the third to the first chair had arisen from the regrettable illness of Comp. J. H. Askham, P.Z., H., who in consequence felt himself under the necessity of declining further preferment in the chapter. The re-appearance, therefore, among them of this worthy and respected companion was hailed with much

enthusiasm by all present, and his willingness to continue in the chair of H. was greatly appreciated. Comp. J. B. S. Lancaster was re-elected as Charity Representative. The balance-sheet was received and adopted. Comp. Lancaster gave notice of motion that he would move at the April convocation that the sum of five guineas should be voted to the Festival of the Boys' School. A vote of thanks was passed to Comp. C. T. Tyler, Prov. G. Scribe E., for the admirable manner in which the ceremonies of the evening had been performed. The presentation of a P.Z.'s jewel to Comp. J. Webb, I.P.Z., was postponed until the next meeting, when it was hoped that he might be well enough to attend. The companions afterwards dined together, and spent a very pleasant evening.

The usual toasts were duly honoured, Comps. Gould and Tyler responded for "The Grand and Provincial Grand Officers," respectively, while Comp. H. J. Bidwell returned thanks very effectively for "The Visitors." "The Health of the M.E.Z." was most cordially received. Other toasts followed. The retiring M.E.Z. and S.N., Comps. J. Webb and J. W. T. Morrison, were unfortunately prevented by illness from being present. The latter, who is also the I.P.M. of No. 2394, has recently taken up at his residence at Davos Platz, Switzerland, and the following, which we copy from a local report, may be of interest to our readers:

"An interesting meeting convened by Bro. I. W. T. Morrison, I.P.M. 2394, was held at Villa Fortuna, on the 5th inst. The G.M. of Switzerland, who had promised to be present, was at the last moment prevented from attending, and in his absence the gathering was presided over by Bro. Dr. Rayner (Royal Horse Guards), W.M. 136, 2127 and founder of 2614. A very *recherché* repast was provided by Bro. C. Elsener, 1227. After which, in proposing the toast of 'The Craft,' the W.M. in the chair remarked that the meeting was representative of the universality of Freemasonry, and he proposed asking several brethren to relate some of their Masonic experiences in different countries. The next toast proposed by the W.M. in the chair was that of 'Bro. Morrison's Health,' and in the name of the brethren he thanked him for the trouble he had taken to arrange the meeting. Bro. Morrison briefly replied, and then proposed 'The Health of the W.M. in the chair,' expressing the brethren's appreciation of the able manner in which Bro. Dr. Rayner had presided. In reply, Bro. Dr. Rayner said that it had afforded him great pleasure, and hoped that when he returned next winter he should find a lodge permanently located in Davos. Amongst those present were Bros. Dr. Rayner, W.M. 136, 2127, 2614; J. W. T. Morrison, I.P.M. 2394; C. Elsener, 1227; H. Bransby, 245 (I.C.); M. König, Concordia Lodge (Switzerland); A. Rowehl, 238 (representing German Freemasons); Dr. Lyman C. Bryan, and Dr. Ferdinand C. Klotzner (Illinois Grand Lodge, U.S. of America)."

Industry Chapter, No. 48.

An excellent meeting of this well-worked chapter was held on Thursday, the 10th instant, at the Masonic Hall, Gateshead, when there was a capital gathering of members. There was also a visit from the Prov. G. Officers, who attended in goodly numbers. In the unavoidable absence of the M.E.Z., Comp. W. J. Jobson, Comp. Robt. Stewart, P.Z., P.G. Treas., occupied the chair of First Principal, and was assisted by Comps. R. Whitfield, P.Z., P.P.G.P.S., as H.; Wm. Stafford, J.; Thos. R. Jobson, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C., as S.E.; R. H. Holme, P.Z., P.P.G.S.N., as S.N.; Wm. Brown, P.Z., P.P.G.S.B., D.C.; A. Simpson, as P.S.; Wm. Dalrymple, Treas.; J. A. Moffett, 1st A.S.; J. T. Pragnell, 2nd A.S.; R. Ferry, Org.; and W. E. Peacock, Steward. The Prov. G. Officers visiting were Comps. J. D. Todd, P.Z. 94, P.G.H.; J. C. Moor, P.Z. 94, P.G.T.; R. Hudson, P.Z. 80, P.G.S.E.; F. S. Cowper, P.Z. 97, P.P.G.S.N.; and W. M. Lyon, P.Z. 406, P.P.G.H. Amongst others were Comps. J. Carr, T. W. Warden, T. Douglass, and J. Niel.

The minutes of the previous convocation were confirmed, after which the ballot was taken for Bro. John McDonald, 541, who, being in attendance, with Bro. J. W. Durrant, previously elected, were respectively exalted as R.A. Masons by the acting M.E.Z. The lecture from the third chair was given by the J., and the mystical lecture delivered by Comp. Wm. Brown, P.Z., D.C. It was agreed to alter the time of meeting in future to seven o'clock p.m.

After fraternal good wishes from the Prov. Grand Chapter and visitors, the proceedings closed, and those present adjourned for supper in the refreshment room.

Hiram Chapter, No. 2416.

The installation meeting of this chapter was held at the Freemasons's Hall, on Wednesday, the 9th inst. The first business was the exaltation of two members of the Hiram Lodge, Bros. Major F. S. Leslie, R.E., and A. H. Coyle. Comps. George Elkington, F. J. Cox, and A. Wrightson, were installed as the Three Principals, the other officers being Comps. Charles Pulman, P.Z. 157, 1339, 2317, P. Prov. P. Soj. Surrey, S.E.; J. H. Richardson, S.N.; Henry Lovegrove, P.G. Std. Br., Treas.; W. West, P.S.; J. Merrett, 1st Asst. Soj.; F. W. Pearce, 2nd Asst. Soj.; H. Appleford, D.C.; W. Lawrence, Stwd.; and G. Austin, Janitor. Jewels were presented to the three first Past Principals, Comps. Henry Lovegrove, P.Z. 72, 1549, P.G. Std. Br.; Edward W. Lewcock, P.Z. 72, 2262, P.P.A.G.D.C. Bucks; and Frederick A. Powell, P.Z. 457 and 1446, P.P.G. Reg. Monmouth.

At the close of the proceedings a banquet was held in the Freemasons' Tavern.

Red Cross of Rome & Constantine.

Naval and Military Conclave, No. 35.

The annual installation meeting of this conclave took place on Saturday, the 12th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Commercial-road, Portsmouth. Sir Knight R. Payne, the M.P.S., having opened the conclave, the ballot was taken for 10 candidates, which proved unanimous; nine candidates being in attendance, they were duly installed. Sir Knights C. F. Matier, P.G.V., Grand Recorder, &c., and Dr. Balfour Cockburn, Int. Gen. of Guernsey, then entered under the arch of steel, and were duly saluted. Sir Knight Matier, having assumed the chair, most impressively installed Sir Knights Captain Hearn, M.P.S., and Lieut. Duke, "Viceroy." The M.P.S. then invested the following as his officers: Sir Knights W. Gillman, S. Gen.; W. E. Soltan, J. Gen.; R. E. Hellyer, H. Prelate; W. Miller, Treas.; W. Coward, Recorder; Capt. Ford, Prefect; R. Williams, Sub. Prefect; P. Proctor, Std. Br.; A. W. Dashper, S. Aide; G. Reading, J. Aide; T. Woodthorpe, Herald; and Exell, Sentinel. A vote of thanks having been recorded to the Grand Officers for their kindness in attending, the M.P.S. said he had to propose a vote of thanks to their retiring Recorder, Sir Knight R. Robinson, Int. Gen. unattached, who had been Recorder of their conclave for the last 25 years, and who was now retiring owing to old age and the press of private work. This was duly seconded by the Viceroy, and carried by acclamation. Sir Knight Robertson most feelingly returned thanks. The conclave was then closed, and the Mount Olivet Sanctuary, K.H.S., was duly opened by Sir Knights Matier and Dr. Balfour Cockburn, who most impressively installed 14 candidates into the Order.

The brethren then adjourned to the banqueting room, where they were reinforced by several members who had been unable to be present at the ceremony owing to their official duties having required their presence at the reception given by the Mayor and Corporation to the officers and crew of H.M.S. St. George, recently returned from a long commission on the West and East Coast of Africa, and a most successful evening was brought to a close.

Obituary.

BRO. CLARE EDGAR TOWELL, P.M., P.Z.

It is with sincere regret we have to record the death of Bro. C. E. Towell, P.M., P.Z., P.M. (Mark), P.E.P., &c. The melancholy event occurred at his residence, Osborne Villa, Barlow Moor-road, Didsbury, on the 3rd inst., after only three or four days' illness, at the comparatively early age of 55 years. Bro. Towell's Masonic career commenced in London, where he was initiated in the Victoria Lodge, No. 1056, on the 25th March, 1874, and exalted a Royal Arch Mason in the Faith Chapter, No. 141, on the 19th January, 1876. He subsequently, for business reasons, removed to Manchester, where by his energy and industry, coupled with a marvellous capacity for organisation, he succeeded in building up an extensive and prosperous connection. Bro. Towell at once threw his abilities into

the vortex of local Masonic life—he became affiliated to the Lodge of Integrity, but owing to the long rôle of membership he saw little opportunity of promotion. It was not surprising, therefore, that one so active and restless should be dissatisfied with the prospect; it was during this period that he, in conjunction with the late Bro. Geo. Sam Smith, and a few other zealous brethren, conceived the idea of founding a new lodge to meet on Saturday afternoon for the especial convenience of commercial travellers, and the outcome of this movement was the Doric Lodge, No. 2359, Didsbury, of which Bro. Smith was the first Worshipful Master and Bro. Towell the first Senior Warden, the next year he was unanimously chosen to occupy the chair of King Solomon, and by his indomitable hard work, secured to the lodge almost unparalleled success. A few years later he joined the Manchester Dramatic Lodge, No. 2387, and continued a much-respected member till his death. Bro. Towell was a joining companion of the Caledonian Chapter, No. 204, and, after acting as Scribe E., passed through the various chairs. He was a P.M. of the St. Andrew's Mark Lodge, having been advanced to that Degree in Panmure Lodge, No. 139, on the 6th September, 1875, and P.E.P. of St. Joseph's Preceptory of Knights Templar, having been installed as knight of the Order on the 16th April, 1891. In addition to these positions, he had attained to past rank in many of the other side Degrees. There is scarcely one of the various grades of Freemasonry but possesses some lasting memento of his thoughtful generosity, whilst many an unfortunate brother—the recipient of his discriminating, but always liberal benefactions—will mourn the loss of a genuine friend. The very large gathering—Masonic and otherwise—which assembled on Saturday, the 5th instant, at his graveside to do honour to his memory afforded ample evidence of the general esteem and affection in which he was held. Socially, Bro. Towell was geniality personified. He was an entertainer of no mean order, and had at one time been connected with the theatrical profession—at the old "Surrey," if we mistake not. We cannot more appropriately close our brief notice of his career than by quoting a line from the bard he loved so dearly, a line eminently characteristic of the active life and very peaceful death of our late brother—

"After life's fitful fever he sleeps well."

Our Portrait Gallery.

BRO. MAJOR E. W. STILLWELL, W.M. No. 1.

Bro. Major E. W. Stillwell, who was installed W.M. of Grand Master's Lodge, No. 1, on the 17th January, was initiated in the lodge he now presides over in 1879, and had the honour of representing it on the Board of Grand Stewards in 1895-6. In 1880, he became a founder of St. Margaret's Lodge, No. 1872, Surbiton, and three years later of the St. Botolph's Lodge, No. 2020, and has served as W. Master of both of these lodges, while in 1893, he was



founder and first W.M. of the Hadrian Lodge, No. 2483, Bexhill, and for his service in connection with this lodge was last year appointed Prov. S. G. Warden of Sussex. He is also a Royal Arch Mason, and at the present time occupies the chair of First Principal in the Grand Master's Chapter, No. 1. He holds the office of Overseer in the Mark Degree, and that of 1st Standard Bearer in the Faith and Fidelity Preceptory of Knights Templar. As regards our Charitable Institutions, Bro. Stillwell is a Life Governor of both our Schools and of the Benevolent Institution, and has served one Stewardship for each of them. We may also state that he served for 20 years with the City of London Volunteer Engineer Corps, and retired with the rank of Major some time since. Our illustration is from a photograph by Messrs. E. and R. Lavis, of Eastbourne.

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OINTMENT

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Masonic and General Tidings.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT drove out on Sunday. Their Royal Highnesses left Nice on Monday.

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GOLDSMITHS have sent a donation of £1000 to the London Hospital Maintenance Fund Appeal.

BRO. SIR HENRY IRVING possesses the English rights in the play "Cyrano de Bergerac," recently produced with success in Paris.

IT IS REPORTED that the Queen will visit the metropolis on the 24th inst., and remain at Buckingham Palace for a day or two.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT will preside at the banquet in aid of the funds of St. Mark's Hospital, to be held at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole, on the 25th April.

LADY BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH and the Hon. Misses Bruce arrived in town on Wednesday from Scotland, to join Bro. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, at 47, Cadogan-square, for the season.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between Capt. George Lister, 60th Rifles, eldest son of Sir Villiers Lister, and Lady Evelyn Bathurst, daughter of the late Bro. Earl Bathurst and Evelyn Countess Bathurst.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES returned to Marlborough House from Sandringham on Monday afternoon. His Royal Highness dined in the evening with the Earl of Albemarle and the officers of the 12th Middlesex (Civil Service) Volunteers.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES and suite were present at the Lyceum Theatre on Monday evening to witness the performance, by special desire, of "Peter the Great." The Prince, who was dining with the officers of the Civil Service Rifles, had already seen the play twice.

AT SANDRINGHAM the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, Count Deym, arrived on Saturday last on a visit to T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales. Their Royal Highnesses and their guests were present at Divine service the following day at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene.

MANCHESTER LODGE, No. 179.—The annual ball of this old established lodge will be held in the Throne Room, Holborn Restaurant, on Monday, the 7th prox., at 9 p.m. Tickets, 12s. 6d. each, may be obtained of the Secretary, J. Kew, Esq., 32, St. John's Villas, Upper Holloway, N.

MR. GLADSTONE has announced his intention of contributing £1000, and the Rev. Stephen Gladstone £500, towards the cost of providing a new church for the populous district of Shotton, near Hawarden. The neighbourhood has been served for the past 24 years by mission services held in the schools.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, attended by Bro. Major-General Sir S. Clarke, dined with Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire on Tuesday evening, at Devonshire House. H.R.H. the Princess of Wales left Marlborough House for Sandringham in the afternoon, Miss Knollys and General Sir Dighton Probyn being in attendance.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has presented a window to the Sailors' Institute at Falmouth, which is a branch of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society. At the meeting held on Monday at the institution, Mr. Edward W. Matthews, the general secretary, said on behalf of the parent society that they had received many gifts from his Royal Highness.

AT THE Finsbury Park Lodge of Instruction, No. 1288, meeting at the Old Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 7 p.m. on Friday next the 26th inst., the ceremonies of consecration and installation will be rehearsed, the former by Bro. A. Lucking, P.M. 160, P.G.P., P.G.D.C. Essex, and the latter by Bro. C. W. Austin, W.M. 163. Craft clothing to be worn.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES will visit the Armoury House, Finsbury, the Head-quarters of the Hon. Artillery Company, on Saturday, the 26th inst, for the purpose of unveiling a portrait of Lord Colville of Culross, which has been presented to his lordship by the regiment. Lord Colville is President of the Honourable Artillery Company. The portrait is by Cope. The Royal visit is timed for 3.30, and will last about half an hour.

ON THE 6th of next month will be celebrated the bi-centenary of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, founded in 1698, "to promote and encourage the erection of Charity schools in all parts of England and Wales." Besides a special service in St. Paul's Cathedral, there will be a public meeting in the Guildhall under the presidency of Bro. the Lord Mayor, when addresses will be delivered by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor (Bro. Earl Halsbury), the Bishop of London, and others.

AN ADMIRABLE method of perpetuating the memory of the late amiable "Lewis Carroll," the friend of countless little ones has been initiated by the *St. James's Gazette*. That journal has opened a subscription for the purpose of installing an "Alice in Wonderland" cot in the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond-street, and it is calculated that £1000 will be required to effect that desirable object. A strong Committee has agreed to act in the matter. Subscriptions may be sent to the editor of the newspaper mentioned.

HER MAJESTY has intimated her intention of paying, if possible, another visit to the wounded soldiers at Netley Hospital in May next. Should the journey be found impossible, T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales will act as the Queen's deputies. The Lady Superintendent at Netley has received a communication from the Lady-in-Waiting at Osborne, stating that her Majesty desires a photograph of each of the wounded soldiers whom she saw on Friday, the 11th inst., together with a description of the patients' cases written on the back.

KENNING'S CRICKET CLUB.—The third annual Bohemian concert of the above club was held at the London Tavern, Fenchurch-street, on Tuesday, the 15th inst., and proved a grand success. The chair was most ably filled by William Baker, Esq., the vice-chairmen being Messrs. A. W. Smith and J. H. Morris. Amongst the artists who delighted the large audience assembled we might mention especially Mr. Will Edwards, who sang "All change," "Stars," and in response to an enthusiastic encore, gave "Mr. Green;" Mr. Will Deller gave "Tut tut," "Baby language," and was not allowed to retire till he related about "Aunt Matilda;" Mr. A. C. Lester earned great applause for "Staring me in the face" and "Have to have 'em;" Mr. Jay Taylor was very amusing in "That's where my love lies dreaming" and "What did I do;" whilst Mr. Bert Taylor sang "It was beautiful" and "John Bull in the china shop." Mr. Harry Merry varied the programme in an agreeable manner with a ventriloquial entertainment. The sentimental portion of the programme was well sustained by Mr. Charles Winter, who sang in fine style, "My Queen," and Mr. Chas. Game, who gave "Will o' the wisp," and these artists also rendered the ever popular "Excelsior" duet so splendidly that an encore was demanded, and they obliged with "Love and war." Mr. Archibald Holders' fine voice was heard to advantage "In blow, blow, thou winter wind" and "Jack's the boy," but fairly surpassed himself in "The Diver." Mr. Gibson gave a nice rendering of "I am waiting," and also assisted the Mavis Glee Singers in their selections, "Come let us join the Roundelay" and "The letter;" Mr. Reuben More recited "Ruined by a woman" and "For Love and Money;" Mr. Dodson sent his audience into raptures over "Tommy Atkins;" Mr. J. Clarke's flute and piccolo solos, "Cleopatra" and "Les Oiseau du Bois," accompanied by Mrs. Clarke, were very fine efforts and deservedly applauded. Mr. C. Frewin made an efficient pianist, and the musical arrangements were well looked after by Mr. J. H. Murphy.

EVERY MASON should read "Volo, or the Will," what it is, how to strengthen and how to use it. By Arthur Lovell, author of "Ars Vivendi." Crown 8vo., cloth, 3s. 6d. net; by post, 3s. 9d. Many curious and interesting facts are given about ancient and modern initiations. Catalogue post free. Nichols and Co., Publishers, 23, Oxford-street, W. *Light*, Sept., 1897—"The Author's theories seem to us reasonable and valuable." *The Glasgow Herald*, Sept., 1897—"Mr. LOVELL has much that is valuable to say on the subject of the Will. The advice which he gives as to the training and disciplining of the Will and its practical cultivation are excellent, while the central principle of his philosophy is beyond question."—[ADVT.]

BRO. EARL AND COUNTESS CARRINGTON and family have taken up their residence at 50, Grosvenor-street until Easter.

PRINCESS LOUISE (Marchioness of Lorne) travelling as Lady Sundridge, left Victoria on Monday for Paris, en route for the South of France.

BRO. H. McCALMONT, M.P., has returned from the South of France to his residence, 11, St. James's-square, S.W., for the Parliamentary session.

BRO. THE EARL OF WARWICK has returned from his sea trip to Madeira much benefited in health, and will shortly leave for Ireland for the spring fishing.

THE PREMIER attended the marriage of his nephew and private secretary, Mr. Evelyn Cecil, to the daughter of Bro. Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney, which took place on Wednesday, at St. George's, Hanover-square.

THE NEW LODGE at Hastings is to be consecrated on Tuesday, the 22nd instant, at the Public Hall. In the unavoidable absence of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Prov. Grand Master, the ceremony will be performed by Bro. Sir W. Marriott, Q.C., &c., D.P.G.M., assisted by the Dean of Battle. The name of the lodge is to be Hastings, No. 2692. The banquet will be at the Castle Hotel.

A COMPLIMENTARY CONCERT is being arranged to take place on the 22nd instant at the Masonic Hall, Leytonstone, for Mr. Frank Martin, in recognition of his having for the past three years given gratis his services as an entertainer to all local charities and cases of need. A number of brethren are interesting themselves in this movement, and a host of talented artistes have promised their help. Tickets may be obtained from Mr. F. McEwen, 63, Granleigh-road, Leytonstone.

THE MAYOR OF CANNES has received a letter from the Prince of Wales, in which his Royal Highness promises to lay the foundation-stone of the new landing jetty there. The ceremony, which the town desire to make as impressive as possible, will take place towards the end of this month or at the beginning of March. The new jetty will be named the Albert Edward. It is to run due south, and will be 700 yards long. It is intended for the use of yachts, which hitherto have been moored by the side of cargo boats.

THE PERSONAL ESTATE has been valued at £69,784 16s. 4d. of Bro. Sir Charles Hutton Gregory, of 3, Duchess-street, Portland-place, and of 2, Dalahay-street, Westminster, K.C.M.G., President of the Institute of Civil Engineers, who died on the 10th ult, aged 80 years, son of the late Dr. Olinthus Gilbert Gregory, Professor of Mathematics in the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. Bro. Sir Charles Gregory, among other bequests, left to the Westminster Hospital £500, to the London Hospital £500, to the Middlesex Hospital £500, to St. Mary's Hospital £500, and to the Mother-General Superioress of the Convent of the Sisters of Nazareth at Hammer-smith £500.

TO PROMOTE THE movement for founding a Home of Rest for Working Women as a national memorial to the late Duchess of Teck, a well-attended meeting took place recently, Bro. Alderman Sir John Whittaker Ellis, Bart., presiding, in the unavoidable absence of Bro. the Lord Mayor. Among those present were the Lady Mayoress, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Lord Farquhar, Bro. Sheriff Green, Bro. Sheriff Dewar, Lady Ellis, the Bishops of Rochester, Bristol, and Stepney, Sir William Vincent, and Bro. Dean Hale. A letter was read from the Marquis of Salisbury, expressing his hearty sympathy with the scheme, as well as from the Archbishop of Canterbury, who regretted that, as Convocation was sitting, he could not attend. The Chief Rabbi also wrote approvingly.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Fellows of the Royal Colonial Institute was held on Tuesday afternoon under the presidency of Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G. From the report it appears that the Institute never before was in such a flourishing condition as now. There were at the end of last year 4133 members, of whom 2721 resided in the Colonies. The income amounted to £7588. Upwards of 1160 volumes, 2350 pamphlets, 36,776 newspapers, and 32 maps had during the past year been added to the library, which now contains nearly 33,000 volumes and 330 files of newspapers. The Colonial Governments regularly forwarded all Parliamentary publications, so that the library is now one of the most complete in existence on all subjects concerning the Colonies. Special attention, it was urged in the report, should be given to the teaching of geography in a great colonising country like England. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has again graciously consented to become the president of the Institute.

THE RIGHT HON. the Speaker (Bro. W. C. Gully) gave his first Parliamentary full-dress dinner on Wednesday evening to the following, amongst others: Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, Bro. Lord Stanley and Viscount Milton (second of the Address), Viscount Curzon, Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Arthur Hill, the Hon. Ailwyn Fellows, Bro. the Right Hon. Sir M. White Ridley, the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, the Right Hon. G. Goschen, Bro. the Right Hon. Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bro. the Right Hon. Sir John Gorst, Bro. the Right Hon. A. Akers-Douglas, the Right Hon. R. Hanbury, Bro. the Right Hon. Walter Long, Bro. the Right Hon. Gerald Balfour, Sir William Walrond, Bro. Macartney, Mr. T. W. Russell, and Bro. Colonel Lockwood (mover of the Address). Mrs. Gully afterwards held a reception, which was numerously attended. The company included several of the Ambassadors at present in town, the Duchess of Devonshire, the Countess of Chesterfield, the Countess of Cottenham, Bro. Lord Glenesk, Lady Tweedmouth, Lady Jeune, Lady Ridley, and many others.

BRO. LORD GLENESK presided at the annual general meeting of the News-vendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution, in the Memorial Hall, on Tuesday night, the 15th instant, when three old women and an old man, who had sold papers in London for many years, were added to the pension list, upon which there are now 36 names. In proposing the adoption of the report, the chairman said that 40 years ago the subscriptions amounted to £59, while in 1897 they were nearly £300. The pensions in the former year were valued at £82, and now at £506. In 1858 the total receipts were £177, while last year they were no less than £1596. The invested capital was £15,848, the market value of which was £20,946. (Cheers.) His lordship hoped that all news-vendors would join the society, not only with the view of having something to fall back upon in times of illness, but that they might aid an association which assisted all who followed this calling when misfortune overtook them. Mr. A. H. Hance seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

THE EXECUTORS of the will, which bears date February 11th, 1897, with codicils of the 22nd February, 3rd of May, and 23rd of November, 1897, of Bro. Alderman Sir Polydore de Keyser, of 4, Cornwall Mansions, and of De Keyser's Royal Hotel, Blackfriars, Lord Mayor in 1887 SS, and a member of six City companies, who died on the 14th January last, aged 65 years, are Mr. Edward Augustus Grunning, of Gresham House, architect, and Mr. Henry John Smith, of 3, Salters' Hall court, solicitor, and the testator's nephew, Polydore Weichand de Keyser, of the Royal Hotel. Bro. Alderman de Keyser left the residue of his property, real and personal, to his said nephew, Polydore Weichand de Keyser. The trustees are to invest only in British Government securities, and if they should think it desirable to realise upon any of his Preference or Ordinary Shares or Debentures in the Hotel Company, they are to invest the proceeds in British Government securities. The late Bro. Alderman de Keyser's personal estate has been valued at £137,353 18s. 9d., which includes 2200 Ordinary shares of £10 each, and 2500 Preference shares of £10 each in the company of De Keyser's Royal Hotel, Limited, which was formed in January, 1897, to purchase from him the business of the Royal Hotel for £367,500.

THE QUEEN, accompanied by Princess Louise of Battenberg and the children of Princess Henry of Battenberg, and attended by Bro. Lord Edward Pelham Clinton, Sir Arthur Bigge, Sir Fleetwood Edwards, Sir James Reed, Bro. Sir Henry Byng, Major the Hon. H. C. Legge, Lieutenant Ponsonby, Mr. Muther, and the Ladies-in-Waiting, left Osborne after luncheon on Wednesday upon the conclusion of her winter visit to the Isle of Wight. The Royal party drove to Trinity Pier, East Cowes, and crossed the Solent in the Alberta to Clarence Yard, Gosport, where a special train had been prepared for their conveyance. A satisfactory journey was accomplished over the South-Western and the Great Western systems, and Windsor was reached a few minutes after half-past six o'clock. A detachment of the 2nd Coldstream Guards was mounted on Castle Hill, and although dusk had set in by that time, many of the residents assembled in the vicinity of the railway. Her Majesty, who was escorted by Bro. Sir H. Byng and Major the Hon. H. C. Legge, drove immediately from the station to the Palace. Princess Beatrice did not accompany the Queen to Windsor, but will remain in the Isle of Wight a day or two longer, as she is suffering from a slight attack of rheumatism. Miss Bulteel, Miss Bauer, and Colonel Clerk remain in attendance on her Royal Highness at Osborne.