

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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THE PROVINCE OF NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE.

The annual communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of North and East Yorkshire will be held in the City of York on the joint invitation of the four lodges of York, No. 236, Eboracum, No. 1611, Agricola, No. 1991, and Albert Victor, No. 2328, on Thursday, the 14th inst. There is no business of exceptional interest or importance on the paper of Agenda, while as regards the reports that will be submitted for adoption, it is satisfactory to note that those of the Prov. Grand Treasurer in respect of the Provincial Grand Lodge Fund and the Fund of Benevolence show capital balances on the right side of the account, that of the latter amounting to £1013 9s. 11d., of which £167 is in the York Union Bank and the rest invested in India Three and a half per Cent. Stock. What, however, we are desirous of calling attention to is not the absence of any special business from the Agenda at the approaching meeting or the prosperous state of the Funds, but the handsome course of conduct adopted by the Province towards the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. It will, doubtless, be in the recollection of our readers that when it was announced that the Board of Management intended to apply to the Quarterly Court of Governors and Subscribers of that Institution to confirm the provisional contract it had entered into with the owner of the Bushey Grove Estate, near Watford, in the county of Hertford, for the purchase of that property for £13,000, North and East Yorkshire expressed itself as being strongly opposed to the scheme. A kind of circular was issued in which so costly a proposal was deprecated. It did this partly without waiting to learn the reasons which had led the Board of Management to adopt this course, and we believe we are correct in adding, in opposition to the opinion of its representative on the said Board as to the desirability of the step proposed, and there are not a few who consider that its action in the matter was, to say the least, precipitate. Since then, the opposition to the removal appears to have become gradually less and less pronounced and though there may still be brethren who retain their views as to its unwisdom and inexpediency they gracefully acquiesce in the inevitable and finding that everywhere throughout the country there is a preponderance of opinion in favour of the proposal,

they are now prepared to do all in their power to ensure the success of the scheme. Hence it was that early in the year, Bro. the Marquis of ZETLAND, Prov. Grand Master, decided to hold a special meeting of Prov. Grand Lodge for the purpose of voting a donation from its Fund of Benevolence "to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys on the occasion of its Centenary." The meeting was held, and, in proposing a grant of 100 guineas, the Prov. Grand Master referred to the controversy that had taken place with reference to the action of the Board of Management, and the feeling that existed in his Province. He added that, though under these circumstances he should have felt considerable hesitation in proposing a vote of money, he had none "in recommending the propriety of giving support" to the M.W. Grand Master, who had consented to preside at the Festival in question. His lordship likewise referred to the benefits which the Province had received from the Institution in the past, was receiving at the present, and hoped to receive in the future. He had, he said, consented to act as a Steward on the occasion, and he urged upon the brethren present to support his motion from the still higher motive—that by so doing they would be "taking steps calculated to enable Freemasonry to continue its beneficent work in this direction, and supporting his Royal Highness the M.W. Grand Master as Chairman at the Festival." Bro. the Very Rev. the DEAN OF YORK, P.G. Chaplain, in seconding the motion, while he endorsed the views so freely expressed as to the course pursued by the Board of Management, was, nevertheless, of the opinion that this was a case in which they might with propriety forego their own private convictions. The Board of Management had given the subject their best consideration, and whether the plan was a wise one or not, it had been adopted, and under these circumstances it was "no sign of weakness, but rather of courage," to put their own feelings on one side and support the chairmanship of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. Bro. T. B. WHYTEHEAD, Past G. Std. Br., spoke in a similar strain. He had been strongly opposed to the removal, but he, too, considered it was their duty to support the Festival, especially as West Yorkshire, which, like their own Province, had set itself, in the first instance, in opposition to the removal, had adopted the principle which Lord Zetland had urged upon them, and had voted a grant, and raised a handsome subscription towards the Centenary Festival. The motion of the Prov. Grand Master was therefore adopted unanimously, and on Thursday next the Prov. Grand Lodge will be called upon to confirm the proceedings. In adopting this course, we consider our North and East Yorkshire brethren have acted wisely, and in the true spirit of Masonry.

FREEMASONRY IN THE TRANSVAAL.

It is only about three and a half years ago that the lodges in the Transvaal, numbering at the time a dozen all told, were constituted as a District Grand Lodge, the patent of appointment of Bro. GEORGE RICHARDS, the first and still the District G. Master, bearing date the 1st January, 1895, but in that brief space of time the Craft has gone on prospering, until there are now 20 lodges on the roll with a subscribing membership of 1838 brethren. Moreover, there are lodges under other Constitutions working in the district, so that Freemasonry must have shown a large amount of energy to have attained to such a position in the few years the country has had for the develop-

ment of its resources. Our present object, however, is to call attention to the English District Grand Lodge, which held its fourth annual communication at Freemasons' Hall, Johannesburg, on the 26th April. Bro. RICHARDS, Dist. G. Master, who had returned from a long visit to this country, presided, and there appears to have been a very strong muster of Present and Past Dist. G. Officers, while all the lodges were represented. The first business of moment was the presentation of an Address of Welcome to the District Grand Master on his return home, and before the proceedings terminated Bro. RICHARDS very gracefully acknowledged the kindness thus shown him. From the report of the Board of General Purposes it would seem that the English Craft during the past year has received a great accession of strength, as many as 214 candidates for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry having been accepted and initiated, while 178 brethren affiliated from other Constitutions. Here, then, we have an infusion of new blood to the extent of nearly 400 additional members, which, if they are the right class of people to be elected into our lodges, cannot fail to strengthen the Fraternity, not only numerically, but also as regards any influence for good it may be able to exercise on the outer world. But while there can be no doubt that the Craft has fared well in this respect, the Report tells us that owing to "the great commercial depression which has prevailed during the greater part of the year" in the country, "the efforts of those brethren who were working for the establishment of the Transvaal Masonic Educational Institution" have been seriously hampered by the "great difficulty they experienced in collecting the various amounts of money which were promised at the highly successful inaugural banquet in April last year." We remember to have published some particulars of that banquet, and to have congratulated our brethren in the Transvaal on the marvellous success which then attended their efforts in this direction, the donations and subscriptions that were announced as having been paid or promised amounting to the large sum of £15,000. We have grown so accustomed of late years to big figures in connection with Festivals held to originate or promote the success of Masonic Charitable Institutions, that subscriptions of a few hundreds or even a few thousands of pounds sterling are apt to escape the attention they deserve to receive; but here was a case of such an Institution firmly established at once on such a basis as apparently to ensure for it a future of great prosperity. Such a sum as £15,000 is only obtained in England after months and months of organisation and canvassing, and yet in the Transvaal where the brethren of the different Constitutions taken together cannot then have greatly exceeded in number the aggregate membership of one of our medium-sized provinces and where the country itself is being slowly but surely developed as to its resources, such an amount as we have stated was paid or promised—not, of course, without previous effort on the part of the promoters of the scheme—at a single meeting. It is greatly to be regretted that the promise then held out of a speedy establishment of this Educational Institution will be somewhat retarded by the adverse circumstances that have existed throughout the country, but we have no doubt the Dist. Board of General Purposes is justified in the hope it expresses, that "with an early return to prosperous times," such an impetus will be given to the scheme as will allow of its being realised. For the same reason, no doubt, the proposal for the establishment of a Benevolent Fund in connection with the District does not appear to have prospered. Dist. Grand Lodge voted £50 towards this object, but the private lodges do not seem to have done much. However, with a return of prosperity this shortcoming will be remedied, especially if steps are taken, as appears to be contemplated, to allow of the lodges being called upon to contribute regularly at a fixed rate of so much per member. As for the Addresses delivered by the Dist. Grand Master, they serve to show that the most complete confidence exists between him and the brethren under his charge, and we trust the same feeling will continue to exist, not only while Bro. GEORGE RICHARDS remains in office, but always.

ON SATURDAY LAST Princess Christian visited Clapham in order to lay the foundation stone of the St. John Bowyer Day Schools and Parish Hall in Union-road. Nearly every house in the district was decorated, while owing to the fine weather the road was crowded with spectators, who vigorously cheered the Princess.

NEGRO MASONRY.

The following, which I extract from the *St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat*, kindly forwarded me by Bro. C. S. Bixby, of Ossawatimie, Kansas, will be of interest to many readers of the *Freemason*:

"COLOURED MASONS RECOGNISED.

"STEP TAKEN BY WHITE GRAND LODGE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

"Special Dispatch to the *Globe-Democrat*.

"Seattle, Washington, June 15.

"The Masons of this State have taken a step which will arouse members of the Craft everywhere in the United States. To-day the Grand Lodge, jurisdiction of Washington, passed a resolution recognising the coloured Masons as members of the Craft. The resolution confers power upon the negroes in Masonry to institute lodges among men of their own race. The step is merely a preliminary, as prominent Masons believe, in granting the coloured members full recognition.

"The race question has been before the Masons of this country for nearly 100 years. The coloured lodges of Masons have always been regarded as clandestine organisations, and without the pale of true Masonry. Innumerable attempts have been made to obtain from the white Masons recognition of the coloured organisation. These have heretofore in every instance failed.

"The Grand Lodge of Washington is the first to recognise coloured men as Masons, and the act, it is believed, will be followed by a similar policy in other States.

"The first lodge of coloured Masons was founded in 1774 by Prince Hall, an intelligent negro, in Boston. He obtained his charter from the Grand Lodge of England. From Prince Hall Lodge, of Boston, sprang all the coloured lodges in the United States. Masonry was founded among the whites in America upon the granting of a charter from England, so that the escutcheons of both date back to the same source. A Committee appointed a year ago to investigate the advisability of recognising the coloured Masons reported to-day in favour of the proposition. After a long debate, it was adopted by the Grand Lodge by a large majority."

It is, perhaps, not generally known that there are Coloured Grand Lodges in 31 states of the Union, exclusive of the "National Grand Lodge." These Coloured or "lesser Grand Lodges" have hitherto failed to secure recognition by any of the American Masonic Jurisdictions, though they have been more or less recognised as legally constituted bodies in France, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Peru, and Liberia. A decided step in the direction of recognition was indeed made by the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1875, but the resolution whereby the White acknowledged the regularity of the Black Grand Lodge in that State, was ultimately thrown out, though by a side wind, in 1876.

Writing on the subject (of Coloured Grand Lodges) in the same year, Bro. Josiah H. Drummond, the veteran Past Grand Master of Maine, thus expressed himself:—

"To recognise them as Independent Grand Lodges is the death of the doctrine of Exclusive Jurisdiction. If Ohio recognises the African Grand Lodges, she must repeal the ban of non-intercourse with Hamburg and the Grand Orient of France, and recognise those Bodies in New York, New Jersey, and Louisiana, which she has for so many years declared as clandestine. Again, it introduces into Masonry a distinction founded upon race and colour, which is contrary to fundamental principles."

It will be apparent, therefore, that the recent action of the Grand Lodge of Washington is likely to occupy the foremost place for a considerable time in the reports on Correspondence from the other American Masonic Jurisdictions.

R. F. GOULD.

CONSECRATION OF THE WEALD LODGE, No. 2707.

An important addition was made to the roll of lodges in Essex by the consecration, on the 2nd inst., of the Weald Lodge, No. 2707. The interesting ceremony took place at the Drill Hall, Brentwood, and was performed by Bro. the Earl of Warwick, Prov. G. Master of Essex, assisted by Bros. Claude Egerton Green, P.P.G.W., as S.W.; J. J. C. Turner, P.P.G.W., as J.W.; Rev. C. C. Naters, P.P.G. Chap., as Chap.; T.

Ralling, Prov. G. Sec.; A. Lucking, P.G.P., Prov. G.D.C., as D.C.; and R. Clowes, P.G.S.B., as I.G.

The founders of the new lodge included Bros. J. W. Armour, P.M. 1437, W.M. designate; A. S. Gardiner, 1437, S.W. designate; A. T. G. Woods, 1437, J.W. designate; Wm. Shurmur, P.G.S.B.; F. Landon, P.M. and Sec. 214; E. Grove Johnson, 192; Samuel Frazer, 1395; Ernest Lloyd, P.M. 793; J. Edwards, 1437; Capt. G. H. Stoye, 1436; E. H. Rackham, 2278; and John Hill, 175.

Visitors: Bros. Wm. Gower, P.P.G. Treas.; T. Piper, 1604; C. R. Higgins, W.M. 1076; H. R. Heasman, P.P.J.G.D.; H. C. Gardiner, 2374; A. T. G. Woods; W. Garwood, 276; S. Hammond, P.P.G.S. of W.; T. G. Kemp, 1437; R. Peck, 2472; J. Bishop, 1056; F. Clark, 2006, Prov. D.G.D.C.; Wm. Quennell, P.P.G.O.; J. C. Quennell, P.P. J.G.D.; F. Townend, J.W. 214; Jas. Speller, P.P.G.D.; J. Ramsay, P.M.; R. Stebbings, P.M.; A. W. Martin, Prov. G. Tyler; A. Wright, 51; A. G. Watkinson, 1728; W. W. Lee, P.M.; and others.

Lodge having been opened by Bro. T. Ralling, Prov. G. Sec., the Prov. Grand Master, accompanied by the Prov. Grand Officers, entered, and was saluted. The opening hymn was sung, and the PROV. GRAND MASTER explained to the brethren that they had assembled for the purpose of constituting and consecrating a new lodge, and that he had been commanded by the M.W. Grand Master to perform the requisite ceremony.

The PROV. GRAND SECRETARY stated the wishes of the founders, and they signified their approval of the officers named in the warrant.

The ACTING CHAPLAIN then delivered an oration on the principles of the Institution, and the new lodge was solemnly dedicated and constituted by the Prov. Grand Master.

Bro. A. Lucking, P.G.P., Prov. G.D.C., then assumed the chair and installed Bro. J. W. Armour, P.M. 1437, as the first W. Master.

The following officers were afterwards invested: Bros. Arthur Stephen Gardiner, 1437, S.W.; Arthur T. G. Woods, 1437, J.W.; F. Landon, P.M., Sec. 214, Treas.; E. Grove Johnson, 192, Sec.; Samuel Frazer, 1395, S.D.; Ernest Lloyd, P.M. 795, acting I.P.M., J.D.; J. Edwards, 1437, I.G.; Capt. G. H. Stoye, 1436, D.C.; E. H. Rackham, 2278, Steward; and A. G. Watkin, Tyler.

The W.M. proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Prov. G.M. and Prov. G. Officers for their presence and assistance, and they were elected honorary members.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER congratulated the founders on the auspicious start made by the lodge. It was, naturally, the youngest in the province, and there was every indication that it would be one of the most useful in the future. It was a great pleasure to him to see Freemasonry making such excellent strides in Essex. One had to be circumspect in asking the permission of the Grand Master for new lodges, for it must be obvious that they only wished to have lodges in the province which would reflect honour upon it. It had given him great pleasure to attend that day, and he sincerely thanked them for their hearty vote of thanks.

The W.M. was elected to represent the lodge on the Provincial Charity Committee, a By-Law Committee was formed, letters of regret read and propositions made, after which the lodge was closed.

An enjoyable banquet was afterwards served at the Lion and Lamb Hotel—the future home of the lodge—which was followed by the usual toast list.

"The Queen and the Craft" having been heartily honoured, the W.M. proposed "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," referring to the many good works done by his Royal Highness for the good of the country as evidenced by his recent splendid effort on behalf of the London Hospitals.

The toast of "The Grand Officers" afforded the W.M. an opportunity of praising the work done by the Grand Officers, and of coupling with it the name of Bro. Ralling, the Prov. G. Sec.

Bro. T. J. RALLING, P.A.G.D.C., in response, said that in looking back over a long experience of Masonry in Essex, when he first remembered assisting in the consecration of a new lodge they would not have seen four Grand Officers present standing up in reply to this toast. It was a great thing for a provincial brother to hold Grand Lodge honours, but it was one of the improvements in Grand Lodge that those doing hard work in the provinces were rewarded with that distinction. With respect to Lord Lathom, they all sympathised with him and hoped to see him in Grand Lodge again shortly. This was a red-letter day for the brethren in Essex, and they all heartily wished a happy continuance of the good beginning made by the lodge.

"The R.W. the Prov. G. Master," was then given by the W.M., who again tendered the hearty thanks of the founders to the Earl of Warwick for his presence and for travelling so many miles to consecrate the lodge. They all knew how excellently the work had been done by the P.G.M., and also the great strides Masonry had made in those parts under his presidency. On behalf of the Weald Lodge, he wished long life and happiness to the P.G.M., his lady and family.

Bro. the Earl of WARWICK, Prov. G.M., tendered his thanks to the W.M. and brethren. It was always a great pleasure, whenever he was invited, and whenever he could manage it, to attend as often as possible the Masonic meetings in the province, and he only regretted that just now, living at a distance, it was more difficult to be with them as often as he should like. As they knew, neither his wife nor he were idle people, and he spent a great deal of time in the train travelling. In his absence he had to depend very largely upon the exertions of his Prov. Grand Officers, and no Provincial Grand Master had more loyal or more kindly support. There must be gaps in the ranks sometimes and he regretted to say that, although he had not publicly made the announcement, still the announcement had been made that Bro. Philbrick had ceased to act as his Deputy. He was not sure what the formal procedure was but he did not think a Deputy was in office until he had been actually installed. However, the secret was now an open one and he had asked Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., to fill the office of Deputy Grand Master, and Bro. Lockwood had accepted. He was pleased to have had the honour of consecrating this lodge and thought the founders were fortunate in having so excellent a W.M. He knew something of the W.M.'s work in connection with the cricket scores of the county and hoped he might witness Essex triumphant in the cricket field. He had every confidence that Masonry would be kept well to the front in this new lodge. Masonry increased good fellowship, encouraged strong, kindly feelings with one another, and reminded them to help Masons, and Masons' children in distress. Keeping these principles in view this lodge would be a credit to the province, and it would always be a pleasure to him to know he had been the means of bringing it into existence.

Bro. A. S. GARDENER, S.W., was entrusted with the toast of "The Worshipful Master," and said all the founders must have regarded it as a high privilege to be associated in the solemn and impressive proceedings and could imagine with what amount of satisfaction their W.M. had realised his hopes. The lodge originated from a proposal of the W.M. who had worked hard to make it a complete success. The initial difficulties they had encountered had been overcome, principally by the intelligent and untiring labours of Bro. Armour. The lodge would not have existed but for the W.M., and, therefore, he had a paramount right to the chair. It was a great satisfaction to the founders not only that Bro. Armour was their first W.M., but that they were presided over by such a good and capable man.

Bro. J. W. ARMOUR, W.M., returned thanks, and said he was obliged to the S.W. for the remark that he (the W.M.) was the first to get a lodge consecrated in that town, for he had the idea some 10 years ago. There were many difficulties, and it fell through; but they had a lodge of instruction and had stuck together, and that day was the proud consummation of their hopes. He was sure the lodge would be successful, because the officers were actuated by Masonic feelings, and would only introduce as members those gentlemen whom they could meet in their own homes. He had, therefore, no fear for the future of the lodge. For some years it had been felt that a lodge would flourish there, and he knew several who were thinking of Masonry, and would no doubt become members. He should never forget that day, when they had launched their vessel with all the honours due. He thanked them all for the manner in which they had received the toast.

"The Visitors" was honoured, after which the Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

Bro. J. Edwards and Mr. Edwards carried out an agreeable programme of music.

Furniture, etc., manufactured by Geo. Kenning & Son.

MITHRAIC WORSHIP.

AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW THE POINTS OF RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN THE SYMBOLISM OF THE ANCIENT PERSIANS AND THE CEREMONIES AND RITUAL OF FREE-MASONRY.

(Concluded from page 310).

CHAPTER II.

After the long and not unnecessary description in our first chapter regarding Sun worship in the North of Asia, and its introduction into Europe, we will proceed to consider the remarkable resemblance existing on certain points as regards the Ritual and Symbolism of Freemasonry and that of the votaries of Mithra. The points of approach are very numerous—such are the practice of holding secret meetings, of carefully shrouded mysteries, of certain of the actual ceremonies of initiation before the candidate in either case could be admitted into the Order; also that higher and jealously guarded mysteries were, and could only be confided to those who had laboured to obtain knowledge. The labours required from the candidate for admission into the higher Degrees of Freemasonry may be held to represent the successive trials and ordeals which the Mithraic Neophyte had to undergo before he could attain to a perfect knowledge of their mysteries. Caves and caverns were dedicated to the worship of Mithra in all countries where his cult penetrated. The dedication of a Masonic lodge finds its prototype in the ancient custom of dedicating a temple, altar, or a statue to some divinity. The Romans dedicated altars to their gods, to certain of their emperors, and celebrated persons. With us a great distinction is made between consecration and dedication; a building is consecrated to the worship of God, and dedicated previously, by giving the building the name of some saint in our calendar.

We will next consider the seven so-called gates of the high ladder forming a part of the Mithraic Mysteries, each gate, or round, being made of a different kind of metal. Seven is a number which, as we shall presently proceed to show, is extensively adopted in Freemasonry. The seven liberal arts and sciences of Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Geometry, Music, and Astronomy may be held to correspond fairly well to the natures of the various metals of which the Mithraic ladder of seven rounds, or gates, of perfection was composed. Grammar may be likened to lead, in the slow, plodding study required to master it; Rhetoric has the brilliancy of tin; Logic is heavy, solid, and, at the same time, burnished like brass; Arithmetic, with its hard and fast rules, may be compared to unyielding iron; and the numerous geometric rules to a mixed mass of various metals. The tinkling of silver is reproduced in sweet Music, and Astronomy, the highest of all sciences, may be fitly termed golden, for it leads us to know and acknowledge the power of T.G.A.O.F.U. Seven is a world-wide sacred number. We find it with the Persians, Hebrews, Goths, and other peoples; it is also a sacred number in Masonic symbolism. The planets of our starry firmament are seven in number, seven years and upwards was occupied by King Solomon in building the Temple at Jerusalem; the seven staves, or rungs of the so-called Jacob's ladder may be held to symbolise Faith, Hope, and Charity, and the four Cardinal virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice. It has been said that by an unwritten law, three must rule a lodge, five may hold a lodge, but only seven can make a lodge perfect.

Certain symbols which exist on Masonic clothing and jewels seem clearly to indicate a solar origin. The Sun in Glory (as it is styled in Heraldry), the Moon and stars are common symbols on Masonic jewels and badges, they are pre-Christian emblems which the Church permitted to be used in conjunction with the Crucifix and the Cross, down to the 12th or 13th Century, if not later. A most remarkable example of this is a massive silver-gilt processional crucifix, found some years ago on a hill called the Schloss Berg, in the Grand Duchy of Baden; it is figured in an article on the "Tau, or Cross, as a heathen and a Christian symbol," which appeared in Vol. V., Part 2, of the Transactions of *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*. A still more prominent, and, as it would appear, an indispensable symbol in Masonry, is the irradiated and ubiquitous eye. We have already spoken of the all-seeing eye of Varuna (the god of the Heavenly regions to the Persians) in connection with Mithra; Varuna was fabled to sit with him on a golden throne, and journey at eve in a brazen car.

The Egyptians used the eyes either singly or in pairs as talismans or amulets, also on their tomb stones. With them, the proper right eye indi-

cated the *Sun*; the proper *left* the Moon. On a jewel of one of the Principals of the Royal Arch Chapter is a *left eye*—the same also on Grand Mark Overseer's collar jewel, also on that of Primus Stratford Lodge. But on Grand Lodge the P.G. Mark Officer's jewel is an irradiated *right eye*.

The *Keys* again are a well recognised symbol of ancient Sun worship—as we have seen above, it was used in Mithraic worship, and is also the well known emblem of Janus, the Sun-god of Italy. They have an important place in Masonic symbolism. With the ancients the *left* hand indicated Equity and Justice, the *right* was a token of Fidelity and Friendship. (See Gal. II., 6th verse).

In Greece and Rome, and in still more ancient times, it was a common practice for the portrait of the owner to be engraved on his seal. In the case of a ruler, its impress gave validity to his deeds or edicts.

In the writers possession is a curious triple seal presumably Persian, since the portrait engraved on one face bears the strongest resemblance to an illustration (figured in Sir W. Ouseley's work on his travels in Persia and elsewhere) of a fragment of ancient sculpture, representing a head styled Persepolitan. On another seal is a hand—the *left* one, the palm showing—the thumb and first finger are touching each other, and on the third seal is engraved a plant (with its roots?) which has three large ovate leaves. All these impressions are in intaglio, and surrounded with inscriptions in the old Ptevi character. The head-dress of the portrait is a round cap, fitting closely to the head, the brim turned up and forming a roll, this form is now worn by the so-called *Tráni Parsis* of Bombay. The head on the first-named seal we may assume to have been the portrait of some monarch or ruler; the second impression—the hand—may have been used by him to sign judicial documents; and the plant, on the third seal, for matters concerning land, and the agricultural population of his dominions.

The level represented on the aprons and other articles of Masonic clothing, we take to be a form of the *Tau* or the Egyptian Cross; we also see the so-called Triple Tau, or cross of St. Anthony as it has been styled; in some respects this may be held to be the emblem of all emblems—to represent the Trinity, the H being Jehovah, and the T or cross the Son.

The moon, as a crescent, is only once represented (on a jewel of the Allied Degrees of the Royal Ark); she was, apparently, not so popular as the Sun, while her identity seems also to have been veiled, but priests were set apart for her worship, as appears from a Persian seal in my collection.

Doubtless, those who have been admitted into the higher Degrees of Freemasonry will be able to find more symbolic analogies between it and Mithraic Sun worship, than has been possible for one who but stands on the threshold and has no acquaintance with Oriental languages: such research might probably well repay the student.

H. M. A.

May, 1898.

Secret Monitor.

GRAND COUNCIL.

A meeting of Grand Conclave was held at Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, on the 29th ult. The M.W. Bro. the Earl of Warwick, Grand Supreme Ruler, presided, and was supported by Bros. I. Zacharie, P.G.S.R.; W. J. Spratling, G. Recorder; W. Cockcroft, P.G.V.; H. W. Kiallmark, P.G.S.B.; Col. H. M. Gordon, P.G.C.; Dr. H. W. Roberts, P.G.B.B.; H. Pearce, M.D., P.G.S.B.; W. J. Songhurst, F. E. Lemon, M.A., T. Ralling, W. Tyler, John Read, J. Lustie, R. T. Redman, J. W. Goodinge, J. Fielden, S.R. 25; John Kay, P.G. Stwd.; J. R. Reep, J. Lewis Thomas, P.G.S.R.; J. Tickle, P.G.T.; J. M. Bastone, P.G.G.; J. J. Pakes, P.G.V.; Newton Crane, and many others.

The Grand Conclave was opened, the G.S.R. saluted, and the roll of conclaves called.

The minutes were confirmed and the GRAND RECORDER reported the loss, by death, of several brethren during the past year, including Bros. Hewett, of Madras, Lamette, Col. Molyneux, J. B. Cummings, and others.

The reports of the Executive Committee and Grand Visitors were read.

Your Grand Visitors beg to report—

1. That the summonses from the various conclaves have been regularly forwarded to us, that we or one of us, have attended as often as circumstances permitted and that we have been invariably well received. In every case the conclaves were working loyally on regular lines and in some cases the work was carried on with great ability and enthusiasm. We would point out that in a few cases we have been compelled to call attention to the absence of any report on the part of the Visiting Deacons. As we read the Constitutions this is not right; the Visiting Deacons must make a report, and the conclave must thereby be kept in touch with the condition of every brother. We hold that it is this which differentiates our Order from other Degrees in Freemasonry, and we would suggest that a circular embodying these facts be addressed to every Supreme Ruler of every conclave in the Order.

2. We are pleased to report that the conclave of instruction has been vigorously worked during the year much to the advantage of the working of the officers. We desire to impress upon the brethren the great advantage accruing to those who perfect themselves with the ritual. Our ever popular Bro. Tickle has taken this matter under his special charge, and the comfort of the members has been greatly enhanced by an arrangement he has made for the use of a convenient room at Kennans Hotel, near his office, 68, Cheapside. Bros. Pakes, Broken-shire, and Songhurst, are indefatigable in their efforts to make the attendants proficient in their work, and in our opinion deserve (with Bro. Tickle) the hearty thanks of Grand Council and Grand Conclave for the interest they have shown in the matter. We learn that at Brighton similar efforts have been made by Bro. Dr. Upton, S.R. of No. 10, and with similar success.

3. Our term of office has been a pleasant one and we are grateful to the brethren for many kindnesses received.

Dated this 29th day of June, 1898.

The G.S.R. was declared duly installed and proclaimed accordingly.

Bro. the Earl of WARWICK, addressing the brethren, said he felt most deeply the great honour done him by his re-election. At the meeting of Grand Council he had said how much he had at heart the welfare of their Order. As its head he must bear the heat and burden of the day, and use

his best efforts to place the Order on a satisfactory footing—not only satisfactory to themselves, but also to maintain it in the eyes of Masonry in the important position it ought to occupy. It was unnecessary for him to repeat the whole of their history, but he might say that he and others joined some years ago, under the most pleasant auspices. He was introduced by the late Grand Secretary, Col. Clerke—whose connection with it gave the Order a mark that it was worthy of support. He then felt it a great honour, and nothing he had heard since made him abate one jot or tittle from that feeling. From some reason or other—he would not ascribe motives, as every true Mason must be prompted by the best motives, although mistaken—a hard set had been made against the Order, and use had been made of the fact that they gave a warrant to the Rocklands Conclave, contrary to the wishes of the Supreme Order in Virginia, which had been in communication with the Allied Degrees, of which the Earl of Euston was the head, and Bro. Matier the Grand Secretary. The brethren were willing to return the warrant, and if that was sent back there could be nothing at issue between them and the Supreme Order in Virginia. He ought to add that a circular was issued from the Allied Degrees forbidding all members from being concerned with the body of which he was the head. It was a matter which he should be justified in bringing before Mark Grand Lodge in their behalf, for some explanation. He hoped to be able to report shortly that they were in a better position, and would do his best to put the Order in as honourable a position as when it was entrusted to his charge.

The following Grand Officers were appointed, those present being invested:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| M.W. Bro. Issachar Zacharie, M.D. ... | I.P.G.S.R. |
| R.W. " His Honour Judge F. A. Philbrick, Q.C. ... | D.R.O. |
| " " The Right Hon. the Earl of Halsbury (Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain) ... | G. Chancellor. |
| " " W. Cockcroft, J.P., P.G.V., P.S.R. 26 ... | G. Treasurer. |
| " " C. E. Keyser, J.P., P.G.V., 5 ... | G. Chamberlain. |
| " " H. W. Kiallmark, P.G. Std. Br., P.S.R. 9 ... | G. Guide. |
| " " Colonel H. M. Gordon, P.G. Gdr., P.S.R. 8 ... | P.G. Guide. |
| " " W. J. Spratling, B.Sc., P. Prov. G. Treas. Middx., P.S.R. 2 and 8 ... | G. Recorder. |
| " " Dr. H. W. Roberts, P.G.B.B., S.R. 1 ... | G. Visitors. |
| " " C. Moore Jessop, P.G.C., P.G. Stwd., P.S.R. 9 ... | |
| " " H. Pearce, M.D., P.G. Std. Br., P.S.R. 10 ... | P.G. Visitor. |
| V.W. " W. J. Songhurst, Pres. Bd. G. Stewards, 1897 ... | G. Std. Br. |
| " " D. R. Chickgur, P.G. Std., P.S.R. 23 ... | P.G. Std. Bearer. |
| R.W. " J. J. Thomas, P.G.V., P.S.R. 5 and 8 ... | G.D.C. |
| V.W. " Joseph Waldie Peirson, P.G. Std., P.S.R. 22 ... | P.G.D.C. |
| " " R. T. Redman, P.G. Std., S.R. 26 ... | G. Bow Bearer. |
| " " C. D. Furdomee, P.G. Std., P.S.R. 23 ... | P.G. Bow Bearer. |
| " " J. W. Goodinge, P.G. Std., S.R. 5 ... | G. Gdr. |
| " " Elliot Hill, G. Std., S.R. 28 ... | P.G. Gdr. |
| " " J. Fielden, S.R. 25 ... | G. Councillors. |
| " " John Kay, P.G. Std., 1 ... | |
| " " J. Robertson Reep, Sec. Bd. G. Stwds., 1897 ... | G. Councillors. |
| " " C. M. Rostomee, S.R. 16 ... | |
| Bro. T. C. Edmonds, 1 ... | G. Sentinel. |

The following are members of the Executive Committee for the year: Nominated by the G.S.R.: R.W. Bros. J. Lewis Thomas, F.S.A., P.G. S.R., and Japheth Tickle, C.C. Lond., P.G.T.; elected by Grand Council: R.W. Bros. J. M. Bastone, P.G.G.; W. Cockcroft, P.G.V.; J. J. Pakes, P.G.V.; J. J. Thomas, P.G.V., P.G.D.C.; and V.W. Bro. J. A. Thilthorpe, P.G. Std. Br.

The following Grand Stewards were invested: Bros. F. W. Kendall and Charles Lee, 1; A. Stanley Bury, 2; Edward N. Glaeser and Ruthven Finlayson, 5; Frank Adams, 8; C. J. Gallard and Tom Ryder, 10; W. J. Fricker, 11; A. J. Cooper Oakley, 14; J. H. Crossley, 15; E. C. Rice-Oxley, 16; Cecil Holiday, 18 and 19; W. Clement Tyler, 21; W. Crossley, 22; Jas. Rogers, 23; R. Newton Crane, 24; Joseph Lord, 25; J. E. Williams, 26; C. L. Nelson, P.G. Gdr., 27; Rev. F. C. Clarke, M.A., 28; F. A. White and John Joseph C. Turner, 29; and J. A. Kirkland, 30.

Letters of regret were received from Bros. Sir Thomas Wright, F. A. Philbrick, E. Letchworth, Baron de Ferrieres, and others, regretting their inability to attend.

Bro. J. TICKLE, P.G. Treas., expressed the hope that all Secret Monitors who were Mark Master Masons would attend the next Mark Grand Lodge to support their G.S.R., and the Grand Conclave was then closed.

A banquet was afterwards held, at which the M.W. Grand Supreme Ruler presided, and the usual toasts followed.

"The Queen and the Order of the Secret Monitor," and "H.R.H. the M.W. Grand Master," were first heartily honoured.

"The M.W. Grand Supreme Ruler" was proposed by Bro. I. ZACHARIE, P.G.S.R., who said that as the Earl of Warwick was so well known it was unnecessary to sing his praises. It was a great satisfaction to see that distinguished brother again installed as G.S.R., and from the expressions he had used they would find him a giant in their cause. No brother could have done more for the Order, or would do more than the G.S.R. when the time came.

The toast was enthusiastically received with musical honours.

The M.W. GRAND SUPREME RULER, in response, said it had given him great pleasure to be present. The song they had just sung was always given with greater cordiality in Masonry than elsewhere, and those were the feelings which should animate them in Masonry, in private life, in their relations one to another, and it was the line they should take in their Order in connection with other bodies. Whatever discussions they had, let it go forth that they were in amity together, and whatever line he took he should endeavour to remember that he was a Freemason. The ultimate result of all Freemasonry was Charity, and now that the Order was getting firmly established he should like to see a Charity Fund started, and he was sure he need not impress upon them that as their members increased so should their charitable work. They would thus be uniting together and make this Order a lasting success in this country. They had an assurance that their

Order was not lightly undertaken when he himself was initiated into it by the late Grand Secretary, and amongst the members were Bros. Lord Halsbury—the Lord Chancellor—and Bro. Philbrick was their Grand Registrar. He felt certain that at their next meeting they would be able to congratulate themselves on the fact that they were at amity with all the brethren in this country and in other parts of the world.

“The Health of Bro. Dr. Zacharie” was next given by the G.S.R., and, in reply, Bro. ZACHARIE, P.G.S.R., expressed his thanks to them for their kindness and assured them of his continued interest in the Order.

Bro. NEWTON CRANE, in an eloquent speech, proposed “The Grand Officers,” which was acknowledged by Bros. R. EVE, J. TICKLE, and W. J. SPRATLING.

“The Grand Stewards” was responded to by Bros. WHITE, President of the Board, and HOLLIDAY, Sec., the latter of whom referred to the flourishing state of the Order in Natal.

Bro. H. Tipper had, as usual, arranged an excellent programme of music which materially contributed to the enjoyment of the evening.

Cleve Fast Conclave, No. 8,

The installation meeting of this conclave, which is usually held at the Criterion, Piccadilly, took place at the Masonic Hall, Watford, on Saturday, the 2nd inst., when V.W. Bro. J. P. Taylor, P.G. Stwd., was installed Supreme Ruler. The ceremonies were most impressively performed by V.W. Bro. W. J. Spratling, B.S., F.G.S., G. Recorder, assisted by V.W. Bro. J. J. Pakes. The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year: V.W. Bro. C. S. Nelson, Counsellor; Bro. F. Adams, Guide; Colonel Hugh M. Gordon, Treas.; V.W. Bro. L. M. Biden, Sec.; Bros. J. Rogers, W. T. Boydell, S. Goodchild, and Rice-Oxley, Visiting Deacons; Bro. Newton Crane, Guard; and Bro. Brokenshire, Sentinel.

A pair-horse brake was in attendance, and took the brethren for a drive to Aldenham Church, and afterwards to view the site of the new Masonic Schools, after which they partook of a splendid banquet.

The usual customary toasts followed.

The brethren returned to town by the 9.30 train, after having spent a very enjoyable day.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM.

ANNUAL MEETING AT ALNWICK.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. R. B. REED, PAST DEPUTY P.G.M.M.

On Wednesday afternoon, the 29th ult., the annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Mark Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Alnwick, when there was a large gathering assembled under the banner of the Hotspur Lodge. Bro. the Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., Prov. G.M., presided, and was supported by the following Prov. Grand Officers:

Bros. Thomas Purvis, Deputy P.G.M.; R. B. Reed, Past Deputy P.G.M., P.G. Std. Br. Eng.; R. B. Robson, P.S.G.W.; J. Straker Wilson, P.P.S.G.W., P.G. Std. Br. Eng.; J. G. Youll, P.P.G. Secretary; T. J. Armstrong, P.G.D. Eng.; J. A. Forbes, P.P.S.G.W.; Dr. A. J. Main, P.P.J.G.W.; J. Robinson, P.J.G.W.; John Readhead, P.J.G.O.; John Heppell, P.G. Sec.; George Blair, P.J.G.D.; John Wilson, P.G.I. of W.; T. Black, P.G.D.C.; E. Lautebach, P.G.S.B.; Dr. H. Paige, P.G. Org.; A. Simpson, P.G.I.G.; W. Brown, P.G. Stwd. Eng., as P.G.M.O.; W. F. Carmon, P.S.G.O.; and C. F. Sutcliffe, as P.S.G.D. Among others present were: Bros. T. G. Mabane, P.P.J.G.O.; J. C. Moor, P.P.G.M.O.; J. D. Todd, P.P.G.M.O.; T. Coulson, P.P.J.G.O.; J. Barker, P.P.G.O.; Seymour Bell, P.P.G.D.C.; F. R. Short, P.P.G.D.C.; W. E. Moffatt, P.P.S.G.O.; Jas. Sedcole, P.P.G.M.O.; J. K. Wilkes, P.P.G.R. of M.; G. Harland, P.P.G.R. of M.; John Holt, P.P.G.D.C.; John Deans, P.P.G.I. of W.; Walter Weston, P.P.S.G.O.; Hugh Jackson, S.W. 293; J. Usher Simpson, J.W. (T.I.); T. B. Grimes, W.M. 362; W. Hutchinson, S.W. 122; Joshua Curry, 293; T. Grieve, 124; John Walton, W.M. 356; W. Hodgson, W.M. 122; T. R. Braybrook, W.M. 39; and R. R. Riddell, W.M. 192.

The report of the Committee stated that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, G.M., had been pleased to re-appoint the Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., as P.G.M.M. for the ensuing three years in compliance with the request of the province.

The following were appointed and invested as the Provincial G. Officers for the ensuing year:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Bro. T. Purvis (re-appointed) ... | ... Dep. P.G.M. |
| Col. W. M. Angus (<i>in absentia</i>) ... | ... Prov. S.G.W. |
| Thomas Coulson ... | ... Prov. J.G.W. |
| Ernest Lautebach ... | ... Prov. G.M.O. |
| William Hodgson ... | ... Prov. S.G.O. |
| John Walton ... | ... Prov. J.G.O. |
| Rev. W. Bowker ... | } Prov. G. Chaps. |
| Rev. J. Haworth ... | |
| G. W. Bain (re-elected) ... | ... Prov. G. Treas. |
| John Heppell (re-appointed) ... | ... Prov. G. Sec. |
| James Scott ... | ... Prov. G.R. of M. |
| T. B. Grimes ... | ... Prov. S.G.D. |
| T. R. Braybrook ... | ... Prov. J.G.D. |
| Alf. Simpson ... | ... Prov. G.I. of W. |
| F. W. Ingram ... | ... Prov. G.D.C. |
| J. Smith ... | ... Prov. G.S.B. |
| Robt. Bolam ... | ... Prov. G. Std. Br. |
| Dr. H. Paige ... | ... Prov. G. Org. |
| R. R. Riddell ... | ... Prov. G.I.G. |

Bro. the Rev. Canon TRISTRAM, D.D., then, on behalf of the Mark Masons of the province, presented to Bro. R. B. Reed, who had for nine years held the office of Deputy Prov. Grand Master, a life-size painting in oils of his portrait, in recognition of his wise counsel and able service in that important office. Canon Tristram also expressed the wide-felt regret with which all of them, with himself, had received the tidings of Bro. Reed's retirement. He also presented to Bro. Reed, for Mrs. Reed, a diamond ring as a memento of the esteem in which her husband was held by his brethren in Mark Masonry.

Bro. JOHN HEPPPELL, P.G. Sec., also read the following address to Bro. Reed, which had been beautifully illuminated in Mark Masonic colours:

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Northumberland and Durham.

The Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., LL.D., F.R.S., Prov. G.M.M.M.

Copy of Resolution

Proposed by Bro. C. D. Hill Drury, P.P.S.G.W., and seconded by Bro. G. W. Bain, Prov. Grand Treasurer, and passed unanimously by the members of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge held at Gateshead on August 25th, 1897:

“That the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Northumberland and Durham receives with sincere regret the intimation of the retirement of Bro. Richard Bagnall Reed from the office of *W.D.P.G.M.M.*, and desires hereby to express its deep sense of gratitude for the eminent services rendered to Mark Masonry in general, and to this province in particular, by him during the *nine years* he has with conspicuous ability filled that high and important office.

“The brethren hope and trust that he will be long spared to bestow on the members of the Mark Degree the benefit of his experience, wise counsels, and advice.

“That a copy of this resolution be handed to Bro. Reed.”

“Rev. Canon TRISTRAM, D.D., Prov. G.M.M.M.,

“THOMAS PURVIS, Dep. Prov. G.M.M.M.,

“JOHN HEPPPELL, Prov. G. Secretary.”

In making the presentation, the PROV. GRAND MASTER said that was the most interesting and important part of the proceedings of the day, and such a duty had never fallen to his lot before. Some time ago the brethren of the province had presented to him his own portrait, and over his dining-room mantle, at Durham, in his residence his portrait was an object of the greatest interest to all his visitors. Now they were making a similar presentation to his esteemed friend and Past Deputy P.G.M., Bro. Reed, and no duty could give him greater pleasure and satisfaction than to make that presentation in their name. (Applause.) For nine years, he (Bro. Reed) had been the Prime Minister of Mark Masonry in the province, and no P.G.M. had had more wise counsel or more valuable advice and assistance than he had received from Bro. Reed. It was a great night in the year when Bro. Reed came to his house to arrange Masonic matters of importance, and they often sat, he would not say how far, into the night. His wise advice and judgment and counsel had been of the greatest possible assistance, and he had in all cases never taken any step without first taking into consideration all the circumstances and surroundings of every case. (Applause.) His great object had been to promote the good of Mark Masonry. (Applause.) He was not surprised that by his genial manners and kindly zeal Bro. Reed had won the confidence and esteem of the brethren. (Cheers.) He hoped he would be spared many years to look upon the tokens of their good will. (Applause.)

Bro. R. B. REED, Past D.P.G.M., in the course of his reply, said he certainly never expected to have received such an honour as had that day been paid to him. Masonry had always given to him more than ever he had given to it; still it was a source of satisfaction to him to receive these gifts from them and to know that his work in the past in the cause of Mark Masonry had been received with satisfaction. (Applause.) The Prov. G. Master, in the generosity of his heart, had been good enough to speak of him in the very warmest of terms. He thanked him for this and he would ever remember the high honour which that day the brethren had conferred upon him. The portrait which he gratefully accepted from their hands was the work of an eminent artist, and the manner in which he had executed the commission given him was worthy of his high reputation. (Applause.) It would be a great pleasure for him (Bro. Reed) to look upon it from time to time and to recall the many, very many happy hours which he had spent in the lodges of the Mark Degree. (Applause.) For the valuable ring which they had presented to Mrs. Reed, he, on her behalf, thanked them most warmly. He could say she always had a high appreciation of the value of Freemasonry. Something like a quarter of a century ago, she enrolled herself as a life subscriber to the Girls' School, and at the same time to the Fund for the Widows of Aged Freemasons. He knew it would be a source of delight to her to receive that ring at the hands of her husband from his brother Mark Masons. (Applause.) For himself, he might say he was one of the oldest Past Masters of the historic Craft Lodge of Industry, and was a Past Provincial Grand Treasurer of the Craft Province of Durham. He was also a student in Royal Arch Masonry, being a P.Z. of the De Burghin Chapter, which was now merged in the Chapter of Industry. But it was in Mark Masonry that he had been most active. He was now one of the oldest Past Masters of the Northumberland and Berwick-on-Tweed Lodge (T.I.)—the lodge in which he had the good fortune to be advanced. Here at Alnwick he might mention that when Earl Percy was Provincial Grand Master, he (Bro. Reed) held the office of P.S.G.O. Some years afterwards their present Provincial Grand Master gave him the appointment of Prov. S.G.W., and then came to him the appointment he most prized—that of Deputy Prov. Grand Master of the Province of Northumberland and Durham—which he held for nine years, having had during the whole of that period the confidence of the Provincial Grand Master, and the appreciation of the brethren. He again thanked them for all their kindness. (Applause.)

In the evening a banquet was held at the Star Hotel, Alnwick, presided over by the Prov. Grand Master, Bro. the Rev. Canon Tristram. There were a large number of brethren present.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and altogether the proceedings were of an enjoyable character.

After grace had been said, the PROV. G. MASTER proposed “The Queen” in a most loyal and hearty speech.

The PROV. G. MASTER next gave “H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., M.W.G.M., and the Officers of Mark Grand Lodge,” coupled with the name of Bro. T. G. MABANE, Grand Steward, who very ably responded.

Bro. R. B. REED, Past D.P.G.M., proposed the toast of “The P.G.M.M., R.W. Bro. Rev. Canon TRISTRAM, D.D.,” who responded in an able and historic speech.

The PROV. G. MASTER next proposed “The Health of the R.W. Deputy P.G.M., Bro. THOMAS PURVIS,” who responded and acknowledged the excellent reception the Prov. Grand Officers had everywhere received in visiting the several lodges in the province.

Other toasts followed.

THE CROWN PRINCE and Princess of Greece, attended by Mdlle. Contostavlos, Lieut.-Col. Palli, A.D.C., and the Hon. Henry Stonor arrived at Windsor Castle on Saturday last. They were received at the Sovereign's entrance by her Highness Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, and by the Queen at the head of the stairs, the ladies and gentlemen of the Royal Household being in attendance.

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A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.

FORTNIGHTLY EXCURSIONS from FRIDAY, July 15, to September 23 inclusive, to DUBLIN and the SOUTH and WEST OF IRELAND, and to BELFAST, Londonderry, Portrush, and the NORTH OF IRELAND, and to BELFAST only on July 19. To LONDONDERRY every alternate SATURDAY. Cheap Excursion Tour Tickets also issued fortnightly, from July 15 to Sept. 23 inclusive, to Belfast, Sligo, Bundoran, Warrenpoint, and Newcastle (Co. Down). See Bills for routes, fares, &c.

FORTNIGHTLY EXCURSIONS to SCOTLAND and NORTH OF ENGLAND, for 4, 10, or 16 days.

From FRIDAY, July 15, to September 23 inclusive, for 4 or 10 days from St. Pancras, at 9.15 p.m., to EDINBURGH, Glasgow, Helensburgh, and other North British Stations, and at 10 p.m., to CARLISLE, Appleby, Glasgow, Ayr, Kilmarnock, G. and S.W. Line, and Newton Stewart, Stanraer, Wigtown, &c.

Also from FRIDAY, July 15 to September 23 inclusive, for 4 or 10 days, from St. Pancras, at 9.15 p.m., to STIRLING, Perth, Dundee, Arbroath, Forfar, Brechin, Montrose, Stonehaven, Aberdeen, Inverness, Fort William, &c.

RETURN TICKETS at a THIRD-CLASS SINGLE ORDINARY FARE for the DOUBLE JOURNEY will also be issued by the above trains to same stations except Appleby, to RETURN ANY DAY WITHIN 16 DAYS from date of issue.

Also FORTNIGHTLY EXCURSIONS to NORTH OF ENGLAND, from FRIDAY, July 15 to Sept. 23 inclusive, for 4, 10, or 16 days, from St. Pancras, at 8.30 p.m., on Alternate Fridays to Northallerton, Richmond, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle, and Berwick.

GENERAL EXCURSION, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY, July 15 and 16.

FRIDAY, July 15, for 8 days, to Birmingham, Nuneaton, King's Norton, Bromsgrove, Redditch, Sutton Coldfield, Walsall, Willenhall, and Wolverhampton.

SATURDAY, July 16, for 3 or 6 days, to Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Burton, Matlock, Buxton, Stockport, Southport, Liverpool, Manchester, Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury, Preston, Wigan, Blackpool, Lancaster, Morecambe, Carlisle, Windermere, Barrow, Whitehaven, Stoke, Hanley, Burslem, Macclesfield, &c.

NEW WEEKLY SUMMER EXCURSIONS.

ISLE OF MAN.

EVERY WEDNESDAY, at MIDNIGHT, and every THURSDAY, from St. Pancras, at 5.15 a.m. each week until September 21 and 22, inclusive, to DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN, for 5, 8, 12, or 15 days.

LAKE DISTRICT, BUNTON, MATLOCK, SCARBORO, &c., for 6, 9, 13, or 16 days.

EVERY WEDNESDAY, until September 21, inclusive, from St. Pancras, at 10.30 a.m., to MORECAMBE, LANCASTER, and the ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT; at 12.10 (noon) each week, to MATLOCK and BUNTON; at 10.5 a.m. each week to LIVERPOOL, SOUTHPORT, BLACKPOOL, LYTHAM, ST. ANN'S, and FLEETWOOD; and at 9.0 a.m. to SCARBORO, BRIDLINGTON, Filey, Robin Hood's Bay, WHITBY, Saltburn, Redcar, Tynemouth, Whitley, and Cullercoats.

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THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF ONSLOW, G.C.M.G.,
R.W. PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

July, 1898.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at THE MASONIC HALL, SUTTON, on THURSDAY, the 21st day of JULY, 1898, at 4.40 o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

By command.

CHARLES T. TYLER, P.M.,
Prov. Grand Secretary.

N.B.—Morning Dress.

2, Bank Buildings,
Woking.

BUSINESS BEFORE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

To read the Minutes of the last P.G. Lodge.
To call over Roll of Lodges in the Province.
To receive the Report of the Audit Committee.
To receive the Report of the Charity Committee.
To elect a Provincial Grand Treasurer.
The appointment of Provincial Grand Officers.
General Business.

Banquet at 6.30 p.m. punctually at the COCK HOTEL,
SUTTON.

N.B.—Banquet will be provided for those only who have taken tickets, for which application must be made to the Asst. P.G. Sec., W. Bro. A. J. LATHAM, at 179, Blackfriars-road, S.E.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF SURREY.

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF ONSLOW, G.C.M.G.,
M.E. GRAND SUPERINTENDENT.

July, 1898.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Provincial Grand Chapter will be held at THE MASONIC HALL, SUTTON, in the County of SURREY, on THURSDAY, the 21st day of JULY, 1898, at THREE o'clock in the afternoon precisely.

By command.

CHARLES T. TYLER, P.P.G.J.,
Prov. Grand Scribe E.

Morning Dress.

2, Bank Buildings,
Woking.

BUSINESS BEFORE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER.

To read the Minutes of the last P.G. Chapter.
To call over the Chapters in the Province.
To receive the Report of the Audit Committee.
To elect a Provincial Grand Treasurer.
The appointment of Provincial Grand Officers.
General Business.

Banquet at 6.30 o'clock punctually.

N.B.—Banquet will be provided for those only who have taken tickets. The Companions will banquet with the Provincial Grand Lodge.

BRO. ALBERT TAYLOR

(Poole, Dorset) is open to read his papers upon the Craft. The Sec. Quatuor Coronati writes: "I think they are an excellent example of the style of address which might often be read in our lodges with great advantage to all concerned, they contain beautiful thoughts, well expressed, which, although sometimes of considerable depth are yet so portrayed as to be readily comprehensible by any man of ordinary intelligence. I consider your lodge very lucky indeed to have been privileged to hear such admirable papers, and trust that you may be invited by many lodges throughout the country to deliver them."

A S.W. is most anxious to obtain
EMPLOYMENT in any capacity, active, energetic, middle aged, highly recommended by officers and brethren of his lodge. Apply: A. B., 43, Choumert-road, Peckham, S.E.

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W. G. FENELEY, MANAGER.

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Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1898.

The Anniversary Festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund will take place at Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday next, when Bro. the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., Pro G. Mark Master of Cheshire, has very kindly promised to preside as Chairman. Last year, it will be remembered, there was a record total of contributions; but we shall be surprised and, we need not add, delighted if the record is beaten next week. The circumstances are not favourable. The Boys' School Centenary has carried all before it, and at the latter end of a season which has witnessed the distribution among our principal Charitable Institutions of upwards of £153,000, the sources of supply must be pretty well dried up. But it is astounding how donations turn up in quarters where they are least expected, and it may be that, after all, a goodly sum will be forthcoming on

Wednesday. Of one thing we are certain—that the Chairman, his Board of Stewards, and its energetic Hon. Secretary (Bro. C. F. Matier) will do all that lies in their power to approximate very closely to, if they cannot beat, the record of 1897. The Fund, which is in three sections—one for the relief of temporary distress, one for the education of the children of deceased or indigent Mark brethren, and the third for providing annuities for Mark brethren and their widows—well deserves all the support which the lodges and members of that Degree are in a position to afford.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hertfordshire will be held in the Town Hall, Hemel Hempstead, on Wednesday, the 20th inst., at 3.45 p.m. The business will be of the usual character except that Bro. George E. Lake, Dep. P.G.M., will propose that a grant be made from the funds of Prov. G. Lodge to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, not, as in ordinary years of 20, 30, or 50 guineas, but of 100 guineas, to be placed on the list of the Prov. G. Master as Steward at the recent Centenary Festival of that Institution. The annual banquet will follow at 5.30 p.m., the arrangements for which are in the charge of the entertaining lodge, that of King Henry VIII., No. 1757.

We are glad to find from the agenda at the Quarterly General Court of Governors and Subscribers to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys which is being held to-day (Friday) at Freemasons' Hall, that it is proposed to do something for the boy whose name has been removed from the list of candidates owing to his failure to win a place at the April election and his ineligibility on the score of age to compete again. When it was announced that by way of commemorating the Centenary of the Institution it was intended to make a grant of £20 a year to each of the unsuccessful candidates until such time as they succeeded in winning admission into the School or became ineligible, we pointed out that this was the only one of the candidates who would be excluded from the proposed benefit. If, however, the motion is accepted, the lad will have a grant of £20 to cover the cost of his outside education—for a time at all events. The Board has acted kindly in making this recommendation and we trust for the boy's sake it will be adopted.

A correspondent writes objecting to our statement in the "Description of Returns" in our special issue for the recent Boys' School Centenary—that "The Western Division of Lancashire lumped the lists of its 138 Stewards together into one sum." All we can do in reply is to refer him to the offices of the Institution, to which we are necessarily indebted for the particulars on which we based that statement. True separate lists were sent up by a large proportion of the Stewards; but the total was nevertheless given us, as we said, in a lump sum, the lists received being taken as a guide by the distinguished West Lancashire brother who furnished the amount to the Boys' School Executive.

The ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of All Saints Church, Weston-Super-Mare, was held with full Masonic ceremonial on Friday, the 24th ult. Bro. Viscount Dungarvan, Prov. G. Master of Somersetshire, discharged the duty, in which he had the assistance of the officers of his Provincial Grand Lodge and was well supported by the brethren of the St. Kew Lodge, No. 1222. There was a very large concourse of spectators to witness the unusual function, while the clergy, under the Bishop of the Diocese—Bro. Dr. Kennion, Past Grand Chaplain, mustered in considerable force. The weather was the reverse of favourable, but everything passed off well, the arrangements that had been made for the occasion being complete in every respect. We have received, but somewhat late, a report of the proceedings, which, however, we shall have much pleasure in publishing in our next issue.

The annual convocation of the Prov. Grand Chapter of Kent will be held this (Friday) afternoon, at the Royal Hotel, Ramsgate, under the presidency of Comp. Earl Amherst, G. Superintendent. Chapter will be opened at 3.30 p.m., and at 5 p.m. the customary banquet will take place.

The Albert Hall, Nottingham, was the scene of a most imposing function on Thursday, the 7th instant. On that day, Bro. his Grace the Duke of Portland, G.C.V.O., Past G. Warden, was installed in office as Prov. G. Master of Nottinghamshire, in succession to the late Bro. the Duke of St. Albans, who, after pre-

siding as G.M. over the Province of Lincolnshire for some 15 years, was appointed in 1877 to the like position in Nottinghamshire and only vacated the office last year on the ground of failing health. His Grace the Duke of Portland was installed by Bro. Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., Prov. G.M. of Cumberland and Westmoreland, and when the ceremony was over and the business of Prov. G. Lodge, including the appointment and investiture of Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year, transacted, the Provincial Grand Master laid the foundation stone of the new Jubilee Wing of the General Hospital, Nottingham, assisted by his principal officers and in the presence of a large concourse of spectators. The proceedings of the day commenced at 12 noon and when the ceremony of laying the stone was over the brethren partook of luncheon in the Victoria Hall.

We have received a full report of an imposing function at Accrington on Saturday last, when Bro. Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie, Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire, attended by his officers, and in the presence of a large number of brethren and spectators, laid the foundation-stone of a new church. The report will appear next week.

A special service will be held in Salisbury Cathedral on Monday afternoon, the 11th instant, at which the brethren of Wiltshire, under their Provincial Grand Master, Bro. the Earl of Radnor, with a number of visiting brethren from neighbouring Provinces, will be present, the object being to celebrate the completion of the restoration of the Cathedral. The Bishop of the diocese, the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury, and the clergy from far and near will also be there, and, above all, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who will be attended by several of the clergy acting as his chaplains for the occasion.

The triennial meeting of the Grand Encampment of the Order of Knights Templar in the United States will be held at Pittsburg in the earlier half of October. On Sunday there will be religious services by Sir Knight the Rev. C. L. Twing, Grand Prelate. Monday will be devoted to welcoming the different commanderies as they arrive, and on the following day there will be the grand parade and review, which is always the great feature of these gatherings, and will terminate about 3 p.m., while in the evening a grand reception will be given to the officers of Grand Encampment, and subsequently a ball to the visiting Sir Knights and their ladies. Wednesday there will be competitive and exhibition drills, after which the time will be given up to sightseeing and amusements of various kinds, the two following days being set apart to the discharge of the same agreeable functions. When these are over, the purposes for which this triennial conclave appears to have been established will have been fulfilled, and the Templar visitors will wend their way homewards, minus a good deal of cash, to live for the next three years on the memories of the heroic display they made at Pittsburg in the fall of 1898.

In the course of the few remarks which the *Voice of Masonry* reviewer makes on the report on Correspondence by Bro. George B. Edwards, which is appended to the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey at its 111th annual communication in January last, occurs the following: "Strange to say he approves the 'Making a Mason at sight' by a Grand Master and thus puts a blur on his Masonic wisdom." This is merely another and not over courteous way of stating that he (the reviewer) differs in opinion from Bro. Geo. B. Edwards on the question. It is the old story—orthodoxy is my "doxy"—heterodoxy the "doxy" of other people.

We learn with pleasure that the Grand Lodge of New Jersey is the fortunate possessor of a Masonic Home, the purchase money amounting to 24,750 dollars. The property consists of about "26 acres of excellent land, well located, most of which is laid out as a park and is in excellent order. Upon it is a large cut-stone mansion containing upwards of 20 rooms—all large, light, and airy"—with bath-rooms and other accommodation. It is said to be thoroughly well equipped with all modern improvements, with a large barn, conservatory and greenhouse, icehouse, a lodge at the entrance, and the usual out-buildings. It is also completely furnished and in perfect order, and before the brethren dispersed the Masonic Home Committee received a total subscribed by lodges and others amounting to 10,294 dollars towards its maintenance for the current year.

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.

RETURNS OF MEMBERS OF LODGES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Bro. Hughan, in your last issue, under the heading of "The Largest Grand Lodge," is evidently the victim of an oversight when he observes "The latter (lodges in the Colonies, &c.), are not required to make any return of the names and numbers of their members."

If he refers to Article 173, "Book of Constitutions," 1896 edition, he will find that every lodge must transmit to the Grand Secretary a list of its contributing members once in each year. Article 176 also refers to these returns.—Fraternally yours,

W. F. LAMONBY.

July 4th.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

1124.]

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

Dr. W. J. Chetwode Crawley has done well to point out the usage of the Grand Lodge of Ireland as to the *Confirmation of Minutes*. The Law of the Grand Lodge of Scotland is as follows: "39, Confirmation of Minutes of Grand Lodge implies that the *res gestæ* of a previous meeting have been correctly recorded, and not that the question discussed and disposed of at such former meeting can be opened up at the succeeding one when the minutes are read." This, my friend, Dr. Crawley, would say is according to "the rules of legal construction, recommended by the dictates of common sense, and consistent with the dignity of a legislative body." Precisely so; but in England there is neither such usage nor such a law, so the W.M. of a lodge, with the custom of the Grand Lodge before him, cannot object to a proposition to confirm the minutes of a meeting *excepting one portion* which is objected to *because not approved*, though a correct record. We sadly need light on this point, and the Grand Lodge must be our guide. It cannot be Masonically wrong for a lodge to follow the Grand Lodge, and until a law is passed similar to Scotland, what else can we do?

W. J. HUGHAN.

Reviews.

"TORQUAY BY THE SEA.—THE PREMIER HEALTH AND PLEASURE RESORT. 1898."—This beautifully printed and lavishly illustrated souvenir of "lovely Torquay" is the work of Bro. W. Eliot Thomas, M.J.L., and must be seen to be appreciated. The views are reproductions of choice photographs by Valentine and Sons, Dundee; Bro. J. C. Dinham, and other artistic experts. They leave nothing to be desired, being taken quite recently, thus having all the numerous improvements duly introduced and rendering the choice volume "a thing of beauty," and certainly a great source of pleasure to all who enjoy sketches and racy descriptions of the neighbourhood by an accomplished penman. Copies may be had from the author, Scarborough House, Torquay, at sixpence each, postage extra, twopence each. The first edition runs to 5000 and should be exhausted very soon.

"DEVON MASONIC DIRECTORY, 1898."—(Exeter: Messrs. Besley and Dalgleish, South-street).—This is an annual publication and full of valuable and useful information for the local Craft, and may be had from the printers and publishers for 13 pennies, post free. There are some 150 pages of closely printed matter, ably arranged, and all details looked well after by the editor. Devon is a large province of 57 lodges, with an average of 64 members to each. It has also 29 Royal Arch Chapters, 20 Mark Lodges, five Knight Templar Preceptories, four Rose Croix Chapters, and other Masonic Bodies, about which the Directory may be consulted, the particulars being ample as to all these Degrees as to officers, places of meeting, dates of warrants, &c. It also has an elaborate table by Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.G.D. of England, giving all the Pre-Union lodges, with their numbers down to 1863 enumeration, which has been neatly printed and placed at the commencement. It deserves a large sale for its completeness and accuracy.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The children of this flourishing Institution went home for the summer holidays on Saturday, the 2nd inst., having on the previous Tuesday much enjoyed a visit to the Crystal Palace kindly provided for them by the Stewards of the recent festival. On Friday afternoon they successfully brought off a series of races organised by Bro. Sir John Monckton, who officiated as Judge. Gwendoline Robson, the champion runner of the School, officiating as Starter in place of entering the competitions which were well contested by a considerable number of girls. The prize winners were as follow: The Derby Stakes—Violet White, 1; and Marjorie Pavey, 2. The Oaks—Gertrude Templer, 1; and Ethel Goldring, 2. The St. Leger—Dora Gallott, 1; and Dorothy Ruddle, 2. Grand Master's Stakes—Violet White, 1; Gertrude Templer, 2; and Ethel McLeod, 3. Royal Stakes—Ethel McLeod, 1; and Margaret Brown, 2. Nursery Stakes—(under 12)—Julia Collingwood, 1; and Maggie Eastwood, 2. Baby Stakes—(Junior School)—Daisy Shaw and Mabel Harding, a dead heat. The last-named fell at the turn but quickly recovered herself.

Craft Masonry.

Social Friendship Lodge, No. 497.

A meeting of the above lodge, which is attached to the Royal Irish Fusiliers, was held at the George Hotel, Colchester, on Tuesday, the 21st ultimo, for the purpose of installing the W.M. for the ensuing year. The meeting was particularly interesting, Masonically, as there are only three regimental lodges left on the roll of the English Constitution—this being one of them. The first warrant granted to the regiment was in 1798, when one was issued by the Irish Grand Lodge, which was allowed to lapse in 1818. In 1836 a warrant was applied for to the English Grand Lodge, and, being granted, it continued to work under the name Hibernia till 1844, when it also dropped. In the same year the 2nd Battalion (now stationed in Colchester) was granted a warrant (E.C.), under which the lodge is now working, named Social Friendship, and numbered 497.

The installation of the W.M. elect, Bro. Major A. McD. Moore, was performed by Bro. H. E. Baker, I.P.M. 697, who received the warm commendations of the brethren for the ability with which he carried out the duties. The officers invested for the ensuing year were Bros. Wm. Woodham, S.W.; Charles Adams, J.W.; Lieut. E. W. She-well, Treas.; W. Collins, P.M., Sec.; T. Denton, S.D.; C. Watson, J.D.; J.M. Hall, I.G.; and A. Wright, acting Tyler. After the lodge the members dined together, supported by several visitors.

The visitors present were Bros. H. G. H. Elliott, W.M. 51; Robt. Emson, W.M. 697; T. J. Bailey, P.M. and Sec. 697, P.P.A.G.D.C.; W. T. Ennew, P.M. 2477, P.P.G. Std. Br.; J. G. Renshaw, P.M. 697, P.P.G. Stwd., who acted as D.C.; F. J. Motum, Prov. G. Org., who kindly acted as Organist and accompanist; Dick Ham, W.M. elect 2477; F. J. Lax, 2477; C. H. Archer, F. W. Richards, J. B. Connolly, C. Wake, E. W. McNay, E. C. McGuire, and others. Bros. Capt. G. K. Swettenham and G. J. Walker, of 497, were also present.

The lodge furniture used on the occasion was lent by the United Lodge, No. 697. It may be mentioned that this is the second time members of 697 have befriended a military lodge, the former being in 1874, when the 5th Dragoon Guards' Lodge (I.C. was in Colchester, their colonel being the W.M.

Weyside Lodge, No. 1395.

The installation meeting of this distinguished lodge was held on Tuesday, the 28th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Woking. The principal business was the installation of the J.W. as W.M. for the ensuing year, which ceremony was performed by the retiring Master, Bro. Robert Mossop, in a manner that evoked the highest praise from all present. The following are the officers for the current year: Bros. Col. A. H. Bircham, W.M.; A. H. Bowles, P.M., P.G.D., S.W.; Rev. J. H. Robson, LL.D., Prov. G. Chap., J.W.; Rev. H. West, Chap.; Gilbert H. White, P.M., P.P.G.R., Treas.; C. T. Tyler, P.M., Prov. G. Sec.; S. S. Boorman, S.D.; C. J. Scott, J.D.; P. H. White; Capt. G. T. Munro, I.G.; and J. Chapman, Tyler.

There was a large attendance of members and visitors, and among the latter were no less than four reigning Masters of other lodges, viz., Bros. Wellington Lake, 777; W. Brookes, 2120; and W. A. Shaw, 2317—all in the Province of Surrey—and Col. C. M. Malony, 1974. The other visitors were Bros. R. F. Gould, P.G.D.; Rev. J. A. Arnan Tait, 2101, P.G.C.; J. H. Askham, P.M. 2317, P.P.G.D.C.; H. J. Bidwell, P.M. 2120, P.P.G.D.C.; H. E. White, 2120; C. S. Kefford, 1260; T. P. Whately, I.P.M. 777; S. G. Kirchhoffer, P.D.G.D.C.; H. G. Clark, 2101; and J. W. H. Littleboy, P.M. 2317.

There were also present Bros. Robert Mossop, I.P.M.; Alfred W. R. Sowman, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; Thomas Wakley, jun., P.M., P.P.G.D.; F. C. Gayton, P.M.; S. C. Knight, P.M.; G. B. Smallpeice, P.M. 370, Prov. G. Treas.; W. E. Robinson, P.M.; T. C. Martin, J. Smyth, H. H. Phipps, J. H. W. Cleave, H. Curling Hope, and W. Dickinson.

Bros. the Earl of Onslow, Prov. G.M.; Lieut.-Col. F. A. Bowles, R.A., P.M.; A. F. Asher, P.M.; Viscount Cranley, and other members were unavoidably prevented from attending.

All business being concluded, the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, at the conclusion of which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were eloquently proposed by the W.M., and most cordially received by all present.

The toast of "The Officers of the Grand Lodge of England" was responded to by Bro. R. F. Gould, and that of "The Provincial Grand Officers" by Bro. H. J. Bidwell.

The toast of the evening—"The Health of the Worshipful Master"—which was received with much enthusiasm, was acknowledged in feeling terms by Bro. Colonel Bircham.

The several Worshipful Masters of other lodges replied for "The Visitors," and Bro. Robert Mossop, I.P.M., for "The Past Masters."

Other toasts followed.

A very choice musical entertainment was afforded by the joint efforts of the members and visitors.

The Tyler's toast brought a most agreeable evening to a close.

Claremont Lodge, No. 1981.

The election meeting of this flourishing lodge took place at the Greyhound Hotel, High-street, Croydon, on Monday, the 27th ult. Present: Bros. Thos. Bowler, W.M.; J. S. Pointon, S.W.; E. W. Treadaway, Hoare, J.W.; H. E. Francis, P.M., Sec.; W. Rogers, S.D.; T. R. Dickason, J.D.; S. R. Faulder, I.G.; Benj. Williams, P.M., D.C.; W. Greenland, J. Lees, and Sam. Cooper. The visitors were Bros. M. B. Cohen, 901; Lorenzo Faul, S.D. 619; N. Cheese, 869; and Chas. Hy. Stone, P.M. 507, and J.W. 1641.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Lees was passed in a very perfect manner by the W.M. The election for the ensuing year took place, which proved unanimous in favour of Bro. J. S. Pointon, S.W. Also the election of Treasurer and Tyler, which was unanimous, and the appointment of Audit Committee. It was resolved unanimously that seven guineas be voted from the lodge funds for a Past Master's jewel, to be presented to Bro. Thos. Bowler, W.M., on his retirement from the chair, to mark their appreciation for able services rendered to the lodge.

The business ended, the brethren adjourned to a capital banquet, supplied and superintended by Bro. Pease, proprietor.

The cloth removed, the W.M. presented the customary loyal and Masonic toasts right royally.

Also that of "The Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

The toast of "The R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Lord Onslow," was presented in most commendable terms, he being a nobleman of sterling worth in the cause of Freemasonry.

"The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. F. West," was next given. The M.W. said Bro. West was always to the fore in every good work, and most ably carried out his duties, together with the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers. One of them was present, Bro. E. Francis, P. Prov. G.D., who had done good suit and service in the province.

In reply, Bro. Francis said he was somewhat of an old patriarch. He had done thoroughly whatever had fallen to his lot in Freemasonry, having at times been called upon to perform many duties, but whatever they had been, he had done them conscientiously. Promotion to the position of any Grand office was slow, there being so many lodges, but he certainly should like to see merit thoroughly rewarded. He was pleased to state that Bro. J. S. Pointon, S.W. and W.M. elect, had been placed upon the Charity Committee and was the representative of the Claremont Lodge and he hoped that it might lead to the purple being conferred upon a brother in the Claremont Lodge before very long. He congratulated the lodge upon their choice of W.M. for the ensuing year and also the W.M. elect on having taken up to the Boys' Centenary Festival in the name of the lodge 105 guineas, which was the record in the lodge. It showed the appreciation of the brethren for the services already rendered to the lodge by the W.M. elect.

Bro. Williams, P.M., next presented the toast of "The W.M." in commendatory terms, and remarked upon the magnificent manner he had performed his duties during the year. It gave him intense pleasure in proposing the same.

Bro. T. Bowler, W.M., who was most cordially received, said that it was his one desire to perform the duties to the best of his ability and to a successful issue which had been accomplished, and he hoped the time was not far distant that it would be one of the best in the province. For the kind remarks he most heartily thanked them; he was a Life Governor of all the Charities, which he felt was the duty of every Mason to be if it were possible. He hoped before long the Prov. Grand Master, with his valued Deputy, would visit the lodge and test its efficiency. He thanked the officers for their valuable assistance during the past year, and that the lodge had been resuscitated during the last year or two. His duty was not yet over to the lodge, but he hoped to be able still to render the W.M. elect any assistance he required during the coming year, and that he might remain a member of the lodge for many years to come.

The Worshipful Master next proposed the toast of "Bro. J. S. Pointon, W.M. elect," with extreme pleasure, as he had the privilege of preparing him for Freemasonry only seven years ago. He had made rapid progress in Freemasonry and the brethren must needs be proud of him, as he was most highly respected in the Selwyn, his mother lodge. He was confident the chair would be honourably filled and nothing would be lacking during the coming year and that the W.M. elect would be a pattern and one to emulate.

In reply, Bro. Pointon said he was proud of the honourable position to which the brethren had unanimously elected him, and he promised that nothing should be wanting on his part to carry out the duties efficiently, and he hoped all the officers would do their utmost to perform their respective duties in the same manner and attend lodges of instruction. He had been instrumental in introducing members good and true into the lodge and he should still endeavour to do so. With reference to a few remarks that had fallen from Bro. Francis respecting the Charities, he should like to say that so long as he had their united support, it was his intention to represent the Charities again, which he considered was the climax of Freemasonry. He hoped all the brethren who had votes in all the future elections would kindly send them on to him and he would undertake they should be rightly recorded.

The toast of "The Visitors" was ably presented and very suitably replied to by Bros. Cohen, Cheese, Faulk, and Stone.

"The Past Masters," was duly responded to, and likewise "The Officers," ably given and efficiently replied to by the S.W., J.W., S.D., J.D., and I.G.

The Tyler's toast closed a very happy meeting. Some capital singing was provided by Bros. Pointon, Rogers, and others, which was much appreciated.

Acacia Lodge, No. 2321.

Several items of interest were upon the agenda at the regular meeting of this lodge held at the Masonic Hall, Bradford, on Thursday, the 2nd ult., when Bro. John Morton, W.M., presided, and was supported by Bros. S. A. Bailey, I.P.M.; F. Betteridge, B.A., Chap.; C. H. Ellis, P.M., Treas.; J. T. Last, P.M., P.P.G. Reg., Sec.; J. Niven, P.M., as S.W.; J. B. Fearnley, as J.W.; T. H. Bedford, as S.D.; W. Docksey, J.D.; W. H. Townend, I.G.; John S. Cooper, Tyler; T. N. Holmes, Org.; and a number of brethren. Visitors: Bros. Joseph Matthewman, P.M. 1019, P.P.A.G. Sec.; G. H. Field, P.M. 1018; Wm. Leach, 408; J. Tilley, J.W. 2069; Wm. Foster, 600; S. A. Auty, P.M. 387; T. W. Holmes, P.M. 974, P.P.G.O.; S. Ward, S.W. 1034; H. F. Scales, 339; and R. Worrall, 674.

After the lodge had been opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed, the W.M. called on Bro. Last, Sec., who gave an interesting paper on "An Evening with the Grand Lodge of Nebraska," being the first of a series of papers on the American Grand Lodges proposed to be read before the lodge by the Secretary as opportunity offers at meetings when the Degrees are not being conferred. At the conclusion of the paper, which was listened to with attention, a resolution was passed according a vote of thanks to the Secretary for his interesting paper. During the evening a resolution was passed as follows: "That the Secretary having this evening read a most interesting and instructive paper, entitled, 'An Evening with the Grand Lodge of Nebraska,' from which we have learned that Lodge No. 34 on the register of the Grand Lodge of Nebraska is called Acacia, and that like our own lodge, it meets on the evening of the first Thursday in the month, it is resolved that the Worshipful Master, officers, and brethren of Lodge Acacia, 2321, on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England, meeting at Bradford, Yorkshire, now assembled, send hearty greetings and good wishes to the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and our Nebraska brethren of Lodge Acacia, No. 34, meeting at Schuyler, Nebraska, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Secretary." A letter was read from Bro. J. A. Drake, J.W., apologising for his absence, and intimating that he had much pleasure in presenting to the lodge three sets of gauntlets for the use of the Master and Wardens, and deputed the Secretary to make the presentation on his behalf. Bro. Last, P.M., Sec., thereupon invested the W.M. and Wardens, respectively, with the gauntlets, and moved a hearty vote of thanks to Bro. Drake for his acceptable present. This was seconded by Bro. Niven, P.M., supported by the W.M., and carried, and directed to be entered upon the minutes. Bro. R. S. Hird then introduced for discussion a proposition to change the day of meeting, as Thursday was found by some of the members to be inconvenient. The motion was adjourned to a future lodge meeting for further consideration.

A candidate was proposed for initiation, and, after "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed.

The brethren afterwards repaired to the supper-room for refreshment, and, after the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been duly honoured,

Bro. Last, Sec., proposed the toast of "The Visitors," giving them a very cordial welcome indeed. He said the members were really indebted to the brethren who had honoured the lodge with their presence that evening, for being Whit-week so many members were away. Personally, he (Bro. Last) took it as a compliment that so many visitors (several from neighbouring towns) had attended to hear the paper it had been his pleasure to read in the lodge that evening. He hoped as occasions presented from time to time to give further papers on the American Grand Lodges, and on such occasions brethren interested in the literary side of Freemasonry would receive a hearty welcome; Bro. Matthewman, P.P.A.G. Sec., was always a welcome guest at the lodge. That evening he had come from Leeds on a very short invitation, he (Bro. Last) observed that he seldom, if ever, found Bro. Matthewman absent from any lodge in the province when a Masonic lecture or paper was on the agenda. The toast was heartily received.

Bro. Matthewman, P.P.A.G. Sec., responded, and expressed the pleasure it had given him (although at short notice) to be present that evening to listen to the very interesting paper that had been given in the lodge, and as Bro. Last had stated he missed no opportunity to visit lodges where Masonic papers and lectures were given, they had heard that evening much of interest concerning the doings of our transatlantic brethren who evidently took their Freemasonry seriously. He had on many previous occasions enjoyed the hospitality of the lodge, and so long as lectures on Masonic topics were provided and invitations reached him he should be pleased to be their guest in the future.

Bro. Auty, P.M. 387, also responded, and, after referring to his earlier connection with the lodge, expressed the pleasure it had given him to be present that evening and to have had the privilege of listening to the almost sublime language, as it were, put into the mouth of the first Grand Master of Nebraska Freemasons, when acknowledging his reception on the occasion of his visit to the Grand Lodge at its annual communication 40 years afterwards. He thanked the brethren for the hearty manner the toast had been received.

"The W.M.," "The Past Masters," "The Officers," and other toasts were all duly acknowledged.

The Tyler's toast brought a very pleasant meeting to a close. During the evening Bros. Tilley, Ward, Last, Townend, and Holmes rendered vocal and instrumental music for the gratification of the assembly.

Royal Arch.

Pythagoras Chapter, No. 88.

At the half-yearly convocation of this chapter, held at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, on Wednesday, the 29th ult., the Principal's chairs were occupied by Comps. Rev. L. R. Tuttle, M.E.Z.; J. Gordon Chennell, H.; and A. E. Chaplin, J. Others who assisted in the working were Comps. B. Chennell, P.Z.; W. P. Spalding, P.Z.; Frank Piggott, P.Z.; and C. H. Banham, acting P.S. Three brethren from Lodges 441, 88, and 2107, were elected and exalted. The sum of 10 guineas was voted to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys to go on Comp. John H. Moyes's list. The following Principals and officers for the ensuing year were elected: Comps. J. Gordon Chennell, M.E.Z.; A. E. Chaplin, H.; C. H. Banham, J.; Oliver Papworth, P.Z., Scribe E.; J. L. Rutter, Scribe N.; T. Hunnybun, Treas.; W. Sindall, P.S.; J. West Knights, 1st Asst. Soj.; A. H. Langridge, 2nd Asst. Soj.; B. Chennell, P.Z., D.C.; W. James, Org.; J. V. Pryor, P.Z., Stwd.; G. A. Allen, Janitor; and F. W. Bird and W. James, Auditors. The visiting brethren were Comps. Armstrong, P.Z. 1008; John Stait, P.Z. 9; Stephens, 493; T. W. Allsop, J. 9; P. H. Young, M.E.Z. 441; and J. Dempster, 441.

At the banquet, the London visitors, and particularly Comp. Stait, commented on the beauty of the ritual in use in this old chapter; it was altogether different to the working in town chapters; but, although more amplified than theirs, it came to the same point, and was greatly to be admired.

Comp. W. P. Spalding, P.Z., who gave "The Health of the Visitors," remarked that as much had previously been said of their ritual by Comp. J. Terry.

Comp. T. W. Allsop said his selection as one of the six special Stewards at the royal entrance at the Albert Hall on the occasion of the recent Festival in behalf of the Boys' School was not to his mind the proudest experience he had had in Masonry; but rather when he was allowed by the W.M. of the Scientific Lodge in Cambridge to initiate, pass, and raise his own son.

Comp. Armstrong made feeling allusion to the late Comp. J. Neal York, of Newmarket, and his valuable work in connection with the Pythagoras and White Rose Chapters, in conjunction with Comp. B. Chennell.

Britannia Chapter, No. 312.

A meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Whitby, on the 13th ult., to celebrate the centenary of the chapter, which attained its centenary just 15 years ago. In conformity with the requirement of the Grand Chapter after the Union in 1817, all the chapters then in existence returned their old warrants and received new ones. Accordingly the old warrant of the Britannia Chapter was forwarded to headquarters and exchanged for the present charter, dated 8th May, 1822, now in the Masonic Hall. But it is a matter for regret that the old warrant was not returned. This explains the fact that not until last year, when the records of the Britannia and Lion Lodges were thoroughly examined, were the companions aware that the Britannia Chapter existed before the year 1822. At the last meeting of Grand Chapter a centenary charter was granted to the Britannia Chapter.

At the centenary meeting there was a good attendance of companions, when an address was delivered by Comp. the Rev. E. Fox-Thomas, P.P.A.G.S., giving a brief sketch of the Royal Arch Degree, followed by the history of the Britannia Chapter. Comp. T. B. Whythead, P.G.S.B. England, then presented the centenary charter to the M.E.Z., who received the same and suitably replied.

After supper, Comp. T. B. Whythead made an interesting speech, and congratulated the companions of the chapter on their long and honourable record.

Last year the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of North and East Yorkshire was held at Whitby to celebrate the centenary of the Lion Lodge, No. 312, and now that the antiquity of the Britannia Chapter has been established, the companions are proud to be the possessors of a centenary charter of their chapter, which is the second oldest in Yorkshire.

We understand that a history of Royal Arch Masonry in Whitby is about to be published.

Era Chapter, No. 1423.

A meeting of this flourishing chapter was held at the Albany Hotel, Twickenham, on the 14th ult. Among those present were Comps. F. Robinson, P.Z., as M.E.Z.; R. Poore, P.Z., as H.; B. Grant, J.; Major T. C. Walls, P.Z., P.D.G.D.C., S.E.; J. Masters, S.N.; E. H. Thiellay, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C., Treas.; A. Collins, P.S.; F. Foulger, 1st A.S.; G. Holt, 2nd A.S.; H. Higgins, P.Z.; C. H. Köhler, P.Z.; and W. Fisher, P.Z.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Comps. Poore, P.Z., was elected M.E.Z.; B. Grant, H.; F. Foulger, J.; Major Walls, S.E.; Masters, S.N.; Thiellay, Treas.; A. Collins, P.S.; Holt and Joseph, Asst. Sojs.; A. Macchi, D.C.; and J. Gilbert, Janitor. A Past Principal's jewel was voted to Comp. Wells. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Comps. A. Wells, M.E.Z.; J. B. Riley, M.D., P.Z.; G. L. Wingate, P.Z.; W. H. Matthews, P.Z.; G. Elliott, P.Z.; and others. The chapter was then closed.

A banquet followed, at which the S.E. presided.

Comp. W. Fisher, P.Z., responded on behalf of "The Provincial Grand Officers" in a neat speech.

The toast of "The M.E.Z. and M.E.Z. elect," was warmly received.

Comp. Poore, in the absence of the First Principal, acknowledged the compliment. He said the chapter had for the second time elected him as First Principal, and he would endeavour to merit the confidence reposed in him to the best of his humble ability.

Comps. Robinson, Higgins, and Köhler, replied on behalf of "The Past Principals," and Comps. Masters, Collins, Holt, and Foulger, for "The Officers."

During the proceedings several of the companions entertained the other members with vocal and dramatic selections, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Mark Masonry.

Excelsior Lodge, No. 226.

Bro. E. B. Hobson, W.M. of the above excellent and flourishing lodge, installed his successor on Monday, the 27th ult., and was highly complimented on his excellent and impressive working by the brethren present. The lodge was opened at the Masonic Hall, Mount Pleasant, Plumstead, and the minutes having been confirmed, Bro. C. Jolly, P.M., P.P.G.D., acting as D.C., presented the W.M. elect, Bro. G. H. Porter, to the W.M. to receive at his hands the benefits of installation, and Bro. Porter was placed in the chair of A. and saluted. He appointed and invested his officers as follows, those absent by proxy: Bros. E. P. Hobson, I.P.M.; C. H. Canning, S.W.; W. J. Crowdy, J.W.; R. Fowler, M.O.; Jas. Wheatley, S.O.; G. F. Taylor, J.O.; Jas. Farrier, P.M., P.P.J.G.D., Treas.; G. Kennedy, P.M., P.P.G.R.M., Sec.; J. D. Brooks, Reg. of Marks; J. Sanderson, S.D.; W. Chambers, J.D.; H. Jacobs, I.G.; G. W. Townsend, D.C.; W. Lawson, A.D.C.; C. W. Benstead and J. Leavey, Stwds.; and C. Warren, Tyler. Bro. Hobson then gave the addresses splendidly. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his services and was also presented with a handsome and valuable Past Master's jewel as a mark of the esteem of the brethren and for valuable services rendered the lodge during his year of office. Bro. Hobson announced his intention of standing Steward at the forthcoming Mark Benevolent Festival, and the sum of five guineas was collected from among the brethren for his list, and then the lodge was closed.

The banquet was served at the Royal Mortar Hotel, opposite the Royal Arsenal main gates, Woolwich, and was elegantly appointed and well served, Bro. Hall being thanked for it in unstinted terms of praise and approbation.

Among the other brethren present were Bros. Major W. Weston, P.M., P.P.J.G.W., P.G.I.G. Eng.; Capt. G. Spinks, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; F. Reed, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; J. H. Roberts, P.M., P.P.G.O.; J. H. Hodgkin, J. Rose, I. Turton, W.M. 309; Dr. E. Bryceson, W.M.; G. R. Nichols, J.W.; W. Sanders, R.M., of 44; J. Wood, 309; A. Gomes, 193; and others.

The usual loyal and Grand Lodge toasts having been honoured,

Bro. Weston responded for "The Grand Officers, Present and Past." He said it was a great honour to be associated with the Grand Officers of the Grand, Mark Lodge. He felt compelled to say that the Benevolent Charities of the Degree were not nearly so well supported as they ought to be. They did not employ a large staff of officers and officials, but yet they educated their boys and girls, and looked after their old people. In the case of the education of their children, the parents had the choice of schools, providing they were the best in the district, and they were every year well clothed. In the case of the aged women, they gave them some £20 or £30 a year, and the old men £40. There were no sounding of trumpets in Mark Masonry, there was no £134,000 for their Charity, some two or three thousand was all they got, and they wanted more, as more claims were being made on them. They had had hitherto no elections, thanks to the care and kindness of their esteemed Grand Secretary, Bro. Matier, but some day there would be an outburst from that brother, and they would be able to make as big a show as the other Institutions. He earnestly urged the claims of their Charity and concluded by telling them to send up their I.P.M. with a list that would be worthy of the lodge and the province it belonged to.

The toast of "Lord Dungarvan, Grand Mark Master of the Province of Kent," was drunk most enthusiastically, as was that of "Bro. Hughes-Hallett, P.G.M., and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers, Present and Past," for which Bros. Spinks, Jolly, and Roberts, briefly responded.

The I.P.M., in proposing the toast of "The Worshipful Master," said that although Bro. Porter had been W.M. for some three hours, yet he (Bro. Hobson) would predict not only a successful year for the lodge, but that Bro. Porter would make one of the most popular Masters and good workers the lodge ever had had. He knew

Bro. Porter's good work in the Craft, and he esteemed him for it, and there was nothing he undertook but he succeeded in it. He trusted their W.M. would have a goodly number of initiates, and if so, he would do his duty in a manner that would make them, at the end of his year of office, thank him for good work done for the lodge.

Bro. Porter said, practically, he was not a young Mark Mason, having been initiated into it some 14 years ago. During his year of office, as W.M. of a Craft lodge, he had at every meeting during the year worked the Three Degrees, and felt sure that he should be able to do the work required from him as Master of that, their Mark lodge. He deeply regretted the absence of some of his officers, and said that he should tell them of it pretty sharply. He had two candidates for their next meeting, and should call upon and expect the officers to be present and do their duty. He thanked them for placing him in his present proud position, and could assure them that nothing should be wanting on his part to ensure the continued prosperity of the lodge.

Bro. Hobson, as he rose to respond to a eulogistic speech of the W.M., in giving the toast of "The Installing Officer," was heartily cheered. He said they might take it from him that the installation ceremony in the Mark Degree was no light task. The learning of it and the practising of it, so as to become as perfect as possible, had taken him a long while, and his wife had told him that during the past six weeks or so he had made a regular "sheep-walk" of their garden, walking up and down it learning the ritual of the ceremony. It had usually been the custom in that lodge for one Past Master—their old and esteemed friend, Bro. A. Penfold—to perform the ceremony; but he (Bro. Hobson) felt that he would like to follow in the footsteps of some of the latter Masters, and carry out the work himself, especially as he considered it his duty to do so. If he had not done it entirely to their satisfaction, he had done the best he could. It was all very well to do it by one's self, but the difficulty came in when one had to do it before good, old critics. However, he promised them that if ever he had to do it again he would, if possible, do it better than he had that day.

Bro. Bryceson, in responding for "The Visitors," regretted his inability to be present at the installation; but it was not an unusual thing in the profession to be called away at a moment's notice. He had usually heard the ceremony once, and that was when he himself was installed, so that he had looked forward with a great deal of pleasure to have been present at that. He thanked them for their hearty welcome, which was second to none in any lodge in the district. He trusted to be present on some future occasion, and wished the W.M. a happy and prosperous year of office.

Bro. Wood said he hardly expected to be called upon to respond, seeing that Bro. Brooks, of his mother lodge, was present, he thought he might be let off. He was exceedingly sorry that the esteemed Master of his mother lodge (Bro. Turton), whom they all respected, was not present, for, although he had attended the lodge, he had had to leave them directly the lodge was closed. He was only a young member of the Mark Degree, but young as he was, he felt it the duty of every one initiated into the Craft Degree to join the Mark Degree. He illustrated that opinion by showing how the designer and builder of a ship went to work. The designs were prepared, the keel was laid, the timbers were moulded in the mould loft, the ribs and sheathing built up until she was ready for launching; and so it was with Mark Masonry—the keel was laid in the Craft lodge, and the building and launching of the Masonic ship took place in the Mark lodge. In Mark Masonry was the keystone and climax of the Masonic structure, and he was proud to be a member of it. He thanked them for their hospitality, and Bro. Jolly, his old friend, for the invitation to be present.

Bro. Nichols said he was amongst the first batch of initiates—some 38—ever initiated in the lodge. He was now in office in the Florence Nightingale Mark Lodge, and he trusted the W.M. and the brethren of the Excelsior Lodge would visit him there.

Bro. Weston, in responding for "The Past Masters of and Belonging to the Lodge," congratulated the W.M. on attaining his proud position as Master of that lodge, and could assure him that the Past Masters would rally round and support him during his year of office.

Bro. Reed said the W.M. had spoken of his (Bro. Reed's) career in Masonry as a unique one. Well, it was a fact that for the last 20 years he had been a Mason, but through the exigencies of the service, he had only just achieved the honour of being a W.M. of a Craft lodge. He had been a Mark Mason for nearly 14 years, and had achieved the proud position of a Past Master of their, the Excelsior Lodge. He had advanced two candidates during his year, and installed his successor, and trusted he did his work to their satisfaction, and he thanked the brethren for their kindness ever since he had been in the lodge.

The toast of "The Officers," and the Tyler's toast concluded a most enjoyable evening, the proceedings of which had been happily helped along by some excellent singing by Bros. Spinks, Hobson, Crowdy, Wood, and Nicholls, Bro. N. Roberts accompanying on the piano.

KIRBY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.

The printed programme of work of the above lodge was set aside at the regular meeting of Tuesday, the 28th ult., to make way for two very interesting events. Bro. Sadler, Grand Tyler, may almost be said to be the founder of the lodge, as it was to him that Bro. Hy. Pritchard, the Secretary of the Bank of England Lodge, addressed the letter granting permission for the Kirby Lodge to meet for purposes of instruction, and Bro. Sadler had consented to deliver on the above named date one of his interesting Masonic lectures. The Committee had also arranged that an illuminated address to the late Preceptor, Bro. Charles Lewis, should be presented to him on the same evening. The fine room at the Midland Grand Hotel where the lodge holds its weekly meetings was well filled, there being 46 members present. Bro. George Rankin, the newly-elected Preceptor, acted as W.M.

After the lodge was opened and the minutes of the previous lodge had been read and confirmed, Bro. Sadler was called upon to commence his lecture. When he had spoken for about 40 minutes, an interval was taken to give the lecturer a little rest, and in the interval the presentation was made to Bro. Chas. Lewis on behalf of the lodge by Bro. George Rankin.

Bro. RANKIN said that he must express to Bro. Lewis the sentiments of regard and esteem, as well as of gratitude that were felt by the brethren to their late Preceptor. He was always ready to give every member of the lodge all helpful advice and assistance and many hundreds of officers of lodges have to thank him to-day for all they know of their work. The very close connection of the lodge with Emulation Lodge of Improvement must always render the Preceptor's office an exceptionally responsible one, and the singular accuracy of Bro. Lewis in Emulation working was the wonder of all. When Bro. Lewis found himself obliged to resign the Preceptorship the first duty of his successor was to

propose a vote of thanks to him for his great service to the lodge and of sincere regret at his retirement. This was carried unanimously and duly entered on the minutes. It was felt, however, that the strong sentiment of fraternal regard for Bro. Lewis should have some permanent expression, and the brethren hoped that the illuminated address, which had been subscribed to by so many, would be regarded by Bro. Charles Lewis as a record of the feeling of the lodge towards himself. Bro. Rankin then read the address.

Among the 116 members' names appearing as subscribers to the address we noticed those of Bros. E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; C. E. Keyser, Treasurer Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; R. C. Sudlow, F. T. Rushton, and J. Russell, Committee of Emulation Lodge of Improvement; Sir Forrest Fulton, J. V. Vesey Fitzgerald, Q.C., H. Pritchard, P.P.G. Treas. Middlesex; H. Sadler, G. Tyler; H. S. Wellcome, F. C. Van Duzer, J. R. Brough, and Colver Gordon.

Bro. CHARLES LEWIS, who was much moved, made a short speech, thanking the brethren for their unvarying kindness to him.

The address, which was beautifully illuminated, was very much admired.

After the presentation, Bro. Sadler was called upon to resume his lecture, the subject of which was "Tylers and Tying." The members listened with marked attention to what was a most instructive, as well as an amusing, discourse; and at its close a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer, Bro. C. LEWIS proposing, and Bro. H. S. WELLCOME seconding, the vote.

The Secretary took the names of several subscribers for Bro. Sadler's forthcoming new volume.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The July Quarterly General Court of Subscribers to this Institution was held on Thursday, at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. A. C. Spaul, P.G. Std. Br., in the chair. There were also present Bros. A. H. Duret, H. Massey, Alexander C. Clapham, H. A. Tobias, C. H. Webb, and F. R. W. Hedges (Secretary).

After the minutes of the General Court of April 16th last had been read and confirmed, and the minutes of the subsequent General Committee of April 28th, May 26th, and June 30th had been read for information, the following recommendation of the General Committee was adopted:

"That the 11 Eligible Candidates remaining from the last Election together with the 16 whose Petitions have been since approved be placed upon the List of Candidates for the October Election and that 13 vacancies be declared."

After a letter had been read from Bro. Major J. H. Leslie, Sheffield, about a case which had been held to be ineligible, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Bro. H. A. TOBIAS, it was resolved that the matter could not be further considered.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

Obituary.

BRO. ALFRED A. PENDLEBURY, P.A.G. SEC.

We noticed in our last issue the decease of Bro. Pendlebury, the late Asst. Grand Secretary, and now give a short account of his Masonic career. He was initiated in the Lodge of Sincerity, No. 174, London (where his father and grandfather had been initiated), on the 9th January, 1859, by dispensation from the M.W. Grand Master, he being under age; and, having obtained an appointment in the Indian Navy, and not being able to remain long enough to take the Third Degree, was raised in a Scotch lodge in Bombay. On the incorporation of the Indian and Imperial Navies, he was granted a pension, and shortly after this obtained the junior clerkship in the Grand Secretary's office, having been selected from a large number of candidates, in response to an advertisement, by the late Bro. Wm. Gray Clarke. On entering the Grand Secretary's office, he took a great interest in the Order, and in a short time perfected himself in the ritual. He was the founder of the Victoria Lodge, No. 1056, and became P.M. and Secretary. He was one of the founders of the Loyalty and Charity Lodge, No. 1584, in 1874, passed the chair, and was Treasurer until he resigned. In Royal Arch Masonry he was an expert, having studied under Bro. Jas. Brett, and was one of the founders of the chapter of instruction working under the Rose of Denmark Chapter, No. 975, where he was the first exalte 30th September, 1865, and filled all the offices. He was one of the founders of the Victoria Chapter, No. 1056, and filled the office of Scribe E. for many years. He was also very actively engaged with the late Bro. Buss and Bro. Little in the revival of the Order of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine. On the appointment of Bro. Little as Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, our late brother was appointed Cashier and Accountant and filled that post until the retirement of Bro. Buss, when he was appointed Chief Clerk, and the following year was invested with the collar of Asst. G. Secretary. Failing health compelled him to give in his resignation in 1894, when the Grand Lodge in consideration of past services and his bad health unanimously granted him a retiring allowance of full pay. He retired to Bournemouth with his family, hoping to benefit his health, but his long and most expensive illness terminated on the 30th ult., and he is laid to rest in the Cemetery there mourned by his wife and two daughters, and also by his three sisters, who were devotedly attached to him. The Grand Secretary's Office was represented by Bro. Dodd, and the Victoria Lodge by Bro. Latreille, who was the first initiate in that lodge. In private life our brother was one of the kindest and most amiable of men, conscientious and exact in all he undertook, and possessed one of those happy dispositions very seldom met with, and one who never made an enemy or repeated a scandal. We express our sympathy with his widow and family.

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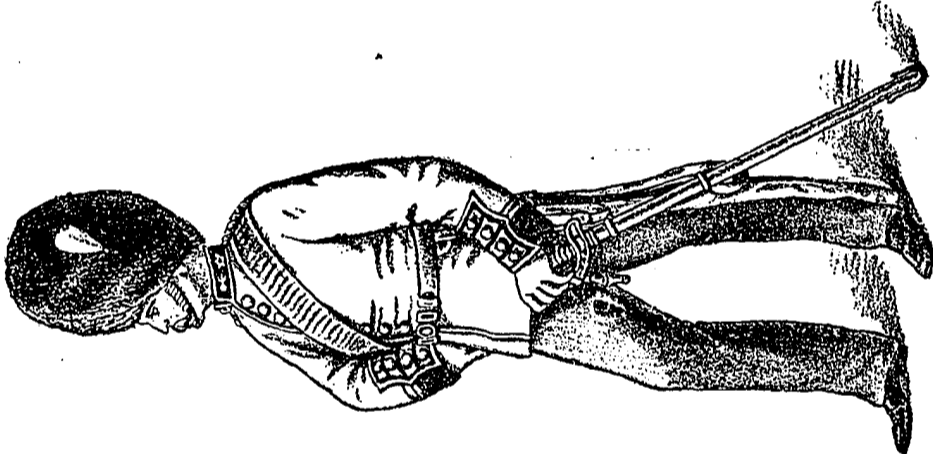
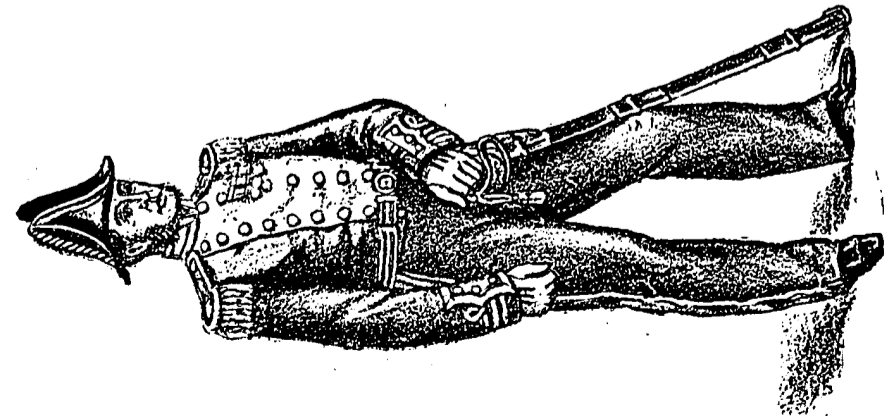
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B. E. RATLIFF, } Joint Secretaries.

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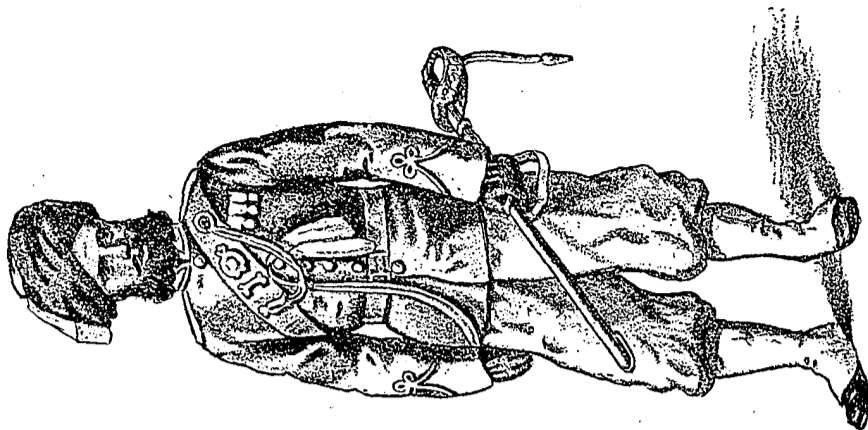
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Telegraphic Address—KENNING, LONDON.

Masonic and General Tidings.

THE QUEEN is expected to leave Windsor for the Isle of Wight on or about the 20th inst.

THE COUNTESS OF JERSEY'S garden party at Osterley Park on Saturday last was very fully attended.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL will eventually benefit by the will of the late Sir Robert Rawlinson to the amount of some £35,000.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE and Princess of Wales are to dine with the Earl of Rosebery on Thursday, the 14th instant, and a distinguished party are invited to meet them.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES, Princess Victoria of Wales, Princess Victor Hohenlohe, and the Countess Helena Gleichen witnessed the performance of "Gotterdammerung" at the Royal Opera House, on Saturday last.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT has accepted an invitation to the dinner which the Lord Mayor is giving at the Mansion House on Wednesday, the 13th inst., in honour of the Army, and to meet the Secretary of State for War and the Commander-in-Chief.

AN APPEAL has been issued by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and Mr. Chamberlain on behalf of the proposed University for Birmingham. The sum of £250,000 is required; but it is stated that a start can be made on the strength of the support already promised.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES and a distinguished party from Taplow Court passed through Boulter's Lock on Tuesday afternoon last in an electric launch steered by Bro. W. H. Grenfell. The Prince took tea with the Countess of Wilton at the Hatch, near Windsor, and returned through Boulter's Lock at half-past six.

BRO. THE MARQUIS and MARCHIONESS OF ZETLAND entertained at dinner on Wednesday evening, at their house in Arlington-street, Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Portland, the Duchess of Montrose and Lady Helen Graham, Bro. Earl and Countess Carrington, the Earl and Countess of Mayo, Bro. Lord and Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Lord and Lady Alington, and others.

A CHORAL PERFORMANCE will be held on Tuesday, the 12th inst., in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, in aid of the Choir Benevolent Fund. Bro. Sir Walter Parratt will direct, and a selection of anthems will be sung by the united choirs of St. George's and Eton College. Sir Frederick Bridge and Dr. Herford Lloyd are expected to assist at an afternoon concert in the Albert Institute. To these performances the Queen has given her patronage.

FOLLOWING UP the great success made with the "Elijah" at the Alexandra Palace, recently, the next choral concert will take place on Saturday afternoon, the 23rd inst., when Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" will be given, preceded by a new cantata composed by Mr. Augustus Barratt, entitled, "Lancelot and Elaine." The composer will probably conduct the first performance of this new work, and Mr. Henry J. Baker will conduct the "Hymn of Praise."

THE QUEEN held a private investiture at Windsor Castle on Monday, when a number of naval and military officers and civilians received from her Majesty's hands the insignia of the Bath and other Orders to which they had been previously nominated. Among the military officers thus honoured was General Sir William S. A. Lockhart, lately commanding the force engaged in the North-West Frontier of India against the Afridis, who was invested with the star and riband of a Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT, attended by Lieutenant the Hon. W. P. Hore Ruthven (Master of Ruthven) and Mrs. Ruthven, dined with Lieut.-Col. W. H. Dick-Cunyngham, V.C., and the officers of the 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders on Saturday last at Aldershot. Among those present were Bro. the Earl and Countess of Airlie, Major-General W. O., Mrs., and Miss Barnard, Mrs. John Scott Napier, Colonel and Mrs. A. S. Wynne, Captain and Mrs. Wilson. The band of the battalion played during dinner, and afterwards a torchlight tattoo was held on the lawn in front of the mess.

BRO. THE DUKE OF BEDFORD, the new Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, presided for the first time on Saturday last over the meeting of county magistrates held at the Guildhall, Westminster. The business included the re-election for the twelfth time of Bro. R. M. Littler, C.B., Q.C., to the chairmanship of the Middlesex County Sessions, and the re-election of Mr. Montagu Sharp to the vice-chair for the second time. A resolution was passed affirming a report of the Parliamentary Committee asking the Government to provide in the Prisons Bill for a larger representation of justices upon the governing bodies of convict prisons.

ON THE occasion of the annual distribution of prizes at the Metropolitan and City Orphanage, Twickenham, on Saturday last, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught visited that institution, and their expression of satisfaction at the excellent way in which it is conducted must be gratifying to every one of its supporters. Their Royal Highnesses went through each department, displaying a lively interest in the methods adopted both for the education and recreation of the children, and at the conclusion, the Duke described the whole of the arrangements as admirable. The school now maintains 160 boys and 100 girls, and compassionate allowances are granted in respect of nearly 850 children, for whom accommodation cannot be found within its walls. The police themselves support it. By a penny a week subscription alone they raise between £3,000 and £4,000 a year, whilst concerts and entertainments are responsible for another £6000.

ANOTHER REMARKABLE TEST OF A.B. TYRES.—Once more the A.B. Tyre people have succeeded in scoring wonderfully in favour of their claims for the non-puncturability of A.B. tyres. On Wednesday last a test similar to that which took place in Coventry some months ago was made, and with equally good results—in the presence of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and staff, and a large company of officers and ladies, in the grounds of the officers' club, at Aldershot. The *Morning Leader* (London), describing the test at Aldershot, writes: "Over nails and broken glass. Again and again did Mr. Gamage's assistants, as well as several officers, ride over a board studded with thousands of sharp nails, and a second plank covered with broken bottles, set in plaster of Paris, and all without a puncture, though the rubber covering was, of course, badly cut about. His Royal Highness took the greatest interest in the proceedings, personally examining the machines used. To one of them was fitted Major Lloyd's rifle clips, which allow of the Lee-Metford being carried on any everyday cycle. Mr. Gamage, in the unavoidable absence of Earl De La Warr, chairman of the Almagamated Pneumatic Tyre Cos., Ltd., in his capacity of director, explained the merits of the Tyres, and methods of construction to his Royal Highness and staff. We may also state that the Duke of Connaught had his own machine recently fitted with these tyres."

THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will hold their regular monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 13th inst., at 4 p.m.

HENLEY REGATTA opened on Tuesday under the most favourable circumstances as regards weather, there being, in consequence, more than the usual immense assemblage of visitors who enjoyed their pic-nicking and so much of the sport as they were able or cared to witness.

LAST SATURDAY a cricket match was played at Stamford Hill between members of the staff of the *Freemason* and the employees of Bros. George Kenning and Son, Little Britain. After a pleasant game victory rested with the latter team by the margin of 12 runs.

THE HEALTH OF LONDON still continues to be most satisfactory, the death-rate per 1000 for last week being returned as 14.5, which was the figure for the previous week. The rate at Brighton was 11.1; at Croydon, 10.9; and at West Ham, 12.6. There is no epidemic in the Metropolis, and the deaths due to influenza have fallen to three.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE honoured Bro. Colonel the Hon. H. and Mrs. Eaton with his company at dinner at their residence, 43, Upper Grosvenor-street, on Sunday evening last, among those present to meet his Royal Highness being Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar, Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Atholl, and Bro. Lord and Lady Hothfield.

A MUCH-NEEDED addition to Queen Charlotte's Hospital was fairly begun on Wednesday, when Viscountess Portman laid the memorial stone of a new home for the nurses in the presence of a company which included the Dowager Countess De La Warr, Sir Frederick Burrows, Sir Edward Hertslet, Lady Baker, Lieut.-Gen. Sir Robert and Lady Grant, Canon Barker, and Lieut.-Gen. Lowry.

THE MEMBERS of the Royal Navy Club, 1765-85, dined at the Whitehall Rooms, Hôtel Métropole on Wednesday night. Admiral of the Fleet, Sir John E. Commerell, V.C., G.C.B., presided, and the guests of the evening included the Right Hon. George J. Goschen, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, and Bro. W. G. Ellison Macartney, M.P., Parliamentary and Financial Secretary to the Admiralty.

THERE WAS a very brilliant soirée at the Royal Academy on Tuesday, the guests being received at the entrance to the Sculpture Room by the President and Lady Poynter, assisted by several members of the Council. Among those present were Lady Audrey Buller, Bro. Earl Egerton of Tatton, the Earl of Carlisle, Viscount Cranbrook, Bro. Lord Ashbourne, the Earl of Levan and Melville, and others, and nearly all the Royal Academicians.

BRO. VISCOUNT WOLSELEY, Commander-in-Chief, accompanied by Col. the Hon. H. Gough, inspected the boys of the Duke of York's Royal Military School at Chelsea. A large company were present, including Bro. Lord Charles Beresford, M.P., Lord and Lady Kelvin, Lord Chelmsford, and General Sir Martin Dillon. Afterwards he distributed the prizes for general work in the school, and addressed a few words to the boys, expressing the hope that as they left the school they would join the Army, and rise high in a noble profession.

LORD AND LADY FARQUHAR entertained at dinner, at their residence in Grosvenor-square, on Wednesday evening, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Devonshire, Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn, the Duke and Duchess of Westminster, the Duchess of Leeds, the Earl and Countess Cadogan, the Earl and Countess Howe, the Earl and Countess Grey, the Earl and Countess Selborne, Bro. Lord and Lady Elcho, Lord and Lady Iveagh, Bro. the Earl of Durham, the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., and others.

IN CONNECTION with the re-opening of the Parish Church of St. John, Tadema-road, West Chelsea, after restoration, it is proposed to hold a Masonic service on Sunday, the 17th inst., at half-past three o'clock. Bro. the Rev. J. Seaver, B.D., P.M., Vicar of St. John's, Holloway, will preach the sermon. The collection will be devoted to the Restoration Fund. The gallery and south aisle will be open to ladies and friends. The brethren will assemble at the Vicarage, adjoining the church, to clothe.

ON THURSDAY, at St. James's Hall, Mr. Edward P. Delevanti's Pupils Concert and Soirée took place, over 100 past and present pupils, and about 150 visitors were present. The hall was most tastefully decorated with flowers, &c., and little tables *à la table*; these arrangements of Mrs. Delevanti being quite unique, the pupils handing round refreshments in the intervals, imparting a social feeling—a pleasant departure from the usual slow and stiff Pupils Concert. The programme was very varied and included an orchestra, cornet, violin, harp and piano solos, many songs, choruses, mandolin, guitar and banjo band, and an operetta written and composed by Mr. Delevanti, concluding with a merry dance, which lasted vigorously until the early hours.

THE 47TH annual meeting of the Birkbeck Building Society was held recently at the offices, 29 and 30, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane. The report adopted stated that during the financial year just closed the total receipts from all sources, taken with the disbursements, disclosed the fact that the annual turnover has amounted to £37,488,736, being a daily average of upwards of £120,000 for every business day that the office has been opened throughout the year. The investments now exceed 10 millions—£10,778,675—and the total liabilities on subscriptions and deposits also exceed 10 millions; whilst the balance of assets in excess of liabilities amounts to £431,984. The amount received for subscriptions during the year has reached the sum of £266,511. After allowing for withdrawals, the amount standing to the credit of investing members at the close of the year is £888,896, and the balance of deposits to £9,457,794, amounting together to £10,346,691—an increase over the past year of £1,233,236. The investments in convertible securities and the cash in hand have been augmented to the extent of £1,212,079, and now amount to £9,213,785, of which £1,542,652 is invested in consols and other Government Securities, and upwards of two-and-a-half millions—£2,652,483—are inscribed in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, and £619,206 cash at Bankers. The number of members who have joined the Birkbeck during the past year is 2924. In the Banking Department, 2116 Current Accounts, and 7377 Deposit Accounts have been opened, in all 12,417 New Accounts, being at the rate of 1034 per month. The Register of Shareholders now contains the names of 13,601 members, and besides these there are 19,160 Current Accounts, and 52,333 Deposit Accounts, thus making the total of members and depositors 85,094, the highest number ever attained. The number of shares in existence at the close of the year was 69,611, which is also the highest number yet reached. Since its establishment the Society has returned to the Shareholders and Depositors more than 194,000,000 (£194,672,808), the whole amount having been repaid upon demand. The amount advanced to borrowers has been £3,559,256, the amount of interest and bonus paid to Investors and Depositors is upwards of three millions sterling, the exact figures being £3,322,147, and the Invested Funds now exceed 10,000,000 sterling—£10,778,675.

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