

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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CONTENTS.

LEADERS—	PAGE.
Masonic Progress in the United States	459
The Lodge of Scoon and Perth	459
Samuel D'Assigny	461
Knight Templary in the United States of America	461
Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire	461
Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham	462
Light on Masonry	462
Masonic Visiting	463
MASONIC NOTES—	
Quarterly Courts of the Royal Masonic Institutions for Girls and Boys	465
Annual Convocation of Prov. Grand Chapter of Hertfordshire	465
Installation of Bro. Lord Wantage as Prov. Grand Master of Berkshire	465
Masonic Service in St. Martin's Church, Gospel Oak	465
Correspondence	466
Review of "An Old English View of American Freemasonry"	466
Rifle Match—South Middlesex Volunteer Rifles	467
Craft Masonry	467
Royal Arch	469
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	470
Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire	470
Instruction	470
Masonic and General Tidings	471

MASONIC PROGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.

We are justly proud of the progress which Freemasonry has made in the United Kingdom during the last quarter of a century. Not only is the Craft in the three Kingdoms numerically far stronger than it was 25 years ago, but its organisation is more perfect, and the institutions which have been established under its protection are now more capable of fulfilling the purposes for which they were started. But if the progress we have made is of the character we have described, our American brethren have perhaps even greater reason to be proud of the strides which Masonry has made under the Stars and Stripes. Theirs is an immense country, with a capacity for increasing and multiplying its population which, for at all events a few centuries to come, may be looked upon as practically illimitable. And Masonry, which has taken a firm hold on the affections of the people, has its part in this rapid and astounding increase. We judge so at least from a summary of the statistics which, according to the *Voice of Masonry*, were contained in the Report on Correspondence presented by Bro. JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND, Past G. Master, to the Grand Lodge of Maine at its 79th annual communication in May last. Bro. DRUMMOND, as our readers know full well, is the greatest authority in the United States on Masonic Statistics, and he tells us that, at the date he compiled his latest tables of Craft Masonry there were in North America 57 Grand Lodges, with an aggregate of subscribing members which reaches the enormous figure of 817,009. From this must be deducted the seven Grand Lodges in British North America, with an array of subscribing members numbering some 30,000, more or less. But this leaves 50 Grand Lodges in the United States with an aggregate membership of 777,000. Some of these Grand Lodges, including those of New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts, date their establishment from the 18th or the earliest decades of the present century, but the majority of them are of more recent creation, and it is among these latter that the progress we are calling attention to appears the more remarkable. Perhaps the most formidable instance is that of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, which, though founded less than 60 years ago, has already a total subscribing membership of upwards of 50,000 brethren. The Grand Lodge of Iowa, which dates from the year 1843, had, according to the returns appended

to the Report of its 55th annual Communication, in June last not far short of 28,000 members. The Grand Lodge of Oregon was founded in 1850, and, though its numerical strength does not appear to have increased by leaps and bounds, as in the cases already cited of Illinois and Iowa, it had at the date of its 48th annual Communication in June, a roll of 100 lodges, with nearly 5000 subscribing members. The Grand Lodge of South Dakota held its 24th annual meeting in the same month of June, when the Returns showed 93 lodges, with nearly 4500 members, while its Grand Chapter, which has only been nine years in existence, has already a muster-roll of 25 chapters and 1456 subscribing companions. Even the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, which is the youngest of the 50 Grand Lodges in the United States, had 33 lodges and nearly 1500 members in February, when it held its sixth annual communication. The strongest in point of numbers of the American Grand Lodges is that of New York, which, according to the Returns presented in June at the 117th annual meeting, had 743 lodges and 95,480 subscribing members. With such figures as these before us, what else can we do than exclaim with our old friend DOMINIE SIMPSON—"Prodigious!"

THE LODGE OF SCOON AND PERTH.*

That during the period from 1658, the date of the Mutual Contract or Agreement which is reverently held to be the charter of the lodge the proceedings must have been more or less regularly recorded is clear from a statement made in the minutes of a meeting held on the 14th January, 1729, when the Master, "the Honourable the Master of ROLLO," his Wardens and other officers and members present "taking to consideration that the old Authentick Records of the Lodge are become illegible, and severall of the Laws, by the visistude of time would again require to be amended and calculated to the present Junture of affairs" proceeded "to statue and enact" a new code of laws for the government of the lodge; but though these "old Authentick Records" were in existence at this date, they are not forthcoming now, the oldest minute book in the possession of the lodge, which has the first 20 pages wanting, commencing from 1725 and carrying us on to December, 1777. The earliest minute bears date the 17th December, 1725, and has reference to a meeting at which there were present ANDREW NORIE, whose signature as Master is affixed to each of the three clauses of the record, 25 others, including three who were entered apprentices on the day, being enumerated in the second clause, while from the first we learn the financial position in which the lodge was at the time. The clause reads thus:

"December 17th, 1725.

"The which day the members of the Lodge of Perth, having convened according to their yearly meeting annent the managing of all affairs concerning the said Lodge, and after reckoning with the Boxmaster, there was found to be Thirty-five Pounds Scots in the chest, and Sixteen Pound money forsaied resting by him to said Lodge as the Ballance of his Accounts, which together with the money received, made up an hundred merks, which money was lent upon Bill to David Rae, Deacon of the Wrights, including the Interest in the Bill, so the Boxmaster hath nothing to count for bygones but what follows this date. As witness my hand.

"(Signed) ANDREW NORIE."

The second clause contains the names of those present, and the third records the entrance as Apprentices of "Mr. Patrick

* "History of the Ancient Masonic Lodge of Scoon and Perth, No. 3 (The Lodge of Scoon)." By D. Crawford Smith, F.S.A. (Scot.), Secretary of the Lodge, Member of the Correspondence Circle of the Lodge Quatuor Coronati, No. 2076, E.C. With an Introduction by William James Hughan, P.M. No. 70, 131, 2076, &c.; Past Senior Grand Deacon of England; Past Senior Grand Warden of Egypt, Iowa, &c.; Author of "The Old Charges of the British Freemason," &c. Perth: Cowan and Co., Limited, 1898.

Stobie, one of the Doctors of the Grammar School of Perth; David Miller, writer there; Patrick Mill, flesher there." From these entries Bro. SMITH very naturally deduces that the lodge at the time was not in affluent circumstances, the 100 merks Scots being equal to about £5 11s. 1d. sterling; and that it was not altogether composed of operative Masons by its admitting "a teacher, a writer, and a flesher."

The minute that follows is dated the 27th December, 1725, and records among other things the re-election as Master of ANDREW NORIE, who remains in office till the 27th December, 1727, when his Warden, Bro. PATRICK HERDMAN, is elected by a plurality of votes to succeed him. On the 27th December, 1728, the Hon. ANDREW, Master of Rollo (afterwards fifth Lord Rollo) is elected to the chair, and on the 14th January of the following year a new code of laws, as already mentioned, is compiled for the conduct of the lodge. These laws, of which the first enacts "That the lodge shall consist of one Master Meason, two Wardens, two Keykeepers, one Boxmaster, and a Clerk, which Clerk shall always be a fellowcraft man," are published in full in Bro. SMITH'S history, and are said to have been signed by ANDREW ROLLO as Master, and about 390 fellows and apprentices. The next to preside over the Lodge was Bro. JOHN BETHUNE, Collector of Customs at Perth, and he was followed by the Master of Rollo, who was elected for the second time on the 28th December, 1730, his successors in the order of their election being JN. FAICHNEY, jun., ANDREW NORIE, and the Hon. JAMES, third Lord RUTHVEN. At the usual date in 1734, the Master of Rollo was elected, in his absence, Master for the third and last time. We are told that he signed the minutes of the 13th August and 28th November, 1735, shortly after which, having lost his wife, he resolved on devoting himself to the military profession, and at the age of 40 years entered the army, was made captain for his gallantry at Dettingen, took part as Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the 22nd Regiment in the expedition in 1758 against LOUISBURG in the attack on Montreal in 1760, and subsequently in the West Indies, where he contracted an illness, which compelled him to return home, and ultimately proved fatal. He died at Leicester in 1765, in the 61st year of his age, and was awarded a public funeral in consideration of his high character and distinguished services, a handsome monument being placed in Leicester churchyard to his memory, which will doubtless be regarded with additional respect by our Leicester brethren when they read the inscription, which is reproduced in this volume, and realise that the gallant soldier it commemorates had been, 30 years before his death, Master for the third time of one of the oldest lodges in Scotland.

Worthy men succeeded the Master of Rollo in his third Mastership, among them being Bro. JAMES CRAMBIE, sen., who presided during the year 1738-9, and who was the "first Mason to be Deacon of the Wright Incorporation since 1569, "the Decree Arbitreill," dated the 7th May, 1569, whereby "the freeman Masons having been debarred from being chosen Deacons of the Wright Incorporation," being rescinded on the 1st October, 1739. On the 8th December, 1740, Mr. GIDEON SCHAW, Collector of H.M. Customs at Perth, and "a brother of the Lodge of the Journeymen of St. Mary's Chapel, Edinburgh," was affiliated a member, and was "immediately appointed to the newly-created office of Depute-Master." It was through the influence of this Bro. SCHAW, who was Master 1740-44, that the Lodge, which had taken no part in establishing the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736, was led to cast in its lot with that body, the entry in the minutes stating that "it was unanimously agreed by the Lodge that thereby they may have communication with the Grand Lodge, and may hereafter pay in to the Grand Lodge the usual dues paid by other Lodges for each brother that shall after this date be admitted, and that the proper jewels for this lodge be provided, and appoint the old Charter of this lodge to be put in Mr. SCHAW'S hands for the above purpose, that the lodge may be classed in the Grand Lodge Rolls, according to their seniority, and appoint the Boxmaster to defray the expenses of said Charter and Jewels."

On the 22nd January, 1741, Ensign GILBERT STEWART, in the Right Honourable Lord SEMPLE'S Regiment of Foot, was admitted Apprentice, a curious side-note appearing to this entry, as follows: "8 sh. Stg. Pd by Box Mr. but one Shill. for washing

Brother Stewart's head given him (the Boxmaster's) back." This head washing, which Bro. SMITH surmises "must be the prototype of an old Ceremony of the Lodge called the Baptism, and performed at the time of refreshment," is described thus:

"The Master or some one appointed by him, taking a little whisky and water in his hand, pours it on the head of the newly-made Apprentice who, at the same time, repeats after the Master these words: 'Here comes I the youngest and last made Mason willing to do my Master's bidding from Monday morning to Saturday night, Keel, Coal, Calk and Skiffet, God Bless the King and the Castle of Edinburgh.' The symbolical meaning of such Masonic words is well known, Keel or chalk, freedom; coal or charcoal, fervency; and skillet, which we take to mean earthen pan, zeal."

In the minutes of the same year occurs the first mention of the Degree of Master Mason, the first notice of its being conferred being contained in a minute of the 31st December, 1744, when WILLIAM HEPBURN was "raised Master," there being 21 raised Masters present on the occasion. On the 19th May, 1742, a charter of confirmation, which is printed in full, was granted to the lodge by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, its precedency in Grand Lodge being declared "to be and commence from the Twenty-fourth day of December, One thousand six hundred and fifty-eight, the date of the Contract before-mentioned, which is recorded in the books of the Grand Lodge." On the 5th November in the same year, a number of brethren were affiliated as members, among them being, JOHN RUTHERFORD, writer, who was afterwards Secretary of the lodge for many years. On the 8th day of the same month the Master and Wardens were appointed to go to Edinburgh to take part in the election of Grand Master, their expenses being defrayed by the lodge. It was also ordered that a list of the members should be compiled and "presented to the Grand Lodge to be recorded," another list being compiled of the members "according to their seniorities of the different stations of Raised Masters, fellowcrafts, and entered apprentices." This latter is in the possession of the lodge and from it we learn that at the time the lodge consisted of 16 Raised Masters, 55 fellowcrafts, and 43 apprentices. It was during the time that this Bro. SCHAW presided as Master that "a procession and dinner on St. John's Day was established, and an annual ball was held for the entertainment of the ladies." On vacating the chair he continued to take an interest in the lodge and signs the minutes of the 10th October, 1760, as Master *pro tem*.

Bro. JOHN HIGGINSON presided as Master from 1744 to 1746, the chief event being the initiation on the 4th March, 1745, of JAMES CREE, Provost of Perth, who was subsequently passed and raised and on St. John's Day, 1746, was unanimously elected to fill the chair as Master, a position he occupied uninterruptedly till 1758. He appears to have taken a great interest in the lodge and from 1730 till his death—which occurred in the latter part of 1758—was connected with the Corporation of Perth as Councillor, Baillie, Dean of Guild, or Provost. The chief event of his Mastership occurred on the 18th May, 1749, when he laid the foundation-stone of the King James the Sixth Hospital with imposing ceremonial in his dual capacity of Provost of the City and Master of the lodge. The brethren who ruled the lodge from the end of 1758 till the close of 1777 when the first minute book ends and a gap of some years' duration occurs in the records are JOHN REOCH, Surgeon (1758-60); W. LINDSAY (1760-63); PATRICK STEWART, Merchant (1763-65); JAMES BALMAIN, Merchant (1765-67)—during whose presidency the foundation-stone of the Bridge at Perth was laid; Sir WILLIAM NAIRNE, of Dunsinane (1767-69); ALEXANDER M'EWAN (1769-70); WILLIAM DRUMMOND, a Mason by trade (1770-74); and WALTER MULLER, writer (1774-77.) During the whole of this period JOHN RUTHERFORD filled the office of Secretary, the last minute in the book bearing date the 28th November, 1777. Bro. RUTHERFORD was first appointed on 27th December, 1742, so that he had held the office for 35 years, when the minutes still preserved cease, but for how much longer, in the absence of the records, we are not in a position to say.

The further records we purpose making are reserved for a further and concluding article.

A SPECIAL "Gazette," published on Saturday last, announces that the Court Mourning, which would have terminated on Wednesday, the 12th inst., will be prolonged to Monday, the 31st inst., the Queen having been pleased to command that the Court shall be in mourning for four weeks, from to-day, the 3rd inst., for her late Majesty the Queen of Denmark, mother of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the Queen's daughter-in-law. The Court will change the mourning for her late Majesty on Monday, the 17th inst., and go out of mourning on Monday, the 31st inst.

SAMUEL D'ASSIGNY,

THE COUPLE-BEGGAR.

In 1699, Samuel D'Assigny, of Dublin, father of our Fifield D'Assigny, M.D., published a pamphlet with the following title:

A short Relation of the Brave Exploits of the Vaudois and of God's Miraculous Providence in their Preservation in the late War against the French in Piedmont. Taken from, and attested by some of their chief Commanders in those Kingdoms. Unto which is Added some few Cautions to the Protestants of Ireland.

Written for our Encouragement against Popery. By SAMUEL D'ASSIGNY, a Lover of his King and Country. Dublin: Printed by John Brent, at the Back of the Duke's Coffee-house, in Skinner Row, near the Tholsell. 1699.

The pamphlet consists of 24 pp., small 4to. The title and its blank reverse, with two pages of Preface, are followed on p. 5 by the text, which concludes on p. 23. D'Assigny begins with a brief historical and geographical description of the Vaudois and their valleys, mentioning the persecution of 1654, and thus leading up to an account of the cruel doings of 1686. He then gives some particulars of the stubborn defence made by the Vaudois against Marshal Catinat, and draws the moral that we ought to be very thankful to King William for his timely arrival in this country.

The performance is without literary merit, and is only worth notice because it fits in with and corroborates the sketch of the D'Assigny family given in *Cementaria Hibernica*.

The pamphlet is in the Thorp collection in the National Library of Ireland, and has been hitherto unknown and uncatalogued.

W. J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY.

1st October.

KNIGHT TEMPLARY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The increase of Knight Templary in the United States of America is greater than ever, there being 115,770 subscribing members returned for the official year 1897-8. For Canada, the figures to June are 1764, but at the present time, in consequence of a "blessed union" of Scottish fratres with the Great Priory, the numbers are still more favourable. For England and Wales the total membership is reported at 2529, and for Ireland, Scotland, Victoria, and Australia the total stands at 1569. There are 1238 subordinate preceptories in these Countries and about 50 Governing Grand Commanderies or Great Priors, those for the United States being under the Grand Encampment.

These remarkable figures testify most unmistakably to the popularity of Knight Templary in North America. They are copied from the interesting volume of Proceedings of Maine, edited by my esteemed friend Bro. Stephen Berry, of Portland, who says the increase in the United States of America of Knight Templary is now 2 1/2 per cent, as compared with 2 per cent. in the previous year. The percentage of Knights to Master Masons is over 1 1/4, there being over \$17,000 of the latter. Massachusetts and R.I. is the largest Great Priory in the world, having 12,313 on its roll; Pennsylvania and New York have considerably over 11,000 each.

W. J. HUGHAN.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CHESHIRE.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held on the 28th ult., at the Literary Institute, Altrincham. Bro. Earl Egerton of Tatton, Prov. G.M., presided, and amongst a large number of Present and Past Prov. G. Officers on the dais were Bros. his Honour Sir H. Lloyd, D.P.G.M.; the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., P.G.W. Eng., P.P.G.W.; F. Broadsmith, P.S.G.W.; J. Clayton, P.P.G.W.; C. E. Jackson, P.P.G.W.; F. R. B. Lindsell, P.P.G.W.; Rev. C. R. Nunn, P.G.C.; W. Holloway, P.G. Treas.; T. W. Markland, P.G. Reg.; Colonel Dean, P.P.G.W.; H. Jackson, P.P.G.W.; J. F. May, P.P.G. Reg.; G. Ibeson, P.P.G. Reg.; E. G. Simpson, P.P.G.D.; H. Gordon Small, P.G.D.C.; J. Cookson, P.P.G.W.; and R. Newhouse, P.G. Sec. There were upwards of 500 members of the Order present.

The roll of lodges was called, and it appeared that all were represented.

The minutes of the last annual meeting and of special meetings held within the year were confirmed.

On the motion of Bro. Col. DEAN, seconded by Bro. H. JACKSON, the annual reports of the Committee of Benevolence in relation to the Provincial Fund of Benevolence, the Cheshire Masonic Benevolent Institution, and the Cheshire Educational Masonic Institution were approved and adopted as part of the proceedings of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The accounts of the Prov. G. Treas., Bro. H. Holloway were agreed to on the motion of Bro. Col. DEAN, seconded by Bro. F. BROADSMITH, and the thanks of the province were tendered to Bro. Holloway and the Auditor, on the motion of Bro. Sir HORATIO LLOYD, seconded by Bro. the Hon. ALAN EGERTON, M.P.

Bro. HOLLOWAY having briefly replied,

Bro. G. IBESON, one of the Auditors, reported that the accounts of the province were accurately kept, and that everything was found in perfect order.

The Prov. G.M., in his address, said the large attendance was not to be wondered at, seeing that Masonry was flourishing in Cheshire and that their numbers were increasing year by year. During the past 12 months three new lodges had been consecrated. Cheshire now possessed 52 lodges, with 2406 subscribing members, an increase of 96 on the preceding year. They had not only reason to be satisfied with the work of their own Committee of Benevolence, but they could also look back with great satisfaction upon the splendid contribution which that province had made to the fund initiated by

their Grand Master, the Prince of Wales, in connection with the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. He (Earl Egerton) had the pleasure of supporting his Royal Highness at the Annual Festival of that Institution, and he thought that those who were not Freemasons must have been struck on that occasion with the extraordinary power of combination exhibited by their Body in furtherance of a Charitable object, seeing that they raised at that festival the large sum of £134,000. (Hear, hear). Of that amount Cheshire contributed £3000. (Hear, hear). The province had also done a great deal in educational work. It might be said that as education was now so largely taken up by the State, that support would not be so much required in the future as it had been in the past, and that therefore it might be necessary for them to look out for some new channel into which Masonic benevolence might be directed. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was deeply interested in the support of the hospitals—the hospitals of London in particular—and there was no doubt that that was a work of Charity and benevolence which might fitly be associated with Freemasonry. They had done so much for Charity during the past year that he did not think the present a suitable time for launching a scheme or suggesting a subscription, but it was a matter worthy the consideration of members of the Masonic body as to whether they could not also show their sympathy with suffering and with those who were in distress by extending aid to the hospitals. (Hear, hear).

The meeting then proceeded to the election of a Provincial Grand Treasurer, and on the motion of Bro. F. R. B. LINDSELL, seconded by Bro. F. BROADSMITH, and supported by Bro. J. T. Goulding, Bro. J. W. Byrom, 1045, was unanimously elected to that office.

The following brethren were appointed Auditors, viz.: Bros. G. Ibeson, J. H. Bellyse, J. Armstrong, J. Cookson, and T. W. Markland.

The Provincial Grand Master invested his officers for the ensuing year as follows:

- Bro. J. E. Perrin, 2375 ... Prov. S.G.W.
Ernest Brassey, 425 ... Prov. J.G.W.
Rev. C. Hylton Stewart, 2619 ... Prov. G. Chaps.
Rev. C. R. Nunn, 428 ... Prov. G. Treas.
J. W. Byrom, 1045 ... Prov. G. Reg.
F. Bettley Cooke, 2389 ... Prov. G. Sec.
R. Newhouse, 1045 (re-appointed) ... Prov. S.G.Ds.
E. G. Parker, 1565 ... Prov. J.G.Ds.
W. Walmsley, 323 ... Prov. G.S. of Wks.
Joseph Roby, 2619 ... Prov. G.D.C.
J. B. Harrison, 104 ... Dep. Prov. G.D.C.
W. Whyte M'Leod, 1166 ... Prov. A.G.D.Cs.
H. Gordon Small, 2386 ... Prov. G.S.B.
J. White, 89 ... Prov. G. Std. Brs.
E. B. Gadden, 2132 ... Prov. Asst. G. Sec.
J. Davenport, 1045 ... Prov. G. Org.
J. Nicholson, 322 ... Prov. G. Purst.
William Dale, 941 ... Prov. A.G. Purst.
W. Hampshire, 320 ... Prov. G. Stwds.
G. Proudman, 2496 ... Prov. G. Tyler.
T. Brown, 721 ...
James Parker, 1045 ...
John Taylor, 1126 ...
Stanley Robinson, 324 ...
J. M'Ewen, 336 ...
J. Ferguson, 1045 ...
W. S. Coppock, 1357 ...
Alderman H. H. Mainwaring, 1045 ...
William Slack, 323 ...
M. H. Wells, 2144 ...
Alfred Huxley ...

A number of brethren having been invested with Charity jewels and bars, a vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. W. M. B. Lutener, vicar of St. George's, Altrincham, for the use of his church, and a collection was made in aid of the Masonic Charities.

After the transaction of business in Provincial Grand Lodge a large number of the brethren fell into processional order, and, headed by the band of the 3rd V.B.C.R., marched to St. George's Church, where a service was held.

The brethren walked in regalia, and emblems of the Craft were included in the spectacular display that the procession afforded. The route to the church was by way of lower George-street, Station-road, Stamford New-road, George-street, Station-road, the Old Market Place, and Church-street, and the brethren had full opportunity of viewing the decorations introduced for the occasion. Bunting was very liberally displayed in the form of lines of parti-coloured streamers spanning the streets at regular intervals and large banners and flags. Flags were raised on all the public buildings, and in places along the route there was literally a blaze of colour. The street decorations were undertaken by the Novelty Art Company, of Altrincham—a firm with a wide-spread fame for work of this description—under contract with the local brethren. Private enterprise enabled them to be extended as far as the Downs, the idea being to allow the decorations to remain over the next day, and thus have the principal thoroughfares bright with colour on the occasion of Altrincham's Agricultural Show. Introduced freely along the line of route were arrangements of flags and streamers that included mottoes expressive of welcome to the Craft, displayed in many instances through the medium of white letters on a red ground. "Prosper the Art," "Welcome the Craft," "Faith, Hope, and Charity," "Welcome Masons All," and "Welcome the Craft to Altrincham," were mottoes and expressions of welcome greeting the eye at every turn. In a number of instances the work of exterior adornment in connection with private premises was distinctly commendable. The windows of the Axe and Cleaver Hotel were valanced with coloured cloth, and those on the ground floor were gaily ornamented with baskets of hanging flowers. The large window of the shop of Mr. E. G. Parker, in Stamford New-road, was artistically dressed with flags, and there was a notable exhibition at the establishment of Mr. W. H. Pugh, showing the device of a horse-shoe and the words "Good-luck." At the foot of the approach to St. George's Church the Masons passed beneath a sort of triumphal arch, which was in itself a wonderful example of decorative ingenuity.

The service at St. George's was taken by the Revs. W. M. B. Lutener (vicar), C. R. Nunn, of Norley (who preached), and J. G. Bird, of Christ Church, Stalybridge. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. James Parker, Prov. Grand Organist, assisted by Bro. John

Goodall, choirmaster of St. George's. The hymn "Come forth, O Christian brothers," was sung by the choir as a processional as Bro. the Right Hon. Earl Egerton of Tatton, Prov. Grand Master, with the Prov. Grand Officers and the general body of Masons entered the church. The building was well filled, the "Nunc Dimittis" was rendered to Stainer in B flat, and the anthem was Dr. Clarke-Whitfields' "Behold, how good and joyful." A collection was taken in aid of the Provincial Fund of Benevolence and the Altrincham Hospital, and as a recessional hymn "O Lord of Heaven and earth and sea" was given.

In the evening a banquet was held under the presidency of the Prov. Grand Master.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DURHAM.

On Wednesday afternoon, the 28th ult., the annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Witham Testimonial Hall, Barnard Castle, this being the first time that the Provincial Grand Lodge has held its annual meeting at this place. There was a large gathering, about 300 Prov. Grand Officers and Masters and officers of lodges attending. Bro. Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., P.G.M., presided, Bro. Lord Barnard, P.G.W. Eng., P.P.S.G.W., was acting Deputy P.G.M., and they were supported by

Bros. the Hon. Victor Williamson, Past G.W. England; Richard Luck, acting P.S.G.W.; John Robinson, P.J.G.W.; Rev. Hartley Jennings, acting P.G. Chap.; Rev. J. Lawson, P.P.G. Chap.; R. Hudson, P.G.S.B. England, P.G. Sec.; John Joel, P.P.G.W., P.A.G. Sec.; Babington Boulton, P.P.S.G.W.; J. R. Cutter, P.P.G.T.; Robert T. Richardson, P.P.G. Reg.; Dr. Alfred H. Sevier, P.J.G.D.; F. Wade, P.P.G.T.; Will. Hutchinson, P.S.G.D.; W. Barlow, P.P.G.D.C.; John S. Roy, P.G. Std. Br.; D. Finlay, P.P.G.P.; W. C. Barron, P.P.G.S.B.; W. J. Sanderson, P.P.G.D.C.; John Smith, P.P.G.S.B.; Jos. Robson Pattison, P.P.S.G.W.; T. M. Thompson, P.P.A.G.D.C.; R. M. Wilkes, P.P.G. Reg.; J. Metcalfe, P.P.G.S.B.; John Holt, P.P.S.G.D.; G. H. Heslop, P.P.G. Std. Br. Northumberland; W. E. Moffett, P.S.G.D.; Chas. F. Sutcliffe, P.P.G.T.; James Robinson, P.P.G.S. of W.; W. R. Staveley, P.P.G.W.; J. D. Todd, P.P.G.S.B.; E. G. Watson, P.D.G.D.C.; F. H. Bennett, P.P.J.G.W.; Richard Brown, P.G.D.C.; Thos. McCarthy, P.P.G. Std. Br.; B. S. Beckwith, P.P.G.W.; Chas. S. Lane, P.P.G.W.; T. C. Jones, P.G. Stwd.; George Robson, P.P.G. Std. Br.; George Harland, P.P.J.G.D.; J. H. Jackson, P.P.S.G.D.; Jos. E. Wilson, P.G. Treas.; Thomas Banks, P.P.A.G.D.C.; George S. Shaw, P.P.A.G.D.C.; Chas. F. Dawson, P.G. Stwd.; John M. Moore, P.P.G.O.; A. Farmer, P.P.S.G.W. N. and E. Yorks; W. Watson, P.A.G.D.C.; T. R. Short, P.J.G.D.; Adam Dodds, P.P.G. Stwd.; J. G. Hall, P.P.A.G.D.C.; Edward Hodson, P.P.G.D.C.; J. J. Wilson, P.P.G.S.B.; Thos. Coulson, P.P.S.G.W.; Robert Farmer, P.P.G.S.B.; G. F. Allan, P.P.G.S.B.; James Rose, P.P.S.G.D.; John C. Moor, P.P.G.W.; Nicholas Lee, P.P.G. Stwd.; J. R. Thompson, P.P.G.D.C.; W. Swales, P.P.G.O.; Chas. W. Anderson, P.P.S.G.D.; D. Cameron, P.P.J.G.D.; Thos. Elwen, P.P.G.P.; R. Hauxwell, P.P.G.S.B.; John Barnet, P.P.G. Std. Br.; W. Goodenough, P.G.P.; Richard Walker, P.P.G. Stwd.; T. A. Moffit, P.J.G.D.; F. Toogood, P.P.G.P.; T. G. Garrick, P.P.G.P.; J. F. Douglas, P.G. Stwd.; Jno. Howe, P.P.G. Stwd.; Thos. Grieve, P.G. Tyler; and W. Clarke, P.G.S.B.

Bro. JOHN F. WILSON, P.G. Treas., read the financial statement for the past year, which showed a balance in the National Provincial Bank, Newcastle-on-Tyne, of £354.

The report was adopted.

Bro. C. S. LANE, P.P.S.G.W., presented the report of the Fund Committee, in which it was recommended that the sum of 200 guineas be subscribed to the Durham Masonic Benevolent Festival Fund; 30 guineas to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; and 20 guineas each to the Royal Masonic Girls' School and the Royal Masonic Boys' School.

Bro. RICHARD LUCK, P.P.S.G.W., said it was hoped that such a good foundation having been laid for the Durham Masonic Hudson Benevolent Fund last year, by a festival to be held next year this Charity Fund of the province would be placed in a substantial position. (Applause.)

Bro. Sir HEDWORTH WILLIAMSON, P.G.M., expressed his approval of the proposal, and trusted that the example of Bro. R. Hudson, P.G. Sec., in devoting this sum to the formation of this fund, which was last year subscribed in recognition of his long and faithful services to the province, would lead to a most successful result, and place the Provincial and Educational Funds upon a firm and substantial footing. (Applause.)

The roll of lodges having been called,

The Prov. G.M., Bro. Sir HEDWORTH WILLIAMSON, Bart., in addressing the Provincial Grand Lodge, thanked the W.M. and officers of the Barnard Lodge for the ample accommodation they had made for their reception. He also thanked the brethren who had come from long distances for their attendance. After referring to the losses the Craft had sustained by death during the past year, he made reference to the regret which all felt at the severe accident which had befallen H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Grand Master of England, and recognised the patience and fortitude of his Royal Highness during the time he had been laid aside from his public duties. He also made feeling reference to the recent accident to the Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., Dep. P.G.M., and to the loss sustained by the Earl of Lathom in the lamented death from accident of the Countess of Lathom. The Prov. G.M. also referred to the number of Freemasons in the province—a total of 3092, a steady increase for the year. He also was pleased at the presence of Lord Barnard—(applause)—who was near to the chair, and would in time, he hoped, occupy it. (Applause.) He trusted that Masonry in the Province of Durham would continue to prosper. (Applause.)

Bro. R. HUDSON, Prov. G. Sec., read the acknowledgment of the address of condolence sent to Lord Lathom, and it was agreed, on the motion of Lord BARNARD, seconded by the Hon. VICTOR WILLIAMSON, that Lord Lathom's reply be entered on the minutes.

Bro. Robert Stewart, P.M. 424, was elected to the office of Treasurer of the province, and Bros. W. J. Heppell and W. J. Jobson were elected as Auditors.

The Prov. G.M. announced, in reply to an invitation from the Gateshead lodges, conveyed by Bro. Holzapfel, W.M. 48, that in all probability the next annual meeting would be held at Gateshead. (Applause.)

The Provincial Grand Master then appointed and invested the following as his officers for the ensuing year:

Bro. Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., P.P.G.C.	...	D. Prov. G.M.
" Cecil F. De Plodge	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" William Waldy	...	Prov. J.G.W.

Bro. Rev. F. D. Brookes	...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. R. E. Parr	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" Robert Stewart	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" Thomas Metcalfe	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" R. Hudson, P.G.S.B. Eng.	...	...	Prov. S.G.Ds.
" E. D. Walrond	...	...	Prov. J.G.Ds.
" Thomas McCarthy	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" Abraham Jobling	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" Adam Dodds	...	...	Prov. D.G.D.C.
" C. J. Walton	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" C. T. Johnson	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" George C. Askew	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" John Lidster	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" John Taylor...	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" Ernst Lautebach	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" G. T. Hyden	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" John T. Ross	...	...
" John Joel, P.P.J.G.W.	...	...
" James Lee	...	...
" Richard Jack	...	...
" R. Teasdale	...	...
" Thomas Rutherford	...	...
" James Willan	...	...
" William Hunter	...	...	Prov. G. Stewards.
" G. J. Clarkson	...	...
" James Bell	...	...
" Thomas Grieve	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.

At the festival afterwards held at the King's Head, Bro. Lord Barnard presided, and was supported by a large number of Provincial Grand Officers. His LORDSHIP, in felicitous terms proposed the toasts of "The Queen," and "The Grand Master of England, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales."

Bro. R. LUCK having proposed the toast of "The R.W.P.G.M., Sir Hedworth Williamson,"

Bro. Lord BARNARD, in responding, referred to the very able and efficient manner in which their Prov. G.M. had fulfilled the duties of the office, in which Sir Hedworth had succeeded the late John Fawcett and the late Marquis of Londonderry. If Freemasonry continued to flourish in the Province of Durham, they all knew that it was due to the great interest which Sir Hedworth took in all that concerned its welfare. (Cheers.)

Bro. JOHN ROBINSON, Darlington, responded to the toast of "The Masonic Charities," and the proceedings concluded.

LIGHT ON MASONRY.

BY BRO. THE REV. WM. ARNOLD SHANKLIN, ORATOR OF METROPOLITAN LODGE, DUBUQUE, IOWA.

Freemasonry is an ancient and respectable institution, embracing among its members men of every rank and condition of life, of every nation and clime, and of every religion which acknowledges the Supreme Being, and has faith in the immortality of the soul. It stands pre-eminent among the institutions established for the improvement of mankind, as far above other secret associations in usefulness as it is beyond them in age.

Freemasonry is an institution, not as the ignorant and uninstructed vainly suppose, founded on unmeaning mystery for the encouragement of Bacchanalian festivity and support of mere good fellowship, but an institution founded on eternal reason and truth, whose deep basis is the civilisation of mankind, and whose everlasting glory is supported by those two mighty pillars—science and morality.

The *creed* of a Mason is the belief in God, the Supreme Architect of Heaven and Earth, the Dispenser of all good gifts, and the judge of the quick and the dead, and a belief in the soul's immortality. It is brief and comprehensive, free from scholastic or sectarian controversies. Masonry prescribes no sectarian test. It asks only for a declaration of that universal religion in which all sects agree—the belief in God, His superintending Providence, and in the immortality of the human soul. Let a man's religion or mode of worship be what it may, he is not excluded from the Order, provided he believes in the Great Architect of the Universe, in his own eternity, and practices the sacred duties of morality.

In all Christian lands the Holy Bible, that great luminary in Masonry, is always open in the lodge, as a symbol that its light should be diffused among the brethren. It is to be the Mason's rule and guide in life. The three great tenets of a Freemason's profession inculcate the practice of these truly commendable virtues—Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

By the exercise of Brotherly Love we are taught to regard the whole human species as one family—the high, the low, the rich, the poor—who, as created by one Almighty Parent, are to aid, support, and protect each other. On this principle Masonry unites men of every country, sect, and opinion.

To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men, but particularly on Masons, who are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathise with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries, and to restore peace to their troubled minds, is the great aim we have in view. On this basis we form our friendships and establish our connections.

We regard truth as a divine attribute and the foundation of every virtue. To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. On this theme we contemplate, and by its dictates endeavour to regulate our conduct. Hence, so long as we are influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us, and the heart and tongue join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity.

Such is the Mason's creed. While not so comprehensive as the Christian religion, there is nothing in it that is opposed or antagonistic to the Christian faith. The Mason's creed leads to the Christian faith. The true Christian's faith includes all that even advanced Masonry teaches. The Mason's creed, if followed to its natural and logical sequence, will make a Christian. Now do not let me be misunderstood. Masonry has its foes within as well as without. He is a foe to our Order who claims, as we sometimes hear from the unwise, "Masonry is good enough religion for me." Masonry does not

claim to be a religion, or take the place of a religion, Too many of our brethren do give it more love and attention than they do religion; but they are personally responsible for such unwise action. The Order does not lead its members to make such erroneous mistakes. No intelligent Mason ever asserts that Masonry can take the place of religion in his life. Many good men have been prejudiced against our beloved Institution by such unwise statements. In such cases Masonry's "foes are they of its own household."

There is nothing in our Masonic creed opposed to Christianity. It ought to lead us into the acceptance of the broader and more comprehensive truths of religion. A man may in no wise violate his Masonic vows, and yet not be in possession of all that religion vouchsafes. Religion not only teaches morality, but it requires a regenerating process that makes the man a new creature. Masonry does not teach or exact regeneration or conversion. It teaches, in the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, the resurrection power of the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah." It refers to the Christ only in a prophetic manner. And here I wish to answer the objection sometimes urged against Masonry on account of its Christlessness. We admit that historically there is no Christ in ancient Craft Masonry, yet we stand ready to reveal as much of Him therein as these objectors may find of Him in the Old Testament Scriptures. As the first three Degrees of our Order are founded on the Old Testament, it is not to be expected that it would speak of the Christ in an historic sense. Christ appears in the Old Testament only in prophecy. Christ appears in Masonry only in prophecy. Masonry takes the grandest fact connected with the Almighty power of the Messiah, as recorded in the Old Testament, and incorporates it into its teachings, and makes it the basis of its most Sublime Ancient Degree.

Christianity includes the fuller revelations of the New Testament, its broader teachings, its more exacting requirements, and give to its followers a deeper faith and a more glorious hope. If I accept the teachings of the Old Testament, I must accept the teachings of Masonry. If I do not condemn the Old Testament for containing a prophetic rather than an historic Christ, I must not condemn Ancient Craft Masonry for having in its creed Christ only in prophecy.

My Hebrew brother can be as consistent a Mason as any Christian. There is nothing in Ancient Craft Masonry that is antagonistic to his faith. I, as Christian, accepting his faith, but following what I regard as the sequel of his faith, can meet my Hebrew brother on the level and part upon the square.

And further. There is the distinguishing difference between Masonry and Christianity; Masonry is exclusive. It selects its own members. It does not want the masses. It ought not to have the masses. The Christian religion comprehends the race. Its great mission is to the masses. Its followers are to invite all to partake of its benefits. But Masonry will have nothing to do with a bad man. A candidate for its Degrees must be recommended by three Masons as of good moral character, and must submit to "due inquiry" and the scrutiny of the ballot. Its great aim is to make good men better. It does not undertake to make a bad man good. Christianity's great mission is to the bad man. Its Founder Himself said that He came not to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance. It says not to the good man, "We want you because you will honour our Institution;" but it says to the bad man, "We want you because we desire to make you better." Masonry develops a man along the line in which it finds him. Christianity, in its very first work, lifts a man out of where it finds him, and develops him along lines diametrically opposed to those which it found him travelling. Hence, I reaffirm that Masonry and religion are not antagonistic—only the one is more comprehensive than the other.

I feel like speaking of another objection that is raised against our ancient Order. Freemasonry is charged with having a membership which is taught morals which it does not observe. It is said that Masonry is founded on the Bible, yet some of its members are infidels; that it teaches belief in God, yet some of its members are atheists, and that it teaches reverence for Deity, yet many of its members are very profane. All this may be true, and yet the Order is not responsible for such hypocrisy. I have no doubt there are many hypocritical Masons. I know some, yet I cannot say much, for I know a few hypocritical Christians. I do not blame Masonry because men are false to its teachings. I do not blame the Church because there are those who "steal the livery of the court of heaven to serve the devil in." In view of the fact that Masonry has its hypocrites, no honest and fair-minded Mason will condemn the Church because it has its hypocrites. Every organization has its faithless members. We Masons have them; and how often we have felt the stigma of their disloyal actions and profane words! We Christians have them, and how often our cheeks have tingled with shame as we have heard of their lecheries and their crimes! It is no reflection on the true coin of the realm to find a counterfeit. It is no reflection on Masonry or on the Church that wicked and perjured men have sought to cloak their infamies beneath the fair robes of purity. The Church does not blame Masonry for its hypocrites. Masonry does not blame the Church for its hypocrites, and no fair-minded man will blame either.

There are some dangers against which I would warn the Order. Masonry has grown so large and respectable that now there are many who seek its honours without any willingness to be guided by its teachings. It is a badge of honour to wear the Masonic emblems; and hence ambitious men, with sufficient money to pay for the Degrees, are anxious to become members of our Fraternity. Our Committees appointed to investigate the character and qualifications of petitioners should be more careful and thorough in their work. Too frequently the Committee does not work at all with the exception of gathering around the Secretary's desk and signing their names to the recommendation. By carelessness, and unwise ambition to increase the lodge roll, unfit men are hastily inducted into our lodges. Masonry has more to fear from foes within than from foes without. Outside enemies have vainly struggled for centuries to destroy our Institution, but with no avail. The greatest danger against which we must guard is the initiation of improper persons, and the lax enforcement of discipline in cases of scandalous and un-Masonic conduct on the part of those who have taken our vows.

Let us remember that the qualifications which are essential in those who apply for initiation are of two kinds—internal and external. The internal qualifications are those which lie in one's own bosom, and are not known to the world. They refer to his peculiar dispensation towards the Institution and his motives and design in making an entrance into it. Hence they are known to himself alone, and a knowledge of them can only be required from his own solemn declarations.

The external qualifications are those which refer to his outward fitness for initiation, and are based on his moral and religious character, the frame

of his body, the constitution of his mind, and his social position. The knowledge of these is to be acquired by a Committee for that purpose.

Let us guard well our front door, admitting none to our mysteries save those who are worthy and well qualified; and let our back door move smoothly on its hinges to afford hasty departure to those who walk not worthily according to our sublime teachings; and then our glorious institution will continue to grow, filling the earth with its beneficent benedictions and abiding peace.

We Masons need frequently to remind ourselves that we are not set for the defence of our Order. Our chief task is to reflect honour on our profession by the noble lives we live before our fellows. Masonic honours are not golden badges worn in conspicuous places on our garments. The most bejewelled Mason may be the most ordinary man. Freemasonry is set for the development of manhood! It helps to exalt in life the best virtues and noblest attributes.

As Masons we have our Masonic honour to maintain. There are words we must not speak. There are things we must not do. There are places we must not enter. We have too much at stake. The honour of our manhood, and the standing of our Order, depend upon our absolute adherence to the tenets of our sublime institution. Our honour must remain unsullied! Our Order must be kept above reproach! Our God must be honoured! Our souls must be exalted to the Grand Lodge above! We are born to be kings and priests unto God for ever!—*Voice of Masonry.*

MASONIC VISITING.

One of the signal pleasures arising from Freemasonry is that which is incident to Masonic visiting. Of course we enjoy attending our own lodge; it is our especial home; there we meet the members of our own immediate family; but Freemasonry is an endless chain of families extending around the globe. In every land the Freemason may find a home, and in every clime a brother. This is not figure of speech, but fact. But many who never become travellers desire to visit in their own country and their own city. There is a charm in visiting another Masonic lodge, meeting even in the same Masonic Temple as our own lodge. It may be a next-door neighbour, yet in it we are abroad. We there widen our circle of experience, our knowledge of the Masonic world. We there, amid old associations, meet new associates. It is the same old work, the same secret art and mystery, the same symbols and allegories, but all else is new, and new life is sometimes thus acquired by the brother who has been previously following only a time-worn monotonous path.

Wherever there are all the outward tokens of Freemasonry—a Masonic Hall, a Masonic Temple, or even an unpretentious lodge-room—duly guarded by the Tyler, and thus protected from the approach of the profane, a Freemason may venture to present himself. But if the customary Craft indications are lacking—the doors kept wide open or ajar, where one may walk in unchallenged, or peep in—beware! It requires some skill to visit wisely. The brother must have his Masonic wits about him. He must be like the Acacia, ever green. He must be bright, a reading Mason, not merely on speaking terms with Freemasonry, but intimately familiar with its mysteries. Such a one cannot go astray.

We will suppose a discreet brother to be on his travels in quest of "more light." He presents himself to a lodge where he is unknown, and requests admission as a visitor. What is the usual course which ensues? That depends on the Master of the Lodge. The Master is Master. His will and pleasure rules the Craft. He may perform his duty, or neglect it. He may in due course hear the request for admission presented, and for a good cause, or a poor cause, or no cause at all, pay no immediate attention to it, or temporarily overlook it, or lose sight of it altogether. The constant recurrence of one or other of these lines of conduct is becoming a crying evil in the Craft. A visiting brother who sends in his request to a lodge has the right to have it treated with Masonic courtesy, and with all possible promptness acted upon. He is a brother of the Craft. Every lodge should be made a home to him. We, of course, recognise the right of a Master to refuse admittance to any visiting brother whom he thinks would mar the harmony of that particular lodge, and also the personal right of any member, for the same reason, to object to a visitor; but we are not now treating of that aspect of the subject. We are assuming that there is no formal objection to his admission, and that this request is simply neglected or ignored. This is a wrong. There is no good reason why his request should be treated with neglect, and every reason why it should be treated with the civility due a gentleman and a Freemason. Put yourself in his place! How would you like to be kept loitering in the outer courts of the Temple, while within those mystic rites which have so great a fascination to the average initiate are being enacted by your brethren. We trust the day, or the night, is at hand when all Masters of lodges will be thoughtful of the visiting brother, give him instant attention if practicable, and treat him with that fraternal spirit which he would invoke for himself were he knocking at the portals of another lodge. The Tyler's room, or closet, or entry, is not always the most agreeable place in the Masonic world. Sometimes the stove is uncomfortably near, or the smoke unpleasantly thick, or the seats disagreeably hard, or the monotony decidedly marked. Then the proposing visitor has a dull time of it. But even when the surroundings are the best imaginable, they are not what he is in quest of. He desires to enter the portals of Freemasonry, to visit his brethren, to sit in the lodge. He ought not to be unreasonably kept out. He should have the right hand of friendship and brotherly love extended to him. He is one of us probably, and he should be duly noticed, promptly examined, and, if found to be a Freemason, warmly welcomed as a visiting brother.—*Keystone, of Philadelphia.*

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY has intimated to Bro. the Marquis of Tweeddale that her Majesty has been pleased to confer upon him the Ribbon of the Thistle, vacant by the death of Bro. the Earl of Mansfield. Since his lordship quitted political life in 1878 he has been actively engaged in the management of telegraph companies, and succeeded the late Bro. Sir John Pender in the chairmanship of those known as the "Eastern" group. Bro. Lord Tweeddale has also been chairman of the North British Railway Company during the past 12 years.

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K.G., M.W.G.M.

A QUARTERLY COURT of the Governors and Sub-
scribers will be held at FREEMASONS' TAVERN, Great
Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on FRIDAY,
the 14th day of OCTOBER, 1898, for the transaction of the
ordinary business of the Institution.

To consider Notices of Motion by the V.W. Bro. RICHARD
EVE, P.G. Treas., Patron and Trustee of the Institution,
Chairman of the Board of Management:

I.—"That the best thanks of the Court are due,
and are hereby tendered, to Brothers* for
special services rendered in connection with the
recent Centenary Festival."

* The names will be placed on the Agenda distributed
at the Court.

II.—"That the recommendation of the Board of
Management, as approved by the Council of
30th September, to grant a sum of money to the
Secretary for his great services rendered to the
Institution in connection with the recent Cen-
tenary Festival, be confirmed."

To receive a statement from the Board of Management
respecting the progress in the development of the Bushey
Site for the New Schools.

To Elect 26 Boys from an approved List of 45 Can-
didates, reduced to 44 by the admission, on extraordinary
vacancy, of [No. 8 on list] Hardy, Harold Richard.

The Chair will be taken at Twelve o'clock at noon
precisely.

The Ballot for the Election of Boys will be open at One
o'clock, or so soon as the General Business of the Court
shall have terminated, and will close at Three o'clock
precisely.

By order,

J. M. McLEOD,

Secretary.

London, 6th October, 1898.

* * * The 101st ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL will be
held in June, 1899, under distinguished Presidency. The
services of Ladies and Brethren as Stewards on the
occasion are earnestly solicited, and will be gratefully
acknowledged.

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FOR GIRLS.

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Grand Patroness:

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

A GENERAL COURT of the Governors and Subscribers
of this Institution will be held in the LARGE HALL
of the FREEMASONS' TAVERN, Great Queen Street,
Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on THURSDAY, the 13th
day of October, 1898, at Twelve o'clock precisely, on the
General Business of the Institution; to elect 13 Girls into
the School, from a List of 27 Approved Candidates. The
Election will commence at one o'clock, or immediately
after the conclusion of the General Business.

F. R. W. HEDGES,

Secretary.

5, Freemasons' Hall,
Great Queen Street, W.C.,
October 6th, 1898.

The 111th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL will take place
in May next, under the Presidency of the Right Hon.
VISCOUNT DUNGARVAN, D.L., R.W. Prov. G.M.
Somerset. The names of brethren willing to act as
Stewards will be very gratefully received.

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Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1898.

We have to remind our readers that the Quarterly General Courts of the Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institutions for Girls and Boys respectively, will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, that of the Girls' Institution on Thursday, the 13th inst., and that of the Boys' Institution on the following day. On both occasions the chair will be taken at the hour of noon, and at 1 p.m., or as soon as the general business has been transacted, a poll for the election of children will, on both days, be opened, and so remain till 3 p.m., after which no votes will be received. For the Girls' School there are 27 candidates and 13 vacancies to be filled, and for the Boys' School 45 candidates and 26 vacancies.

* * *

As usual, we renew our appeal in behalf of those children who, if they fail to win admission at these elections, will have their names removed from the lists on the score of age. These are six in number, and comprise No. 8 among the girl candidates, and Nos. 8,

12, 13, 17, and 34 among the boy candidates. The grounds of our appeal are the same as at previous elections—that, while all the rest of the candidates on both lists will have at least one more chance allowed them of obtaining vacancies—and many among them will have several chances—these six children must succeed now or lose all hope of securing the benefits of which they have been adjudged worthy. We trust, therefore, that those Governors and Subscribers who are not pledged to support any particular case or cases will use their votes and influence in behalf of these candidates. We have no particular interest in securing the success of any one of them; but we hold that, in the present state of the lists, there is no reason why any candidate should be allowed to fail.

* * *

The annual convocation of the Prov. Grand Chapter of Hertfordshire will be held at the invitation of the James Terry Chapter, No. 2372, at the Four Swans Hotel, Waltham Cross, on Thursday, the 13th instant. The chapter will be opened at 5.45 p.m., precisely, and the business will include the election of Prov. Grand Officers—for the ensuing year.

* * *

According to the statistical returns presented at the 117th annual communication of the Grand Lodge of New York in June last, there are 743 lodges on the roll, with an aggregate subscribing membership of 95,480. The Permanent Fund of Grand Lodge is returned at upwards of 65,000 dollars, and the Reserve Fund of the Masonic Home at 182,500 dollars. As regards this latter sum, however, the Committee on Hall and Asylum appear to have reported that after an experience of six years they find that the whole of the income will be consumed in the maintenance of Hall and Home, and that there is but little prospect of increasing the Reserve except through the interest accruing annually and such bequests as may from time to time be received. They are of opinion, therefore, that having regard to the expressed desire of Grand Lodge that the Reserve Fund should be increased, the growth of the Home at Utica should be made to conform more nearly to the resources at their command.

* * *

A short time since we had the pleasure of announcing that the ceremony of installing Bro. Lord Wantage, Past G. Warden of England, as Prov. G. Master of Berkshire in succession to the late lamented Duke of Clarence and Avondale, would take place in the Town Hall, Reading, during the present month. We are now in a position to add that the meeting will be held on Friday, the 14th instant, and that Bro. Earl Amherst, Deputy Grand Master of England, Prov. G. Master of Kent, will preside as the Installing Master. There is a fitness about the arrangement which may not at first strike the reader, Bros. Lord Amherst and Lord Wantage having served together in the Crimea, the former in the Coldstream Guards, and the latter in the Scots Fusilier, now Scots, Guards.

* * *

It is proposed to hold a Masonic service in St. Martin's Church, Gospel Oak, N.W., under the auspices of the Hampstead Lodge, No. 2408, on Sunday, the 23rd inst., at 3.30 p.m., in aid of the recent restoration of the Church. A special dispensation will be obtained, and in the course of the afternoon a handsome Screen and Lectern, forming the Masonic offering, will be dedicated. The sermon will be preached by Bro. the Bishop of Marlborough, and the offertory will be devoted to making up the deficiency in the amount required for the Screen and Lectern. Brethren who may desire to attend are requested to meet in the School Room opposite the Church not later than 3.15 p.m. for the purpose of clothing and thence walk in procession to the Church. The north and south aisles will be reserved for ladies and friends of the brethren. Tickets to be had of the Vicar, Bro. the Rev. T. H. Russell, Chap. No. 2408. We understand that our respected Bro. James Terry, P.G.S.B., has been invited to act as Director of Ceremonies on the occasion.

* * *

The *Canadian Craftsman* for last month is exceptionally well-furnished with information relating to the proceedings of the Craft in nearly all the different Masonic jurisdictions in the Dominion of Canada. First of all, we have a report of the 15th annual convocation of the Sovereign Great Priory of the Order of the Temple in Canada. This is followed by a full report of the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, to the proceedings of which we have referred in a former article. Then come reports of the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, and Grand Council R.S.M. of New Brunswick, followed by those of the annual

meetings of the Grand Lodges of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia. Such an array of interesting matter as this, in addition to the usual Editorial Notes and other articles, original and quoted, is not often to be met with in a single number of even the most enterprising Masonic periodicals. Well done, *Craftsman!* *Macte Virtute!*

* * *

The Templar gathering was held in Hamilton City on the 6th ult., under the presidency of Sir Knight D. F. MacWatt, Supreme Grand Master, who, in the usual address reviewed at some length the principal events of the past year. He reported the number of members on the roll at 1832, the increase during the year being 76. During the proceedings exemplifications were given by different Preceptories of the Degrees of the Red Cross, Temple, and Malta. Sir Knight MacWatt was re-elected Supreme Grand Master.

* * *

That all who seek admission to the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry are not actuated by the purest and most disinterested motives is illustrated by a case mentioned by a correspondent of the *Keystone* of Philadelphia. Two of the owners of a general merchandise store, who happened to be Masons, recommended one of their managers for initiation and membership to the lodge to which they belonged, and the applicant in his petition described himself as the "Manager House-furnishing Dept." of the firm. The petition or advertisement further notified the fact that the said manager was desirous of becoming a Mason and a member of the same lodge as his employers, and "if successful could be of great service to those of his fellow-members who may be in need of house-furnishing goods." The correspondent does not state if the petition was successful or not, but we trust that for the honour of the lodge, and above all, for the credit of Freemasonry, it was rejected *nem con.*

* * *

The *Voice of Masonry* records the death of a very worthy Craftsman, Bro. Lorenzo Dow Croninger, who was born in May, 1827, initiated in the Craft in 1848, and having been exalted to the Royal Arch, was installed a Knight Templar in 1853. In 1874 he was elected Grand Recorder of the Grand Commandery of the Temple in Kentucky and of the Grand Council of R. and S.N., and was annually re-elected, dying in harness in the 72nd year of his age.

* * *

The 13th annual assembly of the Veteran Freemasons' Antient Society of Illinois will be held at Smith's Inn, 65, Sibley-road, Chicago, on Wednesday, the 26th inst. Bro. General J. Carson Smith is the Venerable Chief and Mrs. Smith requests that the members will be accompanied by their dames. The reception will last from "early candle-light till low twelve."

* * *

Our Australasian contemporary *Masonry*, of Melbourne, entered upon its sixth year of publication on 25th August last. *Masonry* is a paper to which we are not infrequently indebted for news, while its articles are well-written and at all times interesting. We congratulate our contemporary and trust it may have before it a long and prosperous future.

* * *

The annual meeting of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Canada was recently held in Toronto under the presidency of Bro. G. C. Patterson, G.M., who in his address referred to the progress which Cryptic Masonry had made during the past year and recommended that a Committee should be appointed to revise the Constitution. The Grand Master's recommendation was adopted and a Committee appointed, after which the Grand Officers for the ensuing year were elected and installed, the ceremony being performed by Bro. J. Ross Robertson, Past G.M. Bro. James C. Morgan is the present G.M.; Bro. James C. Wilson, Dep. G.M.; and Bro. A. G. Forwood, Grand Recorder.

* * *

The Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, though it has not been in existence for much more than half a century, appears to be in a very prosperous state. It has 237 lodges on its roll, of which all but 10 were represented at the recent annual meeting in Milwaukee in the month of June last, the total number of subscribing members being upwards of 17,000. Bro. J. G. Monahan is the present Grand Master, in succession to Bro. N. C. Gillin, while Bro. John W. Laflin retains the position of Grand Secretary, which he has adorned for so many years.

Correspondence.

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

THE LODGE CHARTER OR WARRANT.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The letters of your able correspondents, Bro. John Lane and Bro. Lamony, in last week's *Freemason*, if they will permit me to show, do not cover the enquiry made by my letter in your issue of the 24th ultimo. It goes without saying that no regular lodge can meet without a Warrant of Constitution and the provision of Article 125 of the Book of Constitutions—"that the warrant shall be produced by the Master at every meeting of the lodge"—may possibly have more reference to, and be evidence of, its continued safe custody, than to the real necessity for its actual corporal presence at each meeting. I find nothing in the Constitutions rendering any meeting irregular, or the business transacted at such meeting invalid, in case the lodge warrant should not actually be present, and I venture to state that it would be going too far to suggest that by implication any such business transacted was rendered either irregular or invalid simply by reason of the absence of the warrant from the place of meeting.

English Freemasons undoubtedly regard—and properly so—Bro. Lane as a high authority in matters pertaining to the Craft, but I hope he will excuse me when I venture to doubt that it was "absolutely essential"—as he puts it—at the emergent lodge to which my previous letter referred that the warrant of the lodge should have been taken from the walls of one room to another where the emergent lodge was being held, inasmuch as the lodge was duly warranted and the warrant was actually suspended on one of the walls of the same building.

It is remarkable—according to Bro. Lamony's letter—that in Australia and in the English provinces, lodges are careful as regards the warrant being kept on view in the lodge room during the period of labour, but that in London—under the very shadow of Grand Lodge as it were—the lodges—or some of them—deem it a sufficient compliance with the Constitutions to produce the warrant or charter at installations and on occasions when candidates are initiated into the Craft. I had this confirmed only recently when in conversation with a London Mason; this correspondence may prove useful if only to bring to the light such alleged irregularities as Bro. Lamony referred to.

Let me reiterate what I sought information upon in my former letter, namely, "Is the work done or business transacted by the lodge in the absence of the warrant or charter irregular or invalid? The Wisconsin decision which I quoted in my previous letter covered the question from an American standpoint; has the Grand Lodge of England—otherwise than by the Constitutions—made any reported pronouncement regarding the matter? It would have been interesting to your numerous readers had Bro. Lamony stated what decision the Board of General Purposes arrived at regarding the irregularity referred to in the concluding paragraph of his letter in your issue of the 1st inst.; doubtless Masons had been initiated, passed, and raised during the year when the lodge warrant had been misplaced, yet as the lodge in question was a regularly constituted and warranted lodge, I venture the opinion for what it is worth, that neither the Board of General Purposes nor yet Grand Lodge would hold that such Masons had not been regularly made nor the Worshipful Master who received the bogus parchment as the lodge warrant had not been duly installed—the temporary absence of the lodge warrant notwithstanding.—Yours fraternally,

J. T. LAST.

Bradford, October 4th.

RORKE OR ROOKE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I had an opportunity on Friday last of once more looking at the page of the Grand Lodge Register which gives a list of the members belonging to the Lodge at the "Goat at the Foot of the Haymarket" (1730). The name, with regard to which there has been a slight difference of opinion between two of your recent contributors, is, without the shadow of a doubt, "George Rooke," who, it is highly probable, was also the "Geo. Rooke" referred to by Bro. Lane in your last issue as having been a member of the lodge at the "Swan" in 1723. Many years ago, when searching for materials that might enable me to compile a record of eminent Soldiers and Sailors who have been members of our Society—a task only recently resumed, but very shortly I hope to be concluded—I met with the name of "George Rooke" in the Lists of 1723 and 1730, and the possibility of its being that of the famous Admiral, Sir George Rooke, occurred to me. I found, however, on looking into the matter, that the Admiral died in 1709; but, while examining a file of old newspapers for 1723—I think the *Daily Courant* for October in that year—I came upon a mention of "Geo. Rooke, son of Admiral Rooke," so it would seem likely that, while unsuccessful in identifying the father as a Freemason, I accidentally stumbled on some evidence which will go a long way towards inducing the conviction that among the members of lodges in the early Grand Lodge era, was the son.

Admiral Sir George Rooke, as everyone is aware, was in chief command at the capture of the fortress of Gibraltar in 1704. But it is perhaps not so well known that among the naval captains who particularly distinguished themselves in this exploit was Robert Fairfax, afterwards promoted to be Rear-Admiral, and a little later (1713) "admitted and sworn into the honourable Society and Fraternity of Freemasons," at York.

For his services at the taking of Gibraltar, Queen Anne presented Captain Fairfax with a silver cup. A good portrait of him was painted in the last years of his life. The left hand rests on a globe, and in the right he holds a pair of compasses.—Yours fraternally,

R. F. GOULD.

Woking, October 3rd, 1898.

LOST JEWELS AND CLOTHING.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have had the misfortune to have had my Masonic case stolen, containing a Past Master's apron and collar, together with some 14 jewels attached thereon, and I should therefore feel obliged if you will please insert this letter in your widely circulated paper, so that the same may be traced, as most of the jewels have my name engraved upon them, and they may be offered to some brother in London or the Provinces. Anticipating your compliance to my request, believe me, fraternally yours,

J. M. KLENCK,
P.M. 1339, 1686, P.Z. 1339, &c.

64, Bishopgate-street Within,
October 3rd.

REVIEW OF "AN ENGLISH VIEW OF AMERICAN FREEMASONRY."

By JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.

While the reading of the article under this title, by Bro. Speth, will produce a broad grin upon the countenance of every intelligent American Mason, as illustrating the danger of writing about a matter of which the writer knows scarcely anything, even if he is as able a man as Bro. Speth, I deem a reply to be for the interest of the Craft.

In this country the decision of all questions in the administration of the affairs of a lodge is left to the good sense of a Master. But sometimes a Master is in doubt, even after consulting the Past Masters, if there are any, and he seeks instruction from one who knows, and speaks by authority. In spite of Bro. Speth's opening questions, this is quite rarely done. In a Grand Jurisdiction having 200 lodges the average number of reported decisions does not exceed 20, and in many not half that number. While it is probably more in accord with English character for the Master to go ahead and decide on his own knowledge and let those aggrieved fight it out afterwards, we in this country, holding that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," seek instruction from the Grand Master and settle the matter without any fight at all. And we cannot help thinking that our method is more in accord with the teachings of Masonry and less liable to disturb the harmony of the Craft. Nor do we have any "Board of General Purposes"; that piece of machinery may be a good and useful one in a jurisdiction as vast as that of the Grand Lodge of England, but in our comparatively small jurisdictions it would be worse than useless. The business usually performed by it is here divided among the Committees of Grand Lodge, to which they report directly for its action.

It may be that some of the questions seem to learned Masonic Jurists to be trivial and puerile; but to a young Master, without access to Masonic libraries, and not skilled in examining Constitutions and codes, they do not seem so, especially when the members of his lodge differ in opinion in relation to them. And if 10 or 20 such cases arise in a year in 200 lodges, it gives no ground for the gibe that we "do not seem to dare to call our souls our own without appealing to a Grand Master to corroborate the fact."

The imputation, also, that our Grand Masters are "anxious to mark their terms of office by a string of decisions" is entirely without foundation, and a gross slander upon our American Grand Masters, though made through ignorance and without malice. Usage requires Grand Masters to report their decisions to the Grand Lodge to be passed upon by it and thus establish a rule for the future, and there is no self-glorification of the Grand Master in doing it.

It is true, that the ambition to be Grand Master is here deemed a laudable one, just as in England it is deemed very desirable to become a Grand Officer of any rank; but the reading of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of England has led me to believe that the pressure for office in that body is vastly greater than in our American Grand Lodges.

But Bro. Speth utterly fails to appreciate the difference in circumstances in England and America. In England, to speak in common parlance but without disrespect, the Grand Master is a mere "figure head"; while in America he is the executive officer of the Grand Lodge during the recess—the active and not the nominal head of the Fraternity. Of course, his Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, cannot be expected to be more than nominal Grand Master; his being Grand Master gives the Fraternity an importance that conduces very greatly to its prosperity. But in America, such a thing would be utterly impossible; while we respect the magistrate, civil rank gives way to the Masonic rank in the lodge.

It follows that the duties of a Grand Master necessarily consume much of his time. The laying of corner stones, the dedication of halls, the constitution of new lodges, and visitations, are no small item of his official duties. It is true that he can, and in some instances does, perform these acts by deputy; but it pleases and interests the Craft the most when these duties are performed by the Grand Master.

But in addition, our leading Masons are business men, "active business men" in the American sense of that term; they can sacrifice their business interests for one year, and some can for two years, and now and then one can do so for three years. So that frequent changes are absolutely necessary. But fortunately we have so far had sufficient material for able and efficient Grand Masters. We have had very few, if any, poor or even weak ones.

Now as to physical qualifications, I entirely agree with Bro. Speth that "as long as a candidate can comply with the ritualistic requirements we are satisfied." One, reading his article, would understand that all our Grand Lodges hold to the opposite doctrines; whereas in fact, our doctrine prevails in a vast majority of the Grand Lodges, in fact those which hold to the "perfect youth" rule are very few. If he had limited his remarks to the six or eight jurisdictions to which alone they are applicable, I would have said "amen," although as able men and as learned Masons as there are in the world, hold that his doctrine and mine is in violation of the landmarks of Masonry.

The pressure everywhere is, however, to admit men who are otherwise well qualified, without regard to their physical eligibility; and so it is that these questions are presented in the hope that the lodge will be justified in admitting candidates concerning whose physical qualifications there is a doubt. In this country a lodge which should admit a candidate not physically qualified according to the law of the jurisdiction, would certainly be disciplined. So in close cases, while sympathy would incline the lodge to admit the candidate, prudence leads it to seek for instruction.

I have devoted much thought to the question of the size of our lodges, and have often expressed the wish that the experiment of a small lodge might be tried. But, according to Bro. Speth, the objects of lodges in England and America are vastly different. He says that "the main object of the Craft (in England) is good fellowship." While, from the reports of recent visitors to England, I had rather inferred that such was the case, and had so stated in a report on correspondence. I did not feel sure of it till I read this from Bro. Speth's pen. Now, if that is the main object of a lodge organization, there is no question that he is entirely correct in relation to the sizes of lodges. But in America such is not the main object. The prime object of the working of a lodge is to teach Masonry; to impress upon the minds of individuals the principles of Masonry as rules to govern their own conduct in their daily life and conversation; it is to make better men rather than

more social companions. Another object, scarcely secondary to the former, is the relief of the distressed, the accumulations of the lodge are a trust fund, which it has no right to spend for any other than charitable purposes. The large size of a lodge is no obstacle to the first purpose, but rather gives a wider field of labour; and for the second purpose, the larger the lodge, the greater is the surplus over expenses to go into the charity fund.

It is true, however, that the attention given to these objects has led to the neglect of cultivating sociability; while our English brethren have apparently gone to one extreme, we have gone too far in the opposite direction. But recently this has been called to the attention of the Craft, and there is a growing disposition to cultivate the social qualities, but not to the extent of having a meal "washed down with beer and whiskey," as Bro. Speth says is the custom in England.

It is history, and, therefore, proper to be stated here, that the great cause of abandoning refreshments was that very "washing down"; it developed into excesses in violation of the tenets of Masonry; and it is the overwhelming sentiment of the Masons of this country that if a man can be held in the institution only by "beer and whiskey," it is best for Masonry that he shall go out; and I do not believe that a single Grand Lodge in the United States would tolerate their use in Masonic rooms during, or immediately after, the meeting of a lodge. But it has been discovered that their use is not necessary to the cultivation of social intercourse at Masonic collations, and the great mass of Masons, so far as my acquaintance extends, do not want them on their own account, to say nothing of the consideration that almost always a few weaker brethren will indulge to an extent that is an excess for them.

That we have many unaffiliated, or (as Bro. Speth calls them) "unattached" Masons, is true; but that we have a larger percentage than they have in England, I am not sure; in fact from the best information I can obtain, I do not think we have. The Grand Lodge of England publishes no statistics and, as I understand collects none; so I doubt if our English brethren have any more reliable information than we have.

But whatever the fact may be as to the comparative numbers, it is true that in many of our jurisdictions, we make more fuss about them. In England, apparently, when a Mason ceases to be a member of a lodge, he practically ceases to be a Mason; he so understands it, and accepts the situation; the Craft also accepts it, and he is let alone.

In Maine and many other jurisdictions, we also let him alone; if he is worthy, we would be glad to have him come back and he so understands it. We recognise, however, that he is still a Mason, and that we are at liberty to treat him as such. In other jurisdictions, financial considerations control and efforts are made to compel him to join a lodge or at least to pay the same dues as if he were a member, and failing that, to deprive him entirely of his Masonic character—a thing, which I hold no Grand Lodge has the rightful power to do for such a cause. The alleged reason is that these brethren avoid all the financial burdens of the Craft, and then, when they fall into distress, demand relief. However, there is no "trades-unionism" about it; "unattached Masons" are simply told, you must be a member of a lodge, or practically cease to be a Mason—precisely as is done in England, only here (in some jurisdictions) literally a fuss is made about it, and there, there isn't.

The existence of the "Shrine" is not an acknowledgment that the Craft feel any want whatever. The only thing Masonic about it is, that only Masons are eligible to it, and I am sorry to say that in many places our best Masons are exceedingly sorry that there is even that reason for holding Masonry responsible for it.

Then as to jurisdiction over rejected candidates: the difference in views and practice in this country and England in relation to this, is a natural consequence of the difference of views as to the proper office of the lodge. In England where the object is to cultivate sociability, the refusal to admit a person as a member, means nothing that should prevent another lodge from receiving him; but in this country the admission of a profane is a very serious matter; it is almost universally held that we are admitting a man into a great Fraternity, whose interests must be guarded with the utmost care, while his becoming a member of the lodge is secondary. The question is not "Will he make an agreeable member of my lodge?" but "Will he make a good Mason and be an honour to the whole Craft?" It is held that every Mason is interested in the character of every initiate and in some jurisdictions every Mason present, whether a member of the lodge or not, is invited to ballot upon the petition of a candidate for admission to the Fraternity. So that it is held that when a man is rejected by one lodge he shall not be admitted by another into the Fraternity against the opinions and wishes of the members of the lodge which rejected him. It is held here (and in England, too, I believe) that an unwelcome member shall not be forced into a lodge, lest its harmony be impaired; we go a little further—a natural result of our views in relation to the admission of a profane—and hold that an unwelcome member shall not be forced into the Fraternity and thus destroy its harmony.

But "the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it;" the only tests of the success of a system are results, and while I do not claim that the English system does not work well in England, it is certain that the results of our American system are such that it would be criminal folly to attempt to substitute the English system for it.—*American Tyler.*

RIFLE MATCH—SOUTH MIDDLESEX VOLUNTEER RIFLES.

MASONS v. NON-MASONS.

On Wednesday, the 28th ult., the annual match was shot at Caterham between teams consisting on the one side, of members of the 2nd (South) Middlesex Regimental Masonic Lodge and Freemasons in the regiment, and on the other of non-Masons in the corps, for a silver challenge bowl presented by the South Middlesex Lodge, No. 858.

The shooting was at 200, 500, and 600 yards, any position—teams eight aside six to count—Armourer-Sergt. Hobbiss, P.M., was Captain of the Masonic team and Colour-Sergt. Barrett (who curiously enough spent some of his early days at the Royal Masonic School) was Captain of the non-Masonic team.

An interesting match resulted in the victory for the non-Masonic team by 24 points—a much smaller majority than last year owing to the fact that a few of the then winners have since joined the Craft.

Refreshments were provided on the range by the brethren, and the arrangements were admirably carried out by the regimental messman, Bro. Price, late Sergeant of the Somerset Light Infantry.

We append the counting scores. It will be seen the winners made the splendid average of 90 points per man: Non-Masons—Private Christian, 94; Private Brooks, 94; Colour-Sergt. Barrett (Captain), 92; Private Tanner, 89; Corporal Walden, 88; and Sergt. Pocock, 83. Total, 540. Masons—Armourer-Sergt. Hobbiss, P.M., 92; Sergt.-Bugler Matthews, 90; Bro. Surrey, W.M., 87; Col. Reid-Todd, I.P.M., 86; Private Landryan, 84; and Sergt. McHutcheon, 77. Total, 516.

Craft Masonry.

Stamford Lodge, No. 1045.

The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Town Hall, Altrincham, on Monday, the 3rd inst. The following were present: Bros. J. Davenport, W.M., P.A.G. D.C.; Richd. Newhouse, P.M., P.G. Sec., P.G.S.B. Eng.; F. Broadsmith, P.M., P.P.G. Stwd., P.P.G.R., P.P.S.G.W.; Dr. W. A. Renshaw, P.M. P.P.S.G.W.; James Hamilton, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W.; Joel Foden, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; W. K. Blunsum, P.M.; J. W. Byrom, P.M., P.G. Treas.; J. Hawker, J.W., P.P.G. Stwd.; James Parker, Org., P.G.O.; W. Dykes, I.G. P.P.G. Stwd.; James Ferguson, Asst. Sec., P.G. Stwd.; J. Mainwaring, P.G. Stwd.; Thos. Nicholson, J.D.; J. S. Derbyshire, G. T. Johns, W. Walkden, David Morrison, and Hy. Stanley, Stwds.; Wm. Alwood, and A. W. Boucher. Bros. Geo. J. Critchley, 1161, and Donbovand were visitors.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of raising was postponed owing to the candidate being unable to attend. It was unanimously decided to have a social evening, consisting of members and lady friends at the next meeting of the lodge, and a Committee was formed to carry out all arrangements. This being the first time the lodge had met since the recent Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, Bro. Broadsmith, P.M., &c., on behalf of the brethren, congratulated the newly-appointed Provincial Grand Lodge Officers, Bros. J. Davenport, W.M.; J. W. Byrom, P.M.; James Parker, J. Ferguson, and J. Mainwaring, on the honour they had conferred upon them. Bro. J. Davenport, W.M., responded in a brief but eloquent manner. After Bro. J. W. Byrom, P.M., &c., had been re-elected Charity representative, the lodge was closed.

The usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured at the social board and the harmony of the evening was contributed to by Bros. Derbyshire, Parker, Ferguson, Nicholson, and Donbovand.

Villiers Lodge, No. 1194.

A very successful meeting was held in connection with this lodge at the Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court, on Saturday, the 1st inst. Bro. Charles Dodd was succeeded by Bro. W. Aitken Clark, who is a first class exponent of the ritual and under whose auspices a continued period of prosperity for the lodge is assured. The members present included Bros. C. Dodd, W.M.; W. Aitken Clark, S.W., W.M. elect; Alex. Harris, J.W.; Wm. Vincent, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; W. Dodd, P.P.G.D. Sec.; Leonard Cook, I.G.; E. Monson, G. J. Thomas, and P. Monson, P.P.G. Supts of Works; E. Peachey, P.M.; E. Francis, I.P.M.; W. Collinson, Prov. G.S. of Works; and many others. Visitors: Bros. J. Lancaster, 1586; G. J. Wooldridge, J.D. 2317; E. P. Delevanti, Org. 2021; R. G. Klyne, P.M. 2266; A. E. W. MacCawley, S.W. 1585; W. G. King, 2417; F. W. Miller, 1858; W. W. Lee, P.M.; and others.

After the opening of the lodge, and transaction of formal business, Bros. T. C. Walters and W. S. Martin were raised to the Third Degree. Bro. C. Dodd then concluded an excellent year's work by ably installing Bro. W. Aitken Clark as W.M. The officers invested were Bros. A. Harris, S.W.; A. Davis, J.W.; W. Vincent, P.G.S.B., Treas.; W. Dodd, P.P.G.D., Sec.; W. Tomes, S.D.; Leonard G. Cook, J.D.; Wm. G. Vincent, I.G.; E. Monson, P.G.S. of W., D.C.; A. J. Hill and B. H. Griffiths, Stewards; and J. Gilbert, Tyler. Messrs. F. G. Rice and A. J. Philcox were then initiated into Freemasonry by the W.M., the ancient charge being given by Bro. Francis, P.M.

A satisfactory audit report was adopted, and the lodge was closed. The banquet which followed fully sustained the reputation of the hostelry, and the usual toasts were afterwards honoured.

Bro. W. Vincent, P.G.S.B., replied for "The Grand Officers," remarking that the proudest moment of his life was when that lodge did him the honour to present him with his Grand Lodge clothing a year ago. He was proud to be a member of that lodge, where such harmonious feelings existed among all the members.

"The Provincial Grand Officers" was next given, the W.M. referring to the fact that two members attained provincial rank during the past year—Bros. T. L. Green, Prov. G. Treas., and Collinson, Prov. G.S. of W.

Bros. Collinson and Wooldridge returned thanks. Bro. C. Dodd, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master," and said he could truly say they were to be congratulated upon their present Master—Bro. Aitken Clark—who had been during his membership a consistent, steady, and faithful worker, and who had by this means attained the position of W.M. The W.M., moreover, was courteous in manner and was in every way fitted to take charge of the lodge during the next 12 months. They sincerely hoped he would have health and strength to carry out his duties.

Bro. W. Aitken Clark, W.M., said he had been deeply touched by the extremely kind manner in which the I.P.M. had proposed the toast. Since he had taken up Masonry he had made it his duty to study it and do his work as well as he could. If he had succeeded it was largely due to the time he had given to study, not only at lodges of instruction—which was the surest and safest way to success—but also in quiet thought at home. He stood before them as the last recruit in the long line of Masters of the Villiers Lodge. It was a position of responsibility and pride. Of course he was proud, for every Mason must be proud, to attain the top of the ladder which he had gone up step by step and rung by rung, but this did not relieve him from the care and responsibility during the coming year. He felt sure that any shortcomings would be pardoned and the knowledge that he had their support and co-operation immensely lightened the responsibility. He trusted, with the kindness and support of the members, to steer the lodge through a prosperous voyage during the next year and he thanked them heartily for the way in which they had received the toast.

"The Initiates" and "The Visitors" followed, after which "The Installing Master and Past Masters" was proposed by the W.M., who presented Bro. C. Dodd, I.P.M., with a Past Master's jewel which he had well earned by an excellent performance of all the duties pertaining to the Master's chair.

Bros. C. Dodd, I.P.M., and Francis, P.M., responded, and Bro. G. J. Thomas, P.P.G. Supt. of Works, acknowledging "The Masonic Charities," urged the extreme importance of Middlesex brethren supporting the Provincial Charity Committee at the forthcoming School Elections.

Other toasts were given before the proceedings closed. Bro. Delevanti presided at the pianoforte, and was assisted by Bros. W. G. Vincent, Cormack and Percy Griffiths.

Liberty of Havering Lodge, No. 1437.

The pretty little town of Romford, in Essex, famous for its market, and especially so for its "nut brown ales," is the centre of a gathering of local and provincial Masons of no ordinary eminence. The above lodge, which is held at dear old Bro. Peter Reynolds' famous hostelry, the Golden Lion there, is not only one of the most popular but one of the strongest in the province; celebrated for its excellent working and its munificent hospitality; but above all for its persistent efforts in the cause of the Masonic Charities; one of its esteemed Past Masters, Bro. F. A. White, P.P.G.R., being a Vice-Patron of all the Charities, and one of the special representatives of the Provincial Charity Committee since 1892; while its Masonic Charitable Association has done and is still doing good suit and service in the cause of Masonic Charities.

The installation meeting of the lodge took place on Thursday, the 22nd ult., and a godly assembly of the brethren of the lodge and visiting brethren attended to assist at

ts celebration. The retiring W.M., Bro. John Spencer, having opened the lodge and the usual formalities having been observed, proceeded to instal his successor, Bro. John Boreham, S.W. and W.M. elect, into the chair of King Solomon. A strong Board of Installed Masters was duly constituted, and Bro. Boreham was installed and saluted. He appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. J. Spencer, I.P.M.; G. Bailey, S.W.; F. A. Stratford, J.W.; Rev. A. R. Eales, M.A., Chap.; F. A. White, P.M., P.P.G.R., Treas.; H. R. Heasman, P.M., P.P.J.G.D., Sec.; H. E. Smith, S.D.; C. H. Woodcock, J.D.; A. T. Harding, I.G.; C. Church, Org.; F. W. Smith, D.C.; W. Baker and A. W. Dowsing, Stwds.; and A. Young, Tyler. Bro. Spencer then gave the addresses in a most perfect and impressive manner. He was thanked for his excellent working of the ceremony, and it was resolved that a copy of the thanks of the brethren be inscribed on the minutes of the lodge. Bro. W. D. Child was re-elected to represent the lodge on the Provincial Charity Committee.

The "Hearty good wishes" of the visitors were tendered, and then the lodge was closed.

The banquet was one of Bro. Reynolds's great efforts, and was thoroughly enjoyed.

The usual loyal, Grand, and Provincial Grand Lodge toasts were afterwards honoured.

During the evening Bro. Spencer was presented with a handsome and valuable Past Master's jewel, suitably inscribed with the thanks and esteem of the brethren, for his services during the preceding year as W.M., and also by his initiates, as a mark of their regard, with a handsome Past Master's collar and pendent square, also suitably inscribed.

Bro. Spencer returned thanks for the gifts.

A fine programme of music, vocal and instrumental, was carried out, the contributors being the "Celia Quartette" (Bros. Hiles, Smith, Pinkerton, and Hadjon); Bros. Galey and A. Harding also contributed, and Bro. C. G. Church accompanied the singers, and the whole affair was a great success.

Rose Lodge, No. 1622.

The installation meeting of this highly successful South London lodge took place at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, S.E., on Saturday, the 1st instant. Present: Bros. W. Dawson, W.M.; W. E. Jeffery, S.W. and W.M. elect; H. Potter, J.W.; Isaac Dunn, P.M., Treas.; Jno. Loader, P.M., Sec.; Geo. Thompson, S.D.; J. H. Reap, J.D.; R. Brambleby, I.G.; S. J. Derham, P.M., D.C.; F. E. Choveaux, Org.; J. Parr, Steward; J. Whiteman, Tyler; Thos. Pickett, P.M.; David Rose, P.M.; H. Vickery, P.M.; J. Pullen, P.M.; W. Jeffery, P.M.; S. W. Ballard, P.M.; W. T. Nellthrop, H. Arkcoll, Jos. Wiggins, J. J. Drayner, A. Searle, J. T. Reynolds, D. J. Wright, J. B. Higgs, J. A. Johnson, S. J. Cohen, Chas. H. Mayo, W. McKay, C. B. Ryan, Goddard Clarke, W. J. Snodgrass, F. Sahl, R. Sobel, J. Nuttitt, E. Seaman, Wm. Frampton, A. Christi, J. F. W. Morris, J. Hight, A. C. Crisp, F. W. Wright, W. Kirby, R. Matheson, W. Shaw, T. J. Smith, O. St. Cedd, and W. Wisdom. The visitors were Bros. H. Grimsdale Clarke, P.M. 2421, P.P.G. Std. Br. Bucks; E. S. Collins, 1950; C. H. Lawson, P.M. 2500; G. H. Lewis, P.M. 2206; G. Wiltshire, 860; F. E. Sims, J.D. 1937; G. Richards, 1056; B. T. Drayner, J.D. 1297; C. J. Sowton, I.P.M. 1679; R. Elgar, P.M., Sec. 1329; H. A. Colman, 213; Thos. Wm. Chapman, Steward, 101; Dr. Walsh Owen, 901; Chas. L. Plant, P.M. 101; H. D. Hinton, P.M. 975; F. Dunn, P.M. 72; F. Butler, J.W. 1360; R. J. Richards, I.G. 1056; C. J. Hayes, W.M. 1475; A. H. Bateman, P.M. 33, &c.; and C. H. Turner, P.M. 1662; H. D. Richardson, 2500; H. Cornford, S.W. 1922; and C. H. Stone, P.M. 507, J.W. 1641.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. Johnson, Arkcoll, Searle, and Jonas Wright were raised in a perfect manner by the W.M., and Bro. F. E. Seaman passed by Bro. S. W. Ballard, I.P.M., most impressively. Bro. W. E. Jeffery, S.W., W.M. elect, was next presented by Bro. Isaac Dunn, P.M., to the W.M., Bro. Wm. Dawson, to receive at his hands the benefit of installation, which was carried out in a most exemplary manner in a Board of Installed Masters to the number of 25. Bro. W. Jeffery invested his officers as follows—Bro. S. J. Derham, P.M., D.C., acting as D.C.; Bros. H. Potter, S.W.; G. Thompson, J.W.; I. Dunn, P.M., Treas.; J. Loader, P.M., Sec.; J. H. Reap, S.D.; R. Brambleby, J.D.; S. J. Cohen, I.G.; S. J. Derham, P.M., D.C.; F. E. Choveaux, Org.; J. Parr and W. McKay, Stewards; and J. Whiteman, Tyler. The three addresses were most effectively rendered by the Installing Master, Bro. Wm. Dawson. The Auditors' report was received and adopted, which showed the lodge to be in a most flourishing financial position.

One proposition was handed in for initiation, which is an augury for good to the lodge, and the lodge was closed.

The brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, supplied by Mrs. Venables, the proprietress, in her usual efficient manner.

The cloth removed, the W.M. announced as there was an excellent programme of music provided, that brevity in speech making would be the order. Having given the usual loyal and Masonic toasts royally, specially mentioning H.R.H. the M.W.G.M. and the interest that he took in the noble charities, the W.M. proposed that "The Pro G.M., the Dep. G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," in terms becoming their exalted rank and ability, which toasts were duly responded to.

Bro. Wm. Dawson, I.P.M., next stated it was his privilege and duty to put before the brethren the toast of "The Worshipful Master," which would be received with acclamation. All knew him well, as one of the best workers in the Rose Lodge. It was nine years ago that he and the W.M. were initiated together, and during that period he had followed in stepwise progression. They had been very constant attendants at the Rose Lodge of Instruction and had gained there all that Masonic knowledge which had enabled them to keep up the prestige of the Rose Lodge. It needed no more words to extol the W.M. for he had endeared himself to all. The toast was most cordially responded to.

The W.M., on rising, received quite an ovation, and thanked the brethren most heartily for such a reception and responded to the very kind words that had fallen from Bro. Dawson, P.M., respecting himself. He was indeed very proud and it would be a pleasurable duty to perform the duties to promote the welfare of the Rose Lodge, and after having done that he hoped he should deserve all the kind expressions that had been said of him.

The toast of "The Visitors," the W.M. stated, was a most important one and always received at the hands of the brethren of the Rose Lodge a cordial greeting. There were several distinguished brethren present and they were all most heartily welcomed.

In response, Bro. Hayes felt it an honour to reply first but being W.M. of 1475, a sister lodge, he was proud to be present and witness the admirable working and wished a successful year to the W.M.

Bro. Bateman, P.M., in an exhaustive and intellectual speech, commented upon the benefits that accrued from after-dinner speeches, for although the work in the lodge might be excellent yet social intercourse at the banquet table led to emulation and encouraged others to do their respective duties as the out-going Master had done and the present W.M. had commenced so efficiently. They had adopted the national flower, and he trusted the lodge would have long life and continue to flourish as the rose. There was one other benefit, for although Masonry flourished over every part of the globe, showing the universality of the science, yet a brother often met old faces and was kindly received and heartily welcomed. He had experienced the same and hoped that the same kindly feeling would ever exist and the Rose Lodge continue to prove a lasting success.

Bro. Hinton, P.M., offered his hearty congratulations to the W.M. and the lodge, and paid a high tribute of respect to Bro. David Rose, P.M., the first Master of the lodge, whom he had known for over 25 years and had sat under him as a pupil and from whom he had gained his Masonic knowledge, which was imparted in such a kindly manner and such an able method.

Bros. Elgar, P.M., Richardson, and Clarke, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br. Bucks, also ably replied.

Bro. Wal. Jeffery, W.M., next gave the toast of "The Past Masters," who were such a body of brethren that the lodge was justly proud of. He could not refrain from saying a few words to the I.P.M. who had been associated with him from boyhood. They were initiated together, worked side by side, and now he had succeeded him in the chair of W.M. There was no brother for whom he had a greater regard and his ability in Freemasonry was of such that he was quite an authority. It was with the greatest possible pleasure that he presented to him, in the name of the lodge, the beautiful Past

Master's jewel, for although he had already possessed one from another worthy lodge, which was prized, yet the present one would be more greatly prized as it was from the brethren of his mother lodge. He trusted that he would wear the same for many years.

Bro. Wm. Dawson said he regretted he could not find words adequately to express himself to respond to the toast of the Past Masters. He was deeply sensible of the kind expressions that had fallen from the W.M., whom he had known for 25 years, and that friendship was more deeply cemented when they were initiated. He had truly observed that they had gone up step by step and had reached the summit which should be every Freemason's ambition. The Past Masters were ever ready to assist, but such was the contribution of the lodge that their services were not required inasmuch as the officers and many younger brethren were most efficient in their working.

Bro. H. Vickery, P.M., also ably replied, and pledged to do his utmost to advance the prosperity of the lodge.

The toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary" the W.M. said was one that deserved their very hearty appreciation as they were such efficient officers, always advising for good, safely guarding their funds, and bestowing their valuable business experience which greatly led to their success.

In reply, Bro. Isaac Dunn, P.M., Treas., said it was a pleasure and honour for him to serve them. All knew the splendid year that was passed and he hoped the present would be as successful. He commended the brethren upon the promptitude with which they paid their subscriptions, &c., and he was proud to say that although every liability was met, the Charities had not been forgotten for about £50 had been paid in to their account. His aim would be to assist in promoting the welfare of the lodge.

Bro. J. Loader, P.M., Sec., most heartily thanked the brethren for such a greeting. All knew he did his very best for the lodge, and he would continue to do so. The W.M. had had a splendid example in Bro. Wm. Dawson, and had a very great task before him, but he was equal to the occasion, and would fully maintain the prestige of the Rose Lodge. One word he would like to say respecting gentlemen for initiation—they should not be introduced without excellent credentials, and thereby maintain their reputation. So long as the G.A.O.T.U. gave him health and strength, and he received such kindly expressions towards him, he would not flag in his best endeavours towards the lodge.

The toast of "The Officers" was most ably proposed in appreciative terms.

Bros. Potter, S.W., and G. Thompson, J.W., replied.

The Tyler's toast closed a most happy and successful meeting.

An excellent programme of music was carried out under the able management of Bro. F. Choveaux, Org., ably assisted by Madame Helen Coleman, Miss Bessie Spells, and Bro. Arthur Court, John Josey, S. J. Derham (flautist), and Choveaux. Bro. F. Choveaux very ably accompanied on the piano.

Farringdon Without Lodge, No. 1745.

A meeting was held at the Viaduct Hotel on the 26th ult., when there were present, among others, Bros. W. R. Witt, W.M.; J. D. Webb, S.W.; W. Wellsman, C.C., P.M. 858, J.W.; H. J. Lardner, P.M., P.G.S., Treas.; W. H. Jackson, P.M., Sec.; A. E. Cook, S.D.; F. P. Weinel, P.M. 1828, J.D.; Dr. E. M. Lott, P.M., P.G. Org. Eng., Org.; Dr. J. W. Hinton, P.M., P.P.G.O., Asst. Org.; W. T. Collyer, Stwd.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G. Std. Br. Eng.; J. Young, P.M.; T. Simpson, P.M.; E. Schultz, P.M.; N. P. Lardner, P.M.; C. Bachoffner, P.M.; and J. Evans, P.M.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken on behalf of Messrs. L. Killick and F. Melhuish, and, it being unanimous, they were impressively initiated by the W.M. The question of altering the month of installation was adjourned till the next meeting. A petition to the Board of Benevolence on behalf of a late member of the lodge was recommended and signed, after which the lodge was closed.

A banquet followed, and the usual preliminary toasts were honoured.

The toast of "The Grand Officers" was coupled with the name of Bro. E. M. Lott, Mus. Doc., who briefly responded.

The toast of "The W.M." was fluently proposed by the I.P.M. He congratulated Bro. Witt upon the excellent manner in which he had performed the ceremony of initiation that evening, and he also complimented him upon the success that had attended the summer outing under his presidency.

The pledge having been duly honoured, the W.M. acknowledged the compliment in modest terms.

"The Health of the Initiates" followed.

Bros. Kellick and Melhuish, in response, respectively expressed themselves as delighted with their introduction into Freemasonry, and hoped to become in due time active and useful members of the Order.

Bros. Evans, Young, Simpson, Schultz, and Bachoffner replied on behalf of "The Past Masters."

Bros. Lardner, Jackson, and Webb responded for "The Treasurer, Secretary, and Officers."

During the proceedings some excellent singing was contributed by Bros. J. Young, E. Schultz, E. R. Clemmens, A. E. Cook, and others. Bros. Drs. Lott and Hinton kindly officiated at the pianoforte.

Lodge of Research, No. 2429.

The annual festival of this lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Monday, the 26th ult., and, as usual, attracted a large number of the most prominent Masons of the local lodges. Among those present on the occasion were the following: Bros. R. Pratt, M.D., W.M.; S. S. Partridge, D.P.G.M., P.A.G.D.C. Eng., I.P.M.; F. W. Billson, LL.B., S.W. and W.M. elect; Rev. H. S. Biggs, P.P.G. Chap., J.W.; Rev. H. J. Mason, P.P.G. Chap., Chaplain; W. D. Grant, P.P.J.G.D., Treas.; J. T. Thorp, P.P.S.G.W., Sec.; J. J. W. Knowles, Prov. S.G.D., S.D.; H. Howe, P.P.A.G.D.C., J.D.; G. Neighbour, Prov. G.D.C., I.G.; R. W. Maries, Tyler; W. H. Staines, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; R. B. Starkey, P.P.S.G.D.; Lawrence Staines, P.P.G. Org.; F. W. Wilmer, P.M. 2028, P.P.J.G.W.; A. Fergusson, P.M. 1391, P.P.J.G.D.; A. Chambers, P.M. 1391, P.P.G.S. of W.; E. F. Knight, P.M. 1130, P.P.G. Stwd.; C. L. Ferneley, P.M. 1130, P.P.G. Std. Br.; J. Clifton, W.M. 279; W. A. Lee, W.M. 523, Prov. G. Stwd.; T. C. Perkins, P.P.G. Stwd. Jersey; W. J. Knight, I.G. 2028; A. Smith, Asst. Sec. 1007; H. Hampson, 523; H. E. Clayton, 523; J. Berridge, 1391; R. H. Warren, 1391; and P. Joseph, 960. Amongst the visitors who honoured the lodge were Bros. Henry Sadler, G. Tyler, and Sub-Librarian of the Grand Lodge of England; Rev. C. H. Wood, P.M. 1560, Past G. Chap. Eng.; B. A. Smith, P.M. 523, P.P.S.G.W.; R. Michie, P.M. 279, P.P.J.G.D.; E. Taylor, P.M. 523, P.P.A.G.D.C.; J. G. Bower, P.M. 1391, P.P.A.G.P.; Jno. Butcher, P.M. 279, Prov. G. Stwd.; H. G. Marriott, P.M. 2028, Prov. G. Stwd.; G. E. Barton, W.M. 1391; J. G. Collis, W.M. 2028; H. H. Thomson, J.W. 50; F. J. Dale, 1391; C. H. Page, J.D. 1391; A. Page, Stwd. 1391; C. W. Carter, 1391; J. C. Grieve, 523; W. Bream, Stwd. 523; W. G. Bone, 2081; H. Hyde, 523; C. Poyner, I.G. 523; and F. W. Lilburn, 2028.

After the confirmation of minutes and other routine business, the W.M. elect, Bro. F. W. Billson, was installed in ancient form by the out-going Master, the ceremony being performed in a very excellent manner. Appointment and investiture of officers, and the passing of the Treasurer's accounts followed, also other general routine business. The second part of the evening was devoted to a lecture by Bro. H. Sadler, Grand Tyler and Sub-Librarian of the Grand Lodge of England, on "Tylers and Tying." This was listened to by the brethren with marked attention, and at its close a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the lecturer for his most interesting, instructive, and amusing lecture. Bro. Sadler was subsequently elected an honorary member of the lodge.

After the lodge was closed, the brethren remained to the usual conversations, which was much enjoyed by all, and the meeting terminated with mutual congratulations on the very enjoyable evening that had been spent, and on the continued success of the lodge.

Mendelssohn Lodge, No. 2661.

This admirable musical lodge held its second installation meeting at the Holborn Restaurant last Saturday, at which a company of over 50 brethren assisted. The lodge was consecrated a year ago, and a prosperous career for it was foretold by the Grand Secretary, who performed the consecration ceremony. The Very Worshipful brother's prognostication has been fully verified, as the lodge has a good balance in hand after discharging all the liabilities it incurred, the working has been splendidly performed,

and the object the founders had in view—the establishment of a perfectly harmonious and happy lodge—has been fulfilled.

The lodge was called for 7.30 p.m., and there was a long programme of work. Bro. Charles Stevens, W.M., presided, and the other brethren present were Bros. F. P. Baxter, I.P.M.; F. Inskipp, P.M., S.W.; William J. Hellyar, P.M., J.W.; Robt. Peachey, Treas.; R. J. Hennings, P.M., Sec.; Arthur W. Jones, S.D.; B. Bramble, J.D.; C. Wilkinson-Pimbury, P.M., D.C.; William H. Duffield, I.G.; J. William P. Stevens, P.M., C. Gough, and Mount Brown, Stewards; R. B. Whiteman, acting Tyler; W. J. Hellyar, jun., H. J. Huggett, A. C. Nurzey, Henry Corner, G. W. Minson, Frank J. Fisher, J. Stapleton, Richard Clowes, P.G. Std. Br. (Hon. Member); George W. Smith, P.G. Org. (Hon. Member); and Visitors: Bros. C. H. Kempling, W.M. 2508, S.D. 1706, Prov. G. Org. Essex; Henry C. Miller, W.M. 2108; Arthur E. Gough, 246; J. Lincoln Henson, P.M. 1728; Albert H. Pitcher, P.M. 972; P.P.D.G.D.C. Kent; F. Larner, 2054, P.P.G.S. of W. Herts; I. G. Littlechild, 511; G. W. Barter, S.W. 2362; J. H. Guyton, S.W. 1426; the Rev. E. H. Pearce, J.D. 181; Frank R. E. Bailey, I.P.M. 1426; Samuel Hague, 2105, P.P.G.D.C. Middx.; H. Massey, P.M. 610 and 1028; William Robert Barr, P.M. 1632; James Freeman, J.D. 55; Thomas Powell, S.D. 2182; William Stewart, S.W. 185; Walter J. Tull, 1706; I. Griffiths, 1319; G. T. Harrop, S.W. 1288; J. J. Newland, P.M. 1949, W.M. 2381; Reginald Tupper, 2612; George Inskipp, P.M. 1997; Charles E. Tinney, P.M. 1319; James Gawthrop, W.M. elect 1706; Dr. Hubert J. Gardiner, P.M. 1261; and O. Lamare, I.P.M. 1922.

The Worshipful Master raised Bro. G. S. Minson, and initiated Messrs. Joseph Post Attwater, Joseph William Eisenham, and George Perry Nash. After the last ceremony he informed the brethren that hitherto the Ancient Charge, in the First Degree, had not been given in this lodge, and that as the ceremony of initiation could not be said to be complete without it Bro. Baxter, P.M., who had been of great service to him during his Mastership—on one occasion in his absence through a domestic affliction, acting as W.M. and doing all the work—would give the charge to the candidates, and he requested all the brethren who had been initiated in the lodge during the year to stand up with the initiates while Bro. Baxter gave the charge. The brethren then, 10 in number, stood up while the charge was being delivered. Bro. Wilkinson-Pimbury, P.M., afterwards, at the request of the W.M., took the W.M.'s chair, and installed Bro. Frederick Inskipp as W.M. for the year ensuing, and Bro. Charles Stevens was invested as I.P.M. The following brethren received the other collars of office: Bros. W. J. Hellyar, P.M., S.W.; Arthur W. Jones, J.W.; Robert Peachey, W.M. 1922, Treas.; R. J. Hennings, P.M. 2508, Sec.; C. J. Wilkinson-Pimbury, P.M., D.C.; W. B. Bramble, S.D.; W. H. Duffield, J.D.; J. W. Stevens, P.M., I.G.; G. S. Minson, Org.; Mount Brown, P.M., Charles Gough, Henry Corner, and James Stapleton, Stwds. The investiture of Tyler stood over, as since Bro. Whiteman was re-elected he has resigned. It should be noted that after the W.M. had been obligated as W.M. in the Second Degree the anthem "Be thou faithful unto death," was beautifully rendered to the accompaniment of the organ and the cello. At the conclusion of the installation addresses to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren, a Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. C. Stevens. On the motion of that brother, seconded by Bro. Hellyar, S.W., a Past Master's jewel was voted to Bro. Baxter, who had acted as I.P.M. during Bro. Stevens' year of Mastership. A vote of thanks, proposed by Bro. Hellyar, S.W., seconded by Bro. C. Stevens, was adopted, in which the lodge conveyed its thanks to Bro. J. Wilkinson-Pimbury, P.M., for performing the ceremony of installing his old personal friend, Bro. F. Inskipp, as W.M. of lodge. Bro. Wilkinson-Pimbury acknowledged the compliment, and stated it had given him great pleasure to perform the ceremony, but added that he had greatly to thank Bro. Stevens for allowing him to do so.

The brethren, after the closing of the lodge, adjourned to a delightful banquet. The speeches which followed when the toasts were proposed were interspersed with some lovely singing, in which the executants were Bros. R. J. Hennings, Charles E. Tinney, Hiles Smith, Attwater, Minson, Gawthrop, Kempling, and Wingrove Hles. The glees were participated in by some 30 performers each.

Bro. Richard Clowes, P.G. Std. Br., in his reply to the toast of "The Grand Officers," said he was pleased, as one of the Grand Officers who assisted at the consecration of the lodge, to see what he had seen in the lodge that evening. It scarcely seemed a year since the lodge was consecrated, yet he thought the brethren must congratulate themselves on the strides the lodge had made, and on the large company they had present that evening. It was very pleasant to see the 10 brethren who had been initiated in the lodge receive the charge, and he must congratulate Bro. Baxter on the way he delivered it.

Bro. G. H. Smith, P.G. Org., said he was particularly glad to see Bro. Inskipp in the chair. That brother was a member of the congregation of the first church he (Bro. Smith) played at more than 20 years ago. That was before he (Bro. Smith) was a Mason. It was very peculiar that Masonry should draw people together in that way, and that after so many years he should be a Grand Officer and Bro. Inskipp in the position of W.M. of such a lodge as that. As Mendelssohn never brought anything forth but harmony, so might the Mendelssohn Lodge continue to work in perfect harmony.

Bro. Charles Stevens, I.P.M., proposed "The W.M." Having been recently W.M. himself, he could feel quite acutely the importance of that toast. With regard to the Mendelssohn Lodge, it was in the second year of its existence, and the second Master was a good one. He would say nothing about the first Master. He was heartily glad they had a brother like Bro. Inskipp in the chair of the lodge, who was already a Past Master and was not new to the work. During all his (Bro. Stevens') year of office, Bro. Inskipp had very considerably and kindly helped him. He was sure Bro. Inskipp would be a credit to the lodge.

Bro. Inskipp, W.M., responding, said he was afraid Bro. Stevens had said rather too much of him. If he came within a measurable distance of what Bro. Stevens had said he would be something like a worthy Master; but he had grave doubts whether he should. However, whether so or not he could only tell the brethren that he should do his very best to carry on the work which had been so well started by his predecessor, and he hoped and sincerely trusted that this lodge would be second to none in London or anywhere else. The brethren had set before them a rather high ideal, and had some amount of confidence that they would somewhere approach it. They wanted this to be a good lodge; they wanted it to be a musical lodge; they wanted it to be a harmonious lodge. They were not striving to make it a very big lodge, because experience had shown that very big lodges were rather apt to break into smaller cliques. That was not desirable. The lodge came from the South London Musical Club, and there were very few institutions which had flourished like that club. It was now in its 23rd or 24th year, and it was a common remark by visitors who came to see them at Gresham Hall, Brixton, that the men they met there were very good men and that there was an absence of anything like cliques. They were all hail-fellow-well-met, and that was what they wanted in the Mendelssohn Lodge. He hoped to see the Mendelssohn Lodge a reflection of that happiness and good feeling which they had in the club. As far as work was concerned he should do his very best, and he was sure he had only to express a desire to the officers and others associated with him and they would work hand in hand with him, so that they might have a lodge of harmony in every branch of it. He thanked the brethren for the kind reception they had given him; he had always met with it in the South London Musical Club, and he hoped they might go on and flourish for ever.

Bro. F. Inskipp next proposed "The Visitors," and extended a hearty welcome to those brethren. They were not strangers to the other brethren, but came among them as old friends. They knew Bro. Attwater as a composer of several part songs and glees in their repertoire. He hoped what little those brethren had seen in Masonry had been to their advantage, and given them the idea that they would like to see more, and so, in more senses than one, become one of the brethren.

Bros. Attwater, Eisenham, and Nash responded.

Bro. F. Inskipp, W.M., in proposing the toast of "The I.P.M. and the Installing Master," said they all knew Bro. Stevens was a jolly good fellow, and they were heartily glad to congratulate him on the successful finish of the first year of the Mendelssohn Lodge. They hoped to see him in his position of Past Master for many years. Their thanks were due to him in a great measure for the good start that lodge had. Bro. Stevens was heart and soul in the send-off of it; he had done very much more than many of the brethren could imagine in its inception and start, and he hoped the brethren would see him with them for many years to come. The Installing Officer was not, perhaps, so well known to many of the brethren, for one reason—he had not been a member of the musical club so many years. But, although he was comparatively a new member of the musical club, he fully appreciated it, and he fully appreciated Masonry; a better Mason did not tread, and anything Bro. Wilkinson-Pimbury could do for the lodge he would do *con amore*.

Bro. C. Stevens, I.P.M., returned thanks for himself. Everything that it was possible to say on this subject had been said. It would be affectation for him to deny that he was much flattered by this toast. He could assure the brethren he had spent a very pleasant year. The duties had been heavy, but with such an excellent array of officers they were made light. He was sorry to be absent on one occasion through domestic affliction, but Bro. Baxter took his place. He hoped that in years to come some descendant of his would be proud to see his name as the first Master of this lodge. There was no reason why the lodge should not prosper, and if he could do anything to assist the lodge and its welfare he should be happy to do it.

Bro. Wilkinson-Pimbury, P.M., acknowledged his portion of the toast. It was an exceptional pleasure to him to instal Bro. Inskipp in the chair, and he was much obliged to Bro. Stevens for permitting him to do so. His attendance at the club had been not very great; that had not been his fault. Although he had not constantly attended many years before he was a member, he did attend. Now it would always be a pleasure to attend the club as well as the Mendelssohn Lodge. He was pleased to have the opportunity of thanking those brethren who voted for him at the election of the Board of General Purposes. He was one of the 18 elected by the Masons of England, not the nominees of Grand Lodge. He was proud to be a member, and he owed it much to the kindness and the pains many members of this lodge took at that election. They went there at great inconvenience to themselves, but they did it *con amore*. It was a great compliment to any Mason to be a member of that Board.

Bros. J. J. Newland, Guyton, and Dr. Gardiner briefly responded to the toast of "The Visitors."

Bro. Hellyar, P.M., S.W., in acknowledging the toast of "The Officers," said the W.M. had in the earlier part of the evening said the Mendelssohn Lodge had set before them a high ideal, which he hoped they would keep in view. The members of the lodge who were members of the club had before them the year when Bro. Inskipp was President of the club, and they bore in mind what a successful year it was. They could only hope that now that he had presided over them in the capacity of Master of this lodge, they would have the same success in the lodge as they had in the club. With regard to the officers, so far as the Secretary was concerned, he knew he would do his best, and as far as the Treasurer was concerned, he would take very good care that the money did not go out except on proper occasions. With regard to the other officers, they would only be satisfied if they approached the ideal named, and they intended to see that ideal realised. They wished the W.M. a successful year of office, and would do their best to make it so.

The Tyler's toast closed a very happy evening.

Friendship and Unity Lodge, No. 1271.

The annual meeting of the above lodge was held on the 3rd instant, at the Town Hall, Bradford-on-Avon, when Bro. Ernest Williams, S.W., W.M. elect, was installed into the chair by Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Radnor, Prov. Grand Master, who was ably assisted by Bro. C. W. B. Bryant, P.P.J.G.D. The W.M. invested his officers as follows: Bros. J. F. Goodall, I.P.M.; George W. Rose, S.W.; Joseph Genders, J.W.; Rev. W. N. C. Wheeler, Chap.; J. Sparks, Treas.; W. Cray, Sec.; W. Merrick, jun., S.D.; R. J. Parker, J.D.; A. Wallington, D.C.; A. Longstreet, Org.; J. E. Case, I.G.; and J. Taylor and A. H. Hancock, Stewards.

The brethren afterwards adjourned to a banquet at the Town Hall, to which about 50 sat down.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to.

Acacia Lodge, No. 2321.

The annual election meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Rawson-square, Bradford, on the 1st ultimo, when Bro. John Morton, W.M., presided, and was supported by a good muster of the members and a few visitors. The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed, and the Auditors' report on the Treasurer's accounts having been presented, showing a substantial balance in hand, was duly passed. Bro. Peat, who had removed to Burton-on-Trent, still desiring to retain his membership of the lodge, was placed on the non-resident list of members, pursuant to the lodge by-laws. The resignation of Bro. Harris was recorded. Bro. James B. Fearnley, a past Warden of the lodge, was elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. C. H. Ellis, P.M., having declined re-election, Bro. John W. Bland, S.W., was elected his successor as Treasurer; and Bro. J. S. Cooper was also elected Tyler. A memorial from a majority of the brethren was presented, having for its object the introduction of a "free table" at refreshment, thereby relaxing the existing restricted rule regarding refreshment which has hitherto prevailed. The memorial was referred for discussion to a lodge of emergency to be held on the 22nd ultimo.

Notice was given of a candidate for initiation at a future meeting, and apologies were tendered for the unavoidable absence of the Secretary and several other brethren, after which "Hearty good wishes" were tendered by the visitors, and the lodge was closed. A pleasant, social evening followed.

A lodge of emergency was held on the 22nd ultimo, when the "free table" proposition was carried by a substantial majority, so that henceforth the lodge as regards refreshments will be in line with the other lodges in the town.

Royal Arch.

Era Chapter, No. 1423.

A meeting of this chapter was held at the Albany Hotel, Twickenham, on the 21th ult. Among those present were Comps. R. Poore, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C., as M.E.Z.; W. Fisher, P.Z., P.P.G.P.S., as H.; B. Grant, J.; Major T. C. Walls, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C. Eng., S.E.; J. Masters, S.N.; E. H. Thiellay, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C., Treas.; A. Collins, P.S.; F. E. Foulger, 1st A.S.; G. S. Elliott, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C.; H. Higgins, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C.; C. H. Kohler, P.Z., P.P.G.S.B.; C. B. R. Maltby, A. P. Barrett, and J. S. Plummer, P.Z. 1745. Comp. R. W. Forge, P.Z., P.P.A. G.S., as a visitor.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the S.E. inducted Comp. R. Poore, P.Z., as M.E.Z.; Comp. W. Fisher installed Comp. B. Grant as H.; and the S.E. installed Comp. F. E. Foulger as J. The officers for the year are Comps. Major Walls, P.Z., S.E.; J. Masters, S.N.; E. H. Thiellay, P.Z., Treas.; A. Collins, P.S.; S. H. Holt, 1st A.S.; Josephs, 2nd A.S.; Macchi, D.C.; and Gilbert, Janitor. A vote of thanks was passed to the Installing Officers. The resignations of Comps. Wilson and Henry were received with regret. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Comps. A. Wells, I.P.Z.; G. L. Wingate, P.Z.; and others. The chapter was then closed, and a banquet followed.

Upon the removal of the cloth, the customary toasts received full justice.

Comp. G. S. Elliott, P.Z., responded on behalf of "The Provincial Grand Officers."

Comp. Thiellay, P.Z., proposed "The Health of the M.E.Z." He congratulated Comp. Poore upon being re-elected for the second time as First Principal. He had been instrumental in bringing in many candidates during the past and he trusted that Comp. Poore's second year's tenure of office would be marked with every prosperity.

The M.E.Z. having replied, then gave "The Second and Third Principals," to which toast Comps. Grant and Foulger responded.

Comp. R. W. Forge responded on behalf of "The Visitors" in a very complimentary speech.

Comps. H. Higgins, C. H. Kohler, and W. Fisher acknowledged the toast of "The Past Principals"; and Comps. E. H. Thiellay, P.Z., Masters, and Collier replied to the toast of "The Officers."

The proceedings then terminated.

THE UNVEILING of the Esher Jubilee Memorial by the Duchess of Albany, which was fixed to take place this week, has been postponed owing to the death of the Queen of Denmark.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WARWICKSHIRE.

The above Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Coventry on Tuesday, the 4th inst., when there were present Bros. G. Beech, D.P.G.M., P.G. Std. Br. Eng., in the chair, in the absence of Bro. Lord Leigh, P.G.M.; A. E. Fridlander, P.G. Std. Br. Eng., as D.P.G.M.; C. Lee, as P.S.G.W.; F. G. Swinden, P.G. Sec.; D'Arcy Power, P.P.G.W.; John Harris, P.G. Treas.; Rev. W. H. Downing and Rev. L. H. Pearson, P.G. Chaps.; Rev. Canon Beaumont, P.P.G. Chap.; S. S. Partridge, P.A.G.D.C. Eng.; Major Graham, P.G. Reg.; Major Glover, P.G.D.C.; W. H. Blunt, P.A.G. Sec.; W. W. Curtis, P.G.D.; R. S. Whitehouse, P.G.D.; E. Deer, P.G.S.B.; Joseph Boston, P.P.A.G.P.; S. A. Gothard, P.G. Purst.; and upwards of 250 brethren.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened with solemn prayer.

A letter was read from the Prov. G.M., Bro. Lord Leigh, expressing his sorrow that he was unable to be present owing to ill-health. It was unanimously resolved that a telegram be sent to him expressing the sympathy of the brethren.

A communication from Grand Lodge relative to the Gaand Lodge of Peru was read and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The report of the lodges of the province was received and showed a satisfactory progress.

The amount contributed by the brethren of the province to the Boys' Centenary Festival was £4769, and the D.P.G.M. thanked the brethren on behalf of Lord Leigh for their generous support.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was adjourned and the brethren proceeded to Holy Trinity Church, where a very impressive service was held and the sermon preached by Bro. the Rev. T. W. DOWNING, Prov. G. Chap.; the collection for the Warwickshire Pupils' Aid and Benevolent Fund amounted to £18.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was resumed and the Prov. G. Treasurer, Bro. John Harris, was duly re-elected, and Bro. Burrows re-elected Tyler.

The D.P.G.M. then appointed and invested the officers as follows:

Bro. G. Beech, 887	...	...	Dep. Prov. G.M.
" Major-Gen. Arbuthnot, 794	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" T. J. Walsh, 887	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. H. L. Pearson, 1333	...	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. Lloyd Evans, 587	...	...
" John Harris, 473	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" A. H. Hebbert, 468	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" F. G. Swinden, 887	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" Dr. Webb Fowler, 254	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" Dr. A. H. Evans, 794	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" Dr. H. Mason, 284	...	...	Prov. G.Ds.
" J. Evans, 1246	...	...
" F. Davies, 938	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" Major F. Glover, 395	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" A. E. Parkes, 739	...	...	Prov. D.G.D.C.
" W. G. Smith, 473	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" S. G. Woolton, 725	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" H. W. Sprenger, 395	...	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" W. H. Reynolds, 925	...	...
" W. Young, 1031	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" R. G. Stephens, 1180	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" T. C. Waite, 1163	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" Chas. Oliver, 887	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" J. Loxdale Warren, 468	...	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" W. Short, 468	...	...
" W. G. Madeley, 468	...	...
" H. Maycock, 567	...	...
" W. M. Ward, 567	...	...
" W. G. Taylor, 567	...	...
" Noah Burrows	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.

After other routine business, the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to a banquet at the Craven Arms; it was well served by the host, Bro. Claridge, and an enjoyable evening brought the proceedings to a close.

A special concert by Madame Antoinette Sterling's Concert Party will be given at the Crystal Palace, on Thursday, the 13th inst., under the conductorship of Henry August Manns, in which Madame Antoinette Sterling, the Misses Edith Rema, Leonore Danby, Clara Asher, and Miss Katie Sylvia, and Messrs. James Leyland, W. A. Peterkin, and Spencer Loraine will be the artists. There will also be grand concerts on Saturdays the 8th (to-morrow), 15th, 22nd, and 29th, and the 5th and 12th prox., at which the Misses Susan Strong, Marie Berg, Mdle. Christianne Audray, and Miss Florence Monteith, with Miss Clara Butt, Mr. Edward Lloyd, and Mr. Andrew Black will be the vocalists.

Instruction.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE, No. 538.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 28th ult., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W., when there were present Bros. F. Zeppenfeld, W.M.; J. D. Hood, S.W.; S. Woolfers, J.W.; J. Paul, P.M., Preceptor; L. S. Genese, P.M., Treas.; Howard E. Mullins, Sec.; N. Dukas, S.D.; R. Hatfield, J.D.; C. Glaser, I.G.; W. Proctor, Tyler; T. W. Smale, P.M.; J. L. Goldstein, C. Pinnell, T. L. Bowden, H. Raphael, W. Cumberland, W. Sparks, W. Warner, and Louis Harfeldt.

The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. The 1st Section of the Lecture was worked by Bro. J. Pal, Preceptor. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Lines being the candidate. Bro. Lines, E.A., answered the questions leading from the First to the Second Degree and retired. Bro. L. Harfeldt being a candidate for passing, was duly examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed, Bro. Harfeldt being the candidate. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The W.M. rose for the first time. Bros. E. Grimshaw, Robt. Henry Shaw, and James Sharpe, of Playgoers Lodge, No. 2705, and Bro. Arthur Harold Lines, Guildhall School of Music Lodge, No. 2454, were unanimously elected joining members. The W.M. rose for the second time. Bro. J. D. Hood was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. The W.M. rose for the third time, and the lodge was closed.

A meeting was also held on Wednesday, the 5th inst., when there were present Bros. J. D. Hood, W.M.; S. Woolfers, S.W.; H. Raphael, J.W.; J. Paul, Preceptor; N. Dukas, S.D.; W. Fisher, J.D.; C. Glaser, I.G.; W. Proctor, Tyler; T. W. Smale, P.M.; M. Beedle, A. Zeppenfeld, J. Leather, A. H. Harfeldt, T. W. Smith, and A. W. Warnsley.

The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Leather being the candidate. Bro. Beedle being a candidate for passing, was duly examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree and the ceremony of passing rehearsed, Bro. Beedle being the candidate. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree, and the 4th Section of the Lecture was worked by Bro. Leather. The W.M. rose for the first time, at the second rising Bro. Woolfers, S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. The W.M. rose for the third time, and the lodge was closed in due form and adjourned.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 4th inst., at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. J. Birks, W.M.; C. Nicole, S.W.; E. J. Harrison, J.W.; W. Hancock, P.M., Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P. G.D. Herts, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; W. E. Manning, S.D.; C. T. Rayner, J.D.; S. Cload, I.G.; G. Fullbrook, R. Fox, G. A. Hopkins, E. H. Yexley, D. E. Becker, W. T. Roberts, T. A. Spencer, R. P. Upton, P.M.; W. Rapley, J. E. Thomas, and F. H. Johnson.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Fullbrook being the candidate. The W.M. then vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Rayner, when a portion of the ceremony of installation was rehearsed. The balance-sheet having been audited, was read and adopted. The permanent officers of the lodge were unanimously re-elected. Bro. C. Nicole was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and the lodge was closed.

BRONDESBURY LODGE, No. 2698.

A very successful meeting was held on Wednesday evening, the 21st ult., at the Earl Derby, High-road, Kilburn, under the presidency of Bro. M. Spiegel, P.M., &c., as W.M., ably supported by the following officers and brethren: Bros. A. H. Oldrey, W.M. 2361, S.W.; Clemens, J.W.; A. F. Hardyment, Preceptor; R. J. Campbell, P.M., Treasurer and S.D.; W. Knowles, J.D.; Frazer, I.G.; T. Battrum, Stanley, W. D. Ball, Leavers, W. Liddall, P.M.; J. H. Crook, Smith, P.M.; A. Wyatt, S. A. Pardee, Hawdon, A. E. Horstead, Org.; Symons, W. G. Coxen, Marks, Harry Willsmer, Sec.; J. Wynam, James Gawthorp, and others. The lodge was opened, and Bros. Ball and Hawton admitted joining members, and Bro. J. Wynam an honorary member.

The initiation ceremony was rehearsed, Bro. Horstead acting as candidate. The ancient charge was impressively delivered by Bro. R. J. Campbell, P.M., and the Second Lecture on the tracing board by the W.M. The lodge was called off, and, on resuming labour, was opened in the Second and Third Degrees and closed down. Bro. A. H. Oldrey was unanimously elected to occupy the chair at the next meeting. A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Spiegel for his excellent working. The Masonic Charities Association recently formed numbers now nearly 40 members and one ballot for £5 5s. Life Subscribership has been taken, and proved in favour of Bro. W. G. Coxen. A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 23rd ult., when one ballot was taken. The first meeting since the vacation, held on the 14th ult., was attended by upwards of 30 brethren, and the second meeting being equally successful is a good omen for the future of this lodge, while a long felt want in the neighbourhood where there are so many members of the Order either anxious to impart or receive Masonic instruction.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

We have pleasure in publishing the results obtained by our boys at the last examinations of the Department of Science and Art. The list is a satisfactory one and a considerable improvement on the last year, the number of certificates having increased from 50 to 81. South Kensington Examination Results: Chemistry—Advanced, second-class, 1; elementary, first-class, 7; second-class, 9. Geometrical Drawing—22. Mathematics—Stage II., second-class, 4; Stage I., first-class, 7; second-class, 17. Freehand Drawing—Elementary, first-class, 1; second-class, 3. Model Drawing—Elementary, first-class, 2; second-class, 8.

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G. W. STEVENS, }
B. E. RATLIFF, } Joint Secretaries.

MASONIC MEETINGS (METROPOLITAN) For the week ending Saturday, October 15, 1898.

The Editor will be glad to receive notice from Secretaries for Craft Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Mark Lodges, Rose Croix Chapters, Preceptories, Conclaves, &c., of any change in place, day, or month of meeting.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 58, Felicity, Grafton Rooms. 59, Royal Naval, Freemasons' Hall. 193, Confidence, Anderton's Hotel. 957, Leigh, Freemasons' Hall. 1395, St. Marylebone, Criterion. 2030, Abbey, Town Hall, Westminster. 2632, Byfield, Great Eastern Hotel.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

- 22, Mount Zion, Guildhall Tavern. 2397, Columbia, Hotel Cecil. 2191, Anglo-American, Holborn Restaurant.

MARK LODGES.

- 44, Florence Nightingale, Royal Mortar Hotel, Woolwich. 104, Macdonald, Mark Masons' Hall. 224, Menatschim, Criterion. 411, Ubiqne, Frascati Restaurant.

ROSE CROIX.

- 71, Bayard, 33, Golden-square.

LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

- Blackheath, Stirling Castle, Church-street, Camberwell, at 8. Commemoration, Star and Garter, Arbour-square, Commercial road, E., at 8. Cripplegate, Goldsmiths' Arms, Gutter-lane, at 6.30. Dalhousie, Town Hall Tavern, High-street, Kensington, at 8. Duke of Cornwall, Whittington Arms, Moor-lane, Fore-st., at 7. Eleanor, Rose and Crown, High Cross, Tottenham, at 8. Euphrates, Ye Olde Greyhound, Balaam-st., Plaistow, E., at 7.30. Friars, The White Horse, 94, White Horse-lane, Mile End-rd., E., at 8. Hyde Park, Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne-terr., Bishop's-rd., Paddington, at 8. Kingsland, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., at 8.30. Marquess of Ripon, Weaver's Arms, London Wall, E.C., at 6.45. Metropolitan, Moorgate Tavern, 15, Finsbury-pavement, at 7.30. Neptune, Gauden Hotel, Clapham, S.W., at 7.30. North London Chapter, Cock Hotel, Highbury, at 8. Perseverance, Rider's Hotel, Holborn, E.C., at 7. Queen's Westminster, Criterion, Piccadilly, at 8. Regent's Park, Frascati Restaurant, 32, Oxford-street, at 8. Royal Arthur, Prince of Wales Hotel (opposite Wimbledon Railway Station), at 8. Royal Commemoration, Railway Hotel, Putney, at 8. Scots, Holborn Restaurant, Holborn, at 7.30. St. James's Union, St. James's Restaurant (Piccadilly entrance) St. Mark's, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road. St. Michael's, Norland Arms, Addison-rd. North, Uxbridge-rd., 8. Sincerity, Blackwall Railway Hotel, Fenchurch-street, at 7. South Norwood, Goat House Bridge Hotel, Penge-rd., at 8. Stockwell, White Hart, Abchurch-lane, E.C., at 6. Tyssen Amherst, Amherst Club, Amherst-rd., N., 7.30. United Military, Earl of Chatham, Thomas-st., Woolwich, at 7.30. Upton, Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate-street, at 8. Walthamstow, The Chequers, High-street, Walthamstow, at 8. Wellington, New Cross House, New Cross, at 8. Woodrow, Stone's, 24, Pantons-street, Haymarket, S.W., at 3. Zetland, "The Falkland," Falkland-road, N.W., at 8. Doric Chapter, Duke's Head, 99, Whitechapel-road, at 6. Lewis Chapter, Fishmongers' Arms Hotel, Wood Green, N., at 8. North London Chapter, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 8.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11.

Supreme Council, 33, Golden-square.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 167, St. John's, Jack Straw's Castle, Hampstead. 180, St. James' Union, Freemasons' Hall. 211, St. Michael's, Albion Tavern. 228, United Strength, Guildhall Tavern. 781, Merchant Navy, Town Hall, Limehouse. 834, Ranelagh, Criterion. 917, Cosmopolitan, Cannon-street Hotel. 933, Doric, Anderton's Hotel. 1196, Urban, Freemasons' Hall. 1209, Stanhope, Surrey Masonic Hall. 1593, Royal Naval College, Ship Hotel, Greenwich. 1604, Wanderers, Freemasons' Hall. 1914, Covent Garden, Criterion. 1968, Samson, Cafe Royal. 1993, Kingsland, Holborn Restaurant. 1994, St. Ambrose, St. James's Restaurant. 1999, Waldeck, Freemasons' Hall. 2427, Hampden, Hampden House, St. Pancras. 2546, Bahere, Frascati Restaurant. 2922, Beach, Horns Assembly Rooms.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

- 172, Old Concord, Holborn Restaurant. 197, Jerusalem, Freemasons' Tavern. 2395, Avondale, Anderton's Hotel.

MARK LODGE.

- 476, Justicia, Mark Masons' Hall.

LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

- Brixton, Prince Regent, Dulwich-road, Herne Hill, S.E., at 8. Copper, City Arms, St. Mary Axe, at 6. Clarence and Avondale, Green Man Hotel, Leytonstone, E., at 8. Constitutional, "Apple Tree and Mitre," 30, Cursitor-street, Chancery-lane, W.C., at 7. Chaucer, Grapes Tavern (Slee & Pike's), 121, Borough High street, at 8. Corinthian, George Hotel, Cubitt Town, Poplar, at 8. Croydon Lodge of Concord, King's Arms, Katherine-street, Croydon, at 8. Dalhousie, Lord Truro, Dalston-lane, at 8. Egyptian, Salutatic, Newgate-street, at 7. Emblematic, St. James's Restaurant, Piccadilly, at 8. Enfield, Rose and Crown, Church-street, Edmonton, at 8. Excelsior, Commercial Dock Tavern, Plough-road, Rotherhithe, Finsbury, The Bell Hotel, Old Bailey, at 7. Florence Nightingale, M.H., William-street, Woolwich, 2nd and 4th Tues., at 7.30. Hendon, Railway Hotel, West Hampstead, N.W., at 8. Islington, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 7.30. Joppa, "The Moorgate," 15, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., at 7.30. Kensington, Town Hall Tavern, High-street, Kensington, at 8. Kirby, Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Station, at 7.30. Mount Edgumbe, Rockingham Arms, Newington Causeway, S.E., at 7.30. Nelson, Star and Garter, Powis-street, Woolwich, at 8. New Cross, Chester Arms, Albany-street, N.W., at 8. New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tav., Finsbury Park, at 8. Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, Greenwich, at 8. Richmond, Station Hotel, Richmond, at 8.30. Robert Burns, Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W. Rose of Denmark, Brunswick House, Wandsworth-road, at 8. South Middlesex, Beaufort House, Walham Green, S.W., at 7.30. St. Kew, Masonic Hall, Weston-super-Mare, at 8. St. Leonard's, Bedford Hotel, Victoria Park-road, South Hackney, at 8. Southwark, White Hart Hotel, New Cross Gate, at 8.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12.

Supreme Council, 33, Golden-square. Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 4.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 3, Fidelity, Freemasons' Hall. 15, Kent, Freemasons' Hall. 87, Vitruvian, Bridge House Hotel. 147, Justice, Ship Hotel, Greenwich. 548, Wellington, Cannon-street Hotel. 820, Lily Lodge of Richmond, Inns of Court Hotel. 1228, Beacontree, Guildhall Tavern. 1260, John Hervey, Freemasons' Hall. 1538, St. Martin's-le-Grand, Holborn Restaurant. 1586, Upper Norwood, White Hart Hotel. 1766, St. Leonard, Great Eastern Hotel. 1815, Penge, Thicket Hotel. 1900, Montague Guest, Inns of Court Hotel. 1964, Clerkenwell, Holborn Viaduct Hotel. 2410, Esculapius, Cafe Royal. 2470, Telegraph Cable, Ship and Turtle Tavern. 2528, Lancastrian, Frascati Restaurant. 2620, Cavendish, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington. 2665, Past and Present, Blanchard's Restaurant.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

- 857, St. Mark's, Surrey Masonic Hall. 1158, Southern Star, Holborn Restaurant. 1446, Mount Edgumbe, Great Eastern Hotel. 1524, Duke of Connaught, Anderton's Hotel. 1540, Chaucer, Bridge House Hotel.

MARK LODGES.

- 350, Temperance-in-the-East, Bromley Vestry Hall. 415, Grafton, Blanchard's Restaurant.

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS.

- 3, Matfer, Surrey Masonic Hall.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13.

General Court Girls' School, at Freemasons' Tavern, at 12.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 206, Friendship, Ship and Turtle Tavern. 238, Pilgrim, Freemasons' Hall. 860, Dalhousie, Anderton's Hotel. 879, Southwark, Bridge House Hotel. 1070, Capper, Guildhall Tavern. 1471, Islington, Cock Tavern. 1558, Duke of Connaught, Surrey Masonic Hall. 1599, Skelmersdale, Ship and Turtle Tavern. 1708, Plucknett, Woodside Hall, N. Finchley. 1791, Creton, Freemasons' Hall. 1804, Coborn, Bow Vestry Hall. 1820, Sir Thomas White, Cafe Royal. 1987, Strand, Criterion. 2047, Beckenhams, Public Hall. 2090, Hammersmith, Vestry Hall. 2523, Roll Call, Oddfellows' Hall, Hounslow.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

- 72, Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel. 140, St. George's, Green Man Hotel, Blackheath. 157, Bedford, Holborn Restaurant. 619, Beadon, Anderton's Hotel. 813, New Concord, Guildhall Tavern. 1321, Emblematic, Criterion. 1381, Kennington, Horns Tavern. 1472, Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich. 1901, Selwyn, Montpelier Hotel, Peckham.

MARK LODGE.

- 86, Samson and Lion, Masonic Hall, Masons' Avenue.

ROSECRUCIAN.

Metropolitan College, Frascati Restaurant.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14.

Quarterly Court Boys' School, at Freemasons' Tavern, at 12.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 177, Domestic, Anderton's Hotel. 1201, Eclectic, Freemasons' Hall. 1559, New Cross, Hotel Cecil. 1704, Anchor, Cafe Royal. 2399, Ordnance, Freemasons' Hall, Plumstead. 2593, Hugh Owen, Frascati Restaurant.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

- 33, Britannic, Freemasons' Hall. 599, Fitz-Roy, Head-quarters Honourable Artillery Company, City-road.

ROSE CROIX.

- 101, Adoniram, Mark Masons' Hall.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 1139, South Norwood, The Pavilion. 1185, Lewis, King's Arms Hotel, Wood Green. 1364, Earl of Zetland, Guildhall Tavern. 1641, Crichton, Surrey Masonic Hall. 1732, King's Cross, Anderton's Hotel.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

- 142, St. Thomas, Anderton's Hotel.

MARK LODGE.

- 176, New Era, Mark Masons' Hall.

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Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. RUPERT SMYTH has removed from 3, Coleman-street, to 133, Aldersgate-street, E.C.

COUNT HATZFELDT, the German Ambassador, has returned to London from the Continent.

THE EARL OF WENYSS has arrived at his residence in St. James'-place from Gosford.

THE RIGHT HON. G. J. GOSCHEN, M.P., returned to London on Saturday last, and is transacting business at the Admiralty.

SIR WILLIAM AND LADY HARCOURT are paying a visit to Lord James of Hereford and Miss James at Ferne, Salisbury.

BRO. CAPTAIN HOLFORD has left town for the North of Scotland, to replace Bro. Major-General Sir Stanley Clarke as Equerry in attendance on H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

THE GLOVERS' COMPANY.—Bro. H. Homewood Crawford, the City Solicitor, has been elected the Master for the current year, and Bro. Sir Albert Altman, the renter warden.

IN CONSEQUENCE of the death of the Queen of Denmark, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has postponed his proposed visit to Lord and Lady Wolverton at Iwerne Minster.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT will, to-morrow (Saturday), hold a farewell parade of the troops in the Aldershot district, on Laffan's Plain, at 10.30 a.m. At the conclusion of the review his Royal Highness will take leave of the officers of the district.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, K.G., attended by Colonel FitzGeorge, will represent the Queen at the funeral of the late Queen of Denmark. Bro. Colonel the Earl of Strafford, Senior Equerry, will, by the Queen's command, attend the funeral on behalf of her Majesty.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE, M.P., was indisposed on Tuesday. He had arranged to visit Cheshire to open some cottage homes at Hyal, built by the Chorlton Union for the accommodation of their pauper children, but at the last moment he telegraphed expressing his regret at inability to fulfil the engagement in consequence of a severe cold.

BRO. LORD MAYOR DAVIES, M.P., opened at the Mansion House on Monday afternoon an exhibition of optical and scientific instruments arranged by the Spectacle Makers' Company, of which his lordship is the Master. The ceremony took place in the Saloon, in the presence of a very large company, and after a bouquet, tied with the Company's colours of red, yellow, and blue, had been presented to the Lady Mayoress, the Upper and Renter Wardens (Mr. W. H. Thornthwaite and Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P.) made short prefatory speeches.

HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS THE EMPRESS FREDERIC OF GERMANY, accompanied by their Serene and Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Adolphe of Schaumburg-Lippe, and attended by Countess Perponcher and Count Seckendorff, G.C.V.O., arrived at Balmoral on Saturday morning last, from Buckingham Palace. The Empress was received at Ballater Station by her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg. A guard of honour of the 2nd Battalion Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders was mounted, under Major Davidson. The Queen went out, accompanied by the Empress Frederic and Princess Henry of Battenberg. Captain his Serene Highness Prince Francis of Teck, 1st (Royal) Dragoons, visited the Queen on his return from the Soudan, and remained to luncheon.

BRO. THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, as Mayor of Eastbourne, made the presentation on Monday of a testimonial subscribed by the inhabitants in recognition of the efficient manner in which, during the three years prior to November last, Mr. Alderman Skinner performed the duties of the Mayoralty. The gift was in the form of a life-size portrait of the Alderman, which is to adorn the Town Hall, and a gold watch bearing the borough arms and an appropriate inscription. After thanking Alderman Skinner as his deputy, his Grace said that after mature consideration he had been obliged to decline with thanks the invitation to take office a second year. At a meeting of the Town Council in the evening, under the presidency of the Duke, a resolution was unanimously adopted, on the motion of Councillor Welch, seconded by Councillor Lambert, thanking his Grace for his generous gift of a site for a technical institute and public library.

MESSRS. NORMAN AND STACEY, LIMITED, have introduced into the practice of purchasing furniture by instalments, which has of late years become so general, a new feature, which is said to be working admirably and which undoubtedly deserves to be brought prominently to the notice of the public. It is that of "Free Life Assurance." A gentleman, who proposes to furnish his house on this system, betakes himself to the firm of "Norman and Stacey, Limited," 113, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., and orders furniture to the amount of (say) £500, to be paid for by instalments, monthly or otherwise as may be agreed upon. The Company at once present him with a "Free Life Insurance," terminable when the goods have been paid for, but which, in the event of his dying before the whole sum has been paid, enables Messrs. Norman and Stacey to write a receipt in full for the furniture, and present it to the next of kin, and even in some cases to refund the money already paid in instalments. Thus the widow or children of a customer of the firm becomes the owner of the furniture. The system is proving so successful that those who have previously opened accounts with the firm are opening fresh ones or recommending their friends to become customers.

DR. W. J. CHETWODE CRAWLEY has written a highly interesting introductory chapter to Mr. Henry Sadler's "Masonic Reprints and Historical Revelations," which were published a decade ago, and which throw much light upon the history of Irish Freemasonry. The whole subject is discussed in detail. It is shown that "the foremost literary men of the Augustan age that saw the foundation of the Grand Lodges of England were almost as familiar figures in the society of Dublin as in that of London. Swift, Addison, Tickell, Parnell, Steele, had all been residents of Dublin, and with them were closely linked Pope, Arbuthnot, Gay. The revival of Freemasonry was as striking on one side of the Channel as on the other, and could no more escape the notice of Swift in Dublin than of Pope in London. It would be natural to expect that if some of these great names should be shown to belong to Freemasons, others of their associates would be found in the ranks of the Craft. This is precisely what has been ascertained by the intelligent and well-directed efforts of Henry Sadler. We cannot follow out the whole course of the inquiry. It is proved that the Fraternity of Freemasons was well known in Dublin in 1688, and that it was connected with Trinity College. As the author adds—"the evidence that the upper classes of society in Ireland were well acquainted with Freemasonry and its tenets before William of Orange landed there, will come somewhat as a surprise, but the proof is beyond cavil." Dr. Chetwode Crawley draws attention to a highly remarkable work, and his exposition of it is valuable. This reproduction of an old and striking record gains in importance from his criticisms, and it will, we doubt not, be scanned with a curious interest by all the members of the Masonic Order.—*Irish Times*.

THE DUCHESS OF PORTLAND will give a ball at Welbeck Abbey on the 11th prox. **BRO. LORD DUNRAVEN** has returned to town, after cruising round the West Coast of Ireland in his yacht, the *Cariad*.

PRINCE ARTHUR, son of the Duke of Connaught, is in due course to go to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, to prepare for a commission in the cavalry.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES, in reply to the resolutions of condolence on the death of the Queen of Denmark passed by the Church Congress at Bradford last week, has sent the following message to the Bishop of Ripon: "Deeply touched by kind sympathy of Church Congress and yourself.—Alexandra."

THE QUEEN went out on Monday morning. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Princess Victoria of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of York visited the Queen, and remained to luncheon. In the afternoon her Majesty drove out, accompanied by her Imperial Majesty the Empress Frederic and her Royal Highness Princess Adolphe of Schaumburg-Lippe, and was joined by her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg.

BARON DE COURCEL, the retiring French Ambassador, who has returned from Paris to present his letters of recall, visited the Foreign Office in the afternoon of Tuesday, and saw the Permanent Under-Secretary. His Excellency will either defer the actual presentation till the Queen returns from Scotland, or, as has sometimes been done, present the letters through the medium of the Foreign Secretary. The Russian Ambassador also called at the Foreign Office.

ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, EARLSWOOD.—The autumnal election of this charity will occur on Thursday, the 27th inst., at the Cannon-street Hotel, for the purpose of choosing 30 applicants, viz., 11 part payment and 19 ordinary for a period of five years from a list of 130 approved candidates. The poll will commence at one o'clock and close at two o'clock precisely. The Treasurer of the Charity, Bro. Alderman Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale, will take the chair.

WE HAVE BEEN REQUESTED to announce that the Crusaders Lodge of Instruction, No. 1677, have moved their quarters to the Metropolitan Tavern, 95, Farringdon-road, E.C., and hold their meetings on Wednesday at 8.30 p.m., under the Preceptorship of Bro. C. Weeden, P.M. S13. We also announce that there is a Charitable Association in connection with the lodge, Bro. E. Dimes, of 3, King-square, E.C., is the Secretary, by whom all particulars will be courteously furnished.

PRINCESS LOUISE MARCHIONESS OF LORNE travelled from London to Windsor on Tuesday afternoon for the purpose of opening a very interesting industrial exhibition on behalf of the building fund of the Albert Institute. The Queen and Prince and Princess Christian are the patrons of the establishment, in which the deepest interest has been manifested by her Majesty and every member of the Royal family since its foundation in 1835. The Guard of Honour was furnished by the Windsor Volunteers, under Major W. A. Ellison, and was mounted in the roadway fronting the institute.

ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON last the pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls were entertained at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor (Bro. Alderman and Colonel Davies) and the Lady Mayoress. The girls, numbering nearly 300, were received by the Committee of the Institution at the Mansion House shortly after three o'clock. An adjournment was then made to the drawing room, where a concert was held, those present including the Chairman of the Institute, Bro. J. H. Matthews, and Bro. Sir J. B. Monckton. During the proceedings the girls were briefly addressed by the Lord Mayor, who heartily welcomed them to the Mansion House. Various kinds of amusements were provided for the girls, including a sumptuous tea, presided over by the Lady Mayoress.

THE SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS.—A great ceremony is to take place at Southampton Docks next week, which should have a peculiar interest for Freemasons. On Wednesday, the 12th inst., will fall the 60th anniversary of the laying of the foundation-stone of the Southampton Docks, and the directors of the L. and S.W. Railway have determined to commemorate the occasion by the laying of a coping-stone at the south-west corner of the new deep-water quays. These quays are beyond the Prince of Wales Dock, the largest single graving dock in the world, and the appearance of the dock estate in this direction has of recent times undergone a complete change. The ceremony of 1838 was in Masonic form, and it is proposed to follow that example on the present occasion. Since the announcement was made several people have turned up who, in one way or another, took part in the proceedings of 60 years ago. The stone will be laid by Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. Grand Master. All the Masonic bodies in the province will be represented, including the lodges which took part in the ceremony on the previous occasion. The chairman and directors of the company will be present as a matter of course, and they will welcome the Mayor and Corporation, members of public bodies, and the Consuls at the port as representing foreign countries.

THE GRAND MASTER OF TASMANIA, Bro. the Hon. C. E. Davies, M.L.C., on the eve of his departure for Tasmania, entertained at a farewell dinner, on the 29th ult., at Freemasons' Tavern, representatives of the various Orders and Degrees of Freemasonry by whom he had been hospitably received during his stay in England. Among those present were Bro. the Earl of Euston, 33°, Pro Grand Master of the Grand Mark Lodge; Bro. Thomas Fenn, Past Grand Warden, Representative of Tasmania; Bro. R. Loveland Loveland, Q.C., 33°, President of the Board of General Purposes; Bros. John Strachan, Q.C., Grand Registrar; Col. and Sheriff Clifford-Probyn, Grand Treasurer; Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary; Frank Richardson, 33°, P.G.D., Representative of South Australia; Captain Hearn, Grand Sword Bearer; C. Fitzgerald Matier, Grand Secretary of Mark Masons; and Kelso King, P.G. Master of New South Wales Mark Masons. Among apologies for unavoidable absence were letters from Earl Amherst, Deputy Grand Master; the Viscount Duncannon, Deputy Grand Master of Mark Masons; Sir John Monckton, and others. A most enjoyable evening was spent, and the kindest and best wishes of all present were offered to Bro. Davies, who left London on Tuesday for the Continent, en route for Australia, via Naples, in the ss. Bremen, on the 2nd prox.

ENTERTAINMENTS that smack of parting cheer are now being given to Lord and Lady Elgin, writes the Simla correspondent of the *Daily Mail*. Recently a large Masonic ball was held in the Town Hall, and the Himalayan brethren seized the occasion to present her Excellency with a handsome Masonic jewel in appreciation of her efforts to lighten the condition of native women in India. And this condition does indeed need amelioration, judging by the latest revolting murder of a child-wife. We wonder whether Lord Elgin's work during his five years of office in the East will be appreciated at its right worth at home. One needs to have spent the last three years out here to comprehend fully the enormous responsibilities and anxieties that have pressed upon him. Here the general opinion is that Lord Elgin has shown not only high courage, but marked statesmanship. Mistakes he has made, but on the whole trivial mistakes; and once he had rightly grasped the situation, he showed himself firm of purpose and sound in judgment. The programme of his final tour is now out. He goes to Burma, arriving at Rangoon on November 16th, thence to Mandalay and Bhamo, and on his return to Calcutta, which he is timed to reach on December 19th, he calls at Moulemein. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and Lady Mackworth Young have recently had two charming musical evenings, held in the ball room at Barnes Court. The Viceroy and Lady Elgin were present at the first, having dined there previously.—*Daily Mail*.



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