

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—	
Her Majesty the Queen	261
The Benevolent Elections	261
The Mother City of American Freemasonry	262
Instruction	263
Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire	263
Consecration of the Haywra (Mark) Lodge, No. 525	263
Annual Meeting of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution	265
MASONIC NOTES—	
Report of the Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution	267
Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire	267
Freemasonry in the Transvaal	267
Boys' School Athletic Sports	267
Consecration of the Hatchlands Lodge, No. 2756	267
Half Yearly Meeting of Great Priory of the Order of the Temple	267
Reviews	268
Masonic Notes and Queries	268
Ladies' Night of the Moira Chapter, No. 92	268
General Committee of Grand Lodge and Board of Benevolence	269
Presentation to Bro. Wray of Blackpool	269
Craft Masonry	270
The Craft Abroad	270
Ancient and Accepted Rite	271
The Victorian Book of Constitutions	271
The late Bro. Sir B. W. Richardson	271
Obituary	271
Masonic and General Tidings	272

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

No greater tribute of respect and affection has ever been paid to any Sovereign either in ancient or modern times than that which has been generously and spontaneously offered during these latter days in connection with her 80th birthday to her Gracious Majesty the QUEEN. When quite recently she visited the palace in which she was born on the 24th May, 1819; when she went to South Kensington for the purpose of laying the first stone of the Museum to be erected at the Victoria and Albert Institute; but, above all, when the auspicious anniversary itself was celebrated on Wednesday, nothing could exceed the loyalty that was exhibited by her people throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire. The longer she lives and reigns, the deeper and more firmly inset in the hearts of her subjects becomes this feeling of love and devotion, and we earnestly pray that the day may yet be far distant when the tie that unites her with her people shall be broken.

It would be absurd for the Freemasons of the British Empire to claim for themselves any excess of loyalty over other societies or sections of her subjects, but there undoubtedly exists between our venerable Sovereign and the ancient and honourable Society of Masons a bond of union which is not to be found between her and others. To go no further back than the generation which preceded her, her father, the late Duke of KENT, was a Grand Master of our Order, while all her uncles save one were Freemasons. Of her two predecessors on the throne, GEORGE IV., either as Grand Master or Patron, presided over us for 40 years, and WILLIAM IV. was one of us for upwards of half a century, and Patron from 1830 and 1837. Another of her uncles, the Duke of SUSSEX, was Grand Master for 30 years. Moreover, three of her four sons and one of her grandsons in the direct line of descent—the late Duke of CLARENCE and AVONDALE—were members, her eldest son and heir, H.R.H. the Prince of WALES, having been at the head of our Grand Lodge for about a quarter of a century. Add to this that the QUEEN herself has been a generous supporter, as well as Patron, of our three Charitable Institutions, and that on all public occasions of special importance her Majesty has graciously received our resolutions of congratulation or sympathy, and it will be realised to the fullest extent that the respectful homage we tender her as Sovereign is, if possible, intensified by the love and reverence we feel for her as the Patron of our Order.

THE BENEVOLENT ELECTIONS.

The elections on the Male and Widows' Fund of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution took place at the Annual General Meeting of Governors and Subscribers, which was held at Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, the 19th instant, under the presidency of Bro. JOHN A. FARNFIELD, P.A.G.D.C., Treasurer of the Institution. The list of candidates, as originally issued, contained in all the names of 123 applicants, of whom 55 were brethren and 68 widows, while the vacancies as declared in February were 27, of which 15—12 immediate and three deferred—were for the Male Fund, and 12—nine immediate and three deferred—for the Widows' Fund. But by the day of election the number was reduced to 116, the men's list, through the death of one candidate and the withdrawal of another, comprising only 53 names, and the widows' list, owing to three deaths and two withdrawals, only 63. On the other hand, the number of vacancies was increased by the deaths of three men and four widows to 34, of whom 18 were on the Male Fund and 16 on the Widows' Fund, the three deferred annuities being in each case included, while at the annual meeting, the Governors and Subscribers, on the recommendation of the Committee of Management, sanctioned a permanent increase to the establishment of five Male and three Widow Annuities, so that the number elected was 42, of whom 23—20 immediate and three deferred—were for the Male Fund, and 19—16 immediate and three deferred—for the Widows' Fund. The struggle for places was a very keen one, there being for each Fund two or three applicants who polled upwards of 4000 votes and yet failed to secure election.

For the MALE FUND,

13 out of the 53 brethren who went to the poll hailed from London, of whom as many as eight were elected, while of the remaining 40 from the Provinces and Abroad, there were only 15 who succeeded. A London brother headed the poll with 5843 votes, of which 2917 were brought forward from the 1898 election, while the one Surrey candidate was a good second, with 5678 votes, including 3449 from last year. The Norfolk candidate, who had 3424 votes to the good from 1897 and 1898, polled 2280 more, and thereby increased his total to 5654, a London brother being fourth with 5506 votes, of which 2212 were brought forward from his two previous attempts and 3294 given him at this meeting. No. 5, from Kent, increased his poll from 2317 to 5312 votes, and was followed by two London brethren, with 5161 and 5016 votes respectively; the former having 1979 already to his credit, and the latter 2339. No. 8 was one of two new candidates from Hertfordshire, and gained a place with 4977 votes; while the other Herts brother was close at his heels with 4959 votes. The Essex candidate was placed 10th with 4932 votes, and then followed two hailing from London, the poll of one, inclusive of 2933 already to his credit, reaching 4883 votes, and of the other 4847 votes, including 1969 from last year. No. 13, from Lincolnshire, with only 34 in hand, totalled ultimately 4820; while one of the two East Lancashire brethren, who started with seven votes, took 14th place with 4810. No. 15, from Devonshire, obtained 4612, of which 624 were in hand; and No. 16, London, 4563, of which 2108 were brought forward. No. 17, also a London candidate, brought forward 2599 from five elections, and finished with a total of 4558. One of the two Somersetshire applicants, who polled 3514 last year, increased that number to 4551;

the Dorsetshire brother being next with 4520, in which were included 70 brought forward; and the Hants and Isle of Wight only a few behind with 4512. A Middlesex brother with 4489 votes, a Sussex brother with 4440 votes, and a West Yorkshire with the same number were also elected, and will be installed annuitants as the necessary vacancies occur. The three highest unsuccessful candidates polled 4356 (West Yorkshire), 4258 (London), and 4039 (London), respectively, and will receive, the first two, each a share of the interest in the Hervey Memorial Fund, and the third, the £5 given by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. The next highest unsuccessful brother (from Somerset) obtained 3951 votes, and, in addition, there were four who polled between 2000 and 3000 votes, and two who obtained between 1000 and 2000, the total number of votes available being 153,830, of which 38,007 were brought forward and 115,823 issued for this election. Of the latter, the number that passed the Scrutineers was 108,921, so that there were 6902 votes unused or spoiled.

For the

WIDOWS' FUND

there were originally 68 candidates, and the number of vacancies as declared was 12, including the three deferred, but only 63 of the former went to the poll, of whom 26 were furnished by London, and the others by the Provinces and Abroad, while 19, including the three deferred, were elected, London carrying 10 cases and the Provinces nine. Two London candidates headed the poll, with 6031 and 6019 votes respectively, the higher of the two having 4043 to the good, and the other 2207 votes. Devonshire furnished the third successful widow, her total poll being 5624 votes, a London applicant being fourth with 5586 votes, of which 3849 were brought forward, and the North and East Yorkshire widow fifth with 5452 votes. The Herts candidate was placed sixth with 5297 votes, and the Leicester and Rutland next with 5105 votes. No. 8, from London, brought forward 2767 votes, and increased her total to 5051, the Worcestershire widow being ninth with 4948 votes, and then two London, with 4860 and 4764 votes respectively, the second of the two having 1005 to her credit at starting. Nos. 12 and 13 were two of the three candidates from Warwickshire, and polled 4710 and 4699 votes respectively, but the latter had 4065 already in hand at starting. Nos. 14 and 15 both hailed from London, the former bringing forward 772 and the latter 1857 votes, and at the close they were found to have increased their totals to 4636 and 4619 votes respectively. No. 16, from Essex, started with 2724, and finished with 4588, while the three elected to fill the next three vacancies as they occur polled 4415, 4411, and 4407 respectively, the first and last being from London, and the intermediate one from Hants and the Isle of Wight. The New South Wales widow polled 4189, including 616 from last year, and two Londoners 4035 and 3804 votes respectively, and these will receive the same gratuities as those awarded to the three highest unsuccessful male candidates. In addition there was another London candidate who polled over 3000, while, irrespective of the localities they hailed from, two candidates polled between 2000 and 3000, and six between 1000 and 2000. The total number of votes including 34,080 brought forward was 143,007, but of the 108,927 issued for this election, only 98,231 passed the Scrutineers, so that the number of unused and spoiled votes was 10,696.

There are two points in connection with the result of these elections which are worthy of being noticed. One is the marked success of London, and the other, that of the five Male candidates who have been on the list for six elections, only one secured a vacancy, while none of the eight widows who were similarly circumstanced were successful.

THE MOTHER-CITY OF AMERICAN FREEMASONRY.

Many years ago, when the late Bro. CLIFFORD P. MACCALLA, editor and, we believe, also proprietor of the Philadelphia *Keystone*, who was subsequently elected Grand Master of Pennsylvania, was a prominent member of the Craft in that

jurisdiction, the question whether Philadelphia or Boston, Mass., was the premier Masonic city in America was being everywhere warmly discussed among the brethren, especially in the Northern States. In this discussion Bro. MACCALLA took a leading part and it was mainly through his instrumentality and the researches which he made or caused to be made wherever there appeared to be the slightest chance of obtaining evidence that was calculated to throw additional light upon the question, that the tide of public opinion may be said to have become favourable to the claims of Philadelphia as the Mother City rather than to those advanced in behalf of Boston. We have neither time nor space for more than the barest outline of the circumstances. Suffice it to say that in 1730, THOMAS, Duke of Norfolk, who was at the time Grand Master of England, granted a deputation to DANIEL COX as Prov. G. Master of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and it appeared that under the auspices of that brother sundry lodges were started in Philadelphia, though it must be confessed that until Bro. MACCALLA took up the question, and determined to set, as far as possible, all doubts at rest, the evidence in support of such affirmation was far from being convincing. On the other hand, the partisans of Boston, though they did not question the reality of the Duke of NORFOLK'S grant of a deputation to COX in 1730, contended that, as far as the constitution of lodges was concerned, it was allowed to remain virtually a dead letter, and that it was not until HENRY PRICE, to whom in 1733 Viscount MONTAGUE, Grand Master, granted a deputation as Prov. Grand Master for North America, appeared upon the scene that any attempt was made to establish lodges in that country, and there does not seem to be the slightest doubt that PRICE, by virtue of the authority thus vested in him, did constitute a Prov. Grand Lodge at Boston. When Bro. MACCALLA took up the cudgels in behalf of Philadelphia, he set to work so resolutely and successfully as in a very short time to be in a position to prove that a St. John's Lodge was in active existence in Philadelphia in 1731. The evidence he obtained was published separately in pamphlet form, after having appeared in the pages of the *Keystone*, and so strongly does it seem to have impressed the Editor of "KENNING'S Cyclopædia of Freemasonry"—the late Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. WOODFORD, Past G. Chaplain—that in his article in that publication on "United States of America," he declared that the evidence thus obtained, together with the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the Memorial Volume of the Masonic Hall in Philadelphia as edited by Bro. C. E. MEYER, "all most emphatically prove the right of Penn'a to claim priority in Masonry for all America," and he concluded his article by remarking "we have but to wait for confirmatory intelligence to place it beyond contradiction that Philadelphia is the premier Masonic city of America."

The evidence thus obtained by Bro. MACCALLA consisted firstly of various notices and advertisements printed by BENJAMIN FRANKLIN in his *Pennsylvania Gazette*, but chiefly of the Ledger of the St. John's Lodge, of Philadelphia, dating from June 24, 1731, to June 24, 1738, known by those who have studied the question as "Liber B.," which, as we have said, was published separately by Bro. MACCALLA. At the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, on the 27th December, 1898, the Grand Master introduced Bro. JULIUS F. SACHSE, who, as the minutes record, delivered an historical address, in the course of which, after referring to the successful part taken by the late Bro. MACCALLA in the great discovery, and remarking that the claims made by him on behalf of Philadelphia "were hotly contested by our sister Grand Lodge of Massachusetts," announced that he was in a position to communicate "some additional evidence confirmatory of the position so ably taken by Brother MACCALLA." This further evidence, he went on to say, came "in the shape of original entries in the handwriting of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, and is nothing less than his personal account with the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania from August, 1734, to August, 1737. It also shows that there was at least one Lodge within the Province outside Philadelphia—this was at Lancaster. The account further offers a strong inference that our own Grand Lodge was not only the oldest and most important Masonic Body in America, but that at

that early day, as a matter of fact, the Lodges of both Massachusetts and Carolina were subordinates to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania." As to whence this important evidence has been obtained, Bro. SACHSE announced that it was found in "FRANKLIN'S daily commercial account book and first ledger," on the flyleaf of which is written "BENJN. FRANKLIN Journal, began (sic) July 4, 1730." This book was found "among a lot of FRANKLIN'S papers and material," where it had reposed "for over a century in the archives of the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia, of which FRANKLIN was the first President." On coming across this old account, Bro. SACHSE at once recognised its importance and value, and the results of his examination were communicated to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in December last, and will be found in the minutes of its Proceedings for 1898, many of the entries in the account book being reproduced in facsimile in the Report. As to the entries themselves, however, which Bro. SACHSE declared to be so strongly confirmatory of the position taken up by the late Bro. MACCALLA, we must reserve a description of them for a second article.

Instruction.

ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 730.

The usual weekly meeting of this lodge was held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, on Thursday, the 18th instant, when there were present Bros. Langdon, W.M.; Stewart, S.W.; Wilcox, J.W.; W. B. Larkman, Treas.; Johnson, Asst. Sec.; Ridley, S.D.; Dowling, J.D.; Hall, I.G.; R. H. Williams, P.M., Preceptor; D. Heath and H. R. Werth.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. Lodge opened in Second and Third Degrees, and resumed to First Degree. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Heath acting as candidate. The W.M. then vacated the chair in favour of Bro. R. H. Williams, P.M. Lodge resumed in Second and Third Degrees. The ceremony of raising, was rehearsed, Bro. Worth acting as candidate. The lodge resumed to First Degree. The W.M. rose for the first time, when the dues were collected. The W.M. rose for the second time, and Bro. Stewart was elected W.M. for the next meeting. The W.M. rose for the third time. After "Hearty good wishes" had been given and received, the lodge was closed.

WHITTINGTON LODGE, No. 862.

The usual weekly meeting of this lodge was held at the Red Lion, Poppins-court, Fleet-street, on the 17th instant, when there were present Bros. F. Hewson, W.M.; Alfred Clarkon, S.W.; H. E. Francis, P.M., J.W.; A. V. H. Pauncefort, P.M., Preceptor and Treas.; Henry Thos. Kobelt, Sec.; F. H. Pate, P.M., S.D.; W. Annis, J.D.; and F. W. Berry, I.G.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, after which the lodge was closed.

HUGH OWEN LODGE, No. 2593.

A meeting was held on Friday, the 19th inst., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, when there were present Bros. J. B. Schrader, W.M.; Jas. Barnett, S.W.; H. Ramsbottom, J.W.; H. G. Holland, P.M., P.G.S.B. Herts, Preceptor; R. H. Nicholls, P.M., Treas.; Henry Thos. Kobelt, Sec.; Fred. T. Thomas, S.D.; H. C. Wootton, J.D.; R. P. Webster, I.G.; J. Mayhew, J. W. Whipps, Albert Taylor, C. T. W. Drake, J. W. Hunt, C. G. Ridgway, and W. H. Brook.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Ridgway acting as the candidate. The ceremony of consecration will be rehearsed to-day (Friday). The music was rehearsed, and the lodge was closed.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF EAST LANCASHIRE.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Queen-street Schools, Oldham, on the 17th inst. There was a fairly large gathering of Provincial Grand Officers, Present and Past, and of brethren from all but three of the 113 lodges which are now embraced by the province. One of the last official acts of the late Prov. G. Master, Bro. Col. Starkie, was to issue his mandate for the meeting, and after his death it was decided not to interfere with the date of the fixture. Bro. C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, Dep. P.G.M., presided. Bro. Abraham Clegg, P.P.G.W., acted as D.P.G.M., and Bros. C. D. Cheetham, P.P.G.W., and E. G. Harwood, P.P.G.W., were in the Wardens' chairs. Bro. J. Kenyon, M.P., Prov. G.W., wrote apologising for his absence on the ground of pressure of his Parliamentary duties. Among members of the Grand Lodge of England present were Bros. J. Kenyon (Bolton), G. Std. Br.; John Chadwick, P.G.S.B.; and Jas. Newton, P.G.S.B., Prov. G. Sec. The lodge was in mourning for the late Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Lathom, Prov. G. Master of West Lancashire, as well as for its own deceased head.

Before the roll of the lodges was called, the DEP. PROV. G. MASTER said he thought they ought to give expression to their sense of the loss which the province had lately sustained by the death of their late Prov. G. Master. Their late chief loved Masonry, not only on account of its mystic rites and its points, but he loved it principally because of its Charity. (Hear, hear.) They need not look far from Oldham to see where his pet institution commenced, namely, the East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution. Colonel Starkie was the starter and founder of that Charity, and he supported it to the very best of his ability, not only with his Masonic skill, but also with his purse. Their late Master was installed as head of the province in 1870, when the province numbered 77 lodges. He had left it with 113 lodges, and somewhere close upon 5000 members. That showed that he was "the right man in the right place." Whatever duty he undertook as a Mason or as a man he did his best to fulfil it thoroughly. At their meeting in Hulme Town Hall, in November last, Colonel Starkie moved a vote of condolence with the family of the late Earl of Lathom, and little did they then think that so melancholy a task would have now to be performed in his own case. (Hear, hear.) He moved that a vote of condolence be forwarded to Mrs. Starkie, and also entered on the minutes.

Bro. W. GOLDTHORPE, P.P.G.R., said he very heartily seconded the vote that had been so feelingly proposed from the chair. He had been asked to do so, perhaps, because of the somewhat peculiar position which he held towards Bro. Starkie. He had the good fortune to be Prov. G. Organist when Bro. Starkie was installed Prov. G.M. in 1870, and since then they had always been on friendly and intimate terms, and many were the acts of kindness he had received from their late chief in that period. He (Bro. Goldthorpe) was possibly one of the oldest of the Prov. G. Officers present, and he could say with certainty that the province had sustained one of the heaviest losses that could have befallen it. He did not know who could fill the vacant position with the same good effect as Col. Starkie. Not only was he a good figure head, belonging to a very good old family, but he had identified himself with all the Masonic interests in the province from the time when he came into it. Owing to his great energy in Masonic matters, the province had reached its present high position among the provinces. In season and out of season he never ceased to look after its interest. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was passed unanimously, the brethren signifying assent by standing a few moments in silence.

Bro. W. ALCOCK presented his report as P.G. Treas. He said the balance in the bank was not so large as last year, but this was readily accounted for by the special donation of 200 guineas last year to the Boys' School. The amount in hand was £236, and it was a pleasing fact that not a single lodge in the province was behind in its payments. (Applause.)

The Auditors, Bros. R. H. Beswick and W. A. Boyer, presented their report, and those of the Charity Committee and of the Election Committee were read by the Prov. G. Secretary. There had been no candidates from the province in the recent election to the Boys' and the Girls' Schools in London, but the Election Committee had disposed of all the available votes at those elections in a way which would ultimately benefit the province. They regretted that no fewer than 25 lodges had neglected to send their papers, and that 56 votes for girls and 100 for boys had thereby been lost.

The ACTING P.S.G.W., in moving the confirmation of the two reports last mentioned, urged on the Charity Representatives the importance of their duty in seeing to the collection of election papers and their despatch to the Provincial Grand Secretary. The Election Committee would endeavour this week to elect an old brother to the Benevolent Institution in London, although in that case six lodges had so far neglected to send in papers representing nearly 120 votes.

Bro. HOOPER seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

Five brethren were re-elected on the General Committee of the Systematic Institution, after which, on the motion of Bro. HOLLINGWORTH, seconded by Bro. F. W. LEAN, Bro. John Chadwick, P.M. 467, was unanimously elected Prov. G. Treasurer. He was subsequently invested by the Prov. G. Master in the chair, along with the following, who had been appointed as Prov. G. Officers for the ensuing year:

Bro. J. E. Platt, 1868	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" S. F. Simons, 1534	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. W. H. Healey, 344	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. J. Alker, 2702	...	...	...
" W. F. Farrington, 1633	...	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" W. H. Boyer, 2554	...	...	...	Prov. D.G. Reg.
" James Newton, 37	...	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" J. Braddock, 277	...	...	...	} Prov. S.G.Ds.
" A. H. Smith, 2322	...	...	...
" F. R. Cooper, 1055	...	...	...
" Jeremiah Green, 467	...	...	...	} Prov. J.G.Ds.
" J. M. H. Blamey, 163	...	...	...
" B. Derham, 1723	...	...	...	} Prov. G.S. of Wks.
" Robert Peacock, 2341	...	...	...
" A. C. Wilson, 623	...	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" R. Halstead, 1868	...	...	...	Prov. D.G.D.C.
" Edwyn A. Smith, 2363	...	...	...	} Prov. A.G.D.Cs.
" J. H. Isherwood, 367	...	...	...
" Henry Hindle, 345	...	...	...
" John Hulley, 268	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" J. M. Moss, 1161	...	...	...	Prov. Dep. G.S.B.
" N. Dumville, 2156	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" Arthur Sullivan, 2387	...	...	...
" James Shuttleworth, 286	...	...	...
" John H. Greenwood, 2387	...	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" E. H. Flower, 999	...	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" Thomas Threlfall, 1773	...	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" George W. Davies, 1459	...	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" A. Collinge, 467	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" S. Davies, 467	...	...	...
" J. K. Buckley, 277	...	...	...
" J. Broadbent, 1868	...	...	...
" J. Hilton, 1868	...	...	...
" J. Grime, 2341	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Tyler.
" E. Roberts, 1459	...	...	...

On the motion of Bro. CHEETHAM, seconded by Bro. PACKMAN, supported by Bro. J. W. KENYON, P.P.G. Supt. of Wks., a vote of condolence was passed with the family of the late Bro. J. T. Newbold, P.P. G.W. A collection was taken, realising £18 9s., to be devoted to a Charitable object, and before Provincial Grand Lodge was closed the brethren stood whilst the Dead March in "Saul" was played in memory of Colonel Starkie by Bro. J. H. Greenwood, Prov. G.O.

CONSECRATION OF THE HAYWRA (MARK) LODGE, No. 525.

It is our pleasant duty to chronicle the formation of a new Mark lodge in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Masonic activity may be said to characterise this busy province, and seldom does a year pass without some addition to its roll of Freemasons' lodges. Last year it was the Craft that was increasing its numbers; this time it is in the Mark Degree that advance is made. Harrogate is a thriving and rapidly increasing town, and it is not surprising to find that as it grows, its Masonic enterprise also extends. We published in our columns some 12 months ago particulars

of the formation of the Doric (Craft) Lodge, No. 2695, and it is only a few weeks since we reported the installation of its second Worshipful Master. Harrogate has now, therefore, two Craft lodges, but up to the 17th instant was without a similar organisation of the Mark Degree. This deficiency, we are pleased to see, has been made good, for on the date named, the Prov. G. Master for West Yorkshire, attended by a considerable number of his officers, visited Harrogate, and consecrated the Haywra Mark Lodge. The chief pioneers of Mark progress who have interested themselves in this matter have been Bros. John Barker, Dep. Prov. G. Master, Thos. Woods, and Walter Davey, all resident in the town. They have been supported by brethren from both the Harrogate Craft lodges; and, judging by the enthusiastic way the thing has been taken up, and knowing the calibre of the brethren who are engineering it, there is every prospect that the Mark Degree will strike deep root in the new soil, and flourish and prosper exceedingly. The Haywra Lodge makes the 15th on West Yorkshire's roll, and starts on its career with some 18 members.

Judging from the interesting comments of the Prov. G. Master, Bro. C. Letch Mason, it would appear that the name selected by the brethren for the new lodge has given rise to considerable discussion and much interest. It must be acknowledged that on paper "Haywra," look at from which point of view we may, does not strike one favourably; there is something unfamiliar, not to say uncouth, about it. It is evidently old, and yet it lacks association. This is perhaps because it is not historic, is not linked with some hallowed shrine or some doughty deed. But, tempting though it is, we will not pursue the subject here, being content to refer our readers to Bro. Mason's interesting address, which we give *in extenso*.

Judging by the numbers who attended, and the excellent arrangements, it looks as though the Haywra Lodge, in spite of its name, or, perhaps, because of it, would take a position in a short time in the front rank of West Yorkshire Mark lodges. Amongst the brethren present there were:

Bros. C. Letch Mason, Prov. G.M.; John Barker, Dep. Prov. G.M., W.M. designate of the new lodge; J. W. Monckman, J.P., G. Overseer of Eng., acting D. of C.; G. H. Parke, W.M. 110, P.P.G.W., Past G. Treas.; W. W. Clayton, P.M. 374, S.G.W.; C. Woollons, P.M. 110, P.P.G.W., as J.G.W.; W. E. Smithies, P.M. 493, P.P.G.W., G. Stwd. designate; G. Martin, P.M. (T.I.), Prov. G.M. Overseer; Thos. Myers, P.M. 111, P.P.G.O., as P.S.G.O.; Wm. Flockton, P.M. 111, P.P.G.O., as J.G.O.; Rev. J. W. Clough, T.I., Prov. G. Chap.; Rev. J. L. Brereton, S.W. 127, P.P.G. Chap.; A. J. Forsdike, I.P.M. 53, Prov. G. Reg.; C. A. Phillips, P.M. 457, P.P.G. Reg.; John Reed, P.M. 398, P.P.G. Treas.; Joseph Matthewman, P.M. 110, Prov. G. Sec.; T. G. Howell, P.M. 137, P.P.G.D.; M. A. Brigg, P.M. 374, Prov. J.G.D.; Alf. Leach, P.M. 110, P.P.G.D.C.; J. W. Blackburn, P.M. 111, P.G.S.B.; G. C. Gamble, P.M. (T.I.), P.G. Std. Br.; John Brook, W.M. 493, P.P.G. Org., acting Org.; Wm. Ash, Sec. 110, P.P.G. Org.; Wm. Laycock (T.I.), as P.G.I.G.; and W. Chambers, W.M. 501, F. Hincliffe, J.W. 111, and John Marshall, J.D. 374, Stwds. Of the Harrogate brethren there were Bros. Thos. Woods, W. Davey, G. Musgrave, J. Croft, W. H. Wainhouse, A. H. Walker, H. Dittmar, E. Solley (Mayor of Harrogate), F. Dowson, S. Stead, O. Threapleton, Wesley, Petty, and F. H. Ingle.

The Prov. G.M. opened a lodge shortly after half-past four o'clock in the very pretty room which is common to the two Craft lodges in Harrogate, viz., the Harrogate and Claro, 1001, and the Doric, 2695, the various offices being filled as shown above.

After the usual salutations, the D.C., Bro. J. W. Monckman, who, in the absence of Bro. G. Edwards, kindly consented to act in that capacity, summoned and arranged the founders in due order. These were Bros. John Barker, P.M. 58 and 137, P.G.I. of W., D.P.G.M.; Geo. H. Parke, W.M. 110, P.P.G.W., Past G. Treas.; Joseph J. Simcox, W.M. 480 and 519, M.O. 257, J.O. 376, P.P.G. Org. Berks and Oxon, P.G.S.G.O. Bucks; Thomas Woods, 58; Walter Davey, 111; John M. R. Smetham, 111; Wm. Henry Wainhouse, 58.

The P.G.M. after addressing these responsible brethren, called upon the P.G. Sec., Bro. Joseph Matthewman, to read the petition and warrant. This done and the selection of the three officers to fill the principal positions being confirmed, the consecrating ceremony was at once proceeded with.

The acting Chaplain, Bro. Rev. J. L. BRERETON, gave an excellent address to the founders and brethren. He especially called attention to the necessity of progress and advancement not in Masonic matters only, but in everything which tended to moral development. He enjoined the brethren, now that they had committed themselves to that new departure, to conduct it with interest as well as enterprise, and pointed out that the brother who was content merely to be a member, and whose interest in his lodge did not impel him to progress, would make a very poor Mason indeed. Let them do well and thoroughly what they had undertaken, and thus, and thus only, would they derive satisfaction. His reverence also pointed out the comfort to be derived from the teachings of the Mark Degree; how none, not even the humblest workman, need despair; that recognition and appreciation, according as our labours merited them, would surely come to all, and that, therefore, we were justified in taking courage and confidently advancing in the Masonic path of duty.

With the assistance of Bros. Smithies, P.M.; Reed, P.M.; Leach, P.M.; and Ash, who carried the vessels of consecration, and who acted under the able direction of the D.C., the Prov. G.M., supported by the Chaplain, most reverently conducted the ceremony of consecration, and afterwards dedicated and constituted the lodge. It was a very impressive scene, and its effect was increased by the judicious introduction of music, both vocal and instrumental, the arrangements and conduct of which were faithfully carried out by Bro. John Brook, W.M. of the Eland Lodge, No. 493, a Past Grand Organist of the province.

After the patriarchal benediction, the PROV. G. MASTER addressed the brethren as follows:

Brethren, Mark Masonry in the province of West Yorkshire, as I have more than once pointed out, advances slowly perhaps, but yet steadily. Nor am I anxious that it should progress by leaps and bounds. I much prefer that lodges should spring up only when the need of them is unmistakably felt. In the year 1896 we added two new lodges to our roll—Eland and the Caldene. Since that year we have remained stationary, though the number of individual members has steadily increased. To-day we have consecrated the 15th Mark lodge in the province, and I need scarcely say that to perform this ceremony has given me very great pleasure and satisfaction. That gratification is largely increased when I consider the exceptionally favourable conditions under which the new lodge starts upon its career. For instance, I venture to say that had you sought the whole province through in quest of a competent Master, you could not have found a better than the one to whom you are about to trust the first year's destiny

of the new lodge. In Bro. John Barker, my excellent friend and very worthy Deputy, you combine experience extending over many years; a knowledge of the ceremonies and procedure of Mark Masonry, I might almost say, perfect; and, in addition, and perhaps more important still, an interest in this beautiful Degree both enthusiastic and sincere. Under his guidance prosperity cannot fail to be yours, especially when we consider the support which it will be his privilege to receive from such able lieutenants as Bros. Thomas Woods and Walter Davey. Bro. Woods has shown great skill and ability in conducting the affairs of the New Doric Craft Lodge, and he has found an able successor in Bro. Davey. Their efforts and prowess in Mark Masonry they have yet to give proof of, but I for one have no doubt that they will be equally zealous and equally successful. With such examples before them the officers—a full complement of whom I am pleased to see has been obtained—will doubtless earnestly study and rapidly acquire a knowledge of our beautiful ritual and will be led to enquire into the valuable lessons which underlie our ceremonies. Let me take this opportunity of emphasising the words of the Chaplain and saying to the newly-advanced brethren that of the many teachings in this Degree, one of the most important is the certain recognition and appreciation of good work, *well done*. That recognition may not be immediate, and that appreciation may be delayed, but eventually, we are told, our honest efforts will be fully recognised and duly rewarded. We are taught in Holy Writ that the stone which the builders rejected became the head of the corner, and though every little attempt on our parts may not attain so important a position, yet, depend upon it, a useful place will be found for it, and modest though it may be, it will yet supply a need and contribute some small portion towards the general whole. This is most encouraging to the conscientious workman, and I hope, my brethren, you will take this valuable lesson to heart. The destinies of the new lodge, as far as human foresight goes, are placed in excellent hands; it is for you, however, to make or to mar. We outside this district shall watch your course with solicitude and with encouragement. We have no anxiety, for it is plain that within yourselves you combine all the elements of success. May all good fortune attend you, and may the Haywra Lodge realise all that we, its outside brethren, most earnestly anticipate and desire! There is one further matter I may casually allude to in reference to the new lodge which has excited some curiosity and speculation, and that is its name. The history of names, both personal and place names, is a most interesting study, and if we can get to the true origin and meaning, that study often throws a flood of light on the subject. But such pursuit is encompassed with difficulty. There is often an absence of authentic information, which makes certainty very doubtful, and added to that, names, in course of ages, become so altered (corrupted, shall I say?) in spelling and pronunciation as to make identification little more than a speculation. Archaeologists, like doctors, proverbially disagree, and it is not surprising that on the question of the origin of the word "Harrogate" there should be a divergence of opinion. But it is not the entire word with which we are concerned. The term "gate" as an affix is common in all old towns, as witness the "Kirk" gate, the "North" gate, and so on, and we need not dwell upon its signification—it is the first portion of the word with which we are interested. The promoters of this new lodge maintain that the ancient name of Harrogate was "Haywra-gate" and so claim that in the nomenclature of their lodge they are perpetuating the old-time name which has become in course of years so corrupted as to be almost unintelligible. This may or may not be so. I am not much of an archaeologist, but I am led to believe that the evidence of writers of authority on the topography of the district, more or less confirm this view. Haywra Park was situated, it is said, in or beyond the forest of Knaresborough, but the term "Haywra"—granting this—is not yet properly explained. Grange's History as well as the works of Hargrove and Thorpe have been consulted, and the conclusion reached is that Haywra as a place name did most certainly exist in this immediate neighbourhood, if not upon this very spot, and that there is, therefore, strong presumptive evidence that the present term Harrogate is a corruption of "Haywra-gate." What was the precise meaning of "Haywra" is still undetermined, some associating it with a clearance in a forest, others with a robbers' stronghold. That, however, can be left to more learned heads than mine; it is sufficient to know that the use of the word is, I may say, an undoubted revival of an old place name and as such is a very suitable one to give to a lodge of Freemasons whose origin is vainly sought in the dim vistas of far distant ages. May the lodge whose name it bears ever maintain the high reputation which our Society has so long enjoyed! May it long and worthily uphold our lasting and undying principles, and may it stand an institution—useful, beneficent, and true—a credit and a pride to those under whose praiseworthy and successful endeavours it has to-day commenced its career!

The first W.M. of the new Haywra Lodge is Bro. John Barker, and his selection as the pioneer of Mark Masonry in Harrogate is an exceedingly popular one. Known and esteemed as he is amongst West Yorkshire Mark Masons it is not in this Degree only that Bro. Barker has shown his deep interest in Freemasonry. As a Craft Mason he has long worn the Provincial purple; whilst in the R.A. Degree, only two days before the meeting we are describing, he received from the G. Superintendent of West Yorkshire the distinguished position of Third Principal of the province. In the other and what are called Higher Degrees Bro. Barker also takes conspicuous place, and it is not too much to say that he has always made his mark in whatever Degree he has associated himself with.

Presented by Bro. G. H. Parke, he was obligated and installed by the Prov. G.M., and, on taking the chair, was warmly welcomed and saluted. His first act was to invest Bro. G. H. Parke as I.P.M. of the new lodge. Subsequently Bro. Barker appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. Thomas Woods, 58, S.W.; Walter Davey, 111, J.W.; J. M. R. Smetham, 111, M.O.; F. H. Ingle, S.O.; William H. Wainhouse, 58, J.O.; O. Threapleton, Chap.; Ernest Solley, R. of M.; W. Petty, Sec.; Samuel Stead, S.D.; A. W. Hinsley Walker, J.D.; F. Dowson, D. of C.; G. Musgrave, Org.; H. Dittmar, I.G.; J. Croft, Stwd.; and A. H. Holmes, Tyler.

The addresses to the W.M., Wardens, Overseers, and brethren, given in Bro. Parke's best style, concluded the installation and investiture ceremonies.

On the motion of the W.M., seconded by Bro. W. DAVEY, Bro. Thomas Woods was elected to serve on the West Yorkshire Mark Charity Committee.

There were several propositions relating to new members, and many apologies and expressions of regret at inability to be present, and these having been duly recorded, the lodge was closed.

The dinner was served in an adjoining room, and upwards of 40 were accommodated. The feeling of general satisfaction caused by the universally acknowledged success of the proceedings added zest to the enjoyment, and it was a pleasant company which assembled at the first festive board of the Haywra Lodge.

There was the usual toast list, and earnest purpose and heart in the speeches was counted of more value than mere eloquence.

The W.M. proposed "The Queen," and Bro. W. Ash sang the solo in the anthem.

"H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G. Master," was in kindly terms given from the chair, and as is customary, most warmly received.

To the third toast, "The M.W. the Pro G. Master, the Earl of Euston, the Dep. G. Master, and the Officers of Grand Lodge," Bro. J. W. MONCKMAN, J.G. Overseer, was called upon to reply.

Bro. T. WOODS, S.W., then gave "The Rt. W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. C. Letch Mason, the W. Deputy and the Officers of Prov. G. Lodge."

This toast was exceedingly well received, and the PROV. G. MASTER responded. Before sitting down he (the Prov. G.M.) asked to be allowed to propose "The First Worshipful Master of the Haywra Lodge, Bro. John Barker."

Bro. MASON spoke in terms highly complimentary to his Deputy, and expressed the hope that the lodge under his guidance would make steady and substantial progress.

Bro. BARKER, on rising, had a very warm greeting. It was, he said, his conviction that the formation and consecration of the Haywra Lodge was a very desirable and proper work; he was certain that taken up as they, his colleagues, had taken it up, good and beneficial results would follow. He knew, none better, that the Harrogate Mark Masons were charging themselves with a serious responsibility; but he also knew that they had not lightly regarded the matter, but were prepared to do their duty and stand manfully by the consequences. With them there was neither doubt nor hesitation: he (their W.M.) believed in the Haywra brethren, and he felt sure that they had confidence in him. That being so, with their help, he had no fear for the future, and whilst looking for support in the days to come, he could at least thank them now for the kindness they had shown to himself and their trust in his fitness to govern the lodge.

Other toasts followed, amongst which were "The Visitors," ably proposed by the J.W.; "The Mark Benevolent Fund," which found an eloquent advocate in Bro. G. H. PARKE, Ex-Chairman of the Charity Committee; and "The Officers of the Haywra Lodge."

To this last the Mayor of Harrogate, Bro. E. SOLLEY, Reg. of Marks, replied. He took the brethren into his confidence, and told them how much he had been interested in the Mark Degree. He said it seemed to supply something, which, to his mind, was wanting in the Craft, and that its teaching was calculated most deeply to impress those who joined the Degree, as he could assure them it had done in his case.

The speeches were, of course, interspersed with songs, amongst the successful contributors to which were Bros. Petty, Ash, and Parke. Altogether the function was highly successful, and it was generally felt that the occasion when new ground was opened up for the extension of the Mark Degree in Harrogate was one which would be long and pleasantly remembered by all those whose privilege it was to be present.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual meeting and election of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons was held on the 19th inst. in the large hall of Freemasons' Tavern, London. Bro. J. A. Farnfield, P.A.G.D.C., Treasurer of the Institution, was unanimously voted to the chair, and among other brethren who supported him were Bros. A. C. Spaul, W: H. Spaul, H. A. Tobias, J. S. Cumberland, D. D. Mercer, James Boulton, J. G. Stevens, John Mason, George Everett, P.G.T.; Dr. H. J. Strong, Hon. Consulting Surgeon to the Institution; C. E. Keyser, P.G.D.; Major J. Woodall-Woodall, P.G.T.; Henry Smith, P. Dep. Prov. G.M. West Yorkshire; Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.; E. Letchworth, G. Secretary; and James Terry, P.G.S.B., Secretary of the Institution.

Bro. J. A. FARNFIELD, before the business of the day commenced, said it was his pleasing duty to announce to the brethren that the Right Hon. Lord Addington, R.W. Prov. G. Master for Bucks, would preside at the Annual Festival of the Institution on Wednesday, February 28, 1900, and he would like to have the names of brethren who would act as Stewards on that occasion.

The reading of the minutes of the annual meeting of 1898 was dispensed with by consent as those minutes had been printed and circulated.

On the motion of Bro. C. E. KEYSER, P.G.D., seconded by Bro. H. A. TOBIAS, P.A.G.D.C., the Auditors' report, which was read by Bro. Terry, was received, adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

On the motion of Bro. HENRY LOVEGROVE, P.G.S.B., seconded by Bro. Dr. STRONG, P.A.G.D.C., the following report of the Committee of Management was received, adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

The Anniversary Festival on behalf of the Institution was held by direction of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., M.W.G.M., Grand Patron and President, on Wednesday, the 22nd February last. The Right Hon. Lord Llangattock, Prov. G.M. of the Eastern Division of South Wales, occupied the chair, and was supported by a Board of 483 Stewards, of whom 13 were ladies.

The total amount of donations and subscriptions obtained by the members of this Board was announced by the Secretary as £18,207 8s. 6d., but this sum has since been augmented by the receipt of outstanding lists and additions to lists to £19,596 10s., this being, with the exception of the total subscribed at the Jubilee Festival in 1892, the third highest total ever obtained at a Benevolent Anniversary. London, represented by 267 Stewards, contributed towards this splendid result £10,439 6s., and the Provinces, with 212 Stewards, £9083 14s., and four from the Colonies, £73 10s.

Under these circumstances the Committee gladly takes this opportunity of expressing its gratitude to the Right Hon. the Chairman, who so ably presided and so earnestly and successfully pleaded the cause of the Institution; to the ladies and brethren who gave their services as Stewards and by whose efforts the amount

was raised; and last, but not least, to the lodges, chapters, and individual brethren by whom it was so generously contributed. London, with a contingent of Stewards, which alone was more numerous than the entire Board of 1898; the Chairman's province, more particularly after its great exertions on behalf of the Girls' School in 1897, and the Boys' School last year; indeed, the whole of the lodges and provinces that were represented on the occasion deserve each of them a special tribute of praise for the manner in which they fulfilled their duties, and the Committee trusts that this will prove neither the last nor the least important of the many successful festivals celebrated in aid of this Institution.

At the election in May, 1898, there were on the two Funds of the Institution 447 annuitants, of whom 202 were on the Male Fund and 245—including three nominated by holders of as many perpetual presentations—on the Widows' Fund, while the number of applicants was 119, of whom 57 were men and 62 widows. To-day the number is 122, namely, 55 men and 67 widows—originally 68—so that there is an increase of three in the number of candidates at to-day's election as compared with that of last year.

The Committee is naturally anxious to do all in its power, consistently with the dictates of prudence, to reduce this formidable list of applicants and having regard to the exceptionally brilliant result of the recent festival, it takes upon itself the responsibility of recommending that an increase of five be made in the number of annuitants on the Male Fund and of three in that on the Widows' Fund. In the event of this recommendation being adopted, the numbers to be elected to-day will be 20 men and 15 widows, including in each case the three elected to fill the deferred annuities. Since February, however, there have occurred 3 vacancies on the Male Fund and 4 vacancies on the Widows' Fund, and it is the opinion of the Committee that these also should be filled up. If then this further recommendation be adopted, there will be elected this day 23 men and 19 widows, including, as already stated, the three on each Fund, who will be held in reserve for the deferred annuities. Thus, the strength of the establishment will be augmented, and the Male Fund will provide for 207 annuitants at £40 per annum, and the Widows' Fund for 248 annuitants at £32 per annum, the total sum distributable among these 455 annuitants being £16,216. In addition there are 22 widows of recently-deceased male annuitants, who, under Law 9 of the Male Fund, receive £20 per annum each, the amount required to meet the outlay being £440, and increasing the total sum to be disbursed for the three classes of annuitants during the coming year to £16,656.

The Committee is desirous of repeating its grateful thanks of last year to United Grand Lodge for its special grant of £2000, in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This sum was paid to the Institution early in the year, and has been placed to the credit of the Widows' Fund, that being the one most in need. It is also with great pleasure that it records its thanks to Grand Lodge for its continuance of the annual grant of £70 towards providing the annuitants in residence at the Asylum with fuel during the winter months; to the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for its gifts of periodicals and comforts for the residents; and to the Emulation Lodge of Improvement for its renewed grant of £10 to be divided equally between the third highest unsuccessful candidates of each sex at to-day's election.

The Committee is also desirous of publicly recording its sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Honorary Surgeons of the Institution—J. Wayte, Esq., and R. Percy Middlemist, Esq.—for their kind and unremitting attention to those of the annuitants, whether in residence at Croydon or non-resident, who have been unfortunately compelled during the past year to seek their advice and assistance; and also to H. J. Strong, Esq., Honorary Consulting Physician, for the readiness with which he has at all times given to those who needed it the benefit of his long professional experience.

The Committee is further desirous of expressing its high appreciation of the ability and thoroughness with which the Secretary and his staff have discharged their arduous duties, and sincerely congratulates the former on the unabated energy with which (as evidenced by his successful efforts in connection with this year's Festival) he has been able to perform his work after an official connection with the Institution extending over nearly 35 years.

The Committee fully realises that the Institution has during the past year sustained a great loss through the lamented death of the late Earl of Lathom, Pro Grand Master, who had presided with signal success as Chairman at one of its Anniversary Festivals, and for many years had been Trustee both of the Male and Widows' Funds, and of the Sustentation of Building Fund.

The Committee is glad to be in a position to report that the premises at Croydon are in a thorough state of repair, and have been so maintained during the year at a very small outlay.

The audited statement of accounts for the year ending the 31st December, 1898, is appended. As in previous years, it has been prepared with the greatest possible care by the Finance Committee, nor was it passed and approved by the Auditors until they had carefully scrutinised the whole statement item by item. Under these circumstances, the Committee is hopeful that, on comparing the accounts with those of former years, the Governors and Subscribers will consider themselves justified in arriving at the conclusion that the funds of the Institution have been administered with a due regard for efficiency and economy.

It remains for the Committee to express its unabated confidence in the generosity of the Craft, and its firm belief that so long as it continues to fulfil its duties with the same determination as heretofore to promote the interests of the Institution, so long will the brethren be ready and willing to contribute towards its maintenance.

Bro. C. E. KEYSER, P.G.T., then rose and moved the re-election of Bro. John Albert Farnfield, P.A.G.D.C., as Treasurer of the Institution. The brethren all knew the great interest that brother took in the Institution; he had filled the office of its Treasurer for many years, and he (Bro. Keyser) was sure the brethren could not elect a better man to occupy that important position.

Bro. C. D. CHEETHAM, Chairman of the Provincial Grand Charity Committee of East Lancashire, seconded the motion, which was then put, and unanimously carried, amidst loud cheering.

Bro. J. A. FARNFIELD: Brethren, I am obliged to you. As I have done in the past I will do in the future.

Bros. Govan, Vincent, and Blackburn were elected on the Committee of Management, and Bros. Kempton, Aitenborough, and Cleghorn were elected Auditors.

Scrutineers for the election were chosen, and the poll for the election of annuitants was opened.

Votes of thanks to the Scrutineers and the Chairman of the day closed the proceedings.

The successful candidates will be found in our advertisement columns.

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GRAND PATRON AND PRESIDENT:
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,
K.G., M.W.G.M.

At the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Institution, held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Friday, May 19th, 1899, W. Bro. J. A. Farnfield, Patron, P.A.G.D.C., Chairman, after the General Business was disposed of, the Governors and Subscribers proceeded to the Election of 23 Male Annuitants from an approved list of 55 Candidates, and 19 Female Annuitants from an approved list of 68 Candidates, when the following were declared duly ELECTED:

No. on Poll.	MALES.	MALES.	MALES.	Votes.
1.	Bro. John William Smith	...	...	5843
2.	Charles Henry Pritchard	...	...	5678
3.	Edwin Sturge	...	...	5654
4.	Charles Davey	...	...	5506
5.	William Hills	...	...	5312
6.	John Hills	...	...	5161
7.	Samuel James Hose	...	...	5016
8.	John Joseph Hatton	...	...	4977
9.	Thomas Wright	...	...	4959
10.	Frederick George Green	...	...	4932
11.	Thomas Janeway	...	...	4883
12.	James Smith	...	...	4847
13.	Thomas Cradock Lazenby	...	...	4820
14.	Thomas Collins	...	...	4810
15.	William Thomas Blake	...	...	4612
16.	John R. Smith	...	...	4593
17.	James Mott	...	...	4558
*18.	John Alford	...	...	4551
*19.	James Templeman	...	...	4520
*20.	James Taylor	...	...	4512
21.	Charles Jas. Bye (deferred)	...	...	4489
22.	Thomas U. Price (deferred)	...	...	4440
23.	Benjamin Hutchinson (deferred)	...	...	4440

WIDOWS.

1.	Mrs. C. Hilton	...	...	6031
2.	J. Very	...	...	6019
3.	J. G. Hyne	...	...	5624
4.	S. M. Hodges	...	...	5586
5.	E. Peacock	...	...	5452
6.	M. Francis	...	...	5217
7.	S. Leadbeater	...	...	5106
8.	E. Stuart	...	...	5051
9.	E. Baker	...	...	4948
10.	L. S. Eagle	...	...	4800
11.	M. A. Weaver	...	...	4764
12.	M. F. Wright	...	...	4710
*13.	M. Nottelle	...	...	4699
*14.	H. Davis	...	...	4636
*15.	E. Leary	...	...	4619
*16.	E. Randall	...	...	4588
17.	S. A. Alcock (deferred)	...	...	4415
18.	M. H. Jew (deferred)	...	...	4411
19.	M. A. Williams (deferred)	...	...	4407

The votes of the Unsuccessful Candidates will be carried forward to the next election.

Those marked* are elected to fill vacancies occasioned by death since the voting papers were issued.

The three lowest on the poll (both male and female) will be placed on the List of Annuitants as vacancies occur.

By order.

JAMES TERRY,

Patron and Secretary.

May 19th, 1899.

The next ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL will be held on February 28th, 1900, under the distinguished presidency of the RIGHT HON. LORD ADDINGTON, R.W.P.G.M. for Bucks. The services of Brethren and of Ladies to act as Stewards on this important occasion are earnestly solicited and will be gratefully acknowledged.

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The Council gratefully ACKNOWLEDGE, per W. Bro. George Cowell, P.G.D., F.R.C.S., TWO HUNDRED GUINEAS, collected from Freemasons, towards the endowment of "Our Brother's" Bed in this home, now urgently in need of help.

W. PORTLOCK-DADSON,

9, Dean's-yard, May 19th, 1899. Honorary Secretary.

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EVERY THURSDAY MIDNIGHT.—To CHESTER, Birkenhead and LIVERPOOL, for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT (commencing June 2).—To EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, PLYMOUTH, Fowey, Newquay, TRURO, Falmouth, St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY MIDNIGHT AND SATURDAY MORNING (commencing May 26).—To DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN), for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY SATURDAY (commencing May 27).—To Swindon, Bath, BRISTOL, GLOUCESTER, Cheltenham, Frome, Wells, YEovil, Dorchester, Bridport, WEYMOUTH (for the CHANNEL ISLANDS), WESTON-SUPER-MARE, Bridgwater, TAUNTON, Minehead, Lynton, Lynmouth, Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE, Fiverton, EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Dartmouth, PLYMOUTH, Yealmpton, Launceston, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Newquay, Truro, Falmouth, St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.

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THE EAST ROOM,

THE CRITERION RESTAURANT,

PICCADILLY.



SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1899.

Masonic Notes.

The report which the Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution presented at the annual meeting of the Governors and Subscribers on Friday, the 19th inst., was on the whole far more satisfactory than might have been expected. The year 1898, though the Festival, with the exception of that of 1893, was the least successful that has been held since 1877 inclusive, proved after all a fairly prosperous one. There was no need to trench upon the invested capital of the Institution, and when the accounts were closed, there were found to be fairly good balances in hand on the two Annuity Funds and the Sustentation of Building Fund. For this the Committee are justly entitled to the gratitude of the friends and supporters of the Charity.

Again, the Festival in February of the current year ultimately proved one of the most successful that has ever been held in behalf of our Old People, the total of £18,207 which the Secretary had the gratification of announcing on the day it was celebrated being augmented to £19,600. Under these circumstances we consider the Committee acted wisely in recommending a permanent increase in the number of annuitants on the two Funds, there being created five additional annuities on the Male Fund, and three on the Widows' Fund. These additions will necessitate an additional outlay of nearly £300 a year, so that the outlay for annuities alone, including the half annuities payable to 22 widows, will amount to £16,656. It is, of course, a heavy responsibility to find this large sum annually, together with the £3000 or thereabouts which is required for expenses of management and the maintenance of the Asylum at Croydon. But, in our opinion, the Craft will the more readily contribute when they realise that an appreciable increase in the number of annuities has resulted from the efforts they so successfully made in February last.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire, which took place at Oldham on Wednesday, the 17th instant, was held under circumstances of a particularly mournful nature. One of the last official acts, as our report informs us, of the late Bro. Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie, Prov. G. Master, was to issue his mandate for the meeting, and though his death occurred shortly afterwards it was decided not to interfere with the arrangements he had sanctioned. But the late Prov. G. Master was appointed to office in 1870 and it must have been a subject of intense grief to our East Lancashire brethren to know that the kindly ruler whose presence on these occasions had been familiar to them for so many years had gone from their midst and that the administration of their Province could no longer be an object of his solicitude. Indeed, as soon as Provincial Grand Lodge was opened, the Dep. Prov. G. Master in charge, rose and moved a resolution of condolence with the widow of their late chief, and in doing so paid a just tribute of respect to his memory, recalling how on all occasions and in all matters that affected the welfare of the Province, Col. Starkie had exhibited the deepest interest and had done all in his power to promote those interests.

Especially did the Deputy in charge lay stress on Col. Starkie's services to the East Lancs. Educational and Benevolent Institution, for the establishment of which he was immediately responsible, and to the Central Masonic Institutions, which also he had diligently laboured to assist. He also referred to the great increase in the strength of the Province which had taken place since his appointment to office, there being now 113 lodges on the roll, as compared with some 77 or 78 in 1870. Bro. Goldthorpe, P.P.G.R., who seconded the resolution, likewise spoke in terms of the highest eulogy of what Col. Starkie had done for East Lancashire, remarking that by his death "The Province had sustained one of the heaviest losses that could have befallen it." And not only did the brethren present assent in silence to the proposal, but when the business was over, and before the meeting closed, Prov. Grand Lodge showed still further their respect for their late Prov. G. Master by standing in solemn silence while the dead march in "Saul" was played by the Prov. G. Organist.

The Prov. G. Master of West Yorkshire has excellent reasons for being satisfied with the proceedings of the past year. In the first place, there are now 81 lodges on the roll, with an aggregate of 4140 members, or, rather more than an average of 51 per lodge. In the next, the contributions made by the Province to the Central Masonic Charitable Institutions reached the unprecedented sum of £7956, of which £6136 was raised for the Boys' Centenary. As regards the proposal that was made last year and referred to a Committee for providing a central home for the Province in the way of offices, it is doubtless a matter for regret to many West Yorkshire brethren that the scheme should have fallen through. The Committee, when they came to consider the question in all its bearings, found that it would involve a large outlay and was not very generally supported, and so it has been dropped until the Province is more favourably disposed towards incurring the expenditure.

But if the non-adoption of this proposal has caused disappointment among a number of the members, there is little doubt the announcement that Bro. J. C. Malcolm, P.G.D., had asked to be relieved of his

office of Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and that the Prov. Grand Master had acceded to the request, must have been received with universal regret. Bro. Malcolm had held the office for only between three and four years. He threw a vast amount of energy into his work. He had visited most, if not all, of the lodges in the Province, and had personally satisfied himself that their duties were being zealously carried out. But he appears to have convinced himself that, having regard to the pressure of his own private avocations, he could not conscientiously retain his office, and he has now retired, to the great regret of his chief and of the members of the several lodges in West Yorkshire, to whom he was *persona grata* in the fullest sense of the words. His successor is Bro. Richard Wilson, who was appointed J.G.D. of England in 1897, and will, no doubt, prove an efficient administrator when he has had time to accustom himself to his duties.

There must be a great amount of enthusiasm over Freemasonry in the Transvaal. It was erected into a District, with Bro. George Richards to preside over it as its first Dist. Grand Master, on the 1st January, 1895; and when the Grand Lodge Calendar for the current year was issued it numbered 22 lodges. On the 1st July of last year Comp. Richards received his patent of appointment as Grand Superintendent, and on the 22nd April the Germiston Chapter, No. 2498, which ranks seventh on the roll of Dist. Grand Chapter, was duly consecrated, and entered upon its career with every prospect of success. We judge so, at least, from the fact that at this inaugural meeting as many as 14 brethren were proposed for exaltation, and three companions as joining members.

We beg to remind our readers that the annual sports of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys will take place at Wood Green to-morrow (Saturday). The Boys' Band of the Strand Union Schools will play from 2.30 p.m., while the sports will begin at 3 p.m. Tea will be served in the Hall from 4 to 6 p.m. There are frequent trains both to and from Wood Green Station on the Great Northern and Green Lanes on the Great Eastern lines, so that intending visitors will have no difficulty either in going or returning.

We have also much pleasure in announcing that the Annual Fete and visit of Festival Stewards and their friends will take place at the Institution, Wood Green, on Tuesday, the 27th prox., the day preceding the Festival, and that the prizes will be distributed by Mrs. Charles E. Keyser, wife of Bro. Charles E. Keyser, P.G.D., who will preside as Chairman at the Anniversary Meeting at Brighton.

To-morrow (Saturday), at the New Haw Farm, Addlestone, Surrey, will be consecrated the Hatchlands Lodge, No. 2756. The ceremony will be performed by the Right Hon. the Earl of Onslow, G.C. M.G., Prov. G. Master, who will be assisted by Viscount Dungarvan, Prov. G. Master of Somersetshire, and several of the Officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Surrey, with Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.D., as D. of C. The Principal Officers designate are Bros. F. Holme Sumner, P.M., as W.M.; Frank Cripps, S.W.; and Edward Cazenove, J.W. The Founders include, in addition to the foregoing brethren, Viscount Dungarvan, who will fill the office of Treasurer; the Earl of Euston, Prov. G.M. Northants and Hunts, who will take that of Secretary; Bro. Sir Lionel Darell, Bart., P.G.D.; Lionel E. Darell, Frank Richardson, P.G.D.; the Hon. M. E. M. Sandys, and Alfred Cooper, P.G.D. With such an array of distinguished brethren there can be little doubt that the Hatchlands Lodge has before it a long and prosperous career.

The half-yearly meeting of the Great Priory of the Order of the Temple, which was held at Mark Masons' Hall on Friday, the 12th instant, appears to have been very numerously attended. Unfortunately, the Earl of Euston, M.E. and Supreme G. Master, was prevented, by unavoidable circumstances, from being in attendance until later in the proceedings, and so likewise was Sir Knight Viscount Dungarvan, G. Seneschal; but Capt. N. G. Philips, Prov. Prior of East Anglia, presided in their absence. The Report of the Council was very satisfactory, and mentioned, among other matters, that the Order had made great progress during the three years Lord Euston had been at its head. After the G. Officers of the year had been appointed and invested, the presiding officer referred to the proceedings of the annual conference of the Order in Dublin on the 14th April, and mentioned in particular that it had been resolved to interchange representatives with the several Grand Bodies. He also announced that the Earl of Lathom had been appointed Prov. Prior of Lancashire.

Reviews.

"MASONIC CALENDAR AND DIRECTORY FOR THE PROVINCE OF SURREY, 1899."—This is a very able and practically exhaustive publication, is printed by Messrs. James Truscott and Son, and is edited by Bros. C. T. Tyler and W. A. Latham, the Prov. G. Sec. and Assistant Prov. G. Sec. respectively of the county. The contents are so varied, interesting, and well-arranged, that its publication and circulation in the Province cannot fail to prove a positive boon to the Surrey brethren, and it is to be hoped that they warmly appreciate the distinction of possessing one of the largest and best Provincial Directories published in this or in any other country. The Preface alone is worth a good deal as a guide to the History of the Province, and the statistical details are so numerous as to render the handy little volume a never-failing reference for all points concerning the progress of the Craft in Surrey, numerically and financially, for years past. There are 42 lodges in the Province returning to June, 1898, a total of 1680 members, or exactly 40 on an average per lodge, so that with an addition to the number of lodges, there is also an increase of the average—a most satisfactory fact. The 17 Royal Arch chapters have a total of 326 companions, proving that there is still a small proportion of the Craftsmen who as yet have seen their way to exaltation. The nine Mark lodges return 169 members, and there are three K.T. preceptories and one Rose Croix chapter. Full information is supplied as to all these Bodies, and so as to the various Provincial Grand organisations. The by-laws of the Provincial Grand Lodge and the Provincial Grand Chapter are also printed, and much else which together make up a remarkable and most useful compilation. The Portrait Gallery includes the Prov. G.M. (the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G.), the Deputy Prov. G.M. (Bro. Fredk. West, P.G.D.), and the Prov. G. Sec. (Bro. C. T. Tyler), whose brief biography has been written by Bro. R. F. Gould.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

1133]

LODGE No. 50, HINCKLEY.

Bro. John T. Thorp, P.M. 523 and 2429, &c. (Address, Freemasons' Hall, Leicester), has considerably increased the debt of gratitude we owe him as Masonic students by the writing and publishing, at his own expense, another history of an old lodge. This time it is the "Knights of Malta, Lodge No. 50," held at Hinckley. It has had an eventful career, the particulars of such being narrated by a master-hand. Originally, the No. 47 was issued in 1756, and described a lodge constituted in London. It fell through, however, almost as soon as granted, the number being again utilised for a new lodge at Macclesfield, Cheshire, in 1764. It also collapsed, and in 1803 the number was again used, with the Charter of 1764, for the third new lodge, being No. 47, Hinckley, Leicester, on the Roll of the "Ancients." The "third time was lucky," for at last the warrant found firm ground, and has remained in that town ever since. Bro. Thorp gives many interesting details of its history, and likewise furnishes numerous particulars of a more general character, thus adding considerably to the value of the work. The author handsomely acknowledges his indebtedness to other brethren, and quotes occasionally from their books respecting the Craft in early days. There are several plates of illustrations, some being very curious, and all valuable souvenirs of the past, the frontispiece of the warrant of 1764 being most appropriate. The brochure runs to some 90 pages, but is not for sale. Copies will be presented to members of the Lodge of Research, No. 2429 (to whom it is suitably and fraternally dedicated), and to those of the *Correspondence Circle*. Brethren desirous can join the latter body at once by communicating with the esteemed Secretary (Bro. Thorp) on payment of 5s. per annum, and will thereby receive this handsome brochure and the "Transactions" of the lodge. "Delays are dangerous."

W. J. HUGHAN.

1134]

THE "MINDEN" LODGE MEDAL.

Dr. W. J. Chetwode Crawley has favoured us with a most interesting communication on the "Minden Lodge," and especially in relation to the number and date of the warrant. There is an error somewhere by the author of the History of that remarkable Lodge noted by Bro. Henry Sadler, but possibly due rather to an unfortunate description of the charter rather than to a mistake as to the number. I cling to the number 63, and suggest, for Dr. Crawley's consideration, that probably the warrant originally was of the year 1736, but another was issued in 1748, in consequence of the loss of the first document. This would not be a very extraordinary experience for a military lodge charter, and thus may explain the two dates—1736 for issue originally, and 1748 for the warrant of confirmation.

W. J. HUGHAN.

LADIES' NIGHT OF THE MOIRA CHAPTER, No. 92.

A highly successful ladies' banquet was given by the above chapter on Thursday, the 11th instant, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C. A reception was first held, at which there were present Comp. E. D. Oppert, Mrs. Oppert, and Miss Scheyer; Comp. Abel Simner, J. 749, and Miss Simner; Comp. J. M. Mitchell, J., and Mrs. Mitchell; Comp. the Rev. R. I. Woodhouse, H., and Mrs. Woodhouse; Comp. G. Greiner, I.P.Z., Mrs. Greiner, Miss Loader, Miss Lenna Noakes, and Miss Tibbs; Comp. Edward Machean, H. 2029, P.G. Chancellor, Scotland; Comp. R. F. Gould, P.Z., P.A.G.S., Scribe E.; Comp. T. L. Wilkinson, P.Z., P.D.G.R., Treas., Mrs. Wilkinson, and Miss Avis Wilkinson; Comp. T. H. Gardiner, P.Z. S, P.G.S.B.; Comp. W. Bohm, P.Z., Mrs. Bohm, and Miss Bohm; Comp. W. H. Hooker, P.Z.; Comp. Wickham F. Noakes, P.S., and Mrs. W. F. Noakes; Comp. J. Norman Noakes and Mrs. J. N. Noakes; Comp. Stuart B. Noakes and Miss Millicent Noakes; Comp. F. A. Donnison, Miss Maud Donnison, and Comp. Alfred Donnison, 227; and Comp. Charles Wells and Mrs. Wells.

A dispensation having been obtained for the purpose, the companions appeared in Royal Arch clothing and jewels. After a short interval spent in pleasant conversation the banquet was announced. A choice menu had been provided, the dinner—which was admirably served under the personal superintendence of the manager—fully sustained the high reputation of the Albion Tavern, while the floral decorations, as well as all the appointments of the table, won great praise.

On the removal of the cloth, and Grace—"Laudi Spirituali"—having been beautifully sung,

The M.E.Z. proposed the loyal toast of "The Queen" in the following words: Ladies and companions, on festival occasions like the present, when loyal British subjects are assembled, it is the first pleasant duty to drink to the health of the Queen. Within a few days she will have attained the more than patriarchal age of 80 years, and it is the prayer of all of us that during the years which Providence, may yet vouchsafe to her health and happiness may be her portion, and peace and prosperity that of the many millions who live under her sway.

Miss Perceval Allen, who has a charming voice, sang the National Anthem, after which

The M.E.Z. again rose, and said the next toast on our list is that of "The Prince of Wales, the G.Z.; the G.H., the G.J., as well as the Officers of the Grand Chapter, Present and Past." It is needless for me to say much with reference to the Prince of Wales; we all know how great a favourite he is amongst the Fraternity. As regards the Grand Officers present at our banquet to-day, I regret that their number is small, but what we miss in quantity they certainly make up in quality. We have amongst us such men as Comps. Gould, the greatest living authority on Freemasonry; Gardiner, and Wilkinson; and I cannot better discharge the pleasant duty of proposing the toast than by coupling with it the name of Comp. Wilkinson.

Comp. WILKINSON made an eloquent response, in which, after gravely doubting whether any of the ladies present understood what was meant by a "Grand Officer," he introduced several anecdotes so appropriate to the occasion, that to whatever extent the surmise of the speaker might have been correct, the ladies, at the conclusion of his address, could not fail to form other than a most favourable opinion of a class of companions, who were represented so ably and well in the speeches of the evening, by the Treasurer of the Moira Chapter.

The M.E.Z., in proceeding with the toast list, then said: In rising to propose the toast of the evening, I am reminded of the days long gone by when I was a youth and spent most of my time on board ship. In those days it was the custom of the captains on certain days to propose a toast, which he always did with the greatest unction, and which we youngsters always received with the greatest enthusiasm, it was the toast of sweethearts and wives, not indeed that we had any wives ourselves. We were too young and what is more we were too impecunious to indulge in such a luxury. As regards the sweethearts, with my wife by my side, I decline to incriminate myself, but the ardour with which we responded to that toast was inspired by that feeling of affection with which we regarded the dear ones we had left at home many thousand of miles away, whom we could not expect to see for years to come and whom some of our friends might never live to see again. But though years have passed over our heads since then, painted our hair with streaks of grey, and dimmed the youthful lustre of our eyes, age has not dimmed that feeling of reverence and admiration which we as good Masons have always entertained towards the fair portion of God's creation, so admirably represented on the present occasion. We know that amongst outsiders, I mean non-Masons, there are those who often jeer at



COMP. E. D. OPPERT, M.E.Z.

womankind, and just before I came to this meeting I was made acquainted with a deplorable instance that happened at a ladies' meeting, I think it was a political meeting, to which one of the leading lady speakers had taken her husband. She ascended the platform in order to deliver her speech, and had already commenced with the words "What is woman?" when the brute of a husband of hers called out from the back benches, "the white man's burden." On the principal of contradiction on which a statement of defence is generally drafted by the learned profession, which is so well represented here to-night, I repudiate this charge. The statement of defence of a person charged with owing money lent is, I believe, generally drawn in the following way. The defendant absolutely denies that he has ever seen the plaintiff or that he ever had any money from him. He then continues to say that he and the plaintiff have always been on terms of the most intimate friendship since they were boys together, and that the money was given to him on his birthday as a free gift, finishing up by stating that if the money was really lent he has long ago repaid it with interest at five per cent. per annum. In the same contradictory spirit I say that we utterly deny that woman is a burden, but if she be a burden she is so charming and lovely a burden, that any man worthy of the name should only be too pleased to bear it. In whatever condition or character woman may appear in our lives, she has always an ennobling influence upon us, even the divine art of painting has never produced anything more sweet or sublime than the image of the mother and child; and is there one amongst us, unless he has suffered the grievous misfortune of losing his mother at a very early age, who does not remember carrying all his little sorrows to her, in order to receive that comfort and consolation which only a mother's heart can give. And this reminds me of a pathetic little incident which Mr. Lionel Brough told me the other day. It happened to his sister Lizzie, who was interviewing a nursemaid in order to see whether she was fitted to take charge of little children. She was asked whether she could bath children, "Yes, mum," she said, "I have bathed my little brothers and sisters ever since I was that height"; and on being asked if she knew how to regulate the temperature of the water, she said, "Oh! certainly! to a nicety. If the children comes out blue the water has been frozen, and if they comes out red raw, the water has been biling." In the capacity of wives have we not always found them our comfort under all circumstances of life? When we come home after a day's hard work, and perhaps an evening's hard work in addition, having partaken of our frugal meal at the 'Albion,' who is there waiting up for us, receiving

us with a sweet smile, but our wife, who has previously mixed a glass of whisky and water to sustain our worn-out frame? This is our individual experience, but there is one more experienced than any of us here. Solomon, king of Israel, who speaks more highly than anyone else of the merit of wives, and certainly it must be acknowledged that he was an authority on the subject, after telling us that all things are vanity, that everything on earth is vain except wives, he winds up the Book of Proverbs with the beautiful words that the price of a virtuous wife is far beyond rubies. I have no daughters, and cannot therefore speak from experience of woman as a daughter, but their faithfulness has been exemplified in the well-known words, "A son is a son until he takes him a wife, a daughter is a daughter all the days of her life." In all conditions of life woman is our faithful friend and counsellor, and after the new London Government Bill has become law she will also be our common counsellor, probably our alderman, and possibly our Lord Mayor, but to-night woman has appeared to us in an altogether novel and more charming and fascinating capacity than ever, namely, in that of our honoured guests, and I assure the ladies present that if they have only derived one tithe of the pleasure to-night which their presence has given to the companions and myself, our humble efforts to entertain them have not been in vain. I must not, however, forget the unwritten law that whenever ladies honour our board with their gracious presence the toasts are few and the speeches are short. I am afraid I have already seriously transgressed that law, but the fascinating subject on which I been addressing you must be my excuse, and I will only add that it has occurred to us that the ladies might not disdain to accept a slight souvenir to remind them what great pleasure their company has given us to-night, and we have taken the liberty of asking their acceptance of the same. I shall presently call upon Companion Donnison for a response, and I now ask all the companions present to do due honour to the toast of "The Ladies."

The health of the ladies was drunk with enthusiasm, and the souvenir referred to by the M.E.Z., which consisted of a beautifully-chased sterling silver pin-tray, was then presented to each of the fair recipients, and by all of them very greatly admired.

When the applause had subsided, Comp. F. A. DONNISON rose and said: Most Excellent and Companions, in replying to the toast for the ladies, the agreeable task has fallen to me of thanking you, on their behalf, for such a charming evening as you have given them in this historical Masonic tavern. I have also to thank Comp. Oppert for his kind thoughtfulness in presenting the ladies with a souvenir of this particular evening. In again thanking you, I trust this evening may be repeated annually.

Comp. R. F. GOULD, P.Z., next addressed the ladies and companions in the following terms: The duty now devolves upon me of proposing what, under ordinary circumstances, would be termed the toast of the evening, but to-night must take the second place, and become, if I may so express myself, the toast of the evening—once removed. My recollection of the M.E.Z. extends back quite a number of years; but I won't say how many, because when you regard his comparatively youthful appearance, you would all be of opinion that the E. D. Oppert, with whom I was acquainted long ago in the Far East, must have been merely a namesake or, at most, a very remote ancestor of the worthy companion who is presiding over us with so much ability and geniality on the present occasion. I shall, therefore, simply say that I have known the Chairman of to-night for a long while, and am fully cognisant of his fraternal zeal. But, as his last exploit is the most famous of them all, I shall pass entirely over his lesser Masonic achievements, and come at once to the bright and daring inspiration which has resulted in a banquet to which ladies have been invited, and whose welcome presence among us will always be associated with the name of the M.E.Z. for the present year. I shall now, therefore, ladies and companions, ask you to drink "The Health of Comp. Oppert," and I feel sure you will do so most cordially, and with a sincere appreciation of the excellent programme of music, which he has so thoughtfully and generously provided for our entertainment.

The M.E.Z., in reply, said: I was deeply touched by the kind words with which you, Comp. Gould, proposed the toast of myself, and cannot help feeling the greatest gratification at the very kind and charming manner in which the ladies received the same. I can only attribute to undue partiality and our old friendship the too kindly words which you, Comp. Gould, have offered; but I desire to show to the ladies my appreciation of their kindness by at once admitting them to all the secrets and mysteries of our Order. They often ask us, what is Freemasonry? I will immediately tell them what it is. It is a pure religion, based upon morality, and illustrated by symbols. One of the first tenets of a Freemason is to honour and respect womanhood, and the chief characteristic of a true Mason are purity of thought and uprightness of conduct. Knowing this, you know all there is to be known about Freemasonry, and if I may be allowed to address a word of advice to the young unmarried ladies present, I would say that, other things being fitting, they should give the preference to a Freemason in bestowing their hand and heart. Again I thank you most heartily for your kindness.

The toast of "The Visitors" was acknowledged in the first instance by Comp. T. H. GARDINER, who remarked that being so frequent a visitor at the Moira Chapter his personal sentiments were well known to the members. He tendered the thanks of all the visitors to the M.E.Z. and companions of the chapter for the cordial welcome and lavish hospitality which they had experienced. The occasion was unique in his own experience, as he was mainly replying for ladies, and (without wishing to trespass upon the province of the companion who had responded for that special toast) he could not dissociate them from his speech. He assured the companions of the visitors' great interest in all they had seen and heard that night, and begged the chapter to believe that never did visitors more fervently express the wish so commonly heard at festive gatherings of the Fraternity, that they might be invited again; and should take upon himself to say that if the visitors present were to receive an invitation to be present at some future entertainment of the same character given by the Moira Chapter they might be relied upon to accept it with alacrity.

Comps. ABEL SIMNER and ALFRED DONNISON also responded.

The M.E.Z. then said: I am afraid, ladies and companions, you must be tired of listening to the sound of my voice—(cries of "No, no")—but I can give you the promise that this will be the last toast of the evening. Though last, it is not the least. It embraces those who have rendered signal service to the cause of Freemasonry in general, and to this chapter in particular. Amongst them is, first and foremost, the father of the chapter (Comp. Cornelius Thorne). To the younger generation he is personally unknown, but to us, when we were younger, he will ever remain a very dear friend. I remember meeting him for the last time in Europe over a quarter of a century ago, when he told me he expected to be back in six months' time, but greater attractions have since tied him to the land in which he had spent so many years, namely, China. He has got married, and I believe is the proud possessor of a small family. I hope some opportunity will be found of assuring him of the hearty regards and the very best wishes of all those present to-night. Comp. Wickham Noakes was to have responded to this toast, but, unfortunately, illness prevents him from being present. His eldest son, our valued Comp. Wickham F. Noakes, however, is present, and I trust he will charge himself with a message, on our behalf, to his father that we all hope to see him and his consort soon restored to perfect health. I couple with this toast the name of Comp. Greiner, to whose unremitting exertions, as Hon. Secretary of the special Committee appointed to make all the arrangements for the banquet, is to a very great extent due the success of this evening, although there has been, to a certain extent, a division of labour between us, inasmuch as he has done all the work,

and I have got all the glory. Comp. Gould, I am sorry to say, had to leave, but amongst the other prominent P.Zs. present I must not omit to name Comps. Bohm, Wilkinson, and Hooker.

Comp. GREINER, who on rising to respond was very warmly greeted by the company present, remarked that the kind and flattering manner in which the M.E.Z. had associated his name with the toast of the P.Zs. demanded his warmest acknowledgments. That the companions—visitors as well as members—would be delighted to meet the ladies was, of course, a foregone conclusion; but whether the ladies would be satisfied with the entertainment which would be provided for them was by no means equally certain. That they were, had therefore, relieved his mind of a heavy load of anxiety; and, in once more acknowledging the far too complimentary manner in which the allusions to his own name had been received, he begged to assure them that his memory would long retain a recollection of the kindly words and kindly faces of the ladies and companions who were seated at the table.

A magnificent programme of vocal and instrumental music had been arranged, in which Miss Perceval Allen, Miss Violet Cameron, Miss Edie Reynolds, and Bros. Reginald Groome, J. W. Ivimey, Franklin Clive, and H. Sparling took part. The songs of the various artistes were much admired, also the violin solos of Miss Edie Reynolds, and the sketches, humorous and musical, of Bro. Herbert Sparling. The musical director was Bro. Reginald Groome, and the accompanist Bro. J. W. Ivimey.

A most enjoyable evening was spent, and on separating much regret was expressed—especially by the ladies—that similar meetings were not more frequent.

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF GRAND LODGE AND BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The quarterly meeting of the General Committee of Grand Lodge and the monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence were held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C. The three chairs were occupied by Bros. James Henry Matthews, President; David Dixon Mercer, Senior Vice-President; and Henry Garrod, Junior Vice-President. Bros. E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; W. Lake, Asst. G. Sec.; W. Dodd, G. S. Recknell, and H. Sadler, G. Tyler, represented the Grand Secretary's department.

The other brethren present were Bros. Charles J. R. Tijou, Lewis Lazarus, W. Fisher, Henry A. Tobias, J. Boulton, W. F. Lamonby, W. M. Bywater, C. A. Cottebrune, S. H. Goldschmidt, F. W. Hancock, E. W. Nightingale, W. Martin, W. Kippis, John Ellinger, Thomas Jones, W. H. Caton, C. Pulman, J. M. McLeod, Sec. R.M.I.B.; Charles Henry Stone, E. W. Nightingale, W. Wills, Richard Carey, T. W. Stacey, W. C. Lane, David Drynan, A. W. Duret, Thomas Cohu, T. J. Henochsberg, Baron de Bush, J. T. Ashley, H. Thompson, P.P.S.G.W. Surrey; R. James Coates, H. Massey, E. S. Godfree, W. Balchin, J. W. Burgess, R. W. Ker, C. H. Webb, A. J. Scurrah, W.M. 87; F. W. Crutchett, R. W. James, Henry R. Romney, Henry Cornford, J. Joel, George Horwill, H. Appleford, Major H. Vane-Stow, Palmer Bryant, Albert Leighton, E. Emanuel, W. W. Parkinson, Joseph Hatton, A. F. Cutler, E. Frisby, G. T. Harrap, H. W. Nicholson, Charles Lamb, George Weaver, Thomas Andrew, Arthur White, Percy W. Shaw, W. Fielder, B. Douthwaite, E. W. Sinnett, Edward H. Quicke, and A. McQueen.

At the meeting of the General Committee the business paper for Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication of June 7th was submitted to the brethren. At the meeting of the Board of Benevolence which followed, the brethren first confirmed recommendations to the Grand Master made at the April meeting to the amount of £210. The list of new cases contained the names of 31 petitioners, who were qualified through lodges in the London district, and at Wallingford, Devonport, N.Z., Plymouth, Great Yarmouth, York, Shipley Gate, Holyhead, Brighton, Croydon, Bangalore, Guernsey, Allahabad, Farnborough, Woodbridge, Liverpool, Worsley, Sunderland, Uxbridge, and Sidcup. Two of these were deferred, and four were dismissed. The remainder were voted a total of £785. One case was recommended to Grand Lodge for £150, one for £60, and three for £50 each. Two petitioners were recommended to the Grand Master for £40 each, and six for £30 each. The other awards were five of £20 each, six of £10 each, and one petitioner was granted £5.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. WRAY, OF BLACKPOOL,

A splendid presentation, emphasising the regard in which Bro. Wray is held by the brethren of the Fylde, was made at the Clifton Arms Hotel, Blackpool, last week. A meeting of Fylde Masons was held, some 40 attending, representative of almost all the lodges in the Fylde.

Bro. TOM W. KAY, P.M. 1476, presided, and having made some observations upon the occasion that had called them together, he spoke in eulogy of Bro. Wray.

The Secretary, Bro. W. B. RICHARDSON, P.P.J.G.W., then read the following address:

"To W. Bro. John Wray, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., P.Z., P.A.G. Soj., P.M.M., P.P.J.G.D., P.E.P.P.G. Pr., E. and P.P.D.C. R. Croix.

"Dear Sir and Brother,—Very many of your fellow Masons in the Fylde of Lancashire ask your acceptance of this address and the accompanying purse of gold as a mark of true esteem and affection, and as a memento of your long service in the advancement of Freemasonry, and of the willing help you have always extended to your brethren in their various Masonic duties.

"We recall with grateful appreciation the genial and careful manner in which you have occupied the many offices you have been entrusted with and worthily filled; and now that the present state of your health does not justify constant active continuance in your work and labour of love, we wish you to take with you in your comparative retirement some token of our fraternal regard and of our lasting remembrance of your Masonic work, extended as it has been with advantage to Freemasonry over a period of nearly 30 years.

"That the Great Architect of the Universe and Father of all may abundantly bless you and yours is our earnest hope.

"On behalf of the subscribers:

C. E. HINDLE, W.M. 703.
W. H. BAYNES, W.M. 1061.
J. W. ENMOTT, W.M. 1256.
T. WYLIE KAY, W.M. 1476.
A. JASPER ANDERSON, W.M. 2349.
EDMUND TAYLOR, M.E.Z. 703.
T. FORRESTER, W.M. 296.
E. A. THOMSON,

E.P. Rose of Lancaster Preceptory,
W. BOND, M.W.S. 136, B.C.R.C.
Blackpool Chapter Rose Croix.

"April, 1899."

Bro. GARDNER, P.P.G.S.B., then presented the address, and along with it a purse of 100 guineas. In the course of an appreciative address, he said that he and Bro. Wray had worked together for 25 years, and he had always found him kind, courteous, able, and willing, and he did not think there was another man in the Fylde who could say that he had the good word of everybody as Bro. Wray.

Bros. HINDLE, W.M. 703; J. W. ENNOTT, W.M. 1256; W. NUTTALL, W.M. 1476; A. J. ANDERSON, W.M. 2349; HODGKINSON, Sec. 2457; and T. FORRESTER, P.M. 296, followed with similar touching remarks of esteem and regard.

Bro. WRAY expressed his astonishment at being singled out for a presentation such as had probably never been made to any Mason in Lancashire, and acknowledged with gratitude the generosity of his fellow Masons.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Secretary for the trouble he had taken in the matter, proposed by Bro. T. BICKERSTAFFE, P.M. 1476, seconded by Bro. T. LOFTOS, P.M. 1476.

There was also a vote of thanks to Bro. Gardner for the handsome manner in which he had made the presentation, proposed by Bro. HINDLE, seconded by Bro. BLANE, P.M. 1476. Finally, a vote of thanks was proposed to the Chairman by Bro. J. B. FISHER, P.M. 703, as the oldest Mason present, seconded by Bro. HODGKINSON.

The address is a beautiful work of art, tastefully illuminated, and handsomely framed in green and gold.

Craft Masonry.

De Grey and Ripon Lodge, No. 1161.

The installation meeting of this popular lodge was held (by dispensation) on the 13th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, when there were present Bros. H. M. Massingham, W.M.; J. Schofield, S.W.; Walter Cockerham, J.W.; O. M. Jones, I.P.M.; J. Irlam, P.M., Treas.; S. Richards, Sec.; J. T. C. Blackie, S.D.; J. Brownhill, I.G.; J. M. Moss, P.M., Org.; A. E. Bentley and S. Dixon, Stwds.; J. R. Ashworth, P.M.; E. Zoebell, P.M.; E. A. Ehlinger, P.M.; Buckley Carr, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; R. Duttie, P.M.; J. W. F. Burgess, P.M.; L. L. Lewis, P.M.; W. H. Anderton, P.M.; A. Hirsch, P.M.; W. Clewlow, A. Oughterson, C. G. Balls, G. J. Critchley, R. J. Burrow, C. Norbury, E. C. Huntley, and J. R. Fletcher, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. J. J. Lambert, P.M., P.G.D. Eng.; W. Campbell, P.M. 654, P.P.G. Std. Br.; W. Gray, P.M. 999, P.P.A.G.D.C.; J. W. Millward, P.M. 992, P.P.G. S.B.; J. Selby, P.M. 1033, P.P.G.D.C.; H. O. Jones, P.M. 1496, P.P.G. Reg.; W. T. Allitt, P.M. 993, P.P.G.P.; F. F. Mottram, W.M. 993; Francis Long, P.M. 1496; E. T. Trevor Smith, P.M. 1387; H. Ogden, W.M. 1387; T. Gladstone Bennett, 2231; R. Dougill, 152; J. A. Marshall, 2368; A. D. Carter, 2387; H. Cooper, 1387; A. Hudson, 2449; Wm. Lea, 1375; T. Hill, 2144; F. Todd, 2363; S. H. Dawson, 323; M. Hughes, 2447; and G. Rodgers, J.D. 1033.

The lodge being opened and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, Bro. Joseph Schofield, S.W., W.M. elect, was presented to receive the benefit of installation. The ceremony was performed in a very efficient manner by Bro. Buckley Carr, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., D.C., who was very ably assisted by Bros. J. M. Moss, P.M., and Job Irlam, P.M. The brethren were then re-admitted and the investiture of officers took place as follows: Bros. Walter Cockerham, S.W.; J. T. C. Blackie, J.W.; J. Brownhill, S.D.; A. E. Bentley, J.D.; Job Irlam, P.M., Treas.; Sam Richards, Sec.; S. Dixon, I.G.; Buckley Carr, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., D.C.; E. C. Huntley, Org.; R. J. Burrow, Chas. Norbury, Geo. J. Critchley, and W. Clewlow, Stwds.; and J. R. Fletcher, Tyler. After "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed.

Subsequently the brethren and visitors to the number of 60 sat down to a banquet. The after proceedings were of a most enjoyable character, thanks to the genial presidency of the W.M., he being ably supported by Bro. J. Batchelder, P.M., who gave a beautiful pianoforte solo, and accompanied the following brethren in their songs: Bros. W. H. Anderton, J. R. Ashworth, Buckley Carr, and O. M. Jones. Bro. R. Dottie recited.

The customary loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and received with fervour, Bro. J. J. Lambert, P.G.D., responding for "The Grand Officers."

Bro. James Burgess, the oldest Past Master, in glowing terms, proposed "The W.M."

The W.M., in proposing "The I.P.M.," expressed the high estimation in which Bro. Massingham was held by all the brethren, and he had great pleasure in presenting to him, on their behalf, a handsome gold Past Master's jewel, and hoped he would live a very long time to wear it.

Bro. Massingham feelingly responded.

A brilliant and successful evening was brought to a close with the Tyler's toast.

The gold Past Master's jewel was manufactured by George Kenning and Son, Manchester.

Merlin Lodge, No. 1578.

The installation meeting of the above lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Pontypridd, on Monday, the 15th inst., when Bro. Major Hill-Male was installed as W.M. Bro. William Phillips performing the ceremony. The W.M. appointed and invested the following as his officers for the ensuing year: Bros. William Phillips, I.P.M.; J. A. Thomas, S.W.; Henry Porcher, J.W.; Rev. William Lewis, Chap.; J. Griffiths Jones, Treas.; Duncan McGregor, Sec.; W. T. Davies, Asst. Sec.; R. L. Phillips, S.D.; H. E. Crane, J.D.; W. D. Hodges, Org.; F. Gibbon, I.G.; Henry Davies and W. H. Rees, Stwds.; and Albert Parsons, Tyler.

A banquet followed at the Park Hotel.

Kingswood Lodge, No. 2278.

A regular meeting of this lodge was held at Broxbourne, on Saturday, the 13th inst., the brethren attending being Bros. A. Ingram, W.M.; C. C. Renaud, S.W.; E. N. Benningfield, J.W.; J. Petch, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; J. F. Bell, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Sec.; H. R. Bower, S.D.; F. Page, P.M., J.D.; C. G. Nicole, I.G.; E. H. Moore, P.M., Prov. G.S.B., D.C.; D. Taylor, Std.; T. Williams, Tyler; J. G. Cobb, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; J. Gravatt, I.P.M.; E. Blinkhorn, P.M.; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D.; R. W. Nicole, P.M., Prov. G.P.; O. P. House, H. A. House, A. P. Palmer, J. E. Little, A. C. Little, F. H. Johnson, G. H. Redding, and S. Butler. Visitors: Bros. Arthur Briscoe, P.M., P.P.G. Org. Surrey; A. E. Mitchell, W.M. 1714; Geo. E. Walker, J.D. 1471; S. Napper, P.M., Treas. 1471; E. J. Harrison, I.P.M. 1471; F. H. Palmer, 1471; and C. B. Putland, P.M., Sec. 1732.

The minutes of the last regular meeting in October, and an emergency meeting last month, were read and confirmed. Bro. C. C. Renaud, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M., and thanked the brethren for the honour they had done him. Bro. J. Petch, P.M., was again re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. T. Williams, Tyler. Bro. C. M. Coxon, P.M., was re-elected Charity Steward. A Past Master's jewel of the usual value and design was unanimously voted to the W.M. for his services in the chair during the past year. An Audit Committee having been appointed, and a candidate for initiation proposed, the business of the meeting ended, and the lodge was closed.

After the brethren had dined the usual toasts were proposed, and songs were given by Bros. R. W. Nicole, Johnson Taylor, A. C. Little, C. Nicole, and Moore, and a humorous recitation by Bro. Blinkhorn.

The toast of "The Visitors" was replied to by Bros. A. E. Mitchell, W.M. 1714; C. B. Putland, P.M. 1732; S. Napper, P.M. 1471; and E. J. Harrison, I.P.M. 1471.

The Tyler's toast brought a very pleasant meeting to a close.

Bro. Arthur Briscoe, P.M., P.P.G.O. Surrey, very ably undertook the musical arrangements for the evening.

Cordwainer Ward Lodge, No. 2241.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Cannon-street Hotel, E.C., on the 17th inst., when nearly 40 brethren assembled to honour the W.M. elect. To the great regret of the members Bro. Alderman Vaughan Morgan was too unwell to attend.

The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. J. J. A. Soper, and the minutes were read and confirmed. Mr. H. G. Goode, who had been proposed at the previous meeting was elected and duly initiated. Bro. C. I. Wilkinson-Pimbury, P.M., assumed the chair and in a very able manner installed Bro. William Bauer into the chair of K.S. The officers were appointed as follows: Bros. James Dangerfield, S.W.; A. T. Walmisley, J.W.; J. J. A. Soper, I.P.M.; H. J. Adams, P.G.S.B., Treas.; Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B., Sec.; Percy Braby, S.D.; R. E. Tacey, J.D.; R. A. Love, I.G.; J. R. Reep, P.M., D.C.; C. Johnson, A.D.C.; W. T. Buck, P.M., G. L. Johnson and H. G. Longdon, Stwds.; and J. Rawles, Tyler.

There were present Bros. F. West, P.G.D., Dep. P.G.M. Surrey; C. S. Buck, P.M.; F. W. Potter, J. L. Cartwright, F. B. Dobbree, R. C. Mason, and many others. Visitors: Bros. G. Wilcocke, Yeoman, F. Martin, E. Ebbelwhite, F.S.A., E. B. Salmon, F. G. Sowden, A. Stuart, J. Martin, G. Chater, Edgar Sage, P. Clunn, Baron de Bush, and many others.

A handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to the I.P.M., and the lodge was closed.

An excellent banquet followed, and a capital musical entertainment under the direction of Bro. J. F. Haskins. Bro. Gandy gave a ventriloquial entertainment, and Miss Mary Connell and Miss Haskins songs.

The Craft Abroad.

PICNIC OF THE WALLER RODWELL WRIGHT LODGE, No. 2755.

In commemoration of the consecration of the above lodge, a picnic to the Inquisitor's Palace was held on Thursday, the 11th inst. The party, to the number of about 70, assembled at the Porte des Bombes at 9.45 a.m., and punctually at 10 o'clock the *cortège*, numbering over 20 carriages, set out for the Palace. The day was delightful, the weather being such as only can be experienced in this "Fior del Mondo." The drive lay through the picturesque villages of Curmi and Zebbug—the latter was in high festival, it being Ascension Day.

On arrival at the Palace, no time was wasted, a good hearty game of rounders being indulged in, which was followed by a skipping handicap for ladies only (distance, 80 yards). This race evoked much amusement to the onlookers, and, after several trial heats had been gone through, the final resulted in Mrs. Downs skipping in first; Miss Maggie Cook, second; and Miss Grout, third.

Luncheon was afterwards served in the banqueting-hall of the Palace, to which full justice was done.

Before rising from the table, Bro. T. L. WASHINGTON, W.M., proposed the usual loyal toasts, which were heartily responded to.

"The Health of the W.M." was then proposed by Bro. J. W. STARKEY, P.M., P. Dep. D.G.M., who expressed the great pleasure it gave him in proposing the toast, and wished the lodge every success.

The W.M., in responding, thanked the brethren for the hearty manner they had received the toast of his health, and hoped that this day's outing would not be the last, but trusted it would develop in an annual excursion.

The toast of "The Ladies" was next proposed by the W.M., and most ably responded to by Bro. W. S. ROBINSON, P.M., P.D.G.W.

Luncheon being over, a programme of athletic sports was gone through with the following results:

Couple Race, distance 50 yards, lady and gentleman, arm in arm.—1st, Miss North Bro. W. Cook, P.M.; 2nd, Miss Grout and Bro. Barrett.

Gentlemen's Three-legged Race.—1st, Messrs. Barratt and England; 2nd, W. J. Phillips, P.M., and Bro. Blundell.

Past Master's Race, 90 yards.—1st, Bro. W. E. Cook, P.M.; 2nd, Bro. W. J. Phillips, P.M.

Ladies' Race, 50 yards.—1st, Miss Phillips; 2nd, Miss Hully; 3rd, Mrs. Evans.

Officers' Handicap, distance 90 yards.—1st, Bro. W. E. Cook, P.M.; 2nd, Bro. Washington, W.M.; 3rd, Bro. Ness, J.D.

Potato Race (open to ladies).—1st, Mrs. Evans; 2nd, Miss Hully; 3rd, Miss Rourke.

Potato Race (open to gentlemen).—1st, Mr. England; 2nd, Bro. A. E. Blunden; 3rd, Mr. Goddard.

Consolation Race.—1st, Master England; 2nd, Mr. Taylor; 3rd, Bro. G. Evans.

Tug of War.—Teams were selected on the ground, and were captained by the W.M. and Bro. C. H. Horsfall, P.M. The latter team proved successful, after a stubborn pull, which lasted several minutes.

The sports being over, the party adjourned for tea, which proved very refreshing.

Then followed the distribution of prizes, which were numerous and costly, being mostly presented by the officers and brethren of the lodge. Mrs. Washington, who presided at the distribution, performed her duty with tact and goodwill, each recipient being congratulated on his or her success, and the company in general joining in the applause.

The shades of the olive and orange trees were now entwining, which bespoke the time for setting out again on the return journey; but before departing, the W.M. thanked all those present for their support and co-operation in bringing the picnic to a success, particularly the Committee, who had spared no time or labour in promoting the welfare of those present. He coupled the compliment with the name of the indefatigable Secretary of the lodge, Bro. A. Bumstead.

Bro. A. BUMSTEAD, Sec., responded on behalf of himself and the Committee.

After singing "God Save the Queen," and giving three ringing cheers, the company separated each to their respective destinations, after spending a most enjoyable day.

The following is a brief summary of the more important brethren present: Bros. J. W. Starkey, P. Dep. D.G.M.; T. L. Washington, W.M.; W. E. Cook, P.M., P.D.G.W., Dist. G. Sec.; W. S. Robinson, P.M., P.D.G.W.; W. J. Phillips, P.M., P.D.G.R.; C. H. Horsfall, P.M., P.D.G.R.; F. Hully, P.M.; R. C. Bates, P.M., P.D.G.P.; A. Bumstead, W.M. 1923, Sec. 2755, D.G.S.D.; Atkinson, W.M. 387 (I.C.); J. H. Grout, S.W. 2755, Consul for the United States; J. Lockwood, J.W. 2755; H. R. Hellyer, J.W. 515, D.G.P.; and many others.

Apologies were received from Bros. Lieut.-General J. F. Owen, D.G.M., and Col. A. W. Bridgman, Dep. D.G.M.

BRO. EX-SHERIFF DEWAR, J.P., is to be entertained by his friends at a complimentary banquet at the Hotel Cecil on Friday, the 2nd prox., on the occasion of his return from a second voyage round the world. Bro. Alderman Frank Green, Bro. Dewar's colleague in the shrievalty, will take the chair.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Caer Daff Chapter, No. 118.

The summer meeting of the above chapter was held at the Masonic Temple, Cardiff, on the 18th inst. The following were present: Comps. John Shaw, M.W.S.; W. H. Williams, 30°, acting Prelate; Henry Frazer, 1st Gen.; Isidor Leon, 2nd Gen.; John Munday, 30°, Treas.; J. H. Taylor, 31°, Recorder; Dr. De Vere Hunt, Marshal; Lewis Morgan, 30°, Raphael; T. Payne Kerman, D. of C.; Joseph Starfield, Capt. of Guards; Fred Martin, Org.; Amos Jenkins, Outer Guard; and J. Nicholls.

The chapter was opened and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. Some important business was then considered. A letter from the Supreme Council was read announcing the death of the Grand Chancellor, Comp. V. Ill. Richard Loveland-Loveland, 33°, O.C., advising that mourning should be worn for 60 days.

The chapter then closed, and the Princes adjourned to banquet room for light refreshments.

THE VICTORIAN BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS.

The United Grand Lodge of Victoria has recently revised its Book of Constitutions, after an experience of between nine and 10 years of the original version. This was almost a reflex of our English Book of Constitutions, it having been agreed at the outset to adopt same, subject to local requirements. Several of the additions and amendments are not only important, but interesting to the Craft at this end of the world, and it goes without saying that a few of the laws, as they now read, are distinctly in advance of those so long in vogue under the Grand Lodge of England.

As, for instance, with the exception of Organist and Herald, every Officer of the Grand Lodge must be an actual Master or Past Master of a lodge. Formerly the Chaplains were excepted, but in future they, too, require to pass the chair of a private lodge. The same regulation applies to the Grand Stewards. Now, the difference between Victoria and England in this respect is very wide, when we consider that in this country, from the Grand Master down to the Assistant Grand Pursuivant, there is no Installed Master's qualification, save and except the Grand Registrar. The incongruity of this arrangement is almost as marked in Provinces and Districts, as merely the Deputy Grand Master and the two Wardens must be actual or Past Masters.

An important addition has been made to the rule bearing on the nomination, election, and installation of Grand Master. This addition, it may be explained, is the outcome of a heated controversy which arose last year, when Bro. Lord Brassey, who had been re-elected Grand Master, was absent from the colony on the day appointed for his installation. Up to then the Grand Masters, even if re-elected, were re-obligated and re-installed, and the absence of Lord Brassey on the occasion in question gave rise to a difficulty. On one side it was contended that the installation must take place before the new Grand Officers could constitutionally be invested. The Deputy Grand Master, however (Bro. George Baker), who presided, took the bull by the horns, and followed the time immemorial practice of the Grand Lodge of England, by proclaiming the Grand Master and then investing the officers. In order to avoid a recurrence of the dispute though, it is now provided that it be sufficient to proclaim the Grand Master in the event of his re-election.

Some discussion also ensued on the definition of Craft Masonry, the original law affirming that it consists of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, and the Royal Arch. Now, there was a proposal to add the "Installed Master's Degree," which, however, was defeated.

Another vital question which, in the early days of Victorian Freemasonry was a pregnant source of dispute, was the appointment or election of Grand Officers. Hitherto the appointment system has been in vogue. As a matter of fact, in conformity with the Articles of Union, under which the Grand Lodge was established, it was resolved that one or the other should be decided upon within six months, and should from that day hold good for all time. Appointment was then adopted, and the attempt to replace the system by the pernicious elective procedure and its numerous objectionable features, was consequently out of order. The Grand Lodge of Victoria, it is pleasant to mention, is the only one of the Australasian Grand Lodges that adheres to the appointment of officers by the Grand Master, excepting, of course, Grand Treasurer.

From the very first the Constitutions of Victoria have provided for Provincial Grand Lodges though none have as yet been organised. The revision committee proposed the elimination of this part of the laws; but the country members defeated the project, and it may, therefore, be assumed that the colony will, at no distant date, be parcelled out into at least four provinces. Other proposals of the revision committee were also rejected, one being that lodges of instruction shall not be held on a Sunday, and another that 10 be the number petitioning for a new lodge warrant, an advance from the old number of seven. The clause as to the lodges of instruction was improved by the addendum that they shall not be held in hotels. There is some change in the order of precedence, in regard to Grand Officers. Thus, the President of the Board of Benevolence precedes the Grand Secretary, and the Grand Director of Ceremonies goes above the Grand Superintendent of Works. A restriction has been put upon the powers of the Grand Master and of the Grand Lodge, in the direction of constituting "brethren of eminence and ability members of Grand Lodge,

with such rank and distinction as may be thought proper." The recipients of such distinctions must be subscribing members to a lodge under the Victorian Constitution.

On the whole, the revision reads well and promisingly for the future of the Victorian Craft, and it may be added that the special communication of the Grand Lodge, at which the new Book of Constitutions was agreed upon, was a strictly business meeting, seeing that the work began at 10.30 a.m., and was not concluded until about the same hour in the evening, under the able and tactful presidency of the M.W. Pro Grand Master, Bro. the Hon. A. J. Peacock, who, by-the-bye, holds the responsible office of Chief Secretary in the Government of the colony. The debates on the various clauses, and the defeat of the revision Committee now and then, also practically show that the representatives of the 160 odd lodges in the jurisdiction were not prepared to accept every or any of the propositions as formal or cut and dried matters.

W. F. LAMONBY.

THE LATE BRO. SIR B. W. RICHARDSON.

Members of the British Medical Temperance Association and friends of the London Temperance Hospital assembled on Friday evening at the hospital in Hampstead-road to do honour to the memory of the late Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson. The ceremony of unveiling a brass tablet, recording the fact that for 17 years he was the honoured and esteemed President of the Association, and for four years hon. medical officer of the hospital, was performed by Mrs. Sims Woodhead. Otherstakeing part in the gathering were Dr. Clark, M.P.; Canon Barker, Dr. Morton Keys, Surgeon-Major Poole, and the hon. Secretary, Dr. J. J. Ridge, all of whom spoke in appreciative terms of the great scientific attainments and kindness of disposition which characterised the career of one who laboured so strenuously to the last for the welfare of his fellows.

Obituary.

BRO. GEORGE BRINSLEY, No. 22.

The corporation has lost an old and esteemed member by the death of Bro. George Brinsley, who passed away on Monday at his residence, Belmont, the Avenue, Gipsy-hill, in his 71st year. About a fortnight ago the deceased was confined to his house owing to a severe attack of bronchitis, and it ultimately led to a failure of the heart's action. The deceased, who was a liveryman of the Plumbers' Company, entered the Court of Common Council in 1882 as a representative of the ward of Farringdon Within. As a member of that body he rendered good suit and service to the citizens. Bro. Brinsley will be better remembered, perhaps, in his professional career as an auctioneer, and a late president of the Auctioneers' Institute. After serving his articles with a firm of auctioneers at Sheffield he came to London more than 40 years ago to seek his fortune. His earliest operations was chiefly directed to the laying out of large areas of land for building purposes in the suburbs. In the year 1863 the firm with which he was associated ceased business, and Bro. Brinsley at once commenced operations on his own account as a surveyor and auctioneer, his previous employers showing their confidence in him by entrusting him with the management of their estates. As a receiver in the administration of many large landed properties the deceased had a wide and valuable experience. Always alert, active, and business-like, Bro. Brinsley soon acquired an enviable reputation among his brethren of the "rostrum," and it was not, therefore, surprising that he took a keen interest in the formation of the Auctioneers' Institute in 1836. As a president of the institution he rendered yeoman service, and in recognition of his labours he was, by the unanimous request of the members, elected to fill the post a second time. In the formation of a benevolent fund he took a leading part, and only as recently as the 11th inst. he was, with others, at the annual meeting of the institute re-elected a member of the committee administering that fund. The deceased leaves a widow and several children, one of whom—Mr. J. H. W. Brinsley—is actively associated in his late father's business. The funeral took place on Thursday at Nunhead Cemetery, a memorial service being held previously at Emanuel Church, Dulwich.

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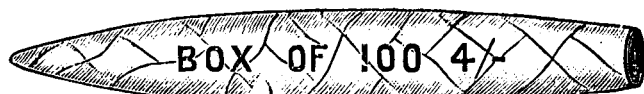
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SAMPLES AND PRICE LIST SENT ON APPLICATION.

Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. CECIL RHODES has sent 100 guineas to the Metropolitan Hospital.

BRO. F. J. HORNIMAN, M.P., has joined the council of the Land Law Reform Association.

BRO. T. H. BROOKE HITCHING, C.C., has been elected the chairman of the Marylebone Vestry.

FRIZINGTON MASONIC HALL COMPANY, LTD.—Registered on the 11th inst. Capital £600, in £1 shares.

BRO. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT will be the guest of the Treasurer and Benchers of Gray's Inn at their Grand Day dinner on Monday, the 5th prox.

THE STATIONERS' COMPANY have granted the use of their hall for the International Congress of Publishers, to be held on the 7th, 8th, and 9th prox.

BRO. J. M. KLENCK, the President of the Council of the British and Foreign Arbitration Association, is staying at the Hague. With the Treasurer (Mr. E. Kimber) and the Hon. Secretary of the Association he will present the memorial of the association to the various plenipotentiaries now attending at the Peace Conference.

THE RECORDS OF THE CORPORATION.—The Town Clerk (Bro. Sir John B. Monckton) has presented to the Library Committee his 23rd annual report on the subject of the Corporation records. The report, which is countersigned by Dr. Reginald R. Sharpe, sets forth the fact that the general condition of the City's records is satisfactory.

AT THE consecration of the new R.A. Chapter, the Jordan, No. 1402, Masonic Temple, Torquay, much admiration was expressed for the handsome furniture supplied by Bros. Geo. Kenning and Son, which had been presented by the Founders, so that the chapter has been opened free of debt, and already bids fair to be one of the largest in the province. The first three Principals are Comps. Jno. Lane, P.Z., the M.E.Z.; T. H. Wills, P.Z., the H.; and William Winget, the J.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—By permission of the Dean and Chapter the following lectures will be delivered in the Cathedral on the period of history fixed for the year by the London Diocesan Church Reading Union: Monday, 12th prox., Rev. A. W. Gough, "St. Louis"; Tuesday, 13th prox., the Bishop of Ripon, "Dante"; Wednesday, 14th prox., the Archdeacon of London, "Chaucer"; and Thursday, 15th prox., the Rev. H. Gee, D.D., "Whycliffe." The lectures will be at a quarter past one.

DEATH IN A MASONIC LODGE.—The installation meeting of the Wellington Lodge, No. 341, Rye, on the 23rd instant, was attended by a sad occurrence. Bro. Wm. George Rubie, the retiring W.M., having performed the ceremony prior to his investiture as I.P.M., was being heartily congratulated upon his year's most admirable work, when he fell and immediately expired. Bro. Dr. Trollope, of Hastings, was present, but the case was hopeless, the deceased having suffered from a weak heart. Bro. Rubie, who was 33 years of age, was highly respected. He was organist at the Rye Parish Church and master of the Board schools. He leaves a widow and two children.

AT THE NEXT meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Derbyshire the question of the formation of a Masonic library will be brought to the attention of the members of the Craft. The Tyrian Lodge has taken the matter in hand, and has passed a resolution inviting the co-operation of the other lodges in the town. The demand for Masonic books, documents, curios, it is pointed out, is rapidly increasing both at home and abroad, and unless steps are taken at once to preserve for local reference items of Masonic value, and particularly of local interest, it may be found in time to come, that the Province of Derbyshire has sustained irreparable loss. It is suggested that in Derbyshire there are many valuable relics of the past lying in obscurity—stored away and forgotten—and that each lodge and chapter, and individual members thereof, be invited to seek every opportunity of bringing their treasures to light, with a view to their being lodged ultimately under the care of the province; also, that each lodge and chapter in the province be invited to send in a photographic copy of its warrant, which would form a valuable, lasting, and unique feature in the provincial archives.

AUSTEN-GWELLO, RHODESIA.—Among Rhodesian shares we have frequently called attention to those of the Austen-Gwello Development Syndicate (Limited) as being well worth attention. As we predicted, they have risen in price, and look like going much higher. During the past week they have been largely dealt in by some of the most important members of the London Stock Exchange, and, owing to the excellent reports coming forward both by cable and letter from the company's manager at the mines in Rhodesia, these shares closed better on the week. The total capital of the company is only £50,000 in shares of £1, each fully paid, and it owns a farm of 6000 acres and 507 claims in the best-known and most important gold mining districts of Rhodesia. In addition to the above very satisfactory information, intelligence has come to hand showing that as sinking proceeds the mines develop greater richness. Arrangements are being made to float one set of these claims as a company, which will enable the Austen (Gwello) Development Syndicate (Limited) to pay a handsome dividend. Speculative investors might do worse than pick up these shares at the present price of about £2 2s. 6d., at which they are now dealt in on the London Stock Exchange.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the London and Manchester Industrial Assurance Company (Limited) was held on the 17th inst. at the chief offices, Southwark Exchange. Dr. Jas. Mason presided, and the other Directors present were Messrs. W. Dawes, H. Speed, W. F. Woodward, and J. W. Woodward. The annual report showed that 175,649 new policies had been issued during the year, the number being the largest on record. The life premium income was £94103, an increase of £7998. Claims on this department had amounted to £34,148. The premiums on sickness and medical policies were £40,629, and the claims £24,057. Only 974 of the policies for a weekly allowance, in case of sickness now remained, the issue of new policies in this department having been discontinued 14 years ago. The medical aid policies had been a great boon to insurers, and the system was highly appreciated by the medical profession. No profit was made from this branch, which was so managed as to be just self-supporting. The total premium income for the year was £134,732, showing the substantial increase of £8860. A sum of £21,361 had during the year been added to the funds, which now stood at £170,548. This saving was larger than that of any previous year. A dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 2½ per cent. on the paid-up capital was recommended. The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, referring with regret to the absence through illness of the managing director, Mr. W. Woodward, who had never before been absent from their annual meetings for a quarter of a century. The directors this year had again to congratulate the company on a most successful twelvemonth. It might truly be said in their case that "Nothing succeeds like success." (Hear, hear.) From year to year their prosperity had increased; they had never once gone backward. There was an increase of 22,055 in the number of new policies issued—a healthy sign, indicating a rapidly growing premium income. The income in the life department alone, including rent and interest, was now over £100,000. (Cheers.) A sum of £34,148 had been paid away in claims. These were well within the expectation, but such a sum as this, paid with all promptitude, must have been most welcome. With regard to the question of outgo in the life department, they had all probably noticed that more had been spent upon new business than in the previous year, but the directors were fully satisfied that the money had been well and wisely expended, and the first-fruits were seen in the considerably larger receipts. (Applause.) The sickness and medical aid department continued to be quite satisfactory. In the balance-sheet they would see a list of assets displayed that in their nature and amount must be highly gratifying to every shareholder. (Hear, hear.) The increase of £21,361 was the largest that had ever taken place in a single year. (Applause.) Not only had the company been prosperous in the past, but they could look forward with all confidence to the attainment of even greater success in the future. (Cheers.) The motion was seconded by Mr. W. Dawes, and carried unanimously. Mr. H. Speed then moved the re-election on the board of the company of Mr. W. Woodward, the managing director, and Mr. W. Dawes. The resolution having been seconded by Mr. W. F. Woodward, was carried unanimously, and with loud applause. The dividend recommended in the report was sanctioned, and, on the motion of Mr. Armstrong (Liverpool), seconded by Mr. Johnson (Birmingham), a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the directors for their services. A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed, seconded, and unanimously carried. The Chairman briefly thanked the shareholders.

THE KING OF THE HELLENES is one of the latest purchasers of "the Daily Telegraph's Hundred Best Novels."

WITHOUT ANY FORMAL CEREMONY the Royal Military Tournament at Islington was opened on Thursday last by the Duke of York, who was accompanied by the Duchess.

PRINCESS LOUISE, accompanied by the Marquis of Lorne, visited Oxford on Thursday, and opened a Jubilee clock and fountain at the east end of Magdalen Bridge.

THE LATE LORD ESHER will be buried on Monday, not, as previously stated, on Saturday, at Esher. The service will be private, only members of the family being present.

YESTERDAY WAS THE BIRTHDAY of H.R.H. the Duchess of York, who was born on May 26th, 1867. The Duke and Duchess of York have arranged to leave York House, St. James's Palace, to-day (Saturday) for Sandringham.

MR. CHOATE, the American Ambassador, was the principal guest at the dinner of the Royal Theatrical Fund at the Hotel Métropole on Thursday evening, at which the Earl of Dartmouth presided.

THURSDAY WAS the birthday of Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, her Royal Highness having been born at Buckingham Palace on May 25th, 1846. The bells of Windsor were rung in honour of the anniversary.

OUR BROTHER'S BED.—As the larger part of the sum of £340 required for the permanent endowment of the bed has been raised, a little assistance from those lodges who have not already contributed is still necessary to secure the much wished for endowment.

THE CHANCERY SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY of which Sir William Marling, Bart., is the chairman, owing to an increased public demand, have entered into contracts for a further extension of their premises. Over 50 new strong rooms and steel vaults are to be added to the Safe Deposit, which is already the largest in the world.

THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY will lay the foundation stone of the new wing of the Hospital of the Nursing Sisters of St. John the Divine, Morden-hill, Lewisham, on Wednesday, the 14th prox., at five p.m., when the Bishop of Southwark will officiate, assisted by the Rev. Canon Rhodes Bristow, Chaplain of the Community.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT and Princess Henry of Battenberg, accompanied by Prince Leopold of Battenberg, left Victoria by the Continental express for Germany on Thursday evening. The Royal party travel *via* Queenborough and Flushing. The Duke of Connaught is going to Cassel, near Gotha, and Princess Henry of Battenberg to Kissingen.

BRO. THE EARL OF CASSILLIS, who has been appointed Substitute Master for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, was, last week, conducting visitations of the lodges in the Carrick district. The lodges visited have been Dailly, Girvan, Tarbolton, Maybole, Patna, and Dalmellington. All the lodges were found in good condition and sound working order.

LORD ROSEBERY opened a cottage hospital at Carshalton on the 24th instant, remarking on the equality of positions—that the rich man could only eat one dinner, and that the person who fared less sumptuously generally had the best health. But the great advantage of wealth was that it enabled its owners to give to those they loved, when sick or aged, the best medical advice and the advantage of an easier existence and change of climate.

THE OPENING of the Article Club Industrial Exhibition by their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, at the Crystal Palace, on the 30th inst., promises to be an exceptionally brilliant function. A very large number of distinguished personages will be present. After the opening ceremony, at which their Royal Highnesses will be presented with an address by Lord Suffield, President of the Club, the Royal party will make a tour of the Exhibition, after which they will be entertained to lunch.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, accompanied by Princess Victoria, returned to Marlborough House on Thursday morning from Windsor Castle. Miss Knollys and Capt. Holford were in attendance. The Prince of Wales, attended by Capt. Holford, afterwards left London for Great Yarmouth to inspect the Norfolk Artillery Militia (of which regiment his Royal Highness is the Honorary Colonel), under the command of Viscount Coke.

A BRILLIANT AUDIENCE filled the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on the 25th inst., for the *retrée* of Madame Melba as Juliette in Gounod's opera. Among those present were the Duke of York, the Duchess of Fife, and Princess Charles of Denmark, attended by their suites, the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, Earl and Countess de Grey, the Countess of Craven, Lord Farquhar, Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, Lady Randolph Churchill, and Lord Rowton.

THE QUEEN left Windsor Castle last evening on her customary visit to Balmoral. Her Majesty has sent telegrams of thanks to the American Ambassador and the members of Parliament touring in the South of Ireland who sent congratulatory messages. The Queen's birthday was celebrated with striking enthusiasm in the United States, notably at Port Tampa, where there was a naval demonstration, and a portrait of the Queen was unveiled, draped with the British and American flags.

HARDLY an important centre in the world was without its celebration of the Queen's birthday. Reuter's Agency furnishes telegrams from Munich, Constantinople, Copenhagen, and other European cities, giving brief accounts of the way in which the English residents, aided by the native inhabitants, observed the day; and in all the British Colonies and Dependencies there were enthusiastic rejoicings. In the Transvaal the fête was kept very heartily, and, in spite of the present situation, the Boers joined in, the Volksraad adjourning in honour of the day.

WOODFORD HAS arranged to give a cyclists' fancy dress carnival on the 3rd inst. in aid of the hospitals. Last year the expenses, which amounted to £300, were paid by the cyclists themselves, and a similar course will be adopted this year, whilst the Woodford and Walthamstow Town Bands have generously promised their services. The route will be by way of Snaresbrook, Woodford Green, Connaught Waters, and Chingford. The lantern ride takes place at 9 p.m., returning by the same route reversed. The Charities which will participate in the proceeds are the Buckhurst-hill, Loughton, Poplar, West Ham, and Woodford Hospitals, and the Leyton and Walthamstow and Plaistow Children's Hospitals.

ONE OF THE HAPPIEST of the many ceremonies by which the Queen's 50th birthday was honoured was a gathering at Shrewsbury of 150 Shropshire naval and military veterans, who dined together, under the presidency of Colonel Kenyon-Stanley, M.P., supported by Lord Methuen, Lord Barnard, and others. In the course of the proceedings a congratulatory telegram was despatched to the Queen at Windsor. On Thursday Sir Arthur Bigge sent the following reply from her Majesty: "Please express Queen's thanks to Shropshire naval and military veterans for their loyal congratulations."

SPEAKING AT A Masonic meeting at Chatham on the 11th inst., the Dean of Rochester referred with gratitude to the festival held in Rochester Cathedral last year, and to the splendid offering left by the Freemasons of England for the beautifying of the building. He had hoped that the time had come for replacing the present unsightly tower by one worthy of the fabric, but, alas! the Masonic champion of the cause, the Earl of Lathom, had been removed by death, and there was no one to take his place. The offering made by the Masons would be devoted partly to general restoration and partly to the erection of four stained-glass windows in the south transept. Three would illustrate great builders: Solomon and the Temple, Ethelbert and the first Christian Church in England, and Gundulph and Rochester Cathedral; while the fourth would depict the great characteristic of the Masonic body—charity.

DEATH.

ABBOTT.—On the 20th inst., at 30, Queen's-road, Twickenham, aged 61 years, Margaret Jessie, the beloved wife of Bro. G. Blizard Abbott, P.M., M.E.Z., 1385, P.P.G.D. Hertfordshire.