

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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APPROACHING FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

With the month of December we begin to think of the desirability of looking about and taking stock of the prospects that appear to be in store for us in respect of the next year's Festivals in aid of our great Central Institutions. Most of our lodges have long since resumed their labours after the summer holidays, and thus the Secretaries of those Institutions have already had opportunities of enlisting the services of brethren as Stewards. But more especially do we give heed to the claims and prospects of that particular Charity, which, as its Anniversary Festival takes precedence of the other two in the matter of time, is under the necessity of entering upon the preliminary work of organising its Board of Stewards at the earliest possible date. The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution would, under ordinary circumstances, celebrate its next anniversary on the last Wednesday in February, 1900; but as this—which is the 28th of the month—happens to be Ash Wednesday, steps will, no doubt, be taken, as they were in 1898, when the same coincidence of dates occurred, to alter the day so that the celebration may not clash with one of the most solemn observances of the Christian Church. The place of meeting will be, as usual, the Freemasons' Tavern, and it was publicly known even before the Annual General Meeting of Governors and Subscribers in May last that the Right Hon. Lord ADDINGTON, Prov. Grand Master of Buckinghamshire, had very kindly consented to preside as Chairman.

The claims of the Institution to the generous support of the Craft have long since been recognised, and do not need to be described at any length. Briefly, the Male Fund provides annuities of £40 a year each for 207 aged and destitute brethren, and the Widows' Fund, annuities of £32 a year each for 248 widows of brethren in a state of penury, the success of the Festival on the 22nd February last having been such that the Committee of Management deemed themselves justified in recommending, and the annual meeting in endorsing the recommendation, that five more annuitants be placed on the establishment of the Male Fund, and three more on that of the Widows' Fund. But, in addition, there were, at the date of the annual meeting, 22

widow annuitants for whom provision was made to the extent of half their late husbands' annuities, namely, £20 per annum; the total amount required to fulfil these obligations being £16,656. A further sum of about £3000 is needed for expenses of management and maintenance of the Asylum at Croydon, so that the total outlay for the year may very safely be put down at £19,500. Towards meeting this there is a permanent income consisting of grants from Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, amounting to £1750, and dividends on invested capital reaching to about £4000, the total from all sources being roughly speaking, about £6000. Thus the amount which must be forthcoming in donations and subscriptions—and the Festival is far and away the principal, if, indeed, it is not the only, source from which we look to obtain these—cannot with safety be estimated at less than £14,000, a margin of £500 being left to meet any unforeseen contingencies. Such an amount as this, as we have often remarked of other similar amounts, takes a lot of raising, and the difficulty will be still greater just now than in ordinary years, owing to the numerous and, at the same time, imperative calls that are being made in all directions for those who suffer directly or indirectly by the fierce war that is raging in South Africa. Still, there are over 477 impoverished brethren and brethren's widows for whom the necessary provision must under any circumstances be made, and if the difficulties prove greater than usual in raising the funds, it means that there will have to be correspondingly greater efforts put forth in order to raise them.

As for Bro. TERRY'S endeavours to enlist ladies and brethren as Stewards for the Festival in February next of the Institution, of which he has now been the Secretary for so many years, we venture to think he is to be congratulated on the success he has achieved to the present time. Already the Board of Stewards numbers over 200 members, who, as far as we have had the opportunity of judging, are fairly distributed between London and the Provinces; and as there are still, after allowing or the intervention of the Christmas holiday, about two months and a half available in which to enrol additional Stewards, we may not unreasonably hope that when the day for celebrating the anniversary arrives a full Board, that will be able to render a good account of its Stewardship, will have been organised. Of late years, of course, with the increased expenditure which has been undertaken what used to be a strong Board is looked upon now as, comparatively speaking, weak. Formerly, a Secretary of one of our Institutions thought himself fortunate if he succeeded in enrolling some 300 brethren as Stewards; nowadays, he is apt to indulge in somewhat gloomy forebodings, if his muster of Stewards does not approximate more closely to 500 than 400. However, we must not go too far ahead. What Bro. TERRY has to do between now and the day in February that may be fixed for the Old People's Festival in 1900, is to enlist the services of such a number of Stewards as will be able to set at rest all anxiety as to the year's deficiency of income to the amount of some £14,000 being made good. The expenditure of the Institution is greater than it has ever been before, and having regard to the war in South Africa, the number of appeals that are being addressed to all classes of the community are heavier; but we do not think that English Masons are the class of men who will relax in their efforts in behalf of their own indigent Old People, just because there happens to be an unprecedented number of the most urgent claims to be met elsewhere.

THE LODGE ROOM.

II. THE PAVEMENT.

[COMMUNICATED].

The interior of the lodge, as described in the lecture on the First Degree tracing board, is said to be composed of ornaments, furniture, and jewels. The first named comprise the Mosaic pavement, the tessellated border and the blazing star, and in the present article we propose to consider the history and use of the Mosaic pavement and its border.

First of all as to its designation. In the arts, a special form of mural decoration is generally called a Mosaic, and many suppose that the lodge pavement, which—if a permanent feature of the chamber—is constructed on a not dissimilar plan is thus called owing to the resemblance. But in the first place the pavement, in many lodges, is represented by a carpet, to which it would be absurd to apply such a term, and, secondly, even when it is an integral part of the structure, it is often painted. The term has proper reference to the holy ground on which the lodge is supposed to be built. In *Exodus* iii., 5, we read that God said to Moses "Take off thy shoes, for the ground whereon thou standest is holy." The name of Moses is therefore preserved in our description of the ground floor of the lodge and explains at once a special feature in the preparation of candidates. A well-known writer on Biblical antiquities has succeeded, by a sort of literary legerdemain, in connecting the term "Mosaic" as applied in the arts with the Grand Master of the first or Holy lodge, and it is more than possible that such a connection exists.

The pavement ought to be a structural part of the lodge room. It is usually made up of black and white squares, arranged diagonally with reference to the principal dimensions. The border, which is described in the lectures as "indented," that is, it is made up of a series of equal triangles, alternately black and white—sometimes black and red—whose vertices point outwards. At the four corners of the pavement there is a representation of a knot or tassel, and the candidate is given to understand that these four tassels represent the cardinal virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Justice, and Prudence, the brother who is delivering the lecture meanwhile pointing to four tassels, which are sometimes found suspended from the ceiling. He doubtless means well in so doing, but he is mistaken; and we shall refer to these tassels later.

Under some Constitutions the Mosaic pavement is referred to as "sacred," and it may not be trespassed upon save by the candidate, and officers actually engaged in ceremonial duty. Brethren who have to move about should progress along the sides rectangularly, and it might be suggested that the ballot box should not be placed in the centre of the lodge, as it too frequently is, but at the west end of the pavement.

It (the pavement) need not be extensive, nine feet by six is the largest size that is necessary, and, in fact, it need be little more than a design. As regards its symbolical meaning, we are told that "the Mosaic pavement, the beautiful flooring of the lodge, being variegated and chequered, symbolizes the diversity of objects of the whole visible world." With very great diffidence, however, we venture to criticise this explanation. The chief feature of the pavement, is that it is absolutely rectangular, and divided into squares which are absolutely equal to one another and which, as to their colours, represent alternate light and shade. Now, among the organic works of nature, there is no such thing as exactitude. There is no such thing as a straight line, nor a right angle, and there is no such thing as equality. We go further and say there is no such thing as an exact ratio. As for the "variegated colours," those of the pavement are only black and white, two colours only attained by nature when, as it were, *in extremis*, and hence it is clear there is a want of correspondence between the lecture and the pavement. In American lodges it is described as illustrating the lights and shadows of life—mingled virtue and vice, pleasure and pain, and all the other antagonistic incidents which go to make up what is fitly called a "chequered" existence. This latter explanation has the merit of being less unreasonable than the former, but in the writer's opinion, it seems superfluous to try to invest every Masonic incident and detail with moral teaching when such remote inferences are necessitated. With regard to the indented or tessellated border, we are told that it refers "to the planets, and the blazing star or glory in the centre typifies the sun," and that "as the trident border forms the border of the Mosaic pavement, so do the constellations of the starry host form a grand border round the sun." It is, again, with much diffidence, we venture to exclaim against this interpretation. In the first place, Freemasonry has nothing to do with the stellar worlds, and, secondly, if it had, we entirely fail to see where the analogy comes in. The blazing star gene-

rally takes the form of a gilded device suspended in the intersection of the diagonals of the room, in its exact centre, in fact, and therefore has nothing to do with the pavement. There is certainly a device often to be found in the centre of the pavement, which has the appearance of the letter G, and when the candidate is told that it refers to the G.G.O.T.U., he naturally thinks it is; but, as a matter of fact, the device in question is the old Egyptian symbol of eternity, viz., a serpent with its tail in its mouth. In suggesting a more reasonable explanation of the indented border, we would again refer the reader to the tassels represented at the four corners. The word "tessellated" should be "tassellated." The view taken by a writer in the *American Tyler* some six years ago was that, as the various sections of the floor of King Solomon's temple were completed, a space around was protected with ropes, in order to ward off the feet of the profane. These ropes were knotted at the four corners into Tassels, and somehow or another these Tassels have got themselves transferred to the extremities of the room, where they depend from the ceiling in a very meaningless manner. Another Masonic writer, one Bro. Tebb, is quoted in Kenning's *Cyclopædia* as suggesting that the border represented the fringe of what might be considered as the origin of the Masonic apron—the Talith, or sacred garment of Hebrew investiture.

Any notice of the floor of the lodge would be incomplete without a reference to the dais, or raised platform surrounding the pedestal of the Worshipful Master. This should always be reached by an odd number of steps, there being a very widespread idea among the inhabitants of Eastern countries that the same foot which commenced the ascent should also enter the building or be the first to be planted on the summit. This by the way. The dais is reserved for brethren of distinction. In Grand Lodge it is occupied by Present and Past Officers. In ordinary lodge meetings that half of it which lies to the left of the Worshipful Master is reserved for Past Masters of the lodge—not worshipful brethren who happen to be members. The Immediate Past Master sits on the Worshipful Master's immediate left, and then the other P.Ms. in order of seniority.

The right is generally occupied by visitors of distinction—any Past Master of another lodge who happened to be visiting, would, as a matter of courtesy—not of right—be asked to take the seat of honour. The Provincial Grand Master, or his Deputy or any brother appointed by him to visit the lodge in his name, would occupy it of right. In such a case the W.M. would hand the symbol of authority to the visitor, and receive it back again, with appropriate compliments, showing how impossible it would be for the gavel to be in worthier hands. Under some foreign Constitutions, and occasionally in English lodges, the visitor will take the proffered gavel and occupy the chair of King Solomon, whilst he asks three times if any brother has any cause of complaint against the Worshipful Master and Wardens.

The chairs on the dais are generally found to be disposed in a semicircle. Brother Tyler, however, should be told this is wrong. Everything in a Craft lodge should be rectilinear or rectangular. What is worse—because it cannot be remedied—is when the east end of the lodge room is semi-circular, and the Master sits in a kind of apse, from which he only emerges when he explains to the candidate that "all straight lines and right angles are true and proper signs whereby to know a Freemason!"

All motion in a lodge room should follow the sun. The W.M. then, when he has occasion to leave his chair, should do so on the south side, and when he returns it should be on the north, and for the same reason when he leaves the chair for good and his successor takes it, the same rule should be followed. For the same reason, the candidate, when about to be presented or invested, is placed at the S.W.'s left, that being the side from which that officer leaves his pedestal.

GOULD'S "MILITARY LODGES."

The Editor of the *Freemason* has written very warmly in praise of Bro. Gould's latest contribution to Masonic literature, and after a careful read of the work, it appears to me that the good words are well deserved.

"Military Lodges" is a tastefully got up book, in handy form, and contains considerably over 200 closely printed pages of a very interesting character. It is like no other Masonic work extant, being original in design, preparation and text, involving an immense amount of labour as to arrangement, management of numerous details and authentication of almost superabundant material. I anticipate that the quantity of rejected particulars would furnish materials for one or more books of the same size; the difficulty being to cause even the accepted information to fall into line, and, finally, to take the positions assigned for a continuous narrative.

It is but fair to state that I do not know any one else who could have handled the subject with such conspicuous success as Bro. Gould, who out of a heterogeneous mass of individual and isolated facts, has woven a compact, ably condensed, and most readable volume on sea and field lodges.

To many it will be quite a revelation to be told of the wonderful achieve-

ments of our regimental lodges, whose members were the means of spreading a knowledge of the Craft throughout the wide wide world, during the latter part of the last century especially, and whether during peace or war, were as ready to follow out the true principles of the Fraternity as the most distinguished and enthusiastic brethren who dwelt at home in happiness and security, through their valour and heroism. To no class of Craftsmen do we owe so much as to our military brethren, 1732-1815.

Bro. Gould's graceful Introduction respecting Freemasonry in early days, the Manuscript Operative Constitutions, and the important period preceding the noted "Revival of 1717," forms a most appropriate basis for his subsequent remarks as to the "Masons' Company"; the "Acception," the initiations under the wing of the Scottish lodges, and those in England during the 17th century. Whenever there was a chance of identifying a prominent military Brother, or a naval Craftsman, it will be found that Bro. Gould has not failed to secure them for his invaluable portrait gallery.

After the establishment of the premier Grand Lodge of England, and of the numerous Grand bodies that followed the example thus set, in Ireland, Scotland, and abroad, besides rivals at home; regular military lodges were inaugurated under their auspices, the first started being in 1732 under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Scotland following in 1743, and in due time England also came to the fore, and both by sea and land did its part to respond to the wishes of Army and Naval brethren, who petitioned to be formed into lodges, until hundreds of such perambulating Masonic centres were at work in different parts of the old and the new world.

I am not likely to be "caught napping" by attempting to compute the number of military warrants issued by the English, Irish, Scottish, and American Grand Lodges. Those who need such information should try their hands at it by studying Bro. Gould's able work. Though at first it appeared to me desirable to reckon the number of distinguished military and naval brethren referred to in "Military Lodges," subsequent reading has convinced me of the wisdom of being contented with the statement that they are legion.

The information supplied as to the British military lodges at work "off and on" in India, Canada, Jamaica, and everywhere else, must be read to be appreciated. My fear, however, is that few will realise sufficiently what it has cost the author to produce such a book of so exhaustive, entertaining, and a reliable a character.

The well-known Military Publishers, Messrs. Gale and Polden, Ltd., Amen-corner, London, have issued the choice work for the sum of Five Shillings *nett*, so that, obtaining so much for such a little outlay, should ensure a large circulation for their latest bairn, without which it cannot fail to be a considerable loss. However, I anticipate that the edition will soon be exhausted, and thus encourage that firm in their Masonic venture.

W. J. HUGHAN.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

The following is the business to be transacted on Wednesday next, the 6th instant:

1. The minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 6th September for confirmation.
2. Nomination of a Grand Master for the ensuing year.
3. Nomination of a Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.
4. Appointment and investment of a President of the Board of Benevolence.
5. Election of a Senior and Junior Vice-President of the Board of Benevolence.
6. Election of 12 Past Masters to serve on the Board of Benevolence for the year ensuing.
7. Report of the Board of Benevolence for the last quarter, in which are recommendations for the following grants, viz.:

A brother of the Mount Edgcombe Lodge, No. 1446, London...	£75 0 0
A brother of the Northern Lodge of China, No. 570, Shanghai	50 0 0
A brother of the Zetland Lodge, No. 603, Cleckheaton	100 0 0
Harriett Mary, on behalf of the eight orphan children of a late brother of the Hundred of Elloe Lodge, No. 469, Spalding	100 0 0
A brother of the Royal York Lodge, No. 315, Brighton	50 0 0
A brother of the Langthorne Lodge, No. 1421, Ilford, Essex	50 0 0
A brother of the Southern Star Lodge, No. 1158, London	150 0 0
A brother of the St. Chad's Lodge, No. 1129, Rochdale	50 0 0
A brother of the Afan Lodge, No. 833, Aberavon	50 0 0
A brother of the Bank of England Lodge, No. 263, London	75 0 0
A brother of the Beaconsfield Lodge, No. 1062, London	75 0 0

And a resolution of a vote of thanks to the President, Bro. James H. Matthews, for the courteous manner in which he has, during the past year, presided over the meetings of the Board.

S. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Board begs to report that it has received notifications from the several District Grand Lodges in New Zealand, and from lodges in the Colony not within those districts to the effect that, in compliance with the requirements of Rules 218a and 218b, special meetings of the lodges within those several districts, and of lodges in the Colony not within such districts, had been held within the prescribed period, for the purpose of deciding whether they desired to continue under the Grand Lodge of England or not; and it appeared that the following lodges had either previously seceded, ceased to work, or had by the required majority decided to place themselves under the jurisdiction of the newly-recognised Grand Lodge of New Zealand: Canterbury—Ionic Lodge, No. 1917, Leeston. Otago and Southland—Southern Cross Lodge, No. 997, Ivercargill; Waitaki Lodge, No. 1111, Oamaru; Lake Lodge of Ophir, No. 1195, Queenstown; Mount Ida Lodge, No. 1262, Naseby; Aparima Lodge, No. 1617, Riverton; Palmerston Lodge, No. 1749, Palmerston; Herclues Lodge, No. 1875, Tapanui; Hiram Lodge, No. 2008, Dunedin; St. John's Lodge, No. 2102, Mosgiel; Waikonita Lodge, No. 2115, Waikonita; Mokarita Lodge, No. 2287, Wyndham; and Lodge of Fortitude, No. 2301, Bluff. Westland—Tatara Lodge, No. 1241, Ross. Auckland—Albion Lodge, No. 2003, Devonport, and Alpha Lodge, No. 2014, Cambridge. Lodges not under a district—Marlborough Lodge of Unanimity,

No. 1236, Blenheim; Forest Lodge, No. 1481, Wakefield; Victory Lodge, No. 1927, Nelson; and Waitoki Lodge, No. 2036, Picton.

The Board begs to recommend that the above lodges be formally erased by vote of Grand Lodge.

The Board has to report that the following presentations have been made to the Library and Museum since the last meeting of Grand Lodge, all of which have been accepted with thanks:

TITLE OR OBJECT.	BY WHOM PRESENTED.
Modern Romanism Examined ...	James Nisbet and Co.
Masonic Poesy ...	Eli Broad, No. 29, N.S.W. (the Author).
Jones's Masonic Miscellanies, 1797 ...	Thomas Woods, J.W. No. 87.
Tracing Boards, Harris's, 1849 ...	C. Kupferschmidt, A.G. Sec. G. Corres.
Medaillenwerk, Band II., Hamburg ...	Wilfred A. Bowser, P.M. No. 2000.
Set of Gold Masonic Studs...	Shaheen Makarius, W.M. No. 60, G.L. Egypt (the Author).
History of Practical Freemasonry ...	Gen. John C. Smith, Past G. Master Illinois.
Principles and Precepts of Freemasonry (in Arabic) ...	James Bonwick, F.R.G.S.
Medal of Supreme Council, 33°, Illinois ...	Michael Burgoyne, S.D. No. 957.
Three Works on Tasmania ...	Charles Pulman, P.M. No. 1712.
Old Silver Masonic Medal ...	William Michie, Cincinnati.
Studies in Architecture, 1702 (Italian) ...	John Armstrong, P.P.G.W.
Enoch T. Carson Medal ...	Harry B. Taylor, Adelaide.
Some Old Scottish Lodges, &c. ...	Spencer and Co., Great Queen-street.
History of Knight Templary in South Australia ...	J. T. Stewart, Tyler No. 2334
A Rare Masonic Certificate, 1787 ...	
Photograph of Masonic Emblems ...	

The Board also submits a statement of the Grand Lodge accounts at the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on Friday, the 17th day of November instant, showing a balance in the Bank of England (Law Courts Branch) of £10,195 5s. 11d., and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for petty cash £100, and for servants' wages £100.

(Signed)

RICHARD LOVELAND LOVELAND,
President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
21st November, 1899.

9. NOVICES OF MOTION.

(1) By V.V. Bro. Rev. F. BETHUNE N. NORMAN LEE, Chaplain to the Forces, Grand Chaplain—

To add to Rule 165 of the Book of Constitutions—

"And if in any Lodge it should become impossible to hold the regular meeting upon the day named in the Bye-laws for that purpose, the Grand Master, and in Provinces and Districts the Provincial and District Grand Master, may grant a dispensation for the holding of such meeting upon a day not later than seven days before or after that day fixed by the Bye-laws, which day shall for all purposes be deemed the regular day of meeting."

(2) By R.W. Bro. Sir REGINALD HANSON, Bart., Past Grand Warden—

That the sum of 1000 guineas be voted from the funds of Grand Lodge to be paid over to the Mansion House Transvaal War Fund for distribution in the following proportions:

- 400 guineas for the wives and children of those serving in South Africa.
- 200 guineas for the widows and orphans.
- 200 guineas for the sick and wounded.
- 200 guineas for the disabled soldiers and sailors.

10. APPEALS.

(1) By W. Bro. J. LOCKWOOD WINGATE, I.P.M. of Friendly Lodge, No. 239, Kingston, Jamaica—

Against a ruling of the Deputy District Grand Master in Charge (W. Bro. Dr. C. J. Morse, C.B., M.L.C., &c.) at a meeting of the District Lodge of Jamaica, on July 27th, 1899.

(2) By W. Bro. WILLIAM HENDERSON, P.M. of Franklin Lodge, No. 2486, Windsorton, Barkly West, South Africa—

Against a decision of the Deputy District Grand Master and the District Board of General Purposes of the District Grand Lodge of South Africa, Central Division.

11. Names of brethren nominated to the offices of Senior and Junior Vice-President of the Board of Benevolence: Bro. David Dixon Mercer, P.G.P., as Senior Vice-President, and Bro. Henry Garrod, P.G.P., as Junior Vice-President.

Names of Past Masters nominated to serve on the Board of Benevolence:

Bros. James Block, P.M. 1158; Fredk. Wm. Downes, P.M. 1158; William H. Caton, P.M. 1365; George B. Chapman, P.M. 299; John Ellinger, P.M. 2222; Simon H. Goldschmidt, P.M. 1329; Frederick W. Hancock, P.M. 548; Wm. Kipps, P.M. 1275; Edward Nightingale, P.M. 87; Charles Pulman, P.M. 720; Charles Henry Stone, P.M. 507; Robert Wellwood, Ker, P.M. 194; and Wm. Wills, P.M. 1901.

List of lodges for which warrants have been granted by the M.W. Grand Master since the last Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge:

- No. 2785, The Prince of Wales's Lodge, Indwe, S. Africa.
- 2786, The St. Alban's Lodge, St. Albans, Herts.
- 2787, The Kathiawar Lodge, St. Lucia, West Indies.
- 2788, The Royal Warrant Holders Lodge, London.
- 2790, The Merton Lodge, London.
- 2791, The Hudson Lodge, Walsingham.
- 2792, The Cecil Rhodes Lodge, Bulawayo.
- 2793, The Assheton Egerton Lodge, Altrincham, Cheshire.

MARK GRAND LODGE.

The following is the business to be transacted on Tuesday next, the 5th instant:

1. Read, and if approved, confirm minutes of Quarterly Communication of 5th September.
2. Report of the General Board.
3. A motion will be made that the report be taken as read.
4. A motion will be made that the report be received and entered on the minutes.

5. Recommendations arising out of the report :
 - (a) That the Garnet Lodge, No. 228, Dinapore, India, and the Ark Mariner Lodge attached thereto, be removed from the roll of lodges.
 - (b) That the Grand Inspector of Works be an *ex-officio* member of the General Board; and that Article 154, Book of Constitutions, be altered as follows: After the word "President" to insert "Grand Inspector of Works."
 - (c) That the sum of £25 be voted to a brother of the Prince Edward Lodge, No. 14.
 - (d) That the sum of £25 be voted to a brother of the Simon de St. Liz Lodge, No. 245.
 - (e) That the sum of 100 guineas be voted from the Benevolent Fund to the "Daily Telegraph Widows' and Orphans' Fund."
6. A motion will be proposed that the report be adopted.
7. Nomination of the M.W. Grand Master for the ensuing year.
8. Nomination of Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.
9. Presentation of Charity jewels to the Stewards of the last Benevolent Fund Festival.

Art and the Drama.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

On Saturday last, we paid our second visit to the above gallery. After a careful survey of the pictures exhibited, we were confirmed in our original impression—that the high standard of excellence had not been attained this year. There was much commendable mediocrity, but there were no pictures we could take away with us—in our minds, we mean, not literally; for if we did, it is extremely probable that the Secretary would rise from his table, and make strong objection, unless we were previously prepared to "pay, pay, pay." We will say a few words about those pictures which we consider worthy of notice. No. 3, "The First Sign of the Cross," by N. Prescott Davies; we pass no opinion on the execution of this picture, but we most strongly object to the title given it. We would remind the artist of the proper reverential manner in which this subject has been previously treated by Holman Hunt. It came upon us as a shock to see so awful a title assigned to such a picture; in all kindness, we would counsel the artist to assign another title to his work. No. 15, "The Dying Year," by Frank Dickson, is a pretty little bit. No. 96, "Flying Cloud and Swaying Poplar," by Walter Fowler, shows good artistic work; the lights and shadows are well contrasted. No. 119, "Dunottar," clearly and carefully painted by Alfred T. Edward. No. 135, "At the Top of the Tree," by W. Luker, jun., shows most skilful industry. No. 149, "Companions," careful work. Nos. 44, 162, and 237, by Sir Wyke Bayliss (Cathedral interiors), are deserving of high praise from the beautiful way in which the architectural details are rendered, No. 162, "The Beautiful Savage" (Siena Cathedral), especially. No. 279, "A Study" (Pastel) and No. 279, "Simplicity," both by J. Ernest Braun, are charming, but not high art. We have only given individual opinions, let visitors judge for themselves. Honestly we think, on the whole, that the pictures are worth seeing.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

We accepted an invitation the other evening to see "The Silver King," the joint production of Henry Arthur Jones and Walter Hermann. Mr. H. A. Jones is very much "en evidence" just now, but we have lost trace of Mr. Hermann for some time. Some of our readers may recollect that many years ago there was a difference of opinion between the joint authors as to their separate contributions towards "The Silver King." We are not quite sure on the point, but we think that after some unpleasantness they arrived at an amicable arrangement. It is not our intention to weary our readers with any details of the plot. "The Silver King" is so well and deservedly known that they would be superfluous. We confine our remarks to the chief interpreters of this important and popular drama. "Facile princeps" is Mr. Wilson Barrett. It has always appeared to us that the principal charm of this actor is his beautiful sonorous voice, how skillfully he modulates its tones, so as to express the varied emotions of the mind—this is, and ever ought to be, a point which should be well studied by the intelligent actor. As the face is the index of the mind, so should the voice be the outward exponent of the feelings of the heart. This gift Mr. Wilson Barrett especially possesses. Believing in himself, he succeeds in making others believe in him. His art is so realistic that it ceases to become art, and is the reflex of true nature. Mr. Wilson Barrett has, evidently, not forgotten the maxim of Horace, in his "Ars poetica"—"Summa ars est celare artem." "The highest art is to conceal art." We accord high praise to Miss Maud Jeffreys for the beautiful sympathetic manner in which she depicts the trials and sufferings of the heroine, the outward traces of the varied conflicting emotions of the mind are well and efficiently portrayed on her intelligent face. We must now bring our notice to a close. The acting of the little girl is natural and not overdrawn. We believe the present delineator of Jakes is the son of Mr. Wilson Barrett's brother—he is the worthy successor of a worthy and well-appreciated father. The villain of the piece is artistically impersonated by Mr. Percival. After a lapse of many years "The Silver King" can be seen with renewed pleasure.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

"KING JOHN."

Before dealing with the play, as at present acted, it may be interesting to consider it as a literary work. There can be little doubt that Shakespeare's "King John" was founded on a former play, entitled "The Troublesome Raigne of John, King of England, with the Discoverie of King Richard Cordelion's base son, vulgarly named the Bastard Fauconbridge; also the death of King John at Swinstead Abbey." What a contrast is this long, tedious, rambling title to the terse one, in modern times, of "King John." The play was printed in 1591. The first edition has no author's name, the second, of 1611, has, "Written by W. Sh.," and the third, of 1622, gives the name of "William Shakspeare." We think

there can be little hesitation in affirming that the attempt to fix this play upon Shakespeare was fraudulent. Steevens, in his valuable collection of "Twenty of the Plays," that were printed in quarto, says, "The author (meaning Shakespeare) seems to have been so thoroughly dissatisfied with this play as to have written it almost entirely anew." Strangely enough, Steevens afterwards seems to have receded from this opinion, and to have been in great uncertainty whether the immortal bard had any part in the original play. Among learned men there have been, and still are, many conflicting ideas on this point of disputed identity. We do not care to pursue the subject further. From the mass of evidence we think we may safely consider that our poet adapted, with most material alterations, portions of the old play, incorporating them in his own work, "the metal base, he changed to purest gold." Shakespeare's "King John" was first printed, in the folio collection of his plays, in 1623. It is a curious fact, observed by Malone, that "King John" is the only one of our poet's uncontested plays that is *not* entered in the books of the Stationers' Company." After this preface we will consider the last modern representation of "King John," now playing at Her Majesty's Theatre. In the first place, we may observe that Mr. Tree has had the boldness to shake off the chains of slavish custom, and refuse to conform to the hitherto enforced custom of representing the play in five acts. We think the manager is quite right in his new departure, and if, in his experienced judgment, he considers the work, as a whole, is more adaptable for acting purposes and the elucidation of the author's ideas, he is justified in compressing it into three acts. When Shakespeare wrote his plays the usual time for their representation was about 4 p.m., and as time then was not so valuable as it is now, people had the patience to sit out a play of fully four hours' duration. Were "Hamlet" played *now* in its entirety, how many of the audience would remain till the fall of the curtain? The old hackneyed quotation of "Tempora mutantur" is well known, but many forget the words which follow—"nos et mutamur in illis." "King John," as staged by Mr. Tree, is a most magnificent production; it is, indeed, a thing of beauty; the *mise-en-scene* is perfect, even to the minutest details; the costumes are strictly accurate—the highest and most reliable authorities have been consulted; the whole action of the play is so harmonious that acting seems merged into reality, and we ourselves by the magic of the scene are carried back to times of old. Let us now briefly review the leading characters of this interesting play, and see how they have been interpreted. The most beautiful and powerfully drawn figure in the poetic picture is that of Constance, undertaken by Miss Julia Neilson. We consider she has reached the acme of art; we always admired her as an intelligent painstaking actress, but on this occasion we are lost in simple admiration at the wonderful realism she exhibits; doubtless, long latent, she has had the opportunity afforded her of bringing it into view. The musical pathos of her voice, the play of conflicting emotions, as exhibited in her face, evince the true artist—true, indeed, because Nature has been her model. Mr. Tree, enacting the title rôle, looks every inch a king; in the early part of the play he shows both physical and moral courage, the latter especially in his determined resistance to the encroachment of the Papal power in England. Mr. Tree has one grand scene, in which he shows himself to be a consummate artist—it is his interview with Hubert, when he carefully and craftily unfolds his designs against the life of his unhappy nephew—his looks are terrible and full of meaning, as are the inflections of his voice—it is an artistic study, well thought out; the by play when Arthur boyishly puts on the crown which his uncle snatches from him, is well conceived. Mr. Lewis Waller, as Philip the Bastard, has a fine manly bearing, and well carries out the author's ideas. The great scene between Arthur and Hubert was well played by Mr. Franklyn McLeay and Master Charles Sefton, though why Hubert should be made to look so repulsive we cannot tell, surely, there was no necessity for this. Master Charles Sefton's acting was better than his vocal delivery. Queen Elinor was judiciously played by Miss Bate-man (Mrs. Crowe), nor did she make this disagreeable character too prominent. Lady Falconbridge, rendered by Miss Helen Ferrers, has little to do, but it was well done. Pretty Miss Lettice Fairfax, properly and consistently, undertook the part of Blanche of Castille. Mr. Wm. Mollison and Mr. Gerald Lawrence showed regal and princely bearing as King of France and the Dauphin. Mr. Louis Calvert invested the Cardinal with ecclesiastical dignity. The two tableaux were very fine—the battle scene especially—it reminded us of one of the old engravings of Albert Durer.

THE DEGREES OF FREEMASONRY AND THE ROYAL ARCH.

The above paper was read at the meeting of the members of the Provincial Grand Chapter of West Yorkshire, held at Milnsbridge, on Wednesday, the 22nd ult., by Comp. C. Letch Mason, P.P.G.H.:

By the solemn Act of Union between the two Grand Lodges of Freemasons of England in December, 1813, it was "declared and pronounced that pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz.: those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch."*

Before we proceed, it may be well to explain what is meant by a Degree. Let us adopt the definition of Bro. Gould, who says: "A degree in its present Masonic sense represents a rank secretly conferred."†

Now the question of degrees is a vexed one, and thoroughly to go into the matter would take more time than I have at my disposal. Bro. Hughan holds that originally there was but *one degree*. This opinion he supports very strongly in a paper on "The Three Degrees of Freemasonry," which he read before the *Quatuor Coronati* Lodge on Thursday, the 24th June, 1897.‡ Hear what he says: "It is still a difficulty with me to understand how brethren versed in Craft lore can see any proof that more than one esoteric ceremony was known to and practised by our Masonic forefathers anterior to the Grand Lodge era.

"Bro. D. Murray Lyon and I have laboured in this particular field of research for over 30 years, have made ourselves acquainted with all known minutes and records of the period, have discovered not a few important manuscripts, have been assisted by numerous willing and earnest students, especially in more recent times, and yet have failed to find aught that weakens our position.

* Book of Constitutions, 1st Regulation.

† A.Q.C. x.—128.

‡ A.Q.C. x.—127.

"In our judgment, until the second decade of the last century, there was but one simple ceremony; never were brethren required to leave the lodge because a higher degree was to be worked—for which they were not eligible—but whether Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, or Master Masons, all were equally entitled to be present, irrespective of any notion of degrees whatever. In other words, so far as we can determine in the light of duly authenticated facts, *distinct and separate* Masonic degrees are never met with, alluded to, or even probable, prior to 1716-1717 *circa*.

"I believe in the great antiquity of the Fraternity; In the Free and Accepted Masons of to-day being the lineal descendants of the Craftsmen who built our noble Cathedrals, and in the existing copies of the *Old Charges* (extending over a period of five centuries), constituting the title deeds to our Masonic inheritance. But the antiquity or continuity of Freemasonry is one thing, and that of degrees quite another; hence, while I do my utmost to strengthen the links of evidence which connect the original organisation with its operative and partly speculative predecessor—both esoterically and symbolically—I feel quite as free to reject any theory which seeks to date back the origin of degrees, and particularly that of the 'Third,' to the 17th century or earlier, because adequate proof is lacking."

This is Bro. Hughan's view.

Bro. Speth, the Secretary of the *Quatuor Coronati* Lodge, argues that there were two degrees, and in a paper read before the lodge on the 4th March, 1898,* thus sums up his contention:

"In the olden days the operative apprentice was 'Entered,' which was a purely business proceeding, equivalent to our modern indentures or articles. Then, or shortly afterwards, came the degree work, making him a Mason, which comprised the administration of an oath, the communications of the Craft-legend, and the imparting of certain secrets, which are now divided between him and the Fellow Craft. Seven years later he was passed a Master after due examination, again a purely business proceeding. But if he desired to pursue the Craft for a living it became necessary, as in all other guilds, to join the Fellowship, and this entailed a ceremony conferring the secrets necessary for him to prove himself abroad a Fellow of the Craft and not a runaway apprentice. Moreover, this ceremony, which was mystic and a real initiation, imparted, naturally in a much less ornate manner than now, the "Master's part," or, in other words, the essentials of our Master Mason's Degree.

"In later times these two Degrees were run into one when conferred upon a Speculative candidate, and, as a natural consequence of the decay of the lodges the Second Degree was almost forgotten by the Operatives, and, possibly, much confused by the Speculative Masons. In 1717 these two Degrees were taken over bodily by the Grand Lodge, and restored to sense, as well as the limited knowledge of the members would permit. Finally, shortly after 1723, they were re-apportioned into three Degrees."

We thus see, companions, that those most competent to form an opinion on the subject of Degrees, admit that the present arrangement was made subsequent to 1717, and that as to whether previous to that date there were two Degrees or only one, they are divided.

The form of words used at the admission of a candidate—what, in fact, we call the ritual—was doubtless much less elaborate in early times than that which obtains to-day. No book, manuscript or printed, that I have heard of (beyond the *Ancient Charges*) exists, which gives any clear indication of the nature of the ceremony in the 17th century or before; but early in the 18th century we find certain pamphlets published which profess to give particulars of Masonic working within the lodges, which, as Bro. Hughan remarks, "have served to amuse, if not to instruct, the Fraternity for over one hundred and fifty years."† Of these I may mention two—

1. "The Grand Mystery of Free Masons discovered."‡
2. Prichard's "Masonry Dissected."‡

The first ("The Grand Mystery") was published in 1724, seven years after the formation of Grand Lodge, and briefly may be said to cover more or less what is comprised in the present Three Degrees.

The second (Prichard's "Masonry Dissected"), published in 1730, mentions three grades, but gives only one obligation, which naturally occurs at the first admission of the candidate.

A careful consideration of this oath seems to point to the opinion that, according to this writer's view there was *but one obligation*. This was in 1730. In a book of a similar character, styled "Jachin and Boaz," but published 32 years afterwards, viz., in 1762, and numerous editions since, we find three separate obligations for candidates for the Three Degrees, as well as one for a brother upon assuming the duties of W.M.

Now, to what extent these accurately represent those Masonic ceremonies of the two periods it is not for me to determine, but there is no doubt that they indicate progression or advancement in Masonic ritual.

In the oldest minutes of a Masonic lodge extant—those of Mary Chapel, No. 1—we find that gentlemen were admitted "Fellows of the Craft." These same minutes, which bear date from 1599, also mention Deacons, Wardens, and Masters of Masons.

Elias Ashmole, in his diary for 1646, says that he and Colonel Mainwaring were made Freemasons at Warrington, in Lancashire, on the 16th October of that year, but these is no mention of Degrees. On attending a lodge in London in 1682, however, he describes himself as the "Senior Fellow" present. Many other cases might be quoted.

The conclusion to be reached from all this is, that our present arrangement of Masonic ceremony into Three Degrees was the work of the early part of last century. The terms "Entered Apprentice," "Fellow Craft," and "Master Mason" were probably taken from the nomenclature of the Operative Masons' Guild, and suitably described a brother at the various stages of his Masonic career. Once admit the need of dividing the ceremonies into Degrees, and names for them would be found readily enough. Let us glance at this very interesting period in Masonic history for one moment.

In 1717 four or more lodges in London met and constituted themselves into what they were pleased to call a "Grand Lodge." Who the moving spirits in this movement were is not now known, as there are no minutes preserved, and no Secretary was appointed. The first Grand Master was Anthony Sayer, and it was not until 1723 that Wm. Cowper was appointed Secretary. Of the first six years' proceedings of this new and specially constituted body we have no official account, but from the date named an unbroken record is extant. The progress of this Grand Lodge was rapid, for besides constituting new lodges, it took into its association other bodies then existing in London and Westminster. Some, however, were not willing to submit to this self-constituted authority, and held aloof, and yet notwithstanding this, in 1723 the engraved list gives the signs of 51 houses at which lodges under this Grand Lodge authority were supposed to be meeting.

To minds like those of George Payne, who was Grand Master in 1718, and Dr. Desaguliers, Grand Master in 1719, it became at once evident that if the new body was to succeed, organisation and system would be needed. An

enquiry for Masonic documents was made, a system of Masonic research instituted, and the result of these labours was the appearance of what is called Anderson's Book of Constitutions. This was in 1723. I regret that I cannot stop to go into detail, but must pass rapidly over these most interesting events.

It would seem that it was about this time also that the ceremonial of Freemasonry was taken in hand, elaborated, and divided into its present recognised three Degrees. For various reasons which I cannot now enter into, it appears probable that these changes and alterations were accompanied by omissions or additions, which were looked upon by the lodges existing independent of Grand Lodge jurisdiction, as a distinct departure from the ancient landmarks. This, they therefore scornfully called "Modern" Freemasonry, in distinction to their own, which they claimed as "Ancient"; hence, when some 30 years after, a rival Grand Lodge sprang up, comprising lodges which had not joined the organisation of 1717, they proudly claimed the title of "Ancients." This new Grand Lodge has been usually described as a secession, but Bro. Henry Sadler has satisfactorily demonstrated that such was not the case,* and that the societies forming the Grand Lodge of the Ancients owed no allegiance to the Grand Lodge of 1717 at all, and therefore cannot be described as seceders or schismatics.

And now the question arises as to the Royal Arch Degree. There is no evidence to show that previous to 1740 such a Degree, as a Degree, existed.

Dr. Mackey says "that until the year 1740 the essential element of the Royal Arch constituted a component part of the Master's Degree, and was, of course, its concluding part."

Bro. Hughan* fixes the probable date of arrangement at 1740, but admits that he can say nothing definite as to the actual year, nor is it at all clear where and by whom it was originated.

Of the following details there can be no doubt: From the year 1743 downwards references to or mention of the Royal Arch occur. Dr. Chetwode Crawley, in Vol. I. of his *Commentaria Hibernica*, quotes a paragraph from a Dublin newspaper of 1743, which in describing a Masonic procession, mentions the Royal Arch as being carried by two excellent Masons. Dr. Dassigny, in his "Enquiry" (1744), speaks of an assembly of Masons in York, under the title of Royal Arch Masons.‡ These are printed statements. The oldest minute or written evidence relating to Royal Arch Masonry at present known to exist, is in the transactions of a lodge at Bristol, 1758, and is in these words:

"Bro. Gordon proposed to be raised to the Degree of a Royal Arch and accepted."

There is an important difference which should be noted between the introduction of the three Degrees' arrangement and the advent of the Royal Arch as a separate ceremony. The former was, there is little doubt, done under the sanction of the Grand Lodge, and the Degrees so arranged were adapted and approved by that body. This is shown by the fact that the first Book of Constitutions (1723) lays it down that the Degrees of "Fellow Craft" and "Master Mason" could only be conferred in Grand Lodge. This rule, however, was abolished at the meeting of Grand Lodge held on the 27th November, 1725.§ In the case of the Royal Arch this does not appear to have been so. One of the first known references to it associates it with York, and the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns), whatever their attitude towards it at a later period, certainly for a time looked upon it with something approaching disdain, though it was started or promoted by some of their own members a dozen years or so before the "Ancients" were organised. The Ancients took it up warmly. Dermott, their Grand Secretary, in his *Ahiman Reson* of 1756, says he firmly believes "the Royal Arch to be the root, heart, and marrow of Freemasonry." Contrast this with the official reply of Grand Secretary Samuel Spencer of the "Moderns." Writing to a petitioner, who, amongst other qualifications, described himself as a Royal Arch Mason, Bro. Spencer says, "Our Society (that is, the Moderns) is neither Arch, Royal Arch, or Ancient, so that you have no right to partake of our Charity."||

This being the state of affairs, it cannot be surprising that this Degree for some time made little progress. In 1765 the minutes of a Royal Arch chapter in Halifax begin, the oldest in this province, and in the same year, not to mention many other cases, a Royal Arch chapter was working in London, which afterwards developed into Grand Chapter, and was patronised by the Moderns. Besides there being two Grand Lodges flourishing at the same time in London, there was also this Grand Chapter, which, though independent of both, was really supported by the members of the premier Grand Lodge, as Bro. Hughan styles the Modern Masons. At the Union, in 1813, the Royal Arch Degree was amalgamated with Craft Masonry, and was declared to be included in it. So much for its history so far as we know it.

Leaving this aspect of the subject and looking at our system from a philosophical point of view, one is naturally struck with the antiquity and peculiarity of our ancient Institution. To declare Freemasonry to be a relic or an adaptation of the mysteries of Egypt, Greece, or Rome, would be to make a bold assertion, yet those ancient mysteries were, amongst other things, intended to teach precisely those truths and lessons which are so strongly insisted upon in our ceremonial. They may be briefly summed up thus—

1. Acknowledgment of a Supreme Being.
2. Belief in the resurrection and the immortality of the soul.
3. The practice of Morality and Charity.

Now, if the conjecture is true that those who framed our present ritual went on the lines of these ancient mysteries, and worked in, as far as they could, the ceremonies used in conferring the grades among the old operative Masons, we can arrive at some idea as to the present arrangement of our Degrees, and hence it became necessary that in the Third Degree both death, resurrection, and immortality should be typified; and one is not surprised to find that the Third Degree should be enlarged and elaborated by the arrangement of the ceremony of the Royal Arch. In Prichard's "Masonry Dissected" (already referred to) we find these questions and answers—

"Where are you going? To the West from the East."

"What are you going to do there? To seek for that which was lost and is now found."

This, I think, puts a different complexion on the Third Degree to what we are accustomed.

Acting on these thoughts, what may we say of Freemasonry?

The First Degree points out to us the birth of man; the world is all before him, unknown, untried, with its cares, struggles, and perplexities. The Second Degree represents man in the strength of his years, and he is bidden to extend his researches into the more hidden mysteries of nature and science. His attention is directed to mental improvement and enlightenment, which only can render him a fit member of society. He is taught to improve himself, to know the advantage of refining studies, to render himself useful in his generation, and to endeavour to leave the world better than he found it. In the Third Degree his attention is forcibly directed to the lessons which nature teaches; he is led to

* Masonic Facts and Fictions.

† Hughan's English Masonic Rite, page 46.

‡ One of the only three copies of this very rare and valuable book is in the Library of West Yorkshire, and is in the best condition of the trio. A facsimile has been published by Bro. Richard Jackson, Leeds.

§ Hughan's "English Masonic Rite," page 17.

|| A copy of this document will be found in the *Ahiman Reson*.

* A.Q.C. xi.—55.

† "English Masonic Rite," page 15.

‡ Have been reprinted by the Cincinnati Masonic Archaeological Society, copies having been kindly lent by Bro. W. Watson, P.P.S.G.W.; the former is also found in Bro. Gould's "History of Freemasonry."

contemplate the closing hour of his existence, and finally taught "how to die." In the Royal Arch Degree he is instructed to look beyond the grave, and to contemplate the beauties of eternity. In all the ancient mysteries we find, under different names, the same central figures—birth, life, death, resurrection, and regeneration are symbolically depicted to us, and as in these religious cults of old, great and glorious truths were unfolded to the aspirant, so in our system of Masonry high and sublime mysteries are disclosed, and a perfect system of morality is laid down for our guidance.

If, then, in the Holy Royal Arch is the full completion of Masonic teaching and symbolism, why do we find so little interest displayed in the Order?

It was thought at one time that the interval of 12 months between Master Mason and Royal Arch was prejudicial to the success of the Degree, and, therefore, in Grand Chapter on 1st November, 1893, after due notice, it was moved by Comp. Robert Grey, President of the Committee of General Purposes, that "that interval be reduced to four weeks." He and others assured Grand Chapter that a probation so long "had been productive of great harm to Royal Arch Masonry," and that expressions of opinion from all parts of England had been unanimous in favour of the change. In support of the motion, Comp. the Rev. J. Studholme Brownrigg said he was "quite certain there would be a great revival of the Order if the time were shortened to four weeks," and Comp. W. A. Scurrah said that he was "convinced if the alteration is made, we should have a large number of candidates for Royal Arch Masonry, and the Royal Arch would then be what it should be."

Well, companions, that alteration was agreed to, and at a subsequent meeting of Grand Chapter in February, 1894, notwithstanding a motion of Comp. Le Feuvre to the contrary, the minutes were confirmed in an assembly of 150 members by a majority of 18. The numbers were 83 for the confirmation and 65 against. Now, I am not to-day going to argue either for or against the change. I only ask, has it been justified? Let me give you a few figures.

I tried to get statistics from all the provinces, and, through the courtesy of the respective Secretaries, I have obtained complete returns from 27. These include all the large ones, but not London. In these 27 provinces in 1890 there were

908 Lodges with 45,243 Members;
356 Chapters with 10,279 Members.

This works out to 22½ per cent. of Royal Arch Masons to Craft Masons. Eight years afterwards (that is in 1898) the same 27 provinces had

1008 Lodges with 55,413 Members;
407 Chapters with 12,770 Members;

or 23 per cent. Between 1890 and 1898, therefore, the percentage of increase was hardly appreciable.

Let us look at the facts from another point of view. The change in the term of probation from 12 months to four weeks took place in 1893. I will take five years before that date and compare it with five years after it.

From 1888 to 1892 the total of Grand Lodge certificates issued to
Lodges under its jurisdiction numbered ... 41,168
Grand Chapter Certificates ... 9,384

From 1894 to 1898 the numbers were

Grand Lodge Certificates ... 45,052
Grand Chapter Certificates ... 10,025

The percentage of Royal Arch to Craft certificates issued since the change, therefore, is actually less than before, it being 22½ in the first instance and 22½ in the second.

This is remarkable, and disposes somewhat summarily of the arguments of our excellent Comps. Robert Grey, Rev. J. Studholme Brownrigg, and W. A. Scurrah.

Figures for London I have not been able to get, so that I am not in a position to say how they stand, but it must be very gratifying to you Most Excellent, as Grand Superintendent of West Yorkshire, to know that this province, although it has fewer chapters than some, has above 100 more Royal Arch Masons on its roll than any one of the 27 provinces I have referred to, and that the percentage of Royal Arch Masons to Craft Masons with us is 37½, whereas in some very large provinces I could name the proportion is down to 15 per cent., and even as low as 13 per cent.

It has also been urged that the working of the other Degrees, called according to the disposition of those who speak of them "side" Degrees or "higher" Degrees, acts detrimentally towards the Royal Arch. This is entirely erroneous, for it must be borne in mind that in most, if not all, these cases, admission is granted only to those who are already Chapter Masons. It is true, under the English Constitution, this is not so with regard to the Mark, it being one of the few exceptions. In Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and in the United States it is only after taking the Mark* that a brother can join a Royal Arch chapter at all, and with regard to Mark Masons, under the English Constitution, I don't know how it may be in other provinces, but in West Yorkshire I find, after careful inquiry, that in one Mark lodge 95 per cent. of the members are Royal Arch Masons, in another 94, and that the average for all the 15 lodges in the province is as high as 67 per cent.

We may, therefore, dismiss this contention as groundless, and look elsewhere for explanation.

I was very much struck with an editorial paragraph which appeared in the *Freemason* newspaper of 5th August last. Speaking of the previous meeting of Grand Chapter the writer said: "There was no great attendance of the companions, while the business was of the usual routine character. The proceedings, therefore, were very speedily at an end. It is just possible that if there were more to do at these quarterly meetings, greater energy might be shown by the private chapters, and greater interest taken generally in the work of the Royal Arch. But how can we expect greater activity and zeal in the inferior bodies when there is none exhibited by the superior?"

In some cases, doubtless, indifference, or shall I say ignorance, is the explanation. I myself was told more than 30 years ago, when seeking to enter the Degree, that until I had passed the chair in my lodge it was useless joining the Royal Arch. Another instance, I may mention, has come under my notice. In this case a brother entered a lodge, passed through the various offices, served W.M., and continued an active and useful P.M., and during the whole of those 20 years of regular attendance, although there was a chapter attached to his lodge, it was not even suggested to him that he ought to take the Royal Arch Degree.

Only the other day I was talking to a young Mason of 12 months' standing, who, in reply to my inquiry about the chapter, said he had been told he could not take the Degree until he was an Installed Master.

From this we see how the "old rules" or "old ideas" linger. Formerly, no one could take the Royal Arch till he had been "passed" through the chair of a Craft lodge, hence we find in some old minute books of 100 years ago such entries as his "brother Williams 'passed' the chair to enable him to take the Royal Arch."

Then there is the action of Grand Chapter itself. A brother who is selected and appointed an officer in the Grand Lodge of England (if a Royal Arch Mason) becomes or is made also an officer of Grand Chapter. Cases are known of brethren who have not entered a chapter for years, who, though they have nominally passed through the Principals' chairs, could not even open a chapter, still less go through a ceremony; and yet to these brethren are awarded high honours

in Grand Chapter! Can we be surprised at the little interest taken in the Degree, and is this likely to stimulate enthusiasm? How must it affect those who have spent, and are willing to spend, their time and their energies in diffusing the knowledge they have carefully gathered in regard to Royal Arch Masonry? Of course it is easy to say that work so performed should be disinterested, and that virtue is its own reward, but you and I, companions, know better. We know that human nature revolts when it sees honour bestowed where it is neither sought nor deserved, whilst at the same time the labourer, let him be never so worthy, does not even obtain his well-earned hire. Conducted on lines like these, how can we expect the Royal Arch to be popular?

And what is the remedy? Many suggestions have been offered. One is that Grand Chapter should go back to what it was originally, and sever its connection as an organisation with Grand Lodge altogether. If this is not considered practicable, then, at least, Grand Chapter should take care that office in that body should be conferred not on nominal, but upon real Royal Arch Masons; not upon the indifferent drones, but upon the working bees of the chapters. Let those in authority remove this injustice—for such it is—let them offer some encouragement to the band of deserving enthusiasts, without whose steadfast application and devotion Royal Arch Masonry would speedily die of inanition, and there may then be some hope of an improved condition of matters.

I fear, companions, I have tried your patience, have perhaps wearied you. Let me, however, briefly sum up. I have pointed out the time and circumstances under which our Three Degrees probably originated. I have sketched, so far as it is known, the rise of the Royal Arch Degree as a Degree. I have looked at our great Masonic system from a philosophic point of view, as well as from its practical side. I have touched upon the lack of interest in the Royal Arch, discussed the supposed causes, and even put forth suggested remedies. And now, so far as this province is concerned, the conduct and progress of Royal Arch Masonry is in your own hands. If it is worthy of support, which I honestly believe, then let us use our utmost endeavours to place it in the position of power and dignity, which the beauties of its ceremonial and the excellence of its teaching so eminently fit it to assume, and let West Yorkshire, at least, no longer lie under the stigma of indifference to this, the most sublime and impressive of our Masonic Degrees.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF WEST YORKSHIRE.

The half-yearly meeting of the West Yorkshire Mark Masons took place at the Central Hall, Elland, on Wednesday, the 15th ult., and was very well attended.

A new Mark lodge was consecrated at Elland, as reported in our columns, in April, 1896, and it shows considerable enterprise on the part of its members to venture, being so young a lodge, to invite and entertain the province. This, however, they did, and very well too.

The Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Charles Letch Mason, entered at 4.30 p.m. He was supported by the Deputy, Bro. John Barker, and by the following officers, Present and Past:

Bros. W. W. Clayton, P.M. 374, S.G.W.; G. H. Parke, J.P., W.M. 110, P.P.G.W., P.G. Treas., as J.G.W.; J. W. Monckman, J.P., P.M. (T.I.), P.G.D. Eng.; Austin Roberts, P.M. 58, W. E. Smithies, P.M. 493, G. Stwd, Eng., and H. S. Holdsworth, P.M. 58, P.G. Std. Br. Eng., P.P.G. Wardens; G. Martin, P.M. (T.I.), Prov. G.M.O.; Wm. Flockton, W.M. 111, P.P.G.O., as Prov. S.G.O.; T. Robertshaw, P.M. 58, as Prov. J.G.O.; S. Jacob, P.M. 352, W. H. Kingswell, P.M. 110, Wm. Haigh, P.M. 14, and W. Cockcroft, P.M. 501, P.P.G. Overseers; Rev. J. W. Clough, Chap. (T.I.), Prov. G. Chap.; Rev. J. Maxon Walton, M.A., S.W. 501, P.P.G. Chap.; Henry Beaumont, P.M. 14, P.P.G. Treas., as Prov. G. Treas.; A. J. Forsdike, P.M. 53, Prov. G. Reg.; Joseph Matthewman, P.M. 110, P.G. Sec.; T. G. Howell, P.M. 137 and 493, P.P.G.D., as Prov. S.G.D.; M. A. Brigg, P.M. 374, Prov. J.G.D.; G. H. Schofield, P.M. 457, Prov. G.I. of Wks.; A. E. Dalzell, P.M. 58, and Wm. Senior, P.M. 127, P.P.G. Ins. of Works; Jas. Simpson, P.M. 14 and 501, Prov. Asst. G.D. of C.; A. Leach, P.M. 110, and G. Patchett, P.M. 58, P.P.G. Ds. of Cs.; J. W. Blackburn, P.M. 111, Prov. G.S.B.; A. Armitage, P.M. 137, P.P.G.S.B.; G. Cliff Gamble, P.M. (T.I.), Prov. G. Std. Br.; T. H. Pattinson, P.M. (T.I.), P.P.G.O., as Prov. G. Org.; Joe Naylor, P.M. 137, Prov. G.I.G.; C. E. Rose, P.M. 58, A. G. Mabin, P.M. 457, A. Rowe, P.M. 493, and W. Chambers, P.M. 501, Prov. G. Stwds.; and T. H. Wheeler, Tyler 111, Prov. G. Tyler.

Amongst other brethren present there were

Bros. Joshua Hill, W.M., Jos. Smith, and W. Wagstaffe, all of Old York (T.I.); Tom Ashworth, W.M., and G. Pickles, S.O. 14; A. J. Forsdike, P.M. 53; Jas. Milligan, S.W., S. Thompson, A. Worsnop, J. Whitley, J. Douglas, George Whitley, Sec., J. T. Wood, W. Fielding, and T. Buckland, I.G. 58; Robt. J. Smith, I.P.M. 111; C. H. Hutchinson, 127; J. H. Dyson, S.W., W.M. elect, and Joe Sykes, Sec. 137; F. Long, M.O. 374; J. E. Mann, S.W., and T. Beever, 457; A. Maude, S.W., Geo. Hoyle, M.D., J.W., R. E. Heaton, M.O., A. E. Mitchell, S.O., A. W. Law, J.O., A. Fielding, D.C., J. W. Beauland, S.D., H. Littlewood, J.D., J. Carter, and S. Hoyle, 493.

Bro. J. W. Monckman kindly undertook the duties of D. of C., and discharged those duties admirably.

The W.M. of the Elland Lodge, Bro. John Brook, P.P.G. Org., was, unfortunately, too unwell to be present.

The roll of lodges was called by the Prov. G. Registrar. All were represented but one. The Prov. G. Officers were most of them in attendance, and the Past Provincial members numbered upwards of 50. There were many apologies announced by the Prov. G. Secretary.

The minutes of the annual meeting, held at Huddersfield on Wednesday, April 5th, 1899, were submitted, taken as read, and confirmed, having been previously circulated in a printed form.

The Prov. G. MASTER then gave the following address:

Brethren, my first duty, after acknowledging your kind salutations, is to congratulate the Elland Lodge, No. 493, under whose banner we meet, upon the progress it has made during the short period which has elapsed since its formation. It was my privilege to consecrate this lodge on the 14th April, 1896—say three and a half years ago. It commenced its career with 15 members, and now it numbers 37. Its condition is, I am told, financially and Masonically, sound and satisfactory, and it must be a matter of great gratification to its founders to see how thoroughly justified their action has been. It shows alike the wonderful energy of its individual members and the intense Masonic vitality in this Calder valley. Since Elland was formed, two other Mark lodges have sprung into existence—Caldene, No. 501, at Hebden Bridge, and Haywra, No. 525, at Harrogate. The former was consecrated in 1896, but the Harrogate one only during the present year. Caldene, I hear, is doing well, and as to Haywra, when I say that its first W.M. is my excellent Deputy, Bro. John Barker, and that his Wardens are the first and second W.Ms. of the newest Craft lodge in this province, I think you

* Some Grand Lodges encourage and work the Mark as Scotland.

will easily understand that I have no fears as to its prosperity and progress. I wish I could speak as confidently with respect to one or two other lodges under my jurisdiction. There are certainly two, perhaps three, whose condition does not realise one's wishes. I need not particularise; but will only say it would give me very great pleasure to see these lodges emerge from their present unsatisfactory state, and take their places, and do the work which they are eminently fitted to accomplish. They do not lack examples, for the vigour which is manifested at Bradford, Halifax, Sheffield, Leeds, and other towns, if witnessed, as I have seen it, is sufficient to stimulate the energies and re-ignite the enthusiasm of even the most desponding members of our Order. But, brethren, in respect of the lodges to which I refer there is no cause for despondency; you may apparently (so far as your numbers are concerned) be at a standstill, but you may yet keep up your work; yet practise and carry out the great principles of Mark Masonry; yet keep alive the vital flame, and, if it is feeble, you may fan it into a warmer glow until it once more permeates the hearts of those who were apparently becoming indifferent. Work, such as this, is I know difficult; is sometimes thankless; but such work goes never unrewarded. Hear the excellent advice and encouragement which is found in the words of our good Bro. Driver, which I venture to quote from the *Freemason* newspaper:

May we in times of fear and doubt,
Learn never to despair,
If haply for a while it seems
That God rejects our prayer;
Let us, as faithful Masons, still
Bear constantly in mind,
Although delayed, our work at last
Will sure acceptance find.

I assure you, brethren, I have no feeling of despondency; I know what is going on and I see around me causes for great satisfaction. The steady progress which our Order continues to make from year to year is in the highest degree pleasing and with the confidence obtained by past experience I can, unhesitatingly, leave the future in your hands. But, brethren, not only has Mark Masonry progressed in our midst but, as some of you at any rate know, so also have the other Degrees with which it is closely allied. There are at the present moment in this province three lodges of Royal Ark Mariners with a speedy possibility of a fourth; three councils of Allied Masonic Degrees; one council of Royal and Select Masters; and two conclaves of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine. All these are associated, more or less, with the Mark Degree, and the supreme authority is, I believe, in all instances the same. These Degrees have greatly increased amongst us of late years, notwithstanding that by some they are looked upon with something approaching disdain. It is not for me either to defend them or advocate their cause, but this I will say, that it is not to the success of the Mark and its Allied Degrees that the lack of progress which is so much lamented in the Royal Arch is to be attributed. I am preparing a paper upon the Three Degrees and the Royal Arch, in which I shall go into details upon this point, and whilst I was getting my materials together I went out of my way to obtain some statistical information which will, I think, prove interesting. I propose to read that paper at the next meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter, and you will, therefore, most of you, have an opportunity of hearing it. I say this advisedly, for, notwithstanding what has been suggested to our prejudice, this fact remains—that the *great bulk of the Mark Masons in West Yorkshire are also Chapter Masons*. In one Mark lodge I could name no less than 95 per cent. of its members are Royal Arch Masons; in another, 94; in two others 78 and 73. The lowest percentage of all is 45; whilst the average percentage per lodge is 67; and yet it has been more than hinted that it is the Mark and the other "side" Degrees that check the progress of the Royal Arch! If the Royal Arch is what it professes to be, it is the bounden duty of every Craft Mason to join it, and yet out of the 4142 Craft Masons in West Yorkshire there are 2583 who have not done so. The percentage of Royal Arch to Craft Masons in this province is 37, whilst that amongst Mark Masons is 67. We shall surely now have heard the last of this very erroneous statement, and, even if not, after this we can afford to disregard it. I think it is also my duty, brethren, to remind you that at the next Festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund our M.W. Pro G.M., the Earl of Euston, will preside. When he last took the chair he obtained a larger sum than had been ever previously announced. But his total has been since that time twice exceeded, once by myself, when, in 1896, by your loyal support and munificent help, West Yorkshire sent up no less than £741, raising the grand total to £2439—the largest then known—and again in the following year, when, under the presidency of the late Colonel Cooke, over £3000 was collected. Now, doubtless our Pro G. Master, Lord Euston, will seek to exceed even this sum. Well, brethren, such emulation springs from a charitable spirit and a generous heart, and I for one most thoroughly, wish that he may outshine all his predecessors, and, to use newspaper phraseology, "create a new record." And, with your consent and co-operation, we in this province will help him to do it. We have excellent reasons for supporting the Mark Benevolent Fund: firstly because of its economical administration; secondly, because of its prompt and ready generosity; and thirdly, because now in West Yorkshire we have both pensioners as well as other recipients of its advantages. The Chairman of the Charity Committee will give you particulars. I am content to say that this province has always met with the kindest consideration at the hands of those who dispense the funds of the Charity, and in no instance has its prayer been slighted or disregarded. I trust West Yorkshire will give Lord Euston a good "lift by the way," and thus show its appreciation of the benefits which, especially during the last 18 months, it has obtained. There is one other subject to which I should like in a few words to refer. It is a common notion that acting Prov. G. Officers are—shall I say—a purely ornamental body of brethren, whose duty consists in wearing their collars gracefully and attending the meetings of Prov. G. Lodge. Now I wish it clearly to be understood that I do not look upon the matter in this light. I consider it is the duty of all Prov. G. Officers, Present or Past, but especially the former, to do their best in the interest of the province. This they can do by regularly attending their own lodge and constantly visiting others. With a view to induce greater activity and a greater sense of responsibility amongst my officers I have commenced a series of official lodge visits, in which I have summoned, not all, but some, of my officers to accompany me, and I hope that whether called to this duty or not, they will look upon it as an obligation which their office imposes, to go from time to time to the various lodges to acquaint themselves as to the welfare and progress of such lodges, and to offer help or counsel wherever it may be sought or needed. They possess great power for good, and I trust they will use it. And now, brethren, I think I have said all that under present circumstances is needed. I thank you for your kind attention, and will conclude with the hope that you will all continue to give that devoted service to the good cause of Mark Masonry, which has so eminently characterised you in the past, and which the immense value and importance of the Institution so genuinely warrant.

The Prov. Grand Master's address was listened to with great attention and interest and was frequently applauded.

Bro. C. LETCH MASON then announced that at the first Provincial meeting of the Mark Degree in the new Masonic Hall, Leeds, about to be erected, it was his intention to invite the M.W. Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Euston, to pay the province a visit, and he had little doubt but that his lordship would again honour them with his presence.

There were no invitations offered for the annual meeting in April, 1900, and any lodges having a desire to entertain Provincial Grand Lodge were directed to communicate with the Prov. Grand Secretary.

The Prov. G.M. then invited his Deputy, Bro. John Barker, to address the meeting.

Bro. BARKER said—
Brethren, turning over in my mind the events of the year and trying to deduce from them something definite or tangible has proved a somewhat profitless task. The fact is there has been no incident which has come under my notice since I last addressed you, which would serve either "to point a moral or adorn a tale." This I regard as being distinctly favourable, as it shows we have been pursuing "the even tenour of our way" undisturbed by inside commotions or outside attacks. Let us continue to do this, brethren, and by exchanging visits and hospitality, let us bring into a closer bond that pleasant union which exists among Mark Masons. As has been often stated the Mark Degree possesses peculiar privileges. It brings together not the brethren of one lodge only, but those of many lodges. It is natural that one should become attached to one's mother lodge; it is even pardonable if one considers it unrivalled in its working and unequalled in its moral and social tone. Such *esprit de corps* is becoming, nay even creditable; but when one joins a Mark lodge the field of vision is enlarged and a wider and more comprehensive view of matters is presented to us. Here we meet brethren from possibly six or eight different lodges, and by contact with them the little angular prejudices or conceits are rubbed away; we begin to see that there are virtues or good qualities in other lodges hitherto unsuspected or at any rate unadmited, and we gradually attain to a more tolerant frame of mind. This species of Masonic mental training is distinctly beneficial and removes or prevents that tendency to exclusiveness which is sometimes so prominently conspicuous. By thus intermingling it is found to be much easier to put in practice the Masonic virtues taught in all our lodges. Let us, then, continue the good work. We have every inducement to do so. Let us visit freely amongst each other, and let us ever strive, when making new acquaintances, to discover a brother's good points, and not trouble to search for bad ones. Freemasonry is a noble institution, and its capabilities are immense. In theory it is perfect, but its practice is limited by human weaknesses and human failings. Those are ever with us, but let us not magnify the one nor exaggerate the other; let us take our brother man as God made him. In the words of Scotland's poet, Bobbie Burns, himself a Mason, I would say—

Then gently scan your brother man,
Still gentler sister woman;
Tho' they may gang a kennin' wrang,
To step aside is human.
One point must still be greatly dark,
The reason why they do it,
And just as lamely can ye mark
How far perhaps they rue it.
* * * * *
Then at the balance let's be mute,
We never can adjust it;
What's done we partly may compute,
But know not what's resisted.

That, I take it, is Christian Charity, which is the true philosophy of Freemasonry; and it is in this spirit we should endeavour to exemplify its teachings. I seem to have got into a somewhat serious vein, brethren, but as "Life is real, life is earnest," so should our Freemasonry be genuine and its practice warm-hearted and reverential, and it is well sometimes that depths should be sounded, faith should be tested, and facts looked fairly in the face. As you have heard, we are a flourishing and increasing body, let us set up a high moral standard, and let us, so far as human possibilities go, endeavour to put into practice in our daily lives the lessons we are so consistently taught in our lodges. Accept my thanks for your hearty salutations, and let me add finally a reminder to W.M.s. and Treasurers that this is the time when they should show extra activity in order that we may continue as in the past two years to be absolutely free from arrears.

The DEPUTY then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the W.M., Bro. John Brook, and the brethren of the Eland Lodge, No. 493, for the excellent arrangements which they had made for the comfort and convenience of Prov. G. Lodge that day. He deplored the unfortunate absence of Bro. Brook, and especially the cause, and would wish to include in his thanks, by name, Bro. W. E. Smithies, whose interest in Mark Masonry had been conspicuous, and whose hard work in, and attachment to, the Lodge of Eland, of which he was the first W.M., had been most exemplary.

This was seconded by the Prov. S.G.W., Bro. W. W. Clayton, and carried with acclamation.

Bro. SMITHIES, on behalf of Bro. John Brook, acknowledged the vote. There being no other business, Prov. G. Lodge was closed in due form with solemn prayer at 5 45 p.m.

A dinner at the Masonic Hall followed, at which upwards of 50 brethren sat down. The Prov. G. Master took the chair, and was supported by his Deputy and a long array of Grand and Prov. G. Officers.

"The Queen" was most heartily given and received, and the other toasts usual on these occasions followed.

There were also songs and recitations, which largely added to the pleasure of an evening which was universally admitted to be a very successful one.

Mark Masonry.

Snowdonia Lodge, No. 259.

The annual installation in connection with the above lodge took place on the 15th ult. at the Masonic Hall, Menai Bridge, North Wales. Bro. R. C. Thomas was installed W.M., the installing Master being Bro. the Rev. John Fairchild. The W.M. appointed the following as his officers: Bros. the Rev. J. Fairchild, I.P.M.; J. A. Rodway, S.W.; T. Westlake Morgan, G. Org. Eng., J.W.; W. Douglas Jones, M.O.; W. A. Forster, S.O.; Philip E. Jones, J.O.; Rev. J. Fairchild, Chap.; D. Wynne Williams, P.M.; P.P.J.G.W., R. of M.; W. A. Foster, Sec.; Dr. H. Grey Edwards, S.D.; J. Ringer Williams, J.D.; J. A. Hornby, I.G.; R. H. Pritchard, P.P.G. Reg., D. of C.; J. James and R. W. Pearson, Stwds.; and J. Powis, Tyler. The lodge was visited by Bros. Lieut.-Col. Charles Hunter, Prov. G. Master of North Wales, and Lieut.-Col. G. Gordon Warren, Dep. Prov. G. Master. The resignation of Bro. J. W. Fendick, as Treasurer was notified; and a motion by Bro. J. A. Rodway in favour of the removal of the lodge from Menai Bridge to Bangor, where the great bulk of the brethren reside, was agreed to.

The banquet was served at the Victoria Hotel, the W.M. presiding.
The Mark Prov. G. Lodge is to be held at Bangor on the 19th or 20th inst.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.—The annual convention of the Royal British Nurses' Association will be held at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, Piccadilly, on Monday, the 4th inst.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1899.

Masonic Notes.

The regular Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge will be held at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 6th instant, at seven p.m., when a full and varied programme of business will be laid before the brethren. Much of this is of the usual character, and includes nominations for the offices of Grand Master and Grand Treasurer, the appointment and investiture of a President of the Board of Benevolence, and the election of the Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents, as well as of 12 Past Masters to serve on the same Board. The Reports of the Boards of Benevolence and General Purposes will also be submitted, the latter containing one principal recommendation to the effect that certain lodges in New Zealand, to the number of 20, which were formerly under our Constitution, but have already placed themselves, or have decided to place themselves, under that of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, should be erased from the roll of Grand Lodge. Of these 20 lodges, one has heretofore been included in the District of Canterbury, 12 in that of Otago and Southland—leaving only four under the rule of Bro. T. Sherlock Graham, Dist. G.M.—one in the Westland District, two in Auckland, and four which were not constituents of any Dist. Grand Lodge.

As for the other business, there are two Notices of Motion and two Appeals, of which one is against the ruling of the Deputy District Grand Master of Jamaica and the other against a decision of the Deputy District G.M. and the District Board of General Purposes of the District Grand Lodge of South Africa (Central Division). One of the Notices of Motion has been given by Bro. the Rev. F. Bethune N. Norman-Lee, G. Chaplain, and contemplates the addition of a

clause to Article 165, Book of Constitutions, while the other stands in the name of Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., P.G.W., and proposes a grant of 1000 guineas from the funds of Grand Lodge to the Mansion House Transvaal War Fund, to be distributed in certain proportions among the branches of the said Fund. The acceptance of this proposal for grants may be looked upon as a foregone conclusion, either in the manner suggested or in one that may be deemed preferable.

Mark Grand Lodge will hold its regular Quarterly Communication at Mark Masons' Hall, on Tuesday, the 5th instant, when the nominations for the offices of Grand Master and Grand Treasurer for the year 1900-1 will be made. But the chief interest will centre in the report of the General Board.

From this report we learn that warrants for four new Mark lodges and one new Royal Ark Mariner lodge have been granted since the previous report, two of the former being for the Provinces of Essex and Derbyshire respectively, and the other two for Districts Abroad—Natal and Burma—while the Royal Ark Mariner lodge will be attached to a Mark lodge in the District of Bengal. We are further informed that during the quarter ending 30th September there were issued 229 Mark certificates, raising the total number of registered Mark Master Masons to 40,452; and 42 Royal Ark Mariner certificates, raising the total number registered as having been elevated to that Degree to 6056. We are further informed that his Royal Highness, the M.W.G. Mark Master, has been pleased to appoint for a further term of three years Bro. T. F. Halsey, M.P., as Prov. G.M.M. of Hertfordshire, and Bro. Chas. Roper Martin as Dist. G.M.M. Victoria. Two Mark lodges in the District of Victoria have returned their warrants, and a Mark lodge, with R.A.M. lodge attached, having been reported by the Dist. G.M.M. Bengal as not having had any meeting since 1882, the Board recommend they be removed from the roll of lodges.

Perhaps the most satisfactory announcement contained in the Report is to the effect that the difficulty in the Ashton Mark District has been solved in a manner which reflects the greatest credit on all who had a hand in bringing about the solution. The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for the Ashton-under-Lyne District has been formally dissolved, and its funds voted to certain Masonic Charities in Lancashire and Cheshire; and a warrant of confirmation has been granted to 36 of its former members as "The Ashton District Lodge, T.L.," to rank fifth on the Roll of Lodges. Our opinion is that this difficulty ought never to have been allowed to arise, but that having arisen, no better or more honourable mode of determining it could have been adopted. Moreover, the happiness of this solution is greatly enhanced by the considerateness of the Pro Grand Mark Master, the Earl of Euston, in proposing to hold a Moveable Grand Lodge in Cheshire early next year for the purpose of consecrating and constituting the new lodge.

We must not omit to mention that a motion will be made to grant 100 guineas from the funds of Mark Grand Lodge to be paid over to the *Daily Telegraph* Shilling Fund for our Soldiers' Widows and Orphans.

The half-yearly Chapter of the Great Priory of the Order of the Temple will be held at Mark Masons' Hall on Friday, the 8th inst., at 5 p.m. Here, also, in the course of the proceedings a motion will be submitted for a grant of 100 guineas to be made from the General Fund of the Order to the *Daily Telegraph* Shilling Fund for the widows and orphans of our soldiers and sailors. The report of the Council will also be submitted, and when Great Priory has been closed, a chapter of the Great Priory of the Order of Malta will be opened for the admission as members of those Knights Templar who have previously signified their desire to join the Order. The usual banquet—tickets one guinea each—will be held at the adjoining Freemasons' Tavern at 7 p.m.

The Report of the Council is a somewhat lengthy document, containing matter of more than usual interest. Some account is given of the Fourth Annual Conference of the three Templar governing bodies in the United Kingdom—the Great Priors of England and Ireland, and the Chapter General of Scotland—in Dublin, on the 14th April, there being also present the M.E. General J. Corson Smith, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Encampment of the United States.

One of the points considered at this meeting had reference to the interchange of representatives with our other Templar Governing Bodies, and it was explained by General Smith that the Grand Commanderies in sundry of the States had no authority to make such interchange, the only body so entitled being the Grand Encampment. It was stated that there had been a correspondence between the Grand Commandery of Kentucky of the one part, and the Great Priory of Ireland and the Chapter General of Scotland of the other, in which it was affirmed that such representation already existed between the former and the two latter. It was pointed out that the Templar Bodies in Ireland and Scotland had never appointed representatives, and General Smith added that, if such appointments had been made, they would have been irregular. The matter was left over for further consideration at the next annual conference.

Another matter that came under discussion had reference to the existence in Melbourne, Colony of Victoria, of a body styling itself "The Sovereign Great Priory of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, for Victoria, Australia," the English delegates pointing out that the Great Priory of England already had a Provincial Priory in the Colony. Ultimately, it was agreed unanimously that the so-called Sovereign Great Priory of Victoria was not a legitimate Templar body, and that all intercourse between it and the Templar bodies of the United Kingdom be prohibited.

The Council further mention that the Fifth Annual Templar Conference will be held at Mark Masons' Hall, London, on Thursday, the 10th May, 1900, being the day immediately preceding the half-yearly Chapter of Great Priory. It was also announced that the M.E. the Marquis of Breadalbane had been appointed to represent the Great Priory of England at the Chapter-General of Scotland, and the M.E. the Earl of Euston the Chapter-General of Scotland, at the Great Priory of England.

The Great Treasurer's Statements of Account show balances amounting to £497 on the General Fund and £117 on the Benevolent, so that financially, as in other respects, the Templar Order in England is in a prosperous condition.

The St. Alban's Lodge, No. 29, was consecrated on the 29th ult. by the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. T. F. Halsey, M.P., in the presence of a large gathering, and Bro. C. O. Burgess, Prov. G.W. Berks, was installed as the first W. Master. Although the meeting was a complete success, the proceedings were somewhat marred by the news—only received the previous evening—of the sudden death of Bro. G. E. Lake, Dep. Prov. G. Master, which occurred on the 28th ult. Bro. Lake was to have performed the installation ceremony after the consecration, and his loss, which was referred to in feeling terms by the Prov. G. Master, will be severely felt throughout the Province of Herts. We shall refer next week to our deceased brother's valuable services to Freemasonry, and shall also give a full report of the consecration proceedings.

It is with great regret we announce that Bro. E. L. P. Valeriani, who, in 1897, had the brevet rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer conferred upon him by the M.W.G.M., died, after a prolonged illness, on Sunday, the 26th ult.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dorsetshire was held at Blandford on Monday, the 27th ult., under the presidency of Bro. Montague J. Guest, Prov. G.M. A large sum was voted to the War Fund, and the services of Bro. J. H. Whadcoat, J.P., P. Prov. G.W., as Steward at next year's Benevolent Festival were cordially accepted. Particulars next week.

We understand that steps have been taken for the formation of an independent Grand Lodge for the Colony of Western Australia and that one English lodge has resolved on remaining in its old allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England. We are not surprised that this step should have been taken by our West Australian brethren, who we know have for some time past been contemplating such a change. To this, no doubt, is due the rush for warrants for new lodges to which we have drawn attention more than once.

Among the items of news which will delight our Mark readers is the formal announcement which was made in Mark Grand Lodge on Tuesday, that the Earl of Euston, Pro G. Mark Master, has consented to preside at next year's Festival in aid of the Mark Benevolent Fund.

Correspondence.

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

THE "PORCHWAY" AND "VAGRANTS."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have been greatly interested and instructed in perusing the series of "Communicated" articles you have published recently relating to the symbols of the Craft and their meaning. The article in your last issue on above subject deals with the pillars or columns, and although the writer suggests that many fanciful meanings may be given to the columns, yet he does not appear to identify their original signification and derivation.

No doubt some laxity and variation has crept into the ordering and ritual of the symbols which has created much confusion, which even the oldest and best of Preceptors cannot explain; in fact, I have witnessed different interpretations of the same symbol and ritual in the same lodge by different Preceptors, but to err is human. I submit the columns or pillars refer to the vernal and autumnal equinoctial points at which the line of the ecliptic crosses the line of the equator, the sun shines directly over these points or lines called pillars or columns at the March (spring) and September (autumn), and the days and nights are then equal all over the world.

No doubt this was all clear till the confusion set in when the M.M. and R.A. Degrees were made separate elaborations of the Second and Third Degrees, because now the column or pillar of the J.W. is referred to as the sun in the south, and S.W.'s column or pillar as the moon, and then later as the setting sun, and I think the J.W.'s column ought to be perpendicular when at work and not horizontal. Again, your writer speaks of the left-hand pillar being north, but the J.W. is in the south, and I have read that it is in the east; here, again, is a charming puzzle to solve. This maze and confusion tend to make us more learned, but searching in studying for clues by which to get at the secret of the maze.

Now a word re vagrants, please. Our Yorkshire brethren can easily stop this little game by reducing relief to such a low minimum as to make it not worth while to beg for it. Our Yorkshire brothers are probably more liberal than they are in the south, for considering the paltry sums given in relief, I have been surprised at times that any brother can be so lost to self respect as to ask for it. The system must be very lax and bad that permits vagrancy. No brother ought to be relieved except from his own lodge direct and then only when he can show some recent connection with the Craft. I remember a brother being relieved twice, who admitted that for over 16 years he had not attended any lodge, and he had utterly lost all knowledge of the signs and passwords. Such relief as this brings the Craft into disrepute, and I believe that no brother ought to expect any financial returns for any sums contributed to the Craft. Masonry is not a benefit society so we are told, hence, why expect relief.—Yours fraternally,

T. MAY, 754.

Tottenham,
November, 22nd.

A PERTINENT QUERY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Will you or one of your correspondents kindly inform your readers of the legal Masonic interpretation of "he was thereupon initiated into Freemasonry," in accordance with the Fiat of the late W.M.?

This word "Fiat" of W.M. I do so want thrashed out. Many are misled, and the latest Book of Constitution does not appear to admit the power of "Fiat" by a W.M., but so many old and good brethren that I personally know are members of the lodge in question that I am sure they would not willingly err. Yet on a similar procedure I was ruled out of order many years back.—Yours fraternally,

P.M. 167.

November 25th.

WEST YORKSHIRE AND THE VAGRANT.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In your issue of the 18th instant you have an article on "West Yorkshire and the Masonic Vagrant," and attributing a resolution which provides "that in every city or town where more than one lodge is located for one Almoner only to be appointed."

This same resolution has been in operation in the Province of Sussex since 1896, and, more, the relief is only given after having communicated with the Secretary of the lodge to which the itinerant applicant professes to belong.

The communication is by reply paid telegram, and has been the means of detecting many who were not in any way connected with the Craft, although in possession of signs, pass words, and in two instances of Grand Lodge certificates.

I agree with you that the only way of coping with these unprincipled itinerants is by the provinces working together, and I shall be pleased to give names of my black-listed applicants to any Almoner who may apply to

T. H. CHALLIS,
(Almoner for Brighton and Hove).

Smugglers' Club,
130-1, Arches, King's-road, Brighton.
27th November.

P.S.—Our Prov. G.M., H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, spoke very favourably of this system at the annual meeting in 1897.

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION AND YOUNG MASONS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

As an old P.M. and Past Provincial Officer, I should like to moot what seems to others besides myself the undesirable practice of putting too junior Masons through the W.M.'s chair in lodges of instruction. No one appreciates more than I do the valuable training which a properly directed lodge of instruction affords, but I have a somewhat decided view that it is not desirable to let the W.M.'s duties be taken by any brother not holding, or who has not held, office as Warden in a regular lodge, and I am not at all sure that any brother under the rank of W.M. should be allowed to perform the installation ceremony as instruction.

It is with some sense of the unfitness of things that one now and then hears a worthy brother—perhaps I.G. or Deacon in his Craft lodge—say airily, "I did a raising (or the installation) from the chair at the ——— Lodge of Instruction last week." Nearly 30 years in Masonry has led me to the conclusion that far more harm than good comes from this kind of thing, and shall be glad if my letter serves to elicit opinion on the subject.—Yours fraternally,

VIA TRITA.

November 27th.

"MASONIC NOTES."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In the *Freemason* of November 18th, in "Masonic Notes," I find it there stated that Bro. Lieut.-General Sir Charles Warren, R.E., &c., &c., is a Past Master of the Mechanics Lodge, No. 245, Jersey. Having the records of said lodge for the last 40 years in my possession, and having been Secretary for 26 years, I cannot find the name of Warren as having been a member or a P.M., I am therefore at a loss to know how such an error got into your otherwise interesting notes.—Yours fraternally,

O. DODGE, P.M. and Sec. 245,
P.P.S.G.W., &c., &c.

Milton House, David-place, Jersey.
November 25th.

THE ROYAL WARRANT HOLDERS' LODGE, No. 2789.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

It may interest you to know that on Thursday last, after the consecrating ceremony by V.W. Bro. Letchworth, I sent the following telegram to Sir Dighton Probyn:

"The founders of the Royal Warrant Holders Lodge, No. 2789, which has just been consecrated at Freemasons' Hall by the Grand Secretary, respectfully send homage to the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with gratitude for favours conferred on them.

"DANIEL MAYER, W.M."

and that I received on Friday evening the following reply:

"The Prince of Wales desires me to thank you and the founders of Royal Warrant Holders Lodge for kind telegram.

(Signed) "PROBYN."

I beg to remain yours truly and fraternally,

DANIEL MAYER,
W.M. 2789, W.M. 59.

18, Great Marlborough-street, W.
November, 27th.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

The annual meeting of the above Prov. G. Lodge was held at the Town Hall, Wisbech, under the auspices of the United Good Fellowship Lodge, No. 809, on Monday, the 27th ult. The attendance included Bros. Col. R. Townley Caldwell, Prov. G. Master; the Rev. Joseph H. Gray, P.G. Chap. Eng., Dep. Prov. G. Master; Hamon Le Strange, P.G.D. Eng., P.G.M. Norfolk; F. R. W. Hedges, P.G.S.B. Eng., Sec. R.M.I.G.; W. A. Scurrah, P.G. Std. Br. Eng.; F. Dewberry, P.S.G.W.; the Rev. A. L. Brown, P.G. Chap.; C. H. Davey, P.G. Treas.; J. Royston, P.G. Reg.; Oliver Papworth, P.G. Sec.; W. Gilling, P.J.G.D.; A. S. Bell, P.A.G.D. of C.; J. H. Foster, P.G.S.B.; and J. S. Johnson, P.G. Stwd. Sixty-two brethren attended.

The Prov. G. Lodge having been duly opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, the roll of the Prov. G. Officers was called, and also the roll of lodges.

The Prov. G. Treasurer's accounts were then presented, and showed a balance in hand.

The Prov. G. Registrar presented a return of the lodges as under: No. 88 present numbers 85; No. 441, 69; No. 809, 68; No. 859, 210; No. 1492, 20; No. 2107, 41; No. 2727, 44; total, 537. The number at the corresponding period last year was 456. Since then St. Audrey's Lodge, No. 2727, has brought an increase, but there are some duplicates. Any way, there is a very satisfactory increase.

Bro. C. H. Davey, 2107, was re-elected Prov. G. Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Prov. G.M. then proceeded to appoint and invest the Prov. Grand Officers as follows:

Bro. R. Smith, P.M. 809	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" W. H. Francis, P.M. 859	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. A. C. Crossfield, Chap. 809	...	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. A. L. Brown, S.W. 859	...	...
" C. H. Davey, J.W. 2107 (re-elected)	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" F. W. Potts, P.M. 441	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" Oliver Papworth, P.M. 88 (re-appointed)	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" A. S. Bell, W.M. 859	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" R. J. Sharman, W.M. 809	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" H. S. Davison, W.M. 88	...	...	Prov. G.S. of Wks.
" F. Dewberry, P.M. 441 (re-appointed)	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" F. H. Potts, J.D. 2107	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" H. Kempton, W.M. 2727	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" T. Cowling, Org. 809	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" A. J. Armitage, J.W. 859	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" W. Tyler, 88	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" C. Laceby, Treas. 2727	...	...

Bro. OLIVER PAPWORTH presented the annual report of the Cambridgeshire Masonic Charity Association, of which he is Hon. Secretary. It showed that during the year over £360 was paid to the three Masonic Charities, making an aggregate since 1883 of over £5700. The province owned about 450 girls' and 1000 boys' votes half-yearly, and about 600 men's and 620 women's yearly. The province owes 250 girls' votes, and there were owing to the province 350 boys' votes, 343 girls', 500 men's, and 883 women's. The number of members had been increased by 13.

A Charity jewel was presented to Bro. J. H. Foster.

Charity jewel clasps were presented to Bros. Oliver Papworth, W. J. Armitage, and T. W. Allsop.

Upon the motion of the P.G. TREAS., 10 guineas were voted to the Cambridgeshire Masonic Charity Association for current expenses, and 10 guineas to one or more of the Masonic Charities.

Ten guineas were also voted to the Transvaal War Relief Fund, to be paid to the local fund at Wisbech, and five guineas were voted to the wife of a distressed brother who is abroad.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor of Wisbech (Mr. W. S. Collins, J.P.) for the use of the Town Hall, and Provincial Grand Lodge was closed.

The banquet took place at the Rose and Crown Hotel and was attended by 56 brethren.

The Prov. Grand Master and his Deputy had to leave by the 8.27 train, and the chair was then taken by Bro. George Carrick, P.M. 809, P.P.S.G.W.

It was understood that there will be at least three Stewards for the Charities in 1900, and no doubt each will be represented.

CONSECRATION OF THE ROYAL WARRANT HOLDERS' LODGE, No. 2789.

The consecration of the above new lodge took place at Freemasons' Hall on Thursday, the 23rd ult. The Consecrating Officer was the Grand Secretary, assisted by Bros. Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W., as S.W.; Sir Terence O'Brien, K.C.M.G., P.G.D., as J.W.; the Rev. Canon J. S. Brownrigg, P.G.C., as Chaplain; Frank Richardson, P.G.D., as D.C.; and J. A. Farnfield, P.A.G.D.C., as I.G. The Consecrating Officer, accompanied by the Grand Officers, having entered the lodge room in procession, took the chair, and appointed his officers, *pro tem*. The Grand Secretary, with all due solemnity, in his usual impressive manner, so well known to those who have had the privilege of hearing him, consecrated the new lodge. Afterwards he installed the W.M. designate, Bro. Daniel Mayer, P.M. and W.M. 59, as W.M. of the lodge.

The election of the Treasurer then took place (a mere *pro forma* matter), Bro. Wm. Bellamy, P.M. 1627, being elected by the members of the lodge. The W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. John McPherson Campbell, P.M. 256, as P.M.; E. W. Stillwell, P.M. 1, P.P.S.G.W. Sussex, S.W.; Thos. Blewett Tipton, S.W. 2550, J.W.; Wm. Bellamy, P.M. 1627, Treas.; H. Tatton Sykes, P.M. 172, Hon. Sec.; Wm. Chas. Wise, D.C. 2730, 173, S.D.; Joseph Gerson, J.W. 185, J.D.; Stanley F. Fitch, 1827, I.G.; W. M. Wilson, W.M. 2202, D. of C.; W. Adlington, 59, Org.; and W. B. Pugh, P.M. 1624, and T. B. Callard, 173, Stewards.

Bro. R. W. Edgley, P.M., was elected Tyler by show of hands, and was invested by the W.M.

The Consecrating Officer, the Grand Secretary, then delivered the three addresses in a beautiful and masterly manner.

A Committee consisting of W.M., SW., J.W., Treasurer, and Bro. W. Pugh, W. Std., was appointed to frame the by-laws.

Several gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation, and many brothers as joining members.

The lodge was closed by the W.M. in due form.

At the conclusion of a splendid banquet in the great hall, Freemasons' Tavern, the following toasts were proposed, and received hearty recognition from the brethren: "The Queen and the Craft," ("God save the Queen"); "The M.W.G.M. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales" ("God bless the Prince of Wales"); and "The M.W. Pro G.M., the Earl of Amherst, the R.W. Dep. G.M., the Earl of Warwick, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

The toasts in general were given by the W.M. with commendable brevity. It was indeed a delightful, agreeable change for us; we have so often to listen to such wearisome platitudes, which are a trial to our patience, "tedious as a twice-told tale vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man."

Bro. Canon BROWNRIFF, in a few sensible, well-chosen words, responded for the Grand Officers. He said the brethren must acknowledge that this evening was a fair example of what the Grand Officers could do. He thanked the brethren on their and his behalf.

The W.M. said he claimed the indulgence of the brethren. He had now to perform a duty which he should have done in lodge, that of presenting a Founder's jewel to Bro. Edwd. Letchworth, F.S.A., the Grand Secretary, as a memento of this auspicious occasion; at the same time, he trusted that the G. Secretary and the Assistant Consecrating Officers would accept the honorary membership of the lodge. As a souvenir to the rest of the G. Officers present, the lodge offered each of them a pretty little silver flower vase, with stand. On the vase was engraven the date of the consecration of the Royal Warrant Holders Lodge, No. 2789. The W.M. also said a vote of thanks to the Consecrating Officers would be entered on the minutes of the next regular lodge meeting. He then gave the toast of "The Consecrating Officers."

Bro. E. LETCHWORTH, G. Sec., who replied very briefly, said how delighted his assistant officers, joined with himself, were to add a new lodge to the still increasing roll. In glowing terms he proposed "The Health of the W.M." He traced his Masonic career, and spoke of him as a munificent supporter of the Masonic Charities; that at the Centenary of the Boys' School he had given £1200, and, furthermore, had contributed £300 to another of the Charities. This he (Bro. Letchworth) said was a record that Bro. Daniel Mayer might well congratulate himself upon—a shining example to the brethren generally.

The W.M. replied that he could only heartily thank the brethren of the lodge and the numerous visitors. He, indeed, thought it a high honour to be the first W.M. of the Royal Warrant Holders Lodge.

"The Visitors" was next submitted, to which Bro. ALFRED SALMON, W.M. 141, responded.

The W.M. announced that the "whip round" among the brethren had amounted to £15. With the consent of the Treasurer he proposed that £10 should be added from the lodge funds to make the total £25, which should be sent to the War Fund.

The Treasurer heartily consented on the part of the lodge and himself to the admirable suggestion of the W.M.

Bros. T. B. TIPTON, J.W., and Wm. BELLAMY, Treas., replied for "The Officers."

The W.M., in giving "The Secretary," said how valuable his aid had been, and how confidently he relied on its future continuance.

The SECRETARY replied, saying he had certainly much work to do, in forming the lodge, but it had been a pleasure. The W.M. might rely on his earnest willing service on behalf of the lodge.

The Tyler's toast brought this successful evening to a close.

Bro. F. Valentine Goddard ably officiated as toast master.

We noticed, in addition to the Consecrating Officers, these members of Grand Lodge: Bros. Hermann Klein, P.G. Org.; H. A. Tobias, P.G. Std. Br.; R. Clay Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br.; J. Stephens, P.D.G.D.C.; G. Richards, Dist. G.M. Transvaal; T. A. Bullock, P.G. Std. Br.; W. H. Cummings, G. Org.; Wm. Ganz, P.G. Org.; Kuhe, P.G. Org.; C. Martin, P.A.G.D.C.; H. Sadler, G. Tyler; the Press (represented by Bro. Prof. F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M. 45); and many other visitors whose names *nunc perscrebere longum est*.

LADIES' BANQUET AT THE MOUNT LEBANON LODGE, No. 73.

On the evening of Tuesday, the 21st ult., a ladies' banquet was given at the Bridge House Hotel, London, by the Mount Lebanon Lodge, the first that has been given in the history of the lodge. There were some 80 members and their ladies present, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

At the conclusion of the repast, which was admirably served in Bro. Callingham's able and thorough style, the W.M., (Bro. Frank Jennings) proposed the usual loyal toasts, after which a somewhat lengthy programme was given, with the assistance, as manager, of Bro. Thomas Tofts, 1446.

Bro. F. E. WRIGLEY, I.P.M., proposed the toast of "The Worshipful Master, Past Masters, and Officers of the Lodge."

The W.M., having replied, afterwards proposed the toast of "The Visitors." In the course of his remarks he expressed a hope that a "ladies' night" might henceforth be considered as one of the annual events of the lodge.

This expression was much applauded.

Bro. ARTHUR S. JENNINGS replied on behalf of the ladies, and Bro. AUSTIN, P.M. 1425, on behalf of the visiting brothers.

The entertainment which followed commenced with a humorous part song, "The Menu," by the Lyric Vocal Quartette. This original and most amusing song was given with excellent effect, and was greatly enjoyed. The laughter and applause it evoked served to put the whole company in an excellent humour, a feeling that was well maintained until the close of the entertainment. Bro. Horace Reynolds sang "A Bedouin Love Song;" and this was followed by a comic song by Mr. Will Webster, who gave "The Motion of the Hand" very cleverly. Mrs. Buxton Brown then sang "The Letter Song," from "Rip Van Winkle," in a most artistic manner. The rendering was most acceptable and made it clear that this lady is a vocalist of great power as well as complete training. A violin solo by Mr. R. F. Smith and the glee, "Haste, ye Solt Gales," by the Lyric Quartette, followed. Then Mrs. Frank Jennings sang Hatton's "The Enchantress." The long and continued applause which followed clearly indicated that the company keenly appreciated the beautifully finished manner in which this delightful song was rendered. "Stars of the Summer Night" was given by Bro. Etherington Smith, and "The Gay Hussar" by Bro. Charles Strong. Miss Dixon, the daughter of Bro. Dr. Dixon, P.M., sang very nicely "Kathleen Mavourneen."

At the conclusion of the entertainment, the W.M. and his wife took personal leave of the company individually, placing themselves at the head of the grand staircase for that purpose. They received many hearty congratulations on the completeness of the arrangements and the emphatic success of the evening's entertainment.

Early in the evening a magnificent shower bouquet of La France roses, lily of the valley, and smilax leaves, was presented by the Committee to the wife of the W.M.

Craft Masonry.

Clapton Lodge, No. 1365.

This well-known lodge met at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool-street, E.C., on 10th ult., when there were present Bros. T. T. Gething, W.M.; F. Orfeur, S.W.; F. J. Thayne, P.M., J.W.; W. Blackburn, P.M., Treas.; W. D. Church, P.M., Sec.; G. Schilling, S.D.; C. R. Campbell, J.D.; R. B. Chessum, D.C.; E. Scudamore White, Org.; H. J. Dyer and A. W. Diamond, Stwds.; Arthur H. Church, P.M.; D. Campbell, P.M.; W. Finch, P.M.; A. Tucker, P.M.; C. E. Luker, P.M.; F. C. Lintott, P.M.; J. E. Wall, S. Shead, C. Sienesi, F. Thurston, E. Bowler, W. Cathrow, H. Bowen, F. Pearse, C. Storey, F. E. Zegers, E. Horley, J. Dorman, W. Seaton, E. Sienesi, F. Moore, D. G. Zegers, J. H. Shipman, H. B. Sparrow, and H. Martin, P.M., Tyler. Visitors: Bros. G. J. C. Taylor, 1541; Thos. Gray, 1642; and R. T. West, 1744.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read, the W.M., Bro. Gething, raised Bros. Shead and Thurston, and afterwards passed Bros. Wall and Pearse. The working of the ritual was—as it is always in the Clapton Lodge—well done. The Secretary, Bro. W. D. Church, P.M., stated that since the last meeting the lodge had sustained a great loss through the rather sudden death of their esteemed I.P.M., Bro. W. Banks, who was at business three days before he died. He, therefore, took upon himself, in the name of the lodge, to send a letter of condolence to the widow, and a wreath to the funeral. In eloquent and pathetic terms the W.M. and Bro. W. Finch, P.M., also referred to the death of Bro. Banks, and it was unanimously resolved that the action of the Secretary be endorsed.

After other business the lodge was closed, and a choice banquet followed.

After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts,

Bro. W. D. Church, P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M., Bro. Gething." He said they had had a taste of the W.M.'s working that evening, which was very satisfactory. He had been an excellent Mason in the past, and, if it were possible, would be a better one in the future. They were all proud of him, and wished him every success while he was in the chair.

The toast was enthusiastically received, as was Bro. Gething, W.M., on rising to respond. He thanked Bro. Church for his kind words, but said he did not deserve them. He felt he had not given them satisfaction that evening in his working of the ritual, but he hoped to do better on the next occasion.

In giving "The Visitors," the W.M., on behalf of the lodge, tendered them a hearty welcome, remarking that they were always happy to have plenty of visitors.

Bro. G. J. C. Taylor responded, observing that it had been his privilege to attend

many lodges during the short time he had been a Mason, but he had never received more hospitality than he had that happy evening.

Bros. Thos. Grey and R. T. West also acknowledged the toast.

The W.M. gave "The Past Masters," and said they had a goodly array that night, as they were all in attendance with three exceptions. Time would not permit him to state all the great things they had done for the lodge. They were sometimes called old fossils, but they could not do without them, as they were ever ready and eager to do everything to assist the W.M., and to promote the interests of the lodge.

In response, Bro. W. Finch, P.M., stated that the P.Ms. had but one desire—the prosperity and welfare of the lodge. He congratulated the W.M. on his excellent working that day, which spoke well for the future. Might he mention that the annual supper of the lodge of instruction connected with the lodge would take place on the first Friday in December, at which the W.M. had kindly consented to preside, and he hoped the members would rally round him on that occasion.

Bros. Arthur Church, P.M.; F. C. Lintott, P.M.; and A. Tucker, P.M.; also responded.

The W.M. proposed "The Treasurer and Secretary," and said it was without doubt a very important toast. He would not attempt to state all their great virtues and the things they had done for the lodge because they were so well known to them all, and their great services were much appreciated.

Bro. W. Blackburn, P.M., remarked that he had not much to say as Treasurer except to congratulate them on the financial position of the lodge, as they had plenty of money.

Bro. W. D. Church, P.M., Sec., said that again he had to thank them for another hearty welcome which he always had. The lodge was founded on a rock and there was no fear of that rock giving way. Although the lodge had been very happy and successful in every way, they had not forgotten or neglected those who wanted help. He hoped all those present would support the W.M. and honour him by attending the supper of the lodge of instruction.

The next toast was "The Officers," the W.M. stating that he had never seen better working officers, he was proud of them and they would, he thought, give him every assistance, and as king he would not be much use without them.

Bro. F. Orfeur, S.W., responded, and said that he and his colleagues appreciated the kind remarks of the W.M. and they would all put their shoulders to the wheel to assist him.

Bros. F. J. Thayer, P.M., J.W.; G. Schilling, S.D.; C. R. Campbell, J.D.; H. J. Dyer and W. R. O. Cathron, Stwds.; and E. Scudamore White, Org.; also responded in some good speeches, and the Tyler's toast ended a most enjoyable evening.

Bros. G. Schilling, D. G. Zoers, Shead, T. Shipman, and E. Siemesi, vocally and otherwise entertained the brethren. Bro. E. Scudamore White ably presided at the pianoforte.

After dinner the Charity box was sent round and £1 10s. was the result.

There was also a draw in the Benevolent Association, connected with the lodge, for a Life Subscribership to one of the Masonic Charities, which fell to the lot of Bro. F. J. Thayer, P.M., J.W.

Sincerity Lodge, No. 174.

At the usual monthly meeting of the members of this lodge touching reference was made to the loss sustained through the death of the I.P.M., Bro. John Newton, P.M., P.G.P., who died on the previous Friday, and whose funeral took place at Brockley Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, the 15th ult. Owing to the sad event, the banquet had to be abandoned, and only the ordinary and necessary business of the lodge was transacted. It fell to the lot of Bro. Lacey, P.M., Treas., as the senior member, to propose a vote of condolence with the friends of the late Bro. Newton, and in so doing he expressed the sincere sympathy of those belonging to the Sincerity Lodge in the irreparable loss they had sustained. The speaker and Bro. Newton had been very old friends, and since 1862 the latter had been one of their most zealous workers. He had been successful in a marked degree, inasmuch as he had ranked very high at head-quarters. While fully aware that as time rolled on they would all have to pass away, they felt acutely the loss of one so loved and esteemed by all of them. He concluded by moving that the vote fully explaining the loss sustained be recorded on the minutes, and, in doing so, hoped the day might be far distant before it was necessary to pass a like resolution. Bro. Seddons, P.M., said, as the next senior member of the lodge, he would second the motion. He had been a fast friend of Bro. Newton, and had known him in private and Masonic life for many years. The Lodge of Sincerity was the first thing their late brother thought about, and, after that, the Craft. His work had always been appreciated, and during the troublous times of years ago he steered the lodge carefully and quietly back to prosperity. His work had been of a yeoman character, and had left lasting benefits in connection with their lodge. The W.M., Bro. G. A. W. Griffiths, in a brief but eloquent speech, endorsed what had been said by the two senior members, after which the resolution was passed in silence. It may be mentioned that Bro. Newton edited a history of the Sincerity Lodge, the facts stated therein showing ability of a high literary order. The W.M. was called on to perform a long evening's work, but got through it in his well-known capable manner. It consisted of the initiation of Mr. W. H. German, the passing of Bros. G. and J. C. Higgs, and the raising of Bro. Reeve. Bro. A. Cocks, J.W., was unanimously appointed Steward for the next festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and there is no doubt but he will worthily sustain the reputation of the Sincerity Lodge for liberality in connection therewith.

City of Westminster Lodge, No. 1563.

No Worshipful Master is infallible, but to be installed in a lodge which musters a very large number of members, giving entire satisfaction to every individual member, is, perhaps, without a parallel in the history of a lodge, and one can only take it as evidence of the feeling of the members by the warmth of the reception they gave their W.M. If this goes for anything, the ovation Bro. H. J. Homer received at the City of Westminster Lodge—a distinguished lodge which has on its roll 170 members—should be conclusive evidence, if any were needed, that he is a most popular and esteemed member, and that great things were expected of him.

The lodge met on the 23rd ult. at the Cafe Royal, Regent-street, W., when there were present Bros. H. T. Culliford, W.M.; H. J. Homer, J.W., W.M. elect; C. M. Brander, P.M., Treas.; Jno. Swift, Sec.; T. H. Beach, Rutherford, O'Callaghan, Burton, Hill, Espizel, Young, R. Smith, J. Fortescue, Knox, Tapley Smith, E. T. Ginder, I.P.M.; W. C. Smith, P.M.; H. Fonseca, P.M.; A. H. Marks, P.M.; M. M. Taylor, P.M.; S. Fonseca, Winkler, C. A. W. Giles, C. S. Culliford, G. F. Schutz, S. A. Marks, Peter Hart, C. J. Homer, Flood, Highland, Wiseman, and over 60 others. Among the large number of 78 visitors were Bros. Geo. Everett, P.G.T.; J. D. Langton, P.D.G.D.C.; Richd. Clowes, P.G.S.B.; J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B.; Thos. Holmes, W.M. 1772; R. M. Edwards, W.M. 2408; J. H. Green, P.M. 2331; J. H. Moore, I.P.M. 71; C. R. J. Evans, P.M. 227; S. D. Mogford, P.M. 2362; J. Robinson, Sec. 792; F. F. Smith, 1599; W. Finch, P.M. 1365 and 2715; W. A. Finch, W.M. 2715; J. W. Warwick, W.M. 705; F. B. Brewin, P.M.

1608; C. J. Coombs, P.M. 780; Fred Holden, 25; W. A. Wells, 765; W. Sergeant Lee, W.M., Lionel W. Harris, I.P.M., J. A. Harrison, P.M., Walter J. W. Beard, P.M., Treas.; J. H. Hawkins, P.M., T. Fraser, S.W., J. R. Cleave, J.W., W. Garstins, S.D., A. J. Thomas, W. H. White, E. Lockwood, T. McKeggie, Gordon Harvey, Fred Brewer, Arthur Tite, Lewis Thomas, John Le Hay, James Kilt, and S. Jousiffe, all of 2488; and R. T. West, 1744.

The lodge was opened, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the Audit Committee's report was received and adopted, the balance sheet showing that the lodge was in a very sound financial position, and had a large balance to its credit. Bro. C. M. Brander, P.M., then occupied the chair, and installed Bro. H. J. Homer, who was presented by Bro. A. H. Marks, P.M., as W.M. During the ceremony the beautiful anthem "Be Thou Faithful" was given by Bro. W. R. Maxwell with marked effect. The W.M., Bro. Homer, appointed and duly invested his officers, and addressed them in suitable terms as to their respective duties, but made special mention of the indefatigable Treasurer, Bro. C. M. Brander, P.M. They were as follows: Bros. H. T. Culliford, I.P.M.; E. Rutherford, S.W.; J. B. O'Callaghan, J.W.; J. B. Burton, S.D.; S. Fonseca, J.D.; A. T. Winkler, I.G.; J. T. Townsend, D.C.; J. Swift, A.D.C.; C. M. Brander, P.M., Treas.; T. H. Beach, Sec.; S. E. Young, Asst. Sec.; T. Hill, Org.; A. Espirel, and W. Stead, Stwds.; and Potter, P.M., Tyler. The delivery of the customary addresses was ably and impressively rendered by Bro. C. M. Brander, P.M., and he is to be congratulated on the efficient manner in which he carried out the whole of the installation ceremony. The W.M. then presented, on behalf of the lodge, a Past Master's jewel to Bro. H. T. Culliford, which, he stated, he did with special pleasure, as it could not be bestowed on one more worthy to wear it. He was one of the best of Masons, and no one could have a better friend, and the members very much appreciated his services and the great interest he took in the lodge. In eloquent terms Bro. C. M. Brander, P.M., proposed that the sum of £25 be given to the *Daily Telegraph* fund. This was seconded by Bro. H. T. Culliford, I.P.M., in an able speech, and, on being put to the vote, was carried unanimously. "Hearty good wishes" was tendered by Bro. W. Sergeant Lee, W.M. 2488, on behalf of that lodge and the other 18 members who were with him, and by the other visiting brethren.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, which was well served under the personal superintendence of the manager, Bro. Oddenino.

"The Queen and the Craft" and "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M." having been duly honoured,

The W.M., Bro. Homer, gave "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," and said that he and the lodge were much honoured with the presence of four Grand Officers, who were all well known for the great things they had done in the Craft.

The toast was drunk with acclamation, and the Grand Officers, on rising to respond, were enthusiastically received.

Bro. G. Everett, P.G. Treas., said that he had had to respond to that toast on so many occasions, that he found it difficult to say anything fresh. They had accorded a very hearty welcome to the Grand Officers, and if asked they would gladly attend again. He was delighted to have been given the opportunity to see inducted into the chair one so fitted and able to adorn it as Bro. Homer. He had known him for many years as a good friend, and his father before him. He felt that under his genial presidency and his great ability he would have a prosperous year of office, and, in concluding an able speech, he said the Grand Officers would carry away with them a very happy recollection of that night's proceedings.

Bro. J. D. Langton, P.D.G.D.C., also acknowledged the toast, and said that he seconded the remarks of his senior Grand Officer, Bro. Everett. It was a grand meeting and a splendid assembly, and it was a great pleasure to him to be there, because he did not feel a stranger, as he saw one of the tables crowded with members of the Eccentric Lodge, of which their W.M., Bro. Homer, was an esteemed member.

After repeated calls, Bro. J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B., said that he was glad to add his testimony to the remarks of the previous Grand Officers, and he congratulated the members on having such an efficient W.M. in Bro. Homer.

Bro. H. T. Culliford, I.P.M., gave "The W.M., Bro. Homer," and said that it was the most important toast of the evening, and the one that had caused them all to assemble there on that occasion. All the members knew the great worth of Bro. Homer, and no better Worshipful Master could be found in Great Britain. (Applause.)

The toast was received with much enthusiasm, and Bro. H. J. Homer, W.M., on rising to respond, had an ovation. In earnest and feeling terms he stated that he was not only much surprised, but delighted, with the cordial reception. He was proud to be Master of the City of Westminster Lodge, and he hoped not to disappoint any of them during his year of office, but would strive to do his utmost to elevate the lodge.

The W.M. proposed "The I.P.M., Bro. H. T. Culliford," and said that no words of his were necessary to call attention to the grand working of Bro. Culliford, who had done everything for the lodge, and the majority of those present knew what an excellent Mason he was and an ardent worker. He had had a most successful year of office and had left behind a splendid balance. He was a most sincere friend and a more faithful Mason it would be impossible to find.

Bro. H. T. Culliford, I.P.M., on rising to acknowledge the toast, was received with much warmth. He said that he was pleased when he joined the lodge 10 years ago, and at that time he felt he would like to reach the chair in such an important lodge which was composed of a jolly lot of fellows. He had that day vacated the chair; he had done his best, but he had not done as well as he would have liked. He thanked them for their great reception and the kindness he had always received at their hands, and he should never forget his very happy year of office as a Master of the City of Westminster Lodge.

In giving "The Masonic Charities," the W.M. stated that the lodge and its members contributed as much as they could to the three Institutions. He was going up as a Steward at the forthcoming Festival of the Girls, and he asked Bro. McLeod to plead on his behalf, and he had much pleasure in coupling his name with the toast.

In response, Bro. J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., thanked the W.M. for asking him to attend that evening and to respond to the toast. In eloquent terms he urged the members to give again and again to the three noble Institutions. The lodge had done great service in the past for the Charities, and their efforts on the occasion of the Boys' Centenary, when Bros. E. T. Ginder, P.M., and T. H. Beach took up the third largest amount on the list, would never be forgotten. After giving some interesting details of the progress in building the new School for boys, he said that as the W.M. had asked him to plead on his behalf in his Stewardship for the Girls' Institution, he earnestly hoped that the members would give liberally, and so support their esteemed W.M., and send him up with a list large in amount, and they would never regret it.

At this point Miss Ethel Bevans gave a patriotic song, "There's a Land," which was received with great enthusiasm, and immediately afterwards the W.M. stated that the "Hat" would then go round for the *Daily Telegraph* Fund.

Bro. Col. Probyn, G.T., having entered the room after the banquet, the W.M. asked him to say a few words in support of the *Daily Telegraph* Fund, and in very eloquent and earnest terms he (Bro. Col. Probyn) urged them all to give freely to such a noble cause, and he set a good example by subscribing £10.

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The "Hat" having completed its journey round the room, it was brought to the W.M., and before its contents were counted, Bro. H. T. Culliford, I.P.M., who made an up-to-date auctioneer, then put up the contents of the "Hat" for sale, and after some spirited bidding, it was knocked down to Bro. Charles Giles at 50 guineas, amidst great cheering, and Bro. Giles was accorded musical honours.

The whole of the members then rose, and Bro. Franklin Clive sang "Rule Britannia."

It should be mentioned that the 50 guineas was exclusive of the £25 voted by the lodge.

The W.M., in proposing "The Visitors," said they were honoured with over 77, which was a very large number, and he thought it tended to show that their guests who came once were glad to come again, and might it ever be so. On behalf of the lodge he accorded them a hearty welcome, he hoped they had been pleased with their visit, and he associated with the toast the name of Bro. Lionel Harris, I.P.M. of the Eccentric Lodge.

Bro. Lionel Harris said that never had such an honour been thrust upon him to have to respond for the visitors at such a large gathering and in such an excellent lodge. The Eccentrics knew the W.M., Bro. Homer, as a sterling good fellow, and he congratulated the members on having such an excellent ruler. The visitors had been lavishly entertained, and he felt that he was expressing the sentiments of all the visitors in wishing that the W.M. would have a grand year of office.

The hour being late, the W.M. gave as one toast "The Past Masters, Treasurer and Secretary, and the Officers" in terms of eulogium, and he joined with it the name of Bro. C. M. Brander, P.M., Treas.

Bro. Brander responded, and said the W.M. would do everything to uphold the dignity of the lodge.

The Tyler's toast ended a very pleasant and memorable night, and one that will long be remembered.

It has seldom fallen to our lot to hear a better entertainment than that provided by Bro. Sydney Hill, assisted by Miss Ethel Bevans, who was in splendid voice, and her sweet and exquisite singing was much appreciated. Miss Florence Shee, Bro. Franklin Clive, W. R. Maxwell, and James Kift, and Mr. Walter Tilbury, who deserve special mention. Bro. Sydney Hill presided at the pianoforte with his well-known ability.

Lodge La France, No. 2060.

The installation meeting of this lodge took place on Monday evening, the 20th ult., at the Regent Masonic Temple, Cafe Royal, Regent-street. Besides a numerous attendance of the brethren of the lodge, there were present the following distinguished visitors: Bro. J. W. Woodall, 10, P.G.T.; Imre Kiralfy, 2581, P.A.G.D.C.; W. S. Oyle, 256; E. Davis, 1159; H. Smith, 222; E. Roehrich, 273; A. Duché, 1691; W. Miles, 1540; E. Duché, 1691; and W. Grant, 1635.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the lodge was opened by Bro. Capt. Mondehare, W.M., in the chair. It was, however, Bro. Barlet, P.M., who performed the ceremony of raising, after which Bro. Jules Oppenheim, Treasurer of the French Chamber of Commerce, the W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. St. Clair, P.M., P.A.G.D.C., and was addressed upon the duties of the high office to which he had been elected, and which Bro. Oppenheim agreed to accept, signifying his assent to the ancient charges in due form by taking the customary obligations. A Board of Installed Masters was then formed, and Bro. Oppenheim was inducted into the chair according to ancient tradition. The brethren were admitted and the new Master was proclaimed and saluted in the Three Degrees. The entire ceremony and subsequent addresses were gone through by Bro. Mondehare, I.P.M., in such impressive manner that the brethren could scarcely withhold their acclamation. The first business of the new Master was to propose a sum of five guineas to the *Daily Telegraph* War Relief Fund, which was unanimously agreed to. Bro. Oppenheim pointed out that the Lodge La France had to show a small token of respect for the lavish hospitality which Frenchmen received in this country. This amount was subsequently at the banquet augmented by collection to £14. The installation of the officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with. The following are their names: Bros. H. A. B. Charles Paysant, S.W.; H. M. F. Fauchoux, J.W.; H. Bucé, P.M., P.G. Std. Br., Treas.; Léon Clerc, P.M., Sec.; Ch. E. Hauvette, S.D.; Jean Monier, J.D.; D. D. Bril, I.G.; E. St. Clair, P.M., P.G.S., A.G.D.C., D.C.; Stéphane Barlet, A.D.C.; E. Beranger, M.B.; Léon Lehmann, A.M.B.; L. Walter, Org.; and G. F. Mitchell, Tyler.

The brethren then adjourned to the banqueting room. After dinner the W.M. proposed, in felicitous terms, the toasts of "The Queen," "The President of the French Republic," and "The Prince of Wales and the Craft." The toast of his Royal Highness was especially received with loud applause.

Bro. Mondehare, in giving the toast of "The W.M.," referred to that brother's connection with many charitable institutions and his readiness to do a kindly deed. He mentioned the interesting coincidence that when he was initiated into the lodge Bro. Oppenheim was I.P.M., and he had now the pleasure of inducting him into the chair. Lodge La France had every reason to be proud of their W.M., who was an honour to the Craft.

The W.M., who feelingly replied, assured the brethren that he would always continue to take the deepest interest in the welfare of the lodge. He concluded by proposing the toast of "The Visitors."

Bro. Woodall, in responding, recalled the time when he was fighting at Alma and Sebastopol side by side with their French allies. It gave him every pleasure and satisfaction to be present that evening.

Bros. Imre Kiralfy, Miles, and Smith also replied. The last-mentioned expressed the hope that more such institutions would be called into existence, as they strengthened the bonds of brotherhood between the various nations, and diplomatic interventions to restore universal peace and brotherhood would be superfluous.

The concert, the excellence of which has become a striking feature of the lodge, then followed. Mlle. Bertha Laverny charmed the company by her clever rendering of various romances; Mlle. Marguerite Halring was delightful in her selections from the "Huguenots" and "Mignon," and the gifted Welsh mandolinist, Miss Mabel Dinorben, contributed considerably to the enjoyment of the evening; whilst Miss Mabel Emley made an efficient accompanist.

Horwich Lodge, No. 2324.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Bridge Hotel, Horwich, on Tuesday, the 14th inst. The chair was taken by Bro. W. M. Varley, P.M. Present: Bros. Thomas Cooper, W.M.; W. H. Howarth, S.W.; W. W. Glover, J.W.; Rev. T. Storey Bates, Chap.; R. Hampson, Treas.; Hawthorn R. Thornton, P.M., P.P. D.G. Reg., Sec.; James Ryder, S.D.; Francis Thornham, J.D.; D. G. H. Whitaker, P.M., P.P.G. Org., Org.; Ralph Bates, D.C.; James Kay, I.G.; John Wood, Thomas Eddleston, and W. Baldwin, Stwds.; Robert Harrison, Tyler; W. Mason Varley, P.M.; F. Morton Palmer, P.M.; Zech Tetlow, P.M.; John Evans, P.M.; John Hopwood Howarth, P.M.; W. Goodacre, P.G. Std. Br., P.G. Sec.; John Flyman, P.P.G.D.; R. Court, W. Shawcross, Geo. Cunliffe, W. Borth, J. Clarkson, C. H. Field, A. Parr, W. T. Jolly, G. Holford, M. Guthrie, T. Hope, W. H. Sprague, and E. E. Jones. Visitors: Bros. J. Haydock, 1031; T. Roby Foy, S.W. 935; J. Urmston, P.M. 1723; J. Farnworth, Stwd. 350; G. England, 1445; John Waring, P.M., Sec. 1134; Ed. Roberts, P.M. 145; Buckley Carr, P.M. 1164, P.P. G.D.C. (E.L.).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the balance sheet, a most favourable one, was accepted. Bro. W. H. Howarth, S.W., W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. John Slyman, P.P.G.D., to the Installing Master, Bro. W. Mason Varley. The ceremony was most impressively rendered by Bro. Varley, and after being saluted in due form, the W.M. appointed and invested the following officers: Bros. Thomas Cooper, I.P.M.; W. W. Glover, S.W.; Jas. Ryder, J.W.; Rev. T. Storey Bates, Chap.; Richd. Hampson, Treas.; H. R. Thornton, P.P.D.G. Reg., Sec.; F. Thornham, S.D.; Jas. Kay, J.D.; Ralph Bates, D.C.; Dr. G. H. Whitaker, P.P.G.O., Org.; R. Harrison, I.G.; John Wood, W. Baldwin, J. H. Hadfield, and R. T. Court, Stwds.; and Thos. Eddleston, Tyler. The working tools were presented and explained by Bros. John Slyman, P.P.G.D., and F. Morton Palmer, P.M. The addresses to the Master, Wardens, and brethren were given by Bros. Cooper, I.P.M., Tetlow, P.M., and Varley, P.M. The Prov. G. Sec., Bro. Goodacre, brought before the lodge the question of the late "Lord Lathom Memorial Fund," and Bro. Dr. Whitaker gave notice of motion that a sum be given to that fund, and also to

the fund of the Widows and Orphans of the British Soldiers. After "Hearty good wishes" had been expressed the lodge was closed.

An excellent banquet was served under the personal superintendence of Bro. Andrew Parr. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts followed.

The W.M. proposed "The Provincial Grand Officers," and Bros. C. E. Hindley, P.P.G.D.; Dr. G. H. Whitaker, P.P.G. Org.; and H. R. Thornton, P.P.D.G. Reg., responded.

Bro. T. B. Greenhalgh proposed "The Health of the R.W. Prov. G.M. of East Lancashire, Bro. Lord Stanley," and referred to the visit of his lordship some few months ago, when he was made an honorary member of No. 2324. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Buckley Carr, P.P.G.D.C.

Bro. Carr, in responding, spoke of the good feeling which existed between the brethren of the two provinces, and which he thought was likely to be increased if that were possible, after the great service which the Prov. Grand Master of West Lancashire performed by installing the Prov. Grand Master of East Lancashire some little time ago.

Bro. Dr. Whitaker, P.P.G. Org., then proposed "The Health of the W.M., Bro. W. H. Howarth," and said that he had known the W.M. for a considerable number of years, and had always found him willing to give assistance to anyone if it lay in his power. He spoke of the different offices which the W.M. had filled since his initiation some seven and a half years ago, and said that he was sure the lodge would prosper under Bro. Howarth's rule.

Bro. W. H. Howarth, W.M., in responding, said he could scarcely find words to express his thanks to Bro. Dr. Whitaker for the many kind things he had said of him, and to the brethren for the cordial manner in which they had received the toast. Bro. Whitaker had well said that it was a proud moment in one's life to be installed into the chair of K.S., and the W.M. said that what made him still prouder, was that he was the first Lewis of the lodge and the first Lewis to be installed in No. 2324. He knew that he could rely upon the help of the good Past Masters, and trusted that the year might be, as Bro. Whitaker had said, a truly prosperous one. He had to apologise to the brethren for the absence of his father, Bro. J. Hopwood Howarth, P.M., through ill-health.

Bro. the Rev. T. Storey Bates then proposed "The Installing Master, Bro. W. M. Varley, P.M.," and spoke of the great interest that was taken by that brother with respect to all ceremonies and the welfare of the lodge.

The Installing Master responded, and said that he was in the proud position that evening of having installed both father and son into the chair of K.S. in the Horwich Lodge. Such a thing could not possibly happen in the lodge for the next 11 years.

The next toast was that of "The I.P.M., Bro. Cooper." The W.M. spoke of the good feeling which every member had towards Bro. Cooper, and to show their appreciation of his services during the past year he had great pleasure on their behalf in presenting to him a handsome Past Master's jewel, and trusted T.G.A.O.T.U. would give him good health long to wear it.

Bro. Cooper, I.P.M., thanked the W.M. and the brethren for the cordial manner in which the toast had been received, and also for the jewel. Bro. Cooper said it had been his intention to present some Masonic picture to the lodge to commemorate his year of office, but through circumstances over which he had no control he had not been able to do so. However, he had great pleasure in presenting to the W.M. a sum of money to be devoted to some Charity during the coming year.

"The Visitors" was proposed by Bro. J. Ryder, J.W., and responded to in a very racy speech by Bro. E. Roberts, P.M.

Bro. W. W. Glover, S.W., gave "The Past Masters of No. 2324," and Bro. Z. Tetlow, P.M., responded.

The W.M. gave "The Officers," and Bro. Jas. Kay, J.D., responded.

The Tyler's toast was given by Bro. Thos. Eddleston, after which was heartily sung "God Save the Queen."

Bro. Dr. G. H. Whitaker, P.P.G.O., directed the musical arrangements, which reflected credit on all concerned. The following brethren contributed to the harmony of the evening: the W.M., Bros. Dr. Whitaker, John Urmston, E. Roberts, W. M. Varley, and Ralph Bates.

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

Instruction.

WHITTINGTON LODGE, No. 862.

A meeting was held on the 22nd ult., at the Red Lion, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street, when there were present Bros. W. H. Latham, W.M.; Ed. W. Davis, S.W.; Alfred Collins, J.W.; A. V. H. Pauncefort, P.M., Preceptor and Treas.; Henry Thos. Kobelt, Sec.; J. Scurllett, S.D.; F. W. Berry, J.D.; and Percy Day, I.G.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Day acting as the candidate. The lodge was closed.

STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

A meeting was held on Friday, the 24th ultimo, at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, S.E. Present: Comps. W. Dawson, M.E.Z.; T. R. Cass, H.; G. H. Lewis, J.; T. Grummant, P.Z., Preceptor; C. H. Stone, P.Z., Scribe E.; Wal Jeffery, Scribe N.; P. H. Garner, P.S.; Morris, Longhurst, Hill, Cureton, Cornford, and Sinclair.

The minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. H. Cornford personating the candidate. Comp. T. Dunstan Hill, 1589, was elected a member. Comp. J. H. Cureton, P.Z., was elected M.E.Z. for to-night (Friday). The business of the chapter ended, the convocation was closed.

IVY LODGE, No. 1441.

The usual weekly meeting of the above lodge was held on Thursday evening, the 23rd ult., at the French Horn Hotel, East Hill, Wandsworth, S.W., when the following brethren were present: Bros. G. C. Pike, W.M.; Bearnley, S.W.; Richmond, J.W.; Hugh James, Acting Sec.; Chandler, Preceptor; Hawke, S.D.; White, J.D.; Marchbank, I.G.; Hardeman, P.M.; Atkins, Thomas, Rimbault, Atkinson, Marable, Moore, Chilcott, Mayes, and Holmes-Brindle, Goldfields Lodge, Johannesburg.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The lodge was then opened in the Second and Third Degrees, and the ceremony of raising rehearsed, Bro. Rimbault acting as candidate. The W.M. then vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Rimbault, who rehearsed the ceremony of passing, Bro. Atkinson acting as candidate. Previous to closing the lodge the W.M. announced that the ceremony of installation would be worked on the following Thursday by Bro. Hardeman, P.M.

HUGH OWEN LODGE, No. 2593.

A meeting was held on Friday, the 24th ult., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, when there were present Bros. Jas. Barnett, W.M.; Robt. Allingham, S.W.; A. Taylor, J.W.; H. G. Holland, P.M., P.P.G.S.B. Herts, Preceptor; R. H. Nicholls, P.M., Treas.; Henry Thos. Kobelt, Sec.; H. Ramsbottom, S.D.; J. B. Schrader, J.D.; Henry Tull, I.G.; J. H. Crispe, A. H. Lockhart, J. Mayhew, T. J. Phillips, H. C. Wootton, A. J. Simpson, C. G. Ridgway, and F. J. Thomas.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Lockhart acting as the candidate. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Wootton acting as the candidate. The lodge was then closed.

LONDESBOROUGH LODGE, No. 1681.

The members of the lodge of instruction which works under the warrant of the above lodge, meeting on Wednesday evenings at the Criterion, have this year revived the custom of holding an annual dinner, and this took place on Wednesday, the 29th ult., in the fine Princess room of the Criterion. The respected Preceptor of the lodge, Bro. George Wood, J.P.M., presided with his usual courteous geniality, the vice-chairs being filled by Bro. Hewett, Sec., and Bro. Kelly, Treas., and Asst. Preceptor of the lodge of instruction, while holding office respectively as J.D. and S.D. in the mother lodge. Other members of the Londesborough present were Bros. Head, W.M.; Freer, S.W.; Wetherill, P.M., Treas.; Hill, I.G.; Robinson, P.M.; Everaert, Gunn, Kingston, and Springett. Other members of the lodge of instruction present

were Bros. Castle, 175; Hearne, 1538; McGregor, I.G. 1624; and Smith, S.D. 1668. Visitors: Bros. Tapling, 1744; and Woodman, 720.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were interspersed with some excellently rendered songs by Bros. Head, Smith, Tapling, Castle, and McGregor, the latter in addition kindly undertaking the onerous duties of accompanist. Recitations were given by Bro. Hearne and Mr. Father (kindly asked to attend by Bro. Hill), and the two pieces selected by the latter were most thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

The management of the Criterion had excelled its usual high reputation in the preparation and serving of the subjoined menu, and the brethren heartily appreciated the efforts made by M. Gerard and his assistants in their important share in a most enjoyable gathering.

Royal Arch.

St. Dunstan's Chapter, No. 1589.

The installation meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 9th ult., when there were present, among others, Comps. W. Farrington, M.E.Z.; J. Raper Phillips, H., M.E.Z. elect; J. Longhurst, J., H. elect; H. H. Nuding, P.Z., J. elect; Major T. C. Walls, P.Z., P.D.G.D.C. Eng., S.E.; H. W. Clemow, P.Z.; W. E. Farrington, P.Z.; R. Evens, P.Z.; and H. J. Lardner, P.Z., P.P.G. Std. Br. Hon. Member.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken on behalf of Comp. Herbert Longhurst, 1216, as a joining member, and for Bro. T. Dunstan Hill, W.M. 1173, for exaltation. The latter was admitted a member of the Order by the S.E., who also installed Comp. J. R. Phillips as M.E.Z. Comp. H. J. Lardner ably installed Comp. Longhurst as H., and the latter inducted Comp. Nuding as J. Comp. Major Walls was invested as S.E. Comp. H. Longhurst was elected S.N., and Comp. T. D. Hill was elected P.S., and both were invested with the collars and jewels of their respective offices. A Past Principal's jewel was presented to Comp. W. Farrington. The sum of 21s. was voted to "The Daily Telegraph Fund for Widows and Orphans." A vote of thanks was passed to the Installing Principals. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Comps. J. W. Gaze, C.C., P.Z., Treas., and F. Farrington, P.Z.

The chapter having been closed, a banquet followed. "The Health of the M.E.Z." was proposed by the I.P.Z. In submitting this toast Comp. W. Farrington said that the First Principal was an exalte of the chapter, and had risen to the high position of M.E.Z. in a very short time. He hoped that his year of office would be in every way successful.

The M.E.Z., in reply, said that he appreciated the honour of being the First Principal of No. 1589 very much. He hoped to be able to introduce at least one candidate during his year. The meetings of the chapter were always pleasant, the only regret being that the chapter was not stronger.

The toast of "The H. and J." followed, and was acknowledged by Comps. Longhurst and Nuding.

In giving the toast of "The Exalte and Joining Member," the M.E.Z. said it was gratifying to be able to congratulate the chapter upon an accession of strength. It was many years since they had had an exalte, and he could only hope that others would follow. The joining member was the son of the Second Principal, and, therefore, was doubly welcome. He hoped that they both would never regret having allied themselves with the St. Dunstan's Chapter.

Comp. Hill and Longhurst having replied, "The Health of the Installing Principals" followed, coupled with the name of Comp. H. J. Lardner.

This toast having been warmly received, Comp. Lardner replied. In the course of his speech he said that he appreciated very much the honour that had been conferred upon him some years ago when the J. elected him as an honorary member, *vice* the late Comp. Col. Henry Radcliffe, who, in his day, was one of the best exponents of the Royal Arch Degree that he had ever listened to. He congratulated the chapter upon the way in which the work had been carried out that evening, and he was particularly struck by the efficient manner in which Comp. Longhurst had discharged the duties of H.

The toast of "The Past Principals" was coupled with the names of Comps. H. W. Clemow, W. E. Farrington, and W. Farrington.

"The Health of the Officers" terminated the proceedings.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Mount Calvary Chapter, No. 3.

A meeting of this chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Golden-square, on the 11th ult. Among those present were Bros. James Speller, M.W.S.; A. W. Humphreys, Prelate, M.W. elect; Major Baldwin, 2nd Gen.; H. J. Lardner, 30°, P.M. W.S., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M.W.S., Recorder; H. Hills, J.P. 30°; R. J. L. Carrick, C. of G.; Egbert Roberts, Asst. Org.; F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M.W.S.; Dr. V. Jagielski, P.M.W.S.; Capt. G. Carpenter, A. Calvert, and W. Biggs, Herald. Comps. John Mason and J. W. Steele were visitors.

The minutes of the previous chapter having been read and confirmed, Bro. Walter Tyler, W.M. 862, was duly perfected by the M.W.S. Comp. Humphreys having been presented, was admirably installed M.W.S. by Ill. Bro. H. J. Lardner in a manner that left but little to be desired. Among the officers appointed and invested were Comps. T. E. Biddlecome, Prelate; Major Balwin, 1st Gen.; H. J. Adams, 30°, 2nd Gen.; H. Hills, 30°, G.M.; C. Slater, Recorder; W. Biggs, D.C.; J. L. Carrick, Herald; Capt. Carpenter, C. of G.; Dr. E. M. Lott, Org.; and E. Roberts and Dr. J. W. Hinton, Asst. Orgs. A Past Sovereign's jewel was presented to Comp. J. Speller. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted. The sum of 42 shillings was voted to the Daily Telegraph Fund, Widows and Orphans. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Comps. Biddlecome, Prelate; H. J. Adams, 2nd Gen.; Lt.-Col. F. J. Stohwasser, 30°, P.M.W.S.; Major J. E. Anderson, 31°, P.M.W.S.; G. Graveley, 30°, P.M.W.S.; Dr. E. M. Lott, 31°; Dr. J. W. Hinton, C. Slater, and others. The chapter was then closed.

The banquet was held at the Café Royal, Regent-street, W.

Upon the removal of the cloth, the customary toasts were duly honoured. "The Health of the M.W." was proposed by the I.P.M.W.S. In the course of his speech, he said that they all regretted that the health of the M.W. was not good. In fact, contrary to his doctor's orders he had left a sick room in order to be present to be installed that day as his absence would have put back promotion for another year. From what he—the speaker—had seen of the Most Wise's working in the other Degrees he was confident that the ceremony of perfection would be well performed.

The M.W., in reply, said that it was quite true that he had been and was still unwell but he thought it was his duty to be present that night. He belonged to many

Masonic bodies but there was not one that he held in higher estimation than the Mount Calvary Rose Croix Chapter.

"The Health of the Perfectee" followed. Ex. Bro. W. Tyler, in reply, expressed his acknowledgment. He regretted that circumstances over which he had no control had prevented him from attending to be perfected earlier in the year. He had been highly impressed with the ceremony. He hoped as years rolled on to become an active member of the Order, which bore so distinguished a character in the Masonic world. He thanked his old friend Bro. James Speller for introducing him.

"The Health of the Visitors" came next in order. In reply, Bros. Mason and Steele made eloquent and effective replies. The latter gave some interesting facts in connection with the Order in Natal.

"The Health of the Past Sovereigns" was coupled with the names of Ex. Bros. J. Speller and F. W. Driver, who briefly acknowledged the compliment.

The toast of "The Treasurer and Recorder" was submitted in very feeling terms by the I.P.M.W.S. He said that he was personally grateful to Ill. Bro. Lardner for his valuable assistance that evening. He performed the ceremony of installation most admirably, and his balance sheet proved what a good financier he was.

"The Health of the Officers" was coupled with the names of Bros. Major Baldwin, Hills, Biggs, and Captain Carpenter, who briefly replied.

Ex. Bro. Egbert Roberts and others presented an excellent programme of vocal music, and Ex. Bro. Professor Driver recited his poem on "The Rose Croix Degree," and other original matter.

Obituary.

BRO. C. B. BARNES, SECRETARY No. 19.

The Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19, is mourning the loss of one of its most useful members, Bro. Charles Barritt Barnes, who was for 15 years its devoted Secretary. He died suddenly on Friday, the 10th ult., at the age of 66. The Masonic world at the same time loses a staunch supporter. He was initiated in the Royal Athelstan Lodge in 1869, and installed W.M. of the lodge in 1886. In 1870, he founded the Lodge Benevolent Fund, which on several occasions has proved to be of most timely use. In 1894, this fund was transformed into a Permanent Benevolent Fund, under the instigation of Bro. Whadcoat, the then W.M., by whose munificence and with the aid of the other members of the Lodge 500 guineas were subscribed and added thereto. Besides the support Bro. Barnes gave to the Benevolent Funds and the interest he took in the work of his own Lodge, he was a generous subscriber to the Masonic Charities and a supporter of many other Masonic Institutions. He was P. Prov. G.P. Durham; a founder of St. Bede Lodge, No. 1119, Jarow; a founder of the Telegraph Cable Lodge, No. 2470, London; a member of Mount Sinai Chapter, No. 19 (Arch Mason); a member of the Orders of Mark Masonry, Knights Templar, Royal Ark Mariners, Rose Croix, and of the 30°. He was a constant attendant at Grand Lodge, a most useful member of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, and an old and valued member of the City Masonic Club. He was a hard worker in every good object he



undertook up to the very last and exhibited in every act a sense of justice and goodwill directed by a generous and unselfish nature. He gave many valuable presents to his lodge, one in 1886 being a handsome loving cup. He was naturally held in high regard, and so recently as April last the members of the Royal Athelstan Lodge, to mark their esteem and appreciation of his valuable services as Secretary, presented him with a silver dessert service and an illuminated address. His interest in the Lodge was further shown by the initiation together, in 1895, of his three sons. As senior partner—he had recently taken two of his sons into partnership—in the firm of A. W. Donaldson and Co. he was well-known in the Shipping World. He was a member of Lloyds (his 51st year), and was well-known in the Insurance World. He was first accountant with Sir Jas. Anderson to the English Telegraph Companies, and started their system of books. He was a member of the Royal Geographical Society, the London Chamber of Commerce, the Society of Arts, the Quekett Microscopical Society, and other institutions. Bro. Barnes's last illness afforded so little warning of the end that although for some time previous slight ailments caused him to take a rest, no reason for any grave fear was manifest until the last day. He was buried on Tuesday, the 14th ult., at Elmer's End Cemetery, where his wife (who died on January 2nd, 1892) lies, the funeral being followed by a large number of Masonic and other friends. The chief mourners were his three sons and four daughters. The W. Master, Past Masters, and members of his Lodge present were provided with sprigs of acacia for the due observance of Masonic rites.

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Table listing lodges and their contributions to the 'Daily Telegraph' fund. Columns include No., Lodge Name, and Shillings.

Table listing lodges and their contributions. Columns include No., Lodge Name, and Shillings. Includes sections for Lodges of Instruction, Chapters, and Mark.

Table listing various Masonic institutions and their contributions. Includes sections for Secret Monitor, The Mansion House Refugees Fund, The Mansion House Transvaal War Fund, Princess of Wales' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, Grand Lodge of Scotland, Lord Provost Fund, and Prov. Grand Lodge of East Lancashire.

MASONIC MEETINGS (METROPOLITAN)

For the week ending Saturday, December 9, 1899.

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 12, Fortitude and Old Cumberland, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
- 25, Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall.
- 69, Unity, Inns of Court Hotel.
- 72, Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel.
- 83, United Lodge of Prudence, Albion Tavern.
- 188, Joppa, Freemasons' Tavern.
- 256, Unions, Freemasons' Hall.
- 1319, Asaph, Freemasons' Hall.
- 1625, Tredegar, London Tavern.
- 1669, Royal Leopold, Surrey Masonic Hall.
- 1731, Cholmeley, Cafe Royal.
- 1853, Caxton, Freemasons' Hall.
- 2020, St. Botolph's, Albion Tavern.
- 2098, Harlesden, National Schools.
- 2242, Tyssen Amherst, Club House, Stoke Newington.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

- 91, Regularity, Freemasons' Hall.
- 1056, Victoria, Holborn Viaduct Hotel.
- 1891, St. Ambrose, St. James' Restaurant.
- 2511, St. John at Hackney, Old Town Hall.

MARK LODGE.

- Grand Stewards', Mark Masons' Hall.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION OF MARK GRAND LODGE, at 5 for 6.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 9, Albion, Freemasons' Hall.
- 18, Old Dundee, Cannon-street Hotel.
- 101, Temple, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
- 166, Unions, Criterion.
- 172, Old Concord, Freemasons' Hall.
- 217, Stability, Anderton's Hotel.
- 765, St. James's, Bridge House Hotel.
- 1159, Marquis of Dalhousie, 33, Golden-square.
- 1257, Grosvenor, Freemasons' Hall.
- 1259, Duke of Edinburgh, Three Nuns, Aldgate.
- 1261, Golden Rule, Cafe Royal.
- 1381, Kennington, Horns Tavern.
- 1397, Anerley, Clarence Hall.
- 1472, Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich.
- 1803, Cornhill, Cafe Monico.
- 2128, United Northern Counties, Inns of Court Hotel.
- 2150, Tivoli, Frascati Restaurant.
- 2190, Savage Club, Freemasons' Hall.
- 2398, Holborn, Holborn Restaurant.
- 2499, Hortus, Freemasons' Hall.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

- 169, Temperance, White Swan, Deptford.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE, at 6 for 7.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 511, Zetland, Anderton's Hotel.
- 1585, Royal Commemoration, Holborn Restaurant.
- 2562, Papyrus, Anderton's Hotel.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

- 55, Constitutional, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
- 2345, Duke of Fife, Anderton's Hotel.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 20, Westminster and Keystone, Freemasons' Hall.
- 27, Egyptian, Anderton's Hotel.
- 92, Moira, Albion Tavern.
- 192, Lion and Lamb, Cannon-street Hotel.
- 227, Ionic, Criterion.
- 231, St. Andrew's, Freemasons' Hall.
- 538, La Tolerance, Freemasons' Hall.
- 1178, Perfect Ashlar, Bridge House Hotel.
- 1216, Macdonald, Surrey Masonic Hall.
- 1351, St. Clement Dames, Holborn Restaurant.
- 1391, United Service, Cafe Royal.
- 1425, Hyde Park, Frascati Restaurant.
- 1672, Mornington, Holborn Viaduct Hotel.
- 1707, Eleanor, Great Eastern Hotel.
- 1765, Trinity College, 13, Mandeville-place.
- 1772, Pimlico, Holborn Restaurant.
- 1790, Old England, Elmwood Hall, West Croydon.
- 1891, St. Ambrose, St. James' Restaurant.
- 2202, Regent's Park, Frascati Restaurant.
- 2271, St. Pancras, Midland Grand Hotel.
- 2291, West Ham Abbey, Town Hall, Stratford.
- 2414, Clarence and Avondale, Red Lion Hotel, Leytonstone.
- 2512, Fulham, Town Hall.
- 2550, Piccadilly, Cafe Monico.
- 2580, Crouch End, Gate House, Highgate.
- 2675, Victoria Diamond Jubilee, Masonic Hall, Woodford.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

- 2, Chapter of St. James, Freemasons' Hall.
- 174, Sincerity, London Tavern.
- 1693, Kingsland, Holborn Restaurant.

MARK LODGE.

- 197, Studholme, 33, Golden-square.

SECRET MONITOR.

- 11, George Andrews, White Swan, Deptford.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 134, Caledonian, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
- 157, Bedford, Freemasons' Hall.
- 177, Domatic, Anderton's Hotel.
- 780, Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge.
- 1201, Eclerite, Freemasons' Hall.
- 1559, New Cross, Hotel Cecil.
- 1997, John Carpenter, Albion Tavern.
- 2399, Ordnance, Freemasons' Hall, Plumstead.
- 2552, Stoke Newington, Assembly Rooms.
- 2593, Hugh Owen, Frascati Restaurant.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

- 569, Fitzroy, Head-quarters Hon. Artillery Company, City-road.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9.

CRAFT LODGES.]

- 108, London, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
- 173, Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall.
- 176, Cavendish, Albion Tavern.
- 1426, Great City, Cannon-street Hotel.
- 1612, West Middlesex, Municipal Buildings, Ealing
- 1671, Mizpah, Albion Tavern.
- 1928, Gallery, Anderton's Hotel.
- 2309, Cornish, Mark Masons' Hall.
- 2384, Mitcham, Vestry Hall.
- 2599, Engineer, 33, Golden-square.
- 2664, Hygeia, Holborn Restaurant.
- 2686, Alfred Newton, Queensgate Hall, South Kensington.

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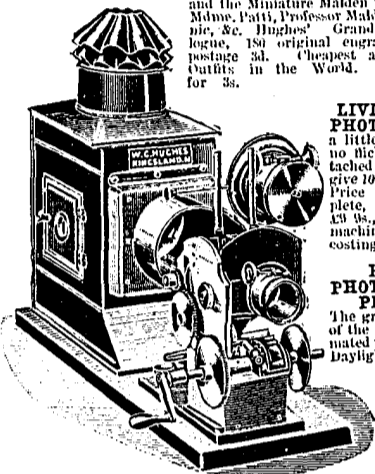
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(FROM B.C. TO END OF 1897.)

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By **JOHN STRACHAN, Q.C.,**
GRAND REGISTRAR OF ENGLAND.

(P. Prov. G. Warden and P. Prov. G. Secretary of Northumberland).

Masonic Tradition is herein tested by Contemporary History, and by interesting old Records and Correspondence collected by the Author while in the North, and now published for the first time, including the Masonic portion of the famous "Delaval Papers," Minutes of extinct Lodges, &c. There are also in the Appendix, extracts from the Masonic Orations of V.W. Bro. CANON TRISTRAM, F.R.S., Past Grand Chaplain, the Historian of the Holy Land, revised by their Author for this work.

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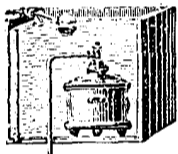
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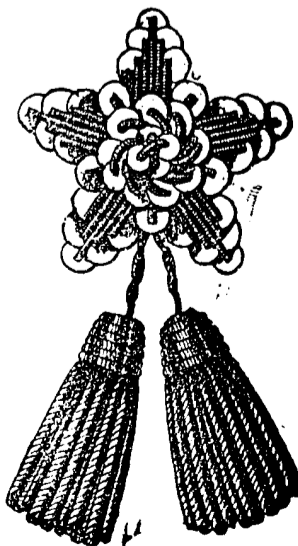
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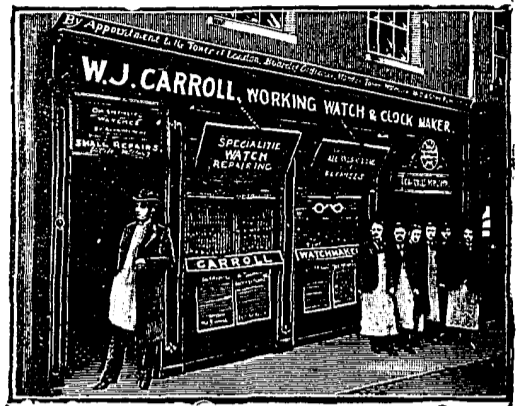
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The "Citizen," October 4th, 1897:

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A good deal of disappointment is often caused by the careless manner in which watches are treated when put into the hands of the repairer. This usually arises from the fact that the work is sent out to be done, and the careful supervision of the proprietor of the business is therefore lacking. As a thoroughly practical watchmaker, we have heard many good opinions expressed as to the skillful and economical repairs done by Mr. W. J. Carroll, 17, Beer Lane, Great Tower Street. The business has been established some 50 years, and its reputation for the adjustment of complicated watches, such as minute repeaters, striking watches, etc., is well known. Mr. Carroll has a well selected stock of watches, particularly sound English levers, at very moderate prices.

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WORLD-FAMED

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For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and sores of all kinds its effects are marvellous.

IT CURES
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As this mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of either sex from infancy to old age, the proprietor solicits sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.

Sold in Bottles, 2s. 6d. each, and in Cases, containing six times the quantity, 11s.—sufficient to effect a permanent cure in the great majority of long-standing cases—**BY ALL CHEMISTS AND PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS** throughout the World, or sent for 3s. or 12s. stamps by **THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, Lincoln.**

Ask for **CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE** and do not be persuaded to take an imitation.

SCRIPTURE READINGS & PRAYERS,
(Arranged by Request.)

BY THE **REV. JOHN A. LLOYD, M.A.**

Grand Chaplain of England,
Past Provincial Grand Chaplain of Oxon, Wilts, and Somerset,
P.M. 379 and 1633, &c.

FOR THE CHAPLAINS' USE IN CRAFT LODGES.

London:
GEORGE KENNING, 16 and 16a, GREAT QUEEN STREET, W.C.

Masonic and General Tidings.

ON THURSDAY LAST after a protracted meeting the directors of the Bank of England advanced their rate of discount to 6 per cent. The movement was not wholly unexpected, but many money brokers thought the advance would not take place until next week. In the outside market the rates have advanced to $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent. for three months' paper, while money rates have been very stiff, ranging up to 5 per cent. in some cases. Day-to-day loans close 5 to 6 per cent. The Bank did a fair business in loans at 6 per cent.

BRO. R. LOVELAND-LOVELAND, Q.C., presided on Thursday over the 23rd annual meeting of the St. Giles's Christian Mission, Little Wild-street, Drury-lane.

WE ARE GLAD to learn that Bro. Wynne E. Baxter, J.P., has now resumed his duties as the East London coroner after a month's absence owing to a severe attack of bronchitis.

MR. A. M. TORRANCE, the chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee of the London County Council, will on Saturday lay the memorial stone of a new fire station in Upper-street, Islington.

PROFESSOR SHUTTLEWORTH is, we regret to say, very little better. He is not able to leave his bed, and his strength does not perceptibly increase. It is to be feared that his recovery will be even slower than was expected.

THE BOOKSELLERS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—Mr. C. J. Longman presided over the last monthly meeting of the Board of the Institution. The sum of £116 10s. was voted for the relief of 57 members and widows.

THE ANNUAL BALL in aid of the funds of the Royal Free Hospital will take place at the Holborn Town Hall on Wednesday next. The patrons include Mr. Justice Bruce, Sir J. Blundell Maple, Bart., M.P., Sir Charles Hall, Q.C., M.P., and Sir Henry Oakley.

THE FIRST grand complimentary benefit (by kind permission of the directors) to Bro. Arthur J. Barclay, acting and local business manager of the Granville Theatre of Varieties, Walham Green, will take place at the above on Tuesday, the 5th inst. The programme will comprise all the greatest stars of the season.

MASONIC BAZAAR IN EDINBURGH.—In the Freemasons' Hall, on the 24th ult., Sir Charles Dalrymple, M.P., R.W. Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland, opened a bazaar to raise £800 for the purchase and alteration of premises in Musselburgh suitable for St. John's Lodge, No. 112, Fisherrow. Bro. James Kinnaid, R.W.M., presided at the opening proceedings.

ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES.—At the Cannon-street Hotel, on the 28th ult., at the annual meeting of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney Heath, a resolution that in view of the fact that by far the larger proportion of the inmates of the hospital are women, it is desirable that women be added to the board of management, was defeated by a large majority.

BRO. J. L. APSEY, P.M. 534, was, on his retirement from the service of Messrs. Nurdin and Peacock, Egg Merchants, Wells-street, Oxford-street, W., on the 28th ult., presented by Bro. F. L. Chandler, P.M. 1656, P.P.G. Purst. Middx, on behalf of many brethren and friends, with a massive tea and coffee service and a handsome illuminated testimonial on vellum, as a recognition of his valuable and efficient services, joined to his invariable kindness and courtesy extended to all with whom he had business relations, during a period extending for many years.

BRO. SIR CHARLES WARREN, who left Southampton on the 28th ult. for South Africa, to assume command of the Fifth Division, had a magnificent send-off from Ramsgate. Practically the whole town turned out to cheer the gallant officer as he drove to the railway station, and the streets were decorated with flags. At the railway station, the Mayor wished Bro. Sir Charles Warren "God-speed." In reply, Bro. Sir Charles said he should have great pleasure in describing to Sir Redvers Buller the marvellous enthusiasm and sympathy of the British people at home. Bro. Sir Charles Warren was accompanied to London by his son and daughter.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—For the Christmas season Mr. Gillman has arranged a strong and varied entertainment. "Cyril's Christmas Dream" will be given on the 23rd instant. A striking novelty will be the performance of the two diving-horses. Many clever things have been done by horses, but for them to dive from a height of nearly 40 feet is surely something new. These animals seem to have jumped from a bluff in Iowa, when colts, to rejoin their mother, and from this they have been trained to dive. Other features of the Christmas show will be a Colossal Noah's Ark, "one-quarter the size of the original," we are told, from which the Noah family and the animals are to emerge; Holden's Marionettes, re-appearing after an interval of 20 years; Sanger's Menagerie, and Reddish's Water Carnival and Walrus Hunt.

THE DISPUTE which has existed for some time between Grand Lodge of Mark Masons of England and a body styling itself "Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Ashton-under-Lyne District" has come to a close after considerable irritation had been caused by the denunciation of the latter society *ex cathedra* as "spurious." Readers of the two London Masonic "weeklies" will have noticed in the correspondence in those papers several remarks which show how deeply hurt members of the so-denominated association were by that title being applied. It claimed to have worked from time immemorial as a few other lodges which are on the roll of Grand Mark Lodge. This governing body is not yet 44 years of age, and it was established only because the United Grand Lodge of England would not recognise the Mark Degree, which had been worked for ages in connection with old Craft lodges in many provincial districts. After Grand Mark Lodge had been founded it absorbed Mark lodges that were working under warrants from recognised sovereign bodies, and it has now become very powerful, granting charters for lodges in all the British Possessions. There are now 530 lodges on its roll, among the latest being one for Ladysmith and one for Irrawaddy, Burma. Brethren in connection with the Ashton Lodge desirous of union, peace, and harmony, set to work to bring about an amicable arrangement with respect to this lodge, and they have succeeded, but it has been at a great sacrifice, for the lodge has been dissolved, and its funds have been voted to some Masonic Charities in Lancashire and Cheshire. As a solatium, a warrant has been granted by Grand Mark Lodge for "The Ashton District, Time Immemorial, Lodge," which is to be placed on the list after the Old Kent; and the Pro Grand Master, Bro. the Earl of Euston, will hold a movable Grand Lodge in Cheshire early in 1900 to constitute and consecrate the new lodge.—*Birmingham Post*.

ANNEXING THE TRANSVAAL.—What will be the fate of the Transvaal after the war it is difficult to foresee, but one thing may be considered certain, and that is that every one who can will take care to annex a case of that delicious liqueur, Grant's Morella Cherry Brandy, which is so great a favourite at home and abroad. Sold everywhere; also Grant's Cherry Whisky.

THE *Daily Telegraph* Widows' and Orphans' Fund now stands at 1,287,012 shillings, of which £890 14s. was received on Thursday. The Mansion House Fund amounts to £341,000.

THANKSGIVING DAY was celebrated by the American Society in London with a banquet at the Hotel Cecil. Mr. Justice Bigham, in a graceful speech, proposed "The Health of the President of the United States."

AT A MEETING of the Lodge of Prudent Brethren, No. 145, held at Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 28th ult., Bro. Thomas Peachey Warwick was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year. He is an old citizen and liveryman.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH ASSOCIATION (Entente Cordiale) has arranged for Tuesday next, at the Portman Rooms, a concert the proceeds of which will be handed over to the Soldiers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund. Many well-known artists have promised their collaboration.

IRISH WHISKY AT OLYMPIA.—Messrs. H. S. Persee, Limited, the well-known distillers, have, under competition obtained the sole supply of Irish whisky at all the bars and refreshment rooms of the great South African Exhibition, which opens at Olympia to-morrow (Saturday).

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES have expressed their intention of being present at the performance to be given on the 15th instant, at Olympia, Mr. Edwin Cleary having offered to divide the entire receipts between the Princess of Wales' Hospital ship and the Maine.

BRO. JUSTICE BUCKNILL, P.G.W., who is now engaged at the Glamorgan Assizes, attended the Prince Llewellyn Lodge, No. 2570, at Cardiff, and was supported by the leading members of the South Wales Bar. At the banquet which followed he proved himself a genial and clever after-dinner speaker.

REV. J. E. ROCKLIF, acting Chaplain to the Forces at Malta, suggests that the troops would greatly appreciate newspapers and periodicals, including provincial papers. They might be sent direct to either of the regiments, addressed to the commanding officer, or to Mr. Rocklif, at Malta.

BRO. SIR JOHN GORST, in the Lecture Theatre of the Victoria and Albert Museum, presented a farewell testimonial on behalf of some 500 subscribers to Major-General Sir John Donnelly, K.C.B. This gentleman is retiring from his position as secretary and permanent head of the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, with which he has been connected for more than 40 years. Bro. Sir John Gorst, in making the presentation, paid a very high tribute to the esteem in which their friend was held by his colleagues and all with whom he had come in contact in the course of his duties.

THE FORTHCOMING Grand Military Concert at the Albert Hall, on Tuesday, the 5th inst., in aid of the Sick and Wounded, the Widows and Orphans and the Families of the Troops now serving in South Africa, will present many features of peculiar interest to patriotic Englishmen at the present time. A novel feature will be the singing of Cdoardo Barri's "The Old Brigade," by MM. Barton McGuckin, Norman Salmond, Joseph O'Mara, John Coates, M. Royd, Denham Price, Charles Copland, H. Lane Wilson, and Hayden Coffin.

AN INGENUOUS method of fraud has recently come to the knowledge of the authorities of the British Museum, who have had to devise a new rule to prevent it. The fraud itself is old enough and common enough outside the British Museum, as most collectors of pictures and curiosities know to their cost. In the Museum, however, it seems to have become a regular trade to make copies or sketches of prints and drawings and send them down to the provinces for sale as originals. But the same kind of fraud is said to be carried on in the provinces also. The rule introduced by the Museum authorities is that no copy of a drawing shall be taken out of the Museum until it is impressed with a stamp devised for the purpose. This is some protection to the public, and it only remains that those in charge of provincial collections should adopt some similar and simple mode of suppressing deception.

ALTHOUGH the Freemasons of Leeds, or, at all events, the majority of them, have to contribute, through other channels, towards the Lord Mayor's Relief Fund, they have responded very well to the circular appeal which has been issued by Mr. R. Wilson, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The fund had been started some little time before the circular was issued, but I understand that already nearly £300 has been subscribed, and that will be supplemented, in all likelihood, by nearly as much again. I understand that there will be no publication of the names of contributors or other advertising methods which are sometimes used to draw substantial contributions, so that no one need fear that their good by stealth will be seen of men. When one considers the comparatively small number of Masons there are in the city, and the calls made upon them, the response is a generous one.—*Leeds Times*.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL.—Queen Charlotte's Lying-In Hospital, Marylebone-road. This hospital received 1112 patients into its wards last year, and, in addition, attended 1070 patients at their own homes. The enlargement and improvement of the hospital is now almost completed, and much-needed additional accommodation is now becoming available. The new nurses' home, which has been erected opposite the hospital, was opened by T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of York in July last. The nurses much appreciate their new quarters. Upwards of £7000 is still needed for these works, and for new furniture for the hospital and home. Donations to the building fund, as well as for general maintenance, will be thankfully received at the hospital by the Secretary, Mr. Arthur Watts.

RHODESIAN SHARES BOOMING.—In view of the great rise in the price of the shares of the Chartered Company (with its capital of several millions sterling), to nearly £4 per share, there has been great activity in the shares of other Rhodesian companies, and it is generally agreed that Rhodesian shares are meeting with an amount of attention never before bestowed upon them. More than half the business in the Kafir market is taking place in Rhodesian shares. The new treaty with Germany will enable the Chartered Company to connect its railway system with the South-West Coast of Africa. This will give another route to Rhodesia, which will probably be the shortest available and the most convenient, and it is calculated that Rhodesia will thus be brought within 20 days of London. The almost complete cessation of mining operations in the Transvaal has enabled the Rhodesian mines to obtain the native labour of which they stood in need, and we ought, as a consequence, to witness a great development of gold mines and land. One of the most promising companies devoted to the exploration and development of lands and gold mines in Rhodesia is the Austen (Gwelo) Development Syndicate, Limited. Taking into consideration the smallness of its capital, which is only £50,000, in £1 fully paid up shares, of which £20,000 is for working capital; that it owns a farm of 6000 acres and 507 claims in the best known and most important gold mining districts of Rhodesia, and that the latest reports from the manager in Rhodesia state that he has struck ore giving over 13 ozs. of gold per ton, the present price of about £1 10s. per share, at which the shares of the Austen (Gwelo) Development Syndicate, Limited, are now dealt in on the London Stock Exchange, should make them a good speculative investment.



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