

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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OUR BRETHREN OF THE TRANSVAAL.

We have frequently had occasion to remark on the wonderful progress which Freemasonry has made in the Transvaal, but more especially since the year 1895, when the Republic was erected into a District under the English Constitution, and R.W. Bro. GEORGE RICHARDS was appointed by his Royal Highness the M.W. Grand Master to preside over it as District Grand Master. The introduction of the Craft into this part of South Africa dates from no very remote past, the senior lodge on the District roll being the Transvaal, No. 1747, which meets in Pretoria, the capital of the Republic, and was consecrated in 1878, when the Transvaal was a part of British South Africa. The establishment of this lodge was, however, followed by several years of serious internal disorder, and it was not till 1888 that matters settled down somewhat, and warrants for three lodges—the Johannesburg, No. 2313; the El Dorado, No. 2314, Zeerust; and the Prince Alfred, No. 2315, Klerksdorp—were applied for and granted. Between this date and 1895 the number of lodges was increased to about a dozen, but since then, when, as we have said, the Transvaal was formed into a District, and a District Grand Lodge organised under Bro. RICHARDS as District Grand Master, the rate of progress has been amazing, and there are now on the roll quite double the number in existence at the time of his appointment. But, in addition, there is likewise a number of Scottish and Dutch lodges, and also a few Irish lodges at Johannesburg, so that there are here, as elsewhere in S. Africa, lodges of as many as four different Constitutions, which heretofore have worked side by side together in peace and harmony, each of the four groups of lodges exerting themselves, both severally and collectively, to the utmost of their power to strengthen and advance the interests of our Order.

We have said there are some 25 lodges on the roll of the English Dist. Grand Lodge, and if we allow an average of 50 members per lodge, we arrive at the very respectable aggregate of about 1200, allowing for those brethren who may be members of more than one lodge; and of these, as we have been informed by Bro. RICHARDS himself, some four-fifths are of English, and the remaining fifth of Dutch nationality. But the war now raging in S. Africa has utterly destroyed the serenity of this beautiful scene of brethren of different nationalities,

different political aspirations, and different ideas and habits of life dwelling together in unity. The lodges, we are informed by the same high authority, are in recess, and the English four-fifths of the Masonic community have found themselves under the necessity of abandoning their homes and household gods and seeking refuge in Cape Colony or Natal, or wherever else it might be in their power to find shelter. On the sufferings, by the way, of these English Masons and their wives and families, in common with the whole body of British refugees from the Transvaal, there is no need for us to dwell; they have been already described in the columns of the daily Press with a realism that is more than painful. What we are desirous of impressing upon our readers is that these Refugee English brethren were but a few months ago in receipt of comfortable incomes, ranging, in very many cases, from £400 and £500 upwards, and in some instances to £1000 a year, while, as they were all of them subscribing members of lodges, we take it they were at least in reputable circumstances. Now they are homeless and without occupation, while the majority are destitute of even the simplest necessities of life. They do not, as a rule, belong to that class of people who go about proclaiming their misfortunes from the housetops, but are rather of those who endure their sufferings in secret. Moreover, they are, after all, but a very small minority of the thousands upon thousands of people who, owing to the same cause, are in the same terrible plight. But they are our brethren in distress, and to us, as members of the same ancient and honourable society, their misfortunes, if not their voices, appeal with tenfold force; nor shall we be discharging our duty as Masons if we do not extend to them the hand of fellowship with a something in it that will, at least, enable them to tide over their present difficulties until peace is restored and they are again in a position to help themselves. Special grants have before now been made to brethren in various of our Colonies and in foreign countries, who have suffered from fire and flood and other similar calamities; and there is equal, if not far greater, reason why we should succour our distressed brethren of the Transvaal who have been among the first to suffer from a War that is being waged against the supremacy of our common country in South Africa. The District Grand Master of the Transvaal, in the exercise of his judgment and with that fuller knowledge of the circumstances which he necessarily possesses, considers the time has arrived when a special appeal in behalf of the suffering Masons under his government may with propriety be made to their brother Masons in England. He has addressed that appeal for help to the generosity of the English Craft through the medium of our columns, and we trust that appeal will not have been made in vain. Be it added, as regards ourselves, that we shall gladly do all in our power to promote the object which Bro. RICHARDS is desirous of attaining, by opening, as he requests, a Subscribers' List in our columns for a Fund in aid of our brethren of the Transvaal. Our R.W. Brother has sent us already a donation of £100 with which to inaugurate the Fund, and by next week, perhaps, we shall be in a position to announce our first list of subscribers.

THE LODGE ROOM.

III. THE GAVEL.

[COMMUNICATED].

There are several implements in the lodge room which at one time or another are described as gavels, not only by unlearned brethren, but even by well-informed Worshipful Masters. It is, for instance, not at all unusual for the gavel to

do duty for the setting maul in the course of one of our ceremonies. This, of course, is quite wrong. The gavel was generally of metal or flint, whereas no metal tool was ever found within the precincts of the temple. Then, in many lodges there is to be found a little ivory *mallet* on the Master's pedestal, to be used for the purpose of calling brethren to attention, in addition to the actual gavel, which is used in such cases, confined to its place among the working tools, and along with the chisel and the 24-inch gauge presented to the entered apprentice.

The former of these customs is probably due to Oliver, who in several places speaks of the "common gavel or setting maul," and the latter is of French origin, the name given both to the gavel and the Worshipful Master's emblem of authority being *Le maillet*. The question is, whether the working tool in the First Degree and the emblem of the Master's authority should be one and the same thing. In the address of the Installing Master there is nothing to indicate this necessity, and the fact that in the installation ceremony the gavel is very often called the Hiram.

What Mackay says on the subject, however, is worth reproduction:

"As the lodge is an imitation of the temple and each member of the lodge is a stone thereof, so by the influence of the gavel all the ebullitions of temper and the indecorum of frivolity are restrained, just as the material stones of that building were, by the same instrument, divested of their asperities and imperfections."

We are disposed to think then, that the gavel or *maillet* of the Worshipful Master and that presented to the initiate should be identical in pattern.

The term gavel has reference to its shape, which is that of the gable end of a house. It should resemble a right-angled triangle whose hypothenuse rests on a square or rectangle, the graceful curves so often found being quite out of keeping in a Freemason's lodge where right angles, straight lines, and perpendiculars are supposed to dominate.

The gable in its turn comes from the German *gipfel*, meaning a summit or a peak, the reference being, of course, to the cutting edge.

The name Hiram, by which the gavel is sometimes alluded to, does not seem to possess much justification. In fact, it is not often heard in the lodges and it is chiefly referred to in the stereotyped phrase, in which the newly-installed Worshipful Master "trusts that when the time comes for him to hand over the gavel to his successor, he may, etc., etc."

In the lectures we are told that the gavel is used to knock off all superfluous knobs or excrescences, and, therefore, it represents the voice of conscience. The connection of ideas is not obvious and the application appears far-fetched, but we do not suppose that there will ever be any alteration.

In the installation ceremony the gavel is simply described as the emblem of authority, and Mackey's reasoning, quoted above, seems to afford all the justification needed.

The newly-installed Worshipful Master is told that he is to take care that the gavel is always answered by the Wardens when it is used, and this brings us to a consideration of its employment in lodge.

It is first sounded when the Worshipful Master rises to open the lodge. Opinions differ whether or not the Wardens should respond. We are disposed to think they should not, inasmuch as the lodge is not yet formed. On the other hand, it may be argued that the Wardens are, to a limited extent, the equals of the Master, and their office is a continuous one not dependent on the incident of the lodge being opened. It is next heard when the lodge is declared open, in whatever Degree, and it is then properly answered not only by the Wardens, but by the Inner and Outer Guards.

According to the directions in the ritual, the further use of the gavel, whether in the E., W., or S., is dependent on the amount of disorder that may be going on. But the Worshipful Master, as a rule, has very liberal ideas of the use of the symbol of authority. He uses it every time he rises in his place to call the brethren to attention. This means a constant pounding of the pedestal, and, as corresponding pounding goes on, in response, in the West and South, it sounds as if a saluting battery were stationed within the lodge precincts.

In this connection we might remark that there is, as a rule, far too much noise in lodge. What can, for instance, be more distressing to a candidate at the most solemn moment of his Masonic existence than to be startled by the sound of the gavel all round the lodge, and to be in a state of ignorance whether every movement might not be the signal for another.

The efficacy of the gavel may be considered as varying inversely with the frequency of its employment. When lodge is

to be closed, the Worshipful Master gives his command to the Senior Warden to close it, and then gives the knocks of the Degree in which the lodge is working. The Senior Warden says, ". . . I close the lodge," and in nine cases out of ten gives the same knocks. This is wrong. The lodge is closed and the knocks given by the Wardens and the Inner and Outer Guards should be those of the next Degree below, and if the lodge is being closed altogether the single knock is alone appropriate. It may be remarked as being somewhat curious that nowhere in the ceremonies or the lecture are the proper knocks of the several Degrees described, and the only allusion to them at all is the reference to the text "ask, and it shall be given you, knock and it shall be opened unto you."

When the knocks are given by the Inner and Outer Guards, they should be given with the handle of the weapon possessed by each. There ought to be some approach to uniformity in the way the Tyler announces approaching brethren. When a dilatory, but well-known, brother wishes to enter, the knocks given by the Tyler should be those of the Degree in which the lodge is working. When a stranger seeks admission, whose claim to be considered a Freemason at all has yet to be subjected to scrutiny and examination, a single knock should be given. When a candidate seeks admission the knocks should be those of the Degree the candidate has already taken, or, if an initiate, a single knock. In the first of these cases the Inner Guard will announce "a report," and in all the others an "alarm." Not only is the newly-installed Master presented with a gavel, but each of his Wardens is given one. This, of course, symbolises the authority which those officers share with the Master, and it, of course, implies that the gavel may be used by either Warden without the initiative of the W.M., should circumstances arise which appear to demand it.

The question is often asked—In what Degree Grand and Provincial Grand Lodges are opened? As regards the knocks given, they afford no information, but from the fact of none but Installed Masters and Wardens being present, the Third Degree may be presumed.

There is one other place where the gavel is often to be found that must by no means be omitted, and that is the festive board. As it detracts somewhat from its dignity to be found in such associations, calling festive brethren to order, leading applause, and so on, we should imagine that the ivory mallet already referred to at the beginning of these remarks might be more appropriately employed.

We might now refer to the mallet. This implement is only found in Mark Masonry. Whereas the gavel was used in the quarries, and was made of metal, the mallet was of wood, and was used within the precincts of the Temple, to dispose the finished blocks of stone in their proper courses. The American lectures say that "the association of the mallet and chisel in this Degree teaches us that the chief benefit of education (symbolised by the chisel) is to teach us to know our proper place and station in the world, having due respect to the rights and privileges of our fellows."

The explanation in the authorised ritual of the Grand Mark Lodge is somewhat vague, and, to tell the truth, somewhat of a platitude. The American explanation quoted is, at all events, practical. It will be observed that this involves the assumption that the mallet and the setting maul are one and the same implement. This is the case in America, but in the English Mark lecture, probably the mallet refers to the small hammer used for striking the chisel, which practically reduces us to the blunt side of the gavel.

THE KNIGHTS' TEMPLAR CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE.

The following sentiment has been prepared for Christmas Day, 1899:

"To our Most Eminent Grand Master, Reuben Hedley Lloyd—
May the Lord send him all the blessings which his faithful
Knights wish him on this merry Christmas Day."

To which the Grand Master will respond:

"Sir Knights—May He, who provides all things, endow you with wisdom and power to illustrate in your lives and conduct the principles taught by Him whose advent we this day commemorate."

The Grand Masters or Great Priors of England, Ireland, and Scotland will be asked to take part in this International Observance on Monday, December 25th, at noon Eastern Standard time (equivalent to 5 p.m. Greenwich), and an invitation is extended to all regular fratres to participate throughout the wide world. Bro. W. J. Hughan is the Representative of the U.S.A. for the K.T. observance in Great Britain and Ireland, and is awaiting the receipt of the official invitations.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.—Among the latest contributions to the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London is the following: Donation—Tranquillity Lodge of Freemasons, No. 185, per Bro. P. Ornstein, W.M., £21.

Art and the Drama.

THE DORE GALLERY.

There is a grand new picture now on exhibition here, entitled "The Crown of Eland's Laagte;" it is by F. W. Lawson, an artist well known by his famous picture, "The Cry for Peace," lately removed to make place for his present production. The picture naturally presents two aspects to the spectator, an earthly and a visionary one. The left foreground represents the kopje, where, outstretched in death, lie the brave soldiers who dearly purchased the hard fought position, at the willing noble sacrifice of their lives, in maintaining the honour of their Queen and country. On this memorable night, 21st October, 1899, the wearied living rested, after the terrible battle, in the companionship of their dead comrades, who slept, alas, "the sleep that knows no waking" in this our mortal world. In the visions of that night they see those who have passed away receive the well-merited reward of their self sacrificing valour at the hands of their beloved Sovereign. In this vision, so beautifully and feelingly depicted by the poetic artist, in fancy we behold the valiant General Symons signing with his heart's blood his name first on the roll in the hall of Fame. Onward, still onward, following in their leader's footsteps, ready to award to him the palm of victory, they themselves are content to be absorbed in its far extended shade. The artist has well conceived his noble subject, and has most efficiently carried it out. We cannot, however, help thinking that the effect would have been better achieved if "grim-visaged Death" had been less prominent, veiled, as it were, in friendly obscurity. This, of course, is merely a suggestion on our part. The picture will well repay a careful study. The next pictures which claim our notice are three masterpieces by the celebrated John Martin. At the time when these appeared they had a great influence on the minds of orthodox Christians, who saw depicted in a most realistic form, their preconceived opinions of the scenes of the Last Judgment. It is a noteworthy fact that the great art critic, John Ruskin, considers Martin as one of those painters who, not only in the present, but also in the future, will hold sway over the Christian mind. One of Martin's most earnest admirers was Gustave Doré, who acknowledged his great obligation to his predecessor in the region of Scripture illustration. These pictures are respectively entitled, "The Last Judgment," "The Great Day of His Wrath," and "The Plains of Heaven." All possessing the types of the artist's wonderfully realistic style, we infinitely prefer the third picture, a magnificent work of artistic beauty. On viewing this lovely production we seem to absorb into ourselves the spirit of eternal bliss and rest. It has much of the handling and tone of Turner's best works. We have particular pleasure in noticing the two pictures by Handel Gear. We understand he is a young artist—we heartily congratulate him on the fair promise he gives of a brilliant future. He is one of those artists, by no means numerous, who seem to have "mixed their colours with brains." These two pictures are "Beauty or Mammon," and "Vice gambling with Death." In the first we behold symbolised the war of passions in the soul, which, sooner or later, affect the varied phases of humanity. The artist has wisely placed the tumultuous struggles of emotion in the central figure—a young man, the expression of whose face and his attitude attest the intensity of divided feeling. On one side stands the figure of Beauty, the upper portion of the figure partly undraped, on the other, seated on a throne, is Mammon. Here, we think, the artist is in error; in his earnest wish to emphasise his idea he has made too repulsive and exaggerated the figure. Taken as a whole, it is a beautiful, instructive picture, aiming at a definite purpose. "Vice, gambling with Death." The artist has the courage to leave the beaten track, and represent Death in the female form as an old woman. We have depicted "the lust of the flesh and of the eye and the pride of life" in gambling play with the mighty Destroyer, to whom all the human race must inevitably succumb—Vice and Death engaged upon their weird game of hazard, of which there can only be one result. The accessories and minute details all harmonise with and make prominent the subject of the picture.

THE FINE ART SOCIETY.

THE CHILD'S EXHIBITION.

There is a charming collection of pictures to be seen now at the gallery of the Fine Art Society, 148, New Bond-street. It is called "The Child's Exhibition"—a very suitable name. Here little children, and even we ourselves, as children of a more advanced growth, may spend a happy hour in renewing their and our acquaintance with the chief personages of the nursery legends. It is well for the old sometimes to give fancy free play, and imagine themselves for awhile, at least, transported back to the happy scenes of childhood. The head crowned with the winter of old age will be none the worse if occasionally, lit up by the sunny smiles of dear, innocent children, and the sweet music of their lovely voices, will find ready access to the expectant ears, dulled to the ordinary sounds of the busy world. We seem to live anew in the lives of the children; memory will recall the time when we were as guileless and innocent as they are now, and the prayer involuntarily arises in our hearts that they may long be spared an acquaintance with evil and a knowledge of the sordid maxims of the busy, selfish world. Artists of high repute have not disdained to treat the nursery legends with proper feeling and respect. The names of Cecil Aldin, Tom Browne, Dudley Hardy, J. Hassall, Phil May, Newton Shepard, and Mlle. A. Rasponi are a sufficient guarantee that they have carried out to the full the spirit of the subjects they respectively illustrate. We will draw attention to a few, but they are really all so good that it is difficult to make a selection. No. 3, "Christmas Morning," No. 45, "The Master's Lunch," and No. 57, "Masks and Faces," by Tom Browne; No. 12, "The Arrival of Father Christmas," No. 36, "Jack Sprat," No. 37, "Jack and Jill," No. 39, "A Christmas Greeting," and No. 81, "A Reserved Seat," by Cecil Aldin; No. 68A, six illustrations for "Weymarke and the Sea Fairies," by Dudley Hardy; No. 10, "Flirtation, East End," No. 17, "Flirtation, West End," No. 73, "Old King Cole," and No. 77, "Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son," by J. Hassall; Nos. 119 to 126, "Studies of Dutch Children," by Phil May; No. 8, "The Moon Fairy," No. 71, "Bread, Cheese, and Kisses," and No. 78, "The Romp," by F. Newton Shepard; Nos. 85 to 113, "Drawings for Mother Duck's Children," &c., by Mlle. A. Rasponi. These are but a few; there are many other good pictures. Let, then, the young and old children visit the gallery during the Christmas holidays, there is a delight in store for them.

CHRISTMAS AT THE INNS OF COURT.

We continue this subject from last week. The rules respecting revels at the Inns were strict enough in other details, besides dancing round the fire and singing. At the Middle Temple it was laid down that—

"Whosoever do refuse to carry up bread and beer to the Masters of the Bench do forfeit, viz.; barristers, viiid, and others iiis. iiid."

At Gray's Inn no Fellow was permitted to stand with his back to the fire, and penalties were enforced for making "a rude noise" in Hall. So, in the reign of Elizabeth, an Act was found necessary prohibiting gentlemen of the Society from breaking open "any chamber, or disorderly molest or abuse any Officer of this House," at Christmas or any other time, on pain of expulsion. Evidently, "sporting the oak," was small proof of security, prior to that time. Ever since the reign of Henry 6th, Lincoln's Inn led the way in the matters of revels at Christmas. The Fellows do not, like the brethren of the Middle Temple, seem to have been compelled "to keep a solempne Christmase," possibly they did not need any compulsion, but they certainly carried out the maxim, that the season should bring with it good cheer. Feasting was the order of the day, and "the King of the Cocknies" was throned instead of the time honoured Lord of Misrule. The monarch of the time was fenced round with rules, and refused absolute sway, for it was ordained that he should have "due service," but not "allowed to medyll, neither in the buttry, nor in the Stuard of Christmas his ofice, upon pain of xls. for every such medylling. And that Jack Straw and his adherents, should be thenceforth utterly banisht." This Jack Straw and his attendants appear to have been privileged imps of mischief, whose pranks greatly added to the rollicksome nature of the season, and it has been suggested that the lawless lieutenant of Wat the Tyler, who made his "castle" at Hampstead, chose for himself the pseudonym of "Jack Straw," to hint how he would worry and fret the loyal citizens of London. Whether this be a fact or not, it is a sad matter that the king of the Lincoln's Inn revels could not be entrusted in the pantry or the steward's office. Masques appear to have found favour first at the other inns, notably at Gray's Inn and the Inner Temple, which were almost affiliated. Indications of this are not wanting even now, for the Winged Horse of the Inner Temple is to be found carved in Gray's Inn-square, and the Griffin of Gray's Inn finds place on garden gates of the Inner Temple. The first recorded Masque was held at Gray's Inn at Christmas, 1555, and is described as a "goodly disguising compiled by John Roo, Sergeant-at-Law." There is pretty fair evidence that Master John Roo compiled this disguising some 20 years prior to its production, but as he portrayed "how Lord Governance was ruled by Dissipation and Negligence, which caused Lady Public-weal to be put out of government," he was held to be reflecting upon the then all-powerful Cardinal Wolsey, who promptly deprived him of his coif and sent him to the Fleet Prison.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. S. S. PARTRIDGE, P.A.G.D.C., DEPUTY PROV. G.M.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Leicester, on the 30th ult., and was very largely attended, no less than 150 being present from all parts of the province. In the much-regretted absence of Lord Ferrers, P.G.M., Bro. S. S. Partridge, P.A.G.D.C., Dep. P.G.M., presided, and Bro. the Rev. C. Henton Wood, M.A., P.G. Chap., performed the duties of D.P.G.M.

The annual lodge returns showed a total of 780 subscribing members—an increase of 13. During the year 55 new members were affiliated, including 39 initiates and 16 joining members. The withdrawals numbered 42—27 by resignation, 10 by death, and five by "exclusion;" 118 regular and six emergency lodges had been held, and the work performed included 39 initiations, 39 passings, and 32 raisings.

Bro. G. Neighbour, P.P.G.W., Secretary of the Provincial Charity Committee, was unable to be present owing to serious illness, but his report showed that Bro. C. Bennion, Prov. G. Treas., the Provincial Charity Steward, had collected £419 9s. 6d. on behalf of the Benevolent Institution, also that two candidates, viz., one for the Girls' School and one for the Benevolent Institution, had been elected during the year.

A very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Bro. R. V. Vassar-Smith, P.G.D., D.P.G.M. Gloucestershire, for the services he had rendered to the province as Secretary of the Western Provinces Charity Association.

Bro. W. J. New, P.P.G.W., was elected Provincial Charity Steward for the year, the Girls' School being the Charity selected.

The report on the "Kelly Memorial Fund" showed £305 invested, and £87 17s. 6d. in bank on the Capital Account, and £38 8s. 11d. in bank on the Relief Account, and the hope was expressed that much greater interest would be shown in the fund, both on the part of the lodges and the brethren generally.

Bro. B. A. Smith, M.A., L.L.M., P.P.G.W., who for 13 years had most ably discharged the editorial duties of the Provincial Calendar, was compelled to relinquish the work, and Bro. Rev. H. S. Biggs, B.A., P.P.G. Chap., was elected to succeed him.

Bro. J. Herbert Marshall, P.P.G.W., in the name of the province, presented to Bro. S. S. Partridge, P.A.G.D.C., D.P.G.M., a portrait of himself, painted by A. Hacker, A.R.A., and which was hung in the Academy this year; also, on behalf of Prov. G. Lodge, with a silver salver and address.

In making these presentations, Bro. MARSHALL expressed his personal regret, which he was sure would be shared by all present, at the unavoidable absence of the Prov. G. Master, who, at the last moment, found it impossible to be present. Bro. Marshall spoke of the great skill and assiduity with which for more than 30 years Bro. Partridge had discharged the onerous duties of high provincial offices, and particularly mentioned the many years during which Bro. Partridge had been editor of the Provincial Calendar, Secretary of the Province, and Deputy Prov. Grand Master. He spoke of Bro. Partridge's regular attendance at the various lodges, and the willingness and efficiency with which he, at all times, performed any part of the work. No ceremony was

complete without the presence of Bro. Partridge, who loved Freemasonry, and was loved by the province, and whilst the whole of the province would be delighted to have his portrait for all time, the brethren were absolutely united in the earnest hope that the original would be spared for many years. As it was hoped that the portrait would be hung in the Freemasons' Hall, he asked Bro. Partridge to accept the silver salver and an address from Provincial Grand Lodge, that he and his family might have something at home to remind them of the deep esteem and affection in which he was held by the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland.

Bro. the Rev. C. HENTON WOOD, M.A., P.P.G.W., P.G.C., who said the portrait would be an incentive to the brethren to emulate the zeal, kindness, and determination of the original, mentioned that Bro. Partridge was the originator of the Provincial Calendar, and said that all were of one accord as to the presentations, and in the hope of a long Masonic future for Bro. Partridge.

The whole of the brethren present frequently evinced the heartiest sympathy with the remarks of Bros. Marshall and Wood, and on

Bro. S. S. PARTRIDGE rising to reply, he was received with great enthusiasm. He said Bro. Marshall, officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, and brethren, we are told that out of the fulness of the heart the mouth speaketh, but I fear that my case will prove an exception to the good old proverb, for although my heart is overflowing with gratitude, words fail me to express my thanks for the exceedingly great honour this day conferred upon me; an honour far exceeding anything my Masonic services could have deserved. In the first place, I desire to express my deep obligations to Bro. Marshall, not only for consenting to make the presentation on your behalf, and for the more than kind words with which it has been accompanied, but also for all the untiring exertions that he, aided by Bro. Holmes and other members of the Presentation Committee, have used in raising so splendid a testimonial. To one and all of you I desire to express my deepest acknowledgments for the honour now conferred upon me. You have in the past, during the 33 years of my Masonic life, bestowed upon me many marks of your appreciation and goodwill. Special'y would I like to refer to the great kindness of the brethren on the occasion of my marriage, now more than 20 years ago, when a beautiful Masonic wedding present was offered to me on that most important epoch of my life. The kind wishes then expressed have been very fully realised, and my good wife treasures amongst our most precious possessions the testimonial we then received. The present very artistic production of my friend Mr. Hacker will ever be valued by me, but that value will in manifold measure be enhanced if you permit it to have a place on the walls of this lodge room, in which many happy hours of my life have been spent, and I have, therefore, to ask Prov. G. Lodge to accept the portrait from me, and I trust it may be permitted to be placed amongst those of other and more deserving brethren now appearing on these walls, and that it may serve to remind you of one who, however imperfectly he may have laboured, has attempted to discharge his Masonic duties for the benefit of the Craft and in the interests of this good Province of Leicestershire and Rutland. The further token of your regard in giving me this handsome salver and beautiful Masonic address will always remind me of your kind appreciation, and I trust when, in the ordinary course of events, I may be removed from amongst you, these beautiful gifts will be prized and preserved by those I may leave behind me. Brethren, I feel that my thanks have been very feebly expressed for all your kindness, but you will quite understand the difficulty I have in giving adequate expression to my deep gratitude, and, I trust, pardon my saying more than once again—Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Bro. C. Bennion was re-elected Prov. G. Treas., and the Prov. G. Officers for the ensuing year were appointed and invested as follows:

Bro. S. S. Partridge, P.A.G.D.C. Eng.	...	D.P.G.M.
" Rev. S. Wathen Wigg, P.M. 1911, 1764, 50,	...	Prov. S.G.W.
P.P.G.C	...	
" Cornelius Gurden, P.M. 279	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. George Estlin Atkins, M.A., Chap. 279...	...	
" Rev. James Wilson A. Mackenzie, M.A.,	...	Prov. G. Chaps.
Chap. 50	...	
" John Joseph Sharp, P.M. 2428	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" Edward Holmes, P.M. 279 and 2429	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" William Henry Wootton, I.P.M. 1007	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" Edward Forster Knight, P.M. 1130	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" John Wigg, I.P.M. 50...	...	Prov. G.S. of Wks.
" Henry Howe, P.M. 1391	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" Frederick Samuel Waterman, P.M. 2081	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" John Clifton, I.P.M. 297	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" John William Bromley, P.M. 1007	...	
" Frank Lambert, P.M. 1391	...	Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" Thomas Willisroft, P.M. 779	...	Prov. G. Org.
" Williams Adams Lea, I.P.M. 523...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" Benjamin Freer, P.M. 1265	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" George Farmer, I.P.M. 779	...	
" Giles Eli Barton, I.P.M. 1391	...	
" Henry John Blakeley, F.R.C.S., P.M. 1560	...	Prov. G. Stwds.
" John George Collis, I.P.M. 2028	...	
" John Furley, I.P.M. 1265	...	
" Walter Firth Carnley, I.P.M. 2428	...	
" James Tanser, Tyler 279	...	Prov. G. Tyler.

Ireland.

GRAND LODGE.

The Quarterly Communication of the above Grand Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Molesworth-street, Dublin, on Thursday, the 7th inst. R.W. Bro. Sir James Creed Meredith, D.G.M., presided, supported by R.W. Bros. R. Keating Clay, G. Treas., as acting S.G.W.; Sir C. A. Cameron, C.B., as acting J.G.W.; Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Down, G. Chaplain; Chetwode Crawley, as G.D.C.; W. Bro. H. E. Flavell, Dep. G. Secretary; Bro. McGee, G. Steward; and the other Grand Officers. The R.W. Deputy Grand Masters of Antrim and Wicklow and Wexford were also present.

There was a very large attendance of brethren, as it was understood that Grand Lodge would be asked to depart from its long-established custom of confining its liberality to strictly Masonic objects, and to vote a sum of money to the General Fund for relief of the families of our soldiers and sailors serving in South Africa.

When the minutes of the preceding Communication had been confirmed,

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER adverted, in feeling terms, to the great losses sustained by the Craft in Ireland during the current week. He went on to particularise the decease of W. Bro. Davenport Crosthwaite, LL.D., and of W. Bro. Edward Hamilton, M.D., who had both been prominent Freemasons for nearly half-a-century. Bro. Davenport Crosthwaite had attained Grand Office as far back as 1860, and had served zealously and faithfully as Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Instruction—a position which his wide and accurate learning rendered him peculiarly fitted to fill. To the present generation of Irish Freemasons he would be best known as Vice-Chancellor of the Order of the Temple in Ireland. He was the first Vice-Chancellor appointed after the confederation of the Irish and English Templar Bodies in 1873, and he discharged the duties of that responsible office with zeal and fidelity till failing health compelled him to resign a year or two ago. He died full of years and honours and accompanied to the last by the unfeigned esteem of his brethren. The very next day after Bro. Davenport Crosthwaite's remains had been deposited in the tomb, the brethren were called on to escort to the grave the remains of another brother equally prominent in the Craft, equally renowned in the realm of science, and of even longer service in the Brotherhood. Our lamented Bro. Edward Hamilton, M.D., ex-President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Surgeon-in-Ordinary to the Lord Lieutenant, was a leading member of the Board of General Purposes, and may be said to have died in harness. He was a Grand Officer of the Temple, and had attained high distinction in the Ancient and Accepted Rite. He never spared himself in the interests of Freemasonry, and his departure from among us will leave a gap hard to be filled.

On the proposition of the DEP. G.M., seconded by the G. TREAS., sympathetic resolutions were in each case adopted by Grand Lodge and ordered to be forwarded to the families of our deceased brethren.

In accordance with the practice of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, which permits the retention of Grand office for three years, the Board of General Purposes recommended the re-election of all the Grand Officers as follows:

M.W. Bro. his Grace the Duke of Abercorn	...	G.M.
R.W. " Right Hon. Viscount Templetown	...	S.G.W.
R.W. " Sir John T. Banks, K.C.B.	...	J.G.W.
R.W. " R. Keating Clay, J.P.	...	G. Treas.
R.W. " Right Hon. Lord Castletown	...	G. Sec.
R.W. " Rev. Benjamin Gibson, M.A.	...	
R.W. " Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Down,	...	G. Chaps.
D.D.	...	
W. " William G. Huband	...	S.G.D.
W. " George Drury	...	J.G.D.
W. " William Spencer, C.E.	...	G. Supt. of Wks.
W. " James M. Lowry	...	G.D. of C.
W. " William McGee, J.P.	...	G. Stwd.
W. " George Scriven, M.D.	...	G.S.B.
W. " Thomas R. G. Joze, Mus. D.	...	G. Organist.
W. " J. Fox Goodman, J.P.	...	G.I.G.

The Grand Secretary G.L. Instruction had already been re-elected at the June communication.

The brethren nominated by the lodges to represent them on the Board of General Purposes for 1900 were reported to Grand Lodge and elected. There was no opposition in any case.

An appeal by a lodge against the decision of Prov. G. Lodge was held over, no one appearing to sustain the appeal on behalf of the lodge.

Permission was sought by two Dublin lodges to install as W.M. brethren who had not served as Warden in any lodge under the Irish Constitution. Both petitions had been investigated and recommended by the Board of General Purposes. In one case the brother recommended had served as Warden in a lodge under the English Constitution, and the assent of Grand Lodge was a mere matter of course. The other case evoked considerable discussion, as the brother recommended (a peer of the realm) was held to be of junior standing; but evidence of his services to the Craft having been adduced, his name also was approved.

A recommendation from the Committee of Charity, endorsed by the Board of General Purposes, to contribute 100 guineas to the fund for the relief of the families of our soldiers and sailors engaged in the present war was laid before Grand Lodge by the DEP. G. MASTER in an eloquent and stirring speech, which elicited much enthusiasm. The proposal was adopted by acclamation, and on the suggestion of Bro. Chetwode Crawley, permission was given to the lodges applying for it to forward their separate contributions to any approved local scheme for the purpose.

The routine business having been transacted, Grand Lodge was closed.

The next communication of the Grand Lodge of Ireland will take place, according to time-honoured custom, on St. John's Day in winter, for which the following summons has been issued:

ST. JOHN'S DAY, 27th DECEMBER, 1899.

The Grand Lodge of Ireland will meet at high noon, and, at the conclusion of the ordinary business, an address will be delivered by the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, on the progress of Irish Masonry during the year.

After the meeting, a hot luncheon will be provided in the Masonic Hall, at the cost of half-a-crown per head, to be paid by the brethren attending, in addition to the cost of any liquid refreshment they may require. All members of Grand Lodge are entitled to attend.

All Brethren attending Grand Lodge shall wear the appropriate full Dress Apron and the Collar and Jewel of his rank; but no member of the Grand Lodge, or visitor thereto, shall wear any jewel, medal, or device belonging to any order or degree, beyond that of Master Mason, in which the Jewel of a Past Master is included. The Representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges may wear the Insignia of the Lodges they represent.—See G.L. Law 10.

Each member of Grand Lodge attending any Communication thereof shall, before entering, sign his name in a book provided for that purpose; and every

member being a representative of a Lodge in the Metropolitan District, who does not attend, shall be fined one shilling. The Officers of Provincial Lodges are exempted.—G.L. Law 9.

Past Masters are not entitled to vote in Grand Lodge, until duly registered, and their Certificate as such taken out; they must be also subscribing members of a subordinate Lodge.—See G.L. Law 3.

Note.—Secretaries of lodges under the Irish Constitution are requested to take notice that the return of officers should be made, and all dues and arrears paid, on or before St. John's Day (27th December), otherwise their officers cannot be approved.

FREEMASONRY AT ABERGAVENNY.

OPENING OF THE NEW MASONIC HALL.

INTERESTING HISTORIC AND MASONIC ASSOCIATIONS.

More than usual interest attached to the gathering of brethren at Abergavenny on Wednesday, the 22nd ult., inasmuch as the occasion was the opening of a new Masonic Hall under unique circumstances, since the Philanthropic Lodge, 818, has found its new home in a building which was originally the ancient parish church of Abergavenny. The occasion was marked not only by a gathering of brethren of the Craft lodges from various parts of the county, but also by the holding of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge under Bro. John Owen Marsh, P.G.M. The formal opening of the new hall followed the meeting of the Mark Masons. The officers and brethren of the Philanthropic Lodge present were Bros. I. T. Williams, P.J.G.D., W.M.; Robert Price, S.W.; E. H. Bretherton, J.W.; W. P. Cooper, Sec.; T. H. Tomkins, P.M., Org.; F. Gardner, S.D.; P. H. Price, J.D.; E. G. Price, P.M., P.J.G.D., D.C.; P. Elmes Y. Steel, as I.G.; A. Whitney, Tyler; S. Gardner, Asst. Tyler; J. O. Marsh, P.M., P.P.S.G.W.; J. Haigh, P. H. Sergeant, J. Straker, H. C. Evans, P.M.; L. G. Morgan, P.M.; W. E. Jacob, A. Jenkins, H. Pryer, F. J. Edwards, J. C. Thomas, P.M.; J. R. Jacob, F. A. Seaton, A. W. Hoskins, E. Martin, T. W. Evans, W. Bevan, D. H. James, E. J. B. Williams, and Lewis J. Morgan, P.M. Among the visiting brethren were the D.P.G.M., Bro. Col. C. R. Lyne, and about 60 of the principal officers and brethren throughout the Province of Monmouth, as well as visitors from the Eastern Division of Glamorgan and Gloucestershire.

After opening the lodge, and receiving the Dep. Prov. G. Master and the visitors,

Bro. I. T. WILLIAMS, W.M., said they regarded the meeting as one of importance, not only to their own lodge, but to the Craft in general. The lodge had taken up its abode in a building of great antiquity, and it was an opportune time to refer not only to the history of the lodge, but also to that of the premises of which they had become possessed. Freemasonry was first introduced into Abergavenny by the French officers who were brought there as prisoners during the Peninsular War, and were released within the town boundary under parole. The collars used by the officers of that lodge were still in their possession, and were, until within the last 12 months, worn by the principal officers of the lodge. The house where the French lodge was held still existed in Monk-street. Also in use in that lodge room were articles of furniture which adorned the French Masonic lodge. Of these relics they were naturally very proud. There was nothing to clearly prove how long the French lodge existed, but the first English Masonic lodge was consecrated "The Philanthropic, No. 658" in the year 1815, the W.M. being the greatly-esteemed Vicar of the parish, Bro. the Rev. William Powell, who took an active part in the government of the town, being the only resident magistrate. With him was associated Bro. the Rev. T. A. Gabb, who was the first Chaplain of the lodge, and who delivered in the parish church an eloquent discourse on the occasion of the Masonic Festival. At the consecration ceremony there was also present Bro. Baker Gabb, whose descendants were still prominent residents of Abergavenny. It had been their good fortune to get possession of the minute books of that lodge, and they esteemed them immensely. An extract dated July 22nd, 1814, showed that the Rev. Charles Powell was transferred from a Modern Mason in the French Lodge to an Ancient Mason in the English, inhabitants of the town having become members of the French Lodge. The lodge was first held at the King's Head Inn, and the ceremony of consecration was performed by Bro. Plummer, who held high office in the Grand Lodge of England, whose original certificate the Philanthropic Lodge held. It was printed in French and English, whereas certificates now issued were printed in Latin and English, and he thought they were correct in assuming that Bro. Plummer was a member of the French Lodge, as they found from subsequent minutes that for services rendered he was made an honorary member of the first Philanthropic Lodge, which ultimately became extinct owing to the death of its members. In the course of his further remarks the W.M. said: A revival in Masonry appeared to have taken place in 1860, when the present lodge, under the old name "Philanthropic," was reconsecrated under the number of 1120, and in about three years afterwards changed to 818, its present number. After referring to various places in which the lodge met, he continued: We have now become the owners of these ancient buildings, which, by the skill of the architect, Bro. A. E. Johnson, and the builder, Bro. J. G. Thomas, have been converted so as to afford every possible accommodation, and when complete will reflect credit upon the Masons of Abergavenny. Very much can be said from a Masonic point of view in favour of our present premises. It is practically admitted that this was the ancient parish church of Abergavenny, known as St. John's, and that it was founded at an exceedingly early period. Its great antiquity has been established in a variety of ways. For instance, the altar stone, discovered a few years ago concealed over the fireplace in an adjoining house, is supposed to have been in use about the year A.D. 1100, and it is thought by many competent to judge that it was in use at a far earlier period than that. It has since been presented by Messrs. Ilyd and Fred Gardner to Holy Trinity Church, where it is now put to its original sacred use. During the recent alterations an early English piscina of about the 13th century was unearthed in the east wall of the north transept. This was also presented to Holy Trinity Church, and the esteemed vicar, Bro. the Rev. J. R. Phillips, who is ever ready to safeguard established landmarks, has had it properly built into the north wall of the chancel close to the altar stone, where it is used for its original purpose, and has embodied underneath the stone a record of the old building whence it was obtained, information concerning our own lodge, with current papers and coins of the realm. To possess, as we do, an ancient embattled tower is unique in the history of Masonic temples, and in the face of such a solid piece of masonry we might fairly say, in the words of the "Entered Apprentice's Song," that "Antiquity's pride is on our side." From the parish records we learn that on the 13th June, 1760, a rate of 1s. in the £ was granted towards the taking down and the rebuilding of the Tower of St. John's Parish Church commonly called "Old Church" and on the 9th November of the same year, £30 was ordered to be paid to the inspector of the new Tower called

St. John and school room adjoining. It will thus be seen that the old inhabitants of Abergavenny manifested a deep anxiety to preserve the tower which was, and is still, a valuable landmark in the history of our town, and the cause of Masonry has been raised in the estimation of the general public by reason of the fact that these cherished landmarks will be preserved by those into whose keeping they have fallen. (Applause.) May we always be able to say that Masonry, as practised in this old and sacred building, is a centre of union between good men and true, and the happy means of conciliating friendship amongst those who must otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance! (Applause.)

The address, which had been followed with close attention, was heartily applauded.

Votes of thanks to the Deputy Grand Master and the visitors were followed by another striking little speech.

Bro. J. H. TAYLOR, of the Eastern Division of South Wales, said that some years ago, travelling in France, he, by accident, made the acquaintance of some descendants of those French officers who were captive at Abergavenny, and was given a snuff-box, adorned with Masonic emblems, which one of them had carved with a marrow-bone during captivity. This was given to Bro. Taylor, and he, in turn, had enclosed it in a suitable case, and presented it to the museum of relics connected with the Philanthropic Lodge.

At the banquet, which was held at the Angel Hotel, the W.M., Bro. I. T. Williams, presided, supported by Bros. Col. C. R. Lyne, D.P.G.M.; J. Bishop (Mayor of Abergavenny); J. O. Marsh, Prov. G.M. Monmouthshire (Mark); J. Hunter Little, and most of the officers and brethren who had been present in lodge.

The loyal toasts were heartily received.

During the evening the W.M. proposed "The Health of the Prov. G.M. and the D.P.G.M."

The D.P.G.M., in response, said that was the Prov. Grand Master's 79th birthday, and he was not so young as he used to be, but he took a keen interest in Masonry, and was much interested in the opening of the new Masonic Hall. He congratulated them upon the new departure. He could understand that it was a pang to many of them to leave the old lodge room, but they could not have gone to a more delightful temple. It was a remarkable and happy coincidence that at that time Abergavenny had become a municipal borough. It was also an interesting fact that that was a joint meeting of Mark and Craft Masonry.

Upon the proposal of Bro. I. T. WILLIAMS, "The Health of the R.W. Prov. G.M., Colonel Charles Lyne," was drunk, with the hearty wish of "Many happy returns of the day."

Bro. P. H. PRICE, W.M. of the Mark Lodge, proposed "The Prov. G.M. of Monmouthshire Mark Masonry, Bro. J. G. Marsh; and the D.P.G.M., Bro. Fred. Gardner;" and these brethren responded.

Bro. A. E. JOHNSON proposed "Distinguished Brethren," coupled with the name of Bro. Joseph Bishop, Mayor of Abergavenny, saying that he had conducted the affairs of the town with tact, goodwill, and a kindness.

The Mayor (Bro. J. BISHOP), who was accorded an enthusiastic reception, in his response said their W.M., Bro. Williams, had been associated with him in railway life for a very long period. It afforded him the greatest possible pleasure to find him at the head of affairs. A more loyal, upright, honest man he did not think they could find, and those were the men they wanted in Masonry. (Applause.) He was as true as steel, his word was his bond, and he had been educated in the London and North-Western Railway system to do only that which became a gentleman and an honest man. As for his own position as Mayor, he had no personal end to serve—his one object was to serve the interests of Abergavenny. (Applause.)

"The Health of the W.M." was proposed by Bro. J. O. MARSH, in eulogistic terms.

Bro. E. H. BRETHERTON proposed "The Visitors," Bro. H. C. EVANS, P.M., "The Officers," and Bro. LEWIS MORGAN, P.M., "The Architect and Builder," all of which were received and responded to in a most cordial manner.

A delightful musical programme was provided, including a quartette, a trio, and an excellent violin solo by Mr. W. H. Williams, and several songs, under the direction of Bro. E. J. Price, P.M.

"God Save the Queen," brought to a close a most interesting and enjoyable function.

Secret Monitor.

GRAND COUNCIL.

A numerously-attended meeting of the ruling body of the above Order was held on Friday, the 8th instant, at the Hotel Cecil. In the absence of the Right Hon. the Earl of Warwick, Grand Supreme Ruler, the chair was taken by W. Bro. Japheth Tickle, C.C., Past G. Treas. The inferior chairs were occupied by Bros. J. M. Bastone, J. J. Thomas, W. J. Songhurst, A. G. Boswell, F. E. Lemon, M.A., W. J. Spratling, and others.

During the evening a telegram was received from Warwick Castle conveying "Hearty good wishes" from Lord Warwick to the brethren.

The ordinary routine business of the meeting included the consideration of a vote of a sum of money to the care of the District Grand Supreme Ruler of Natal, to be used at his discretion for victims of the War. A small sum was forwarded to the *Daily Telegraph* Fund, and a considerable sum was contributed in the room as a nucleus for a Secret Monitor Benevolent Fund, which is thus at last started under the happiest auspices.

Arrangements for holding an annual festival of the fund were considered, but the matter was left in the hands of Lord Warwick and a small committee. The President (*pro tem.*) and Treasurer of the Benevolent Fund is Bro. C. L. Nelson, who took up, as a Steward, "the record list" for the Old People's Fund some years ago—a sum of more than £1000. Bro. Tickle is Vice-President, and a small S.M. Benevolent Fund Committee was appointed.

Letters were read from districts in England, Scotland, and Wales where a movement is taking place with a view to the formation of new conclaves early in the new year.

The Grand Recorder reported the exhaustion of the first edition of the ritual of the First Degree, and the reprinting of the second edition, with many minor improvements, the result of suggestions from brethren working it. He hoped this would be ready very shortly, and would be appreciated by the conclaves and brethren.

Bro. HARRY TIPPER, G. Visitor, spoke of his activity in visiting and inspecting the various conclaves, but confessed to a desire to see the ritual more carefully worked by the officers themselves instead of assistance being so frequently sought from the veterans of the Order. He said that, as in the Craft, so in this Order, the Master of the conclave should consider it in-

consistent with his dignity to allow any other than himself to work the Degrees, more especially the short and beautiful First Degree. He commended the zeal and energy displayed by many of the conclaves, and thought the circular as to Visiting Deacons requiring them to keep themselves in touch with their brethren had been greatly appreciated, and had had the desired effect. This system of Visiting Deacons, who shall report upon the prosperity of the members at every meeting, is a fundamental characteristic of this vigorous and useful Order. The late Bro. Col. Shadwell Clerke used to say it was the "missing link" in Freemasonry.

The month of June being unfavourable to a large gathering of Masons, it was determined to make the experiment of holding Grand Festival in May, 1900, if such a course were sanctioned by the G.S.R. at the Hotel Cecil as usual.

A vote of condolence with the relatives of the late Bro. Surgeon-Major C. M. Jessop was passed, and afterwards the following Executive Committee was elected for the ensuing year: Bros. J. Lewis Thomas, Japheth Tickle, J. J. Thomas, F. E. Lemon, J. J. Pakes, C. L. Nelson (as President and Treasurer of the Secret Monitor Benevolent Fund), W. J. Songhurst, and J. M. Bastone.

The proceedings ended with a supper, followed by the usual toasts, and the brethren separated, feeling that the Order had been strengthened by a good evening's work.

Craft Masonry.

Strong Man Lodge, No. 45.

A meeting of the above lodge was held at the Holborn Restaurant on Monday, the 4th instant. Present: Bros. Thos. C. Taylor, W.M.; T. Ockelford, S.W.; Thos. J. Burgess, J.W.; Geo. G. Simons, P.M., Treas.; Wm. G. Mills, P.M., Sec.; E. J. Vidler, S.D.; John Briggs, M.A., D. of C.; J. W. Heaton, Org.; J. Bristow, I.G.; E. M. Hall and John H. Selmes, Stwds.; Wm. Briggs, M.A., L.L.M., I.P.M.; Prof. F. W. Driver, M.A., Sen. P.M.; D. A. Langdon, P.M.; Arthur Davies, E. Thornicroft, R. Lockyer, Arthur Bayman, T. L. Leslie, J. G. Powell, Edwd. J. Stafford, Bromley Hall, Chas. Helby, E. E. Salt, and J. Williams, Tyler. Bro. F. Taverner, 2046, was a visitor.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last regular meeting read and confirmed. Bro. Salt was examined and entrusted, and was then raised to the Degree of M.M. by Bro. Wm. Briggs, I.P.M. The lodge was closed.

After the banquet the usual toasts were formally given by the W.M.—"The Queen and the Craft, and the Soldiers and Sailors;" "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M.;" and "The Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. G. G. Symons, P.M., Treas., gave "The Health of the W.M."

The W.M. replied.

"The Past Masters" was next given by the W.M.

Bro. G. G. Symons replied on their behalf.

"The Visitor, Bro. Taverner," was proposed by the W.M.

The W.M. next submitted "The Treasurer and Secretary."

They each replied.

"The Officers of the Lodge" came next.

Bro. John Briggs, D. of C., the acting S.W. and J.W., replied.

The Tyler's toast brought the evening to a close.

Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192.

This lodge held its usual meeting at Cannon-street Hotel, on the 7th inst. Present: Bros. J. G. Robeson, W.M.; T. Stokes, S.W.; A. Fergusson, J.W.; T. Chuh, P.M., Treas.; J. Smith, P.M., Sec.; A. J. Rippin, J.D., acting S.D.; R. F. Roche, I.G., acting J.D.; J. Collins, acting I.G.; William Baker, I.P.M. and D.C.; Garton, P.M.; Mlower, P.M.; Hughes, P.M.; Willey, Davies, Cowderoy, T. E. Fergusson, Williams, Ransford, Prevost, Brough, Lloyd, Farr, Leach, A. P. MacLarty, Bayley, Hipwell, Lockett, S. Rippin, Thomson, Fishleigh, Meers, Wetton, Ward, Dixon, Jones, Crawshaw, A. A. Jones, Grimsdale, and Neil MacLarty. Visitors: Bros. E. G. Damp, 744, Golden Thistle of Johannesburg; A. G. Boswell, P.M. 1339; C. Butcher, P.M. 902; D. Harlow, P.M. 65; A. W. Bamford, 2501; C. Pastorelli, 1987; T. W. Bamford, 2032; J. Miller, 879; and G. H. Silverwood, W.M. 1343.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. read a letter from Mrs. Legge acknowledging the receipt of a wreath sent by the lodge, and expressing the appreciation of herself and family for the kindly sympathy extended to them by the brethren, also a letter from Mrs. Holmes thanking the lodge for its exertions on her behalf when she was granted £20 from the Board of Benevolence. Bros. Prevost, F. E. Fergusson, and Willey were passed, Bro. Leach raised, and Bros. A. A. Jones, W. Grimsdale, and Neil MacLarty initiated, all of which the W.M. did in his usual splendid manner. A letter from Mrs. Shalders was read, acknowledging the receipt of £2 2s. voted to Bro. Shalders, also a letter from Bro. T. W. Fisher, P.M., asking for assistance, when it was unanimously agreed to grant him £21, and also to send a petition to the Board of Benevolence on his behalf, said petition to be signed at the next lodge meeting.

Wentworth Lodge, No. 1239.

INSTALLATION OF BRO. A. J. FORSDIKE.

Wentworth, 1239, like the family whose name it bears, is a very popular lodge in Sheffield, and from its commencement has had a singularly unchequered career. It is one of the five lodges which were founded in West Yorkshire in 1868—the last of them in fact, and perhaps the most prosperous. They have all flourished; Goderich, 1211, and Defence, 1221, supplied a long-felt want in Leeds; Scarborough, 1214, ministered to the Masonic needs of Batley; whilst Savile, 1231, opened out new ground at the then village of Elland, and has become a vigorous centre from which other Degrees are radiating. The rapid success of Wentworth Lodge may, however, be more readily understood when we state that it was, we believe, the first lodge which had been founded in Sheffield since the Union in 1813. At that date there were but two lodges in Sheffield—Britannia, 139, and Royal Brunswick, 296—and it does seem surprising that in such a thriving town so long an interval should elapse without any increase in the number of Masonic lodges. Britannia's warrant bears date 1765, whilst that of Royal Brunswick is 1793, so that for a period of upwards of 70 years—75 to be accurate—no addition was made to the roll of lodges in Sheffield. It can readily be understood that the original two were in a somewhat congested state, and that the establishment of the new community in 1868 afforded considerable relief. From the first Wentworth Lodge never looked back, and so large did it become, that in 20 years' time St. Leonard, 2263, was formed from its members, and still more recently the flourishing lodge of Furnival, 2558, particulars of whose festival appeared a few weeks ago in our columns, came forth from this thriving community. Five lodges have arisen in Sheffield since 1868, and Masonic enterprise, as we have often had occasion to remark, has distinctly characterised the cutlery town, yet still the Wentworth Lodge has consistently held its own, and fully maintained its financial, numerical, and social status. Fortunate in its name, successful in its general career, it is not surprising that its annual festival should be an exceptionally brilliant function, and we are sure that the incoming W.M., Bro. A. J. Forsdike, must have felt a keen sense of pleasure when he witnessed the constantly increasing gathering which assembled on the 4th instant to take part in his installation. The dais of the spacious and beautifully proportioned hall in Surrey-street was crowded, whilst two parallel rows of eager brethren lined each side of the lodge room. There must have been nearly 120 brethren present, a number well-nigh unprecedented at a private lodge. It is needless to say that the ceremonies of the evening were carried out

most accurately and decorously, and we must not omit to bear witness to the exceedingly dignified yet quiet and impressive manner in which the retiring W.M. discharged the onerous duties of installation. His conduct and procedure won universal approbation.

The lodge was opened at five o'clock by the W.M., Bro. W. F. Cole. The officers occupying the chairs were Bros. A. J. Forsdike, S.W.; Geo. Wragg, J.W.; T. Green, Sec.; E. Rowbotham, Asst. Sec.; Wm. D. Forsdike, S.D.; E. G. Whiteley, J.D.; T. E. Barker, D. of C.; J. C. Brameld, Asst. D. of C.; J. A. Rodgers, Org.; Tom Nixon, I.G.; and E. Beck and W. Fearnough, W.M. 2558, Stwds.; Bros. H. J. Garnett, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; Herbert Nixon, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; Thos. Rowbotham, P.M.; J. P. Hewitt, P.M., P.P.J.G.D.; Thomas Firth, P.M.; A. E. Kirkham, P.M.; Charles Stokes, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.; Henry T. E. Holmes, P.M. (Hon.), P.P.G.D.C.; Maurice Dodworth, P.M.; and F. S. H. Wilson, P.M. Amongst other members of the lodge were the following: Bros. F. S. Hardy, Wm. Froggatt, A. J. Birks, J. T. Thompson, Wm. Watts, R. Hanbridge, W. Slater, T. S. Wood, H. O. Adrian, Jno. Stringer, G. L. Wood, W. Slater, A. Keates, H. M. Stater, Jas. Hastings, W. Sissons, Thos. Shearstone, H. Cawood, F. Hiller, Hy. Johnson, J. F. Johnson, S. Wetherell, and J. J. Pickford. The visitors, as is usual at Wentworth Lodge, were very numerous, including both Grand and Provincial Grand Officers. The W. Masters of all the Sheffield lodges were present, as well as those from lodges in the immediate vicinity. The Dep. Prov. G.M., Bro. Richard Wilson, P.G.D. Eng., paid his first official visit on this occasion to Wentworth. With him were Bros. Ensor Drury, P.M. 296, Past G. Deacon, and W. H. Brittain, J.P. Past G.S.B. Eng. Besides the Prov. Officers mentioned above were Bros. T. H. Vernon, P.P.G.D.; T. W. Hanforth, W.M. 2481, P.P.G. Org.; and Joseph Matthewman, P.M. 1019, P.P. Asst. G. Sec. From N. and E. Yorkshire there was Bro. J. Holland, P.P.G.D. of C., and from the Province of Derbyshire we noticed Bro. W. G. Humber, Prov. G. Std. Br. The brethren of Sheffield from Britannia Lodge, No. 139, included: Bros. A. R. Fox, W.M., L. A. Osbaldiston, S.W., W.M. elect, W. G. Skeiton, J.W., G. Williams, P.M., E. Dickinson, P.M., and John Stokes, P.M.; from the Royal Brunswick Lodge, No. 296, came Bros. F. G. Cornu, W.M., H. Elze, M. Hartley, W. L. Lindlar, and H. L. When; from Ivanhoe Lodge, No. 1779, were Bros. J. Wortley, W.M., E. Holmes, P.M., Wm. Dust, P.M., J. Burton, and A. E. Rowland; from St. Leonard, 2263, were Bros. C. A. Mays, W.M., E. Howarth, and Saml. Smith; from Hallamshire, 2268, Bros. H. S. Moorwood, W.M., and D. Flather, I.P.M.; from White Rose of York, 2491, besides the W.M. previously mentioned amongst the Prov. Officers, were Bros. W. Gunston, P.M., C. A. Hahn, P.M., M. T. Miner, J.W., A. W. Roberts, J. Atkinson, W. H. Shepherd, W. Foxon, T. E. Vernon, W. Sales, and W. H. Peasegood; and from Furnival, 2558, there were Bros. W. Fearnough, W.M., A. Davidson, J.W., A. Hastings, Org., E. A. Sampson, H. C. Robinson, C. Callum, and F. Dallaway. From Phoenix Lodge, 994, Rotherham, was Bros. J. J. Mellows, W.M.; whilst from the neighbouring Province of Derbyshire, Chantry Lodge, 2555, sent its W.M., Bro. C. F. Shepherd, as well as Bros. C. T. Dickenson, W. Roper, J. Kerridge, G. T. Greaves, and G. E. Inman; and Dorothy Vernon, 2129, was represented by Bro. W. H. Nixon.

The usual preliminaries having been carried out, the W.M. elect, Bro. A. J. Forsdike, S.W., was presented to the Installing Master by Bro. J. P. Hewitt, P.M., P.P.G.D., and the ceremony proceeded. The Board of Installed Masters was a strong one, being upwards of 50 in number. The new Worshipful Master, whilst investing his I.P.M., Bro. Cole, referred to the excellent work the retiring Master had done during his occupancy of the chair and assured him that the Past Masters of Wentworth Lodge would eagerly welcome so able an addition to their ranks. The working tools were presented in the various Degrees by Bro. Charles Stokes, P.M.; M. J. Dodworth, P.M.; and T. E. Barker, P.M. The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers. He was singularly happy in the *apropos* of his remarks to each individual case. The officers were Bros. George Wragg, S.W.; T. Green, J.W.; J. B. Wostinholm, P.M., P.P.G.D., Treas.; Edmund Rowbotham, Sec.; W. D. Forsdike, Asst. Sec.; E. G. Whiteley, S.D.; J. C. Brameld, J.D.; Thos. Rowbotham, P.M., D.C.; J. A. Rogers, A.D.C.; Tom Nixon, Org.; E. Beck, I.G.; H. Johnson and H. A. O. Adrain, Stewards; and T. Leighton, Tyler. Interesting comment was made amongst the brethren upon Bro. H. Johnson taking the office of Steward. It appears that Bro. Johnson, who was initiated in the lodge in 1875, had for the first time this year been induced to take a collar, and had commenced at the lowest rung of the official ladder. The election of a Charity Steward followed. Bro. F. S. H. Wilson was unanimously chosen to fill that important position. After apologies had been announced and "Hearty good wishes" offered, warmly reciprocated by the W.M., the lodge was closed.

The banquet followed, served in the dining-hall, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The floral display was charming; each guest was presented with a button-hole; and when the 110 brethren for whom covers had been laid were seated, the room presented a very bright and festive appearance. Waitresses neat in appearance, pleasant in manner, and rapid in motion, contributed largely to the comfort of all, and the dinner passed off with complete satisfaction.

The toast list was a somewhat formidable one. Happily it was largely interspersed with music, vocal and instrumental, and the Sheffield brethren fully maintained their well-known reputation in both departments.

In proposing "The Queen," Bro. Forsdike declared that he hardly knew how to make a beginning in his new role, but he was sure that, whilst asking them to drink to the health of her Majesty, his own shortcomings would be lost sight of in their hearty response. Always deserving of it, and ever valuing the sympathy of her subjects, at no time did the Queen more earnestly crave it than at present, and that she fully possessed that feeling he had not the smallest doubt. He trusted out of the present trouble, good would come, but whatever the outcome, they would cherish their Queen, and drink heartily to her continued good health.

The toast was received with enthusiasm, and the National Anthem sung, Bro. W. Foxon taking the solo.

The next on the list was "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and the Officers of Grand Lodge." Commenting upon the onerous and never-ending duties which devolved upon our chief, Bro. Forsdike said it was not surprising that they had so few opportunities of witnessing his zeal in Masonic matters. He was, of course, obliged to depute much of the work to his officers, and he doubtless exercised great care in their selection. With them that evening he was delighted to see no less than three Grand Officers—Bros. Richard Wilson, their D.P.G.M.; Ensor Drury, and W. H. Brittain. The last two were Sheffield brethren, and thoroughly well known both as Masons and citizens. As to Bro. Wilson, they were rapidly getting to know him, and to him he would refer later. It must make great calls upon the time of the Grand Officers to give suitable attention to their duties, and they (the brethren) ought to be grateful to them. Let them show that by heartily drinking to their health.

"God Bless the Prince of Wales" was sung, led by Bro. Wm. Downing.

Bros. Ensor Drury, P.M. 296, P.G.D., and W. H. Brittain, P.M. 139, P.G. Std. Br., both expressed the pleasure they had experienced in visiting this flourishing lodge, and thanked the brethren for the cordial greeting which the toast had met with from that large assembly.

"The R.W. Prov. G. Master, Bro. W. L. Jackson, M.P.; the W. Deputy, Bro. Richard Wilson; and the Officers of Prov. G. Lodge, Present and Past," was next submitted by the W.M. Bro. Forsdike regretted that the eminent abilities of the Prov. G. Master were not, in consequence of his multifarious occupations, so completely at their disposal as the province would wish. The Deputy, however, they could with confidence fall back upon. He, as the representative of 1239, welcomed Bro. Wilson most heartily on this his first visit to the Wentworth Lodge. He assured him that in the Masonic race they in Sheffield tried hard to acquire themselves creditably, and uphold the dignity of the province; they were, perhaps, not first, but, at any rate, they were not slovenly in their Masonic work. Personally he felt deeply honoured that the Worshipful Deputy's first visit should coincide with his own accession to the chair. He asked them to drink the toast with the heartiness which it undoubtedly deserved.

This they did unmistakably.

After a pianoforte solo by Bro. E. P. Reynolds, which was much appreciated, the Dep. Prov. G. Master and Prov. G. Officers rose.

Bro. Wilson regretted that his remarks must be brief, as he had a train to catch. He was accustomed to speak freely, but anything he had to say must to-night be curtailed. First he thanked them for the exceedingly kind way in which they had met and received him in Wentworth Lodge. When he accepted the position of Deputy he could count, he thought, upon the goodwill of many brethren in Leeds and Bradford; now, after eight months' occupancy of the chair, he was beginning to feel that that goodwill was rapidly extending through the province. He was called in from time to time to give advice in lodge questions and disputes, and he always, after hearing both sides, gave

his opinion promptly and decisively. He was trying, he hoped with success, to know more of the brethren, and he had been received everywhere more favourably than he could reasonably expect. The province was in a very flourishing condition. There was a large number of young brethren coming on, and his advice to these brethren was, gratefully to remember their predecessors and what they had done for their lodges, and, for the sake of past services, patiently to put up with whatever oddities they seemed to display. They had done good service, and every consideration should be shown them. It was, concluded the Deputy, a great pleasure to visit his Sheffield brethren, and for their kindness and warm-hearted reception he deeply thanked them.

On rising to leave the room Bro. Wilson experienced quite a demonstration.

The Tyler's toast followed. This is always welcomed, and as it is preliminary to the permission to smoke, is looked forward to somewhat eagerly.

"A soldier's song," by Mascheroni, was next contributed by Bro. Wm. Downing in a very pleasing style. And here let it be said that the music—vocal, by Bros. W. Foxon, Downing, and Barker, and instrumental, by Bros. Rogers, C. Stokes, and Miner—formed a prominent and very delightful feature of the evening.

On rising to propose "The Health of Bro. A. J. Forsdike, W.M.," Bro. W. F. Cole, I.P.M., was heartily cheered. He said the duty which had devolved upon him was a great pleasure, because of the complete confidence with which he could put the toast before them. Bro. Forsdike and himself had entered the lodge about the same time, and he (Bro. Cole) knew how thoroughly their W.M. had gone into the duties, how painstaking he had been in the various offices he had filled, and how eminently qualified he was to fill the position in which they had placed him. Easy of address, steady and firm in principle, he would be a most capable W.M., and if they gave to Bro. Forsdike the same help, consideration, and sympathy which he had received at their hands, then would their W.M.'s year be as happy and as gratifying as his own had been. Let them rise, then, and wish him health and God speed.

The brethren showed great enthusiasm, which culminated with Bro. Foxon's spirited rendering of the song "Here's to his health."

The W.M., Bro. A. J. Forsdike, attempted to reply, but was some time before he could obtain a hearing. He said he felt great difficulty, after the kindness shown by Bro. Cole in proposing the toast, in finding suitable words in which to respond. He was sure that when he sat down he would instantly remember many things which he ought to have said, meant to have said, but which would probably remain unsaid. Let them not, however, think him ungrateful, for whatever he might omit to say in acknowledgment of the kindly goodwill shown to him, he felt it he could assure them. Briefly reviewing the 13 years which he had spent in the lodge, Bro. Forsdike called to mind his strange and at first by no means comfortable condition, his gradual settling down, his first office, and his constant struggle to hold his own and advance. And now that they had placed him in the highest position, he hoped that his past conduct would entitle him to ask and receive from them, officers and brethren, all that any W.M. might reasonably expect at their hands. He was, he assured them, deeply grateful for the honour they had conferred upon him; he trusted they would not too harshly judge his shortcomings, he was prepared to do his utmost in the interest of his lodge and for the benefit of the brethren, and he would venture to hope that when his term expired nothing would have taken place which should tend to interfere with the excellent feeling and harmony at present prevailing in the lodge, and he prayed that the day might be long distant ere such misfortune should fall upon them. He could only once more thank them and assure them that his best efforts were entirely at their disposal.

Many other toasts followed.

To that of "The Sister Lodges and Visiting Brethren," heartily proposed by the J.W., Bro. T. Green, response was made by Bros. A. R. Fox, W.M. 139, and T. H. Black, P.M. 1170.

In a lodge like Wentworth, whose contributions to the Boys' School Centenary Festival exceeded those of any other Sheffield lodge, the toast of "The Masonic Charities" was sure to be honoured. It was proposed by Bro. J. P. Hewitt, and replied to by the newly-appointed Charity Steward, Bro. F. S. H. Wilson.

The Installing Master, the Past Masters, and the Officers were all recognised, in fact, it may certainly be said that the Wentworth Lodge did its duty all round. We can only add that the extraordinarily large numbers, coupled with the general enthusiasm, proved, without doubt, the goodwill of all towards the Wentworth Lodge, whilst the brethren of 1239, from the W.M. downwards, left nothing undone which might contribute to the comfort of their guests. It was a happy gathering, and we congratulate Bro. Forsdike and his fellow members upon the excellent start which they have made in the Masonic year just commencing.

United Northern Counties Lodge, No. 2128.

This lodge, which is now 14 years old, held its installation meeting at the Inns of Court Hotel, London, on the 5th inst., under the Worshipful Mastership of Bro. W. E. Porter, M.D. There were also present Bros. E. C. Rice Oxley, I.P.M.; W. Nicholson Haydon, J.W.; Robert Davison, Treas.; W. H. Bullock, P.M., Sec.; T. W. Chant, S.D.; Thomas Moysey, J.D.; W. B. Hextall, P.M., D. of C.; C. J. Weller, I.G.; Maurice Aubrey, Org.; Ralph Bullock and Henry Riley, Stwds.; J. Halden, P.M.; J. S. Cumberland, P.M.; George F. Pringle, P.M.; Alfred Robertshaw, P.M., P.M. 448, P.P.G.D. West Yorkshire; James Dryden, C. J. Ashton, Henry Hapgood, Charles S. Ayling, R. Cooper, R. Stephen Ayling, F. N. P. G. Newton, H. T. Town, C. Cutbush, Richard Vivian, T. Edwin Cooper, W. R. Hayden, Joseph Parkinson, F. Paul Williams, George B. Davis, J. T. Christian, J. Moverby Sharp, G. J. Hogg, Alfred H. Hall, G. H. Addy, Richard M. Walker, Herbert Nield, W. H. Bullock, jun., Andrew Reid, and T. D. Jaiey. The visitors were Bros. Bedford Lemere, P.M. 1624; John Cooper, P.M. 1222; George Wragge, P.M. 152; F. W. Horn, P.M. 1599; P. J. Osman, 2466; C. J. Thornton, 2466; W. R. Flint, 731; George R. Barclay, S.D. 757; James Weatherhead, P.M. 205; C. Knowles Rayson, 706; H. Newland, P.M. 28; Thomas Duke, J.D. 308; R. Warde, P.M. 1042; J. Morrison, P.M. 2466; Albert Model, 1275; Charles A. Harris, 1599; R. B. Campbell, 1000; Arthur E. Price, 2034; G. E. Bromley, P.M. 1805; F. G. Mellows, P.M. 2108; W. Sabine, 2264; H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1928; J. Davey, 2411; A. Daniel, 28; C. Pope, S.W. 2182; J. N. Stephens, W.M. 1718; Alfred Calkin, P.M. 1056; H. Carter Begg, 1909; W. J. Fisk, 404; Thomas Fraser, 2488; A. J. Anderson, J.W. 2466; F. B. Cameron, 1260; William C. Hulbert, 105; W. B. Thomson, 2319; John J. Hamilton, 2319; L. W. Le Brunn, 1772; C. Hunt, P.M. 194; C. A. Reevr, 869; J. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; and Arthur Spicer, 2218, P.P.G. Stw.

The only business to be transacted was the installation of the new W.M., and when the minutes had been read and confirmed, and the balance-sheet adopted, Bro. Dr. Porter installed as W.M. for the ensuing year Bro. W. Nicholson Haydon, J.W. and W.M. elect. The work was performed in first-class style, and Bro. Dr. Porter was invested as I.P.M. Bro. Thomas Whitmore Chant was invested as S.W.; Bros. T. Moysey, J.W.; E. C. Rice Oxley, P.M., Treas.; W. H. Bullock, P.M., Sec.; C. J. Weller, S.D.; H. Riley, J.D.; W. B. Hextall, P.M., P.P.S.G.W. Derbyshire, D. of C.; Ralph Bullock, I.G.; M. Aubrey, Org.; R. S. Ayling, A. G. Hall, and R. Walker, Stwds.; and H. Evenden, P.M., Tyler. A handsome jewel of a Past Master was presented to Bro. Dr. Porter, and five guineas were voted to the Lord Mayor's War Fund. The W.M. undertook the Stewardship of the lodge for the next Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and notice was given of a motion for next meeting that 10 guineas out of the lodge funds be placed on his list. The lodge was then closed, and the brethren partook of an elegant banquet.

The usual toasts followed, and were interspersed with some pleasant singing by Bros. H. T. Town, Ralph Bullock, Miss Maud Freystadt, Miss Cissie Dryden, Bro. W. H. Berry, Mr. W. J. Ingrey, and violin solos by Mr. James Nelson. Bro. Le Brunn also contributed some pianoforte selections.

Bro. W. F. Smithson, P.G.D., responded to the toast of "The Grand Officers," and, in the course of his remarks, referred to the Transvaal War, in which he said many Masons were engaged. Of them we should think at the present time, and they never ought to be forgotten at a Freemasons' meeting. Freemasons were always loyal, and he ventured to say there was never greater loyalty to the Throne throughout the country than at the present time, and more especially among Freemasons.

Bro. James Terry, P.G.S.B., also responded.

Bro. W. H. Bullock, P.M., Sec., proposed "The Provincial Grand Masters of the Northern Counties," and said that the toast had a sad side as well as a pleasant one, for some of those Provincial Grand Masters who had been members of the lodge and took a great interest in it had gone to the Grand Lodge Above. Among them were the late Bro. Thomas W. Tew, who acted as I.P.M. the first year of the lodge. Another was the late Earl of Lathom, who, when he heard that he (Bro. Bullock) a Liverpool

Mason was going to be installed as Master of this lodge, intimated his intention to be present, and he did attend. The Marquis of Zetland, who was still alive, was another who helped the lodge, and the W.M.'s gavel was his present and bore his lordship's name. Bro. Henry Smith, who happily was still alive, was another who took a great interest in this lodge, and so was Lord Bolton. He hoped this association would long continue.

Bro. Halden responded, and said that in his admirable speech, Bro. Bullock had referred to brethren who had departed this life. There was another, Bro. Masters, who was the lodge's first J.W. He (Bro. Halden), for two years was a joining member, and then he left; he had, however, seen the error of his ways, and he had joined again; he hoped at every annual meeting and every other meeting to be present. During last summer there was a meeting at Old Trafford, Manchester, between Lancashire and Yorkshire brethren; They liked in Lancashire to have Yorkshire Relish, and they relished the meeting with Yorkshire brethren, it was in the cause of Charity. In Lancashire, he was glad to say they had two young Provincial Grand Masters of great promise. He was on the Committee which was appointed to look after Lord Stanley at his installation, and he was able to say his lordship was an honour to the Craft. The northern spirit of Masonry existed very strongly in the Metropolis; there was a Lancastrian lodge in London, and he hoped many more would arise from the ranks of northern members, and that the United Northern Counties Lodge would put on its list the names of Lord Lathom and Lord Stanley.

The W.M. here announced that the Charity Box had yielded £7 3s. 6d. It would be handed to the *Daily Telegraph* Shilling Fund.

Bro. Dr. Porter, I.P.M., in proposing the toast of "The W.M.," said the lodge had had many excellent W.M.s, but none more excellent than Bro. Haydon. There was no more popular brother in the lodge. Personally, he wished him—and all the brethren with him would join in wishing him—a very happy and successful year of office. They had had during the past year a quiet and uneventful year, and he was sorry he had not had more work to do. But he could not help that, and he looked forward with something of envy to the glorious time they were going to have.

Bro. W. Nicholson Haydon, W.M., in replying, said his connection with the lodge was of some years' standing; he was sorry it was not so long as some thought. The present was a proud moment for him, as he was now Master of his mother lodge. With so many well-known faces round him to do him honour, he could not find words sufficient to express his feelings. He hoped to have plenty of work; he was surprised to find he was going to have so much, for initiates were the backbone of a lodge. The Grand Lodge Above had claimed a great many members of the United Northern Counties Lodge during its existence, and no one knew what the next seven years would bring forth. If the initiates were the right sort—and those proposed that evening were the right sort—the backbone of the lodge would be strengthened. When he was initiated he sat near the W.M., and he envied that brother his position. He hoped some of the younger members envied him now. He knew some did. During the year he should do his best, with the assistance of his officers, for the lodge, the honour of which would be safe in their hands.

Bro. W. H. Haydon, W.M., in proposing "The Visitors," specially referred to Bro. Ralph Bullock, of whom, he said, the lodge was proud, for not only was he the first initiate in the lodge, but he had had a distinguished career as a saviour of life at sea with great peril to himself. He possessed the Board of Trade bronze medal, the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society's silver medal, the Board of Trade silver medal, the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society's clasp to the medal formerly awarded, a pair of binocular glasses, and two framed votes of thanks from the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society. The foregoing were given for rescue, when Bro. Bullock jumped overboard in South American and West Indian waters, which were swarming with sharks. In each case Bro. Bullock brought his drowning shipmates back in safety. Again, in July, 1897, when he was Commander of the West India and Pacific Company's steamer "Floridian," he fell in with the disabled Cunarder, "Cephalonia," in mid-Atlantic, with 520 souls on board, and brought her safely into Queenstown. For this he was awarded £300 by the Admiralty Court. (Cheers.)

The replies of the visitors having been given, the other toasts followed, and the brethren separated.

Manchester Lodge, No. 2554.

The regular meeting of this increasing and popular lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, on Friday, the 5th inst. Among the brethren present were Bros. Arthur A. E. K. Smith, W.M.; A. B. Smith, S.W.; W. E. Davies, J.W.; W. F. Large, Sec.; F. J. Burt, S.D.; P. Z. da Cunha, J.D.; W. B. Akerman, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., as D.C.; C. Jordan, Org.; J. Jordan, I.G.; W. J. Charlton, W. H. Crawford, and A. W. Bentham, Stwds.; E. Roberts, P.M., Prov. G. Tyler, as Tyler; W. A. Boyer, Prov. D.G.R., I.P.M.; Arthur H. Jefferies, P.M., P.P.G.W.; J. Charlton, P.M.; Richard Brew, W.M. 222 (I.C.); W. Gibbons, M. F. W. Karge, and A. J. Hayland. Visitors: Bros. J. Newton, P.M., P.G.S.B. Eng., Prov. G. Sec.; C. D. Cheetham, P.M., P.P.G.W.; F. J. Hooper, P.M., P.P.G. Treas.; H. Perry, P.M., P.P.G.D.; A. Middleton, P.M., P.P.G.D.; J. H. Marsh, P.M., P.P.G.D. W. Lancs.; F. C. Cooper, P.M., Prov. S.G.D.; A. Pickford, P.M. 1375; John M. Crone, W.M. 1375; F. W. Jordan, S.W., Master elect 2109; J. W. Berra, P.M. 2109; G. V. Blaikie, P.M. 152; Webb, P.M. 1134; and several brethren.

The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. A. E. K. Smith, and after the minutes had been read and confirmed, Bro. Gibbons was advanced to the Second Degree by the W.M. The brethren then adjourned for tea. After tea there was a great increase of brethren—this being a red-letter day in the annals of the lodge, as Mr. Charles Neufeld (the late Khalifa's prisoner) was to be proposed, and if elected to be initiated into Freemasonry. The ballot was then taken for Charles Neufeld, and the W.M. declared it was unanimously in his favour. The initiation ceremony was performed by Bro. W. B. Akerman, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., in a very masterly and impressive manner.

The lodge was closed by the W.M., and the brethren adjourned to the social board.

"The Health of the Queen" was given with musical honours.

The other Masonic toasts were duly given and honoured in truly Masonic fashion.

Bro. Neufeld, in response to his health, spoke of his love for England, and especially Manchester, as he was born in Manchester, and his daughter was educated in Manchester, and now he had received the light of Freemasonry in Manchester in the Manchester Lodge. He thanked the brethren for their kindness in admitting him amongst them, and if the W.M. would allow him to propose a toast he would be pleased. (The W.M. smilingly consented.) He proposed "The Health of W. Bro. Lord Kitchener (the Sirdar), P.J.G.W. England, and W. Bro. Col. Sir F. Wingate."

The toast was most enthusiastically received.

The W.M. requested the Secretary to write to Bros. Lord Kitchener and Sir F. Wingate informing them that Bro. Charles Neufeld (who had that evening been admitted to Freemasonry) proposed their health and hearty good wishes, which were given by the brethren and visitors of the Manchester Lodge, No. 2554, held at the Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.

Bro. Neufeld, at the request of the W.M., gave a short sketch of his capture, imprisonment, and torture he had to undergo while a prisoner of the late Khalifa, and his happy release by General (now Lord) Kitchener. It was, indeed, most affecting to think that a man who had gone through such trouble, torture, and privations, should be standing before you. Some of the brethren had small lumps come suddenly in their throats and had to have recourse to their pocket-handkerchiefs, one Past Prov. Officer fairly broke down, tears rolling down his cheeks. Bro. Neufeld proposed "The British Soldiers now in the Transvaal," which was received most cordially.

The S.W. gave the Tyler's toast "To all poor and distressed Freemasons," which concluded a most pleasant evening.

IN ORDER to cope with the pressure of the conveyance of Christmas presents, &c., the Great Central Railway Company are making very complete arrangements in London for frequent collections by means of a special service of vans and carts, &c., for prompt dispatch by their service of express passenger trains from Marylebone Terminus. During the week ending the 23rd inst. parcels will also be conveyed to the Midlands and the North by a special parcels express leaving Marylebone at 2.30 a.m. Cheap through rates are in operation by the new route, and no charge is made for collection and delivery of parcels within the usual limit by the Great Central Railway.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY. CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

ON DECEMBER 18th to 25th inclusive, CHEAP THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS, available on December 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, or 25th, and for return December 26th to 30th inclusive, will be issued from PADDINGTON, Clapham Junction, Victoria (L. C. and D. Rly.), Kensington (Addison-road), Hammersmith, &c., to Bath, BRISTOL, Taunton, Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE, EXETER, TORQUAY, PLYMOUTH, Falmouth, PENZANCE, Yeovil, Dorchester, WEYMOUTH, &c. On December 21st and 23rd, to GUERNSEY and JERSEY (fare 24s. 6d.), to return within 14 days.

ADDITIONAL TRAINS will leave PADDINGTON STATION as under:—

DECEMBER 22nd and 23rd.—7.5 p.m., for BATH, BRISTOL, EXETER, PLYMOUTH, &c.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd.—7.5 p.m., for Bath, BRISTOL, EXETER, PLYMOUTH, TRURO, &c.

1.0 night, for Reading, SWINDON, Bath, BRISTOL, Taunton, EXETER, GLOUCESTER, Cheltenham, Newport, CARDIFF, Swansea, &c.

DECEMBER 24th and 25th.—5.30 a.m., as on WEEK-DAYS, as far as EXETER and SWANSEA, with connections to Trowbridge, Frome, YEovil, Bridport, Dorchester, WEYMOUTH, &c.

5.35 a.m., to OXFORD, Banbury, Leamington, BIRMINGHAM, Wolverhampton, Worcester, Malvern, Kidderminster, &c.

EXCURSIONS will leave PADDINGTON STATION as under:—

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.—THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st. To CORK and KILLARNEY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd.—To WATERFORD, Clonmel, LIMERICK, Tralee, Kilkenny, KILLARNEY, BELFAST, Armagh, GIANTS' CAUSEWAY, &c.

DECEMBER 22nd and 23rd, NIGHT.—To EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, PLYMOUTH, Devonport, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Newquay, TRURO, Falmouth, St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c., to return DECEMBER 26th or 27th.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, NIGHT.—To Chipping Norton, Evesham, WORCESTER, Malvern, Hereford, &c., for 3 days; to OXFORD, Banbury, Leamington, Warwick, BIRMINGHAM, WOLVERHAMPTON, Shrewsbury, CHESTER, Birkenhead, LIVERPOOL, &c., for 3 or 5 days; to BATH and BRISTOL, for 3 or 4 days; to SWINDON, Cirencester, Stroud, Stonehouse, GLOUCESTER, CHELTENHAM, Newport, CARDIFF, Swansea, Llanelly, Llandovery, Carmarthen, Newcastle, Emlay, Cardigan, Tenby, NEW MILFORD, &c., for 3 days.

For times of trains, fares, and full particulars of alterations in ordinary train arrangements, see pamphlets and bills, which can be obtained at the Company's Stations and usual Receiving Offices.

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To Northallerton, Darlington, Newcastle, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c., at 7.45 a.m.

On FRIDAY, 22nd DECEMBER (for 10 days),

To Ireland (via Liverpool), see pamphlet.

On SATURDAY (midnight), 23rd DECEMBER (for 3 and 5 days).

On FRIDAY (midnight), 29th DECEMBER (for 3, 4, and 5 days).

To Rugby, Lutterworth, Leicester, Loughboro', Nottingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester, &c., at 12.15 a.m.

The above Trains will also call at Harrow-on-the-Hill.

On SATURDAYS, 23rd (for 4 or 6 days), and 30th DECEMBER (for 4 or 5 days),

To Fimere, Brackley, Rugby, Lutterworth, Leicester, Loughboro', Nottingham, Chesterfield, Sheffield, Cleethorpes, Hull, Goole, Grimsby, Gainsboro', Retford, Barnsley, Penistone, Huddersfield, Macclesfield, Staleybridge, Oldham, Guidebridge, Manchester, Stockport, Warrington, Liverpool, Wigan, Knutsford, Northwich, Southport, Bridlington, Filey, Middlesboro', Newcastle, Scarboro', South Shields, West Hartlepool, York, &c., see pamphlet.

For full particulars see printed pamphlet, which can be obtained at any of the Company's Receiving Offices or Marylebone Station, and from MESSRS. DEAN & DAWSON, 55, Charing Cross, Trafalgar Square, London.

WILLIAM POLLITT, General Manager.

Manchester.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY. CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

DECEMBER 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, additional trains will be run to meet the requirements of traffic. Saturday, December 23rd, the 5.0 p.m. express from King's Cross will be continued to Melton Constable, calling at all stations east of Peterboro'. A Special express, at ordinary fares, will leave London (King's Cross) at 12.20 midnight on Saturday, December 23rd, for Welwyn, Stevenage, Hitchin, Biggleswade, Sandy, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Holme, Peterboro', Spalding, Boston, Louth, Grimsby, Grantham, Lincoln, Nottingham, Newark, Retford, Doncaster, Wakefield, Leeds, Laisterdyke, Bradford, Halifax, Selby, York.

CHRISTMAS DAY, the trains will be run as on Sundays.

CHEAP EXCURSIONS.

FRIDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 22nd (for 5 and 8 days), and Friday night, December 29th (for 5 and 8 days), to Northallerton, Darlington, Richmond, Durham, Newcastle, Alnwick, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Dundee, Oban, Fort William, Aberdeen, Inverness, and other stations in Scotland, will leave Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E. & C.), Victoria (S.E. & C.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c. Passengers by the excursion on December 22nd return on Tuesday, 26th, or Friday, 29th December, and those by the excursion December 29th return on Tuesday, 2nd, or Friday, 5th January, according to period of tickets taken.

TICKETS AT A SINGLE FARE FOR THE DOUBLE JOURNEY will also be issued by above excursions to places named, available for return by one fixed train on any day within 16 days, including days of issue and return.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, for 4 and 6 days, and SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30th, for 4 and 5 days, to LINCOLNSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE, LANCASHIRE, YORKSHIRE, NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT, &c., from LONDON (Woolwich Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E. & C.), Victoria (S.E. & C.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, and King's Cross (G.N.).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29th (for 3, 4, or 5 days), to Nottingham, Sheffield, Penistone, Stockport, Manchester, Warrington, and Liverpool, from Woolwich (Arsenal), at 8.47 p.m., Woolwich Dockyard, 8.50, Greenwich (S.E. & C.), 8.42, Victoria (S.E. & C.), 10.40, Ludgate Hill, 11.12, Moorgate, 11.19, Aldersgate, 11.21, Farringdon, 11.23, King's Cross (G.N.), 12.0, Finsbury Park, 12.5.

For fares and full particulars see bills, to be obtained at the Company's stations and town offices.

WEEK-END TICKETS.

CHEAP SHORT DATE WEEK-END TICKETS to the principal inland and seaside health resorts on and in connection with the Great Northern Railway, will, for the Christmas Holidays, be issued on Friday, December 22nd, and Saturday, December 23rd, available for return (if train service admits) on Sunday, December 24th, Monday, 25th, Tuesday, 26th, or Wednesday, 27th.

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ADDITIONAL ORDINARY TRAINS.

On Friday and Saturday, December 22nd and 23rd, relief trains will be run from St. Pancras, as circumstances may require.

TUESDAY, DEC. 26th, and JANUARY 1st.

On these dates certain booked trains will be WITHDRAWN, as announced on special bills at the stations.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR EXCURSIONS.

From ST. PANCRAS, CITY STATIONS, WOOLWICH, and GREENWICH.

TO PROVINCIAL TOWNS, &c.

On SATURDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 23rd, to Leicester, BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, Derby, Newark, Lincoln, Burton, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, Blackburn, Bolton, SHEFFIELD, LEEDS, BRADFORD, York, Scarborough, Newcastle, Barrow-in-Furness, the Lake District, &c., returning December 26th or 28th. To the same places on Saturday, December 30th, returning on January 2nd or 3rd, 1900.

On SATURDAY (midnight), December 30th, to LEICESTER, LOUGHBORO', NOTTINGHAM, MANCHESTER, STOCKPORT, WARRINGTON, LIVERPOOL, and SHEFFIELD, returning on January 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, 1900.

TO THE NORTH AND SCOTLAND.

On FRIDAYS, DECEMBER 22nd and 29th, for 5 or 8 days, to NEWCASTLE, Berwick, Carlisle, Appleby, Dumfries, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Stranraer, &c., from St. Pancras at 10.5 p.m., Kentish Town at 10.10, Victoria (L. C. and D.) 8.20, Moorgate-street 9.18, Aldersgate-street 9.20, and Farringdon-street 9.22 p.m., and to STIRLING, Perth, Dundee, Arbroath, Montrose, Aberdeen, &c., leaving ST. PANCRAS at 9.15 p.m., Kentish Town 9.19, Victoria (L. C. and D.) 8.3, Moorgate-street 8.47, Aldersgate-street 8.49, and Farringdon-street at 8.51 p.m.

RETURN TICKETS at a THIRD CLASS SINGLE FARE for the DOUBLE JOURNEY will be issued on December 22nd to the places mentioned, available for return on any day up to January 6th, and on December 29th available for return on any day up to January 13th.

TO IRELAND.

(From ST. PANCRAS and CITY STATIONS).

There will also be cheap Excursions to DUBLIN, Ballina, Galway, Sligo, Cork, Killarney, Limerick, via Liverpool or via Morecambe, on December 22nd; to BELFAST, Londonderry, Portrush, &c., via Barrow or via Liverpool, on December 22nd; and to Londonderry, via Liverpool or via Morecambe, on December 23rd. See bills for times of return.

TO SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

Cheap Day Excursion Tickets on Sundays and Christmas Day; and Week-end Excursion Tickets will be issued to Southend-on-Sea, as announced in Special Bills.

CHEAP WEEK-END TICKETS.

Cheap Week-end Tickets will be issued on Fridays, December 22nd and 29th, and Saturdays, December 23rd and 30th, from LONDON (ST. PANCRAS) and other MIDLAND STATIONS to the PRINCIPAL HOLIDAY and HEALTH RESORTS for the CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS. Tickets issued on December 22nd and 23rd, will be available for returning (after Saturday) up to and including Wednesday, December 27th. WINTER TOURIST TICKETS are also issued to numerous places in England and Wales.

TICKETS, PROGRAMMES, AND BILLS

may be had at the MIDLAND STATIONS and CITY BOOKING OFFICES; and from Thos. Cook and Son, Ludgate Circus and branch offices.

EXCURSIONS FROM THE PROVINCES.

EXCURSION TRAINS will be run from Leicester, NOTTINGHAM, BIRMINGHAM, Derby, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, Sheffield, LEEDS, BRADFORD, and other principal towns to EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, and ALL PARTS OF SCOTLAND for the Christmas and New Year Holidays. NUMEROUS OTHER CHEAP EXCURSIONS have been arranged from the chief Midland Stations, particulars of which may be had on application.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1899.

Masonic Notes.

There was, of necessity, a deep feeling of sadness attending the consecration, on the 28th ult., of the St. Alban's Lodge, No. 2786, which henceforth will hold its meetings under the shadow of the venerable Abbey, which perpetuates the memory of the founder of the earliest lodge in Britain, formed, as tradition hath it, in the year 287 of the Christian era. Bro. Halsey, M.P., Prov. G. Master of Hertfordshire, has himself invariably, when his parliamentary and other duties permitted, performed the ceremony of consecrating a new lodge in his Province, and as invariably has left that of installing its first W. Master to be performed by his Deputy, and that arrangement was provided for in the agenda on this occasion. Unhappily, and to the sincere regret of all present, but especially of the Prov. G. Master and Prov. G. Treasurer, instead of the Deputy—Bro. George E. Lake, P.G.D. England—arriving to fulfil his part, the sad news arrived that he had died quite unexpectedly only the day previous at Berlin. The mournful intelligence very naturally had the effect of dimming the pleasure with which a new lodge is always inaugurated, and though time did not permit of any alteration being made in the day's arrangements, the P.G.M. and Bro. F. Sumner Kynvett, P.G.D., Prov. G. Treas.—the latter of whom took, and has since been appointed to, the late Bro. E. Lake's office—left without sharing, as they otherwise would have done, in the festive part of the proceedings.

Bro. Lake, both personally and by virtue of his office, well merited this mark of respect for his memory. For the last 15 years he has been one of

the central figures in Hertfordshire Masonry, firstly, as Provincial Grand Secretary, and then, since 1889, as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. In the Provincial Grand Chapter he held the corresponding offices of Prov. G.S.E. and Prov. G.H., and in the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge those of Provincial Grand Secretary and Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He was esteemed and respected in the Watford and other lodges, chapters, and Mark lodges of which he was a member, and also throughout the Province generally; and not only has the Provincial Grand Master to mourn the loss of one who, as he said in his reference to the event, was his "right hand man," but the Province likewise will sincerely regret the untimely death of a distinguished brother, who had won its affection and was ever ready, when occasion required, to do what lay in his power to promote its welfare. We tender our most sincere sympathy to the widow and family in the irreparable loss they have sustained.

As regards the ceremony of consecration, which was performed by Bro. Halsey with all his wonted impressiveness, we desire to call the attention of our readers to the very eloquent oration which was delivered on the occasion by the Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. O. C. Cockrem, P.M., P. Prov. G. Chap. of Notts and Herts, which appeared in the report of the proceedings we published in our issue of last week. It was, perhaps, somewhat longer than such addresses usually are, but its excellence as an exposition of the principles and objects of Freemasonry was recognised on all sides, and it was listened to with the utmost attention by those who had the privilege of hearing.

We have been requested to announce that the Lord Kitchener of Khartoum Lodge, No. 2767, held a special meeting at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, on Thursday, the 7th inst., for the purpose of bidding farewell to Bro. J. H. Ireland, one of the principal founders of the lodge and its esteemed Treasurer, who has been compelled by the state of his wife's health to leave the neighbourhood, to the great regret of the brethren and to the loss of the lodge. Bro. J. Cooper has been elected to succeed Bro. Ireland as the guardian of the lodge funds.

The Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution held their regular monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 13th instant, when the chair was taken by Bro. J. H. Whatcoat, J.P., Patron, and a goodly amount of business was transacted. As we anticipated last week, a vote of condolence with the widow and family of the late Bro. John Newton, F.R.A.S., P.G.P., was passed *nem. con.*, after which the Committee dealt with the petitions—13 in number (9 male and 4 widows)—submitted for their consideration, the result being that all were approved, and the names ordered to be placed on the lists for the elections in May, 1900.

We have also to state that Bro. Whatcoat was unanimously elected to serve upon the House Committee of the Institution in place of the late Bro. Newton; that the Secretary reported the deaths of five male and two widow annuitants; that the applications of the widows of two recently-deceased male annuitants for half their late husbands' annuities were granted; and that a letter was read from the Rt. Hon. Lord Addington, Prov. G. Master of Buckinghamshire, altering the date of the Festival from Wednesday, the 28th, to Tuesday, the 27th February, 1900.

It is only three months since a new lodge was added to the roll of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland and Westmorland. A warrant has been granted by the M.W. Grand Master for one more, under the title of the Alston Lodge, No. 2794, to be located at the mining town of that name, bordering on Northumberland. This makes the 23rd lodge in the two counties. The consecration will be deferred until the return of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master from the Cape, whither his lordship and Lady Henry Bentinck sailed on Saturday last. They expect to be back in England by Easter.

The brethren of the Cambrian Lodge of Australia, No. 656, Sydney, New South Wales, have presented very elaborately-illuminated addresses to Bros. Richard Eve, P.G. Treas.; S. R. Baskett, P.P.S.G.W. Dorset; and W. F. Lamonby, P.A.G.D.C., as an appreciation of their efforts in obtaining for the members of the lodge in question the recognition of their claim, right, and privilege to assemble and work as an English Masonic body in that distant part of her Majesty's dominions.

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.

A LAUDABLE EXAMPLE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

One night last week I visited the Bective Lodge, No. 1532, Carlisle, on my return to town from Scotland.

At the social board, the W.M., Bro. George White, P.S.G.W., and ex-Mayor of Carlisle, made a special appeal to the members of the lodge present, in behalf of the Soldiers', Widows', and Orphans' Fund, the "whip up" resulting in close upon £25, although there was not by any means an average attendance. A circular, however, has to be sent to the bulk of the members.

A similar procedure, I heard, has been taken in connection with the Union Lodge, No. 310, and it may be added, that both lodges had previously donated 25 guineas each from their funds, whilst the proceeds of the coming Bective Lodge ball have to be given to the fund also.

I would only further remark that the Union and Bective Lodges number nearly 100 members each.

Masonry is clearly flourishing in the ancient border city.—Yours fraternally,
W. F. LAMONBY.

December 11th.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC MASONIC LODGE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

May I call the attention of those of your readers who may be interested in photography to a proposal which has been made to found a Photographic Masonic Lodge?

Already a fair promise of support has been obtained; but no doubt, through the medium of your widely-read paper, far greater support both from London and Provincial Masons would be obtained.

If anyone interested in the matter will send his name and address either to Bro. E. J. Wall, Editor of the *Photographic News*, or to myself, we would communicate further details.—Thanking you, I am, yours fraternally,

W. E. DUNMORE, 1391.

110, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.,
December 6th.

AN EXPLANATION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Will you kindly give me the hospitality of your paper to make the following statement?—

It is with the greatest grief that I have learned that my silence at the Empress Lodge, on the 13th instant, when the health of the visitors was proposed, has been utterly misunderstood, and not attributed to the real cause—namely, a morbid diffidence to speak, without any preparation, before a large meeting. If I had suspected that my silence would be misunderstood, I should have overcome the reluctance I feel to hear my own voice in public, and I should have said, on behalf of the La France Lodge, that every member entertains towards England and the English people the most cordial feelings of friendship; that every member in it profoundly respects the august lady who reigns over this great nation; that every member in it is a loyal English Mason paying due allegiance to their Most Worshipful Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and promoting everywhere they go, by every means in their power, the *entente cordiale* between England and France. I should have added besides, that, personally, during the 35 years I have lived in England, I have learnt not only to respect it, to admire, but also to love it.

Thanking you in anticipation for kindly inserting the above, I remain, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

HENRI BUE, P.G. Std. Br.,
Treasurer of La France Lodge.

December 14th.

APPEAL FOR A DESERVING MISSION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Sir,

"An unequal Combat" is the title of the pamphlet we are now issuing to our friends and supporters. It shows how acutely the innocent wives and children of prisoners suffer, and explains how we assist them. It also shows that we do not confine our efforts to any one parish, district, or class, but that we assist large numbers of families, no members of which have ever been in prison.

There are many in such dire distress, that unless they are helped *quickly* they will be without adequate clothing, firing, and food during the trying winter season.

We want to distribute as many Christmas dinners, and as much other relief, at least, as we have for the past 50 years; and beg your readers' kindly aid.

Contributions should be sent to our bankers, Messrs. Barclay and Co., 54, Lombard-street, E.C., or to yours faithfully,

WM. WHEATLEY,
Superintendent, St. Giles's Christian Mission.

4, Ampton-street, Regent-square, W.C.,
December, 1899.

Reviews.

"THE DACOIT'S MINE; OR, A FIGHT FOR FORTUNE."—By Charles R. Kenyon, author of "The Young Ranchman," "The Sole Survivor," "Gold from Klondyke," "A Polar Eden," &c., with eight illustrations by J. Ayton Symington. London: John Hogg, 13, Paternoster-row. 1899.

"KING RADAMA'S WORD; OR, JOHN AIKIN'S ADVENTURES IN MADAGASCAR." With a brief narrative of further events in that country.—By Robert Thynne, author of "The Story of Australian Exploration," "Matthew Flinders," &c. With eight illustrations by J. Ayton Symington. London: Same publisher.

Bro. John Hogg is always well to the front at this Christmas season with books of various kinds and different degrees of merit, that are suitable either for presentation as prizes or as gift books which are certain to be welcomed by their recipients and afterwards

most cordially included among their treasured literary possessions. Perhaps the class of book for the publication of which Bro. Hogg exhibits the most decided preference are those that are crowded from title-page to colophon with stirring adventures of every description; and the more crowded the pages, the more stirring the adventures, the better calculated are they, in the publisher's opinion, to find a ready market. These books of adventure have this further recommendation—that in very many cases the leading incidents described are more or less directly based on facts that have actually taken place in recent times. Thus

"THE DACOIT'S MINE" introduces us into the country, which was once under the despotic government of King Theebaw, Lord of the White Elephant, &c., but which has now passed under the enlightened rule of the Empress of India. The plot of the book is pretty well indicated by its title, the hero of the story and his bosom friend having resolved to win their fortunes by searching the country through for mines and obtaining from them the more or less priceless rubies for which Burma is celebrated. In their researches they meet with all kinds of adventures, in not a few of which they barely escape with their lives. However, Fraser, who is a sub-lieutenant in the Goorkhas, and his friend, Watkin Jones, who is a clerk in the employ of a firm of diamond merchants, have in them the stuff of which heroes are made, and in addition, the happy knack of emerging with safety from difficulties apparently insurmountable. But at the time to which their adventures belong, Upper Burma was over-run by dacoits—that is, highway robbers—who were numerous enough, and powerful enough, to attack and rob whole communities in open day, and as may be imagined, Lieut. Fraser and his friend Watkin Jones, familiarly spoken of as "Wat," with their faithful little Goorkha attendant, are continually meeting bands of dacoits, from whom they ultimately get off scot free, but not without being every now and then in a tight place, while dacoity, which in the earlier chapters is rampant, is gradually brought into a state of abject submission to the English ideas of law and order.

"KING RADAMA'S WORD" is a story full of stirring incidents concerning the island of Madagascar in the days when the country was ruled by the native Hova dynasty, and long before the French had succeeded in establishing a footing on the island, from which small beginning they gradually succeeded in bringing the whole of Madagascar under the government of the French tricolour. The hero is a certain John Aikin, and the time to which the events and personages described in these pages belong follows closely upon the British conquest of the Mauritius—the Ile de France—and the installation of Mr. Farquhar as Governor of the new possession. Many of the personages played in real life the parts ascribed to them in these pages, so that the book has the two-fold advantage of being full of thrilling adventure and, at the same time and to a certain extent, true to history.

It remains for us to add that both authors have discharged their duties admirably. The stories are well told, and those who may be on the look out for Christmas gift books suitable for boys, will not make a bad choice if they select "King Radama's Word" or "The Dacoit's Mine" for their purpose. They have the further advantage of being illustrated by an artist of repute, and are well printed and bound.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS, &c.—Messrs. C. W. Faulkner and Co., the celebrated Artistic Colour Printers of 73, Golden-lane, London, are publishing some veritable gems in Christmas and New Year Cards. Not a few of these little souvenirs of the period are real works of art, and deserve much more than a season's show and use. Many are well worthy of being framed as miniature reproductions of some of the best works of Gainsborough, Reynolds, Morland, &c., and the choice sea pieces, views of public buildings, Cathedrals, and other examples of perfect printing assuredly place this firm in the forefront as Art Publishers. The Illustrated List of Calendars for the Season 1899-1900 include some 150 distinct varieties, comprising choice selections in colour and black and white, hanging, mechanical and monthly tear-off, and turnover kinds, as well as Daily block Calendars. Their new Publications in photogravure and platinotype are all of the highest excellence, and range in price from 1s. to 63s., but the Calendars, undoubtedly, are the great feature of this year's publications, and will make the Firm's name popular and widely known throughout the land as Christmas and New Year Publishers of the first rank in this country.

"THE BOOKMAN."—For December, Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, 27, Paternoster-row, have published a *Christmas Double Number*, but without raising the price, being *sixpence*, as before, and may be ordered through any bookseller. It is certainly a marvellous production, for the *Illustrated Christmas Supplement* would be very cheap (being of a very artistic character) for that sum alone, and yet, besides that valuable publication, there is the "Bookman" proper, full of accurate, carefully written, and most interesting information and numerous articles of great excellence, duly signed by men of such eminence in the literary world, that their contributions should, and doubtless will, make this number an immense success. "Stevenson's Letters," by Mr. S. R. Crockett; "The late Grant Allen" (with life-like portrait), by Mr. Clement K. Shorter; "Social Life of Scotland in the 18th Century," by Rev. D. Hay Fleming; "The Encyclopedia Biblica," by Dr. Marcus Dods; and papers by Dr. Richard Garnett, of British Museum fame, are all contributions that call for special mention. The work is lavishly illustrated and has many additional features this month as well as the ordinary book routine; and, moreover, there is a fine presentation plate of JOHN RUSKIN, from a new portrait by J. McClelland, which is a real treasure and most creditable to all concerned. We strongly advise our readers to speculate in *sixpence at once*.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

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ORDER OF ODDFELLOWS, U.S.A.

The many friends of General John Corson Smith, Past G.M. of Illinois, who are resident in Great Britain and Ireland, will be glad to hear that the Grand Encampment of Odd Fellows of the United States of America presented to our dear brother a handsome arm chair as a token of the appreciation of the active service of the recipient of the gift for a quarter of a century. General Smith now retires from the onerous office of Grand Scribe, which he has held so long to the great advantage of this large and influential society, which in the U.S.A. is a friendly rival of the Masonic body as respects numbers and importance. Eight hundred members were in attendance, and passed a voted of thanks to the General for his invaluable services. Bro. Robert Smith, the son of "our General," has just retired from the highest honour in the power of the Grand Encampment to bestow, viz., Grand Patriarch, and on the completion of his term was presented with a gavel made of wood, from the old Illinois State House and from the Lincoln Homestead in Springfield. Father and Son, therefore have been the recipients of gifts testifying to the esteem and appreciation of this great Society, and as Freemasons we rejoice to hear of our good brethren and friends being so honoured.

W. J. HUGHAN.

Craft Masonry.

Moir Lodge, No. 92.

The 144th anniversary meeting of this distinguished lodge took place at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Thursday, the 7th inst. Present: Bros. John Webb, W.M.; Charles E. Russell, S.W.; Sir Norman R. Pringle, Bart., J.W.; T. L. Wilkinson, P.M., Treas.; R. F. Gould, P.M., Sec.; J. Norman Noakes, S.D.; Stuart B. Noakes, J.D.; F. A. Donnison, I.G.; H. M. Carter, P.M.; Sydney Shorter, P.M.; G. Greiner, P.M.; E. Greiner, P.M.; M. A. Tweedie, P.M.; A. B. Walters, C. A. Elgood, A. W. Smith, and A. J. Sanderson. Visitors: Bros. G. Pidduck, 1107; J. Joel, W.M. 2647; J. Peeke Richards, 1584; John Dives, I.G.

2739; W. H. Stone, 2647; L. F. Noakes, 1982; G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C.; A. D. Jollye, 2647; G. I. Goodhart, P.M. 1596; H. J. Alleyn, 2553; J. H. Noakes, 108; M. Walters, 1987; Rev. J. Henry Smith, P.M. 279; Lennox Browne, P.D.G. D.C.; T. H. Gardiner, P.A.G.D.C.; W. Campbell, 101; Henry Times, P.M. 165; and W. Carrwasse, 1572.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Charles E. Russell, S.W., W.M. elect, was presented to the chair by Bro. H. M. Carter, P.M., and duly installed by Bro. R. F. Gould, P.M. The following are the other officers for the year: Bros. John Webb, I.P.M.; Sir Norman R. Pringle, Bart., S.W.; J. Norman Noakes, J.W.; Rev. R. I. Woodhouse, P.M., Chap.; T. L. Wilkinson, P.M., Treas.; R. F. Gould, P.M., Sec.; Stuart B. Noakes, S.D.; F. A. Donnison, J.D.; Charles A. Elgood, I.G.; and George Couchman, Tyler. The sum of 10 guineas was voted to the Mansion House Fund for the Wives and Children of Soldiers, and a donation of half a guinea to that deserving object of Charity called "Our Brother's Bed."

An excellent banquet followed.

The toast of the evening, "The Memory of the Earl of Moira, the Patron of the Lodge," was given, with his wonted eloquence, by the Treasurer, Bro. Wilkinson, P.M.

An admirable programme of music had been arranged, and the following artistes were well and deservedly received: Bros. William Fell, Robert Grice, and Fred Cozens; and Misses Gertrude Snow, Louise Jenkins, and Fanny Woolf (solo violin). Bro. Fred Cozens presided most ably at the pianoforte.

Duke of Edinburgh Lodge, No. 1259.

The usual meeting of this lodge was held at the Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate, on the 5th inst., when there were present Bros. R. O. Hindewell, W.M.; C. W. Chandler, S.W.; T. Sweeting, Acting J.W.; C. Wakefield, P.M., Treas.; George Parrett, P.M., Sec.; C. R. Warde, Asst. Sec.; G. J. Bonner, Acting S.D.; D. Gower, J.D.; D. J. Lusty, I.G.; R. T. Court, A.D.C.; C. Wakefield, Jun., Stwd.; F. Adams, P.M.; J. Coote, P.M.; J. W. Westmoreland, P.M.; H. Warner, I.P.M.; and a large assemblage of the brethren, though, strange to say (for the Duke's), only two visitors! This scarcity of welcome guests is certainly rare, as the genial hospitality extended by the lodge to all who pay it a visit is as well-known as it is unstinted, and other causes than that of good fellowship must account for the sparse attendance.

This being the first occasion upon which the W.M. was called upon to occupy the chair after his installation, all present readily rendered him every assistance in the discharge of his official duties, and after the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken on behalf of Mr. Fred. Geo. Layton and Mr. Chas. Thos. Bamford for initiation, and for Bro. Cooper, 1382, as a joining member. The two candidates first named being in attendance, they were duly and solemnly initiated. Bro. Frank Adams, P.M., then took the chair, and passed Bros. Herdender, Clements, and Flood, also raising Bro. Davies to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. Before the lodge business had been brought to a close, the members were notified of the serious accident which had befallen Bro. J. R. Omer, P.M., one of the oldest members of the lodge, and several brethren to whom he is well known, having voiced the regret generally felt at his untoward misfortune, it was ordered that a letter of condolence and sympathy be sent to him on behalf of the members present. The Secretary having informed the members that the cheque for 25 guineas, voted at the last meeting as a contribution to "The Princess of Wales's Widows' and Orphans' Fund," had been returned, owing to a misconception as to the exact fund intended to be benefited by the donation. Her Royal Highness not having organised a fund of that character, it was ordered that the amount be forwarded to the Hospital Ship, of which the Princess is the Patron. The W.M. then explained the nature of the arrangements already made by the lodge officers as regards the annual ball, the date and place being January 16th, at Cannon-street Hotel, and he expressed the hope that one and all would exert themselves to the utmost to ensure the success of the venture, whilst he also mentioned that the wearing of Masonic clothing would be dispensed with on the occasion, and that the presence of non-members of the Craft would be cordially welcomed.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to dinner, served, as usual, in Bro. G. A. Roberts' sumptuous style.

After the customary loyal and patriotic toasts had been duly honoured, the large company dispersed.

St. Ambrose Lodge, No. 1891.

The installation meeting of this well-known lodge took place at St. James' Restaurant, Piccadilly, on the 7th inst., when there were present: Bros. Dr. Ivor Davis, W.M.; Geo. May, S.W., W.M. elect; D. F. Norrington, J.W.; P. P. Perry, P.M., Treas.; W. F. Bates, P.M., Sec.; A. E. Gadd, S.D.; F. Whicher, J.D.; A. Strutt, I.G.; G. B. Spicer, I.P.M.; F. W. Buxton, P.M., P. Prov. G.S. of W. Berks; W. Ham, P.M.; J. C. Conway, P.M.; L. Lichtwitz, P.M.; R. W. Jones, P.M.; H. J. Thwaites, E. T. Edwards, E. J. Rix, J. Shrubbs, R. H. Willis, H. Smith, H. T. May, J. T. Rowland, A. R. Godrich, R. Sandland, F. Buck, F. W. Leeks, G. A. Fleche, S. J. Ling, A. McO, Harry Hudson, H. C. Parke, D. T. Davies, W. Worville, B. Gerald, J. Butler, W. A. Hudson, F. W. Garnham, W. McCutcheon, T. Hare, J. W. Brown, G. C. E. Gelfardi, G. W. Thatcher, A. E. Earle, E. W. Willcox, A. Lee, R. Anderson, and R. Root. Visitors: Bros. E. C. Mulvey, P.G.P.; J. W. Barker, P.M. 1767; H. Foreman, P.M. 1275; J. H. Richardson, W.M. elect 1828; C. J. Brown, P.M. 733; F. Kedge, P.M. 749; W. C. Jones, J.D. 1604; G. T. Hunt, 2721; W. R. Mead, 1694; H. G. May, 511; J. Burgess, 1676; S. Scott, 1744; G. Estcourt, 2361; J. May, 1767; W. H. Handover, 1642; P. Cooper, 1694; A. Lichtwitz, 1365; A. Burch, 1150; J. E. Wiberg, 1901; W. Price, 144; C. B. Jones, 144; F. Spaulton, 65; J. Mason, 2602; and R. T. West, 1744.

The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the Audit Committee's report was received and adopted. The W.M. elect, Bro. G. May, was then presented by Bro. W. F. Bates, P.M., and installed into the chair by Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis. The new Worshipful Master afterwards appointed and invested his officers, and addressed them in suitable terms as to their respective duties, but made special mention of the Treasurer, Bro. P. P. Perry, P.M., and the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. W. F. Bates, P.M. They were as follows: Bros. Dr. Ivor Davis, I.P.M.; D. F. Norrington, S.W.; F. Whicher, J.W.; the Rev. T. J. Filmer Bennett, M.A., Chap.; P. P. Perry, P.M., Treas. (the tenth time he had been invested as Treas.); W. F. Bates, P.M., Sec.; A. Strutt, S.D.; Ernest Rix, J.D.; F. W. Buxton, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Works Berks, H. J. Thwaites, F. Percy Buxton, and H. Smith, Stwds.; W. Hoggins, P.M., D. of C.; S. Ling, A.D. of C.; and H. Evenden, P.M., Tyler. All the new officers were in attendance with the exception of Bros. the Rev. T. J. Filmer Bennett, F. Percy Buxton, W. Hoggins, P.M., and H. Evenden, P.M., who were absent through illness and other causes. The delivery of the usual addresses was ably and eloquently rendered by Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, and the installation ceremony could not have been better performed. It has seldom

fallen to our lot to have seen it worked in such an excellent manner, and in installing his successor Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis ended his brilliant year of office with much éclat. The W.M. then presented, on behalf of the lodge, a Past Master's jewel to Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, I.P.M., which, he stated, he did with much pleasure, as it was a slight return for his great and valued services. Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, I.P.M., in reply, tendered his sincere thanks for the jewel which he should esteem as one of the nicest things in his life. He was proud that he had filled the chair in the St. Ambrose Lodge, and he took that opportunity of thanking his very efficient officers for their great assistance, as without which he could not have carried out his duties, and he thanked all the members for their great kindness to him during his reign as Master, which he should never forget. The jewel bore the following inscription: "Presented by the St. Ambrose Lodge to Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, P.M., in recognition of his valuable services as W.M. during the year 1899." The W.M., Bro. Geo. May, initiated Mr. Robert Root and Mr. Richard Anderson in a masterly manner that delighted all who had the good fortune to witness the ceremony. The Sec., Bro. W. F. Bates, P.M., reported that since the last meeting the lodge had sustained a loss through the death of Bro. Arthur White, and he took upon himself, in the name of the lodge, to send a wreath to the funeral. It was resolved that the action of the Secretary be endorsed, and that a letter of condolence be sent to the sister of the deceased brother. Bro. W. Ham, P.M., said that he rose with a deal of pleasure to move that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, I.P.M., for his efficient services as W.M. and Installing Master. All the members must feel that he had not been a figure-head, but a Master as near ideal as was possible. He had adorned the chair and added lustre to the lodge, and his grand year of office would never be forgotten. The proposition was seconded by Bro. L. Lichtwitz, P.M., and, on being put to the vote, was carried unanimously. In acknowledging the resolution, Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, I.P.M., said: "Thank you."

The W.M., Bro. G. May, stated that he would go up as Steward at the forthcoming Festival of the Old People, and, after other business, the lodge was closed.

The brethren then partook of a superb banquet, which was admirably served, under the personal superintendence of Bro. Bertini.

At the conclusion of the repast the W.M., Bro. Geo. May, stated that the first toast he had the honour to propose was "The Queen and the Craft." It was one that was always received with the utmost enthusiasm at every Masonic gathering. It was particularly acceptable to Masons for the reason that the illustrious lady who adorned the throne of the realm and of the Masonic Institutions had given them her son, or, he might say, her sons, to be Masons, and not that only, but her first son, their future king, to be not only a Mason, but the Most W.G. Master.

In giving "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," the W.M. said that it was unnecessary in a Masonic assembly to dilate on the merits of his Royal Highness. Most of the brethren present had attended numerous Masonic festivities, and must have heard the merits of his Royal Highness spoken in terms more eloquent than any he could command, but he could not let that occasion pass without drawing attention to the marvellous strides made in Masonry. Since his Royal Highness became G. Master, the number of lodges had almost doubled; at that time there were about 1500 lodges, but now there were nearly 3000, and that wonderful record demanded the highest appreciation.

The W.M. gave "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," and said that those who had attended Grand Lodge and seen the working of the Grand Officers could not but say that they were the right men in the right place, and should have the support of all the brethren. They were honoured that evening with the presence of Bro. E. C. Mulvey, P.G. Pust., who only wanted knowing, and it gave him much pleasure to associate his name with the toast.

At this point Miss Alice Mellich recited, with marked effect, "The Absent-Minded Beggar," which was received with much enthusiasm, and immediately afterwards she went round the room with her "little tambourine," and brought it to the W.M. Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, I.P.M., at the request of the W.M., put up the tambourine for sale, and after some spirited bidding, it was knocked down to Bro. A. R. Godrich at £4 10s.—to be sent to the Widow and Orphan Fund.

Bro. E. C. Mulvey, P.G. Pust., responded to the toast of "The Grand Officers, Present and Past." He said that was not his first visit to the lodge by a great many, but on every occasion they were more than kind to him. He was glad to have had the privilege to see Bro. G. May installed as W.M., and the excellent way he had invested his officers and performed the ceremony of initiation spoke well for the future. He was following Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, I.P.M., who, he felt, had done his work to the satisfaction of all the members, and he was a credit to their good lodge. Every Grand Officer was proud to be a Grand Officer, because they were associated with those who had done great things for the Craft, and, in concluding an able speech, he said that he was delighted to attend the lodge, in which he had so many dear friends.

Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, I.P.M., gave "The W.M., Bro. Geo. May," and said it was a great pleasure to propose the toast, especially as Bro. May was destined to become a very popular and efficient W.M. He had known him for many years in Fulham, where he had attained a high character, as he had in the lodge, and his position as W.M. was gained through sheer hard work. He was gratified that he had had the honour to instal him, because he (Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis) had proposed him in the lodge, and from his excellent working that evening augured well, he thought, for the future. (Great applause.)

Bro. Geo. May, W.M., responded, and stated that every man in his life time had to go through some circumstance and meets with at least one ordeal. He was face to face with one, perhaps the greatest ordeal of his life. He could not deny that he felt some anxiety in assuming his new, untried and important responsibility, and all the more arduous it appeared to him to be when he remembered the able W.M.s. who had preceded him. He knew they expected great things of him, because they had been accustomed to great things from the W.M.s., and, knowing the great traditions of the lodge, he should strain every nerve to keep up the reputation of the lodge. He thought he might ask their indulgence in any slip he might make, as he claimed the record of being the youngest W.M. the St. Ambrose Lodge had had. He was indeed proud to be Master of his mother lodge, and his earnest desire was that the coming year would be a happy and successful one.

The W.M., in a few well-chosen words, proposed the toast of "The Initiates," observing that he was sure they were good men and true on account of their sponsors.

Bro. Robert Root responded, remarking that he was very pleased that he had been made a Mason, as he had long wanted to become one, and his earnest wish was that he would turn out to be one of the very best.

The W.M. gave "The Visitors," whom he cordially welcomed. They were honoured that evening with a goodly number, and might he say that the lodge was renowned for the way they received and entertained their guests. He was in hopes of having a large number of brethren from the Fulham Lodge, but that was not to be, as they were holding their lodge meeting that evening.

Bros. Serpt-Major Jones, F. Kedge, P.M.; and J. Mason responded in some good speeches.

At the request of the W.M.,

Bro. W. Ham, P.M., gave "The I.P.M. and Installing Master, Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis." He said that he was much surprised to have been called upon to submit the toast, as it could have been well left in better hands, and certainly Bro. F. W. Buxton, P.M., could have done it greater justice. Many of them would remember that, about

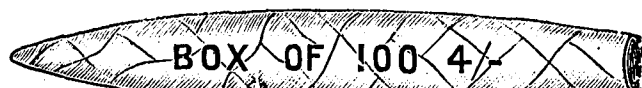
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two years ago they had their misgivings as to Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, but his career as W.M. had astonished them, and, although he was a busy man in his profession, it was marvellous that he had been so efficient in the ritual, and the ceremony of installation could not have been done better. His year of office and grand working would long be remembered, as would the way he entertained the ladies while he was in the chair.

Bro. Dr. Ivor Davies, I.P.M., responded, and said he was thankful to Bro. Ham, P.M., for the eulogistic way he had referred to him, but what he had done was his duty, as others had done before him in the lodge. He had introduced music in the lodge, and he thought it added to the beautiful ritual. He had had the honour of entertaining the ladies three times during his year of office, and concluding, he again thanked them for the kindness he had always received at their hands.

The W.M., in proposing "The Past Master," said that it seemed hardly necessary at that late hour for him to speak of the merits of the Past Masters—Bros. Spicer, Ham, Jones, Hoggins, Conway, Buxton, Perry, Lichtwitz—as they were all well-remembered, and they always came up smiling. He could not extol their abilities too highly, and he thought it showed the love they had for the lodge by the large array at his left that evening, and great praise was due to them for the example they had set him, which he should sincerely endeavour to follow, and he coupled with the toast the names of Bros. F. W. Buxton, P.M., and J. C. Conway, P.M.

In responding, Bro. Buxton, P.M., thanked the W.M. for his kind words, and said that the Past Masters would do all they could to assist the W.M., but they did not think that he would require any help. He was glad to see Bro. Geo. May installed as W.M., who was one of his initiates, as was the I.P.M., Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis, and at the end of his year of office, the W.M. would instal his successor in a way that the same nice things would be said of him as had been said of Bro. Dr. Ivor Davis that evening.

Bro. J. C. Conway, P.M., also acknowledged the toast, which he did in eloquent terms.

"The Treasurer and Secretary" and "The Officers of the Lodge" having been duly honoured, the Tyler's toast brought the happy and very successful proceedings to a close.

The musical arrangements were under the able direction of Bro. Geo. Thatcher, in which the following contributed to the harmony of the evening: Miss Carrie Tulb, Bros. Fred Rains, Thos. Lynes, A. Meo, and Geo. Thatcher. Bro. Sidney Scott ably presided at the pianoforte.

Enfield Lodge, No. 1237.

A very successful meeting of the above lodge was held on Monday last at the George Hotel, Enfield, to witness the installation of Bro. James M. Dexter as W.M. for the ensuing year. The following were present: Bros. C. H. Penny, W.M.; J. M. Dexter, S.W.; W. Hibberdine, J.W.; G. Gange, S.D.; H. V. Clements, P.M., &c., Treas.; A. G. Fidler, P.M., &c., Sec.; H. E. Brown, J.D.; A. Millbourn, I.G.; C. Offord, D.C.; H. Woodley, P.M.; W. Humphries, P.M.; H. B. May, P.M.; A. Mond, P.M.; I. Hicks, P.M.; J. H. M. Meyers, E. T. Vint, J. Marshall, F. G. Lacey, and J. H. Kirk. Visitors: Bros. A. H. Maddocks, 1987; W. Saville, 180; Gilbert Scott, P.M. 1579; T. A. Bullock, P.G.S.B.; R. Berridge, P.G.D.; E. Knifton, 1278; J. Graham, 1579; W. H. Recknell, P.M. 212; C. Sergeant, 189; A. G. Thompson, 1287; Walter Wood, W.M. 1672; J. Gough, 1287; T. Wholey, P.M. 2470; W. Davies, 2128; A. Carger, 2750; and S. E. Bostock, 2050.



THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

The lodge was opened, the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, and the report of the Audit Committee adopted. Bro. Penny then installed Bro. Dexter as his successor in a faultless manner, also delivering the addresses to the officers with great impressiveness. The W.M. appointed the following as the officers of the lodge: Bros. C. H. Penny, I.P.M.; W. Hibberdine, S.W.; G. Gange, J.W.; H. V. Clements, P.M., Treas.; A. G. Fidler, P.M., Sec.; H. E. Brown, S.D.; J. Marshall, J.D.; A. E. Millbourn, I.G.; C. W. Offord, D. of C.; E. T. Vint, A.D. of C.; F. G. Lacey, Stwd.; and A. Bryant, P.M., Tyler.

A banquet followed, at which the lengthy toast list necessitated a brevity of speech, which, perhaps, added to the enjoyment.

Following the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, Bro. R. Berridge, P.G.D., in replying for "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," said it had given him great pleasure to attend. He thought Bro. Penny had by his excellent working of the installation ceremony, earned the congratulations of all.

Bro. Bullock, P.G.S.B., also replied. In reply to the toast of "The Provincial Grand Master and Officers," Bro. Woodley, P.M., said it was with much pleasure he had to acknowledge on behalf of the Prov. S.G.O. He hoped in the course of time to congratulate the W.M. on his attaining Prov. Grand rank. He took the opportunity of wishing him a most successful year.

Bro. Penny, I.P.M., said that to him fell the privilege of proposing the toast of the evening. As "good wine needs no bush," so the Worshipful Master needed no eulogium from him. Bro. Dexter had served all the offices in such a manner that he was never excelled in the lodge, which was saying a very great deal, and the brethren all looked forward to his year of office with every confidence in Bro. Dexter's ability to discharge the duties in a way creditable to himself and satisfactory to the lodge.

Bro. Dexter, in reply, after thanking Bro. Penny and the brethren, both for the toast and its hearty reception, said that he was mindful of the splendid example set by his predecessors of correct working, which he would do his best to follow for the lodge's best welfare.

In proposing "The Health of the I.P.M.," the W.M. expressed the feelings of the lodge at the high opinion held by every brother of the brilliant manner he had performed the ceremony of installation, which ended his successful year of office, and that as a conscientious and energetic Master, and as a true and genial brother, he should be regarded as an example to be followed by all. The lodge had voted him a Past Master's jewel, which he now had the pleasure of presenting with the assurance of the brethren that they were conscious it was so well deserved.

Bro. Penny having replied, the toasts of "The P.M.s." and "The Visitors" were proposed by the Senior and Junior Wardens, and acknowledged by Bros. May and Humphries for the Past Master, and Bro. Wholey for the visitors.

"The Officers" and Tyler's toasts brought a thoroughly enjoyable evening to a close.

The musical arrangements were ably carried out by Miss Rey Porter and Misses Beatrice and Irene Marner, Bros. J. Gough, Marner, and Bostock, Bro. Wilfrid Davies, A.R.A.M., accompanist, and Prof. Nelson on the "Glassophone."

The Craft Abroad.

Cambrian Lodge of Australia, No. 656 (E.C.)

The regular monthly meeting of the above lodge took place in the lodge room, Castlereagh-street, Sydney, N.S.W., on Wednesday, the 1st ult. Nearly every member of the lodge was present, also visitors belonging to the English, Irish, and Scottish Constitutions (unattached), as well as a large number of Masters, P.M.s., and brethren of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

The chair was taken by the W.M., Bro. Capt. Salt, R.N. (this being his first meeting after installation). The work of the evening embraced the initiation of a candidate. The Degree was given in its entirety by the W.M., assisted by the I.P.M., Bro. Captain Campbell. A Past Master of the New South Wales Constitution was also admitted as an affiliating member. Before closing the lodge the W.M. presented a very massive and unique Past Master's jewel to the I.P.M., who, owing to illness, was unable to attend the installation of his successor in October. Bro. Campbell responded, and assured the W.M. that although now a P.M. his energies would still be devoted to make the Cambrian Lodge the premier lodge in New South Wales, that in adding members to the lodge, the endeavour would be quality not quantity. A handsome Past Master's collar and jewel was also presented to Bro. Campbell by an esteemed member of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.

The lodge being closed, a pleasant hour was spent in harmony. The decision of Grand Lodge of England in favour of the Cambrian Lodge has given great satisfaction to nearly all the Freemasons in Sydney, the I.P.M. as well as the present W.M. being well-known and popular brethren in Sydney.

Mark Masonry.

Prince Leopold Lodge, No. 238.

A meeting of this lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C., on the 21st ult., when there were present Bros. T. B. Dodson, I.P.M., as W.M.; E. Bond, S.W.; H. Hawkins, J.W.; F. F. Bonney, P.M. 181, M.O.; T. L. Pewtress, J.O.; Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., P.M., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., Sec.; A. Tisley, P.M., P.A.G.D.C.; and F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M., P.G.S. (hon. member).

The lodge was in mourning consequent upon the death of Bro. R. Burleton, W.M., who died a few days after his installation in May last. The ballot was taken on behalf of Bro. Aubone S. Reed, S.W. 5, G.S., and he was duly advanced by the Secretary. A vote of condolence was passed to the widow and family of the late W.M. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. Holroyd, P.M., and J. V. Sherrin, S.O. A sum of money was voted from the funds to the Daily Telegraph Widows and Orphans Fund, which was subsequently augmented by individual contributions at the banquet table. The lodge was then closed.

A council of the Ark Mariners Degree was then opened. Amongst those present were Bros. F. F. Bonney, W.C.N.; Alfred Tisley, P.W.C.N., J., W.C.N. elect; F. W. Driver, M.A., P.W.C.N., S.; Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., P.W.C.N., Treas.; and Major T. C. Walls, P.W.C.N., P.G.C., Scribe.

The minutes of the previous council having been read and confirmed, the W.C.N. inducted Bro. A. Tisley into the chair of N., who invested Bros. F. W. Driver as J.; F. F. Bonney as S.; Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., Treas.; and Major T. C. Walls, Scribe. The council was then closed.

A banquet followed, and was presided over by Bro. T. B. Dodson, I.P.M. of the Mark lodge.

Upon the removal of the cloth the customary toasts received full justice. Bro. Alfred Tisley, P.A.G.D.C., responded on behalf of "The Grand Officers."

"The Health of the I.P.M." having been proposed, and warmly received, Bro. Dodson, in reply, expressed his great grief that his very old friend and worker with him in the Dalhousie Craft Lodge should have been so unexpectedly called away. The late Bro. Burleton was greatly respected in Masonic circles, his geniality, liberality,

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" " " " " 17/6	La Vencedora 50 ... 18/-	La Comercial ... " 16/-	" " " " " 22/6
" " " " " 22/6	" " " " " 25 ... 11/6	" " " " " 18/-	" " " " " 27/6
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Masonically and privately, were ever manifest. The speaker regretted that, by his death, the Prince Leopold Mark Lodge has suffered a heavy loss, as Bro. Burleton was in a position to introduce eligible candidates, and before his demise he had expressed his intention so to do.

This pledge was drunk in solemn silence.

The toast of "The Advancee" followed, and Bro. A. S. Reed briefly responded.

"The Health of the Past Masters" followed, and was acknowledged by Bro. F. F. Bonney.

The toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary" was most flatteringly submitted by the acting W.M. He said that, thanks to the exertions of those two brethren, the lodge was not only solvent, but it had a balance in hand.

The Treasurer, in reply, expressed the pleasure it always afforded him to attend the meetings of the Leopold Lodge. His humble services were always at the disposal of the members.

The toast of "The Officers," coupled with the names of Bros. Bond, Hawkins, and Pewtress, terminated the proceedings.

Cryptic Masonry.

Grand Master's Council, No. 1.

A meeting of the above council was held at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on the 24th ult., when there were present Comps. H. P. Hay, T.I.M.; J. J. Thomas, D.M.; Basil Stewart, P.C.W.; George Graveley, P.T.I.M., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.T.I.M., Recorder; W. H. Toye, E. Brown, J. Smith Simcox, and W. A. Scurrah, P.T.I.M.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken on behalf of Comp. W. Crombie, Hope Chapter, &c., and, it being unanimous, he was duly admitted, greeted, and received by the Recorder. The resignation of Bro. J. Snelling was received with regret.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Comps. Baron de Ferrieres, P.D.G.M.; R. L. Loveland, O.C., P.D.G.M.; the Rev. Dr. Lemon, M.A., P.G.C.; the Rev. R. C. Fillingham, P.G.C.; A. McDowall, P.T.I.M.; H. J. Lardner, P.T.I.M.; G. Gregory, P.T.I.M.; Major Anderson, P.T.I.M.; H. Higgins, and many others.

The council was closed in the Degree of Select Master.

Refreshment followed labour at the Holborn Restaurant. The T.I.M. presided most ably.

"The Health of the T.I.M." was proposed by Comp. G. Graveley. In the course of his speech he said that Comp. Hay had been a most indefatigable worker in all Degrees of Masonry and a consistent supporter of the Charities.

The T.I.M., in reply, said that he had always taken a great interest in the Cryptic Degrees. He regretted that the calls upon his time professionally and otherwise had prevented him from mastering fully the intricacies of the rituals. However, the Council never suffered, because there were several of the companions thoroughly conversant with the work.

"The Health of the Admittee" followed.

Comp. Crombie, in reply, stated that he had been highly impressed with the ceremonies that night, particularly the Royal Master's Degree. He had taken many Degrees in Freemasonry, but he could not call to mind anything more beautiful and impressive than one part of the ceremony in which the P.C. of the W. bore the greater part.

"The Health of the Past T.I. Masters" followed, and was coupled with the name of Comp. G. Graveley. The T.I.M. said that that particular companion was always present at the council meetings, ready and willing at all times to assist in any part of the work. He regretted that many other Past Masters did not take the same active interest in their pleasant little council, as did Comp. Graveley.

Comp. Graveley having briefly replied, the toast of "The Officers" came next in order, and was acknowledged by Comps. J. J. Thomas, T. C. Walls, and Basil Stewart.

The proceedings then terminated.

Obituary.

BRO. E. L. P. VALERIANI, P.G. STD. BR.

Bro. E. L. P. Valeriani, to whose death on the 26th ult. we referred last week, was initiated in the Rothesay Lodge, No. 1687, on the 5th December, 1877, and from that time forward has never failed to attend a single meeting of his lodge. He had the honour of being installed its W.M. in 1885, and since then has taken part as a founder of the Lodge of Fellowship, No. 2535, which came into existence in 1894, and over which he had the satisfaction of presiding as Master in 1897. He was exalted in the St. James's Union Chapter, No. 180, in 1885, joined the Mount Lebanon Chapter, No. 73, in 1890, and also assisted in founding the Fellowship Chapter, No. 2535, in 1896. In 1892, he was installed as M.E.Z. of No. 73. He is a Life Governor of the Girls' School and Benevolent Institution, and has given his services as Steward for one or other of them on 14 different occasions.

BRO. GEORGE E. LAKE, J.G.D.

Bro. George E. Lake, whose untimely death on the 28th ult. is so greatly to be deplored, has played a distinguished part in all the various branches of Freemasonry with which he has been connected during the greater part of the last quarter of a century. He was initiated on the 3rd October, 1873, in the Watford Lodge, No. 404, and after holding sundry offices, among which were those of J.W. in 1876 and 1877, and S.W. in 1878, he was installed as W.M. in April, 1879, and had the honour of presiding over his mother lodge during the Jubilee year of its constitution. In 1884 he was elected Treasurer in succession to the late Bro. Wilson Isles, and has since been annually re-elected to that post. In 1887 he joined the Centurion Lodge, No. 1718, served as W.M. in 1890, and was elected its Treasurer in 1895; and he is likewise the senior P.M. of the Rickmansworth Lodge, No. 2218, of which he was in 1887 a founder and first S.W., and over which he was elected to preside as Master during the second year of its existence. His Provincial honours have been commensurate with his many services. He was appointed to the Prov. G. Registrarship of Hertfordshire in 1878, before he had attained the rank of an Installed Master, while since 1884 he has been continuously in office, having been appointed firstly, Prov. G. Secretary on the transference of the late Bro. J. E. Dawson to the position of Deputy P.G.M., and secondly, in 1889, to the office he still holds, that of Deputy P.G.M., when it

was vacated by that brother, after five years' service, in 1889. In Royal Arch Masonry he has obtained equal distinction. He was exalted in May, 1875, in the Watford Chapter, No. 404, and after serving as Scribe E. in 1880, in which capacity he rendered valuable assistance in arranging for the celebration of the chapter's jubilee—he successively occupied in 1881, 1882, and 1883, the chairs of J., H., and M.E.Z. In 1884 he was elected Treasurer, and has held that office ever since, except during the year 1888, when, for the second time, he was called upon to fill the office of Principal Z. In Prov. G. Chapter he has been successively Prov. G. Registrar during the years 1879 and 1880; Prov. G. Scribe E., from 1884 to 1890; and since the latter year, Prov. G. Second Principal. He is also, or shall we say, was?—a joining member of St. Mary's Chapter, No. 63, London. He was admitted in the Watford Mark Lodge, No. 241, on the 26th March, 1879, the very day on which that lodge, which is the senior on the roll of Hertfordshire, was consecrated by the then G. Mark, Secretary, Bro. Fred. Binckes, was installed in the chair of A. on the 25th June, 1885, and the year following was elected—and still remains—its Treasurer. In June, 1886, he was appointed Prov. S.G.W., and, after serving as Prov. G. Treasurer from 1888 to 1893, was in the latter year appointed Deputy P.G.M., in succession to the late Bro. Dawson. His services received further recognition on the 31st May, 1887, when he had the honour of being appointed J.G. Deacon of Mark G. Lodge. In the Order of the Temple he was installed K.T. in the Stuart Encampment, No. 28, Watford, on the 1st May, 1876, and, after filling sundry offices, was installed E.C. in July, 1880, and for the second time in 1894. He has also held the office of Treasurer since 1884, and is likewise a Prior of the Order of Malta. Bro. Lake was a Vice-President of the Girls' School and of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and Life Governor of the Boys' School, and has served in all 11 Stewardships, of which four have been in respect of the Girls' School, two for the Boys' School, and the remainder for the Old People.

Instruction.

WHITTINGTON LODGE, No. 862.

A meeting of the above lodge was held on Wednesday, the 29th ult., at the Red Lion, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street. Present: Bros. T. J. Hester, S.W.; E. W. Davis, J.W.; A. V. H. Pauncefort, P.M., Preceptor and Treas.; Thos. Kobelt, Sec.; F. W. Berry, S.D.; Percy Dewers, J.D.; R. Bell, I.G.; Fred Hewson, W. H. Latham, Percy Day, J. Scarlett, and Alex. Clarkson.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, the W.M. reciting the charge to the initiate. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, the full description of the working tools being recited. The lodge was then closed.

A meeting was also held on the 13th inst., when there were present Bros. Alfred Collins, W.M.; T. J. Hester, S.W.; W. H. Latham, J.W.; A. V. H. Pauncefort, Preceptor and Treas.; Henry T. Kobelt, Sec.; Alex. Clarkson, S.D.; Percy Day, J.D.; and Robert Bell, I.G.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Kobelt acting as the candidate. The W.M. called the lodge off and on, and opened and closed down.

HORNSEY CHAPTER, No. 890.

The above chapter held its usual weekly meeting at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne-terrace, Bishops'-road, Paddington, W., on Friday, the 8th inst. There were present Comps. Dr. J. N. Whitlock, M.E.Z. elect 1642, M.E.Z.; R. Wright, P.H. 890, H.; A. L. Butters, P.S. 890, J.; H. Dehane, P.Z. 890, S.E.; J. M. Huish, N. 185, S.N.; H. Armfield, P.S. 1642, P.S.; and H. Foskett, J. 185, 1st A.S.

The chapter was opened, and the minutes of the last convocation read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Dehane being the candidate. The executive officers for the ensuing 12 months were elected as follows: Comps. H. Dehane, P.Z. 890, P.P.G.P.S. Essex, S.E.; J. Bailey, P.Z. 1602, Treas.; and R. Wright, P.H. 890, and A. L. Butters, P.S. 890, Committee. Much regret was expressed at the cause of the resignation of Comp. Tilt, P.Z. 862, from the Treasurer-ship, which he had held for some years. The M.E.Z. rose the usual number of times, and after "Hearty good wishes," the chapter was closed.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Weymouth Chapter, No. 4.

A meeting (by dispensation) of this old chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Weymouth, on the 5th inst., for the purpose of installing Ill. Bro. Col. W. E. Brymer, M.P., as M.W.S., his Parliamentary duties having prevented his attending the statutory meeting in October. The chair was occupied by E.P. Bro. H. J. Groves, the retiring M.W.S., who, in a most impressive manner, installed his successor. The sum of £10 10s. was voted to the funds of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys and the sum of £5 5s. to the Transvaal War Fund. The following is a list of the new officers: Ill. Bros. Sidney S. Milledge, 18°, Prelate; Earl of Portarlington, 30°, 1st Gen.; J. A. Sherren, 18°, 2nd Gen.; Zillwood Milledge, 30°, Recorder; A. McLean, 18°, Treas.; James Lowe, 18°, Marshal; H. A. Huxtable, 18°, Raphael; E. L. W. Chave, 18°, Herald; B. Morris, 18°, Capt. of Gds.; Rev. J. A. Miller, B.D., 18°, Org.; and H. T. George, P.M.W.S., 18°, D.C.

A chapter of emergency was then held, and Bros. J. E. Crickmay, H. A. Hurdle, A.R.A.M., and E. L. N. Pridmore, M.D., were received and perfected. This being the first occasion on which the new ritual, ordered by the Supreme Council 33°, has been used, and the officers taking part are to be congratulated on the manner in which they fulfilled their duties. The newly-appointed M.W.S. has intimated his intention to have every detail of the appointments of this chapter in exact conformity to the regulations, when this is done, the beautiful hall, in which this chapter meets, will be, if possible, improved.

At the invitation of Col. Brymer, M.P., the members dined together, the tables being beautifully decorated by flowers and fruit from Ilington House.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY in Paris has just been left the 40,000 volumes that formed the famous collection of books of M. Ristelhuber, the Alsatian author. The testator was a rich man, and spent nearly all his fortune on his library.

THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER, who is staying at St. Giles's House, Cranborne, Dorset, the seat of the Earl of Shaftesbury, has been visited by Dr. Coates, of Salisbury, and by Dr. Donald Hood, his Grace's medical adviser in London. The temperature is now about normal, and the Duke, though very weak, hopes to be able to leave his bed soon.



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No.	LODGES.	Shillings
2488	Eccentric ...	140
2409	Woodgrange ...	1102
1503	City of Westminster, after sending round the Hat, it was sold by Auction and bought by Bro. Giles ...	1050
65	Prosperity, Collected from Members ...	903
65	" Lodge ...	210
65	" Instruction ...	63
1821	Atlingworth ...	600
357	Apollo and Isaac Newton University, proceeds of a Ball ...	580
1073	Collected at a Banquet ...	570
766	William Preston, Collected by Members and Friends, Installation Banquet ...	525
781	Merchant Navy ...	525
1602	Sir Hugh Myddleton ...	525
733	Westbourne ...	500
1349	Friars ...	500
1563	City of Westminster ...	500
2789	Royal Warrant Holders, Collected at the Consecration Banquet ...	500
1673	Welcome, Sale of Charity Box and its contents to Under-Sheriff J. D. Langton ...	405
1614	Covent Garden ...	403
1668	Samson ...	450
534	Polish Lodge ...	420
720	Nelson ...	420
1361	United Service ...	420
1539	Surrey Masonic Hall ...	420
1604	Wanderers ...	420
1767	Kensington ...	420
2107	Etheldreda (per The Freemason) ...	420
2361	Cricklewood ...	420
2739	Verity ...	420
2397	Columbia Lodge, Members and Friends ...	420
2742	Eyre ...	420
1541	Alexandra Palace ...	378
2472	Walthamstow Lodge and Lodge of Instruction, Subscribed by the Members ...	305
1910	Shadwell Clerke ...	350
179	Manchester ...	345
1305	St. Marylebone ...	320
1071	Mizpah, Collected at a Meeting ...	320
303	Benevolent ...	315
862	Whittington and Chapter ...	315
1524	Duke of Connaught ...	315
59	Royal Naval ...	300
192	Lion and Lamb ...	292
157	Bedford ...	280
193	Confidence, Collected among Members and Visitors ...	280
1426	Great City ...	280
2060	La France ...	280
1227	Upton ...	255
2632	Byfield ...	252
19	Royal Athelstan ...	250
180	St. James' Union (per The Freemason) ...	245
917	Cosmopolitan, Collected at a Meeting ...	245
1076	Capper ...	240
1815	Penge ...	240
2489	Willesden, and Chapter ...	230
1507	Metropolitan ...	228
95	Eastern Star, do. do. ...	220
1559	New Cross ...	220
975	Rose of Denmark ...	213
2308	Viator ...	213
28	Old King's Arms, Collected from Members and Visitors ...	210
33	Britannic ...	210
87	Vitruvian, Collected from Members and Visitors ...	210
765	St. James' ...	210
794	Camden ...	210
905	De Grey & Ripon, Collected at the Banquet ...	210
920	Burgoyne, Collected at Dinner ...	210
1110	Tyrian ...	210
1348	Ebury ...	210
1364	Earl of Zetland ...	210
1693	Collected by the Brethren ...	210
1922	Kingsland ...	210
2006	Earl of Lathom ...	210
2347	Tilbury ...	210
2348	Grafton ...	210
2394	Lombardian ...	210
2404	Galen ...	210
2502	Lord Charles Beresford ...	210
2743	Gatwick ...	210
2332	Maida Vale, collected at the Banquet Table ...	205
898	Borough of Greenwich ...	203
43	Temperance in the East, Members of ...	200
105	Idris, Cairo, Egyptian Constitution ...	200
1319	Honour and Generosity ...	200
1421	Asaph, Second Donation ...	200
1635	Langthorne ...	200
2455	Canterbury ...	200
2466	St. Martin's, Collected by Members ...	200
2671	Cheerybles, Collected at Banquet ...	190
1348	Victoria ...	170
2128	Elury, Collected at the Dinner ...	168
2721	United Northern Counties, Collected at the Installation Banquet ...	168
792	Lodge of Light ...	165
1602	Pelham Pillar ...	163
188	Beaconsfield ...	150
1328	Joppa, a few Members ...	150
34	Granite ...	155
25	Mount Moriah, Members of ...	154
1805	Robert Burns ...	150
2076	Bromley St. Leonard, and Commemoration Lodge of Instruction ...	150
1381	Quatuor Coronati ...	150
2765	Kennington, Members of ...	147
1489	Earl's Court ...	147
1704	Marquis of Ripon ...	145
	Anchor ...	140

No.	LODGES—continued.	Shillings
771	Windsor Castle, collected at Supper ...	140
2417	G.S. (Masonic), per Major Walls ...	140
141	Bolingbroke ...	136
2200	Faith ...	132
238	Pantiles, Collected at Installation Banquet ...	130
2090	Pilgrim ...	127
2217	Hammersmith ...	120
2569	Windermere ...	120
2589	St. Trillo ...	120
1087	Borough, Collected at a Banquet ...	115
1572	Rothesay ...	113
1086	Carnarvon, Collected at a Meeting ...	110
1707	Paxton ...	110
1766	Eleanor ...	110
1891	St. Leonard ...	110
87	St. Ambrose ...	110
2030	Victorian ...	108
73	Abbey ...	107
144	Globe ...	105
177	St. Luke's, Collected at ...	105
211	Domatic ...	105
339	St. Michael's ...	105
452	Unanimity, Collected among Members ...	105
772	Frederick Lodge of Unity ...	105
813	Pilgrim ...	105
598	New Concord ...	105
920	Temperance in the East, Collected at Supper ...	105
920	Burgoyne ...	105
1056	" Charity Fund ...	105
1381	Victoria ...	105
1464	Kennington ...	105
1598	Erasmus Wilson ...	105
2150	Ley Spring ...	105
2206	Tivoli ...	105
2331	Hendon ...	105
2589	Ravenscourt ...	105
2738	Borough ...	105
754	Army and Navy ...	105
2499	High Cross (per The Freemason) ...	105
35	North Kent ...	102
55	Medina ...	100
554	Constitutional ...	100
1471	Yarborough ...	100
1658	Islington ...	100
1901	Skelmersdale ...	100
2098	Selwyn ...	100
2426	Harlesden ...	100
2549	Wood Green (per The Freemason) ...	100
2608	Benevolentia ...	100
2764	Sancta Maria ...	100
2331	St. Clair ...	100
951	Ravenscourt, Collected at Dinner ...	90
30	Prince of Wales ...	84
1319	United Mariners, Collected at Supper ...	80
45	Asaph, Collected at a Meeting ...	80
2604	Strong Man, 75 Members ...	75
1204	Justinian ...	73
1744	Royd's ...	70
49	Royal Savoy, Collected at Dinner ...	65
228	Gihon, Collected at a Meeting ...	64
1044	United Strength ...	63
1541	Wansworth ...	63
1032	Alexandra Palace ...	63
2283	Stuart, Collected after reciting the "Absent Minded Beggar" ...	63
1366	Euston ...	63
2361	Collected at a send-off Concert to Mr. C. E. Gilbert, by Masonic Friends at Queen's Hotel, Leicester-square ...	60
2399	Highgate, Collected in Charity Box ...	60
2528	Cricklewood, Collected at a Meeting ...	60
2477	Ordnance ...	60
1027	Lancastrian, Collected at a Meeting ...	60
511	Residents of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Croydon ...	57
1512	Colne ...	55
2728	Royal Kensington, Collected at a Banquet ...	54
548	Zetland ...	53
861	Hemming ...	52
1829	Muswell Hill ...	52
1029	Wellington ...	50
2163	Finsbury ...	50
2061	Burrell ...	50
182	Mozart ...	50
72	Masonic Lodge Sandown, I.W. ...	50
77	Jersey ...	47
1599	Mendelssohn ...	45
1986	Old Masonians, Members and Friends of the ...	43
2647	Royal Jubilee ...	42
183	Freedom, Collected at the Monthly Supper ...	42
698	Skelmersdale ...	42
27	Hiram (Grand Orient of France) ...	42
2147	Honor Oak, Charity Fund ...	42
1589	Alleyn ...	42
1475	Unity, Collected at Supper ...	41
1110	Ryde ...	40
2754	Egyptian, Charity Box ...	37
1805	Cray's Valley ...	35
1096	St. Dunstan's ...	34
2136	Peckham ...	33
1505	Seven Kings, Masonic, Members of ...	31
2540	Sincerity ...	30
1328	Tyrian ...	30
1694	Thomas-a-Becket ...	30
13	Bromley St. Leonard, Personal Contribution ...	28
2579	Priory Lodge of Acton ...	25
1585	St. Michael's, Collected ...	25
1044	Bromley St. Leonard ...	21
1922	Ember ...	21
2708	Granite (additional amount) ...	15
1541	St. John's, a few Members ...	15
2184	Fifteen Brethren Imperial ...	15
	Masons Spaten Restaurant ...	13

No.	LODGES OF INSTRUCTION—con.	Shillings
2168	Derby Allcroft, Collected at the Annual Supper	56
1677	Crusaders	43
189	Citadel	42
781	Merchant Navy	42
1227	Upton	42
1381	Kennington	42
1503	Southern Star	42
1503	City of Westminster	42
1901	Selwyn	42
2441	Clarence and Avondale	42
	Hugh Myddelton	41
548	Wellington	40
871	Royal Oak	40
705	St. James'	34
1559	New Cross	34
538	La Tolerance	30
	Bournemouth	30
1658	Skelmersdale	25
73	Mount Lebanon	21
1076	Capper	21
1348	Ebury	21
1489	Marquess of Ripon	21
1901	Selwyn, Second Instalment	21
1446	Mount Edgcumbe	20
2030	Abbey	16
538	La Tolerance, 4th contribution	13 1/2
538	La Tolerance, Fifth Instalment	10
1891	St. Ambrose	10
862	Whittington	8
CHAPTERS.		
	Grand Chapter	1050
10	Westminster and Keystone	500
8	British	210
2108	Empire	210
2410	Æsculapius	205
73	Mount Lebanon	200
9	Albion, Collected at Banquet	120
1437	Lorne	107
125	Hengist	105
291	Vale of Jehoshaphat	105
1604	Wanderers	105
1839	Duke of Cornwall	105
938	Doric	100
1623	West Smithfield	66
172	Old Concord	50
1489	Ezra	42
1589	St. Dunstan's	21
MARK.		
	Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund	2100
16	Mark, Grand Officers' Mess	420
	Onslow, Collected in Charity Box	148
223	Wset Smithfield	65
451	Bolingbroke, Collected at a Meeting	40
238	Leopold, Collected at a Meeting	34
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.		
	Faith and Fidelity	210
A. & A. RITE.		
	Supreme Council	2100
ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES.		
	Grand Council	210
RED CROSS OF ROME & CONSTANTINE.		
	Premier Conclave	42
GREAT PRIORY OF ENGLAND & WALES		
	2100	
ROSE CROIX.		
	Sovereign Chapter Mount Calvary	42
SECRET MONITOR.		
	Shillings	
8	Cleve Fast, Collected by a few Members	30
INSTITUTION.		
	Royal Masonic Institution for Girls	120
THE MANSION HOUSE		
REFUGEES FUND.		
	£ s. d.	
	Grand Chapter	105 0 0
	Supreme Council	105 0 0
2535	Fellowship Lodge	26 5 0
	Prov. Grand Lodge of Surrey	10 10 0
	Unity Lodge	5 5 0
1677	Crusaders Lodge	3 13 0
1426	Great City Lodge	2 2 0
1386	St. Hugh Lodge	0 0 0
CHAPTER.		
192	Lion and Lamb	10 10 0
ROSE CROIX.		
4	Weymouth Chapter	4 4 0
	Invicta	2 2 0
LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.		
1275	Star	2 10 0
THE MANSION HOUSE		
TRANSVAAL WAR FUND.		
LODGES.		
	£ s. d.	
1613	Cripplegate	80 0 0
	Grand Officers' Mess, Grand Lodge	52 10 0
1446	Mount Edgcumbe	28 18 6
11	Enoch	23 0 0
197	Jerusalem	21 0 0
720	Panmure	21 0 0
1017	Montefiore	21 0 0
2022	Haven	21 0 0
1707	Eleanor	21 0 0
2150	Tivoli	21 0 0
43	Croydon Lodge of Concord	16 5 0
1827	Alliance	15 15 0
2470	Telegraph Cable	15 15 0
1790	Old England	15 6 0
1278	Burdett Coutts	14 5 0
1624	Eccleston	12 0 0
29	St. Alban's	10 10 0
92	Moir	10 10 0
161	Universal	10 10 0

TRANSVAAL WAR FUND—continued.

No.	LODGES—continued.	£	s.	d.
175	Phoenix ...	10	10	0
548	Wellington ...	10	10	0
1623	West Smithfield ...	10	10	0
1719	Evening Star ...	10	10	0
1820	Sir Thomas White ...	10	10	0
1923	Gallery ...	10	10	0
2140	Huguenot ...	10	10	0
2612	Navy ...	10	10	0
2686	Alfred Newton ...	10	10	0
60	Peace and Harmony ...	10	0	0
63	St. Mary's ...	10	0	0
172	Old Concord Benevolent Fund ...	10	0	0
1584	Loyalty and Charity ...	10	0	0
2371	Felix ...	10	0	0
1677	Crusaders ...	8	10	0
2562	Papyrus ...	8	2	6
1155	Excelsior ...	8	0	0
386	Unity ...	7	2	6
1642	Earl of Carnarvon ...	7	0	0
2398	Holborn ...	6	16	6
2715	Midland and Oxford Bar ...	6	10	0
140	St. George's ...	6	6	0
1731	Cholmeley ...	6	6	0
1768	Progress ...	6	2	0
2183	Royal Hampton Court ...	6	0	0
2400	Brentford ...	5	13	0
143	Medina ...	5	6	0
30	United Mariners ...	5	5	0
194	St. Paul's ...	5	5	0
502	Rectitude ...	5	5	0
1139	South Norwood ...	5	5	0
1382	Corinthian ...	5	5	0
2505	County Palestine ...	5	5	0
158	Adams ...	5	0	0
2414	Wychwood ...	5	0	0
2552	Stoke Newington ...	5	0	0
1672	Mornington ...	5	5	0
879	Southwark ...	4	10	6
56	Howard Lodge of Brotherly Love ...	4	1	0
435	Salisbury ...	3	13	6
1196	Urban ...	3	13	6
457	Monmouth ...	3	3	0
2686	Alfred Newton, 2nd Donation ...	3	0	0
1321	Emblematic ...	2	2	0
1817	St. Andrew's ...	2	2	0
2087	Electric ...	2	0	0
CHAPTER.				
2	St. James ...	10	10	0
3	Fidelity ...	5	5	0
5	Royal Somerset House and Inverness ...	5	5	0
613	Bridson ...	5	5	0
	St. Katharine ...	2	0	0
MARK.				
132	Amity ...	3	3	0
	West Sussex ...	1	1	0
INSTRUCTION.				
	Evening Star ...	7	2	0
483	Sympathy ...	5	5	0
2030	Abbey ...	4	10	0
	Feltham, Collected at Annual Supper ...	3	10	0
101	Temple ...	2	2	0
907	Royal Albert, some Members ...	1	5	0
CRYPTIC MASONRY.				
3	Matier ...	10	0	0
889	Debie (County Fund, per Sir J. Whittaker Ellis, Bart, Treasurer) ...	10	10	0

PRINCESS OF WALES' HOSPITAL SHIP (MAINE).

1259	Duke of Edinburgh ...	25	Guineas
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MASONIC MEETINGS (METROPOLITAN) For the week ending Saturday, December 23, 1899.

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18.

- CRAFT LODGES.
- 1, Grand Masters, Freemasons' Tavern.
 - 8, British, Freemasons' Hall.
 - 21, Emulation, Albion Tavern.
 - 185, Tranquillity, Frascati Restaurant.
 - 862, Whittington, Freemasons' Hall.
 - 1537, St. Peter Westminster, Cafe Royal.
 - 1694, Imperial, Holborn Restaurant.
- ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.
- 1657, Aldersgate, Albion Tavern.
- MARK LODGES.
- 173, Temple, London Tavern.
 - 234, Brixton, Anderton's Hotel.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19.

Board of General Purposes, at 5.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 30, United Mariners, Frascati Restaurant.
- 73, Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel.
- 95, Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
- 162, Cadogan, Freemasons' Hall.
- 255, Harmony, Greyhound Hotel, Richmond.
- 1339, Stockwell, Surrey Masonic Hall.
- 1695, New Finsbury Park, Holborn Restaurant.
- 2021, Queen's Westminster, Holborn Restaurant.
- 2022, Haven, Public Buildings, Faling.
- 2233, Old Westminsters, Cafe Royal.

MARK LODGE.

- 284, High Cross, Liverpool-street Hotel.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.

- 11, Enoch, Freemasons' Hall.
- 19, Mount Sinai, Anderton's Hotel.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20.

Board of Benevolence, at 5 precisely.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 169, Temperance, Tower Bridge Hotel.
- 174, Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern.
- 909, Maybury, Inns of Court Hotel.
- 1349, Friars, Ship and Turtle Tavern.
- 1382, Corinthian, George Hotel, Cubitt Town.
- 1507, Metropolitan, Anderton's Hotel.
- 1673, Welcome, Bolbarn Viaduct Hotel.
- 2272, Rye, Peckham Public Hall.
- 2361, Cricklewood, Frascati Restaurant.
- 2687, Italia, Hotel Cecil.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

- 554, Yarrowburgh, London Tavern.

ROSE CROIX.

- 105, Cour de Lion, Mark Masons' Hall.
- 121, Belgrave, 33, Golden-square.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21.

House Committee Girls' School, at 4.30.

CRAFT LODGES.

- 6, Friendship, Criterion.
- 49, Gihon, Guildhall Tavern.
- 179, Manchester, Anderton's Hotel.
- 657, Canonbury, Holborn Restaurant.
- 1287, Great Northern, Freemasons' Hall.
- 1320, Blackheath, Bridge House Hotel.
- 1613, Cripplelegate, Albion Tavern.
- 1681, Londesborough, Cafe Royal.
- 1901, Selwyn, Montpelier Hotel, Peckham.
- 2551, Clissold, Great Eastern Hotel.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

- 79, Pythagorean, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.

MARK LODGE.

- Bon Accord, Criterion.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22.

Board of Management Boys' School, at 2.30.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23.

(No Meetings.)

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THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.—For the convenience of the students, refreshment rooms have now been opened at the Guildhall School of Music.

BRO. P. F. R. SAILLARD, the master of the Cardmakers' Company, gained a second prize at the Smithfield Show in the class of steers over two years old.

THE GOLDEN HAMMER which will be presented to the Pope by the Episcopate for use in the ceremony of opening the holy door of St. Peter's, on the 24th inst., will have the shape of an ordinary Mason's mallet. The head will be decorated with texts in relief, and on the ivory handle will be carved references to the forthcoming holy year. A medallion bearing a dedication to Leo XIII. from the Episcopate will be attached to the handle. Rose branches of gold will also decorate the handle in order to symbolise the mystic rose, which is regarded as a sign of divine pity.

A CURIOUS OLD CUSTOM still survives at Aldermaston, between Reading and Newbury. It is the practice of letting by time candle, and it was resorted to on Saturday last in the annual letting of the churchwardens' acre, belonging to the historic parish. The letting took place at a vestry meeting, when the churchwardens measured off a sufficient portion of candle to represent the allotted time, and the candle being lighted, the biddings commenced, the last bidder before the candle went out being declared the tenant for the ensuing year.

THE ORGANISATION of the League of Mercy, the extension of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, is now almost complete in the home counties. The district presidents include Bro. the Lord Mayor, Sir Charles Hall, Q.C., M.P., Sir Donald Currie, M.P., Bro. Earl Carrington, L.C.C., Mr. Deputy C. T. Harris, Mr. J. Allen Baker, L.C.C., Mr. T. McKinnon Wood, L.C.C., Mr. G. Shaw Lefevre, L.C.C., Bro. Sir Henry Harben, Mr. A. M. Torrance, L.C.C., Mr. W. Haydon, L.C.C., Col. Ford, L.C.C., Mr. Russell Spokes, L.C.C., Mr. Goddard Clarke, L.C.C., Mr. John Harris, C.C., J.P., Mr. T. H. W. Idris, L.C.C., and Col. Bevington. The lady presidents include Lady Dimsdale, Lady Burdett, and Mrs. J. Allen Baker. T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales will receive the presidents and lady presidents at Marlborough House on Monday, the 18th inst.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY announce that on Friday night, December 22nd (for five and eight days) and Friday night, December 29th (for five and eight days), cheap excursions will leave London (Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E. and C.), Victoria (S.E. and C.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.), for Northallerton, Darlington, Richmond, Durham, Newcastle, Alnwick, Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Helensburgh, Dumbarton, Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Oban, Fort William, Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverness, and other stations in Scotland. Passengers by the excursion on the 22nd return on Tuesday, 26th, or Friday, 29th December, and those by the excursion on the 29th December return on Tuesday, 2nd, or Friday, 5th January, according to period of ticket taken. Tickets at a single fare for the double journey will also be issued by above excursions to places named, available for return by one fixed train on any day within 16 days, including days of issue and return. On Saturdays, December 23rd and 30th, cheap fast excursions will also leave London (Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E. and C.), Victoria (S.E. and C.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross, &c.), for Cambridge, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Lynn, Norwich, Cromer, Yarmouth, Spalding, Boston, Grimsby, Lincoln, Nottingham, Leicester, Derby, Burton, Burslem, Tutbury, Stoke, Newark, Chesterfield, Edwinstowe, Retford, Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham, Huddersfield, Stockport, Manchester, Warrington, Liverpool, Doncaster, York, Harrogate, Bridlington, Malton, Scarborough, Whitby, Stockton, Richmond, Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesboro', Durham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Shields, Sunderland, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, Accrington, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Rochdale, and other principal stations in the Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and North-Eastern districts. Passengers by excursion on 23rd return on 26th and 29th December, and those by excursion on 30th return on 2nd or 3rd of January. On Friday night, December 29th, a cheap trip to Nottingham, Sheffield, Penistone, Stockport, Manchester, Warrington, and Liverpool, will leave Woolwich (Arsenal) at 8.47, Woolwich Dockyard 8.50, Greenwich (S.E. and C.) 8.42, Victoria (S.E. and C.) 10.40, Ludgate Hill 11.12, Moorgate 11.19, Aldersgate 11.21, Farringdon 11.23, King's Cross 12.0, Finsbury Park 12.5. For further particulars see advertisement columns.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.—On Friday and Saturday, December 22nd and 23rd, the pressure of traffic will be relieved by the running of duplicate trains from St. Pancras as circumstances may require. On Tuesday, December 26th, and Monday, January 1st, certain booked trains will be discontinued, of which due notice will be given by special bill at the stations. Early issue of tickets.—The Midland Railway Company, to prevent inconvenience and crowding, have arranged for the booking offices at St. Pancras and Moorgate-street Stations to be open for the issue of tickets all day on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, and tickets to all principal stations on the Midland Railway can be obtained beforehand at the Midland Company's City and Suburban Offices. For further particulars see advertisement columns. Cheap excursion trains will be run from London (St. Pancras) and principal provincial stations to Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Dundee, Aberdeen, &c., on Fridays, December 22nd and 29th, for five or eight days, by which return tickets will be issued at a third-class single fare for the double journey. The single fare tickets issued on December 22nd will be available for returning on any day up to and including January 6th, 1900, and single fare tickets taken on December 29th will be available for returning any day up to and including January 13th, 1900. Cheap excursion trains will also be run from London (St. Pancras) on Saturday, December 23rd, to Leicester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Derby, Newark, Lincoln, Burton, Manchester, Liverpool, Blackburn, Bolton, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, York, Scarborough, Newcastle, Barrow-in-Furness, and the Lake District, &c., returning December 26th or 28th, and to the same places on Saturday, December 30th, returning January 2nd or 3rd, 1900. On Saturday midnight, December 30th, a cheap three, four, five days' trip will be run to Leicester, Loughboro', Nottingham, Manchester, Stockport, Warrington, Liverpool, and Sheffield. Irish Excursions.—Cheap excursion tickets will be issued from London (St. Pancras) and principal provincial stations on Friday, December 22nd, to Dublin, Cork, Killarney, Limerick, &c., *via* Liverpool, available for 16 days, and *via* Morecambe, available for returning on December 28th or 30th, and January 2nd, 4th, and 6th, 1900; on Friday, December 22nd, to Belfast, Londonderry, Portrush, &c., *via* Barrow, or *via* Liverpool, available for 16 days, on Saturday, December 23rd, to Londonderry, *via* Morecambe or *via* Liverpool, available for returning December 25th, or January 1st or 4th, *via* Morecambe, and on December 26th and 30th, and January 2nd or 6th, *via* Liverpool.

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 ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION of the University of Pennsylvania will send a team to take part in the "Olympian Games" at the Paris Exposition, and in the contests in London, where they will compete with Oxford and Cambridge athletes.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' SCHOOLS, PINNER.—The 54th Annual Festival will take place at the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland-avenue, S.W., on Wednesday, the 20th inst., at 6.30 for 7 p.m. Sir W. H. Wills, Bart., M.P., will preside, and will be supported by the Sheriffs of the City of London.

THE GALLERY LODGE, No. 1928.—The annual meeting of this lodge, the only exclusively Press lodge in the world, was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C., on the 9th inst., when Bro. F. W. Brodie was installed W.M. by Bro. E. A. Peachey, the retiring Master. A full report will appear in our next issue.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of the Aldershot Masonic Hall Company, Limited, will be held at the George Hotel, Wellington-street, Aldershot, on Monday, the 18th inst., at 8.30 p.m., to consider the tenders received by the architects in answer to the advertisement in the *Builder*, and to decide what steps shall be taken in the matter.

ON THE 14TH INST., a serious accident, involving injuries to 19 passengers, occurred at Crewe Station. A London and North-Western train from Hereford ran into the stop-blocks, the brakes failing to act, on account of the slippery state of the rails, caused by the frost. Many of the passengers who had risen from their seats to get out were badly knocked about, and 19 had to be surgically attended.

THURSDAY, the 14th inst., being the anniversary of the death of the ever-lamented Prince Consort, as well as of the Queen's beloved daughter, H.R.H. Princess Alice (the late Grand Duchess of Hesse), the Queen and the members of the Royal family went to the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore at half-past 11 o'clock, where a special service was held, the Bishop of Winchester (Clerk of the Closet to the Queen), assisted by the Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor, officiating.

QUEEN'S GIFT TO HER TROOPS.—The Press Association learns that, in addition to the original order for 30,000 tins of the Queen's present to the soldiers in South Africa, Messrs. Rowntree have received an order for an additional 10,000 boxes, making 40,000 in all from the York firm. The whole consignment will leave the works on Monday, and will be shipped by the Union Company's steamer Gaika on the 23rd inst. The company are taking out the consignment free of charge.

ALREADY THE HUGE PALACE OF JUSTICE at Temple Bar has become too small for the judges and the business, and the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn accordingly have, at the request of the Lord Chancellor, granted the temporary use of their old dining hall for the purposes of a tribunal for Mr. Justice Farwell during the early part of the ensuing Hilary Sittings. This apartment was in use for several years as a Court of Appeal prior to the opening of the present Royal Courts of Justice.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT'S visit to the Guards' Barracks at Caterham the other day was of quite an informal character. He went over the hospital, kitchens, and other departments, and took the opportunity of presenting the Omdurman medal to some of the men in the Scots Guards, who are at present there. The Rev. E. Newman, Chaplain to the Forces, conducted his Royal Highness through the fine church adjoining the barracks, which was erected mainly through the instrumentality of the late General Phillip Smith, to whose memory the beautiful mosaic reared was dedicated.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, attended by a large party, will to-night (Friday) visit Olympia, where a special performance will be given in aid of the two hospital ships organised and fitted out by H.R.H. the Princess of Wales and the American Ladies' Committee. As Olympia comfortably seats some 7000 people, there will be room for all those who like to unite a little charity with a good deal of amusement. Though the various villages and entertainments are open all day, the special performance in the theatre does not, by special desire, commence till nine p.m.

THE QUEEN drove out at Windsor Castle on Wednesday afternoon, attended by Viscountess Downe and the Hon. Judith Harbord. Their Royal Highnesses the Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria, attended by Lady Emily Kingscote and General Sir Dighton Probyn, arrived at the Castle. Her Royal Highness Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) also arrived. Lieut.-Col. the Hon. H. C. Legge (Equerry-in-Waiting to the Queen) was in attendance at the railway station. The Bishop of Winchester arrived, and had the honour of dining with her Majesty and the Royal family. T.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and her Grand Ducal Highness Princess Louis of Battenberg, arrived yesterday morning. Captain Holford was in attendance upon the Prince of Wales, and Captain McNeill was in attendance upon the Duke of Connaught. Princess Louis of Battenberg was attended by Miss Nona Ker.

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY issue tickets at their principal City and West-end offices, and this arrangement cannot fail to be a boon to those travellers who desire to avoid the trouble of obtaining tickets at a crowded railway station, particularly at holiday times, and the booking office at Paddington Station will be open all day for the issue of tickets on December 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Ordinary tickets obtained in London between December 18th and 23rd will be available for use on any day between and including those days. Cheap third-class tickets at reduced fares will be issued at Paddington, Clapham Junction, Victoria (L. C. and D.), Kensington (Addison-road), Hammersmith, &c., to Bath, Bristol, Taunton, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Exeter, Torquay, Plymouth, Falmouth, Penzance, Yeovil, Dorchester, Weymouth, Guernsey, Jersey, &c.; similar tickets will also be issued from those districts in London (except the Channel Islands). On Thursday, December 21st, cheap excursions will be run from Paddington, Clapham Junction, Kensington (Addison-road), Hammersmith, &c., to Cork and Killarney; on Friday, December 22nd, to Waterford, Limerick, Tralee, Kilkenny, Killarney, Belfast, Armagh, Giant's Causeway, &c.; on Friday and Saturday nights, December 22nd and 23rd, to Exeter, Plymouth, Newquay, Falmouth, Penzance, &c., to return December 26th or 27th; and on Saturday night, December 23rd, to Evesham, Worcester, Malvern, Hereford, Swindon, Cirencester, Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Llanelli, Llandovery, Carmarthen, Tenby, New Milford, &c., for three days; to Bath and Bristol, for three or four days; and to Oxford, Leamington, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, Chester, Liverpool, &c., for three or five days. On the days immediately preceding Christmas Day, several of the trains from Paddington will be divided, and the first portion of some of them will start five minutes before the advertised time. On Friday, December 22nd, a special will leave Paddington at 7.5 p.m. for Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth, &c. On Saturday, December 23rd, the 3 p.m. to Plymouth, will be extended to Truro. A special will leave Paddington at 7.5 p.m. for Bath, Bristol, Exeter, Plymouth, Truro and other stations, and a special Express will depart at 1.0 night for Reading, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Taunton, Exeter, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, &c. In order to meet the extraordinary demands upon the Company's resources occasioned by the enormous parcel traffic despatched both from and to London at Christmas time, special fast trains carrying parcels only will run between the principal stations.



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