

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;
HON. JAMES HOZIER, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

We publish elsewhere a most interesting Table, which has evidently been compiled with the greatest care by Comp. HERBERT G. E. GREEN, Prov. G. Scribe E. of West Yorkshire, and which shows the strength, both actually and relatively, to each other of Craft and Royal Arch Masonry in the Provinces. It will probably be somewhat disappointing to many of our readers, and more especially to those among them who may have been encouraged to hope that the change effected some few years in reducing the period of probation through which the Master Mason must pass before being exalted to the Royal Arch from one year to one month. However, the Table tells its own tale, which is simply to the effect that the Holy Royal Arch, which, according to our Book of Constitutions, is essentially a part of pure and ancient Masonry does not meet with the degree of support among Craft Masons to which it is entitled. Here and there among the Provinces of medium strength are to be found a few in which the proportion of Royal Arch to Craft Masons is about one to two, but in the majority of the larger and more influential Provinces about one-third of the Master Masons are exalted, while in the case of sundry, the Royal Arch is weakness itself. In Comp. GREEN'S own Province, in which great efforts have for some few years past been made to strengthen the chapters, and the companions have been again and again urged to encourage, by every means in their power, and even to go so far as to invite Master Masons to join the Royal Arch, there are about three out of every eight Craftsmen who have been exalted, there being 45 chapters to 81 lodges at the date—June, 1899—to which the Return is made up, while the number of companions is given as 1559 out of 4142 Master Masons. In the two Lancashires, which are our strongest Provinces, the position is far less favourable, there being in West Lancashire, with its 122 lodges and 8125 subscribing members, only 46 chapters, and 1446 companions; while East Lancashire, which musters 113 lodges, with 4800 subscribing members, the number of chapters is 41 and that of companions 1100. Thus in the whole county of Lancashire there are 235 lodges, with an aggregate membership of 12,925 Master Masons, but there are only 87 chapters, with 2546 companions, the proportion of Royal Arch to Craft Masons being, in round figures, as one to five. The next strongest Provinces after the Lancashires and West Yorkshire, are Kent and Devonshire. The former of these has a roll of 65 lodges with 4266 subscribing members, the chapters being 28 in number and the companions 1000, while in Devonshire

with its 59 lodges and 3887 members, there are 30 chapters with an aggregate membership of 969. Cheshire has 52 lodges and 2636 members, and 21 chapters with 659 members, while in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight there are 48 lodges and 4000 members, with 26 chapters and 975 companions. Essex, with 44 lodges and 2297 members, has only 13 chapters and 355 companions, while in Surrey whose 42 lodges muster only 1700 members, there are 17 chapters but only 326 companions. In Durham there are 37 lodges with 3610 members, that is, nearly 100 members per lodge, but the chapters are only 13 in number, though with an aggregate membership of 547, or as nearly as possible 42 companions per chapter. In Northumberland, which has 32 lodges and 2783 members, there are but 11 chapters and the number of companions is only 440, while in Sussex there are but nine out of 33 lodges that have chapters attached to them and only 290 companions as compared with 1600 Craftsmen. In Bristol there are nine lodges with 550 members, while the chapters, though but three in number, have amongst them 220 companions. In Oxfordshire there are 12 lodges and four chapters, there being 1018 members of the former and 271 of the latter. However, it is not necessary that we should go through the whole Table, the Provinces we have quoted being sufficient for the purpose of showing that Royal Arch Masonry is in need of still greater encouragement and support.

TIME IMMEMORIAL LODGES.

By BRO. R. F. GOULD, P.G.D.

III.

(Continued from page 326.)

With the exception of St. Andrew, Strathaven, present No. 215 (which may or may not be a revival of Strathaven Kilwinning, orig. No. 187), all the lodges in the foregoing table are (according to the best authorities) of older date than their Grand Lodge. Nor does the list given profess to be an exhaustive one, though as several Scottish brethren are prosecuting inquiries on my behalf, I am not without hope that some of the omissions they may succeed in detecting, will be incorporated with the text before the present article is reprinted in pamphlet form.

The origin of a great number of these old lodges is unknown, and the dates placed after their names are merely conjectural. These are in the strictest sense of the term "Time Immemorial Lodges," while the others, though classified in the same way, are only accorded a similar status in the narrower and more restricted (or perhaps it would be better to say, Masonic or conventional) sense, of having been in existence before the formation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736.

In November, 1737, it was resolved that all the lodges holding of the Grand Lodge should be enrolled according to their seniority, which should be determined from the authentic documents they produced; and, in accordance with this principle, the first place on the roll was assigned to Mary's Chapel and the second to Kilwinning. The latter, however, (in 1743) resenting this conclusion; resumed its independence, and for well nigh 70 years continued to exist as an independent Grand Body, dividing with the Grand Lodge of Edinburgh, the honour of forming branches in Scotland, as well as in the North American Colonies and other British possessions beyond the seas.

Ultimately it was agreed (1807) that Mother Kilwinning should be placed at the head, and her daughter lodges at the end of the roll of the Grand Lodge; but that so soon as the roll should be re-arranged and corrected, the lodges holding of Mother Kilwinning should be ranked according to the dates of their original charters and of those granted by the Grand Lodge.

Foreign Masons were long believed to have introduced their customs into Scotland, and the leading position in the Craft as the centre of Operative Masonry in that kingdom, was traditionally attached to Kilwinning.

But the legend pointing to Kilwinning as the original seat of Scottish Masonry, based as it is upon the story which makes the institution of the *lodge*, and the erection of the Abbey (1140) coeval, is inconsistent with the fact that the latter was neither the first nor second Gothic structure erected in Scotland. Moreover, we are assured on good authority that a minute inspection of its ruins proves its erection to have been antedated by some 80 or 90 years. Still, even were we to accept the dates of erection of the chief ecclesiastical buildings, as those of the introduction of Masonry into the various districts of Scotland, it would be found, says an authority of great weight, that Kelso stood first, Edinburgh second, Melrose third, and Kilwinning fourth.

It may, however, be safely laid down, that no argument whatever can be drawn from the existence or non-existence of local Masonic tradition, as all genuine tradition of the kind in Scotland was swept away by the famous Oration of the Chevalier Ramsay in 1737, which substituted for it a spurious tradition, awarding the palm of priority over all the other Scottish lodges to the Lodge of Kilwinning.

The records of Mother Kilwinning begin with the year 1642, but the lodge is referred to in the Schaw Statutes of A.D. 1599, where, in *Item III.*, the Warden-General confirms the rank of "Edinburgh" (*Mary's Chapel*) as "the first and principal lodge in Scotland," of "Kilwinning" as the "second lodge," and of "Stirling" (*Stirling*) as the "third lodge," respectively.

About 70 "Kilwinning" charters are supposed to have been issued down to the year 1803, but all traces of the greater number of them have disappeared. Many of the lodges so established superadded the name of Kilwinning to that of the town or place where they carried on their work, but this compound title is by no means distinctive of the bodies so created, as the practice was also a common one among the lodges erected by the Grand Lodge, without their having any connection whatever with the present No. 0.

John, seventh Earl of Cassilis, afterwards a prominent figure in the Revolution of 1688, was deacon, or head, of the Lodge of Kilwinning in 1672, and the same position was filled by Alexander, eighth Earl of Eglinton, in 1678. Histories of Mother Kilwinning have been written by Bros. D. Murray Lyon (*Freemasons' Magazine*), 1863-65, and Robert Wylie, 1878.

The earliest minute of the Lodge of Edinburgh (*Mary's Chapel*) bears the date "Ultimo Julii 1599," and the tercentenary of this interesting epoch in its career was celebrated with much rejoicing in 1899. The history of this famous lodge (with which I have the honour to be connected by the tie of honorary membership) appeared in 1873, and was the great Masonic event of that year. A second edition is now on the verge of publication, and, without doubt, will sustain (for it cannot enhance) the high reputation already acquired by its gifted author (the Grand Secretary of Scotland) as a writer and scholar of the Craft.

The Lodge of Edinburgh (*Mary's Chapel*), No. 1, together with Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2, and other lodges, seceded from the Grand Lodge in 1808, and organised themselves into a separate body—July 18th—under the designation of "The Associated Lodges seceding from the Grand Lodge of Scotland." The Master of *Mary's Chapel* was appointed "Grand Master." A legal struggle ensued, in which the Grand Lodge was thoroughly worsted, and the Associated Lodges emerged from it victorious. Happily, however, a conciliatory spirit prevailed, or the result might have been a multiplicity of Grand Lodges, and in 1813, the seceding lodges returned to their former allegiance.

I have passed very lightly over the eventful career of No. 1, but the history of this famous lodge has been written by a master hand, and like my fellow students of the Craft, I am looking forward with pleasurable anticipation to the appearance of a revised edition of Bro. Lyon's monumental work, in which (unless I have been wholly misinformed) there will be found a quantity of new and original matter, of the greatest possible interest to all who make a close study of the early history of our Society.

The written records of the Lodge of Melrose do not go further back than 1674, but there is evidence to show that it must have been in existence for a long period before the entry in the first minute book. The lodge affiliated with the Grand Lodge of Scotland on February 25th, 1891, and on account of its great antiquity was placed on the roll as No. 1². A short sketch of its history was written by the late Bro. W. F. Vernon in 1880, and a fuller one in 1891.

It is now impossible to prove the identity of the ancient Lodge of Aberdeen, No. 1³, with that described in the Burgh Records of 1483, though for my own part I see no reason to doubt the probability of their being one and the same.

At what date non-operatives were first admitted in the lodge cannot (in the absence of records) be determined, but it was evidently before 1670. In that year there were 49 members on the roll, and 11 apprentices. Of this number, four were noblemen—the Earls of Erroll, Findlater, Dunfermline, and Lord Pitsligo—three ministers, two surgeons, an advocate, several gentlemen, besides merchants and tradesmen, and only eight were operative Masons.

The customs of the Aberdeen Lodge differed singularly, and at times materially, from those of other Scottish Lodges. Mother Kilwinning chose the seclusion of an "upper chamber" of an ordinary dwelling-house for its meetings, but the Masons of Aberdeen preferred to hold their lodge in "the open fields," rather than in occupied buildings—"the Mearnes in the parish of Nigg, at the stonies at the point of the Ness," being the specified place for entering in the "Outfield Lodge."

The two classes of Brotherhood, known under the names of Domatic and Geomatic (Operative and Speculative) Masons, were kept quite distinct; and no Operative was permitted to receive any of the Three Degrees until he had made his essay piece to each Degree, and it was approved of by the lodge. In the oldest minutes the admission of either class was differently worded.

By the rules of the lodge (which was originally numbered 39, afterwards 34, and only very recently 1³) it is laid down that the Master shall be a gentleman, or Geomatic, Mason. This, with rare exceptions, has been adhered to since 1670, while the office of Senior Warden was held by a Domatic, or Operative, Mason until 1840.

In 1781 the bulk of the Operative members left the old lodge, taking their mark-book with them, and established the "Operative Lodge," No. 150. Since then, as I am informed, the senior lodge of Aberdeen has ceased to register the marks of its members, which is to be regretted, as such an ancient custom was well worthy of preservation. No. 150 continues to be a purely Operative lodge, and no person can be admitted, whether by initiation or affiliation, who is not an Operative Mason.

What may be termed the "Premier Scottish Warrant of Constitution," was granted by the Lodge of Kilwinning (No. 0) to several of its own members resident in the Canongate, Edinburgh, and is dated December 20th, 1677.

This was a direct invasion of jurisdiction, for it empowered them to act as a lodge, quite to the same extent as Mother Kilwinning herself, and with a total disregard to the proximity of *Mary's Chapel*—"the First and Head Lodge of Scotland." Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2, whose "regularity" as dating from December 20th, 1677, was duly recognised by the Grand Lodge, not only supplied the first Scottish Grand Master, William St. Clair of Rosslyn, but has also numbered amongst its members 21 other brethren who were "Grand Master Masons of Scotland." The eighth and ninth Earl, and the 10th Earl and 1st Marquess of Dalhousie, together with other leading members of the Scottish nobility and gentry, figure in this list. An excellent history of No. 2 has been written by Bro. Allan Mackenzie (1888), from whose "selected Names of Members" I extract the following: Under "Law"—Lords Brougham and Loughborough (first Earl of Rosslyn), Lord Chancellors of England; Lords Monboddo, Westhall, and Eskgrove; "Medicine"—James Gregory, John Brown, James Burnes, and Sir William Fergusson; "Army"—Generals Sir James Adolphus Oughton, Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and Lord Frederick Fitzclarence; and "Literature"—Bruce (the Abyssinian Traveller), James Boswell of Auchinleck, Robert Burns, and James Hogg (the Ettrick Shepherd)—who both held the office of Poet-Laureate of the lodge, Henry Mackenzie (author of "The Man of Feeling"), John Wilson ("Christopher North"), D. M. Moir (the "Delta" of "Blackwood's Magazine"), Dr. Hugh Blair (the eminent preacher, and lecturer on Rhetoric and Belles-lettres), John Gibson Lockhart (the biographer of Scott), and William Edmunstone Aytoun (Professor of Literature and Belles-Lettres, author of "Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers," etc.), R.W. Master, 1839.

Prior to 1846, the Royal Burghs of Scotland held a monopoly of trade, and no person other than a Burgess (or Freeman) could trade within the Burgh. Hence, to evade this monopoly, lodges were formed in the Canongate of Edinburgh and Leith—places in the immediate vicinity of the Burgh—where the members carried on the business of Masonry, which was then held to be a trade. "Canongate Kilwinning," No. 2, and "Canongate and Leith, Leith and Canongate," No. 5, are examples of this practice. No. 5 dates from 1688, in which year a schism is recorded in the minutes of the Lodge of Edinburgh (*Mary's*

Chapel), the seceders being composed of Masons in the Canon-gate and Leith.

The first actual encroachment upon the monopoly was made by the Journeymen Lodge, No. 8 (also an offshoot of No. 1), in 1707, but some of the members were master builders and the sons of burgesses, and therefore privileged. Liberty to give the *Mason Word* was the principal point in dispute between Mary's Chapel and the Journeymen, which was settled by the "Decreet Arbitral" in 1715, empowering the latter "to meet together as a society for giving the Mason Word." Several lodges meeting in the Canongate (which was then a Burgh of Regality—not a Royal Burgh), then fell into line, and changed their names, for example, Canongate from Leith, No. 36 (1739), to St. David's; and Scots Lodge in Canongate, No. 48 (1745), to Edinburgh St. Andrew. The history of No. 8, by Bro. William Hunter, appeared in the "Freemasons' Magazine" of 1858, and as a separate publication in 1884.

(To be continued.)

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

The annual meeting of the above Prov. G. Lodge was held on the 5th instant at Gloucester by the Prov. G. Master, Bro. the Right Hon. Sir Michael E. Hicks-Beach, Bart. It is five years since the city had the opportunity of extending its fraternal greeting to the brethren assembled for the Prov. G. Lodge, and the arrangements made by the three lodges of Gloucester for their reception followed very closely the programme in 1895. Before the assembly of Prov. G. Lodge, "lodges of recreation and instruction," arranged by Bro. the Dean of Gloucester, P.G. Chap. Eng., were enjoyed. These included an organ recital by Bro. A. H. Brewer, the Cathedral organist, and the privilege of listening to the musical treat provided in the grand old church was embraced by a large number. The programme rendered included the Overture to "Athalie" (Mendelssohn), Barcarolle, from 4th Concerto (Bennett), and a suite by Lemmens, viz., (a) Marche Triomphale, (b) Cantabile, and (c) Finale. The Dean himself acted as guide and lecturer to those brethren—there were many—who desired to make a more detailed inspection of the monuments, of whose history Dr. Spence has made a life-study, and whose care he has specially identified himself with. Naturally not the least interesting were those sections of the fabric which had been selected by the province in previous years for restoration and repair.

The Prov. G. Lodge itself assembled at two o'clock under the presidency of the Prov. G. Master, who was accompanied by his Deputy (Bro. R. V. Vassar-Smith). The other officers of Prov. G. Lodge present were Bros. the Rev. H. Kenrick Adkin, P.G. Chap.; W. C. Ferris, P.G. Reg.; H. R. J. Braine, P.S.G.D.; M. W. Dunscombe, P.G. Supt. of Works; W. C. Bannister, P.G.D.C.; Harry Stallard, P.G. Std. Br.; A. Jotcham, P.G.S.B.; W. H. Morgan, P.G. Org.; W. Crosbie Coles and T. Hobbs, P.G. Stwcs.; James B. Winterbotham, P.G. Sec.; Llewellyn Evans, P.A.G. Sec.; and William Window, P.G. Tyler.

The brethren upon the dais included Bro. the Very Rev. the Dean of Gloucester, P.G. Chap., and other members of Grand Lodge, while the attendance of brethren from the various lodges in the province overtaxed the seating accommodation of the historic Chapter House.

Prov. G. Lodge having been opened, adjournment was at once made to the Cathedral, the procession forming in order of seniority, juniors leading, and passing through the cloisters up the nave into the choir. The service was choral, and brightly rendered.

The sermon was preached by Bro. Dean SPENCE, who prefaced his discourse as follows:

Brethren of the Order,—Our annual meeting is always a solemn occasion, but this occasion will perhaps stand out in the annals of our Order as the most important, the most momentous for us Masons, who are loyal of the loyal, the most staunch defenders of the Throne. It is indeed a striking coincidence that at the very time we were entering this great House of God the news was being flashed to England that the flag of this nation was waving over the capital of our enemy. The news was flashed from the Field Marshal himself, so there is no doubt of it. Now, we do not receive this news with feelings of exultation or of triumph, but only with the sense of deep thankfulness—thankfulness that God still remains over, still protects, this our England as He has aforetime, that He reserves to us a greater and a mightier work even in the future than we have effected in the past. And now to my subject. To the Brotherhood of Freemasons—to us who have firm faith that our Order makes for peace, good feeling, charity, chivalry, and especially for religious earnestness; that it is a strong bulwark of order and stability; that in the great England you and I know, and in the yet greater England beyond the sea, the greater England with which the late events have forged a bond of friendship and of union stronger even than had existed before; that it is in the two Englands a mighty power, a power that will grow as time rolls on, because it is founded upon the religion we love—to us English Masons who have this faith in our great Order, any contribution to the story of the Craft is valuable and interesting. That is why I have ventured today—when we Gloucestershire Masons are met together to praise the Great Architect of the Universe in our proud cathedral—to piece together a little tapestry of Masonic lore. I do so with diffidence, if not with trembling, for to some of my hearers my tapestry story may seem fanciful, although it is based upon what I dare to call scientific history. It can, of course, only be a sketch—but a little introduction to a great subject. We often ask what are Freemasons, what is our story? Some eighteen hundred years ago, when the great Emperors of Rome—such as Augustus, such as Vespasian and Titus—such as the noble Antonines—were reigning over the Roman world, there existed in Rome and in other mighty cities of the empire, colleges, as they were called, guilds perhaps would be a better term, composed of workers in different crafts. Among these the Colleges of Architects, Builders, and the many artisans who carried out the

plans and designs of the Masters of the Craft were well known. The Imperial Government ever looked somewhat jealously upon these confraternities. There were various and stringent Imperial regulations which these confraternities had to comply with—they were watched with extreme care. But that they existed, and were a powerful factor in Roman society, is now undisputed. Scholars are gradually now coming to know more and more of these great and popular Guilds. The Guild of Architects and Builders was an influential one—it had many secrets which were not divulged outside its members. The glorious matchless piles we read of, the ruins of some of which we gaze at still with wondering admiration in the Eternal City, were their work. Witness the enormous system of aqueducts, stretching still in picturesque ruin miles and miles over the vast and desolate Campagna. Witness the lordly Temples, the mighty piles of Imperial ruin on the storied Palatine, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Tomb of Hadrian—just to take a few well-known examples. Into the great popular Guild which created these immemorial piles fell the seed of the preaching of the Cross, and many of the Guilds became Christian Brothers. When Diocletian reigned in the last years of the fourth century, so runs the old Church legend—it was, no doubt, founded on fact, and here in passing I would note how the work of archaeologists and historians every year strangely supports the substantial truth of many of these old stories, which some had come to doubt—when Diocletian, the Emperor, who hated the Christians and bitterly persecuted them, reigned, a little group of painters and sculptors, members of the Collegium or Guild, refused to exercise their art and craft for the Pagan. They said to the heathen Emperor—"We cannot build a temple or shape images in wood or stone for false gods." They were in consequence cruelly put to death, their names are preserved in the Church of the Four Holy Crowned Ones—"the Quatuor Coronati" at the foot of the Coelian Hill—now, alas, neglected and almost in ruins. This persecution of Diocletian apparently began that dispersion of the famous Guild. Not quite a century later, the troubles from the Barbarian invasions fell on Rome, and for several hundred years the metropolis of the world was an unsafe dwelling place, successively pillaged, sacked, and burnt by different hordes of invaders. We hear nothing after this troublous period began of the Collegium or Guild of Architects. Strangely enough the Guild re-appears in the little island of Comacina, on the lake of Como, in the sixth century. Comacina is spoken of as the only free spot in Italy when the Roman Empire was dying under the successive inroads of Goth and Vandal. It was to this little town, little known, that the Guild seems to have fled, and there in silence and obscurity for a period preserved their legendary knowledge, handed down to them from Greek and Roman sources—some say even from Solomon's builders of the Great Temple of Jerusalem. One of the conquering races who settled in North Italy—the Lombards—in the sixth century, adopted Christianity as their religion, and alone among the northern invaders who ruined the Roman Empire became zealous as church builders. The Lombard churches in the seventh and eighth centuries were famous in all the western world; they are with us still. But the Lombards had among them the old Masonic Guild of Rome. We now come upon the term in architectural history of the Comacina Masters. These were the inheritors of the secrets of the Craft whose career we have been roughly tracing. Under the Lombard Sovereigns, the Guild of Masons became powerful, and highly organised. There seems to have been at the head of the Order a Grand Master. The Order was divided into many lodges, with a Master ruling over each lodge. Each lodge had three classes of members—Master Masons, Working Brethren, and Novices. The whole organisation and nomenclature with which we are so familiar, was in actual working form in the Comacina Guild under the Lombard rulers in the sixth, seventh, and eighth centuries. They began to be termed Freemasons because they were builders of a privileged class, absolved from taxes and servitude, free to travel where they pleased in the times when feudal custom and restriction, and almost feudal servitude, everywhere prevailed. The term was largely applied to them both in England and in Germany after the time of Charlemagne. They spread with curious rapidity over most of the countries of Europe. They were largely protected by the ecclesiastical powers. Many of the Popes conferred on this great Guild the privileges they had obtained under their natural sovereigns. Ecclesiastics of high degree were frequently enrolled in the company of these Freemasons as members. It is difficult to trace how many of the great buildings of Europe, from the eighth century onward, were designed and built by the great fraternity of Freemasons, many of which have perished, and others have been so altered and restored in different ages as to bear few of the original signs of their origin. One who has made a careful study of their work traces to these Comacina Freemasons, the successors of the old Roman Guild, driven out of the Imperial City by Diocletian, A.D. 302, in the course of his terrible persecutions of Christians, and recruited by others of the same Guild when Rome became no home for Arts and Crafts, when the Goths and Vandals had worked their wild will upon the immemorial city—traces to these Comacina Freemasons all that was architecturally good in Italy during the dark Barbarian period lasting well-nigh 500 years. Their hand is visible in the noble Lombard Basilicas. Their work is to be seen still in very many, if not in all, the grand churches of France, Spain, Germany, and England of the early Middle Ages. But I must hurry on, remembering this is but a sketch. Whence now did this strange and marvellous Guild derive the mighty secrets of their Craft? The Roman Collegium or Guild to which the martyred crowned ones belonged, possessed them. But they were not the kindlers of the Divine fire; they only kept the bright lamp burning. Had they learned their wondrous secret skill from Greece, from Pheidias and Praxiteles, from the unknown builders of the glorious temples and shrines of Athens, the bright and happy, the immemorial Athens of the Violet Crown? Or in our quest must we go to yet older, to yet higher and grander sources still? You Masons catch my meaning quickly. Very familiar to the brothers of the Craft is another and sublimer cradle of true practical Masonry. Nor is it only tradition. The Comacina Freemasons of very early days had a special mark—a loved signature. Hard, indeed, is it to find a church, an altar, a pulpit even of these early Masons without the famous mark upon it—that beautiful device of a single strand mysteriously interlaced—the sign of the one God—of His inscrutable and infinite ways whose nature is Unity. It is known as Solomon's knot. This signature is very, very old. The other Comacina signature—somewhat later—is a lion—the lion of the Tribe of Judah; the lion of God of whom Isaiah sings in his pathetic story; this, too, we find in a hundred ways woven into their lovely work. This mighty Guild ceased to be in the 15th century. A few great spirits such as Brunelleschi, of Florence, and Michael Angelo, of Rome, had learned the traditions of the glorious past, and worked on. But they died, as you and I shall die, and then the lamp went out. The "new learning," as it is sometimes called, killed it, and men did other things, beautiful things, perhaps noble things, useful things. But they didn't build; they have never built since! We of the Craft inherit their traditions, though we use them now in a different way. We keep alive a memory, a very glorious memory. We bear a great name, we are heirs of a noble inheritance, we are entrusted with a great work. We have a task before us—a fair example of faith and of patient industry to follow, and, brethren, "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report—if there be any virtue, if there be any praise—think on those things." Then, and then only, will you be good Masons in the truest, noblest sense of the word as we teach Masonry now in England.

The service closed with the hymn, "O God our help." During the

singing a collection was made on behalf of the work on the stained glass windows of the Lady Chapel. The brethren having formed up in the same order the procession returned to the Chapter House, where lodge was resumed and business disposed of. In discussing the Charity votes the Deputy Provincial Grand Master proposed that £10 be voted to the Fund for the Relief of Refugees from the Transvaal and the Orange Free State—or rather the Orange River Colony, and the new title seemed equally to both the memory of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who seconded the unanimous vote. The Committee which had been appointed to inquire into the restoration of Tewkesbury Abbey reported, per Bro. Vassar-Smith, that the work, a portion of which the lodge had in view, was started by Bro. Collins, but since then Tewkesbury brethren had had to mourn the loss both of that good Mason and of Bro. Fred Moore, who had also substantially interested himself in the work. The repairs contemplated would cost £520.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER, in deploring the loss of the brethren mentioned, remarked that the former had been for many years a personal friend, while no one who had known Bro. Moore could fail to recognise the good work he did for his native place and for Masonry. He hoped that the name of Bro. Collins would be handed down for all time, associated with the building he had done so much to preserve and beautify.

The expenditure was agreed to when Bro. BAKER had explained that already the Tewkesbury brethren had volunteered to contribute £200 of the £520, in addition to the amounts they had already individually contributed to the restoration work.

The officers for the ensuing year were invested as follows:

Bro. Lindsey Winterbotham, 2709	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" Edwin Lea, 1005	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. Canon St. John, 493	...	...	Prov. G. Chap.
" G. J. Holloway, 2407	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" J. Bruton, 839	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" J. B. Winterbotham, 82	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" H. Bansall Todd, 82	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" G. Goodwin Norris, 2541	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" F. J. Townshend, 592	...	...	Prov. G.S. of Wks.
" W. J. Greenstreet, 702	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" H. A. Armitage, 839	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" A. W. Hopkins, 761	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" Hartley Hodder, 270	...	...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" H. Waghorne, 246	...	...
" Rev. G. C. Ryley, 839	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" M. Llewellyn Evans, 82	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" G. Banaster, 900	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" F. Treasure, 493	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" J. Smithin, 839	...	...
" Oliver Carter, 1005	...	...
" W. Window	...	...	Prov. G. Tyler.

The PROV. G.M., before closing the business, embraced the opportunity of expressing the warm thanks of the members of Prov. Grand Lodge for the hospitable welcome extended to visiting brethren by the members of the three city lodges, and in especial thanked the Very Worshipful the Dean, not only for the eloquent discourse they had just listened to, but for the privilege of attending service in that magnificent Cathedral, whose condition showed the care with which the custodians discharged their trust. The opportunity of worshipping as a body in the cathedral and of holding lodge in that historic Chapter House was, indeed, a privilege that contributed largely to the profit and pleasure of the province.

To this the DEAN replied that nowhere should Provincial Grand Lodge expect a heartier welcome than in the building which bore such substantial evidence of their princely munificence.

After Provincial Grand Lodge had been closed in due form, brethren to the number of about 150 sat down to a banquet served at the Bell Hotel. The *post-prandial* proceedings were none the less cordial and patriotic owing to the news from Pretoria. The Gloucester brethren had applied themselves in good earnest to the task of making the proceedings pleasurable, and not the least enjoyable feature of the day was the beautiful singing of a large glee-party conducted by Bro. W. H. Morgan. The permission to smoke was conveyed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer remarking "The more tobacco you smoke the better it will be."

Bro. the Rev. C. J. MARTYN, who responded for the toast of "The Grand Lodge" in a thoroughly characteristic speech, reminded the Prov. G. Master of the early Freemasons of whom the V.W. Bro. the Dean had spoken in his sermon, and who were exempt from taxes of all kinds. If the Prov. G.M. were to put that principle into practice, at least within that province, Freemasonry would flourish beyond precedent.

The PROV. GRAND MASTER, replying to the toast of his health, remarked that it was a characteristic of all parties, irrespective of politics, that each tried to get out of paying taxes, and each tried to get as much as it could out of the Exchequer. The suggestion of Bro. Martyn might have commended itself to him were it not for the recollection of what happened to the early Freemasons who were exempt from taxation. Were they not bitterly persecuted by the taxpayers, and finally driven to take refuge on the island in Lake Maggiore?

The following lodges of Gloucestershire were represented: Royal York Lodge, No. 2709, Nailsworth; St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 2541, Avonmouth; Hicks-Beach Lodge, No. 2407, Stroud; Tyndall Lodge, No. 1363, Staple Hill; Royal Forest of Dean Lodge, No. 1067, Newnham; Zetland Lodge, No. 1005, Gloucester; Prince of Wales' Lodge, No. 951, Stow-on-the-Wold; St. George's Lodge, No. 900, Tewkesbury; Lodge of Sympathy, No. 855, Wotton-under-Edge; Royal Gloucestershire Lodge, No. 839, Gloucester; St. John's Lodge, No. 761, Dursley; Sherborne Lodge, No. 702, Stroud; Cotteswold Lodge, No. 592, Cirencester; Royal Lebanon Lodge, No. 493, Gloucester; Foundation Lodge, No. 82, Cheltenham; Royal Union Lodge, No. 246, Cheltenham; Royal Lodge of Faith and Friendship, No. 370, Berkeley.

DURING THE EXCAVATIONS in the forecourt of St. John's Church, Clerkenwell, for the purpose of building an improved entrance to the crypt (which dates back to 1010) an ancient wall has been uncovered, which forms a portion of a circle. In the opinion of experts who have been called to see it the original nave of the edifice was circular, like the Temple Church at the present time. This is interesting, because there are only four ancient round churches in England. Last night, at the Clerkenwell Vestry, Mr. Churchwarden Millward asked permission to continue the excavations in St. John's-square, to endeavour to discover the continuation of the old wall. The work would be done free of cost to the parish. The request was granted.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF LINCOLNSHIRE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of the above county was held at Boston on the 7th instant, and attracted an attendance which was the largest on record, 351 brethren being present from all parts of the province. The lodge was held at the Corn Exchange, which was prettily adorned with banners, flags, and plants, and the arrangements made by the brethren of the Harmony and Franklin Lodges were in every way complete. The Right Hon. the Earl of Yarborough, the Prov. G. Master, presided, and he was supported by Bro. W. Harling Sissons, J.P., D.L., Dep. Prov. G. Master, and an exceptionally large number of Present and Past Prov. G. Officers. The roll of lodges and of Prov. G. Officers having been called,

The PROV. G. MASTER gave an address, and the usual statements of accounts were submitted by Bro. B. Vickers, Prov. G. Sec. Bro. H. Watson, P.G. Reg., presented the return of the lodges, and the Charity Stewards submitted their reports.

A resolution passed at the last meeting of the Benevolent Committee contributing 50 guineas for assistance on behalf of the lodges in South Africa was confirmed.

Bro. F. J. Sowby was unanimously re-elected Prov. G. Treasurer.

The Prov. G. Master invested the Prov. G. Officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Bro. C. T. Tunnard	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" T. C. Moss	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" the Rev. A. W. G. Giffard	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" G. Scholey	...	...	...
" F. J. Sowby	...	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" H. Watson	...	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" B. Vickers	...	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" T. Kitwood	...	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" A. R. Watson	...	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" G. J. Dashper	...	...	...	Prov. G.S. of Wks.
" G. F. Burrell	...	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" J. Franks	...	...	...	Prov. A.G.D. of C.
" J. T. Symes	...	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" G. B. Walker	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" J. Haslam	...	...	...
" J. W. Sharp	...	...	...	Prov. Asst. G. Sec.
" G. Dawson	...	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" W. King	...	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" W. Porter	...	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" W. W. Wright	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" H. Tweed	...	...	...
" J. H. Lee	...	...	...
" W. Heaton	...	...	...	} Prov. G. Tyler.
" J. E. S. Passmore	...	...	...
" W. J. Shepherd	...	...	...
" W. Donner	...	...	...

The PROV. G. MASTER announced that next year the Prov. G. Lodge would be held at Horncastle.

In the afternoon a banquet was served in Shodfriars' Hall, the Prov. G. Master being supported by the Dep. Prov. G. Master, Bros. W. Garfit (M.P. for Boston), G. Doughty (M.P. for Grimsby), W. Pooles (Mayor of Boston), and others.

Mr. F. Storr's band played selections of music, and songs were sung by Bro. G. H. Gregory.

The Craft Abroad.

British Lodge, No. 334.

PRESENTATION OF A LODGE BANNER.

Members of the mystic tie throughout South Africa will be pleased to learn that the election of W.M. for the ensuing Masonic year has resulted in the almost unanimous vote of the lodge in placing Bro. J. R. Finch in the chair of the mother lodge of English Freemasonry in South Africa. Bro. Finch's record in Masonry has been one commanding the esteem of his brethren, and he will enter upon the cares of office with the free support of the largest and most influential lodge in South Africa. At the regular meeting for election, held on Wednesday evening, May 16th, about 150 brethren attended, no doubt to give expression to their appreciation of Bro. Everett's work during the past year. The occasion was a memorable one in another respect, inasmuch as the officers and Past Masters seized the opportunity to present to the lodge a richly-embroidered banner.

Bro. G. E. O. Bennett, D.D.G.M., had the pleasure of presenting this handsome gift on behalf of the donors, and did so, remarking that the officers and Past Masters trusted that Bro. Everett would ever regard it as a memento of their love and esteem.

The banner is certainly a beautiful work of art, and the finest of the kind ever seen in South Africa. It was designed by a Past Master of the lodge, and measures 6 feet 6 inches by 4 feet 2 inches. The design has been happily executed by the firm of Bros. Kenning and Son, of London, and depicts Table Mountain as a background. The whole of the work is silk and gold thread embroidery, very massive and handsome. The ospreys attached to the banner are correct in detail and colour, and represent the R.A. symbols and numerals. The centre of the banner is the British coat-of-arms in correct heraldic colours and design.

Every member of the Craft will be pleased to learn that Bro. W. E. Goodman was elected at the same meeting for the 25th year of office.

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

The regular meeting of this old English lodge (the only one under the Grand Lodge of England in New South Wales) was held on Wednesday, the 2nd ult. There was, as usual, a good attendance of members and visitors from E.C., I.C., and S.C. lodges in other parts of the Empire, represented by visitors to the colony in H.M. ships on the station. Prominent on the dais were some well-known and esteemed members from the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, who rendered assistance to the W.M. in the working of the lodge. What was particularly noticed was the rendering (by request of the W.M.) of the final charge by the Master of a Sydney lodge in a manner seldom surpassed.

Punctually at eight p.m. the W.M., Bro. Tait, took the chair, supported by the I.P.M., Bro. Beresford G. Campbell, and several other P.Ms. Two candidates were balloted for, and having been accepted, were initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry by the W.M. The work throughout was done in a manner that showed a careful study of the ritual, and must have created in the minds of the candidates an impression never to be effaced.

The business of the evening being concluded, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, a pleasant hour being spent.

Bro. Malcolm, of H.M.S. Torch, a member of United Chatham Lodge of Benevolence, No. 184 (E.C.), who has been a constant visitor to this lodge was accorded *bon voyage*, he being on the eve of departure to England by H.M.S. Diana.

It is noticed with pleasure by the members of the lodge that many E.C. brethren from No. 2404 (Lord Charles Beresford Lodge), and other E.C. lodges visit the lodge, where a very cordial welcome awaits any visitor, particularly those of H.M.'s Army and Navy.

Science, Art, and the Drama.

LEAF-MINERS.

While the glory of autumn colours gratifies our sense of the beautiful, another aspect of the leaves appeals to our interest and curiosity. The great army of leaf-miners, which produce the effects alluded to, may be looked upon as a connecting link between the numerous insects which feed outside the leaves and those which require the plant to provide them with a special food and shelter, like the gall flies. For while they do not, like these latter, cause any abnormal growth on the plant, they yet feed and lodge within the leaf. The adult insect is a fly which pierces the skin—botanically the epidermis—of the leaf, and lays an egg beneath. When the grub is hatched it does not, like that of the gall fly, cause a special growth round itself; it merely eats away the green substance of the leaf lying between the epidermis and the veins. It thus forms a little dwelling for itself, sheltered from the weather with a roof formed by the leaf skin. This eating away of the leaf shows itself externally as brown, greenish white, or white patches, and markings of various shapes. As the grubs are hatched and at work during the summer, the markings on the leaves begin to make themselves conspicuous in the autumn. Looking round the garden, we note rather large brown patches on many of the leaves of the lilac tree. These are not merely touches of the general autumnal decay, as might be supposed at first, but the result of the work of a species of leaf-miner. Lift up carefully the brown shrivelled skin and you see—ah, no, there is nothing there! Try another. In this there is a small caterpillar, with its head towards the outside of the eaten-out patch. It is busy eating—the one object of its life. The little tomtit knows all about these inhabitants of the lilac leaves, and one of the interesting sights of autumn is to see him hunting for them. There he is, clinging by his feet to the very end of a leaf engaged in eager search. If there is a caterpillar in that leaf its chances of escape are small. Perhaps Mr. Tomtit had been at that one we found empty, or, perhaps, the caterpillar had left the leaf itself, for at times they may be seen hanging by their silken threads from the leaves, evidently descending to the ground. Hence it is to be supposed these leaf-miners do not, as some others do, pass their chrysalis stage within the leaf. On the leaves of the raspberry the work of the leaf-miners shows as light whitish green patches. Holding them up to the light a light coloured caterpillar with a dark head is seen. Its head is at the circumference of its eaten-out dwelling. On other leaves the work of the leaf-miner shows itself in a more picturesque fashion. Irregularly winding narrow tunnels, gradually increasing in breadth, show themselves on the surface, something like the mapping of very meandering rivers. These caterpillars have eaten out tunnels of which the increasing widths correspond with their increasing appetites. Sometimes the course of the tunnel turns round and crosses itself—in this unlike a river. Such tunnels are abundant on the leaf of the snowberry, and may be seen also on those of the primrose, columbine, and other plants. By the road side they occur frequently on the cow-parsnip and honeysuckle. The grub is found at the end of the tunnel on lifting the epidermis, unless it happens to have left the leaf. Certain leaf-miners emerge from the leaves as perfect insects, leaving behind them their chrysalis robes as evidence. On this leaf of alder, for example, the space between two of the parallel veins on the under side of the leaf is occupied by a brown patch, where the leaf substance has been eaten out. At the end of the old caterpillar dwelling the empty chrysalis case is standing at right angles to the leaf. The white patches which mark the work of the insects on the oak leaves have each a dark body in the centre. On examination they are seen to be empty chrysalis cases. When we remember the various abnormal growths produced on the oak by gall flies laying their eggs on it, the fact that the eggs and young of the leaf-miners produce no such effect is not a little strange, for on the very same leaf as the white patch of the leaf-miner, with the black chrysalis robe in the centre, are several little round galls. Some leaf-miners, in their tracings on the leaf, form a transition between the tunnel and patch producers. A narrow tunnel winds about for a short distance and then spreads out into a patch. They may be compared to short rivers expanding into lakes; and as a lake may have several streams feeding it, so many of these patches have more than one tunnel leading to them. Here are some good examples on the leaves gathered from a young laburnum tree in the garden. The beginning of each little river is marked by a brown spot. Sometimes the lake has expanded so as to obliterate its river. The brown spots mark where the eggs were laid, and where the caterpillars began to eat themselves dwelling places in the leaf. When we see more than one tunnel leading to a patch we infer there has been more than one caterpillar at work forming it; and on removing the epidermis, we find two or more caterpillars sharing a common dwelling. Sometimes so many caterpillars have been at work that little of the leaf remains intact. This is the case one of our laburnum with leaves. The tunnels are all obliterated, though the brown spots where each caterpillar commenced work are still discernible. Such are the means by which the leaf-miner obtains board and lodging in one. A strikingly convenient and economical arrangement. With man, the possession of a noble appetite is not exactly conducive to the enlargement of his dwelling; but the more the leaf-miner eats, the more spacious becomes his abode. He cannot "eat himself out of house and home," but rather eats out a house for himself. His diet is, perhaps, monotonous, and he is perforce always confined to the house; yet these are but trifling drawbacks to a happy state, where eating, instead of tending to poverty, only serves to enlarge his borders. The number of leaf-miners is legion; and it is a branch of entomology much less completely worked out than are butterflies and beetles. Hence, there is so much the more scope for winning the glories of original discovery.

DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE UNDER HENRY VII. AND VIII.

(Continued.)

A very principal innovation in the early Tudor style was the introduction of gate houses, bay windows, and quadrangular areas, of which castles constructed for defence could not admit. Of these component parts of the palaces and mansions of this age some account may be allowed. As to their materials, freestone or brick, they seem to have depended entirely upon the greater facility with which they might be acquired, and they were not unfrequently mixed. Gerolamo da Trevigo and Holbein introduced both *terra cotta*, or moulded brickwork, for rich ornaments, and medallions,

or *bas-reliefs*, fixed against the walls; plaster work laid over the brick walls, and sometimes painted, as at Nonsuch, and square bricks of two colours, highly glazed, and placed in diagonal lines, as at Layer Marney. The chimneys were clustered, and composed of columns twisted or wrought in patterns, with heads or capitals, embossed with the cognizance of the founder, as at Thornbury Castle and Woolverton Manor-house. Gateways were considered as a great feature in all these edifices, and constructed with most expensive ornaments. That at Whitehall, before mentioned as having been designed by Holbein, was composed of square glazed bricks of different colours, over which were appended four large circular medallions of busts, now preserved at Hatfield Peverel, Herts. It contained several apartments, but the most remarkable was the "little study, called the new library," in which Holbein was accustomed to employ himself in his art, and the courtiers to sit for their portraits. It was probably in this chamber that the adventure between Holbein and the nobleman took place, which we have previously related. The gateways at Hampton Court and Woolverton afford such specimens. Of bay-windows, and the capricious variety in their first formation, some observations occur. A bay-window, in common acceptation, means simply a projecting window between two buttresses (a space anciently termed a bay building), and frequently placed at the end of the mansion. They were invented a century, at least, before the Tudor age. In John of Gaunt's Palace at Lincoln, built in 1390, there still remains a most beautiful oriel window, the corbel which supports it having most elaborate sculpture in distinct panels. These bay-windows were usually composed of divisions, made at right angles, and semi-circles placed alternately, as may be seen in the buildings of Henry VIII. at Windsor and at Thornbury Castle. Those at the upper end of the great halls were brought from the ceiling to the floor, and were of a more simple and regular form. The use to which they were applied appears from a MS. in the Herald's College relating to a feast given by Henry VII. in the hall at Richmond Palace—"Agaynst that his Grace had supped, the hall was dressed and goodlie to be seen, and a rich cupboord sett thereup, in a bay window of 9 or 10 stages and haunces of hight, furnished and fulfilled with plate of gold, sylver, and regilte." As an interior decoration, carved wainscotings, generally of oak in panels, were introduced into halls, and with greater nicety, both of design and execution, into parlours and presence chambers, there was an abundance of cyphers, cognizances, chimeras, and mottoes. These ornaments prevailed in the splendid castles built in France about the age of Francis I., and were called "Boisseries." The hall and other chambers of the dilapidated mansion of the Lords De la Warre, at Hain-acre, Sussex, still retain some singularly curious specimens. The area, or court, was quadrangular, and besides the great staircase near the hall, there were several hexangular towers containing others. These usually occurred in each angle of the great court, and, exceeding the roof in height, gave a very picturesque effect to the whole pile of building, and grouped with the masses of the lofty and richly-ornamented chimneys.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

Fraulein Ternina, who created so splendid an impression in the "Ring" performances last season, has made her appearance this year as Elizabeth in "Tannhauser." Her interpretation was full of womanly sympathy for the erring knight and of maidenly charm. Vocally, her rendering was brilliant, and the admirable discretion of her acting was in all respects delightful. There was a new Tannhauser in Herr Carlen, an experienced artist, who did everything with intelligence, if he made no great impression. Of Herr Bertram, who was a fresh Wolfram, we may say he was equal to all demands; and the Hermann was Herr Bluss, who proved himself the possessor of a fine bass voice. Miss Susan Strong repeated her success as Venus, and Herr Motl was the conductor of a performance which, although unequal, was on the whole a satisfying one. But for all-round excellence, the production of Verdi's "Aida" was especially commendable. There had been a notable improvement in the stage management of Wagner's opera of which we have spoken. But in the production of Verdi's opera, the staging was little short of a triumph. The great Pagan procession at the gates of Thebes, was as imposing a piece of theatrical spectacle as one could hope to see, and the beautiful atmospheric effect in the Shores of the Nile scene, thanks to the magnificent lighting arrangements now obtainable at Covent Garden, gave a perfect suggestion of truth to the picture. Miss Macintyre, who returns to Covent Garden after too long an absence, was Aida. In the interval the Scottish prima donna had made wonderful strides in her art. Her portrayal of the character of the Ethiopian princess was, in all respects, convincing. She was well supported by a new Radames, M. Imbart de la Tour, who, at first was disappointing, but who later in the more passionate moments of the story, proved himself a highly capable artist, possessed of a fine, but curiously unequal voice. An even greater impression was made by Miss Huyth Walker, as Amneris. She is an American with a high Continental reputation, in no way belied by her performance. Signor Scotti secured quite a triumph as Amonaslo.

GENERAL NOTES.

Except in one important particular, the Handel Festival of 1900, will be conducted on the same lines as its precursors, the first of which dates back as far as 1784. The Crystal Palace directors have, however, changed the days of the performances from Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, to Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, being confident that the alteration will prove more convenient, both to performers and audiences. In these days of late trains and greater speed, little difficulty will be found in enabling the provincial section of the immense choir to return to the various cathedrals in time for the services at which many of them are engaged; but in old times it was necessary to conclude the festival on Fridays to ensure choristers from the country being in their places on Sunday. The programme of the Selection Day, 21st June, will be of unusual interest as the first part of the concert will be devoted to a performance of the second and third parts of Handel's great sacred and military oratorio, "Judas Maccabeus," in celebration of British successes in South Africa. Some of the finest choruses ever written by the famous master are contained in this work, notably "Fallen is the foe," "We never will bow down," and "See the conquering Hero comes," all of which should stir English hearts to their depths at the present time. This year's Handel Festival will extend from Tuesday, 19th June, with "The Messiah," and conclude on Saturday, 23rd June, with "Israel in Egypt."

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EVERY WEDNESDAY (commencing June 13th).—To SHREWSBURY, Welshpool, ABERYSTWYTH, Llangollen, Corwen, Bala, Festiniog, DOLGELLLEY, BARMOUTH, Rhyl, LLANDUDNO, Bettws-y-coed, Carnarvon, Llanberis (for SNOWDON), &c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY.—To Weston-Super-Mare, Bridgewater, TAUNTON, Minehead, Lynton, LYNMOUTH, Barnstaple, ILFRACOMBE, Tiverton, EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, TORQUAY, Paignton, Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, PLYMOUTH, Devonport, Yealton, Tavistock, Launceston, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Fovey, Newquay, TRURO, FALMOUTH, St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY THURSDAY MIDNIGHT (commencing June 14th).—To CHESTER, BIRKENHEAD & LIVERPOOL, for a week, a fortnight, &c.

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT.—To EXETER, Dawlish, Teignmouth, PLYMOUTH, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Fovey, Newquay, TRURO, FALMOUTH, St. Ives, PENZANCE, &c., for a week, a fortnight, &c.

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On FRIDAY, June 22, to DUBLIN, Cork, Killarney, Galway, and the SOUTH and WEST of IRELAND, via Liverpool and via Morecambe. Also on same date to BELFAST, LONDON DERRY, and the NORTH of IRELAND, via Stranraer and Larne, via Barrow and via Liverpool. See Bills for routes, times, fares, &c.

* To SCOTLAND, for 4, 10, or 16 days.

On FRIDAY, June 22, to Carlisle, Appleby, Dumfries, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, Greenock, Helensburgh, Row, Peebles, Ayr, Kilmarnock, &c., for 4 or 10 days, from St. Pancras at 10.5 p.m., and to Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Arbroath, Forfar, Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverness, &c., at 9.15 p.m. THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS at about a SINGLE ORDINARY FARE for the DOUBLE JOURNEY are also issued (except to Appleby and Peebles), available for RETURN ANY DAY WITHIN 16 days.

* To PROVINCIAL TOWNS and SEASIDE.
SATURDAY, June 23.

To LEICESTER, BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, DERBY, Newark, Lincoln, Burton, Staffordshire Potteries, &c., MATLOCK, BUXTON, MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, Bolton, Preston, Wigan, BLACKPOOL, BLACKBURN, Bury, ROCHDALE, Oldham, Barnsley, Wakefield, LEEDS, BRADFORD, YORK, HULL, SCARBOROUGH, Whitby, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, Lancaster, MORECAMBE, BARROW & THE FURNESSE and LAKE DISTRICTS, Carlisle, &c., returning MONDAY or THURSDAY, June 25 or 28. See Bills for times, &c.

* Bookings from Woolwich and Greenwich by these trains.

WEEKLY EXCURSIONS.
ISLE OF MAN.

EVERY FRIDAY at MIDNIGHT, via Liverpool, and EVERY SATURDAY, until further notice, from St. Pancras at 5.15 a.m., via Barrow, also via Liverpool at 9.0 a.m., on June 16, 23, and 30, for 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days, to DOUGLAS, Isle of Man.

LAKE DISTRICT, BUXTON, MATLOCK, SOUTHPORT, BLACKPOOL, LIVERPOOL, SCARBORO', &c.

For 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days.

EVERY SATURDAY, until further notice, to ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT, from St. Pancras, at 9.0 a.m., to Bowness and Ambleside, and at 10.30 a.m. to other stations; at 12.10 noon to MATLOCK and BUXTON; at 10.5 a.m. to BLACKPOOL, Lytham, St. Anne's, Fleetwood, LIVERPOOL, and SOUTHPORT; at 9.0 a.m. to SCARBORO', Bridlington, Filey, Robin Hood's Bay, Whitby, Saltburn, Redcar, Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, and Cullercoats.

TICKETS and BILLS may be had at the MIDLAND Stations and City Booking Offices; and from THOS. COOK and SON, Ludgate-circus and Branch Offices.

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CHEAP HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

EACH WEDNESDAY, commencing June 20th, for 8 days, to SHERRINGHAM, CROMER (Beach), MUNDESEY-ON-SEA, YARMOUTH (Beach), SKEGNESS, SUFTON-ON-SEA, and MABLETHORPE, from King's Cross (G.N.)

EACH SATURDAY, for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days, to LIVERPOOL, SOUTHPORT, DOUGLAS (Isle of Man), SKEGNESS, SUFTON-ON-SEA, MABLETHORPE, GRIMSBY, NEW CLEE, CLEETHORPE, BRIDLINGTON, FILBY, SCARBORO', WHITBY, ROBIN-HOOD'S-BAY, SALTBURN, REDCAR, TYNEMOUTH, WHITLEY, and CULLERCOATS, from Moorgate, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

FRIDAY, June 22nd, and each alternate Friday, for 4, 10 or 16 days, to NORTHALLERTON, DARLINGTON, RICHMOND, DURHAM, NEWCASTLE, BERWICK, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, PERTH, DUNDEE, OBAN, FORT WILLIAM, ABERDEEN, INVERNESS, and other Stations in Scotland, from Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E. & C.), Victoria (S.E. & C.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

SATURDAY, June 23rd, for 3 or 6 days, to the Principal Stations in DERBYSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE, LANCASHIRE, YORKSHIRE, and NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT, from Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E. & C.), Victoria (S.E. & C.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

MONDAY, June 25th, for 1, 3 or 6 days, to SHERRINGHAM, CROMER (Beach), and YARMOUTH (Beach), from King's Cross (G.N.) at 6.20 a.m., Finsbury Park 6.25 a.m.; also for 4 days to NORTHALLERTON, RICHMOND, DARLINGTON, DURHAM, and NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE (Races), from Moorgate at 6.51 a.m., Aldersgate 6.53, Farringdon 6.55, King's Cross (G.N.) 7.25, Finsbury Park 7.25.

Tickets, bills, &c., at Stations and Town Offices.

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LORD GEORGE FRANCIS HAMILTON, M.P.
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
Past Grand Warden of England,
R.W. PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at the PARISH ROOMS, REDDINGTON, on SATURDAY, the 30th day of JUNE, when the R.W. Provincial Grand Master will be in the Chair.

The Provincial Grand Lodge will be opened punctually at 3.30 o'clock p.m.

By command.

HENRY F. BING,
Prov. Grand Secretary.

N.B.—DINNER will be provided for those only who have taken tickets (price 6s., exclusive of wine), for which application must be made to the Prov. G. Secretary, W. Bro. HENRY F. BING, 28, Southampton-street, Strand, W.C.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1900.

Masonic Notes.

We are glad to find that the very reasonable proposal of Bro. J. W. Burgess to the effect that the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge should be held at six instead of seven, has received the cordial support of the Grand Registrar, and was carried unanimously. Except on very special occasions, when questions of more than usual interest are down for discussion, there is no reason why under the new rules the business should not be concluded by about 7 or 7.30 p.m., or at about the hour heretofore fixed for it to commence; and if the further proposal submitted by Bro. G. W. Speth as a rider, but not tacked on to the original motion for obvious reasons, were submitted

at some future meeting, there would be a further curtailment of the time occupied. Bro. Speth's proposal, it will be remembered, was that the minutes of the previous communication should be printed and circulated among those attending Grand Lodge, thereby doing away with the necessity for their being read by the Grand Secretary.

In our remarks on the proceedings in Mark Grand Lodge on Tuesday, the 5th instant, we omitted to note that a letter from Sir Francis Knollys, the Prince of Wales's Secretary, expressing his Royal Highness's thanks for the address of congratulation voted at the special communication on the 27th April, on the Prince's escape from assassination was read and received with the most enthusiastic acclamations of those present.

We further note that Bro. the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., Prov. Grand Mark Master of Cheshire, has been appointed in succession to Bro. Viscount Dungarvan, the Dep. Grand Master of Mark Grand Lodge. Both the late and the present Deputies are Mark Masons of exceptional distinction, Lord Dungarvan having been Prov. Grand Mark Master of Kent for the last four years as well as Deputy Grand Master, while Bro. the Hon. A. de Tatton Egerton is a Past Grand Warden of the Degree, and his patent as Prov. Grand Mark Master bears date the 27th January, 1897.

Bro. W. H. Spaul, P.A.G.D.C., Prov. G. Secretary of Shropshire, deserves credit for calling attention to the exceptionally large number of unused votes at the recent Benevolent Elections. For the Male Fund close upon 23,000 out of the 142,000 votes issued were unpolled, while in the case of the Widows' Fund the difference was still more marked, the new votes issued being not far short of 133,000, of which about 31,500 were unpolled. In other words, taking the two Funds together, about 54,500 were unpolled out of some 275,000. The total polled for the Unsuccessful Men and Widows, including those brought forward in many cases from previous elections, did not greatly exceed 40,500. The fact, as he very pointedly remarks, "does not say much for the exertions of those interested in the Unsuccessful candidates."

The Order of the Secret Monitor appears to be prospering under the able rule of the Earl of Warwick. His lordship remarked that the Order, which is on terms of amity with all other Masonic Bodies, would be all the better for an increase in numbers, but, even in its present circumstances, it must be doing well. We judge so at least from the announcement that it is in contemplation to start a Benevolent Fund in connection with the Order, in behalf of which a Festival will be held some time during the autumn.

The Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution held their regular monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 13th instant. There was a fair attendance of members, under the presidency of Bro. John T. C. Winkfield, D.L., P.A.G.D.C., and the business on the Agenda Paper was transacted. Four Petitions (two Male and two Female) were considered, with the result that one of the men's was deferred for further information and the other three accepted. The Committee also had under their consideration the case of the two Widows who at the recent election tied for third place among the unsuccessful candidates and shared between them the £5 given by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement; and we are glad to find that the suggestion we threw out has been acted upon, the Committee voting a second £5, so that each of the ladies should have the full benefit of the Emulation gift.

It is to be regretted that Romish newspapers—by which we mean those newspapers which devote themselves to the promotion of Roman Catholicism—cannot leave Freemasonry alone, but insist on attacking it and its principles on every possible occasion, both in season and out of season. It is proverbially hard to kick against the pricks, and these organs of the Romish do their cause more harm than good by the war they think it necessary to be always waging against our Society. It was only a short while since that our attention was called to one of these attacks, but on looking through the article, which was sent us for our perusal, we found it was merely a repetition of what we had read before, times out of number. Since then some one has kindly favoured us with an article on "The Order of Masons," which professes to give in

more elaborate form than usual an "Historical Sketch of its Development" with "Its Aims and Ends;" but there is nothing new in it, and very very little that is true.

The fact is people nowadays are too well informed to stand this kind of thing. There is nothing to be gained by affirming that Freemasons are opposed to Religion and constituted Authority, when almost everyone knows that a large proportion of those who are most deeply interested in the development of Religions and the maintenance of the State are Freemasons. There are many of our statesmen, Church dignitaries, judges, men of literature, men of science, and others who are known to all who care to trouble themselves about these matters, as prominent members of "The Order of Masons," and these only laugh at the nonsense which appears in the venomous attacks on Masonry which are published in these ultra-Romish papers.

We have received copy of the proceedings of the District Grand Lodge of Madras at a regular Communication held at the Masonic Hall on the 28th February last, under the presidency of Bro. Col. Sir George Moore, Dist. G.M. It appears from this record that the District, though it has made no progress numerically, has at all events held its own, while the Dist. G. Treasurer's statement shows that financially its position is sound, there being a balance on the General Fund of about 4400 rupees, and on the Dist. G. Charity Fund of 516 rupees, the latter having an invested sum of 20,600 rupees as compared with 20,400 rupees in the previous year. All the Returns and Dues to the close of 1899 had been received. On the recommendation of the District Board of General Purposes a sum of 1000 rupees was voted to the South African Relief Fund, and the sum has since been announced in our weekly Return of Contributions.

The District Grand Master delivered a brief address in the course of which he congratulated the meeting on the satisfactory position of the Craft in the District. Appended to this address is a report of the Dep. District Grand Master as to the visits he had paid to the lodges during the year, and from this it is evident that the lodges generally are doing their work well. The aggregate membership of the 24 lodges returned as working is 791, as against 789 in 1898, or about 33 members per lodge, which, considering the special difficulties which attend our lodges in India, is a very good average.

The *Australasian Keystone* for the month of March contains full reports of the Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria on the 14th of the month, and of that of the United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons on the 2nd March. At the former Bro. A. J. Peacock, formerly Pro G. Master, was declared duly elected M.W.G.M., he being the only brother who had been nominated for the office. From the G. Secretary's Report it appears there are 7740 subscribing members of lodges in this jurisdiction, of whom 3284 belong to metropolitan, and 4456 to country lodges. The Grand Secretary's Statement showed that there were balances on the General Benevolent Funds amounting together to £6984, that on the former being £363, and that on the latter £6621. In the case of the United Mark Grand Lodge, Bro. E. Coulson, who has lost his son in South Africa, and was, therefore, unable to be present, was re-elected M.W.G. Master, and a vote of condolence was passed to him, the brethren standing to order while the G. Organist played the Dead March.

The same number of the *Australasian Keystone* contains a short "communicated" article on the "Introduction of Freemasonry into Victoria," showing what steps were taken, and by whom and when, to establish the first English lodge in Melbourne. This was the Australia Felix Lodge, formerly No. 474 on the register of our Grand Lodge, but now No. 1 on that of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria. The dispensation to form this lodge was obtained from the Provincial Grand Lodge—subsequently District Grand Lodge—of Sydney, and under it the lodge was constituted on the 25th March, 1840, the English Grand Lodge warrant being dated a year later. During the first year of its existence it met 28 times, mostly on emergency, initiated 50 candidates, and was further strengthened by the addition to its roll of 30 joining members, so that with the founders, who were about 20 in number, the lodge mustered about 100 in 12 months. Our only regret in respect of this article—which is signed "P.G.C."—is that it is so short, and that there is nothing to show that it will be continued

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.

ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY ORGAN RESTORATION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Among the several legacies which I have received at St. Lawrence Jewry is a grand organ, originally built in 1678 by Renatus Harris, in a matchless case carved by Grinling Gibbons. Alas, the organ is in a dilapidated condition, and I find myself obliged, and at once, to undertake its restoration. The cost of such restoration will amount to something like £700. Towards this sum the Corporation has very generously subscribed 75 guineas, and other contributions bring the amount in hand to nearly £300. Will some of your readers kindly assist by sending a donation? I can assure them that the need is most urgent.—I am, yours fraternally,

J. STEPHEN BARRAS, Rector.

St. Lawrence Jewry, Gresham-street.

CRAFT AND ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I enclose a list of Provinces, with the number of lodges and brethren and chapters and companions in each. It is up to about June, 1899, and is, or was, about correct, as I got the figures from the Secretary or S.E. of each province—sometimes by return of post, sometimes after many applications.

If each province printed its list of contributions of lodges and members, as we have done for many years, it would be an easy matter to get these returns.

It should be an easy matter to ascertain the total number of Masons in England, I should think, though it would not be easy to get the number of Royal Arch Masons, as I fear many provinces do not keep an official register, and I know Grand Chapter does not.

I may say that this province has done so both in Craft and Arch since the formation of each.—Yours faithfully and fraternally,

H. GREEN,
Prov. G. Sec. West Yorkshire.

2, Park-place, Leeds,
June 7th.

ROLL OF PROVINCES, NO. OF LODGES, CHAPTERS, AND CRAFT AND ARCH MASONS IN EACH (JUNE, 1899).

PROVINCE.	No. of Lodges.	No. of Members.	No. of Chapters.	No. of Companions.
Bedford	7	285	2	54
Berks	17	757	5	150
Bristol	9	550	3	220
Bucks	19	700	9	219
Cambridge	7	450	4	250
Cheshire	52	2634	21	659
Cornwall	30	2106	14	400
Cumberland and Westmorland...	21	1100	10	280
Derby	27	1200	8	242
Devon	59	3887	30	969
Dorset	15	850	7	216
Durham	37	3610	13	547
Essex	44	2297	13	355
Gloucester	17	720	4	180
Hants and Isle of Wight	48	4000	26	975
Hereford	5	255	1	57
Herts	23	900	8	160
Kent	65	4266	28	1000
Lancashire, E.	113	4800	41	1100
Lancashire, W.	122	8125	46	1446
Leicester and Rutland	14	750	5	222
Lincoln	24	1281	8	293
Middlesex	42	1554	13	299
Monmouth	11	800	6	274
Norfolk	18	852	7	168
Norths and Hunts	16	810	3	118
Northumberland	32	2783	11	440
Notts	18	883	8	266
North Wales	20	1050	5	125
Oxford	12	1018	4	271
Shropshire	12	384	2	42
Somerset	26	1250	11	371
South Wales, E.	23	1893	8	427
South Wales, W.	10	680	5	157
Stafford	33	1765	11	365
Suffolk	22	1035	10	210
Surrey	42	1700	17	326
Sussex	33	1600	9	290
Warwick	32	1750	11	350
Wilts	12	598	6	138
Worcester	15	550	7	234
Yorks, N. and E.	34	2358	16	756
Yorks, W.	81	4142	45	1559
Channel Islands, Guernsey and Alderney	6	350	3	96

M. Paderewski's much talked of opera has at last been christened, the ceremony having taken place in the great pianist's railway car on the journey to Sacramento. M. Paderewski has named his work "Mauru," which is the name of the hero. The opera is of a tragic character, and deals chiefly with the love troubles of a gipsy and a slav, whose tribes are at feud. It will probably be produced in Germany next winter. Some of the music will be heard before then, as the composer has given permission for an orchestral version of one of the scenes in the second act to be played at the Chicago Symphony Concerts.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE ALDERNEY LODGE.

On Tuesday evening, the 22nd ult., the members of St. Anne's Lodge, Alderney, No. 593, met for a special emergency meeting, to receive at the hands of Bro. N. Barbenson, P.M., P.G.J.W., a very handsome Master's chair in memory of his late father, who was one of the founders of the lodge, and a P.M.

The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. E. W. LIVESEY, P.G.I.W., who informed the brethren of the reason of the meeting, viz., the presentation of the chair, and then expatiated at some length on the signification of the different jewels, furniture, &c., used in the lodge, and wound up his exceedingly interesting peroration by calling on the brethren to exercise that most excellent gift of charity, the keystone of a Mason's faith, which he demonstrated by Holy Writ, was not a matter of almsgiving, but could only be expressed by the word love. Charity in thought and in word was of more consequence than charity in deed. A very large number of brethren were present, and listened to his remarks with that silence and attention which marks a proper appreciation of the subject in hand. He then asked Bro. Barbenson, P.M., to step up to the east, and asked him to be good enough to present and unveil the chair.

Bro. BARBENSON, who was visibly affected throughout the whole ceremony, then addressed the lodge, telling the brethren what pleasure it gave him to address them on that occasion, assuring them that he required no thanks for the gift; it was done to perpetuate the memory of his dear old father, who was a Mason in very truth. A founder of St. Anne's Lodge and a P.M., it did not become him to dilate on his virtues; everybody present knew him, and he only expressed the wish that every Master who sat in that chair would not be a less worthy Mason than was his late father. Uttering these words, he took hold of the covering which hid the chair from sight, and unveiled it, afterwards saying, "Worthy Master, Officers, and brethren, I present this chair to this lodge of Masons, No. 593, in memory of my father, the late Bro. T. N. Barbenson, P.M., and by that you will receive it at my hands."

The W.M. acknowledged the gift on behalf of the lodge in suitable terms, and then begged that Bro. Barbenson, P.M., would take the chair for the time being, at the same time placing in his hands the gavel presented by Bro. R. G. May some time ago, and on which a suitable inscription had been engraved in silver, setting forth the fact that the gavel was used by our M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, when laying the foundation stone of the Madras breakwater, and also by the late Bro. T. N. Barbenson, P.M., at the laying of the foundation stone of the Jubilee Hospital.

The lodge was then opened in the Second and Third, and the whole of the brethren to a joyful march played on the organ by Bro. N. Gaudion, P.M., P.G.R., and under the able direction of Bro. R. G. May, P.G.S., D.C., saluted the chair as M.M.'s, then as F.C.'s, and in the first as E.A.'s.

Bro. N. Barbenson, P.M., then delivered up the gavel to the W.M. in the same Degree as he had received it at first. Before leaving the chair, however, Bro. Barbenson read the first minutes inscribed when the lodge was consecrated under the number 863, and by the then Prov. Grand Lodge of Guernsey.

Bro. N. GAUDION, P.M., was next called upon to address the brethren. He congratulated the lodge on the happy occasion for which they had met. He believed that evening was one that would be remembered in after times as an epoch in the history of Alderney Freemasonry. The gift to the lodge might be considered in many senses—one was the earnest desire on the part of Bro. N. Barbenson to see his lodge prosperous, and his great love for it. Then it was done to perpetuate the memory of a good and upright Mason, one who, when alive, had ever laboured for its welfare, besides being a Past Master and one of its actual founders; and, lastly, it was a mark of filial respect and devotion to a parent, and as long as No. 593 lasted, would this devotional act of Bro. Barbenson be told of him. Words failed to mark their appreciation of this most handsome gift, and he urged the brethren to show it in a more tangible form, and that by endowing the chair in perpetuity, for either of the great Masonic Institutions, by exercising that great and blessed gift of Charity. No. 593 was a united lodge, all present knew it, and he urged upon them to still further adorn it by the practising of every moral and social virtue, and more particularly by a steady upholding of the five points, upon each of which he enlarged at length, concluding by proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the donor, and, further, that a full and true account of that evening's business be inscribed on the lodge minutes.

This was carried with the greatest acclamation.

The chair is a magnificent piece of work in carved oak, executed by the well-known firm of Bros. George Kenning and Son, London, the mention of whose name is sufficient proof of its excellence.

On a silver plate is engraved this inscription: "Presented by W. Bro. P.M. N. Barbenson to St. Anne's, 593, in memory of his father, the late W. Bro. P.M. T. N. Barbenson, one of its founders."

Before closing, the W.M. presented to the lodge, on behalf of Mrs. Cottle, widow of the late Bro. F. Cottle, P.M., another of the founders, six volumes exquisitely bound, entitled "The History of Freemasonry," by Bro. R. F. Gould, which was accepted, and two of the brethren were deputed to personally thank Mrs. Cottle for her generous gift.

The lodge was then closed down by the W.M., and the closing hymn sung, after which the W.M. invited Bro. Barbenson, P.M., on behalf of the members, to partake with them of supper, and the whole company afterwards sat down to a most sumptuous repast, which had been provided by the Steward, under the direction of a Committee.

"The Queen," "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," and other loyal and Masonic toasts were duly drunk and honoured, the whole finishing with the Tyler's toast, after which the company sang the National Anthem, bringing to a close the most perfect and harmonious meeting ever held in connection with St. Anne's Lodge, No. 593.

Craft Masonry.

Clapton Lodge, No. 1365.

The election meeting of this well-known City lodge was held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool-street, E.C., on the 17th ult. Bro. T. T. Cething, W.M., presided, supported by Bros. F. Orfeur, S.W.; F. J. Thayer, J.W.; W. Blackburn, P.M., Treas.; W. D. Church, P.M., Sec.; G. Schilling, S.D.; E. S. White, Org.; W. R. O. Cathrow, Stwd.; W. Finch, P.M.; A. Tucker, P.M.; C. E. Luker, P.M.; F. C. Lintott, P.M.; E. F. Bowler, J. E. Zoers, H. H. Bowen, F. Thurston, G. Taylor, E. Sienesi, E. C. Horley, H. E. Prior, W. D. Seaton, C. J. Storey, D. G. Zoers, J. H. Shipman, F. Moore, and Chas. Sienesi. Visitors: Bros. H. McLachlan, J.W. 1607; C. T. Papworth, 2472; and R. T. West, 1744.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. F. Orfeur, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M.; Bro. W. Blackburn, P.M., re-elected Treasurer; and Bro. H. Martin P.M., again appointed Tyler. The Audit Committee having been appointed, a Past Master's jewel was voted to the

W.M., Bro. T. T. Gething, for his excellent services in the chair. It was unanimously resolved to have a summer outing to entertain the ladies, and a committee was formed, with Bro. H. H. Bowen as hon. secretary, to make the necessary arrangements. The Secretary, Bro. W. D. Church, P.M., referred to the great loss sustained by the lodge through the recent death of their much esteemed Past Master, Bro. D. Campbell. He presided at the supper of the lodge of instruction connected with the lodge on the evening previous to his death. He was a very old friend of his (Bro. Church's), and he was a grand Mason. He took upon himself, in the name of the lodge, to send a letter of sympathy to the widow, and a wreath to the funeral. The W.M., Bro. Gething, and Bro. W. Finch, P.M., also referred to the sad death of Bro. D. Campbell, P.M., and it was resolved to endorse and confirm the action of the Secretary, and that a minute be entered on the records of the lodge.

The lodge was then closed. A substantial banquet followed, which was well-served under the personal superintendence of Bro. H. H. Ward.

The W.M., Bro. Gething, gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were duly honoured. Bro. W. D. Church, P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M., Bro. Gething," observing that that was his last night of office, and he had given them every satisfaction. He had done the working of the ritual in an excellent manner which they all appreciated, and they looked forward with much pleasure to see him instal his successor, as they felt sure he would not be found wanting in any way, but would fully maintain the great tradition of the lodge for its good working, and might it ever be so.

The W.M., Bro. Gething, on rising to respond, had a great reception. He said his best thanks were due to Bro. W. D. Church, P.M., for his kind words in proposing the toast and the members for the hearty manner they had received him. Might he add that during his year of office he had carried out his work with a clear conscience and he hopes his small efforts had given satisfaction, but they would have been of no avail without the great support he had had from them all, and which he should never forget. His list, as Steward for the forthcoming festival of the Boys, amounted to £120, but he hoped that it would be greatly augmented before then, and he thanked them for their assistance.

The W.M. stated that since the supper of the Clapton Lodge of Instruction, when a presentation was made to the Secretary, Bro. W. D. Church, P.M., more money had been received towards his well-earned testimonial, that they had been able to purchase a silver water jug, which would go well with the silver tea and coffee service they had already presented to him, and which he asked him to accept, and it would be further evidence, if any were needed, of their appreciation of Bro. Church's eminent services to the lodge and the lodge of instruction.

Bro. W. D. Church, P.M., tendered his sincere thanks, and said that the silver water jug was another agreeable surprise to him, as it would be to his wife, and he took that opportunity of stating that she fully appreciated the silver tea and coffee service. Might he say again that so long as he was honoured to be appointed Secretary of the lodge and the lodge of instruction, he trusted to be able to carry out his duties with satisfaction to himself and the brethren, as he hoped he had done in the past.

In a genial, but eloquent, speech the W.M. gave "The Visitors," and very suitable responses were made by Bros. C. T. Papworth and H. McLachlan.

Bro. R. T. West also responded. In submitting "The Past Masters, Treasurer, and Secretary," the W.M. stated that they were honoured with the presence of a good muster of Past Masters, which showed that they had the interest of the lodge at heart. The Treasurer and Secretary were both splendid officers, and it was not necessary for him to mention one word to extol their great services for years past, because they were well known and appreciated.

Bro. W. Finch, P.M., said that he had responded for the Past Masters on so many occasions, that it was somewhat difficult to say anything fresh, but he hoped the lodge would continue the great success it was in every way.

Bro. A. Tucker, P.M., also acknowledged the toast, and said the W.M.'s year of office had passed too rapidly, and he congratulated him on his great success, and hoped his successor would be as successful.

Bro. F. C. Lintott, P.M., also responded in a very eloquent speech. Bro. W. Blackburn, P.M., Treas., responded in happy terms, observing that they owed no man; they had a good balance in hand, and were in a flourishing condition.

Bro. W. D. Church, P.M., Sec., also responded. The W.M. proposed "The Officers of the Lodge," and said that it was a very important toast and he took that opportunity to express his appreciation for their great work and assistance during his year of office and their kind feeling towards him. He congratulated Bro. Orfeur on his election as W.M., and he had no doubt he would well maintain the excellent working they had heard of him in the Brixton Lodge of Instruction, and he had much pleasure in associating his name with the toast.

Bro. F. Orfeur, S.W., W.M. elect, who was well received, responded. He thanked them for the great honour they had conferred upon him by electing him W.M. He ventured to think that he would be able to do the work, and they might rest assured that his aim would be that the prestige of the lodge would in no way suffer in his hands, when he was installed he would be delighted to re-appoint his very old friend, Bro. W. D. Church, P.M., as Secretary, as it would be impossible to find a better one.

Bros. F. J. Thayre, J.W.; G. Schilling, S.D.; and W. R. O. Cathrow, Stwd.; also responded in very appropriate terms.

The Tyler's toast brought to a close a most enjoyable gathering. The following vocally entertained the brethren: Bros. C. E. Luker, P.M.; E. Siemesi, D. G. Zoers, and J. H. Shipman.

Kingswood Lodge, No. 2278.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Crown Hotel, Broxbourne, Herts, on Saturday, the 9th inst. There were present Bros. C. C. Renaud, W.M.; Edward Blenkhorn, acting I.P.M.; E. N. Beningfield, S.W., W.M. elect; H. R. Bower, J.W., Treas.; John Petch, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br. Herts, Sec.; J. F. Bell, P.M., P.P.G. S.B. Herts; F. Page, S.D.; Chas. Nicole, J.D., D.C.; J. G. Cobb, P.P.G. Std. Br.; H. Johnson, acting I.G.; Donald King, Stwd.; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.A.G.P. Herts; J. E. Little, A. Palmer Palmer, H. A. House, S. C. Brewer, W. Wicken, J. W. Battenburgh, F. H. Johnson, Henry Rackham, Sydney Baker, G. H. Redding, C. C. Little, and R. A. Redding. Visitors: Bros. Oliver C. Cockren, P.M., P.G. Sec. Herts; Capt. C. Woodrow, P.P.G.W. West Australia; Henry Times, P.M., Sec. 165; Prof. F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M. 45; Thos. Slater, 721; Philip Page, 1679; Geo. Redding, P.M. 917; J. W. Reddell, W.M. 1613; Gurney Russell, 87; H. E. Wallace, Org. 746; and Thos. Williams, Tyler.

The lodge was opened by the W.M. Bro. Capt. Woodrow, P.P.G.W. Western Australia, was saluted by the brethren present on his entering the lodge. The minutes of the last regular meeting, were read and confirmed. The report of the Audit Committee, showing the lodge was in a flourishing condition, was received, adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes. The ballot was then taken for Mr. R. A. Redding. The W.M. elect was obligated and invested as W.M., and placed in the chair by the Installing Master. The investiture of officers then took place as follows: Bros. H. P. Bower, S.W.; Page, P.M., J.W.; John Petch, P.M., Treas.; J. F. Bell, P.M., Sec.; C. Nicole, S.D.; Taylor, J.D.; Donald King, I.G.; J. G. Cobb, P.M., D. of C.; A. C. Little and Palmer Palmer, Stewards; and T. Williams, Tyler. The Installing Master gave the three addresses in an efficient and impressive manner. The W.M. presented a Past Master's jewel to Bro. C. C. Renaud, I.P.M., who thanked the brethren for the honour conferred upon him. Bro. Dr. Oliver C. Cockren, Prov. Grand Sec., was unanimously elected an honorary member, on the proposition of the W.M. The Prov. G. Secretary returned thanks.

After "Hearty good wishes" the lodge was closed, and, after an hour's delay

spent in strolling about the pleasant gardens, the brethren partook of a well-served banquet.

At its conclusion the usual Masonic toasts were proposed and duly honoured by the brethren.

The toast of "The Queen and the Craft" having been proposed, Bro. R. W. Nicole gave the National Anthem.

Then followed "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," after which Bro. Donald King sang "God Bless the Prince of Wales."

"The M.W. Pro G.M., the R.W. Dep. G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," was next given.

The W.M., in proposing "The Health of the Prov. G. Master of Herts, Bro. T. F. Halsey, M.P.; the Dep. Prov. G. Master, and the rest of the Prov. G. Officers, Present and Past," spoke of the importance and influence exercised by the Prov. G. Lodge on the Masons in Herts; the interests of the Craft were carefully upheld and maintained, and the brethren of the province tendered loyal gratitude for the services rendered to the Craft. The Prov. G. Sec., Rev. Dr. Oliver Cockren had proved to all with whom he came in official contact how admirably suited he was to fulfil the duties of his important appointment.

The Prov. G. Sec. replied on behalf of the D.P.G.M. and the rest of the Prov. G. Officers. He said, by a present wise regulation, each lodge is visited at its installation meeting by the Prov. G. Sec. Practically it brought each lodge in turn under observation. He spoke of the admirable manner in which the installation was done by the I.P.M.

The I.P.M. gave the toast of "The W.M." He spoke briefly, but to the purpose, saying the W.M. was all that a good Mason should be.

The W.M. replied. He said one good feeling actuated all the members of the lodge, united together with the great aim of being happy, and communicating happiness; there was no fear of any clique dividing them.

The W.M. gave the health of "The Initiate." He alluded to the family trio now in the lodge—the father, Bro. G. H. Redding, P.M., one son, a member not then present, and the initiate, another son; both his father and son were well-known members of the lodge.

The initiate replied in a few well-chosen words, saying he fully hoped he would be found, in the future, a good and worthy Mason, a credit to the lodge.

"The Visitors" was given by the W.M., and Bros. Capt. Woodrow and Times replied.

The time of departure of the train fast approaching, the remaining toasts were taken together.

"The I.P.M.," "The P.Ms.," "The Treasurer," "The Secretary," and "The Officers," briefly proposed and responded to.

The Tyler's toast concluded a most enjoyable evening.

Concordia Lodge, No. 2492.

The installation meeting of this flourishing lodge was held at Wendover on the 8th ult., and certainly should be a red-letter day in its annals. The brethren were honoured by the presence of the Prov. G. Master of Bncks, the Right Hon. Lord Addington, and the Dep. Prov. G. Master, Bro. J. E. Bowen. Amongst those present were Bros. A. G. Lee, W.M.; E. G. Woollerton, I.P.M.; the Rev. C. E. Roberts, P.P.G. Chap., S.W.; J. G. Thorn, J.W.; J. A. Patey, Sec.; S. C. M. Austin, S.D.; J. G. Bushell, J.D.; J. W. Burgess, P.M., P.G.T., D. of C.; E. Strauss Midas, Org.; E. Allison, I.G.; F. Payne, Tyler; J. Stait, P.M., P.Z.; J. S. Holland, P.M. 948; E. T. Mackrill, P.M. 591, P.P.J.G.W.; H. Martin, P.M., P.P.J.G.W.; J. Stephens, P.P.G.W., P.D.G.D. of C. Eng.; F. W. Elliman, F. W. Blake, Jas. Cole, J. M. Smith, A. J. Stait, R. C. Jones, W. B. Hill, P.M., Alfred Payne, T. Dowden, A. Bush, and F. F. Smith. Amongst the visitors, in addition to the Prov. G. Master and the Dep. Prov. G. Master, were Bros. James Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; J. J. Thomas, P.G. Std. Br.; R. Loveland Loveland, Q.C., President of the Board of General Purposes; W. H. Bridgman, W.M. 591; J. K. H. Fowler, P.M. 591; A. W. Watson, I.P.M. 591; J. Williams, P.M. 591; J. Reader, P.M. 591; S. G. Payne, P.M. 591; F. T. Edgington, P.M. 591; R. J. Elleston, 591; O. J. D. Hus... 591; S. B. Payne, 591; H. Hobson, P.M. 948; W. Smith, P.M. 948; H. Turnham, W.M. 2420; R. W. Locke, S.W. 2420; G. A. Sims, P.M. 2420; J. W. Grist, J.W. 2420; E. Gibbs, P.M. 2420; H. P. Bartlett, 2420; C. Copey, 2420; F. Johncock, P.M. 1501; J. J. Simcox, P.M. 1501; G. T. James, 1501; E. J. Weck, J.W. 276; H. Ashworth, 276; F. W. Bellson, P.M. 1391; E. Brown, 2218; A. Spicer, 2218; J. W. Thompson, P.M. 2394; W. R. Maxwell, 1584; H. Jenney, 504; R. Radford, 2553; W. A. Jones, 2771; the Rev. J. P. Bretton, P.M. 433; R. W. Allison, 865; L. W. Harvey, P.M. 6; R. J. Stait, 99; J. A. Knivett, 199; G. M. Fraser, 1426; A. M. Matthews, W.M. 144; H. Shields, 144; J. W. Mayo, 1692; W. Woodward, P.M. 1920; W. D. Farthing, P.M. 55; J. P. Rogers, P.M. 70; A. T. Richardson, P.M. 698; G. Darlington, P.M. 2421; E. R. Bartley Dennis, 2548, P.P.G.W.; W. A. C. Harding, 1631; A. W. Cooke, and T. C. H. Hedderwick, M.P.

Letters of apology were received from the following absent brethren: Bros. F. J. Hubbard, P.M., P.P.G. Treas.; T. W. Allsop, P.M., P.P.G.D. of C.; W. J. Mackay, the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, P.D.P.G.M., P.G. Chap. Eng.; the Rev. O. J. Grace, P.G. Chap. Eng.; Imre Kiralfy, P.D.G.D. of C. Eng.; C. F. Matier, P.A.G.D. of C. Eng.; C. F. Tower, D.G.D. of C. Eng.; F. R. W. Hedges, P.G.S.B. Eng., Sec. R.M.I.G.; J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B. Eng., Sec. R.M.I.B.; Dr. C. O'B. Harding, Dr. Bradshaw, J. Bliss, 1501; T. Birch, W.M. 1501; C. Catting, 1501; W. Woollett, P.G. Sec., and others.

After the lodge had been opened by the W.M., Bro. A. G. Lee, and the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed, Bro. Rev. C. E. Roberts was installed in the chair of K.S. by the I.P.M., who did his work exceedingly well, delivering the addresses to the W.M. and the Wardens in an excellent manner. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following officers: Bros. A. G. Lee, I.P.M.; J. G. Thorn, S.W.; S. C. M. Austin, J.W.; F. J. Hubbard, P.M., Treas.; J. A. Patey, Sec.; J. W. Burgess, P.M., D.C.; E. Allison, S.D.; F. W. Blake, J.D.; F. G. Bushell, Org.; E. S. Midas, I.G.; J. Cole, Stwd.; and F. Payne, Tyler. The excellent manner in which the W.M. invested his officers was the subject of general comment amongst the brethren present. A Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. A. G. Lee. A ballot was taken for Mr. C. F. Holland, and, proving unanimous in his favour, he was duly initiated by the new W.M.

The lodge was afterwards closed, and the brethren adjourned to Bro. J. S. Holland's lawn, where they were photographed by Bro. S. G. Payne.

An excellent banquet was then served by Bro. Holland, the proprietor of the Red Lion Hotel, where the lodge is held.

After the repeat the usual loyal toasts were honoured. The W.M., in proposing "The Health of the M.W. the Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," alluded with satisfaction to the recent escape of his Royal Highness from the bullet of the assassin. (Applause.)

The W.M., in proposing "The Health of the M.W. Pro Grand Master, the Deputy G.M., and the Officers of Grand Lodge, Present and Past," remarked that he had been to that Lodge once, and had been much impressed by what he saw. They had some good representatives of Grand Lodge present, and he would couple with the toast the name of Bro. R. Loveland-Loveland, Q.C., one of the nine members of the Supreme Council, and President of the Board of General Purposes, who he hoped would give them a little wholesome advice.

Bro. Loveland-Loveland, in reply, said it afforded him great gratification to be present on that festive occasion because he had known their W.M. for many years. He congratulated him upon the excellent work which had been done that evening, which reflected much credit upon him and his officers, particularly the Director of Ceremonies.



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He did not think their Master required any advice from him, as he was an old "Parliamentary hand." He was much gratified at the reception they had given the Grand Officers. (Applause.)

The W.M., in proposing "The Health of the Prov. Grand Master, Lord Addington," said he had no hesitation in calling it the first toast of the evening. As a Mason and a gentleman their Grand Master yielded the palm to nobody in England. His kind-heartedness was evidenced by his presence there, and he was distinguished by his courtesy to everybody with whom he came in contact. His lordship displayed marvellous tact in dealing with the social problems of Masonry by the manner in which he administered the collars with which he was entrusted. All these things had endeared him to every Mason in Buckinghamshire, and if he might presume to pun, he was "adding" that night to his lustre, and to the respect and admiration felt for him by every Mason in the room. (Applause.)

Bro. Lord Addington said he ought to have been there last year, but he was glad to be present on that occasion. He was always glad to visit what he called his Buckinghamshire lodges for it seemed that the Worshipful Master of a province was like the colonel of a regiment. He had to thank them all for the extraordinary and magnificent Charity with which they supported him at the recent Festival of the Benevolent Institution. In view of the many appeals which had been made this year he feared that the subscriptions would not be so large as in previous years; but nothing was too hard for Bucks. A sum amounting to between £21,000 and £22,000 was subscribed, and of all the provinces of England Bucks came second. He congratulated them upon their Master and their officers. He had never heard the musical service better sung. The Immediate Past Master, Bro. Lee, did his work well, and he had never met a Senior Deacon with more courage. He had rarely seen a prettier picture than when he walked down the streets of Wendover with its old English cottages, backed by a wooded landscape. It seemed to him that when they looked back upon the excellent dinner of which they had partaken and reflected that they were the guests of an old English yeoman, whose son, he believed, was one of the first of the Bucks Hussars to volunteer for service in South Africa, they would ever have cause to remember this gathering with pleasure. Charity was the link which bound Freemasons together all over the world, and he considered that to give a girl or a boy a good education, or to look to the wants of a poor old person was human angel's work, and therefore he was much gratified at the manner in which his province so recently contributed.

The W.M. next proposed "The Health of the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Bowen, and the other Prov. Grand Officers," remarking that the whole province owed him a debt of gratitude for the excellent work he did for many years as Prov. Grand Secretary. He also coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Burgess, the Prov. Grand Treasurer. (Applause.)

Bro. Bowen, in reply, thanked the company for so cordially receiving his name, and expressed his regret that he had not visited Wendover before. He hoped that that would not be his last visit, and that when he came again he should see as good work done as he had that day. There were few in Masonry who did not look upon him as a personal friend, and he hoped the same cordial relations would continue to prevail amongst them. (Applause.)

Bro. Burgess also responded, saying it was 33 years since he was initiated as a Mason in the East Indies. He hoped the province would continue to prosper.

"The Visitors" was suitably proposed by the W.M.
Bros. T. C. H. Hedderwick, Bartley Dennis, and Richardson replied, all congratulating both the W.M. and the lodge on the excellent manner in which the work had been done.

The W.M. next proposed "The Masonic Charities," and said that it had been already remarked that the main object of Masonry was Charity, and, therefore, they ought not to spend too much money upon their bodily enjoyment and decorations and distinctions, but keep as much as possible for Charity. They had a distinguished Grand Officer present in the person of Bro. James Terry, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, who would respond to the toast. (Applause.) He regretted the absence through pressure of duties of Bros. McLeod and Hedges. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. Terry, in replying, thanked the Province of Bucks for the excellent manner in which they supported their Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Lord Addington, at the recent Old Peoples' Festival, when the largest sum, with the exception of the £69,000 realised in the Jubilee year, was raised. He was indebted to Bro. James Stephens for his kindness in suggesting the name of Bro. Lord Addington as Chairman. Bucks was to be congratulated on being the second province on the list, that of West Yorkshire being at the head with £1800, their total being about £1400. As the result of this liberal contribution the Board had decided to increase the number of annuitants by eight. (Applause.)

The Prov. Grand Master said he had taken upon himself the honour of proposing "The Worshipful Master's Health." A great feature of English life was that the people learnt to obey without asking questions as to who commanded them, and the same they applied to Masonry. In this instance their W.M. was a most worthy and able officer. (Applause.) He did not know whether Lord Roberts could claim relationship to their Master, but he congratulated the lodge on having a namesake of the great general at their head. He did not know whether they would call him "Bobs" in celebration of the victories which were being won in South Africa. (Applause.)

The W.M. said it was always difficult to respond to the toast of one's own health. He felt greatly honoured by the presence of the Prov. Grand Master and so many of the Prov. G. Officers. He was pleased to be able to tell them that the Prov. Grand Lodge would be held at Wendover in June. He hoped that his year of office would be an active one, for they would probably arrange a river picnic, a ladies' night, and a Masonic service, and one or two other things. He thanked them for the great honour they had done him in electing him to the honourable position he was now filling, and hoped he should carry out the duties to their entire satisfaction.

The W.M. next proposed "The Immediate Past Master," and Bro. A. G. Lee suitably responded.

"The Initiate" was also submitted, and duly acknowledged by Bro. G. F. Holland.

Several other toasts were honoured before the exceedingly pleasant evening was brought to a close.

The first class musical programme was carried out by Miss Edith Bushell, Miss Thomas, and Bros. Radford and Maxwell.

Rahere Lodge, No. 2546.

The installation meeting of this lodge, held in the large hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital on the 12th inst., attracted, as usual, a large and representative gathering of members of the Craft. During the five years that have elapsed since Bro. Clement Godson, P.G.D. was placed in the chair as the first W.M., a very large measure of success has been attained. The roll of members now totals 160, and during the past year no less a sum than £153 11s. was voted to various Masonic and other charities. These figures were alluded to with justifiable pride by the Treasurer, Bro. Clement Godson, during the proceedings. The working of the ritual has always been good, and

the installation ceremony by Bro. R. J. Reece, M.D., I.P.M., was worthy of the best traditions of the lodge. Grand Lodge honours were conferred during the year upon Bro. D'Arcy Power, G.D., who has done so much for the lodge in the past in the capacity of Secretary. The members of this lodge have the privilege of wearing a special jewel by authority from the M.W.G.M., a privilege which is enjoyed by very few lodges.

The brethren present included Bros. R. J. Reece, W.M.; W. Gripper, P.P.G.D. Surrey, W.M. elect; P. S. Abraham, J.W.; the Rev. Sir Borradaile Savory, Bart., Chap.; Clement Godson, P.G.D., Treas.; D'Arcy Power, J.G.D., Sec.; G. H. R. Holden; Ernest Clarke; Sir John Monckton, P.G.W.; A. Cooper, P.G.D.; T. Trollope, P.G.D.; Edmund Owen, P.G.D.; J. Pollard, P.P.G.W. Surrey; W. J. Walsham, P.G.D.; T. G. A. Burns, P.M.; P.P.G.D. Surrey; E. Trimmer, P.G.S.; J. H. Gilbertson, P.P.G.D. Kent; W. Haig Brodie, P.P.G.D. Surrey; F. Swinford Edwards, G. H. Robinson, Mus. Bac., and many others.

Lodge was duly opened, and the minutes confirmed, and Bro. J. H. Drysdale, M.A., M.D., 1829, was unanimously elected a joining member. Bros. Izard, Cross, and Sir Borradaile Savory, Bart., were elected members of the Standing Committee. Bro. Walter Gripper, P.P.G.D. Surrey, was then presented as W.M. elect, and received the benefits of installation, in the presence of a numerous-attended Board of Installed Masters. The solo, "Be thou faithful unto death," was sung during the ceremony. The following officers for the ensuing year were invested: Bros. R. J. Reece, I.P.M.; P. S. Abraham, S.W.; G. H. R. Holden, J.W.; Rev. Sir Borradaile Savory, Bart., P.G.C. Bucks, Chap.; Clement Godson, P.G.D., Treas.; D'Arcy Power, J.G.D., Sec.; Ernest Clarke, S.D.; J. H. Gilbertson, P.P.G.D. Kent, J.D.; W. Haig Brodie, P.P.G.D. Surrey, I.G.; F. Swinford Edwards, D.C.; G. H. Robinson, Mus. Bac., Org.; A. G. R. Foulerton, H. D. Lauchlan, M. J. Anderson, and J. Valérie, Stwds.; and P. F. Madden, Tyler. The jewel of J.G.D. was presented to Bro. D'Arcy Power by the W.M., and bears the following inscription: "Presented by the Rahere Lodge, No. 2546, to W. Bro. D'Arcy Power, J.G.D., as a mark of appreciation of his services to the lodge." Bro. D'Arcy Power suitably returned thanks. A Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Reece, I.P.M., by the W.M., who expressed the hearty good wishes of every member to the recipient. The I.P.M. accepted the gift, which he said he should wear with pride and pleasure as long as he lived. The Audit Committee's report was adopted. The Treasurer then drew attention to the financial progress during the year. There had been fewer initiations during the year, which was to be regretted, and the members were invited to induce those who were anxious to enter Freemasonry, and were connected with the Hospital, not to forsake their Alma Mater. A sum of £500 had been invested in Stock. Several communications were read, and the lodge was closed.

About 100 brethren subsequently dined together, under the presidency of the W.M., at the Frascati Restaurant, and the usual toasts were heartily, but briefly honoured.

Bro. E. M. Money, P.A.G.D.C., replied for "The Grand Officers," and said it was a privilege for any brother to be a visitor at this lodge. He returned thanks on behalf of the Grand Officers, and expressed his regret that Bro. Sir John Monckton, P.G.W., had been obliged to leave earlier in the evening.

Bro. D'Arcy Power, J.G.D., Sec. of the lodge, also replied, and thanked the brethren for their flattering reception. He had been wondering why he had been presented with a Grand Officer's jewel that evening, and why he had obtained Grand Office during the past few months. The only idea he could find was that he had been careful in this lodge that they should not date from "time immemorial." He had been careful to keep the earliest records of their lodge, which had but recently been constructed. He had been reading an interesting account of an ancient lodge, the records of which were most incomplete, and that he had been careful of the records of the Rahere Lodge was the only merit to which he was entitled. He thanked them for their extreme kindness in the presentation of the jewel and the friendship and amity with which they had greeted him.

Bro. R. J. Reece, I.P.M., proposed "The Worshipful Master," with whom, he said, he had been associated in other Masonic circles. All he knew of the W.M. was in his favour, for he was a distinguished Mason, well-acquainted with Craft Masonry, and no man was more keen on seeing the Rahere Lodge prosper. No man was more capable of keeping the lodge up to its present standard than Bro. Gripper. They felt that when the present year came to an end they would be of opinion that the honour of the lodge had been properly safeguarded by their present W.M.

Bro. Walter Gripper, P.P.G.D. Surrey, W.M., said he hardly expected the enthusiasm with which they had received the toast, and regarded it as a great compliment. They all knew that he had the interests of this lodge very deeply at heart, and any sacrifices he could make to further it would be willingly made. He could testify to the great benefit the lodge had been to him personally, and it had brought them all together, cementing old friendships, and making many new ones. The inception of the Rahere Lodge was one of the grandest things done, and he hoped during the next year to see many students from St. Bartholomew's Hospital joining them. They would receive a hearty welcome, and would, he was certain, turn out good Masons. He would not take up their time, but in the heartiest manner possible thank them for their reception.

Bro. R. J. Reece, I.P.M., responded for "The Installing Master and Past Masters," and Bros. Radford and Dodd on behalf of "The Visitors."

Bro. P. S. Abrahams, S.W., acknowledged "The Officers," and a successful gathering terminated with the Tyler's toast.

Bro. Dr. Byrd Page kindly gave a very clever sleight-of-hand performance during the evening which was much appreciated.

Royal Arch.

Storndale Bennett Chapter, No. 2182.

The installation meeting of this musical chapter was held on Saturday last at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, Comp. the Rev. W. Russell Finlay, M.E.Z., presiding. The other companions present were Comps. George W. Reed, H.; C. H. Kempling, J.; R. Jackson, P.Z., Treas.; J. H. Curteon, P.Z., S.E.; F. Blake, P.S.; W. Palmer, 1st A.S.; R. J. Henning, W. H. Cox, B. Bramble, L. C. Venables, C. Norington, W. S. Hustler Hinchliff, F. W. Ward, H. Newman, E. N. Cullum, and W. Gibson. The visitors were Comps. E. Croft Wise, A.S. 862; Thomas Grumant, P.Z., S.E. 1275; C. H. Stone, P.Z., S.E. 1901; James Ferguson, P.S. 1058; and H. Massey, P.Z. 619 and 1928.

Comp. F. Ward, 31, was elected a joining member, after which business the installations took place. Comp. R. J. Hennings, P.Z., most ably installed Comp. G. W. Reed, H., as M.E.Z., and Comp. C. H. Kempling, J., as H. Comp. R. Jackson, P.Z., Treas., also most ably installed Comp. F. Blake, P.S., as J. All the ceremonies were given in full. Comp. the Rev. W. R. Finlay, to whom an elegant P.Z.'s jewel was presented, was invested as I.P.Z.; Comps. R. Jackson, P.Z., as Treas.; J. H.

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Cureton, P.Z., as S.E.; F. W. Mutton, S.N.; B. Bramble, P.S.; W. Palmer, 1st A.S.; T. B. Benton, as 2nd A.S.; and J. Whiteman, Janitor.

The companions after closing the chapter partook of a choice banquet, and honoured the customary toasts.

Comp. the Rev. W. R. Finlay, I.P.Z., in proposing "The M.E.Z.," said he was able to do his work well, and the companions would have an opportunity of seeing what he could do during his year of office. Comp. Reed was a good companion and a good working Mason, who had Masonry at heart. He sincerely hoped and trusted that the Great Ruler of the Universe might give him good health during his year of office.

Comp. G. W. Reed, M.E.Z., replying, said he was proud to be in the position of M.E.Z., and the reception he had met with at the hands of the brethren gave him the confidence necessary for occupying that post. When he had the support and encouragement of all companions he thought he had started well, and it augured well for the prosperity of the chapter. Nothing should be wanting on his part to carry out the duties they had placed him there to discharge. He had had very fine samples of what M.E.Zs. ought to be, and it would be his fault if he did not follow the example set him. They had had some work at several meetings which had been faultlessly carried out. They had had visitors who had expressed their pleasure at seeing the work so well done—companions who had been able and willing to assist. He referred to Comps. Grummant and Stone, who attended at the Stirling Castle, Camberwell, at the chapter of instruction, and under their tuition it must be his own fault if he did not do his work properly. Comp. Cureton was a constant attendant there, and the Sterndale Bennett Chapter was a gainer by that attendance. He should rely upon him for assistance, but even if he were absent he had Comp. Hennings who was a glowing light in Royal Arch Masonry, and was able in any emergency to take a part as they had seen that night—and a very important part in the installation. Comp. Hennings installed the M.E.Z. and the H.; and then they had another able companion—Comp. Jackson, P.Z., Treas.—who initiated the J. Without such companions what would they do? With such companions there was an encouragement to emulate their glorious example. He trusted the incoming officers would endeavour to follow out their working of the ritual that it might not lose any of its gravity. Unfortunately, the chapter had lost four of its members that night, but they had been replaced by four others, so that it still retained its full strength. He sincerely and earnestly trusted as the chapter had started so well at this meeting that when he vacated the chair for his successor he would, with the assistance of the Great I Am, retire with the same honour as his predecessor, whose health he now asked the companions to drink.

Comp. the Rev. W. R. Finlay, I.P.Z., replied, and said with respect to the work of R.A. he enjoyed it as much as any man, and he was very pleased to say that although the work of the Sterndale Bennett Chapter had always been well done there was as good fruit on the tree as there had been before, and notwithstanding they had lost three good men, before long they would gain three times three.

Comps. Grummant, Stone, Massey, Croft Wise, and Palmer responded to the toast of "The Visitors."

Comp. C. H. Kempling, H., in his response to the toast of "The H. and J.," said he had to thank Comp. Jackson for installing Comp. Blake. For himself he might say he did not mean to shirk his work during the year, and he should give all the assistance he could to Comp. Reed.

Comp. Blake also responded.

Comp. Reed, M.E.Z., in proposing "The Past Principals," sympathetically referred to the illness of Comp. Harper, which was the cause of his absence from the chapter that evening.

Comp. R. J. Hennings, P.Z., in reply, said he took a pleasure in working for the chapter, and it gave him great satisfaction to instal the M.E.Z. and the H. He was exalted in the Sterndale Bennett Chapter. He hoped all the companions might be long spared to enjoy the pleasures of that chapter. He also trusted that the M.E.Z. and his Principals might have a happy and enjoyable year of office. He very much regretted Comp. Harper's illness. Although suffering very much Comp. Harper did not forget the Sterndale Bennett Chapter, and he expressed his great grief at not being able to be present; he sent his kind regards to the companions, and hoped they would have a pleasant evening.

Comp. Jackson, P.Z., as Treasurer, responded to the toast of "The Treasurer and S.E.," and said as Comp. Kempling had referred to the installation of Comp. Blake, he (Comp. Jackson) might observe that he had great pleasure in performing the ceremony. Comp. Blake was Master of the Sterndale Bennett Lodge, and he had thoroughly carried out his duties in that position to the satisfaction of all the brethren. Concerning the chapter, it had had, he might say, times of trial, but the companions put their shoulders to the wheel and rallied round their Treasurer, and now the chapter owed no man anything. It was necessary to use a little self-denial in order to accumulate a balance, but they did not deny themselves anything that was requisite. He felt sure the chapter would be in as good a position as any chapter in London.

Comps. Bramble and Palmer responded to the toast of "The Officers," and the Janitor's toast closed the proceedings.

During the evening the companions were entertained with some excellent singing by Comps. the Rev. W. Russell Finlay, I.P.Z.; Abel Hustler, and R. J. Hennings, P.Z., and some beautiful solos on the pianoforte were performed by Comps. C. H. Kempling, H., and G. A. N. Cullum. Comp. Kempling also accompanied the vocal performances.

Obituary.

BRO. GEORGE BAKER-SMALLPEICE, P. PROV. G. TREAS. SURREY.

Woking loses an old and greatly respected resident by the death of Bro. George Baker Smallpeice, which occurred at Hockering, Heathside-lane, on Monday, the 27th ult., after an illness of some weeks, during which he was attended by Dr. B. H. Kingsford. The deceased, who was in his 51st year, was the youngest son of the late Bro. George Smallpeice, of Kingfield House, a typical English yeoman. He had resided all his life in Woking, where he owned between 250 and 300 acres of land in the Village Ward, part of which he farmed himself, more as a hobby than a serious occupation. By profession he was an auctioneer and surveyor, with offices at Woking, and 9 and 10, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C. Of high character and exemplary business habits, he enjoyed an extensive practice, and the implicit confidence of all his clients. His personality was in many respects a striking one. He inherited from his father the fine qualities which go to make the British yeoman, and he made many friends, and returned for theirs a friendship essentially staunch and sincere. During the first three years of its existence Bro. Smallpeice was a member of the old Local Board, of which he was elected vice-chairman, as well as chairman of the Finance Committee. At the end of his term of office he did not seek re-election, although urged to do so by those who were able to estimate the value of his sound judgment and shrewd common-sense. The deceased had been a director of the Woking Gas Company from its inception in 1892, and in addition to being such a large property owner in Woking, he also owned land at Haslemere and in Suffolk. The funeral took place at Brookwood Cemetery on Thursday, the 31st ult., the service being conducted by the Rev. C. A. Archer, the Necropolis Company's chaplain. Bro. Smallpeice, who was a nephew of Mr. Mark Smallpeice, of Guildford, leaves a widow and six children to mourn their loss—two sons and four daughters. General sympathy will be extended to them in their bereavement. The deceased was a prominent Freemason. He was initiated in the St. George's Lodge, No. 370, Chertsey, and filled the chair in 1874. He was exalted in the Cyrus Chapter, No. 21, London, and installed as 1st Principal in 1881. He joined the St. George's Chapter, No. 370, in 1873, and was elected M.E.Z. in 1875. He was also a Founder and P.Z. of the Abbey Chapter, No. 2120, Chertsey. Our late brother was likewise a member of the Weyside Lodge, No. 1395, and a few years ago held the important office of Treasurer in the Prov. Grand Lodge and Chapter of Surrey. Of the various Charitable Institutions of the Craft he was a liberal and consistent supporter.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTHANTS AND HUNTS.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge took place on the 7th instant, under the banner of the Wentworth Lodge, at the Central Hall, Wellingborough. The brethren having assembled, the Prov. Grand Master, the Earl of Euston, D.S., was supported by the following Prov. Grand Officers: Bros. J. Haviland, P.M. 1911, Deputy Prov. G.M.; H. Manfield, Prov. S.G.W.; W. J. Hankin, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. W. H. Holding, Prov. A.G. Chap.; A. Cockerill, Prov. G. Treas.; A. J. Moyes, Prov. G. Reg.; G. C. Castor, Prov. A.G. Sec.; G. F. Marshall, Prov. S.G.D.; G. Ellard, Prov. G.D.C.; W. Arkell, Prov. G.S.B.; C. J. Wood, Prov. G. Org.; C. H. White, Prov. G. Purst.; and W. F. Tipler, Prov. G. Stwd.

After the usual business of the Provincial Grand Lodge had been transacted,

The PROV. GRAND MASTER proposed that a letter of condolence be sent by the acting Prov. Grand Secretary to Bro. W. Buckle, the Prov. Grand Secretary, who was prevented from being present through illness.

The Prov. Grand Master then appointed and invested his officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Bro. John Haviland, P.G.D. ...	Dep. Prov. G.M.
" John J. Hart, P.M. 360, W.M. 2431 ...	Prov. S.G.W.
" Owen Parker, P.M. 737 ...	Prov. J.G.D.
" Rev. Henry H. Crawley, Chap. 2555 ...	Prov. G. Chap.
" Rev. L. T. Jones, Chap. 442 ...	Prov. A.G. Chap.
" A. Cockerill, P.M. 360 ...	Prov. G. Treas.
" B. Beasley, jun., P.M. 373 ...	Prov. G. Reg.
" F. G. Buckle, P.M. 442, P.P.S.G.W. ...	Prov. G. Sec.
" G. Henson, P.M. 737 ...	Prov. S.G.D.
" T. Mattinson, W.M. 445 ...	Prov. J.G.D.
" M. S. Young, P.M. 466 ...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" G. Ellard, P.M. 360, 1764, 2431, P.P.S.G.W. ...	Prov. G.D.C.
" T. Ashdowne, I.P.M. 1764 ...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" A. F. Love, P.M. 2283 ...	Prov. G.S.B.
" E. Areber, W.M. 360 ...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" W. W. Grasby, W.M. 2380 ...	
" C. A. Lees, Org. 2684 ...	Prov. G. Org.
" J. Shelmerdine, P.M. 607 ...	Prov. Purst.
" F. W. Perival, 442 ...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" W. F. Neilson, 455 ...	
" W. G. Abbott, 737 ...	
" R. H. Cooper, 2533 ...	
" C. H. Judkins, 2555 ...	
" H. J. Burt, 2684 ...	} Prov. G. Tyler.
" J. A. Bates, Tyler 737 ...	

Later in the afternoon the annual banquet was provided at the Corn Exchange, about 170 being present, and the catering of the Granville Coffee House Company gave every satisfaction.

The customary Masonic toast list was given.

GOULD'S "MILITARY LODGES."

Some very interesting anecdotes are told by Bro. R. F. Gould in his book on Military Lodges. Of the 4th (the King's Own) Lancasters, now serving in South Africa, it is stated that Bro. Dr. Burnes, Provincial Grand Master for Western India, in an address on the duties of the Masonic soldier, said that everyone knew that even in the fury of the late war, the charters, diplomas, and insignia of lodges used to be returned with courtesy after an engagement. He further said in his address that it was only last night that Colonel Logan, a brave officer of the Peninsula, mentioned to him an authentic anecdote that would interest them. A whole battalion of the Fourth Foot had been taken prisoners, and the officers stripped of everything. Several of them were bemoaning their lot in a dreary abode, when, to their surprise, they saw a subaltern of their corps passing along with a gay step, in full dress. The explanation was very simple; having been discovered to be a Mason, his uniform and baggage had been immediately restored to him, and he was then going, by special invitation, to dine with the French Field-Marshal. In 1815, while the same regiment was passing through the Bermudas on its way to take part in the last war with America, both the officers and men experienced the utmost inconvenience and distress, their pay being greatly in arrear, and their rations extremely limited. At this crisis in their affairs the officers were one day invited to the table of a merchant residing in one of the principal towns. In the course of the entertainment the generous host did not fail to discover that amongst his guests there was one for whom he felt the warmth of friendship, and with whom though a foreigner, he felt the ties of brotherhood. In a word, they were Masons. To draw the brother aside, to hear the record of sufferings and privations, and to furnish ample means of relief and consolation, was but the work of a few moments. A considerable sum of money was advanced by the merchant for the use of the regiment, and thus—by the existence of a certain principle of action in two individuals—a multitude were raised from a state of suffering and destitution to one of comparative ease and enjoyment.

MR. G. T. NEWSHOLME, of Sheffield, has been elected President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; Mr. C. B. Allen, of Kilburn, Vice-President; and Mr. S. R. Atkins, of Salisbury, Treasurer for the ensuing year.

ON THE 14TH INSTANT the East London Church Fund held its annual festival in St. Paul's Cathedral. The service was fully choral and excellently rendered, the music being led by the combined choirs of the Rural Deanery of St. Sepulchre, under the conductorship of Dr. Charles W. Pearce. The processional hymn, "Forward! be our watchword"—the refrain of which was specially written for the festival service by the composer, Mr. Samuel Smith—was very fine. There were about 110 clergy present, and clad in their cassocks, surplices, and many-coloured hoods, added to the beauty of the scene in the cathedral. The Bishop of Bath and Wells preached the sermon, and emphasised the need of everybody to give their utmost in order to raise the £20,000 which was required during the present year in order to cope with the work in hand.

Masonic and General Tidings.

THE SPECTACLEMAKERS' COMPANY.—Bro. D. Mayer, of Great Marlborough-street, W., has become a freeman and liveryman of this guild.

BY THE VOTE of £3000 by the Finchley District Council on the 11th inst., the sum of £150,000 needed for the purchase of the Alexandra Palace for public purposes has been obtained.

BRO. PASSMORE EDWARDS has offered to present to the Metropolitan Public Gardens' Association two drinking fountains, to be placed in the grounds of the church of St. George the Martyr, Southwark.

BRO. ARCHDEACON SINCLAIR will preside at the annual speech day at the Commercial Travellers' Schools, Pinner, on Saturday, the 23rd instant. The prizes will be distributed by Miss Sinclair.

ST. BOTOLPH, ALDERSGATE.—Sunday next being the Festival of the Patron Saint (St. Botolph) special Patronal festival services will be held. The Vicar (the Rev. H. R. Gamble, M.A.), will preach at each service.

THE MAY-DAY GAMES AND DANCES of the Mansfield House University Settlement will be held at Mansfield Convalescent Home, Loughton, Epping Forest, on Saturday afternoon, the 23rd inst., from three to seven p.m.

BRO. RICHARD BURBRIDGE, of Harrod's Stores (Limited), has been presented with an illuminated address in recognition of his able advocacy of the claims of the London General Porters' Benevolent Association at the 33rd anniversary festival.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.—In an earlier number we gave a brief summary of this flourishing Company. We should have then stated that the Chairman of the Company is M.W. Bro. J. C. Remington, Grand Master for New South Wales.

BRO. THE LORD MAYOR and Lady Mayoress have accorded their patronage to the Austro-Hungarian *soiree musicale* to be given at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, Piccadilly, on Monday, the 2nd prox., in aid of the Francis Joseph Institute.

THE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA MASONIC HALL COMPANY, LIMITED.—An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the above-named Company will be held at the registered office of the Company, Marlborough House, Whitegate-road, Southend-on-Sea, on Wednesday, the 27th instant, at 8 p.m.

A CONCERT AND GARDEN PARTY will be given by the pupils of the School for the Indigent Blind, St. George's-circus, Southwark, S.E., on Wednesday, the 20th instant, at 3 p.m., under the direction of Mr. Herbert Hodge, F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M. An exhibition of articles manufactured by the pupils will be held after the concert.

SOCIETY OF ARTS CONVERSAZIONE.—The Society's conversazione will take place at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell-road, S.W. (by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum), on Wednesday evening, the 20th instant, from nine to 12 p.m. The reception will be held by Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B., F.R.S., Chairman, and the other members of the Council, from nine to 10 p.m.

"STRAND PARK."—It will be remembered that it was largely through the efforts of the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association some 12 years ago that the garden on the west side of the Law Courts was preserved for the public use. Now that the site is threatened by a building scheme, the Association is making strenuous exertions to ensure the safety of this much appreciated open space.

BRO. SAMUEL WHITE, P.M. and Treasurer 1657, the senior partner in the firm of Messrs. Spreckley, White, and Lewis, of 13 and 15, Cannon-street, has just received a letter from his son, who was besieged in Mafeking at the time of writing. Bro. White, senior, it should be mentioned, still "sticks to business," and is one of the best known and most popular men in the textile circle in the City. His son, Mr. G. S. White, was in a situation in Umbala at the time of the outbreak of hostilities, and was one of the first to be enrolled in the Protectorate Regiment, which did such excellent work against the Boers.

ON THE 19th instant Bro. the Lord Mayor presides at the 111th anniversary dinner of the City Dispensary at the Albion. The lease of the old premises of the dispensary having expired, the institution has now taken up its quarters in College-street, Dowgate-hill. The outlay consequent upon the necessary removal has been very considerable, exceeding £500. It is towards the recoupment of this sum that a special appeal is now being made. The sheriffs will support Bro. the Lord Mayor at the dinner, as will a large and influential body of stewards, headed by Bro. Alderman Alliston.

THE LONDON SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR.—The 28th annual festival of the choir will be held on the 27th instant, at the Crystal Palace. Three concerts will be given. The first will take place at one p.m., and 5000 juveniles, under the conductorship of Mr. J. Rowley, will give a programme of action songs and Sunday-school music. At six p.m. the orchestra will again be filled by a choir of 4000 adults, with orchestra under the conductorship of Mr. William Whiteman. Selections from Sullivan's "Golden Legend," Mendelssohn's "Elijah," Wagner's "Lohengrin," and Gounod's "Redemption" will also be given. At eight o'clock Jenkins' Mandoline and Guitar Band, with soloists, will perform in the theatre.

FIELD LANE REFUGES.—The annual report of the Field Lane Refuge Institutions states that during the year 425 persons were assisted to obtain employment, 877 men and women were received in the refuges, and 515 attendances were made at the crèche, 26,107 at the ragged church, 16,625 at adult mission services, 60,083 at the Bible ragged schools, 8620 at temperance meetings, and 16,018 at mothers' meetings. The number of children sent to country homes was 324. There were 16,266 distributions of broken food given by large City warehouses, and 15,884 loaves of bread were also given away. The voluntary contributions amounted to £2324, exclusive of £5094 for the industrial schools. There was an overdraft of £700 at the bank at the close of the year.

THE VISIT OF THE KHEDIVÉ TO THE GUILDHALL.—The reception of the Khedive of Egypt will take place at Guildhall on Tuesday, the 26th instant. Arrangements are being carried out by the Ward Committee (of which Mr. W. R. Pryke, the Chief Commoner, is the Chairman) for receiving the distinguished visitor in the Guildhall Library at one o'clock. Bros. the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, the Under Sheriffs, and the high officers will wear their robes and other insignia of office, but otherwise morning dress will be worn. After the presentation of the address of welcome in a golden casket, the company will adjourn to the Great Hall, where the *dejeuner* will be served. Invitations to the number of nearly 800 are being issued. The guests will include several members of the Cabinet and other distinguished personages.

MEMORIAL WINDOW AT ST. LAWRENCE JEWRY.—We are informed by the rector, Bro. the Rev. J. Stephen Barriass, that on Friday, the 22nd instant, the Speaker of the House of Commons will unveil the window erected in St. Lawrence Jewry in memory of his distinguished predecessor, Sir Thomas More, who became the first Layman Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, and was closely connected with this parish in the City of London. The window is the gift of one of the old chairmen of the church, Mr. H. C. Richards, O.C., M.P. Bro. the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs will attend in State to receive the Speaker, and special seats will be reserved for members of the Corporation. The service will be a short mid-day one, and the address will be delivered by the Rev. William Holden Hutton, the biographer of Sir Thomas More. The ceremony will be devoted to the Dean Cowie Memorial Fund.

THE ROYAL FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM.—A general court of the Governors of this Institution took place at the Cannon-street Hotel on the 11th inst. Bro. Sir John B. Monckton (the Chairman) presided, and there were also present the Rev. R. A. Boyle, Mr. H. Winstanley, Sir G. D. Harris, J.P., Mr. E. Lewis Thomas, M.A., LL.M., Mr. E. F. Bipp, J.P., Colonel Shottland, Sir Frederick T. Edridge, J.P., Mr. Simpson Rostron, J.P., Mr. John Hollans, jun., Mr. C. Mortimer, J.P. (Vice-President), Mr. P. Mortimer, J.P., and the Secretary (Mr. Brough Malby). The half-yearly report stated that, after the annual general court on December 11th, Sir John B. Monckton, F.S.A., was unanimously re-elected the chairman of the committee for 1900, and a most cordial vote of thanks was passed to him. The general health of the children during the past six months had been excellent. One hundred and forty children were in the home, and to would be elected that day from a list of 21 candidates. Eleven girls had been placed out in domestic service. The committee announced that the annual distribution of prizes had been fixed to take place on Tuesday, the 19th instant, when Mrs. Kendal had kindly promised to visit the asylum, and give away the awards.

DOWN to the 14th inst. the Indian Famine Fund had reached £283,590.

BRO. SIR HOMEWOOD CRAWFORD entered upon his 51st year on the 12th instant.

HER MAJESTY has consented to become the patron of the National Eisteddfodd a Merthyr Tydvil in 1901.

DOWN to the 14th inst. the Mansion House Fund for the Transvaal War Sufferers amounted to £957,900.

THE BAND of the Scots Guards will play in the Green Park next Sunday evening, and that of the 2nd Life Guards in Hyde Park.

THURSDAY'S contributions added 8205 shillings to the *Daily Telegraph* Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The grand total is now 3,493,377 shillings.

IT IS SUGGESTED that either the Marquis of Northampton, the largest property owner in the district, or Sir Albert Rollit, M.P., will be asked to become the first Mayor of Islington.

GENERAL SIR RICHARD HARRISON, Inspector-General of Fortifications, will review the Queen's Body Guard of Yeomen of the Guard at St. James's Palace next Tuesday.

BANK RATE REDUCED.—The Directors of the Bank of England on Thursday reduced the rate of discount from 3½ per cent., at which it has stood since the 24th ult., to 3 per cent.

THE CITY CORPORATION have decided to spend 1000 guineas in entertaining the members of the Institute of Journalists at the conference to be held in London in September next.

THE GREAT NORTHERN COMPANY announce that the new station at Nottingham, the joint property of the Great Northern and Great Central Railways, will for the future be known as the Victoria station.

LORD RUSSELL OF KILLOWEN has accepted an invitation to be present at the Independence Day banquet of the American Society in London, which will take place at the Hotel Cecil on July 4th.

THE DEATH has occurred at Eastbourne of the distinguished entomologist, Mr. William Watkins, popularly known as "The Butterfly King." He had devoted the greater portion of his life to the collection of butterflies.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR has been an occupant of the throne 12 years to-day (Friday), his Imperial Majesty having succeeded on the death of his father, the Emperor Frederick, who died at Berlin on June 15, 1888.

AT THE MEETING of the City Corporation on Thursday, the designs for the new Sessions House to supersede the Old Bailey were considered. On opening the sealed envelopes, it was found that the successful competitor was Mr. Edward W. Mountford.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY are offering every facility throughout their whole system for visitors wishing to attend the Royal Agricultural Show at York next week. Full particulars may be obtained at any of the Company's offices.

STRICKEN INDIA.—There are now over 6,000,000 natives on the relief lists. Bombay records an increase of 200,000 during the last week, owing to the return of destitute persons who deserted the works at the time of the cholera scare. The prospects of a fair monsoon have somewhat improved.—*Reuter*.

FOR THE BENEFIT of those wishing to attend Saturday's races at Windsor, the Great Western Railway Company will run on that day a number of special fast trains. The trains from London are to do the distance in 32 minutes. On account of the extra traffic, certain abatements of the privileges of holiday makers are also announced.

THE NEWS of the death of Mrs. Gladstone was received at the House of Commons with profound sympathy and regret on both sides of the House. A telegram of condolence was sent to the family at Hawarden from both front benches. In Parliamentary circles the kindest remembrances of the deceased lady are cherished.

BRO. LORD WOLSELEY will preside at a dinner to be given in the Hotel Cecil on the 28th instant, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the first Volunteer review before the Queen, which took place in Hyde Park on June 23, 1860. Volunteers of all ranks are invited to take tickets, which may be had from Mr. A. T. Williams, 27 Mincing-lane, E.C.

"CAPTAIN, DEAR," said an Irish tenant to his squire, who was off to the front at the head of the Militia, "don't be for goin' to be massacred by them Boers." "Oh, I'll escape right enough, Mick; if I'm to be shot, I'll come here and let my tenants do it." "God save ye, Captain, 'tis a true Irishman an' a lover o' ye country ye are, after all."—*St. James's Gazette*.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN went out, at Balmoral, on Wednesday morning, the 13th inst., with Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, and in the afternoon her Majesty drove out, attended by the Countess of Antrim and the Hon. Mrs. Grant. Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein opened the new Ruchill Hospital at Glasgow, and attended by the Hon. Aline Majendie returned to the Castle in the evening.

MRS. GLADSTONE'S DEATH, which occurred on the 14th instant, must have come as a relief to the aged and most respected lady, will, nevertheless, awaken a profound regret among the entire community, who were deeply impressed by her constant devotion to her great husband. Indeed, it may be said with truth that she shared his political labours, for she was his constant companion. In death they will not be divided. She will be buried in Westminster Abbey, beside her husband.

AT **SOHBEY'S** Dr. Inglis's library realised a total of £7519 6s. 6d. for 849 lots. The most important items on the last day were Rolle de Hampole's "Explicationes Notabiles," a rare product of the Oxford printers, £300, and Spenser's "Faerie Queene," in two vols., first edition, £170. The sale of the contents of the mansion of the late Madame de Falbe, which extended over four days, was brought to a conclusion at Christie's. The total realised amounts to about £60,000.

Instruction.

ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

A meeting of the above lodge was held on the 6th instant at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, when there were present Bros. F. Ridley, W.M.; E. C. St. Aubyn, S.W.; R. C. Foghill, J.W.; A. H. Bridger, Sec.; R. Williams, P.M., J.D.; Dowling, I.G.; and G. A. Sowerby.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. A. H. Bridger acting as candidate. The lodge opened in the Second and Third Degrees, and resumed to the Second and First Degrees. The lodge was then closed.

HYDE PARK LODGE, No. 1425.

A meeting of the above lodge was held on the 11th inst. at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne-terrace, Bishop's-road, Paddington, W. Present: Bros. J. W. Seardon, W.M.; W. H. Smith, S.W.; W. H. Handover, W.M. 1642, J.W.; H. Dehane, P.M. 1543, P.P.S.G.D. Essex, Sec.; E. Spink, S.D.; A. Leclair, W.M. 1003, J.D.; G. E. Harris, I.G.; W. J. Ferguson, P.M. 177, Dep. Preceptor; A. Collman, P.M., W.M. 1425; and J. Chubb.

The lodge was opened and the minutes of the last lodge meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremonies of passing and raising were rehearsed after the usual preliminaries, Bros. Chubb and Collman being the candidates. Lodge called off and on. A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. W. H. Smith for kindly presenting the lodge with a pair of Deacon's wands, the worthy brother acknowledging the compliment. A letter of condolence was ordered to be sent to Bro. G. Davis, late Secretary of the lodge of instruction, on his sad bereavement. The W.M. was elected for the next meeting, Bro. Smith, who appointed his officers. After "heartly good wishes," the lodge was closed.