

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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THE BOYS' SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

On Tuesday, the 10th instant, the last of the Anniversary Festivals in behalf of our great Central Masonic Institutions will be celebrated under the presidency of the Duke of CONNAUGHT, who, we are pleased to say, will be supported by a Board of Stewards composed of between 450 and 500 ladies and brethren. This, as we pointed out the other day, is a goodly show and we doubt not the efforts which the bulk of them have been putting forth will be rewarded with as goodly a total of donations and subscriptions. A fair proportion of the London lodges are represented, while fully three-fourths of the Provinces have sent up Stewards, the Chairman's Province of Sussex and sundry others making quite a brave show and one which cannot fail to influence for good the efforts of the entire Board. As for the arrangements for the gathering, seeing they are in the hands of an experienced executive, we are confident that everything will go well, more especially as it has been decided that, in accordance with the rule adopted for several years past by the Boys' School authorities, the ladies and brethren shall dine together instead of in separate rooms. Of the claims of the Institution we need not say more than we have said in previous articles, namely, that the permanent expenditure is about £14,500 and the permanent income about £2500, so that a sum of £12,000 or thereabouts is needed in order to place the two sides of the account on a level. To the admirable manner in which the Institution is conducted, the annual reports of the Board of Management and those of the examiners appointed by the Cambridge Syndicate bear convincing testimony, so that intending donors and subscribers may rest assured that their contributions will not only be gratefully received, but also faithfully applied and to very good purpose. In fine, we are sanguine enough, in the circumstances we have described, to hope that next week it will be our privilege to report such an aggregate of Returns as will gratify his Royal Highness the Chairman and the Stewards who are assisting him, and at the same time meet all the requirements of the Institution and leave a fair margin over, with which to augment still further the modest amount of invested capital which the authorities have been able to accumulate.

THE MARK BENEVOLENT FESTIVAL.

It seldom happens that two important Festival gatherings occur in the same week, but the Boys' School Festival on Tuesday, the 10th instant, will be followed on Wednesday, the 11th instant, by the 31st Anniversary Festival in behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund. The Freemasons' Tavern will be the scene of both meetings, and very strenuous efforts are being made to secure that next Wednesday's celebration shall beat the record. The Earl of EUSTON, M.W. Pro G. Mark Master, has very kindly undertaken the duties of Chairman, and it will be no fault of his lordship, or of the 300 ladies and brethren who have promised their services as Stewards, if the efforts thus being made are not crowned with success. The Fund well deserves the support it has received, and may be forthcoming on this occasion. It comprises a General Branch for relieving temporarily the necessities of those Mark brethren who may unfortunately need relief; an Educational Branch, the revenues of which are devoted to the education and partial maintenance of the children of deceased and necessitous Mark brethren; and an Annuity Branch, which permanently provides for aged and necessitous Mark Masons and their widows. The amount of good which the Fund has done, and is doing, is sufficiently well known to members of the Mark Degree, and it is a pleasure to us to realise that, having regard to the influence which Lord EUSTON exercises in Mark Masonry, and the extent to which he will be supported in this instance, there is every prospect of a great success being achieved next week under his auspices.

FRENCH PRISONERS' LODGES.*

It is to be regretted that the information which Bro. THORP has succeeded in unearthing should not have been of such a character as to allow of his showing himself as the facile writer he is known to be. However, it is not his fault that the particulars to be found in the new work of his are fragmentary, and that consequently it has not been in his power to build up a continuous as well as an interesting narrative. The wonder is that with such a paucity of material obtained from so many different sources he should have turned out so readable a book on a branch of Masonic research, which, if not entirely new, has not been dealt with connectedly by any of our writers.

The period traversed lies between the years 1756, when the Seven Years' War commenced, and 1814, when the first NAPOLEON was forced to abdicate, and sent a prisoner to the island of Elba. During all these years, with here and there a short interval of peace, France and England were at war with each other, and as the latter was oftener than not the victor, the number of soldiers and sailors that were landed on our shores as prisoners was very considerable. Moreover, as Freemasonry was very popular with the French army, especially during the Napoleonic Wars, it is not surprising that those of the French officers who were Masons should seek to drive away the ennui of their imprisonment by forming lodges amongst themselves and working according to their own rite. The earliest account of

FRENCH PRISONERS' LODGES.—A brief account of 26 lodges and chapters of Freemasons, established and conducted by French Prisoners of War in England and elsewhere, between 1756 and 1814. Illustrated by 18 plates, consisting of Fac-Similes of Original Documents, Seals, &c. By John T. Thorp, P.M. 523 and 2429, P.P.S.G.W. of Leicestershire and Rutland, Hon. Mem. of Lodges Nos. 53, 1391, and 2433, Author of "Fifty years' Records of the 'John of Gaunt' Lodge, No. 523," "Annals of the Chapter of 'Fortitude,' No. 279," "Memorials of Lodge, No. 91, Antients," "The Early History of the 'Knights of Malta' Lodge, No. 50," &c., &c. Leicester: Printed by Bro. George Gibbons, King-street. 1900.

any one of these lodges which Bro. THORP has lighted upon dates from the year 1761, and is taken from a Report made by the W. Master of a lodge in Leeds to our Grand Lodge. According to the particulars contained in the Master's Statement, the earliest was established at Basingstoke about 1756, where they carried out their Masonic duties, but without any warrant from our Grand Lodge. Subsequently, some of them were moved to Petersfield, where, being in sufficient numbers, they practised their Masonry. In or about 1759 some of them were transferred to Leeds, where they set up a lodge which, owing to differences that arose among the members, was split into two lodges, which met at the Turk's Head and Talbot respectively. These brethren not only made Masons of their own countrymen, but also of English residents, and to this circumstance is due the fact of the matter being brought to the notice of our Grand Lodge. In 1762 the Grand Lodge of All England at York granted a warrant of constitution to a number of French prisoners quartered in that city to meet as a lodge at the Punch Bowl in Stonegate, and to make new brethren, but, at the same time, strictly prohibiting them from initiating any subject of Great Britain or Ireland. This lodge had only a brief existence, as peace was restored between the two countries a few months after the issue of the warrant. Other lodges formed at Berlin and Magdeburgh about the same time are also mentioned. Many years pass without Bro. THORP having been able to trace other lodges, the next of which he gives details having been formed at Abergavenny under the title of the "Enfants de Mars et de Neptune." In this case the author gives an illustration of the room to which tradition points as the meeting place of the lodge, and also four certificates, two Craft and two Rose Croix, one of the former being that of Bro. BENJAMIN PLUMMER, who was a Past Grand Warden of the Athol Grand Lodge, and who was accepted as a joining member, while the other Craft certificate and one of the Rose Croix relate to a Brother THOMAS RICHARDS. All these documents bear among other signatures that of "DE GRASSE TILLY," who was a very distinguished French Mason, especially in connection with the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, which he introduced firstly into the French West Indies and subsequently into France itself, and of whom Bro. THORP has compiled a brief, but highly interesting, memoir. The other lodges of which the author has succeeded in gleaning information were established at Ashburton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Kelso, Leek, Plymouth, Valleyfield, Vittoria, and Wincanton, and in connection with each of them, as well as with the Abergavenny Lodge, Bro. THORP gives illustrations, mostly of certificates granted to members. These Plates are 18 in number—Plate I, which serves for a Frontispiece, containing impressions of the Seals and Stamps used by the Lodges—and, as we mentioned in our Notes of last week, greatly enhance the merit of Bro. THORP's work. Above all, he has been very particular in furnishing the sources from which he has obtained his information, so that the book may be relied upon for its accuracy, as well as appreciated for the admirable manner in which it has been compiled. For the reason already mentioned—that only a small edition has been issued—we recommend our readers to lose no time in securing a copy, which they can do, for the modest sum of 5s., on application to Bro. THORP, at 57, Regent-street, Leicester.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

[COMMUNICATED.]

We now come to consider what is the meaning of suspension.

To have been suspended conveys a very serious reflection upon a brother's character either as a man or a Mason, or possibly both. Whilst it lasts, suspension is practically the same as expulsion, inasmuch as for the time being the brother concerned is absolutely without any Masonic rights or privileges. Exclusion from lodge, even permanent exclusion under Article 210, is not so far reaching as this. The brother who is excluded from one lodge is not debarred from seeking admission into another if he can induce that other to take the risk of having to

pay up (Article 212). But a brother who is suspended cannot go to his own lodge, or become a member of or even visit another, unless he make a false declaration which might possibly—and rightly—lead to his expulsion. It is a somewhat serious power to place in the hands of Provincial and District Grand Masters, and it is noteworthy that appeals against this particular exercise of authority have more frequently been successful than any other form of appeal. The reason probably is that a brother who feels that he has been justly punished is not anxious to advertise the fact beyond his immediate circle by prosecuting what will probably be a fruitless appeal.

Sentence of suspension can be inflicted upon both individual brethren and lodges, and we will discuss the former.

What constitutes cause sufficient to warrant suspension is a question which lies within the discretion of the authority inflicting it, and we can therefore only be guided by the lessons of history.

Insubordination and a disrespectful attitude towards authority have been considered to be sufficient cause.

The fact that the presiding officer in a lodge or province is acting in an illegal or irregular manner has been held to be no justification for treating him with disrespect.

This is common sense, but a brother may naturally ask what he is to do, when the Worshipful Master of a lodge of which he may possibly be an officer, is about to act illegally. In a case already quoted, the Worshipful Master conferred two degrees at one sitting on the same candidate, and the result was that the whole lodge became involved in censure, and in a more recent case, officers were appointed and invested who were not qualified to hold office, and the whole lodge was suspended.

There are two answers to this question—which is by no means an unimportant one. Article 181 provides that any individual brother may claim to have his protest entered in the minutes of the meeting, when his protest is made "on the ground of its being contrary to the laws and usages of the Craft, and for the purpose of complaining or appealing to a higher Masonic authority."

Thus a brother may help himself of any knowing participation in, or consent to, Masonic irregularities.

Still, it is a course of procedure which a brother, who values harmony and brotherly love, hesitates to adopt. It remains, therefore, to add that the collective or corporate censure of a lodge does not affect the rights and privileges of the individual members unless they have, by express designation, been included in it. This was decided by Grand Lodge in March, 1885.

Moreover, it is always open to a brother, when proceedings are contemplated of which he feels he cannot approve, to retire from lodge in an orderly manner.

When an appeal against suspension for alleged insubordinate or disrespectful conduct comes before Grand Lodge, when personal issues appear to be involved, that august body often contrives to decide upon other grounds so as to avoid erecting precedents upon no better foundation than a petty difference of opinion between two brethren, both of whom, perhaps, ought to have known better than to let the matter go so far. A case in illustration of this came before Grand Lodge in December, 1885.

A certain brother who had resigned membership of his lodge some years previously wished to rejoin it, and was duly proposed and visited the lodge on the evening on which the ballot was to be taken. In accordance with custom he withdrew at that stage of the proceedings. During his temporary absence it was suggested that, being an old member, the candidate might be admitted without fee. This suggestion it afterwards transpired emanated from the candidate himself. The ballot was eventually postponed, and on the visitor being re-admitted he was informed to that effect, but no reason given. They then all adjourned to dinner—in Masonic clothing—and, after the Tyler's toast, the details of what had happened in another place came out, and the visitor became somewhat abusive. The Dep. Dist. G. Master heard of it, and ordered the brother to apologise to the lodge, and to one member in particular, and, on his refusal, suspended him. The legal advisers of Grand Lodge advised the rejection of the appeal, but, for once in a way, Grand Lodge chose its own course and allowed the appeal, not so much by way of showing its sympathy with the brother as by way of censuring the lodge for being in Masonic clothing at dinner. Moreover, it was held that after the Tyler's toast the Dep. Dist. G. Master ceased to have jurisdiction!

Of course, it is quite possible, when the merits of a case do not appear to have been gone into, to prosecute a second appeal, but in practice it is found that in the interval that has elapsed all concerned have come to the conclusion that it would be more dignified and in accordance with the best traditions of the Craft to reconcile their differences in a quiet way.

Whilst the Constitutions do not explicitly state that previous to suspension a brother must be called upon to show cause, still such has always been understood, and appeals have from time to time been admitted on that ground by Grand Lodge, even where the appellant did not put it forward. An instance of this occurred in September, 1880.

The unauthorised printing of Masonic proceedings has been held to be sufficient cause for suspension.

Article 205 defines this Masonic offence, but, unfortunately, leaves much to be inferred. It states that nothing may be printed or published without competent permission, "which, by the laws and regulations of Masonry, is improper to be published." It would have been far more satisfactory had some examples been given. As it is, many brethren imagine that the Article only re-affirms part of the obligation in the First Degree, and do not scruple to furnish, even to profane journals, accounts of lodge meetings and proceedings. There are, of course, certain journals which have in the proper manner obtained permission from competent Masonic authority to print and publish Masonic information of this kind, and the editors naturally are held responsible for the common sense interpretation of the Article of the Book of Constitutions.

There ought, however, to be some little check placed upon the growing tendency to publicity.

One influential weekly paper the writer has seen has a "Masonic Column," in which, in addition to Masonic intelligence, the prospects of local brethren's accession to office are, from time to time, discussed, and it is by no means uncommon to find the illustrated papers containing illustrations not only of public Masonic functions, but of private ones.

Those concerned in the conduct of these journals cannot be blamed; but it ought to be known that brethren who supply information, without having obtained permission, render themselves subject to suspension, and, if the offence be repeated more than once, to expulsion.

In the same category would be included the offence of making public comment on what transpired in lodge.

In September, 1880, Grand Lodge had a case of this kind before it. A certain brother having a cause of complaint against some members of his lodge, wrote to the District Grand Secretary about it. The case was appointed to be heard in due course, and the District Grand Master being unable to attend and the Deputy being away, the District Grand Registrar was appointed to preside. Unfortunately, that brother had identified himself with the faction opposed to the appellant. The case was decided against him, and he then printed an account of the proceedings, and in commenting on them described them as a "ridiculous farce."

For this he was suspended. His appeal to Grand Lodge was successful, inasmuch as proper notice had not been given to him. Grand Lodge, however, felt strongly on the merits of the question, and said what it thought of this brother.

CHAOS AND CONFUSION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Recently I detailed in the *Freemason* an undesirable and unhappy state of affairs in connection with Chapter Masonry in New South Wales, namely, the absolute refusal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland to recognise as sovereign bodies the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of New South Wales, both of which were founded several years ago. It was also explained that there is, and has been, for some years past a District Grand Chapter in the Colony under the Scottish Constitution. The prevailing disunion has latterly been intensified in another and quite unexpected direction, that is to say, within the very confines of the United Grand Lodge (Craft) of New South Wales. In plain words, the Grand Master and the Board of General Purposes are at daggers drawn. The trouble has arisen over the granting of a warrant for a new lodge in Sydney. The regulations, it is necessary to observe, are very different from English Masonry, for, whereas in this country it is the Grand Master's sole prerogative to issue warrants, in New South Wales the Board of General Purposes is practically the motive power.

The following is the New South Wales rule:

"107.—Every application for a warrant to hold a new lodge must be by petition to the Grand Master The petition must be recommended by the Master and Wardens of a regular lodge, and be transmitted to the Grand Secretary, who shall submit same to the Board of General Purposes at its next sitting, when, if same be approved, the Grand Master will be recommended to grant the prayer of the petition," &c.

Now for the facts surrounding the dispute. From a "special report" of the Board of General Purposes, on the incident in question, I gather that, in the first instance, the petition for a warrant to open a new lodge was signed by brethren, mainly seceders from an existing lodge in the metropolis, seceders in consequence of dissatisfaction with the results of the elections for officers. Twice the Board of General Purposes declined to

recommend the Grand Master to grant the prayer of the petition, or petitions, strictly speaking, inasmuch as the signatories to the second were different in a great measure from the first document, whilst the name proposed for the new lodge had also been changed. The arguments advanced by the Board of General Purposes for its action seem to be reasonable and cogent, namely:

- "1. That there were already quite sufficient lodges meeting in Sydney."
- "2. That the Board could not see that it was in the best interests of the Craft to reward disaffected brethren by entrusting them with the warrant of a new lodge."
- "3. That the intimation that certain of them would 'leave Masonry,' unless they got what they were pleased to ask for, did not impress the Board favourably."

The petitioners, after the second rebuff, appealed direct to the Grand Master, who recommended the petition "to the favourable consideration of the B.G.P." But the Board of General Purposes stated in its special report: "No new light had been thrown on the question that would permit of an honest reversal of previous decisions. The Board, therefore, felt compelled to adhere to its conviction that the petition could not be approved of, and, consequently, it declined to recommend it."

After this pronouncement one would have considered the matter at an end. However, the climax was of an unusual character, inasmuch as the Grand Master not only granted the much-sought-for warrant, but consecrated the new lodge in addition. The Board of General Purposes accordingly compiled a very exhaustive report of the whole circumstances (through a sub-committee) for the consideration of the Grand Lodge, which circumstances included a digest of evidence given by brethren at an inquiry held by the Board, as also respectful, but at the same time pointed, criticism of the Grand Master's line of action. At the end of the report, however, was an "explanatory note," signed by the President, a Past Dep. Grand Master, by-the-bye, in which he stated that in presenting the report he wished it to be distinctly understood that it had not been compiled by him; that he did not pledge himself to endorse its sentiments nor to support its adoption by Grand Lodge. In due course a large majority of the members of Grand Lodge approved the action of the Grand Master by rejecting the report, the remarks of some of the speakers going to show that the Grand Master is immaculate or infallible, in other words, they believe the "King can do no wrong."

In my humble opinion this is an astonishing and most pernicious doctrine to promulgate in a community that, if anything, is democratic up to its very eyes. But worse follows. The Grand Master issued a mandate to the effect that the article of the Constitutions quoted above must give place to the following regulation:

"Every petition for a new warrant, on arriving at the Grand Secretary's office, must be carefully examined, and then forwarded to the Grand Master, to whom alone it is addressed. If he requires further information, the Grand Secretary must obtain it, and the petition will then be transmitted by the Grand Master to the Grand Secretary for submission to the Board of General Purposes. Any recommendation thereon must be made to the Grand Master, not to Grand Lodge."

The Grand Master prefaced this announcement by stating that the regulation "would remain their (the members of Grand Lodge) guide, until one of his successors otherwise ruled."

From the foregoing it is not surprising to hear that a considerable amount of unrest just now prevails in Masonic circles in New South Wales, so far as the colonial Grand Lodge is concerned. Indeed, an advertisement in one of the Sydney newspapers intimates that a meeting of subscribing Past Masters, Masters, and Wardens was to be held at the Oddfellows' Temple, Sydney, on May 23, "to consider important questions concerning the actions, rights, and duties of the President and the members of the Board of General Purposes, and any other business, &c." It is of some significance to note that the chair was to be taken by M.W. Bro. Sir J. P. Abbott, K.C.M.G., the immediate predecessor of the present Grand Master. Further developments of this singular phase of Australian Freemasonry will, no doubt, be anticipated with some considerable interest in this part of the world.

W. F. LAMONBY.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST LANCASHIRE.

Bro. the Earl of Lathom, Provincial Grand Master, presided on the 27th ult., at the annual assembly of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Lancashire, held in the theatre of the Winter Gardens, Morecambe. Among those present were Bros. R. Wylie, Dep. Prov. G.M.; Captain Garnett, G.S.D. Eng.; Rev. T. Barton Spencer, P.G. Chap. Eng.; John Houlding, P.G.D. Eng.; together with the following retiring Prov. Grand Officers: Bros. C. Forbes Bell, P.S.G.W.; E. G. B. Watts, P.J.G.W.; Rev. Dr. Porter, P.G. Chap.; R. Prosser White, P.G. Treas.; George Oakley, P.G. Reg.; Thomas Loftos, P.D.G. Reg.; W. Goodacre, P.G. Sec.; George Barclay, P.S.G.D.; R. Rawlinson, P.S.G.D.; J. E. Williams, P.J.G.D.; J. Fineberg, P.J.G.D.; Charles Gibson, P.J.G.D.; R. E. Stringleman, P.G. Supt. of Works; Simon Jude, P.G.D.C.; E. Pritchard, P.D.G.D.C.; J. Worthy, P.A.G.D.C.; J. Stubbs, P.A.G.D.C.; E. C. Jones, P.A.G.D.C.; A. K. Boothroyd, P.G.S.B.; W. Longbottom, P.D.G.S.B.; J. Dawber, P.G. Org.; E. Payne, P.A.G. Sec.; W. W. Webster, P.G. Purst.; J. Macauley, P.A.G. Purst.; F. Smith, I. H. Evans, J. Adams, W. Taberner, R. W. Gow, and W. Boden, P.G. Stwds. On the roll of 125 lodges being called, only two (Ellesmere 730 and Hesketh 950) did not respond.

Letters of apology were read from Bros. the Earl of Derby, the Rev. J. E. Jolly, and T. W. Rostron.

The general attendance was about up to the average when the lodge meets beyond the Liverpool district.

The P.G. SECRETARY, in his annual report, said it could not be otherwise than gratifying that the first year of his lordship's rule as P.G.M. had been marked by a continuance of the prosperity and success which in so

eminent a degree characterised the beneficent rule of his late father. (Hear, hear.) During the year two new lodges had been added to the roll—namely, Fylde, No. 2758, of which his lordship was the first Master, and Southport Temperance, No. 2815. Warrants had also been granted for a new lodge at Aintree, No. 2814, and a fourth lodge to meet at Widnes. The number of candidates initiated during the year was 776, and the roll of members was greater than at any previous time in the annals of the province. The income during the year was £1072, and the ordinary expenditure £658, leaving available £400, which had been devoted to benevolence, in the shape of grants to widows and aged brethren, to the Preston Royal Infirmary, and to the West Lancashire Masonic Institutions. The fund raised to perpetuate the memory of the late Lord Lathom had realised over £3000, which would shortly be allocated to the benevolent Institutions of West Lancashire.

The Earl of LATHOM, in commenting on the report, said he rejoiced that the Prov. Grand Lodge was so prosperous. He assured the brethren that he should never forget the reception which they gave him last year. During the past 12 months they had made what he could only describe as a magnificent gift to Charity in subscribing over £3000 to the memory of his dear father. (Hear, hear.) He thanked them from the bottom of his heart for that gift, which he felt would keep green the memory of one who he knew was beloved by them all. Referring to the increase of four lodges in the province, his lordship remarked that their numbers were increasing, he might say, almost daily, and as they were a great province it behoved them to be careful whom they admitted to Masonry. The province did not want one single initiate into Masonry for the sake of his subscription. Each candidate could only be acceptable if he was a good man and true, and, therefore, likely to make a good Mason. Proceeding, his lordship reminded the brethren that his father received during his lifetime a number of presentation malls in connection with the Masonic laying of foundation-stones, and it had occurred to him that, instead of allowing them all to remain idle at Lathom House, he would like to present the one he thought most suitable for the purpose to the Prov. Grand Lodge for the use of the Prov. G. Master, whoever he might be.

Bro. R. WYLIE moved that the handsome gift (an ivory mall) be received with great pleasure, and that the thanks of the Prov. G. Lodge be tendered to his lordship. (Applause.)

Bro. Captain GARNETT, Grand D. of E., seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

As Prov. G.T., Bro. Thomas Edwards, P.M. 1380, was elected by a large majority, Bro. E. Kite, P.M. 823, also a candidate, withdrawing on the show of hands.

The following were elected auditors: Bros. James Platt, J. J. Lambert, T. Callow, G. A. Harradon, and R. P. White.

On the motion of Bro. R. WYLIE, seconded by Bro. JOHN HOULDING, 225 guineas were voted as under: 50 guineas to the Fund for the Relief of Masons in South Africa, 50 guineas to the Indian Famine Fund, 50 guineas to the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, 50 guineas to the Alpass Institution, and 25 guineas to the Hamer Institution.

Bro. J. W. BURGESS stated that £4000 had been placed in the hands of the Grand Master of Capetown for the relief of Masons in distress through the war.

The PROV. G. MASTER added that he should send the contribution to the Indian Famine Fund direct to the Viceroy of India (Lord Curzon), who, as a politician, had had some connection with West Lancashire, and therefore would be able the more highly to appreciate the gift.

A collection taken in aid of the Royal Albert Asylum, Lancaster, realised £32 5s.

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

Bro. Thomas E. Withington...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" T. Thornhill Shann, 2109	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" the Rev. Canon E. E. Wood, 589	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" the Rev. E. W. W. Kaye, 484	...	
" Thomas Edwards, 1380	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" Cyril Beever, 1375	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" F. Smith, 86	...	Dep. Prov. G. Reg.
" W. Goodacre	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" W. B. Roberts, 148	...	} Prov. S.G.Ds.
" Dr. W. H. Murdock, 2294	...	
" T. E. Chambers, 2360	...	
" William Taberner, 2326	...	
" H. Fox Wright, 1313	...	} Prov. J.G.Ds.
" James Hesketh, 1313	...	
" Robert W. Gow, 823	...	Prov. G.S. of Wks.
" Peter Rawsthorne, 2325	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" David Gabrielson, 1502	...	Prov. D.G.D.C.
" J. L. Godden, 1561	...	} Prov. A.G. Ds. of C.
" F. A. R. Neale, 2405	...	
" Joseph Hartley, 2605	...	
" Charles Marsh, 673	...	
" William Boden, 1588	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" E. L. Adams, 2679	...	Prov. D.G.S.B.
" John Proctor, 667	...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" Edwin Myres, 314	...	
" Lawrence Walmesley, 986	...	Prov. G. Org.
" Thomas H. Evans, 724	...	Prov. Asst. G. Sec.
" John Adams	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" E. Wilson	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" John Clayton	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" Thomas Baxter	...	
" J. L. Barrow	...	
" James Hcald	...	
" C. F. Seward	...	} Prov. G. Tyler.
" W. J. Doran	...	

A number of Charity jewels were presented, and the PROV. G. MASTER thanked the large number of brethren present for their attendance and support.

It was stated that the Lathom Memorial Fund, amounting to over £300, will shortly be allocated.

THE MEMBERS of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society will pay a visit to Wantage, the Vale of White Horse, and White Horse Hill, Berkshire, on Saturday, the 14th instant.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOMERSETSHIRE.

Friday, the 29th ult., was a red letter day in the history of Freemasonry at Portishead. The Eldon Lodge, No. 1755, had the honour of entertaining the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset under their banner, and all the arrangements incidental to such an important function were admirably carried out. It had long been the wish of the Portishead Lodge to entertain their provincial brethren, but the lack of accommodation had until recently proved an insurmountable obstacle. The erection of an Assembly Hall, however, made the visit practicable, and the officers of the local lodge having extended the invitation, made the most complete arrangements for the gathering. The Worshipful Master, Bro. Edward Tedder, had the valuable assistance of his Wardens, Bros. H. Stafford and C. J. Tonkin, and the Officers and Past Masters of the lodge in working out the details, and a successful meeting was the result. Perhaps the most gratifying feature of the occasion was the unexpected presence of the Right Worshipful the Prov. Grand Master, Viscount Dungarvan, who only returned two days ago from South Africa. The brethren were delighted to find him looking extremely well, notwithstanding the vicissitudes which he had undergone, and they accorded him a right hearty welcome. The Dep. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. R. C. Else, was also able to attend, and the brethren extended to him sincere congratulations on his restoration to his former health. Every lodge in the province was represented, Bath, Weston-super-Mare, and Clevedon supplying a strong muster. The Eldon Lodge was consecrated in 1878, but it was not until Friday, the 29th ult., that it had the honour of entertaining the Provincial Grand Lodge. The Assembly Hall was prettily decorated. The banners of the 26 lodges were suspended round the room, in addition to the handsome banner of the Provincial Grand Lodge. Above each was a festoon of ivy and evergreen, and other floral decorations were effectively introduced.

Among those who attended were Bros. Viscount Dungarvan, Prov. G. Master; R. C. Else, Dep. Prov. G. Master; T. P. Ashley, P.P.S.G.W.; G. H. Bartlett, P.P.J.G.W.; W. T. Shapland, P.P.G.D.; the Rev. T. H. Langford Sainsbury, P.P.G. Chap.; F. T. Elworthy, P.P.S.G.W.; W. M. Rice, P.P.S.G.W.; L. Howes, P.P.G.D.C.; J. Hayward, P.P.G.S.B.; E. W. Loveless, P.G.P.; G. Norman, P.J.G.W.; W. J. Nosworthy, P.G.W.; C. L. Thomas, P.P.G. Std. Br.; H. Harold, P.P.G.S.B.; C. Curd, P.P.G.W.; G. H. Kite, P.P.G.R.; H. Pittard, P.P.G.S.; J. R. Thebridge, P.P.G.D.; E. E. Phillips, P.J.G.W.; J. Cruse, P.P.G.R.; R. Moody, P.P.A.G.P.; W. B. Biggs, P.P.S.G.W. Gloucestershire; A. Hayman, P.P.G.S.W.; W. T. Shapland, P.P.G.D.; J. W. Pitts, P.P.G.T.; W. M. Stead, P.P.G.S.B.; E. G. Austin, P.P.G.D.C.; O. A. G. Collins, P.G.S.B.; J. Hunt, P.P.G.S.; F. A. Hyndman, P.A.G.D.C.; T. A. Smith, P.P.G.O.; T. Wake, P.G.S.B. South Wales; H. W. Collins, P.P.S.G.W.; W. North, P.P.S.G.D. Monmouth; C. J. Baldwin, P.P.S.G.D.; W. C. Jarrett, P.P.G. Std. Br.; J. Parker, P.P.J.G.D.; and E. Thatcher, P.P.G.O.

The Prov. G. Treasurer (Bro. C. L. F. Edwards) presented the accounts, which showed that an adverse balance had been converted into a favourable balance of £41.

On the motion of Bro. DELBY, seconded by Bro. NOSWORTHY, the accounts were approved.

Bro. ASHLEY, P.P.S.G.W., proposed the re-election of Bro. C. L. F. Edwards to the office of Treasurer, and this was seconded by Bro. F. T. ELWORTHY, P.P.S.G.W., and carried unanimously.

The DEP. PROV. G. MASTER welcomed Viscount Dungarvan amongst the brethren. The last time he heard from his lordship was when he was in South Africa, since which he had had many unpleasant experiences. He felt certain that his lordship would be among them that day when he heard that he had only just returned from the front, and he was not disappointed.

Viscount DUNGARVAN thanked the brethren of Somersetshire for the staunch support which they gave him in connection with the Girls' Festival last year, which established a record in the history of Somersetshire Masonic Charities. They held a place second to none so far as donations were concerned.

The following were appointed as the Provincial Grand Officers for the year:

Bro. R. E. Dickinson, M.P., 973	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" C. P. Billing, 1755	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. H. L. Barnwell, 772	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. E. A. Purvis, 379	...	
" C. L. F. Edwards (re-elected)	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" F. W. Bishop, 291	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" E. F. Wade (re-appointed)	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" W. C. Leaker, 772	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" S. F. Goodall, 446	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" G. W. Knowles, 1199	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" W. H. Westlake, 1906	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" W. C. Thomas, 1222	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" W. W. Webber, 814	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" W. W. Callander, 1197	...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" W. Collett, 1833	...	
" R. W. Hartnell, 261	...	Prov. G. Org.
" H. W. Pearson, 1296	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" J. W. Davis, 2390	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" S. H. Knight, 2038	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" Rev. H. N. Dymond, 1953	...	} Prov. G. Stewards.
" R. W. Mattock, 1199	...	
" E. Davey, P.M. 1755	...	
" A. J. Salter	...	
" S. Bigwood	...	Prov. G. Tyler.
" S. Bigwood	...	Prov. A.G. Tyler.

The DEP. PROV. G. MASTER reported that the Charity Organisation Committee's labours had met with success during the past year, and incidentally mentioned that no candidate who had been taken up by the Somerset province had ever failed.

On the motion of Bro. ASHLEY, a vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Else for his efforts in aid of the Masonic Charities.

Bro. C. L. F. EDWARDS proposed a grant of 50 guineas from the funds of the Provincial Grand Lodge to the South African Masonic Relief Fund, and this was agreed to.

The alms collected were voted to the Seamen's Institute, the amount being £5 17s.

The solo in the closing anthem was taken by Bro. J. H. Stafford, Bro. E. Davey presiding at the harmonium.

The banquet was held subsequently at the Royal Hotel, the Prov. Grand Master presiding.

"The Queen and the Craft" and "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," were proposed from the chair and loyally honoured.

Bro. RICE gave "The M.W. Pro G.M., the R.W. Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. ELSE briefly responded, and

Bro. BRAMBLE followed with some reminiscences of Eastern Freemasonry, expressing the hope that brethren visiting the East would attend Freemasons' lodges there, which they would find extremely interesting.

The DEP. PROV. G.M. gave "The R.W. Provincial G.M. of Somerset, the Right Hon. Viscount Dungarvan." He had no doubt many of the brethren were surprised to find the P.G.M. presiding on that occasion. In South Africa, Viscount Dungarvan had experienced numerous difficulties and dangers, and he was echoing the feeling of every person present when he said they were delighted to see him amongst them in good health and spirits, and without a single scar about him. (Applause.) Sometimes his lordship had had a tent to sleep in, and sometimes he had not. But he had been doing his level best to serve his Queen and country.

The PROV. G.M. replying, said he considered it a very great piece of good fortune to be able to be there, because it was only on his return two days ago that he knew of the meeting. He proposed "The V.W.D.P.G.M. Bro. R. C. Else, P.G.D. of England," remarking that when he left this country he was not anxious as to how the Province of Somersetshire would fare. He knew the affairs of the province would be ably conducted by Bro. Else. (Applause.)

The DEP. PROV. G.M., in reply, mentioned that it was 40 years since he entered the Craft, and 38 years since he became an officer of the province. He had never from that time been out of office.

Bro. MCKENZIE, Coleridge Lodge, No. 1750, gave "The Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, Present and Past."

Bro. C. P. BILLING, P.J.G.W., first replied, and said that the honour which had been conferred upon him that day was reflected on the Eldon Lodge, with which he was proud to be connected.

Bro. F. T. ELWORTHY proposed "The Visiting Brethren."

Bros. J. PARKER, P.P.J.G.D. Wiltshire, and Dr. MONCKTON, Royal Hampton Court Lodge, replied.

The PROV. G.M. proposed "The W.M., Officers, and Brethren of the Eldon Lodge, No. 1755."

Bro. TEDDER, the W.M., responded, and said that the honour of the visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge was enhanced by the fact that a collar had been conferred upon one of their Past Masters. (Applause.)

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

A meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the National Schools, Hendover, on Thursday, the 28th ult., at 4.30 p.m., and was presided over by the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Lord Addington, assisted by the D.P.G.M., Bro. J. E. Bowen, and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers and brethren to the number of about 110, including Bros. J. C. F. Tower, Dep. G.D.C.; J. Stephens, P.D.G.D.C.; J. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; J. J. Thomas, P.G.S.B.; and others.

Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened, the roll of lodges in the province was called by the Prov. G. Sec., Bro. W. Woollett, when it was found that every lodge was represented.

The minutes were then read, and the various reports taken, a special appeal being made to the brethren by the Charity Secretary of the province, Bro. J. Stephens, that the votes might be sent to the Charity Committee of the province.

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

Bro. E. H. Wagstaffe, 948	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" Dr. E. G. Woollerton, 2492	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" the Rev. C. E. Roberts, 2492	...	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" Sir Borradaile Savory, Bart., 631	...	...
" R. H. Hill, 1894	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" H. W. Clemow, 2262	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" W. Woollett, 1894	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" W. H. Bridgman, 591	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" F. J. Harding, 2421	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" W. Birch, 1501	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.
" J. O'Dea, 2683	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" G. C. Tricker, 2430	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" S. E. Hipwell, 2244	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" J. Pike, 1639	...	...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" W. Carter, 1787	...	...
" G. Jameson, 2683	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" A. Rose, 840	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" C. Colgrove, 2435	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" F. Perkins, 2458	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" A. Simpson, 1410	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" S. Gale, 2262	...	...
" E. D. Everard, 2309	...	...
" H. Turnham, 2420	...	...
" W. Yeo, 2421	...	...
" A. A. Wallford, 1787	...	...	} Prov. G. Tyler.
" F. Payne, 591	...	...
" S. G. Gallop, 1894	...	...

An interesting presentation was then made to the Prov. Grand Master by Bro. J. TERRY, on behalf of the Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, consisting of a very handsomely-prepared and bound album of address, containing the copy of a resolution passed by the Committee in grateful appreciation of Lord Addington's services as Chairman of the Festival in February last.

The brethren subsequently dined together under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master, when the usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

Delightful music was discoursed during and after dinner by the private band of Mr. Alfred de Rothschild (by kind permission), which was highly

appreciated by all present, as was also the excellent singing of Bros. Whitworth Mitton (tenor) and R. Radford (bass), and Bro. Alex. Waton, P.M. 591, gave a good recitation.

In the course of the evening, the PROV. G.M. most cordially thanked the receiving Lodge Concordia, No. 2492, for the hearty reception given to Provincial Grand Lodge, especially associating with the toast the names of the W.M., Bro. the Rev. C. E. Roberts, P.G. Chap., and F. J. Hubbard, P.M., P.P.G. Treas., who both suitably acknowledged the compliment.

PROVINCIAL GRAND MARK LODGE OF SURREY.

An emergency meeting of the above Provincial Grand Mark Lodge was held at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, London, W.C., on Wednesday, the 27th ult., at 4 o'clock p.m. Present: Bros. the Right Hon. the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G., P.G.M.; J. A. Braik, P.S.G.W.; Ralph Nevill, P.J.G.W.; F. Lockett, P.J.G.O.; Rev. C. E. Wright, P.G. Chap.; Arthur H. Bowles, P.G. Sec.; G. H. N. Bridges, P.G.D.C.; R. J. Maitland Coffin, P.A.G.D.C.; S. F. Mackway, P.S.G.D.; Francis Dowse, P.J.G.D.; E. J. Packington, P.G. Org.; A. W. R. Sowman, P.A.G. Sec.; Robert Jackson, P.G.I.G.; G. A. King, P.G.S.B.; C. S. Rogers, P.G. Std. Br.; R. Potter, P.G. Tyler; C. F. Matier, P.G.W., G. Sec.; J. A. Farnfield, P.P.S.G.W.; J. Leach Barrett, P.P.J.G.W.; J. R. Mosse, P.P.S.G.W.; Alfred Lambert, P.P.G.M.O.; Thomas F. Easterbrook, P.P.S.G.W.; William Shaw, P.P.J.G.D.; G. W. Fortescue, P.G. Stwd.; A. H. Salter, P.P.S.G.O.; E. Apelt, P.P.G.M.O.; and others.

The P.G. Sec. having read the summons convening the meeting,

The PROV. G.M. rose, expressing the deep regret the news of the loss of their Prov. G. Treas. had caused, who had filled the office with ability and distinction and never done otherwise than give the greatest satisfaction. He then asked that a resolution, which he was about to propose, might be coupled with an expression of the deepest sympathy with his family.

The resolution was as follows:

"That this meeting of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to it by the late Col. Bircham, who has been the Treasurer of the lodge since its formation in 1892, and to express the deep regret experienced by every member of Grand Lodge at the loss which has been sustained by Freemasonry generally throughout the province by the death of Colonel A. H. Bircham."

This was seconded by Bro. J. A. FARNFIELD, who in doing so remarked that Bro. Colonel Bircham had so devoted himself to his duties that he had earned the esteem of the brethren.

Carried unanimously.

The next resolution, proposed by the PROV. G.M., seconded by Bro. J. A. FARNFIELD, and carried unanimously, was as follows:

"That a letter be addressed to Mrs. A. H. Bircham expressing to her the great sympathy the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey feel in her recent bereavement, and enclosing a copy of the resolution passed by the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge."

Bro. A. H. BOWLES then proposed the nomination of Bro. Alfred Lambert, P.M. 198, P.P.G.M.O., to fill the vacant post of Prov. Grand Treasurer.

The nomination was seconded by Bro. J. A. BRAIK.

No other nomination being made, Bro. Alfred Lambert was unanimously elected.

Bro. LAMBERT thanked the brethren for the honour conferred upon him.

There being no other business, the Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed.

Scotland.

INITIATION OF THE LORD PROVOST OF
GLASGOW.

A special meeting of the Progress Lodge, No. 873, was held on the 29th ult., in the Masonic Chambers, Glasgow. There was a very large gathering, the fact that Mr. Samuel Chisholm, the Hon. the Lord Provost of Glasgow, was to be one of the candidates having been made known attracting a number of visitors. The Provosts of Glasgow have hitherto sought "the light" in the Princes Lodge, but with new men old customs pass away, and the Progress Lodge, being in harmony with the temperance principles of the present Lord Provost, it is not surprising that he should turn to the Progress for admission.

The attendance included Bros. John Graham, of Broadstone, Prov. G. Master; W. Phillips, P.G.B.T., Treasurer; Nicholson Haydon, W.M. 2128 (E.C.); W. S. Reid, R.W.M. 87; Thos. Lindsay, R.W.M. 553; James Moffatt, R.W.M. 332; Cowan, P.M. 3 bis; Richmond, P.M. 302; Dick, P.M. 27; Dr. J. Devon, P.M. 873; P. Brownlie, P.M. 873; the Wardens (Bros. J. D. McNeill and W. Phillips, jun.); and others.

Bro. W. NICOL, R.W.M., presided, and intimated the lodge excursion, for which arrangements have been made, welcomed Bro. Haydon, from the English Constitution, and gave the O.B. of honorary membership to Bro. Graham, P.G.M.

There were six candidates for initiation, including the Lord Provost, and the R.W.M., with the other officers, performed the ceremony most creditably and impressively, while the closing lecture was delivered by the Prov. G.M.

Reference was made by the R.W.M. to the reception of Bro. Chisholm as a member, and its possible effect not only to the lodge, but to the Craft in general.

Bro. CHISHOLM, who was enthusiastically received, spoke in appreciative terms of his impressions of Freemasonry. He was pleased to realise that that consciousness was more than confirmed, and that Masonry had a sure and solid foundation.

GRAND TREASURERSHIP, 1901.

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WORSHIPFUL BROTHER
CAPTAIN JOHN BARLOW, J.P.,
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Table with columns for SUNDAYS, WEEKDAYS, and SUMMER TRAIN SERVICE. Rows list stations from London to Edinburgh and Glasgow with departure and arrival times.

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CLEETHORPES, BRIDLINGTON, FILEY, SCARBOROUGH,
WHITBY, ROBIN-HOOD'S-BAY, SALTBURN, REDCAR,
TYNEMOUTH, CULLERCOATS, and WHITLEY BAY, from
King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

WEDNESDAY, July 11th, for 4 days, to EDINBURGH,
from Woolwich (Arsenal) at 6.43 p.m., Dockyard 6.46,
Greenwich (S.E. & C.) 6.59, Victoria 7.32, Ludgate Hill
8.5, Moorgate 8.18, Aldersgate 8.20, Farringdon 8.22,
King's Cross (G.N.) 8.45.

MONDAY, July 16th, for 1 day, to SKEGNESS, from
Moorgate at 6.58 a.m., Aldersgate 7.0, Farringdon 7.2,
King's Cross (G.N.) 7.30, Holloway 7.8, Finsbury Park
7.35, Hornsey 7.18.

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SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1900.

Masonic Notes.

The Quarterly General Court of the Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls will be held at Freemasons' Hall on Thursday, the 12th instant, at the hour of 12 noon, when the list of candidates for the October Election will be settled, and the number of vacancies then to be filled will be

declared. A motion, of which Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.D., on behalf of the House Committee, has given notice, will also be considered, to the effect that a pension of £100 per annum be granted to Miss Emily Redgrave, lately Head Governess, who, in consequence of the entire breakdown of her health, was a few months since compelled to resign that position, nor do we anticipate that any objection will be raised to the proposal. At all events, we fail to see any reasonable grounds of objection to it.

Miss Redgrave, like all the members of the staff of Miss Davis, as Head Governess, was educated in the School, and on leaving was appointed a pupil teacher. From that subordinate position she rose step by step until on the retirement of Miss Davis, she was unanimously elected her successor, and in that capacity, during the few years that she performed its duties, proved herself a most capable instructress and one in every way qualified to preside over so important an Institution. From the date of her first appointment till her compulsory retirement on the score of health, the long period of 31 years elapsed, during which, to quote the words of Bro. Richardson's motion, "she efficiently filled every post" to which she was appointed, and "in view of the fact that her compulsory retirement was due to a complete breakdown in her health brought about by the arduous nature of her duties," it is now proposed to grant her a pension of £100 a year. As we have already said, we do not understand how any reasonable objection can be taken to so modest a proposition. There can be no doubt that Miss Redgrave has devoted all the best years of her life to the Institution, and now that her health has given way under the pressure of her arduous duties and responsibilities, it becomes the duty of the Institution—a duty we feel sure it will discharge with alacrity—to take care that she does not suffer in purse as well as in health.

The Quarterly General Court of the Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys will be held at Freemasons' Hall on Friday, the 13th instant, at four p.m., when the list of candidates for the October Election will be approved, and the number of vacancies then to be filled will be declared.

The Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will be held at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 11th instant, at 4 p.m., when the report of the Finance Committee will be received and considered, such petitions as may have been received will be dealt with, and any other business that may be placed on the agenda paper transacted.

Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge, No. 12, is to be congratulated on its new departure in formally celebrating the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England on St. John's Day in summer, 1717. There are those who delight in multiplying anniversaries for the purpose of celebrating them with greater or less rejoicing, but in England, both in the life of the nation and in the family circle the number of events deemed worthy of special celebration has hitherto been restricted, and in Masonry particularly, the only anniversaries which have been kept are the Jubilees and Centenaries of our senior lodges, and of the Institutions which have been founded by the brethren or by Grand Lodge for the good of the Craft. There can be no doubt, however, that the foundation of the Grand Lodge is an event which is pre-eminently worthy of being annually observed by English Masons generally, and by none of our lodges can it be more worthily commemorated than by the survivors of the four old lodges which took part in its formation.

It has long been known and recognised that two of those Four Old Lodges were still on the register of the Grand Lodge they helped to found, namely, the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2, which in 1717 met at the Goose and Gridiron in St. Paul's Churchyard, and was the senior of the four; and Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge, No. 4, which met at the Horn Tavern, Channel Row, Westminster, and was the junior of the four. These are entered in Grand Lodge as "T.I."—that is Time Immemorial—Lodges, nor has there ever been a doubt as to their being genuinely the descendants of Originals Nos. 1 and 4. They ranked as Nos. 1 and 2 on the roll of the "Regular," or "Modern," Grand Lodge until the union of the "Ancients" and "Moderns" in 1813, when it was agreed that the numerical order of the lodges on the roll of the "United Grand Lodge" should be settled by the cast of a die, and "Ancient "

Nos. 1 and 2 accordingly became Nos. 1 and 3 on the United Register, and "Modern" Nos. 1 and 2, Nos. 2 and 4. Thanks to the researches of Bro. R. F. Gould, P.G.D., it has at length been established, and is accepted by those who have given the subject their attention, that No. 3 of the original "Four Old Lodges" still survives as Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge, No. 12, the date assigned for its constitution being 1723.

How this loss of rank came about is shown in the 1738 edition of Anderson's "Constitutions," where it is stated that owing to a difference that arose among the members of original No. 3, which met in 1717 at the Apple Tree Tavern in Charles-street, Covent Garden, some of them removed to the Queen's Head in Knave's Acre, when they petitioned for and worked under a warrant of constitution, "though they wanted it not." Attempts were subsequently but ineffectually made to have it reinstated in its position, and it rose to be No. 6 on the Register of the "Regular" Grand Lodge, and after the Union became, as it still is, No. 12 on that of United Grand Lodge. Of its identity with old No. 3 there can no longer be any doubt, and, what is more, Anthony Sayer, who was elected and installed on St. John's Day in Summer, 1717, as the first Grand Master of the Mother Grand Lodge of the World, was one of its members. It would be an act of grace on the part of our Grand Lodge if without altering the order of precedence of the lodges on the register, it placed against our No. 12, the letters "T.I." to which it is shown to be entitled, in lieu of the year 1723. There are many, perhaps, who may think the suggested alteration of no consequence, but this is not the case. It is at once a recognition on the part of the authorities that No. 12 is the direct lineal descendant of No. 3 of the Four Old Lodges which founded the Grand Lodge of England, and retains all its Time Immemorial rights and privileges; as No. 12 of 1723 Constitution it is neither more nor less than a lodge—a very old one it is true—which derives its warrant or authority to meet and work as a lodge from the Grand Lodge itself assisted to found.

The recent annual meeting at Hampton Court of the Prov. G. Mark Lodge of Middlesex, under the presidency of Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., Prov. G.M.M., was an agreeable and successful function. There was a good attendance of brethren, and the Reports that were handed in of the state of the Mark Degree in the Province were very favourable, not the least acceptable of the announcements being that the Clapton Lodge, which had been dormant for some time, had resumed work, and was in a fair way to prosper. Under such a chief as Sir R. Hanson, and with Sir John Monckton as his Deputy, and Bro. Stewart Brown as Prov. G. Secretary, there can be little doubt that Middlesex will become year by year more and more prosperous.

"Ex-Pupils' Day" at the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls on Saturday last appears, from the report we have received and publish in another column, to have been a great success, greater indeed than in the case of any previous gathering of a similar character. A considerable number of those who have been trained in the Institution gladly availed themselves of the invitation to revisit the home of their girlhood and met with a most hearty welcome, testifying, as they did in their own person, to the value of the education they had received. It is pleasant to read of these gatherings of Past and Present Pupils, and we hope and trust that "Ex-Pupils' Day" will long remain as an annual fixture to be looked forward to with pleasurable anticipation by all interested in or connected with our Senior School.

Reports of Provincial Grand Lodge meetings are, and, from what we said in some of our Notes last week, are likely to remain, prominent items in our contents for several weeks to come. The annual meeting of Buckinghamshire was held on Thursday, the 28th ult., at Windsor, under the auspices of the Concordia Lodge, No. 2492. On the following day the Eldon Lodge, No. 1755, Portishead, had the honour of entertaining the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somersetshire, while on Saturday last the Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex met at Teddington, the arrangements for the reception of the Provincial Grand Master and his officers being entrusted to the W.M. and brethren of the Sir Charles Bright Lodge, No. 1793.

The proceedings at each of these annual gatherings appear, from the reports we publish, to have been of a most successful character. At Wendover, Lord Addington, Prov. Grand Master of Buckinghamshire, had the opportunity of thanking his Province formally as well as most sincerely for the generous support they gave him as Chairman at this year's Benevolent Festival. At Portishead, Somersetshire had the somewhat unexpected pleasure of extending a most cordial welcome to Lord Dungarvan, Prov. Grand Master, who had only returned two days previously from South Africa; while at Teddington it was the privilege of our Middlesex brethren to salute and congratulate Bro. Admiral St. Clair as the Deputy Grand Master of the Province in succession to the late lamented Bro. Raymond H. Thrupp, P.A.G.D.C.

Correspondence.

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

TIME IMMEMORIAL LODGES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

All who take an interest in the historical evidences of our Craft must appreciate the articles on "Time Immemorial Lodges," by Bro. R. F. Gould, that have recently appeared in your pages. I hope the matter is not to end here, and that steps will be taken to carry out Bro. Gould's suggestion for the formation of a League or Society of these time honoured lodges.

I feel sure such an organisation would stimulate research, and bring to light records and documents, adding to the sum of our knowledge and prove of value to the student. Scotland is rich in old lodges, and I have no doubt aid in the formation of the proposed League will be readily given.—I am, yours fraternally and faithfully,

JAMES SMITH,
Author "Old Lodge of Dumfries," &c.

The Bank, Shotts, N.B.,
July 3rd.

THE R.A. AND OTHER MATTERS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The interesting letter of our Leeds brother wherein he states that on the average only some 23 per cent. of the Craft belong to the R.A., is capable of being answered in many ways, and various reasons assigned as a cause of that small percentage. It appears to me that two principal causes may be suggested. One is that many brethren like myself are under the impression that in the R.A. Degree the offices and chair may only be held by P.Ms.; if this is so, it is not very encouraging to know that you may pay fees, &c., and yet receive no honours, and see a constant stream of favoured brethren passing over one's head. The remedy is to create more P.Ms., but how? Before I suggest a reform it would be interesting and instructive to know what percentage of the 101,000 M.Ms. have really passed the chair; for instance, the question arises have 10 per cent. of the brethren who have been raised to the Third Degree passed the chair, because it is obvious if the R.A. languishes through lack of members it is because there are so few P.Ms. relatively speaking to fill the offices in the R.A. Degree. I believe there is a shrewd suspicion about that no brother has the ghost of a chance of office unless a P.M.

I venture to suggest that a useful reform would be to allow an interval of 12 months to elapse after a brother had been raised as a M.M., and then on payment of three guineas to allow every M.M. to be installed in the chair. This would give a good supply of P.Ms. to draw upon, and it would place all the brethren, as regards Masonic dignity, on an equal footing. At present there are numbers of good and intelligent Masons who, through lack of time or pressing circumstances, cannot wait six or seven years to enable them to qualify for the chair. They lose heart and interest, and drop away, and really intellectual members are lost, whereas if *all*, as suggested, were made Past Masters by payment of a nominal fee, it would give more scope to secure members for the R.A. Degree.

Of course, the objection made is that it would not answer, because it would lessen competition for the chair, which dignity mainly turns upon the brethren making frantic efforts to become proficient in the ritual, so as to attain that honour. Remove the competition, and no one would aspire to the chair; but against this the fact remains that most Past Masters once through the chair rarely trouble further; the strain, perhaps, is too great, and so lodges of instruction and mother lodges rarely see them after they have passed the chair. Now, would my suggestion make matters worse or better? I am inclined to think better; the funds would increase, and the Master for the chair annually could be still chosen as at present. It would place the brethren on a better footing as far as equal Masonic knowledge was concerned. At present it seems to me ridiculous in these days of cheap books and openly sold ritual books to leave the honour of passing the chair to the hazard and fortuitous chance of having to wait six or seven years in one's lodge.

Our Leeds brother speaks of other than the three Degrees. There is no doubt that originally there were three, complete and perfect, and no others, but for some reason the second was sub-divided, and became the M.M.M. Degree, which, after joining, we are told is not "officially recognised," though I have never discovered anyone who could give a valid reason why it is not recognised. If it is so, then it follows the R.A. Degree is not official, for it clearly is the completed sub-division of the third Degree; but if only P.Ms. may take office or the chair in that Degree, then it must be officially recognised, and the question still remains, Why is not the M.M.M. Degree?

I leave these knotty questions for older brains than mine to unravel, and hope to read some criticism on above remarks.—Yours fraternally,

Tottenham, N.

T. MAY, No. 754.

ROYAL ARCH IN RELATION TO CRAFT MASONRY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In the interesting letter on the above subject contributed to your columns last week by Bro. Joseph Mathewman he states in exact figures, without qualification, the numbers of Craft and Royal Arch Masons in England, both in London and the provinces. I have long wished to obtain even an approximate estimate of such figures, and have always been met with the difficulty, amounting almost to the impossibility, of discovering to what extent membership is doubled, and often more than doubled, especially in the London lodges, to say nothing of the labour involved in ascertaining the number of members in each lodge. I am quite willing to accept Bro. Mathewman's statement if he will be good enough to refer me to the pages in the Grand Lodge Calendar where the figures he quotes are to be found.—Yours fraternally,

July 2nd.

P.M. AND P.Z.

THE POSTMEN'S PARK.—The second half of the extension of the Postmen's Park will be formally opened in the course of this month. The unsightly ruins at the west end of the church, writes the Rev. H. R. Gamble (the Vicar of St. Botolph's, Aldersgate), are beginning to disappear, and the pit will soon be filled. The Bishop of London has promised to give an address at the opening, and it is hoped that the donor of the covered way, Mr. G. F. Watts, R.A., will also be present. The garden is now open on Sunday afternoons.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

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ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

Allow me to draw attention to the important fact that the figures used by Bro. Mathewman, in his letter on the "Royal Arch in relation to Craft Masonry," are mine, not those of the Grand Lodge Calendar. The number of Craft Masons in London, and also in the provinces and abroad, given by me in the *Freemason*, June 30th, 1900, are based, as I expressly stated, on an average of 55 to each lodge on the English Register. Only the numbers of lodges, for each division, were obtained from the "valuable little book" noted by Bro. Mathewman. Of course, the error, which I am anxious to correct, does not affect Bro. Mathewman's averages, but it would not be fair to make an official publication—the best of its kind—responsible for my own estimate. As to Grand Secretary Spencer's statement, I do not see how it affects the question now, because at that time, the regular Grand Lodge had not adopted the Royal Arch, and so it was in 1759 "neither Arch, Royal Arch, or Ancient." Bro. Spencer, however, was a *joining member* in 1766 of the Royal Arch Chapter that formed the Grand Chapter, with the Grand Treasurer Berkeley. Lord Blaney, the *Grand Master*, was exalted in the same year, and in the one following occupied a similar position in the Grand Chapter.

W. J. HUGHAN.

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DURHAM CATHEDRAL.

The Rev. Canon Greenwell, the celebrated antiquarian, in addressing the members of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club and the Durham and Northumberland Archaeological and Architectural Society, at a joint meeting of the two societies, held in Durham Cathedral, thus eloquently eulogised the fine workmanship of our ancient Operative brethren as still shown in that noble building: "I assert, with confidence, that no grander Norman building exists. Peterborough, Ely, Norwich, and Gloucester, in our own country, and the great church of St. Stephen at Caen, magnificent as they are in their earlier portions, shine with a diminished lustre when compared with the greater glories of Durham. I will even make a still bolder assertion, and say that no more impressive and inspiring church is to be found in England, nay, I would almost say in Europe." And he thus feelingly regrets the destruction of the fine Chapter House which they had erected 17 centuries-and-a-half ago. The Chapter House, alas! I can hardly say Chapter House, for it is now only a miserable remnant of a building once probably the finest Norman Chapter House in England. It was, by an act of barbarism scarcely credible, almost entirely demolished in 1796, in order, as it is stated to make the room warm and comfortable for the members of the Chapter.

GEORGE MARKHAM TWEDDELL.

Rose Cottage, Stokesley, R.S.O.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The last Saturday in June is always "Ex-Pupils' Day," and Saturday last was probably the most successful of the scores of more or less similar re-unions that have taken place. Ex-pupils turned up in numbers little short of a hundred, and marvellously well, and well to do they all appeared to be—not a few wearing wedding rings of more or less recent date, in one or two cases very recent. A programme of swimming, calisthenics, lawn tennis, croquet, singing, and music was prepared for their delectation, and their creature comforts were not forgotten.

Among those present were Bro. Frank Richardson, Chairman of the month; and other members of the House Committee; Miss S. L. Davis, who for so many years was the capable and respected Head Governess; Miss Broadbent, an ex-pupil, and now the head of the Beddington Orphan Asylum; and Bro. Hedges, the Secretary.

Miss Buck and Miss Hutchinson, the Matron and Head Mistress, respectively, vied with each other in the successful endeavour to make every one happy, and Mrs. Rowarth, the Singing Mistress, contributed much to the pleasure of the afternoon.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MIDDLESEX.

There was a numerous attendance of brethren of the Province of Middlesex at the annual meeting of the Prov. G. Lodge, held at the Parish Rooms, Teddington, on Saturday, the 30th ult., under the presidency of Bro. Lord George Hamilton, M.P. The Prov. G. Master was supported by:

Bros. Admiral St. Clair, Dep. Prov. G.M. designate; E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; John Mason, P.G.S.B.; Wm. Vincent, P.G.S.B.; John Read, P.G.S.B.; R. Biddulph Martin, M.P., Prov. J.S.G.W.; Col. C. E. Leyden, Prov. J.G.W.; Guy Repton, P.G.D.; Dr. A. E. Sansom, P.P.G.W.; Dr. Beresford Ryley, P.P.G.W.; Dr. J. G. Garson, P.P.G.W.; Bartley Denniss, P.P.G.W.; J. Tickle, P.P.G. Reg.; A. Blenkarn, P.P.G. Treas.; H. F. Bing, Prov. G. Sec.; G. J. Thomas, P.P.G.S. Works (Special Secretary for Elections); Sir W. Quayle Jones; A. H. Scurrah, P.P.G.S. Works; W. Dodd, P.P.G.D.; Rev. H. Mills, M.A., Prov. G. Chap.; Rev. C. J. Greenwood; R. Dunstan, Mus. Doc., Prov. G. Org.; J. H. Gaskin, P.P.D.G.D.C.; J. Gordon Langton, Bagot Read, P.G. Stwd.; B. Foster, and a very large number of Prov. G. Officers, Masters, and Past Masters, and brethren of lodges in the province.

The Prov. G. Lodge was opened, the Prov. G.M. saluted in due form, and the minutes read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Miss Thrupp, acknowledging the vote of sympathy passed on the death of her brother, the late Dep. Prov. G. Master.

The audit report was adopted, showing an increased balance. Over £100 had been distributed in charity during the past year.

The report of the Charity Committee, which was also adopted, showed that all cases adopted for election to the Masonic Institutions during the year had been elected, the number of votes polled being over 27,000.

On the motion of Bro. BLENKARN, P.P.G. Teas., a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Bros. Geo. W. Castle, Prov. G. Treas., and G. J. Thomas, P.P.G.S. Works, the Special Secretary for Elections.

Bro. THOMAS returned thanks.

Bros. Biddulph Martin, M.P., Col. C. E. Leyden, and J. Gordon Langton were elected Auditors.

The PROV. G. MASTER then said the brethren would recollect that when

they met last year they were suffering under the recent loss of their Dep. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Thrupp, whose services were well known to them. They felt at that time that as a token of regard and appreciation of Bro. Thrupp's great work, it would be advisable to postpone for a time the appointment of his successor. Since then he (the Prov. G.M.) had appointed Bro. Admiral St. Clair, P.G.D., as Dep. Prov. G.M.)

Bro. Admiral St. Clair, P.G.D., handed in his patent, which was read by the PROV. G. SEC., and he was obligated, invested, and saluted as Dep. Prov. G.M.

On the nomination of Bro. BARTLEY DENNIS, P.P.G.W., seconded by Bro. Dr. GARSON, P.P.G.W., Bro. J. Gordon Langton, P.M. 1460, was unanimously elected Prov. G. Treasurer.

The following Prov. G. Officers were appointed and invested :

Bro. Major Sir W. H. Quayle Jones, 1871	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" C. L. Nelson, 1702	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. H. Mills, M.A., 2163	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. F. J. Greenwood, 1637	...	
" John Gordon Langton, 1460	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" R. E. H. Fisher, 2548	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" H. F. Bing, 1597	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" A. W. Gerrard, 1415	...	} Prov. S.G.Ds.
" Bagot Read, 1309	...	
" Stephen Hussey, 1637	...	} Prov. J.G.Ds.
" W. W. Mansfield, 1549	...	
" Charles Penny, 1637	...	Prov. G.S. of Wks.
" Oscar Rose, 1597	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" Ralli Johnston, 1777	...	Prov. D.G.D.C.
" W. J. Ball, 1897	...	} Prov. A.G.D.Cs.
" H. T. Tallack, 1423	...	
" R. T. Pearce, 1194	...	} Prov. G.S.B.
" G. H. Lewis, 2048	...	
" E. Higgs Bassett, 1579	...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" H. J. Bragg, 382	...	
" J. E. Ruffell, 1793	...	Prov. G. Org.
" W. W. Lee, 2381 (re-appointed)	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" W. Hopkins, 1512	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" A. Loft, 946	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" T. Drew Bear, 778	...	} Prov. G. Stewards.
" W. Dawson, 788	...	
" W. P. Fuller, 1494	...	} Prov. G. Tyler.
" Isaac Hardy, 1460	...	
" Ernest L. Husey, 1691	...	
" Walter Haddon, 2024	...	
" J. Gilbert	...	

In proposing that each lodge not represented at Prov. G. Lodge should be fined one guinea, the PROV. G.M. said it was most desirable, in the interests of Masonry in the province, that the lodges should be adequately represented at the annual gathering. The absence was sometimes caused by inadvertence, and the recollections of the brethren would be quickened by a pecuniary fine.

The D.P.G.M. seconded the proposition, which was unanimously carried.

The sum of 10 guineas was voted to the Vicar of Teddington for local Charities.

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

On the proposition of Bro. BIDDULPH MARTIN, M.P., P.P.G.W., seconded by Bro. J. TICKLE, P.P.G. Reg., 20 guineas was voted to the South African Relief Fund and 25 guineas to the Indian Famine Fund with which the Prov. G.M. is so closely associated as Secretary of State for India.

The PROV. G.M. said he could not let this vote go by without a word of personal acknowledgment, for he felt very much the motive which had induced the brethren to go somewhat out of the usual procedure to assist in the work being done in India. He thanked them in the name of the Indian people for their assistance and it might afford the brethren satisfaction to know that rain was favourably progressing, and they hoped that in each successive week the number of people receiving relief would be diminished.

The Sir Charles Bright Lodge was thanked for use of furniture and Bro. Forge for his valuable assistance in the arrangements for the meeting.

The PROV. G.M. then said that since he had had the honour of being Prov. G.M. he had been most generously supported. That high office made demands upon his time, and he felt he had not adequately discharged the many functions appertaining to the duties. He always looked forward to meet them at these annual gatherings and the dinner enabling him to renew and increase his friends and acquaintances amongst the Craft. Last year he was unfortunately, at the last moment, laid up by influenza and was obliged to forego attendance. Upon the present occasion he had made all arrangements to be present at the meeting and also at the dinner, but late the previous night he was commanded to attend at Windsor in his capacity as Secretary of State for India, as her Majesty was to receive a well-known Indian Prince. Whilst appreciating that honour he was sorry it came at such an inopportune moment. He was glad to say the Deputy Prov. G.M. had kindly consented to take his place, and he felt sure Bro. Admiral St. Clair would worthily inaugurate his tenure of office, for the more the brethren and the Deputy came in contact the greater would be their appreciation of him.

Letters of regret were announced from Bros. the Earl of Warwick, Dep. G.M.; Judge Philbrick, Loveland Loveland, and others.

The PROV. G.M. announced the candidature of Bro. Horace Brooks Marshall, a prominent member of the province, for the Grand Treasurer-ship, and Prov. Grand Lodge was closed.

A dinner was subsequently enjoyed under the genial presidency of Bro. Admiral St. Clair, the Dep. Prov. G. Master.

In giving "The Queen and the Craft," the DEP. PROV. G. MASTER

alluded to the wonderful changes throughout the realm during her reign. The enormous amount of care upon her Majesty owing to troubles abroad would induce the brethren present to receive the toast with enthusiasm.

"H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," was next heartily received.

"The Grand Officers" was proposed by the DEP. PROV. G. MASTER, who said that the majority of these brethren were known to them. They were particularly happy that evening in the presence of Grand Officers, including Bro. Letchworth, the Grand Secretary, who had done magnificent work for Freemasonry generally, and of whom he could not say too much in praise. The other Grand Officers present were Bros. John Mason, W. Vincent, and John Read.

Bro. E. LETCHWORTH, G. Sec., said that on behalf of the body of G. Officers—one of the most distinguished and popular members of which was their Dep. Prov. G. Master—he tendered their warm thanks for the kind reception given the toast proposed by the Dep. Prov. G. Master in such kind terms. It would hardly become him to reply on behalf of those two very distinguished noblemen, Lords Amherst and Warwick, who shared with H.R.H. the M.W.G.M. the responsibility of the management of the Order. He was quite sure that the Earl of Warwick deeply regretted that his engagements prevented his attendance that day. With regard to the G. Officers, he could only repeat what they had heard over and over again. They were all actuated by one motive—to advance as far as they could in their respective spheres the interests of their Order. He could not sit down, as an old member of Middlesex—nearly a quarter of a century—without expressing the great honour he felt at being present after a lapse of years to witness the investiture of his old friend Admiral St. Clair as Dep. Prov. G. Master. He would not anticipate what might be said later on, but would simply express his great pleasure at being present on this occasion.

Bro. JOHN MASON, P.G.S.B., also responded on behalf of the Past G. Officers.

"The R.W. Prov. G. Master" was submitted by the DEP. PROV. G. MASTER. He said the brethren of the province knew the excellent qualities of their Prov. G. Master, and also his great regret at being obliged to return to town owing to a command from her Majesty. For one reason he (the Dep. Prov. G.M.) was glad the Prov. G. Master was not present, for his tongue was not tied. He knew the great interest always taken by Bro. Lord George Hamilton in the province and in Masonry generally, and although he had not been with him very frequently, the reins of office were heavy upon him, more especially with regard to India. A very great responsibility rested upon their Prov. G. Master, and they must therefore make allowances for him, as it was impossible for him to visit the lodges as he could wish. The members of the province had that day shown their appreciation of the Prov. G. Master by voting 25 guineas to the Indian Famine Fund.

Bro. Sir W. QUAYLE JONES, Prov. S.G.W., proposed "The Dep. Prov. G. Master." This was the first occasion on which the toast had been proposed in reference to Admiral St. Clair, and he hoped it would be given for many years to come. They had seen the genial manner in which the Dep. Prov. G. Master had conducted the proceedings, and in voicing the opinions of the assembly he would say they were thankful to the Prov. G. Master for selecting such an excellent Deputy. They had heard from the G. Secretary how popular Admiral St. Clair was in Grand Lodge. Where would they have expected to look for him except amongst the handy men? They felt sure the present Deputy would worthily follow Bro. Thrupp, and emulate him in the love of the brethren.

Bro. Admiral ST. CLAIR, Dep. Prov. G. Master, in his reply said he did not know how to thank them for the kindly way in which they had received the toast. He would not say he came amongst them as a stranger, for he would not allow the term, but he professed to be a "handy man," and in that capacity he had been in every part of the globe, and belonged to lodges in many parts. He had never been to any lodge where he had not received good fellowship. Masonry was not a name only, for it had a higher aspect, and if properly carried out there was an immense deal in it. The way in which he had been received amongst them that day made him feel perfectly at home. When he was first offered the office he had some qualms, knowing he should have a great deal to do and wondering if he should do it properly. He was told there were a good lot of brethren in the province who would receive him well and work in brotherly love with him, and that if he found fault, it would be taken kindly and fraternally. He hoped to visit all the lodges—which was a large order. His disposition was good, and he had a good amount of common sense, and he, therefore, hoped that a year hence they would be able to say that he had fairly done what was expected of him. If they only received his health with the same enthusiasm at the end of the year he should be thoroughly satisfied. He liked order and uniformity and everything in its place, and if he found fault or suggested an improvement, he hoped they would take it in the spirit in which it was meant. He again thanked them and assured them that he would do his level best.

In proposing "The Provincial Grand Officers," the DEP. PROV. G.M. hoped they would have a happy year of office. The first Prov. Grand Officer he met was the Prov. Grand Secretary, who was perfectly willing to carry out his work in a thoroughly efficient manner.

Bro. Sir W. QUAYLE JONES, Prov. S.G.W., returned thanks for the toast, and said they would do their best to promote Masonry in Middlesex.

Bro. H. F. BING, Prov. G. Sec., also replied. Although he had but recently taken up the duties of Prov. Grand Secretary, he had been a member of the province for 24 years. He had not visited many lodges in the past, but they would know more of him in the future. It was a very difficult task to take up a post at short notice, but he hoped his efforts had met with their approval. He could assure them that nothing would be wanting on his part to further the welfare of the province. He should do his best in the general interests of Freemasonry. He was not speaking



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without a certain amount of experience or as a new broom, but he hoped to have the friendly assistance of the Secretaries and brethren in his arduous duties. He thanked them for the kindly manner in which they had received him on the first occasion he had met them as Provincial Grand Secretary.

Bro. WOOLSMAN, S.W. 2662, acknowledged "The Visitors," after which the Tyler's toast concluded a very successful and enjoyable gathering.

Bro. R. Dunstan, Mus. Doc., P.P.G. Org., provided an excellent programme of music and was assisted by Bros. Sinclair Dunn, Chas. F. Frood, G. S. Graham, P.P.G. Org.; T. J. Huntington, and R. Stokoe, Mus. Bac.

Craft Masonry.

Florence Nightingale Lodge, No. 706.

The installation meeting of the above excellent lodge took place on Monday, the 25th ult., at the Royal Mortar Hotel, Beresford-square, Woolwich. It was well attended, no less than 50 members of the lodge and visitors being present.

Bro. E. Lonergan, W.M., opened the lodge, and after the preliminary business Bro. F. G. Nichols, P.M. and Sec., performed the ceremony of installation, and that is quite enough to guarantee its perfection and impressiveness. Bro. H. G. Mason, W.M. elect was installed W.M., and appointed and invested those of his officers who were present as follows: Bro. E. Lonergan, I.P.M.; E. Wood, S.W.; D. G. Jelley, J.W.; the Rev. C. Swainson, M.A., Chap.; A. Burnett, P.M., Treas.; F. G. Nichols, P.M., Sec.; L. F. Webber, S.D.; E. G. Kimber, J.D.; E. W. Jelley, I.G.; Dr. H. L. Bernays, M.D., P.M., D. of C.; E. M. Foster, Asst. D. of C.; C. W. Scantlebury, J. Walford, F. P. Holton, and C. A. Baker, Stwds. The usual Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Lonergan, and a vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Nichols for his excellent work as Installing Officer, and then the lodge was closed.

The banquet was, as it always is at Bro. Hall's handsome establishment, simply perfect, and among the other brethren present were Bros. E. M. Taylor, W.M. 913; Simmonds, W.M. 1536; H. Tufnell, P.M. 700; J. Quick, S.W. 13; and H. Hayling (a Melbourne brother). These brethren severally responded for the visitors.

Mark Masonry.

Temple Lodge, No. 322.

The installation meeting of this very highly successful lodge was held at the Green Man Assembly Rooms, Blackheath Hill, S.E., on the 28th ult., and was well attended. Among those present were: Bros. J. T. Loader, Prov. G.S., W.M.; Hy. Cornford, J.W., W.M. elect; Rev. Hayman Cummings, P.G. Chap. Eng.; P. Dep. Prov. G.M., Treas. and Sec.; S. J. Derham, M.O.; Geo. Thompson, J.O.; Hy. Potter, J.D.; H. C. Turner, I.G.; W. E. Jeffery, D.C.; Frank W. Williams, P.M., Prov. G.S.O.; W. Judd, P.M., Prov. G.J.O.; Wm. Dawson, P.M., P. Prov. G.W.; Fredk. Stephens, E. Spinks, Tyler. The visitors were: Bros. F. E. Po, 333; W. T. Snell, 333; G. E. S. Ware, 534; and Wm. Snodgrass, 534.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Hy. Cornford, J.W., and W.M. elect, having been presented, was installed by Bro. W. Dawson, P.M., P.P.G.W., in an admirable manner, for which he received the heartiest thanks of the lodge. The following officers were appointed and invested: Bros. J. T. Loader, I.P.M.; T. R. Cass, S.W.; S. J. Derham, J.W.; Rev. Hayman Cummings, Treas. and Sec.; Rev. A. Deacon, P.M., G. Chap. Eng.; A. Manners, M.O.; Geo. Thompson, S.O.; R. Sobel, J.O.; Clarence Dodds, Reg. Marks; Hy. Potter, S.D.; Hy. C. Turner, J.D.; Wm. Dawson, D.C.; Walter E. Jeffery, I.G.; Sidney Hill, Org.; and E. Spinks, Tyler. Bro. Pearson, of Earl of Lathom Lodge, 1922, was advanced by the W.M., Bro. Hy. Cornford, in a very impressive and perfect manner. The W.M. next rose, and said a most pleasing duty devolved upon him, and that was to present the Past Master's jewel to Bro. J. T. Loader, I.P.M., unanimously voted by the brethren for valuable services rendered the lodge during the past year. They earnestly hoped he would long live and wear that handsome jewel as a mark of their esteem. In reply Bro. J. T. Loader, I.P.M., most heartily thanked the brethren for that mark of their appreciation, and he should ever wear and cherish it as such. Whatever he had done in the lodge he should continue to do, to the advancement of its prestige and prosperity. The Report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted, which showed the lodge in a very sound financial position.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. T. R. Cass, R. Sobel, Rev. A. Deacon, P.M., G.C.; and others.

The business ended, the lodge was closed, and an excellent banquet followed, which was much enjoyed and appreciated.

The customary loyal and Mark Masonry toasts followed, which were right royally received.

The W.M. gave the toast of "The M.W. Pro G.M., the Earl of Euston; the R.W.D.G.M., Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton; and the rest of the G. Officers, Present and Past," in eulogistic terms.

Bro. Rev. Hayman Cummings responded.

The W.M. next proposed "The R.W. Prov. G.M. of Kent, Viscount Dungarvan; the R.W.D.P.G.M., Bro. Hughes-Hallett; and the rest of the Prov. G. Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. J. T. Loader, I.P.M., Prov. G. Stwd., replied.

Bro. J. T. Loader, I.P.M., in most appropriate and laudable terms, proposed the toast of "The W.M.," remarking upon the efficient working of one so young in Mark Masonry, and showed the grit of which the W.M. was made. He had performed the ceremony of advancement in a most perfect and capable manner, and the lodge would progress under his able rule.

The toast was cordially drunk.

In responding, Bro. H. Cornford, W.M., who received quite an ovation, said it was indeed a great honour to preside over so worthy a lodge, and he most heartily thanked

the brethren for the trust they had reposed in him, and pledged himself to do his very best to uphold its prestige. He tendered his hearty thanks to Bro. Wm. Dawson, P.M., for the very valuable assistance he had given him in acquiring the duties of the chair. He also would take the opportunity of reminding the brethren of the excellent work of Bro. Dawson in the Kintore Mark Lodge of Instruction, held at the Montpelier Hotel, Choumert-road, Peckham, over which he so ably precepted; and also to thank Bro. F. E. Pow, the worthy proprietor, who so readily placed the excellent lodge room at their disposal on the first and third Thursdays in every month. That was somewhat an innovation, but the W.M. felt the necessity of every brother taking office, that he should be able to perform his duties to the best of his ability, and which could not be properly acquired but by attending lodges of instruction.

The toast of "The Advance" was presented by the W.M. in becoming terms, and duly responded to by Bro. Pearson, who spoke of the great pleasure it gave him to join the lodge upon that happy occasion.

The toast of "The Visitors" was presented in most cordial terms by the W.M., and ably replied to by Bros. Ware, Pow, Snell, and Snodgrass.

In presenting the toast of "The Installing Master and Past Masters of the Lodge," the W.M. dilated very fully on the excellent working of Bro. Wm. Dawson, P.M., who had worked the installation ceremony in a most perfect manner, and the lodge was indeed proud of having so estimable and capable a brother. Of the Past Masters, all of them were brethren of great capabilities and distinction, and well worthy of emulating.

The toast was most cordially and appreciately replied to by Bros. Wm. Dawson and J. T. Loader.

That of "The Officers" was duly presented and replied to.

The Tyler's toast closed a very happy and intellectual meeting.

The musical arrangements were carried out most efficiently under the direction of Bro. Frank Swinford, Prov. G. Org. Middx., ably assisted by Bros. A. Court, Fred Stephens, and S. J. Derham, who gave some excellent solos upon the flute. Bro. Frank Swinford ably accompanied.

Excelsior Lodge, No. 226.

The installation meeting of the above lodge was held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Povis-street, Woolwich, on Monday, the 25th ult., when Bro. J. W. Crowdy, S.W. and W.M. elect, was, by dispensation (he not having passed the chair in a regular Craft lodge), installed as W.M. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. C. H. Canning, who finished a splendid year's work by advancing Bro. W. Long, W.M. 700 (Craft). Bro. C. Jolly, P.M., P.P.J.G.D., then, at the request of the W.M., assumed the chair as Installing Officer, and in due course Bro. Crowdy was installed and saluted. He appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. Canning, I.P.M.; R. Fowler, S.W.; J. Wheatley, J.W.; J. Farrier, P.M., P.P.J.G.D., Treas.; G. H. Porter, P.M., P.P.A.G. Sec.; G. F. Taylor, M.O.; J. D. Brooks, W.M. 309, S.O.; W. Chambers, J.O.; H. Jacobs, R. of M.; C. Benstead, S.D.; F. Leaver, W.M. 294, J.D.; G. Rose, D.C.; J. B. Hodgin, A.D.C.; F. Folkes, I.G.; Sanford, Stwd.; and C. Warren, Tyler. Bro. Canning was presented with a handsome and valuable Past Master's jewel, and Bro. Jolly was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his splendid working of the ceremony of installation, the same to be inscribed on the minutes of the lodge, for which and severally these brethren returned thanks. Bro. G. Kennedy, P.M., P.P.G.R. of M., was presented with an illuminated address, handsomely mounted and framed, for his services as Secretary for a period of 21 years, and returned thanks.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren partook of a delightful banquet, served admirably in the spacious billiard-room of the establishment, for which and its excellence Bro. Chambers was highly complimented.

The usual loyal, Grand, and Provincial Grand Lodge toasts were honoured, as were also the usual personal toasts, every Past Master present speaking eulogistically of the Installing Master's work.

Among the other brethren present were Bros. Capt. Geo. Spinks, P.M., P.P.A.G. D. of C.; E. B. Hobson, P.M., P.P.G.D.; J. H. Roberts, P.M., P.P.G.O.; J. Sanderson; G. R. Nichols, P.M. 44; F. Marks; M. S. Goodman; and A. C. Goodman.

Instruction.

ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

A meeting was held on the 28th ultimo, at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, Present: Bros. R. H. Worth, W.M.; E. C. Dowling, S.W.; Botley, P.M., J.W.; Larkman, P.M., Treas.; A. H. Bridger, Sec.; C. Humble, S.D.; Sowerby, I.G.; Langdon, P.M.; and Cronin, P.M.

The lodge having been opened, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Langdon, P.M., acting as candidate. The 1st Section of the Lecture was worked by Bro. Williams, P.M., Preceptor.

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

Bro. William Cowle, of Park House, Stroud, Gloucester, who died on December 13th, aged 80, a retired grocer and an ardent Freemason, bequeathed £2500 to the Sherborne Lodge, No. 702, and £1000 to trustees to establish, or help in establishing, a public museum for Stroud. He devised an acre of land as a site for the museum, and he bequeathed £1000 to be applied in keeping in order an observatory which he had built. He left the site and building of the observatory and the telescopes and other contents of the observatory in trust for public use. The gross value of his estate is £13,708 18s.

Bro. Charles Alfred Sam Schuster, of Withington, Manchester, who died on March 27th, aged 59, and whose estate has been valued at £63,483 gross and £59,631 net, left to the Manchester Infirmary £500, to the Henshaw's Blind Asylum £250, to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls £250, to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys £250, to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution £250, and to the East Lancashire Masonic Systematic Educational and Benevolent Institution £250.

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CHESSE AT "SIMPSON'S."

Chess, like coffee and many other things, came from the East. It has, of course, in passing from India to Europe, become somewhat unlike the original game, for the genius of the Western mind has left its impress upon it—the European, his mark—and certain modifications have resulted. But it was very good of chess to travel westwards, for it might, like those mysterious beings, the Mahatmas, have preferred to remain in some dark, unfathomable region of the East. Its coming hither has certainly given many an hour of enjoyment to thousands, and the number who find pleasure in the game is constantly increasing. The chess centre of London is, as all the world knows, "Simpson's," in the Strand. "The Divan," as it is called, is the place where, at some time or other, every chess-player of note may be seen. Here it is that the English professional Bird reigns, and unlike some reigning monarchs, he is to be seen almost daily. Entering Simpson's at any hour after noon, he is the first individual you note, and however long you may remain he is certain to be there when you leave. Bird has been playing chess for fifty years, and he is still in the very front rank of the masters; yet he is always ready to play with a young amateur, and will readily explain and assist the novice to a right understanding of the game. Bird is a quick player. During a game, some time ago, with a foreign professional, he made 70 moves in an hour, his opponent occupied nearly four hours in the same number of moves. And Bird won! Blackburne, the well-known blindfold player, is sometimes to be seen at Simpson's. His advice is never to take the odds of a piece, as a victory gained under such conditions is never satisfactory. Blackburne is, like Bird, in the front rank of English players. He moves without hesitation, whether blindfold or otherwise; and he is undoubtedly the best blindfold player of the day. Blackburne is getting into years. He is, however, very bright and cheerful, in spite of the fact that he has been playing more years than he cares to remember. It is his opinion that amateur play now is better than at any previous period. Whilst Blackburne is a rare visitor at Simpson's, a young Frenchman, named Rollond, is there almost daily. This player hails from France, by way of Tonquin. He filled a post of some kind when the French first went to Tonquin; but as M. Rollond is fond of chess, and is an expert player, he seems to have made a home for himself in England, and a special home, from noon daily, at Simpson's. He plays a very strong game, and few amateurs can beat him. Many other masters of chess may be seen at Simpson's. There is a professional there daily, a little old Frenchman, who rarely speaks, and then in his own language. He plays a fairly strong game, and is not usually caught napping. It is said he has been playing at Simpson's longer than most people can remember, and has always been known as "the old Frenchman." If Simpson's never suffers for lack of "masters," there is also plenty of amateur play going on, and that of the best. Simpson's is a magnet which draws hither those who love chess. Often a clergyman from Exeter Hall hard by drops in for a quiet game. Some play chess very well indeed, being more at home at the chess-board than when in the pulpit. Chess is also played a good deal by professional men, and barristers, solicitors, bankers, stockbrokers, &c., drop in at Simpson's for a game. These amateurs are in many instances strong players, and a "professional" now and again has to acknowledge his master in the shape of a banker or stockbroker. But it is usually the other way about, and many a "strong" amateur—"strong" that is, in his own estimation—sustains a crushing defeat at the hands of Bird, Fenton, or some other professional player. A "strong" man from a provincial town entered Simpson's with an air of assurance, and took a seat opposite Bird. Humming an opera tune, he said, carelessly, "Do you play chess?" Receiving an answer in the affirmative, he said that he was the strongest player in his town, and that he had defeated a professional who had visited it. Bird expressed his pleasure at hearing this, as he liked to encounter strong players. The amateur then commenced playing, humming a tune to himself all the while. He moved very rapidly, and appeared to be making the book moves of one of the regular openings. But Bird's defence was of a peculiar kind, involving the sacrifice of pieces for a position. At the 16th move, Bird called "Check," and at the 18th, he announced "Mate in two." The face of the amateur was twice as long as at the commencement of the game, and the humming of operatic airs had quite ceased. Other games followed; but the "strong" amateur lost three games in less than an hour. It may be guessed that he left the building a sadder and wiser man, and with a special knowledge of the different degrees of strength in chess. But let it not be supposed that strong players do not hail from provincial towns. The strongest players are, of course, in London; but there are many players who can hold their own with the best London men, and there is a continual improvement in this respect. One word of advice to lovers of chess. If you wish to improve your play, do not forget to drop in occasionally at Simpson's.

STATE OF PAINTING UNDER EDWARD VI.

(Continued.)

Having mentioned the mint, we may notice that among the patent rolls, is a grant in the Sixth of Edward VI., to Anthony Deric, of the office of capital sculptor of the moneys, in the Tower of London; and at the end of the same year, John Brown is appointed, during pleasure, surveyor of the coins. Clement Adams has a grant to instruct the king's henchmen or pages—an office he retained under Queen Elizabeth. Of the Protector's rival, Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, there is a good head in the chamber at Knole, where there are so many curious portraits, supposed to have been assembled by the treasurer, Buckhurst. There are nearly 50 portraits, the majority of which have, certainly, no claim as original. Another person of some note in this reign was Sir John Godsolve, knighted at the King's coronation, commissioner of visitation the same year, and, in the third year, the comptroller of the mint. His portrait is at Kensington Palace and another, in miniature, drawn by John Betts, who is said to have learned of Hilliard (he lived to be an esteemed painter in the reign of Elizabeth). The knight was drawn as bearing spear and shield. This picture belonged to Christopher Godsolve, clerk of the victualling office, in the reign of Charles I., in whose cause he lost £7000, and was near being hanged. He was employed by Charles II. in the Navy Office, and lived to 1604. Guillim Stretes was painter to King Edward in 1551. "He had

paid him," says Strobe, "50 marks for recompence of three portraits made by the said Guillim, whereof two were the pictures of his Highness sent to Sir Thomas Hoby and Sir John Mason (Ambassadors abroad), the third a portrait of the late Earl of Surrey, attained, and by the council's commandant fetched from the said Guillim's house." This most curious picture is a whole length of large dimensions, and nearly of a square shape, and has never been engraved. It was purchased in 1720 at the sale of the Arundel collection at Stafford House, London, for Sir Robert Walpole, who made a present of it to the then Duke of Norfolk. It is now at Arundel. This picture was evidently painted after his death, and as his father, the Duke of Norfolk, was still detained in prison during the whole reign of Edward, it cannot be probable that a portrait of the son, with such marks of honour, should be drawn by order of the Court. On the contrary, its being fetched from Guillim's house by the council's commandant, seems to imply that it was seized by their order. As we have stated, it is now in the possession of his Grace the Duke of Norfolk at Arundel Castle. Architecture preserved in this reign the footing it had acquired under the late king. Somerset House is a compound of Grecian and Gothic. It was built on the site of Chester Inn, where the ancient poet Ocelere formerly lived. As the pension to St. John of Padua was renewed in the third of the young king, one may suppose that he owed it to the Protector, and was the architect of this palace. In the same style, and dating its origin from the same power as Somerset House, is Longleat, though not begun till 1567. It was built by Sir John Thynne, a principal officer to the Protector.

OUR FEATHERED VISITORS.

The Roller is one of the most beautiful of the feathered visitors to this country. But, as is the case with all brightly-coloured birds, it meets with a hostile reception, and generally, no sooner than it appears on our shores, it is shot down by some of the coast gunners, who are ever on the look out for any rare specimens to add to the stock of the greedy dealer, or to adorn the cabinet of some unscrupulous collector; consequently, even if it so desired, it is unable to make a home with us. It is said that this bird has never been known to nest on the British Isles, but other than the persecution to which it is subjected, there is apparently no reason why it should not, as it breeds on the Continent in latitudes only a little further south of us. With the exception of the lower part of the back, and the larger wing feathers, which are bright brown, the entire plumage of the roller, of both sexes, is blue, varying from a very light to dark ultramarine. In size it equals nearly that of the jackdaw. As may be imagined, the brilliant colour of the roller, and its large size, makes it very conspicuous, and in consequence it seldom escapes the eyes of seekers after rare specimens. Its name is derived from the habit it has of flying to a good height into the air, and in its descent turning somersaults, somewhat after the manner of the tumbler pigeons. While so disporting itself, it utters long, harsh guttural cries, which can be heard at a great distance. In fact it is through this cry that the bird mostly reveals its whereabouts, because, apparently conscious of its conspicuous dress, it is a retiring bird, and hides itself, as well as it can, amongst the branches of the high forest trees or on the ground. Its food consists almost entirely of insects and worms, but failing a plentiful supply of these, it eats fruit of various kinds. Southern Europe is where the Roller is most commonly found, and where it regularly breeds. Its nest consists of a few rootlets and pieces of grass, and is placed in cavities of walls or trees. The eggs are white, and generally four or five in number.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

The Signora Duse has appeared in a new part and a new play—"Giocanda"—in which the accomplished Italian actress enacts a noble woman suffering from the infidelity of her husband, a sculptor, who, wavering between his affection for his loving wife and his passion for his model, attempts to commit suicide. The interest culminates in a powerful scene between the two rivals, in which the wife, by her justly indignant denunciation of the mistress, rouses her to such fury as leads to the courtesan's attempt to destroy the sculptor's figure, representing herself. As in her rage she topples over the image, the wife, to save it from destruction in the fall, stretches forth her hands, and pays the penalty of this noble act of self-devotion by having both hands crushed beneath the weight of the marble. The lurid tragedy ends in the prostration of the self-sacrificial wife, maimed in heart and hand, seen bowed down with hopeless misery at the news of her infatuated husband's return to the embraces of his mistress. The morbid action of this story, which may be truly described as more horrible than terrible, none the less gave Signora Duse opportunities for the display of the gentler feminine attributes of patient meekness and faithful endurance, through which her histrionic powers of tender pathos attain their highest and most sympathetic expression. But the play itself, in its realistic presentment of the horrors of a hospital ward, obviously deals with a subject outside the realms of simulative art.

GENERAL NOTES.

A great deal has been written lately about the destruction of fish by otters, and in most cases their slaughter has been advocated on account of the large numbers of fish that these animals destroy. We are sure, however, that otters do not deserve quite such persecution, because, in many, if not in most, cases it will be found that the fish caught by them are diseased, or affected in some other way, and the otters in clearing them from rivers and streams render, thereby, a service rather than commit an injury. But we "humans" are privileged to pass judgment on the deeds of animals without a fair trial, and, if their misdeeds provoke us in the least degree, we give the animals no quarter. In the case of the angler and the otter it is quite a question as to whose voracity is the greater, but the otter has to suffer for that of both.

Among the curious freaks of Nature are abnormal hen's eggs. A New York naturalist describes a double egg, one inside the other, the outer one being of the size of a goose's egg, and the inner one of the ordinary size of a fowl's egg. It is stated that this is only one of several of these extraordinary eggs that the same bird has laid. Another hen's egg, of very large size, on being opened, was found to contain three yolks; this, on being weighed turned the scale at four-and-a-half ounces. On the other hand, there are sometimes small eggs, not larger than a marble, but these do not contain normal yolks and whites, but a mass of opaque coagulated substance, somewhat resembling the ordinary white, but much thicker.

Masonic and General Tidings.

BRO. ALDERMAN AND SHERIFF-ELECT VAUGHAN MORGAN has appointed Bro. the Rev. R. Lee, the Head Master of Christ's Hospital, as his Chaplain.

BRO. THE LORD MAYOR will unveil a bust of the Queen at the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, on Monday, the 16th inst.

BRO. THE ARCHDEACON OF LONDON, P.G. Chap., is Canon-Residentiary at St. Paul's Cathedral during July, and preaches there on Sunday afternoons at the 3.15 service.

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE will attend a general meeting of governors of Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, Marylebone-road, at 22, Portman-square, on the 20th instant.

MR. HAROLD HAYDN GREEN, who is the third son of Bro. Alderman Frank Green, and has been educated at Merchant Taylors' School, has gained the Mansel Exhibition at St. John's College, Oxford.

THE INSTALLATION DINNER of the Tin Plate Workers' Company was held at Ironmongers' Hall, Fenchurch-street, on Friday, the 29th ult. The Master, Bro. A. J. Hollington, C.C., presided, over 100 guests being present.

THE HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND.—October 13th will be observed as Hospital Saturday. A statement just issued shows that the receipts from the workshops and business houses from January to June 16th amounted to £5568 19s. 5d.

BRO. ALDERMAN AND SHERIFF SIR WILLIAM TRELOAR was amongst those who received Princess Christian and party on Saturday last on the occasion of the opening by her Royal Highness of the new wing of the Croydon General Hospital.

On the recommendation of the Secretary for Scotland, H.M. the Queen has been pleased to appoint Professor McCall Anderson, Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Glasgow, to the Chair of Systematic Medicine in that University vacant by the resignation of Sir W. Gairdner.

BRO. ALDERMAN SIR DAVID EVANS reports that, in spite of the recent death of Professor Jones, the principal surgeon, the Welsh Hospital is in a flourishing condition. For some time past the hospital has been stationed at Springfontein, and it is now attached to the large military hospital at that place. The committee have decided, if necessary, to send out further reinforcements of the staff.

ROYAL GARDEN PARTY.—H.M. the Queen has intimated her intention to be present for a short time at the garden party which her Majesty will give at Buckingham Palace on the 11th instant. Her Majesty will travel from Windsor to Paddington by special train, arriving at the Palace about five p.m., and will later return to Windsor.

WITH HER USUAL THOUGHTFULNESS her Majesty the Queen is making provision as far as possible for the widows of officers who have fallen in the war. Mrs. Sherston, widow of the gallant colonel who lost his life at Colenso, has now gone into residence at Hampton Court Palace, and Mrs. Dick-Cunyngham, whose husband was, it will be remembered, picked off by a stray bullet during the siege of Ladysmith, has just been made Lady-in-Waiting to the Princess Christian.

THE UNDER-SHERIFFS.—Bro. I. D. Langton, of 12, New-inn, Strand, who is serving as under-sheriff to Bro. Sheriff Sir Alfred Bevan, has consented to act in a like capacity for Bro. Alderman and Sheriff elect Vaughan Morgan. Mr. Sheriff elect Lawrence has appointed Bro. T. H. Gardiner, barrister, of 8, Lincoln's Inn-fields, as his under-sheriff for the shrieval year ensuing. Bro. Gardiner, it may be remembered, served as under-sheriff to Bro. Alderman Frank Green two years ago.

SIR LAWRENCE ALMA-TADEMA, R.A., Mr. Val Prinsep, R.A., Mr. Frank Dicksee, R.A., and Mr. M. H. Spielmann waited upon Bro. the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House on Saturday, and presented to his lordship a cheque for £10,593 11s. 9d. as the result of the recent exhibition and sales of works of art organised under the name of the Artists' War Fund. This sum was the gross amount collected, no working expenses having been deducted. Bro. the Lord Mayor expressed his congratulations to the committee for the splendid results of their efforts, and requested them to convey his grateful acknowledgments to all who had assisted.

NEW MASONIC HALL, LEEDS.—The corner stone of the proposed handsome and commodious hall, which the Freemasons of Leeds are about to erect, will be laid on Wednesday, the 18th inst. The brethren will assemble at 3 p.m. at the Mechanics' Institute, which is close by, will there clothe and walk in procession to the site. The R.W. the Dep. Grand Master, the Earl of Warwick, has kindly consented to perform the ceremony. He will be assisted by the Prov. Grand Master for West Yorkshire, the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., and the Dep. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Richard Wilson, and will doubtless be accompanied by other Grand Officers. Some account of the new building will appear in our next week's issue.

ONE OF THE OLDEST OFFICERS at the Guildhall—oldest, that is, in point of service, though happily not in years—and one, moreover, who has had the good fortune to make a host of friends in every branch of City life, commercial as well as civic, intends shortly to sever his connection with the grand old Corporation, in whose service he has spent some of the best years of his life. Rest and ease are not his objects, for he will retire simply in order to take up an active partnership in an old-established undertaking in which he has had a considerable pecuniary interest for some years, and which happens—strange though it may seem—to be quite as congenial to his tastes as the work he is about to relinquish. This officer, whose name we withhold for the present, belongs to the third generation of a family that has served the Corporation in conspicuous and responsible positions. The fourth generation, perhaps with equal abilities, has other ambitions, which have led its members to wider and bolder, and, as we hope, still more successful spheres of enterprise. In leaving the Guildhall, the officer to whom we refer will by no means cut himself adrift from City life, wherein he will continue to figure as a ratepayer in three wards, and in many other relations. Nor will he relinquish his interest in Masonry, where he figures as a P.M.

MIDLAND RAILWAY (Summer Train Services, 1900).—The Midland Railway Company's summer service will come into force in July. The most notable features, which call for attention, are the new corridor trains, which the company will run between London and Glasgow, and London and Edinburgh. The trains will be composed of new corridor trains of the latest pattern, including first and third class dining carriages on the day trains, and first class sleeping carriages on the night trains to and from Edinburgh. Through carriages of the same type will be run from and to Bristol, Birmingham, and other points in the West of England, Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton, Blackburn, &c., in connection with these trains. The usual summer "daylight" service will be given to Rothesay during July and August, whereby passengers may leave St. Pancras at 10.30 a.m., and Leicester, Nottingham, Bristol, Birmingham, Derby, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Manchester, and Liverpool, at corresponding times, and reach Rothesay at 9.45 the same evening. A through carriage will be attached to the 10 p.m. express from St. Pancras for Greenock (Princes' Pier) to accommodate the tourist traffic for the Firth of Clyde, and the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland. New luxurious sleeping saloon cars will be attached to the night expresses between London (St. Pancras) and Glasgow and Edinburgh in each direction. The improved services to Ireland, inaugurated in June, via Barrow-in-Furness (the picturesque route via the borders of the Lake district), and via Stranraer and Larne (the shortest sea route), will be continued. The fast steamer Duchess of Devonshire will be placed on the Isle of Man service, via Barrow, until September 29th, and an additional service will be given on Saturday, August 4th, in connection with the train leaving London (St. Pancras) at 10.30 a.m. New through express trains will be run to and from Sheringham, Cromer, Yarmouth, and the Norfolk Broads. Material improvements, both in point of time occupied on the journey and comfort *en route* will be introduced into the services to the "Peak" District of Derbyshire, the English Lake District, and the watering-places of Lancashire and Yorkshire. Other alterations of a minor character will be made in the train service, affecting the various parts of the system, full particulars of which will be found in the Midland Company's July Time Tables and special bills. Holiday travellers should obtain copies of the company's new illustrated guide, "Country and Seaside Holidays," which contains a list of furnished apartments in country and sea-side districts, on, and adjacent to, the Midland line. The book may be had, together with English and Scotch Tourist Programmes, and other publications at the various Midland stations and agencies.

DOWN TO THE 5TH INST. the Indian Famine Fund at the Mansion House amounted to £315,000.

THE MANSION HOUSE FUND for the Transvaal War sufferers amounted on the 5th inst. to £974,600.

THE MERCHANT TAYLORS' COMPANY have forwarded their annual subscription of £1000 to the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London.

BRO. N. FORTESCUE, C.C., J.P., is acting as marshal in connection with the carnival to be held at Walthamstow on behalf of the *Daily Telegraph* fund on Thursday, the 26th instant.

THE BOOKSELLERS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—Mr. C. J. Longman presided at the last meeting of the board of this charity. A sum of £99 1s. 4d. was voted for the relief of 58 members and widows.

THE QUARTERLY CONVOCATION of the Metropolitan College (*Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia*) will be held at the Restaurant Frascati, Oxford-street, on Thursday, the 12th instant, at 5.30 p.m. precisely.

BRO. PROFESSOR GEORGE HARE PHILIPSON, D.C.L., M.D., was knighted on Saturday last by her Majesty the Queen. Bro. Philipson is Prov. S.G.W. of Durham, and the first joining member of the *Aesculapius* Lodge.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES has given her patronage to the British and Foreign Sailors' Society's bazaar, to be held at Great Yarmouth on September 26th, on behalf of the suite of buildings to be opened for the next fishing season.

THE RIGHT HON. JAMES BRYCE, M.P., suggests that the Government or the London County Council should institute an inquiry into the whole question of the future needs of London traffic.

A GENERAL MEETING of the shareholders of the Aldershot Masonic Hall Company (Limited) will be held at the George Hotel, Wellington-street, Aldershot, on the 12th inst., at 8 p.m., for the purpose of receiving the directors' report regarding the progress of the company.

IN ADDITION to being presented with his academic robes as Mus. Doc. of the University of Dublin, Bro. W. H. Cummings, the Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, has been given a silver tea service and a barometer by the professors and staff as a mark of esteem.

THE PRINTING of companies' prospectuses, plans, illustrations of industrial works, Masonic work of all description, &c., produced with rapidity. Fast machinery and every modern appliance for the production of large quantities at short notice. Freemason Printing Works, 16 and 16a, Great Queen-street, London, W.C.

HALF-DAYS AT THE SEASIDE.—Under the auspices of the Voluntary Early Closing Association, 64, Cheapside, an express will leave Victoria at 12.30 every Wednesday afternoon for Brighton, calling at Clapham Junction and East Croydon only. Each Thursday special trains will take excursionists to Colchester, Portsmouth, Bognor, Littlehampton, Brighton, Dover, Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate, and other places.

THE NEW PALACE STEAMERS, LIMITED.—On Tuesday last the Palace steamer *La Marguerite*, in addition to having made her opening trips to Boulogne, commenced her season to Ostend and back in a day. This she did in remarkable good time, starting from Tilbury at 7.10, and arriving back at 9.30, having covered a distance of 230 miles in 12 hours after allowing her passengers two hours on shore at Ostend. A most enjoyable day was spent by the large number of passengers on board. *La Marguerite* will repeat this trip every Tuesday throughout the season, and special train will leave Fenchurch-street at 6.15 a.m. for Tilbury.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES is sending out to the war 20 nurses at once, selected from the nursing staff of the London Hospital. T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales have adapted and fitted up a very pretty farmhouse close to Sandringham for the use of officers invalided from the war who need convalescent help and have nowhere to go. Every detail of the arrangements and the decoration has had the personal attention of the Princess herself. Their Royal Highnesses' intention is to offer this home in the first place to Colonial officers, and have directed that an invitation from them should be given to any such officers to whom the rest and quiet would be beneficial. During their stay the officers will be the guests of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess.

WHERE IS HOT WATER-LANE?—Strange, indeed, is street nomenclature in the City. In the majority of cases, of course, the origin of a name is simple enough. Thus, to give two or three cases, Ducksfoot-lane, in Billingsgate, is a corruption of the Duke's-foot-lane, signifying the time when his Grace of Buckingham had a mansion in the vicinity; and Moorfields perpetuates the fact that at one time the district was a marsh and moor, around which were fields in which the citizens of former days were wont to disport themselves. In some instances, however, the origin of a name remains a mystery. Whence, for example, does Hot Water-court derive its name? Possibly few, if any, readers, save those whose business takes them thither, have even so much as heard of it. To lighten their darkness, therefore, it may be well to point out that it is a blind alley between Fann-street and Bridgewater-square.—*City Press*.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Alfred Chapter, No. 13.

The ceremony of installation in connection with the above chapter was performed at the Masonic Hall, Taunton, on Thursday, the 28th ult., when Ill. Bro. R. Doune Hancock, 31°, was proclaimed re-elected M.W.S. for the year ensuing by Ill. Bro. F. T. Elworthy, 31°, P.M.W.S. Bro. Hancock afterwards appointed and invested the following officers: Bros. R. Knight, Prelate; J. G. Price, 1st General; Dr. J. A. Macdonald, 2nd General; Capt. John Gill, 30°, Treas.; T. H. Chaffin, P.M.W.S., Recorder; G. B. Toms, Marshal; J. Alder, Raphael; J. G. Vile, D.C.; G. Spiller, Capt. of Guard; Rev. H. N. Dymond, Herald; C. H. Samson, Org.; and T. Tidbury, Janitor.

The brethren afterwards sat down to a banquet at the Castle Hotel, presided over by the M.W.S., and the usual Masonic toasts were proposed.

Royal Arch.

Pythagoras Chapter, No. 88.

The half-yearly convocation of the above chapter (attached to the Scientific Lodge, No. 88) was held at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, on Wednesday, the 27th ultimo. The Principals' chairs were occupied by Comps. A. E. Chaplin, P.P.G. Treas., M.E.Z.; Frank Piggott, P.Z., P.G.H., H.; and W. Sindall, J. About 60 companions were present.

Comp. J. M. Harvey, P.Z., P.P.G.H. Suffolk, was elected as a joining companion. Bros. H. M. Martin, 2107; F. E. Apthorpe Webb, 88; H. Kempton, 2727; C. Lacey, 2727; and F. T. McMurray, 2727, were exalted. The work of the P.S. was ably performed by Comp. A. H. Langridge, in conjunction with Comp. B. Chennell, P.Z. The sum of 10 guineas was voted to the South African Masonic Relief Fund, and a similar sum to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, to be placed on the list of Comp. J. H. Moyes. The following Principals and officers for the ensuing year were elected: Comps. A. E. Chaplin, P.P.G. Treas., M.E.Z.; W. Sindall, H.; John H. Moyes, J.; J. Gordon Chennell, P.P.G. Std. Br., I.P.Z.; O. Papworth, P.Z., S.E.; A. H. Langridge, S.N.; T. Hunnybun, P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; W. Purchas, P.P.G. Org., P.S.; T. Leader, 1st A.S.; J. Bester, 2nd A.S.; B. Chennell, P.Z., P.P.G.H., D.C.; H. A. Chapman, Org.; J. V. Pryor, P.Z., P.P.G.S.N., Steward; G. A. Allen, Janitor; and A. R. Hill and C. P. Jones, Auditors. The chapter was then closed.

The companions afterwards adjourned to banquet.