



"PEACE ON EARTH."

The Christmas Number of The "Freemason."

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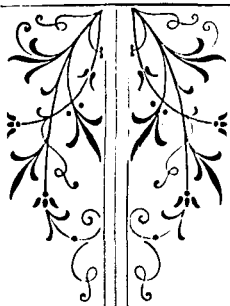
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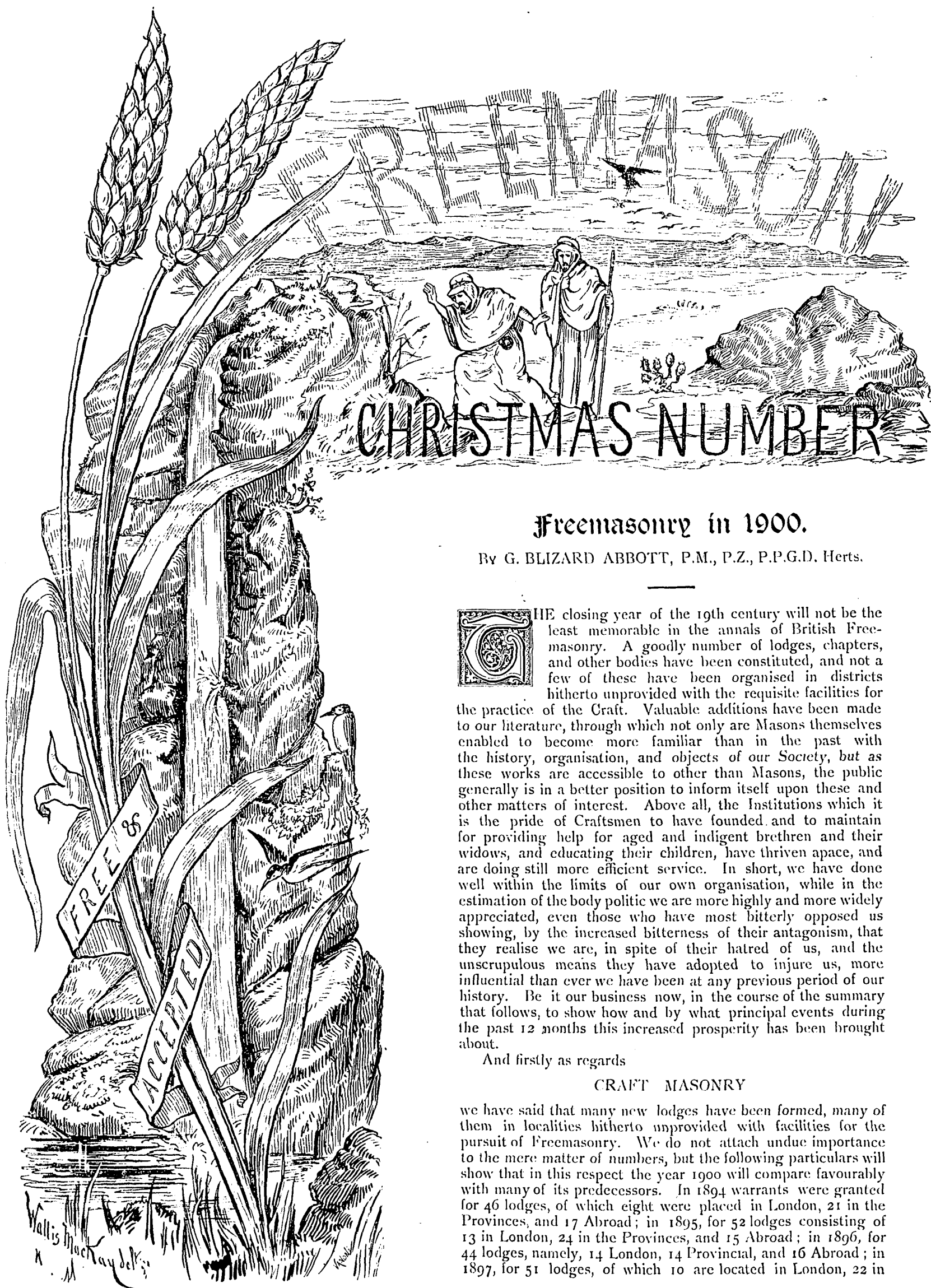
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CHRISTMAS NUMBER

Freemasonry in 1900.

By G. BLIZARD ABBOTT, P.M., P.Z., P.P.G.D. Herts.

THE closing year of the 19th century will not be the least memorable in the annals of British Freemasonry. A goodly number of lodges, chapters, and other bodies have been constituted, and not a few of these have been organised in districts hitherto unprovided with the requisite facilities for the practice of the Craft. Valuable additions have been made to our literature, through which not only are Masons themselves enabled to become more familiar than in the past with the history, organisation, and objects of our Society, but as these works are accessible to other than Masons, the public generally is in a better position to inform itself upon these and other matters of interest. Above all, the Institutions which it is the pride of Craftsmen to have founded and to maintain for providing help for aged and indigent brethren and their widows, and educating their children, have thriven apace, and are doing still more efficient service. In short, we have done well within the limits of our own organisation, while in the estimation of the body politic we are more highly and more widely appreciated, even those who have most bitterly opposed us showing, by the increased bitterness of their antagonism, that they realise we are, in spite of their hatred of us, and the unscrupulous means they have adopted to injure us, more influential than ever we have been at any previous period of our history. Be it our business now, in the course of the summary that follows, to show how and by what principal events during the past 12 months this increased prosperity has been brought about.

And firstly as regards

CRAFT MASONRY

we have said that many new lodges have been formed, many of them in localities hitherto unprovided with facilities for the pursuit of Freemasonry. We do not attach undue importance to the mere matter of numbers, but the following particulars will show that in this respect the year 1900 will compare favourably with many of its predecessors. In 1894 warrants were granted for 46 lodges, of which eight were placed in London, 21 in the Provinces, and 17 Abroad; in 1895, for 52 lodges consisting of 13 in London, 24 in the Provinces, and 15 Abroad; in 1896, for 44 lodges, namely, 14 London, 14 Provincial, and 16 Abroad; in 1897, for 51 lodges, of which 10 are located in London, 22 in

the Provinces, and 19 Abroad; in 1898, for 50 lodges, namely, 18 in London, 23 in the Provinces, and nine Abroad; while last year, the number warranted was 58, London being strengthened by 20, the Provinces by 19, and Districts and Stations Abroad by 19 lodges. During the 12 months ending the 30th November there was a considerable decrease in the number, from 58 to 44, the last lodge contained in the Calendar for 1900 being the Assheton-Egerton, No. 2793, while the latest on the paper of Agenda for the 5th instant is the Sir Walter Raleigh Lodge, No. 2837, Liverpool. Of these 44 lodges, 10 have their quarters in London, 17 in the Provinces, and 17 in Colonies or at Stations Abroad. This places the total number of lodges on the roll at 2374, of which 497 meet in the London district, 1373 in the Provinces, and 504 Abroad, but at no very distant date this last figure will be substantially reduced, when the lodges, which early in the year placed themselves under the banner of the Grand Lodge of West Australia are removed from the roll. As, however, we have accorded recognition to this newly-formed Grand Lodge, this removal from our register will be no loss to Masonry, but only a removal from one sphere of Masonic usefulness to another. Still, the effect it will have on our register will be that the net increase in the number of lodges during 1900 will not carry as much beyond the total at which they stood last year. In any case, we have not far short of three times as many lodges under our banner as any other Grand Lodge.

We have said that nine additional lodges have been warranted in the London district, and of these L'Entente Cordiale, No. 2796, was consecrated on the 30th January by Bro. E. Letchworth, Grand Secretary, assisted by Bro. J. W. Woodall, Past G. Treasurer, and other Grand Officers. In 1884 Lodge La France, No. 2060, was constituted for the convenience of French gentlemen desirous of enrolling themselves as members of the English, the membership being restricted to those who have fulfilled their military obligations to their native country. The duties of the lodge are carried out in strict accordance with the English ritual, but in the French language. This lodge has greatly prospered, and with a view to affording facilities for the numerous friends and visitors, irrespective of nationality, who were thus debarred from joining it, his Royal Highness the M.W.G. Master, was pleased to grant his warrant for the formation of the "L'Entente Cordiale" Lodge, No. 2796, as we have stated, on the 30th January, and of which Bro. Captain Henri Mondehare, a P.M. of the La France Lodge, No. 2060, was installed the first W. Master. In June the Capital and Counties Lodge, No. 2809, was consecrated by the Grand Secretary, with Bro. E. B. Merriman as W. Master, while on the 9th July the Kirby Lodge, No. 2818, so named after the late Bro. Kirby, the respected Preceptor of the Kirby, originally the Clarence Lodge of Instruction, No. 263, and intended for



BRO. EDWARD LETCHWORTH, GRAND SECRETARY.

experts in our ceremonial work, was ushered into existence under the auspices of Bro. Sir Forrest Fulton, Q.C., Recorder of London, as its first W.M. On the 23rd of the same month was inaugurated, for the special benefit of brethren engaged in the profession of journalism, the St. Bride Lodge, No. 2817, the first Master being an experienced Past Master of two lodges in the person of Bro. C. J. Drummond. Two other lodges were consecrated before the month of July ended, namely, the Horistic Lodge, No. 2822, with Bro. Thomas M. Wood as W.M., and the Grove Park Kent Lodge, No. 2824, with Bro. Edward Le May as W.M., the ceremony being performed in the former case by the Grand Secretary, and in the latter, in the unavoidable absence of that officer, by Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.D. On the 8th November, the Grand Secretary had the pleasure of inaugurating the Devonian Lodge, No. 2834, which, as its name implies, is intended for brethren who are Devonians by birth or Devonians resident in London, who may be desirous of joining our Society. The brother who originated the idea of starting

such a lodge is Bro. J. Cockram Taylor, honorary solicitor of the Devonian Club, to whom has been assigned the post of Secretary, but all the founders, to the number of 14, are Devonians, among them being the Earl of Halsbury, Lord High Chancellor of England, Past G.W., who was installed in the chair of Master; Lord Churston, P.M., P. Prov. G.W. Devonshire; Bro. W. Wellsman, C.C., Past A.G.D.C. Eng., the first S.W.; Bro. the Rev. W. Whittle, Past G.D. Eng., the first J.W.; Bro. George Lambert, M.P., the first S.D.; Bro. the Rev. Harry Hebb, Past



BRO. EARL HALSBURY, P.G.W.

G.D. Eng., Head Master of the Boys' School, Chaplain; and Bro. Dr. W. H. Cummings, Past G. Organist, Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, Organist. There was, as we may imagine, a large attendance of brethren, among whom were many Grand Officers; the ceremonies were carried out most admirably, and we doubt not that the lodge, which has started under such brilliant auspices, will have a long career of prosperity.

Of the 17 new Provincial lodges West Lancashire has five, thereby increasing the number on her roll from 122 to 127, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, and Warwickshire gain two each, the numbers on their respective registers being now 22, 55, and 34. The remaining six are distributed among the six Provinces of Cumberland and Westmoreland, Devonshire, Essex, Northumberland, Suffolk, and Guernsey and Alderney. The five West Lancashire lodges comprise the Fleetwood Lodge, No. 2814, located at Walton; the Southport Temperance Lodge, No. 2815, which meets in Southport, and raises the number of lodges in that town to eight; the Widnes Lodge, No. 2819, meeting in the town from which it takes its name; the St. John's Lodge, No. 2825, which was consecrated at Blackpool by Bro. Robert Wylie, P.G.D., D.P.G.M., on the 26th September, and started on its career under the auspices of Bro. John Wray as its first W. Master; and the Sir Walter Raleigh Lodge, No. 2837, which will have its quarters in Liverpool, the number of lodges located in that city being thus augmented to 45. The Alston Lodge, No. 2794, which meets at the town of that name in the Province of Cumberland and Westmoreland, was fortunate in being consecrated on the 2nd November by Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck, M.P., Prov. G. Master, and with Bro. W. Brown for its W. Master, will, we are encouraged to hope, make considerable headway during the most critical period of its career. The two new Cheshire lodges were both consecrated by Bro. Sir Horatio Lloyd, P.G.D., D. Prov. G. Master, the ceremony being performed in the case of the John Brunner Lodge, No. 2799, Over Winsford, on the 13th January, when Bro. Sir John Brunner, after whom the lodge is named, was immediately afterwards installed W.M.; and in that of the Birkenhead Lodge, No. 2826, making the seventh that meets in the town, on the 25th August, the brother installed as its first Master being Bro. the Rev. R. Edwards. Of the two new Warwickshire Lodges, the G. Secretary was invited to consecrate the St. John's Lodge, No. 2811, Coventry, and fixed the 9th October for the performance of the ceremony; while the Seymour Lodge, No. 2804, which meets at Redditch, and bears the name of Lord Ernest Seymour, its first W.M., was consecrated by the Dep. Prov. G.

Master, Bro. George Beech, Past G. Std. Bearer Eng. The additions to the roll of the Prov. G. Lodge of Buckinghamshire are the St. Martin's Lodge, No. 2812, and the Bowen Lodge, No. 2816, bearing the respected name of Bro. John E. Bowen, P.A.G.D.C., Dep. G.M. of the Province, and appointed to meet at Chesham. By the addition to its roll of the Erkenwold Lodge, No. 2808, at Barking, the number of lodges in Essex, under the able and popular rule of the Earl of Warwick, has been augmented to 45, while Sir M. White Ridley, Bart., M.P.—who has recently been raised to the peerage—has, by the formation of the Whitley Lodge, No. 2821, Whitley, 34 lodges instead of 33 under his charge. The Abiff Lodge, No. 2810, meeting at Saxmundham, raises the number of lodges in Suffolk to 23, while in Devonshire, which in the absence on service in India of Lord Northcote, Prov. G. Master, is so ably administered by Bro. G. C. Davie, P.G.D., Dep. P.G.M., has now on its register 60 lodges, the Three Pillars Lodge, No. 2806, having been consecrated by Bro. Davie, at Cockington, on the 8th May, and started on its career, which, we trust, will be a fortunate one, under the guidance of Bro. the Rev. James Hammond, W.M. There remains one other lodge to specify, and that was consecrated at the Masonic Hall, Guernsey, on the 9th May, the ceremony being performed by the Prov. G. Master, Bro. J. Balfour-Cockburn, who was afterwards placed in the chair as W.M., and will, we doubt not, steer it safely through the difficulties which nearly all new lodges encounter at the outset. The name and number of this lodge are the Balfour Cockburn, No. 2805, and the result is a gain of one to the Province of Guernsey and Alderney, of which six, including No. 2805, meet in Guernsey, and the remaining one in Alderney. As regards the new lodges Abroad, such remarks as appear necessary will be found in the concluding section of this Summary.

There has been no vexed question before the Craft for some time past, and, consequently, the proceedings in Grand Lodge have been almost entirely free from anything in the nature of contention. At the March Communication a message was read from the Prince of Wales, M.W. G. Master, in which his Royal Highness drew attention to the very serious distress which had been caused among the brethren in South Africa by the war then being waged against the forces of the Transvaal and Orange Free State, and suggested that a series of resolutions should be adopted for the formation of a general Fund, to which all lodges should be invited to contribute, with a view to alleviating that distress. It should be mentioned that before this course was taken, or rather while it was being considered what steps to this end had better be taken, Bro. George Richards, District G. Master of the Transvaal, had appealed to the Craft through our columns to assist him in raising a Fund for relieving the distress of brethren in his District, with the result that subscriptions, headed by a most generous contribution from Bro. Richards himself, and



BRO. J. BALFOUR COCKBURN, P.G.M. GUERNSEY

amounting to between £350 and £400 was announced. When, however, our respected brother heard of the Grand Master's scheme for a Fund, which should be applied to the relief of all loyal brethren in South Africa, Bro. Richards at once intimated his intention of merging his particular Fund for the Transvaal in the General Fund proposed by his Royal Highness for Masonic Relief throughout the whole of South Africa. Hence, when the G. Registrar explained what had taken place, and Bro. Richards, so far as he was concerned, had endorsed the statements of Grand Registrar, the series of resolutions recommended by the M.W.G. Master were adopted by Grand Lodge with readiness, and a grant of £1050 was voted amid loud cheers, the only difference of opinion to which open expression was given being as to whether the sum was adequate for the purposes intended. However, it was pointed out that if the sum raised

proved insufficient a further application could be made to Grand Lodge, and it was left to the Board of General Purposes, in consultation with the Grand Masters of the several Districts in South Africa, to see that the Fund was administered in accordance with the needs of distressed brethren. His Royal Highness the M.W.G. Master having been re-elected and proclaimed, and Bro. Harry Manfield unanimously elected Grand Treasurer for the year 1900, a motion was adopted allowing lodges which might find it impossible to hold a regular meeting on the day fixed by their bye-laws to hold it, by dispensation previously obtained, on a day not more than seven days before or after such date, and that such day should be deemed "for all purposes" the "regular day of meeting." A letter from Bro. Sir



BRO. GEORGE RICHARDS, DIST. G.M. TRANSVAAL

Albert Woods, G.D. of C., against members of Grand Lodge appearing in clothing other than that to which they were entitled as English Masons, was also discussed favourably, after which Grand Lodge agreed to recognise the Grand Lodge of Western Australia, which had recently been formed by an overwhelming majority of the English lodges in the Colony, on the usual conditions, while it rejected an application for recognition by an irregular body—of which no one seems to have any knowledge either as to whence it sprang or of what lodges it was composed—styling itself the Grand Lodge of W. Australia. At the Grand Festival, which was held on the 25th April, Earl Amherst, M.W. Pro G. Master, before the regular business was entered upon, proposed, and Bro. George Richards, Dist. G.M. Transvaal, Acting Dep. G. Master, seconded, a resolution, congratulating his Royal Highness on his providential escape from assassination, and the motion having been carried by acclamation, the Grand Master appointed and invested the Grand Officers for the year, among them being Bros. Viscount Templetown (S.G.W. of Ireland) and Lord Glenesk as Senior and Junior G. Wardens respectively; Bros. the Rev. F. M. Burton and Herbert W. Turner, Grand Chaplains; and Bro. E. Beaumont as Dep. G. Registrar. It was also announced that, with a view to commemorating his 25 years' occupancy of the G. Mastership, his Royal Highness had been pleased to confer "Past Rank" on 25 brethren of distinction, prominent among them being Bro. Major-General Sir K. M. L. Rundle, commanding a division of the Army in South Africa, and Bro. Major-General Sir F. R. Wingate, Sirdar of Egypt, upon each of whom was conferred the rank of Past Grand Wardens. The Grand Festival was then held under the presidency of Earl Amherst, M.W. Pro G. Master. At the June meeting the usual grant of £70 having been voted to provide fuel during the winter months for the inmates of the Benevolent Institution at Croydon, a motion for altering the hour of meeting from six to seven p.m. was briefly discussed and adopted, and an appeal from a lodge in Burma against the ruling of the Dist. G. Master having been dismissed, the proceedings terminated. In September, on the proposition of Bro. the Right Hon. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. G. Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, who presided, a vote of condolence with the Prince of Wales, M.W.G. Master, on the death of his brother, H.R.H. the Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, K.G., was passed unanimously by the brethren upstanding. It was agreed on the motion of Bro. G. W. Speth,

P.A.G.D.C., that brethren attending Grand Lodge should be furnished with printed copies of the minutes of any previous Quarterly Communication when due for confirmation. Grand Lodge passed certain expenditure which had been incurred for the fittings and furniture of their newly-erected premises, and which the Board of General Purposes recommended. On the advice of Grand Registrar the appeal of a Bro. Coxon—who had been installed W.M. of a lodge in Queensland, but who turned out to be disqualified by reason of his not having served the office of Warden for a year in any lodge—against the ruling of the District G. Master of Queensland to the effect that the proceedings at such installation meeting were null and void, was



BRO. W. W. B. BEACH, P.G.M. HANTS AND ISLE OF WIGHT.

dismissed. At the meeting on the 5th instant a letter of acknowledgment from the Prince of Wales's private Secretary, in respect of the vote of condolence in September, was read. Then followed the usual nominations, appointments, and elections, Bros. Horace Brooks Marshall and Captain John Barlow being



BRO. HORACE BROOKS MARSHALL.

nominated as candidates for the office of Grand Treasurer during the year 1901-2. It was also resolved to sanction the offer of certain members of the Premises' Committee and the Grand Secretary to transfer the freehold of a certain stable, situated in New Yard, between freehold premises belonging to Grand Lodge, which they had purchased at a public auction, to Grand Lodge for the price (£760) they had given for it. The other business having been dealt with, the proceedings terminated.

By far the most interesting event of the year occurred in May, when H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, M.W. Past G. Master, representing H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G. Master, visited Bushey, in the county of Herts, for the purpose of laying the foundation-stones (1) of the new Boys' School buildings, and (2) of the chapel, which is being erected at the cost of Bro. C. E. Keyser, P.G.D., Treasurer of the Institution but this is referred to in its proper place in the Section devoted to "Our Institutions." But though the most interesting and important it is very far from being the only event that is worthy of being included in this survey, and among the most prominent will be found that which took place at Leeds on Wednesday, the 18th July, when the Earl of Warwick, Deputy G. Master of England, in the presence of Bro. the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., and his officers and the brethren of his Province of West Yorkshire and many visitors, laid the corner-stone of the new Masonic Hall, which is being erected in that city for the comfort and convenience of the Craft. A special meeting of the Prov. G. Lodge was held on the occasion, and on the entrance of his lordship, accompanied by a number of Grand Lodge Officers, he was saluted and presented with an address of welcome. The brethren then marched in procession to the site of the new Hall, where the ceremony was performed in accordance with ancient custom. A banquet followed at the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Prov. G. Master, the heartiest Yorkshire Masonic welcome being extended to the honoured guest of the day. Several other meetings have been held in different parts of the country for a similar purpose, among them being one that took place at Hornsea on the 17th January when Bro. M. C.



H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT, PAST G.M.

Peck, Past G. Std. Br. Eng., Prov. G. Secretary North and East Yorkshire, dedicated the new Hall of the Alexandra Lodge, No. 1511. There have also been dedicated sundry new Halls in the Province of Devonshire, the presiding officer having been in each case Bro. G. C. Davie, P.G.D., the Dep. Prov. G.M. Thus, on the 14th March, the new Hall of the Queen Victoria, No. 2755, was dedicated at St. Budeaux; while a similar function took place at Okehampton on the 27th August, and yet another at Ilfracombe in February; while, on the 30th June, the Earl of Lathom, Prov. G. Master of West Lancashire, laid the foundation stone of a new church at Norris Bank, Heaton Norris. We allude elsewhere to the changes that have taken place, either by death or resignation, among the rulers of the Craft, but we must not omit to record the meetings at which effect was given to certain of these changes. Thus, on the 19th June, Lord Henniker, who has been Prov. G. Master of Suffolk for many years, and was appointed in March, 1899, to succeed the late Bro. Sir J. S. Goldie Taubman as Prov. G. Master of the Isle of Man, was formally installed in office in the latter capacity, the ceremony being very appropriately performed by Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, Past G. Chaplain, who is his lordship's Deputy in Suffolk. Again, on Saturday, the 24th November, the vacancy in the ranks of the Prov. G. Masters caused by the resignation of the Earl of Onslow, Prov. G. Master of Surrey, was filled by the induction into the chair of the Province of Bro. Colonel John

Davis, A.D.C., the ceremony on this occasion being performed, and very ably performed, by Lord Onslow. Among the numerous meetings of Prov. G. Lodges which have been held, must be mentioned in particular, that which took place in Buckinghamshire on the 18th July, when Lord Wantage, V.C., G. Master of the Province, held the annual meeting at his seat—Lockinge House—and having discharged his duties as Prov. G. Master, took upon himself the rôle of host, and entertained those present at the meeting with his wonted hospitality. At the Cheshire meeting on the 8th August, Earl Egerton of Tatton announced his approaching resignation of office, and though an attempt was there and then made to induce him to change his mind, he has held by his original intention. At Plymouth, on the 28th of the same month, at the annual gathering of our Devonshire brethren, occasion was taken to present Bro. F. B. Westlake, Past Dep. G.D.C. of England, who has rendered signal service to the Province, with a testimonial, which, at his request, took the form of such a subscription as would make him a Patron of our three Charitable Institutions. At Maryport, on the 14th September, Lord H. Bentinck, M.P., Prov. G. Master of Cumberland and Westmoreland, in taking the chair for the first time since his return from the seat of war in South Africa, was welcomed with a most cordial greeting; while at Durham, a few days later, the Prov. G. Lodge



BRO. COL. JOHN DAVIS, A.D.C., P.G.M. SURREY.

passed, in respectful silence, a vote of condolence with the widow and family of their late chief—Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart. At the meeting of the Prov. G. Lodge of Cornwall, at Camborne, on the 23rd October, a gift of the Grand Lodge clothing of his rank was presented to Bro. B. F. Edyvean, P.A.G.D.C., in recognition of the invaluable services he had rendered to the Province as Prov. G. Secretary. It should also be mentioned that on the 10th September the John Lane Memorial Library, which had been purchased by the Jordan Lodge, No. 1402, Torquay, was unveiled by Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.G.D., his great friend and Masonic collaborator in Masonic literature. In the month of January a notable gathering of distinguished brethren took place under the banner of the Empire Lodge, No. 2108—which was founded in 1885 for the convenience of brethren hailing from or connected with our Colonies—among those present being Bro. George Richards, Dist. G.M. of the Transvaal, and Bro. Sir W. Peace, P.M., the Agent General of Natal. On the 10th April the Masonic members of the National Union of Teachers, then assembled in York were most hospitably entertained by the York Lodge, No. 236; while, on the 5th March, Bro. R. F. Gould, P.G.D., at the installation meeting of the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge, No. 12, read one of his most valuable and lucid papers, in which he demonstrated that this lodge is in fact, if not in number and position on the register, one of the "Four Old Lodges" which founded the Grand Lodge of England in 1717;

and by way of asserting its claim to being No. 3 of said "Four Old Lodges" which, in our opinion, Bro. Gould has succeeded in establishing, the lodge determined on celebrating, with all possible *éclat*, the foundation of the Grand Lodge of England on St. John's Day, or, rather, as that fell on a Sunday, on Monday, the 25th June. The meeting proved a grand success, and, we trust, in future years the anniversary of the foundation of the mother of all Grand Lodges will be commemorated as successfully.

Among other notable events that remain to be chronicled are the annual Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, which was held on the 2nd March. The Earl of Warwick, Dep. G. Master, Prov. G. Master of Essex, had arranged to preside, but at the last moment illness prevented his lordship from fulfilling the engagement, and his place was taken by his respected Deputy P.G.M. Essex, Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., P.G.D. There was, as is invariably the case at this meeting, a formidable muster of the Craft, over 600 brethren, including a host of Grand Officers, being present. The Second Lecture was worked in the lodge in a manner that could not be surpassed, and at the banquet which followed, the Chairman and the rest of the speakers were loud in their praises of the perfection of our "Emulation" working. In October, a stated meeting of the Alfred Newton Lodge, No. 2686, was held by dispensation at the Mansion House, when, in the presence of a numerous gathering of Grand Officers and other visitors, Bro. H. K. Newton, W.M., the Lord Mayor's son,



BRO. H. K. NEWTON, W.M. 2686.

initiated three candidates in a manner which won him many encomiums. Later in the evening, when the lodge was closed, the Lord Mayor, Bro. Alderman Sir Alfred Newton, Bart., P.G.D., after whom the lodge was named and who presided as first W.M., entertained the whole of the members and their visitors at dinner in the Egyptian Hall. This occurred on Saturday, the 13th of the month, and on the Monday following, his lordship, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs, visited in state the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls at Battersea Rise. We may also mention the visit paid by the Earl of Onslow, Prov. G. Master of Surrey, to the Gatwick Lodge, No. 2592, Horley, on the 23rd, and the installation of his lordship's son, Viscount Cranley, as W.M. of the Weyside Lodge, No. 1395, Woking, on the 16th October, nor must we pass unnoticed, the formal unfurling of two lodge banners, of which one was presented to the Norman Lodge, No. 1334, Durham, by Bro. W. Gray, P.M., Treasurer, Prov. J.G.W. Durham, while the other was presented to the Savile Lodge, No. 1231, Elland, by Bro. A. H. Law, P.M., and unfurled by Bro. W. C. Lupton, J.G. Deacon of England, on the 30th October. On the 27th June, a memorial to the late Bro. W. A. Tinney, P.M., Secretary of the Asaph Lodge, No. 1319, was unveiled in Brompton Cemetery, by Bro. C. R. Powell, W.M., while on the 4th July, a tablet, which had been placed by the Lodge, No. 1549, in the Parish Church of Great Stanmore, in commemoration of the virtues of the late Bro. Charles Veal, P.M., Secretary, was unveiled by Bro. F. S. Winkley, W.M.

Among the numerous presentations which have been made during the year, either in recognition of services rendered to the Craft or as tokens of the respect in which the recipients

were generally held, may be noted the following, which are recorded in order of date. Thus, on the 28th January, Bro. J. Percy Fitzgerald, P.M., Secretary of the Logic Club, was the recipient of a gift from the members, who were desirous of showing their appreciation of his efforts in behalf of the Club. In February a similar compliment, and for a like reason, was paid to Bro. John T. Loader, P.M., Secretary of the Rose Lodge, No. 1622, and also to Bro. J. E. Robeson, I.P.M. of the Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192, while the brethren of Durham gave proof of the deep respect and affection they entertain for Bro. the Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., P.G.C. of England, Dep. P.G.M. in the Craft, the new G. Superintendent in Royal Arch Masonry, and Prov. G.M.M. of Northumberland and Durham, by presenting him and Mrs. Tristram with sundry gifts in commemo-



BRO. CAPT. JOHN BARLOW, J.P.

moration of their golden wedding. On the 11th April Bro. Capt. John Barlow, J.P., who is one of the candidates for the Grand Treasurership for the ensuing year, had a special presentation made to him on vacating the chair of W.M. of the John Hervey Lodge, No. 1260, while on the 22nd of the same month Bro. J. Weaver was presented with his Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter clothing on his appointment as G. Std. Br. of Grand Lodge and A.G.D. of C. in Supreme Grand Chapter. In May, Bro. N. Barbenson, P.M., Prov. J.G.W. of Guernsey and Alderney, presented a chair to the St. Anne's Lodge, No. 598, Alderney, in memory of his father, who was one of its founders and a Past Master. In September, Bro. G. R. Langley had his services as Secretary of the Bushey Park Lodge, No. 2381, worthily recognised, and on the 2nd October the Tivoli Lodge, No. 2150, made Bro. W. J. Mason a present of his clothing on his appointment as G. Std. Br. Other cases of a like character have already been mentioned, and doubtless there are many others that have occurred, but they all help to point the same moral—that signal services to Masonry in any of its branches are rarely, if ever, allowed to pass unrecognised, and with this somewhat trite remark we close our survey of "Craft Masonry" during the year.

ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

It is a very nice question and one that we should have some difficulty in answering, whether the Royal Arch has made any progress during the year that is now rapidly approaching its close. There is no doubt that strenuous efforts have been made in several quarters, and more especially in the Province of West Yorkshire, to arouse for it a greater amount of interest among Craft Masons and encourage them to enter its chapters, and it would be the height of rashness to assume that these efforts have been entirely without success. On the other hand, as regards new chapters—and the question of mere numerical strength must be taken for what it is worth—there has been a most decided falling off. In our summary of "Freemasonry in 1899," we were at the pains of going somewhat into figures and gave the number of warrants granted year by year from 1894 inclusive. In that year the number issued was 22, of which six were for the London district, nine for the Provinces, and seven for Abroad. In 1895, the total was 17, of which London claimed two, the Provinces 11, and Abroad four. In 1896, only 16 were

granted, namely, six for London, eight Provincial, and two Abroad; while in 1897, there was a slight reduction to 15, London and the Provinces each obtaining seven warrants, and the odd one being placed Abroad. In 1898, there was a further reduction, five warrants being issued for chapters in the Provinces, and seven for Abroad. Last year there was a substantial recovery, the number granted being 18, comprising four in London, eight in the Provinces, and six Abroad; but this year there has been a return to the total of 1898, namely, 12, of which four are located in London, five in the Provinces, and three in Districts Abroad. Moreover, the Phoenix Chapter, No. 914, Port Royal, Jamaica, which was struck from the roll last year in consequence of its failure to make the necessary returns to Grand Chapter for a long time, has resumed work, and been restored to its place on the register. These then are the figures for 1900, and we leave it to our readers to decide for themselves whether they indicate a diminution of activity and interest in Royal Arch Masonry or whether, having regard to the very large increase in the roll of chapters that has taken place since the beginning of 1875, they may not be ample to meet the present requirements.

The following are the London Chapters for which warrants have been issued, namely, the Guildhall School of Music Chapter, No. 2454, with Comp. W. H. Cummings—the Principal of the School—as first M.E.Z.; the Grafton, No. 2347, with Comps. the Earl of Euston, Viscount Dungarvan, and Sir J. C. Dimsdale, as M.E.Z., H., and J. respectively; the Cavendish Chapter, No. 2620, with Comp. F. Lawrence as first M.E.Z.; and the Engineer Chapter, No. 2599, with Comp. C. Walker as M.E.Z. The five new Provincial Chapters are the Salebeia Chapter, attached to the St. Germain Lodge, No. 566, Selby, in the Province of North and East Yorkshire; the St. Michael's, attached to the Apollo Lodge, No. 305, Beccles, in Suffolk; the Wansfell, attached to the Ambleside Lodge, No. 2749, in the Province of Cumberland and Westmoreland; the Granville, attached to the Lord Warden Lodge, No. 1016, Walmer, in Kent; and the Clarendon, attached to the Earl of Clarendon Lodge, No. 1984, Watford, with Comp. F. Sumner Knyvett, Prov. G.H., as its first M.E.Z., in Hertfordshire. Of the three new chapters abroad, the Southern Cross, No. 1315, Toowoomba, and the Cleveland, No. 2503, Townsville, are located in Queensland, and increase the number of chapters on the roll of District Grand Chapter to eight, while the Fort Dufferin Chapter, attached to the Mandalay Lodge, No. 2219, will meet in the city of Mandalay, and increase the roll to five, of which, however, we believe one is for the present in abeyance. Sundry of these new chapters have already been consecrated, and are doing well.



COMP. VISCOUNT DUNGARVAN.

The proceedings in Grand Chapter have been neither more nor less eventful than usual. In February, the Phoenix Chapter, No. 914, Jamaica, which, after a dormancy of some years, had, as we have before mentioned, been resuscitated before the knowledge reached it of its removal from the Grand Chapter roll, was restored to its place. In May, Past Rank was conferred on a number of companions who had been similarly honoured in Craft Masonry, and recognition was accorded to the newly-formed Grand Chapter of New Zealand as the Supreme Royal Arch authority in that Colony, with the usual proviso that the rights and privileges of private chapters that elect to remain on the roll of England are safeguarded, and on the understanding that our Grand Chapter issues no further warrants in the Colony. In August, a vote of condolence was passed with his Royal Highness the Grand First Principal on the death of his brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, K.G. (the Duke of Edinburgh), and was gracefully acknowledged at the November Convocation,

the only other noteworthy circumstance being the election of Comp. H. A. Tobias, P.G. Std. Br., on the Committee of General Purposes, *vice* Comp. George Graveley, deceased. Not many changes have taken place. Two Grand Superintendents have died during the year—Comps. the Earl of Radnor (Wiltshire), and Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart. (Durham)—and Comp. Canon Tristram, D.D., has been appointed to the last-named vacancy, and was only prevented by illness from being installed in office at the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter on the 1st instant.

What other events have occurred in this branch of Freemasonry may soon be told. In February, a meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Hertfordshire was held at Watford, at which Comp. F. Sumner Knyvett, Past G.S.B., was installed Prov. G.H., and Comp. the Rev. O. C. Cockrem appointed Prov. G.S.E. At the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter of West Yorkshire, at Bradford, on the 16th May, Comp. Richard Wilson, Prov. G.H., who, in the unavoidable absence of Comp. the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., presided as



COMP. W. L. JACKSON, M.P., G. SEPT. WEST YORKSHIRE.

Grand Superintendent, emphasised the remarks of his chief at the annual meeting of the previous year, by again most earnestly impressing on those present the importance of doing all in their power to encourage Craft Masons to take a deeper interest in Royal Arch Masonry, expressing his belief that, though in West Yorkshire they were strong in the latter as compared with many other Provinces, they ought not to rest content until at least one-half of the Craft brethren had been exalted. Other Provincial Grand Chapters have also met, as usual, but, though the proceedings have been in the main satisfactory, there is an apathy about them which is greatly to be regretted, and which, we trust, will at no distant date be overcome.

MARK MASONRY.

The present year has been one of well-nigh unequalled prosperity in this branch of our Masonic system. Quite a number of new lodges, both Mark and Royal Ark Mariner, have been warranted, and an old T.I. Lodge of the former Degree, which had held aloof from the Mark organisation, and, curiously enough, was last year declared irregular—owing, no doubt, to its introduction of the word "Grand" into its title—has been re-constituted, and assigned a place on the register according well with the rights and privileges it seems to be fairly entitled to claim. There has also been a large addition to the number of registered

members, while, above all, in respect of the great event of the year—the Festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund—there has been established a record which it will be difficult to equal and still more difficult to beat.

Including there-constituted Ashton District Time Immemorial Lodge, there have been added 15 lodges to the roll of the Grand Mark Lodge, of which one—the Empress, No. 533—meets in London, eight in the Provinces, and six Abroad. The Provincial eight comprise the Rose Lodge, No. 534, Camberwell, in the Province of Surrey; the Wythenshawe, No. 532, Northenden, and the Ashton District Lodge (T.I.), Dukinfield, in the Province of Cheshire; the Brontë Lodge, No. 535, Haworth, in West Yorkshire; the Philanthropic, No. 538, King's Lynn, in East Anglia; the South Devon Union Lodge, No. 540, Ilfracombe, in Devonshire; the Staffordshire Knot Lodge, No. 541, Stafford, in the Province of Staffordshire; and the Unity, No. 544, Liverpool, in the Province of Lancashire. The following are the new Mark Lodges Abroad, namely, the Orient Lodge, No. 531, Howrah, in the District of Bengal, which was consecrated by Bro. E. G. Sinclair, Past Dist. G.W., on the 17th February, with that well-known zealous Mason, Bro. H. M. Rustonjee as the first occupant of the chair of A.; the Lodges of Friendship and Union, Nos. 536 and 537, respectively, in the District of North Africa; the Bundaberg Lodge, No. 539, in Queensland; the Davoren, No. 542, Wellington, in the District of Madras; and the Bassein Lodge, No. 543, in that of Burma. Of the above lodges the majority have entered upon their career with, we are glad to say, every prospect of success, the most important of them all—the Ashton District Lodge—having been consecrated and re-constituted by the Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro G.M.M., at a Movable Grand Lodge held for the purpose at the Board Schools, Dukinfield, on the 17th February, in the presence of a very numerous gathering of brethren, amongst whom were some 20 Grand Officers, many of the Prov. Grand Officers of Cheshire and other Provinces. Before the ceremony commenced Bro. the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., Prov. G.M. of Cheshire, re-obligated 53 members of the old lodge, and when Lord Euston had performed his duty, Bro. C. F. Matier, G. Mark Secretary, installed Bro. Dr. T. D. Foreman, who had previously had conferred upon him the rank of Past G.O. of England in recognition of his services in assisting to bring about the union of the lodge with the Grand Lodge, in the chair of A., the officers were invested, and the customary banquet followed. On the 17th March Bro. C. L. Mason, Prov. G.M.M. of West Yorkshire, consecrated the Brontë Lodge, No. 535, Haworth. In September, the opportunity afforded by the annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Staffordshire was taken to consecrate the Staffordshire Knot Lodge, No. 541, Stafford, the ceremony being performed by Lord Euston, and Bro. J. F. Pepper—who has since been installed Prov. G.M.M. in place of the late Bro. Col. G. S. Tudor—installed as the first W.M. It should also be mentioned that the old Fortescue Mark Lodge, No. 9, of South Molton, in the Province of Devon, which had been in abeyance for 14 years, was resuscitated, with every likelihood of success, on the 29th May, with Bro. the Rev. T. Russell as W.M. In addition, however, to these Mark lodges, there have been warranted seven Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, of which the Star is attached to the Mark Lodge of the same name, No. 49, in London; the Elmete, attached to the Copley Mark Lodge, No. 111, Leeds, and consecrated by Bro. C. L. Mason, Prov. G.M.M., on the 21st March; the Wilbraham, attached to the Mark Lodge, No. 523, of the same name, at Widnes, in the Province of Cheshire; the United Service, attached to Mark

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Lodge, No. 69, New Brompton, in Kent, and consecrated by Viscount Dungarvan, Prov. G.M.M., on the 7th November; and the Leopold, attached to No. 235, in the Province of Berks and Oxon. The other two lodges are located Abroad, namely, the Courtenay Luck, attached to the Mark Lodge No. 526, in the District of Queensland, and the Antiquity, No. 82, at Bangalore, in that of Madras. The number of Mark certificates issued during the period under observation is 1548, raising the number of registered Mark Master Masons to 42,000, while the Royal Ark Mariner certificates are 281, and the total number registered from the beginning, 6337.

The proceedings in Grand Lodge have been of the usual character, with the exception of the Movable Grand Lodge, which has already been mentioned, in connection with the Ashton District T.I. Lodge. In March, Bro. John Dimsdale, as the only candidate nominated, was elected Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year. On the 27th April a Special Communication was held for the purpose of voting an Address of Congratulation to his Royal Highness the M.W.G.M.M. on his providential escape from assassination, and a letter of thanks from the Prince's Secretary was read at the regular Communication on the 5th June, when the Grand Officers were appointed and invested, and Mark Masonry held its annual Grand Festival. In September, a vote of condolence with his Royal Highness the M.W.G.M.M. on the death of his brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, was passed, while subsequently Bro. C. F. Matier, Grand Secretary, on behalf of the Board of Stewards for the Mark Benevolent Fund Festival, at which the Pro Grand Master had presided as Chairman, presented Lord Euston with an address of congratulation in album form on the record success then achieved. On the 4th December the vote of condolence to the Grand Mark Master, which was



BRO. THE EARL OF EUSTON, M.W. PRO G.M.

passed at the previous meeting, was acknowledged, the other business, including the re-nomination of the Prince of Wales as Grand Master, and the nomination of Bro. Harry Manfield for the office of Grand Treasurer. Nor should we omit to mention among the few changes that have taken place in the *personnel* of the Degree among its chief dignitaries was the investiture, in June, of Bro. the Hon. A. de Tatton Egerton as Deputy G.M., in succession to Viscount Dungarvan, who is content with his office of Prov. G.M.M. of Kent.

But beyond all question the greatest and most important event of the year has been, as heretofore, the celebration of the annual Festival in behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund. This was held at Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, the 11th July, under the presidency of the Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro G.M., and a resolute attempt to beat the record having been determined on, a strong body of Stewards, which ultimately mustered 302 ladies and brethren, was formed, with the result that when the eventful day arrived, the Chairman had the pleasure of hearing from the Secretary of the Board a grand total of donations and subscriptions amounting to £5113 6s. Towards raising this sum Lord Euston himself compiled a list of £976 5s, while London contributed £887 8s., and the Provinces, as many as 30 out of 34 of which were represented—with Foreign Stations, &c., £4,225 18s., inclusive, of course, of the Chairman's list. The principal items in the last-named total were £621 10s. from West Yorkshire £320 5s. and

£214 2s. from Lord Euston's Provinces of (1) Leicestershire and Rutland and (2) Northants, Hunts, and Beds; and £267 18s. from Derbyshire. There is no need to write at length about a success which speaks for itself, and which, as we have already said, there will be great difficulty in beating. The Board of Stewards fully recognised the greatness of the success by presenting the Chairman with an illuminated address of thanks for his services, and all we can say further is that we trust that future Festivals will be the means of raising if not as large totals, at all events, totals that will help to maintain the Fund in its present condition of efficiency.

CHIVALRIC AND HIGH GRADE MASONRY.

Of the several Rites, Degrees, and Orders, which are included in this group, the most influential is the Ancient and Accepted Rite, of which the governing body is the Supreme Council, 33°. The year has not been an eventful one, but it has fully maintained its position both as regards members and financially. One new Rose Croix Chapter has been added to the roll, that of St. Augustine, No. 144, Chatham, which has commenced its career under the auspices of Bro. Commander J. D. Dawtree, R.N., as its first M.W.S. This raises the number on the roll to 144, of which, however, 26 are returned as not working. There do not appear to have been any changes among the members of the Council, while the addition to the rolls of members of the 32°, 31° and 30° are about as usual, and there has been a considerable accession of members of the 18°. Among the donations made by the Council will be found £50 to the Century Fund in behalf of the Masonic Orphan Boys' School, Dublin; 100 guineas to the Transvaal Refugees Fund; and 100 guineas to the "Daily Telegraph Fund" for Soldiers' Widows and Orphans; the total of the benefactions in 1900 being £281. In the Order of the Temple the most important event has been the annual conference of delegates from the Great Priories of England and Ireland and the Chapter General of Scotland, which was held in London, and timed to meet as nearly as possible to the half-yearly meeting of our Great Priory in May, when new officers are appointed, and there is necessarily a stronger muster of members of the Templar body. We have also much pleasure in recording that a new preceptory—the Bernard de Tremelay, No. 170—was consecrated at Walsall by the Earl of Euston, M.E. and Supreme Grand Master, on the 22nd February, and that to judge from the more numerous meetings of the Provincial Priories which have been reported in our columns, there is decidedly an increase of energy and activity in the Order, which bodes well for the continuance of its prosperity. On the 5th March, the Earl of Euston, M. Ill. G. Sovereign, presided at the annual meeting of the Grand Imperial Conclave of the Order of Rome and the Red Cross of Constantine, when the Executive reported very favourably, and declared there had been a steady increase during the previous year. In February, the Dungarvan Council, No. 25, of the Royal and Select Masters, was consecrated by Comp. C. F. Matier, Grand Recorder, and Comp. the Rev. C. E. L. Wright installed as T.I.M. In May, the annual Grand Festival of the Order of the Secret Monitor was held under the presidency of the Earl of Warwick, G.S.R., but later in the year, the Order had the misfortune to lose its founder, Bro. I. Zacharie, Past G.S.R., and on the 22nd October, a Memorial Service was held by the Grand Conclave as a fitting tribute of respect to his memory. Other events of lesser importance might, perhaps, be recorded in this summary, but generally it may be taken for granted that the systems included in this brief account have fared, at least, as prosperously as in past years.

OUR INSTITUTIONS.

There are but very few of our readers who will not agree with us that the year now drawing to a close has been, as regards the fortunes of the Central Charities, one of the most successful on record, excluding, of course, the years 1888 and 1898, when our Scholastic Institutions celebrated their respective Centenaries, and 1892, when the Benevolent Institution held its Jubilee. Fewer still are there who will not readily allow that having regard to the circumstances of the year—the war that has been raging in South Africa, the increased taxation rendered necessary in order to meet the expenses of that war, and the heavy calls that have been made upon the whole community—it would not have been very surprising had the fates been far less propitious, and the Festival Returns on a far less abundant scale. As a matter of fact there is, so far as our memory serves us, hardly a year in which the aggregate of the Donations and Subscriptions at the anniversary gatherings in behalf of our three Central Charities has exceeded those of 1900. Last year the total raised for their support amounted in round figures to £50,000, a capital return if only we bear in mind that the Boys'

Centenary had been celebrated only 12 months previously, the contributions to the Girls' and Benevolent Institutions being very largely increased to upwards of £21,000 and £20,000 respectively, while the Boys' School, naturally enough, had to content itself with just a trifle over £9000. This year there has been, in spite of the circumstances we have referred to, a substantial increase in respect of all three Charities, the Girls' School taking the lead with a total of Returns to its 112th Festival amounting to upwards of £23,000, and the Benevolent Institution being well up with not far short of £22,300, while the Boys' School obtained support to the extent of about £16,900, the sum announced by the Secretary at the Festival being £16,874 14s. 2d. Here then we have a grand total of more than £62,000 distributed among our Central Institutions, to say nothing of the sums raised for the Mark Benevolent Fund and Provincial Charitable Institutions, and the subscriptions, now exceeding £10,000, to the South African Masonic Relief Fund, inaugurated by Grand Lodge on the recommendation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G. Master.

The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was, as usual, the first to hold its Anniversary Festival, the day fixed for the celebration being Tuesday, the 27th February, while the chair was occupied by the Right Hon. Lord Addington, Prov. Grand Master for Buckinghamshire. The Board of Stewards which supported his lordship comprised 600 ladies and brethren, and the amount they together raised, which was announced at the Festival itself as £20,220 16s., was ultimately increased to £22,298 9s. Towards this grand total London, with 269 Stewards, contributed £12,773 19s., while the Provinces, with 231 Stewards, were responsible for £9524 10s. The London total included 30 lists, ranging from £100 upwards, the highest of all being that of Bro. David Moss, of the Friars Lodge, No. 1349, for £582 10s., the next in order being those of Bro. W. S. Bunting, Old Boys' Lodge, No. 2500, for £273; Bro. Benj. Stocker, High Cross Lodge, No. 754, for £264 12s.; Bro. Alfred Cocks, Sincerity Lodge, No. 174, for £231 8s. 6d.; Bro. Edwin George, Marquess of Ripon Lodge, No. 1489, with £227 6s. 6d.; and Bro. Robert Clarge, New Concord Lodge, No. 613, with £204 15s. In the compilation of the Provincial total of £9524 10s., there were 32 of the 46 Provinces and sundry Foreign Stations that assisted. The highest contributing Province was West Yorkshire, which raised £1800, Buckinghamshire, which provided the Chairman, being returned for £1495 10s., and Essex for £1381 1s. 6d. Among the other Provinces we note Hertfordshire, with £566 14s.; Suffolk, with £518 15s.; and Sussex, with £409 10s. This result, which could hardly have been looked for after the splendid total of 1899, was something to be especially grateful for, and the Committee of Management lost no time in placing on record its sincere thanks to the Chairman and his Board of Stewards for the success of their efforts in behalf of the Old People's Institution, the thanks in the case of the Chairman taking the form of an illustrated Address on vellum, in album form, which was formally presented by the Secretary, Bro. James Terry, to his lordship at the annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Buckinghamshire. Nor was this all. The Committee, when it found that the Board of Stewards was more numerous than it had ever been before except in the Jubilee year, without even waiting to learn the result, determined to still further augment the number of annuitants on the Funds and having created five additional Male annuities and three for Widows in 1899, reversed the figures and added three Male and five Widow annuities to the numbers on the Establishment, thereby raising the former to 210, and the latter to 253. This act gave the utmost satisfaction,

and when the annual general meeting of Governors and Subscribers was held on Friday, the 18th May, the Report of the Committee, in which the increase was announced, met with a most cordial reception and was adopted *nem con.*, and ordered to be entered upon the minutes. The result of this will be more apparent if we mention that at the elections, which took place at the said meeting, 20 instead of 17 men and 29 instead of 24 were returned as successful, the number of candidates being for the Male Fund 46, and for the Widows' Fund 59. We must go back very many years in order to find so large a proportion of the applicants elected upon the two Funds. There is very little more for us to say. Lord Addington, just before the Festival, and his Board of Stewards later in the year, paid the customary visit to the Institution at Croydon, and both his lordship and the latter expressed their entire satisfaction with what they saw in evidence of the care bestowed upon the annuitants in residence there and the health and happiness they seemed to enjoy. The New Year and Summer entertainments were also held as usual and gave infinite pleasure to the Old People, while other entertainments, organised by private individuals or by lodges, were given and helped to make the lives of the inmates brighter. Grand Lodge also voted the customary grant of £70 to provide the residents with fuel during the winter, and the Supreme Council, 33°, gave them its customary present of tea and tobacco. In short, the Institution has fared prosperously during the year, and we trust that in the future it may be our privilege to write as encouragingly both of the good work that is being done by the Institution and the generous support that is given to it by the Craft in general.

The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls next claims our attention. The work it has accomplished has been of the



THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH.

highest character, while the generous support it has received both from the town and country lodges has been commensurate with its services. Its 112th Anniversary Festival was held under the presidency of the Right Hon. the Earl of Dartmouth on Wednesday, the 16th May. A Board of Stewards composed of 793 ladies and brethren loyally seconded his lordship's advocacy, and to such good purpose that the Secretary had the supreme satisfaction of announcing a total of Donations and Subscriptions amounting to £23,037 5s. 6d., or, in round figures, £2000 more than the handsome total of the preceding year. Towards this result London, with a contingent of 300 Stewards, contributed £10,458 7s. 6d., while the Provinces—37 of which, with a few Foreign Stations, took part in the celebration—with

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463 Stewards, supplied the balance of £12,578 18s. The highest list included in the London total was that of Bro. H. J. Homer, W.M. of the City of Westminster Lodge, No. 1563, who, with the assistance of upwards of 50 members, ladies, and outside brethren, compiled a Return of £791 2s., while Bro. Daniel Mayer, S.G.D., W.M. of the Royal Warrant Holders Lodge, figured for £525. Bro. A. C. Spaul, of the House Committee, for £210, and Bro. T. Fish Marson, of Friends-in-Council Lodge, No. 1383, for £201 12s. Towards the Provincial total the chief contributor was the Chairman's Province of Staffordshire, which surpassed all its efforts, even those it made in behalf of the Boys' Centenary, by subscribing the splendid sum of £4034 10s. Among the Returns from other Provinces we find Kent entered for £569 4s.; Middlesex for £1002 15s. 6d.; Monmouthshire for £500; Surrey for £666 2s.; Worcesterstershire for £876 8s.; and West Yorkshire for £575. The distribution of prizes took place, as usual, on the Monday preceding the event we have just been recording, that is, on the 14th May, when the Countess of Dartmouth, who was accompanied by her husband, handed the awards to the prize winners of the year, and, in doing so, offered a few words of graceful congratulation to each, while Lord Dartmouth, in acknowledging the vote of thanks to her ladyship, spoke in terms of well-deserved praise of the admirable manner in which the Institution was conducted, and the benefits it was conferring on the daughters of deceased and indigent Masons. Among the other events of the year the elections in April and November stand out most prominently. At the April election 17 girls were elected from a list of 32 approved candidates, and in October 24 from a list of 33 candidates. The total number of children before the electors at the two ballots was 51, of whom as many as 41 were elected into the School, while one girl who was unsuccessful in April had her name removed from the list under the law which fixes the maximum limit of age at 11 years. Thus, of all these 51 applicants, there now remain only nine who are unprovided for except with the chances of winning admission at some future ballot. As regards the work done by the Institution we have already spoken of it as being of the highest character, and that this is no mere assertion on our part is shown by the particulars set forth in the Report of the General Committee, which accompanied the Statement of Accounts and Balance-sheet for 1899. Herein it is stated that during the last 10 years (1889-98) out of 259 girls entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations 242 passed, and we may add that of these 242 a considerable number were awarded honours and distinctions in particular subjects. As regards other examinations, we are told that in 1899 32 girls passed—some with distinction in various subjects—out of 40 entered for the College of Preceptors "Certificate Examination, and 14 out of 16 for the Junior Forms Examination. In Music the School also distinguished itself, one girl being awarded the Licentiate Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music, and one passed in the Advanced Grade Examination of the Guildhall School of Music, while of the 19 who entered for the Local School Examinations conducted by the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, all passed. In the Science and Art Examinations 43 certificates were granted; by the Royal Drawing Society 31 certificates; in Pitman's Shorthand 20 certificates; and in swimming, three prizes, four silver medals, and 23 certificates. Since the issue of the foregoing Report, the result of the Cambridge Local Examinations in December, 1899, has been made known, and from this it appears that of the 45 girls who entered 42 passed, namely, two in the

Senior Division, of whom one was awarded Second Class Honours; 20 (out of 21) in the Junior Division—three with Second Class and two with Third Class Honours, three distinctions being also awarded; and 20 (out of 22) in the Preliminary, of whom three took honours, while five distinctions were awarded. One change has occurred in the Educational Staff, Miss Emily Redgrave, who succeeded Miss Davis, having been compelled by the breakdown of her health to resign the office of Head Governess. Miss Redgrave was educated in the School, and on leaving was made a pupil-teacher, from which position she rose to be at the head of the teaching staff. She has been succeeded by Miss E. Hutchinson, who is also an ex-pupil, while at the Quarterly Court in July she was, in recognition of her 31 years' services, awarded a pension of £100 per annum. It only remains to add that the health of the children during the year has been good; that the Christmas and summer entertainments to the girls who remained at School during the holidays were given as usual; and that Ex-Pupils' Day on the 30th June was a greater success than ever; while on Monday, the 15th October, the Institution was honoured with a State visit by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor (Bro. Sir A. Newton, Bart., P.G.D.), who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Bro. Alderman and Sheriff W. V. Morgan, P.G. Treas., and his colleague in the Shrievalty of London.

As regards the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, we rejoice to say that the progress it has made during the year has been in respect of the incidents that have marked its course a most successful one. The first stone of its new premises at Bushey was laid under Royal auspices; its distribution of prizes



THE LATE BRO. RICHARD EVE, P.G. TREAS.

was a brilliant gathering, and attended by the Festival Chairman of the year with his daughter, the Princess Margaret of Connaught, who, in the unavoidable absence of her mother, performed the work of distribution; while, though the Duke of Connaught was prevented at the last moment by his military duties from fulfilling his promise to preside as Chairman at the Festival, the Festival itself was very far from being unproductive. But the satisfaction we derive from recording these facts is materially lessened by the great loss which the Institution experienced in the early days of July by the death of Bro. Richard Eve, P.G. Treas., Patron and Trustee, who, from the formation of

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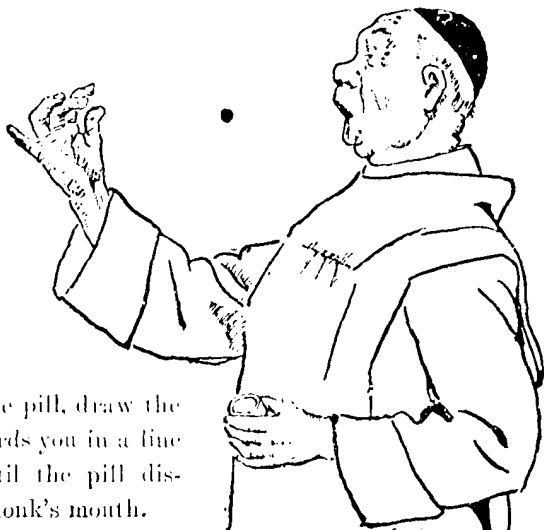
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the Board of Management, in 1891, till his decease had held the responsible post of Chairman. Previously he had taken an active part in promoting the welfare, and proved himself a generous friend, of this, and indeed, of all our Central Charities. But from the moment he became Chairman of the Boys' School Board, he redoubled his energy in its behalf. In whatever he thought necessary or expedient in order to strengthen and improve its administration; in whatever was best calculated to make the boys happier in their School life, and fit them morally, mentally, and physically to confront the duties and responsibilities that await them on leaving their *Alma Mater*, Bro. Eve was the central, directing, and controlling spirit. From him, the Board he presided over derived its chiefest energy; to his wise counsel it was indebted for its best and most serviceable inspirations; and by his death it has experienced a loss which years alone will be able to repair. Moreover, he was as kind and courteous in his bearing towards others, as he was wise in counsel and firm in the discharge of his duties. He spared not himself, when he considered his presence at the Board or at an important function connected with the School was desirable, and it is by no means unlikely that as the Prov. Grand Master of Hants and the Isle of Wight, who knew him well, remarked at the annual meeting of his Prov. Grand Lodge, his death was due as much to his excess of zeal as to the sickness which laid him low. By his will he has bequeathed a considerable sum to be divided among our Institutions, and nothing remains but for the Boys' School Executive to inaugurate some kind of memorial in the shape of a "Richard Eve" Scholarship, or Prize or Prizes, that shall serve to perpetuate his unequalled services to this Institution. But to continue our record. On Saturday, the 12th May, the foundation stone of the new buildings at Bushey was laid with full Masonic ceremonial by the Duke of Connaught, K.G., M.W. Past Grand Master, acting on behalf of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., M.W.G.M., and President of the Institution. His Royal Highness was assisted by the Grand Officers, and welcomed by Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., one of the Trustees of the Institution, there being present to witness the interesting spectacle some 1500 people, amongst whom were a numerous gathering of Hertfordshire and other brethren, with many ladies, and the Earl of Clarendon, Lord Lieutenant, and other notabilities of the county. When the stone was laid, a



BRO. CHARLES E. KEYSER, P.G.D.

move was made to the site of the chapel, which is being erected at the cost of Bro. C. E. Keyser, P.G.D., P.P.G.W. Hertfordshire. This second stone having also been laid, there was an adjournment to the marquee, in which luncheon had been provided, and here the Duke of Connaught, the Grand Officers, the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, and a number of ladies and brethren partook of refreshment under the genial presidency of Bro. Richard Eve, Chairman of the Board of Management, toasts appropriate to the occasion being proposed, including that of his Royal Highness's health, which was given from the Chair, and "The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," which the Duke of Connaught, after acknowledging his health, himself proposed, and which was responded to by Bro. C. E. Keyser, P.G.D., the Treasurer of the Institution. The meeting, which had proved a brilliant success, shortly afterwards terminated, the arrangements from beginning to end having been carried out most admirably, while the presence of the band of the Royal Artillery and the excellence of the programme they performed added greatly to the pleasure of those who attended. A fortnight later the annual sports were held in the playing fields at Wood Green, and the form exhibited by the boys that competed in the several

events showed that the physical training of the youngsters is well looked after. On Friday, the 1st June, the Duke of Connaught, with his daughter, the Princess Margaret, as the representative of her mother, the Duchess of Connaught, visited the School at Wood Green, and the Princess distributed the prizes to the successful pupils of the year—the kindness of the Princess in fulfilling this most pleasant duty being cordially acknowledged by the authorities. On Tuesday, the 10th July, the 102nd Anniversary Festival was celebrated, but the Duke of Connaught found it impossible, owing to the pressure of his military duties, to preside and the place of his Royal Highness was filled, and we need hardly add, most ably filled by Earl Amherst, M.W. Pro Grand Master, and Prov. G. Master of Kent. The Board of Stewards was composed of 481 ladies and brethren, and the Donations and Subscriptions raised by their efforts amounted in the aggregate to £16,834 14s. 6d.; London, with 233 Stewards, contributing £8506 os. 6d.; the Provinces, with 239 Stewards, £8136 16s.; and Foreign Stations, with nine Stewards, £191 17s. 8d. The highest list included in the London Returns was that of the Richard Eve Lodge, No. 2772, for which our late respected brother had acted as Steward, the subscriptions obtained by him amounting to £315. Bro. H. K. Newton, representing the Alfred Newton Lodge, No. 2686, was entered for £305 5s.; Bro. W. Oliver Smith, of the Telegraph Cable Lodge, No. 2470, for £225 15s.; and Comp. W. H. Cole supported by the whole body of the newly-consecrated Mizpah Chapter, No. 1671, for £215 5s. In the Provincial total, in the compilation of which 38 Provinces took part, the Duke of Connaught's Province of Sussex held the place of honour with the handsome contribution of £1395, West Yorkshire giving £500, Surrey £474 12s., Essex £478 6s., Kent £442 1s., and Hertfordshire £427 2s. Passing from the Festival results to those of the Examinations, for which sundry of "Our Boys" are entered, we find the generous support which the School receives is fully justified by the excellence of the training and instruction. At the Cambridge Locals in December, 1899, 84 boys were entered, of whom as many as 78 succeeded in obtaining Certificates. In the Senior Division 15 passed out of 16, three of them with second class honours, and one distinction was awarded. In the Junior Division, 30 passed out of the 35 entered, two being placed in Honours (2nd class), and four in Honours (3rd class), while in the Preliminary Examination all the 33 boys that entered obtained Certificates, three distinctions being also awarded. It is also worthy of record that the School sent several exhibits to the English Education Exhibition, which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales opened at the Imperial Institute on the 5th January, and that sundry of these were deemed worthy to be reserved for sending to the Paris International Exhibition in May. As for the progress that is being made with the new buildings at Bushey, it is unnecessary for us to say more than that the work is being carried forward as rapidly as circumstances will permit. In short, the Institution has fared so well that our congratulations could not have been heartier or more sincere had its "pilgrim of love" accepted the honour of knighthood and thereby rendered still more brilliant the "halo of glory" with which one of his admirers has encompassed him.

PROVINCIAL AND OTHER CHARITABLE ASSOCIATIONS.

In the preceding Section of our Review of Freemasonry during the present year we have given the leading particulars of the work done by and the support given to our Central Masonic Institutions, the benefits of which are open to approved candidates from all parts of the English Jurisdiction. But these are far from representing the whole of the good that is done by our lodges and brethren in relieving the wants of our poor members and their widows and orphan children. Nearly every District abroad has some kind of organisation supported by the voluntary contributions of the Craft, and specially intended to aid those and their families who have had the misfortune to fall upon evil days, among those to which our attention is most frequently called being the Associations maintained by our District Grand Lodges in India and in South Africa. At home there are many Provinces—and the number has of late years been greatly augmented—which have established Benevolent and Educational Funds or Associations, the benefits of which are restricted to their own members and their families. In this field of Masonic usefulness West Lancashire with its four Institutions, known, respectively, as the Educational, Hamer, Allpass, and Victoria Institutions, undoubtedly takes the lead. These Provincial Charities are fortunate in possessing amongst them a very large amount of invested capital, while the services they are rendering are of incalculable value in helping those who stand sorely in need of help. East Lancashire, with its Syste-

matic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution, also occupies a foremost place amongst the Provinces which maintain these local Charities. It was to the generous initiative of the late Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie, Prov. G. Master, that the Province is indebted for its foundation, and during all the years that he ruled the Province he did all in his power to promote its welfare. He presided at the one and only Festival that was ever held in its behalf, when a sum of £4000 was subscribed for its maintenance, and but for the absence in South Africa of his successor in office—Bro. the Lord Stanley, M.P.—a second Festival would have been held in the summer, when it was hoped that such a sum might have been raised as would have allowed the Governing Body of the Institution, not only to increase its funds, but also to devote 1550 guineas out of the proceeds to the purchase of a Perpetual Presentation to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution as a memorial to their late chief. But we understand the project will be carried out when the Prov. G. Master is once again in England. Cheshire has two such Institutions—an Educational, which has done admirable service during the 35 or more years it has been established, and a Benevolent Institution, which owes its foundation to Earl Egerton, Past Prov. G.M. West Yorkshire started such an Institution a few years since, while Devonshire has for a long time maintained in a state of efficiency its Educational and Annuity Funds. Durham has for many years had an Educational Fund, and a year or two since founded its "Hudson Benevolent Fund." Other Institutions of a similar character exist in Dorsetshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, North and East Yorkshire, Warwickshire, and it may be in other Provinces as well, and, what is most gratifying is the fact of their being all most loyally and generously supported without, as far, at all events, as our past experience goes, lessening the amounts subscribed to the Central Charities. Three of these organisations held high Festival during the year—the triennial Festival in aid of the North and East Yorkshire Educational Fund, at which the Marquess of Zetland, Provincial Grand Master, presided, producing a total of donations and subscriptions amounting to £1054. The first Festival of the Warwickshire Benevolent and Pupils' Aid Fund, which was held in the grounds of Stoneleigh Abbey—the seat of the venerable Lord Leigh, Provincial Grand Master—on the 3rd July, produced the large total of £3155; and in September, at the annual Festival, at Blackpool, of the West Lancashire Alpass Institution, a sum of £1243 was subscribed. In addition to these, however, there are a number of Charity Associations organised and maintained by Provinces and other bodies for the purpose of affording facilities to brethren to become Life Governors or Life Subscribers of the Central Charities by gradual payments. To this class belong the Associations in Cambridgeshire, Staffordshire—which did such excellent service at the time of the Boys' Centenary, and in May, when the Earl of Dartmouth, Provincial Grand Master, occupied the chair at the Girls' School Festival—Shropshire, North Wales, &c., while the Associations organised from time to time by many of our Lodges of Instruction in London do equally effective work in their several districts. Were the materials available for showing in the aggregate what these two classes of Masonic Charitable Associations have accomplished, we have no doubt the amount would prove considerable.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The following are the number of cases relieved and the amounts distributed among them month by month by the Board

which is charged with the administration of our Grand Lodge Fund of Benevolence during the period from 1st December, 1899, to 30th November, 1900, namely: December, 1899, 26 cases relieved with £700; January, 1900, 20 cases with £525; February, 25 cases with £830; March, 38 cases with £1135; April, 25 cases with £785; May, 37 cases with £1070; June, 21 cases with £570; July, 13 cases with £410; August, 17 cases with £420; September, 13 cases with £360; October, 38 cases with £1015; November, 26 cases with £720; total for the whole period 302 cases relieved with sums amounting in the aggregate to £8540. Comparing these with the figures for the corresponding period of 1898-9, when 285 cases were relieved with £7760, we find that there has been an increase of 17 in the number of cases and of £780 in the total distributed. During the corresponding 12 months of 1897-8 there were 355 cases relieved with £9470; in 1896-7 there were 334 cases relieved with £9000; and in 1895-6, 352 cases relieved with £8532. The Returns for these five years serve to convey an excellent idea of the work entrusted to the Board. There can be little doubt that the petitions which are brought before it are carefully looked into, and each of them dealt with according to its merits. At the same time, while it is generally allowed that the Board is economical in dispensing the funds at its disposal, it is equally recognised that economy is not the sole consideration which weighs with it, and that where the claims of the petitioners show them to be worthy of substantial help, such help is ungrudgingly rendered. Our monthly reports of the Board's doings make this very clear.

MASONIC LITERATURE.

The contributions to our literature during the year have not been many in number, but of their merits it is well nigh impossible to speak too highly. Bro. Dr. W. J. Chetwode Crawley, Past G. Deacon of Ireland, has at length completed the task he set himself some five or six years ago of throwing such additional light as was possible upon the early history of Freemasonry in the jurisdiction of which he is a distinguished member by publishing the third and concluding Fasciculus of his "Camentaria Hibernica." Hitherto the story of the rise and development of Masonry in Ireland has been a most obscure one, the leading idea being that Lord Kingston having presided as Grand Master over the Grand Lodge of England crossed over to Ireland shortly after his vacation of that office, and out of such materials as he found to his hand organised the Grand Lodge of Ireland, and was himself installed as its first Grand Master, the date ordinarily assigned to these events being the year 1730. But Bro. Crawley, by his indefatigable researches, has been able to show that there was a Grand Lodge of Ireland already established in Dublin in 1725, and what is of still greater importance, that the existence of Freemasonry was a matter of common knowledge—at all events among the graduates and undergraduates of Trinity College, Dublin—as far back as 1688. Thus the whole face of early Irish Masonic development has been altered, and if Bro. Crawley has a mind to prosecute his labours still further, we may reasonably hope that he will be successful in dispelling more of the obscurity in which the establishment of the Craft in Ireland has been enveloped. In our review of the Third Fasciculus shortly after its publication a few months since, we drew attention to its principal contents, among which let it suffice if we mention here the reproduction of Spratt's Constitutions of 1751, and a list of the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Ireland from 1725 to 1900.

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this being the first attempt made to compile any such list since the publication of Spratt's work. The value of this catalogue may be judged from the fact that no name has been admitted into it "except on documentary evidence, derived at first hand from contemporaneous public or private sources." Indeed, the work is of such a character that it is barely possible to estimate the extent to which the whole Craft, but more especially in Ireland, is under obligation to the author for what he has accomplished—at the cost of what labour it is easier to imagine than to describe. Another work that has seen the light during the present year is the "Tercentenary Edition" of the "History of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No. 1," compiled by Bro. D. Murray Lyn, G. Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The earlier edition was published in 1873, and by way of commemorating the tercentenary in the summer of 1899 of the earliest extant minutes of this venerable lodge, Bro. Lyon, at the request of the members, has continued his history to the present time, strictly following on the lines of the original work by introducing all such particulars as were calculated to throw additional light on the history of Masonry throughout the whole of Scotland. We have so recently reviewed the book that we need not do more here than repeat our congratulations to Scottish brethren generally on the publication of so valuable a record of their doings, and to Bro. Lyon himself on his ability to carry out successfully so laborious a work at his advanced age and in the midst of all the exacting duties and responsibilities of his office. There is also another work on the issue of which during the year we may justly congratulate ourselves. We allude to "French Prisoners' Lodges," from the pen of Bro. John T. Thorp, P. Prov. G.W. of Leicestershire and Rutland, the able Secretary of that rising literary lodge—the "Lodge of Research," No. 2429, Leicester. The book contains what its author modestly describes as "A Brief Account of Twenty-six Lodges and Chapters of Freemasons, established and conducted by French Prisoners of War in England and elsewhere between 1756 and 1814," and is illustrated by a number of plates, giving facsimile reproductions of certificates and other documents, lodge seals, &c., &c., &c. The subject is not entirely new, but Bro. Thorp by the fulness with which he has gone into it and the amount of authentic information he has unearthed may be said to have made it almost entirely his own. At all events, he can have compiled it only after much patience and labour, and has shown great ability and care in the arrangement of his material. We have also, quite recently, received Vol. IX. of "Quatuor Coronatorum Autigrapha," being "The Book of the Fundamental Constitutions and Orders of the Philo Musicæ et Architecturæ Societas, London, 1725-1727"—a most valuable Reprint, with Introduction and Notes by Bro. W. Harry Rylands, F.S.A., P.A.G.D.C.; illustrated with Plates and Facsimiles; and edited by Bro. G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C. As Bros. Thorp and Rylands are English Masons, and Bros. Dr. Crawley and Murray Lyon belong to the Irish and Scottish Grand Lodges respectively, the three Masonic jurisdictions into which the United Kingdom is parcelled out have each of them a share, and an appreciable share, in the literary honours of the year.

As regards our serial publications, the principal are, as heretofore for some few years, "Ars Quatuor Coronatorum," or the Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076," and the Proceedings of the "Lodge of Research," No. 2429, Leicester, the former being still as ably edited as ever by its Secretary, Bro. G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C., and containing papers

of as great literary merit, while the task of editing the latter remains in charge of Bro. Thorp, who not only discharges his duty with the same ability and courtesy as in the past, but also finds time to compile such interesting books as the "French Prisoners' Lodges," to which reference has been made above, and other historical books. As for the *Freemason*, we can say no more than that we value most highly the kindly consideration we have received during the year from the ever-increasing number of our friends, and supporters, and that we shall spare no effort to deserve in the future a continuance of that generous encouragement which they have uniformly extended towards us in the past.

OBITUARY.

The roll of deaths is, we are glad to say, not excessively long, but among those who have passed away are many who held high rank in the Craft, and who had rendered valuable services. Two Provincial Grand Masters claim our first attention—the Earl of Radnor, who was appointed Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent of Wiltshire in 1891, in succession to the late Lord Methuen, and who was also head of the Mark Degree in the same province; and Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., who had presided over Craft and Royal Arch Masonry in Durham for about 15 years, having been appointed successor to the late Marquis of Londonderry in 1885. We also have to regret the loss of the Earl of Lonsborough, who served as Senior Grand Warden in 1860, and had always taken a deep interest in Freemasonry, not only in his Province of North and East Yorkshire, of which he was a Past Prov. S.G. Warden, and London, where he helped to found and presided as first W.M. over the well-known Drury Lane Lodge, No. 2127, but also in United States Masonry, one of his latest and most thoughtful acts in connection with which was his sending a memorial wreath to be placed on the monument of General Washington in celebration of the centenary of that distinguished brother's death on the 14th December of last year. And there are yet two others of equal rank—the late Bro. Sir Gabriel Goldney, Bart., on whom, in 1887, the M.W.G. Master was pleased to confer the position of Past Grand Warden, and who for many years had held the important office of Deputy Prov. Grand Master of Wiltshire; the Earl of Portarlington, S.G. Warden in 1897, and a leading Dorsetshire Mason; and the Earl of Donoughmore, S.G. Warden in 1876. In January there occurred the death of Bro. the Rev. R. J. Simpson, M.A., who served as Grand Chaplain in the years 1867 and 1868, and who took an active part in the proceedings of Grand Lodge, while early in July, Bro. Richard Eve, who was elected Grand Treasurer in 1887, but will be best remembered by his signal services as Chairman, from the date of its formation till his death, of the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. Among other Past Grand Officers whose loss we have to deplore are Bros. Sir A. H. Bevan, late Sheriff of London, who was elected G. Treasurer in 1899; A. Stewart Brown, F.R.C.S., Past G. Deacon, who sacrificed his life in the heroic attempt to save that of a man who fell into the sea at Boulogne; Sir F. G. M. Boileau, Bart., P.G.D. and G. Superintendent, Norfolk; C. H. Driver, Past G. Supt. of Works; John Lane, who died on the 30th December, 1899, and, therefore, subsequently to the publication of our last Christmas annual, who was made Past A.G.D.C. of England in 1895 and presented with the clothing of his rank in recognition of his valuable services to Masonic literature by the compilation of his "Masonic Records," and the presentation of

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the copyright to Grand Lodge; John Fenwick, Past A.G.D.C., and for many years District Grand Secretary of Queensland; Benj. Kelly Thorpe, P.G. Std. Br., Howard H. Room, Past G. Std. Br., and formerly Prov. Grand Secretary of Middlesex; Sir A. Sullivan, Past G. Org.; Walter Martin, Past A.G. Purst.; L. F. Littell, P.G.P.; and George Graveley, P.G.P. The Order of the Secret Monitor has to lament the death of its founder and first G.S. Ruler in the person of the late Bro. Dr. I. Zacharie, while Bro. John James, Past Dep. Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, and our representative to it has also died. Among Provincial Officers and others must be mentioned Bros. George Balmford, Past Prov. G. Organist of N. and E. Yorkshire; J. E. Hennemayar, Past Prov. G. Warden Essex; W. D. Henderson, Past Prov. G. Reg. North Wales; G. B. Smallpiece, P.P.G. Treas. Surrey; A. M. Levy, P.P.A.G.D.C. Surrey; R. W. Leadbitter, P.P.G.D. N. and E. Yorkshire. Among others are Bros. T. B. Daniell, P.M. No. 781, a most generous supporter of all our Charities, but more especially of our Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; E. J. Grubb, P.M., P.Z.; A. Penfold, P.M., P.Z.; R. H. Crowden, P.M., P.Z.; Alderman C. H. Low, of Bristol, P.M.; W. H. Kidson, P.M. No. 2611; John Fitzgerald, P.M., P.Z.; Robert Sarson, P.M. No. 192; F. B. Geary, P.M., P.Z.; F. H. Ebsworth, P.M. No. 1178; E. F. B. Fuller, P.M. No. 1657; Col. Heaton, P.M., P.Z. No. 1260; the Rev. Professor Shuttleworth, P.M. No. 2369; and Major Eustace Andrews, P.M. Others, too, have passed away, of whom no record has reached us; but even as it is, the list is a formidable one and includes many who, as we have said, were never weary of doing such service as they could render to Freemasonry and its cherished Institutions.

SCOTLAND.

There are few brethren who will not readily allow that the proceedings during the closing year of the 19th century of the Craft north of the Tweed have shed additional lustre upon the Grand Lodge of Scotland and its Provincial and Private Lodges. Greater prominence than usual has latterly been given to the affairs of Scottish Masonry in consequence of the announcement that Bro. D. Murray Lyon, who was elected Grand Secretary early in 1877, had, owing to the weight of advancing years, found it necessary to resign office, while Bro. the Hon. James Hozier, M.P., the present Grand Master Mason of Scotland, has publicly stated that when Bro. Lyon entered upon his duties Grand Lodge was in debt to the extent of about £20,000, whereas now it was possessed of property of the value of nearly £80,000. Nor is it alone in its financial state that improvement has taken place. More than 300 lodges have been warranted since the date of Bro. Lyon's appointment. The Scottish Craft is better organised, its laws have been greatly amended, and its affairs are far better administered. An Annuity Fund has also been established in connection with Grand Lodge, and generally it may be said that in all directions and in all matters of moment progress and prosperity have been the order of the day during the whole of this period; and though Bro. Lyon would be the last to claim the entire merit of the change, there can be no doubt that he, with the generous

assistance and encouragement of the distinguished brethren who have successively presided over Freemasonry in Scotland, has been the principal factor in bringing it about. During all this period he has laboured as few would have known how to labour, and with a success which fewer still would have been able to command. Nor has the closing year of his official life proved the least honourable to himself or the least beneficial to the Society he has served so faithfully.

During the year Grand Lodge has met in Quarterly Communication, as usual, in the months of February, May, August, and November, and for the celebration of its Grand Festival on the 30th of the last-named month, while on the 13th of this present December it will hold a special meeting for the purpose of electing a successor to Bro. Lyon. At the February meeting, the accounts for the year ending 30th November, 1899, showed a very large surplus of income over expenditure, the former amounting to £6466 and the latter to £2710. In consequence the General Fund was returned at £43,103, while the Benevolent Fund amounted to £7918 and the Annuity to £27,814, exclusive of the sum due to it on the year from Grand Lodge. The income for the quarter to 31st January showed a surplus over expenditure of £1092. Charters for five lodges were agreed to be issued, one for a lodge in Perthshire East, and the others for lodges in Queensland and West Australia. At the meeting on the 3rd May the standing orders having been suspended, the Grand Master moved an address expressive of their abhorrence of the attempt upon the life of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Patron of all Scottish Freemasonry, and of their thankfulness to the Almighty for the providential escape of his Royal Highness. Sundry changes among the rulers of Provinces were adopted on the recommendation of the Grand Committee, the most notable being the appointment of Lord Northcote, Governor of Bombay, to be Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, in succession to Lord Sandhurst, resigned. In August, before Grand Lodge met, a bust of Lord Saltoun, Past Grand Master, was presented to Lady Saltoun, and an address of sympathy with the Prince of Wales on the loss he had sustained by the death of his brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, was unanimously voted, and both this and the address on the Prince's escape from assassination have been gracefully acknowledged by his Royal Highness. But, perhaps, the most memorable gathering of the year was that which took place on Sunday, the 4th February, when the Grand Master, with his officers and the members of many metropolitan and country lodges, were present at Divine service in St. Giles's Cathedral, Edinburgh, and a sermon was preached in aid of the War Fund being raised by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Madame Ella Russell, the gifted prima donna, who gave her services on the occasion, travelling from London to Edinburgh for the purpose of being present, while the civic dignitaries and the general officer commanding in Scotland were likewise in attendance, the congregation being estimated at between 3000 and 4000, while the sum yielded by the offertory ultimately reached not far short of £600. Another meeting of scarcely less interest was held on the 22nd September, when the Grand Master laid with Masonic ceremonial the memorial-stone of the restoration of Brechin Cathedral. On his arrival from Edinburgh, Bro. Hozier and the deputation from Grand Lodge

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

INSTITUTED BY THE HUGUENOTS, 1685.

President—SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Vice-President—THE EARL OF ABERDEEN, K.G.

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For Visiting and Preaching the Gospel in Workhouses and other Places.

Also for regular Relief of the Poorest Classes met with in the localities where the Mission Halls are situated. The following returns will show this kind of work for the past year.

THE province of this Society is to preach the Gospel, and in other ways relieve two classes; those who cannot, and those who will not attend the ordinary places of worship. The work of preaching and visitation is carried on by over	
450 Voluntary Workers of both sexes, who give their time gratis.	1,711 Children and Adults taken into the country for a Day.
15,000 Workhouse Inmates were visited every week in	500 Sent for a Week.
23 Workhouses, Infirmarys, and Casual Wards.	11,000 Workhouse Inmates entertained at Christmas with Concert; Buns and Oranges being also distributed.
2,000 Lodging-house Inmates visited every week in Spitalfields, Notting Hill, Poplar, Borough, and Hastings.	4,100 Workhouse Inmates taken for a Day in the Forest; Entertained with Magic Lantern, &c.
7 Mission Halls entirely supported in which	180,000 Tracts, Booklets, and Periodicals distributed.
750 Homeless Men were received into the All-Night Shelter.	2,200 Attendances were made by poor Widows, employed in making Clothing.
2,500 Breakfasts, Teas, Cocoa Suppers, &c., given.	1,106 Garments were made and sold last year.
950 Bread, Lodging and other Relief Tickets distributed.	
10,000 Children's Dinners and Breakfasts provided.	

Contributions or Donations (N.B.—Periodicals and Tracts are most useful, and may be sent to the Secretary) can be paid into the Bank to the Treasurer, F. A. BEVAN, Esq., 54, Lombard Street, E.C.; or will be very gratefully received by the Secretary, Mr. JAMES ATKINSON, 61, Rectory Road, Stoke Newington, N.

that accompanied him were entertained at luncheon by the Executive Committee, after which he made his first visitation to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Forfarshire, which had previously assembled under the presidency of Bro. James Berry, Provincial Grand Master. Having expressed his satisfaction with the reports and books which had been sent to Edinburgh for his inspection, the Grand Master gave his attention to the principal event of the day, and a procession, consisting of between 300 and 400 brethren, having been formed, and marched through the city to the site in full regalia, the ceremony was duly and impressively performed in the presence of a large concourse of people. Amongst other notable events we may mention the Grand Visitation, in January, to the Province of Ayrshire, when the Grand Master attended the centenary banquet of Ayr St. Paul Lodge, No. 204, of which Bro. Murray Lyon, the Grand Secretary, is the oldest member; the visitation to Perthshire West, when in the Masonic Hall, Perth, the M.W. Grand Master installed Bro. Captain C. H. Graham Murray, Q.C., M.P., as Prov. Grand Master, *vice* the late Colonel Stirling Kippendavie; the visit to Stirlingshire on 22nd June, when the Grand Master laid the foundation-stone of the Dobbie Hall at Stenhousemuir with full Masonic ceremonial, the event being preceded by the entertainment at dinner at the Plough Inn of Bro. Hozier and his officers and a number of other guests by Major Dobbie, to whose munificence the town is indebted for the erection of its new Hall; and a three days' Masonic Bazaar at Rothesay in the month of August in aid of a fund for erecting a Masonic Hall, the Bazaar being opened on the first day by the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Bro. A. Graham Murray, Q.C., M.P., and on the second and third days by Bro. Sir Charles Dalrymple, of Newhailes, Bart., M.P., Past Grand Master of Scotland, and Prov. Grand Master of Argyllshire and the Isles, the amount realised being upwards of £650. Among the principal losses through death must be mentioned those of Bro. James W. Smith, Past Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, in July, and Bro. S. Constantine Burke, District Grand Master of Jamaica, in May; but the greatest loss of all—though happily not by death—is that of the services of Bro. D. Murray Lyon as Grand Secretary. To this, which will be felt for some time, we have before referred; but, as showing the high appreciation in which those services are held, it should be mentioned that Grand Lodge, on the recommendation of its Grand Committee, has unanimously agreed that Bro. Lyon shall enjoy the full emoluments of his office as a pension for the remaining years of his life. His long career as a Grand Officer and his valuable works as a Masonic historian—to the latest of which we refer under the head of "Masonic Literature"—well merit this generous recognition.

It only remains for us to add that during the year charters have been issued for 11 new lodges, of which two are located at home and nine Abroad.

IRELAND.

The Craft in the sister kingdom has had its full share of the prosperity which has been the fortunate lot of Masonry throughout the whole of the British Empire. Indeed, owing to the visit of the Queen to the Irish capital in the spring of the year it has had opportunities of testifying to its unbounded loyalty and devotion to her Majesty which have been denied to the other jurisdictions. As to its prosperity, we have the public statement made by no less distinguished a personage than the Duke of Abercorn, M.W.G. Master, at the dedication of the new Masonic Hall at Lurgan, on the 2nd November, to the effect that

Masonry in Ireland was "in a most flourishing condition," as was shown, firstly, by the large number of additional members they were from time to time receiving into their ranks, and secondly, by the gratifying support which was being so generously extended towards their Masonic Girls' and Boys' Schools, and he cited, as an illustration of what was being done, that during the previous week a concert had been held in Derry, which had realised in their behalf between £80 and £100 net. His Grace added very appropriately that "it must be a matter of great satisfaction that those who enjoyed the good things of this world should be able to contribute to the various organisations and associations towards rendering happier the lives of those children who, through no cause of their own, had lost parents;" that "the cases brought before the Governors of the Institution were sometimes most pitiable;" and that he considered "it was a good thing that they should be able to educate 106 girls and about 80 boys in those splendid establishments." After such evidence as this, coming as it does from the highest and most authoritative quarter, it is scarcely necessary to repeat that Irish Masonry has had its full share of prosperity during the year.

Among the events of the year the most important is the Special Communication of Grand Lodge on the 3rd April, when a dutiful Address to her Majesty the Queen was voted by acclamation on the occasion of her visit to Dublin, and this Address was presented to her Majesty in person about a fortnight later by his Grace the Duke of Abercorn, M.W.G. Master, and Bro. Sir James Creed Meredith, LL.D., Dep. G. Master. On the 24th of the same month her Majesty was graciously pleased to show her interest in the Irish Craft, by visiting the Masonic Female Orphan School, Balls Bridge, not only the Girls and their Governesses being present for the Queen's inspection, but also the pupils of the Orphan Boys' School, who were also invited to participate in the honour thus shown by her Majesty to the Masonic Institutions of Ireland. In June, on the occasion of the meeting in Dublin of the Association of Municipal Corporations, those members of it who were Masons were invited to attend the Grand Lodge of Instruction, and had the opportunity of seeing a candidate initiated by Bro. Dr. Chetwode Crawley, the Grand Secretary of the lodge and Lord Justice FitzGibbon; and when the work was over and the Grand Lodge of Instruction closed, they were most hospitably entertained by Grand Lodge in its new and handsome banqueting hall. We have already referred to the meeting at Lurgan on the 2nd November, when the M.W.G. Master dedicated the new hall erected for the use of the three lodges held in the town, but in addition, there was on the 10th April a notable gathering at Limavady, where the foundation stone of a new hall was laid by Bro. Sir James Creed Meredith, Dep. G.M. We have already referred at some length under the head of "Masonic Literature," to the publication of Bro. Dr. Chetwode Crawley's most important work—"Cæmentaria Hibernica"—and, therefore, we need not say more than that nothing of late years has reflected greater lustre on Irish Freemasonry than the compilation of this valuable addition to the highest class of literature devoted to the Craft. Among other events that have occurred during 1900, we note, with regret, the death, in January, of Bro. Sir William Miller, Dep. Prov. G.M. of Derry and Donegal; and the presentation of a testimonial to Bro. Thomas P. Callaghan, Secretary of Lodge No. 75, Dublin, whom we warmly congratulate on this proof of the esteem in which he is held by its members.

As regards new lodges, it is difficult to say anything definite,

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as they are assigned places on the Register, whose numbers are vacant instead of being added as fresh numbers at the end, but we have noticed some half-a-dozen, which we doubt not will prove worthy of the privileges they are permitted to enjoy.

THE COLONIES, &c.

The principal event of the year has been the formation of an independent Grand Lodge of West Australia, but the circumstances attending this formation are somewhat unusual. The other independent Grand Lodges which have been established in our Australasian Colonies during the last 15 years, namely, those of South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and New Zealand, have in each case been composed of lodges of the English, Irish, and Scottish Constitutions, while in New South Wales and Victoria, the local Grand Lodges also took part in the establishment. But in West Australia, the lodges of Scottish and Irish origin have held aloof from the movement altogether, and though the time will no doubt come, when the whole body of West Australian Masonry will be ranged under the banner of one United Grand Lodge, the present organisation is composed entirely of lodges formerly on the English Register, together with such lodges as may have been warranted since by the new Grand Lodge. However, there is no need to give a full account of the circumstances. The English Craft in the Colony were practically unanimous in their desire for independence, and on the 27th February, Bro. Sir Gerard Smith, Past Grand Warden of England, District Grand Master of West Australia, was formally installed in office as N.W. Grand Master, the ceremony being performed by the Lord Bishop of Perth, Bro. the Right Hon. C. O. L. Riley, D.D., Past Grand Chaplain (Eng.), and at the Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge on the 7th March, recognition was accorded to the new body, which even at this early stage of its existence has had its share of good fortune. In Queensland, which is now the only Australasian Colony that retains its connection with the Grand Lodges of the United Kingdom, progress has been the order of the day, but this has been evidenced not so much by the constitution of new lodges, of which only one or two have been added to the roll, as by the greater care that is being taken in the administration of District Grand Lodge and the stricter observance of the law. There is, however, one very serious loss the District has sustained through the death of that highly respected Mason, Bro. John Fenwick, who had fulfilled the arduous duties of District Grand Secretary for fully a quarter of a century, and in 1897, in respect of his great services, was honoured with the brevet of Past A.G.D.C. Happily, an able successor to him has been found in Bro. E. H. Courtenay Luck, Past D.G.W., who, even in the short time he has been in harness, has established himself in the goodwill of the Craft. As for the veteran District Grand Master, Bro. the Hon. Aug. C. Gregory, C.M.G., who is far-and-away the senior of our District Grand Masters—having been appointed over 38 years ago—he appears to be as full of vigour and activity as ever. Masonry has also done well under the Irish and Scottish Constitutions.

In South Africa, the War has necessarily had a depressing effect upon the work of Masonry, which is essentially a peaceful organisation. In the District of the Transvaal, which, until the outbreak of hostilities had been making such progress under its able chief, Bro. George Richards, Dist. G.M., the lodges have suspended work, nor can we look for any great revival of activity until peace is restored and people have once again

settled to their old habits of life. In Natal, which has also suffered terribly by the military operations that have been carried on for the greater part of the year, things have not been much better; but meetings were held in Ladysmith and Mafeking even during the time they were being besieged by the Boer armies, but the proceedings were by no means free from danger, as the reports have shown which it has been our privilege to publish from time to time in our columns. Nor, we are pleased to say, has the influence which Masonry is able to exercise even in time of war, been ineffectual in saving bloodshed, and though the Boers looted and destroyed property of all kinds, yet more than one instance has been recorded in which buildings known to be devoted to Masonic purposes have been saved from destruction and guards placed over them to prevent them from being pillaged. Necessarily too, the Eastern Central, and Western Districts of Cape Colony have also suffered, though to a far lesser extent. In May, a Masonic service was held in St. George's Cathedral, Grahamstown, in which the English Lodges, Albany, No. 389, and St. John's Lodge, No. 828, and the St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 651, under the Scottish Constitution, took part; while early in September, Bro. Thomas Cook, Dist. Grand Mark Master of Natal, had the pleasure of consecrating the Ladysmith Mark Lodge, No. 528, which but for the outbreak of the War would have been consecrated during the autumn of 1899. We are also glad to record that three lodges have been added to the roll of the District Grand Lodge of South Africa (E.D.), one of them being named after Bro. Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, and the other after her Majesty's High Commissioner for South Africa—Sir Alfred Milner. We have also had the satisfaction of commenting very favourably upon the admirable work that has been done under the auspices of the Port Elizabeth Masonic Educational Scheme.

In India, things have gone extremely well and notwithstanding the difficulties which lodges experience in respect of members by the sudden transfer of officers and members from one station to another, they seem to have well maintained their strength. Bengal, which is the largest District, has had two additions sanctioned to its roll in the North of Gogra and Koil Lodges, Nos. 2830 and 2831, respectively, and the Rajputana Lodge, No. 2800, has been warranted in the Bombay District, and the Excelsior Lodge, No. 2832, Dagshai, in that of the Punjab. The various Educational Associations that have been established in Bengal, Bombay, and elsewhere, have also been able by reason of the generous support they receive from the lodges and brethren, to continue the excellent they have been engaged in since their establishment. We must not, however, omit to mention that Lord Sandhurst, on completing his term of service as Governor of Bombay, resigned the appointments he held as Pro District Grand Master and Grand Master of all Scottish Freemasonry in India, and having regard to the very deep interest he took in the work of the Craft under both Constitutions, and the services he was able to render to them both, there is no doubt that his departure for home was the subject of sincere regret to all the brethren; the thanks and other compliments that were paid him testify to the respect and esteem in which he was held. However, it is some slight consolation to them that his successor in the Governorship of the Presidency—Lord Northcote—is also a distinguished Mason, and has been elected his successor in Masonry under the Grand Lodges of England and Scotland. It is also worthy of note that the newly-appointed Governor of Madras is a Mason of high rank at home; we allude, of course, to Lord Amthill, who is

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FREDERIC H. MADDEN, Secretary.

Prov. Grand Master of Bedfordshire, and, doubtless, this fact will enhance the fame which the Craft already enjoys in the Madras Presidency. Lastly, Bishop Welldon, of Calcutta, the Metropolitan of India, has shown his interest in Masonry by delivering an address on the grave and gay aspects of the Craft. Thus with Masonic Governors and Church Dignitaries, Judges and administrators of Provinces, and Military Officers, holding high positions in the Society, it would be strange indeed if Masonry in India were not held in high estimation among both the European and native populations. In the West Indies, too, there has been greater activity than we are wont to hear of, but here, while new lodges have been consecrated or warranted, there is also the death of Bro. S. Constantine Burke, Dist. G.M. of Jamaica, under Scotland, to deplore, a special communication of District Grand Lodge being held on the 31st May, to pay due respect to his memory. The death of Bro. James W. Smith, Past Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, has already been noticed, but our record of Colonial Masonry would be less complete, if we omitted to refer to the loss which his death has caused in Bombay more particularly.

The Judge:

OR

Conscience-Stricken.

By PROF. F. W. DRIVER, M.A., P.M. 45, P.Z. 742.

Author of "The Noble Soul," "God's Flowers," "A Woman's Heroism," "The Submerged City," "Repaid," &c., &c.

The following poem is founded on actual facts, as related in the Criminal Records of the Northern Circuit (England), about 100 years ago:—

At northern city, many years ago,
In solemn court of justice there was held
A Murder Trial—heinous was the crime—
The culprit a young man, whose pleasing face
Seemed to evince impossible the deed
He had committed; but, alas! slowly,
Yet surely, did the links of evidence
Form chain complete of circumstantial guilt.
The prisoner's counsel, warily, did watch
The fatal facts unravelled one by one—
Yet could not find a flaw—the crime brought home.
His only hope, a quibble of the law.
The judges, patient, heard the counsel's plea,
In wisdom duly weighed it, but they proved
It was unstable, so refused the rule.
With solemn dignity the judge reviewed
The evidence, as tendered by the crown,
Showed there was no defence that could rebut
The proofs convincing of the prisoner's guilt—
Yet, 'twas for them the jury to decide—
If in their minds there harboured the least doubt,
Their duty plainly was, upon their oaths,
To grant acquittal of the dreadful crime.
The jury then, dismissed to their grave task,
A death-like silence reigned throughout the court.
Few words were spoken, and 'in undertone.
The weight of deep suspense was felt by all;
The minutes slowly passed—an hour was gone;
The evening shadows lengthened on the floor.
All longed to hear, yet dreaded the result;
For life or death would hang upon the words
Their foreman uttered. Then a knock is heard
Upon the door, which slowly opened wide.
With measured step the jury, issuing forth,
Again came into court—no need to ask
Their verdict, for their saddened looks proclaim.
The word of doom, which fell from foreman's lips.
The unhappy man, who heard his death knell rung,
Stunned by the sudden blow, no answer made
To Clerk of Arraignment, who, formal, asked
What reason could the prisoner allege
Why sentence should not pass, in course of law,
The last act of the tragedy drew near;
'Twas for the judge presiding to pronounce
The penalty demanded by the law,
As expiation for the deed of blood.
Silence the usher, with grave voice, proclaimed.
With fearful expectation, one and all,
Await the words of doom, which should consign
The murderer to a public, shameful death.
Amazement seized the court, for from his seat
The judge uprose, his pale and ghastly face

Evinced the mental anguish that he felt.
With calm, deliberate act, his ermined robe
He laid aside, descended from the bench,
Then, with uncertain, faltering steps he came
Unto the dock, wherein the prisoner stood.
He said to officer, "Ope wide the door!"
"My lord!" "Obey me, 'tis my last command."
The judge, forthwith, by prisoner took his stand—
An awful pause ensued, for no one dared
As yet to speak—the judge the silence broke.
"My lord, and, until now, my brother judge,
You see before you, in the prison dock,
His fitting place, a guilty wretch whose crime
Exceeded far the convict by my side—
He, in revenge for wrongs he had received,
In blood of neighbour had his hands embued.
But I, far worse than he, through lust of gold,
Slew a kind master, and a generous friend.
Let me, in open court, confess my crime,
Permit me, briefly, to narrate the facts,
And show how 'twas the devil tempted me,
Some thirty years ago I was engaged
In office of a well-known barrister,
To keep the daily record of his work,
Note his engagements, and observe that he
His multifarious duties should fulfil.
Prompted by kindness of his generous heart,
He helped me legal knowledge to acquire;
So I, at last, became of use to him,
Shared freely in his confidence and trust—
More as companion than mere lawyer's clerk,
Attended him on circuit, fees received,
And all incumbent business would discharge.
One early morn on horseback we set forth
To reach assize town, many miles away;
Packed in a valise to my charge he gave
A heavy sum of gold he had received
During the circuit now about to close.
That morning we had left unknown to all,
For master was reserved, and kept aloof
From those of his profession, and, indeed,
Save in the way of business, knew but few.
The way was lonely, nor considered safe—
Knights of the road were said to levy toll
On lone and unsuspecting travellers.
To be prepared in case of sudden need
A brace of loaded pistols in my belt
I placed, conspicuous warning, sure, to those
Who might design to rob or murder us.
Some distance we had journeyed on our way—
My master rode in front and I behind,
No one in sight, then came the horrid thought,
How easy 'twere to make the gold my own.
'Twas but an old man's life that intervened—
Thus did the devil tempt me and I fell
From innocence to the abyss of guilt;
No guardian angel stayed my guilty hand—
I drew a pistol, shot him in the back,
And as he fell in agony of death,
He pitying gazed upon his murderer;
Ever since then that mild reproachful look
Has haunted me alike by night or day—
But action now immediate must ensue—
The corpse I rifled first and then destroyed
All tell-tale papers, and with heavy stones
I sank the body in a neighbouring pond,
His horse I shot, I dare not let him live,
The guilty deed I feared he might betray.
All unobserved I hastened to my horse
With plunder added to the cursed gold,
For which I bartered future happiness.
Arrived at sea-port, there my steed I sold,
At once set out for London, for awhile,
Obscurely lived under another name—
Engaged in legal studies, and became
The pupil of a well-known barrister.
Rapid my progress, for by night and day
I worked incessantly to drown my thoughts
I dreaded most the night, for in my dreams
I saw my master's pale reproachful face;
Then would I wake in terror from my bed,
Haste to my books to dissipate my fears.
By slow degrees and by the lapse of time,
My guilty conscience slumbered, I could rest;
Three years in study I had passed, was famed
For legal knowledge and for acumen,
Called to the Bar, soon, by a lucky chance,
I won as pleader an important case;
Since then success was rapid, I became
Legal adviser to the Crown, the step
Assured towards the Bench, not long delayed.
You know yourself full well, my Lord, I won
Golden opinions from the legal world;

No one against my judgments has appealed,
 And honoured thus I might have spent my life
 Had not I presided at this trial,
 I thought, indeed, my conscience was at rest,
 No more to trouble me—it has awaked,
 It urges me with force beyond control
 To make this full confession of my guilt,
 Submit to the just sentence of the law,
 The only expiation of my crime
 For which no palliation can be made.
 Pardon on Earth you must not, dare not grant;
 Deep my repentance, though it sudden seems,
 My only hope of pardon is in Heaven.
 I pray, my Lord, my trial may be brief,
 'Tis in your power to name a speedy time.
 This is the last request that I would make
 Of you, my former Friend and fellow Judge."
 He ceased—horror and pity seen in every face
 Evincing how deep men's feelings were aroused;
 Tears in his eyes, with broken speech, the Judge—
 "Unhappy man, who self-convicted stands,
 Accused of foulest murder, you well know
 Death is the penalty of crime like yours.
 Your sad request I grant, a pitying proof
 Of the esteem and friendship which I held.
 Your trial shall take place without delay;
 I cannot be your Judge; one will be found
 To take my place, dread sentence to pronounce.
 May Heaven have mercy on your guilty soul!
 On you, young man, who now convicted wait,
 I shall defer your sentence for awhile.
 Use well the time I grant you; pardon seek
 From the offended Majesty of Heaven.
 The Court adjourned; remove the prisoners."
 In a few days, the evidence complete,
 Assistance given by the prisoner,
 He was committed by a magistrate
 To take his trial at the Assizes
 Then being held; proceedings very brief;
 The prisoner testified against himself.
 Nought was now left but sentence to pronounce
 Against him, and the convict in the dock,
 Whose doom had been by former Judge deferred,
 It was decreed that both should suffer death
 On early morn outside the public jail
 On that day fortnight. Leave was freely given
 That both, well watched, should occupy one cell.
 The elder, deep repentant, earnest sought
 To win the young man's confidence; he urged
 Confession and repentance of his crime,
 The only means he could free pardon gain.
 Hardened at first, his heart at last was touched—
 Then, side by side, they knelt in earnest prayer
 That God to them His saving grace would grant.
 Assured of pardon, each sustaining each,
 They met their doom with resignation.
 Oh! may we trust the Gates of Mercy wide
 Admitted sinners who repentant died.

November, 1900.

How to get on.



HERE is a young brother who wants information as to the best way to "get on" in Freemasonry. He is possessed of a very praiseworthy ambition, but apparently thinks that a patient continuance in well doing might not ineffectively be supplemented by efforts on his own part, and he wants to know where and how to start. When his health was drunk with enthusiasm at the festive board, after his initiation, the brother who proposed it set forth for his imitation the career of the worshipful brother who so well adorned the chair, and, in the garrulous optimism of the moment, hinted at speedy recognition of true merit. All too soon, however, our friend found that in a lodge of 60 members he ranked as 60th, and that the possession of merit even of the highest order would not enable him to reach the chair under about 15 years.

Surely he thinks there must be some other and less tedious route to eminence, but what is it?

It can scarcely be, he thinks, in the amount of jewellery with which he may deck his person, because he knows Bro. Smith, who was only initiated a short time ago, has already had to have a special appendage made to carry his load of personal adornment, and, moreover, he is well known to have bought it all. Nor can it be the attainment of Degrees, because Bro. Jones is already a companion of the Royal Arch, a Mark Master Mason, a Royal Ark Mariner, a Secret Monitor, and will next week be admitted

to the Cryptic Degrees and the Allied Degrees of Freemasonry. Moreover, our young friend believes himself to be every whit as good a Mason as Bro. Jones, because it is a matter of common notoriety that Bro. Jones, in the course of his progress through these various grades, was never able to prove himself a M.M., but had to be prompted.

Again, in another lodge in the same town, Bro. Robinson, who happened to possess social distinction, became Worshipful Master within 54 weeks of seeing the light and only attended the lodge four times during the whole of that period*, and this has induced him to set less value on the attainment of rank in lodge.

Is it the attainment of Provincial honours? Well by this time he has found out that preferment, whether from the East, West, or South, is like the wind which bloweth where it listeth.

Our advice to that young brother was to disregard each and every of these considerations and attend lodge regularly, particularly a lodge of instruction, and he was further advised to join one of the literary lodges, such as *Quatuor Coronati*.

But quite a number of brethren imagine that the taking of Degrees *ad libitum* adds to their Masonic consequence, and confers an additional lustre upon them.

The various Degrees are generally called "higher" because, with the exception of Mark man, to which fellow Crafts may be admitted, they are only conferred on Master Masons. The more correct nomenclature would be "further Degrees." Sometimes they are called "side" Degrees. This term is only appropriate with regard to those which are conferred irregularly, that is, which are not properly organised under a supreme governing body. The neophyte in such cases was taken "aside," and the Degree was then called an "aside" Degree—corrupted to "side." Such was once the Secret Monitor, but since its present organisation it is a "further" Degree. We might conveniently describe as a Degree every Masonic process which involves the conferment of appropriate modes of recognition, and so shall call the Royal Arch a Degree (although denied that status by the Constitutions) as well as the rank of Installed Master.

In this sense, then, the Craft embraces four Degrees, and the order of the Royal Arch four, that is companion and the three Principals. These are the legitimate and recognised grades. As a general rule the ruler in any of those to be presently referred to is required to be an Installed Master in the Craft.

Next we come to the Degrees immediately under the Grand Mark Lodge. These are Mark Man, Mark Master, Installed Master in the same, Royal Ark Mariner, and Commander N.

The Order of the Secret Monitor may next be tabulated. The Degrees are conferred only on Master Masons, and comprise Secret Monitor, Prince of the Order, and Supreme Ruler.

The Allied Degrees of Freemasonry and the Cryptic Degrees are conferred upon brethren who are Mark Masters and R.A. Masons. The Allied Degrees comprise the Orders of St. Laurence the Martyr, Knight of Constantinople, Red Cross of Babylon, and Grand High Priest. The Cryptic Degrees, which are a complement of the Royal Arch, include Most Excellent Master, Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master.

The Orders of Chivalry are only conferred upon Royal Arch Masons of a certain standing. They are Knight of St. John of Jerusalem (*Knight Templar*), Preceptor; Knight of Palestine Rhodes and Malta, and Prior.

A Knight Templar may become Knight Red Cross, Viceroy Eusebius, Sovereign Constantine, Knight Novice of St. John, and Knight of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Rosicrucians are graded thus—Zelator, Thericus, Practicus, Philosophus, Adeptus Junior, Adeptus Major, Adeptus Exemptus, Magister, and Magus.

In the Antient and Accepted Rite are 33 Degrees. The first three are as in Craft Masonry, and the list goes on as follows:

4°. Secret Master.	19°. Grand Pontiff.
5°. Perfect Master.	20°. Venerable Grand Master.
6°. Intimate Secretary.	21°. Patriarch Noachite.
7°. Provost and Judge.	22°. Prince of Lebanon.
8°. Intendant of the Buildings.	23°. Chief of the Tabernacle.
9°. Elect of Nine.	24°. Prince of the Tabernacle.
10°. Elect of Fifteen.	25°. Knight of the Brazen Serpent.
11°. Sublime Elect.	26°. Prince of Mercy.
12°. Grand Master Architect.	27°. Commander of the Temple.
13°. Royal Arch (of Enoch).	28°. Knight of the Sun.
14°. Scotch Knight of Perfection.	29°. Knight of St. Andrew.
15°. Knight of the Sword.	30°. Knight of the Black and White Eagle.
16°. Prince of Jerusalem.	31°. Grand Inspector.
17°. Knight of the East and West.	32°. Sublime Prince.
18°. Knight of the Eagle and Pelican (Rose Croix).	33°. Sovereign Grand Inspector-General.

Of these only the 18°, 30°, 31°, 32°, 33°, are given in full.

* A fact known to the writer.

We have thus enumerated 66 Degrees, excluding the Rosicrucians, who can hardly be ranked as Masonic.

But we have by no means exhausted the list. The writer has the honour of acquaintance with a brother who says he has taken the 90°. He is connected with two Rites—those of Memphis, and Misraim—which, though often confounded, are quite separate and distinct. The former Rite claims connection with certain Egyptian mysteries of great antiquity, but its introduction into Europe dates from 1814, and in 1839 the official list of Degrees was published. The first 33 are those of the Antient and Accepted Rite already referred to. After a good deal of tinkering the revised list, comprising 96 Degrees, was published in 1862. The list is imposing. Brethren of eminence attain the title of Pontiff, and the term sublime occurs in connection with 27.

The Rite of Misraim arose in 1805, and was once recognised by the A. and A. Rite in Ireland. Ninety Degrees are conferred, culminating in that of "absolute Sovereign Grand Master 90°."

The Order of the Eastern Star is very popular in America, and our Transatlantic contemporaries devote special columns to accounts of their proceedings. It was invented by Bro. Robert Morris in 1855, and is divided into five grades, representing as many aspects of womanhood, viz., Jephtha's daughter, Ruth, Esther, Martha, and Electra, typifying daughter, widow, wife, sister, and martyr. Why not add the most attractive aspect of all, the *fiancée*? Female Freemasonry, however, began and ended in this country with Miss St. Leger.

There is also the Order of the Shrine, whose members are called Shriners, a term our contemporary the *Indian Masonic Review* once thought was a misprint for Shiners, and drew down upon itself the wrath of the whole American Masonic Press, which regards the Order very seriously.

The brother who proposes to plunge into Masonry to the extent shown will have to spend a lot of money, and with respect to many of them it may be doubted whether he will acquire his money's worth of Masonic knowledge. The Mark, the Templars, and the A. and A. Rite differ from the rest of those mentioned. They are deeply interesting, and the two last named are controlled by wealthy and exclusive and influential bodies, so that the attainment of high rank in either of them may be regarded as implying the possession of signal merit.

We might add a word of warning. None of the jewellery appertaining to these Degrees may be brought into a Craft lodge, with the exception of the Royal Arch jewel. Many a brother has experienced mortification on this account. We believe, however, that the jewels of all concomitant Orders are recognised in the further or higher Degrees.

We can only conclude this short article by advising the young brother to attend every lodge meeting, to be careful and even punctilious in even the smallest matters, and to remember he has two ears and two eyes but only one mouth. Let him read a Masonic journal. Let him learn the ritual from hearing it expounded in lodge. Let him take lodge seriously, and not as the prelude to a social evening, and he is bound to get on.

J. T. L.

Robert Leslie.

GRAND SECRETARY "ANCIENTS," 1782-85
AND 1790-1813.

IN former Christmas numbers of the *Freemason* the agreeable duty has devolved upon me of describing in detail the services rendered to Freemasonry by prominent officers of one of the two Societies into which the English Craft was divided during the latter half of the 18th and the first 13 years of the present century. The two officers whose memoirs were written were Bro. William Dickey, who was Deputy Grand Master from 1777 to 1781, and President of the Grand Committee in 1782; and D.G.M. for the second time from 1791 till his death in 1800; and Bro. Thomas Harper, who succeeded Bro. Dickey, and remained in office till the Union of the two Societies on St. John's Day, in winter (27th December) 1813. It is hardly necessary for me to point out that these two worthy brethren were, after Laurence Dermott, the ablest, as well as among the most prominent, among the leaders of the "Ancient" Craft in England, and that it is entirely due to their devoted attachment to the principles of that Society, and to the ability, skill, and judgment with which they guided its ship of state successfully through the difficulties and dangers by which, almost to the close of its existence as a separate organisation,

it was beset, that the "Ancient," or "Athol," Masons were able to meet their more numerous and influential rivals—the Society of "Modern" English Masons—on a footing of absolute equality and arrange the terms and conditions of a Union that was equally honourable to both. Doubtless there were others who willingly lent a helping hand towards maintaining "Ancient" English Masonry in its integrity. There were Bros. James Perry and James Agar, who successively occupied the chair of Deputy Grand Master, the former from 1787 to 1790, under the Earl—afterwards Marquis—of Antrim; and the latter from 1790 to 1794, during the greater part of which period John, 4th Duke of Athol, who had been Grand Master from 1775 to 1781, again presided in that capacity, and retained his office till a few months prior to the Union.

There was also Bro. Robert Leslie, who, after a brief, but trying, experience as Grand Secretary from 1783 to 1785, was re-elected in 1790, and remained in office till the rival Societies became one, and the distinctions between "Ancients" and "Moderns," "Regulars" and "Schismatics," were consigned to oblivion. He was also for several years Treasurer of the Institution for Clothing and Educating the sons of deceased and indigent Masons, "according to the old Institutions"—the present Royal Masonic Institution for Boys—and it is in this latter capacity that, as will be gathered hereafter, we shall, in all probability, learn to esteem him most. But, just as between Laurence Dermott, on the one hand, and William Dickey and Thomas Harper on the other hand, there is a wide and well-nigh impassable gulf, so between Dickey and Harper and Robert Leslie is there a gulf that is still wider and still more impassable. Laurence Dermott, Ahiman Rezon in hand, stands on the very highest eminence in "Ancient" Masonry, of which during the greater part of the first 40 years of its existence he was, firstly, the organiser, and, latterly, the administrator; Dickey and Harper occupy inferior positions, and Robert Leslie and the rest of his "Ancient" worthies positions that were inferior still. Nevertheless, he was a useful officer of his kind, and could do a day's drudgery with the best of his minor contemporaries. Apparently, indeed, he had a mind that was characterised by a love for the petty detail and technical phraseology so beloved of the small attorney and notary public, to which profession he belonged. He could follow an instruction, but not originate one, and there is only a solitary instance that I have met with in the whole course of his long secretarial career in which it is in evidence that he stepped out of himself, and proposed a scheme that had any pretensions to merit. It is of this useful, but unoriginal, Robert Leslie that I have compiled from the "Ancient" records the following brief memoir:

Leslie, like many of the leading brethren of his day, belonged to both organisations, being a member of the "Modern" Globe Lodge and of "Ancient," No. 5, now Albion Lodge, No. 9, and it is probably due to his connection with the latter, which was Dermott's favourite lodge, that he was indebted for his advancement in the Society; to this in part, at all events, and in part to his educational superiority over the mechanics, artisans and small shopkeepers, who, in London, formed the bulk of the "Ancient" Society. His first election to Grand Office was at the stated meeting in September, 1782, when he was chosen Junior G. Warden, and subsequently installed. But in March of the following year, on the resignation of Bro. Charles Bearblock as G. Secretary being accepted, Bro. Leslie was "discharged of his office of J.G.W." and unanimously chosen to fill the vacant post, the Deputy Grand Master at the time being Laurence Dermott. For a time all went well, but little more than a year had elapsed ere we read in the minutes of a special meeting on the 29th March, 1784, that a motion was "made and seconded that the Grand Lodge be closed and formed into a Grand Committee," which being done, and Bro. Dickey placed in the chair, Bro. Leslie, as Grand Secretary, read a letter which had been addressed to him by Bro. Dermott, D.G.M., under date, "Mile End, March 10th, 1784," in which the Deputy takes him roundly to task for a number of errors of omission and commission, but chiefly for having issued a circular full of mistakes to the lodges and having taken upon himself to exercise the dispensing power of the Grand Master. In the course of this letter occur such passages of severe censure, as the following:

"It was my earnest wish to see you G.S. and I do still profess a great friendship for you. But I am amazed at the contempt in which you seem to hold the G.M. (and his Deputy) in usurping his power in many cases. More particularly in a *Dispensing power for congregating and forming* a new lodge and making Freemasons, &c., contrary to your most solemn engagements. Nor do I see how you can plead innocence without betraying the greatest ignorance in the duty of your office. Your talking of Endorsement is truly ridiculous. Where does the law of the Craft give you a dispensing power (even to make a new Mason). Consult the printed Regulations, you will not

meet a line in favour of you. There it is only said that you direct how such a Dispensation may be obtained. And as to the private law (which ought to be your guide) it expressly forbids you.

"It is true that the Grand Secretary being the proper custos of the Grand Seal, the G.M. has often (though not always) allowed him (the G.S.) liberty of granting a Dispensation for immediate making of a new brother in case of emergency. But such making must be in a Warranted Lodge and not elsewhere. Neither is this done by Right, but by Courtesy only. And the power thus given extends no further than that of making a Freemason (in a Regular Lodge) a few days sooner than the stated time. A matter of no great consequence to the Craft.

"Of like contemptible complexion is your filling up the number of days and agreeing to immediate meetings and proceedings on dispensations before the dispensations are signed or even presented to the G.M. or his Deputy. If these and such like proceedings be the effects of want of skill in your office, In the name of God why such obstinacy and strenuous postponing the appointing a deputy who might assist you. For certain I am sure that you stand in great need of an Assistant. I have seen many new lodges constituted but none so flat as No. 221. Should you ask why I did not cause it to be better performed, I answer that my attention as G.M. rendered me incapable of doing the Grand Secretary's duty. And yet I did much more than my share and was loath to blame you for not doing many parts of your duty, upon a supposition that you had not an Opportunity of studying them. But though I hold you excusable in this, yet I think you otherwise in not complying with the orders of the Grand Lodge, which was 'That thenceforth there should be two Secretaries' I say this was the first motion made (and carried unanimously) after the dismission of Bearblock (though strange to tell) omitted in your records."

Again:

"Who gave you authority to negotiate with Mr. Serjeant (for No. 7) in such a manner as to induce him to range the names of the Masons designed to compose his Lodge under the Title of Lodge No. 7, which list he presented to me as the list of Lodge No. 7? Am I to suppose that Mr. Serjeant or any Freemason in his senses would attempt such a step without having something which he considered as an authority for what he was doing? No, Sir, I cannot suppose any such thing.

"And had I been otherwise, your Man (when he presented a certain paper of yours) cured me effectually by telling me in the most *peremptory* manner that they have agreed with Mr. Leslie for No. 7 and 'Master and Wardens must be installed this evening, Mr. Leslie having engaged to attend.' Those were his words verbatim, therefore needs no further comment."

But there is no need to go into further details. The Grand Secretary read his reply, the space left for which is blank, and then the Deputy G. Master submitted to the Grand Committee a series of 19 questions, to each of which he requested an answer. These answers completely justified the position taken up by the Deputy; but, very naturally, they were concerned at such a difference having arisen between these Grand Officers, and accordingly they appended the following resolution:—

"That it is with great concern this Committee sees a difference subsisting between such officers of the Grand Lodge, and from the good opinion they have of both Parties, hope and strongly Recommend that any matter heard before this Committee will be lost in Oblivion, and that they will as Men and Masons pursue the great work for which they was respectively

elected; as any difference, even of sentiment between a D.G.M. and Grand Secretary would injure the noble Fabric of the Ancient Craft." The D.G.M. and the Grand Secretary having been called, and the Resolution read to them, they gave their assent thereto, and Grand Committee was closed, and, apparently, there was an end of the matter. But Dermott was a very difficult man to cope with, and notwithstanding the resolution above quoted and the recommendation it contained for the differences between him and Grand Secretary Leslie to be buried in oblivion, he seems to have determined upon ousting Leslie from his position, and in this he succeeded. But in the steps he took to this end "the noble Fabric of the Ancient Craft" appears to have undergone what at the time must have proved a somewhat trying experience. At the following September Communication the Dep. G.M., who was in the chair, "informed the G. Lodge that he would not Act nor advise or suffer the Grand Master to Act with the present G. Sec., who, he declared, incapable of his office, and if again Re-elected, he would request leave of the G.M. to resign his office." This brought the G. Secretary to his feet, and he expressed himself as being "astonished at such a declaration from the Deputy," and said it was "as un-Masonic as it was un-Manly." The Secretary went on to describe the conduct of the Deputy since the Resolution of 29th March to bury the whole thing in oblivion, but the Deputy stood by his declaration, and a Committee was appointed "to hear, inquire into, and report." On Leslie being subsequently put in nomination for the Secretaryship, the Deputy left the chair, and Bro. Peter Fehr, J.G.W., presided in his stead. Leslie, having been re-elected by show of hands, declined the office on the ground that "he did not wish to press himself upon the G.L. as Sec., nor by any means to deprive the L. of the assistance of the Deputy." As the confusion increased, the G. Secretary requested the Deputy to resume the chair, and on this being done, "beg'd leave to decline any contest for the office of G. Sec." At a meeting of the Committee in October the Deputy continued his opposition to Leslie and all his acts, and also to other matters that were brought forward, on the ground of its incompetency to deal with them. At the regular meeting in December, Grand Lodge had the question of the Grand Secretaryship before it, and certain brethren were nominated as candidates for the office, the election being fixed for the first Wednesday in March, till when Bro. Leslie agreed to carry on the duties, and in the course of the proceedings a resolution was proposed and carried *nem. con.*: "That the Thanks of this R.W.G.L. be now given to Bro. Leslie, G.S., for his past and present conduct in his Office of G.S." On the 27th December a letter from the Deputy was read, in which he took Grand Lodge to task for the illegality of the course it had pursued, on which Grand Lodge passed a vote of censure on the Deputy, and the Earl of Antrim was proclaimed G.M., and the Wardens-elect installed. At a special communication on the 31st January, 1785, the squabble was continued, and the Deputy, who was present, called upon the Secretary for his accounts, and objected to certain charges therein. But the vote of censure on the Deputy was taken off. At the March meeting the minutes of the 1st December, 1784, were rescinded, when it was pointed out that they included a vote of thanks to Bro. Leslie for his conduct as G. Secretary, a fresh resolution in his favour was passed, and ultimately Bro. John McCormick, P.M. No. 6, was elected without a contest as G. Secretary, *vice* Leslie resigned.

Thus was Leslie forced into a position in which, the only alternative to his own retirement from office was that of the Deputy

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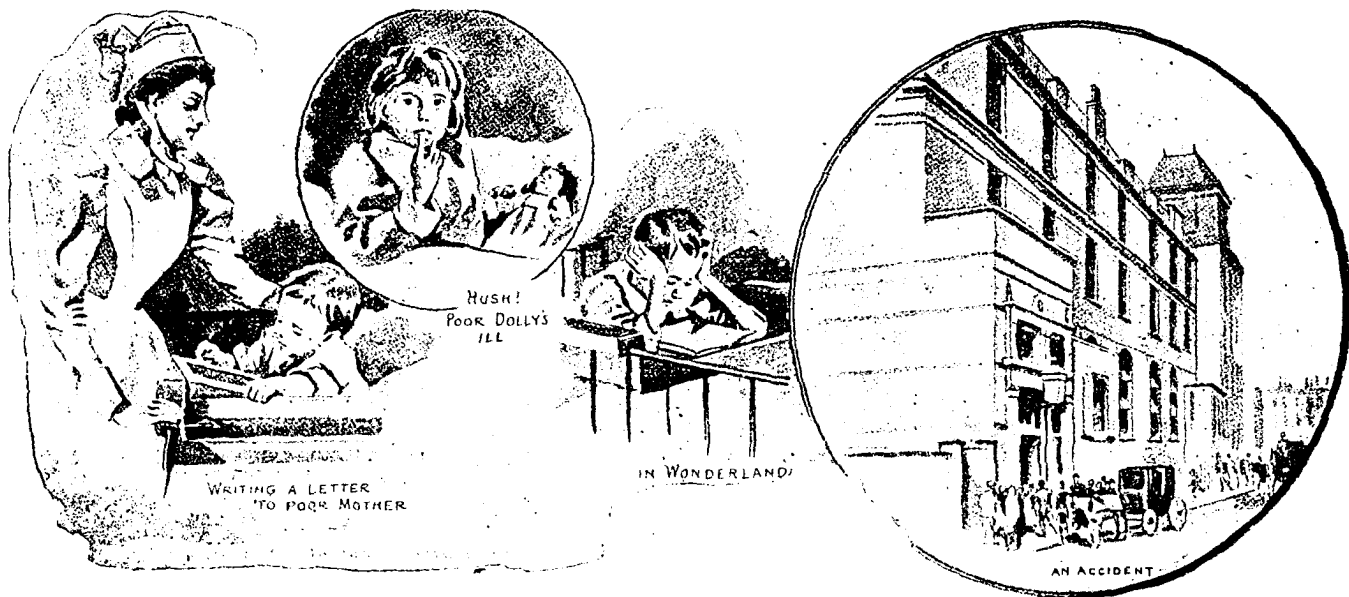
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ARTHUR E. READE, Secretary.

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A Seasonable Request.

IN these days of east-end "settlements" and widespread activity in every field of charitable work, it is not necessary to descant—especially to Masons—on the poverty of such districts as Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, Homerton, Hackney Wick, &c. To our readers, these place-names will bring visions of narrow streets of busy thoroughfares lined by houses in varying stages of decayed respectability, of men and women whose lives are one long struggle for bare existence, and of children—ah yes! children everywhere—playing in the streets (those "mean" streets that somehow seem to elude the sunshine altogether!) fetching father's beer, "minding" the baby, hanging on to the backs of the trams and busses, full of life, full of fun, undamped by dismal surroundings, and full of affection and generous feeling too, dear reader, if only these qualities were not in many cases stunted and crushed within them by the sordid everyday troubles of poverty! Our readers will doubtless have a general knowledge of all these things, but the particular branch of charitable work to which we now wish to draw their attention, will not be so familiar to them. We refer to the work of the Hospital for Children in Hackney Road, Bethnal Green, which has laboured strenuously, unostentatiously, for the past 33 years, in the thickly-populated area we have indicated.

It is not too much to say that the NORTH EASTERN HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, as it is called, is the only institution of its special kind for a population of over half a million. It strives and struggles to do its duty by these people with but 57 beds and with utterly inadequate accommodation for every branch of its work. Ten accidents a day, 1200 Out-patient attendances in a week, between 700 and 800 children admitted to the wards in a year: such is the tale of that work, and the Committee can point with pride to the excellent manner in which it is done, in spite of small rooms and absence of suitable buildings.

No increase has been made in the size of the hospital for 20 years. The Committee, however, have always been fully alive to the necessities of the case, and have had before them a comprehensive scheme of enlargement for some years past. Various circumstances—the South African War being the latest—have led to the repeated postponement of the much-needed building operations, and in the meantime the pressure on the present small accommodation has been felt with ever-increasing acuteness. Strongly urged forward by local public opinion, the Committee have entered, after exhaustive consideration, upon a scheme of enlargement which is estimated to cost £40,000. Towards this sum £5500 is already available, and their appeal is now for £34,500. The building to face Hackney Road, estimated to cost £25,000 (*i.e.* the part of the general scheme which it is proposed to undertake in the first instance), must be commenced early next year, or the sum of £3000 (a legacy and a donation conditionally allocated) will be lost to the Hospital. We might plead urgency for the appeal on this account alone, but we would direct the gaze of our readers to the underlying cause of the appeal—the children of London's vast industrial population.

Look into the despairing face of a tired mother carrying her child from the hospital where no bed can be found in which to nurse its little sickly frame back to healthfulness—follow her home—"home," perhaps one room in a narrow street of Bethnal Green. Her husband is ill or out of work or earning scarcely anything. She herself is a wage-earner, and the loss of half-a-day is a serious matter to her and to her four or five other children. The sick little one must lie there in the crowded room amid nameless discomforts until the mother can manage to leave work again and go on her weary pilgrimage to the other hospitals.

This is no fancy case, it is typical of the 700 or 800 that are sent away from the doors of this hospital every year. Here is urgency indeed! We do not, however, seek to touch the heart only. We appeal also to the head. Our hospitals are mighty engines of social reform in our midst, and their influence for good on our whole social fabric is incalculably great. This is even more emphatically true when applied to hospitals for children, and we, therefore, the more strongly urge upon our readers the necessity for enlarging the NORTH EASTERN HOSPITAL, so as to make it more adequate to the work that is required of it. Let the head judge, and then let the heart dictate!

The Bishop of Stepney (a Vice-President of the Institution), Lord Frederick FitzRoy (the Chairman), Mr. J. Lister Godlee (the Treasurer), and Alderman Sir William P. Treloar (a member of the Committee), have recently signed a letter appealing for the £34,500 required to carry out the entire scheme, and with such men behind it success should attend the effort now being made to raise this money.

The following are amongst the larger donations that have been already received or promised:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Maurice Rüffer, Esq. (to be given only when the building is actually commenced)	500	0	0	Corporation of the City of London	52	10	0
T. W. P.	500	0	0	C.C. (conditional on sufficient money for building being collected by the 20th April, 1901)	1000	0	0
The Goldsmiths' Company	600	0	0	Lord Grimthorpe, Q.C.	100	0	0
Messrs. Barnato Bros. (from Estate of the late Woolf Joel)	500	0	0	Mrs. Willock	1000	0	0
Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund (in addition to an Annual Subscription of £500)	250	0	0	The Bishop of London, from the Marriott Bequest (conditional on building being commenced by April, 1901)	2000	0	0
Rt. Hon. Cecil J. Rhodes	52	10	0				

We are glad to see that the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund has set the seal of its approval on this important scheme of hospital development.

The war has exhausted many purses for the present, but it has enriched some others, and we do not see why the Committee of the NORTH EASTERN HOSPITAL should have any fear of getting all the money they want within a reasonable time. We wish them luck in their good work, and we strongly commend their appeal to the generous consideration of all good Masons.

It only remains to be said that cheques should be crossed Barclay & Co., Limited, and should be sent to the Secretary, Mr. T. Glenton-Kerr, at the City Office, 27, Clements Lane, E.C.

G. Master, which in no circumstances could have been allowed. That, by his acts of omission and commission he, in the first instance, brought upon himself the just censure of Dermott cannot for one moment be doubted—the answers recorded in the minutes as having been returned to the Deputy's queries, though expressed in temperate language, bear out this view; but one cannot help sympathising with the retired G.S. on finding himself pressed with such virulence in a manner which, to use Leslie's own words, was "as un-Masonical as it was un-Manly." However, Bro. Leslie occasionally attended Grand Lodge, and in December, 1790, when there was no longer a Dermott to vex him, he was again chosen Grand Secretary, and remained in office till the Union, having the honour to serve under three successive Deputy Grand Masters, namely, Bros. James Agar (1790 to 1794), William Dickey (1794 to 1800), and Thomas Harper from 1800 till 1813, the last-named having been appointed by Grand Secretary Leslie as his Deputy in 1791, and continuing to act in that capacity until, on Bro. Dickey's death, he was recommended for and appointed to the office of Dep. G. Master, when Bro. Edwards Harper was chosen and appointed as Deputy or Asst. Grand Secretary. Owing, it may be to his appointing a Deputy, and also, no doubt, to his having less over-bearing brethren in the important position of Deputy G. Master, Bro. Leslie may be said to have acquitted himself well during his second term of 23 years as Grand Secretary. But he does not impress one as having been an ideal officer. Mentally he appears to have been, as we have said, a small man, with narrow views and not a little conceit, while in the discharge of his duties he must have required a good deal of prompting. Moreover, there are numerous gaps in his record of the minutes—gaps that were left for the insertion of important letters and memoranda generally, which, as they were never filled, do not appear to have concerned him greatly, though from what we learn of them from the minutes, they must have been well worth entering.

But though we cannot regard Bro. Leslie as a model Grand Secretary, English Masonry must for all time be deeply indebted to him for the services he rendered the "Ancient" Craft by preserving its Institution for clothing and educating the sons of Masons "according to the Old Institutions" from the perilous position in which it was placed on the bankruptcy of William Burwood, its "Institutor," in 1804. He (Leslie) had acted as Secretary of the School almost from its establishment, and knew well, therefore, the need there was for such an organisation. Hence, when Burwood was in monetary difficulties, which might have caused the breakdown of the School, Bro. Leslie, from his place in Grand Lodge, boldly came to its rescue, and we read in the minutes of the communication held under the presidency of Bro. Thomas Harper on the 3rd January, 1805, that "Pursuant to notice, it was recommended by the Grand Secretary to the consideration of the meeting the establishing a Charity for Clothing and educating the Children of Indigent Free Masons—the revenues of which Charity to be collected and disbursed without any charge being made on account thereof; the business to be conducted at the Stewards' Lodge and under the Orders thereof, on their usual nights of meeting, and under the immediate direction of the Grand Lodge—the Funds of this Charity, however, to be kept separate and distinct from the General Fund of Charity of and belonging to the Grand Lodge. After some time spent in consideration of the subject upon hearing sev^l of the R.W. and W. Brethren present the further consideration thereof was adjourned." The minutes are silent as to whether any resolution embodying this proposal was considered and adopted, nor is it material to inquire further. Suffice it to say that in the printed Proceedings of the Grand Lodge for the quarter to the end of June, 1806, will be found a statement of account, from which, and from subsequent statements of a similar kind, we learn that Bro. Leslie acted as Treasurer of the Institution, and rendered his accounts periodically, which accounts were published in the aforesaid printed Proceedings of the Grand Lodge. Bro. Leslie continued to act in this capacity for the Boys' Institution until the beginning of the year 1815, when Bro. Isaac Lindo was chosen his successor. Thus but for the act of Bro. Leslie the Institution founded by Bro. Burwood would have been lost to the Craft, and to him accordingly we express the sincere gratitude which all Masons must feel for preserving to us what has since become "The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys." When we think of this, and of the well nigh infinite good which has resulted, we can afford to pass lightly over the many shortcomings which Leslie undoubtedly exhibited as Grand Secretary.

G. BLIZZARD ABBOTT.

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Jasper's Folly.

A TALE OF MYSTERY.

By T. C. WALLS.

Author of "The Red Room Mystery," "A Night of Peril," "The Old Manor House," "Saved by a Sign," "The Secret Tribunal," "Fatal Divination," "The Hermit of Dunstanborough," "The Vision of Evil," "A Life's Hatred," "The Legend of Dead Man's Wood," "Love and Loyalty," &c., &c.

CHAPTER I.

WITHIN a large and well-proportioned room, at the time when George the Fourth was King, was seated a man of middle age whose refined features were overshadowed by an expression of deep sadness. The walls of the apartment were lined with massive book-cases. The handsome furniture was of black oak quaintly carved. Suspended from the ceiling was a bronze lamp of classic design so shaded as to shed its bright light only upon objects in its immediate vicinity. In a recess there stood an old world-clock with a brazen dial that shone brightly in the ruddy beams from the fire that blazed on the hearth. The sole occupant of the chamber sat at a table with his cheek resting on his hand. He was evidently in a deep fit of musing. Occasionally he closed his eyes wearily and his lips quivered as if some painful recollections were being conjured up. Presently the abstraction of the man and the stillness of the room were broken by the clock chiming the four quarters as a prelude to its resonantly striking the hour of eleven.

"Another hour gone," he murmured, "and no news. This suspense is almost too much for me. My nerves are unhinged and my mind is sorely troubled. Fifteen months ago there lived not in this old village a happier man than I. Everything was prosperous with me. Domestic happiness in all its cherished phases was mine. A wife



He sat gazing meditatively at the fire.

to all intents and purposes loving and trusted. The partner and sharer of my joys and sorrows, my struggles and triumphs. One also whose presence brightened the surroundings of life by her vivacity and innate cheerfulness and whose sole object in existence was an endeavour to make others happy. Her actions throughout the sixteen long years of our union were blameless and her manifestations of affection towards me were apparently deep and sincere. Then too, the love she bore for our only son, alas, poor youth, far better would it have been if he had never drawn the breath of life!

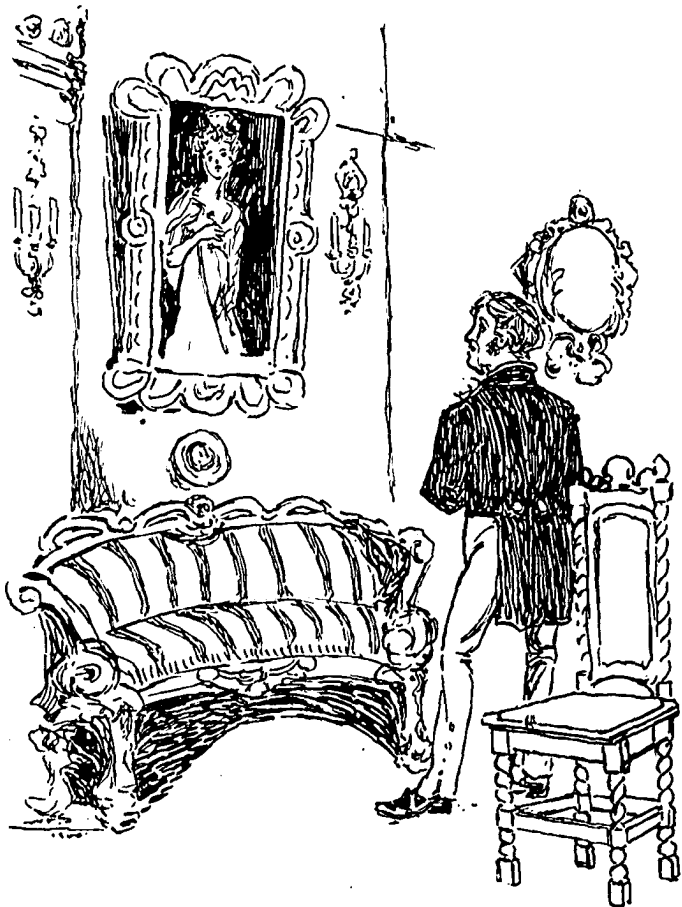
Sad, sad to think that a being endowed and moulded by nature with graces of mind and body, gifted also with other qualities that might have raised him high above the common herd of humanity is now lying an inert mass of clay. Where are his noble aspirations?—Vanished like himself! To-night I feel strangely moved. An oppression of mind greater than usual casts its gloomy spell over me; an inward monitor seems to whisper that my short stay on earth is drawing to a close. This presentiment troubles me not as life possesses no joy to me: I only wish to live long enough to clear the mystery surrounding the disappearance of my wife—if that be possible. I am glad that I commenced to pen last night an account of the matter. When I am gone the manuscript may interest those in whose hands it may fall. Who knows but it may some day be of use in unravelling the mystery?" He unlocked a drawer in his desk and drew forth a MS. He perused it, added a few lines, and with a sigh placed the document on the table. "I cannot write more," he murmured. "It re-opens the old wound. My thoughts fly back to those happy days before desolation and grief took possession of me. How oppressive the air is!"

At that instant vivid lightning illumined that part of the large apartment hitherto shrouded in gloom. A terrific peal of thunder followed so loud and near that it seemed to shake the old house to its foundations. The casement of the room had folding doors which led to a stone terrace overlooking an old-time garden with its quaintly cut yews, prim lawns and box-edged paths.

Ere the thunder had ceased to reverberate, the figure of a man approached the window and noiselessly opened the doors. He entered the apartment and quickly concealed himself within the folds of the window curtains. However, he need not have been so cautious, as his entry was unsuspected by the occupant of the room, who was sitting with his back to the window and was gazing meditatively at the fire.

"Nature, like myself," he mused, "is troubled to-night. Her mood is forbidding. My feelings and the elements are in accord. Is my mind about to become disraught? Will insanity engulf me in a vortex of mental chaos? Gracious God! spare me from such a living death. What has the world at large done to me that at the present moment I should entertain so strong a feeling of bitterness against it?" He then arose and paced the room with an agitated mien. His hands were clasped behind him, and his eyes were cast downward.

He suddenly paused and directed his gaze towards a portrait that adorned the wall. It represented the half-length figure of a beautiful girl on the verge of womanhood. It was an excellent work of art. The broad and intellectual forehead was framed with ringlets of a golden hue; the violet-coloured eyes were shadowed by handsome lashes, and in their limpid depths there shone forth the reflection of a pure and gifted mind. The contour of the face was oval, the cheeks were full, and the complexion clear and roseate. The great beauty of the charming countenance was the mobile mouth; the artist had happily caught an expression when the fair sitter was in a joyous humour; the full red lips were wreathed in smiles, and the rounded cheeks were becomingly dimpled. The picture presented not the



"Ethel, dear one," he passionately cried, "would that you could speak to me."

artificial pose of a coquette, nor the wanton abandonment of a sensualist, such as Lely loved to portray, but a vivid presentment of natural and youthful grace and purity. The lovely features were the index of the innocent soul that dwelt within.

The light from the embers played fantastically on the portrait and gave it the appearance of life. To the man who gazed with long yearning on the picture the eyes seemed to glisten, the lips to move and the beautiful bust to rise and fall with living regularity.

"Ethel, dear one," he passionately cried, "would that you could speak to me! Oh, why did you forsake me? In yon creation limned by a gifted hand your sweet eyes are gazing at me as they did in that long ago when there was no cloud to shadow the happiness of our young lives. In that fair face there is no trace of evil, nothing guilty, nothing insincere. Hypocrisy and duplicity held no place in thy soul! Oh, Ethel, Ethel, my heart is breaking! Come back to me, my love, as life without you is but a dreary desert! If I could but know that you were no longer alive, it would be a mournful yet happy relief to me, as I should then court an eternal rest. Oblivion would present no terrors to me. As it is I cling to life, buoyed with the hope that you may yet return to me. My heart yearns once more to enfold you within these arms and to breathe forgiveness for the past. Forgiveness! Fool that I am. What is there to forgive? I am speaking as if your action in leaving me was premeditated. There is some great mystery about your sudden disappearance and long silence which no investigation has at present solved."

The speaker left the vicinity of the portrait and advanced towards the casement.

At that instant an almost blinding flash of lightning shone luridly through the glass; then came a fearful crash, followed by an awful peal of thunder.

He rushed to the window, opened the doors, and peered forth into the night.

"The lightning has done some mischief," he cried. "Something in the courtyard has been struck."

He was not left long in doubt. The skies were again illumined by the storm's forked messengers of destruction, and ere the radiance died out the spectator beheld the shattered remains of a tall watch-tower that had been a prominent and picturesque object in the grounds.

"Jasper's Folly," he muttered grimly, "has come to grief at last. I well remember my old nurse telling me its history and the tradition associated with it. So long as the tower stood prosperity and happiness would attend the house of Mortimer, but if destruction overtook it the extinction of the family would speedily follow. I recollect, also, that after my father's death I found among his papers some rugged lines written in the quaint phraseology of the First James's time. For amusement I wrote out the effusion in modern English. By the way, it lies in yonder desk. It is years since I read it. The weird prophecy it contains, methinks, is apparently nearing its consummation. Wife gone, my only son dead, and I, to the best of my belief, the last male descendant of the ancient race of Mortimer.

He then sat down and read aloud the following stanzas:—

"JASPER'S FOLLY."

At Mortimer Hall there stands a tower,
By the folly of proud Sir Jasper reared;
Within its gloom there nestles the bower
Of his haughty Dame, once hated and feared.
Old folk say that she a power did wield
O'er the doughty old knight of courage bold;
He, who grim Death had faced on battle field,
Quailed beneath her eye, and his heart grew cold.
By her stern will was raised the tower great—
That eye of mystery, far and near.
It was there she read the bright stars of Fate,
Or the "black art" studied when nights were drear.
There came a day when, within the old Hall,
Sir Jasper mourned for the loss of his Dame;
They said that the Devil had made his call,
For she dead was found half consumed by flame.
The legend states that she predicted ill
To the Mortimer race and stately Hall,
If, by tempest's power or human will,
Black ruin should rive the grey tower tall.

When he had finished reading again was the lightning seen and heavy thunder heard.

"What an awful night," he murmured. "My visitor will not be here now. The man who faced such a storm as this among the hills would need to have a stout nag and a brave heart. I will fasten the casement, and then to bed."

As he rose from his seat a tremor shook his frame.

"Pshaw!" he exclaimed, "this condition of body is morbid. My thoughts, the storm, and the ballad of 'Jasper's Folly' have combined to make me a veritable coward. I am all nerves! If I were superstitious I should swear that I saw yonder curtains move, and that some horror was in the room. Great God! I am going mad! What is it that confronts me? Can such things be? I am lost!"

The speaker staggered forward; a shadowy figure emerged from the gloom. There was a fierce struggle, then there came a piercing cry—the cry of one in mortal agony. A heavy fall was heard, the lamp was extinguished, and an awful stillness reigned. The silence appeared the greater as the terrible storm had ceased.

It was a beautiful morning. The air was fresh, and the heavens smiled.

The tempest of the previous night, although it had raged but a short time yet it had been a most destructive one. In the park-like lands of Mortimer several fine trees that had borne for ages unscathed the brunt of many storms showed the terrific effect of the lightning's power.

In the quaint courtyard there was lying the *débris* of the watch-tower that had for years been an attractive object in the landscape for miles around. Strange to relate the servants had not been disturbed nor aroused by its fall. The first to make the discovery was a stable-boy, who had to rise with the lark. He rubbed his still drowsy eyes in bewilderment, and then ran back to the stable and roused the head groom.



There was a fierce struggle, then there came a piercing cry, the cry of one in mortal agony.

"Mister Roger, git oop! Somethin' orful 'as 'appened," he wildly cried. "Owd Jasper's Tow'r be all of a 'cep. Th' yard is choked full o' rubbish, and th' jackdaws at th' loss o' their young 'uns is chatterin' an' squealin' all over the place. Won't the Squire be sorry!"

The groom quickly dressed, and with the lad hurried to the scene of the disaster.



"Take my horse to the stables, my lad, I will find my way to the hall."

At that moment the bell of the outer gate was rung. The boy hastened to see who it was that thus early sought admittance. The visitor proved to be a gentleman. He had dismounted, and was holding the bridle of his horse.

"Is Mr. Mortimer at home?" he inquired.

"Yes, sir; that he be," said the lad, touching his cap, "but Squire don't rise early. Since his lady left he sits oop arf th' noight, an' then keeps 'is bedroom till mid-doy."

"Take my horse to the stables, my lad. I will find my way to the Hall."

As he crossed the courtyard he encountered Roger, who was gazing ruefully at the effects of the night's storm.

"This is a serious accident, my man," said the stranger, pointing to the ruins. "It must have been a terrible stroke of lightning to have wrought such destruction. At what hour did it happen?"

"I can't say, sir," was the reply. "I went to bed soon after ten last night, and just as the storm was brewing. I was soon asleep, and heard nothin'. The servants' wing is some distance away from here. No one was roused, I believe. Have you called to see Squire, sir?" he respectfully asked.

"I have," answered the other. "I had an appointment with him last night, but could not keep it. My horse is a mettlesome one, and cannot face lightning. I was about to canter over, but the storm broke, and therefore, for the sake of my neck, I deemed it prudent to postpone the visit till this morning. I am led to believe that Mr. Mortimer, when in health, invariably arises early. It is now on the stroke of six. Is he stirring yet?"

"The Squire, in days gone by, was one of the first in the Hall to get up, sir," said the man. "Many and many a time has he risen before the servants, and, saddling his horse, has enjoyed a gallop before breakfast. Ah! those were in the happy days, sir. There was not a better tempered gentleman or kinder master in the world. When mourning and trouble came on us everythin' was upset. Poor master!" and the speaker's voice quivered. "If it pleases you to follow me, sir, I will see if Jonson, the Squire's man, be up."

The visitor was then conducted to an ante room. Shortly after Jonson, the valet, entered and inquired:

"Is your business of importance, sir? Mr. Mortimer's strict orders are that no one is to disturb him till he rings. For some time past he has not been at all well, and his hours of retiring to rest and of rising, have been most irregular."

"My business is most important," urged the stranger. "As I have previously explained to the servants I saw in the courtyard, I was to have called upon him last night, but the outbreak of the storm prevented me. Here is my card; please take it to him. If he be asleep do not disturb him. I will wait till he rings for you."

The valet, with a bow, took the card and quitted the room. A few minutes elapsed, there was the sound of hurrying footsteps, the door of the ante-room opened, and Jonson entered with blanched cheeks and wild, staring eyes.

"My God, sir!" he cried, "'tis awful. So sudden. My head is in a whirl."

"What has happened?" inquired the visitor, in tones of alarm. "Pray compose yourself."

"It is not the time for composure, sir, when one of the dearest and best of men is lying dead, I think, upstairs."

"Dead!" echoed the other. "Merciful Providence, I am shocked."

"Follow me, sir," said the valet, as he rushed from the room.

The stranger quickly followed, and was taken to the library. The apartment was in confusion, chairs were overturned, the glass of the table lamp was broken, and the folding doors of the window were wide open. Lying on his back upon the floor was the late owner of the Hall. His face wore an awful look, the eyes were horribly distended, the cheeks were swollen and discoloured, the teeth were clenched, and tightly clutched in the dead man's hand was the bell-pull.

"Was it apoplexy, sir?" queried the valet, "or was master overtaken by a fit of madness? He has several times of late told me that he thought his reason was giving way. Sometimes he would pace the room like a wild animal in its cage, and would speak strangely. When he was in those moods I durst not approach him!"

The other answered not, but, stooping down, placed his hand upon the heart of the Squire and loosened the cravat. The stranger shook his head sadly, and, starting to his feet, he exclaimed "Your Master has been dead for hours, and he died not by natural causes. He has been foully murdered."

"Murdered!" repeated the other, "But how? There is no blood nor sign of a wound?"

"He was strangled," was the startling admission "and the murderer has used his poor victim's cravat to effect his purpose. Look for yourself." The valet partly removed the cravat, and then saw livid marks upon the dead man's throat.

"At what time did you last see your late master alive?" demanded the stranger.

"Shortly after nine o'clock sir," was the reply. "I saw him sitting here facing the fire. The days have been very warm but the nights of late have been cold. The Squire gave orders to have the fire lit at six o'clock yesterday evening. This was done. I asked him when I saw him later, if I should assist him to undress. He said 'No, as he was expecting to meet a friend.' He bade me to sit up till ten, and if the visitor did not arrive by that time I was to go to bed. I then asked him if the maid should prepare any refreshment for his expected guest. He only shook his head. I left the room and according to his instructions I waited up till about ten. I went to sleep and was not disturbed during the night."

"I was, as I have said, the visitor that he expected," remarked the other. "Would to heaven that I had faced the storm;" he then added,

"this deed would not have taken place as I should have been here before ten and in all probability should have stayed all night. Poor Mortimer, you deserved a better fate! Peace to thy memory!"

"What is to be done, sir?" anxiously asked the man.

"You must, as a matter of form, go for the nearest doctor, although your master is past all mortal aid. Also, bring hither a magistrate and the village constable. Everything in the room must remain as it is till they arrive. I will stay here with the body till you return."

By this time the fair morning was advancing and gaily the birds were singing. Through the open casement the sweet air laden with the perfume of flowers stole softly in. The rays of the bright sun gradually shone into the room and played about the dead man's face. Without the doors was smiling life in all its varied forms and revelling in joyousness. Within was frowning death solemn and still. There in cold oblivion lay the late envied lord of many acres with sightless orbs upturned. Strange to relate the eyes were fixed upon the portrait of the wife he had loved so well and grieved for so long. His constant thoughts waking and sleeping were centred in her. Alas! he had gone to the "great unknown" with hopes frustrated—His yearning desire to see her if alive or if dead to mourn her loss was for ever ungratified.

CHAPTER II.

It was not long ere the village doctor, a justice and a constable appeared on the scene. The medico's examination of the body was speedily accomplished. "Poor Mortimer," he murmured, "what an awful end was thine. One of the kindest hearted men who ever lived. What could have prompted thy murderer to do this foul deed."

The stranger then said: "Perhaps, robbery was the cause. The housebreaker may have been caught in the act of purloining by Mr. Mortimer, may have been known to him, a struggle ensued, and, to prevent capture or subsequent detection, the wretch murdered my poor friend."

"That may be so," remarked the doctor. "Jonson," he added, addressing the valet, who still seemed greatly agitated, "is anything of value missing from this room?"

"Not that I am aware of, sir," said the man. "The Squire kept some valuable old miniatures, snuff boxes and watches, which were heirlooms in this cabinet, but the locks have not been tampered with. Those large candlesticks on the mantel piece are silver gilt and should have tempted a thief."

Bryant, the village constable, then spoke: "Mr. Jonson, is the key of the cabinet amongst those on that bunch yonder?"

"Yes, Mr. Bryant," was the reply, "the Squire always kept all his private keys together." The constable then proceeded to try which key fitted the locks of the cabinet, and, having attained his object he opened the drawers and there found a collection of curios and objects of personal use and adornment as described by the valet.

"This disposes, I think," he said, "of the theory of robbery. I thought at first that after the crime the murderer might have opened the drawers, secured the valuables, and for some reason of his own have re-locked the cabinet."

"My theory is," remarked the doctor, "that the murderer, terror-stricken at the dire result of his crime, fled without stopping to secure any booty."

"Or he may have been disturbed ere he had time to overhaul the contents of the room," broke in the stranger, "and, fearful of discovery, have fled."

"He could not have been disturbed, gentlemen," respectfully suggested the valet. "I was the last of the household to go to bed, and not one of us arose till half-past five this morning. No one was disturbed during the night."

"Doctor Daley, how long, think you, has Mr. Mortimer been dead?" asked the justice, who had been an attentive listener.

"Between six and seven hours," was the decisive reply.

"Jonson, was the casement open as it now is when you discovered the body?" queried the justice.

"Yes, sir, nothing in the room has been interfered with. This gentleman," indicating the stranger, "called at six this morning to see the Squire. I went upstairs to master's bedroom and knocked several times at the door. Receiving no reply, I opened the door, which I may tell you was the custom of the Squire never to lock. I saw that the bed had not been slept in. That did not alarm me, because the Squire has many times sat up all night in the library reading and writing. He would, perhaps, on those occasions snatch a few hours' sleep in the middle of the day. I may also tell you, gentlemen, that for some months past he has been very strange in his manner. I have several times ventured to ask him to consult Doctor Daley as to his health, but he only treated my concern with indifference. I at once proceeded to the library, and I found everything in confusion, as you now see it."

"Now, Bryant," said the justice, "exhibit your skill."

The constable went to the casement and pointed out the marks of muddy boots on the long curtains. He then went out on the terrace and descended the steps. His companions curiously followed him. Pointing to the path, he said:

"Gentlemen, there are the footprints of the murderer, who entered and left the room by the casement."

Stooping down, he carefully examined the marks.

"The murderer was wearing heavy hob-nailed boots, and judging

by the size and tread of the impressions, I should say that he was a big and powerful man."

Proceeding down the path he carefully followed the track, but as the path grew harder the footprints became fainter and fainter, till they finally disappeared.

"Gentlemen," said he, with a shrug of disappointment, "the heavy rainfall has washed all further traces away."

"Was the late Mr. Mortimer a strict preserver of game on his estate?" asked the stranger curiously. "My object in enquiring is that perhaps he may have dealt harshly with poachers, and thus have incurred the enmity of one of the gang."

"No, sir," said Mr. Courtley, the justice, "our poor friend was far too easy with that class. He never was harsh, nor would he allow the keepers to be. Sometimes when the fellows have been caught red-handed, he, being in the Commission of the Peace, managed to prevail upon our Bench to let them off with easy sentences. He was such a dear fellow that, to oblige him, our sentences were very light. He was very good-natured, and was constantly sending parcels of game to his tenantry, both well-to-do and poor. I don't believe that he had an enemy in the village or surrounding country; he was beloved by all. It will be a time of general sorrow when the people hear of this night's sad work. In the winter he would visit the poor and sick, and send them money and necessities. When a poor tenant died he would defray the costs of the funeral and look after those that he or she had left penniless behind."

"Mr. Courtley speaks truly," said the doctor. "Many times has the late Squire called upon me and directed me to do my best to preserve life or to alleviate the sufferings of his poor tenantry, and my services were always liberally recognised."

Having taken careful note of everything in the room, the position of the body, and the disarrangement of the furniture, the constable picked up a table-cover that was lying on the floor, and thereby brought to light a manuscript which in the death struggle had probably been knocked off the open desk. He, with a bow, handed it to the justice, who read aloud:—

"A sad page in the life of Randalph Mortimer."

Struck with the title of the MS. the speaker turned to his companions and said:

"For the present I will take possession of this document, Doctor. I presume that no *post-mortem* will be necessary?"

"I presume not," replied the other; "that is to say, unless the coroner orders one. Mr. Mortimer died of strangulation, but not by his own hand. The disordered condition of the room, the muddy footprints on the curtains and terrace point conclusively to my mind that he was attacked suddenly, rendered first unconscious, and then strangled with his own neck-cloth."

"Have you not read or heard of cases where suicides have cunningly so arranged matters as to mystify the law as to whether they died by their own hands or by those of an assassin?" queried the stranger.

"I have," said the doctor, sharply, for he felt hurt that his professional opinion had been questioned, "but this case presents no such phase." He then went on: "My idea is that the deceased was sitting at the open desk reading or about to read the manuscript just discovered; he heard a rustling in the curtains, arose to ascertain the cause, and was at once attacked by some powerful assailant, who rendered his victim insensible and then strangled him. I admit that it is possible for a determined man to commit suicide by strangulation—especially if he were mad or on the border-land of insanity, when insensibility or a disregard to pain is a common characteristic; but he would not be able to do so with one hand."

"One hand?" echoed the stranger.

"Yes, by one hand," firmly returned the doctor, and regarding the other strangely. "Do you not see that the corded bell-pull is tightly grasped in his right hand?"

"Jonson," interrupted the justice, "where does the bell communication end?"

"In the corridor, sir, adjoining the servants' rooms."

"Are the wires of the bell in good order?" was the next query.

"Oh, yes, sir; at least they were so last night," answered the valet.

"It is very strange," remarked Mr. Courtley, musingly, "that no one was aroused by its ringing."

"It is possible," interposed the doctor, "that when with the last effort of life the deceased pulled the bell a crash of thunder might have taken place at that moment and thus have deadened the sound of its ringing."

The constable, without saying a word and to the surprise of the others, unceremoniously left the room. Only a few seconds elapsed ere he returned.

"Gentlemen," he quietly said, "no cause for wonder; the wires have been cut."

"The murderer must have gained access to the house other than by the French casement," remarked the justice, "and have severed the wires as a precautionary measure."

"He could not have entered by any other way, unless he was concealed on the premises before I retired," said the valet quickly. "The windows were all fastened by me as early as nine o'clock. The Squire always deputed me to see to all the fastenings in the house except those in this room. He was partial to walking about the grounds at all hours, and this is the only apartment in the Hall that opens directly on the gardens."

"When you came down in the morning on those occasions when your master had not retired before dismissing you for the night, did

you find the windows of this room securely fastened?" asked Mr. Courtley.

"Without exception, sir," was the firm reply. "The Squire had many valuable things under lock and key in this room, besides those objects of jewellery that you have seen. The inner folding doors are very strong. I will show them to you."

Thereupon the speaker went to the casement and, drawing back the curtains, disclosed folding doors faced with iron plates and knobs.

"When those inner doors are closed a strong iron bar is drawn across," he added.

The justice, addressing the stranger and the doctor, then said:

"Gentlemen, it is conclusive to my mind that robbery was not the object of the man who committed the crime. It is also obvious. I think, that the deed was carefully planned. The lateness of the hour chosen, when the household had retired, the cutting of the bell wires, the concealment of the murderer within the curtains, are evidences that the crime was premeditated. As it happened the storm was in his favour, as no one would be abroad under such conditions. Bryant, you will at once communicate with the coroner, and take his instructions as to the date for holding the inquest. You will tell him that Doctor Daley thinks that no autopsy is necessary, as the cause of death is so apparent. Jonson, you will see to everything in connection with the decent preparation of the body for the inspection of the 'quest. However, the remains must not be removed from this room until after the inquest, nor must any article of furniture be touched. I shall lock all the drawers and affix my seal to them."

"Are the windows to be closed, sir?" asked the valet.

"No!" was the answer. "You must also warn the servants not on any account to tread the path leading to the terrace. The impressions of the footprints must be shown to the jury, and measurements carefully taken. Bryant, you will attend to this important matter. Many crimes have been cleared up by slender threads."

"Yes, sir," and the constable bowed.

The justice then proceeded to lock the drawers of the desk. As he did so his observant eye saw the poem of "Jasper's Folly." He picked it up, and glanced rapidly over it.

"Very strange; very weird," he murmured.

Having dismissed the constable and the valet to their respective duties, he turned to Doctor Daley and the stranger, and said:

"Gentlemen, we will leave this sad scene of horror, and with your indulgence I should like to read to you the manuscript and the poem which I have in my hand. You will be good enough, also, to witness that I have placed my seal on the desk and the cabinet."

With great formality he lit a small taper, and, taking a stick of sealing-wax, he carefully and effectually sealed with his signet ring the locked articles of furniture. Then with ceremonious politeness he conducted his companions to the drawing-room which, by the brightness of its surroundings and the formal arrangement of its furniture, presented a marked contrast to the gloom and disorder of the apartment that they had left. With a bow he bade them to be seated.

"I have not the pleasure, sir, of knowing your name," said he, addressing the stranger.

"My name is Hugh Aldborough," returned the other. "Here is my card. I have to apologise for not having given it to you earlier. I am an old friend of the late Mr. Mortimer's. His death has quite unnerved me. I had an appointment with him last night, but the severity of the storm deterred me from riding over till this morning. My business was urgent, and, thinking that he would be anxious to see me, I came over at an early hour this morning. My only regret is that I did not brave the storm last night. In all probability, had I have done so, my poor friend would have been preserved from the dreadful fate that overtook him."

"My object," said the justice, "in asking you to remain after I had dismissed the constable and poor Mortimer's man was not only to read to you the lines I found in the open drawer and the dead man's manuscript, but to discuss the matter with you."

His listeners having expressed their acquiescence, he first read to them the ballad of "Jasper's Folly."

"A strange coincidence," remarked the doctor. "In these dull, sceptical times last night's actual incidents savour of the romantic and credulous days of the early Stuart period. I was not aware of the existence of those lines, but the tradition in connection with the tower and Dame Joan's prediction are the common gossip of all the old cronies of the village, and have been since the lady was in the flesh. Her strange practices were well known, and it is recorded that had she not have lost her life by fire whilst dabbling in alchemy and chemistry—which experiments in her time were looked upon by the ignorant with awe and suspicion—she would have ultimately have been sought out by the witch-finders of the First James and, as a suspect, would probably have been brought to the stake. In those fanatical days the law with regard to witchcraft and the study of the occult was no respecter of persons, as the annals of wild Lancashire in particular prove."

"I quite agree with you, doctor," said Aldborough, "as to the coincidence attending the fall of the tower and the death of my poor friend. Of course we have no evidence that the building was destroyed before the murder and in all probability shall never know, but there is no denying the fact that both events took place within a very short time of each other. Jonson, the valet, has told us that he left his master at nine o'clock, who gave him orders to

sit up till ten. He did so, and according to his account went to bed and was soon asleep. At that time the storm was gathering and the tower intact."

"I can fix the actual time when the tower was struck," interposed the justice. "My house stands on a hill about a mile from here. Soon after eleven o'clock I was about to retire when the vivid lightning attracted me to the window of my smoking room, which commanded a view of the tower. I gazed with interest on the scene. Presently a most brilliant flash of lightning illumined the vicinity of Mortimer Hall, the tower being plainly visible. This flash was almost immediately followed by a meteor or thunderbolt, which appeared to fall directly on the tower. Then was heard the most awful peal of thunder I ever remember. I was prompted, I know not why, to look at my repeater which immediately chimed the two quarters after eleven o'clock. Doctor Daley saw the body at half-past six this morning and gave it as his professional opinion that our unfortunate friend had been dead between six and seven hours, I therefore assume that the crime was committed between half past eleven o'clock and midnight. That being so the Dame's prediction of evil—'To the Mortimer race and stately Hall. If by tempests power on human will Black ruin should rive the gray tower tall' was verified."

"What immediate steps do you intend to take to elucidate the mystery attending the crime?" asked Aldborough. "Do you propose placing yourself in communication with the authorities in London for professional assistance or will you leave it in the hands of the County Officials?"



His companions having . . . Mr. Courtley, in a clear and impressive voice, proceeded to discharge his self-imposed task.

"I cannot say at present," replied the justice, who was Chairman of the Bench. "We must wait till the inquest is held. No arrest having been made, no preliminary enquiry is necessary. In the meantime Bryant, who is an old pensioned Bow-street 'Runner,' will, under my directions, quietly make enquiries and follow up any clue that he may obtain. I have great faith in his discrimination and skill. You saw this morning how he pointed out the footprints on the path, and was the first to think of examining the bell wires. He would have made a fortune as a prairie scout, as he possesses all the cunning and gifts of a Red Indian. I will now, with your permission, read poor Mortimer's manuscript." His companions having given their assent, Mr. Courtley, in a clear and impressive voice, proceeded to discharge his self-imposed task.

CHAPTER III.

"A SAD PAGE IN THE LIFE OF RANULPH MORTIMER."

"In the midst of trouble and with a mind almost unhinged by the results of two calamities, I sit down to pen these lines. I have a feeling or presentiment that my stay in this beautiful world will not be protracted, and I feel that it will be a relief to my distracted mind if I unbosom myself in the brief pages of this manuscript. A poor solace perhaps, but if the mystery that enshrouds the disappearance of my dear wife be not cleared up before my death, the story in the latter eventuality may interest those who will have

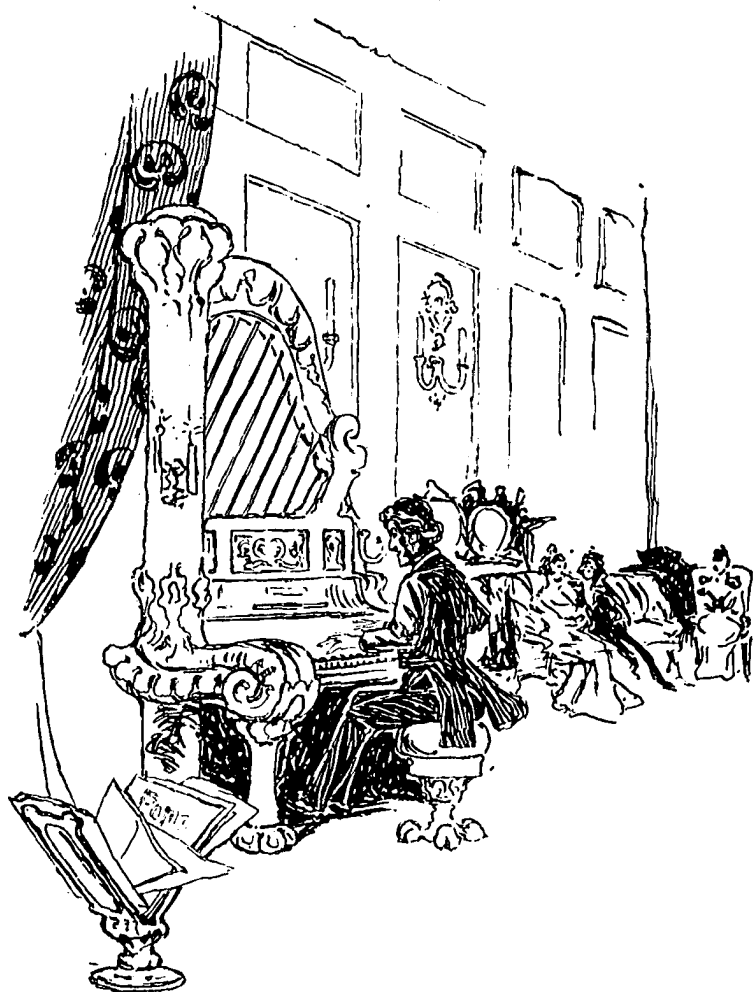
to minister to my last behests. Of my introduction and courtship of sweet Ethel Courtney, who became my wife and the mother of my only son, I will not dwell upon. Suffice it to say that there were not two happier beings in the world than we who set out on life's pilgrimage together on that rosy morn when the church had made us one.

"Peacefully the years glided by, no untoward incident arose to mar the happiness of our lives or to darken the horizon of our bliss. Our beautiful boy, the only pledge of attachment that Providence had vouchsafed unto us grew apace. With increasing years the charms of his mind developed and equalled those of his body. He was our sole care, our solace and our joy. We were fortunate enough in securing for him a tutor of great merit and under his fostering care young Ranulph became for his years a prodigy of learning. Nature had bountifully endowed him with rich gifts of understanding. The seeds were there, they germinated, and with the assistance of cultured aid arrived at maturity.

"Michael Travers, the boy's tutor, had a fine personality. In stature he was tall with a well knit frame, his face was oval with features cleanly cut, his forehead was broad and massive, and he had most brilliant eyes. How can I describe them?—They were large, expressive and glowing. Normally they were as gentle as a gazelle's, but in periods of excitement or temper they would flash and glitter like those of a tiger. He was always an enigma to me. He was recommended to me by an old college chum, and I was at our introduction greatly impressed by his appearance. He was very reserved in manner and reticent as to his antecedents. I could only glean that he had travelled a great deal in the East, and that he was a book-worm. He was a man who never courted society, although greatly in request at social functions.

"Apart from the graces of his person and mind, he was a musician and vocalist of great merit. He had translated some ancient Oriental poems and set them to music. To hear him sing them to his own accompaniment was most impressive. As I write I can see him now, and the rich tones of his voice seem to ring in my ears.

"On the evening of the day before the first great calamity befell me, he was after inducement prevailed on to perform and was particularly brilliant in a musical display. The season was summer,—a sultry night in July, and the hour about 9 o'clock. We had had a few friends to dinner, and whilst the men were lingering over their café and the ladies with their tea, Ranulph unprompted asked his tutor to sing. I may state that the boy was of an impressionable nature and Travers was his idol.



"He then went to the piano and gave such an exquisite instrumental and vocal display as I had never heard before."

"Not to-night, not to-night," was the reply, "I am feeling far from well; the night is oppressive, and I have one of my dark fits upon me. As you know I have been a nomad in many lands, have foregathered with the savage denizens of the prairie and the forest. I have also communed with the fanatical fakirs and priests of India, and the superstitious dervishes of Arabia. They have, I may tell you, an almost childish terror when nature's moods are sullen and terrible. It is true that the thunder storms in their latitudes are terrific and devastating to a degree, and their effects are well calculated to inspire fear. We, in these islands have severe tempests

but they are mere April showers compared with the awful elemental disturbances in the far East. I have been in the company of natives on occasions when to all appearances the days and nights would pass placidly by. However in a few short hours everything would change. The manner and speech of the men I was with would change also. Shadow would take the place of sunlight. Their vivacity and good humour would disappear and be succeeded by moroseness and fierceness."

"What has all this to do with my request, sir?" somewhat hastily and petulantly interposed my son. "We are not in India; we apprehend to-night no tornado nor other trouble."

"But I do," quietly returned the tutor, and his eyes flashed ominously. "I told you that I had one of my black fits upon me—We are on the eve of a great storm—Wait and see! However as you wish it I will accede to your request." He then went to the piano and gave such an exquisite instrumental and vocal display as I had never heard before, nor have I since. The words of the recitative and song were in English but the theme was Oriental. The prelude was in the nature of a dirge, solemn and impressive. This was succeeded by a lament, wild and pathetic to a degree. The singer, with excellent taste, would lower his voice almost to a whisper. Then the notes would gradually increase in volume, and in the *crescendo* passages would ring with startling power.

"However, it was the second part that fairly electrified us. We sat as if we were spell-bound. The singer's voice and manner became impassioned. The theme was one of jealousy and revenge. The artiste, for Travers was one to his fingers' tips, appeared to throw his whole soul into his work, his mobile features became a study. You saw alternately mirrored in his handsome countenance the effects of grief, anger, fear and despair.

"The whole performance was weirdly powerful, and we all gave a sigh of relief when the exposition, fascinating though it was, ended. The mental tension was too great. The executant appeared to be strangely agitated, and showed signs of exhaustion.

"Strange to relate, the evening, hitherto fine though close, suddenly changed; a great darkness overshadowed us, and a terrific storm ensued. My first action was to close the casement and to draw down the blinds, as the lightning appeared to be dangerously near our vicinity. The ladies of the company were all discomposed, and one of them fainted. To add to our discomfiture, Travers arose from his chair, glared at every one of us in turn, gave utterance to a wild cry, and darted from the room.

"Mr. Daley, our doctor, who was present, glanced at me, shrugged his shoulders significantly, tapped his forehead, and whispered to me:

"Incipient brain mischief, and worse trouble to come in the near future."

"The ladies and young Ranulph having retired, I suggested to my guests that we had better retire to the smoking room and court composure by an indulgence in tobacco. My proposal was well approved. The storm was still raging, but the thunder had abated.

"My companions that night were Doctor Daley, Ambrose Courtley, a Justice of the Peace, and old Stephen Broxton, who had been, ere infirmities overtook him, a noted fox hunter. When we were comfortably seated and supplied with cigars and brandy, I turned to the doctor and said:

"Daley, you made a private communication to me just now in the drawing-room. Have you any objection to my speaking about the matter before my guests?"

"Not in the least," he promptly replied.

"Well, my friends," I commenced, "you shall share my confidence. You both remember that after Travers had finished his wonderful musical effort, the storm commenced, and he left the room in a most dramatic yet discourteous manner. He had no sooner closed the door than Daley, who was sitting by me, whispered in my ear, 'Incipient brain mischief, and worse trouble to come in the near future.' Notwithstanding the confusion that prevailed consequent upon the storm, and the indisposition of Miss Maxwell, I was struck, not only by the communication, but by the tone of the speaker. I have always regarded Travers as being eccentric, but I have every reason to believe that his kindness and services as tutor to Ranulph have been of an exceptional character. The boy's passion for knowledge has been encouraged in every way, and his mother and myself have witnessed with delight the progress that he has made. It will concern us both when we have to terminate Travers's engagement consequent upon Ranulph's entering upon a college career. Travers has been with us nearly seven years, but it is the first time that he has behaved so strangely. He has many times in the past entertained us by his great musical gifts, but to-night he has surpassed all previous efforts, a veritable *tour de force*. I have never heard anything approaching it."

"I have," remarked Courtley, "but it was the effort of an insane person. In my capacity as a justice I had to visit some years ago a private asylum, and found that everything was carried out in a perfectly humane and legal manner. Having completed my satisfactory inspection, I was about to take leave of the principal of the place, when my departure was arrested by a flow of melody as beautiful as it was impressive." "Who is the singer?" I asked.

"One of the patients," was the reply. "Did you not notice a young woman in the North Ward, who was sitting near a window and weeping?"

"I did," I replied, "and was struck by her beauty and her pathetic expression. She appeared to me to present the grandeur of woe, as artists love to limn on the features of Niobe, Hermione, Hero, and other types of feminine grief."

"'Tis she who is now singing," said the doctor, "and you are fortunate in your visit, as it is rarely that she sings. Hers is a sad story. She was an operatic singer of great promise, had studied under one of the greatest masters of the art in Italy, and gifted with a voice that would, in the zenith of her career, have brought her fortune and renown.

"Unhappily for her she loved, 'not wisely, but too well.'" The old tale. Attracted by her charms and voice, an Italian Count paid his addresses to her. From all accounts he was a handsome man of winning manners, and of an ancient family. As to the last-mentioned qualification, that is nothing to be proud of, as the most plebian of us can lay claim to have had Father Adam as an ancestor. As the silly insect is drawn irresistibly towards the flame that will injure if not consume it, the signora was first fascinated; secondly, infatuated; and lastly, wronged.

"The dénouement was dramatic. She met the Count in the streets of Florence who treated her sighs, her tears, and reproaches with callous indifference. He little thought at the outset that he was playing with fire. He went too far, and the end was that he fell, stabbed by the beautiful creature, whose affections he had won, and whose reward was to be lightly cast aside like a soiled glove. She was arrested, and was kept in durance for a time, pending the result of the Count's wound. He lingered for some weeks, and then died. The facts of the tragedy were thoroughly sifted, and she was released after undergoing a light sentence.

"She came to England in the charge of a female relative. Her mind gradually gave way, and she became an inmate of my house, but she will never recover her reason. Occasionally she has lucid intervals, and then breaks into song. Hark! are not those notes ravishing?"

"They were, indeed! The poor demented woman was singing an Italian *morceau* of love and revenge. She appeared to be pouring out her soul with impassioned abandonment, and identifying herself with the wronged heroine of the *romanzo*.

"Travers, to-night, forcibly brought back to my recollection the artistic—yet, weird—performance of the inmate of the asylum.

"A very interesting anecdote," remarked the doctor, "but the cases are not to be considered on the same lines. The lady's wrongs had driven her mad, but Travers, so far as I know, has had no trouble, nor is he, at present, a fit subject for restraint. My diagnosis is as follows:—He has travelled in hot climates, and may have had a slight touch of sun. There are other matters that may have started the mischief, such as hereditary taint, over-study, and last, but not least, the association with the superstitious priests, witch doctors, and fetish worshippers of Asia and Africa.

"There is an innate love for the supernatural in the hearts of the most sceptical, whatever they may say to the contrary. To a romantic and impressionable mind, such as our friend the tutor possesses, the love of the occult sciences becomes intensified. From infancy to manhood those ideas in plastic minds are encouraged, and the appetite for mystical knowledge gratified by the teachings of those who have sought inspiration by the perusal of the works of the ancient philosophers and the talented exponents of the Biblical writings."

"Under the circumstances, Daley," I said, "I presume that I had better at once remove Rannulph from Travers's care. I cannot disguise from myself that the lad appears to be thoroughly under the control of his tutor. My son is a high-spirited fellow; loves tales of adventures and travel; and as Travers has had an eventful career he burns to emulate his example. That must not be. I do not desire that Rannulph should become either a learned prig or a milksop. Neither does his mother; but as he is our only child we wish him eventually to choose some profession that will keep him within the United Kingdom. There is also another important reason why he should not seek an adventurous career abroad. He is the heir of Mortimer, and, so far as I know, after my death, the last of the race.

"Mrs. Mortimer's wishes and yours are but natural," asserted the doctor, "and therefore to prevent further trouble, my advice to you both is to remove Rannulph immediately from the tutor's care. The boy is but fifteen, and by the influence of other associations and change of scene he will soon forget all about his quondam tutor, clever, learned, and fascinating as the gentleman undoubtedly is."

"Your advice is sound," I returned, "and I will, in a day or two, break the news gently to Travers. My original intention was to keep the boy under his present tutelage till he was old enough to go to college. However, after to-night's strange exhibition of eccentricity on the tutor's part, not to call it by a stronger term, I will, when the vacation is over, send Rannulph to Rugby. It was my father's old school, and mine."

"Just as I had finished speaking the storm was renewed. A terrific peal of thunder startled us all, and the window sashes were shaken by its action.

"Egad!" exclaimed the old Squire, as he took a huge pinch of snuff—"I may here state that he was one of the ancient school, who delighted in obsolete phrases and customs fast dying out.—Jupiter, methinks has charged Vulcan to forge him a thunderbolt to destroy 'The Folly.' What a storm! Friend Mortimer, I must crave thy hospitality to-night. I cannot risk my poor bones of four-score summers on the back of Firefly to-night. Old and seasoned as he is in most things, he plays up most devilishly in the face of a storm. Gads Life! I shall not forget the scurvy trick he played me last August. I had just left Courtley's place, and was ambling along

towards home when a storm arose. At the first flash of lightning the beast bolted, stumbled, said its prayers, and cleverly shot me into the pond by Four Acre Copse. Fortunately I fell into about three feet of mud, and suffered no harm other than an unsought for ill-smelling mud-bath. Had the brute thrown me a little farther on the career of one who has negotiated many a stiff fence and gate, and been in at the death of many a gallant fox, would have found his own quietus ingloriously in a gravel-pit."

"By the way, Mortimer," said Courtley, "speaking of 'The Folly,' and its tradition, I suppose that you and your forebears have treated the matter lightly?"

"Indeed, we have not," I returned. "The tower has always been religiously looked after, and periodically overhauled for repairs. To-morrow I shall personally examine it to see if the storm has injured it in any way. In these peaceful times I apprehend no danger from 'human will,' but superstition apart the 'tempest's power' is not to be despised. It is a matter of history, that so recently as my father's time the tower might have come to grief by human machinations. He took the side of the unpopular candidate for the County representation, addressed meetings on his behalf. My father was naturally choleric, and a martyr to the gout. His utterances therefore were somewhat of an acrimonious and exasperating character. Rumour said that in revenge a plot was in progress to undermine 'Jasper's Folly' with gunpowder and blow it to atoms. Anyway my father scented danger, and during the election, and for some time after, until party feeling had died out, a posse of keepers took it by turns to patrol the park day and night. The Mortimers are not alone in their superstitious reverence for an inanimate object. The Musgraves, of Eden Hall, in Cumberland, for generations, have carefully preserved, under lock and key, a glass goblet or cup, to which is attached the following legend:

"When'er this cup shall break or fall,
Farewell the luck of Eden Hall."

"At this juncture the Squire, who was a thorough *bourrivan*, suggested that ere retiring we should discuss some brandy punch which he offered to brew provided the necessary ingredients were forthcoming. Having complied with his request, we passed an hour in agreeable conversation. We were about retiring for the night, when a low knock was heard at the door.

"Come in," I said.

"To our surprise the intruder proved to be Travers. But what a contrast he presented to his bearing when he left the drawing-room. His face bore a smiling look, the eyes had lost the wild glare, and the whole appearance of the man was calm and collected.

"Mr. Mortimer and gentlemen, pray, pardon my intrusion," he said, the accents of his voice being delightfully modulated. "I felt that I could not retire to rest without apologising for my strange and ungentelemanly behaviour. To me my action appears more than incomprehensible. As I told Rannulph, I now tell you, with all sincerity, that I did not feel well in the early part of the evening, and when lightning is in the air my head becomes strangely affected. Music also, instead of acting as a sedative by distracting my thoughts, always adds fuel to the mental flame. It was for that reason that I at first declined to exhibit my poor powers. If I alarmed Mrs. Mortimer and the other ladies I am truly sorry, and will carry my repentance to them to-morrow, and will throw myself upon their generosity for a pardon or patiently submit to their censure."

"The doctor glanced strangely at me, and carelessly said:

"Mr. Travers, when abroad did you ever suffer from sunstroke?"

"Never, sir," firmly answered the tutor, and his voice lost its softness. "It may have been my fancy, but I thought that his brilliant eyes shone for a moment with a baneful light.

"Were you ever thrown from a horse?" continued Daley.

"No," returned Travers.

"Have you ever fallen from the effects of an accident or by a wilful blow from some one?"

"Again there came a negative.

"So far as you know," persisted the medico, "were your progenitors free from brain trouble?"

"Doctor Daley, why question me thus?" and the tones of the voice betrayed irritation. "I can answer for the mental soundness of my father and mother, but as I did not see the world's light during the lifetimes of my paternal and maternal grandparents, I cannot gratify your curiosity as to their respective mental conditions."

"Mr. Travers," quickly said the doctor, "I am sorry if my motives have been misunderstood, and I tender an apology. You voluntarily told us of your symptoms, and as a medical man I sought to glean, for your ultimate benefit, information that might enable me to account for your condition of mind."

"The countenance of the tutor at once cleared, and the conversation took another turn.

"Travers was an excellent *raconteur*. His stories of travel and adventure were related in a manner most delightful to hear. His reminiscences were related not in the ordinary common-place way, but with dramatic intensity. In addition to his other gifts he was a born actor, and would have won laurels on the stage. The evening that had commenced so gloomily ended most agreeably. Nature, also, smiled. The storm clouds sailed away, and a beautiful moon bathed everything in a soft light.

"Alas! I little thought when at the stroke of midnight I bade my guests and Travers 'good night,' that it was destined to be my last happy one. Upon reaching my room I found that my wife had

not retired to rest. I partly told her the substance of the conversation that had taken place in the smoking-room. She expressed surprise at its purport. I told her that under the circumstances I should have to terminate Travers's engagement. To this she agreed.

"It may seem at the first sight ungrateful, not to say unkind," I remarked, "but the boy's mind, intellectual though it is, may be warped by a stronger one. Travers has been an excellent tutor, but if insanity develops itself, as Daley foreshadows, one cannot tell what might happen. Ranulph's future and happiness are dear to both of us. I regret that I did not send him a year or two ago to a public school. I am afraid that we shall have some difficulty with him when he hears of our intentions."

"My wife then said: 'For some time past I have noticed the influence that Travers has exercised over Ranulph. He appears to be gifted with the powers of fascination. This attribute of his has been noticed by others. To-night his strange behaviour has thoroughly unnerved me, and after what Doctor Daley has said I shall not be happy whilst Travers remains in the house. If his mind becomes suddenly and permanently unhinged there is no knowing what phase of madness might be developed.'

"To my surprise she started to her feet, and, rushing to the window curtains, she peered behind them.

"What is the matter?" I asked in alarm.

"Chide me for being foolish," she returned and forced a smile. "A feeling of apprehension took possession of me just now," she continued, "that some one was hiding in the room. I fancied that I saw the curtains move."

"The effects, my dear, of the night air stealing through the curtains. Nothing more serious," I said. "I am afraid that the storm has affected your nervous system," I suggested as I walked towards the casement.

"Hark! what is that," she cried in terror, and her cheeks lost their colour.

"I heard nothing, my love," I said, reassuringly as I took her in my arms. "It is a case of nerves, and you must consult Daley in the morning. What was it that startled you the second time?" I enquired.

"I fancied I heard some one muttering and at the same time a strange numbness stole over me."

"I heard nothing, Ethel," I said.



"I took a taper from the table and, darting to the door, I flung it open."

"That may be," she returned, "but you were at the window."

"To humour her I then asked 'Where did the sounds appear to come from?'

"The passage," she answered.

"I took a taper from the table and darting to the door I flung it open and holding the light on high glanced right and left. There was no one about. I did not think that there would be. I merely opened the door to calm my wife's fears. My action had the desired effect as her terror and her strange feelings passed away."

"At breakfast next morning every one appeared to be in a normal condition and neither the storm of the previous night nor the tutor's behaviour was mentioned. I may add that Travers was invariably an early riser and breakfasted alone. We saw him at lunch and he appeared to be in the best of health and spirits. I heard from my wife later that he had tendered an apology to the ladies before they left the Hall. Our daily life was uneventful. Ranulph generally pursued his studies with the tutor from ten o'clock a.m. to one p.m.

and from two o'clock to four in the afternoon. My wife and I would drive out and return in time for lunch. Our boy after his studies were finished for the day would be left to his own devices. Swimming and angling were his chief relaxations in the summer.

"On the day of black misfortune my wife and I lunched alone, and afterwards I took a stroll in the park. It was a glorious afternoon, the sky was cloudless and the rays of the bright sun were tempered by a balmy breeze. The rain of the previous night had freshened up the trees, the hedges and the sward. As I walked along drawing in huge draughts of the sweet air, my spirits rose, and as my eyes took in the beauties of the smiling landscape I thanked Providence for the blessings that had been showered upon me."

"My lot in life had indeed been cast in pleasant places. My agreeable reverie was interrupted by seeing one of the stable lads running in an agitated manner towards a keeper's cottage. He saw me and at once altered his course and came panting towards me."

"Oh! sir—sir—sir," he stammered, "some one has been bathin' in the Black Copse Pool and is drowned!"

"How do you know that?" I demanded.

"Th' clothes are lyin' by the side of the pool and I saw some-thing white under the water. It gave me a fright and I ran away."

"Go to the cottage and get a boat-hook and bring it on to me at the pool," I said. "If Radley the keeper be in tell him to bring a blanket and some brandy. If he be out ask his wife to let you have the things. Life may not be extinct."

"The boy flew to execute my bidding and I hastened to the scene of the disaster. The lad's statement was correct. On the far side of



"I could see the form of a body beneath the water, a few yards from the bank."

the pool I saw some wearing apparel lying neatly folded, and I could see the form of a body beneath the water, a few yards from the bank. I was about to divest myself of my outer garments as a preliminary to wading and swimming out to the object when the boy appeared bearing the boat-hook. The pool was of some extent and I had a boat always moored there for the purposes of pleasure and sport. The oars and boat-hook were always kept when not in use at Radley's cottage.

"The boy and I entered the boat and pushed off to where the body was. Whilst the lad steadied the boat I leant over, and, placing my arms around the form which was lying face downwards, I lifted it up. Great God! it was the nude body of my poor son. Strong man as I was I shrieked in agony and in my distress let the body fall back into the water. The boy showed more coolness, he dragged the inanimate form into the boat and made for the bank. By this time the keeper had arrived, and taking in the sad situation at a glance he placed the form of my poor son on the bank and commenced to make efforts at resuscitation. I was dazed, nerveless, and could only gaze with staring orbs of despair on the livid features of the beloved one. The boy was sent by the keeper to procure medical assistance."

"As I gazed as if fascinated a dreadful feeling of oppression overcame me as my heart told me that all was over. The eyes of the drowned were wide open and were staring at the beautiful skies whose colour in life they had rivalled. The once handsome features were distorted and the teeth were clenched. The keeper presently said to me in emotional accents:

"I am afraid, sir, that we are too late to restore life. Poor young master has gone!"

"My grief was too great for utterance, I could only grasp the worthy fellow's hand, and my eyes hitherto unmoistened gushed forth tears, and I gave way to a paroxysm of grief. On this calamity I cannot longer dwell. Suffice it to record that on Dr. Daley's arrival he gave it as his opinion that the poor lad had been dead nearly two hours and that the cause of death was suffocation by drowning. Ranulph had probably been attacked by cramp—but had had sufficient presence of mind to swim to shallow water ere consciousness forsook him, as the depth of water where he was found was not more than three feet."

"When the news was broken to my wife by Dr. Daley, her sorrow was overwhelming. She became hysterical, was put to bed

and for days hovered between reason and insanity. Happily for me, she recovered, but her natural gaiety of heart never returned to brighten our desolate hearth. Travers, too, was greatly overcome, and at the funeral he quite lost the control of his feelings and broke down. He shortly afterwards left us, and said that he intended again to travel in the East. I have only received one letter from him, and it bore a foreign postmark. The contents were brief and were to the effect that his old restlessness had returned, and had compelled him to wander from place to place. A few days after the receipt of this letter my wife strangely disappeared. I had been away for a week or so, on a visit to some friends in the North, and on my return home by coach I received the startling news that my wife had left the Hall. Her maid was the last of the household to see her. My wife had dined alone, and had complained afterwards of not feeling well. It was an oppressive night and a thunderstorm had raged for a few hours. Ellen, the maid, having attended to her lady's requirements, was dismissed for the night. About eight next morning she had gone to her mistress's bedroom to discharge her usual duties. To her alarm she found the room untenanted. Nothing appeared to be disturbed, but my wife's morning costume, which Ellen had placed out over night ready for use was missing. Inspection of the wardrobe also disclosed the fact that my wife's summer hat and cloak were also gone, but her valuable jewels were intact. No one had seen her leave the Hall, nor had she left a single line of explanation as to her strange conduct. This second blow, following so soon after the other, plunged me into the lowest depths of despair. I became seriously ill, and was quite unable to direct any enquiries. However, an old friend of mine who had recently returned from abroad, and to whom I wrote, came to the Hall, and at once set to work to solve the mystery. For weeks he laboured incessantly, but alas! without success. When I recovered my health, the dear fellow told me of the efforts that he had made on my behalf. I feel grateful to him. Months have passed, but no tidings of my wife have come to hand. Can she be dead? Was her spirit with me yester night? To-day is the anniversary of her strange disappearance. I commenced this fragment last evening. Feeling unaccountably fatigued I ceased my task and retired to rest, but alas! not to sleep. Insomnia, from which I have suffered for many weary months, held possession of me. I tried to shake it off, but in vain. My limbs and body appeared to be destitute of feeling, but my brain was perfectly active. My sense of hearing was alert, and I became aware that there was a something in the room—There was no light burning and therefore I could not discern anything. A belief in the supernatural has never formed part of my nature, but at that moment scepticism on the subject for the time left me. My nervous system, much shattered by sorrow, could not bear the strain, and a faintness gradually stole over me. I essayed to rise to ring for Jonson, my servant, but in vain. Ere consciousness forsook me I swear that I heard my dear wife's voice.—The words were 'Husband, dear husband, come to me!' When my senses returned, the morning light was stealing through the casement. I felt weak and ill, but my limbs had regained their normal condition. I arose and drawing back the curtains of the window I gazed upon the charming landscape, from which the mist was slowly rising and presaging a glorious day. To-night I am expecting to see my friend. Will he bring me good news! My pen lies idle! I will resume it to-morrow."

CHAPTER IV.

"Poor Mortimer," sighed the worthy justice, as he placed the unfinished MS. on the table; "that morrow never came. Doctor, do you believe in presentiments?"

"Certainly not," promptly replied Daley. "Men of medical science never do. Our late friend's trials and the want of sleep had acted on a naturally highly-sensitive and romantic imagination. The fact that yesterday was the anniversary of his wife's disappearance, and that his mind and pen were engaged in composing yonder work, conjured up the whole thing."

"That is to say, Doctor," observed the justice, "the feelings described by him, and the statement that he heard the voice of his wife, were pure hallucinations."

"Exactly so. However, I will tell you this—that the symptoms mentioned by him are frequently the forerunners of *dementia*. The fancied hearing of uncanny sounds and voices is a common symptom in certain phases of mental disease. Mr. Aldborough," continued the medico, "were you the bearer of good or bad tidings to our poor friend?"

"No, I was not; but I had made a discovery which I thought of sufficient importance to warrant my seeing him. I wrote a few days ago to the effect that I should reach home last night—I live some ten miles from here. He expected me at ten. As I have told you, my intention was frustrated by the fearful storm that suddenly arose. I am a good horseman, but my steed, like the old Squire's Firefly, cannot be trusted to carry one with safety in the face of a thunderstorm."

"May I solicit your confidence as to the purport of the discovery?" said the justice.

"Not at present, sir," somewhat evasively answered the other, and his manner became reserved. "I will await the result of the inquiry on last night's sad work."

At this juncture a knock was heard.

"Come in!" said Mr. Courtley.

The door opened, and Bryant entered.

"Sorry to intrude, gentlemen," said he, respectfully, as he stood twirling his hat between his fingers restlessly, "but I have a serious matter to communicate."

"Bearing on the supposed murder?" queried the justice, eagerly.

"Yes, sir," whispered the officer, as he quietly closed the door. "If my suspicions are correct the murderer is in the house at this moment."

This statement startled his hearers considerably.

"Who is it?" demanded Mr. Courtley.

"Jonson, the valet," returned the officer, emphatically. He then, in guarded tones, spoke as follows: "Upon searching the library a short time ago I picked up this button, which bears the Mortimer crest, and, as you see, there is a piece of cloth adhering to the shank. It bears the appearance as if it had been violently torn from a garment. I therefore, gentlemen, came to the conclusion that Mr. Mortimer had been attacked by one of his own household, and, in the struggle that ensued, the squire had wrenched off one of the buttons of the waistcoat of his assailant. My suspicions at once fell upon the valet. I may tell you, gentlemen, I thought at the time when he was being questioned as to his master's movements and habits he was far too ready with his answers. If you recollect he volunteered statements."

"That is so," assented the justice: "but his concern and grief were so marked."

"Play-acting, sir: nothing more," coolly returned the officer. "He had thought out the whole bag of tricks, rehearsed the part, and mummied it well."

"But how about the marks of the muddy hob-nailed boots on the terrace, and their traces on the gravel path?" queried the doctor.

"Only a blind, sir," was the reply. "He had put them on for the purpose of raising a false scent. At the spot where the foot-prints ceased he had taken the large boots off, which he had procured for the purpose as he has small feet, and returned to the house in his stockings. The rain soon washed these faint marks away. I hope to find the boots; they are in the house, I am sure."

"This is a very serious charge to make, Bryant," said Mr. Courtley. "I know that you professional men are gifted with greater acumen than ordinary individuals, but the finding of that button is a very slender clue to go upon."

"You have not heard all, sir," respectfully said the man. "Allow me to proceed. I went to Jonson's room, and found it empty. Had he been there I should have made some excuse for intruding: I searched the place and found another link in the chain of evidence. Stuffed between the bed clothes and the mattress I found a waistcoat with one of the buttons missing. Here it is," and the speaker triumphantly produced from one of his capacious pockets the garment in question.

The Justice and his companions examined it curiously. There was not the slightest doubt but that the detached button had originally formed part of the waistcoat. The result was, the Justice issued his warrant for the arrest of the valet on suspicion.

The man must have been a most consummate actor. He protested, cried, knelt, and called upon God to prove his innocence. He was little more than a youth, and the spectators present at his arrest were greatly moved by his apparent distress. The only person who remained callous and unconcerned was the ex-Bow-street officer, whose face wore a grim smile.

Mr. Courtley, unofficially, interviewed the members of the late Mr. Mortimer's household, and everyone spoke in the highest terms of commendation of the suspected man. He had originally been a page at the Hall, and by good conduct had gradually worked his way up to the position of confidential servant to the Squire. His fellow servants all declared their belief in his innocence.

The old butler was loud in his praise of his subordinate, and said that he had gone carefully through a list of the plate and other valuables, and nothing was missing. He had never heard of any fault-finding, as the late Mr. Mortimer, he said, "was the most even-tempered and indulgent of masters." What motive, he urged, was there for the crime—neither revenge nor gain.

For the purposes of this story it is sufficient to relate that the coroner's jury unanimously brought in a verdict "That Mr. Mortimer was murdered by some person or persons unknown." They exonerated Jonson from all complicity in the matter. However, the valet was brought before the local justices, and subsequently committed for trial.

Mr. Aldborough, who had been greatly impressed by Jonson's bearing, and, for other reasons which he would not disclose, engaged clever counsel on the prisoner's behalf, and in the end the man was honourably acquitted, the chief plea set up for the defence briefly being that the actual murderer had secreted himself in the house, had cut the wires, removed the button from the waistcoat, placed it in the library—where it was found—and secreted the garment under the valet's bed, with a view to throw suspicion upon him.

The verdict gratified all in the village except Bryant, the constable, and a few of his cronies, who believed that Jonson had cheated the gallows. The ex-valet shortly after the trial, and at the suggestion of his patron, Mr. Aldborough, left the locality and took service in London.

Years passed, the effects of the Hall had been dispersed, and it gradually fell into decay. A distant relative on the female line of the murdered man inherited the property, but the place bore such a

bad reputation that he declined to live in it. He tried to sell or to lease it, but in vain.

* * * * *

It happened one Christmastide that Mr. Courtley, the reader's old acquaintance, had a large gathering at his place. He was still vigorous, and bore the weight and cares of his seventy years well. Among those present at the festivities were Doctor Daley and Mr. Aldborough. Old Squire Broxton had long since joined his ancestors in their eternal sleep.

The house-party were seated at breakfast when the mail-bag arrived. The contents were duly sorted out, and the respective recipients settled down to a quiet perusal of their letters.

"Light at last!" exclaimed the host, who had been reading a somewhat lengthy epistle. "Daley, old friend, and you, too, Aldborough, I am glad that you are here. You were both firm believers in the innocence of Jonson, and you were right. These communications clear the atmosphere of mystery that has so long shrouded our locality, and the suspicion that has rested in the minds of some on an innocent man will be removed when these documents become common property. I will first read the letter enclosing the confession of the culprit. It is dated from a station among the hills on the frontier of Afghanistan."

"DEAR SIR,—I send you the enclosed confession. Your name being mentioned therein, I, on reference to the County Directory, was pleased to learn that you were still alive and in the Commission of the Peace for the district where the horrible crimes took place."

"The confession was taken down in the presence of a local Commissioner, his clerk and myself. I may tell you that the wretched man was brought here some time ago, and placed under my care. He appeared to be suffering from some subtle brain disease. He frequently had fits and on recovery would occasionally lose all consciousness, and remain in a trance-like condition for days. His was a most curious and complicated case."

"Several friends of mine who were on the Medical Staff came and saw him, and were as much mystified as I was. Afterwards he could talk most rationally and eloquently. He was the wreck of a once great personality, both physical and mental."

"On other occasions and particularly towards the end he would pretend that he saw visions, and would hold conversation with them, sometimes in English, but more frequently in Hindustani. I may also tell you that in addition to the brain mischief, I found, on examination, that there was a cardiac affection of long standing, and one likely to prove mortal at any moment."

"Under careful nursing and medical treatment his mind became more composed, and his general condition of health improved. One sultry night, when the air was almost stifling, I was seated by his bedside. He was asleep; his swarthy face was rendered still darker by the mass of black hair that surmounted it. His features in repose were strikingly handsome, notwithstanding the ravages of ill-health. His lips wore a defiant expression, and being partly open showed teeth of ivory whiteness. As I gazed upon his face I was struck with its fascinating, though saturnine expression. It was the countenance of a man of evil passions, such a one as Danté must have had in mind when he fancifully wrote of those who peopled the regions of the damned."

"As I watched the face of the sleeping stranger, an affrighted expression gradually shadowed it like a mask. Beads of perspiration stood on the prominent temples, and his lips convulsively moved."

"I have stated that the night was oppressive, and my head told me the air was charged with an electrical current. Presently low muttering thunder was heard and a southing wind stirred the trees."

"There is a storm brewing," I said as I arose and closed the shutters. I again resumed my vigil. Presently my patient sprang up in a sitting position, and his gleaming eyes were fixed on vacancy. Slowly he spoke in the Hindu language.

"Great Mother Kali! I am here! What is your will? Do you call upon me to sacrifice another victim to thy altar? No, I will sin no more!" I placed my arms around him and tried to force him to a recumbent position. I knew that I held in my grasp a madman, one who was not responsible for his actions, but strong man as I was, a nervousness came over me when I gleaned by his wanderings that I had to deal with a Thug. He fancied that he was confronted by the fabled goddess Kali, to whom in the wild jungles and fastnesses, altars of sacrifice are raised. To add to the horror of the scene, the storm increased in violence. The man for a moment became calm, and muttered:

"Great Spirit of the Sacred Altars, I have angered you! Forgive your son! You still frown upon me! Why is this? Hark! how the storm fiends shriek and howl! Siva, the Destroyer, has more power to-night than Vishnu the Preserver! Ye are pointing to the accursed Feringhee! Must he die? Ye smile in assent. Great Goddess thou shalt be obeyed! Siva strengthen my fingers!" A fearful paroxysm then took possession of him, and his strong muscular fingers tried to clutch my throat. I exerted my utmost strength to keep him on the bed, but in vain. A fearful struggle ensued, but his strength gradually left him and he relapsed into a death-like faint.

"I lifted him into bed, applied ice to his temples, and forced some *sal volatile* down his throat. After a time the action of his heart grew stronger, his eyes opened, and in them shone the light of returning reason. I gave him a composing draught, spoke soothingly to him, and, to my great relief, he shortly after slept as placidly as a

child. I made up my mind, however, that in future he should be under the care of two persons, both night and day."

"The native male nurse, who spoke English well, had been most assiduous in his attention to the sick man. On the night in question I had sent him to bed. He came again on duty at sunrise. I told him what had taken place, and warned him to be alert, and on the least alarm to summon me. I promised him that in the course of the day I would send him a companion to share his duties. If in my absence on official duty the fits of homicidal phrensy should again be manifest, that he and his colleague should firmly restrain the man, but were not to use violence."

"At noon I looked in, and was pleased to see that the patient was in one of his lucid moods. The attendants told me that the sick man had partaken freely of nourishment, and had been conversing with them most coherently."

"He asked me to accord him a few minutes' private conversation. When the nurses had left, he said to me:

"Doctor, I am not long for this world! Am I not right? I wish to make a confession. It is useless to fence with me. My hold on life is held but by a thread. The mischief lies here," and he placed his hand in the region of his heart. "I have been and still am in pain. A feeling takes possession of me occasionally as of suffocation, then a deathly faintness follows. Please examine me."

"I applied the stethoscope, and the result was ominous. *Angina pectoris* had him in its grip. I told him that he was in a serious condition, and it was necessary that he should at once settle all worldly matters, as a mortal syncope might overtake him at any moment."

"Will you be good enough," he said in quiet tones, "to send for the Resident Commissioner, as the communication I have to make is in the nature of a dying deposition. I wish to clear the character of one who, though acquitted by the law, has for years rested under the suspicion of many in his native village as a murderer."

"When the functionary, who was accompanied by his clerk, arrived the dying man asked me to give him a strong stimulant. Having partaken of this, his voice, which before the draught had been painfully weak, grew strong; and in slow but measured accents he dictated to the clerk the confession which I have the honour to forward for your perusal."

"Yours obediently,

"EDGAR RAILTON, M.R.C.S. (England),

"To Ambrose Courtley, Esq., J.P."

"P.S.—I have to add that, shortly after he had signed the document, with a hand apparently so feeble as to require guidance, he was seized with a wild paroxysm, and his muscular power was such that it took our united strength to restrain him from doing an injury. His homicidal mania returned, and he strove to strangle one of us. He foamed at the mouth like a wild beast, struggled fiercely, shrieked out, 'Father Siva the Destroyer, I am thine! Great Goddess Kali, receive your son,' and fell back lifeless."

THE CONFESSION.

"I, Michael Travers, being on my bed of death, have to confess to the perpetration of two murders committed at Mortimer, in Staffordshire, England, in the year 1822. Before giving the details, I have to state that I am not a native of the British Isles. I was born amidst the Indian mountains. My father was a native priest, a Brahmin, and my mother was his mistress. She was of English parentage, but born in Bengal. I bear her name."

"My father was held in high veneration by his people, was deeply versed in Sanscrit and many other ancient languages. He was the head of a powerful secret society, whose titular goddess was Kali."

"I was brought up under his personal care, and became, as I advanced in years, an enthusiast in the doctrines that he preached, and a firm believer in the sacrificial observances which he practised. What they were it forms no part of my intention to disclose."

"I was moulded to my father's will, and for purposes of his own it became necessary that I should receive an English education and afterwards sojourn in the British Islands. I accordingly studied for some years at Bombay and left that city in possession of high credentials. In my 24th year I came to England and became the tutor of a youth, the only son of a Mr. Rannalph Mortimer, a Staffordshire magnate. The boy was naturally clever. I became attached to him, found him an apt pupil, and in seven years few youths of his age were possessed of so much ancient and modern knowledge."

"One evening before the outbreak of a great storm there were assembled a number of guests at Mortimer Hall. Among those present it is only necessary that I should mention the names of two, namely, Mr. Ambrose Courtley, a Justice of the Peace, and Doctor Simeon Daley. The first mentioned I liked, but the latter I disliked. At certain times, especially when the elements are about to be violently disturbed, I become morose and melancholy. I was asked on that night to contribute some musical selections by my pupil, but not feeling well I at first declined, but subsequently consented."

"Then followed the storm, and my dark fit came on. To avoid a scene I hurriedly left the apartment. When the tempest ceased my calmness returned, and feeling ashamed of my conduct I made my way to the room where the Squire and his male guests were. I was about to enter when I heard my name mentioned. Something urged me to play the eaves-dropper. I heard that in consequence of my conduct—"Incipient madness," Daley called it. Imbecile that he

was!—the boy was to be taken from me and sent to one of the Public Schools.

"When the conversation took a general turn I entered and apologised for my, to them, strange behaviour in the early part of the evening. When Mr. Mortimer retired I followed and privately overheard the conversation that took place between him and his wife. In examining some time before a quantity of old manuscripts I came across the plan of a portion of the Hall that had been built shortly after the Reformation. The Mortimers down to the time of William and Mary had been Romanists, and there were in the Hall several secret rooms and passages contrived for the lodgment of the priests. I turned my knowledge to account and was enabled to hear all:

"A feeling then took possession of me which I cannot describe. The being whose character I had formed, whose natural gifts I had improved by my fostering care and whose destiny I intended to control was to be taken from me. Base ingratitude. All night I brooded on the subject and in my sleep Siva appeared to me and bade me kill the boy. It was the custom of the youth to bathe in a pool within a retired and private part of the grounds.

"Leaving the house unobserved I went to the spot and there beheld him disporting in the water. I undressed and joined him in his diversion. My evil spirit urged me to take life. For a time I fought against it but fell at last. He struggled and pleaded for life but I held him under the water till he was dead. I returned to the house without being observed. They all thought that his death was the result of an accident. At the funeral a terrible revulsion of feeling came over me and I wept like a child.

"The next idea that took possession of me was to bring my power of will to bear upon the weakness of Mrs. Mortimer. The writings and practices of Frederick Anthony Mesmer were regarded by the million as idle and superstitious. I have studied his teachings, but they are as nothing compared with the laws of animal magnetism as taught by my father whose influence over man and beast has many times held me enthralled. He told me that in time his gifts would pale before mine.

"In Mrs. Mortimer I had an excellent subject upon whom to experimentalise. She was of a romantic and highly strung temperament. In the absence of her husband I exerted my powers and she became a mere puppet to my will. I left the mansion and gave out that I was going abroad. I only waited for a fitting opportunity to carry out my scheme. It soon came. Mr. Mortimer went to the North to see some friends. I secretly returned to the Hall the night before his expected return. By means of the secret passage I made my way to her chamber, and concealed myself therein till the departure of her maid, and, calling to my aid my art, I made her leave the Hall for ever. We went abroad, and under assumed names lived as man and wife. I was devoted to her and so she was to me. It came to my knowledge some time after that enquiries were being made.

"A friend of Mortimer's named Aldborough had seen me, and his suspicions were aroused. I determined upon a great step. I went to England, and on the night before the great storm I secretly visited the Hall and remained there in hiding. On that night I acted the ghost, and Mortimer, the dotting idiot, imagined that his wife in spirit was at his bedside and that she spoke to him. On the following night I watched my opportunity, and during the height of the storm I strangled him. I had painted my face to resemble that of a typical demon.

"The poor fool took me at first to be one. He fought stubbornly for life and got hold of the bell pull, but I had cut the wire. The steps I took to throw suspicion on Jonson the valet were successful. The hidden waistcoat and the detached button served my turn. The newspapers of the day fully reported the case. The man was acquitted, but many believed him to be guilty. I returned to France intending after a time to make Ethel my wife. Shortly after landing and whilst travelling in the diligence I heard the awful news that she had perished with others in a fire that destroyed the hotel where we had lived. I cannot say anything further. I am choking and have but a few minutes to live. My confession and my life's history here ends. I am going blind. Oh, Brahma! my heart, my heart. Quick, give me the pen! Guide my hand! "MICHAEL TRAVERS."

NOTE.—"The above confession was taken down by my clerk, Mr. John Robinson, on the night of the first of September, 1831, in my presence and in the presence of Mr. Edgar Railton, a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England. The dying man refused to take the customary oath as he said that it would not be binding on his conscience.—CHARLES MACDONALD, Commissioner."

"A most dreadful and cold blooded confession," remarked Mr. Courtley. "In it the wretched man expresses no regret for his crime, and yet with a strange inconsistency was anxious not to leave the world without offering some reparation to the man Jonson, who although held blameless by the law, yet has, for many years, been regarded with suspicion by those to whom the crime is yet fresh."

"Another phase of Traver's dementia," observed the doctor. "He was one of those who would have submitted to torture unmurmuringly, or mounted the gallows intrepidly, not in the spirit of mere bravado, but with perfect sangfroid. He possessed good and bad qualities. Unhappily the latter were predominant, but hereditary madness was the primary cause of his downfall."

* * * * *

Mortimer Hall has long since been demolished, but the Black Copse Pool still remains, and the superstitions say that at times they can hear in the wailing wind the moans and pitiful cries of the murdered boy.

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Knights Templars.



THE precise origin of Masonic Knight Templary has not yet been discovered, but the able and interesting address on "The Origin and Progress of Chivalric Freemasonry," by Sir Charles A. Cameron, M.D., C.B. (April 26th, 1900) will help very much in that direction. It contains many well authenticated facts on the subject, skilfully arranged and most carefully digested and explained, and is by far the best summary yet published.

It seems impossible, at present, to decide which of the three countries (England, Scotland, or Ireland) was the first to work the Knight Templar Degree, though, if the "Early Grand Encampment" is anything like the age claimed by its friends, the latter country must be accepted as the premier home of that Ceremony; but even then, its actual origin would remain unsolved. The Degree may have been arranged by brethren connected with one of the three countries named, and not an importation from France, as is generally supposed, and certainly the evidence tends in such a direction.

So far as is known the Royal Arch was always a necessary prerequisite for Knight Templary during the last century, and assuming that fact to be admitted, it appears to be more likely that the Ceremony is of British or Irish origin rather than of Continental manufacture. Its Military character, in part, is more in favour of Ireland than either of the other two countries, and any way, as an organisation, with numerous subordinates, the "Early Grand" Body has much evidence in its favour as the premier K.T. authority of the British Isles. That point, however, cannot be established, as yet, as (1) in England, the Degree is met with at Portsmouth so early as 1778; (2) the Charter at Bristol is dated Dec. 20th, 1780, and provides for the Degree being conferred only on those who have "passed the four Degrees of Masonry," fees were to be paid on Subordinate "Grand Encampments" being warranted, and none were to be recognised unless authorised by that "Supreme Grand and Royal Encampment," or constituted prior to 1780, and (3) the "Five Degrees or Orders of Masonry" were regularly worked at York under the wing of the "Grand Lodge of all England," a Certificate being preserved of the year 1779, having these five Degrees duly noted as being given from January to November inclusive. These dates are as early as any yet traced elsewhere in Great Britain and Ireland.

There are other sources of information, which, however, leave the matter undecided, but the oldest minutes known certainly connect Ireland more immediately with the honour of being one of the earliest (probably the first) to make the Degree known in America. The "Massachusetts Grand Lodge" was formed at Boston, U.S.A., on December 27th, 1769, by "St. Andrew's Lodge (warranted by Scotland in 1756) with the assistance of three Army Lodges held in the 14th Regiment (No. 58 England), 29th Regiment (No. 322 Ireland), and 64th Regiment (No. 106 Scotland) respectively. A "Royal Arch Lodge" was held under the aegis of "St. Andrew's," on August 28th, 1769, when the "four steps" were conferred upon Bro. William Davis, of "Excellt, Sup-Excellt, Royl Arch and K^t Templar," subsequently termed "the four Degrees of a Royal Arch Mason." This is the earliest record of the kind yet traced as respects the K.T. Ceremony, and it is suggestive to note that the W.M. and S.W. at this meeting, with another

member, were the S.W., W.M., and J.W. respectively of Lodge No. 322, Ireland; so that it is but fair to suppose that to these brethren the St. Andrew's Lodge was indebted for a knowledge of the ceremony. Lodge 58 was constituted in the 14th Regiment by the "Atholl" G.L. or "Ancients," in 1759, and had the right to work the R.A. without another Charter, but no authority was conferred by its Grand Lodge as to Knight Templary. The Grand Lodge of Scotland has never recognised either of these two Degrees, though many of its subordinate Lodges worked them notwithstanding.

The "High Knight Templars Lodge," Dublin, chartered by "Mother Lodge Kilwinning," was only for Craft purposes, but it is evident that the promoters were mostly (if not all) Knights Templars, and it is remarkable that the first W.M., in signing the minute of its inaugural meeting held immediately following its constitution, Dec. 27th, 1779, added to his name the letters "E.G.M.," and the next in rank those of "E.G.S.W.," thus proving they were *Early* Grand Knight Templars. This Lodge had apparently assembled previously, and the Scottish Lodge only authorised its members to meet under the "Kilwinning" auspices, with "all powers and privileges which now are, or for any time past, may have been legally enjoyed by any other Lodge of our creating," i.e., for Craft purposes exclusively.

So far as Scotland is concerned, the existing facts all go to show that the K.T. was introduced into that country by the "Early Grand Enept. of Ireland," and the rival organisation, which later on became the chief of the two Bodies (but the junior nevertheless), was started by Alex. Deuchar, who had, for some time, been connected with the "Grand Assembly of Knight Templars in Edinburgh, N^o 31," holding of the "Early Grand" Body of *Ireland*, as proved by a Certificate in possession of Bro. F. J. W. Crowe, of the year 1809, and signed by Deuchar as G.M.

Sir Charles A. Cameron has done well to bring together, in such an attractive and useful form, so many facts concerning the early History of Knights Templars in Great Britain and Ireland, and all of us interested in such a study owe him a debt of gratitude for the trouble he has taken, and the success he has achieved.

WM. JAMES HUGHAN.

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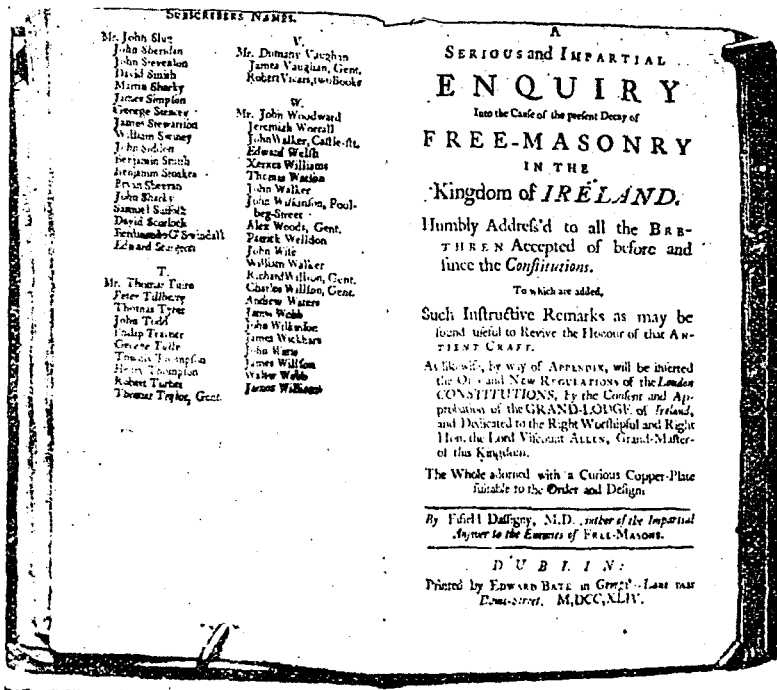
18 to 26, STEPNEY CAUSEWAY, LONDON, E.

JOHN ODLING, Corresponding Secretary.

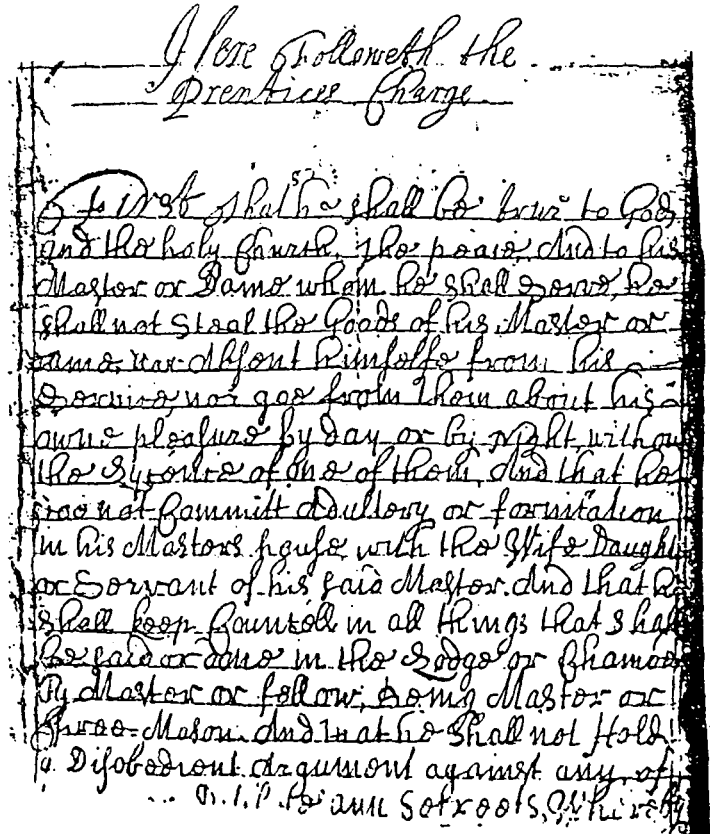
GEORGE CODE, Honorary Secretary.

Facsimile Reproductions.

It is through the courtesy of Bro. W. Watson of Leeds, Librarian of the Prov. G. Lodge of West Yorkshire, that we are able to lay before our readers reduced Facsimile Reproductions of sundry pages (1) of Dr. Fife's famous treatise entitled "Serious and Impartial Enquiry into the Cause of the Present Decay of Freemasonry in Ireland," which was published in Dublin in 1744; and portion of Thomas



W. Embleton MS., and the Macnab MS. of the Old Constitu-
tional Books, which are in the possession of the Prov. G. Lodge
of West Yorkshire, and which date from A.D. 1680 (circa) and
1722 respectively. We are confident that our readers—especially
those who interest themselves in our "Old Charges"—will
appreciate Bro. Watson's kindness in according us this privilege.



THE "THOS. W. EMBLETON MS."

(A.D. 1680 circa.)

Reduced fac-simile of two portions of THE "THOS. W. EMBLETON MS." in the
possession of the PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST YORKSHIRE.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY HESLOP WOODS, LEEDS.

THE THOS. W. EMBLETON MS. (A.D. 1680 Circa.)

of sleep & Lame's bee first built a house of stone and
timber. Tuball found out musick. Tuball found
out Smiths trade or craft also of gold silver copper
iron & steel. Nemah found out a craft of weaving
and these children knew if god would take vengeance
for sinne either by fire or water. Therefore they did
write these sayences if they had found in two Pillars

Woman during your apprenticeship
so you shall not steal any mans goods but speciall
you said Master or any of his fellow Masons or
fellow any one to steal of their goods but shall
hinder if you can. If you cannot you
shall acquaint your Master & his said fellows

Profoundly

George Welford 1722
being 17 years old March 25

"THE MACNAB MS."

(A.D. 1722.)

Reduced facsimile of portions of "THE MACNAB MS." in the possession of
THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST YORKSHIRE.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY H. CECIL WATSON, HEADINGLEY, LEEDS

THE MACNAB MS. (A.D. 1722).

The Adepts.



HOSE who have given close attention to the progress of Masonry during the 25 or 30 years that followed the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England have doubtless read of a certain Charles Sackville, Earl—or Duke, as he is erroneously described—of Middlesex, the lodge he is said to have founded in Italy, and the medal struck by Natter in his honour in 1733. This is the oldest medal, of the existence of which there is authentic evidence, and as may be imagined, not many specimens of it are met with. Doubts have been raised as to its genuineness, or rather, perhaps, as to the genuineness of the date inscribed upon it. The late Bro. the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, in Kenning's "Encyclopædia of Freemasonry," of which he was editor, looked with favour upon it in this respect, and a few years after the publication of that important work had, if we remember rightly, the good fortune to meet with a specimen in the British Museum collection. Contemporary evidence, however, is forthcoming in abundance which shows that Charles Sackville, Earl of Middlesex, the eldest son of the first Duke of Dorset, was not only in Italy, but actually in Florence in 1732, and the earlier months of the following year, and having regard to the free-and-easy manner in which in those days Masonic lodges were set up, there is no special reason that we can suggest why this Charles Sackville may not have been a Mason, and started the lodge at Florence in honour of which this medal of Natter's was struck. It is on record that his younger brother, Lord George Sackville, was Grand Master of Ireland in 1751, and that early in 1752 he was invited to become G. Master of the "Ancient" Masons, then working under a Grand Committee, but as Dermott, who was Grand Secretary at the time, and also one of the deputation that waited upon his lordship, tells us in his minutes of 1st April, 1752, "having read the petition, His lordship told them politely, That he had the highest veneration for the Ancient Craft, and wish to promote it. But he was engaged to attend His Father, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and was informed that the Grand Lodge of Ireland had lately chosen him Grand Master, and that upon his return to England he would accept the chair or recommend them to another noble Mason." But if the younger brother was a Mason, why may not the elder have been one likewise, and to go a step further, why may he not, as other young men of rank were in the habit of doing, taken the liberty of doing what in humbler men would have been punishable without benefit of clergy? Freemasonry was very much in fashion at the time.

But this is a digression which bears only very remotely upon the story we reproduce and which, we trust, will be overlooked. What we are desirous of pointing out is that Charles Sackville was in Florence in 1732 and 1733, and that we are indebted for the evidence of this to the works of the Rev. Joseph Spence, who attended the young nobleman in quality of a companion, and not as a governor. Nor was this the only foreign tour that Mr. Spence made in this capacity. He accompanied Mr. Trevor on a tour through Holland, Flanders, and France from May, 1737, to February, 1738, with the intention of proceeding to Italy. But this was impossible, as Mr. Trevor was called home to offer himself as candidate for a borough. From October, 1739, to November, 1742, he travelled with the Earl of Lincoln, afterwards second Duke of Newcastle, and it was his custom to write home to his mother full particulars of whatever struck him as being worthy of record, or likely to interest or amuse her. These memoranda were first published from the original papers, with Notes and a Life of the author, by Samuel Weller Singer, in 1820, the publishers being W. H. Carpenter, Lower Brook-street, London; and Archibald Constable and Co., Edinburgh; and it is from the narrative of the third and last of these tours, as will be seen from the date of the letter itself, that the following extraordinary story is quoted. Doubtless, the reader will have the same difficulty in maintaining a grave countenance when reading it as Mr. Spence himself experienced when the story was being told to him by the Adept.

Turin, August 25, 1740.

Dear Mother,

If the history of Floris was too Melancholy for you (as I fear it was) I am now going to give you an account of some people that may be too mysterious for you; such as some people will scarce believe ever were, or will be, in the world; however, one of them I have very lately met with; & I must give you an account of him while 'tis fresh in my memory.

Have you ever heard of the people call'd Adepts? They are a sett of Philosophers, superiour to whatever appear'd among the Greeks and Romans. The three great points they drive at, is to be free from Poverty, Distempers, & Death; & if you will believe them, they have found out one Secret that is capable of freeing them from all three! There are never more than twelve of these men in the world at a time; & we have the happiness of having one of the twelve at this time in Turin. I was very well acquainted with him; & have often talk'd with him of their Secrets as far as he is allow'd to talk to a comon mortal of them.

His name is Audrey; a Frenchman; of a Genteel Air; but with a certain Gravity in his face, that I never saw in any Frenchman before. The first time I was in company with him, as I found he had been a great Traveller, I ask'd him whether he had ever been in England, and how he lik'd the Country? He said that he had, & that he lik'd it more than any Country he had ever been in. The last time I was in England, added he, there were Eleven Philosophers there. I told him I hop'd there might be more than Eleven in England. He smil'd a little and said: 'S' I don't talk of common Philosophers; I talk of Adepts; and of them I saw in England, what I never saw anywhere else; there were Eleven at Table; I made the Twelfth; and when we came to compare our Ages all together, they made somewhat upward of Four Thousand years. I wonder'd to hear a grave man talk so strangely, & ask'd him, as seriously as I cou'd, how old he might be himself. He said that he was not quite 200; but that he was one of the youngest at the Table. He said that the Secret of carrying on their lives as long as they pleas'd was known to all of them; & that some of them perhaps might remove out of this world; but that he did not think any one of them would dye; for if they did not like this Globe, they had nothing to do but to go into another, whenever they pleased. How soon that might be, he did not know, but St. John and the Travelling Jew, he said, had staid in it above 17 hundred years; & some of his Friends perhaps might stay as long. He said the Great Elixir of w^{ch} he had some in his pocket, made him look no older than Forty; that he was afraid of no distemper, for that would cure him immediately; nor of Want, because 't wou'd make him as much Gold as he pleas'd. He said many other things as strange and surprizing, as what I have told you.

I was talking of him and his Gold-making to our Minister here: who, upon this, told me a very odd story, which he had from Marechal Rhebender, General of the King of Sardinia's Forces at present. The General (who comes from those parts) says, that when Gustavus Adolphus was going to make War with the Emperour, he found himself at a loss for money sufficient for so great an Undertaking. He was very melancholy upon it, & everything was at a stand; when one morning a very old man came to his Court, & told the Gentleman of the Bedchamber in Waiting, that he wanted to speak to the King. The Gentleman desired his name; he refused to tell it; but he said he must speak to the King, & that it was on Business of the utmost importance to his Majesty's Affairs. Gustavus, who was incapable of fear, order'd him to be admitted. When they were alone, the Old Man told him, that he knew what straits he was in for money; & that he was come to furnish him with as much as he shou'd want. He then desir'd him to send for a Crucible full of Mercury; he took out a White Powder, & put in only abt the quantity of a pinch of snuff. He then desir'd him to sit by the Crucible, till the next morning; gave him a large bundle of the White Powder, and departed. When Gustavus call'd for the Crucible the next morning, 'twas all full of one solid piece of Gold. He coin'd this into Ducats; & on the Coin, in memory of the fact, was struck the Chymical Marks for Mercury and Sulphur. Rhebender had several of them thus markt, & gave one of them to our Minister, who told me the story.

Some Rare Certificates.

BY FRED J. W. CROWE,
P.M. 328, 2076, 2806, P. Prov. G.O., &c.



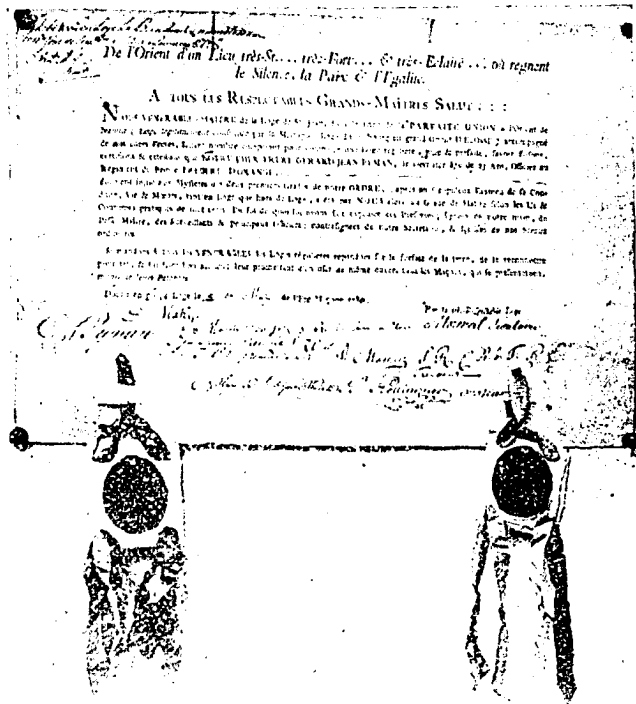
SINCE I last contributed a paper to the Christmas *Freemason* on this subject I have added many specimens to my store, and I venture to hope that a description of some few specially interesting items will not be unacceptable to your readers. For the illustrations I have to thank my friend Bro.:

J. Taylor, P.M., 1402, P. Prov. G. Reg. Devon, who, in spite of the unpropitious weather, has secured an admirable series of negatives.

The first specimen is that of the Lodge of Perfect Union at Namur, which was founded by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, about 1770, as No. 160, and became defunct, as far as I can gather, before the end of the century. The Lodge is named in the list of the 1848 Book of Constitutions, but no date is given of its erection or erasion, so that the years named can only be approximated by the dates of the lodges preceding and following it. The wording is as follows:—

"De l'Orient d'un Lieu très-St . . . très-Fort . . . & très-Eclairé . . . où regnent le Silence, la Paix, & l'Egalité.

A tous les Respectables Grands-Maitres Salut . . . NOUS VENERABLE-MAITRE de la Loge de St. Jean, sous le titre de la PARFAITE-UNION à l'Orient de Namur (Loge légitimement constituée par la Métropole Loge d'Edimbourg au grand Orient D'ECOSSE) accompagné de nos chers Freres faisant nombre compétant pour composer un Loge régulière, juste, & parfaite, savoir faisons, certifions & attestons que NOTRE CHER FRERE GERARD-JEAN PYMAN, de Deventer âgé de 25 ans, Officier au Regiment du Prince FREDERIC D'ORANGE dûment initié aux Mysteres des deux premiers Grades de notre Ordre . . . après un scrupuleux Examen de sa Conduite, Vie & Mœurs, tant en Loge que hors de Loge, a été par NOUS élevé au Grade de Maître selon les Us & Coutumes pratiques de tout tems. En foi de quoi lui avons fait expédier ces Présentes; signées de notre main, du Passé-Maitre, des Surveillants & principaux Officiers: contresignées de notre Secrétaire, & scellées de nos Sceaux ordinaires.



Si Mandons à tous les VENERABLES des Loges régulières répandues sur la surface de la terre, de la reconnoître pour tel, et lui faire bon accueil; leur promettant d'en user de même envers tous les Maçons, qui se présenteront, munis de leurs Patentes.

Donné en pleine Loge le 5 de May de l'Ere Maçonne 5780
Mahy Par la très-Respectable Loge
Normal Secrétaire.

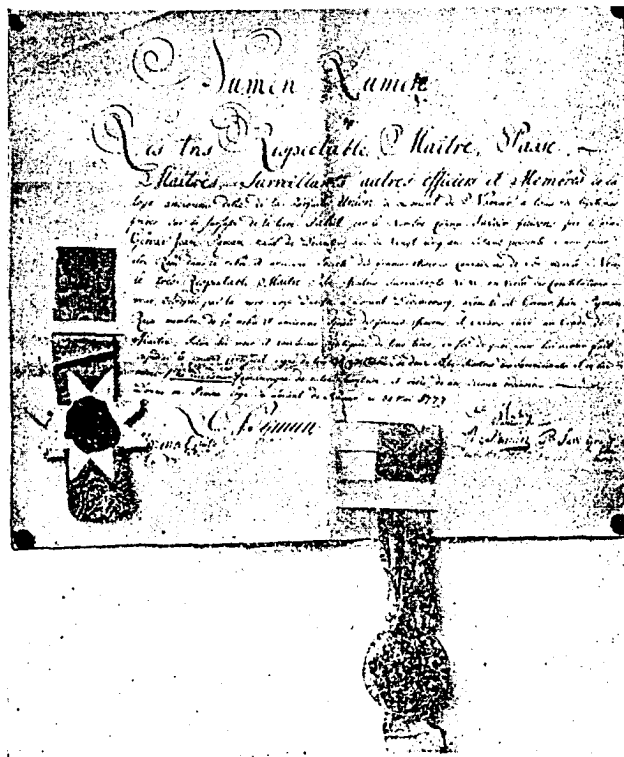
Malstan de footz S. Pr. C. passé Maître.
G. J. Pyman.
D'autrebande D'autre S: R: C: et
A: d: T: P: E: premier Surv.
A. Mamin S.R: C.A. d. T: P: E.
Tresorier.
Kottingner, Orateur.

G. S. Hay Sec^d S^r et Grand Ellu de 15.

It is curious that the whole certificate, with the exception of the date and the signatures, is in print, including the name of

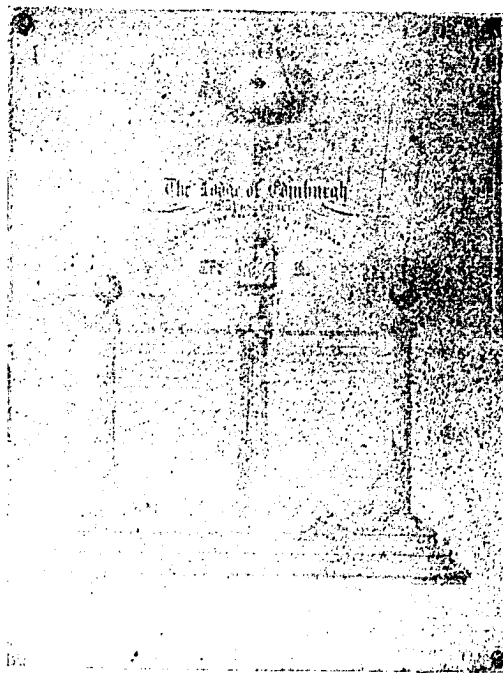
the recipient, Bro. Pyman, and the fact that he received the first two grades only. If the certificate was printed specially for him why was not the date printed also? The date 5780 is evidently according to the Scottish custom of adding 4004 to the vulgar era, for on the top left-hand corner is an interesting MS. endorsement—"Exhibé & vu en Loge La Bien Aimée a Amsterdam ce 11^e jour de Sept^{bre} de l'an de Lumière 5776. Ant: Myhus. Secret." Two seals are appended. That on the left is attached to a little bunch of ribbons of red, blue, yellow, green, and black. The impression is very bad, but I can just distinguish a double-headed eagle on a Maltese Cross, sword handles, and the motto "Nec plus ultra." Another motto at the bottom is undecipherable. The other seal is on yellow and blue ribbons. In the centre are the arms of the Grand Lodge of Scotland surrounded by an heraldic mantle and the motto, "Nostrum Dominus Deus Præsidium." The use of the "High Grades" seal and motto on a Craft certificate of this date is unusual to me. I should be glad to know if any brother knows of any other certificate of a Scottish lodge of this date, as it is the oldest I am acquainted with.

No. 2 is a MS. certificate to the same brother, and from the same lodge, of the degree of Master Mason. The date is May 31, 5779, and the four signatures of Mahy, Mamin, D'Antree, and Mormal only (W.M., S.W., J.W., and Sec.), are attached. There are two seals on light blue ribbon. That on



the left shows a celestial crown, sun, moon, seven stars, palm branches, and rainbow surmounted by what is, presumably, a dove. The motto reads "Numen ☐ אלהי Lumen." The other is a large and handsome seal, in tin box, with the crest and arms of the G. L. Scotland, and motto, "Nostrum Dominus Deus Præsidium." Perhaps some brother learned in Hebrew will translate Aleph, Lamed, He, Nun.

No. 3 is the old certificate of the Lodge of Edinburgh,



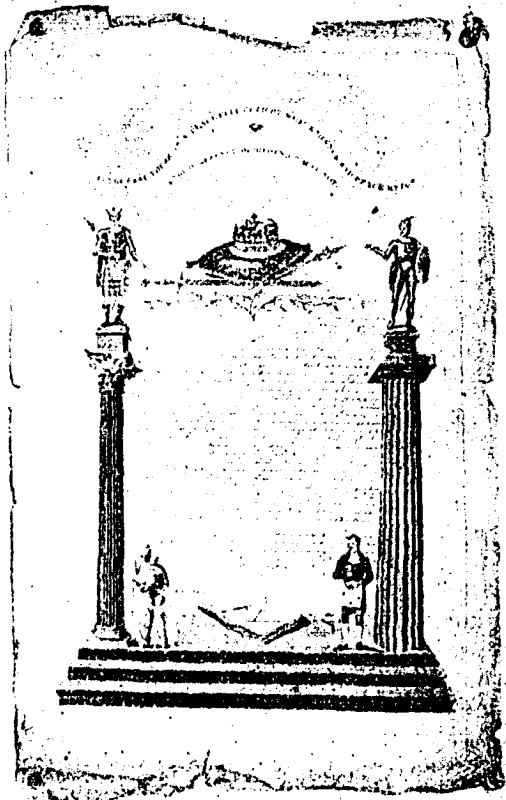
the plate of which has long been lost. I have a copy of this in my own collection, dated 1847, but as it is very wrinkled my friend, Brother W. J. Hughan, has lent me his own diploma of Honorary Membership from the same plate, for reproduction, which will, of course, be doubly interesting. At the top is an all-seeing eye, then on a ribbon the motto, "Sit lux et lux fuit," beneath which are the words "Existing in 1535. The Lodge of Edinburgh, Mary's Chapel, holding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, No. 1. To all whom it may concern. These are to certify that our trusty and well-beloved Brother William James Hughan, who has on the centre column hereof signed his name, was regularly affiliated (Honorary) in the Lodge of Edinburgh, holding of the Gd. L. of Scotland No. 1, in testimony whereof We, the Master, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary of said ancient Lodge, have subscribed these presents, and caused the Seal of the Lodge to be appended hereto at Edinburgh, the eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and seventy-two, and of Light Five Thousand Eight Hundred and seventy-six." On the opposite side the same matter in Latin. The Signatures are J. Muirhead, Master; E. W. Nightingale, S.W.; J. Philp, J.W.; John R. Campbell, Treasurer; J. Webster, Sec., and at the bottom is impressed the old seal of the lodge.

No. 4 is the new and handsome certificate of Honorary Membership recently issued in connection with the Tercentenary celebration. The group on the left represents the building of Holyrood Chapel in 1128, and in panel beneath is the famous extract from the Schaw statutes stating that, "Edr salbe in all



tyne cuming as of befoir the first and principall ludge in Scotland." It is signed by Peter L. Henderson, R.W.M.; J. A. Trevelyan Sturrock, W.S.W.; J. F. Officer, W.J.W., and R. Wood Hawks, Sec., and dated June 13th, 1899.

No. 5 is a handsome plate with inscriptions in English and Celtic of the Celtic Lodge of Edinburgh and Leith, now No. 291. At the top over an irradiated field containing the all-

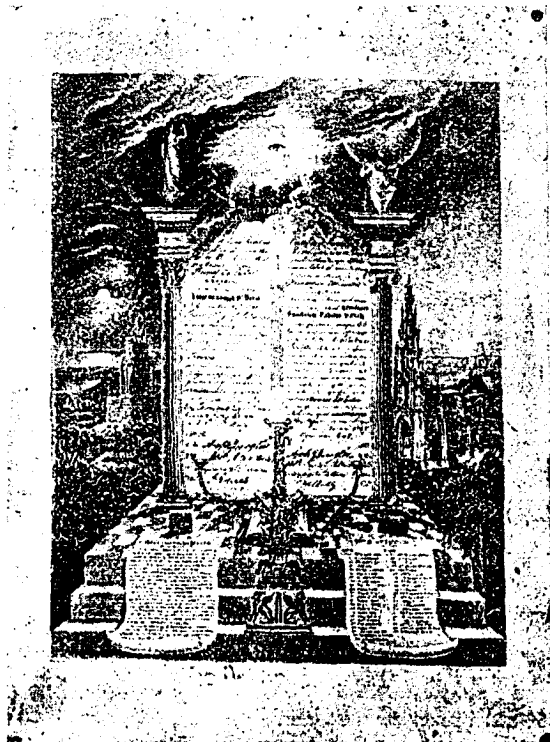


seeing eye, sun, moon, and seven stars, is the inscription "In the East there is a place full of light where silence and peace reign & the darkness comprehendeth it not."—A slight variant of the usual wording of this well known phrase.

The design is bold and effective. On the uppermost of three steps are two columns, Doric and Corinthian, the latter

surmounted by a figure of King Robert the Bruce, in kilt and sporan, and the former by Sir William Wallace in full armour and plaid. In the centre, on a cushion, is the Royal Crown of Scotland, with the sword of state and two sceptres; and standing between the pillars are figures of Charity, and of the R.W.M. wearing an apron adorned with emblems and holding a gavel. On the step are the Three Great Lights, and the level and plumb. The name has not been filled in, and I am informed that the certificate is not in use at present.

No. 6 is without exception the most beautiful and artistic diploma I have ever seen. It was designed by Bro. S. D. Douglas, and engraved by Bro. J. Gellatly, of Edinburgh, for the Lodge Edinburgh St. David No. 36; the lodge in which Sir Walter Scott was made. It was granted to Bro. Thomas Eccleston, Surgeon, on May 17th, 1847, and is signed by Archibald Douglas, S.W.; Joseph Harkom, J.W.; Daniel Robertson, Sec.; and by Bro. J. Gellatly himself as Treasurer. The Master, for some reason, omitted to sign. The certificate proper is in the centre, between Ionic and Corinthian columns, surmounted by figures of Justice and of Atlas bearing the globe, between which is an all-seeing eye surrounded by clouds. On



the left the full moon and seven stars shine over what looks like the Forth, near which are the ruins of Holyrood, whilst in the nearer foreground is a Greek temple. On the left, various celebrated works of antiquity are grouped in a landscape over which the sun is rising. They include the Tower of Babel, the Pyramids, the Parthenon, Stonehenge, the Three Crosses of Calvary, and, in addition to these, the modern Scott memorial. At the bottom are two interesting scrolls. That on the left reads thus:—"Memoir of the Lodge Edinburgh St. David for one hundred years. This lodge, a branch of the Leith Kilwinning N° 5 in the Grand Lodge roll (now extinct) obtained a charter of erection on 7th Feb., 1739, under the title of 'The Canongate from Leith Lodge.' On 2nd August, 1756, with sanction, the present name of 'St. David's' was assumed. The first meetings were held successively in the Laigh Coffee-house, Canongate; Shoemakers' Hall, Potterow; Hammerman's Hall, Canongate. The present Hall (Hyndford's Close), purchased on 9th Novr., 1757, was consecrated by the Grand Lodge on 12th Decr. thereafter. The records of the Grand Lodge, as well as those of the sister lodges, bear testimony that St. David's has ever been held in the highest estimation for its uniform strict attention to every Masonic duty, while its own members evince the anxiety of its members at all time to preserve from encroachment the ancient landmarks of the Craft. Its list of upwards of 3000 members comprises many names of brethren, distinguished for worth, rank, and talent. Among these will be found the illustrious name of Walter Scott."

The other is the "List of Masters of St. David's Lodge.

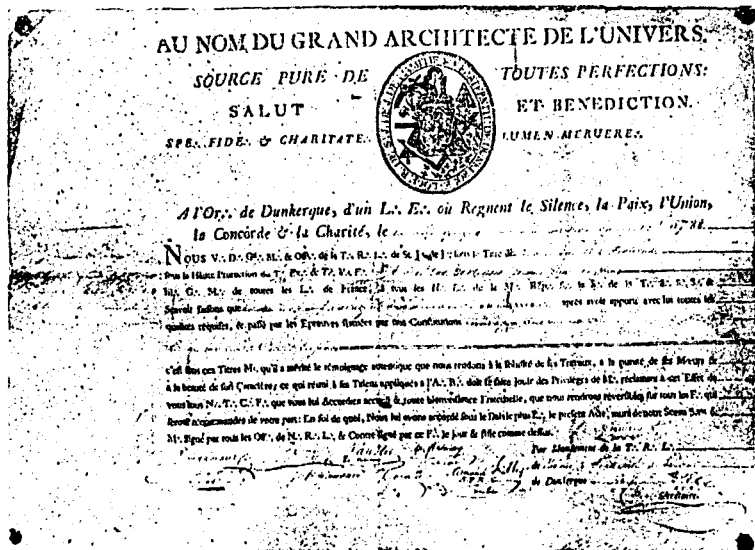
" Elected 1738 Archibald Smart	Elected 1768 William Ballie
" 1741 William Wilson	" 1770 Andrew Balfour
" 1747 Colin Mitchell	" 1771 Robert Horne
" 1751 John Orr	" 1772 Dr. D. Wardrobe,
" 1754 Walter Ferguson	" 1773 Andrew Yule
" 1755 James Ewart	" 1774 Henry Horne
" 1756 Dr. James Walker	" 1775 David Maxwell
" 1757 William Budge	" 1778 Lord Forbes
" 1758 The Earl of Leven	" 1780 Dr. A. Bardrobe
" 1764 James Horne	" 1783 James Horne

"Elected 1785 Andrew Balfour
 " 1787 Wm. Campbell of
 Fairfield
 " 1789 Sir J. G. Craig, Bart.
 " 1792 James Horne (re-
 elected)
 " 1796 J. O. Brown
 " 1798 J. Dick
 " 1799 J. O. Brown (re-
 elected)
 " 1800 H. R. Brown
 " 1804 Joseph Gillon
 " 1810 H. R. Brown (re-
 elected)
 " 1821 T. T. Macconochie
 " 1822 Sir P. Walker, Kt.
 " 1823 T. T. Macconochie
 (re-elected)

Elected 1823 Sir P. Walker, Kt.
 (re-elected)
 " 1825 Archibald Duncan
 " 1827 Thomas Miller
 " 1838 J. A. Ballinhard
 " 1834 Tod Robert Kerr
 " 1835 Sir P. Walker, Kt.
 (re-elected)
 " 1837 Capt. D. Boswell,
 R.N.
 " 1841 J. Brown Douglas
 " 1845 Honble. H. Walpole
 " 1846 J. Brown Douglas
 (re-elected)
 " 1847 W. Balfour-Barkie

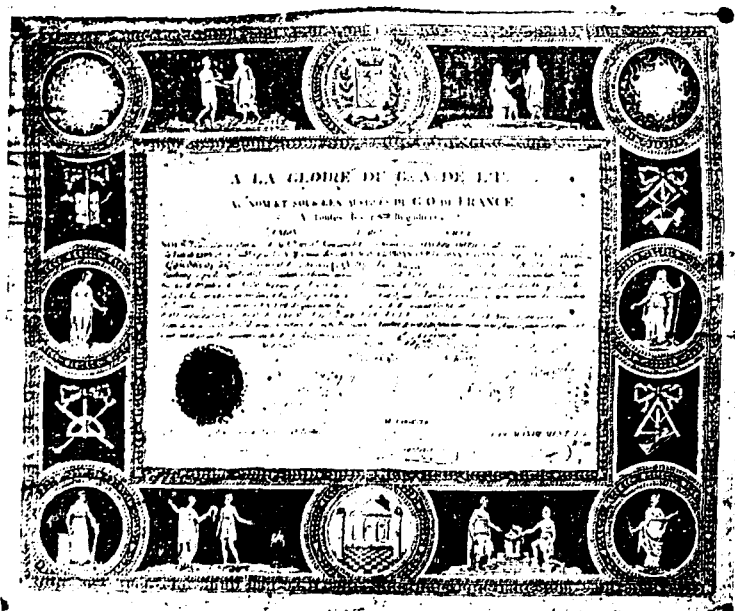
This plate also is lost, which its beauty renders a matter for great regret.

The remaining specimens shown are Continental. No. 7 is a very rare certificate issued by the Lodge of L'Amité et Fraternité at Dunkerque, and dated Wednesday, the 15th of August, 5788. It was granted to "Joseph Castagnier, sous-lieutenant des vaisseaux de S. M. Louis XVI. Roi de France," and enumerates the degrees of E.A., F.C., M.M., Parfait; Elu; Apprentice, Companion, and Master *Ecossais*. The centre piece, presumably the seal of the lodge, is a very handsome wood-block. The design shows the compass, square, level,



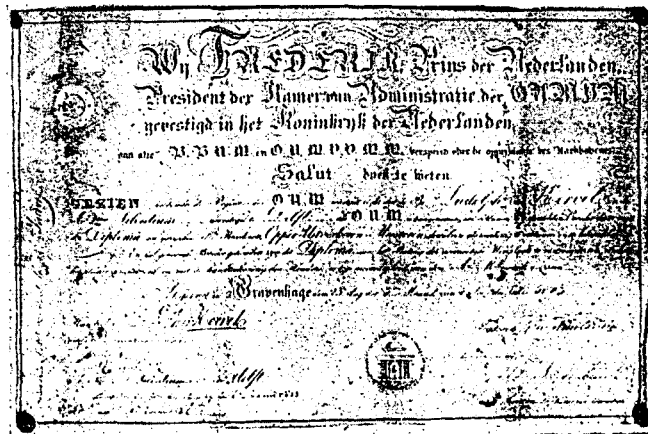
plumb, mallet, acacia, and segment, surmounted by a shield bearing a label of three points, beneath which are three fleur-de-lis (two and one), and around it is the legend, "Lodge R. de S^t J. De J. D.F. L'Amité et Fraternité de Dunkerque." It is signed by all the principal officers, several of whom append S.P.R.C. to their names. The seal is, unfortunately, missing.

No. 8 is the finest amongst many fine designs of French certificates, at any rate in my opinion. It was granted to



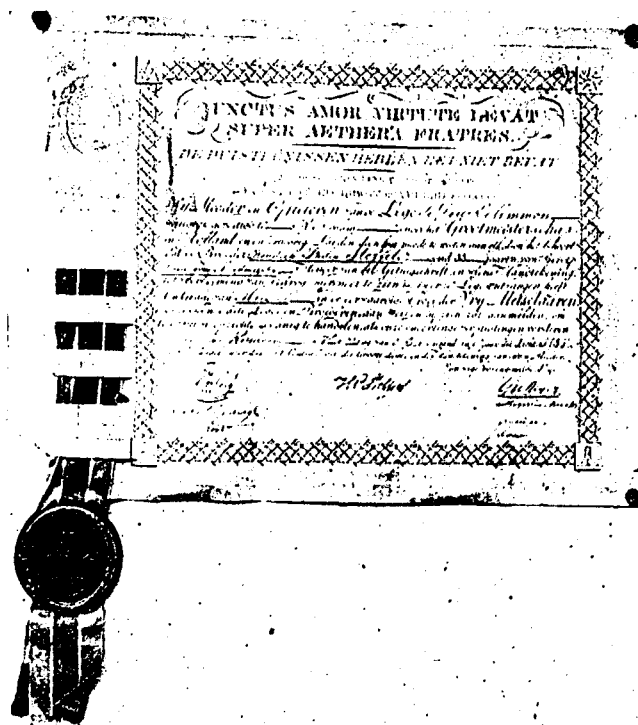
Alexander Gaudard by Lodge Sincere Amitié at Lyons, and is dated November 12th 1834. Bro. Taylor's negative is so good that I think the symbolic groups around the margin will fully explain themselves. The seal of the lodge is engraved at the top, and another, bearing a double triangle and other indistinct devices, surmounted by a crown, is affixed to the body of the document.

No. 9 is a rare diploma of a Degree peculiar to the Netherlands, and founded by Prince Frederick of the Netherlands. It is called Elect Masters, and is an elaboration of part of the Third Degree. The idea is most perfect equality, and no decoration is worn but a small medal on a blue cord, the brethren appearing in evening dress. The present specimen was granted



to Bro. Ludolph van Kervel, of Lodge *Silentium* at Delft, and is dated May 23rd, 5823, and signed by Prince Frederick himself. The Degree was also worked at Brussels, and a slightly different diploma in French was issued there, of which I have a specimen. I am informed that the Degree is now nearly, if not quite, extinct.

No. 10, the last, is granted to Hendrik Philip Stoffels, of Lodge de Drie Colommen at Rotterdam on March 7th, 1835, and shows the old type of Dutch certificate. The seal is appended to a ribbon of orange, blue, and white, and bears a device of the Three Columns surmounted by a triangle. On the centre pillar



is a sun and G, and below the square and compass, whilst the name of the lodge is around the margin. The lodge still exists, and I believe there is one of similar title in Germany; but in spite of the frequent allusions to these architectural emblems, and their appearance of every English M.M. certificate, the only lodge bearing this name on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England is "The Lodge of the Three Pillars, 2806," founded at Cockington, Torquay, in May, 1900.

If there is any point in connection with these certificates on which any brother may wish for further information, I shall be most happy to hear from him privately.

The Blotting Pad.

A LOVE STORY.

By PROF. F. W. DRIVER, M.A., P.M. 45, P.Z. 742.

Author of "Saved by a Puff of Wind," "The Four Henries,"
"Champagne Cheap," "A Case of Suicide," &c.



R. HARRY HASTINGS, a thriving young merchant, of Everston, had been busily engaged during the morning and afternoon, in interviewing upwards of 30 lady candidates, who had applied, in answer to an advertisement, for the post of typewriter and secretary, in his office. He had been visited by many maidens of certain and uncertain ages, of every variety of personal appearance, some good looking, others the reverse. All were, however, eager for the post, and professed themselves qualified for the duties required.

Mr. Hastings took down the names of three, or four, but found it difficult to decide. One, however, of the later arrivals attracted his attention. She was a young girl of about 19 or 20, small in stature and figure, a blonde with fair hair and blue expressive eyes, of which, however, little could be seen, for she modestly looked down, as if afraid. She said she had, up to the present time, no business experience, she had only learnt typewriting as an amusement, but she thought she might be able, after a little practice, to acquire facility and be of use.

Mr. Hastings asked her name, and enquired if she had any references to offer.

She replied, she was Lucy Ashford, that she had been living with her father and brother, some miles from Everston. Her father had been dead some time, and left her brother and herself in almost destitute circumstances. Her brother had, fortunately, obtained employment, but she determined not to be a burden on him and hoped to be able to contribute to her own support. She gave, as reference, the landlady of the house, at Everston, where her brother and she were lodging.

Now, although prudence and due caution should have dictated to Mr. Hastings to apply to the reference given before engaging the young lady, he did not do so, but informed Miss Ashford that she might commence her duties at his office next week; the fact was he had taken a fancy to her.

Before leaving the office, he wrote to those whose addresses he had taken down, saying that the situation had been filled up.

Next Monday Miss Ashford commenced her duties.

It was not long, however, before it was seen that the young lady was not suited to the post, as she herself said, she had had no business experience.

Mr. Hastings was very kind, passed over many glaring mistakes she made, and assisted her materially, but at last, he began to have serious misgivings, that he had acted unwisely, and that his business interests would seriously suffer.

One morning, a week after her engagement, Mr. Hastings called her to his room, and said, "I am afraid, Miss Ashford, I shall not be able to continue your services, you must be aware, yourself, how inexperienced you are."

"Oh! Mr. Hastings, kindly grant me your patience for a week or so more, I will do my utmost to improve, I am sure I shall succeed."

As she spoke, she looked earnestly at her employer, her beautiful eyes pleaded more in her favour than did her tongue.

"Well, Miss Ashford, I consent to postpone my decision for a month, from to-day, perhaps, during that time you may be able to improve; I will help you as far as lies in my power."

She gratefully thanked him, and felt encouraged by his words. At first, slowly, but afterwards more rapidly, she made herself acquainted with business details, she acquired self-confidence, so that, long before the month had expired, she was able to perform her duties, with comfort to herself, and to the entire satisfaction of her employer.

It must be owned that Mr. Hastings was very patient and considerate, and materially assisted her.

And now that she is fairly settled, let us say a few words concerning Harry Hastings and Lucy Ashford, our hero and heroine.

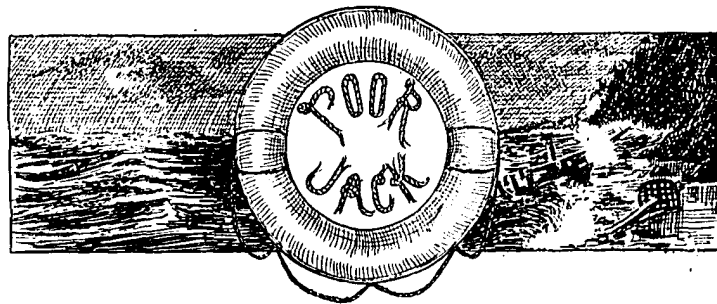
Harry Hastings was the only son of a prosperous merchant, who, on his death, left him a moderate fortune and a well-established mercantile connection, which the son, from his early business training and capacity, was able to improve. He was a handsome young fellow, about 25, with dark hair and eyes, well built form, which had been developed by athletic sports, and a great cricketer in the club to which he belonged. He was of a frank, kindly disposition, and the soul of honour. He was a great favourite amongst the young ladies of his acquaintance, many of whom would only have been too happy to share the fate and fortune of one who was so desirable, but, up to the present time, he was proof against all female attractions, and was, in fact, heart-whole, how long he would remain so, events would prove.

Lucy Ashford, as we have before said, was petite, but of a graceful figure, she would not, perhaps, have been called beautiful, but her clear bright complexion, her silken golden hair, but above all, her expressive bright blue eyes made her face one that was a pleasure to look on; her unobtrusive, modest demeanour added greatly to her attractions. Her early history had been a painful one; her father, who had held a high position, as Manager of a local bank, at Yold, about 18 miles from Everston, after many years of honoured respectability, had indulged in speculation, lost heavily, and, to pay his liabilities, appropriated the funds of the bank. When the audit took place his defalcations were discovered, he attempted flight, was arrested, and after commitment, was tried at the Assizes, found guilty, and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment; before it was completed he died, leaving to his son and daughter a legacy of shame and disgrace.

As the people of Yold, on the death of the father, looked askance upon the son and daughter, Lucy was advised by her brother to leave Yold, and proceed to Everston, and when there he proposed they should assume a new name. As we have seen, the brother obtained employment, and the sister, our Lucy, was engaged by Mr. Hastings. Lucy now was quite happy and contented, becoming, day by day, more useful to Mr. Hastings, who appreciated her worth, bestowed his confidence, and often consulted her on important points, and was delighted at her ready, apt discrimination and judgment.

As for Lucy herself, she began to take, great interest in Harry Hastings' affairs. She felt so grateful for his past and present kindness—her gratitude became warm, too warm, indeed, for her peace of mind—but she was careful not to betray herself by word or look, and religiously kept her secret, unknown but to herself. There was, however, one jarring note of discord—her brother, who held a good situation, became gradually careless, and unpunctual in his habits, and, at last, so

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J. BAILEY WALKER, Secretary.

neglected his duties that he was dismissed by his employer. He was idle for some months, not caring to exert himself to obtain another situation.

An unexpected vacancy occurred in Mr. Hastings' office, a clerk, from ill-health, was compelled to leave. Lucy spoke on behalf of her brother George to Mr. Hastings, who consented to engage him, temporarily, until the clerk resumed his duties. This, however, he never did, for he died abroad two months afterwards. George, who had been on his best behaviour, and, by steady application to his work, had acquired the good graces of Mr. Hastings, was permitted to retain his post as a permanency, with the hope of promotion should he deserve it. He now considered his situation secure, but did not, unfortunately, continue to show the zeal he had previously done; he relaxed his efforts, irregularities crept into the office work—a serious mistake he made caused a heavy pecuniary loss.

Mr. Hastings was, at first, determined to dismiss him, but Lucy appealed so earnestly, on behalf of her brother George, that Mr. Hastings could not resist her, and pardoned, on this occasion, his delinquencies, warning him at the same time that they must not occur again. George readily promised amendment—it lasted a little while—then there was a relapse. He had again joined his former evil associates, became involved in horse racing, and, from the anxieties which occupied his mind, was not fitted for business avocations; he ventured to stake heavily on what, in racing parlance, is called a "dead cert"—lost, and knew not where he should find the money to meet his obligations. In this dilemma he yielded to the temptation, which he had not the courage to resist, of forging Mr. Hastings' signature on a blank cheque which he had managed to secure. As he was well known at the bank, he did not dare to present the cheque himself, which purported to be for Self, with his employer's signature—he, therefore, went to the room where his sister was, and said:

"Lucy, the governor wants this cheque cashed: he has asked me to go—I am very busy just now, will you go in my place, present the cheque at the bank, receive the money, come back, hand it to me, and I will give it the governor?"

Lucy, suspecting nothing, agreed to go; she went to the bank, received the cash, which she left with her brother for him to give to Mr. Hastings. It need hardly be said that the money did not go beyond the hands of her brother George.

Some days afterwards Mr. Hastings, on looking over his bank-book, observed an item of £50, drawn by himself, of which he had no recollection. He called at the bank, and asked to see the cancelled cheques. He noticed the one for £50, looked carefully at it—it was a clever imitation of his signature, but an undoubted forgery. He enquired of the cashier by whom it was presented—was told by a young lady. From her personal description it was evident that it had been cashed by Lucy. He went back to the office, heavy at heart—he would fain believe that Lucy was not guilty, but the evidence against her was too strong to be refuted. After mature deliberation he determined to say nothing to her at present, and await the future development of affairs.

One day, some time afterwards, happening to go into the counting-house, he noticed George was busily occupied, so much so that he did not notice that Mr. Hastings was close by him. Happening to look up, he caught his master's eye, became confused, and hastily put in his pocket a scrap of paper, and made some excuse for going into an inner office. As he thought, he had put the scrap of paper in his pocket, but, in fact, he had not done so. In the hurry of the moment he had failed in his intent, and it had fallen, unknown to him, on the floor. When George was gone Mr. Hastings, looking downwards, perceived something white; he picked it up—it was a crumpled scrap of paper. He smoothed it out, and perceived three imitations of his own signature.

Proceeding to Miss Ashford's room, he asked Lucy, in a careless manner, "Miss Ashford, did you cash a cheque for £50 at the Bank some days ago?"

Lucy replied in the affirmative. "I do not remember giving it to you. From whom did you receive it?"

"My brother George told me that you had desired him to cash it, and hand the money to you. He asked me to go in his place, as he was very busy. I did so, and received the cash, which I handed to him."

"I am very sorry to tell you, Miss Ashford, that I did not give the cheque to your brother; he forged my signature, and has appropriated the money."

Poor Lucy turned very pale, and felt ready to faint. She stammered, in broken words, "I am sure—George could not—be so wicked; there must have been—some mistake."

"No! there is no mistake," said Mr. Hastings, "see, here on this scrap of paper which fell, unknowingly, from your

brother's hands, not long ago, are three imitations of my signature; the evidence of your brother's guilt is conclusive."

"But what do you intend to do, Mr. Hastings? I implore you not to prosecute him; the disgrace will break my heart. Pray have mercy, and forgive him."

"Be at ease on that point, Miss Ashford; I will not take proceedings against him. Unworthy brother of so good and worthy a sister, he shall not bring unmerited shame upon you. I will at once see him and confront him with the proofs of his crime. Go, now, to your room, and rely upon my forbearance."

Lucy retired. George, little dreaming what was impending, came to Mr. Hastings, who said, "George Ashford, by a forged signature you obtained £50 some days ago. Attempt no denial—it is useless. This scrap of paper, which you thought you had put into your pocket, when I came into the office, you let fall upon the ground. I picked it up when you left. Here it is; on it there are three imitations of my signature. It is very evident you intended to obtain more money by the same dishonest means. What have you to say?"

George, convicted, could only murmur some inarticulate sounds; he was an arrant coward.

Mr. Hastings said, "Were I to treat you as you deserve, I should at once give you in charge to stand your trial. You must know that you would be convicted, and receive a long term of imprisonment—if not penal servitude. I will, however, spare you, clearly understand, not for your sake but for that of your sister, who has pleaded earnestly in your behalf. The shame and disgrace you deserve to suffer shall not be shared by her. You must, without delay, leave the country, and proceed to Australia. I have an agent at Melbourne who will, at my request, obtain you employment; your passage shall be paid, with a small sum of money for necessary expenses. If you do not agree to this, I will prosecute you without mercy. You had better tell your sister my fixed resolve. Leave me; consult with her. I am sure she will give you good counsel."

George quitted his employer's presence, saw his sister, who, though, of course, grieved to lose her brother, felt that it was the only thing to be done to avert conviction and disgrace.

We may here mention that Mr. Hastings spoke to Lucy on the subject, who sadly acquiesced in his decision.

We need only say, further, that arrangements were speedily made, and George left his native country about ten days afterwards, provided with a letter to Mr. Hastings' agent at Melbourne. The parting between the brother and sister was tender on the part of Lucy. As for George, he cared little for his sister; he was a worthless fellow, and we are glad to be quit of him.

It was some time before Lucy recovered her spirits after the shock she had received. She found, however, in the daily routine of business a means of diverting her sad thoughts. She had now become not only a rapid type writer but an able secretary, conducting all Mr. Hastings' correspondence, to whom she became invaluable. What a delight it was to her to devote herself to his interests; how grateful she felt for the kindness he showed to her. Imperceptibly, gratitude merged itself into love, of which, however, Harry had not the least idea, for she kept her feelings well under control, and did not indicate them in the slightest degree, being outwardly cold and formal in her manner to her employer.

Harry, who at first had merely looked upon Lucy in the light of his lady clerk, whom by his patient forbearance he had succeeded in training for her work, found he began to take an interest in her which he could not account for. Ah, Master Harry, it was but a repetition of the old, old story—he pitied her at first, and then, pity being akin to love, his heart was touched, and he would, if he dared, declare his passion to Lucy. We have said if he dared, for Harry, fine manly fellow that he was, had not the courage to avow his honourable love. He was so modest and diffident; he knew not his own worth, nor how deserving he was of a true woman's affection.

As Lucy was so careful to keep her secret, so, equally so, was Harry. He became more reserved and precise in his business relations with her, which grieved Lucy exceedingly, for she feared she had incurred his displeasure by some remissness in the performance of her duties. In fact, it was a game of cross-purposes, for which that naughty boy, Cupid, was to blame; each was secretly afraid of the other.

Lucy began to notice that Mr. Hastings' manner became very strange; he seemed to be distraught, ill at ease, and did not take his accustomed interest in business. Some girls would have at once, instinctively, divined the cause; but she was too pure and innocent in her heart to entertain the least suspicion of the truth. In her few idle moments, for she had not many, she would, in her day dreams, associate Harry's name, as she called him to herself, in the intimate relations of man and wife; then

she would suddenly wake, and rebuke herself for such folly—how could she be so mad to entertain such an idea—he was so far above her in every way.

Poor Harry was much in the same plight as Lucy. He would not hazard the risk of a refusal, so, although he longed to speak, remained silent. So matters went on for a month or more, very unsatisfactory indeed for both, when a trivial circumstance led to a discovery of great importance.

How lightly people generally speak of trivial things, forgetting the well-known saying “that great events from little causes rise.” This is exemplified in our every-day life over and over again. Events of great moment often owe their fulfilment to very insignificant reasons.

It chanced one afternoon that Mr. Hastings had occasion to go to Miss Ashford's room. He noticed that she was in the act of putting a piece of paper on the blotting pad. On perceiving Mr. Hastings enter, she hastily, in some confusion, removed the paper, folded it up, and put it in her bosom. A vivid blush overspread her face; it quickly faded, and then she became ashy pale. She rose hurriedly, and quitted the room, without waiting to receive any orders from Mr. Hastings.

Harry thought this a strange proceeding; she had never acted in such a manner before. Curiosity prompted him to turn to the blotting pad, where the paper had been just impressed by Lucy. He detached it, held it up to the light, and then saw, on the reverse side, Harry Hastings—Lucy Hastings—written conjoined together.

Here, indeed, was a delightful discovery; he need no longer have any fear that his suit would be rejected; it was very evident that his wishes and those of Lucy were not in opposition.

Poor girl, she had been indulging in one of her day-dreams, and, in an idle moment, had thus expressed, in black and white, her thoughts and aspirations, little dreaming that her innocent secret would be discovered.

As for Harry, he was overjoyed that his hopes would be likely to be realised. He went to his room to think out the plan of action he should pursue.

Lucy returned in about a quarter of an hour, perfectly recovered from her agitation, and was soon busily engaged in her accustomed duties.

She had been thus occupied for about an hour, when she heard the bell which summoned her to Mr. Hastings' room. She arose and went thither.

“Oh! Miss Ashford, I wish to speak to you on an important matter,” said Mr. Hastings. “I have made up my mind you should no longer be in my service.”

“Oh! Mr. Hastings,” said poor Lucy, terrified, “what have I done? How could I have offended you that you should come to such a cruel decision?”

She could say no more; she was deeply affected.

Harry, who had intended to carry out his little joke at poor Lucy's expense, under feigned threat of dismissal, had a tender heart. He was deeply touched at her distress, and would no longer make sport of her feelings. He said “Miss Ashford, you are no longer in my service; nay, do not start; but I will be in yours, Lucy. Let me call you so, dear. I have long loved you, but silly fellow that I was, I had not the courage to seek the avowal of your love. But I know my passion is returned; you will not say nay, for here is the proof that you

will not refuse to share my name, and become my true and loving wife.”

So saying, he showed her the sheet of blotting paper where she had revealed the secret of her love.

“Come now, Lucy dear, what have you to say? Can you deny this?” said Harry, triumphantly.

“Oh! Mr. Hastings.”

“Stop, Lucy, no longer Mr. Hastings, but Harry.”

“Well, Harry, dear, you have discovered my secret, which I thought was known to myself alone. I have long loved you for your patient kindness and generosity. How I could help it—you have forgotten that the kind teacher has not only taught his pupil business, but something dearer—much dearer—to her—the love of a noble and honourable man. But I have a confession to make—I bear a name which is not my own, I changed it for one which had been disgraced. I am not worthy of you.”

“Spare yourself the pain of saying more; I know all the sad details,” said Harry. “You have been a good daughter, a kind sister, and you shall now be my loved and honoured wife. You have changed your name once, you shall now change it again, be assured, dear, for a better. Come to my arms, Lucy, and let me seal my betrothal kiss on your own sweet lips.”

How could Lucy resist such eloquent pleading? She obeyed the dictates of her heart, and gladly resigned herself to his embrace.

And now there is little more to say. About six months afterwards a young, happy fellow, named Harry Hastings, led a fair, young, blushing bride, whom we have previously known as Lucy Ashford, to the altar.

The sun shone brightly on the wedded pair. We leave to the imaginations of our readers the festivities on that occasion, simply saying that Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hastings went off for their honeymoon amid the cheers and congratulations of the townspeople of Everston.

Occurrences of the Year.

FROM 1ST DECEMBER, 1889, TO 30TH NOVEMBER, 1900.

DECEMBER, 1899.

- 1.—Visitation by Bro. the Hon. James Hozier, M.P., M.W.G.M. of Scotland, to Edinburgh Lodge (Mary's Chapel), No. 1.
- 2.—Funeral of Bro. J. W. Perry, P.M., P.Z., No. 1446.
- 4.—Annual Meeting, at Oxford, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Berks and Oxon.
- 5.—Quarterly Communication, of Mark Grand Lodge—Grant of 100 guineas to the Daily Telegraph Widows' and Orphans' Fund—Bro. John Dimsdale nominated for the office of Grand Treasurer for 1900-1.
Consecration, by Comp. E. Letchworth, F.S.A., Grand Scribe E., of the Mizpah Chapter, No. 1671; Comp. W. H. Cole first M.E.Z.
- 6.—Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge; Grant of 1000 guineas to the Mansion House War Fund; Lodges that have joined the Grand Lodge of New Zealand struck off the roll; Bro. Harry Mansfield nominated for the office of Grand Treasurer for 1900-1.
Presentation portrait of Bro. John Fenwick, P.A.G.D.C. Eng., District Grand Secretary Queensland, unveiled in the Masonic Hall, Brisbane, by Bro. the Hon. Aug. C. Gregory, C.M.G., Dist. Grand Master.
- Meeting of the Ladysmith Mark Lodge, No. 528, held during the siege.
- 7.—Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; Grant of 100 guineas to the War Fund.
- 8.—Half-yearly Chapter of the Great Priory of the Order of the Temple; Grant of 100 guineas to the Daily Telegraph Fund.

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CHARLES T. HOSKINS, Secretary.

Bankers:—MESSRS. WILLIAMS DEACON, and MANCHESTER & SALFORD BANK, Limited, 20, Birchin Lane, E.C.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:—For One Vote, 10s. 6d.; for Two Votes, £1 1s.

LIFE DONATION:—For One Vote, £5 5s.; for Two Votes, £10 10s.

LIFE PRESENTATION:—£350.

Annual Meeting of the Provincial Priory of Kent and Surrey.

Meeting of the Grand Council of the Order of the Secret Monitor; a Benevolent Fund started.

11.—Annual Meeting of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Surrey.

13.—Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; Vote of condolence with the widow and family of the late Bro. John Newton, P.G.P.; Bro. J. H. Whadecoat, J.P., elected to succeed him on the House Committee.

14.—Centenary Celebration of the death of Bro. George Washington, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Virginia; Wreaths sent to decorate the tomb by the Earl of Lonsborough, P.G.W., and the Constitutional Lodge, No. 294, Beverley.

16.—Special Meeting of the District Grand Mark Lodge of Jamaica; Installation of Bro. E. X. Leon, as District Grand Master.

18.—Meeting, during the siege, of the Klip River County Lodge, No. 2401, Ladysmith.

20.—Board of Benevolence: 26 cases relieved with £700.

21.—Annual Meeting of the Divisional Conclave of Kent, Order of Rome and the Red Cross of Constantine.

30.—Sudden death of Bro. John Lane, P.A.G.D.C.

JANUARY, 1900.

3.—New Year's Entertainment (1) to the inmates of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution at Croydon; (2) to the children of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls remaining at school during the holidays.

4.—Consecration, by Bro. E. Letchworth, F.S.A., Grand Secretary, of the Merton Lodge, No. 2790, Merton; Bro. F. W. Pillinger first W.M.

6.—Deaths of Bro. George Bulford, P.M., P. Prov. G. Org. N. and E. Yorkshire; Bro. T. B. Daniell, P.M. No. 781; and Bro. John James, Past Dep. G.M. United Grand Lodge of Victoria, and representative thereof of the Grand Lodge of England.

9.—Consecration, by Bro. A. Woodiwiss, Prov. Grand Mark Master of Derbyshire, of the Scarsdale Lodge, No. 529, Cheltenham; Bro. M. W. Jendwine first W.M.

11.—Quarterly Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; 33 candidates for the April election approved and 17 vacancies declared.

12.—Quarterly Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; Masonic Charitable Associations allowed to have one of their Executive Officers a Life Subscriber for every 50 guineas subscribed by them periodically. Resolved to submit without ballot to the benefits of out-education the sons of five—but not more than five—brethren, in the Naval and Military service, who shall be killed or permanently incapacitated for work through the operations of or connected with war; 42 candidates for the April election approved and 30 vacancies declared.

Death of Bro. the Rev. R. J. Simpson, M.A., Past Grand Chaplain.

13.—Consecration, by Bro. Sir Horatio Lloyd, P.G.D., Dep. P.G.M. Cheshire, of the John Brunner Lodge, No. 2799, Over Winsford; Bro. Sir John Brunner, Bart., first W.M.

17.—Dedication, by Bro. M. C. Peck, Past G. Std. Br., Prov. Grand Secretary N. and E. Yorkshire, of the new Hall of the Alexandra Lodge, No. 1511, Hornsea.

18.—Memorial portrait of the late Bro. P. Cunningham, District Grand Master Canterbury (N.Z.), unveiled in the Masonic Hall, Christchurch by Bro. R. Dunn Thomas, District Grand Master.

20.—Memorial stone of the Lady Margaret Hospital, Millport, laid with Masonic ceremonial by Bro. Sir C. Dalrymple, Bart., M.P., Past G.M. Scotland, Prov. G.M. Argyllshire and the Isles.

Death of Bro. Walter Martin, Past A.G.P.

23.—Notable gathering of Colonial brethren, including Bro. G. Richards, District Grand Master Transvaal, and Bro. Sir Walter Peace, at the installation meeting of the Empire Lodge, No. 2108.

24.—Board of Benevolence: 20 cases relieved with £525.

26.—Annual Meeting, at Winchester, of the Prov. Grand Chapter of Hants and the Isle of Wight.

28.—Presentation to Bro. J. P. Fitzgerald, P.M., Secretary of the Logic Club.

29.—Death of Bro. Sir W. Miller, Deputy Prov. Grand Master of Derry and Donegal.

30.—Consecration, by Bro. E. Letchworth, Grand Secretary, of Lodge L'Entente Cordiale, No. 2796; Bro. Captain H. Mondhare first W.M.

Annual Meeting of the East Lancashire Systematic Educational and Benevolent Institution.

FEBRUARY.

1.—Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

2.—Annual Meeting, at Derby, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Derbyshire; visit of the Earl of Euston, Pro Grand Master.

3.—Presentation to Bro. John T. Loader, P.M., Secretary Rose Lodge, No. 1622.

4.—Masonic Service in St. Giles's Cathedral, Edinburgh, in aid of the War Relief Funds—proceeds about £600.

5.—Presentation to Bro. the Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., Prov. Grand Mark Master Northumberland and Durham, and Mrs. Tristram, on their golden wedding.

7.—Quarterly Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter; Phoenix Chapter, No. 914, Jamaica, which had been erased, restored to its place on the register.

8.—Consecration, by Bro. R. J. Clinckett, Past District G.W., District Grand Secretary Barbadoes, of the Abercrombie Lodge, No. 2788, St. Lucia; Bro. the Hon. David G. Garraway first W.M.

12.—Consecration, by Comp. C. F. Matier, Grand Recorder, of the Dungarvan Council, No. 25, R. and S.M.; Comp. the Rev. C. E. L. Wright first T.I.M.

14.—Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; three new Male and five new Female Annuities created; Male Fund 46 candidates approved and 18 vacancies declared; Widows' Fund, 59 candidates, 23 vacancies—the three deferred annuities being in each case included.

17.—Moveable Grand Mark Lodge at Dukinfield; Consecration and re-constitution, by the Earl of Euston, Pro G.M.M., of the Ashton-District (T.J.) Mark Lodge; Bro. T. D. Foreman first W.M.

Consecration, by Bro. E. G. Sinclair, Past District Grand Warden Bengal, of the Orient Mark Lodge, No. 531, Howrah; Bro. H. M. Rustonjee first W.M.

18.—Emergency Meeting, during the siege, of the Austral Lodge, No. 2534, Mafeking.

21.—Board of Benevolence: 28 cases relieved with £830.

Annual Meeting, at Watford, of the Prov. Grand Chapter of Hertfordshire; Comp. F. Saumer Knyvett installed Prov. G.H.

New Banner, presented to the Norman Lodge, No. 1334, Durham, by Bro. W. Gray, P.M., Treas., Prov. J.G.W., unfurled.

22.—Consecration, by the Earl of Euston, M.E. and S.G. Master, of the Bernard de Tremelay Preceptory, No. 170, Walsall; Sir Knight F. W. Willmore first E.P.

23.—Presentation to Bro. Lord Sandhurst on leaving India by a Deputation from the Sind Lodges (E.C.).

27.—Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; Lord Addington, Prov. G.M. Buckinghamshire, in the chair; proceeds, £20,220 16s., subsequently increased to £22,298 9s.

Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Western Australia; installation, by Bro. the Bishop of Perth, Past Grand Chaplain England, of Bro. Sir Gerard Smith, P.G.W., as first M.W.G. Master.

MARCH.

1.—Presentation to Bro. J. G. Robeson, I.P.M., Lion and Lamb Lodge, No. 192.

2.—Annual Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement; Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., P.G.D., Dep. P.G.M. Essex, for the Earl of Warwick, Dep. G.M., Prov. G.M. Essex, in the chair.

5.—Address by Bro. R. F. Gould, P.G.D., in the Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge, No. 12, as one of the Four Old Lodges that constituted the Grand Lodge of England in 1717.

Meeting of the Grand Imperial Conclave of the Order of Rome and the Red Cross of Constantine.

6.—Quarterly Communication of Mark G. Lodge; Bro. John Dimsdale elected G. Treasurer for the year 1900-1.

7.—Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge; £1050 voted to form a South African Masonic Relief Fund; Bro. Harry Manfield elected G. Treasurer for the year 1900-1; Recognition accorded to the Grand Lodge of Western Australia, formed by the English Lodges under Bro. Sir Gerard Smith, but refused to another body parading itself under the same title.

8.—Consecration, by the Earl of Onslow, Prov. G. M.M. of Surrey, of the Rose Mark Lodge, No. 534; Bro. W. Dawson first W.M.

11.—Death of Bro. Alderman C. H. Low, P.M., of Bristol.

14.—Dedication, by Bro. G. C. Davie, acting Prov. G.M. Devonshire, of the new Hall of the Queen Victoria Lodge, No. 2755, St. Budeaux.

15.—Death of Bro. E. J. Hemmeyer, P.M. No. 51, P. Prov. G.W. Essex.

17.—Consecration, by Bro. C. L. Mason, Prov. G. Mark Master of West Yorkshire, of the Brontë Lodge, No. 435, Haworth; Bro. H. S. Holdsworth first W.M.

21.—Board of Benevolence: 33 cases relieved with £1135.

Consecration, by Bro. C. L. Mason, Prov. G.M. of West Yorkshire, of the Elmete R.A. Mariner Lodge, Leeds; Bro. C. L. Mason first W.C.N.

21.—Death of Bro. W. H. Kidson, P.M. No. 2611.

27.—Bro. Lord Northcote, Prov. G.M. Devonshire, installed Pro Dist. G. Master of Bombay.

31.—Annual Dinner of the Old Masonians' Association; Bro. Harry Manfield in the chair.

APRIL.

3.—Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ireland; Address voted to the Queen on the occasion of her Majesty's visit to Dublin.

4.—Annual Meeting of the Devon Masonic Educational Fund.

5.—Special Meeting, at Shrewsbury, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Shropshire.

10.—Foundation Stone of a new Masonic Hall at Linavady laid by Bro. Sir James Creed Meredith, Dep. G. Master of Ireland.

ROYAL FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM, BEDDINGTON, NEAR CROYDON, SURREY.

Patron—HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE, K.G.

Established at Lambeth 1758.

Incorporated 1800.

Removed to Beddington 1866.

THIS old and valuable Charity **Maintains and Educates 150 poor Fatherless Girls**, who are received from all parts of Great Britain. They are admitted between the ages of 7 and 10, and are placed out at the age of 16 in respectable Private Families.

Life Subscription (2 Votes) ... £10 10s. od.

Ditto (1 Vote) ... £5 5s. od.

Annual Subscription (2 Votes) ... £1 1s. od.

Ditto (1 Vote) ... £0 10s. 6d.

The Committee most urgently appeal for funds to maintain this large family of 150 Girls, and especially for **Additional Annual Subscriptions** as being the most reliable source of income for the Permanent Administration of the Institution.

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JOHN B. MONCKTON, *Chairman of the Committee.*

BROUGH MALTBY, *Secretary.*

- 11.—Annual Meeting, at Halifax, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire.
Presentation to Bro. Capt. John Barlow, J.P., I.P.M. No. 1260, on retiring from the Master's chair.
- 16.—Death of Bro. John Fitzgerald, P.M., P.Z.
- 18.—Presentation by the Duke of Abercorn, M.W.G.M., and Bro. Sir James C. Meredith, Dep. G.M., to the Queen of the Address voted to her Majesty by the Grand Lodge of Ireland.
Board of Benevolence; 25 cases relieved with £785.
Funeral of Bro. H. W. Green, P.M., Secretary No. 108.
- 19.—Masonic Members of the National Union of Teachers in Annual Conference at York entertained by the York Lodge, No. 236.
- 20.—Quarterly Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; Vote of Congratulation to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., President, on his escape from assassination; 30 boys elected from an approved list of 41 candidates.
- 21.—Quarterly Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; 17 elected from an approved list of 32 candidates.
- 22.—Presentation of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter Clothing to Bro. James Weaver on his appointment as G. Std. Br. (Craft) and A.G.D.C. (R. Arch).
- 23.—Visit of the Earl of Onslow, Prov. G.M. Surrey, to the Gatwick Lodge No. 2502, Horley.
Meeting, at Buenos Ayres, of the Dist. Grand Lodge of the Argentine Republic, S. America.
- 24.—Visit of her Majesty the Queen to the Masonic Female Orphan School Ball's Bridge, Dublin.
Consecration, by Comp. Lord Bolton, acting G. Superintendent N. and E. Yorkshire, of the Salebeia Chapter, No. 566, Selby; Comp. W. N. Cheeseman first M.E.Z.
Funeral of Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Londesborough, Past G.W. of England.
- 25.—Grand Festival of United Grand Lodge; Vote of Congratulation to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., on his escape from assassination; 25 brethren appointed to Past Grand Rank in commemoration of the Prince's 25 years' service as M.W.G.M.
- 26.—Funeral of Bro. Sarson, P.M. No. 192.
- 27.—Special Communication of the Mark Grand Lodge; Vote of Congratulation to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., on his escape from assassination.
- 28.—Death of Bro. D. Campbell, P.M. No. 1365.

MAY.

- 2.—Quarterly Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter.
Annual Meeting, at Stone, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Staffordshire.
- 3.—Annual Meeting, at Sheffield, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of West Yorkshire.
- 8.—Consecration, by Bro. G. C. Davie, P.G.D., Dep. P.G.M. Devonshire, of the Lodge of The Three Pillars, No. 2806, Cockington; Bro. the Rev. James Hemming first W.M.
Death of Bro. S. r Gabriel Goldney, Bart., P.G.W. Eng., Past Dep. P.G.M. Wiltshire.
- 9.—Annual Meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Guernsey and Alderney; Consecration, by Bro. J. B. Cockburn, P.G.M., of the Balfour-Cockburn Lodge, No. 2805, Guernsey; Bro. J. B. Cockburn first W.M.
- 10.—Annual Conference, in London, of the Great Priories of England and Ireland and the Chapter General of Scotland, Order of the Temple.
- 11.—Half-yearly Meeting of the Sovereign Great Priory of the Temple in England; Reception of the Deputations from G. Priory of Ireland and Grand Chapter General of Scotland.
- 12.—Foundation Stone of the new Boys' School at Bushey laid by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, M.W. Past G. Master, for H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M. and President.
- 14.—Distribution of Prizes to the pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls by the Countess of Dartmouth.
- 15.—Annual Meeting, at Whitby, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of N. and E. Yorkshire.
- 16.—Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; the Earl of Dartmouth, Prov. G. Master of Staffordshire, in the chair; proceeds £23,037 5s. 6d.
Annual Meeting, at Radcliffe, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of East Lancashire.
Annual Meeting, at Bradford, of the Prov. Grand Chapter of West Yorkshire.
- 18.—Annual Meeting of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; 20 out of a list of 46 candidates elected for the Male Fund; and 29 out of 59 on the Widows' Fund; the three deferred being in each case included.
Annual Meeting, at Sudbury, of the Prov. Grand Chapter of Suffolk.
- 21.—Masonic Service at St. George's Cathedral, Grahamstown, S. Africa, by the St. Andrew's Lodge (S.C.) and the St. John's and Albany Lodges, Nos. 828 and 389 respectively (E.C.).

- 21.—Festival, at York, of the N. and E. Yorkshire Masonic Educational Fund the Marquis of Zetland, Prov. G.M., in the chair; proceeds £1054 3s.
- 22.—Consecration, by Comp. E. Leitchworth, G. Scribe E., of the Cavendish Chapter, No. 2620; Comp. F. Lawrance first M.E.Z.
Annual Meeting, at Middlesbrough of the Prov. Grand Chapter of N. and E. Yorkshire.
Annual Meeting, at Cambridge, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of East Anglia.
Presentation to St. Anne's Lodge, No. 593, Alderney, by Bro. N. Barbenson, P.M., Prov. J.G.W., in memory of his father, who was a founder and P.M.
- 23.—Board of Benevolence; 37 cases relieved with £1070.
Consecration, by Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., Dep. P.G.M.M. Essex, of the Dunmow Mark Lodge, No. 527; Bro. J. P. Lewin first W.M.
Death of Bro. S. Constantine Burke, Dist. G. Master of Jamaica (S.C.).
- 26.—Annual Sports, at Wood Green, of the Pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.
- 27.—Death of Bro. G. B. Smallpeice, P.M., P.Z., P. Prov. G. Treas. Surrey.
- 29.—Resuscitation of the Fortescue Mark Lodge, No. 9, South Molton; Bro. the Rev. T. Russell, W.M.
- 30.—Grand Festival of the Order of the Secret Monitor; the Earl of Warwick, G.S.R., in the chair.
- 31.—Special Meeting of the Dist. Grand Lodge of Jamaica (S.C.), to do honour to the memory of the late Bro. S. Constantine Baker, Dist. G.M.

JUNE.

- 1.—Distribution of Prizes to the Pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, by the Princess Margaret of Connaught, who was accompanied by her father, the Duke of Connaught, K.G., M.W. Past G. Master.
- 3.—Death of the Earl of Radnor, Prov. G. Master of Wiltshire.
- 4.—The Masonic members of the Association of Municipal Corporations visit the Grand Lodge of Instruction in Dublin, and witness the work, being afterwards entertained by the Grand Lodge of Ireland in its new banqueting hall.
- 5.—Quarterly Communication of the Mark Grand Lodge; Bro. the Hon. A. de Tinton Egerton, M.P., appointed Dep. G. Master; Grand Festival.
Annual Meeting, at Gloucester, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Gloucestershire.
- 6.—Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge; hour of meeting altered from seven to six p.m.
- 7.—Annual Meeting, at Boston, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire.
- 12.—Annual Meeting, at Brentwood, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Essex.
- 13.—Annual Meeting, at Gravesend, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Kent.
Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales.
Death of Bro. W. D. Henderson, P.M., P.Z., P. Prov. G. Reg. of North Wales.
- 15.—Annual Meeting, at Cheltenham, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.
Death of Bro. F. R. Geary, P.M., P.Z.
- 19.—Installation, at Douglas, Isle of Man, by Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, M.A., P.G. Chap., Dep. P.G.M. Suffolk, of R.W. Bro. Lord Henniker, as Prov. G. Master Isle of Man.
- 20.—Board of Benevolence; 21 cases relieved with £570.
- 22.—Presentation by the W.M. Officers, and Members of Lodge No. 75, Dublin, to Bro. Thomas P. Callaghan, Secretary.
- 23.—Death of Bro. A. M. Levy, P.M. No. 889, P. Prov. A.G.D.C. Surrey.
- 25.—Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge, No. 12, celebrates the foundation of the Grand Lodge of England on 24th June, 1717.
- 26.—Annual Meeting, at Hampton Court, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Middlesex.
- 27.—Annual Meeting, at Morecambe, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of West Lancashire.
Meeting, at Crewe, of the Committee of the Cheshire Provincial Fund of Benevolence.
Memorial to the late Bro. W. A. Tinney, P.M., Sec. No. 1319, unveiled in Brompton Cemetery by the W.M., Bro. C. R. Powell.
- 28.—Annual Meeting, at Wendover, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Buckinghamshire.
- 29.—Annual Meeting, at Portishead, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Somersetshire.
Initiation of the Lord Provost of Glasgow (Mr. S. Chisholm) in Progress Lodge, No. 873.
- 30.—Annual Meeting, at Teddington, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Middlesex.
Ex-Pupils' Day at the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.
First Stone of a new Church at Norris Bank, Heaton Norris, laid with Masonic ceremonial by the Earl of Lathom, Prov. G. Master West Lancashire.

JULY.

- 3.—Festival, in Stoneleigh Park, of the Warwickshire Masonic Benevolent and Pupils' Aid Fund; Bro. George Beech, P.G. Std. Br. Eng., Dep. Prov. G.M., for Lord Leigh, P.G.M., in the chair; proceeds £3156 9s.
Presentation to Bros. A. Steel and M. Wilson by the members of St. John's Lodge, Bushy, No. 158 (S.C.).

London Orphan Asylum, Watford, Instituted 1813.

For the Maintenance & Education of respectable Fatherless Boys & Girls from all parts. Age of Admission from 7 to 11.



A. Chapel.
B. Dining Hall and Administrative Offices.
C. Senior Boys' Schoolrooms, Houses and Playground.
D. Junior Boys' Schoolrooms, Houses and Playground.
E. Girls' Wing and Playground.
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**500 Children are now in the Institution, and
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E. H. BOUSFIELD, Treasurer.
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- 4.—Annual Meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of London, &c., Royal Order of Scotland.
Annual Meeting, at Darlington, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Northumberland and Durham.
Memorial Tablet in the Parish Church of Great Stanmore to the late Bro. Charles Veal, P.M., Secretary, No. 1549, unveiled by the W.M., Bro. F. S. Winkley.
- 6.—Death of Bro. Richard Eve, Past G. Treasurer, Chairman of the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.
- 9.—Consecration, by Bro. E. Letchworth, G. Secretary, of the Kirby Lodge, No. 2818; Bro. Sir Forrest Fulton (Recorder of London), first W.M.
- 10.—Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, Earl Amherst, Pro G.M. (for the Duke of Connaught, M.W. Past G.M.) in the chair; proceeds £16,834 14s. 2d.
- 11.—Festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund, the Earl of Euston, Pro G.M.M., in the chair; proceeds £5113 6s.
Death of Bro. John Fenwick, P.A.G.D.C. Eng., Dist. G. Secretary Queensland.
- 12.—Quarterly Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; pension of £100 a year to Miss Redgrave on resigning, through ill-health, post of Head Governess; 34 candidates approved, 24 vacancies declared.
Summer Entertainment to the inmates of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution at Croydon.
- 13.—Quarterly Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; letter of condolence to be sent to the Executors of the late Bro. R. Eve, Past G. Treasurer, Chairman of the Board; 27 candidates approved; 20 vacancies declared.
Annual Meeting, at Ipswich, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Suffolk, under Lord Henniker, Prov. G.M.
Quarterly Meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Aberdeen City.
Death of Bro. George Graveley, P.G.P.
- 14.—Funeral of Bro. R. W. Leadbeater, P.M., P. Prov. G.D. N. and E. Yorkshire.
- 17.—Annual Meeting, at Falmouth, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Cornwall.
Annual Meeting, at Clacton-on-Sea, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Essex.
- 18.—Corner-stone of the new Masonic Hall, Leeds, laid with Masonic ceremonial by the Earl of Warwick, Dep. G. Master.
Board of Benevolence: 13 cases relieved with £410.
Annual Meeting, at Lockinge House, seat of Bro. Lord Wantage, Prov. G.M., of the Prov. G. Lodge of Berkshire.
Annual Meeting, at Hitchin, of the Prov. G. Lodge of Hertfordshire.
Consecration, by Bro. the Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., Past G. Chap., Dep. P.G.M. Durham, of the Hudson Lodge, No. 2791, Wolsingham; Bro. Rob. W. Wraith first W.M.
Annual Meeting, at London (Ont.), of the Grand Lodge of Canada (Province of Ontario); Bro. R. B. Hungerford installed M.W.G.M.
- 23.—Consecration, by Bro. E. Letchworth, G. Secretary, of the St. Bride Lodge, No. 2817; Bro. C. J. Drummond first W.M.
Death of Bro. E. F. B. Fuller, P.M. No. 1657.
- 26.—Annual Meeting, at Croydon, of the Prov. Grand Lodge and Prov. Grand Chapter of Surrey; the Earl of Onslow announces his retirement from office.
- 27.—Consecration, by Bro. E. Letchworth, G. Secretary, of the Horistic Lodge, No. 2822; Bro. T. M. Wood first W.M.
Annual Meeting, at Whitehaven, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Cumberland and Westmoreland.
Quarterly Communication of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Perthshire East.
- 30.—Consecration, by Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.D., of the Grove Park Kent Lodge, No. 2824; Bro. E. Le May first W.M.
Annual Meeting, at Portsmouth, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight; brethren afterwards entertained at a conversation at the Town Hall by the Mayor (Bro. H. R. Pink, W.M. No. 1069, Prov. S.G.W.).
Death of Bro. James W. Smith, Past G. Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India.

AUGUST.

- 1.—Quarterly Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter.
- 2.—Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of Scotland; Presentation, before the Meeting, to Lady Saltoun of a bust of Lord Saltoun, I.P.G.M.
- 8.—Annual Meeting, at Stockport, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Cheshire; Earl Egerton of Tatton, P.G.M., announces his intention of resigning office.
- 11.—Funeral, at Mortlake, of Bro. Major Eustace Anderson, P.M.
- 14.—Meeting, in Alderney, of the Prov. Grand Lodge and Prov. Grand Chapter of Guernsey and Alderney.
Death of Bro. C. T. Baker, of Holt.
- 16.—Annual Meeting, at Weymouth, of the Prov. Priory of Dorsetshire.
- 22.—Board of Benevolence: 17 cases relieved with £420.
- 25.—Address by Bro. the Rev. Dr. Welham, Bishop of Calcutta, to the Lodges at Simla on "The Grave and Gay Side of Freemasonry."
- 25.—Consecration by Bro. Sir Horatio Lloyd, P.G.D., Deputy Prov. G.M. Cheshire, of the Birkenhead Lodge, No. 2826; Bro. the Rev. R. Edwards first W.M.

- 26.—Death of Bro. Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., Prov. Grand Master of Durham.
- 27.—Consecration of a new Masonic Hall at Okehampton, laid with Masonic Ceremonial by Bro. G. C. Davie, P.G.D., Deputy Prov. Grand Master Devonshire.
- 28.—Annual Meeting, at Plymouth, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Devonshire; Presentation to Bro. F. B. Westlake, Past D.G.D.C., Prov. S.G.W.
Death of Bro. Lemuel F. Littell, P.G.P.
- 29.—Death of Bro. Mark Cox, P.M., Treasurer No. 985, Sutton Bridge, Prov. G.S. of W. Lincolnshire.
- 30.—Funeral of Bro. F. H. Ebsworth, P.M. No. 1178.
- 31.—Death of the Earl of Portarlington, Past G.W.

SEPTEMBER.

- 3.—Half-yearly Meeting, at Ladysmith, of the District Grand Mark Lodge of Natal. Consecration by Bro. Thomas Cook, Dist. G.M.M., of the Ladysmith Mark Lodge, No. 528.
- 4.—Quarterly Communication of Mark Grand Lodge; Vote of Sympathy with H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on the death of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (Duke of Edinburgh). Address of congratulation presented on behalf of the Board of Stewards at recent Mark Benevolent Festival to the Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro G.M.M., the Chairman.
- 5.—Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge; Vote of Condolence with H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on the death of his brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.
- 6.—Annual Meeting, at Swanage, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Dorsetshire.
- 7.—Annual Meeting, at Stafford, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Staffordshire. Consecration, by the Earl of Euston, M.W. Pro G.M., of the Staffordshire Knot Lodge, No. 541; Bro. J. F. Pepper first W.M.
- 8.—Death of Bro. J. Simpson Africa, Past G.M. Pennsylvania.
- 10.—The John Lane Memorial Library of the Jordan Lodge, No. 1402, Torquay, unveiled by Bro. W. J. Hughan, P.G.D.
- 11.—Visit of Bro. J. Ross Robertson, Past G.M. Canada (Province of Ontario), to the Fortrose Lodge, No. 108, Stornoway—the Mother Lodge of his grandfather, Bro. Hector Sinclair.
- 12.—Half-yearly Meeting, at Ripon, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of West Yorkshire. Ladies and gentlemen, including the Bishop of Ripon, present at the non-Masonic part of the proceedings.
- 14.—Annual Meeting, at Maryport, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Cumberland and Westmorland. Hearty reception of Lord H. Cavendish-Bentine, M.P., on his return from South Africa.
- 15.—Memorial Stone of the Rutherglen Parish Church laid with Masonic Ceremonial by Bro. Major F. W. Allan, D.P.G.M. Renfrewshire East.
- 16.—Masonic Service in the Presbyterian Church of Temple Patrick, Antrim.
Death of Bro. Dr. I. Zacharie, Past G.S.R. Order of Secret Monitor.
- 19.—Board of Benevolence: 13 cases relieved with £360.
- 22.—Memorial Stone of the restored Cathedral Church at Brechin laid with Masonic Ceremonial by Bro. the Hon. James Hozier, M.P., M.W.G.M. Scotland.
Presentation to Bro. G. R. Langley for services as Secretary of the Bushy Park Lodge, No. 2381.
- 25.—Annual Meeting, at Durham, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Durham; Vote of Condolence with Lady Williamson and family.
Annual Meeting, at Hales Owen, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Worcestershire.
- 26.—Consecration, by Bro. R. Wylie, P.G.D., D.P.G.M. West Lancashire, of the St. John's Lodge, No. 2825, Blackpool; Bro. John Wray first W.M.
Annual Festival, at Blackpool, of West Lancashire Alpass Benevolent Institution; Bro. L. S. Cohen (Lord Mayor of Liverpool) Chairman; proceeds, £1213.
Annual Meeting, at Solihull, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Warwickshire.
Annual Meeting, at Ilfracombe, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Devonshire.
- 27.—Annual Meeting, at Neath, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of South Wales (E.D.).
- 28.—Annual Meeting, at Denbigh, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of North Wales

OCTOBER.

- 1.—Death of Bro. B. Kelly Therpe, P.G. Std. Br. Eng.
Presentation of Grand Lodge Clothing by the Tivoli Lodge, No. 2150, to Bro. W. J. Mason, G. Std. Br.
- 4.—Annual Meeting, at Oswestry, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Shropshire.
- 9.—Consecration, by Bro. E. Letchworth, G. Sec., of the St. John's Lodge, No. 2811, Coventry.
- 11.—Quarterly Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; Election of 21 out of 33 Candidates.
- 12.—Quarterly Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; 20 elected from an approved list of 26 Candidates.
Annual Meeting, at Bath, of the Provincial Priory of Somerset and Monmouth.

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(FOR THE DEFORMED),

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NOVEMBER.

- 13.—The Alfred Newton Lodge, No. 2686, meets, by dispensation, at the Mansion House, and the members and a host of Grand Officers and other visitors afterwards entertained at dinner by the Lord Mayor (Bro. Sir Alfred Newton, Bart.).
- 14.—Church Parade of Lodge Carse of Gowrie, No. 871 (S.C.), at Errol.
- 15.—State Visit of the Lord Mayor (Bro. Sir A. Newton, Bart.), accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, and Sheriffs of London to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.
- 16.—Installation of Viscount Cranley as W.M. of the Weyside Lodge, No. 1395, Woking.
- 17.—Annual Meeting, at Carmarthen, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of South Wales.
Death of Bro. A. Stewart Brown, F.R.C.S., P.G.D. Eng.
- 19.—Annual Meeting, at Liverpool, of the West Lancashire Hamer Benevolent Institution.
- 20.—Funeral of Bro. E. Berger, Past G. Org. Scotland.
- 22.—Memorial Service by the G. Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor in honour of Bro. Dr. Zacharie, Past G.S.R.
- 23.—Annual Meeting, at Camborne, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Cornwall; Presentation of Grand Lodge Clothing to Bro. B. F. Edyevean, P.A.G. D. of C. Eng., Prov. G. Sec.
- 24.—Board of Benevolence: 38 cases relieved with £1015.
Annual Meeting, at Bath, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Somersetshire.
Death of Bro. the Rev. Professor Shuttleworth, P.M. No. 2369. —
- 25.—Death of Bro. Howard H. Room, Past G. Std. Br. Eng.
Death of Bro. Col. Heaton, P.M., P.Z. No. 1260.
- 26.—Half-yearly Meeting, at Barnsley, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire.
Annual Meeting, at Southampton, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
- 27.—Death of Bro. C. H. Driver, Past G.S. of W. Eng.
- 30.—Banner presented to the Savile Lodge, No. 1231, Elland, by Bro. A. H. Law, P.M., unfurled by Bro. W. C. Lupton, G.D. Eng.
Consecration by Bro. M. R. Higgins, P.M. No. 492, of the Caribbea Lodge, No. 2829, St. John's, Antigua, H.E. Bro. Sir Geo. Melville, first W.M.
- 31.—Annual Meeting, at Leicester, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Leicestershire and Rutland.

- 2.—Dedication by the Duke of Abercorn, M.W.G. Master of Ireland, of the new Masonic Hall at Lurgan.
- Consecration, by Bro. Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck, M.P., Prov. G. Master of Cumberland and Westmoreland, of the Alston Lodge, No. 2794; Bro. W. Brown first W.M.
- Annual Meeting, at Brighton, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Sussex.
- 6.—Annual Meeting, at Birmingham, of the Prov. Grand Chapter of Warwickshire.
- 7.—Quarterly Communication of Supreme Grand Chapter.
Consecration, by Viscount Dmgarvan, Prov. G.M.M. Kent, of the United Service Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, No. 69, New Brompton; Bro. Charles Woolger, first W.C.N.
- 8.—Consecration, by Bro. E. Letchworth, G. Secretary, of the Devonian Lodge, No. 2834; the Earl of Halsbury (Lord Chancellor), P.G.W., first W.M.
Annual Meeting, at Weymouth, of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Dorsetshire.
- 12.—Annual Meeting, at Weymouth, of the Prov. Grand Chapter of Dorsetshire.
Annual Meeting of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees.
Death of Bro. T. W. R. White, of Sherborne.
- 14.—Consecration, by Bro. Geo. Beech, P.G. Std. Br., Dep. P.G.M. Warwickshire, of the Seymour Lodge, No. 2804, Redditch; Lord Ernest Seymour, P. Prov. G.W., first W.M.
Funeral of Bro. Geo. Green Symons, P.M. No. 45.
Death of Bro. G. Reynolds, P.M., P.Z., No. 1614.
- 21.—Board of Benevolence: 26 cases relieved with £720.
- 22.—Death of Bro. Sir Arthur Sullivan, Past G. Organist.
- 24.—Installation, at Surbiton, of Bro. Col. John Davis, A.D.C., as Prov. G. Master of Surrey, in succession to the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G., resigned.
- 27.—Interment of Bro. Sir A. Sullivan, P.G.M., in St. Paul's Cathedral.
Annual Meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Glasgow.
Masonic "At Home" of Montefiore Lodge, No. 753, Glasgow; Presentation to Bro. Joseph Fox, I.P.M., and Mrs. Fox.
Installation, at Wolverhampton, by the Earl of Euston, M. W. Pro G.M.M., of Bro. J. F. Pepper as Prov. G.M.M. Staffordshire and Shropshire.
- 28.—Meeting of the Prov. Grand Chapter of West Yorkshire.
- 29.—Annual Meeting, at Derby, of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Derbyshire.
- 30.—St. Andrew's Day; Grand Festival of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

CLERGY ORPHAN CORPORATION.

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Religion of Freemasonry,

BY

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Past Deputy District Grand Master, Punjab.

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