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*His Majesty King Oscar II., K.G.,
 Grand Master of Sweden and Norway, Past Grand Master of England.*

The Province of Oxfordshire.

AS a Province, Oxfordshire is not much more than one hundred years old, but Masonically speaking, the County dates back to 1729, for a Lodge was chartered in the City in that year, and constituted accordingly on 8th August; the Grand Master being Lord Kingston. The brethren assembled at the "Crown," in the Corn Market, but they did not attend to their duties for long, as the Lodge was erased as No. 58 in 1736.

Lordship's rule that the charge of half-a-crown was fixed "for every lodge on removing from one house to another," payable to the Engraver of the List; so that the members had that sum to pay on removing in the following year to the "Three Lions" or "Oxford Arms." The warrant to Constitute was paid for on 23rd July, 1740. There are no Records extant, unfortunately. Its erasure occurred in 1768 as No. 114, its previous position being 181 on the Roll.



R.W. BRO. THE EARL OF JERSEY, PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

The next of the (extinct) Lodges which was opened in the County was formed at the "White Lion," High Street, Banbury, on the 31st March, 1740, by permission of the Marquess of Carnarvon, Grand Master. It was during his

There were then no Lodges in the Province, but in the following year the "Lodge of Alfred in the University of Oxford," was warranted on 2nd December as No. 455, to meet at the "King's Head," in the Corn Market, and was

the first of its kind. In a local Masonic History (by the respected Masonic student, Bro. E. L. Hawkins, M.A., P.M. 357, &c.), it is stated that the petition, addressed to His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, Grand Master, was signed by



BRO. E. J. MCINTYRE, G.R., PROV. G.M. IN CHARGE, 1871 TO 1876.

Bros. Hercules Durham (First W.M.), and the Reverends Dr. Robert Markham (1st S.W.), James Wood, M.A. (1st J.W.), John Napleton, M.A.; Giles Haddon, M.A.; and John Willis, M.A.

The old Minute Book, happily, is still preserved, and the By-Laws are also extant. The latter provide that—

“No person who is a member of this University shall be proposed to be a member of this lodge unless he be a Master of Arts or a Bachelor of Arts, or have claim to rank as a nobleman in the University. No person exercising any trade within the University shall be proposed to be a member of this lodge.”

This rule was modified subsequently, but not as respects “the exercise of trades in the Town or County of Oxford.” Another regulation prohibited the visitation of any other Lodge in Oxford “without the leave of this Lodge.” In 1774 it was agreed that “the sum of nine guineas be annually subscribed to the Radcliffe Infirmary.”

In 1771 the place of meeting was changed to the “New Inn,” Fish Street, where it continued to assemble until its erasure on 10th February, 1790.

Bro. Marvin in his “Masonic Medals,” 1880, noted under CCCCL., a medal having a “Bust in profile to left, wearing a Coronet, with alternate strawberry leaves and fleurs-de-lis; on the shoulders a narrow collar of ermine. Legend, *Dominus. Illuminatio. Mea.* Reverse, a shield, quarterly; 1 and 4, an open book, having six seals attached to the left cover, between three crowns, two above and one below, 2 and 3 on a chevron between three castles, a pair of compasses extended. The colors are not indicated. Crest, the Sun in splendor. Legend, *Sil. Lux. Et. Lux. Ful.*” (Size 26.) “I know of only two impressions of this medal in America, and have not seen it mentioned by any English writer. I believe it to be rare. It is mentioned by Merzdorf, by the legend only, as being in the Rostock collection.”

Bro. Marvin thought it likely to have been “struck for the Alfred Lodge, of Oxford, England, chartered in 1814,” and sent on the particulars to Bro. Hughan, of Torquay, who communicated with the late Bro. the Rev. J. Horden Jukes, who made investigations for his friend, as he surmised (and correctly) it was struck for the original “Lodge of Alfred,” formed in 1769. Ultimately the minute was traced of 22nd October, 1772.

“Bro. Treasurer laid before the lodge a copy of the dye of a medal, which was approved of, and ordered that forty be struck for the use of the Lodge of Alfred.”

At the sale of Bro. Marvin’s collection of medals, Bro. Hughan was fortunate to become the purchaser of one of these very rare pieces in silver on behalf of the “Apollo University Lodge,” whose members doubtless warmly appreciate the favour. It is No. 43 in “The Medals of British Freemasonry,” 1901 (*Hamburgische Zirkel-Correspondenz* and the “Quatuor Coronati Lodge.”)

Possibly this medal being struck for the Lodge, led to its change of name from “Alfred” to the “Royal Alfred,” in 1777 or earlier, but no vote of the members is recorded in justification of the more distinguished title.

An emergency meeting was held at the Council Chamber, Oxford, on March 9th, 1776, but for what purpose is not stated. A number of distinguished visitors attended, including the R.W. Bros. Rowland Holt, D.G.M.; Thomas Parker, S.G.W.; John Hull, J.G.W.; and also the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, who, Bro. Hawkins states, “were all made members by Diploma, without ballot,” on 21st of the same month. Doubtless meant to be the compliment of honorary membership.

Bro. James Heseltine, Grand Secretary, presented a copy of the “Book of Constitutions,” 1767, with the valuable Appendix of 1776, to the Lodge in 1778. The members were very generously inclined, for in 1776, the sum of eighteen guineas was subscribed towards the Grand Lodge F.M. Hall Fund. At the Dedication of this Building on 23rd May, 1776, to MASONRY, VIRTUE, UNIVERSAL CHARITY AND BENEVOLENCE, the Right Hon. Lord Petre, Grand Master, officiated, and was supported by several Provincial Grand Masters. In the formal Procession which entered the Hall, according to the “Book of Constitutions, 1784,” appeared—

“The brethren from the Lodge of Alfred in Oxford, in their academical dress, two and two,”



H.R.H. THE DUKE OF ALBANY, PROV. G.M. 1876 TO 1881.

and an ODE was written by a member of the same Lodge, set to music by Dr. Fisher, and “performed” prior to the Grand Lodge being closed in ample form.

Why the Lodge collapsed (and was erased on 10th February, 1790, as No. 304) is not apparent, as in ten years considerably over 100 new members were admitted. The last entry in the Minute Book bears date 2nd April, 1783.



BRO. DARRELL H. W. HORLOCK, G. CHAPLAIN, P.P.G.S.W.

On the 17th March, 1770, the "Constitution Lodge," No. 396, was duly established "in the Turl, Turl Street," but was changed to one other place of meeting at "the House of Bro. Pridie" in 1787. This was a City Lodge, and its Records are preserved by the existing "Alfred Lodge," No. 340. Unfortunately it did not continue working so long as the old "Alfred," having been erased in February, 1789, as No. 307, and its new members during the period were but few, compared with its friendly University rival. Bro. Grennard was its first "R.W.M.," and Brothers North and Matthews the Wardens. There were two Installations in each year at first, according to a custom then prevalent, but ultimately the elections were only once a year, and wisely so.



BRO. ROBT. E. BAYNES, PAST GRAND DEACON, P.P.G.S.W.

In 1774 it was agreed that joining members who were "Moderns" (or "regular" Masons) should pay a fee of half-a-guinea, but "Ancient" or "Atholl" Masons were charged double that amount. In 1787, Bro. Pridie gave notice that he could no longer entertain the Lodge in his

House, so the brethren agreed to continue the meetings elsewhere, if loyally supported; but, if not, then the Jewels, &c., were to be valued and the money divided among the members, who then numbered nine. Bro. Hawkins considers that the brethren assembled elsewhere down to August, 1788, but does not mention the name of the House, and neither does Bro. John Lane in his invaluable "Masonic Records, 1717-1894."

The only other Lodge in the County that has failed to keep on the Roll, save those of the "Ancients," was one started at the "Cock Inn," Banbury; the dispensation for which was dated 22nd March, 1815, and was numbered 660 on the United Grand Lodge Register. Its erasure occurred in March, 1828, but of its brief career we know absolutely nothing, excepting that it never seems to have made any payments to Grand Lodge after September, 1816; so its removal from the Roll, though long delayed, was well deserved.

The Grand Lodge of the "Ancients" from 1773, during some thirty years, had granted four warrants in the County, but none of the Lodges were successful; one only managing to get on the "Union" Roll of 1813-4, but was struck off in the following year. It was thus the single representative of some nine Lodges to thus obtain a place on the Roll of the United Grand Lodge, but even then it was not justified, as no payments were made after its year of constitution.



BRO. H. ADAIR PICKARD, PAST GRAND CHAPLAIN,
P.P.G. SUPERINTENDENT.

The first of the "Ancient" quartette was chartered to assemble at the "Ram Inn," Chipping Norton, in 1771, and was numbered 172. In 1794 it appears at the "White Lion," High Street, Banbury, and at the "Cock," Cornhill, in the same town in 1801, in which year the last entry in Grand Lodge occurs, yet it is entered in the "Ahiman Rezens," &c., for 1804-7-13.

The second was warranted for the City of Oxford, as 180, in 1773, the meetings to be held in the "Cross Inn," Corn Market. It evidently failed to take with the Oxonians, but in 1792-4, a revival was attempted at the "Star Inn," Market Place, but it lapsed soon afterwards; its occurring in subsequent "Ancient" Lists not being of any importance.

The third was located at the "Crown Inn," Sheep Street, Bicester, being numbered 185, until the "Union," when it obtained 224, to be removed from the Register almost immediately afterwards. The fourth and final attempt to secure a footing by the "Ancients" in the Province was in 1781, when a new Lodge was constituted in the City, being 214 on the List. It did not survive really beyond a year or two, though represented on the official Lists to the year 1813. As a matter of fact, therefore, the Grand Lodge of the "Ancients" entirely failed to obtain Masonic support in Oxfordshire, for within a year or two of the Union of the two rival Grand Lodges, so happily cemented in December, 1813, all its Charters were returned or confiscated by reason of neglecting to make the necessary returns, one of which, that of No. 180, is preserved in the important Library of the Grand Lodge.

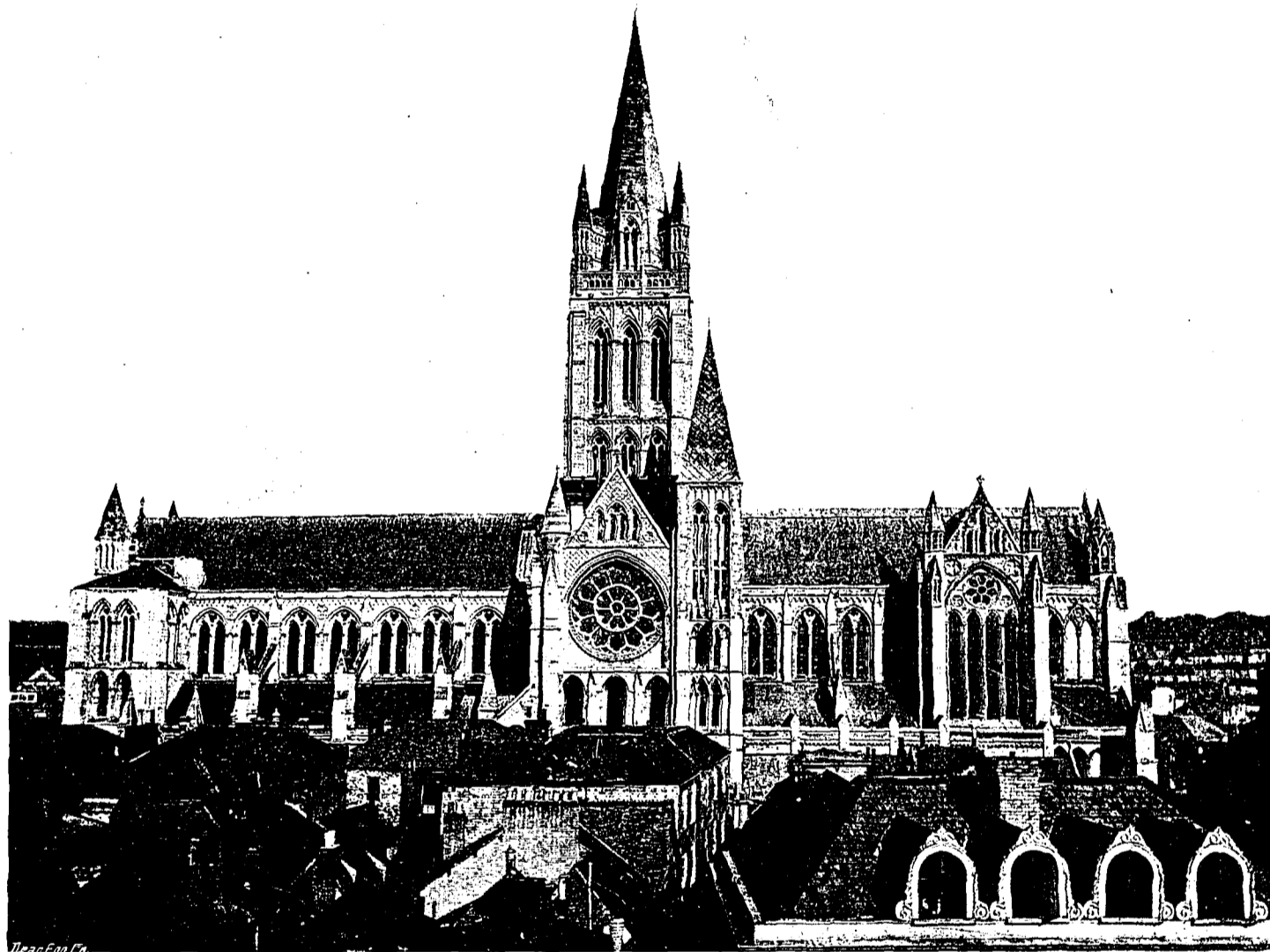
(To be concluded.)

Truro Cathedral.

AMONG the many notable ceremonies in which King Edward VII., as Prince of Wales and Grand Master of English Freemasons, has taken part, none will be more memorable than the laying of the foundation stone of the first cathedral erected in England since the Reformation. It is true there was the rebuilding of St. Paul's by Sir Christopher Wren after the destruction of old St. Paul's by the great fire in 1666, and there have been also built in Scotland, Ireland, and the colonies, cathedrals, many of great magnificence, during the last twenty or thirty years, but there has been before this no such event as the erection of a newly founded cathedral in connection with the national church.

even tenor of life was so pleasantly broken by the advent of their Royal Grand Master and his principal officers into their peaceful town. The Craft, however, was equal to the occasion, and the brethren had no reason to be ashamed of the part they, as Freemasons, had taken in a great historic event.

The building being now completed and the leading actors having left the scene, it may perhaps be permitted us to ring down the curtain on those greater events by recording a little episode which may, we think, be fittingly chronicled in this connection. The official on whom, as clerk of the works, so much depends in the construction of a great build-



TRURO CATHEDRAL.

The laying of the foundation stone took place in May, 1880, in the presence of a great multitude, and with very imposing Masonic ceremonies. The Grand Master was assisted by the Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall, the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, who was also Lord Lieutenant of the county; by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Francis Wyatt Truscott, Past Grand Warden, himself a native of Truro, and a large number of Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Officers of the Province of Cornwall, the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Princes Albert Victor and George, who were received with great state by the civil and other authorities. His Royal Highness was again present some years later at the opening and consecration of that portion of the building which had been completed, but on this occasion it was as the hereditary Duke of Cornwall, and not in the capacity of Grand Master. It is needless to say that so great an event was the cause of much pride and gratification to Cornish Masons, and more especially to the two Masonic lodges which have existed in the ancient borough of Truro from the years 1772 and 1810 respectively, and whose

ing, does not always receive that recognition which his faithful services deserve, but the members of the Fortitude Lodge appear to have been fully alive to the merits of the brother who had for so many years filled that important position in connection with the Truro Cathedral. Bro. Price, who is about to leave for Johannesburg, where he has received an appointment associated with church building, was, at the meeting of the lodge on the 10th November, presented with a handsome travelling bag with dressing-case combined, as a mark of their esteem and of their appreciation of the splendid services he had rendered to the lodge. Bro. N. B. Bullen, P. Prov. G. Treas., who, as the oldest Past Master of the lodge present, introduced Bro. Price, and said that the lodge was proud of having so excellent a Mason as a member of it, and added that he was also held in great estimation by their respected Prov. Grand Master, the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, for the great ability he had shown in connection with the building of their beautiful cathedral, which was evidenced by his appointment of Prov. G. Supt. of Works at the last meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge. Other brethren added their hearty testimony to the

worth of Bro. Price, who, in accepting the gift, heartily thanked them, both for the gift and for the uniform kindness and consideration that had always been shown to him by the members of both the lodges in Truro, ever since he had been

amongst them. All he had done for the lodge had been done for pure love for Masonry, and he should always treasure the memory of his connection with the brotherhood in Truro.



THE REREDOS, TRURO CATHEDRAL.



Frederick J. J. Price

BRO. E. T. PRICE.



BRO. N. B. BULLEN, P.P.G. TREAS. CORNWALL.

Two Imperial Craftsmen.

WE learn from Speth's "Royal Freemasons" that since the reign of Frederick the Great (1740-1786), who firmly established the Craft in his dominions, the kingdom of Prussia has been a veritable stronghold of Freemasonry. Berlin alone can boast of three Grand Lodges, all working in amity, and each having a goodly list of subordinate Lodges under its jurisdiction, but whether this is advantageous is problematical. They are, however, the Grand National mother-Lodge of the Prussian States, known as the Grand Lodge of "The Three Globes," "The National Grand Lodge of Germany at Berlin," and "The Grand Lodge, Royal York of Friendship at Berlin." The last named derived its regal title from having initiated in 1765, when it was a private Lodge, called "The Lodge of Friendship," H.R.H. Edward Augustus, Duke of York, brother of King George III. of England. In 1798 H.R.H. Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, subsequently Grand Master of England, was received into Masonry and membership of the Craft under the auspices of this Grand Lodge.

His Imperial Majesty William I., King of Prussia, afterwards German Emperor, was initiated in 1840, shortly before his father's death, in a Special Lodge at Berlin, ruled over by the three Grand Masters of the three Berlin Grand Lodges, in compliance with his father's stipulation that he should not join any one Lodge or system, but belong to every Lodge in the kingdom and assume the protectorate of them all, under the title of Protector of Prussian Freemasons, a title which he held for the remainder of his life.

His Imperial Majesty Frederick III., German Emperor and King of Prussia, succeeded his father as Protector of the Freemasons of Prussia.

He was initiated in 1853 by his father, then Crown Prince of Prussia, in a Special Lodge convened in the Royal Palace at Berlin, and composed of the representatives of the three Prussian Grand Lodges. In 1860 he was elected Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge, the second of the three before-mentioned bodies, and when his father succeeded to the throne of Prussia in 1861, he relinquished all active participation in the affairs of the Craft and appointed the Crown Prince his Deputy.

Amongst many autograph letters from eminent Masons carefully preserved in a glass case in the Library of the Grand Lodge of England are the two following which may not be without interest in this connection. The first is a copy of a letter written by the Earl of Zetland, Grand Master, to H.R.H. Prince Frederick William during his brief visit to England in 1856:—

"Freemasons' Hall, London, 21st, Nov., 1856.

"Illustrious Prince—Dear Brother,

"I deeply regret not having been enabled to offer my personal respects to your Royal Highness on the occasion of your present visit to this country, as I was most anxious of making known to you the respectful sentiments of duty and fraternal esteem entertained by myself and the Body of the Free Masons of England towards so illustrious and distinguished a Member of the Craft, and also to convey to your Royal Highness, the high gratification it would afford me if on the occasion of a future visit your Royal Highness would honour the Grand Lodge with your presence and thereby afford the Brethren constituting that assembly the opportunity of testifying the deep sentiments of attachment towards a Member of the Order so elevated in position and so zealous in advancing its interests, and whose August Father has so long thrown the shield of his protection over the Masonic Body throughout the Prussian Dominions.

With every assurance of Fraternal Esteem

and personal Respect, I subscribe myself

Your Royal Highness's Faithfully and attached

"Zetland, Grand Master of England."

To His Royal Highness

Prince Frederick William of Prussia.

To this fraternal communication the Prince replied by an autograph letter, in English, as follows:—

Breslau, April 18th, 1857.

Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,

Your kind letter giving me so hearty a welcome to your country afforded me, I assure you, the deepest satisfaction. The great esteem I hold towards all members of our venerable Order, the interest I take in all matters pertaining to the advancement of its cause, together with the sentiments of fraternity I entertain towards your Lordship's person, as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, have long aroused in me the desire of holding a closer intercourse with the Order in your country.

Unfortunately, circumstances have, up to this period, prevented me from putting my long-cherished wish into execution; but it is my hope and trust that, upon a future visit to England, I may afford myself the gratification of becoming acquainted with your Lordship's person and a Grand Lodge, which, for so long a period, has laid a firm hold on the fundamental principles of the Craft, and by these means been so very instrumental in the dissemination of all good and happiness in the whole human family.

With the best wishes for the furtherance of all your undertakings, as a body, and with every assurance of fraternal esteem, I salute your Lordship by the sacred numbers.

FREDERICK WILLIAM, PRINCE OF PRUSSIA.

To the Right Honourable

The Earl of Zetland,

Grand Master of the Grand Lodge
of England.

His Royal Highness honoured the Grand Lodge by paying his promised visit at the Quarterly Communication on the 2nd of December, 1857, when he was most enthusiastically received by a very large assembly of Brethren, the auspicious incident being thus briefly recorded in the printed report of the proceedings.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample Form and with solemn Prayer.

The M.W. Grand Master then said, they were that evening honoured by the presence of H.R.H. Prince Frederick William of Prussia, and he was sure the Grand Lodge would be glad of the opportunity to express the gratification they felt at the presence of so illustrious a Brother amongst them. They were aware of the friendly communication which existed between the Grand Lodge of Prussia and this Grand Lodge. His Royal Highness had been pleased to express the pleasure it would afford him to witness the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, and had accepted the invitation sent to him.

The Grand Director of Ceremonies then proclaimed His Royal Highness who was saluted in the usual Masonic form.

His Royal Highness then rose and said: I thank you, my Brothers, for the kind feeling you have shewn to me on this the first occasion that I have the happiness of being amongst you. I can assure you that I have the most cordial feeling towards you, and that it has been, from the first day I had the honor and the happiness of becoming a Freemason, my great desire to meet you.

The Prince remained during the greater portion of a somewhat contentious and protracted sitting, it being past eleven o'clock when the Grand Lodge was closed.

Before his departure, the Grand Master, in the name of the Grand Lodge, asked his acceptance of a copy of the Book of Constitutions. His Royal Highness then rose and thanked the Grand Lodge for their present and expressed the great pleasure he had felt in visiting the Grand Lodge and his hopes that it would not be the last time.

An escort of Grand Officers was then formed and His Royal Highness quitted the Grand Lodge amidst the most enthusiastic applause.



THE EMPEROR WILLIAM I. OF GERMANY.

The original is the property of the Lodge of The True Hearts, at Strassburg.—(From a painting by J. Bógdanowitsch.)



THE EMPEROR FREDERICK OF GERMANY.

In the Lodge of The True Hearts, at Strassburg, 12th September, 1886.—(From a painting by J. Bógdanowitsch.)

Presentation to Bro. Frederick C. Van Duzer.

BRO. F. C. Van Duzer, P.A.G.D.C., an American, was made a Mason in this country in the Canterbury Lodge, No. 1635, and he is now the Treasurer of that lodge, having been W.M. some years ago. He is also a founder of five or six other lodges, a number of chapters, has passed through the chair of a number, one being the Jubilee Masters' Lodge (he was W.M. last year), and while visiting America frequently had never had the opportunity until recently of visiting an American lodge. He chose as the lodge to first visit, the Hudson River Lodge, No. 607, holding under the jurisdiction of the State of New York. The lodge is held in Newburgh, New York. He visited that lodge on a number of occasions, witnessing the different ceremonies worked, and the fact that the pleasure that he derived from these visits to a lodge in his native town was apparently shared by the brethren of that lodge in having him as their guest, as on visiting America in September of this year they elected him an honorary member. This is a distinction accorded to but few, and there are only two honorary members of the lodge besides himself. The election of honorary members of lodges in America is not so freely made as in this country, but is restricted to a few, and it is a much coveted honour. In some instances very handsome certificates of honorary membership are given, and Bro. Van Duzer was the recipient of a very handsome certificate, of which we give a reproduction.

The Worshipful
Master,
Wardens and
Brethren of
**Hudson River Lodge,
No. 607, E.&A.M.,**

under the jurisdiction of the
**Grand Lodge
of the State of New York
in the United States
of America.**

To all Free and
Accepted Masons
wheresoever dispersed,
■ GREETING: ■

Know ye that we,
recognizing the zeal
manifested by

**R. W. Van
Frederick Conkling
Van Duzer,**

**Past Assistant Grand
Director of Ceremonies
of the Grand Lodge of
England,**

in all matters tending to the
elevation and welfare of our

Beloved Craft,
as well as the
Fraternal Spirit
displayed by him in his
intercourse with us, and
desiring to express
our great appreciation
of his worth
have elected him an
Honorary Member
of this our Lodge.

We commend him to
the Fraternal Con-
sideration of all
True Free and Accepted

Masons throughout the
World, and any courtesies
extended to him.
will be as fully appreciated
as if they had been ren-
dered us.

In Testimony Whereof,
we have caused the
seal of our said Lodge
to be hereunto affixed.

Witness
the hands of our
Worshipful
Master and Wardens
at Masonic Hall in
the City of Newburgh,
County of Orange and

State of New York, this
sixteenth day of Septem-
ber, Anno Domini, One
Thousand Nine Hun-
dred and Three, and in
the year of Masonry 5903.



John A. Conkling
2877
William Dyer
520
John R. Seymour
720
John A. Conkling
Secretary.

Consecration of the Ulster Lodge, No. 2972.

THE roll of lodges meeting in London, of which the members are of Irish nationality, received an increase on Friday 13th November, by the consecration of the above lodge at the "Hotel Cecil."

As its name implies, the founders are, and the initiates will be, recruited from those who have a connection with Ulster, either by birth, residence or descent.

The ceremony, which took place in the presence of a large number of brethren, was performed by V.W. Bro. Sir Edward Letchworth, Grand Secretary, assisted by V. Wor. Bro. J. V. Vesey Fitzgerald, K.C., P. Dep. G. Registrar, as S.W.; W. Bro. the Rev. O. C. Cockrem, LL.D., P.G.D., as J.W.; V.W. Bro. the Rev. Canon Brownrigg, P.G. Chaplain, as Chaplain; V. Wor. Bro. Frank Richardson, P. Dep. G. Registrar, as D.C.; and W. Bro. Major R. L. S. Badham, Dep. G.D.C., as I.G.



BRO. A. E. W. MACCAMLEY.

The impressive ceremony was performed with great dignity, in the course of which a stirring oration was delivered by the Rev. Canon Brownrigg. At the conclusion, Wor. Bro. A. E. W. MacCamley, P.M., was installed Wor. Master, and invested his officers as follows:—Wor. Bro. J. B. Crowe, S.W.; Wor. Bro. T. Dunwoody, J.W.; Bro. Rev. F. Graham, Chaplain; Bro. R. A. McQuitty, Treasurer; Bro. John Irwin, Secretary; Bro. J. Crawford Hillis, S.D.; Bro. Dr. Hugh Knox, J.D.; Bro. R. J. Stevenson, I.G.; Bro. H. Hastings Jones, D.C.; Bro. Capt. Vaughan Jones, W.S.; Bro. J. McCabe, W.S.; Bro. R. Coulter, W.S.; Bro. T. Williams, Tyler.

After the disposal of the business of the lodge, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Consecrating Master and officers for their services, together with hon. membership and a replica of the founder's jewel was also presented to them.

Many letters of regret at inability to attend were read by the Secretary, from amongst others the following distinguished brethren:—The Most Wor. Grand Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, K.G., &c., &c.; R.W. Bro. the Duke of Abercorn, Grand Master of Ireland; R.W. Bro. the Hon. James Hozier, G.M. Mason of Scotland; Field Marshal Earl Roberts, K.G.; the Earl of Donoughmore, P.G.W.; Lord George Hamilton; W. R. McConnell, K.C.; and R. H. H. Baird, J.P., &c.

At the banquet which followed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

The toast of "The Grand Officers" was responded to by V. Wor. Bro. J. V. Vesey Fitzgerald, K.C., who remarked that the lodge they had seen consecrated that day tapped a new vein in Masonry, and one which was bound to be of advantage to the Craft in London. He thanked the brethren for the reception they had accorded the toast of the Grand Officers.

The Wor. Master, proposing the toast of "The Consecrating Master and Officers," said that nothing new could be said about the manner in which V. Wor. Bro. Sir Edward Letchworth and his officers had performed the ceremony, but he could say that it had equalled, if not excelled, anything he had previously seen. It had deeply impressed all those who had seen it for the first time, and the more deeply impressed those who had witnessed it before. The dignified and reverent manner in which this religious ritual had been rendered had lost none of its freshness.

V. Wor. Bro. Sir Edward Letchworth, replying on behalf of himself and the other Consecrating Officers, tendered his warmest thanks for the hearty introduction and reception of the toast. It was two years since he had been associated with some of the brethren present, at the consecration of the lodge at Erin, which had flourished and become sponsor to the "Ulster Lodge," which he trusted would prove worthy of its sponsor, and set an example in London as to how work should be done. They congratulated the founders upon their successful start in life.

The Acting I.P.M., Wor. Bro. S. M. Barry, proposed the toast of the Wor. Master, and felt the great honour which had reflected upon him by proposing that toast for the first time in their lodge.

The "Ulster Lodge" was an outcome of the "Ulster Association," and their proceedings that night would go down to history. Their Wor. Master had spent great labour to bring the lodge to a success, and was possessed of more zeal than he could tell them. The office of first Master was one of great worth, and they had in it a man worthy of the post.

The Wor. Master, replying, believed the most difficult part of his duties would be replying to toasts so affectionately proposed as the one they had just listened to. It was traditionally reported that loquacity was the distinguishing feature of Irishmen, but they would do their utmost to disprove the assertion, and show that they could work as well as talk. The "Ulster Lodge" had been formed by Masons who wanted to make work and not to talk, and they could not have brought it to such a satisfactory consummation without work.

The Toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by W. Bro. J. B. Crowe, who considered himself fortunate to have such a popular toast, on such an auspicious occasion, allocated to him. The visitors present were many in number, and representative of the four nationalities of Great Britain and Ireland. As Irishmen they were pleased to rub shoulders with them all. It had been said repeatedly, with a large amount of truth, that Irishmen got on better with Englishmen than with their own countrymen. He was pleased to see present so many members of the "Commercial Travellers' Lodge," including Wor. Bro. Tidmas, its First Master.

Wor. Bro. Higety was gratified at being called upon to respond to the toast of "The Visitors." His heart was thoroughly in their undertaking. The Wor. Master had said that they were going to be workers, not talkers. As a worker himself he could sympathise and appreciate their position. He was confident the lodge would be a success. The founders knew well the man they had chosen for their first Master, of his Masonic ability and zeal, and he would discharge the duties in a way to redound to his credit.

Although not one of their number, he had Ulster blood in his veins, which increased his interest in the lodge.

Wor. Bro. Tidmas, replying in a humorous vein, provoked hearty applause, which demonstrated the Irish national appreciation of humour.



ROPE BRIDGE, CARRICK-A-REDE, GIANT'S CAUSEWAY.

Wor. Bro. Trew also replied, and on behalf of the remainder of the visitors expressed keen appreciation of the reception they had met with, and wished hearty success to the lodge.

Proposing the toast of "The Officers," the Wor. Master said that shortly the brethren would be better able to judge of their abilities, of which he had already a knowledge. Both his Wardens had passed the chair, and won reputation in their own lodges, and the whole of his officers combined earnestness and ability.

The Senior Warden, replying, assured the Wor. Master that it was a pleasure to him to serve a brother so qualified to command. It would be their endeavour to do credit to Ulster and to the English Grand Lodge who had granted them a warrant. Not only would they dispense charity, but they would be careful to admit no one unworthy.



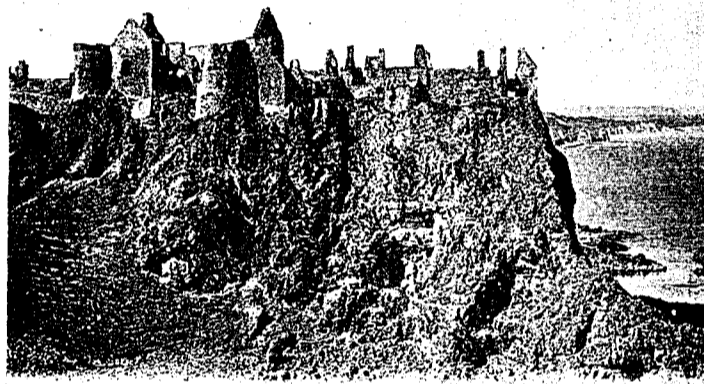
THE STEUCANS, GIANT'S CAUSEWAY.

The Junior Warden, following, said the Officers were determined to do their best and that best should not be bad. He would conclude by saying that that night was a great day for Ould Ireland.

The Wor. Master also called upon Bro. Stevenson, Chairman of the Ulster Association, who, although offered the important Post of First Wor. Master, had unselfishly taken the lowest post. He had done a great service already by bringing Ulster Men together.

Bro. Stevenson, Inner Guard, replying, felt that as the infant Officer of the Lodge, the Wor. Master had conferred a great honour upon him by mentioning his position as Chairman of the Association. The duties of Freemasonry had impressed him more that evening than ever before, and it was gratifying to him that the Lodge had in some degree emanated from the Association.

The Wor. Master next proposed the toast of the Treasurer and Secretary, and he could not allow the opportunity to slip without expressing his high appreciation of the labours of those two excellent Brethren. From its first inception to the launch of the lodge that night, they had been the mainspring and head. They were indefatigable in energy, and they would not be in the position that they were that night but for the services of Bro. John Irwin, who was an ideal Secretary, and who had been ably supported by the



DUNLUCE CASTLE, COUNTY ANTRIM.

Treasurer, Bro. R. A. McQuitty, who had been present at all the Committee Meetings, giving them the benefit of his great business tact and experience. He also held the position of Treasurer to the Association.

The Treasurer, replying, said that it was an error to suppose that no determination was to be met with only in Ireland, for the Secretary had just threatened him that if he did not reply first, he, the Secretary, would not reply at all. He thanked the Wor. Master for the compliment he had paid him, and would continue to do his best for the benefit of the Lodge and its Members.

The Secretary, Bro. John Irwin, replying, said the Wor. Master had spoken far too highly of his labours. He was grateful for the assistance which had been afforded to him by the other Officers. He had endeavoured to do his duty to the best of his ability; if it had met with the approval of the Founders he was amply rewarded. Personally he was delighted with the success of their Consecration, and hoped to work many years for the benefit of the Lodge, with such an amiable colleague as the Treasurer.

The Tyler's toast concluded a most successful evening.

Consecration of the Connaught Lodge, No. 2981.

THE consecration of the new lodge at West Hartlepool, the Connaught Lodge, No. 2981, by the Rt. Hon.

Lord Barnard, P.G.M. for Durham, on the 21st October, was one of the most impressive consecration ceremonies that his lordship has officiated at. The Town Hall, with its furnishings and fittings, lent itself to the solemnity of the gathering, which comprised about 240 provincial officers and brethren; quite a provincial lodge muster. His lordship was supported by a large number of Provincial Grand Officers,

among whom were:—R. Hudson, P.G.S.B. Eng., P.G.S.W.; T. Putnam, P.G.J.W.; Rev. J. R. Brown, P.G.C.; Rev. J. E. Wright, P.G.C.; Rev. R. E. Parr, P.P.G.C.; Jas. Lee, P.G. Treasurer; John C. Moor, P.P.J.G.W., P.G. Secretary; John Armstrong, P.G.S.D.

The following were the founders of the new lodge:—Bros. T. J. Johnson, P.M. 531, P.P.S.G.D.; H. C. Marston, P.M. 531, P.P.G.S.B.; R. Jack, P.M. 531; W. Paterson, W.M. 531; F. H. Bennett, P.M. 531, P.P.J.G.W.; T. J.

Marston, P.M. 531; J. Bennison, P.M. 531, P.P.D.G. of C.; J. Vickers, P.M. 531, P.P.D.G. of C.; M. Harrison, P.M. 531, P.P.S.G.D.; P. G. Hodgson, W. J. Beach, A. Duguid, B. Moore, C. J. Rawlings, J. T. Pounder, B. Kilvington, G. Langdale, H. Schmitz, H. Boddy, C. Brockett.

The ceremony was solemnly performed according to ancient custom by the Consecrating Officer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Barnard.

The Provincial Grand Secretary, Bro. J. C. Moor, read the warrant from the United Grand Lodge of England, and the new lodge was thereafter constituted according to ancient usage.

An eloquent oration was delivered by the Rev. R. E. Parr, P.P.G.C.

The musical portion of the proceedings was efficiently rendered by the choir of the Clarence Lodge, 2462, under the able conductorship of Bro. J. F. Hard, Organist.

The duties of Director of Ceremonies were most admirably performed by Bro. Chas. T. Johnson, P.G.D. of C.

At the close of the consecration ceremony, the Worshipful Master Designate, Bro. T. J. Johnson, P.P.S.G.D., was installed by Bro. R. Hudson, Prov. S.G.W.

Bro. Johnson then appointed and invested the following as his officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. F. H. Bennett, P.P.G.W., I.P.M.; H. C. Marston, S.W.; R. Jack, J.W.; J. Bennison, Treasurer; P. G. Hodgson, Secretary; W. Paterson, S.D.; J. Beach, J.D.; T. J. Marston, D. of C.; A. Duguid, I.G.; B. Moore, S.S.; J. T. Pounder, J.S.; B. Kilvington, C. Rawlings, and G. Langdale, Asst. Stds.; J. Bradley, Tyler.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Barnard, P.G.M., and Bro. R. Hudson, P.G.S.W., were elected honorary members of the lodge.

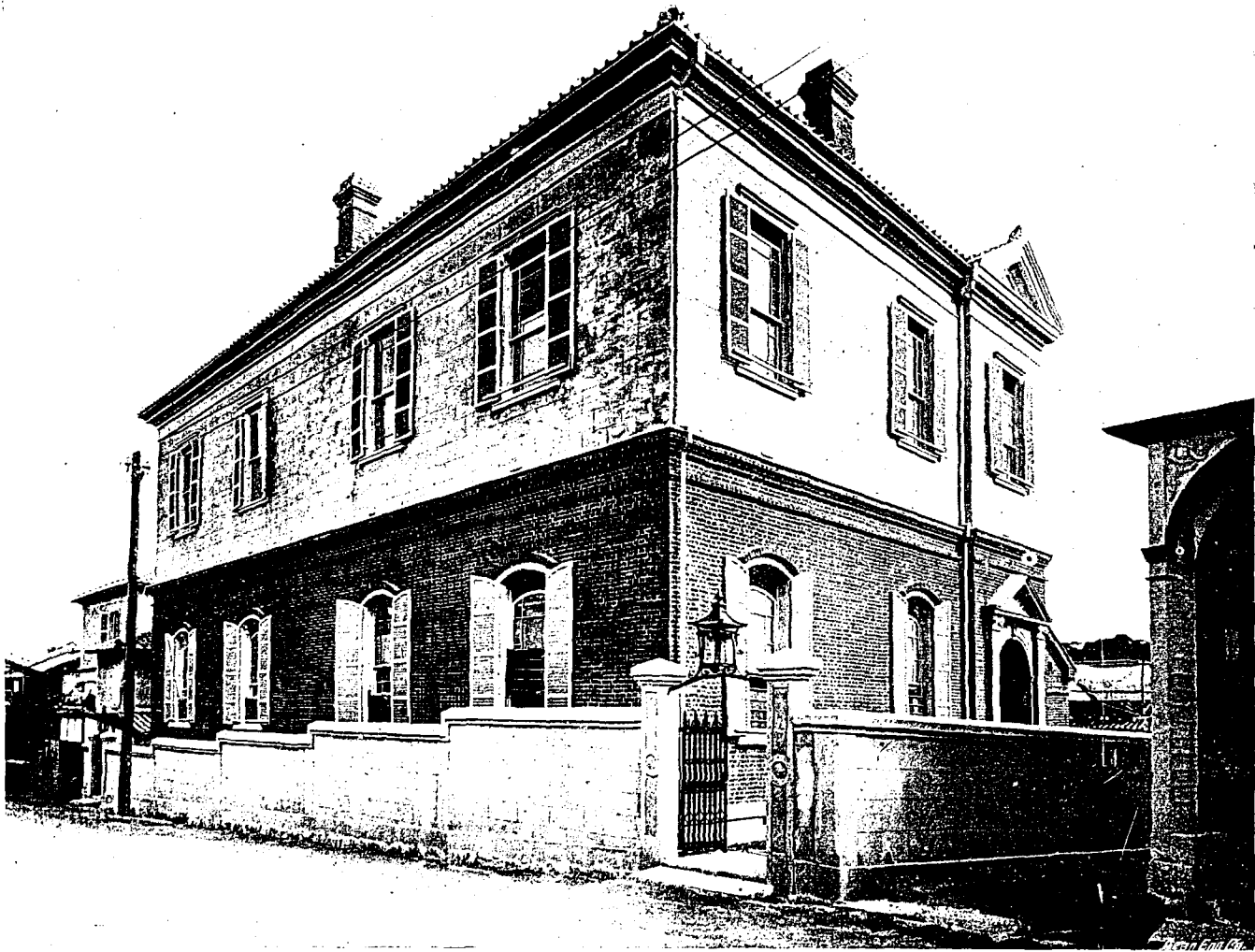
“Corinthian” Hall, Kobe.

WE have pleasure in reproducing photos of the new Masonic Hall recently built in Kobe, Japan. The project of building a Masonic Hall was first mooted at a meeting of the “Rising Sun” Lodge, 1401, E.C., Kobe, in May, 1902, and by August of the same year, the Craft in general of Kobe had subscribed the amount needed by debentures, appointed trustees and building committee, the combined plans of two members of the building committee having been accepted, and building operations were commenced in the following November.

Japan, a sumptuous banquet afterwards being held in the large room on the lower floor.

The lower portion of the main building is used for a Masonic club, there being billiard, refreshment, card and store rooms, in addition to secretary’s office and lavatories.

The upper floor of the building consists of the lodge room, which measures 54 feet long by 32 feet wide. There is an ante-room 18 feet long by 32 feet wide, a continuation of the lodge room. On the upper floor are other rooms, and a very comfortable library and reading room.



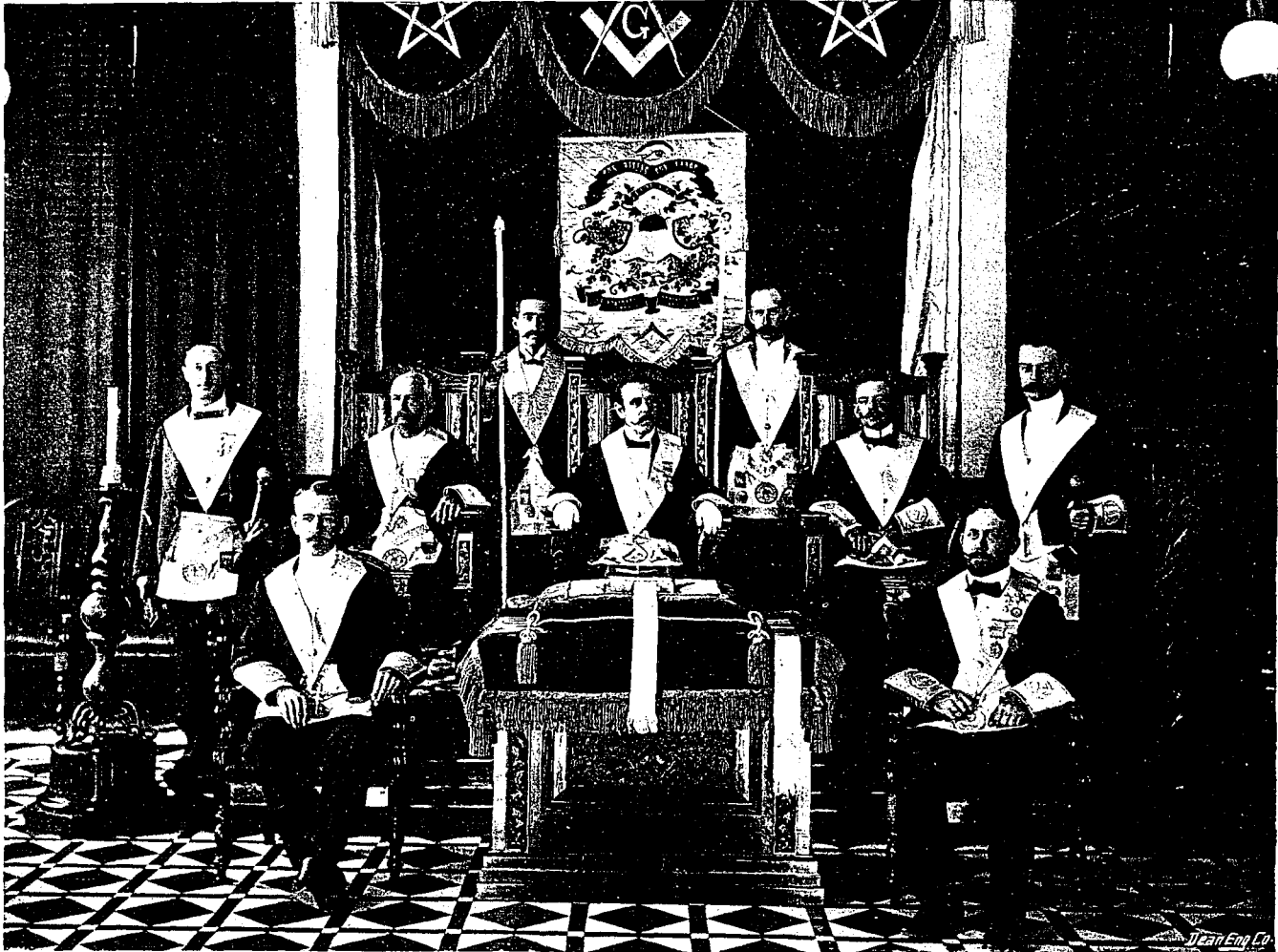
MASONIC HALL, KOBE, JAPAN.

The foundation stone was laid on February 14th of this year, the ceremony being performed by Wor. Bro. R. Home Cook, D.D.G.M. for Japan, in the presence of a goodly number of the local brethren.

The dedication ceremony took place on May 23rd, and was attended by 87 members of the Craft from all parts of

The building has happily been built due E. and W., so that the W.M.’s chair rests in its true appointed position.

The Craft in Kobe number but seventy in the English lodge and thirty in the Scotch lodge, the members of both have worked together to bring this building to a completion.

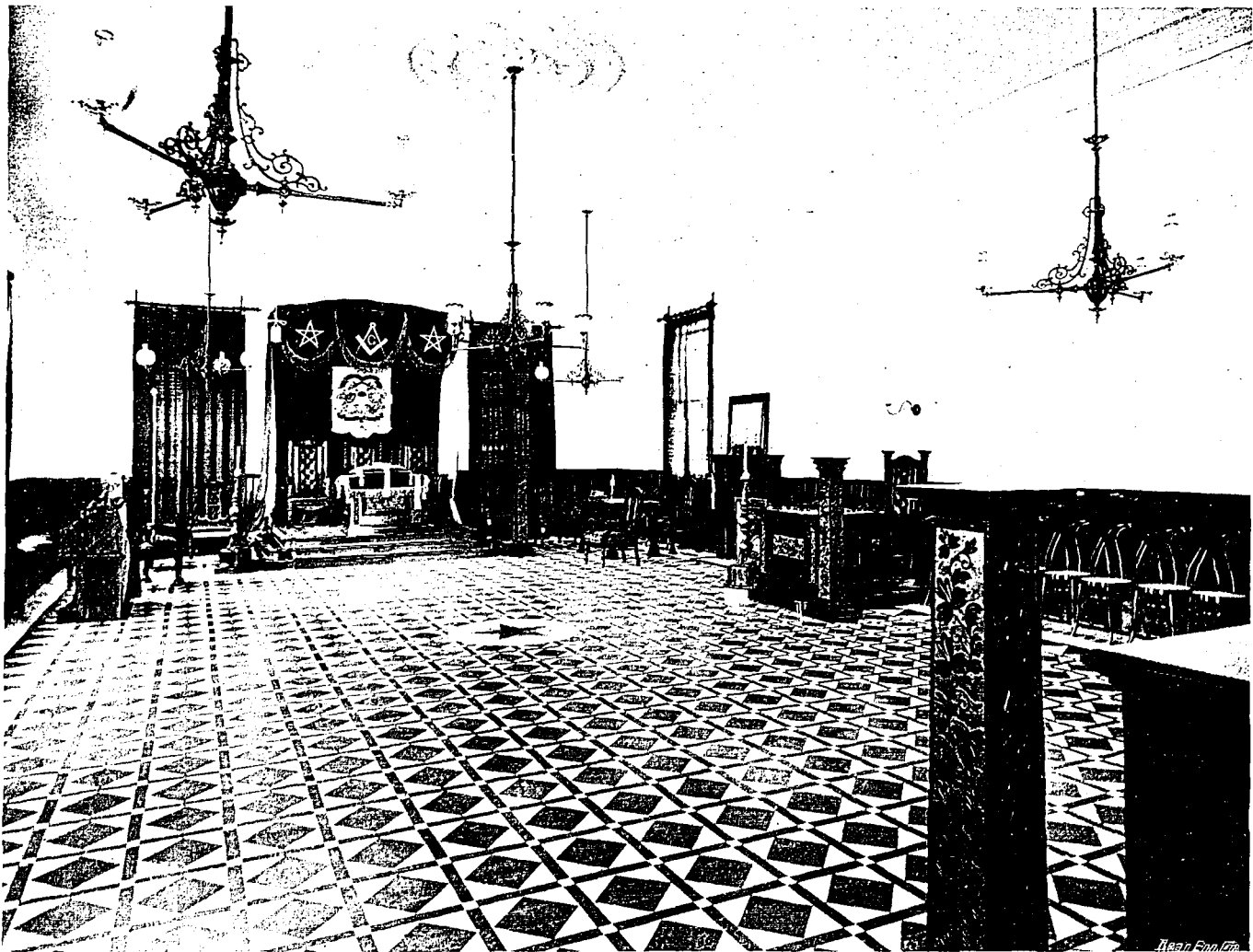


THE MASTER AND OFFICERS OF THE LODGE.

Every article of furniture has been most generously given by the various brethren, and has been specially designed by one of the brethren, and the entire gas fittings throughout the building were given by one of the brethren, whilst the decoration of the ceiling, &c., was defrayed by a no less ardent brother of the Craft.

Wor. Bro. Thomas Kershaw, D.G. Supt. Wks., is the W.M. for the present year, and the lodge regularly every year appears in the Steward's List of one of the great Masonic Charities in London.

It is hardly necessary to add that brethren visiting Japan are cordially invited to attend all meetings.



THE LODGE ROOM.

*King Edward VII. Preceptory,
No. 173.*

THE installation meeting of this successful preceptory, which has just completed its first year of existence, during which its membership has reached fifty, took place recently at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen Street.

Eminent Knight R. Clay Sudlow was installed as Eminent Preceptor in a very dignified manner, with a full musical ceremony by the outgoing Preceptor, E. Kt. Imre Kiralfy, K.C.T.

The Eminent Preceptor, R. Clay Sudlow, then conferred office upon the following knights:—E. Kt. T. Fraser, First Constable; Kt. G. Rankin, Second Constable; E. Kt. W. Baddeley, Chaplain; Kt. W. O. Welsford, Registrar; Kt. G. J. Kiralfy, Marshall; E. Kt. Dr. R. S. Maitland Coffin, Almoner; Kt. W. R. Bennett, First Herald; Kt. A. Cadbury Jones, Second Herald; Kt. J. R. Brough, First Standard Bearer; Kt. H. Thorpe, Second Standard Bearer; Kt. E. P. Fischer, Captain of Guards; H. Hodge, Organist. After which he announced to the members that the Grand Master had conferred upon their outgoing Preceptor, E. Knt. Imre Kiralfy, the high honour of Knight Commander of the Temple, and in the name of the preceptory, offered him their hearty congratulations. He also presented him with the Past Preceptor's jewel, voted by the members, in appreciation of his able services, and in a graceful speech he further presented him with a richly embroidered Preceptor's banner, which had been subscribed for by the members, and assured him that his arduous work had been appreciated by them all, and the name of Kiralfy would ever be dear to the members of the "King Edward VII. Preceptory." Although he had in the natural course to make way for another in the chair as Preceptor, he would never have to make way for any one in the hearts of the knights.

E. Knight Kiralfy expressed his appreciation of the gift, and of the kindness and assistance he had received during his year of office, from E. Kt. Sudlow and the other members.

The preceptory was then closed, and the daughter preceptory, which has been recruited entirely from its members, was consecrated.

We much regret that in our report of the consecration of the "Empress Preceptory" in our last issue, it was made to appear that the subsequent banquet was held under the auspices of the "Empress Preceptory." This is incorrect. It was the installation banquet of the "King Edward VII. Preceptory," and was presided over by the newly installed Preceptor, the E. Knight R. Clay Sudlow, well known in Masonic circles for his work at the Emulation Craft Lodge of Improvement, and who has, during the past year, taken a prominent part as one of the committee of the "King Edward VII. Preceptory of Improvement," which, like the mother preceptory, has attained great success.

Masonic Presentation at South Shields.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Hadrian Lodge of Freemasons was recently held in the Masonic Hall, South Shields, at which a presentation was made to Bro. Thos. Coulson, P.P.S.G.W., the Treasurer, who was one of the founders and the first W.M. of the lodge, which was consecrated twenty-one years ago. The testimonial, consisting of an excellent portrait in oils by Bro. Ralph Henley of the recipient, and a suitably inscribed gold watch, together with a solid silver cake basket and case of silver tea spoons and tongs for Mrs. Coulson, was subscribed for by the brethren of the lodge, of whom there was a very large gathering. On the occasion the lodge received a visit from the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Lord Barnard, and a large number of members of Provincial Grand Lodge. Bro. Alfred Mitford, W.M., opened the lodge, and Lord Barnard, on entering, took the chair, and was duly saluted.

During the proceedings the R.W. Provincial Grand Master invested Bro. R. Lee, P.M. 97, as P.G.P. (Durham).

Subsequently the R.W. Prov. Grand Master (Lord Barnard) made the presentation to Bro. Coulson. He alluded to the great prosperity which had attended the Hadrian Lodge since its inception 21 years ago, and remarked that in looking at the cause of its great success one knew there must have been some guiding hand, some master spirit, which had done so much for it. In that particular case the cause was not far to seek. He wished to associate himself with them in according their most sincere and heartfelt thanks to Bro. Coulson for all he had done for that lodge and for Freemasonry in that Province. Bro. Coulson had been a member of the fraternity for rather over 30 years, and during that period he had been associated with all the leading Masons of the Province. He joined the South Hilda lodge in that town in 1871, and became in due course its W.M. He afterwards set himself to organise a movement to establish another lodge, successfully overcame all difficulties which presented themselves, and succeeded in 1882 in getting from the Grand Lodge of England a warrant for the formation of that lodge. It had now not only a larger membership than any other lodge in the province, but had contributed most liberally in benefactions and charities during the time its affairs had been under the control of Bro. Coulson. Having referred to the high character which Bro. Coulson bore as a Freemason and as an example to younger Freemasons, his lordship made the presentation and expressed his sincere wish that the recipient and Mrs. Coulson might enjoy health, happiness and long life.

Bro. Coulson, who was heartily cheered, expressed his high appreciation of the kindness of Lord Barnard and of the members of the lodge. He sketched his career as a Freemason, and, speaking of the work of the Hadrian Lodge, said that during the 21 years of its existence it had given to charities, Masonic and local, no less than £1348.

The lodge was then closed, and a concert followed.

The Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society.



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Freemasonry in 1903.

THE prosperity which has so especially characterised the progress of Freemasonry in this country and its colonies during the past quarter of a century, has, it is satisfactory to note, been more than maintained in the year now drawing to a close. To those of us who possess an abiding faith in its beneficent principles and in its humanitarian mission, such a happy condition of affairs is not a matter of surprise. New lodges have sprung up in all parts of the Empire, while nowhere is it apparent that decadence has shown itself. During the year 64 lodges have been established, of which 27 are in the provinces, 21 in India and the Colonies, and 16 in the London district, which, as our readers are aware, is bounded by a radius of ten miles from Freemasons' Hall. Nowhere, therefore, has the growth of Freemasonry been more marked than in the metropolis, and it is the creation of these latter centres of Masonic life that has been wont from time to time to call for some criticism from those who entertain a belief that a new lodge must of necessity adversely affect the interests of those already existing. Such a belief is, we think, entirely unfounded, and it must be remembered that in every instance the promoters of these new lodges have been able to submit evidence to

the satisfaction of the M.W. Grand Master and his advisors that they are supplying a legitimate want and filling a niche in the edifice previously vacant, or, at least, insufficiently occupied. As a proof that the somewhat abnormal multiplication of London lodges in recent years has not produced the ill effects feared, we have every reason to believe that the average membership has not declined, although there are possibly some instances of lodges which, from various causes, have failed to maintain their positions, mainly from lethargic administration and the consequent absence of new blood which, in Masonic life, as in all other, is necessary to maintain a strong and healthy existence. Certain it is that the younger members of the Masonic family which so largely recruit the new lodges, are not wanting in zeal either for the Craft itself or its Charitable Institutions, as witness the magnificent contributions from so many of the newer lodges announced at the three Festivals during the year.

These considerations lead us to the question which came before Grand Lodge at the last Quarterly Communication. It was a motion embodied in the report of the Board of General Purposes, by whom it was apparently unanimously recommended for adoption, and its object was to provide a remedy for the overcrowding which is now a permanent feature at these meetings. The proposition in question was, to withdraw from the Wardens of lodges the right they possess under the Constitutions to accompany their Worshipful Master in his attendance at Grand Lodge Quarterly and other communications. Such a recommendation from a responsible body is entitled to all respect, and that action in regard to this matter is absolutely necessary will be conceded by all who have a knowledge of the existing state of things; but we venture to submit that the proposed remedy would be altogether inadequate to meet the requirements of the case, and we decline to believe that the Grand Lodge of England is in that parlous condition that it can find no better solution of a situation created by its own marvellous progress than a withdrawal of the rights and privileges that have been possessed by certain of its members almost from time immemorial; surely it is capable of applying a bolder and more effective remedy than is embodied in this weak and puny suggestion. The truth is that Grand Lodge has indisputably outgrown its environments, and everything points to the necessity of providing a home for the mother Grand Lodge of the world which shall equal at least the temples which exist, more especially in so many cities of the United States. Grand Lodge has acquired during the past few years much valuable space surrounding Freemasons' Hall, and the speedy termination of the leases of these premises, together with that of Freemasons' Tavern, would seem to present a most favourable opportunity for a scheme of reconstruction on a large and comprehensive scale. The close proximity of the new Kingsway and the possibility of providing an entrance from this noble thoroughfare supplies another reason for dealing with the question.

While we are among those who are strongly opposed to lavish expenditure on objects of doubtful expediency, we cannot be oblivious to the fact that sooner or later this much needed extension must be carried out, and the methods of the far-seeing business-man who adequately provides for future requirements might well be adopted by the Masonic Fraternity.

Suggestions have from time to time for many years past been made, mainly, we must admit, by irresponsible brethren, that a new building should be erected on another site—the Thames Embankment being at one time a much favoured locality, but apart from the cost of such a scheme, there is nothing to be gained by a departure from the present site, hallowed as it is by ancient and historic associations.

We have avoided all reference to details in dealing with this matter, but the vital question of cost is one that must necessarily precede all consideration of the subject, and we have every confidence that some scheme could be evolved that would have the effect of enlarging, rather than curtailing, the privileges already possessed by members of Grand Lodge, and at the same time providing a home for English Masonry worthy of its past traditions and of its great future.



The Earl of Shaftesbury, Provincial Grand Master, presided at the annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Dorset, at Dorchester, on the 20th November, at which there was a large attendance of brethren from all parts of the country. The Corn Exchange was fitted up for the lodge, and the Town Hall and ante-rooms were utilized for the reception of the brethren. The Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened, the Rev. T. Russell Wright, acting for the Provincial Grand Chaplain, delivered an able address on "Freemasonry, its past, present and future." The P.G. Master, in addressing the brethren, expressed his gratification at seeing so large an attendance and at the progress of the Craft in the province, and announced that the next P.G. Lodge would be held at Beaminster. The usual business was transacted, the reports of the Charity Organisation and Dorset Masonic Charity Committees being adopted. It having been announced that the P.G. Master had consented to preside at the next festival of the R.M.B.I. for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, the lodge voted a grant of 100 guineas to that institution, it being the first occasion on which a Provincial Grand Master of Dorset has undertaken the duties of Chairman at the festival of one of the three great Masonic Charities in London. Other votes were passed, and the P.G. Master then invested his officers for the ensuing year, and the proceedings terminated.

The annual meeting of the Committee of Benevolence of the Province of Cheshire, was held at Crewe on the 25th November, Bro. Henry Jackson presiding. The Chairman said he thought they might congratulate themselves on the very satisfactory condition of their various local institutions. Taking the Cheshire Benevolent Institution, which had only been established eleven years, a further sum of £1600 had been added recently to the fund, making a total investment of £5400. Their educational institution was distributing more for education and clothing than it had ever done. They had an invested fund of £6745, and with the interest from this and the contribution from brethren and lodges, they were providing education and clothing for 70 children. At the present time the Province of Cheshire was receiving from the three London institutions a sum amounting to nearly £800 per annum. Bro. Henry Jackson was re-elected chairman of the committee, and Bro. L. Ellis vice-chairman, and Bro. T. H. Annett treasurer. Bro. Sim was re-elected treasurer of the educational institution, and Bro. P. Stevenson hon secretary. Several amendments were made in the by-laws.

In our last issue it was our pleasure to chronicle the consecration of the "University of Edinburgh Lodge." The addition of this lodge to the roll of Scotch lodges meeting in London has given considerable satisfaction in Scotland, and at a meeting of Lodge "Cannongate Kilwinning," No. 2, at St. John's Chapel, Edinburgh, on November 11th, a vote of congratulation was carried and forwarded to the Worshipful Master, Bro. Dr. Armitage, with a pressing invitation for him to pay them a visit on their "Burn's" night, which will be held towards the latter end of January.

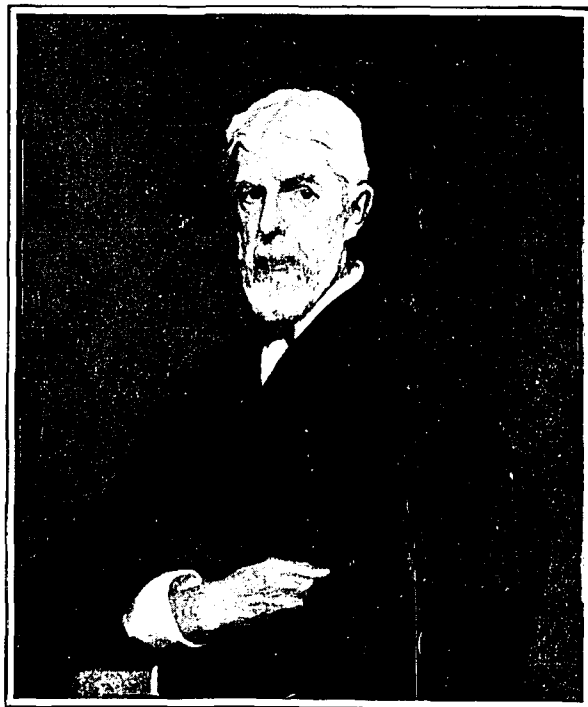
A meeting of the committee of management of the Alpass Benevolent Institution, established for the purpose of giving needed aid to the widows of Freemasons in the Province of West Lancashire, was held on the 18th November, at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, under the Presidency of W. Bro. Robert Wylie, Deputy P.G. Master. A candidate was elected

on the foundation of the charity, after which W. Bro. Philip Lloyd, P.M. 1356, honorary secretary of the annual festival recently held at Southport in aid of the funds of the institution, under the chairmanship of W. Bro. W. W. Rutherford, M.P., P.G.S.W., reported that up to the present time the net financial result amounted to the sum of nearly £1600, which formed a record in the history of these annual social gatherings. Cordial thanks were given to W. Bro. Lloyd for his strenuous and self-sacrificing efforts, which had proved of so much advantage to the funds of this most deserving charity.

The list of donations for the purchase of the Perpetual Presentation to the R.M.I. Girls (Beach Memorial) has now been issued, and furnishes a striking example of the liberality of the brethren of the Province of Hampshire. Following as it does so closely on the purchase of a similar presentation for the Boys' School, the result must be extremely gratifying to the Prov. G. Master and all concerned.

The whole of the 49 lodges in the province joined in the effort, and were supported by several chapters and Mark lodges, the total amount subscribed being £1617 8s. od., to which was added £17 19s. 9d., making a grand total of £1635 7s. 9d.

Bro. Sir Henry Truman Wood, whose portrait by Professor Herkomer we have the pleasure to reproduce, has long been associated with Freemasonry. He was initiated in 1872 in the Marquis of Dalhousie Lodge, No. 1159, and was Master in 1875. He afterwards joined the Shakespeare Lodge, No. 99, and served as Master of that lodge, which he represented as a Grand Steward. He was exalted in the



BRO. SIR HENRY TRUMAN WOOD, P.A.G.D.C., P.M. 99 & 1159.

Bard of Avon Chapter, and was one of the founders of Chapter 1159, of which he was the first Principal. Bro. Wood was, in 1886, promoted to Grand Office as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, and subsequently Grand Standard Bearer in the Royal Arch. He is a life Governor of the three Masonic Charities and honorary member of several lodges, including the Garden City Lodge of Chicago, U.S.A.

The foundation stone of the Liverpool Cathedral will probably be laid with Masonic ceremonial in the spring or early summer of 1904. Noting this fact in a circular to the brethren of the Province of West Lancashire, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Earl of Lathom, expresses the hope that as the erection of beautiful buildings

is truly Masonic work, the opportunity may be an inducement to the brethren to participate unitedly and generously, so that the response may prove worthy of the great province to which they belong. His lordship goes on to give voice to a strong feeling which exists that some special piece of work in connection with the cathedral should be undertaken by the brethren of West Lancashire.



Bro. J. C. Moor, who was appointed to succeed Bro. R. Hudson as Prov. G. Secretary of Durham at the last annual meeting of P.G. Lodge at South Shields in September, was, like Bro. Hudson, initiated in the Palatine Lodge, No. 97, Sunderland. His esteemed predecessor, Bro. R. Hudson,



BRO. J. C. MOOR.

was P.G.D. of C. from 1870 until 1882, when he was appointed P.G. Secretary by the late Marquis of Londonderry, K.P., and he had under successive Provincial Grand Masters held the office for 21 years, with great satisfaction to the province and to the advancement of Freemasonry. As Lord Barnard said in appointing and investing Bro. Moor, he followed one whose zeal and ability was recognised on all hands. The new Provincial Secretary was installed as W.M. of the Palatine Lodge in December, 1883, and succeeded Bro. Hudson, the first W.M. of the Londonderry Lodge, No. 2039, in the chair of the lodge in 1885. In 1884, Bro. Moor was appointed P.J.G.D. by the Marquis of Londonderry, P.G.M., and in 1895 he was appointed P.J.G.W. by the late Sir Hedworth Williamson, P.G.M. In October, 1902, he became first W.M. of the Wearmouth Lodge, No. 2934, of which his eldest son was the first initiate and his second son is the J.D. Bro. Moor is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, and has been a Fellow of the Institute of Journalists since its charter was granted by her late Majesty, and his name appeared in the first list of appointments. He has been connected with the Newcastle press for 40 years past. Bro. Moor has been a Royal Arch Mason for over 20 years, in the Strict Benevolence Chapter, No. 97, and the De Lambton Chapter, No. 94, of which he was Z. in 1887. Last year, he occupied the chair of Second Grand Principal in the Provincial Chapter of Durham, and also the office of P.J.G.W. in the Mark Province of Northumberland and Durham, at the head of both the Royal Arch and Mark Degrees the Rev. Canon Tristram is the highly respected head. Bro. Hudson was appointed as the P.S.G.W. by the Rt. Hon. Lord Barnard at the same time as Bro. Moor was appointed as Provincial Secretary, and his lordship has in them two most diligent and experienced officers.

The M.W. Grand Master, the Duke of Connaught, has appointed Sir James Meredith, LL.D., to represent the Grand Lodge of England in Ireland. The Marquis of Hertford performs a similar duty in England on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Ireland.



The Right Hon. Lord Barnard was, on the 12th November, installed at the Darlington Mark Lodge as the W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being most ably performed by W. Bro. Richard Luck, P.G.D. of England, P.P.S.W., and there was a large attendance on the occasion, the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland and Durham paying an official visit to the lodge. The retiring W.M., Bro. R. M. Wilkes, presided.



An interesting, not to say unique, incident happened at the annual meeting of the Macdonald Lodge, No. 104, of Mark Master Masons, at Mark Masons' Hall, on October 12th. The occasion was the installation of W.M. for the current year and advancement of candidates to the honorable degree. The member who had been unanimously chosen to rule the lodge was its Senior Warden, Bro. Charles George Butler, P.P.G.I.G. of Berks and Oxon, who, subsequent to his induction into the chair, advanced two of his sons, namely, Bros. Charles George Todd and Percival Harry Todd Butler, the first-named a member of the Cranbourne Lodge, No. 1580, and of the St. Catherine's Park Lodge, No. 2899, both in the London District, and the other a member of the Alexandra Lodge, No. 993 Manchester. And this was not all, for the newly-advanced brethren were respectively appointed and invested as Organist and Steward. There was wanting one ingredient only to fill the W.M.'s cup of happiness, and that the honour of the presence of his former chief, the Earl of Jersey, who, when head of the Mark Province of Berks and Oxon, had invested him with the collar of P.G.I.G. However, his lordship intimated in a pleasant letter that a prior engagement was responsible for his absence from the ceremonies of the evening. It may be added that Bro. Butler announced, ere closing the lodge, his



(Photo Elite Portrait Co.)
BROS. C. G. BUTLER, C. G. T. BUTLER, AND P. H. T. BUTLER.

intention to represent the Macdonald Mark Masons at next year's festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund, which is to be presided over by R.W. Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.W., President of the General Board.

The ranks of Mark Masonry received a notable addition on Thursday, November 19th, when at the meeting of the Empress Lodge, No. 533, at Mark Masons' Hall, of which Bro. Charles I. Kiralfy is Wor. Master, Bro. Edouard H. Sève, Consul-General of Belgium in Great Britain, was advanced to the Degree of Mark Master in the presence of V. Wor. Bro. John Strange and other distinguished Grand Officers.



BRO. EDOUARD H. SEVE.

At the banquet which followed, Bro. Sève expressed his appreciation of the reception he had received into Mark Masonry, and sincerely thanked his esteemed friend, Bro. Imre Kiralfy, for having acted as his sponsor. He rejoiced in the good feeling which at present existed between Great Britain and his country. Bro. Sève is a member of "La Loge L'Entente Cordiale, No. 2796," in which lodge he is highly popular.

The fourth installation meeting of the Devonian Lodge, 2834, was held on Thursday, November 12th. The lodge was opened by the W.M., W. Bro. George Lambert, M.P., who, after the raising of a candidate, vacated the chair in favour of V.W. Bro. Sir Ed. Letchworth, who installed W. Bro. William Hayman Cummings, Mus. Doc., P.G.O., as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The Worshipful Master invested his officers as follows:—Bros. J. C. Denmead, S.W.; J. M. Easton, J.W.; Wm. Bradford, P.M., Treasurer; John Cockram Taylor, P.M., Secretary; the Rev. F. Wilberforce Saulez, P.P.G. Chaplain Devon; T. H. T. Jarvis, S.D.; T. G. White, J.D.; P. R. Bradford, I.G.; W. Webb, D.C.; C. W. Wreford, Organist; S. J. H. Willey and A. Lawless, Stewards. W. Bro. Sir Arthur Collins, late Chief Justice of Madras, P.D.G.M. of Madras, was present, and was elected a joining member. There were also present R.W. Bros. Earl of Halsbury, Lord Chancellor, the first W.M.; the Hon. Sir Thomas Bucknill, P.G.M. Surrey; the Hon. Mr. Justice Kennedy, P.G.W.; Major Davie, P.G.M. Devon; and other Grand Officers, together with some eighty brethren. W. Bro. J. Cockram Taylor, to whose efforts the lodge may be said to owe its existence, was heartily congratulated on its success and on the well ordered arrangements.

We reproduce on another page portraits of twenty of the founders of the Borough of Bethnal Green Lodge, which was

founded on March 13th, 1902. Although only a year and a half has elapsed since its foundation, its membership numbers 71. The lodge was consecrated on March 13th, and on the 18th day of the same month its first regular lodge meeting was held, and three further regular lodge meetings and three emergency meetings were held during its first year, during which time 17 brethren became joining members, and 26 were initiated. The progress of the lodge has been most consistent, thanks to the energy of the brethren. Its first W.M., Bro. Chas. Wood, is now Mayor of Bethnal Green. His successor, W. Bro. J. W. Moorman, carries out in a most worthy manner the traditions of the office. The Borough of Bethnal Green Lodge owes a large amount of its success—indeed, its inception—to W. Bro. Councillor Fredk. J. Read and those few brethren associated with him.

The Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall Street, has been modernized and brought up to date, and it is with regret we learn, at a recent visit to this ancient City hostelry, that no lodge is now held there.

Bro. Edward Dorling, widely known as the former proprietor of Dorling's Hotel, Walton-on-the-Naze, died on October 29th, at Matlock, Bath, the residence of his stepson, at the advanced age of 87. In his younger days, Bro.



THE LATE BRO. EDWARD DORLING.

Dorling was a very active Mason, and for some years was Provincial Grand Secretary of Suffolk. He was also one of the founders of the Arnold Lodge, Walton-on-the-Naze, which was consecrated by the late Lord Lathom in 1878.

We call attention to the prospectus of "The History of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement" which accompanies the present issue of THE MASONIC ILLUSTRATED. This work will be quite unique, containing about 70 first-class illustrations printed on art paper, and will be handsomely bound and ready for delivery in March next.

It will not be open to the trade, but will be sold to subscribers only at 6s. 6d., including postage. As only a small edition will be printed, we would suggest to intending subscribers that orders and cash be sent in without delay, thus avoiding disappointments. The subscription list will be closed at the end of February at the latest. Should any copies remain after the subscribers are supplied, the price will be 7s. 6d., exclusive of postage.

Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge.

A QUARTERLY Communication of Grand Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, on Wednesday, December 2nd, and was presided over by Lord Amherst, Pro Grand Master. The newly appointed Deputy Grand Master was also present, and after the opening of Grand Lodge and the reading of the minutes, he was formally inducted into the office. The next business was the nomination of a Grand Master for the ensuing year, and the pleasant duty of proposing His Royal Highness fell to the lot of W. Bro. Castle, K.C., I.P.M. of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, who briefly but effectively performed the task, adding a few words of sympathy with the Grand Master on the illness of his eldest son, Prince Arthur, who, at Krugersdorp, was serving his country so well as his father was now doing, and expressing a hope that he might soon be well and able to resume his duties.

The nomination of a Grand Treasurer then followed, and Bro. George Frederick Edwards was nominated by Bro. Lewis Ferguson. Bro. Edwards, he said, was a P.M. and Treasurer of the William Preston Lodge, No. 766, in which he was initiated many years ago, and had succeeded in obtaining the affectionate regard and estimation of the brethren. Of the Royal Arch, he was P.Z. of four chapters, and had held office in the Province of Kent. He was a member of two City Companies, was a large subscriber to the Masonic Charities, and has made the ladies of his family Life Governors of all the Institutions, as he himself was. He (Bro. Ferguson) had the privilege of nominating him as Grand Treasurer, and he recommended him as the brother best qualified to serve the office.

Bro. Thomas Frazer nominated Bro. Fitzherbert Wright, J.P., P.P.G.W. Derbyshire, for election as Grand Treasurer. Bro. Wright had been Prov. G. Registrar, and a consistent supporter of the Charities for thirty years. He was, therefore, a brother not without merits, and he had the support of all the Masons of his province. He had the greatest possible pleasure in nominating him for the office, for which he was eminently qualified; and if he was elected it would redound to the honour and welfare of the Craft.

Earl Amherst having informed the brethren that the M.W. Grand Master had been pleased to reappoint V.W. Bro. James Henry Matthews as President of the Board of Benevolence, Bro. Matthews was reinvested, and congratulated by the M.W. Pro Grand Master. Lord Amherst then declared Bro. David Dixon Mercer duly elected Senior Vice-President, and Bro. Henry Garrod, Junior Vice-President of the Board.

The President of the Board of General Purposes, Bro. Loveland-Loveland, K.C., moved the recommendation embodied in the report, and in doing so said that it was made with the simple purpose of eliciting from Grand Lodge the brethren's opinion as to how Grand Lodge should in future be able to accommodate the large number of brethren

that wished to take part in their deliberations. He was glad to see so great a number of brethren present that night, because it showed that there really was some need for means to be taken by which all those who wished to come should be comfortably seated and remain to take part in the proceedings. Before the opening of Grand Lodge, he had had the opportunity that evening of seeing the G. Superintendent of Works, and he said the floor would comfortably hold about 600. There were about 30,000 Masons who possessed the privilege of entering that room, and he had been told by the Grand Secretary that there were on an average about fifty new lodges every year, thus entitling 150 additional brethren, over and above what they had, to attend Grand Lodge, every year previously; so that when they had to make provision for those who were able to come now they must look forward to those who with the new lodges were entitled to be present. Therefore, to relieve the situation, the Board had passed a proposition, that in the year 1906, Masters and Past Masters only should be entitled to be present; the Wardens would have to wait, the Senior Warden one year, add the Junior Warden two years. If that was passed, in 1906 they would then have accommodation for something like 150 or 200; but he saw from a return of the scrutineers, that in 1897 there was an average Warden's attendance of 217, and in 1900 something over 130 or 140; so that when it came to figures they had 150 each year more than could be provided for. The situation could not otherwise be relieved than by interfering with the capacity of Freemasons' Hall, and that would give them another seventeen feet; and the only other way was by building a new hall. One or two brethren had said to him in talking the matter over, "Very soon you will be wanting the Albert Hall." However, at present the scheme proposed by the Board was the only scheme they had, and the Board sought the brethren's opinion on it.

The proposition was seconded by Bro. Arthur Blenkarn, Vice-President of the Board.

The Pro Grand Master urged that a decision on such a great and vital question should not be come to hurriedly, and suggested that this portion of the report of the Board of General Purposes be referred back to them, and be brought up for reconsideration at the next meeting of Grand Lodge, a suggestion which was readily adopted.

The Grand Registrar then introduced the motion, of which he had given notice, that the price of tickets for Grand Festival should not exceed one guinea each, which motion was carried.

The Grand Registrar then mentioned the subject of the increase in the number of Grand Steward's Lodges, and the short discussion which ensued resulted in a resolution to increase the number by one, it being understood that the lodge in question was one that had previously, through some technical neglect, been deprived of its privileges.

No further business of importance was transacted, and Grand Lodge was closed in ample form.

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Whittington Lodge, No. 862.

THE installation meeting of the above lodge was held at the Freemasons' Hall on Monday, November 16th, when Bro. Percy J. Driver was installed as Master. After the appointment and investiture of officers, the W.M. proceeded to initiate three candidates.



BRO. PERCY J. DRIVER.

At the subsequent banquet, the usual loyal toasts were given and duly honoured.

Replying to the toast of "The Grand Officers," Bro. P. Colville Smith, P.G.D., remarked that he had always found this toast well received, and he believed, too, that the brethren were sincere in the good wishes they expressed for their Grand Officers. He desired to draw the attention of the brethren particularly to the Masonic Charities, of which the Craft was so justly proud.

The girls and boys were being educated in their schools in the best possible manner, and though some might say too much money had been spent in this direction, he was one of those who had yet to learn—and there were many others, too, he was glad to say—that the sons and daughters of Masons were not to be trained in such a way as to fully equip them for life. He specially appealed on behalf of the *Benevolent Institution* for aged Masons and their widows, pointing out how restricted the Institution was in its usefulness owing to its lack of the necessary funds. With the great increase of lodges it was incumbent upon the brethren to provide more means whereby this Institution might be of still greater benefit.

The toast of "The W.M." was proposed by the I.P.M., W. Bro. J. T. Southgate, who wished his successor much enjoyment in his year of office.

The W.M., in reply, thanked the brethren for their kindly feeling, and stated that he relied upon their co-operation to maintain the dignity and tradition of their lodge. He then presented a P.M. jewel to the I.P.M., who acknowledged with thanks the gift, which he said he should prize most

highly as a token of their appreciation of his work among them.

The toasts of "The Visitors and Officers" were given and well received, and the Tyler's toast brought an enjoyable evening to its close.

On behalf of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, the amount of £144 was promised by the members of the lodge for the 1904 Festival.

The musical arrangements for the evening were under the direction of Mr. Frederick Williams.

Bro. John Taylor, J.P.

THE indefatigable Craftsman, Bro. John Taylor, J.P., F.C.S., F.L.S., &c. (P. Prov. G. Reg. of Devon), has been re-elected Mayor of Torquay to the great satisfaction of the members of the Corporation, who unanimously desired him to accept that honourable, but onerous position, for the second year.

It is a marvel to many how Bro. Taylor manages to do so much and so well, Municipally, Masonically, and Ministerially (for he frequently preaches on a Sunday), but somehow he succeeds most admirably.

Though one of "Pharaoh's lean kind," and looking far from robust, his day's work would surprise not a few stronger men.

His Initiation dates from 1885 in the "St. John's Lodge," No. 328, Torquay, where he came to reside in the "Queen of the West," having purchased the well known Analytical Chemists and Dispensing Establishment in Lucus Street. Shortly afterwards he joined the "Jordan," No. 1402, of the same Town, and warmly co-operated with the late Bro. John Lane in having a noble Masonic Hall built for the accommodation of the latter Lodge, in which he became the W.M. in 1890-1, and subsequently its efficient Secretary. He is either the Presiding Officer or Secretary of the R.A. Chapter, the Mark Lodge, the Ark Mariner's, the K.T. Preceptory, assembling in the same Hall; a P.M.W.S. of the old Rose Croix Chapter at Exeter, and 30° under the Ancient and Accepted Rite, a member of the Royal Order, Allied Degree, &c., &c., besides holding office in the Prov. G. L., the Prov. G. Chapter, the K.T. Priory, the Mark Grand Lodge, the Great Priory, &c., and has served several Stewardships for the Charities, Central and Local.



BRO. JOHN TAYLOR.

He was invited to be a candidate for the office of Grand Treasurer this year, but declined, but possibly ere long he may be adopted by the West of England for that distinction.

*Twelfth Annual Festival of the Kirby Lodge of Instruction,
No. 263.*

THE Kirby Lodge of Instruction held its Twelfth Festival on Tuesday, November 17th, at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, the V.W. Bro. the Right Reverend the Bishop of Barking, P.G. Chap., presiding.

There was a large attendance of brethren, the Grand Officers present being Bros. Imre Kiralfy, P.A.G.D.C.; J. M. McLeod, P.G. Swd. Br.; Dr. A. G. Sandberg, P.A.G.D.C.; T. C. Van Duzer, P.A.G.D.C.; Captain Money; J. M. Coffin, P.A.G.D.C.

The Preceptor, Bro. G. J. Rankin, P.M. 2818, acted as W.M., and the various ceremonies were worked by Bros. S. W. Heaton, L. H. Dear, W. H. Holdaway, S. Hicks and H. C. Dodson, and elicited the warm applause of the brethren for the excellence of the working.

After dinner the toasts of "The King" and "The M.W. Grand Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught," were given by the President and duly honoured.

Bro. R. Newton Crane proposed the toast of "The Grand Officers," remarking that it augured well for the future of Grand Lodge to have a Lodge of Instruction in which so many young Masons were able to take their part with such credit to their Preceptor.

W. Bro. F. C. Van Duzer, P.A.G.D.C., gave the toast of the evening—"The President," who, in reply, said that when first asked by the W.G.M. to assume office, he did so with the full determination to do his duty in that office, and he counselled all the brethren present to do the same. Uniting in his speech the toast of "The Kirby Lodge of Instruction,"

the President went on to remark that every Mason had his work to do in a lodge however small and insignificant it might appear to him. *All* could not be W.M.'s, but *all* could aspire to that office. Each could do his share, and so good work might be accomplished. In such a lodge of instruction lessons were learned of splendid value to a man, and in endeavouring to do one's very best, one grasped the real spirit of Freemasonry. In concluding, the President quoted a little rhyme which contained a lesson for all Masons—

"Do what you can, be what you are,
Shine like a glowworm, if not like a star,
Work like a pulley if you cannot be a crane,
And learn to grease a cogwheel if you cannot drive the train."

The Preceptor, in acknowledging the toast, desired to thank the President for his presence that evening, remarking how much added respect and power for good the lodge gained by his coming there. He regretted the absence of Bro. R. C. Sudlow, P.A.G.D.C., through illness at home, this being the first Festival he had missed since the foundation of the lodge.

A silent toast to the memory of the first Preceptor, William Henry Kirby, and the toast of "The Bank of England Lodge, No. 263," under whose sanction the Kirby Lodge of Instruction meets, brought an interesting evening to its close.

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The COMING OF WINTER means the COMING OF WANT to the DESERVING POOR (or rather it means the increase of want already existing.)

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This Hospital is in need of funds for the relief of thousands of deserving cases. There are so many applications (ever on the increase) that it has become an imperative necessity to rebuild, for which £15,000 is needed. £600 are required before the end of this year to clear off existing liabilities.

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Further information will be gladly given by the Secretary,

G. A. Arnaudin, St. John's Hospital, Leicester Square, London, W.

Commercial Travellers' Lodge, No. 2795.

THE Commercial Travellers' Lodge, though only consecrated four years ago, has already proved its usefulness, and, by its membership of nearly 80, clearly demonstrated the need for such a lodge among the fraternity. The W.M. for the year is Bro. Ben. J. Kench.

On Saturday, 21st November, the ladies' banquet was held at the Hotel Cecil, and was well attended by the members and their friends.

After the usual loyal toasts had been given and honoured, the I.P.M., W. Bro. Thomas Elliott, proposed the toast of "The Commercial Travellers' Lodge," mentioning that the lodge had contributed over £115 to the Masonic Charities.

The W.M., in replying, called attention to the fact that this lodge was the first to inaugurate a childrens' night, on the suggestion of the first Secretary, Bro. John Irwin, J.W., which had been greatly appreciated in the past, not only by the children, but also by the members themselves, and gave a warm invitation to friends to attend that gathering on December 19th.

The toast of "The Ladies and Visitors" was given by the Secretary, W. Bro. Herbert O. Budd, P.M., and responded to by Bro. F. M. Isaac for the ladies, and W. Bro. T. W. Irvine, P.M. South Africa, on behalf of the visitors.

Selections of music were given during dinner by the Comus band, under the direction of Bro. W. Knightsmith, interspersed with songs by Bros. Arthur Busby, Will Deller, and Miss Mabel Duffus, Bro. D. J. Thomas being accompanist.

A very successful evening was brought to a close by a dance in the Grand Hall.



BRO. BENJAMIN J. KENCH.

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Senior Warden.



BRO. W.A. HUDSON.
Junior Warden.



W. BRO. J. BEDFORD, P.M.
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Organist.



BRO. J. LAURIE
Senior Deacon.



BRO. H. H. BOWEN
Junior Deacon.



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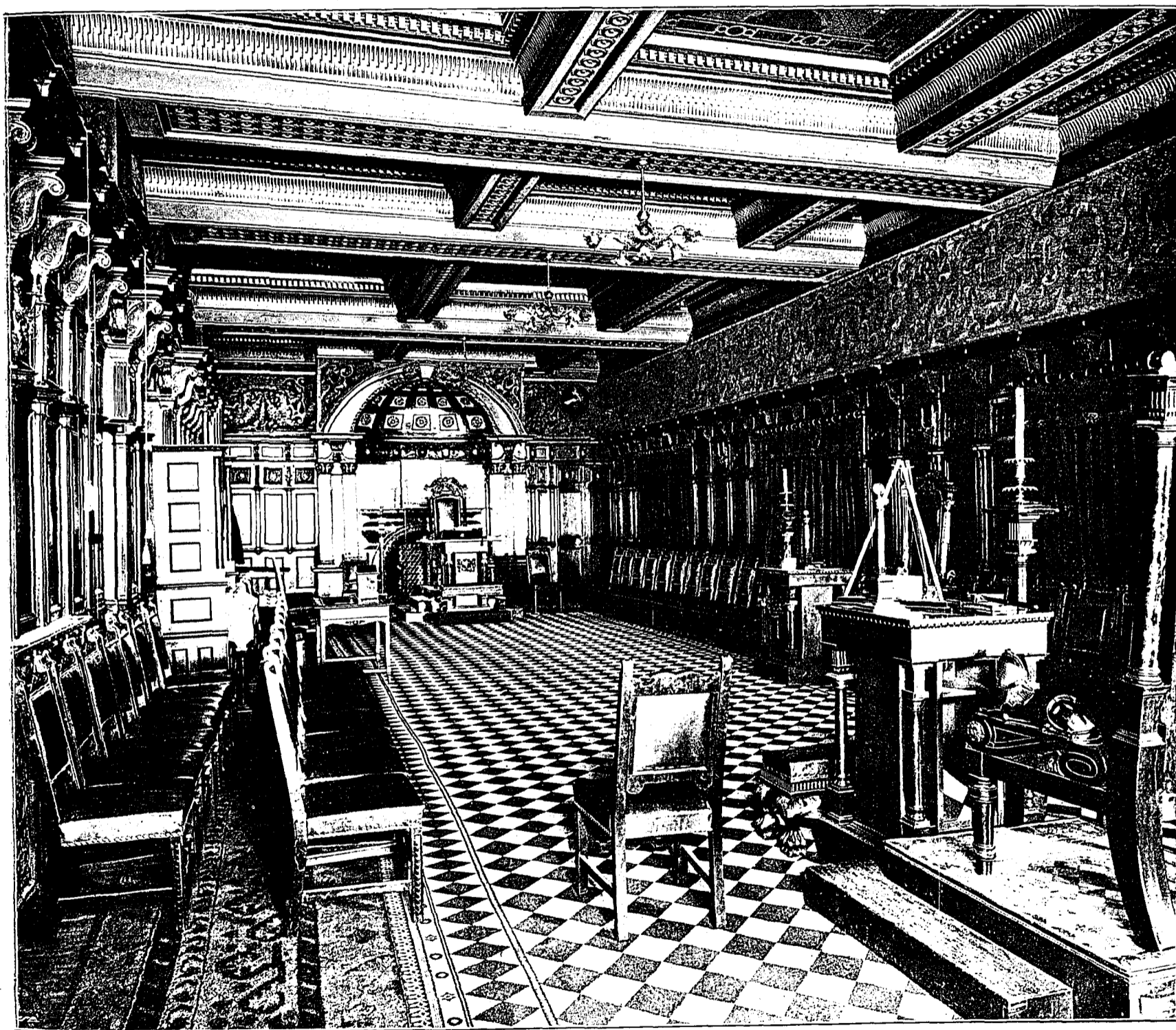
(SERIES 2.)

The “Hotel Cecil,” Strand, London.

THE early meeting places of London lodges has long been a subject of considerable interest to the Masonic Student and historian, and we are largely indebted to such writers as Bros. Hughan, Gould, Lane, and others for what knowledge we now possess of the buildings in which our brethren of the early days of the eighteenth century performed their rites and ceremonies. Time immemorial lodges there were before this, and it cannot be doubted that combinations of Freemasons existed centuries before the

with that of the London tavern, and the demand for improved lodge surroundings has been met in such a manner as to leave nothing to be desired in the way of comfort and adaptability to the requirements of the Craft.

No greater evidence of the vast strides Masonry has made in the Metropolis during the past few years can be adduced than the accommodation afforded in the magnificent Masonic temples in connection with the great hotels and public buildings that have sprung up in all directions. Among



Grand Lodge came into existence in 1716, but when and where these old lodges were located cannot now be discovered. That the Lodge of Antiquity met at the Goose and Gridiron, in St. Paul's Churchyard, in 1724, is beyond a doubt, and that other taverns of note at that period were almost solely the homes of the earlier lodges is equally beyond dispute.

It is a far cry from the Goose and Gridiron to the Hotel Cecil; but the evolution of the London lodge has kept pace

these the lodge room at the Hotel Cecil may be ranked amongst the first. It is of massive and imposing design. The whole of the walls are panelled in elaborately-carved oak, and although perhaps the entire effect strikes one as somewhat sombre, it is nevertheless admirably in keeping with the requirements of the Craft, and is largely used by various lodges and chapters.

The accompanying illustration gives an excellent idea of its style and proportions.

A Shakespearian Heroine.

IT was at Lady Pechell's Shakespeare Readings that I first met the Martley Brownes. Mr. Martley Browne was a Shakespearian enthusiast, and was greatly respected and admired by a number of ladies for what they called his delightful Shakespeare talks. After the Readings were over, he would sit, surrounded by worshippers, lecturing on the plays; but although it is true that before he bought Pig's Cross (which he immediately rechristened Belmont) and settled in the neighbourhood, I had been looked upon as the principal local exponent of *belles lettres*; yet I bore no grudge towards Martley Browne.

Mrs. Browne was still a pretty woman, with delicate features, and a very discontented droop to the corners of her thin lips. She was, I knew, much envied by many of the lady readers for her happy position as wife to the delightful and learned Martley, and I always thought she appreciated her good fortune, till it chanced one evening that I arrived late, and the room being unusually full I had to stand outside the door. I heard Martley's voice droning away in the distance.

While I thus stood, Mrs. Browne arrived.

"Who's speaking?" she whispered.

"Mr. Martley Browne," I answered.

"Oh!" And she turned away.

Never shall I forget the contemptuous indifference of that oh.

"How pretty Mrs. Browne looks to-night," said a lady on the other side of me. "Lucky woman! How proud she must be of such a husband! What would I not give if my old man could talk like that!"

I glanced at the portly, unromantic Huggins, where he slumbered peacefully on a sofa. No, Huggins could not talk like that; but then Mrs. Huggins would never have said "oh!" like Mrs. Browne.

Happy Huggins! Happy Mrs. Huggins!—if only she had known it. But, woman-like, she left the virtuous Huggins to his dreams, and crushed forward to hear Martley Browne's erudition.

Now Martley Browne did not seem unamiable; he certainly had attractions for the female sex. What could cause Mrs. Browne to harbour such unwifely feelings towards her lord? She gained a new interest in my eyes when she became thus wrapt in a halo of mystery, and I devoted the rest of the evening to penetrating it.

I think she suspected my purpose; at all events I failed miserably. Just as I was abandoning the enterprise as hopeless, Martley Browne joined us.

"Where's Portia?" he asked at once. Portia was his daughter.

"She didn't come," said Mrs. Browne.

"But she said she would!" said Martley.

"I know; but last time she had a cold and came out she was laid up for a fortnight; so I really couldn't risk it again," said Mrs. Browne. And under the meek tones I heard the vibration of a war-cry.

Foolishly, considering the purpose I had in hand, but pushed by that nervous terror of a scene that paralyses the social and domestic power of even the best men, I sought to turn the conversation.

"You have named your daughter after the most charming of Shakespeare's heroines," I said.

"Yes," he answered, and his face lit up with affection at the thought of his daughter. "I wanted her to resemble the real Portia, and so I christened her that. I doubt if she has all the qualities necessary for a Portia, but I should like her to be a heroine. Heroines have various qualities."

"Yes, of course; Grace Darling" . . . I began politely.

For Portia Browne is no genius; but she has good strong arms, and might emulate the more athletic heroines.

"Grace Darling!" exclaimed Martley, his eye blazing

with contempt as it fell on me. "Darling Grace!" And he gave a rude little laugh, meant, I think, to sting that heroine, who luckily could not hear, for having really lived. "I don't want her to be that sort of heroine. One of Shakespeare's heroines, of course I mean. That is the fate I dream of for my child. One of those grand, beautiful, statuesque characters, so joyous, yet so wise, so . . ."

"There's Juliet, a dagger; Desdemona, a pillow; Cordelia, the rope; Ophelia, the river—Which is the fate you prefer for poor Miss Browne?"

Martley's face clouded. It was that dreadful vulgar Huggins who had intruded into the conversation.

"I do not mean the heroines of the tragedies," said Browne angrily. "There shall be no tragedies in my family. There *can* be no tragedies in my family! It has been well said that tragedies do not happen to the wise man. They are the result of want of wisdom, or want of self-control; not knowing what is right, or not doing what is right. If King Lear had been a sensible man, that play might have been a comedy, but never the tragedy we know. If even Cordelia had shown a little tact, much misery would have been averted. If Othello had been as good a judge of character as the average child, he would never have believed in Iago, nor suffocated his wife. Ophelia went mad and drowned herself because she could neither control her own emotions nor understand how to manage Hamlet. All these tragedies arise from the absence of wisdom and self-control in the heroes and heroines, and that is why I do not want my Portia to be like the tragedy heroines. Not because I fear for her, the river or the rope"—and he turned on the affrighted Huggins with a sudden vehemence that shook even my firmness, "but because I would not see her have the flaws of character that lead to violent ends."

There was something almost Roman in the dignity of these sentiments, and I thought they made Huggins's bulky features look commoner than usual by sheer force of contrast. Feeling in my breast a rising mist of that admiration for Browne which I so much disliked in my neighbours, I stifled it at once, and only remarked:

"You would have her resemble one of the comedy heroines?"

"Exactly," he replied. "That is my wish."

"The chief thing the comedy heroines do," said the irrepressible Huggins, "is to go about in masculine attire. Rosalind, Viola, Imogen, Portia—perhaps Miss Browne may be here to-night disguised in a dress suit!"

Brown got exceedingly angry.

"Remember you are speaking of my daughter, sir!" he exclaimed.

"The room is quite empty," said Mrs. Browne, in her thin, discontented voice. "Don't you think we ought to go?"

"I hope Miss Browne's cold is nothing serious," I said as we parted. "A Shakespearian heroine should not have such a prosaic malady as a cold!"

"Beatrice has a cold in 'Much Ado about Nothing,'" said Martley, in a tone of displeasure, "but Beatrice was not obliged to stay at home in consequence. Beatrice had freedom from petty trammels; Beatrice . . ."

"You may as well put it completely into words," said Mrs. Browne, with frigid rage. "Beatrice's mother was happily dead."

I felt a sudden chill. I had entered into the presence of the skeleton. I was glad Huggins had gone.

Martley Browne looked filled with compunction. He tried to take his wife's hand, which she withdrew.

"No, my dear, you always misunderstand," he said hurriedly. "I never said or thought that. What I do say, and what anyone can see for oneself, is that all Shakespeare's heroines, without, I think, any exceptions but two, have no

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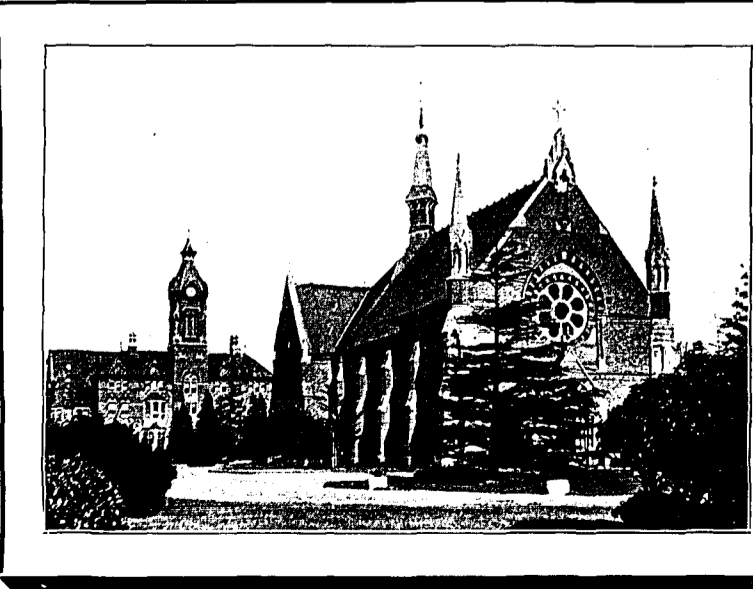
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mothers. The exceptions are Juliet, whose mother's commands result in the tragedy, and Perdita, whose mother . . . "

I left the two to make it up.

So now I understood the mystery; I had seen the contents of Mrs. Browne's cupboard; the cause of the lassitude and the discontent. Portia's education and treatment was the bone of contention between these two otherwise happy people. A continual conflict between the Elizabethan and the Victorian ideals.

I wondered what view Miss Portia herself took of the question. I was inclined to doubt whether she took any. She appeared to be just a good-humoured, ordinary girl, with no taste for views of any kind. She was devoted to golf and out-door exercise. She seemed equally fond of both her parents, treating their obvious idiosyncracies with indulgent good nature. It must have been owing to her tact, I thought, that their strained relations had never been prominently brought before the notice of their neighbours.

"Her tact! What a small characteristic to be the leading one of a Shakespearian Heroine!" I smiled to myself.

"What do you do when domestic affairs go wrong?" I once asked of Portia when I knew her better.

"Do?" said Miss Browne, opening wide, unconsidering eyes. "I just avoid doing anything. Things always right themselves; the great thing is not to fuss."

Mr. Browne having a very fair fortune, and Portia being an only child, it was not to be expected that no candidate should appear for her hand. It was common knowledge, indeed, that she had two suitors. One was a great Shakespearian scholar, a man of dignity, refinement, and fortune, her father's friend; and the other was Lady Pechell's son, Sir Joseph; a fat and lazy young man, whose strongest emotions were centered on his meals.

Portia showed no unfair inclination to favour one more than the other. It was impossible to tell which she preferred. But her parents were less impartial. Martley Browne openly declared his partisanship for his friend, Mr. Fayrer; Mrs. Browne made no attempt to disguise her preference for Sir Joseph Pechell.

As Mr. Browne declared, with much emphasis, it was very objectionable for a mother to try and coerce her daughter in the question of matrimony. It was a thing which a girl should have perfect freedom to decide, guided, of course, by a father's experience of the world.

Now in this case it was patent that Sir Joseph's courtship was a very lukewarm affair, obviously engineered by his mother, who had her eye on Portia's expectations. The young man himself had no particular qualifications whatever, beyond his title, and this, in Mr. Browne's opinion, was even a hindrance.

"There were no baronets in Shakespeare's time," he said, as if this were really a valid objection. But a more genuine drawback became apparent when he added: "I couldn't get on without my little girl. I hope Portia will never leave us. I should like her husband to be one of the family, and how could I endure a loafer like Sir Joseph in my house? Now Fayrer has every quality of mind and character that I can ask. True, he is somewhat older than she is. But what does Shakespeare say? 'Let still the woman take an elder than herself; so wears she to him, so sways she level in her husband's heart.' I know he will make my little Portia happy, I will never consent to having her future sold and his happiness sacrificed for the sake of an empty title."

Mrs. Browne held a different opinion.

"Mr. Fayrer is nearly forty; Portia is twenty; and he is old for his years," she said to me one day in a fit of confidential outpouring. "No doubt he has more money than Sir Joseph, but what position can he give Portia compared with a baronetcy? Her happiness is the first thing to be considered. It is nonsense to call a title empty. It gives a great many things that we all want to have. Consideration from all sorts of people. If you have ever travelled, for instance, with anyone with a title, you will know what I mean. How station-masters insist on giving you entire railway carriages! How hotel-keepers consider your lightest complaints! How the other travellers try to be agreeable! Does not Lady Pechell enjoy the predominance she has among us, which, if she had no title, she certainly would never have obtained? There is nothing 'empty' in getting by a stroke of a wand, so to speak, what other people pay hard cash, and struggle for years to obtain. Besides, Sir Joseph is a good son, and will make a good husband."

Both parents, it seemed to me, showed a natural regard for their daughter's happiness, not unmingled with a proper solicitude for their personal advantage.

But Portia only said to the one: "I cannot grieve my Father by marrying against his will;" and to the other: "I cannot grieve my Mother by marrying against her will."

And she calmly went on playing golf with young Jones, and young Huggins and the other young people.

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So matters went on ; till Portia's impartiality began to pall on both parents and suitors, and something definite was urgently called for. Browne spoke very seriously to his daughter, and stated the case from his point of view with much eloquence. He did not indeed command her to marry Fayrer ; but he went exceedingly near it. Portia seems to have remained quite firm. She loved both her parents too much to obey either of them. Martley related to me what had passed.

"It's her Mother's doing ; all her Mother's doing!" he said, bitterly, walking agitatedly up and down. "What's a father's opinion? A father's influence? Who's a father? Nobody! All my life I have struggled that my child should be left free to develop a strong character ; and always, from her tenderest years, her Mother has thwarted my endeavours ; with the result that now she's as weak as water. She'll marry this baronet—this obese loafer—she'll do all her Mother wants—she'll make me and herself miserable for life. Our happiness is ruined! And Fayrer! A man like Fayrer sacrificed for a title! A mother can stultify and counteract the wisest father's care? If Prospero had had a wife no doubt Miranda would have married Caliban ; that is what is happening here!"

I tried to point out that in cases where fathers were unfortunately cut off in their prime, mothers might have a certain use as guardians of young girls. But he would not even admit this. Even a dead father, he contended, was better than anyone else ; and he instanced the case of the Merchant of Venice, where Portia's father left three caskets to carry on his authority on the most important question the girl would have to decide.

"And you know, if I *were* dead, my Portia would have the same advantage," said Martley. "I have made similar arrangements, and Portia has promised me she will act just as the real Portia did. But I am alive, and so of course all that is useless!" said the unhappy father. "And I am to have Sir Joseph Pechell for a son-in-law! I would rather see my daughter dead."

It must have been a few days after this interview that I happened to be rowing down the river that runs at the foot of the Belmont slopes, and that I observed near the Belmont bathing-place one or two brown-paper parcels sheltered in a hedge. I took no particular notice, supposing some of the Brownes had left towels in this careless manner.

Next day, however, a tragedy revealed itself. Martley Browne could not be found. He had gone down, as he often did, to bathe, but he had not returned. All his clothes had been found in the little bathing-hut, but no trace whatever of Martley. He was a good swimmer ; but the river was in flood, and had he been seized with cramp he might easily have been drowned among the rocks and falls. The evidence pointed to one possible fate only ; on dry land a man clad solely in a bathing costume could not possibly escape detection. The river was dragged ; but nothing was found ; it was assumed that the body, entangled among weeds under the rocks, lay in the river out of reach.

This catastrophe cast a gloom over us for several weeks. I confess I felt a less settled gloom than my neighbours, because I used to ask myself—what did those brown-paper parcels mean? And I could not answer the question to my satisfaction.

"I suppose Sir Joseph will have it all his own way now," I remarked one day to young Huggins, the captain of our golf-club, when it was felt to be no longer indecent to discuss the bereaved daughter's love-affairs.

"Sir Joseph? Why, don't you know?" said young Huggins gloomily. "Old Browne left a paper—a sort of will. Portia is to be raffled for."

"Raffled for!" I exclaimed, horror struck.

"Yes, Merchant of Venice, you know. There are to be three caskets—her photograph is in one—anybody may try to get her by choosing the right one."

"But they will have to swear never to propose to anyone else," I ejaculated.

"Yes, but what does that matter? English law would never uphold such an oath. We aren't in Venice," said the

youthful Huggins. "I call it disgustin'. Any sweep may marry Portia. I tell her it's disgraceful, but she only sobs about her dear father, and says if he decided it he was undoubtedly right."

"The lottery he hath devised will no doubt never be chosen by any rightly but one whom you shall rightly love," I quoted from the play.

"Bunkum," said young Huggins rudely. There was something dangerous in his eye. He looked perfectly demoniacal. "It seems Fayrer and Pechell put in their claims to a guess the moment they heard of it."

"Why don't you put in a claim just to save her?" I asked indignantly.

"I have! But they will get first chance! It's sickenin'."

I thought this particularly chivalrous on the part of young Huggins. It was obvious that if both Fayrer and Pechell drew blanks, a real sweep might, as Huggins had pointed out, walk off with Portia. It was indeed monstrous, and no wonder he forgot all about Miss Jones, whom some of us thought he rather fancied, under such stress of friendship.

I went with Huggins next day to see Portia. I did my best to persuade her not to obey her father's will ; but the poor girl was almost out of her mind with distress at the loss of her parent, and seemed to find a real consolation in sacrificing herself to his manes.

"Well, if it's got to be, it's got to be," said young Huggins with British doggedness. "But why make the worst of it? It's a sort of thimble-rigging, and why should the system be different from that adopted on the best race-courses? Why should the pea be under any of the thimbles?"

Portia turned pale at the sacrilegious suggestion ; but I felt there was something of the hero in such depth of turpitude.

"That would be trifling with my Father's will," said Portia.

"Penal servitude—no more," I remarked cheerfully.

"Such a marriage would be worse than penal servitude," said young Huggins. "The police ought to interfere."

Portia then said she had letters to write, and wouldn't walk in the garden, and young Huggins begged her pardon, and I carried the young bungler off forthwith, to avoid further argument.

"Can't you see the girl's mind is made up!" I said to him. "It's a determined case of suttee. They get lots of them in India. The British authorities tie them up, but they rush out, and refuse to be satisfied till they're burnt to a cinder. It's a remarkable female instinct. They think a lot more about pleasing us when we're dead."

But later, finding Portia alone, I spoke to her like an uncle, and tried to show her what a serious risk she was running.

She burst into tears. It was the only time I ever saw Portia weep.

"He wished it!" she sobbed. "How could I ever feel happy if I had neglected his last great wish? Can't you see this is my one chance of escape? But for the caskets I would marry Mr. Fayrer! Because he wished it so! But if the caskets decide against him, that will still be Father! Father thought, as the people in the Merchant of Venice did, that a Higher Power would guide the unconscious hand. And why not? Why not believe in Providence? Father trusted, and so do I!"

I gave up the task in despair. We had the raffle next day. Portia wanted to get it over. Of course, not more than one competitor at a time was allowed to enter the fateful room. Mrs. Browne, indeed, would take no denial, and insisted on being present. Objectionable as the whole thing was, she said, secrecy would only make it worse, and she invited me to witness the scene.

Portia gave a mute assent, and we entered the room where the caskets stood on a table, covered by a piece of brocade. The girl moved unflinchingly up to the table, and removed the cover. There they stood—three wooden caskets ; one of dark rosewood, one of brown mahogany, one of light oak. Martley Browne evidently had not cared

to spend his substance on the precious metals ; or perhaps he realized that the published experiences of the Shakespearian heroes would make the choice too obvious.

At all events, only polished wood met our gaze. There was nothing to suggest which casket held the lady.

Fayrer seemed very much at his ease. He always had a slightly ceremonious manner, especially with Portia ; but to-day he walked up to her with the air almost of an accomplice ; and after a moment I heard him murmur :

"How did you know which it was?"

"Which, what?" asked Portia blankly.

"Which casket," he said.

"I have not the remotest idea which it is," she answered.

A shade as of displeasure came over his countenance, and he walked away. He averted his head and did not even look at the caskets.

After waiting a few seconds Portia looked at me entreatingly. I understood that she could not speak, so I remarked to Fayrer that there was no reason for delay.

"No," he said, "why not?"

And he advanced to the table. He stood there turning red and white by turns. His noble, slightly bowed head, with its clear-cut features, was very distinctly outlined against the high white wall behind him. It suddenly occurred to me that it was revolting that a man should thus be juggling for the possession of a girl. For, after all, what else was it? That the girl herself insisted on the carrying out of the iniquitous mediæval zany did not remove the blame from the shoulders of the man. But, no doubt, Fayrer, with the same blind enthusiasm that had animated Martley Browne, thought that whatever Shakespeare had blessed must indeed be blessed.

His hesitation seemed interminable. Yet he was not looking at the caskets, but at the girl. At length, however, he made his choice, and then abruptly walked away, while I helped Portia to unlock the casket.

There, at the bottom, staring us helplessly in the face, lay her photograph.

There was a long silence. Fayrer, his back towards us, was looking out of the window.

"You have chosen the right casket, Mr. Fayrer," said Mrs. Browne in her thin tones at length. "But you cannot of course suppose that this farce binds my daughter to you."

"I leave my fate entirely in the hands of your daughter, madam," said Fayrer in his stiffest manner.

Portia, very pale, but quite self-possessed, moved across and placed her hand in his.

He bowed over it and slightly kissed it. Sir Walter Raleigh could have done no better.

And then I went out from this mediæval atmosphere into the high road, where I heard some Early Edwardian English from young Huggins (who was waiting for me to tell him the news) which would have amazed the late William Shakespeare.

Poor Portia! No doubt she was bitterly repenting her folly! But to my surprise, when I met her the next morning I found her more cheerful than she had been since her father's death.

"Woman, thy name is frailty!" I reflected. "Here she is falling in love with a man just because she is accidentally engaged to him!—No regrets?" I asked cynically.

"I could not do otherwise than as I have done," said Portia. "I confess I am very much surprised. But I never fight against things, you know ; I just do what I feel I must, and don't fuss. I *had* to obey my dear father ; and when a message like that comes to show he was right I can only go ahead and trust. Are you coming to the links?"

And I wondered whether this filial piety and childlike confidence was not worse than a suspicious, unbelieving disposition.

I got two letters next day, each making an appointment. The first was from Fayrer, asking me to call at Belmont that morning ; the other, unsigned, asking me to meet the writer at a village a few miles away.

I went to Belmont, and there I found Fayrer with Portia and her Mother.

"As you were here the other day," said Fayrer turning to me, "I have requested you to be present this morning. I have something to say. I am here as a penitent. When I chose that casket I was cheating. I thought it was by Miss Browne's wish and through her assistance. I find that is not so. I think it is only right I should mention the fact. It was not the arbitrament of chance, but of an anonymous letter which I received that morning, giving plain hints about rosewood. When Miss Browne told me, before I made my choice, that she did not know which casket held her picture, I, fully believing the letter to be from her, disbelieved her word. I was so disillusioned by what I believed to be her insincerity, that I admit I hesitated to make a choice at all. I now know I was mistaken, and I ask her pardon. That is all I have to say."

"But who could have warned you!" I exclaimed.

"I don't know. I am satisfied it was not Miss Browne."

No doubt the betrothed Portia, true to her maxims, had not fussed over him, and hence his discovery of her innocence.

"But no living person knows about the caskets," said Portia.

Then I had an idea ; and it was connected with brown paper parcels.

"Only your father!" I sighed, as if agreeing with her.

"Yes, but he told no one."

"Then it's a mystery!" I summed up the situation. "There's no more to be said. Is Sir Joseph to have his chance, or have we had enough Venetian customs?"

"I never thought of that," said Portia, looking somewhat perturbed.

"Certainly," said Mrs. Browne with alacrity, "of course he must. It would only be fair. I will let him know what has happened at once."

"Portia, I have had my chance and lost it," said Fayrer. "Well, I wish a better man better luck. If I had not thought you wished it, I would never have claimed you. I am ashamed to think what might have happened if I had chosen fairly. Good-bye."

"Good-bye," said Portia, in tones of quite unmistakable relief. Then she suddenly stooped down and kissed him.

Mrs. Browne looked exceedingly shocked ; but I felt myself admiring the action more than I had ever admired her longest drives at golf.

And Fayrer turned and left us.

And Mrs. Browne sat down to write to Sir Joseph.

And I went off to meet my unknown correspondent.

Though not usually considered a man of iron nerve, I flatter myself few could have shown less trepidation than I, when I found myself in the presence of a ghost. I suppose I had had a sort of spirit-warning that this experience was about to happen to me, for I hardly felt surprise. Though disguised, and very well disguised, as a respectable mechanic, I immediately recognized the departed Browne.

He seemed disappointed at my stolidity.

"And where have you been hiding all this time?" I asked somewhat sternly.

"Oh, London, mostly," he answered abstractedly, "but of course I have kept myself informed of all that has gone on. Look here ;" and he held up a copy of the local paper and showed me triumphantly a paragraph which ran : "We understand an interesting ceremony has taken place at Belmont, the residence of the late Martley Browne, Esq., resulting in the betrothal of Miss Porshia Browne to F. G. Fayrer, Esq., of Portlands." "Do you see that?" he exclaimed. "I am rewarded! Sometimes I have doubted if I had acted rightly ; but all has turned out as I meant. My girl is a true Shakespearian heroine! After all, we are masters of our fate! But we must swim, not float ; be active, not passive. Now I want you to help me to come back to my own place in the world without scandal."

I was much annoyed at his deplorable conceit. I could have undeceived him as to his masterly manipulation of fate, but I decided that he fully deserved to find out the facts for himself.

"You should have thought about the scandal before you hid yourself," I said.

"I did," said Martley. "I mean to say my memory suddenly disappeared, and has just returned."

"That won't account for the spare suit of clothes," I said pleasantly.

He looked startled. "I didn't think of that! Of course I had to make my death the only possible inference before Portia would have used the caskets."

"By the way, that was a neat thought of yours to write to Fayrer which casket to select."

"I know it was wrong," said Martley, blushing; "but I couldn't bear to run the risk . . . and you never can tell . . . but I could not endure young Pechell for a son-in-law!" he ended up violently.

"Are you returning to Belmont to-day?" I asked.

"Yes, but you must go and prepare them; and remember you must *not* let on that I disappeared intentionally. That might upset the whole betrothal."

"It won't hurt it," I said, knowing it was already past suffering; and I went forth upon his errand.

Sir Joseph Pechell had meantime chosen his casket; and by pure chance had chosen the lady. So when Martley returned to the bosom of his family, it was to find the obnoxious Joseph in Fayrer's place.

Seldom has a speedier retribution befallen any man, and his distress was pitiable to witness.

Mrs. Browne was acidly jubilant. She felt she had merited her triumph. Of course, finding his schemes had failed, Martley said all the proceedings must be quashed, since it was only after his death that the caskets could have been efficacious.

Mrs. Browne and Sir Joseph refused to take this view; whereupon Martley tyrannically checkmated them by declaring he should disinherit Portia if she married Sir Joseph.

Then the young man gave way. He said he did not wish to cause dissension in families.

Portia assented to his defection with the same cheerfulness she had displayed when Mr. Fayrer released her.

"So now they are both off," I remarked to her. "What are you going to do? A nunnery?"

"I shall marry Teddy Huggins," said Portia simply. "I always knew I should. I have never loved anyone else, and I never could. Ever since he taught me golf, years ago, I have known that."

"But you were going to marry Fayrer to please your father's remains," I hazarded in puzzled mood.

"I suppose so," said Portia thoughtfully. "I felt like that then. But I think I never really believed I should marry Mr. Fayrer. I suppose I knew something would happen. I just trusted! I never fuss! I was right, you see. And now I shall marry Teddy."

"And if, as they undoubtedly will, your parents object?"

"I shall marry him all the same," said Portia. "I feel they have had their shots. Father's topped, and Mother's sliced her ball. I'm coming in now."

"And if your father disinherits you?"

"That would make no difference to Teddy. I shall marry him in any case."

And she did. Her parents made a few unavailing remonstrances, and then gave in. They felt their late past had greatly weakened their position.

"That my daughter should marry a Teddy Huggins!" said the defeated Martley gloomily. "My Shakespearian heroine!" He laughed a bitter laugh.

But I had begun to understand more clearly.

"Your Portia has never been so much a Shakespearian heroine as she is now," I said to Martley. "The leading characteristic in all his maiden heroines is their unalterable determination to marry the man of their choice. No *mariage de convenance* is possible to them; no marriage to please a parent, or for money or position. When your Portia was aping the other Portia, she was no heroine. Do you think the real Portia would have married the wrong man had he chosen the right casket? Impossible! The caskets did not even help her to choose right. Her mind was quite made up against any man but Bassanio; and Teddy Huggins is Bassanio—the only man your daughter can love. You may justly claim for her the soul of a Shakespearian heroine!"

END.

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