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LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1870.

MASONIC RED CROSS ORDER.

By R., 33°.

My attention having been directed to a protracted discussion on the subject of the Imperial Constantinian Order of St. George, and its surreptitiously appropriated insignia, I now feel it incumbent on me, to vindicate the integrity of that Order, and to point out its true history, and the legitimate destination of its Grand Mastership. But before proceeding to do so, it will be necessary to review the various statements and arguments employed, by the promoters of this attempted imposture; and their refutation by its opponents. Among the former, however, we must excuse those, who through carelessness, or an inaptitude for historical inquiry, have allowed themselves to be exposed to a certain responsibility, by lending the weight of their honourable names, to support so unworthy a scheme, but who nevertheless, I feel assured, will ultimately repudiate the injurious connection, cast aside these usurped insignia, and leave the original author of the attempted deception, to the well merited contempt of honest men.

In the year 1868, appeared a small work\* entitled "General Statutes of the Imperial, Ecclesiastical, and Military Order of Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine," to which is added a "Sketch of the History of the Red Cross Order" and engravings of its "jewels and regalia."

This remarkable production, as stated on the

\* London: G. Kenning, 1868.

title page, is "published under the authority of the Grand Imperial Council, by Sir Knight Robert Wentworth Little, Grand Recorder;" and on the next page appears a list of the members of the "Grand Imperial Council" headed by "The Right Hon. the Lord Kenlis, Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign."

In the FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR, of the 10th January, 1869, a correspondent writes with reference to the above Statutes, and designation of the Order—"I\* had thought that a similarity of titles, was probably their only claim and relationship, with the public Order of the same name, in the Grand Duchy of Parma, the Sicilies and Turkey. But in the Appendix of the Statutes, I find that the decorations of the present public Orders . . . are given as those of the Masonic Order to which these Statutes relate."

A reference to "The Historical Sketch,"† informs us that the history of the Order, is carried from its original foundation "to the resignation" of the Grandmastership, "by Andrew Angelus Flavius Comnenus," who "pretended to assign his hereditary rights, to Francis Farnese, the then (1699) reigning Duke of Parma . . . and we are in all probability indebted to the learned Abbé (Giustiniani) who was long attached to the Venetian embassy in London for the existence of the Order in England . . . though we are unable to say positively when the Order was restricted to Freemasons."

Briefly alluding to the extinction of the male line, of the Farnese family, in 1713, the transfer of the Order to Naples, and the subsequent claim of Marie-Louise, in the present century, which led to the establishment of the Order likewise in Her Imperial Highness' principality. "Some information," justly observes "Lupus," "would be desirable, as to the existence in England, of any chapter of the original Order of Constantine," and he adds, "I feel that something is due to the public Orders which they (the Masonic) improperly imitate."

This moderate requirement, is met by R.W.L.‡ who on the gratuitous assumption, as a fundamental axiom, that the Abbé Giustiniani, really did remove the seat of the Order to England, and had any power to do so, seems to divert atten-

\* Lupus.

† Statutes, &c., p. 27.

‡ "Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror," Jany. 23, 1869.

tion from the true issue, in a laboured and factitious argument, discusses the legality of the sale of the original Order to the Duke of Parma, and in support of his false premises, appeals to the social respectability of the late W. R. Wright, who, does not however fit the occasion, and to the circumstance, that the late Duke of Sussex wore on certain occasions, a suggestive red cross decoration of similar design. "The English branch whose existence I have now traced back for nearly 110 years, approximating the period of the Abbé Giustiniani's decease in 1735," continues the same writer. But in truth, no such success has attended the effort, and the authoritative reference to irrelevant matter, tends only to multiply the tortuosities of the imposture, and to betray design, where we had hoped only to find the unremunerative labours of "strenuous idleness."

Still persistent in the evident belief, that the sources of historical truth are sealed to the outer world, the same writer proceeds to say, under the conveniently supplied patronage of a noble name, that in Scotland, were permitted "Encampments or Chapters of . . . Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine," and he adds, "I hope that enough has been said to demonstrate, that the reorganised Grand Council of England, now held under Lord Kenlis, was not the first to introduce the Masonic element into the ceremonies of the Red Cross Order."

The reader cannot fail to observe the transposition of facts, and the chronological inversion, in the last sentence; and it is well to bear in mind the assertion that Lord K. was "not the first to introduce the Masonic element," with the statement made by the author of the work already quoted\* that it is impossible to say "when the Order was restricted to Freemasons."

In combating these fallacies, another correspondent† starts with the proposition, that the Order of Constantine has "never had any connection whatever with Masonry." But he subsequently falls into the error of ascribing the Grand Mastership of that Order to the present King of Italy; yet farther on, he successfully rejects the fallacy of supposing that the Abbé Giustiniani (Ante 1735) ever, as asserted by "R.W.L." conferred the public Order of Constantine on any Freemasons, far less with the power to perpetuate

it, the effect of which would evidently have been to destroy ultimately the Order, like a circle in the water, by its own expansion. But such inconsiderate statements must be expected, unless there be a very considerable amount of talent to anticipate and provide for the objections, which must necessarily arise, where the deception attempted, involves political and historical questions of fact.

"R.W.L."\* now snatches at the mention of Victor Emmanuel, and begins apparently to shift from his original position, and to misquote "Lupus's" clear meaning, by substituting the name "Constantine," for "Red Cross" and "Chivalric." He then mentions the scheme of a member of the Order in question, for a coalition with the King of Naples, and to "eliminate all Masonic allusions from the ceremonies."

Thus the tale of the Order, under which the King of Naples inherited the *quasi* Grandmastership, is now acknowledged to have been legal, although at p. 27 of the Statutes, it is declared to have been "pretended," and R.W.L. had endorsed the same dictum in an earlier letter†

In reply to a prior remark by "Lupus"‡ who stated his conviction that there was "no evidence whatever, that there is anything else than a Masonic element, nor a shadow of proof that there ever was an institution in this country of the original Order of Constantine, H.J.W.§ in defence of the obnoxious "Statutes" promulgated in 1868, makes the extraordinary admission. "On ordinary chivalric grounds we say nothing of . . . the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine or the Knights of the Temple, because neither, we believe, can prove their regular and unbroken succession from the original orders. All we know is, that for upwards of a century these degrees have been worked under the wing of Freemasonry; but as to when the union occurred, or how it was consummated we are at a loss either to prove or imagine." The Knights of the Red Cross "seem to have flourished both as an Order of Knighthood and as a Masonic degree, at one and the same time." But here again comes the confusion of ideas as the writer adds, "Hence the members of the Red Cross of Constantine can say that their Order is not only Masonic, as with the Anglican branch, but also Chivalric, so much as even to

\* Statutes, &c., p. 27.

† "Freemasons Magazine and Masonic Mirror," Feb. 6, 1869.

\* "Freemasons Magazine and Masonic Mirror," Feb. 20, 1869.

† Ibid, Jan. 3. ‡ Ibid, Feb. 6. § Ibid, Feb. 27

boast of having claimants for its Grand Mastership in the Emperor of the French, the ex-King of Naples and even King Victor Emmanuel according to Lupus." The late Duke of Sussex and Lord Kenlis are again paraded, as the stalking horses of the spurious Order, and the reader is referred to "the admirable history inserted in the Statutes," a critical opinion quite in harmony with the writer's general ideas on the subject.

Lupus now points out that, "we are now told that the Masonic Red Cross Institution does not boast any connection with the Parmese Neapolitan Order," and that therefore "the question is reduced to the power and acts of the Abbé Giustiniani and any evidence of them."

At this stage of the discussion\* is given another claim which had been currently reported in the newspapers, viz., that of "Antonio Lascari-Commeno," "Grand Duke of Epirus," &c., "by right of hereditary transmission, Grand Master of the Supreme Constantinian Order of the Knights of St. George." Against this, we have the protest of H.I.H. the Prince Rhodocanakis.†

A few months later‡ another correspondent indignantly remarks, "The Supreme Council has endeavoured in every possible way to oppose the Red Cross Order," "but such men as Bros Hughan, Little, and others of like calibre, will never be extinguished by the thunder and small beer of any clique!"

A new writer now comes on the scene,§ and expresses his opinion freely on the promoters of the imposture. "Attempts," says he, "have been made to establish as a Masonic degree, or in connection with Freemasonry, the Order of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine . . . and I am not a little surprised to find, what appears to me a series of gross deceptions, attempted to be practised on Englishmen. . . . May I suggest to those who are interested in foisting this spurious Masonic Order upon the public, before they attempt to maintain the ground they have taken, although they appear by the correspondence to have been shifting about, whilst promulgating the Order as legitimate" "to ascertain whether

\* "Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror," May 1, 1869.

† "The Court Journal," "The Court Circular," &c., April 17, 1869, and "Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror," May 1, 1869.

‡ "Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror," Aug. 28, 1869.

§ "Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror," Feb. 12, 1870.

Walter Rodwell Wright . . . was not a self-delusionist and fancied falsehood to be truth." But the gentleman referred to, after all, can scarcely be charged with the promulgation of the spurious statutes.

The historical accuracy of Bro. R.W.L. is now\* impeached by another correspondent (Bro. Matier), who at the same time claims to have identified him "with the author and founder, or at least the chief corner-stone, of the Masonic order which has usurped the title which it assumes," and commenting on the "ridiculous absurdity of the whole thing," he continues, "As, however, Bro. Little has mixed up with his fiction certain facts mentioned in standard works of history, I have considered it my duty to prove the utter fallacy of his historical statements."

It would be tedious to recapitulate the whole of these corrections, which are patent to all, and to expose errors, certainly not such as we should expect, of the founder of an institution; and we are not a little surprised that Walter Rodwell Wright, the reputed "scholar," should have been implicated in such blunders.

R. W. L., following up his previous communications, proceeds to historical grounds untrodden by Gibbon, repeats the story of the vision of Constantine, and quite overlooking Licinius, introduces to us "the power of Maxentius, "the Viceroy Eusebius," &c., and finally informs us that the "duties" of the generals of the order in question "are chiefly symbolic."

Another historical scholar, and who is also a Knight of Constantine, pursues the same course, and adds the weight of heraldry to the argument. "As this degree," he observes, "has attracted great attention of late years both in Europe and America, it may be right to state that it was one of those conferred under the Ancient York Rite. The seal of Heredom Templars bears the arms of King Arthur, the reputed grandson of Constantine!"

Such deep research amongst the Romances of the Round Table, is creditable to the genealogist, and proves that his knowledge of the feudal heraldry, is quite on a par with his acquirements in Byzantine history.

But R.W.L., quite overlooking his own sarcasm on Lupus' assumed desire to raise "an international question," at length promises us a report

\* "Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror," March, 19, 1870.

of "the conference between Bro. Edward Busher and myself, on the one hand, and His Excellency Count Maffei, Italian Chargé d'Affaires, on the other, respecting the Italian order and the Anglican branch, which is now the only legitimate representative of the order in the world, the King of Italy having determined not to confer it, nor to permit any of his subjects to revive it under any pretence whatever. . . . A person claiming to be one of the Lascaris asserts his claim, but as one of the public orders of the Two Sicilies it is now merged in the Kingdom of Italy, and it follows that Victor Emmanuel, as the Supreme King, is now the only lawful successor of the Parmese branch!"

"There are also Greek pretenders," continues R.W.L., "but they have never been recognised since the death of the last of the Comneni." Here we have a mass of contradictory statements, in the language of diplomacy, and a frank admission that the promoters of the imposture had even the audacity to attempt to compromise the Italian diplomatist, as an accessory after the fact, as will presently be seen.

The same writer further states, that the papers referring to the lodge were, on the application of Lord Kenlis to Lord Zetland, delivered to the Grand Council.

Probably the latter lord had no difficulty in surrendering the precious archives, and regarded them in the light of those printed notices which are often slipped in under doors, to be returned when called for.

To the direct question put by Lupus,\* "Is there any document in existence dating more than a few years ago† which allies the Masonic Red Cross degree with the Constantine name?" R.W.L. seems to appreciate the difficulty, and thus evades it: "The most conclusive evidence on this point is naturally only to be found in the rituals of the order, and these of course cannot be published"! In a long rambling statement the latter brings in irrelevant matter, and under the feint of meeting his adversary's arguments, takes care only to run parallel with them, quoting an "Histoire des Francs Maçons" (Benssels 1832), and a quasi summons, dated in 1810, bearing the signature of the original scapegoat "Waller Rodwell Wright," which is addressed to the "celebrated (?) Sir Joseph Hippolyte da Costa," also a reference to the seal of the spurious

order, namely, "a double-headed eagle"—the symbol of the union of the Eastern and Western Empires under Constantine," and which is "borne at the present time by the senators of the revived order."

Lupus replies\* "The Histoire des Francs Maçons . . . which has attained the venerable age of 32 years, probably refers to the same or a similar order of Red Cross." But R.W.L. says "the order has been confirmed from time immemorial in Scottish Encampments of Templars." Now "how can this be true when . . . there was no encampment in Scotland before 1800! And if it belonged to Scotland of 'time immemorial, would not this be strong evidence that it was not founded in England by Giustiniani?"

Lupus then proceeds to expose the unfounded assumption, that an empty box at Freemasons' Hall ever contained ancient documents, as advanced by R.W.L., bearing on the antiquity of the use of the Constantinian name, in connection with the Masonic Red Cross degree, and furthermore points out, that the summons of 1810 does not identify itself with the Constantinian Order.

Unfortunately, the mysterious box that ought to have contained valuable proofs, did not contain them, and that sheet anchor, the Abbé Giustiniani, author of a book on chivalric orders full of blunders, "neither explains the powers of Grand Crosses to form such an order as that now imputed to him, but, what is more remarkable, he does not say one word about his own performance in that respect in England."

Bro. Hughan rejects Lupus' arguments, and "sees clearly unequivocal evidence of the order's connection with Freemasonry during the latter part of the past century."

Lupus, however, repeats his still unanswered query: "Where is this evidence?" and proves that the order called Constantinian, was not mentioned in Templar statutes thirty years back, and that "the present order is an invention of not more than four years' standing, and is not identical with the purely Masonic order of which the Duke of Sussex was Grand Master," and concludes by remarking that Bro. Hughan "carefully alludes only to the connection of the present scheme with Freemasonry, which nobody doubts!"

This is the pivot on which all these prevarications turn.

\* April 2 1870.

† 1868?

\* April 9, 1870.

Bro. C. Fitzgerald Matier, 30°, follows on the side of Lupus,\* and insists that "the Masonic order, although purporting to be of very ancient origin, and derived from the Order of Constantine, in reality was invented scarcely more than fifty years ago, and that "the ceremonial used in those times differed exceedingly, from that which was introduced at the so-called revival, three or four years ago under Lord Kenlis." "But," he continues, "when we are distinctly told by the Grand Recorder† of the Anglican Order that it is the only legal representative of the order of Constantine . . . , it becomes the duty of every man, Mason or not, who knows the truth, to take up arms in defence of truth."

(To be continued).

## HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN WOR- CESTERSHIRE.

"THE WORCESTER LODGE."

(Continued from page 3.‡)

The Worcester Lodge is stated to be in possession of all the official documents relating to the union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813.

We are informed that up to the period of the union the Constitutions required that white aprons, &c., should be worn by all below the rank of Grand Masters and Wardens. In May, 1814, the Grand Lodge issues the edict that sky blue should be the distinguishing colour of the Craft, and in 1815 "pattern aprons were obtained," and materials procured for the sashes (?) and collars of the officers of the Worcester Lodge.

In 1818 a new lodge "Mercy and Truth" was opened at Evesham, but was closed in 1831. The records remain in the hands of Bro. B. Workman, who was the W.M. during four or five years.

At the close of 1820 the Secretary returned 27 members to Grand Lodge.

To this period, says Bro. Griffiths, the information given of the Worcester Lodge is obtained from various sources, public and private, but he assures us they are reliable and authentic.

\* "Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror," April 9, 1870.

† R.W.L. See Statutes.

‡ ERRATA.—Page 1, col. 2, line 10, for 428 read 128. Page 3, col. 1, line 14, for Hains read Harris. Col. 1, line 19, for "Rector of Worcester." read "Rector of St. Martin's."

Efforts have been made to recover the missing volume of the minutes, containing the records of the first 30 years, but without avail. He does not yet despair of its restoration, it being known that it was in existence within a few years. He cherishes the hope that by the reiteration of the loss, further search may be made on the book-shelves of the brethren and the treasure restored.

From January, 1820, the history of the Worcester Lodge is obtained from the minute books of the lodge, of which there are four volumes.

From 1820 to 1828 many meetings were held, but with little result. From 13 to 18 meetings were held annually, but at some of these the lodge was not opened for want of the requisite number; in more than one year no ceremony took place, and only one member was admitted. On rare occasions the ceremony of raising was entered upon, and when performed, the lodge seems to be indebted to the services of a quondam member who attended for the purpose. "At this period," says the author, "it would seem a necessary preliminary to a brother's advancement that one member should propose and another support the proposition that he should be passed or raised at the convenience of the Worshipful Master. Brethren of later days may well be grateful that no such formality or difficulty impedes their progress, and that modern Masters regard their duty more than their convenience."

If the business of the lodge does not show favourably, the funds steadily increase, for on the removal to the Bell Hotel, when considerable expenditure was necessary for furniture, carpets, &c., the funds in hand amounted to £186 17s. 8d.

Selecting the most interesting salient points of the minutes, we find on the 5th January, 1820, eleven members present, and it is resolved to have four dinners, two banquets, and twelve suppers. March 1.—New by-laws are introduced and approved. On the 15th of the same month W. Bro. Thomson visits the lodge, and is asked by the W.M. to "take the chair, when the first section in the first degree was most ably illustrated, and the W.M. begged the respective clauseholders to accept his best thanks. In recognition of Bro. Thomson's services on another occasion, it is resolved that he should become a member of the lodge without payment of the fees, but although his name afterwards appears, we do not find any record of the proposition being carried.

June 13, 1831.—The brethren are invited to

assist in laying the foundation stone of St. Clement's Church, which is declined for reasons shown. The invitation and reply are given :—

“ *Re* St. CLEMENT'S CHURCH.

“ *To the Grand Master of the Society of Freemasons.*

“The committee appointed to conduct the rebuilding St. Clement's Church beg to inform the Grand Master and Society of Freemasons that the foundation stone of the new church will be laid by the Worshipful the Mayor of Worcester, on Tuesday, the 19th instant, at 12 o'clock, on which occasion the company of the Grand Master, and any part of the society, will be deemed a favour.

“ By order of the committee,

“ THOS. LLOYD, Secretary, &c.

“ Worcester,

“ St. Clement's 13th June, 1821.

“The committee propose meeting the Mayor and Corporation at the Bridge at 12 o'clock.”

To this was sent the following reply :—

“ WORCESTER LODGE, 526.

“Gentlemen,—I am commanded by the Worshipful Master to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of 13th June, and to convey the thanks of the Master and brethren for your polite invitation. We regret we are obliged to decline it, but we cannot consistently consent to take a secondary part in any procession in which as Masons we consider ourselves entitled to act as principals.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ With great respect,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ THOMAS SPINNEY.

“ June 17th, 1821.”

In 1821 several meetings were called without sufficient members being present to open the lodge. At the close of the year the W.M. is re-elected, and £5 are voted to the widow of a brother.

In the following year several members are added to the roll, and in 1823 the by-laws are revised.

On the 4th September of that year “the brethren are invited by the D. Prov. G.M. of the county of Gloucester ‘to attend at Tewkesbury to lay the first stone for the new bridge at the Mythe,’ which the brethren decline as a lodge, ‘in consequence of the shortness of the notice;’ but the permission of the D. Prov. G.M. of Worcester-shire, Brother Dods, is obtained to enable any of the brethren who may choose to do so to attend.”

In 1825, at a meeting, May 2nd, W. Brother

Ballard is again elected W. Master, several brethren join the lodge, and five Craftsmen are raised, Bro. Spinney visiting the lodge for this purpose. At this meeting, a letter is read from the W.M. of the Foundation Lodge, Cheltenham, inviting ‘the Worcester Lodge to assist in laying the foundation stone of a new Pump Room at Pitville Spa, near Cheltenham. ‘In consequence of the lodge being unprovided with a banner, it was determined not to accept the invitation as a lodge, although several brethren expressed their intention of attending.’”

In 1826 we find a curious entry, “paid to H. Deighton *secret service money* £2 7s. 0d., but the nature of the secret service is not disclosed.”

In Feb., 1828, “twenty-three pounds are repaid to Bro. Dent, such sum having been paid to Widow Allen in 1819 for regalia for Royal Arch Chapter, which was promised to be paid to the late Bro. Allen.”

Promotion was sometimes rapid; Bro. J. B. Hyde was raised in 17th May, and on 4th November he is elected to the presidential chair. However this was a case of “promotion by merit,” for in subsequent years his valuable services in initiation, passing and raising are recognised, his aid being invoked by many subsequent Masters.

On 7th April, 1831, “at a regular lodge duly summoned, there being only one member present the lodge was not opened.” In this year returns of Grand Lodge dues show 41 members.

In 1838, the bylaws are again revised, and “the Master is requested to provide a place of safety for the pictures belonging to the lodge. In 1834, it was resolved that the lodge be provided with the working tools for the three degrees.

In 1835, it appears from the minutes that the lodge had *no Master*. Bro. Hyde is unanimously elected but fails to attend during the year, the chair being taken by old members of the lodge *installed or otherwise*.

In 1836, it is resolved “that it is expedient for the lodge to purchase its own wine, and that a certain sum (to be agreed on) be allowed to Bro. Burnidge for each bottle that may be drunk.” Bro. Shelton is appointed Steward to take care of the wine. The wine committee are afterwards empowered to purchase six dozen of the corporation stock, if sold (duty included not exceeding 55s. per dozen), and that the Masonic wine be only used on regular lodge days. Four dozen were bought at 58s. 6d., and various sums are after-

wards invested. In this year the inspector of police is appointed relieving officer for the lodge, and funds are placed in his hands to give relief to such proper objects as may apply to him.

Ten guineas are voted towards a testimonial to H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex on completing his 25th year as Grand Master.

27th December.—It is resolved "that Bros. Shelton, Shepherd, Burrow, and Read report at the first meeting in January, 1838, the best mode of carrying out the musical inclination of the brethren of this lodge, and that they are requested in the meantime to turn their particular attention to the furtherance of glee singing in the lodge." At the next lodge "the discussion on the musical department is deferred."

(To be continued.)

#### MASONIC JOTTINGS.—No. 27.

BY A PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

##### THE TRANSFORMATION ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN THEORY.

According to the German Theory in the reigns of James II., of William and Mary, of William III., and of Anne, the transformation of our Joint Operative and Speculative Institution into a separate Speculative Institution had begun, and in the reign of George I., to use the words of Bro. Findel, "the institution made rapid strides towards complete and perfect transformation."

##### ALLEGORY—SYMBOLISM.

A young brother, who has just taken the degree of Bachelor of Arts, at Oxford, announces the intention of writing a dissertation upon the definition of our institution "Freemasonry is a science of morality, veiled in Allegory, and illustrated by Symbols." My brother could hardly have chosen a more interesting subject, if, as I understand, the dissertation will comprise the outlines of the history of Allegory and Symbolism in Ancient and Modern nations.

##### THE FREEMASONRY WHICH IS UNIVERSAL ABSOLUTELY.

The Freemasonry which is Universal *absolutely* is in no manner connected with Positive Religion.

##### THE CHEVALIER RAMSAY.

A learned brother asks what was the Masonry of the Order of St. John at Malta, with which the Chevalier Ramsay endeavoured to connect our 1717 Masonry?

##### SPECULATIVE MASONRY OF ANCIENT NATIONS VARIED.

The Speculative Masonry of Antient Nations varied with the Religion, its principal ingredient. The Speculative Masonry of the Hindoos was not the same as that of the Parsees, and the Speculative Masonry of the Phœnicians was not the same as that of the Egyptians.

##### THE GREEK AND ROMAN ARCHITECTS.

The Greek and Roman Architects were both Operative and Speculative Masons. Operative Masons do not study *ten* Sciences. See the Jotting "Vitruvius," vol. 22, page 404, of the present work.

##### ENGLISH MEDIEVAL COLLEGES.—GERMAN MEDIEVAL LODGES.

A learned brother writes that the recent reading of foreign Masonic historical authors has brought him to the conclusion that, in many instances, the same things were taught in the English Mediæval Colleges and the German Mediæval Lodges.

##### FAVOURITE AUTHORS OF THE MASONS OF THE 17th CENTURY.

The German Theorists make Lord Bacon, John Valentine Andreae, Peter Dupuy and John Amos Comenius, the favourite authors of the Masons of the 17th century. An English Theorist adds to them Fludd, (De Fluctibus) Galileo, Descartes, and Hobbes.

##### UNDERTAKING OF THE ABBÉ GRANDIDIER.

The undertaking of the Abbé Grandidier was to show that the 1717 Masonry existed in 1459.

(To be continued.)

##### MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

##### THE 1717 THEORY CONFIRMED.

In "Memoir Illustrative of the History and Antiquities of the City and County of Lincoln," printed by Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, and in "Notice of the Stukeley Collection"—as we are told by Bro. G. Bacon, Sec. 297—the words occur, "I was the first person made a Freemason in London." Now if this extract is reliable and the MS. genuine, we have got something very interesting to think over, although not more than I expected—that is, I expect more evidence in support of the 1717 theory to turn up by-and-bye, *as has been doing for some time past*. The "I" I suppose refers to William Stukeley, M.D., F.R.S., Rector of All Saints in Stamford, Lincolnshire. He was a great antiquary. He was born in 1687, and died in 1765; consequently, in 1717 he would just be thirty years of age. He was in London in 1717, and being a literary man, &c., he probably knew Desaguliers, or became acquainted with him, and so came to join the new society; and as some one

had to be the first man made, it was just as likely to be him as another; *ergo*, if the above assertion is not a practical joke, the first man who was introduced into Speculative Masonry through our ceremonies and degrees was Dr. William Stukeley, *F.R.S.* Of course the question rises, Where did those who gave him his degrees, &c., receive their own knowledge from? To which I answer, They were the manufacturers or doctors; *he* their first customer or patient. I trust this subject will be properly investigated, as it deserves.—W. P. BUCHAN.

#### MASONS' MARKS.

Brother W. C. L.—I was not present last month at the Masonic Colloquy — \* \* \*, but looking at a long communication which has just reached me from Paris, I find that the only two references to publications on the subject of Masons' Marks were two references supplied by myself. They were produced by Monsieur \* \* \*—*Freemasons' Magazine*, vol. xviii., page 51, and vol. xxii., page 223.—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

#### CABALISM.

Lest "A Past Provincial Grand Master" should misunderstand me, I would mention that I have just gone over the pages on Cabalism in vol. vii. of the *Magazine*, and state that I do not agree with the writer's estimate of gnosticism, and its connection with Freemasonry has not been shown by him. As the "Correspondent" now knows something of Cabalism proper, he may take the *Zend Avesta*; but let him study *Lullii*, *Paracelsus*, *Agrippa*, *Flood*, *Boehme*, *Maier*, *Andrea*, and the other Theosophists and Rosicrucians who asserted a system of secret degrees derived from the East, immediately after the destruction of the Templars. And in reply to his inquiry whether Cabalism "can be shown to have existed in our Freemasonry in the 17th century," I reply that eminent Rosicrucians and Theosophists\* were then connected with the fraternity of "Adopted Masons," and that in a printed work of one of them dedicated to the Grand Lodge of England in 1721, the higher degrees are mentioned, and their ceremonials indicated under the identical jargon used by the Rosicrucians. Even the male and female principle appears under a figure of speech, and the connection of our Lord and his apostles is asserted. The term used in 1721, as now, for this system of degrees is "*Masonry*." There is similar proof of our existence in 1648.—JOHN YARKER.

#### THE UNION, A.D. 1813.

Brother \* \* \*—The important part of the proceedings on the occasion of the Union, A.D. 1813, are thus recorded:—"The two Grand Masters (the Dukes of Kent and Sussex) with their respective deputies and Wardens, then advanced to the Ark of the Masonic Covenant, prepared under the direction of the W. Bro. John Soane, *R.A.*, Grand Superintendent of the Works, for the edifice of the Union, and in all time to come to be placed before the throne.

"The Grand Masters standing in the East, with their Deputies on the right and left—the Grand Wardens in the West and South—the square, the plumb, the level, and the mallet were successively delivered to the

Deputy Grand Masters, and by them presented to the two Grand Masters, who severally applied the square to that part of the said ark which is square, the plumb to the sides of the same, and the level above it in three positions, and, lastly, they gave it three knocks with the mallet, saying, "May the Great Architect of the Universe enable us to uphold the Grand Edifice of the Union, of which this ark of the Covenant is the symbol, which shall contain within it the instrument of our brotherly love, and bear upon it the *Holy Bible*, square, and compass, as the *light of our faith*, and the rule of our works. May He dispose our hearts to make it perpetual." And the brethren said, "So mote it be."—CHARLES PURTON COOPER.

#### CHARTER OF COLOGNE, page 12.

The internal evidence of this charter condemns it. It is quite modern. Instead of 1535, 1775 would be much nearer it. The assertion, "The Templars, who undoubtedly used *all* our symbols," is rather Jesuitical, and tends to suggest that the Templars practised our ceremonies, &c., which is wrong. The Masonic Templars' sodality is only about one hundred years old, and neither they, nor the Speculative Freemasons, could ever have had anything earthly to do with the *old* Knights Templar. Further, I should like to know where, when, under what circumstances, and in what connection did the *Templars* use "*all* our symbols."—W. P. BUCHAN.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents*

#### "FANO NE PROFANO."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

Dear Sir and Brother,—I am painfully affected by the profane nonsense of the "Charter promulgated by authority of Lord Racliffe," in which the third commandment is so offensively set at naught.

"The charter of the Grand and Royal Ark granted from Grand Noah, and *now* under the *command* of Lord Racliffe, &c., and *then* held on Mount Ararat, when it was Handed down by Faithfull Noah, and *then* under the *Almighty Grand Commander*\* of the Universe."

This statement being absolutely *untrue*, I am indeed shocked at the bringing in of *The Name* that "shall not be taken in vain" to give effect to the farce—a *name*, be it remembered, which even a Mahomedan will avoid even *touching* irreverently, lest it should perchance be written on any stray piece of paper in his path, and which, when the Indian of "untutored mind" hears *pronounced*, he covers his mouth and casts down his eyes. And yet here we have *It* bandied about, not only profanely but in the worst of *bad taste*.

I feel assured that if the question were fairly put to the present Grand Master of England—a shrewd man of business, and one conversant with current ideas—he would at once say that Freemasonry loses rather than gains by burlesque religion, and that it would be for the good of the Craft to suppress the

\* It is not quite proved that an organised society of the name of Rosicrucians existed, all their writings being allegorical.

\* The author evidently hesitated to say "*Admiral*."



unseemly and irreverent prayers so often used in certain ceremonials, and which are even more objectionable than the *religious plays* of Catholic countries, which used to be called "Mysteries."

In my opinion there should be appointed a Grand Committee, selected from the general Masonic body, to investigate these abuses, and to suggest a Masonic Reform Bill, which should place Freemasonry on a basis in harmony with the intelligence of the age.

Yours fraternally,

L. (R.A.)

P.S.—I may take this opportunity of calling the attention of Bro. Buchan and others to the "*Squairmen*" of Scotland in the 16th and 17th centuries. In Dumfries, the Deacon of the Squirmen (*square-men*) was at the head of a confraternity of *Operatives* (?) who used the *SQUARE* in their crafts, and included *carpenters* as well as *masons*. In fact, "*Square-men*" is a name very much to the point, and if it had been originally adopted in Speculative Masonry, would have obviated many subsequent misconceptions. "*Squairmen*" will be found amongst the testators whose names are recorded in the *Commissariat of Dumfries*, Reg. Ho. Edin., but I need not give their names.—L. (R.A.)

"GLASGOW FREEMEN OPERATIVE ST. JOHN'S LODGE.

[From the *Glasgow Herald*.]

"Sir,—Permit me to say a few words in regard to the tempest in a teapot raised by 'Masonicus,' in your journal of the 14th and prior dates, anent the procession at the foundation stone-laying of the Albert Bridge on the 3rd June, and the unhappy misunderstanding that took place between the St. John's and the Grand Lodges. Having acted at the laying the foundation of the former bridge about forty years ago, I fully intended to have taken my assigned place in the Grand Lodge, which I have done at the following ceremonies, viz.:—The Hutchesontown Bridge, the Jamaica-street Bridge, the Victoria or Stockwell-street Bridge, Sir Walter Scott's Monument (if I recollect aright), also the Royal Lunatic Asylum (Gartnavel), and the Barnhill Poors' House. In all of these I acted as one of the Grand Lodge, wearing its clothing, &c. Being all practical as well as speculative Masons, a certain number of the St. John's Lodge were requested, through our own R.W.M., by the Grand Lodge to carry the tools used at the ceremony, which we did unanimously, and as to which there was never any hitch the same as took place on the 3rd ult. We attended the opening of the Grand Lodge in the Chapter House of our noble old Cathedral, heard sermons afterwards, walked with the Grand Lodge, completed our work at the building, and 'refreshed in the light' with our brethren and the civic authorities on all the occasions which I have referred to; but while I state that there was no hitch so far as being requested by the Grand Lodge to carry the tools, there was a most unbrotherly attempt made several times at the processions to shift the St. John's Lodge from its proper position, which was next to the Grand Lodge, and place it in a lower place. If I mistake not, the Edinburgh St. Mary's Lodge was the delinquent more than once, but the attempt was frustrated by the firmness of the St. John's Lodge, backed and supported as they were by their brethren of the other lodges in the west; and while they have never de-

sired to obtrude themselves at Edinburg, &c., in the province of Glasgow they never submitted, nor, I trust, will ever submit, to be trampled upon by any of the Eastern lodges. I don't know whether there is any express law warranting the St. John's Lodge to act as to the tools carrying; but surely 40 years' 'use and wont' is sufficient title. As for 'breacking out into open mutiny' that is simply absurd. The Glasgow Freemen Operative St. John's Lodge is the senior lodge in Scotland even to the Grand Lodge; and had our predecessors in office done their duty, every lodge in Scotland would have required to get a charter from them, and the St. John's would now be in the receipt of a large income, which I suppose the Grand Lodge now enjoys. As to the conduct of the St. John's members being uncourteous and ungentlemanly, there are two opinions as to that; and so highly do the office bearers and members of the St. John's Lodge appreciate the spirited conduct of their worthy R.W.M., Mr. John Baird, that they are to give him a testimonial in the Royal Hotel, George-square, this weeks.

"As to the Grand Lodge giving our lodge the high position No. 3 bis, the roll being the Grand, Mother Kilwinning, Edinburgh St. Mary's, and another lodge, which I forget at this moment, our position ought to have been in the roll No. 2; and as to the patronising way in which the affiliation of St. John's Lodge took place, I can state, if 'Masonicus' does not know already, that it was the subject of deep regret to many of the best and most enthusiastic Masons in Scotland that the old St. John's could not be induced to enter the fold, where she would be received with open arms. Negotiations were accordingly gone into, and being supported by such worthy brethren as Professor Arnot, the late distinguished R.W.M. of St. Mark's, and many others in Glasgow, and the Duke of Athole (who was G.M.), Whyte Melville, and others in Edinburgh, the matter was arranged, as now settled, as to the roll number. I was one of the deputation who went to Edinburgh at the conclusion of the business, and those who were present at the sumptuous banquet which took place in Ramplin's Hotel, opposite the old post-office there, will not soon forget the harmony that existed on that splendid occasion.

"As for proof of the genuineness of the charter granted by our Scottish King, Malcolm Canmore, it is not worth spending time to prove to 'Masonicus' that it is so. The document was produced in a civil action many years ago before the Lords of Council and Session, and its authenticity is admitted. The myth as to the forgery in 1806 is all 'bosh.'

"As my letter is already too long, and 'Masonicus' fond of hiding his literary abilities under a Latin mask, I will conclude by quoting two Latin sentences—*Nemo me impune lacessit* and *Ne crepidam ultra sutor*, which, being very liberally interpreted, means 'May we always do as we ought to do.'—I am, yours respectfully, THOMAS M'GUFFEE, L.A., 101, West Nile-street."

GLASGOW ST. JOHN'S AND THE MASONIC PROCESSION.

[From the *Glasgow Herald*.]

"June 17, 1870.

"Sir,—From first to last, the Glasgow St. John's have put their foot in it in regard to this matter, and

in no instance more so than in the publication of the letter from Bro. M'Guffie, which appears in to-day's *Herald*. He introduces the remark, 'tempest in a teapot.' Now, no simile could more aptly represent the conduct of St. John's upon the 3rd inst. than a 'tempest in a teapot.' I presume that when Thomas M'Guffie, I.A., has come to the front, 'Delta' has retired. I should have liked him to have stated his evidence for certain statements he made, and which I called in question before he did so; until he does so, I consider him mistaken.

"As to the members of the Glasgow Freemen Operative St. John's Lodge carrying the working tools at several Masonic processions in Glasgow, that was sometimes conceded to them for the sake of peace, and they, being members of the Glasgow Incorporation of Masons, were always able to bring a great deal of local influence to bear in their favour; e.g., at the laying of the foundation stone of the Jamaica-street Bridge in 1833 we find that, according to the programme, the St. John's Lodge were not to be allowed to occupy the position they wanted. However, they got up a large meeting on the subject, appointed a committee to wait on Dr. Cleland and the Lord Provost to remonstrate with them;" and thus by means of their local influence, and no doubt by appealing to their privileges as stated in their pretended Malcolm Canmore Charter, which Dr. Cleland had unluckily published at page 485, vol. ii., of his 'Annals of Glasgow,' they managed to carry their point, not because they were right, but because they then were powerful, and the parties they were dealing with unaware that the Malcolm document was a comparatively recent forgery. The reason why this pretended Malcolm Canmore Charter was 'discovered' in 1806 was this:—At that time, the Grand Lodge of Scotland had passed a motion that all lodges out of its pale were not to be allowed to be present at any demonstration at which it was acting. Hence in 1806 the St. John's brethren were in a fix; they not only wanted to be present, but also to occupy the first position. However, Malcolm's Charter, being most opportunely 'discovered,' helped them out of their difficulties. At that time the St. Mungo resisted them, but local influence, assisted by a 'royal charter,' prevailed. So we see that Bro. M'Guffie is mistaken when he says 'there was never any hitch.'

"As to the idea that the Glasgow St. John's practised speculative Masonry before the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736, I should like to see proof of that.

"I never either knew or heard of any practical Mason—Mason or man—who worked the three degrees, and I can only point to one R.W.M. who ever did so, and that was in 1866, and he was a painter, and of the other office bearers who have done so one is a smith and the other a plumber, and it is within the last five years these began to work; so that when we look under the surface, where do all the pretensions of this St. John's Lodge go to? Had all the 'long array of past office bearers' been put through a 'Civil Service examination,' where would they have all gone to?

"As to the proof that this pretended Malcolm Charter is a forgery, I may state that the present R.W.M., Bro. Baird, and another past office bearer of the lodge, were deputed by the lodge to call upon

Professor Cosmos Innes at Edinburgh, and hear his opinion on the matter. Now this opinion is recorded in their own minute book, and he said the thing was a forgery, executed within the last 150 year, and made up of pieces taken out of different charters and stuck together. The late Professor Arnott called it a forgery. The late Mr. Pagan, editor of this newspaper, acknowledged it to be a forgery, stating that he had been misled by the remarks of the late Mr. Miller, R.W.M. of St. Mark's Lodge. Our late Pro. G.M., Bro. Capt. Speirs, *M.P.*, also says:—"Seeing it is an imposition, it is a good thing that it should be shown up." One of their own past office bearers who was giving a sketch of the proceedings of the lodge, as recorded in their oldest extant minute book, in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, of date 8th January, 1870, &c., also says:—"This charter, forged, as I believe, by a Mr. C. in 1806, and by his influence inserted into Dr. Cleland's "Annals of Glasgow," is one of the most disgusting Masonic frauds I have yet met with, and its continued promulgation is not only a disgrace to the lodge itself, but also tends to the discredit of the whole Craft at large. The Mr. C. alluded to was, I understand, clever enough, but rather too fond of his dram." As the whole question is gone into at length in the columns of the said magazine, I would only here say that the forger seems to have used M'Ure's "History of Glasgow," as the style, &c., of the Latin shows. I would also call attention to the absurdity of the assertion that the Glasgow St. John's Lodge and the Incorporation of Masons were chartered in the middle of the eleventh century, while even Glasgow itself was not chartered until near the end of the twelfth. As to the assertion that the Court of Session admitted the authenticity of this pretended charter, that is a mere dream, and pure 'bosh,' and I defy Bro. Thomas M'Guffie, I.A., to prove his assertion.

"As to the R.W.M. receiving a testimonial from some of the office bearers and members of St. John's I shall not say much—testimonials are sometimes given for rather queer reasons.

"Although, as I mentioned above, Bro. Baird was one of the deputation who heard Professor Innes's opinion regarding this pretended charter, he has hitherto acted and spoken in defiance of it, and thus catered to the ignorant pretensions of the majority of the members of the lodge; while the other brother who accompanied him, and who has since supported the opinion of Professor Innes, and in the opinion of neutral parties proved him to be correct, is of course 'black-ball'd' and charged with conspiring to lower the dignity of his lodge. However, there is no doubt the truth will be established in the end.

"I must apologise for taking up so much of your valuable space, and sincerely trust that hereafter the St. John's will think more of principles than pretensions, perceiving it to be their duty to support what are stated to be the foundations of speculative Masonry—viz., brotherly love, relief, and truth.—I am, &c., MASONICUS.

#### MASONIC DEMONSTRATION IN GLASGOW AND THE GLASGOW ST. JOHN'S LODGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE AND MASONIC MIRROR.

Dear Sir and Brother,—The following letter of "Delta's" closes the discussion upon this subject in

the columns of the *Herald*; and as the space of that newspaper is so much taken up otherwise, I have no reason to complain. Yet although its interest for the general public may have been very well exhausted, there are several points which, as Masons, we would desire a little more light upon, *e.g.*, keeping in view certain statements at page 85, first column, of this *Magazine*, also at page 122 *ante*, and further at page 404; November 20th, 1869, we would desire to see "Delta" *proving*—if he can—that, as we see stated at page 505, the original members who formed "the St. Andrew's Lodge at Glasgow, afterwards called the Glasgow Journeymen *Free* Operatives, broke off from St. John's." Although asked, "Delta," as yet, has not given this proof.

"Delta" refers to "the Edinburgh Journeymen's recent violation of the law of 'Precedency.'" I fail to see what "precedency" has to do in this dispute. It is not because of its "precedency" in the Edinburgh province that the Journeymen has the privilege of carrying the tools, but because it was the *Journeymen Lodge*, and still bears the title.

As to the Journeymen Lodge considering they had a right to carry the tools in Glasgow, although not in Edinburgh and its neighbourhood, they can point to their doing so quite recently in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, *viz.*, at Mossbank, also at Paisley\*; and although the St. John's brethren were at both places, they made no objections; hence the Journeymen could say they had these precedents to point to in support of their claim; and until the Grand Lodge appointed some one else to do so, they were quite as qualified to carry the tools at Glasgow as they were at Paisley. The fact is, it is not the Journeymen Lodge that is to blame in this matter, but the brethren of the Lodge of Glasgow St. John have themselves to blame for this matter not being settled in a formal manner long ago. Had the Glasgow Journeymen Lodge been still in existence, I have no doubt that the members of it would have stood out for the privilege of carrying the tools, so that St. John's might have had two to fight instead of one; however, I trust the thing will now be settled for all the provinces of Scotland—no use making fish of the one and flesh of the other. It might be very well settled by making it the law that the lodge bearing the title of the "Journeymen Lodge" in each province carries the tools in its own province, or if there be no "Journeymen Lodge" in some province, then let the *youngest* lodge have the privilege of a few of their number being set apart for that purpose. I do not consider it fair to give every privilege to the senior lodge; as senior lodge it has several privileges already above the junior, hence it may well follow the good example set by the Lodge of Edinburgh, Mary's Chapel, No. 1, and not claim everything for itself.

One point more. As to the "testimonial" referred to in such glowing terms by Bros. Thomas McGuffie, "I. A.," and "Delta," I can find no evidence of such a thing existing anywhere except in their own brains. I have seen a number of members and office bearers of No. 3 bit, and they know nothing about it. One explanation of the idea was this. The R.W.M. having given his office bearers two suppers, they, after the last, made up their minds to give them one in return;

\* *Vide* "Grand Lodge Reporter," June, 1860, page 423.

and it so happens that the day it was held on was Friday, 17th June; and although this was so shortly after the Demonstration on June 3rd, it had nothing particular to do with it, and there was *no testimonial* presented upon that occasion. So we see that both Bros. McGuffie and "Delta" are rather mistaken, the thing being quite private, as only a *few* of the members were either at it or knew anything about it.

In conclusion, allow me to tell Bro. McGuffie, who, I perceive by page 43, was Senior Warden of St. John's for the year 1849-50, that he is as much at sea regarding the *true* history of the lodge as was the Senior Warden for the years 1866 and 1867. However, as we perceive by the *Magazine*, for the last two years the latter eventually got "more light." I would therefore respectfully recommend our "I. A." (Member of the Institute of Architects) to peruse this *Magazine* for that period before he again rushes into print (thereby giving a practical example of a *sutor ultra crepidam*) anent a Masonic *Incorporation* existing in Glasgow in the eleventh century, the members of which also worked at a cathedral about a century before the said cathedral was even founded.\*

Yours fraternally,  
MASONICUS.

"June 17, 1870.

"Sir,—The announcement by Bro. Thos. McGuffie that 'so highly do the office bearers and members of the St. John's Lodge appreciate the spirited conduct of their worthy R.W.M., Mr. John Baird, that they are to give him a testimonial in the Royal Hotel this week,' is an ample refutation of the libel upon the intelligence of the brethren of 3 bis which is conveyed in 'Masonicus's' statement that 'a number of those who left simply followed the crowd.' 'Masonicus' would do well to make himself acquainted with the early history of the older of our Scotch Masonic lodges. He will then find that prior to the institution of the Grand Lodge it was the custom for lodges to admit persons as 'Masons, but not members of the lodge.' Such entrants had 'the word' communicated to them, but though the lodge in which they were made was undoubtedly their Masonic *alma mater*, they were denied the full privileges of membership. It was from a too strict observance of this custom that the Journeymen Masons of Edinburgh were lost to Mary's Chapel. The erection of the Glasgow Journeymen Free Operatives may have proceeded from a similar cause; for in retaliation, as it were, for the illiberal and monopolising policy of the Freeman Operative St. John's Lodge, the Journeymen Free Operative, in its articles of constitution, debarred 'theoretical and incorporate Masons from bearing office'—'the executive power and representative body of the lodge being reposed entirely in Journeymen Masons.' The proper designation of the Glasgow Journeymen Lodge is as I have given it. If 'Masonicus' be a member of the Grand Lodge, I may at the first Grand Quarterly Communication have a further opportunity of meeting his arguments in support of the Edinburgh Journeymen's recent violation of the law of 'precedency'—a point which, in his last letter, he has entirely lost sight of.—Yours, DELTA."

\* Glasgow Cathedral was founded about A.D. 1123, a little before King David I. of Scotland ascended the throne. The *present structure*, however, is considerably after that date.

## THE MASONIC MIRROR.

\* \* All communications to be addressed to the Editor, at No. 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, London, W.C.

### MASONIC MEMS.

THE first meeting of the Keystone Lodge of Mark Masters (No. 109), is announced to be held in the Masonic Hall, Backstreet, Newport, Monmouthshire, on Monday, the 28th inst., at 2.30 p.m.; Bro. the Rev. Charles Lync, D. Prov. G.M., is the W.M. designate, and Bro. W. Williams, Secretary. The business will include the consecration and dedication of the lodge, installation of W.M., the appointment and investiture of officers and the advancement of candidates. The ceremonies will be performed by Bro. F. Binckes, Grand Mark Secretary. Six names are on the summons as joining members, and twenty-eight candidates for advancement. The brethren are desired to appear in Masonic mourning for the late R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Rolls. A banquet will be held at 5.30 at the Kings' Head, Hotel.

THE fifteen sections will be worked in the Sincerity Lodge of Instruction (No. 174), held at the Railway Tavern, Fenchurch-street Railway Station, on Monday, the 11th inst. The chair will be taken by Bro. Barnes, W.M. 554, P.M. 933, at 7 p.m.

THE next meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent will be held at the Bull Inn, Dartford, on the 27th inst.

THE meeting of Supreme Council will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday next. Further information can be obtained at 33, Golden-square.

THE General Committee of Grand Chapter is fixed for Wednesday, July 20, at 3 o'clock p.m.

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CORNWALL will be held at the Concert-hall, in the new Public Rooms, at Truro, on Tuesday, the 19th inst., at ten o'clock in the morning, when the business of the province will be transacted. At twelve o'clock the brethren will walk in procession to St. Mary's Church, where a sermon is to be preached by Bro. the Rev. F. B. Paul, Prov. G. Chap. After the service the procession will be re-formed and will proceed to the Masonic Hall, which will be dedicated in ancient form by the R.W. Bro. Augustus Smith, Prov. G.M. There will be a banquet in the Concert-hall at three o'clock. Brethren attending from distant places will be able to travel over the Cornwall and West Cornwall lines at single fare for the double journey.

TYLERS of Lodges, Janitors of Chapters, Equeries of Encampments, &c., in England, Scotland, and Ireland, are requested to forward their names and addresses to the Publisher of THE FREEMASONS'S MAGAZINE, so that a complete Register and Directory may be compiled.

### Craft Masonry. ENGLISH CONSTITUTION. METROPOLITAN.

PECKHAM LODGE (No. 879).—An emergency meeting of this lodge was held at the Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham, on Monday, the 27th ult. There was a good attendance of the brethren, but many of the officers were absent and the W.M. was compelled to ask the assistance of some competent brethren, who fortunately were present, in working the ceremonies. The lodge having been opened, two brethren were passed to the second degree, as were also two brethren of the Perfect Ashlar Lodge, No. 1,178, now in recess. One candidate was initiated, who in

the course of the evening feelingly expressed his gratification at his reception and all he had heard and seen that evening. He had imagined he was about to join a merely convivial society, but the lesson he had received agreeably undeceived him, and he would ever make it his study to act up to the principles unfolded to him. After the close of the lodge a cold collation was served. It was announced that another emergency meeting would shortly be held. There were present: Bro. Evan Davies; W. M. Kent; J. W. Barton, Treas.; Allsopp, Sec.; Stephens, J.D.; and Green, I.G.; Past Masters G. Glasspool, Joseph Barton, Joshua Howes, and J. Allsopp; Bros. Martin, Cain, Woodcote, Rudd, Scott, Smith, Peimefather, Truss, Watkins, &c. Bro. Rose, P.M. 73; Free, Hyde, and Joslin, 1,178, were present as visitors.

### PROVINCIAL.

#### BERKS AND BUCKS.

##### READING.

*Provincial Grand Lodge.—Laying the foundation stone of the New Grammar School by Bro. H.R.H. Prince of Wales, P.G.M.*

Great preparations were made in Reading to give a fitting reception to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on the auspicious occasion of the laying the foundation of the new Grammar School about to be erected in the principal town of the Royal county of Berkshire. The inhabitants spared no expense to welcome their Royal visitors.

The Reading Grammar School is of considerable antiquity dating back to the time of Henry VII., and the ancient building stands to this day (although not in late years used for its original purpose) on that part of the town called the Forbury. With Dr. Valpy as its master it saw the zenith of its prosperity, and it can, with pride, record among its old scholars such names as Archbishop Laud, the present Bishop of London, Talbourn, and other eminent men. After the death of Dr. Valpy the prosperity of the School declined through a combination of circumstances, until at one time it is recorded that but one single scholar was left to occupy the once-thronged school-room. Recently some influential gentlemen began to take steps to establish schools on a more satisfactory basis, and the following extract from the prospectus of the schools about to be erected, will show the result of their exertions:—

"In the year 1837 an act of parliament was obtained with the view of establishing in the town of Reading a thoroughly efficient and useful school, in succession to, but with a more enlarged scope than, its ancient grammar school. The object sought to be obtained was the providing the means for a thorough middle-class education, to be supplemented by a law school for the education and benefit of the poorer classes, and through which their children might have an opportunity of rising gradually to the principal school, and the more deserving and gifted of them be thus enabled to secure all the advantages of the higher establishment. The schools are, by the act, placed under the management of 13 trustees, consisting of the Mayor of Reading for the time being, the six aldermen of the borough, the vicars for the time being of the three parishes of St. Mary, St. Giles, and St. Lawrence, Reading, and three councillors of the borough, to be from time to time elected from the council. After considerable difficulty the trustees succeeded in obtaining an eligible site for the school buildings, comprising 10 acres of land on the Redlands Estate, situate near the Berkshire Hospital, on the outskirts of the town; and the funds acquired by the trustees under the act have been about sufficient to enable them to complete the purchase of the site. The trustees having secured the services of Mr. Alfred Waterhouse as their architect, that gentleman prepared plans of the school buildings, and the trustees, after careful consideration, approved and adopted them. They have recently accepted a tender from Messrs. Parnell and Son, of Rugby, for the erection of the central common hall and school block, the western wing, and the entrance lodge, for the sum of £12,151 10s. 7d., with power to the trustees to require the contractors to erect the buildings comprising the eastern wing for the additional sum of £6,552 17s., making a total sum of £18,707 7s. 7d. This sum, with the collateral expenses, will bring the entire cost to about £20,000 exclusive of the purchase of the site. The mayor and corporation of Reading, and the trustees of the school, have formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of raising subscriptions to enable them to accom-

plish this most important work. At present no institution exists either in Reading or its neighbourhood which affords the educational facilities offered by the proposed school; and the children of farmers, tradesmen, and the higher class of mechanics are debarred from a first-class education at a figure within the compass of either of them. It is hoped that the neighbouring landowners and agriculturists will unite with the merchants, professional men, and tradesmen of Reading in helping forward this most important, yet arduous, undertaking, and an appeal is confidently made to all classes to contribute according to their means towards the erection of an institution which must be of lasting benefit alike to the citizens of Reading and the inhabitants of the adjacent counties."

Up to the present time not quite one-half of the £20,000 to be spent in the erection of the new school and its accessories has yet been raised, but no fears can be entertained as to the remainder. Some of the donations assume princely proportions; for instance, we have contributions from Mr. R. Benyon, the high steward, £500; Mr. J. H. Balgrave, the high sheriff, 500 guineas; Sir J. H. Goldsmid, £500; Mr. Councillor Monck, £500; Messrs. J. and C. Simonds, £500; Messrs. H. and G. Simonds, £500; Messrs. Stephens and Blandy, £500; Mr. Walter, M.P., and Col. Loyd Lindsay, M.P., £300 each; Mr. Ald. Harris and the Town Clerk (Mr. E. Rogers), £200 each; Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Mr. S. Palmer, the Mayor (Mr. Peter Spokes), Mr. A. Waterhouse, and Mr. A. Waterhouse, jun., £100 each; and numerous donations of £50 and under. The contributions of the partners in the great firm of Huntley and Palmer, by whom a thousand men are kept in constant employ, made up a total of £800; while the Messrs. Sutton contributed £600 between them to the fund of the schools.

The town of Reading, and the whole route through to the Redlands Estate, were gaily decorated for the day. Triumphant arches were so numerous that it would be difficult to say where they were not. Festoons were linked from house to house and window to window; and reiterated assurances of welcome met the sight of the Prince and Princess in floral writings on the walls. The first triumphal arch was at the head of the short road leading up to the town from the station. There was presently another at the entrance of the market-place, and close to the ancient church of St. Lawrence and the Town Hall; and when the market-place was reached through this decorative portal, two more of these occasional structures were beheld, at the opposite corners of the gaily-ornamented little square. They were both pleasantly demonstrative of the loyal and public spirit of Reading, the one being erected by Mr. Ald. Palmer, whose firm also furnished a more imposing arch on the road; and the other by Messrs. Sutton, the Queen's seedsmen.

At half-past twelve the train bearing their Royal Highnesses reached the station of the Great Western Railway, about a mile from the site of the New Schools, where a guard of honour was formed by the staff of the Royal Berks Militia, drawn up in a line on the platform, under command of Captain Lang. The 1st Berks Volunteers were the guard of honour on the terrace of the school buildings, under command of Captain Hunter, and the Berks Yeomanry Cavalry furnished the escort from the railway station to the school ground, under command of Captain Tull. The arrival was signalled by hoisting the Royal Standard and firing a salute; and on the Prince and Princess alighting from the royal saloon carriage, the Mayor, who was in attendance with the Corporation, presented their Royal Highnesses with an address of welcome to the town. They were then conducted to the open carriage in waiting for them, which, with other carriages, proceeded in procession, passing through the principal streets of the town, and traversing a distance of about two miles.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Berks and Bucks was opened in the Assembly Rooms, by Sir Bro. Daniel Gooch, *Bart.*, *M.P.*, Prov. G. Master, supported by Bro. the Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, *Bart.*, D. Prov. G.M., and the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and adjourned. The procession was marshalled by the G. Dir. of Cers. and assistants to the triumphal arch at the railway gates. Amongst the brethren who joined in the procession were Bro. Sir Daniel Gooch, *Bart.*, Prov. G.M. for Berks and Bucks; the Rev. Sir John Hayes, D. Prov. G.M., P. Prov. G. Chap.; Bagshawe, Prov. G.M. for Essex; Augustus Smith, *M.P.*, and Prov. G.M. Cornwall; J. Rawson, P.D.G.M. for China; Algernon Perkins, P.G.W.; Colonel Lindsay, J. S. Lefevre, Sir F. Goldsmid, John Hervey, G. Sec.; the Rev. J. B. Simpson, P.G. Chap.; Rev. J. C. Martin, P.G. Chap.; Rev. W. Ravenshaw, P.G. Chap.; Lord Leigh, Prov. G.M. for Warwick-

shire; the Rev. J. E. Cox, and many of the Provincial Grand Officers.

The following members of lodges in the province were present:—Etonian Lodge, No. 209, Bros. J. Strange, P.M., Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.; J. S. Pullen, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.D.; G. Cave, C. Ridout, and J. Sharp, P.M.'s; B. Lovegrove, T. Rolfe, G. B. Aylmore, W. J. Woodman, A. Portsmouth, F. E. Dixon, F. Midhurst, A. C. Twigg, and S. Dalton. Hope Lodge, No. 574, Bros. W. C. Bland, P.M., P. Prov. J.G.W.; J. G. Hall, P.M.; G. J. Cosburn, Sec.; B. Fielder, S.W.; R. Johnstone, J.W.; C. Wheeler, S.D.; J. Bance, J.D.; A. Burns, Steward; F. W. Buckingham, J. Wheeler, W. H. Herbert, T. Deller, J. R. Stillman, Tyler. Union Lodge, No. 414, Bros. J. Smith, P. Prov. G. Purst.; W. Rittson, P.M.; J. A. Strachan, J.W.; W. T. Kimersly, I.G.; A. M. Yetts, Std.; S. A. Pocock, J. A. Blafield, T. T. Cooper, J. W. Marnett, A. Winter, A. Sheppard, J. Morriss, E. Baker, C. P. Tidd Pratt, *M.A.*, R. Rogers, W. H. Prestwick, J. W. Simonds. Buckingham Lodge, No. 591, Bros. A. L. Taylor, W.M.; C. F. Whiskin, I.G.; J. Dover. Scientific Lodge, No. 840, Wolverton, Bros. G. Ratcliffe, W.M.; R. King, J.W.; R. Hales, J.D. Abbey Lodge, No. 945, Bro. W. Ballard, J.D.; St. Barnabas Lodge, No. 948, Bro. J. McCubbin, W.M.; E. J. Trendell, Prov. G.R.; J. Hadley, S.D.; G. M. Maskell. Greyfriars Lodge, No. 1,101, Reading, Bros. R. J. Simpson, Prov. G. Chap.; G. Chancellor, P.M. 414, S.W.; E. J. Tabor, J.W.; J. G. Godmark, S.D.; J. Stranson, I.G.; J. F. Freeman, Sec.; J. Eggington, Dir. of Cers.; E. Margrett, Steward; C. Trimmer, L. Moule, H. C. Margaret, W. Dorchester, H. Byleton, J. Chesterton, C. Seymour, G. Sharpe, B. W. Hammett, E. Reynolds, R. Brigham, and A. Scammell. Castle Lodge, No. 771, Bros. A. B. Wall, J.W.; J. B. Sayer, J.D.; E. Grisbwock, Dir. of Cers.; E. Giesler, J. Turner, A. Williams, C. Prevost. St. John Lodge, No. 795, Bros. C. W. Moule, J. R. Foulger, W.M. 177; R. C. Prickett.

Visiting brethren:—Bros. C. Duffell Faulkner, de la Loge Espérance et Cordialité à Lausanne, Suisse, P. Prov. J.G.D. Oxon, S.W. 1,036; H. Thompson, P.M. 177 and 1,158; H. Dixon, P.M. 172; J. J. Wedgwood, Derwent Lodge, 40, Hastings; J. Pierce, Philanthropic Lodge, Abergavenny; T. Deller, P.M. Hope Lodge, 574; R. Knight and H. M. Powell, Oakley Lodge, 635; S. Gauntlett, S.W. 632; J. Potts, S.D. 599, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, Oxfordshire; W. Chamberlain, 599; R. C. Thearle, E. Gregory, St. Kew Lodge, 1,222; W. B. Stocker, P.M. 493, P. Prov. S.G.D. Gloucestershire; Lewis Ford, Lebanon Lodge, 493, Gloucestershire; A. G. Witham, 973; W. Aldridge, 771; J. G. Ford, P.M. Belgrave Lodge, 749; J. Dew, P.M. 694, Prov. G. Reg. Hampshire; J. E. Carter, 597, Reading; L. N. Blackmore, 402, Southampton; F. Pannicott, 209; H. H. Durrant, 1,097; W. B. Sharp, 345, Faversham; J. Sparks, J.D. 1,271; P. Strange Bigge, Sec. 417; J. N. Palmer, P. Prov. G. Chap. Oxfordshire, W.M. 698; G. M. Butler, 209; W. Roe Edginton, R. Whitaker, W. Norwood, 209; W. Dalton, J. Johnston, 427, Scotland; T. Webb, 840; J. W. Tilly, jun., P. Prov. G.S.B., P.M. 209; G. L. Thompson, 1, Edinboro; W. Blacket, Tweed Lodge, 26, Scotland; G. Figgins, P.M. and Dir. of Cers. 694; H. J. Daniels, 694; H. Pook, Confidence Lodge, 193; W. Taviner, J.D. 619; J. Richardson, 597; J. T. Daswell, Lodge of Economy, 76; J. G. Wyllie, I.G. 186; J. Hall, 694; W. Wilcocks, 597; J. Parnell, P.M. 520; G. Drant, P.M. 792, Grimsby, T. Hughes, Royal Alfred Lodge, 780; W. Combes, P.G.S.B. Middlesex, P.M. and Hon. Sec. 382; W. H. Coulton, W.M. 382; E. C. Woodward, Treas. 382; W. C. Jameson, E. B. Cope, Apollo Lodge, 357, Oxford; Edmund Garden, Strawberry Hill Lodge, 946.

The procession was headed by a detachment of Yeomanry Cavalry, with their band; the Philanthropic Society, the Foresters and Odd Fellows.

Then came the Masonic portion of the procession, in the following order:—

Two Tylers, with drawn swords.

The Officers and brethren of the lodges in the province.

The Provincial Grand Lodge.

Architect with the Plans.

An Entered Apprentice bearing the Cement.

Grand Steward. Grand Steward.

Cornucopia with corn, borne by the Master of a lodge.

Two ewers with wine and oil, borne by Masters of lodges.

The mallet, borne by the Master of a lodge.

P. Prov. Grand Pursuivants.

Bro. Bowyer, P.M. 574, Prov. Grand Pursuivant.

P. Prov. Grand Organists.

Bro. Mortimer, 948, Prov. Grand Organist.  
 Prov. Grand Sword Bearer.  
 P. Prov. Grand Assistant Directors of Ceremonies.  
 Bro. Dr. Holmes, P.M. 771, Assist. Prov. G. Dir. of Cers.  
 P. Prov. Grand Directors of Ceremonies.  
 Bro. James Strange, P.M. 209, Prov. G. Director of Cers.  
 P. Prov. Grand Superintendent of Works.  
 Bro. A. L. Taylor, W.M. 591, Prov. G. Supt. of Works, bearing  
 the trowel on a velvet cushion.  
 P. Prov. Grand Deacons.  
 P. Prov. Grand Secretaries.  
 Grand Bro. W. Biggs, P.M. 1,101 Prov. G. Sec., Grand  
 Steward. bearing the Book of Constitutions on Steward.  
 a velvet cushion.  
 P. Prov. Grand Registrars.  
 Bro. H. H. Hodges, P.M. 795, Prov. Grand Registrar.  
 P. Prov. Grand Treasurers.  
 Bro. C. Holden, P.M. 771, G. Treas., bearing a phial containing  
 the coins to be deposited in the stone.  
 P. Prov. Grand Chaplains.  
 P. Prov. Grand Wardens.  
 Brethren of distinction.  
 Past and Present Provincial Grand Masters.  
 The column of the Prov. J.G.W., borne by the Master of a lodge.  
 Bro. J. Meadley, P.M. 948, Prov. J.G.W., with a plumb rule.  
 The column of the Prov. S.G.W., borne by the Master of a lodge.  
 Bro. H. D'Almaine, P.M. 945, Prov. S.G.W., with the level.  
 Bro. J. W. Hounslow, W.M. 414, Prov. J.G.D.  
 Grand Bro. the Rev. J. D. R. Fidler, P.M. 591, Grand  
 Steward. Prov. G. Chap., bearing the Volume of the Steward.  
 Sacred Law on a velvet cushion.  
 The Rev. Sir J. W. Hayes, *Bart.*, D. Prov. G.M., with the square  
 Bro. J. Cross, P.M. 209, Prov. G. Sword Bearer.  
 Sir Daniel Gooch, *Bart.*, *M.P.*, the R.W. Prov. Grand Master.  
 Bro. J. Weightman, W.M. 1,101, Prov. S.G. Deacon.  
 Two Prov. Grand Stewards.  
 Prov. Grand Tyler.

The band and staff of the Royal Berks Militia came next, followed by the borough police and an officer carrying the civic banner, the Town Wardens, members of the Town Council, School Trustees, Mace Bearer, the Mayor and his Chaplains, the Town Recorder, and the Town Clerk.

Then followed the carriages containing the Prince and Princess of Wales and their suite, escorted by a detachment of the Yeomanry cavalry, the High Sheriff and Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Bishop of the Diocese, the Archdeacon of Berks, Members of Parliament and Justices of Peace, and the Mayors of other boroughs, the Yeomanry bringing up the rear.

The Prince, before entering the tent, had assumed the apron and insignia appropriate to the rank of Past Grand Master.

State chairs had been placed for the Prince and Princess on a raised dais at the east side of the stone, and when the Royal party entered the tent, the Mayor and Town Clerk approached the dais, and the Town Clerk read the following address:—

"To his Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall, K.G., &c.

"May it please your Royal Highness,—We, the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of Reading, in the county of Berks, and the trustees of the Reading School, desire most respectfully to express to your Royal Highness our deep sense of your courtesy and condescension in coming amongst us this day, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new school buildings, which we have undertaken to erect for the benefit of the inhabitants of this town and of the county of Berks. We beg also to assure your Royal Highness of the great gratification and delight which all classes of this community experience from the kind consideration shown towards us by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, in honouring us with her presence on this most interesting occasion. In inviting your Royal Highness to lay the foundation stone of the new school buildings, we desire to state to your Royal Highness that a free school or free grammar school was founded in this borough by King Henry the Seventh, and that Queen Elizabeth also manifested her Royal favour towards such school, and by a charter granted to the borough in the second year of her reign made provision for payment of an annual stipend of £10 to the master of the school out of estates by that charter granted by her Majesty to the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough. The school thus established was from the time of its foundation up to a very recent period conducted under the direction of the

mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of this borough, and at some periods with much success, and many persons who attained distinction in the Church and in the State received their school education thereat. We regret, however, to state that in late years the school, from the want of suitable school buildings and other causes, gradually decayed, and during the last three years has ceased to be carried on, to the great detriment of the inhabitants of this borough and the adjacent neighbourhood. Under these circumstances we have of late made strenuous efforts to revive and extend the ancient school, and with this view we obtained from parliament the act intitled 'The Reading School Act, 1867,' under which we are now endeavouring to establish a school which may supply the educational want so much felt within the borough, and in the Royal county of Berks. We beg to inform your Royal Highness that, in pursuance of this aim, we have succeeded in purchasing a site containing ten acres of land, upon which we propose to erect adequate school buildings and masters' residences, and for this purpose we have raised by voluntary donations within the town of Reading, and from persons more immediately connected therewith, a sum exceeding £9,000. We trust successfully to accomplish the work we have undertaken, and that whilst the proposed new school will be of material advantage to the inhabitants of the borough of Reading it will also be the means of providing a thoroughly useful middle-class education for the sons of the inhabitants of the county of Berks generally, and thus supply a want which has long been deeply felt in the Royal county. We acknowledge with gratitude the interest which your Royal Highness's family have always evinced in undertakings having for their object the promotion of education, and we rejoice to believe that the ready compliance of your Royal Highness with our request to lay the foundation-stone of new school buildings in our town this day may be regarded as an evidence of your Royal Highness's desire to aid in the promotion of this and kindred works. We humbly offer through your Royal Highness to her Most Gracious Majesty, our beloved Queen, the renewed assurance of our devoted affection and loyalty. We desire, in conclusion, to tender to your Royal Highness, and to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, our heartfelt wishes for your continued and increasing happiness, and we sincerely pray that your Royal Highness may be long spared to fulfil, under God's blessing, the duties of your exalted station.

"Given under the seal of the Corporation this 1st day of July, 1870.

"Peter Spokes, Mayor, and Chairman of Trustees.

"Thomas Rogers, Town Clerk."

The address was bound in a handsome volume, quarto size, illuminated on every page with glowing colours and gold, in the style of the sixteenth century. The binding, which is of crimson Levant morocco, is raised, cushion shaped, having a panel in relief of a peculiar form, with a sunken centre, in which is emblazoned the arms of the borough of Reading, and encircling the shield the legend, † *S' Communitalis Radingie*, in gold letters on a white ground; the insides or the boards are lined with pale blue watered silk. The first page of the book is the title, and contains within an elaborate border the words "To his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, K.G., &c." At the head of the page is a view of the new Grammar School, painted from the drawing of the architect (Mr. A. Waterhouse), at each side of which is a shield, one bearing the inscription "Reading Abbey, founded by Henry I. A.D. 1,121, dissolved by Henry VIII. A.D. 1,539; Hugh Farrington, last Abbot;" the other Shield, "School founded by order of Henry VII. A.D. 1,486; John Thorne, Abbot of the Monastery of Reading." In the large illuminated initial is inserted the arms of the old abbey, and interspersed in the illumination of the borders, the names of donors and eminent men who have been connected with the school since its foundation. Next follows the text of the address, which is continued over three pages, illuminated in the same exquisite style, the last page having opposite the autograph signature of the Mayor and Town Clerk, the veritable wax seal of the corporation inserted in the thick leaf of the book; next follow the names of the committee on a separate page.

The weather was somewhat stormy during the reading of the address, and the noise from the flapping canvass almost prevented a word of the address being heard. Some fears were entertained for the security of the temporary structure, but fortunately the cords held on.

The Prince's reply to the address presented to him was as follows:—

"Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—I desire to return my cordial

thanks for your address, and to assure you, on the part of the Princess of Wales and myself, of the pleasure it affords us to visit a town so conspicuous in the pages of English history. It is most gratifying to me to co-operate with you, gentlemen, in securing for your town the benefits contemplated by the Royal founder of this ancient society. In extending to Reading and its county the advantage of a middle-class education you are providing an education which, if conducted on sound principles, must conduce to the welfare and happiness of all who desire to profit by it; and that this result is anticipated is satisfactorily indicated by the amount of contributions already subscribed. For myself, I sincerely trust that the good work of which we are now assembled to lay the first stone may, under God's blessing, prosper and accomplish its purpose. It will at least prove to a succeeding generation that we on our part have striven with all our hearts and with all our means to ripen the good seed sown by our fathers."

The address to the Princess which was not read, was in quite a novel form, being reduced by photography, and enclosed in a locket, appended to a fan. This fan is a most artistic and exquisite piece of work in the Louis XIV. style. In the centre of a canopy, supported by two angels, and surmounted with the Princess's coronet, is a silver shield, on which is the monogram A. A. emblazoned in gold, and surrounded with summer flowers. On either side, painted in proper colours, are the arms of his Royal Highness and of the borough of Reading; whilst at each end are two beautifully executed views—that on the right, of the new school; and on the left, the old gateway of the abbey. The mounting is of pearl, most delicately and elaborately carved, and mounted with gold. Attached to the fan is a solid gold vinaigrette, having on one side the Princess's coronet and monogram, enamelled in colours; on the other, the following inscription most ingeniously inserted:—

"Presented to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, by the Mayor and Corporation of Reading, on her visit to that town with H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of new school buildings for the Reading school, 1st July, 1870."

This beautiful little souvenir was executed by Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co. for Messrs. Howell and James.

The brethren bearing the vessels containing the Corn, Wine, and Oil, together with the Mallet, having deposited the same on a pedestal placed for that purpose.

Silence was proclaimed by the Grand Dir. of Cers., and the Mayor (Bro. P. Spokes) received from the Provincial Grand Master the Trowel, and presented the same to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on behalf of the Masons of Reading as a memento of their fraternal esteem, asked him to set the stone.

The Architect presented the plans of the buildings to His Royal Highness.

Rev. Bro. Dr. W. Fidler, Prov. Grand Chap., offered the following prayer:—

#### PRAYER.

O Most Mighty Lord God, 'Great Architect of the Universe and all that is therein.' We, the frail creatures of Thy Providence, implore thee to pour down on this work begun in Thy Holy name, the dew of Thy blessing. Without Thee nothing is strong, nothing is Holy. Unless Thou buildest the House, their labour is but lost that build it. Prosper the labours of those who designed, and who may promote this undertaking, and make them to know that Charity blesses those who give as well as those that receive. O Gracious Preserver of the bodies as well as the souls of men, protect we beseech, the workmen who shall be employed on this building and shield them from loss of life or bodily hurt, and give them grace to do their duty in an honest and good heart. Let Thy heavenly benediction rest upon the institution about to be erected here. May those who shall be taught in this school be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and be instruments of Thy Glory by doing good in their generation, and may useful instruction and Godly learning ever flourish and abound within its walls. The Glorious Majesty of the Lord be upon us. Prosper Thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper Thou our handiwork, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

The Prov. Grand Sec. read the inscription on the stone, and the Prov. G. Treas. deposited the vessel, hermetically sealed, containing the specimens of all the gold, silver, and copper coins of the present reign.

The Town Clerk (Bro. T. Rogers) deposited the records.

Bro. Barnicoat, Entered Apprentice of Lodge No. 1,101 presented the cement to set the stone.

A hymn was then sung by the members of the Reading Philharmonic Society, under the direction of Bro. W. H. Strickland, P. Prov. G. Org., set to a chorale composed by the late Prince Consort ("Gotha"), during which the stone was lowered with three distinct stops, the Prince standing to the east of the stone, with the R.W. Provincial Grand Master on his right hand, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, bearing the square.

He then received from the Provincial Grand Master the cornucopia and strewed the corn; the Grand Warden presented the ewers containing the wine and oil, which were poured out conformably with ancient custom, saying "May the bountiful hand of Heaven ever supply this country with abundance of corn, wine, and oil, and all the necessaries and comforts of life."

The Prince set the stone with all the honours usual on such occasions, saying, "May the Great Architect of the Universe enable us successfully to carry on and finish the work of which we have now laid the principal stone, and every other undertaking which may tend to the advantage of the borough of Reading and this neighbourhood, and may this school be long preserved from peril and decay, diffusing light and influence to generations yet unborn." The brethren responded, "So mote it be."

The Treasurer to the schools, Bro. J. Simonds, then presented the Master Builder a purse of gold for the use of the workmen, saying that it was the desire of the Prince that those who had hewed the stones, and those who have laid them, and all who have assisted, should rejoice in the light.

The Bishop of Oxford offered up a prayer and pronounced the Benediction, the proceedings closing by the band playing and the choir singing the "Hallelujah Chorus."

The Prince and Princess of Wales and suite, with the visitors accompanying the Royal party, were conducted by the Mayor and Town Clerk to their carriages, and proceeded to the Town Hall.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, with their suite, on arriving at the Town Hall, were conducted to their retiring rooms, returning from which their Royal Highnesses were received in the vestibule, when the Mayor had the honour of escorting the Princess, the Prince of Wales graciously condescending to lead the Mayoress to the dining hall, followed by the distinguished visitors. Grace before meat was said by the Rev. Lewin G. Maine, vicar of St. Lawrence's; after meat by the bishop. During the luncheon the band of the Grenadier Guards played a selection of music. At the conclusion of the luncheon, by the gracious permission of his Royal Highness, the Mayor proposed the toast of "The Queen." "God save the Queen" was sung by the Reading Choral Union. The Mayor then proposed "The health of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales." "God bless the Prince of Wales" was then sung by the Choral Union.

Bro. T. Spencer acted as Toast Master.

The Prince of Wales then rose and said—For the hearty and cordial manner in which this toast has been received, and for the extremely kind way in which you, Mr. Mayor, have proposed it, I beg, in the name of the Princess and myself, to offer my warmest thanks. I assure you it gives me the most unfeigned pleasure to have the opportunity of expressing to all present the great gratification which it has afforded to the Princess and myself to visit Reading upon this important occasion. I am glad also to be able to congratulate your Mayor, Corporation, and the inhabitants generally upon the marked success with which every detail of the proceedings has been carried out. Whether, in regard to the tasteful way in which all the houses and streets are decorated, the arrangements for laying the ceremonial stone of the new schools, or the preparation of this magnificent *déjeuner*, I am bound to say that everything could not have gone off better. And now let me say that I trust we shall, after this day has passed, take an interest in the school that is to be. I speak of it as a school that is to be; but it is an institution which has existed for a large number of years, and was, as you are all probably aware, founded by my ancestor, Henry VII., and a Royal Charter was granted to it by Queen Elizabeth. I trust, therefore, that the wishes expressed by the Mayor concerning it will be fulfilled, and that the town and county surrounding it will benefit from it, and that its success will in every way answer your expectations. Having said this, I will not detain you longer than to say, before sitting down, that it gives me the greatest pleasure to propose a toast which I know

you will receive with the greatest enthusiasm. I give you the "Health of the Mayor of Reading," and am glad to have the opportunity of thanking him, as the representative of this ancient and loyal borough, for the kind and hearty reception which it has accorded to the Princess and myself to-day.

The Prince was loudly cheered upon sitting down. The decorations of the hall well justified the remarks which his Royal Highness made upon the *déjeuner*, for they were executed with an amount of good taste such as is rarely seen.

The Royal party then rose, and soon afterwards proceeded to the railway and returned to the train.

After the departure of the Prince, the Mayor announced that his Royal Highness handed him a check for 100 guineas as a contribution to the building fund.

Among the distinguished visitors were the Duke and Duchess of Manchester, the Earl of Abingdon, Lord Norreys, Viscount Eversley, Sir Francis Goldsmid, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Mr. Walter, Colonel Charles Lindsay, &c.

Colonel Lloyd Lindsay commanded the Berks Volunteers.

#### LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.—*Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge (No. 779).*—

INSTALLATION OF THE RIGHT HON. EARL FERRERS AS W.M.

The annual festival of this lodge and the installation of its newly elected Master, Bro. the Right Hon. Earl Ferrers, P.S.G.D. (the son of its founder), were celebrated at the Town Hall on Tuesday, the 28th ult., when a large number of visitors, in addition to the members, assembled to do honour to the occasion. The ceremony was performed by the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly, who was one of the founders; and among the other brethren present were Bros. Edw. F. Mammatt, W.M. and Prov. G.J.W.; the Revs. John Denton, M.A., Sec., and Samuel Pymont, D.D., P.Ms. and P. Prov. G.S.Ws.; H. Etherington Smith, J.P., P.M. and P. Prov. J.G.W.; George F. Brown, P.M. and P. Prov. G.J.W.; S. Love, P.M. and P. Prov. G.S.D., Treas.; Garner, J.W.; Faulkner, S.D.; Blood, J.D.; Johnson, L.G.; Stokes, Lewin, Lewis, and others.

Among the visitors were Bros. Pettifor, P.M. 279 and P. Prov. G.S.W.; Duff, P.M. 523 and P. Prov. G.S.D.; Buzzard, W.M. 523 and Prov. G. Assist. Dir. of Cers.; Atwood, No. 279, and Palmer, S.D. 279, from Leicester; Rev. J. B. Mundy, 1039, and Capt. Webster, 47 (I.C.), from Lichfield; Rev. G. M. Braune, P.M. 40, Hastings; E. B. Knobel, P.M. 353, Repton; R. Robinson, W.M., J. Upton, P.M., and W. Dewes, No. 624, Burton-on-Trent; H. Hillam, Arboretum Lodge, Derby, and P.G. Sec. Derbyshire; N. Joyce, Sec. 726, and others.

The lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the last lodge duly confirmed, a ballot was taken for T. Morris, M.D., of Ashby, who was unanimously elected. The P.G.M., accompanied by several Provincial Grand Officers from Leicester, soon afterwards arrived, and having been received with the usual honours, took the chair, and, at the request of the W.M., proceeded to initiate Dr. Trevor Morris into the mysteries of the first degree. The lodge having been opened in the second degree, the retiring W.M., Bro. Mammatt, presented his successor, Lord Ferrers, to the Prov. G.M. to receive the benefit of installation, which ceremony was then performed according to ancient custom, the board of Installed Masters consisting of seventeen members.

After his lordship had been proclaimed and saluted in the three degrees, and the Prov. G.M. had concluded the ceremony with the usual address to the W.M. and charge, the W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Garner, S.W.; Faulkner, J.W.; Rev. John Denton, P.M., Sec.; Love, P.M., Treas.; Blood, S.D.; Johnson, J.D.; Lewis, I.G.; and Cammer, Tyler.

The Prov. G.M. announced that as it was his intention in future to allow each year six of the lodges in the province in rotation to nominate one of their members to him for appointment as a Provincial Grand Steward, he should be glad if the brethren of that lodge would do so, and communicate the name of the brother so elected to the Prov. G. Sec. before the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge. On the conclusion of the business the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Queen's Head Hotel. After an elegant banquet, served in Bro. Love's well-known first-rate style, the usual toasts were duly honoured. The noble W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," and "Bro. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family," and in doing so expressed the gratification which was universally felt among the

Craft at the accession of the Prince of Wales to their ranks, and at the interest which he took in the Order.

The Prov. G. Master in proposing "The Right Rev. Bro. the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Clergy, and Ministers of all denominations," alluded to the satisfaction felt by the Craft in the Diocese in having at its head so learned and eloquent a divine, and, above all, so worthy a Mason, as the Bishop of Peterborough; and also to the benefit which was mutually conferred on the Craft and on themselves, when the clergy and ministers of other denominations took an active part in Masonry, as was fortunately so largely the case in the province of Leicester and Rutland, there not being a single lodge which did not possess one, and in some instances, three or four, clerical brethren. The toast was appropriately responded to by the Rev. John Denton, P. Prov. G. Chap., and P. Prov. S.G.W.

Bro. H. E. Smith, P.M., and P. Prov. J.G.W., proposed "The Army, Navy, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers." This was responded to by Bro. Capt. Webster, who said, that during his military service in the East and elsewhere, he knew of several instances among his brother officers where Masonry had been, when in peril, of great use to them. Bro. Love also responded on behalf of the Volunteers.

The W.M. proposed "The M.W. Grand Master," and, subsequently, "The R.W. D.G.M., and the Officers of Grand Lodge."

The Rev. Bro. Denton then proposed "The Health of the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. Kelly, one of the founders of the lodge, in highly complimentary terms, and who, he said, was always ready and willing to assist all the lodges in the province, as on that and former occasions he had assisted their lodge. The toast was most warmly received, and with musical honours.

Bro. Kelly, in responding, alluded to the great interest which the late Earl Ferrers took in the establishment of the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge, of which he was nominated in the warrant as the first W.M., but into which office it pleased the Great Architect of the Universe that he should not live to be installed, and which office then devolved on the S.W., Bro. E. Mammatt, whose son he (Bro. Kelly) had the pleasure of installing into office last year, as he had installed his father, and as he now had the additional pleasure of installing to-day the son of the original founder, Earl Ferrers—an event on which he might congratulate both the lodge and its noble W.M.

Bro. Pettifor, P. Prov. S.G.W., responded to the toast of "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire and Rutland," proposed by Bro. Brown.

Bro. E. F. Mammatt, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M., also referred; as the Prov. G.M. had done, to the part taken by their respective fathers in the formation of the lodge, and said that, although a boy at the time, he well remembered the frequent conferences between the Earl Ferrers and his (Bro. Mammatt's) late father, on the subject. He wished the W.M. a successful rule over the lodge.

The youthful Earl expressed the great pride and pleasure he felt in being placed in the chair of the lodge bearing the name of his late father, and in having the honour of being installed by the Prov. G.M., who had assisted his father in the formation of it. Having expressed the great interest he felt in the Order, the W.M. concluded by thanking the brethren for their cordial reception of the toast, and their support on the occasion.

"The Health of the Visiting Brethren," proposed by Bro. Love, P.M., was acknowledged by the Rev. Bro. Mundy, of Lichfield, and by Bro. Upton, P.M. of the Abbey Lodge, Burton-on-Trent. The concluding toast was "The Past and Present Officers of the Lodge," which was responded to by Bro. Garner, S.W., after which the brethren separated after a very pleasant meeting. It must not be omitted that Bros. Atwood and Palmer, of Leicester, delighted the brethren with several excellent songs.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*Rutland Lodge (No. 1,130).*—The members of this lodge met for the last time before the summer recess, at the George Hotel, on Thursday, the 30th inst., under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. Douglas. There were also present Bros. Kelly, Prov. G.M.; Revs. W. K. Robinson and W. Langley, P.M.'s; East, S.W.; Bright, J.W.; Oldham, Treas.; Adcock, Markham, Clarke, Fenley (Org.), Barnard, Rev. C. H. Corydon Baker, Selby, and others. The minutes of the last regular meeting, and of a lodge of emergency, having been confirmed on the opening of the lodge, a ballot took place for Mr. James King, of Lutterworth, as a candidate, and also for Bro. Captain Charles John Hubbersty, of the Derwent Lodge (No. 884), Wirksworth, as a joining member, both of whom were unanimously elected. Bro. the Rev. E. H. C. Baker having



passed the usual examination, was passed to the degree of F.C. The lodge was then closed in the second degree, and Mr. James King was initiated. A communication was read from the Prov. G. Secretary, conveying the directions of the Prov. G.M. for the lodges in the province to wear Masonic mourning for the space of six months, as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Lord Howe, P. Prov. G.M., and which was ordered to be entered on the minutes. The lodge was afterwards closed, and adjourned to October next, and the brethren spent a short time in refreshment.

**HITCHLEY.**—*Knights of Malta Lodge* (No. 50).—A monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Town Hall, on Wednesday, the 29th ult., at which the W.M., Bro. the Rev. W. Langley, presided; the following brethren also being present:—Bros. W. Kelly, Prov. G.M.; J. C. Cotman, J. Atkins, T. W. Clarke, T. Harold, and S. Davis, P.M.'s; Hopkinson, T. Atkins, Trim, G. Clarke, Nugent, W.M. Abbey Lodge, Nuneaton, and others. The lodge having been opened, and the Secretary, Bro. T. W. Clarke, having read the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly confirmed, a ballot was taken for the Rev. Philip H. Phelps, *M.A.*, clerk in holy orders, as a candidate for Masonry, who was unanimously elected, as were also several joining brethren. Bro. T. Atkins having been examined as an E.A. retired, and the lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bro. Trim passed an examination in that degree, after which he was duly raised to the sublime degree of M.M. The lodge was then lowered to the second degree, and Bro. T. Atkins was passed to the degree of F.C., after which the lodge was again lowered to the first degree, when, at the request of the W.M., the P.G.M. took the chair, and initiated the Rev. Philip H. Phelps into our mysteries. Bro. Henry Tilleman Bobart, late of the Aldred Lodge, Oxford, was proposed as a joining member, and some alteration in the by-laws having been proposed, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the George Hotel for refreshment.

#### MONMOUTHSHIRE.

**NEWPORT.**—*Isea Lodge* (No. 683).—On Monday last, the 4th inst., a lodge of emergency was held for the purpose of initiating Messrs. L. A. Homfray, Woodlands, near Newport; W. H. W. Homfray, Glen Uske, near Newport; and Edilio Raggio, Genoa. The emergency was caused by one or more of these gentlemen leaving England in a few days. Bro. Chambers, W.M., presided, and was supported by a large number of brethren, including most of the Provincial Grand Officers resident in the district. The minutes of the last lodge having been read, also the requisition, the ballot took place, when all the above-named gentlemen were unanimously admitted. They were then initiated, the ceremony being most correctly rendered by the W.M. The candidates then invited the brethren to sup with them at the King's Head Hotel, and about 25 accepted the invitation. Bro. Lorenzo Homfray took the chair, and we need not add that all present thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Every delicacy of the season was provided, and the wines were some of the best in the cellar at that well-known hostelry. Toast and sentiment were the order of the evening, and the party broke up soon after twelve, drinking to the health of the founders of the feast, and to their next merry meeting.

#### WORCESTERSHIRE.

**DUDLEY.**—*Provincial Grand Lodge.*—The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire was held at the Mechanics' Institute, Dudley on Tuesday, the 28th ult. The R.W. Bro. Albert Hudson Roys, Prov. G.M., presided, and there were also present the following brethren:—Bros. John Barber, D. Prov. G.M.; Sir Edmund A. H. Lechmere, *Bart.*, P.D. Prov. G.M.; Walter Holland, C. C. W. Griffiths, M. Denison, P.G.W.s; Rev. W. S. Newton, Prov. G. Chap.; M. Masefield, P. Prov. S.G.W., G. Treas.; Stanley Baldwin, G. Reg.; E. M. Warrington and Samuel Smith, P.G. Regs.; W. Bristow, P. Prov. S.G.W., G. Sec.; A. T. Hancock and G. Baldwin, Prov. G.D.s; F. Holcroft, W. H. Jones, and W. Woods, Prov. G.D.s; W. H. Westwood, G. Supt. of Works; A. F. Godson and L. H. Kenwick, G. Dirs. of Cers.; A. J. Hancock, G. Sword Bearer; T. Troman, G. Org.; E. Turner, G. Purst.; P. H. Bloomer, P.M. 573; G. Westbury, W.M. 573; G. Smith, S.W. 252 and 408; J. Stokes, J.D., 252; J. S. Hoppett, 498; P. Bellitz, W.M., 377; J. Hodgetts Smith, 498; Rev. James Downes, P. Prov. G. Chap., Staffordshire; Charles John Vigne, P. Prov. S.G., Somerset-

shire; W. H. King, W.M., 564; George Bagott, 252; Daniel Bradley, 498, and others to the number of about 70. The Royal Standard Lodge, 498, Dudley, had the honour of receiving the Prov. Grand Lodge on this occasion. Bro. Warrington, W.M., 498, opened the Craft Lodge at one o'clock; and at two the R.W. Prov. Grand Master and the Prov. Grand Officers entered the lodge-room in procession. The R.W. Prov. Grand Master then took the chair, and was saluted with royal honours, and afterwards opened his Prov. Grand Lodge in due form. The Grand Secretary then called the muster roll, when it was found that all the lodges in the province were represented. The minutes of the Prov. Grand Lodge held at Stourport, on the 22nd of June, 1869, and of the special Provincial Grand Lodge, held in the Chapter House of Worcester Cathedral, on the 10th August, 1869, were read and confirmed. The Prov. Grand Treasurer's accounts were adopted, and the Worshipful Bro. W. Masefield, P. Prov. S.G.W., was unanimously re-elected Grand Treasurer. The Provincial Grand Master then appointed the following brethren Provincial Grand officers for the year ensuing:—Bros. J. Barber, P.M. 1,037; E. M. Warrington, W.M. 498, S.G.W.; W. H. Jones, P.M. 564, J.G.W.; Rev. C. G. Ridgway, W.M. 1,204, C. Chap.; W. Woods, P.M. 349, G. Reg.; W. Bristow, P.M. 252, G. Sec.; A. J. Hancock, P.M. 377, S.G.D.; W. H. Westwood, P.M. 252, &c., J.G.D.; L. H. Kenwick, P.M. 573, G. Supt. of Works; E. Turner, W.M. 252, G. Dir. of Cers.; W. H. King, W.M. 564, Assist. G. Dir. of Cers.; P. Bellitz, W.M. 377, G.S.B.; T. Troman, 573, G. Org.; P. H. Bloomer, P.M. 573, G. Purst.; G. Smith, D. Bradley, and J. S. Hoppett, 498, and T. Brettie, J. Stokes, and W. Smith, 252, G. Stewards; Stanley and Smith, G. Tylers. The Provincial Grand Master signified his intention to hold his Provincial Grand Lodge next year at Malvern. The Provincial Grand Lodge was then closed in due form, and the brethren afterwards partook of a banquet at the Dudley Arms Hotel, at which about 60 sat down, and the evening was spent in harmony and brotherly love.

#### IRELAND.

##### LIMERICK.

**LIMERICK.**—*Eden Lodge* (No. 73).—This lodge celebrated the festival of Saint John in the ball room of the Masonic Hall, Glentworth street, on the evening of the 28th ult. Covers were laid for about 45 brethren. The chair was occupied by Bro. George W. Bassett, W.M. The W. Masters of the district who were invited to be present were well represented by Bros. Lande, W.M., 13; Curling, W.M., 202; and Wilson, 333. Apologies for non-attendance were received from the Provincial Grand Master, Bros. the Right Hon. Lord Dunboyne; Colonel Cowper, Major Tompson, the Hon. Theobald Butler, M'Mahon, Browne, Banks, &c. The several loyal and Masonic toasts were duly proposed and responded to. The viands were supplied from the establishment of Mr. P. Coffey, Refreshment Hall, George-street, and were highly approved, he having exercised his well known catering abilities to the utmost in his power—the J.W. Bro. Fitzgerald, aiding most materially in having the banquet in every way worthy of lodge 73.

##### CLARE.

**ENNIS.**—*Dunboyne Lodge* (No. 60).—This lodge celebrated the festival of St. John at their Lodge Rooms, Ennis, on the 28th ult. The reunion was on a grand scale.

##### TIPPERARY.

**CLONMEL.**—*Donoghmore Lodge* (No. 41).—This lodge celebrated the festival of St. John, on the 28th ult. Bro. Sir. John Kane, *Bart.*, Provincial Grand Master of that district, attended. The brethren spent a most delightful reunion, and separated in peace, love, and harmony.

#### INDIA.

##### CALCUTTA.

**LODGE OF TEMPERANCE AND BENEVOLENCE** (No. 1,160).—This lodge held its meeting on Wednesday, the 18th May, at the Freemasons' Hall. The brethren present were W. Bros. T. H. Girling, W.M.; and J. L. Taylor, P.M. and hon. mem-

ber; Bros. R. M. Wibrow, S.W.; C. Bernard, J.W.; J. Sharp, S.D.; George G. Hiley, Sec.; A. J. Meyer, Treas.; Hillier, Dir. of Cers.; A. Harris, I.G.; and Geo. Alexander, Tyler; W. Broad, Collier, Barker, Gautt, Farthing, and Green. Visitors: Bros. Broadly, Smith, J.W. 232; Kacch, Hottinger, Heins, and Presswell. The lodge having been opened in the first degree, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for the initiation of Mr. Scott into our mysteries. The ballot proving favourable, Mr. Scott was initiated into our ancient order, the ceremony being very creditably performed by the W.M. The lodge was then passed to the second degree, and Bro. Green examined as to the progress he had made in the Craft, when he was entrusted and passed out. The lodge was then raised to the third degree, and Bro. Green admitted, and raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason, the ceremony being performed in a most impressive manner by W. Bro. J. L. Taylor. There being no further business before the lodge it was closed in due form. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, where the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. The brethren separated at 10.35 p.m.

### ROYAL ARCH.

#### METROPOLITAN.

OLD KING'S ARMS CHAPTER (No. 28).—A regular convocation was held at Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, the 4th inst. There were present: Comps. Wm. Nesbitt, M.E.Z., P.Z.; E. Farmer, H.; J. A. Farnfield, J.; Wm. Paas, Treas.; James Horwood, S. Ezra, Chas. Baylis, Wm. R. Munton. Visitors: Comps. Frederick Cox; George Cox; F. R. Munton, 60, J.W.; Mercik, 534, P.Z.; George Biggs, P.Z., 28; J. Farmaner, 22, P.M. 485. Bro. Wm. Richard Munton, Star of Hope Lodge 761, Agra, of Wardah, Nagpore, India, was exalted.

MOUNT LEBANON CHAPTER (No. 73).—An emergency meeting of this chapter was held at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, on Wednesday, the 6th inst. Present:—Comps. J. W. Avery, M.E.Z.; T. J. Sabine, H.; H. Massey, as J.; A. D. Loewenstark, P.Z., and Treas.; F. Walters, P.Z.; M. A. Loewenstark, S.; J. T. Moss, Prin. Soj.; E. Harris, 1st Assist. Soj.; G. J. Loe, and several other companions. Bro. M. J. Jennings, of the Pattison Lodge, was exalted to the degree of a R.A. companion in a highly creditable manner by M.E.Z. Ballots were taken for B.os. J. Bradbury, S.W.; J. T. Woodley, 169; and E. H. Steers, 179, which proved unanimous in each instance. The meeting then adjourned to 27th October.

BELGRAVE CHAPTER (No. 749).—The regular convocation of this chapter was held on Friday, the 24th ult., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. There were present Comps. John G. Bond, M.E.Z.; Henry Johnson, H.; William Bourne, J.; Henry Garrod, Scribe E.; George Pym, S.N.; William Watson, P.Z.; Henry Finch, 1st Assist. Soj.; Henry Crabtree, 2nd Assist. Soj.; William Ough, P.Z., G.P.; E. W. Mackney, W. E. Mackrill, S. Homewood, William Johnson, Fred. Frampton, Edward Harper, Frederick Williams, R. N. Welchman, Henry Jennings, Thomas E. Edwards, G. A. Elliott, George Knight, Alec. Lefebvre, and H. Coates. The visitors were Comps. W. Hopekirk and Wm. Webb. Comp. Watson, in his most efficient way, installed Comp. Dr. Henry Johnson into the chair of M.E.Z., William Bourne, H.; and Geo. Pym, J. A most excellent banquet was served, and the harmony of the evening was not a little enhanced by the admirable singing and playing of Comps. E. W. Mackney, George Pym, and other companions.

#### LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

LEICESTER.—*Chapter of Fortitude* (No. 279).—A bi-monthly meeting of this chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall on Friday, the 1st inst., when, owing to various circumstances, the attendance of companions was unusually small. A letter of apology was read from Comp. the Rev. Charles J. E. Smith (Rugby School), Scribe N., expressing regret at his inability to be present, and apologies were also received from several P.Zs. and other companions. The officers present were Comps. L. A. Clarke, M.E.Z.; W. Kelly, P.Z. and P.G. Supt., as H. (in the absence of Comp. G. H. Hodges); George Toller, jun., J.; Stretton, E.; Atwood, as N.; Partridge, P. Soj.; Rev. Dr. Haycroft and W. Sculthorpe, Assist. Sojs.; Bembridge, Janitor. The chapter having been opened, a ballot was taken for Bros. R. W.

Widdowson and J. Wright Smith, both of St. John's Lodge (No. 279), who were duly elected; and the latter being present was exalted, as was also Bro. Frederic Eachus Wilkinson, M.D., P.M. of No. 181 and W.M. No. 766, who had been elected at a previous meeting. Comp. Kelly, P.G. Supt., gave the mystical and symbolical lectures, and Comp. Toller the historical. Two candidates having been proposed for exaltation, the chapter was closed with solemn prayer, and adjourned to October.

### MARK MASONRY.

#### LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

MELTON MOWBRAY.—*Howe Lodge* (No. 21).—The annual meeting of this lodge was held at the George Hotel, on Thursday, the 30th inst., the same brethren being present as in our report of the meeting, at a later hour, of the Craft lodge No. 1,130. Bro. the Rev. W. Langley occupied the chair, and having opened the lodge, and the minutes having been confirmed, he gave up the gavel to Bro. Kelly, Prov. G.M.M., and presented to him the W.M. elect, Bro. Douglas, for installation. The Prov. G.M.M. then installed the W.M. elect, who was duly proclaimed and saluted by the brethren. The following brethren were then appointed and invested as the officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. the Rev. W. Langley (G. Chap. of G. Mark Lodge of England), I.P.M.; G. Brown, S.W.; W. Adcock, J.W.; J. Bright, M.O.; J. J. Fast, S.O.; T. Markham, J.O.; Rev. W. K. Robinson, P.M., and P.G.O. of England, Chap.; J. B. Leadbeater, Treas.; W. Sharman, Sec.; J. C. Duncombe, S.D.; Chester P. Newcome, J.D.; C. L. Femeley, Dir. of M. and C.; T. Barnard, I.G.; J. Bailey and J. Snodin, Stewards; and J. Turville, Tyler. The Treasurer's report having been made verbally by Bro. Langley, the lodge was closed, the brethren re-assembling in the Rutland Lodge, No. 1,130.

#### ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED RITE.

METROPOLITAN CHAPTER OF ROSE CROIX.—This chapter held a regular convocation on the 8th ult., Ill. Bro. Capt. Phillips, 33°, Grand Treas. Gen.; Ill. Bro. Hyde Pullen, 33°, G.I. Gen., and numerous members of the chapter were present. Bro. J. E. D. Jameson, 30, M.W.S., opened the chapter. The candidates were Bros. C. Desmond, McCarty, J. W. Laing, E. M. Nelson, T. D. Murray, W. Russell, D. Campbell, Mackey, Gordon, Dr. F. W. Ramsay. Bro. Hyde Pullen, instructed the candidates in the intermediate degrees, when they were duly perfected by the M.W.S., and proclaimed. Bro. Lord Lindsay, 31°, was then presented to the Ill. Bro. Hyde Pullen, 33°, who regularly installed him as the M.W.S. of the Metropolitan Chapter. The M.W.S. proposed, and Bro. Finney, 30°, seconded the proposition, that Bro. J. E. D. Jameson, the Past M.W.S., should be presented with a Past M.W.S.'s jewel, in acknowledgment of his services for the past year. The M.W.S. having appointed his officers for the ensuing year, the concluding portion of the ceremony took place, and the members retired, and partook of the banquet, a very pleasant evening being spent.

#### THE ROYAL ORDER OF SCOTLAND.

##### EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH.—The quarterly meeting of the Royal Order was held on the 4th inst., the anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, and was largely attended by the Knights Companion. The Grand Chapter of H.R.M. was opened shortly after three o'clock by the Most Worshipful Deputy Grand Master and Governor, Bro. J. Whyte Melville, 33°, assisted by the officers, and the ballot having been taken for Bro. Andrew Hay, 18°, of Bombay, that brother was duly elected and advanced to the degree of H.R.M. The Grand Lodge of R.S.Y.C.S. was then formed in Council, and Bro. Hay was promoted, and received the honour of knighthood from the D.G.M. and G. The routine business was then disposed of, and the Grand Lodge was closed in ample form. At the banquet the chair was taken by Bro. J. Whyte Melville, 33°, and Bro. George Murray, 30°, ably discharged the duties of croupier. Among the companions present were Knight Companion Sumerville, 33°; A. J. Stewart,

33°; McRitchie, 33°; Mann, 32°; Barrow, 32; Capt. Moreland, 30°, P.G.M. Western India; Robinson, 30°; J. B. Douglas, 30°, G. Sec.; McCowan, 30°, representing Grand Orient of France; Alex. Hay, 30°; Inglis, 30°; Owen Gough, 30°; C. F. Matier, 30°; and Frederick Binckes, 30°, Secretary to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured by the companions, who separated at an early hour.

## Poetry.

### MASONRY.

Three thousand years have rolled away,  
Upon the tide of time,  
Since Masonry began her march,  
Of noble deeds sublime.  
And though the angry storms of war  
Have swept the earth with fire,  
Her temples stand unscathed, unhurt,  
With sunlight on its spire.  
Old empires long the praise of men,  
Have faded from the earth;  
Kings with their thrones have passed away,  
Since Masonry had birth.  
The sceptred monarch, in his pride,  
Had long since met his doom,  
Nought is left of his domain,  
Save solitude and gloom.  
Proud Egypt, with her wondrous arts,  
Her mysteries of old,  
Has slept beneath the tide of time,  
As swift his current rolled.  
And Greece with all her ancient wealth,  
Of genius and of fame,  
Scarce holds amid the nations now  
The honour of a name.  
The glittering town of Troy, to which  
The foes of Priam came,  
To meet a welcome for their deeds  
Prom lips of Spartan dame,  
Have long since tottered from their base,  
And mouldering to decay;  
The glory of that mighty race  
With them has passed away.  
Amid the ravages that swept  
The cities of the plain—  
Mid crumbling of Imperial thrones—  
The fall of power and fame  
Fair Masonry has still survived,  
The nation's horrid doom;  
A beacon 'mid the night of years,  
To gild the clouds of gloom.  
From Oriental climes she came,  
To bless the Western World,  
And rear her temple 'neath the flag  
Which liberty unfurled;  
Fair freedom welcomed to our shores  
This maid of heavenly birth;  
While thousands of our humble poor  
Now own her generous worth.  
Ten thousand widows in their weeds,  
Have blessed her advent here,  
And many a homeless heart  
Has owned her tender care;  
Full many a frail and erring son,  
To dissipation given,  
Has heard the warning voice and turned  
His wayward thoughts to heaven.  
Long may her grand old temple stand,  
To light this darkened Sphere;  
To gild the gloom of error's night,  
And dry the falling tear;  
And when the final winds of time  
Shall sweep this reeling ball,  
Oh, may its glittering spires be  
The last on earth to fall.

Davenport Democrat.

## Obituary.

### BRO. STEPHEN BLAIR.

It is our painful duty to have to subtract one more from the constantly thinning ranks of old Lancashire celebrities—the men who, by their indomitable energy and public spirit, have assisted in establishing the great industrial undertakings which have made the North of England so eminently populous and wealthy. Bro. Stephen Blair, of Mill Hill House, Bolton, died about six o'clock on Monday morning, at Peel Hall, the residence of his late brother, Mr. Harrison Blair. The deceased gentleman had been unwell more or less for the last six months. Indeed, it was observed that he never perfectly recovered the grief he felt at the loss of his brother, to whom he was much attached. He had at one time suffered from diabetes, and it was said he feared a return of that desperate disease. Nothing, however, of a serious nature was apprehended by his friends and medical attendants until so late as last Thursday, when very serious symptoms developed themselves, and he gradually sank to rest. Bro. Stephen Blair was the eldest son of the late Mr. George Blair of Bolton, and was a member of the well-known bleaching firm of Blair and Sumner, of which for some years he has been the only surviving partner. He was never married, and at the time of his decease was about 66 years of age. The proximate cause of his death was disease of the lungs and enlargement of the heart.

In politics Bro. Blair was a Conservative—he called himself a Liberal-Conservative—and in the not very conspicuous position he took in the arena of party warfare he was true to the cause he espoused, and was always to be relied upon by his friends. He was returned as member for Bolton, and served throughout one session in succession to Sir John Bowring. He was, however, defeated on a second appeal to the constituency by a majority of about 10, his opponents being Messrs. Crook and Barnes. Before being returned as the representative of his native town, he had served as mayor, and he has for some years been a justice of the peace for the county.

But, perhaps, Bro. Blair was best known for his connection with the Order of Freemasons. He served many arduous and responsible offices among the Fraternity, by whom his memory will ever be dearly cherished. To all their charities he was a generous donor, and in the administration of the several trusts committed to his care he was a zealous and discriminating worker. For fifteen or sixteen years he was D. Prov. G. Master of the Province of East Lancashire, and on the resignation of the late Earl of Ellesmere, he succeeded to the high position of of Prov. G. Master, which distinguished and honourable office he held with the utmost credit to himself and advantage to the brotherhood up to the time of his death. He was installed at the Manchester Royal Exchange in the year 1854, Bro. Albert Hudson Royds being at the same time appointed as his deputy. He was no merely ornamental officer. He was almost invariably to be found at the post of duty, guiding by his counsel, stimulating by his example, and carrying out into daily

practice the noble principles of the order. It was early in his term of office that the Masonic Club was established on an enlarged basis, and the commodious hall in Cooper-street, Manchester, was soon afterwards erected.

By virtue of his office he laid the foundation stone of the new building in 1862, and the hall was opened in 1864. The deceased brother was the Grand Superintendent of the Royal Arch Chapter of the province. He had just, within a few weeks of his death, completed a gift of £1,000 to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. This donation entitles the Provincial Grand Master for the time being in perpetuity to the nomination of one boy to participate in the educational and other advantages of the institution. Bro. Blair had not made any nomination, but it is understood that he had fixed upon an eligible candidate, whose appointment will now rest with his successor.

In addition to Mill Hill House, Bro. Blair had two seats in Scotland, one called Glenspean, and another in Caithnesshire, called Castle Braul. Here he had ample opportunities of following his favourite pastime of salmon fishing, and of indulging in field sports, of which he was very fond, and in which he was considered an accomplished practitioner.

The town and neighbourhood of Bolton have lost in the deceased gentleman a staunch and liberal friend; and his tall and erect form, crowned with a profusion of snow-white hair, will long linger in the recollection of those who ever found in him a true benefactor and a sterling friend.

#### BRO. CAPT. GEORGE FEAL LAMERT.

Bro. Capt. George Feal Lamert, *B.A.*, of Worcester College, expired a few days since, at his residence in Beaumont-street, in that city. Deceased held the office of Master of the Apollo University Lodge last year. Bro. Lamert was also *P.M.W.S.* of the Metropolitan Chapter *Rose Croix*, a member of *K.H. 30°*, Grand Dir. of *Cers.* Grand Conclave *K.T.*, besides holding other high Masonic honours.

#### LIST OF LODGE, MEETINGS, &c., FOR WEEK ENDING 16TH, JULY 1870.

(Abbreviations.—*F.M.H.*, Freemasons' Hall; *M.H.*, Masonic Hall; *M.T.*, Masonic Temple; *Tav.*, Tavern; *Ho.*, Hotel; *Ro.*, Rooms; *L.*, Lodge; *St.*, Street; *Sq.*, Square).

##### METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS.

*Tuesday, July 12th.*

LODGES.—Wellington, White Swan *Tav.*, Deptford; Stanhope, Thicket *Ho.*, Anerley, Surrey.

*Wednesday, July 13th.*

Com. *R.M.B. Inst.*, at 3.—LODGES.—Justice, White Swan *Tav.*, Deptford; Lily Lodge of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, Surrey; Beacontree, Private Rooms, Leytonstone; Hervey, George *Ho.*, Wallham-green.

*Thursday, July 14th.*

Quar. Gen. Court Girls' School, at *F.M.H.*, at 12.—LODGES.—Upton, Spotted Dog *Tav.*, Upton, Essex.—CHAPTERS.—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.

*Saturday, July 16th.*

Andit Com. Boys's School.—LODGE.—Lewis, Nightingale *Tav.*, Wood-green.

##### METROPOLITAN LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

*Monday, July 11th.*

Temple, Old George, St. Mary Axe, *E.C.*; Justice, Royal Albert New Cross-*rd.*, Deptford; Old Concord, Turk's Head, Motcombe-*st.*, Belgrave-*sq.*; Sincerity, Railway *Tav.*, London-*st.*; St. James's Union, Swan *Tav.*, Mount-*st.*, Grosvenor-*sq.*; In-

dustry, Dick's Coffee House, Fleet-*st.*; Crystal Palace, City Arms *Tav.*, West-*sq.*, Southwark; High Cross, White Hart *Ho.*, Tottenham; Tower Hamlets Engineers, Duke of Clarence, Commercial-*rd.*, East; Eastern Star, Royal *Ho.*, Burdett-*rd.*, Mile-end-*rd.*; Camden, Adelaide *Tav.*, Haverstock Hill; British Oak, Bank of Friendship *Tav.*, Mile End.

*Tuesday, July 12th.*

Faith, Fisher's Restaurant, Metrop. Dist. Rail., Victoria Station; Domatic, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor-park, Caumberwell; Jordan, Alwyne Castle, Canonbury; Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney; Prince Frederick William, Knights of St. John's *Tav.*, St. John's-wood; Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney; Royal Albert, White Hart, Abchurch-lane; Pythagorean, Prince of Orange, Greenwich; City of London, Shepherd and Flock *Tav.*, Bell-alley, Moorgate-*st.*; New Wandsworth, Freemasons' *Ho.*, New Wandsworth; Rose of Denmark, George *Ho.*, Aldermanbury; Metropolitan, George *Ho.*, Aldermanbury.—CHAPTER.—Robert Burns, Sussex Stores, Upper St. Martin's-lane.

*Wednesday, July 13th.*

Confidence, Railway *Tav.*, London-street; United Strength, Bull and Gate, Kentish Town; New Concord, Rosemary Branch *Tav.*, Hoxton; St. Mark's, Mawby Arms, Mawby-*st.*, S. Lam; beth; Peckham, Maismore Arms, Park-road, Peckham-Rye, Temperance in the East, George the Fourth, Catherine-*st.*, Poplar; Prosperity, Gladstone *Tav.*, Bishopsgate-street.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—St. James's Union, Swan *Tav.*, Mount-*st.*, Grosvenor-*sq.*

*Thursday, July 14th.*

Fidelity, Goat and Compasses, Euston-road; Kent, Duke of York, Borough-*rd.*, Southwark; United Mariners, Three Cranes, Mile-end-*rd.*; Vitruvian, White Hart, Colledge-*st.*, Lambeth; St. George's, Globe *Tav.*, Royal Hill, Greenwich; Manchester, Berkeley Arms, John-*st.*, Berkeley-square; Tranquillity, Sugar Loaf *Tav.*, Great St. Helen's, *E.C.*; Whittington, Thatched House *Tav.*, 9, Red Lion-*st.*; Royal Oak, Royal Oak Tavern, Deptford.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Joppa, Prospect of Whitby *Tav.*, 57, Wapping-wall.

*Friday, July 15th.*

St. Luke's, Pier *Ho.*, Cheyne-walk, Chelsea; Temperance, Victoria *Tav.*, Victoria-*rd.*, Deptford; Unions (Emulation Lodge of Improvement for *M.M.*), *F.M.H.*; United Pilgrims, Horns' *Tav.*, Kennington; Westbourne, the Grapes, Duke-*st.*, Manchester-square; Wellington, Lord Duncan Tavern, Broadway, Deptford; Florence Nightingale, Freemasons' *Tav.*, Woolwich; Ranelagh, Windsor Castle Hotel, King-*st.*, Hammersmith; Belgrave, Duke of Wellington, Spring-gardens, Charing-cross; St. James's, Gregorian Arms, Jamaica-row, Bermondsey; Doric, Three Cranes, Mile End-*rd.*; Rose of Denmark Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, White Hart, Barnes, Surrey Victoria, Andertou's *Ho.*, Fleet-*st.*; Hervey, George *Ho.*, Wallham-green.—CHAPTER OF INSTRUCTION.—Domatic Fisher's Restaurant, Victoria Station.

*Saturday, July 16th.*

Robert Burns, Sussex Stores, Upper St. Martin's-lane.

[This information is extracted from the "Universal Masonic Calendar," published at 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, and brethren who may detect any inaccuracies (and there are, doubtless, many), are respectfully requested to communicate the same to the Editor at the Office, No. 19, Salisbury-street, Strand.]

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

\* \* All Communications to be addressed to 19, Salisbury-street, Strand, W.C.,

We shall be glad to receive from brethren any proceedings of Masonic meetings, which shall be duly inserted. Communications should be forwarded so as to reach us as early in the week as convenient—not later than Wednesday if possible. We have to request our correspondents to be particular in writing names distinctly.