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IN GRAND LODGE the first question discussed was one of privilege, arising from a motion in Bro. WHITMORE's name, reflecting on the conduct of Bro. ROXBURGH in holding a private meeting in his chambers for securing the return of a select list for the BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

It was maintained by the EXECUTIVE that the question ought to have been brought before the Board, and not before G.L., and that though a meeting was held at the GRAND REGISTRAR'S Chambers, at which a list was agreed upon, that it was not a party movement, and therefore not liable to censure.

On the other hand it was argued that any meeting called by private invitation only, without due notice, and at which any brother who pleased, had not a right to be present, was to all intents and purposes a party movement, and as such unworthy of the legal adviser of the Craft.

Much extraneous matter was introduced into the debate, the EXECUTIVE carefully avoiding the real question, viz., whether the meeting was a private or a public one. GRAND LODGE, as might be expected from its present composition, upheld the GRAND REGISTRAR, and censured Bro. WHITMORE; a vote, which all fair men, will probably consider as an honour rather than the reverse.

Later in the evening it was announced that Bro. ROXBURGH'S list had been carried by a large majority.

The GRAND MASTER stated the result of his correspondence with the G.M. of CANADA, and a vote expressive of satisfaction at the happy result that has attended the negotiation, was unanimously agreed to.

The BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES having recommended the appointment of an ASSISTANT GRAND PURSUIVANT, it was proposed by Bro. BARRETT, that that office should be elective. This was of course represented by the adherents of the Executive, to be a covert attack upon the prerogative of the G.M. and was rejected. It is scarcely necessary to say, that the office being a *new* one, G.L. might as fairly appoint to it, as the G.M.; and that if "confidence" involves the appointment to all offices, whether old, or new, G.L. had better give up the appointment of GRAND TREASURER, and the Board of General Purposes.

GRAND LODGE was adjourned at 11 p.m. and a special meeting is to be held on the 23rd, to conclude the business.

IT is a matter for unmixed satisfaction that the Canadian business is at last settled, and that good feeling and amity is restored between ourselves, and our Trans-Atlantic Brethren. Long may the two GRAND LODGES continue to work together with that harmony without which Masonry loses one of its chief ornaments. It is not too much to say that the successful issue of the affair, is due in a very great measure to its having been conducted by the G.M. in place of by his subordinates. In proof of this, we need only refer to the vulgar and impertinent letters of the GRAND SECRETARY, which we published at the time; and which the Past G.M. of Canada stated to be "very personal" and "more likely to perpetuate disunion than to banish discord."

In connexion with this subject we may allude to the pleasant little job which the EXECUTIVE are proposing to perpetrate, by increasing the GRAND SECRETARY'S salary within two years of his appointment to office. Two years ago that eminent functionary thought he was handsomely paid for his work, otherwise he would not have accepted the office; what has occurred since his appointment to justify this proposed sudden rise? Not long services, for he has only been appointed two years. Not any wonderful success in the transaction of his business, for he has offended the Canadians and snubbed Provincial brethren of distinction, and moreover has had all his business to learn, which indeed is Bro. HAVERS' justification for having done nearly the whole work of the office. What then has occurred in two years to render such a step, contrary to all precedent, advisable? Simply this, that the EXECUTIVE have organized so compact a party that they feel themselves strong enough to carry anything, and very naturally intend to provide well for their own friends with the money of the Craft. In June, 1858, the BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES reported to G.L. as follows. "The Board have further to report, that the subject of the duties, and salaries of the Officers in the GRAND SECRETARY'S department, has been under their consideration, and the Board are of opinion that looking to the nature of the duties performed, the number of the staff employed, and the hours of attendance which the regulations of the office require, that it is neither necessary nor desirable under present circumstances, that any increase should be made, *in any of the existing salaries.*" And yet the same Board now reports "that they are of opinion that the salary of the GRAND SECRETARY is inadequate; it is not a sufficient remuneration for a gentleman who owing to the increase of work, is compelled to devote the whole of his time to

the duties of the office, and they recommend to G.L. that the salary of the GRAND SECRETARY be raised to £400 per annum, and that such increase shall take place from the 1st January, 1859." Six months after they had declared that no increase was necessary!

Are we content then that a clique of London Masons calling themselves GRAND LODGE, should thus be able to squander away the money of the Craft at large, in subsidies to their own friends? and what confidence can be placed in a Board which directly contradicts its own reports in the short space of one year?

WE have again to direct attention to the persecution of our ROMAN CATHOLIC Brethren by the heads of that denomination. When it was proposed to take steps to inform the hierarchy of the real principles of Masons, that course was opposed by Bro. HAYERS and his friends, for reasons which every one knows and appreciates, and the legitimate consequences have ensued. We must however express our conviction that the blasphemous parody of a Christian Sacrament, which has lately taken place across the Atlantic, under the name of Masonic "Baptism," coupled with the Socinianism which prevails at head-quarters in this country, go far to justify the Roman Church in the view she takes of our mysteries.

THE opinion seems to be gaining ground that while exclusive and improved accommodation must be provided for London Lodges, it is inexpedient that G.L. should apply for a wine and spirit licence on its own account, and unjust that a London Masonic Club, should be built with country money.

WE beg to draw attention to the attempt that is being made to carry out the schemes of the new cabal by means of the Board of Masters. That body is instituted for the reception of notices of motion, in order that no one may be taken by surprise in G.L.; there is no power whatever given by the Constitutions either to the Board or to its Chairman, to reject any motion whatever of which due notice is given, yet motions have lately been rejected by the Chairman (a Grand Officer); and the G.M. has of course ratified such rejection. And now the organ of the Executive contains this *naive* announcement on the subject of Candidates for the Board of General Purposes being proposed anonymously, which has been always customary, though the Constitutions are silent on the point. "Such a practice is not only loose but very reprehensible, and we think the Chairman of the Board of Masters ought at once to reject lists so handed in. *At the Meeting at Bro. Roxburgh's*, one of the principles strongly insisted upon was, that no Brother should be put in nomination for any office, without the name of the nominator being on the nomination paper."

We recommend this to the notice of our country brethren. The Constitutions being silent, "*The Meeting at Bro. Roxburgh's*" is to settle the point, and the country is to be bound by the decision!

As to the point in question, it is probably very advisable, but we do not understand what "*the Meeting at Bro. ROXBURGH'S*" has to do with its decision more

than a Meeting at Bro. JONES's at Liverpool, or Bro. BROWN's at Southampton.

THE APPOINTMENTS to offices in Grand Lodge, have been, this year, according to precedent, confined to those who enjoy the favour of the governing clique. Lord DE TABLEY, the S.G.W., was initiated in 1830, and having filled no office in his mother Lodge, nor rendered the smallest service to Masonry, retired into private life till a very recent period, when he joined a Lodge at Crewe, where he is about to take the J.W.'s chair! He is, however, said to be a distinguished Whig. Sir THOMAS HESKETH, J.G.W., has filled with credit the office of D.P.G.M., in his own province. He is, however, unknown in Grand Lodge; in which assembly he has not appeared either for his installation, or since. The Rev. Bro. BOWYER, G.C., is brother to the P.G.M. for Oxford, whose P.G.L. was one of the few that lately passed an adulatory address of confidence in the Executive.

BRO. SAVAGE, S.G.D., has rendered good service to the Charities and to the Craft, and ought to have been appointed long ago. He probably would have been, could the Executive have foreseen how entirely his principles would coincide with his apron.

BRO. SLIGHT, J.G.D., is well up in his work as Master of a Lodge, and so are hundreds of others; but then Bro. SLIGHT has always echoed the speeches of the Executive, besides being profuse in his hospitality among influential Masonic circles.

BRO. POCOCK, G.S.D., has done good service in Sussex to Masonry, and his appointment is unobjectionable: though in promoting a good Mason, the Executive have also rewarded a faithful adherent.

Probably when the plan adopted in every other G.L. throughout the Craft, is in force here—of a proportion of Grand Officers being appointed by G.L. itself—there will be less room for jobbing and corruption, and a better chance for meritorious and working Masons.

DISCUITS and sherry at Lincoln's Inn! And some malignants dared to call this a party cry. A mere hint of Savoy and South African;—and they pretended to hear in it the whisper of a faction. They remind one of the jury in *Bardell v. Pickwick*, who suspected a *double-entendre* in the celebrated message, "Chops and tomato sauce," and traced the foot-fall of intrigue in directions about a warming pan. Just as that honest but misguided twelve gave themselves up to the playful fancy woven for them by the Nemesis of confidential communications, and trampled on the respectability of the maligned victim of their verdict, so unfeelingly have many plain thinking, every-day Masons dealt with the Grand Registrar. They have, in the heat of their imaginations dignified with the title of an intrigue a simple social gathering, and exalted into the importance of a plot, a coterie of innocents assembled to "commune" over the best interests of the order.

What was the charge against Bro. ROXBURGH? That he had "considered it consistent with his duty to the

Craft to organize a party movement for the purpose of securing the election of certain brethren," &c.

"If this be true," says the Grand Registrar, "I am no longer fit to hold the office with which you have honoured me."

We may here remark that, although we may regret that any such course should ever be adopted, we dissent from so sweeping an axiom as the above. And our views are apparently sympathised with by Brothers GREGORY and HAINES, holding briefs for the defence. The former remarks in Grand Lodge, "if Brother ROXBURGH, or those who met in his chambers, were inclined to get up what is called a house list, they had every right to do so." The latter says, "It is stated that Bro. ROXBURGH held at his chambers a meeting of Brethren of his own peculiar views. My Lord, if he had done so, I contend that he would have been perfectly justified." (Cheers.) And yet so heinous a crime was it in a certain Brother to state his regret that some such tactics had been pursued, that an immediate vote of censure fulminated along the dais, and rumbled through the vast assemblage of metropolitan Masons there, by notice of the Grand Registrar himself, convened.

It would be a novelty if the Queen's proclamation at an assize were accompanied by a declaration of innocence on the part of the defendants in misdemeanour, but such is the only parallel we can suggest to the appendage of Bro. ROXBURGH's declaration to the agenda paper. However, if (in the teeth of the admissions of the experienced Brethren that a certain leaven of exclusiveness is allowable, when a Board of General purposes is to be elected), Bro. ROXBURGH really feels aggrieved at the imputation of such tactics resting upon him, he will take more extensive measures than he has done for making known to the Craft at large that he invited Brethren of all parties (*sic* in F. M.'s Mag., May 28), to attend his council board.

We shall look forward joyfully to the confirmation of such a statement. We doubt not it will come. Men shall learn how those blind malcontents who were the original introducers of party polemics into Masonry were disarmed by the courtesy of the Executive, and routed by the ready wit of the Grand Registrar. They shall hear how Themis herself laid aside the horsehair and alpaca for the apron of the brotherhood, and auspicated a millennium in the chambers of a pious and charitable votary. Was the very existence of party to be blotted out as something so noxious that even confessed mal-administration were a lesser evil? Then, of course, its ties were all unrecognized in the gathering of this federation of peace; and the lambs that had been the most rebellious to the summoning shepherd, were, for the very hardness of their hearts, the more tenderly invited to the elysium of this new and pleasant pasture. Already we seem to see the clerk in chambers pointing out with the tear of reconciliation in his eye, the spot where a noble Brother shook off the dust of Downing-street, and a reverend one from the bucolic districts, was invited to deposit his umbrella. If even the members of that odious "Observer party," had known of this general invitation, (there are

one or two Brethren of tolerable position and respectable education among them), the writer of this article would himself gladly have accepted the humblest stool that supported the foot of Gamaliel. As he writes, he is warned that in his suggestion of the attractions of the meeting in question he has "*embellished*." Rumour now says, "there were no biscuits and sherry."

THE discipline of the Craft is entrusted, as every one knows, to the BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES. They are the Masonic "Beaks" on whose decision all sorts of pains and penalties depend, subject to an appeal to Grand Lodge itself.

The Constitutions provide with jealous care for the impartiality of this important tribunal. Half is to be appointed by the Grand Master, half by Grand Lodge—the President by the former, the Vice-President by the Board itself; and it is always understood that the latter is not to be the fortunate wearer of the purple apron. All this is very well, and very necessary, since it is obviously of the highest importance that this Board should be so constituted as to secure the confidence and respect of every one over whom it has jurisdiction.

It is however no less clear, that if all these restrictions and checks are necessary for securing the appointment of a proper Board, none of them can be disregarded without manifest injury to the constitution of that body. It would be as fatal to destroy the influence of the Grand Master, as to set aside that of Grand Lodge, in its appointment. Being then convinced of the wisdom of the constitutional arrangement, we do most earnestly call the attention of our Brethren to the existing state of affairs.

In theory, one half of the Board is to be appointed by Grand Lodge—that is, by the Master, Wardens, and Past Masters, of all the Lodges in England and Wales. In practice, this popular half of the Board has always been appointed by the London Masons; those favoured few, whose lot is cast within the sound of Bow bells; the great majority of Grand Lodge, its country members, have had no more share in the election than the Hottentots. So unconstitutional and unfair is this, that the eminent jurist, Bro. ROXBURGH, has thought it no innovation—as indeed it scarcely is any—to invite a few friends to a quiet meeting at his house, and there to settle upon a list of Brethren who should ostensibly represent the choice of the seven hundred Lodges of England: so that the Constitutions notwithstanding, we have now a Board, one half of which is appointed by the Grand Master, the other by the Grand Registrar and his friends. That the Brethren so appointed will do their duty well, we have no wish to doubt; that they represent the Masons of England we beg most distinctly to deny.

But how long is this to go on? How long is a London minority to govern the country majority? Why is the Grand Lodge of England to be represented in Freemasons' Hall by the London Lodges only?

If the Provinces are to be governed by a central

Board, it is but just that they should have a voice in its appointment—so say the Constitutions. Why then we again ask is London to govern the country? There is every reason why it should not, but there is also a very sound reason why it does. So long as country Masons are forced to come to London to record their votes, those who live in London will enjoy a preponderance of power and influence, to which they are not entitled, either by their numbers, or their respectability. What is wanted in order that the Constitutions may be carried out is only this—that the poll should be carried to the voters, and not the voters forced to come to the poll at an expense which, in effect, acts as a prohibition. In other words, the Provinces have a right to demand that the machinery which is applied to the election of every Board of Directors in England, as well as to their own charities, should be applied to the election of the Directors of the Craft; that voting papers should be issued, subject to any restrictions that may be thought necessary for due security; and then, and not till then, will the Brethren in the Provinces, who compose the vast majority of Grand Lodge, have that voice in the appointment of their own rulers, which the Book of Constitutions gives them.

IT is a lamentable consideration that in this mundane state of existence, profession and practice so seldom go hand in hand. Moralists and Divines exquisitely dilate and eloquently preach on the value of purity, and the beauty of holiness, their own lives and conversations not always bearing the test to which they call upon others to submit. Statesmen wax fervid in their denunciations of corruption, not caring to remember the "secret service" organization, which they direct and control; and Grand Officers in accents of woe, mourn over the existence of "party," or in terms of the loudest indignation violently condemn it, conveniently ignoring their participation in the conclaves and councils, in which their "party" schemes are hatched and their "party" designs matured. The pulpit, the schools, and the senate, we have used only as illustrations—our business is with the Grand Officers, or rather those of them who are closely banded together, with a view *per fas et nefas* to support the present dynasty, and to compel so far as they can, the Craft to bow the knee to whatever idol it may please them to set up.

The meeting lately held at Bro. ROXBURGH'S, having for its object the election to the Board of General Purposes of such brethren only, as have found favour in the eyes of the executive either by unflinching support of, or tacit acquiescence in, their entire policy, is referred to in another part of our impression. How the list prepared at that meeting, duly "reduced," by the skilful manipulation of the GRAND REGISTRAR, has been printed and circulated under the auspices of those who have so energetically denounced the use of party lists, is already known. How the redoubted "head and front" of the august body under consideration, in tones bland and smooth, never loses an opportunity in G.L. of

expressing his regret at the unseemly dissensions which agitate and disturb us, and his earnest trust, that "by-gones may be by-gones," but whose peripatetic diatribes against all and every who dare to dissent from his views are the sure accompaniments of his domestic professions, is equally familiar to all. The sensitiveness of the GRAND REGISTRAR at having the propriety of his conduct even questioned, affords a pleasing contrast to the unscrupulous manner in which he is in the habit of hazarding assertions and imputing motives. Our present purpose however is briefly to lay before the Craft one or two instances which have come to our knowledge, of the comparatively private exercise of that Masonic kindness and charity, which our brethren of the dais affect so much to admire. The first we shall adduce, will prove that even from a private chapter the Nemesis of revenge cannot be excluded. Two years ago, Comp. BINCKES joined the Chapter, No. 259, at Romford, and duly filled the office of Prin. Soj., with the understanding that in May, 1859, he should duly succeed to the third chair. Comp. J. ADLARD presided over this Chapter as Z. during the past year, Comp. W. P. SCOTT (a Grand officer of both Craft and Arch Masonry) occupying the second chair. Some few weeks prior to the regular meeting, Comp. SCOTT caused an intimation to be conveyed to Comp. BINCKES, that his election to the third chair would be opposed, alleging as the reason his disapprobation of Bro. BINCKES'S conduct in G.L., thus testifying that ability or fitness in any other point of view, is not sufficient qualification for office, but that in the event of a Bro. or Comp. venturing to differ on broad questions of Masonic policy with those whose influence is paramount in the Lodge or Chapter of which he is a member, he forfeits all right to that preferment which he naturally thinks himself entitled to expect. Comp. BINCKES not caring to contest a point with those capable of entertaining feelings so petty and unfraternal, of course resigned, leaving the Comps. of this snug coterie at leisure to denounce unopposed, the "factious" conduct in G.L. of those who presume to think for themselves, and to act independently.

The next instance of this high and holy feeling is still worse. It is an unquestioned fact, that with very few exceptions, the magnates of G.L. rarely are visible at the meetings of the Charity Committees. They can attend, however, when a "party" purpose has to be served. Witness the meeting of the Boys' School General Committee, on Saturday, 4th June. The House Committee for the ensuing year had to be elected. Amongst the Candidates were Bros. JNO. BARNES and GEO. BARRETT, two brethren whose exertions in support of the various Masonic Charities, we venture to affirm, will compare favourably with any of the wearers of those honors, from a share in which they have been excluded. To recount their labours—the time they have bestowed—the money they have contributed—would exceed our limits, and is unnecessary because the facts are within the knowledge of all. But their "offence is rank" inasmuch as they have dared to oppose the ruling powers

—nay more, they were two out of the four independent candidates submitted to G.L. for election to the Board of General Purposes, on Wednesday 1st inst., and therefore Bros. HAYERS, ROXBURGH, LOCOCK-WEBB, and their adherents, attended in full force, and having delivered in their voting papers, retired. The result may readily be anticipated.

It is right that these things should be made known, in order to enable brethren to judge correctly of those who are continually crying "Peace, peace, where there is no peace." Acts prove more than words; example is more powerful than precept.

We cannot conclude without saying a word as to the dismissal of the old and tried servant of Grand Lodge, Bro. DENISON, who has reported the proceedings faithfully for the last 10 or 12 years. We are in possession of the facts of the case, which are in all essential particulars, as stated by our correspondent. Bro. DENISON is another victim of the ruling faction in G.L.

PATRONAGE. What a vast amount of power does that one little word imply. Miss Edgeworth once wrote an entire novel about it, and any one else might do the same, without the slightest difficulty. In the Grand Lodge of England, and its various Boards and Committees, there is a considerable amount of Patronage, and by far the greater part of it is in the hands of one individual, and that one individual continues to exercise it, not for one, or two, or three years, or for any definite period of time, but for years unlimited in number, and remarkable only for the resemblance which the proceedings of any one year, bear to those of its predecessors or successors, no matter which, whether as regards the proceedings themselves, or the spirit in which they are conducted.

We need scarcely say that we allude to the Grand Master of our order, not as an individual, but in his public capacity, and in doing so, we do not charge the Earl of Zetland with the evils which arise, not so much from any fault on his part, as from a system which he found in full force when he entered on the duties of his office, and for which therefore he is not to blame. The practical effect of this system is, that a vacancy in the office of Grand Master of England very seldom occurs otherwise than by death. It is in the nature of few men voluntarily to resign a position of power and influence, and thus many noblemen and gentlemen (whose claims for promotion in the Craft, whether from their position in Society, or from their intellectual attainments,) are debarred from attaining that eminence which they have a right to expect. It is utterly impossible that of all the nobility, all the intellect of England, only *one* individual can be found worthy of the distinction of the Grand Mastership. Other societies change their presiding officer oftener than once in a quarter of a century, and why should Freemasons be the only society in the United Kingdom who have not a similar advantage?

This *system* it was, (not especially with respect to the Grand Master, we are speaking *generally* of the absence of changes,) which brought about all the stagnation in the Grand Secretary's office, the result of which was, as is but too well known, the defection of Canada, and general dissatisfaction throughout the Provinces and the Colonies alike, and the effects of which still are and will be felt for some time to come.

We are now however *gradually* recovering from these evils: but surely after having once suffered, we shall not be foolish enough to suffer from them or similar ones again; but shall, not in the spirit of red hot reform, but soberly and temperately, make such changes as may prevent their recurrence.

That we have the full *power* to do so, who can doubt who will turn to page 23, section 14, of the book of Constitutions? a passage indeed which seems to be but little known, or if known at least carefully ignored by the greater part of our Brethren.—"*The Grand Lodge alone has the inherent power of enacting laws and regulations for the government of the Craft, and of altering, repealing, and abrogating them,* always taking care that the ancient land-marks of the Order be preserved."

Without on the present occasion entering into any explanation of the question with respect to "land-marks," which a correspondent has opened, we may safely assert that there is nothing contrary to any "land-mark" in an assertion on the part of the Brethren of their full and entire right to exercise their votes in favour of any person whatsoever; indeed the mere fact of a form of election year by year is *per se* an admission of it. Our object is to convince the Brethren that it is not only for their individual interest, but for the good of the Craft at large that they should exercise their right, not to disturb the *present* Grand Master, not to eject him, possessing as he evidently does in an eminent degree the confidence of a large section of the Craft, from the high post he has so long filled, and the duties of which he has discharged in a manner so dignified, but that when in the course of nature, a change is *made* that before the election of a new Grand Master, the office be made triennial or quinquennial at the most; at all events terminable, by the insertion of a clause to this effect in the Book of Constitutions. By this arrangement many noblemen of high merit, whom it is now invidious even to put in nomination, and who would most likely feel in how invidious a position they would be placed were they so *nominated*, and would decline, as one lately did, to displace a Brother who had held office so long as the present G.M., but who, if the office were limited to a term of years would have no such feelings of delicacy when the occasion for them was removed, and who by their attainments and position in society would reflect credit on the choice of the Brethren no less than on the office itself, would be induced to take an interest in the Craft, and to bestow on it that attention and zeal which now in so many instances if not absolutely wanting, are at least damped by the knowledge that they can never look for that advancement to which they are fairly entitled. Of

course we do not mean that a man is of any value who comes into the Craft merely for what he can get, but simply that the Homeric adage—

“*αὐτὸν ἀριστεῦναι καὶ ὑπεύροχον ἔμμεναι ἄλλων*”

holds good in Freemasonry as in other human affairs, and that—

“*Si præmia tollas, spes concidit.*”

IN our last number there appeared the following paragraph, “The Freemasons’ Magazine which has for a long time been in a failing condition, has been bought by the Executive.” We are sorry to find that this plain statement of two notorious facts, has roused the violent indignation of our contemporary. It is an “offensive and insolent statement,” which “everybody knows to be utterly untrue.”

Now we can easily understand that little credit attaches to any periodical from its connection with the Executive. Still it is scarcely fair to borrow, or accept, money from a man, and then disavow his acquaintance. And the most ardent admirer of our contemporary may well be thankful for so substantial a reason for the very sudden conversion which he has lately experienced. We should not however have thought for a moment of making such a statement, had not our contemporary himself proclaimed the fact in his advertizing columns. What do we read there?

That Bro. WARREN convened a meeting on the 6th of January. That he entered into an explanation of the financial position of the *Freemason’s Magazine*. That the meeting entered into a subscription to enable the Editor to meet his losses. So much then for our contemporary’s “failing condition.” And who are those men to whom Bro. WARREN is under pecuniary obligations to the amount of at least £130, which we are told was contributed in the room? His own columns shall tell us. Bro. HALL, P.G.M., for Cambridge, Bro. HAVERS, Bro. ROXBURGH, and seven other Grand Officers, the rest of the meeting being made up of well known members of their party in G.L., *e.g.* Bros. PENKINS, BEAUMONT, WHEELER, GREGORY, &c. It is with the money of these brethren and their friends, that the *Magazine* is now being conducted; and as a consequence of the inspirations received by Bro. WARREN from his new Proprietors, or Creditors, or Patrons, we have a tone adopted in the new organ of the Executive, which is utterly incompatible with anything but the most extreme partizanship.

For instance, any lodge presuming to differ from the policy of Bro. HAVERS in wishing the craft to become licensed victuallers, is immediately liable to an admonition, more or less characteristic, from Bro. WARREN. The Royal Cumberland Lodge at Bath, is a case in point.

Then any brother who has the misfortune to incur the displeasure of the Executive, is forthwith singled out for the impertinent remarks of their hired scribe. A noble, and a Rev. Brother were lately favoured with some choice personalities, because they had *not* brought

forward any motions in G.L.! we need not say what would have been their fate had they done so.

The craft at large is after all the best judge of the merits of the publications it is pleased to support. And we fearlessly leave to their decision the plain question, whether our contemporary has the slightest claim to be considered anything else but the unscrupulous organ of an unscrupulous party.

THE Committee of the Boys’ School “feel sure that the members of the Craft will at once recognize the manifest advantage of having the whole of the Boys of the Institution under one roof, and under the control and direction of an adequate staff of Masters, who will be directly responsible to the Executive, into whose hands the management of the School is annually entrusted.”

We confess that, while we give full credit to the Committee for their good intentions and anxieties to fulfil the trust reposed in them, we more than doubt the policy of collecting all the Boys under one roof. And for this reason—That where it can be had, there is nothing equal to home influence.

It is notorious that half the sin and vice of after life, has had its beginnings in private schools. No Committee of tradesmen, however upright, can give that tone to a School, which nothing but high character, and a decided vocation for such a work in the master, will produce. Such a man would never consent, for a single day, to be under the control of “the Executive” of the School. Since Dr. Arnold set the example, it has taken some of the cleverest and most religious men in England, the best part of their lives, to solve the problem of how a Christian education was to be given to boys. Anything short of this, is a positive injury to them—it makes them clever, vicious devils.

The difficulties of imparting a sound religious education to the class of boys which fills our Masonic School, are so great, as almost to have baffled every effort hitherto made.

We should regret, then, to see the home education abolished, for the sake of a centralization which, to say the least, is of very doubtful benefit. Rather let the sum paid for each boy at his own home, be such as to provide for his clothing and maintenance, and his education in the best Day School within his reach. And let those who have no home, be housed in the Boarding School, as at present.

A HINT TO THE ARISTOCRACY.—At the recent P.G.L. banquet held at Banbury, Bro. Havers P.G.D. warned the members of the Apollo, that their only hope of advancement in G.L. lay in supporting his party. “No greater wrong could be done to the Order than to endeavour to poison the minds of the young Noblemen and aristocratic members of the Craft, on their introduction to G.L.; to do so was not only a wrong to the individual, it was a crime against the Craft as tending to rob it of its brightest ornaments; if they wanted a safe and sure guide, let them follow their P.G.M.”

THE COUNTRY LODGES AND GRAND LODGE.—It has often been said, that G.L. under the present system of representation, is little better than the Prov. G.L. of London. The following fact corroborates this opinion. In the G.L. of March last, when the G.M. was elected, there were present 46 Country Masons, and 213 from London.

GRAND LODGE.

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The Quarterly Communication was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday last, June 1st, the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, M.W.G.M., presiding, supported by Bros. Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, as D.G.M.; Frederick Dundas, M.P., as S.G.W.; Frederiek Pattison, as J.G.W.; S. Tomkins, G. Treas.; Rev. A. Ward, G. Chaplain; Roxburgh, G. Reg.; W. G. Clarke, G. Sec.

Grand Lodge having been opened in ample form,

The M.W. Grand Master said—Brethren, before the business of the evening commences I wish to inform you I have received a communication from the D.G.M., Lord Paumure, expressing his regret at being unable to attend Grand Lodge, on account of important private business detaining him in Scotland.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

Bro. ROXBURGH, G. Reg., then addressed the M.W.G.M., and said, Most Worshipful Grand Master, I wish, before anything else is done, to call attention to what I conceive to be a breach of privilege. (Hear, hear.) There is on the paper of this evening a notice of motion by Bro. Whitmore, reflecting on the conduct of the Grand Registrar, and I submit that it is a breach of privilege. It is a notice of motion assuming as a fact a vague report which has appeared in a certain periodical, and which Bro. Whitmore has not brought before the Board of General Purposes (the constitutional tribunal for the investigation of charges against any brother). Upon that report Bro. Whitmore has founded an accusation, which he has not attempted to prove before that Board. (Hear, hear.) No brother has, I conceive, a right to circulate among the Craft a charge against another brother assuming that which has never been proved. (Cheers.) Whether it be or not a breach of privilege, I ask your indulgence, inasmuch as I am not longer fit to hold the office with which you have honoured me, should the scandalous charge preferred against me be true—that you will allow the motion to be at once brought forward before Grand Lodge, that Bro. Whitmore may have an opportunity of proving his charge, or that I may be exculpated from it. It states that "the Grand Lodge is desirous of expressing its regret that the Grand Registrar should consider it consistent with his duty to the Craft, of which he is the authorized legal adviser, to organize a party movement for the purpose of securing the election of certain brethren as members of the Board of General Purposes." It is impossible that I can be in a position to advise your lordship on the election of the Board of General Purposes while that charge remains undisposed of. It charges me with conduct which I emphatically and indignantly deny. I deny that there is a particle of truth in it; and I ask your lordship to have it at once investigated, and I throw myself on your indulgence and of that of Grand Lodge. (Cheers.)

The M.W. GRAND MASTER.—I hope I may save the time of Grand Lodge by the few observations which I shall now make. (Hear, hear.) I can assure the Grand Lodge and Bro. Roxburgh, that this notice has not escaped my observation. It decidedly appears to me to be a breach of privilege (hear, hear), inasmuch as it contains an unproved charge against a Grand Officer, who, to use the words of the notice itself, "is the legal adviser of the Craft." Whether such a charge be true or false, it ought, in my opinion, to have been brought before the Board of General Purposes, as the constitutional Board for the investigation of all such complaints; but to bring it before Grand Lodge as a notice of motion, which can only be brought on at the termination of the business of the evening, puts Grand Lodge in this position—that it has to proceed with the election of the Board of General Purposes, while there is on the notice paper a charge against the Grand Registrar of organizing a party movement to insure the election of certain brethren as members of that Board. But whether the notice be or be not a breach of privilege, it is evident to me that the election of the Board cannot be satisfactorily disposed of until this charge is met, and either substantiated by Bro. Whitmore, or repudiated by Grand Lodge. I now call on Bro. Whitmore to proceed.

Bro. BINCKES rose to address Grand Lodge.

The M.W. GRAND MASTER.—I called on Bro. Whitmore.

Bro. GEORGE BARRETT.—Bro. Whitmore is not now present. He will be here later in the evening, when the motion may come on in regular order.

Bro. BINCKES then said, that a previous engagement occasioned the absence of Bro. Whitmore; but if he were in order he would endeavour, on his behalf, to bring forward the motion. First of all he would comment on the admission of Bro. Roxburgh, that if the facts were correctly stated, he was not any longer fit to hold his

present office. He (Bro. Binckes) would not have used language so strong as that, nor did the wording of the motion justify it. (Oh, oh.) Bro. Roxburgh too had circulated with the agenda paper a printed slip, in which he denounced the motion as a scandalous attack upon himself. No brother had, he conceived, the right so to circulate any private notice of his own. But to come to the facts of this astounding case (Oh, oh!) first he would call attention to the terms of the motion. It merely said—"that the Grand Lodge was desirous of expressing its regret [he would ask them to mark that word] that the Grand Registrar should consider it consistent with his duty to the Craft, of which he is the authorized legal adviser, to organize a party movement for the purpose of securing the election of certain brethren as members of the Board of General Purposes." Bro. Roxburgh said he considered that to be a scandalous attack upon himself, but in the name of Bro. Whitmore he protested against such language, and he was there to justify every expression used in the motion, which was as mild (laughter) as was consistent with the facts of the case.

Bro. JENNINGS, G.D.C., requested Bro. Binckes to address the Grand Master.

Bro. BINCKES said he had already made obeisance to the M.W. Grand Master, and denied that he had ever shown a want of proper respect to the throne. All that Grand Lodge was now asked to do was, to express its regret that one of the Grand Officers had taken a certain course. It was a mere matter of taste, of good taste or bad taste, they were called to decide upon. It might be asked if an independent member of Grand Lodge were to be debarred from exercising his right and privilege to take counsel with whom he pleased on matters relating to the Craft. Abstractedly, he would say, no; but there were two Grand Officers—the Grand Registrar and Grand Secretary—who consistently with good taste ought not to take any such course. The motion spoke of organizing a party movement; but if in the nineteenth century they were amenable to common sense, they ought to call things by their proper names. If Bro. Roxburgh called a meeting which did meet at his offices to arrange a list of brethren for election to the Board of General Purposes whose names would be unobjectionable to the Craft, he (Bro. Binckes) would call that a party movement. Was that done, or was it not done? Was it good taste, or was it bad taste? To shew that it had been done, he would read a letter from one who was present at the meeting, Bro. Warren, the editor of the *Freemasons' Magazine*, who, with that candour, openness, and manliness, which always distinguished him said, "It is true that there was a meeting at Bro. Roxburgh's, and it is true I was present [he would ask them to mark those two lines], but it is not true that Bro. Roxburgh stated he had called the meeting, either at the request of Bro. Havers, or of any other brother; neither is it true that the meeting deputed to Bros. Roxburgh and Havers the preparing of a list of candidates for the Board of General Purposes. The meeting nominated a list of sixteen or seventeen candidates, certainly, leaving it to Bro. Roxburgh to reduce it to fourteen, so that there should not be any particular predominating interest upon it (while the law will not allow two to serve from the same Lodge) [beautifully and parenthetically put], and there never was the slightest allusion to the *Observer*, or any other party. Who may have been subsequently consulted with regard to the reduction of the list, I am not prepared to say, but I freely admit that I for one have been so consulted, and I believe the list, as now arranged, will be as popular as any ever submitted to Grand Lodge. [The rest of that rested with the brethren then present.] What Bro. Roxburgh particularly impressed on the brethren at the meeting was this, that the time for exclusiveness and secrecy in the proceedings or elections of Grand Lodge had passed. (Hear, hear.) [Happy was it for Masonry if that time had arrived.] And he called upon the brethren duly to consider all the business to be brought before Grand Lodge prior to the meetings; to take their fair share in the business; and so render the decisions come to by Grand Lodge and its Boards, what they ought to be—the reflex of the opinions of the large mass of the brethren." (Cheering.) To that he thought no sane brother could object. He would now ask if it was any use for him to prove a fact so plainly acknowledged by a brother who was present at the meeting. Another brother who had been there had distinctly and solemnly assured him that the report of the proceedings which appeared in one of the ordinary channels of communication was perfectly true, except so far as related to Bro. Havers, and that was rather an embellishment. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) He hoped that was the case, and he had no doubt it was; but did that matter of detail interfere with the main fact that a meeting had been held to exclude from the Board of General Purposes the representatives of a large, numerous, and important body in the Craft, and that there, in consultation with brethren of his own views, Bro. Rox-

burgh submitted a list, and organized a movement for the election of fourteen brethren of his own views, or of views not opposed to his own? That was a fact which could not be gainsaid, controverted, or denied. (Hear, hear.) He defied Bro. Roxburgh to deny it. The notice of motion was justified by the facts of the case, and he therefore now asked Grand Lodge to express its opinion upon the matter, and if they called a spade a spade, they would say it was a party movement to arrange for carrying a particular list of candidates for the Board of General Purposes. In good government there must always be party, but then they should act on the apostolic maxim, and do all things in decency and order. (Oh, oh!) Relying on their common sense, he asked them to say aye or nay whether the conduct of Bro. Roxburgh was right or not right?

Bro. SHERRY seconded the motion.

Bro. SAVAGE, S.G.D.—Most Worshipful Grand Master, I am surprised and astonished that, on evidence worse than meagre—indeed without any foundation whatever—any brother should present to Grand Lodge, on mere assumption, a charge like that now brought against Bro. Roxburgh. I regret, first of all, I must say, that such a notice should appear on the paper—that a notice, impeaching the character, as well as the dignity of a Grand Officer, should be circulated throughout the length and breadth of the land. I do think that, without much stronger evidence (and here there is no evidence to warrant it) such a motion should not have been put on the paper by Bro. Whitmore. I have had a long acquaintance with Bro. Whitmore, and I esteem him, but I do think that, in this instance, he has made a great mistake, and I am somewhat surprised that he is not here in person to bring the motion forward, and that for that purpose he has not put aside every other engagement, as it impeaches the character and judgment of the Grand Registrar. While we ought to be jealous of our rights and privileges, we should, I think, guard them by seeing that none but legitimate notices are placed on the paper, and not notices on such an assumption of miscoloured facts as the motion before us. (Hear.) How has it been supported? I confess that, although I came here to defend what has been done, I did not expect that so slight a case would have been made out. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Binckes asks Grand Lodge to express its regret at what has taken place—regret! and what does that mean? It means a vote of censure in disguise. (Cheers.) Are you about to pass such a vote on what you have heard? We have not heard a word from the worthy brother who seconded the motion, so that we have to take the case as placed before us by Bro. Binckes, and I ask you whether what he has stated does not manifest itself as being much of assumption. I admit that he was not bound to tell us where he got his information. He tells us, however, that the part of the report relating to Bro. Havers is an embellishment. (Laughter.) It is the first I have heard of Bro. Havers having taken any part at all in the meeting referred to. I am one of those who attended that meeting, and I did not meet Bro. Havers there. (Hear, hear.) When I attended it I did not know that it was summoned for any special object whatever. (Hear, hear.) I heard Bro. Roxburgh state that it was his wish to promote the interests of the Craft, and take counsel with the brethren as to what was best to be done; and among other matters reference was made to the Board of General Purposes; and is that—the privilege of every member of the Craft—to be denied to the Grand Registrar of the order? You will, I am sure, admit that he has a right to take such counsel, and if so, I would appeal practically to you—I would say that you have evidence before you that what has been done is not a party move. Look to the left hand side of the list—the list of Masters. Only one of the names placed there has been heard of before in connexion with what takes place in Grand Lodge, and his name was not placed on the list by us. They are all independent members of Grand Lodge, and by only putting one other name in nomination on the list of Masters, it is practically admitted that, six out of the seven are unobjectionable. It is admitted on all sides that six of the names could not be improved, and in that fact you have a proof that it is not quite so much a party list as it has been represented to be. (Hear, hear.) I stand here to protect your privileges, and not only yours, but also those of the Grand Registrar. If you disapprove of the names, you have in your hands the remedy and can reject them. For the last twenty years it has been the practice to take the opinion of different members in Grand Lodge as to who are the most fitting brethren to constitute the Board of General Purposes, and there has been no question as to how the lists have been prepared. The real question is, are they fit and proper men? You are right to say that you will not be dictated to by a hole and corner meeting, but was the meeting so often referred to one of that kind. It was, if anything, too open, and characterized by too much straightforwardness. That seems to be the objection to it; and it is argued that, because so

many brethren were consulted, it was therefore a party movement. Nothing was ever more straightforward, or more upright than the conduct of Bro. Roxburgh, and I am bound to bear witness that he is actuated by but one feeling and one wish—to render the best service to the Craft from his warm attachment to Freemasonry. I cannot but term what you have heard an assumption on facts which do not justify it—in fact, mere guesswork. The statement originally published was most incorrect, and though I have not yet denied that portion of it which referred to my name, I take this opportunity to say, that a statement more unwarrantably incorrect could not possibly have been put into print. (Hear, hear.) It is founded on something that did take place, but the facts have been so distorted, that when I read the report I could not help smiling; indeed, I did not recognize the meeting I attended in that garbled and unfair statement of what took place. There is nothing in the conduct of Bro. Roxburgh which calls on you to censure him or express in the mild words of Bro. Binckes, “your regret,” except it be your regret that the notice of motion should have been for the time circulated amongst the members of the Craft to his prejudice, and though I feel sure your good sense will give a negative to the motion, I would throw out the suggestion that you should do something more. As the charge has been put on the agenda, and so circulated amongst the brethren, I would suggest that you should go some steps further, and instead of giving the motion a cold negative—for Bro. Roxburgh deserves better things of you—I would say, let us tell the Masons of England that he has faithfully discharged the duties of his high office. (Cheers.) I believe the more we know of him the better we shall like him, and should he continue to hold his present appointment we shall find in him a most excellent officer. Bro. Roxburgh is comparatively to me a stranger, but I am so thoroughly convinced, Masonic feeling, and nothing but Masonic feeling, influenced him in doing as he has done and as he had a perfect right to do, that I hope you will not only give a negative to the motion, but do something more to vindicate his conduct, and prevent an indirect censure being passed upon him by Grand Lodge. (Cheers.)

Bro. BLAKE believed nothing could be more injurious to the cause of Masonry, than small party cliques in Grand Lodge. He thought the complaint before Grand Lodge came with an ill grace from Bro. Binckes, a member of an organized party—which, by their movements last year, excluded him from the Board of General Purposes in favour of a member of the same Lodge who never attended the Board, and would not have allowed himself to be put in nomination if he had known it.

Bro. STREBBING regretted that Bro. Savage's first speech from the dais, should be in support of what he considered the improper conduct of a Grand Officer. There was no doubt that a meeting had been held in Bro. Roxburgh's chambers, and an arrangement made to secure the election of certain Brethren on the Board of General Purposes. His conduct at that meeting was tantamount to that of a clerk of the peace, who would pack a jury to decide on the liberties of the people. (No, no.) As an Englishman, he protested against such unconstitutional conduct. He was as ready as any man to denounce party; and should he be placed upon the Board, he should pursue a straight and undeviating line of conduct—and endeavour, by all means, to put an end to a practice which he regarded as unholly and unworthy of Grand Lodge.

Bro. GREGORY thought the weakness of the case had been shown in the way Bro. Binckes had addressed Grand Lodge, in an appeal *ad misericordiam*. The motion itself bore every mark of an obstructive party spirit, and he therefore wished to move an amendment upon it. They had already heard from Bro. Savage that the statement was grossly untrue; and the mover himself admitted that the paragraph on which it was founded was, in regard to the name of Bro. Havers, an embellishment—a mild word for a gratuitous falsehood: and he (Bro. Gregory) could not but admire the dexterity with which the names of Brethren known to be popular in the Craft were introduced as dissentients. Bro. Savage was one of those, and he could tell them that, although there might have been differences of opinion expressed upon some points, they were animated by one mind; and that not a single name on the list had been suggested by the Grand Registrar. He invited a number of Brethren to meet together, and asked them not to leave the business to be brought before Grand Lodge entirely to the dais, but to work for themselves, and he (Bro. Gregory) could not see anything very unconstitutional in that (hear, hear); and yet he held, that if Bro. Roxburgh, or those that met in his chambers, were inclined to get up what is called a house list, they had a perfect right to do so. The statement that the list was a packed one was, he would not say intentionally false, but perfectly erroneous, for it would be seen that the names were taken from all classes of the Craft. The charge embodied in

the motion ought to have been investigated by the Board of General Purposes, the proper and constitutional tribunal, before it was placed on the agenda paper. If he was out of order in denouncing it as an "election dodge," he would withdraw the observation, and say that there was something behind it—that the object was not on the face of it. It was, he considered, a cowardly attack upon Bro. Roxburgh; for when Bro. Whitmore placed it there, he knew, or rather thought, that it would not come on for discussion that evening, and that thus the calumny would be allowed to remain before the Craft uncontradicted. That had been the policy of the obstructives, and the M.W. Grand Master himself had been similarly attacked. (Question, question.)

The M.W. GRAND MASTER said Bro. Gregory had a right to refer to whatever in the past illustrated his argument, but hoped he would bear in mind the time of Grand Lodge.

BRO. GREGORY would do so, but he had in his hand three different notices of motion, brought forward at different times by the members of the party to whom he alluded, attacking his lordship in covert language—not one of which had come before Grand Lodge for decision. He would now implore Grand Lodge to deal fairly with the feelings of a Brother, whose character and good name they were bound to support; and to give them an opportunity of so doing, he would move as an amendment, "that this Grand Lodge is of opinion that the charge implied against the Grand Registrar is unfounded, and that the giving notice of motion imputing misconduct to any Brother, upon insufficient grounds, or a mere assumption of facts, is deserving of severe censure."

BRO. MCINTYRE seconded the amendment. He had been present at the meeting, and could give the report of its proceedings an emphatic and indignant denial. It assembled for no party object, but with the view of making arrangements for so conducting the transactions of Grand Lodge, that they should have the confidence of the Brethren all over the world—and that purpose was adhered to. It had been said that a list was proposed by Bro. Roxburgh for the adoption of the meeting; but that was not the case. On the contrary, the list of which they heard so much, was the spontaneous production of those who attended the meeting, and any other statement was unfounded and scandalous.

BRO. MASON thought the motion before Grand Lodge, was only whether it was true that such a meeting had been held. He entertained a high esteem for Bro. Roxburgh, knowing and respecting his character and forensic talents. He made this remark, that his motive in stating that if such a meeting was held it was a thing which should not exist among Masons, might not be misunderstood. Speaking without any party spirit, for he detested it, he could not help thinking that the calling of such a meeting by the Grand Registrar, was inconsistent with proper legislation among Masons; and he hoped the expression of an opinion by Grand Lodge on the subject, would prevent its being repeated.

BRO. HAYERS: I am sure that Grand Lodge will bear with me a few minutes, while I endeavour to bring it back to the main facts of the case. It is stated that Bro. Roxburgh held at his chambers, a meeting of Brethren of his own peculiar views. (Hear, hear.) My lord, if he had done so, I contend that he would have been perfectly justified. (Cheers.) I believe, from the bottom of my heart, that a large portion of the difficulty and discord we have seen of late years, has arisen from the circumstance that Brethren high in office have not thought it worth their while to consult other Brethren on the business of Grand Lodge. I emphatically, and on my honour as a Mason, deny that Bro. Roxburgh has done anything deserving the censure of the Craft. He has held a meeting—is that organizing a party movement? What has he done? He has departed from an old and, as I really believe, a bad custom. He has done openly and publicly, what was before done secretly. Instead of asking men of his own peculiar views to meet him, he invited some thirty or forty influential Brethren of all parties, many of whom were personally unknown to him, and he invited their counsel and assistance in carrying on the work of the Craft. He saw the time was gone by when two or three Brethren could dictate to the Craft (cheers), and there should be no longer anything like exclusiveness. Is he to be blamed for this? (Cheers.) If he is to be blamed, let him not be blamed alone; let me say boldly and at once, he acted by and with the advice of his colleagues, and if he is deserving of censure so are we. (Cheers.) This, then, is what Bro. Roxburgh has done, and no more. It has been alleged in a publication, which there seems to be an unwillingness to name—the *Era* newspaper—that there has been a base conspiracy concocted; and it has been further alleged, that none but party men would be put on the Board of General Purposes. To prove the falsehood of this charge, you have heard to-night Bro. Savage tell you there is no truth in it, nor in the statements made in reference to himself only. I hold in my hand a letter

from an old friend, Stephen Barton Wilson, who hoped to be present to give it his denial: he writes to me from the Hotel, Gravesend, stating that illness renders it impossible for him to move, or that he would be here in person to contradict it. You have here our worthy Brother, Joseph Smith, and he, likewise, will tell you that from beginning to end it is utterly false. (Cheers.)

My lord, at your bidding, we came forward in times of great difficulty to assist in carrying on the business of Grand Lodge; we have done so zealously and faithfully, I believe I might add successfully. (Hear, hear.) Since we have held office, we have been exposed to repeated charges of misconduct. So long as those charges were general, it were impossible to meet or refute them; but whenever a special charge has been made, we have been ready and willing to reply to and disprove it. You, my lord, were the first object of a specific attack—you were charged with having prostituted your patronage to political purposes (hear, hear); you indignantly refuted and repelled that charge (hear, hear), and the Grand Lodge endorsed your refutation. The Lodges in the Provinces indignantly echoed that refutation; and even from the other side of the Atlantic, from our West India Provinces, was that denial re-echoed. The charge of censure is now upon the Grand Registrar; of two things, one must be true. If the censure rests upon the Grand Registrar, and if he is guilty of what he is charged with, he is no longer worthy of his office. But if it does not rest on him, it rests on those who, through the length and breadth of the land, have circulated a calumny upon him. (Cheers.) With regard to this charge, I meet it boldly and openly; our opponents have now fixed upon a special charge: we accept the issue raised by Bro. Whitmore, and supported by Bro. Binckes, and upon the verdict of Grand Lodge we will stand or fall. If it be true, then are we not fit to hold our office one moment longer. If it be not true, I call upon Grand Lodge to relieve us from the reproach attempted to be cast on us. It is not sufficient to meet the motion by a mere negative; you are bound to show yourselves the custodians of the honour of your Brethren—the honour of one is the honour of all—and if your chief officer be guilty of the offence with which he is charged, he is no longer worthy to be your officer. In a paper published this day, I am called by the mover of this resolution, the "arch-apostle of discord." (Laughter.) I see by the smiles of Grand Lodge, that my Brethren take the charge as I do, whence it comes. My lord, the Craft is utterly tired of these intestine quarrels, so detrimental to the harmony and best interests of Freemasonry. (Hear, hear.) On the part of those Brethren who act with me, I do in all sincerity assure those who have hitherto so strongly opposed us, that we are labouring only to put down discord; that on the slightest semblance of a fair disposition on their part, we will be ready to meet them more than half way. Let this charge be disposed of, and then in Heaven's name I say, let by-gones be by-gone, and let us work together for the good of the Craft, and not for party purposes. (Cheers.)

BRO. THE REV G. R. PORTAL said, that what they had to decide was, whether or not Bro. Roxburgh had summoned a party meeting at his chambers. (No, no.) The whole thing turned on what was party. It was quite clear from the evidence that a meeting had been held, but who were the persons present? If it was called on private invitation, and not by public advertisement, if neither he nor anyone else who pleased was at liberty to attend that meeting, and indeed he had never heard of its existence, then it was a packed meeting; and it was impossible that a Board of General Purposes selected by it, could have the confidence of the brethren.

BRO. WARREN had not intended to have addressed one word to Grand Lodge on the subject, nor would he have done so, had not his name been more than once alluded to in the course of the discussion. It certainly appeared to him somewhat extraordinary that Bro. Binckes should principally rest the defence of the motion then before them, upon a letter of his which was not written until some days after the notice of motion had been given—so that the notice could not have been founded upon his letter, which was written to contradict the garbled report previously published of the proceedings at the meeting at Bro. Roxburgh's. It was true that the meeting did take place—that, no one attempted to contradict; but the statements originally published with respect to it, were not true. He admitted that he was present at the meeting, and he was not ashamed having attended it, or of the part he had taken. He had used his influence to place on the list of candidates, the names of the masters of two Lodges—perhaps not so well known to other brethren who attended the meeting as to himself—one of those Lodges containing upwards of one hundred members, and the other something like one hundred and fifty. He did not know whether they could call that a party movement, he certainly did not. It did appear rather strange to hear

some brethren talk about party arrangements, and denounce the meeting of Brethren to prepare a list of candidates for the Board of General Purposes, and more especially the Rev. Brother who had just spoken; and no one could have less right to complain upon the subject than that Brother, unless, indeed, he had forgotten that himself and a noble earl had, a year or two since, met a Grand Officer and arranged a list for the Board, in which his (Bro. Warren's) name was carefully excluded, because he was not sufficiently a party man, either for the one side or the other.

Bro. SAWBRIDGE, as a young Mason, deprecated these intestine divisions, which if allowed to go on, would uproot the principles of the Order. He would support the amendment because he did not see a tittle of evidence brought forward in support of the charge.

Bro. BINCKES having briefly replied,
The M. W. GRAND MASTER put the amendment, and declared it carried by an immense majority.

SCRUTINEERS.

The following Brethren were then appointed Scrutineers of the ballot for the election of the Board of General Purposes, namely, Bros. Gole, Gower, Collard, Payne, Maney, Nicholson, Cramer, Punchaud, Coulcher, Wright, and Tompkins.

GRAND SENIOR WARDEN.

Bro. GRAY CLARKE, G. Secretary, then stated that he had received a letter from Bro. Lord de Tabley, G. S. W., regretting he would not be able to attend Grand Lodge that evening, as he was out on duty with his yeomanry in Cheshire.

The minutes of the last regular Grand Lodge, and of the special Grand Lodge held prior to the Grand Festival, were then read and confirmed.

GRAND LODGE OF CANADA.

The M. W. GRAND MASTER then said: It now becomes my duty to communicate to you the result of the undertaking which you placed in my hands, when you unanimously requested me to communicate with the Grand Lodge of Canada, for the recognition of the rights of English Masons residing within its jurisdiction, and to take such other steps as I thought necessary for maintaining the honour and dignity of this Grand Lodge. I have now much pleasure to inform you of the result of the communications which have passed between us; but in order to prevent any misconception, I thought it better to put down in writing the main points of the case: and I would premise, that as some of the letters are marked private, I do not think it right or proper to lay the whole of the correspondence before you, but to communicate to you the result, and assure you that nothing of importance is concealed from you. The noble earl then read as follows:—

“At the last meeting of Grand Lodge it was determined that the final arrangements respecting the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada should be left in my hands. I do not think it necessary to take up the time of Grand Lodge by reading the whole of the correspondence which has taken place, but in communicating its result, I anticipate with pleasure the satisfaction with which I feel sure Grand Lodge will hear that all the differences heretofore existing between our brethren in Canada and ourselves are now happily terminated. The questions to be considered were—1. The extent of jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada. 2. The position of private Lodges and individual brethren still holding firm in their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England. 3. The position of the Provincial Grand Lodges of Montreal and Quebec. As regards the extent of jurisdiction to be accorded to the Grand Lodge of Canada, I have already expressed an opinion that the Grand Lodge of England, actuated by the true spirit of Masonry, would never seek to limit its spread to those only who would be subject to its control. Believing, under existing circumstances, that union will be restored, that Masonry will spread, and its true principles be disseminated far and wide through the land, and unwilling on the part of Grand Lodge of England to claim a nominal sovereignty over a territory where we have so few, and the Grand Lodge of Canada so many Lodges, I readily consented to the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Canada being acknowledged over the whole province, a course which I had already expressed my approval of, and which I should have been equally ready to recommend in December last, had it been understood that application to such effect had been made. The Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia still remain subject to the Grand Lodge of England. I felt it my duty to stipulate for the full recognition of all the rights and privileges of private Lodges and of individual brethren, and this has been willingly accorded. I have informed the Grand Lodge of Canada that it is not my intention to grant

warrants for new Lodges in any part of Canada. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Montreal having virtually ceased to exist for several years past, I do not think it desirable, nor shall I take any steps to resuscitate it. I have directed it to be intimated to the Lodges still remaining in the Montreal district, that they may according to their wish, be either placed under the Provincial Grand Master of Quebec or may communicate direct with the Grand Lodge of England. I have felt it to be my duty to stipulate that the rights and privileges of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec shall be fully recognized and respected, inasmuch as that Provincial Grand Lodge has existed and held authority from a period long anterior to the formation of any Grand Lodge in Canada, and none of its Lodges have at any period joined, or expressed a desire to join, the Grand Lodge of Canada. I have claimed, therefore, that the privileges which they have possessed for years, should still be secured to them. In reply to the claim thus put forth, it is urged that Provincial Grand Lodges are of recent origin, and that their rights and privileges are ill-defined. I am glad to perceive that though there is an evident dislike, on the part of the Grand Lodge of Canada, to the existence of a Provincial Grand Lodge within its jurisdiction, that the claim I have made is acceded to, and I really with full confidence on the assurance given me by the Grand Master of Canada, ‘That no one connected with his Grand Lodge will attempt to interfere with either their rights or privileges, whatever they may prove to be.’ I congratulate Grand Lodge on the happy result at length arrived at. I must express my gratification at the courteous and fraternal spirit exhibited by the Grand Master of Canada, and say how entirely I reciprocate the feeling expressed in the last sentence of his letter dated 23rd April. I feel that I cannot take leave of this subject better than by quoting that sentence to Grand Lodge. The following are the words of his letter addressed to me:—‘Again I thank you, Most Worshipful Sir, for the kind and fraternal feeling evinced by your last communication, and indulge in the hope that nothing will hereafter occur to disturb the harmony and good feeling which I now regard as firmly established between our respective jurisdictions.’ His Lordship concluded by saying, I need scarcely assure Grand Lodge of the satisfaction which I feel in seeing the matters thus settled, and I hope Grand Lodge will join with me in expressing its satisfaction at the result which had taken place in the arrangement of this complicated and embarrassing affair. (Cheers.)

Bro. Rd. HAVERS, Prov. G. W., Oxfordshire, then said: M. W. Grand Master and brethren, the communication which has been just made to us, must, I think, be a source of the greatest satisfaction to Grand Lodge. That communication will, as a matter of course, come upon the minutes of our proceedings; but I am sure I only speak the feelings of every brother present when I say, that we should regret to see it placed on those minutes unaccompanied by a declaration of our satisfaction at the able and judicious manner the negotiation has been carried out. Believing that there is no question of Masonic law which has been overlooked, and that there is no fact connected with the negotiation which has not been already given to Grand Lodge, I trust I shall not be out of order in founding on what we have just heard a motion, as follows:—“That this Grand Lodge expresses its gratification at the happy result which has attended the labours of the Grand Master in the settlement of the recognition of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and offers its best thanks to the M. W. Grand Master, for the able and judicious manner in which he has brought this important matter to a successful termination.” (Cheers.)

Bro. the Rev. G. R. PORTAL said: M. W. Grand Master and brethren, I have great pleasure in seconding the motion of Brother Havers. There cannot, my lord, be two opinions upon the subject of the negotiations which have taken place. First of all, they have been conducted with all the dignity and courtesy which we might justly expect from you; and in the second place, there is no right or privilege which we could wish which has not been conceded to our brethren in Canada. Having on the one hand regard to the privileges of those who still maintain their connection with us, and on the other to the concessions made to the Canadian Grand Lodge, we may congratulate ourselves on the issue to which your lordship has brought this peculiarly delicate negotiation. (Cheers.)

Bro. Sir LUCIUS CURTIS in putting the resolution, expressed the satisfaction he felt in doing so.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

The Grand Secretary having read the report of the Board of General Purposes a *remanet* from the last quarterly communication, on the motion of Bro. Havers, seconded by Bro. Webb, received and entered on the minutes.

Bro. HAVERS then moved an alteration in the Book of Constitu-

tions, removing the limit of two years after the death of a brother within which his widow can apply for relief to the Board of Benevolence.

Bro. LOCOCK WEBB seconded the motion.

Bro. ROBERTS, in supporting the resolution, mentioned an instance in which, had it not been for the interference of another Lodge during the recess of the Lodge to which her husband had belonged, the widow of a brother would, by lapse of time, have been excluded from relief.

The motion was then agreed to.

Bro. HAVERS then moved that a friendly representation be made through the D. Grand Master to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, asking it to prohibit the granting of degrees to English brethren visiting Scotland at shorter periods than they could be obtained in England.

Bro. LOCOCK WEBB, having seconded the motion it was unanimously approved of.

THE COLONIAL BOARD.

The report of the Colonial Board remaining over from the last meeting of Grand Lodge was then read and entered on the minutes.

BENEVOLENCE.

The following grants were approved of:—

The widow of Bro. Thomas Hand, of Lodge No. 317, Richmond, Surrey	£100
The widow of Bro. David Freeman, of Lodge No. 680, Croydon	50
Bro. William Bush, of Lodge No. 264, London	50
Bro. James B. Newcombe, of Lodge No. 10, London	30

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

"The Board of General Purposes beg to report that they have received and adjudicated upon the following complaints, viz:—

"1.—From the Lodge of Benevolence against the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 170, at Bolton, for having certified to the Petition of a brother for relief, that he had been a regular contributing member for the space of 32 years, whereas the Grand Lodge dues had been paid for only 12½ years. The Warrant and Minute Books having been laid before the Board, it appeared upon explanation from the W. Master and from an examination of the books, that in the statement made by the Lodge, they had included the period during which the petitioning brother had been a member of another Lodge in Bolton. It appeared, however, that Grand Lodge dues had been received for two years, which had not been paid. The Board, therefore, directed the Lodge to pay the arrears due to the Grand Lodge, and to be fined one guinea: which arrears and fine have been paid.

"2.—From Brothers R. E. Peach, Provincial S.G. Warden, Somersetshire, and Thomas Cave, P.M., No. 412, at Yeovil, against Edwin Edwards, W. Master of the same Lodge, for certain irregularities alleged to have occurred in balloting for a brother proposed for election as a rejoining member of the Lodge. The warrant and books were produced, and two brethren of the Lodge attended on behalf of the W. Master. It appeared, upon investigation that a question had arisen, whether the brother proposed was not in arrear to the Lodge for dues said to be payable from the year 1834 to 1838—that on the 16th February, on a ballot being taken, there appeared three black balls against the Candidate—that the W. Master directed a second ballot to be taken, and there again appeared three black balls against the Candidate: that upon its being observed that the subscriptions of some of the members who had voted were in arrear, and that consequently, under a bye-law of the Lodge, such members were disqualified from voting, the W. Master declared the ballot to be null and void, and expressed his determination to postpone it till the next meeting. It further appeared, that no mention is made in the minutes of the 16th February of such ballot having been taken, and that at the next meeting of the Lodge, on the 16th March, the candidate was balloted for without notice having been inserted in the summons, and was elected. It also appeared that on the 13th April (but after proceedings in the way of complaint had been commenced) the Lodge refused to confirm the election made at the preceding Meeting. The Board did not think it necessary to express an opinion on the question of arrears, inasmuch as a motion 'that the brother in question be not considered in arrear,' has been duly carried and confirmed by the Lodge. The Board declared the proceedings to be highly irregular; that it was the duty of the W. Master to enforce obedience to the laws, that having permitted a second ballot to be taken he was not justified in declaring it void upon the grounds stated, and that the candidate must be considered as having been rejected on the 16th February. That it was contrary to the law (p. 81, section 1, of Constitutions,) to ballot for a candidate without due notice having been inserted in the summons, and that there was further great irregularity in not causing to be entered on the minutes a faithful record of the transactions of the Lodge. The Board therefore severely reprimanded the W. Master, and admonished him to be more careful for the future, and directed the resolution embodying such reprimand to be read in open Lodge and recorded on the minutes.

"The Board also report that, taking into consideration that the duties of the Grand Pursuivant have so much increased as to render the efficient performance of them almost impracticable, they are of opinion that it is desirable to appoint an Assistant Grand Pursuivant, and they therefore recommend to Grand Lodge, 'That the office of Assistant Grand Pursuivant be created, and that the Brother appointed to that office shall assist the Grand Pursuivant in his duties, and shall, during his tenure of office, wear the clothing of a Grand Officer, and take precedence immediately after the Past Grand Pursuivants.'

"The Board further report that application has been made to all Lodges in England which have not made returns to Grand Lodge up to December, 1855, to make such returns forthwith, and that ample time has been afforded to them for that purpose, or to offer explanations why such returns have not been made. In the majority of cases the directions of the Board have been complied with, in others sufficient reasons have been advanced as in the opinion of the Board to justify further time being granted.

"The Board have had their attention directed to the present duties of the officers in the Grand Secretary's department, and they are of opinion that the salary of the Grand Secretary is inadequate, and is not a sufficient remuneration for a gentleman who, owing to the increase of work, is compelled to devote the whole of his time to the duties of the office, and they recommend to Grand Lodge that the salary of the Grand Secretary be raised to £400 per annum. The Board further recommend that the salary of the Second Clerk (Brother Buss) be raised to £150 per annum, and that such increase of salaries shall take place from the 1st January, 1859.

"The Board have under their consideration a plan for simplifying and improving the system of keeping the accounts of the Society, which they believe will be of advantage. Considering the magnitude of the accounts and the impossibility of carrying out any systematic or efficient audit under the present regulations, the Board are of opinion that (without interfering with the present audit by the Masters of Lodges), it would be desirable and advantageous that the accounts should be audited once at least in each year, by professional accountants, who should have free access to all such books and documents as they may require. The Board believe that Brethren thoroughly competent to undertake such work may be found, and that a sum of 20 guineas per annum will be an adequate remuneration, they therefore recommend to Grand Lodge to empower to M. W. Grand Master to appoint two such professional accountants as auditors.

"The Board have received communications from the W. Master of the Oriental Lodge, No. 988, at Constantinople, requesting their advice and assistance in reference to irregular Lodges said to exist at Smyrna. The Board have reason to believe that the Lodges at Smyrna, named Ionic, Anatolia, and Benzencia, are irregular assemblies, and are not possessed of Warrants from any constituted Masonic authority; and that the so-called Grand Lodge of Turkey, formed of those three Lodges, is also an irregular body. The Board regret to hear that a large number of persons have been induced to join these irregular Lodges. The Board have afforded every advice and assistance in their power to the W. Master of the Oriental Lodge to enable him to place in a right path those who have been innocently led into error, and they deem it highly desirable that the W. Masters of all regular Lodges should be cautioned against receiving persons claiming admission (either as visitors or joining Members) on the ground of their having been initiated by such irregular Lodges in Smyrna.

"The Board have also to report that they have received communications from a large number of Lodges, in reply to the circular letter addressed to them on the subject of the proposed plan for dealing with the property of the Society. They desire to observe that, in a matter of so much importance, it is necessary to proceed with due caution and deliberation, and that some further time must yet elapse before a detailed scheme can be satisfactorily submitted for the consideration of the Brethren. In the meantime, they again invite the co-operation and assistance of Brethren who have given attention to the subject, and they give notice that so long as any copies of the lithographed plans of the Society's buildings remain on hand, they will be supplied to Brethren applying for them at the cost price (2s. the set).

"(Signed) JOHN HAVERS, *President.*"

The Board beg further to report that a Meeting of the Board, held on Tuesday, the 17th inst., it was unanimously resolved,—

"That the best thanks of the Board be and are hereby tendered to the W. Brother John Havers, President of the Board during the past year, for the constant regularity of his attendance, for the very able and efficient manner in which he has conducted, and for the kind and laborious attention he has devoted to, the business of the Board, and also for his uniform courtesy to all the Members of the Board.

"(Signed) "C. LOCOCK-WEBB, *Vice-President.*"

"Freemasons' Hall, London, 18th May, 1859."

Bro. Havers moved that "That the office of Assistant Grand Pursuivant be created, and that the brother appointed to that office shall assist the Grand Pursuivant in his duties, and shall during his tenure of office, wear the clothing of a Grand Officer, and take precedence immediately after the Past Grand Pursuivants." He justified the motion on the ground that the duties of the office had increased tenfold since its establishment, nineteen years ago. With regard to the motion of which Bro. Barrett had given notice, he would submit that it was contrary to all Masonic practice, and would, in no remote degree, clip the privileges of the Grand Master.

Bro. LOCOCK WEBB seconded the resolution.

Bro. JOSEPH SMITH had great pleasure in supporting the resolution. He had held the office several years, and unless he could be inside the Lodge and outside at the same time, it was impossible he could adequately discharge the duties which devolved on him.

Bro. BARRETT moved as a rider to the resolution, the following motion, of which he had given notice, "That on the appointment of an Assistant Grand Pursuivant, the election be in the Grand Lodge, in the same manner as the election for Grand Treasurer." He looked upon the appointment as unnecessary, and only intended to increase the patronage of the Grand Master. He hoped soon to see the Grand Lodge patronage equally divided between the Grand Master and the Craft.

Bro. the Rev. J. S. SIDEBOTHAM seconded the motion, as he could not conceive how the appointment of so subordinate an officer by Grand Lodge could derogate from the dignity of Grand Master.

Bro. McINTYRE would give the proposal of Bro. Barrett a direct negative. When the M.W. the Grand Master improperly disposed of his patronage, then, and not till then, ought he be deprived of his just prerogative; in fact, it was only an attempt to get in the small end of the wedge towards depriving the Grand Master of his most valuable prerogative.

Bro. SIR LUCIUS CURTIS also opposed Bro. Barrett's motion, as a dangerous precedent.

The amendment was negatived by a large majority only five hands being held up for it and the original motion carried.

DEFAULTING LODGES.

Bro. HAVERS moved that the following Lodges—

No.		Date of last return.
49.	Lodge of Concord, London	December, 1849
64.	Howard Lodge of Brotherly Love, Arundel	March, 1836
362.	Lodge of School of Plato, Cambridge ...	December, 1853
459.	Lodge of Benevolence, Sherborne ...	December, 1851
658.	Marquis of Granby, Eastwood, Notts ...	Warrant returned
751.	Prince Edwin's Lodge, Eye	December, 1849
		Warrant granted,
		February, 1846
765.	Roden Lodge, Wem	—no return
		Warrant returned
785.	Ancholme, Brigg, Lincolnshire	December, 1849
806.	Castlemartin Lodge, Pembroke	Warrant granted,
		July, 1852—no
		return
878.	Mariner's Lodge, Littlehampton	Warrant granted
		July, 1855—no
		return
940.	Peveril of the Peak Lodge, New Mills, } near Glossop	Warrant granted
		July, 1855—no
		return

should be summoned to show cause, at the next meeting of Grand Lodge, why they should not be erased from the books of Grand Lodge. Since the notice had been made public, three of the Lodges named in the list, as originally published, had come in and made their returns, and he hoped the summons would operate beneficially in causing a great many others to follow their example. He might mention that those Lodges now on the list had been several times applied to within the last twelve months, and although the Board of General Purposes, in its wish to afford them every indulgence, put off the present motion from time to time, no good had come of the delay.

Bro. LOCOCK WEBB seconded the resolution.

Bro. STREBING hoped Grand Lodge would grant the defaulting Lodges three months more to make their returns, and condemned the motion as taking the Lodges by surprise.

Bro. GREGORY said, that if the motion was to erase those Lodges, they might complain of surprise, but such was not the fact. Each of them would next Grand Lodge have an opportunity of stating its case, and then Grand Lodge itself would have to decide whether the Lodge should be erased or not.

Bro. HAVERS would again assure Grand Lodge that every opportunity had been given, and would be given, to those Lodges to save their position.

The motion was then agreed to.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

It being now past eleven o'clock no further business was proceeded with, but Grand Lodge, in idleness, waited some minutes for the return of the scrutineers, who made a report, giving the following votes, there giving two lists canvassed for, one containing fourteen names, all of whom were returned, and the other the four names immediately following:—

Levinson (No. 19) ...	159	Young (No. 72) ...	124
Farmer (No. 25) ...	156	Cotterell (No. 8) ...	121
Stacey (No. 211) ...	153	Gregory (No. 233) ...	110
Ladd (No. 247) ...	153	Wheeler (No. 324) ...	108
McIntyre (No. 125) ...	151	Snell (No. 5) ...	107
Moore (No. 329) ...	145	Webb (No. 4) ...	101
Tyerman (No. 234) ...	143	Symonds (No. 21) ...	88

Barrett (No. 212) ...	62	Stebbing (No. 152) ...	42
		Binckes (No. 11) ...	38
		Barnes (No. 30) ...	37

There was also a large number of other Past Masters put in nomination, mostly without authority, whose names it is unnecessary to give; but we may add that the following votes were recorded:—for

one candidate, 25; one, 21; one, 16; one, 10; one, 9; two, 8 each; four, 6 each; three, 5 each; two, 3 each; seven, 2 each; five 1 each; and two, none. Bros. Blake, W.M. (No. 21); and Watson, P.M. (No. 25), withdrew their names prior to the evening of election; and Bros. Hewlett, P.M. (No. 23); and Warren, P.M. (No. 169), previous to the polling.

The following brethren were nominated members of the Board, by the M.W. Grand Master:—

Bros. John Havers, P.G.D., President; W. H. White, P.G. Sec.; John Savage, S.G.D.; F. Slight, J.G.D.; Rev J. E. Cox, P. G. Chaplain; John Hervey, P.G.D.; S. B. Wilson, P.G.D.; R. W. Jennings, G.D.C.; J. Ll. Evans, P.G.S.B.; A. A. Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Joseph Smith, G. Pursuivant.

COLONIAL BOARD.

The undermentioned brethren were elected as members of the Colonial Board:—Bros. Nicholas Bradford, P.M., No. 54; John Hervey, P.G.D.; J. S. S. Hopwood, P.G.D.; F. Ledger, P.M., No. 11; James Mason, P.M., No. 168; M. H. Shuttleworth, P.M., No. 225; George Wilkinson, P.M., No. 21; and the Grand Master nominated Bros. J. Ll. Evans, P.G.S.B., President; A. W. Woods, Asst. G.D.C.; and J. Smith, P.G. Purs. The Grand Master also appointed Bro. Hervey (one of the elected members) Vice-president.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The undermentioned Brethren were elected to represent Grand Lodge on the Committee of management for the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows:—

Bros. Samuel Aldrich, P.M., No. 196; Robert Collard, P.M., No. 168; H. S. Cooper, P.M., No. 276; Alfred Day, P.M., No. 78; Samuel Gale, P.M., No. 19; W. S. Masteman, P.M., No. 11; Thomas Gole, P.M., No. 18; Benjamin Head, P.M., No. 5; William Paas, P.M., No. 30; John Symonds, P.M., No. 21.

The Grand Master having intimated that it would be necessary to hold a special Grand Lodge for the transaction of the business unfinished that evening, Grand Lodge was closed in ample form, and adjourned to the first Wednesday in September, emergencies excepted. The Lodge of emergency has since been fixed for the 23rd instant.

POSTSCRIPT.

A GRAND LODGE OF EMERGENCY was held on the 23rd instant, for the discussion of the business left over from the Quarterly Communication. The throne was occupied by the M.W.G.M., supported by the D.G.M.; Lord de Tabley, S.G.W.; Bro. Hon. F. Dundas, as J.G.W.

Bro. HAVERS brought forward the proposed increase in the salary of the Grand Secretary to the amount of £400, leaving it to Bro. Smith to advocate that Prother's claims.

A long discussion took place, during which it was argued that the Grand Secretary's present salary was insufficient, and that although the late Board of General Purposes had advised that no increase should be made in any of the salaries, that the decision of G.L. in increasing the salary of the Asst. Grand Secretary, had necessitated a re-consideration of the whole question. On the other hand it was argued, that the Grand Secretary was aware of the amount of his salary when he accepted office two years ago, and that nothing had transpired to justify the proposed increase. It was also remarked, that the G. Secretary's letters to Bro. Harington, P.G.M. of Canada, had been offensive and unconciliatory: in answer to which, the D.G.M. stated that he and the G.M. were responsible for those documents.

Bro. HAVERS took occasion to make a personal attack in his usual style upon Bros. HARRINGTON and PORTAL. The same Brother made use of very unmasonic language towards Bros. WHITMORE and BINCKES, which resulted in recriminations and mutual apologies.

The motion was carried.

It was agreed, on the recommendation of the Board, that Bro. Buss's salary be raised to £150 a year—also that a paid auditor should be appointed.

Attention was drawn to the existence of three spurious Lodges at Smyrna who had formed themselves into a G.L.,

and all Masters of Lodges were warned to be careful how they admitted any such Brethren among them; and a notification was ordered to be issued to that effect.

The report of the Colonial Board (see report) was received and entered on the minutes.

REPORT OF THE COLONIAL BOARD.

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England.

The Colonial Board beg to report that they have received a complaint from Bro. V. S. Richardson against the Harmonic Lodge, No. 458, Island of St. Thomas, for having refused to give him the third degree, although he had been initiated in the Lodge. After carefully considering the case on the part of Bro. Richardson, together with the evidence laid before them by the Lodge, and it appearing that the Lodge had taken a ballot on the question whether the complainant should be permitted to take the said degree, the Board decided, That the Lodge was bound to confer the degree on Bro. V. S. Richardson, and that such ballot was illegal; but if the Lodge refused to confer the degree, the money, if any, paid in respect thereof should be credited or refunded to the complainant.

The board have also to report that they have directed a letter to be written to the District Provincial Grand Lodge of Victoria, in reply to the Memorial from that Body, which was referred back to the Board by Grand Lodge at the Quarterly Communication of the 2nd March last, pointing out the difficulties that lie in the way of complying with the wishes of the Memorialists, and drawing their attention to the very small difference that exists between the aggregate sum now paid by the Lodges in the Colonies and Foreign parts for Registration and Certificate and that proposed by the Memorialists, and expressing a hope that, upon more mature consideration, the District Provincial Grand Lodge of Victoria will come to the conclusion that the important reduction in the fees recently made in favour of Lodges abroad should be acquiesced in as sufficient.

(Signed) J. LEWELLYN EVANS,

Freemasons' Hall,

London, 18th May, 1859.

President.

Bro. BINCKES brought forward a motion condemning the official reports of G.L. proceedings, as at present issued from the Grand Secretary's office, on the ground of its unfair and imperfect character.

The reports were defended by the Executive and their adherents, and Lord PANMURE, in a very conciliatory speech, stated his opinion that such motions should be brought forward as questions of privilege.

The motion was negatived, and G.L. was adjourned at 11 p.m.

ROMANISM AND FREEMASONRY.—"As secret societies are the cause of the greatest evils to religion, tending to promote impety and incredulity, and most hostile to the public good, the Catholic church has solemnly excommunicated all her children who engage in them. Hence, no Catholic can be absolved who is a *Freemason*, a *Ribandman*, or enrolled in any other secret society. Drunkenness, a vice so degrading in itself and the occasion of so many evils, and improper dances such as the polka and others of the same description, so repugnant to the purity of Christian morals, are to be avoided, not only during Lent but at all times, by Christians who profess to be followers of the immaculate Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. All are exhorted to *perform works of piety and charity during Lent, visiting the widow and orphan, relieving the poor, and above all, contributing to provide a good Catholic education for Catholic children, and to preserve them from the innumerable snares now laid for them in mixed and proselytising schools.*"—*Dr. Cullen's Lenten Pastoral.*

Colonial.

BRO. DANIEL HART has been recently appointed Prov. Grand Master for Trinidad and St. Vincents, making the second Prov. Grand Master appointed from the West Indies.

BRO. WATTS RUSSELL of Canterbury, New Zealand, has received the appointment of Prov. Grand Master for that colony.

BRO. RAMSAY, late Prov. Grand Master for China, having resigned the appointment, it has been conferred upon Bro. the Hon. Wm. Mercer.

Mark Masonry.

HYDE.—*Fidelity Lodge* (No. 31).—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on the 16th March, at the Norfolk Arms Hotel, Hyde; Bros. John Yarker, W.M.; S. P. Leather, S.W.; and John Brierley, J.W.; when Bros. Huxton, Relph, Jackson, and Adshead, were advanced, and several candidates proposed for the next meeting; the entire ceremonies, considering the short time the Lodge has been at work, being conducted in a highly satisfactory manner. A code of bye-laws, resolved upon at a previous meeting, were then confirmed including the removal of the Lodge to the above hotel, and ordered to be sent to the General Board for approval. From the evident importance of this beautiful degree as a completing link in the Masonic system, we are not surprised to find that it is beginning to excite considerable interest; and we expect ere long to see other Lodges established in this neighbourhood.

THISTLE LODGE.—This Lodge held its regular meeting (being the second which has taken place under English authority) at Dick's Coffee House, Fleet Street, on Friday, April 1, when the following brethren were duly advanced to the Mark degree:—Bros. Young (P.M., No. 237), Hind (No. 219), Gates (No. 219), and Taylor (No. 752). The ceremony was most ably performed by Bro. Cotterell, W.M., after which Bro. Capt. Hamilton was admitted as a joining member. A copy of the amended by-laws was then submitted, and after some conversation they were adopted, and ordered to be printed. It was then proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously, that a jewel be presented to Bro. Sheen, P.M., as well for his services whilst in the chair as for the interest he has taken in the prosperity of the Lodge from its formation. The business completed, the Brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, and the evening passed most pleasantly. The only visitor present was Bro. Conery, St. Andrew's Chapter Boston, Massachusetts.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—*Northumberland and Berwick Lodge*.—The members of this Lodge held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 30th, the W.M., Bro. John Baker in the chair, assisted by Bro. Punsheon, Prov. G.S.W.; Bros. Joseph Bell, S.W.; Henry Hotham, J.W.; A. Gillespie and C. J. Bannister, Deacons; G. Ludwig, Reg.; and other brethren. The Ballot was taken for Bros. Banning and Twigg, and being both in attendance, they were advanced by the W.M. The time of meeting of this Lodge has been altered from Wednesday nearest the full moon to the fourth Wednesday of every month. The majority of the brethren present agreed to accompany the Worshipful Master to Hartlepool on the 14th April, who, in his capacity of Grand Dir. of Cers., is to open in from the Eclectic Lodge of Mark Masters, which has just obtained a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England.

DURHAM; HARTLEPOOL.—Thursday, April the 14th, was appointed for constituting and formally inaugurating the Eclectic Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 39, (under the registry of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales), in the Masonic Hall, Hartlepool. The leading Mark Master of Newcastle and Stockton were assembled to assist the Grand Director of the Ceremonies, Bro. John Barker, who was ordered to constitute and formally open this Lodge. At high twelve the brethren assembled in the above hall, which is a beautiful and commodious Lodge room, properly decorated, and large enough for the purposes of Masonry in Hartlepool. The brethren were marshalled by Bro. Andrew Gillespie, who acted as Senior Grand Deacon and Grand Director of the Ceremonies, and, on reaching the East, the worthy Brother who presided over the ceremonies of the day proceeded to open Grand Lodge, assisted by the following brethren, who ably assisted him as acting Grand Officers—Bros. H. A. Hammerbo, as D.G.M.; Henry Hotham, as G.S.W.; J. J. Wilson, as G.J.W.; T. P. Tate, as Grand Sec.; Andrew Gillespie, as G.S.D. and Grand Director of Ceremonies; G. Twigg, as G.M.I. Overs.; John Stokoe, as G.J.D. and S.G. Overs.; Edward Hudson, as J.G. Overs. On the Grand Lodge being opened, the R.W. Bro. Barker announced the business of the day, viz., the formal constitution of the Eclectic Lodge,

No. 39, and requested the Chaplain to give them the benefit of prayer. This having been done, the warrant was read, after which the consecration ceremony, including appropriate passages from the books of Ezekiel, Chronicles, Kings, and Isaiah, was performed in solemn form; and the acting Grand Master declared the Eclectic Lodge, No. 39, duly constituted, and ordered the same to be proclaimed, which was done in ancient form. He then proceeded to install Bro. H. A. Hammerbom, the newly appointed R.W. Master, who, after having been duly proclaimed, proceeded to advance five Brethren to this degree, and the manner in which the ceremony was performed did him great credit; and, we must add, he was ably assisted by his two Wardens and other Brethren, who acted as his officers, among whom all praise is due to Bro. Andrew Gillespie, who acted as Senior Deacon. After the advancement of the Brethren, the R.W.M., Bro. Hammerbom, proceeded to invest the following Brethren as officers for the ensuing year—Bros. T. P. Tate, S.W. and Treasurer (elected to the latter office); Edward Hudson, J.W.; Rev. James Milner, Chaplain; Simpson Armstrong, Secretary and Registrar of Marks; George Moore, S.D.; A. G. Dalziel, I.G.; James Mowbray, Tyler. The Grand Lodge was closed by the acting Grand Master, and the Eclectic Lodge by the R.W.M. Bro. Hammerbom. The Brethren then adjourned to the Queen's Hotel, and partook of dinner. The loyal toasts having been given, the health of the Grand Master, Lord Leigh, and of the Deputy Grand Master, Lord Carnarvon, were proposed and duly acknowledged. The R.W.M., Bro. Hammerbom, then proposed the health of the Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England, coupling it with that of the R.W. Bro. Barker, on his right, to whom the thanks of the Hartlepool Brethren were due for his kindness in coming over to assist in constituting their Lodge, and who had so ably performed the work of the day. R.W. Bro. Barker responded, thanking the Brethren, but added that, for him it was a labour of love, and he would always gladly give his humble assistance, and trusted soon again to be called upon to do so, both in his neighbourhood and theirs, as he saw looming in the future two other Mark Masters' Lodges, which at no distant period would increase the roll. But he could not have done less than come here to-day, as the R.W.M. presiding, and the S.W., Bro. Tate, were not long ago advanced by him in his own Lodge; of course they could claim by right his help, and the way he was received amply repaid him. Before sitting down he would give them a toast, which he knew full well would be received with enthusiasm, and that was, the health of their presiding officer, Bro. Hammerbom; no one who had been long a Mark Master, but must have been highly gratified with the very able manner in which the degree was conferred to the newly advanced Brethren; he, Bro. Barker, need add no more, as the worth of Bro. Hammerbom was well known to them all. The toast was duly acknowledged briefly by the R.W.M., and with a few more toasts, viz., those of the officers and newly advanced Brethren, &c., the Brethren separated early to return to their respective homes.

CARNARVON LODGE.—The installation of the Rev. G. R. Portal, as R.W.M. of this distinguished Lodge, took place at Hampton Court on the 15th inst., by Bro. Beach, M.P. There were present Bros. Wyndham Portal, R. Benson, Rev. W. Davies, Hammerton, Binckes, &c.

Masonic Charities.

ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL.

A Special Meeting of the governors and subscribers to this Institution was held at the offices in Great Queen street, on Thursday, the 31st of March, Bro. Udall, P.G.D., in the chair, to take into consideration the report of the sub-committee on the means of promoting the interests of this Institution, and the Boys' School, and the following recommendations contained therein:—

1. That each province be requested to form a committee, to be called "Provincial Committee of the Province of * * * * * for promoting the interests of the Masonic Schools," (or, if the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution should wish to be included, "of the Four Masonic Charities.")
2. That such committee do consist of a member of each Lodge in the province, to be annually elected or re-elected by the Lodge on the night of installation of W.M.
3. That each Lodge be requested to transmit to the Secretary of each School (or Charity) the name title, and address of the Brother so appointed.
4. That the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, and Deputy Provincial Grand Master, be requested to take the office of President and Vice-President of such committee.

5. That the said Provincial Committee be requested to hold a general meeting at least once a year, and to present to the Provincial Grand Lodge a report showing the results of the labours of its members individually and collectively.

After a short conversation it was resolved, on the motion of Bro. Hopwood, S.G.D., seconded by Bro. C. Parson Cooper, Prov. G.M., for Kent, "That the report be approved; and this Court being much impressed with the importance of uniform action on the part of the supporters of the Institution throughout the country, earnestly recommend the Brethren in the province to adopt the suggestions offered on page 9 (given above) of the printed report."

It was also resolved, on the motion of Bro. Symonds, seconded by Bro. Cooper, "That a copy of the foregoing resolution be transmitted to the M.W. G.M., and that his lordship be respectfully solicited to forward it to the R.W. Prov. Grand Masters, with a request that they will take the subject into their serious consideration, and bring the resolution and report under the notice of the Brethren of their respective provinces, either at a Provincial Grand Lodge, or in such other way as they may deem most fitting."

A vote of thanks to Bro. Udall for presiding, closed the proceedings.

The quarterly court of the governors and subscribers to this institution was held at the offices, Great Queen street, on April 14th, Bro. John Udall, V.P., presiding.

The minutes of the last quarterly court, and of the meetings of the different committees, having been read and confirmed, the last quarter's accounts, amounting to £442 9s. 3d., were ordered to be paid.

The following children were then elected into the school without ballot, there being no other candidates:—

Edith Grace Fitzgerald, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
Rose Cooke, Ipswich, Suffolk.
Mary Catherine Saunders, London.
Louisa Margaret Bradley, Ditto.
Mary Elizabeth Hervey, Ditto.

The number of children now in the school is seventy, the full number that are at present received; a number which there can be no doubt must be augmented as the number of applicants for admission increase.

THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

The Seventy-first Anniversary Festival of this popular charity was celebrated by a very elegant dinner served under the personal superintendence of Bros. Shrewsbury and Elkington, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on May the 11th. The Right Hon. the Earl of Ripon, P.G.W., was President, supported by Bros. Capt. Bowyer, Prov. G.M., Oxfordshire; B. B. Cabbell, Prov. G.M., Norfolk, and Treasurer of the Institution; Col. Burlton, P. Prov. G.M., Bengal; G. Clarke, G. Sec.; Savage, S.G.D.; F. Slight, J. G.D.; Havers, P.G.D.; Hervey, P.G.D.; T. H. White, P.G.D.; Scott, P.G.D.; Secondary Potter, P.G.D.; Hopwood, P.G.D.; Udall, P.G.S.B.; Spiers, P.G.S.B.; Gooch, P.G.S.B.; W. E. Walmisley, P.G.S.B.; Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; and above 300 other Brothers. Nearly 100 ladies graced the company by their presence in the gallery, who, during the repast in the hall, partook of a *recherché* cold collation in the glee-room, each lady finding in her champagne glass a very handsome bouquet, presented by the Board of Stewards.

On the removal of the cloth the health of her Majesty, and of H.R.H. the Prince Consort, and the rest of the Royal Family, was drunk with the usual honours, after which,

The Chairman said no words of his would be wanted to recommend to them the next toast, "the Health of the M.W.G.M. the Earl of Zetland," but he could not let the opportunity pass of expressing his strong conviction that it was highly conducive to the prosperity of the Craft that they had at its head in England such a man as the noble earl. He (the Earl of Ripon) felt it as a high honour to have had the opportunity of serving as a Grand Officer under the noble earl, and he would now ask the Brethren to join with him in drinking to his health. (Applause.)

The health of the D.G.M., Lord Paumure, was then drunk, after which the Children were introduced, and their healthy and interesting appearance was generally admitted and admired. Having sung the "Festival Hymn,"

The Chairman said he rose to propose the toast of the evening. The presence of so many of the Brethren that evening was a sufficient proof of the deep interest they felt in the prosperity of the Institution to support which they were then assembled, and he rejoiced, therefore, that he would have the less difficulty in commending the toast to them. He believed it was now seventy-one years since the School was first founded, and during that period he was told 734 girls had enjoyed the advantages of the education it afforded, of whom 654 had passed through the School, and he was assured that, out of that large number, there was not one who, by her conduct in after life, had in-

flicted disgrace on the Institution. Now it might be said of schools for children, as of other things, "by their fruits shall ye know them." The best of schemes often failed; and plans, however well laid down, often failed to produce the results that were expected. The experience, however, of seventy years had proved the value of this Institution, and he had no doubt that so long as it continued to be managed as it had hitherto been, it would persevere to produce good fruit. It was unnecessary for him in that assembly to enter at any length into the history of the objects of the Institution. They all knew that it was instituted to afford a sound, useful education to the children of Brethren in misfortune. There was one feature of the Institution which was somewhat peculiar, and which particularly commended itself to notice—that whilst all who entered the school had to go through the same round of general training, those children who, had their parents not sunk into misfortune, might have looked for a superior education, were afforded the means of regaining their position in society, the means were taken to assure their sharing with others in the general business of the Institution. He thought that no means could be found of more fully carrying out those principles of the Craft—those principles of brotherly love upon which their Order was founded, than to replace, or rather giving the children of their distressed Brethren the means of replacing themselves in society in that position which their parents formerly held, and nothing could more effectually do so than by giving them a liberal education. Before he resumed his seat, he trusted they would allow him to say a word to the interesting children before him. He had pointed out the objects of the Institution, and told them that not one who had hitherto left it, had brought disgrace upon it, and he had no doubt that those whom he was then addressing, would follow in the footsteps of their predecessors. He begged them to recollect that education was daily becoming the more important, as with the keen competition now existing amongst all classes of society, it was impossible to keep a position in the world without it. Let him trust that, not only would they be found worthy of the character of the Institution, but that seventy years hence, when other Freemasons were assembled, as he hoped they would be, in that hall for the same object of supporting the Institution, it might be enabled to be said of the children before him, as it had been said of others, that after leaving the Institution their conduct had been such as never to reflect disgrace upon it. (Cheers.) It was upon the manner in which the female children were brought up the virtue and happiness of England mainly depended, and therefore it was of the highest importance that they should keep their Institution in the highest efficiency. He begged to propose "Prosperity to the Royal Freemasons' School for Female Children." (Applause.)

Bro. F. Crew, the respected and worthy Secretary of the Institution, then proceeded to present the children with their various prizes consisting of workboxes, books, &c.

The Chairman then placed a medal round the neck of one of the children, accompanied by a few words of advice respecting her conduct in after life, as it was only by following in the footsteps of her predecessors, and remembering the lessons inculcated upon her in the School, that she could hope for happiness here and hereafter.

The Children, having sung "Good Night," then retired, laden with the fruit of the desert, amidst loud applause.

The list of subscriptions amounted to close upon £1,900, with two lists to come in, so that it may be fairly estimated at very near £2,000, making close upon *six thousand five hundred pounds* given this year by the Freemasons, at their three charitable festivals, all held within three months, for the relief of the aged and the young.

ROYAL MASONIC BOYS' SCHOOL.

On Thursday, March 31st, a Special Court of the governors and subscribers of this Institution was held under the presidency of Bro. G. Barrett, V.P., and similar resolutions, as for the Girls' School agreed to.

THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL.

The Anniversary Festival was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, March 30th. The chair was occupied by the Right Hon. Lord Panmure, R.W.D.G.M., supported by Bros. Bowyer, Prov. G.M., Oxfordshire; C. P. Cooper, Prov. G.M., Kent; Hammond, Prov. G.M., Jersey; B. Bond Cabbell, Prov. G.M., Norfolk; W. G. Clarke, G. Sec.; W. P. Scott, S.G.D.; Hopwood, J.G.D.; Potter, P.G.D.; Evans, P.G.S.B.; Le Veau, P.G.S.B.; Walmisley, P.G.S.B.; Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; F. Slight, Prov. G.W., Surrey; Shaw, P. Prov. G.W., West Yorkshire; Job Austen, Prov. G. Orgt., Essex; Col. Western; Ald. Rose; Frederic Ledger; F. Crew; G. Barrett; F. Binckes; Stuart; Head; Z. Watkins; Herapath; Symonds; and about one hundred and eighty other Brethren.

At the conclusion of the dinner, which was most admirably served, and after the usual routine toasts had been disposed of, the report of

the committee was read, and a number of the boys were introduced into the room, and ranged in front of the dais.

The R.W.D.G.M. said he now rose to propose a toast which, after the interesting spectacle they had just witnessed, of the young boys entering the room, he was sure would require very few words from him to recommend to their notice, it being what was generally called the toast of the evening. He felt sure that they were all most anxious to respond to the toast, and he should therefore detain them with but few observations. One of the peculiar objects of Freemasonry was to cultivate the practice of virtue, and more especially that crowning virtue, charity. There was no charity more important than that of affording a good and sound education to the children of their poorer Brethren, who, from misfortune, were themselves prevented doing so. It had been truly said that there was no more important legacy to the young, and no greater blessing in their power to bestow than that of educating the child, so that when he entered the world he might not only be enabled to provide for himself, but, should they require it, to aid his parents in the decline of life. Formerly they only educated and clothed the sons of Masons, but within the last few years efforts had been made to obtain a school-house, in which twenty-five of the boys were educated, and it was hoped that within a very short time the whole seventy whom they now educated might be brought under one roof. It seemed that an opinion some time since got abroad that the benefits of the institution extended little beyond the metropolis; but it was not so, and it had been shown that it was open to all the Craft, and that the children of the Brethren in the provinces were equally cared for with those of the metropolis. He was pleased also to find that the Brethren of the provinces were now beginning to take a greater interest in the prosperity of the charities than they had formerly appeared to do; and he was sure that with their united efforts, their institutions would be placed at the head of the various noble charities which adorned the country.

It was the more important that they should extend to the children of their Brethren the advantages of a good education—because he would remind them, and now he spoke to the boys themselves—that owing to the free constitution of this country, there was no man having the talent and the determination to make his way, there was no position, however dignified, which a subject could hold, to which he might not aspire—and even some of the children then before them might arrive some day at the distinguished position of Grand Master, or Deputy Grand Master of England. In proposing success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, he would ask to be allowed to couple with it the name of Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, their Treasurer. He was sure there was no one to be found who had devoted himself more thoroughly to the promotion of works of charity than Bro. Cabbell, and it was his earnest hope that he might long be spared to be amongst them, and add dignity to their Order, whilst, by taking care of their funds, he greatly benefitted the charity.

The toast having been received with loud applause, Bro. B. B. Cabbell, Provincial Grand Master for Norfolk, and Treasurer of the Boys' School, thanked the R.W. Deputy Grand Master for the handsome manner in which he had connected his name with the last toast, and the Brethren for the very kind and affectionate manner in which they had received it.

The R.W.D.G.M. then proceeded to distribute the medals and prizes to the boys whose names are given at the close of this account, addressing to each some appropriate remarks.

The list of subscriptions was then read, headed by the name of Her Majesty for £10 10s., and amounting in the whole to £1,854, with three lists to come in. The combined lists of Bros. Shaw, No. 342, and Batley, No. 937 (Stewards for West Yorkshire), amounted to £306.

The R.W.D.G.M., in announcing the amount of the subscriptions, specially commended the exertions of the Brethren of West Yorkshire, whom he considered entitled to the warmest thanks of the company, and felt that he could only say to the other provinces, "Go ye and do likewise."

The following is the annual report of the Committee, with that of the Examiner of the boys in the school, circulated in the course of the evening:—

"In presenting to the subscribers the annual statement of receipts and expenditure, the Committee cannot but congratulate themselves and the supporters of the Institution generally, on the success which has attended their efforts during the past year—the amount received being larger than that of any former year. The Committee must regard this as the best evidence of the approval by the Craft at large, of the steps they have taken with a view to improve the efficiency of the establishment, and to extend, as far as possible, the benefits it is so well calculated to afford. The future remains with the Brethren who have never been appealed to in vain when their support has been solicited, and who, it is confidently hoped, will, at the ensuing festival, not only renew, but increase, the assistance which the Committee now so gratefully acknowledge.

"Plans for the extension and enlargement of the present building have been submitted to your Committee, by the adoption of which adequate accommodation may be provided for seventy boys, and they feel sure that the members of the Craft will at once recognize the manifest advantage of having the whole of the boys on the Institution (or so many of them whose parents shall sanction their admission) under one roof, and under the control and direction of an adequate staff of masters, &c., who will be directly responsible to the executive into whose hands the management of the school is annually entrusted. The estimated cost of the contemplated enlargement is £1,500.

"5th March, 1859."

"(Signed) JOHN HERVEY, Chairman.

The balance sheet for 1858 shows the total revenue for the year (including £493 15s. 10d., brought forward from the previous account) to have been £2,810 16s. 1d., and the expenditure £2,130 4s. 3d. £400 Stock had been purchased at a cost of £385, and there remained in hand on 30th December, a balance of £295 11s. 10d.

"To the Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

"Brethren,—Having undertaken for the first time the examination of the boys connected with your Institution, I have much pleasure in sending you the accompanying classification of them, and report.

"Besides written papers, I subjected each boy separately to a *viva voce* examination, and consider that I gained much by this plan, as it enabled me to come to a much more correct conclusion as to the merits of the different candidates, than I could otherwise have done. Some of the boys acquitted themselves very well indeed, especially Crichton and Guanziroli; some of the others, however, very indifferently. The subject in which there was the greatest deficiency was arithmetic; this was badly done by *all*—several of the boys not answering, or trying to answer, *one single question*. The spelling also was generally bad.

"I have put two boys as equal for the writing prize. I thought the merits of the writing they brought with them equal, and therefore gave them an exercise to write during the examination; this, however, led to the same result as before. I therefore recommend them both for prizes.

"I would take the liberty of suggesting, in conclusion, that an assistant master be appointed as soon as possible at Lordship Lodge, as I do not think that one is sufficient. I would also recommend that examinations of the boys under instruction there, be held more frequently than at present (say one every three months). Also that a prize should be instituted for general good conduct during the year.

"I award the prizes as follows:—Arithmetic, Crichton; General Knowledge, Guanziroli; Geography, Guanziroli; History, Ward; Writing, Crichton and Robinson.

"The arithmetical examination I left solely in the hands of Mr. J. P. Tuck.

"Should my suggestion of instituting additional examinations at Lordship Lodge be adopted, I will willingly undertake the office of examiner for the present year, and would visit the school for the purpose of examining the boys, on the days following the Quarterly Communications at Grand Lodge.

"I remain, Brethren, yours faithfully,

"March 15th, 1859. "ARTHUR R. WARD, M.A. Grand Chaplain.

"ARITHMETIC.—First Division Prize, Crichton. Second Division Prize, Stean.

"WRITING.—Equal Prizes, Crichton, *Robinson.

"GEOGRAPHY.—Guanziroli, Crichton; *Lang, Mackey, equal; *Ward, *Robinson, Bennett, *Fountain, *Smellie, Willis, *McLaren; Speight, Wiber, equal; *Fisher; *Reeder, *Bolton, *Feddou, Johnson, equal; Stean, Meyer, Bonorardi. Three not classed.

"HISTORY.—*Ward, Crichton; *Lang, *Robinson, equal; Mackey, *Guanziroli, *Smellie, Bennett, *McLaren, *Feddou, Wiber; *Fisher, *Willis, equal; Speight, *Fountain, *Bolton, *Roach. Eight not classed.

"GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.—*Guanziroli, *Robinson, Crichton; *Lang, Mackey, equal; *Ward, Willis, *McLaren, *Feddou, Bennett; *Smellie, *Bolton, *Fisher, *Fountain; Johnson, Meyer, equal; *Roach, Speight, Stean, *Reeder. Four not classed.

"The Boys under instruction at Lordship Lodge are distinguished by (*)."

QUARTERLY COURT.

The general quarterly court of the governors and subscribers to this institution was held at the offices, on April 18th, Bro. Geo. Barrett, *V.P.*, presiding.

The minutes of the last meeting, and of the various meetings of the committee, having been confirmed, Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell was re-elected as treasurer.

The committee for the ensuing year was also elected; the following Brethren being substituted for those who have resigned or are disqualified.

Bro. William M. Best,	for Bro. John Charleton.
Henry Cowland,	" " William Freeman.
Henry Grant Baker,	" " J. G. Foudrinier.
Alfred Day,	" " J. S. Hopwood.
Robert Farren,	" " A. Hentzman.
W. Gath, P. Prov. G. West Yorkshire,	" " Peter Matthews.
J. W. Monnery,	" " Richard Spencer.
John Marks,	" " Richard Graves.
J. N. Sheen,	" " Captain Wright.

We should here observe, that the majority of the Brethren above mentioned as retiring, have disqualified themselves for election on the committee by becoming life governors, and consequently members of it in virtue of their subscriptions.

Bro. Symonds then moved the substitution of the word "House," for "General," in Rule 67; thereby putting the appointment of the Schoolmaster and Matron in the hands of the "House" instead of the "General" Committee.

Bro. Waring seconded the motion, which was carried.

The election of six boys into the school, out of a list of fourteen candidates, was then proceeded with. The result of the polling was as follows:—

ELECTED.		
Alfred L. Gilham, aged 9 (Calcutta)	3,812
David Freeman, aged 9 (Croydon)	3,292
Fred. W. Atkinson, aged 9 (Margate)	2,774
Charles Day, aged 7 (Dewsbury)	1,290
Joseph Benjamin Phillips, aged 8 (London)	1,190
William Hobbs Adams, aged 7 (South Molton, Devon)	732

UNSUCCESSFUL.		
Edwin Kilpin aged 8 (Northampton)	605
Alfred William Dutton, aged 9 (London)	504
Alexander Johnson, aged 16 (Newcastle)	493
George Stark, aged 11½ (Exmouth)	207
John McDowell, aged 8 (London)	151
John M. Chatworthy, aged 8 (Brixham, Devon)	144
Edwin V. Webber, aged 11 (Lincoln)	133
John William Davis, aged 10 (London)	24

Of those elected one has lost both father and mother, and four others their fathers. Five belong to the provinces and one to London—of the unsuccessful candidates five belong to the provinces, and three to London. Two of the unsuccessful candidates will not be eligible to be received unless elected in October next, viz. George Stark, who on this occasion polled 207; and Edwin Vincent Webber, who polled 133.

Votes of thanks to the chairman and scrutineers closed the proceedings.

The usual Monthly Meeting of the General Committee was held on Saturday, 1st inst., and was attended much more numerously than any similar meeting within our recollection. In addition to those generally in attendance, we observed Bros. Havers, Roxburgh, C. Lockett-Webb, and many brethren with whose names we are unacquainted. The principal business was the election of the House and Audit Committee for the ensuing year. For the former fifteen brethren had been nominated, from whom the following twelve were selected:—Bros. Absolon, G. Cox, Rev. J. E. Cox, Filer, B. Head, Hopwood, Rev. W. H. Lyall, W. Paas, C. Robinson, W. P. Scott, Waring, and W. Young. The rejected candidates being Bros. John Barnes, and Geo. Barrett, and Bro. Geo. Haward, who it was generally understood had withdrawn.

The following were elected as the Finance and Audit Committee:—Bros. Empson, Haward, P. Matthews, A. Perkins, J. Symonds, and H. G. Warren.

Three children were received as candidates for admission. The sum of £564 was voted to complete the alterations and enlargement of the building. The report of the Treasurer showed that £600 stock had been purchased, the total amount now standing to the credit of the Trustees being £14,000.

ROYAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION FOR AGED MASONS AND THEIR WIDOWS.

The annual meeting of this institution was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Friday, the 20th May, Bro. Udall, *V.P.*, presiding.

Bro. Farnfield, the Secretary, read the statement of accounts and report as follows:—

"It affords to the committee of management the sincerest gratification in noticing the continued advancing prosperity of the institu-

tion, and the largely increased funds applicable to the relief of our distressed brethren and their widows.

"At the first biennial festival, which was fixed by the M.W. Grand Master for the 26th of January in the present year, there were sixty-three brethren who offered their services as Stewards, amongst whom were several belonging to Lodges in the provinces, and the result of the Stewards' exertions was a collection amounting to £2,053 8s.; and since the last annual general meeting the United Grand Lodge has, by a resolution unanimously passed and confirmed, increased its annual donations to this charity by £100 to each of its branches, making the yearly donation to the Male Fund £500, and to the Widows' Fund £300.

"Out of the collection made at the biennial festival, and other donations and subscriptions received during the year, the committee under the established regulation have been enabled to increase the funded property by £1,250, 3 per cents., on account of the Male Fund, and £850, 3 per cents., on account of the Widows' Fund, thus making the funded property belonging to the

Male Fund £11,550, 3 per cents.
Widows' Fund 3,450, 3 per cents.

"Thus the permanent annual income may be stated as follows, viz.:

MALE FUND.	
United Grand Lodge	£500 0 0
Supreme Grand Chapter	100 0 0
Dividends on Stock	346 10 0
	<hr/>
	£946 10 0

WIDOWS' FUND.	
United Grand Lodge	£300 0 0
Supreme Grand Chapter	50 0 0
Dividends on Stock	103 10 0
	<hr/>
	453 10 0
	<hr/>
	£1400 0 0

"After the election last year, there were forty-six male annuitants, of whom six have died; and the committee now recommend the election of twenty-six, which will make the number sixty-two.

"After the same election, there were twenty-five widows, two of whom have since died, and the committee now recommend the election of six, which will make their number twenty-nine.

Of the male annuitants now living—

13 are of London Lodges, receiving	£280 0 0	per ann.
27 are of country Lodges, receiving	576 0 0	"
	<hr/>	
	£856 0 0	"

Of the Widows—

12 are of London Lodges, receiving £245 0 0	
11 are of country Lodges, receiving 200 0 0	
	<hr/>
	445 0 0

Of widows receiving one half of the amount of annuities enjoyed by the deceased husbands, there are—

1 of a London Lodge	£7 10 0
2 of country Lodges	25 0 0
	<hr/>
	32 10 0

66 annuitants, at present receiving £1,333 10 0

"The Asylum building is in perfect substantial repair, but it will be necessary to paint all the outside wood and iron work, and also to whitewash and paint a portion of the interior.

"The committee have the pleasing duty to state, that the Stewards for the biennial meeting having a balance of £12, after settling all their accounts, handed the same to Bro. Farnfield, the Secretary of the Institution, to be expended in the purchase of coals, to be given to the inmates of the Asylum; and the Grand Stewards of the year 1858 having a balance of £28 16s., gave £10 10s. to the fund for Male Annuitants; £10 10s. to the Widows' Fund; and £7 16s. for the purchase of coals for the inmates of the Asylum."

The following Statement of Accounts was then read:—

MALE ANNUITANTS.	
Balance, 31st March, 1858	£344 3 6
Subsequent Receipts	2,715 19 2
	<hr/>
	£3,060 2 8
Disbursements	£1,184 10 1
Purchase of £1,250, 3 per Cent. 1,200 15 0	
	<hr/>
	2,385 5 1
	<hr/>
	£674 17 7

FOR WIDOW ANNUITANTS.	
Balance, 31st March, 1858	£327 10 5
Subsequent Receipts	1,349 17 8
	<hr/>
	£1,677 8 1

Disbursements	£365 14 9
Purchase of £850, } 816 2 6	
3 per Cents.	
	<hr/>
	1,381 17 3
Balance on this Account	£295 10 10

FOR SUSTENTATION OF BUILDING.	
Balance, 31st March, 1858	£53 6 1
Subsequent Receipts	52 13 0
	<hr/>
	105 19 1

Balance on this Account	105 19 1
	<hr/>
Total Balance	£1,076 7 6

Stock standing in the names of Trustees:—

For Males { Consols	£6,150	} £11,550 0 0
{ Reduced	5,400	
For Females { Consols	2,150	} 3,450 0 0
{ Reduced	1,300	
For Sustentation of Building, Consols		367 7 9

The report having been received and adopted, Bro. Stevenson was re-elected on the Committee of Management, and Bro. J. W. Adams elected in the room of Rev. Bro. Lyall, retiring.

A vote of thanks was then given to Bro. Henley, the medical officer of the institution, for his valuable professional assistance and unvarying kindness to the inmates of the Asylum.

Bro. Barrett moved that it was the opinion of the meeting that an annual festival would prove advantageous to the institution, whilst it would not be injurious to the interests of the other charities. He considered that this institution ought to be placed on an equality with the other charities, which it never could be until it had an annual festival; and all experience had proved that, so far from their festivals injuring the other institutions on the years in which they were held, those of the other charities were more successful than upon the years when the friends of the Benevolent Institution were not appealed to.

Bro. Warren seconded the motion. He did so because he was convinced that the only way of making any charity successful was to continually keep its claims before the public. The festival, if of no other advantage, had this to recommend it,—it gave them the opportunity of appealing to the Craft, and that without any expense to the charity for they could always find stewards to take the expenses upon themselves. Moreover, it had always been found, that not only did they not get any donations in the years when there were no festivals, but the annual subscriptions fell off, and the longer the festival was delayed the more did they diminish.

Bro. Savage, though not denying the advantage of annual festivals, would remind them that last year they had determined in favour of biennial festivals instead of triennial, and it was scarcely fair to ask them now to determine in favour of annual festivals until they had had some experience with regard to the biennial, the first of which had only just been held. Indeed, he doubted whether such a motion ought, under the circumstances, to have been brought forward without notice.

Bro. Warren wished to explain that he had, at the last meeting, given notice of his intention to agitate the question at every annual meeting until it was carried.

Bro. Symonds felt a difficulty in opposing the motion, because, if the statements made by Bro. Warren relative to the falling off of subscriptions were true, there could be no doubt of the advantage of annual festivals, of which, indeed, he had himself been in favour. The biennial festivals were, however, the result of a compromise between the advocates of the triennial and annual festivals—that result having been arrived at at a meeting specially convened to consider the question. He would therefore move, as an amendment, that they should pass to the previous question.

Bro. Savage seconded the amendment.

Bro. Binckes supported the original motion, and, admitting the compromise, said it had been most unsatisfactory to a large body of the brethren.

Bro. Hervey was as indisposed as any man to take any course which might appear adverse to the interests of one of their charities, yet, looking at the fact that it was only four months since they held their last festival, he thought it would be better to wait until they had further experience of the working of the biennial festivals. He would also remind them that they were there not to consider the

interests of the other charities, but of the Benevolent Fund, and he therefore thought it injudicious to make any allusion to those charities. Under all the circumstances he must support the amendment.

Bro. Barrett, in reply, stated that the only reason for referring to the other charities was, that the only argument ever used against annual festivals for this charity was, that they would injure those of the other institutions.

The amendment was then put, when there appeared for it, 10; against it, 10. The chairman having given the casting vote against the amendment.

Bro. Savage moved, as a second amendment, that the further consideration of the subject be postponed to the next annual meeting.

The amendment having been seconded, Bro. Warren reminded the brethren that the effect of carrying it would be to postpone the consideration of the subject for two years—as next year they would be told it was no use then to agitate the question, as they would have a festival in due course in eight months.

The amendment was negatived by 12 to 11, and the original motion carried.

Bro. Savage wished to ask a question before they proceeded to the poll. By Rule 35 it was provided that “at no period shall there be on either fund more annuitants from Lodges in the London district than from those in the country.” Of course that rule applied to the period of elections, as death might cause a variation at other times. The question he wished to ask was—how many they could elect from the London district that day? By the report it appeared that twelve of the present annuitants came from London and eleven from the country, but there were also three others on the funds receiving half of the pensions of their late husbands, which they would continue to receive another year, viz., one from London and two from the country, so that there were actually thirteen of each class receiving annuities—so that if he read the law aright they might now elect three from London (if they obtained the majority), and must elect three from the country whether they got a majority or not. Was he right?

The Chairman. “Certainly; the law referred to the number in receipt of annuities, not to the amount of those annuities.”

The poll was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—

MALE FUND.

ELECTED.

CANDIDATES.	Age.	No. of Appli- cations.	Votes.	Pen- sion.
Slade, T., Southampton	65	1	16510	20
Drews, E. C., London	64	2	15815	20
Dale, John, Whitby	67	1	14099	20
Owen, W. H., Gravesend	56	1	12366	20
Satterly, Thomas, London	79	1	11232	25
Barlow, John, Haslingden	80	11	10050	30
Kinnear, James, London	76	2	9361	25
Greathend, Matthew, Richmond, Yorkshire	89	1	9237	80
Harper, John, Hull	72	11	9099	25
Battam, John, Jersey	67	6	8719	20
Jackson, James, Stanesfield, Yorkshire	72	6	8682	25
Young, George, London	69	5	8482	20
Brook, William, Huddersfield	65	5	8290	20
Gifford, John, London	72	1	8008	25
Smith, Thomas, Barnley	69	6	7981	20
Collard, William, Ramsgate	81	6	7783	30
Marsh, Charles, Tunbridge Wells	69	3	7146	25
Jardine, William, London	70	7	6855	25
Beckett, John, Wakefield	65	1	5678	20
Roberts, Joseph, Staley, near Mottram	69	7	4246	20
Reeves, Thomas, London	74	1	2870	25
Bunker, William, Sunderland	71	5	2671	25

WOMEN.

ELECTED.

Green, Elizabeth, Hadleigh	69	2	3265	20
Lillywhite, Jemima, London	75	2	2934	25
Brooks, Elizabeth S., London	62	2	2836	15
Nicholson, Elizabeth, London	61	2	2186	15
Dear, Esther, Ramsgate	84	3	995	20
King, Eliza S., Bermuda	60	4	736	15

VISIT OF THE ROYAL FREEMASONS' GIRLS' SCHOOL TO OXFORD.—On Wednesday last the seventy children of the school, with the matron, schoolmistress, committee, and masonic friends accompanying them, visited Oxford, by the train arriving at the Great Western station soon after eleven o'clock. They were met there by a deputation of the Brethren of the Province who had subscribed towards the expenses of the day. Carriages in attendance conveyed the party over Pacey's bridge, by Beaumont-street, passing slowly by the University Galleries, and Martyrs' Memorial, to St. John's College, where the party alighted and walked through the college and the gardens, leaving by the private gate opposite Wadham, to the corner of the parks, to view the exterior of the new museum. They then proceeded past Wadham college, the end of Broad-Street, the Radcliffe Square, All Souls', University and Queen's Colleges to Magdalen. Here a capital luncheon was provided at twelve o'clock in the hall of Magdalen College, by the kindness of Vice-President, Bro. the Rev. John Sedgwick, B.D.; after which the chapel was visited. The party, on leaving Magdalen walked to the Oxford end of Magdalen bridge, and returned past the front of the Botanic Garden up Queen's lane to New College gardens, entering by the private door near St. Peter's church. After viewing the gardens, the old city walls, and the chapel, they proceeded to the Radcliffe library, and before leaving it ascended to the platform around the dome to see the panoramic view of Oxford. Thence to the Bodleian library and the theatre; up Broad-street, past Trinity College, Balliol College, opposite which the cross marking the spot were Archbishops Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer suffered martyrdom, were pointed out; by Cornmarket street to the Town Hall. A plentiful and handsome dinner was provided in the Town Hall, the platform at each end being occupied by ladies invited by the brethren and the committee. At the conclusion of dinner, a copy of the “Hand book for visitors to Oxford, illustrated by 100 wood cuts,” was presented to each of the children and staff of the school, and the members of the London committees who were present, by Miss Bowyer, Mrs Liddell, and Mrs. Cottrell Dormer. Captain Peyton also presented them with a photograph of St. John's college. The whole party then proceeded to visit Christ Church, its library, hall, and kitchen. To the Broad walk, Christ Church meadow, on board some of the large house boats, and thence across the river to Grandpont, were Br. Randall kindly invited the party to take tea. The whole proceedings were of the most pleasing character, the appearance of so many young and innocent creatures, orphans of deceased brethren, many of whom occupied superior positions in life, created an interest far surpassing that of many more pretentious spectacles. Their reception at Oxford was one of universal kindness, all the expenses being defrayed by the Brethren, who also entertained many gentlemen from a distance with the proverbial hospitality of the craft.

Provincial.

From the Masonic Mirror.

HAMPSHIRE.

A Grand Lodge of Emergency of this Province was held on Monday, 28th of March, by command of the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Admiral Sir Lucius Curtis, Bart., at the Masonic Hall adjoining the Black Swan, High Street, Winchester.

The Lodge was opened in due form some time after noon. There were present, in addition to the R.W. Prov. G.M., the R.W. Bro. Wyndham S. Portal, Junior Grand Warden of England, as D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. W. W. Beach, M.P., Prov. S.G.W.; Bro. Rastrick, Prov. J.G.W.; the Rev. Bro. G. R. Portal, Prov. Grand Chaplain; Bro. Hollingsworth, Prov. S.G.D.; Bro. Dr. Clark, Prov. J.G.D.; Bros. C. Sherry and C. Copeland, as Grand Directors of Ceremonies; Bro. J. R. Stebbing, Prov. G. Sec., pro. tem.; Bro. Lisle, Prov. G. Purs., and about seventy other Brethren. The following Lodges were represented on this occasion:—Nos. 90, 152, 319, 387, 428, 462, 555, 717, 995, and 1025.

Sir Lucius Curtis said, the first business they would proceed to consider, would be the third item on the notice paper, namely, the passing of some suitable resolution on the melancholy occasion of the death of their departed Worshipful Bro. Thomas Norcross Firmin, the late Grand Secretary of the province. Bro. Firmin had been known to most of them now present, and he (Sir Lucius) felt called upon to state, that he believed a better Mason never breathed in this world. He had a resolution of condolence to propose to the Meeting, which he would thank Bro. Stebbing (who had kindly prepared it)

to read, and he felt sure some Brother present would readily second it. Bro. Stebbing read the resolution, which was as follows:—

“That this Grand Lodge desires to record its deep and heartfelt sorrow on the melancholy occasion of the death of its most valued and ever to be lamented Grand Secretary and Past Grand Warden, Bro. Thomas Norcross Firmin, whose loss to Masonry will be long and severely felt, and whose amiable manners and sincere friendship will never be forgotten.

“That this Grand Lodge embraces the opportunity of passing this sad tribute to his memory, and of testifying to his great worth and excellence as a Mason, and his high and honourable conduct as a man. In him were united the genuine characteristics of a true Brother, a sincere friend, a fond husband, a kind father, a loyal citizen, a just and upright man and Mason; he truly cultivated brotherly love and practised charity, and in his life and conduct upheld the principles and illustrated the inspiration of the Psalmist, so beautifully expressed in the words—‘Behold, how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.’

“That in grateful appreciation of their lamented Brother’s services to this province, of sincere and earnest conviction of his distinguished character as a Mason, and in deep affectionate sympathy and condolence with his much respected and bereaved widow and family, a copy of this resolution be respectfully forwarded to them, with the earnest and heartfelt prayer of every Brother in the province, that it may please the Great Architect of the Universe to extend His mercy to them in their deep sorrow, and to comfort and console them in their irreparable loss and great affliction.”

The resolution, having been seconded by Bro. Beach, *M.P.*, was put from the chair, and carried with perfect unanimity, and general expressions of sympathy and sorrow.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

The P.G.M. said he should take upon himself again to reverse the order of subjects on the notice paper, and call the attention of the Prov. Grand Lodge to the report of Bros. Lyall and Symonds on the Masonic charities. He believed a copy of that report had been forwarded to all the members of the Prov. Grand Lodge, and therefore they were prepared to give an opinion upon it. He had himself read it with great attention, and he must state that it met his approval in every way. The proposition of the Brethren referred to in their report, in regard to the provincial committees, he thought most desirable; and he felt it incumbent upon them to endeavour to increase the funds of all their charities as much as laid in their power. He was convinced that the Boys’ school was most ably conducted; they were all educated according to their individual ability, and he was happy to find that none had left but who done credit to their important society. He was sorry to say he could not speak with the same satisfaction in regard to the Girls’ School. At present the Girls in their school, received no better training than was given to many national charity school children—they were principally taught to scrub, make beds, and wash pots and kettles. He did not mean to say that the domestic training of any girls should be neglected; such instruction was very useful, especially that they should be taught the useful forms of needlework. He thought that no disgrace to the highest lady in the land; and further, no lady could properly conduct her household without domestic abilities. He thought their charities were very good, and the chief ornaments of the Order; and he hoped to see them always studying, in preference to their own comforts, how far they could alleviate the wants and distresses of their poorer Brethren. Sir Lucius said, he need not go through the whole of the report, but he might add, that he most cordially agreed with the suggestions for obtaining more efficient and combined support from the provinces, on behalf of the charitable institutions.

Bro. Perkins, *W.M.*, No. 132, said, it had struck him, that in forming the local committees for the charities, the Master of each Lodge should be included *ex officio*. That the representatives should be selected by the Brethren themselves—he quite agreed with, but the Master might be added. The Master of a Lodge naturally took a vast amount of interest in all business transacted within it, and it would generally be found an advantage if the Master were added as he suggested.

Bro. Stebbing called attention to a resolution of the P.G.L., which almost met Bro. Perkins’s views.

Bro. the G. R. Portal said, that the charities’ committee, appointed at the last P.G.L. had adopted this view. It had been thought that a plan was possible, by which all members could have facilities for subscribing according to their means, to the charities, and this was by the charity box being handed round at every banquet. There was an impression amongst Lodges, in favour of their having the management of the contents of their own charity box; and therefore he was willing to give up that part of the resolution. With regard to the *W.M.* of a Lodge acting on the charities’ committee, it must be

remembered, that though a man might be found very good and efficient as Master, still, others from their peculiar habits, might possibly be better suited to act on such a committee.

Bro. Perkins said it was no idea of his to withdraw the Brother appointed by any Lodge, and substitute another in the person of the *W.M.*; still, he adhered to his idea, that the *W.M.* of a Lodge was as fit a man as could be appointed. He was not anxious, however, to make any motion to such effect.

Bro. H. Ford said he was inclined to support a similar proposition.

Bro. Perkins thought it would be better to adopt the report, with the addition that the *W.M.* should be one of the members of the charities’ committee.

Bro. Beach suggested that it would be advisable to adopt the recommendation as a rider.

After some further conversation, Bro. Ford moved the following resolution:—“That approving generally of the suggestions contained in the report of Bros. Symonds and Lyall, it is resolved that so much of it as recommends the appointment of a special member from each Lodge, to be called the charity steward, as an addition to the Committee, be adopted; and that the committee be instructed to guide themselves by the general spirit of the recommendations of the report in question, and that the *R.W. Prov. Grand Master* be respectfully requested to act on the committee.”

Bro. Wyndham S. Portal seconded the resolution. He did not think it was necessary on the present occasion to say anything more as to the desirability of doing more for the charities than had been hitherto done. He really believed that the difference found to have existed, was caused by members in the provinces not being kept *au fait* in the work. The support as yet given to the charities was, in by far the greater proportion, derived from the London district alone. In the last published account it appeared, that of the subscribers to the Girls’ school, one thousand and forty-eight were of London, and only three hundred were of the country. Of the Boys’ school there were six hundred and sixty-seven London supporters to two hundred and thirty-six country ones. And yet a great deal more than half the objects of the Masonic charities were provincial, and not from London. If the London district were only to demand one half of the benefits, or even in proportion to the extent of their contributions, they would deprive the provincial body of three fourths of the advantages they at present enjoyed. He was more or less acquainted with the state of the schools, and as to the matter of the girls’ education, he thought at present it was only a question of funds, though it was advisable to keep up the industrial training of the children. The charity for aged Masons and their widows was not in so hopeful a state as could be wished, also from want of funds. The charities of the Order should be their first aim, and he had been glad to see the Right Worshipful Master take the business relative to them first, because their interest was the first, or ought to be the first in their consideration. He thought well of the recommendation that one member in each Lodge should strive to increase the charity subscriptions.

Bro. C. Sherry, *P.M.*, said he wished to set the *R.W. Prov. Grand Master* and others right upon one point, namely in reference to the Girls’ school. He alluded to a resolution only lately passed for including music and French in the education of the girls; and indeed, those branches of learning were now included in the instruction given in the school. He had an amendment, or rather a rider to the resolution, which he should like to move.

Bro. Stebbing said perhaps it would be better if the resolution now before the meeting were formally read and put.

The resolution being read, was put from the chair and carried.

Bro. C. Sherry then continued:—He believed it was quite evident that if too many individuals were included on the committees, nothing would be done. Large bodies, to the extent of twenty-eight or thirty, he believed would be found too numerous for the good working of the objects they had in view. There was reason to believe the support given to the charities from London members, was six times greater than that from the provinces; and this was anything but creditable to the superior numbers of Masons in the provincial Lodges, compared with those of the London district. He could only account for this fact, from the want of good management in the conducting of the business at head quarters, in London. He referred to a passage in Messrs. Lyall and Symonds’s report, to the following effect:—“We have reason to believe that an impression is not uncommon amongst many provincial Brethren, of good social position, and holding high Masonic honours, that if their *Prov. Grand Lodge*, and, perhaps, the particular Lodges with which they are connected, are already subscribers, or can be induced to subscribe, all has been done that it is requisite to do, and that personal subscriptions may be dispensed with. It is only thus that we can account for the small portion of provincial as compared with London Brethren, who contribute to the funds of the schools. Of the vice-presidents, donors, and annual subscribers to each school, we find, on reference to re-

cently published lists, that the number resident in the London district, is about six times greater than in all the provinces combined." It was his conviction, that if they were allowed to send to the charity boards one representative from each province, they would soon succeed in improving matters by their having a voice in the collecting as well as the expenditure of the funds. He begged, therefore, to move the following resolution.—"That in order to stimulate further exertions of the Brethren in the provinces, and carry out the recommendations of the sub-committee, we would recommend the appointment of a brother to be called 'the representative of the province for the charities,' which representative shall be selected from the charities' members annually by the Prov. Grand Master, and entitled to a seat at the four Masonic charity boards." Bro. Sherry, continuing his remarks, said—Let each Lodge elect their own W.M., if he happened to be the fittest for the office of charity member; but if there was another member of the Lodge better acquainted with the business of the charities, he were to be preferred. He could not help disagreeing with the idea of Bro. Perkins, which would make the staff of the committee too numerous.

Bro. Clarke wished that Bro. Sherry would withdraw his proposition and propose a different one, or allow him (Bro. Clarke) to do so.

Bro. Castell, P.M., No. 717, said it was a most important thing that this subject should be well ventilated. He felt satisfied, from many years' acquaintance with Masonry, that the little support given to the charities from the provinces, arose from the fact that they were comparatively unknown amongst the majority of the members of Masonry in provincial towns. The hearts of those Masons in the country were not less warm, and it was only requisite that the thing should be brought before them in order to secure their sympathy. As an example, he might state that in his own Lodge twenty-two subscribers had been obtained, on the subject of the charities only being mentioned by himself, and many others had dropped in since as regular subscribers to the benevolent fund. He was ready to fall into anything which was calculated to promote the object of the charities. He really did think some means should be devised to let every member know what the various charities were; and one of the first objects of care for the committees about to be appointed, he hoped would be the making the business and working of the charities thoroughly known among all the Masons in the provinces.

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal observed, that it had been said the charities committee appointed at Basingstoke had done nothing. It was not in their power to do anything, until their report was adopted by the next meeting of the Prov. Grand Lodge. The question now before them was, should they or should they not consider the W.M. of every Lodge an *ex officio* member of the charity committee, in addition to the member of the Lodge to be elected by the members generally.

Bro. Ford, in explanation, said the representative committee for the charities, would extend over the whole province. He wished this, that the W.M. of the Lodge be one of those who attend the committee, so that there be two members from each Lodge, one elected and the W.M. *ex officio*.

In accordance with the expressed wish of several Brethren, that Bro. Sherry should withdraw his proposition and let it be a matter for the consideration of the Committee, when appointed—many of the members present apparently approving of the idea conveyed in the said proposition—Bro. Sherry accordingly withdrew it. In some further remarks, he expressed his opinion that the London Brethren were deserving of much credit for their management, but they were not infallible. He could account for the want of support from the provinces to some extent, from the fact that the provincial Brethren had no voice in the management of the charities. He thought that if the Board were to infuse a little provincial blood into the management of the charities, it would be the means of stimulating the members of the country Lodges to further exertion; and they would no longer be open to the reflection, that they did not contribute their proper share to the charities, in the way of annual subscriptions or donations.

It was then proposed by Bro. Sherry, seconded by Bro. Durant, P.M., No. 90, and carried unanimously:—"That the charities' committee select their own treasurer and secretary from their own number."

GRAND LODGE PROPERTY.

The R.W. Prov. Grand Master next called the meeting to the consideration of the first item on the notice paper, namely, the circular from the Board of General Purposes, in respect to the suggested improvements in the Grand Lodge Property (Freemasons' Hall, &c.). He said he had read the questions propounded therein, and he had his own private opinion regarding them. He had called this Lodge of Emergency to take into consideration these questions, and he thought a great deal of serious consideration was required in respect

to them. He could state, in the first place, that the circular's suggestions did not meet his views, and he had required further information from Bro. Havers. He considered that the room in which the business of the Grand Master was conducted was large enough, and the Grand Secretary's also. The Clerks' room, where three or four of them were cramped up together, was a miserable and crowded place; and he would be inclined to throw the Library, so called (a room he believed without a book in it), into the said clerks' office. Then, with regard to the great hall, it was a most extraordinary thing, that they were paying their own tenant twelve guineas every time they used it. If their tenant happened to have a public dinner there on the day of quarterly communications, then he turned them out. He thought the grand hall should be reserved exclusively for the use of Masons. He conceived this might be easily done, when there were thirty-eight Lodges meeting there and one Chapter. If they abolished the tavern as a public place, their rent would be reduced; but to counteract that loss they would receive something from the various Lodges, which would then probably make a difference to the extent of £1116, instead of £1316. If they meditated opening the tavern themselves on a large scale as proposed, an enormous outlay would be required to purchase furniture, plate, &c.; and then they would have to pay managers, waiters, domestics, cooks, &c. At present, it was stated they paid £5000 a year to the tenant for Masonic banquets; and though this included those of private Lodges, still the amount was exceedingly high, and he really thought it might be done much lower. If Brethren would drink champagne and claret, let them pay for it out of their own pockets. Why not supply all the diners upon a certain scale, at so much per head? Of course, before anything was done in respect to alteration of the building, estimates would be prepared and laid down for consideration. The R.W. Prov. Grand Master here quoted an article in the last number of the *Masonic Observer*, on the subject. He objected to the provincial Brethren paying for the convenience and benefit of those in London; many of the provincial Brethren went but seldom to London, and could not avail themselves of benefits regularly open to and enjoyed by those resident in the London district. He sincerely hoped no measure would be adopted, by means of which the Masonic body might become involved. He really thought the best plan would be, for the persons who had the care of the hall to provide whatever Masons may want, and they in return pay for whatever they received.

Bro. Ford enquired if the meeting intended to consider the questions of the circular *seriatim*?

Bro. Stebbing called attention to the fact that it was then past three o'clock. He should take but little part in the discussion himself, because he felt but little disposed to trust the Executive of Grand Lodge with the exclusive management of anything. If brethren present confined their remarks to the contents of the circular, they would save time and easily come to a conclusion. They must either approve of the principles set forth in the first four, or that of the last of the questions.

Bro. the Rev. G. R. Portal said the question mainly turned upon this—were the Craft to become tavern keepers or not? He thought that it was not creditable for Lodges to meet in a room, that the next moment might be occupied by a body of teetotalers; but he was extremely averse to Grand Lodge becoming a body of tavern keepers. They well knew that no club in the west of London answered, so far as the subscriptions of the actual members who partook of its advantages were concerned only. The funds were made up from the pockets of all those who did not go and partake of the advantages and conveniences. Again, a gentleman did not make so much by farming his land himself, as he did by letting it out to practical men. Even supposing the tavern keeping should pay—in case he was dissatisfied with anything provided by a tenant, he should require better, or go elsewhere, and it would be to the tenant's interest to serve things well: but if they were dependent upon their own house steward, that officer could say, in answer to any complaint, "I am backed up by those who appointed me, and they will support me; therefore I care not if you go or stay." The victualling department would, under such circumstances, be made as much a party question in G.L. as any other matter. He approved of the victualling being left to the tavern lessee; who should supply what was required, and be paid for it by the consumers the same as in any other tavern. The reverend Brother proceeded to argue that, by saving the Board of General Purposes Fund, there would be all the more for application to benevolent purposes. Special grants of money had already been made from one fund to the other, but it could not again be the case, if the General Purposes Funds were unwisely squandered in speculation. He concluded by proposing a resolution, which was afterwards modified as follows:—"That it is the opinion of this Provincial Grand Lodge that a Masonic Library of reference, improved offices, and exclusive Lodge-room should be provided; that the tavern should be increased, and a coffee-room opened; that Grand Lodge should not provide re-

freshments; and that as large a sum as possible should be annually given from the fund of General Purposes to the Masonic charities."

Bro. W. Russ, P.M., No. 90, said he cordially concurred in the observation of the Rev. Bro. Portal, and with great pleasure seconded his resolution.

Bro. Wyndham Portal confessed there was some difficulty in handling this subject. It included a question of very great importance, both to the London and Provincial Brethren, and it was a misfortune that the facts as discussed in Grand Lodge concerning it, were so little known among the Brethren generally. The present accommodation of officers was wholly insufficient, and he wished their R.W. Brother had spoken more strongly on that point. He and many other Brethren had found the difficulty arising from not having a general place of assembly, where they could meet with Masons when in London. There was an excess of £2500 a year, and the Board of General Purposes might spend that, either in giving the Craft a general accommodation, or in benevolent purposes. The Worsliff Brother expressed his objection to any funds at all being expended for the purpose of providing refreshments in any shape.

Bro. Stebbing further addressed the meeting in explanation of the exact appropriation of the funds of the Board of General Purposes; and expressed his anxiety to make every Brother present feel that any very considerable expense for alteration of Grand Lodge property, would diminish the likelihood of assistance to the benevolent fund from that of General Purposes.

Bro. Beach thought that these were very fit points upon which to call the attention of the Brethren. Although it was of some importance that they should have a building in accordance with the dignity of the Craft, still, at the same time, they should be careful not to entrench too far upon the funds. He thought a library of reference would be useful on matters of Masonry, but a general library, containing the standard authors of the day, he was of opinion was undesirable. He approved of the Rev. Bro. Portal's resolution.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried without a dissentient voice.

The R.W. Prov. Grand Master then said he believed the business was concluded for which they had been called together, and he would therefore proceed to close the Prov. Grand Lodge.

Bro. Stebbing then proposed a motion, appreciating the kindness of the Prov. Grand Master in submitting the points to the discussion of the members of the province; which was seconded by Brother Perkins, and carried by acclamation.

The R.W. Prov. Grand Master briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the Prov. Grand Lodge was closed in due form.

BERKSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The foundation stone of the Masonic Hall at Reading was laid on Wednesday, March 23rd.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Town Hall, and was opened in due form by the most noble the Marquis of Downshire, R.W. Prov. G.M., in the presence of above one hundred brethren.

The Prov. Grand Master for Oxford, with some thirty brethren of that province, was announced, and was received with grand honours, as was also the D. Prov. Grand Masters for Surrey and Wilts.

The Provincial Grand Master then appointed and invested as Prov. Grand Officers:—Bro. Atley, No. 859, S.G.W.; Bro. Botley, No. 597, J.G.W.; Rev. Bro. J. C. Farnborough, No. 861, G. Chap.; Bro. Moxhay, No. 597, G. Reg.; Bro. J. B. Gibson, No. 597, G. Sec.; Bro. Maddigan, No. 252, S.D.; Bro. S. W. Hopwood, No. 861, J.D.; Bro. Gill, No. 597, G. Dir. of Cers.; Bro. Cave, No. 839, Asst. G. Dir. of Cers.; Bro. James Clacy, G. Supt. of Works; Bro. Lovegrove, G. Sword Bearer; Bro. Tull, G. Org.; Bro. Leaver, G. Purs.; Bro. Wendon, Williams, Bursey, Cousins, Prince, and Harley, G. Stewards.

The brethren were then marshalled by Bro. Henry Mugeridge, as Dir. of Cers. for the occasion, and proceeded to the ancient parish church of St. Lawrence, close adjoining to attend divine service. The evening service was read by Bro. the Rev. Sir John Warren Hayes, Bart., P. Grand Chaplain, and the Rev. Bro. Authur Roberts, P. Prov. Grand Chaplain, preached a sermon, taking for his text, "By their fruits shall ye know them." Matt. vii. 20.

Service concluded, the brethren, preceded by the excellent brass band of the 36th Regiment playing the air "The Entered Apprentice" then adjourned to the ground laid out for the new Masonic Hall, at the western end of the town, and on arrival there, the brethren separating right and left, the Prov. Grand Master advanced, followed by his distinguished visitors and Grand Officers, and having by his side the Past Grand Chaplain, Bro. Roberts. He then proceeded to place a phial containing coins of our day, and a scroll of vellum, recording the event within a cavity of the stone, a suitable address

being first given by the reverend Brother. Corn, wine, and oil were scattered, and a brass plate covering the cavity was laid, which bore this inscription:—"This corner stone of the Reading Masonic Hall, Lodge of Union, No. 597, was laid by the most noble the Marquis of Downshire, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for Berks and Bucks, on Wednesday, the 23rd day of March, 1859." With a silver trowel the Prov. Grand Master spread the mortar, and the upper stone was slowly lowered, the band playing the National Hymn. The stone having been proved by the plumb-rule, level, and square, the Prov. Grand Master pronounced it true, and giving three knocks with his mallet, said—"May the Great Architect of the Universe enable us successfully to carry on and finish the work of which we have now laid the corner stone. May he in His mercy and goodness permit this building to be erected to his honour and glory, and to the praises of his most holy name." The plans of the building were presented by the architect, Bro. James Clacy, Prov. G. Sup. of Works, to the R.W. Prov. Grand Master, who handed them to Bro. Child, the builder. The ceremony was concluded by a benediction from the P. Prov. G. Chaplain.

Soon after five o'clock the Brethren, numbering considerably over one hundred and twenty, were assembled at a splendid banquet in the noble hall. The Most Noble the Marquis of Downshire presided.

The P. G.M. in responding to his health said, he hoped the Brethren would overlook any imperfections they might have observed in the conduct of the proceedings on his part; and with regard to the past he would make a clean breast, and acknowledging he had been neglectful, promised to make up by future diligence, and would henceforth hold a Provincial Grand Lodge in every ensuing year. The next meeting, if the Buckingham Lodge desired it, would be held at Aylesbury.

DORSETSHIRE.

The M.W. Grand Master has been pleased to appoint Bro. Joseph Gundry, of the Hyde, near Bridport, as Prov. Grand Master for Dorsetshire.

WARWICKSHIRE.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE LEAMINGTON NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

On Tuesday, the 12th April, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new National Schools at Leamington, was performed by the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, Provincial Grand Master, assisted by the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and a large number of the Brethren, among whom were Bro. Chandos Wren Hoskyn, D. Prov. G.M.; Bro. C. W. Elkington, P.G.S.B., of England; Bros. Newton, J. W. Lloyd, W. Lloyd, Maslin, and Empson, Past Prov. Grand Wardens; Bro. the Rev. W. K. R. Bedford, Prov. Grand Chaplain; Bros. Blenkinsop, S.W.; Clarke, J.W.; Robins, S.D.; Nason, J.D.; Bro. Dymock, D. Prov. G.M., North Wales; Bro. Captain Vaughton; Bro. Bridges, Totnes; Bro. Adams, P. Prov. D.C.; Bro. Inns, Towcester; Bros. Weiss, Overell, Read, Hudson, Hobbs, Hartley; Rev. H. Roxburgh; H. Bown, W.M., of Guy's Lodge; Bursell, Cooke, Hogan, J. Stanley, Bowen, Hackforth, Eve, Green, W. Russell, Bell, Adkins, R. Bird, Flinn; Bro. Winton, Prov. G.D., Sussex; and numerous members of all the Lodges in the Province, with several Craft Visitors.

At eleven o'clock the friends of the undertaking—Masonic and otherwise—assembled at the public hall, and there formed in order. After the committee of the schools, the local boards, &c., came the Masonic body, two and two, according to seniority.

The Brethren proceeded to the parish church, where divine service was performed. The Rev. John Craig, vicar, Rev. Hamilton Davies, curate, and Rev. A. Pettigrew, of Trinity Chapel, took the desk services; and the Rev. John Craig, vicar, and Rev. T. Bowen, curate, the communion service. The responses were chanted by the choristers. After the prayers the Rev. W. K. R. Bedford, rector of Sutton Coldfield, and Prov. Grand Chaplain, preached a most impressive sermon.

Upon the conclusion of the service the procession re-formed, headed by the band, and walked along to the site of the schools in Bath place.

The usual preliminaries having been accomplished, Lord Leigh proceeded to the ceremony of the day, the members of the Craft surrounding the stone. The Rev. Bro. Bedford pronounced the following prayer:—

"O Lord, our Heavenly Father, who hast commanded us not to hide thy goodness from the children of the generations to come, but to shew them thine honour and the mighty and wonderful works which thou hast done—pour down Thy blessing upon this building, the first stone of which we have now laid in Thy name. Bring it to completion, and grant that it may continue as a seminary of sound learning and religious instruction from generation to generation. Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, thy blessing on all who shall hereafter teach within these walls. Grant that they may instil into the

tender minds of their scholars the knowledge, reverence, and love of God, the Heavenly Father and Maker of all, and a deep sense of the duty they owe to him; and vouchsafe both to teachers and pupils thy sevenfold gifts of grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of thy holy fear, to the honour of thy name and the benefit of their own souls."

The R. W. Prov. Grand Master then placed a phial containing coins of our day, and a plan (elevation) of the buildings, within a cavity of the stone. Corn, wine, and oil were scattered, and a brass plate laid, covering the cavity, inscription downwards. The inscription, as read aloud by the noble lord, was as follows:—"This foundation stone of the Leamington National Schools was laid by the Right Honourable William Henry Lord Leigh, Lord Lieutenant of the County, and Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, this day, 12th April, 1859, assisted by the Brethren of the Craft, with full Masonic honours. Architects, Messrs. Clarke and Worthington, London; Contractor, Mr. William Green, Leamington."

With a silver trowel the Provincial Grand Master next spread the mortar, and the upper stone was slowly lowered, the band playing the national anthem. The stone having been proved by the plumb-line, level, and square, the Provincial Grand Master gave three knocks on the stone with his mallet saying, in a loud and clear voice, "I declare this stone to be true."

The R. W. Prov. Grand Master then said, "Ladies and gentlemen, it has given me very great pleasure to have had the honour this day of laying the first stone of a school which I hope may prove a benefit to this important town. I shall ever remember the event with great satisfaction, and I shall keep the handsome trowel—which has this day been presented to me—as a pleasing memento of one of the brightest days of my life. (Cheers.) May the Great Architect of the universe enable us successfully to carry on and finish the work of which we have now laid the corner-stone. May He, in his mercy and goodness, permit this building to be erected to his honour and glory, and to the praises of his most holy name."

The Brethren then partook of a cold dinner at the Music Hall, at which were also present many visitors not belonging to the Order.

YORKSHIRE (WEST).

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge for West Yorkshire was held in the Masonic Hall, South Parade, Dewsbury, on Wednesday, the 13th April, the Right Hon. the Earl of Mexborough, Provincial Grand Master, being present.

The minutes of the meeting held at Dewsbury, in January last, were read and confirmed; these were principally in reference to the Masonic charities, especially calling upon the Yorkshire Lodges and Brethren to give additional aid to the Boys' School; at that meeting it was stated that Bros. Bentley Shaw, P. Prov. S.G.W., and Joseph Batley, M.P., had consented to act as Stewards for the Boys' Institution this year.

The first business to be transacted on this occasion was respecting motions made by Bro. Nelson, the Prov. G. Sec., and the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, Prov. G. Chaplain, and which having been deferred at the last meeting, were now to be brought forward as one motion. The motion, as now put by Bro. Nelson, was to the effect that one Brother from each Lodge in the West Riding should be appointed to form a committee to conduct matters in connexion with the four Masonic charities. At the same time it was understood that it should not be necessary, nor even always desirable, that the person selected by each Lodge should be the W.M. or P.M. thereof.

The motion was carried.

The D. Prov. G.M. read a list of the sum received for the Boys' School, headed by the sum of one hundred pounds from the Prov. Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire; the total sum subscribed in the province amounting to about four hundred pounds for that noble institution.

Soon after the Earl of Mexborough had taken his seat, the newly appointed officers for the ensuing year were called up, and invested by his lordship with their jewels and insignia of office.

The following were the appointments made:—Bros. W. H. Bailes, P.M., Nos. 208 and 162, S.G.W.; William Gath, P.M., No. 379, J.G.W.; Rev. H. de L. Willis, D.D., No. 379; and Rev. J. Senior, L.L.D., P.M., No. 727, G. Chaplains; William Dixon, P.M., No. 529, G. Treasurer; Richard R. Nelson, P.M., No. 251, G. Secretary; Henry Smith, P.M., Nos. 543 and 379, S.G.D.; Joseph Batley, P.M., Nos. 342 and 937, G. Reg.; T. A. Haigh, P.M., No. 174, J.G.D.; William Cocking, P.M., No. 342, G. Supt. of Works; Josiah Thomas, P.M., No. 365, G.D.C.; Joseph Need, P.M., No. 656, G.S.B.; Jos. Wood, Nos. 763, G. Organist; Thos. Wood, P.M., No. 422, G. Pursuivant.

After the business was concluded, the Brethren sat down to a banquet provided by Bro. Wigney, at the George Hotel, the Right Honourable the Earl of Mexborough in the chair. After dinner, the

usual loyal toasts were proposed, followed by others of a Masonic character; and the proceedings passed off in a very pleasant and agreeable manner.

OXFORDSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The annual Prov. Grand Lodge was held in the Lodge room of the Cherwell Lodge, (No. 878), attached to the Red Lion Hotel, Banbury, which had been handsomely decorated for the occasion. The chair was taken by the R. W. Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Henry Atkins Bowyer, at half-past two o'clock, supported by Bros. Spiers, P.G.S.B. and D. Prov. G.M.; Codrington, Prov. S.G.W.; Looker, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. R. W. Norman, M.A., and J. S. Sidebotham, M.A., as Prov. G. Chaplains; Col. Burlington, P. Prov. G.M., Bengal; J. Havers, P.S.G.D.; Rev. W. Bowyer, M.A., G. Chaplain; J. Savage, J.G.D.; Mas-on, P.G.S.B.; Vigne, P. Prov. S.G.W., Somersetshire; Gibson, D. Prov. G.M., Berkshire; Irons, Prov. G.D.C., Notts. and Hunts.; Symonds, P. G. Steward; W. Thompson, P. Prov. S.G.W.; J. Wyatt, P. Prov. S.G.W.; J. T. Hister, P. Prov. S.G.W.; Houghton, P. Prov. J.G.W.; Cottenil Dormer, P. Prov. G. Reg.; E. R. Owen, P. Prov. S.G.D.; E. Binns, P. Prov. S.G.D.; Cook, P. Prov. J.G.D., Ransford, P.G. Organist, &c. &c.

The Lodge having been opened in due form, the minutes of the last annual and of the special Grand Lodges, were read and confirmed.

The Prov. Grand Master then appointed his Prov. Grand Officers as follows:—Bros. R. J. Spiers, P.G.S.B., Nos. 425 and 702, D. Prov. G.M.; R. Havers, W.M., No. 873, Prov. S.G.W.; W. Belcher, W.M., No. 425, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. C. M. Style, B.D., (St. John's College), No. 460, and Rev. W. P. Walsh, M.A., (Worcester Coll.), No. 425, Prov. G. Chaplains; J. Prior, No. 425, Prov. G. Registrar; T. Randall, P.M., No. 425, Prov. G. Treasurer; V. A. Williamson, (Christ Church), Sec., No. 460, Prov. G. Secretary; T. M. Talbot, (Christ Church), J.W., No. 460, Prov. S.G.D.; J. Mills (Christ Church), S.W., No. 702, Prov. J.G.D.; J. Fisher, No. 425, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; A. T. Blackiston (New Inn Hall), Sec., No. 702, and Sir G. Grant, Bart. (Christ Church), No. 460, Prov. G.D.C.; J. Scraggs, Fo. 873, Prov. G.S.B.; Dr. Elvey (New Coll.), No. 460, Prov. G. Organist; R. Hobb, No. 425, Prov. Asst. Secretary; J. Bossom, No. 425, Prov. G. Pursuivant; W. Bowyer, (Christ Ch.), No. 460, J. Gunday (Merton), No. 460, T. Chamberlain, No. 873, Cunningham, No. 425, Dr. Cafarn, No. 873, and Sheard, No. 425, Prov. G. Stewards.

The following sums were then voted to the Masonic charities:—Boys' School, £2 2s.; Girls' School, £2 2s.; Male Annuity Fund, £2; Widows' Ditto, £2.

The following sums were also voted to general charities:—Radcliffe Infirmary, £3 3s.; Oxford Dispensary, £2 2s.; Oxford Blue Coat School, £1 1s.; and Anti-Mendicity Society, £1 1s. The recommendations of Bros. Symonds and Lyall, with regard to the charities, were then taken into consideration, and with some trifling modifications, adopted.

Bro. Talbot was invested with the charity jewel presented by the province to the Brother who serves the office of Steward at the festival.

All business being ended, the Lodge was closed in due form and harmony.

DEVONSHIRE.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The Provincial Grand Lodge met at Exeter, on Wednesday, the 6th of April, on which occasion there were present, the R. W. the Earl Fortescue, K.G., Prov. G.M.; R. W. the Rev. John Huyshe, M.A., D. Prov. G.M.; V. W. the Hon. John Yarde Buller, as Prov. S.G.W.; V. W. John Milford, as Prov. J.G.W.; V. W. the Rev. W. Yate Dakin, Prov. G. Chaplain; V. W. W. Denis Moore, Prov. G. Secretary; V. W. H. W. Clarke, Prov. J.G.D.; W. J. J. Cluse, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; W. J. Tanner Davy, Prov. G. Sword Bearer; W. W. Hunt, Prov. G. Purs.; W. James Gregory, Prov. G. Tyler; and Bros. W. J. Channing, J. Gambell, R. R. Rodd, John Buryington, Prov. G. Stewards. There were also present several Past Provincial Grand Officers, and the representatives of Lodges Nos. 46, 83, 122, 129, 185, 224, 270, 309, 312, 380, 610, 650, 719, and 1012.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form, and with solemn prayer.

The minutes of the Prov. Grand Lodge of the 5th January, 1859, having been read and partially confirmed, the R. W. Prov. Grand Master moved, "That a fund be established by private subscription, to be called 'The Devon Masonic Educational Fund,' for the education, clothing, and advancement of the children of Brethren of inadequate means, within the province." The resolution was carried.

The R. W. Prov. Grand Master next moved, "That the whole of the increased payments on fees of honour and annual dues from

members of Lodges, be applied to the said fund, pursuant to the resolution of the Prov. Grand Lodge, on the 20th of October, 1858." This resolution was also carried.

It was next resolved unanimously, "That the thanks of the Prov. Grand Lodge be given to the committee on the subject of the Fund of Benevolence;" and the following Brethren were appointed a committee to revise the scheme of the educational Fund, and to report to a future Lodge:—The R.W. Prov. Grand Master, the R.W. Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Bros. T. J. Bremridge, Hon. J. B. Yarde Buller, C. J. Laidman, J. R. Chanter, Rev. W. Y. Dakin; with power to add to their number.

On reading the petition of Elizabeth Hooper, widow of William Hooper, late a Brother of Lodge, No. 238, a donation of £110 was ordered to be made, to which the Prov. Grand Master, added £1; and on a motion duly made and seconded, a donation of £10 was awarded to Bro. Thomas Gregory, formerly Prov. G. Tyler, to which the Prov. Grand Master added £1. The R.W. Prov. Grand Master announced his intention to hold a Prov. Grand Lodge on Wednesday in the next sessions' week, viz., the 29th of June. The Prov. Grand Lodge was then closed in ancient form, with solemn prayer.

DERBYSHIRE.

The installation of the Marquis of Harrington, as P.G.M., took place on the 16th, the ceremony being ably performed by Col. Vernon P.G.M. for Staffordshire. Lord Leigh P.G.M. for Warwickshire, and the D.P.G.M. for Leicester and Nottingham, were also present. The noble Marquis appointed the following P.G. Officers:—Bros. Colville, D.P.G.M.; Collison, S.G.W.; Gambel, J.G.W.; Wright, P.G.C.; Heckley, P.G.R.; Coulson, P.G.S.; Redfean, S.G.D.; Prince, J.G.D.; German, J.D.C.; Smith, G.S.; W. Trimmell, G.O.; Wykes, G.S.B.; Ison, G.S.B.; Breavly, G. P.; Faulkner, G. Tyler; about 200 brethren were present, and after the G.L. a banquet took place.

GRAND OFFICERS.

THE Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge for the proclamation of the Grand Master, and appointment of Grand Officers, was held in the Temple, on Wednesday April 27th, the M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, presiding.

The minutes of the last Lodge having been read and confirmed, so far as regarded the re-election of the Right Hon. the Earl of Zetland, Baron Dundas, &c., his lordship was proclaimed and re-elected in due form, amidst loud applause.

The Most Worshipful Grand Master briefly acknowledged the honour which had been again conferred upon him, assuring the brethren that it would be his earnest desire to promote the interests of the Craft to the best of his ability.

The Grand Master was next pleased to appoint the following Grand Officers for the ensuing year. Those marked with a * are re-appointments:—Bros. Lord de Tabley, S.G.W.; Sir Thomas Hesketh, Bart., J.G.W.; Saml. Tomkins, * G. Treas.; Revs. Arthur R. Ward* and Wentworth Bowyer, G. Chaplains; F. Roxburgh,* G. Reg.; W. Gray Clarke,* G. Sec.; H. L. Crohn,* G. Sec.; for German Correspondence; John Savage, S.G.D.; F. Slight, J.G.D.; Samuel W. Daukes,* G. Sup. of Works; Richard W. Jennings,* G. Dir. of Cers.; Albert W. Woods,* Asst. G. Dir. of Cers.; Gavin E. Pocock, G.S.B.; Wm. Farnfield, Asst. G. Sec.; Charles E. Horsley,* G. Org.; and Joseph Smith,* G. Pursuivant.

His lordship then presented Bro. Thory Chapman, P.M. and P. Assst. G. Dir. of Cers., with an elegant jewel bearing a suitable inscription, in acknowledgment of his services for seventeen years to the Grand Lodge, which was voted by Grand Lodge at the quarterly communication in June last. The M.W.G.M. expressed the great satisfaction he had in presenting the worthy brother with this testimonial of the esteem of Grand Lodge, and trusted that he might long be spared to wear it among them.

In reference to the foregoing appointments the following letter has been addressed to the Organ of the Executive.—

THE NEW GRAND OFFICERS.

To the Editor of the *Freemasons' Magazine and Masonic Mirror*.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I addressed you a short time since upon the subject of Grand Office, while the appointments for the year were yet in abeyance, and whilst I still hoped that the promised spirit of justice and impartiality would be exercised in the distribution of them. I need scarcely assert that the recent selection affords no trace of either the one or the other, and with one exception, is calculated to excite universal dissatisfaction and

resentment. I allude to the appointment of Bro. John Savage, who has at length received a due acknowledgment of his many services; but we must in this case adopt the old adage of "better late than never," as the tardiness of the reward has robbed it of its grace. Bros. Jennings and Smith are doubtless worthy of the offices they hold, and there would be no objection to their re-appointment, were it not that they have for several years monopolized honours to the exclusion of other brethren, who are equally deserving of them.

The Grand Wardens, Lord de Tabley and Sir Thomas Hesketh, have evidently been chosen from consideration of their social station; and as they have accepted honours in the Craft, we may reasonably hope and expect that they will now show some zeal for its interests. Bro. Gavin Pocock will no doubt merit, in due course of time, what has been prematurely assigned to him, and in the mean time there are many ripe for honours, whose labours are ignored and unrequited. With reference to the appointment of Bro. Frederick Slight, I have as yet met with no one who can explain his claims to it, in any point of view. We would fain be enlightened as to his Masonic merits, assuming that private friendships are not weighed in the balance. If Grand Lodge were empowered to choose a portion of its own Grand Officers, the selection would have been vastly different, and the result far more satisfactory. I hold this to be the only remedy against a repetition of these social evils, and I do not look upon it as an infringement of the Grand Master's prerogative, but, on the contrary, I am of opinion that it will release him from an irksome responsibility, and free him from much of the censure to which he is at present subjected through the injudicious advice of his privy council.

I am, dear Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

May 6th, 1859.

AN INDEPENDENT P.M.

THE HAVERS-ROXBURGH PARTY.

THE FOLLOWING APPEARS IN THE "ERA." BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

From a Correspondent.

On Thursday, a meeting was held at Bro. Roxburgh's office, consisting of Bros. Adams, S. B. Wilson, Smith, Wheeler, Warren, Symonds, Gregory, and seventeen other Brothers.

Bro. Roxburgh stated he had called them together at the request of Bro. John Havers, who, notwithstanding the great loss of time and money, would agree to be their President, provided that a respectable Board, and free from the "Observer Party," be elected, and that the Brothers present agree to support an entire list. That Bros. Hopwood, Scott, and Hervey retire from the Grand Master's list, and the two Grand Deacons and Bro. Levi be nominated in their stead. The list for the other members to be made by Bros. Roxburgh and Havers, after the nomination on Wednesday next. These propositions were agreed to, after the meeting had pledged themselves to Bro. Savage that no purples should be nominated at the Board of Masters. The meeting was anything but unanimous, as they find great difficulty in leading Bros. Savage, Wilson, and Smith, who appear not at present willing to sacrifice all their independence and the Craft, to party purposes.

TO THE MASONIC CRAFT.

It had been earnestly hoped that internal dissensions were about to cease, and that unity and concord would once again characterize the deliberations of the Masonic body.

A paragraph in the *Era* of the 15th inst., dispels this hope—while it unmistakably demonstrates the insincerity of those who, while foremost in denouncing "party," promote an organization for "party" purposes.

The questionable taste of the responsible legal adviser of the Craft—the Grand Registrar—needs no comment.

Attention is directed to an extract from the paragraph alluded to:—

"On Thursday, a meeting was held at Bro. Roxburgh's office, consisting of Bros. Adams, Wilson, Smith, Warren, Symonds, Gregory, and seventeen other Brothers. Bro. Roxburgh states that he had called them together at the request of Bro. Havers, who would consent to be their President, provided that a respectable Board be elected, and that the Brothers present agree to support an entire list. * * * The meeting was anything but unanimous, as they find great difficulty in leading Bros. Savage, Wilson, and Smith, who appear not at present willing to sacrifice all their independence and the Craft to party purposes."

It is believed that the great body of the fraternity is actuated by a similar spirit to that manifested by the three Brethren just named. Will the unbiassed reflecting portion of the members of Grand Lodge thus bow the knee at the dictation of those who, at once seek to trample upon the prerogative of the Grand Master, and to annihilate the liberties of the representatives of the Masons of England?

It is hoped that this attempted monopoly of power, may be defeated by the election to the Board, of Brethren of known independence, whose names will be submitted for your suffrages on Wednesday, the 1st of June.

All semblance of "faction" is emphatically disclaimed.

Unusual combinations justify, nay demand, extraordinary measures to counteract them.

Hence this appeal to the Craft.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ERA."

Dear Sir and Brother,—You published in your paper of Sunday last, a statement from a correspondent relative to a meeting at Bro. Roxburgh's (in which my name is used as being present), which is so opposed to the truth, that I feel bound to ask you to allow me to contradict it. It unfortunately happens that though regularly having the Saturday edition of the *Era*, I do not see the Sunday's edition, and the notice did not therefore come under my notice until Thursday, or I should have felt it my duty to call attention to it in the *Freemasons' Magazine*, published on Wednesday last. It is true that there was a meeting at Bro. Roxburgh's, and it is true that I was present; but it is not true that Bro. Roxburgh stated he had called the meeting, either at the request of Bro. Havers, or of any other Brother: neither is it true that the meeting deputed to Bros. Roxburgh and Havers, the preparing of a list of candidates for the Board of General Purposes. The meeting nominated a list of sixteen or seventeen candidates—certainly leaving it to Bro. Roxburgh to reduce it to fourteen—so that there should not be any particular predominating interest upon it (whilst the law will not allow to serve two from the same Lodge); and there never was the slightest allusion to the *Observer* or any other party. Who may have been subsequently consulted with regard to the reduction of the list I am not prepared to say, but I freely admit that I for one have been so consulted—and I believe the list as now arranged, will be as popular as any ever submitted to Grand Lodge. What Bro. Roxburgh particularly impressed upon the Brethren at the meeting was this—that the time for exclusiveness and secrecy in the proceedings or elections of Grand Lodge had passed; and he called upon the Brethren duly to consider all the business to be brought before Grand Lodge prior to the meetings—to take their fair share in the business—and so render the decisions come to by Grand Lodge and its boards what they ought to be, the reflex of the opinions of the large mass of the Brethren.

Before concluding, I may add that I am informed, that at the Board of Masters, on Wednesday last, eight actual Masters of Lodges were put in nomination, of whom seven must, and the whole eight may, be elected; whilst forty-six Past Masters were also nominated, of whom seven only can be elected. Of these P.M.'s, four or five were on the Board last year, and in all probability, the majority of the number will be on it next year.

Claiming, as an old contributor to your columns, insertion for this letter,

I have the pleasure to remain, yours fraternally,

HENRY J. WARREN.

Freemasons' Magazine Office, 2, Red Lion Court (E.C.), May 20, 1859.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ERA."

Sir,—My attention has been directed to a paragraph in the *Era* of last Sunday, purporting to give an account of what took place at my Chambers, on Thursday, the 12th inst. I beg, through the same medium, to declare that the statement contained in that paragraph is a wicked fabrication as to everything but the fact that a meeting was held.

Your obedient servant,

FRANCIS ROXBURGH.

Lincoln's Inn, May 19, 1859.

We hear that Bro. Havers has, at the request of a large body of his Masonic friends, reconsidered his determination to retire from taking an active part in the affairs of Masonry, for the present. We cannot but think this highly gratifying; for though not always agreeing with the views of Bro. Havers his great practical talent is undeniable, and cannot well be spared, especially—whilst the question with regard to the future arrangements of the Grand Lodge property remains unsettled.—*Masonic Mirror*.

Correspondence.

To the Editor.

"LANDMARKS."

Sir,—Your correspondent "Fair Play," in your last number, alluded to the frequent quotation of the "Ancient Landmarks;" can any of your readers furnish me with a definition or a list of them? They must, I should think, be very numerous and comprehensive, judging at least from the number and variety of cases which are referred to them, though the words or terms of the "landmark" alluded to are never quoted.—I am, Sir, yours fraternally,
A YOUNG MEMBER OF GRAND LODGE.

To the Editor.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I noticed in G.L. on the 1st. that Bro. Denison, our old reporter, was absent, and I was informed that he had been dismissed by the Board of General Purposes, *i.e.* by Bro. Havers, for declining to furnish a *verbatim* report at the price agreed upon for an *abstract*, without any opportunity being afforded him of explanation or defence.

I further understand that the reporter to the new organ of the Executive has got his place—doubtless that the said organ, *i.e.* its new proprietors, may obtain their report at the expense of G.L.

I notice that no mention of Bro. Denison's dismissal appears in the report of the Board. Now that we have what Bro. Stebbing well termed a "packed jury," by way of a Board, we may expect a good many more jobs of this kind. I am, Sir and Brother, yours fraternally,

Q IN THE CORNER.

THE CHARITIES AND THE EXECUTIVE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The Executive of G.L. seem determined to get the management of the Charities into their hands. These have hitherto been considered neutral ground; but, if Bro. Havers and his friends are to have the control of them, I trust that

during that millennial period, a good many will cease to exert themselves in their behalf, and so follow the example of your obedient servant,
AN OLD LIFE GOVERNOR OF THE THREE CHARITIES.

To the Editor.

Sir,—Bro. Warren was pleased to state in Grand Lodge that I "and a noble Earl," had on former occasions arranged a list for the Board of General Purposes, with one of the Grand Officers. Few, I suppose, expect much accuracy, in any statement of the proprietor of the *Magazine*, and it will not, therefore, occasion much surprise when I state that the meeting referred to was between myself and a Grand Officer alone, and that so far as any "noble Earl" is concerned, Bro. Warren's statement is an entire fiction.

I am, your obedient servant,

G. R. PORTAL.

GRAND LODGE CLUB.

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Bro. J. UDALL, P.M., 10, and P.G.D.

Vice-Presidents:

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The objects of the club are—

1. To maintain the constitutional supremacy and privileges of G.L.
2. To amend or modify—so far as can be done with a due regard to the preservation of the ancient landmarks of the Order—such of the Masonic laws and regulations as are found to operate prejudicially to the interests of the Craft.
3. To secure to Provincial Brethren a more active participation in the proceedings of G.L.
4. To promote the adoption of a liberal and enlightened policy towards Colonial Lodges.
5. To encourage throughout the Craft a more extended interest in the Charities of the Order.
6. To form a Masonic Library of Reference.

Entrance Fee, 5s.; Annual Subscription, 5s.; Election of Members by Ballot. The Club dines together before each G.L.; Dinner, 2s. 6d., Wine, 3s.

The Club now numbers upwards of Sixty Members.

Brethren desirous of joining are requested to communicate with the Secretary, 3, *Lawn Villas, South Lambeth, London, S.*

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