

# THE MASONIC REVIEW

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## Masonic and Social Events for Freemasons.

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NOTICE.—*The delay in the publication of our present issue is owing to the portrait-block of Mr. Frederick Binckes having miscarried in transit from Vienna, where, in order to obtain the best results, such blocks are prepared for this Journal.*

*The NEXT ISSUE OF "THE MASONIC REVIEW" will be the CHRISTMAS DOUBLE NUMBER, published on the 7th of DECEMBER. "THE VOLUME OF THE SACRED LAW" is the first Masonic story of any pretensions that has been written, and is of absorbing interest to the Craft. As no data exist as to the demands for such a work, it is requested that orders be delivered to the booksellers as early as possible.*

### "REPUTABLE CIRCUMSTANCES."

A STEP in the right direction was taken by the Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys at its meeting on the 5th ult., in relation to certain petitions for admission to the privileges of the School, for it is one which should be followed up with vigor by the authorities of Grand Lodge. It opens very fairly the important question as to the meaning of the words "reputable circumstances" as applied to a necessary qualification precedent to the consideration of a Freemason's claim upon the charitable funds of the Craft. On the occasion referred to the specified petitions were accompanied by the recommendations of the particular Lodges to which the respective fathers of the lads seeking admission to the School were attached. Amongst other matters that furnished grounds for strict inquiry, in justice to probably more deserving cases, it was elicited that the social and financial positions of the said fathers were not at the time of their acceptance into the Order such as to come under the definition of "reputable circumstances," if that expression were ever intended to mean a sufficiency of present income to justify any outlay beyond that required for every-day necessities, and a prospect of further improvement in pecuniary resources to make provision for the support and education of an increasing family and the requirements of old age.

For many years past there have been well-grounded complaints, from brethren who have had the best opportunities for forming a judgment on the matter, that individuals have been admitted to the privileges of Freemasonry, whose positions have not warranted connection with other than the best of those friendly societies whose *raison d'être* is the provision of timely assistance to their members in the hour of distress. The nature of such assistance and its extent are based upon actuarial estimates and calculations which partake

of the quality of insurance against some of the inevitable contingencies of life; and many an "Oddfellow," "Forester," or member of a kindred society has had reason to be glad of his connection therewith. The necessary outlay for membership has come within the reasonable scope of his private purse, and the providence of his early youth has found its reward in the certainty of support when the occasion might arise and the assistance he has rendered to those less fortunate than himself in regard to health or financial circumstances. In his case the "reputable circumstances" have comprised a good, moral, honest, sober, and industrious member of society, with ability to dispense with a reasonable proportion of his weekly earnings; and such individuals are entitled to the respect of all others, of whatever rank or station in the community of honorable men.

But the "repute" which suffices for membership of Friendly Societies is, from the pecuniary point of view, not such as to justify the voluntary obligations towards his fellow-men that a novitiate into the Order of Freemasonry is required to enter upon. It may be difficult to decide what should be the limit of a man's income, regardless of expectations, that can warrant a fresh outlay of no small consideration even to members of the middle class of society, and the annual dues and contingent expenses necessary to the support of his personal dignity and the "reputable" character of the Craft.

It is however quite certain when we learn, that after from two to four or five years' membership, a brother finds it necessary to seek the privileges of our institutions for the support and education of his children, a strong doubt arises as to his qualifications at the time of his entry into the Order. "What can I get out of it for my children?" is not an uncommon inquiry, however much it may surprise many who may now read it for the first time, and "What good will it do *me*?" is as frequently asked. Those who put questions of this sort are not such as should be permitted to declare that they are "uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives." It is, however, unfortunate that from the ranks of such, who will eventually make early application to our Charities, the Craft is month by month and year by year recruited; and it is but right that the Worshipful Masters and Members of our Lodges should be required to show that the assurance they express in their petitions on behalf of candidates is really given of their knowledge as to the pecuniary position at the time of his initiation of the applicant appealing, or on whose behalf appeal is made, and not fill up recommendations upon mere hearsay evidence.

The General Committee of the Boys' School referred back to the Worshipful Masters of two Lodges the petitions they had forwarded, with a request that further information should be given on the points above mentioned; and it would be well for the Order if the United Grand Lodge would take this matter into its serious consideration, and adopt some means of ascertaining in like manner that at least all those who enter the Order can properly afford to do so at the time of initiation, and are of such social status as to warrant a belief that they will not too readily burden our benevolent and charitable institutions.

## Round and About.

However much the craftsmen of Berkshire would like to see H.R.H. Prince Edward installed as their Provincial Grand Master, it is extreme bad taste for Masonic prints to make remarks whereby a belief may be drawn that they are in any way inspired or well informed; and, worse still, when the lamented Sir Daniel Gooch has occupied his grave but a few hours. The Prince of Wales receives great annoyance from these silly presumptions, and unfortunately counteracts any interference with his prerogative by a firm refusal to comply with any such suggestion. If the Prince wishes his son to occupy the chair of any Province—be it Royal or not—he will arrange matters uninfluenced by anybody or anything emanating from the backyard of a printing-office.

\* \* \*

At the advanced age of seventy-four years Sir Daniel Gooch, Baronet, of Clewer Park, Windsor, died on the 15th ult., and thus robbed the world of engineering and Masonry of one of the most energetic and remarkable characters of the century. Born at Bedlington, Northumberland, in 1815, he studied the profession of engineering under Robert Stevenson, and eventually became chief locomotive engineer to the Great Western Railway. Twenty-seven years after he was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors—a post he held until his death. To the Great Western he had become invaluable, connecting himself with the fortunes of the Company when it was at a very low ebb, raising it eventually to a position of undoubted affluence.

\* \* \*

From a popular point of view, however—says the *Daily Telegraph*—the deceased baronet's public career was mainly interesting on account of the success which attended his persevering attempts to establish telegraphic communication between this country and America. Sir Daniel's death naturally suggests recollections of the difficulties which had to be surmounted before the cable union of the two continents was perfectly established. A plan to unite Europe and America by telegraph was first entered at the Registration Office in June, 1845, by Messrs. Brett, who made proposals to the Government of the day, which were not accepted. That plan was attempted to be carried out by a private company in 1857 and 1858 with the concurrence of the British and American Governments. 2,500 miles of wire were manufactured and tested in March, 1857, and six months later the laying it down was commenced at Valentia, in Ireland, the vessels employed being the *Niagara* and the *Susquehanna* (American), and the *Leopard* and the *Agamemnon* (British). After sailing a few miles the cable snapped. The damage was soon repaired, but on August 11, after 300 miles of wire had been paid out it snapped again, and the vessels then returned to Plymouth. A second attempt in June, 1858, failed owing to a violent storm, but a third essay was attended with temporary success, a junction between the two continents being completed by the laying down of 2,050 miles of wire from Valentia to Newfoundland, and the first two messages transmitted were from the Queen of England to the President of the United States, and the latter's reply.

\* \* \*

The event caused great rejoicing in both countries; but, unfortunately, the insulation of the wire generally became more and more faulty, until on September 4, 1858, the power of transmitting intelligence utterly ceased. A new company for the purpose of laying a transatlantic cable was formed in 1860. The famous *Great Eastern* steamer, of which Sir Daniel Gooch was one of the original proprietors, and on which, with other shareholders, he held a mortgage of £100,000, was engaged to lay down 2,300 miles of wire. She sailed from the Thames, commanded by Captain Anderson, accompanied by Professor William Thomson and Mr. C. F. Varley, who were to superintend the paying out of the cable, on July 15, 1865. After connecting the wire with the land at

Valentia, the *Great Eastern* steamed into the Atlantic on July 23. Telegraphic communication with the vessel (interrupted by two faults due to defective insulation caused by pieces of metal pressed into the guttapercha coating, which were immediately repaired), finally ceased on August 2. The apparatus for raising the wire proving insufficient, the vessel returned, and arrived in the Medway on August 10.

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Subsequently the *Great Eastern* was sold for £25,000 over and above all liens upon her, Sir Daniel Gooch being one of the purchasers, and the Atlantic Telegraph Company was reconstituted as the Anglo-American Telegraph Company, Limited. In June, 1866, the vessel sailed from the Medway with a new cable. The shore end at Valentia was spliced with the main cable, and the *Great Eastern* moved away on July 13. By the 22nd of the same month 1,200 miles of wire had been laid. Five days later perfect communication had been established between Heart's Content, Newfoundland, and Valentia. The initial message from the Queen at Osborne to the American President expressed her Majesty's belief that the successful completion of the undertaking would "serve as an additional bond of union between the United States and England," and the President, in reply, cordially reciprocated the hope "that the cable that now unites the eastern and western hemispheres may serve to strengthen and perpetuate peace and amity between the Government of England and the Republic of the United States."

\* \* \*

After an interval of nearly a quarter of a century it is satisfactory to reflect that these sanguine anticipations have been so far fulfilled. The pluck and perseverance of Sir Daniel Gooch in promoting the success of this great enterprise were promptly rewarded by a baronetcy, and at the same time honors were conferred upon those who had assisted him. It is unnecessary to say that since that date transatlantic cables have been multiplied, with the result that any person can now wire to America messages of any length at the rate of a shilling a word. In July, 1866, it was deemed a great boon by the public when the Magnetic Telegraph Company announced that the charge for the transmission of twenty words would be only £20!

\* \* \*

As far as his Masonic career is concerned, Sir Daniel had reached the eminence of a Provincial Grand Mastership, and since 1868 had presided over the province of Berks and Bucks. He had accepted my invitation of becoming an "Eminent Mason at Home," and but for his last illness would have given us the opportunity of visiting him at Clewer. We are, however, through the kindness of the Editor of the *Railway News*, enabled to reproduce an excellent likeness of the Baronet, and will endeavor at a future date to obtain some interesting particulars of his home life.

\* \* \*

I have often seen Sir Daniel in attendance at the ordinary Lodges of his province, and he was not an infrequent visitor at the Windsor Castle and Etonian of the Royal borough. He was a kind and unassuming English gentleman, ready with sound advice for those who, like myself, have had occasion to appreciate it. The grounds of his house stretched down to the banks of the beautiful Thames. The last time I passed there was the week before Henley, of the present year, when the City jute king, Bro. W. Martin, had the kindness to lash our skiff to the rear of his beautiful house-boat and give us the benefit of his steam-tug, from Burgoyne's, at Staines, to the sailing reaches at Maidenhead. We commented upon the beautiful grounds of Clewer as we passed.

\* \* \*

Although by the wishes of the relatives of the deceased the funeral was not conducted with those Masonic honors the brethren of the Province would have wished, the Master of the Windsor Castle Lodge, Bro. William G. Nottage, summoned the brethren together under his banner, and conducted personally such evidences

of respect as the Province was able to show. Bro. Nottage is an indefatigable worker in the interests of the Craft, and is maturing some very sound and strong opinions on several questions which he thinks will benefit the social intercourse of Masons. He has proposed more than once a complete alteration in the customs of "visiting" among the various Lodges in a Province, and thinks that if it became incumbent on a visiting brother to discharge the expenses of his own enjoyment, greater interest would be thrown into the after-dinner doings of country Lodges. There must be objections to any scheme that would upset the prosaic constitutions of rusty custom, but Bro. Nottage has discovered the philosopher's stone, I think and if he can find its proper use he will have conferred a very great benefit on those men of intellect who get somewhat disheartened with the "massaging" propensities of I.P.M.'s and Worshipful Masters of most of our ordinary Lodges.

\* \* \*

Mr. Bodley, of the business firm—if professional partnership constitutes a *firm*—of Bodley & Garner, ecclesiastical architects, has created a veritable masterpiece at Clumber, in the new chapel for the Duke of Newcastle. The exquisite design for the proposed Liverpool Cathedral, prepared by these gentlemen, would have provided that enterprising city with a monumental building for all ages, but it was not successful in the public competition, which has, after all the waste of valuable talent, come, as many big competitions do, to nothing. Mr. Bodley was very nearly becoming a member of the fraternity some years ago, but a slip somewhere in the vicinity of the lip, or someone else's lip, broke the cup of his intentions, which have never been fulfilled.

\* \* \*

It has surprised me often that a Lodge has never been constituted solely for members of the architectural profession. The symbols upon which Freemasonry is based are the symbols of their own work; and the ritual abounds with metaphorical allusions that appeal to the mind of an architect more than to any one else. It is a fact that but very few architects are Freemasons, which is a pity.

The "Atlas" of the *World* was in fine form at the Centenary Festival of the Royal Clarence Lodge at Brighton the other day, and fired off one of those piquant after-dinner speeches of his with consummate art. Perhaps it was the sea air, or the excitement of the political battle between Bro. Loder (whom I see has beaten his opponent) and Sir Robert Peel.

\* \* \*

In "Provincial Grand Lodges and Chapters" will be found a rather longer report than with us is usual, of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex, and for obvious reasons. I commend the address that the late Gerard Ford had but partly prepared previous to his

death to all men who give a thought to the extremely narrow tide that divides the known world from the unknown. Bro. Ford had written many passages that are worth a thousand times more now that he is dead. "Bear with me, brethren, if my words are somewhat tinged with the hue of that dark valley into which I seemed about to enter," is what he wrote, but he never lived to say it. The whole idea is so terribly pathetic that one might almost read the sentences as coming from the grave. I was sorry to see that a banquet followed the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

\* \* \*

By a somewhat extraordinary error a copy of the MASONIC REVIEW was sent to Sir Frederick Leighton, the President of the Royal Academy. Sir Frederick immediately wrote me one of his kind and thoughtful letters, explaining that he was not a Mason, and that he always thought "all Masons were perfectly well known

to each other, but," &c., &c.; and then came a compliment that my modesty will not allow me to publish. Oh, no, Sir Frederick! The privileged visit I once made to your studio showed me many wonderful things, among that many a fine man who is a fine artist, but nothing that I saw suggested you were *not* a Mason. Is it too late, Sir Frederick? If you could elevate our Craft as you have elevated your art, you would be doing a noble service.

\* \* \*

Another earthquake! The Queen-street Guide says the province of Berks and Bucks is to be "split into two." Good gracious!



THE LATE SIR DANIEL GOOCH, BART.

And what is this about another school for our boys and girls? Our contemporary speaks of "The coming boys' school election" and "The coming girls' school election," and I have heard nothing about them.

\* \* \*

Let me take this opportunity of repeating what a very great authority upon scholastic matters thinks respecting the administration of the Masonic Schools. Of the Boys', he says, Bro. Binckes and his Committee have been asked to undertake work of which they possess no knowledge, hence the condition in which the school is found. That the selection of the head-master to succeed Dr Morris should be in the hands of not more than three scholastic men of high position, who should be asked to select, entirely on their own judgment, the man to fill that position.

\* \* \*

Beyond an excuse for a jaunt up to town and a little outing for the "kiddies," both big and little, the Lord Mayor's Show is about as barbarous an affair as was the sticking of skulls on the poles of Temple Bar. I love the old associations which cling to the filtered belongings of a past age. The "milestones of custom" have nearly all disappeared, or have been transformed and modernised beyond recognition, for everything nowadays is splutter and speed. We no longer respect the grandeur of a woman, for men now smoke and spit in her presence, and many swear. The glorious and splendid pageantry of a century ago is dead, and with it most of the public ceremonies that appealed to the holiday-maker for success. The May-pole dance and "Jack-in-the-Green" are fading from our memories like the visions wherein we beat the bounds of the parish, and sent our little sweethearts our paper compliments on February 14. Dear old Feb., what a happy month that used to be if we could find a valentine more "scenty" and with better "words" than our hated rival, young Brookes. We remember even thrashing that boy Cummings because he "said something" to our particular friend the upper housemaid at "Gordons," who used to make us coffee on the sly and smuggle up some bread and cheese before the "head" had paid his final nightly inspection.

\* \* \*

But we don't thrash men for insulting women now—we laugh! Chivalry, like Jack-in-the-Green and the pageantry of old, is dead. We have only the Lord Mayor's Show, and that destroys everybody's business, everybody's sentiment, and everybody's liver.

\* \* \*

I notice an announcement from Bro. Gordon Smith, M.A., appears in our advertising columns, calling the attention of the subscribers to the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys to his candidature for the forthcoming vacant position of Secretary to that Institution. Mr. Smith is a gentleman of educational powers, and has distinguished himself in several branches of the law. He is possessed of a private income, and is prepared to devote the whole of his time to the duties of the office. It is gaining force with brethren of the Masonic institutions that the various positions connected therewith would be better placed in the hands of men who have had the benefits of classical education, and whose wide experience of educational matters place them on more equal terms with the teaching staff of the schools. Be that as it may, it is devoutly to be wished that, if the post in question is to command no larger salary than £300 a year, a gentleman of income will be found to occupy it; but I strongly maintain that £300 a year is *not* sufficient.

\* \* \*

Our contemporary, the *Freemason*, calls us precocious. Well, we admit it, but our precocity is the work of our supporters. It says it is free from that peculiar form of flattery—the flattery of being imitated—and we quite believe it; and it finishes by stating that its "process of improvement has been one of gradual evolution"—an "evolution" of twenty years; and nobody, perhaps, is surprised. It has not denied that it borrowed, for a brief space of time, several

features from these columns, so on this head nothing more need be mentioned; but it refuses to admit that our advent influenced its external appearance. It is, after all, a very trifling matter, and cannot, I hope, tarnish the good opinion that should exist mutually between us; but that our birth *did* alter its appearance, by the aid of a blue wrapper, new type, and new headings, with all the interior advertisements reset, is a fact I strongly adhere to.

\* \* \*

The *Freemason* has never stood upon a footing of pure journalism. It has cleverly carried out the purpose for which it was created, and has proved a mighty medium to its proprietor in furthering his desire to elevate the *appearances* of Freemasonry. It has never possessed or influenced any opinions, and has never striven to raise the tone of our glorious Craft one inch in the estimation of the world. It, therefore, has no connection with journalism whatever, and refuses to accept advertisements from firms which manufacture goods appertaining to the working of Freemasonry.

\* \* \*

That its proprietor and editor are men of character the world of Masonry admits, but it never will admit that the paper has ever done aught but chronicle the ephemeral events of the Craft—events which can positively have no vestige of interest but to those few whose names are printed in its pages—and that it met the first issue of the MASONIC REVIEW with anything but a change of front disclosing more authoritatively these well-known facts. That this journal carries out its aim of not trespassing upon the preserves of the twenty-year-old publication is my sincere wish, but that it fulfils its mission of elevating Masonry in the hearts of Masons, and provides them with all the food that the Craft can from month to month offer them, our readers will be the better judge.

\* \* \*

I have been devoted to the usefulness of the camera for years, and have looked upon the little apparatus known as the "detective" as opening up a serious opportunity of bringing photography to bear upon the worst form of blackmailing. By an extraordinary chance, which comes but to one man perhaps in a century, I have become possessed of the particulars of a horrible affair in high life, and which may seriously affect several magnates of the Craft. The situation is too terrible to contemplate and must be left to die, if it ever can.

THE DRUID.

WHAT would I have you do? I'll tell you, Kinsman:  
 Learn to be wise, and practise how to thrive;  
 That would I have you do, and not to spend  
 Your coin on every bauble that you fancy,  
 On every foolish brain that humors you.  
 I would not have you to invade each place,  
 Nor thrust yourself on all societies,  
 Till men's affections, or your own desert,  
 Should worthily invite you to your rank.  
 He that is so disrespectful in his course,  
 Oft sells his reputation at cheap market.  
 Nor would I you should melt away yourself  
 In flashing bravery, lest, while you affect  
 To make a blaze of gentry to the world,  
 A little puff of scorn extinguish it,  
 And you be left like an unsavory snuff,  
 Whose property is only to offend.  
 I'd ha' you sober, and contain yourself;  
 Not that your sail be bigger than your boat;  
 But moderate your expenses now (at first)  
 As you may keep the same proportions still.  
 Nor stand so much on your gentility,  
 Which is an airy and mere borrowed thing,  
 From dead men's dust and bones; and none of yours,  
 Except you make, or hold it.

BEN JONSON.

## Masonic News.

The annual court of Governors of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution was held at the Masonic-hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, on the evening of the 7th ult., and was numerously attended. Bro. Councillor John Houlding, P.P.G.R., presided. The accounts were passed, and the 250 odd children on the foundation re-elected. Bro. J. Callow, P.P.G.T., was re-elected hon. treasurer; Bros. G. Broadbridge, P.P.G.D.C., T. H. W. Walker, P.P.G.T., and Captain Macnab, I.P.M. 241, were re-elected hon. secs. It was also resolved that Bros. H. W. Johnston, E. Pierpoint, P.P.G.J.W., W. W. Goodacre, P.G.Sec., and Thomas Salter, P.P.G.S.D., should be the auditors for the next court. Bros. Drs. J. Kellett Smith, Christian, Irvin, Pitts, and White were re-appointed hon. medical officers. On the motion of Bro. G. Broadbridge, seconded by Bro. T. Salter, Bro. Dr. J. Kellett Smith was unanimously elected trustee, vice Bro. Lord Stanley of Preston resigned. The treasurer stated that the funds for the period since the date of the court had been changed, nine months ago, were £1,376, as against £1,196 in the corresponding period of last year. Bro. R. H. Leake was re-elected hon. legal adviser, and thirty members were elected to sit on the general committee. Four children were elected on the foundation, and it was stated that several of the present pupils had passed the Oxford local examinations with credit. A vote of thanks to the officers was responded to by Bro. Callow. It was resolved that the annual ball in aid of the institution should be held in January, and that all W.M.'s, Principals, &c., should be notified thereof. A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Bro. Houlding, P.P.G.R., for presiding.

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At the last monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Boys' Institution, at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Richard Eve, Past Grand Treasurer, in the chair, long discussions took place with respect to the information contained in the minutes as to the course pursued by a Sub-Committee in recommending only one out of thirty-five candidates for the post of Medical Officer, it being contended that more than one should have been recommended for election by the Quarterly Court. A motion was afterwards carried by which all the thirty-five candidates are authorised to send in their testimonials for the consideration of the Quarterly Court. Afterwards the Provisional Management Committee were authorised to terminate the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Morris, the Head-Master of the School, and empowered to take such steps as they might deem desirable for the appointment of his successor. A motion was agreed to referring to the Committee the consideration of the advisability of granting Dr. Morris a pension of £200 a year. The Chairman stated, in answer to a question, that it would not be necessary to give notice to the Quarterly Court of October 25 of a motion opposing the proposal to give a retiring allowance of £350 a year to the Secretary, Bro. Binckes.

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A banquet of a most unique nature was given on the 10th ult. at the Town-hall, Liverpool, by his Worship the Mayor (Bro. E. H. Cookson), at which about seventy guests were present. In addition to the honor of chief magistrate of Liverpool, his Worship in Masonic circles occupies the positions of P.G.S.W. in the province of West Lancashire, and the chair of Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Harmony (32), the oldest and most noted in a province which is numerically the strongest in connection with Grand Lodge. Included in the invitations to the banquet were the officers and members of Lodge 32; the P.G.M. of East Lancashire (Bro. Colonel Le Gendre Starkie); and the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Lancashire. The usual loyal and masonic toasts were received with enthusiasm, and, in proposing the health of the host, Colonel Starkie referred with satisfaction to the fact that out of the members of the Lodge of Harmony there had come no fewer than four Provincial Grand Masters.

The brethren of the Burrell Lodge (1,829) have presented their retiring W. Master, Bro. R. B. Higham, with a purse of gold and an illuminated address, "as a token of fraternal regard and record of his services to Freemasonry as one of the founders of the Lodge, his subsequent efforts for its success, and the admirable manner in which he discharged his duties as W.M. during the year 1888-9." Bro. Walter Gill was installed into the chair at the meeting which took place at the Buckingham Arms Hotel on the evening of Thursday, the 3rd ult.

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"Oxon" thus writes to the *Fishing Gazette* of the 12th ult.:—"I am writing to you, as one who is personally acquainted with many of the best class of fishing men, to ask a question and make a suggestion. Is there a Masonic Lodge, the members of which are all fishermen? If not, why not? There are many well-known fishermen who are good Freemasons, and I am sure that a Lodge of fishermen (call it the 'Izaak Walton') would be a great success. Country and town members could meet together and sink their disputes as to the relative merits of wet-flies and dry-flies in the good fellowship of the Craft. I have neither time nor influence sufficient to take an active part in founding such a Lodge, but I would join it, and I know others who would also. I have thrown out this suggestion to you in the hope that you will mention it to some of your friends who are both fishermen and Freemasons; and I trust that it may result in the formation of a piscatorial Lodge." Perhaps many of our readers are sufficiently interested in fishing to assist in the suggested movement.

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Bro. Vincent has been installed into the Chair of the Beacon-tree Lodge.

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On Thursday night, the 10th ult., the members of Renfrew County Kilwinning Lodge (370) held a funeral Lodge out of respect to the memory of the late Brothers James Anderson, P.M.; William Pattison, office-bearer; Thomas Whiteford and George Millar, members, the meeting taking place in the Masonic Hall, High-street, under the presidency of Bro. Angus Keay, W.M. The hall was crowded, and among those present were representatives from St. Mirren, Johnstone, Kilbarchan, Glasgow, &c. The Lodge having been opened, the proceedings were begun by the playing of the "Dead March in Saul," and the ceremony as prescribed by the ritual of the Grand Lodge was performed, the Rev. A. M. Lang, chaplain, delivering an impressive oration.

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We learned with regret of the decease, somewhat suddenly, of Bro. J. C. Stilwell, P.M., and Treasurer of the New Concord Lodge. In Masonic circles, more especially in the City, deceased was well known and very highly respected. The funeral, which the members of the Lodge attended, took place at Highgate Cemetery at half-past 1 p.m. on the 16th ult.

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Bro. F. Stallard has been installed as W.M. of the Cripple-gate Lodge, meeting at the "Albion," Aldersgate-street.

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Sheriff Gillespie decided a case in Dunfermline Sheriff Court on the 11th ult., in which the management of the Masonic Lodge St. John (540), Crossgates, Dunfermline, sued a number of the members of the Lodge for delivery of a chest, containing the working tools and paraphernalia of the Lodge, which it was alleged had been unlawfully removed in May last. It appears that the members of the Lodge are located in two different villages, and a dispute had arisen over the question as to where the tools and paraphernalia should be kept. The Sheriff issued an interlocutor ordaining defenders to deliver up the chest and its contents within six days, and awarding pursuers expenses. All this is very disgraceful.

The Grand Master has fixed November 16 for the installation of Colonel Lumsden, of Pitcaple, as Provincial Grand Master of Aberdeenshire West.

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The article "Freemasons," in the fourth volume of "Chambers's Encyclopædia," just published, is contributed by the historian of Scottish Masonry, Bro. D. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary, who is acknowledged an authority on the history and antiquity of the Craft.

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The foundation-stone of the Church of St. Simon and St. Jude, at High Park, Southport, was laid on Saturday afternoon, the 19th ult., with Masonic honors, by the Earl of Lathom, Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Lodge of the Western Division of the County of Lancaster mustered at the schoolrooms and formed in procession, marching to the site upon which the church is to be built. The arrival of the Provincial Grand Master was announced by a flourish of trumpets, and the procession then entered the enclosure. The ceremony was a most imposing one, and was witnessed by a large concourse of people. For some years past there has been a lack of church accommodation in the district of High Park, and the energetic Rector of North Meols, the Rev. C. Hesketh Knowlys, has for some time been taking steps to remedy the deficiency, and at last his efforts have been crowned with success. The church will be a commodious structure, with sittings in nave and side aisles for 648 persons. In addition, there will be ample accommodation for school-children in the chapel and extra vestry on the south side of the choir. The church will have two excellent entrances at the west end, with screen doors. Additional entrances on the north and south side will also be provided at the east end of the aisles. The nave will be lighted by a range of clerestory triplet windows on each side, above the aisle roofs, and also a fine western window in four compartments. Great care has been taken in designing the church to obtain the best acoustic effects compatible with the peculiar mode of construction. The style adopted is a severe treatment of Early English. Before presenting the trowel and mallet, Mr. Charles Scarisbrick, Lord of the Manor, thanked the Earl of Lathom and other gentlemen on the platform for being present. His Lordship was associated there and elsewhere in all good work and charitable institutions, and he could assure him that the family of Lord Lathom was deeply beloved and respected. The Earl of Lathom said it gave him great pleasure to come there that day, and lay that foundation-stone. He took a greater pleasure because it was done with Masonic rites. He thanked them for the kind references to his family, and assured them that he would do the best he could for that town, and make himself useful to his fellow creatures. His Lordship then laid the corner-stone. At the conclusion of the ceremony the procession was reformed, and the members marched back to the school-room, when the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed. In the evening an excellent banquet took place at the Prince of Wales's Hotel, which was presided over by Bro. W. Goodacre, Past Grand Sword Bearer, and Provincial Grand Secretary.

\* \* \*

"It is a fact much regretted by Masons in the West" (writes a correspondent) "that no Masonic Temple exists in Glasgow. In this respect we are very far behind our Southern and Continental neighbors, and every fourth-rate city in the United States boasts of a building of importance worthy of the Craft. It only requires the energy of some Mason of standing to set the matter in motion, and he would receive ample support. When so many churches have of late been going begging for ownership, the brethren have suitable buildings ready to hand, all that is wanted being the man and the funds. Are there no public-spirited brethren in this city?"

\* \* \*

If greater strength can be given to our arguments in favor of far greater caution being used in admitting men into Freemasonry, a comment from a Scottish journal will do it:—"There have been quite a number of claims made upon Lodges in Glasgow recently for pecuniary assistance. These have been responded to either by

way of a grant or in the negative, according to the best judgment of the officials of the Lodge appealed to. These conclusions have not always been come to by a course of reasoning that could be called just. Some of the cases, however, have been very perplexing. Two in point were for assistance on the strength of membership, while the subjects had not been seen in the Lodges on any occasion after the nights on which they had received the degrees, though eight and eleven years respectively had elapsed."

\* \* \*

"Freemasonry *v.* Christianity" is the title of a lecture about to be delivered by a young Mason, member of Lodge Athole, Kirkintilloch. An enterprising youngster this!

\* \* \*

*Rare Bits*, of all papers under the sun, is imbued with Masonic history, and says this:—"All Masonic schools agree that the First Grand Lodge was created by four London Lodges in 1717, and consequently there could have been none at York. There were Masons, however, in abundance, a century prior to that event, as Elias Ashmole, the antiquary and author, chronicles his having been made one in 1646, and that he presided over a meeting at London in 1681, where a number of titled gentlemen were made Free Masons. Cromwell was one of the fraternity, and Charles II. was made a craftsman while in exile in Holland. In fact, all the Royalist refugees were members of the society, and very properly designated themselves 'children of the widow,' meaning thereby in the service of the Queen of Charles I. (H.A.), murdered by three assassins (England, Scotland, and Ireland) to obtain authority (the Master's word)."

\* \* \*

"No sooner was the Grand Lodge of England established in London, than another composed of Masons of 'a lodge of St. John's in Jerusalem,' which means non-affiliates, started as a rival, calling itself the 'Ancient,' and that of 1717, the 'Modern' Grand Lodge, while the last comer, a pretended revival at York, assumed the title 'Grand Lodge of All England.' To head off the pretensions of this latter, Laurence Dermott, Grand Secretary of the second London Grand Lodge, claimed to work 'according to the Ancient Constitutions,' enacted by Prince Edwin at York, which were not at the time in existence, nor probably ever had been."

\* \* \*

"The earliest Masonic Lodges were merely social gatherings at public-houses, with a charitable fund attached, the first Grand Master, Anthony Sayers, being among the earliest applicants for relief. They had no distinctive titles, but were designated by the signs of the taverns at which they assembled, 'The Goose and Gridiron,' 'King's Arms,' 'The Queen's Head,' &c. After a time, as the Moderns grew in importance, noblemen accepted the Grand Mastership, so that, under the Dukes of Wharton and Montague, they became a power in society. Dermott, who had appended a Royal Arch degree to his York antiquity, although imported from France by the way of Dublin, secured as his Grand Master the Duke of Athol, in whose name the indefatigable Dermott issued these equivocal constitutions to Lodges in America, giving rise to the theory of Ancient York Masonry, as the Grand Lodge of York sent abroad but few warrants, and none to America, it being a purely local institution. Should York Masonry ever have existed it was obsolete when, in 1813, the Ancients and the Moderns fused to form the United Grand Lodge of England, as it continues until to-day without the faintest tinge of York about it."

\* \* \*

An office-bearer of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow, in addressing a Lodge meeting at Springburn the week before last, touched upon the diversity of styles adopted in the work in the various Lodges in Glasgow. "I have long wondered," said that officer, "why this important matter has been neglected by the proper authorities. Instead of there being uniformity in the teaching of the work, there is great divergence. Lodges of Instruction, such as are in vogue across the Border are greatly needed here, and now that the matter has been brought to light I hope the P.G.L. will at once take steps to supply the want."

It is proposed that the friends of the late Canon Portal should show their respect for his memory, by carrying out the scheme that he had most at heart—namely, the building of a parish reading and coffee room in his parish of Burghclere. Such a building would cost not less than £1,000, and a small endowment would also be necessary. Between £800 and £900 have already been subscribed for this purpose, and a site has been kindly promised by the Earl of Carnarvon. Subscriptions may be sent either to Godfrey Arkwright, Esq., Adbury House, Newbury (Hon. Sec. to the Fund); or to Bro. George Cosburn, P.M., M.M.M., Market-place, Newbury.

\* \* \*

The members of the "Abbey" Lodge (624), Burton-on-Trent, at their meeting on October 8, presented gold Past Masters' jewels, bearing suitable inscriptions, to W. Bro. C. Graham, P.P.S.G.W., and W. Bro. W. H. Bailey, P.P.G.R., in recognition of their distinguished services in connection with the Masonic charities. Bro. Graham has been an active and devoted member of the Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association since its establishment fifteen years ago, and Bro. Bailey has been a most enthusiastic Charity Steward, having represented the Lodge and the Province at the annual festival of the Boys', the Girls', and the Benevolent Institutions no less than nine times. There was a large attendance of the members of the Lodge and of visiting brethren on the occasion. The presentation in each case was gracefully made by the W.M. Bro. Blackhall, and Bros. Graham and Bailey responded.

\* \* \*

Mr. Arthur Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, is to be initiated into Freemasonry by the Duke of Fife, and the Scottish Lodge in London is to have the honour of enrolling the new member. There is only one distinctly Scotch representative Lodge in the Metropolis, and among the qualifications is the alternative one, that the candidate must be either a native of the land of the Bruce or be married to a Highland lady. Mr. Balfour is a Scottish landlord, as well as the son of a Scottish gentleman.

\* \* \*

Special meetings of Lodges St. James and Kilwilling have been held for the purpose of considering the proposal emanating from the headquarters of Scottish Masonry, to hold a grand bazaar for the purpose of raising a sum of £10,000 to place the Masonic Benevolent Fund on a firm and sure basis. The Lodge St. James resolved to enter into the scheme heartily and give it their warmest support, and they appointed a large and influential deputation to attend a meeting of Forfarshire Lodges to be held in Arbroath on the 29th inst., to make arrangements for the province being represented at the bazaar by one or more stalls.

\* \* \*

The Freemasons of Reading are building a new hall. Bro. W. D. Mackenzie has generously given a plot of land in the Reading-road, close to the railway station. The foundation stone was laid on Wednesday, October 30, by Provincial Grand Master Earl Jersey, who was attended by the principal officers of the Province. The building will be of brick with stone dressings, and will be a great ornament to the town. Mr. J. Weyman is the contractor for the work.

\* \* \*

All the Masonic Lodges in Berks and Bucks are to be placed in mourning as a mark of respect for the late Sir Daniel Gooch. The absence of any centre convenient to the two counties prevents a special Grand Lodge being summoned, but each Lodge will adopt an address of condolence to Sir Henry and Lady Gooch, the Dowager Lady Gooch, and other members of the family.

\* \* \*

The consecration of the recently-formed London Irish Lodge has been fixed to take place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Saturday, 16th inst.

\* \* \*

In recognition of his services during his year of office, Comp. Funstan has been presented with a handsome jewel, by the companions of the Duke of Connaught Chapter of Royal Arch

Masonry. The meetings of the Chapter are held at Anderton's Hotel.

\* \* \*

The consecration of the Acacia Lodge (2,321), at Bradford, took place at the Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford, on Saturday, September 28.

\* \* \*

The regular monthly meeting of the Committee of Management of this Institution was held at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 9th ult. Bro. J. A. Farnfield, Vice-Patron and Treasurer, P.A.G.D.C., occupied the chair, and there were present Bros. James Brett, P.G.P.; John Bulmer, C. A. Cottebrune, P.G.P.; John E. Dawson, P.G.S.B.; Joseph Freeman, W. H. Perryman, P.G.P., C. H. Webb, Chas. Daniel, E. West, G. Bolton, W. Masters, Jabez Hogg, P.G.D.; Alex. Forsyth, W. H. Hubbert, G. E. Fairchild J. S. Cumberland, T. B. Purchas, Chas. G. Hill, L. G. Gordon Robbins, Charles J. Perceval, David D. Mercer, Charles Kempton, A. Durrant, Hugh Cotter, W. B. Daniell, C. Lacey, Wm. Clarke, P.G.P.; Henry Cox, C. H. Driver, P.G.S. of W.; Robert Berridge, P.G.D.; S. C. Haslip, Fred. Mead, Rob. Griggs, W. Belchamber, W. J. Murlis, C. F. Hogard, P.G. Std. Br.; A. H. Tattershall, W. Smith, John Larkin, John J. Berry, and James Terry, P.G.S.B., sec. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and, after a long discussion, were verified. The Secretary reported the deaths of two female annuitants. The Warden's report for the past month was read, and that of the Finance Committee read, adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes. One petition (male) having been considered and accepted, and the name ordered to be placed on the list of candidates for the election in May, 1890, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

\* \* \*

The dedication of the New Masonic Hall at Bowden was celebrated on the 3rd of last month. Bro. Lieut.-Col. the Hon. W. T. Orde-Powlett, P.S.G.W., Deputy Prov. Grand Master of the province, presided over the functions.

\* \* \*

The *Freemason* of the 19th ult. says:—The deep love and reverence in which Bro. Dr. Smyth, Past Grand Chaplain of England, is held in the estimation of the brethren of West Yorkshire, was again evinced on the 12th ult. at the regular meeting of Lodge Prudence, No. 2,069, of which he is a founder and P.M. He had consented to read a paper, giving some account of his personal knowledge of the Indian Mutiny, through which he served as chaplain to the forces. As soon as this became known, brethren from all parts of the province made an effort to be present, and the large Lodge room was crowded to its utmost capacity. Amongst those present were several military brethren whose regiment was engaged during the Mutiny, and with whose officers Bro. D. Smyth had made warm friendships during those trying times. The lecturer almost excelled himself in handling this subject, and the only regret felt was that time did not permit of a longer address.

\* \* \*

Bro. Dr. J. Kellett Smith has been unanimously elected Trustee of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, vice Bro. Lord Stanley of Preston resigned in consequence of foreign service.

\* \* \*

A memorial has been erected in the beautiful and picturesque cemetery at Hither Green to the memory of the late Mrs. Baker, wife of Bro. Brackstone Baker, of Lee. It consists of a rough ashlar base, on which is carved a perfect die-square, surmounted by a Latin cross; the combination, though not ostentatious, is beautifully suggestive of our Masonic emblems. On the side is placed a three-fold triangle with a R-Arch sign in centre. On the front is the following inscription:—“To the beloved and cherished memory of Marianne, the devoted wife of Brackstone Baker, called to rest, after a union of 33 years, 11th July, 1888. Aged 57 years. ‘This mortal has put on immortality.’ ‘Steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord.’ ‘So He giveth His beloved sleep.’”

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## Eminent Masons at Home.

No. V.—MR. FREDERICK BINCKES AT KING'S-ROAD, N.W.

THE Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, of whom the Masonic world has chatted a great deal during the past twelve months, resides at the further extremity of the King's-road, after it cuts through the better-known Camden-road, just where the historic College Green has dwindled down to a modest grass "plot," and retired, with its faded laurels, behind a well-conditioned iron railing, without the suspicion of a tree or a shrub to encourage the struggling grass towards the freshness of maturity. Yet there are many trees and shrubs close by, for all the houses possess front gardens; and box bushes, cleverly clipped into all sort of designs, aid the withering plane-trees and "town" bushes to impose a rural falseness upon the denizens of a London lung, and which would almost succeed were it not for the sooty "feeling" of the atmosphere and the clanging of the bells upon the horses of the North Metropolitan Tramway Company. You see and hear these things under the disadvantage of a chill October afternoon, when the dusk is settling down with a slight London mist, and the rat-tat of the energetic traveller of the Postmaster-General—Socialism debars you from giving the postman his proper title—goes along the darkening street like the volley of a battalion of militia firing its first salute on review day. A board announcing the fact that "this house to be let or sold on or before Christmas next" hangs over the railings—an evil omen to the superstitious—and you pass it by with nothing less than a hope that its influence has not yet penetrated into the home of Frederick Binckes.

The past generation of builders had not to contend with the absurd value of land, and the ground-rent fiend did not hang over them to destroy all their good intentions before they could put them into their bricks and mortar. So the rooms in the houses of King's-road are large and lofty, and give evidence of a better care for the

comfort and daily conveniences of their occupants. Frederick Binckes has had but little time these twenty years gone to devote much craze to articles of virtu or of art. He smilingly informs you he has no parks nor conservatories, and that his house relies upon the resources of a neighboring fruiterer to supply his table with those horticultural delicacies which are dear to the palate of womankind. He has many bookshelves and many books; volumes which can point to nothing but a capacity for enjoying literature of an ennobling purpose. There are the "Lives" of Voltaire and Johnson, Wellington and Bonaparte, Mill's "History of the Crusaders," the Greek and Hebrew scriptures, and rows upon rows of lighter literature—History, Biography, Theology, Poetry, and the Drama—standard works and magazines. In the dining-room, in a bookcase purposely devoted to them, is the collection of Masonic works of recent and past years, and the little volumes, mostly in blue cloth, speak silently as to the strides Masonic literature has made since Frederick Binckes came into the world of Masonry. Over the door in this room hangs a much-prized possession. It is the testimonial presented to Frederick Binckes, on the 2nd of March, 1862, by the Board of Stewards of the Festival immediately following his election to the Secretaryship of the R.M.I. for Boys (W. F. Dobson, D.P.G.M. of Kent, Chairman), in recognition of his services as Secretary to the Institution, when the sum of £3,640 was brought up at the Festival held in that year. Since then he has received many testimonials of moral and intrinsic worth, but none has he ever valued as he values this. It is the first recognition he possesses, he tells you, of his work for the Schools, and, did you but listen, he would digress into comparisons with more recent times, when your mind wishes to rid itself for the moment of such material things. Upon his sideboard is the "salver" presented to him in 1873, with a purse of one thousand guineas, by the friends of the Institution, "in testimony of the appreciation of his exertions as Secretary in promoting its prosperity." Several other pieces of silver plate—presentations from a generous Craft—lie about the room, which also includes the service of dessert knives and centre-dishes given him, with a purse of four hundred guineas, but two years ago by the members of the Craft, supplemented by the Mark Master Masons.

Into the special department set aside for the more domesticated portion of the household, none but its fair mistress may take you, so you follow Miss Agnes into the realm of work-baskets and easy chairs, and listen to the history of the jackdaw which is perched outside the window, answering its young mistress with amusing impudence. On the walls of this room hang many masonic engravings depicting events in the history of the Craft; and over the cabinet, displaying the touch of woman in the little knickknacks which cover its shelves is a water-colour drawing of the buildings at Wood Green. But it is the "Album of Masons" which interests you most, and brings you to listen to the really descriptive charm of your hostess. Miss Binckes knows this book, and the history of the men whose portraits adorn it, to an extent which surprises you. Leaf after leaf is turned but to make you more interested in the little explanatory comments which are given with each man who claims her attention. You have the features of men whom you have seen in the life; others—and very many others—have long since reached that bourne from which no traveller returns. Some are living in remote corners of the earth, and have dropped out of the running in the old country; others you meet in your daily intercourse with the Craft; but each has his allotted place, with his name beneath it; until the course of years, and the inevitable price of existence, will eventually change the volume into a monument of the dead, and the owner himself will surrender its possession into other hands. Only one space is vacant, and in your heart—though you will not, perhaps, willingly admit it—you know that mere justice has been done in removing the portrait from the position of honor its original has forfeited all moral claims to possess. You feel a desire to turn back the faded leaves of this book, and begin your inspection again; but you know your host is awaiting you, to discuss the one great cloud that has risen as the sun was gaining the



golden glory of eventide, to blacken and destroy the peacefulness of repose, and hasten by its own blackness the blackness of the gathering night.

Frederick Binckes was initiated into Freemasonry in the Enoch Lodge (11) in December thirty-eight years ago, and passed through the chair five years later, having been exalted the previous year (1855) in the Mount Sinai Chapter. In 1856 he was elected on the Board of General Purposes, and was a member of the first Building Committee appointed to consider the re-erection of Freemasons' Hall. In 1860 he filled the chair of the Crescent Lodge (788), and has since occupied the same position in the Peace and Harmony, Grand Stewards, and Lewis Lodges. In 1862 he passed the eighteenth degree, Rosicrucian, and that of P. M. W. S. thirtieth degree, in 1864. In 1866 he was installed K. T., and three years later joined the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, and in due course filled the chair as Sovereign, and held office as Intendant-General unattached. From 1862 to June, 1889, he occupied the position of Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, having acted as Assistant Grand Secretary for two years previous. He has served many times as Steward at the Festivals of the Charities. But in 1861 he was elected to the Secretaryship of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, a position he will in all probability vacate at the end of the present year.

Perhaps there is no man in the Craft who has been more *fêted* than Frederick Binckes. When Mr. Blizard Abbot wrote his "History of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," in '85, he completed the work with these remarks:—

"In fine, if it was Bro. William Burwood who founded the Institution, it is Bro. Binckes who has made the School, and our hope is that he may be spared yet many years to confirm and even extend successes, in the achievement of which he has played so conspicuous a part. He, more than any brother of whom we have read or heard, is entitled to bear on his achievement of arms the proudly-expressive device 'Non omnis moriar,' and thrice fortunate will our Boys' School be, if, in what we hope and trust will be the far distant future, the inheritor of Bro. Binckes's cares and responsibilities shall prove to be the possessor of Bro. Binckes's energy, ability, and will."

That Frederick Binckes has possessed this "energy, ability, and will," may perhaps be allowed by those who are seeking to reward his efforts with a summary dismissal from the post he has for twenty-eight years so successfully filled. But the ways of the

world get stranger day by day. Masons are mortals, and have all the idiosyncracies of mortal beings; and generous men will no doubt forgive much of the vituperative outbursts of a certain section of the Craft. But it will be hard for Frederick Binckes to forgive, and it will be impossible for him to forget. Could you but place yourself for one moment in the position of the unfortunate Secretary of the R.M. Institution for Boys, you would perhaps comment on the absence of judicial fairness in the Report of the inquiry committee. You could not but regret that, if objections were to have been made against the administrations of the institution, they should have been accomplished in an open and judicious manner, without the

aid of a bill of indictment drawn with a view to condemnation, instead of a report upon imperfections with the object of amendment. You can yourself possess no opinions beyond those gathered from a perusal of that terrible Report, barren from Dan to Beersheba, without an oasis in the desert. The world of Masonry is asked to forget twenty-eight years of successful working. It is not to remember the brilliant festivals, nor the services of the eighty-six members of the various Committees who have given their time to the welfare of the Institution. It is to have no thought of the large sums of money which Frederick Binckes has, entirely by his own persuasive energies, weaned from the pockets of the charitable Brethren. It is to forget the welfare of the boys who have left the Institution to become active members of the great community outside; and it is to ignore—if the wish of the minority were taken—the benefits which Frederick Binckes has undoubtedly secured for the most important of the Masonic Institu-



MR. FREDERICK BINCKES.

tions. These are points which he will press upon you as you sit with him this October night—with Frederick Binckes the man, and not the Mason. He discards for the moment any of the influences Masonry might be supposed to cast upon the situation. He will ask you to point out one instance in his connection with the Institution that can bring down upon him the condemnation of honest men. He will tell you of the charge of forgery that his brother Masons have brought against him, a charge which he will not, he tells you also, disgrace his Brotherhood by meeting. He points out, and disposes of to your satisfaction, many of the matters which his enemies lay much stress upon, and

he leaves you to your own opinions, to condemn—if condemnation is in your heart. You confess to much sympathy with Bro. Binckes, not that you think he has used the utmost tact in his connection with various officials of the Institution, but because his twenty-eight years' successful labors on behalf of the Institution should stand him in good stead now that a change is necessary. The question of the pension, which the greater number of the subscribers are anxious to offer him during the remaining years of his life, is extraneous to the point at issue. It is his honor to the Craft and the Institution that interests him most, but he feels, with all those who are anxious to brighten the completion of his Masonic career, that the opposition to his pension being granted is in itself an impeachment of that honor.

Whether that pension will ever be his or not, cannot for one moment tarnish the memory of those brethren who have in days gone by received material benefits from his hands. It is so easy to condemn, that these, at least, will make some effort to praise. They will find out affairs in his life which can add only lustre to the obligations of brotherhood he has fulfilled since he first entered a Masonic Lodge five-and-thirty years ago. They will forget, as all true Masons should, many of the trivial circumstances upon which opinions may not differ, and they will find in Frederick Binckes, and his lifetime services at Freemasons' Hall, a man who has not yet been surpassed in his energies for the benefits of Freemasonry, and a tenure of officialdom which has not been equalled since the sacred lamp of the Order was lit, centuries ago, in the Temple of King Solomon.

#### THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

THE Committee of the above Institution held its usual monthly meeting on Saturday, the 5th ult., under the chairmanship of Bro. Richard Eve, P.G.T., when there was a very large attendance of subscribing brethren. The time will come, perhaps, when the affairs of the school and its administrative department will emerge from the unfortunate position in which they now are, and nothing but a clean sweep of all the officials from the highest to the lowest will, perhaps, effect this. Whenever the affairs of a charitable institution is left somewhat in the hands of the general body of supporters, the result is always chaos, and the antagonistic influences which seem to be floating among the subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys have not spared this Institution from drifting into such a condition. In the course of the proceedings Bro. John Glass moved the following proposition:—

That the Provisional Committee be authorised to terminate the appointment of Dr. Morris, the head master, in accordance with the terms of agreement, dated 20th August, 1875, and that the said Committee be further empowered to take such steps as they may deem desirable to appoint another head master in accordance with the laws of the Institution.

Bro. J. S. Cumberland had pleasure in seconding him. Bro. Britten was of the strong opinion that Dr. Morris should be retained, and moved an amendment to that effect.

Bro. Jones strongly upheld the resolution passed at the June Quarterly Court, that the whole of the administrative officers of the Institution were to resign, or tender their resignation. He thought there was not sufficient discipline in the school, and hoped the General Committee would support the Provisional Committee and its recommendations to the letter.

Bro. Alfred Durrant, on the other hand, could not allow any statement to be made in any public body reflecting on the management of the Institution by Dr. Morris. He had had many opportunities of seeing and knowing how discipline was maintained at the school, and he most unhesitatingly maintained that the school, as far as the head master was concerned, was well managed, and that its discipline was excellent. Dr. Morris occupied a very high position in the educational world, and his character was too high to be attacked by persons who had no shred of evidence to support their charges.

As one of those who adhered to the report of the Provisional Committee, Bro. Hawkins remarked he was not conscious that Dr. Morris had been insufficient as far as the discipline of the school was concerned, and that he had been weak in not coming to the House Committee to protest against the Binckes control. This statement had been made, and they were told that as soon as he had come to the House Committee he was not supported there. They never heard of that until he came before the Philbrick Committee. Now, either Dr. Morris did go to the House Committee and complain of interference with his administration, or he did not. If he did he was right, if he did not he was wrong. He (Bro. Hawkins) would like to know whether he did. The Philbrick Committee held that the educational condition of the school was good; he heard practically the same Commission, consisting of the same gentlemen, recommending unanimously that Dr. Morris should be dismissed. Did those gentlemen accede to that report? Was any information obtained from Bro. Philbrick, or Sir Reginald Hanson, or others,

as to whether Dr. Morris had had the opportunity of carrying on the Institution with another staff? It seemed to him that Dr. Morris had no real opportunity of being the Governor of the School. Was the Provisional Committee, after so many years of Dr. Morris's services, going to give Dr. Morris a six months' notice, or six months' salary only, when they were going to give another a gigantic pension? He was surprised at such conduct. There was no reason in the thing. They recommended the pensioning of an officer at £50 a year more than the salary which they were going to give his successor. If Dr. Morris was to go, give him some solatium: do not turn him away. If Dr. Morris was such an incompetent master, such a bad scholar, how was it he (Bro. Hawkins) had read for years the reports from the Secretary and Committee extolling Dr. Morris? There must certainly be some arguments in his favor. He did not say keep him permanently, but give him an opportunity of receiving something if they were going to turn him away at once.

Eventually the motion of Bro. Glass was carried by 45 votes against 34, and Dr. Morris will, therefore, surrender his position at Wood Green, and the resolution will be acted upon by the Provisional Committee. After a number of party questions had been made, and explanations, amid laughter and various cries of disapproval given, it was reported that at the Quarterly Court, to be held on October 25, the motion of a pension of £350 a year to Bro. Binckes would be put for confirmation, and the brethren dispersed without passing a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding.

The Quarterly Court was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Friday, the 25th ult., when the Grand Treasurer presided. A large number of Brethren were present, and the report of the Provisional Management Committee contained the following clause:—

The Committee, acting upon the authority given to it at the last Quarterly Court to confer with the Secretary, Bro. Binckes, "as to the terms of his retirement, and to arrange them, if possible," has, after deliberation, arranged with him that he shall retire from the office of Secretary at the end of the present year 1889, upon a retiring allowance of £350 per annum for life. This arrangement received the almost unanimous approval of the General Committee on August 10 last, and this Committee now asks the General Court to sanction and confirm the same.

Upon this question the discussion which ensued was peculiarly of a party nature. After Mr. W. E. Porter had been elected by a very large majority to fulfil the duties of Medical Officer to the Institution, the motion of Bro. Richard Eve

That in accordance with the recommendation of the Provisional Management Committee, adopted by the General Committee, on Saturday, 10th August, 1889, an allowance of £350 per annum for life be made to Bro. Frederick Binckes on his retirement from the office of Secretary after a service of upwards of 28 years.

was carried. The proposer laid his case before the Court in a concise but impartial manner. He called the attention of the subscribers to the recommendations of the Committee appointed by themselves. He detailed the work of Bro. Binckes during the great number of years he had held office, and laid much stress on the yearly increase of the funds of the Institution during that period. Bro. Eve, whose remarks were continually interrupted, finished by reading a letter he had received from Bro. Pope, P.G.D., one of the members of the Investigation Committee, who "relied on the generosity of the Craft to recognise the undoubted services of Bro. Binckes, and to provide some such means of honorable or voluntary retirement as is contemplated in your resolution." Colonel Brisbane seconded the resolution, which—after several abortive amendments had been moved, one of which was not seconded, and others not put to the vote—the Chairman eventually, amid great confusion and excitement, took a division on the original motion, with the result that it was carried by 220 votes to 213, after which Brother Hawkins invited the Brethren to subscribe to a fund of £500 to carry the question to the Chancery Court. A motion to expend a sum of £3,500 to provide washing and swimming baths for the use of the pupils was also carried, and sixteen candidates having been elected to the vacancies in the school, a vote of thanks to Brother Edward Terry terminated the proceedings.

At the moment of going to press, we unfortunately hear that an application will be immediately made to the Courts to overthrow the resolution carried in favor of the pension to Brother Binckes.

Freemasonry includes within its circle almost every branch of polite learning. Under the veil of its mysteries is comprehended a regular system of science. Many of its illustrations to the confined genius may appear unimportant, but the man of more enlarged faculties will perceive them to be in the highest degree useful and enteresting. To please the accomplished scholar and ingenuous artist, Freemasonry is wisely planned; and in the investigation of its latent doctrines the philosopher and mathematician may experience equal delight and satisfaction. To exhaust the various subjects of which it treats would transcend the powers of the brightest genius; still, however, nearer approaches to perfection may be made, and the man of understanding will not check the progress of his abilities, though the task he attempts may at first seem insurmountable. Perseverance and application remove each difficulty as it occurs; every step he advances new pleasures open to his view, and instruction of the noblest kind attends his researches. In the diligent pursuit of knowledge the intellectual faculties are employed in promoting the glory of God and the good of men.—*Alfred B. King.*

*THE MARQUIS OF HERTFORD INSTALLED AS PRO.  
GRAND MASTER OF ANTRIM.*

THE Craft in Ireland has not for many years experienced so important a function as took place on the afternoon of the 9th ult. in the Exhibition Hall of the Botanic Gardens of Belfast, when at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. Masons of Antrim the Most Honorable Hugh de Grey, Marquis of Hertford, was installed as Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of the Masonic Province of Antrim. The ceremony was performed in the presence of fully one thousand members of the Order, becoming one of the finest demonstrations ever held in connection with Freemasonry in the city. The Marquis of Hertford succeeds the late Sir Charles Lanyon, D.L., whose decease was such a loss to the Craft, and who was so deeply lamented by Masons all over the United Kingdom, whose respect and esteem he won by the earnest manner in which he discharged the duties attached to the exalted position which he held. It will be remembered that Sir Charles was selected for the office upon the death of the Marquis of Donegall. In nominating the Marquis of Hertford to the vacancy it is admitted by all that his Grace the Duke of Abercorn, as Grand Master of Ireland, has made a most happy selection, and one which is heartily approved by the members of the Order. In following in the footsteps of such worthy Masons as Lord Donegall and Sir Charles Lanyon and others who have held the office, his Lordship has a noble example to imitate, and we have no doubt that he will prove himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him by his brethren, and that in his hands the interests of Freemasonry will be sedulously and carefully conserved. The proceedings were of the most successful character, and bore eloquent testimony to the great popularity of the new Provincial Grand Master. The enthusiasm with which he was received must have been peculiarly gratifying to him, showing as it does that he enters upon the duties of his exalted position with the respect and esteem of his brethren, and with every promise of an auspicious and successful term of office. Since the selection of the Duke of Abercorn was announced, no effort has been spared to invest the installation ceremony with everything requisite and necessary to success, the brethren of the province entering into the arrangements with enthusiasm and spirit. The successful issue of their exertions was evidenced in the highly impressive ceremony in the Exhibition Hall, and the enthusiastic proceedings in the Ulster Hall in the evening, when the noble Marquis was entertained by the Masons of the province. The Exhibition Hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion with rare hothouse plants and delicate drapery, and presented a very admirable appearance. The meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was fixed for four o'clock, and shortly before that hour the brethren had assembled in full regalia, which was denuded in one of the ante-rooms set apart for the purpose. Lord Hertford on his arrival from Lisburn was met at the terminus of the Great Northern Railway, Great Victoria-street, by Bro. Thomas Valentine, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, with whom were the Provincial Grand Secretary and Treasurer. The Provincial Grand Master-elect was escorted by these gentlemen to the Exhibition Hall, and the interesting proceedings were at once entered upon.

Punctually at four o'clock the Right Worshipful the Deputy Grand Master, Bro. R. W. Sheckleton, Q.C., attended by the grand officers and provincial grand officers, entered the hall, and the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form. The order of the procession was as follows:—

Dep. Grand Master Bro. R. W. Sheckleton, Q.C.  
Prov. Grand Masters, Bro. Lord A. Hill, Bro. Major Scott, and Bro. Colonel Ervine.  
Grand Sen. Deacon Bro. Harry Hodges.  
Grand Swordbearer, Bro. W. M. C. Crawley.  
Grand Inner Guard, Bro. W. F. R. Pim.  
Reps. of Foreign Grand Lodges, Bros. Sir H. Cochrane and J. M'Connell.  
Prov. Dep. Grand Masters, Bros. Thomas Valentine, Sir W. Miller, and Major Thompson.  
Prov. G. Chaplain of Down, Rev. Canon Browne.  
Prov. G. S. Warden, Bro. L. M. Ewart.  
Prov. G. J. Warden, Bro. R. Carey.  
Prov. G. Treasurer, Bro. Rankin.  
Prov. G. Secretary, Bro. R. J. Hilton.  
Prov. G. Chaplain, Bro. Rev. Dr. Irvine.  
Prov. Sup. of Works, Bro. W. A. Traill.  
Prov. Inspectors.  
Prov. Stewards, Bro. S. A. Plunket and Bro. J. Morton.  
Prov. Swordbearer, Bro. R. B. Andrews.  
Prov. Inner Guard, Bro. L. Ryans.  
Prov. Dep. G. Secretary, Bro. Thos. Nesbit.  
Grand Officers of Down.  
Prov. S. Deacon, Bro. R. Neill.  
Prov. J. Deacon, Bro. J. M'Dowell.

After an ode had been sung, the Most Worshipful Grand Master (the Duke of Abercorn) was then introduced, and conducted to the throne, the procession being:—

Director of Ceremonies, Bro. W. J. Fennell.  
Grand Master, Bro. Duke of Abercorn.  
Grand Senior Deacon, Bro. H. Hodges.  
Grand Swordbearer, Bro. Dr. Crawley.  
Prov. Grand Stewards and Deacons.

The Provincial Grand Master-elect, the Most Honorable the Marquis of

Hertford, was then announced as being in attendance, and his warrant of appointment having been read, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master appointed a deputation to receive him. A procession was formed under the direction of the Worshipful Grand Director of Ceremonies, and entered the hall in the following order:—

The Provincial Grand Deacons, Bros. R. Neill and J. M'Dowell.  
A Past Master, carrying the Holy Bible, Bro. Plunkett.  
A Past Master, carrying the Book of Constitutions, Bro. Morton.  
A Past Master, carrying the Collar and Apron of the Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Lodge Bye-Laws, Bro. W. H. Dixon.  
The Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Officers forming the Deputation, Bros. Hodges and Crawley.  
The Provincial Grand Master-elect, Bro. the Marquis of Hertford.  
The Director of Ceremonies, Bro. W. J. Fennell.

Having perambulated three times round the Lodge the procession halted on reaching the foot of the throne, when the Provincial Grand Master-elect was presented to the M.W. the Grand Master, and the ceremony of installation was proceeded with. The following was the installation ode, composed specially for the occasion by Bro. William Redfern Kelly, P.G.C., Prince of Wales Lodge, 154:—

Tune—"Old Hundred."

Hail! hail! bright star of Hertford, hail!  
In Dalriada's\* Orient shine,  
Bright 'mongst Ulidia's† brightest stars,  
Long may'st thy light with theirs combine.

Intensify that mystic light,  
Which none but Craftsmen e'er can see,  
Show forth 'midst hieroglyphics bright  
Our Three Great Lights of Masonry.

Around thy Oriental Throne  
May Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty stand;  
May Peace, and Love, and Harmony  
With Charity join hand in hand.

May the Grand Architect inspire  
Thy labours in our noble cause;  
And may He strengthen thy desire  
To rule the Craft by Heaven's Great Laws.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, the M.W. the Grand Master, having directed the Provincial Grand Master-elect to kneel and take the obligation of office, invested him with the insignia of office, and placed him in the chair of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

THE DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES then declared the Most Hon. Hugh de Grey, Marquis of Hertford, duly installed as Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Antrim.

The newly-installed Provincial Grand Master having been saluted with full Masonic honors,

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER nominated Bro. Thos. Valentine as his Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and also presented him with the collar and jewel of his office on behalf of his Masonic friends in the province.

The address was read by Bro. HILTON, as follows:—

To Bro. Thomas Valentine, 32nd Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Freemasons of Antrim. Right Worshipful Sir and Brother,—Your Masonic Brethren of the Province of Antrim, having regard to your distinguished position as a Freemason, your great zeal for the advancement of the best interests of the Craft in this province, and the very many valuable services which you have rendered to the Order, embrace the present auspicious opportunity of presenting to you a slight tribute of their great esteem and admiration of you, and their thorough appreciation of your many sterling qualities. Your Brethren are pleased and gratified beyond measure at your reappointment as their Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and they offer to you their most cordial and sincere congratulations on this the occasion of your formal reinduction into that honorable and distinguished position. Whether they have regard to your many estimable Masonic and gentlemanly qualities, your great devotion and zeal for the cause of Freemasonry, your invariably dignified and urbane deportment in the chair of the Provincial Grand Lodge, or your onerous self-imposed and self-sacrificing labors, especially throughout the country districts of this great Masonic Province of Antrim, all alike commend you to your brethren as one worthy of their warmest esteem and regard, and of the highest compliments which it would be at all possible for them to pay to you. They request your acceptance of this collar-chain of the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and this decoration also appertaining to that exalted position; and they most sincerely pray that the Great Architect of the Universe may long spare you to wear these insignia, and to aid with your valuable labors, your judicious advice and counsel, and your great experience in Masonic matters, the brethren of the Province of Antrim, on behalf of whom we subscribe ourselves, right worshipful sir and brother, sincerely and fraternally yours, Lavens M. Ewart, P.G.S.W.; Robert Carey, P.G.J.W.; Robert J. Hilton, P.G. Sec. Belfast, 9th October, 1889.

THE PROVINCIAL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, in reply, said:—

Dear Brethren,—I feel honored that our Provincial Grand Master has thought fit to appoint me as his deputy, and especially that the appointment has given you so much satisfaction. Whilst thoroughly appreciating your kindness and indulgence as far as regards the duties which have devolved upon me in connection with the office held by me under our late lamented Pro-

\* Dalriada, Antrim.

† Ulidia, Ulster.

vincial Grand Master, Sir Charles Lanyon, I feel very sensible that I have fallen far short in my performance of those duties; but I am much gratified that you recognise the earnest desire and anxiety I have always felt in the promotion of the best interests of the noble Order with which we are mutually connected, and if I have been to some extent instrumental in this direction, I feel that my efforts would have been of little avail had I not been at all times so ably and so loyally assisted and encouraged in my endeavors by the officers and the members of this Provincial Grand Lodge. I can assure you, Brethren, I value the beautiful collar-chain and decoration appertaining to the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master with which you have presented me to-day far above their intrinsic worth, and I prize the kind words—too kind words—with which you accompany them more than I can express. I trust that so long as I have the honor to wear these insignia of my office, I may continue to merit the approval you have expressed of my conduct during the time I have held the position of Deputy Provincial Grand Master of this important province. Under our newly-installed Provincial Grand Master, the Marquis of Hertford, to whom we all wish a hearty welcome, it will be my earnest endeavor to forward the interests of the Order over which, I hope, he may long be permitted to preside. I cordially reciprocate the kind wishes contained in the address which you have presented to me.

Other business having been transacted, and a closing ode sung to the tune of the Sicilian Mariners' Hymn, the Provincial Grand Lodge closed in form, and the proceedings terminated.

#### BANQUET IN THE ULSTER HALL.

In the evening, at seven o'clock, the newly-installed Provincial Grand Master was entertained at a banquet in the Ulster Hall by the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antrim, covers being laid for close upon four hundred. The company was of an influential character, being fully representative of the Province of Ulster, including many members from Dublin and the South, and a number of ladies, who occupied places in the balcony. His Grace the Duke of Abercorn presided. During the proceedings the newly-installed Pro. Grand Master, in replying to the toast of his health, said:—

Most Worshipful Grand Master, allow me first of all to thank you most heartily for the kind way in which you have proposed this toast, and the brethren for the kind way in which they have received it. It is now twenty years, almost to a day, since I first addressed a meeting in this hall, from that very platform; but, if I remember aright, it was not a meeting exhibiting brotherly love and kindness such as the one I now address. I remember on that occasion—and it was the first occasion on which I had been called upon to make a speech—I felt very badly off for words. Well, brethren, I can assure you at the present moment I feel almost in a similar condition, for I am at a loss for words in which to express to you my thanks for the honor which has been conferred upon me to-day. I can assure you it is an honor that I esteem very highly. It is no mean honor to be placed in the position which I occupy to-night as Provincial Grand Master of Antrim—a province which, I believe, has eighty-five Masonic Lodges, numbering several thousand members. I, as King Mason, who have been taking part in Masonic matters for some years past, can assure you that I feel the honor very deeply, and not only is it an honor to me, but a very great pleasure. But at the same time I cannot help feeling also with regard to the circumstances that have led to my being here to-night—I allude to my being the successor of Sir Charles Lanyon, of whom I was pleased to hear our Grand Master speak in such feeling terms. (Hear, hear.) Sir Charles Lanyon, I am proud to say, was known to me for many years. It was my privilege to be a friend of his, and during the last twenty years I had received the very greatest kindness from him; and, therefore, I know full well what you, living in this country, who had constant intercourse with him, must feel with regard to his loss. Brethren, I cannot hope to provoke the same feelings that you must have had towards him; but I ask you to believe that I shall try, to the very best of my power, to do my duty in the position in which you have placed me to-day. (Cheers.) To enable me to do that duty, I ask for the cordial co-operation, not only of all the Provincial Grand Officers, but also of every Mason in the province. (Hear, hear.) If we all work together, brethren, we must succeed. (Hear, hear.) There are provinces in which I have heard that the Grand Lodge holds itself apart from private lodges, and they don't work well together, the result being that there is an absence of that perfect harmony and good-fellowship that should ever be a characteristic of the Masonic body. But from what I have seen to-day, and from what I have heard of this province, I have not the slightest fear of any such thing occurring. (Cheers.) When I see this magnificent gathering—I think one of the largest Masonic gatherings ever held in the city of Belfast—when I have seen the way in which your Deputy Provincial Grand Master was received by the members—(cheers)—I have no fear whatever but that we shall all work together in love and harmony. I can assure you, brethren, that it is with great hesitation that I accepted the honor you have this day conferred upon me. That most excellent Mason, my relative, the Provincial Grand Master of Down—(loud cheers)—whom, to a certain extent, I will look upon to-night as my Masonic godfather—(laughter)—can bear me out in saying that I had great hesitation at first, because I had great doubt whether I should be able to perform the duties of the office in such a way as you had a right to expect from your Provincial Grand Master, and that owing to the fact of my not residing in the country. Bro. Lord Arthur Hill—(cheers)—however, assured me that he was perfectly certain that I should meet with nothing but the greatest kindness and longsuffering from the Masons of this province, and that they would endeavor to make my work as easy as possible for me, and help me in every way they could. (Cheers.) Brethren, from the kind way in which you have received me this day, I have no doubt that Bro. Lord Arthur Hill was correct, and that I may expect from you the most cordial co-operation. (Cheers.) I will ask you, brethren, to pardon any mistakes I may make. (Hear, hear.) There are slight differences in the working of the Order here and in England, and if I make any mistakes I trust you will attribute them to that circumstance. This reminds me, brethren, that I am not thoroughly conversant with the Book of Constitutions of the Irish Grand Lodge, but there is a rule in the Book of the Constitutions in England—I think rule six—which says that all speeches shall be short and to the

point. (Laughter.) I have no doubt your—perhaps I should now say our—Book of Constitution has the same rule, but, if it has not, may I respectfully call the attention of the Grand Master of Down to the omission. (Hear, hear.) I will not, therefore, detain you longer. I had intended to say a word or two on the question of Masonic charities, but the subject has been so eloquently alluded to that I shall not do so. (Cheers of "Go on.") Well, I wish to point out, especially to some in this hall who are not Masons, that Masonry does not entirely consist of some very extraordinary performances, carried on with closed doors, about which, of course, the outside world knows nothing but supposes a great deal, and in eating a certain number of very good dinners. (Laughter.) I know that in some places this is the general idea, and I would implore all Masons to do what they can to disabuse the community of that notion. Let them, by support of the great Masonic charities, prove that it means a great deal more, and that there is something in the principles of the Order beyond what the general public imagine. (Hear, hear.) The work of charity has been going on in England among the members for a considerable time. Masons have of late years responded nobly to the calls made on them, and I know these calls are very numerous indeed. Look at the girls' and boys' schools, the homes for the aged which exist in England, and the enormous sums contributed annually towards their support. On the occasion of the centenary of the girls' schools, at which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presided, no less a sum than £50,000 was handed in towards this object. Brethren, I cannot expect anything like this. I don't ask you to send in £50,000 to whoever presides at the next festival, but I would simply ask you to do what you can. (Hear, hear.) It is within the power of all to do something. I think, in fact, it is in the power of some Lodges to do more than they are doing. (Hear, hear.) Some of them are apt to forget that they have a great Masonic duty to perform, and I would again ask all of you to do what you are enabled to remedy this state of things, remembering that charity is a great word in the principles of your order. I thank you, brethren, for the kind and magnificent reception you have accorded me, and I can only say it will always be my earnest endeavor to carry out the duties of my office to the best of my ability, to attend on all occasions that I possibly can, and to try to be often among the Masons of the Province of Antrim. (Cheers.)

## Among the Bohemians.

Mr. Harry Quilter, of the *Universal Review*, may be very much disgusted with the manner in which his views on his own personal friendship with the late Wilkie Collins have been received by the hundred and one harpies who live on the reputation of other people's brains, but I shall be greatly disappointed if he takes the slightest notice of it or them. The last volume of his *Review* is a marked improvement in the sphere of illustrations upon any of the previous ones, and he has evidently come to the conclusion that a half-crown monthly must be profusely and brilliantly illustrated to command support. It is not altogether wise, perhaps, to print articles in French, but I daresay he knows his business.

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No one will grudge Mr. Alderman Whitehead a baronetcy as a reward for his year of office, if only for his exertions on behalf of the better equipment of the Volunteers. Mr. Whitehead has been a Mason for some years, and is a P.M. of a well-known City Lodge. He is a Liberal in politics, an entertaining and agreeable man in social circles, and has added another laurel to the history of the Ambassadors of the Road. He writes as evenly and as carefully as a schoolboy, and has never been known to hurry through work.

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The proposed Masonic Matinée at Terry's Theatre is likely to be an entertaining spectacle, but "A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing" is a very unfortunate title to play under. "Sweet Lavender" reaches her six hundredth performance this month, and is likely to go on loving "Clem" for a couple of years longer. I never remember having seen a play so consistently well acted. Nothing or nobody has succumbed to the continual work of six hundred performances with the exception of that knocker on Dick Phenyl's chamber door, which has entirely given in. I hear there is a new scientific pastime for winter evenings. It is called "Knockery," and Mr. Stuart Cumberland has undertaken to disclose the state of your health by the manner in which you announce your arrival at a friend's front door.

\* \* \*

I have been again and again to see and to study Bro. Robertson's performance in "The Profligate"—in fact so often, that I have quite exhausted the good nature of acting-manager Compton, who, no doubt, thinks me a Bohemian loafer anxious to "get in somewhere out of the cold." The performance to me increases in interest each time I go. On twenty different occasions, I have seen twenty different readings of the part—not radical readings, but just so much suggestive of change as to make the performance all the more piquante, if such a word will carry its meaning. Mr. Pinero has given us in "Sweet Lavender," a healthy play, with plenty of "stuff," from start to finish. In "The Profligate" the texture is lighter, but the colors are much stronger, until the third act shows us the very summit of dramatic writing. But of the acting in that particular scene? Forget for one moment the affected, melodramatic style of Janet Priest, the stiff, unwomanly nature of Miss Stonehaigh, and

even lose sight of Mr. Murray and his ridiculous platitudes upon modern morality, and then think what we have in the performance of the part of Dunstan Renshaw. He is a man true—and down to the very shreds of truism—to nature. He stands upon the stage in the flesh of Forbes Robertson, without any accompanying effects to aid him. He has his splendid voice and a perfect knowledge of its compass, and we listen to so superb a piece of pure acting—a flame of genius to put it stronger—that Irving, nor Vezein, nor Fernandez, nor Tree, nor Willard, nor any other ten men of the present generation have ever risen to. But this is a peculiar world. If the line of demarcation between business and art requires another instance to show its stability it may be obtained from the fact that thousands will go to witness the artistic rubbish of a modern melodrama and will pass “The Profligate” by on the other side. And perhaps there are no men living more certain of this than George R. Sims and Pinero.

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The music-halls have obtained their licences, and it is wisdom. What man who knows what manhood is, and is prepared unblushingly to speak truthfully upon the matter, could point out one music-hall in London, and say, to his knowledge, it was not a breeding-house of immorality and licentiousness? The man who argues this into anything pertaining to a contradiction is both a knave and a fool—a knave because he tempts your conviction by a fraud, and a fool because the second state would be infinitely worse than the first. Let us admit the *necessity* of immorality, if we can find no better word to express it. Let us try to confine its influences within limits as narrow as is possible, and let us not destroy evils which we can measure for the evils which we cannot.

\* \* \*

Miss Braddon's new novel, “The Day Will Come,” is quite up to her standard of mysteriousness; but I like her descriptive touches. She can bring you up the country lane, through the gates of the “Grange,” round by the stables, and over by the private gardens at the back of the house, through the mulberry walk, and past the empty cottage with a murderous history, without once hurting your feet over the flinty roads of repetition. Her plants are always blooming, and sweet scents are wafting over the lawns unceasing, but you never tire; and, of course, Miss Braddon is no older now than when she awoke the day “Lady Audley's Secret” was published. Among the thousands of novelists who write novels, and the hundreds who ever get the chance to publish them, there are perhaps no more than six persons who command respect. It is evidence that in all branches of life work, from peeling potatoes to painting pictures, there are many unlet residences in the upper regions of success for which no tenants can be found.

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“Are the professions played out?” asks a writer in the *St. James's Gazette*, while another born humorist wants to obtain seven suggestions what he should do with his seven sons. Had he asked the question before he took such pains to increase the scanty population of this enormous island, he would have shown greater humor, for the inability of his personal friends and fifty thousand readers of a daily paper to answer the question might have diverted his procurative energies towards spinach and brussels sprouts, the destination of which, in physical life, there is no doubt. A man who cleverly brings seven sons into the world must experience the bounden duty of helping them out of it, and if he can't accomplish it without the aid of fifty thousand of his fellow-creatures, he ought—for the benefit of the struggling public—to label himself as an incorrigible rogue and vagabond.

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Young Scott, of Bond-street, familiarly known as “Scottie,” has been initiated in the Mount Moriah Lodge meeting at Freemasons' Hall. He is one of the very best-dressed men in London, and does not wear braces!

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#### THE NEW JOURNALISM!

Host B—, of the Railway Inn, is getting up a billiard handicap in which several well-known local amateurs have already entered their names. The event is to *celebrate the new cloth*.

This Railway Inn is situated twelve miles from London, and the village contains a Conservative Club and a Choral Society. There are three churches and eight mission-halls in the immediate neighborhood, but the nearest lunatic asylum is at Hanwell—four miles off!

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One of the astutest men living is W. S. Gilbert, the dramatist, and he is very good-looking, as many people know. He lives in the neighborhood of Collingham-gardens, in a charming house built for him by Ernest George and Peto, in that quaint half Dutch, half Early English style that Mr. George has made peculiarly his own. It has a beautiful hall and carved oak staircase, dog-grate fireplaces, and delicious decorations. For a considerable period nothing could be found to cure the smoky chimneys in the house, until, at great expense, the flues were pulled down from top to bottom and reconstructed on a double system suggested, I believe, by Sir Arthur Sullivan.

Mr. Gilbert's satire is very crushing, and he is quite impervious to the suggestions and gratuitous advisings of “good-natured friends.” One of the funniest and smartest things he ever said was chronicled in “A Society Clown.” It may be remembered, in the “Mikado,” that when George Grossmith, Barrington, and Miss Bond were prostrated before the Emperor, listening to the doom of criminals who had encompassed the life of the heir-apparent, Miss Bond would push Koko, who immediately rolled over. Gilbert objected to this, and requested Grossmith not to continue it. “But,” said Grossmith, “I get a good laugh out of it.” “I daresay,” replied Gilbert; “but so you would if you sat on a pork-pie.”

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I should like to record a sample of the courtesy that occasionally comes from that very successful advertising medium, the *Era*. The use of Press notices to a new journal is, of course, very valuable, and it has been the custom with newspapers of repute to notify with a deal of pleasure any little feature in a contemporary that may be interesting to their own readers, and cause no harm to themselves. From the office of the MASONIC REVIEW a notification of but ten or twelve words was sent a few weeks back to all the weekly dramatic papers that our next issue would contain as the “Eminent Mason at Home” Mr. Edward Terry at Priory Lodge, illustrated by a very successful portrait. The notification was inserted in fourteen of the journals mentioned, the Editors of which have received our thanks. The *Era*, however, did not honor us as we hoped it would, but it returned our inoffensive sheet, scored over with blue lines, converting the matter into the form of an advertisement, and stated that *thirteen* insertions would be accepted at so much. It was smart, no doubt, but it had no sting. It merely pained us to think that a successful newspaper, possessing the highest reputation in a certain branch of journalism, could so far lose its courtesy to one of the pillars of dramatic art and its dignity to the youngest of reputable magazines.

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The taking of the Bastille is a very fine picture at the Lyceum—perhaps the finest picture ever mounted under Mr. Irving's direction; but there is really very little fine *work* in the “Dead Heart,” except it is in the property-master's department. The duel scene is effective—in short, all effect; and the great tragedian has a passage dear to his heart when he says, “This man attempted my life, and I killed him . . . remove the body.” Of course, it is heresy to breathe one harmless sentence against Mr. Irving's productions, but we have gauged his capacities by such a standard of perfection that mere paint and canvas begins to pall upon our palates. The meeting with Catherine at the café, where she has gone to protect her son, is as flat as to cause hardly a murmur of applause, and the last two scenes are pointless. The only one that had to me the clear ring of Lyceum perfection was, the little front scene of the prison cells, where the jailor conducts Bancroft—the Abbé—to the presence of Citizen Irving. Some say that Bancroft is fussy. I think that his performance is the one redeeming point in the play, and his death in the prison very fine. Needless to remark, the house has been crowded each night; but the acting-manager should immediately damp the ardor of the half-a-dozen attendants who slip in at the rear of the dress circle directly the curtain is lowered at each act, and set up a volley of clapping rather irritating to the visitors to the house.

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A rather funny story is told me by a Bohemian who visited a Lodge in the Midlands a few weeks back. It shows with what ease the gates of Freemasonry are sometimes opened. There had been an initiation, of which nothing need be said; but at the “banquet” which followed, the gentleman who rose to reply to the toast of the initiation was a burly Brother whose work about the farmyard for the past thirty years had expanded his chest and other parts of his body beyond the usual limits of the tailor's tape. However, this was his reply:—“Wa'll, Breveren! O' course I never noo what Freemasonry warse afore I cum up 'ere, but (aha!) my old 'oman 'll be a waiting up for me when I get 'ome, and she'll 'ave the pultrice redy. Ah! ah! ah!” No wonder we are accused of being “a goose club.”

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Bro. Vogel will open the Hôtel Splendide, which stands at the corner of Albemarle-street, in Piccadilly, almost immediately. He has expended large sums on decorating and furnishing, and the reputation he brings with him from the North will command support from the lovers of Piccadilly. The suites of rooms in the front of the hotel have a splendid view down St. James's-street to the gates of St. James's Palace, and I hear several offers to take the principal suites for a term of years have been made and refused. The remains of a painted ceiling—attributed to Rubens—have been replaced with the cornice enrichments in one of the rooms on the ground floor.

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Robert Soutar, of “Doctor Faust” fame—a member of the Asaph Lodge—has a very smart three-act farcical comedy that wants a purchaser. Bro. Robert has for the past few years dropped somewhat out of the ranks of the pure Bohemians, though he intends never to grow old. He can tell some very

unny stories, and give a deal of sound advice to members of the younger dramatic school. His hair is a silvery grey, but his face has not aged much since he stage-managed at the Gaiety, and it is not at all likely he will ever step upon the "boards" again.

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Claude Marks, whose connection with the alleged "Blackmailing" cases has caused some little commotion among the outer rings of City finance, was one of the pioneers of *The Society Herald*, which, as a penny paper, showed signs of a marvellous success. But the proprietors became ambitious and converted what was once a brilliant penny journal into a very dull sixpenny paper, with the inevitable result of a struggling existence and then smash. Percy Marks was the reputed editor, but when Mr. Ingram came upon the scene affairs were changed, and he, to keep up the order of things, has now changed the title of the journal to *Home and Abroad*, and has devoted his pages to cosmopolitan chat of a high order of merit in place of the rather weak "Society" dribblings which had helped to ruin its predecessor.

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Percy Marks, who, by the way, has been plentifully dowered by Dame Fortune with a good-looking head, has departed as ambassador to his brother, "Financial" Harry, to the region of the Cape Gold Fields, where a large salary and splendid opportunities may lead to big things.

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Our dead dramatist, Bro. Blanchard, has, it is found, not left his wife and family in comfortable circumstances. With the spontaneous generosity that ennobles the dramatic profession—or part of it—it has been arranged to give a performance at Drury Lane Theatre for the benefit of Mrs. Blanchard, who has herself devoted a large portion of her life to the "improvement of woman-kind." Mr. Irving and all the bigwigs of the profession have promised their services, and if Mr. Edward Terry could be induced to appear in a scene from one of the old burlesques, what a benefit it would be! It is incumbent on every Mason who ever visits the theatre, to help on this occasion, and it is to be hoped that the programmes may be sold by bewitching young ladies who will not scruple to inform their customers it is not usual to give change on these occasions. The performance should realise £1,500 if carried out in a spirited manner.

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George Augustus Sala is writing his "Reminiscences," which will be very entertaining reading. It is just thirty-four years ago, says the *London Figaro*, since G. A. S. sent a packet of "copy" to a London Editor, with a letter to the effect that the writer—an engraver—was desirous of "doing something in literature for a living." The editor was Charles Dickens, who accepted the copy, and sent the future king of "leaders" a cheque for his contribution. George Augustus Sala has done great things with his pen and brush since then, and has risen to occupy the highest position in the whole world of journalism. He is not a Mason.

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*The Evening News and Post*, which is just the smartest thing in evening ha'pennies the country has seen, has always something interesting to the Mason in its "Who's Who" column. Here is a specimen:—

There is probably no better known figure in civic and Masonic circles than Major George Lambert, F.S.A., Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company. Major Lambert is one of the few members of the Courts of the great companies, at least, who is a member of the trade to the Guild of which he belongs, and may be seen any day attending to business in his old-fashioned shop at the top of the Haymarket, whose windows are just the same now as they were when the house was built in the good old Georgian days. Major Lambert, who is a Past Grand Sword Bearer and Past Provincial Grand Warden of Hertfordshire, is a patron of the three great Masonic charities, and to all poor and distressed Masons a munificent benefactor. One of the earliest volunteers, he is an enthusiastic soldier, and as stout and loyal a subject as any of the old race of London citizens who in time of trouble quitted themselves like men. Major Lambert is an antiquarian whose technical knowledge of matters concerning antique gold and silver plate is proverbial.

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I hear—but only in whispers—of a forthcoming work upon the life of a man whose recollections will be worth knowing. He has held during a very busy public career an eminent position in the Craft, so that the volume will be of much interest to Bohemian Masons.

KING MOB.

The three years' trouble between the Grand Lodges of England and Quebec has come to an end, and a proclamation is promulgated by the Quebec Grand Master withdrawing the edict of non-intercourse between the English Grand Lodge and that of Quebec, and also with the three English Lodges in Canada and its other subordinate branches.

## Provincial Grand Lodges and Chapters.

The annual meeting of the PROV. GRAND LODGE OF SUSSEX was held at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on Saturday, the 12th ult. The chair, in the absence of his Royal Highness, the Prov. Grand Master, was occupied by Bro. Lord Algernon Gordon-Lennox, Prov. S.G. Warden, Bro. Thomas Trollope, Past Prov. S.G.W., acting as Dep. P.G. Master.

There was a very large gathering of Prov. Grand Officers and representatives of the several Lodges, and when the minutes of the previous general meeting and the special meeting in December last had been read and confirmed, the roll of Lodges was called, and a letter of thanks from Mrs. R. Crosskey for the vote of sympathy with her family on the death of her husband, Bro. R. Crosskey, Prov. Grand Treasurer, which had been passed by the Provincial Grand Lodge, was read.

Bro. W. H. Hallett having been unanimously re-elected Prov. G. Treasurer, the different statistical, financial, and Charity reports were read and approved. From these it appeared that the funds were in a healthy condition, that the number of subscribing members in the Province had increased during the past year from 1,179 to 1,200, and that Bro. J. Eberall's resignation of the office of Steward of the Charities Committee had been tendered, and was accepted with regret, Bro. C. H. Haine being elected his successor. It was also decided that the publication of the Provincial Calendar or Almanack should be continued.

A letter was read from Mrs. Gerard Ford, who alluded in graceful terms to the deep interest taken by her late husband in the work of the province, and endorsed the following address, which our late respected brother had begun in anticipation of this annual meeting—at which, in the ordinary course of events, he would have acted as Pro. Grand Master—but had not completed at the time of his death:—

It seems hardly possible, Brethren, that a year has passed since I last addressed you. It has been, Masonically, a quiet, uneventful year in the province. But it is in the quiet uneventful years that real progress is made. It is in the stillness and darkness of the earth that the corn germinates and springs forth, not in the glare and roar of the busy highway. I believe that a steady advance has taken place in our beloved Craft in the province, and that the love of it and the understanding of it, as a rule of life and conduct, is higher to-day than it was last year. I draw this conclusion from many seemingly unimportant circumstances, the tone of our meetings, the increase in our numbers, and many pleasant talks I have had with my brethren, when I have learned what their feelings are with regard to our brotherhood; I have rejoiced to find their hearts in unison with mine. Masonry, I may truly say, is now the work of my life; the time I spend on other things is but a tithe of what I give to Masonry, and it is a most inspiring thought and one which gives me infinite gratification to know that my labor is not unrewarded. It rejoices my heart to feel, as, indeed, I have often felt this year, that when I visit the Lodges I receive a welcome, not only as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, but as Gerard Ford, your fellow Craftsman and your Brother. There have been times, Brethren, during the past few months when the waters have seemed about to close over me, and I have doubted whether I should ever again stand here at your head and address you. During that time the beautiful words of the Third Degree have been often present to my mind, for it seemed that Nature was about to present to me that "one great and useful lesson more," that last great lesson after learning which we may enter the Grand Lodge Above. Alas! my Brethren, since we gathered here a year ago many breaches have again been made in our ranks; my dear Bro. Crosskey, whose absence we lamented so much a year ago, Bro. Smith, I.P.M., that good and worthy Mason, and many more. Bear with me, Brethren, if my words are somewhat tinged with the hue of that dark valley into which I seemed about to enter. It is well, perhaps, sometimes that even at a joyful meeting like the present, we should stand quietly apart for a moment from the bustle and stir of business and prosperity, and lift our hearts to the contemplation of the impenetrable mysteries of life. I think we shall return to our duties and our pleasures none the worse for those quiet moments when our thoughts were raised above the sordid things of every-day life. Ours is a complicated double existence, and it is as true to-day as it was more than 1,800 years ago, that "man does not live by bread alone." It was a great pleasure to me to receive a kind and gracious letter from H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, our Right W. Prov. Grand Master. Before this time next year he will be again in England, but it is well that brethren should not expect too much personal attention from one whose exalted position gives him many high and difficult duties to perform, the execution of which he cannot relegate to a deputy. During my wanderings, and more especially since the heavy hand of affliction has been laid upon me, I have often felt cheered and comforted by the kind messages that have reached me from my brethren. Once on board a boat on the Rhine I had the happiness of meeting with a brother Mason, a German-American, with whom I had a long and interesting talk about the Craft on the other side of the world.

The ACTING PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER, after commenting on this affecting address, remarked that the least they could do was to pass a vote of condolence with Mrs. Ford in her terrible bereavement, and accordingly he proposed the following resolution, a copy thereof to be transmitted to her:—

We, the Freemasons of the Province of Sussex, in Provincial Grand Lodge assembled, desire to tender to Mrs. Gerard Ford the expression of our respectful and sincere sympathy with her in the distressing and heavy bereavement with which it has pleased the G.A.O.T.U. to visit her. They further desire to testify their deep and lasting gratitude to their late and much lamented Brother and Deputy Provincial Grand Master (whose death has filled the hearts of all Sussex Masons with grief) for the full and well-nigh perfect manner in which, with firmness, discretion, and impartiality he discharged the onerous duties, and maintained in undiminished lustre the honor of the high office to which H.R.H. the Right W. Prov. Grand Master had been graciously pleased to appoint him, and for the general courtesy and kindness he, at all times and on all occasions, evinced and showed to his brethren in Freemasonry. They desire also to thank Mrs. Ford for her truly Masonic letter, and the opportunity she has given them of hearing the touching words which he had prepared with the hope of reading them in Lodge to-day. They form a fitting farewell to his earthly labours, and a record that the interests of Freemasonry occupied his last moments. And they pray that the G.A.O.T.U. will, of His infinite mercy, grant to those nearest and dearest to him grace and consolation in the hour of this, their heavy affliction. Dated this 12th day of October, 1889. Algernon Gordon-Lennox, acting Prov. Grand Master in the chair, R. Pidcock, Prov. G. Registrar, V. P. Freeman, Prov. G. Secretary.

The motion having been seconded by Bro. W. MARCHANT, and supported in a very eloquent speech by Bro. W. DAWES, was unanimously passed.

The investiture of officers for the following year was as follows:—Bros. Right Hon. Sir W. T. Marriott, Prov. S.G.W.; T. Billing, W.M. 271, Prov. J.G.W.; Very Rev. E. R. Currie, P.M. 1184, Rev. J. Puttick, W.M. 40, Prov. G. Chaps.; W. H. Hallett, P.M. 271, Prov. G. Treas.; R. Pidcock, P.M. 916, Prov. G. Reg.; V. P. Freeman, P.M. 732, Prov. G. Sec.; W. H. Causton, P.M. 1726, Prov. S.G.D.; W. Seymour Burrows, P.M. 811, Prov. J.G.D.; W. L. Wallis, P.M. 916, Prov. G.S. of W.; W. Balchin, jun., P.M. 1636, Prov. G.D.C.; H. Beaumont, P.M. 315, Prov. A.G.D.C.; A. M. Betchley, P.M. 1619, Prov. G.S.B.; T. W. Dean, P.M. 1110, B. Hughes, P.M. 1184, Prov. G. Std. Brs.; F. J. Sawyer, Mus. Doc., 271, Prov. G. Org.; B. Burfield, P.M. 1821, Prov. A.G. Sec.; T. Berry, P.M. 1821, Prov. G. Purst.; G. E. Chapman, P.M. 311, Prov. A.G. Purst.; W. Botting, P.M. 732, E. T. Cooksey, W.M. 851, W. E. Morrison, W.M. 916, A. Brazier, P.M. 1829, J. Graham Edwards, P.M. 1466, L. R. Styer, W.M. 315, Prov. G. Stwds.; H. Hughes, Prov. G. Tyler.

Provincial Grand Lodge being closed the Brethren dined together under the presidency of the newly-appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

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Under the banner of the Greta Lodge, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland and Westmoreland held its annual meeting at Keswick, on Tuesday, under the presidency of the Provincial Senior Grand Warden of the province, Bro. Colonel F. R. Sewell, who was supported by a great number of Brethren. The following Brethren were then nominated and invested as Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year, viz. :—

Bros. Geo. Dalrymple, P.M. 872, 1660, Prov. S.G.W.; John Paterson, P.M. 962, Prov. J.G.W.; Rev. T. W. Melrose, Chap. 371, and Rev. J. S. Ostle, Chap. 1073, Prov. G. Chaps.; R. J. Nelson, P.M. 129 (elected), Prov. G. Treas.; J. Slack, P.M. 310, Prov. G. Reg.; Geo. J. McKay, P.M. 129 (re-appointed), Prov. G. Sec.; B. C. Waller, P.M. 1074, Prov. G.S.D.; Edwin Jackson, P.M. 1073, Prov. J.G.D.; Wm. Hodgson, W.M. 1073, Prov. G.S. of W.; W. D. P. Field, P.M. 872, Prov. G.D.C.; Thos. Ormiston, P.M. 310, Prov. A.G.D.C.; John Nelson, P.M. 1267, Prov. G. Std. Br.; Wm. Lawrence, P.M. 1390, and W. C. Johns, P.M. 119, Prov. G. Std. Brs.; P. T. Freeman, Org. 1073, Prov. G. Org.; Wm. Middleton, P.M. 129, Prov. A.G. Sec.; Maurice Williams, P.M. 1532, Prov. G. Purst.; Wm. Bradley, P.M. 1390, Prov. A.G. Purst.; James Beaty, P.M. 310, Jos. Abbott, P.M. 371, W. S. Ponton, W.M. 327, Isaac Dickinson, W.M. 962, Henry Hartley, W.M. 1660, and John Bewley, P.M. 1989, Prov. G. Stwds.; Thos. Usher, P.M. 1073, Prov. G. Tyler.

The Grand Lodge attended service in Crosthwaite Church, where a sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. H. D. Rawnsley, P.G.C., and was eventually closed.

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The annual convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Leicestershire and Rutland was held at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, on Tuesday, the 1st ult., by invitation of the St. George's Chapter, No. 1560. Comp. S. S. Partridge, P.G.S.B. England, Prov. Grand H., presided in the absence of the Grand Superintendent, Comp. William Kelly. The Grand Superintendent having selected the following as his Prov. Grand Officers for the ensuing year, they were duly invested by the Prov. G. H. :—

Comps. S. S. Partridge, P.Z. 279, 1560, Prov. G.H.; T. Worthington, P.Z. 279, Prov. G.J.; J. G. F. Richardson, Z. 1560, Prov. G.S.N.; Rev. C. Henton Wood, P.Z. 279, Prov. G.S.E.; J. Tuckfield, Z. 779, Prov. G. Treas.; F. Amatt, P.Z. 1007, Prov. G. Reg.; J. D. Harris, P.Z. 279, Z. 1130, Prov. G.P.S.; J. H. Marshall, H. 1007, Prov. 1st A.G.S.; Carl Lowenstein, 1007, Prov. 2nd

A.G.S.; J. H. Thompson, Z. 279, Prov. G.S.B.; B. A. Smith, J. 1560, Prov. G. Std. Br.; Miles J. Walker, P.Z. 1130, Prov. G.D.C.; J. Webb, J. 779, Prov. A.G.D.C.; T. A. Wykes, 1560, Prov. G. Org.; Jas. Tansar, 279, Prov. G. Janitor.

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The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of West Yorkshire was held at Bradford on the 2nd ult., under the banner of the Old York Time Immemorial Lodge, under the presidency of Provincial Grand Warden Bro. C. Letch Mason.

The following officers were appointed and invested:—

Bros. H. J. Garnett, 53, Past G.D., Prov. S.G.W.; Robert Craig, 111, Prov. J.G.W.; C. W. Fincken, 127, Prov. G.M.O.; Thomas Gaukroger, 14, Prov. S.G.O.; H. T. Bellerby, 398, Prov. J.G.O.; Rev. J. H. Evans, 374, Prov. G. Chap.; Geo. Normanton, 58, P.G.I. of W. (elected), Prov. G. Treas.; J. P. Hewitt, 53, Prov. G.R.; W. Cooke, 58, Past G.O., Prov. G. Sec.; R. E. Collinson, 352, Prov. S.G.D.; A. F. McGill, 374, Prov. J.G.D.; J. J. Green, 58, Prov. G.I. of W.; A. F. Fitzpatrick, Old York T.I., Prov. G.D.C.; R. D. Kendal, 14, Prov. A.G.D.C.; Alfred Gill, 137, Prov. G.S.B.; C. J. Schott, Old York T.I., Prov. G. Std. Br.; C. F. Carr, 111, Prov. G. Org.; E. Billington, 127, Prov. G.I.G.; Wm. Haigh, 14; Isaac Eyre, 53; Fredk. Simpson, 110, Alfred Parkin, 398, Prov. G. Stwds.

## Colonial and Foreign.

Sir J. R. Somers Vine has completed his tour of the Colonies, on behalf of the Colonial Institute, and has returned to England, where he has been missed by his Masonic friends. Sir Somers has done wonderful work during his absence.

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The oldest records of any Masonic Lodge in the world as yet discovered are the minutes of one established at La Haye, in Holland, in 1637, under the title of the Valley Frederick (Fredriks Dal). The founders were wealthy burghers living at Amsterdam, who announced themselves to have been affiliates of the Lodge Valley of the Peace (Vreedendal), previously existing in that city, but disbanded in consequence of the troubles and war then disturbing the Netherlands. Discovering Prince Frederick Henry, the Stadtholder, to have been initiated into the fraternity, and desirous of its revival under his patronage, the Seigneur of Opdam and the Seigneur of Beverweide invited the four Amsterdam ancients to visit La Haye and to form the Lodge. Consequently they and other initiates convened in Chapter January 29, 1637, at four o'clock in the afternoon, and elected his Highness the Prince Frederick to be Grand Master and Supreme Master-Elect, for it appears that the "Confraternity of St. John, or Free Masons," as they were then styled, conferred four degrees. Upon arrival of his Highness the Lodge was opened in the Master's degree and proceeded to election of a Venerable Master, two Wardens, and other officers, who were duly installed. This done the Lodge closed and was re-opened in the second degree to admit two Fellow Crafts, and again closed to re-open in the first degree to receive two Apprentices. Then five visitors, all men of rank, were announced and admitted, in whose presence two noblemen were admitted as Apprentices. The labors ceased with a fraternal banquet at Prince Frederick's expense.

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The Merry Monarch, as Prince of Wales, was undoubtedly raised in this Dutch Lodge, whose recovered minutes unfortunately terminate with an account of the festival held December 27, 1637, in honor of St. John, which was presided over by the Prince Frederick and attended by Prince William of Orange, the Marquis d'Estampes, the Counts de Solms, de Bredovede and de Donha and John of Nassau, the Earls of Northampton and of Thanet, and other noble brethren.

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From the minutes of the session held December 2, 1637, it is officially declared that this Dutch Lodge owed allegiance to the Lodge in London, as mother or Parochial Lodge, in accordance with letters of constitution granted to the Amsterdam by John Allen, Grand Master in London, March 8, 1519. As this date is in advance of that on which was signed the famous Charter of Cologne, its accuracy may be questioned, while the authenticity of the minutes has been closely established by experts of the University of Leyden and other Hollandish authorities. Governor Jonathan Belcher, of Massachusetts, is known to have been the first American ever made a Mason, and that long anterior to 1717. As he was a mourner, wearing a Masonic jewel at the funeral of William of Orange, they were undoubtedly created in Holland years prior to 1688.

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A finding by the R.W. and D.G. Master of Queensland (E.C.) on the law referring to filling the chair in the absence of the Master is entirely at variance with the Grand Lodge laws of Scotland. "It appears from the ruling that a Warden may not work the Lodge in the absence of a P.M., neither may he open a Lodge or proceed with any business." The finding does not seem to give satisfaction in Queensland. It certainly does seem strange that Wardens should be prohibited from acting, to the hindrance of business.

In the early days of the colony of Queensland, a large majority of the members of an Irish Lodge became desirous for its extension, and it was voted to send back the warrant. The Master, however, kept things safe by sewing the warrant in the ticking of his bed, and in this receptacle it remained until happier times. The Lodge is now, through the care and determination of the venerable Past Master, one of the most flourishing in Queensland.

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The annual reunion of the several bodies of the A. & A. S. Rite, of Canada, viz., Mutual Lodge of Perfection, Hamilton Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix, Moore Sovereign Cons. S. P. R. S. 32, has been fixed for the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th days of January, 1890. A large meeting of the committee was held the other evening, when J. W. Murton, 33 degrees, was elected Chairman of the General Committee; W. G. Townsend, 32 degrees, was elected Secretary. Sub-Committees for the various duties to make a success of this reunion were also appointed, and steps are now being taken to carry out all the details.

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In view of the war among the Masonic Rites now being waged against the acts of the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Ohio, Iowa, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Colorado, and some minor States, "declaring in favor of the American doctrine including 'Cerneau Masonry,'" a decided sensation has been created throughout the Craft in the United States and Canada regarding the history of the so-called Ancient York Rite, which arrogates to itself exclusive control of Masonry in America, and is at this moment endeavoring to exercise that authority. As far as Symbolic Masonry is concerned, that is to say, the three fundamental degrees, Yorkism has been tacitly admitted to be the only legitimate system to be practised by the English-speaking race in America, although its ritual is far different from that observed in Great Britain and her colonies. In America it was formularised, presumptively by Thomas Smith Webb, in the early part of this century, who extended it, and entitled his work the "American York Rite," so as to comprise Royal Arch Chapters and Commanderies of Knights Templar. As its name indicates, this Masonry is peculiarly American, and is confined to the United States, as the Templarism of other countries is utterly distinct from the American.

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The Grand Lodge of York, said to have been held by Prince Edwin in the month of June, A.D. 926, at which were promulgated certain constitutions under which Masonry in America is claimed to be governed, proves to be a historical fiction derived from a document written during the reign of Edward III., that is to say, about the year 1350. The story, with which few Masons are familiar, runs that Athelstane, grandson of Alfred the Great, constructed numerous edifices and bestowed special protection upon the Freemasons. He summoned to England many Members from France and created them Wardens, charging them with collection of the statutes, regulations, and obligations governing the Roman colleges and in force among the Masons of Europe, so that they might guide those in England. With this aim he convoked the Grand Lodge at York, placing his son Edwin over it as Grand Master. Edward III., 424 years afterward, is said to have revised these statutes, whose text is reported to have been destroyed in 1720.

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Masonic circles throughout New York are greatly excited over the mysterious disappearance of one of the foremost members of the Order in the West. The wanderer is Bro. John A. Greenlee of Kearney, Neb. On May 6 last he left Belle Plains, Iowa, for Des Moines, in the same State, intending to go to his home in Kearney. Since he left Des Moines he has disappeared, and all traces are lost. All the Lodges in this city were notified. Photographs were also forwarded, and circulars sent out signed by the Secretary of Robert Norris Lodge, No. 46, of Kearney, Neb. L. H. Thome, of 333, Bowery, saw one of the circulars and photographs. He recognised the man as one who called on him on Sept. 16, in ragged clothes, and asked for five cents to pay for his lodging. The stranger said, "I would tell you more, but I don't know that you're a Mason." While speaking the stranger continually pressed his hand to his forehead. He said he had come from a foreign country, and his money there was worth only thirty cents on the dollar. After Thome helped the stranger the latter left, and has not been heard of since.

#### BOOKS AND PERIODICALS RECEIVED.

[Owing to pressure on our space, "Reviews of Books" stand over for our next number.]

*Handy Book to the List of Lodges.* By JOHN LANE, F.C.A., P.M. (London: George Kenning). *History of the Apollo Lodge.* By W. J. HUGHAN (London: George Kenning). *A Hardy Norseman* (London: Hurst & Blackett). *Cap and Gown, or Three Centuries of Cambridge Wit* (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, & Co.). *Men and Women of the Day*, for November (London: Richard Bentley & Son). *The Freemason. Freemasons' Chronicle. Home and Abroad. The Tyler. Keystone.*

## Answers to Correspondents.

BRO. GEORGE SEVACK (Glasgow).—We thank you for your letter and enclosure, the main facts of which appeared in our last. If you have any more pictures for presentation, Bro. J. D. Langton, of 37, Queen Victoria-street, London, will accept them for the Boys' School, at Wood Green.

"A COUNTRY MASON."—We have already expressed our views on the whole matter. Our knowledge of all the issues leads us to form a judgment not quite in accordance with either side, but that judgment is at least impartial and unprejudiced. We think the whole thing is a terrible mistake, and that the Craft will painfully admit it later on. If the brother in question had the opportunity of retaining his position, it would be impossible for him to do so unless he admitted the impeachment. Your intention is a good one, and, if you succeed, you will have done much good.

REV. T. W.—We answered you through the post, but do so here as others may like to know that the Christmas number is sent to *subscribers* without further charge upon subscription of 7s. 6d. per annum.

"NOVICE."—We do not accept anonymous communications. If you are the gentleman who, at the mature age of twenty-one, published strictures upon Freemasonry under this *nom-de-plume* in a contemporary, after that memorable Quarterly Court of the Boys' School, we advise you to forward a copy of your present communication to the same source.

WINDSOR CASTLE STEWARD.—You can always find such information in the Freemason's Calendar. He succeeded the Marquis of Downshire in 1868. The portrait of Sir Daniel Gooch and some interesting particulars of his career appear in the present issue.

THOMAS CORDINGLEY.—Whatever we may in good humor say of our contemporary, the *Freemason*, we have no wish for such personal details as you send us. You get a wonderful amount of printed matter for your threepence, and, as far as you are concerned, ought to be satisfied. It is quite true what you say, but why should you complain if Mr. Kenning doesn't?

"2265."—You must be a better judge than us, though you may safely leave the honor of the Craft in our hands. The story is in print, and we promise you will be interested.

JAMES ELLIS, P.M.—We are sorry to have hurt your feelings; it is our first offence. Our connection with Masonry does not reduce our business obligations, and we are bound to treat our "customers" upon the same business standing as we ourselves are treated. A subscriber is *not* a subscriber until his subscription is paid; therefore, a copy of No. 4 was not sent you because we had not the honor of your support.

E. W. GRANT (Bromley).—We are very much obliged to you. If what you promise will be duplicated for other journals, it will be useless to us.

REV. T. W.—, HOUGHTON, H. WINKLEY, W. STILES, and "1001" answered through the post.

We in Canada and in the States have a peremptory method of dealing with the tramp through the medium of the General Board of Relief of the United States and Canada. This Association is comprised of representatives from all Grand Lodges and local Boards of Relief that affiliates in this Association on payment of one-halfpenny per head for the entire membership. Thus, the Grand Lodge of Canada, with 20,000 members, pays 200 dols. per year. When brethren who are unworthy apply, we take their names, ages, and description. This is sent by the Secretary of the local Board to the General Secretary at Baltimore, U.S. This officer then sends out monthly to all subscribing members a printed circular, with a list and accurate description of all the tramps for the month. In three years we have caught about 800, and in that time we estimate we have saved the Craft by our warnings the sum of 20,000 dols. We have so few tramps calling now at Toronto that we hope in a year to take the photograph of "the last Masonic tramp" to keep as a souvenir of, as we call him, "the Masonic tourist." But I am wearing out my welcome, and you are so patient and appreciative that in closing, I know it will please English Masons to know that in twenty-five years we have expended nearly 200,000 dols. in the relief of the widows and orphans of those of our Brethren who have passed away. It is our pride to think that these beneficiaries have a claim upon us, for have they not been left to us as a sacred charge for the Craft to shield? Many Brethren are sometimes inclined to minimise the influence of the Craft. The work of Masonry is, however, not seen to its best advantage in the days of peace and prosperity, but the darker the night of human sorrow the brighter shines the light of the Craft. We are earnest in our work, and if we cannot pour the oceans of gold into the lap of Charity, as the generous Craftsmen of England do, we give as we are able, and in our gifts we try to remember the lesson taught us in the Book of Books, "that he who shutteth his ear to the cry of the poor and needy, shall cry himself and not be heard."—*Ross Robertson, Dep. P.G.M. Canada.*

TO THE DEAF.—A Person cured of Deafness and noises in the head of 23 years' standing by a simple remedy, will send a description of it FREE to any Person who applies to NICHOLSON, 21, Bedford Square, London, W.C.