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OUR SIGNED ARTICLE.

No. 1.—BY-LAWS OF FRENCH LODGES, 1799-1820.

I HAVE lately come across some "Statuts et Règlements" of Lodges in France of especial interest and importance. They are bound in one volume and extend from 1799 to 1820 (68 pages 16 mo.) Taking them in the order of their present arrangement, the first Code is for the Lodge "Saint Jean de Jerusalem, à L'O. de Nancy."

This carefully-compiled series of Regulations were suggested at a meeting of the Lodge held on the 18th of the fourth month (*i.e.* June), 1799, and were agreed to and adopted by the members 10th of third month (May) 1800 (V.L. 5,800). The heading reads, "A la gloire du G. A. de l'Univers," and "Au nom et sous les auspices du G. O. de France." Article 1 provides for the working of the three symbolic grades of Apprentice, Companion, and Master in the respectable Lodge; those of the Elect, Scottish Master, and Knight of the Sovereign Prince Rose Croix being conferred in the "Ateliers des hauts grades."

The number of officers run to eighteen, the last being "Député au G. O. de France." The three principal officers were distinguished with jewels, similar to those under the English régime, and the brethren were required to be clothed according to their degrees from the first to the Rose Croix, as may be. The three degrees cost ninety-two francs. Elaborate rules were made respecting the attendance and reception of visitors, the "premier Maître des Cérémonies" having no little responsibility in carrying out the numerous provisions. The rules were duly signed by the members, sixty-two in all (who are arranged in five classes, viz., Rose Croix, Elect, Master Masons, Companions, and Apprentices); besides being certified by Charpentier, whose title as given was "S. G. des S. T. et A. R. C.," and a waxen seal duly attests the same. The latter, which is circular, has a number of emblems represented, enclosed with the words, "Loge de Saint Jean de Jerusalem, Orient de Nancy." I believe the Lodge is still active on the Roll of the Grand Orient.

The next "Règlements" are those of the "R. L. St. Jean, sous le titre distinctif de la Trinité, O de Paris," and were carried on the 10th of the fifth month (July) V.L. 5805, "et de l'Ere de la République le vingt-un" (*i.e.*, 1805). They are elaborate in character, the Code extending to 128 pages, including the index. The Lodge was constituted by the Grand Orient of France on the 26th of the 7th month (*i.e.*, September), 1783, and the first By-law of 1805 fixes the number of members, "en activité ou cotisant," at 81.

The Ex-Venerable (*i.e.*, the *Immediate* P.M.) had to sit at the right of the presiding officer, which is exactly the reverse of the usual custom. The Orators, Treasurer, Architect, and "Manager of the Banquets" sat in the south, and the Secretary (with his

FREEMASONRY AND THE PRESS.

ALTHOUGH there is a marked objection among the members of the better-class Lodges in this country to their proceedings in Lodges or out of it being pencilled by the voracious reporter, either Masonic or alien, it must touch the dignity of the Craft to see the outside Press no longer passing over the greater questions which affect it in silence. It is only within the past few months, somewhat coincidentally perhaps with the birth of this journal, that the "greater" Press has opined the more important movements in Freemasonry. There can be no objection to this movement so long as the subject is treated in a sound and serious manner, and it may have the effect of bringing up still higher the *prestige* of the Craft in the minds of the greater public. That we do not get the best men to join our ranks is lamentably a fact, which in no small measure may be caused by the indifference with which the Craft, as a recognised society in the State, has been treated by the newspapers of the kingdom. There are men who are strongly opposed to anything in the way of journalistic Masonry, men who are "faddists" to such a degree that they consider a Masonic journal against the laws of the Craft. These will look upon the new aspect of affairs with horror, but it will be pleasant to think the Craft itself will benefit to a great extent by the universal importance thus given to it. In the United States, where a dozen stockmen's huts constitute a settlement sufficiently extensive to possess a representative newspaper of its own, the Masonic Column is one of the features of the publication. But they give their readers, not the verbatim report of speeches and a census of names with the capital alphabet tacked on, as if a Lodge meeting consisted of an assemblage of ratepayers voting against the £5 rise in the collector's salary, but chatty, descriptive notes that are news and of interest to the Mason, and readable and instructive to the man who is not.

assistant), Almoner, &c., in the north. The Master of Ceremonies had to be a little in front of the premier Surveillant (S.W.), the "First Expert" being at the side, and the "Couvreur" (Inner Tyler or Guard) being close to the "Second Surveillant" (*i.e.* J.W.), but, unfortunately, the position of the two Wardens is not indicated, but I am inclined to believe they were in the S.W. and N.W. respectively, as shown in the oldest plates of an "open Lodge" of the year 1745.

The rules as to the "Jettons de presence" of the Lodge are eight in number, and seem to have been carefully considered. The Lodge was dormant for a few years, but work was resumed in 1799, as the medal indicates. The decoration itself is heptagonal in shape, and is No. CLXVI. in Bro. Marvin's grand volume on "Masonic Medals" 1880, who thus describes it:—

"*Obverse.* A heptagon inscribed in a circle, within which a circle of stars encloses a fine-pointed blazing star, upon which is the letter G, and below it, in two lines, ANNO 5802. Legend, between the sides of the heptagon and the circle of stars, L de La Trinite O. de Paris. *Reverse,* a heptagon, as on obverse, within which an altar of seven steps, its front adorned with the square and compasses, and having upon it a gavel. On the left of the steps lies a sprig of acacia. On each side are two pillars, that on the right having B on its shaft, and a level on its base, and that on the left has J on its shaft, and a triangle and gavel on its base. Above the altar is a radiant triangle bearing the Hebrew tetragrammaton, below which are the sun and moon, and the inscription: TRINUS UNUS. In exergue REPR. DES TRAV. LE 25 J. L. 5799, in two lines. Size 17."

The minimum age for the admission of an Apprentice was twenty-one, a Companion twenty-three, and a Master Mason twenty-five; but a dispensation was permissible in the event of a "Louveton" (Lewis) seeking initiation; the fees for the Degrees being—First Degree, 75 francs; Second Degree, 18 francs; and Third Degree, 45 francs; total, 138 francs, *inclusive of the requisite clothing.* The Rules extend to No. 307, so that some idea may be formed of their extensive provisions and elaborate arrangements as to all points of order, decorum, receptions, and conduct generally. They are signed by the officers and members, beginning with "Lasserrez, Vén. Off. du G.O."

The third in number—viz., "Statuts et Règlements du Souv. Ch. D'Arras, à la Vallée de Paris," apparently are of the year 1809 (64 pages); and the fourth, "Règlements du Souv. Chap. Métrop à Paris," of the year 1812 (74 pages), will have to be dealt with in a separate article, the fifth, however, being the Rules of "La R. L. de S. Jean, sous le titre distinctif de la Vraie Harmonie à l'O. de Poitiers" of A.D. 1820 (34 pages), will fall rightly into line now.

They are brief regulations, but number in all 238, the certificate at the end being signed by Catineau, the Master, and other officers, but the seal has unfortunately been cut out by some vandal.

The fees amounted to 114 francs for the "three Degrees," or, separately—First Degree, 66 francs; Second Degree, 12 francs; and Third Degree, 36 francs, with a charge of 36 francs for affiliation (*i.e.*, joining), and special reductions for military, "en activité de service." The cost of diplomas was "fixé à six francs." The Second Degree was not conferred until three months had been served by the Apprentice; and nine months must have been passed by the Fellow Craft as a pre-requisite for the Third.

The Lodge of "True Harmony" was constituted to the Glory of the Great Architect of the Universe, as, indeed, were all the others named, there being happily no exception to that rule at the periods noted, and it has proved a sad day for the French Craft, since that well-known headlin has officially ceased to be used and respected by the Grand Orient. W. J. HUGHAN.

This is what a Madras paper says of Freemasonry in the Shah's dominions:—"Persia is one of the few countries where the holding of Masonic Lodge meetings is forbidden by the law. Up to within about twenty years ago a Freemasons' Lodge was regularly held at Teheran. By beginning to build a Masonic Hall in the Persian capital the Brethren attracted the notice of the Shah, who, not being a Freemason, and having many scruples about entering a Lodge in the usual manner, stopped the work, and issued a proclamation forbidding the Lodge meetings."

Round and About.

Bro. Edward Terry, the Grand Treasurer, left for Bombay, with his wife and elder daughter, on the afternoon of the 30th ult., per *s.s. Rome* of the P. & O. line. He was looking very unwell, but the thoughts of his tour through India—where his travelling proclivities have hitherto never led him—kept him in good spirits amid the excitement of getting away. When Captain Adamson heard that the great comedian was to be his passenger, he exacted a promise that he would give at least one dramatic performance on board, so everything necessary for enacting "Darby and Joan" by Mr. Terry and his wife were packed and sent to the ship. The P. & O. Company also very kindly sent Mr. Terry a letter of introduction to all their foreign agents. The presentation and the innumerable private letters which have been given him, and sent on in advance, will make his Indian journey a very pleasant one.

* * *

Through some mistake a host of friends, myself among them, went to Fenchurch-street to wish him a pleasant voyage. But the party started from Liverpool-street, a fact I found out by visiting the office of the P. & O. Company. The Superintendent was good enough to wire to Tilbury for me to ascertain the sailing time of the *Rome*, and by a little contrivance known to those who frequently have to rush from one end of England to the other, I got down to the docks in time to charter a row boat to pull me out to the ship lying in the river. "Bob" Gallon, the painter, Douglas Pennant, and "Jimmy" Hill were on deck, and before I left were in eager discussion with "Dick Phenyll" on the companion-bridge. Lusty cheers were given as the tender slowly sheered off for the shore, and the last H. T. Brickwell and myself saw of our Grand Treasurer was a figure waving a handkerchief aloft with the energy of a schoolboy.

* * *

I was in Court the last day of the great City blackmailing case, and eventually got a chat with one of the intelligent twelve who found it impossible to agree upon a verdict. This confiding individual told me the jury was unanimous in believing that something was certainly something, but they were not so certain that somebody was somebody else, so they generously agreed to give somebody who was not *the* somebody the benefit of the doubt. All this means just this: Get Sir Charles Russell and Mr. Lockwood on your side, and let justice go and hang itself. There have been some remarkable cases before the public recently, and the more remarkable the case the greater is the sham of justice trotted out to meet it.

* * *

This case has furnished me with another curiosity for my little Museum of Curiosities, in the shape of a pen sketch of Bebro on the margin of a *Pall Mall Gazette*, drawn by Mr. Woolff. The likeness is very striking, and the little drawing was made during the few moments the jury were leaving the box. As I passed the Counsels' table after the case was over, the paper was still there, so I claimed it without any one's permission. If Mr. Bebro would like to see what a good-looking man he may be made, he is welcome in seeing it.

* * *

Paintings are getting almost as common as pianos, and there are but few houses which do not possess at least an "artist" among their inmates. Everybody paints, more or less, so that it cannot much be wondered at that twenty-thousand odd canvases and placques should be sent in by amateurs in competition for the prizes offered by Messrs. Raphael Tuck & Sons. The rooms of the Royal Society of Painters in Water-Colours were besieged the other day by hundreds of girls and children carting in their youthful efforts in "art," and it is an actual fact that Messrs. Pickford

unloaded more than one van of pictures, panels, and plates, sent in from the country. Messrs. R. T. & Sons are enterprising persons. They offer £500 in prizes for the best specimens of work executed under certain conditions. The principal condition is that all canvases, "opals," plates, and "copies," must be purchased of them and bear their trade-stamp. Consequently, more than twenty-thousand—probably, forty-thousand—articles have been sold at tremendous profits for the purpose of this competition. A very small number of the deposited specimens have been hung, and may be seen by the payment of one shilling, *no reduction to exhibitors*; the price of the catalogue *to exhibitors*, and others, is sixpence, and the rules regulating the removal of exhibits are as stringent as those regulating the Royal Academy Exhibitions. It, therefore, comes about that this Christian firm, which is anxious to give amateur talent a chance, has netted a cash profit of—shall we say £1,000?—and has secured the patronage of thousands of customers, all eager hopeful novices, who, in fancy, see their paintings guarded by policemen on the line at Burlington House. I know one young lady who, over this "Exhibition," has spent £4 odd in the purchase of Messrs. R. T. & Sons' goods, which, besides being a very large sum out of the parental allowance, has been the means of springing up an amount of "hope" in her mortal breast, that would suffice to furnish the hearts of a dozen men who have no hope left.

* * *

I was not quite correct in my surmises last month as to the £2,500 placed by "a distinguished Brother" at the disposal of the Provisional Committee for the commutation of Bro. Binckes' pension. This sum has been actually deposited in a London Bank by Bro. T. W. Tew, P.G.M., for West Yorkshire, and I am given to understand that one-half this amount has already been collected, principally in the North. As soon as the approaching Festival is a thing of the past the election of the new Secretary will immediately take place, and Bro. Binckes will retire with £2,500 in his hands. Here, then, is the completion of the third volume of this "strange eventful history," and it has been left to the calm thought and prompt action of a genial Yorkshire gentleman to drag the Craft out of the lion's mouth. Bro. T. W. Tew has fallen a victim to our persuasive lance, and as an "Eminent Mason at Home" in an early issue will be able to throw some light upon the memory of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

* * *

My friend William Chapman was installed W.M. of the Savage Club Lodge on Tuesday, the 4th inst., and the ceremony and the subsequent "feed" was very accurately carried through. The invitation cards were gorgeous, the sublime satisfaction of the W.M. was beautifully pathetic, and altogether Tuesday was a gala day in the history of the Lodge. The installation ceremony was undertaken by the Grand Secretary, and the W.M. of the Asaph was invested with the collar of I.G. Dr. Maitland Coffin, Harry Nichols, and David Law are Stewards, Edward Terry is Treasurer, and Tom Burnside Junior Warden. The general company of Brethren present was very distinguished, I am told. Bohemia was well represented, and acquitted itself most admirably; and the after-festivities were continued long after the "actor chaps" had gone. I don't know how many (if any) initiates were brought up, but a preliminary list Bro. Chapman showed me leads me to think it is his intention of initiating the whole of London into the mysteries of the ancient Craft.

* * *

One very pathetic incident, which has suggested the penning of a "ballad" by a *littérateur* who was present, was told by Bro. Paige. It will be remembered that Bro. Archibald McNeill, a Fleet-street journalist, was mysteriously murdered in Boulogne last year. He was a member of the Savage Club Lodge, and Bro. Wellcome possessed himself of some valuable relics of the deceased, by purchase from the French authorities, to whom they had been

anonymously sent. The following letter sent by Bro. Wellcome to the secretary of the Lodge explains itself:—

Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C., February 3, 1890.

MY DEAR BRO. PAIGE,—Enclosed please find Bank of England notes, No. 88—w 48504, for £20, and No. 2—x 62447, for £5. These notes were stolen from our late Bro. Archibald McNeill by, I believe, the same cruel hand that caused his death. After the numbers had been published, and negotiation thus rendered impossible, they were sent to the French authorities at Boulogne, enclosed in an anonymous letter, intended to divert suspicion from the real criminals. The stains and mutilations in these notes are evidently caused by the culprit concealing them in his boot and carrying them thus hidden for a considerable time. I acquired the notes by purchase for the purposes of the investigation, and now, being no longer required in this connection, I have considered that they should be disposed of. I feel that they are far too sacred for me to deal with or use as my personal property, and have therefore decided to give them to the Savage Club Lodge Benevolent Fund, to be regarded as coming from our late Brother rather than from myself. McNeill's large-heartedness is well known to all, and that he would part with his last penny to help a Brother in need. It seems, therefore, to me, that this money, which was the last in his possession, could not be applied in a manner that would have been more gratifying to him than that it should go into the Benevolent Fund of the Lodge, to which he was so devotedly attached, and of which he was one of the founders and the first Secretary, a position he held at the time of his death.—I beg to remain, yours fraternally,

HENRY S. WELLCOME.

The notes and photographs of them were shown, and the whole affair created deep interest in the Lodge. This incident makes me regret my absence the more, but I was rambling through the glories of Sandringham under the guidance of Mr. Beck, and looking at the schools and cottages of West Newton, which the Princess of Wales takes so much interest in.

* * *

The series of "Ramblings" promised for this month are, of necessity, delayed; but I hope April will bring the first to light. It will treat of Windsor, and the writer has told me more than I already knew of the dear old Borough Town where I have spent some of the happiest moments of my life.

THE DRUID.

Masonic independence in our British dependencies seems infectious. The latest cry for "Home Rule" comes from Van Diemen's Land, where it has been arranged at a meeting of the Tasmanian Masonic Union to invite the Lodges on the island to send delegates to attend a Convention to be held at Launceston, on March 20, 1890. The Convention will consider the advisability of taking practical steps for the formation of a Grand Lodge.

* * *

A Special Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of the Province of Middlesex and Surrey was held at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, E.C., on the 30th ult., under the presidency of Bro. Sir Francis Burdett, Bart., P.G.M., the occasion being the installation of a new Deputy Prov. Grand Master, in room of the late Bro. Frederic Davison. The Lodge was draped. The Brethren present were:—Bros. H. Lovegrove, P.S.G.W.; Dr. J. T. Griffith, P.J.G.W.; J. H. Thomson, P.S.G.O.; N. Prower, P.J.G.O.; Rev. J. Chater, P.G. Chap.; C. Hammerton, P.G. Treas.; P. Saillard, P.G.R.; W. G. Brighten, P.G. Sec.; J. H. Clare, P.J.G.D.; W. Lloyd Wise, P.G.I. of W.; T. C. Edmonds, P.G.D.C.; F. R. Hales, P.A.G.D.C.; R. J. Chitson, P.G. Std. Br.; C. Lee, P.G. Org.; H. Burgess and J. T. Callaway, P.G. Stewards; J. Gilbert, P.G. Tyler; C. F. Matier, P.G.W., G. Sec.; F. Richardson, G. Reg.; G. Gardner, P.G.D.C.; J. W. Hobbs, P.G.O.; C. J. Axford, P.A.G.D.C.; L. G. Gordon Robbins, P.P.S.G.W.; C. Belton, P.G.M.O.; R. J. Mure, P.G.O.; J. C. Collier, P.P.S.G.D.; W. H. Kempster, P.G. Steward; J. K. R. Cama, P.P.J.G.D.; S. C. Dibdin, P.G.D.C.; J. H. Cureton, J.W. 333; G. Dickinson, J.O. 355; W. Clowes, W.M. 357; S. P. Catterson, P.M. 234; E. W. Huddleston, J.O. 355; C. Handley, J.W. 284; J. Moon, P.G.T.; S. Green, J.W. 361; T. W. Richardson, S.W. 385; and E. Storr, W.M. 234. Visitors: Bros. H. Weston, P.P.G.I. of W. Kent; H. A. Hunt, Reg. 363; Major Ritchie, P.G.S.B. Kent; and H. Massey, P.G. Steward. After the Provincial Grand Lodge had been formally opened, Bro. Brighten, Prov. G. Sec., announced the death of Bro. Frederic Davison, and also the death of Bro. the Rev. G. W. Weldon, G. Chap., and said that the Prov. Grand Lodge would have to pass votes of condolence and sympathy with the families of the two deceased Brethren.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

THE Quarterly General Court of the Subscribers was held on the 31st ult., at Freemasons' Tavern, Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Provincial Grand Master for Hants and the Isle of Wight, presiding. There were over 200 Brethren present from all parts of the country. The minutes of the Quarterly General Court of October having been read by Bro. Binckes, Bro. Richard Eve, Past Grand Treasurer, said that before the question was put that the minutes of the last Quarterly Court be confirmed, he was deputed by the Provisional Committee to make a statement to the Brethren. On the minutes was a motion for granting £350 a year as a pension to Bro. Binckes on his retirement from the office of Secretary. It had been felt by the Provisional Committee that the Institution's money might be saved if that proposition be not confirmed, and he was entrusted by that Committee not to press the confirmation of the minutes in that respect. Probably some of the Brethren might not be aware that they were going to propose that the sum should be £250 a year, but it was not now their desire to make that proposition. He made that statement with a great amount of pleasure, and it was made in order to bring about a reunion among the Subscribers to the Institution, and to place the Institution on the firm basis of past years, while consolidating the good feeling of all the Subscribers. They were not going to propose that the £250 be granted, and therefore they withdrew both propositions, trusting to the generous impulses of Masons to do their utmost for the Institution. They believed thoroughly in the good feeling of the Subscribers and in their liberal desires generally, and therefore they did not propose to the Quarterly Court to give anything like a pension to Bro. Binckes. They had propounded a scheme by which they believed that the feeling of the Committee would be carried out liberally, and that they would be able to have placed at their disposal a sum of money which they could give to Bro. Binckes. By the next Quarterly Court they hoped everything would be settled. He therefore proposed that those minutes be confirmed, with the exception of that part giving the pension to Bro. Binckes. The motion being seconded by Bro. Jones, the minutes of the last Quarterly Court were confirmed, with the exception of that portion proposing a pension to Bro. Binckes. A division was taken upon the question of limiting the age of candidates for the office of Secretary to 45, when there was 108 for the limitation and 83 against it, so that the motion of Bro. J. L. Thomas was carried by a majority of 25. The motion of Major Durrant, "That in consideration of the fourteen years' Head Mastership of Dr. Morris at the Boys' School, this Committee devote a sum of £450 in recognition of his valuable services to the Institution," was fully discussed; but, it having transpired that Bro. Morris had accepted a cheque for £255 in full discharge of all claims he might have against the Institution, the motion was rejected almost unanimously. After another motion, by Bro. E. V. Greatbatch, that the appointment of the new Secretary should be vested in the Provisional Committee, was discussed and lost, the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

THE Quarterly Court of Subscribers was held on Saturday last, at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Horace Brooks Marshall, C.C., Past G. Treasurer, presiding. Bros. Robert Grey, H. A. Hunt, F. Richardson, C. Hammerton, H. Massey, Henry Smith, D.P.G.M., West Yorkshire; Stanley J. Attenborough, J. Bodenham, J. K. R. Cama, J. M. McLeod, and F. R. W. Hedges (Secretary), and others were present. After the reading and verification of the minutes of the Quarterly Court of October 25, Bro. Hedges read a letter from Bro. J. A. Rucker, P.G.D., expressing his wish to retire, on account of ill-health, from his trusteeship of the General Fund of the Institution. Bro. Robert Grey, P.G.D., President of the Board of Benevolence, moved that Bro. Rucker's resignation be accepted

with regret, and the motion was carried *nem. con.* Bro. C. H. Webb, V.P., moved that the name of one girl be omitted from the list of candidates for the April Election, and said he thought the case should receive serious consideration, for several reasons. The case had been recommended by the Petitions Committee by the narrowest majority. When first considered by that Committee it was decided not to recommend it; but, after some further correspondence, by the casting vote of the Chairman of the Committee the General Committee recommended it to place it on the list. In this case there were seven children of the deceased brother, but some were grown up. The father was described as a "gentleman." When the mother died, £6,000 capitalised was left for the children, who were now all living together; one acting as housekeeper of the family; the others were of an age which should justify them in seeking to obtain their living. The invested £6,000 brought in £190 a year, which in the provinces was equal to £300 or £350 in London. Therefore, he thought the case was such as ought not to come forward for this Institution. The father did not appear to have done anything for the Institutions. Whatever his resources were there were £6,000 invested, and those who were possessed of property should not be allowed to drive their children into the Masonic Schools. It was disgraceful to parents who occupied that position. If this case was elected a stronger and much more deserving case would be kept out, and if the brethren supported such cases they encouraged similar cases to come on. Bro. Money, in seconding the motion, said it was shown to the Enquiry Committee that two or three of the girls of this family were over 20 years of age. If they were not working they had had a good education, and they ought to teach the younger children and not come for charity. The object of the Committee was not to have too large a list of candidates. It was eventually decided that this name, together with one other, be omitted, and the list of candidates for election next April was declared to be 43, while the vacancies will be 21.

Bro. C. Hammerton, P.G.S.B., having brought forward a motion as Chairman of the Centenary Committee, which was eventually carried,

Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.D., Patron, moved:—"That the Trustees of the Institution be and are hereby requested and authorised to sign a petition to each House of Parliament against the 'Various Powers Bill' presented by the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, so far as the same relates to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and to make such opposition thereto as counsel may advise, or may be necessary for the protection of the property of the Institution." The Bill of the Brighton Railway was a very important one. They had scheduled the new gates, which had been put up at a cost of £100, facing the common; they proposed to take 12 out of the 18 ft. of land at the side of the main building, and half of the Junior School itself and the whole of the frontage to the high road. The House Committee had retained Bro. Samuel Pope, Q.C., and he (Bro. Richardson) thought they should be on the safe side, and petition against the Bill, for, if carried, the railway would come within 6 ft. of the building. It would be in a cutting 25 ft. deep, and it would be absolutely dangerous to the structure. If the railway damaged the place like that they would have to take it altogether, and it was worth a quarter of a million. He then moved the resolution, which was put and carried, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

In the minute for June 20, 1754, of Lodge No. 35, it is stated that a Brother Cryer was "hailed over the coals," and that the members agreed that he "should not at any time hereafter have any vote in any matter, cause or thing whatever, for it was thought the said Brother Cryer behaved extremely ill, and absolutely broke through the laws in refusing to pay one bottle of wine for entering into the holy state of matrimony."

Masonic News.

Freemasons will be gratified to learn that both the newly-elected representative Peers of Scotland—Lord Saltoun and Viscount Strathallan—are members of the Craft.

* * *

At the Chiswick Lodge of Freemasons, held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, on the installation of Bro. W. A. Dowling as Master for the current year, Lord George Hamilton, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty, the Master of the Lodge for the past year, was presented with a valuable Past Master's jewel, in recognition of his services to the Lodge during his year of office. Lord George will be our Eminent Mason at Home in an early number.

* * *

Bro. F. Burgess—of Moore & Burgess Minstrels—has been installed W.M. of the St. Albans Lodge.

* * *

Lord Brooke, M.P., the Prov. G.M. of Essex, had intimated his intention of being present at the consecration of the Easterford Lodge, at Kelvedon, of which Bro. the Rev. Thomas Lloyd (Chaplain Blackwater Lodge) is to be the first Master. The Lodge has been established through the instrumentality of the Blackwater Lodge, who supported the petition for its formation to Grand Lodge, and is to be named Easterford, which was the ancient Saxon name of Kelvedon. The new Lodge will be numbered No. 2,342.

* * *

The death is announced of Bro. James Wallace, of Lodge 56, Aberdeenshire, who at his jubilee as a Mason, about six years ago, received a small annuity subscribed by the brethren in the Province of Aberdeenshire East.

* * *

The case of jewels recently stolen from the Masonic Hall at Chester, during the holding of a Royal Arch Chapters, has been recovered and returned to its owner.

* * *

Under the auspices of the Alliance Lodge (1,827) there was a large gathering of members of the Craft and of prominent members of the Corporation to meet the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs at a banquet at the Guildhall Tavern. The Lodge was opened at half-past six by the W.M., Lieut.-Col. Perry Godfrey, and his Wardens, and Bros. Edwin F. Fitch and Frank S. Jackson, for the reception of the Brethren invited to meet the principal guests. Amongst those present were Col. Shadwell H. Clerke, Grand Secretary; Bro. Edward Terry, G.T.; Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., G.R.; Captain N. G. Phillips, Bro. Michael Maybrick, G.O.; Dr. E. Zacharie, Bro. Thomas Beard, Under-Sheriff; Colonel Sewell, Captain Dunfee, Bro. Peter de Lande Long, Bro. Henry Clark, Bro. J. A. Wild, Bro. Alexander Peebles, City Architect, and others. The banquet which followed was enjoyed by a large company of visitors. The guest of the evening very aptly paralleled the connection of his dignified office with Freemasonry, setting forth the claims of both to the distinction of undoubted antiquity, their respective freedom from connection with political influence, and, above all, that perfect freedom permitted to both for the worship of the Great Architect of the Universe according to individual conscience.

* * *

At the termination of the Mastership of Lord Clanmorris of the Union Lodge (746), Bangor, his Lordship was presented with a valuable P.M.'s jewel set with diamonds. He made an excellent speech when returning thanks. Unlike most of his Brethren in his own circles of society, Lord Clanmorris has accepted the office of Worshipful Master of his mother Lodge no less than four times, and to his great love of the Craft and affection for the traditions of the Union Lodge the Masonic Hall at Bangor owes its existence.

Early last month a deputation of the Renfrewshire East Provincial Grand Lodge waited on Sir Archibald and Lady Campbell at Blythswood, and presented them with the following address congratulating them on the attainment of their silver wedding:—"To Sir Archibald C. Campbell, Bart., of Blythswood, M.P., LL.D., and the Hon. Lady Campbell.—We, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East, desire to offer you our true and hearty congratulations on the auspicious occasion of your silver-wedding, and to express the sincere prayer that you may be long spared to enjoy undisturbed peace and happiness, and that every blessing may attend you. We recall with pleasure the fact of you (Sir Archibald) being elected to the office of Provincial Grand Master twenty-three years ago, and feel grateful for the unwearied energy and zeal you have displayed in the discharge of your various Masonic Provincial Grand Master's duties, which have tended so much to raise the tone of Masonry in this province; and, while watching with pride and satisfaction your Masonic career, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to congratulate you on being appointed for the fifth time Grand Master Mason of Scotland—the highest known in the power of Scotch Freemasons to confer." Sir Archibald briefly thanked the deputation on behalf of himself and his wife.

* * *

The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, which gives annuities of £40 to "poor and distressed" Brethren and £32 to widows of such Brethren, is face to face with a great difficulty, for which members of the committee of management are asked to suggest a remedy. Although the Institution received nearly £19,000 last year, there are so many candidates applying for election on the fund that, unless the subscriptions at the annual festival this month are far in excess of previous years, only a small proportion of the whole number of applicants can be taken on. The list of candidates for election in May, it is expected, will be 150, and at the present time there are but eleven vacancies. Of course a proposition to reduce the amount of each individual annuity would meet with strong opposition; but it has been suggested that the age at which a petitioner can be qualified for candidature might be raised.

* * *

The Rev. Bro. T. Randall, of Durham, has been installed W.M. of the Marquis of Granby Lodge.

* * *

The testimonial now being organised on behalf of Bro. Robert Freke Gould, the historian of Freemasonry, is assuming a cosmopolitan form. This is only as it should be, for the famous work by which he is best known is a history, not only of Masonry in the British Islands, but of the Craft universal. Its merits were at once recognised in the United States of America by the immediate publication of an American edition, which has had an immense sale, though without profit to the author. For this, however, some compensation will doubtless be found in the contributions from across the water to the Gould Testimonial Fund.

* * *

The Brethren of the Provinces of Northampton and Huntingdon have entertained over 800 of the aged poor in their provinces.

* * *

On Wednesday, the 22nd ult., Major George Lake, 2nd (Herts) V.B. Bedfordshire Regiment, was installed Master of the Centurion Lodge by the outgoing Master, Lieut.-Col. Thomas Tully, 4th V.B. East Surrey Regiment, in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering of eminent Masons and officers of the Regular and Auxiliary Forces. Amongst those present were.—Brothers F. S. Kuyvet, P.G. Deacon; J. E. Dawson, P.G. Swordbearer; Mackintosh, P.G. Steward; Wilson, P.G. Steward; R. Shillitoe, P.G. Warden, Herts; Slaughter, P.G. Warden, Herts; Lieut. Iles, R.E.; Colonels Bolton, Hancock, and Gardner; and Majors Gant, Roberts, Boyes, Marley, Beaumont, Ewen, Baggallay, and Putney.

The Board of Benevolence held its monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, 22nd ult., Bro. James Brett, P.G.D., Senior Vice-President, in the chair. Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, P.G.P., Junior Vice-President, acted as Senior Vice-President, and Bro. Henry Garrod as Junior. The Board having confirmed grants at the December meeting to the amount of £380, proceeded to consider the petitions of forty-one applicants, hailing from London, Cheshire, Berks and Bucks, Cornwall, West Lancashire, Bombay, West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, and other provinces. Of these forty-one cases, one was dismissed, four deferred, and thirty-six relieved with grants amounting in the aggregate to £775, namely, three with grants of £50 each, three of £40, seven of £30, five of £20, five of £15, eleven of £10, and two of £5 each.

* * *

An event of considerable importance in Masonic circles took place in Glasgow on the 4th ult., when Major Crombie, Aberdeen, was installed as the Grand Master of the Supreme Body of Knight Templar Freemasons in Scotland, following upon the recent honors conferred upon him as Honorary Grand Master of the Royal Masonic Rite in America, Canada, Italy, and France. The title of the Governing Body for Scotland of this important branch of Freemasonry is the Early Grand Mother Encampment of Knights Templar. The Early Grand, as it is more familiarly known, has quite a unique history, and claims, not without a certain show of truth, to be the body in Scotland that has "an apostolic succession" of Knight Templarism, as adopted by the Masonic body throughout the world. Major Crombie was installed by the retiring Grand Master, Bro. Matthew H. Thompson.

* * *

To the deputation of Poole Freemasons, introduced to the Prince at Poole, when he visited Lord Wimborne for the purpose of opening the public park presented by his Lordship to the town, H.R.H., the Grand Master, in reply to an address, said:—"Worshipful Master and Brethren, I have received with great pleasure your fraternal address of welcome to this town, and I thank you sincerely for the kind and loyal terms in which you allude to my visit. I assure you that my interest in the Craft continues unabated, and it will always be my earnest endeavor to promote to the best of my ability the main objects of our order—religion, loyalty, and universal and enlightened charity. I fervently trust that the great Architect of the Universe may ever watch over and protect your Lodge."

* * *

The foundation-stone of a new Masonic Hall at Kingsbridge, for the use of the Duncombe Lodge (1,486), was laid on the 21st ult.

* * *

The Sheffield Masonic Amateur Dramatic Society are arranging to give two performances on behalf of the local Masonic Charity Fund. The dates fixed are Friday and Saturday, March 14 and 15, and the plays chosen are "Cyril's Success" "Meg's Diversion," and "A Dead Letter." The performances of the Society have so long formed an enjoyable feature of the winter's engagements that their discontinuance, as recently seemed probable, would have been a matter for general regret.

* * *

The architectural features of Mirfield have recently received an important addition in the shape of a new Masonic Hall. The local Masons are not a numerous body, but what they lack in numbers they seem to more than atone for in enterprise. The handsome building, in which for the future the mystic rites appertaining to the order of Freemasonry will be performed, has been erected at a cost of £2,200, and towards this sum the members, who only number about fifty, after forming themselves into a limited liability company, have raised about £1,100 in shares. With a view to still further improving the position of the new company the lady members of the families of the respective members of the Lodge have been busily engaged in providing the necessary articles for a bazaar, which was opened in the hall on the 23rd ult., by Bro. E. T. Ingham, J.P., of Blake Hall. The sale is expected to realise at least £300.

A warrant for a new Masonic Lodge for London, to be called "The Grafton," No. 2,347, has been granted by the Prince of Wales. It is to represent sport, art, and literature. Bro. C. Fitzgerald Matier will be first Master, and Bro. ex-Sheriff Newton the first Senior Warden. Augustus Harris is the first Treasurer.

* * *

Bro. J. D. Collier, for many years Secretary of the Highgate Lodge, and one of its founders and early Masters, has been presented with a very handsome silver salver on resigning his position in the Lodge. For the past seventeen years Bro. Collier—who is also a P.M. of the Montague Guest Lodge—has devoted a deal of time to Masonry, in the Royal Arch and Mark, as well as in the Craft. He has been Preceptor to several Lodges of Instructions and has served numerous stewardships. On his retirement from active work he carries the good opinion and well wishes of a very large number of personal friends. He has finally settled down within the shadow of Rochester Cathedral, but he has no children to follow in his Masonic footsteps.

* * *

The annual entertainment to the pupils of the Girls' School, who remain in the school building during the Christmas vacation, was given on the 7th ult., when many of the Brethren of the Craft, more immediately connected with the welfare of the little ones, attended with their ladies to amuse them. Bro. Frank Richardson presided.

* * *

Says the *Freemason* of the 18th ult.:—"The name of Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson seems almost a part of Masonic history to the majority of the present generation of Masons, although to many the memory of the well-known Preceptor of Emulation is still green; but it will surprise a good many to hear that Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, the younger, was on Monday last invested for the thirtieth year in succession as Treasurer of the Royal Naval Lodge. We trust the annual investiture will continue for many years to come, and that it will be long before the worthy and well-known name will disappear from contemporary Masonic records."

* * *

The adjourned meeting of the Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 29th ult. Bro. Jabez Hogg, P.G.D., occupied the chair, and there were present Bros. A. H. Tattershall, Samuel Brooks, H. Garrod, P.G.P.; James Brett, P.G.P.; G. Bolton, John Bulmer, W. B. Daniell, Hugh Cotter, H. Smith, T. W. Hubbert, G. E. Fairchild, A. Mullord, C. A. Cottebrune, P.G.P.; John Larkin, W. H. Perryman, P.G.P.; C. F. Hogard, P.G. Std. Br.; Charles Belton, G. Dep. D.C.; C. J. Perceval, Thomas Corbitt, P.G.P.; C. Kempton, Rob. Grigg, C. H. Webb, W. Belchamber, J. S. Cumberland, W. F. Smithson, C. G. Dilby, George Mickley, George Jones, G. Marsden, W. J. Murlis, W. Masters, and James Terry, P.G.S.B., Secretary. The proceedings were of a conversational character, and in the result it was arranged that the members of the Committee of Management should severally state their opinions in writing on the subject of the proposed changes as to the eligibility of candidates for admission into the Institution, and address them to the Secretary on or before the last day of the current month. Those various opinions and the changes then proposed to be made in the present rules, placed side by side with the latter, having been printed and circulated, a meeting was arranged to be held on a day in March, other than that appointed for the regular meeting (the second Wednesday), when those opinions would be considered, with a view to the recommendations made therein being submitted to a special meeting of the Governors and subscribers, to be hereafter summoned. A vote of thanks terminated the proceedings.

* * *

Special interest was attached to the regular meeting of the Cedewain Lodge, No. 1,594, held on Thursday, the 16th ult., because the brethren of this prosperous Lodge met for the first time in their new home. Last summer the Lodge purchased an iron church,

with furniture complete, also a portion of land for a site. Ever since then the work of erecting new premises has been going steadily on. The necessary internal alterations have been most successfully carried out, and everything has been done to make the temple suitable for the requirements of the Lodge. New polished oak pedestals have been generously presented by Bro. A. D. Dawson, W.M. The idea of purchasing such a building first originated in the mind of that energetic Mason, Bro. Evan Humphreys, I.P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; Bros. T. M. Taylor, P.P.S.G.D.; J. Danily, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; Forster, P.M., Sec.; and R. Jones, S.W., Treas., also agreed to the scheme, and assisted to the utmost of their power.

* * *

On Wednesday, the 8th ult., the remains of Bro. John M'Leish, aged eighty-one, and one of the oldest Freemasons in Dumbartonshire, were interred with Masonic honors in Bonhill Churchyard. Deceased was initiated in 1827, and had been for years R.W.M. of the Royal Arch Lodge of Bonhill and Alexandria Lodge. He was also an active member of the P.G. Lodge. About 100 Brethren attended the funeral, and Bonhill band played the "Dead March in Saul."

* * *

A writer in the *Metropolitan* of the 11th ult. says: "Sir Henry A. Isaacs is a name well-known in Masonry for many years past, and before other public duties claimed his close attention he was a great worker. I recollect once being present at a Lodge—I forget its name, but think it was Tranquillity—held at Radley's Hotel, then in Bridge-street, Blackfriars, where his lordship was most expert. This Lodge had his portrait painted, and very well it was done; and I was pleased to see, a few days since, when attending a meeting of the North Borneo Company, at the Cannon-street Hotel, that, although Radley's Hotel has been done away with, the portrait of P. M. Isaacs still exists, for, surveying the pleased faces of the shareholders, who so unexpectedly have begun to taste dividends, I saw, looking down upon the meeting, the kindly eyes of the present Lord Mayor, with all his Masonic insignia displayed upon his breast."

* * *

Freemasons of Dawlish have formed themselves into a building company for the purpose of erecting a Masonic Hall, where they can meet in comfort at their own convenience. A site has been obtained on the Barton Estate facing the main road from the Strand to the old Dawlish Church. The structure will comprise on the ground-floor an entrance lobby, reception or banquetting room, tylers'-room, and lavatories, with a bold staircase leading to the Masonic Hall, which is practically situated on the first floor. It measures 33 ft. in length by 22 ft. in width, and has an open-timbered roof with a good system of ventilation. It is intended to locate a caretaker's residence at the rear, which is rather a novelty in Masonic architecture. The elevation is of Classic design of white Devon brick, with the arches and other ornamental work of fine red Berkshire brick. Mr. G. Soudan Bridgman, of Torquay and Paignton, is the architect.

* * *

On the 27th ult., the funeral of Bro. William Brignal, sen., took place at *St. Cuthbert's Cemetery, Durham*. The deceased, shortly before his death, had gone to reside at Gosforth, where he died on the 22rd ult. Several beautiful wreaths were placed on the coffin. The funeral was very largely attended by the Freemasons of the city and county, the deceased having been a prominent member. Bro. Sir Hedworth Williamson, Prov. Grand Master, was represented by Bro. W. Logan. Sir Hedworth also sent a letter of sympathy with the relatives of the deceased, who had been prominently connected with Durham Freemasonry for well-nigh half a century. The funeral service was read by the Rev. C. H. Fleetwood. Deceased was at one time the leading lawyer in Durham.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

THE Quarterly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. The following Report of the Committee of General Purposes was taken as read, and ordered to be received and entered on the minutes, on the motion of Comp. Robert Grey, seconded by Comp. Frank Richardson:—

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from October 16, 1889, to January 14, 1890, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:—

Balance, Grand Chapter	£150	8	4	Disbursements during the	
„ Unappropriated				Quarter	£299 16 10
Account	190	18	1	Balance	239 12 0
Subsequent Receipts	386	14	0	„ Unappropriated	
				Account	188 11 7
	£728	0	5		£728 0 5

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following petitions:—

1st. From Comps. Harry James Sparks, as Z.; William Smith, as H.; John Upchurch Martin, as J.; and six others for a Chapter to be attached to the Soudes Lodge, No. 996, East Dereham, to be called the Harry Sparks Chapter, and to meet at the Masonic Hall, East Dereham, Suffolk.

2nd. From Comps. Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., D.L., Grand Superintendent for Durham, as Z.; Robert Shadforth, as H.; George Washington Bain, as J.; and nine others for a Chapter to be attached to the Williamson Lodge, No. 949, Monkwearmouth, to be called the Williamson Chapter, and to meet at the Masonic Hall, No. 6, North Bridge-street, Monkwearmouth, in the county of Durham.

3rd. From Comps. Thomas Preston, as Z.; Henry Croasdale, as H.; George Handel Openshaw, and eleven others for a Chapter to be attached to the Fidelity Lodge, No. 269, Blackburn, to be called the Fidelity Chapter, and to meet at the Old Bull Hotel, Blackburn, Lancashire.

4th. From Comps. Carl Theodor Fleck, as Z.; Charles Meierhoff, as H.; James Cooper, as J.; and six others for a Chapter to be attached to the Old Concord Lodge, No. 172, London, to be called the Old Concord Chapter, and to meet at the Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, London.

5th. From Comps. Adolphus Clark, as Z.; James John Woolley, as H.; Herbert Charles Lambert, as J.; and six others for a Chapter to be attached to the Anglo-American Lodge, No. 2191, to be called the Anglo-American Chapter, and to meet at the Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, London.

The foregoing petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received a Memorial from the Grand Chapter of New South Wales, reporting that they were regularly established on September 30, 1889, and asking recognition by the Grand Chapter of England, and that fraternal communication may be established between the two Grand Chapters.

The Committee recommend that inasmuch as the Grand Lodge of New South Wales has been duly acknowledged by the Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Chapter of New South Wales be also recognised.

The Committee have received memorials, with extracts of minutes, on the removal of the following Chapters:—

The Alexandra Chapter, No. 993, from the Midway Hotel, Levenshulme, to the Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.

The Grand Master's Chapter, No. 1, from Willis's Rooms, S. James's, to the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland-avenue, Charing Cross.

The Committee being satisfied of the reasonableness of these requests, recommend that the removals of the above-named Chapters be sanctioned.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

ROBERT GREY, President.

The sun sinks low, but from his fading fire
Spring out rich hues of glory; o'er the skies
They spread, and when they finally expire
A gentle hush o'er darkening nature lies.

The *worker* now has left his scene of toil,
And with the sun has sought his earned repose;
No ill performed his appetite may spoil,
Or fill his musings ere his eyelids close.

The *Senior Warden* in his place appears
To mark the sun when sitting in the West;
He warns that labor to its closing hours,
And, fast approaching, comes retiring rest.

To us he shows the end of all our days,
When life and energy are waning fast;
The tottering steps and silvered hair betrays
The lack of strength which boldly filed the past.

William H. Ore.

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Eminent Masons at Home.

No. 8.—THE RIGHT HON. SIR HENRY A. ISAACS, LORD MAYOR,
 AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

THEODORE HOOK was not impressed with the importance of the City's first magistrate, but then Theodore Hook lived in peculiar times. He was content with a bench at the "Fossil Hole" or the coffee-house which now is "Snow's," off Piccadilly, where wits did gather together to ventilate their minds and set themselves a thinking, after the manner of their kind. To-day the Mayoralty is a post of much honor, arrived at only through years of careful wading, giving to the fortunate holder a status in Society far in advance of what is generally and ignorantly supposed. Last year was the 700th anniversary of the one during which Henry Fitz-Alwyne Fitz-Lifstane, of Londonstane—a member of the Goldsmiths' Company, was elected "Maier" of the City, a post which he held for twenty-three years in succession; and not until 1319 was the charter granted which ordained that the mayors of the City should remain in office but for one period of twelve months.

The one central spot in this vast metropolis, that nightly sleeps millions of weary heads within the shadows of its boundaries, is that spot where no less than nine thoroughfares converge in front of the Royal Exchange. For twelve hours out of the twenty-four which constitute a unit of existence, the traffic past this spot is as unceasing and as mighty as the ocean itself. For centuries Cheapside has guided its pedestrians past the portals of the Mansion House on their way to Tower-hill or through old Finsbury-fields to the heights of Highgate. Lombard-street is the Lombard-street of the Charleses, only that the day of polished granite and stained glass has superseded the half timber and rough cast of a former age. London Bridge "stands where it did"; it

is merely a London bridge of a later date; and the Old Jewry, where the Lord Mayors had their official residence before the Mansion House was built, is but the Old Jewry still. It was on October 25th, one hundred and fifty-six years ago, that Lord Mayor Perry laid the foundation-stone of the present Mansion House; and not until nearly fifteen years after did a Lord Mayor—Sir Crisp Gascoigne, in 1753—take up his regal abode within its walls. The original cost of the building, to put it exactly, was £70,895. 13s. 2d., which was principally collected by fining persons who were desirous of buying off their service of the office of Sheriff. Strype says that the Mansion House stands on the site of the old Stocks Market, built for the sale of fish and flesh by Lord Mayor Walis, in the tenth year of Edward I.'s reign. Prior to this a pair of stocks was located there, and that Walis built the market for the maintenance of London Bridge, the keeper of which for some time had the power of granting leases of the shops within it. The market was rebuilt in the reign of Henry IV., and housed twenty-five fishmongers and eighteen butchers. It was, however, destroyed in the Great Fire of London, and upon its re-erection was converted into "a place for fruits, roots, and herbs, for which it is very considered and much resorted unto, being of note, for having the choicest in their kind of all sorts, surpassing all other markets in London."

The Portland stone façade of the existing Mansion House, with its six lofty Corinthian pillars and massive rustic basement, stands prominently out at the head of Cheapside, and opposite the Royal Exchange and the dull, dank, and dismal exterior of the Bank of England. Myriads of human beings have passed it on their hurried daily scramble for wealth, and as the years roll on, and the white-haired, trembling crawler picks his way from stone to stone, the generations which are hurrying on behind will pass it just as he has done, until they themselves are swept away in the current of eternity. The courteous monitor of the hall answers your ring of the great City bell under the porch leading to the private entrance of the mansion, and ushers you into the great house of the Chief Magistrate of the City. A blazing fire is a blessing this miserable rainy day, so you ascend the staircase to the magnificent reception saloon above, with warm hands and a warm heart, ready for the warm greeting you know you may expect from one of the smartest and most affable men in existence. Mr. Soulsby has held the post of private secretary to the Lord Mayors for many years, and it is in no small measure due to his brilliant administrative faculties that so many blessings emanate from the Mansion House from day to day. You will presently be admitted to the private room of Sir Henry Isaacs, and you find him seated at his table engaged in the details of some magnificent scheme of charity which has devolved upon him as the leader of all charitable undertakings. Sir Henry is a man of but medium height and build, and does not look his age within ten years of it. He was born in the City, has lived in the City, and will probably die in it, for there is no firmer commercial undertaking at the present moment than that of Messrs. M. Isaacs & Sons, of whose establishments at Hull, Valencia, and London he is the head. In 1862 he was elected to the Court of Common Council as representative of the Ward of Aldgate, and occupied the chairs of the Coal, Corn, and Finance, the City Lands and Markets Committees in succession. He laid the stone of the Leadenhall Market, and was Chairman of the Grand Markets Committee whilst the Fruit Market in the Farringdon-road was being built. In 1883 he was advanced by election to the position of Alderman of the Ward of Portsoken, and immediately became famous on the bench for his exemplary sentences upon persons brought before him for cruelty to animals. He served the post of Sheriff in 1886-7, her Majesty's Jubilee year, and was knighted at the termination of his office. It needs no inducement to turn the current of chat into the interesting groove of Masonry, and once started on a gentle declivity of discussion your host goes off with the grace of a racer, sure of his foothold and certain of success. It is pleasant to listen to his lordship

as he mentally goes over the doings of the past, and reviews his connection with the Craft without much effort of memory. He has never attained to any very exalted position in it so far as office is concerned, but you, fortunately, know of many good deeds he will not tell you of, and many occasions when he has stretched the hand of fellowship very much beyond the limit to which this visionary member is sometimes stretched. He was initiated in 1853 in the Lodge of Israel (247) and passed the chair three years later. In the same year—1856—he was Lecture Master of the Prosperity Lodge of Instruction, for fulfilling which post he was presented with a service of silver plate by its members; and founded the Benevolent

Fund of his Mother Lodge, for which £1,000 was very quickly collected. In the same year, also, he served a stewardship of the Boys' and Girls' Institutions, and was invested with the collar of Prov. Grand Organist of Hertfordshire. In 1857 he initiated his father into the mysteries of the Craft, and installed his brother, Mr. J. M. Isaacs, as his successor in the chair of the Israel Lodge. From the Lodge of Tranquillity he was presented with a silver claret-jug and salver in recognition of his services to the Lodge. In the same year he presided at the twenty-eighth annual festival of the Emulation Lodge of Instruction, and filled the chair of numerous festivals connected with the charitable funds of private Lodges. From then, for a period of thirty years, he progressed soundly but slowly through his various Masonic obligations until he connected himself with the Drury Lane Lodge, into the chair of which he will shortly be installed at the Mansion House by Bro. J. C. Parkinson. Of anecdotes and charming recollections Sir Henry is full, and he tells you of those days—

those days, Sir Henry says—when he was lured from his bed by some rollicking young Masons to deliver the fifteen sections without fifteen mistakes, to decide a wager that had been made upon the event. You wish, for this afternoon, there was no City and no Lord Mayor, so that you might sit and listen to Sir Henry Isaacs without hindrance; but presently a gorgeously-apparelled footman announces the arrival of visitors to lunch, and you recognise Sir George Chubb, Under-Sheriff Beard, and Bro. and Mrs. Ben Davies, among a distinguished company of social and city magnates. To the hospitable board of the

Mansion House you in course of time adjourn, and are fortunately placed between Sir George and Bro. Under-Sheriff Beard, who post you up in the latest financial and City news. You are sorry to hear from the great lock-maker that his schemes for providing houses and reading-rooms, &c., for his workpeople have not been successful, but your feelings are recompensed by a promise from Bro. Beard of one of the medals struck from the lead that was taken from the roof of Temple Bar when it was removed from its original position at the western entrance to the City. With an inward hope that he will keep his word to you more faithfully than Mr. George Augustus Sala did when he promised you that tracing

of the Roman Church, from which he persistently believed Sir Christopher stole the idea of his attic-story, the interesting luncheon, and the guests in the long parlor melt away with the coffee and curling smoke of your Turkish cigarette, and you are once more seated with Lord Mayor Isaacs, anxiously hoping that Mr. Soulsby will take a very considerable time in digesting his meal before he comes upon the scene to destroy your enjoyment. The ceaseless buzz of the traffic outside has not lessened for one instant, and the day is as dark as the deepest night. Out into the rushing torrent of humanity and inhumanity you presently fade, and are lost amid the struggling 'bus horses that drag their loads along from morn to eve until they die of sheer exhaustion. Down Cheapside you wander, past that inimitable spire of St. Bride's, skirting the hidden dome of St. Paul's, through Ludgate and the Fleet, until you turn into your domicile in the Temple, where once you had fondly hoped to see the dear old "Bar" reverently rehabilitated. Across the void of black



THE RIGHT HON. SIR HENRY A. ISAACS, LORD MAYOR.

nothingness outside your window you see a dim light as at the break of day, and presently the blackness gives place to a pale glimmer, and eventually you see the trail of a setting sun going down to rest without a particle of glory. Up City at the spot where the commercial transactions of the universe pivot, in front of the Royal Exchange and the Bank of England, within the walls of that one building which, more than any other perhaps, hides the history of the greatest city in the world, the Lord Mayor will continue his hospitality till the end of his term of office, and will fulfil his obligations to the Chair of the Drury Lane Lodge with honor and completeness.

THE JUNIOR DEACON.

ALTHOUGH the responsibilities of the Junior Deacon in a Lodge of Freemasons are certainly not very great, the qualifications for the performance of the duties attached to the office in a perfect manner, are by no means slight. We have always held to the opinion that it rests with the Junior Deacon to produce that necessary solemnity which shall impress the initiate with a deep sense of the importance of the business upon which he is entering, and even more than, perhaps, in any other portion of the beautiful ceremony, is the opportunity afforded, whilst the candidate is in his charge, for laying that foundation in the novitiate's mind which shall make him either a bright or careless workman in his future Masonic career. It would not be fitting that we should be more explicit in our remarks on this head, but such of our brethren as can and will reflect upon their introduction into Freemasonry can easily understand the allusions we make, without extended observations on the Junior Deacon's duty towards the candidate for our mysteries. To perform that all-important duty well and thoroughly requires careful preliminary preparation, and herein lies that one essential qualification for the office, without which no member of a Lodge should be offered, or if offered, accept the position. It is not necessary that the Junior Deacon should have filled any other office in the Lodge before accepting such position, and it should, therefore, be the aim and desire of each and all of the Lodge members not yet selected for office not only to emulate each other, but to strive to excel in efficiency. Those Worshipful Masters do the most good to the Order who, on their installation into the chair of K.S., select and reward by promotion, without reference to rota, the brethren who may enjoy the reputation of having made themselves thoroughly acquainted with our ritual and ceremonial by means of attendance in Lodges of Instruction or the services of a qualified Preceptor. We repeat, and cannot too often do so, that the capable Junior Deacon is not only very frequently the making or breaking of the new material, but when the time arrives, proves to be the most fitted for the rule and government of the Lodge.

The Junior Deacon is the medium of communication between the Senior and Junior Wardens, and his duty is to assist the Senior Deacon in all matters relating to the Master's commands. The remarks we have made in the article on the Senior Deacon apply equally to the Junior, and not in any diminished degree, in relation to the peace, order, and regularity of the Lodge and its appointments. As in former days the Senior Deacon had to "see that the pillar of strength in the west was elevated whilst the Lodge is at labor," so it was the Junior Deacon's duty to see that the pillar of beauty, the Junior Warden's column in the south, was "not elevated at any time but when the Lodge is at refreshment," neither before nor after. And as the symbolical meanings of those emblems have not in any way been disturbed since they were first expressed, so should the ancient custom still be retained in its integrity. The jewel of the Junior Deacon is the same as that of the Senior, and the like characteristics attach to the emblem. In the Greek Church the Deacons were always *pylori*, or doorkeepers, and we may still further and consistently extend the meaning of the symbol to the reception of the novitiate within the peaceful walls of a Mason's Lodge.

There is one matter which we take this opportunity of impressing upon the Junior Deacon of every Lodge, small as it may possibly be considered by many, but very important in connection with the landmarks of the Order. It is that of prompting the answer to a solemn and most important question addressed to the candidate by the W.M. in the early part of his reception. We quote from a recent work:—"The required reply should never be prompted. The enquiry itself leads up to the expected answer, and, following on the solemn appeal which has preceded it, a short pause would, in the great majority of instances, ensure a satisfactory and indeed the only and proper admission. If not then forthcoming, the enquiry should be repeated *with much emphasis*, and the reply awaited. Without a spontaneous acknowledgment there is no

evidence of that deep-seated reverence and dependence which alone renders a candidate suitable for admission to our Order. A prompted reply is worthless in this instance." We commend these words to the parties concerned, agreeing with them in every respect, and believing that the practice enjoined is not only beneficial but such as we are bound to pursue if we would consistently discharge our Masonic duty. We have not much more to add as to the qualifications and duties of the Junior Deacon which could be published here without betrayal of Lodge working; and shall be content to conclude in the words of an address to that officer in use some half century ago:—"What is delivered to you in the *West* faithfully carry to the *South*. To that which is more immediately *your* care be particularly attentive. *Prepare* duly. *Lead* upon the *Square*, and *prompt* like a workman. Your regular and early attendance upon the Lodge is highly necessary."

JAMES STEVENS.

THE LATE W. WIGGINGTON.

BRO. W. WIGGINGTON died on the 8th ult., at his residence, Buckhurst, Forest Hill. He was the son of the late Mr. W. L. Wigginton, Professor of Astronomy, and was born at Eton August 22, 1826, where he was educated in the same form with the late distinguished Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Shrewsbury, the father of the present Peer. He was trained as an architect, and was for nearly thirty years a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Among the buildings he designed and erected were St. James's Church, Vicarage, and Schools, Hampton Hill; St. Paul's, Bethnal Green; St. Barnabas Vicarage, Bow; St. Paul's, Charlton, Christ Church, Clapton; Christ Church, South Hackney; St. John the Baptist, Islington; St. James's, Halford, Berks; Almshouses for the Dutch Church, Charlton; and a wing to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. At the commencement of the Volunteer movement he became one of its most ardent supporters, and after serving many years in different positions, eventually was gazetted Lieutenant-Colonel of the 1st Tower Hamlets Artillery, and on several occasions was appointed and served on the Staff at various reviews. In 1874 he sought Parliamentary honors, and was the accepted candidate in the Conservative interest for Hackney. After a very successful canvass, in the course of which he expended considerable time and money, he was induced to withdraw his candidature in favor of a Mr. Gill, who, however, did not win the seat. He was initiated as a Mason in December, 1852, in St. Paul's Lodge (43). Shortly afterwards he joined two Lodges, then known as Nos. 313 and 730. He also resuscitated the Vernon Lodge, then distinguished as No. 819. He acted as Secretary to both Nos. 313 and 819, and became S.W. in each. For his Masonic services in Worcestershire he was respectively appointed Prov. G.S.B. and P.G.D.C. In 1862 he founded and was W. Master of the Tower Hamlets Engineers Lodge, now the Burgoyne Lodge (902). In 1868 he founded and was W.M. of the Royal Standard Lodge (1298). In 1874 he founded and was W.M. for two successive years of the Francis Burdett Lodge (1503), and held the office of Secretary till 1884. He was shortly afterwards appointed P.G.S. of W. Middlesex. He was exalted, we believe, as a Royal Arch Mason in Chapter No. 43. He was the founder and first M.E.Z., in 1873, of the Francis Burdett Chapter, 1503, and was appointed P.G.S.N. of Middx. He was advanced to the Mark Degree in the Macdonald Lodge, No. 104. He founded in 1875 and was first W.M. of the Francis Burdett Mark Lodge (181). He was also the founder and first W.M., in 1879, of the Prince Leopold Lodge (238). His late Royal Highness the Duke of Albany, K.G., took a great interest in this particular Mark Lodge, and Bro. Wigginton was summoned to Claremont on one occasion to see him on matters connected with the Lodge, and was the recipient of the Prince's photograph and autograph. Bro. Wigginton was a P.G.S. of W., and P.P.G.S. of W. Middx and Surrey, in the Mark Degree. He held the office of Secretary to No. 238 till the year 1886, when failing health compelled him to resign. The deceased Brother was, in his palmy

days, an expert worker in the Craft, Arch, and Mark Degrees. Nature had given him an excellent voice, and his delivery of the various lectures on the tracing-board, and installation addresses were marked by elocutionary power of no common order, and he was an adept in impromptu speaking. His early Masonic tastes were fostered by his uncle, the late Bro. John Wigginton, who died in 1881, aged 91 years, and who was considered the patriarch of Masonry, as he claimed to be the oldest member of the Craft in the United Kingdom. A short service was held on the 11th ult., over the body of Bro. W. Wigginton, in St. Saviour's Church, Brockley-road, Forest-hill, and the remains were subsequently interred in the family vault at Dudley. The Brethren of the Sir Francis Burdett Lodge, No. 1503, of which he was a subscribing member to the day of his death, sent a beautiful wreath, bearing a card upon which was written:—"From the members of the Sir Francis Burdett Lodge, No. 1503, as a token of respect to departed merit." This *memento mori* now rests on the coffin within the vault at Dudley. He had been a helpless invalid for months, suffering from softening of the brain and general paralysis of the body. During his illness his wife and two daughters, who resided with him, were unremitting in their attentions. His family consisted of three sons and four daughters, all of whom survive him.

ROBERT BURNS AND FREEMASONRY.

(Reprinted from the "Scotsman.")

(Concluded.)

BURNS must have been the life and soul of the St. James's Lodge in more ways than one. The minutes show that there were more meetings when he was an Office-bearer than at any other period. Though Burns is known to have been a member from the end of 1781, it is not till July 27, 1784, that we have any record of his appointment to a position of influence in the Lodge. The Deputy Mastership was then conferred upon him—a position that carried with it the active duties of the Grand Master, who was not frequently present at the meetings. All assemblies at which the Master was not present were under the presidency of the Deputy Master, and it is in this capacity that Burns has signed so many of the minutes. There are three short minutes written in full by the poet. The first is dated "Tarbolton, 1st September, 1784," that is unsigned, a circumstance not uncommon amongst the records of that time. The minutes bear marks of literary conceit at any rate, the antithesis being worthy of note. It is almost ludicrous to find the world-famed poet writing thus:—

"This night the Lodge met and ordered four pounds of candles and one quire of eightpence paper for the use of the Lodge, which money was laid out by the Treasurer, and the candles and paper laid in accordingly."

The other minutes, written in the poet's hand, are as follows:—

"Tarbolton, June 23, 1786.—This night the Lodge met, and Robert Andrew, a Brother of St. David's, Tarbolton, was admitted by unanimous vote, gratis; likewise, James Good, having been duly recommended, was entered an apprentice. R. Burns, D.M." "Tarbolton, August 18 (no year, but from the dates immediately before and after, sure to be 1786).—This night the Lodge met, and James Tennant, from Ochiltree, having been recommended, was admitted accordingly. Robt. Burns, D.M."

It is a curious coincidence that two of the three minutes written in full by Robert Burns are near to the one written in the hand of Gilbert Burns, the three being in view at the one opening of the book. Burns, who, whether living at Lochlee or Mossgiel, must have had several miles to walk in order to attend the meetings of the Lodge, was most attentive to his duties. The first minute which he signed as Depute Master is dated June 29, 1785, and the last to which his name is adhibited is dated May 23, 1788; but this does not mark his final departure from the Lodge, as Dr. Robert Chambers erroneously states in his "Land of Burns." On October 21, 1788, and again on November 11 of the same year, the minutes record that Bro. Robert Burns was in the chair, though his signature was not attached. Both of these meetings took place at Mauchline, and they must have been held during a flying visit from Ellisland, as Burns settled there on June 12, 1788, a letter of

his, dated June 13, stating that "this is the second day he had been on his farm in Dumfriesshire." Between the first and last signature, Burns has in all signed his name twenty-nine times, and on one occasion he has his initials placed to a postscript; but one of the signatures has been cut out by some unscrupulous admirer. The theft occurs in the second last minute that was signed by the poet, the signature being that of the main part of the minute—the minute having been divided into three. Burns has signed a "P.S." to the same minute, and also an addition to this "P.S." connected by the words "also at same time," and to the last of these hangs a tale. The gentleman in Tarbolton who had charge of the minute-book was at one time showing it to a visitor, and being called away for a moment to attend a sick daughter in another room, the visitor and the book were left unwatched. After the visitor departed the gentleman was asked by his daughter to look to the book, as she was afraid something would be found wrong. Whilst her father was with her she heard either a knife or a pair of scissors at work, and she was right in her surmise that one of the minutes had been tampered with. On discovering this, the visitor was communicated with, and ordered to return the stolen property or suffer the consequences, and the cutting was returned. The stolen part is now neatly pasted in at its original place, and being on the opposite page from the blank left by the cut-out signature, eloquent testimony is borne to the rapacity of collectors and the value placed upon relics of our national bard. Strange as the omission may appear, there is no mention of the poet's demission of office, nor of his leaving the district, even though Burns himself looked so favorably on the position he held amongst Tarbolton Masons as to address a poem to them as his farewell. This was in 1786, when he seriously contemplated emigrating to the West Indies. It is curious also to note the manner in which Burns signs his name: in this there is great variety. In regard to the spelling, he continues the "Burness" up till March 1, 1786—the first under the more familiar "Burns" being of date May 25 of the same year. Whilst Burns signs "Burness" so long, it is noteworthy that the references to him in the text of the minutes are always spelt "Burns" unless on one occasion, when the name had first been spelt "Burns," but afterwards altered to "Burness," probably by the poet himself, or at least by his instructions, as his name appears at the foot of this minute as "Burness." In regard to his Christian name, it appears once before Burness as "Robert," and thirteen times it precedes the same, spelling as "Robt." Before the later spelling of Burns we have it once only in full as "Robert," a single time as "R.," and eleven times as "Robt."

Burns's younger brother Gilbert was entered, passed, and raised as a Brother on March 1, 1786 (the last date on which the poet signed Burness), and must, for a time at least, have taken an active part in the affairs of the Lodge. We find Gilbert signing the minutes on five separate occasions between December 11, 1786, and December 21, 1787, one of these, as already said, being written by him in full. The last reference to either of the brothers occurs on November 18 and November 20, 1788, on which dates the text of the minutes states that Brother Gilbert Burns occupied the chair. These last-named meetings were held in Mauchline, and form the closing testimony to the warm interest maintained for six or seven years by Robert, and during a shorter period by Gilbert, in the affairs of St. James's Lodge, Tarbolton.

Burns signed the minute relating to the visit of Professor Dugald Stewart to the Lodge, who at that time was tenant of Catrine House, and a friend of the poet. The record is as follows:—

"A deputation of the Lodge met at Mauchline on July 25, 1787, and entered Brother Alexander Allison of Barmuir an apprentice. Likewise admitted Brothers Professor Stewart of Cathrine, and Claud Alexander, Esq., of Ballochmyle; Claud Nielson, Esq., Paisley; John Farquhar Gray, Esq., of Gilmiluscroft; and Dr. George Grierson, Glasgow, honorary members of this Lodge; the minute being signed, Robt. Burns, D.M., in very faint ink.

John Wilson, who was parish teacher of Tarbolton, and the Dr. Hornbook of Burns's well-known poem, was Secretary to the Lodge from August 8, 1782, till some time in 1787, and in that capacity wrote many of the minutes. Two of them are signed by him, one as "Master *pro tempore*," and the other as "M.P.T." This last minute

shows his adhesion to the Lodge after his successor in the Secretaryship had been appointed, and it is not shown that he was at the date the holder of any office other than that of ordinary membership. Immediately succeeding Wilson's first signature as "Master *pro tempore*" he finds an imitator in James M'Donald, the succeeding chairman, who signs his name, and adds "P.T." merely, a thing that occurs also once afterwards in the writing of another temporary president.

Two of the Grand Masters sign the minutes occasionally, viz. :— Mr. James Montgomerie, of Coilsfield, and Mr. James Dalrymple, of Orangefield—but these are the only names adhibited of the half-dozen Grand Masters who held office during the years embraced in the minutes. The others were Mr. John Hamilton, of Sundrum—a name still honored in the county in the person of the present proprietor; Mr. Mungo Smith, Mr. Alexander Montgomerie, of Coilsfield (a branch of the Eglinton family, whose estate had to be parted with after the Eglinton tournament), and Mr. Gavin Hamilton, the well-known friend and correspondent of Burns. The name of the Montgomeries suggests the immortality shed upon the family and their estate by the poet's works. The gratitude of the Lodge is expressed at one meeting to Captain Montgomerie, the Right Worshipful Master of the Lodge, for his trouble in recovering their colors, for some time illegally retained by the Lodge of St. David.

The Lodge of St. James, Tarbolton, still possesses a number of relics associated with Burns and the Lodge. The chair and footstool used by him as Depute Master are still doing service, their strength being apparently as great as ever; a compass and square, very likely those referred to in a minute bearing date September 15, 1785, as having been ordered, are exhibited; the Bible, a copy of the authorised version dated 1775, is the one which was paid for on July 29, 1786, as a "new Bible per Brother Brother Burns, 13s.," and on which the price is still pencilled on a corner of the fly-leaf. An old ink-bottle with cover, all of solid lead, whose purchase is minuted during Burns' time, remains also as a curious relic. The small mason's mallet used by Burns when acting Depute Master forms another interesting bond between himself and the Lodge; as is also the Lodge silver badge, referred to by the poet in his "Farewell to St. James's Lodge." Not the least valuable of the Lodge Burnsiana is the letter, carefully framed to allow the address on the back to be read as well as the main body of the epistle, already alluded to here.

Tarbolton in its main outlines is not materially altered since Burns' day. The click of the handloom weaver's shuttle still forms the most important mechanical music of the place. It is a mystery that can only be explained by the general sobriety and rigid economy of the people how they can at all maintain such a respectable appearance on their miserable earnings. Silk handkerchiefs, amongst other articles, are the chief product of the looms, and by dint of long hours and constant work 8s. or 9s. weekly is considered a good wage for a man. It is highly complimentary to the moral qualities of the workers to say that they live respectably on such an income. The Lorimer Institute, the Public School, and a few other buildings are the most important additions to the houses existing in Burns' time, and now the village is about to commemorate in a lasting manner the poet's connection with Masonry by a Freemasons' Hall, which is being erected. Until now the Lodge has met in a room of one of the inns, but in a short time they will have the pleasure of meeting under their own vine and fig tree. Their own, we said, but not altogether so, as about £150 will remain as a debt at the opening, unless some generous admirers of the poet come forward and subscribe the needful. The Lodge have had the benefit of a bequest of £200 made by the late Mr. Alexander Munnoch, of Crunzett, Stirling, and the members have done much amongst themselves to meet the cost. They are hopeful that in some way or other the funds will be forthcoming, and as the hall will be a public convenience as well as a place of meeting for the Lodge, their hopes have a solid basis to sustain them.

Facts and Fancies.

SIR ARCHIBALD C. CAMPBELL, BART.

COLONEL SIR ARCHIBALD C. CAMPBELL OF BLYTHSWOOD, Bart., LL.D., M.P., is well known and beloved by all Masons—particularly in Scotland. No more welcome name can be mentioned in any assemblage of Masons. He was admitted to the Order thirty-three years ago, and nine years later became a member of Grand Lodge. He was initiated in Lodge Holyrood House (St. Luke), No. 44, in 1857. It was not until 1866, having, in the meantime, been on military service in Canada, that he became a member of Grand Lodge, and then only in the humble capacity of Proxy Junior Warden of Lodge St. Mary Coltness, No. 31. In May of the same year (1866) he was, on the motion of Sir Archibald Alison, Bart., appointed Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire (East), in succession to Sir John Maxwell of Pollok, Bart., who had held the post from 1826—the year in which Renfrewshire was divided into two separate provinces. Sir Archibald was first called to office in Grand Lodge in 1868 as Junior Grand Deacon. He served the Grand Lodge in the capacity of Grand Deacon under Mr. Whyte-Melville and the Earl of Dalhousie, as Grand Warden under the Earl of Rosslyn, as substitute Grand Master under Sir Michael Shaw-Stewart, and as Grand Master-Depute under the Earl of Mar and Kellie, whom he succeeded as Grand Master of Scotland on December 1, 1884. How worthy and acceptably he has filled the throne of Grand Lodge, and discharged the duties pertaining to that office, is manifested in the fact that the Grand Committee, and subsequently the Grand Lodge members, have called him with acclamation to the position for the sixth year. Sir Archibald took an active part in promoting the reformation of Grand Lodge affairs in 1877, and has ever since been foremost in the advocacy of what he has believed to be necessary for the further advancement of the prosperity of Grand Lodge and the Craft generally. In discharging his duties on the throne of Grand Lodge he is firm to a degree, without which quality in a Grand Master such a meeting as that experienced last month would inevitably have fallen into confusion and disorder. He has, however, and therein is the secret of his success, the fullest confidence of all loyal Freemasons. Since he became Grand Master there has been no occasion for anxiety in the finance of Grand Lodge, but he has had to direct it through one or two difficult passages in its history. In conjunction with Lady Campbell, the Grand Master is at present devoting himself to secure success for the Grand Lodge Bazaar, which is to be held in Edinburgh in November of next year, on behalf of the Annuity Branch of the Scottish Masonic Benevolence. Sir Archibald Campbell's experience in Masonry goes far beyond the Craft. As a member of the Royal Arch he has held several offices in the Supreme Chapter, and at present holds the office of First Grand Principal. He is a member of the Royal Order of Scotland, and a member and office-bearer in the Supreme Council of the 33rd degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.

As an instance of the romantic incidents narrated of Freemasonry on the battle-field, the following, related by Sir Archibald Alison at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow, will bear being retold. In the Crimean War an English officer led a small party of soldiers up to one of the guns placed in an embrasure in the Redan. The majority of the men fell in the deadly fire to which they exposed themselves. Those remaining were gallantly met by a body of Russian soldiers, and the English officer was about to be bayoneted, when he was Masonically recognised by a Russian officer, who struck up the bayonets of his soldiers, led his newly-found brother to the rear, and treated him with the kindness of a Mason.

COLONEL SHADWELL H. CLERKE.

Few names are better known in London or the Provinces than that of Colonel Shadwell Henry Clerke, Grand Secretary of English Freemasonry, whose brilliant military career, great business capacity, and position as an officer of the Queen's Body Guard, render it almost an impossibility that he should go anywhere without being recognised by some former companion in arms, brother Mason, or member of Society. Colonel Clerke, who is a son of the late General St. John Clerke, K.H., was born in the year 1836, and having entered the army at the mature age of sixteen, he served with his regiment, the 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers, all through the Crimean War, for which he wears the three medals. He was present at the battle of the Alma, in which engagement he, as a second lieutenant, carried the Queen's colours of his regiment; and also commanded the scaling-ladder party at the assault on the Redan on June 18, 1855, his gallantry upon the latter occasion earning him the high honour of being alluded to by Lord Raglan in his dispatches and a recommendation for the Victoria Cross. Colonel Shadwell Clerke subsequently served for several years in the Mediterranean and West Indies, occupying at the latter station the responsible position of Military Secretary to the Commander of the Forces. In 1875 he was appointed an Officer of Her Majesty's Body Guard, in which he still serves, and received in 1887 the Jubilee medal awarded by the Queen to all those who were prominently connected with the proceedings of that important period of her existence. The Masonic career of Colonel Shadwell Clerke has not been one whit less brilliant than his military. He was initiated in the Zetland Lodge of Malta No. 756, on the register of the Grand Lodge of England in 1857, and was elected Worshipful Master of the St. John and St. Paul Lodge, No. 349, two years later. Colonel Clerke is also P.M. of the Friends in Council Lodge, No. 1,383, was first principal of the Chapter of the same Lodge in 1876, and has served the important and highly honorable offices of Senior Grand Deacon of England and Principal Grand Sojourner of the Royal Arch. He is likewise a member of the Supreme Council 33rd degree, second in command of the Order of the Temple in England, and Past Grand Warden of the Mark degree. Col. Shadwell Clerke's supreme Masonic triumph did not, however, fall to his share until the year 1880, when, upon the retirement of the late Mr. John Hervey, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, in his position of Grand Master, made the very happy selection of Col. Shadwell Clerke for the distinguished position of Grand Secretary of English Freemasonry and Grand Scribe E of the Royal Arch Chapter. How Col. Clerke has acquitted himself in the discharge of the high duties entrusted to him the annals of Freemasonry afford ample testimony. He has ever been at his post to advise and instruct brethren of the inferior degrees, and to his really marvellous knowledge of all subjects connected with the Craft, and kindly willingness to place his experience at the disposal of any deserving Mason, many a newly-founded lodge owes its existence. Still the Grand Secretary is the last man in the world to be deceived by any specious stories relative to non-existent facts; nor does he, in his good nature and consideration for the feelings of those around him, permit the slightest relaxation from duty to occur during business hours. Himself every inch a soldier, military discipline reigns supreme at the office of Grand Lodge in Great Queen-street, to the benefit not only of the Craft, but to those who act under his orders. The most accessible man in England, Colonel Clerke, is nevertheless impatient of unnecessary interruptions, and the extraordinary rapidity with which he executes business transactions, anticipating, as it were, the requirements of his visitors before the latter are able to express them, cannot fail to impress a stranger with the fitness of the Grand Secretary of England for the high office he bears. A gentleman, a polished man of the world, and a Freemason to the backbone, Colonel Shadwell Clerke has, it goes without saying, gained the respect and esteem of every member of the Craft with whom he has come in contact,

and his services to Freemasonry during the past ten years have been simply incalculable. A splendid worker and most impressive orator, his delivery of the Masonic Ritual and likewise his after-dinner speeches have gained him a position in the estimation of the Brethren which could not possibly have been awarded to a less eloquent Grand Secretary. Consequently, the two Craft Lodges and other Masonic bodies that bear his name must be regarded as tributes from their members to the respect in which their sponsor is held by them, although it must candidly be confessed that no such compliment was necessary to preserve his memory for ever in the annals of the Craft. Col. Shadwell Clerke, whose health is now completely restored, resides at Upper Norwood, is a married man, and is the father of two sons—both of whom have adopted their father's old profession—and one daughter, who should feel very proud of being the children of a parent so deservedly popular as the Grand Secretary of English Freemasonry.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY LODGE.

Since the first recorded meeting of "free and accepted" at Brother Horseman's, mine host of the "Bird and Bush" in Sadler-street, Newcastle, there have been many ups and downs in the history of the Craft. Bro. Logan, who went through the minutes a few years ago, and has since given us a most minute and faithful account of the doings of his ancient Brethren, shows us that there was a time when the latter were, if not downright hard up, at any rate in straitened circumstances. The first record of the Marquis of Granby Lodge is in the year 1738, when there were sixteen Brethren entered. In 1742, one Brother presented himself drunk, and was fined. The Lodge was then more flourishing than it had been, for there is a resolution cancelling a previous order compelling every Brother to pay threepence each Lodge night, "in order to raise a fund to pay for the banner and other things then wanting." The Festival of St. John the Evangelist, which was celebrated on Tuesday night, used to be an important one among the Brethren, and it is frequently referred to in the records of the Lodge. These references throw much light on Masonry in other parts of the country. Thus, we find the Master and Officers of the Gateshead Lodge, which was held at a hostelry known as the "Fountain," visiting Durham in 1742. When the host of the "Bird and Bush" died in 1746, another loyal Mason, Brother Nicholson, stepped into his shoes. The usual festival took place at the end of the year, but something unpleasant must have transpired, for thereafter the brethren betook themselves first to the "Shoulder of Mutton," and next to the "Fox," where business was transacted till 1748, when the "Bird and Bush" once more furnished them with their supper and grog, the difference between them and their host having evidently been adjusted. We fear that some of these ancient Masons were not very pious individuals, for they held their Lodge meetings on a Sunday, all absent Brothers forfeiting fourpence, which went to the supper fund. They were great supporters of the drama, and in 1774, after the New Year's festivities were over, they went in a body to the Play House, and saw the "Suspicious Husband," with the "Devil to Pay." Hitherto the Lodge had been composed principally of citizens only, but about this period of its history the gentry of the county began to join, one of the first celebrities being George Baker, the squire of Elemore. In 1778 the tone of the Lodge had so far improved that it was decided to purchase a Bible of Brother Thorne, a bookseller in Durham, whose descendant, Mr. Thorne, of Blackett-street, Newcastle, still supplies books to local members of the Craft. The Brethren had then given up holding their meetings on the Sabbath, but they still looked after creature comforts, as may be inferred from a resolution in which instructions were given for a more regular supply of lemons. The consumption of delicacies had increased to such an extent in 1792 that the subscription was raised, and it was "resolved unanimously that the liquor be delivered to the Lodge at prime cost." How they managed this does not appear. The brothers Charles and Stephen Geo. Kemble were members of the Granby Lodge, as was also the celebrated dwarf, Count Boruwlski.

Stephen Kemble being a very corpulent man, a special chair was made for him, which is still in the hall, and betokens his ample proportions. As Kemble, who weighed 30 stone, stood beside the little Count, who was only 38 in. high, the contrast must have been very striking indeed.

MEDIAEVAL GUILDS.

All modern researches seem to point to the fact that the Mediæval Guilds did not come to us from the Anglo-Saxons, as some have said, but from the Roman "Collegia." The "Collegia Artificum" were institutions under the Roman Government, and during the Roman settlement in Britain would no doubt be founded here. Indeed, the Chichester inscription proves the existence of the "Collegium Fabrorum." With the fall of the Roman Empire, these Collegia becoming, like everything else, Christian, dispersed in Lombardy and Gaul and Germany, and, eventually reaching England, carried with them not only the building art, but the organisation of the "Collegium." It has been before observed, that the history of ecclesiastical architecture in England, for instance, is the history of the introduction of workmen; and our traditions are no doubt true which link us on to Roman sodalities, and thus illustrate the Guild theory. No doubt there are difficulties attendant on such an explanation of Masonic history, but probably they are less than belong to any other explanation, and they are certainly not insurmountable. Without entering into too many details, it may suffice to say here that lapidary inscriptions still exist, as in Gruter, and Spon, and others, which serve to show that these colleges were governed by Magistri, Quinquennales; that they had officers of various kinds, like as with Free and Accepted Masons; that they had honorary members, and even admitted a sort of female membership. Some have said that these societies assisted their brethren, attended their funerals, were bound together by a mutual obligation to help each other, had secret signs of recognition, had annual feasts, and, in fact, were prototypes of our Masonic Lodges. We confess that we do not think the evidence goes quite so far as this; but this much, we believe, may fairly be affirmed. The Roman colleges were secret institutions, governed by their own laws and officers, and had special privileges, and kept their art a mystery, and their proceedings from the "profanum vulgus." They had also probably a system of probation, initiation, and recognition. After the fall of the Roman Empire came in another practice of the operative guilds—namely, their Christianity; and how that eventually developed into the cosmopolitan teaching of modern Freemasonry is the "crux" which the Masonic student and historian has to confront. But yet, despite the difficulties of the case—confessedly many—we are reduced to this: that either we must accept the guild theory, on the reasonable ground of "cause and effect," or we must find a knightly, or a hermetic, or a 1717 origin for Freemasonry. We, therefore, fully accept the Guild theory, as we have said before, going up to the old Roman Collegia; and we believe that the Roman Collegia had both a sympathy and association with Grecian and Syrian, and even Hebrew, sodalities of Masons. We cannot otherwise account for "Masons' marks;" neither can we explain many other evidences which attest the existence of these building Guilds. Bro. Findel has suggested a German theory of origin, which would limit the organisation of the Operative Masons to the thirteenth century, under a sort of monastic protection; but we search in vain for any evidence which would show that at the epoch he seems inclined to accept as the creative time of Freemasonry through the "Steinmetzen," the peculiar teaching and character of Masonry could find its arrangement or development.

The Masonic Lodges throughout the Province of Berks and Bucks, presided over for many years by the late Sir Daniel Gooch, are petitioning the Prince of Wales in favor of a division of the Province, and the formation of a Province for each county. There are thirteen Lodges in Berks and twelve in Bucks, the number having increased from ten to twenty-five under Sir Daniel Gooch's rule.

Among the Bohemians.

Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, who has fallen foul of Mr. Hare, is supposed to have written a very funny piece in "New Lamps for Old," and Bernard Gould, the artist—who has been weaned back to the boards—is to show us what he can do in this piece.

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Bro. Brickwell's contemplated holiday has been knocked on the head, but perhaps the charm of a double salary during the absence of Bro. Terry will make him think more favorably of murky London in the month of February.

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There is no smarter acting-manager in London than H. T. Brickwell. He started young, indeed, for at twenty he managed the Theatre Royal at Leeds. Being out of an engagement, he conceived the idea of collecting all his testimonials together and printing them in the form of a pamphlet, which he sent round to all the lessees in the kingdom. Much to his surprise he received a letter asking for terms from a certain provincial star named Edward Terry, who was just starting a four months' tour with a company of his own. The terms were sent with a specially-prepared cabinet-portrait, but nothing more was heard of Edward Terry, the terms, or the portrait. After a time young "Brick" became still more imbued with his own dignified importance, and wrote again to the touring proprietor, suggesting that if the photograph was returned he might put it to better advantage. Instead of his portrait an invitation was received by the next post, asking the applicant to visit Mr. Terry at Bradford. To Bradford he went, and, after cooling his heels in the street for a couple of hours, left the town with a four months' engagement in his pocket. That engagement has been renewed from time to time, and for the last eleven years the business connections of the two men have been sweetened by a firm friendship which has sprung up between them.

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There need be no surprise at the refusal of George Augustus Sala to accept the editorship of the *Sunday Times*. Mr. Sala is past editorial work. His pen is as brilliant as ever it was, far too brilliant in fact to be wasted around the thousand mechanical duties of a "chief," and his fee from the *Daily Telegraph* alone prevents the idea of troubling his brain much more at his time of life. His marriage was certainly a great surprise to many of his friends, but marriages now are mostly surprises, and it is becoming a fashion for men to sneak off to some far-off spot, and blushing return with a wife for whom they apologise. Here's long life yet to "G. A. S." and his clever and charming bride.

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Banqueting Toole is being played rather low down, and there is just a question whether Brother "Don" does not enjoy the little bit of dinner with dear Henry much more than the public feasts at which every speaker has to excuse himself to the company. J. L. Toole is a splendid specimen of a Bohemian, and he has been known to have no sleep for over sixty hours. A good fellow to everybody, a friend to the afflicted, with a purse which possessed very weak strings when real charity pulled at them, dramatic "art" has not seen a better gentleman "these many summers" than J. L. Toole.

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The publisher of John Ruskin's works has taken that charming little place in Bell-yard until recently occupied by Mr. Maxwell, the law publisher. Now that the bank is finished at the corner, and the Bell and Dragon rebuilt, Bell-yard, under the shadow of poor Street's solid tower, is one of the quietest and sweetest spots in the vicinity.

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Sir Henry Thompson's "little dinners," or "octaves," says the *Star*, "are well known and appreciated. Eight well-chosen guests and eight well-cooked courses constitute a dinner as complete and refined as a sonnet. Though an epicure in taste, Sir Henry is very abstemious in reality. He holds the opinion that many of the ill's flesh is heir to come from eating and drinking too much, and for many years he has restricted his own diet to fish, fowl, and vegetables. Sir Henry's house in Wimpole-street contains many fine pictures by Alma Tadema and his own splendid collection of Nankin blue. He has a country house at Moulsey, where he recently put up an observatory, in which he makes astronomical and meteorological observations. Many years ago Sir Henry married Kate Loder, the pianist, whose sweet touch is still remembered by those who heard her play. Lady Thompson, who is a confirmed invalid, is devoted to works of kindness and charity."

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Bro. T. W. Boord, M.P. for Greenwich, who has been installed the first Worshipful Master of the new borough of Greenwich Lodge will, if his right hand has not lost its cunning through his long absence from Masonic Lodge work, make an excellent W.M. Some fifteen years ago, before his Parliamentary duties took up so much of the time he could spare from his business, there was not a harder working member of the craft. A Past Master of his Lodge (St. Andrew's in the East) and P. Z. of his Chapter (the Royal York),

he has office both in Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, and has been a generous subscriber to the Masonic charities. When Mr. Boord first got in for Greenwich, and at the General Election soon after headed Mr. Gladstone on the poll, the Radical caricaturists, referring to Mr. Boord's business of a gin-distiller, depicted him as the typical "bung" of the so-called comic papers, in shirt-sleeves tucked up and white apron. No description could be more grossly unfair. He is an old Harrow man, an F.S.A., and a man of wide culture, as well as knowledge of antiquarian lore. He was one of the earliest officers of the Victorias, and despite his numerous avocations finds time to look after his huge business in Bartholomew-close.

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The late Sir William Gull was a member of the Craft, but had long since admitted his professional duties debarred him from taking an active part in Masonry. He was an old "Stu." of Guy's, and was at the time of his death consulting physician to that excellent institution. He received his baronetcy after his attendance on the Prince of Wales during that memorable illness of the heir to the throne, and held for many years the post of a Physician-in-Ordinary to her Majesty.

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The late father of the House of Commons, Mr. Talbot, M.P. for a Welsh constituency, was a very mean man, and although never guilty of using a wart at the back of his neck for a collar-button, has been known to haggle with a poor tradesman over a nimble sixpence. The oft-told tale of his tour up and down Oxford-street in search of a three-and-ninepenny-a-yard carpet for three-and-three, is perfectly true. Mr. Carnegie's views upon millionaires were not the views of the late Mr. Talbot, M.P.

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Mr. Jubilee Benzon is a young gentleman without a particle of sense in his composition, and the only consolation he can have in his new trouble is that all his substance has been frittered away among a hoary pack of rogues. Mr. Benzon has met with one honest man in his short career. He was walking down St. James's-street one evening about nine, two years ago, when a rather shabbily dressed man, of gentlemanly physique, approached him with this remark: "Will you lend me half-a-crown, sir, till to-morrow night? It is nothing to you if I have wasted thousands on women and wine, or how it is that I am in my present state, because I am a stranger to you, but whatever I am or was, I stand here without a d— coin in my possession, and if you will lend me half-a-crown my word upon it I will return it to you." Mr. Benzon lent the man the money and appointed a time for its return the following evening, went home, told the story to some friends, and bet one hundred guineas to five that neither the man nor the half-crown were forthcoming. The night after a merry little party of three waited at the top of St. James's-street at the appointed hour, and sure enough the stranger came up, and handing Mr. Benzon the borrowed sum thanked him sincerely and warmly for the loan of it. But there is a sequel to the story, which to my mind is stranger than any born of fiction. The receiver of the odds stubbornly refused to take more than £5 from the Jubilee J., to which he added the £5 he had himself risked and handed the two bank notes to the astonished stranger. A few weeks after Mr. Benzon received a letter from a man, extremely well known and greatly respected in the social world, containing two bank notes for £5 each, and stating that his unfortunate son, who had died the previous night in his own house, had requested him to make this reparation.

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Mr. Spurgeon as a Bohemian:—A gentleman who had amassed a big fortune in the erection of jerry-built villas and "eligible family residences," on retiring from business built for himself a splendid mansion in a suburban district, and being dubious as to a fitting name for it, wrote to Mr. Spurgeon for advice. When the answer came it was to the effect that, after very careful consideration, Mr. Spurgeon could think of no other name than *Dun robin*.

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Bro. George Alexander is much elated over the success of Dr. Bill, and has a very exalted opinion of the joys of lesseeship. It is to be hoped he will always be successful; he deserves it. Mr. Alexander is a gem of Bohemia, a brilliant of pure water, sparkling out among gems, some of which are paste. He loves his own home, his own books, his own wife, and there is before this handsome young actor a future of brilliancy and renown. If he could or would give a little more time to Masonry!

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Mr. W. Clarkson, who makes an excellent wig, is, of course, a Tory. He has been on a visit to the Queen, to whom he is "Perruquier in Ordinary," and for whom he superintended the head-gear of the lay figures in the *tableaux vivants* exhibited to the Court. It would astonish most people to know the enormous business done in wigs, and how much of it goes through the hairy fingers of Mr. Clarkson in his place in Wellington-street.

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The greatest pious fraud in journalism is the *Daily Graphic*, which has descended 50 per cent. in everybody's appreciation. Nobody likes it, nobody buys it, nobody reads it. The only smart thing about it is the illustrated weather chart, and that is as beautifully American as anything can be. The illustrated weeklies may rest happy for their lives. KING MOB.

Colonial and Foreign.

Freemasonry in France seems to be at present even more under a cloud than is usually the case in that country. Not only has the strictly Roman Catholic portion of the community testified publicly to its aversion to the Craft by declining to attend the public funeral of the late M. Delatte, Prefect of the Department of the Isère, to which Masons were invited, but the Brethren appear to have incurred the animosity of M. Andrieux, ex-Prefect of Police. The last-named individual has recently published a statement to the effect that he has satisfied himself of the fact that French Freemasons are, as a body, interesting themselves by far too largely in political questions. This charge, if true, which is at least doubtful, is, of course, entirely opposed to the tenets of the Order. The publication of the so-called "revelations" at the present moment is inexplicable, as it is alleged that the whole strength of French Freemasonry was directed, in the interests of the Government, against General Boulanger and his followers. Whatever truth there may be at the bottom of the silly "revelations" made by M. Andrieux, the fact remains, that English and French Freemasons work in very widely differing circles. In fact, the differences between them, which arose some years ago, and which originated in the action of the Brethren across the Channel, who decided to omit the most solemn part of the Ritual from their working, caused a considerable amount of feeling at the time.

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The members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Connaught has just passed a congratulatory vote to Dr. T. A. Parke, the medical attendant upon Mr. H. M. Stanley and Emin Pasha. Dr. Parker is an Irish Freemason, and no doubt will feel highly gratified at the honor thus done him by the Brethren of his Provincial Grand Lodge.

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The gathering of the Scottish Freemasons in Bombay was an event that will be of interest to the whole Masonic world. No less than thirty-one Lodges, working under the Grand Lodge of Scottish Freemasons in India, sent their representatives to give greeting to his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, on the occasion of the presentation of the patent of his appointment as Honorary Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India. They came from every part of the country, and were of almost every caste and creed. Their Bombay Brethren had spared neither pains nor money to render the reception and banquet worthy of so auspicious an occasion and so illustrious a visitor, and an open-handed welcome was extended to the leading Officers of the Lodges working under the English Constitution. Sir Henry Morland, the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, of course presided at the meeting, and in his courteous and genial speeches had much to tell his audience that was absolutely new to them. He comes fresh from England, and brought more than one cheering message to the Craft. He announced, in the first place—and the announcement is probably new to all of us—that her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress is about to become the patroness of Freemasonry in England as an acknowledgment of the loyalty of her Masonic subjects, and he hinted that she might probably become the patroness of Freemasonry in Scotland and Ireland also. In the second place, he announced that the Duke of Fife, the husband of the Princess Louise, would shortly be installed as Grand Master on the throne of Scottish Freemasonry. The Prince of Wales is, of course, at the head of the English Masons at home, and the Duke of Connaught, who was present in the capacity of Honorary Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India, is also Grand Master of the English Constitution here. It was natural, then, that he should speak of the intimate connection that has always existed between our Royal Family and the Craft—a connection that is unhappily wanting in most European countries. "I am certain," he said, "that with the Queen-Empress as our patron, and the Prince of Wales as the Grand Master of the English Constitution, we will carry all the other Constitutions together with us." For the present fortunate state of things in India we are indebted mainly to the Duke of Connaught himself. It has always been his aim that the two Constitutions should work together hand in hand and in brotherly fellowship and harmony. But in this country Freemasonry is something more than English or Scottish. It is Indian, and absolutely the only "national" tie that binds together the diversified people of this congeries of nations. In India, Freemasonry is a strong social and civilising power, and its pioneers are silently and unostentatiously doing admirable work. This was very aptly put by Sir Henry Morland. "Freemasonry," he said, "has the power of blending the different castes and religions of this vast continent, and those who belong to it have for their aim brotherly love, truth, and benevolence. I feel that if we were to spread Freemasonry wider and wider throughout this country, we shall be doing a noble and a great act for the various races that inhabit it." This feeling undoubtedly accounts for much of the enthusiasm with which many Englishmen in India throw themselves into the movement. There is, however, one thing still wanting in Bombay—a home fitting the importance of the Craft. The two Constitutions, as it is, already live happily under one roof; but the accommodation in this hired bungalow is scanty, hot, and uncomfortable. The bungalow itself

is out of the way. But the English and Scotch Freemasons of Bombay are quite wealthy enough to own a fine and commodious Freemasons' Hall in joint partnership. Bro. K. R. Cama told us that it was the desire of the two Grand Masters to build a temple of their own, where the two Constitutions might meet together; and it was with that view that they had applied to Government for a piece of land on the Esplanade, which it was hoped the Government would give on certain terms. He hoped that before H.R.H. the District Grand Master left Bombay in the beginning of next year, he would see that the site was purchased, and that the corner-stone of the building was laid by him previous to his departure to England. This is a wish that will be echoed by all good Freemasons in the city, and the scheme must, we should imagine, have received a powerful impetus from the success of the splendid gathering last December.

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An American Freemason, Bro. Thomas R. Patton, who, by the way, is the representative of the Grand Lodge of England at Pennsylvania, has just made a present of £5,000 to the fund that is being inaugurated in the above State on behalf of necessitous widows of Freemasons. The tidings of such princely generosity comes at a seasonable period, as the festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Fund on this side of the water is fixed for the 26th of this month, and subscriptions are very badly wanted.

Gathered Ships.

But, in the first place, methinks I hear someone say what is Freemasonry? "Well," I reply, "it is a peculiar or a particular system of morality. It is founded on the purest principles of piety and virtue," for the morality it teaches is taken from the volume of the Sacred Law, the Holy Bible, which is always open in our Lodges. As a religious society Freemasonry is a handmaid to the Christian religion, just as any other good society, such as the Temperance, the White Cross, or any other society whose great end is to inculcate morality, is a handmaid to religion, while many of its degrees are known by the name of the Christian degrees. Having briefly explained what Freemasonry is, I pass on to show, in the second place, how it carries out the teaching of my text with regard to our duty towards our neighbor, for we are told "To do justly and to love mercy." We are to do justly. What is the meaning of this? Well, justice is requisite for the peace and happiness, nay the very existence of society, for true liberty can only exist when justice is equally administered to all by the laws of the land, and all obey them. Justice is that virtue which impels us to give to every person what is his due; but in estimating what is due to anyone, we must take into account the consideration that society is a whole, is one body, one divine family. To do justly, then, is to do justice to everyone—it is to give everyone his due. But to do justly also signifies to do judgment, to pass righteous judgment in all circumstances. In order to do this we must not judge others merely according to appearances, for these are frequently deceptive, and things which often have a bad look appear quite different when we know all the facts and reasons thereof. To pass righteous judgment is to judge fairly and kindly of others. It leads us to remember how often we are blamed for the acts which we have done for the best of reasons and from the purest of motives, and so it may be with others. We are led to say, "Must not this man have a satisfactory explanation of his conduct, if I only knew all the facts and his reasons for acting in the way which he has done?" And before passing a severe judgment upon anyone, based upon something we have heard to his disparagement, we are led to put to ourselves the three simple questions: "Is it true, is it kind, is it necessary?" And Freemasonry teaches us "to do justly." It bids us do justice to every one, for its command is, "Let justice be the guide of all your actions." It teaches us to give every one his due. It instructs us as citizens "to give cheerful obedience to the laws and a loyal allegiance to the Sovereign of our native land." Freemasonry instructs us as individuals to be true and just in all our dealings towards society, our families, and ourselves. It teaches us to judge fairly of others, and, so long as it is possible, to judge kindly of others, for it bids us "maintain a brother's honor in his absence as well as in his presence, and carefully preserve it as our own, while we are boldly to repel the slanderer of his good name; and it teaches us that to the just and upright man death hath not terrors equal to the stains of falsehood and dishonor."—*Rev. T. Barton Spencer, M.A.*

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With all due respect to the Pope, it cannot be denied that the Popes have always been more inveterate "ancient landmark sticklers" than the most orthodox Masonic luminaries were; and, like our American Christian Masons, the Popes always had a *one-sided golden rule unto themselves*. The Pope says:—"You must do unto me as you wish that I should do unto you, but I may do unto you what I would not that you should do unto me. You must not persecute me or mine for conscience sake, but I may persecute you and yours for conscience sake. I may erect statues in honor of those who died for my opinion, but you must not erect a statue in honor of one who died for your opinion." And these notions are defended because they have become ancient landmarks. By hook or crook the Popes once obtained power to tyrannise over the Romans, and they claim the right to tyrannise

over the Romans for ever. In 1738 a Pope condemned Freemasonry as a great sin, and almost every Pope since then has repeated the same nonsense. This, however, not only did not injure Masonry, but it actually served to swell its ranks, for those Catholics who were initiated into Masonry before the Pope issued his first anti-Masonic Bull, must have become convinced that the Pope *was not infallible*. Others who were born in the Roman Catholic faith, but for some reason became sceptical, rushed into Masonry to learn what it was all about; and Protestants rushed into it because the Pope condemned it. The Pope's Bull against Masonry may therefore be put down as a *Papal blunder*. Again, the present generation of Italians have ceased to believe in the Pope's *one-sided golden rule*, and have, therefore, erected a statue in honor of Giordano Bruno, who was burned by the Holy Inquisition in A.D. 1600. Thereupon His Holiness assumed a ludicrous air of offended dignity, issued a protest against it, and ordered the Catholic dignitaries the world over to have it read in every Church in *Catholicdom*. Now, in every organisation, whether it is Masonic, or political, or ecclesiastical, those who aspire to a high position must ingratiate themselves into the leader's graces by praising up with all their might the leader's policy. Yes, right or wrong, they must say it is right. Hence our American Catholic Churchmen, in their deliverances on the Bruno question, actually *outpopped* the Pope himself, for besides denouncing the Romans for the gross insult given to the Church in condemning its actions of bygone days, they added a bitter dose to the Freemasons. Now, if Bruno had been a Mason, there would have been some reason for mixing up Masonry with Bruno's sins. But as Bruno was not a Mason, it was simply absurd to lug Masonry into connection with Bruno's sins.—*Jacob Norton.*

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The Masonic Edifice of to-day is purely modern—very modern. It is like the houses often seen in our large cities, with their lofty roofs reaching far up towards the blue expanse of heaven. When one is introduced into Freemasonry now, he is taken into the basement. This is the "lower grade," the "foundation story," where he is impressed with the strength of the edifice. The lessons are explained, as he passes from one room to another, and he receives *all of real Masonry* there is when he becomes familiar with the three rooms of the symbolic floor. From the basement he is taken to the first floor above, where he finds four rooms, arranged to teach lessons collateral with, or illustrative of, the symbolic floor. In the Chapter he works in the quarries, and digs in the rubbish, and is crowned at last with the reward of faithfulness. Ascending, by permission, to the next floor, he is ushered into two large spacious rooms, with a small side room. Here reflections upon death, and the importance of vigilance and faithfulness in the performance of every trust, no matter how humble the position he occupies, are brought to his notice—he is in the apartments of the Council, and when the sound of trowel and hammer is hushed he finds himself a Royal, a Select, and a Super-Excellent Master. Leaving the ante-room, he is guided up another flight to a still higher grade in the building. Here he finds every avenue guarded by chivalric Knights, clad in armor, with swords drawn and helmets down, prepared to defend the sepulchre from every approaching foe. Here is the scene of "coarse diet, rough habit, and severe duty." Here is a presentation of the great principles of Truth and Fidelity; and here, surrounded by most gorgeous paraphernalia, he is shown the Cross and bidden to conquer in its sign. Deeply impressed with these lessons, and the beauty and solemnity displayed in the various compartments of the Commandery, he is ready to exclaim, "This surely is the summit of Masonic glory!"—*Voice of Masonry.*

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We cannot pretend to have a dual existence, one as Masons, another as men. We must be upright men, altogether, and at all times, or we are not true to the Craft, to ourselves, or to God. And this, then, is the conclusion I wish to draw: there must be a reality in all that we do. Masonry must not be a mere profession of morality with the lips, without the solid foundation of moral life. We must not clothe ourselves with the emblem of innocence, and then put off innocence when we put off the emblem. We must not one moment be giving expression to the sublimest sentiments of religion and morality, and the moment after become mere children of this world. Masonry is not a pastime, nor the lodge a club. We are souls in search of the light whereby we may see and know God, and it is by keeping this object in view that Masonry will prosper, and Masons be built up in virtue and in truth. Even our best endeavors will but ill prepare us for the presence of the Grand Master, but half-heartedness and lukewarmness, and unreality doom beforehand to disappointment hereafter, and only merit here the contempt of all earnest and straightforward men. A Mason at certain times must needs be slipshod, but Masonry itself should never be slipshod. With a perfect being to glorify, and perfection to aim at in ourselves, how can we be anything but profoundly and solemnly in earnest? Let the spirit of Masonry, then, prevail in our hearts and in our lives. Let the beauty and harmony and unity of our Order be conspicuous in all we do. Let all the world be better for the good that resides in Masons. Let us in the Lodge and in the world be real, and true to God, to our neighbors, and to ourselves.—*The Right Rev. A. W. Sillitoe, D.D.*

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Answers to Correspondents and several other matters stand over for want of space.