

THE

Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD

OF

MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

VOLUME I.

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INDEX.

LEADING ARTICLES:—		EXCERPTS:—		CORRESPONDENCE:—	
A few words on American Masonry	4, 131	Ancient Masonry	167	A Few Words on American Masonry	118
After-dinner Speeches	17	An Emergent Mason	388	A Freemasons' Lifeboat	27, 42, 75
A man and a Brother	35	An Eminent Freemason	363	"A large circulation in all parts of the globe"	342
A Medium on Freemasonry	84	A New Use for the Bagpipes	350	A Masonic Laureate	341
An Endowment Fund for the Freemasons' Lifeboat	49	Antagonism to Masonry	373	An Oliver Scholarship	389, 407
A New Masonic Song	138	Arab Character	363	Appointment of Stewards for the forthcoming Installation	182
An Oliver Scholarship	406	A Relic of Old Times	350	Assistance to Masonic Charities	148, 165, 182
Another Attack on Freemasonry	353	A Simple Faith	363	Bro. Con-table's Motion in Grand Lodge	165
An Ultramontane Squib	370	A Valuable Relic	379	Charity Stewards and Charity Jewels	203, 213
Approaching Installation of the Prince of Wales	161	Bro. Col. T. S. Martin	219	Count Cagliostro	203
A Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Scotland	33, 406	Carelessness in purging a Lodge	398	Domesticism and Masonry	246
Assyrian discoveries	148	Cross	270, 313	Freemasonry in Auckland	374
Athleticism and Masonry	146	Curiosity	253	Freemasonry Ninety Years Ago	231
A Tramp on the Continent	326	Cyrus	267	Grants by Grand Lodge	54
Attendance at Lodge	213	Demission	395	Honour its own Reward	231
Brotherhood!	18	Down a Mine	158	Installation Stewards—their Duties	263
Charity, and its application	83, 370	Freemasonry in the City	212	Lord Carnarvon's Speech at the Installation	326
Charity Stewards and Charity Jewels	210	French views of Freemasonry	293	Masonic Aspirants	285
Citizenship of the world	33	From Shute to Sidbury: Ten Miles' Pilgrimage through an East Devonshire Lane, and Notes thereon	356	Masonic Clothing at the Installation Ceremony	246
Commercial Integrity	290	Grand Chapter of the United States	382	Masonic Curiosities	103
Concerning Lord Carnarvon's Speech at the Installation	305	Innovations	151	Masonic Honour at Funerals	43
Commerce and civilisation	115	Is Masonic Burial Honourable?	398	Masonic Minstrelsy	103, 148, 155
Couvinality	145	Masonic Art	166	Masonic Phraseology in Shakespeare	246
Court Cagliostro	177	Masonic Banquet at Bodmin	218	Maternal Instinct in Sparrows	374
Dedication of the New Masonic Temple, New York	394, 404	Masonic Drones	339	Old London Taverns Associated with Masonry	119
Dionysian Artificers	132	Masonic Fair Play	223	Our Freemasonry	341, 359, 374, 389
District Grand Lodge of British Birmah	338	Masonic Literature	350	Reports of Lodge Proceedings	407
East, West and South	133, 227	Memorial Fountain at Wormhill to James Brindley, the Engineer	411	Royal Institution	407
Egypt considered as the cradle of Masonry	97	New Caledonia—Expulsion of Residents, and closing of Masonic Lodges	259	Selection of Candidates	309
Egyptian Ritual of the Book of the Dead	196	Obituary for 1874	13	St. Albans Lodge, No. 678	75
Enthusiasm and Masonry	195	Play-house Prices	151	The Archaeology of the Craft	87, 103
Fact v. Assertion	385	Prayer in the Lodge	395	The Benevolent Aspect of Masonry	165, 182
Freemasonry in Denmark	257	Reconciliation	359	The Chevalier Ramsay and Freemasonry	165, 214
Freemasonry in Holland	243	The Butterflies of Masonry	394	The Earl of Carnarvon on Freemasonry	295
Freemasonry in India	353	The Fishmonger in Leather Lane	379	The ensuing Elections to the Boys' and Girls' Schools	213
Freemasonry in Italy	82	The Founding of Philadelphia	347	<i>The Freemason's Chronicle</i> at the North Pole	359
Freemasonry in Portugal	321	The Freeman's Journal on Freemasonry	357	The Freemason's Lifeboat	54
Freemasonry in Rome	163	The Garden in May	327	The Lifeboat Endowment	87, 103, 119, 135, 143
Freemasonry in Spain	81	The Lodge and its Lessons	184	The Masonic Charities	5, 27
Freemasonry in the United States during and after the Revolution	84	The Maiden's "Psalm of Life"	246	The Pope and Freemasonry	328
Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania	371	The Masonic Celebration in America	391	The Press and the Craft	309
Great Queen Street	228	The Master of a Lodge	167	The Strong Man Lodge	166
Homes and Education	34	The Oak	261	The Two St. Johns	27
Indifferent Masons	116	The Pope's Denunciation of Freemasonry	342	Tickets for the Installation	182
Installation of a new Grand Master for the Punjab	283	The Press and the Installation	277, 291	What the Press say of Freemasonry	295
Is Architecture a Lost Art?	129	The Standard Work	343	What the World thinks of us	42
Johannite Masonry	66	Tradition	167	Woman and Masonry	263
Labour and Refreshment	242	What then is Masonry?	74		
Labour—its Duties and its Rights	67				
Many a mickle makes a muckle	85				
Masonic Curiosities	68				
Masonic Energy	284				
Masonic Minstrelsy	82, 130, 155				
Masonic Rencontres—the two Isthmus	36, 50				
Masonry and Citizenship	396				
Masonry and the Outer World	305				
Numismatic Rarities	258				
Obedience to the Law necessary on the part of every Freemason	322				
Objecting "on principle"	179				
Old London taverns associated with Masonry	98				
Our Brethren in the West	19				
Our Charities	244				
Our First Volume	401				
Our Grand Officers	290				
Provincial Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire	372				
Qualifications for Office	194				
Rome versus Freemasonry	100				
Royal and Imperial Freemasons	196				
Royalty and the Craft	177				
Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution	51, 69, 97, 163, 330				
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	401				
Secrecy	179				
Social and sanitary reform	98				
Social changes	145				
Templar Masonry	99				
The Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill	245				
The Archaeology of the Craft	65				
The Arrangements for the Installation	259				
The Case of the retiring Head Master of the Boys' School	406				
The Domestic Architecture of the Middle Ages	369				
The Essenes or Essentians	386				
The Freemason at home	162				
The Freemason's Chronicle Lifeboat Endowment Fund	120, 182, 261				
The Girls' and Boys' Schools	225				
The Great City Lodge and the Lord Mayor	193				
The History of a Cheque	339				
The Installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales	209, 225, 241, 257, 273				
The late Rev. George Oliver, D.D.	403				
The latest Denunciation of our Order	241				
The Lifeboat Endowment Fund	161				
The Mason a discreet man	114				
The Mason: a gentleman	2				
The Mason a sincere man	49				
The "New Atlantis"	306				
The Papacy and the Craft	321				
The Press and the Installation	277				
The Right of Visitation	337				
The Royal Academy Exhibition	324				
The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution	3				
The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls	250, 276				
The Saturday Review and Freemasonry	209				
The Saturday Review on the Installation	289				
The success of the "Chronicle"	17				
The true historical aspect of the "religious and military" Order of the Temple; <i>ci-devant "Masonic"</i>	20				
The Ultramontanes and Freemasonry	113				
The Year 1874	3				
The 1717 Theory	337				
To our Readers	1				
Types of Masonic Character	226				

INDEX.

REVIEWS—continued.

A Wondrous Tale, and other poems	58
Bye-Laws of the Lodge of Industry, No. 48	357
Christian Knowledge for Sunday and Day Schools	102
Debrett's Peerage and Baronetage and Knightage	118
Dedication Memorial of the New Masonic Temple, Philadelphia	198
Forty Years of American Life	180
Give me a Grip of your Hand (Song)	318
Here and There among the Alps	231
Historical Sketch of Concordia Lodge	294
History of the Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185, from its origin to the present time	22
Illustrated Guide for Amateur Gardeners	58
Letters sent Home	247
Lives of the Engineers	375, 389
Masonic Annual for the Province of Durham	164
Masonic Review	407
Memorials of the Masonic Union of A.D. 1813	22
Notes on the Colonial Empire of Great Britain	102
Notes on the Scientific and Religious Mysteries of Antiquity; the Gnosis and Secret Schools of the Middle Ages; Modern Rosicrucianism, and the various Rites and Degrees of Free and Accepted Masonry	102
Oliver's Masonic Jurisprudence	5, 38
Our Song: the Compass, Book and Square	39
Practical Masonic Lecture	325
Record of the Installations of Bro. Lieut. Col. Sir Henry Edwards, Bart., and H.R.H. The Prince of Wales	407
Shakespeare Commentaries	117, 134, 148
Social Pressure	38
Text Book of the Geography of Palestine	102
The Aërial World: A popular account of the Phenomena and Life of the Atmosphere	164
The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite	310
The Canadian Masonic News	340
The Charing Cross Magazine	39
The Civil Service Year Book and Official Calendar 1875	118
The Groundwork of Freemasonry	318
The History of a Ship, from her Cradle to her Grave	71
The Marvellous Country	261
The New England Freemason	340
The Old Constitutions belonging to the Ancient and Honourable Society of Freemasons	55
The Sea and its Living Wonders	70
The Upper Ten Thousand	71
United Ever (Song)	247
Who's Who, in 1875?	22

THE QUARTERLIES:—

55, 217, 262

THE MAGAZINES:—

5, 22, 39, 86, 140, 181, 214, 286, 294, 318, 357

THE DRAMA:—

A Nine Days' Wonder, at the Court Theatre—Recent announcements	300
Burlesque under difficulties—The Opera Comique—The Gaiety Matinées	78
Colonel Cordova's Entertainment	167
Court, Prince of Wales's, Holborn, Olympic, Charing Cross, Surrey, and Marylebone	167
Drury Lane—Othello	207
Easter Entertainments—Rose Michel—Trial by Jury—The French Plays	218
Home, at the Haymarket—The Bohemian Girl—The New Royalty	91
Heartsease, at the Princess's Theatre—The Zoo, at the St. James's	379
"Jeanne Dubarry" at the Charing Cross—Comic Opera at the Gaiety	327
Lady Audley's Secret—A Midsummer Night's Dream—She Stoops to Conquer—The Maid's Tragedy—More Revivals—Mrs. Howard Paul and Mr. Walter Pelham	119
London Assurance—Rank and Fame—The Guinea Stamp—Hamlet, at the Surrey	238
London Ballad Concerts	142
Nicholas Nickleby—Easter Novelties	202
Opera Bouffe—The undraped Drama—Whittington	45
Our Boys—The Holborn Amphitheatre	62
Psycho at the Egyptian Hall	190
Re-opening of the Court Theatre—Nicholas Nickleby—Round the World in Eighty Days	7
Retrospect of the Year—Shakspearian Revivals—Christmas Novelties	142
Revival of The Maid's Tragedy—Mr. Harcourt at the Court—Hamlet	254
Shakspeare at the Gaiety—Mr. J. S. Clarke at the Charing Cross	359
Salvini as Othello—The Gaiety—Trial by Jury—The Charing Cross Theatre—"The Detective," at the Mirror Theatre	29
—Money, at the Prince of Wales's	106
The Lancashire Lass—Uncle Tom's Cabin—The Royalty—Ash Wednesday	157
The Merry Wives of Windsor—The Pantomimes	29
The Prince of Wales's Theatre and the Merchant of Venice—The St. James's	267
—Recent announcements	343
The Prince of Wales's	343
"The Spendthrift" at the Olympic—"Chilperic" at the Alhambra	343
The 100th Night of Hamlet—Shakspeare at the Prince of Wales's—Mr. Hollingshead's Revivals—Arrah-na-Pogue, at the Surrey	286
Tom Cobb at the St. James's—The Opening of the Mirror Theatre	318
"Weak Woman" at the Strand—Recent Announcements	318

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

ENGLAND:—	
Lodge No.	
Grand Steward's	59
1 Grand Master's	11, 76, 220, 268
9 Albion	172, 268
11 Enoch	220
15 Kent	188
23 Robert Burns	300
27 Egyptian	107, 221, 316
31 United Industrious	173, 236, 380
35 Medina	59
43 Industry	364
51 Angel	331, 396
65 Prosperity	220
70 St. John's	300
73 Mount Lebanon	59
79 Pythagorean	76
87 Vitruvian	44, 108, 173, 252
90 St. John's	11, 59, 107, 188, 251
91 Regularity	204
95 Eastern Star	140
129 Union	92
141 Faith	140, 237
145 Prudent Brethren	44, 76, 204, 381
147 Justice	11, 60, 189, 221, 252
149 Lodge of Lights	365
157 Bedford	60, 332
169 Temperance	11, 77, 140
170 All Souls	44, 396
176 Caveac	44, 188
177 Domatic	11, 44, 124, 188
179 Manchester	77
180 St. James's Union	60, 173
185 Tranquillity	60, 124, 189, 252
186 Industry	11, 93, 188
188 Joppa	11, 28, 93, 156, 204, 237, 300, 365, 381
191 St. John	397
192 Lion and Lamb	28
193 Confidence	12
205 Israel	93
206 Friendship	349
212 Euphrates	221
217 Stability	94
221 St. John's	332
246 Royal Union	349
254 Trinity	77
263 Bank of England	45, 237, 317
279 St. John's	381
284 Shakspeare	317
286 Samaritan	301, 365
300 Harmony	173
332 Virtue and Silence	221, 301
342 Royal Sussex	60
360 Pomfret	29
377 Hope and Charity	365
382 Royal Union	189, 317
Grand Lodge of Devon	411
417 Faith and Unanimity	45
421 Loyal Lodge of Industry	365
442 St. Peter's	61
453 Frederick of Unity	332
457 Royal Monmouth	45
471 Silurian	45
472 Friendship and Sincerity	45
477 Mersey	61
478 Churchill	301
487 Portsmouth	61
506 Mundy Grove	12
569 Fitzroy	366
581 Faith	397
599 Cherwell	141
683 Isca	77
739 Temperance	237
771 Windsor Castle	332
781 Merchant Navy	125
784 Wellington	61
798 Crescent	366
795 St. John's	381
813 New Concord	29, 93, 140, 204, 269, 319
860 Dalhousie	237
861 Finsbury	286, 366
862 Whittington	12, 125, 204
871 Royal Oak	93, 156, 221, 286
896 Hesketh	286
903 Gosport	61
910 St. Oswald	333
933 Doric	103
946 Strawberry Hill	12, 125, 253
963 Maybury	77, 141
1000 Priory	93
1008 Royal St. Edmunds	109
1012 Prince of Wales	381
1017 Montefiore	12, 61, 125, 189, 204, 269, 333, 397
1072 Aberystwith	237
1074 Underley	109
1088 Royal Edward	381
1099 De Shurland	382
1096 Lord Warden	61
1125 St. Peter's	12, 141, 349
1155 Excelsior	221, 237, 317
1168 Southern Star	141
1178 Perfect Ashlar	125, 189, 382
1201 Eclectic	61
1208 Acacia	221
1227 Upton	221, 238
1257 Grosvenor	157, 301
1260 Hervey	109, 269, 397
1261 Golden Rule	12, 29, 109, 189, 238
1264 Neptune	382
1275 Star	174, 382
1278 Burdett Contts	349
1288 Finsbury Park	61
1306 St. John of Wapping	189
1309 Acacia	269, 349
1310 Harrow	317
1319 Asaph	29, 93, 157, 238, 301, 397
1320 Blackheath	397
1326 Middlesex, Lebanon	333
1343 St. John's	141

NOTICES OF MEETINGS—continued.

ENGLAND:—	
Lodge No.	
1364 Earl of Zetland	77, 141, 221
1381 Kennington	333
1382 Corinthian	204, 286
1385 Gladsmuir	62, 93, 157, 222, 366
1423 Era	125, 253, 397
1424 Brownrigg	12
1426 Great City	205, 301
1429 Albert Edward, Prince of Wales	141
1440 Ivy	222
1460 Thames Valley	174, 382
1479 Halsay	62, 125, 190, 253
1503 Francis Burdett	253
1507 Metropolitan	12, 78, 100, 111, 205, 269, 392
1511 Alexandra	135, 143, 190
Lodge of Instruction, No.	
27 Egyptian	268
45 Strong Man	236, 317, 381, 396
174 Sincerity	173
193 Confluence	253, 301, 317, 332
813 New Concord	286
860 Dalhousie	317
1421 Langthorne	222
1425 Hyde Park	382
1507 Metropolitan	142, 157, 333, 350, 362, 393
Royal Arch Chapter, No.	
Supreme Grand Chapter	91
22 Mount Zion	268
46 Old Unions	348
73 Mount Lebanon	251
119 Sun, Square and Compasses	108
129 Kendal Castle	92
141 Faith	332
145 Prudent Brethren	109, 252
174 Sincerity	188
176 Caveac	156, 348
180 St. James's Union	348
185 Jerusalem	252
188 Joppa	77, 221, 365
619 Beadon	108, 269
862 Whittington	12, 157
1000 Priory	302, 333
1056 Victoria	166
1125 St. Peter's	29
1385 Gladsmuir	142
Royal Chapter of Improvement	157
IRELAND:—	
Lodge No.	
32 Royal Shamrock	44, 381
70 Warntford	381
178 St. John's	385, 396
217 Tyrawly	349
299 Abercorn	60
321 Tullamore	317
372 Gilhall	269
411 Drogheda	45, 301, 349, 397
881 Clones	381
SCOTLAND:—	
Lodge No.	
Grand Lodge	92
1 Mary's Chapel	13
2 Canongate, Kilwinning	13
5 Canongate and Leith	13
8 Journeyman	13
41 St. Luke	13
48 St. Andrew	13
92 St. John	60
97 St. James	13
145 St. Stephen	13
151 Defensive Band	13
160 Roman Eagle	13
175 St. John	13
223 Traitalgar	13
261	

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VOL. I.—No. 1.

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TO OUR READERS.

ARCHIMEDES is said to have boasted that he could move the world if he could only obtain a fulcrum for his lever. This impossible feat of physical science has long since been performed for the social and moral world, and the mighty arm which moves mankind from North Cape to New Zealand, and from Behring's Straits to Japan, is the printing press. It is the exponent of social, political, and scientific thought; the mirror the journalist holds up to human nature, in which mankind may see its own perfect reflection. The growth of this vast power, during the past few years, has been enormous, and the development of class journalism has been one of the signs of the times. No party or section of the State regards itself as upon a footing of perfect equality with its rivals until it is fairly and ably represented by an organ devoted to its interests and inspired by its policy. Nor is it alone in the fruitful field of politics that journalism has developed in a way that was undreamed of when Leigh Hunt and Cobbett suffered for the free expression of opinion. Parties that are not political, social coteries, theological sectaries, and the *savans* of the world of science, have each its more or less able representative and its staff of writers, who, so to speak, hold briefs for their clients, and plead their cause before the bar of public opinion.

The Freemasons, who wield so vast and beneficent an influence over society, have hitherto neglected to use the press for the purposes of the Craft. They have been inadequately represented by journals, which have failed to obtain the confidence of the great mass of the members of the Order. This, indeed, is not surprising, when it is remembered that the so-called organs of Freemasonry, whatever other merits they may possess, have been singularly weak in the literary department of journalism. Freemasonry includes within its ranks the most cultivated intellects of the day, and any paper which aspires to be the exponent of the Fraternity must, at all events, endeavour to keep pace with the growing requirements of an age remarkable for its intellectual activity. The questions in which Masons are interested are numerous, and varied in their scope and range, and although politics and sectarianism have little direct influence upon a society which is based upon the broad principles of Benevolence and Charity, it is not the less true that there are times when the Fraternity finds itself brought into collision, from no fault of its own, with both political and religious forces. The recent retirement of the Marquis of Ripon from the ranks of Freemasonry has been brought about by the pressure of the Romish Church, which has always looked with suspicion upon the Brotherhood. In some of the European States Masonry has been seriously discouraged, under the absurd belief that its principles were antagonistic to social order and the independence of Government. So late as the middle of the last century it was discredited by the French Government and clergy, and in Spain and Italy it has generally been under the ban of the State. It should be

the business of a journal devoted to the interests of the Order to attempt the removal of prejudices such as these, which, though they may have little perceptible influence upon the prosperity of the Fraternity, yet have the effect of preventing timid or ill-informed persons from enlisting under its banner. In an age when "Sociology" is demanding for itself a recognition and a place in the estimation of the public second only to that which is monopolised by political science, the Brotherhood may fairly claim to speak a word in season upon many social topics of general interest which, nevertheless, have little or no direct bearing upon the Craft. We are all learning that the points of contact between classes and institutions are innumerable, and that it is impossible for any section or class to ignore the claims or the convictions of the mass of society. Freemasons, who, in the sacred arcanum of the lodge, have long since solved the great problem of perfect and complete Toleration, have learned to regard the differences and the misunderstandings of the outer world in the light of their superior freedom. Men, indeed, often differ, not because they are radically opposed, but because they misunderstand each other. We venture to think that the occasional discussion of social questions, in a free and impartial style in the pages of a journal devoted to the interests of the Craft, cannot but be beneficial, and we shall attempt this portion of our task with the conviction that our efforts will be generally appreciated. The FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, the First Number of which we now have the pleasure of presenting to our readers, will endeavour to supply all that has hitherto been wanting in the existing Masonic organs. It will not only attempt to keep pace with the growing literary requirements of the day, but it will seek to exhibit the Order to the non-Masonic world divested of its technical details, and clothed in the garb of Charity and Brotherly Love. The questions of the hour, which exercise the minds of thoughtful men, will be handled freely and broadly, without any tinge of political or sectarian bias. The memoranda of Masonic gatherings which will appear from week to week, will be full and accurate; and as free interchange of opinion is one of the best signs of life and vigour in any society, ample scope will be given for Correspondence on topics of interest to the Order. We feel assured that our endeavours to found a journal worthy of the confidence of the Brotherhood will be widely appreciated and generally acknowledged. The staff of trained writers which has been engaged to contribute leading articles is composed of men who are well versed in Masonry, and who will be devoted to the advocacy of its best interests. In sending forth our First Number upon its high mission we have only to add that our labours are influenced by no mercenary considerations. Commercial success is indeed the foundation of the life of a Newspaper, and we shall seek to make the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE as prosperous as possible, but we will not permit our pages to degenerate into a mere trade circular, nor will we, for any immediate advantages, sacrifice or degrade the high principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, which

henceforth shall shine before the world as our guiding stars. If we may venture upon a new rendering of words which recent events have made memorable, we will say here, once and for all, that we will be keen men of business, and will spare no effort, consistent with honour, to achieve commercial success; but first, and before all things, we will prove to our brethren and the world that we are FREEMASONS.

THE MASON: A GENTLEMAN.

MEMBERS of the Craft are, one and all, agreed as to the social, moral and religious advantages of Freemasonry. The Master Mason, whatever his creed or country, knows that his connection with the Institution has superadded to his other opportunities of becoming a good citizen, a rule of life which embraces all the blessings that lie scattered up and down the various beliefs into which the nations of the world are divided. He becomes assured that honour, virtue and benevolence are the qualities which should alone distinguish one class from another; and that within the sacred bond of brotherhood all good Masons are equal in the eyes of the Great Architect of the universe. Unfortunately, the outside or popular world, who have not entered the penetralia of the Craft, are apt to apply to its members the ordinary tests current in social life. Hence it is of vital importance to the Institution itself that all its members should be persons of blameless lives, and it is equally important that they should be possessed of that culture which distinguishes the gentle from the ungentleman. It seems to us quite possible that a brother may be a good, ordinary Mason, capable of fulfilling all the duties enjoined in the principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, and yet be wanting in that trained scholarship which, although it enhances the courtesies of life, is too often found along with a cold, cynical understanding. At the same time, we think it imperatively necessary that every Freemason should use his best endeavours to polish and refine his intellect. Indeed, we go further, frankly and fearlessly stating our opinion that no man should be chosen to hold office whose cultus will not enable him to do honour to the great and important duties of his station.

What passes behind the closed doors of a Masons' Lodge is sacred from all the world. The seal of secrecy is set upon the Mason's heart and upon his lips. His is not a creed of proselytism. His duty lies clear and straight before him. So to conduct his life, so to comport his actions, that all the outer circles of men may know he is one of a glorious band of brothers, pledged to lead pure, clean lives, to help the sick and needy, to speak and act the truth, of which his insignia are but the symbols. Seriously impressed with the sacred and secret character of the Craft, we, nevertheless, understand it to be well known that Freemasonry embraces a ritual which, for magnificence of declamatory composition, is perfect in its way. Our contention is, that such a ritual should, at all times, be entrusted to ministers in whose mouths it should lose none of its sonorous and impressive qualities. The calls to virtue and to loving kindness, the charges to acts of self abnegation and friendship, of the pure and beautiful love, where shame and passion have no place, should be uttered in tones where musical intonation hold a just rivalry with exactness of accent and perfect grammar. If it were otherwise, what would be the result? It seems to us it would be possible for men of imperfect education, but of fussy, pushing natures, on their entrance into a Lodge, to lose no opportunity of thrusting themselves forward, in season and out of season, until, with the energy which not seldom accompanies vulgar minds, they had obtained office in the teeth of fitter, but more modest brethren. It would be possible for such as these, backed by the power of the purse—which Freemasonry does not recognise, but which need not be left out of the calculation of probabilities—we say, it would be possible for such as these so to administer the duties, weakly entrusted to their keeping, as to drive from the field of local Masonic activity persons of greater culture and refinement. If such a state of things were possible it would be a pity. How much greater would be the pity, then, if there were introduced

into the society of such persons, some neophyte of superior mental advantages, who, shocked at the incongruity of the position, retired during the first stages of his enlightenment, and before all the magnificence of the system dawned upon his astonished sight. Surely these are possible harms it would be good to guard against. These, however, are misfortunes which, being confined to the Craft itself, might possibly pass unreproved, if not uncriticised; but there are greater than these. Let us take a supposititious case. We will suppose some Royal personage to be on a visit to a great provincial town. The Mayor and Corporation have exhausted their powers of invention in providing a variety of entertainments. There has been the inevitable concert in the Town Hall; the visit to local manufactories; the district Flower-show, and, indeed, the general round of mild dissipation proper to the occasion. At last it suggests itself to the provincial Grand Lodge that a monster Masonic Ball would give the very tone of liveliness desired, and, permission being granted for the use of clothing, the great work is set in motion. We will suppose all the preliminaries to have worked smoothly. The magnates of the county to have received and accepted invitations, and the eventful evening to have at length arrived. The brethren are assembled, ranging upward from the simple white kid and pale blue silk, to the purple and scarlet and gold; the collars and jewels we all aspire to obtain. Delicate girls and shrewd educated matrons are present, with keen eyes for all the pomp and whatever else may be visible. There are many expressions of pleased surprise that Lord So-and-So, or Mr. Nominato should be a Freemason, and in course of time, when matters have settled down somewhat, the question becomes bruited about, who is the Chairman, or President, or Master, as he is called, of the Local Lodge? Suppose it possible, in such an event, that it should become current this same Chairman, or President, or Master, is no other than a certain person who is notoriously deficient in culture; one, whose lapses in good breeding, and ignorance of the courtesies of society, are the common joke of the town. If such a thing were possible—we do not say it is—it would be a reproach to the Order of Freemasonry. We may be asked, would we place mere cultivation, and what are called manners, above sterling integrity and a good heart? Our answer would be that, in the affairs of ordinary life we should not do so, but we think all representative men should possess these ornamental attributes; and, just as an ignorant and vulgar man is out of place in the pulpit, in the senate, or in the town council, so he is out of place as the Officer of a Masons' Lodge. All men cannot, nor is it desirable they should be, Lord Chesterfields, but all men aspiring to represent institutions should be possessed of as much polite learning as will honour the position they hold. Certain Englishmen of the middle rank are too apt to despise what they somewhat contemptuously entitle manners, but we have the authority of the Laureate that "manners are not idle, but the proof of loyal nature and of noble mind."

We are particularly anxious to impress on our brethren of the Craft that THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE will never degenerate into the organ of carping criticism. There will be no attempt, in the interests of smartness or fine writing, to wield the glittering rapier of sarcasm against less gifted members of the body to which we are proud of belonging. At the same time we have an abiding belief in the good effects of honest outspoken opinion. It will be observed that we have carefully abstained from making the simplest direct charge. Our argument is that in becoming a Freemason a man does not abrogate one single responsibility which heretofore he owed to society, but that he takes upon himself new responsibilities to an ancient, venerable, and respectable corporation. That in his new position, if he aspire to the honours as well as the benefits open to him, it is imperatively necessary that he should make himself worthy of them. Nay more, that if a period should ever arrive when the picture we have drawn might appear a true one; when we should chance to see ignorance and vulgarity elevated to the seat of the teacher, it would be time for those who love the Craft to lift a warning voice. Certain of the ancient philosophers are said to have afforded instruction from behind a veil. The students heard the advice of the master, but they did not see his face. In that condition of learning many wise truths, kindly spoken, doubtless appealed to the intelligence of those who heard and comprehended. Pray that we may be no less fortunate.

THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

OUR sole aim in establishing THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, is the promotion of those objects for which Freemasonry exists, and we believe we shall contribute in no small degree to the attainment of our purpose if we urge upon our readers, with all the power we can command, the claims of the various Masonic Institutions to their cordial sympathy and support. There are three such institutions, which derive their chief support from the general body of Masons throughout the United Kingdom. These are "The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons," "The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys," and "The Royal Masonic Institution for Girls." To each of these three, in turn, it is our intention to allude at considerable length, with a view to placing before the whole body of the Craft a statement of their objects and the success which has, thus far, resulted from the efforts of their promoters and supporters. In doing this we shall necessarily traverse old ground, stating again old facts, and repeating old arguments; this, of course, is inevitable. In all classes, and among all orders of people, there exists, at all times, the same necessity for supporting aged and infirm people and widows as well as for promoting the education of the young. But, though the ground is old, it is, in the order of things, that the sphere of operations should be an ever-extending one. Applicants for admission into one or other of the Institutions above mentioned become more numerous every year; thus increased support places it in the power of the several directing bodies, either to extend the benefits to existing inmates of their several institutions, or to increase the number of beneficiaries. With these preliminary observations we pass at once to consider the objects and results of "The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution," and to this we purpose confining our remarks on the present occasion.

"The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution" was founded in the year 1842, at a Quarterly Communication held on 2nd March, during the Grand Mastership of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, the Grand Lodge of England voting the sum of £400 per annum towards the granting annuities to aged or distressed Freemasons. The first election took place in May of the year following, when fifteen brethren were chosen to receive annuities, varying, according to age, from £10 to £30 per annum. In 1847 the Supreme Grand Chapter voted £100 as its annual contribution, and in June of the same year, at the first festival in aid of the funds, presided over by the then Grand Master, the late Earl of Zetland, a sum of over £800 was contributed. In 1849 a fund was established for the widows of Freemasons, to which Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter voted annual grants of £100 and £35 respectively. In this year also, the two Institutions were amalgamated, and became what it still remains, "The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons," while at the same time a Sustentation Fund was established, for keeping the buildings in repair. To this latter fund Grand Lodge contributed £500, and by subsequent contributions this has now reached £1,000. Meanwhile, the annual grants of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter have increased respectively to £800—£500 to the Male Fund, £300 to the Widows' Fund—in the case of the former; and £150—£100 to the Male Fund, £50 to the Widows'—in the case of the latter. According to the Report presented at the last annual General Meeting of the Governors and Subscribers, held at Freemasons' Hall, on 15th May 1874, the accounts for the year ended 31st March 1874 presented the following aspect. Male Fund:—Receipts (including a balance on 31st March 1873 of £3,201 11s 1d), £8,517 7s 9d; Disbursements (including £1,500 invested on deposit), £6,170 2s 4d, leaving a balance of £2,347 5s 5d. Female Fund; Receipts (including balance on 31st March 1873 of £1,739 11s 11d), £5,436 11s 5d; Disbursements (including £1,500 invested on deposit), £4,505 12s 9d; balance £930 18s 8d. Thus the total balance on the two funds combined amounted to £3,278 4s 8d. On the Sustentation of Building Fund Account, there was a balance due to treasurer of £7 6s 1d, the expenditure amounting to £78, against receipts (including a balance of £40 13s 1d brought forward from previous

year) £70 13s 1d. From the same report we gather that the permanent income of the Institution, is as follows:—Male Fund, £1,306 10s 6d, consisting of £500 and £100 from Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter respectively, and £706 10s 6d, being interest on £23,700 invested in Government Funds; Female Fund, £773 7s 6d, viz., Grand Lodge, annual grant, £300; Grand Chapter, ditto £50; interest on £14,200 in Government Funds, £423 7s 6d. Sustentation of Building £30, being interest on £1,000 Government Stock. Total permanent income £2,109 18s.

So far as to the funds. As to the annuitants; these, for many years, were in the receipt of annuities varying according to age. In 1867 this system of classification was abolished, and all the annuitants were placed on an equal footing, each Brother receiving £26, and each widow of a Freemason £25 per annum. These annuities have since been increased, so that each male annuitant is now in receipt of £36 per annum, each female of £28. This increase alone entails an addition to the expenditure of £1,396 yearly. As to the number of annuitants; there have been elected, since the foundation of the Institution, 392 brethren, and 174 widows of Freemasons. In the month of December of last year there were 120 brethren, in receipt of £4,320; 88 widows, in receipt of £2,464; and 15 widows at half their deceased husbands' annuities, receiving among them £240. In short, the inmates, male and female, are receiving £7,024 during the year.

It will be seen, from the foregoing figures, that while the permanent income of the Institution amounts only to £2,100, the expenditure during the last financial year amounted to close on £7,676. Thus a sum of £5,500 has to be raised "to maintain it only in its present state of usefulness." At the annual general meeting, held on 28th January 1874, under the presidency of the Right Honourable Lord Waveney, P.G.M. for Suffolk, in response to the very earnest appeal made by his Lordship, contributions were announced to the amount of £5,220. Considering, however, that Freemasons include among their number very many men of eminent position, commanding influence, and great wealth; considering, too, the number of members belonging to the Craft, it is clearly possible that this amount, munificent as it is, should be exceeded. And not only so, but with a more extended support among the whole of the Craft, we are convinced that further funds might be raised without difficulty, and thus enable the authorities of The Benevolent Institution to extend its benefits to an even greater number of aged brethren and widows.

It is said that a good Mason is essentially a good man. Active benevolence is certainly among the qualities which entitle a man to be called good. It is earnestly hoped, therefore, and we, in the interests of the Craft, shall unceasingly strive, by our advocacy, to secure that a greater amount of support may be obtained for this excellent Institution. And this increased support, we feel confident, will be forthcoming, if only the several Lodges, Chapters, and individuals composing the grand body of Freemasons throughout the United Kingdom will bestir themselves still more energetically. A grand object is promoted by supporting an asylum for our aged brethren and the widows of brethren, an object only to be gained, however, by—to use a familiar phrase—"a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether."

We may add, before dismissing the subject of this Institution for the present, that the next Annual Festival will be held on Wednesday the 27th instant, under the presidency of the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, P.G.M. for Staffordshire; and we trust the appeal that will be then made to the general body of Masons will produce results greater even than in any previous year.

To the other Masonic Institutions named in our opening paragraph it will be our duty, as it will be with pleasure, to refer, at length, in future issues.

THE YEAR 1874.

WHEN some true and impartial chronicler shall dare to record the history of the closed year, that register of events will be a study for the world. The crimes, numerous, brutal and revolting, that were committed in 1874 will seem to show that, with all our boasted civilisation, various causes were at work to sap the foundations of our national morality, and to some extent

threatening to destroy the Christian character of the empire. These facts should awaken in the minds of every patriot, Christian, philosopher, statesman and philanthropist the stern necessity of making every intellectual and moral effort to ascertain the reason why this demoralising exhibition should have to be made. These mournful truths should be treasured by all. The classes of society which have light and knowledge are bound, by every moral tie, to communicate them to the weak and fallen. Our present social barriers and distinctions, in so far as they restrict sympathy, and substitute the spirit of caste, the bigotry of rank, for the spirit of humanity, for reverence of our common nature, ought to be reprobated as gross violations of the Christian law. Here then are facts for reflection and thoughts for discussion.

Another remarkable phase in the history of 1874 is its Ecclesiastical character. No contest for creeds of faith and forms of worships has assumed, in Germany, Italy, England, Spain and France, for centuries, such a gigantic struggle as that which is now being waged as to which shall reign predominant, the Church or the State. There is no doubt that the time is coming when the human intellect will pierce into new mines, and view itself and its Creator and the universe from new positions. It may be some time yet before the intolerant sectarian will acknowledge his duty to admit every truth, however much it may war with his pride of intellect, his personal ambition, or his pecuniary gain, but the tide of intellectual thought and the elevating power of moral force will break down that of any spiritual despotism, and every true Christian will long for that time when each sect shall abandon its prison-house creed, and unite for the emancipation of the world from sin and suffering. Then will the face of the earth be changed, and "Countless Edens be scattered o'er the land glittering another nature and a new mankind."

As to the political position of the country, so far as government by party is concerned, all has been reversed. The end of the Session 1873 left Mr. Gladstone as Prime Minister, in the apparent possession of a large majority, but symptoms of discord and disunion had been manifested by several sections of the Liberal party, and it did not require a very large amount of prescience to perceive that the days of the Gladstonian Administration were numbered. The crisis came in January 1874, when it was evident that the Premier was about to retire from the headship of his party. Parliament was summoned to meet early in February, and almost at the moment of the intended meeting notice was issued of a dissolution. Consequently, the country was unexpectedly thrown into agitation by a general election. The result of this appeal to the public gave to the Conservative party a really working majority, and placed the Right Honourable Benjamin Disraeli at the head of the Government. The new Parliament, the twenty-first of the United Kingdom, was constituted on 5th March. The Lords Commissioners sat in the House of Peers, and the Commons were requested to elect a Speaker, a choice which fell upon Mr. Brand, the former "whip" of the Liberal party. The usual congratulations were offered to the Speaker, writs for the election of new members were issued for ministers who had taken office; the process of oath-taking then followed, and the House was adjourned to 19th March, when the Queen's Speech was read in the House of Lords. It was stated that all foreign relations were friendly; reference was made to the marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh; the termination of the Ashantee war was referred to, and regret expressed in regard to the prevalent drought and consequent famine in India. In regard to future measures; the Transfer of Land, the re-arrangement of the Courts of Judicature, the Relationship of Master and Servant, the Licensing Question and its previous bills were foreshadowed as subjects of discussion and enactment. In the House of Lords the Marquis of Lothian moved, and the Earl of Cardigan seconded the address, and the same was respectively moved and seconded in the Commons by Sir W. Stirling Maxwell and Mr. Callender. Ninety-six statutes were passed during the Session; many of them being more of private interest than for the welfare of the general public.

Of the remarkable events of the year may be mentioned the reception of Sir Samuel and Lady Baker, by the Municipality of Brighton, on their return from Central Africa; the sentence of the Lord Chief Justice on the Claimant, that he should be placed in penal servitude for fourteen years; the remains of Dr. Livingstone being

brought to London; the landing of the Emperor of Russia in England; the opening of the Chelsea portion of the Thames Embankment; the opening of Dr. Parker's City Temple, on the Holborn Viaduct; the completion of the Submarine Telegraph Cable between Constantinople and Odessa; the celebration of the twenty-eighth anniversary of the Pope's accession to the Pontificate; the attempted assassination of Prince Bismarck; the death of some of our leading journalists; the resolve of her Majesty's Government to send an expedition to the North Pole; the escape of Marshal Bazaine; the death of the Siamese Twins; the close of the Lincolnshire Farm Labourers' Dispute, and a long list of sad railway accidents.

This eventful year closed with one of the most fearful and fatal catastrophes of modern times, the burning at sea of the emigrant ship "Cospatrick," when four hundred and seventy-three of our fellow creatures were sent to their final account. Wives, husbands, children and friends were doomed to perish. The sad remembrance of this great and wide-spread calamity, has cast a gloom over the nation, and has made so solemn an impression upon every thoughtful and sensitive mind that the idea of calling this a happy new year seems out of place when we reflect upon the bereaved families and the desolate hearths of so many of our countrymen. Let one universal prayer for generous sympathy and material aid be responded to, and as far as human power can be made to console the survivors let it be made. No holier recognition of this festival of love is possible than to remember the widow and the fatherless.

A FEW WORDS ON AMERICAN MASONRY.

AMERICAN Masons are not slow to claim for their country the distinction of being pre-eminently a Masonic nation. Considered from a numerical point of view, they have apparently good and substantial grounds whereon to found such claim. The relative proportion the Masonic body bears to the population of the United States will compare favourably with that of any country on the globe. The jurisdiction of the Grand Lodges of the two States—New York and Pennsylvania—embraces a larger brotherhood than the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, and Scotland combined. However, it can no more be denied than it can be excused, that there are thousands, unrecognised, professing affiliation with the great Brotherhood throughout the Union, who have no more right so to do than they would have to proclaim themselves kings by divine right. Quantity is one thing, quality another. The loose and careless workings of the Lodges, the general laxity and discipline, the reckless disregard of ancient landmarks, and the abuses and prostitutions of Masonry, have long been a standing reproach to our Transatlantic brethren, and a cause of regret to every true and zealous member of our Ancient Brotherhood throughout the world.

There was a time in the history of the country when Masonry involved popular, social and religious disgrace. Perhaps it is not generally known that Wm. H. Seward, whose counsels guided the helm of state, and inspired the foreign policy of the American Government during the most eventful period of its history, first came into note during the great anti-Masonic agitation, and, on the strength of that absurd fanaticism, gained his first step on the political ladder; and perhaps it is not generally known that in after-life he was as outspoken in his advocacy, as in youth he was in his condemnation of "an Order which won the regard and approval of Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Jackson and Clinton, among others of its good, great, worthy and illustrious Craftsmen." To quote the words of a prominent American advocate of Masonic reform,—"in those days Masonry meant something more than brass emblems and showy trappings, fancy oratory and poetic ritual;" as, indeed, it does now to him who is first prepared in his heart to become a Mason. It is a subject of congratulation, however, to every true lover of his Craft to see that the tidal wave of reform and regeneration, social and political, through which our brethren beyond the sea have recently passed extends its influence even to the floor of the Lodge, and already there are evidences of a powerful movement among the Fraternity towards the formation of a party whose watchword is to be—Purification. So mote it be.

At no period in the career of the Republic were the

wonderful advantages and beautiful workings of "the mystic tie" brought so prominently and forcibly to public attention as during the great civil war, since when the popularity of Masonry has caused it to be flooded with new members, and the immense influx of neophytes has consequently created a multiplication of Masonic bodies. The question is, has there been a proportionate amount of zeal, devotion, or true Masonic culture? The great need of the hour, in addition to that of reform, is the substitution of thorough and efficient measures for the education of the brethren. True, the literature of Masonry has been enriched by the learning and labours of a few devoted Craftsmen. American contributions to Masonic literature are too valuable and important to be passed unheeded. America is entitled to as high a rank for her Mackey, Pike, Simons and a score of others, as can be claimed by Masonic literati of any other nation or time. But, to use the words of an eminent P. G. M., "while the fountains have been full and ample, can it be said that the river has swollen and broadened as it should have done?" Foremost among the Masonic students and writers of the century is Dr. Albert G. Mackey, who has devoted his life and learning—his wonderful knowledge of ancient historical and Eastern lore—to the elucidation of Masonry; and yet, after three years of unremitting labour, recent advices from America state that he has been compelled to abandon the publication of the *National Freemason*, a journal universally acknowledged to be one of the most scholarly and useful periodicals the Craft has ever had the opportunity of sustaining. Dr. Mackey will be best known to posterity as the author and compiler of *Mackey's Masonic Encyclopædia*, the most thoroughly reliable and exhaustive work of its kind in existence, and the result of fifty years' experience, study and research.

There are many sides from which to consider American Masonry, and undoubtedly, while arrogating to ourselves a more discreet and careful carrying out of the precepts and sublime teachings of the great Order, we see much in the labour of our Transatlantic brethren to disapprove and condemn; they have many belongings which might with profit be expatiated on for our benefit and example. There is one point, however, we would like to see light thrown upon. No country is more lavish of outlay on Masonic architecture, witness the magnificent Temples of Boston, Philadelphia and New York; in fact, in nine-tenths of American towns and cities the Masonic Hall is, *par excellence*, the hall. No country is more ostentatious of parade, glitter, show, and extravagance, *vide* accounts of Masonic inaugurations, processions, and celebrations. Yet, where are the Masonic Charities, Benevolent Institutions, Widows' Fund, Orphans' Home, and Schools? Echo answers—would it be possible for an echo to reach us from across the Atlantic?

CORRESPONDENCE.

All Letters must bear the name and address of the Writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR,—It was with feelings of pleasure that I perused the circular announcing the publication of your paper, for I feel sure there are many things in the Masonic World (as in most others), which will bear modification, if not improvement.

One point to which I would direct attention is, the disposal of funds collected at the several Lodges amongst the three charities connected with the Order. I have in many instances noticed what might almost be termed jealousies on this matter, and, as a remedy, would suggest that the subscriptions from the members should be divided according to some previously arranged rate, which might I think, be settled by the officers of the three charities themselves. I feel sure that the adoption of some such scheme would meet with the approbation of the majority of the Masons of this country.

Of course I intend that the above remarks shall not in any way interfere with private donations, but only with funds collected generally in the various Lodges.

Wishing you success,

I am, yours, &c.

M. J.

REVIEWS.

—o:—

Oliver's Masonic Jurisprudence; a New Edition. Edited by Walter Spencer, Esq., F.R.G.S. London: Spencer. 1874.

This admirable work, which has become an indispensable handbook of Freemasonry to those who desire to acquire a knowledge of the Craft, has just undergone a thorough revision, under the editorial care of Mr. Spencer, than whom no one is more qualified for the task of seeing it through the press. The information contained in the volume has been brought down to the present time, and much valuable assistance has been obtained from eminent Masons learned in the laws and customs of the Craft. No young aspirant for Masonic honours should be without a copy of the work. In its pages the neophyte will find ample tuition in the principles and laws of Masonry, and if he supplements the Lodge instruction he receives with a course of reading in Mr. Oliver's agreeable pages, he will soon qualify himself for office. The author spared no pains to make the work a perfect reflex of the principles of Masonry. His legal knowledge will scarcely be questioned by any brother, however experienced he may be in the Craft, and the remarks on ceremonials are as full of hints and suggestions as possible. The first portion of the work, which deals with Craft Lodges, will enable the young and inexperienced Mason to obtain a clear idea of the nature of the vast and complex organization of the institution of which he has become a member. He will find that Masonry is based upon Science; that its principles are immutable, but that within itself it has infinite capacity for growth and progress. He will learn that he is an apprentice to a Craft, the mysteries of which have been handed down through long ages of the storied past by the Master Minds who built the world's greatest monuments. Nor is it the novice only who may obtain valuable hints from these learned pages. Many of our brethren who have long been members of the Craft may glean much useful information from them. Too many amongst us, we fear, are content to settle down into a condition of apathy after they have once passed the mysterious portals of the Lodge. They have gratified an ambition, laudable, indeed, as far as it goes, and, having been enrolled in the ranks of Masonry, they care little for its responsibilities or its honours. Such men might, with advantage, spend an occasional leisure hour in the society of Mr. Oliver, and if his manifest enthusiasm in the cause cannot inspire something of a like kind in the breast of the apathetic brother, his case is desperate indeed. Some of our Lodge jurists, too, would probably be the better for an occasional refresher of the memory. We do not mean to say that our advisers are ever incompetent, but the best Masonic lawyer may sometimes make a slip, and it would be better for his credit that he should have Oliver's Jurisprudence at his fingers' ends rather than run the risk of being tripped up by the Lodge Instructor, who is sure to spring our author, like a mine, upon the blunderer.

The various sections of the work are set out with great clearness and care, and the necessary steps, from the creation of a new Lodge to the office and privileges of the Worshipful Master, are carefully traced. The ceremonial is judiciously sketched, leaving, of course, much unsaid which can only be learned in the Temple of Masonry. The laws relating to candidates are fully discussed, and the rules to be observed at initiations are thoroughly sound and practical. Every apprentice, who is worth his salt, naturally desires to acquire the status of a Fellow Craft, and our author gives full information relative to degrees of Masonic progress; judicious hints upon the qualification questions, and the passing of the novice to the supreme grade. The same may be said of the remarks concerning the status of a Master Mason, and on costume he is luminous in a high degree. Lodge discipline and instruction are dwelt upon as fully as their importance deserves, and the status and privileges of each of the officers, from the Tyler to the Worshipful Master, are carefully laid down. Nor are the laws of debate forgotten, and these, which are in principle the same as those which govern all well conducted deliberative assemblies, are full and accurate. Indeed, as we said at starting, the work is a complete handbook of Masonry, and if our space permitted we might dwell at length upon any of the important sections of the work at which we have only had time to glance. In a few days we may again return to the subject, and follow the author through the various grades of the Purple and Crimson Lodges.

MAGAZINES OF THE MONTH.

FIRST NOTICE.

Blackwood, perhaps as a token of respect for the gay and festive season of Christmas, eschews politics, and wisely confines itself to matters of a less serious character. The first contribution is the opening portion of a story entitled *Giannetto*. The hero is a mute, who, in some mysterious way, gains power of speech, and soon after appears on the scene as Signor Giovanni, the delectably popular *primo tenore*. There is a somewhat quaint (in style, at least) effusion entitled "*Idus: an Extravaganza*," the chief merit of which

is its Aristophanic mode of treatment. Mr. Martin's earlier portion of the life of H.R.H. the late Prince Consort is also favourably reviewed. The two serials, "Alice Lorraine" and "Valentine and his Brother," are continued from the previous number, but we judge them to belong to that sterling class of novel which we look for in the pages of magazines.

The subject of the "Greville Journals" is also handled in *Temple Bar*, but the writer's criticism, even if meant as a joke, is, to say the least, eminently unsatisfactory. But there is plenty of readable matter in this magazine notwithstanding. We need only mention "Bulwer and Dickens," in which the merits of these eminent writers are contrasted together, and "Henri de la Rochjacqnelin," in confirmation of this view.

The Argosy is fortunate in numbering such a writer as Johnny Ludlow among its contributors. His pathetic story of Charles Van Rheyn, is admirably written. The opening chapter of the new novel, "A Secret from the Sea," by the author of "In the Dead of Night," recently concluded, bids fair to rival its predecessor in this class of sensational writing. The Editor's contribution is the first two chapters of a new Serial, "Parkwater," from which we anticipate much agreeable occupation for many months to come, during the long winter evenings, or when the leisure hour is not infrequent.

All the Year Round contains, in addition to its usual quantum of excellent matter, the Christmas story—"The Opal Ring." This latter, we strongly recommend to the notice of our readers, who will like it amazingly.

We have received copies of *Whitaker's Almanack* and *Blackwood's Scribbling Diary*, both works of such recognised value, for every office, that we need hardly refer at length to them. The former is now recognised as an invaluable book of reference on general and commercial subjects.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY NEWS.

FRIDAY.

AS usual on New Year's Day, the Stock Exchange has been closed, although not recognised as a "Bank Holiday." No transactions in the stock or share markets have therefore been going forward, but at the close of the fortnightly settlement, on Wednesday, the tone was decidedly on an improving scale. Many enquiries also being made for securities hitherto but little appreciated.

At this period of the year, when the investment of money is occupying the attention of those who are benefitted by the payment of the various dividends, it may not be out of place to offer a few words of advice on the subject, taken from the *Money Market Review*. The judicious investment of money is by no means an easy matter, even to those well acquainted with the various securities dealt in on the Stock Exchange, and to many people it is an affair attended with considerable trouble and anxiety. With people whose knowledge of the various securities is very limited, and those probably include the majority of investors, the selection of a stock that exactly meets their requirements is a very unsatisfactory and uncertain process; there may be a tolerably distinct idea as to what is wanted in an investment. But there is very little knowledge to enable those stocks which fulfil the required conditions to be picked out. An investor, for example, may desire to obtain a certain rate per cent. of return for his money, and, at the same time, he may require that the safety of the stock shall be up to a specified standard, that the stock itself shall be in a fixed form, that is to say either in a registered form, or in bonds to bearer; that it shall be redeemable or irredeemable (as the case may be), that there shall be no liability attaching to it, and that it may be of such a character that he may be able from time to time, to obtain correct information respecting its position and progress. An investor may have a desire that the stock he selects shall possess these or some special features, and still he may be uncertain, after he has bought, whether he has actually obtained them. Although the features and characters of the different stocks are very numerous, there are, nevertheless, certain combinations of these points which are not attainable in any individual stock. It is necessary, therefore, for a buyer to mould his requirements according to the conditions of some one or other of the different classes. As regards the rate of interest, more especially, he will be obliged, as a matter of course, to limit his requirements according to the degree of safety he is prepared to accept. But an intending buyer, having before him a concise statement of the general character and features of the different classes of securities, would be able in the first place, to select the class; and in the second place, the individual stock from that class, which most nearly meets his requirements. There are other points beyond the mere selection of stock which ought to be attended to if it be desired to make a profitable investment; and amongst these are,—to choose the right time for buying, not to hold too much of any one stock, and to sell occasionally certain stocks, and re-invest the proceeds in others. In the case of speculative investments, by which is meant those offering to the holder more than 5 per cent., there are special precautions to be observed in order to render the outlay profitable. These are; first, to reserve a certain proportion of the interest received as a fund of insurance against losses; and, secondly, to sell a stock when it falls in market price to a certain level, from causes affecting its intrinsic value.

After the completion of the fortnightly settlement on Wednesday, the markets gave signs of further recovery; inquiries extending to some descriptions of securities hitherto but little noticed. The English Funds have been steady, and the tendency generally is towards higher prices.

The directors of the Bank of England met yesterday, but made no alteration in the rate of discount, notwithstanding that there is a falling off in the reserve since last week.

Prices in the English Railway Market have taken an upward turn,

and values continue to be fairly supported, the only exception to the otherwise favourable character of the proceedings being a further fall in Great Western Stock, due to the apprehension that the Company may be called upon for heavy damages on account of the late terrible accident on the line.

Foreign stocks have advanced to a moderate extent, the principle demand being for Egyptians, the rise in which is general. What effect the tidings of Don Alphonso's proclamation will have on Spanish finance remains to be seen—at any rate, it cannot be attended with worse consequences to the bondholders, who have just held a meeting, and decided to accept the terms lately made to them, which verges, we might almost say, on confiscation of their rights.

A demand has sprung up for American securities, Government Bonds among others, and the market holds firm.

In Telegraphs Anglo-Americans have been largely bought on speculative account, the failure of the Faraday expedition being looked upon as leaving the others free from competition for some time to come.

The ordinary general meeting of the Crystal Palace Company was held on Wednesday, when the report of the directors and the statement of accounts was adopted, and a resolution passed appointing a committee to inquire into the affairs of the Company, and to report to the shareholders the result of their labours.

There will be no reduction of fares to places at which the Midland and Great Western Companies compete. On other portions of the Midland system the reduced prices will come into effect on and after to-day. At the same time, several alterations of fares take effect on other lines. The Great Northern Company have issued a notice, stating that it is intended to extend the date of return on all tickets up to fifty miles, for seven days, and over that distance for a month.

The Directors of the National Provincial Bank of England have again voted a bonus of 10 per cent. to all their officers and clerks on their salaries for the past year.

In addressing a meeting of shareholders of the Alexandra Palace Company, a few days ago, the chairman gave an interesting account of the present position of the undertaking, and expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the progress that had been made with the new building, which the directors expected would be ready for opening early in the season of 1875. No fears were entertained as to their ultimate success, under the management of Sir E. Lee, a gentleman of great and successful experience in similar undertakings.

The following is from the monthly circular of Pim, Vaughan and Co., stock and share brokers:—"Neither financially or politically has the year just closed been an eventful one, and, compared with 1873, the Money Market has been quiet, although not without some features of interest. Our commercial requirements being on a diminished scale, the value of money would, undoubtedly, have ruled low, had it not have been for the drain of gold to Germany and France, which began to be seriously felt in the autumn, when an advance of the Bank rate to 4, and ultimately, in November, to 6 per cent., was found necessary in order to strengthen the Bank reserve, and protect our stock of bullion. This has corrected the Exchanges sufficiently to check the efflux and to bring gold in fair amounts to the Bank. The usual requirements at the close of the year prevent any important change just now in the position of the Money Market, but with the disbursement of the January dividends, a return to lower rates may be looked for, especially as large amounts are due here from abroad on foreign securities. But, of course, all depends on whether the flow of gold to France and Germany has been effectually stopped. They are scarcely likely, however, to persist in an operation which must be as expensive to them as it is profitable to the capitalists of this country, although very inconvenient to those in trade. During the past year, the extent of business in our Stock Markets has been on a fair average scale, gradually dwindling, however, towards the close, and on the whole, being considerably less than in 1873. English Government Stocks have ceased to excite public attention; none but a millionaire could live on the interest of Consols with the necessities of life at present prices.

There are, probably, no home investments in such general favour as English Railway Stocks, but the changes during the past year have, in many cases, been unfavourable to holders; the "heavy goods" lines have suffered from the inactivity in trade, and prices, towards the close of the year, show rather a severe depreciation; some of the passenger lines, however, being an exception. During the past six months speculative operations were freely entered into for a fall, but, although based on fairly accurate calculations, prices held up on scarcity of stock, the fact being that, although holders may grumble at disappointing dividends, they, as a rule, feel too much confidence in the elasticity and soundness of their property to part with it. Just now there is considerable gloom over the market, not so much from unfavourable views as to coming dividends, but the effect of the competition started by the Midland Company, in the rearrangement of classes, and the probability of some Government restrictions, arising out of the many accidents during the year, Preference Stocks are becoming gradually scarcer, and stand at higher prices; as these become absorbed attention must be given to the Ordinary stocks of the leading companies by the same class of investors. Submarine Telegraphs have barely maintained their position, the most serious fall has been in Anglo, on the competition of the Direct United States Cable. Gas Shares show a very handsome rise, on the probability of their being absorbed by the Board of Works and Corporation of London. Insurance are dull, especially Marine, on the heavy losses by late series of disasters. A quiet business is done in English Mines, and, at times, the speculative Foreign undertakings attract attention, but all confidence has been lost in them, there being but little hope in their future. Tramways make but poor progress, the expense of horsing and keeping the tramways in repair being heavier than expected. Steam Navigation Shares still suffer from the high price of fuel. Cable Construction Companies, from comparatively unremunerative contracts, and Iron and Coal undertakings, in many instances, have proved that original valuations were based on exceptionally fortunate periods.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Letters and communications must be addressed to the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, 67 Barbican, London, E.C.

We have received a letter from a correspondent, signed "An R.W.M., &c.", but unauthenticated by name and address. We cannot deviate from the well known rule, universally adopted by the press, that all letters must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

P. T. D., Birmingham.—Glad to hear from you; shall rely on you for next week.

THE DRAMA.

Retrospect of the Year—Shakspearian Revivals—Christmas Novelties.

If we were asked to characterise in a single word the dramatic history of 1874, we would describe it as a year of experiments. On every hand a suspicion appears to have arisen amongst managers that the public had grown weary of their accustomed fare, and required a more than usually appetising menu to ensure a continuance of their patronage. All kinds of expedients have been adopted to tickle the tastes of playgoers, and in very few instances indeed have these been attended with more than a moderate degree of success. The latest *opéras-bouffes*, fresh from the Parisian mint, melodramas of every conceivable variety, burlesques of the newest, and comedies of the oldest type, have all in turn sported their brief hours upon the stage, to little or no avail. Theatres like the Gaiety and the Prince of Wales's, which for years past have pursued a beaten track, certain of the world's approbation, have been compelled to resort to new devices to retain the good will of their clients, whilst not a few theatrical houses, such as the Queen's, and the Sadler's Wells, are believed to have retired from the profession altogether. It has been a year of doubt and half-heartedness on the part of managers, characterised by few absolute failures, and by still fewer triumphs.

A glimpse at the list of new plays produced during the year, shows that about one-half of those brought out at the West-end Theatres were burlesques, extravaganzas or *opéras-bouffes*. Of these, some two or three were not without literary merit, and one, *Les Frères St. Gervais*, produced not long since at the Criterion, will probably be heard of again. The rest, in respect of humour, invention, fancy or point of any description would compare disadvantageously with the entertainments of a country fair. Their chief, and often their sole merit, lies in the music, which, though not of a very high order, or, indeed as a rule, very original, usually comprises some light and catching melodies. In this category we fear we must class the *farce* of *Blue Beard*, produced in the autumn of the year at the Charing Cross Theatre. Strange to say, however, this has proved one of the two or three great successes of the year, and may be said, for some months past, to have divided the attention of the town with the Lyceum *Hamlet*. The reasons of this extraordinary popularity are not far to seek. Miss Thompson, the manageress, is one of the very few genuine burlesque actresses upon the stage, and, what is still more important, she really believes in burlesque. A capital dancer, with a correct taste for scenic effect, and an abundance of animal spirit, she has collected around her some of the best burlesque talent to be had, and by dint of frequent rehearsals, secured an amount of cohesion, and apparent *esprit de corps* amongst the company, that the absurdities which abound in the play fly off like the bubbles of Champagne, and leave behind just that amount of mild exhilaration which seems to be the desideratum in modern dramatic entertainments. Mr. Lionel Brough, as the hero, introduces some funny "gags," and his "business" throughout is of a most comic character: whilst Mr. Edouin, in the *Heathen Chinee*, gives a character new to the London stage, and delightful in its humorous eccentricity.

Of the more serious productions of the year, perhaps the two most worthy of notice are *Lady Clancarty* and *The Two Orphans*, both of which were brought out at the Olympic. The first, an original historical play, by Mr. Tom Taylor, has an exciting melodramatic plot, some fine situations, and two or three excellent parts. These qualities will probably secure for the drama a certain degree of popularity, but they will hardly obtain for it a place in the permanent literature of the country. The other play, *The Two Orphans*, produced in September last, is a translation, by Mr. John Oxenford, of *Les Deux Orphelines* of Messrs. D'Eunery and Cornion, brought out at the Parisian Porte-St.-Martin a short time previous to that date. It is a play full of incident, crime and intrigue, powerfully conceived, and elaborated with great dramatic vigour. The interest it excites, moreover, is genuine and well sustained. The plot circles round the persons of a beautiful blind girl and her sister, cast without protection upon the wilderness of Paris, and separated from each other at an early period of the play. The adventures of the two are admirably portrayed, and some striking phases of Parisian life are revealed in the representation. Another adaption of the same piece, by Messrs. Paul Merritt and George Conquest, was produced at the Grecian in October, under the title of *The Blind Sister*, and was moderately successful.

The Haymarket Theatre has produced a fair number of novelties during the year, but none of them have achieved more than *un succès d'estime*. *Charity*, by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, was perhaps the most successful of these; *Queen Mab*, by Mr. Godfrey, was but an indifferent imitation of the Robertsonian comedy; *Painted Blanche*, an inartistic adaption of *Le Voyage de M. Perrichon*; whilst *A Madcap*

Prince, by Robert Buchanan, though by no means devoid of merit, was hardly of a character to win any great amount of popularity, and was moreover produced at an unfortunate time of the year. The most successful venture of all, has been the revival of the evergreen *Our American Cousin*, with Mr. Sothern in his famous character of Lord Dundreary. In spite of all the adverse criticisms bestowed at different times upon this play, it has still sufficient vitality to draw crowded audiences whenever it is performed; and at the present time we doubt if the whole of the metropolis can boast of another theatrical performance which will afford the same amount of thorough seasonable enjoyment.

The Prince of Wales's Theatre has never quite recovered from the loss it sustained in the death of Mr. Robertson, and, during the past year, it has experienced a number of vicissitudes. It has, in the first place, lost the services of its most talented actor, Mr. Hare; in the second place, having, for a time at least, exhausted the popularity of *Caste*, *School and Ours*, the management have been induced to attempt a higher and older order of comedy, and the successful production of *The School for Scandal*, in the spring of the year, more than justified their determination. Later still, it was announced that *The Merchant of Venice* would be given, but here some difficulty arose, and the idea was abandoned. At the present time a very pleasant bill of fare is afforded by Mr. Robertson's Society, and a new two-act comedy by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, entitled *Sweethearts*. This comedy exhibits Mr. Gilbert's powers as a dramatist in their most favourable light, for Mr. Gilbert is weak in the elaboration of a plot, and here there is none at all; whilst the dialogue is in Mr. Gilbert's happiest vein. The comedy consists of two tableaux; the first in the spring of 1844, the second in the autumn of 1874; in the one, two lovers, full of affection for each other, part under a misconception; in the other, the lovers meet again, after a lapse of 30 years, the lady still cherishing her old affection, whilst the man finds a difficulty in recalling even the name of his former sweetheart. The two parts are admirably sustained by Miss Wilton and Mr. Coghlan.

The Vandeville, like the Prince of Wales's, has been all the year in want of an author. Mr. Albery, who promised so well in his *Two Roses*, has been deficient in the necessary application to follow up his success. His two productions of the year, *Wig and Gown* at the Globe, and *Pride* at the Vaudeville, have both been sadly wanting in originality and finish. Recently the managers of the Vandeville have revived *The Two Roses*, Mr. Thorne being the only member of the original cast remaining in the company, and some capital houses have proved that the old favourite has still the power to charm.

The most important dramatic event of the year has unquestionably been the revival of *Hamlet* at the Lyceum. Whatever opinion may be held as to the capabilities of Mr. Irving as an actor of tragedy, there can be no doubt whatever of his intense earnestness in whatever part he undertakes. Whether it be a character like Digby Grant, in which the interest is entirely of the nature of comedy, or in parts like Eugene Aram and Mathias, which are essentially tragic, the personality of the actor is, for the time being, completely merged in the character he is portraying. Some trifling mannerisms may, and do, appear in his impersonations, but these are only superficial idiosyncrasies, and do not, to any appreciable extent, mar the general effect of his performances. His reading of the character of *Hamlet* is intelligent and scholarly, and his bearing throughout that of a gentleman, and a man of rank. But the great charm of his impersonation lies in its thorough genuineness. Every incident in the play appears to be acutely realised by the actor, and not a line or word is allowed to fail of its appropriate effect. The play, moreover, does not rest entirely on Mr. Irving. Mr. Chippendale as Polonius, and Mr. Compton as the Gravedigger, may be said to divide equally with Mr. Irving the chief merits of the performance; whilst Mr. Swinburne in the part of the King, Mr. G. Neville as Horatio, and Mr. Mead as the Ghost, are each of them well chosen for their respective rôles. The female parts, unfortunately, are not so well filled, but Miss Pauncefort is not without a certain amount of power as the Queen. This revival is one of the few dramatic events of the year that we can look back upon with satisfaction.

The Gaiety Theatre, after having run its usual course of modern comedy, comedy drama and *opéra-bouffe*, without making any great stir amongst the playgoing public, has also made an attempt at the legitimate, by producing, with an exceptionally strong cast, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Mr. Phelps sustains the character of Falstaff, and Mr. Vezin that of Ford; whilst Mrs. John Wood as Mrs. Page, Miss Rose Leclercq as Mrs. Ford, and Miss Furtado as Anne Page, play parts for which they are severally well suited, and in a more than respectable manner. Perhaps after all it will be found, notwithstanding the assertion of Mr. Chatterton, that Shakspeare does not of necessity "spell raiu." We hope to give a more detailed notice of this performance on a future occasion; but in the meanwhile we cannot refrain from expressing our satisfaction that two London managers should have thought it politic to introduce "the immortal bard" once more to our notice.

The Christmas novelties are of the usual hackneyed type, *Aladdin*, and the Vokes troupe at Drury Lane, *The Babes in the Wood* at Covent Garden, *Beauty and the Beast* at the Princess's, and *The Children in the Wood* at the Adelphi. At the Globe we have the Lydia Thompson troupe, late of the Charing Cross Theatre, with the burlesque of *Blue Beard*, now converted into a kind of amateur pantomime. The harlequinade is sustained by Miss Thompson, columbine, Mr. Beckett, harlequin, Mr. G. Barrett, pantaloon, and Mr. Edouin, clown, whilst Mr. Lionel Brough disports himself in the part of policeman. We cannot help thinking that the change is a mistake. The fun falls very flat, and lacks the heartiness and "go" of even an indifferent harlequinade of professionals. Mr. Brough will hardly improve his reputation by playing the part of a super. The audience too naturally expect a transformation scene in a pantomime, and are not likely to be satisfied with tableaux vivants as a substitute. *Du reste—Sinbad the Sailor* is the pantomime at the Holborn, *Aladdin*, with Miss Carry Nelson, at the Charing Cross, and *The Forty Thieves*, with the Paynes, at the Surrey.

THE THEATRES, &c.

COVENT GARDEN.—At 7.0, THE VIVANDIERE. At 7.45, THE BABES IN THE WOOD.
 DRURY LANE.—At 7.0, TEN OF 'EM. At 7.30, ALADDIN.
 HAYMARKET.—At 7.30, OUR AMERICAN COUSIN and THE LOAN OF A LOVER.
 ADELPHI.—At 7.0, THE PRAYER IN THE STORM and THE CHILDREN IN THE WOOD.
 PRINCESS'S.—At 7.0, LOST IN LONDON and BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.
 LYCEUM.—At 6.50, FISH OUT OF WATER. At 7.45, HAMLET.
 OLYMPIC.—At 7.0, TWENTY MINUTES WITH A TIGER. AT 7.30, THE TWO ORPHANS.
 STRAND.—At 7.0, INTRIGUE. At 7.20, OLD SAILORS. At 9.15, LOO AND THE PARTY WHO TOOK MISS.
 PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 7.45, SWEETHEARTS and SOCIETY.
 GAIETY.—AT 7.0, BENGAL TIGER. At 8.15, MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.
 HOLBORN.—At 7.0, A HEROIC WOMAN. At 8.0, SINBAD THE SAILOR.
 GLOBE.—At 7.0, A PRETTY PIECE OF BUSINEES. At 8.0, BLUE BEARD.
 VAUDEVILLE.—At 7.0, LEGACY LOVE. At 7.45, TWO ROSES. At 10, ROMULUS AND REMUS.
 CHARING CROSS.—At 7.30, THE LAUGHING HYENA. At 8.15, ALLADIN and THE SECRET.
 OPERA COMIQUE.—At 7.0, WAR TO THE KNIFE. At 8.15, IXION RE-WHEELED.
 COURT.—At 7.30, PEACOCK'S HOLIDAY. At 8.30, BRIGHTON.
 ALHAMBRA.—At 7.0, THE TWO BONNYCASTLES. At 7.45, WHITTINGTON.
 CRITERION.—LES PRES SAINT GERVAIS, &c.
 AMPHITHEATRE, HOLBORN.—At 7.0, CINDERELLA.
 SURREY.—At 7.0, FORTY THIEVES.
 PHILHARMONIC.—At 7.30, UP IN THE WORLD. At 8.0, GIROFLE-GIROFLA. At 9.20, Les Fantastiques Parisiennes, 10.40, The Dorsets, in their Comic French Pantomime.
 ALEXANDRA, Park-street, Camden-town.—At 7.0, THE IRON CHEST. At 8.0, VALENTINE AND ORSON.
 HENGLER'S CIRQUE.—At 2.30 and 7.30, LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD.
 SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.—At 2.0 and 7.0. ALADDIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP.
 CRYSTAL PALACE.—Open Daily, PANTOMIME, AQUARIUM, PICTURE GALLERY, &c.
 POLYTECHNIC.—STAR WATCHING AND THE TRANSIT OF VENUS; THE MYSTIC SCROLL; CHYMICAL MARVELS; THE ISLE OF WIGHT AND ITS LEGENDS, CONJURING, &c. Open at 12.0 and 7.0.
 EGYPTIAN (LARGE) HALL.—Dr. LYNN, at 3.0 and 8.0.
 EGYPTIAN HALL.—MASKELYNE AND COOKE, at 3.0 and 8.0.

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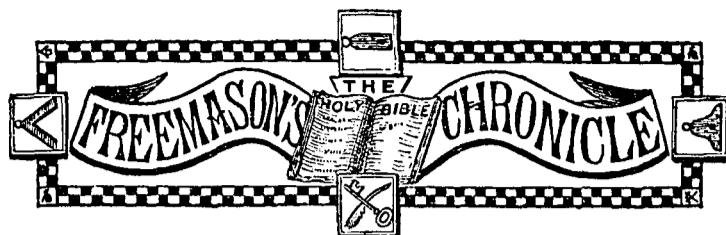
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WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

OUR inaugauratory number will hardly be complete, certainly not as complete as we are anxious to make it, if we do not convey to our readers, in as genial language as we can command, those cordial wishes which are deemed appropriate at this period of the year. We need not give lengthy utterance to these wishes, for no Englishman at this season, and assuredly no Mason at any season, ever experiences aught but the kindest good feeling towards his fellow men. Indeed, the aim of Freemasonry is a sufficient guarantee that Masons, as regards both each other and the rest of the world, will enter heart and soul into the spirit of Christmas enjoyment. Nor will they content themselves with mere personal pleasure. Actuated by that fraternal regard, which has ever animated the whole Craft, both as a body and individually, they will take every care that those of their brethren who may, unhappily, be somewhat ill-circumstanced, shall not lack—at least, not wholly lack—the wherewith to cheer themselves in their present, and let us hope, their brief period of adversity. Charity—we use the word in its truest sense—suggests this duty. Masonic charity will fulfil it.

And the season we have recently entered upon has come upon us right genially, as in days of yore. For many a year past the jolly, rubicund visage of old Father Christmas has seemed a little less jovial than it was. Englishmen had almost begun to think he might perhaps have become less of the glorious good fellow than he is known to have been in the days of our sires and grand-sires. But this year, at least, he has appeared in his true colours; his snow-white locks glistening again, just as he is pictured to us in old writings, and especially in the Christmas stories of the late Charles Dickens. We are not only in the present enjoyment of a rare prosperity; there is abundance of beef and pudding, wine and ale, wherewith to regale ourselves. There are parties and pantomimes, and all else, in fact, that may make the young rejoice, and the old recall the pleasant memories of their early days. We have, too, the snow and ice of the genuine old-fashioned winter, and this is no light matter for congratulation. True—and with sorrow we admit it—ice and snow entail much suffering among the sick and weakly, and the very young. Yet, somehow, the keenness of winter develops in us warmer feelings of regard for all men, and, moreover, a severe frost is usually regarded as the certain forerunner of a genial spring and a glorious summer. Thus, whether we rush forth by day into the keen but exhilarating air, or seek warmth at eventide by the blazing fireside, we have equal cause for congratulation. We not only rejoice in a present pleasure: we look forward likewise to, let us hope, the brigiter year that is to come.

Unfortunately, we repeat in somewhat varied form, all is not pleasure now, or at any time. Too many a poor shelterless fellow creature succumbs to this more trying temperature. This Christmas, too, has been singularly distinguished above other Christmases by the number and severity of the catastrophes which have befallen so many English families. On Christmas morning, the papers contained accounts of no less than three terrible accidents, by which considerably more than one hundred families were overwhelmed with grief. A few days later brought us news of one of the most terrible disasters which ever befell English or other vessel. The "Cospatrick" emigrant ship, we were told, was burnt, and of nearly 500 persons three only are known to have been rescued, and will return to tell the fearful tale of suffering. Yet a few days later, and more accidents were recorded; and naturally all these come upon us with tenfold force at a time when we are anticipating little else than merriment and jollity.

We will not further dwell on this sadlier aspect of Christmas, save to make it subserve our purpose of urging on all classes of men, that a true enjoyment of Christmas pleasure is scarcely possible if they heed not the wants

and sorrows of their less fortunate brethren. Christmas, when the year is almost departed, is the time when all that is best and kindest in our natures should be in full and vigorous activity. It is the time when we overlook, or entirely blot out, old sorrows and ill-feeling, so that we may enter upon the year that is approaching with a conscience as free as possible from all reproach. To all our readers, then, in the spirit which has dictated these few remarks, we offer, in all kindness and good faith, our heartiest good wishes; or, to use the familiar form of expression, we wish them, one and all, the Compliments of the Season.

The Right Hon. The Lord Mayor, Bro. David Henry Stone (P.M.), No. 1 Grand Master's Lodge, and Past Grand Steward, has consented to preside at the annual Festival of the Girl's School, in May next. The Secretary, Bro. Robert Wentworth Little, will be pleased to receive the name of any brother who will consent to act as Steward. Application to be made at the Office, Freemason's Hall, Great Queen Street.

We regret to have to announce the sudden decease of Bro. Jesse Owens, on the 9th ult. He was initiated in the Finsbury Lodge, was P. M. of the Highgate Lodge, and W. M. of the newly consecrated High Wycombe Lodge, he was also a member of the Eton Lodge, 771, and P. S. Rose of Denmark Chapter. He was a good father, an affectionate husband, a firm and true friend. He was much devoted to Freemasonry, not only as regards the working of the ritual, but was zealous in the cause of the Masonic charities. His funeral took place on Wednesday the 16th Dec., at Highgate Cemetery, where, in addition to his sorrowing widow and two children, upwards of 60 brethren were present to testify the last tribute of respect to departed worth.

We also have to announce the death, which occurred on the 22nd ult., of Bro. Henry Edwards. Bro. Edwards was born at St. Albans, on 14th December 1803, and had resided there all his life. He was a member of the St. Albans Lodge, No. 678, and took an active part in the formation of the Halsey Lodge, consecrated last year. Bro. Edwards was universally respected in the district in which he resided, and his death, which occurred somewhat suddenly, has caused a deep feeling of regret among his numerous circle of friends.

We shall be glad to receive communication from any of our correspondents on the subject of the following queries, which have been addressed to us by an influential brother:—

1. Why are there two St. Johns recognised in Craft Masonry?
2. Why are they placed, one at the winter solstice, and the other at the summer solstice?
3. Is it to represent the two great principles of Light and Darkness, good and evil?
4. Can it be ascertained when lights were first adopted in Freemasons' Lodges, and have they any symbolic meaning that can be communicated?

We learn that Bro. Chalmers Izett Paton, a member of our Order, and Past Master of Freemason Lodges, both of the Scottish and English Constitutions, has been elected, by Protestants of Scotland, to the office of Grand Master of Scotland of the Orange Brotherhood, and was duly installed into this office on 18th December 1874. The following are a few of the remarks made by him in returning thanks at his installation:—

Brethren,—I thank you for the unexpected honour you have done me, in electing me to the highest position in the brotherhood, into which I have been installed as Grand Master of Scotland. I feel this to be an honour indeed, both on account of the numbers and character of those by whom I have been appointed to this office, and of the principles which they are combined to maintain, principles which it has been my delight to maintain, and which I trust I shall maintain more and more zealously to the end of my life. I am delighted to think that I have been proposed by the Grand Master now vacating the chair to fill the office which he has filled so honourably for so many years, and that his motion for my election

was seconded and unanimously agreed to; and I am sure, as I dare say you are all aware, none has the interest of the Order or the cause of Protestantism more deeply at heart than our now Past Grand Master. Brethren, allow me to say that I think we ought all to study the subject of Popery more than we have done, so as to be able at any time to give an answer to Popish arguments. And I think also—I dare say you will agree with me—that we ought, as much as possible, to seek to bring into our brotherhood our fellow Protestants who are already conversant with this subject. It would be an increase of strength to us, and, I believe, also to them. I trust that God, in His grace, will enable me to rule over the brotherhood with zeal and wisdom—with zeal to protect all our rights and advance all our objects, and with wisdom to determine aright in all cases which may arise. I hope that I may be enabled to guide the brotherhood so that they may prove intelligent and zealous opponents of Popery and true Protestants, carefully keeping the laws of God, and duly obedient to the laws of the land, good Christians and loyal subjects. May God, in His grace, enable us to show ourselves Protestants, not only in name, but in reality, to live as becometh Christians, adorning the Gospel, walking by faith, fighting the good fight of faith, and rejoicing in hope; not mere controversialists, but humble and devout followers of Christ.

We have received a copy of the first number of *The Scottish Freemasons' Magazine*, which, singularly enough, makes its appearance in the field of journalism on the same day as ourselves. We heartily congratulate the Editor and his staff on their *début*. We are pleased to be in a position to offer our contemporary these brief congratulatory remarks, and we doubt not that he, on his part, will as heartily reciprocate this expression of mutual goodwill.

It will interest our readers to know that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales received the 33rd degree on Saturday, 12th December 1874, and was formally installed as Patron of the Ancient and Accepted Rite. As Freemasonry is practised on the Continent of Europe, this degree was established by King Frederick the Great of Prussia, who was styled the Supreme Grand Protector of Freemasonry, and who, observing that many spurious rites had arisen from time to time in the Masonic Order, collected together what he and his counsellors, after much deliberation, declared to be the true degrees of Freemasonry, and united them in one body or order, which was to be "communicated to Masons in thirty-three degrees, divided into seven classes, through which every Mason must pass in regular succession before he could arrive at the highest." The large powers given by Frederick the Great to the 33rd degree did not, however, extend to Great Britain, where a Grand Lodge rules over the Craft Degrees, and where the "Thirty-third," while it distinctly recognises the authority of the Grand Lodge, in admitting no one to its Order unless previously made a Master Mason in some regularly constituted Lodge, claims and exercises no such powers as the same body does abroad. On arrival at the Masonic Hall, His Royal Highness was escorted into the Council Chamber by the Earl of Carnarvon, now at the head of the Order, and by Brother C. I. Vigne, who long held the same high office, who presented the members of the Council to the Prince—viz., Brothers Captain Phillips, General Clerk, T. M. P. Montagu, Major Clerk, Dr. Hamilton, Sir Michael Costa, Colonel Adair, and Hugh D. Sandeman, together with Brothers H. C. Vernon, Colonel Vernon, A. H. Royds, and Colonel J. G. Sandeman, who are past or retired members of the same body. After the necessary preliminary forms, his Royal Highness received the 33rd or last degree, and was formally proclaimed and saluted as Patron of the Order. By this act the Prince of Wales has become associated with every important branch of Freemasonry in England, and the Craft has just reason to be proud of so illustrious a chief.—*Times*.

Pantomime is, so to speak, the "legitimate" drama of the present season, and we think a fuller programme than usual of this class of entertainment has been furnished this year. We always expect something on a grand scale, both at Covent Garden and Drury Lane, nor should we perhaps omit the Surrey Theatre from this expectation; this Christmas, however, Pantomime finds a home at several of the other theatres, among which the "classic" Adelphi takes a prominent position. It is very encourag-

ing to the small folk to find that an institution so old-fashioned, and, in its present form, so thoroughly English, exhibits, not only no signs of decay, but even a promise of renewed vitality.

If an "old-fashioned" Christmas consists in the amount of frost and snow by which it is ushered in, then that of 1874 is assuredly one of the old sort. Plenty of snow there is, at any rate, in the country, where the fields have never lost their white mantle since the first fall occurred, the week before Christmas. Plenty of ice, too, is to be seen everywhere, somewhat too much in the roads, perhaps, to render them safe for travelling, either on foot or in a vehicle, and certainly too much in our pipes and cisterns for the householder's serenity of mind. At all events, the ice brings with it excitement enough for the ardent skater in the pursuance of his art, and anxiety enough for him, too, in the fluctuating condition of the thermometer and the ever varying direction of the wind.

The Railway Excursion Season of 1874 has been considered remarkably free from accidents, and there were hopes that, at last, a pretty successful effort had been made to lessen the chances of their occurrence; but within the last few days we have been startled by reports of a catastrophe at Shipton-on-Cherwell, which not only eclipses the memorable Thorpe accident in its appalling results, but is, possibly, the most terrible disaster in the railway annals of this country. If anything could possibly render this event especially harrowing, it is its occurrence at the present time of national festivity; Christmas holiday seekers forming the majority of the sufferers. The deaths, thus far, are reported at thirty-five, while considerably over fifty other persons have been more or less seriously injured. As to the cause of the accident, we prefer to be silent until the usual inquiry is completed by the officials of the Board of Trade. It is not a little singular that evils of this, as of other classes, rarely come singly. On the very day of the Shipton accident another occurred at the Albion Station, midway between Wolverhampton and Birmingham. Twenty-five passengers are reported to have been injured, of whom none, fortunately, were fatally hurt. Yet another was reported from the neighbourhood of Wigan, resulting in the death of one passenger, and the injury of twenty others. We need hardly complete the tale of disaster, but so heavy a chapter of accidents must render the Christmas of 1874 a sad epoch to many families.

Since the speech of the Duke of Cambridge, in responding to the toast of the Army, at the Merchant Taylors' Dinner, some ten days since, a great amount of correspondence has appeared in the daily press, respecting the condition of the British Army. Evidently, there is "something rotten in the state of Denmark," and we gather, that only two ways of combatting this unsatisfactory state of things suggest themselves. The first is—more pay; the second—the Conscription. His Royal Highness considers that an increase of pay will induce a better class of recruits to join the ranks; but then, as he very tersely puts it, "we must put our hands in our pockets." Certainly an increase in the army estimates (already over fourteen million pounds sterling) will horrify the parsimonious minds of our legislators, but the conscription, the only other alternative, will be still more distasteful to the nation. Thus we find ourselves, at the very outset, between the horns of a dilemma, from either of which it is difficult to see any means of escape. As to recruiting, there appears to be no lack of volunteers, who come forward in sufficient numbers, but, unhappily, appear to have a decided taste for deserting. It is hardly our province to judge as to the best means of effecting a remedy for this state of things, but we are patriotic enough to hope that the coming Session will not be allowed to pass without something being done to secure the greater efficiency of our Army.

Messrs. DUNVILLE AND CO. are the largest holders of Whisky in the world. Their Old Irish Whisky is recommended by the medical profession in preference to French Brandy. It is supplied in casks and cases for home use and exportation, and quotations may be had on application to Messrs. DUNVILLE & CO., Royal Irish Distilleries, Belfast; or at their London Office, 4 Beaufort Buildings, Strand, W.C.

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

On Thursday evening, our worthy brother, the Lord Mayor, and the Lady Mayoress gave a grand juvenile ball at the Mansion House, preceded by a reception. About 1,200 invitations had been given, and the company included most of the leading members and officers of the Corporation, and many of the principal citizens outside the Civic circle, with the younger branches of their respective families. The company began to arrive about half-past 7, and were received by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress in the Saloon. Shortly afterwards dancing commenced in the Egyptian-hall, which had been especially prepared for the occasion. At half-past 9 there was a very interesting exhibition of dissolving views in two series, the first of which comprised scenes and incidents in the history of ancient and modern London, and the second delineating many pleasing and humorous occurrences. At 10 o'clock supper was served, and dancing was resumed half an hour afterwards. On the ringing of a bell at a quarter to 12, the guests, in deference to the programme, grouped themselves in the Egyptian-hall, opposite the orchestra, the youngest in front and the elders behind. Perfect silence was then maintained, until the clock in the gallery struck the hour of 12, and the moment the last stroke had sounded the Royal Osborne Troupe of Handbell Ringers ushered in the new year with a merry peal, an arrangement which was not only novel in itself, but exceedingly pleasing in its general effect. At a quarter past 12 dancing was resumed and maintained for a considerable time, while in another part of the building the juvenile part of the company was interested and amused by "The Story of Dick Whittington" and "The Story of the Two Apprentices" (the latter from Hogarth), both being well told. At intervals a series of humorous and other pictures were exhibited, and the handbell ringers, or "campanologists," as they call themselves, played with marvellous effect many popular airs, among others "God bless the Prince of Wales," the Westminster Chimes Polka, "Home, sweet Home," with variations, the Huntsman's Chorus, "The Blue Bells of Scotland," "The March of the Men of Harlech," and a Scotch medley. Altogether the entertainment was one of the most pleasing which has been given at the Mansion House for many years, and the guests, especially the younger portion of them, appeared to enjoy themselves with great zest. During the evening the band of the Coldstream Guards played at intervals, under the direction of Mr. F. Godfrey.

The beginning of a new year is always a time for good resolutions and reforms. The Board of Works, determined not to be behindhand, have decided upon making numerous "alterations in the names of streets and numbering of houses within their jurisdiction." We hope that these alterations will not be carried on too recklessly, as many of our London streets by their names alone serve as easily accessible historical chronicles, and are indeed "sermons in stones" to those who have the wit to read them aright. There is no gift rarer, no art more subtle, than that of giving appropriate names. The French understand and cultivate it better than any other nation. They have graven the whole history of the Revolution in the local names of Paris, and they sweep away at a stroke the memory of an unpopular ruler by re-naming all the streets, squares, avenues and gardens, to which he has stood sponsor. But, unless it be to mark some such important change, social or political, why should the dwellers in certain districts be compelled to suffer the annoyance arising from the loss of letters, the confusion of parcels, the bewilderment of cab-drivers, and the thousand and one other inconveniences which a change of street-names or numbers invariably entails? Most of the changes proposed this year are trifling and unimportant; but if the first essential in a name is that it be distinctive it can hardly be wise to call any place Prince Arthur road. Prince Arthur has already, or will have ere long, nearly as many roads called after him as the great Pendragon himself has seats. The dwellers in Cow-lane however, seem to have some show of reason on their side in petitioning for a change of name, though in certain northern towns the "Cow Gate" has won for itself an ancient and honorable reputation; but after all "What's in a name?" If "that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," it is to be feared that a street with any other name may remain as dirty.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

We shall be greatly obliged if the Secretaries of the various Lodges throughout the kingdom would favour us with a copy of their summonses each time of issue.

SATURDAY, 2nd JANUARY.

Meeting of General Committee of Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4 p.m.

MONDAY, 4th JANUARY.

- 12. Fortitude and Old Cumberland, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
- 25. Robert Burn's, Freemasons' Hall.
- 72. Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
- 83. United Lodge of Prudence, Albion, Aldersgate-street.
- 144. St. Luke's, Masonic Hall, Mason's Avenue.
- 188. Joppa, Albion, Aldersgate-street.
- 1319. Asaph, Freemasons' Hall.
- R. A. 28. Old King's Arms, Freemasons' Hall.
- Mark, 139. Panmure, Batham Hotel, Balham.

TUESDAY, 5th JANUARY.

- Colonial Board at 3.
- 7. Royal York Lodge of Perseverance, Freemasons' Hall.
- 9. Albion, Freemason's Hall.
- 101. Temple, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
- 172. Old Concord, Freemasons' Hall.
- 765. St. James's, Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge.
- 1293. Royal Standard, Marquess Tavern, Canoabury.
- 1381. Kennington, Surrey Tavern, Kennington Oval.
- Mark, 1. St. Mark's Masonic Hall, Muson's Avenue, Basinghall-street.

WEDNESDAY, 6th JANUARY.

- 511. Zetland, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
- 1412. Logia de la Iberia, Hill Road, St. John's Wood.
- 1491. Atheneum, Camden-road, Holloway.

THURSDAY, 7th JANUARY.

- 192. Lion and Lamb, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
- 277. Ionic, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
- 231. St. Andrew's, Freemasons' Hall.
- 538. La Tolerance, Freemasons' Hall.
- 551. Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
- 1415. Prince Leopold, Lord Stanley Tavern, Sandringham-road.
- Rose Croix. St. George's, 33 Golden-square, London.

FRIDAY, 8th JANUARY.

- 134. Caledonian, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
- 157. Bedford, Freemasons' Hall.
- 177. Domatic, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
- 1420. Earl Spencer, Northcote Hotel, New Wandsworth.
- R. A. 33. Britannic, Freemasons' Tavern.
- Knight Templars Precep. D., Mount Calverley, or Early Grand Encampment of England, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.

SATURDAY, 9th JANUARY.

- Quarterly General Court Girls' Schools, Freemasons' Hall, at 12.0.
- 109. London, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
- 176. Caveac, Westminster Palace Hotel, Westminster.
- 1328. Trinity, Freemasons' Hall.
- 1361. United Service, Greyhound Hotel, Richmond.
- 1426. The Great City, City Terminus Hotel Cannon-street.
- 1457. Bagshaw, Bald Face-t Stag, Buckhurst Hill.
- R. A. 1293. Burdett, Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Grand Master's Lodge, No. 1.—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Monday 21st ult. Present—Bro. Colls P.G.S., W.M., Bro. G. Payne G.S. S.W., Bro. Girard P.G.W. Treasurer, Bro. J. M. Case P.G.S. Secretary, Bigg P.M., Bro. Alderman Sir F. Wyatt Truscott P.M., Bro. Sanderson P.G.M. (Bengal), Lunley, Mapleson, S. Rawson P.D.G.M. (China), Gooding, Paterson, Rev. E. Thompson D.D., L. C. Lunley, and several other brethren. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of last regular Lodge Meeting, and the Lodge of Emergency held on 6th June, were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Sir John Hawley Glover R.N., G.C.M.G., and Mr. H. S. Freeman, for initiation. Bro. the Right Honourable David Henry Stone (P.M.) the Lord Mayor of London, Bro. Signor Campobello and Bro. Giulio Perkins were elected Honorary Members. The Lodge was opened in 2nd and 3rd degrees, and Bro. Fenner was raised to sublime degree. The Lodge was resumed to 1st degree. Sir John H. Glover, being in attendance, was initiated into Freemasonry as an E.A., this Bro. is the Captain Glover who commanded the Naval Brigade, and whose oblique march from the Volta to Coomassie, which he reached a few hours after Sir Garnet Wolseley had left it, is one of the most dashing exploits in military history. He received for his services the Cross of the Bath. Mr. H. S. Freeman was next initiated as an E.A. Bro. G. Payne G.S. and S.W. was elected W.M., and Bro. Girard was re-elected Treasurer, for the forty-sixth time. The Tylers were re-elected. The Audit Committee were appointed. The Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to banquet.

St. John's Lodge, No. 90.—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Monday, 14th ult. Present—Bros. J. K. Rumford W.M.; Wetherall S.W.; Snelling J.W.; Penn S.D.; Stormer J.D.; Robson I.G. pro tem.; Bros. J. Eg'cse P.M. Treasurer; T. P. Griffin P.M. Secretary; P.M.'s Griffin, McDorgal, Stevens, W. S. Adam; Bros. Hoard, Cross, Allison, Margetson, Pearce, Colpoys, Meyrick, and several other brethren. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The Lodge was opened in second degree, and Bro. Cross having proved his proficiency in that degree, the Lodge was opened in third degree, and Bro. Cross was raised to the sublime degree. The Lodge resumed in first degree. Bro. Wetherall S.W. was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, Bro. Egelse P.M. re-elected Treasurer. A P.M.'s jewel was voted to the outgoing W.M. for his services. The Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to

banquet, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to; the Tyler's toast having been given, the coffee was brought in, and the brethren departed, much pleased with their evening's enjoyment.

Lodge of Justice, No. 147.—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting at the White Swan Tavern, High Street, Deptford, on Wednesday, 9th ult. There was a goodly muster of the brethren. Bros. C. G. Dilley (P.M.) W.M., J. Roper S.W., Golding J.W., Speight S.D., Church J.D., Bro. Chapman (P.M.) Secretary; Bros. G. Bolton P.M., Batt P.M., Patte P.M., Andrews P.M., Cavell P.M., Bartlett, P.M.; Bros. Wyatt, Bray, Thomas, Beckett, Mills, Endicott, Clarke, Munro, Hutchins, Hurdle, Knowles, Kennett, and several others. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of last Lodge read and confirmed. The Lodge was opened in second degree; Bro. S. Wyatt was passed to the degree of F.C. The Lodge was opened in third degree, and Bro. J. Bates, of Excelsior Lodge, No. 1155, was raised to the sublime degree. The Lodge was resumed in first degree, and the election of W.M. took place; the voting was unanimous in favour of Bro. Roper S.W. Bro. Bartlett, I.P.M., was elected Treasurer. A sum of money was voted to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons, and the Audit Committee having been appointed, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet.

Temperance Lodge, No. 169.—A meeting of this Lodge took place at the White Swan Tavern, High street, Deptford, on Thursday, 17th ult. Present—Bro. Littlecott (P.M.) W.M., Dingle S.W., Rosenstock (P.M.) J.W. pro tem. Bro. Neale S.D., Bro. (P.M.'s), G. Brown, Treasurer; Tibbles, Secretary; G. Bolton, N. Wingfield; Bros. Cooper, Fredham, Morgan, Bryan, Beddoe, Umfreville, Harris, Hitley, Wingfield jun., Tibbles jun., Murray, Sanderson, Stevens and several other brethren. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. The Lodge was opened in second degree, and Bros. Sanderson, Stevens and Murray were passed. The Lodge was opened in third degree, and Bros. Umfreville, Beddoe and Brian were raised to the sublime degree. The Lodge was closed to first degree. Bro. Dingle was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. G. Brown (P.M.) Treasurer. Ten pounds was voted to the Institution for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons, and, the Lodge being closed, an adjournment took place to an excellent banquet, provided by Mrs. Porter, to which forty brethren did ample justice.

Domatic Lodge.—A meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Friday, the 11th December, Bro. Fredk. Kent W.M., Bro. G. Everett S.W., Bro. A. Treadwell J.W., Bro. J. Smith (P.M.), P.G.P., &c. Treasurer, Bro. Willing W.M. (Metropolitan Lodge) Secretary, Bro. Palmer J.D., &c., Bro. J. Brett (P.M.), P.G.P., Bro. Times (P.M.), Bro. Ferguson (P.M.), Bro. Vivian Douglass, &c., &c. Bros. Potter and Vivian were duly raised to the third degree; and Bros. E. W. Kent, Tribe and Richards were passed to the second degree. Messrs. Isenstein, Harris and Holder were initiated into ancient Freemasonry. After the ceremonies had been performed in the efficient manner, customary to this Lodge, the brethren proceeded to elect the W.M. for the ensuing year, and the S.W. (Bro. G. Everett) was declared duly elected to fill that office. Bro. J. Smith (P.M.) was then re-elected Treasurer, and the brethren signifying their high appreciation of his long and meritorious services, Bro. Daley was re-elected Tyler. The annual audit committee was then appointed, and the brethren afterwards adjourned to a banquet, at which, during the evening, a new Masonic Song—"Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again," of the W.M.'s, was ably sung, and gave great satisfaction. A large number of visitors enjoyed the hospitality of the Lodge. The installation will take place on Friday, the 8th January 1875.

Industry Lodge, No. 186.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge, lately held at Mason's Hall, but now removed to the Cave Restaurant, 2 Victoria Chambers, met as above, Bro. D. D. Beck W.M. being absent, Bro. Say I.P.M. fulfilled the duties of the chair perfectly, the various degrees being delivered by him in such an able manner as to be a credit to the Lodge, and at a later period of the evening, to judge by the manner in which the newly initiated Brother, in the course of his speech, paid him a very excellent compliment, in which the brethren heartily concurred, was a sufficient guarantee how the duties of the Lodge were carried out, in which he was ably supported by Bro. Wylie S.W., and W.M. elect, G. Dyer J.W., and that well known and respected Brother, W. Mann P.M., secretary; Dyer J.W., Black J.D., T. S. Mortlock and Nokemer. The Lodge was opened, and Bros. Fox, Downie, Phelps and Robinson were raised to the 3rd degree, and Messrs. R. Allison and Black were initiated. The brethren then adjourned to slight refreshments, and the W.M. prop sed the usual toasts. Bro. Cooke, the Organist, not only sang some very excellent songs, but rendered his valuable services in such a manner as to give a degree of solemnity to the proceedings. Bro. H. M. Levy P.M. 188 was present as a visitor.

Lodge of Joppa, No. 188.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, Dec. 7, at the Albion, Aldersgate Street, City. The W.M., Bro. Obed Roberts, in the chair, — Hickman S.W., A. Dodson J.W., L. Auerhaan Treasurer, E. P. Albert (P.M.) Secretary, L. Lazarus S.D., — Miller J.D., and P.M.'s H. Berkowitz, L. Alexander, M. Alexander, J. Abrahams and H. M. Levy. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. P. Henningson (Grand Orient) was elected a joining member. Bro. Isaac was passed to the second degree, and Bros. J. Levi, Botibol and A. Moore were raised to the third degree, the ceremonies being perfectly worked by the W.M. Messrs. S. Botibol, J. Botibol and E. J. Samuels were initiated into the Order, the two latter gentlemen (by the courtesy of the W.M.) by Bro. H. M. Levy, P.M. The election for W.M. then took place, and Bro. S. Hickman S.W. was unanimously elected. Bro. Auerhaan Treasurer, and Woodstock

Tyler. The Audit Committee was elected, also Trustees for the Benevolent Fund. A sum of £5 5s was proposed for the purpose of presenting the retiring W.M. with a testimonial, for his able working and thoroughly efficient qualities during his occupation of the chair, which was liberally augmented by the brethren, and a committee was formed for that purpose. The Lodge was closed, and the brethren partook of a slight repast. The usual loyal and masonic toasts were given. Bro. L. Alexander P.M. responded for the "Benevolent Fund," and he stated that the newly initiated brethren had liberally subscribed. The toast of the W.M. was received with enthusiasm. The toasts of the newly initiated, W.M. elect, and officers followed, also that of the visitors, responded to by Bros. Swallow W.M. 382 and Scott P.M. 749. The W.M. said he had a pleasing duty to perform, and although out of the ordinary routine, he was sure it would be cordially received, and that was the health of the worthy manager, Bro. W. Jennings, whom he stated was a good mason, and one who looked after their comfort, to the satisfaction of every brother and visitor. The same remarks apply to Bro. Keeping, who was following in his footsteps. Bro. Jennings having replied, the brethren separated, after passing a very agreeable evening. The visitors were Bros. C. Gammon P.M. and Treasurer 795, J. E. Crump 122, E. J. Scott P.M. 749, Swallow W.M. 382, Moore 1,017, Van Noorden, Organist 188, Van Minden 205, Cohen 205, and Prager 15.

Confidence Lodge, No. 193.—The installation meeting of this Lodge—celebrated for its perfect working—was held on Monday, the 14th December, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. Bros. H. Webb W.M., J. B. King S.W., — Bonny J.W., and P.M.'s W. F. Rogers, S. Webb, Kershaw and Shackell. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. H. Goddard (late 193) was elected a joining member. Messrs. Rutherford and Wood were initiated, and Bros. Craske and Dewar were raised to the sublime degree of master masons. A board of installed masters was formed, and Bro. King S.W. and W.M. elect was duly installed into the chair by Bro. W. F. Rogers, who elicited the warmest marks of encomium from every brother and visitor. The W.M. having been saluted according to ancient custom, invested his Officers, viz., Bros. H. Webb I.P.M., — Bonny S.W., — Reed J.W., — Warne (P.M.) Treasurer, J. Rogers (P.M.) Secretary (who had occupied that position for 30 years), — Tithian S.D., — Pringle J.D., — Lugg I.G., S. Webb P.M. D.C., and — Ryley (Tyler). Bro. D. B. Kershaw P.M. having announced his intention to become a steward at the forthcoming festival for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons, a sum of £5 was voted from the Lodge to be placed on his list, which was liberally augmented by the brethren. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to a very capital banquet, provided by Bro. Clemow, and superintended by Bro. W. Smith, that gave great satisfaction. The regular toasts were given, both loyal and Masonic. Bro. Webb, in proposing the toast of the W.S., stated the Lodge never placed any brother in the chair, and he was proud to say the W.M. was well qualified to carry out those duties. The W.M. having replied, proposed the toast of the "Past Masters," and coupled with it the name of Bro. H. Webb I.P.M., on whose breast he was pleased to place a very elegant gold Past Master's Jewel, the gift of the Lodge for their regard and esteem, for his perfect working during his year of office. The toast of the visitors was severally responded to, these were Bros. Fox P.M. 19, J. C. Roe J.W. 730, J. H. Sutton 1287, Perrin 1056, J. W. Avery P.M., King 436 (Australia), Curtis 180, Myers 438, J. H. Staton 1287, Cook 463, and H. M. Levy P.M. The Tyler's toast concluded a very agreeable evening, which was enlivened by the splendid singing of Bros. S. Webb, H. Webb, F. Rogers, and Perrin.

Mundy Grove Lodge, No. 506.—The 30th anniversary of this Lodge was celebrated at the Boat Inn, Shipley, on Tuesday, the 29th ult., when Bro. G. R. Turner was duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. The impressive ceremony of installation was ably performed by Bro. J. Farnsworth P.M. and P.P.G.J.D. of the province. The W.M. appointed as his officers the following brethren, Bros. R. Pender S.W.; G. Bingham J.W.; James Noon Treasurer; C. Askew Secretary; S. Durose S.D.; J. Archbold J.D.; W. Dixon I.G.; W. Braithwaite Steward. After the conclusion of the usual business, the brethren sat down to a substantial dinner, provided by Bro. Noon, and an agreeable evening was spent.

Whittington Lodge, No. 862.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held, on the 21st ult., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. Bros. A. R. Halcy W.M., Kingston S.W., Walker J.W., Robt. Wentworth Little P.M. Treasurer, Pritchard S.D., Walmsley J.D., Moore I.G., J. Brett P.G., P.W.S., and P.M.'s James Weaver, Smith, Jones, and about twenty brethren present. The Lodge having been opened, and the minutes confirmed, Mr. G. Oberli was initiated into the Order. Bro. James Weaver P.M. then passed Bros. Beldan, Webb, May, J. S. Brown, Williams and Hum in a perfect manner. A distressed brother was relieved from the funds of the Lodge, with the sum of two guineas. A gentleman was proposed for initiation at the next meeting. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to a very excellent banquet, and the toasts were given as usual—both Loyal and Masonic. The visitors were Bros. Everitt 177, Stephens P.M. 1,489, High 1,489 and Peters W.M. 262.

Whittington Chapter, No. 862.—An emergency meeting of this new Chapter was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. Comp. W. Hurstone Z., W. J. Hurlstone, W. Stephens J., J. Weaver, P.Z.S.E. The Chapter was opened and the following brethren being present were duly exalted into Royal Arch Masonry, viz., Bros. J. Murles 1365 and J.W. 1489; T. Jessett 1365 and S.D. 1489; and W. H. Norman, No. 39. The Chapter was then closed. The companions present were J. Weaver, P.Z., J. Brett, P.Z., R. W. Little, P.Z., Stephens, Kingston and Tinney.

Strawberry Hill Lodge, No. 946.—On Wednesday, 9th December, a meeting was held at the Grotto Hotel, Twicken-

ham. W. Waghorn W.M., J. Hayward S.W., — Johnson J.W., J. R. Stedwell (P.M.) Treasurer; W. Platt (P.M.) Treasurer; — Wolgemuth J.D., — Javier I.G., P.M.'s Kipling, W. Smeed, Whitley and W. Watson. The business consisted of raising Bros. Ashton, Webb and Salmon to the third degree, and initiating Mr. Rawes into the Order. The working of the W.M. deserved great praise, and is worthy of imitation, for so young a member of the Order. The Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet. The usual routine toasts were given. Bro. W. Smeed (P.M.), in returning thanks for the Past Masters, in the course of a very eloquent speech, paid the W.M., Bro. Waghorn, a just compliment for his perfect rendering of the ceremonies. The Tyler's toast concluded a very agreeable evening. The visitors were Bros. Ireton (Ebury Lodge), Edwards and Powell.

Lodge of Montefiore, No. 1017.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, on Wednesday, 9th December. Bro. J. De Solla in the chair. — Gruinbaum S.W., — Blum J.W., supported by the officers and P.M.'s, Bro. Blumenthal, — Pollitzer, J. Lazarus, and S. V. Abrahams. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. Ososki, No. 25, was elected a joining member, and Bros. Cave and Wilson were passed to the second degree. A Board of Installed Masters was then formed, and Bro. Gruinbaum S.W. and W.M. elect was presented to the Lodge, and the ceremony of installation was beautifully and perfectly rendered by Bro. S. P. Abrahams (P.M.). The W.M. then invested his officers, viz., Bro. J. De Solla I.P.M., — Blum S.W., V. Myers J.W., L. Jacobs Treasurer, E. P. Albert (P.M.) Treasurer, — Gulliford S.D., — Albu J.D., — Ring I.G., — Salomons D.C., — Ellis W.S. — Hirshfield Organist, and — Smith Tyler. The Lodge was then called off, and the brethren sat down to a Banquet à la Russe, provided by Bro. Francatelli, and superintended by Bro. Knill, the courteous manager, that gave great satisfaction. The loyal and masonic toasts were given, including the usual routine toasts. Bro. J. De Solla, the I.P.M., was presented with a jewel by Bro. O. Roberts W.M. 188. Arthur Levy returned thanks for the visitors, who were Bros. Seymour 736, J. H. Ryley 188, O. Roberts W.M. 188, J. E. Woolf No. 1, J. Emanuel W.M. 205, C. Hogard P.M. 205, H. G. Buss Grand Treasurer (Middlesex), P. E. Van Noorden 188, — Robson 90, A. Hirsch 188, — Such 890, Dispeker 73, &c. A very excellent concert was provided by Bro. P. E. Van Noorden, Miss Leonora Braham, Mr. Prenton, A. Mori, and a violin solo was capably played by a pupil of Bro. Van Noorden.

St. Peter's Lodge, Tiverton, No. 1125.—The annual meeting of this Lodge, for the installation of the W.M. elect, and the appointment and investment of officers, was held at the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday, 30th December, Bro. J. B. Patterson W.M., presiding. Bro. Thomas Parkhouse (the W.M. elect), was duly presented and installed; the service throughout being performed in a faultless manner by the retiring W.M. The following officers were appointed and invested:—Bros. C. A. W. Troyte S.W.; Walter H. Reed jun. J.W.; Rev. J. Dickinson Chaplain; H. S. Gill Treasurer; James Mills P.M., P.G.O., Secretary; G. W. Cockram S.D.; William Bartlett J.D.; T. F. Mead I.G.; J. B. Crabb D.C.; A. Andrews Org.; Joseph Searle and John Melhuish Stewards; John Patey Tyler; Bro. Thomas Parkhouse W.M. Representative on Board of Petitions. After the closing of the Lodge, the brethren adjourned to banquet at Bro. Woods, White Ball Hotel, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Golden Rule Lodge, No. 1261.—This Lodge held its meeting at the Regent Masonic Hall, Air Street, Regent Street, on Tuesday, 1st ult. Present—Bros. J. Harris W.M., W. W. Smith S.W., J. Williams J.W., Bro. Bigg I.P.M. and Treasurer, A. Torkington, Secretary; Bros. J. P. Godfrey S.D., Stanley P.M., Cross P.M., James Fabian P.P.G., W. Hants, Hibbert, A. G. Sharpe, and several other brethren. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Messrs. Francis Deane, G. J. Simpson, J. Levy and A. Curtis, for initiation, which was unanimous in their favour. A ballot was taken for Bro. J. Davis, of No. 487, and A. G. Sharpe, as joining members. Messrs. Deane and Levy, being in attendance, were initiated into Freemasonry as E.A. The election of W.M. then took place, when the choice of the brethren was unanimous in favour of Bro. W. W. Smith, the S.W. Bro. Bigg I.P.M. was elected Treasurer. The Lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to banquet, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. Bro. Cross returned thanks for the P.M.'s, and Bro. Smith, the W.M. elect, for the officers.

Brownrigg Lodge, No. 1424.—The installation meeting of this Lodge, named after Major Gen. Brownrigg, the Provincial Grand Master of Surrey, who consecrated it two years ago, was held at the Soldiers' Institute, Chatham. Master Chapter J. A. Bates, R.A., the Master of the Lodge, installed his successor, Staff Sergeant John Jervis, in the Master's chair; and after the new officers of the Lodge had been invested, Past Masters' jewels were presented to Quarter-master S. Cole, Royal Engineers, the first Master of the Lodge, and Master Gunner Bates. A large company of military and other brethren were present on the occasion, who were entertained at a banquet subsequently; and when the toasts were given, Mr. F. Binckes, a past Grand Steward and Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, made a strong appeal on behalf of the three Masonic Charitable Institutions, which, he said, provided for the aged, and boarded, clothed, and educated the young.

Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507.—The third meeting of this flourishing Lodge took place on Thursday evening, the 18th December, at the Metropolitan Club, 269 Pentonville Road, Kings Cross, when, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, a large muster of the brethren took place. The working and the whole of the ceremonies were conducted in a most impressive manner. Bros. J. Willing W. M. (in the chair), J. J. Michael S.W., T. Williams J.W.,

G. Tims Secretary, H. Child S.D., R. T. Kingham J.D., J. Donaldson I.G., R. Fowler D.C., also Bros. Rapkin, Scales, Hopton, Stiles Colls, Cheek, Maples, Page, Clarke, Cavet, Jones, Cook, Titford, Dunmore, &c. The visitors were Bros. Jones, Yeats, Dav, &c. Bros. Rapkin, Stiles and Scales were duly raised to the third degree, and Bros. Hopton, Jones, Jackson and Cook passed. Mr. Trimmings (Holloway), Mr. Tuck (Metropolitan Board of Works), Mr. Brunell (Surveyor, Kentish Town), and Mr. Bunkill, were initiated, in an admirable manner, into the mysteries and privileges of Ancient Freemasonry. The brethren, 39 in number, adjourned to the banquet, and the W.M. proposed the usual toasts. This being a new Lodge, Bro. Tims, Secretary and P.M., in proposing the toast of the W.M., alluded to its prosperous state, both in numbers and financially, the furniture having been completed and paid for (cheers), which is highly commendable in a Lodge so short a period in existence. The W.M., in proposing the toast of the Initiates, exhorted them, in forcible terms, to perfect themselves. They should attend Lodges of Instruction, and brethren who held high offices in the Craft were always ready and willing to impart their knowledge for their benefit, so that they were able to acknowledge their being members of the Order without violating their obligations, and he informed them that the veteran Preceptor, Bro. T. Adams P.G.P., had consented to give them instruction, should they wish to do so. The various toasts having been responded to, the brethren separated. An harmonious and agreeable evening was passed, and it is to be hoped that meetings will in future take place within the precincts of places where Freemasonry can be carried out in its entirety, viz., by perfect working, and in an establishment like this club, where a social evening can be enjoyed.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—*Hale Constitution.*—When the human frame has become debilitated, from the effects of exposure, excesses or neglect, these Pills will repair the mischief, if they be taken according to the lucid directions wrapped round each box. Holloway's Pills exert the most exemplary tonic qualities in all cases of nervous depression, whereby the vital powers are weakened, and the circulation is rendered languid and unsteady. They improve the appetite, strengthen the digestion, regulate the liver, and act as gentle aperients. These Pills are suited to all ages and all habits, and their inventor's fame has resounded through all the quarters of the globe; wherever sickness exists, this medicine has made its way, to be everywhere largely approved and justly appreciated.

SCOTLAND.

FESTIVAL OF ST JOHN'S DAY.

ACCORDING to use and wont, the brethren of the Masonic Craft met in their respective lodge-rooms on Monday night, 28th December, to celebrate the time honoured festival of St. John the Evangelist, and to instal their office bearers for the ensuing year. In the metropolitan district most of the lodge-rooms were suitably decorated for the occasion. The annual election and installation of office bearers having been duly accomplished, the members of the various lodges dined together in joyous fellowship, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and honoured after the manner of the craft, and the time devoted to social intercourse, agreeably interspersed with jest and song. In the course of the evening the time honoured custom of lodges sending deputations to one another was punctiliously carried out, and many good wishes were thus sent round and mutual congratulations exchanged among the brethren.

The following is a list of the principal office-bearers, of the lodges in Edinburgh and Leith for the year 1875:—

Mary's Chapel, No. 1.—R. W. M., Bailie Muirhead; P.M., Bro. Abbott; D.M., Bro. Roy; S.M., Bro. Dr. Dickson; S.W., Bro. Nightingale; J.W., Bro. Shires; Treasurer, Bro. Campbell; Secretary, Bro. Webster; Chaplain, Bro. W. H. Cave Brown; S.D., Bro. Macdonald; J.D., Bro. Crichton; Bible-bearer, Bro. Jamieson; Jeweller, Bro. Law; Architect, Bro. Councillor Hall.

Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2.—R.W.M., Brother Schopp; D.M., Dr. Middleton; S.W., Page Cotton; J.W., A. W. Beda; Treasurer, Thomas Dryborough; Secretary, William Munro.

Canongate and Leith, L. and C., No. 5.—R.W.M., Bro. Ebenezer Drummond; P.M., John Laurie; D.M., George Hodson; S.M., David Laird; S.W., Edwin Milner; J.W., Robert Stodart; Treasurer, William R. Kelly; Secretary, William Ross; Chaplain, Rev. William Graham; S.D., Robert Gray; J.D., Henry Caron; Architect, Charles R. Sey; B.B., Alexander R. Brown; Poet Laureate, Peter Gardner.

J Journeyman, No. 8.—R.W.M., Bro. P. Sinclair; P.M., H. R. Hendrie; S.W., J. Ronaldson; J.W., James Kerr; Treasurer, William Barton; Secretary, J. Cameron; S.D., W. Stevenson; J.D., R. Kerr; Chaplain, J. Davidson; S.M., G. Douglas; D.M., H. Munro; Mark Master, J. M'Pherson.

St. Luke, No. 44.—R.W.M., Bro. H. Y. D. Copeland; D.M., H. L. Harvey; S.M., P. J. Mansfield; S.W., H. E. Gordon; J.W., G. Dunlop; Secretary and Treasurer, J. H. Bostock; Chaplains, Rev. W. H. Gray, D.D., and Rev. A. T. Grant; S.D., Harry J. Anderson; J.D., W. H. Mackenzie.

St. Andrew, No. 48.—R.W.M., Bro. Dr. Wm. Hammond; S.M., Dr. James Carmichael; D.M., Dr. W. S. Carmichael; S.W., A. C. Edmunds; J.W., J. C. Pottage; Secretary, David Knight.

St. James, No. 97.—R.W.M. Bro. Robert Gordon; P.M., Dr. J. R. Turnbull; D.M., Samuel Aitken; S.M., D. Macdonald; S.W., John Swan; J.W., H. Macpherson; Treasurer, William Hannah; Secretary, Thomas Millar; S.D., John Hall; J.D., William R. Niven; Architect, David Small; Chaplain, James Fowler; Bible-Bearer, J. Wilson; Bard, B. Napier.

St. Stephen, No. 145.—R.W.M., Bro. R. Wadler; P.M., R. S. Brown; D.M., J. Walker; S.M., D. M. Scott; S.W., W. W. Mooney; J.W., J. Amos; Treasurer, J. Brown; Secretary, W. Greig; Chaplain

A. Reynolds; S.D., J. A. Mooney; J.D., W. Young; Architect, G. W. Heywood; B.B., W. C. Linton.

Defensive Band, No. 151.—R.W.M., Bro. George Botland; P.M., D. Palmer; D.M., J. Beveridge; S.M., Daniel Grant; S.W., Thos. Ritchie; J.W., W. D. Crumond; S.D., A. Smith; J.D., J. Clarke; Treasurer, S. K. Orr; Secretary, W. Bisset; Chaplain, Rev. Porland, M.A.; Bible-bearer, D. Ross, sen.

Roman Eagle, No. 160.—R.W.M., Bro. G. Laing; P.M., Dr. Cairns; D.M., W. Stevenson, M.A.; S.M., J. Mann; S.W., B. Miller; J.W., T. Wilmett; Treasurer, W. Anderson; Secretary A. Scott; Chaplain, J. Cowan, sen.: S.D., A. R. Peacock; J.D., W. Newsam; Architect, J. R. McCall; B.B., H. Gray; Poet Laureate, J. Smith.

Trafalgar, No. 223.—R.W.M., Bro. A. Wallace, S.S.C., 11 Claremont-park; P.M., R. Scott, 141 Constitution-street; D.M., D. Stalker, 9 Commercial-street; S.M., P. Bell, Restalrig-terrace; S.W., W. Barry, 84 Constitution-street; J.W., D. Turner, 11 Dock-place; Treasurer, A. Hov, 7 Janefield-place; Secretary, J. Johnston, 50 Duke-street; S.D., R. Hamilton; J.D., J. Hadden; Architect, G. Kemp; Chaplain, Rev. A. S. Muir; B.B., T. Leslie.

Celtic, No. 291.—R.W.M., Bro. J. D. Wormald; P.M., David Kinnear; L.T.P.M., Christopher Thomson; D.M., George McLean; S.M., George Cotton; S.W., George G. Russell; J.W., J. Henderson (Annville); Treasurer, Alexander Hay; Secretary, James Walker; Chaplain, David Nimmo; S.D., Donald McKay (late Scots Greys); J.D., David Nimmo, jun.; Poet Laureate, F. W. Bridgeman.

St. Clair, No. 349.—R.W.M., Bro. G. Dobie; P.M., Alexander Henry; S.M., John Dawson; S.W., James Greenaway; J.W., Robert Hogg; Treasurer, A. M. Bruce; Secretary, John Taylor; Chaplain, James Clark; S.D., M. Schnitzler; J.D., F. W. Dobie; B.B., James Small.

GREENOCK.

On Monday night, 28th December, the anniversary of St. John was celebrated in Greenock by a dinner in the White Hart Hotel, and by a like entertainment in the Chambers. Both were well attended, and the usual list of speeches was gone through. The Greenock St. John Lodge, No. 175, opened a lodge at a subsequent stage in the proceedings in Exchange Buildings, and received delegations from Paisley, Port-Glasgow, and other places.

MELROSE.

The festival was celebrated at Melrose in the usual manner, on Monday 28th December. About 120 members of the order formed into a procession, and, preceded by the Hawick brass band, marched twice along the streets, on the latter occasion carrying blazing torches. The illumination of the Abbey was the chief attraction, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the chancel and aisles were crowded, while the band played "Scots wha hae" near the spot where the heart of Bruce was deposited.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—*Civil Service Gazette*. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., Homeopathic Chemists, 48, Threadneedle Street, and 170, Piccadilly." Also, makers of Epps's Glycerine Jujubes, for throat irritation.

OBITUARY FOR 1874.

THE following list, from the *Times* of 31st ult., of some of the principal deaths that have occurred during the past year, although containing fewer names than many of its predecessors, must be considered as far from brief.

In Royal circles, the following deaths have occurred:—The Archduke Carl Ferdinand, of Austria; the Countess de Montemolin, mother of Don Carlos; and the King of the Sandwich Islands.

Twenty seven deaths, being considerably above the average, have occurred in the Peerage, viz:—The Duke of Leinster; the Marquises of Downshire and Clanricarde; the Earls of Dalhousie, Castle Stewart, Romney, Egmont, Annesley, Charleville, Howth, and the Countess (in her own right) of Landoun; Lords Blayney, Colonsay, De Ros, Fermoy, Forester, Kesteven, Kingsale, Macdonald, Massey, Romilly, Rossmore, St. John, Sondes, Stuart de Deces, Thurlow, and the Baroness de Clifford. Out of the above-named titles, two are presumed to have become extinct—namely, those of Blayney and Colonsay.

The deaths of 37 baronets have to be recorded, viz:—Sir William K. Ball, Sir Edmund Beckett, Sir T. W. Proctor-Beauchamp, Sir G. Cholmley, Sir George Campbell of Snecoth, Sir William Forster, Sir Walter Carew, General Sir James C. Chatterton, Sir William Fairbairn, Sir Robert C. Dallas, Sir Montague G. Cholmley, Sir Stephen R. Glynn, Sir A. S. Hamond-Grome, Sir William Jardine, Sir Thomas J. Kemp, Sir Thomas W. Holburne, Sir Denis Le Marchant, Sir John K. James, Sir William R. Kemp, the Rev. Sir James Walker King, Sir Percy Nugent, Sir Henry Oglander, Sir Richard Musgrave, Sir E. H. Page-Turner, Sir Coventry Payne, Sir John de la Pole, Sir F. Montagu Pollock, Sir E. Sendamore-Stanhope, Sir Clande E. Scott, Sir Alexander Spearman, the Hon. and Rev. Sir Francis Stapleton, Sir Henry Webb, Sir Henry Meysey-Thompson, Sir John Walsham, Sir Archdale Wilson of Delhi, Sir William S. Wiseman, and Sir John R. Wolseley. Out of the above titles those of Ball, Chatterton, Holburne, Glynne, Oglander and Webb have become extinct.

From the roll of the British Knighthood, the following names disappear:—Sir John Benson, Sir William H. Bodkin, Sir William Boyd, General Sir Sydney Cotton, G.C.B., Sir William H. Elliot, Sir Charles Fox, Sir Charles R. M. Jackson, Sir J. Gaspard Le Marchant, General the Hon. Sir James Lindsay, Sir James Duncan Macpherson,

Sir James Ranald Martin, Sir William Martins, Sir Alexander Nisbet, Sir Andrew Orr, Sir William Perry, Admiral Sir Henry Prescott, Sir John Rennie, Sir Thomas Ross, Sir Joshua Rowe, Sir Robert Smart, Sir John Mark Frederick Smith, Sir Francis Pettit Smith, Sir Henry Storks, Sir Roger Therry, Sir Henry Tombs, and Sir Edward Samuel Walker.

Four vacancies have occurred by death in the House of Commons since the general election, viz.:—Mr. Charles Gilpin (Northampton), Mr. John Laird (Birkenhead), Lord George Manners (Cambridgeshire), Mr. Edward G. Davenport (St. Ives).

Among the members of former Parliaments who have died during the year are the Right Hon. F. P. Dunne, Mr. William Stuart, of Aldenham Abbey; Lieutenant-Colonel Packe; Mr. Morriss, of Rokeby; Mr. Alexander Dennistoun, Mr. Donald Maclean, Mr. William D. Christie, Mr. Benjamin Bond Cabell, Mr. Henry Peters Burton, Mr. John Cotes, Sir George Cholmley, Baron Meyer de Rothschild, Mr. John Greenwood, Colonel Henry Salway, Mr. John Candlish, the Hon. George Fitzwilliam, Mr. C. Wynne Finch, Sir William Bodkin, Mr. Adam Black, Sir James Lindsay, the Earl of Egmont (Captain G. Perceval), Mr. Francis Finch, Mr. John Lee Lee, Mr. Alderman Challis, the Earl of Romney (Lord Marsham), Sir Henry Storks, Mr. Edward R. Langworthy, Colonel Ouseley Higgins, Sir Stephen Glynne, Sir Edmund Beckett, Mr. Sackville Lane-Fox, Colonel the Hon. John C. Westenra, Mr. W. Hughes-Hughes, Sir Percy Nugent, and Sir H. M. Thompson.

Among the most remarkable diplomatists and other foreign celebrities we have had to record the deaths of M. Silvain Van do Weyer, the Duc de Montebello, M. Guizot, M. Michelet, Marshal Thiebault, Count Randolph Wratislaw, M. Huet, Countess Brunnnow, Countess Danner (morganatic widow of the King of Sweden), Mr. Fillmore, ex-President of the United States; Mr. Charles Sumner, David F. Straus (author of the celebrated "Leben Jesu"), Countess Apponyi, Councillors Von Krauss and Von Balan, of Berlin; M. Beulé, Count Simeon (Senator and Translator of "Horace"), M. de Gonard, Count Luders, Prince Pignatelli, Baron Anselm de Rothschild, the Baron Valetin do Trevis, Nicolo Tommaso, Marshal Concha, of Spain; Count D'Alton Shee, Prince Domenico Orsini, Countess Virginia M. Orsili (niece of the Pope), Count de Labedoyere (ex-Senator), M. N. Mavrocordato, the financier; Prince Sayn Wittgenstein Hohenstein, of Prussia; Count de Thenx de Meylandt, formerly Prime Minister of Belgium.

In the profession of the law we have had to record the deaths of Lord Colonsay, Sir William Bodkin, Mr. Abraham Brewster (formerly Lord Chancellor of Ireland), Lord Romilly, Mr. Charles Austin, Q.C., Mr. P. F. O'Malley, Q.C., Mr. Dempster Hemming, Mr. Herman Merivale, Mr. Horace Lloyd (Police Magistrate at Greenwich), the Hon. Edward Twisleton, Mr. Leahy, Q.C., Sir Charles Jackson (late Judge at Calcutta), Mr. H. Robinson, Q.C., Mr. Cosmo N. Innes, Mr. Christopher Hodgson, Mr. J. C. Templer, Mr. C. Wordsworth, Q.C., and Lord Benholme (the Scotch Judge).

Among the clergy and ministers of various denominations we have to record the deaths of the Bishop of Kilmore (Dr. Carson), the

ex-Bishop of Bombay (Dr. Harding), Archdeacon Churton, Monsignor Merode, the Rev. W. H. Brookfield, (preacher of the Rolls Chapel), Cardinal Barnabo, the Rev. Hobart Seymour, the Archdeacon (Clark) of St. David's, the Rev. Dr. Biber, the Rev. Edmund Keel, of Southampton; the Rev. W. Hicks, the Rev. Dr. Binney, Cardinal Tarquini, the ex-Bishop of Winchester (Dr. Sumner), the Bishop of Ossory and Ferns (Dr. O'Brien), the Rev. Professor Foley, of Dublin; the Archbishop of Malta, the Rev. Canon Woodgate, the Rev. Thomas Vogan, the Rev. Canon Richson, Father La Vigne, Vicar-General of Nice; the Rev. Dr. Sewell, and Archdeacon Ormerod, the Rev. Henry Highton, the Dean of Derry, the Dean of Armagh, the ex-Bishop of Gibraltar (the Hon. and Right Rev. Dr. Harris), and the Rev. E. Bouvier.

Literature and the drama have lost representatives, more or less important, in M. Guizot, Mr. Shirley Brooks, Mr. Bellew (the popular lecturer), Mr. John Heneage Jesse, Miss Agnes Strickland, Mr. James Hannay, Mr. Tom Hood, M. Sylvain Van de Weyer, Mr. Albert Way, F.S.A., Mr. John Gough Nichols, F.S.A., Mr. Howard Staunton, Mr. Adam Black (publisher), Mr. Sydney Dobell, Mr. Thomas Miller (the basket-maker poet), Mr. John Blackie (publisher), Mdlle. Aimée Desclée, Mr. W. II. Betty (the "youthful Roscius"), Dr. Charles T. Beke, Mr. Henry Godwin, F.S.A., Mr. Charles Swain, John Moultrie (the poet), and Mrs. Marsh Caldwell.

From the world of art we have lost Mr. John Pye (the "father of landscape engravers"), Mr. Field Talfourd, Mr. David Simson, of Edinburgh; Wilhelm von Kaulbach, of Munich; Mr. W. Telbin, Mr. Kenny Meadows, Mr. J. H. Foley (the sculptor), Mr. Robert Carlyle (Miniature painter), the Baron de Taiquiti, Mr. Joseph Paton, and Mr. Owen Jones.

Science has to lament the loss of Dr. Neill Arnott, Dr. Lankester, Sir John Rennie, Sir William Jardine, Dr. Forbes Winslow; Maedler, the astronomer, of Hanover; Andreas Hansen, the astronomer, of Gotha; Mr. Edward Blyth, the zoologist; Professor Phillips, of Oxford; Mr. Richard Tamplin, the surgeon; Paolo Rosa, the Roman astronomer; and Professor Grant, of University College.

Our list of miscellaneous deaths includes Madame Parepa Rosa, Mr. John Grantham, civil engineer and architect; the Countess of Clarendon, Lady Anne Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. William Torr, the agriculturist; Mr. Charles Young, the comedian; Mr. Addison, the comedian; Lady Phipps, the Marchioness of Thomond, Ellen Lady Stirling, Lady Dunfermline, the Countess of Northesk, Mr. Nightingale, the Duchess Dowager of Argyll, the Duchess Dowager of Leeds, Lady Coleridge, sen., the Dowager Marchioness of Anglesey, Colonel Grey, Admirals Denman, Jervis, Currie, and Keats; the Hon. G. Stafford-Jerningham, Ladies Edward and William Russell, General Eden, Ladies Houghton, Alison, Letitia Aldworth, Augusta Milbank, Sarah Murray; Madame Lidis (the traveller), Lady Ratcliff, Lady Dilke, Dowager Lady Berners, Mr. Patrick Boyle, of Shewalton; Mr. F. Scrymgour Wedderburn, Lady Hogg, Lady Amberley, Lord James Murray, the Countesses of Guildford and Stanhope, the Dowager Countess of Desart, Princess Palagonia-Grifeo, and the Siamese Twins.

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