

THE
Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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AN ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE
FREEMASONS' LIFEBOAT.

THE letter which we published in our second number, from the pen of "A Master Mason," has directed attention to the whole question involved in the maintenance of the boats of the National Lifeboat Association. "Master Mason's" ignorance of the fact that the Fraternity had already placed a boat upon an exposed station on the coast is scarcely excusable, but his suggestion, in a further letter, which our readers will find in another column, is so thoroughly practical, that we are prepared to go somewhat out of our way for the purpose of giving it a fair hearing. He ventures to remind his Masonic brethren that the cost of maintaining the boat presented by the Fraternity amounts to a considerable annual sum, and suggests the starting of an Endowment Fund for the purpose of relieving the Lifeboat Association from the burthen of its maintenance. Coincident with the receipt of this letter we have had a communication from the Secretary of the Association, whose attention had been called to the discussion in our columns, and he informs us that the annual cost of the Freemasons' Lifeboat is £70. He further adds that boats are always forthcoming, either for new stations, or for replacing old and worn-out craft, but what the Association greatly needs is cash to keep the great flotilla under its command in an efficient condition. We feel assured that words of such grave import as these, coming from such high authority, will at once arrest the attention of our brethren, and we shall be prepared to receive subscriptions towards the formation of an "Endowment Fund," for the purpose of making the Freemasons' Lifeboat free of the charitable donations of the general body of the public. Sums of money so received will be carefully acknowledged in our columns, and paid over, at stated intervals, to the account of the Association.

It would be idle indeed for us to say anything in reference to the importance of saving life at sea. The responsibility has been accepted as a sacred duty by the public, who, however, little realise the state of things which prevails on our coasts during a stormy winter. Mr. Plimsoll declared, the other day, that we are drowning our seamen at the rate of 5,000 a year, and this awful sacrifice of human life is in a great measure preventable. We do not desire, in these columns, to revive the painful discussion with which the name of the Hon. Member for Derby is associated. We are indeed of opinion that many of his statements were exaggerated, but, after making every allowance for the inaccuracies into which he was led, it must be apparent to every one of us that an undue proportion of the seamen employed in the coasting trade lose their lives in pursuance of their hazardous and noble calling. We should be the last to assert that owners knowingly send brave men to sea in rotten ships, indeed, this hypothesis is by no means necessary to account for the great increase in the number of naval casualties which have occurred of late years. The whole surface of the home seas is dotted with merchant vessels, engaged in the useful duty of conveying bulky articles of commerce to home and continental ports. Those who understand nautical matters do not need to be told that when a heavily laden collier brig is caught in a gale on a lee shore, she must run serious risk of touching the ground and going to pieces. Skill, seamanship, and the staunch qualities of the best of sea boats are often useless in a sudden and violent storm. The vessel drives upon the frowning coast, and, but for the ready services

of the Lifeboat, a catastrophe of this kind would nearly always prove fatal to all on board. What those services are, we all know. The little publication issued by the Association is filled with stories of heroism, beside which the vaunted deeds of the soldier look mean and insignificant. We read the simple records of these services with a thrill at the heart, and we contemplate the hardy mariners contending against the mightiest forces of nature with admiration and awe. Sometimes the Lifeboat has to be dragged for miles over a rugged coast before it can be launched to succour the perishing seamen of some doomed ship. Oftentimes its hardy crew are compelled to pull for miles, dead to windward, in the teeth of a terrible gale, their only guide being the minute gun of the stranded bark, or the lurid glare of a distant rocket. The service, at the best of times, is dangerous, and involves exposure and hardship such as we, who live at home at ease, can scarcely realise. The drenching spray, in spite of the protection of waterproofs, wets the boatmen to the skin, and exposure for many hours at a time to an atmosphere below freezing point is trying to the most hardy frame. Yet all this is cheerfully endured by the gallant fellows for a pecuniary reward which, if it alone inspired their zeal, would be regarded as pitiful. No one knows better than the inhabitants of our fishing villages and coast towns that the sum gained is not the incentive which nerves the arms of the Lifeboat crew. They are as eager to save life as the most refined and cultivated amongst us, and, if money alone were the object of their desires, they would gain more by acting as salvors of cargo than as the saviours of human life.

We are assured that in thus bringing this noble service prominently before our readers we are performing a duty in perfect harmony with the principles which bind Freemasons together in the bonds of a sacred brotherhood. We are certain that our appeal for funds will not be made in vain, and we shall be proud to be the medium through which the charitable donations of the Order may pass to the coffers of the noble Association which so grandly upholds the Christian character of the people of these islands. The Endowment Fund, if we may venture to so style it, will be devoted especially to the maintenance of the Masonic Lifeboat, whose services we shall be glad to record from time to time for the gratification of our readers. We sincerely trust that the response of our readers to this appeal of ours will be no half-hearted one. We are now in the midst of the most stormy season of the year, and while a single seaman perishes in sight of these hospitable shores a heavy responsibility rests upon those whose comforts are so materially increased by that gallant and hardy race whose courage and enterprise have contributed to make England a Naval power compared with which the boasted glories of Tyre and Carthage look mean and trivial.

THE MASON: A SINCERE MAN.

IN delineating the character of the Freemason we shall avoid giving too free a rein to the imagination. We may set up an ideal standard of excellence, but we shall not go the length of imagining that every Mason has attained that standard. In our opening number we pointed out, with a certain freedom of language which some, perhaps, may have mistaken for overboldness, that at all events every representative Freemason, holding distinguished rank in the Fraternity, should exhibit that

refinement of mind and manner which characterise the gentleman. Otherwise, and we cited a not improbable case, he might involve the Order he represented in endless ridicule. In the present article we shall mark the limits of our proposition somewhat more precisely, and not without reason. We claim that every true Mason is essentially a sincere man. It is quite possible, of course, that some may be more sincere than others. Some, again, are sincere under certain conditions, while others exhibit this trait under certain other conditions. But, though the scale of sincerity which prevails among the brotherhood may be graduated, the quality itself is of the very essence of Masonry. To take a man on the very threshold of his Masonic career;—he joins the Order from pure love and respect for its principles. So, offering himself as a candidate for the first degree, he openly avers that he has no ulterior hope of gain in becoming a Mason. He is aware of the respect almost universally accorded to Freemasons in free countries. He is not ignorant of the oppression and persecutions to which the brotherhood have been and still are subjected under despotic governments, or of the reasons that have led to such oppression and persecution. He knows there is one mystic tie which, quite apart from all other ties, unites all the brethren in all parts of the world. With this knowledge, he voluntarily undertakes the obligations of Masonry. Can it or ought it to be doubted that such a man is actuated by sincerity? Some there may be who are influenced by other and less worthy motives. They see or think they see their way clear to profit by the new "connection" they have established, anticipating, perhaps, a speedier advance in wealth and social estimation, or some other advantage more or less material. In ordinary circumstances this kind of motive—that is, a desire for advancement in wealth and the world's esteem—may not be looked upon very unfavourably, but we trust and believe that the Masons who hope for profit from their enrolment in the Order are few and far between.

It is, perhaps, in the nature of things that some men should be more, some less sincere than others. All minds are not constituted alike. There are those which are readily impressed by momentary occurrences, but the impression soon passes away, and is forgotten. Others again are influenced but very slowly, but the influence is an abiding one. There is, in fact, the same difference between these two classes of men as between tablets of wax on the one hand, and tablets of stone or brass on the other. The inscription on the former is clear and precise enough while it lasts, but the material of the tablets is very perishable. Equally clear and precise are the inscriptions on stone or brazen tablets, but stone and brass, as compared with wax, are, so to speak, imperishable. The impression remains therefore, nor can it be removed, save by the utter destruction of the tablet on which it is engraven. Again, the smooth soft surface of wax is capable of receiving any number of impressions one after the other. A very moderate degree of heat or pressure suffices to remove all traces of the first, and but little is necessary to make a second, and, it may be, an entirely opposite one. This is not possible with such unyielding material as stone or brass. Time and labour are required both to efface the old, and substitute the new inscription. Thus, the impressionable man is no doubt sincere enough so long as the impression remains, but only for so long; while he who yields less readily is, in the majority of cases, more lastingly impressed. Of course every man must judge for himself as to the worthiness or unworthiness of the motives which prompt him to any particular course. Our province is to point out what motives should influence the Mason in the entering upon and fulfilling his duties. Assuredly not the least important among them is sincerity.

We offer these remarks in perfect good faith. Many people imagine that Masonry is a kind of hobby, which men follow for mere amusement. They are not aware that every member on entering the brotherhood binds himself, by the most solemn obligations, to certain rules of life, that he accepts certain principles to guide him in his relations and intercourse with the other brethren. Some regard it as an ancient mystery, with much quaint ceremonial, but comparatively meaningless. Others fancy that admission to a Lodge is pretty much the same thing as admission to a club. It is perfectly true that Masons have certain signs and symbols for the purpose of mutual recognition. It is highly probable that a Mason is what Dr. Johnson called a clubbable man. But these notions fall very far short of the reality, ignoring, as they do, the

true aims which have always influenced Masons from the remotest ages. We are neither surprised nor offended that the outer world should hold these views. Considering the state of darkness in which they live, they could hardly, indeed, do otherwise. The business of a Mason is the fulfilment of certain sacred duties, and no one can conscientiously observe these duties, who is not animated by the purest and most disinterested motives, or, in other words, who is not a perfectly sincere man.

MASONIC RENCONTRES — THE TWO ISTHMUS.

BY BRO. WALTER SPENCER, F.R.G.S., &c.

Sequel.

NINE years later, in March 1872, steaming past the historic ranges of Sinai and from the Red Sea up the gulf of Suez, recollections of the Western Isthmus recurred to me; of five weary days passed killing time at Colon; of a passage up the Gulf of Mexico, and the ruses adopted to escape the kind inquiries of *Captain Semmes*, the notorious *Alabama*; of the first burst of the fury of the Equinoctials off Cape Hatteras, where, hove to for three days off a lea shore, two drifting wrecks showed us the possibilities fate had in store. How different looked the landscape here! Instead of wooded emerald islets in "dark purple spheres of sea"—were desolate sandy shores with background of bare inhospitable rock. The sunshine poured down in torrid brilliancy, making the atmosphere vibrate and giving to distances a prismatic or mirage-like effect; no soothing tints of verdure for the scorched eye to rest on, but cruel colouring of sand and stone.

Provided with gauze-sided, smoke-coloured "goggles," we landed at Suez—clad all in white, from helmet and puccheree down to canvas shoes. In the mingling of nationalities, the contrast with America seemed greatest; we were brushed by the flowing garments of oily Armenians and sleek Persians; scowled at by vagabond Arabs and stalking Bedàween; importuned by Egyptian touts and Coptic porters. In place of the negro vendors of Columbian staples: ragged mincing Greeks, of noble features and voluble mendacity, vociferously drew attention to gorgeous Nile hookahs (made in Germany); variegated Syrian scarves (fresh from Manchester); Fcz caps from Constantinople and French photographs without end. The monetary medium, alone furnished some point of analogy. The currencies of both Isthmus were alike bewildering in complicated variety. But whilst that of Panama consisted of eagles, condors, doblòns, dollars, reals, milreis, cents and the same mutilated into quarters and eighths, of every State of the Americas, in addition to the coins of Europe; this of Suez comprised queer specimens from all parts, including forgotten Mediterranean coinages, those of Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and many whose elegant flourishes betokened Asiatic or African origin, together with the dumpy bits from Siam, and solid itziboos from far Japan. The effigy of the first Napoleon was on some pieces, recalling his Egyptian expedition and vain dream of Asiatic Empire.

On the same afternoon the fine steamship "Poseidon" entered the Canal cut by the great Lesseps; restorer of communication which the wisdom of a Pharaoh, and after of a Ptolemy, had provided centuries before. When the disasters of NAPOLEON III. shall have classed him with Francis I. and Charles XII. in historical statistics, a great name will live and a true fame be founded UPON THE BENEFICENT PATRONAGE AND COSMOPOLITAN STATESMANSHIP, WHICH ENSURED THE EXECUTION OF THIS COLOSSAL WORK!

We stood on deck under the awning, and marvelled how sufficient depth could be secured in the yielding sand-bed of so narrow a way. It seemed almost possible for one to jump ashore on either side. In one place was a ferry-bridge; a long train of Arabs, with their womankind and loaded camels, came toiling from off the desert to the marge, to wait for a chance of crossing. Their striped burnous and long guns slung behind them, confirmed forcibly the conventional pictures of Eastern scenery familiar to us. Past these, an unexpected obstruction appeared. The tide was falling, and right ahead we descried an ugly iron steamer lying diagonally on her beam-ends across the channel. We dropped anchor, and soon two boat loads of our passengers proceeded to the place, to see how matters stood. Looking backward from

the boats, we saw behind the graceful lines of the "Poseidon," the huge white bulk of the Indian troop-ship "Serapis" crowded with invalids; behind her again a long line of masts and chimnies; all brought to a stand by the same vexatious incident, and following as closely as the Canal rules would allow. The masters and anxious passengers of these hurrying homeward-bounders were doubtless wafting liberal blessings towards the cause of our delay; which we found to be an empty collier, on return voyage from Bombay, hopelessly stuck fast until next tide. Preparation was already afoot, by means of stout cables to stakes on the bank, and the aid of a Company's tug, to warp her off as soon as possible; and there being nothing for us to do, we elected to take a walk on shore. Though the blistering yielding sand seemed not inviting, and others were contented gambolling with the dogs by the Canal margin, I toiled up and blundered over the rough sandhills, emerging upon the level plain behind. It was nigh sunset; the arid desert stretched blasted and treeless, up to bare ranges on the horizon—in the distance gleamed the white stones of Suez—before me ran the sweet-water Canal, and beyond it white smoke-clouds hovering in the blue air told of the train upon its flight to Cairo.

At some distance along the bank was visible a cluster of buildings, which, on nearer approach, proved to be a wooden house and large courtyard. The canal telegraph which branched off thence across the desert, showed the purpose of this desolate station. On a huge board over against the canal, appeared in large letters, its curious name, which I have forgotten, but fancy it was something like "Gare Guillaumet." Outside a swing-gate stood a pretty, pale child, with flowing hair, who fled as I approached. Urged simply by curiosity, I strolled into the yard or corral and seeing the house-door wide open, looked in. The gaping weather-boarding of the outer walls, betrayed the scorching heat to which the place was exposed. Within, I saw a room well panelled, though with unpainted, unvarnished woodwork. Some shelves stood at the end, near a window; a plain deal table and some cane chairs completed the furniture. The occupant—a pale thin man with a stoop, laid down a meerschaum pipe, and rose courteously, asking me in French, to enter. Some hazy reminiscence floated across me, as I gazed into his sunken blue eyes. As I sat down opposite to him, apologising for my intrusion; notwithstanding his prematurely faded aspect and worn features, I recognised my brother and benefactor of Panama.

I at once claimed his recollection of the circumstances. After pondering awhile, a gleam of recognition awoke, which on calling to mind the sword-stick, at once ripened into pleasure. He became then almost talkative, though a hopeless sort of lassitude (effect, no doubt, of the climate) seemed to have taken hold of him. I recounted my wanderings since we parted, and at length, over a bottle of *absinthe*, extracted from him, bit by bit, the following narrative.

Some months after my departure, he had left the service of the Panama Railroad Company, and set to work to develop the riches of the old Spanish gold mine. On the point of success he was struck down with fever; and during the crisis when his life was despaired of, and subsequent tardy convalescence, his labourers robbed him of all he possessed, and deserted. He had to leave the place, broken in health, with the additional mortification of seeing some Chinamen, who had confined themselves to washing the old "tailings" of the Spaniards, on the high road to fortune. At Colon he had shipped as steward on board an American vessel, bound with India-rubber and other produce to a port in Spain. Arrived in Europe, he had a recurrence of fever (to which one is ever after more or less liable), and remained for some time in Hospital at Marseilles. Applying to a Lodge in that city, he had been most cordially assisted, and through fraternal recommendation obtained the berth of purser on a Mediterranean packet. At length, acquaintance with an employé of the French Embassy at Constantinople, procured him a situation there, and he joined one of our English Lodges at Pera. Attracted by a compatriot, proprietor of a Café at Smyrna, he went to that place, and joined him in business. His partner dying, leaving affairs in great disorder, he married the widow—a fine Levantine, and strove to support the family by trading in a small way. Times were going hard with him, when a fortunate presentation to M. de Lesseps gave him subsequent opportunity to ask for employment in which his old knowledge

of Telegraphy might be available. This post was the result; and his object was to save sufficient to enable him, in two or three years time, to start a general store at Alexandria, where his wife had relatives.

At about this point in our conversation, some one emerged from the darkness into the doorway. It was one of the ship's officers, come to look for me. Being offered a glass of *Absinthe*, he muttered, under his breath, "This is the stuff they kill themselves here with, is it?"

It being imperative for me to return to the steamer, I could only depart, wishing him every kind of success; leaving him, I trust, in rather improved spirits, for it was but seldom he had opportunity of seeing strangers or in fact, any society except his family.

On return to the "Poseidon," I at once requisitioned the ships' stores for tinned milk, sweet biscuits, a bottle of cognac and a dozen of claret. These, with a box of Manila No. 1's, were despatched to the wooden house next morning in charge of a steward, and I trust repaid in some measure, the hospitality of nine years before. By breakfast time we were well on our way to the Bitter Lakes, and fresh subjects of interest arose to efface the remembrance of this second rencontre.

It was not till one starlight night as we steamed past the Pillars of Hercules, that whilst watching the phosphorescent wave-crests of the Mediterranean mingle with the long swell of the Atlantic, I remembered the strange prediction recounted to me by *Girandier* at Panamá; which he seemed now to have forgotten; and which, if sunken cheeks and languid bearing could be taken as evidence, seemed already too near to its accomplishment.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

WE beg to remind our readers that the Anniversary Festival of this Institution will be held on Wednesday, the 27th instant, when the Right Honourable the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire, will occupy the chair. Our notice of the immense benefits conferred by this charity, and of the necessity there is for maintaining, and even, if possible, extending its sphere of usefulness, is so recent, that any further comment by us is hardly necessary. However, we subjoin a complete list of the Board of Stewards, the President being, it will be observed, R.W. Bro. Samuel Rawson, P. Dist. G.M., China.

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„ H. G. Barwell ...	P.M.	52	„ S. R. Elles ...	P.M.	342	„ William Leader ...	W.M.	1335
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„ Thomas Bull ...	W.M.	145	„ Wright Meanwell ...	W.M.	861	„ John Parrott ...	D.C.	1479
Compn. Joseph East ...	Treas. Chap.	145	„ Charles Walker ...	J.W.	862	„ Edward G. Sim... ..	I.G.	1489
Bro. Henry Dubose sen.	156	„ J. Baxter Langley	871	„ Frederick Woodin	1492
„ William Hine Haycock ...	W.M.	164	„ Geo. Keene Lemann, P.M.	176, W.M.	890	„ E. C. Woodward
„ G. J. Hilliard ...	S.D.	174	„ Thomas Griffiths ...	W.M.	907	„ Rev. P. M. Holden, Holy
„ Frederick Kent ...	W.M.	177	„ John Simpson ...	P.M.	910	„ Palestine Preceptory, Red Cross
„ Walter Hopekirk	P.M. Treas.	179						

Honorary Secretary.

BRO. JAMES TERRY (Secretary to the Institution), 4 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ORANGE BROTHERHOOD OF SCOTLAND, BY MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER BRO. CHALMERS I. PATON.

We have received a copy of this interesting document, and have great pleasure in submitting it in *extenso* to the notice of our readers.

BRETHREN,—I think it probable you may expect that, after my installation as Grand Master of Scotland, I should say something to you concerning our duties as Members of the Orange Brotherhood, and this I now propose to do.

I am deeply sensible of the high honour which has been conferred on me; but I assure you I am equally sensible of the great responsibility which attaches to the office of Grand Master; and allow me to say, brethren, that a similar responsibility ought to be felt by you all. The deeper our sense of responsibility is, the greater will be our zeal,—the more energetic our action; and yet the more will we be inclined to thoughtful consideration of every step to be taken—the less disposed to hasty resolutions and rash precipitancy.

We are responsible all of us to Him who has given us the powers that we possess, the light and knowledge that we enjoy, to use these powers to His glory, and to live in accordance with our light and knowledge. Can we give thanks, as I trust we all do, for the blessings of education, and for that which is more excellent than all the sciences, the light of Divine Truth manifested in the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the knowledge of God and of the way of Salvation, without feeling also a deep sense of responsibility lying upon us, to adorn the Gospel in our whole walk and conversation, so that our light may shine before men, that they may be constrained to acknowledge the excellency of the light reflected by us, and may be induced to seek light for themselves from its only source? Or can we be indifferent to the diffusion of the knowledge of the Gospel among those who are ignorant of it, who sit in darkness and the shadow of death? Can we give thanks, as we have much reason to do, for the peace and good government of our native land, for the civil and religious liberty which we enjoy, and for the excellency of the British Constitution,—that Protestant Constitution by which these blessings are secured to us,—without feeling the responsibility which lies upon us to do all in our power for the maintenance of it in its integrity, that so the peace and order and

civil and religious liberty, for the sake of which our forefathers struggled so nobly, and so many of them died on the battlefield, at the stake, and on the scaffold, may be preserved for ourselves to the last day that we live, and transmitted unimpaired to succeeding generations?

We are banded together for great and holy objects. It is no political partnership which is the bond of our union. The principles which govern us, the sentiments which animate us, belong to a higher and nobler sphere. Political parties are always fluctuating and changing, their watchwords and battle-cries are soon forgotten; but our principles are not changeable, and our course of action must ever be the same, till complete victory crowns our efforts, till the great enemy of light and liberty is finally driven from the field, till the cry arises, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen!" How animating the thought that the victory is sure. The struggle may be long and arduous; reverses and discomfitures may await us; but they will be only partial and temporary. Believing the Bible to be the Word of God, we can entertain no doubt of the fulfilment of the prophecy which we find in it of the final overthrow and destruction of that hateful system, that hellish power, against which we are called to contend. This encouraging thought is not calculated to make us supine, but to stir us up to greater earnestness of exertion and of prayer. The event will be as prophecy declares; but it will be brought about by means; it will be the answer of prayer; aye, not only of our prayers, and of the prayers of our fellow-Protestants of this generation, but of prayers long ago registered in heaven, the prayers of thousands and tens of thousands of God's children who have gone to their eternal rest, the prayers of a multitude of martyrs who have sealed their testimony with their blood. It will be the result of efforts wisely and prayerfully and perseveringly made.

The struggle between Popery and Bible Christianity has been a long one, and it is not ended yet. It has been carried on by very different means on the one side and on the other; on the one by weapons not carnal, by the proclamation of Gospel truth, by the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; and on the other by rack, and dungeon, and stake, and gibbet, and fire, and sword. It began as soon as Popery had attained a nearly complete development, or, in Scripture phrase, when "the man of sin," "the son of perdition," "that wicked," "was revealed," "whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming."* I can but allude in the briefest possible manner to the persecutions of the dark ages before the Reformation—

* Thess. II. 3-8.

the persecution of the Waldenses in the Alpine valleys of Piedmont and France; the crusades, under St. Dominic and Simon de Montfort, against the Albigenses of the south of France, in which many thousands of men and women were remorselessly butchered for no other reason but that they held a purer faith than that of Rome, and a country was made desolate, which excelled every other country of Europe in literature and industry and civilisation; the persecution of the Wickliffites and Lollards and Hussites in England, in Scotland, in Bohemia, and elsewhere on the Continent of Europe. I need only remind you how soon after the Reformation the fires of persecution were kindled by Popish bigots, and how terrible were the persecutions to which Protestants were subjected in various countries during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. I need only remind you of the Inquisition and its multitude of victims in Spain and Italy; of the sufferings of the Protestants of France, and the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day; of the atrocities perpetrated during the government of the Duke of Alva in the Low Countries. In England and in Scotland the Reformation soon had its martyrs. From the day when Patrick Hamilton was burned at the stake at St. Andrews, till the ultimate triumph of the Reformation in 1560, numerous martyrs sealed their testimony with their blood in Scotland. Far more did so in England during the reign of the Bloody Mary. The accession of Queen Elizabeth to the English throne, not only put an end to persecution, but gave to English Protestantism the position which it has ever since held, as the national religion and an essential part of the constitution. But Protestantism, although holding that position, both in England and Scotland ever since the memorable year 1560, has not held it unassailed. The cause of Protestantism, and the cause of liberty, ever bound up with it, were in great danger during the reigns of Charles II. and his brother James, when the Covenanters of Scotland so nobly contended for the rights of conscience and the purity of religion; and many of them died martyrs for a cause which was dearer to them than their life. It was the Protestantism of England, aroused to a sense of danger, that swept the Popish bigot, James, from his throne, made the people hail William of Orange as their deliverer, and accomplished the glorious Revolution of 1688; and when James attempted to regain his lost crown, it was to the Papists that he turned for support; and the war in Ireland, memorable for the siege of Derry and for the battle of the Boyne, was not so much between two competitors for the throne, or two rival dynasties, as between Popery and Protestantism. The decisive victory of William in the battle of the Boyne, and the dissolution of the Highland Army raised in James's cause in Scotland by Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, gave security to the Protestant Constitution of the three kingdoms, which was only afterwards imperilled by the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745. In our own day, Popery, no longer venturing on open assault, has sought to undermine our Protestant Constitution, and, through the folly and supineness of Protestants, has been permitted to proceed too far in the unhallowed work. It has not been our lot, as yet, to be called to contend for our civil and religious liberty, or, which is really the same thing, for our Protestant Constitution, sword in hand, as our fathers did. I trust we are ready, as it behoves us to be. Yet let us hope and pray that there may never be need; but that there may not be, we must zealously exert ourselves in resisting by peaceful and constitutional means, all the aggressions of Popery. We must not allow the enemy to gain power and establish himself within our walls. The struggle is not ended yet; and there is much for us to do, if we would show ourselves worthy sons of the fathers from whom we have derived, in the British Constitution, in civil and religious liberty, and above all, in the Protestant Religion and the open Bible, so glorious an inheritance.

The objects of Orangeism are at once religious and patriotic. We are united to uphold the cause of Protestantism, and to contend against Popery; and more particularly to maintain intact the Protestant Constitution of our country. It may be profitable for us to think what is implied in being combined for these objects. Every Orangeman is a Protestant, and Protestantism is simply true and pure Christianity. Luther and Zwingle and Calvin, and the other Reformers of the sixteenth century, did not introduce a new religion into the world. They purged away from the Church the errors and idolatrous abominations of Popery; they opened the Bible which the Popish priesthood had closed, and spread before the eyes of wondering men the truth and will of God therein revealed; they called upon men to make that Word of God their rule of faith and practice, renouncing all that they found to be contrary to it, and to believe and worship and live as the Apostles did, and the members of the Church in the Apostolic age. May every one of us have grace to consider this well, that a true Orangeman is of necessity a true Protestant, and a true Protestant a true Christian! So shall we be moved to earnestness in personal religion, not contented with a name and profession; and so shall our influence be powerful for good. Our prayers shall be those that bring down a blessing in wisdom of counsel and earnestness of working for a glorious cause ever dearer and dearer to our hearts.

Much depends upon this, that our adversaries shall have nothing to reproach us with,—nothing in our private life and individual spheres, nothing in our united action. Let us see to it that we show in our whole conduct the power of the truth, which it is one of the great objects of our Order to prevent Popish priests from hiding from our fellowmen. Let us make it manifest that we are upright and conscientious, that we are loyal subjects, obeying and respecting the laws of the land, peace-loving, and affectionately desirous of the welfare even of those whose principles we abhor, but whose ignorance we pity and deplore.

In all our united action let us keep this rule in view. Let all the means we use for the accomplishment of our objects be strictly constitutional. Thus shall we make our influence felt most powerfully, and increase it every day, gaining the co-operation of those who, although they have not joined our Brotherhood, have the same cause at heart. And there is much which we may do in this way; there are many special objects which we thus aid in accomplishing.

We may do much, for example, by petitions to Parliament for or against particular measures, as they are favourable to the cause of Protestantism, or adverse to it. Numerous petitions with great numbers of signatures have influence with Parliament. The effect could not but be great of petitions from all the Orange Lodges in the country, signed not only by the Worshipful Master, in name of the Lodge, but by every member. And there ought to be no difficulty in getting petitions so signed. Let every man do his duty. His sense of obligation and responsibility ought to lead every Brother to make a point of appending his signature; whilst some would be moved to undertake the duty of presenting the petitions for signature to those who might be unable to attend the meeting of the Lodge.

There is another way in which, it appears to me, Orangemen may exercise much influence for good,—by laying their views and wishes before the parliamentary representatives of the counties or towns in which they dwell. Those who are already decided in favour of the course which a true regard for Protestant interests requires, will thus be encouraged; the hesitating may be led to decide in the right way; and those who are inclined in the opposite way may be induced to change their course, or, at least, if they do not vote as we would wish them, to abstain from voting. Members of Parliament cannot afford to be indifferent to the views and wishes of their constituents.

I will give two examples of Bills, with regard to which, I think, we ought to petition, and to bring all our influence to bear on our parliamentary representatives,—Bills which have been before Parliament, and are likely, I believe, to be introduced again soon after Parliament meets,—Mr. Newdegate's Bill for the Inspection of Convents, and the Prison Ministers Bill. We ought to petition in favour of Mr. Newdegate's Bill, and to give him all the support in our power, to persevere, as he has nobly done, in the face of the most violent and determined Popish opposition, until his endeavours are crowned with success. It would be out of place here to bring forward arguments in favour of the Bill for the Inspection of Convents, and I believe you all know already how strong they are. I will remind you that, at present,—although the existence of a convent in Britain is contrary to law, and they are in no way sanctioned, but merely tolerated,—convents are spots of British ground from which the operation of British law is practically and wholly excluded, and which are really under the government of the Pope alone, administered by Popish bishops and priests; whilst within them there may be, and most probably there are, many poor wretches, hopelessly deprived of that common blessing of all Britons—liberty; nay, possibly subjected to severe punishments and tortures, at the caprice of a superior, under pretence of regard for the welfare of their souls; and that it is quite possible, whilst facts in the history of convents make us to think it in the highest degree probable, that many horrible deeds of darkness are done in them. It is not unreasonable that the truth as to these things should be inquired into. And surely we ought to aid in opening the prison doors and letting the oppressed go free. As to the Prison Ministers Bill, it is one promoted by Papists, and which we ought to oppose with all our might. It proposes the further endowment of Popery; which, of itself ought to be enough to decide our course with regard to it. Besides which it would subvert the whole discipline of prisons, giving to a Popish priest, appointed, not by the magistrates or Prison Board, but by the Popish bishop, a right of interference subversive of order, inconsistent with the good management of the prison, and calculated to promote the interests of Popery alone. I mention these two bills, because of their great importance, and because they are likely to be among the first to demand your attention.

Let me say, further, that we should put forth our utmost efforts at Parliamentary elections to secure the return of members of sound Protestant opinions. Let us disregard minor considerations, and unite in support of Protestantism. There are constituencies in which those electors who are Orangemen, if united as one man in support of a particular candidate, could secure his election. And this fact, clearly demonstrated and well understood, would have a strong influence on the minds of other candidates. Much good might be done by Orangemen coming forward in as great numbers as possible, at the meetings of candidates with electors, and giving expression to their opinions and wishes there.

Municipal elections ought also to receive our constant attention. It is of great importance that we should have good men, and sound Protestants in our town councils. From their number, and by them, the magistrates of towns are chosen, and it much concerns the public interest, that these should be men of right principles and views. Instances have occurred, within these few years, which show plainly how dangerous a thing it is to have men in the highest municipal offices who are either Papists, or of those extreme and false liberal views which incline to favour Popery, or anything else that is bad.

There is yet another class of elections in which many of us are called to take part—elections of members of school boards. I need hardly say that the election of true-hearted and right-thinking men to be members of school-boards, is of the utmost importance to the welfare of the community; and I trust you will always do your utmost to secure the election of those who are not merely in name Protestants, but zealous in their Protestantism—men of piety, firmly holding the principles of the Reformation.

As patriots, we must look specially to what concerns our own country; but as Christians, we must feel an interest in what concerns other countries also. Protestantism is in conflict with Popery in many parts of the world. The cause of our brethren in America, in Germany, in Switzerland, and wherever Popery is striving against them, and they are opposing its aggressions, is our cause. There may not be much that we can do for them, but we may at least encourage them by the expression of our sympathy, and support them by our prayers.

Brethren, I have laid before you some of my views. I trust they are such as will meet with your approbation, and that we shall go

on together during the term of my Grand Mastership, united heart and hand in the prosecution of those objects which are proper for the advancement of our great cause. May the blessing of God rest upon us! May our numbers rapidly increase, and our influence become greater in the land, and be more and more exerted for good, always and only for good!

WINES AND SPIRITS (Foreign) on which Duty was paid in London by some of the principal firms during the past year.

WINES (Foreign)		SPIRITS (Foreign)	
	Gallons		Gallons
W & A Gilbey ...	886,298	W & A Gilbey ...	318,531
Dingwall, Portal & Co ...	130,632	Twiss & Browning ...	193,211
F W Cosens ...	115,800	Daniel Taylor & Sons ...	165,065
R Hooper & Sons ...	103,095	Trower & Lawson ...	163,657
Max Gregor & Co ...	100,166	Dingwall, Portal & Co ...	136,794
D Taylor & Sons ...	86,555	Galbraith, Grant & Co ...	91,828
Deut, Urwick & Co ...	79,791	R Hooper & Sons ...	81,264
Cunliffe & Co ...	78,251	E S Pick & Co ...	65,362
T W Stapleton & Co ...	76,834	R Burnett & Son ...	53,691
W J Murray ...	76,292	Daun & Vallentin ...	56,329
H T Mayfield ...	73,665	Osmond & Co ...	56,181
C G Phillips & Co ...	72,002	Fulcher & Robinson ...	46,549

Besides the preceding there were about 2000 firms who paid duty on Wines and Spirits in less quantities than those above mentioned.—*Wine Trade Review*, 15th January 1875.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY NEWS.

FRIDAY.

One result of the threatened rupture between the Turks and Montenegrins this week was to depress the market all round the moment the news became current on 'Change. At first the excitement was made the most of for speculative purposes, but the agitation created by this intelligence has since toned down, and it seems probable that the violent fluctuations which took possession of business will be fairly recovered. Next to this in importance has been the advent of the Brazilian loan for five millions sterling. The bonds bear interest at the rate of five per cent., and the price of issue was fixed at 96½; but notwithstanding this high figure, it is stated that the subscriptions have far exceeded the amount required. The reasons given for this new loan being required are plausible enough, and appear to stand thus: the enormous rise in the value of coffee greatly enriched Southern Brazil, and its riches so obtained have given a great impetus to railway extension to the more distant coffee growing districts. Already the planters of one province have pushed forward a line for themselves out of their own resources, and now they are connecting the arterial line by a branch which will open up communication between the province in question and the capital, Rio Janeiro. For securing the extension of these and similar works a special provincial tax is imposed, providing for the remuneration of shareholders and bondholders under all conditions. The principal railway in the country, already belongs to the Imperial Government, dividends of 7 per cent. having been paid on a capital of £5,000,000. The necessary funds for carrying out this undertaking have been provided by an issue of Treasury Bonds, which the Government now seeks to pay off, as also to proceed with its onward construction by means furnished by the new loan. So that for the greater part of its so-applied proceeds the Brazilian Government will be recouped, interest and amortisation out of the profits of this its own property. The remaining portion of the Loan will also go to advance Public Works, which there is also reason to anticipate will be remunerative. The new Loan is therefore raised, not to fill up deficits, or to meet extravagant expenditure, but to promote enterprises principally of undoubted security, and profit to the Government.

Consols are unaffected by any of the changes that have taken place in other directions, and remain firm at previous prices.

To some extent the Foreign market has suffered from the outbreak previously referred to, and the feeling of uncertainty with regard to Turkish Stocks. Many operations have been noted at a downward tendency, but the unfavourable symptoms are not so strong at the close.

Business has been fairly maintained in the English Railway market, although a certain amount of depression crept in at one time in sympathy with the agitation elsewhere. There is evidently a revival of confidence in these undertakings, and quotations are taking an upward turn. Midland and Metropolitan stocks are marked higher, as well as North Staffordshire.

In miscellaneous securities there is not much movement, the principal being a heavy fall in Turkish; Imperial Ottoman Bank shares have been largely sold.

We are informed that the Khedive has determined upon the establishment of a Ministry of Commerce in Egypt, upon the model of the English Board of Trade, and has expressed a wish, through the Foreign Office, to obtain the services of two officers of the Board of Trade competent to assist in organising the new department. We understand that the President of the Board of Trade has accordingly recommended Mr. H. Cholmondeley Pennell and Mr. E. A. R. Acton to assist the Egyptian Government in organising respectively the departments for Internal and External Commerce.

The Chinese Imperial Loan, contracted with the Hong-Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, has met with great success. The applications for bonds were seven times in excess of the number offered to public subscription.

The report to be presented at the meeting of the London and Westminster Bank states the net profits for the half-year at £188,618, raising the "rest" to £1,234,798, out of which the directors recommend a dividend of 11 per cent. for the six months, leaving the "rest" at £1,014,798. The deposits, circular notes, &c., amount to £30,015,194. The shares of the New Zealand Manganese Mines Company are quoted at 1 premium.

The ordinary meeting of the Coal Consumers' Association, is to be held on the 27th inst., to receive the general report, and also the report of the committee of investigation.

In the French National Assembly a bill has been presented by the Minister of Public Works for the construction of the long projected railway tunnel under the Channel. The French Company to which the concession is granted, undertake to carry out the work without any State grant or guarantee of interest on capital.

On and after the 1st of next month the mails from England and Scotland to the north of Ireland will be conveyed by the short sea route, *via* Larne and Stranraer. During the past two or three months there have been frequent complaints as to the service *via* Holyhead and Kingstown, and a town meeting has been held in Belfast on the subject, presided over by the mayor.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—These precious treasures work wonderful cures of the worst diseases, which defy other treatment. Thousands have extolled them as they deserve, yet have not given them one word of praise more than they richly merited. An attentive study of the directions wrapped round Holloway's medicaments will enable any invalid to overcome his infirmity, whether it be outwardly visible or inwardly concealed. Sores, skin diseases, inflammation, erysipelas, chest complaints, as well as most disorders of the head, stomach, liver, kidneys, and bowels, may be radically removed by these means, which are no less potent in successfully contending with the oft-times fatal ulcerations of the throat which periodically render scarlet fever and diphtheria most terrible public scourges.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Q.—We have already touched upon the subject; see our opening number. It is early yet to revert to it.

J. H. E.—We shall deal with the question you have raised when the date fixed for the Annual Festival is nearer. We shall then gladly heed any suggestions you may think fit to make.

ENIGMA.—With all due respect we submit that you are in error. Try, at all events, to substantiate your facts, then, perhaps, your view of the circumstances, will have greater weight.

We shall be obliged if our correspondents will write their communications on one side of the paper only.

CROWDED OUT.—Promised reply to E. M. H.'s letter and other matter.

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.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our Correspondents.

THE FREEMASONS' LIFEBOAT.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—I am greatly obliged to Bro. E. Gottheil, the Hon. Secretary of the Freemasons' Lifeboat Fund, for his lucid history of an event of such interest to the Order generally, and of which I was, I confess, in utter ignorance. I have been two years a Mason, and have attended my Lodge meetings with great regularity, but I do not remember ever hearing that the Fraternity had been the generous donors of a Lifeboat. My letter was written on the impulse of the moment, shortly after the occurrence of the series of storms which will make the closing months of 1874 memorable in Naval Annals. I do not however regret that the question has been raised in your columns. I have recently looked into the statistics published by the Lifeboat Association, and I find that cash to pay the working expenses of the boats already in the possession of the Association is urgently needed.

I shall be glad to subscribe a guinea for the formation of an Endowment Fund, having for its object the payment of the annual expenses incurred in working the Boat presented by the Order. I trust others of my brethren will contribute. It seems to me that we, who "live at home at ease," incur a fearful responsibility if we do not do all in our power to succour the seaman in his hour of dire distress. It is no doubt possible for the Legislature to do much for the class who got their bread on the ocean; but when all that Parliament can do has been accomplished, there will be ample room for private enterprise and benevolence to come to the rescue of Poor Jack.

I am, Sir,

Yours Fraternaly,

Liverpool, 18th January.

A MASTER MASON.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR AND BROTHER,—I am in entire ignorance of your sentiments on a subject somewhat important to myself, and one on which I have been rather severely lectured by your contemporary, *The Freemason*;—Whether I am absolutely disqualified, or to what extent I ought to feel myself dobarred, *virtute officii*, from taking part in discussions in Grand Lodge, or elsewhere, on questions intimately associated with the interests of our great institutions. I appeal for space in your columns, therefore, to place before the Craft the facts and figures I was desirous of submitting, from my seat in Grand Lodge, at the last Quarterly Communication. I could not ask this favour from your contemporary, because I yet fail to recognise the distinction drawn by him in the concession of my perfect right to express my opinions in print, and the abnegation of my right to do so orally in Grand Lodge. If the objection to Bro. A. B., not as Bro. A. B., but *quâ* Bro. "Secretary" A. B., be valid, it must be valid alike everywhere, and

under all circumstances. To put a bar on the door of my lips, and at the same time to offer me the free use of my pen, is, to me, a refinement of inconsistency that my plain reason does not permit me to comprehend.

This is the way in which I purposed making the attempt. For several years past I have felt that the time must have arrived when Grand Lodge might fairly be asked to re-consider the amount, annually contributed from its funds to the two educational institutions, though guided solely, I am prepared to admit, by the exigencies of the Boys' school. Knowing how strong a feeling existed in opposition to the terms of Bro. Clabon's motion, it was my intention to propose an amendment, to the effect "that it be referred to the Board of General Purposes to consider the amount of the annual grants by Grand Lodge to the charitable institutions associated with the Order, and to report thereon to Grand Lodge." No large amount of "sentiment" here, nor any very forcible "argument *ad misericordiam*." I should have based my proposition on these statistics:—

In the year 1812, 3rd June, "It was resolved and ordered that every Lodge in and adjacent to the cities of London and Westminster, upon the registering of every new-made Mason, shall contribute and pay the sum of five shillings; and that every Country, Foreign, and Military Lodge, upon the registering of every new-made Mason, shall in like manner pay the sum of two shillings and sixpence; which sum shall go, and be paid, in aid of the Institution for clothing and educating the sons of deceased and indigent Freemasons."

In the year 1812, the number of boys "clothed and educated" (not maintained) was 50.

The total payments to this Institution by Grand Lodge, for a period of 14 years, from 1826 to 1839, was £1,536 6s 3d, which gives an average of some few shillings less than £110.

Estimating the fee all round at 2s 6d this would represent 880 certificates to "new-made Masons." For the year ending March 1839 the total expenditure of the Institution was £536.

The payment of 2s 6d on each certificate was, in the next year, commuted for an annual subsidy of £150, and at that amount it has remained ever since. Up to 1840, therefore, Grand Lodge saw fit to undertake about 20 per cent. of the total expenditure of the Institution.

In the year 1874 the number of boys educated, clothed and maintained was 176, and the total expenditure was (in round figures, subject to audit) £7,800.

In the same year, 1874, I apprehend, at a low estimate, the issue of certificates will have reached 8,000—which, had the fee of 2s 6d remained, would have yielded £800.

If, therefore, the commutation of the fee of 2s 6d was fair in 1840, it is manifestly not equitable to continue it at the same sum in 1874, and surely there is nothing censurable in attempting a revision. From my point of view, I think, Sir and Brother, here is contained the "hard reality of figures," and I have no wish to weaken their force by any further comments of mine.

"*Quieta non movere*" is all very well in some affairs. It has not, so far as I am aware, been adopted as a Masonic adage, certainly not so far as our Institutions are concerned. They have grown with Masonry—with the progress of the Order they have progressed, more than *pari passu*. The principle of a grant has been conceded, and I ask that, from the largely augmented annual receipts of Grand Lodge, some considerably increased annual help should be given, to relieve those Institutions from the heavy burdens which they have been called upon to bear.

In conclusion, I would express the fullest confidence that such a revision of the grants by Grand Lodge would in no way interfere with the contributions from Private Lodges, Chapters, and Provincial Grand Lodges, nor would it in any way operate to dam the stream of individual benevolence.

I am, Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

FREDERICK BINCKES.

London, 18th January, 1875.

[We readily insert this letter, but we beg to direct Bro. Binckes's attention to the notice at the heading of our correspondence column.—ED. FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.]

REVIEWS.

All Books intended for Review should be addressed to the Editor of The Freemason's Chronicle, 67 Barbican, E.C.

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The Old Constitutions belonging to the Ancient and Honourable Society of Freemasons. Reprints of the Editions of 1722-1723. London and Dublin. 1730. Edited by the Rev. John Edmund Cox, D.D., F.S.A. London: Richard Spencer. 1871.

THESE beautiful reprints should be in the hands of every Freemason who is interested in the Archæology of the Order. They are exquisitely printed in the old face type, as nearly like the originals as possible, while some of the wood-cuts, and two frontispieces have been produced in facsimile. Apart from their Masonic interest, these reprints show that the printer's art, early in the last century, was guided by the best taste. The title pages are really admirable examples of letter-press, and the headings and tail-pieces to the chapters are very characteristic, as records of Masonic affairs, and as contributions towards that comprehensive history of Freemasonry which will some day be written, they are invaluable. The Editor's preface, and the Publisher's remarks upon the originals embody much interesting information,

THE QUARTERLIES.

OUR readers will find much to interest them in the latest issues of these important periodicals. The opening article in the *Quarterly* is a long and very elaborate review of the "Greville Memoirs." It was only last week that, in noticing "Social Pressure," we took occasion to illustrate the author's remarks on "Over-Publicity" by a reference to the publication of these very journals. We had not, of course, then seen this article. It is the more gratifying, therefore, to find that the *Quarterly* critic holds exactly the same opinion as ourselves as to the more than indecent haste which has been shown in publishing memoirs which should certainly not have seen the light of day for at least the next fifty years, and then not in the form in which they have appeared. We cannot do better, perhaps, than quote the concluding paragraph of this most valuable protest against the evil of "Over-Publicity." "We are not aware," says the writer, "that we have overstepped, by a hair's breadth, the strictest limits of literary courtesy in our strong condemnation of this book. We have tacitly assumed that Greville wrote the most objectionable passages without a view to publication, and that Mr. Reeve published them without intending to injure or annoy anybody. What is done cannot be undone. But a grave error has been committed, which must not and (we think) will not be repeated. We venture to prophesy that the remaining portions of the Journal will not see the light in our time—certainly not in the same crude, mischievous, unsatisfactory form. Nor will the world be much the losers should any meditated publication of the same sort be deferred for the next hundred years. If contemporary history cannot be written without the aid of such memoirs, we had rather do without contemporary history; we can wait, for it is our firm conviction that any information or entertainment which may be derived from them is far more than counterbalanced by the annoyance they create, the distrust they inspire, the angry feelings they foster, and the false impressions of character and conduct they diffuse." There are also admirable notices of the "Life of the Prince Consort," "Farrar's Life of Christ," a paper on "Friendly Societies," and two articles on matters connected with Legal Reform. In the first are considered the relations that exist between "The English Bar and the Inns of Court." In the other, "The Judicial Investigation of Truth" is handled with a skill and sense that are worthy of all praise. The points to which the writer of the second article devotes his chief attention are these: (a) the law must be applied to every particular case with the minimum of error; (b) the law should work with the minimum of delay, (c) with the minimum of expense. Our readers will agree with us that the attainment of these several objects is highly desirable, and we strongly advise them to study the many and excellent suggestions to this end which the writer offers.

Among the most valuable contributions to the *Edinburgh*, may be mentioned a review of "Lord Ellenborough's Indian Administration," based on the recently published memoirs, edited by Lord Colchester. Two critical notices of "the Life of the Prince Consort" and "Cox's History of Greece," and "a Memoir of Archibald Constable." Other articles deal with "Lasio Pilaris and Lawn Tennis," in which the writer ably sketches the old game of tennis and the more recent and highly popular one known as Sphairistiké or lawn tennis, offering, at the same time, many practical suggestions for the perfection of the latter;—"The Agricultural Labourers of England," in which their complaints are analysed in a perfectly impartial spirit, and their condition compared with that of labourers in different continental countries;—and "The Heart of Africa and the Slave Trade," Dr. Schweinfurth's well known work being one of the bases of the last mentioned article, Sir Samuel Baker's "Ismailia" the other. Those persons who have not read these very valuable works will be enabled to form a capital idea of their merits, assuming, at least, that they have little or no leisure for the private study of the original works themselves.

Among the contents of *Popular Science* we noticed especially an elaborate article on "Gunpowder: its Manufacture and Conveyance." Considering the terrible effects of the "Regent's Park Explosion," the question of conveyance is of the first importance, and we are glad to learn from this article that every possible precaution is observed in conveying gunpowder from the Government factory to the stores at Purfleet. As to its manufacture, we are freely initiated into the system pursued at Waltham; and here, too, it seems the authorities observe the utmost care, so as to reduce the possibility of any accident to a minimum. Nor is this all: the process of manufacture is fully described, and an insight given us into the several descriptions of powder in use, so that any of our readers who may have a taste for this kind of study will derive much valuable information from this article.

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THE THEATRES, &c.

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OLYMPIC.—At 7.0, TWENTY MINUTES WITH A TIGER. At 7.30, THE TWO ORPHANS.

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VAUDEVILLE.—At 7.0, CUPBOARD LOVE. At 7.15, OUR BOYS. At 10, ROMULUS AND REMUS.

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AMPHITHEATRE, HOLBORN.—At 7.0, THE BEGGAR'S OPERA. At 8.15, MADAME ANGOT.

SURREY.—FORTY THIEVES and THE SECRET.

PHILHARMONIC.—At 7.30, THE WATERMAN. At 8.20, LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT and the GREAT DORST'S (last night). Next week, THE BOHEMIAN GIRL.

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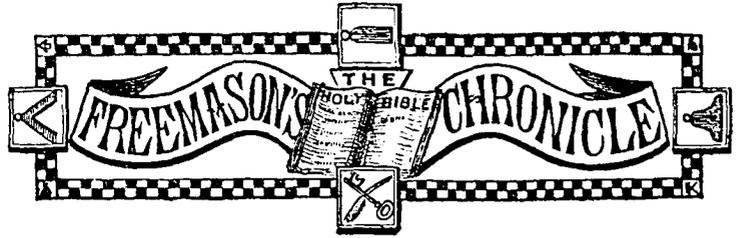
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

DE PLURIMIS REBUS.

THE interest of the moment centres about the resignation by Mr. Gladstone of his leadership of the Liberal party, which he has virtually held since the death of Lord Palmerston in the autumn of 1865. The event can hardly have been unexpected. It was freely mooted last year, and it was only towards the very end of the Session that the Right Honourable gentleman resumed his place in the House and strenuously opposed certain measures supported by the Government. Moreover, in the ordinary course of things Mr. Gladstone's retirement from active life must have occurred sooner or later. True, many of our public men remain in office till a far more advanced age than he has attained. Lord Palmerston died in harness at 83; Earl Russell succeeded him in the Premiership at 76; and Mr. Disraeli is, we believe, in his 70th year. For this reason, doubtless, this withdrawal from the political arena, though freely canvassed, as we have said, last Session, has surprised and not a little dismayed the Opposition, who are at their wits' end to supply the vacancy. Not for lack of candidates though. Messrs. Goschen, Forster, Lowe, Lord Hartington, and Sir W. Harcourt are said to be among the foremost claimants for the vacant honour of "Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition." But has any one of these weight of character enough for so important a position? Mr. Gladstone first entered Parliament in 1832, and first took office as a Lord of the Treasury in December 1834. He was a prominent member of Sir R. Peel's Administration 1841-46, Chancellor of the Exchequer 1852-55, under Lord Aberdeen, and again filled the same office under Lords Palmerston and Russell successively, 1859-66. He was a great administrator, a great financier, a powerful speaker, and a ready debater, wanting only, perhaps, more tact and temper to have become the most eminent of modern Parliamentary leaders. Can the half of this be said of any one who is named as his probable successor? We ask not this by way of disparagement to their talents, but rather to show the loss the party have sustained by Mr. Gladstone's anticipated, yet, at the last moment, somewhat abrupt withdrawal from public life. Nor will this loss be felt by his party only. The country, likewise, will suffer. A weak Opposition—the present is weak in point of cohesion, if not in numbers—has always been regarded as detrimental to the public interests. Even the strongest Government is all the better for an active and well organised Opposition. Its measures are more carefully prepared, and when they have passed both Houses generally appear more ship-shape than when opposition is languid and criticism somewhat feeble.

The person who has created the greatest amount of excitement after the ex-premier is undoubtedly the Clerk of the weather. We ought not, perhaps, to have spoken of excitement in this case. How can any one be moved to the expression of any kind of feeling when the wind howls all night, and a drizzling rain is falling all day? We have had one or two glimpses of the sun; the moon has struggled vainly to show herself, and the stars have been visible about as often as the sun. Otherwise our chief out-of-door enjoyments this year have been of a wind and watery character. We had almost forgotten the mud, though. We have seen and felt that daily since the thaw set in on the morning of New Year's day. When will the vestries who rule the greater part of the Metropolis think it worth their while to keep the streets decently clean? We should have far greater reason to boast of this London of ours if its rulers—they of the City alone excepted—were just a little less incapable than they are—less officious in trumpery things, and more official in matters of importance. It is said the government of London is confided to somewhere about 11,000 persons, formed into all kinds of odds and ends of sections known officially as vestries, local boards of Health and Works, and the like. It occurs to us we might do better than this.

Catching cold is seasonable, and follows appropriately enough our brief discourse about the weather and certain of its effects. Dr. Symes Thompson has recently been lecturing on this subject, or, as he puts it, with a becoming professional regard for the fitness of terms, "losing heat." We wear clothes, not to keep out the cold, but to keep in the heat. Yet not always successfully, for the cold siezes hold of us in spite of our wraps and comforters and clogs. The consequences are often distressing, and the aid of the medical man not seldom imperatively necessary. Dr. Thompson's advice, therefore, comes opportunely enough. Don't be frightened of the night air, says this worthy medicine man, it is purer, at all events in London, than the air we breathe by day. So keep the bedroom window a little open at night time. Avoid draughts and especially very quick currents of air. By all means, if suffering from cold, maintain an equal temperature in the room you occupy, or induce perspiration either by having a Turkish Bath or taking a nightcap of hot spirits and water—rum in preference—mixed with sugar and a little nutmeg. The last is perhaps the best suggestion of all. At all events, it would have suited Mr. Stiggins admirably. Had he been present and heard Dr. Thompson's lecture, doubtless he would have gone off then and there and caught cold, and have remained in a chronic state of suffering from the "loss of heat" ever since. A "go" of this particular vanity—we should have said remedy—hot, strong and warm, was exactly to his taste.

It seems fated that Paddington Station should be the scene of great jewel robberies. Our readers will remember that, towards the end of last year, Lady Dudley's jewel case was stolen almost from under the eyes, certainly from under the very feet of the attendant in charge of it. A few days since H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh was waiting at the same station for the train, which was to convey him on a visit to Lord and Lady Dudley, when, behold, H.R.H.'s jewel case disappeared in an equally mysterious manner. In this, as in the previous cases, the robber displayed great judgment and retired, leaving behind not the slightest trace of himself or his booty. Thus, the Duke set out on his visit without his jewels. Two questions naturally occur to us. How do these thieves get wind that royal and noble personages intend travelling by certain trains, and with their jewel cases? Are the Paddington officials sufficiently on the alert against the loose class of persons who notoriously infest all our most important railway stations? If so, how can the same kind of robbery have occurred twice within the space of a few weeks?

From other parts of the country there is little to record. There have been conferences of different kinds in different towns. The most noteworthy event, however, is the strike of colliers in South Wales. These differences are seriously to be deplored; they are costly, create a bad feeling between employers and the employed, and in nearly every case are disastrous to the families of the latter. Would it not be well to adopt some such plan as, we believe, is pursued in France, and erect a court or courts of arbitration or conciliation for the amicable settlement of all differences between masters and men? Those who would learn something of the working of these courts will find much valuable information thereon in Mr. Brassey's book on "Work and Wages." All we can do is to hope that the present strife may end as soon as possible.

In the literary world we have to chronicle the appearance of the fifth or Inkermann volume of Mr. Kinglake's "Invasion of the Crimea." As far as we have been able to judge, this is fully equal, in point of graphic description, to the volumes that have preceded it. It will certainly add largely to the already high reputation of the author.

A deputation, representing the Ancient Order of Foresters, waited on the Chancellor of Exchequer, on Wednesday, for the purpose of submitting for his consideration certain suggestions in connection with the Friendly Societies' Bill, which will be presented to Parliament this Session. A long discussion ensued, the Right Honourable Gentleman courteously promising that every possible consideration should be given to the several amendments suggested, and in some matters urging a conference of Foresters with Mr. Ludlow, the draftsman of the bill. The deputation were highly pleased with their reception.

Causes of fire, generally unaccountable, are often wrapt in mystery. All kinds of intelligent reasons are advanced on occasions of its outbreak, but the same result is usually

arrived at—"No fellah can make it out." We must therefore regard Captain Shaw as little less than a wizard, if measured by this standard, when we inspect his statistics relative to this subject. Out of 1,573 fires, which occurred in the year 1874, he positively furnishes us, in great detail, with the causes of no less than 1,259, not including 18 which he reports as "doubtful." The different headings, under which he arranges the several causes of fire are somewhat curious in some cases. For instance, smokers will be alarmed to find that 36 fires occurred through "smoking tobacco." Anxious parents will be horrified to discover that under the two heads of "children playing with lucifers," and "children playing with fire," no less than 62 are accounted for. It will cause serious alarm to householders generally that "escape of gas" was the origin of 44, and "defective flues" of 62. The heads under which the greatest number of fires are found are, "candles" 218, and "sparks from fire" 147, though the climax is reached at 296, the number of those "not accounted for." The rescue of life on these occasions is the most gratifying part of the report, and reflects the highest credit on the courage and skill of the Fire Brigade. Thus, out of 157 people in peril from fire during the past year, the very large proportion of 134 were saved by the Brigade. We find that one of these heroes has himself saved the lives of 17, whilst a second has done that service to 11. Statistics show a favourable progress in all the branches of this most useful and praiseworthy institution. We wish it all the encouragement it so richly deserves.

Having received universal tokens of affection and loyalty throughout the entire length of his progress in his new kingdom, King Alphonso has now reached the army of the North. We hear of him at Saragossa on Wednesday last; and the telegrams inform us that the respite lately allowed the Carlists will cease on the King's arrival. We may look, therefore, for some important results, when we regard the enthusiasm which the restored monarchy has instilled into the army. Carlist affairs do not seem to be "looking up" just now either. The sinews of war would appear not to be forthcoming; there is some little difficulty in monetary affairs. Bankers do not like the security, and object to advance further sums. This might facilitate matters for the new king very considerably. For how can soldiers, arms, or ammunition be obtained now-a-days without the "needful?" We hope that a fresh difficulty may not so soon be imposed upon the youthful monarch, as the *Gustav* affair seems to promise. German honour—Bismarck's honour—must be satisfied; no doubt will be; but we hope that "busy" statesmen will advocate no indecent haste in the matter of reparation, however well deserved it may be. There may be some slight tinge of disappointment, perhaps, in the fact that a king has been called to the throne without the permission of Germany; but we trust the young monarch will be allowed just a little breathing time to satisfy all parties.

"Prevention is better than cure"—cheaper, too, no doubt—in every way more desirable. Are we to regard this as the maxim which Europe accepts when we look into the mighty warlike preparations she is now making? We have arrived at a pitch when armies are counted by millions, when countries present the aspect of one huge military establishment. By the passing of the Landsturm Bill, every German between the ages of 17 and 42, who does not already belong to the Army of Reserve, is liable to be called out in the case of an actual, or even a threatened invasion. This will place at the disposal of Germany a total available force of 2,800,000 men. May be the irritable temperament of France, writhing under her late discomfiture and loss of territory, and "eager for the fray," on the one hand, and the gigantic preparations of Russia on the other, account in some way for the tone of German military politics. France and Russia are apparently on very friendly terms. They hem in Germany between them, and their united forces are said to number over 5,000,000 men, viz., Russia 3½ millions, and France about 1,750,000. In addition to these great powers, we find Austria, Italy, Denmark, Holland and Switzerland arming to the teeth. What does it all mean? And what is England doing? It becomes more apparent than ever that she will never be able to take any independent action in Continental affairs again, though she might serve as a very useful contingent to a great power. The total

available force of England would not amount to one-tenth of that of France, or one-twentieth of the host of Germany. She must be content then to leave war alone, and follow peaceful pursuits. Thanks to her insular position, she is virtually secure from invasion. Further, she owns a navy which she is justly proud in thinking would render her position unassailable, even if such a remote contingency were threatening.

We wish we were able to offer more satisfactory intelligence to our readers of the health of Prince Leopold. His condition, though apparently much the same, does not show altogether hopeful signs of a speedy recovery. We read that hæmorrhage has returned, which the *London Medical Record* regards as a very ominous sign in ordinary cases of typhoid fever. We are glad to learn, however, that the authority just quoted regards hæmorrhage in this case, not as proceeding from the fever, but attributes it to a natural tendency to hæmorrhage in the Prince. Its ill-effect, then, will be measured by the extent of debility it may produce, and, having regard to the milder weather now prevailing, we hope for some improvement at an early date.

Bro. S. B. Oldham, Secretary to the Girls and Boys' School in Ireland has been appointed Deputy Grand Secretary and Treasurer to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, in place of Bro. C. J. Walmisby, lately resigned.

A Masonic Temple is to be solemnly inaugurated at Rome next month. It is understood that the occasion will be one of very great pomp.

We have great pleasure in announcing that on Wednesday last Bro. I. Edwards was unanimously elected to the office of Town Clerk of St. Albans—a post rendered vacant by the lamented decease of Bro. T. W. Blagg. Bro. Edwards was also appointed Registrar of the County Court.

A very pleasant gathering came off at the Criterion, the other evening, on the occasion of a complimentary dinner to Mr. Peter Laird, the late Assistant Secretary at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, which post he had filled from the first opening of the building. During his tenure of office, Mr. Laird was deservedly popular with all classes, and his retirement was a general source of regret. The estimation in which he was held by a large circle of friends found a still more practical expression, on this occasion, in the presentation of a handsome testimonial, consisting of a purse of gold, which was suitably acknowledged.

Bro. E. P. Albert P.M. and Secretary 188, and Proxy Master, Isle of Mauritius has been presented with a very elegant medal, artistically enamelled in colours, as a mark of honour from the Canongate and Leith Lodge, No. 5, Scotland.

The story of Whittington and his Cat, no doubt became familiar to most of our readers in the early days when a visit to the Pantomime was one of the events of the season. The following, from a footnote to Mr. Riley's admirable preface to his Edition of *Liber Albus*, may possess, therefore, some interest. In the 14th and beginning of the 15th centuries, trading, or buying and selling at a profit, was known to the more educated classes under the French name of "Achat," which in England was written, and not improbably pronounced "Acat." To "Acat" of this nature Whittington was indebted for his wealth, and as, in time, French was gradually displaced by modern English, the meaning of the word probably became lost, and thus furnished an opportunity to some inventive genius, at a much later period, for building up a new story on the double meaning of an old and effete word. Mr. Riley further tells us that contracting was also known, in the 14th century as "Acat," and to "Acat" of this description Whittington may also have owed some of his wealth. Other solutions have been offered, and among them a suggestion, in a spirit of irony, by Foote, in his *Nabob*, that

Whittington owed his wealth to the employment of the coal ships known as "Cats," is deserving of notice.

Bro. Louis Beck's Fourth Annual Ball will take place at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, on Thursday, 11th February. An efficient body of Stewards has consented to act on that occasion. Tickets can be obtained at Bro. Beck's, 1A Adam Street, Strand. Bro. Jarvis is the M.C.

On Tuesday evening last a very successful Masonic Ball was given in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton.

We observe that the death-rate has assumed much more satisfactory dimensions during the past week. We find, by the Registrar-General's Returns, that the mortality in the 20 English towns shows the lower average of 32 per 1,000, 34 in Edinburgh, 42 in Dublin, and 44 in Glasgow. The rate at Bradford is the lowest, viz., 22, while Manchester is unhappily credited with the highest, 42. In London the rate declined to 29 per 1,000. Altogether we may consider the returns as satisfactory.

On Monday a Grand Conference was held at Birmingham for the purpose of concerting measures throughout the Midland Counties for the defence of the Church. The Earl of Dartmouth presided, and letters were read from the Earl of Harrowby and Mr. Newdegate, expressing both regret at their inability to be present and entire sympathy with the objects of the meeting. Amongst the speakers may be mentioned none other than Lord Lyttelton, a prominent member of the Liberal party, who was heartily congratulated by the chairman on the taste and judgment he displayed in handling the question. A large and influential meeting was also held in the evening of the same day in the Town Hall, when certain resolutions on the same subject were offered and accepted.

For some days past a Trades' Union Congress has been sitting at Liverpool. Many subjects of interest were discussed, and among those who addressed the meeting may be mentioned Mr. Plimsoll, M.P., in whose favour a resolution was passed, expressing the complete sympathy of the Congress with the honourable gentleman in his efforts on behalf of our mercantile seamen. Mr. Plimsoll's remarks naturally related to the subject he has so strenuously taken in hand. A resolution was subsequently agreed to, that a memorial should be presented to the Prime Minister, entreating that the attention of the Government should be given to the subject of the unseaworthiness of our ships. Several noteworthy persons connected with Trades' Unions were present, including the honourable member for the Hole-in-the-wall, Mr. Odger, of Republican notoriety.

INSTRUCTION.—The Installation Ceremony will be rehearsed in the Confidence Lodge of Instruction, White Hart Tavern, Abchurch-lane, Cannon-street, on Wednesday evening, the 27th inst., at 7.30, by Bro. John Constable W.M. 185.

Illustrated Guide for Amateur Gardeners. Spring 1875. Daniel Bros. Norwich.—Contains, among other matters, an excellent "Kitchen Garden Calendar," which will be found serviceable on the all important questions of sowing, planting, treatment and selection of the best varieties. Then follows an illustrated table of the various sorts of vegetables most in use, with notes to guide the amateur in his choice of qualities. Next comes the "Flower Garden Calendar," similarly treated to its companion of the Kitchen Garden, and followed in like manner by a long catalogue of plants and seeds, with the addition of sundry suggestions on the purchase and arrangement of plants in borders and beds. A description of several new sorts of vegetables, and sundry new inventions for the greenhouse, concludes this admirable guide, which we accordingly recommend to the notice of any among our readers who have a taste for gardening.

A Wondrous Tale, and other Poems, by St. MARIE. London: Charing Cross Publishing Company.

THESE little poems, which are all of a serious cast, are evidently written by a prentice hand. They exhibit a highly moral and religious tone, and are, no doubt, the work of an earnest soul, who seeks to alleviate human woe, and speak a word of hope to the fallen. In view of the evident intention of the author, we shall restrain our critical instinct, and merely advise her to try again, and yet again, before she ventures upon publishing any additional rhymes.

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, 23rd JANUARY.

Audit Committee, Boys' School, at 3.
149—Peace, Masonic Rooms, Meltham.
1297—West Kent, Forest Hill Hotel, Forest Hill, Lewisham.

MONDAY, 25th JANUARY.

4—Royal Somerset House and Inverness, Freemasons' Hall.
96—Castle L of Harmony, Willis's Rooms, St. James's.
98—Old Kings Arms, Freemasons' Hall.
79—Pythagorean, Ship Tavern, Royal Hill, Greenwich.
183—Unity, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
902—Burgoyne, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
905—De Gray and Ripon, Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi.
R. A. 25—Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 188—Joppa, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
827—St. John's, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury, Yorks.
R. A. 302—Charity, Masonic Hall, Bradford, Mon.

TUESDAY, 26th JANUARY.

Audit Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
14—Tuscan, Freemasons' Hall.
92—Moirs, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
141—Faith, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
145—Prudent Brethren, Freemasons' Hall.
186—Industry, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall-street.
205—Israel, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
259—Prince of Wales, Willis's Rooms, St. James's.
1158—Southern Star, Montpelier Tavern, Walworth.
1196—Urban, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's-gate.
1348—Ebury, Morpeth Arms Tavern, Millbank.
R. A. 21—Cyrus, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
R. A. 46—Old Union, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
448—St. James', Masonic Hall, Halifax, Yorks.

WEDNESDAY, 27th JANUARY.

Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons.
2—Antiquity, Freemasons' Hall.
212—Euphrates, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall-street.
507—United Pilgrims, Horns Tavern, Kennington.
753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood.
754—High Cross, Seven Sisters' Tavern, Page Green, Tottenham.
898—Temperance in the East, Private Assembly Rooms, 6 Newby-place, Poplar.
1056—Victoria, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
290—Huddersfield, Masonic Hall, Huddersfield.
304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Leeds.
750—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Cleckheaton, Yorks.
1283—Ryburn, Masonic Rooms, Sowerby Bridge, Yorks.
R. A. 387—Moravian, Masonic Hall, Shipley.

THURSDAY, 28th JANUARY.

General Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
22—Neptune, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
34—Mount Moriah, Freemasons' Hall.
60—Peace and Harmony, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
65—Prosperity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
66—Grenadiers, Freemasons' Hall.
99—Shakespeare, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
871—Royal Oak, White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford.
R. A. 177—Domestic, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
R. A. 534—Polish National, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 766—William Preston, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
810—Craven, Devonshire Hotel, Skipton.
904—Phoenix, Ship Hotel, Westgate, Rotherham.
971—Trafalgar, Commercial-street, Batley, Yorks.
R. A. 307—Good Intent, White Horse, Hebden Bridge, near Halifax.
K. T. Precep.—Fearnley, Dewsbury.

FRIDAY, 29th JANUARY.

R. A. 131—Caledonian, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street.
R. A. 242—Magdalen, Town Hall, Doncaster.

SATURDAY, 30th JANUARY.

1462—Wharnccliffe, Rose and Crown Hotel, Pimstone, Yorks.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—349—St. Clair, Freemasons' Hall.
TUESDAY—151—Defensive Band, Alexander Hall, Cockburn-street.
R. A. 40—Naval and Military, Freemasons' Hall.
WEDNESDAY—112—St. John, Fisher-row, Royal Hotel, Musselburgh.
THURSDAY—392—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall.
FRIDAY—223—Trafalgar, 51 Bernard-street, Leith.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Grand Stewards' Lodge.—The installation meeting of the above Lodge, restricted to Present and Past Grand Stewards, was held on Wednesday, the 20th inst., Bro. Waters occupying the chair, supported by the officers and Bros. F. Binckes (Secretary Boys' School), H. Norman, Scott, G. S. States, Pankhurst, Edmonds, Breary, Richards, White, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. J. R. Stedwell P.G.S. and P.G.J.W. (Middlesex), was duly installed into the chair. He then appointed his officers for the ensuing year, viz.—Bros. E. March S.W., Hockley J.W. and Secretary, R. Spencer Treasurer, Baxter S.D., Walsh J.D., J. E. Saunders P.G.D. I.G., F. Richardson D.C., W. Watson W.S., and Rawles Tyler. Bro. White P.G.S. having announced his intention to act as Steward at the forthcoming anniversary of the Girls' School, the sum of five guineas was placed on his list from the funds of the Lodge. The following presents to the Lodge were announced, viz.—a very elegant square and compass, by Bro. R. Spencer; Bro. Stedwell W.M., the columns; Bro. Norman, the cushion; Bro. Walters, the ballot-box; and Bro. Rucker, the rough and perfect

ashlar. Votes of thanks were accorded to those brethren, which were carried unanimously. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to the usual banquet, which was provided by Bro. Francatelli, and superintended by Bro. Knill. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given by the W.M. The toast of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as Grand Master was received with great enthusiasm, as well as that of the Earl of Carnarvon Provincial Grand Master, and Lord Skermersdale Deputy Grand Master. Bro. E. March S.W., in a pertinent speech, in returning thanks, regretted the absence of two members of the Lodge, who were members of Grand Lodge, namely—Bros. Rucker and J. E. Saunders, who were prevented from being present by important duties. Bro. Waters I.P.M., in proposing the toast of the W.M., said how pleased he was to see him in the chair. He was one who was qualified to fill it; his heart and soul were in the cause of Freemasonry, and he was sure it was the wish of every brother present. (Cheers.) The W.M., in reply, said he had to thank Bro. Waters for his kind expressions; it was a great pleasure to be Master of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, and he would be only too happy to render any assistance during his year of office to the Lodge. The toast of the visitors was responded to by Bros. White and Goldsmith. Bro. Waters returned thanks for the Past Masters in a capital speech. He said that he hoped, in seeing so numerous an assemblage of the brethren present, that they might, in the course of time, aspire to so eminent a position as that he now occupied—a Past Master of the Grand Stewards' Lodge. (Cheers.) The toasts of the Treasurer (Bro. Spencer) and Secretary followed. The W.M., in proposing the toast of the officers of the Lodge, stated he was proud to see such as those he had selected, and he hoped, on a future occasion, to see them in the same position he now occupied. Bro. March S.W. returned thanks for the toast, and pertinently said, it was merely a suggestion, that he hoped would be carried out, that the Grand Stewards for the year should be invited to visit the Grand Stewards' Lodge; it would not only create a reciprocal feeling, but would add materially in augmenting their numbers. The W.M. then proposed the toast of "The Charities." He was pleased to see one of the members of his Lodge present, Bro. Binckes, who represented a great and glorious institution—The Boys' School. Bro. Binckes, in response, gave the brethren the numbers of the boys and girls who were being educated and clothed, also those of the aged who were provided for, but he also stated that there were 525 candidates now waiting for admission into the three charities at the next elections. Bro. White followed, and hoped the brethren and their families would visit the various institutions, for they would then see how the amounts given would be thankfully received and faithfully applied. The Tyler's toast was then given. The brethren were entertained by the beautiful singing of Bros. Carter, Lister and Lawler jun., who gave some capital songs and glees; Bros. Edmonds and Baxter also contributing to the harmony.

Medina Lodge, No. 35.—The annual meeting of this Lodge, which is the most ancient in the Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, was held on Thursday last, at the Lodge Rooms, High Street, Cowes. The brethren assembled at about 3 p.m., for the purpose of assisting in the installation of Bro. T. W. Faulkner. Bro. Faulkner has already filled the chair on one or two occasions, but the brethren knowing his zest for Freemasonry again selected him as the Master for the year 1875. The Lodge having been opened in the three degrees, the ceremony was carried out by Bro. J. G. Wheeler, the retiring Master, assisted by the other P.M.'s of the Lodge. The Master having been duly installed, proceeded to the appointment of his officers. The business at the Lodge having been concluded, the brethren retired to the banquet, at the Fountain Hotel. The chair was taken by the W.M., and the vice-chair by Bro. J. Hall Smith P.M. and S.W., after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and were well received.

Mount Lebanon Lodge, No. 73.—The installation ceremony in connection with this distinguished Lodge took place on Tuesday night, at Bro. Spencer's, Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge. Members and visitors, numbering together upwards of a hundred, assembled upon the occasion. They included several provincial grand officers, a large number of Past Masters, Wardens, Deacons, and other officers of the Craft, each and all of whom wore the full insignia of their respective offices. The Lodge met at 5 o'clock, and Past Master Harris, Treasurer, performed the ceremony of installing Bro. Isaac John Hooper Wilkins Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year. At the conclusion of the business the company adjourned to the banquet hall, where covers were laid for 120 guests. The newly installed Master presided, supported, on his right, by an initiate, and on his left, by Past Master Harris. There were also present, at the cross-table, Bro. Colonel Burdett, Provincial Grand Master of Middlesex; Bro. T. J. Sabine, Provincial Grand Deacon of Middlesex; Bro. W. Smeed, Provincial Grand Warden of Middlesex; Bro. James Cattley Mason (Mason, Cattley and Co.); and Bro. Lazarus, Past Grand Warden of Wilts, who, in responding for the visitors, took the opportunity of producing his certificate of a Master, which was dated 23rd January 1825, and signed by Frederick Augustus (the Duke of Sussex), who was, at that time, Grand Master. After the service of an excellent dinner by Bro. Joseph Spencer, the "Queen and the Craft," and the other masonic toasts, were proposed by the Worshipful Master, who, in the course of the evening, presented, in the name of the Lodge, a magnificent jewel to the immediate Past Master, Bro. J. L. Dussek, unanimously voted out of the Lodge funds, supplemented by the private subscriptions of the brethren. The toasts were interspersed with songs and glees, under the direction of Bro. John Read. The evening was one of the most successful of the successful meetings of the Mount Lebanon Lodge.

St. John's Lodge, No. 90.—The installation meeting of this

Lodge was held at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street, on Monday, 11th inst.; there were present Bros. Rumford P.M. W.M., Wetherell S.W., Snelling J.W., J. Elese P.M. Treasurer, J. Griffen P.M. Secretary, Venn S.D., W. Stormer J.D., Smith I.G., W. R. Stephens P.M. W.S., Bro. G. P. Griffin P.M., McDougal P.M., S. C. Hadley G.A.D. C.P.M., Bros. W. Rathbone, T. Meyrick, J. D. Allison, W. Brown, W. Colpoys, J. L. Cross, J. Margetsen, P. A. Coard, J. Pearce, S. Henderson, G. Thorne, J. Kelsey; there were several visitors present, amongst whom were the following, Bro. N. D. Benjumea, of a Foreign Lodge, A. J. Bristow No. 14, C. Challen and E. M. McDougal No. 3, E. W. Plowright P.G.S., E. Dow 821, L. Rumford, C. E. Eglese 1261, W. I. Spicer 579, F. J. Foord 424, W. Burgess 404. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and the W.M. elect, Bro. Wetherell, was presented to the W.M. to receive at his hands the honour of installation. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and the W.M.'s having retired, Bro. Wetherell was installed into the chair of K.S., according to ancient custom, the M.M. having re-entered the Lodge, and saluted the W.M., the Lodge was closed in first and second degree, and the officers were appointed and invested as follows:—Bro. Snelling S.W., Venn J.W., Eglese Treasurer, G. P. Griffin Secretary, W. Stormer S.D., Smith J.D. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to banquet.

St. John's Lodge, Banff.—The annual meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, the 14th inst., for the purpose of transacting the ordinary business, and for the election of office-bearers. After the business of the Lodge was over, the brethren dined together in their hall, Brother D. McCulloch presiding. A very pleasant and harmonious evening was spent.

Lodge of Justice, No. 147.—The installation meeting of this Lodge, was held at the White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford, on Wednesday, the 13th inst. There were about 50 brethren present. Bro. C. G. Dilley W.M. in the chair assisted by Bro. J. Roper S.W., Bro. Speight S.D., Church I.G., Past Masters G. Bolton, T. Percival, J. Lightfoot, R. Batt, J. Patte, J. Cavel, H. Sadler, G. Chapman Secretary, and H. Bartlett Treasurer. Bros. J. J. Hutchins, G. Waterman, T. Partington, J. W. Freeman, G. Bray, J. L. Doust, J. H. Skelton, C. Porter, N. Clarke, J. Endicott, B. Goodman, S. Hurdle, J. Chappell, W. Kennett, T. Mott, G. Dukes, W. Ingram, J. J. Pitt, T. Miles, and several others. The Lodge being opened, and the minutes confirmed, a ballot was taken for Mr. T. Clarke, R. R. Banks, and H. C. Freeman for initiation. The Lodge was opened in second degree, and Bro. G. Bray, having answered the usual questions, was entrusted and retired. The Lodge was opened in third degree, and Bro. Bray was raised to that degree, the Lodge was resumed in second degree, and Bro. John Roper was presented for installation. The Lodge was resumed in third degree, and Bro. Roper, having been installed, and the Lodge closed down to the first degree, the W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Andrew P.M. S.W., Speight J.W., Church S.D., Waterman J.D., Partington I.G., Past Masters H. Bartlett, and G. Chapman were re-invested as Treasurer and Secretary. The W.M., Bro. Roper, then initiated Messrs. J. Clarke, R. R. Banks, and H. C. Freeman into the Order. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a most excellent banquet, provided by Mrs. Porter, the hostess. The following visitors were present:—Bro. H. Moore P.M. 1155, of which Lodge Bro. Roper is an officer. Bros. S. Hose S.W. 1155, J. Carver P.M. 1155, J. Welstead D.C. 1155, Burton 933, G. Brown P.M. 169. The usual Masonic toasts were given. Bro. H. Moore responded for the visitors, and, in returning thanks, remarked that in the course of his Masonic experience, which extended over some ten years, he had never heard a W.M., on the night of his installation, perform the ceremony of initiation in a more able and impressive manner than Bro. Roper had done that evening. The brethren having spent a most pleasant evening, departed, highly satisfied with their enjoyment.

Bedford Lodge, No. 157.—The members of this excellent old Lodge met on the 8th instant, and disposed of a large amount of business, the W.M., Bro. Briggs, initiating, passing and raising several gentlemen and brethren into the various degrees in a very able manner. Bro. P.M. Stacey installed Bro. James Lear Drew into the W.M.'s chair. The W.M. made appointments to the several offices as follow:—Bro. Walton S.W.; Bro. Poole J.W.; Br. Creak S.D. There was a good muster of P.M.'s, amongst whom we noticed Bros. Cubitt, Millis, Holland, Hills, Smith and Brander. Among the large attendance of visitors were Bros. Farthing W.M.; Boyd P.M.; Beard P.M.; Kepling P.M.; Pope P.M.; Darke P.M.; Nicholls P.M.; Hillis P.M.; J. R. Stacey P.M. and T. Butler P.W. The usual P.M.'s jewel was unanimously awarded to the W.M. A banquet followed, the W.M. presiding. The evening's entertainment was much enhanced by the singing of *Madame Constantin*, Mr. G. T. Carter and Mr. T. Beale, Mr. J. C. Dunster presiding at the pianoforte.

St. James's Union Lodge, No. 180.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was celebrated on Tuesday the 12th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Bro. Gallico W.M. occupied the chair. W. C. Parsons S.W., Gillard J.W. The officers and P.M.'s Smethett, Bubb, Cameron, Sedgwick, J. H. Stacey, Herf, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. Ladbury was raised to the third degree, and Bro. Kasper to the second degree, and Messrs. Thompson, Pavett, Raimo and Brestgla, were initiated into the Order. Bro. W. C. Parsons S.W., who had been unanimously elected at the former meeting, was then installed into the chair by the retiring W.M. Bro. Gallico. Salutations according to ancient form were then accorded to the W.M., who invested his officers as follows:—Bros. Gallico I.P.M., Gillard S.W.,

A. Annett (secretary L. V. Asylum), J. W. Robinson P.M. Treasurer, H. A. Stacey P.M. Secretary, Pilling S.D., S. Smith J.D., Harrisson I.G., J. Stacey P.M. D.C., Bros. Herf and Farwig Stewards, and Gilbert Tyler. The W.M., in feeling terms, announced the death of Bro. Archard P.M. and Bro. Thorn. The W.M. then stated he, Bro. H. A. Stacey P.M. and Bro. Cameron W.M., had signified their intention to act as stewards at the forthcoming festivals. A very elegant Gold Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Gallico I.P.M. by the W.M., for the able manner he had discharged his duties during his year of office. Bro. Gallico having replied, the brethren adjourned to the Crown Room, where every accommodation was made for them by Bro. Francatelli. A sumptuous banquet was provided, and 109 brethren sat down to partake of it. The W.M. gave the usual toasts, both Loyal and Masonic, and Bros. John Boyd P.G.P. and C. A. Cottebrune P.G.P. responded in connection with the toast of the Past Grand Officers. The toast of the W.M. was proposed by Bro. Gallico I.M.P., he said the W.M., in occupying that position, was one who would see the working carried out to the satisfaction of every brother in the Lodge. The W.M. suitably responded. The toast of the visitors was replied to by the P.P.G.O. and Bro. Bayfield P.M. 511. The toast of the Masonic Charities could not have found a more eloquent speaker than Bro. F. Binckes, whose powerful advocacy of that noble charity deserves great praise, and commanded the attention of the numerous brethren present. The toasts of the Wardens and Officers followed, and a delightful evening was passed, enlivened by harmony. The W.M. announced that the 13th annual ball, in connection with this Lodge, would take place on the 4th February, under the able presidency of the W.M., Bro. Parsons and an efficient body of stewards would lend him valuable assistance.

Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185.—This Lodge met on the 18th inst., at Cannon-street Hotel, E.C. Bro. John Constable W.M. presided. The chief business of the evening consisted of the election of Worshipful Master, Treasurer and Tyler for the ensuing year. The ballot resulted in favour of worthy Bro. John Ross, the J.W., as W.M. The voting was unanimous, and the announcement received with acclamation. Bro. Ross briefly thanked the brethren for their goodwill, and promised to emulate the example of his predecessor. Bro. John Peartree was re-elected honorary Treasurer. He thanked the brethren for their confidence; for the sixteenth time they had thought proper to entrust him with the honorary and honourable post, and assured them that such zeal and assiduity as was in his power to bestow, would ever be employed to the advantage of the Lodge, as well as the promotion of its interest and prosperity. Bro. Vesper was re-elected Tyler. Bro. Sydney P.M. proposed that £10 10s should be voted from the Lodge funds to purchase a suitable testimonial to Bro. John Constable upon his retirement from office, for his eminent services during the time the direction of the Lodge was under his care. This was not only unanimously carried, but a committee was at once formed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions to supplement the gift of the Lodge with something tangible, which should represent and express the high esteem in which that brother is held by every one of its members. At the conclusion of the Lodge business, refreshment was served under the superintendence of Bro. Silver. Ample justice was done to a very excellent repast. The toasts were of the usual character. The health of the W.M. elect was proposed by the presiding W.M. in feeling terms. Firm friends from boyhood, they have kept together, step by step, in Masonry. May such friendship never be severed. Bro. Saul Solomon P.M. proposed the health of the W.M., and in glowing terms recited the excellent qualities of Bro. Constable, and the great services he had rendered to the Lodge. For, upon his entrance among them, they were in a rather precarious condition, but mainly owing to his unparalleled energy and zeal, he may be said to have caused its resuscitation. Through his instrumentality a number of highly respectable brethren have come amongst us. New blood creates new sinews, and energies, and encourages a hope for the brightest prospects in the future. May the Lodge for many years enjoy the advantage of his valuable assistance. Bro. Constable, in his brief response, assured the brethren that his best endeavours would always be at the service of the Lodge.

Abercorn Lodge, No. 299.—The installation banquet was held on Thursday, the 14th inst., in the Beresford Arms Hotel. The chair was occupied by Bro. William Girvan W.M., and during a portion of the evening by Bro. G. H. Smith. The toast of "The Queen" having been given and duly honoured, that of "The M.W. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales G.M. of England," was given, and enthusiastically received. A song (specially composed for the occasion, by a brother of the Lodge), entitled, "From every Lodge in England," was sung by Bro. Nelson, all those present joining in the chorus. In responding to the toast, the R.W. Maxwell C. Close (representative from G.L. of England at the G.L. Ireland) congratulated the Craft on the two practical answers which, within the last few months, have been given to those who charged Freemasons with being an illegal and disloyal body. These answers were, the acceptance by the heir apparent to the throne of the position of G.M. of England, and by the Queen's viceroy in this country of a similar office in Irish Masonry. (Applause.) These events, so recent in the history of the Brotherhood, established the perfect harmony and intimate union between the Craft and the Crown, which should be a source of deep satisfaction to every brother in the kingdom.

Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 342, Portsea.—The installation of Bro. Richard Newland (member of the Portsmouth Town Council) as the W.M. of this Lodge took place on Wednesday, the 20th inst., the ceremony being ably conducted by the retiring W.M. (Bro. J. T. Craven). The following brethren were afterwards appointed and invested as officers for the ensuing twelve months, Bro. Craven I.P.M.,

Bro. Turney S.W., Bro. H. J. Gray J.W., Bro. Redward P.M. Treasurer, Bro. Willson P.M. and Bro. S. Edwards Secretaries, Bro. W. Payne S.D. The banquet was provided by Bro. Geo. Bond, of the Castle Hotel, Southsea, and the following toasts were duly honoured. The Queen and the Craft, the M.W. Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and the M.W. Pro. Grand Master the Earl of Carnarvon; the R.W. Deputy Grand Master Lord Skelmersdale, and the Officers of Grand Lodge; the R.W. Pro. Grand Master Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., and Officers of P. G. Lodge, the W.M.'s and representatives of neighbouring Lodges; the visitors; the Worshipful Master, the installing Master (Bro. Craven), the P.M.'s of the Royal Sussex Lodge, the Officers of the Royal Sussex Lodge.

St. Peter's Lodge, No. 442, Peterborough.—The Festival of St. John was celebrated on Thursday, the 14th inst. There was a good attendance of the brethren, and several visitors. Bro. Buckle (Pr. G.S.) presented the patent of office to Bro. Butler Wilkins, of Northampton, who has recently been appointed D.Pr.G.M. by the Pr. G.M. his Grace the Duke of Manchester. Bro. Wilkins thanked the brethren for having nominated him to the office, and for giving him so hearty a reception, and Bro. E. Vergette sen. then installed the W.M. elect, Bro. R. H. Griffin.

Mersey Lodge, No. 477, Birkenhead.—On Thursday, the 14th inst., the annual installation was held at the Masonic Chambers, Argyle Street, where there was an attendance of upwards of 100 members and visitors. The Lodge was opened by Bro. R. Gracie, and after the minutes had been confirmed, Bro. D. Fraser was installed W.M. by Bro. W. Bulley, who is one of the P.G. Wardens of the Province of Cheshire.

Portsmouth Lodge, No. 487.—There was a large attendance of members of this Lodge at the meeting on Thursday evening, the 14th inst., on the occasion of the installation of Bro. Thomas Moore as W.M. for the ensuing year. The present position of the Lodge is eminently satisfactory, and the W.M. is to be congratulated on entering upon his year of office under the most favourable auspices. On Thursday evening a gratifying and pleasing event took place—the presentation of a handsome gold P.M.'s jewel to the retiring W.M. (Bro. J. Maltby), under whose rule the Portsmouth Lodge has flourished to an unprecedented extent. The jewel bears the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. John Maltby P.M. P.P.G.S.B., Hants and Isle of Wight, by the brethren of the Portsmouth Lodge, No. 487, in recognition of his able and valuable services as W.M. 1874." The presentation was made by Bro. G. S. Lancaster P.M. Prov. J. G. Warden, who referred to the services rendered to the Lodge by the recipient. Bro. Maltby suitably acknowledged the gift. The usual formalities having been gone through, Bro. Moore was then installed as W.M. of the Lodge, in the presence of the following W.M.'s and P.M.'s:—Bros. G. S. Lancaster P.J.G.W., M. E. Frost P.G. Treasurer, Ogburn P.P.G.W., Forbes P.P.G.W. (Essex), J. Cornelius-Wheeler W.M. 257, Craven W.M. 342, G. Felton Lancaster W.M. 203, A. L. Emanuel W.M. 1069, Sir John Alleyne, Bart. W.M. 1324, J. Maltby, A. Cudlipp, T. Batchelor, E. Groves, E. G. Holbrook, S. R. Ellis, and Sleeman. The ceremony was ably conducted by Bro. Frost, to whom, at a later period of the evening, the cordial thanks of the Lodge were tendered. The W.M. appointed the following officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. J. Maltby I.P.M., E. Bunting S.W., G. Bond J.W., G. S. Lancaster P.M. Treasurer, M. E. Frost P.M. and J. Astridge Secretaries, R. W. Beale S.D., C. Vine J.D., A. German I.G., A. Cudlipp P.M. D.C., R. Osborne Organist, G. Sherman and J. Moors Stewards, J. Watson and J. Exell Tylers. It was resolved, on the motion of Bro. Frost, seconded by Bro. Astridge, that the best thanks of the Lodge be tendered to Bro. Maltby, for his services during the past year, and that the same be recorded on the minutes. Upwards of 50 of the brethren subsequently partook of an excellent banquet in the dining-room of the Hall, at which the W.M. presided. The menu reflected great credit on Mr. Butler, the caterer. The W.M. proposed the first toast, "The Queen and the Craft," which was duly honoured. "The Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales" was proposed, in suitable terms, by Bro. Maltby. Bro. Sir John Alleyne gave "The M.W. Prov. Grand Master the Earl of Carnarvon." The toast of "The Deputy Grand Master (Lord Skelmersdale) and the Officers of the Grand Lodge" was entrusted to Bro. Cudlipp, who spoke of the rapid strides Freemasonry had made of late years, and alluded to the grand principles of the Craft. Several other toasts followed, the health of the Worshipful Master being received with great enthusiasm. In responding, Bro. Moore assured the brethren that it would be his earnest endeavour to carry out the duties of his office to the satisfaction of the Lodge, and with credit to himself. Bro. Ogburn responded for "The Visitors," and gave "The I.P.M. and P.M.'s of the Lodge," which was acknowledged by Bro. Maltby. Bro. Bunting, as Senior Warden, responded for "The Officers of the Lodge," and promised the Worshipful Master, on their behalf, all the aid in their power during his year of office.

Wellington Lodge, No. 784, Deal.—The installation of the W.M., Bro. John Edward Apps P.M. into the chair of K.S. took place at the Lodge Room, Assembly Rooms, Park Street, Deal, on Thursday, the 14th inst. The Lodge having been duly opened in the first and second degrees, by Bro. A. E. Ralph P.M., in the absence of Bro. J. M. Browning, W.M., through illness, the ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. A. E. Ralph P.M. P.G.J.D. of Kent. We may remark that Bro. Ralph is a young and rising Mason, whom we hope to see make his way in the Craft. After the interesting ceremony of installing the W.M. elect into the chair of K.S., the W.M. proceeded to appoint and invest his officers for the ensuing year, as follows: Bro. Capt. Woon R.M., S.W.; Bro. H. S. Goodall J.W.; Bro. J. E. Apps Treasurer; Bro. Rev. C. E. S. Woolmer Chap-

lain; Bro. W. M. Cavell P.M. P.P.G.S.D. Secretary; Bro. W. H. Hayman S.D.; Bro. F. Fitch J.D.; Bro. T. Paul D.C.; Bro. J. Doorne P.M. Organist; Bro. Tyson Stubbs I.G.; Bro. T. J. Woodruff S.; Bro. W. J. A. Norris Tyler, &c. The Lodge being closed, the brethren repaired to the banquetting room adjoining, where an excellent repast had been prepared by the worthy hostess of the Royal Hotel, Mrs. Alleu, the tables being beautifully decorated with choice plants and flowers. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been given, the healths of the visitors were responded to by Bro. R. J. Emmerson P.M. P.P., G. J. W. Kent, H. C. Fuhr P.M. 1028, &c. The Chaplin, Rev. C. E. Shirley Woolmer, in responding to his health, delivered an eloquent oration on Craft Masonry, showing its advantages, and at the same time gave a graphic description of early Masonry and its origin in England. Bros. Doorne, Emmerson, Bird, Woon, Dow, Meson, &c. having favoured the company with some excellent singing and music, a most agreeable evening was brought to a close.

Gosport Lodge, No. 903.—The installation of Bro. G. Felton Lancaster, as W.M., took place on Tuesday, the 12th inst., at the Star Assembly Room, on which occasion there was a numerous attendance of members of the Lodge and visiting brethren. The following formed the board of installed masters:—Bros. M. E. Frost, S. D. Forbes, Lieutenant Miller R.M., Cornelius Wheeler, J. Craven, Ellis, Main, Wallingford, Ubsdell, Sleeman, Maltby, A. L. Emanuel, Stapleford and J. Hall I.M.P., by whom the ceremony of installing his successor was performed in a most impressive manner. The efficient aid rendered by Bro. Hall to the Lodge during his year's rule, and previously as secretary, were suitably acknowledged, and a P.M.'s jewel was presented to him. It bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Bro. John Hall by the brethren of the Gosport Lodge, No. 903, in recognition of his able and valuable services as W.M. 1874." The W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—I.P.M. Bro. J. Hall; S.W. Bro. J. Maling; J.W. Bro. the Rev. E. B. C. Churchill; Treasurer Bro. C. R. Whitcomb; Secretary Bro. W. Hillier; S.D. Bro. A. Brown; J.D. Bro. Robinson; D. of C. Bro. Lover; I.G. Bro. Wise; Organist Bro. Misselbrook; Stewards Bros. Mitchell and Grant. The installation banquet took place at the India Arms, under the presidency of the W.M., and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Lodge of Montefiore, No. 1017.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Bro. J. Granbaum W.M., supported by his Wardens and Officers, and P.M.'s Bros. S. V. Abrahams, E. P. Albert Secretary, Lowenstark, J. Lazarus, Pollitzer, De Solla, &c. The Lodge having been opened, the following gentlemen were ballotted for and initiated, viz., Bros. M. Levy, J. Berliner, H. Hunt, L. M. Rasso and H. Dransburg. Bros. Wilson and Cave were raised to the third degree, and Bro. Harper was passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a slight repast. The visitors were Bros. Borgen 188, and M. Spiegel 188.

Lord Warden's Lodge, 1096.—On Friday, the 15th inst., Bro. T. J. Usher P.M. and Secretary, was presented with a P.M.'s gold jewel by the Lodge, as one of the founders, and in recognition of the invaluable services he has rendered to the Lodge since its formation.

Eclectic Lodge, No. 1201.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, the 18th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street. Bros. C. Watts W.M.; J. Mander S.W.; J. Nunn P.G.S. Treasurer, and Collett P.M. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Saxon and Paramore were passed to the degree of Fellow Crafts, and Bro. Assender was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. The W.M., although suffering from indisposition, performed the ceremonies admirably. A board of Installed Masters was then formed, and Bro. Mander J.W. and W.M. elect was presented to the Lodge, and received the benefit of installation at the hands of Bro. Joshua Nunn, the founder of the Lodge and first Master. The new Master installed his officers as follows, viz:—Bros. C. Watts I.P.M., J. H. Watts S.W., Pankhurst J.W., J. Nunn P.G.S. Treasurer, Wood Secretary, Hartly S.D., Taylor J.D., Moss I.G., Saull D.C., Grant Tyler. After which the brethren adjourned to the Café Royal, Ayr Street, Regent Street, where an excellent banquet was provided by Bro. Nicols. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. The toasts of the W.M., Past Masters and visitors were given. The toasts of the officers followed, and the brethren separated after a most enjoyable gathering.

Finsbury Park Lodge, No. 1288.—The installation meeting of this young, but thriving Lodge, met on Thursday, 14th inst., at the Finsbury Park Hotel, Seven Sisters' Road, Holloway. Bro. J. F. Smith occupying the chair, T. Meekham S.W., Davis J.W., and P.M.'s J. Frost, Price, H. Stacey and a numerous assemblage of the brethren. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. The business consisted of 4 raisings, 2 passings and 4 initiations. Bro. T. Meekham S.W. and W.M. elect was presented to a Board of Installed Masters, and the ceremony was admirably performed by Bro. J. Stacey P.M.; the W.M. having been saluted according to ancient custom, invested his officers, Bros. Davis S.W., Baker J.W., J. F. Smith P.M. Treasurer, Price P.M. Secretary, Good S.D., Simmonds J.D., and Rothschild I.G. The Lodge was then closed, and the usual banquet followed. In the course of the evening a very elegant gold Past Master's jewel was presented to the retiring W.M. for the able manner he had conducted the duties of the chair during

his year of office. The toasts of the Wardens and Officers were given and responded to, and the brothers separated.

Gladsmuir Lodge, No. 1385, Barnet.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on the 16th inst. Messrs. G. B. Abbott and W. F. Taunton were initiated.

Halsey Lodge, No. 1479, St. Albans.—The monthly meeting of the members of this young and flourishing Lodge was held at the Town Hall, St. Albans, on Wednesday, 20th inst., Bro. Lowthin W.M. in the chair. After the business of the evening had been transacted, the brethren adjourned to The Peahen, where supper was served in a very satisfactory manner by Bro. W. Marks.

THE DRAMA.

"Our Boys"—The Holborn Amphitheatre.

THE Theatrical event of the week, has been the production at the Vaudeville Theatre of a new comedy from the pen of Mr. H. J. Byron. *Our Boys*, as the play in question is entitled, is one of the funniest, as it is certainly one of the most improbable of Mr. Byron's many productions. The very extravagance of the story furnishes a not inconsiderable degree of the amusement, but, in addition to this, there is an abundance of witty dialogue, and some quaint bits of character add to the general fund of entertainment. Mr. Byron has written more probable stories; perhaps a few that are more deserving of a place in the general literature of the country, but we may safely say that he has never produced one more provocative of downright hearty laughter than this.

To begin with, we are asked to believe that an aristocratic baronet and an illiterate buttermilk have become intimately acquainted with each other, and are on the warmest of visiting terms. They have scarcely anything in common; their tastes, antecedents, occupations being as different as one can well imagine; but one circumstance suffices to bind them together in the bonds of a mutual sympathy. It appears that Sir Geoffrey Champneys and Perkyn Middlewick, as these strange acquaintances are called, have each a son of about the same age, whom they have sent to travel on the Continent. By another strange coincidence, the two young men have met each

other abroad, and have themselves struck up a fast friendship. By a third extraordinary coincidence, the two ladies, whom Sir Geoffrey and Mr. Middlewick have respectively selected for their daughters-in-law, have also been travelling on the Continent, and have made the acquaintance of the young men. Thus it would seem that a most surprising series of coincidences had combined to give effect to the paternal wishes. Unfortunately, however, the young lady whom Sir Geoffrey had fixed his heart, or rather his son's heart upon, has won the affections of Middlewick's *jils*, while the juvenile Champneys has thrown himself at the feet of the lady whom the buttermilk had determined his son should marry. Here, therefore, is a complication, which to parents of the stern mould of Sir Geoffrey Champneys and Mr. Middlewick, could by no possibility be endured. The sons must make an exchange of sweethearts, or their parents will cut them off with a shilling, and as the young men prove obdurate in the matter, they are, in fact, expelled from the paternal mansions. In the third act we find the two swains "roughing it" in London lodgings. They have found it not such easy work to earn a living as they had expected, and they have experienced something like privation. But if they have fared badly, their parents have not been much more fortunate. The love of their offspring has softened the rigour of their determination, and they are now disposed to take a milder view of their sons' disobedience. The end of it all is that they pay a visit to the aforesaid lodgings, whither all the other *dramatis personae* repair, and a mutual interchange of forgiveness brings the comedy to a close. The piece is excellently acted, Mr. David James giving us an excellent piece of character acting as Perkyn Middlewick; Mr. Farren played Sir Geoffrey Champneys in his usual effective manner, and Mr. Thomas Thorne made the most of his character of Talbot Champneys. Miss Cicely Richards deserves a word of commendation for her capital rendering of the part of the lodging house servant, and Misses Amy Roselle, Kate Bishop, and Larkin are also seen to advantage.

The ever-popular *Madame Angot* is once more being played to crowded audiences, this time at the Holborn Amphitheatre, under the direction of Mr. Hollingshead. Miss Jenny Pratt sustains the character of Madame Lange, Miss Emily Muir that of Clairette, and Messrs. E. Cotte and Charles Lyall those of Ange Pitou and Pomponnet. The music is very effectively rendered, and the scene of the Calypso Ball is made additionally effective by some capital dancing by Mr. John D'Auban, and a very clever transformation dance, after the manner of Mr. Morris, by Miss Simms.

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