

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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THE ULTRAMONTANES AND FREEMASONRY.

WE have had occasion recently to refer incidentally to the fiercely intolerant spirit with which the Ultramontane party in the Church of Rome regards the Masonic Brotherhood. The subject is an unpleasant one, and we have hesitated to go out of our way to discuss the question in detail. We hold firmly to the principles of toleration upon which the Fraternity is based, and we would not willingly say an unkind or harsh word of any of the creeds or parties into which the Christian Church is divided. The recent publication, however, of an important correspondence between the Secretary of the Protestant Educational Union and the Home Secretary, in reference to the refusal of a Roman Catholic priest to perform the last rites of religion over the grave of a Freemason, leaves us no option at all. We are challenged to fight for the truths we hold dear, and it is absolutely our duty to defend the Masonic body from the stigma which has been cast upon it. The Secretary of the Protestant Educational Union directs the attention of Mr. Hardy to the fact that the body of Armourer-Sergeant J. V. Johnson, who died in Fort Pitt Hospital, at Chatham, in February last, was denied Christian burial by the Roman Catholic Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Caffé, on the ground that the deceased had been a Freemason. The rev. gentleman, in a letter to the *Times*, which is included in the recently published correspondence relating to the case, declares that "No Catholic can be a Freemason; the moment he becomes one he secedes from his Church." This dictum of the Ultramontane party has, on more than one occasion, been flouted in the faces of our Roman Catholic brethren, with the view of intimidating them. The Church, or rather an extreme section of the Church, has forced the Pope to declare war against Masonry, and the religious disfranchisement of those Catholics who have dared to enter the Order follows as a matter of course. We are, however, of opinion that the arbitrary decision of the authorities at Rome is regarded with contempt as well as hostility by all sensible and educated Catholics, who, whatever priests may say, are not disposed, in this country at least, to submit tamely to ecclesiastical tyranny. It has never been shown, by the most uncompromising foe of Masonry, that the principles of the Order are hostile to revealed religion. The Pope has launched his anathemas against us either without due inquiry, or he has ignored facts, and has determined to rivet his chains upon all who will submit, without offering one word of explanation for a course of conduct which might have resulted in serious consequences when emperors and kings trembled before the thunders of the Vatican, but which now, in these days of toleration and free discussion in the light of day, can only provoke laughter. In spite of all the terrors which Rome has in store for her rebellious children, the fact is patent that vast numbers of French Roman Catholics, and very many English ones, are members of the Order. These, our Roman Catholic brethren, are not conscious that, in becoming Masons, they have committed any sin against the religion of their fathers, nor are they at all inclined to admit they have placed themselves outside the pale of their church. In these views they will doubtless be supported by the more moderate of the ecclesiastics of the church, by those noble priests in Germany and France, who have protested against the insolent assumption of new powers by the incumbent of the papal chair, and in England by wise and far-seeing churchmen, who regard the

present attitude of the Ultramontane party with no favourable eye. The attempt of this fanatical sect to reduce all the members of their communion to a condition of abject slavery has already been pushed to the most extreme length. Its most active apostles have endeavoured to efface all the distinctive ties of country and of allegiance, and the fundamental doctrine that the faithful are Catholics first, and afterwards citizens of the respective states to which they belong, has met with wide-spread opposition from the best lay intellect in the church. This dogma, pushed to its extreme consequences, would, as an eminent statesman has recently shown, deprive the State of the allegiance and the services of its Roman Catholic subjects whenever the Vatican might be in conflict with the secular power. Some of the most prominent of the English Roman Catholics have already publicly repudiated it, and thousands, whose opinions never get into the newspapers, have doubtless repudiated it in their hearts. The attempt to close the doors of the Temple of Freemasonry against the members of the Church of Rome indicates an amount of weakness which one would hardly expect from a powerful ecclesiastical corporation. The Church is either afraid to permit her children to mingle freely with men of varied creeds, or she dreads lest the pure atmosphere of toleration should be fatal to the dogmas upon which she mainly relies. The contact of a religious enthusiast with minds tolerably free from sectarian bias is indeed often fatal to individual idiosyncrasies, but the essence of religion is proof against all the assaults of the world, and we fearlessly assert that a devout Catholic, who holds to the broad principles of his creed, can never get aught but good from the instruction he receives in his Lodge. Masonry indeed contains the pith of Christianity. Its principles are as broad, as noble, and as elevating as those which lie at the basis of the churches. To relieve the suffering, to do good, to think no evil of any man, to love truth above all things, these dogmas of the Craft are identical with the teachings of Jesus. With the distinctive doctrine or the discipline of the Churches Masonry has nothing to do. It stands aloof from all churches, and the sacred floor of the Lodge is neutral ground for the Jew, the Turk and the Christian alike. Such toleration as this cannot but be favourable to the spread of principles in which Masons and Churchmen are alike interested. The Christian, if he does not forget the principles of the divine founder of his religion, is pledged to foster the growth of ideas which, were they universally held as vital truths, would make discord impossible in the civilised world. We are constrained, however, to think that the Ultramontane party are much more deeply interested in the spread of the dogmas which emanate from the Vatican than in those which were taught by Jesus at Jerusalem. It is not Christianity that they care for, but the maintenance of a system which, in opposition to the Gospel, seeks to make mankind serfs. The Truth that is designed to make men free, is replaced by priestly discipline, which binds the unthinking devotee hand and foot. The sage advice of Paul is impudently set aside, and, in place of teaching the laity to "prove all things," and "hold fast that which is good," the Ultramontane party demand submission without proof, and the rejection of any good thing which does not emanate from Rome.

We venture to deny the right of the Romish Church to exclude from its communion those of its flock who have assumed the responsibility of the Order of Freemasonry. The priest who dares lightly to stand between a Catholic and his hope of salvation, commits a crime against the religion he professes to uphold. He assumes a power for which

he has no scriptural warrant, and he ignores the fact that the Craft was once recognised and fostered by his Church. The proud boast of *semper idem*, which was formerly paraded before the world has, we admit, been abandoned by the new school of Catholics, who welcome any change which will make the spiritual despot at Rome the lord and master of the minds of millions. But before we welcome the new face, which the Church, with Janus-like inconsistency, has turned upon the astonished world, we demand the authority upon which her spiritual advisers have acted. By what right does she attempt to close the portals of salvation against her Masonic sons? By what right does she now assume the power to curse the Order she once blessed and fostered? What warrant has she for the assumption that Masonry is hostile to her dogmas? Until these questions are answered, we shall assume that her policy, with regard to the Order, has been the result of the fanatic zeal of a sect, which, already in the pursuit of its wild theories, has placed the Church in a position of serious peril, the like of which can scarcely be matched in the whole of her long and eventful history.

THE MASON: A DISCREET MAN.

IN former articles we have endeavoured to show that a good Mason should be a gentleman, and a sincere man. It is not our intention to claim for him the possession of all the cardinal virtues. An overdrawn picture invariably has something grotesque in its appearance, which makes it laughable in the sight of men, and involves that of which it is meant to be the portrait in endless ridicule. We shall not, however, err in excess of colouring if we assign to him the not unimportant attribute of discretion. Scarcely a day passes but every member of the Craft must find himself called upon to exercise this virtue, and the higher his rank, the greater the estimation in which he is held by his brethren, the more imperative is it that he should be discreet. We may even go so far as to affirm, that though a Mason may be a gentleman and a sincere man—though he possess all the excellences which may reasonably be claimed for him—yet will he prove a poor exemplar for others to follow if he lack discretion.

We will not inflict on our readers a lengthy dissertation on the qualities of discretion, nor a dry analysis of the properties it possesses. It is not, perhaps, a very popular virtue; at least, it is not a very showy one, and does not excite a very great amount of enthusiasm. Thus, a few people may admire the discretion which Falstaff described as "the better part of valour," but the many deride it, and think it differs, in a slight degree only, from cowardice. Yet in no career is discretion more needed than in the military. To take a few cases that occur to us at the moment. MacMahon at Wörth, doggedly contesting every inch of ground, till sheer weight of numbers drove him from the field, is a picture that excites our admiration; but MacMahon warily retreating before superior forces, to the passes of the Vosges, *reculant pour mieux sauter*, would have been still more admirable from a military point of view. Who knows, had he done so, but the tide of battle might have rolled towards Berlin, instead of, as it happened, towards Paris, and Napoleon III. died in the purple at the Tuileries instead of in exile at Chislehurst? Again, the charge of the Six Hundred at Balaclava always stirs the blood of Englishmen, yet, as was remarked at the time, "*C'était magnifique, mais ce n'était pas la guerre.*" Our own Wellington was among the most discreet of modern generals. He could be bold even to audacity, as at the passage of the Douro, at Ciudad Rodrigo, at Badajoz; or discreet and wary, as in the retreat on Torres Vedras. On one occasion, we believe, with only a slender force of 15,000 men, he confronted the whole army of Marmont, not courting, yet not seeming to decline, the combat. In boldness lay discretion, and Marmont never knew till it was too late how narrowly he had missed the chance of crushing his formidable adversary. The fame of one old Roman general rests almost entirely on his discretion—we mean Fabius, surnamed Cunctator, of whom Ennius sang:

"Unus homo nobis cunctando restituit rem."

Again, the driver of the express train who, seeing an obstacle on the line a short distance ahead of him, crashed through it at full speed—he, undoubtedly, was a discreet man, and bold withal. The safety of the charge entrusted

to his skill lay in a fearful speed, and he applied it. There was no hesitation, for there was no time to hesitate. The danger and the escape were almost simultaneous. These are a few of the instances that might be adduced in order to prove the value of discretion in times or cases of difficulty and danger. Happily Masons are a peaceful, not a militant body. Such examples may serve as a guide to the individual brother who follows the profession of arms, or the more peaceful but hardly less dangerous career of a civil engineer. The majority are men of peace, and the teachings of Masonry are essentially peaceful. What, then, is discretion from a Masonic point of view? The modest answer will raise a laugh perhaps, many even exclaiming, "*Parturiunt montes, nascetur ridiculus mus.*" We have nothing better to offer in the way of definition than this: Discretion is the faculty of always doing or saying the right thing at the right time in the right place. Very simple, yet very necessary and somewhat trying. Be it remembered that it is not always the grand occasions, when a man's nerves are probably well-strung, and his mind well prepared for what may happen, that try a man. It is not the occasional spurt which tests an athlete, but his powers of endurance and his skill in making his effort at the right moment. Now a Mason's faculty of discerning is always, so to speak, on trial. He is, as it were, a sentinel, always on guard over the obligations reposed in him. He must be always discreet, so as never, by word or sign, to betray the mysteries of his Order. In all his acts and deeds he should command the respect, not only of his brethren but of the outside world. For as a man, so will Masonry, which is an aggregate of men, be judged by its conduct, not by its professions. The proposal of new candidates for admission into the Order, without due inquiry whether they are worthy and respectable men, is a grave act of indiscretion, which a too confiding, too good-natured Brother should especially guard against. Again, the Fraternity prides itself, with good cause, on its charity, but indiscriminate charity is hurtful. To give without knowing whom you give to, and whether he is worthy to receive, is an abuse of charity. But still more incumbent is it on office holders to govern themselves discreetly. A W.M. may be learned, just and good, but he must also be discreet, or his Lodge will be chaos. The visitor must be tried and proven, not formally, and merely because it is "in the bond," but fully and truly, to the end that no uninitiate person gain entrance to a Lodge. All officers, in short, should be studious of their duties, or Masonry must suffer. Nor, again, should men seek office who are unequal to or unfitted for its responsibilities. An ill-educated, unrefined officer, however estimable in his character, were a reproach to the Brotherhood.

But not to weary our readers further on this subject, we cannot do better, perhaps, than conclude our article with a short extract from a work by an eminent Mason, a work to which we have already found and may again find it expedient to refer to—Dr. Oliver's *Revelations of a Square*. It bears directly on the matter of discretion, and especially on one of the points we have referred to, the too careless admission of visitors into a Lodge. We give it in outline, but in the words of the narrator, for no story, however carefully translated, reads half so well as in its original form.

"We had once a rich scene in our Lodge, during Bro. Dunckerley's mastership, which carries with it a useful lesson, and ought not to be disregarded," proceeded my gossiping companion. . . . "A stranger presented himself as a visitor, was examined and admitted. He proved to be of a respectable standing in society, although on the present occasion he lent himself to the perpetration of a very disreputable affair, and the R.W.M., with all his tact and discrimination, was very nearly outwitted. An ancient law of Masonry provided that no visitor, however skilled in the art, shall be admitted into a Lodge unless he is personally known to, or well vouched and recommended, by some of the brethren then present. Many occasions arose in which it had been deemed expedient to remit the strict observance of the rule, and such had been the case in the present instance. The intruder, however, had not occupied his precarious position more than five minutes, before a venerable brother called aloud, 'IT RAINS!'

"Bro. Dunckerley's presence of mind did not forsake him in this emergency, and he gravely demanded of the visitor, 'Where were you made a Mason?'

'The answer was at hand. 'In a Lodge, at the King's Head, Gravesend.'

"This reply betrayed him. The brethren rose simultaneously from their seats, in some degree of unnecessary alarm, like a flock of sheep in the presence of a strange dog. Indeed, if the Wandering Jew had appeared among them *in propria persona*, they would scarcely have exhibited a more urgent demand for his summary expulsion than was implied in the loud and universal murmurs of disapprobation which were heard from every part of the Lodge. The intruder was perplexed; he saw his error, but knew not the remedy: and when the R.W.M. quietly observed: 'Now, sir, will you be kind enough to favour us with your version of the story,' he replied in the language of Canning's Knife Grinder:—'Story!—God bless you!—I have none to tell! I was anxious to see a Lodge of Brethren at work, and one of your seceding members furnished me with answers to a few questions, which he said would be proposed in the Tyler's room, and for a frolic I was determined to test the truth, as, at the very worst, I could only be ejected, which I did not conceive would be either a disappointment or a disgrace; for, to say the truth, I scarcely expected to gain admittance into the Lodge.'

"What was to be done? The dilemma was pressing . . . the delinquent was securely locked up in the preparing-room . . . The confusion . . . may carry some idea of the consternation which ensued. All spoke together, and the reins of authority seemed to have been unnaturally snapped asunder; for the R.W.M. had retired with his Wardens behind the pedestal . . . One or two young members . . . jumped upon the benches . . . vociferating, 'Out with him! Down with the intruder! Turn him out!' Others were more moderate . . . And others . . . were clamorous that the watch should be called in, and the intruder transferred to the roundhouse.

"Meanwhile, Bro. Dunckerley had matured his plan, and having ascended into the chair . . . said, 'Brethren, I need not tell you that we are placed at this moment in a situation where a false step may involve not only this Lodge, but the entire Craft, in unknown difficulties. It was the maxim of Socrates,—it is well to punish an enemy, but it is better to make him your friend. Now we must not content ourselves with asking who examined him, or why he was admitted, for he is actually amongst us, and it is too late to prevent the intrusion. And if we were to adopt the worthy Brother's advice, who recommended him to be turned out, the matter would not be greatly mended; the principal difficulty would still remain. I conceive, therefore, that the wisest course we can pursue under these circumstances will be, to use our best endeavours towards converting this temporary evil into a permanent benefit, as the bee extracts honey from the most poisonous flowers, by transforming the unwelcome cowan into a worthy Mason. For this purpose I propose that, if his station of life be not objectionable, the provision of our bye-laws respecting the admission of candidates be suspended in this single instance, and that he be initiated on the spot.' The proposition was regularly seconded by the S.W., and was unanimously agreed to, and the intruder was again introduced by the senior E.A.P. . . . The R.W. then first examined him, as to his residence, trade, and respectability of character; and these inquiries being satisfactorily disposed of, the question was proposed whether he would adopt the alternative of being made a Mason to avoid the disgrace of being posted as an impostor.

"He said nothing could be more acceptable to his wishes. In fact, it was the very proposal he intended to make himself, as an atonement for his error, and a means of wiping away his disgrace. He accordingly received the first degree, and not only proved an excellent and zealous Mason, but in due course rose to the chair of the Lodge."

Such cases are little likely to occur, but if they should, or, indeed, in any emergency, let us hope we may be able to exhibit the same presence of mind, the same tact and discretion as did Br. Dunckerly.

COMMERCE AND CIVILISATION.

THE producing power of a country is the very best evidence of its intellectual and physical capability. It may with truth be declared that, during the last century, no nation in Europe has so largely developed its industry, and proved its great productive power, as England. In 1764, James Watt, a native of Greenock, in

Scotland, began his improvements in the steam engine, whereby the foundation was laid for the prodigious advance in wealth and population which marked the reign of George III. By the aid of machinery, of which the steam engine is the chief moving power, it is estimated that an individual can now produce 200 times more goods than he could in 1775. Although the labours of Watt are almost unnoticed in the general history of the period, they have proved of more importance to society than all the contemporary transactions of war and diplomacy in which Europe was involved at that time.

In 1767, an ingenious person, Mr. James Hargreaves, a carpenter, at Blackburn, invented the spinning jenny, the first of a series of mechanical improvements in the cotton manufacture. The jenny was applicable only to the spinning of cotton for weft, being unable to give to yarn that degree of fineness and hardness which is required in the warp. This deficiency was soon after supplied by the invention of the spinning frame—that wonderful piece of machinery, which spins a vast number of threads of any degree of fineness or hardness. The inventor of this extraordinary contrivance was Mr. Richard Arkwright, a native of Preston, and by trade a barber. Living in a manufacturing district, his attention was drawn to mechanical operations carrying on around him. The difficulties he encountered were great, both from want of capital and practical skill in mechanics. At last he obtained pecuniary aid, and built a factory, but was eventually driven from Lancashire by fear of violence from those who had earned their living by the old method of spinning; he then removed to Nottingham. In 1769 he obtained a patent for spinning with rollers, and in 1771 he took out a second patent for a new system of carding and roving by machinery. In 1786 Mr. Arkwright was knighted, and in the following year he was high sheriff of Derbyshire. About the same time the Rev. Mr. Cartwright invented the power-loom. These inventions have had an immense influence on the industry of the country. In consequence of their introduction, the price of cotton goods has been greatly reduced, but, as the demand has been vastly extended by their cheapness, the quantity produced, and the number of persons employed are greater now than at any former time. The removal of taxes upon food has proved a large aid to commerce, and must ever have a tendency to civilisation. When all the hard earnings of the mechanic and the labourer are expended upon the physical needs of the human frame little elevation of character can be expected. Warm and decent articles of clothing, suitable to the seasons and climate in which we live, ought to be at the command of all, and none more so than those whose lot it is to labour with both head and hands. The statistical returns of the country show an immense increase in our commercial exchanges during the last thirty years. In 1844 we imported six hundred and forty-six million pounds of cotton, while in 1873 we imported one thousand five hundred and twenty-seven million pounds. The home consumption of this article in 1844 was five hundred and ninety-eight million pounds, while in 1873 it had increased to the enormous amount of one thousand three hundred million pounds. Who can calculate the sum of human happiness and general comfort that this one branch of British commerce has afforded to the sons and daughters of England? And, as a further illustration of the general prosperity of the country, it will be found that our exports and imports in 1840 were £172,132,716, and in 1873 £682,282,137, thus showing that in the year 1840 the value of exports and imports was per head of the whole population of the United Kingdom £6 10s, while in the year 1873 they had increased to £21 4s 9d per head. These are facts that demonstrate the mighty power of the industry and intellects of the nation, and make manifest to all reflecting minds that commerce is the handmaid of civilisation and the herald of human progress. The policy and duty of England should be to hold free intercourse, commercial and social, with all nations, binding them to us by mutual ties of interest and friendship. Let the advocates of liberty and peace continue their efforts, and they will thereby aid in breaking down the war spirit of the nation, which is now absorbing the wealth and industry of millions, crippling the hands of commerce, and checking the onward march of civilisation. With the principles of peace must spread the principles of liberty, and then mankind will be ruled by moral power instead of physical force, and rise to a mental standard when fear and force will be subjected by the angel of Civilisation, who will hoist her

banner, and proclaim to the world her great and glorious mission.

INDIFFERENT MASONS.

From *Le Monde Maçonnique* of December 1874.

TRANSLATION :

AMONG Freemasons indifference to the duties and efforts of the grand Institution to which they have sworn to lend their aid is worse than a grave error; it is a desertion in the very face of the enemy—a true act of treason. Devoted to the inquiry after Truth and the conquest of Justice, Masonry, in spite of the violence and gross enmity of which it has been the object, is ever struggling with energy against error, prejudices and superstition, against oppression and deceit. In such a work it has a right to look for support to all who seek an asylum at its hearth and are anxious for enlightenment from its teaching. But this assistance, in order to be useful and efficacious, must be active and thorough. No soft-heartedness is possible; no lukewarmness tolerable. Eager and earnest permissible hearts can alone be really serviceable to our grand and fraternal Association.

As inconsistent Masons, so indifferent Masons have done Freemasonry all the harm they possibly could without actually destroying it. It is these who paralyze our efforts and render them futile. It is these who make our Lodges empty and who keep aloof those who would prove the earnest and fittest defenders of our cause. It is this indifference, which, passing on from one spot to another, freezes the hearts of the Brethren, extinguishes our enthusiasm, and surrounds us with that cold atmosphere which paralyzes the strongest will. An indifferent Mason is not only a useless member of our Craft, he is hurtful, corrupting, by his noxious influence, all who surround him, and impeding the due performance of our labours. He is a true paralytic, almost indeed a corpse, which we are dragging after us and which hinders and delays all our movements.

Nothing that interests our fellows, nothing that can in any way contribute to the amelioration of their lot and the development of their intellectual and moral faculties, should be indifferent to men of feeling, and more especially to Masons, whose obligations are greater, and who, having entered our Order freely and unconstrainedly, have duties devolving upon them, all the more important that they have been contracted freely. In the meantime, the number of indifferent brethren appears for some time past to have been continuously increasing. Whence arises this abnormal state of things? Clearly from several and various causes.

The excuses which go to justify the unjustifiable neglect of Masonic duties are—"Powerlessness of Masonry to fulfil its programme, the senselessness of its aims, the futility and barrenness of its labours"—wretched arguments which only re-act on those who use them; for if Masonry is powerless, its objects vain, its labours barren and of no effect, we can only, in reason, lay the blame on the half-heartedness and indifference of its workmen. We must seek then elsewhere the true causes of the evil which gives us so much concern.

In our opinion indifferent Masons may be classed under three chief categories. 1. Those who, having entered the Order with an exaggerated idea of the influence and power of Masonry, have experienced discouragements, and discovered the error of their views. These, the natural bent of their minds, induces them to exaggerate, just as they had done their early aspirations.

2. Those who, having entered young into our Order, have dispelled or lost, in the varying struggles of life, all their hopes and the noble sentiments which animated their youth.

3. The ambitious vulgar, who only joined Masonry in order to seek a protection which it was impossible to give them.

Of these three categories, the first may easily be recalled to a more rational way of viewing their position; the second, though almost incurable, deserves our pity. As to the third, incorrigible and incapable of inspiring us with the slightest interest we can only urge on the brethren who compose it to renounce at once and for ever their title to be regular Masons. A sense of honour forbids them to remain any longer members of a body which they discourage by exhibiting towards its labours the most intense disdain.

To these three classes of indifferent brethren we might have added a fourth, more numerous still, which comprises of those Masons who are always ready to be guided by the influence of those who surround them; but we have thought it better not to insist too strongly on the weakness of such Brethren, but to encourage them by good example to re-awaken their zeal and become once again really useful and active members of the Craft.

Indifference, adding its ravages to those inflicted by the late war has, during the last four years especially, weakened French Masonry. Our Lodges have been partially deserted, and notwithstanding the efforts of the most devoted members, the duties languish and are unproductive. Against the dangers which such a position involves, it is the duty of all who are sincerely attached to our Institution to combat with the utmost energy.

The general elections have recently taken place in all the district Lodges. May the newly elected officers signalise their accession to power by a merciless war against this mortal enemy of our great family. May they pursue, unrelentingly, even to its last retrenchments, and afford in all circumstances, to the lukewarm and hesitating, the comforting example of zeal and activity. All well disposed men are ready to give their efforts, to labour earnestly with them to restore to our Lodges the life and energy which are deserting them. In this work of restoration, hesitation is impossible, devotion will not fail of its influence. And since indifference is, of all the dangers which menace us, the greatest and most pressing, let us, at this moment, and everywhere throughout French Masonry, have but one thought, but one aim, but one rallying cry:—"Guerre à l'indifference!" (Signed) *Caudet.*

NEW MASONIC HALL AT BRIDLINGTON.

On the 11th inst. the members of the "Londesborough" Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, at Bridlington, had the long-looked for pleasure of laying the foundation stone of their new Masonic Hall, for which purpose a dispensation had been granted by the Earl of Zetland, the Prov. Grand Master of North and East Yorkshire. It was not intended that any great amount of public display should be made in connection with the event; and with this understanding no invitations were issued to the other Lodges to join in the ceremony. But, notwithstanding this wish, and despite the chilly influences of the weather, a large concourse of people were attracted by the novelty of the ceremonial, which excited the utmost interest, both in the old town and at the Quay. The provision of this more suitable and convenient place of meeting, which is to be completed in three months, is mainly to be attributed to the zeal and liberality of the Worshipful Master of the year, Mr. W. H. Porritt, who organised a bazaar not long since in aid of this very laudable object. When completed, the new Hall will form an ornament to the place, and prove of immense convenience, not only to resident brethren, but also to the many visitors who sojourn at this favourite watering-place in such numbers during the summer months. The brethren assembled at their Lodge-room, at Bridlington Quay, at two o'clock in the afternoon, where, after the usual preliminaries had been gone through, a procession was formed, headed by the private band which has been established in connection with the Lodge. On their arrival at the site, in St. John's Avenue, the brethren formed in a circle around the foundation stone, and the ceremonial was performed by the W. Bro. John Peason Bell, M.D., P.G.D. of England, and Deputy Prov. Grand Master of North and East Yorkshire, who opened the proceedings by delivering the antient address. The chaplain (Rev. Bro. Chillman) and brethren then repeated alternately the verses of the psalm, "Except the Lord build the house," after which a number of coins were deposited by the treasurer in the cavity of the lower stone. The secretary having read the inscription upon the plate, which was duly fixed, the W.M. presented the trowel and gavel to the W. Bro. Dr. Bell, who performed the ceremony, the band playing "Rule Britannia." The trowel was handsomely chased and engraved, with ivory handle, and on the blade was the following inscription, together with Dr. Bell's crest:—

"Presented to the W. Bro. J. P. Bell, Esq., M.D., P.G.D. of England and D.P.G.M. of N. and E. Yorkshire, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the Londresborough Lodge, No. 734, Bridlington Quay, February 11, 1875."

The Stone having been laid, and its position tested in the usual form, the W.M. Bro. Porritt declared that the Craftsmen had done their duty, and the W. Bro. Dr. Bell pronounced that it had been properly laid, according to the antient rules of Masonry. Corn wine, and oil, having been placed on the stone, in accordance with usage, the chaplain offered up prayer in the prescribed form, and the plan was then handed by the architect to the W. Bro. Dr. Bell, who delivered the concluding address. The band then played the National Anthem, after which the brethren returned in procession to the Lodge-room, where the Lodge was closed in due form. After the ceremony the W.M. invited a party of those who had taken a leading position in the proceedings of the day to luncheon at his residence, where mutual congratulations were exchanged at the eminently successful and satisfactory auspices under which the interesting event had taken place.

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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Shakespeare Commentaries. By Dr. G. G. Gervinus, Professor at Heidelberg. Translated, under the author's superintendence, by F. E. Bunnëtt. New Edition, revised by the translator. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 15 Waterloo-place.

FIRST NOTICE.

It is truer of Shakespeare than of any other great poet of any age or nation that the more intently you study him, the more you find in him to study. The scholar seldom takes up one of his plays or poems but he finds some new beauty dawn upon his mind, some fresh evidence of the poet's exalted genius to intensify his respect and admiration. But though this truth is, and long has been recognised in England, almost a century elapsed after Shakespeare's death ere his countrymen began to obtain a clear insight into his unrivalled powers. The unsettled times of Charles I. and the Commonwealth, the frivolous taste of the period that followed the Restoration of Charles II., together with the troubles of the Revolutionary era and the dulness of Dutch William's reign will in great measure account for this apathy. True, a complete edition of this great dramatist appeared in 1623, seven years after he had died, and was republished in 1632, but it was not till the time of Anne that any further attempt was made to publish a fresh edition of his works or to gather materials for his biography. To Nicholas Rowe belongs the honour of having ventured on this task, and his example was speedily followed by others at intervals more or less frequent, the result being that, in the course of somewhat more than the next hundred years, Englishmen, by the aid of such men as Pope, Warburton, Johnson, Steevens, Chalmers, and other critics had gradually learned to admire, if not fully to appreciate the beauty and grandeur of the greatest of their poets. Since then, the labour of criticism has gone on ever more and more assiduously. Shakespeare societies have been formed, innumerable commentaries have appeared, while on the stage frequent and often highly successful attempts have been made to familiarise the British public with the best of his dramas. Yet, in spite of societies, commentators, and actors, England owes it to the German school of critics rather than to her own that Shakespeare is so fully appreciated, intellectually, as he is now-a-days. With a few exceptions, the English commentators have limited their efforts to learned and discreet analyses of single characters, to able expositions of textual difficulties, or to clearing up, as far as possible, the meaning of obscure words or passages, or allusions. The labours of German commentators have embraced a far wider field. They have taken his plays seriatim, viewing each of them as a whole, perfect in all its parts and in the inter-relation of its several characters and incidents. They have studied these with infinite care, and have deduced from them an elaborate series of æsthetic and ethical studies which are in the highest degree valuable. Lessing, Schlegel, and, in the volume before us, Gervinus, each of these in turn has analysed Shakespeare in this spirit. The latter, indeed, in his introduction has so well expressed the different character of the German and English studies of Shakespeare—ascribing nearly if not the chief honour among the former to Schlegel—that we cannot do better than quote a portion of his remarks.

"With us the reverse of that which had happened in England in the eighteenth century now ensued. We wrote no critical notes upon the poet; wanting the materials, we wanted also the vocation for the task. We translated him; and while the English possess a series of editions, we have, from Wieland and Eschenburg to Schlegel and Voss, and even down to the disciples of Tieck and many subsequent stragglers, a number of translations, ever newly issued and ever newly read. If in the English editions the annotations almost concealed the text, these translations gave us, for the most part, the text without any notes. This has accustomed us to another manner of reading the poet. While the Englishman lingered, perhaps, on isolated passages, we, on the contrary, destitute of all explanations, read rapidly on; we were careless about parts, and, compared to the English reader, we lost many separate beauties and ideas, but we enjoyed the whole more fully. For this enjoyment we were chiefly indebted to the translation of A. W. Schlegel, which even Englishmen read with admiration. The archaisms are here erased, the rough words of the period gently modified, yet the whole character is faithfully maintained. The sensibility of the German nature, the flexibility of our language, and the taste and mind of the translator, procure for this work equally great and lasting honour. More than any other effort on behalf of the English poet, this translation has made him our own. Admiration reached a fresh point, and this rather with us than in England; for it is to me beyond a doubt that the criticism of the old English editors, such as that of Courte, for example, not long ago, would have been quite impossible with us in Germany, even in one such exception."

And again:—

"However great were the merits of our Romanticists in having arranged Shakespeare's works for our enjoyment, even they have only slightly contributed to the inner understanding after which we seek, and to the unfolding of the human nature of the poet and the general value of his works. In A. W. Schlegel's 'Dramatic Lectures' (1812), the plays are singly discussed. All here testifies to poetic delicacy and sensibility; all is fair, alluring, inspiring; a panegyric of a totally different kind to the criticising characteristics of English expositors."

The author had also previously spoken of Goethe and his labours in these words:—

"In 'Wilhelm Meister' Goethe produced that characteristic of Hamlet which is like a key to all works of the poet; here all separate

beauties are rejected, and the whole is explained by the whole, and we feel the soul of the outer framework and its animating breath, which created and organised the immortal work."

To our own Coleridge the author refers somewhat briefly, but he clearly regards him with admiration, as "he of all Englishmen first measured the poet by a true standard." "He declaimed," continues Gervinus, "against the French notion that in Shakespeare all was the emanation of a genius unconscious of himself; 'that he grew immortal, as it were, in his own despatch'; he justly contended that his judgment was commensurate with his genius; that he was no wild *lusus nature*, and that this so-called 'irregularity' was only the dream of a few pedants."

"He advanced the assertion—then a bold one in England—that not merely the splendour of different parts constituted the greatness of Shakespeare, by compensating for the barbarous shapelessness of the whole, but that he considered the æsthetic form of the whole equally admirable with the matter, and the judgment of the great poet not less deserving our wonder than his innate genius. He (and since him Campbell and many other enthusiastic admirers) placed him quite out of comparison with other poets; he declared it an absurdity to prefer him seriously to Racine and Corneille, or to compare him with Spenser and Milton; to his mind he was so exalted above all, that he could only compare him with himself."

We have dwelt at some length on the distinctive feature of German criticism as compared with the bulk of English criticism, in order that our readers may form a clearer judgment of the character and merits of these Commentaries. Before, however, we go further into the work itself, it may be as well to draw attention to a very valuable introduction which is prefixed to the present edition. It is from the pen of Mr. J. F. Farnivall, Founder and Director of the New Shakespeare Society, the Chancer Society, &c., &c., who, *en passant*, bears this testimony to the valuable labours of Gervinus:—

"The profound and generous 'Commentaries' of Gervinus—an honour to a German to have written, a pleasure to an Englishman to read—is still the only book known to me that comes near the true treatment and the dignity of its subject, or can be put into the hands of the student who wants to know the mind of Shakespeare."

Further on, Mr. Farnivall remarks:—

"What strikes me most in Gervinus is his breadth of culture and view, his rightness and calmness of judgment; his fairness in looking at both sides of a question; his noble earnest purpose; his resolve to get at the deepest meaning of his author, and his reverence and love for Shakespeare. No one can read his book without seeing evidence of a rare range of reading and study, rare indeed among Englishmen. . . . No one can fail to see how Gervinus, noble-natured and earnest himself, is able to catch and echo for us the 'still small voice' of Shakespeare's hidden meaning even in the lightest of his plays. No Englishman can fail to feel pleasure in the heartfelt tribute of love and praise that the great historian of German literature gives to the English Shakespeare."

This introduction is also important for the remarks it contains on the value of "Metrical Tests," in establishing the right succession of Shakespeare's plays—"a condition precedent" to following the growth of his mind; on the spurious portions of plays called Shakespeare's, and the use of these tests in detecting them; on the progressive changes in Shakespeare's language, imagery and thought; on the succession of his plays, and on the helps for studying them, on the last of which are mentioned the texts and commentaries which, in the opinion of Mr. Farnivall, are the best for the student's use.

Having said this much of the character of the work before us, and having quoted valuable testimony as to its merits, it is time we plunged into the work itself. The chapters to which we shall confine our further brief remarks on the present occasion are those which treat of "Shakespeare at Stratford," "Shakespeare's Descriptive Poems," "Shakespeare in London and on the Stage," "Dramatic Poetry before Shakespeare," and "The Stage."

In the first of these we have a necessarily brief outline of the poet's family and early life. So little, indeed, is known of Shakespeare's personal history, that the difficulty is to find any trustworthy materials for a biography. When Rowe, in 1709, essayed this task, hoping to glean something from tradition and other sources, "he found," says our author, "that scarcely anything was known of such a wonderful man; that even the originals of his writings were hardly preserved, and that all that could be gathered of his life was a couple of unvouched-for anecdotes, which, even at the present day, the most diligent inquiry has only been able to replace by a few authentic facts." What little there is to say, however, has been carefully collected and noted. Of the treatment we may judge from these remarks on "the history of the poet's youth."

"Little to be relied on has reached our knowledge, but sufficient to allow us to guess that his earliest experience was marked by in his mind an abundance of deep impressions which may have subsequently become rich sources for his poetic creations. A course of misfortunes befell him, and he left his home at the period when passion sensibility, and imagination are strongest in men; he had to eat the bitter bread of tribulation, and to pass through the deep water of sorrow—that school of great minds and powerful characters. From his fourteenth year the old prosperity of his father's house was broken up, a stroke of misfortune befell his mother's family, the Ardens; his own indiscretion and self-created distress followed; and thus we see that he had not only to experience a season of adversity, but also one of indignity, which developed side by side his good and bad qualities." The facts are then passed in review.

The anecdote of Shakespeare's deer-stealing, apart from all circumstantial proofs, our author thinks "carries with it decided marks of a most characteristic trait." He thinks, moreover, it "may easily have been the most innocent part of his life." To the bitter experiences of Shakespeare's married life the author gives credit,

and fancies that, in searching through his works, "we meet with direct outbursts of feeling upon this portion of his history. Were the circumstances which accompanied his marriage the 'fore-bemoaned moan' upon which the poet looked back repentantly in his sonnets? Was it accident that just in his earlier dramas the pictures of bad imperious women, such as he never subsequently depicted, filled his fancy? that in Henry VI., when he retouched it, he gave such double force to the traits of character with which he had endowed the terrible wives of the King and Gloster, as if to unburden his own heavy heart? With how much true conviction, as out of self-drawn experience, he utters the warning in "Twelfth Night" (II. 4)—

Let the woman take
An elder than herself; so wears she to him,
So sways she level in her husband's heart."

The next chapter treats of his descriptive poems, "Venus and Adonis," and "Lucrece," of which we are told, "everything betrays that they were written in the first passion of youth." Then follow accounts of "Dramatic Poetry before Shakespeare," and "The Stage," to which, having regard to present considerations of space, we refer our readers themselves. Suffice it to say that the state of the drama before, and in the days of Shakespeare, is fully and impartially described, and that any of our readers to whom this portion of the history of English literature is comparatively obscure will find much profit from a careful study of the author's exposition. In our next, we shall deal with one or more of the plays of Shakespeare, as handled in these pages, so that our readers may be in a better position of the value of Mr. Furnivall's eulogisms on the merits of the author.

*Ancient and Primitive Rite of Masonry in and for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and its Dependencies. Sovereign Sanctuary 33—96°. Peace, Tolerance, Truth. Salutation on all points of the triangle.**

A CIRCULAR of three pages, with this title and a hieroglyphic head-piece, is not a promising subject for review. It has, nevertheless, been sent to us for that purpose. As principal Officer, or Most Illustrious Grand Master General, we find mentioned "I.U. Bro. John Yarker (P.M. of all Orders);" and as this brother is the author of the *Notes on the Mysteries of Antiquity*, which we reviewed last week, we are led to associate the two productions.

Sincere Masons can hardly view with pleasure a multiplication of rites, however *high-falutin'*. If we are not mistaken, the obligation accepted by brethren affiliated to the Ancient and Accepted Rite, whose head-quarters are at Golden Square, will preclude them from participation in the mysteries over which Bro. Yarker ably presides.

The Circular states that the Rite in America was originally constituted in 1856; that it works 33 degrees, embracing Jewish, Chivalric and Egyptian Masonry; that the third section contains the Hermetic degrees, and deals with "high philosophy" and religious myth—(here is certainly a Transatlantic smack.) Its decorations are—the grand Star of Sirius—the decoration of Alidee—that of Grand Commander—the Lybic Chain—the decoration of Eleusis.

Bro. Yarker's *Notes* took away our breath, which we with difficulty recovered; and now our heart sinks under a sense of utter unworthiness and incompetency. Sirius—Alidee—Eleusis—Lybia! Hermes, Simon Magus and Cagliostro—ye have not lived in vain! For aught we can tell, the Most Illustrious Grand Master General, applying the Brahminical secret of invisibility, may be even now at our elbow; may, like the great Dn Potet, envelope us in a mesmeric wave from his resistless will, and draw us *volens volens* to unspeakable things. If Bro. Yarker will promise us—the "powder of projection"—mastery of the "emerald tablet"—power to make diamonds and to operate the "palingenesia of plants, we will consider the possibility of resisting all lower attractions, to devote ourselves to contemplation of "Peace, Tolerance and Truth" in the bosom of his Sovereign Sanctuary.

Debrett's Peerage and Baronetage and Knightage. London: Dean and Son, St. Dunstan's Buildings, 160a Fleet Street, E.C.

THESE works, which have been published annually for more than one hundred and sixty years, are simply invaluable. What happened in the days of the second Charles, Dutch William or good Queen Anne, when Debretts were not, it is impossible, nor were it, perhaps, very material to say. It is certain that the memories of Lord Chamberlains and Gentlemen Ushers must have been very long and trustworthy, or they would never have performed their duties, of ushering in and marshalling men of rank, with anything like satisfaction. Now-a-days our titled folk are so numerous that such books as these are absolutely necessary in every gentleman's library. Suffice it that for size, appearance, variety and excellence of information, no publications we know of surpass Debrett.

The Civil Service Year Book and Official Calendar 1875. London: Office of *The Civilian*, 8 Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

THE editors of this useful calendar have made some amends for the tardiness of its appearance by the valuable character of the material they have collected. Everything relating to the organisation of the Service, its institutions, and the competitive and other examinations, which must be passed before candidates are admissible, have been brought within the modest compass of about 100 pages. That this matter is good is beyond doubt, and the delay, perhaps, is excusable, as details of the Payfair Commission's report could not have been included. Civil Servants will find this book of infinite value for purposes of general reference.

* *Burnley, Burghope and Strangely.* 1873.

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.

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"A FEW WORDS ON AMERICAN MASONRY." ("FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE," No. 1, 2ND JANUARY 1875.)

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your "leader" on the above subject is the following, "No country is more lavish of outlay on Masonic architecture, witness the magnificent Temples of Boston, Philadelphia, and New York; in fact, in nine-tenths of American towns and cities the Masonic Hall is, *par excellence*, the Hall. No country is more ostentatious of parade, glitter, show and extravagance, *vile* accounts of Masonic inaugurations, processions, and celebrations. Yet, where are the Masonic Charities, Benevolent Institutions, Widows' Funds, Orphans' Home, and Schools? Echo answers—would it be possible for an echo to reach us from across the Atlantic?"

I desire, to say a few words respecting the foregoing, and especially as to your assertions, which have, in my opinion, been made without full enquiry, or under a misapprehension of the facts; and though my remarks will be brief, yet I trust the facts submitted will be sufficient to prove that American Freemasonry is not quite in the lamentable position you assume.

1. As to "outlay and Masonic architecture" the "new country" is much ahead of the "old," and so that may be taken as indicative of the hearty co-operation of the American fraternity in seeking to provide Homes and Temples worthy of the Craft, and suitable for the working of our solemn ceremonies.

2. "No country is more ostentatious of parade, glitter, show and extravagance." On this point, perhaps it is as well to say but little, especially as it may resolve itself into a *matter of opinion*, but if the annual processions of our Prov. Grand Lodges are considered, and the inauguration of new Lodges by Prov. Grand Masters—Bodies and Officers unknown in the United States Masonically—I doubt even if this statement can be substantiated, especially also if it be taken into account that in the United States alone there are about eight times as many subscribing members as in this country, and consequently some more processions may fairly be expected in the one country than in the other.

3. "Where are the Masonic Charities, Benevolent Institutions, Widows' Funds?" &c. &c.

Had it not been for the latter question, you would not have been troubled with this communication, and while it comes late in the day, owing to numerous engagements, I hope it will be in time to remove any erroneous impression on your mind, or those of your readers on the subject.

From the question being unanswered, I presume you consider there are no Masonic charities worthy of the name in the *United States*, and hence that—if true—would be your justification for observing that "the abuses and prostitutions of Masonry, have long been a standing reproach to our Transatlantic brethren, and a cause of regret to every true and zealous member of our ancient Brotherhood throughout the world."

I have not the necessary time, neither am I able to present an abstract of the total amounts of the funds employed in the sacred cause of Masonic charity in the United States; but ere long I hope some competent brother will do so. In many respects the disbursements on this head by the Grand Lodges are not at all a fair indication of the aid rendered to the distressed Mason, the lonely widow, and the unfortunate fatherless children, because the Lodges generally—so far as my knowledge extends—have much larger sums available for charities than we have, the membership on an average in the Lodges being greater in America than in England, and the Lodges fewer in number in proportion to the number of members, added to which still more care is exercised in the granting of warrants than under our Grand Lodge. In fact the supervision exercised by Grand Lodges over Lodges under "dispensation," prior to the warrants being granted, members only being allowed to belong to one Lodge, and the motives for seeking to leave the Parent Lodge, being so scrutinized that the system would prove quite unworkable in this country, and an intolerable bore, though doubtless it would be much for the benefit of our Grand Lodges, were even a modification of the plan made available for Great Britain and Ireland.

I deny the inference intended to be deduced from your question, because on examination of the facts you will find that, *Masonically*, the United States' Grand Lodges are warm hearted supporters of "Faith, Hope, Charity," and especially "the greater of these—Charity." In proof, thereof, let me select three instances only, and then I have done!

(a) The Grand Lodge of Kentucky has a "Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home," the grand Building being all but complete. When ready it will accommodate 500 children. Please note the capacity of the Building, which, if I mistake not, will prove equal in size and accommodation to the buildings of our Royal Masonic Institutions for Girls, Boys, and aged Freemasons combined! The inmates at present number 155. Doubtless the number will shortly be extended to 200, for the Grand Lodge of Kentucky at its last session donated the handsome sum of 78,000 dollars (about £15,600!!)

In the words of the editor of the *Masonic Review*, "This is doing, not saying."

(b) In the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the substantial charities connected with the Craft are varied and of the most beneficial character. The "Stephen Girard Charity Fund," for the relief of poor and respectable brethren, "is now about 60,000 dollars (about £12,000), and the Grand Lodge Charity Fund for the relief of poor and respectable widows and orphan children, and the mothers and

unmarried sisters of Brother Master Masons," amounts to upwards of 70,000 dollars (£14,000). These amounts represent the invested funds, and do not include in any way the aid rendered by the individual Lodges, several of which are in a most healthy condition, and dispense their charities in a most princely manner.

(c) To cite another instance out of many I could mention, let me notice the "Louisiana Relief Lodge, No. 1, New Orleans. I leave out the Charity Fund of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana entirely, and simply refer to a Lodge chartered for the purpose—unique and most Masonic—of "taking from the hands of its constituent Lodges the labour of investigating necessarily appertaining to all applications for charity, from worthy Master Masons, their widows or orphans, hailing from other jurisdictions, to afford prompt relief to worthy cases of suffering and destitution—to see the sick properly cared for—to give decent interment to those who die in our midst—in short to properly distribute this charity with Masonic circumspection, through one thoroughly organized channel, and to detect, register, and expose impostors and the unworthy."

In eighteen years the following relief has been granted by the above body:—

	Dollars.	£
Brethren of other United States Jurisdictions	25,507	5,100
Widows and Orphans do. do.	6,756	1,351
Brethren of Foreign Jurisdictions	6,308	
Widows and Orphans do. do.	2,117	8,425
Tombs, Funerals, &c. &c. for the above	9,783	1,956
Brethren of Louisiana	1,125	
Widows and Orphans do.	862	1,987
General Expenses	2,640	528
	55,098	11,017

Thus over £11,000 were devoted to the charitable objects for which the Relief Lodge was founded in eighteen years. The period includes that of the civil war, and for the last nine years the contributions have been purely voluntary. It should also be mentioned a goodly proportion of the amount distributed to the Brethren hailing from other jurisdictions in the United States have been refunded, but after all needful deductions, we find that the Lodges in New Orleans (city), who support the Relief Lodge, have voted for that purpose in the period named the sum of 16,000 dollars, or £3,200, and from that amount Brethren from the Grand Lodge of England who have been worthy of aid have been relieved to the extent of 653 dollars*; Ireland 709 dollars; and Scotland 909 dollars; a much larger sum than the Grand Lodge has, through its Fund of Benevolence, given to all the unfortunate American Brethren petitioning for relief in the same period! Need I say more than leave the matter in your hands to be set right?

Fraternally yours, WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

Truro, 13th February 1875.

P.S.—In No. 1 of the *Masonic Magazine* (George Kenning, London) I have given a sketch of the "Relief Lodge," *New Orleans*.

THE LIFEBOAT ENDOWMENT.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In reply to a letter published in your columns of the 13th inst., signed "Lets Bonac," I have to remark that the amount mentioned in P.M. Gottheil's letter in yours of the 16th January was duly acknowledged in the *Freemason*, therefore I did not reply to the remarks of "W. M." upon the subject.

I thank "Lets Bonac" for his kind consideration of my health, and beg to state that it is not my intention of retiring from a movement of which I am the pioneer, at the same time I shall be happy to meet any number of brethren with the view of organising a committee to carry out the movement, and shall be glad to deposit the amount I hold for the endowment of the "Freemasons' Lifeboat," into the hands of an appointed Treasurer, conditionally that all monies received for the purpose be deposited in the London and Westminster Bank, in the names of the President, Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary, and the receipts of same to be produced by the Treasurer at each meeting.

I suggested this at the first meeting of the Lifeboat Committee, which was carried out by

Yours fraternally, SOLOMON DAVIS.

[We have received a second letter from Bro. Davis, but as it refers to a private matter between him and another member of the Craft, we must ask him kindly to excuse us publishing it.—ED. FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.]

OLD LONDON TAVERNS ASSOCIATED WITH MASONRY.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—It may not be uninteresting to some of the brethren to learn that, in addition to those Taverns mentioned in the article on above, in your issue of the 13th inst., there is another "King's Arms" intimately associated with our Brotherhood, as will be seen by the following advertisement, which appeared in the *Times*, dated October 3rd 1798 (the year the Boys' Institution was established).

"Masonic Charity for Cloathing and Educating the Sons of Indigent Freemasons, according to the old Institutions.

"A general meeting of the subscribers to this Institution will be held at the 'King's Arms,' Green Bank, Wapping, on Friday next, the 5th day of October inst., at 6 o'clock in the evening, in order to receive twelve children into this Charity.

"(Signed,) J. Montefiore, Attorney at Law, Secretary."

"Sampson's Garden, October 1st 1798."

As you mention the "King's Arms" at which Grand Lodge met

* Excluding proportion of expenses, tombs, &c.

in 1721 as being situated perhaps in Bow Street, may I suggest that it might possibly have been the one mentioned in above advertisement.

I remain, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

J. H. THORN.

Bow, E. 18th February 1875.

THE DRAMA.

Lady Audley's Secret—A Midsummer Night's Dream—She Stoops to Conquer—The Maid's Tragedy—More Revivals—Mrs. Howard Paul and Mr. Walter Pelham.

BURLESQUE and melodrama may be said to stand at the opposite poles of the Drama, and it is very seldom that they come to be united in the same programme. This, however, has been accomplished by the enterprising management of the GLOBE THEATRE. *Lady Audley's Secret*, a melodrama of melodramas, and *Blue Beard*, surely the most extravagant of burlesques, are now being performed nightly at this theatre, with the success which invariably attends the performances of Miss Thompson's company. Most people are acquainted with Miss Braddon's thrilling story, and not a few old playgoers will remember the first production of Mr. Robert's play at the St. James's Theatre, when Miss Herbert played the rôle of Lady Audley, and Miss Ada Dyas made her first great hit in the character of Phoebe Marks. The title rôle is one susceptible of powerful treatment by an artiste capable of comprehending and portraying alike the most ungovernable passion and the lightest of light comedy. It is such a part as Mrs. Charles Matthews would have loved to play, and Miss Herbert was one of the few other actresses who could render full justice to its varied shades. Miss Louisa Moore, who has, in the present revival, been selected to play the heroine, has hardly the physique for the character. In the lighter moods she is excellent, but her tragic passages are wanting in intensity. Her return to the stage is very welcome just now, for we have very few actresses on the stage who can portray the playful side of comedy with ease and grace. Mr. Lionel Brough is cast for the part of Marks, and he contrives to throw into it a considerable amount of rugged humour. Phoebe Marks is played by Miss Kathleen Irwin, who displays in this impersonation an amount of dramatic power which those who have seen her only in comedy or burlesque would hardly credit her with possessing. It is a thousand pities that on the English stage there are no means of achieving anything like popularity without passing through a degrading apprenticeship of burlesque. Mrs. Bancroft, Miss Cavendish, Miss Foote and Miss Robertson have all had to take their turn in this inane order of comedy, and doubtless there are many ladies at the present time playing short-skirted parts in burlesques that are eminently capable of sustaining characters of serious interest, if only the opportunity be afforded them. The other characters in the piece do not call for much comment. Sir Michael Audley is played very fairly by Mr. Granger, Mr. Ireland appears as Robert Audley, and Mr. H. R. Teesdale sustains the character of George Talboys.

The Merry Wives of Windsor at the Gaiety has now given place to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mr. Phelps appears, of course, in his old part of Bottom the weaver. Not a few of the admirers of Mr. Phelps look upon this as his best part, and it is certainly one in which he has never been approached by any other actor of his time. Mr. J. P. Harley, who played the character in the Charles Kean revival at the PRINCESS'S was unanimously pronounced inferior to Mr. Phelps, and scarcely any other actor of the present generation has attempted the rôle. The other parts are fairly sustained, and the performance generally is creditable to the management.

At the HOLBORN AMPHITHEATRE Mr. Hollingshead has ventured to produce *The Maid's Tragedy*, of Beaumont and Fletcher. Mr. Ryder sustains the character of Amintor, and Mr. Pennington that of Melantius, but some other of the parts are not so well filled. It is gratifying, however, to find at the present day a manager bold enough to rely on Beaumont and Fletcher for the chief attraction of a theatrical performance.

At the Opera-Comique, too, another of Mr. Hollingshead's ventures, we have to notice a change in the programme. *She Stoops to Conquer*, is now the chief item of the bill of fare. Miss Robertson appears to excellent advantage in the part of Miss Hardcastle, the comedy of every scene being rendered with admirable humour and effect. Mr. Kendal plays Young Marlow, Mr. Maclean Old Hardcastle, and Mr. Alfred Nelson Hastings, whilst the character of Tony Lumpkin is essayed by Mr. Arthur Cecil, with only a moderate degree of success. The performance, as a whole, is an exceedingly pleasant one, and may be cordially commended to the frequenters of theatres.

Rebecca has been revived at Drury Lane, to supplement the pantomime, and *The New Magdalen* is being played at CHARING CROSS. Where are our dramatic authors, that so many stock pieces should have to be revived?

On Monday evening last the celebrated Mrs. Howard Paul, aided by Brother W. F. Taunton, who has, for professional purposes, assumed the name of Walter Pelham, gave an entertainment at the Corn Exchange, Coventry. Nearly two thousand persons were present, and hundreds went away because they could not find room. Mrs. Paul's powers of voice, song and imitation were deservedly received with raptures of applause. They were grand, impressive and entertaining. Mr. Walter Pelham's powers of mimicry were received and acknowledged by the audience with great enthusiasm. It has been said that a prophet has no honour in his own country—Mr. W. F. Taunton cannot say so, for no man could have experienced a more hearty and genial reception from his fellow townsmen.

THE THEATRES, &c.

COVENT GARDEN.—This evening, at 7.0, THE VIVANDIERE. At 7.15, THE BABES IN THE WOOD.

DRURY LANE.—REBECCA and ALADDIN.

HAYMARKET.—A FAIR ENCOUNTER, HOME and THE SERIOUS FAMILY.

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PRINCESS'S.—At 7.0, THE LANCASHIRE LASS and BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.

LYCEUM.—At 6.50, FISH OUT OF WATER. At 7.15, HAMLET.

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

STRAND.—At 7.0, INTRIGUE. At 7.20, OLD SAILORS. At 9.15, LOO AND THE PARTY WHO TOOK MISS.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 7.15, SWEETHEARTS and SOCIETY.

GAIETY.—FAST COACH and MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

GLOBE.—LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET and BLUE BEARD.

ROYALTY.—At 7.30, AWAKING. At 8.30, LA PERICHOLE.

VAUDEVILLE.—At 7.0, A WHIRLIGIG. At 7.15, OUR BOYS. At 10, ROMULUS AND REMUS.

CHARING CROSS.—At 7.30, MR. JOFFIN'S LATCH KEY. At 8.15, THE NEW MAGDALEN.

OPERA COMIQUE.—At 7.30, BENGAL TIGER. At 8.30, SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER.

COURT.—At 7.30, DREADFULLY ALARMING. At 8, MAGGIE'S SITUATION. At 9, BRIGHTON.

ALHAMBRA.—At 7.15, THE TWO BONNYCASTLES. At 8.0, WHITTINGTON.

CRITERION.—LES PRES SAINT GERVAIS, &c.

AMPHITHEATRE, HOLBORN.—YOUNG WIDOW and THE BRIDAL.

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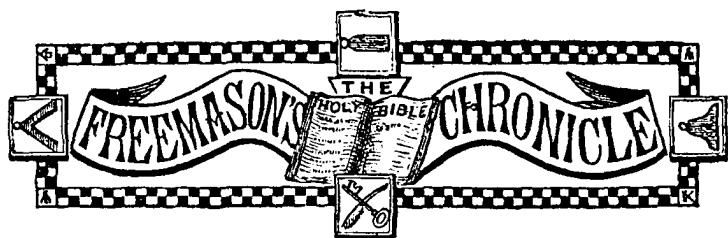
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IN connection with the above fund we have received certain subscriptions, and, in accordance with the wishes of the senders we have opened an account with the London and County Bank, Aldersgate Street Branch, under the above title. Contributions will be received at any of the Branches of this Bank throughout the kingdom, and acknowledged by us each week in our columns. It has been suggested that we should undertake the charge of the fund, and we shall be willing to comply with the suggestion provided it meets with the general assent of our readers. In the meantime we are prepared to pay over to the account any sums that may be forwarded to us. We understand that at the next Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge Bro. Constable will move that the sum of £100 be contributed towards the Endowment Fund.

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	3	3	0

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THE history of the past week has been signalised by two events of somewhat more than the usual interest—the return to Parliament of an ex-rebel for an Irish, and of a disrobed Q.C. for an English constituency. We have nothing to say in favour of either choice—a great deal against both of them. It is possible to admire the conduct even of a misguided rebel, if at least he evince courage or some other manly virtue; but the man who advocated the most diabolical measures against our soldiery in 1848, and who deliberately broke his word of honour—can the word "honour" exist in his vocabulary?—such a man is beneath contempt. The only return of which John Mitchell is worthy, is an immediate and unopposed return to his convict's cell, there to spend the unexpired portion of his sentence. Happily for the dignity of Parliament, the Prime Minister has shown himself quite equal to the occasion. Without even waiting for the formal announcement of Mitchell's election, he declared, on Tuesday, his intention of moving that the election be declared void, and that the Speaker do issue a new writ. On Thursday the motion was made, and agreed to unanimously, after an amendment for adjournment had been disposed of. It would have been far better had no such amendment been proposed, there being no sympathy whatever either with the elect or the electors. Nor is it creditable to the borough of Stoke to have returned Dr. Kenealy. The ex-bench of Gray's Inn has spent the last few months in foully abusing everybody—bench, bar, press, &c. The bare suggestion that the convict Arthur Orton is an impostor, appears to have acted on Dr. Kenealy much as a red rag does on a bull. It used to be, and still is, in most parts of the United Kingdom, considered an honour to sit in Parliament. Many, perhaps, may now fight shy of such an honour, which they must share in common, even for 24 hours, with an ex-convict and the bullying advocate of a proved impostor.

The principal question that has been discussed in the House of Commons is the Bill for legalising Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister, the second reading of which was moved by Sir T. Chambers. However, the advocacy of the learned Common Sergeant and that of his supporters failed to convince the House of the expediency of passing such a measure. The House rejected it by 171 to 142, or the very respectable majority of 29. The debate was somewhat enlivened by Mr. Beresford Hope, who, in the course of his speech, is reported to have made out that "the Claimant for the throne of Spain was the offspring of an uncle and

niece; on the death of his grandmother, his great aunt's third sister became wife of his grandfather." The House did not quite understand this very confused relationship, so it laughed heartily—about the most sensible thing it could have done under the circumstances. Among other measures brought forward may be mentioned an Artisans' Dwelling Bill, the second reading of which passed without a division, and a Wild Animals (Scotland) Bill, which was rejected by a very considerable majority.

Tuesday was a grand day at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief inspected the cadets. The result of the recent examination for Commissions in the R. Engineers and R. Artillery, was made known, and among the successful candidates was the Prince Imperial, who obtained the seventh place. This was followed by the annual distribution of prizes and inspection, after which the cadets were dismissed. Among the spectators present was the Empress Eugénie, who must have been highly gratified at the success of her son and the popularity he had earned among his comrades. Another Prince also, Prince Leopold, has been chosen to fill a post of honour, not by competition, however, but by selection; not to the grade of officer in the Military order, but to a position of honour and responsibility in a Masonic Lodge. Prince Leopold is now S.W. of the Apollo Lodge, University of Oxford. May this be only a stepping stone to still higher rank in the Craft!

On Monday, at the Oval, the long talked of match at football between England and Ireland came off, and when "No side" was called, the former were found to be victors by two goals, a try, and fifteen touches down to nothing. The English were a strong team, captained by the Hon. H. A. Laurence, Richmond, and were somewhat the heavier, but the Irish (G. Stack, of Dublin University, Captain) played very pluckily, though their efforts to achieve anything in the way of success proved unavailing. The event was afterwards concluded by a dinner at St. James's Hall, at which the players, their friends, and the members of most of the prominent London Clubs were present. The other noteworthy matters in the sporting world are the Waterloo Cup, and the practice of the two crews for the 'Varsity Race next month. There appear to have been occasional changes in the Cambridge boat, which hardly augurs well for its success, but it is early yet to judge of the respective merits of the eights. The crews may be expected to appear at Putney the first week in March, the race, as we have previously stated, being fixed for the 20th.

A *Midsummer Night's Dream* has been produced at the Gaiety with very great success. Mr. Phelps enacted the part of Bottom, and upon him fell the chief weight of the acting. The other parts were very creditably filled, and the performance cannot fail to prove highly attractive. Mr. Hollingshead deserves the thanks of the public for providing so excellent an entertainment. It is something in these days of Burlesque and Opera Bouffe to know there are some theatres in London devoted to the legitimate drama. In the musical world there have been latterly the usual series of concerts. "Monday Pops," "Saturday Pops," and London Ballad Concerts, to which must be added the Royal Albert Hall Popular Ballad Concerts. All these have attracted considerable audiences, and enabled the gloomy metropolis to, at all events, survive the unusual dulness of the last few weeks. By the way, the Clerk of the Weather has just favoured us with a little snow and sleet. We feel rather disposed to exclaim, with Horace,—

"Jam satis terris nivis atque diræ
Grandinis misit Pater."

At the distribution of prizes, on Thursday, in Lincoln's Inn Hall, to the "Devil's Own," the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War, Mr. Gathorne Hardy, presided, and, in the course of his remarks, spoke very hopefully of the present efficient state of the Volunteers generally. He also congratulated the corps before him on the highly favourable report made of them by the inspecting officer, and expressed his intention of promoting, as far as lay in his power, the continued success of the Volunteer movement. After distributing some of the prizes Mr. Gathorne Hardy retired, a vote of thanks for his attendance being cordially proposed and enthusiastically responded to.

From Spain the news does not look hopeful for the immediate pacification of that unhappy country. The Northern Army has not carried Estella, the Carlist stronghold; but, instead, the Carlists have, as was reported last

week, inflicted a very severe defeat on their antagonists, the consequence of which has been that some officers of high rank have been removed from their commands. The young King Alphonso has returned to his capital, having visited on his road home the veteran Espartero, the staunch upholder of his mother's throne. The interview is said to have been very affecting, and the old general and his youthful sovereign exchanged decorations in the most impressive manner. It does not speak well for the vigilance of the Alphonsoist military authorities that the royal train was fired upon by the Carlists, to the danger of Alphonso and the terror of his suite. Meanwhile we hear nothing further from the seat of war. Doubtless, the Royal forces are re-organising, as probably are the troops of Don Carlos: evidently the end of the struggle is not yet.

In France the Constitutional complications appear to be approaching a solution. A new Senate Bill is talked of, and there seems to be a chance of its being passed by a considerable majority. There has been a surrender on both sides of sundry points, and hence this prospect of a speedy settlement. From Berlin we hear that the health of the Emperor of Germany is causing some anxiety. His Majesty, however, appears, according to the latest advices, to have been well enough to transact business with his advisers, though, by the recommendation of his medical attendants, he still keeps his room. We trust next week that we shall be in a position to announce his complete restoration to health, though additional care will be necessary if the weather in Berlin is anything like as unsatisfactory as it is here. The only other news of special interest from abroad immediately concerns this country. By a telegram received at the Colonial Office, it seems the Maori King and the Imperial authorities have met and interchanged courtesies with each other. This looks very hopeful for the future of New Zealand. For almost a generation we have heard of constant disputes between the two—disputes which more than once have been referred to the bloody arbitrament of war, in which British pluck has not always commanded the success it deserved. We trust the conciliatory spirit which clearly animates both the Maories and the Colonial authorities will bring forth good fruit at an early date, and that hereafter there will be no further "little wars" in this portion of the British Empire.

The Committee of the United Grand Lodge met on Wednesday the 17th inst., at Freemasons' Hall. After which the Grand Lodge of Benevolence was held. Bro. J. Clabon in the chair. Bro. J. Hervey G.S. read the minutes of the former meeting, which were confirmed. Grants to the amount of £70, voted at the former meeting, were also confirmed; and new grants, amounting to £708, were given; after which the Grand Lodge was closed, and the members adjourned. Among those present were Bros. Brownrigg, J. Nunn, Rev. J. R. Simpson, J. Smith, H. Garrod, Wright, E. Page, Stephens, Griffiths Smith, J. Boyd, T. Cubitt, C. Hogard, Koch, J. Smith, F. Binckes, Tyrell, J. Constable, H. Dicketts, Swan, J. Savage, J. Mander, Lane, Rosenthal, W. H. Main, Marsh, J. Terry, Burrell, Hansworth, C. A. Cottebrune, H. G. Buss, Pendlebury, Pope, S. May, W. Smith, T. Bull, Ough.

We again urge upon Scottish Freemasons, who may peruse these pages, the paramount claim upon their benevolence and patriotic pride of the proposed Royal Scottish Masonic Benevolent Institution, for which the R.W. Bro. George R. Harriott is working so energetically. The success of the project will, it is true, be due to his noble initiative and self-sacrifice, but its proximate foundation will be no less the work of those whose warm hearts and enlightened sentiments may have leaped in practical accord with his appeal. The Institution, besides exemplifying that virtue which is the boast of our Craft, and whose active exercise by individual Scotchmen has raised an imperishable monument to their country from grateful thousands, wherever the flag of Britain goes, will do more to raise the Masonic "esprit de corps" in Scotland, and to place the tenets of our Society on their rightful plane, than any other event throughout our long historic annals in

"Caledonia! stern and wild,
Meet nurse for a poetic child,
Land of brown heath and shaggy wood,
Land of the mountain and the flood."

and not less, as the poet says elsewhere, "land of warm hearts, practical philanthropy and sincerest, because

homely, welcome." We rejoice to learn that Scotchmen in our colonies and abroad are generously responding to R.W. Bro. Harriott's appeal, and also that the most hopeful prospects are opening up in Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Dumbarton. Stirling, Forfar, Aberdeen and Fife, will, we may be sure, not be behind in the race. To assure the commencement of so grandly patriotic an undertaking as the "Royal Scottish Masonic Benevolent Institution" our brethren should be polled Lodge by Lodge, and man by man. More than the erection of a gorgeous temple, more than any pompous and glittering ceremonial, more than the highest flights of national literature, this project will grow in glory as generation after generation shall bless its founders, the "single-minded in a selfish age," who did not hesitate for so good an end to take upon themselves the burden and heat of the day.

The *Scottish Freemasons' Magazine*, the fourth number of which is now before us, is a modest but ably conducted paper, which aspires to represent that large and important section of our brethren who are located North of the Tweed. It contains some good articles, and the reports of Lodge meetings are excellent. We wish our contemporary success. We notice that the brethren of St. James's Lodge, Tarbolton, celebrated their anniversary by a grand supper and ball. The toast of the evening was "The immortal memory of Burns," which was given by Bro. Neil Munchie, the R. W. M., who presided. It was drunk with all the honours. Burns was master of the St. James's Lodge, and in some valedictory verses to which we recently referred he begged his brethren:—

"When yearly ye assemble a';
One round, I ask it with a tear,
To him, the Bard that's far awa'?"

This solemn request appears to be religiously complied with by the Masons of Tarbolton, who may well be proud of the connection of their Lodge with the name and fame of the greatest poet Scotland has ever produced.

During the past ten years the sum of £20,000 has been expended on the restoration of the Old Abbey Church at Bath. The work of renovation has been nearly accomplished, but as the funds did not provide for the repair of the curious carving and sculpture on the west front, the local brotherhood of Freemasons have recently decided to undertake that portion of the re-embellishment. The subject was brought forward at a large gathering of Masons in Bath, a week or two ago, and nearly £200 was subscribed.

Tuesday was quite a gala day at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. The list of Cadets recommended for commissions and the distribution of prizes to the successful candidates drew together a most distinguished assembly. The Duke of Cambridge, attended by his staff, first inspected the Cadets, who were then put through different exercises, by sundry of the Commission, and among them was the Prince Imperial, who obtained the seventh place in the examination, and thus won a commission in the Engineers, though he did not accept it. The Duke of Cambridge, after the distribution of the prizes, addressed the Cadets in terms highly flattering to their efficiency, and equally encouraging to their future career.

A four days' sale took place, last week, at Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's, Leicester Square, of the music, &c., of the late Bros. Hopwood and Crew, New Bond Street. Bro. C. Coote jun. purchased the lease and goodwill of the business of that well-known firm. It is worthy of notice that the "Prince Imperial Galop," composed by Bro. Coote, realised the enormous sum of £990, the largest sum ever paid for a piece of Dance Music.

The army estimates of 1875-6 present nothing of a startling character. No new "fad" is introduced. No considerable alterations in any branch of the service proposed. The expenses are a little in advance of last year, and the total effective strength also slightly increased. The latter appears wonderfully insignificant, however, when we hear of the total increase of men being 1060, and that 21 men and 20 horses are to be added to the cavalry of the line. We see with regret that the Horse Artillery

is to be reduced by an entire battery, and the infantry by a whole battalion. An increase of 284 in the Royal Artillery must be placed against these losses. In the Reserve forces, effective Militia is to be reduced by 1000 men. The nominal strength of the Yeomanry increased by 248, and Mr. Hardy reckons upon an increase of about 8,000 in the Volunteers. The monetary part of the estimates also shows an increase, from £14,485,300 in 1874 to £14,677,700 in 1875. It is perhaps worthy of remark that Leap Year should account for no less than £13,000 of the excess.

Advertisements are not, generally speaking, a lively class of literature, still we occasionally extract a little merriment from the strange phraseology which advertisers think fit to adopt. We noticed the following, a few days since, in the columns of a daily contemporary:—

TO Clerks and others:—A first class position can always be commanded by any one who knows a shorthand, learn therefore, RITCHIE'S ABBREVIATED LONGHAND, by which speeches can be reported in a fortnight. (The Italics are our own!) Post free, &c., &c.

We know what short-hand is—rows of symbols, like the pothooks and hangers of our early days—apparently in a state of intoxication. We think we might manage, at a pinch, to define "Abbreviated longhand." But what is an abbreviated Longhand, by which speeches can be reported in a fortnight? The Longhand must have been terribly long—or the abbreviations hardly worthy of mentioning—if it requires a whole fortnight to report a speech. Or else our public spears have grown unconscionably long-winded.

It is incumbent on all people who have the means to insure their lives. Death is no respecter of persons—nor has he any regard for time in paying his visits. The uninsured man—especially if he be married, and have a family—runs a great risk of leaving them to the tender mercies of the world if he make no money provision for them at his death. Hence Life Insurance Companies; amongst which one whose title indicates its connection with the Brotherhood, viz., the "Masonic and General Life Assurance Company," is in every way worthy of the support of all Masons.

Our contemporary, the *Civilian*, devoted a great portion of its space last week to the subject of the report of the Civil Service Enquiry Commission. It is instructive to observe the different view which an organ devoted to the particular interests and conversant with the innermost workings of the Service takes as compared with those of the press generally. We feel sure the outside public has very little idea of Government offices if they suppose, as the Commission recommends that so much patronage will be judiciously exercised by the heads of Departments.

We beg to state that Bro. Valleton's Readings in French literature, to which we referred last week, are held every Monday and Friday evening, between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m., at 25 Castle Street East, Oxford Market, opposite the Princess's Theatre.

At the festival of the Apollo University Masonic Lodge, held 17th February, the Rev H. A. Rickard, Christchurch, was installed W.M. for the ensuing year. He appointed Prince Leopold S.W., and said he hoped his Royal Highness would be able to spend the next term in Oxford, and fulfil his duties in the Lodge. Lord Skelmersdale D.G.M. was present.

Bro. Schuberth (No. 186), the Director of the Schuberth Society, announces the 9th Season of this Musical and Classical Society, at the Beethoven Rooms, Cavendish Square, on 24th February, 31st March, 28th April, 2nd and 30th June.

A committee has been formed, which held its first meeting on the 12th inst., at the Temple Club, Arundel-street, Strand, for the purpose of organising a benefit performance for Bro. E. P. Hingston, formerly lessee of the Opera Comique, late manager of the Criterion Theatre, who has for many years, in England, America and the Colonies, been connected with literary and theatrical pursuits, and who is now, and has been for some time past, in failing health. Bro. F. B. Chatterton has kindly given the use of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, for a morning performance,

in March next. Among those present on that occasion, were Bros. F. Kingsbury, Ed. Murray, J. Willing sen., Johnson, J. Willing jun., and G. Murray. Bro. C. W. Thompson is the Hon. Secretary.

His Excellency the Italian Minister, accompanied by Bro. Sir Michael Costa, Raphael Costa and several other gentlemen, honoured Bro. Fred. Godfrey (1257) with a visit to hear the rehearsal of a Grand March, composed by Sir Michael Costa at the express command of his Majesty the King of Italy. At its conclusion the distinguished visitors expressed their satisfaction at the efficient manner the band of the Coldstream Guards, under the leadership of Bro. Fred. Godfrey, had realised the views of the talented composer.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.—Sores, wounds, ulcerations and other diseases affecting the skin are capable of speedy amendment by this cooling and healing unguent, which has called forth the loudest praise from persons who had suffered for years from bad legs, abscesses and chronic ulcers, after every hope of cure had long passed away. None but those who have experienced the soothing effect of this ointment can form an idea of the comfort it bestows, by restraining inflammation and allaying pain. Whenever Holloway's Ointment has been once used it has established its own worth, and has again been eagerly sought for as the easiest and safest remedy for all ulcerous complaints. In neuralgia, rheumatism and gout, the same application, properly used, gives wonderful relief.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

P. Z.—We think your ruling just. The candidate, proving ineligible, the proposition falls through, *ipso facto*.

URGENT.—Why apply to us? You must go to the Secretary of the R. M. Benevolent Institution, and you are sure of a courteous reception from Bro. Terry, who will give you any information in his power.

L.—There is considerable doubt about the point.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY NEWS.

FRIDAY.

It has been found necessary, under existing circumstances, to raise the bank rate to 3½ per cent. this week, the general condition of the money market having shown the Directors of the Bank sufficient reason for at once taking steps to strengthen their position. Along with a demand for gold for the continent it is known that speculative operations are at work in New York to force up the premium and create a scarcity of money, thus attracting specie from this country. So far the markets here have taken to the alteration very quietly, and, indeed, it would appear as if the change had already been discounted. This is the chief point of interest this week in financial matters, except, perhaps, the publication of the regulations in the Spanish official journal for the payment of the over-due coupons of the external debt of the country. On the strength of this announcement, the investing public are beginning to look more kindly on Spanish stock, and as there also appears to be some grounds for hoping that the difficulties surrounding Turkish issues may be removed; these securities are being inquired for. While dealing with these obligations as speculative investments in what we may call despised securities, which are sometimes profitable to the buyer, we may remark that success in making speculative investments depends in a very great measure on the time at which such operations are entered into. Sometimes one class of securities offer the best opportunity, and sometimes another, and it is of course when any one particular class is much depreciated in market value, that speculative investments therein have the greatest chance of turning out profitably. Purchases having for their object the securing of a large profit by a rise in prices within a moderate space of time must be made when the prospects of the stocks appear to be very bad, when every one is selling, and when prices are in consequence forced down to an extreme level. It is necessary even for buyers to act as it were in the dark, and without any further motive than the fact that prices have fallen much, and for a certain period continuously. We do not mean that the public should buy merely because prices are low, and without knowing anything of the merits or position of a stock. An acquaintance with all its points is desirable in all cases. But it is better for the buyer to act in the dark as regards the immediate course of market prices and sometimes even against his opinion as to what may appear to be the more probable tendency of values. It is evident sometimes, that even although a stock may fall temporarily to a still lower figure than that actually quoted, a recovery of substantial amount is inevitable before long. The immediate course of prices must, in any case, be

very doubtful, but the probability of a decided recovery in a short time is very great, and occasionally it is as nearly a certainty as anything can be. The speculative investor then, who is not anxious as to the course prices may take immediately, provided that by the end of a certain time an advance shall take place, should buy when things appear to be at their worst and when quotations have been depressed for some little time.

The English Funds have been quietly supported, and are quoted at much the same rates as last week.

Home railways show a good market, although the tendency at one period pointed to weakness. Whether or not the passenger-tax will be dealt with in the coming Budget, is causing some discussion, which may eventually lead to higher rates; in the meantime purchases are being made to close speculative accounts.

In the foreign market operations have progressed but slowly, the feeling of uncertainty being assisted by the unsteadiness of the rates of exchange. Two of the stocks we have already referred to as being in some demand, viz.—Turkish and Spanish.

American and miscellaneous descriptions maintain a very dull appearance, comparatively few bargains being entered into.

Garibaldi's project of a canal from the Tiber to the Sea, has, it is reported from Rome, been so far approved of by the Italian Government that the preliminary survey is to be made at its expense.

At a special meeting of the English Channel Steamship Company Limited (Dicey's Patent), it was agreed to raise £16,000 on debentures, to finish the vessel, and equip her for sea. The directors say they are perfectly satisfied with the recent trial trips, and they have shown their confidence in the ultimate success of the Company by subscribing for £10,000 of the £16,000 debentures.

The Stock Exchange will be closed to-morrow (Saturday) to enable the architect to carry out certain necessary repairs.

In the half-yearly report of the Great Northern Railway Company, the directors call attention to the fact that they have decided not to discontinue the use of second class carriages. The wishes of the public so far as they have been expressed appear to be in favour of retaining three classes.

In committee on the Bank Holidays' Act Amendment Bill, Sir John Lubbock will move the insertion of a clause to the effect that whenever the 26th day of December shall fall on a Sunday, the Monday following, that is to say, the 27th December, shall be a Bank holiday.

With regard to the great lock-out of miners in South Wales, it is stated that many of the men have migrated, and that those who remain exhibit no signs of giving in.

The report of the Langham Hotel Company Limited to the meeting of the 24th inst. states that the business transacted during the past half-year represented £50,905, and that the total available balance for distribution, including the sum of £7,038 brought forward, is £15,202, out of which it is recommended to declare a dividend at the rate of 18½ per cent. per annum, against 17½ per cent. per annum at the corresponding period of last year; and to carry forward £7,257.

We are glad to see that the Government contemplate bringing in a Bill this Session to provide for the Registration of Trade Marks. We presume that the Bill will be identical in principle, if not in detail, with that prepared by the Board of Trade, and brought in by the late Ministry in 1873, but not proceeded with. The Associated Chambers of Commerce, owing to pressure from whom the last Bill was brought in, have not been idle during the interval, and it may be that representations emanating from them have caused some alteration in the details of the proposed measure.

The following statement shows the receipts for traffic on the undermentioned railways for the past week, as compared with the corresponding week in 1874:—

Railway.	Miles open.		Receipts.	
	1875	1874	1875	1874
			£	£
Caledonian	737	731	50,708	49,699
Glasgow and South Western	315	315	14,881	14,558
Great Eastern	763	763	39,563	37,744
Great Northern	517	513	49,689	45,615
Great Western	1,525	1,502	90,544	92,763
Lancashire and Yorkshire	430	428	61,886	59,782
London and Brighton	376	376	22,152	21,748
London, Chatham and Dover	153	138	14,587	13,093
London and North Western	1,582	1,577	150,204	144,422
London, Tilbury and Southend	45	45	1,456	1,439
Manchester and Sheffield	258	258	29,276	26,568
Midland	944	883	103,919	94,542
Metropolitan	8	7½	8,758	8,244
" " District	8	6½	5,012	4,280
" " St. John's Wood	1½	1½	455	427
North British	839	820	37,333	35,623
North Eastern	1,379	1,379	126,796	117,899
North London	12	12	6,578	6,291
North Staffordshire Railway	190	183	9,596	9,116
" " Canal	118	118	1,660	1,491
South Eastern	350	347	26,224	24,712

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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, 20th FEBRUARY.

- 715—Panmure, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
1364—Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Hackney.
1425—Hyde Park, 1 Craven-road, Paddington.
149—Peace, Masonic Hall, Meltham.
308—Prince George, Bottoms, Eastwood, Yorks.

MONDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY.

- 4—Royal Somerset House and Inverness, Freemasons' Hall.
26—Castle Lodge of Harmony, Willis's Rooms, St. James's.
28—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.
48—Industry, Freemasons' Hall, West-street, Gateshead.
302—Hope, Masonic Hall, Bradford.
307—Prince Frederick, White Horse Hotel, Hebden Bridge.
827—St. John's, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury, Yorks.
R. A. 418—Regularity, Freemasons' Hall, Halifax.

TUESDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY.

- 14—Tuscan, Freemasons' Hall.
92—Moir, 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, Montpellier Tavern, Walworth-road (Station).—Emergency.
1196—Urban, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's-gate.
1348—Ebury, Morpeth Arms Tavern, Millbank.
R. A. 7—Royal York Chapter of Perseverance, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 180—St. James's Union, Freemasons' Hall.
448—St. James', Freemasons' Hall, Halifax.

WEDNESDAY, 24th FEBRUARY.

- 2—Antiquity, Freemasons' Hall.
212—Euphrates, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street.
507—United Pilgrims, Horns Tavern, Kennington.
751—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.
1119—St. Bede, Mechanics' Institute, Jarrow.
R. A. 13—Union Waterloo, Freemasons' Hall, Woolwich.
Northumberland and Berwick Lodge of Mark Masters, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
290—Huddersfield, Masonic Hall, Huddersfield.
304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Leeds.
750—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Clockheaton, Yorks.
1283—Rylburn, Masonic Rooms, Sowerby Bridge, Yorks.
R. A. 387—Moravian, Masonic Hall, Shipley.

THURSDAY, 25th FEBRUARY.

- General Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
22—Neptune, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
34—Mount Moriah, Freemasons' Hall.
65—Prosperity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
66—Grenadiers, Freemasons' Hall.
99—Shakespeare, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
858—South Middlesex, Beaufort Hotel, North-end, Fulham.
871—Royal Oak, White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford.
R. A. 29—St. Albans, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
R. A. 141—Faith, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
R. A. 657—Canonbury, Masons' Arms, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street.
R. A. 1385—Gladsmuir, Red Lion Hotel, Barnet.
111—Restoration, Freemasons' Hall, Archer-street, Darlington.
430—Scientific, Private Room, Bingley.
810—Craven, Devonshire Hotel, Skipton.
904—Phoenix, Ship Hotel, Westgate, Rotherham.
971—Trafalgar, Commercial-street, Batley, Yorks.
1418—Fraternity, Freemasons' Hall, Wellington-road, Stockton-on-Tees.
R. A. 208—Three Grand Principles, Masonic Hall, Dewsbury.
R. A. 307—Good Intent, White Horse, Hebden Bridge, near Halifax.

FRIDAY, 26th FEBRUARY.

- 107—Jerusalem, Freemasons' Hall.
569—Fitz-Roy, Head Quarters, Hon. Artillery Company.
861—Finsbury, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton.
R. A. 131—Caledonian, Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street.
R. A. 749—Belgrave, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
R. A. 862—Whittington, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
1142—Mirfield, Assembly Room, Eastthorpe, Mirfield, Yorks.
1385—Gladsmuir, Red Lion Hotel, Barnet.
R. A. 242—Magdalen, Town Hall, Doncaster.
Royal Kent Rose Croix Chapter, No. 20 Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SATURDAY, 27th FEBRUARY.

- 1462—Wharnccliffe, Rose and Crown Hotel, Penistone.

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, 54 Bernard-street, Leith.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Temple Lodge of Mark Masters, No. 173.—This young and rapidly increasing Lodge met at the Green Dragon, Stepney, on Monday, the 8th, to celebrate the first installation since its consecration. Bro. T. S. Mortlock P.M., Taistle No. 8, supported by the Officers. The Lodge was opened, and a Board of Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. F. Binckes G.S. presented Bro. C. E. Lacey S.W. and W.M. elect for installation. The ceremony was carefully and impressively rendered by the retiring Master, Bro. T. S. Mortlock. On the re-admission of the brethren, the W.M. invested his Officers as follows:—Bros. Mortlock I.P.M. and Treasurer, G. Verry S.W.,

E. Gottheil J.W., Marsh M.O., Mole S.O., Snow J.O., J. Hood Secretary, Sturtevant Organist, Grant Tyler, &c. Bro. Shaboo P.G. Chaplain for Middlesex rose to express to the W.M. and brethren in open Lodge the great gratification he and his brother visitors had felt in witnessing the able and impressive manner Bro. Mortlock had performed his duties. Bros. Winn and F. Binckes followed, the latter endorsing all that fell from the lips of the Rev. Bro.; there were in this degree but few who were able to perform those duties, and it necessarily fell very heavy on those brethren; and he was pleased to see the example shown by the outgoing Master, and he hoped it would be followed by his successor. The W.M., in appropriate terms, presented Bro. T. S. Mortlock with a very elegant gold Past Master's jewel, as a token of esteem and regard, and appreciation of his services as first Past Master of the Temple Lodge. Bro. Mortlock suitably replied, after which the Lodge was closed, and the brethren sat down to a very sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Walters. The usual loyal toasts were given, including those of Earl Percy G.M., and the Earl of Limerick Deputy G.M. Bro. F. Binckes returned thanks for the Grand Officers, and Bro. Winn P.M. Kent Lodge for the Visitors. The toast of the W.M., P.M.'s, Officers, &c. followed, and the brethren separated, after enjoying a very pleasant evening.

Domestic Lodge, No. 177.—This Lodge meeting was held on Friday, 12th February, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Geo. Everett W.M., A. Treadwell S.W., J. Willing J.W., J. Smith P.G.P. Treasurer, T. Williams Secretary, W. Palmer S.D., J. Buscall J.D. G. Clarke I.G., P.M.'s Brett P.G.P., Ferguson, Tims, W. F. Smith, Foulger, also Bros. Parker, Harris, Goodfellow, Purchase, Jones and 75 others. Visitors—Bros. Betts W.M. 1351, Young P.M. 11, Crowhurst 209, Ellis 1381, Stiles 1507, Walls 1503, Fisher 834, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Richards, Parker, Sergeant, Bensley, Holder and Harris were duly raised to the third degree. Bros. Marriott, Turner, Herbage, Gibson and Rupkin, the latter by permission of W.M. 1507, were passed to second degree. Messrs. R. W. Robinson, R. Beverstock and F. H. Plummer initiated, Bro. W. H. Orchard joined. W.M. Bro. Everett, although suffering from severe cold, performed the ceremonies in a very impressive manner, ably assisted by Bro. J. Smith P.G.P. The brethren, 103 in number, adjourned to the banquet, which was served in Anderton's best style. Some characteristic speeches and first class music from Bros. Ellis, Walls and Styles afforded a pleasant relief after the arduous duties of the Lodge.

Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185.—A very numerous gathering of brethren assembled at the Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., on Monday, the 15th inst. The special attraction being a desire to do honour to Bro. John Rees, the W.M. elect, whose installation was announced to take place on that evening. Prior to this event some Lodge business had to be disposed of, the most important of which was the conferring of the Master Mason's degree upon Bro. Barber, and initiating into the ancient mysteries Mr. George Downing. These ceremonies, as well as the rather difficult one of installation, were performed by Bro. John Constable, the retiring W.M., with consummate ability. The several addresses were delivered with rare excellence and marked feeling, securing the undivided attention of the audience, whose approbation was loudly expressed. The newly installed Master, addressing a few appropriate observations to each, invested his officers as follows, Bros. John Constable I.P.M., J. D. Barnett J.W., D. Posener J.W., J. Peartree Treasurer, Phil. Levy Secretary, Bilby Organist, George Pare S.D., Bailey J.D., Croker I.G., Vesper Tyler. The proceedings now became highly interesting. Bro. Saul Solomon P.M. rose and delivered a most excellent address, in which he, in aptly chosen sentences, enumerated the high qualities which distinguished Bro. Constable, the I.P.M., and cited the great advantages the Lodge had gained through his instrumentality, not only during his year of office but ever since he had been connected with it. It afforded him unalloyed pleasure to present Bro. Constable with a slight token of the high esteem and affection in which he is held. It consisted of a handsome P.M.'s gold jewel, an elegant silver salver, and a testimonial on vellum, in a costly Alhambra frame. This last Bro. Solomon considered the most important, inasmuch as it may be handed down from generation to generation, and upon it his posterity may gaze with pardonable pride as having been presented to their ancestor in token of the high esteem and love in which he was held by his fellow men. The inscriptions on vellum, and with obvious alterations on the salver, were as follows:—"Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185. The brethren of this Lodge, at a meeting thereof, held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., on the 18th day of January 1875, resolved unanimously to present this testimonial, with a jewel and a silver salver, to Bro. John Constable, in recognition of the many services which he had rendered to the Lodge, and of the efficient manner in which the duties of its W.M. had been performed by him during the then expiring year of his Mastership, and also as a mark of the brethren's admiration of his qualities as a man and a Mason. Presented in open Lodge, on the 15th of February 1875." Bro. Constable briefly, but feelingly thanked the brethren for their, what he deemed exaggerated appreciation of the slight services he had been able to render, and promised that such energies as he possessed would, in future, as they have been in the past, be directed to promote the prosperity of the Lodge. The brethren then adjourned to the banquetting hall, where an elegant spread awaited them, provided by Bro. Silver, whose name is a sufficient guarantee that the good things placed on the table were not only of the best quality, but prepared with the culinary skill that has ever distinguished that brother's operations. The newly installed Master presided, and, when the cloth was removed, proceeded to dispose of the various toasts. The responses were brief. From Bro. F. Binckes, Grand Steward, checked his usual flow of eloquence when called upon to respond for the Grand Officers. This duty, he said, very often fell to his lot, although he was not entitled to it, he certainly was nearly,

yet not exactly, a Grand Officer. However, for want of any one better, he was always pleased to say a few words in praise of the Grand Officers, who filled their several positions with honour to themselves and to the great advantage of the Craft. He could not allow this opportunity to pass without expressing his tribute of admiration of Bro. Constable as a man and a Mason. Whatever he may have done for this Lodge, he, who had watched his career from without, could not help admiring his zeal, energy, kindliness, and, above all, his fervent appreciation of all appertaining to the duties of the Craft. He had been pleased to witness the testimonials, presented in such feeling terms by Bro. Solomon, but after all that had been said and done, not half the debt of gratitude to which Bro. Constable is entitled has been liquidated. Bro. Hickman W.M. 188, briefly responded for the visitors. For the P.M.'s Bro. Morris Hart was called upon. He said, the W.M. may probably think I feel overwhelmed with gratitude for the honour of being named the representative of the august body of P.M.'s of this Lodge, but such is not the case, as I cannot pretend to represent them conscientiously. I certainly have been a P.M. of a Lodge of Tranquillity for 15 years, but the present Lodge seems quite different in all its aspects, mainly through the efforts of the I.P.M.; a transformation has been accomplished, so advantageously, that old P.M.'s are well pleased to be consigned to deserved obscurity, especially when we see many brethren of ability gradually advancing in the higher offices of the Lodge. The testimonials which have been presented give me profound satisfaction; I congratulate Bro. Constable with all my heart, and in this I am sure I am joined by the Past Masters generally. The present proud position of the Lodge warrants a hopefulness for its future prosperity; whatever service should be required, the brethren may rest assured will be cheerfully rendered by the P.M.'s of this Lodge. Prosperity to the Benevolent Fund produced an eloquent appeal from Past Master Solomon, and was liberally responded to by many brethren. Bro. Constable proposed, amidst great cheering, the health of the W.M., who, in accordance with his determination to be brief, replied in few, but very appropriate terms. The evening's proceedings were enlivened by the vocal efforts of Bros. Taylor, Baxter and Carter, under the direction and with the assistance of Bro. Theodor Distin. Bro. George Perrin, who happened to be present as a visitor, volunteered his assistance; his well known vocal abilities contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the assembly, who thanked him repeatedly, with well deserved applause. The P.M.'s present were: Bros. Saul Solomon, Morris Hart, Holbrook, Harfeld, Myer Harris, Bloomfield, N. Moss, E. Gottheil, N. Gluckstein. Among the visitors may be noticed the following: Bros. F. Binckes P.M., P.Z., Grand Steward, Hickman W.M. 188, Buckland W.M. 205, Grunebaum W.M. Montefiore, Dalwood W.M. 860, Groombridge W.M. Marquis of Lorne, Dymiss P.M. 421, Lazarus P.M. 205, Wells P.M. 1314, Nash S.D. 1347, Bardon I.G. 1347, Canter P.M. 283, Taylor P.G.D. Wilts., P.M. 580, Frankford 188, Higgins P.M. 421, and George Perrin 23.

Merchant Navy Lodge, No. 781.—This prosperous Lodge assembled at the Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, E., on the 10th inst. Bros. J. Rugg W.M. presiding, supported by his officers, Bros. Neville S.W., Medland J.W., Hallett, S.D., Gavin J.D., Breden I.G., Scheerboon D.C., Bradbury P.M. W.S., E. T. Read P.M. Hon. Sec., J. Wright P.M. A.G.P. Tr. Lodge opened with prayer, and minutes of the last regular Lodge were read and confirmed. The Lodge was then opened in the three degrees, and the W.M. then raised Bros. Cullingford, Messelbrook and Steel, to the sublime degree of Master Masons; Bros. Chapen, Hagman and Morton were passed to the degree of F.C., and the Lodge resumed to the 1st degree. This being the night of annual election for W.M., Treasurer and Tyler, the suffrages of the Brethren fell upon Bro. Neville S.W., he being unanimously elected; Bro. J. Wright P.M. A.G.P. was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, Bro. Steadman Tyler, and Bros. Lax, Ould and Crowley auditors. The most interesting part of the business was then proceeded with, viz., the presentation of a very handsome gold watch and chain, (manufactured by Bro. Sir Jno. Bennett) to Bro. Wright P.M., and for many years the Treasurer of this Lodge. The W.M. in presenting this testimonial expressed his gratification in having the honour to convey with it the hearty and fraternal affection of the brethren, and to express the high estimation he was held in by those who had contributed so liberally to this testimonial, he might also assure him that he, with the brethren, trusted that he (Bro. Wright) might long continue in his present career of usefulness, and that when it should please the G.A.O.T.U. to remove him from this sublunary abode, that his children might remember, with gratification and pride, the high esteem that their father was held in. The inscription was as follows:—

"Presented by the members of the Merchant Navy Lodge No. 781, to Bro. Jno. Wright, as a mark of esteem and fraternal affection." Accompanying this was a handsomely-illuminated address. Bro. Wright, in suitable and very feeling terms, expressed his gratitude to the brethren. Another very interesting event took place: Bro. Bracebridge P.M. presented to the Lodge a Gavel that the late lamented Prince Consort used in laying the foundation-stone of the Sailors' Asiatic Home, that day 35 years ago. This gavel being associated with such pleasant recollections, and the Asiatic Home being in the immediate locality of this Lodge, and of which he was the architect, Bro. Bracebridge hoped that the W.M. would accept it on behalf of the members of the Lodge. We may add that this gavel was manufactured from a portion of the "Royal George." The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet. On the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and duly responded to, special reference being made to the recent bereavement of the Pro. G.M., and the brethren separated at a late hour, having spent a very pleasant and enjoyable evening. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Terry, Davies, Mortlock, Stephens and others.

Whittington Lodge, No. 862.—The regular meeting of

this Lodge was held on 15th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. Bro. J. Weaver, P.P.G.O. Middlesex, in the chair. Bros. Kingston S.W., Walker J.W., Quilty P.M. Treasurer, R. W. Little P.M. Secretary, Pritchard S.D., Walmisley J.D., Moore I.G., P.M.'s Jas. Brett P.G.P., Harlostine, Jones and Smith. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Jas. Weaver initiated Mr. Cole, passed Bro. Holland and Capt. Doherty Waterhouse, of No. 255, to the 2nd degree, and raised Bro. Hund, Williams, Ward and Oberto to the 3rd degree in his usual perfect manner. Bro. Jones P.M. consented to act as Steward at next anniversary of the Girls' School. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet. The visitors were E. Clarke and Major Finney.

Strawberry Hill Lodge, No. 946.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on the 10th inst. at the Grotto Hotel, Cross Deep, Twickenham. Bros. Waghorn W.M., Hayward S.W., Johnson J.W., Wohlgenuth S.D., J. R. Stedwell P.G.G.J.W. Middlesex, Treasurer, W. Platt P.M. Secretary, T. Price J.D., T. Darke P.M. as I.G. and P.M.'s Kepling, W. Smeed, Whitney, &c. The Lodge having been opened, the minutes were confirmed, and Bro. Rawes was passed to the second degree. The election for W.M. then took place, and Bro. Hayward was unanimously elected. Bro. Stedwell P.G.J.W. Middlesex was re-elected Treasurer, and the veteran Bro. Riley Tyler. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to a good and substantial repast. The usual toasts were given, and the admirable working of the W.M. during his occupation of the chair was highly commended. The visitors were Bros. J. H. Riley 188, and Hiscock 1420. Bros. D. J. Pope, J. H. Ryley and several others contributed to the harmony. The brethren returned to town after enjoying a very agreeable evening.

Lodge of Montefiore, No. 1017.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on the 10th inst. at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Bros. Grunebaum W.M., Blam S.W., S. Pollitzer P.M. as J.W., L. Jacobs Treasurer, E. P. Albert P.M. Treasurer, Albu J.D., Ellis I.G., Hochsfield Organist and P.M.'s De Solla and J. Lazarus. The Lodge was opened, and Bro. Harper was raised to the third degree, and Bros. Zappert, Hands, Russe and Dranberg were passed to the degree of Fellow Crafts. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren separated, there being no banquet.

Perfect Ashlar Lodge, No. 1178.—The above Lodge met on Thursday, 4th February, at the Gregorian Arms Tavern, Jamaica-road, Bermondsey. G. Deakin W.M., J. Ruse S.W., J. A. Smith J.W., F. H. Ebsworth P.M. Treasurer, F. Walters P.G.P. (Middlesex) Secretary, W. Batchelor S.D., W. T. Lowe J.D., F. Garbett I.G., J. Stock M.C., P.M.'s Grace, Harnsworth, May and Porter. The Lodge having been opened, the confirmation of the minutes was unanimous. The work done consisted of raising Bro. J. Porter by J. Howe 1326, by courtesy of the W.M. Mr. T. Simpson was initiated. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren separated. There was no banquet. The Visitors were Bros. C. B. Cheen 849, Magee 548, Howe 1326, and T. H. Miller 907.

Era Lodge, Middlesex, No. 1423.—The installation meeting of this Lodge—which although young may be congratulated not only for its accession of members, but also for its successful efforts in the cause of the Masonic charities—was held on Saturday, 13th inst., at the King's Arms Hotel, Hampton Court. Bro. H. Dubois W.M. P.A.D.C. (Middlesex), Baldwin S.W., J. B. Langley J.W., T. J. Sabine P.G.S.B. (Middlesex) P.M. Treasurer, F. Walters P.G.P. (Middlesex) Secretary, J. S. Swenasey S.D., S. Wolff J.D., E. W. Devereux I.G., A. F. Loos M.C., B. Wright W.S., Rev. P.M. Holden Chaplain, J. T. Moss P.G.R. I.P.M., &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. J. Mason was elected a joining member. Bro. J. W. Baldwin S.W. and W.M. elect was duly installed into the chair by Bro. T. J. Sabine P.M. in a very perfect manner. Bro. Holden P.G.C. (Middlesex) delivered the charges. The W.M. having been saluted according to ancient form, invested his officers: Bros. E. H. Threlly S.W., J. B. Langley J.W., Rev. P. M. Holden Chaplain, T. J. Sabine P.M. Treasurer, re-appointed, F. Walters P.G.P. re-appointed Secretary, E. W. Devereux S.D., S. Wolff J.D., T. H. Miller P.M. Organist, A. F. Loos I.G., B. Wright M.C., Simmons W.S., Matthews C.S., Gilbert Tyler. A very elegant gold Past Master's Jewel was presented, in the name of the Lodge, to Bro. H. Dubois I.P.M., for the efficient manner he had discharged the duties of his office during the past year. Sums of ten guineas were voted to the Boys' School, ten guineas to the Girls' School, and £10 to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons, in the name of the W.M. for the time being, making the Lodge a Life Governor of all the above charities in perpetuity. The following brethren were recommended by the audit committee, and approved by the Lodge, for Provincial Grand honours to the R.W. Col. F. Burdett P.G.M. (Middlesex), viz., Bro. H. Dubois I.P.M., T. J. Sabine and the Rev. Bro. Holden, Chaplain. The Lodge was then closed, after which the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet. The usual toasts followed. The visitors were Bro. G. Pym P.M. 749 and W.M. 1275, S. R. Ade P.M. 315, H. Andrews 784, J. H. Spencer 73, Horton 871, F. H. Peacock 21, J. H. Ryley 188, W. Hammond P.G.S. (Middlesex) W.M. 1512.

Halsey Lodge, No. 1479, St. Albans.—The monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, 17th February, at the Town Hall, St. Albans. Bro. J. Lowthian W.M., H. Edwards S.W., Askew J.W. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of last meeting were read by Bro. I. Edwards, Secretary, and unanimously confirmed. The W.M. then proceeded to initiate Messrs. George Robert Hall and Henry Alexander Taylor. After the usual routine business, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the "Peahen," where a most liberal banquet was done ample justice to, and a pleasant evening was spent.

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