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IS ARCHITECTURE A LOST ART?

IT is not many years since Mr. Ruskin published the first edition of "The Stones of Venice," but already that wonderful work has done much to influence the tastes and habits of thought of the English people. The Gothic revival, which is one of the remarkable phenomena of the age, may indeed be traced to other sources, and so far as English architects are concerned they have not followed Mr. Ruskin in his enthusiastic admiration of the foreign styles. His great work, however, helped the English public to understand something of the "motive" of true architecture, and some of the members of the profession are slowly beginning to unlearn many of the absurd ideas with reference to the dignity of their branch of the art, and are learning to feel a little respect for the man who has been called by fortune to handle the trowel. If we venture to assert that Architecture is a lost art, many of our readers will possibly be inclined to join issue with us. Yet many men in these days, whose genius has helped to rear numerous imposing piles, would be ready enough to agree with us. We have a host of so-called architects, men who are versed in the "styles" and "orders," who are skilled in mathematics, who are familiar with the strength of the materials, and could as readily prepare plans for a Gothic Cathedral (!) as for a pile of waterside warehouses. We do not deny that the art of using the drawing board and the T square has reached a very high pitch of perfection. The walls of the Royal Academy are covered each season with elevations and prospective views of projected works, and these are always so pretty and "picture like" that they usually excite a buzz of admiration from the well dressed visitors who crowd around to examine them. We are rapidly rebuilding London in substantial stone, and the great provincial towns are following our example. Yet, with all this activity, and all these signs of life and apparent vigour, we are constrained to say that Architecture is still in the days of its decline and fall, and, so far as we know, the master mind, or rather the master mason, has not yet arisen who can teach us its true secret. Buildings are designed without motive or feeling; a certain space has to be roofed over, and a certain style has to be selected. The architect knows nothing practically of masonry, and he would stare if any one were to ask if he had ever laid one stone upon another. He is an advocate for the dignity, or rather the gentility of art. Practical masonry is, he thinks, the mere business of the working man. He is to elaborate upon paper, while the builder puts his ideas into solid stone or brick. The result of this modern system is seen in the acres of perfectly lifeless structures which are supposed to adorn our streets. The real master mason has vanished from the building world, or he has been turned by our wonderful modern civilisation into a kid-gloved dandy who occasionally condescends to examine the progress of the work he has designed, and who goes back to his office to draw up a builder's certificate. Now we venture to say that it was not in this way that the great buildings of the ancient world were erected. If we examine any of the old churches which have escaped the cruel hands of restoration committees, we are at once struck by the marks of character which they exhibit. The very stones seem to be alive. The carved work may seem rude, but it bears conspicuous marks of individuality about it. We see at once that the figures which adorn the capitals of the columns came hot, so to speak, from the mind of the artist, and were at once transferred by his chisel to the stone. We know that

the master mason must have had a hand in the business, and that he was a skilled workman, who knew how to handle the mallet and level, and was proud of his skill. We know that the men who planned these ancient buildings worked at them with their own hands, and this fact at once enables us to understand why they interest us so deeply. We read the mind of the workman in the record of stone he has left behind him. His thought is in it, and he loved his work. He, perhaps, knew nothing of theories, and was entirely ignorant of the so-called "styles," but built, as it were, by instinct. He knew nothing of the archæology of his business, and was never troubled with the vague fear, that a window here or a moulding there were not quite in harmony with the rest of his plans. However far back we may examine the history of architecture, we find evident traces of the master mason. The early Gothic churches were, in all probability, built without the aid of any elaborate plans. The builders understood perfectly what they were about, and piled their stones on each other much as a bird builds its nest. Later in the history of the style the influence of the drawing board and T square is plainly visible. The simple forms of the art workmen were elaborated and "improved." All sorts of structural devices were added to support vaulted roofs without the aid of solid wood "veils," as Mr. Ruskin calls them, and the Gothic church in the florid period became a sort of elaborate stone frame for the display of acres of stained glass. That wonderful contrivance, the flying buttress, was carried to such excess, in the days of the decadence of Gothic art, that many Continental buildings, when viewed at a distance, actually seem as if the scaffolding had not been removed from the walls. It was the master mason who invented the pinnacle, but he had no idea of making this a mere ornamental feature. Its original office was to give, by its downward pressure, additional stability to the buttress which supported the roof. The original "motive" of the pinnacle has, however, been forgotten or ignored, and we now find it perched upon conspicuous points of a building where it can have no structural function to perform, and it is commonly covered with unmeaning ornament, and degraded to the rank of a mere decorative feature. The ancient master mason, in all probability, did not know how to draw at all. He was a constructor in the true sense of the word, and such decoration as he was pleased to place upon his buildings was, as we have said, struck at once from the mind and transferred to the stone. No thoughtful man can examine medieval sculpture without becoming conscious of this fact. The wild grace of the work, its evident carelessness and the wonderful variety it exhibits, all tend to show that the sculptor was putting his mind into it. In these days, however, we manage to decorate our buildings on a different principle. The architect first of all draws his design upon paper, and from this a clay model is prepared, from which a plaster cast is taken. A so-called sculptor is now called in, for the purpose of transferring the design to the stone. His work is merely mechanical; he has no sympathy with the ideas he is called upon to interpret, and in place of trying to give life and individuality to the design, he aims at mere literal accuracy. The result of course is, as every one conversant with the subject knows, that the decorative features of our modern buildings are utterly uninteresting, and generally unmeaning. The very perfection of mechanical skill possessed by the sculptor is injurious to his work. The elder Pugin, who was one of the few modern masters of Gothic, had infinite difficulty, in the early days of the revival, in

training these so-called art workmen. He could not get them to understand that breadth of treatment was essential to success in decorative work, and that elaborate and life-like detail was but a sign of ignorance and degradation. Many years have passed since Pugin set forth the true principles of Gothic sculpture to his astonished "carvers," and so far as we know the art has not made any very great progress. The architect still designs, while the journeyman copies, and for one man who is able to make his chisel speak his own thoughts we have a host of workmen who can copy with literal accuracy every leaflet of an elaborate piece of tracery, or every detail of some unmeaning crocket or pinnacle. We are strongly of opinion that we shall never see true and life-like architecture until the function of the master mason is again recognised. But unhappily the whole spirit of the age conspires to prevent anything like a revolution in the greatest art to which the ingenuity of man can be directed. A well educated youth, with constructive or art instincts, would never dream, in these days of gentility, of putting on an apron and taking to the mallet and chisel. If his tastes lie in the direction of architecture he enters an architect's office, and draws plans and elevations, and he fancies he has learned his noble calling when he can successfully copy an ancient building which in all probability was erected by men who could not read. He becomes in fact a mere copyist and theorist; he has no true feeling for his profession, and no knowledge of its capabilities. He can tell us accurately the date of an ancient moulding, and he can piece together the various details he has picked up in the course of his studies. But he cannot create, and he cannot give meaning and dignity to his work. Enthusiasts who have caught some of the spirit of the Ancient Masons sometimes astonish us by their dreams of a "nineteenth century style," which shall as fully satisfy the requirements of this age as that of the thirteenth satisfied all the requirements of the past. We may indeed dream of a style of our own, but it will never be anything else but a dream, while the men who lay the stones, and the men who design the work, are separated by a great and impassable gulf. If we might venture into the region of speculation, we should, with all diffidence, suggest that our brethren would be carrying out the spirit of the principles upon which Freemasonry is founded, if they were to turn their attention to this subject, and endeavour to make practical masonry once more the great and living art, which it undoubtedly was in those distant ages, when the members of the Craft were both the builders and the designers of the works upon which they expended their genius.

MASONIC MINSTRELSY.

IN a former article we offered a few pertinent remarks on the character of Masonic Minstrelsy. We were not, perhaps, as complimentary as we might have been, nor, for reasons that seemed good to us at the time, did we think it worth our while to discuss very critically the productions of Masonic poets. The subject has, however, been again brought under our notice, and, partly to make amends for our previous shortcomings, partly with a view to encourage a higher class of song, we now propose laying before our readers a few notes on sundry of the contents of the *Masonic Vocal Manual*, which we believe is the latest compilation of Masonic poetry extant. These notes may seem, perhaps, a little disjointed; this is due to our study of the work having been necessarily somewhat disconnected, owing to the demand upon our time by this and more important matters.

We confessed, in the course of our previous observations, that this Manual is somewhat disappointing. The first song is from the pen of Robert Burns, sometime W.M. of the Tarbolton Lodge. Others there are by such well-known writers as Dibdin and Cunningham. Of the rest, a very few—such, for example, as No. 69, by Bro. Noorthouk, and the 1st Ode, by Bro. Dunckerley—are worthy a place in the same volume with the preceding. But these, alone almost, can properly be described as poetical. The rest are the veriest rigmarole which human ingenuity ever twisted into the form of verse. Nearly all the songs—and we have had the patience to read some fifty or sixty of them—are the most senseless, and the feeblest twaddle ever written. Nearly all are ungrammatical; in nearly all

the most astounding liberties are taken with the Queen's English. In place of rhythm, we have mere word-jingling, to which the clatter of tongs, or of marrow-bones and cleavers, would seem to be the most divine music. We wish it were otherwise, but we should be faithless to our duty if we did not state boldly that ninety out of every hundred of these songs, odes, and ballads are hardly fit to be thrown into the waste paper basket, while of the rest, only a very, very few are worth preserving and handing down to future generations of the Craft. That we have not overstated the case the following remarks will prove.

We have said the opening song is by Burns, which it were impertinent, perhaps, to criticise. Suffice it that in every line we hear the ring of the true metal. We feel intuitively that we are reading real poetry. But what have we in No. 3—Air, *Derry Down*—which, he it remarked, seems somewhat of a favourite? In the first verse the poet invokes the attention of his audience, and describes his theme in these lines:—

All you who love order, attend to my song;
And if you'll be patient, I'll not keep you long:
'Tis of Heads and of Bodies I now mean to sing,
For a Head without Body's a very strange thing,
Derry down, &c.

It is customary, no doubt, for a poet to invoke some goddess or the muses to smile kindly on his efforts. But the worst of it is the goddess or the muses often refuse to smile. This has clearly been the case in the instance before us. By a strong effort of the will we may possibly manage to extract some amusement—we hope our readers will excuse the word-play—from the poem, but the kind of amusement would not be very flattering to the author's self-respect. The lines are arranged in the form of a verse; "long" rhymes to "song," and "thing" to "sing," but this is all we find of poetry in it. Nor is the theme a very appropriate one. We should rather sing of Heads and Bodies in a dissecting room than in a Lodge. Or, perchance, the Head and Body referred to are—the one the froth, the other the strength, of a flagon of good ale or wine. But we fear the poet was a little too prosy by nature to think of this. We know a pretty ballad, the first stanza of which runs:—

Gin a body meet a body
Coming through the rye,
Gin a body kiss a body
Need a body cry?

There is a body of sense in this, and of poetry too. But our Masonic friend's bodies are very cumbersome and angular. Then, the logic in the second verse is on a par with the poetry of the whole song. We are told:—

If the Master cries "Order!" no more's to be said,
Which proves very clearly that he is the Head.

In the third line of the fourth verse, the poet's unfortunate "head" gets most inconveniently in the way of the sense and the scansion too, so we have given an italic character to the sons of Britain:—

May her sons ride triumphantly *head* o'er the waves.

The writer of No. 17 has also set his words to the Air of *Derry Down*. This poet has evidently very feeble ideas of rhyming, or, to put it more clearly, he takes great liberties with sound. Thus "ear" rhymes with "care," "hundred" with "number'd," "loads" with "records." The following extracts will show that this song will most fitly be described as shockingly bad prose gone mad. As for anything like rhythm, the writer has as much idea of it as a bull. He thus describes the building of the Temple:—

One hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred
Employed for the Temple, we find they were number'd;
With Crafts many thousands, and bearers of loads,
And Masters six hundred, say Scripture records.
Derry down, &c.

They form'd themselves all into Lodges, they say,
Some east and some west, some north and south way:
In love and truth still they go happily on,
In all well-governed countries under the sun.
Derry down, &c.

We believe it was the eccentric Rev. Rowland Hill who had the hymns in his chapel sung to popular tunes, urging as a reason for this unusual practice that he did not see why the Devil should have all the good tunes. In the case of this and other songs in the *Masonic Vocal Annual*, which are set to popular airs, we think the Devil must

have good grounds for complaining of the abuse of tunes popularly—but no doubt erroneously—believed to be his favourites.

A notable instance in which grammar is sacrificed to rhyme will be found on page 46, as italicised by us:—

Freemasons all from Pole to Pole,
May love unite, and truth control;
If sorrows come *what can condole;*
Our griefs like Masonry?

Nor is the meaning of the concluding line of the last verse very apparent—

And when the spirit hence has fled,
May angels o'er their pinions spread,
And crown with bliss each Mason's head
With heavenly Masonry.

"Them's our sentiments," no doubt; but we are in a fog as to whether the angels are invited to spread themselves over their pinions—a somewhat difficult task, we should imagine—or their pinions over themselves.

Song 46 has something in it of Dr. Watts's style. The third verse begins—

Then let no angry passions raise
Bad humour in your breast.

The words seem suggestive of pimples or sores, and as the words are meant to be sung to the tune of *The Spotted Cow*, it may be the poet is invoking the aid of vaccination against the small-pox. "Bad humour" is not very poetical, nor "dirty humour" in the previous verse. The last two stanzas are worth quoting, the rhythm is so good—

Now a good will to Masonry,
I give freely from my heart;
And the brethren in Society,
Though ever so far apart.

Here's a health to our Worthy Grand,
And Worshipful likewise;
And when in Lodge they give command,
May the Craft in duty rise.

We fear "the worshipful" must have been suffering from an attack of gout, for he moves haltingly—at least in the place assigned him here.

The writer of Song 64 is a bold man, if not a poetical. He begins by plunging headlong into the remotest ages.

It was Hiram, the great Architect,
Whose actions ever will shine bright;
Solomon, who wisely did project,
In Masonry took much delight.

What Solomon "wisely did project," the poet vouchsafes not to tell us. We should have had a footnote, "Temple—understood." But this writer goes even further back than the days of Solomon, for later on he sings:—

When Adam was King of all Nations,
He formed a plan with all speed,
And soon made a sweet habitation
For himself and his partner Eve.

When Adam did this he was indubitably "King of all Nations," just as, and for the same reason that, Robinson Crusoe, on his uninhabited island, was "Monarch of all he surveyed." In fact, Adam and his "partner Eve" were "all nations." But what puzzles us most in this song is the rhyming. Ostensibly the lines rhyme alternately, but the poet, with the licence of his art, makes them do so or not, just as is most convenient. Thus "architect" and "project" rhyme together; not so "Mason" and "Morality," "level" and "beggar" (devil, in a good-natured sense, as in "you funny little devil!"), "square" and "sincere," "action" and "compass," "fire" and "secrets."

In song 68—Air, *Come all Hands ahoy to the Anchor*—the poet is also in love with Solomon, "that wise projector," and Hiram; but having a more decent regard for rhyme, though little for the English language, he describes the latter as "that great architector." We might, of course, go on multiplying these instances of slipshod grammar, new-coined words, careless rhythm, impossible rhymes, and generally, this silly balderdash. But we have a regard for our readers' patience, as well as for the value of the limited space at our disposal. We close, therefore, this article with a song quoted *in extenso*. With a view to testing whether the institution of new lines for certain of the original would materially affect the sense of this effusion,

we have supplied readings of our own, which will be found printed in italics, while the original lines are given in a footnote. The result, in our opinion is, that not only have we not in the slightest degree altered the poet's meaning, but we flatter ourselves we have even improved it.

SONG 106.

Tho' my voice can't enchant like the Syrens of old,
I'll venture your ears to assail;
The attempt do not deem too intruding or bold,—
*Will you please take a glass of pale ale?**
Of the compact which binds proud ambition and pow'r,
My poor simple lays never dream;
But that which for ages true friendship has wore—
*I'm a beggar to get up the steam!**

Chorus:

Then join my song, brothers! the sentiment pass,
*No harm's in a drop of good liquor;**
Fill higher—affection presides o'er the glass,
"May Free-Masonry flourish for ever."

Their pillows of rectitude ne'er will decay;
Honour's temple's erected on high;
And Architect Truth does a building display
*In the form of a veal and ham pie!**
I flattery scorn, it to falsehood gives birth;
But rapture the deed must impart,
Which bids soft humanity patronise worth,—
*A light crust is the best for a tart!**

Chorus: Then join, &c.

Let sensual drones to rich viands invite,
Or tempt to gay Bacchus's board,
One moment of feeling will give more delight
*Than wine, beer, or spirits afford!**
To wipe from the eye the big tears of distress!
Infant gratitude view fondly shown!
To blessings bestow, sure the donor must bless,
*Who is fond of a game o' Pope Joan!**

N.B.—Observe the "pillows" in verse 2, which we suppose are intended to be "pillars!"

We have retained the poet's sentiments in all their pristine beauty, the only liberty we have taken has been, as we have said, slightly to alter a few lines, thereby, perhaps, adding to his song a dignity it knew not before.

Thus have we striven to deal with the subject of "Masonic Minstrelsy" from a jovial point of view. We trust our readers will believe that none of our criticisms are intended to be, even in the remotest degree, ill-natured. But, seriously, we should like to see and hear, and—even though our voice may possibly compare with the sound of a fiddle out of tune—join in a good Masonic song. May some poetic brother be moved to satisfy this want!

A FEW WORDS ON AMERICAN MASONRY.

LAST week we published a letter from Bro. Hughan, in which, in his usually courteous manner, he questioned the accuracy of certain remarks of ours in our opening number on the above subject. We may perhaps have occasion to deal with the question in some future issue. Meanwhile, lest our correspondent should imagine that silence, even for a brief period, is an indication of our assent to his arguments, we meet him briefly now on the grounds selected by himself.

1. Says Bro. Hughan:—"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." Admitted, but it does not follow that the American fraternity as heartily co-operate in the fulfilment of their other and far more important duties as Masons. A. builds himself a magnificent house, and all the appointments are in keeping. This indicates A.'s respect for the class or rank he belongs to, but it follows not that because

* In the original

"Good humour 'tis meant to exhale."
"Freemasonry's compact's my theme."
"No harm's in an honest endeavour."
"Of virtue, can't moulder or die."
"And light make the sad orphan's heart."
"Than ages of mirth can afford."
"Whose heart is humanity's throne."

he has shown this respect to his order, he fulfils all his obligations either to the society in which he moves or Society in general.

2. The question of parade and show may, as Bro. Hughan suggests, "resolve itself into a *matter of opinion*." Doubtless, all people will not hold the same views as to what constitutes ostentatious "parade, glitter, show and extravagance." There is this to be said in favour of our view. The Americans love display, not in things Masonic only, but in general. Love of show, of finery, of rich jewelry, of high-sounding titles is an American "proclivity," on which we are not the only journal that has commented freely. Englishmen on the other hand are naturally averse from show.

3. On the subject of Masonic Charities in the United States we may remark, that we never imagined, nor was it our intention to suggest, that American Masonry did not lend itself to the deeds of Charity. The tenour of our argument was simple enough. American Masons love fine architecture and ostentatious display, but where, by comparison with this outward show, is the love for Masonic Charity? Where are the institutions for distressed Masons, for orphans, for widows? Bro. Hughan cites three particular cases, and no doubt, as he says, had he the time, he could instance many more. All honour to the Masons of Kentucky, of Pennsylvania, of Louisiana for the splendid efforts they have made in this direction! But it must be borne in mind, that in the United States there are said to be thirty-seven Grand Lodges, and considerably over half-a-million of brethren. To quote Bro. Hughan's words, "In the United States alone there are about eight times as many subscribing members as in this country." In England—we submit the statement with all respect to Bro. Hughan and our readers generally—we have less gorgeous temples, less "parade, glitter, show and extravagance," than are to be found in the United States, but the three annual festivals for the Benevolent Institution and the Institution for Boys and Girls respectively yield an aggregate sum of little short of £20,000 or 100,000 dollars. This, be it remembered, represents only the sum of the collections at these annual festivals, apart from other contributions from the Craft during the rest of the year, and apart likewise from other sums dispensed in charities. We have taken no account of local efforts in the same beneficent work, nor have we referred to the invested funds of the Benevolent and Girls' Institutions. One more fact and we have done. In the Report of the Boys' Institution, published last June, the building expenditure for that Institution, to 31st December 1870, is stated at over £47,116; and in the account for 1873 there appears a further expenditure just exceeding £2,314. Here, then, we have a sum of nearly £50,000, or 250,000 dollars, expended on behalf of this one school.

Having thus justified, as we believe, our previous statements, it only remains for us to add that we shall sincerely welcome every evidence of Masonic charity in the United States. We do not doubt they will fulfil generally, as Bro. Hughan has shown they do in specific instances, their duties in this respect both as Men and Masons. But we cannot say we think they have done all it lies in their obligation to do, as yet. There is this to be said on behalf of American Masonry, cases of pressing distress are *immediately* relieved.

DIONYSIAN ARTIFICERS.*

THIS little work may be regarded as, so to speak, the *Holy Grail of Masonry*. Although it was written only forty-five years ago, it is so scarce that the bibliomaniac may almost look in vain for a copy of it. The late Dr. Crucefix, the projector of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, made diligent search for the work during twelve years, and died without success. He had the highest opinion of its value. Mr. R. Spencer sought in vain for it from 1848 until 1872, and we are indebted to the kindness of his son, Mr. W. Spencer, for the loan of the copy which lies before us. It is, we believe, the only work in which are summarised the proofs of the resemblance of Freemasonry to the mysteries of Dionysus. The author accurately

* "Sketch for the History of the Dionysian Artificers," a fragment, by Hyppolito Joseph Da Costa, Esq. London: Sherwood, Neely and Jones. 1820.

quotes the authorities for his facts and opinions, and to this circumstance, as well as to the clear and concise style in which he has condensed a vast mass of unique information, the work owes much of its fame. In these days, when a taste for speculative Masonry has been excited by the labours of modern philologists and archæologists, a reprint of the work would be of the greatest value to the student. We are proud to admit that a few learned and enthusiastic brethren are toiling with us in the congenial field of speculative research, and to those who desire to trace for themselves the fragments of the Dionysian mysteries, which are scattered through the literature of Greece and Rome, this little work would prove an invaluable guide. Mr. Da Costa, the author, must have been a man of profound learning, and of large and liberal ideas. His fragmentary sketch was written at a time when anything like a just appreciation of the mythology or religion of ancient Egypt or Greece was very rare. It was the common opinion of men who passed for authorities that the system of ethics, which guided the wonderful people who flourished for so many ages ago on the banks of the Nile, was a degraded one, that their religion was a jumble of immoral fables and pseudo science, and that the gross degradation into which the Hellenic tribes sank was to be ascribed to the influence of their so-called superstitions upon the minds of the people. Even in these days of comparative toleration and enlightenment we occasionally come across a writer who is ignorant enough to confess his belief in the gross "paganism" of the ancient Egyptians, and the pulpit still resounds with the fierce denunciations of their supposed spiritual darkness. Mr. Da Costa traces the ancient sun worship to a people living as far north as latitude 66°, in fact to the Atlantides, and thus raises the question which has so long troubled the minds of the learned, as to whether an island or continent, once the seat of civilisation, has or has not been submerged by the sea. Atlantis is assumed by some writers to be the continent of America, and the significant fact that in Mexico archæological remains and a system of picture writing, similar to that which prevailed in Egypt, have been found, would appear to give some colour to the theory. That sun worship originated with a people where the great luminary of day was but a fitful visitant would appear to be a feasible idea, and its development southward in America and Asia may possibly be ultimately traced. Scythia, that mystic region of the ancient Greeks, appears to the author to be the original seat of this worship. To the Greeks Scythia was regarded as the earth's remotest boundary, and readers of Æchylus will remember that he lays the scene of the binding and punishment of the fabled Prometheus in this portion of the world. It was there that the great and benevolent Titan was fixed to the rock. It was there that the bird of Jove made daily onslaught upon the helpless teacher of the arts and sciences. The suggestion that Zoroaster was a Scythian can, we think, be scarcely supported by facts, but we readily agree with the writer that the teachings of this great man may have been imported from a northern clime. That Egypt was indebted to a people living east of the Nile for its religious ceremonies is, we think, a fact that will sooner or later be clearly established. That the Egyptians were Asiatic admits of no doubt. The type of face which is so familiar to all Egyptologists is not in the remotest degree African in its general outlines. The Egyptian physique is slight, and affords a singular contrast to that of the lusty negro, whose muscular frame and low order of intelligence mark him as a being of an entirely different race. We regard the Egyptians as colonists who, at a remote period, settled on the banks of the Nile, bringing with them the civilisation of Asia, and the germs of a religion which afterwards assumed a distinct type of its own. The Osirian story, the earliest known myth of Egyptian theology, which may have been derived from the Persians, lies at the root of these Eleusinian rites, which are better known to most Masonic readers as the mysteries of Dionysius or Bacchus. These consisted in the study of the sciences and useful arts, united with theology and ethics, and were communicated by cyphers or symbols. Candidates for admission were required to be of pure life, and were rigidly examined, by properly appointed persons, before initiation. The pith of the doctrine taught may be summed up in a few words. The future state of the soul, and future rewards and punishments; indeed so high an estimate had the teachers of the value of the spiritual life, that the union of the soul with the body was regarded as its death, and the death of the body its resurrection.

In later Greek history these sublime ideas were no doubt degraded by the gross sensuality into which the Greeks had fallen, but their original purity is a fact, which no scholar will now dispute. In Rome, the depravity of those who practised the Bacchanalian mysteries was the cause of great public scandal, and some of the early Christian writers, who knew nothing of their original meaning, were able to draw up a terrible bill of indictment against the decaying civilisation, upon the surface of which these perverted ideas floated like scum. It is to a colony of Greeks, settled in Asia Minor, that we are apparently indebted for the transmission of the rites of Bacchus, allied with the scientific truths of Craft Masonry, to modern Europe. These Ionian Greeks were builders, and formed a society for the purposes of their calling. They were called the Dionysian Artificers, and they gradually spread themselves into Syria, Persia and India. They extended their moral views in conjunction with the art of building to many useful purposes, and to the practice of acts of benevolence. From Ionia or Asia Minor these artificers passed to Judea, and assisted in the building of the Temple which Solomon reared in honour of the tutelary God of Israel. We cannot, however, agree with our author in the view quoted from Josephus that these artificers introduced the Grecian style of architecture into Judea. Grecian details may undoubtedly have been used in the construction of the Temple, but its ground plan was so clearly Egyptian that we are inclined to the opinion that its main structural features were copied from the great buildings which lined the banks of the Nile. That these artificers taught the mysteries which were mixed up with Masonry to the Jews, is undoubted, and it is supposed, from references in the great work of Josephus, that the sect of Essenians, of which John the Baptist is said to have been a member, grew out of this association of the mysteries of Bacchus with the ethical ideas common to the Jew. Christianity itself appears to have been slightly tinged with the Essenian philosophy, and M. Renan has not hesitated to avow his belief that its divine founder was familiar with the dogmas of the sect. We, while holding that Christianity stands alone, and is indebted to no human system for its sublime teachings, do not deny that its pure morality, and its early theories of communism find their counterpart in the views of the devout people, who, with John for a spokesman, prepared the way for a higher teaching and broader views of the social and spiritual duties of mankind. It is needless for us to refer here to the pall of darkness which obscured all the light of the ancient world in the second and third centuries of our era. In the night of the middle ages the teachings of the ancient sages were forgotten, and it was only with the revival of learning that the few remaining fragments of their teachings were gathered together and reanimated. We here take leave of this interesting fragment, which has afforded us a text for these equally fragmentary remarks, and we cannot but regret that the work of Mr. Da Costa is so little known to our brethren and the world.

EAST, WEST, AND SOUTH.

BY A WANDERING FREEMASON.

I.

AFTER an excursion in the White Cloud Mountains; we passed three days rambling 'mid throngs of people, down narrow interminable streets, over high-stepped stone bridges, among crowded shops, glitter of pendant signboards and gilded overhanging eaves. From Temple to Temple; through Theatrical School, Examination Hall and Execution Ground; with the five hundred Genii; in the Temple of Horrors; at the great Clepsydra, and round the city walls; till wonders almost ceased to excite us, and brain indigestion ensued from whirl of novelties. On this, the third day of our researches, though the kind forethought of our Mentor (in the truest sense a *guide, philosopher, and friend*) had provided us with substantial luncheon in the "Temple of Longevity," we were moreover, perplexed with the metaphysical speculations which much of the lore disclosed to us had suggested. On that morning we had seen what few have gazed upon—the *sleeping Buddha*; in the still adytum of an ancient Temple, reverently enshrined amid congenial adornments the figure lay, head resting on one arm in

hushed repose, waiting for his next Avatar. Before the gigantic triple-idols which symbolise him as the Eternal Omnipresent, our Mentor had held converse with the aged priests, and had sought to make clear to us the grand Philosophy veiled thus in imagery of Past, Present, and Future, crowned with that sublime *Nirvana*, the loftiest conception of the human soul.

Only last year, in 1874, was first declared to the European public, by a distinguished Orientalist, how elevated is that old Philosophy; how undeserving of the obloquy cast on it by students who but entered the porch without passing the veil; how different the subtleties of its esoteric, from the vulgar superstitions of its exoteric phase. Instead of a gross notion of souls transmigrating from body to body, through Matter; from man, mayhap, to beasts and herbs, a scientific allegory adapted to common understanding; we listened, awe-struck, to a time-old legend of the origin of souls, of strife between Spirit and Matter—Light and Darkness—of a return through probation to pristine purity, a metempsychosis from sphere to sphere, from celestial mission to celestial mission; of progressive sanctification and of the glorious end—final absorption into Deity. And this was no modern system, no fantastic ideal of a sage Gautàma (successor of prior Avatars) but had been the general creed of Asia, as it was of so-called prehistoric Europe; whose votaries yet exceed those of any other, taught from the beginning of Time.

Again—with different reflections, upon the thirst of the million for appeals to the *lower* faculties, and upon the inevitable degradation of all Theosophy when mummified as doctrine of a privileged Priesthood, we had stood beside the rock on which, said a cowed and shaven monk, "Gautàma, 'ere his ascension, left the print of his foot! There, scooped in the stone, was the perfect impress of a gigantic foot, perfect to the moulding of the heel, the hollow of the instep, the concaves of the ball and under the toes: a perfect representation. No psychic awe stole over us, nor did any intuition warn to doff our hats or to put off our shoes, as though we stood on holy ground.

And now—the Sun had set: the gloaming spread over the landscape as we emerged from one of the City gates. Not only we, but our bearers, were fatigued; still our Mentor directed them not homewards, but urged them on.

On a narrow path, across a level landscape of partially-submerged fields, we descried looming before us a sombre grove of Cypress behind a crumbling wall. We skirted an angle and halted before a huge gateway. A damp noisome influence pervaded the atmosphere, and at our feet grew masses of dank weed in foul luxuriance. Soon an iron ring was found, which being pulled provoked in contrast with the outer stillness so sharp a clang, seeming to reverberate down endless corridors and in the bowels of the earth, that our nerves, already overtaken, were startled with a nameless fear. No response appeared, and the summons was repeated several times.

No explanation of whither we were going had been given: only boundless confidence in our friend prevented us from expressing a desire to leave this ill-omened spot. Reminiscence of Dante, at the portal of the underworld, with Virgil by his side, occurred to us.

"Lasciate ogni speranza, voi ch'intrate."

At length a dark postern opened, and a decrepit porter admitted us by the flaring light of a pitch-torch, flourished aloft. As we stepped in and discerned a silent street of closed one-storied houses, from whose dim lattices and chinks of massive doorways stole steady glints of light into the weird shadows around, our Mentor turned with solemn aspect, and in subdued tone bade us welcome to

THE CITY OF THE DEAD

Lost in amazement, we could answer nothing, and our guide signed to the torchbearer to lead on. We followed up the street, from which dark visions of others spread out at right angles in sepulchral quietude, and across which our footfalls seemed to echo with unwonted harshness. Of one of the larger houses our guide threw open the door, and disclosed a hall dimly lit by tapers in each corner; in the centre, a huge sarcophagus whose embroidered coverlet fell in folds upon the floor: round it stood guards, each leaning on his halberd, motionless and mute, their gaze riveted on the object before them. Banners and tapestry covered with strange emblems, adorned the walls and flapped as we entered at the door. A thin spiral streak of smoke rose

from a large bronze incense-burner placed before an altar at the end, on which stood black and red tablets, telling in letters of gold, the virtues, rank and ancestry of the departed. The flickering torchlight served to heighten the mysterious impressiveness of the scene. Were we in some place under a spell, such as that to which Aladdin descended; or such as the Bedaween say yet sleeps with Shedâd the mighty, in the great desert; or were we still in the working world, whose cool night air refreshed us on emerging from the pungent aroma of this dwelling of the dead?

We left, and the ponderous bolts were shot back into their sockets, which yet had not kept sacred the privacy of their owner from foreign eyes. We entered another mansion, and were confronted on the threshold by two monstrous figures, of hideous and terrible aspect, glaring menacingly at us, holding naked swords. The same sarcophagus, mute guards, banners, incense and ancestral tablets, with but slight variety of colouring and symbolism. On another occasion we should have been eager to continue our visits until we had viewed a number of these wondrous spectacles; but sustained mental excitement had succumbed to physical fatigue. We derived but dazed impressions, forced as they were upon wearied cerebra; the two young ladies of our party were worn out, so we turned, yet with a half reluctance, to retrace our steps.

The "City of the Dead" is situate outside the East Gate of Canton. Every Chinaman cherishes a rooted devotional yearning, that his bones may be laid with the remains of his forefathers in his ancestral earth: a foreign grave has more terror for him than death. The latter is but the portal of transition to a state better or worse in strict ratio to his works; the former implies a severance of ties, a break of ancestral connection, a divorce from the influences which bare and reared him, and with which he is taught that he will remain "en rapport" when he shall "have shuffled off this mortal coil." This sentiment is at the root of the discontent expressed by the best-treated Coolies in our West Indian possessions; during years of thrift they may save sufficient to repatriate themselves, but the horror of the fear of being buried in a distant land weighs with them like *Nostalgia* with the Swiss. A fleet of vessels is engaged in a lucrative and increasing carrying traffic from San Francisco to the ports of China, and the freight they bear consists of thousands of dead Chinamen, each in his unwieldy coffin, for certificated interment by surviving relatives in his native earth. Of the wealthy who die in the great city, numbers have come from many provinces of the large Empire: this is the place where, on the demise of one of them, a house is rented and his body laid together with the symbols of his attributes and insignia, until his distant relatives can arrange for conveyance, along some branch of the great canal system of China, to his childhood's home. The guards are wooden, lifelike in execution; the hideous figures those of Genii usually seen within the porches of the Temples. Our Mentor was the well known and deservedly respected Archdeacon Grey, whose collection of Chinese art (over which I passed pleasant hours in the quiet parsonage at Sha-Meen) is now familiar to visitors of the Crystal Palace; the oldest foreign resident of Canton; the kindest host and most instructive guide through the mazes of a city with whose every corner he is familiar, that the fortunate traveller could desire.

WALTER SPENCER.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL CONCERTS.—St. David's Day will be celebrated by a Welsh Festival Concert at the Royal Albert Hall, on which occasion the members of the Principality residing in London and the suburbs will have a thoroughly national programme presented to them. Miss Edith Wynne, Miss Lizzie Evans, Miss Marian Williams, Miss Mary Davies, Madame Patey, Mr. Edward Lloyd, Mr. Ap Herbert and Mr. Lewis Thomas are announced as vocalists; Miss Bessie M. Waugh, Mr. W. H. Thomas and Mr. Brinley Richards presiding at the pianoforte. A Band of Harps, under the direction of Mr. John Thomas, will also assist, and the Part-Song Choir of the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society, under Mr. Barnby's direction, will contribute Welsh Choruses and Part-Songs. The next Popular Ballad Concert at the Royal Albert Hall is to take place on Saturday evening the 27th inst., with Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Edith Wynne, Miss Antoinette Sterling, Mr. Edward Lloyd and Mr. Thurley Beale as vocalists.

DE LA RUE'S INTERNATIONAL PLAYING CARDS.—Portraits of the Royalty of Europe. Post free, 2s 6d. W. W. Morgan, 67 Barbican, London, E.C.

REVIEWS.

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

—:o:—

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

SECOND NOTICE.

SHAKESPEARE'S dramatic poetry is classed, by Dr. Gervinus, under three heads. The first includes Titus Andronicus and Pericles, the three parts of Henry VI., the Comedy of Errors, and Taming of the Shrew. The second embraces I.—Love-plays, that is, "those of an essentially erotic purport, the central point of which is formed by the passions and the deeds of love,"—These are The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Love's Labour's Lost, All's Well that Ends Well, Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet—and The Merchant of Venice; II.—Historical plays, including all save one (Henry VIII.) which Shakspeare produced after Henry VI.: III.—Comedies, The Merry Wives of Windsor, As You Like It, Much Ado about Nothing, and Twelfth Night; IV.—Sonnets. The third period comprises, Measure for Measure, Cymbeline, The Tempest, The Winter's Tale; eight tragedies, Othello, Hamlet, Macbeth, King Lear, &c.; Troilus and Cressida; and the remaining historical play, Henry VIII. To give a just idea of the results of the author's labours in his synopses of these dramas, covering, as they necessarily do, so wide a field of study and research, were well-nigh impossible in the narrow limits of a review. We must leave it to our readers to minutely judge for themselves of the value of these labours, nor have we the slightest misgiving as to the result of the examination, which cannot be otherwise than in the highest degree favourable. The work is certainly a bulky one, and in parts, perhaps, our readers will find the business of studying it somewhat laborious. The criticisms deal with pretty nearly everything that is worth criticising, descending even to the minutest points of detail, though often these so-called minor points throw infinite light upon the character and purpose of the author. Unusual patience is necessary, in order to master such elaborate theses, and we almost question if many will be found to exhibit this patience. Or, if they possess it, it is more than probable that the time at their disposal for studies so attractive, and so exacting, will prove insufficient. However this may be, our further remarks will be limited to illustrations of the author's style of handling his subject, and for this purpose we shall, as suggested last week, select one or more dramas which seem likely to convey an adequate idea of these commentaries.

Though the first period, embracing seven plays, cannot fail to be interesting, as showing the early efforts of Shakespeare in dramatic literature—the efforts he made when he was as yet "more or less biassed by the peculiarities" of the then condition of dramatic poetry as described in the preceding chapter on "The Stage"—when, in fact, he was as yet only "a subject scholar," and before he had disengaged himself "from the want of design, and from the harshness and rudeness of their productions"—though, we repeat, the reader will be sure to find in these critical inquiries much that will prove attractive reading, we have no intention of dwelling upon this portion of the work. Perhaps, however, the following contemporary testimony, which is quoted towards the end of the chapter in Henry VI. to the excellence of Shakespeare, "as a poet, an actor, and a man," may be worth reproducing. Greene, whom the author considers to have been the first author of the last two parts of Henry VI., dying in 1592, left a letter behind him, which his friend Chettle published the same year. In this letter Greene admonishes Marlow, Lodge, and Peele in these words:—"Base minded men all three of you, if by my misery ye be not warned; for unto none of you, like me, sought these burs to cleave; those puppets, I mean, that speak from our mouths, those antics garnished in our colours. Is it not strange that I to whom they have all been beholding; is it not like that you, to whom they have all been beholding, shall (were ye in that case that I am now) be both of them at once forsaken? Yes, trust them not! for there is an upstart crow, beautified with our feathers, that with his "Tiger's heart wrapped in a player's hide," supposes he is as well able to bombast out a blank verse as the best of you; and, being an absolute *Johannes Factotum*, is, in his own conceit, the only Shakespeare in a country. Oh! that I might entreat your rare wits to be employed in more profitable courses, and let these apes imitate your past excellence, and never more acquaint them with your admirable inventions." Chettle afterwards appears to have apologised, as regards Shakespeare, for publishing the letter containing the above, in a tract entitled "Kind-heart's Dream." It states "that he was acquainted with none of them; that he cared not if he ever was acquainted with one of them, and that he had not spared another at the time as much as he had wished that he had. For he has himself seen that his demeanour was no less civil than he was distinguished in his art." Besides, he adds, "Divers of worship have reported his uprightness of dealing, which argues his honesty and his facetious grace in writing, that approves his arts."

Towards the end of his sketch of *Love's Labour's Lost* the author traces a connection between the humorous character introduced into so many of his plays and Shakespeare's own nature. The poet did not, however, to the same extent as the German Romanticists, conceive or idealise these characters. "They rest," says Gervinus, "upon a common human basis; and at the same time upon a conventional one as to time and place. They hinge especially upon the play and perversion of words; and this is the foundation for wit common to every age." In Shakespeare the conventional peculiarity is "the definite form in which this word-wit appears. This form was cultivated among the English people according to an established custom, which invested jocose conversation with the character of a regular battle." In the case of this particular play, the manner in

which this wit and satire wage war is not Shakespeare's property; "it is universally found on the English stage, and is transferred to it directly from life." And this kind of jesting, so far as our knowledge of Shakespeare's social life enables us to judge, was met in his personal intercourse with others. The author observes:—

"Tradition speaks of Shakespeare as 'a handsome, well-shaped man, very good company, and of a very ready and pleasant and smooth wit.' At the Mermaid, in Friday-street, he associated with Beaumont, Fletcher, Selden, Ben Jonson, and other intellectual contemporaries, and there according to Beaumont, in his address to Ben Jonson, were

" Heard words that have been
So nimble, and so full of subtle flame,
As if that from every one from whom they came
Had meant to put his whole wit in a jest."

Especially famous were the meetings between Shakespeare and Ben Jonson. According to Fuller, they were accustomed to meet "like a great Spanish galleon, and an English man-of-war. Master Jonson, like the former, was built far higher in learning, solid but slow in his performances; Shakespeare, like the English man-of-war, lesser in bulk, but lighter in sailing, could turn with all tides, tack about, and take advantage of all winds, by the quickness of his wit and invention." Thus these "wit-combats" in Shakespeare's life are compared to the same image as that between Boyet and Biron in *Love's Labour's Lost*. But this "wit-combat," which was a custom of the age, often degenerated into mere senseless jeering. Shakespeare recognised this. He knew also that while "moderate cheerful jest confirmed and promoted the truth and freedom of mind," laughers by profession never pierced the surface of things. "Through-out, therefore, he has given his healthiest humourists the healthiest part of the seriousness of life as their dowry."

From the remarks on *A Midsummer Night's Dream* we extract the following passage, as to the apparent design of the poet in writing it.

"We have before said that the piece appears designed to be treated as a dream; not merely in outer form and colouring, but also in inner signification. The errors of that blind intoxication of the senses, which from the main point of the play, appears to us to be an allegorical picture of the errors of a life of dreams. Reason and consciousness are cast aside in that intoxicating passion as in a dream, Cupid's delight in breach of faith, and Jove's merriment at the perjury of the lovers cause the actions of those who are in the power of the God of Love to appear almost as unaccountable as the sins which we commit in a dream. We find moreover that the actions and occupations of Cupid and of the fairies throughout the piece are interwoven or alternate. And this appears to us to confirm most forcibly the intention of the poet to compare allegorically the sensuous life of love with a dream-life; the exchange of functions between Cupid and the fairies is therefore the true poetic embodiment of this comparison. In the realm of dreams is assigned to Shakespeare's fairies; they are essentially nothing else than personified dream gods, children of the fantasy, which, as Mercutio says, is not only the idle produce of decorum, but also of the caprices of superficial love."

"Vaguely, as in a dream, this significance of the fairies rests in the ancient popular belief of the Teutonic races, and Shakespeare, with the instinctive touch of genius, has fashioned the idea into exquisite form. . . . But that which Shakespeare thus received in the rough form of fragmentary popular belief he developed in his playful creation into a beautiful and regulated world. He here in a measure deserves the merit which Herodotus ascribes to Homer; as the Greek poet has created the great abode of the gods and its Olympic inhabitants, so Shakespeare has given form and place to the fairy kingdom, and with the natural creative power of genius he has breathed a soul into his merry little citizens, thus imparting a living centre to their nature and their office, their behaviour and their doings. He has given embodied form to the invisible and life to the dead, and has thus striven for the poet's greatest glory."

As to the "types of human nature which Shakespeare deemed especially suitable as the original of his fairies," these, thinks the author, may be found particularly among women of the middle and upper ranks. There are among them, he writes, "natures which are not accessible to higher spiritual necessities, which take their way through life with no serious and profound reference to the principles of morality as to intellectual objects, yet with a decided inclination and qualification for all that is beautiful, agreeable, and graceful, though without being able to reach even here the higher attainments of art. They grasp readily as occasion offers all that is tangible; they are ready, dexterous, disposed for tricks and raillery, ever skilful at acting parts, at assuming appearances, at disguises and deceptions, seeking to give a stimulant to life only by festivities, pleasures, sport, and jest. These light, agreeable, rallying and sylph-like natures, who live from day to day, and have no spiritual consciousness of a common object in life, whose existence is a playful dream, full of grace and embellishment, but never a life of higher aim, have been chosen by Shakespeare with singular tact as the originals from whose fixed characteristics he gave form and life to his airy fairies."

As *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is admittedly one of the most difficult of Shakespeare's plays to represent, the author closes his commentary upon it with a few appropriate remarks on acting. We shall not, having quoted so largely already, give these *in extenso*, but one or two of the remarks may be given, just for the purpose of affording our readers some idea of their pertinency. They are applied, of course, to representations on the German stage, but are none the less applicable to our stage. "When," says Gervinus, "a girl's high treble utters the part of Oberon, a character justly represented by painters with abundant beard, and possessing all the dignity of the calm ruler of this lowering world; when the rude

goblin Puck is performed by an affected actress; when Titania and her suite appear in ball costume, without beauty or dignity, for ever moving about in the hopping motion of the dancing chorus, in the most offensive ballet fashion that modern unnaturalness has created, what then becomes of the secret charm of these scenes and figures which should appear in pure aerial drapery, which in this sport should retain a certain elevated simplicity, &c." Then, as to the "Middle class of mortals introduced between the fairies and the clowns, the lovers driven about by bewildering delusions, what sensation do they excite when we see them in the frenzy of passion, wandering through the wood in kid gloves, in knightly dress, conversing after the manner of the refined world, devoid of all warmth and without a breath of this charming poetry? How can knightly accoutrements suit Theseus, the kinsman of Hercules and the Amazonian Hippolyte. Certain it is that in the fantastic play of an unlimited dream, from which time and place are effaced, these characters ought not to appear in the strict costume of Greek antiquity; but still less, while one fixed attire is avoided, should we pass over to the other extreme, and transport to Athens a knightly dress and a guard of Swiss Halberdiers."

Here for the moment we must pause. The few remarks it is our intention to add must be reserved for a future occasion. We are almost afraid, indeed, that we have prolonged this notice beyond what the patience of our readers may find endurable. Our apology must be the extreme value of the book, and the extremely interesting manner in which the commentator has treated the works of our greatest poet.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

BETA.—I. Much will depend on the wording of the bye-laws, on which further information should be given. The protest *after* the ballot was certainly ill-timed, but we do not see that the M.E.Z. could ignore it—once raised. II. The only way that occurs to us is to move, at the next meeting of Chapter, that the minutes of the previous meeting be not confirmed. III. Our own opinion would be governed by the special circumstances, if any, of the ballot. For our own part, we should avoid asking for a second ballot in any case. IV. We think every companion should vote, but if he wishes not to vote, he should either avoid being present or withdraw.

B.—Thanks for your communication, but it is slightly un-Masonic in tone.

P.M.—Refer to the Book of Constitutions.

E. COMPANION.—The passage is in Ben Jonson, and reads as follows:

" 'Tis the last key-stone
That makes the Arch; the rest that there were put
Are nothing till that comes to bind and shut.
Then stands it a triumphant mark! then men
Observe the strength, the height, the why and when
It was erected; and still, walking under,
Meet some other matter to look up at and wonder!"

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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THE LIFEBOAT ENDOWMENT.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASONS' CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—I have just returned from the Continent and have seen in the files of your valuable paper, that my letter on the subject of the Lifeboat Endowment Fund has provoked some discussion. I am truly glad to see the subject ventilated, and am sanguine that the Fraternity will easily raise a sum sufficient to make our own boat free for ever of the charitable donations of the general public.

In a few days I shall be in London, and will call upon you for the purpose of making some suggestions which may prove valuable. I shall be glad when, I can see you, to hand over a guinea as my contribution towards the fund.

I am, dear Sir and Bro., yours, in the Bonds of the Order,
Liverpool, 25th February. A MASTER MASON.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—With the inclemencies of winter, many afflictions will arise unless effective means for preventing or checking their course be adopted. No lingering cough, hoarseness and shortness of breath on slight exertion, should be permitted to continue a single day, without means being taken for their removal; more especially when remedial measures are safe, rapid and effective. These qualities are displayed in a high degree by Holloway's preparations. The Ointment, rubbed upon the skin, draws surplus blood from congested structures, and gives immense relief to every oppressed organ concerned in the respiration and the circulation. The wholesome effect externally, aided by the alterative action of the Pills internally, dispels all danger from latent mischief.

THE THEATRES, &c.

DRURY LANE.—REBECCA and ALADDIN.
HAYMARKET.—A FAIR ENCOUNTER, HOME and THE SERIOUS FAMILY.
ADELPHI.—This evening, at 7.0, THE LANCASHIRE LASS. At 9.0, LOST IN LONDON.
PRINCESS'S.—This evening, THE LOTTERY TICKET, THE LANCASHIRE LASS, and THE IRISH TUTOR.
LYCEUM.—At 8.50, 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 7.45, SWEETHEARTS and SOCIETY.
GAIETY.—FAST COACH and MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.
GLOBE.—LADY AUDLEY'S SECRET and BLUE BEARD.
ROYALTY.—At 8.0, CRYPTOCONCHOIDSYPHONOTOMATA and LA PERICHOLE.
VAUDEVILLE.—At 7.0, A WHIRLIGIG. At 7.45, 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, OPERETTA. At 8, AS YOU LIKE IT.
COURT.—This evening, at 7.30, DREADFULLY ALARMING. At 8.0, GOOD FOR NOTHING. At 9, BRIGHTON.
ALHAMBRA.—At 7.15, THE TWO BONNYCASTLES. At 8.0, WHITTINGTON.
CRITERION.—LES PRES SAINT GERVAIS, &c.
AMPHITHEATRE, HOLBORN.—This evening, SHYLOCK.
SURREY.—ARRAH-NA-POGUE, &c.
PHILHARMONIC.—MARITANA, &c.
HENGLER'S CIRQUE.—LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD, &c.
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CRYSTAL PALACE.—This Day, CONCERT, &c. On Tuesday, MONEY. Every Tuesday and Thursday, till 16th March, STANDARD ENGLISH PLAYS. Open daily, AQUARIUM, PICTURE GALLERY, &c.
POLYTECHNIC.—STAR WATCHING AND THE TRANSIT OF VENUS; THE MYSTIC SCROLL; CHEMICAL MARVELS; THE ISLE OF WIGHT AND ITS LEGENDS, &c. Open at 12.0 and 7.0.
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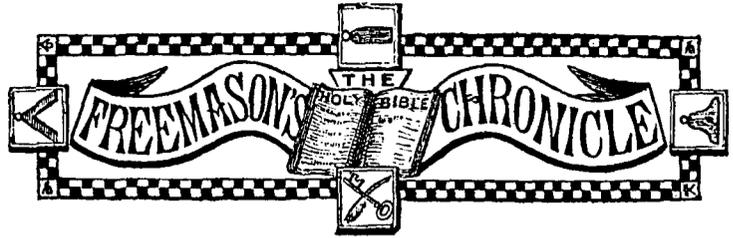
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

NOTANDA.

DURING the past week Parliament has been doing good work quietly, and it is worthy of remark that in both Houses have been introduced even thus early in the Session several important measures. For many years it has been subject of complaint that the work of legislation was carried on only in the House of Commons till Summer set in. Then Bills were sent up to the Lords, and had to be disposed of in a hurry, or the fruits of the Commons' labours would have been lost, for that year at all events. This cannot be urged against the conduct of public business this Session. On Tuesday, in the House of Lords, the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (1873) Amendment Bill, and the Land Titles and Transfer Bill were read a second time, as also was the Increase of Episcopate Bill introduced by Lord Lyttelton. The importance of at all events two of these measures it is impossible to overrate. On Thursday the second reading of the Church Patronage Bill was moved by the Bishop of Peterborough, and, after a somewhat lengthy debate, in which several other Right Rev. Prelates took part, was agreed to. In the House of Commons on Friday last, Mr. Sclater-Booth moved the second reading of the Adulteration of Food and Drugs Bill. This was agreed to, and the Committee fixed for the 4th proximo. On Monday the Secretary of State for War moved the second reading of the Regimental Exchanges Bill, urging, in the course of his speech, that he had taken up the question on the recommendatin of the Commission appointed by his predecessor, Lord Cardwell; that it would promote contentment in, and be of benefit to the army, and that it would involve no expense to the country. The motion was opposed by Mr. Trevelyan and others, but was carried by 282 to 185. On Wednesday afternoon a very useful Bill passed its second reading,—the Bank Holidays Act (1871) Extension Bill, the object being to extend that Act to officers of Customs and others whose connection with the shipping trade prevented their sharing its benefits. Mr. Ritchie had charge of the measure, which received the support of Mr. W. H. Smith, the financial Secretary of the Treasury, but was opposed by Mr. C. Wilson, member for Hull, and others. The second reading, however, was agreed to by 90 to 64. On Thursday the second reading of the Friendly Societies' Bill was agreed to, and Mr. Cross obtained leave to introduce a Bill to amend the law with respect to manufacturing, keeping, selling, carrying, and importing gunpowder, nitro-glycerine and other explosive substances. To complete this summary of the week's Parliamentary history, it remains to add that Mr. Marling has been elected by a majority of more than 200 over his opponent, Lord Bury, to fill the vacancy at Stroud, and has taken his seat, and that convict Mitchell is again a candidate for Co. Tipperary. There are also vacancies at St. Ives by the unseating of Mr. Praed, and at Norwich, one of whose members, Mr. Huddleston, Q.C. has been raised to the Bench.

On Monday afternoon, a Levee was held at St. James's Palace, by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen. The Dukes of Edinburgh and Cambridge, Prince Christian, the Duke of Teck and Prince Edward of Saxe Weimar were present. Both the Diplomatic and General circles were numerously attended, and presentations to His Royal Highness, to the number of some 150 were made, such presentations being, by the Queen's pleasure, deemed equivalent to presentations to Her Majesty.

In connection with the lock-out in South Wales, Mr. Macdonald, M.P. for Stafford, has addressed a conference of the Council of the Miners' National Association, held on Wednesday, in Manchester, in terms strongly condemnatory of the action of the mine-owners. Mr. Macdonald's utterances on the subject of everything relating to mining is entitled to respect. Condemnation of one party to a

became tipsy on the return journey. Fines of ten shillings and five shillings were inflicted, with the alternative of imprisonment, in the man's case for seven, and in the woman's for five days. The man should undoubtedly have known how to conduct himself decently, for attending funerals was his business; but may we charitably suggest that the poor woman was perhaps so empty of food that the drop of gin she drank to keep out the cold this inhospitable weather overpowered her senses?

His Grace the Duke of Westminster has shown a very substantial interest in the movement, originated by the *Globe*, for the establishment of Cabmen's Shelters, by remitting a cheque for £100 to the Committee. Already the sum of £675 has been subscribed, but before these shelters can be generally established throughout the metropolis, a considerable increase to the funds will be necessary. The success of the first one, which was opened on the 6th inst., in Acacia Road, St. John's Wood, seems already assured. Another, which is being erected in Langham Place, at the sole expense of Colonel Fitzwygran, may be opened even before this meets the eye of our readers. Yet others are ordered in other districts. Cabmen lead a hard life, exposed as they are, at all times, to the inclemency of the weather. The Committee have our best wishes for the continued success of so laudable a movement.

The Great Canadian oil case has come to an end, after a trial extending over 17 days, but to the satisfaction of neither party to the suit. The jury, after several hours' consultation, found themselves unable to agree to a verdict, being, it is said, equally divided on one of the points to which the Lord Chief Justice had specially directed their attention. His lordship suggested further consultation, but it soon appearing that the differences were absolutely irreconcilable, the jury were at length discharged. Thus, the only people who got any satisfaction out of this trial are the lawyers.

The unfortunate New Forest Shakers appear to be in a truly pitiable plight. Their occupancy of Mr. Auberon Herbert's barn has, some time since, come to an end, and now they are obliged to seek such shelter from the inclemency of the weather as a tent will afford. Let us try to imagine what it must be for men, and still worse for women and children, to be thus situated in the month of February, and especially now when frost and thaw succeed each other almost on alternate days. A few of the women have obtained refuge at night in the houses of one or two married Shakers (outsiders), but the majority are limited to the accommodation of the tent, taking turn and turn about at sleeping. Still the company seem healthy, and bear their privations uncomplainingly.

A NEW MASONIC SONG.

PROPOS of a recent article of ours on the subject of "Masonic Minstrelsy," the following song has been sent us for publication. We are not ourselves poetically given, and can offer, therefore, no opinion whatever on its merits. Our correspondent suggests that it is worthy a place in the "Masonic Vocal Manual," a point which, having due regard to our aforesaid poetic deficiencies, we must resolutely refuse to decide. A few notes and comments, for the purpose of elucidating the author's meaning, have been added by a friend of his. With this short preface, we leave our readers to judge for themselves of the song in question, which is by I.O.P.N.R., and is entitled

MY BROTHER!

Who first inspired¹ me when I came to town?²
Who entertained me at the Harp and Crown,³
Making me welcome as an only son?
My Brother!

Who pressed me, when I seemed a little queer,
To drink a pint of old-and-bitter beer⁴—
Bright as the brightest sherry, and as clear?
My Brother!

Who ever foremost, or to steal a glance
At lovely damsel, or the merry dauce
Gaily to join in, if he had a chance?
My Brother!

Who, jovial, sang the best of comic songs?⁵
Who fought in earnest for his Order's wrongs,
Scaring the De'il with ancient pair of tongs?⁶
My Brother!

A pleasant man—a venerable file,⁷
In gaiters, spectacles, and glossy tile;⁸
For whom he meets a kindly word or smile—
My Brother!

Bring, landlord, then, a loving-cup—and mind
The wine is fragrant with the spice of Ind,
That I may drink—"Thou best of human kind,
" My Brother!

"Long life to thee and thine, and happiness!
"May'st thou nor sorrow know, nor yet distress!
"Waes Hael!⁹ to thee, in loving kindness!
" My Brother!"

NOTES, &c.

¹ The nature of the inspiration is not specified. The reader, however, must bear in mind the oft-quoted passage from Horace—

"Pictoribus atque poetis

Quidlibet audendi semper fuit æqua potestas."

Doubtless, the poet means to ask—Who filled me with admiration for the sublime truths of Masonry? The juxta-position of "son" and "brother," in lines 3 and 4, may suggest a little obscurity as to the relationship; but, in Masonry, "brotherly" covers a multitude of "loves."

² Town, *i.e.* London, which is, so to speak, the head-quarters of Masonry.

³ Here, again, the writer has evidently claimed to exercise a certain poetic licence. The "Harp and Crown" must be taken to mean any house of entertainment in London at which a Lodge of Masons assembles.

⁴ We trace a connection between this and the previous stanza. No doubt the two brethren met the day following the entertainment. The guest may, perhaps, have shown symptoms of being, what is known in the vulgar tongue as, "seedy," or "a little queer," owing to the gaseous nature of the lemonade, the richness of the viands, or the brandy sauce. His quondam host, therefore, on the modern principle, "Take a hair of the dog that bit you," recommends to his friend a pint of "old-and-bitter." We attach no special meaning to the liquor selected, which some people have irreverently nicknamed "Mother-in-law."

⁵ The poet is somewhat too severe on Masonic Minstrelsy. Masonic songs are, as a rule, either "comico-tragic" or "serio-sentimental." The former exhibit a slightly Aristophanic vein of humour, tempered with the sublime grandeur of heroicism; or, to be more precise, Joe Milleresque, heightened by a Satan-Montgomery-like force of expression. The latter display, in all their native innocence, the severe simplicity of Dr. Watts's Hymns. We have never heard a genuine Masonic comic song which did not excite in us the warmest sympathy with Apollo and the Muses.

⁶ The legend hath it that St. Dunstan tweaked the nose of the "Old Gentleman" with a pair of tongs, till the latter ran howling away. St. Dunstan may or may not have been a Mason, but he certainly was a brother of a Monastic order, and did good service to his Craft. Hence the illustration, the propriety of which is beyond all praise.

⁷ In this and the following lines occur, respectively, the words "file"—meaning "a man"—and "tile"—meaning "a hat." Ordinarily these terms are held to be vulgar. Not so in the present case, however, as "file" and "tile" are well-known implements in Masonry.

⁸ There is, perhaps, a special beauty in the word "tile." A structure is complete, for purposes of shelter, when the roof is on. Roofs are often made of "tiles." Hence a man with a "tile" on—glossy or otherwise—may be held to have completed the *headifice* of his costume. Again, the Tyler is an important Masonic officer. Hence the origin of the title. "A tile"—"a hat;" "a Tiler"—often also written "Tyler"—a man who wears a hat. In describing "My Brother's" costume, the poet has alluded at giving him a Pickwickian appearance—at least as to the "gaiters" and "spectacles." There was a good deal of the Mason about Mr. Pickwick. Brotherly love, for instance, was a leading feature in his character; but we have not seen it recorded anywhere, in any authentic history, that Mr. Pickwick was really and truly a Freemason.

⁹ *Waes Hael!* The words of the toast or salutation in use amongst

our Anglo-Saxon forefathers, whenever they drank to each other's health. If it be true that Britons are descended from the Ten Tribes, the introduction of these words must be held to have a very remarkable significance. Many believe that Masonry was preserved and handed down to us from the days of Adam through the Ten Tribes. The fact of their having been lost or mislaid for a number of centuries in no way affects the credibility of the legend. Moreover, the circumstantial evidence is said to be very strong in favour of their being the connecting link between Adam and the present generation of Masons. There is clearly an hiatus between the two, and the Ten Tribes will probably supply it.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY NEWS.

FRIDAY.

Business has been somewhat slack this week, partly in consequence of the attention of dealers being absorbed by the usual fortnightly settlement. There is still some strength, however, in prices, notably in British Railway stocks, which command the major portion of the investments made by the moneyed public. That there is a degree of solidity about this kind of security, to which no other kind of industrial enterprise can lay claim, there can be no question, and that it evidently meets the views of the cautious English capitalist is equally beyond dispute. Railway profits do not after all depend so much on the "bubble reputation," which many people are led to believe, and which may at any moment burst. It will, we believe, be admitted by all, that railways are now a permanent necessity throughout the length and breadth of the land; it is also well known that they possess a virtual monopoly, not only on account of the difficulties which Parliament has placed in the way of competitors, but also owing to the fact that of late years the whole country has been so parcelled out among a few great companies as to prevent any possibility of a rival making a good footing in hostile territory. Virtually 'then' the increased future profit derivable from the progress of this country will belong entirely to the existing undertakings, on the condition merely that they make adequate provision for their increasing business. What may be expected from the future can be best estimated, says the *Financier*, from the fact that the gross amount of railway traffic has nearly trebled within twenty years, and is still, though subject to variations, increasing at a rapid rate. Circumstances may delay for a time the actual realisation by the proprietors of the benefits arising from this progress, but it should never be forgotten that while the causes of this delay are transitory, the causes of progress are permanent. These considerations apply to railways at all times, but in addition to them there are others peculiar to the present moment, and which, though balanced to some extent by certain drawbacks, yet on the whole afford sufficient ground for believing that the current year will compare favourably with the past.

There has been no alteration in the Bank rate this week, and the return published last night shows an increase in the gold receipts of £201,696, while the proportion of reserve to liabilities is 2 per cent. higher.

The English Funds show no alteration, and a moderate business is reported, both for money and the account. The usual notice has been issued, that dividend warrants can be forwarded by post on the proper form being forwarded to the Bank of England.

The Foreign Market has been very quiet, but some descriptions are not unfavourably noticed. There are probably few instances of weaker prices, although these are scarcely of sufficient importance to affect the general condition of the market. Much to the surprise of many people in this country, the Senate Bill has passed the French Assembly by a good majority, which acknowledges the Republic as the only form of Government to be tolerated during the term originally proposed. Whether this measure will put an end to the political strife of "parties," is not easily answered; but this much may be said, that it is a step which ought to be fraught with many blessings to the nation at large, if accepted in the right spirit.

Railways we have already commented on at length, and there is little more to be added, except that the Great Western dividend has disappointed many people, although we ourselves consider that there is a large margin for increased receipts yet to be realised by this company. We have faint hopes of seeing the abolition of the passenger duty forming any part of the reductions proposed in the Budget this year, so that the different companies must look to their own unaided efforts to secure sufficient revenue to satisfy their shareholders.

Canadian and American securities are without any appreciable change, although in Hudson's Bay shares, and in Telegraphs Anglo-American are fractionally stronger.

At the meeting of the Langham Hotel Company on Wednesday, the report of the directors was submitted, and unanimously adopted.

The chairman, Henry J. Rouse, Esq., in congratulating the shareholders upon the satisfactory statement of accounts that had been presented, drew attention to the fact that the receipts for the half-year ending the 31st December last had exceeded those of any previous corresponding season, the return being £50,995. The question of selling railway tickets in the hotel for the most important towns in the kingdom had been under careful consideration, and it was thought that an arrangement of this kind might be judiciously carried out with great advantage to the visitors who came to the hotel. The sum for division amounted to £15,202, which included a balance brought forward from the last account, and a dividend of 18½ per cent., free of income tax, would therefore be recommended. From the success that had been achieved, it was fully expected that the Directors would have been enabled to declare a dividend of 20 per cent., but, on further consideration, it was thought advisable to defer doing so on the present occasion. One feature of the business was of sufficient importance to be commented upon, viz.: that visitors were now in the habit of bringing with them children and servants, which largely augmented the returns. While these facts spoke for themselves, the Directors entertained a firm conviction that while doing their utmost to maintain, and, if possible, increase the reputation of the hotel, there was yet a margin which would, it was hoped, permit of a further reduction in the item of expenses.

In the year ended the 31st of March last, the number of detections of illicit distillation in England was 12, in Scotland 6, and in Ireland 796. In the preceding year there were as many as 1,035 in Ireland.

Garibaldi's scheme for the opening of a new seaport, to connect the Tiber with the sea, by means of a navigable canal, has been reported upon by competent surveyors and found practicable. The Italian Government undertook the expense of survey.

The number of post cards sold in the twelve months ending March 1874 was 76,986,246, against 69,233,280 in the year 1873.

Some idea of the value of land in the City may be gathered from the fact that a site of some thousand superficial feet, known as 19 and 19A Old Change, was this week let by auction at a rental of £330 per annum.

The number of persons who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during the year 1874 was as follows:—From England, 184,291; from Scotland, 19,775; and from Ireland, 36,948; making a grand total of 241,014. In 1873 this was 310,612, showing a decrease in emigration for the year 1874 of 69,598. Of the grand total for 1874, nationality is thus distinguished: English, 116,490; Scotch, 20,286; Irish, 60,496; Foreigners, 38,468; and unknown, 5,277; the numbers for 1873 being respectively—123,343, 21,310, 83,692, 72,198, and 10,069. Of the total number of passengers in 1874, 39,251 were cabin, and 203,708 steerage.

At the annual meeting of the Liverpool, London and Globe Assurance Company, the shareholders were presented with a dividend of 8s per share, and, at the same time, it was intimated that a considerable sum had been added to the general reserve fund. In other respects the business had been most satisfactory, and the condition of the Company's affairs was represented as being eminently sound and worthy of trust.

An action, damages being laid at £100,000, is to be brought at the coming Manchester Assizes by Messrs. Ellis, Levers and Co., of that city, against Mr. S. Isaac, M.P. for Nottingham, for breach of contract. The hon. member, who is a colliery owner, is alleged to have repudiated a large order which had been accepted.

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, 1875 | Receipts. | |
|--|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 1875 £ | 1874 £ |
| Caledonian | 737 | | |
| Glasgow and South Western | 315 | 15,669 | 15,433 |
| Great Eastern | 763 | 41,352 | 40,244 |
| Great Northern | 517 | 50,231 | 49,340 |
| Great Western | 1,525 | 91,731 | 96,140 |
| Lancashire and Yorkshire | 430 | 61,313 | 59,041 |
| London and Brighton | 376 | 22,664 | 21,426 |
| London, Chatham and Dover | 153 | 13,892 | 12,870 |
| London and North Western | 1,582 | 155,567 | 152,285 |
| London, Tilbury and Southend | 45 | 1,358 | 1,216 |
| Manchester and Sheffield | 259 | 29,705 | 27,615 |
| Midland | 944 | 108,125 | 100,140 |
| Metropolitan | 8 | 8,722 | 8,235 |
| " " District | 8 | 5,007 | 4,268 |
| " " St. John's Wood | 1½ | 435 | 423 |
| North British | 839 | 39,061 | 35,496 |
| North Eastern | 1,379 | 117,292 | 112,993 |
| North London | 12 | 6,468 | 6,675 |
| North Staffordshire Railway | 190 | 9,784 | 10,001 |
| " " Canal | 118 | 1,586 | 1,820 |
| South Eastern | 350 | 25,945 | 25,177 |

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, 27th FEBRUARY.

1462—Wharnciffe, Rose and Crown Hotel, Penistone, Yorks.

MONDAY, 1st MARCH.

12—Fortitude and Old Cumberland, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
25—Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall.
72—Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
144—St. Luke's, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street.
188—Joppa, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
256—Unions, Freemasons' Hall.
1319—Asaph, Freemasons' Hall.
1056—Victoria, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.

R. A. 91—Regularity, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street.

154—Unanimity, Masonic Hall, Wakefield, Yorks.
1211—Goderich, Masonic Hall, Leeds.
1230—Wentworth, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
1302—De Warren, Masonic Hall, Halifax, Yorks.

R. A. 380—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Morley.

TUESDAY, 2nd MARCH.

Colonial Board at 3, Freemasons' Hall.
7—Royal York, Freemasons' Hall.
18—Old Dundee, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
101—Temple, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
172—Old Concord, Freemasons' Hall.
217—Stability, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
765—St. James', Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
1257—Grosvenor, Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi.
1250—Duke of Edinburgh, Cape of Good Hope Tavern, Commercial-road.
1261—Golden Rule, Cafe Royal, Regent-street.
1298—Royal Standard, Marquess Tavern, Canonbury.
1381—Kennington, Surrey Tavern, Kennington-oval.
1383—Friends in Council, 33 Golden-square.
1397—Anerley, Thicket Hotel, Anerley.
1472—Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich.

R. A. 169—Temperance, White Swan Tavern, Deptford.

70—St. John, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth.
124—Marquis of Granby, Freemasons' Hall, Durham.
265—Royal Yorkshire, Masonic Hall, Keighley, Yorks.

R. A. 296—Loyalty, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.

R. A. 600—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Bradford, Yorks.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd MARCH.

Quarterly Communication, at 6 for 7.
511—Zetland, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
1401—Athenaeum, The Athenaeum, Camden-road, Holloway, N.
94—Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall, Sunderland.
838—Franklin, Peacock Hotel, Boston.
1274—Earl of Durham, Freemasons' Hall, Chester-le-street.

R. A. 304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Leeds.

THURSDAY, 4th MARCH.

10—Westminster and Keystone, Freemasons' Hall.
27—Egyptian, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
45—Strong Man, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street.
192—Lion and Lamb, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
227—Ionic, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
231—St. Andrews, Freemasons' Hall.
538—La Tolerance, Freemasons' Hall.
554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.
822—Victoria Rifles, Freemasons' Hall.
1351—St. Clement's Dances, King's Head Hotel, St. Clement's Dances, Strand.
1380—Royal Arthur, Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, New Wimbledon.

R. A. 2—St. James', Freemasons' Hall.

R. A. 174—Sincerity, Cheshire Cheese Tavern, Crutched-friars.

280—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Leeds.
500—Tees, Masons'-court, Stockton-on-Tees.
531—St. Helen's, Masonic Hall, Hartlepool.
974—Pentalpha, Freemasons' Hall, Bradford.
1231—Savile, Royal Hotel, Eiland, Yorks.
1304—Olive Union, Masonic Hall, Banks-street, Horncastle.
1379—Marquis of Ripon, Masonic Hall, Darlington.
1513—Friendly, King's Head, Barnsley, Yorks.

R. A. 275—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, Huddersfield.

R. A. 1214—Scarboro', Station Hotel, Upper Soothill, near Batley, Yorks.

FRIDAY, 5th MARCH.

706—Florence Nightingale, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich.
890—Hornsey, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
1275—Star, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.

R. A. 3—Fidelity, London Tavern, Bishopsgate.

R. A. 8—British, Freemasons' Hall.

242—St. George's, Town Hall, Doncaster.
306—Alfred, 23 Albion-street, Leeds.
521—Truth, Freemasons' Hall, Huddersfield.
837—De Gray and Ripon, Town Hall, Ripon, Yorks.
1230—Barnard, Barnard Castle.

SATURDAY, 6th MARCH.

General Committee Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, at 4.
142—St. Thomas's, Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's.

R. A. 975—Rose of Denmark, Star and Garter, Kew.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—429—St. Kentigern, Royal Hotel, Penicuik.

TUESDAY—5—Canongate and Leith (L. and C.), 86 Constitution-street.

THURSDAY—97—St. James, St. James Hall, Writer's-court.

FRIDAY—201—Celtic of Edinburgh and Leith, Ship Hotel, East Register-street.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Eastern Star Lodge, No. 95.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held, on the 16th inst., at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street. Bro. H. Bateman W.M., E. H. Horne S.W., E. Roberts J.W., P. Edinger Secretary, A. Silberberg S.D., Ayres I.G., Speight Tyler. P.M.'s G. S. Ayres, Marriott, R. F. Hill, J. Lucas, F. Goode, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Withers and Roberts were raised to the third degree, and Mr. Ruff was initiated. Bro. G. J. Broomhead 736, Mauritius, was elected a joining member. Bro. H. Bateman was installed into the chair for the second time, by Bro. Hill P.M., in a praiseworthy manner. The Lodge being closed, the brethren sat down to the banquet, which was provided by Bros. C. and A. Painter. The usual toasts were given. The visitors were Bros. H. Phythian P.M. 1293, W. Munday 1228, W. A. Thorp P.M. 49, W. Wainwright P.M. 933, A. Layton P.M. 181, J. Healey P.M. 59, Withers 211, E. Layton 181, C. E. Eglesse late 1261, and Dr. Conner late 95.

Lodge of Faith, No. 141.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, 23rd inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Bro. J. Kennett W.M. in the chair, Bros. Waygood S.W., M. Davis J.W., Carter P.M. Treasurer, W. Stuart P.M. Secretary, Mallett S.D., Scott J.D, Dairey I.G., D. Davis D.C. and P.M's. Themans I.G., Peever, Hopwood, Pope, C. C. Taylor, Cobham, Green. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Crow, Dyke, Oliver, Leavers and Bird were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. Bros. Pilbrow, Steng, Pollitzer and Chambers were passed to the Degree of Fellow Crafts. Bro. E. Holland, No. 144, was elected a joining member, and Mr. A. Isaacs was duly initiated into the Order. The various ceremonies being very ably rendered by the W.M. Bro. D. Barnett, a junior member of the Lodge, announced his intention of acting as Steward for the next Festival of the Boys' School. It was then stated that application should be made for the Centenary Jewel, the Lodge Warrant bearing date 1774. A notice of motion was given by Bro. C. C. Taylor P.M. that the initiation fee be in future £10 10s, and the joining fee be £5 5s; the present number of members being 116. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren, eighty in number, sat down to a very excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Clemow and superintended by Bro. Smith. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given; that of the newly initiated followed; Bro. Themans I.P.M. proposed the toast of the W.M. and spoke of his able working; the W.M. briefly and suitably replied; the toast of the visitors followed, to which Bro. H. M. Levy P.M. 188 responded. Amongst those present we noticed Bros. Sharples, J. Goode 149, J. Van Raalte 917, A. F. Rowley 917, W. Withall 720, Cooper P.M. 733, Maynard 177, Woodward 1393, Baylis 346, Carter W.M. 209, M. Rosenheim, &c. The W.M., in proposing the toast of the Past Masters, alluded to their various working qualities, and stated the Lodge was ancient, and it was prosperous, and its prosperity was due to those brethren who were its custodians; Bro. Stuart responded to the toast. Bros. S. Davis, Mallett and Walls sang some beautiful songs, and Bro. Rosenheim was a very able accompanist.

Temperance Lodge, No. 169.—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, 18th inst., at the White Swan Tavern, High-street, Deptford. There were present Bros. J. Dingle W.M., Debae S.W., J. G. Neeld J.W., T. Denton S.D., G. L. Moore J.D., R. A. Morgan I.G. Past Masters George Bolton, G. Brown Treasurer, and J. Rosenstock. Bros. G. Nye, G. Murray, T. Lacharison, W. Mallett, W. Baker, W. Monk, T. Wallis, J. W. Beddoe, T. R. Reynolds, F. W. Bryan, M. Deavin, G. Holst, W. Tibbals, H. Brown, R. Smith, W. Leggett, W. Predham, and several other brethren. Visitors, Bro. H. Martin 382, and T. Hamley S.W. 13. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Messrs. S. Holst, J. B. Dean, G. Skeudder, J. D. Dale and F. Leah, which proved unanimous. The Lodge was opened in second degree, and Bros. H. Brown, G. Murray, W. Sanderson, L. Stevens, T. Baker, T. Wallis, and W. H. Wilton having answered the usual questions retired, and the Lodge was opened in the third degree, and these brethren were raised. The Lodge was resumed in first degree and Mr. S. Holst and J. G. Dale were initiated into Freemasonry as E.A.P.'s. Bro. D. P. Jenkins having answered the usual questions retired, and the Lodge was resumed in second degree, and Bro. Jenkins was passed to the F.C.'s degree. The Lodge was resumed in first degree, and closed. The brethren and visitors adjourned to an excellent banquet, when, the usual Masonic toasts having been given, the brethren departed, well satisfied with their evening's enjoyment.

New Concord Lodge, No. 813.—This Lodge, so celebrated for its perfect working, met on the 18th inst., at the Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton. Bro. T. Bartlett W.M., supported by the Officers and Past Masters. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Boydez, Forge and Baylis were raised to the third degree, Bros. Smalley and Hertfield were passed to the second degree, and Mr. F. Dunn was initiated into the Order. The election for W.M. then took place, and Bro. Gabb was unanimously chosen. Bro. Sinclair was re-elected Treasurer, and Speight Tyler. Bros. Spratt and George were elected Auditors. A Past Master's Jewel was proposed to be presented to Bro. T. Bartlett, the retiring W.M., for the able and efficient manner in which he had conducted the duties of his office, and the esteem he is held in by the brethren (this being the second time he had been W.M. of the Lodge). Bro. Cusworth J.D. announced his intention to act as Steward at the next anniversary Festival for the Boys' School. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren partook of a very capital banquet, provided by Bro. H.

Gabb. Bro. J. Emmens P.G.P. returned thanks for the Grand Officers. Replies followed from Bros. W. H. Main P.M. Sec. and Gallant J.W. Bro. D. H. Jacobs P.M. 27 returned thanks for the visitors, who were Bros. Stringcombe and Fowkes. Bros. D. H. Jacobs, Taylor, Wicks, Vernon and Baylis contributed to the harmony.

Cherwell Lodge, No. 599, Banbury.—The anniversary of this Lodge was held at the Red Lion Hotel, on Monday last, when Bro. Holford C. Risley was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was impressively performed by Bro. R. Havers P.S.G.D. of England. Bro. Risley afterwards invested his officers as follows:—Bros. J. Potts Senior Warden, Rev. J. Spittal Junior Warden, Rev. A. Ayton Chaplain, R. Havers P.S.G.D. Treasurer, J. Looker P.M. Secretary, E. J. Hartley P.M. Senior Deacon, C. L. H. Pemberton P.M. Junior Deacon, J. Griffin P.M. Director of Ceremonies, W. Chamberlin and T. Fowler Stewards, R. C. Humfrey Inner Guard, T. Moss Tyler.

Maybury Lodge, No. 969.—This Lodge met on Wednesday, the 17th instant, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Bros. Charles Dickens W.M., Talbot Smith S.W., Norton J.W., Smallpiece Secretary, Savory S.D., C. W. Thompson J.D., Pinches I.G.; Past Masters—T. Thorne, David James, and Churchill. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. H. Byron was passed to the 2nd degree. It is needless to observe that the working of the degrees, and the various matters in connection with the Lodge were carried out in the usual perfect manner. There being no other business the Lodge was closed. No banquet took place.

St. Peter's Lodge, Tiverton, No. 1125.—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday, 18th inst., Bro. T. Parkhouse W.M. presiding. After the confirmation of the minutes of the former meeting, Bro. Mills P.M. and Secretary, presented to the Lodge an elegant album, to contain the photographs of present and future members, on the first leaf of which was a life-like cabinet portrait of their much beloved P.G.M., the R.W. and Rev. John Huyshe M.A. in full Masonic costume. Thanks having been voted to the donors of the album, the Lodge was opened up to the 3rd degree, and Bro. John Luxton (who had been duly examined and entrusted) was raised to the sublime degree of M.M. On resuming work in the 1st degree a candidate was proposed for initiation, and the Lodge was finally closed. On Monday last, 22nd inst., all that was mortal of Bro. Thomas P. Beedell deceased, late a member of Fidelity Lodge, No. 230, was interred in the family vault of St. George's Church in this town, several brethren of St. Peter's Lodge attending the funeral, wearing white gloves and having a black rosette on the left arm. Upon the procession entering the church the "Dead March in Saul" was performed on the organ by Bro. Mills P.M., P.G.O., and at the conclusion of the service the brethren passed round the grave, and dropped sprigs of acacia on the coffin.

Southern Star Lodge, No. 1158.—This successful Lodge met on Tuesday, 23rd inst., at the Montpelier Tavern, Walworth. On account of the amount of business, the W.M. thought it necessary to call a Lodge of Emergency, which was well attended by the brethren and many visitors. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting confirmed; the Lodge was then opened in the second and third degrees, and Bros. Holloway, Fane, Bishop, Cass and McDonald were raised to M.M. The W.M. then resumed the Lodge in the second degree, and Bros. Wootton, Colegrave, Hadfield and Schrader were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, the W.M. then resumed the Lodge in the first degree, there being the names of ten gentlemen on the summons for initiation. All were present but one. The W.M. took the first five, and the ballot for them proving unanimous, he initiated into the Order Mr. L. Creasy, Mr. J. Bunker, Captain W. Dawson, Mr. E. J. Heaps, and Mr. J. H. Bray. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to a very sumptuous banquet in the dining-hall. The following officers were present:—Bros. J. Wright W.M., Wise S.W., McDonald J.W., Walters S.D., Wise J.D., R. Harris I.G., Pulsford P.M. Secretary, A. Wright P.M. Treasurer, Clarke P.M. Visitors—Bros. C. Scruton W.M. Temperance in the East 89, W. Mortlock P.M. Union Waterloo 13, H. R. Wagner W.M. Royal Arthur 1360, H. A. Parke 9, Philadelphia, New York, &c., &c.

St. John's Lodge, No. 1343, Grays, Essex.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday evening, 18th Feb. Bro. R. Nicholls W.M. in the chair. The Lodge was opened in the first degree, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The balance, as shown by the auditor's reports, in the hands of the Treasurer, amounted to £9 5s 9d. The Lodge was then opened in the second degree, and the installation proceeded with, Bro. J. W. Carr P.G.S. reading the charges. The Lodge was then opened in the third degree, and Bro. David Robertson was then installed by Bro. John Noke P.M. 781. After the brethren had saluted the W.M. in the usual manner, the officers were appointed as follows, viz.: Bros. J. Ash S.W., Golden Allen J.W., W. M. Sackell Secretary, Rea Corbet J.D., A. Sturgeon S.D., Joseph Earps I.G., G. Fox Tyler, Rev. J. H. Bridge Chaplain. Bro. Noke P.M. then gave the addresses. The Lodge was then closed, and adjourned until 18th March 1875. The banquet was served in a very satisfactory manner by Bro. Bartlett, and on the cloth being removed, the usual patriotic and Masonic toasts were given, and a very enjoyable evening spent. Amongst the visitors may be mentioned Bros. John W. Carr P.G. Secretary, C. Jolly P.G. Secretary 87, A. Tucking P.G.D. and W.M. 1000, P.M. 160, W. J. Chignell 1000, J. A. Wardell P.P.G.D. W.M. 160, John Coutts P.M. 27, 1310, 1348 P.G.P., C. Relph P.M. 77, 188, Kent, P.P.S.J.D., R. French J.W. 483, W. C. King Freedom 77, Kent.

Earl of Zetland Lodge, No. 1364.—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Old Town Hall, Hackney, on Saturday last. The chair was occupied by Bro. J. L. Fysh W.M., supported by the following officers: Bros. Fieldwick I.G. S.W. *pro tem*, R. A. Wright P.M. Treasurer, W. Bristo P.M. Secretary, J. H. Maples S.D., H. W. Gompertz J.D., H. T. Lowe D.C., J. Haskins Organist, L. A. Leins P.M. Bros. G. J. Pope, J. Crosbie, W. H. Hollendin, T. Keene, O. Ditmar, A. Bessinger, F. Kearney, J. Hogarty, R. Buckler, P. G. Ferdinands, W. Green, J. Seward, C. Oliver, D. H. Feltham, J. Humble, H. M. Dalton, J. P. Fitzgerald, W. S. Norris, F. H. Dalton. The Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of last Lodge read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Messrs. E. J. Anning and H. Mitchell, which was in their favour. Bros. Bessinger and Cooper having proved proficiency in this degree, were entrusted and retired. The Lodge was opened in second degree, and these two brethren were passed to the degree of Fellow Crafts. Bro. Oliver, having answered the usual questions, retired. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and Bro. Oliver was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. The Lodge was resumed in first degree, and Mr. H. Mitchell and Mr. E. J. Anning were initiated into Freemasonry as entered apprentices. The Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to slight refreshment. The visitors were Bros. G. W. Saul 1201, J. W. Hill 1278, W. J. Burdett 1293 and S. Brown 1426.

Albert Edward Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1429, Newport, Monmouthshire.—This, the junior Lodge of the Province of Monmouth, was honoured on Thursday, the 11th inst., by an official visit from Bro. Col. Lyne P.G.M., Bro. Captain George Homfray D.P.G.M., and other officers and brethren of the Province at the Masonic Hall, Dock Street. Bro. William Watkins W.M., presiding over a large attendance of brethren. After disposing of the business the W.M. thanked the P.G.M., the D.P.G.M., and other visiting brethren, for the honour they had done in visiting them on this occasion. The vote having been passed, and ordered to be recorded, both the P.G.M. and D.P.G.M. expressed the pleasure it afforded them in being present, and their great gratification at the able manner in which the business had been conducted. Another pleasing feature in the proceedings was the announcement by the W.M. that Bro. J. C. Parkinson, an officer of distinction in the G.L. of England, had presented to the Albert Edward Lodge an elegantly bound and beautifully executed copy of his book, containing a cleverly compiled history of the Bard of Avon Lodge, which the author had been mainly instrumental in resuscitating. The highly valued presentation was accompanied by a letter, in which regret was expressed at the inability of Bro. J. C. Parkinson to be present at the banquet, as well as his good wishes for the continued prosperity of the Lodge. A hearty vote of thanks, moved by Bro. C. Rowe I.P.M., and seconded by Bro. J. Horner, Treasurer 1429, was passed, and a minute was ordered to be recorded, viz.: "That a cordial vote of thanks of the W.M. and brethren of the Albert Edward Prince of Wales Lodge be given to the Worshipful Bro. J. C. Parkinson G.O. of England and D.P.G.M. Middlesex, for kindly presenting this Lodge with a copy of his interesting and instructive work, 'The History of the Bard of Avon Lodge, No. 778,' and, in consideration of his great Masonic and intellectual attainments, the brethren with pleasure unanimously elect him an honorary member of Lodge 1429." The Lodge having been closed the brethren repaired to the Westgate Hotel, where Bro. S. T. Hallen had provided a sumptuous banquet. Covers being laid for about seventy. Among the brethren who sat down were Wm. Watkins W.M. and P.G.S. Wks. President, Charles Lyne P.G.M., S. G. Homfray D.P.G.M., L. A. Homfray P.P.G.S.W., James Abernothy, Lodge of Unanimity, Wakefield, Yorkshire, W. W. Morgan P.M. Isca 683, J. S. Adam P.M. 90 P.G.J.D., J. Griffiths P.M. 471, Louis Hermessen D.C. 1429, J. G. Huxtable S.W. 1429, 471, J. W. Bebel Secretary 1429, 471, F. Orders S.D. 1429, 471, Charles P. Evans S. 471, John James J.D. 1429, 471, H. Gratte P.M. 471 P.P.G.S.D., W. H. W. Homfray W.M. 683 P.P.G.S.B., Charles Rowe I.P.M. 1429 and 471, C. R. Lyne S.W. 471 and P.G.S.B., William Pickford P.M. 471 P.G.T., R. J. Chambers P.M. 683 P.P.G.R., W. B. Broad P.M. 457 P.P.G.J.D., P.P.G.S., John Thomas S.W. 457, William Welsford 1429, H. Fletcher Tyler 1429, &c. The usual toasts were given and responded to with enthusiasm, and after an agreeable evening, in the course of which several excellent songs were admirably sung, the brethren separated. It should be added that after the toast "The Masonic Charities," an appeal was made, and the sum of £16 was subscribed in the room, with a guarantee that it would be made up to £20, exclusive of the sum of ten guineas voted in the Lodge.

Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507.—This Lodge met at the Metropolitan Club, No. 269 Pentonville Road, on Thursday, the 18th instant, Bros. J. Willing jun. W.M., Michael S.W., Williams J.W., G. Tims P.M. Secretary, Child S.D., Kingham J.D., J. Douglass (Standard Theatre) I.G., R. Fowler D.C., Scales W.S., and Daly Tyler. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Gilbert, Cox, Eacey and Brumell were raised to the 3rd degree. Bros. Hatton, J. Tims, A. Horton and Rogers were passed to the 2nd degree. Messrs. Shand, Sainsbury and Tritton were initiated into the Order. The working of the W.M. and every officer deserves praise, and the attention paid to the various ceremonies by the candidates showed they were deeply impressed. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a very excellent banquet provided by Bro. Cox, the manager of the club. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. Bro. G. Tims P.M. and Secretary then rose and proposed the toast of the W.M., Bro. Jas. Willing, whose name was a "Household Word" in Freemasonry; he is a member and an officer of the Domestic Lodge, but in this Lodge, where he occupied the proud position of Master, he had well done all that was required of him, and the Treasurer had £70 in hand. He hoped, before long, the Lodge would be Life Governors for all the Masonic Charities. The W.M. having

suitably replied, gave the toast of the newly initiated. Bro. Sainsbury responded. The toast of the visitors, Bros. J. S. Briggs P.M. 157, Ferguson P.M. 177, Linzell P.M. 1237, G. Everett W.M. 177, Higgins 184, and F. Smith P.M. 862, was responded to by Bro. Everett, who paid a deserved compliment to the Worshipful Master, not only for his perfect working, but also for the admirable manner he had presided over them, and his great advocacy in the cause of charity. The W.M. announced that the Lodge of Instruction in connection with the Lodge would be held every Friday evening, when Bro. Adams, the veteran Preceptor, would give his aid to those brethren who wished to have the benefit of his instruction. He then proposed the toast of the Secretary, Bro. Tims, and regretted the absence of the Treasurer, who was well calculated to carry out any duties required of him. Bros. Michael S.W. and Williams J.W. responded to the toast of the Wardens. The Brethren separated after the Tyler's toast. Bro. Scales may be congratulated on the admirable manner he looked after the comfort of the brethren and visitors. Bros. Side, Michael and Styles contributed to the harmony of the evening.

Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, No. 1507.—The second meeting of this Lodge was held at the Metropolitan Club, 269 Pentonville Road, on Friday, the 19th instant, Bro. Kingham, acting as W.M., opened the Lodge. He was supported by Bros. Side as S.W., J. Willing jun. as J.W., Scales I.G. and T. Adams P.G.M. as Preceptor. Bro. Kingham rehearsed the ceremony of the 1st degree, and the 1st and 2nd sections of that degree. Bro. Michael then took the chair, and worked the ceremony of the 3rd degree, Bro. Cavet acting as candidate. A vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Kingham for his capital working, after which the Lodge was closed until the following Friday.

The Gladsmuir Chapter, No. 1385, Herts, was formally opened and consecrated on Thursday afternoon by E. Comp. F. H. Wilson Iles M.D. P.Z. and S.E. Watford Chapter, No. 404, assisted by E. Comp. James Terry P.Z., Nos. 174, 403, and 975. There were present, among others, E. Companions T. F. Halsey M.P. Pro. G. M. Herts, G. Ward Verry, J. R. Cocks P.Z. 403, F. Binckes P.G.S., Secretary Boys' School, &c. After the consecration, Comps. T. S. Carter M.E.Z. Designate, John Lowthin H. Designate, and William Cutbush J. Designate were severally installed. The ceremonies of consecration and installation were very impressively performed by the officiating Companions. Five candidates were proposed for exaltation, after which the Chapter was closed, and the Companions adjourned to banquet. In the course of the evening M.E.Z. Comp. T. S. Carter proposed the health of Comp. T. F. Halsey, and expressed a hope that it would not be long ere a Prov. Grand Chapter for Herts was instituted, and that the Companions would be in a position to hail Comp. Halsey as Prov. Grand Superintendent. Comp. Halsey acknowledged the toast very cordially, expressing his readiness to assume the position indicated by M.E.Z. Comp. Carter, and generally congratulated all present on the very flourishing state of Freemasonry in his province. We subjoin the *menu*, which it is almost needless to say gave very great satisfaction, and the list of toasts; nor ought we to omit mention of the *cartes*, which were characteristically printed, and excited no little admiration.

BILL OF FARE.

—:0:—

Mock Turtle, Chicken and Rice, and Oyster Soups.

Fried Fillets of Soles. Red Mulletts. Salmon and Cucumber. Fels and Tomatoes. Cod Fish and Oyster Sauce.

Boiled Chickens, with Mushrooms. Aitchbone of Beef and French Carrots. York Ham. Roast Turkey. Quarter of House Lamb.

Ducklings. Guinea Fowls. Wild Ducks.

Cabinet, Plum Puddings and Mince Pies. Gooseberry Pie.

Stewed Damsons and Cream.

Tartlets. Custards. Calves Foot Jellies. Ice Pudding. Vanilla Cream.

Sherry. Hock. White Hermitage. Champagne. Sparkling Hock. Port. Claret.

Dessert. Coffee.

TOASTS.

—:0:—

The QUEEN and ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

The M.E. G.D. Z., H.R.H. The PRINCE OF WALES.

The G.D. H. and J., the EARL OF CARMARVON and LORD DE TABLEY, and the rest of the Grand Officers past and present.

The Three PRINCIPALS of the CHAPTER.

The CONSECRATING and INSTALLING OFFICERS.

The VISITORS.

The OFFICERS of the CHAPTER.

The MASONIC INSTITUTIONS.

The JANITOR'S TOAST.

The *Western Times* reports a singular incident in connection with the recovery of a valuable locket. After Sir Garnet Wolseley and his staff had gone on board the Walmer Castle, at Dartmouth, Captain Lord Gifford, one of the staff, who greatly distinguished himself in the Ashantee War, incidentally mentioned to his brother officers that he lost in Coomassie a valuable and highly-prized locket, whereupon Major Butler, also of the staff, remarked that he had bought a locket of a black man. It was recognized by Lord Gifford as the one he had lost, and which he had offered a large reward to recover. It was, of course, immediately returned.

THE DRAMA.

Revival of The Maid's Tragedy—Mr. Hare at the Court—Hamlet.

THE revival of Beaumont and Fletcher's fine drama, *The Maid's Tragedy*, deserves a more extended notice than we were able to bestow upon it last week. Sheridan and Goldsmith's comedies—or at least such of them as *The Critic*, *The Rivals*, *The School for Scandal* and *She Stoops to Conquer*—every playgoer has the opportunity of seeing now and again, at not far distant intervals. Shakspeare, too, although at times neglected by theatrical managers, in favour of more modern fare, can hardly be considered as altogether banished from the London stage. But Beaumont and Fletcher have long been relegated to the study, and the opportunity of seeing any of their productions upon the stage is an event to be noticed. The version now being performed at the HOLBORN AMPHITHEATRE is the one produced at the HAYMARKET under Mr. Webster's management in 1837. The *Bridal*, as this version is entitled, is in many respects very unlike the original play. Passages of a broad and licentious character are omitted, the *denouement* is materially altered, and the general tone much softened. As now performed at the Amphitheatre, the character of Melantius, formerly played by Mr. Macready, is sustained with considerable intelligence by Mr. Creswick, whilst Mr. Pennington appears in the part of Amintor. Evadne is very creditably played by Miss Leighton, but other of the parts are not so adequately filled. The revival is, nevertheless, one of considerable interest, and the curiosity it excites will probably attract a large number of persons to the theatre.

The re-opening of the COURT THEATRE, under the management of the talented actor, Mr. Hare, is looked forward to with great interest by all people who take pleasure in the performance of high class modern comedy. Mr. Hare is one of our few young actors who have shown real originality. His rendering of such parts as Prince Perovski in *Ours*, Sam Gerridge in *Caste*, and Beau Farmlosh in *School*—all creations of his own, by the way—was such as to stamp the man as a genuine actor. At the COURT he will be supported by Mr. and Mrs. Kendall, Miss Amy Fawcett, and Mr. John Clayton, and it can scarcely be doubted that, with such an excellent array of comedy power, some very interesting performances may be expected.

Yesterday *Hamlet* reached its 100th representation, and its power of attraction remains unimpaired. Crowded houses every night betoken the genuine desire of playgoers to witness this performance, and should certainly encourage other managers to follow out the same programme. When, we wonder, will DRURY LANE condescend to patronise the immortal bard?

LONDON BALLAD CONCERTS.

THE last concert of Mr. John Boosey's ninth season of ballad concerts was given on Wednesday night in St. James's Hall. Although the state of the weather prevented a great audience, there was a large number of musically disposed amateurs present, to whom the entertainment appeared wholly satisfactory. As regards the selection *per se*, there is little occasion for remark; old and modern songs, familiar enough in musical circles, were given by Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Sterling, Miss Frances Courtenay, Madame Osborne Williams, and Miss Edith Wynne; Mr. Edward Lloyd and Mr. Santley. Madame Sherrington's contributions were Molloy's "Dresden China," Sir Julius Benedict's new song, "Love's Appeal," and Claribel's "Come back to Erin." Mr. Santley, in the old ballads, "The Leather Bottel," "The Fine Old English Gentleman," and "The Vicar of Bray," secured his customary success; and Mr. Lloyd, in Mr. Sullivan's "Love laid his sleepless head," and B. Tour's new song, "Two Dreams," obtained a hearty reception. The past season has been justly popular. Although deprived to a certain extent of the services of Mr. Sims Reeves, the entertainments have been supported in an able manner; the vocalists have been purely representative—that is, ballad singers—and the instrumental soloists have been chosen with due regard to the exigencies of public taste. What good these concerts render to the cause of art we shall not stay to consider, but it is patent that entertainments which at all times exercise so powerful an attraction must exert a certain amount of influence. If they tend to the better cultivation of ballad singing—the purest, at the same time most difficult form of vocal art—we shall be well satisfied, as will be others musically interested; and if they lead to the production of fresh compositions from native sources, the musical world must derive a benefit therefrom. We are glad, therefore, to look back upon the past season of ballad concerts with satisfaction, and to feel that the efforts of the *impresario*, Mr. John Boosey, have not been misdirected.—*Standard*.

In consequence of a memorial signed by the presidents and other members of the chief scientific societies, the funeral of the late Sir Charles Lyell will be solemnised in Westminster Abbey to-day at 1 p.m.

The *Kent Herald* understands that the Prince of Wales has promised to visit Margate in June next, for the purpose of opening the asylum now in course of erection for the deaf and dumb.

THE "ALEXANDRA" LODGE, No. 1511, HORNSEA.

FOR some years past there had existed a desire on the part of several brethren of the Craft resident in this favourite little Yorkshire watering place, and others who spend a considerable portion of their time there during the summer months, that a Masonic Lodge should be founded in the locality. Hornsea is a delightfully sequestered little nook on the east coast, about 16 miles from Hull, and of late years the population has been considerably augmented by a large number of merchants and principal tradesmen of that borough, who have set up their country houses on the elevation overlooking the sea. In fact, it has become to Hull a suburban retreat, where summer pic-nics and school treats are held nearly every day in the week during the season. The united efforts of the Masons who had thus taken up their residence in the place, and of those who so frequently visit it, for the purpose of health and recreation, culminated in a resolution to establish a Lodge, and, on the requisite number of signatures having been obtained, the petition was sent to the Grand Master, who in due course forwarded the warrant or charter of constitution. Bro. Thomas Oates Prov. G. Organist, was approved as the Worshipful Master designate, and Bros. B. L. Wells and William Carr as the first Wardens. The founders at once entered upon their work, and the house adjoining the Alexandra Hotel was selected as the most appropriate for the Lodge. The upper portion has been admirably adapted to the purposes required, and the whole of the fittings are in strict accordance with the Masonic regulations. The jewels, &c. have been supplied from designs furnished by the W.M. The R.W. the Earl of Zetland, Prov. G.M. of North and East Yorkshire, commissioned his deputy, Bro. J. Pearson Bell S.G.D. of England, to perform the ceremony, which took place on the 26th of December last, when there was a large attendance of the brethren from Hull, Driffield, Malton, &c. Bro. Thomas Oates was duly installed as the first Master, and he

invested his officers as follows: Bros. B. L. Wells S.W., W. Carr J.W., John Thompson P.M. Treasurer, Thomas Liggins Secretary, M. P. Hookney S.D., W. Travis Colbeck J.D., H. E. Voight Director of Ceremonies, T. J. Shackles I.G., and T. Crier Tyler. A banquet subsequently took place, and appropriate speeches were delivered by the Worshipful the Mayor of Hull, Bro. Alderman Charles Wells P.M., and many other influential members of the Craft in the district. Since that time it is very gratifying to announce that the Lodge has succeeded far beyond the anticipations of its promoters, and it bids fair to become one of the most unique and admirably appointed Lodges in the province. Several new members have been admitted, and a large number of applications are crowding in from others who are desirous of participating in the privileges of the Craft. It is worthy of remark, however, that the utmost discrimination is being exercised by the officers as to the admission of candidates, the main object sought being to secure a highly respectable and working body of members, rather than to extend the benefits of the Lodge to all comers, and thus to have an unwieldy number, and of diluted quality. The working of the Lodge has, up to this time, been perfect, and the confidence reposed in the officers is unbounded. Thus in all respects the efforts of its promoters have been abundantly realised, and we are confident that the utmost success must inevitably attend the future career of the "Alexandra" Lodge.

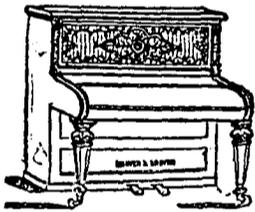
The House of Lords consists of five Princes of the Blood, 28 Dukes, 32 Marquises, 171 Earls, 37 Viscounts, 26 Prelates, and 192 Barons. John Wilson Patten, Lord Winmarleigh, is still the junior Lord.

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Saturday, 27th February 1875.

SUPPLEMENT

TO

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SATURDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED.

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ALTHOUGH THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE has now been in existence for a period of two months, we have not yet taken any active steps to place before the Masonic world the Company which lies in embryo behind it. We have hesitated to press this project upon the attention of its readers, simply because we felt that until we had given them some idea of the scope and style of the Journal it was our ambition to find they might fairly decline to interest themselves in the matter. THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE is now in the ninth number of its existence, and we think our brethren are in a position to estimate the paper at its real worth, as the organ and exponent of the opinions of the Fraternity. No special effort has been made to give its issues the air of a carefully selected sample of the journalistic work the staff has set itself to accomplish. They have dealt with the questions of the hour as they have arisen, and have written, as they intend to write in the future, with fairness, impartiality, and independence. The Opinions of the Press which we print below are culled from a large number of highly complimentary notices with which its contemporaries have honoured it. This testimony of its journalistic brethren was not asked, and it is all the more valuable on that account, since it expresses the unbiassed judgment of a number of writers who can have no possible interest in the venture upon which we are embarked. We feel that we may now leave THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE to speak for itself, and we turn to the practical question of "ways and means," with perfect confidence that we shall win the support of a large circle of the Masonic world. We may state that up to the present moment no Shares have been allotted, although we have been frequently urged to proceed to their distribution. We have felt, however, that the Paper should be the property of as large a number of the Fraternity as possible, and we were unwilling to take any steps to make the Company a fact until, as we have remarked above, the readers of the "CHRONICLE" could fairly estimate the possible future value of the undertaking. We are now prepared to allot the first batch of shares, and we venture strongly to urge members of the Order who have not yet sent in applications to do so at once. Our hands will then be strengthened by the assurance that the Journal is the exponent of as wide a circle of Masonic friends as possible, and we shall face the hard and difficult work before us with cheerful confidence as to the future. We need scarcely assure our brethren that, as the Company is founded upon the principle of limited liability, no one will be responsible for any sum beyond the amount of his Share or Shares.

The reproach of caring little or nothing for journalism—if it has ever had any foundation in fact—should surely be removed from an Order which contains within its ranks men eminent in every walk of literature. We are doing our best to promote that generous and noble enthusiasm which in these days is deemed essential to the success of every association. It may, indeed, be said that it is a work of supererogation to attempt to inspire men who need no inspiration. We hold that no association, whatever may be the motive power which urges it on, can work to any real advantage without some medium of intercommunication. The force, however, which alone can move the Press should not be lacking. We have indeed no reason to complain of the circulation of the "CHRONICLE," but we shall gladly see it extended; and we may, in conclusion, add, that Masters and Secretaries of Lodges will be doing us a great service if

they will kindly press the Journal upon the notice of their brethren. Every member indeed, however circumscribed his influence, may do something to help us. We are toiling, *con amore*, in a cause we have much at heart. We have unfolded the standard of Masonry before the world, and the first stones of our projected structure are laid. Are we too sanguine in thinking that we shall be encouraged until success is achieved, and the building completed?

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The Banffshire Reporter, 15th January 1875.

Every body, be it profession, trade, or association, must now have its special organ, for the purpose of ventilating its opinions, in order that it may be enabled to hold its proper place on the platform of social existence, and the wonder is that a body, or order, of such wide-spread ramifications as the "Brethren of the Mystic tie,"—a body which, although anathematised as a secret society, yet has the honour to have H.R.H. the Prince of Wales at its head, should not, long ere now, have had a special organ of its own. The want—if want it really was—has been now supplied. We have before us the first number of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE which, as its name implies, is to be the special organ and mouth-piece of the brotherhood. If Freemasonry be what this first number of its own special organ represents it to be—and we have no reason to doubt that it is—the only pity is that all men are not Freemasons, for undoubtedly there is much need for a more universal dissemination of the principles of "Brotherly Love," and a higher sense of "Truth" and the moral obligations which the various members of society owe to each other. In short, this new-born organ of Freemasonry says:—"We shall seek to make THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE as prosperous as possible, but we will not permit our pages to degenerate into a mere trade circular, nor will we, for any immediate advantages, sacrifice the high principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, which henceforth shall shine before the world as our guiding stars." If these be not words in course, all must bid this organ of Freemasonry welcome; and of its truth or falsehood, what follows may be taken as a fair criterion. It is under the head of "THE MASON: A GENTLEMAN.—Members of the Craft are, one and all, agreed as to the social, moral and religious advantages of Freemasonry. The Master Mason, whatever his creed or country, knows that his connection with the Institution has superadded to his other opportunities of becoming a good citizen, a rule of life which embraces all the blessings that lie scattered up and down the various beliefs into which the nations of the world are divided. He becomes assured that honour, virtue and benevolence are the qualities which should alone distinguish one class from another; and that within the sacred bond of brotherhood all good Masons are equal in the eyes of the Great Architect of the Universe. Unfortunately, the outside or popular world, who have not entered the penetralia of the Craft, are apt to apply to its members the ordinary tests current in social life. Hence it is of vital importance to the Institution itself that all its members should be persons of blameless lives, and it is equally important that they should possess that culture which distinguishes the gentle from the ungentleman. It seems to us quite possible that a brother may be a good, ordinary Mason, capable of fulfilling all the duties enjoined in the principles of brotherly love, relief and truth, and yet be wanting in that trained scholarship which, although it enhances the courtesies of life, is too often found along with a cold, cynical understanding. At the same time, we think it imperatively necessary that every Freemason should use his best endeavours to polish and refine his intellect. Indeed, we go on frankly and fearlessly stating our opinion that no man should be chosen to hold office whose culture will not enable him to do honour to the great and important duties of his station."

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, which appears to be the property of a joint stock limited liability company, is of a handy size and form, and is neatly printed on very fine paper.

South London Chronicle, 16th January 1875.

SPECIAL SERIAL LITERATURE.—With the new year a new record of Masonic intelligence, entitled THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, sought public favour. From the second number, we find that the fresh aspirant is really devoted to news and articles relating to the Order, and is not a new general newspaper under the guise of a special title; as such, neatly printed as it is, and written in a fair style, the paper should succeed. In the western metropolitan area the chief Lodges exist, while in the southern the Masonic enterprise has already started the building of a handsome new hall, now nearly completed, to be mainly devoted to the requirements of the Order. Morgan, of Barbican, is the publisher.

The Hornet, 16th January 1875.

Masonry flourishes all over the world. The literature of the Craft is steadily increasing. We have this week the pleasure of welcoming into the world THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, a well-edited weekly record of Masonic news.

Deal, Walmer and Sandwich Mercury, 16th January 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE is a new weekly journal of high-class literature, containing full particulars of the Fraternity, and a good summary of general news, politics, &c. Published by the Freemason's Chronicle Publishing Company, price 3d.

The Brighouse News, 16th January 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, a weekly record of Masonic intelligence, price 3d. The Freemasons in this neighbourhood will be glad to learn that a weekly journal, the size of the *Saturday Review*, has been started in the interests of Freemasonry. The first number of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE appeared on 2nd January 1875. Besides a well-written review of the leading political and other events of the day, many articles on the varied aspects of Freemasonry appear in its columns. An interesting correspondence is maintained on subjects of interest to Freemasons. A very useful feature of the journal is the weekly diary of the meetings of the various Lodges throughout the country. To render this as complete as possible, the co-operation of the various secretaries throughout the country is solicited. Columns are also devoted to the notices of meetings. This journal is published by Mr. W. W. Morgan, at 67 Barbican, London, E.C.

The Staffordshire Times, 15th January 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.—Morgan, 67 Barbican, E.C.—This is a weekly periodical of 16 pages, published at threepence, and devoted to the record of Masonic intelligence. At present only two numbers of it have appeared. Its general appearance, however, is prepossessing; its matter is well written and well selected, and in the second number there is a particularly good article on "After-Dinner Speeches." It is to be hoped that Freemasons will support their organ, which certainly represents them efficiently.

The Dewsbury Chronicle, 16th January 1875.

This will be found a very useful journal to the members of the Craft: it is well edited, and gives a mass of carefully prepared information to Freemasons. The price is 3d weekly.

The Scottish Freemasons' Magazine, 16th January 1875.

We have received the two first issues of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, a weekly journal (published in London) devoted to Freemasonry, also giving a short résumé of general topics interesting to its readers. This journal will supply a want much felt in England; Masonic literature having been very feebly represented there during the last few years. We have no doubt our contemporary will attain a wide circulation, and we give it our best wishes.

Market Harborough Advertiser, 19th January 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, a high class Masonic Journal, published with the design of giving a complete résumé of intelligence relating to the Craft. It contains notices of meetings throughout the kingdom, a diary for the week, together with vigorous articles on the doings of the day, the Drama, &c., and will no doubt prove very useful to all Freemasons. Success cannot fail to attend it if the excellence of its second number, of which we speak, be maintained.

Kingsbridge Gazette, 19th January 1875.

The establishment of a new Masonic newspaper may be by some considered unnecessary, but the numbers of the new periodical before us seem to contain in themselves a justification for their publication. The articles are good—one on "After-Dinner Speeches" being specially readable—the reports of Lodges are full, and are more interesting than such reports usually are; our Masonic friends can hardly do better, to keep themselves posted in current Masonic history, than to subscribe to this new journal.

Barnet Press, Finchley News and Edgware Chronicle, 23rd January 1875.

The second number of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE lies before us, and it wears the appearance of a class-journal destined to spend a long and useful life among the Craft. The editor speaks in glowing terms of the enthusiastic reception which greeted the first number, so we suppose there is not much occasion to press its acceptance on Masons generally. There may, however, be some in our own neighbourhood who have not yet seen it, and we therefore suggest its purchase at once (we presume it is in print) that in case they become regular readers of THE CHRONICLE, their subscription may date from its birth. The first number has always a special interest, which increases in proportion to the age and influence to which a journal attains; and our readers may thank us in after years for persuading them to expend the modest sum of threepence to obtain No. 1 of Vol. I. of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE. We don't know that the promoters aspire to much popularity outside the borders of their Craft, but the specimen copy before us contains two or three articles of general interest. Some remarks on "After-Dinner Speeches" are worth reading by all who seek to shine in this much-neglected department of oratory; and the leader upon "The political situation in Europe" may please readers who prefer gaining their information upon such subjects from articles divested of political bias. The remainder of the 16 pages, fcp. folio, are chiefly filled with news, correspondence, and essays interesting only to Freemasons, but their CHRONICLE will soon boast a large circulation if but a title of the Craft in England support it. We wish it abundant prosperity.

Hastings and St. Leonard's News, 22nd January 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE is a new weekly paper of great promise, giving not only its "weekly record of Masonic intelligence" (which it does fully and methodically), but a fair amount of general news, and leading articles which appear to be sensibly written. A good example is that on "After-Dinner Speeches." Although not Freemasons ourselves, we have been greatly pleased with the paper, and warmly recommend it.

Leigh Chronicle, 23rd January 1875.

With the new year the first number of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE made its appearance. The Masons of the United Kingdom are sufficiently numerous to support more than one journal representing the interests of the Craft, and the new Masonic newspaper will undoubtedly be a success if conducted with spirit, and in accordance with the principles of the mystic brotherhood.

The Beverley Weekly Recorder, 23rd January 1875.

A new Masonic journal, under the title of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, has been commenced in London. It is a threepenny weekly paper, and contains a good selection of news, special attention being of course devoted to matters affecting the Craft.

The Surrey Comet, 23rd January 1875.

A new Masonic weekly newspaper—THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE—commenced its first number with the beginning of the new year. Besides Masonic news and articles on Masonic questions, the new venture—which is the property of a company of Freemasons—notifies events and subjects of more general interest, and appears likely to fill a want long felt among the brotherhood.

Leighton Buzzard Observer, 26th January 1875.

The Freemasons have established a weekly journal under the title of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, published at threepence. The first number has met with a very encouraging reception and a wide circulation. From an article appearing in the second number we glean that arrangements are being made by the proprietors for the supply of regular memoranda of all Lodge meetings of importance, and to give a complete weekly résumé of Masonic intelligence. With respect to the literary department, it is intended to give a series of articles on Masonic questions of high interest, from the pens of competent brothers who are well trained in literary work, and to establish correspondent-ships in India, America, and the Colonies, so that readers may be posted up in the proceedings of the Craft throughout the wide range of the Masonic world. An effort is to be made to keep the readers of THE CHRONICLE informed of the proceedings of their military brethren, and to make the reports of this branch of the Craft co-extensive with the great empire over which the Queen holds sway. Articles on questions of moment connected with the outer world will not be wanting, to vary the interest, and as these will be written from a Masonic standpoint, they will, doubtless, be heartily welcome. The vast mass of Masonic literature which has emanated from the pens of gifted brothers during the last generation will not be overlooked, and, in addition to fair and impartial notices of current publications, will be prepared, from time to time, careful papers upon the old standard works connected with the Order, in which lie embalm'd the ripe experience of men who were bright stars in the brilliant galaxy of the distinguished members of the Craft. It is promised that neither time, labour nor expense shall be spared to command universal support.

Greenock Telegraph and Clyde Shipping Gazette, 26th January 1875.

The number of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE for last Saturday is the fourth that has been issued of this journal, and is a good specimen of what such a work should be, containing a large variety of matter. Besides items of intelligence from numerous Lodges, there are readable summaries of general news, literary and dramatic criticisms, and articles on Masonic subjects, one of which is "Sincerity," a trait in the Masonic character which is insisted on. There is also the address, by Mr. C. I. Paton, to the Orange Brotherhood of Scotland. We should say THE CHRONICLE will be found very acceptable to the Fraternity, wherever residing.

Ryde News, 30th January 1875.

We commend this new weekly journal to the notice of our Masonic friends. It is well got up, clearly printed, and contains a mass of interesting and eminently readable Masonic intelligence. The price is but threepence per week, and brethren of the ancient Craft would do well to become subscribers.

Trowbridge and North Wilts Advertiser, 30th January 1875.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT FREEMASONS.—This large and powerful body, whose movements have always been wrapped in profound mystery, and whose sayings and doings have necessarily been but feebly represented in newspapers to the vulgar gaze of a prying public, have now issued a newspaper of their own, THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, 16 pages, price 3d, neatly printed and apparently well edited, and containing carefully prepared information interesting to the brotherhood. From No. 4, which lies before us, we take the following mysterious remarks:—"We claim that every true Mason is essentially a sincere man."

Though the scale of sincerity which prevails among the brotherhood may be graduated, the quality itself is of the very essence of Masonry. To take a man on the very threshold of his Masonic career;—he joins the Order from pure love and respect for its principles. He knows there is one mystic tie which, quite apart from all other ties, unites all the brethren in all parts of the world. With this knowledge, he voluntarily undertakes the obligations of Masonry. Many people imagine that Masonry is a kind of hobby, which men follow for mere amusement. They are not aware that every member, on entering the brotherhood, binds himself, by the most solemn obligations, to certain rules of life, that he accepts certain principles to guide him in his relations and intercourse with the other brethren. Some regard it as an ancient mystery, with much quaint ceremonial, but comparatively meaningless. Others fancy that admission to a Lodge is pretty much the same thing as admission to a club. It is perfectly true that Masons have certain signs and symbols for the purpose of mutual recognition. It is highly probable that a Mason is what Dr. Johnson called a "clubbable man." But these notions fall very far short of the reality, ignoring, as they do, the true aims which have always influenced Masons from the remotest ages. We are neither surprised nor offended that the outer world should hold these views. Considering the state of darkness in which they live, they could hardly, indeed, do otherwise. The business of a Mason is the fulfilment of certain sacred duties, and no one can conscientiously observe these duties who is not animated by the purest and most disinterested motives, or, in other words, who is not a perfectly sincere man." Outsiders, who may be curious to know more about Masons, will not, we know, be content with a little peep beneath the veil of Masonic mystery. They had better buy the paper and read for themselves.

The Craven Pioneer, 30th January 1875.

MASONIC SINCERITY.—The fourth number of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE has just been issued, and its contents justify us in saying that the Brotherhood may be congratulated upon having such an admirable weekly record of Masonic intelligence, and an organ so ably and respectfully conducted as THE CHRONICLE appears to be. Among many interesting articles in the last number is one on "The Mason: A Sincere Man," the concluding portion of which is so good that we give it insertion. Here follows our article as it appeared in No. 3.

Dumfries-shire and Galloway Herald, 30th January 1875.

A new journal has recently been commenced, the name of it being THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, a weekly record of Masonic intelligence. The number for last week, which we received, has 16 pages, and appears well got up. There are articles of interest to the Fraternity, besides general news; and also reports of meetings of Lodges in different parts of England. The price of the journal is 3d, and the publisher is Bro. W. W. Morgan, at 67 Barbican, E.C.

Folkestone Express, 30th January 1875.

Another organ devoted to Masonic interests has just been successfully launched, and bids fair to hold its own. We have received a copy of the fourth issue of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, published on Saturday last. Besides the purely technical and Masonic information, it contains well written summaries of the week's news, and critiques on the "Quarterlies" and other publications. The older Masonic journals will have to look to their laurels.

Monmouthshire Chronicle, 23rd January 1875.

A copy of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE has been forwarded us. It is a new candidate for favour with the "Craft," and is likely to prove a success. It is a weekly, price 3d.

The Ross Gazette, 4th February 1875.

This is a new weekly record of Masonic intelligence, and, as the Craft is extensive and extended, it will doubtless meet with healthy support.

The Civilian, 6th February 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE is a new literary venture, having for his object the advocacy of questions connected with the Order. It is well got up, and the articles are all of high merit. Masonry has hitherto been unfortunate in its press representatives, but in THE CHRONICLE the members of the Craft have a journal of which no one need be ashamed. We wish it success.

Waterford Mirror, 3rd February 1875.

A new publication, devoted to the interests of Freemasonry, has just been issued. It is very creditably got up, and is published at 67 Barbican, London. As many in the city will, no doubt, be anxious to know all about this new production, we will gladly give the

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the establishment of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, and for the publication of newspapers, books, pamphlets, &c., connected with Freemasonry.

The inadequate representation of the Craft in the public press of this country has long been a subject of regret, and the wish has not unfrequently been expressed that a journal might be established, in the interests of the Order, which should be owned and conducted entirely by members. This wish it is the object of the present Company to carry into effect. THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE will be the property of Freemasons, and its devotion and loyalty to their cause will thus be effectively secured. It has been decided to raise the requisite capital in shares, of a small amount, in order that a large number of the Fraternity may have the opportunity of acquiring an interest in the undertaking. As it is not proposed to call up more than 50 per cent. of the capital, it will be seen that such an interest may be obtained at an immediate outlay of £1 per share.

If only a small proportion of the Freemasons in the United Kingdom subscribe to THE CHRONICLE, it will suffice to guarantee the Company from actual loss, while the more numerous the subscribers the greater will be the opportunities for promoting the interests of the Craft.

It is intended that THE CHRONICLE shall contain:—Leading Articles on subjects of interest; Special Reports of all Masonic Meetings; a Weekly Summary of News; Antiquarian Notes and Sketches relating to the Craft; Reviews of Books; Critical notices of current events of the day. Its columns will also be open for the discussion of topics interesting to the Brotherhood. On questions of religion and politics the new Journal will assume a position of strict neutrality. Intending subscribers should fill up the Form of Application

and forward it, together with the deposit, to the London and County Bank, 112 Aldersgate Street, London, E.C.

In conclusion, the members of the Provisional Committee desire to express their grateful acknowledgment of the many promises of support they have already received from influential members of the Craft, in various parts of the country, and they earnestly appeal to all who approve of their project to labour with them to make it a brilliant and enduring success.

Prospectuses, with Forms of Application for Shares, can be obtained from the General Manager.

14th December 1874.

Le Monde Maçonique, No. 9 for January 1875.

Les Maçons libéraux Anglais viennent de constituer un nouveau journal Maçonique THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, paraissant tous les huit jours.

Il en est à son troisième numéro; et le succès est déjà assuré par une société des capitalistes et par les nombreuses sympathies de tous les Maçons libéraux.

The Wigton Advertiser, 6th February 1875.

We have received the first number of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, a new Masonic Newspaper or periodical, published by Bro. W. Wray Morgan, and are glad to welcome the new venture into the ranks of the literature appertaining to the "Craft." The first number scarcely came up to our idea of what a purely Masonic newspaper ought to be, and reminded one too much of the "De omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis;" Masonry being apparently a secondary point. As it has progressed however it has much improved, and this week's number is very satisfactory, and is now what one might expect from a paper of this kind. We cordially wish THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE every success.

Land and Water, 6th February 1875.

We have received the first five numbers of this new Masonic organ. Besides numerous articles on subjects of special interest to the Craft, each number contains a good summary of events, literary notices, an excellent dramatic criticism and other items of general intelligence. The paper is well got up, well printed, and bears evidence of being carefully edited.

The Kelso Courier, 5th February 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.—The Freemasons have started a weekly newspaper in London, which goes by this title. It is astonishing, when other more recently-organised and not nearly so popular bodies can each boast of their representatives in the British press, that an influential Craft like the Freemasons should be so poorly supplied with mouthpieces. We have no doubt the new venture will prove successful, seeing that the interests of the Craft are its chief theme.

The Cashel Gazette, 30th January 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE is a new weekly journal devoted to the interests of the Craft; it is neatly got out, well printed and promises well.

Stratford-upon-Avon Chronicle, 5th February 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, a weekly record of Masonic intelligence, is the best journal of its class we have met with for a long time, and, as an exponent of the true principles of Freemasonry, and a means of intercommunication amongst the Craft, there is no doubt but it will be largely patronised.

Figaro, 6th February 1875.

In connection with the foregoing (notice of quarterly journal of the National Lifeboat Institution) we may notice, with approval, the interesting leading article, "An Endowment Fund for the Freemasons' Lifeboat," published in No. 4 (Jan. 23) of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, which is an excellent threepenny weekly paper that should be read by every Mason. The Freemasons had already given a Lifeboat to the Institution; but as its annual cost is £70, it is now proposed that an Endowment Fund should be raised by Masons, and the brethren will doubtless send in subscriptions or donations to W. W. Morgau, at the office of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, 67 Barbican, E.C.

The Newbury Weekly News, 4th February 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, an ably conducted weekly journal devoted to the interests of Masonry, and an organ of which the Craft may be well congratulated. It is published by a company, and, from what we can glean the share list is not yet closed.

The Alloa Circular, 10th February 1875.

We have been favoured with a copy of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE from the publishing company. THE CHRONICLE is a new Masonic paper of 16 pp., published weekly in London, price threepence. It is well got up, well printed, and its articles are cleverly and clearly written. The publication, a copy of which lies before us, is sure, we think, not only to commend itself to the Masonic Fraternity, but to others of the community as well. We copy from its pages the following article bearing upon "The Mason: a Sincere Man." Here follows our article as appeared in No. 3.

The Oxford Messenger, 3rd February 1875.

We have received a copy of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, a weekly publication, which we heartily commend to the Craft. It has been a subject of regret for a considerable time that the Order had no journal of their own to boast of. The Freemasons have now a thorough good organ, their own property, and conducted entirely by members.

Impartial Reporter and Fermanagh Farmers' Journal, 11th February 1875.

We have received a copy of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, an English publication. It is issued in handy form, and is evidently edited and contributed to by brethren skilled in the Craft.

The Walsall Free Press, 13th February 1875.

THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE is a weekly record of Masonic intelligence, and will be found exceedingly interesting to the "brethren of the mystic tie;" but in addition to Masonic information, it contains articles of general information, which cannot fail to interest the general public.

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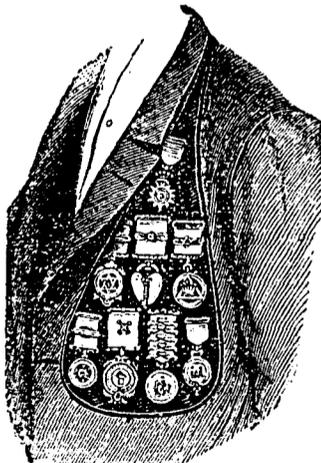
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