

THE

Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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SOCIAL CHANGES.

READERS of Carlyle's "Chartism," and "Past and Present," well remember his sad predictions with reference to the future of England. At the time when the former work was written the country was in the throes of something that seemed like a revolution. The Reform Bill of 1832 had been in operation for several years; it had been passed under the impression that an extension of the franchise was the best method of putting an end to the discord which reigned, and to the jarring of class interests. It really did prove a specific for the cure of these evils, or at all events, it allayed them for a time. Thirty years of peace and prosperity have told upon us; but if England is vastly richer to day than she was when Cobbett informed his countrymen that manufacturers were a delusion and a snare, she has not quite entered upon those halcyon days when the leonine capitalist is to lie down with the gentle operative lamb. We are in the midst of a great social revolution which is destined to leave enduring marks behind it. Living as we do in the midst of the dust and the contention which is going on around us, we fail to see the actual drift or bearings of the conflict. We are like the rank and file in a pitched battle, who only know that troops are moving, that shots are being fired, and that men are falling on all sides. Some of the salient features of this social conflict are strange enough. But a few years ago it seemed as if the thews and sinews of the English workman had become a drug in the market. He was willing to work, but work enough for all the ready hands which were held up in the labour market was not to be had. Now, however, there is work in plenty for all who care to exert themselves, and we are confronted with the astounding phenomenon of a working population who will not work. The industrious English mechanic is rapidly losing his high character, and is earning for himself the reputation of caring nothing for the future of his country, or for the welfare of those dependent upon him.

It would be perhaps easy for us to attempt the solution of these startling phenomena. We might perhaps show that the partial paralysis of the labourer has been caused by sudden and exceptional prosperity; that he has not been prepared for the good fortune that has come upon him. We might show to those whose faith in the steady growth of English prosperity has been rudely shaken, that the time is again approaching when the workman will be obliged to take his hands out of his pockets and endeavour to prevent some of the trade of this country from finding its way into foreign channels. All this however would not in any degree throw light upon the present. Why have we these social revolutions at all? why are the people so restless? why, in short, can we not go on as smoothly as our ancestors are supposed to have jogged on in the past? The answer is simple enough to those who care to think at all, and we may give it in a few words. We are convulsed with social changes, simply because we possess enormous inherent vitality. Social changes are a proof of the growth of a nation; discord between classes, when confined to certain limits, is one of those signs of healthy vigour which every statesman is glad to recognise. It is certainly true that the people are dissatisfied with their social position; it is equally certain that the middle and upper ranks of society are dissatisfied with the conduct, and are ready to discourage the aspirations of those below them. We do not deny that Trades Unions have exercised an appreciable influence over the working classes of the community. If operatives are less industrious than they

were; if they are less amenable to control, and less satisfied with their pastors and masters, these societies have had something to do with the change. He however would be a shallow thinker who should regard the Trades Unions as the ultimate cause of the social revolution which is going on around us. They are rather the effect of the deep-seated restlessness and discontent of the people.

The hypothesis which has been gravely put forth by some writers, to the effect that a few demagogues have been able to set England in a blaze, is too absurd for serious refutation. We do not find in history that the light scum upon the turbulent waters of revolution was ever regarded as the cause of the deep and broad stream. We find indeed that in all ages the discontent of the masses has found utterance, and those who have been spokesmen have too often been the unconscious tools of their fellows. However trying or inconvenient these social changes may be to us, we should find cause for rejoicing in the fact that the ruling authorities of the nation have been sagacious enough to prepare a channel sufficiently wide and deep to carry off, harmlessly, the threatening storm waters of revolution. Mr. Disraeli's Reform Act has latterly been the subject of much adverse criticism, but we venture to say that it will prove in the end to be a great Conservative measure. We do not indeed imagine that its conservatism will run in the paltry little channels which party journalists have scooped out for it. But that it will help materially to solve our social problems we do not for a moment doubt. Social and political revolutions abroad usually end in anarchy and bloodshed. In this country, however, we manage to settle our differences without losing our heads. We have learned to differ without coming to blows, and if the classes below us are destined to take a higher place in the social scale than that which they have hitherto held, we may rest assured that they will fall into their new positions without materially deranging the complex machinery of the glorious constitution under which we live.

Masons, as such, have little to do with either social or political changes, but the grand principles of the Order have taught us all the true principles of toleration, and we can look upon the movements of the lower classes with abounding charity, and full confidence in the ultimate triumph of the sterling qualities which underlie the English character.

CONVIVIALITY.

CONVIVIALITY is a virtue, the cultivation of which is essential to the well-being of everybody. We may have our doubts as to what constitutes this virtue; we may question the time when its exercise is most opportune; but we cannot doubt—the experience of every age and nation forbids us to doubt—that without Conviviality this world of ours would be a sorry place to live in. What is Conviviality? It were pedantic, perhaps, to lay down a hard and fast definition of it, but there can be no objection to our stating what it is not—at least in our estimation. Conviviality is not merely the simple pleasure we derive from some feast or banquet, or other kind of social entertainment. It is not the momentary interchange of friendliness which chance association brings with it. Still less is it the prepared intercourse of men with one another for the mere purposes of sensual enjoyment. Conviviality means more, or other than this. It implies, to begin with, a kinship

of spirit among the *convives*. They must be men animated by the same kind of feeling. They must have a common purpose in view, and that purpose must be what our Gallic friends describe as *spirituel*. This purpose must be a good one; the feelings that animate them must stand the fire of hostile criticism, for Conviviality hath nought in common with what is evil or evil minded. Conviviality and austerity are the antipodes of each other. The former is simple and straightforward, assuming everything to be what it seems till it is tried to be otherwise. The latter regards everything and everybody with a stern, if not an evil regard, till they have been tried and found not wanting. A convivial is a good man in the fullest sense of the word. He is religious, for no men can appreciate what is good without possessing the sense of thankfulness, and thankfulness is of the essence of religion. He has in him, so to speak, the milk of human kindness. To live in concert with others implies a sense of friendliness for them. Solitude, which in some form or other pertains to selfishness, is impossible. He lives not with himself or for himself; but with others and for others. He is ever on the outlook to do good. The sense of pleasure he feels excites in him the desire to promote pleasure for others. Conviviality, in fact, implies not only social, but moral and religious excellence.

But to pass to the Conviviality which is most familiar to us, and the comprehension of which is possibly less trying. The Convivial man, in common parlance, is a right jovial good fellow. He has been so always and everywhere. This is no slight praise. To dub a man jovial and good implies that he possesses some qualities that are admirable, though the exact nature of these qualities may be somewhat loosely defined. But the sense we usually apply to this description involves no obscurity of meaning whatever. We should never think of so describing an ill-natured or unkindly man, one who could not find enjoyment for himself, and was incapable, therefore, of promoting it for others. The right jovial fellow enjoys life, and makes a point of doing so. Better still, he is careful that others shall be in the same boat, or, at all events, follow in the same track. He loves enjoyment, not only for its sake, for his own sake, and for the sake of his companions; but likewise as a means to an end, so that he may help others to enjoy themselves. Hence, not unwisely perhaps, the banquet or other similar entertainment is most commonly the chosen opportunity for cultivating this virtue. Some will insist, of course, that this virtue, or rather this particular development of it, savours very strongly of selfishness—the attainment of one's own pleasure first, and then the promotion of that of other people. We have already, to a certain extent, anticipated this objection. Mere sensual enjoyment by no means constitutes, in our opinion, Conviviality. It may be an element in it, but it is very far from being the whole. Experience has taught us that good invariably results from the free intercourse of men with each other. They become, in the first instance, more sociable, then more friendly amongst themselves, and so gradually towards others. The more frequent then these opportunities for cultivating these friendly relations, the better it is for all classes of men, for Conviviality is the declared enemy of prejudice, whether it be one's own opinion or that of a class. Hence, again, the banquet has been fitly chosen, to inaugurate all meetings for charitable purposes. It is not the mere pleasures of the table which help forward the work of charity, but the free and friendly intercourse to which the banquet gives rise. The liberal-minded man is confirmed in his liberality, the doubts of the hesitating are removed. All the world over this virtue, whether in its narrowest or most extended meaning, and charity go hand-in-hand together. Each helps the other forward. The Convivial man is charitable, the charitable man Convivial. No wonder then, in Masonry, as in all things else, the two are inseparable.

ASSYRIAN DISCOVERIES.

THE *Daily Telegraph* announces further important Assyrian discoveries by Mr. George Smith, its Special Commissioner. In a letter which our contemporary published on Thursday, this gentleman states that he has found important tablets, containing an account of the Creation and

Fall of Man. The Assyrian story is much fuller than that of Genesis, and it appears to be an earlier version. Mr. Smith is extremely fortunate. We have not forgotten that he was lucky enough to find the remaining fragments containing the story of the Deluge, long after the discovery of the earlier portion of the same tradition. We most sincerely hope that these additions to our knowledge of the ancient world may prove to be as important as we are led to believe them to be. Mr. Smith is a very able man, and no one doubts his scholarship, but he may be deceived. We do not say that he has been imposed upon by a practical joker, but the coincidences connected with his discoveries are so remarkable that we shall be glad to hear that the tablets have been submitted to a closer examination by a competent committee of Archæologists specially skilled in the cuneiform characters. If, after due inquiry, it should be proved that the Chaldeans had a tradition of the Creation and Fall, and of the Deluge, we shall be glad to welcome these astounding additions to our knowledge, though we confess that we shall require some time to digest the facts. As our readers are doubtless interested in a question of this kind, we subjoin an extract from Mr. Smith's letter:—

"The first series, which I may call 'The Story of the Creation and Fall,' when complete must have consisted of nine or ten tables at least, and the history upon it is much longer and fuller than the corresponding account in the Book of Genesis. With respect to these Genesis narratives, a furious strife has existed for years; every word has been scanned by eager scholars, and every possible meaning which the various passages could bear, has been suggested; while the age and authenticity of the narratives have been discussed on all sides. In particular, it may be said that the account of the fall of man, the heritage of all Christian countries, has been the centre of this controversy, for it is one of the pivots on which the Christian religion turns. The world-wide importance of these subjects will therefore give the newly-discovered inscriptions, and especially the one relating to the Fall, an unparalleled value, and I am glad, indeed, that such a treasure should have resulted from your expedition.

Whatever the primitive account may have been from which the earlier part of the Book of Genesis was copied, it is evident that the brief narration given in the Pentateuch omits a number of incidents and explanations—for instance, as to the origin of evil, the fall of the angels, the wickedness of the serpent, &c. Such points as these are included in the Cuneiform narrative; but of course I can say little about them until I prepare full translations of the legends.

The narrative on the Assyrian tablets commences with a description of the period before the world was created, when there existed a chaos or confusion. The desolate and empty state of the universe, and the generation by chaos of monsters are vividly given. The chaos is presided over by a female power named Tisalat and Tiamat, corresponding to the Thalath of Berossus; but as it proceeds the Assyrian account agrees rather with the Bible than with the short account from Berossus. We are told, in the inscriptions, of the fall of the celestial being who appears to correspond to Satan. In his ambition he raises his hand against the sanctuary of the God of heaven, and the description of him is really magnificent. He is represented riding in a chariot through celestial space, surrounded by the storms, with the lightning playing before him, and wielding a thunderbolt as a weapon.

This rebellion leads to a war in heaven and the conquest of the powers of evil, the gods in due course creating the universe in stages as in the Mosaic narrative, surveying each step of the work and pronouncing it good. The divine work culminates in the creation of man, who is made upright and free from evil, and endowed by the gods with the noble faculty of speech.

The Deity then delivers a long address to the newly-created being, instructing him in all his duties and privileges, and pointing out the glory of his state. But this condition of blessing does not last long before man, yielding to temptation, falls; and the Deity then pronounces upon him a terrible curse, invoking on his head all the evils which have since afflicted humanity. These last details are, as I have before stated, upon the fragment which I excavated during my first journey to Assyria, and the discovery of this single relic, in my opinion, increases many times over the value of *The Daily Telegraph* collection."

ATHLETICISM AND MASONRY.

THERE is nothing apparently in common between these pursuits, yet in the early part of last century a Lodge was established in London, whose very name is sufficiently suggestive of a connection between athletics and the Craft. This Lodge is still in existence, standing No. 45 on the list, and holding its meetings at the Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell. As the origin of an early Lodge cannot be otherwise than generally interesting to our readers we subjoin the following particulars, for which we are indebted to a well known source.

About the year 1730, the attention of that eminent Mason, Bro. Desaguliers, was attracted by the frequent

reports of the great strength and muscular power of a man named Thomas Topham, who kept the Red Lion Public-house, nearly opposite the old Hospital of St. Luke, and was called, as a mark of his pre-eminence in Athletic feats, the STRONG MAN. He appears to have settled in this locality for its close proximity to the famous ring in Moorfields, where athletic exercises of all kinds, such as boxing, wrestling, sword-play, cudgelling, &c. were performed, under the superintendence of a well-known character of the day, who was familiarly called Old Vinegar. This latter appears to have been a very truculent-looking fellow,—broad-backed, big-fisted, and strong as a giant. Topham, however, experienced not the slightest difficulty in lowering his pride, throwing him in the ring as though he were a cork, to the infinite delight of a numerous band of spectators, many of whom had been obliged to succumb to the powerful acidity of Old Vinegar.

The first, and perhaps the most remarkable feat which Bro. Desaguliers saw Topham perform for evidencing his immense strength was the following:—A powerful cart-horse was harnessed and placed on one side of a low wall, which in those days separated the upper from the lower portion of the Moorfields, Topham being on the other. The latter then taking hold of the traces, planted his feet firmly against the wall, and bade the spectators flog the horse with all their might and main, in order, if possible, to make it move. Their efforts, however, proved unavailing. Two legs proved more powerful than Four legs, and Topham remained victor in the contest. He afterwards essayed a similar feat with two horses, and Bro. Desaguliers, who was present, is reported to have been convinced that, "if placed in a proper position, he (Topham) would have sustained the efforts of four horses without the slightest inconvenience."

Topham appears to have been a very worthy fellow. With all his strength, he was meek as a lamb, and appears to have been ruined and driven from his home by a termagant wife. It was just at this juncture that Bro. Desaguliers became his friend and patron, taking, as Professor of Experimental Philosophy, a great interest in his performances. Accordingly he placed him in another public house at the Hermitage, one bearing the sign of the "Ship." He made him also a Mason, and established a Lodge at his house as a means of increasing his business. This Lodge was very well conducted, Bro. Desaguliers being himself its head as W.M., and in the course of a short time rapidly increased both in numbers and respectability. The Cognizance was, and no doubt is still, the redoubtable Thomas Topham himself, matching his strength against that of a horse and his feet propped up by the fragment of a wall; the name being that of THE STRONG MAN LODGE. Topham latterly fell into bad habits and the business passed into other hands, but the Lodge went on prospering, and as we have already said, figures in the *Masonic Calendar* as No. 45 in the list of Lodges. Possibly some of the officers and brethren belonging to this Old Lodge may have the leisure and disposition to furnish us with any further particulars that may be interesting to our readers. If they are so minded, we shall have great pleasure in inserting their communications.

The 6th annual Grand Vocal and Instrumental Concert, in aid of the Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage, under the patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, will be held, by permission of Bro. Col. Henderson, C.B., on the 23rd instant. The vocalists are Misses Edith Wynne, Matilda Scott and Emily Mott (daughter of Bro. Jas. Mott), Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. W. H. Cummings and Mr. Lewis Thomas. Miss Lily Mott, pianoforte; Mr. H. Reynolds, cornet; and the band of the A Division will play, under the direction of Mr. Allcock. On the 1st of April the annual ball, in aid of the same charity, will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, under the patronage of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Bro. D. H. Stone, the Sheriffs and Under-Sheriffs, Major Bowman, Bro. Lieut. F. Kent, C.C., and a number of Stewards. Bro. T. Butler will act as M.C.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Dangerous catarrhs, bronchitis, asthma and influenza are rife at this season of the year; hepatic and renal congestions frequently occur as the result of checked skin action, giving rise to serious symptoms, and preventing attention to business or pleasure. No time should be lost, on the first appearance of any indications of the invasion of these diseases, for the symptoms may be checked effectually by the use of these valuable remedies; the penetrating local effect of the Ointment acts surely on the affected parts, and restores them to a healthy condition, and the Pills, judiciously taken, in accordance with the lucid directions, relieve the congestive capillaries and materially lessen the chance of serious mischief supervening.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

ON Wednesday evening, 3rd March, the Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England was held in Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. The fact that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales would be elected Most Worshipful Grand Master had attracted the brethren from all parts, consequently a more numerous assembly has not been congregated in the Temple in which the meeting was held for several years.

Brother Hugh D. Sandeman, District Grand Master of Bengal, presided; supported by Lord Henry Thynne, M.P., as Senior Grand Warden, and T. Pattison as Junior Grand Warden. Brother the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire, acted as Deputy Grand Master, and on the dais we noticed the Earl of Limerick, Provincial Grand Master for Bristol, who acted as Past Grand Master; Sir Albert W. Woods, Garter; Colonel Burdett, Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex; Brother Samuel Tomkins, Grand Treasurer; Bro. S. Rawson, Pro. Grand District Master for China; Bro. Thomas Fenn, Bro. J. B. Monckton, P.G.D. Pres. Board of General Purposes; Dr. Hogg, Captain Platt, Bro. J. Glashier, Bro. Joshua Nunn, the Revs. C. J. Martyn (who acted as Grand Chaplain), R. J. Simpson, Sir J. Warren Hayes P.G. Chaplain, A. B. Fraser, James Simpson D.L.C. Bros. J. Rucker P.G.D., Clabon P.G.D. President Board of Benevolence, J. Nunn P.G.S., Spiers P.G.S.B., J. Havers P.G.W., Ex Sheriff Hutton G.D., Fenn P.G.D., C., J. C. Parkinson D.G.M., Middlesex, Kuhe G.O., W. Ganz P.G.O., Fraser P.G.C., J. Savage P.G.D., Major Creaton P.G.D., Hyde Pullen P.G.S.B., J. Boyd P.G.P., J. Coutts P.G.P., J. Smith P.G.P., Ough P.G.P., T. Adams P.G.P., C. A. Cottebrune P.G.P., T. Cubitt G.P., Wright A.G.P., and Bros. March, R. Spencer, J. R. Stedwell, H. Norman, H. Dicketts, Marsh, J. Constable, G. Bolton, G. Demaid, De Solla, Carpenter, E. Gottheil, J. Ross, T. Bull, G. S. Statey, Palmer, Carter, H. Massey, Thompson, F. Binckes, W. Parsons, J. Mander, S. Rosenthal, Bennett, H. G. Buss, Pendlebury, and numerous other Past Grand Officers.

The Grand Secretary (Brother J. HERVEY) read a communication from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, acknowledging the receipt of the resolution of condolence passed in Grand Lodge on the 2nd of September last, on the decease of the Earl of Dalhousie, Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland.

On the motion of the Earl of SHREWSBURY, seconded by the Earl of LIMERICK, an address of condolence was unanimously passed to the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro-Grand Master, on the sad affliction which has befallen his lordship by the death of the Countess of Carnarvon.

Bro. S. G. GRADY then proposed his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for Grand Master, and, in doing so, reminded his brethren of the distinguished services his Royal Highness had performed for Freemasonry, how he had presided at the annual festivals of each of the Masonic charitable institutions, being Master of two Lodges, and had initiated two of his brothers into the Order. He also pointed out that his Royal Highness had yet another claim on the loyalty of the Craft, for he had readily accepted the office of Grand Master when it became vacant by an unexpected cause; and if a further claim were wanted it was to be found in the fact that he was descended from an illustrious line of ancestors, many of whom were conspicuous by their attachment to Freemasonry, and particularly to the fact that the Duke of Sussex was Grand Master at the time of the Union of the Ancient and Modern Grand Lodges of England.

Bro. GREY, Deputy-Master of the Prince of Wales's Lodge, seconded the motion, which was then put to Grand Lodge and carried unanimously, amidst great cheering.

His Royal Highness was then proclaimed, by Sir Albert Woods, as duly elected Grand Master for the ensuing year.

Bro. JOHN HERVEY read the following letter, from the secretary of the Prince of Wales:—

"His Royal Highness has fixed the ceremony of his installation to take place at the Grand Festival on Wednesday, the 28th of April, at the Royal Albert Hall; and with a view to assist the executive in carrying out the arrangements of the day he proposes to authorise the appointment of a certain number of stewards in addition to the Grand Stewards of the year, and to cause a jewel to be struck, and to permit the brethren who may be named as stewards to wear the same."

This communication was received with loud applause.

Dr. Erasmus Wilson moved, and Dr. Ramsey seconded the resolution that Bro. Samuel Tomkins (of the firm of Willis, Percival and Co.) be re-elected Grand Treasurer. On the motion being put, it was carried with acclamation.

Bro. Tomkins thanked Grand Lodge for the honour they had conferred on him; this made the twenty-fourth year he had held the office. He contrasted the present position of the Order and its great prosperity with that which he witnessed when he first became Grand Treasurer. Under the presidency of the Prince of Wales he felt confident that the brethren might hope and believe that there was a great period of prosperity before them.

Grand Lodge then passed a resolution acknowledging the Grand

Lodge of Quebec as an independent Grand Lodge; representatives to be interchanged.

A long discussion ensued on the report of the Lodge of Benevolence, wherein very large grants were made to distressed brethren and the widows of deceased brethren. Mr. John M. Clabon, the president of the Lodge of Benevolence, and Mr. Joshua Nunn, the Vice President, stated the circumstances under which the grants had been made, and warned the brethren against falling into the error of making the grants too large.

Other Masonic business was then proceeded with, and the brethren adjourned at a late hour.

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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ASSISTANCE TO MASONIC CHARITIES.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Bro. Edward Clark P.M. 1194 and 1329, P.P.G. Sup. Wks. Middlesex, of 17 Talfourd Road, Peckham Road, undoubtedly appreciating the great amount of good effected by Bro. Constable's mode of assisting the Masonic Charities, has signified his approval thereof by pursuing a similar course. He seems, however, to have come to the conclusion that the same amount of money might be collected, with considerably less trouble and fatigue, by charging two-shillings-and-sixpence instead of one shilling, as does Bro. Constable. It is gratifying that Bro. Clark, whose high position in the Craft lends additional value to his approval of this method of obtaining subscriptions, is applying his influence and energies to its promotion. There are many who give willingly and unhesitatingly, provided they are asked to do so, but whose names, either from thoughtlessness or indolence and apathy are never seen in any list of subscribers. There are others whose position in life does not enable them to spare sufficient to constitute what is considered a respectable donation, but are nevertheless anxious to give what they can well afford. There is a large class of the latter, and for these, especially, subscription by ticket, with a chance of winning a Life Governorship must be in itself a great boon. We may therefore justly express a hope that others, whose position and influence give reasonable grounds for a prospect of success, will imitate the excellent example of Bros. Constable and Clark. The Masonic Charities require, and should have our constant care. However great the amount of benefit effected by the existing institutions, it is the undoubted duty of every Craftsman to work with all his heart and soul to endow them with greater power. For it should ever be borne in mind that the demands for help from the aged Mason, the widow, and the orphan, are always immeasurably in excess of the means to bestow it. The resources after all are very circumscribed, and therefore any one who applies himself to promote their extension deserves the hearty thanks of all true Masons.

Yours fraternally, E. GOTTHEIL.

MASONIC MINSTRELSY.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—If the author of the clever stanzas entitled "My Brother" is not laughing at us, I trust he will turn his poetical talent to account for the benefit of the Order generally. Masonic minstrelsy needs much improvement, and I think the time has come when such songs as those quoted in your last article, should be banished from our repertory. The author of "My Brother" clearly possesses a poetical turn, but his piece is better fitted for recitation than for a musical setting. Some one has remarked that the subject of a good song, must be either "Wine" or "Woman." I am inclined to think that there is much truth in this. A song should deal with one thought or idea only, and it should appeal to the emotions which are common to all men. Wine and Women are universally appreciated by all but a few sober fanatics who would taboo these heaven-sent solaces of poor humanity. I would suggest that our unknown author should try his hand upon either of these themes. He can give them a Masonic turn if he pleases, without destroying the unity which is one of the greatest charms of a song.

One word with reference to the prevailing love for comic verse. I believe the preference to be bad; a sign of frivolity and decadence. However, I can understand and appreciate. "My Brother" contains much humour, and hence I regard it as a valuable addition to our small stock of Masonic poetry, but mere farce, without either wit or humour, should be driven out of our Lodges.

We are a serious body, with grave ends in view (I do not intend a pun), and the verses which enliven our leisure hours should be at least tinged with "the pale cast of thought."

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly, P. W.

REVIEWS.

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

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

CONCLUDING NOTICE.

One of the most popular in the roll of Shakespearian characters is unquestionably that of "sweet Jack Falstaff, kind Jack Falstaff, true Jack Falstaff, valiant Jack Falstaff, and, therefore, more valiant, being as he is, old Jack Falstaff." But this very popularity furnishes the strongest reason for a careful study of the man and of the dramas in which he is so prominent a figure. If we see him on the stage, acted well, or even passing well only, we are intensely pleased. We laugh at his drolleries, we are in love with his joviality. We scarcely heed his knaveries, or even the cowardice he more than once displays. We see in him merely a perfectly drawn, and, as such, admirable character. We know he is a true portrait of a class of men who were common enough at the period to which he is assigned. But we rarely stop to analyse the character, or to deduce the lesson which the poet intended to impress upon his hearers through its medium. In our enthusiasm for this perfection of portraiture we forget that the evil in Falstaff outweighs the good in just the same ratio as "the intolerable deal of sack" was out of all proportion to "the half-pennyworth of bread." Thus in our very admiration for the poet as the creator, the maker of Falstaff, we do a serious injustice to his moral and æsthetic nature. It rarely occurs to us to inquire whether Shakespeare, with the vast powers he possessed, would have stooped to ennoble so worthless a personage? Whether, indeed, he has so ennobled him? The outer casing is so attractive that we pause not to learn what is hidden beneath. Yet Falstaff in the two parts of *Henry IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* is one of the best practical illustrations of Shakespeare's value as a great moral teacher. For this reason, also, it is, perhaps with the one exception of Hamlet, one of the best tests of a critic's judgment and analytical power. Hence have we reserved this for the concluding portion of our remarks. If our author has rightly estimated this and the character of Hamlet, which are among the most subtle of the great poet's creations, we need hardly pause to inquire into the merits of his other analyses.

The earlier part of the commentary on the first part of *Henry IV*. is devoted to the characters of Hotspur and Prince Henry. Admirable as are the comments of Gervinus hereon, we do not propose to dwell upon them, for space and time are both wanting. Pass we then; at once to Falstaff; "the personification of the inferior side of man, of his animal and sensual nature"; in whom "all the spiritual part of man—honour and morality, refinement and dignity—has been early spoiled and lost." To take the author's sketch of his character:—"The material part has smothered in him every passion for good or for evil; he was perhaps naturally good-natured, and only from trouble and bad company became ill-natured, but even this ill-nature is as short as his breath, and is never sufficiently lasting to become real malice. His form and his mere bulk condemn him to repose and love of pleasure; laziness, epicurean comfort, cynicism, and idleness, which are only a recreation for his prince, are for him the essence, nature, and business of life itself." Later on: "His wit, the only mental gift which he possesses, must itself serve to his subsistence; at any rate, in the *Merry Wives of Windsor*, he prepares it expressly with this business-like object to escape want. Want and necessity, it is said in Tarlton's 'Jests,' is the whetstone of wit, and it is even so with Falstaff. This may relate especially to his ingenuity in fraudulent tricks, but the merely intellectual side of his wit may also be referred to his physical heaviness. His mere appearance attracts attention to him, and provokes men to mock him; he affords a picture of the owl bantered by the birds. This position alone calls forth, in self defence, those passes of wit which, for the most part, do not spring from direct natural capacity. In all witty and satirical powers in men, the innate gift, generally speaking, lies in a negative realistic nature little adapted for action; the more essential element in this power is its training and cultivation, lying, as it does, entirely in a keen, well exercised sense of comparison, and consequently in the most versatile and manifold observation and practice. This habit became another nature; it must have been so in Falstaff, all the more early and completely, the earlier his mere appearance provoked the attacks of wit." Again, as to the nature of this wit we are told: "His whole comic power lies in his unintentional wit and in his dry humour; natural mother wit ever appears in this way; comic genius, like genius of every kind, moves in the undistinguishable line between consciousness and instinct. It is just this happy medium which Shakespeare assigned to his Falstaff; and this medium and his position as bantering and bantered, as a mark for wit just as much as a dealer in it himself, assigns to him the social place he always occupied." Then, as to his moral being, "the words *no conscience and no shame*," says the author, "express all that we require for acquaintance with him. At times indeed, he has attacks of remorse, and these make evident the man's better nature, even under such a material burden, is never quite lost." To what extent this lack of all shame prevails in him is, we are told, "most glaringly depicted, when he backed his sword as an evidence of his heroic deeds, and by this business, and by his shameless swearing, makes even a Bardolph blush. The basis of this character is exhibited in his soliloquy concerning honour." And again: "It is this very core, or rather nullity of his nature, his lack of honour, which places him as a great and striking contrast to the other principal character of the play. As in Percy honour and manliness blend into one idea, according to the notions of the age, so, on

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the contrary, in Falstaff do lack of honour and cowardice. The chivalric age sounded the key-note of this character in its thrasonic boasting; and even to us Falstaff appears in all the breadth and height of his nature, when he utters his imprecations against a coward, and reveals at the same time his own cowardice and bragging insolence. His gifts are here displayed with the most varied brilliancy; his cowardice exposes him to derision, as before his size had done—his lies must extricate him; in this art he is short in memory but long in practice; he is inventive in his bragging, shameless in his inventions, undismayed in his shamelessness, ready for evasion, shuffling, misrepresentation and tricks." "And yet," asks the author, "how is it we do not abhor the cowardly Jack as such; that, on the contrary, we find ourselves even feeling undisturbed delight in him?" And he answers the question thus, "There are many complex causes which tend to moderate, and even entirely to bribe over our moral judgment upon this character. Readily and involuntarily we mingle pleasure in the delineation of the poet, with pleasure in the subject delineated. The liveliness of the picture, the abundance of the choicest wit, the unusually skilful touch in the choice of the ridiculous and the comic in the mere exterior of this phenomenon, and, finally, the blending of the ideal with the individual, which allows us to recognise in Falstaff now a typical character, and now an actual well-known personage; all this is done with such masterly power, that it is excusable if any transfer their admiration from the work of art to the subject of it. But even the subject itself has that within it which exercises a corrupting influence upon the estimate of its moral value. Shakespeare says of Parolles, in *All's Well that Ends Well*, that he is so consummate in baseness that we take pleasure in it; that 'he hath out-villained villainy so far that the rarity redeems him.' In this delight in anything complete in itself we look upon Falstaff." And yet again a point which influences our judgment is "the contrast between the great sensual inclinations and desires of this cynical epicurean, and his small capability for enjoyment; between his paralytic old age and his affectation of youth, between the easy existence after which his ponderous body longs, and to which this burden in itself never suffers him to attain. . . . The picture of human frailty, weakness, and dependence upon outward things which Falstaff presents, softens our moral vigour."

In the Second Part of Henry IV. Falstaff shows less attractively. The honour of slaying Percy had been transferred to him by the Prince Henry, and creates for him, among all people, a reputation for heroism. "A store of good names, of which he stood in need, has been accumulated upon him without merit. . . . The worthy Chief Justice encourages Falstaff expressly to make use of the good state of his reputation, that it may be lasting. The poet and the truly careful friends of Falstaff have omitted nothing to keep him on the road to honour, upon which, undeservedly, chance and the sacrifice of the Prince, have placed him." But, as is pointed out, "all this makes no impression upon Falstaff's insensible nature. . . . Instead of being raised by the fame of Shrewsbury, he is only more shameless and vulgar." Still, though we see him fighting and brawling in the streets, rebuked openly by the Chief Justice, whom he threatens, and defrauding the State, once again, on the apprehension of Colville, an undeserved honour forces itself upon him. Lancaster wishes to extol this deed, as his brother had the deed of Shrewsbury. All in vain." He sinks lower and lower, plunders the Shallows, and when "he meets with his glaring and well-deserved fall, justice and order regain their rights." Rightly the author contrasts the silly conceits of Shallow with the bolder and fresher rodomontades of Falstaff, and shows how this contrast again excites our sympathy with the latter. Still finer is the contrast which is notable between Falstaff's ruin and the return from error of Prince Henry. In the *Merry Wives of Windsor* the descent of Falstaff is still more rapid. Here, as in Part II. of *Henry IV.*, the Prince and Falstaff are separated. The latter is "removed from the ennobling presence of that witty society, wholly abandoned to himself, and sinking to a greater degree than Henry rose; at last, even hardly conceivable as it may appear, utterly fallen in his own estimation." Then, in this play, he retains all his shamelessness, but his judgment forsakes him. "Twice he allows himself in the grossest manner to be cheated, balked and beaten, without being in the least more heedful of a third trap laid for him." And then, "when all is at length unriddled to him, the man who never could attain to a knowledge of himself, is ashamed even to self-contempt. When he is thus degraded before himself, and in his own judgment, Shakespeare might have hoped to direct the judgment of his spectators with respect to this character, more in accordance with his own view." But this, we are told, would have been impossible. He had already sunk so low, that though all assail himself, he might not have thought worse of himself. But "on the side of his wit, an impression could still be made upon him. This was the gift by which he felt himself superior to blockheads, and equal with the clever. On this very point, which corrupted our own judgment, our judgment was to be rectified; and while the poet lowered him in our estimation, in this last recommendatory point he gave us the surest token that he wished to remove him entirely from our esteem. And thus it is with Falstaff in this play. All become thoroughly weary of him, and when he has lost his last attraction they cast him away. He had thought neither caution nor wit necessary to meet the burghers' honesty and ignorance, and he is bamboozled by both. He is obliged to acknowledge himself that 'wit may be made a Jack-a-lent, when 'tis upon ill-employment;' the crafty wit is made 'an ox and an ass,' the robber is fleeced. . . . Thus degraded before himself, he seems so now not only to his companions, but to the reader and the spectator also."

Thus have we followed the career of Falstaff through the three plays in which he figures. By noting, as the author has done, this progress, we are able the better to judge of the character and the purpose of Shakespeare in depicting it. Falstaff in fact can only be justly estimated by being thus considered, and those with whom this class of study is a favourite will find these Commentaries of infinite value, as affording them a most perfect entertainment.

We wish, indeed, we could have marked our summary still more conspicuously with the evidences of Gervinus' most careful treatment, but for the same reason that we have been compelled to omit all notice of his Commentaries on other plays, and notably on that of Hamlet, for the same reason have we been obliged to curtail his sketch of Falstaff.

In only remains to add a word of praise as to the chapter on Hamlet, a mastery of which, as we have previously remarked is, perhaps, the best evidence we could have of the merits of a Shakespearian commentator. The analysis in the volume before us is in the highest degree interesting, and many who read it will probably be amazed at its results. Nor should we fail to direct attention to the closing chapter, wherein the author, having criticised severally the works of the poet, contemplates "as a whole the position of the poet and his poetry." This, also, we are obliged to dismiss thus curtly, but our readers, who are not governed by such limits as we are, will, doubtless, find the needful leisure for its study. In fine, the volume is one which should find a place in every scholar's library, for few Shakespearian critics have done so much in the way of exposition as Gervinus, and few so worthily appreciate our great poet.

THE MAGAZINES OF THE MONTH.

WE have read this month's number of *Blackwood* with great pleasure. The articles are few in number, but all of them are excellent specimens of our magazine literature. "The Abode of Snow," in which "Zanskar," an almost unknown region, is described, and "Alice Lorraine" are our favourites. In the latter serial the unfortunate heroine plans a very unheroic escape from all her troubles; but doubtless in April we shall have matters set somewhat straight. Mabel Lovejoy once more appears on the scene, while her lover, young Lorraine, is gradually being restored, chiefly by her careful nursing, to health. "The Speeches of Lord Lytton" is a readable sketch of the late Lord Lytton as a politician, based on his utterances in Parliament, a collection of which, edited by his son, the present Lord, has recently been published. The political article, which treats of "The Prospects of the Session," is marked by more than the usual moderation of tone. This, indeed, can hardly be otherwise when the conduct of parties in both Houses of Parliament is thus distinguished. There are, in fact, no burning or blazing questions to disturb our equanimity just now. *Tant mieux* say we.

In *Fraser* are still continued the very able account of "The Early Kings of Norway," and a Lady's Sketches of "German Home Life." In the latter some account is given of German food, and the various methods of preparing it—a subject which, as it is extremely well-handled, we cordially commend to the notice of our readers. Major Noel contributes some interesting "Recollections of the Stage." "The Place of Sterndale Bennett in Music" is discussed, with a just appreciation of Bennett's merits as a composer, and with, we hope, a just expectation of his future rank among musicians. In the article on "The Dangers of the Sea" the Captain of an ocean steamer offers several practical suggestions, especially against that most appalling of all dangers to the ocean-traveller—fire. In another article are discussed "Some political aspects of Sir Samuel Baker's Expedition up the Nile," to which those to whom the subject is of interest will do well to lend their attention. The rest of the number is equally good.

Certainly the strong point in *Tinsley's* is its serial fiction. It is perhaps a somewhat difficult task to follow the thread of four concurrent stories; but a difficulty of this kind we always face more readily when the material of the stories is excellent. "With Harp and Crown," and Mr. Farjeon's "Love's Victory" are highly to be commended, and in the present number are fully as attractive as ever. Dr. C. Maurice Davies discusses pleasantly enough, in his "Social Status Quo," the most noteworthy events of the past month, and H. Schütz Wilson gives a capital sketch of "A Protruding Tooth, between Saas and Samplon." There are also some very pretty poems, for one of which, "A Troubadour's Prayer," our social friend Dr. Davies is responsible, so far at least as its present English form is concerned.

Belgravia is pretty impartial in the distribution of its attentions, being fiction and plain matter of fact, "Hostages to Fortune," and "A Study in Gray," representing the former, while among the latter we have remarked several contributions that are eminently readable. Such for instance, as those on "The Postal Telegraph, the Press, and Race Meetings," "Within sound of Bow Bells," and Mr. F. Talbot's article on "The Trades and Crafts of Shakespere," Mr. Compton Reade is very successful in his opening sketch of "Oxford Raffles," and there is something to be gleaned from "Sport and Adventure in Hudson's Bay Country," in the way of information as well as entertainment. We note in this number a slight tendency towards the discussion of matters relating to or connected with sport. We have named two papers answering this description already—a third is "Cheating the Nor' easter," the illustrations are capitally drawn.

In *Cornhill* the "Two Rivals" still continue to be the leading features, this forms, in fact, the bulk of the contents. But there are other items which deserve not to be overlooked, and among these may be mentioned the articles on "Topham Beauclerk," or "The Sun's Surroundings and the Coming Eclipse," "The Siege of Florence," and "On the Disposal of the Dead." The last of these has been, as our readers are aware, a prominent subject for discussion for some time past, and the present contribution to our knowledge of former practices will be found in the highest degree interesting.

The *Westminster Papers*, which justly holds a foremost rank among periodicals relating to Chess, Whist, and such like games, contains,

besides its extremely varied and interesting array of problems and hands for solution, some severe, but justly pointed comments on a recent Card scandal, familiar to all frequenters of Clubs.

Baily has an excellent programme this month, "Racers and Chasers," by Amphion, "Coursing—the Waterloo Cup," by Sirius, and "Country Quarters—The East Essex," go some way towards making a good number. To these may be added a further chapter of "Frank Raleigh of Watercombe," and a lively array of domestic and sporting criticism and jokes in "Our Van." The most seasonable contribution bears the title of "The Roaring Game," which is neither more nor less than a very spirited sketch of a game played mostly north of the Tweed, and known familiarly as Curling.

London Society is deservedly a popular magazine. The fiction is generally good, while the occasional papers are invariably worth reading. "The Recollections of an old Habitué," "The Comédie Française," "Ghent and the Béguinage," and "Gossip Honeyman on Cads," are cases in point as regards the latter, while "The West-end Notes," if somewhat unequal in the matter of taste, are smartly written throughout. The illustrations are worth noticing, especially George Cruikshank junior's "West-end and East-end."

Cassell's Family Magazine inclines to what Sir A. Helps would describe as common-sense articles, such for instance as "How shall I furnish my Dining-room?" "Cold Leg of Mutton," "Chit-Chat on Dress," and "How I managed my Children." All these, as may be judged from their titles, treat of matters of domestic interest, and are handled skilfully, and, as we have hinted, common-sensibly. But these are far from being the only subjects worth noting in the present number. The further chapters of the serial stories, "The Manchester Man," and "Pretty Miss Bellew" are capitally written, the description of the school fights in the former being life-like, and recalling very vividly some of our early experiences of school life. The advice in "Garden and Field in March" seems sound and practical, though Londoners are hardly the best judges of what is good advice in such matters. Among the other contents, Mr. David Ker's article, entitled "Swept from the Earth," and "Non-Collegiate Students at Cambridge," seem most worthy of attention.

Among the most noticeable features in the *Gentleman's* are a sketch of "The Parliamentary Leaders of Germany," "Charles Kingsley in the Saddle," Mr. Francillon's "Physiology of Authorship," "Is Verse a Trammel?" "The Punishment of Flogging," by J. Roland Phillips. As to the last of these, we are decidedly at issue with the writer, who is against the application of the lash to wife-beaters and other such like ruffians. We know there is considerable diversity of opinion on this subject, but we have a certain faith in the maxim—*Similia Similibus Caventers*—brutes may be cured by brutal punishment.

There are several good tales in *Temple Bar*, to only one of which we are inclined to take exception, that is the "Greville Memoirs, (No. 2)." We fully sympathise with the writer of the *Quarterly* critique. We strongly object to the publication of such memoirs, all the more strongly, indeed, that they are read with such avidity. This does not palliate, but adds to the sin of publication. "Romance in a Paris Prison" is a neatly written tale; the material is slight, but well put together, and the two or three important personages are very admirably drawn. "The Dean's Watch," and "Beatrice's Dream" are pleasant reading for an odd half-hour, and with most of the remarks on "Fashion" we feel disposed to agree.

Chambers's Journal contains, among other matter, some serviceable hints "About the Dinner Table," a "History of Advertising," and sundry contributions, by W. Chambers, in two of which are discussed the recent "Assyrian Discoveries" by Mr. Smith, and "The Dangerous Classes." Our readers will also be pleased with an article on the "Droll Selection of Names," "The Lifeboat and its Work," and "A Night in the Backwoods."

The description of certain English Cathedrals—Winchester and Bristol—are among the chief attractions in *All the Year Round*. There is also, too, a well told story in "Marigold,—a Romance in the Old Garden," and "John Bull in the China Shop," contains an account of Sundry rare specimens of old Porcelain, which will greatly interest the collectors of old China.

The *Covent Garden Magazine*, the first number of which appeared last month, does great credit to its conductor, Mr. W. H. C. Nation. The contents are of the usual character to be found in our periodical publications. We have noted in particular, "The Caverns of the Ardennes," "A Reminiscence of Heidelberg" and the "Night-side of Caravan Life." Mr. G. M. Fenn's story, "Both Sides of the Mirror," is not unprofitable reading. The weakest feature in this magazine is the poetry, of which there are two or three specimens, but none of them possess merit. "The Wine and Walnuts" would be more acceptable, if there were more of them. As it is, the supply of chit-chat is far too scanty.

The most attractive papers in the *Contemporary* are Lady Verney's "Mysteries, Moralities, and the Drama," Julian Hawthorn's "Saxon Studies," the subject being "Stone and Plaster" and the last two by Mr. Greg and Professor Huxley respectively. The former is strong in his comments on the present "Life at High Pressure," and few, we think, will venture to deny the justice and force of most, if not all, of his remarks on this subject. Professor Huxley describes, for our edification, "Some of the Results of the Expedition of H.M. Steamer 'Challenger.'" The treatment is worthy alike the valuable results attained and the reputation of the writer. It is not often we have a number of the *Contemporary* which is of such general interest as is the present. We mostly find one class of subjects, of which, indeed, there are specimens in the instance before us, such, for example, as Mr. Matthew Arnold's "Review of Objections to Literature and

'Dogma,' and "Necessary Truth," in answer to a previous paper by Mr. Fitzjames Stephen. But this kind of theme is in the minority, this month at all events.

Good Things, Good Words, The Leisure Hour and *Sunday at Home* contain their usual complement of healthy literature for their several classes of readers, and all of them are fairly illustrated. Mrs. Broderip's conduct of "Puzzledom" in the first mentioned of them bids fair to rival in success that of her brother, the late Tom Hood.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY NEWS.

FRIDAY.

There have been comparatively few changes in the dealings taking place this week. Business presents an unusually quiet appearance for the time being, and it is probable that the inclement weather of the past few days has something to do with the want of animation now prevailing. At the same time markets are not much borne down, as some few investments are reported, while it is also to be noted that the Bank rate remains unchanged at 3½ per cent. In the early part of the week, subscriptions were invited by the Messrs. Rothschilds to a New Zealand loan for £4,000,000 sterling, at 4½ per cent., the issue price being fixed at 94½. The number of applications, we understand, far exceeded the amount to be allotted, and, in consequence, the lists had to be closed sooner than was expected. We hesitate to say how this success has been brought about, but at all events it shows how ready the public are to enter into new undertakings of this kind, without looking at the terms upon which they part with their money. Having previously referred to some of the more important features to be kept in view by capitalists, in selecting some of the best known channels of investments, we now proceed to offer one or two suggestions in connection with Foreign Railway Shares and Bonds. The shares quoted in the Stock Exchange official list, under the head of Foreign Railways, are of various characters, regarded as investments. In the first place, the situation of the railway—that is to say, the part of the world in which the line runs—has an important bearing upon the character of its shares as an investment. Secondly, it makes some difference whether the company is an English or a foreign one. And lastly, the financial condition of the various companies, as regards the payment of dividends, materially influences, as a matter of course, the estimation of their shares. A complete mastery of the particulars on these points is, therefore, the first step to be taken by a person intending to invest in the shares of a Foreign Railway Company. In respect to the financial condition of a company, the examination cannot be too close, or extend too far into its past history. The difference between an English and a Foreign company, is that the former is constructed according to English law, is managed by an English board of directors, and is generally conducted in such a manner that English Shareholders can readily obtain information respecting their property, and, to a certain extent, have a voice in its management, whilst in a foreign concern the reverse is the case on all these points. Many of the railways, the shares of which are quoted here, are situated in South America, and these undertakings are of English origin, and under the control of English directors. Most of the European lines are foreign companies and under foreign managements. One difference of detail as regards the form of security, according to whether a company is English or foreign, is that, in the former case, the shares are registered in the holders' names and transferable by deed, whereas in the latter they are generally shares to bearer. Many foreign railway shares possess the guarantee for a certain rate per cent. of the Government of the country in which they are situated. This guarantee is, however, in numerous instances, of a peculiar nature, and by no means the same as a guarantee of a certain rate of dividend on the shares. It is particularly necessary that investors should make themselves acquainted with the exact nature of the guarantee, when one exists; inquiry should be made whether the guarantee has been fulfilled, and the dividends actually paid should be compared with the amount of the guarantee. If there be any discrepancy, an explanation will exhibit clearly the nature of the guarantee. As a class, foreign railway obligations offer, as suggested the other day in the *Money Market Review*, a good rate of interest, 6 per cent. being obtainable from some of long standing with very fair security. Their merits are not appreciated as highly as they deserve to be by investors generally.

The English funds retain their strength at 93 to 93½ for money and 93½ to 93¼ for the account. The foreign department has been more than usually dull, and there has been a disposition to effect sales to secure profits, while the heavy withdrawal of gold from the Bank has also reacted on the market generally.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, the home railway market is better supported than any other. The traffic returns maintain a good standard, and, as money is abundant, the tendency is decidedly towards firmness. Caledonian and Great Western have

again been purchased, the latest quotation showing an advance in both stocks.

Colonial and Foreign railways engage but very little fresh business.

In the American Telegraph and miscellaneous markets, there are no special features. Anglo-American cable shares have been dealt in at a decline, but Imperial Ottoman Bank and Hudson's Bay are quoted fractionally higher.

The directors of Milner's Safe Company have just decided on the payment of an *ad interim* dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, on the amount of capital paid up to the 31st December last.

The London and North Western Railway Company announces that sleeping saloons are now attached to the Irish mail train between London and Holyhead.

A general court of the proprietors of the Bank of England will be held on the 11th instant to declare a dividend. A meeting is also called for the 6th of April, for the election of a governor and deputy-governor for the year ensuing, and on the following day two directors will be elected.

It is announced that an International Horticultural Exhibition will be held at Cologne, between the 25th of August and the 26th September next, under the patronage of the Imperial family.

At the half-yearly meeting of the London Tramway's Company this week the directors' report was adopted, and a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum was declared. Had it not been for certain exceptional changes, the profits would have been sufficient to pay a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum. The number of passengers carried during the half-year was 6,728,242, and the miles run were 996,336.

From the recently issued report of the Inland Revenue Commissioners it appears that out of 60 samples of beer examined 52 were found genuine and 8 adulterated, in these last sugar, liquorice, flour and common salt had been added.

An Extradition Treaty containing the usual provisions, has just been concluded with the Swiss Confederation, and has been presented to both Houses of Parliament.

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	315½	15,720	15,136
Great Eastern	763	42,215	42,181
Great Northern	517	49,247	49,168
Great Western	1,525	89,900	95,401
Lancashire and Yorkshire	430	60,370	60,032
London and Brighton	376	21,428	21,435
London, Chatham and Dover	153½	13,845	13,049
London and North Western	1,582½	157,226	154,380
London and South Western	—	26,649	27,923
London, Tilbury and Southend	45	1,357	1,331
Manchester and Sheffield	259½	29,705	28,055
Midland	944½	110,052	103,375
Metropolitan	8	8,777	8,292
" District	8	5,081	4,210
" St. John's Wood	1½	459	417
North British	839	37,298	35,926
North Eastern	1,379	117,309	116,750
North London	12	6,611	6,552
North Staffordshire Railway	190	9,867	9,997
" Canal	118	1,663	1,779
South Eastern	350	24,766	26,132

PLAYHOUSE PRICES—The cost of admission to the theatres in the days of Elizabeth was very moderate. "Let me never live to look so high as the two-penny room again," says Ben Jonson, in his prologue to *Every Man out of his Humour*, acted for the first time at the Globe, on Bankside, in 1599. The price of the "best rooms," or boxes, was a *shilling*; of the lower places *two-pence*; and in some places only a *penny*. The *two-penny* room above-mentioned was the gallery. Thus Decker:—"Pay your *two-pence* to a player, and you may sit in the gallery."—*Belman's Night Walk*. And Middleton, "One of them is a nip; I took him once into the *two-penny* gallery at the Fortune." The place, however, seems to have been very discreditable, for it is commonly described as the resort of pickpockets and prostitutes. In *Every Man out of his Humour*, there is also mention of "the lords room over the stage." The Lords rooms answered to the present stage boxes. The price of admission to them appears to have been originally a *shilling*. Thus Decker, in his *Gull's Horn-book*, 1609;—"At a new play you take up the *twelve penny*-room, next the stage, because the Lords and you may seem to be hail fellow well met."

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INNOVATIONS.

NOTHING is more offensive to the true Mason than any innovations on the ancient usages and customs of the Order. It is in consequence of this conservative principle that Masonry, notwithstanding many attempts have been made to alter, or, as it was supposed, to amend it, still remains unchanged now, as it has always been.

The middle of the eighteenth century was the most prominent era of those attempted innovations.

After the downfall of the House of Stuart, and the defeat of the Pretender's hopes in 1715, his adherents vainly endeavoured to enlist Freemasonry as a powerful adjunct to his cause. For this purpose it was declared by those who had enlisted in this design, that the great legend of Masonry alluded to the violent death of Charles I., and Cromwell and his companions in rebellion were execrated as the arch traitors whom the Lodges were to condemn. To carry out these views, new degrees were now for the first time manufactured, under the titles of *Irish Master*, *Perfect Irish Master*, *Puissant Irish Master*, and others of similar appellation. The Chevalier Ramsay, so well known in Masonic history, soon after made his appearance in the political world, and having attached himself to the house of Stuart, he endeavoured more effectually to carry out these views, by reducing the whole system to perfect order, and giving to it the appearance of plausibility. For this purpose he invented a new theory on the subject of the origin of Freemasonry.

He declared that it was instituted in the Holy Land at the time of the Crusades, where the Knights Templars had associated themselves together for the purpose of rebuilding those churches and other sacred edifices which had been destroyed by the Saracens. These latter, however, having discovered this holy design, and being determined to thwart it, had employed emissaries who, secretly mingling with the Christian workmen, materially impeded and often entirely paralyzed their labours. The Christians, as a security against this species of treason, then found it necessary to invent signs and other modes of recognition, by which intruders might be detected.

When compelled, by the failure of the Crusaders, to leave the Holy Land, these pious as well as warlike Knights were invited by a King of England to retire to his dominions, where they devoted themselves to the cultivation of architecture and the fine arts.

Ramsay pretended that the degrees originally established by the Templars were those of Scotch Master, Novice and Knight of the Temple; and he even had the audacity to propose, in 1728, to the Grand Lodge of England, to substitute them for the three primitive degrees of symbolical Masonry, a proposition which met with no more success than it deserved.

In Paris, however, he was more fortunate; for there his degrees were adopted, not, indeed as a substitute for, but as an addition to Ancient Craft Masonry. These degrees became popular on the Continent, and in a short time gave birth to innumerable others, which attempted to compensate for their want of consistency with the history, the traditions and the principles of the ancient institution, by splendour of external decorations and gorgeousness of ceremonies. Happily, however, the existence of these innovations has been but ephemeral. They are no longer worked as degrees, but remain only in the library of the Masonic student as subjects of curious inquiry. The *hautes grades* of the French, and the *Philosophic degrees* of the ancient and accepted Scotch rite, are not innovations on, but illustrations of pure symbolic Masonry, and as such will be found to be the depositories of many interesting traditions and instructive speculations, which are eminently useful in shedding light upon the character and objects of the institution.—Mackey.

On Thursday evening, at the rooms of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals, *Jeruyn-street, Piccadilly*, the third annual distribution of prizes for "Essays on Kindness to Animals" took place, the recipients being certain of the children of the Hanover-square Church District Sunday School. Mrs. Ellicott (wife of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol) distributed the prizes. Mr. Colam (secretary to the society), took the chair, and explained that the above school was the only Sunday school in the metropolis which had treated of the duty of kindness to animals. The prizes were given by the teachers of the school, and the ladies' committee of the society had granted the use of the room for the purpose of the prize distribution. The successful competitors were, in the first class, John Mayo, Frederick Gutteridge and Emily Dow. In the second Jessie Fennimore, Fanny Atherton, Edward Allaway and Alfred Long; and in the third, Ada Elliott and Herbert Mansell. Some of the essays were read by their juvenile authors, and were simple but earnest little compositions, all breathing the spirit of kindness to dumb animals. Mrs. Ellicott, in distributing the prizes, which consisted principally of books of natural history, accompanied the presentations with a kindly word of encouragement to the recipients,

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.—On Thursday, 11th March, ROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS.
 LYCEUM.—At 6.50, FISH OUT OF WATER. At 7.45, HAMLET.
 OLYMPIC.—At 7.0, TWENTY MINUTES WITH A TIGER. AT 7.30, THE TWO ORPHANS.
 STRAND.—At 7.0, INTRIGUE. At 7.20, OLD SAILORS. At 9.15, LOO AND THE PARTY WHO TOOK MISS.
 PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 7.45, SWEETHEARTS and SOCIETY.
 GAIETY.—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.—This evening, at 7.30, OPERETTA. At 8, AS YOU LIKE IT.
 ALHAMBRA.—At 7.15, THE TWO BONNYCASTLES. At 8.0, WHITTINGTON.
 CRITERION.—LES PRES SAINT GERVAIS, &c.
 AMPHITHEATRE, HOLBORN.—This evening, OTHELLO.
 SURREY.—THE TWO POLTS and ARRAH-NA-POGUE.
 PHILHARMONIC.—MARITANA or BOHEMIAN GIRL, &c.
 HENGLER'S CIRQUE.—EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCE, every Evening, at 7.0; every Wednesday and Saturday, at 2.30.
 SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.—TURPIN'S RIDE TO YORK, ALADDIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP, &c., every Evening at 7.0, and Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, at 2.0; on Saturday, 6th and Monday 8th, THE TWO-HEADED NIGHTINGALE.
 CRYSTAL PALACE.—This Day, CONCERT, BILLIARD MATCH, &c. On Tuesday, ROMEO AND JULIET, every Tuesday and Thursday, till 18th 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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 EGYPTIAN HALL.—MASKELYNE AND COOKE, at 3.0 and 8.0.
 ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham Place.—Mr. and Mrs. GERMAN REED at 8.0. Thursday and Saturday at 3 only.

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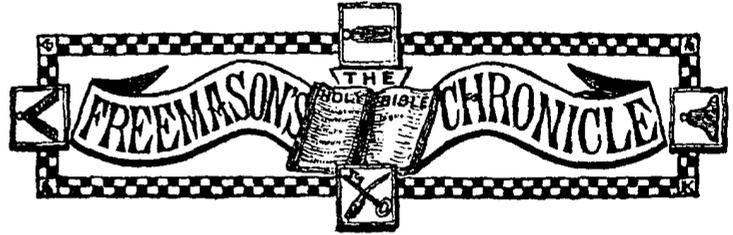
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

THE most important matter, at all events in the Masonic world, since the appearance of our last issue, is the election of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to be Grand Master for the ensuing year, and the announcement that his installation is fixed to take place at the Royal Albert Hall, on the 28th prox. As we refer elsewhere to this subject, we need only here congratulate our readers on the election, and echo, as we do most cordially, the wish expressed by Treasurer Tomkins, that Masonry may become more and more flourishing under the auspices of the new G.M.

The progress of the Session has thus far been marked by nothing of any special importance, as regards party politics. In the House of Lords, on Friday of last week, the second reading of the Patents for Inventions Bill was moved and carried, after some discussion, in the course of which Earl Granville suggested reference of the Bill to a select committee. As the Lord Chancellor pointed out that every kind of evidence that could by any possibility be required had already been obtained, the suggestion was needless, and was of course, withdrawn. On Monday their Lordships sat for a short time only; but on Tuesday, one of the most important measures of the year passed through Committee, the Transfer of Land and Titles Bill, the question, whether the registration of titles should be compulsory or not, being reserved till the report. On Thursday, in the course of a very brief sitting, the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (1873) Amendment Bill passed through Committee.

In the House of Commons, Sir G. Jenkinson, on Friday last, drew the attention of the House to the question of the Abolition of Turnpike Trusts. In the debate that followed, there was a somewhat lively passage of arms between Mr. Bright and the Premier, the former taunting the Government with pursuing a different policy in office from what they had sanctioned in Opposition; the latter retorting promptly. Then came on Mr. Martin's motion for the production of certain papers in relation to the conviction of John Mitchell, but the motion was withdrawn, and shortly afterwards the house adjourned. On Monday it was announced by Mr. Disraeli, that Her Majesty had been pleased to appoint Captain Gossett, the present Under Serjeant to the office of Serjeant, rendered vacant by the retirement of Lord Charles Russell. This announcement was received with loud and general applause from all parts of the House. Then Sir W. H. Beach moved for leave to bring in a Bill on the subject of the Peace Preservation Ireland Acts. Several Irish members spoke in opposition to the measure, but leave was given, and the Bill afterwards read a first time, the second reading being fixed for Monday next. Tuesday was occupied in the discussion of Education in Rural Districts. Mr. Fawcett brought forward a motion there-
 anent; Mr. Pell moved an amendment to Mr. Fawcett's proposals, and the Government, represented by Mr. Cross and Lord Sandon, objected to both. In the result, Messrs. Fawcett and Pell were severally defeated. Mr. Egerton then moved to postpone further legislation on the subject for the present, but a motion for adjournment was at length acceded to by the Government, and the House rose. On Wednesday, Mr. Cowper Temple sought to induce the House to pass the second reading of the Universities (Scotland) (Degrees of Women) Bill, but unsuccessfully, the Bill being thrown out by a majority of 48. On Thursday, the early part of the proceedings was occupied with the discussion of a question of privilege brought under the notice of the House by one of, if not, its latest member, Dr. Kenealy, the elect of Stoke-on-Trent. A long and somewhat lengthy debate followed, in the course of which it was objected that the immediate case under notice was not really a question of the kind at all, that the remarks were made when Dr. Kenealy was not a member, nor were they directed against him in his capacity of member.

The subject of Dr. Kenealy's complaint appears to have been some remarks of Mr. E. Ashley, member for Poole, for which, in the end, the latter expressed his regret at having made. After which the House, on the motion of Mr. Disraeli, who echoed the objection above referred to, passed to the Orders of the day. On the motion, that it go into Committee on the Regimental Exchanges Bill, Mr. Goschen moved an amendment, which, however, was resisted by the Government, and defeated. A motion for adjournment was afterwards made, and, on being renewed, was acceded to by Mr. Disraeli.

Three elections are pending—for Norwich, for St. Ives, and Tipperary. Severe contests are anticipated at the first mentioned places, especially at Norwich, where Mr. Tillet, a former representative, is one of the candidates. Mr. Praed, who was unseated, is again a candidate for St. Ives, while for Tipperary, there will be not only a contest, but doubtless, if Mitchell be returned, a petition by his rival, Mr. Stephen Moore, who has already served the Sheriff with a protest against his allowing the candidature of Mitchell, and claiming the seat under the circumstances described in such protest.

Shoe Lane must be rather an unpleasant neighbourhood to pass through at certain times of the day. Hard by are two large printing establishments, one that of Messrs. Spottiswoode, the other Messrs. Kronheim's, and each, it seems, has in its employment about 200 boys. Between the youngsters in these two houses a feud appears to have sprung up, and during mealtimes conflicts are engaged in, some 40 or 50, armed with sticks, stones, and other formidable weapons, taking part on each side. This practice is attended with no little danger, not only to the combatants, but to passers-by, and at length Police Constable 252 captured two of the number, and brought them before Alderman Cotton. No fight had actually taken place, but the prisoners were caught lying in wait, with others, for the Spottiswoode boys, one armed with a sword bayonet, the other with a stick. The youngsters were dismissed with a caution as to their future conduct, the Alderman stating his intention, if any more were brought before him for fighting, of sending them to prison. We hope the threat will be effectual in putting down this nuisance.

On Saturday last Sir Charles Lyell was buried in Westminster Abbey. Among the pall-bearers were Professor Huxley, Mr. Justice Grove, the Duke of Argyll, and Dr. Hooker, and among those present were Lord Airlie, Dr. L. Playfair, Right Hon. T. E. Headlam, Dr. Carpenter (Registrar of the University of London), Mr. Cameron, of Lochiel (representing the Queen), the Hon. C. L. Wood (on behalf of the Prince of Wales), &c., &c. We regret that any unseemly contention should have arisen just prior to the funeral. The Coroner for Middlesex, Dr. Hardwick, insisted on holding an inquest on the body, and for this purpose the coffin had to be re-opened. Expostulations and certificates were useless to satisfy this official, whose conduct appears to have been in the highest degree indecent. Questions were put on the subject in the House of Commons, to the Home Secretary, who very properly expressed his opinion that "the holding of the inquest, under the circumstances, was a great outrage against decency and common sense." Mr. Cross further stated that the Home Secretary had no jurisdiction over Coroners, but that the Lord Chancellor had; the circumstances had therefore been referred to his lordship, who, we trust, will indicate, even more strongly still, his opinion of this "great outrage against decency and common sense."

On Saturday the annual meeting of the members of the Newspaper Press Fund was held at the offices, No. 55 Strand, under the presidency of Mr. C. L. Gruneisen. The report for the past year represented the condition of the Fund as highly and increasingly prosperous. The number of members was 320, of whom 244 reside in London, and 94 in the provinces. The grants during the year amounted to £509 12s, the number of recipients being 39. The funded property had been further increased by the purchase of £700 India 4 per cent. stock, the aggregate of stock and securities being thus raised to £9,000. The income of the coming year was estimated at somewhat over £728, and there was an available cash balance on 31st December last of over £584. Votes of thanks to Lord Houghton for his valuable services, and to the Chairman for presiding on the occasion, were carried *unanimously*. It was further announced that the anniversary festival will be held on the 5th June next, when Dean Stanley will preside.

The second Levee of the season was held on Monday afternoon, at St. James's Palace, by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, on behalf of Her Majesty. The Dukes of Edinburgh and Cambridge, Prince Christian, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, and the Duke of Teck were present. The diplomatic and general circles were numerously attended, and presentations to the number of about 150 were made to His Royal Highness on behalf of the Queen, having been previously submitted for Her Majesty's approval.

The Cambridge and Oxford Crews are in the full swing of training for the great event of the year. Both are being coached by old 'Varsity oarsmen, Messrs. Darbishire and Willan acting as mentors to the Oxonians, Mr. Goldie doing ditto at Cambridge. Changes seem still to be the order of the day in the latter's crew, and as only a fortnight remains ere the race must be pulled off, the prospect does not seem very encouraging for its winning. At Cambridge also, the University Athletic Club have been holding their annual meeting preparatory to the Inter-University meeting at Lillie Bridge on the 19th inst. The result is the election of representatives for the several events at the latter. The weight was "put" a distance of 36 ft. 8½ in., while Hales, of Trinity, threw the hammer a distance of 116½ ft. While on this subject we may state, for the information of our readers, that the Champion Amateur Athletic meeting will be held on Monday, the 22nd, the day following, as the Inter-University Athletic meeting is held the day preceding the boat race.

The weather we have had lately has been cold enough. We are enjoying, indeed, just now, about our third instalment of winter. But the American correspondent of the *Standard*, writing under date of the 17th ult., speaks of unprecedented cold having prevailed in the State of New York and in New England. In evidence, he mentions that several persons have crossed and re-crossed the ice in the Hudson on the same day. Such a feat of foolhardiness has not been known since 1835. As to the extent of the cold, he reports that in several localities in the Northern portion of the State, in the mountains, the thermometer has fallen to 41 degrees below zero, and New England accounts report even a lower temperature than this. At Concord, New Hampshire, the Mercury congealed a few days before, and at several places in the west spirits froze when exposed to the open air. However, "it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good." The Americans are consoling themselves for this excessive coldness, and such discomforts as the bursting of water-pipes and other usual accidents induce, with the reflection that the ice-crop for the approaching summer will prove a superabundant one. In 1873, one million and a half tons of ice were consumed. This year there are already stored over two and a half millions of tons. *Per contra*, we hear, of course, of increased suffering among the poor and destitute.

A whole family poisoned is a terrible catastrophe, and may well be said to have caused the utmost consternation throughout the village—Elstead in Surrey—in which it occurred. The landlord of the Woolpack Inn, by name Henry Chandler, his wife, and their four children, appear to have eaten of a pudding in which arsenic had been accidentally mixed. The man and woman are already dead, and the children are in such a helpless condition that more deaths are expected. The man appears to have mixed the arsenic with some flour and put it on a plate for the purpose of poisoning rats. The daughter-in-law, thinking it was all right, used it in making a suet pudding, of which she, happily for herself, partook not. Nor is this the only calamity there is to record. Advices from Melbourne, of the 3rd instant, report the wreck of the Steamer Gothenburg on Flinder's Island, Port Darwin. She had on board 85 passengers, 35 crew, and 3,000 ounces of gold. Only four men are known to have been saved, while three boats full of persons are adrift, and the greatest fears are entertained for their safety.

The even quietness of Oxfordshire circles has been somewhat rudely disturbed of late. Not long since, it was rumoured that a middle-aged farmer had eloped with an heiress, a young lady considerably his junior in the matter of age, in fact not yet of age. The rumour proved to be quite true, and in the end H. Timms, aged 56, was placed on his trial at the Oxford Assizes on Tuesday for feloniously and fraudulently, and from motives of lucre, detaining Annie Sophia Timms, formerly Annie Sophia Turner, Spinster, she being under the age of 21 years, to wit, of the age of 15 years, against the will of her father. Mr. Jelf led for the

prosecution, Mr. Staveley Hill for the prisoner, who pleaded not guilty. The trial resulted in a verdict of Not Guilty, on hearing which the applause of the audience was very enthusiastic. Mr. Timms and his young wife on issuing from the court were most cordially greeted, a manifestation at which we cannot say we are surprised after the very strong feelings evinced by the young lady's relatives, who would have done a very graceful act had they abstained from such a prosecution.

At the meeting on Thursday evening of the London Institution, Finsbury Circus, Mr. Clements Markham, the secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, delivered a very interesting address, the subject being the forthcoming Arctic Expedition. There was a numerous audience assembled, among them being Admiral Sherard Osborn, Commander Markham, R.N., who will be second in command of the expedition, and several other gentlemen interested in Arctic discovery. In the course of his address, which was listened to with the interest it deserved, Mr. Markham congratulated the Government on having undertaken to send out vessels. He also traced the course of arctic discovery and pointed out the many advantages, geographical and otherwise, which were sure to result from the further prosecution of the task. Two large charts were suspended, for the purpose of enabling those present to follow the lecturer in his address, which ended with a slight sketch of the programme of the present expedition, and the expression of a hope that, by the summer of 1877, we should be in a position to congratulate ourselves on the successful completion of an undertaking which had been commenced by Englishmen generations since so auspiciously and to which they had contributed so largely.

Yesterday's news hold out some hope that the end of the South Wales strike and lock out may not be after all so far removed. Lord Aberdare, who has always been regarded by the miners as a sort of mediator, has appeared prominently on the scene of action, his Lordship having first been at the pains of writing to a number of coal owners on the subject of actual prices and percentages of reduction. The result of these inquiries is, that taking the figures submitted together, it is shown that, while the price of coal has been reduced at least 2s a ton, the effects on the 10 per cent. reduction in wages is to reduce the cost of raising the coal by 9d per ton. Thus, the coal owners are losers to the extent of 1s 3d per ton on the present average, as compared with August last, while, in some cases, the loss is still heavier. Lord Aberdare, on these grounds, ventures to indulge the hope that, now the matter is placed before them thus clearly, the miners will feel they are no longer justified in prolonging the contest. We sincerely trust his lordship's efforts may be successful. Already the tale of misery and suffering are becoming more terrible every day, the families, and especially the very young, being, as a matter of course, the greatest sufferers.

From abroad there are just a few items of intelligence which may interest our readers. The stirring debates about the Senate Bill are for the moment succeeded by a Ministerial crisis, the settlement of which, however, still hangs fire. M. Buffet is the likeliest man for the premiership, with M. le Duc Decazes as foreign minister. From Spain we hear of further fighting, this time in the neighbourhood of Bilbao. The accounts are, of course, conflicting, both sides claiming the victory, so that the end of the struggle seems as remote as ever. In Prussia an important step has been taken in the dispute with the Papal power. The Minister for Public Worship has introduced a Bill withdrawing the endowments granted by the State to the catholic bishops and clergy and determining the conditions on which they may be restored. Grants for clergymen attached to public institutions are exempted from the Act. The second, third and fourth clauses provided that these grants shall be restored, as soon as the bishops bind themselves to the Government in written documents to obey the law. The eleventh clause, orders that any one withdrawing or acting in violation of his written obligation, will be tried before the Courts of law, and removed from office. Thus the general provisions of the Papal Bull *de Salute Animarum*, are annulled by this Bill. From America we hear that the House of Representatives have passed the bill for the admission of Colorado as a State; that for admitting Mexico was, however, thrown out. This will be among the last of the Acts of the present House, which will by this time have been dissolved. Its successor does not assemble until the end of the year.

At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, Bro. Constable's motion in reference to the Lifeboat Endowment Fund was very fully discussed. Notwithstanding that the mover received very considerable and unexpected support from a large body of the brethren, the motion was lost, on a division, by a small majority. We regret that our enthusiastic brother was not successful, but we are assured that he will not be discouraged. We are quite satisfied with the degree of support which was given to an idea which originated in our columns, and if the Fraternity is really interested in the matter, we are certain that the Endowment Fund will ultimately be an assured fact. The brethren who supported the motion in Grand Lodge will now, we trust, ventilate the matter in their respective Lodges. It will, perhaps, be necessary to form a Committee for the purpose of directing the movement. We need not add that our columns will always be open for the expression of opinion on the subject, and that we ourselves will do all in our power to further the cause. We shall probably have occasion to return to the subject at an early date.

The demand for seaworthy seamen, as well as seaworthy ships, is spreading rapidly. In this country the movement, which has had the advantage of the patronage of the Duke of Edinburgh, is in a fair way of success, and funds are flowing into the hands of those gentlemen who are anxious to establish a training ship in every seaport. The Germans, we learn, are, like ourselves, concerned at the falling off in the numbers of skilled seamen, and the Nautical Society of Bremen are about to take steps for remedying the evil. They, however, have determined that only lads of irreproachable character shall be admitted to their training ships. These lads must come forward voluntarily, and with the consent of their parents. There will thus be no risk of lowering the tone of the merchant service, but, on the contrary, there will be every chance of its being elevated by the advent of this training system.

The Oratorio of St. John the Baptist, composed by Mr. Macfarren, was played at the gathering of the Sacred Harmonic Society, at Exeter Hall, on Friday evening, the 26th February. The chef d'Orchestra on the occasion was Bro. Sir Michael Costa, who was ably supported by Madame Patey, Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Mr. Santley and Mr. E. Lloyd, while the band and chorusses were all that the most fastidious could wish for. The Dead March in Saul was played, as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Sir Sterndale Bennett.

The Easter Monday Volunteer Review Day may now be considered a thing of the past. On Saturday last, at a meeting of Metropolitan Volunteer commanding officers, it was resolved that, in consequence of the impracticability of obtaining railway accommodation, the usual Easter Monday field-day be reluctantly abandoned. At the same time, it was considered desirable that divisional or brigade field-days be held at such places as might be arranged.

The London and Scottish Review is a new publication, the contents of which bid fair to be generally interesting to all classes of readers. The programme reads extremely well, and if the promises are fulfilled to the extent of only one-half, the prospects of a very successful career are evidently before it. The new claimant to public favours will appear monthly.

The talented cantatrice, Miss Rose Hersee, a daughter of Bro. Henry Hersee, was married, on 23rd February last, to Arthur Howell, Esq., of Gloucester Crescent, Regent's Park. It is to be hoped that the musical public will not be deprived of the pleasure of hearing this favourite singer, who has so firmly established her reputation both here and in America.

The *Globe* tells us that the process of dividing the proceeds of the French indemnity amongst the various German States is not yet completed. A lump sum is handed and apportioned, according to the joint wishes of the different executive governments and the Landtags. Of the £700,000 received by Mecklenburg-Schwerin, so much is

set aside as will produce a yearly income of £3,750 to be paid to the clergy as compensation for their losses through the operation of the law abolishing fees for banns and marriages, £120,000 is to be used to raise the condition of the lower schools, £100,000 to be applied for enlarging the idiot asylum of the Duchy of Sachsenbury, £45,000 for building a museum at Schwerin, and £40,000 for a medical school to be attached to the existing local university. In Strelitz a simpler proposal is made; the share of the duchy is to be divided somewhat as its regular income; one-third passing under the personal control of the Grand Duke, one third to the general tax account, and one-third to special works of utility to be hereafter named in detail.

A vacancy in the Girls' Institution is announced. Miss Davis, the head mistress, has resigned her appointment, and the post will be filled from the month of June instant.

The Festival of the Italian Benevolent Society was held on Thursday night, at the Albion, Aldersgate Street. Chevalier Cadorna, the Italian Minister, presided, and Lord Campbell, Lord Houghton, and Baron Heath, were amongst those present. Contributions were made to the amount of £750.

Bro. Creswick has achieved a great success, at the Holborn Theatre, as Melantius, in Beaumont and Fletcher's play of the Bridal. He is well supported by Messrs. Pennington, Edgar, Bro. Hall; Misses Leighton, Harding, &c. Bro. Talbot Smith is the acting manager of the company.

Bro. Staveley Hill, Q.C. and M.P. for West Staffordshire has been appointed Counsel to the Admiralty and Judge Advocate of the Fleet, in Succession to Mr. Hudleston, recently M.P. for Norwich, who has been raised to the vacant judgeship in the Court of Common Pleas.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* publishes a list of the Railway casualties for the month of February, from which we glean that, within the 28 days of February there have been eighteen "accidents," of which no fewer than fifteen were collisions. The results are that one man has been killed, seven persons have been dangerously injured, forty-six more or less badly hurt, about 100 sadly knocked about, cut, bruised, and shaken, and a goodly bill for compensation has scored up against the companies involved, not to speak of the pecuniary losses in destruction of rolling stock. The Lancashire and Yorkshire contributes three, the Midland four, the London and North Western three, the Great Western two. In six cases the collisions were provided for by shunting when passenger trains were due, and this was done in at least one instance in spite of the "block" system. In other cases trains were crossing level junctions, and ran broadside into each other. Two collisions were caused by fast trains chasing and running into slow trains, and in five instances passenger trains met with accidents because the officials forgot that they had left carriages or trucks standing on the main line. Thus it will be seen that, though only one man has been killed, the disasters have been of a worse type, indicating an increased and persistent recklessness and negligence.

The Annual Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls will take place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, the 12th May prox., on which occasion W. Bro. the Right Honourable David Henry Stone, P.M., P.I., and Past Grand Steward, will preside. It is needless, of course, to enlarge on the merits of an Institution which necessarily commends itself to every member of the Craft. Suffice it, for the present, to remark that during the past year the School House has been very considerably enlarged, and, as a consequence, the number of girls on the establishment increased from one hundred and twelve to one hundred and forty-eight. This increase is highly satisfactory, and speaks well for the efforts, both of the Committee and of the Craft generally, to extend the institution so as to meet the ever increasing demand upon its resources. At the same time, we are assured that, great as have been the efforts towards improving the usefulness of these Charities, immediately supported by

the whole Craft, it is still possible, with the daily increasing influence of Masonry, to more nearly meet these demands. Every year witnesses a heavier pressure on the resources of this and the two other Masonic Charities. Can every member of the Craft, having a due regard to his means, conscientiously claim a share in this good work so well carried out?

Lieutenant Cameron, R.N. will read a paper at the Royal Geographical Society, entitled "Examination of the Southern Half of Lake Tanganyika," at next Monday's meeting of the Royal Geographical Society.

Our respected brother, His Royal Highness Prince Leopold has, given a donation of £50 to the funds of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, through the medium of Sir William Jenner, Bart., M.D.

Our article on "Masonic Minstrelsy" appears to have attracted the attention of one among our readers, who has accordingly obliged us with a copy of a "Masonic Poem," which, we are given to understand has met with a very favourable reception among the Craft, and which, therefore, will prove no doubt of interest to the body of our friends. We believe we are correct in stating that the poem is not exactly a fresh inspiration of our contributor. At the same time, it appears to us not altogether unworthy a place in our columns.

We meet upon the level, and we part upon the square;
What words of precious meaning those words Masonic are!
Come, let us contemplate them, they are worthy of a thought;
In the very *soul* of Masonry those precious words are wrought.

We meet upon the level, though from every station come,
The rich man from his mansion, and the poor man from his home:
For the one must leave his *heritage* outside the Mason's door,
While the other finds his best respect upon the chequered floor.

We part upon the square, for the world must have its due,
We mingle with the multitude, a faithful band and true;
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,
And we long, upon the level, to renew the happy scene.

There's a world where all are equal—we are journeying toward it fast;
We shall meet upon the level there, when the gates of death are passed
We shall stand before the *Orient*, and our MASTER will be there,
To try the *blocks* we offer with His own unerring square.

We shall meet upon the level there, but never thence depart;
There's a mansion—'tis all ready for each faithful, trusting heart;
There's a mansion and a welcome, and a multitude is there,
Who have met upon the level, and been tried upon the square.

Let us meet upon the level then, while labouring patient here;
Let us meet and let us labour, though the labour be severe;
Already in the *western sky* the signs bid us prepare
To gather up our working tools and part upon the square.

Hands 'round, ye faithful Masons, in the bright fraternal chain,
We part upon the square below—to meet in *Heaven* again.
Oh! what words of precious meaning those words Masonic are,
We meet upon the level, and we part upon the square!

ROB MORRIS.

THE BESSEMER SALOON STEAMER.

The new Channel steamer Bessemer, which left Hull on Wednesday arrived at Gravesend last evening at six o'clock, after having experienced half a gale of wind and heavy beam sea during Wednesday night. Lord Henry Lennox, M.P., her Majesty's First Commissioner of Works, who was the only invited passenger, writes that although some of the minor works were yet incomplete the vessel proved herself most remarkable for the almost total absence of pitching, and of heavy and violent rolling. Although the supply of coal was limited, it was found that for several hours a speed of between 14 and 16 knots an hour was kept up. The suspended saloon was completely under the command of the manipulator, but some minor defects in the apparatus and the inexperience of the manipulator tended to prevent its complete success. The success of the trial was greater than could fairly have been expected on a first trial, and Lord H. Lennox was quite convinced that in this ship a great advance has been made towards remedying the discomforts of the present Channel passage. The Bessemer will to-day be taken into dock at Midwall for completion, and before Easter she will commence running between Dover and Calais.

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, 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.

MONDAY, 8th MARCH.

5—St. George and Corner Stone, Freemasons' Hall.
29—St. Albans, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
59—Royal Naval, Freemasons' Hall.
90—St. John's, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
136—Good Report, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
193—Confidence, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
222—St. Andrews, London Tavern, Rishopsgate-street.
1366—Highgate, Gatehouse Hotel, Highgate.
R. A. 22—Mount Zion, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
R. A. 1118—University, Freemasons' Hall.
R. A. 1319—Asaph, Freemasons' Hall.

240—St. Hilda, Freemasons' Hall, South Shields.
296—Royal Brunswick, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
661—Fawcett, New Masonic Hall, Seabam Harbour.
949—Williamson, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland.
1221—Defence, Masonic Hall, Leeds.
R. A. 306—Alfred, 23 Albion-street, Leeds.

TUESDAY, 9th MARCH.

46—Old Union, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
96—Burlington, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
166—Union, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
180—St. James's Union, Freemasons' Hall.
198—Percy, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
211—St. Michael's, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
228—United Strength, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell.
235—Nine Muses, Queen's Hotel, Cork-street, Bond-street.
549—Wellington, White Swan Tavern, Deptford.
917—Cosmopolitan, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
933—Doric, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
1158—Southern Star, Montpelier Tavern, Walworth-road (Station).—Emergency.
R. A. 145—Prudent Brethren, Freemasons' Hall.

80—St. John's, Masonic Hall, Sunderland.
495—Wakefield, Masonic Hall, Wakefield.
603—Zetland, Royal Hotel, Cleckheaton.
764—Harbour of Refuge, Masonic Hall, West Hartlepool.
R. A. 289—Fidelity, Leeds.

WEDNESDAY, 10th MARCH.

Committee, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 3.
9—Albion, Regent's Masonic Hall, Air-street, Regent-street.
11—Enoch, Freemasons' Hall.
13—Union, Waterloo, Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich.
15—Kent, Freemasons' Hall.
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth.
147—Justice, White Swan, High-street, Deptford.
749—Belgrave, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, Limehouse.
1017—Montefiore, Freemasons' Hall.
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Tavern, High-street, Wapping.
R. A. 1260—Hervey, Freemasons' Hall.

820—Lily Lodge of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, Surrey.
1018—Shakespeare, Freemasons' Hall, Bradford.

THURSDAY, 11th MARCH.

19—R. Athelstan, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.
91—Regularity, Freemasons' Hall.
206—Friendship, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
263—Bank of England, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
534—Polish National, Freemasons' Hall.
657—Canonbury, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
860—Dalhousie, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street.
879—Southwark, Southwark Park Tavern, Southwark.
1076—Capper, Marine Hotel, Victoria Docks, West Ham.
1288—Finsbury Park, Finsbury Park Tavern, Seven Sisters-road, Holloway.
1321—Emblematic, Tulse Hill Hotel, Tulse Hill.
1471—Islington, Cock Tavern, Highbury.
R. A. 72—Royal Jubilee, Horn's Tavern, Kennington.
R. A. 554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney.

97—Palatine, Masonic Hall, Sunderland.
139—Britannia, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
R. A. 509—Tees, Mason's Court, Stockton-on-Tees.
K. T.—Salamanca, Halifax.

FRIDAY, 15th MARCH.

33—Britannic, Freemasons' Hall.
1131—Caledonian, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
157—Bedford, Freemasons' Hall.
177—Caveac, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
1420—Earl Spencer, Freemasons' Hotel, New Wandsworth.

458—Aire and Calder, Onse-street, Goole.
1001—Harrogate and Claro, Masonic Rooms, Harrogate.
1121—Wear Valley, Talbot Hotel, Bishop Auckland.
R. A. 61—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Halifax.
K. T.—Hope, Freemasons' Hall, Huddersfield.

SATURDAY, 13th MARCH.

108—London, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
173—Phoenix Freemasons' Hall.
176—Caveac, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
1328—Granite, Freemasons' Hall.

1361—United Service, Greyhound, Richmond, Surrey.
1426—Great City, Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—145—St. Stephen, St. James's Hall, Writer's-court.
TUESDAY—1—Mary's Chapel, Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo-place.
WEDNESDAY—2—Canongate, Kilwinning-street, St. John's Chapel, St. John-street.
R. A. 1—Edinburgh, Freemasons' Hall.
THURSDAY—3—Journymen, Blackfriars-street, High-street.
FRIDAY—56—Canongate, Kilwinning-street, St. John's Chapel, St. John's-st.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Caveac Chapter, No. 176.—A convocation of this Chapter was held on the 27th February, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street. Comp. J. Quihapton Z., W. S. Wyman H., G. K. Lehman J., C. T. Dorey P.Z., P. A. Nairne P.Z., F. Walters P.Z. Treasurer, Foreman P.Z., W. M. Goss S.N., J. B. Sorrell 1st Assistant, S. Pownceby, C. T. Speight Janitor. The Chapter was opened, and the minutes confirmed. Comp. Wyman was installed as M.E.Z. by Comp. Scott P.Z. The bye-laws were revised, and the Chapter was closed. There was no banquet.

Victoria Chapter, 1056.—This Chapter met on Monday, the 1st of March, at Mason's Hall, Masons' Avenue, E.C. Comps. Eenhuns M.E.Z., George Newman H., and J. D. Taylor J. presided. All preliminaries having been duly disposed of, Bros. James Oswald Gardner of 1328, Robert George Cooper of 1349, and George Fisher Harwood of 1056 were admitted to the degree. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—Comps. George Newman Z., J. D. Taylor H., James Brett P.Z. Treasurer, A. A. Pendlebury S.E., Noehmer S.N., W. Musto P.S., W. Grant Janitor. Comp. E. Gottheil P.Z. proposed that a P.Z.'s jewel of the usual value should, on the next occasion, be presented to the M.E.Z., for the efficient manner in which he had conducted the business of the Chapter during his year of office. Comp. Gottheil presumed that the rest of the Companions would heartily join with him in expressing their approbation, and unanimously vote the well deserved token of regard to Comp. Eenhuns, who, although a former resident in London, now lives in Denmark, his native land, from which place he had to come to do his duties in this Chapter. Great credit was also due to him, being a foreigner, for the manner in which he performed the ceremonies, showing clearly his mastery of the English language, by the intelligence with which every part thereof was rendered. Comp. Edward Clark P.Z., in seconding the resolution, endorsed all the statements of the proposer. The vote was unanimously agreed to. After banquet the usual proceedings took place, every one expressing their deep regret that the familiar face of Comp. James Brett P.Z. (who was absent through indisposition) was not to be seen. If the effect of hearty good wishes have any power he may look forward to a speedy recovery. The visitors present were: Comp. James Weaver P.Z. 862, John Seex S.N. 186, and John H. Dolby 141.

Lodge of Joppa, No. 188.—A numerous assemblage of the brethren met on Monday, the 1st inst., at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street. Bro. S. Hickman W.M., A. Dodson S.W., L. Lazarus J.W., L. Auerhan Treasurer, E. P. Albert P.M. Secretary, J. Miller S.D., C. Hymans J.D., P. E. Van Noorden Organist, Borgen Steward, and P.M.'s Bros. H. Berkowitz, Obed Roberts, H.M. Levy, J. Phillips, L. Alexander, I. Abrahams, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. A. Norwick, C. Harris, and Shepherd, No. 69. were passed to the second degree. Mr. Hertzberg was initiated into the Order. Bro. Pearce was raised to the third degree. At the conclusion of the various ceremonies, great satisfaction was expressed at the efficient way in which they were carried out. The Lodge was then called off, and the brethren sat down to a very enticing banquet, provided by Bro. W. G. Jennings, the Manager of the Albion Tavern Company, and superintended by Bros. Keeping and M. Silva. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given. The W.M., in proposing the toast of the Benevolent Fund in connection with the Lodge, coupled with it the health of Bro. Adam, who replied. He felt proud at being the President. The funds had been collected by the members of the Lodge only, and their donations amounted at the present time to £1,175. (Loud cheers.) It was always a pleasure to respond to this toast, and the cause advocated was one that was worthy the attention and consideration of others, and he hoped to see the idea carried out in almost all the Lodges. Bro. J. Hertzberg returned thanks for the toast of the Newly Initiated. Bro. O. Roberts P.M. then rose and proposed the toast of the W.M., whom he characterised as a true and genuine Mason. He was one who had not only supported the cause of charity, but had worked the various degrees required of him perfectly, and was well qualified to preside over so large and influential an assembly as this Lodge. (Cheers.) The W.M., in reply, said he thanked Bro. Roberts for the encomiums passed on him. It would only be an incentive to continue what he had intended from the moment he had been placed in the chair, and that was to do his duty. While he had the approbation of the brethren, his year of office would always be looked back upon by him with pleasurable remembrance. Brother Dimsdale P.M. 69 responded to the toast of "The Visitors," amongst whom may be mentioned Bros. Cambridge 15, Shepherd 69, Fletcher 180, Marsh W.M. No. 9, Ridler 219, Edwards 56, Franks, Smith 65, T. Maidwell 27, Webb 9, Fründlich 1017. The toast of the Wardens and Officers was then given, which was followed by the Tyler's toast. The W.M. had instructed Bro. P. E. Van Noorden, the Organist of the Lodge, to provide a musical entertainment, and great credit is due to him for the talent introduced. Miss Estelle Emrick, a rising artiste, with a splendid contralto voice, delighted the brethren by her artistic singing. Miss Julia Sydney, Mr. Moss, and Bro. S. Webb, whose playing on the violin, accompanied by Bro. Van Noorden, in a selection from "Guillaume Tell," was listened to with attention, and well merited the applause given at its conclusion. The Lodge had previously been called on, and several matters were discussed, and proposals for initiation were handed in to the Secretary, after which the brethren separated.

Royal Oak Lodge, No. 871.—This capital working Lodge met on the 23rd inst., at the White Swan Tavern, High Street,

Deptford. Bro. G. Andrews W.M., S. O. Lewin S.W., H. J. Tison J.W., F. Walters P.G.P. (Middlesex) Secretary, H. J. Fisher Organist, J. J. Pakes S.D., H. J. Wells J.D., J. Baxter Langley I.G., and P.M.'s W. Myatt, J. Hawke, J. Trnelove, and above fifty brethren. The Lodge having been opened and the minutes confirmed, Mr. Phillips was duly initiated into the Order. Bro. S. O. Lewin S.W. was then presented to the Lodge, and a board of installed Masters being formed, that Bro. was installed by the retiring W.M. On the admission of the brethren, the W.M. was saluted according to ancient form. He then invested his officers as follows:—H. J. Tison S.W., J. J. Pakes J.W., W. Andrews P.M. Treasurer, F. Walters P.G.P. (Middlesex) Secretary. The Organist and Tyler were also re-invested. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Bro. Andrews I.P.M., for his able rendering of the ceremony of installation. He was also presented with a gold Past Master's jewel, for the able manner he had fulfilled the duties of the chair. The Lodge was then closed and a banquet followed. The visitors present were Bros. J. Remaite P.M. 12, W. Penchison 12, C. Nash P.M. 79, H. Robers P.M. 79, H. R. Harker 79, W. J. Laing P.M. 45, H. Newton 157, H. J. Green 190, Roper W.M. 147, J. Lightfoot P.M. 147, W. Tibballs 169, W. Woodwick P.M. 193, J. H. Ryley 188, J. J. West 548, C. J. Dilley P.M. 147, R. Beavey 700, H. H. Francis P.M. 857, J. H. Miller P.M. 907, Watson 1155, J. W. Baldwin W.M. 1423, H. Upton 933, &c.

Whittington Chapter, No. 862.—A Convocation of this Chapter was held at Anderton's Hotel on Saturday, 27th February. Companions Hurlston M.E.Z., Stephens H., Kingston J., W. A. Tinney P.S., A. Moore D.C., Jas. Brett P.Z. and James Weaver P.Z. The Chapter was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Three brethren were exalted into R.A. Masonry. The Chapter was closed, and a very excellent banquet followed.

Grosvenor Lodge, No. 1256.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on the 2nd inst., at the Westminster Palace Hotel. Bro. Bethell W.M., J. C. Cox S.W., Thurkle J.W., Meredith P.M. Treasurer, C. A. Cottebrune P.G.P. Secretary, Hughes S.D., Elliot J.D., Cante I.G., Lowenthal I.P.M., T. Parker P.M., &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Jones, Pearce and Cole were raised to the 3rd degree, Bros. Dovey, Barron and Richards were passed to the 2nd degree, and Messrs. Banse, Oakshotte and C. R. Watts were initiated into the Order. Bro. J. C. Cox S.W. was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. Meredith P.M. was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Woodstock Tyler. The newly elected W.M. announced his intention of acting as Steward at the next Festival for the Boys' School, and the Lodge voted the sum of £10 10s to be placed on his list. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren partook of a very excellent banquet. The usual toasts were given. Bros. J. Boyd P.G.P. and Rogers G.S. were present as visitors.

Asaph Lodge, No. 1319.—This Lodge met on Monday, the 1st instant, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Bro. E. Frewin W.M., Jekyll S.W., W. A. Tinney J.W., E. Terry S.D., H. Tinney J.D., C. Coote P.M., P.G.O. (Middlesex), E. S. Jones P.M., J. Chamberlin P.M., and Jas. Weaver P.G.O. (Middlesex), P.M. 862 and 1319, and about twenty-five brethren were present. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Three brethren were raised to the 3rd degree, and one gentleman was initiated. The Lodge was then closed and the brethren separated.

Gladsmuir Lodge, No. 1385, Herts, held its meeting on Friday the 26th ult. Bro. Hayward Edwards W.M. presiding. There were present, Past Masters Lowthin, Wingham, W. Cutbush; J. Cutbush S.W., Dr. Livingstone J.W., Young S.D., Venables J.D., Askew Secretary, and others. The chief business transacted was the report of the Auditors, which was read by Bro. Grey. On motion, duly proposed and seconded, this report, which showed a balance in favour of the Lodge, was received, and directed to be recorded on the minutes. Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to banquet, and passed a very agreeable evening.

Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, No. 1507.—The weekly meeting of this Lodge was well attended on Friday evening, 26th February. Bros. W. Side as W.M., Willing S.W., Williams J.W. The ceremonies of installation and passing were rehearsed, and the first section of the Second Lecture was worked, under Preceptor Adams. Bro. Willing presented the Lodge with a beautifully illuminated list of the founders' names, on vellum, and elegantly framed, which was acknowledged by the brethren with a most hearty and unanimous vote of thanks. Bro. Side also received recognition for the careful manner he had conducted the ceremonies. The brethren of this district would do well to drop in at the Metropolitan Club, 269 Pentonville Road, as these weekly gatherings are becoming very popular.

The Metropolitan Royal Arch Chapter of Improvement, meet every Tuesday, at 6.30, at the Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michael's Alley, Cornhill, under the able Preceptorship of Comp. James Brett P.Z. On every occasion the ceremony of exaltation is rehearsed, and, except in the absence of Comp. Brett, the sections or illustrations are explained. At the last meeting, when the offices were occupied by Comps. Noehmer Z., Constable H., Wier J., and Hooper P.S., the ceremony was most efficiently performed. Companions in search of Royal Arch Masonic knowledge cannot do better than embrace the facilities afforded in this Chapter of Improvement, as the working of Comp. Brett is celebrated for its purity and clearness. The place of meeting is central, and the hour early, enabling those who live at a distance to reach their homes in reasonable time.

THE DRAMA.

The 100th Night of Hamlet—Shakspeare at the Prince of Wales's—Mr. Hollingshead's Revivals—Arrah-na-Pogue at the Surrey.

THE 100th night of *Hamlet*, at the LYCEUM, was celebrated on Friday week by a banquet, at which not only the artistes of the theatre, but a large number of authors, journalists and others were present. Mr. Bateman of course presided, and in the course of the evening, or rather morning, some very interesting speeches were made. The new Examiner of Plays, Mr. Piggott, proposed Mr. Bateman's health, congratulating him upon his great success in the field of the legitimate drama, and, in particular, of his latest triumph, *Hamlet*. Mr. Bateman replied at length, and paid a high tribute to the intelligence and artistic power of Mr. Henry Irving, whose health he in turn concluded by proposing. Mr. Irving replied in an unaffected manner, and spoke with great feeling of the unvarying kindness and sympathy he had experienced from everyone connected with the theatre. He said that the first great impression he had received from acting had been in Edinburgh, in a performance of Mr. Webster's. He proposed the health of this veteran and resumed his seat amidst tremendous applause. Mr. Webster, replying to the toast, said, that he had seen Edmund Kean play *Hamlet*, and next to that great artist he ranked Mr. Irving. Other speeches were made by Mr. Charles Dickens, Mr. Compton and Mr. Chippendale, the last named gentleman stating that he had played Polonius to the *Hamlets* of Edmund Kean, Charles Young and J. P. Kemble, and had never been more impressed than he had been by the *Hamlet* of Mr. Irving. The banquet was in every way a great success.

It is again reported that *The Merchant of Venice* is to be produced at the PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, and this time we are favoured with the entire cast of the performance. Miss Ellen Terry is to play Portia, Mrs. Bancroft Nerissa, Miss Josephs Jessica; Shylock is allotted to Mr. Coghlan, Gratiano to Mr. Liu Rayne, Antonio to Mr. Archer, and Gobbo to Mr. Collette. The cast is certainly an extraordinary one, and will probably give rise to a considerable amount of curiosity—if the rumour be really correct.

The course of the theatrical stream may be described as taking a Shakespearian turn. Mr. Hollingshead, prompted doubtless by the success attending his production of the *Merry Wives of Windsor*, has enlisted the services of his combined staff, and at each of the three theatres under his control produces Shakspeare. We are now having the *Merchant of Venice* at the HOLBORN, with Mr. Creswick as Shylock, supported by Mr. Pennington as Bassanio, Mr. Edgar as Antonio, and Mr. Hall as Launcelot Gobbo. Miss Leighton acts impressively as Portia. At the OPERA COMIQUE, *As You Like It*, with Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, and Mr. H. Veizin; whilst at the GAIETY, the *Midsummer Night's Dream* is proving immensely successful. *Romeo and Juliet* will be produced at the CRYSTAL PALACE on Tuesday next.

Mr. W. Holland, under the determination that the glories of the SURREY THEATRE shall not fade while he directs its affairs, has produced Mr. Dion Boucicault's favourite Irish play, *Arrah-na-Pogue*. This popular piece, though not so often played as the *Colleen Bawn*, never fails to attract. On this occasion it has been most carefully placed upon the stage, and the various parts are well filled. Mr. H. Forrester, who is always painstaking, gives a most effective rendering of Shaun-the-Post; while Mr. F. Shepherd as O'Grady, Mr. H. Nicholls as Michael Feeney, Mr. H. C. Sidney as Beamish M'Conl, render good service in their respective roles. Miss Marie Henderson, who made her first appearance at this Theatre on Saturday last, faithfully portrays Arrah. We feel sure the revival will be a most successful one.

THE LORD MAYOR'S VISIT TO LIVERPOOL.

On Thursday morning the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Bro. D. H. Stone, left the Mansion House for Liverpool, on the invitation of the mayor of that town, whose guest he will be during his stay there. It is not in any sense a state visit, and therefore the Lord Mayor was only accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. Vine. For this reason the sword and mace bearers of the corporation, with their emblems of civic pomp, were wanting on the occasion. The authorities of the London and North Western Railway, by which the chief magistrate of the City of London travelled, placed one of their best saloon carriages at his disposal.

At the Lime-street Station his lordship was received in state by the Mayor of Liverpool (Mr. R. Steele) and the Corporation. In the evening the mayor entertained his lordship and a distinguished company of more than 250 persons in the Town-hall. The Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the mayors of the principle boroughs in the United Kingdom were also present. "The Health of the Lord Mayor of London" followed the loyal toasts, and his lordship, who was loudly cheered on rising, responded to the mayor's remarks in a forcible speech. After thanking him for the complimentary manner in which he had been pleased to speak of himself and the Corporation of London, he urged the desirability and advantage of a wider diffusion of municipal privileges and principles, which undoubtedly furnished the germs of general legislation. The toast of "The Municipalities of the United Kingdom" was responded to by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh. The Lord Mayor proposed "The Health of the Mayor of Liverpool," who was warmly and repeatedly applauded during his response. The Mayor will conduct his distinguished visitor over the docks to-day (Friday), and in the afternoon the Corporation will give a *dejeuner* in his honour at the Town Hall.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

W. J. T.—Your communication never reached us. Will you kindly inquire into the matter, and let us know the result.

F. W., Notts.—Many thanks for your offer. We shall be pleased to hear from you.

WARDEN.—The decision, in our opinion, was correct.

W. M.—If properly represented to the Provincial Grand Master we should think the matter could be arranged.

T. Q.—So mote it be. But we are not the contrivers of such things.

JOHN T.—We have already had an article on the subject, or rather a summary of the work. Perhaps Bro. *Freemason* has taken a leaf out of our book. Of this you are as good a judge as we.

DOWN A MINE.

I will not attempt to describe that descent. There are things of which no description can convey even a shadow, and this was one of them. We are indeed "like them that go down alive into the pit"—a passage which recurs to me with tenfold force as we sink away from the busy, green, sunny world, and the cold, silent cavern engulfs us deeper and deeper in its dismal gorge. At the mouth of the pit we are surrounded by multitudes of little birds, which flutter around us as if bidding us farewell; their beautiful plumage, that glances in the sunlight as they flit to and fro, contrasting strangely with the dismal shadows into which we are about to plunge; but as we descend, even these leave us, and we are utterly alone. An immense solitude—

a crushing, overwhelming silence. I think I never conceived the idea of perfect silence before. Even in the stillness of midnight, or of a calm in the lonely tropical seas, you have echoes, vibrations—the shadows, as it were, of sounds that have been—but here there is neither sound nor echo; it is the stillness of mid-air combined with the stillness of the grave. In that enormous isolation, even the presence of my comrades gives me no feeling of companionship—with two men close beside me, I am as utterly solitary as if I were quite alone. We are now midway. The cheerless dimness which rises from below gives a wan, ghastly look to every crag and hollow of the great wilderness of buried mountains through which we are passing. Strange and monstrous forms, such as those with which the grim fancy of the Norseman peopled his native solitudes, loom giant-like through the leaden haze. Grim faces scowl at us as we pass; clawed hands start forward, as if to bar our way; gaping jaws gnash at us, and huge half-seen monsters seem striving to topple loose crags upon our heads; but in all this multiplicity of furious life there is not the faintest sound! It is a hell in dumb show! Suddenly the bucket is jarred by a heavy shock which shakes it from top to bottom. We have just grazed a huge jutting crag, vast and shadowy as the fragment of some ruined planet—such as Martin would have peopled with the remnants of nations fleeing from the terrors of the Last Judgment. And now at length, after an interval which seems immeasurable, sounds from below begin to break the tremendous silence. We hear, faintly at first, but ever more and more distinctly the stroke of pickaxe and spade, the rumble of the barrows rolling to and fro, the cheery shouts of the workmen; and the sense of having been exiled from human companionship for a limitless space of time is so intense as to defy even the palpable realities of time and space. Moment by moment, the shadows below grow less and less dark, the tiny figures of the workmen more and more distinct, the features of the strange panorama larger, and firmer, and clearer, till at length, with a violent shock, our bucket dashes itself upon the great sheet of ice and gravel at the bottom, and the journey is over. Instinctively I look at my watch, and start to find that the whole descent has occupied only seven minutes. 'I know now what men mean when they talk of living a lifetime in one moment,' remark I to my companion, as we disembark."—From "Cassell's Family Magazine" for March.

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