

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

VOL. II.—No. 35.

SATURDAY, 28th AUGUST 1875.

PRICE THREEPENCE.
[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

HONORARY DISTINCTIONS.

IT has often struck us that one of the petty charges brought against our Order, has, at all events, something of a substantial groundwork to rest upon. It is a common subject of ridicule, not with the *hoi polloi* so much as with the more intelligent classes, when they see ordinary folk arrayed in all the gorgeous finery of the Foresters and other friendly societies. The leader of the procession, who has arrayed himself beautifully, and quite regardless of expense, so as most nearly to resemble Robin Hood, or Little John, or some other "swell" of that remote period, is probably a most respectable and inoffensive tradesman, who, in his ordinary costume, and in the performance of his ordinary duties, is respected by all his neighbours. On the high days and holidays of Forestry, however, his appearance is so bewildering that the small boys jeer him, and his friends know him not in his quaint apparel. He is beribboned and bejewelled from head to foot, and, as it not unfrequently happens that his mien is neither the most graceful nor the most commanding, the grandeur of his costume adds not a little to the ridiculousness of his general appearance. Others there are who figure thus publicly, and cause more or less excitement and laughter among the spectators, according as they are more or less gorgeously arrayed. Now the public display of Masonic paraphernalia is not allowed except a dispensation has been obtained from the supreme authority. But none the less do sundry of our Order exhibit an undue love of finery, this display, however, being strictly confined, except as aforesaid, within the sacred precincts of the Lodge. Now we have no objection as a rule to a little vanity. A man may even be very justly proud of sundry of his decorations. The brother who has laboured in the performance of his arduous duties as W.M. of his Lodge, or as Steward to one of our Charities, is certainly deserving of some recognition, and our late M.W.G.M. H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, fully appreciating how small a reward would serve as an incentive to great exertion in the cause of beneficence, graciously sanctioned the wearing of Charity Jewels by those who had served the office of Steward to two of our Charities, with additional tokens in the shape of bars or clasps for further service of a similar character. Again, no reasonable objection can be raised to a deserving W.M. receiving some token from his Lodge of their appreciation of his services during his term of office. A P.M.'s jewel is a token of the respect in which an eminent brother is held by his brethren. But there is a limit to all things. As a correspondent pointed out in our columns last week, it may happen that a member has filled the chair of more than one Lodge, and that each has presented him with a P.M.'s jewel. He may have served also other offices and have received other tokens of respect for his services in those other capacities, the result being that some brethren are so bejewelled that a young craftsman might almost be excused for mistaking them for veteran Field Marshals or gorgeously bedizened Court Chamberlains. "Charity" suggests that a retiring W.M. should receive a life subscribership in those cases where he was already decorated as a P.M. The suggestion is a practical one, and we shall willingly give space in our pages to any of our readers who may be desirous of expressing an opinion on the subject. It is clear too, that the matter requires some "ventilation." Grand Lodge, while jealous in the case of all matters connected with the discipline of the Craft, is slow to intervene without just cause is shown for its intervention. We have received copy of a circular addressed to the Masters of our

several Lodges, pointing out that no "Special or Commemorative Lodge Jewel" can legally be worn without the express sanction of the Grand Master. We hail this wholesome hint to members as to any undue display of jewellery with the utmost satisfaction, especially as we feel that it came not wholly uncalled for. The plain garb of a brother is more honourable than the decoration of the Garter or any other Order of Knighthood, and the more simple it is, the more it becomes our Craft, whose grandest claim to respect is its simple, quiet, and unobtrusive beneficence. The following is the circular above referred to:—

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, W.C.,

25th August 1875.

W. Master,

The attention of the Board of General Purposes having been directed to the fact of "Special or Commemorative Lodge Jewels" being worn by Members of the Craft, without the authorization of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, I am directed to request you to warn all the Members of your Lodge that no "Special or Commemorative Lodge Jewel" can legally be worn without the express authority of His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful GRAND MASTER having been first obtained.

I am, W. MASTER,

Yours fraternally,

JOHN HERVEY G.S.

To The W. Master
Lodge No.

ORDER OF CHARLES XIII. OF SWEDEN.

THE following translation of the Manifesto of King Charles XIII. of Sweden, on the occasion of his establishing the Masonic Order which bears his name, and of the Statutes of the said Order, may be interesting to our readers.

MANIFESTO.

We, Charles XIII., by the Grace of God, King of the Swedes, Goths, and Vandals, &c., &c., &c., make known that among the cares which, under divine Providence, we have assumed in accepting the Crown of Sweden, not one is dearer to us than that of inquiring into and rewarding merit whose aim is to benefit the commonweal.

We have seen that our glorious ancestors and predecessors, animated by like sentiments, in renewing several ancient orders, strove to arouse their subjects to bold and patriotic acts, and bestowed some ostensible mark of honour on men of eminent virtue. If, not unfrequently, we confer reward on those who have shown themselves faithful, brave, intelligent, or industrious, neither must we overlook those good citizens who, in a narrower and less brilliant sphere, and guided only by a desire to be of service to humanity, are secretly prodigal of succour to the distressed and the orphan, and who, in the form of refuges for the indigent, leave traces, not of their names, but of the benefits they have conferred.

As we are desirous of paying honour to these virtuous actions, which the laws of the Kingdom prescribe not, and which are but seldom brought under the notice of the public, we have been unable to withhold certain proofs of our special goodwill from that estimable Society in Sweden, which we ourselves have administered and presided over, the dogmas and institutions of which we have studied and propagated, of which for so long a period of time we have

been the chief, and with which, in fine, we have invariably preserved such excellent relations, as will assure on the part of its members, now our subjects, both to us and to our successors to the Swedish throne, the fulfilment of all those duties which religion, fidelity, and attachment to the throne can demand of men.

In order, then, to confer on this body a proof of our good will, we will and ordain that its principal dignitaries, in such numbers as we shall determine, shall, in the future, receive the most conspicuous mark of our confidence, which shall be to them the distinctive sign of the highest dignity, and we make it known by these presents that those who shall receive it shall for the future be known as a body of Knights, under the name of Charles XIII., of which we ourselves shall be the Grand Master.

As in establishing this Order our purpose is not only to excite our subjects to the practice of beneficence, and to perpetuate the remembrance of its devotion to our person of that society when subject to our direction, but also to furnish proofs of our royal esteem towards those whom for so long a period we have embraced and looked upon under the name of brothers; we have selected for the institution of this Order the day when our beloved son and successor, the Prince Charles John, hath taken upon himself, in conjunction with us, the general governance of the Society aforesaid.

We leave by these presents to him and to his successors to the throne of Sweden the care of maintaining and handing down this Institution in Sweden, in accordance with the following ordinances, which we have signed with our own hand, and which we have confirmed with the seal of our Royal Order of St. Seraphim.

Given at Stockholm, in the Chapter held on the 27th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1811, and in the second of our reign.

(Signed) CHARLES.

(Countersigned) CHARLES MOERNER.

STATUTES OF THE ORDER OF CHARLES XIII.

Art. I. We have selected and do hereby select among the first dignitaries of the Society we desire to distinguish and reward, in accordance with our Manifesto of the 27th May, with some ostensible proof of our royal munificence, the number which we determine hereinafter, in order to establish an Order of Knights, which shall bear the name of Charles XIII., whereof we shall be the Grand Master. The King of the Swedes, Goths, and Vandals, and his successors, shall be the Grand Masters of this Order, which shall enjoy for ever their high protection. The heir to the throne shall have the general direction thereof.

II. The King shall never permit the abolition or extinction of the Order, but he shall encourage always the beneficent virtues, which should be practised by its members, and shall bear in mind those actions which have distinguished them during our administration.

III. There can only be admitted into the order of Charles XIII. twenty-seven Civil Knights and three Ecclesiastical; in all, thirty members. The King shall fill up this number or not at his pleasure, but he shall never exceed it. The hereditary Prince, and the princes of the blood royal, whom the King shall appoint Knights, shall not be included in this number.

IV. No one shall be admitted a Knight before he has completed his thirty-sixth year, the princes of the blood royal alone excepted, the King reserving to himself the right to bestow upon them the Cross of the Order when it pleases him.

V. This Order shall comprise one grade only, and all the Knights shall enjoy equal rights and prerogatives.

VI. Every Knight shall be held to be a member of the Order until death, whatever other Order, Swedish or foreign, he may possess, now or hereafter.

VII. No Knight of our Order shall be permitted to ask for, or accept, without permission of the Sovereign, the Order of any other Sovereign or power. He who contravenes these present regulations shall lose the Order of Charles XIII., and be deemed unworthy of wearing it.

VIII. Whosoever, by word or action, shall seek to damage our Order, or question the choice of the King and Grand Master, shall, *ipso facto*, be adjudged unworthy to receive it, and shall, in addition, be punished according to the law.

IX. The Knights of the Order of Charles XIII. shall form a special Chapter, which shall not be conjoined with the Chapter General, the which will only assemble in presence of the King, for the purpose of deliberating about questions proposed by him.

X. Save the Chapter General, no other tribunal shall have power to declare that a Knight has been guilty of anything derogatory to this Order.

XI. The twenty-eighth January, the anniversary of our fête, shall be the only day set apart for the election of Knights.

XII. The institution and the ordinances of this Order, which the King hath published and signed in the Chapter General, shall be taken conjointly with its acts. The reception, as well as the death of any member, shall be published in the Chapter General next following the announcement of one or other event; meanwhile, no Knight shall be admitted into the Chapter General, unless he has the right of entry as Commander of one of the Royal Orders.

XIII. If the King is desirous of appointing certain Knights, he shall convoke, in his cabinet, the chief dignitaries of the Order, and shall communicate to them the names of him or them he has chosen. Whenever a Knight is nominated, he shall not wear the cross till he has been duly appointed by the King, and this ceremonial shall not be fulfilled till two months after his nomination.

XIV. If the King is desirous of raising a Knight, he shall do so in the apartments of the Palace, whither all the members of the Order shall have been summoned. The Knights of St. Seraphim shall be invited by the Chancellor to be present, as at all other receptions of Knights.

XV. When the Knight designate is introduced, the Chancellor of the Order shall read the letters patent of the King so designating him. It is conceived in the terms following:—"We, —, by the Grace of God, King of the Swedes, Goths, and Vandals, &c., &c., &c., make known that having taken into our gracious consideration the zeal and beneficent acts by which our dear and well beloved N or M hath striven, and yet strives to furnish proofs of his attachment to the public weal, having regard also to the fidelity with which he has discharged the duties of a loyal subject and good citizen, we have determined to receive the said N or M, in testimony of our satisfaction, as a Knight of our Order of Charles XIII., as a recompense for his good will, and with a view to encourage him in its continuance. For these reasons it is we nominate and receive, by virtue of these present letters patent, N or M, as Knight of our Order of Charles XIII., of which we are Grand Master. We bestow upon him accordingly, with every outward visible sign of honour and confidence, all the prerogatives, privileges, and powers attached, or which may be attached in future to our Order. We take him under our royal protection, so that all discomforts he may experience by reason of his promotion shall be regarded as an offence against our person, and the authors of such annoyances be punished according to the rigour of the laws. In the hope that every one shall conform to our will in respect of these presents, and in order to make them authentic, we have signed with our own hand, and have affixed thereto the royal seal of our Order of St. Seraphim. Given at Stockholm, in the Chapter of the Order, &c.

XVI. Thereupon the Chancellor of the Order shall call upon the newly nominated Knight to take the oath and shall express himself as follows:—"Chevalier N or M, nominated to the Order of Charles XIII., advance in order to take your oath of allegiance." The new Knight shall then approach, kneel down, and pronounce the following oath as dictated by the Chancellor of the Order:—

"I, N or M, do hereby vow to God and on his Holy Gospel, that while fulfilling inviolably all my obligations hereunto before contracted, I will with my whole life and fortune guard the pure doctrines of the Gospel, that I will be faithful and true to the King and his government, contribute to the well being of the State, resist oppression, maintain peace and equity, promote union and obedience to the laws; in short, that I will conform, as far as in me lies, to the statutes of the Order, and whatsoever shall be prescribed to me. So help me God."

XVII. When the oath is taken, the Knight shall advance and place himself upon a stool before the King, who will dub him Knight, by giving three strokes of his sword on the left shoulder, and saying:—"We, —, by the Grace

of God, King of the Swedes, Goths, and Vandals, receive thee as a Knight of our Order of Charles XIII.; be worthy of that honour." Thereupon the Treasurer of the Order hands the cross to the King, who suspends it from the neck of the Knight; the latter rises and kisses the hand of the King in token of thanks for the honour that has been conferred upon him.

XVIII. The ensign of the Order is a ruby-coloured cross, with branches issuing in the form of four triangles from a ball enamelled in white on both sides. On one side of the ball are two CC circumscribing the number XIII., and on the other the letter B in black, environed by a golden triangle. This cross, surmounted by a golden crown, is suspended from a ring by a red riband.

XIX. Knights of the Order of Charles XIII. will take precedence after Commanders and before Knights of our other Orders.

XX. If a Knight of this Order is Commander of another, or if he be raised to that dignity and take his seat accordingly in our Chapter General, he shall wear the riband and cross of the Order with other decorations.

XXI. Whenever a Knight dies, his death shall be announced to the King, as Grand Master, by the oldest Knight present. The insignia of the Order with which the deceased was decorated shall be borne in the funeral cortège in accordance with the usage of our other Orders. This decoration shall be afterwards handed by three Knights to the King, who shall receive it at their hands.

XXII. If a Knight of the Order leave any children under age, and in such a state of indigence that they cannot be maintained or educated, the King, as protector and guardian of orphans, shall, on due information to this effect, issue orders for their maintenance and education.

XXIII. For greater authenticity and certainty we have signed these statutes with our own hand, and have affixed thereto the seal of our Royal Order of St. Seraphim.

Stockholm, in the Chapter of the Order, this twenty-seventh day of May in the year of Grace 1811 and the second of our reign.

(Signed) CHARLES.

(Countersigned) CHARLES MOERNER.

MASONS OUT OF TOWN.

AMONG the many places to which the tired Londoner betakes himself for recreation, there are few more pleasant, though perhaps there are many more fashionable, than the watering places of the East Anglian coast. From Cromer,—the favoured retreat of local magnates,—whose comparative inaccessibility keeps it more select than the rest, down to recently-discovered Clacton-on-Sea, there are endless delightful haunts, open to the German Ocean and its health-giving breezes, and all, to our thinking, more adapted for the great object, bathing, so far as the advantages of sandy beaches over shingly and rocky shores captivate the dabbler who likes to swim (?) with at least one foot on the ground. Above all the eastern watering places within reach of London, we confess to a strong predilection in favour of the ancient town of Great Yarmouth. In addition to the usual delights of reposing on the beach and wandering on the piers, imbibing the sea-breeze, not unmingled with tobacco smoke, we can enjoy the delights of inspecting the herring fishery, and, if we choose to dive into the recesses of the older and less watering-placeish part of the town, of saturating ourselves with the aroma diffused in the preparation of the succulent bloater. Here, too, is the old "jetty," preferred by all *habitués* of Yarmouth to the more stately modern piers, and on this, at the proper time of the year, a distinguished M.M. is generally to be seen, sinking the head of a department in a compound of Mr. Chucks and Captain Cuttle, and surveying the herring fleet with the eye of a Xerxes.

The visitor will at once be struck with the very handsome column commemorating Nelson's victories, at the southern end of the town, and near the extremity of the peninsula formed by the sea and the embouchure of several rivers,—locally known as Breydon Water,—on which the town is built, and will not, if his curiosity leads him to a closer inspection, fail to be yet further delighted with the *naïveté* which led the local magnates of the time to inscribe

their own names in equally prominent positions with those of their mighty countryman and his captains. The "Rows," as they are locally called, connecting the principal streets, are by no means the least interesting feature in Yarmouth. We cannot at the present moment recal any other town possessing such a number of odd-looking alleys. Their number is indeed so great that the nomenclators of the place appear to have utterly failed in giving them names, and have contented themselves with numbering them after—or probably before—the manner of our American cousins.

Under the present arrangements of the Great Eastern Railway, not to mention the boat companies, Yarmouth has become very accessible, and a "Saturday till Monday" visit is now much more practicable, by the aid of special fast trains, than it was in the days when the dreary round through Cambridge and Norwich was the only alternative for those who feared sea-sickness, and a day may be very profitably spent in looking round the curiosities of the town and its immediate surroundings, not forgetting, if on Sunday, a visit to the beautiful old church, and, whatever day it be, a dip in the briny wave.

There is one point in which the neighbourhood of Yarmouth cannot, we think, be surpassed by any part of England,—we allude to fishing. Certainly trout and salmon are not obtainable here, but are they anywhere, except with difficulty and expense? every petty trout-stream being preserved, and necessarily so. But for those who are not above bottom-fishing, we venture to say that they cannot tell what it means till they have visited Norfolk. The "big takes" chronicled in the weekly reports from the Thames, in our sporting contemporaries, sink into insignificance beside the every-day catches of these waters. How would the potterer after illegally-sized roach and dace at Teddington or Moulsey like to reckon his fish by the stone? And despite the somewhat greater expense of the railway journey, we think that the whole cost of a few days' fishing here would not exceed that of the same number of days on the Thames or Lea by any great amount. The "broads" or lakes which abound in this neighbourhood literally swarm with fish, principally bream, but the perch are very fine and tolerably numerous, and in winter large jack may be taken by fair fishing, though the poaching habit of using trimmers or "liggers" as they are here called, is productive of much mischief. Most of the "broads" are free to the angler, and the only difficulty is the procuring a boat, which is indispensable. We may recommend the "Eel's Foot," at Ormesby Broad, as an excellent place to obtain boats. It is disgusting to think how these splendid fisheries are netted and the fish absolutely thrown away, and still more so to read letters in a sporting paper from some neighbouring snob defending the practice; but, despite this wilful destruction, any of the chain of lakes communicating with Ormesby Broad will, on a favourable day, afford more fish than the angler will care to carry away. And many of the others will give even better sport than these. We were conversing some time since with an old Thames angler, to whom we described the glories of our beloved "broads," and who informed us that he "did not care about still-water fishing." We must say that we failed to see the difference between Thames punt-fishing and sitting in a boat on a "broad." But if any of our readers are possessed with similar scruples, we can refer them to river-fishing, equally excellent. Mr. Benns's comfortable hostelry at Reedham Ferry, between Yarmouth and Norwich, will afford every accommodation to the angler, and the sport here, or indeed at almost any point on the Yare or Bure, is unrivalled.

For those who like sea-fishing, which we confess we do not, there is endless sport to be had, even by fishing from the piers. The non-fisherman will wonder, not at the quantity of herrings to be seen in London and all over the country—as we have frequently known people do—but at what becomes of all that are caught, when he sees the *miles* of nets stretched out to be dried and repaired on the "denes." For all information as to both sea and fresh-water fishing in the neighbourhood, we may confidently refer the visitor to our worthy brother, the landlord of the Crown and Anchor Hotel. We would however suggest to the fisherman, who only intends a short stay, to take with him a plentiful supply of worms. They are not easy to get here, especially in dry seasons.

As to the scenery of this neighbourhood, have you not the sea? But though many may cavil at this flat country, the "broads" and marshy rivers are not to our mind devoid of attraction. Do any of our readers recollect Mr. Wilkie Collins's description of a sunset on a "broad," in

"Armada?" For the antiquarian and artist Norfolk will afford equal attractions by its endless variety of church architecture, and the naturalist will find an abundant field for observation, particularly among the water and wading birds, which, as might be expected, abound here. We have found a rare fern, the *Lastrea Thelypteris*, in what we believe is an unregistered habitat, on the banks of one of the "broads," but we will not say which. Selfish, perhaps—but kind to the plant.

We trust we have said enough to awaken the curiosity of those of our readers who have never visited this part of the world. We can assure them it is accessible, for, in addition to the excursion trains from Saturday to Monday, the railway offers facilities for a more protracted stay by issuing fortnightly tickets, by fast trains, at reduced rates.

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE.

THE following is the business to be transacted on Wednesday, 1st September, 1875:

1. The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication of the 2nd June for confirmation.

2. Report of the Lodge of Benevolence for the last quarter, in which are recommendations for Grants to the amount of £350.

3. THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England:

The Board of General Purposes beg to report that the subject of wearing special or Commemorative Jewels unauthorized by the Most Worshipful Grand Master having been brought under their notice, they have considered it desirable to direct the Grand Secretary to issue a Circular to the Provincial Grand Secretaries and other Masonic authorities, requesting them to warn the Brethren under their several jurisdictions against wearing any such Jewels, except those which have previously received the sanction of the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

(Signed) PETER de L. LONG,

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, W.C.,

Vice-President.

17th August, 1875.

To the Report is subjoined a statement of the Grand Lodge Accounts at the last Meeting of the Finance Committee, held on Friday, the 13th day of August instant, shewing a balance in the hands of the Grand Treasurer of £3,482 10s 7d; and in the hands of the Grand Secretary for Petty Cash £75; and for Servants' Wages, £96 15s.

4. The Annual Report of "The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons," dated the 21st May 1875, will be laid before the Grand Lodge.

List of Lodges for which warrants have been granted by the M.W. Grand Master since the last Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge.

1551.—Lodge of Charity, Birmingham.

1552.—Lodge of Tranquillity, Sydney, N.S.W.

1553.—Light of the South Lodge, Rosario de Sante Fé, Argentine Republic.

1554.—Mackay Lodge, Mackay, Queensland.

1555.—Royal Prince of Wales Lodge, Penang, Prince of Wales' Island.

1556.—Addiscombe Lodge, Addiscombe, Surrey.

1557.—Albert Edward Lodge, Hexham, Northumberland.

1558.—Duke of Connaught Lodge, Camberwell.

1559.—New Cross Lodge, New Cross.

1560.—Albert Edward Lodge, Leicester.

1561.—Morecambe Lodge, Morecambe, Lancashire.

1562.—Homfray Lodge, Riscar, Monmouthshire.

"Clergymen, district visitors, and others, who often find it expedient to present some wine to a sick person, for the purpose of restoring health, may with confidence use the 'Specialite' Sherry of Messrs. Felton and Sons, of Albemarle-street. About five hundred medical men have testified as to its soundness and freedom from acidity or heat, and their opinion will be readily endorsed by those who try it. It has the advantage, moreover, of being sold at a price not exceeding the injurious compounds commonly sold as Sherry."—*The Rock*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

—:o:—

OUR FREEMASONRY.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I had a good laugh over the earnest way in which Bro. Yarker tells your readers that I, at p. 101, had placed words in his mouth which he had never used. I think the context may be fairly left to explain that. He might about as well have said that I had set him astride an animal which was dead three hundred years before he was born! To come to the point, however, we find Bro. Yarker, at p. 116, saying:—"I before quoted two sources which I consider undeniably to prove the antiquity of the system of three degrees. * * * The first of these is the Sloane MS., No. 3309,* recently edited by the Rev. Bro. Woodford, as a MS. of 1650, which I consider it is, and possibly one alluded to by Dr. Plot. The second is an Aberdeen ritual of 1727."

Now I have taken considerable interest in this Sloane MS. No. 3329, f. 142, in the British Museum, and in August 1872 I published a copy of it in the Masonic News. This copy I got through the kind courtesy of Bro. Hughan. The editor of the Masonic News got anything but thanks, however, from some of the more ignorant or bigotted portion of his readers. Bro. Woodford's pamphlet appeared in November 1872. The great question, however, is:—What is the real age of this Sloane MS.? Because it would help to support some of his other notions, Bro. Yarker unhesitatingly considers its age to be A.D. 1650. I however wrote to Dr. Bond, the Keeper of the MSS. of the British Museum, upon this point, and judging from the handwriting, he considered its age to be about 1710, so that is sixty years less than Bro. Yarker. In his "Unpublished Records of the Craft," Bro. Hughan says:—"We are also informed, by a gentleman whose name has been honourably associated with the British Museum for years, that 'as Sir Hans Sloane only died in 1753, the article on MS. 3329 might easily be of a date after 1717.'" Bro. Jacob Norton, of America, judging from its contents, is inclined to date it no older than 1730, while my own idea is about 1720. From the above, therefore, it will be seen that Bro. Yarker's dictum, that the age of this Sloane MS. 3329 is 1650, is of very little value, unless he can bring other evidence to support it, which neither he nor any one else, to my knowledge, has as yet done. As to the 1727 Aberdeen ritual it is not worth while taking up space about it, as that date is ten years after 1717. The upshot of this controversy, therefore, is, that so far as the production of "undeniable" evidence to prove the existence of our three degrees before A.D. 1717 is concerned, the result has been nil.

I am, yours fraternally,

W. P. BUCHAN.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR,—I have no intention of interfering in a controversy between two such doughty antagonists as Bros. Yarker and Buchan, but there are one or two matters relating, either directly or indirectly, to the points at issue, which seem to me worthy of remark from others. I must premise, however, that I am but a young Masonic student, and what I offer is more in the way of suggestion than of argument.

First, as to the question, Was Sir Christopher Wren a Mason? For my own part, I should be willing to accept Bro. Yarker's quotation from Aubrey as pretty conclusive evidence of a well-known, if not (according to our more exacting modern ideas) well-authenticated fact, namely, that Wren was a Mason. But had I any doubts about the value of Aubrey's statement, the concurrent testimony of eminent men, were such obtainable, would go a very long way towards silencing those doubts, and it strikes me such testimony is obtainable. Bro. Manningham, a former Deputy Grand Master, writing under date of 12th July 1757, to a Dutch Bro. Saucer on the subject of the high degrees at that time being imported into the Netherlands, records that "Grand Master Payne, who succeeded Sir Christopher Wren, is ignorant of them," (that is the high degrees). Now here is an eminent official in Masonry who quotes in evidence respecting certain innovations the living authority of the Master "who succeeded Sir Christopher Wren." And as what, may I ask, if not as Grand Master of Masons? Payne was G.M. in 1718 and 1720, Sir C. Wren died in 1723. Thirty-four years after the occurrence of this last event, Dr. Manningham speaks in the present tense of Sir C. Wren's successor being ignorant of certain things. Compare we this statement, which comes from a Mason, with the independent evidence of Aubrey as quoted by Bro. Yarker. The announcement in the latter that "Sir C. Wren is to be adopted a Freemason," and Bro. Manningham's reference to Payne, "who succeeded Sir C. Wren," form, at all events, a very remarkable concurrence of testimony. Are we to reject all but documentary evidence in a case of this description? The positive statements of well-known Masons, contemporary with Wren, cannot be overlooked, or set down as valueless, and there is no single Masonic writer, with whose works I am acquainted, who does not put down Wren as a Mason, not merely in what I will call a figurative sense, as an earnest architect associated with operative Masonry, but in accordance with the present, or speculative, definition of the art. Would the announcements of all these people have passed unchallenged had there been no foundation

* No. 3329, I suppose he means.—W.P.B.

for what they announced? It must not be overlooked that Masonry, within a very few years of its revival, attracted a considerable amount of notice throughout Europe, to that extent, indeed, that some fifteen years after Wren's death, the then Pope honoured us with a special bull of excommunication. There was a considerable amount of antagonism to the Art in England, and the right of Masons to include Wren among the members of the Fraternity would assuredly have been questioned, had the claim been merely "the baseless fabric of a vision." Wren was a man of eminence, whose name would have been a pillar of strength to any order—whether of Masons or of Jesuit. Had he been no Mason, the inquiries of anti-Masons would certainly have disposed of the fact, when it was so openly and so generally announced by Masons. Again, there are special reasons why documentary evidence, not only in Wren's case, but in that of every speculative Mason of that epoch, should not be forthcoming. The political state of England was most unsettled, and the members of a secret society would have every reason to keep the fact of their membership a secret from the friends and foes alike of the powers that were. Nor is there any antecedent improbability in Wren being a Mason. He was the architect of his day, and, as such, a fitting patron of operative Masonry. He was otherwise a man of great learning—a philosopher in fact—and, as such, likely enough to have lent his mind to the speculative side of Masonry. Are we wrong, I ask, under these circumstances, in accepting him as "Grand Master of the most ancient and honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons?"—for so the well-known Lawrence Dermott, Grand Secretary of Ancient Masons, describes Sir Christopher, in his address prefixed to the third edition of *Ahiman Rezon*, published in 1788. Can Bro. Buchan disprove the statements of our Masonic historians?

Then, as to the question, Whether Masonry was at all speculative prior to the year 1717? Are we to assume that in that year Speculative Masonry sprang suddenly into being? Can we ignore the statement of Ashmole, that, in company with Colonel Mainwaring, he was made a Freemason in 1646, at Warrington, in Lancashire, and that in March 1682 he was present at a Lodge meeting in London, when Sir William Wilson Knt., Captain Richard Borthwick, and others "were admitted into the Fellowship of Freemasons." Again in 1626, that is only six years before Sir C. Wren was born—there died the great Francis Bacon, author of the *New Atlantis*, of which you gave an elaborate notice in one of your issues. In 1662 the Royal Society received its Charter from Charles II. Am I not justified in regarding the following concatenation of facts as suggestive of an era of speculative combined with operative Freemasonry anterior to 1717? Lord Bacon, the author of the *New Atlantis*, died 1626. Inigo Jones, whom we number among our Grand Masters, died, some say in 1646, while others set down his death in 1653. Wren was born in 1632, and had already achieved fame as a young philosopher in 1646, the year in which Ashmole, the antiquary, and a student of alchemy, was made a Freemason. In 1682 other non-operative Masons "were admitted into the Fellowship of the Craft," *teste* Ashmole. According to Aubrey, Wren was "to be adopted" into Masonry in 1691. The revival of Masonry occurred in 1717, from which year it ceased wholly to have anything operative in its character. Does not all this justify the views of those Masonic writers who look beyond 1717 for the origin of Speculative Masonry?

The question is one well worthy of consideration in your columns and I hope some brethren older and more competent than I feel myself to be, will take it up, and, to use an airy expression of the day, "ventilate" it thoroughly.

Yours fraternally,

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BROTHER YARKER ON "OUR FREEMASONRY."

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am pleased to find that my terming Brother Yarker an aged Freemason has created some amusement amongst the members of his family; but my information was derived from a remark of his a few years since. I am glad, however, to hear that our Brother is not an old man (which I did not say), though I am informed he is the senior of very many Craftsmen of the present day.

I wish in Ireland we had more Masonic investigators of the English and Scottish (not Scotch to please Bro. Buchan) stamp. Save the venerable Dr. Townshend (Judge), and a few honourable exceptions, like Bro. Neilson, of Dublin, Bro. Commander Scott, of Omagh, we have few in our "Emerald Isle" who "patronise our mysteries" beyond the threshold, so I mean to do a little myself in unravelling our history, if our British friends will hold out the right hand of fellowship.

I am much obliged to Bro. Yarker for his communication in answer to my first letter; and I feel sure that if other able brethren would follow his example, and reply to friendly criticisms or questions, much light would be elicited on obscure parts of our history. Bro. Yarker refers me to the Sloane MS., edited by Bro. Woodford, for evidence of the existence of the three degrees prior to the last century. I know the MS. well, and have again examined it. Of course, it is of doubtful antiquity; but assuming that the present MS., of date from 1710 to 1730, is a copy of a MS. (now missing) of 1640, as Bro. Woodford states, we do not thereby prove the antiquity of the three degrees. Bro. Yarker will be aware that not a Minute of any Lodge has been produced which mentions the separate meeting of Master Masons to raise Fellow Crafts to the third degree prior to 1720; that in fact not a MS. or printed work exists which alludes to the term *degree* until after the "Revival," and that the Master was placed in the Chair in the presence of all the Craftsmen. I quite think it likely that a word was whispered into the Master's ear on his election and assuming the Chair; but *degrees* are quite another and distinct matter, and certainly we cannot accept the evidence of the Sloane MS. as final. The next proof submitted is the "Aberdeen Ritual" of 1727. How does Bro. Yarker know it is

1727? I understood the date was uncertain. But suppose we accept the year in which it was printed to be 1727, what then? The work consists of "A Mason's Confession of the Oath, &c., at D—, about the year 1727;" but I have not heard of any date being on the title-page. Bro. Yarker says it mentions the three degrees by name. Suppose it does, is that evidence of the existence of the three degrees prior to the last century? No wonder if the three degrees were known in 1727 at Aberdeen (or Dundee) when the Rev. Dr. Desaguliers visited the Lodge of Edinburgh in 1721, and we know for a fact that whereas the three degrees are nowhere alluded to before then in the Minutes of the Lodge at Aberdeen, they are regularly noticed a few years afterwards.

With respect to the Mark question, I quite think, with Bro. Yarker, that the Mark *degree* has not had an existence much over a century, but the custom of choosing a Mark is an old one. Bro. Yarker says, "In no English MS. whatever is there any Mark Registration." As to that, there is scarcely any account of old English Lodges, but in one of the oldest preserved, viz., the Alnwick Lodge, from 1701, there are numerous Marks to be found attached to the names in the old records as with those of the Scottish Lodges. We are indebted to Bro. Hughan for a sketch of this ancient Lodge, which appeared in the *Freemason* some time since. In the fourth division of Bro. Yarker's interesting communication, he kindly informs us that the testimony of the two documents before mentioned is "confirmed by numerous other MSS." What MSS.? In such an important matter as our ancient history, surely Bro. Yarker ought not to make such a statement? According to our researches in Masonic works, there are no MSS. of any antiquity which allude to the three degrees, and so the confirmation spoken of by modern MSS. appears to us worthless, but I am open to correction, and can only say the production of MSS. prior to the last century, or anterior to 1720, which confirm the testimony of the two documents hereinbefore mentioned, will secure from me the amplest acknowledgment.

I have read Bro. Yarker's "Speculative Masonry," and at p. 116 have noted his remarks. He therein quotes from the "Grand Mystery Discovered," of 1725, in which allusion is made to a certain brother (evidently Dr. Rawlinson, F.R.S. and L.L.D.) being of the "Fifth Order." The pamphlet is a whimsical production, and, so far as I can discover, contains nothing in reference to any degree beyond the third. Surely the allusion to the "Fifth Order" in such a connection is not a fair evidence of the existence of the Royal Arch in 1725? In fact, but little is said which would warrant us in believing there were as many degrees as three at that period, provided no other proof existed of their being then worked. I thank Bro. Yarker for his reference to Ramsay's "Travels of Cyrus," and will procure the work, so as see what that Brother says of the *Hautes Grades*, but I presume "High Grade Information" may mean something which existed prior to the *Hautes Grades*, which the latter adopted. I should like to get clear of an oath I once took, and as Bro. Yarker appears to have managed to purge himself of those he took under the "Ancient and Accepted Rite," I shall be glad to be informed how he has satisfied his conscience as to his obligations to that body. Cannot you, Brother Editor, induce that good Brother, Captain Irwin, to lend you his work of 1721, to be reprinted in your pages. I do wish he would consent, and thus circulate an ancient book of consequence to our researches. Facts we want badly, and not mere dogmatic assertions.

Fraternally yours,

MASONIC INVESTIGATOR.

COMMEMORATION JEWELS.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am glad to learn, from the Report of the Board of General Purposes, that an order has been issued by the Grand Secretary, warning brethren against wearing any Commemoration Jewels except those sanctioned by the M.W.G.M. This edict will, at least, prevent the trafficking in tinsel to which so many of the Craft object, if not add to the value of the Installation Jewel proper.

I am, yours faithfully,

PURSER.

25th August 1875.

PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING MASTERS.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR,—I have often thought over the question raised by your correspondent, who signs himself "Charity." It has more than once occurred to me that the love of what is certainly a very harmless, yet somewhat childish love of display, is a weak point in Masonry. We are a secret society—yet secret in no unworthy sense. We do our work very quietly, not because we are ashamed of what we do, but because we have some faith in the old adage "Virtue is its own reward." Above all, we make no ostentatious display of our clothing in public places. Yet I confess the number of jewels which some of our brethren wear amazes me. I see no objection to members wearing sundry honorary distinctions bestowed on them for services rendered in different spheres of labour, but I quite agree with "Charity" that the multiplication of orders and decorations is inadvisable. I fully recognise that in a case of this kind no hard and fast line can be drawn, but I feel that excessive display of ornament should be discouraged as much as possible. However, I am only expressing my own opinion, and shall gladly withdraw or modify it on cause shown.

Yours respectfully,

M. P.

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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Log-Book of a Fisherman and Zoologist. By Frank Buckland, M.A., late Student of Christ Church, Oxford, Inspector of Salmon Fisheries for England and Wales, &c., &c. Illustrated. London: Chapman and Hall, 193 Piccadilly, 1875.

THERE are few more genial, more deservedly popular writers than Mr. Frank Buckland, whose contributions to the natural history columns of *Land and Water* are so justly esteemed. Mr. Buckland, indeed, was one of the gentlemen to whom the establishment of that journal is due, and the bulk of the contents of the volume before us have appeared from time to time in its pages, so that we hail their re-appearance in a collected form with immense satisfaction. The bare mention of natural history is at once suggestive of a marvellous array of horrid technicalities, barbarous incomprehensible Latin names, and a number of other disagreeables which it is given to only a very select few to appreciate, while still fewer understand them thoroughly. But Mr. Buckland narrates his experiences in good plain English, just for all the world as if he were talking with his readers over a genial glass of wine and choice Havana cigar. Technical terms occur of course, and their appearance is very appropriate, but they never intervene between the reader and his comprehension of the subject. Mr. Buckland goes heartily to work, being scientific enough to satisfy even the most exigent naturalist, and at the same time thoroughly intelligible by all classes of readers. The contents are various enough to suit every variety of taste, some of the entries in the log-book being highly amusing. Mr. Buckland's philosophy has a large admixture of fun in it, at the same time he exhibits in the proper place, and at the proper time, the deepest reverence for the wondrous power of the Great Architect of all things. We like the book all the more for the serious touches introduced here and there. We can hardly picture to ourselves, indeed, a naturalist who evinces not his respect for the Architect of Created Things. Such a person—if there be one—must be quite as singular a phenomenon as the octopus or any other of the strangers which Mr. Buckland has here delineated. To note, however, some of the more interesting of these delineations. The author presents himself, in the first instance, in the character of an art critic. He is "At the Royal Academy without a Catalogue," and he notes chiefly the animal pieces, and landscapes, smartly, too, as thus:—

"A fishing smack just come to an anchor. An old fisherman landing his fish—scenery like the coast at the north of Berwick-on-Tweed. The fisherman has got a very miscellaneous lot of deep-sea fish—skate, john-dory, ling, conger, plaice, gurnard, &c. He must have been working both "long lines" and "trawl-net," as some of these fish are caught *only* by the trawl, others *only* by the long line. The painter is not a deep-sea fisherman. The basket of fish is put into scales. They don't sell sea fish like this by weight. Fish nicely done. I wish the painter would touch up some of the casts which I have painted.

An animal, I suppose meant for a red deer, wounded—a bullet-wound on the left side. A wound at this part would not bleed much, because the scapula would act as a valve to keep the blood inside the thorax; and yet there is no end of blood. A miserable production, and, as far as the animal goes, not fit for a public-house sign. The rest of the scenery good."

"King Charles the First's Parrot" is an amusing practical joke which some of the troopers of the 2nd Life Guards attempted to play Mr. Buckland when he was assistant surgeon of the regiment. The illustration gives a capital idea of the character of the joke, and speaks well, not only for the author's 'enteness in detecting the trick at once, but for the inventive power of Life Guard troopers. "Exhibitions outside the Cattle Show," and "Netting the fish in the Serpentine" are most entertaining, and from the latter we quote the following extract, with all the greater pleasure that it introduces to us another popular naturalist, Mr. Henry Lee, whose name is so familiar in connection with the Brighton Aquarium:—

"Mr. Chamberlayne, one of the authorities, had ordered three water-carts to be brought close to the railing, and as the fish were taken out of the net they were transferred in buckets to the carts. Besides the big bream that we caught at the second haul were a great number of little roach and one or two big ones. Finding that our net was not long enough, and that the old man had several others in his boat, we made him join them all together, so as to have a good sweep of the whole water. While this was being done, Lee and myself got on the watering-cart and rode up with the old man to the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens, where the fish were to be deposited. I never rode on a water-cart before and particularly one like the present, that had no springs. The jolting was something tremendous, but we managed to hold on, and after all it was not bad fun to ride down the drive, among the smart carriages, on a water-cart. When we arrived at the Round Pond we tilted the cart up, let as much water run out of it as possible, and then turned the fish out with our hands, as the aperture at the top of the cart was not large enough to admit a net. This first cart-load of fish, which was by no means a heavy one, contained about 500 fish, little and big. We came back to the Serpentine on the water-cart at a trot,—about the roughest riding I ever experienced—and found that the men had joined all the nets together, and were preparing for a grand haul; the net was exceedingly heavy as we dragged it towards the shore, and our expectations were not disappointed. The old fisherman was delighted. 'Lor, sir,' said he, 'there's all twenty pounds' worth of fish in the net, and if it had been the Jews' holidays there might be thirty pounds' worth.' At all events there was a tremendous lot in the net. We

filled three water-carts as full as we dared with these fish, and away we went again to the Round Pond, Lee sitting on the advance cart, and myself on the rear cart.

This time we had a strong escort of hundreds of dirty little vagabonds, shouting, laughing, and wild with excitement. Looking into the water-cart, I found a few dead fish on the top, and when we got into Kensington Gardens among the trees, in answer to a cry, 'Give us a fish, master,' I threw them out for a scramble. The little urchins raced after them like greyhounds, and fought for them on the ground, a dozen at a time, like hounds breaking up a fox. It was quite a treat to see how these boys enjoyed themselves; being English boys I suppose they have a natural love of sport in them. I don't believe they wanted the fish a bit; but it was the fun of seeing us draw the net, hunting the water-cart, and scrambling for the dead fish that seemed to amuse them so much. We had so many fish in these three carts that I found it perfectly impossible to count them; so I got the men to run the cart as near to the edge of the water as they could, and then we tilted it up as far as we dared. Having done this I opened the door of the cart, and there poured out a regular cataract of struggling fish. About twenty or thirty of them were sickly, but altogether we lost really very few indeed. The water-cart which carried the third load of fish was of a different construction from the others, and Lee and myself found it very difficult to get the fish out of it. We, therefore, backed it a little way into the water on the sloping bank, while the men on shore tilted up the shaft, and it was here an accident occurred. Lee was standing in the water, taking the fish out of the hole in the cart, and I had that instant moved on one side, when I saw the cart moving deeper down into the water. 'Look out, Lee,' I cried, 'she's got way on her,' but in a moment, before there was time for thought or action, this infernal water-cart, fish, water, and all, 'turned turtle,' and made a summersault clean over, 'end for end.' The great shafts came rushing down from above like two scaffold poles, and the body of the cart fell right over into the water, wheels uppermost, making a tremendous splash and sending the water flying high into the air. My first thought was for my friend Lee; he had luckily run backwards when he heard my shout, but could not get far enough to escape the shafts; something came down upon him with a tremendous crash, and he disappeared clean under the water. I rushed immediately into the water, nearly to a swimming point, and got hold of his collar: he came up in a second, blowing like a grampus, and I was glad to see he did not appear hurt. I think, however, that he was a little stunned, although he said he was not."

Of course a volume of this kind would be incomplete without a notice of the Brighton Aquarium, and no such notice would be entertained with any degree of favour which omitted to mention the Octopus. For a description of this animal we must refer our readers to the book itself, but of the enormous size of these monsters the following, from Mr. Harvey's account of a perfect specimen of the large cuttle, will give an excellent idea:—

"Since the appearance of the large cuttle in Conception Bay, I have been fortunate to obtain possession of a perfect specimen, though far inferior in size to the monster whose arms were amputated. It was taken in a net near Logy Bay. The body is upwards of seven feet in length, and about five feet in circumference. From the head ten arms radiate, two of them each being twenty-four feet in length, and armed at the extremities with a cluster of sucking discs, some of them an inch and a quarter in diameter, and furnished with small sharp teeth round their edges. Eight of the arms are each six feet in length, and nine in circumference at the junction with the head. They are completely covered on the inner surface with rows of large denticulated suckers. The beak is in the middle of the centre nucleus, from which the arms radiate, and the large eyes, which, unfortunately, have been destroyed, were on each side of this centre mass. The remains of one of the eyelids show that the eyes were four inches in diameter. They are dark and beautiful, but, when the creature is enraged, assume an expression of intense ferocity. The beak is sharp and powerful. The fishermen were compelled to kill it by cutting off its head before it could be landed, and it was with great difficulty that three men despatched it."

Other chapters may be mentioned, such as "My Monkeys," which originally appeared in *Temple Bar*, "The Bore on the Severn," "How I spent Whit Monday at Harting," which are capital examples of the points we have noted in Mr. Buckland's mode of writing; but space forbids us dwelling at greater length on its merits. We have said enough, we think, to convince our readers that the *Log-book of a Fisherman and Zoologist* is really a most entertaining and instructive book. It was a source of regret to us when, after several hours of most enjoyable reading, we found we had reached the end of the volume. We hope Mr. Buckland has such another work in store for us, and that no long time will elapse ere we have an opportunity of again tendering him our very cordial thanks for a "Log-book" No. 2. We may add that the volume is well got up, being well printed, well illustrated, and furnished with a good index.

DEATH.

At Peterborough, on 10th instant, Brother W. Strickland, P.M., P.P.G.S., Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. Aged 69.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—The close, sultry weather which prevails during the late summer months, is very liable to give rise to various forms of bilious and abdominal complaints, the action of heat on the vegetation causes emanations of a most deleterious character to be given off, and these permeate the air and so are taken into the system by breathing; the products of vegetable decomposition also find their way into our water supply, and hence another source of danger arises. Whenever any symptoms arise, indicating that incipient fever, or diarrhoea, is developing itself, immediate recourse should be had to these remedies. The Ointment must be used assiduously to the abdominal surface, and the Pills taken inwardly in aperient doses.

NEW ZEALAND.—ST JOHN'S DAY.

A MASONIC BANQUET, in honour of St. John's Day, was held on 24th June, in the Thames Hotel, Thames Gold Fields, New Zealand. A very large number of Masons were present, including brethren from Australian Colonies and America, there being present Brother Turner, son of our well known citizen, Bro. Ben Turner, a member of one of the Lodges in San Francisco, and formerly captain of one of our Colonial men-of-war in the Waikato. The chair was taken by Brother M. Niccol R.W.M. of the Scotch Lodge; the vice-chairs were occupied by Brother W. R. Robinson W.M. Lodge Ara and Brother J. Herbert Burns W.M. of Lodge United Service. The following toasts were given and responded to in purely Masonic style: "The Queen and Craft, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, and the rest of the Royal Family." "His Excellency the Governor," proposed by Brother Captain J. Herbert Burns W.M. of Lodge United Service. "His Honor the Superintendent, the Army and Navy, and Colonial forces, coupled with the name of Brother Captain Burns." "Brother Hayward P.M. of the U.M.M.L.," proposed by Brother P.M. Wade, who presented Brother Hayward with a valuable Masonic ring and a chaste tea and coffee set. Accompanying this presentation was an illuminated address, bearing testimony to the appreciation by the Masonic brethren of the able manner in which the recipient had discharged the duties of his order. The "Memory of 'St. John'" was proposed by Brother Sloane, and properly responded to. The other toasts included "The Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland," "The Sister Lodges at the Thames," "The Ladies," "Poor and Distressed Brethren," "The Host and Hostess," and "The Chairman." After the list of toasts had been completed, the brethren indulged in a series of well selected songs, and brought to a close a most enjoyable evening's entertainment. The dinner did credit to the establishment in which it was provided.—*N. Z. Herald.*

MONEY MARKET AND CITY NEWS.

FRIDAY.

The weekly return of the Bank authorities shows that the proportion of Reserve to Liabilities is now 55½ per cent. The rate of discount remains at 2 per cent.

At the meetings, on Saturday last, of the London and North-Western and Great Northern Railway Companies, attention was drawn to the increase in the working expenses, from the addition to wages and the operation of the block system, but it was also explained that the strict working of the block system will, doubtless, greatly tend to diminish the number of accidents in future. When the extent of the sums paid by some of the railway companies on account of late accidents, notably by the London and North-Western and Great Eastern, is borne in mind, the importance of this prospective comparative immunity from serious disasters cannot be over-rated. The price of coal and iron is also likely to be low during the present half-year, though it is probable that these considerations have been fully taken into account by recent "cliques," who have forced some stocks to extreme quotations. But it is asked: what are the public to do with their money? The recent great fall in Turkish, Peruvian, and other bonds, has increased the feeling of distrust attaching to most Foreign Securities, while Consols, Indian Government Bonds, Colonial Debentures, &c., have recently advanced to a very important extent. It is possible, therefore, that further investments may be made in English lines, though speculative purchases will be checked by the firmer tendency of the Money Market, and the consequent disposition of bankers to refuse fresh advances on stocks.

The amount of cheques and bills cleared in the Bankers' Clearing-house during the past week amounted to £80,602,000 against £80,245,000 in the corresponding week last year.

The Great Western Railway dividend was officially announced on Monday, at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum for the half-year, against 4 at the corresponding period of last year. The sum brought into the present accounts was £9,061, and it is proposed to carry forward about £9,500.

At the half-yearly general meeting, on Tuesday, of the Furness Railway Company, the report showed an available balance of £104,544, from which a dividend was declared at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, leaving £2,065 to be carried forward.

At the half-yearly meeting, on Thursday, of the Weymouth and Portland Railway Company, the directors' report, which was adopted, showed an available total of £1,903, out of which a dividend was declared at the rate of £4 7s 6d per annum, leaving a balance of £263 to be carried forward.

At the meeting, on Thursday, of the Isle of Wight (Newport Junction) Railway Company, the report of the directors, which was agreed to, mentioned that the traffic receipts since the opening of the line (five months) amounted to £2,339, and the expenditure to £1,381.

At an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders of the Bradford

District Bank Limited, held on Friday last, resolutions were passed and confirmed, authorising an increase in the capital from £650,000 to £1,000,000.

At the half-yearly general meeting, on Monday, of the Bank of Australasia, the directors' report, which was adopted, stated that the amount of undivided profits exhibited in the last accounts admits of a second dividend at the rate of 6½ per cent. for the half-year, or £2 10s per share.

At the ordinary meeting of the Mediterranean Extension Telegraph Company Limited, on Tuesday, the directors' report was adopted, and a dividend declared on the ordinary shares at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, free of income tax. The sum of £500 was added to the reserve, increasing that fund to £7,843.

The annual general meeting of the Albion Life Assurance Society was held on Wednesday, when the report presented by the directors was unanimously adopted. During the year the Society has issued 489 new policies, assuring £119,850, while 74 proposals for £19,000 were declined. The death claims have been very moderate.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

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	739	60,976	58,965
Glasgow and South Western	315½	19,318	18,487
Great Eastern	763	50,726	49,680
Great Northern	523	56,274	55,792
Great Western	1,525	117,515	113,878
Lancashire and Yorkshire	430	78,205	75,089
London and Brighton	376½	42,297	38,759
London, Chatham and Dover	153½	25,722	24,526
London and North Western	1,587	187,079	187,569
London and South Western	626½	41,692	42,483
London, Tilbury and Southend	45	3,100	—
Manchester and Sheffield	259½	32,194	32,481
Midland	975½	119,831	113,245
Metropolitan	8	8,539	7,928
" " District	8	4,275	3,571
" " St. John's Wood	1½	361	347
North British	839	47,870	44,713
North Eastern	1,400½	141,086	137,804
North London	12	7,074	6,757
North Staffordshire Railway	191	10,119	10,395
" " Canal	118	1,622	1,647
South Eastern	350	42,225	40,759

CRYSTAL PALACE SWIMMING FETE.

ON Tuesday, the second annual swimming fete came off on the Lower Lake of the Crystal Palace, and attracted a large number of spectators. There were several boats gaily decorated with flags, and a band of music added to the interest of the proceedings. The races consisted of one of one mile for the amateur championship of England; the Crystal Palace Challenge Cup (one mile); a 200 yards race, open to all England; a hurdle race (150 yards), a race in dress weighing not less than 7 lbs. (100 yards), Victoria Park Swimming Club Handicap (100 yards), ornamental swimming-race in tubs, duck hunt, &c. Bro. Hadley Prestage acted as starter, and Mr. R. Watson as judge. The several races excited the greatest interest amongst the spectators, and the winners in the different races were loudly cheered as they came to the landing stage. The prizes, which were numerous, varied in value from a cup of 30 guineas to £1, and were on view on a table near the winning post. The competition commenced at half-past two, and continued till half-past 6. At half-past seven there was a meeting in the Concert Hall, at which Sir A. Brady was to have presided, and distributed the prizes to the successful competitors, but in his absence the chair was taken by Sir J. Bennett, who has taken an active interest in promoting the art of swimming in London. In opening the proceedings he expressed his satisfaction at what he had seen that day. Only a few years ago it would have been impossible to have had such a fete as they had seen, although it would not be denied by any one that the art of swimming was most beneficial to health, and a means of saving life. He hoped that the prejudices against it would gradually disappear, and that not only men but women and children would be instructed in it. He knew of no better purpose to which the water of the Crystal Palace could be applied. The prizes were then distributed. Mr. Horace Davenport taking the first prize. Mr. D. Ainsworth the second, and Mr. H. Cottam the third, in the Amateur Championship race. There were several prizes of £10 and £5, and Excelsior and Leander medals distributed. The several prizeholders were much cheered.

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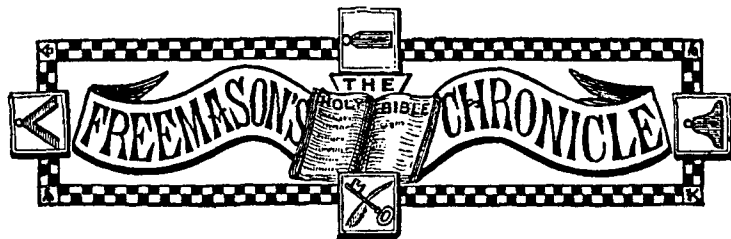
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THE lamentable accident to the Mistletoe, which we
recorded last week, is still attracting public attention.
An inquest, of course, followed, when the owner and crew
of the unfortunate yacht, as well as Captain Prince
Leiningen, Captain Welch, Commander Fullarton and other
officers and men of the Alberta, and Victoria and Albert,
appeared and gave evidence. At the request of the former,
Captain Harris, one of the Board of Trade Assessors,
appeared in Court, to give any assistance in his power.
The result, after a long and searching investigation will, in
all probability, be known to our readers before this reaches
them. The sympathy of all classes with the relations of
the deceased lady, the Captain, and the mate, has been
loudly expressed. The body of Miss Annie Peel was
recovered the day following the accident, but that of the
mate has been carried away. The Mistletoe herself has
been raised, but is reported to be utterly beyond repair, and
the only purpose she can answer now is that of firewood.

But to pass from a dismal subject to something lively.
The event of the week has been the accomplishment by
Captain Webb of his self-imposed task of swimming the
Channel—truly a Herculean task, and one that almost
makes us believe that fabled hero, or demigod, to have been,
after all, something more than a myth. Captain Webb, it
will be remembered, like Bro. Captain Boyton in his life-
saving dress, failed at the first attempt, but the English-
man, like the American, meant doing what he had under-
taken, if possible. Of course, a comparison between the two
feats is out of the question. Captain Boyton is known to be
a practised and powerful swimmer, and he has more than
once distinguished himself by his achievement in long-
distance swimming, but the object at which he aimed was
to exhibit the value of the invention in which he so ably
performs. On the other hand, Captain Webb, who has
received the gold medal of the Royal Humane Society
for the gallant attempt to save the life of a man
overboard in mid-Atlantic, somehow worked himself
into the belief that a swim across the Channel was
possible, and he determined to make the effort. Ac-
cordingly, by way of testing his powers, he first
of all swam from Blackwall to Gravesend, accomplishing
the distance in about 5½ hours. He next swam from Dover
to Ramsgate, a distance of 18 miles, in 9 hours. After
practice he set out to cross to the French coast, about a
fortnight since, but the weather was too unfavourable;
the sea was too rough, and after doing more than half the
distance, in nine hours, Webb felt obliged to give it up.
On Tuesday, he set out a second time, a few minutes before
one p.m., and in 21 hours 45 minutes from the moment of
starting he stood on the French coast, exhausted by his
long and arduous efforts, but apparently none the worse. It
were needless to recount the progress he made, or how roundly
and heartily he was cheered on his return to Dover on
Thursday. Nor need we enter into long historical sketches
of former feats—by Leander, by Byron, by Brock of Great
Yarmouth—the last named swam for seven hours, and so
saved himself, all his companions in the lifeboat being
drowned. All this has been done to death by the specials.
Suffice it that the only long distance swimmer who has out-
done all persons, and is not in turn outdone, is Captain
Webb. The gallant sailor has surpassed his former feats
as much as those had previously surpassed all the greatest
known swimming feats ever achieved since Anno Mundi 1.
It is no slight satisfaction to feel that an Englishman has

done what no man of any other nation has been known to do. If any of our readers are desirous of joining in the testimonial, now being raised, to reward so grand a feat of skill, strength, and endurance, we shall have great pleasure in being the medium of forwarding their contributions to the Editor of *Land and Water*, who has charge of the fund. Strangely enough, Webb's achievement was hardly known throughout the country, where the value of the art of swimming was most painfully illustrated. The pupils of a school at Rhyl were bathing in the sea, when a number of them got out of their depth, and five, unfortunately, were drowned, while the lives of several others were forcibly endangered. We hope these two facts, and the continued experience of well nigh every year, will bring home to us more closely how imperative it is that all should learn swimming. Talk of compulsory rating, and voting and contracting and so on, compulsory swimming should become the order of the day!

We referred last week to the death of Bro. Andrew Johnson, ex-President of the United States. We learn from the *Keystone* that the Masonic services at the funeral were conducted by Bro. Deputy Grand Master Monro, Tennessee. The Knights Templar, of which body our deceased Brother was a member, furnished a guard of honour, and the Templar service was also recited, E. Sir Nat. Woodruff of Knoxville, officiating. The Craft had the post of honour, both in the procession and at the grave; the following tribute from Parson Brownlow to the memory of the deceased is worthy quoting, bearing directly, as it does, on one of those traits in human nature which ought to be, but is not, unfortunately, regarded at its full worth, and especially among public men, too many of whom act up to the adage, "The end justifies the means." "In one respect, at least," says Parson Brownlow, "ex-President Johnson was a model statesman. He was honest. Whatever men have said of him politically, no responsible man ever called his unflinching integrity in question. He was in public life almost half a century, yet no man can say that he ever betrayed the confidence of his friends by taking that which did not belong to him. His character in this respect was so well understood that he was scarcely ever approached by a dishonest lobbyist with a corrupt proposition. He was very scrupulous in refusing to give any sort of aid to enterprise which he could not conscientiously approve. Just after his election to the United States Senate, in January, he gave an illustration of this. A prominent politician from Pennsylvania, representing a company interested in the Alta Veta Isles, wanted him to send a war vessel to the above mentioned islands just before his great impeachment trial commenced. He attempted to make use of what he considered Mr. Johnson's embarrassment at the time in accomplishing his object. But the President spurned him, and gave him to understand that his official sanction to measures in which private parties are interested was not to be procured in that way. This trait in his character is worthy of emulation by all public men."

The fifty-fifth annual meeting of the British Association opened on Wednesday at Bristol. The General Committee met at one o'clock on that day, Dr. Carpenter, in the momentary absence of Professor Tyndall, occupying the chair. The Report of the Council was submitted and unanimously adopted. Two ladies, Mrs. W. Grey and Miss Carpenter, were added to Sectional Committee F, Economic Science and Statistics, on the resolution of Mr. J. Heywood, President of the section, seconded by Mr. Fellowes. The following are the sections into which the Society is divided for the purpose of better fulfilling the objects for which it was established, together with the names of their respective presidents:—A—Mathematical and Physical Science, President—Professor Balfour Stewart. B—Chemical Science, President—A. G. Vernon Harcourt M.A.; C—Geology, President—Dr. T. Wright F.G.S.; D—Biology, President—P. L. Sclater M.A.; Department of Zoology and Botany, P. L. Sclater will preside; Department of Anatomy and Physiology, Professor Cleland will preside; Department of Anthropology, Professor Rolleston will preside; E—Geography, President, Major-General Strachey R.E.; F—Economic Science and Statistics, President James Heywood F.R.S.; G—Mechanical Science, President—William Froude C.E. There will also be discourses by Dr. Spottiswoode on the "Colours of Polarised Light," and by Mr. Bramwell on "Railway Safety Appliances," a lecture by Dr. Carpenter to the working classes on "A Piece of Limestone," as well as a *soirée* and a concert by the Orpheus Glee Club. The

Treasurer having read the accounts, which showed a surplus of £624 1s 2d, and were accepted, a vote of thanks brought the Committee to a close. In the evening, at the Colston Hall, the inaugural address was delivered by Sir John Hawkshaw, the new President. The outgoing President, Professor Tyndall, took the chair at the opening of the meeting, and having offered a few appropriate remarks respecting his successor, resigned his seat to Sir John Hawkshaw, who at once proceeded with his address, which was confined entirely to the subject of that profession in which he had attained such eminence. It is needless to add the theme was handled with a skill and perspicuity which were quite worthy of the speaker. On Friday, the several sections were opened, the President of each delivering the address, while sundry of the members read papers, all highly interesting and valuable contributions to science.

The annual Braemar gathering was held with more than the usual success on Thursday, in the presence of the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Leopold, Princess Beatrice, and a large number of the nobility and gentry. The Highlanders, who were mostly retainers of the Earl of Fife, Colonel Farquharson of Invercauld, and the Marquis of Huntly, arrived at the rendezvous, clad in Highland costume, and armed with the weapons of olden days. The races, especially the two mile race for the Queen's Prize, were keenly contested, the chief honours falling to M'Combie Smith, Fleming, and Peter Cameron. Her Majesty took a great interest in the sports, remaining on the ground for more than an hour.

London, at this season of the year, without some sort of amusement for those who are obliged to remain, would be dull indeed, and accordingly we look to the Promenade Concerts to help us to some relaxation from the severer toils of business. Signor Arditì wields the *bâton*, with what effect our readers will understand well. The "classical" evenings are among the most popular, and on Wednesday a very numerous audience assembled to hear a Beethoven selection, which included the Pianoforte Concert in E Flat (No. 5), and the Pastoral Symphony (No. 5), both of which were well received. Last night was to be devoted to Ballads, while a "Gounod Night" is announced for next Tuesday. May the series of Concerts prove a great success this year and always!

By the death of Commodore Goodenough, the Royal Navy loses a most valued officer. Captain Goodenough entered the service in 1844, and had seen a considerable amount of active service on various stations. In 1870 he was appointed to the Pearl 17, as commodore of the second class and senior officer on the Australian station, and had received the thanks of the Colonial Office for his services prior to the cession of the Fiji Islands. Not many days since, the Pearl anchored off Santa Cruz Island. On the 12th instant Captain Goodenough and party landed at Carlisle Bay, for the purpose of opening a friendly intercourse with the natives. They had been just an hour on shore, and the Captain was well satisfied with the progress made, when, just as they were preparing to return, a native, only about four yards off, fired a poisoned arrow at the Commodore, and this struck him in the left side. The boats were shoved off, receiving, at the same time, several flights of arrows; seven in all, including the Commodore and Sub-Lieutenant Hawker, being wounded. Captain Goodenough and two of the crew have since died, and the rest, though doing well, have not yet been pronounced out of danger. Carlisle Bay Village was burned by the Pearl's boats, but this is a poor satisfaction to the Service for the loss of so valuable an officer.

This being the season for regattas, especially on the South Coast, the dailies have been filled with accounts of the proceedings at the several meetings, held at Shanklin, Weymouth, Deal, Worthing and St. Leonards—both these last falling, unfortunately, on the same day—and elsewhere. We need not give details, but it is satisfactory to know the disappointments this year, in consequence of the weather, have been few and far between. Everywhere we read of success, and rejoice accordingly, for these regattas are a great attraction to the shoals of visitors now scattered along our coasts. Cricket, too, is still in vigorous activity, though, as we recently remarked, the legitimate season will soon be at end. We note a somewhat rare event, namely, that Kent has scored a rather tall victory over Hampshire, whom she beat in a single innings, by 217 runs. Hants were all down in their first attempt for 34, Holmes 11 being the only double figure. In their second innings they

reached 82, Galpin making 13, Rev. J. G. Crowdy 18, and Mr. R. Henley 14. For Kent, the one innings realised 333, to which Mr. Shaw contributed 54, Mr. W. Fenn 16, Mr. F. A. Mackinnon 66, Lord Harris 75, Mr. F. Peen 47, Remnant 25, and Mr. Foord-Kelcey 18. In the North v. South Match played at Tunbridge Wells, there being a large attendance of spectators, the latter were beaten in a single innings; score, North 176, South 56 and 62, Mr. W. G. Grace making only 0 and 19, while his brother, Mr. G. F. Grace, (0 and 6) hardly gave any sign. Surrey beat Middlesex in the return match, by ten wickets, Middlesex 118 and 202, Surrey 293 (including W. W. Read 98) and 28, of which the same gentlemen made 22—without the loss of a wicket. In the return between Gloucestershire and Surrey the former were victorious by 40, Dr. E. M. Grace, with 65 and 71, being the most successful for Gloucestershire. Other matches are in course of progress, of which next week, but we may add that perhaps the longest score ever made, has been recently amassed by the Royal Engineers, at Chatham, in their match with I Zingari. The former remained at the wickets during the whole of last Friday and Saturday, and made 724 for eight wickets, the Hon. M. G. Talbot, Mr. F. K. Scott, and Mr. P. G. Von Donop contributing 172, 164, and 101 respectively, while three others were responsible for scores of over 50 a piece. We feel glad we were not of I Zingari team. Leather-hunting is not the liveliest occupation to follow in hot weather for two whole consecutive days. Sport on the moors is in many places satisfactory, and some very respectable bags have been made. Next week sportsmen will have their opportunities increased in number, and not a few partridges and hares will find their way into the market. There only remain the long tails, and then the tale of birds for the Winkles and the Tupmans of London Society to blaze at is, we suppose, complete.

As a squadron of three United States War Steamers, under the command of Rear Admiral Warden, has been lying for some time in the Southampton Waters, the opportunity has been taken of extending to them that hospitality which is readily accorded to our vessels in American waters. Two banquets have accordingly been given, the second by the Mayor and Corporation of Southampton. The Mayor presided, and was supported on his right by Admiral Warden, and on his left by Captain Franklin, of the "Franklin," there being present also Commander Green, of the "Alaska," most of the Officers of the squadron, together with Mr. W. F. Cowper Temple, M.P., and the Mayors of Portsmouth, Winchester, Romsey, Andover, and Lymington, Commodore Commerell, and several naval and military Officers. Everything passed off most agreeably, the toast of "Rear Admiral Warden and our other American guests" being received with great enthusiasm, and acknowledged by the gallant Officer in the warmest terms. Such banquets as these are of the greatest use in promoting good feeling between ourselves and other countries.

The news from abroad is not of the most satisfactory character, very far from being so, indeed. As regards Spain, the Alphonist forces seem to be making considerable progress against the Carlists. The siege of Seo de Urgel, or rather of its citadel, is rapidly drawing to an end, the Carlist, Lizarraga, only holding out, it is reported, because he is bound in honour to fight to the last. Unless, then, the Carlists can make any impression on the besieging army, the capture of the place must be imminent. Elsewhere, too, we hear of Dorregaray being in a very deplorable condition, and doing his utmost to avoid pursuit by the numerous columns of Alphonists which are hunting him up. So far the foreign news is decidedly satisfactory, for if Alphonso's armies can make a serious impression on Carlism it will be a great boon to Spain, which has been in a wretched state for the last few years. But will the defeat of Carlism in the field effectually put down Carlism, especially in the Basque provinces, which are, heart and soul, devoted to the cause? Time will show. From the Herzegovina the news is decidedly bad. Turkey, if left alone, would probably make short work of the insurgents. True, the difficulty of getting at them seems very great, but a disciplined force of a few thousands would soon disperse the various bands of marauders, whose object seems to be pillage and incendiarism rather than fair fighting. Unfortunately, however, there is very considerable excitement in Servia, and there are disturbances in Bosnia as well. The Montenegrins, too, are having a finger in the quarrel, so far, at least, as that numbers of volunteers are constantly arriving from Montenegro, and these swell the bands, the

latest news of which is that they are committing all sorts of atrocities. Worse still—or better, some may think—the three great Eastern powers appear to think it necessary to intervene, and the irrepressible Eastern question is again cropping up, to the great risk of disturbing the peace of Europe. We do hope that the great powers will unite for the purpose of repressing these constant outbreaks against Turkish rule. Turkey invariably behaves well, and suffers not a little for her good behaviour. There is little from Paris to record, save that Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet about the Vatican Decrees is the cause of no little excitement throughout the country. From Germany we hear that the Emperor William was present, on Wednesday, at the festival of the delegates of the Gustavus Adolphus Association, and the speech he made was received with loud cheers. The Imperial Prince was present at the grand dinner given at Cologne, in connection with the opening of the Horticultural Exhibition. The Chief Burgomaster proposed His Imperial Highness's health, which was graciously acknowledged. Two other items of news and we have done. The severity of the training in the German army has resulted at the recent Autumn Manœuvres in a serious breakdown, it being reported that a great number of men have given way to the strain imposed upon them by the hard service exacted. In some regiments the number of disabled is said to equal that in many a well-contested field of battle. It is, as the *Standard* very properly urges, unwise to keep men at the highest possible training point. The German military authorities should bear in mind a rule observed among English athletes, not to overtrain. From China it is reported that our ambassador has been assaulted by the authorities. If so, we are in for a scrimmage.

On Monday evening, the 23rd instant, the fifteen sections were worked by several visiting brethren and the Members of the Lodge Friendship, No. 100, at the Town Hall, Great Yarmouth, Bro. T. J. Barnes P.M. 554 and 933 in the chair. Bro. T. Austin P.M. 933 and 1445 Senior Warden. Bro. W. Yetton P.M. 933 Junior Warden.

FIRST LECTURE.

1st Section, Bro. Clark	...	...	No. 30 and 1445
2nd " Bro. Williams	...	...	No. 933
3rd " Bro. Job	...	...	No. 1076
4th " Bro. Constable	...	...	P.M. No. 185
5th " Bro. Pinder	...	...	S.W. No. 15, Secy. 1445
6th " Bro. Yetton	...	...	P.M. No. 933
7th " Bro. Austin	1	...	P.M. No. 933 and 1445

SECOND LECTURE.

1st Section, Bro. Wilkins	...	...	J.W. No. 1445
2nd " Bro. Myers	...	...	P.M. No. 820, S.W. 1445
3rd " Bro. Hubbard	...	...	S.D. No. 820 and 1445
4th " Bro. Candick	...	...	J.W. No. 1421
5th " Bro. Chadwick	...	...	P.M. No. 554

THIRD LECTURE.

1st Section, Bro. Munst	...	...	P.M. No. 1349
2nd " Bro. J. G. Stevens	...	...	P.M. No. 554
3rd " Bro. Gros	...	...	No. 1278

Those of our brethren who wish to possess a memento of American Masonry would do well to procure a copy of "the Dedication Memorial of the New Masonic Temple, Philadelphia," to which we referred in our issue of the 27th March last. Bro. Hughan, of Truro, Cornwall, has a few of the copies left, which he received to introduce into England and will send them carriage paid for 23s each to any part of the Kingdom.

Obituary.

The Craft in general will learn with much regret of the death of Bro. W. Strickland, P.M. St. Peter's, No. 442, P.P.G.S. Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. The melancholy event took place on Tuesday, the 10th inst. Bro. Strickland was well known as a worthy member of the Order, having the welfare of his brethren always at heart. His kind and generous disposition will long be remembered, and his loss is deeply felt in his mother Lodge, and throughout the Province. The funeral took place in the Cemetery at Peterborough, on Saturday, the 14th instant. A number of the brethren of the province followed (as personal friends) the remains of their lamented brother to their last resting place.

FREEMASONRY IN RUSSIA.

ACCORDING to Findel, Freemasonry found its way into Russia as early as 1731. Captain John Phillips is mentioned, in 1733, as Provincial Grand Master, under the Grand Lodge of England, and General Bro. J. Keith succeeded him, in 1741, though it is said that as early as 1732-4 the latter presided over a Lodge in St. Petersburg. At first the meetings were, in all probability, held very secretly, for the earliest existing Lodge is fixed in 1750, when the Lodge of Silence was worked in St. Petersburg, and that of the North Star was erected. During the reign of the Empress Elizabeth the Craft became more in vogue, though the greatest secrecy was still observed. The Emperor Peter III. is said to have presented a house to the Lodge of Constance, and even to have conducted the Masonic work at Oranienbaum. In 1765, the Melesino Rite, consisting of seven degrees, and so named after Melesino, a Greek by birth, and Lieutenant-General in the Imperial army, flourished. The degrees were, besides the three of the English system, (4) the Dark Vault; (5) the Scotch Master and Knight's Degree; (6) the Philosopher's Degree; and (7) the Grand Priest or the Spiritual Knighthood. But according to the *Freemason's Calendar* for 1777 and 1778, the first regular Lodge was that of Perfect Unity, constituted in St. Petersburg in 1771, most of the members being English merchants residing there. In the following year a warrant was issued by the Grand Lodge of England, appointing His Excellency John Yelaguin (Senator) to be the Provincial Grand Master for the Russian Empire, the result being eminently satisfactory to the Craft. In 1783, twelve working Lodges formed themselves into a Grand National Lodge, Bro. Yelaguin being the Grand Master. Under Bro. Von Reichel's guidance the Lodges adopted the Swedish system. In 1790, matters changed for the worse. Divisions arose in the Lodges, things outside assumed a very threatening aspect, the Empress Catharine giving it to be understood by those around her that she did not approve of Masonic meetings. The majority of the Lodges were accordingly closed, though the Apollo, in St. Petersburg, worked on silently till 1797, and afterwards assembled its members twice a year, on the feast of St. John and on the anniversary of its erection. The Lodge afterwards known as the "Crowned Pelican" also held meetings of its members, but without working regularly. Paul I., before he ascended the throne, had shown a favourable inclination towards Masonry, but the Lodges remained closed notwithstanding, until more favourable circumstances seemed to justify their being opened; but, contrary to expectation, a prohibition was, some time after, issued against the Craft. This prohibition, as against all secret societies, was renewed when Alexander I. became Emperor, in 1801. In 1807, application having been first made in the proper quarter, the Lodge of the Pelican was opened, and so rapidly did the members increase in numbers that they separated into three Lodges, namely, "The Crowned Pelican," the "Elizabeth, the Patroness of Virtue," and the "Peter, the Patron of Truth," the operations being carried on in Russian, French, and German.

In the Autumn of 1808, the Directory Lodge "Wladimir, the Maintainer of Order," in St. Petersburg (Swedish Rite) began to work, and, soon after, two new Lodges working under French warrants were ordered at the instigation of the Government to join this Directory Lodge, Bro. Böber, a Privy Councillor, being the Grand Master from 1811 to 1814, and after him, Prince Muskin Puschkin. In consequence of dissensions arising, owing, it is believed, to the dissimilarity of the two Rites, two Grand Lodges, with the approval of the Government, were constituted, namely, the Asträa in St. Petersburg, and a Provincial Lodge, which remained faithful to the Swedish Rite. According to Polick, there were 23 Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Asträa, while only eleven worked under the Provincial Lodge. In spite of further troubles, Freemasonry continued to advance rapidly in prosperity, when, in the month of August 1822, a decree was issued that all Freemason Lodges should be closed, and no others be constituted. Great as was the grief at the issue of this mandate, it was faithfully observed by our Russian brethren.

Bro. Gen. Garibaldi, writing, on the eve of his departure for Caprera, to Signor Lucchesi, whose villa he had been inhabiting at Civita Vecchia, the General says, "Thanks

to the miraculous thermal waters, and the kind attention received from you in your comfortable and pretty villa, I have substituted your stick for my crutches, which I leave you as a souvenir."

On the 1st of October an exhibition of metropolitan cabs and cab-horses will be held at the Alexandra Palace, under the patronage of the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Lord Mayor, Cardinal Manning, the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, &c.

The Earl of Aylesford will, says the *Birmingham Post*, accompany the Prince of Wales to India as Equerry to his Royal Highness.

Sir Moses Montefiore has started on his return from Jerusalem. According to the *Jewish World*, Sir Moses left Jerusalem on the 17th inst., and embarked at Jaffa on the 20th, en route to Naples and Marseilles, but he will not arrive in England for nearly another month.

The great half holiday fête of the year at the Alexandra Palace, will be held to-day, Lecocq's opera, "La Fille de Madame Angot," with the Opera Comique Company, in the theatre at 2.45, and a special evening promenade concert in the central hall at 6.45, after which the largest firework display of the season will take place.

The British Museum will be closed on Wednesday, the 1st of September, and re-opened on the following Wednesday.

BURMAH AND CHINA.

The King of Burmah, in whose presence the British Ambassador had to take off his boots, has addressed a letter to the Emperor of China, the text of which is given in a late number of the *Peking Gazette*. His Majesty calls himself "The Great, Glorious, and most Excellent Majesty who reigns over the Kingdoms of Thunaparanta and Tampadipa, and all the Umbrella-bearing Chiefs of the Eastern country, the King of the Rising Sun, Lord of the Celestial Elephants, Master of many White Elephants, the Great Chief of Righteousness, the King of Burmah," but acknowledges himself to be a vassal of China. He sends tribute and presents, including five tame elephants, some ivory and jewellery, piece goods, gold and silver leaf, and fifteen peacocks' tails. "Your vassal," he writes to the Emperor, "would with all humility set forth that under the universal sway of his Holiness the streams and hills are all objects of his fostering care, the kingdoms of the distant ocean become converted to his civilising rule, and as the sunflower bows before the sun, so does all mankind turn with adoration towards the Imperial person. Succeeding to your barren and far off dependency of Burmah, your vassal is impressed with the deep favours conferred by your Heavenly Dynasty when permitting his country to be enrolled amongst the territory of Yu; and in offering up, according to rule, the tribute prescribed the land of Burmah is thus included in the heaven of Yan. The letter concludes with the hope that the Emperor will "deign to receive and graciously lend ear to the feelings of obedience, respect, and submission entertained by his vassal." It is rather singular that while we are treating with Burmah as an independent kingdom, the monarch of it should be acknowledging himself a vassal of China. The Lord of the White Elephants possibly expects that the Celestial Emperor will assist him in case of hostilities with England. It is only upon such an assumption that he would pay tribute.—*Globe*.

THOMAS CARLYLE.—Whatever else may be true of Thomas Carlyle—whatever may be taught of his especial system of philosophy or of his policy for the world's good governance—it must be allowed that he, more than any other Englishman of his century, has coloured and modelled English thought. If Dr. Samuel Johnson be excepted, it is probable that no man has ever more distinctively stamped the image of his own genius upon the literary feeling of his time. He has bequeathed to us no new faith, he has evolved no new system. The influence exerted by him has been, and is, almost purely idiosyncratic. It would be possible to express in a dozen or so of the wise saws of antiquity the whole of the Carlylean philosophy. Yet he has proved himself one of the most original—one of the newest and freshest of men.

The special characteristic of Carlyle's genius is probably its intensity. He is for ever enthusiastically in earnest. He is the very Homer of prose, but he never permits himself to slumber. It is obviously impossible for him to over-inform the expression of his opinion. But for this his literary style might occasionally be called exaggerative. It is not so, because he is intenser even than his language, and because language has no tone more piercing than that in which he himself is inwardly addressed. He is terribly in earnest in all things, because to him the universe is in all things so terribly in earnest. When he speaks, it is as if necessity were laid upon him. He has a fine capacity for scorn, and he scorns few things more emphatically thanilletantism, the science of elegant ease and graceful indolence. In the keenness of his satire, the splendour of his eloquence, and the almost volcanic nature of his denunciation, he is very like Byron; But his satire and his denunciation have never lost point or force—as Byron's did—by being merely the outward sign of a discontented egotism.—From "*Cassell's National Portrait Gallery*" for August.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

We shall be obliged if the Secretaries of the various Lodges throughout the Kingdom will favour us with a list of their Days of Meeting, &c. as we have decided to insert only those that are verified by the Officers of the several Lodges.

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MONDAY, 30th AUGUST.

45—Strong Man, Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell Green, at 8. (Instruction.)

TUESDAY, 31st AUGUST.

299—Emulation, Bull Hotel, Dartford, Kent.

573—Perseverance, Shenstone House, Hales Owen, Worcester.

WEDNESDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER.

Quarterly Communication Grand Lodge, Freemasons' Hall, at 6 for 7 p.m.
193—Confidence, White Hart, Abchurch Lane, E.C., at 7.30. (Instruction.)

74—Athol, Masonic Hall, Severn-street, Birmingham.
81—Doric, Private Room, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
137—Amity, Masonic Hall, Thames-street, Poole.
164—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, London Hotel, Sidmouth.
168—Mariners, Masonic Hall, Guernsey.
282—Bedford, Private Rooms, Abbey, Tavistock.
299—Emulation, Bull Hotel, Dartford. (Instruction.)
327—St. John's, Lamb and Lion, Wigton, Cumberland.
406—Northern Counties, Freemasons' Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
428—Sincerity, Angel Hotel, Northwich.
503—Belvidere, Star Hotel, Maidstone. (Instruction.)
838—Franklin, Peacock Hotel, Boston.
1085—Hartington, Masonic Hall, Gower-street, Derby.
1206—Cinque Ports, Bell Hotel, Strand-street, Sandwich.
R. A. 304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, St. George's-street, Leeds.

THURSDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER.

1260—Hervy, 152 Fulham-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
24—Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Freemasons' Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
38—Union, Council Chambers, Chichester.
110—Loyal Cambrian, Bush Hotel, Merthyr Tydvil.
254—Trinity, Castle Hotel, Coventry.
280—Worcester, Bell Hotel, Worcester.
289—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Carlton Hill, Leeds.
300—Minerva, Pitt and Nelson Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne.
362—Doric, Private Rooms, St. Peter-street, Grantham.
442—St. Peter's, Masonic Hall, Boroughbury, Peterborough.
463—East Surrey Lodge of Concord, Greyhound, Croydon.
509—Tees, Freemasons' Hall, Wellington-street, Stockton-on-Tees.
531—St. Helens, Masonic Hall, Hartlepool.
637—Portland, Town Hall, Stoke-on-Trent.
1074—Underley, Masonic Room, Market Place, Kirby Lonsdale.
1282—Ancholme, Forester's Hall, Brigg, Lincolnshire.
1284—Brent, Masonic Hall, Globe Hotel, Topsham.
1304—Olive Union, Masonic Hall, Banks-street, Horncastle.
1367—Beaminster Manor, White Hart Hotel, Beaminster.
M.M. 20—Faith, Spread Eagle Inn, Rochdale.

FRIDAY, 3rd SEPTEMBER.

1278—Burdett Counts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
44—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
242—St. Georges, Town Hall, Doncaster.
306—Alfred, 23 Albion-street, Leeds.
839—Royal Gloucestershire, Bell Hotel, Gloucester.
1333—Athelstan, Town Hall, Athelstone, Warwickshire.

SATURDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER.

General Committee Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.

IRELAND.

TUESDAY—124—Seapatrik, Masonic Hall, Banbridge, co. Down.
WEDNESDAY—51—Temple, Masonic Rooms, Belfast.
70—Waringsford, Tullyniskey, Down.
THURSDAY—32—Royal Shamrock, Lodge Room, Olave's Place, Waterford.
111—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Belfast.
372—Gillhall, Princes-street, Dromore, co. Down.
555—Harmony, Masonic Rooms, Francis-street, Fermoy.
FRIDAY—97—Hirams, Masonic Hall, Arthur Square, Belfast.
110—Kilrea, Kilrea, co. Derry.
164—Commercial, Masonic Hall, Londonderry.
228—Gorey, Gorey.
891—St. John's, Town Hall, Enniskillen.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

THURSDAY—97—St. James, St. James Hall, Writer's-court.
FRIDAY—291—Celtic of Edinburgh and Leith, Ship Hotel, East Register-street.

GLASGOW.

MONDAY.—103—Union and Crown, 170 Buchanan Street.
R.A. 122—Thetis, 35 St. James Street.
TUESDAY.—R.A. 73—Caledonian of Unity, 170 Buchanan Street.
WEDNESDAY.—4—Kilwinning, 170 Buchanan Street.
117—St. Mary, Freemasons' Hall, Partick.
128—St. John, Freemasons' Hall, Shettleston.
R.A. 87—Shamrock and Thistle, 12 Trongate.
THURSDAY.—27—St. Mungo, St. Mark's Hall, Buchanan Street.
465—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall, Garngad Road.
FRIDAY.—275—Shamrock and Thistle, 22 Struthers Street.
360—Commercial, 30 Hope Street.
408—Clyde, 170 Buchanan Street.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Thistle and Rose Lodge, No. 73.—This Lodge held an emergency meeting on Monday, the 16th August, at the Masonic Hall, 170 Buchanan-street, Glasgow. Present—Bros. George McDonald R.W.M., G. W. Wheeler acting S.W., J. Ambridge J.W., J. Ampleford Secretary, Thos. Stewart S.D. P.M. Bro. T. Stewart. Business—Initiation of one candidate, and the raising of five brethren to the sublime degree. The work was well performed by the R.W.M.

Perseverance Royal Arch Chapter, No. 152.—The monthly meeting was held on the 19th of August, at the Masonic Hall, Constitution Street, Leith. Present—Comps. John Laurie Z., David Laird E., E. Drummond Treas., J. W. Scales, W. M. Bryer, A. Henderson, &c., &c. Visitors—Comps. R. S. Brown and J. Walker of Edinburgh Chap. No. 1, and E. G. Sellentin, of St. Andrews, Chap. No. 83, who were affiliated honorary members. Business transacted—Bros. Capt. J. L. Fagan, Capt. F. C. Prins, W. Munro, J. A. Cowan, and T. Elliott were exalted to the Royal Arch Degree. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment, when a most pleasant evening was spent.

Confidence Instruction Lodge, No. 193.—This Lodge held its weekly meeting on the 25th Aug., at Bro. Chard's, White Hart Tavern, Abchurch-lane, E.C. Present—Bros. D. Posener W.M., Abell S.W., Croaker J.W., Pitt Secretary, Constable Treasurer, Berrie S.D., Corner J.D., Blackhall I.G., Christopher Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Gottheil Preceptor, Bloomfield; also Bros. Chapman, Walker, Craske, Biddell, Gomm, G. Corner, Tollis and Brady. Business—The W.M. rehearsed the ceremonies of initiation and raising, Bros. Chapman and Gomm being the respective candidates. Bro. Brady 1185 was accepted a joining member. Bro. Abell was elected Master for the ensuing week. Although the W.M. performed his task with fair ability, we hope yet to hear him more perfect.

Star Lodge No. 219.—This Lodge held an emergency meeting on Friday, the 20th August, at the Hall, 12 Trongate, Glasgow. Present—Bros. J. Morgan W.M., J. Down S.W., J. Lawrence J.W., Jas. Crawford Secretary, J. Finnis S.D., Jas. Persur Tyler. Business—Initiation, passing, and raising. All three ceremonies were ably worked by Bro. Morgan.

St. John's Lodge, No. 795.—A meeting of the above Lodge was held on Tuesday 17th instant, at the Ray Mead Hotel, Maidenhead. Bro. C. W. Monle W.M. occupying the chair. Bros. W. B. Fair acting as S.W., H. Turner J.W., C. Gammon P.M. Treasurer, H. H. Hodges P.M. Secretary, J. R. Foulger P.M. S.D., Terry I.G., and P.M.'s T. A. Carr, J. Joseph, C. N. Harvey, W. Lunley and Bros. Yaldeo, Deacon, &c. The Lodge was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Ballots were taken for the following brethren, who were unanimously accepted. Bros. G. Bubb P.M. 180, A. Preston 279, J. F. Baker 227, W. B. Farr P.M. 825, and W. J. Blake 23, Bros. A. Pinto Leite, W. H. C. Sharpe and T. Slater were raised to the third degree, and Bro. C. S. Duggan was passed to the second degree. The two former degrees were conferred on the candidates (through the courtesy of the W.M.) by Bro. G. Bubb P.M. 180, the newly accepted joining member, and the ceremonies were very impressively delivered. Ballots were then taken for the admission of Messrs. J. A. Burgan and W. Sherman, who being personal friends of Bro. T. A. Carr P.M., they were duly initiated into the Order by him. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren partook of one of those banquets that Bro. Deacon is so successful in supplying. The usual loyal, Masonic and routine toasts were given and responded to, and the brethren, after passing an agreeable day, in Masonic working and sociality, returned to town.

Robert Burns Lodge, No. 999.—This Lodge held its 119th meeting on Monday 23rd of August, at Freemasons' Hall. Present—Bros. W. L. Chew W.M., E. H. Flowers S.W., J. A. Infesta J.W., T. H. Jenkins Sec. and Treas., A. Bacon S.D., F. Cooper J.D., G. E. Wiker Steward, J. McKinless I.G., Jas. Lawton Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. J. M. Cranswick, Chaplain and H. J. Stephenson. Visitors—J. Brickles, J. Vickers. Business—Bros. J. A. Brickles and G. Hirsch passed to Fellow Craft, J. Oliver raised to the sublime degree of M.M.

Lebanon Chapter, No. 1326.—A Convocation of this Chapter was held on Saturday, the 21st instant, at the Red Lion, Hampton. Comps. M. Scott P.Z. as M.E.Z., J. W. Halsey P.Z. as H. F. Walters P.Z. as J., E. Gilbert P.S., W. Mitchell 2nd Asst., and W. Hammond II. The Chapter was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Comp. E. H. Thiellay 145, was elected a joining member. Bros. W. Prattent 1326, and J. R. Croft 1326 were balloted for, and duly exalted. Comp. C. Horsley P.P.G.R. Middlesex, acting as J. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Comp. W. Hammond, for his generosity in presenting three very elegant candlesticks for the use of the Chapter. Several candidates were proposed for exaltation, and Comps. W. Hammond H., F. Walters P.Z. S.E., Rev. P. M. Holden, and E. H. Thiellay were unanimously recommended for Provincial Grand Chapter honours. The Chapter was then closed, and the Companions adjourned to refreshment. Among those present as visitors were C. Horsley P.P.G.R. Middlesex P.Z., M. Scott P.Z. 176, J. W. Halsey P.Z., R. W. Williams 79, &c.

Lebanon Lodge No. 1326.—A meeting of this Lodge was held at the Red Lion, Hampton, on Saturday, 21st August. The

Lodge was opened by Bro. J.W. Baldwin, in the absence of the W.M., who has sustained a severe domestic affliction by the sudden death of his sister. E. Gilbert S.W., C. W. Fox J.W., F. Walters P.P.G.P. Middlesex P.M. Secretary, R. W. Williams S.D., J. B. Shakleton Organist, H. Gloster D.C., H. Cutress S., H. Potter P.M. W.S., and Bros. Steinhann, W. Prattent, W. Mitchell, J. R. Croft, W. Crush, Middleton, &c. Bro. J. Baldwin W.M. 1423 raised Bros. Fletcher, Knight and C. Graham, and passed Bros. J. T. Adams, J. Greenwood, and F. Davies 1423. Bro. W. Hammond P.G.J.D. Middlesex I.P.M., W.M. 1512, initiated Messrs. J. Hernaman and W. T. Cront. A sum of two guineas was voted from the funds of the Lodge to a distressed Brother; twenty guineas was voted from the funds for the Boys' School, in the name of the W.M. for the time being. The working of the various ceremonies was capitally done. The Lodge was closed, and refreshment followed. The visitors were Bros. C. Horsley P.P.G.R. Middlesex, M. Scott P.M. 795, J. W. Halsey P.M. 134, F. Davies 1423, &c.

Stockwell Lodge No. 1339.—This Lodge held its meeting on Thursday, the 19th of August, at Tulse Hill Hotel. Present—Bros. Benham W.M., Bowyer J.W., H. E. Frances P.G.D. Secretary, Col S.D., Pillinger J.D., Parkinson Tyler. Bros. Hart, Hinckman, Harris, Glazier, &c. Business—To initiate Mr. Kay, to pass Bros. Fortnum, Mason and Fox.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF NEW SCHOOLS AT CUMNOCK, AYRSHIRE.

THURSDAY, the 19th of August, will be a day long remembered by the inhabitants of Old Cumnock, as that on which Col. Mure, M.P., the Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire, assisted by about five hundred of his brother Masons, attended to lay the foundation stone of the building in course of erection by the School Board. The building, when completed, will accommodate eight hundred children, and is estimated to cost £4,000. The Old Cumnock Lodge, St. Barnabas, No. 230, under whose banner the Provincial Grand Lodge assembled, mustered in great strength. St. John's Lodge, New Cumnock, also supplying a good contingent. The following Lodges were represented: Mother Kilwinning, No. 0, St. John's, No. 22, Kilmarnock; Thistle and Rose, No. 73, Glasgow; Navigation, No. 86, Troon; St. James's, No. 125, Ayr; St. Andrew's, No. 126, Kilmarnock; St. James's, No. 135, Tarbolton; St. Mungo, No. 179, Mauchline; St. Barnabas, No. 230, St. Andrew, 245, Muirkirk; Blair, 290, Dalry; St. John, No. 320, Ardrossan; St. John, No. 334, New Cumnock; St. Thomas, 433, Dalmellington; St. John, 497, Catrine, and Burns, St. Mary, Harlford. Amongst the Provincial Grand Officers we noticed Col. Mure P.G.M., O. Patrick, of Woodside, D.P.G.M., R. Wylie P.G.S., J. Ferguson P.P.G.W., J. Tweed P.P.J.G.W., and J. McKay P.G.S.D.; and from Lodge Mother Kilwinning, Bros. W. H. Steven, H. Arthur and G. W. Wheeler. The brethren being properly marshalled by Bros. Wylie and McKie P.G.M.'s, proceeded round the picturesque village, to the site of the School, adjoining the old Churchyard, where sleep many of the old covenanters, men whose memories Scotchmen still delight to honour. The R.W.M. of St. Barnabas Lodge, No. 230, then, in a neat speech, presented a richly engraved trowel to the P.G.M., requesting him, in the name of the Lodge, to accept it, and perform the ceremony. The stone was then laid with the accustomed Masonic ceremonies, amid the plaudits of the assembled multitude, who were then addressed by the gallant Colonel, on the advantages of education, and the fitness of such a stone being laid by the Masonic fraternity, whose mission it had been in all ages to impart light and knowledge to those who might otherwise have remained in darkness and ignorance, proving that while formerly the public buildings, like arenas and amphitheatres, were built for purposes of sport and cruelty, that now, owing to the dissemination of light and truth, all public buildings were erected to act in the opposite direction. Mr. Bothwell, the chairman of the School Board, then proposed that the thanks of the inhabitants of the School Board, as well as his own and those of the School Board, should be given to the P.G.M. and those brethren who had come from all parts of the country to honour them on this occasion. The procession then returned to the Lodge room, when the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed. A dinner then took place, at the Black Bull Inn, presided over by Mr. Bothwell, the chairman of the Local School Board, and attended by above 150 of the brethren. After the chairman, in an excellent manner, had given the usual loyal toasts, he gave the "Two Houses of Parliament," calling on Col. Mure to respond, who, he said, was not only P.G.M. of the Masons, but one who had done good service in the field as an officer of her Majesty, and now was doing equally good service to his country by serving in Parliament. We regret that space forbids us to give the gallant Colonel's reply, and also his speech afterwards, when he proposed "The School Board of Cumnock," as both were much above the usual species of after-dinner orations. The whole meeting was a complete success, and will be long remembered in South Ayrshire.

THE MASONIC SIGN.

"YES, sir," said Jones to his friend Smith, "the advantages to be derived from our ancient and honourable institution are incalculable."

By the way we should have said "Brother Jones," for Brother Jones was "high" in Masonry, and was Past Grand Deputy Junior Door Opener for the Courts of Cockayneshire.

"For instance," continued Brother Jones, P.G.D.J.D.O., "look at the position you take when travelling—think of the consideration paid to you. Why, when I landed on the island of Bambaroo, the King, hearing I was a Mason, sent down a detachment of his Horse Guards Black to escort me to his palace."

"But," said Smith, surprised, "are all Masons thus honoured?"

"Well—no," answered Brother Jones, hesitatingly; "only those who belong to the very highest degrees—and I belong to the very highest, the double superior and superlative degree of the combined Rose, Thistle, and Palm Tree, or the three hundred and sixty-fifth degree. There are but seven members of it in the known world, and they are all crowned heads except myself."

"And you," exclaimed Jones, "how on earth were you admitted?"

"I don't wonder at your surprise," continued Jones; "others have wondered at it and envied me. You see, such is the universality of Masonry, that even crowned heads are compelled to admit one outsider into their fraternity, else what would become of the principle of equality?"

"I see," said Smith savagely, for he began to suspect that Brother Jones was chaffing him; and you were a very outsider."

But Brother Jones was in earnest. If he was not a member of this superlative degree, he had dreamed he was, and believed it—so it came to the same thing.

"Now, about these signs," said Smith. "I don't ask you to tell me your secrets; but I object to take a leap in the dark, and if I am to join your Lodge"—for this was the contingency that led up to the conversation—"if I am to join your Lodge, I should like to know just some little about it beforehand."

Brother Jones seemed to hesitate for a few moments, then he appeared buried in profound reflection. At length he rose, and taking Smith by the hand, said:

"Smith, you are my oldest friend—can I trust you?"

Said Smith:

"You can, upon my honour."

"If it were known," said Jones, "that I had divulged the least part of a secret, my life wouldn't be safe for half an hour."

"What!" exclaimed Smith, "do you Masons go about like the bandits in melodramas, with daggers concealed in your boots?"

"Well, no—not exactly in our boots, because the majority of us wear shoes; but it is so. However, I'll chance it."

Here Jones went cautiously round the room, locked the door, and hung his hat on the knob, so as to cover the keyhole.

"Why do you put your hat there?" asked Smith.

"To keep off"—said Jones; "in short, to *tile* the room."

The offshoot of Brother Jones's reflections was this: he had thought of a plan to impart to his friend Smith a Masonic sign, without compromising his fealty to the craft.

"When do you propose going to Bristol?" he asked him.

"This day week."

"Good—now if I put you in possession of one of our secret signs, and you are satisfied with the result, I shall expect to propose you as a Mason; it is the only way you can make atonement to my conscience."

"I agree," said Smith, "and here's my hand on it."

"Very well. Now, you are going to Bristol this day week—well, you shall see the wonderful results of the Masonic signs. Double your fist thus—please to copy me—extend the fore finger of your right hand, and apply it three times to the right side of your nose—gently tapping it thus."

"But why three times?"

"Ah! true—I have made a mistake, and given you an advanced sign; once would have done, but it can't be helped now. When you go to the booking-office ask for a first-class ticket to Bristol; give the sign as I have shown you, and the booking clerk will give you one for nothing."

Smith opened his eyes in surprise.

"Yes," continued Brown, "a first-class ticket for nothing. It is in this way: if you had only tapped your nose once they would have given you a third-class ticket, what we call an 'E.A.P. ticket'; twice, you would receive a second, or 'F.C. ticket'; but, as I have told you three times, you may as well have the advantage of an 'M.M. ticket,' and ride first."

Accordingly, in due course Smith presented himself at the little window, gave the sign by tapping his nose three times as instructed, and at once received his ticket.

"All right, brother," said the clerk. "Pass on."

And it was all right. Smith obtained his first-class ticket, and went down to Bristol.

Great was his amazement, and little did he suspect that Brother Jones had arranged the joke thus: He had a friend who was a booking clerk at the G. W. R., and a member of his own Lodge, and not grudging a trifle for the fun of the thing, he had given him the cost of a first-class ticket to Bristol, and instructed him to hand it over to the person who should act in the manner he had instructed Smith to act.

Smith's business transacted, the next day it was imperative on him to return, and presenting himself at the booking-office, he again made the mystic sign.

"One pound twelve," responded the clerk.

"Yes, I know; but"—Tap, tap, tap, and he repeated the sign.

"One pound twelve," repeated the clerk; "and don't stand there making grimaces at me all day."

"But, my good sir"—(Tap, tap, tap.)

Then he tried the single and the double tap, but no result followed; so he paid for a third-class ticket, and went on his way with the brotherly resolve of joining the Order, if it was only to obtain the satisfaction of reporting the conduct of this unworthy clerk. Arriving in town, his first business was to call on Brother Jones, and explain how he had been served, and how the man refused to give him a ticket without the money.

"Of course he did," explained Jones. "You made a mistake; you forgot you were returning, and that the signal ought to have been reversed. You should have tapped the left side of your nose with the finger of the left hand, thus."

Poor Smith more than suspected he had been made the victim of a joke—the hero of a tale with which Jones would regale many a Masonic Brother, with infinite relish. Certainly he never seeks to discover the sign by becoming a Mason. As to Brother Jones, he has risen higher and higher in the Craft, and is not only P.G.D.J.D.O. but P.M.M., P.F.C., P.E.A.P., and X.Y.Z. also.—*Funny Folks.*

THE FIRST STONE.

Forsaken, down trodden, crime-laden, heart-broken,
He lies in the dust. Cast thou not the first stone;
And be not, by thy too-ready lips, his doom spoken;
On high sits the Judge who may judge him alone.
He hath sinned. Well, *who* hath not? If to us were given,
To each and to all, what stern justice deems due,
Not a man of us ever could hope to gain heaven,
Nor e'er the strait gate of salvation pass through.
Forgive him! Who art thou dar'st sit on thy neighbour
In self-assured judgment? Say, hast thou no spot?
No speck on thy conscience? Why shouldst thou labour
To prove him all guilty, yet dream thou art not?
Oh, hypocrite! know that far sweeter to heaven
The tears of a sinner than those of the just,
As fresh scent gains the rose after tempest hath striven,
And sweeter her blossoms bloom out of the dust.
From the "Quiver" for August.

JENNY JONES.—Many melodies popular in Wales are not old, but the composition of modern bards and harpers. These are often composed in the old style, so that it requires some discrimination to distinguish between ancient tunes and the modern imitations. John Parry tells us that two of his airs, "John ap Evan," composed in 1802, and "The Maid of Morna" in 1803, have been taken for ancient melodies. He says, "I have composed a number of airs after the Welsh modulation, as it is termed, and which consists of an admixture of the major and minor keys, similar to the well-known air, 'Of noble race was Shenkin,' which have become very popular in Wales; but when the harpers are asked who the composer is they know nothing about it; and, indeed, even the names of the tunes are frequently changed. For instance, when a lady of any consequence happens to admire a certain air, the minstrel, out of courtesy, calls it 'Lady such-a-one's delight.' The air of 'Jenny Jones,' sung in London in 1836, by Charles Mathews, the comedian, was picked up in Wales by that gentleman, who considered it to be an old melody. The real fact is that it was composed in 1804 by John Parry, and called by him *Cader Idris*, after the highest mountain but one (Snowden) in North Wales.—*Leisure Hour.*

FREEMASONRY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

A Special Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was held on Saturday, 3rd day of July, A.R. 5875, A.D. 1875, for the purpose of commemorating the centennial celebration of the day when our illustrious Brother, General George Washington, under the old Elm at Cambridge, assumed command of the Colonial forces, soon to become, under his generalship, the Army of the United States.

Present—Bros. Percival L. Everitt Grand Master, William J. Sawin Senior Grand Warden, Lucius W. Lovell Junior Grand Warden, John McClellan Grand Treasurer, Charles H. Titus Recording Grand Secretary, Geo. P. Sanger Corresponding Grand Secretary, and other Grand and Past Grand Officers.

The Grand Lodge was opened in ample form, in Grand Lodge Hall, Masonic Temple, Boston, at 10 o'clock a.m. By order of the Grand Master, the Grand Lodge was called from labour to refreshment.

The Grand Master, with the brethren of the Grand Lodge, proceeded in carriages to Lyceum Hall, Cambridge, as guests of the municipal authorities of the city, and were welcomed by his Honour the Mayor, W. Bro. Isaac Bradford. Here a procession was formed of the many eminent representative men who had accepted the invitation to unite with the city authorities in fitly celebrating the day, the Grand Lodge being assigned a position next to the President and Fellows of Harvard College, and was conducted to a tent on the Common, near the historic old elm under which Washington first drew his sword as Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

In the tent, after the music and prayer, a poem was read by James Russell Lowell, and an oration delivered by Rev. Augustus P. Peabody, D.D., both of great ability, and well befitting the occasion.

At the close of the services in the tent, the Grand Lodge joined again in procession, and was conducted to Memorial Hall, Harvard College, where a banquet had been provided for the citizens and their guests. Here his Honour, the Mayor, presided, as he had done during the services in the tent, and at the conclusion of the repast called upon Judge Sanger, our R.W. Corresponding Grand Secretary, to act as toast-master.

The first toast, "Washington," was responded to by a dirge from the band, the company all standing with bowed heads.

To the second toast, "The United States," Hon. George S. Boutwell, U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, responded.

The third toast was "Massachusetts," and to this his Excellency, the Governor, Bro. William Gaston, responded.

Hon. Josiah Quincy spoke to the fourth toast, "The Thirteen Original States."

To the next toast, "The Army and Navy," General, Judge, and Bro. Charles Devens, responded.

President Eliot spoke eloquently for "Harvard College," the next toast, when the "Grand Lodge of Massachusetts" was given as the sixth regular toast, to which the M.W. Grand Master eloquently responded.

The orator and poet of the day were called up, and Mr. Lowell, declining to make remarks, called up in his place Oliver Wendell Holmes, who read a poem well suited to the occasion. Other eminent men responded to sentiments appropriate to the day, and the exercises in this beautiful hall proved to be of exceeding interest.

On invitation of R.W. Henry Endicott, the brethren of the Grand Lodge enjoyed the hospitality of his pleasant home in Cambridgeport, thus adding pleasantly to the many enjoyable scenes of the day.

At eight o'clock p.m., the Grand Lodge returned to Masonic Temple, Boston, which was called from refreshment to labour, and closed in ample form.—*The Keystone.*

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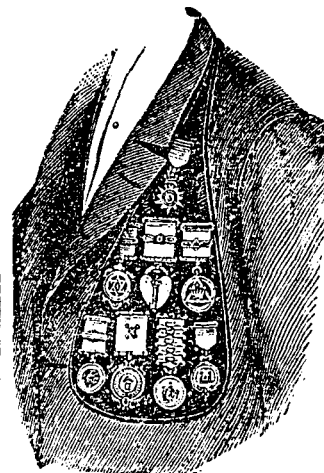
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