

THE

Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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OUR SECOND VOLUME.

WITH the present number of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, we close our Second Volume. Twelve months since we were just preparing to launch our projected journal. Amid much encouragement, many predictions of our ultimate success, and numerous promises of help, we ventured to put forth our programme. Some of our critics, perhaps a few of our enemies, were of opinion that, in that programme, we aimed too high, and made promises which could not be fulfilled. We were content, however, in spite of the sneers of half-hearted friends, to allow our performances to speak for themselves, and now, with the issue of our fifty-second number, we may fairly claim that we have accomplished all we intended. We promised our readers a high-class Masonic journal, which should inform them, not merely of all the current events of any importance in the Masonic world, but which should keep before their eyes the literary and antiquarian lore in connection with the Craft. We promised that while we should carefully veil from the vulgar those things which should not be discussed in a newspaper, we should approach the consideration of Masonry in no narrow or pedantic spirit. It was our ambition to be the organ of intercommunication between Masons in various parts of the globe, and in this also we have succeeded beyond our most sanguine expectations. In America and in Australia our articles have been freely quoted by the general press, as well as by journals devoted to the affairs of the Order. We have found many warm friends, and many readers, in the United States, while at home we have received cordial support from the brotherhood. Our circulation has steadily increased, and it is still increasing. The need of a respectable organ of Masonic opinion was widely felt when we stepped forward to supply the want, and, notwithstanding the apathy with which Masons have hitherto regarded the journalism of the Order, we have been gladly recognised as an authority, and welcomed as a friend. The apathetic attitude of Masons with reference to their own press has arisen, we believe, in consequence of the inferior quality of the literary *menu* with which that press in the past had been content to regale the brethren. Any stale odds and ends of Masonic news were considered quite good enough for the columns of a Masonic journal, and the literary matter which was served up by some of our contemporaries was generally beneath contempt. Stale platitudes and worn out truisms may, indeed, content dull minds, and furnish the material for the lucubrations of respectable stupidity, but the Order, which comprises in its ranks the culture and intelligence of the middle and upper classes, assuredly demands that its representative organs shall, at least, be on a footing of equality with the high class journals which cater for the intellectual and social wants of the public. What we have done in the past is, at least, a guarantee that, in the future, we shall not permit ourselves to fall behind our ideal. It will be our aim to make THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE still more widely representative of the opinions and the wants of the Masonic world. Many new

features of interest will be added to our programme, and the Masonic Portraits, which have given such general satisfaction, will be continued from week to week. We may say, with regard to this latter feature of our journal, that our aim is to present our readers with faithful literary sketches of Masons who are widely known, or who have deserved well of the Order. Mere biographical notices of distinguished living persons are almost always unsatisfactory. They are usually written in a flattering style, and often for purposes which are anything but worthy of respectable journalists. If we have discarded the mere vulgar method of ticketing a man with his name and titles, our readers may feel assured that we have done so for excellent reasons. If our sketches prove to be faithful transcripts of the peculiarities of the persons who, figuratively speaking, will honour us with "sittings," they will speak for themselves. If they be unfaithful or inaccurate, they will, of course, miss their mark, and we, at all events, shall know when and why we have failed. We may add that, although in these papers we shall speak freely of those whose lineaments we shall attempt to draw, we shall always speak kindly, and shall never permit any feelings that are not Masonic to influence our pen. We shall chide without malice, and praise, where praise is deserved, without one thought of insincerity or flattery. Having said thus much of the past and future, we may venture with some show of reason to urge upon our brethren the task of making THE CHRONICLE yet more widely known to the Order. Every one of our readers may render us some service in this respect. They can make us known to those of the brethren who have not yet looked into our pages. They may help to disabuse the minds of some among us of those prejudices against Masonic journalism, which we are glad to know are slowly giving way before a more enlightened consideration of the scope and duties of the Order. Our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic have welcomed the Press with open arms. Nearly every district under the government of a Grand Lodge has its Masonic paper or magazine, and the general newspapers devote much of their space to Masonic intelligence. Here, while there is less apathy on the subject of Masonic journalism than existed a few years since, yet much still remains to be done before the Masonic press of England is placed upon an equality, so far as circulation and influence are concerned, with the Masonic press of the States. We leave this matter in the hands of our readers, fully assured, as we are, that they will do what is thought just and right. With the close of the year men are accustomed to review their past conduct, and make resolutions for the future. It is a wholesome custom, and one which commends itself to every mind. We trust that our friends, in their mental examination of duties but half fulfilled, or claims but tardily recognised, will give some thought to the great task on which we have laboured through the now rapidly fleeting year. Some of them could have lightened that labour had they chosen. Perhaps the idea of attempting to put a shoulder to the wheel has occurred to many a brother who now regrets that his good intentions were not realised. At this season, when the minds of Christian and Jew alike are chastened by the holiest of associations, the recollection of duties unperformed is a portion of that religious discipline which is common to every creed. To remember and to amend is the duty of the just man. We will say no more on this subject, and we now take our leave with hearty wishes that all our readers may spend a jovial Christmas, and may be blessed with a Happy New Year.

MASONIC PORTRAITS (No. 8.)
AN EASTERN STAR.

FEW of us who can only boast of average inches are able to understand or appreciate very tall men. Malignant little imps of five feet five or so, will tell you that the giant of the evening, who towers head and shoulders above the other guests, and upon whose arm the lady he takes down to dinner looks like a white camelia on a black coat, is a slow, dull creature; that his circulation must be feeble, because the heart, which is about the same size in all men, has so much additional work to do in forcing the blood to the extremities. Others will tell you that a very tall man can hardly ever put his feet down without treading upon somebody's corns; he cannot, we are informed, sit at table like other people, because of the extreme length of his legs. "He is always shaky on his pins," says a third detractor, whose nether limbs are so short that he could not sit on horseback without imminent risk of sliding from the saddle. "He talks you down, with his big, strong voice," says another; "he looks at little people with the same contempt with which a Newfoundland dog regards a terrier, and roars out his words as if it were the privilege of big men to ride rough shod over the world." Notwithstanding that these hostile opinions are very general, we confess to a liking for tall men. We have usually found them to be harmless and straightforward fellows, free from guile, and as tender hearted as the fair sex. Here, for example, is a gentleman whose great stature is his most striking personal peculiarity. He is a kindly giant, whose heart is easily touched by the tale of woe. He is not the man to take his ease by his own fire-side while duty calls him to labour for his fellows. An active philanthropist, he is always present at the elections of the Masonic Charitable Institutions, and happy, indeed, is that orphan or that aged Mason whose cause he has espoused. He is none of your roaring giants, of whom little men speak so bitterly; his comely features are grave, and his deportment is quiet and decorous. Yet, under the calm exterior is hidden a fund of humour, and he possesses histrionic ability of no mean order. The calm face is flexible enough to express all the varied emotions of humanity, and the tall form is sufficiently graceful and well balanced to assume, with ease, any attitude or contortion. Under that close cropped, stubble hair, lies a brain which possesses the rare power of imitation. Our giant has that glorious gift, which in all ages has made the Mime attractive to his fellow creatures. Men who possess these attributes are always irresistibly compelled to exhibit them. Acting and mimicry are necessary to their very existence. We do not call our brother charitable because he is always ready to display his talents for the benefit of others, we base his claim to the title upon far more sterling qualities. The tale of distress readily excites his active sympathy, and he never draws tight his purse strings when money can do aught to heal the wounds of the afflicted. Some men's philanthropy consists of mere words; they can say kind things, or express a vague pity for the unfortunate, but they do not understand the art of giving. The line of their charity is drawn at the pocket. So far as the Lodge funds can help, they are willing to hold up a hand and vote relief, but when they are pressed to contribute, they give nothing, or give reluctantly. The highest authority tells us that cheerful giving is the true test of philanthropy. Soft words may sound sweet enough to the ear, but they do not place bread upon the table, or mend the "looped and windowed raggedness" of the deserving poor. Our kindly giant, in the noble simplicity of his heart, usually pities the distressed in those plain figures which represent good and lawful money. But he is careful to remember that true charity begins at home. We have no words which will adequately express the contempt we feel for men who give for the sake of the hollow applause of the multitude, and who neglect those who are dependent upon them. The man who is zealous in the cause of charity, who is a boon companion at table, and a jolly good fellow everywhere but at his own fire-side, is so contemptible a being that we will not waste words in talking of him; his own conscience, if he has any, must bring him his fitting punishment. Our hero, like many big men, is gentle and kind to children. The youngsters, by the bye, seem to have an instinctive knowledge of character, and we are almost inclined to think that that man must have something good in him to whom an infant will open its arms. Little children approach our giant with perfect confidence, and play pranks with his tall, burly form,

which remind one strongly of the playful fooling of the Lilliputians with Gulliver. At a juvenile party he looks like a tall pine, surrounded with a dense under growth of graceful ferns. This association of extreme youth and maturity is always delightful to right-thinking persons; the merriment of the youngsters, the simulation or real jollity of the grown person, the real Freemasonry of mind between guileless manhood and innocent infancy—all this to minds that are not jaded with over work, or satiated with pleasure—is like the music of angelic voices in some heavenly choir. But we are forgetting that our giant is famous for Masonic excellence, as well as for the social virtues. He has presided over one of the most influential Lodges in London, and has passed, with *éclat*, the first chair in a Royal Arch Chapter, and is now the Scribe. He is Secretary of one Lodge, and perpetual Director of Ceremonies in another. His Masonic duties are performed with intelligence, tact, and zeal, and he is justly regarded as a worthy pillar of the Order. So sincere a man as he is must have many friends, and his friendship wears well. Some men never can keep their friends for any length of time. They are constantly forming new acquaintances, and they wear them out rapidly. Our hero retains the hearty good will and fraternal affection of such brethren who know him. They respect and love him for his simplicity, for the firmness with which he pursues the straight and narrow path of rectitude, for his high Masonic ability, and for those talents and that strength and force of character which have contributed to raise him conspicuously above his fellows. We regret that our brother has been prostrated by a painful illness, which temporarily extinguished his mimic fires, and removed him from the sphere of active usefulness in which he delights to shine. He is, however, so far recovered as to resume those duties which are consonant with his feelings. We wish him God speed on the road to perfect health, and many years of active work and wholesome enjoyment.

"This tall fellow, good sir, is sick,
I pray you use him gently.
Sir Leech, what says thy skill;
Canst cure this mystic malady
As readily as a broken pate,
Or must we dub thee dunce, and seek
Some other dabbler in the healing art?"

MANAGEMENT OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

WE are glad the year has not passed without a full and exhaustive report on a subject which has been greatly exercising the mind of Masonry of late, and causing, we may add, no small amount of uneasiness. In the early summer it was known that serious differences had arisen between the scholastic and managerial staffs of our Boys' School. Agreement between these at length appears to have become conspicuous by its absence, to differ being the one solitary point on which there was a community of feeling between the two. But, further than this, Bro. Tew, D.P.G.M. for West Yorkshire, published a pamphlet, in which he expressed an opinion that the School was not so economically managed as it should be, the brunt of his attack being levelled, principally, at the official expenditure, which he considered far too high under the circumstances. In the autumn, a second pamphlet appeared, from the pen, of Bros. Tew and Rev. O. Perrott, the late Head Master, in which the same opinion as to the financial management was expressed, but entering into greater detail. It contained also a mass of matter relating to the recent differences between the Secretary and the late Head Master, which ended at length in the resignation by the latter of his important office. A long discussion ensued in these columns, and in those of our contemporary, and considerable bitterness was exhibited by the disputants. At length it was determined by the governing body of the School to institute an inquiry into the merits of the charges made against the management by Bros. Tew and Perrott. This Committee devoted a considerable amount of time, and the utmost care in investigating the several matters which had formed the subject of such public denunciations, and without calling in the assistance of an accountant, for which authority had been given them, they recently presented their report, completely exonerating the school officials from the charges which had been made. As it was no business of the committee to investigate the differences which had prevailed between the Secretary and the late Head Master, of course this part

of the question remains as it was. But the point which was of the most importance, has happily been settled, and henceforth we hope the course of the School will progress without further disturbance.

We can hardly find words to express the pleasure we feel at a result so satisfactory. We do not doubt for one moment that the views so strenuously urged by Bros. Tew and Perrott were urged *bonâ fide*, in the firm belief that the office expenditure was excessive, and that the accounts presented to the public did not appear, perhaps, as clear to the minds of the uninformed as they might have been. But it cannot be other than a matter for the heartiest congratulation to learn that the powers that be have done their duty honourably. It would have been a great blow to the Craft had any irregularities been brought home to those charged with preparing the accounts, and, we repeat, we cannot find words to express our pleasure at the result of the late rigid investigation.

Now that this unpleasant subject is at an end, we trust the career of the School may be altogether unchequered. Bro. Binckes may be, occasionally, over-zealous in his anxiety to promote the welfare of the School. He is, no doubt, a little impetuous—we trust he will pardon us for saying so—in his mode of argument, but none have ever doubted his marvellous activity in furthering the good cause. We need only compare the proceeds of each festival before he was Secretary with what was realised this year in order to gauge the measure of his zeal and its results. Accordingly, we congratulate him most heartily on the result, and we trust that Bros. Tew and Perrott, finding the charges advanced by them have no basis of fact to rest upon, will, as the men of honour and gentlemen we know them to be, drop any further antagonism, and heartily co-operate with the rest of the Masonic world in promoting the interests of this important charity.

BURIED ALIVE.

FROM THE *Keystone*.

MY case is not without precedent. Others have been *buried alive* before me, and by good fortune, exhibited evidences of consciousness in time to secure a rescue. But I presume that I am the first Freemason ever subjected to this discipline. Will the readers of the *Keystone* listen to my story?

My health from boyhood has been feeble. I am not scholar enough to describe, or even name my peculiar ailment; but I was always hard to wake from sleep, sometimes had fainting fits, suffered much from swimming in the head, and the like. I became a Mason at the age of twenty-four, and found the association, in all respects, pleasing and useful. The Lodge worked carefully and well. No erring brother stood a chance of being overlooked until his sin grew chronic within him. We had no disreputable brethren among us. Yet we were social, and had *high jinks* whenever the Craft was "called from labour to refreshment." We sung the Masonic songs well and freely. Twice a year a bounteous banquet was spread, which, with the attendant *joyballies*, was always anticipated by the members with rare relish. In brief, ours was more than an ordinary Lodge.

One afternoon I had gone into the woods to select a piece of timber for a particular work—I am a wagon maker by trade—and finding a suitable tree, I began to cut it down. While doing so a large snake came suddenly out from a hollow place near the ground, and passed directly between my feet. I always had an antipathy to snakes, and the suddenness of its appearance threw me into a fit. I fell backward to the ground as if dead. The woodchopper who was with me took me on his shoulder—I am a very light weight—and carried me directly to my boarding-house, summoning a physician, whose office we passed, to wait upon me.

All efforts to resuscitate me, however, failed. Applications of all sorts, even the most pungent vivisections, the hot bath, electricity itself, was tried upon me; but my appearance was that of a dead man, and at last the medical practitioner declared that "life was extinct."

It was about this time that my dormant senses returned to me; at least I cannot remember with distinctness anything which occurred before I heard—and, oh! how distinctly the voice fell upon my ears, "He is dead!" Some one remarking upon my florid appearance, and the warmth of my flesh, I heard the doctor explain, with quite a display of erudition, that "such phenomena were not rare in persons of my peculiar temperament; but that these were not appearances of vitality." He advised, however, that no steps should be taken for my burial until the plainest evidences of death were apparent. Then I heard the doctor leave the room, and the conversation of the two or three persons around me, expressing surprise (no one gave utterance to grief) at my sudden death. Then my body was laid out in the usual manner, but with what I thought to be unnecessary coarseness and indelicacy, and I was left, nude and alone, in a dark room.

At this time, I confess, my feelings were of rather a ludicrous nature, mingled with some indignation, than of fear. I felt so confident of reviving in a few hours that the thought of how droll would be the scene of my unexpected resuscitation was uppermost in my mind. I had that indistinct perception of passing objects common to a state of *coma*, yet could concentrate my ideas upon a single point with considerable force. The lines,

"Solemn strikes the funeral chimes,"

rang in my mind. The job on which I had been engaged occupied

much of my thoughts, and I computed over and over the measurements of the timber upon which I was reflecting at the moment of my attack.

The night passed rapidly enough and daylight seemed as plain to me, through my closed lids, as on any other occasion. Then I became a silent witness of a scene never to be eradicated from my memory.

A delegation from the Lodge came to the room, and, for a considerable period, stood around me in consultation. Their words were tender and sympathetic. They had telegraphed, as I learned, to my widowed mother, and the funeral would proceed as soon as she arrived. At a called meeting, the evening before, they had assumed all the expenses of my interment, together with those for a monument, which they had already ordered. They had adopted eulogistic resolutions in my honour. They had, in brief, taken prompt steps to assure my mother, my friends, and the entire community, of their respect for my memory.

Now I was laid in the coffin, and my body removed to the Masonic Hall, where a guard of brethren was detailed to stand watch over me through the second night. It must have been one or two o'clock in the morning that a final consultation was held over my body, to decide the solemn question of death. The ruddy appearance of my skin, and the high temperature of my flesh, before adverted to, had excited much surprise, and no less than four physicians, together with the coroner, several experienced undertakers, and others, stood around me to settle the question.

And now, for the first time, I began to feel some alarm. The reader will, of course, understand that my mind was not in a logical condition. In truth, it must have been in a feeble state of action, so much so, that I had not previously contemplated the possibility of premature burial, nor realised the horrible condition in which I was placed. But as one after the other tests failed, when acrid substances put under my eyelids, and sharp instruments penetrating my nerves, and great charges of galvanism, throwing my muscles into spasms, failed to elicit a single evidence of real life; when I heard the coroner and the undertakers, one and all, declare me "dead as Julius Cæsar"—in fact, when the last of the experts ceased his experiments, and retired from the Lodge-room, a horrible fear began to come over me, to which language is inadequate to give expression, a fear which continued but with ever-increasing intentness until the end of the chapter.

My life was saved by the fortuitous circumstance of a railroad accident, which prevented the arrival of my mother. This necessitated placing my body in a vault, that upon her coming she might once more look upon my face, before my remains were finally interred. In all other respects the funeral services proceeded as though I was to be placed in mother earth. The beautiful Masonic services were performed in opening a Funeral Lodge, my coffin lying near the altar in the centre. The appointment of a Marshal, his orderly arrangements for a procession, the beautiful prayer of the Chaplain, the selections of pall-bearers—how well I understand these details! Every word of the Master's eulogy fell upon my ear, and I followed him, mentally, line by line, and as he recited that funeral poem, commencing

"Dead, but where now," &c,

It would be spinning out this subject unnecessarily to describe the procession and the proceedings at the Church and receiving vault. Suffice that all things were done with exceeding gravity and decorum. My body was taken first to the Methodist church, where a funeral discourse was given, in which my character was tenderly reviewed; then to the graveyard, where I was deposited, as I have said, in one of the vaults, fortunately open to the air. At the suggestion of one of those who had retained a lurking scepticism as to the fact of my death, the lid of the coffin immediately above my face was slightly loosened, to which circumstance I probably owe my life. The horrors of that night why should I relate? Consciousness fully returned. One by one my muscles yielded to my agonised will, and I moved my feet and hands, and opened my eyelids; I screamed aloud. More than once I must have fainted and recovered. And when my mother, tottering into that horrible receptacle of the dead, came to look upon my face, it was bathed with a clammy perspiration, the eyes were open, and an expression of horror overspread it, which was too much for her affectionate heart. She fell upon my coffin senseless, and was long in being revived.

I need not say that no time was lost in releasing me from my confined situation, and restoring me by the aid of hot baths and tenderest care, to strength. A handsome sum of money was made up, by which I was enabled to travel for several months in the company of my mother, and until the horrible impressions of that premature interment faded from my mind.

We have to thank Messrs. Claudius, Chant and Sheppard for two very handsome presentation copies, one plain, the other coloured, of their recently published portrait of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales as M.W. Grand Master of England. The pose is easy, the likeness excellent, and the regalia quite *en règle*. Considering the smallness of the cost, the plain lithograph, without frame, of course, being only sixpence on ordinary paper, and one shilling on India paper, while for the coloured one, or the aquagraph—which is to water colours what the oleograph is to oil paintings—the charge is but two shillings, we think the publishers ought to have a very large sale. The price of the one, with a simple gilt frame—all the more effective for being simple—is half a guinea, and of the coloured, twelve shillings and sixpence. We should add that the frame is washable, and thus the portrait may be said, in a certain sense, to be everlasting.

THE ANTIQUITY OF MASONRY.

REPRINTED FROM "THE NEW ENGLAND FREEMASON."

An Address delivered before the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, at the Quarterly Communication, 8th September 1875, by R.W. Charles Levi Woodbury, Past Deputy Grand Master.

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Thus also of the decorations known as the egg and tongue mouldings. The tools of the ancient Egyptian artisans have been found, and resemble in shape those in use at this day. The mallet and the wedge were found in the Pyramids, and Burton also found one in a tomb, with a basket of drills, chisels, bows, &c., that had lain there perhaps twenty centuries before Cambyses invaded Egypt.

The working dress of the Egyptian Mason of the old times consisted of the apron, similar to what it now is; judging from the paintings yet extant, this, with a pair of sandals, constituted his entire working dress in hot weather.

My knowledge of Egyptian lore does not enable me to affirm with confidence the inference which may strike some of my readers; but it is singular that several of the numerous Egyptian kings, whose statues have been preserved, wear the apron without their royal robes. In the list of Egyptian antiquities in the British Museum, published by Sharpe, No. 61 is the statue of the King Pthamen Mithoph, Son of Ramises 2nd, whose date is about 1120 B.C., whose only clothing is a short apron; this figure is given, ch. 2, sect. 46, in the history of Egypt by the same author. A cast from his tomb also shows him wearing a similar apron. No. 26, of the same list, is the statue of King Oimeneptah, 2nd, wearing no clothing but sandals and the apron. A cast from his tomb, also in the museum, shows the apron under a transparent gauze robe. Elsewhere I have seen drawings of two Royal figures at the portal of some temple or tomb wearing the apron alone; but I do not recall the place where they are found. As everything of this sort was symbolic in Egypt, we may speculate whether the apron so worn without the usual royal robes, by a king, the head of the priestly caste, did not indicate an initiation, undescribed by antiquarians, into the arcana of the sacred sculptors, draughtsmen and Masons who pertained to this caste.*

The method of work has remained much the same; the Egyptian broached work was as perfect as it is now. The chisel draft on the cyclopean stones in the Temple foundations at Jerusalem is just as on a dressed stone of to-day.

Another class of proofs of descent are found in the mystic designs of the old masters, carved on their slabs or constructed in their edifices, which are still in use. Layard, the explorer of the ruins of Nineveh and Babylon, was astonished to find the figure known as the Greek honeysuckle perfectly designed and used there; thence it passed into the architecture of ancient Greece, thence into Western Europe, and through modern church architecture to the present. It is of common use now, in its identical original form, both in Protestant and Catholic churches. What a proof of the tenacity with which the conventional clings in the Craft, where Zoroastrian, Chaldee, Pagan and Christian temples, in a succession of twenty-six hundred years, inherit and transmit the same mystic symbols alike to innovators and successors! Students also have traced and written many learned works, showing how certain mystic emblems of a faith, so early as almost to be prehistorical in its origin, have been transmitted, such as dome, pinnacle, and spire, through all successive eras to the present age; and although their symbolic meaning has occulted from the general public, not merely retaining but gaining favour as new appliances render the art more capable of executing such designs with brilliancy. What traveller has not paused to gaze on the spires of Cologne and Strasburg, or to admire the domes of St. Peter, St. Sophia, St. Isaac, St. Paul, the latter the glorious work of our modern accepted Grand Master, Wren. The round towers of Ireland and the needle of Cleopatra bear witness like these to the continuity of the conventional in the Masonic art. The mystic lesson derived from the form of the church, mosque, or temple in all ages, and held esoteric, is another link.

Another curious instance of the conventional perversion of a symbol is in the brazen pillars which stood before the door of the Temple of Solomon. They are reproduced by the latter Phœnicians in the pillars of Hercules, which stood at the port of the Mediterranean; but at this day, in Phœnician-settled Spain, they are borne on the reverse of the silver dollar. Thus that which was once a symbol of life, the mystic basis of religion, has, among the profane, sunk to represent a mere dollar's worth of earth. Truly, Solomon's successors are wiser than kings.

Considering the vast and varied knowledge on antique remains gathered by modern discoverers, we are justified to anticipate that ere long it will be demonstrated that conventional Masonic art was so allied with theology in ancient times that every part of a temple taught a special lesson of its own; that form and symbol gave every stone a signification as perfect as a hieroglyphic character; and an initiate could read intelligibly the ideas embodied by the architect Mason in the building of Egyptian and Semitic temples as if they were written in the common language of the country. In those days there were sermons in stone, and the Champollin of art bearing the key is not many generations distant. Much of symbology, in the course of its long descent and many migrations, has become so conventional a part of art that the original meaning has grown very obscure. Where the religion of a country has fundamentally changed, the forms and decorations of the temples, because they are symbolic, sometimes become modified to suit the change; but still, as Masonry is one art, they largely retain the impress of the past. Of this, did

* The royal apron, described by Wilkinson as being part of the Royal dress, bears a striking similarity to the style of apron worn by Grand Masters. From his description it was worn as the Grand Master wears his.

time allow, I could give many illustrations. So, also, inventions in the beauty of design have occasionally modified, but I think never obliterated, the conventional aspect of religious symbology. Egypt, Greece and Rome still are three radiant lights of the Masonic studio. For the burnt and buried Babylon, for the desolate Jerusalem, for the moulded Semitic architecture of Tyre, of the plains, and of the mountains, we hold our Lodge of sorrow, and cheer our longing souls with the faintest relics of their golden glory.

In putting forth my propositions, I feel that some will be appalled at the length of time included in the subject, and will hardly realise that many other parts of our civilisation can be traced clearly, descending from prototypes as distant as Greek Masonry from our era.

Modern scholars and divines readily admit that the metaphysics of Aristotle, of Plato, and of that branch of Platonism that mingled with the Chaldean and Zoroastrian metaphysics in the school of Alexandria, are at the root of all present divisions and diversities in schools of theology. Modern science has reasoned its way from observation and proof, until now it declares the doctrines taught by Democritus, three centuries before our era, include the highest known expression of the cosmic theory of matter. Pythagoras, who brought into Europe from Egypt the helio-centric theory of the universe, after a long obscurity, has his merit again recognised, and Euclid is of equal authority now as when he prepared his geometry. Three of the four books religions of the world are more than seventeen centuries old. In literature, the drama and oratory, we look to the classic ages for models. In the practical arts, those which yet depend on hand-skill, rather than on machinery, had then the habitudes they now have, joined to even greater skill. The goldsmith, the metal worker, the gem engraver, the sculptor and stone cutter, the shipwright, the harness-maker and the hand-loom weaver, plied their trades and their art, descended generation by generation through their apprentices, moving from one centre of trade and wealth to another, in accordance with the laws of prosperity which governs civilization. Figure weaving and the India shawl are older than the days of Abraham, and the hand-loom, in its pristine form, is still used to weave the latter. The potter's wheel is still unimproved. The ship of to-day bears on her stern the carved lars and symbols which her prototypes bore in the days of Pagan Rome. The fashionable jewellery of to-day is copied from Etruscan and Egyptian models. The fine arts revel in the goddesses, nymphs and Cupids of Greek design. Some of the mummies of Egypt reveal teeth plugged with gold as well as if an American dentist had tried his torturing tools on them. My limits forbid more illustrations of the conventional arts other artisans have lived and died in for more than sixty generations.

The present sum of human knowledge has been longer in accumulating than the records of history bear witness. Even the few arts which are of modern origin, with rare exceptions, lean for support on more ancient arts. What reason is there to withhold from the Craft of Masonry the same inferences of a descent from the ancient Craft which is so readily accorded to other arts? Research into architecture would furnish further illustrations of the descent of this art, important in my view because the conventional images in art are the highest evidence of its continuous transmission. We must deal with the past from such materials as time, war and fanaticism have spared to come down to us. Masonry is replete with the actual relics of its ancient work. These attest for themselves. In the vulgar sense, except a few papyri snatched from Egyptian tombs, they are now no extant no written records of those days which are original. There is no Jewish or Christian MS. extant earlier than the fourth, perhaps than the seventh, century in the date of its writing.

The conjecture as to the accuracy of a copy is sadly complicated if it is the copy of copies many times removed from the original; but if copies of various known dates agree in the text, it is held proof of an authentic line of descent, although the entire chain of copies back to the original is not produced or accounted for. The rocks last longer than parchment or paper; and chisel marks endure better than ink. The memory of man expands little over seventy years; beyond that, written records or stone records alike rest on reasonable conjecture for proof of authenticity. The dead generations cannot be gathered from the valley of dry bones and paraded as witnesses; you must interrogate the relics of their works and abide the reasonable inferences deduced from them. Eastern art did not fall with Egypt, Babylon or Rome. The light of earlier times had not faded away when the energy of the Arab followers of Mahomet revived its flickering beams for nine centuries more. Upon these sources Europe drew for knowledge and skill in art, science and philosophy—certainly till the close of the fifteenth century. Oriental philosophy again interwove its metaphysics into European theology. Even the Crusaders, poor soldiers of the cross, learned not only war and art from their adversaries, but were charged with returning with their creeds imbued with more than one emanation from Eastern mysticism. Anderson, a hundred and fifty years ago, claimed they also brought Freemasonry from the East. Masonry, which had decayed in Europe with the eclipse of the Roman civilisation, became illumined by association with Saracenic skill, invented and perfected the Gothic art, and gradually, through Fraternities of trained Masons, spread it over Europe.

In the practical hands of the Master Masons it grew in grace and beauty, until it entirely superseded the debased Roman styles, and became the devotional art of mediæval times, symbolising the mystic ideas of the dominant religion in those sublime cathedrals, still the objects of religious art. The organisation of the Craft resembled that of the Egyptian and Greek of yore. The masters were practical as well as scientific in architecture; the Fellow Craft had the same manual skill, but inferior attainments, in the higher parts of the profession; the apprentice was glorious as usual over his modest progress. Their initiations and signs bound them into a close fraternity of grades. At York Minster, A.D. 1370, their contracts with the Chapter provided none should work on the chapel without the common consent of the Master and keepers of the work (Wardens?) and Master Masons. Their Mason marks are yet extant. The secrets of their

art and Craft were kept by oral tradition, and protected by sacred obligations; and yet they were so free and liberal as often to admit high dignitaries of Church and State, whose taste in art they were desirous of cultivating, into the mysteries of their Fraternity, which in truth was the only school for art in Europe. Like the Masons of Hiram of yore, these were travelling bodies, moving from one scene of labour to another, and, as they chose to contract, being in the direct employ of Church or State, they were enabled to secure rare and valuable privileges indicated to the thoughtful by the name of Freemasons.

I cannot, indeed, claim for them, as for their Egyptian predecessors, that they were of priestly caste, yet they held like relations to Church and State; for kings and bishops then rejoiced to be of the Masonic Craft, and still seek their Lodges with flattering alacrity.

Let me cite some mediæval illustrations, drawn from the reviewer in the *London Quarterly*, before referred to:—

"Benedict Abbott, of Warmouth, in A.D. 676, crossed the ocean to Gaul, and brought back with him stone masons to make a church after the Roman fashion."

"In A.D. 1174, by the just but occult judgment of God, the church of Christ at Canterbury was consumed by fire." The monks took counsel with the English and French Masons, and finally committed the work to William of Sens, "a man active and ready, and, as a workman, skilful both in wood and stone," who "went on preparing all things needful for the work, either of himself or by the agency of others."

Thus also in the reign of Henry III., Bishop Grosstete describes the duty of the master: "In all kinds of workmanship the master of the works and workmen has the full power, as indeed it is his duty, to investigate, and examine," etc.; "and this he should do, not only through others, but when it is needful with his own hands."

Hope says, "Many ecclesiastics of the highest rank conferred additional weight on the Order of Freemasons by becoming its members."

"In 1442 King Henry VI. became a Mason. Afterwards, in conjunction with Thirske, Master Mason of the chapel of King Henry V., the king laid out the plan of his own sepulchre."

Investigations have cumulated instances of gentlemen of quality that were crafted members of Masonic Lodges in Great Britain elsewhere than at York, during more than a century prior to the London organisation of 1717. Gov. Belcher, of Massachusetts, states he was admitted in 1704; Elias Ashmole, in his diary, says he and Col. Mainwaring were so made in 1646 in England; and the records in Scotland, cited by Lyon and by Hughan, among many others, show Boswell, of Auchinleck, was present as a member in 1600, and made his Masonic mark on the record of Edinburgh Lodge. The records of Kilwinning and of the Lodge at Aberdeen show numerous earls, lords, ministers, lawyers, merchants, etc., were members in that century.*

I forbear further citations, nor shall I attempt to tell you when or how these Masons absorbed the speculative parts of their royal art, which we, their successors, yet practise under the landmarks of their Ancient Constitutions. There was something elevated in the esoteric doctrines of these travelling Lodges, that drew to them not merely the learned and generous among the great, but also the few believers in human progress, and the scattered but earnest seekers after the deep truths occulted in nature's laboratory, long before Freemasonry ceased to be a manual art.

With the renaissance, came in vogue the separation of the duties of an architect from those of a Master Mason; but we have copies of Constitutions, written earlier than this, which show that modern Freemasonry descended from the cathedral-building craft, whose Master Masons were men of science as well as of manual skill.

Conscious that I have merely begun to collect the available materials to illustrate my subject, I should apologise for presenting an unfinished labour to your attention, were my object other than to arrest hasty conclusions, by showing that candour requires this broad field for explorations should be fairly exhausted before the annalist or the Craft are entitled to sit in judgment on the question of the origin of the royal art, or to demand that this, which now rests in tradition, an open question, shall be relegated into the field of established truth. Late historians, elucidating early records, have wrought confusion on many disparagers of the early history of our organisation, and I trust to be pardoned for thinking that even traditions are capable of receiving much light, when their credibility is examined with a catholic spirit by appropriate tests. The accumulated evidence of descent of many designs, symbols, decorations, tools and usages now in use, their conventional character, the similarity of organization of the Craft, the liberal knowledge possessed by its Masters, the broad scope of the science of Masonry from the first, and the mystic flavour it seems always to have drawn from its exterior connections, have deeply impressed my mind. The Masonic student alone can collate evidence from these sources with success. The darkness comprehended not the light, and I may conclude by quoting the language of one who seems to have known the light in the sixteenth century:—

"And though our structure should be seen by a hundred thousand men, it will ever remain untouched, uninjured, unseen, and even hidden in all eternity to the Godless world, *Sub umbra alarum tuam Jehovah*, until that millennial epoch when that which is now known to few, and portrayed secretly in pictures and symbols, shall fill the whole earth, and be loudly and freely announced."

* The Statute 34 Ed. III. ch. 9, A.D. 1360, and of 3 Hy. VI., A.D. 1427, clearly enough indicate there were three progressive degrees among the Masons; that they were oath-bound, and held congregations, chapters and general assemblies, and also that the chief masters often took works by contract in gross.

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MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Will some of your readers, who are versed in Masonic jurisprudence, kindly give me information on the following point?

A catch motion has been passed in my Lodge by a majority whipped up for the purpose. Shall I be justified in proposing that the minutes, as far as they relate to the motion in question, be not confirmed, so as to give the Lodge an opportunity of reconsidering the question before finally committing themselves to the obnoxious resolution?

I may add that the two P.M.'s present, the W.M., J.W. and the S.D. voted against the motion. The S.W. and J.D. were unavoidably absent, or they would have voted with their brother officers.

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Fraternally yours,

10th December 1875.

W.M.

A SUGGESTION TO OUR JEWISH BRETHERN.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Whatever may have been the case at the time when our charitable institutions were first established, and before Freemasonry at last became true to its principles by deserting the ranks of sectarian prejudices, and exerted its beneficent influences in favour of justice and religious toleration, it will not be denied that, especially in these comparatively latter years of freedom of opinion and conscience, the Jewish brethren have not been behind-hand in giving large and liberal support to the Charities. It is also a fact that, hitherto, the orphan children of the Ancient Faith have been unable to participate in the benefits of either of them. Not but what the Institutions are open to them as much as to the children of any other community; they cannot, however, avail themselves of the privilege, unless certain exceptional conditions are inaugurated. The object of this letter is to ascertain the feasibility of a plan being adopted whereby Jewish children might not be prevented from entering the lists of candidates on account of religious scruples. The method once found, the discussion of details might be left to a committee especially formed for the purpose of seeing the matter carried into effect. There are, undoubtedly, difficulties in the path, and perhaps formidable obstacles bar the way, but practical men, possessing resolute will, are not generally deterred from pursuing their course by any inconvenience they may have to suffer. Now there are four Jewish Lodges in the capital, and, I believe, some in the provinces. One of the London Lodges boasts a Benevolent Fund Annuity of nearly £2,000, another nearly £700. I have no knowledge what the other Lodges possess, but the inherent benevolent disposition and naturally charitable instinct of the true Israelite warrants the conclusion that, in this respect, they have not been neglectful. From these accumulations a sufficient amount might be granted to form a nucleus for a fund, to be enlarged by subscriptions from individuals, the interest from which to cover the extra expenses arising from the additional outlay necessary to procure the attention and instruction requisite in the education of a Jewish Masonic orphan. If the matter were taken in hand by competent men, I venture to assert that not only Jewish, but many Christian brethren would cheerfully give practical aid, and exert their influence in the promotion of a work which must commend itself to the right-thinking and justice-loving mind. For there are many of our Jewish brethren who, perhaps, from no fault of their own, have left families totally unprovided for. The substantial relief and care bestowed upon them by the Jewish community is well known and proverbial. Nevertheless, I think it the duty of the Jewish members of the Craft to take some, at least, of these orphans under their especial care, and thus utilize moneys which, for any practical purpose, might as well never have been collected. The call upon these funds is infrequent, and comparatively insignificant; twenty, thirty, or at most one hundred pounds is the amount generally bestowed; the rest remains unproductive, and is of no benefit to anybody. Trusting these remarks may elicit discussion, as the opinion of others upon the subject would be most gratifying to

Yours fraternally,

E. GOTTHEIL.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS: WINTER SPECIFICS.—All can estimate the disadvantages to the human system from breathing foul air, such as must necessarily be inhaled during our winters. The safest correctives and best purifiers of the blood are Holloway's Balsamic Pills, which are too well known and too highly esteemed to require commendation here. Besides cleansing the system, they improve the appetite, render digestion perfect, admirably regulate the liver, increase the secretion of the kidneys; they mildly yet effectually act upon the bowels, without griping or causing any inconvenience. So long as human nature remains what it is, every person will now and again require regulation of organs, disordered by irregular or too generous living, and too liberal intemperance.

THE MASONIC YEAR 1875.

A FEW days hence and 1875 will be numbered with the past. Moreover, this present issue completes not only our second volume, but the first year of our existence. Hence the occasion seems not inopportune for reviewing the twelve months so nearly completed.

The year 1875 will be a memorable one in the annals of Freemasonry. Taking the whole Order, in its distribution throughout the old and new worlds, we may safely describe the position it now occupies as one of unexampled prosperity. It is not simply that we have grown in numbers only, though such growth, provided it be accompanied by a proportionate increase in strength, is of itself matter for hearty gratulation; but above and beyond this numerical increase, which has occurred to a greater or less extent in all countries where Masonry flourishes, the Order has acquired a firmer position than ever, partly by the accession, as new members, of men eminent by their rank and position or by their talents, partly by a greater strengthening of the ruling powers, and, lastly, by greater activity among the rank and file. And as the Craft is thus stronger in itself, its influence on the profane world has grown in proportion. Some may still sneer at it as child's play. Some may still decri it as a secret society, whose aim is the overthrow of religion and order. Ultramontane bigots may still fulminate their anathemas against us. But these sneers and false accusations and curses fall innocuous at our feet, if even they do not prove, in the main, of service to our cause. There are not a few who regard it as an honour to be excommunicated by a Pope. There must be something substantially good in Masonry, they argue, when a tyrant priesthood goes out of its way to curse. But let us leave conjecture alone, and revert to facts pure and simple. The angry denunciations of the Craft, by Bishop Dupanloup, and their approval by Pio Nono, together with a slight amount of persecution in remote countries, are all our enemies can point to as a set-off to an increase in strength, wealth, and influence, which must truly be described as marvellous. Having stated the case thus generally, let us now proceed to give the details of our history during the year that is still current, English Masonry claiming, as a matter of course, our first attention.

The event which occupies the greatest prominence in the year's history is, undoubtedly, the election and installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as M.W.G.M. Initiated into Freemasonry some seven years previously, by the late King of Sweden, His Royal Highness already held the honorary rank of a Past G.M., England, besides being G.M. of the Temple, and Grand Patron of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, England, as well as Patron of the Order both in Scotland and in Ireland. When, from motives that seemed good to him, the Marquis of Ripon felt called upon to resign the Grand Mastership, the Prince of Wales at once accepted the invitation to fill the vacancy thus caused: thus following in the footsteps of three of his ancestors, the Duke of Cumberland, George, Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Sussex. The formal election was held at the regular Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, on Wednesday, the 5th March; Bro. S. G. Grady proposing, and Bro. Grey, Deputy Master of the Prince of Wales's Lodge, seconding the nomination; which was carried unanimously, amidst the most enthusiastic cheering. It was then announced that the ceremony of Installation had been arranged by His Royal Highness for Wednesday, the 28th April, the day fixed by the Constitutions for holding the Annual Grand Festival, and it was further arranged that an additional number of Stewards should be appointed, in order to assist in carrying out the ceremony, the said Stewards receiving permission to wear a special jewel commemorative of the event. At first some difficulties occurred in selecting a proper place where the Installation could be held. At length the Royal Albert Hall was chosen, and it is needless to say that a better choice could not have been made. Not only was it capable of being securely tyled against the intrusion of profanes, it was also the most commodious hall in London, or, at all events, the one which, taking the previous consideration into account, would accommodate the greatest number of brethren. Large, however, as was the available space in this magnificent hall, it was very soon found that it would be impossible to accommodate all applicants. Hence, as regards the main body of the

Craft, the attendance was restricted to the W.M., Wardens, P.M.'s, and one M.M. from each Lodge. By a marvellous display of zeal and energy on the part of Bro. Sir Albert Woods G.D.C., Bros. Fenn, Monckton, and the Stewards generally, the preparations for the imposing ceremony were successfully carried out, and on the day itself the eight thousand fortunate brethren who were privileged to be present assembled, clothed themselves, and were seated without the slightest hitch. Outside the Hall the scene was animated enough as regards the continuous arrival of every description of vehicle, but it had been ordered there should be no display of Masonic clothing or emblems outside the precincts of the Hall, consequently, idlers had nothing to gaze at, beyond a few thousand gentlemen in evening dress, driving up more or less rapidly to the several points of ingress. Of the Installation itself we say but little. The eloquence of the Pro Grand Master was equal to the occasion, the heartiness of His Royal Highness in acknowledging the honour conferred upon him was unmistakable, while the enthusiastic reception accorded him by the assembly was great beyond conception, the salute being given with a precision and fervour that was quite startling. After the introduction to His Royal Highness of the representatives from the Grand Lodges of Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, and Denmark, and the appointment of the Grand Officers for the year, Grand Lodge was closed in ample form, and the assembly dispersed, highly delighted with the success of the day's proceedings. In the evening the banquet was held at Freemasons' Hall, His Royal Highness the M.W. Grand Master presiding, supported on his right by his brother the Duke of Connaught, the youngest M.M. in England, who had been raised the evening previous in the Prince of Wales's Lodge, and on his left by the D.G.M. Lord Skelmersdale. The health of the Grand Master was proposed by his brother, and it is needless to say, was most warmly responded to by the brethren present. The other toasts were drunk with great heartiness, and the evening terminated with a splendid concert, His Royal Highness remaining for a short time. Thus ended the most eventful day in the modern history of Freemasonry, a day which will ever be remembered as affording the most indubitable evidence of the firmness and stability of the Craft, as well as of the esteem and respect in which it is held by all classes. It only remains for us to add that, at the meeting of Grand Chapter, on the following Wednesday, 5th May, His Royal Highness was installed and duly obligated as Grand Z., Comp. John Havers presiding as first Principal, Comp. H. Sandeman acting as Grand H., and Comp. J. Rawson as Grand J. The Prince then invested his officers, among whom may be mentioned Comp. Earl of Carnarvon as Pro G.Z., Lord Skelmersdale as Grand H., and Lord de Tabley as Grand J.

We now record the doings in connection with our three Charitable Institutions. The annual festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons was held on Wednesday, the 28th January, the Right Hon. the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, R.W. Prov. G.M. Staffordshire, occupying the chair. His Lordship's appeal to the Craft for an increased support of this admirable Charity was a very earnest one, and when the worthy Secretary, Bro. Terry, rose to read the list of subscriptions, the guests were delighted beyond measure on hearing that a sum of £6,630 13s 6d, with eleven lists still outstanding, had been collected for the funds of the Institution, a result eminently satisfactory, and showing that those who had consented to act as Stewards of the festival had been very zealous in the performance of their duties. The full amount subscribed proved in the end to be slightly in excess of £7,000, the exact sum being stated as £7,020 16s 6d. The result of this liberality was soon apparent, and we had the pleasure of announcing, a fortnight later, that 15 widows and 22 males would be elected in the May following, instead of 3 widows and 12 males, thus bringing up the number of annuitants to 130 men and 100 widows, besides 16 widows receiving a moiety of their late husbands' annuities. The number of vacancies was subsequently increased, by deaths, to 28 men and 18 women, there being 33 candidates for the former, and 35 for the latter. The election was held on Friday, the 21st of May, the number of votes for the successful candidates ranging from 1,120 to 251 for the males, and from 867 to 499 for the females.

The indefatigable Bro. Terry is to be congratulated on the prosperous condition of the Institution, of which he is Secretary, and whose claims he so earnestly advocates whenever an opportunity is afforded him. Let us hope that the success of 1875 is only the precursor of still greater successes, and that in the coming year it may be in our power to make announcement of an addition to the number of our annuitants, as has been made in the year now ending. We should also mention, as further evidencing the kind zeal of Secretary Terry, in promoting the happiness of those under his charge, that a summer entertainment was, and a winter entertainment will be, specially organised for the amusement of our worthy "Patriarchs."

The prize day at the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, was fixed for the 8th of May, and accordingly on that day the Lord Mayor, G.J.W., who had consented to preside at the annual festival on the Wednesday following, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, arrived early, and inspected the institution, the arrangements of which gave unlimited satisfaction to the distinguished visitors. Afterwards, in the presence of a numerous assembly, a capital programme, comprising several excellent selections of music, both instrumental and vocal, and a number of recitations, was gone through very successfully. The Lady Mayoress then distributed the three principal prizes, namely, £5 given annually by Bro. Winn, to Maria Louisa Flintoft, for taking honours in the Cambridge examination; gold medal for general proficiency, given annually by Bro. Paas, together with £5 given annually by Bro. Winn, to Leila Lucy Caparn, and silver medal for good conduct, given annually by the Institution, with £5 given annually by Bro. Winn, to Maria E. Searle. The Lord Mayor then distributed the prizes given by the Institution, the principal recipients being Maria Louisa Flintoft, for taking honours, and for German (given by Bro. Hirsch); Leila Lucy Caparn, for passing Cambridge examination, for French (given by Bro. Rev. P. de Brette D.D.), and for drawing (given by Bro. Starkey); Maria E. Searle for needlework; Jessie M. Blair for music, and Bro. Homs-worth's prize for amiability as voted by her schoolfellows; and Mary Theresa Claisen for drawing (given by Bro. Starkey) and music (given by Bro. Moultrie). After a brief adjournment for refreshment, the girls went through the usual calisthenic exercises, in which they exhibit such marvellous proficiency. Then followed dancing, and it was not till a late hour that the company dispersed for home. On the following Wednesday, the 12th of May, the anniversary festival was held at Freemasons' Hall, under the presidency of our R.W. Bro. Lord Mayor Stone, G.J.W., supported by a numerous and influential attendance of brethren. In the course of the evening the Secretary, Bro. Little, read out the list of subscriptions, which represented an aggregate sum of £7,269 3s, with thirteen lists still outstanding. The toast of success to the Institution was very ably proposed by the Lord Mayor, and responded to by the Treasurer, Bro. S. Tompkins. Thus, Bro. Little and the Festival Stewards are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts to uphold and extend this School. Incidentally we may mention that the name of Bro. Constable figures conspicuously in the list of Stewards, he having collected no less a sum than £420 12s, of which £199 10s—or the value of nineteen life-governorships—was the result of his system of drawing, those entitled to draw or ballot being the 3,990 holders of the shilling tickets representing the aggregate value of the said governorships. This, we believe, is about double the amount collected under this system the year previous, and if a few more stewards follow the noble example of our worthy brother, our Institutions will be materially benefited. At the two elections, held on the 10th April and 9th October respectively, there were chosen, in the former case, thirteen girls out of thirty-one candidates, while at the latter six only could be elected out of thirty candidates. At the present time there are, we believe, 148 girls maintained, clothed, and educated by the liberality of the Craft. Several propositions are under consideration for the extension of the School, and as recently as the 11th inst. a special meeting of governors and subscribers was held for the purpose of receiving and deciding on the Report of the Special Sub-Committee of the General Committee, which had been nominated to consider the question. Their Report was in favour of a considerable extension of the existing premises, so as to afford increased accommodation for 94 more girls, an increase which, it was said, would involve an outlay of over £20,000. After a long discussion it was resolved to nominate a further Committee, for them to consider afresh the various schemes

under proposal, and any other that may be suggested. And there for the present the matter rests.

The Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, which is unlike our two other Institutions, in possessing no invested funds, affords the greatest triumph of what energy and liberality combined will effect in the cause of Charity. The anniversary festival was held on Wednesday, the 7th July, on which occasion the Earl of Carnarvon, Pro G.M. England, and Prov. G.M. Somerset, presided, and there were present to support his Lordship, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, President of the Board of Stewards, the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, Sir Henry Edwards, with other zealous and able brethren, together with a number of Stewards from London and Provincial Lodges. The occasion will be specially memorable, as the first on which the fair sex were seated at the banquet with the members of the Craft. Hitherto the ladies have dined together, in a separate room, but the change we have mentioned was inaugurated this year, and as the result appears to have been eminently satisfactory, we doubt not the custom will be followed, not only by this, but likewise by our other Institutions, on these important occasions. There is no reason we are aware of why it should not be generally followed, and if the cause of charity is promoted by the novelty of the arrangement, there is, on the contrary, every reason why the precedent thus set should be observed in future years. At all events, the first festival at which the experiment has been tried has been an unprecedentedly successful one as regards the sum collected. Hence, we cannot withhold our acknowledgments from Bro. Binckes, or whoever suggested the idea. But to return to the festival. The various toasts were duly proposed and responded to, that of "Prosperity to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys" being urged by the Pro Grand Master with considerable eloquence, and enthusiastically received. After this, Bro. Binckes, the Secretary of the School, having announced that Francis Dalrymple Lane had won the chief prize for good conduct, and Richard Newton Carter the prize to which he was elected by his school-fellows, then read the list of donations, which amounted to the munificent sum of £12,704 7s 6d, with thirty-five lists yet remaining to be handed in. This means, of course, a total exceeding £13,000, and so grand a result must have far exceeded even the most sanguine anticipations. It is not a little singular that, when, a short time previous to the festival, we were urging the claims of our Masonic Charities generally, and of this School, as having no invested funds in particular, we pointed out how, by the practice of a little self-denial throughout the Craft, the annual subscription to each Charity might fall very little short of £15,000. We confess we were not a little surprised on finding the very first subscription made after these remarks were offered so well on its way towards the £15,000 we had mentioned. We hope we may be even nearer the mark as regards future subscriptions. The speeches and distribution of prizes took place on the Wednesday previous, 30th June, there being present the Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, P.G.S.W., President of the Board of Stewards, with a large attendance of Stewards, brethren, and ladies. The programme was very successful, and was listened to with great pleasure. Between the parts of the programme the noble chairman distributed the prizes, offering a few words of hearty congratulation to each recipient. His Lordship also offered a few general remarks, thanking the Masters and Committee for the efficient manner in which they had conducted their duties, the progress the School had made, and the excellent behaviour of the boys. After a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman had been proposed and carried unanimously, and briefly acknowledged by Lord Balfour, the company adjourned to refreshments. The School band was in attendance during the day, and played excellently well. At the half-yearly elections held in April and October respectively, eight out of a list of forty-eight candidates were chosen, while at the latter, ten were appointed out of fifty-eight. The number of boys now in the School is 178. Here, too, there has been a remodelling of the staff, Dr. Morris having been appointed Head Master *vice* Bro. the Rev. O. G. D. Perrott resigned, while the staff of Assistant Masters has been almost, if not entirely, changed. We need not dwell on the causes which led to these changes. A special committee of governors and subscribers was lately appointed to investigate certain questions raised by Bros. Tew and the Rev. O. G. D. Perrott, and affecting the management of the School. In common with the whole Craft, we regret any disagreements between the scholastic

and managerial staffs. Nor can it be otherwise than matter for regret that questions affecting the financial management of the Institution should have been brought forward. However, it is satisfactory, in the interests of the School, to know that, after a most minute and careful inquiry, the Special Committee have reported that the financial charges of mismanagement, made, no doubt, under a misunderstanding of the Annual Reports, have not been borne out.

We gladly turn, however, from this subject, to one more pleasing, and which, like the precedent introduced at the Annual Festival of the Boys' School already referred to, stands out by itself as an even bolder and more marked departure from the usual Masonic practice. The Baroness Burdett Coutts, the daughter of a Mason, who had kindly granted permission to one of our more recently constituted Lodges to bear her name, having notified her intention of presenting three chairs to that Lodge, arrangements were made for the ceremony of presentation. A dispensation having been obtained from His Royal Highness the M.W.G.M. for the brethren to appear on the occasion in full Masonic clothing, the afternoon of the 29th July was fixed for the novel meeting, and punctually at the hour appointed, the Baroness, accompanied by several gentlemen and ladies, met the brethren of the Burdett Coutts Lodge in the Zetland Room at *Freemasons' Hall*, which had been specially prepared for the ceremony. The brethren having sung a hymn, her ladyship formally presented the three chairs, expressing at the same time an earnest hope that they would be occupied by as worthy men in the future as those who had preceded them. Bro. Terry, the first W.M. of the Lodge, who presided, thereupon occupied the chair of K.S., calling upon the S.W. and J.W., Bros. Crutch and Toy, to be seated in the other two. The Secretary of the Lodge, Bro. Verry, then read an address of thanks to the Baroness for having, in the first place, allowed the Lodge to bear her name, and having presented it with a copy of the volume of the Sacred Law, and now for her further act of kindness in giving these chairs. To this address, which concluded with an earnest prayer that the G.A.O.T.U. might build up for her great happiness here and hereafter, and which, handsomely engrossed, and enclosed in an album case, was presented by the Deacons, Bros. Lloyd and Crouch, the Baroness offered her warmest acknowledgments, and an equally earnest hope for the welfare, both here and hereafter, of all the brethren. It having been moved, seconded, and unanimously carried that the reply should be recorded on the minutes of the Lodge, the whole party adjourned to an elegant *déjeuner*, at which Baroness Burdett Coutt's health was proposed in glowing terms by Bro. Terry, and drunk with great heartiness. Her Ladyship and friends were shortly after escorted from the room by the Chairman and Stewards. Thus ended a ceremony, the first of its kind which has ever taken place in this country. We feel, moreover, a special pleasure in recording this event. The lady who thus honoured the Craft is not only the daughter of a Mason who, as a public man, had long held a high position in the world's esteem; she is eminent likewise for her great philanthropy, dispensing her charities with discrimination, but with the most open hand, and thus proving her love for that particular virtue which Masons so earnestly strive to practise.

There have, happily, been but few deaths to deplore among either the rulers or the rank and file of Masonry. The retirement, to which reference has already been made, of the Marquis of Ripon, necessitated a change in the government of West Yorkshire, and Sir Henry Edwards has been appointed to the Grand Mastership of that most considerable and influential province. By the death, last year, of R.W. Bro. Benjamin Bond Cabbell P.G.M. of Norfolk, the headship of that province became vacant, but a very worthy successor has been found in the person of Bro. the Hon. M. Walpole, M.P., who was installed in office towards the end, as Bro. Sir H. Edwards was installed towards the beginning, of the year. On both occasions there was a great gathering of the brethren, and great rejoicing at the sure progress the Order was making in public estimation, both at home and abroad. On the other hand, if our losses have been few and painful, for the most part only, to individual Lodges and friends, our accession of strength has been very considerable, while others, like the Duke of Connaught and Prince Leopold, though initiated in 1874, have risen still higher, the former having been raised to the sublime degree of M.M. the evening before the installation of his

brother as M.W.G.M., while the latter was appointed S.W. in the Apollo University Lodge, Oxford, and subsequently raised. Of other public characters initiated into Masonry during the year we may mention the name of Captain Boyton, the exhibitor of the life-saving apparatus known by his name, and Captain Webb, who swam the Channel between Dover and Calais, the greatest athletic feat on record. Of new Lodges added to the roll of Grand Lodge, it appears that nineteen were constituted between the Quarterly Communications held in December 1874 and March 1875, fifteen between those of March and June in the latter, twelve between those of June and September, and seventeen between September and that in the present month, making in all an addition of sixty-three. In Royal Arch Masonry there have been added to the roll of Chapters twenty-eight new ones, while the Prov. Grand Superintendency of Herts, which had been dormant for some years, has been reconstituted, E. Comp. Halsey being appointed Prov. G. Superintendent. Prov. G.M. the Earl of Zetland has also been exalted in the Zetland Chapter. Further evidence of increase will be found in the dedication on 14th July, by Lord Skelmersdale, D.G.M., of the New Surrey Masonic Hall, of a new Masonic Hall at Bideford, of one at Barton-on-Humber, and the laying the first stone of a Masonic Hall at Great Grimsby, on the 2nd of August, Bro. Sutcliffe P.P.G.S.W., officiating on the occasion. It should also be noted that a Masonic Club is in course of formation. The locale of the Club is in Queen Victoria-street, and the premises are already being fitted up. The committee includes, among other influential Masons, Lord Skelmersdale, D.G.M., Bro. Alderman Stone G.J.W., and the Duke of Manchester. The experiment is a very laudable one, and has our best wishes for its success. Another proposal on the carpet is likewise worthy of record. The Province of Lincolnshire is trying to raise funds enough to found an Oliver scholarship *in memoriam* of one of the best and ablest and most respected members who have ever belonged to the Craft, one of whom it may be said, without the slightest approach to exaggerated praise,

"Nihil tetigit, quod non ornavit."

In Mark Masonry, we may mention that at the half-yearly Communication, held on Tuesday, the 30th November, the Earl of Limerick was elected M.W.G.M. for the ensuing year, while a new Lodge, entitled "the Sutcliffe Lodge," in honour of Bro. Sutcliffe, R.W.P.G.M. for Lincolnshire, was consecrated by that esteemed Mason on the 30th September.

Thus much for Masonry in England, the cause of which has been generally brilliant, while there has been nothing to give cause for even a momentary pang of regret, except in respect of one solitary detail.

In Ireland, as in England, the past year closed with a serious loss to Masonry. His Grace of Leinster, who had ruled the Craft for some threescore years, with singular gentleness, ever tempered by firmness and a due regard for the interests of the Order, died, in October 1874, full of years and honours, and beloved and respected not only by his brethren of the mystic tie, but by all classes and conditions of men. The Duke was also head of all the other Masonic bodies in the kingdom, being K. of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, Great Prior of the Great Priory, President of the Grand Chapter of Prince Masons, and S.G.C. of the Supreme Grand Council, A. and A. Rite. It will be readily understood from this how great was his loss to Masonry. However, a not unworthy successor in the Grand Mastership of Craft Masonry was found in the person of the Duke of Abercorn, the justly popular Viceroy of Her Majesty. He accordingly was installed M.W.G.M. on 6th January. The ceremony of installation was performed by R.W.D.G.M., Bro. Shekleton, after which His Grace was duly obligated and invested with the insignia of his office. After the election of Grand Officers, the Lodge was closed in ample form. This auspicious event was celebrated on the 16th of April by a grand Masonic ball at the Exhibition Palace, Dublin, under the patronage of Grand Lodge. There was a good attendance, and the promoters had the satisfaction of feeling they had achieved a great success. At the Quarterly Communication held on the 2nd inst., His Grace was re-elected for the year 1876, the following being the Grand Officers for the same period:—The Marquis of Headfort S.G.W., Lord Dunboyne J.G.W., Arthur Bushe G.T., Viscount Bernard G.S., Rev. J. T. Macsorley G.C., and Rev. Lord Plunket G.C.; Hon. D. Plunket, Q.C., M.P., S.G.D., Alderman Jos. Manning J.G.D., G. A. Stephens G.S.W., Theo. E. St. George G.D.C., G. Myers, LL.D.

G. St., Harry Hodges G.S.B., C. O. Grandison G.O., and H. Minchin 409 M.B.G.I.G.

On the 20th April, the Duke of Abercorn, M.W.G.M., presided at the annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Masonic Female Orphan School, Dublin. His Grace congratulated the authorities on the satisfactory progress the School had made, one of the pupils at the Royal Dublin Society's Art Examination having obtained a certificate from the Council of Education, South Kensington, while two others obtained certificates from the Royal Dublin Society. There are forty girls on the establishment, four vacancies having been declared and filled up at the election held on the 7th instant, from an approved list of eight candidates. From the report for the year 1874, it appears this Institution possessed invested property to the extent of over £8,600, and that the income from all sources, and including a balance in hand to start with was over £3,100, while the expenditure was only between three and four pounds in excess of £1,900. It is in contemplation to fully extend the benefits of this School, even to doubling the number of pupils, if the finances will allow, and as soon as suitable premises have been obtained. We hope and trust our Irish brethren will be successful in their efforts to place this School on a firmer and wider footing. As regards Masonic orphan boys, the Craft maintains twenty-three such, at Bro. the Rev. S. S. Sheen's, Adelaide Hall, Merrion-square. There were two elections in the course of the year, at the first of which, held on the 13th of May, two were elected from an approved list of eleven candidates, while at the other, on the 7th of November, the same number were chosen from a like number of candidates. Among other events that marked the progress of Masonry during the year, we must mention the election of Judge Townshend as President of the Grand Chapter of Prince Masons, in succession to the late Duke of Leinster, Judge Townshend having for some time filled the office of Vice-President, and having virtually, in fact, discharged the duties of the higher office long before the death of His Grace. The address or report of the Judge on taking up his appointment contained satisfactory evidence of progress, the Order having, in point of numbers, a little more than doubled itself in the course of the last twenty years. It should also be noted that a new Masonic Hall, Parsonstown, Dublin, for the use of St. Brendon's Lodge, 163, was opened and dedicated in the month of June. The committee having obtained a house in William-street, had the top floor and all partitions removed, thus leaving available a room of considerable dimensions. Instructions were issued to, and carried out under the direction of, Mr. A. B. Milne, C.E., to make the necessary alterations for the conversion of the building into a hall suitable for holding the Lodge meetings.

In Scotland, Masonry continues to advance with a steady progress. Though the record of the year contains no such exciting event as the installation of a Royal or Vice regal G.M., the greatest activity has prevailed throughout the Craft, and sundry matters deserve a place in this chronicle of the year. First and foremost must be mentioned a proposal for establishing a Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, which is to combine within itself all the advantages of our English Benevolent, Girls' and Boys' Institutions. The scheme originated with Bro. Capt. Geo. R. Harriott, Prov. G.M. Wigtown and Kirkcudbright, and was noticed by us at some length in one of our earliest numbers. Later on in the year we were enabled to announce that the proposal had every prospect of success, among those brethren whose support was promised being Bros. D. Murray Lyon, Ayrshire; Dr. Cowan, and J. Young, Perthshire; Dr. Pagan, Fifeshire; Col. Acheson, Dundee; J. Laurie G. Secretary, Major Ramsay, J. Murray, &c. Since the date of this latter announcement, however, we have heard nothing further of the scheme, and must content ourselves with wishing that no long time may elapse ere it assume a more tangible form. As yet there exists only in Scotland "The Fund of Scottish Benevolence," founded in 1846, so that this addition to the charitable institutions of the Craft north of the Tweed will doubtless be hailed with acclamation and cordially supported by them. On the 15th April was held a meeting at the Peacock Hotel, Newhaven, for the purpose of presenting to Bro. John Laurie, Grand Secretary, and P.R.W.M. of Canongate and Leith Lodge, No. 5, a splendid testimonial, in recognition of the valuable services he had rendered as R.W.M. of the Lodge. The testimonial took the form of a combined clock, barometer, &c., &c., together

with a massive and elegant tea and coffee service for Mrs. Laurie. Bro. Officer S.S.C., P.S.G.D. and P.M. No. 1, presided, and after the usual toasts had been disposed of, proposed the health of Bro. J. Laurie in feeling and appropriate terms, expressing the pleasure it afforded him in having been the medium of conveying to his esteemed Bro. a testimonial to which the latter's eminent services as a Craftsman so justly entitled him. Bro. Laurie replied, expressing his warmest gratitude for the very substantial token of the esteem and friendship which he had received that day, and expressed himself as ready and anxious to do all in his power to promote the welfare of the Craft. Amongst other events of more than local interest may be recorded, that the foundation stone of the new public school buildings at Tarbolton was laid, under the auspices of the Tarbolton Lodge, to which the great poet, Bro. Robert Burns, was affiliated; that the laying of the foundation stone of the New Schools at Cumnock, in Ayrshire, was carried out on the 19th August, the ceremony being performed by Colonel Mure, M.P., Prov. G.M. of Ayrshire; and that the memorial stone was laid, by the same P.G. Officer, on the 25th September, of the new schools now in course of erection at Kilwinning, in the same county. On both these occasions the attendance of brethren was very numerous, especially at the latter, Kilwinning being held peculiarly sacred among Scottish Masons. At the Quarterly Communication of Grand Chapter, Comp. L. Mackensy G.S.E. was received as the representative of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania. In the first instance, correspondence had arisen owing to Comp. Mackensy being already a representative of the Grand Chapter of Oregon, and the matter was accordingly submitted to Grand Chapter. It having been pointed out that it was not uncommon in America for the same Companion to hold two or more such commissions, it was moved and carried, amid cheers, that, in deference to the wishes of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, Comp. Mackensy be received as their representative.

Nor is the condition of Freemasonry less flourishing in the Colonies and dependencies of Great Britain. The visit of the M.W.G.M. to India has been attended, thus far at least, with one public display of Masonry. His Royal Highness accepted the invitation of the Bombay Lodges to inaugurate, with the usual Masonic ceremonial, the Elphinstone Wet Dock, and the first stone was laid accordingly, in the presence of a vast assemblage of spectators, and to the intense gratification of the brethren of that district. A Ball, also, was given by the Craft in honour of the Prince's visit, the Town Hall being used for the occasion.

No doubt, when the Prince reaches Calcutta, the capital of the Bengal Presidency, the brethren in that district, one of the oldest constituted provinces out of Great Britain, will accord to him the same hearty welcome as their fellows in Western India. It is hoped, indeed, that His Royal Highness will be able to spare the time to lay the foundation stone of the New Masonic Hall, which is about to be erected for the use of the District Grand Lodge of Bengal. In accordance with a resolution passed on 24th of June by the D.G.L., a committee was appointed, and met at Freemasons' Hall, Bentinck-street, Calcutta, on the 3rd July, when the necessary resolutions for building the new hall were agreed to, and it was arranged to form a company, called "The Bengal Freemasons' Hall Building Company," with a capital of 1,50,000 rupees, in shares of 100 rupees each, bearing interest at 6 per cent. It was expected that everything would be in readiness to commence operations by the time of His Royal Highness's arrival, and a forcible appeal to him to inaugurate the building was intended to be made. We doubt not, if time and circumstances permit, His Royal Highness will accede to the wishes of the Bengal brethren. Early in the year (on 26th February) R.W. Bro. Captain Marmaduke Ramsay was installed at Freemasons' Hall, Lahore, as D.G.M. of the District Grand Lodge of the Punjab, the R.W. officiating as D.G.M. G. Daley, P.D.D.G.M., having duly installed Bro. Ramsay, the latter addressed the brethren, briefly congratulating them on the satisfactory progress the Craft had made in the seven years since the District Grand Lodge had been constituted, there being seventeen Lodges and 483 subscribing members now, as against seven and 217 members. He further added that the Masonic Institution in the District, commenced by Lodge "Hope and Perseverance," possessed 12,800 rupees invested money, and maintained and educated four boys, two at the Bishop's School, Simla, and two at the Lahore High School,

The Grand Lodge of Canada held its twentieth annual

Communication at London, Ontario, on the 14th July, under the presidency of R.W. Bro. J. K. Kerr, acting G.M. At the outset, R.W. Bro. Kerr deplored the serious losses which the Grand Lodge had sustained by the deaths of M.W.G.M. Wilson, and their Grand Secretary, R.W. Bro. T. Bird Harris. Both these eminent Masons died in harness, and their funerals, which were conducted with full Masonic honours, had been most numerously attended. During Bro. Wilson's illness, Bro. Kerr had acted as his representative at the dedication of the New Masonic Hall at Hamilton. Masonic Halls had also been dedicated at Seaforth, and for the use of the Malahide Lodge, No. 140, Aylmer, Ontario. Several dispensations had also been renewed by the late G.M., and new ones granted during Bro. Kerr's tenure of office. The auditor's report showed invested funds to the amount of 47,569 dollars. M.W. Bro. J. Kerr was then elected G.M., and the other Grand Officers having been elected, the ceremony of installing them in their several offices was duly performed by M.W. Bro. Col. A. A. Stevenson, Montreal. At the Quarterly Communication, held on 3rd March, the Grand Lodge of Quebec was acknowledged by Grand Lodge, England, as an independent Grand Lodge. On the 8th October, the Masonic Hall was the scene of a most interesting event, the retiring G.M., Bro. Wm. Dunbar, being presented with a magnificent set of Past G.M.'s jewels and regalia, in token of his long and valuable services to the Grand Lodge, and especially for the successful part he took in arranging amicably the disputes between the Grand Lodges of Canada and Quebec. There was a large attendance of brethren, and the addresses, both of R.W. Bro. Thompson, in presenting, and of R.W. Bro. Dunbar in acknowledging, the testimonial, were applauded to the echo. Nor is the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick behind its sister Grand Lodge of the Dominion of Canada. New Brunswick Masonic Hall Company, which proposes to erect a Masonic Hall in St. John, held a meeting on the 7th June, for the purpose of appointing directors. The capital of the Company will be 100,000 dollars, and the cost of ground, hall, &c., &c., is expected to reach the sum of 70,000 dollars. The new Hall will be a commodious building, four stories high, and besides offices and reception rooms for the Grand Secretary, will contain rooms for the use of Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter, and the Templar and other Masonic bodies. The Company has already purchased, for 18,000 dollars, a block of buildings 100 feet on Germain Street and 200 feet deep, and notice has been given to the several tenants that their leases will determine on 1st May of next year. Active operations will then commence at once, and it is hoped the new Temple will be complete and ready for use in about two years.

Among other colonial items may be mentioned that on 15th January a large number of the Craft attended the meeting of the Leinster Marine Lodge, New South Wales, No. 206, under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge, Ireland, for the purpose of commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Lodge. R.W. Bro. the Hon. J. S. Farnell, P.G.M., attended, and installed the new W.M., Bro. A. S. Appleton, and his officers, after which a banquet was held, at which Bro. Appleton presided. The toast of the evening was drunk with great enthusiasm. According to the *Graaf Reinet Herald* a scheme has been set on foot, originating with the Jaffa Lodge, No 861, Cape Town, for the purpose of establishing an independent Grand Lodge for South Africa. The question has been submitted to all the Lodges in the Colony, and in due time, no doubt, a decision will be arrived at. On the 23rd September the Trafalgar Royal Arch Chapter, St. Helens, New Zealand, held its installation meeting. Comp. W. B. Sealy, M.D. and W. W. Squires, M.D., were re-elected M.E.Z. and H. respectively, and to the former of these, as well as to Comp. W. M. Stanton, re-elected Scribe E., testimonials were presented, in recognition of their valuable services.

If we next turn our attention to the condition of Freemasonry in foreign parts, we shall find, on the whole, very great cause for congratulation. Where attacked, the Craft has held its own most successfully. Elsewhere, unmistakable progress has been made. In France, the chief event in connection with the Order is the silly, and, beyond all question, bitter attack of Bishop Dupanloup, who, lacking occupation perhaps, has found leisure to utter a most violent denunciation of the principles we not only profess, but practise. Were there the slightest prospect of our satisfying this angry bigot of the perfect innocence of Freemasonry from the charges advanced against it, it might, perhaps, be

worth our while to argue the case, in order to prove, as even the feeblest-minded Mason could not fail to do, that his violent hostility was unjust. But the most conclusive argument would avail nothing. We content ourselves, therefore, with a bare statement of facts. Without rhyme or reason, this foolish bigot, a monk of rank and station, both in Church and State, attacked Freemasonry, early in the year, denouncing it as a secret body, whose sole aim was the overthrow of religion and social order. No long time elapsed when another bigot, of even higher ecclesiastical rank, to wit, Pio Nono, gave expression to similar sentiments, and in violent and unchristian language denounced a society which numbers among its professors, kings, princes, nobles, and wise men of nearly every land. These attacks had a certain effect, as every attack has, but it was one the strikers never anticipated. Instead of overwhelming Masonry, these disturbers of the public peace have been themselves overthrown. Counterblows also were struck, among the most effective being the reply to Bishop Dupanloup's pamphlet by our esteemed Bro. Caubet, one of the Secretaries to the Council administering the Grand Orient of France. The only result, thus far then, is, ignominy to the Bishop of Orleans and his abettor, the Pope. Even the profane world laughs at them, and our *Saturday Review* explained the hostility of the Ultramontanes on the ground that a church which itself worked secretly, would never tolerate secret working in others. But to pass to more genial matters. Progress is made everywhere. In France, new Lodges have been constituted, and, better still, the Order has been strengthened by the accession to its ranks of such men of eminence as M. Littré, member of the Académie Française, M. Chatrian, one of the ablest and most brilliant writers of the day, and others of similar stamp. Moreover, the Grand Orient has shown itself eager in the practice of that particular virtue to which Masonry more especially devotes itself. The subscription opened under its auspices towards the relief of the sufferers by the very terrible inundations in the South-East of France amounted, on the 12th of December, to little short of sixty four thousand francs.

In the month of September a Congress assembled at Lausanne, consisting of delegates from certain Supreme Councils of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in various countries. The Congress, before separating, issued a manifesto or declaration of principles, in which were set forth, in accordance with the ideas proper to this branch of Masonry, the aim and object of our noble institution. The several councils assembled, have entered into a treaty of alliance, establishing a "Confederation of Supreme Councils of the A. and A. Scottish Rite." It further recognised the jurisdiction of the following Supreme Councils: namely those of North America (Boston), and South America (Charleston), Central America (Costa-Rica), England, Belgium, Canada, Chili, Colon (Cuba), Scotland, States of Columbia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Pera, Portugal, Argentine Republic, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela. It was further arranged that the next Congress should be held at Rome, in 1878, and that after that, one should assemble every ten years, at such place as had been determined on at the preceding Congress. In the interval between two conventions, a tribunal of five delegates, chosen by the Confederation, will take cognisance of any difficulties that may arise among the various Councils. The interest in the proceedings of this Congress, confined, as it is, to this particular Rite, will be limited to those who recognise the high degrees, and among these, the principles enunciated will, according to *Le Monde Maçonique*, be only partially accepted. As regards Masonry itself, it is held in high esteem in Switzerland. There is a Grand Lodge, "Alpina," with twenty-seven Lodges under its jurisdiction, and including not far short of two thousand members. In Italy, likewise, the Order has made wonderful progress. On the 5th of March, the New Masonic Temple, a very handsome building, was formally opened and dedicated to the purposes of the Craft. Over two hundred brethren were present, and a procession was marshalled by the Grand Master of the Ceremonies, the brethren marching in order of juniority, and after them the representatives of Foreign Grand Lodges and the officers of the Grand Orient of Italy. Having traversed the several halls, the procession at length reached the doors of the Temple itself, and, having entered, the Grand Orator, Bro. J. Macchi, delivered a long, powerful, and impressive address, in the course of which he made graceful allusion to the presence of foreign representatives,

and especially to that of one from Great Britain. The proceedings were soon after closed, amid mutual congratulations. The day following, another Lodge was held, and after that a conversazione and musical entertainment. Thus terminated one of the most important ceremonials of the year, not only to our Italian brethren, who now muster over ten thousand, but to the whole world of Masonry. Now have we a Masonic Temple in the very heart of the Eternal City, within sight almost of that High Priest whose hostility to our Order is the most pronounced. Nor is this all we have to record. We believe our Grand Lodge, England, has recognised the Grand Orient of Italy, thus cementing still more closely those feelings of affection and admiration which have so long connected the peoples of the two countries. Moreover, on the occasion of the Emperor William of Germany's visit to Milan, the Italian Masons offered that monarch, who is Protector of the three Grand Lodges in Prussia, their warmest congratulations, and the wishes they expressed for his welfare and that of German Masonry were very cordially reciprocated by the Emperor. In Greece, His Imperial Highness Prince Rhodocanakis has been re-elected Grand Master for a further period of three years. As regards other countries in Europe, let it suffice if we quote the well-known adage, "No news is good news." As far as our information goes there is nothing to record save that the Royal Art is even more firmly established than ever.

It is in the United States, however, where Masonry flourishes most extensively, at all events as regards its numerical strength. There are said to be not far short of fifty Grand Lodges—apart from Coloured Grand Lodges, the recognition of which is a question not yet entirely settled—and six hundred thousand members. Here it is the labours of Masonry are most actively prosecuted, and here it is that brethren enjoy a recognition more public, perhaps, than in any other country, hardly even excepting the United Kingdom itself. Here, also, is it that Masonry enjoys the support of a zealous and intelligent press, almost every state having over one or more periodicals, which are unceasing in their support of the interests of the Craft. The greatest harmony prevails among the Grand Lodges, and every endeavour is made to establish as nearly as possible complete uniformity in the ritual. The Grand Lodges have their several committees or Boards, to each of which is allotted a special duty, and so carefully is the work entrusted to them performed, that hardly ever any change or modification is proposed by Grand Lodge in the suggestions they offer. It will be easily understood then that in the United States this Secret Society of ours is far more public in its doings than are we at home. Masonic processions through the principal thoroughfares of a city occur not unfrequently, and, whenever they occur, they are invariably received with what may almost be called an ovation. Such a procession marched through some of the leading thoroughfares in New York early in June, on the occasion of the opening and dedication of the magnificent new Masonic Temple, erected for the purposes of Masonry. About twenty-six thousand brethren, the bulk of them being Templar, Arch, and Craft Masons, marched in this procession, each division with its marshal and his staff, and a band of music; the Governor of New York, with the Grand Master and other Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge of New York, bringing up the rear of the line, which was preceded and closed by platoons of police. The line of march was thronged with spectators, who received the brethren with great cordiality, the ladies who filled the windows of the houses being specially enthusiastic. The Temple is a magnificent structure, and the appointments of the various halls are in keeping. The Temple having been opened and solemnly dedicated to purposes of Masonry, the brethren dispersed, and the rest of the day was devoted to festival and rejoicing, the New York Lodges, Chapters, and Commanderies exhibiting a truly Masonic hospitality towards their numerous guests, who had come from all quarters, North, South, East and West, to take part in the ceremonial. Later in the same month another event occurred, none other than the visit of the Richmond Commandery, No. 2. of Virginia, to the Northern States, to assist at the centennial commemoration, at Boston, of the Battle of Bunker's Hill, fought on the 17th June 1775. The Richmond Knights were the special guests of the De Molay Commandery of Boston, who met them on their arrival at Providence Dépôt, and with several other Commanderies escorted them to Faneuil Hall, where a formal

address of welcome was delivered, and an impromptu banquet partaken of. The procession, numbering over a thousand Templars, in full regalia, and with the bands numbering over eleven hundred, was received with acclamation as it passed along, the long column halting *en route* at the residence of Eminent Sir Curtis Gould, in Columbus Avenue, when each of the visiting Knights was presented, by a party of young ladies, with a splendid bouquet. On the 17th, Masonry played an imposing part in the commemoration of the fight, where Prov. G.M. General Warren lost his life, in the service of the Union. On this occasion M.W.G.M. Everett, of Massachusetts, wore the original apron formerly worn by that illustrious soldier, while M.W.P.G.M. Dr. Winslow Lewis wore the apron of General the Marquis de la Fayette. The visit closed with a grand banquet, at America House, and before leaving, the Eminent Commander, Sir W. E. Tanner, of the visiting Commandery, was presented with a handsome jewel of gold, in the form of a Maltese Cross, 2½ inches square, the gift of the ladies of Boston. They then left for Providence, R.I., where the reception they experienced was equally cordial, and afterwards visited New York, where they were met by a delegation of the Palestine Commandery, of which M.W. Bro. Ellwood E. Thorne, G.M. of the New York G. Lodge, was the Commander. Having been conducted over the New Temple, and having, during the whole of their stay, been fêted in the heartiest manner, they left for Jersey City, where they took train home again for Richmond. Such an event is worthy of being commemorated, as contributing, more than any other which has occurred in the last ten years, to cement the union between North and South, tending, as it must tend, to subdue any lingering soreness begotten of the great Civil War, ended in 1865, that may yet be felt by either section of the States. All honour to a society which is not only beneficent to individuals and bodies worthy of being succoured, but which even outvies political influences in strengthening the ties which unite the once hostile States of the Great American Union. On the 8th October the corner stone of a new Masonic Temple, at Reading, Pennsylvania, was laid, in the presence of about five hundred members of the Craft, including the M.W.G.M., Bro. A. R. Potter, and most of the Grand Officers of Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The ceremony having been duly performed, the M.W.P.G.M., Bro. Hon. Richard Vaux, of Philadelphia, delivered an appropriate oration, on the antiquity of the Order, and the benefits it confers upon society. From statistics published in one of our American contemporaries it appears that the Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Rite, of the Northern Masonic jurisdiction of the United States, which held its annual session on the 17th August, is now a corporate body of considerable proportions, both as to numbers, there being considerably over five thousand members, and financially. As regards Royal Arch Masonry, it appears from the latest report of the proceedings of the General Grand Chapter of the United States that there are no fewer than 37 Grand Chapters, 2,014 Chapters, and 123,779 R.A. Masons in the Union. On the 3rd July the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts held a special Communication, for the purpose of commemorating the day when Ill. Bro. General George Washington assumed the command of the Colonial Forces in the War of Independence, forces which, under his wise generalship, became, in a few years, the army of the United States. There were present M.W.G.M. Percival L. Everett, and a considerable number of Grand Officers. After taking part with the municipal authorities in celebrating this event, the Grand Lodge was conducted to Memorial Hall, Harvard College, where they were entertained at a banquet, under the presidency of the Mayor. As to the meetings of the various Grand Lodges throughout the States, it is impossible for us to say more than that everywhere the Communications, whether quarterly or annual, have been most numerous attended, and that only in a few instances has it been necessary to refer to anything painful as having occurred during the year. Thus the death of Dr. Winslow Lewis, a P.G.M. of Massachusetts, who had been a member for forty-five years, who had achieved distinction in almost every branch of Masonry, and who was an honorary member of Masonic bodies innumerable, was an event that could not fail to call forth the deepest sorrow, even though the distinguished gentleman died in the fulness of years, and having achieved a high reputation in his professional career. Among other brethren who have been gathered to their forefathers, and who

achieved distinction in the political world, we must not pass over, without a brief tribute of respect to their memory, Bro. Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, and Bro. Wilson, President of the United States Senate and Vice-President of the Union. One other matter of interest to the student of Masonic history deserves to be recorded. In the memorial volume, published in commemoration of the opening and dedication, in the autumn of 1874, of the New Masonic Temple at Philadelphia, very strong evidence is adduced in favour of Pennsylvania being the oldest Masonic Province in the United States. It is stated that the precept issued to Bro. Daniel Cox, under date of 5th June 1730, by the Duke of Norfolk, M.W.G.M. of England, was acted upon, and that a Provincial Grand Lodge was actually constituted, contemporary evidence of a highly important character being derived from the *Pennsylvania Gazette*—a newspaper printed by the celebrated Benjamin Franklin—of the 8th December 1730, and the 26th June 1732. This evidence is very strong, though perhaps, the Grand Lodge of Boston may not accept it as quite conclusive.

One other item of foreign news relates to the persecution of Masons in the Island of Porto Rico. This being a colony of Spain, a Roman Catholic country, the news perhaps is not surprising. Certain worthy members of the community have been sentenced, some to four, and others to two years' imprisonment, merely for the supposed crime of being Freemasons. We have it on the authority of *Le Monde Maçonique* that an appeal has been lodged against this sentence, but the result, as yet, is not known. If the sentence be confirmed, we trust the good offices of Grand Lodge of England may be brought to bear, and that our unfortunate *Porto Rican* brethren may be restored to liberty, even if the authorities think it wise to forbid Masonic meetings in the Island.

We have now concluded this necessarily somewhat imperfect record of the Masonic doings of the year. It remains for us to add a few words as to the progress made in literature during this period, and a few concluding remarks. As regards our literary progress, we cannot say much, but what little we have to say, is mostly favourable. It is in the United States where Masonry finds the strongest amount of literary support. Thus, as we have already said, within the jurisdiction of nearly every Grand Lodge, the interests of the Craft are strenuously advocated, by one or more periodicals. These, as far as we have been able to gather, have either made substantial progress, or at all events maintained their ground, with but one or two exceptions. Besides these, the proceedings of the several Grand Lodges are before the Masonic public, while the Dedication Memorial Volume, already referred to, in honour of the new Masonic Temple at Philadelphia, is a very valuable contribution to the history of the Craft. A new magazine, entitled *The New England Freemason*, made its appearance late in 1874, under the joint editorship of Bros. Serevo D. Nickerson, A.M., and Charles H. Titus, A.M. This periodical is well edited, and contains invariably a good selection of Masonic articles, with a choice selection of Masonic news. In Canada, there appeared another new magazine, *The Canadian Masonic News*, which, like the preceding, is both well edited, and furnished with well written and interesting matter. In Scotland, the opening of the new year witnessed the appearance of the first number of *The Scottish Freemasons' Magazine*, a bi-monthly, which, however, lapsed after a brief existence of a few months only. It promised well, and contained some good matter, but we imagine it must have failed through lack of support. There has also appeared a pictorial volume, prepared under the auspices of Bro. Dr. Loth, illustrating the emblems of the thirty-three degrees of the *Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite*. In England, there have appeared, quite recently, two posthumous works by the late Dr. Oliver, published by Bro. Hogg and Co., of Paternoster-row, and there is now appearing, monthly, a *Masonic Cyclopaedia*, by Bro. Kenneth, "Cryptonymus," published by the same firm. We may also mention that the Rev. Bro. Woodford's *Defence of Freemasonry* was published in the early part of the year. Of this work we may say that its aim is good, but it would have been far more effective had the writer adopted a more vigorous style of writing. Of course the sale of the great Spencer Library is an item of literary news which cannot be passed by in silence. This Library contained a number of rare and valuable works, collected from such important Masonic libraries as that of the late Duke of Sussex and other eminent

brethren, together with several unpublished MSS., by Dr. Oliver, and other Masonic writers. Several of the most valuable lots realised considerable prices. The last literary item concerns ourselves. We launched the frail bark of the *FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE* on the 2nd January 1875, and we have at least the gratification of feeling that our career has not been unworthy of the honourable ambition which has animated us from the very outset. We have striven earnestly, and to the best of our ability, to promote the highest interests of the Craft. In matters controversial, we have striven to observe a strict impartiality. We have placed our columns at the service of the Brethren for arguing moot questions, and offering new suggestions. We have striven earnestly to do our duty, and if we have not always satisfied the expectations formed of us by our friends and supporters, we at least may enjoy the pleasant sense of having left no stone unturned in order to make our journal a success. We trust we may not have a less agreeable delivery of our conscience at the end of the year 1876. However, we have referred to ourselves elsewhere at greater length, and it hardly becomes us to be egotistical in two places at once. We are thankful for the support thus far accorded us, and hope by, if possible, still greater efforts in the future, to command the respect of the Craft generally.

In the foregoing sketch we have necessarily omitted several matters, which, to many, no doubt will seem quite as interesting, and therefore noteworthy. Had we, however, attempted to introduce all the important events that have occurred, we should never have accomplished the intense task. It only remains for us now to say just a few words in conclusion, and by way of hearty congratulation, on the present condition of the Craft. In the United Kingdom, the Heir Apparent is Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, England, and Patron of Grand Lodge, both in Ireland and Scotland; in Sweden, the King is Grand Master; in Denmark, the Crown Prince is ruler; in Holland, the King's Uncle has been Grand Master for nearly sixty years; in the Empire of Germany, the foremost Mason, the protector of the three Grand Lodges in Berlin, is no less important a personage than the Emperor William himself, while his son, the Imperial Crown Prince, is second in Masonic rank only to his father. In the United States, some of the most eminent public men are either simple members or rulers in our beloved Order. In every country, in fact, in both hemispheres, wherever Masonry flourishes, there will be found some of the ablest and best members of the community enrolled in our Order. Yet, in face of these facts, which are undeniable, some laugh, some sneer, some denounce our sacred mysteries. Of course we can afford to treat the people who act thus towards us, with indifference. We doubt not, however, that in good time they will, like sensible people, see the error of their ways, and encourage instead of oppressing and denouncing the cause of Masonry. This consummation devoutly to be wished may not be realised this year, or even for some years to come, but its realisation is only a question of time. Day by day, the acts of Masonry are made public, and the quaint terror at our secret working is hardly ever felt by men of sense. Under these circumstances we can afford to wait patiently, in the firm conviction that the more that is said of us the more highly and more widely shall we be appreciated. May the year that is coming prove as prosperous as that which is now about to close! May our Grand Master return from India in health, and with increased strength to fulfil the arduous duties of his high position! May he and his ever enjoy the favour of the G.A.O.T.U.! And may the Craft render him that cheerful obedience which has ever animated all good and true brethren! Nor must we pass, without mention, the ladies, whose interest in our welfare has grown with our growth. We wish them all the happiness they can desire, both in this world and hereafter. Let them not be over-curious, but content themselves with a firm belief in the truth and honour of Masonry. Let them bear in mind the old saying, that "A good Mason *must* be a good man." The faith we profess, if acted up to strictly, renders it impossible he should be otherwise. Thus women are, or should be, our best friends, and as such they have our most cordial good wishes for their present and future happiness.

In fine, while cherishing with a loving care the pleasant memories of the past, may we ever keep before us a firm faith in the glorious future of our Order.

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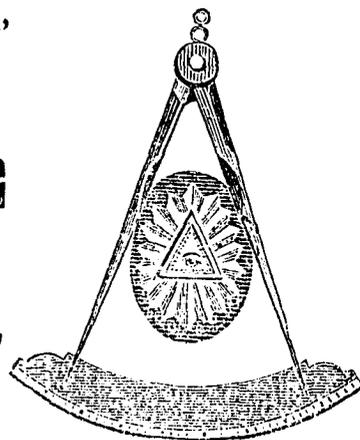
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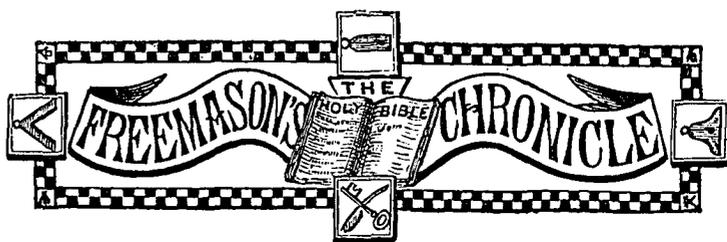
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OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

HER Majesty, as usual of late years, left Windsor Castle a few days since, for Osborne, where she will spend Christmas in comparative retirement. Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales has reached Copenhagen, where she was received by her father's subjects with the utmost enthusiasm. Of course, her presence in the Danish capital has been promotive of no small amount of festivity. His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh came into town a day or two since, and had an interview with the First Lord of the Admiralty. It is said His Royal Highness will take command of the Monarch, turret iron-clad, in order to complete the usual period of service afloat. The Prince of Wales has reached Calcutta, and here, no doubt, he will meet with the same hearty welcome accorded him as in the two other Presidencies. It is hoped his Royal Highness will find time to lay the foundation stone of the New Masonic Temple which the brethren in the Bengal District are about to erect. As it may not, perhaps, be generally known, we take the opportunity of mentioning that Bengal is one of the oldest Masonic provinces out of England, under the jurisdiction of our Grand Lodge, having been constituted as a province as far back as 1728.

It seldom rains but it pours. We have had during the last few weeks at least half-a-dozen very calamitous accidents—accidents which have been attended with a very serious loss of life. Early on Wednesday morning, one of the boys on board the training ship Goliath, lying a mile or so above Gravesend, off Grays, let fall a petroleum lamp in the lamp room. The consequence was that a fire broke out, which very soon spread throughout the whole vessel. At the time there was 465 persons on board, and of these, seventeen are reported as missing, and three drowned. The boys behaved with rare English pluck, and stuck by the ship till all chance of extinguishing the fire was gone, when, with difficulty, they were induced to quit. A Mr. Wheeler, one of the masters, was among the drowned, having sunk exhausted, after clinging as long as he possibly could to the bottom of a boat. Mrs. Bouchier (wife of Captain Bouchier, the officer in charge), and two of her daughters, experienced some difficulty in escaping. One of these latter descended hand over hand by means of a rope, two of which some one fortunately had taken the precaution to hang over the stern. In doing so, however she severely lacerated her hands. Mrs. Bouchier, herself had to leap from the vessel into the water, owing to the second rope having been burnt. Captain Walters, of the training ship Chichester, and his men, rendered invaluable

service, the former himself rescuing one of the boys found clinging to a fender hanging from the bows, though the flames were scorching his jacket, and the foreyard was dangling over the bow, and threatening every moment to fall. It is more than possible that of those missing, sundry may never be heard of again. It is believed that several are drowned, but nearly the whole of them could swim, and it is quite possible that some may make for their homes. To us it seems strange that an oil, admittedly dangerous, unless the greatest care is taken with it, should be used on board ship, but "my Lords," perhaps, are governed by a sense of economy, and are readier to risk the loss of a ship than to grant annually a few more pounds in the purchase of a more expensive oil.

Further experiments have recently been made at Chatham with the New Flying Machines invented by Mr. Simmonds, and meant for use in military operations by an army in the field. A high wind prevailed at the time, and it was therefore impossible to obtain any trustworthy results, as one of the long poles or arms had, in working it, become injured. The experiments were made under the superintendence of Mr. Simmonds himself, by a number of Sappers and non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers.

The question of widening London Bridge formed the subject of a very interesting paper, by M. S. F. Walmisley, at the meeting, on Thursday evening, of the Civil and Mechanical Engineers' Society, in Westminster Chambers. Mr. Walmisley pointed out that the whole question resolved itself into one simply of expense. A new bridge could be built, a new tunnel bored, a new ferry established, or the present structure itself could be widened. There were no engineering difficulties in the way of either proposal. It was simply for the authorities whom it might concern to determine what amount of money should be laid out in affording additional transit across the Thames at this point.

The official inquiry into the loss of the *Deutschland*, off the Kentish Knock, is not yet completed. A mass of evidence has been taken, but the charge of wrecking has been abandoned. Of course, the excitement in Germany has not yet cooled down, but the bulk of Germans have faith in the impartiality of our English tribunals. Moreover, there have been published lately a number of statistics as regards German vessels lost, or in difficulties off our English coast, and from these it is shown that a very considerable number of lives have been saved by English life boats, tug boats, and luggers.

The charge against the directors of the London Saw Mills and Short Length Timber Company, Limited, has been dismissed by Alderman Sir R. Lusk, before whom it was heard, at Guildhall. Mr. George Lewis had taken up the case out of pure charity, and had succeeded in obtaining a sum of £850 from the accused, in compensation to the thirty men, mostly retired soldiers and clerks, in a humble position, who had invested about £1,030 in the Company. Mr. Lewis did not retract any of the statements he had made on the first occasion when it had come before the court; but he thought he was acting best in the interests of his clients by accepting for them the sum offered. Under these circumstances, the worthy Alderman having complimented Mr. Lewis on his conduct of the case, had no option but to allow the case to be withdrawn. The defendants left the court, amid very strong demonstrations of ill-feeling on the part of the complainants.

The relations between acrobats and their apprentices have been recently a matter for investigation before the Lambeth Police Court. A Mr. Brown, the master, appears to have taken two youngsters, a boy and a girl, under his charge, with a view to training them as acrobats. They seem to have got on, for a time, pretty well together, but the boy was not unfrequently thrashed. It is not, perhaps, very strange that a boy of eleven or twelve should occasionally stand in need of a little corporal punishment, but it was urged that a greater amount of severity was exhibited than was proper. A considerable amount of wrangling and jangling among the several parties interested in the quarrel appears to have prevailed, and the unfortunate magistrate was apparently non-plussed as to how to deal with the matter. However, it was finally arranged that the boy should be sent to an industrial school, that the girl should still remain in the charge of the acrobat, who, however, was to send her to school for three months, and, further, that the mother, who had been in receipt of a pound per month for the use of the chil-

dren, should be allowed to visit her daughter occasionally. Both the youngsters appear to have been well cared for, and well nourished by Mr. Brown, and the boy had attained a considerable degree of skill, so far, indeed, as to be able to perform on the flying trapeze blindfold. Both boy and girl evinced a strong indisposition to return to their mother, nor is this wholly surprising when we consider that they fared very indifferently at home, and that her maternal instincts could not have been very strong, or she would not have hired them out for so insignificant a sum.

A very serious charge was made on Thursday against a Mr. Henry Powell, a captain in the merchant navy, for that he, being master of the good ship *Oberon*, which came into collision with an Italian barque, *Chiavari*, did not stand by and render such assistance to the latter as was in her power, without danger to his own ship, as required by the Merchants' Shipping Act of 1873. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Poland, under instructions from the Treasury, while Mr. Hill defended. The latter raised a preliminary objection, on the ground that the prosecution should have been instituted immediately after the occurrence in November 1873, and that so long an interval should not have been permitted to elapse. Sir Thomas Henry, however, decided against this objection. After hearing a considerable amount of evidence, the case was adjourned till yesterday.

A verdict of wilful murder has been given in the terrible tragedy at Norwich, by which the lives of three boys were taken by a lunatic, those of two others being yet in danger from the dreadful wounds inflicted by the murderer. A Miss Winifred Wales appears to have committed suicide by taking a quantity of opium, being it is said, induced to commit the fatal act through love for an actor at the Britannia Theatre. A great conflagration occurred on Thursday morning at the East of London, the steam flour mills of Messrs. Huskinson being burnt down. The flames rapidly attained a complete mastery over the building, and all the engines could do was to direct their efforts to saving the adjoining premises, which happily they succeeded in doing.

Pantomime before Christmas seems an anomaly, but at the Crystal Palace, "Jack in Wonderland; or, The Magic Beanstalk, the Great Giant, and the Merry Pranks of the Good Little People," written by Mr. Blanchard, has appeared, and given considerable satisfaction to those who have had the good fortune to witness it. Nor is this to be wondered at when we bear in mind that the acting was good, the dancing magnificent, and the dresses and appointments in the highest degree effective. But for an accident which Mr. G. Conquest experienced, the Pantomime, at the Alexandra Palace, would have appeared, as announced, on Tuesday. Owing to this circumstance its appearance was delayed till yesterday. The title is, "Harlequin and Yellow Dwarf, or the King of the Gold Mines," and it has been written expressly by the Brothers Grinn—a very appropriate name, as it happens—for Mr. George Conquest, who, with his son, takes the most prominent part in the action. We shall defer details till next week. For Boxing Day, a great circus entertainment is announced to take place, and if the weather be at all seasonable, there is every chance of there being a very considerable attendance.

On Thursday was given, at St. James's Hall, a "Christmas Concert," though there appears to have been nothing particularly Christmas in the programme, beyond the fact of its being held two days before Christmas Day, and that a few carols were effectively sung by the Albert Hall Choral Society. However, the performance was a good one, and the attendance was in every way worthy of the entertainment afforded.

We cannot compliment the clerk of the weather on his recent conduct. He has been mighty fickle of late. We have had a dose of mud and mugginess, during the last few days, which has hardly been surpassed even within the memory of "the oldest inhabitant." Last year, we had, about this time, a very genial frost, and it is possible, of course, when these lines appear, that Father Christmas may appear in his usual seasonable toggery. At the moment of writing, however, there is nothing particular to warrant this belief. At the same time, let us hope the winter will not pass away without giving us a chance of enjoying something wintry at least. But snow or rain, mugginess or genial frost, we doubt not that, somehow, the world will contrive to enjoy itself as much as it has enjoyed itself in former years. The youngsters, in particular, if they cannot display their skill on the ice, will,

we doubt not, find some means of solacing themselves with a more than usually vigorous attack on the good things. We hope they will have a thoroughly good time of it.

In France the Legislative Assembly has at length completed its task of electing its twenty-five Life Senators, among whom is our very violent friend, Bishop Dupanloup. At Rome, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, who made himself so publicly offensive at the O'Connell Festival, by proposing the health of the Pope before that of the Queen, has been received by His Holiness, who conferred upon his municipal worship the Order of Gregory the Great, and who further requested his visitor to convey his blessing to the good City of Dublin. According to Russian news, the insurrection in Khokand may be said to have been suppressed, General Kaufmann, having despatched a force which successfully stormed the insurgent positions. The leaders are said to have fled beyond the frontier, while the followers have pleaded for mercy. Further success has been gained over the Malays by the British troops, and there is every prospect of the murder of Mr. Birch being amply avenged, and that at a very early date. The Sultan has appointed a committee in order to see that the reforms authorised in his recent Firman are carried out properly. It is rumoured that the Khedive is negotiating the cession of his founder's shares in the Suez Canal. Both the British Government and a French Company or combination, with M. de Lesseps at its head, are said to be bidding for them. There is little news from Spain, the weather being unfavourable to military operations.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

WHEN this number comes before our readers, the Christmas of 1875 will have been inaugurated, and our younger friends, especially, will be looking forward with an eagerness that is quite natural to enjoying the pleasures of the gay and festive board. We wish them, one and all, "a happy Christmas," or to be more *en règle* perhaps, the Compliments of the Season. May all success attend them in their efforts to achieve good fortune! May they, and their belongings, enjoy all happiness, both now and hereafter!

The Grand Lodge of Benevolence was held on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Bro. J. M. Clabon, P.G.D., President, in the chair, the vice-chairs being occupied by Bro. J. Nunn P.G.S.B. V.P., and J. Brett P.G.P. Bro. J. Hervey G.S. read the various grants requiring confirmation, and 26 new cases were relieved to the amount of £500, while 3 cases were deferred. There were present Bros. S. Rawson P.D.G.M. China, J. Smith P.G.P., C. A. Cottebrune P.G.P., E. P. Albert A.G.P., J. Boyd P.G.P., S. Hickman, C. Hogard, Bartlett, H. Dicketts P.G.S., W. Stephens, W. C. Crick, W. Mann, W. H. Myers, Griffiths Smith, Howe, S. Poynter, H. Massey, Munyard, Neall, Hemsworth, Newton, Baldwin, Bergmann, H. G. Buss, Pendlebury, Pullmann, West, &c.

The Auckland (New Zealand) *Evening Star* of 26th October publishes the following:—

The funeral of the late Mr. R. Gratton, of the Thames Hotel, took place this afternoon. The melancholy cortege left the deceased's private residence in Emily Place shortly after three o'clock. In front of the hearse the members of the various Masonic Lodges marched in procession. All appeared in regalia. Prominent among the insignia were the distinguishing badges of the Ara Lodge, of which Lodge Mr. Gratton was a member. Mr. Robinson, the worthy Master of this Lodge, was present. After the corpse followed the relatives and friends of the deceased and the Oddfellows in procession. A large number of the general public swelled the funeral train. Preparations for receiving the body had been made in the Protestant burying ground, and there the interment was made, the officiating minister being Dr. Kidd. As Mr. Gratton was a Roman Catholic this statement will no doubt cause some surprise, and we therefore give the following facts in explanation. On Sunday some of the Masons heard that there existed among the Catholic clergy a disinclination to perform the funeral ceremony on account of the deceased's membership among the Freemasons. Mr. Robinson waited on Father W. McDonald and now states that he was led to believe that so long as the Craft did not make a demonstration by appearing in regalia they were willing to perform the rite. A final answer was not given at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. At three in the afternoon the clergy absolutely declined to have anything to do with the obsequies. The Masons then took the matter up, and in the short time allowed them made preparations for conducting the funeral in their own state. Mr. Hayward conducted the funeral arrangements.

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, 27th DECEMBER.

- 30—St. John the Baptist, Masonic Hall, Fore-street-hill, Exeter.
- 43—St. Paul's, Masonic Hall, Birmingham.
- 68—Royal Clarence, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
- 70—St. John's, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth.
- 137—Amity, Masonic Hall, Thames-street, Poole.
- 170—All Soul's, Masonic Hall, Malcombe Regis, Weymouth.
- 195—Hengist, Belle Vue House, Bournemouth.
- 377—Hope and Charity, Lion Hotel, High-street, Kidderminster.
- 707—St. Mary's, Bull Inn, Bridport.
- 737—Wentworth, Town Hall, Wellingborough, Northampton.
- 999—Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester.

TUESDAY, 28th DECEMBER.

- Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, at 6.30.
- 299—Emulation, Bull Hotel, Dartford, Kent.
- 573—Perseverance, Shenstone House, Hales Owen, Worcester.
- 1228—Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone, at 8. (Instruction.)
- 1393—Hamer, 92 Everton-road, Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, 29th DECEMBER.

- 193—Confidence, White Hart, Abchurch-lane, E.C., at 7.30. (Instruction.)
- 1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
- 187—Royal Sussex of Hospitality, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
- 304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds.
- 503—Belvidere, Star Hotel, High-street, Maidstone. (Instruction.)
- 996—Sondes, Assembly Rooms, East Dereham.

THURSDAY, 30th DECEMBER.

- General Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
- 27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
- 435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W. at 8. (Instruction.)
- 1260—Hervey, 152 Fulham-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
- 100—Friendship, Crown and Anchor, Great Yarmouth.
- 280—Worcester, Bell Hotel, Worcester.
- 286—Samaritan, Green Man Hotel, Bacup.
- 904—Phoenix, Ship Hotel, Westgate, Rotherham.
- 968—St. Edward, Literary Institute, Leek, Staffordshire.
- R. A.—54—Hope, Spread Eagle, Rochdale.

FRIDAY, 31st DECEMBER.

- 1278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park. (Instruction.)
- 1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)

SATURDAY, 1st JANUARY.

- R. A.—Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.

IRELAND.

- MONDAY—66—Star of Kilwarlin, Masonic Rooms, Hillsborough, Co. Down.
- 116—Carlow, Masonic Hall, Carlow.
- 202—Desmond, Masonic Hall, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- 308—Ballymahon, Court House, Ballymahon.
- 372—Gillhall, Princes-street, Dromore, Co. Down.
- 795—Ashfield (Cootehill) Private Room, Cootehill, Co. Cavan.
- TUESDAY—124—Scapatrik, Masonic Hall, Bridge-street, Banbridge, Co. Down.
- 195—St. Patrick's, Masonic Rooms, Belfast.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

- MONDAY—349—St. Clair, Freemasons' Hall.
- TUESDAY—151—Defensive Band, Alexander Hall, Cockburn-street.
- R. A.—40—Naval and Military, Freemasons' Hall.
- FRIDAY—223—Trafalgar, 54 Bernard-street, Leith.

GLASGOW DISTRICT.

- MONDAY—102—St. Mark, 213 Buchanan-street.
- 103—Union and Crown, 170 Buchanan-street.
- 219—Star, 12 Trongate.
- R. A.—123—Thetis, 35 St. James-street.
- TUESDAY.—119—Neptune, 35 James-street.
- R. A.—67—Cathedral, 24 Struthers-street.
- R. A.—73—Caledonian of Unity, 170 Buchanan-street.
- THURSDAY—R. A.—117 Govan, Portland Hall, Govan.
- FRIDAY—498—Clyde, 170 Buchanan-street.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Conclave of Sorrow.—Sir Knight John Johnson P.M. Natal, H. of Chapter No. 122, M. of St. Mungo Encampment of K.T., a member of No. 4 Conclave, Edinburgh, of the Red Cross of Constantine, E.V.E. 114, Glasgow Conclave, Deputy Commander K.H.S., and Hon. Sovereign of Lilly of the Valley, 127, Holytown, having died after only four days' illness, the members of the two last-named bodies determined to testify their respect for departed worth by holding a Conclave of Sorrow, which was done on Saturday, 11th of December. A raised platform was constructed, suitably draped with black cloth and crape; in the West was placed the chair of the deceased Eusebius, the East was occupied by the two Sovereigns, Sir Knights Shields and Wheeler, the former presiding, the latter acting as High Prelate, Wm. McMurdo as Bus., D. Baker S.G., J.

McMurdo J.G., and G. Read as H. The impressive service for the dead was very carefully rendered by the officiating Knights, after which Sir Knight Wheeler M.P.S., as having known him longest, delivered a short address, dwelling on his many amiable qualities, the goodness both of his head and heart. It was a touching coincidence that their departed friend was the first person in Scotland on whom he had conferred the degree of the Holy Sepulchre, and the first to be carried to his sepulchre. Bro. Johnson was unmarried, but an address of condolence to his surviving relatives was agreed to, and the Conclave was closed in solemn form.

Thistle and Rose Lodge, No. 73.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, 21st December, in Kilwinning Hall. Bro. G. McDonald R.W.M. presiding, assisted by Bros. J. Bannerman D.M., J. Balantyne S.M., A. McLeod S.W., J. Hanbridge J.W., G. Wheeler, C. R. Richards S., J. Ampleford T., S. Kay S.D. Bro. D. Reid, I.P.M. 465, was also on the dais. The case of a deserving widow was brought before the Lodge, and a sum voted for her immediate necessities. The Lodge was then raised to the 2nd degree, when Bro. Wheeler passed Bro. J. Caldwell to the degree of Fellow Craft. There being no further business, the Lodge was then closed.

St. Marks Lodge, No. 102.—An installation meeting was held on Monday, 20th December, when, in the presence of a large number of the brethren, Bro. T. Halket installed Bro. Smith, and his office bearers for the ensuing year, the list of whom we have already published. Bro. Halket, on Wednesday, also installed Bro. B. Prout as R.W.M. of Kilwinning, No. 4, and the remainder of his office bearers, whose names we published on the day of election.

Tranquillity Lodge, No. 185.—A general meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, the 20th inst., at the Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C. Bro. J. H. Ross W.M. in the chair, assisted by Bros. Barnett S.W., D. Posener J.W., J. Peartree Treasurer, Phil Levy Secretary, G. Pare S.D., Bailey J.D., Croaker I.G.; there were also present Bros. J. Constable I.P.M., and P.M.'s Bros. S. Solomon, R. Z. Bloomfield, N. Moss, S. Moss, Harfeld, Meyers, Gluckstein, Gottheil, and a numerous assemblage of members. The evening's proceedings commenced with the usual routine observed at Masonic meetings of this kind, after which Bros. Sadleir, Bush and Cohen were admitted to the Master's degree. Messrs. Johannes, Ernst, Schultze, Conrad, Koppleman, Lederer and Moss Davis having been balloted for, and accepted, were duly initiated into the Order. Although the W.M. was evidently suffering from a bronchial affection, he managed to perform his duties with his accustomed ability and precision. Bro. Asher I. Meyers, of Prosperity Lodge, No. 65, a gentleman of some literary attainments, and connected with the *Jewish Chronicle*, was admitted a joining member. Notice of motion was given by the I.P.M., that ten guineas should be voted from the funds of the Lodge to present a Past Master's jewel to Bro. Ross, on his approaching retirement from the chair. The brethren then adjourned to refreshment. The usual toasts followed, in proposing which the W.M. truly distinguished himself. His speeches were short, that is in itself an increased advantage, but pithy and very well expressed. Bro. Constable, in a few happily chosen terms, proposed the health of the W.M., which was received with the utmost enthusiasm, for Bro. Ross is extremely popular with the brethren. The time is always pleasantly passed in this Lodge, especially when good singing forms part of the diversion. Bros. Constable, Bailey, Ross, Benjamin, and others, exerted themselves to please, and the applause, which followed their excellent singing, proved they were appreciated. Bro. Bilby presided at the harmonium in the Lodge room. The visitors were Bros. James Cox S.D. 765, C. McLean P.M. 1087, J. Smith 1257, Henry Roberts 22, H. Massey P.M. 619, J. J. Cohen S.W. 1340, Benjamin 180.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—The members met on Wednesday, at Bro. Chard's, White Hart, Abchurch-lane. Present—Bros. D. Posener W.M., G. Walker S.W., Tollis J.W., J. K. Pitt Sec., J. Constable Treas., Blackhall S.D., Turquand J.D., Biddell I.G., Christopher Tyler. P.M.—Bro. E. Gottheil, Preceptor. Business—Preliminaries duly attended to. The ceremony of initiation rehearsed, Bro. Brown acting as candidate; the ceremony of raising followed, Bro. Barr acting as candidate; Bro. Walker elected W.M. for the next meeting; a vote of thanks was cordially given to Bro. Posener, and with seasonable good wishes the brethren separated.

York Lodge, No. 236.—On Monday, the 20th inst., the installation of Bro. Francis Rawling took place at the York Lodge. There was a large attendance of brethren, including representatives from other Lodges. Bro. W. Cowling P.M. officiated as Installing Master. The officers were afterwards appointed as follows:—Bros. Rev. W. Valentine S.W., G. C. Baskett J.W., Rev. H. V. Palmer P.M. Chaplain, W. Cowling P.M. Treasurer, Jos. Todd P.M. Secretary, Thos. Cooper P.M. D.C., A. Buckley S.D., T. B. Whythead J.D., T. S. Cambridge Organist, W. H. Gainforth I.G., Kirby Ass't. Secretary, and J. Tissiman and Geo. Garbutt Stewards. Bro. Red-fare was appointed Tyler. The annual banquet will be held on Monday next, 27th Dec., being the feast of St. John the Evangelist.

Royal Brunswick Lodge, No. 296.—This Lodge held its anniversary meeting on the evening of Monday, the 13th December, at Freemasons' Hall, Surrey Street, Sheffield, when Bro. Henry Eeroyd (the W.M. elect) was installed in due and ancient form, and in a very able manner, by the I.P.M., Bro. Pawson. The customary homage was paid to the W.M. by a large assemblage of distinguished

brethren, including Bros. Henry Smith Prov. G. Secretary West Yorks, Hamilton, M.A., Mns. Bac., Prov. G. Chaplain, Roddewig Prov. G.D.C., Denton, member of the Grand Lodge of Sweden and Norway; the W.M.'s and P.M.'s of the Britannia and Wentworth Lodges, Sheffield; the Scarsdale Lodge, Chesterfield; Phoenix Lodge, Rotherham; Pelham Lodge, Worksop; Royal Alfred Lodge, Alfreton; Philanthropic, Leeds; Claro Lodge, Harrogate, &c. The following officers were duly invested by the W.M.:—Bros. John Ridal S.W., Walter Nicholson J.W., Rev. Samuel W. Earnshaw, M.A., Chaplain, M. de Bartolomé, M.D., Treas., Robert Schott Sec., Geo. Cubley S.D., W. Skinner, M.R.C.S., J.D., John Marples D.C., Thomas Harrison I.G., Charles Clement Carr and Moses Hartley Stewards, Suckley Org. and Hessey Tyler. The brethren afterwards sat down to a banquet provided by Bro. Brookes, and presided over by the W.M., Bro. Eeroyd. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been duly honoured, Bro. P.M. Seeborn, F.Z.S., proposed the health of the W.M., and Bro. P.M. Longden that of the visiting brethren, which was responded to by Bro. Captain Traill.

Probity and Freedom Lodge, No. 367.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, the 16th instant, at the Bull's Head Hotel, Smallbridge, Rochdale, and was well attended. The Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of last meeting unanimously confirmed. A ballot took place for Mr. James Leach, and, proving favourable, he was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. Bro. Wm. Schofield W.M. elect was then installed into the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom, and appointed the following officers:—Bros. William J. Kinder S.W., Wm. Beswicke J.W., A. T. Shore S.D., J. Schofield J.D., C. M. Jones P.M. Treasurer, Swift Secretary, Robert Wren P.M. D.C., Henry Ashworth I.G., W. Davis Tyler. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. T. Baker Ashworth P.M., in a most impressive and eloquent manner. Four candidates were proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and the Lodge was then closed. An excellent banquet was served by Bro. McOwen. The usual toasts were proposed by the W.M. Responding to the toast of the "Provincial Grand Officers," Bro. Jones P.M. and Bro. Roberts P.M.—both P.P.G. officers—gave the brethren some interesting information respecting the proposed East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution.

Clyde Lodge, No. 408.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Friday, 17th December, at 170 Buchanan-street, Bro. Harper R.W.M. assisted by Bros. Downie I.P.M., J. McInnis D.M., Wm. Bisland S.W., W. S. Williamson acting J.W., G. Anderson Treasurer, and a large number of brethren and visitors. Amongst the latter were Bros. Prout R.W.M. No. 4, Wheeler No. 73, Patterson Treasurer No. 102, Jack R.W.M. No. 128. Bro. Prout asked the Lodge to kindly initiate two gentlemen for him, and the request being granted, Bro. Harper the R.W.M. performed the ceremony in a very careful manner. The Lodge was then opened in the 2nd degree, when Bro. Wheeler, at the request of the R.W.M., passed two Brothers for St. Mark's Lodge, and one for Clyde Lodge, to that degree. Bro. Pattison, Treasurer of St. Mark's, returned thanks on behalf of his Lodge, for their courtesy to them, and also to Bro. Wheeler for performing the ceremony. The Lodge was then opened in the 3rd degree, and Bro. Wheeler raised a Bro. to the sublime degree, the R.W.M. proposing a vote of thanks to him for his services.

St. Mungo Encampment of Knights Templar, Glasgow.—The regular meeting was held on Monday, 20th December. Sir Knight R. Bell E.C. presiding, when a Priory of the Knights of Malta was opened, with R. Bell Prior, G. W. Wheeler Prelate, C. McKenzie Marshall, J. Smith 1st Aide de Camp, J. Hughes 2nd Aide de Camp, when Sir Knights Baker, Hardie, Brown, and Douglas were duly created Knights of Malta. The same Sir Knights, with the addition of S. Hughes, were afterwards instructed in the ancient degree of the Mark and Wrestle, by Sir Knight R. Bell, Prior.

Salisbury Lodge of Instruction, No. 435.—The usual weekly meeting was held on Thursday, the 16th inst., at the Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W. Present—Bros. Honeyman W.M., Gillard S.W., Lee J.W., Mander Preceptor, T. Cull Secretary, Tolmie, Martin and L. Reibold. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The Lodge was opened in the 2nd and 3rd degrees, and the ceremony of raising ably worked by the W.M. Resumed to the 1st degree, and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th sections worked by the brethren. Bro. L. Reibold, of Lodge 180, was unanimously elected a joining member, and Bro. Gillard to be the W.M. for the ensuing week. The Secretary announced that, in accordance with the rules, the ceremony of Installation would be worked, by Bro. W. C. Parsons, W.M. Lodge 180, on Thursday, 30th inst., at 7.30 p.m. The Lodge was then closed in perfect harmony.

St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 465.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held in their own hall, Garngad-road, Glasgow, on 16th of December. The Lodge was opened by Bro. David Reid R.W.M. The auditor's report was presented, from which it appears that the Lodge is in a prosperous state, rapidly clearing off the cost of their hall. A Board of Installed Masters having been duly formed, Bro. D. Gilchrist, R.W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. Wheeler to Bro. Reid, for the benefit of installation. Bro. J. Morgan, R.W.M., Star 219, afterwards proclaimed him in the Lodge, and also installed the rest of the officers, in a very masterly style. The Lodge was then

called to refreshment. Bro. J. Booth R.W.M. of Thistle Lodge 87. replied on behalf of the P.G.L. of Glasgow. Bro. Reid, in proposing the new Master said, though his friends had so strongly urged him to stand again, yet as his friend Bro. Gilchrist had got two more votes than himself, he would loyally do all he could to help him in the chair to further the interests of the Mother Lodge. (Cheers.) He trusted that the office bearers who had so well assisted him would do the same for his successor. Bro. Gilchrist suitably acknowledged the toast, and proposed that of the P.M.'s. Bro. Reid said he was sorry that he was the only P.M. now in the Lodge, the other having emigrated. The New Officers was responded to briefly by Bro. Clark, Deputy Master. Bro. McNabb, 354, responded for the Visitors; and Bro. Wheeler (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE), and Bro. G. Adam for the Press. Happy to meet, and sorry to part, was then given from the chair.

Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity, No. 663.—This Lodge held its usual monthly meeting on Thursday, the 16th inst., at the Town Hall, Devizes. Present—Bros. H. J. Ward W.M., T. B. Fox S.W., T. Raymond J.W., W. Nott P.M. Secretary; P.M.'s Bros. the Rev. H. Richardson, T. Waite, J. H. Chandler, &c. Business—The minutes confirmed and bye-laws read. Ballots were taken for the W.M. and Treasurer for the ensuing year, when Bro. T. B. Fox S.W. was unanimously elected W.M., and Bro. D. A. Gibbs Treasurer. Bros. Holloway P.M. and Randell were elected to the Audit Committee, and Bro. Nott P.M. a member of the Provincial Charity Organisation Committee. A grant amounting to £10 was made to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. A candidate for joining was duly proposed and seconded, to be balloted for at the next (the installation) meeting, which will take place on Thursday, the 18th January.

New Concord Lodge, No. 813.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, the 16th instant, at the Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton. Present—Bros. H. J. Gabb jun. W.M., J. R. Gallant S.W., T. J. Cusworth J.W., W. H. Main P.M. Secretary, G. Sinclair Treasurer, R. H. Harper S.D., Fanquez as J.D., S. George Steward, Walisby Organist, and Speight Tyler; P.M.'s T. Bartlett, Atkins and Salisbury. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. A. Keast, Weedon, Jameson, and Tiddeman were raised to the 3rd degree. The ceremony was very impressively delivered by the W.M., who also gave the traditional history and explanation of the tracing board. The bye-laws of the Lodge were read. A notice of motion was given, that in future the name of the locality should be changed from the "Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton," to the "Rosemary Branch Tavern, Islington." The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to a very excellent banquet, provided by H. Gabb sen. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, including those of the W.M., P.M.'s and Visitors, who severally responded, and were Bros. Cook P.M. and Treasurer 65, and Braine P.M. 65. Bro. Gallant S.W. responded to the toast of the Masonic Charities, and announced that he is a Steward at the next Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The toast of the Officers was acknowledged by Bro. Cusworth. The Tyler's toast concluded a very agreeable evening. Some capital songs were sung by Bros. Cusworth, J. Blyth, Wicks and Braine, accompanied by Bro. Walisby on the piano.

Whittington Lodge, No. 862.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on the 22nd inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Present—Bros. T. Kingdon W.M., C. Walker S.W., Moore J.W., Walmisley S.D., Blakemore J.D., Robert Wentworth Little, S.G.W. Middlesex, Secretary, Quilty P.M. Treasurer, C. E. Packer I.G., Gilbert Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Haley I.P.M., Jas. Weaver P.P.G.O. Middlesex, and Hurlstone. Visitors—Bros. N. Headdon (I.P.M.) and C. Moody (Sec.) Great City Lodge. Business—The Lodge was opened, and the minutes confirmed. Bro. Collinson was passed. Bros. Smith, Richardson, and Devine were raised. Bro. Little's resignation of the post of Secretary having been accepted, Bro. Weaver was invested in his stead. Bro. Little's valuable services were suitably acknowledged, and he was elected an honorary member of the Lodge. The usual banquet followed, presided over by the W.M., and the customary toasts were given and responded to.

Royal St. Edmunds Lodge, No. 1008.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 15th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, Angel Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds. Present—Bros. James Hedley Bevan W.M., Frederic Fearnside S.W., J. R. Thompson acting J.W., William H. Lucia Secretary, Harry Thompson acting S.D., Thomas F. Lucia J.D., J. D. Perrott D.C., E. M. Fyson I.G., Charles Gooch Tyler, about 20 other brethren were in attendance. Business—Lodge was opened in ancient form; the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed; a ballot was taken for Mr. George King, who was duly elected, and afterwards initiated into the 1st degree of Freemasonry, the ceremony being performed by the W.M. in his usual good manner; the officers also being thoroughly up to their work. The Lodge was then closed, after which the brethren retired to refreshment, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Lodge of Truth, No. 1458.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Saturday, the 4th inst., at the Royal Archer Hotel, Manchester. The Lodge was duly opened by Bro. Smith W.M. The first business on the summons was the confirmation of minutes of last regular meeting, which was unanimous. The ballot was then taken for Mr. Wm. Richardson, and, being favourable, he

was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. The ceremony of installing Bro. Charles Joel Kent W.M. elect into the chair of K.S. was performed by Bro. Caldwell P.M., and after the admission of the brethren and the customary salutes, the Worshipful Master appointed his officers as follow:—Bro. J. Batchelder S.W., J. Branton J.W., T. Tyers P.M. Treasurer, Wm. J. Kinkler Secretary, R. Fallows S.D., W. Cox J.D., J. Taylor I.G., R. Caldwell P.M. D. of C., E. Walton and R. Wheeldon Stewards, T. Davis Organist, C. Beswick Tyler. The following Lodges were represented:—Provincial Grand Lodge of East Lancashire, and Nos. 531, 879, 999, 1011, 1077, 1083, 1161, 1219, 1359. Banquet was served in excellent style, by Bro. Potts, and perfect unanimity prevailed amongst the brethren. A gratifying incident was the attendance of the W.M.'s father, Bro. Kent, P.M. of a Metropolitan Lodge.

Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507.—This young and rapidly increasing Lodge met on Thursday, the 16th inst. at the Metropolitan Club, 269 Pentonville-road. Present—Bros. Michael W.M., Williams S.W., Kingham J.W., Tims P.M. Secretary, Douglas S.D., Scales J.D., Side I.G., Stiles D.C. and Asst. Secretary, Colls W.S., Willing I.P.M., and Bros. Gilbert, Jones, Saintsbury, Cheek, Hatton, Rojers, Read, Erwood, Tims jun., Easy, Tittenborn, Cox, Hopton, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. H. Stiles, T. Gilbert jun., Swaagman and Solomon were raised to the 3rd degree. Bros. Cave, Van Camp and Lovegrove were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and Messrs. G. Edwards, H. Scales, and F. Badderley were initiated into the Order; the work being perfectly delivered by the W.M. The visiting fee was reduced to 7s 6d. Bro. Jas. Willing I.P.M. having consented to act as Steward at the next Anniversary Festival for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, the sum of £20 was voted from the funds of the Lodge to be placed on that brother's list. Several propositions were handed in, and the Lodge was closed. The brethren sat down to a very capital banquet, provided by Bro. Cox. The W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, including those of the W.M., Officers, and Visitors, who were Bros. Willis P.M. Bedford Lodge, Jones, H. Massey P.M. 619, &c. The sum of £30 was subsequently subscribed by the brethren, to be placed on Bro. Jas. Willing's list.

Chislehurst Lodge, No. 1531.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on Saturday, the 11th inst., at the Bull Inn, Chislehurst. Present—Bros. John Coutts P.G.P. W.M., G. F. Guest S.D., W. Kipps J.W., J. Griffin P.M. Secretary, J. Mason S.D., H. Gloster J.D., W. Hardman I.G. Bro. J. Coutts W.M. opened the Lodge, and the minutes were confirmed. By the courtesy of the W.M., who was suffering from a severe cold, Bro. J. Griffin P.M. and Secretary initiated Messrs. J. Williams Hayhow and Samuels, and passed Bro. Kipps, a brother of the S.W., who came expressly from Hull for that purpose. The Lodge was then closed, and refreshments followed, when the brethren returned to town.

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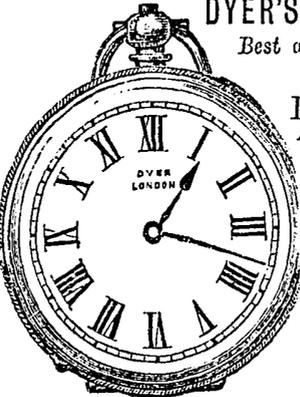
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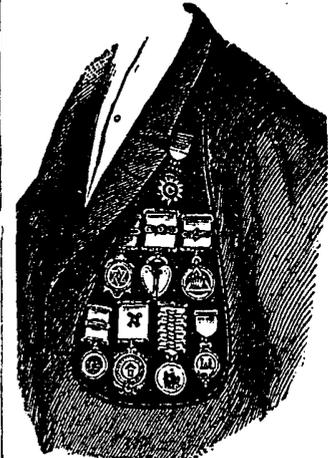
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