

THE

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A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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SOME PEOPLE WE DIFFER WITH.

IT is given to few men to pass through life without occasional differences with their fellows. We are not alluding to differences of opinion. It is in the order of things that different people should hold different opinions on different subjects. The differences we have in our mind are better described, perhaps, as quarrels, and at times are of a serious character. It is by no means necessary we should be either cantankerous or litigious, morose, or ill-natured. We may be among the most genial people in the world, and yet there are those who, if we will not quarrel with them, will find some way of quarrelling with us. Of course, Masons are bound, by the tenour of their obligation, to avoid giving and taking offence, and where two brethren are at issue, a ready means is provided for securing a reconciliation between them. But Masons are merely mortals, and as liable, therefore, to error as the rest of mankind. The most elaborate, the most comprehensive code of laws will not prevent Masons from occasionally yielding to human weaknesses. Thus it comes about that the relations between brethren of the mystic tie cannot always be described as fraternal. It being, then, impossible to wholly avoid disputes with certain brethren, let us devote a little space to noting some of those whom it may be our misfortune to differ with, glancing briefly at their various points and temperaments, so that we may at least be on our guard against saying or doing any thing to cause them any annoyance. So shall we be acting according to our vows, both in the letter and the spirit.

Foremost among the number of disputatious brethren, comes Bro. Cantanker. He makes a point of saying unpleasant things. It is, in fact, in his nature that he should make himself very disagreeable to all whom he comes in contact with. When he became a Mason he omitted, not unnaturally, perhaps, to leave outside the Lodge doors the very un-Masonic feature which chiefly characterised him then, as it still does now. We have before referred to Bro. Cantanker, as one of those who object, on principle, to any and every proposition. A good many people are not a little disconcerted at first on finding themselves in his company. If they are foolish, unseemingly squabbles often follow. If they are wise, they take his objections in good part, making the best they can of a very angular-minded brother. They very soon learn that his disagreeable utterances are not intended to be offensive, and must always be taken with a qualification, *exceptis excipiendis*, that is, present company always excepted. He is at heart a very good fellow. He acts up to the spirit, if not to the letter, of his obligation. He is Bro. Cantanker by name, as well as by nature, but he is not ill-natured. He gives of his substance to worthy objects. He knows well enough the uses of a chisel, but he never applies it to smooth away the roughnesses of his own nature. Those who know him thoroughly, respect him, but they cannot be said to love him. It is inevitable that differences should arise with such a brother, for he has a mortal antipathy to anything like agreement. But this induces no feeling of enmity, or even of anger. We come to look upon his invariable objections as a part of the price we pay for the privilege of knowing him. We forget and forgive but too readily the roughness and acidity of the temper, out of respect for the sterling worth of his character. Not so with Bro. Litigant, who likewise objects on principle, but the principle which animates him in his display of cantankerousness is far less respectable. He is not over particular in the conduct of his relations with

others. It does not follow, of course, that a litigious should also be a grasping man, but we always fancy somehow he is under the influence of mercenary motives. He seems as though he were always on the look out to gain some advantage over us, and we are far from sure that he is scrupulous in the means he employs in order to gain his ends. The man who wars with us on principle, though the principle involved exceeds not in value one halfpenny, may be worthy of all respect as a thoroughly honest and honourable man, yet, rightly or wrongly, we have always a presentiment, not only that he would like to triumph over us in the particular point at issue, but that he will strive to do so at all hazards, and be glad to acquire some further and unfair advantage as well. Bro. Litigant, in our estimation, is a great nuisance, with his perverse determination to have it out with everybody. We feel considerable satisfaction if we beat him; we are unusually nettled if we are beaten. We may be momentarily angered by Bro. Cantanker, but we soon recover equanimity, and are ready to meet him again and again in any company and at any time. But somehow, when we have once had a taste of Bro. Litigant's quality, we fight shy of him afterwards. We may not be in a position to explain the reason; we may even laugh at ourselves for being so silly, but the fact remains; there is a certain sense of dislike for him rankling in our breast ever afterwards. Bro. Peevish we endure with as much philosophy as we can command. He is usually fretful about trifles, but he is very often a good fellow, and if he could only be brought to see it, a greater source of annoyance to himself than to others. Of course, the battles we engage in with Bro. Pepper are very terrible, while they last; he hits out incontinently at whoever offends him. He is not particular in his argument; he is whirled along too rapidly in his outbursts of passion, and one would not unnaturally conclude that anything like reconciliation with Bro. Pepper was utterly out of the question. But this were an error. Bro. Pepper is choleric enough when his blood is up, but no one is more ready to withdraw anything he may have said in the moment of anger. No one is more ready to apologize for any unintentional wrong he may have committed. No one is more ready to meet his opponent again on friendly terms. While ever exercising a proper degree of self-respect, he is always ready to admit himself in the wrong, if wrong he has committed. He will even take blame to himself, where none is due, if he see a chance of reconciliation. He acts on the spur of the moment, but he is generous, and never allows any ill feeling to exist in his mind. Bro. Whiteblood, however, is another sort of personage. He is more placid in his bearing, and seemingly more manageable. The idea that he could ever take part in a squabble is most unlikely. But, in spite of an apparently easy-going temperament, he is a far more objectionable man to differ with than any of those we have already named. He works on very silently, very cunningly. He assumes towards those persons he will quarrel with a geniality he is very far from feeling. He never allows you to know whether anything you have said or done in all innocence has given offence, but he never forgets that you have offended. Unlike Bro. Pepper, who speaks his mind freely and at once, Bro. Whiteblood cherishes in his memory every fancied slight, but outwardly he is as much your friend as ever. At length the time comes for him to pay off old scores, and then, in a cold and passionless manner, he sets himself dead against you. You find that from the very day you unwittingly gave him slight offence till the day he opposes you actively, he has been silently working to your disadvantage, to over-

throw your plans. Had you felt yourself aggrieved by any word or action of his, you would have told him so, after the manner of Bro. Pepper, and there would have been an end of the matter, as regards yourself. But he has been all the time brooding over his wrongs, and planning schemes of vengeance. Nor is he content with a fair retaliation—assuming that you have really been guilty of offence, and merit retribution—he does not rest till he has done all in his power to harm you. It may be you have done him service in former times; this, in his opinion, is a strong reason why he should carry his feeling of enmity towards you as far as may be. Very possibly, in utter ignorance of this growing hostility, you have made some false step. It is on the cards you have been guilty of some shortcoming of a trifling character. It even becomes patent to you that you have thus acted, but you take no heed, you anticipate no disturbance of friendly relations, or, better still, you at once admit the error you have unintentionally committed. It never occurs to you, who have done him a service in former days, that he will descend to such depths of meanness, and, when a favourable time comes, will turn and do you all the injury he can. This class of person, of which we have made Bro. Whiteblood the type, is a most objectionable one. It is most unfortunate to be involved in any dispute with such as he is. He never rests till he has punished you out of all proportion to the nature of the injury you may have caused. If you meet him afterwards, he meets you with studied politeness, but, at the same time, with studied coldness. He resolutely avoids all opportunities for explanation. He is a stranger to passion in the ordinary sense, and hence we have named him Whiteblood. It is only the sanguinous man who plays the part of Bro. Pepper. Hence, with these whiteblooded, or, as they are more commonly called, white livered people, it is impossible to have any feeling of sympathy whatever. Indeed, of all the people it may be our fate to differ with, we sincerely hope to be spared any contention with these. We can stand Cantanker, we feel pity for poor Peevish, we fight and the very next moment are friends again with Pepper, Litigant we hold aloof from, but Whiteblood we regard as essentially malicious, and cut him accordingly.

MASONIC PORTRAITS (No. 10.)

THE OCTOGENARIAN.

“Fell Time, thou canst not harm this man!
Thy scythe is powerless here.”

IT is not always a compliment to say of a man that he wears well. We may mean that he manages to keep a decent exterior on view, which merely conceals the moral decay within. Or we may mean that he should have been exposed long since, but has contrived to keep a fair name and character, in spite of his evil deeds. But in the sense in which we use the expression in this paper, we mean to imply a compliment, and we should deeply regret if the dear old fellow who is now sitting for his portrait should take umbrage at our application of it to him. If we say that our Octogenarian Mason “wears well,” we mean it in the sense in which we speak of gold as wearing well, or any article of daily use, into which the workman has put the best materials, and the most conscientious labour. If the reader reflect a moment, he will possibly come to the conclusion that, as a rule, only those who have lived good lives can have a chance of wearing well. The rogue, the man of pleasure, or the mere roud, wear out the machinery of life, and become old long before the allotted time. A hearty old age is only enjoyed by those who have used the world wisely; who have kept a clean and unspotted conscience. Our hero, we have said, is an Octogenarian; but no one, who did not know the fact, would suspect it. We have known him many years, and we have never noticed the least change in him. Seventeen years since, to our personal knowledge, he was the same active, cheerful, genial soul that he is at the present time. We all expect an ordinary acquaintance to show the marks and scars of time, but we will venture to say that his friends would be greatly astonished if our Octogenarian should ever be less young in mind, or exhibit any indication of being tired of life. His hair, indeed, has whitened a little during the past ten years. But time appears to have added no fresh wrinkles

to his cheery face, nor deprived his frame of any of its activity. At every Quarterly Communication he may be seen walking up Grand Lodge as firmly as the youngest member. His interest in Masonry is as keen as ever, and his unimpaired energy enables him to play his part in sundry Lodges of Instruction with a perfection which is the envy and admiration of younger men. Look at him, ye Masons of forty, who complain of the growing ills of the flesh! His dark face, with its garnish of grey hair, is the picture of health and contentment. He sits, or stands, or walks, with the firmness and decision of an old soldier, and chats of the events of the day with the keen interest of a man whose clear intellect is still equal to all the calls that can be made upon it. Wherever he goes he is received with tokens of affection. Some of the younger members of the Order esteem it an honour to be invited to take a pinch of snuff from the silver box, upon which our Octogenarian deferentially performs a double knock, before he ventures to unveil its aromatic contents. Old Masons are glad to learn the lore of the Craft from his lips, and those who have profited by his instructions are proud to acknowledge him as their master.

In his profession, our Octogenarian is honoured by all who know him, and he is revered by many who never saw his face. Young ladies who regard the ball room as the ante-chamber to Paradise look upon his name as a synonym of bliss. He has discoursed most eloquent music in nearly every great mansion in the land, and the skilled minstrels who serve under his baton are proud of their master. In the City he is well known, and the great banquet on Lord Mayor's day would be wanting in interest if our Octogenarian Mason were not summoned to minister to the pleasures of the assembled guests. Early in October his pleasant face is to be seen somewhere within the region over which Gog and Magog preside. He has a warm shake of the hand, a pinch of the aromatic compound from the magic box, and a kindly greeting for all with whom he is acquainted. He is accustomed to hear every one say that he is growing young, and takes the compliment as a matter of course. The Civic officials hold him in the highest estimation, and we really believe that a newly-fledged Lord Mayor would as soon dispense with his state coach as with our old and veteran friend. Amongst his brethren of the baton our Octogenarian is deservedly popular. Men who have led an orchestra half their lives are proud to know him, and it is really a pleasant sight to see him surrounded by his professional friends, to whom he imparts agreeable gossip, or news of interest, in the sententious manner which is one of his characteristics. Our Octogenarian is usually a man of few words. He knows possibly that a misplaced remark jars on the ear like a false note in a song, and he rarely speaks without weighing what he says. He has the wisdom to be genial without superfluity of talk, and can convey more kindly good will in a shake of his disengaged fingers, whilst holding a precious pinch with the others, than half the world can manage to exhibit in volumes of mere words.

The secret, indeed, of his charm of manner lies in his sincerity and singleness of heart. You feel that you are in the society of an honest man, who means what he says. His few words quickly reach the core of the dullest, and for our part, we would rather have a “God bless you” from our Octogenarian than from the lips of a mitred bishop. In his Masonic character, he throws off much of his reserve. In the Lodges of Instruction, in which he officiates with so much ability, his cheery voice, calling his “pippins” from the four cardinal points to well merited refreshment, is often heard. Men sit at his feet awaiting instruction, assured that he is a Gamaliel of the Order. His knowledge is, indeed, equal to his Masonic reputation, and that reputation is of no merely local renown. In Grand Lodge he holds high rank, and is greatly esteemed by the leading lights of the Masonic world. Few men are entitled to wear the brilliant array of decorations which have glittered on his breast. Fewer still have been the honoured recipients of so many presentation jewels, and still fewer, we apprehend, have been as unfortunate as our Octogenarian, who, on an evil day, after some grand event, was fated to lose all these glittering symbols. In a moment of forgetfulness he, unhappily, left them in a cab, and has regretted his misfortune from that day to this. But it is not in the power of fate to deprive our hero of that which is more tangible than the gems of office—the respect of his brethren. He is revered throughout the Order, as a good Mason; and in the wider circle of the world, he is honoured and loved as an upright man.

MASONRY AND MAGIC.

WE are often surprised whilst glancing over old works upon art magical, by finding therein represented many of the signs and symbols current in Masonry, to which occult virtues and mystic correspondencies are attributed. Endued with geometrical properties and the infinite power of Numbers, the pentagon, the seal of Solomon, and the cubic-stone laid open or the Latin Cross, are constantly cited as keys of wisdom, and essential auxiliaries to spells and conjurations of every kind.

Magic is a vague word. In modern times, scarcely two of its professors even, can be got to agree upon its exact scope and definition. So much of what was formerly accounted "supernatural" is now within the domain of science, that for most of the subjects which yet remain to be elucidated, we ought rather to substitute the term "unaccounted for," or, in the case of psychic, or spiritual phenomena "supra-mundane." For we may be well assured that nothing, under the Great Architect, can be "super-natural."

Public professors of Magic proper have been, in modern times, few in number. If we may judge of a professor by the estimate of himself propounded in his writings, then we may conclude at once that the greatest practitioner this century has known was the late *Louis Constant*, of Paris.

Under the *nom-de-plume* of Eliphas Levi, he published, between the years 1859 and 1862, the following, which he directs his disciples to study in due sequence:—"THE DOGMA AND RITUAL OF HIGH MAGIC," two vols; "THE HISTORY OF MAGIC," and "THE KEY OF THE GREAT MYSTERIES." These works may therefore be considered to sum up his views of the question.

With him, we have this advantage over the works of the ancient and mediæval mystics, that the body of his theory is openly dissected and displayed, the soul *only* left to the discernment of the explorer; whereas previous writers, adopting a jargon and labyrinthine plan only intelligible to themselves, have left both body and soul concealed from the search of the profane. From Levi we get an insight into the ancient universal belief in "the soul of the world," or, as he prefers to call it, "the Astral Light," in which all live and move and have their being, which, again, is resolvable into the all-pervading "Spirit" of the teachers of modern spiritualism, which is held to inform and determine the material properties alike of the molecules of air, water, minerals, vegetables, animals, and all. Unlike modern spiritualists, Levi attributes all unexplained phenomena to the action of will-power or of correlated occult forces, over the fluctuations of this universal plastic medium, "the Astral Light," which holds, as it were, indestructibly pictured within its depths a reflection of every thought, word, act or thing that has been since the Creation. And thus, when mysterious voices or apparitions are to be accounted for, he finds their echoes or shadows existing in "the Astral Light," materialised for the nonce by forces which act under occult laws. The knowledge of these laws, or rather of these conditions, is what he calls "Magic."

It is, however, noteworthy that this theory fails to account for such phenomena as levitation, or the passage of solids through solids, of which we have apparently well-attested accounts. The hand which *Home* caused to appear upon the table before Napoleon III., and which allowed itself to be saluted as that of his uncle, might have been a materialisation from "the Astral Light," but the repeated elongations of his body witnessed by Lord Lindsay and others cannot thus be accounted for, unless upon the supposition that the reporters became intoxicated or hallucinated by occult vibrations of that mystic element. We may not deny the occurrence of supra-mundane phenomena, because charlatans have been detected in imitating them. Things which public curiosity renders so profitable naturally prompt mercenary scoundrels to simulate. We must remember that the fact of supra-mundane action will be proven, as much by the movement of a pin without known cause against known natural law, as by an apparition or a prophecy. Professor Crookes, discoverer of the motive force of light, has, amongst others, convincingly proved, by rigid scientific demonstration, the existence of the occult forces which surround a genuine "medium," and which act upon ponderable bodies in opposition to the known laws of Nature. The testimony as to some "apparitions" of the Spiritualists is almost as strong, but proof of the existence of the occult force in its most trivial manifestation suffices

for argument. To tell investigators of intelligent and disciplined minds that they have been deceived by conjurers or by their own senses, is no rebutter of their statements; more rational are the explanations of Eliphas Levi.

Pity it is that the rank and file of mankind are so timid when confronted with anything new, their first unreasoning impulse being to cry out against it for the purpose of reversing their position and of frightening it away. Vain impulse! the new thing, if not true, will vanish of itself; if true, not all the thunders of Jove will scare it. And more than pity it is, that the popular press, living upon public opinion, should have to shriek in unison with crude human impulse, instead of having the moral strength to investigate and to oppose impulse in the interest of truth.

It is noteworthy, however, that of late certain leaders of the press have been posing for a change of front in their treatment of spiritualism; the latest remarkable essay on that subject in the *Westminster Review* going even so far as to predicate of it—"the germ of the Religion of the Future."

Amidst some display of vanity and some transcendental flights of national self-glorification, native to a one of *le peuple le plus spirituel du monde*, Levi lets us now and then into dim chambers of exquisite imagery, when on mysterious themes or illustrating the arcana of psychology and physiology. We are therefore led to hope that, amongst some rubbish, we may light upon precious stones, and with the view of following up the symbolic relationship of Masonry and Magic, we will first dip into his pages. They are mystical enough, but radiance itself compared with those of Eugenius Philalethes or his predecessors. He recapitulates the Gnostic formulæ:—

"When men know how to live, they will die no more, but will be transformed, as the chrysalis is, into a brilliant butterfly.

"The terrors of death are the offspring of our ignorance, and death itself is only frightful from the *debris* which covers it, and the sombre colouring of its images. Death is, in truth, only the work of Life.

"God did not create Pain. Intellect accepted it, in order to be free. (This is an explanation of myths, both Aryan and Semitic, which account for the origin of evil.) As the eye only perceives Light by its faculty of opening and shutting, as being always open it would be the slave of Light, so created Intellect is only blessed in acknowledging God through its faculty of denying Him, in doing which it still affirms its liberty. Thus, even blasphemy will glorify God, whose perfect service is perfect Liberty. Once God was All, and All was Light. When God said, 'Let there be Light,' he allowed Darkness to reveal the Light, and out of Chaos came the Universe."

Of the Serpent Tempter of Genesis, "Wha-Nahash haiah hâroum mi-chol haîath ha-shadeh ashor hâshah Thôah Elohim," he says, dissecting the word Nahaseh thus—

14 Nun—The force which produces compounds.

5 He—The passive reproductive principle or the recipient.

21 Schin—The natural and central fire balanced by double polarisation.

that, by the cabalistic interpretation which he claims to give, *ex cathedra*, the universal magic agent is intended, symbolised in all theogonies by the Serpent, to which the Hebrews gave the name of OD when active, of OR when passive, and of Aour when fully revealed in its balanced force—in other words, "the Astral Light."

(To be continued.)

At the anniversary festival of the Alfred Masonic Lodge M. Jules Buc, M.A., Magdalen College, was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The ceremony was performed by Bro. W. Thompson, the retiring Master. In the course of the evening it was announced, by the Master of the Apollo Lodge (Rev. H. A. Pickard, Christchurch), that a telegram had just been received from India, from the Prince of Wales, in which his Royal Highness appointed Prince Leopold as Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—At the beginning of the year, countless causes are at work to lower the tone of the nervous system, which will be followed by ill health unless proper means be employed to avert that evil. Holloway's far famed preparations supply a faultless remedy for both external and internal complaints connected with changes of seasons. All affections of the skin, roughness, blotches, pimples, superficial, and deeper seated inflammations, erysipelas, rheumatic pains, and gony pains, alike succumb to the exalted virtues of Holloway's Ointment and Pills. The maladies most prevalent in winter, to wit: Chest complaints and stomachic ailments, daily bear witness to the potential influence of this treatment, which saves suffering and spares disaster.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

IN spite of the private festivities which monopolise so much of the attention of our brethren at this season of the year, the inmates of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution have not been forgotten. Bro. Terry, the energetic Secretary of the Charity, has, in former years, we believe, given our old friends an annual entertainment, which has always been highly appreciated. On Wednesday last, a number of the brethren, with their ladies, proceeded to Croydon, for the purpose of assisting at a musical and elocutionary entertainment, which had been planned by the Secretary. After a most excellent dinner, at which the old folks were assembled, and to which ample justice was done, the company adjourned to the large room of the Institution, where a very agreeable programme of amusements was carried out, with great spirit, under the able superintendence of the Secretary. Some charming songs were sung by the lady visitors, and several brilliant pieces of music were performed on the pianoforte. The *pièce de résistance* of the evening was a performance by Professor Lane, the prestigator, who occupied the floor for upwards of an hour, and whose tricks were loudly applauded and highly appreciated. This gentleman fairly succeeded in mystifying the audience, and when he had concluded, Bro. Terry, on behalf of the guests, expressed himself highly gratified with the entertainment.

Bro. Brevo, one of the inmates, then rose and proposed that the cordial thanks of the assembly should be given to the Secretary, Bro. Terry, for his kindness, in having arranged so agreeable a treat for the inmates. The motion was carried amid much applause. Bro. Terry, in responding, took occasion to say that the committee and himself were inspired with but one idea, and that was an earnest desire to make his old friends as happy as possible. He felt assured that they appreciated the efforts of the Committee of Management. The inmates could always appeal to him when any little difficulty arose amongst them. He could assure them that they would find him always ready to adjust such difficulties to the best of his ability when they did occur, but, in conclusion, he reminded them, thrown as they were in some measure in each other's society, that it would be better to "bear and forbear." It was the duty of us all in this life, and we should all be the happier if we gave way a little to each other.

In the absence of Dr. Strong, a cordial vote of thanks to him was unanimously passed; Bro. Terry remarking that the inmates were deeply indebted to him for his great kindness, and for the assiduous attention with which he ministered to them in sickness. The National Anthem having been performed, the proceedings were brought to a close.

The lady artistes were Mesdames Strong, Dubois, Baber. The Misses Haines, Owen, Strong, Terry and Gott.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

THE Twelfth Night Entertainment to the pupils of this Institution was given on the 6th inst., tea was provided for the visitors and children, after which some charming and instructive dissolving views were given at the sole expense of our dear brother J. R. Cox, who is always foremost in the field to amuse. As we have often said, great credit is due to the Governors of this Institution, as well as to the Governess, for the rapid strides made in its progress. Our space precludes us giving further particulars.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

THE general Committee of this Institution held their monthly meeting on the 1st inst., under the presidency of Bro. Raynham W. Stewart. Upon the confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting it was suggested by the chairman that £2,000 should be voted to increase the Infirmary

accommodation. Bro. C. Horsley, P.G.R. Middlesex, moved:—

"That the House Committee be empowered to ascertain the amount and position of the ground at disposal for the purpose of erecting a building with all necessary accommodation for thirty boys in case of illness, and that they instruct an architect to furnish plans, with proper elevations and sectional details, together with an estimate of the actual cost of erecting the same, and within what period from the commencement of the building."

This was supported by Bro. John Symonds. The Secretary stated, in reply to enquiries, that it was necessary to provide infirmary accommodation for 15 per cent. of the inmates of charitable institutions. The motion was approved and carried. The solicitor, Bro. Hopwood, in referring to Bro. Wakeling's bequests, desired the Committee to watch the proceedings now pending in the High Court of Justice, particularly as this Institution and the Girls' School, both beneficiaries, should be represented by one solicitor. £5 was voted for outfit to an ex-pupil. Some correspondence was gone through respecting the appointment of a committee by West Yorkshire to enquire into the expenditure and management. This motion was ordered to lie on the table. Notice of motion was given by Warwickshire, for a perpetual presentation on payment of £1,050. No reply having been received from Bros. Tew and Perrott, a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

THE DRAMA.

The Pantomimes at Drury Lane and Covent Garden Theatres—"Antarctic" at the Strand.

IN one respect at least Drury Lane may fairly claim to be the representative theatre of the nation. Sneers may be and are indulged in freely at the idea of Mr. Halliday and even Mr. Bonicault taking rank as dramatists worthy of the national reputation, and the artists to whom their productions have given employment have not always added lustre to our stage; but few people will deny that the best pantomime of the season is nearly always that produced at Drury Lane. One way of accounting for this is found in the fact that Mr. Chatterton secures the services of that veteran writer of pantomimes, Mr. E. L. Blanchard, and relies on the great abilities of the Vokes Family to give full play to the author's whimsical ideas. This season's piece is founded on the well known legend of *Dick Whittington and His Cat*; and without starting any argument as to how much of that venerable nursery story is true, we may say that it is followed with tolerable closeness. The opening scene, Revels in Cheapside, gives opportunity for one of those charming ballets for which Mr. Cormack is famous; and we may also note that the hand of Mr. Beverley has not lost its skill, the scenery being worthy of his high reputation. As we have before hinted, the chief actors in the piece are supplied from the Vokes Family. Mr. Fred Vokes is a wonderfully agile Fitzwarren, whose muscles are apparently made of leather, and whose bones are certainly constructed of indiarubber. Mr. Walter Vokes is the fortune bearing cat, whilst Miss Victoria and Miss Rosina Vokes add to the scene, not only their grace and beauty, but also a very considerable share of dramatic ability in the parts of Dick Whittington and Alice Fitzwarren. It is evident that no pains have been spared to render the fittings and accessories as gorgeous as possible, and as the result it may be said that, however wearisome this kind of entertainment may be, the Drury Lane pantomime is good in its kind.

Since the days of the famous donkey in the *Forty Thieves*, the COVENT GARDEN pantomime has been noted rather for splendour than for fun, and as a case in point, we need only mention *Babil and Bijou*. In respect both of show and amusement the *Cinderella* of this year seems hardly up to the standard of its predecessors; the dialogue, presumably new, is dull, and the scenery and dresses appear to have seen wear. Most people, however, will forgive the many shortcomings of the piece, because it introduces once more Miss Nelly Power as one of those fairy princesses, all sparkle and laughter, in which she has so often charmed. Her return to the stage is especially welcome at a time when real burlesque actresses are so rare. A fitting pendant to Miss Power's Prince Plenteous is the *Cinderella* of Miss Amalia, whose acting is marked by much freshness and grace. Mr. Brittain Wright is admirably fitted to sustain the burden of the broadly comic fun, ably assisted, as he is, by Mr. W. B. Fair and Mr. Rogers. It is excessively hard to introduce new features into a pantomime, but the old points still seem to be capable of provoking laughter, and we do not doubt that *Cinderella* will have a fair run.

A plot, which might have been written by a playwright escaped from Bedlam: dresses notable for their eccentricity: a jumble of funny songs and grotesque dances: these are the ingredients of the Christmas pudding at the STRAND. From its title to its "Plaudite," the new piece is a sheer absurdity, but it is supported by Mr. Terry as an old Frenchman, always getting himself into scrapes; by the excellent acting of M. Marius, who never lets slip a chance of making a point; and by the exhilarating verve and go of Miss L. Venne and Miss Claude, and aid of this kind would run one of Dr. Vellere's plays for months—at the STRAND.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

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VANITAS VANITATUM.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The comments of Bro. "T. F." upon this subject possess one especial merit, namely, they show that he is thoroughly in earnest. He does not mince matters, and disdains to disguise the supreme contempt in which he holds Masonic decorations. His zeal, however, has led him into rashness. In his desire to teach us our duties, he forgets that modesty and moderation are absolutely necessary to render the lessons effectual. He must surely be endowed with a vast amount of pluck, for few will be found sufficiently daring to prefer an indictment, wholesale and unmistakable, unflinchingly and without reserve. On reading his remarks in your last issue, I positively became terrified; my heart almost stood still, and I verily believe all and every one of my limbs would have obstinately refused to perform their functions had I attempted to move, because, to my utter amazement, I found—I, who had hitherto deemed myself one of the most loyal of Masons—that I was one of the "chief law-breakers, and persistently continued to violate the Book of the Constitutions." "T. F." is not a man of half-and-half or milk-and-water measures. He goes the whole hog, and includes W.M.'s, P.M.'s, M.M.'s, and, indeed, indirectly, the officers high and low of the Grand Lodge itself, in his sweeping denunciation. For many years past, my *confrères* and myself have attended Grand Lodge, brave with silver tans on our badges, and our manly breasts decked with glittering gold jewels, unmolested by the scrutineers, and unopposed by the vigilant functionary who guards the portal of the sanctum. Poor deluded creatures that we were, to imagine ourselves obedient to the laws, while in reality pursuing a course of misdemeanour. O, Bro. "T. F." you have rudely and cruelly disturbed our pleasant repose. There is, however, one consolation; we are, taken altogether, a goodly company. Silver tans and gold jewels are patronised by the highest dignitaries of the Order. A wonderful display of the latter may be observed on the dais at every assembly at Grand Lodge, and resplendent is the aspect of many occupying a place in the body of the hall. Indeed, the authorities, and, I think, wisely, encourage the use of these ornaments. Why should Masons affect to despise that which is valued so highly amongst every class of human kind? Royalty has its distinctive emblems, and is proud of its ribbons and stars. Soldiers and sailors risk their lives, incited, first of all, by a spirit of patriotism, then stimulated by the prospect of possible distinction in the shape of a medal conferred by the sovereign. The young lawyer dreams of the silk gown, and the aspiring curate of the lawn sleeves. The successful trader spends his thousands to attain the dignity of the crimson robe, and to be called, if even only for one short year, "my Lord Mayor." Diplomats have been known to sell their very souls for a decoration from a foreign potentate, and great monarchs, upon occasions, bestow orders of distinction upon each other. The Prince of Wales in India distributes stars and orders not only upon the faithful native chiefs, but upon the tried English servants of the Crown. Great events are commemorated, and ingenuity, skill, and invention frequently rewarded with a medal. Our own Grand Lodge has instituted the Charity, Past Master, Centenary, and lately the one in honour of the Grand Installation. Is it to be asserted that all this money is ill spent, and ought to be bestowed upon charity? Such a policy would be suicidal, and defeat its own ends. For in the production of these gew-gaws, which some so highly prize, and others pretend to despise, many thousands of hands are employed, and thus the most valuable aid is afforded to a large and deserving section of our fellow creatures by enabling them to earn an honest independence. Our accuser asserts that Lodge funds are misappropriated when applied to the purchase of a testimonial for a retiring W.M. This, I think, is a mistake, Lodge subscriptions are intended and regulated for three distinct and specified purposes. First, for payment of Grand Lodge dues, second, to defray expenses incidental to the working of the Lodge, and the remaining portion to be expended, in most Lodges, part to be set aside for the private benevolent fund, and part for refreshment, or to be applied in any other way the vote of the majority might decide. Now, if from this last moiety a sum is taken for the purchase of a presentation jewel, can it fairly be said to have been misapplied? or that it is "applied to a purpose it was never intended?" I speak of some friends, who, after going in for all the fancy degrees, and spending no end of money, pronounced them "all humbug." I do not wonder at that, excess of any kind is unwholesome, and too much eating or drinking will often produce nausea; but that is no reason why the temperate should be deprived of their quiet enjoyment, or relinquish the advantages of their sober and legitimate pursuits. Bro. "T. F." is not content to limit his strictures to the conduct of Craft Masons, but characteristically has a fling at the Royal Arch, which he all but includes in the Schismatic degrees. But, *nil desperandum*, let us acknowledge our innocent follies, rejoice in the possession of our gilded and jewelled toys, and refrain from any attempt to hide what may be termed a childish delight in our bright coloured ribbons, but at the same time continue, as most of us have hitherto endeavoured, to do all in our power to ameliorate the condition of the aged, the widow and the orphan, not only in the household of the faithful but to every human creature who claims our consideration. Neglect in these respects on our part would indeed entitle us to the appellation of "law breakers." While

we continue to act in conformity with the principles of the Craft, our little innocent vanities will be readily overlooked by every good man and true. It has never appeared that gloom and cynicism have wrought much good in the world, or that a long face and sombre clothing have accelerated human happiness. The Creator's own work is full of bright colours and gorgeous decorations, and I am inclined to think we cannot do better than humbly and reverently follow His example.

Yours fraternally,

27th December 1875.

E. GOTTHEIL.

BRO. GOTTHEIL'S "SUGGESTION TO OUR JEWISH BRETHEREN."

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

RESPECTED FRIEND AND BROTHER,—Brother Gottheil is of the opinion that something still remains to be done to render our Masonic Charitable Institutions thoroughly effective. The orphan children of Jewish brethren, so he tells us, *hitherto* "have been unable to participate in the benefits of either of them." The charities are, of course, open to them, as to others, but the system of management is not such as our Jewish brethren desire for their children. We are bound to consider this statement from a brother who is a representative of a class of men and brethren who have nobly done their part, *not only for Masonic charities, but on behalf of many other such benevolent institutions.*

In considering Bro. Gottheil's letter, it will be well for us to remember a fact or two about which he says nothing, and which has an important bearing on the case.

"ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS."

1 (xlix.) It is "a fundamental principle of this institution that its benefits shall be extended to the sons of *all* brethren under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, without any distinction arising from religious belief. The benefits offered by the system in operation prior to the establishment of the school house *shall be continued* to the sons of brethren whose parents or friends may object to their being placed on the establishment." (Page 11, Laws 1873.)

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

2 (xlix.) "All girls duly elected become inmates of the establishment, *with the exception of the daughters of Jewish parents, who may be educated out of the establishment, if their relations and friends so desire.*" (Laws 1873, page 11.)

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

3 (lxiv.) "The General Committee may pay for the education of each boy (*or girl*) to the age of sixteen years, any sum not exceeding *twelve pounds per annum.*" (Page 15, Laws 1873.)

(Then follow rules as to the education, examination, and such like, of children educated in schools approved by the committee.)

4. It is evident, then, from the foregoing extracts, that a child of Jewish parents, if elected into either of our Masonic institutions, and whose friends object to his or her being educated with the other children, may be educated in a Jewish school, approved of by the committee, at an expense of twelve pounds annually (or less, if deemed desirable), though of this fact our Brother Gottheil makes no mention.

5. In view of the preceding, we have simply to consider the question of maintenance (*not education*), and for an additional £18 or £20 per annum we presume all that is necessary may be obtained, the cost per head of each child in the Institution being materially affected by the expenses of the secretarial and collecting departments, as also of the building fund, of which those out of the Institution would not require to be paid for, though, of course, on the calculation of the expenses, their number would be included.

6. Our able brother then alludes to the excellent funds of certain Hebrew lodges in London and in the country, which, for the number of the members, are equal to the best of any ordinary lodge funds in this country, and says, "*the calls upon which are unfrequent, and comparatively insignificant. The rest remains unproductive, and no benefit to anybody.*"

7. Assuming the total funds of the Hebrew lodges to be £5,000, we have an annual (and increasing) income of £250, and taking it for granted that the number of children elected *annually* who desire to be boarded and educated according to the Hebrew faith would not exceed from three to five: then surely £100 to £150 of such income might fairly be devoted to the object which Bro. Gottheil has at heart, and which object we most fraternally wish him success in achieving.

8. Should the lodges object to such a use of their funds, though, as Bro. Gottheil tells us, these funds are of little benefit to any one, not being much asked for, then we think it would be desirable to increase the sum payable by our Institutions to such children who wish to come under special regulations, so as to include board, clothing, and education.

With all respect, yours fraternally,

V.P.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—In my poor judgment, it seems that the only way of dealing with the obnoxious motion referred to by "W.M." in your issue of the 25th ult. is by motion, made and seconded, that so much of the

minutes of the previous meeting as relate thereto, be not confirmed. I find nothing in the Constitutions on this head, but Oliver, at pp. 187-8 of his *Masonic Jurisprudence*, under section, "Confirmation of the minutes," lays it down that "no resolution of a Lodge, or any other business, how unanimously soever it may have been agreed to in the first instance, becomes binding, and no action can be taken upon it till it has been confirmed by open voting at a subsequent regular meeting, with at least five Master Masons and members of the Lodge present; for as no business can be transacted at a Lodge of Emergency, except what is named in the summons, it would be improper at such a casual meeting of the brethren to read any minutes, except those which distinctly refer to the matter for which the special Lodge has been convened. So stands the law, and a very judicious law it is; for it prevents all factious intriguing, which could scarcely fail to be occasionally successful, if a resolution or law established by a majority of votes at one Lodge were irreversible at another." Bro. Chalmers I. Paton, without going as fully into the subject as Oliver, is equally explicit. His rules, at p. 234 of his *Freemasonry and its Jurisprudence*, as follows:—"After a Lodge has been opened according to the formalities of the Order, the first thing to be done is the reading of the minutes of the preceding communication, these are then to be corrected and confirmed by a vote of the Lodge. 2. To this rule there is this qualification, that the minutes of a regular or stated communication cannot be altered or amended at a special one." The italics are my own, for I am anxious to draw attention to the wording of this qualification. It seems to me the logical inference to be drawn therefrom is, that while the minutes of a regular communication cannot be altered or amended at a special one, they may be altered or amended at the next regular one. Further, I should interpret Bro. Paton's purpose in using "corrected and confirmed" and "altered or amended," to be this:—

The minutes, according to the rule, must be read in order that they may "be corrected" (verbally, if necessary) "and confirmed" (as to the matter, if it so seem fit to the Lodge). In the qualification, I consider *altered* applies to such verbal changes, if any, as may be thought necessary, while *amended* refers to any material changes the Lodge, on reconsideration, may think proper to adopt.

I am aware that Bro. Paton's book must be looked upon as chiefly intended for Lodges under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge, Scotland, but his confirmation of Oliver—and, I take it, he does confirm him—is a coincidence that must not be overlooked, even though the one is writing for Scotch, and the other for English Lodges.

Fraternally yours,

Q.

MASONIC GATHERING AT BRIGG.

From the "HULL AND LINCOLNSHIRE TIMES."

THE Installation of Bro. Samuel E. Hodgson, as Worshipful Master of the Ancholme Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, No. 1282, took place on Monday afternoon last, at the Masonic Hall, Brigg. The new W.M. is, we understand, the Vicar of Scawby, and has already filled the office of Grand Chaplain for the province of Lincolnshire; and so great was the confidence reposed in him by the brethren with whom he had been associated, that his election to the principal chair was unanimous. He follows in the footsteps of a most excellent master, Bro. Thomas Fryer, who has safely guided the Lodge through a shoal of difficulties which at one time threatened it, and under whose masterly rule the Ancholme Lodge still maintains a high rank in the province. For three years previously, Bro. Fryer had done the Lodge good service while filling the office of secretary; and in retiring from the chair on Monday last, the brethren paid him a graceful as well as a deserved tribute of their respect and esteem. His name will follow on the archives of the lodge those of many other distinguished Masons, and immediately that of P.M. Bro. W. Pigott, whose interest and exertions on behalf of the Masonic charities has earned for him the applause of the brethren generally, in the province and elsewhere. The lodge was formally opened and the preliminary business transacted under the presidency of the retiring Worshipful Master, who was supported on the dais by several Past Masters and Provincial Grand Officers. On the lodge being raised to the second degree, the chair was taken by the installing master, Bro. W. W. Copeland, P.M., of the Pelham Pillar Lodge, Grimsby, and P.P.G.S.D., who admirably performed the very solemn and interesting ceremony of installation, in accordance with the ancient formularies of the Craft. In the delivery of the charges, the Installing Master was ably assisted by Bro. Fryer, and at the conclusion of the ceremony, the newly-installed Master proceeded to invest his officers for the ensuing year, the collars having been bestowed as follows:—Bro. Thomas Fryer, I.P.M.; Bro. W. A. Field, S.W.; Bro. James Wilson, J.W.; Bro. T. B. Dalton, S.D.; Bro. F. R. Sutton, J.D.; Bro. Thomas Cleugh, secretary; Bro. Joseph Parker, treasurer; Bro. D. Walter Paterson, director of ceremonies; Bro. Jonathan Spring, organist; Bro. Charles L. Hett, I.G.; and Bro. J. Cawkwell, tiler. The Worshipful Master then briefly thanked the brethren for the honour they had conferred upon him by placing him in the dignified position he now occupied. He had not sought such an honour, and had previously no intention of aspiring to the chair; but at their kind request he had consented to accept the mastership, and felt deeply sensible of the compliment which had been paid to him. He also thanked the Installing Master for having come from Grimsby to take part in the ceremony of the day, and for the kindly aid he always extended to the Ancholme Lodge. He had now a still more pleasing duty to discharge, which was to convey to his Immediate Past Master a tangible expression of the manner in which the brethren appreciated the zeal and efficiency with which he had conducted the affairs of the lodge during the past year. So sincerely did they esteem Bro. Fryer

personally, and so grateful were they for his conduct in the chair, and the way in which he had assisted the lodge, that they had spontaneously subscribed for the purchase of a Past Master's jewel, which he had now extreme pleasure in placing upon Bro. Fryer's breast. Might he have long life and health to continue his very valuable services to the Craft in general, and the Ancholme Lodge in particular (loud applause). Bro. Fryer, who was evidently taken by surprise by the presentation of this beautiful jewel, was so overcome by emotion that he was utterly unable to express his thanks to the brethren, but resumed his seat amidst the most hearty applause. Some other matters of routine business having been transacted, the lodge was closed in due form.

In the evening a complimentary banquet was given to the Immediate Past Master, at the Angel Hotel, when a sumptuous repast was provided by Mr. Kirkham. The Worshipful Master, Bro. S. E. Hodgson, presided, supported by Bro. Thomas Fryer I.P.M., the "guest of the evening," and amongst those present we also observed:—Bros. W. W. Copeland P.P.G.S.D., W. Pigott P.M., W. Marshall P.M., J. Robinson W.M. of the Pelham Pillar Lodge, Grimsby, Thomas Marris P.M. P.P.G.P., W. Swallow P.M., W. H. Sissons P.G.S., and M. Woodall of the St. Matthew's Lodge, Barton; Bros. W. Hesseltine, H. J. Amphlett, Alexandra Lodge, Hornsea, Thomas Cleugh, Joseph Parker, T. B. Dalton, Charles L. Hett, Jonathan Spring, J. R. Dudding, Robert Johnson, J. Wilson, F. R. Sutton, &c. The vice-chair was occupied by the S.W., Bro. W. A. Field, and Bro. Dr. Walter Paterson officiated as the Director of Ceremonies. At the conclusion of the repast, the customary toast of "The Queen and the Craft" was given from the chair, and was most loyally received, as also was that of "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales G.M. of England, the Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family."

Bro. J. Robinson next proposed "The Right Worshipful the Pro. Grand Master of England, the Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Lodge of England," the toast being received with the usual honours.

Bro. W. H. Sissons then gave "The Right Worshipful Prov. Grand Master of Lincolnshire, the Duke of St. Albans, Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Bro. W. H. Smythe, and the Prov. Grand Lodge of Lincolnshire." In doing so he expressed regret at the infrequency of the opportunities afforded them of meeting with the Provincial Grand Master; but thought the province was exceedingly fortunate in having so able and painstaking a Deputy in the person of Bro. Smythe. On no occasion, when asked to meet and assist them, did he refuse; he was always glad to aid them by his presence whenever any event of importance to the Craft took place in the province. (Applause.) Therefore, from the high esteem in which he was held by all the brethren, he felt assured that the toast would be most heartily received. (Musical honours.)

Bro. Swallow, in returning thanks for the Prov. Officers, said he was sorry they did not see so much of his Grace the Duke of St. Albans as many of them would like; and if he were to attend their meetings oftener they would have much greater pleasure in according a hearty reception to the toast just proposed. (Hear, hear.) Every one would have great pleasure in returning thanks to Bro. Smythe, who was a good and true man and Mason. (Applause.) He returned his heartfelt thanks for the compliment paid to the officers of the Prov. Grand Lodge; and felt sure that when the brethren attended that assembly they must all be satisfied with the way in which the work was performed. He thought this Lodge was second to none in the world, and when Grand Lodge was held in Brigg, this year, he felt they would all be exceedingly delighted. (Applause.)

The Worshipful Master then proposed, what he might call, emphatically, the "toast of the evening." He felt he must propose this toast himself, not only from the high position he held as the Master of this Lodge, but also from the fact of his having received so much kindness from Bro. Fryer, while filling the chair of the S.W., and in other offices in the Lodge. In proposing "Our Guest," he remembered—though it was not pleasant to recall disagreeable facts—that some people thought, because there were certain clouds on their horizon some time ago, that therefore Masonry in Brigg was likely to fail. He, for one, however, felt perfectly certain that they had amongst them good and true men, who would never allow such a catastrophe to happen; and since then they had had fresh blood infused into their Lodge. While that new blood had helped to strengthen them, he was bound to say that the older brethren all worked with a will; so that, so far from the Ancholme Lodge failing, it was now rapidly in the ascendant. Moreover, they would all agree that a great deal of its present prosperity was due to Bro. Fryer, than whom no man could have laboured more conscientiously in doing his duty. (Applause.) No man could have done his duty more zealously, or have been kinder or more ready to assist his officers and the brethren generally than had been Bro. Fryer. He only hoped every Lodge might have as good a Master as the Ancholme Lodge had possessed during the past year. He concluded by proposing, with all his heart, the "health of their worthy Immediate Past Master, Bro. Thomas Fryer." (Loud cheers.)

Brother Thomas Fryer, who was received with prolonged applause, thanked the brethren sincerely for the honour they had paid him; for, indeed, it seemed to be a tacit understanding amongst them to pour down honours upon him. For what he knew not, unless it was for simply discharging his duty (applause). They all knew that, when he was elected Master of this Lodge, he thought himself—and he dared some of them also thought with him—that they should have a year of trial, but he felt also that he had those at his back who, to use a vulgar phrase, "Never say die" (hear, hear). He had his Immediate Past Master and other Past Masters and officers to help him, and who were always as ready to do so as they were thoroughly efficient. He could not express the feelings which came welling up within him in response to the kind fraternal welcome they had accorded to him. This jewel which he wore upon his breast should ever be regarded as a token of gratefulness from the brethren of the Ancholme Lodge. If they were ever to remember that they were brethren indeed, and not merely so in name, but in feelings and emotions, acting for the mutual welfare of each other, they would

all do differently. This world of ours would be almost transformed; and if they all carried out the grand principles of Freemasonry they would want no other, and no better, religion (applause). If, as they invested themselves, and studied the beautiful ritual of the Craft, their better nature asserted itself, and they resolved to observe and carry out those principles, they would achieve a glorious work. If they could, all of them, through the length and breadth of the land, carry out the tenets of the profession of Masonry, then the Craft would rise higher and higher in usefulness and popular esteem. Some time ago he read of a man who had fallen to the lowest depths of poverty and degradation. That man was a Mason, but had never entered his Lodge for years. One day, turning over some old things, he came across a package which contained his Masonic apron, and the sight of it so filled his mind with past recollections, what he had heard and learnt in the ancient charges, and when he had acquiesced in the tenets and principles inculcated in his Lodge, that he was filled with remorse. The grave question came to him, "How have I fulfilled the pledges I then made? and how have I striven to emulate the ennobling principles of Freemasonry?" He put aside his apron, and resolved to lead a new life (applause). So, whenever they invested themselves with the emblems of their profession, let them observe in their hearts what they signified; and then might they truly follow on the principles so nobly dictated to them by the Craft (cheers).

Brother W. Pigott next proposed "The Installing Masters," in doing which he observed that the brethren of the Ancholme Lodge were deeply indebted to the brethren from a distance, who came annually to assist them in the ceremony of installation. Brother Copeland had installed most of the Masters of this Lodge, and with his name he would couple the toast which had been entrusted to him. Every one present must have enjoyed the efficient way in which Bro. Copeland had conducted the ceremony; and this day he had been ably assisted by their own immediate Past Master. He lived in hope that in years to come they might have other Past Masters able to assist in that interesting ceremonial; but that as long as he was able to come amongst them, he trusted, for the sake of "Auld Lang Syne," that Bro. Copeland would strain a nerve to be present amongst them on all such occasions. (Applause.) He had many matters concerning the Craft upon which he desired to speak; but, as the visitors would have to leave by an early train, he would content himself with simply proposing the toast he had named. (Cheers.)

Bro. W. W. Copeland, remarking that "time, tide, and trains wait for no man," said he would be brief in responding to the last toast, which had been so cordially received. He was extremely obliged to his esteemed friend on the left for so kindly coupling his name with the toast, and for the complimentary observations that had fallen from his lips. He had pleasure in assisting at the consecration of the Ancholme Lodge, when it was formed, some years ago; and to-day's ceremony made the fifth of its kind in which he had taken a part. To-day it afforded him much gratification to have been so ably assisted by their own Immediate Past Master, and echoed the sentiments of Bro. Pigott, who desired to see the past officers taking a more active part in such ceremonies. However, he had put off an important engagement in order to be present to-day; for he held it to be a duty to assist, if he could, any Lodge which might be desirous of such help. He hoped he should live to assist at many more such ceremonies in the Ancholme Lodge, and to do what little he was able in furtherance of Freemasonry in Brigg. (Applause.) There were many old and pleasant associations surrounding this town, and it afforded him peculiar pleasure at all times to come and try to be of service to the brethren here. He wished especially success and happiness to the newly-elected officers, and trusted that the W.M. might not be in fear of any such troubles coming upon him as Bro. Fryer had in his year of office. (Laughter, and hear, hear.) He hoped all would go amicably and smoothly with the Lodge, and that it would continue to prosper and become more extensively useful in the district. If anything pleased him to-day it was the tribute of respect and esteem which the brethren had presented to their worthy Immediate Past Master. He felt that the subject of that testimonial was the right man in the right place; and he was glad they had recognised the fact by the beautiful present, which must have been to Bro. Fryer a source of immense pride and gratification. He trusted the newly-installed Master had a very pleasant year before him, and that, under his judicious and wise ruling, it would continue to be in the ascendant. (Applause.)

Bro. Thomas Marris, in giving the "healths of the Visiting Brethren," said it was always a pleasure to see brethren from other Lodges visiting the Ancholme; and they valued greatly the interchange of good feeling which was thus engendered. Their motto was brotherly love and charity, and they should do their utmost to cultivate that intimate acquaintance and friendship which tended to promote the principles of Masonry. Thus they would form a column of mutual support and strength, and would do much to further the interest and welfare of the Craft. He trusted the new year had dawned upon this Lodge with increased happiness and prosperity, and that they might experience no serious drawbacks. He thought Bro. Fryer might look back upon his year of office with satisfaction, knowing that all the troubles which at one time seemed hanging over the Lodge had been dissipated like clouds before the wind. He had worked the Lodge with credit to himself, and satisfaction to the whole of the brethren, and he had also rendered very valuable assistance to the sister Lodges in the province. He had been the mainstay of the Ancholme Lodge, and no doubt he would well support the new W.M. who had been installed this day.

Bro. Marshall, P.M. of the Pelham Pillar Lodge, responded on behalf of the visitors.

Bro. T. Fryer then proposed "The Worshipful Master of the Ancholme Lodge," a toast which he felt sure they would all receive with acclamation. Bro. Hodgson had been his S.W., and during his year of office had always shown himself to be a most efficient officer. He was convinced that in him the Ancholme Lodge would have a W.M. who would do justice to it, for he had judgment to discern, and ability to

execute his duties. (Applause.) He exhorted the brethren to be punctual and regular in their attendance at the Lodge meetings; and to make such study as would enable the Master to look with confidence to each and all of them in case their assistance might be required. Their W.M. was so efficient that there need be no fear for the popularity and progress of the Lodge during the ensuing year; and he trusted he might be supported by every officer and brother in the Lodge. (Cheers.)

The Worshipful Master, who was most cordially welcomed, said he felt exceedingly the high honour they had conferred upon him this day; and he did not believe any man could be made Master of a Lodge without feeling what an important—and he might say solemn—place he had to fill. He need hardly say that he had always looked upon Freemasonry, not merely as a vehicle for conveying charities to other people, but also as an instrument for improving themselves. (Hear, hear.) As a minister of religion himself, he regarded Masonry as second only to religion itself in conveying truth to others. He must confess that, although in his younger days he never aspired to any office like this, yet he had great pleasure now in accepting it. Still he considered it was far better for one who aspired to the Master's chair to work up through every office; and he could have wished that he had had another year of study before he accepted that responsible position. However, he would do his best, with the aid of his Past Masters, to see that all the ceremonies were carried out as they should be; and he trusted they might have a satisfactory and successful year. Once more he returned them his grateful thanks for having raised him to the honourable position he now held. (Cheers.)

Several other toasts were honoured, including "The officers of the Ancholme Lodge," "The Masonic Charities," the "Ladies," &c., and with some excellent singing the evening was spent pleasantly, Bro. Jonathan Spring rendering valuable assistance as accompanist, on the pianoforte.

TESTIMONIAL TO BRO. SEATON, M.D., P.M. 857.

A NUMBER of the brethren gathered at the hospitable residence of Bro. J. Seaton, M.D., P.M. 857, at Halifax, on Tuesday, 4th of January, the occasion being the birthday of their kind entertainer, and advantage was taken of the event to present him with a handsome portrait that had been subscribed for by them. Flies had been placed at their disposal at Sunbury Station, and they were conveyed to Halifax House, where a most excellent dinner was provided, and a kindly welcome. After the cloth had been removed, the picture was presented by Bro. Wynn Williams, M.D. 857, who, in a few well-chosen words, expressed the pleasure the brethren felt in wishing their esteemed host happy returns, and presenting him with the testimonial portrait, a mark of their appreciation of his conduct as a Mason. Bro. Seaton replied in feeling terms. The health of the artist, Bro. Frances Pile, was duly given and responded to. The portrait (in oil) was much admired, and reflects great credit on the artist. The necessity of being in time for the return train shortened an evening's enjoyment, but the brethren will long remember the pleasant hours spent on the 4th of January, at Halifax House.

TEACHING A CHILD HOW TO SWIM.—Bro. Captain Webb writes in *Cassell's Family Magazine*, for January:—It is the duty of every parent to insist on his sons learning to swim. Now, to teach a very young child to swim, the best place of all is a large puddle in the sands at low tide. The child, like a puppy, will begin by paddling. If you throw a cork into the water, you will see the puppy run in up to his depth, and give a short bark; and the chances are, especially if there is a grown-up dog that can swim to set him an example, that in a day or two he will take his plunge of his own accord, and very proud he will be of his first success; only here, again, don't overdo it; as soon as the puppy has been in, walk away and call him, and he will be the more anxious to go into the water another time. The principle is somewhat similar to Sam Weller's letter: "She'll wish there was more, and there's the great art o' letter-writin'." Now, pity your child like your puppy; entice him in, and if you can get some older child who can swim to go in with him, all the better, but let the child do just as he likes. Perhaps the first day he will be afraid to go into the water deeper than his knees. Here again a little artifice may be employed. Get two children to play at splashing one another—they will enjoy the fun, and, gradually getting excited, will very likely venture in deeper and deeper.

COURTESY TO STRANGERS.—The manner of receiving visitors in the Lodge, Chapter and Commandery varies not only according to lines of latitude and longitude, but according to the individual ideas of those who for the time may have the direction of affairs in these bodies. We have visited Lodges far distant from home, where although unknown and lacking a personal introduction to the brethren, we have been given so warm and cordial a greeting that we almost forgot we were strangers in a strange land. In a few cases we have been held at arms length, as it were, and have been made to feel almost as though we were intruding upon our brethren in asking admission to their assemblies. Doubtless there are some impostors, some heedless and designing members of the Order, whom to bar out from Masonic intercourse and sympathy would be no great wrong. But because of these characters, with which all Lodges have to deal, and the remembrance of whose visits is never altogether pleasant, it should not be forgotten that one of our grand watch words is "Fraternity," and that courtesy and hospitality to strangers are especially called for both by the letter and the spirit of Masonry. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."—Hebrews 13:2.

INSTALLATION OF H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.,

Most Worshipful Grand Master, &c., &c., having been graciously pleased to accept the special Dedication,

A S P L E N D I D

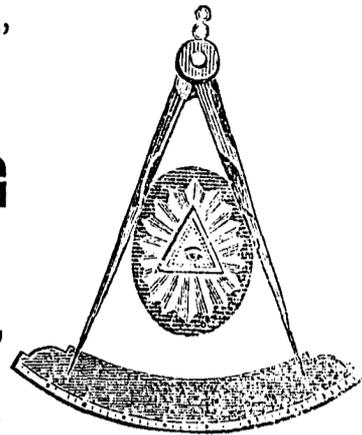
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IN THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL,

By BRO. EDWARD JAMES HARTY, S.D. No. 1201.



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STRAND.—At 7.0, TWO TO ONE. At 7.40, A LESSON IN LOVE. At 9.30, ANTARCTIC.

VAUDEVILLE.—At 7.30, A WHIRLIGIG, OUR BOYS, and A FEARFUL FOG.

GAIETY.—At 7.30, OPERETTA. At 8.0, TOTTLE'S. At 10.0, TOOLE AT SEA.

DUKE'S.—BLACK EYED SUSAN, &c.

GLOBE.—At 7.30, MAN IS NOT PERFECT, and BLUE BEARD.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 8.0, MASKS AND FACES.

COURT.—At 7.30, BROKEN HEARTS, and A QUIET RUBBER.

ST. JAMES'S.—At 7.30, PRETTY POLL. At 8.15, ALL FOR HER.

ROYALTY.—On Monday, THE DUKE'S DAUGHTER.

CHARING CROSS.—At 7.30, BROUGHT TO BOOK. At 8.15, MARRIED IN HASTE, and THE SILENT WOMAN.

ALHAMBRA.—At 7.15, LORD BATEMAN.

PHILHARMONIC.—At 7.30, OPERA MAD. At 8.0, FRITZ.

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OFFICE: 6 Freemasons' Hall, W.C.

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

President: H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., M.W.G.M.

A QUARTERLY General Court of the Governors and Subscribers will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on Monday, the 10th day of January 1876, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Institution.

To approve a list of 59 Candidates, as recommended by the General Committee, from which Nine Boys shall be elected at the Quarterly General Court, to be held on Monday, 10th April 1876.

To consider the recommendation of the General Committee, as notice of motion.

That the right to the presentation of a properly qualified boy, in perpetuity, for admission to this Institution, be secured to the Province of Warwickshire, on payment to the funds of this Institution of One Thousand Guineas.

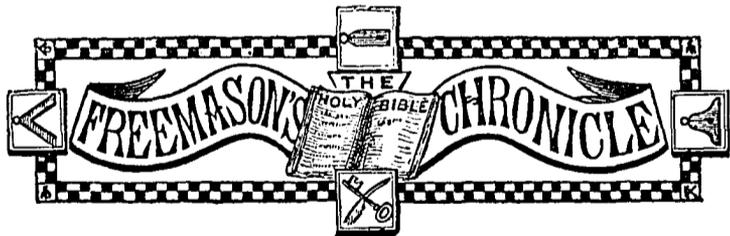
Also to consider the following notice of motion, given by Bro. C. F. Matier, and seconded by Bro. J. L. Hine:—

"That any brother, not serving the office of Steward, who may collect for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys the sum of Fifty guineas, shall, when that sum is completed, be made a Life Subscriber, and have One Vote for Life, and should he collect a further sum of Fifty guineas, shall, on the completion thereof, receive an additional Vote, and so on for every further Fifty guineas he may collect."

The chair will be taken at Twelve o'clock at noon precisely.

* * The twenty-eighth Anniversary Festival will be held on Wednesday, 28th June 1876, on which occasion the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, has most kindly consented to preside. The names of brethren willing to act as Stewards will be thankfully received.

By order, FREDERICK BINCKES, P.G. Steward,
OFFICE: 6 FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, W.C. Secretary.
1st January 1876.



67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THE principal events that have marked the recent progress of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales during his visit to India have been the unveiling the statue of Lord Mayo and the holding of a Durbar for the purpose of conferring the order of the Star of India, in its several grades, on certain of the native princes and personages of high degree, as well as on a few of our own countrymen whose services called for some acknowledgment of their merit. A long procession was duly marshalled, and was witnessed by a very large assemblage of people, the ceremony of investiture being very imposing, and lasting some two hours. It will also be gratifying to our readers to learn that two Masonic addresses, one of them in a casket of very elegant workmanship, were presented to H.R.H. the M.W.G.M. by the brethren in the Bengal district. Having attended a public breakfast at Bankipore, on the 4th instant, when covers were laid for 420 guests, his Royal Highness started at noon for Benares.

Now that the Christmas holidays are at an end, people are beginning to look forward to the approaching assembly of Parliament, but though there are sundry questions which

may provoke a considerable amount of comment, such as the action of the Admiralty in connection with the Vanguard court martial and the accident to the Iron Duke, and the new Slave Circular, there appears, at present, to be nothing calculated to disturb the existing political situation. The Conservative majority is still as great, the Liberal party is still as disunited as in the last and previous years. No doubt exists, of course, that the Government purchase of the Khedive's shares will be freely criticised, but the country seems to have made up its mind that the conduct of the Government does them great credit, and, accordingly, such criticism as may be made will be productive of more than one debate, but any opposition that may be made will probably be limited to *Vox et Praeterea Nihil*. In fact, there is every prospect of a quiet Session. No doubt the ministry will confine its attention to useful practical measures, leaving theory and hobbies to look after themselves. If so, we shall be quite content with the legislative work of the year.

Hardly have we had time to express our regret for the destruction by fire of the Goliath, and the attendant loss of life, when news is published of a similar calamity, but, happily, without loss of life. On Monday morning early, one of the boy sentries on board the training ship "Warspite," lying off Woolwich, and belonging to the Marine Society, reported that smoke was issuing from the cockpit. The officer of the watch at once gave the necessary orders for the boys to turn out. His instructions were obeyed with alacrity; the hose was got ready, the pumps set going, and a vigorous attempt made to put out the fire. Meantime Captain Phipps, who held the command of the vessel, and was sleeping ashore, was summoned, and he at once gave orders for the huge and powerful steam floats to be sent for, and if these did not come in time, he made ready to put the boys on shore. The fire spread rapidly, however, in spite of the gallant exertions of the officers and boy crew, and at length the latter were landed, with the exception of a number sufficient to work the pumps. At length a steam float arrived on the scene, and was shortly followed by others, but though huge volumes were poured upon the ill-fated ship, the fire continued to hold its own, and it was then determined to scuttle her. This, however, took some time, and even when it had been accomplished, the fire still raged, it being ebb-tide. Thus within a few days, two training ships, to which we look for a supply of sailors, both for our Royal and Merchant Navies, were completely destroyed, and, as regards the "Warspite," there are, unfortunately, some ugly rumours afloat as regard the fire having been the work of an incendiary. However, the inquiry is still proceeding, and we shall know ere long how much, or how little truth there is in the rumour.

The new year opened very inauspiciously for the Great Eastern Railway. A third class carriage, one of two attached to an ordinary train that left Lowestoft on Saturday morning, was overturned, owing to the engines leaving the rails not far from Somerleyton. There was a gang of men working on the lines at this spot, and the foremost engine knocked two of them over. The foreman of the second engine was thrown under the break van, and died from the injuries he received, just as he was being conveyed into the hospital at Lowestoft. The screams of the women in the overturned carriage were very appalling, but some of the male passengers smashed the windows, and having scrambled out, aided in rescuing their fellow passengers. The two platelayers were killed, and sundry others, including a guard who had been in the Thorpe accident, more or less severely injured or shaken. A train was at once despatched from Lowestoft with medical men, stimulants, and all the necessary appliances to meet a calamity of this kind. The usual inquest has been since held, and the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the newly laid rails were not sufficiently secure to allow of the passage along them of trains at the rate of more than seven miles an hour, and that the supervision of the line, as described by one of the witnesses, was inefficient. Among other accidents that have lately occurred, must be mentioned another fatal colliery explosion in Staffordshire, by which five lives have been lost. It is now known that the number of persons killed by the recent terrible Swaithe Colliery explosion amounts to one hundred and forty-one.

On Wednesday, the Earl of Derby, who is honorary Colonel of the 1st Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, delivered the prizes to that regiment in St. George's Hall, Liverpool, the Countess of Derby, with other ladies and gentleman

being present. Before the distribution, his Lordship addressed the men at some length, noting especially the steady progress made in recent years by the volunteers generally, and singling out for special praise the 1st Lancashire. Lord Derby further laid great stress on the importance of steady and continued drill on the part of the men, who must throw their energy, and, if necessary, their lives into the work, for it was only on such terms that an army of regulars or volunteers could be made.

Brighton is always full of attractions, and on Wednesday, the Royal Pavilion was the scene of one of the most brilliant and fashionable assemblages ever held within its walls. This was a grand ball given by the officers of the Scots Greys. All the rooms and corridors were magnificently decorated, military dances forming a conspicuous element. Over a thousand guests were invited, and the majority of them attended. Dancing was continued till a very advanced hour; the supper, which was served in the Banqueting room, by the messman of the regiment, being in perfect keeping with the splendour of the ball. Bro. Kuhe's festival will be held from the 15th to 28th February, and will include a series of ten concerts.

Our readers will doubtless remember that a team of American riflemen crossed, last year, to contend with an Irish team of equal strength in an international match. After a gallant contest, the Americans recorded the victory. They then attended the Annual Meeting of the National Rifle Association at Wimbledon, and attempts were made to get up a contest between England and the United States. The attempt failed, but the prospect of a contest with such magnificent sportsmen as Colonel Gildersleeve was not to be lost sight of, and it has been recently announced that a challenge from the National Rifle Association of America has been received and accepted by the National Rifle Association of England for a grand international match at Philadelphia in the autumn of this year. Sir Henry Halford will captain the Englishmen, and Major Drake, R.E., will act as adjutant. The team will consist of eight, with four waiting men, and these will be selected at two competitions, one in the spring, and one to be held as soon as possible after the Wimbledon Meeting. Further rules have been laid down, and the men who go out will have to bear their own expenses, and be subject to the strictest discipline till the contest is over, when they will be permitted to make any business or pleasure engagements they may choose to contract.

The sporting world has lost, in Sir Anthony Rothschild, brother of the late Baron Rothschild, one of its keenest and warmest supporters. Sir Anthony was born in 1810, and was one of the leading members of the celebrated firm. On his brother's death he took over his valuable racing stud. For years past he had hunted regularly in Buckinghamshire. He is succeeded in the baronetcy by his nephew, Mr. Nathaniel M. de Rothschild, M.P. for Aylesbury, son of his elder brother, Baron Lionel de Rothschild.

Considering the immense destruction of property by the recent inundations of the Thames, we are not surprised to learn that the proprietors of several wharves, factories, and stores along the river have already commenced operations with a view to protect their property against the coming of the next high tidal wave. These precautionary measures are being taken at Horselydown, Bankside, Limehouse, and portions of the Lambeth riverside west of Blackfriars Bridge. At Plumstead, where the land is low, and suffers greatly from an overflow, it is proposed to construct two immense reservoirs on the marshes, to receive the overflow: at least a plan to this effect has been put forward and submitted to the district Board of Works. On the other side of the river, the Poplar Board of Works are said to be contemplating serving notices on the owners and occupiers of premises by the river side, requiring them to raise their river walls at least five feet above high water. These steps indicate a considerable amount of energy on the part of owners and occupiers, as well as of the local authorities. At the same time there is a Bill about to be brought forward, under the auspices of the Metropolitan Board of Works, having in view to prevent as far as possible these terrible inundations.

There is no accounting for the silly taste which induces many people to indulge in practical jokes. It appears that in the fashionable neighbourhood of Burlington and Cornwall Gardens, a number of people, as yet undiscovered by the police, have been indulging in the discreditable practice of window-breaking. Every night since Christmas, when, for the most part, the residents have been some time

in bed, the windows of the fine mansions in this quarter have been broken, and even the brick piers of the house have been pulled down. The result is, of course, a considerable amount of damage, in addition to the disgraceful disturbance of honest people during their hours of rest. A number of ghost stories are in circulation, which we trust the police will contrive to solve at no distant period.

Acts of gallantry are of common occurrence among our police-constables, but it is seldom that a reward is better deserved than by Constable Thomas Hearn, 247 G, who finding the door of Mr. Diterick's premises, 4 Coleman-street, Finsbury-square, unsecurely fastened, tried, and at once pushed it open. On entering, Hearn perceived the glimmer of a light, which, however, was at once extinguished. He then turned on his bull's-eye, and saw two men, of whom one, Dillon by name, approached, and made a stab at his face. To avoid this Hearn struck him with his truncheon. Dillon then called out, "Clarke, shut the door," and another man, Tyrell, struck at the policeman with an iron bar, but was felled by an effectual blow from the valiant constable's truncheon. Two of the men then ran out, and the policeman then seized Tyrell by the throat, and, in order to avoid being thrown, was again compelled to use his staff. Dillon, one of the two, who had momentarily escaped, was afterwards captured. Both prisoners were found guilty, and Dillon was sentenced to seven, and Tyrell to five years' penal servitude. Mr. Edlin, the assistant judge, highly complimented the constable, and ordered him to receive a reward of £2.

The news from abroad is by no means without interest. First, as regards this country. Lord Northbrook, finding his health will not bear another summer in India, has resigned his Viceroyship, and will return home in May, being succeeded by Lord Lytton, who has been a member of the Diplomatic Service for nearly a quarter of a century, and is now H.M. Minister at Lisbon. Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer an Earldom on Lord Northbrook, in recognition of his valuable services. As regards our relations with Egypt, there were, a few days since, rumours of a serious disagreement between Mr. Cave, the agent of our government, and the Khedive, respecting the manner in which His Highness's financial statements had been prepared. It is said the Khedive has given way. The approaching elections in France do not seem at present to be causing any great excitement. Marshal Canrobert has refused to be put in nomination for the Senate, lest his candidature should be turned to account against the ministry of his old companion-in-arms, the Marshal President MacMahon. M. Buffet, however, recommends his election by the department of the Left. M. Gambetta has published a manifesto, in which he violently attacks the government. The Cortes in Spain is about to be elected by universal suffrage, and there are rumours that several Carlist Officers and men have been shot at Estella, for being engaged in a conspiracy against the life of Don Carlos. The Generals of the German Army, headed by the venerable Field Marshal Wrangel, paid their congratulations to the Emperor William on New Year's Day. The Emperor cordially acknowledged their good wishes.

The Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193, will hold its meetings at Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall Street, E.C., until further notice.

Bro. Herbert Rymill, of Barbican, has made his customary gift of coals to the poor.

The Almanack of the *City Press* for the year 1876 has life-like portraits of the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, and the Sheriffs, Bro. Alderman Knight, and Bro. Deputy Broffitt.

We are gratified in announcing that Bro. T. W. Ockenden has handed over to Bro. Terry £11, being the amount realised by the entertainment given at the Oriental Buildings, on the evening of Thursday, 23rd ult. Bro. Ockenden hopes to supplement this amount by £2 or £3 more, so soon as the returns of his tickets has been completed.

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.

SATURDAY, 8th JANUARY.

Quarterly General Court, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 12.0.
1426—Great City, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C.
R. A.—Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.
1391—Commercial, Freemasons' Hall, Leicester.
1556—Addiscombe, Alma Tavern, Addiscombe.

MONDAY, 10th JANUARY.

Quarterly General Court, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 12.
45—Strong Man, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell, at 8. (Instruction.)
68—Royal Clarence, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
104—St. Johns, Ashton House, Greek-street, Stockport.
411—Commercial, Flying Horse Hotel, Nottingham.
589—Druids' Love and Liberality, Clinton Arms Hotel, Redruth.
650—Star in the East, Pier Hotel, Harwich.
665—Montagu, Royal Lion, Lyme Regis.
1021—Hartington, Masonic Hall, Custom House Buildings, Hindport-road, Barrow-in-Furness.
1069—United Brothers, Castle Hotel, Southsea.
1350—Fermor Hesketh, Masonic Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool.
1398—Baldwin, Castle, Dalton-in-Furness.

TUESDAY, 11th JANUARY.

55—Constitutional, Wheatsheaf Tavern, Hand-court, W.C., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, at 6.30.
93—Social, Freemasons' Hall, Norwich.
284—Shakespeare, Masonic Rooms, Warwick.
448—St. James's, Masonic Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax.
892—Royal Edward, Royal Oak, Leominster.
903—Gosport, India Arms Hotel, Gosport.
1133—Devon, Masonic Hall, Devon-square, Newton Abbot.
1228—Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone, at 8. (Instruction.)
1250—Gilbert Greenhall, Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street, Warrington.
1337—Anchor, Masonic Rooms, Durham House, Northallerton.
1465—Ockenden, Talbot Hotel, Cuckfield, Sussex.

WEDNESDAY, 12th JANUARY.

Committee, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
9—Albion, Regent Masonic Hall, Regent-street, W.
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth.
193—Confidence, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover. (Instruction.)
290—Huddersfield, Masonic Hall, Huddersfield.
666—Benevolence, Prince Town, Dartmoor, Devon.
851—Worthing of Friendship, Stayne Hotel, Worthing.
1101—Grey Friars, Masonic Hall, Reading.
1424—Brownrigg, Assembly Rooms, Old Brompton, Chatham.
R.A.—683—St. Woolos, Freemasons' Hall, Newport, Monmouthshire.

THURSDAY, 13th JANUARY.

27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W. (Instruction.)
534—Polish National, Freemasons' Hall.
657—Canonbury, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street.
1260—Hervey, 152 Fulham-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
35—Medina, 85 High-street, Cowes.
139—Britannia, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
216—Harmonic, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.
330—Unity, Crown Hotel, Penrith, Cumberland.
546—Etruscan, Masonic Hall, Caroline-street, Longton, Stafford.
732—Royal Brunswick, Royal Pavilion, Brighton.
739—Temperance, Masonic Room, New-street, Birmingham.
945—Abbey, Abbey Council Chambers, Abingdon, Berks.
1429—Albert Edward Prince of Wales, Masonic Hall, Newport, Mon.
1457—Bagshaw, Bald Faced Stag, Buckhurst-hill.

FRIDAY, 14th JANUARY.

278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
36—Glamorgan, Freemasons' Hall, Arcade, St. Mary-street, Cardiff.
1087—Beaudesert, Assembly Rooms, Corn Exchange, Leighton Buzzard.

SATURDAY, 15th JANUARY.

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

SCOTLAND.

TUESDAY—13—St. John, Fort William.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—145—St. Stephen, St. James' Hall, Writer's-court.
TUESDAY—1—Mary's Chapel, Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo-place.
WEDNESDAY—2—Canongate, Kilwinning, St. John's Chapel, St. John's-street.
R. A. 1—Edinburgh, Freemasons' Hall.
THURSDAY—8—Journymen, Blackfriars-street, High-street.
FRIDAY—55—Canongate, Kilwinning, St. John's-street.

GLASGOW DISTRICT.

MONDAY—162—St. Mark's, 213 Buchanan-street.
" 29—Star, 12 Trongate.
" 307—Union and Crown, Barhead.
" 384—Athole, Washington Hotel, Kirkintilloch.
" 403—St. George, Odd Fellows' Hall, Helensburgh.
TUESDAY—413—Athol, 213 Buchanan-street.
" 449—Glasgow, 24 Struthers-street.
R. A. 69—St. Andrews, 170 Buchanan-street.
WEDNESDAY—178—Scotia, 170 Buchanan-street.
" 333—St. George, 213 Buchanan-street.
THURSDAY—R. A. 50—Glasgow, 213 Buchanan-street.
FRIDAY—275—Shamrock and Thistle, 24 Struthers-street.
" R. A. 141—St. Rolox, Garngad-road.
" 18—Dumbarton, Mission Hall, Dumbarton.
" 170—Leven St. John, Black Ball, Renton.
SATURDAY—23—St. John, Black Bull, Kirkintilloch.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Kilwinning Lodge, No. 4.—The members met in their own Hall, 170 Buchanan-street, Glasgow, on Wednesday, 5th January, R. B. Prout R.W.M. in the chair. Bros. Holmes S.W., McCullouch J.W., McKune J., R. Prout sen. acting I.G., D. Ramey O.G. On the dias also were Bros. Arthur, Mother Kilwinning, No. 0, G. W. Wheeler 73, J. Bain P.M. 106, J. Murdoch P.M. 131, J. Mann S.W. 419, J. McInnis D.M. 408, J. Wood R.W.M. 541, and J. Ferguson P.M. 503. The only business before the Lodge was the consideration of the case of the widow of a deceased member, which was left for the Master and Wardens to deal with. The R.W.M. said they had held an emergency meeting last week, and wrought the three degrees, that the first meeting in the new year might be devoted to harmony. The brethren spent a couple of hours very happily together, Bro. Bain P.G.B.B. responding to the toast of the P.G.L., Bros. Arthur, Wood and Ferguson to that of the visitors. Prosperity to Kilwinning, No. 4, was given by G. W. Wheeler, and acknowledged by the R.W.M., and also by Bro. Prout sen., one of the oldest members of the Lodge. The Masonic Press was responded to by Bro. Wheeler, on behalf of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, and Bro. Ferguson.

St. John's Old Kilwinning Lodge, No. 6, Scotland.—This Lodge held its annual meeting on the 27th December 1875, at five o'clock. Present—Bros. Alexander Ross W.M., Walter Carruthers S.W., G. G. Allan J.W., Donald Reid Secretary, Hugh Rose Treasurer, William Burns S.D., A. T. F. Fraser J.D., C. Spinks and J. Menzies Stewards, G. G. Tait I.G., J. Fotheringham Tyler. Business—Election of officers for the year 1876, and the annual distribution of charities from the funds of the Lodge, when £2 2s was subscribed to the Inverness Infirmary, and £2 2s to the Soup Kitchen, Inverness. The brethren afterwards dined, and received deputations from St. Mary's Lodge of Co-operatives, No. 339, and St. Neman's, Nairn.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—Met at the Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C., on Monday, 3rd January. Present—Bros. Winkler W.M., Foxcroft S.W., Pilbeam J.W., Trowinnard S.D., Mitchell J.D., Saul I.G., Beckett Preceptor, Killick Sec., and a very large number of members as well as several visitors, including Bro. Eyber of Lodge Aahaas, Denmark. The minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation rehearsed, Bro. Hill being the candidate; the Auditors' report unanimously adopted; Bro. Halford was elected Treasurer in place of Bro. Defriez, resigned; Bro. Killick re-elected Secretary. A vote of thanks was unanimously awarded the Auditors. Bros. Payn 201, Boby 1201, and Brienholt 228, were elected members. It was unanimously resolved that a ballot for a life votership take place at the next meeting, and Bros. Halford and Foxcroft were appointed Scrutineers. A vote of thanks to the W.M. brought the business to a close, and the Lodge adjourned until Monday next, at eight o'clock.

Thistle and Rose Lodge, No. 73, Glasgow.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, 4th January. G. M. Donald R.W.M., John Bannerman Depute Master, J. Valentine S.M., J. Stewart P.M., A. McLeod S.W., J. Wilson acting J.W., R. Richard Sec., John Kay S.D., B. Levi I.G., A. Kay Tyler. A proposition was read, from an Israelitish gentleman, who was very carefully initiated by the R.W.M. The Lodge was then opened in the 2nd degree, and Bro. G. W. Wheeler passed Bros. John Frates and Sigismund Kaufmann to the Fellow Craft degree. The Lodge having been raised to the 3rd degree, and as both these brethren were leaving the city, Bro. D. Gilchrist R.W.M. of St. Andrews 465, raised them to the sublime degree of Master Masons. On the proposition of Bros. Wheeler and McLeod, Bro. Turnbull, of Mother Kilwinning, No. 0, and Bro. Samuels, of the Star 219, were affiliated as honorary members of the Thistle and Rose. The Lodge was then closed in harmony.

Love and Honour Lodge, No. 75.—This Lodge held its annual meeting on 29th ult., at Masonic Hall, Royal Hotel, Falmouth. Present—Bros. William H. Dunstan P.G.S.Wks. W.M., Thomas Webber S.W., Arthur B. Harris J.W., Harry Tilly S.D.; Chas. H. Williams J.D. (*pro tem*), William Johns D.C., Henry James I.G., William Rusdin P.P.G.T. Tyler, William D. Rogers Secretary, Walter F. Newman P.M. P.P.G.S.D. Treasurer. Past Masters—Bros. Jno. Vivian, Francis Dennis P.G.P., T. C. Polglase, Michael Little, and others. Visitors—Bros. T. Gill P.M. 967 P.G. Steward, A. T. Grant P.M. 318 P.G. Steward, J. M. Thomas J.W. 967, W. J. Thomas Secretary 967. Business transacted—Lodge opened in ancient form, minutes of preceding Lodges read and confirmed. After initiating Messrs. Collins and Lowry into the ancient mysteries, Bro. W. F. Newman P.M. P.P.G.S.D., in a very impressive manner, installed the W.M. elect, Bro. Thos. Webber, into the chair of K.S. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year:—Bro. W. H. Dunstan P.G.S.Wks. I.P.M., A. B. Harris S.W., Harry Tilly J.W., W. F. Newman P.M. P.S.G. S.D. Treasurer, Wm. D. Rogers Secretary, W. L. Fox S.D., Henry James J.D., R. Hasselwood I.G., Wm. Johns D.C., C. H. Williams A.D.C., G. W. Bishop Organist, Joseph Wallace S.S., J. C. Benney J.S., and William Rusdin Tyler. Bro. T. C. Polglase P.M. was appointed Steward of the C.M. Amnity Fund, and Bro. Richard Carter was invested with a P.S.W. collar. The brethren then adjourned to the banquet, which was served up in the host's best style. Amongst the visitors were Bros. E. T. Carlyon P.M. 331 P.P.G.S.W. Prov. G. Sec., Thos. Solomon P.M. 331 P.P.G.S.W., Richd. John P.M. 131 P.P.G.D.C., T. Gill P.M. 967 P.G.S., A. T. Grant P.M. 318 P.G.S., Thos. Oliver jun. W.M.

331, J. M. Thomas J.W. 967, and W. Jas. Thomas Sec. 967. The usual loyal, Masonic, and other toasts were introduced by the W.M. in a very happy style, and were drunk with enthusiasm, after which the company became convivial. Bros. Olver, Jenkins, and Benney favouring the company with songs. On the whole, a very pleasant and harmonic meeting was spent.

Imperial George Lodge, No. 78.—This Lodge held its St. John's Festival on Thursday, the 23rd of December 1875, at the Assheton Arms Hotel, Middleton. Present—Bros. W. H. Kershaw W.M., David Reid S.W., Forrester Fothergill Secretary, W. Percival S.D., John Wood P.M. D.C., J. Millhouse I.G., G. Bradbury J.W., Harley Heywood P.M. Treasurer, S. Lawton J.D., E. Hatton Steward, John Kent Tyler. Past Masters—Bros. Dyson, Garlick, Chatham, Nathan, &c. Visitors—Bros. Cox P.G.S.D., Hind P.M. Timperley P.M., Owen, Harwood, Willing, Murray, Dee, Crompton, Dickson, and others. Business—The Lodge was opened, and the installation of Bro. Reid, W.M. elect, was at once proceeded with by Bro. John Wood P.M. D.C., who performed his duty in a most able manner. The investment of the various officers followed, after which the Lodge was closed according to ancient custom, when the brethren retired from labour to refreshment. The banquet reflected great credit on the hostess, Mrs. Harrison. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and drunk with great enthusiasm, especially that of His Royal Highness the G.M., for on this occasion the P.M.'s and officers of the Lodge, who attended the installation of His Royal Highness, presented a magnificent portrait of the G.M. in full Masonic costume to the Lodge, and it was unveiled by the Secretary. Each toast was followed by appropriate songs, glees and speeches.

Chapter No 87.—This Chapter met on Wednesday, 5th of January, at 12 Trongate, Glasgow, Comp. G. B. McNaught Z. presiding, when the Mark degree was very effectively wrought by Comp. A. Mercer, 1st Sojourner. There was a good attendance of members for the first meeting in the year.

Friendship Lodge, No. 100.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 30th of December, at the Crown and Anchor Hotel, Great Yarmouth. Present—Bros. Jas. Bond W.M., E. J. Boufellow S.W., R. Martins J.W., J. W. French S.D., R. S. Steele acting J.D., C. M. Kirkham I.G., J. Holt Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. W. D. Palmer, J. Franklin, Edward Howes, A. Haulon, H. Campling, and a large attendance of brethren. The Lodge was opened at 5 o'clock, and the minutes of the previous meeting confirmed. Bro. Rev. J. Garney (Oxford) was unanimously elected a joining member. Messrs. J. W. Bennett, A. D. Bennett, T. C. Blyth, and Harry Mayer were initiated; Bros. Frederick Welham and Robert Scott passed to the 2nd degree, and Bro. Henry Sidney Lacon was raised to the 3rd degree. The ceremonies were conducted throughout by the W.M., and lasted nearly four hours, the visitors, who were Bros. G. J. Briggs (London), Dr. J. C. Smith 313, and T. Briggs (Sunderland), complimented the W.M. on the excellent working of himself and officers. The Lodge then closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshments.

Royal Gloucester Lodge, No. 130.—On Thursday afternoon, 5th January, Bro. W. J. Hickman was installed W.M. of the Royal Gloucester Lodge of Freemasons, by the R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (Bro. W. W. B. Reach M.P.) The ceremony took place at the Masonic Hall, Baylestreet, when the P.G.M., accompanied by his deputy (Bro. W. Hickman) and several past and present provincial officers, was received with the customary honours. The Installing Board comprised no less than twenty Past Masters, and there was a large attendance of brethren at the installation ceremony, which the P.G.M. most impressively performed. The newly installed W.M. of the Royal Gloucester has filled the office of S.W. during the past year, and succeeds in the chair Bro. Morris Miles, who has done credit to himself and honour to the Lodge, which has been attended by a gratifying measure of progress and prosperity. After the W.M. had been inducted and proclaimed, he proceeded to appoint and invest his officers as follow:—Bros. R. Sharp S.W., C. W. A. Jellicoe J.W., M. Miles I.P.M., the Rev. E. Y. Nepean P.P.G.C. Chaplain, J. E. Le Feuvre Treasurer, J. N. Weston Secretary, Jas. Coles S.D., Jennings J.D., F. Myer I.G., H. M. Pike Organist, Robertson and Obree Stewards, Biggs Tyler. At the conclusion of the proceedings a cordial vote of thanks, proposed by the W.M. and seconded by the I.P.M., was tendered to the P.G.M. for his kindness in specially attending to perform the ceremony of installation. The P.G.M., in responding, expressed the pleasure it always afforded him to visit the Royal Gloucester Lodge, and then presented to D.P.G.M. Hickman the patent of his appointment as Deputy Grand Master of the Province, which had been beautifully written in illuminated text. He bore personal testimony to the value of Bro. Hickman's services in the high office which he filled, and said that his Masonic labours, both in the province and in London, were cordially recognised and approved throughout the Craft. The D.P.G.M., in accepting the same, conveyed his sense of the high honour conferred upon him by the P.G.M. in appointing him as his deputy, and said the pleasure and satisfaction had been greatly enhanced by the cordial manner in which all the Lodges he had visited in the province had, by their reception of him, endorsed that appointment. It would ever be his endeavour to promote the true interests of Freemasonry, and to render every possible assistance to the P.G.M. in discharging the important and responsible duties associated with the government of the province. The W.M. then proposed, and Bro. T. P. Payne P.M. seconded a vote of thanks to Bro. Morris Miles for the efficient and assiduous manner in which he had discharged the duties of W.M. during the past year, and that he be presented with a Past Master's

jewel in recognition of the same. This was cordially supported by the P.G.M., who spoke very highly of Bro. Miles's Masonic services; and the vote having been unanimously agreed to, it was suitably and gracefully acknowledged. Another gratifying incident followed, in the presentation to Bro. P.M. Booth, who has undergone a long and painful illness, of a testimonial, consisting of a purse and an illuminated address, recording the value of the services rendered by him in the various offices he has filled during a lengthened Masonic career, and specially his readiness at all times to aid and instruct individual members of the Order. The testimonial was raised chiefly in the Gloucester Lodge, but several brethren connected with other Lodges contributed to it, in order to manifest their esteem towards Bro. Booth. The P.G.M. referred in terms of warm commendation to Bro. Booth's services, and spoke approvingly of the course which the Lodge had adopted in giving this practical expression of its regard to one who so well deserved it. In some kindly and well chosen words he asked Bro. Booth's acceptance of the testimonial; and the latter, in returning thanks, said that nothing had so much cheered him during his recent illness as the knowledge that the Royal Gloucester Lodge were intending to make him this presentation. There were but three present who were members of the Lodge when he joined it, Past Masters G. Dunlop, H. Abraham, and T. P. Payne. Time made great changes among them, but he hoped that he might still be spared to render further services to Masonry, and specially to the Royal Gloucester—his mother Lodge—to which he was deeply attached. D.P.G.M. Hickman then proposed, and Bro. J. E. Le Feuvre P.M. seconded, that the thanks of the Lodge be rendered Past Master H. Abraham, and hereafter recorded in a more permanent and substantial form, for the able manner in which he had discharged the duties of Treasurer during a period of twenty-two years, to the great advantage of the Lodge, whose finances, mainly owing to his exertions, were in a most flourishing condition, as shown by the fact that there was a good balance in hand, and also an accumulated fund. The proposition was passed with great cordiality, and P. M. Abraham, in responding, expressed the satisfaction it had afforded him to render the service which he had been enabled to do as Treasurer of the Lodge. He was pleased to say that he handed over to his successor a balance of more than £90, which showed that the finances were in a different position than what they were when he first took office. He had not, moreover, waited till old age and incapacity came upon him before resigning his position. In the prime of life and the pride of health he had surrendered it to their worthy Bro. Le Feuvre, and was glad to be able to advise him to do as he himself had done. The I.P.M., Bro. Miles, then asked the Lodge to accept a handsomely-framed and glazed tablet, recording the names of Masters and Wardens of the Royal Gloucester Lodge from its commencement, which he had collected from the minute-books. This the brethren very cordially did, with an expression of thanks to Bro. Miles for his handsome present. The Lodge duties were shortly afterwards brought to a close; and at seven o'clock a large party sat down, under the presidency of the W.M., to an admirable banquet, provided by Bro. Dartnall in his very best style, at the conclusion of which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and the healths of the newly-installed Master, the D.P.G.M. and many others were drunk with great heartiness; Bro. F. Perkins P.M. and M.P. was present at the banquet. The proceedings throughout were of truly fraternal character, and the Royal Gloucester, under its new Master, enters upon another year amid the most favourable auspices.

Lodge of Lights, No. 148.—The annual installation meeting of the members of this old and flourishing Lodge took place last Monday, at the Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street, Warrington. Those who have witnessed many installations must have been frequently struck by the unusually lively and animated appearance of the scene. The brethren begin to assemble shortly before the time specified for the commencement of business, and at once proceed with their robing. Fresh arrivals are frequent now, and the fraternal grip is as frequently given and reciprocated. Each countenance is radiant with pleasing anticipations, and each heart seems to go out to his brother. Friendly converse and sometimes "chaff" is the order now, and rarely if ever is perfect harmony disturbed. The W.M. elect—proud man—is the centre of attraction, and receives an unusual share of friendly greetings. The retiring Master is usually a very popular man with his brethren, and a brother of very great importance in the Lodge. To him falls the duty of installing his successor in office, and a high honour he considers it. But few retiring Masters attempt this part of their prerogative, perhaps for the reason because of its difficulty; and, for another, because, like Christmas, it comes but once a year. Surely there must be something good in Freemasonry, and those who witnessed the beautiful ceremonies so admirably performed at this Lodge on Monday last must have experienced a real treat. Bro. William Robinson S.W., who had been elected to fill the chair at a previous meeting, by the unanimous voice of his brethren, was in his place, and ready to receive further "Light." Bro. Bowers P.M., &c., the popular W.M. of the Lodge, took his position in the East, precisely as the clock struck three, and at once opened the proceedings. The following brethren and visitors were present—Bros. Stringer P.M., Finney P.M., Harding P.M., Pointer P.M., Sharp P.M., Richardson P.M., Pollitt P.M., and Alderman Hephead P.M. &c. The sound of the gong in the East, and the call to order brought the brethren to their feet, and the business of the Lodge began. Bro. Robinson was presented, by Bro. John Harding P.M., for the benefit of installation, and having made the preliminary declaration, awaited further advancement. Another part of the Lodge was now presented, and a Board of Installed Masters formed. Bro. Bowes, the Installing Master, taking his place on the T., was assisted by Bro. Finney P.M. as S.W., and Bro. Pointer P.M. In this position of the Lodge Bro. Robinson, as J.W., was placed in the chair of K.S., with all our ancient ceremonies, and amid the plaudits of the brethren of this advanced position. The Board of Installed Masters having been closed in form, the brethren of this degree were admitted, and offered their

greetings to the new W.M., who was pleased to accept them. The W.M. then appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers for the ensuing year, viz. :—Bros. Bowes I.P.M., Tunstall S.W., Armstrong Treasurer, Pickthall J.W., Bowes Secretary, Young S.D., Jones J.D., Paterson I.G., Hannah O.G. or T. At the close of the proceedings, Bro. Bowes received a well-merited and unanimous vote of thanks for "the admirable, able, and impressive manner in which he had performed all the duties of Installing Master." That worthy and distinguished brother having acknowledged the compliment, the Lodge was closed in due form, and with the usual solemnities. The brethren now adjourned to the Patten Arms Hotel, for the banquet. The W.M. took the chair, and was favoured with the presence of an unusually large number of brethren of his own Lodge with visitors. Of the banquet we must say that it was sumptuous in the extreme, and reflected the very highest credit upon Bro. Hughes, the host. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to, and we regret that our space does not admit of our giving them in *extenso*. We must however just say, in conclusion, that the most perfect harmony and good fellowship prevailed throughout the whole proceedings, and we desire to offer the new Master of the Lodge of Lights our congratulations on the occasion of his attaining so high an honour, the highest honour it is in the power of any Lodge to confer upon any one of its members.

Domestic Lodge, No. 177.—The Audit Meeting of this Lodge was held on Friday, the 31st December, under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. G. Everett; Bros. Treadwell W.M. elect, J. Willing jun. J.W., J. Smith P.G.P. Treasurer, Lieut. Kent C.C. P.M., Walford P.M., &c. The business of the Audit being concluded, the brethren sat down to a very excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Clemow, and superintended by Bro. Smith. The W.M. very genially presided, and gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts; after which he proposed the toast of the Auditors, who, under the guidance of the Secretary, showed such a favourable result. Bros. Montague and Plummer responded to the toast. Bro. Joseph Smith P.G.P. and Treasurer, in eulogistic terms, proposed the toast of the W.M. He said that, during his occupation of the chair the duties had been satisfactorily carried out, and he had personally interested himself to see the amounts due by the brethren were duly paid, which was so conducive to the success of the Lodge funds. Bro. Everett thanked the brethren for their kind expressions; it was a source of pleasure to him that he had given them satisfaction, and as this was the last time he should have the pleasure of presiding in the capacity of Master, he was pleased that every brother had enjoyed himself. The toast of the Past Masters was responded to by Bros. Lieut. Kent, Walford, and Tims. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the Treasurer and Secretary, and regretted the absence of the latter, who had held that post for over 36 years, to the satisfaction of all connected with the Lodge. With respect to Bro. Willing, his duties as Secretary were not light in a Lodge numbering 195 members. He was entitled to become an honorary member; his charitable feelings were well known and recognised, and he ought to have a testimonial worthy of him. (Cheers.) The W.M. informed them that the balance in hand was £50 16s 3d, after Grand Lodge and all other dues were paid, and £91 15s 6d had been voted to the Masonic Charities. Bro. J. Smith P.M. returned thanks, and said he had been Treasurer for 40 years, and a member of the Lodge for 45 years, he held the same position in many Lodges, and he was pleased with his association with this Lodge, as he had always been treated with great respect. Bro. J. Willing followed, and congratulated the brethren on the success of the Lodge, he hoped that they would not separate without congratulating the W.M. on his restoration to health, and he hoped it would continue, for he would, on his retirement from office, carry with him the good wishes of every brother; he was one whom they all respected (cheers), and he might be proud of wearing the Installation Jewel. He referred to their summer banquet, which had been a great success. The W.M. had constituted himself a Life Governor of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the W.M. elect, Bro. Treadwell, whom he was sure would do all in his power for the interests of the Lodge. Bro. Treadwell responded and said: There had been 20 Masters to the Lodge, and he hoped to be the 21st, he informed the brethren that he would appoint each brother another step. He congratulated himself on Bro. Willing's acceptance of the office of Secretary; he was a credit to the Metropolitan Lodges, and under those auspices he hoped to have a prosperous year of office. Bros. H. Stiles and H. M. Levy responded to the toast of the Visitors. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the Officers, and alluded to their very efficient working. Bros. Palmer, Buscall and White responded. The brethren then separated, after spending a very harmonious evening. Bros. Foxcroft and H. Stiles contributing to the harmony.

Joppa Lodge, No. 188.—The Installation meeting of this excellent working Lodge, whose members are composed of almost an equal number of Jewish and Christian brethren, was held on Monday, the 3rd instant, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. The term, "a Jewish Lodge," is only characterised by the viands, provided according to the Mosaic Law, and Grace said in the Hebrew vernacular. In all other respects the ritual is the same. Many brethren of the Christian faith have filled the various offices of Masters, Wardens and Officers, and one of the Past Masters of the Lodge, Bro. Albert P.M., was selected to fill the office of Assistant Grand Pursuivant. Present—Bros. S. L. Hickman, W.M., A. G. Dodson, S.W. and W.M. elect, L. Lazarus, J.W., L. M. Anerhaan Treasurer, E. P. Albert A.G.P. Secretary, and P.M.'s O. Roberts I.P.M., Israel Abrahams, L. Alexander, H. M. Levy, M. Alexander, Joel Phillips, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the election and emergency meeting of the 30th December were read and confirmed. Bros. Creamer, Dewsnap, and Hellier were raised to the 3rd degree, Bro. Cohen, 205, was unanimously elected a joining member. A Board of

Installed Masters was then formed, and Bro. A. G. Dodson, was installed into the chair, in the presence of 25 W.M.'s and P.M.'s, by the retiring W.M., Bro. S. L. Hickman, in a manner perfect and impressive. The customary salutes having been given, the W.M. invested his officers:—Bros. S. L. Hickman I.P.M., L. Lazarus S.W., Miller J.W., L. Auerhaan Treasurer, E. P. Albert Secretary, M. Spiegel S.D., A. Auerhaan J.D., H. Berkowitz P.M. Chaplain, H. Hymans I.G., P. E. Van Noorden Organist, Campion D.C., H. Isaac and Baker Stewards, Woodstock Tyler. The Lodge was then called off, and the brethren sat down to a very sumptuous banquet and deserts, provided by Bro. W. G. Jennings, manager, to the Albion Tavern Company, and superintended by Bro. Keeping. Grace was said by the Chaplain, and books of the words were distributed to the brethren. The W.M. then proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. Bro. Albert (who was received with great enthusiasm) returned thanks for the toast of the Grand Officers. Bro. Louis Alexander P.M. returned thanks for the Joppa Benevolent Fund, and Bro. Albert read the report, showing a balance in hand of £1,229 11s 2d. Two applicants were relieved without an entrenchment on the funded property, and it was announced that the brethren had subscribed that evening to the amount of £17 17s, Bros. L. M. and A. Auerhaan being the largest contributors, in the names of the ladies in their family. Bro. R. Emanuel returned thanks for the toast of the newly initiated. Bro. S. L. Hickman I.P.M., then rose and proposed the toast of the W.M. He stated that, by his strict integrity, and hard work, Bro. Dodson had arrived at the grand position he now occupies he would be a credit to the Lodge, and he was sure, under those auspices, he would have a happy and prosperous year (cheers). The W.M., in replying, thanked the brethren for their kind expressions, and also for the high and honourable position they had placed him in; he hoped to discharge his duties to their satisfaction, and to leave the chair with the same good feelings as his predecessor. The W.M. then proposed the health of Bro. Hickman I.P.M., and paid a deserved compliment for his great abilities and the admirable manner he had discharged his duties. He then placed on his breast a magnificent jewel, of artistic design, profusely set with diamonds (manufactured by Bro. A. D. Loewenstark and Sons), and he hoped he might live long in health and prosperity to wear it. Bro. Hickman, in the course of a very excellent speech, said he had to thank the brethren for the valuable jewel presented to him; he would always look on it with pride, for it was a source of great satisfaction to him to know that, during his year of office, the finances of the Lodge were in a flourishing state, and he was indeed gratified to find he had gained the esteem of the brethren of the Lodge. Bro. J. Ross P.M. 205, in returning thanks for the toast of the visitors said, he always considered the Lodge of Tranquillity a good working Lodge, and he felt a pride in it, but he was pleased to witness the perfect manner in which Bro. Hickman had performed the ceremonies of raising and installation. Bro. S. V. Abraham followed, he said it was twenty years since he was initiated in the Lodge. In the name of the visitors he thanked them for the reception they have given him the duties of the Lodge has been excellently carried out, and the brethren might be proud of their Benevolent Fund. Bro. O. Roberts I.P.M. returned thanks for the P.M.'s, Bros. Lazarus and Miller responding for the Wardens. The toasts of the Treasurer, Secretary, and Junior Officers were given and responded to by Bros. L. Auerhaan, E. P. Albert, and the latter toast by Bros. A. Auerhaan and M. Spiegel. The Lodge was then called on, and after some routine business, was closed. The W.M. provided the brethren with a musical entertainment, under the direction of Bro. P. E. Van Noorden; Bro. Donald King sang artistically, Mdle. Denham Mori, Mr. Prenton, and A. Mori assisting.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—This Lodge held its usual meeting on Wednesday, the 5th of January, at Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, Basinghall-street, E.C. Present—Bros. Abell W.M., Hollands S.W., D. Posener J.W., J. K. Pitt Sec., Geo. Corner S.D., Churchward J.D., Croaker I.G., Christopher Tyler. P.M. Bro. E. Gottheil Preceptor. Business—The Lodge having been opened, the minutes were read and confirmed; the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Biddell acting as candidate. The first three sections of the lecture were worked by Bro. Gottheil, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Hollands will preside on the next occasion. The ceremonies of consecration and installation (to be followed by a re-past) will shortly be worked in this Lodge of Instruction, of which due notice will be given.

Harmonic Lodge, No. 252, Dudley.—The Installation meeting of this flourishing Lodge was held, on Tuesday afternoon, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Stone-street, when about 35 brethren were present, amongst them being the following visitors: Bros. E. Poole W.M. 498, J. Dawes J.W. 498, R. L. Campbell W.M. 564, G. Smith P.M. 498, W. H. Jones P.S.G.W. P.M. 564, P. P. Baker P.M. 347, J. Taylor 696, G. M. Waring P.M. 347, and T. Trowman P.G.O. P.M. 573. The Lodge met at 3 o'clock, and was opened by the W.M., Bro. J. Stokes (Mayor of Dudley), and he was assisted by the whole of his officers. After the usual business had been transacted, the W.M. vacated the chair, and presented Bro. W. Smith (Town Councillor), to Bro. Masefield, D.P.G.M. Worcestershire, for installation, which ceremony having been very impressively performed, the W.M. invested his officers for the ensuing year as follow:—Bros. G. Bagott S.W., C. L. Lester J.W., M. Dennison Treasurer, W. Bristow P.M. P.G.S. Secretary, G. Thompson S.D., W. Waring J.D., Walker I.G., and H. Bagott Steward. The customary addresses having been perfectly rendered by Bro. Bristow, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to the banquetting room, where an excellent banquet had been provided by the worthy hostess, Mrs. Shepperd, in her usual excellent style. The W.M. presided, and he was supported by the Installing Master and the I.P.M. The usual toasts having been proposed from the chair and duly honoured,

harmony was kept up till a late hour, when the brethren separated, having enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

Pomfret Lodge, No. 360.—This Lodge held its installation meeting on Monday, the 27th of December, at the Lodge room, George Hotel, Northampton. Present—Bros. B. Wilkins P.M., D.P.G.M., acting W.M., J. Green P.M. S.W., T. Whitehouse J.W., G. Robinson Sec., B. Wilkins Treasurer, T. Whitehouse S.D., F. Gadsby J.D., J. U. Stanton P.M. and T. R. Wood Stewards, H. W. Parker I.G., Troup and Dean Tylers. P.M.'s—Bros. Boémé, Cotton, Tuffly, &c.; Bros. Norman, Bingley, Richardson, Brown, Wright, Atkins, Ellard, Winson, Ashford, Williams, &c. Business—Bro. M. A. Boémé P.M., the senior P.M. of the Lodge (who was unanimously elected at the previous Lodge), was duly installed W.M., Bro. Wilkins performing the ceremony in a most able and impressive manner. The W.M. then appointed and invested the officers for the ensuing year, as under:—Bros. Winter S.W., Whitehouse J.W., Gadsby S.D., Parker J.D., J. S. Norman I.G. Bros. Wilkins, Robinson, Stanton, Wood and Dean were re-appointed to their respective offices, the W.M. thanking them severally for their former efficient services. The report of the Audit Committee showed the funds to be in a prosperous state.

Athole Lodge, No. 384, Kirkintilloch.—The annual meeting of this Lodge was held in their Lodge rooms, on the evening of the 25th ult., for the election and installation of office bearers; there was a large attendance of the members, when the following brethren were unanimously elected:—James Graham R.W.M., Donald Patrick Stewart Proxy Master, Andrew Baxter D.M., Alex. Williamson S.M., John Torrens S.W., George Hunter J.W., William Gray Treas., David Dalrymple Sec., William Fleming Chap., Thomas F. Bruce S.D., John Hunter J.D., James Wilson S.S., George Pollock J.S., John Gray I.G., Alex. Wilson Tyler. Brother Halket P.M. 102 installed the newly elected office bearers, and thereafter referred to the progress that the Lodge had made during the last few years, not only in numbers, but also in efficiency. Bro. Graham, in a few appropriate remarks, thanked the brethren for the cordial and unanimous manner in which they had elected him to the chair for the fourth time, and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Bro. Halket for his kindness in attending the meeting and installing the office bearers. The Lodge was then closed in due and ancient form by the R.W.M.

Northern Counties' Lodge, No. 406.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Wednesday, the 5th of January, at Freemasons' Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Present—Bros. Knox W.M., Munday S.W., R. Armstrong Secretary, Armstrong S.D., Salomon I.G., Halliday J.W., Martin P.M. Tyler. Past Masters—Bros. Hughes I.P.M., Geo. Thompson, Rev. S. H. Harris. Visitors—Bros. Smaile P.M. 541 P.G.S.W., Davis P.G.D.C., Cooke P.M. 481, Spearman W.M. 481, Loades S.W. 24, &c., &c. Business—Mr. Isidore Summerfell was duly elected and initiated into our ancient rites by the W.M., and Bros. Errington and Sanderson were raised to the sublime degree of M.M.'s in a most impressive manner by the W.M., assisted by the I.P.M., Bro. Hughes.

Zetland in the East Lodge, No. 508.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Friday, the 12th of November 1875, at 8.30 p.m. Present—Bros. J. P. de Basagoiti W.M., W. Coveney as S.W., T. Colson as J.W., R. O. Norris as Sec., W. Pallies S.D., S. Stubbs J.D., A. C. Peterson as I.G., P. R. Lazar Tyler. Visitors—Bros. G. Harrington, Atlantic Phoenix Lodge and late Tyler of a Swan River Lodge, P. D. Small, Doric Kilwinning. Business—Election of W.M., Treasurer and Tyler. W. Bro. Major Samuel Dunlop, P.M. 178, Royal Artillery, was elected W.M. W. Bro. Basagoiti re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Lazar re-elected Tyler. A ballot for a candidate was unfavourable, and one for Bro. Macgarity as a joining member was accepted.

Cootehill, Co. Cavan, Lodge, No. 795.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Monday, the 27th December, at Bro. Rd. Germain's private rooms, Church-street, Cootehill. Present—Bros. Samuel Nelson W.M., Geo. Joseph Mason S.W., James Cooney J.W., James Geo. Adams Secretary, Henry Cooney Treasurer, R. Graham S.D., Rd. Egan J.D., Thos. Johnston D.C., Thomas Irwin Steward, Rd. Germain I.G., Emmanuel Anderson Tyler, Edward Cooney Chaplain. P.M.'s Bros. Ed. Cooney, Jas. Geo. Adams, Thos. Irwin, R. Graham, Jas. Cooney. Visitor—Bros. Alexr. Livingstone, No. 333. Business—This being the anniversary of St. John, the members of this A1 Lodge, after initiating Mr. Matthew Stokes, of Shercock, and balloting for Mr. James Irwin, of Ballibay, partook of a substantial dinner, &c., and spent the evening in a very jovial and brotherly manner. Several good Masonic and other songs and recitations enlivened the time. The above are the officers for 1876, who were installed in due and ancient form, and the brethren separated, well pleased with the evening's entertainment. The worthy host and hostess, Bro. and Mrs. Germain, received the thanks of the members for the manner in which everything was served up.

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AFFILIATION FEES.

THERE are a great many wise sayings going round the world in books and in the mouths of the people which would effect considerable good if only people would mind them, but the trouble is that too many of us are satisfied with commending them to our neighbours and paying little or no attention to them ourselves. Masons will recognise the following, from the charges of 1721:

"A lodge is a place where Masons assemble and work; hence, that assembly or duly organised society of Masons is called a lodge, and every brother ought to belong to one, and to be subject to its by-laws and the general regulations," as containing a principle so entirely sound that no one ever has or probably ever will dispute it, for if such were not the clear duty of Masons, then our organisation is not worth a rush, and it being a mere matter of taste whether a brother belong to a lodge or not, our organisations would disintegrate, and the whole system, built up with such infinite labour, and through so many years, in spite of so many chances and changes, would be scattered to the winds.

Nevertheless there are many thousands who have been regularly made Masons, and who have subsequently dropped out of the circle of active labourers, notwithstanding their admitted duty and pledges to the contrary. This well known disposition has long been a subject of anxiety to Grand Lodges and well-disposed craftsmen, and has led to a series of legislative experiments, none of which have proved satisfactory in abating the trouble, much less leading to its abrogation. The experiment now being tried in New York is based on an extreme view of the case, but so far as we have been able to judge, its principal effect has been rather to embitter and render more obstinate, than to conciliate and win back the class against which it is directed. This, however, we may remark, in passing, is the ordinary result of such enactments, tending as they do to stimulate the pugnacity of those opposed to them, and hence evoking an opposition based not so much on principle—for the principle is the other way—as upon sheer opposition, right or wrong.

Admitted, then, that every Mason ought to belong to some lodge; admitting the equally indisputable fact that a great many entirely neglect this duty who could much better afford to attend to it than some who are always at their posts, the result seems to take the form of a disease, for which, in all reason, there ought to be some possible remedy. Considering all that has been done up to this time, our own reflections have led us to believe that we have stopped throwing tufts of grass too soon, and resorted to stones without sufficient deliberation, and that there is yet time for mitigating coercion with some milder suggestion in the way of persuasion.

The policy of the Grand Lodge is that which, upon careful examination, will tend to the best interest of the lodges under its direction, and the policy of the lodges is to strengthen themselves by the adhesion and labour of all the brethren within the circle of their influence. That this may be accomplished, affiliation ought to be made as easy as possible, and in no case ought the disposition of an unaffiliated to resume labour be hindered or impeded by merely money considerations. No brother in this jurisdiction becomes a non-affiliate until he has paid the initiatory fees and one year's dues, which amount may range anywhere from 30 to 110 dollars. This payment admits him not alone to membership in a particular lodge, but makes him also a member of the great Masonic family, and yet, according to the practice of a large majority of our lodges, if one of these brethren, by reason of a change of dwelling, or other reason sufficient to himself, wishes to remove his membership from one lodge to another, he must pay an additional fee, ranging from 50 to 25 dollars. It is respectfully submitted that this is not equitable, and that the only fee charged should be the nominal one required by the Grand Lodge for the necessary change of entries in its books. Greater still is the need of reform in this particular when we desire to win back those who have fallen out of the ranks, but who hesitate to pay an affiliation fee equal to that paid for their initiation for the privilege of coming back. Every non-affiliate who returns to active duty is one more to help bear the heat and burden of the day, one more whose annual dues will help to meet the annual expenses, and therefore every encouragement ought to be offered to such to return, while in a still stronger light is the requirement that every active brother should have the facility of selecting and joining with the lodge in which he feels he can best work and best agree. For these reasons we are fully and clearly of opinion that our lodges will all have done a good thing for themselves when they abolish affiliation fees.—*New York Dispatch.*

THE MASONIC BANNER.—As the standard or banner of Freemasonry is made up of and derived from the banners of the four leading tribes of Israel, it may be interesting to learn what was the symbolic meaning given by the Hebrews to these ensigns. Vatablas quotes a Jewish writer as saying, "that the man in the banner of Reuben signified religion and reason; the lion in that of Judah denoted power; the ox in that of Ephraim represented patience and toilsome labour; and the eagle in that of Dan, betoken wisdom, agility and sublimity." But although such may have been the emblematic meaning of these devices among the Israelites, the combination of them in the Masonic banner is only intended to indicate the Jewish origin of our institution from Solomon, who was the last King of Israel under whom the twelve tribes were united.—*Jewish Chronicle.*

WHAT NEXT?—It seems that the Quakers of a Western town, desirous of doing something to distinguish themselves, lately refused to permit one of their number to be interred with Masonic form, as he had requested previous to his death, and as his family also desired. When the funeral cortege arrived at the cemetery, the brethren were obliged to wait outside while the bearers took the body and placed it in the grave. It occurs to us that if we had been Master of the Lodge we would have formed the brethren in due order on the highway, and in the presence of such of the friends as chose to assist, have complied with the dying request of the departed.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

The following statement shows the receipts for traffic on the undermentioned railways for the past week, as compared with the corresponding week in 1875:—

Railway.	Miles open. 1876	Receipts.	
		1876 £	1875 £
Caledonian	739	57,288	47,129
Glasgow and South Western	315½	18,172	16,474
Great Eastern	763	43,504	39,926
Great Northern	641	48,720	44,482
Great Western	1,531½	97,819	87,606
Lancashire and Yorkshire	431	63,222	59,161
London and Brighton	376½	31,572	27,609
London, Chatham and Dover	153½	16,486	14,057
London and North Western	1,586½	161,432	145,006
London and South Western	623	36,713	30,516
London, Tilbury and Southend	45	1,137	—
Manchester and Sheffield	259½	31,037	26,466
Midland	975½	104,962	96,788
Metropolitan	8	10,368	9,113
" " District	8	5,445	4,915
" " St. John's Wood	1½	501	483
North British	814½	47,961	43,586
North Eastern	1,400½	116,588	100,348
North London	12	7,368	6,271
North Staffordshire Railway	191	10,498	9,418
" " Canal	118	1,216	294
South Eastern	350	32,015	29,306

THE CRAFT in Ontario, Canada, laid the corner-stone of the new Methodist Episcopal Church, at Belleville, on 17th November ult. The edifice is to accommodate 1,200 persons, and cost 30,000 dols. Deputy Grand Master, Bro. W. H. Weller, officiated, assisted by the Grand Officers. From his able oration delivered upon that occasion we take the following extract:—

From time immemorial, it has been customary whenever Masons have been held in good repute, to seek their assistance in the erection of buildings of a public character; and on no occasion have Masons more cheerfully rendered such assistance than at the erection of an edifice to be devoted to the worship of God,—the promulgation of His just, wise, and beneficent laws, and the proclaiming His most inexhaustible mercies. We have been requested by the clergymen and Building Committee of the Episcopal Methodist congregation, to lay the corner-stone of this church, and by the direction of the Grand Master, I have convened here to-day a special meeting of Grand Lodge to perform that ceremony according to the ancient usages and established customs among Masons. As Masons bound to obey the moral and civil law, to fear God, to honour the Queen and assist in the preservation of peace and good order among men, we feel that it is peculiarly fitting that we should assist at the inception of a building intended for the public worship of the Most High and the propagation of that religion which bringeth "peace on earth and good-will to men." Masonry deals not with any particular form of religious belief; claiming only human origin, human aims and purposes, it can at best be but the handmaid of religion, and must perforce by the true Craftsman be held secondary to his religious belief and his obedience to the laws of his country. To you, Reverend Sir, and the building committee of this Church, I must say that you are to be commended for the zeal and energy you have displayed in undertaking the erection of this building, which, when completed, will not only be a commodious place of worship, but will also, as I see by the design submitted to me, prove an ornament to the town in whose prosperity we are all so much interested. We sincerely trust that you may in every way be able fully to carry out your designs, and that this building may ever be a place for good deeds and the promotion of Christianity and brotherly love."—*Keystone.*

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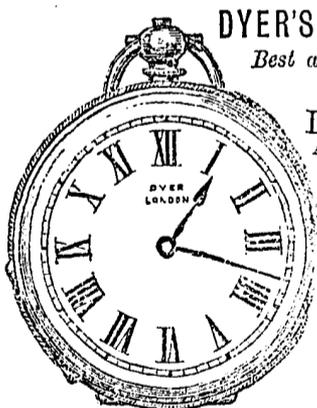
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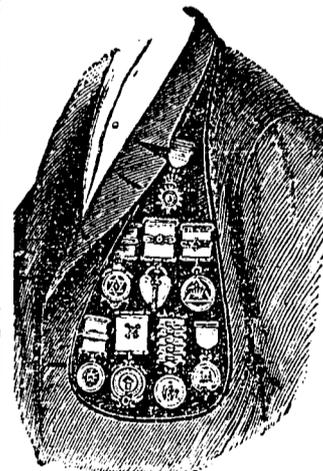
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