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THE ANTIQUITY OF FREEMASONRY.

IT has been asserted by the enemies of Masonry that the vaunted antiquity of the fraternity is a mere myth, which rests upon no solid basis of fact, and that Masonic appeals to history are but the efforts of the literary acrobat who jumps backwards into the past and fashions for himself the links with which he unites his isolated facts. Possibly the logic of some of the Masonic historians who have written upon the past career of the Order is open to this charge. We have ourselves noticed much loose writing and much vague assertion and surmise in some important Masonic works. But our critics, who are only too ready to discredit the antiquity of the Order, should remember the difficulties which surround the history of any secret society. Masonic history is undoubtedly involved in much obscurity, yet unquestioned proofs exist that the Craft, as a secret fraternity, existed in very early times. The Master Mason is a personage who figures in ancient historical documents, and it is quite certain that he was the chief of a band of subordinates, who held many secrets of the Craft in common. Gibbon tells us, in his history, that previously to the founding of Constantinople, "the magistrates of the most distant provinces were directed, by a royal edict, to institute schools, to appoint professors, and, by the hopes of rewards and privilege, to engage in the study and practice of architecture a sufficient number of ingenious youths who had received a liberal education." A similar mandate was issued by the Emperor Theodosius. In the eighth century, Charlemagne had invited artificers from every country of Europe in which they were established, to erect his church at Aix-la-Chapelle. It is therefore certain that bands of artisans so early as the eighth century were scattered over the Continent. After the Norman Conquest, Lanfrance and Gundulph brought over bodies of Masons to this country from the Continent. They had previously been employed in building the churches at Caen, and that attached to the celebrated Abbey of Bec. Gundulph himself appears to have been versed in Masonry, and the designs for some of the castles of the period are attributed to him. William, of Sens, appears to be the first Master Mason whose works still exist in England. He was assisted, and succeeded by William, the Englishman, in the completion of the Choir of Canterbury Cathedral. At the commencement of the thirteenth century the fraternity appears to have been consolidated in this country, as it had been for some years previously in Germany and France. The German school is held by some authorities to have had priority over the French. There was, it appears, a college of Masons at Strasbourg, and another at Cologne, and the Masters of these were allowed a jurisdiction over all inferior societies, wherever they exercised their craft. In these colleges regulations were passed, which were preserved under the strong sanction of good faith and secrecy. These colleges were probably very numerous attended by Master Masons; all instruction, it is said, was delivered orally. It is asserted that the Colleges of Masons, in every country in Europe, received in this century the blessing of the Holy See, under an injunction of dedicating their skill to the erection of ecclesiastical buildings, and that certain immunities were conceded them, such as forming themselves into migratory societies, under the government of a Master of the Craft, with the privilege of taking apprentices, who, after a due initiation, became FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS. This statement, however, has not been verified. Still it

cannot be doubted that Masons were at this time banded together in societies, and that the secrets or mysteries of the Craft were jealously preserved from the prying eyes of the vulgar. Many eminent ecclesiastics of the period are mentioned as the designers or builders of Churches and Cathedrals. No doubt, men like William Wykeham possessed some knowledge of architecture, but it is at least doubtful if the priests ever did more than suggest the rough ideas of buildings, while the details were supplied by the skilled craftsmen. Wykeham, indeed, appears to have been a skilled Mason, but many prelates whose names are associated with the building of cathedrals were, probably, mere patrons, who found the cash, and took to themselves the honour which should have been bestowed upon the Master Mason.

In the earliest era of the Masonic establishments, a geometrical figure was adopted in all sacred buildings, the import of which was hidden from the vulgar. It had possibly some Christian signification, but it had likewise a Masonic meaning which was perfectly understood by the fraternity. This symbol was formed by two circles cutting each other in their centres; it was held in high veneration, and was adopted by Master Masons in all countries. It was evidently symbolical of the principles which underlie the construction of the pointed arch. The brotherhood in this country were frequently employed on military works, and in the making of engines of war. The splendid castles of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries were the work of Master Masons and their subordinates; the names of some of the former have been handed down to us. There is little or no trace of the Freemasons as a fraternity from the fourteenth century, until the reign of Henry VI.; a MS., which is said to have been signed by this king, makes some curious references to the secrets of the Craft. The original, unfortunately, is not in existence, but a copy was taken by Leland, and preserved by him in the Bodleian Library. This has been recopied, and was first published at Frankfort, in 1748. This singular treatise is entitled—

*Certainne Questions wyth Answeres to the same, concerninge the mystery of Maconrye, writtene by the hand of Kinge Henrre the syxthe of the name, and faithfully copied by me Johan Peylande, Antiquarius, by comraunde of his Highnesse.**

From the treatise and the acute comments of Leland upon it, it is clearly established that, at this period (1445) the Masons possessed certain secrets. Leland, indeed, declares that such secrets the Masons must have, "for though, as some people imagine, they have no secret at all, even that must be a secret which, being discovered, will expose them to the highest ridicule, and, therefore, it requires the utmost caution to conceal it." The irony of this passage is sufficient proof that Leland was not at the time, when he wrote it, in any way connected with the fraternity, although it has been asserted that he was afterwards admitted a brother. The king's treatise commences with the question, "What mote it (the secret) be?" Answer: "Yt beith the skylle of nature; the understandynge of the myghte that ys herynne, and its sundrye werkynge, sunderlyche, the skill of reckonnynge; of wayghtes and metynge; and the true manere of faconynge all things for mannys use, headlie, dwellings and buildynge of all kindes, and all othier thynges that make goode te manne. What artes have theye?"

* King Henry VIII.

techedde mankynde? The Arts Agricultura, Astronomia, Geometria, Numeres, Musica, Poesie, Kymistrye, Governemente, and Religioune." The king was evidently very curious, and we can only wonder that he did not seek admission to the Order. Leland's comments upon the treatise are, as we have shown, evidently from the pen of a man who was inclined to treat the Order with contempt, although he fairly acknowledged its existence and its possession of a secret which he imagines may be no secret at all.

The Rev. James Dallway, to whose work we are indebted for some facts relative to the past history of the fraternity, has printed a list of Master Masons from the twelfth to the end of the fifteenth centuries. William Anglus is the first Master Mason of English birth of whom we have any authentic record; he assisted (twelfth century) at the restoration of Canterbury Cathedral. In the thirteenth century we find Henricus de Ellerton mentioned as "Magister Operum." In the next century, Richard de Stow was the Master Mason of Lincoln Cathedral, and Walter de Weston, of St. Stephen's, Westminster, and Windsor Castle, St. George's Hall. Robert de Skillington was Master Mason at Kenilworth Castle, during the extensive alterations which that structure underwent at the period. Richard II., in 1392, by Royal Warrant, directed Skillington to impress twenty workmen, carpenters, &c., for the purpose of pushing on the work. Preston says that in the computus of payments (1429) of the Cathedral of Canterbury, the names of the Masters, Wardens, and Masons, are all recited. In this century, William Harewood was Master Mason of the Chapel of the College of Fotheringay. John Wastell and Henry Semerk had the contract for the building of King's College, and John Smyth was Master Mason of Eton College. Edward Leaman, of Sewark, Master Mason of St. George's Chapel at Windsor, 1480 and 1499, received as wages one shilling per day, or about twelve shillings of our currency. William Orcheverde, towards the close of the century, was Master of Masonry of Magdalen College, Oxford, and in the sixteenth century, John Cole had the direction of the works connected with the tower and spire of Louth, Lincolnshire.

MASONIC PORTRAITS (No. 11.)

A ZEALOUS OFFICER.

"For Charity I'll prodigally spend myself,
And speak away my spirit into air:
For her I'll melt my brain into invention,
Coin new conceits, and hang my richest words
As polished jewels in her bounteous ears."

THE poets and painters have alike exhausted the resources of their respective arts, for the purpose of illustrating the divine graces of simplicity. The greatest writers have told us that the highest refinement and the most perfect simplicity always go hand in hand, and if we wanted an appropriate Masonic illustration from the arts, we might point to the Parthenon at Athens, which for ages has excited the wonder and admiration of the world. Even the ignorant tyro who gazes upon its severe, yet graceful outlines, is compelled to admire; but to appreciate all its grand simplicity and refinement the spectator requires an art education. It is only the artist, or the man of cultivated taste, who can fairly estimate the intellectual rank which must have been attained by the people of Greece before this masterpiece could have been produced. The progress of a people is usually from barbarism to vulgarity, and from vulgarity to refined feeling and a true estimate of what really constitutes elegance and dignity. In our social intercourse with each other we are sometimes inclined to forget the claims of simplicity. We are often willing to permit some foolish but pompous person to push his way into our good opinion, while we ignore the claims to consideration of the man who is content to take the lowest seat at table, or to be accounted as nothing, if, by self abnegation, he may advance the interests of a good cause. Society, indeed, as it is at present constituted, does not generally value quiet and unobtrusive persons. In the upper ranks of life it is no doubt true that men and women of the highest polish are remarkable for their charming simplicity of manner. The middle classes, however, are prone to take individuals at their own

estimate of value, and it is no uncommon thing to see a jewelled fop, who cannot clink two ideas together in his empty skull, strutting his little hour upon the stage of life, and throwing his evil shadow across the path of better and brighter men. Fortunately, the mental and moral qualities which wear well, are usually in the end respected by persons who have been duped by empty bombast and insolent pretension. Many of us, who have still a lingering regard for some creature gifted by nature with the art of swaggering and talking big, are yet compelled to confess that the homely person who has won our regard, because of his intrinsic worth, is of more value than all the ornamental persons it has ever been our fate to know. The ultimate verdict of most people is just; and possibly the greatest slave of fashion would, in his sane moments, confess his respect and admiration for plain honesty, ungarnished by any other grace than simplicity.

The brother whose portrait it is our ambition to transfer to the canvas, is undoubtedly remarkable for simplicity of manner. It is one of his prominent characteristics. The mind of the man is like a book, and he who runs may read the open page of his honest heart. His noble enthusiasm for the cause of Masonry has inspired him with strength to perform Herculean labours, although, unlike Hercules, his tasks have somewhat impaired his once vigorous health. Every one speaks of his obliging disposition and uniform affability, but perhaps few remark that the key note of the man's mind is politeness and charity. He is one of those men who really believe there is a vital force in the ethical principles of Masonry. The watchwords of the Order are with him no mere symbols to hang upon the wall, like the arms of a warrior whose fight is done; he really believes that he is called upon to wear them on all occasions, and to fight against evil wherever he sees it. Brotherly love, for example, is with him something more than a mere sentiment; all Masons he regards as truly his brothers, and his fine and noble reverence for charity does not merely lead him to perform those tasks to which we have alluded, but it teaches him to speak no evil of his neighbour. Truth, in its moral and scientific aspects, he holds in equal veneration, and possibly to his mind, as to all ardent souls, the grand lessons which are drawn from the mathematics of Masonry, have helped to press home and enforce the still grander ethical lessons of which they are the fitting symbols. The man, indeed, is true to the core, and in any secular position of trust and confidence he might have made his way.

In the commercial world, the energy and forethought which he displays in the cause of charity, would have led him on to fortune. But we venture to think that he was not conscious of his own powers until he found himself a responsible officer of the Order. His enthusiasm for Masonry, indeed, dates from the period when he was raised to the third degree. He then saw, as in a glass darkly, that there was something of tangible worth in the Order, and he determined to pursue his Masonic studies with ardour. Those studies were indeed laborious, and consumed all his leisure hours. He attended Lodges of Instruction every night of the week, and, like Socrates of old, he astonished all the sages by his insatiable thirst for knowledge. Here, indeed, was a man who, in the grand simplicity of his heart, believed that it was his duty to make himself acquainted with all the lore the Order could teach. No difficulties were too great for his zeal to conquer. He met, of course, with those rebuffs which men of a cold and calculating nature are so ready to bestow upon an ardent novice; but, like Socrates, he was always ready to confess his ignorance, and always willing to learn from any one who could teach. It was impossible for such a man to remain in obscurity. We know not whether our brother is ambitious, but if he be, his ambition is strictly held in subordination to the cause he has at heart. This, however, we do know, that his rise to eminence in Masonry was the result of no merely ambitious longings, but the outgrowth of that generous enthusiasm which shines in all our hero's says or does. After sixteen years of such a career as few Masons can boast of, he is at the present time an honorary member of fifty-three Lodges, and of twenty-two Chapters; he has consecrated thirty Lodges, and fourteen Chapters; and for the last three years has held the arduous post of Secretary to one of the great Charities. In this responsible office our hero has given ample proof that he possesses the highest qualifications of an administrator and a man of business. His energetic labours have produced good fruit, and the annual

cash statements of the Charity which is under his care are sufficient to show that his official honorarium is dearly earned. Last year the donations and subscriptions reached the large sum of £8,000, and although, from various causes over which he has no control, the amount he will receive this year may fall short of the above sum, the anticipated figure is a very large one. It is natural that voluntary contributions should fluctuate somewhat, and although our Charities are worked together harmoniously, it sometimes happens that they clash in friendly competition; or a district may have been so assiduously worked by a zealous steward that a fallow year is absolutely necessary to restore its waning fertility. There will possibly be some fallow districts this year, but our hero has his eye upon them, and is already calculating the crop he will reap when the soil has been restored to its pristine strength.

Our hero is, we need scarcely say, respected and loved by the good people who are the recipients of the Charity which he, in conjunction with the Committee of Management, has to dispense. The inmates of the Alms-houses regard him as a friend, and are always willing to pour their little troubles into his sympathetic ear. His kindly words, soft and smooth as "Terry" velvet, have often calmed a rising storm. His constant aim is to promote their comfort and happiness, and many an hour is spent by him in work not set down in his list of duties, but which has for its object the good of those for whom, by virtue of his office, he is almoner in chief. In his zeal for the cause he has quite forgotten his own comfort, and his great labours and anxieties have told heavily upon him. If we might venture here to utter a word of brotherly warning, we should counsel him to take more care of his health. All absorbing as are his Masonic duties, he should bear in mind that a break down would be a calamity which would be felt as keenly at home by those he loves, as it would be by the Masonic world. No man who is near the meridian of life should permit the restless activity of the spirit to wear upon the body. Our brother is doubtless as young in mind as he was when he gave his heart to the cause of the Order, but time, which leaves the soul untouched, impairs the vigour of most men. "The spirit, indeed, is willing, but the flesh is weak." We have referred to his home, and we may venture to say here, that within its walls our hero is the same genial, simple soul that he is abroad. If he forgets himself, he never forgets the claims of those nearest and dearest to him, in the person of his wife, sister, and child, but is always a tender and assiduous husband and a most indulgent father. No good Mason ever neglects his home, and if our hero could forget the first duties of a man and a citizen, his kindly honest face would not figure, as it does, on our canvas. He who lays his offerings upon the Altar of Home, approaches the Great Architect of the Universe by the most accessible road, for assuredly the family hearth is the Gate of Heaven. We have said nothing in detail of our worthy brother's relations with the members of the fraternity, but these, we need scarcely say, are of the most cordial character. It is impossible to know him and not to love him. The most obtuse person can see at a glance that he is ever ready to assist when his services are required; indeed, in this respect he is beyond all praise, and our readers are too familiar with this side of his disposition to need any further illustrations from our pen. Briefly, and in conclusion, he is all that a good Mason should be, and in his private life and public career he has shown that the principles of the Order are as vital as those great doctrines which lie at the root of religion. The ethics of Masonry have assisted to make this good man a hero in the truest sense of the term. He has, indeed, fought the good fight, and is still ready for renewed combat. We venture to hope that when the time shall come for him to ground his arms, he may find such reward as the Great Architect of the Universe has to bestow upon the virtuous, while he leaves a name amongst men which will not readily be forgotten.

THE "TWO CITIES."

THERE is a custom which obtains amongst the brethren in the provinces, but more especially in the Scottish metropolis, of forming deputations from one Lodge for the purpose of visiting one or more Lodges which may meet the same evening, and the advertisements in the *Scotsman* summoning the brethren, for in Scotland our elaborate system of sending a printed summons to each member is comparatively unknown, reads something like the following:—

Rifle Lodge, No. —
Fortnightly Meeting this evening at 6.30 p.m. Initiations —
Deputations at 7.30.
Bro. So and So, Secretary,

and at the appointed hour may be sometimes seen two and perhaps three deputations from as many Lodges paying their respects to the W.M. of the Lodge that has advertised a "deputation" night, each deputation consisting of the W.M., or Deputo Master, and several brethren. Here in London we are more exclusive, and although the Book of Constitutions expressly enjoins the Master and Wardens of a Lodge "to visit other Lodges as often as they conveniently can," it is rarely that we hear of or see the officers of one Lodge visiting another Lodge in a body. These remarks are a propos of a visit of the W.M. and officers of "The Great City" Lodge to what may, in a double sense, be termed their Sister Lodge, the "City of Westminster," meeting at the Masonic Hall, Air-street, Regent-street, by special invitation, on Thursday.

The Lodge was opened shortly after 5 o'clock by the W.M., Bro. Swallow, supported by Bros. Rev. Holden S.W. and Chaplain, White J.W., Beston S.D., Turner J.D., Parsons I.G., Shand D.C.; Bros. Bishop, Browning, Gibson, Woodward, Waugh, A. Emanuel, E. Emanuel, J. Emanuel; and many other members. Visitors, Bros. Cox W.M., Grosvenor, Hyde Pallen P.G.S.B., Boehr, Burrell P.M., Pratt, and Beverley of the Mount Edgecumbe Lodge 1446, J. Hamilton, Townend P.M., J. Seax S.W., Stevens P.M., Blackie S.D., Catchpole J.D., de Leliva, and Edward Moody, Secretary of the Great City Lodge. Bros. A., E. and J. Emanuel were elected joining members. Bros. Gardner, Sammel, and Austin were passed, and Bros. Bishop, Hart, and Turner were raised. Messrs. F. C. Bonham and T. W. Jones were initiated. The bye-laws were agreed upon, and ordered to be printed. The Lodge was closed, amidst the hearty good wishes of all the visitors, and the brethren adjourned to the dining room, where, although the summons had only specified "refreshments," an elegant banquet was placed before them.

The Rev. Bro. Holden S.W. being unwell, his place was occupied by Bro. Murrell P.M. When the cloth was drawn, the W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were received in a very hearty manner. In response to the toast of the D.G.M. and the Grand Officers, Bro. Hyde Pallen said that he was more than gratified at the very excellent manner in which the business of the evening had been carried out. He had the honour of being one of the signatories on the petition, and he hoped one day to see the dignity of a purple apron bestowed on some worthy brother of the City of Westminster Lodge.

The health of the W.M. was proposed by Bro. Scott, P.M. and Secretary, in felicitous terms, and was enthusiastically received by the brethren.

Bro. Swallow in responding, said that he, in conjunction with the other founders, had done his best to place the Lodge on a strong footing, and he hoped in time to be able to rival, if not excel, the progress and the working of the sister Lodge, the Great City. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the visitors, designating it as, on this occasion, an extraordinary one, there being such a large number of visitors present. Referring to the officers of the Great City Lodge, he said that, having received from that Lodge two invitations for himself and officers, he and Bro. White J.W. had attended, and had been very much gratified at the kind reception they had met with, and had thought it only courteous to return the compliment. Eulogizing the working that he had witnessed at the Great City, on the occasion of his visit, Bro. Swallow said it would be the constant endeavour of himself and officers to institute a friendly rivalry between the two Lodges, which he thought could not but result in good for the Craft. The toast was received by the members in the most enthusiastic manner, and was responded to by Bro. Seax S.W. on behalf of the Great City Lodge (the W.M., Bro. Townend, having been compelled to leave). He expressed the great satisfaction with which the invitation had been received by the officers, and hoped that, should he ever arrive at the dignity of W.M., it would be one of his first duties to send an invitation to the W.M. and officers of the sister Lodge. The officers of the Great City desired, through him, to express their thanks to members of the City of Westminster Lodge for the hospitable manner in which they had been received. Bros. Coulton P.M. 382, Cox, Stevens, and Burrill also responded. Bro. Edward Moody, P.M. and Secretary to the Great City, by permission of the W.M., and by request of the W.M. of his own Lodge, proposed the toast of "Prosperity to the City of Westminster Lodge." He said it was a toast that more especially commended itself to the visitors on account of the splendid hospitality with which they had been received, and by hospitality he did not so much refer to the bountiful repast of which they had just partaken, but to the kind, courteous and fraternal greeting the visitors had received from every member of the Lodge. He was proud to claim the W.M., Bro. Swallow, as one of his earliest friends in Freemasonry, they having worked together in Lodges of Instruction for many years, and he knew him as one who, from his great Masonic attainments, from his zeal on behalf of the Order, and from his kind and genial disposition, was well qualified to preside over such a Lodge. From the long array of Masonic talent ready to follow the W.M. in the chair, he could foresee nothing but an uninterrupted run of prosperity for the "City of Westminster Lodge." Bro. White responded, thanking the visitors for the hearty manner in which the toast had been received; they were but a young Lodge, but they hoped, by a careful selection of their initiates, in time to make the Lodge worthy of its name. Bros. Parsons I.G., and Shand D.C., responded to the toast of the Officers. The latter referring to a remark of the W.M., that his officers were noted for their retiring disposition, said that, in exemplification of this, he might mention that, when on a visit to the London Lodge, of which Bro. Hyde Pallen was the W.M., he actually was so bashful as to offer to do the duty of Deacon. Space will not permit us to extend our report of this interesting meeting, one of the most pleasant that it has ever been our lot to be present at. When next "City" meets "City," may we "be there to see."

NEW MASONIC HALL FOR REDRUTH.

BRO. John Farren Penrose, P.P.G.S.D. of Cornwall, yesterday laid the foundation stone of a new Hall at Redruth, which is to be erected for Masonic purposes. A Masonic Lodge was first started in Redruth as far back as the year 1754, but there was an unfortunate lapse about the year 1832, but for which the "Druid Lodge of Love and Liberty" would have been, with only one exception, the oldest in the province. A new warrant was granted in 1851, and from that time to the present the Lodge has made very satisfactory progress, the members at present numbering over a hundred. For some time past the brethren have experienced the great inconvenience of a Lodge room that was far too small for their members, and so, a short time since, a movement was set on foot for the establishment of a Masonic Hall. It was agreed that a company should be formed for the purpose, with a capital of £1,500, in 750 shares of £2 each. The movement was heartily taken up by the Masonic brethren of the neighbourhood, and already considerably more than half the shares have been allotted. Bro. Penrose, who yesterday laid the foundation stone of the new building, in the presence of a very large assembly, is the Chairman of the directors, and a well-known and much esteemed Mason in the province.

The members met in large numbers in their Lodge-room at noon, Bro. E. S. Angove, the W.M., presiding. Bro. Hocking, the Secretary, read the dispensation from the Provincial Grand Lodge for laying the foundation stone of the new Hall. Then a procession was formed, and on its arrival at the site, the Redruth Church Choir, who very kindly gave their services on the occasion, commenced the proceedings by singing the opening ode. This was followed by prayer from Bro. H. J. Wilcox, the Chaplain to the Lodge.

Bro. Angove, in presenting the presiding officer with a handsome silver trowel, remarked that during the many years Bro. Penrose had been connected with the Lodge he had seen many changes, and he was proud to say these changes had all been in the direction of progress and improvement. (Hear, hear.) These changes were not entirely due to chance or good fortune, but to the skill, ability, and energy with which the affairs of Druid's Lodge had always been managed, and amongst the many brethren who had always been ready to assist them with their hearts and hands, Bro. Penrose had been most conspicuous. (Applause.) His skill, ability, and purse were ever ready to assist in a good cause, and the brethren felt that they could not choose a more fitting occasion on which to present him with a small souvenir than on the day when they assembled to lay the foundation stone of their new Masonic Hall. (Hear, hear.) He trusted that Bro. Penrose would accept the trowel as a small acknowledgment from the Lodge of the esteem in which he was held, and of the brotherly love which the members had for him, and he (Bro. Angove) would now ask him to lay the foundation stone of the building, which he hoped would be perfect in all its parts, a pride to the builder, and that under its roof would always be found that true, brotherly love which was so essentially characteristic of Freemasonry. (Applause.)

Bro. Penrose, after expressing his deep regret that the Provincial Grand Master who, since his appointment, had identified himself with everything that tended to the promotion of Freemasonry, was unable to be present, said: On an occasion of this kind we cannot help being forcibly reminded of the rapid progress which Freemasonry is making in this great empire. Whether we view it from the standpoint of our own islands, or look still farther to nations that are far away under our rule, we find that Freemasonry is largely increasing in numbers and rapidly growing in importance. To the outer world our proceedings are, to a large extent, veiled in mystery, and we not unfrequently find individuals pointing towards us the finger of scorn, and ascribing that the chief object of our meetings is conviviality. I need not tell my brethren present that we have far higher and nobler motives to guide us than that, and that the principles which we inculcate tend to elevate the man, and if acted up to in the spirit of our teaching, they cannot fail to make him a better husband, a kinder father, and a more enlightened member of society. (Applause.) Upon every member entering the Craft we forcibly impress the high duties he owes, first to his God, then to his neighbour, and lastly to himself, and though our system is veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols, yet we are proud to say that they all have a high moral teaching. (Hear, hear.) One of our great objects is to alleviate the sufferings of our fellow creatures, and do what we can to smooth their difficulties and trials whilst passing through this transitory state. We have that greatest of all the cardinal virtues, charity, boldly inscribed upon our banner—(hear, hear)—and we view with some amount of pride those noble institutions in the vicinity of the great metropolis for the education of the sons and daughters of Freemasons, and for the maintenance of these amongst our poorer brethren who are unable, from infirmity and age, to battle any longer for the means of existence. And then, coming nearer home, we have our own Provincial Annuity and Benevolent Fund—(hear, hear)—which is most valuable in aiding our poorer brethren in the province to educate their children, and give a helping hand to those who, through infirmity, are unable to help themselves. All these institutions are supported by the voluntary contributions of the Craft, and need I say that we, as Freemasons, are proud of them, for are they not carried on year after year with such an undying purpose as can only be attained by a society so bonded together as the members of our Order are?—(applause.) But in my zeal for the interests of the Craft I fear I am almost forgetting the more practical object for which we are assembled. The ceremony of laying a corner stone is one of great antiquity, as we find it symbolically alluded to in the volume of the sacred law more than 1,000 years before the Christian era. This stone, laid, as it will presently be, in the north-east corner, implies to us the erection of a stately edifice in the next few months, one that shall be an ornament to the town, and give ample accommodation for the meetings of our Lodge. We are much indebted to Bro. Hicks for the great taste displayed in his plan of the eleva-

tion, as well as for the care he has bestowed on all the internal arrangements—no easy matter, looking at the large number of our members, for I may tell you that, with one exception, we are the largest Lodge in the province, and but for an unfortunate circumstance which happened about the year 1832 we should have ranked second in the province in point of age. The original charter was granted to the Redruth Freemasons on the 14th February 1754. The members then met in private rooms, and continued to do so until the year 1784, when they removed to rooms in the London Inn. Here they met for nearly fifty years, but unfortunately in the year 1832, from a want of zeal on the part of the members, they allowed their charter to lapse. In 1851 the Lodge was reconstituted, and a new charter granted. Since that date it has recovered its ancient prestige, and now has more than one hundred members on its roll—(applause.) The Druids have ever taken a prominent position in the province, and as far back as the year 1756 were to have entertained the Provincial Grand Lodge, but in consequence of the rebuilding of the present parish church they were obliged to defer that honour for a subsequent year. In 1869, the brethren feeling that it was undesirable, for the advancement of the principles of the Craft, to continue their meetings at an hotel took a lease of their present Masonic rooms. They then numbered only 38 members, but the desire to join the fraternity amongst the worthy inhabitants of the town was so great that we found it absolutely necessary to provide a suitable building to meet the increasing requirements of the Lodge. (Hear, hear.) About 18 months since an eligible freehold site was offered for sale, and purchased by three or four of the more enterprising members of the Lodge; and it is on this portion of it that we are about to erect our Masonic Hall. An appeal was made to the members for funds to carry out the work, and I am proud to tell you that it has been most nobly responded to. (Applause.) More than 450 shares have been allotted, and I am quite sure if the brethren find we require further help we shall have no difficulty in placing a sufficient portion of the remaining 300 shares to open our building free of debt. (Applause.) To those brethren who have not already subscribed we would say, "Help forward the good work, and show to the world that you value those high privileges you enjoy through being members of our ancient and honourable fraternity." (Loud applause.)

Another ode was then sung by the choir, after which the stone was laid in its place, the presiding officer, according to ancient custom, sprinkling it with corn, as the emblem of plenty, wine, as the symbol of joy and gladness, and oil as the symbol of peace and harmony.

The Chaplain then offered up another prayer, and this was followed by the presentation of the architect's plan—(Bro. Hicks), by the W.M. to the presiding officer, who entrusted them again to the architect, accompanied by a few appropriate remarks as to the erection of the building.

The ceremony being thus far concluded,

Bro. Penrose said: We have now arrived at that point in our proceedings which brings us near the close of the ceremony. Dealing, as our Order does, so thoroughly in symbols, may not the laying of this stone, and the stately fabric which we expect to see reared on its base, in the course of the next few months, teach us a useful lesson? As this building rises from its base, and stone after stone is bonded together by the skill of the expert craftsman, so may our Order continue to be strengthened and bonded together by the brotherly affection which has stood the test of ages, for

We build upon the noblest plan,
For friendship rivets man to man,
And makes us all as one.

—(applause). May the ancient landmarks of our Order be preserved intact by the members who tenant this building, and may the genuine tenets of our profession be transmitted through this Lodge, pure and unsullied, from generation to generation. (Applause.)

The choir having sung an anthem, the benediction was pronounced by the Chaplain, and after singing "God save the Queen," the brethren reformed in procession, and returned to Lodge. Here the W.M. elect, Bro. Martin, was installed for the ensuing year, in presence of a large assembly, which included twenty Past Masters. The ceremony of installation over, the W.M. appointed his officers as follows:—Bros. E. S. Angove I.P.M., John Thomas S.W., W. H. Tresseder J.W., Rev. J. Wilcox, Chaplain, James Sims Treasurer, J. Hocking jun. Secretary, G. S. Bray Asst. Secretary, T. A. Kistler S.D., William Lidzey J.D., James Hicks Superintendent Works, W. T. Chapman I.G., E. P. Thomas Organist, E. T. Pearce D.C., William Martin Steward, Thomas Hurry Steward, Thomas Martin Steward, William Thomas Steward, John Polkinghorne Tyler.

After the business of the Lodge was over, the brethren adjourned to Tabb's Hotel, where they partook of an excellent banquet. The usual Masonic toasts followed, and Bro. Penrose came in for the highest eulogy for the admirable manner in which he performed the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new Hall.

Mr. J. Moody took a photograph of the scene around the stone in his usual excellent and effective manner.—*Western Daily Mercury*.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Protracted suffering of any kind soon wears down the strongest frame, and weakens the most determined spirit, as the dropping of water will in time wear away the hardest granite, so will persistent pain wear away the powers of the strongest mind. Let none, therefore, who are afflicted with Chronic, Rheumatic, or Neuralgic pains, or old painful Sores, and Ulcerations, which render their life miserable, yield to despair, but give these inestimable twin remedies a steady and fair trial, many who have done so (having previously tried "almost everything" without relief) have been delighted and amazed at the change for the better, which has been the result of their use. They are invaluable in skin diseases.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

ST. JOHN'S HILL, S.W.

A QUARTERLY General Court of the Governors and subscribers was held on Saturday, the 8th inst, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Bro. Colonel Creaton, V.P., P.G.D., in the chair. Bro. Robert Wentworth Little, Secretary, read the minutes of the former meeting, which were confirmed, and the following notices of motion were read:—

By Bro. H. W. Hemsworth, "That not more than two children of same parents be admitted into this Institution at the same time." The Proposer not being present, the consideration of this motion was deferred.

By Bro. R. Kenyon, "That a branch school be established as soon as practicable, and that a Committee of Five Governors be appointed to inspect a Freehold Estate at Sunninghill, comprising about ten acres and a half, with a view to purchasing the same, and erecting the requisite school thereon. That the outside cost of the land and buildings shall not exceed £12,000." This motion was withdrawn.

By Bro. R. B. Webster, Upon recommendation of the General Committee; "That the sum of Twenty Guineas be granted to Miss Moss, late Assistant Governess, as a gratuity on her retirement from the School." It was the opinion of the brethren present that the sum was not sufficient for the valuable services rendered to the Institution, and Fifty Guineas was mentioned as a more adequate sum. Bro. Webster withdrew his motion, and proposed that it be referred back to the House Committee.

Eleven vacancies were declared, for which there were forty-four candidates.

A vote of thanks was recorded to the chairman, after which the meeting was adjourned. There were present—Bros. B. Head P.G.D., H. Browne P.G.D., J. Symonds P.G.D., John Boyd P.G.P., J. Smith P.G.P., Rawson D.G.M. China, J. Rucker P.G.D., Ramsay, R. W. Webster, E. H. Finney, G. Kenning, H. Massey, C. W. Montie, Kenyon, Ramsay, Diaper, H. Massa, S. Poynter, H. M. Levy, J. W. White, Woodford, &c.

THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF LIMERICK, Very High and Eminent Great Prior of the United Religious and Military Orders of the Temple and of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes, and Malta, in England and Wales, and the Dependencies thereof.

The humble Memorial of the Sir Knights of the Province of Bombay in Provincial Priory assembled,

Sheweth,—That your Memorialists view with pleasure and approbation the restorations recently made in the Constitution of the Order by the newly-enacted statutes of the Convent General, and emphatically desire to express their approval of the fair and straightforward manner in which those restorations were proposed for the acceptance of the Grand Conclave.

Your Memorialists are of opinion that the omission of the erroneous term "Masonic" from the title of the Order was most desirable. They believe that the Order has never really been a Masonic Order, for, if it had been, entrance into it would have been possible for all in possession of the previous Masonic degrees. But such has never been the case, for reception into our Order has always been impossible for all who have been unable truly to declare that they trust for salvation in our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, a qualification which excludes many Masons.

Your Memorialists therefore consider that the adoption of such names and titles as "Encampment," "Eminent Commander," "First and Second Captains," &c., &c., &c., was erroneous, and had no historical foundation, and that the restoration of the names and titles "Preceptory," "Preceptor," "Constable," "Marshal," &c., &c., is most judicious, because it is founded upon historical authority. Such restorations, they believe, will increase the dignity of our Order by emancipating it from the anomalous position into which it had been thrust, and in which it was erroneously made to appear to be an offshoot or dependent of Freemasonry, instead of the parent of the Craft in Europe it really was. Your Memorialists' opinion is founded upon the following facts, that is to say:—The Templars, during their residence in the Holy Land, were received into the Syrian Fraternities, which, under the name of Mysteries, taught the principles of moral truth and virtue, the liberal arts and sciences, and a more definite idea of the being and attributes of God than was possessed by the uninitiated. The Templars taught these mysteries to those whom they affiliated, but divested the ceremony of all its heathen rites. These mysteries are identical with those of Freemasonry, and there is no record of the existence of Freemasonry in Europe previous to the Institution of the Order of the Temple.

Your Memorialists consider the abolition of Past Rank, as it heretofore existed, to be most judicious, as tending to enhance the value of the elective offices of the Order. The officers of the Grand Conclave and Provincial Grand Conclaves were very numerous, and, with the exception of the Treasurers, they were all the nominees of the Grand Master and Provincial Grand Commanders, and though many of them had not attained the dignity of Eminent Commander, and their duties were merely nominal, yet they ranked, during their term of office, and for ever afterwards, above all Eminent Commanders who had not attained Grand Conclave or Provincial Grand Conclave Rank superior to their own. This was manifestly unjust to Eminent Commanders who, by their installation, had attained a degree, or at least a dignity higher than that of ordinary Knights, and therefore never ought to have been superseded by them. Your Memorialists therefore consider

that the opposition which some are making to the abolition of Past Rank, as it formerly existed, is very ill-advised.

Your Memorialists also consider that it is very desirable to retain the newly-created honours of "Knight Grand Cross" and "Knight Commander," because it would be absurd to make our Grand Master "the Fountain of Honour and Grace" (p. 10 Statutes of the Convent General), and then to deprive him of the power of conferring honours.

Your Memorialists, however, respectfully suggest that, instead of hope of reward sweetens labour, some reward should be given to those who faithfully and zealously perform the duties of the offices entrusted to them in the Great Priory and Provincial Priories. This reward might be granted to Preceptors in the shape of a distinction, entitling them to rank above all other Preceptors who have not held a dignified office equal to their own, and to ordinary Knights in the shape of a distinction entitling them to rank above all other Knights who have not held a dignified office equal to their own, but not above any Preceptor. Your Memorialists would further suggest that it be enacted that the attainment of such distinctions shall constitute those, who attain them, members of the Great Priory or Provincial Priories in which they respectively attain them, and that it shall qualify such of them as are not Preceptors, but who may have no subscribing members of Preceptories in other Provinces, for election as members of the Provincial Priories of those Provinces respectively, in which, whether attending as visitors or members, they shall be entitled to such rank and precedence as their respective distinctions confer upon them, seniority of date of distinctions giving precedence to holders of distinctions otherwise equal in rank.

Your Memorialists have purposely refrained from defining what the distinctions should be, because, in their opinion, that point can best be decided after full discussion in the Convent General.

Your Memorialists therefore pray that your Lordship will be pleased to take such steps, as to your Lordship may seem meet, to bring this Memorial before H.R.H. the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master and the Convent General at as early a date as the rules of that august body will permit.

And your Memorialists humbly pray that no alteration be made in the Statutes of the Convent General with respect to the name of our Order, or the names and titles of the holders and officers in it, or with respect to the power of H.R.H. the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master to confer the honours of "Knight Grand Cross" and "Knight Commander," but that some provision be made for rewarding those who may faithfully and zealously perform the duties of such offices as may be conferred upon them in Great Priories or Provincial Priories, to take effect from the date of the enactment of the present Statutes of the Convent General.

Signed on behalf of the Provincial Priory of Bombay,

† G. S. JUDGE,

Provincial Prior of Bombay.

† H. MORLAND,

Proctor & Sub-Prior of Bombay.

† TUDOR TREVOR,

Provincial Chancellor of Bombay.

Provincial Priory of Bombay.

Bombay, 25th February 1875.

NEW ZEALAND.

WE (Auckland Evening Star) understand that the Masons of this province consider that the time has fully arrived for them to be placed on the same footing as their brethren of the Irish and Scotch Constitutions. The latter both have Provincial Grand Lodges here, and that honour is now about to be sought for at the hands of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, coupled with the recommendation to him of the name of a worthy citizen of Auckland as first Provincial Grand Master. Generally, matters Masonic among the English fraternity appear to be looking up. For the first time in its history, a suitable musical service was conducted at the Lodge Waiheke by Bro. Chapman a few days ago, and in connection with the same Lodge it is intended to revive the library and Lodges of Instruction, which for a considerable time have been neglected. Doubtless, before long, we shall hear of great things among the Masons, and the proposed formation of an English Provincial Grand Lodge should give an impetus to the scheme on foot for the construction of a suitable Masonic Hall in Queen-street.

The election of officers for the St. Andrew's Lodge of Freemasons, under the Scottish Constitution, was held 23rd Nov. The results of the election was as follows:—Bros. W. C. Wilson & W.M., E. Wilson S.W., Barrett J.W., Lucas J. Martin S.D., Cooke J.D., Hudson Treasurer, Payne Secretary, Kitchen Architect, Rev. Mr. Bruce Chaplain, and Porter Tyler.

A work of art is now being exhibited at Dunedin. It is a card table, of 250 pieces, of New Zealand woods, inlaid with mutton-fish shell, and of Masonic design, manufactured by Mr. De Mars, of Port Chalmers.

We regret to announce that Bro. R. L. Hickman, I.D.M., 183, has fractured his leg, which necessitated his removal from the scene of the accident, Broad-street Station, to the London Hospital, where he is progressing favourably. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The members of the Proprietary Association of Easton will in future hold their meetings at the Hotel "The Mail Coach," No. 1, Commercial-road, on the first evenings. Bro. W. C. Richards is the Hon. Secretary, and he will be happy to give the brethren a hearty welcome to the new quarters of the Lodge.

CORRESPONDENCE.

—:O:—

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

—:O:—

THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—As I see that the changes made in the statutes of our Order are likely to be re-discussed, may I ask you to find room, in your next issue, for this letter and the accompanying copy of a Memorial to the Great Prior of England and Wales, from the Knights of the Province of Bombay,* agreed to on the 25th February 1875, as I hope they will, in conjunction with the Paper issued from the Chancery of the Order, under date "November 1875," which I was glad to see so prominently published in the Christmas number of the *Freemason*, help many of my brother Knights to form a more correct opinion as to the wisdom and uprightness of those changes. The history of the Order of the Temple is, briefly, this: In 1118 nine valiant Knights formed themselves into a society for the defence of the Holy Land and the protection of pilgrims, under the leadership of Hugo de Payens, the first Grand Master of the Order. With the vows of Knighthood they joined those of Monkhood, and bound themselves to live at Jerusalem, under the Canons of St. Augustine, by the three vows of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience. Their first permanent residence or church was granted them by Baldwin, King of Jerusalem, on Mount Moriah, near the spot on which the Temple of King Solomon had formerly stood; hence their name of Templars. The Order consisted of three classes, Knights, Chaplains (the Priests of the Order), and Serving brethren. The Grand Master possessed great power. He not only was commander-in-chief, but he also ruled the clergy of the Order as Vicar-General of the Pope. The executive power and the appointment of most of his officers was in his hands, but he was subject to the control of his Convent-General in many important matters. Each Province or Langue had its Great Prior, the representative of the Grand Master with his Great Priory; each province had its Priors in different subdivisions, and each house of residence or Preceptory was governed by its Preceptor. The changes in the statutes of the Convent-General in regard to the nomenclature of the officers are therefore simply in accordance with history.

With respect to the disuse of the term "Masonic," its great inapplicability will become apparent when it is considered that reception into our Order is "impossible for all who are unable to declare that they trust for salvation in our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, a qualification which excludes many Masons." Still, to show their respect for the Craft, and indifference to the feelings of those who are prejudiced in its favour, the Convent-General have, with a wise policy, retained the Masonic qualification. "Religious" and "Military" our Order was from the very first, but never "Masonic;" so the omission of the latter erroneous epithet from its title is, again, simply in accordance with history.

Some new legislation in relation to "Past Rank" is undoubtedly necessary, and will soon, I am sure, be made; but no one can deny that the old system of the honours of Past Rank being borne by men who became entitled to them after a period of systematic absence from, and open neglect of their duties, was manifestly as unjust as it was absurd. *Palmarum qui meruit ferat* is the only safe rule to go by in such matters, except, of course, in very special and obvious instances.

Wishing you a Happy and Prosperous New Year,

I am, dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

‡ TUDOR TREVOR, 30°,

January 1876.

Provincial Chancellor, Bombay.

MAGIC AND MASONRY.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—A propos of your article upon this subject, I send you the following, from the *Biographical Dictionary* of Alexander Chalmers (London 1812); article *Agrippa*;

"His attention to Magical Studies began early, according to Meiners; in youth he joined a secret society at Paris, which was defended against the profane by peculiar rites of admission. The separation of this cabalistical brotherhood did not occasion the dissolution of their Lodge; on the contrary, each of the members endeavoured to found in his own neighbourhood corresponding societies for similar purposes. In 1510 Agrippa was sent to England on some commission, relative, probably, to the treaty between Henry VIII. and the French King; and on this occasion, as appears by his published letters, he founded in London one of these secret societies for magical purposes. The same biographer remarks, that a strange mixture of active and passive dupery characterises Agrippa; an alternation of sceptical contempt, and of superstitious credulity respecting the occult arts. If his assertions may be credited, he had attained that intercourse with demoniacal natures, which was the boast of Iamblicus and Jamblicus; and his magical pretensions found

* The document referred to will be found in another column.—
ED. FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

so much credit with his contemporaries that they describe him as carrying about with him a devil in the shape of a black dog."

Agrippa, I may add, was well acquainted with the effects of what is now known as animal magnetism or mesmerism, but I send you the above to show that a secret society for the study of magic existed as early as 1510 in this country.

Yours fraternally,

JOHN YARKER.

SECTARIANISM IN A FREEMASONS' LODGE.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—By the kind invitation of a friend, I had the pleasure of being present at the last Installation meeting of the Joppa Lodge. I was very agreeably impressed with the masterly way in which every portion of the work was done, and especially with the excellent manner in which Bro. S. L. Hickman, the retiring W.M., inducted his successor into the chair. Nor must I withhold the praise the sumptuousness of the banquet is entitled to; also to express my sincere thanks for the hospitality shown to me.

All this, however pleasant to myself, can scarcely be supposed to be interesting to your readers, and my object in addressing you is to enter a protest against a custom prevailing in this Lodge, which to my mind is antagonistic to the true principles of the Order. Although the Joppa is essentially a Jewish Lodge, yet I may assert that half the members profess the Christian Faith. At the banquet table, Grace is said first in Hebrew for the Jewish, then a brother is called upon to do the same in the vernacular for the Christian brethren. In reality, there is no great harm in this, but as Masonry is a universal brotherhood, jealously excluding every vestige of sectarianism from its tenets, a Masonic prayer, in which members of all creeds might conscientiously join, would, I think, be much more consistent with the true spirit of the Order. I hold that in a Masonic Lodge all sectarian designations should cease. There we are simply brothers. The pointed distinction to which I have alluded seemed to me so anomalous and unmasonic that I determined to raise my voice against it. I trust, however, my kind hosts of the Joppa Lodge will regard this criticism in the same fraternal spirit in which it is advanced, and, seeing their error, will abolish in their excellently conducted Lodge a mode of proceeding which is alike unconstitutional and quite out of harmony with the teachings of the Craft.

Yours fraternally,

OLD BRAND.

REVIEWS.

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

Masonic Calendar and Directory for the Province of Hertfordshire, for the year 1876. Compiled by Bro. T. S. Carter I.P.M. 403, 1385, P.P.G.S. Deacon, Herts, Z. 1385, J. 403, P.G.S.W., Herts. Hertford: Printed by Bro. S. Simson.

THIS is a capital little compilation, and will be found useful by all Craftsmen in the Province of Herts. The Calendar contains the days of meeting of the various Lodges and Chapters, with the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter. Then follow Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge, and the several Lodges in the Province, in each case a list of the officers for the year 1875-1876; then Grand and Prov. Grand Chapters, with the several provincial Chapters, likewise with a complete list of officers for the same period. Lastly, we have the three Masonic Charities, with the names and addresses of the respective Secretaries, and the qualifications for Governorships and Subscriberships in each case. Doubtless the brethren in Herts will freely accord Bro. Carter their thanks for his useful little publication, and doubtless they will render him all the assistance in their power in making it a sort of annual institution in the Province. Bro. Simson, too, deserves a word of praise for the neatness with which he has printed and got it up.

MAGAZINES OF THE MONTH.

It is natural, as the Parliamentary Session will open at no distant date, that *Blackwood* should contain a political article. Equally natural is that, in the article in question, which is entitled, "Public Affairs," the prospects of the Ministry should be carefully weighed. This survey will certainly please those who look at politics from a Conservative point of view. The article on "Lace and Bric-a-brac" will prove highly interesting, especially to the ladies as regards the former, while those who admire sound literary criticism will be delighted with No. II. of the papers headed, "In my Study Chair." We noticed last month that the "Dilemma" had entered on a new phase, which, in our opinion, did not improve it. This month there is a still further change. Yorke returns to England on sick-leave, having received a severe wound, and, accordingly, we are introduced to a number of new personages, whose portraits are life-like, it is true, but whose presence we could have dispensed with in our impatience to learn more of Mrs. Falkland, or rather Mrs. Kirke. Except to show the author's skill in depicting different kinds of people, we are at a loss to explain why he has devoted so much space

to personages who are, apparently, in no way connected with the plot.

Belgravia is to be commended for both its literary and pictorial contents. Among the former we have noted the "Rajah," "Thornleigh Moat," "Chantry Manor House," and "The Haunted Light-house;" among the latter the illustration to the very neat little poem by Mr. Savile-Clarke, entitled "J'aime les Militaires."

We are glad the number of serials in *Tinsleys'* is reduced to two. These, which are commenced this month, give promise of being, if anything, above the high average which has almost invariably marked the tales in this magazine. The first of these, "The Duchess of Rosemary-Lane," is from the pen of Mr. Farjeon, and if, as the story is developed, we find the same descriptive power, the same insight into human character as we have evidence of in the prologue to the story, it is certain the fame of the writer will be wonderfully increased. Mr. Grant is the author of the other serial, which is entitled, "Did she love him?" and here, too, as far as we can judge at present, there is every prospect of a well-written and well constructed tale. Of the occasional papers we like most Mr. W. Davenport Adam's "A Dream of Fair Women," and "Dog-Violet and Mignonette." Dr. Maurice Davies, besides his "Social Status Quo," contributes No. 1 of "Love Songs of All Nations." We quote it in full.

LOVE-LORN (from the Persian of Giami.)

"I fly to hide my heart's distress
Far from the city's noises loud,
Far from the cold and callous crowd,
Into the quiet wilderness.
One only mate my heart will own—
Thy peerless self; and, failing thee,
Though girt with hundred friends, must be
Like him who owns it, quite alone.
But in the vast and lonely waste
I hear no voices wild or rude;
My only friend is solitude,
And then at least one joy I taste.
Those in the body are not there,
But, as the silent sands I pace,
Thine ever beauteous spirit-face
Haunts me in visions bright and fair.
'Tis naught to me, although the rose
Her sensuous odour scatters around,
Or gorgeous carpets swathe the ground—
No luxury my bosom knows
I pray my spirit thus: 'Begone!
Apart from her, I fain would die!'
And still my spirit makes reply,
'Hope lives while life remains; live on.'

The new serials in *Cassell's Family Magazine*, namely "Caught in the Briars," and "Two Points of View," fully justify the good opinion we formed of them from the opening chapters. They will certainly add to the reputation of the writers. A Family Doctor offers some very sensible remarks on "Winter Clothing and Winter Comfort." Mr. A. G. Payne advises his readers "How to give a Nice Little Supper," and we imagine the reader will be very unwise if he rejects the advice of so practical a teacher. Captain Webb lays great stress on the necessity for making "Swimming a part of Education," and as our newly-joined brother is the greatest swimmer the world has ever known, the counsel he offers must carry weight. There is an amusing paper on "What becomes of the Lost Luggage," and another headed "'Penny Dreadfuls' and their Readers." Of the other items in the programme, those treating of "Rockwork and Ferns," of "Little Accidents, and How to Deal with Them," "Some Curiosities of Music," and "Travelling Third Class," deserve to be read, nor is the way-bill provided by "The Gatherer" in any respect less attractive than usual.

In the *Leisure Hour* is commenced "A Tale of the American War of Independence," by Frances Browne. The reader will find it very interesting. Of the other contents, must be mentioned Dr. Rimbault on "Old Nursery Rhymes," "A Trip to Palmyra and the Desert," by the Rev. W. Wright, B.A., of Damascus, "Open Spaces and Resting Places," "Wooden Wonders of America," and "England's National Curse." What this last is, our readers need hardly be told. Its companion publication, *Sunday at Home*, is filled with the usual excellent matter, among which Dr. Stoughton's No. I. of "Westminster Abbey," and "A Jew's First Impressions of England, and First Inter-course with Christians," will be found the most readable. Both these periodicals are well illustrated, the frontispiece to each being admirable.

The last number of *All the Year Round* is more than usually acceptable. Not only does it contain the usual programme, including the old serial, "A Charming Fellow," a new tale, "Griffiths' Double," a further contribution to the series of "Remarkable Adventures," John Lowe, of Mississippi's Scheme Notoriety, being the subject of the present sketch, with several other contributions of considerable merit. We have also the extra Christmas number, entitled "Davy's Locker," and if there are any of our friends who have not yet read this interesting story, we advise them to do so without further loss of time. Perhaps the ablest and most powerful writing will be found in the two chapters headed, respectively, "The Partur's Story," and "The Commissioner's Story." There is this to be said also. Sundry of the personages figure in both the stories, and thus the one helps us to obtain a better and clearer insight into the action of the other. The other parts of the book possess almost equal merit with these.

The editor of the *New Quarterly* is to be congratulated on the excellence of the present number. A conspicuous feature in this periodical is the absence of all serial fiction, but there are always two complete tales in each number. The present contains a novelette, entitled "The Mill of Saint Herbot," by Katharine S. Macquoid, and "The Vergaro," a tale by the Countess Galetti, both of which are calculated to please the reader. The editor contributes

an admirable paper on "Current Literature and Current Criticism." Mr. John Latouche, whose *Travels in Portugal* formed so pleasant a feature in the earlier parts describes, in detail, "Lawn Tennis," criticising the rules, and offering several valuable suggestions. There is an eminently readable paper on "Almanacs," by Mr. Mortimer Collins, and another by Miss De Rothschild, on Hebrew Women. "Backward Ho!" by Frances Power Cobbe must be read in order to be justly appreciated. To many of the views which the writer gives expression, we imagine no serious objection can be taken, especially in the matter of architecture, in which there is no question the public taste of the present day has sadly deteriorated from that of former days, when the world was not so highly civilised as it is said to be now. The one other article is from the pen of Mr. Robert Buchanan, and contains a striking comparison between "Æschylus and Victor Hugo." This, too, is a well-written, scholarly paper.

THE DRAMA.

"Clytie" at the Olympic.—"A Quiet Rubber" at the Court.

A NOVEL by Mr. Hatton, which has lately appeared in the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, has been adapted for the stage by the author, and has been produced in its dramatic form, firstly at Liverpool, and, on Monday last, at the OLYMPIC. Far better novels than "Clytie" have failed, when dramatized, to make any success on the stage: the very analysis of character, and of motive, which may create the success of the book, are almost certain to cause the failure of the drama, and the action which, in the novel, may be extended over years, must, for dramatic purposes, be compressed into a space of time so short as to throw over it an air of impossibility. The story of "Clytie" is one that is rather well worn, and would hardly create surprise if it figured as the plot of a transposive melodrama. Mary Waller, the lady honoured by this classical appellation, is the grand-daughter of the organist of Durham Cathedral—young and pretty, but of course poor; she is blessed with a pair of lovers, Tom Mayfield, a student, with honest intentions, and Philip Rainsford, the ordinary military libertine. Weary of her quiet home, and dazzled by the promises of Rainsford, she agrees to elope with him, but repenting at the last moment, he converts the elopement into an abduction. We then find her in his chambers in London, where, all his persuasion proving useless, he is about to proceed to personal violence, when interrupted by the arrival of Tom Mayfield, and the usual tableau of triumphant virtue follows. In the next act we find her married to Tom, who has succeeded to a peerage, and is now Lord St. Bernard; but her enemy, Rainsford, renders her life miserable by the circulation of scandalous reports as to her moral character; she is obliged to take some step to clear her reputation, and a sensational libel case at Bow Street is the result. The lawyer, employed by Rainsford, so tortures her with question referring to her stay in the latter's chambers as to upset her reason, and drive her to desert her home. Retribution, however, speedily follows; a duel is agreed upon between Lord St. Bernard and Rainsford; the latter attempts to murder his adversary, and is afterwards killed in fair fight, leaving behind him a written confession, which completely clears Clytie of any blame: the persecuted lady is found at her native place, and at length restored to reason and to her friends. There is not one incident here which has not been seen on the stage over and over again; there is no novelty in the situations, no freshness in the characters, no redeeming cleverness in the dialogue; the piece is in the last degree commonplace. The only surprise lies in the fact that such an ordinary melodrama should have been produced at the Olympic. Miss Henrietta Hodgson makes a welcome re-appearance, as the heroine, and acts pleasantly, as always; but she hardly looks the informed girl that Clytie, in the beginning of the play, is represented to be. Mr. Haywell and Miss Howard are agreeable in smaller parts, and Mr. Odell, as the lawyer, over acts so much as to become the conspicuous failure of the cast. But where the play itself is so deficient, we shall not attribute much blame to the artists.

Mr. Hare has added to his already strong programme at the Court a thoroughly charming little one act piece, adapted from "La Partie de Piquet." Lord Kilclare, an old nobleman rich in blue blood and in nothing else, is a guest in the house of a rich manufacturer, Mr. Sullivan, to whose daughter Mary his son Charles is engaged. Lord Kilclare is under deep obligations to his host, but his pride of birth is so great as to lead him into words and actions inevitably hurtful to the pride of one less well born than himself. After an interview, in which many irritations of this kind have been borne with great self-restraint by Mr. Sullivan, the four sit down to a rubber at whist; Lord Kilclare is unreasonably proud of his play, and on a revoke which he has made being pointed out to him by Mr. Sullivan, a quarrel ensues, and is carried so far that the nobleman quits the room to pack his portmanteau and leave the house. The young couple can think of only one expedient to arrange matters. On Lord Kilclare's return to the room for something forgotten, Charles, who is a doctor, administers chloroform to him; the room and whist table are quickly rearranged, and all traces of the disturbance removed. On Kilclare's awaking, he is, with some trouble, persuaded that the quarrel has been merely a dream, and all ends happily. The plot is slight, but admirably worked out, and the dialogue shows great neatness and polish. Mr. Hare himself takes the role of Lord Kilclare, and shows another of those cabinet studies of aristocratic old men in which he is so skilled. Remembering his Sam Gerridge, we shall be very sorry to find Mr. Hare devoting himself to one class of character exclusively, but it must be said that his acting in this class is perfect. Every change of feeling and temper in the proud, irritable old nobleman is shown with admirable expression. Hardly less praise must be awarded to the Sullivan of Mr. C. Kelly, who plays with a breadth of style which contrasts admirably with the more elaborated acting of Mr. Hare. The young people are carefully impersonated by Miss Plowden and Mr. Herbert, and the whole performance is marked by a finish which bids fair to make this theatre a worthy rival to the Prince of Wales's.

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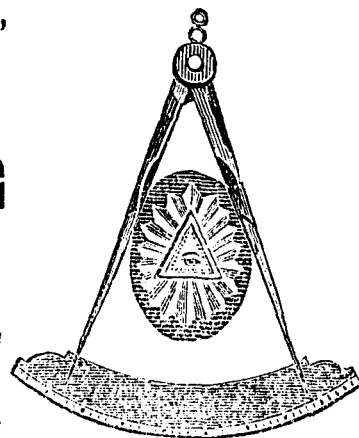
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GLOBE.—At 7.30, CRYPTOCONCHOIDSYPHONOSTOMATA, and BLUE BEARD.

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

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

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

ROYALTY.—At 7.30, A BLIGHTED BEING, and THE DUKE'S DAUGHTER.

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

OPERA COMIQUE.—At 7.30, A HORNET'S NEST. At 8.15, MADAME L'ARCHIDUC, and TRIAL BY JURY.

CRITERION.—At 7.30, THE DAY AFTER THE WEDDING, THE DEBUTANTE, and BRIGHTON.

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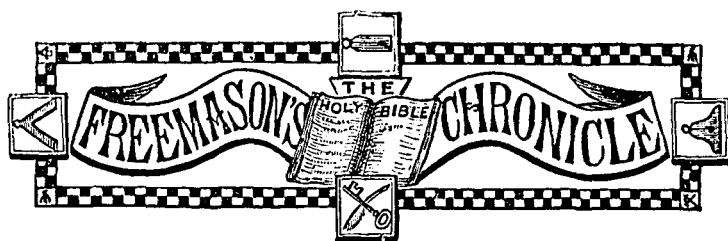
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

AFTER visiting Benares, where his reception was as cordial as ever, the Prince of Wales went to Lucknow, which city he reached on Thursday evening. The inhabitants turned out *en masse* to receive His Royal Highness, and their demeanour was most cordial and respectful. In the afternoon of Friday, the Prince held a levée, at Government House, of the European residents, and afterwards visited the old Residency, traversing the whole of the building. He then laid the foundation stone of the Northbrook monument, to be erected in the grounds, in memory of the native soldiers who fell during the siege by the mutineers. An address was read, and the Prince, in his reply, extolled the bravery of the slain, and dwelt on the value of such a monument as an incentive to fidelity. A number of old native veterans, wearing their old uniforms and the decorations they had won so honourably, filed past his Royal Highness, due *éclat* being given to the ceremony by the presence of the whole garrison. A State dinner followed, and then a *fête*, organised by the Oude Talookdars, which proved a brilliant success. On Saturday he took part in a pig-sticking expedition, ten pigs, of which the Prince stuck one, being killed. Unfortunately, an accident befel Lord Carington, who fractured his collar-bone. His lordship had to be left behind, but is progressing favourably, and will soon rejoin the Royal party. In the evening a grand ball was given by the United Service Club. Before leaving for Delhi, the Prince presented new colours to the 13th regiment (European). En route for the capital of the old Mogul Empire, His Royal Highness stopped at Cawnpore, and visited the various scenes connected with the Mutiny. At Delhi the reception was very imposing, the whole route from the camp, some four miles in extent, being lined with troops, to the number of 15,000. The crowd was as enthusiastic as it was dense. The levée at noon was numerously attended. A review is in prospect, and great preparations are being made for the military manoeuvres. Just previous to the Prince's arrival, Lord Napier of Magdala, the Commander-in-Chief, when attending a parade of troops, was thrown from his horse, and fractured his collar-bone, but he, too, is progressing favourably, his condition giving no cause whatever for uneasiness.

This week, at all events, people have no reason to grumble at the mildness of the weather, we mean, of course, those who rejoice in the usual signs of wintry weather. The ground is well covered with snow, and the temperature has been low enough to cause most of the ornamental waters in the metropolis, and the ponds, &c., &c., in the

suburbs, to be covered with a coating of ice, more or less thick, according as they are situate in sheltered or exposed places. If the weather continues as it is at the moment of writing, there is every probability that those who have been practising or learning to skate will have an opportunity of displaying their skill on a surface more slippery, and at the same time more brittle, and therefore more dangerous, than greased asphalt. If the frost continues we shall, no doubt, in the course of a few days, see the Skating Club tent erected on the old spot, by the side of the ornamental water in Kensington Gardens, and its most skilful members disporting themselves at will, cutting figures of eight, doing the outside edge, and gracefully performing sets of quadrilles. No doubt, too, there will be a good deal of rough horseplay, and the strong blackguard element, in London, will have an excellent opportunity for molesting inoffensive persons, especially unprotected women, an opportunity which, we affirm without fear of contradiction, is never missed. No doubt, too, the services of the Royal Humane Society will be in frequent requisition. The average number of silly people, who treat all warnings with supreme contempt, and will venture on ice which is hardly thick enough to bear a dog, will, doubtless, be immersed. Let us hope the only discomfort they may experience will be a somewhat colder bath than they are accustomed to. This is all conjecture, however. The Clerk of the Weather is a very capricious person, and before these lines appear, the snow, perhaps, will have become slush, and the thin surface of ice have disappeared.

Among the dangers to which our railway travellers are occasionally liable, one of an extremely novel character has been lately brought under public notice. An action was recently brought in the Liverpool Court of Passage by a certain Mr. Montgomery, a warehouseman, against the London and North Western Railway Company, for injuries sustained by his wife, under peculiar circumstances. The plaintiff and his wife, with her brother and a friend, were about journeying from the Lime-street Station, when, having some time to wait, they walked about the platform. Mr. Montgomery, seeing some young foxes caged on one of the trucks, drew his wife's attention to them, and she came at once to inspect them, taking her stand just behind her husband. She had not been there very long when her husband was startled by hearing her scream, and on turning round found her in the close embraces of a young Polar bear, who was in a barrel on another truck opposite to the foxes. When she was released, Mrs. Montgomery had to be assisted to the house of a medical man, who administered a restorative, and though she fancied at the time she was not much hurt, she had since suffered severe pains in the lower part of her back, and had been unable to sleep regularly, or attend, as usual, to her domestic duties. After hearing the evidence of several witnesses, including the unfortunate lady herself, the assessor summed up the case, and the jury returned a verdict—damages £60—against the Company. Mr. Montgomery may not be a very jealous man, but we hardly think his wife would voluntarily allow herself to be hugged and squeezed in his presence, at all events, not by a young Polar bear, whose embraces, even at the early age of eight months, must be anything but agreeable. No doubt, after this experience, the London and North Western Railway Company will condescend to give warning to the public when they have a barrel or two of fine Polar bears lying about on their platforms.

At the outset of our career, we urged on our brethren the propriety of providing an endowment fund for the Life-boat presented by the Craft, a few years since, to the Royal National Life-boat Institution. The cost of maintaining this boat is about £70 per annum, and it was suggested that a sum sufficient to yield that amount of income should be raised and presented to the Institution. The scheme, however, has not met with that encouragement which, in our opinion, it deserves. But why should the brethren allow themselves to be outdone by any other body in the United Kingdom in the work of doing good? Let us see what has been done by the Civil Servants of the Crown on behalf of this noble Institution. It was stated, at the Committee Meeting, held on Tuesday, at the General Post Office, of the Civil Service Life-boat Fund, that the names of the Earls of Carnarvon and Bradford, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Right Hon. G. Selater-Booth, had been added to the list of Vice-Patrons, that the fund was now supported by almost every department under the Crown, and that the list of subscribers had reached a total of 2,607, being an

increase of 446 over the number of 1874, and of 1186 over that of 1873. A second Life-boat had also been presented during the past year, at a cost of £180, and both the boats are kept up by the Civil Service Life-boat Fund. The report concluded with an earnest appeal for further support. Here, then, is a body of men, less numerous, perhaps as a whole less wealthy than our fraternity, which has presented, and *maintains free of cost to the Institution*, two first-class Life Boats. Are we not justified in saying to the Craft, individually and collectively, "Go ye and do likewise." Is the rescue of human life from the perils of the waters a matter less worthy of support than the exploration of the site of Solomon's Temple? True, in the latter case, we may increase our store of knowledge, but in the former case we assist in rescuing many of our fellow-creatures from an untimely and terrible fate.

The result of Cook's great Billiard Tournament is that Kilkenny beat Hunt, who drew a bye, two games out of three, and received the £50, Hunt, of course, taking second prize. The extra prize awarded to the best average during the handicap was awarded to Shooter. The first of the three games between Hunt and Kilkenny was very close, and was won by the former, amid the greatest excitement, by a single point. The first result of this tournament was a match, 1,000 up, for £50, between Kilkenny and Alfred Bennett, which the former, after some excellent play on both sides, won by 50 points, the time occupied being three hours and three-quarters. On Wednesday another match was played, 1,000 up, level, for £100, between Collins and Hunt, and in this Hunt came off victor by 141 points, his principal break being 200, including 65 spot hazards. The table was a championship one, the same as was fitted up by Messrs. Boroughs and Watts for the tournament. Another championship match of rare occurrence was commenced on Wednesday, between A. Fairs, better known as Punch, who has been marker at Prince's Club for over 15 years, and Joseph Gray, marker at Rugby, for the racquet championship of England, and a stake of £500. The match is to be a home and home one, that is, a rubber of seven games to be played in each court, and if the number of games won should then be equal, the scorer of the greatest number of aces to be the winner. The match at Prince's was won by Fairs, by four games to one, and a score of 66 aces to Gray's 44. The second match will be played at Rugby, on Wednesday next.

The veteran Statesman, Earl Russell, has just experienced a severe domestic affliction, by the death of his eldest son, Viscount Amberley, in the 34th year of his age. From May 1866 to December 1868, the noble lord was one of the representatives in Parliament for Nottingham, but being beaten at the General Election in the latter year, when he stood for the County of Devon, Viscount Amberley had remained ever since in strict retirement from public life, devoting himself almost wholly to literary pursuits. In June 1874, Lady Amberley died of bronchitis, and was followed in a few days by her only daughter. Lord Amberley fell a victim to the same complaint, on Sunday morning, after a comparatively brief illness.

A sad death occurred on Monday at Exeter. Miss Jessie Rawe, stepdaughter of Mr. George Kendal, a magistrate, was found on the stairs in a state of stupor, and her maid, after repeated attempts, found it impossible to arouse her. Medical assistance was at once summoned, when it appeared Miss Rawe was quite dead. At the inquest which followed, evidence was given that the young lady was in the habit of taking frequent doses of "solution of chloral," in order to allay pains in the stomach, to which she was subject. On this occasion she had taken, in two hours, no less than 125 grains, 40 grains being a large dose, and when 50 had been taken, medical men had been engaged over four hours in recovering the patient. A verdict of accidental death, in accordance with the evidence, was returned.

A recent Gazette contains the announcement of the promotion and appointment by Her Majesty of several peers, as stated in a recent issue of ours.

Another grand achievement in African exploration has been successfully accomplished by Lieut. Cameron, R.N., of the Livingstone East Coast expedition. The gallant officer, according to advices received by Sir Henry Rawlinson, President of the Royal Geographical Society, has traversed Africa from East to West, the actual distance travelled on foot by him, being 2,953 miles, 1,200 miles being through country previously unexplored. Lieut. Cameron, it seems, is hopeful that the opening up of the interior

of Africa to European commerce will be easy of accomplishment, but he offers no opinion whatever on the political difficulties that may present themselves. It was further stated that the young traveller had taken a very large number of valuable observations, and that what he had thus far accomplished would prove of incalculable value in any future exploration that might be undertaken.

There is an uneasy feeling abroad as to the present aspect of the Eastern Question. It is said that Austria is about to intervene in connection with the, as yet, unsuppressed insurrection in the Herzegovina and Bosnia. Montenegro is said to be arming, and matters in Servia have taken a decidedly warlike turn. Russia and Germany, it is believed, support Austria, but the contemplated action of the other great powers is not yet known for certain. In France there has been a threatened Ministerial Crisis, but for the moment the difficulties are said to have been smoothed over, and a manifesto has been issued by the President. Then there seem to be some difficulties looming in the near future between Austria and Hungary, the dual government of the Empire-Kingdom not being conducted, as was hoped, to the mutual satisfaction of the two countries. According to the latest news from the revolted Turkish provinces, the Turks have inflicted more than one severe defeat on the insurgents, and have reached Trebinje, which it was the object of the latter to prevent. The Italian Government has been pro-rogued; the elections for the new Cortes in Spain are imminent. Don Carlos is said to have applied to his Legitimist friends and relatives for further aid in the forthcoming campaign, in which he hopes to gain a decisive success over his enemies. In the United States the Complete Amnesty Bill has been thrown out in the House of Representatives, having failed to secure the necessary two-thirds majority. Mr. Blaine led the Opposition, on the ground that it would include Mr. Jefferson Davis, the ex-President of the Confederate States, who had been guilty of great cruelty towards the Federal prisoners during the Civil War. The Judiciary Committee of the same house has reported by six votes to five in favour of an amendment to the Constitution, fixing the term of the tenure of the Presidential office at six years, and rendering any one who has once filled the office ineligible for re-election.

The regular meeting of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall, Gt. Queen-street, Bro. Col. Creaton, V.P., in the chair, Bro. Jas. Terry, Secretary, read the minutes, which were confirmed. This being the last meeting for receiving petitions previous to the next election in May, numerous applicants were placed on the list of candidates, 26 males and 33 females. The inmates conveyed to the Committee their hearty thanks in appreciation of the excellent entertainment provided for them on the 6th inst. The report of the Finance Committee was read, showing the flourishing state of the Institution. The Committee recommended that the salary of the Secretary, Bro. Jas. Terry, be increased £50 per annum. It was then announced that on account of the next regular meeting falling on the date of the Anniversary Festival, 9th February, arrangements had been made that it should take place on the 8th of February. A vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman. There were present Bros. J. Hogg, S. Rawson, J. Brett, R. W. Stewart, J. Nunn, B. Head, Newton, J. M. Stedwell, G. Bolton, W. Stephens, W. Hale, J. Constable, H. Massey, H. M. Levy, Hilton, T. W. White, F. Adlard, Warren.

We regret to have to announce the death of one of the brightest, and most active Masons in the Colonies, Bro. George Thompson, of Quebec. He was, during many years, foremost in zeal for the good of the Order and in dissemination of its moral and charitable tenets. In this country he is mourned as an erudite and amiable correspondent. The Grand Lodge of Quebec will long lament the loss of one so popular and so dear to Masonry in its jurisdiction.

We have to thank Bro. Hughan for an impression of the rare and very curious Masonic Token of the year 1790 struck in honour of the election of George Prince of Wales as M.W.G.M.

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.

—:O:—

SATURDAY, 15th JANUARY.

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

MONDAY, 17th JANUARY.

- 45—Strong Man, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell, at 8. (Instruction.)
- 185—Tranquillity, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C., at 4.
- 236—York, Masonic Hall, York.
- 331—Phoenix of Honour and Prudence, Public Rooms, Truro.
- 359—Peace and Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Southampton.
- 382—Royal Union, Chequer's Hotel, Uxbridge.
- 466—Merit, George Hotel, Stamford Baron, Northampton.
- 720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham.
- 725—Stoneleigh, King's Arms Hotel, Kenilworth.
- 935—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Holbeach.
- 1037—Portland, Royal Breakwater Hotel, Portland.
- 1073—Greta, Court-buildings, Keswick.
- 1141—Mid Sussex, Assembly Rooms, Horsham.
- 1502—Israel, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool.

TUESDAY, 18th JANUARY.

- 30—United Mariners, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
- 55—Constitutional, Wheatsheaf Tavern, Hand-court, W.C., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
- 73—Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.
- 95—Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
- 194—St. Paul's, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C.
- 1441—Ivy, Windsor Castle Tavern, Southwark-bridge-road.
- Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, at 6.30.
- 213—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, Theatre-street, Norwich.
- 402—Royal Sussex, George the Fourth, Nottingham.
- 663—Wiltshire of Fidelity, Town Hall, Devizes.
- 1006—Tregullow, Masonic Rooms, St. Day, Scorrier, Cornwall.
- 1223—Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone, at 8. (Instruction.)
- 1325—Stavely, Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool.
- 1384—Equity, Walker's Commercial Hotel, Widnes.
- 1427—Percy, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- 1470—Chiltern, Town Hall, Dunstable.
- 1479—Halsey, Town Hall, St. Albans. (Instruction.)
- R. A. 41—Royal Cumberland, Old Orchard-street, Bath.

WEDNESDAY, 19th JANUARY.

- 174—Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
- 190—Oak, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street.
- 193—Confidence, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
- 1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
- 121—Mount Sinai, Public-buildings, Penzance.
- 137—Amity, Masonic Hall, Thames-street, Poole.
- 175—East Medina, Masonic Hall, John-street, Ryde, I.W.
- 199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover. (Instruction.)
- 200—Old Globe, Private Rooms, Globe-street, Scarborough.
- 221—St. John's, Commercial Hotel, Town Hall Square, Bolton.
- 501—Buckingham, George Hotel, Aylesbury.
- 592—Cotteswold, King's Head Hotel, Cirencester.
- 683—Isca, Freemasons' Hall, Dock-street, Newport, Monmouthshire.
- 969—Sun and Vector, Assembly Rooms, Workington.
- 1040—Sykes, Masonic Hall, Great Driffield.
- 1086—Walton, St. Lawrence Boys' School, Kirkdale.
- 1114—Joppa, Corn Hall, Fakenham.
- 1129—St. Chad's, Roebuck Hotel, Rochdale.
- 1161—Eliot, Private Rooms, St. Germain's, Cornwall.
- 1206—Cinque Ports, Bell Hotel, Sandwich.
- 131—Brighouse, Private Room, Bradford-road, Brighouse, Yorks.
- 1334—Norman, Freemasons' Hall, Durham.
- 1353—Duke of Lancaster, Athenaeum, Lancaster.
- 1413—Salem, Town Hall, Dawlish, Devon.
- R. A. 141—Faith, Arderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
- R. A. 417—Faith and Unity, Masonic Hall, Dorchester.
- R. A. 539—Vernon, Dragon Hotel, High-street, Walsall.
- R. A. 632—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Trowbridge.
- R. A. 1045—Stamford, Town Hall, Altrincham, Cheshire.
- R. A. 1164—Eliot, Private Rooms, St. Germain's, Cornwall.

THURSDAY, 20th JANUARY.

- House Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
- 55—Constitutional, London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
- 169—Temperance, White Swan, High-street, Deptford.
- 181—Universal, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
- 435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W. at 8. (Instruction.)
- 435—New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton.
- 1139—South Norwood, Public Hall, South Norwood.
- 1260—Hervey, 152 Fulham-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
- 1278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park.
- 1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
- 56—Howard, High-street, Arundel.
- 254—Trinity, Castle Hotel, Coventry.
- 290—Worcester, Bell Hotel, Worcester.
- 343—Concord, Militia Officers' Mess Rooms, Starkie-street, Preston.
- 523—John of Gaunt, Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, Leicester.
- 531—St. Helen's, Masonic Hall, Hartlepool.
- 600—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford, Yorks.
- 940—Philanthropy, Freemasons' Hall, Stockton-on-Tees.
- 1181—Abbey, Masonic Hall, Battle, Sussex.
- 1332—Unity, Masonic Hall, Crediton, Devon.
- R. A. 339—Regularity, Crown Hotel, King-street, Penrith.
- R. A. 602—Marwood, Masonic Hall, Middleborough.
- R. A. 913—Pattison, Lord Raglan Tavern, Raglan-road, Plumstead.

FRIDAY, 21st JANUARY.

- House Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
- 1278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
- 1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
- 347—Noah's Ark, Wagon and Horse Hotel, Tipton.
- 516—Phoenix, Fox Hotel, Stowmarket.
- R. A. 521—Truth, Freemasons' Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, Huddersfield.
- R. A. 556—Elias de Derham, Masonic Hall, Salisbury.

SATURDAY, 22nd JANUARY.

- Audit Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
- R. A.—Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.

IRELAND.

MONDAY—795—Ashfield (Cootehill) Private Room, Cootehill, Co. Cavan.
WEDNESDAY—161—Excelsior, Bishop-street, Tuam.
THURSDAY—129—Industry, Dundoran, Donegal.

SCOTLAND.

TUESDAY—14—St. John, Grant's House, Dunkeld.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—44—St. Luke, Freemasons' Hall.
TUESDAY—36—St. David, Ship Hotel, E. Register-street.
405—Rifle, Freemasons' Hall.
WEDNESDAY—160—Roman Eagle, Iona Hotel, 62 Nicholson-street.
THURSDAY—48—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.
226—Portobello, Royal Hotel, Bath-street.
R. A. 152—Perseverance, Lodge Room, 88 Constitution-street.
FRIDAY—R. A. 83—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.

GLASGOW DISTRICT.

MONDAY—332—Union, 170 Buchanan-street.
556—Clydesdale, 106 Rose-street.
K. T.—St. Mungo Encampment, 213 Buchanan-street.
TUESDAY—3 bis.—St. John's, St. John's Hall, Buchanan-street.
73—Thistle and Rose, 170 Buchanan-street.
87—Thistle, 30 Hope-street.
437—Govandale, Partland Hall, Govan.
WEDNESDAY—117—Partick, St. Mary's, New Masonic Hall, Partick.
128—St. John, Freemasons' Hall, Shettleston.
354—Caledonian Railway, 30 Hope-street.
THURSDAY—27—St. Mungo, 213 Buchanan-street.
465—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall, Garngad-road.
553—St. Vincent, 160 Kent-road.
FRIDAY—306—Commercial, 30 Hope-street.
321—St. Andrew's, Public Hall, Alexandria.
408—Clyde, 170 Buchanan-street.
12—Greenock, Kilwinning Public Hall, Greenock.
SATURDAY—23—St. John's, Black Bull, Kirkintilloch.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement.—The regular weekly meeting of this Chapter took place on Tuesday, at the Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, under the presidency of Comps. Norris M.E.Z., Newman H., Constable J., Terry N., Lilly Assistant Scribe E., Watkins P.S. Upon the confirmation of the minutes of the previous Convocation, the ceremony of Exaltation was rehearsed by the M.E.Z., in a manner which elicited universal satisfaction. The officers for the ensuing fortnight were elected as follows:—Comps. Newman Z., Constable H., Seeks J., Noehmer P.S. There were also present Comps. Green, Dolby, Terry, &c. We urge upon our Comps. seeking R.A. instruction to attend this old established Chapter; the time of meeting is 6:30 p.m., thus permitting the members to get away early, as the business is not prolonged beyond two hours.

Egyptian Lodge of Instruction, No. 27.—This Lodge held its usual weekly meeting on Thursday last, 13th January, at Bro. Maidwell's, the "Hercules," Leadenhall-street, E.C. Present—Bros. Ellis W.M., Crane S.W., Biddle J.W., Hocking S.D., Horsley J.D., Salmonese I.G., Grammer Hon. Sec., Atkins P.M. Treasurer, and numerous other brethren. The Lodge was opened in the 2nd degree, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Hill acting as candidate. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sections of the lecture were worked by Bro. Horsley, assisted by the brethren. All Masonic business being ended, the Lodge was closed in ancient form. There will be no regular Lodge Meeting on Thursday next, 20th January, on account of the annual dinner, which takes place on that evening at 7 p.m., and the names for which (limited to twenty-five) are all filled up.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—Held at the Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, E.C., Monday, 10th January. Present:—Bros. Foxcroft W.M., Pilbeam S.W., Read J.W., Mitchell S.D., Percy J.D., Winkler I.G., Tolmie Deputy Preceptor, Killick Secretary, Halford Treasurer, and a large gathering of members. Lodge opened in the usual manner, minutes of previous meeting confirmed. Bro. Stock passed to the degree of F.C. Bro. Tolmie worked the first, second and third sections of second lecture, Bro. Cattermole, 217, elected a member, Bro. Pilbeam elected W.M. for the ensuing week. A ballot was taken for a life votership, which resulted in favour of Bro. Killick. The annual supper will take place on the 31st inst., and the fifteen sections worked on the 7th February.

Robert Burns Chapter, No. 143.—The annual festival of this Chapter was held in the Masonic Hall, Holytown, on the 3rd inst., M.E. Comps. H. J. Shields Z. presiding, supported by M.E. Comps. W. McMurdo P.Z., and A. Laird J., M.E. Comp. D. Baker H. Cronprier. After full justice had been done to a substantial repast, and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been duly honoured, a few hours were spent in social harmony, and the meeting was brought to a close, all being well satisfied with the proceedings of a well spent evening.

Justice Lodge, No. 147.—This Lodge held its installation meeting on Wednesday, the 12th of January, at the White Swan Tavern, High-street Deptford. Present—Bros. J. Roper W.M., W. Andrews S.W. and W.M. elect, S. R. Speight J.W., Geo. Chapman Sec., H. Bartlett P.M. Treas., A. B. Church S.D., G. Waterman J.D., R. G. Goddard Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Bolton, Pothe, Cavill, Lightfoot, Hall, and many others. Visitors—Bros. Brown P.M. 169, Andrews, Royal Oak 817, and many others. Business—Lodge opened and minutes read; ballot resulting in favour of Messrs. Aucliff and Grocer; Bros. Batchelor and West were passed; Bros. Martin and Batchelor were raised; Bro. Wm. Andrews S.W. and W.M. elect installed by Bro. Bolton P.M.; brethren admitted and saluted W.M.; Bro. Speight

S.W., Church J.W., Bartlett Treas., Chapman Sec., and Waterman S.D., Partington J.D., Ingram I.G., Goddard Tyler. Mr. Grove was initiated; Mr. Aucliff, through illness, did not attend; vote of thanks was given Bro. Bolton for installing the W.M.; P.M. jewel presented to Bro. Roper I.P.M.; £5 voted a widow; £10 to female annuitants, and placed on Bro. Hutching's list; one gentleman proposed for initiation next Lodge night; Lodge closed, 60 brethren being present at the close.

Lodge of Perseverance, No. 164.—This Lodge held its annual installation meeting on Wednesday, the 5th of January, at the Masonic Hall, London Hotel, Sidmouth. Present—Bros. B. T. Hodge P.M. Treasurer, 30°, W.M. pro tem, W. Mitchell S.W., J. Albert Orchard S.M., P.G.St. Devon J.W. pro tem, George Beard Secretary, W. Salter S.D. pro tem, W. T. Orchard J.D. pro tem, R. Perryman I.G., Thos. Paul Tyler. Past Masters—Bros. W. Hine Haycock Prov. G.S.D., W. Pile, J. Northcott, Joseph Parse, H. Dawe. Bros. J. Godfrey, S. Cummings, Fras. Halse, A. J. Thornton, R. T. Thornton. Visitors—Bros. Rev. J. Huyshe, M.A., R.W. Prov. G.M. Devon P.G.C. England, Rev. W. H. Coyte Prov. G. Chaplain Cambs, W. Elphinstone Stone P.P.G.J.W. P.M. 372, H. Woodgates P.M. 847, J. Murch P.M. 847, G. Evans P.M. 1181, W. Salter P.M. 1181, Rev. Swansborough Chaplain 1181, Frederick Horspool P.M. 1254, J. Read J.W. 847, W. H. Banfield 847, Thomas Acland Organist 847, Jno. Hussey S.W. 847, L. Loveridge S.W. 1181, Henry Ford 1181, W. Wills 1181, J. Skinner 372. Business—On the opening of the Lodge, Bro. P.M. W. Hine Haycock was requested to take the chair, and the brethren left the Lodge for the purpose of forming a procession to escort into the Lodge the R.W. the Prov. G. Master, who, upon entering and being formally saluted, took his seat upon the dais. Bro. P.M. Hine Haycock then proceeded to initiate Messrs. Wilders, Salter, and Algar, who had been previously balloted for, performing that interesting ceremony in a most able and impressive manner. Bro. P.M. Hodge then resumed the position of W.M., and the ceremony of the installation of Bro. P.M. Hine Haycock was performed by him with that skill and ability for which he is so well known; and at the conclusion he complimented the W.M. on his being again selected to fill the office, and the brethren on having appointed so worthy a brother to preside over them. The W.M. then appointed his officers, and invested them as follows:—Bros. Henry Dawe I.P.M., W. Mitchell S.W., F. H. Orchard J.W., A. J. Thornton Secretary, R. T. Thornton S.D., W. T. Orchard J.D., R. Perryman I.G., T. Paul Tyler. Bro. P.M. Hodge was again re-elected Treasurer, and was invested; the usual addresses to the new officers being given by Bro. Horspool P.M. 1254. The W.M. then read a beautiful and appropriate address to the R.W. and Rev. Prov. G. Master, Bro. Huyshe, and presented him, in the name of the Lodge, with a handsome portrait of the M.W. Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, which he kindly accepted, and he, in feeling terms, thanked the brethren for the unexpected honour they had done him. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. P.M. Woodgates for the musical assistance rendered by him during the ceremonies, and the Lodge was formally closed. The brethren then adjourned to the banqueting room, where a dinner of a most *recherché* description was served by Bro. Rogers, which gave universal satisfaction. The usual loyal and preliminary Craft toasts having been given and duly honoured, "The health of the R.W. the Prov. G.M." was proposed, and received with much enthusiasm, as were also the toasts of "The health of the W.M." and "The Installing Master, Bro. P.M. Hodge." Several other complimentary toasts were given and warmly received, and a very pleasant evening spent.

Scotia Lodge, No. 178.—This Lodge held its installation meeting on Wednesday, the 12th inst., at 170 Buchanan-street, Glasgow, when Bro. J. Gillis P.M. 103 P.G.S.D. installed the following brethren:—Bros. Joseph Singleton re-elected R.W.M., W. Higgins Deputy Master, Wm. Logan Substitute Master, Peter Hepburn S.W., Alexander Mercer J.W., Hugh Killion Secretary, Wm. King Treasurer, M. McDonald S.D., W. Hart J.D., John Matheson P.M. Chaplain, D. Hewison Steward, M. McEwan Bible Bearer, J. Hamilton I.G., W. Miller Tyler. Visitors—Bros. Wm. Bell P.M. 3½, E. Arthur O, Wheeler 73, J. Gillis P.M. 103, A. Bain P.M. 103, and a number of other brethren. Business—Prior to the installation, Bro. Bain, at the request of the Master, raised five brethren to the Sublime Degree, in that solemn and very careful manner which distinguishes his rendering of the 3rd degree. Arrangements were made for the annual festival, and also for the taking of a fresh place of meeting.

St. James's Union Lodge, No. 180.—The installation meeting of the above Lodge was numerous attended on Tuesday, the 11th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, Bro. W. C. Parsons W.M. in the chair, Gillard S.W. F. Annett J.W., G. Bubb P.M. Treas., H. A. Stacey Sec., and P.M.'s Bros. Stonor, Sedgwick, L. Herf, Hamilton and Cameron. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Ballots were taken for the admission of Bros. A. Warner No. 504, Pinto Leite J.W. 795, and W. H. Sharpe J.D. 795, which were unanimous in their favour. Mr. F. N. Heathcoat was duly initiated into the Order, and Bro. Gillard S.W. and W.M. elect, was presented to the Lodge, and, in the presence of 21 P.M.'s, was duly installed by the retiring W.M., Bro. W. C. Parsons perfectly rendered the ceremony. The brethren congratulated him on his retiring from the chair, he having ably discharged his duties. At the conclusion of the evening the W.M. was saluted according to ancient custom. He then invested his officers: Bros. F. Annett S.W., Pillin J.W., G. Bubb P.M. Treas., H. A. Stacey P.M. Sec., Smith S.D., Harrison J.D., Harrison I.G., J. R. Stacey D.C., Stollard W.S., and Gilbert Tyler. Bro. W. C. Parsons I.P.M. announced his intention to act as Steward for the next Anniversary Festival for the R.M. Benevolent Institution. The W.M. presented Bro. Parsons with a very elegant P.M. jewel, and, in placing it on his breast, said if every W.M. was like him they would be indeed proud. He had indeed discharged his duties to their entire satisfaction, and hoped he might live for many years. He carried with him the best wishes of every brother

(cheers). Bro. Parsons said he felt a great pleasure in wearing the jewel from the fact of being initiated in the Lodge. He hoped, during the period of his being W.M. he had given them satisfaction. His only aim was the prosperity of the Lodge. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren, 79 in number, sat down, in the Crown room, to a very sumptuous banquet and dessert, provided by Bro. Francatelli, Bro. Knill superintending. The W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. Bro. Heathcoat showed he was fully impressed with the solemnity of the proceedings. He hoped that his career under the auspices of the W.M., and his proposer, would enable him to become a credit to the Order. Bro. Parsons then proposed the toast of the W.M. He thanked them for giving way for one year so as to enable him to occupy the chair. The W.M. was an old and a valuable member of the Lodge. (Cheers.) He was respected by them all, and he was sure, at the expiration of his year of office, he would leave the chair with the good wishes of all present. The W.M. said he regretted he was not enabled to give expressions in a manner befitting the occasion, he being a foreigner, but having been selected to fill the chair, he felt its duties and responsibilities, and he hoped to discharge them to their satisfaction. He then proposed the toast of the Visitors, saying he was honoured by the presence of many brethren distinguished in the Order. The Lodge was always pleased to see them. Bro. Baxter, P.G.S., in a very eloquent speech, responded, and thanked the brethren, on behalf of the visitors, for the hospitality accorded to them. The W.M., in proposing the toast of the Past Masters, said they were a credit to any Lodge. Bro. Bubb Treas., and Bro. Stacey were well known and tried members of the Lodge, and their services were fully recognized. Bro. Parsons returned thanks. He was sure that, from what he had seen of his predecessors, he would be pleased to follow their example. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the officers of the Lodge, and congratulated himself on possessing such efficient ones. Bros. Bubb, Stacey, Annett and Pillin severally responded, and the Tyler's toast followed. Bros. Bubb, Pillin, Herf P.M., Stollard, B. W. Lumley and Mander contributed to the evening's amusement, Bro. Hart presiding at the piano. The visitors were Bros. H. Lumley P.G.S., H. M. Sydney 34, Edmunds P.M. 795, Mapleson 95, B. W. Lumley No. 1, E. Baxter P.G.S., Benton 521, Dailey 141, Mander W.M. 1201, J. H. Sadler W.M. 795, Barton P.M. 511, Swallow P.M. 1563, Wylie 186, Durtacher No. 4, and H. M. Levy P.M. 188.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—This Lodge held its usual on Wednesday, the 12th of January, at Masons' Hall, Basinghall Street, E.C. Present—Bros. Hollands W.M., S. Corner S.W., G. Corner J.W., J. K. Pitt Sec., J. Constable Treas., Churchward S.D., Croaker J.D., Blackall I.G., Christopher Tyler. P.M. Bro. E. Gottheil Preceptor. The business of the evening consisted in rehearsing the second degree, Bro. Sayer acting as candidate. The W.M., one of the regular pupils of this Lodge, showed considerable progress in his work, which was performed with fluency and intelligence. Three of the sections were worked by Bro. Gottheil, assisted by the brethren, Bro. Turquand exhibiting tolerable efficiency. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather—the snow falling thick and fast—a large number of brethren attended, which proves, in the first place, that the members of this Lodge are earnestly bent to acquire the necessary knowledge to fit them for the duties they may be called upon to perform, and, secondly, that the mode of instruction is appreciated and made pleasant by those who occupy the position of tutors. Two visitors were proposed as members and unanimously accepted. Bro. D. Posener was elected W.M. for the ensuing week.

Star Lodge, No. 219.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, the 10th instant, at their own hall, 12 Trongate, Glasgow. Present—Bros. J. Morgan R.W.M., who was well supported by his office bearers. Business—Initiation, passing, and raising. All the three ceremonies were wrought with that fulness and care which so distinguishes Bro. Morgan's working.

York Lodge of Instruction, No. 236.—A Lodge of Instruction, attached to and under the sanction of the York Lodge, 236, was opened on the 10th January, when a good number of members of the Mother Lodge were present. The officers for the first Lodge night were as follows:—Bros. Hollins W.M., Wilson S.W., Churchill J.W., Sellar S.D., Tissiman J.D., Gainforth I.G., Storry Tyler, and Garbutt candidate. The Lodge was duly opened, when the brethren were instructed in the first degree, Bro. Hollins as W.M. going through the ceremony (for instruction) of initiating Bro. Garbutt, who for that evening was candidate. The working tools were explained by Bro. Gainforth, and the charge given by the W.M. The Lodge was then duly closed. It is intended, in this Lodge of Instruction, to have a change of officers each night, so that every brother may in turn occupy each office until the first degree is well understood, and then change to the second and third degrees, and work them in like manner.

Bank of England Lodge, No. 263.—This Lodge met on Thursday evening at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, when Bro. Morton was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. Treventi was passed to the second degree. There was a goodly sprinkling of visitors, as usual, amongst them a Bro. Howden, who was initiated just fifty years ago in the Canongate Lodge, Kilwinning (the Mother Lodge of Robert Burns), at Edinburgh.

Lodge of Harmony, No. 272.—The installation of Bro. John Queenbrough, as W.M., took place on Thursday, the 30th ult., at the Assembly-rooms, Boston, when there was a large attendance of the brethren. At the conclusion of the ceremony, which was performed in a very impressive manner, the following brethren were invested for the ensuing year:—I.P.M., John Ashlin Thomas P.G.J.W., S.W. W. H. B. Bratley P.G.S., J.W. Charles Pickering, Secretary

H. Snaith, Chaplain G. W. Lowe, Organist J. G. Back, S.D. A. Thorpe, J.D. E. Organer, Stewards W. Thomas and Frank Thomas, I.G. James Eley, Tylers Thomas Ward and W. Wharrie. Subsequently a banquet was held in the Masonic-hall, in Main-ridge, when there was a brilliant muster of the brethren, and the customary Craft and other toasts were duly honoured. It was stated that the Lodge is in a very flourishing condition.

St. George's Lodge, No. 333, Glasgow.—This Lodge held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, 12th inst., the R.W.M. Bro. A. Thomson presiding, and being ably supported by his office bearers. There were three gentlemen present for initiation, and as they were unanimously approved of, the Master requested his Deputy, Bro. Jas. Findlay, to work the first degree, which he did in a manner that perfectly satisfied the Lodge, and the members look forward to a very prosperous as well as harmonious New Year's proceedings.

Alfred Lodge, No. 340, Oxon.—This Lodge held its anniversary meeting on Monday, the 4th instant, at the Masonic Hall, Alfred-street, Oxford, when Bro. Jules Baé M.A. was installed W.M. for the ensuing year. There was a numerous attendance of brethren, and among the visitors present were—Bros. F. P. Morrell M.A. Grand Junior Deacon, R. J. Spiers P.D.P.G.M., the Rev. H. A. Pickard M.A. W.M. Apollo Lodge, J. Sladden W.M. Bowyer Lodge, Captain Ferrier P.M. Churchill Lodge, and Green, Marlborough Lodge. The ceremony of installation having been very impressively performed by the I.P.M., Bro. W. Thompson, the W.M. appointed the following as his officers, namely:—Bros. J. Pratt S.W., F. W. Ansell J.W., H. Houghton, P.M. Treasurer, W. R. Hobbs Secretary, J. Jenkin S.D., H. C. Heller J.D., J. Chapman S.M.C., G. Brunner and Butt J.M.C.'s, F. R. Hall I.G., H. Plumridge Org., E. Horn and S. Harris Stewards, and W. Stevens Tyler. These having been invested, and a handsome P.M.'s jewel having been presented to Bro. G. T. Prior P.M., in acknowledgment of his valuable services, the Lodge was closed in the usual manner, and the brethren adjourned to an elegant banquet, at which about 40 sat down, Bro. Baé W.M. occupying the chair. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were very ably proposed and enthusiastically responded to, and several songs were sung in the intervals between the toasts. The announcement, in the course of the evening, by Bro. Rev. Pickard, W.M. of the Apollo University Lodge, that a telegram had been received from India, in which M.W.G.M. the Prince of Wales appointed Prince Leopold, P.G.M. Oxfordshire, caused the utmost enthusiasm. Prince Leopold has been elected W.M. of the Apollo Lodge for the ensuing year, and it is probable his installation as P.G.M. will take place on the 22nd February.

Salisbury Lodge of Instruction, No. 435.—This Lodge held their weekly meeting on Thursday, the 13th inst., at the Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W. The following were present—Bros. Lee W.M., Neighbour S.W., Holden J.W., Farwig S.D., Schieffman J.D., Pulsford I.G., T. Cull Secretary, Mander Preceptor; also Bros. H. Gonle, Watts, Lloyd, Belfrage, Tolmie, and Martin. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. worked the first section of the 1st Lecture. The Lodge was then opened in the 2nd degree, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed, Bro. Gonle acting as candidate, after which the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sections were worked by Bros. Mander, Lee and Tolmie alternately. The Lodge was then opened in the 3rd degree, and closed down in due form to the 2nd and 1st degrees, when Bro. H. Gonle, of Lodge No. 1031, was unanimously elected a joining member, and Bro. Neighbour to be W.M. for the ensuing week. The report of the Audit Committee having been received and adopted, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Cull, the Secretary, for the able and indefatigable discharge of his duties during the past year, and for the efficient manner in which the financial position of the Lodge had been recorded. The following officers were unanimously re-elected, viz.:—Bros. Mander Preceptor, Burrell Treasurer, Cull Secretary. Bro. Mander's re-election gave an opportunity for several of the brethren to testify to the valuable services he had rendered to the cause of Freemasonry in general, and to the Salisbury Lodge of Instruction in particular. The W.M. notified that, in accordance with the rules, the fifteen sections would be worked on the last Thursday in March, at Air-street. The Lodge was then closed in perfect harmony. We may here record the fact that the whole of the above business was transacted between the hours of 8 and 10 o'clock, which speaks volumes for the energy shown and work done in the Salisbury Lodge of Instruction.

Glasgow Lodge, No. 441.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Tuesday, the 11th of January, at their own hall, 24 Struthers-street, Glasgow. Present—Bros. James Woods R.W.M., Churn Deputy Master, M. Cheany S.W., Nagle J.W., J. Goldie Sec., Andrew Crawford Tyler. P.M. Bro. Wm. Taylor. Visitors—Bros. G. W. Wheeler 73, Gillon 129, J. Ferguson P.M. 503. Business—Initiation of a candidate, previous to which the P.M. proposed Bro. Wm. Bruce Fisher, of St. James, 125 Ayr, as a joining member, which was unanimously agreed to. Arrangements were made for holding the annual Festival on the 11th February, and it is evident the Lodge will lose none of its prestige while under the reign of Bro. Woods, its new Master.

St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 465.—This Lodge held an emergency meeting on Saturday, the 5th January, at their own hall, Garngad-road, Glasgow. Present—Bros. David Gilchrist R.M.W., J. Clark Deputy Master, A. Allison S.W., Morrison acting J.W., D. Reid acting S.D., Past Master, Bro. David Reid; Visitors, Bros. Wheeler 73, J. Booth R.W.M. 87, J. Miller P.M. 87. Business—The passing of a brother to the Fellow Craft degree, which was ably performed by the new Master, Bro. D. Gilchrist. The Lodge was then raised to the 3rd degree, and Bro. Miller having requested the Lodge to raise a member for 87 along with their own, it was at once granted,

and, at the wish of the Master, Bro. G. W. Wheeler raised Bro. Weir for St. Andrew's, and Bro. Dunn for the Thistle, to that sublime degree, and the Lodge was then closed in due form.

Loyal Berkshire Lodge of Hope, No. 574, Newbury.

—This Lodge held a successful gathering on Friday, the 7th inst., in connection with the installation of Bro. W. H. Herbert, Senior Warden, as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. A portion of the Town Hall having been partitioned off, the Lodge was opened there at 2.30 by the W.M., Brother Bance, who conducted the ceremonies on the summons, and then proceeded to present, in the name of the Lodge, a Past Master's jewel to the Treasurer, Bro. F. G. Hall P.M., who, at the previous meeting, had been unanimously made an honorary member in consideration of his long and valued services in the various offices he had filled. Those services were now substantially recognised by the gift of a gold jewel, ornamented with blue enamel and Masonic devices, with a suitable inscription engraved on the back of it. Bro. Hall appropriately acknowledged the presentation. Bro. W. Biggs P.M., Provincial Grand Secretary, then presented a similar jewel, which had been unanimously voted by the Lodge, to Bro. John Bance, the retiring Worshipful Master, in recognition of the exceptional manner in which he had discharged the duties of that office. Bro. Bance expressed his appreciation of this mark of kindness on the part of the brethren, whom he thanked for the cordial manner in which they had supported him by their attendance and assistance during the past year. The next business was the installation of Bro. W. Herbert as W.M. for 1876, the Provincial Grand Secretary ably officiating as Installing Master, assisted by Bro. John Dew, P.M. of the Oakley Lodge, Basingstoke. The W.M. afterwards appointed his officers as follow:—Bros. R. Ravenor Senior Warden, G. M. Knight Junior Warden, the Rev. T. Barton Chaplain, F. G. Hall P.M. Treasurer, G. J. Cosburn P.G.S. Secretary, P. Glover Organist, S. Hunt Senior Deacon, S. Knight Junior Deacon, Lyon I.G., A. Burns Director of Ceremonies, W. Knight Senior Steward, W. Wilson Junior Steward, Dodd Tyler. Bro. T. Deller P.M., who had resigned the office of Secretary, after discharging its duties with much efficiency for five years, and had been elected an honorary member, was now presented with a vote of thanks, which was duly acknowledged. The Lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to the White Hart Hotel, where a banquet was provided in a most liberal style by Bro. Hamlen. The W.M. presided, and the S.W. occupied the vice-chair. In addition to the brethren mentioned, there were present—Bros. Barron Fielder, Geo. Boyer, and W. W. King (P.M.'s of the Lodge), E. Heald, W. H. Booth, J. Tegg, F. H. Maychurch, R. Johnston, J. Stacey, C. P. Smith, W. E. Wheeler, W. Balding, J. Hattatt, J. G. O'Farrell, J. J. Jarman, A. Stradling, W. Cordrey, A. Judd, J. Wightman P.M. 411 and 1101 (Reading), M. Wheeler (Wantage), A. Powell, E. P. Plenty, &c. On the introduction of dessert, the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," and the healths of the M.W. Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the Pro Grand Master, Lord Carnarvon, and the Deputy Grand Master, Lord Skelmersdale, were successively drunk. To the toast of "The P.G. Master, Sir D. Gooch, Bart., M.P., the D.P.G.M., Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, and the rest of the P.G. Officers, past and present," Bro. Barron Fielder responded. The P.G. Secretary gave "The health of the newly-installed W.M., Bro. Herbert," who returned thanks. The health of the Installing Master being given, Bro. Biggs returned thanks. Bro. Dew P.P.G. Reg. (Hants) proposed the health of the I.P.M., Bro. Bance, and spoke in eulogistic terms of the working of the Lodge under Bro. Bance's presidency. Bro. Bance having returned thanks, the toast of "The Masonic Charities" was given by Bro. W. Knight, who spoke of the three noble institutions supported by the Craft, namely, the Boys' School, the Girls' School (each providing for some 400 children, all Masons' orphans), and the Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows. Bro. Bance, who, like the proposer, had represented the Newbury Lodge at the Charity Festivals, replied. The healths of the officers of the Lodge were also drunk. Bro. Bance proposed "Success to the Lodge of Instruction," coupling with it the name of the energetic Secretary, Bro. Glover, who responded. The brethren also drank the health of Bro. Stephen Knight, thanking him for the tasteful manner in which he and his family had decorated the room, the walls of which were emblazoned with Masonic emblems. The better health of Bro. Cave P.M., and Bro. Walter Graham, was also proposed in feeling terms, and Bro. Bance called on the brethren to drink the health of Bro. W. Knight, the indefatigable Steward, who returned thanks. The musical arrangements, under Bro. Glover's direction, were excellent, and Bros. Jarman, Glover, Hall, S. Hunt, A. Stradling and W. Wilson were among those who contributed to the harmony of the evening.

Rowley Lodge, No. 1051.—The members of this Lodge assembled in their Lodge room at the Athenaeum on 3rd inst., for the purpose of installing a W.M. for the ensuing year, and also to celebrate the annual Festival of St. John. The Lodge was opened in due form by Bro. J. Taylor, the retiring W.M. The chair was then taken by Bro. Dr. J. D. Moore P.G.S.B. of England, the installing officer. The W.M. elect, Bro. Henry Longman S.W., was then duly presented, and regularly installed in the W.M.'s chair. The newly elected Master then proceeded to invest the following brethren as his officers for the year:—Bros. Thomas Jackson S.W., Geo. Sutton J.W., W. J. Sly Treas., Dr. J. D. Moore Sec., N. Holme S.D., Grant King J.D., and John Watson Tyler. The Lodge was afterwards closed, and the brethren adjourned to the King's Arms Hotel, where a capital dinner was provided by Bro. Sly, and to which about twenty sat down. The W.M. occupied the chair, supported by Bros. Dr. Moore, John Hatch, W. Wearing, J. Taylor, W. Duff, the S.W. and J.W. occupying the vice chairs. After dinner the chairman gave in succession the usual toasts, which were duly responded to. Bro. Moore, in highly complimentary terms, proposed the health of the W.M., congratulating the members on having elected him, and wishing him a prosperous and successful year of office. Bro. Longman was the right man in the right place, and fully deserved the honour which had

been bestowed upon him. The chairman in responding, and after thanking the company for the honour done him, said it would be his endeavour to do all he could for the good of the Craft in general, and for the Rowley Lodge in particular. (Hear, hear.) He believed the brethren he had appointed as his officers were prepared to assist him to the best of their ability. With regard to what Bro. Dr. Moore had said as to the attendance of P.M.'s, it was his (Bro. Longman's) intention when he laid down the duties of office, still to visit his Lodge, when he hoped to enjoy that well-earned rest to which he thought he should be fully entitled after having borne the "heat and burden of the day." Bro. Helme proposed the health of the I.P.M., Bro. J. Taylor, complimenting him on the manner in which he had performed the duties of his office, and also on the knowledge he displayed of the ritual of the Craft. Bro. Taylor acknowledged the compliment in suitable terms. Bro. John Hatch proposed the health of the Senior and Junior Wardens, Bros. Jackson and Sutton, who responded. Bro. Sheriff next proposed the health of the Visiting Officers, the toast being acknowledged by Bro. Thomas Atkinson, W.M. of the Lodge of Fortitude, and Bro. W. Wearing P.M. Bro. Moore then proposed the health of the Junior Officers of the Lodge, adding a few remarks as to their duties, Bros. N. Helme and G. King responded. The chairman then gave the health of the Visitors, and said that, as Master of the Lodge, he should be always glad to welcome visiting brethren, and they might rely on meeting with a hearty reception. He approved of visiting different Lodges, believing that such visits contributed to strengthen the social and friendly ties which bound them together as brethren. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. James Roberts (West Bromwich), who responded, and in a pithy speech alluded to the good feeling which Masonry had a tendency to develop among mankind. "To all poor and distressed Masons," was then proposed by the Tyler, Bro. Watson, and having been duly honoured, the proceedings terminated.

Grey Friars' Lodge, No. 1101.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 12th of January, at the Masonic Hall, Reading. Present—Bros. John T. Freeman W.M., E. Margrett S.W., W. P. Ivey P.M. Secretary, J. T. Stransom Treasurer, R. Dowsett Organist, T. Newman Steward, J. Early Danks I.G., W. Hemmings Tyler. Past Master—Bro. Egginton. Members—J. Rose, J. Robinson, T. Cottrell, W. Bailey. Visitors—Bro. W. A. Hukins, Steward of the Chiltern Lodge, No. 1470. Business—The minutes of the last regular Lodge were read and confirmed. Mr. Thomas Simonds, of Arborfield, was ballotted for, and declared to be unanimously elected, after which he was initiated by the W.M. in a very efficient manner. After voting ten guineas to the R.M.I.B., as per vote of Provincial Grand Lodge, and receiving nominations for joining and initiation, also voting a moiety of the amount for a jewel for the Installing Master, Bro. Moxhay, P.G.S.W. Berks and Bucks, the Lodge was closed.

Milton Lodge, No. 1144.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 5th January, at the Commercial Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne. Present—Bros. William Henry Holt W.M., James Devaney S.W., Abraham Hill J.W., John Jones P.M. Secretary, Jas. Pollitt P.P.G.D.C. Treasurer, Alfred Clayton S.D., Edwin Buckley J.D., James Driver I.G., W. Hill Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Jas. White, D. B. Radcliffe, James Pollitt, John Jones. Visitors—Bros. Joseph Leech P.M. Minerva 300, John Buckley P.M. Endeavour 830, Joseph Read Commercial 1391. Business—Minutes of previous meeting confirmed; ballot taken unanimously in favour of Mr. C. H. Barber, who was then initiated by the W.M., when Bro. Withecomb was passed to the 2nd degree by the W.M. Other business completed, Lodge closed in good harmony, when the brethren retired to refreshment, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Duke of Lancaster Lodge, No. 1353.—The brethren of this Lodge celebrated the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist by dining together at the house of Bro. Wm. Longmire, the King's Arms, Morecambe, on Wednesday evening, the 15th inst. Nearly forty members were present. The W.M. Bro. Jonathan Acton presiding, supported by Bros. Heald I.P.M., John Bell P.M., Patterson, J. M. Bell, Beesley, &c., the vice chairs being filled by Bros. James Conlon and F. G. Dale, the Senior and Junior Wardens of the Lodge. Upon the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal toasts were proposed from the chair, and duly honoured. Bro. John Bell then gave the "Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," which was responded to on behalf of the latter by Bro. James Conlon. Bro. Heald proposed the health of the "Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," after which the chairman gave the toasts of the "Officers of the Grand Lodge" and those of "Provincial Grand Lodges," alluding, in the course of his remarks, to the visit which he had paid to the Grand Lodge on the installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as M.W.G.M. Bro. Heald proposed the health of the "Worshipful Master," and expressed the pleasure with which he had witnessed his working in the Lodge, which he was confident gave satisfaction to every member. The Chairman, in responding, said he had always endeavoured, since he was elected to the high position of W.M. of the Lodge, to do his duty; he had striven hard to do all that was required of him, though he was conscious of a few shortcomings. He hoped the officers would continue to accord him their support, and that he would be kept up in the work of the Craft, as he felt assured the more he had to do the better able he should be to go through it. He concluded by proposing the health of the "Immediate Past Master and Past Masters," which was responded to by Bros. Edmund Heald and John Bell. Other toasts followed, including "the Wardens," which was responded to by Bros. Conlon and F. G. Dale; "The Treasurer and Secretary," acknowledged by Bros. Ellershaw and R. Wolfenden; and "Masonic Charities," which was proposed by the Chairman; the Tyler's toast including the list. During the evening several brethren contributed to the harmony by song and sentiment.

Great City Lodge, No. 1426.—The regular meeting was held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, on Saturday,

8th January. Present—Bros. J. Hamilton Townend P.M. W.M., J. Seex P.M. S.W., G. W. Blackie S.D. as J.W., W. H. Catchpole J.D. as S.D., Thos. Hamer D.C. as J.D., James Freeman Treasurer as I.G., W. F. Kibble Steward, N. B. Headon I.P.M., James Stevens P.M., Edward Moody P.M. Secretary; about fifty other members, and the following visitors:—Bros. Turner 157, Cumming 534, Phillips 534, Philpot, Witt P.M. 144, Batley 719, Barham 144, Binckes, Secretary Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and Matier P.G.W. Greece. Letters of apology for non-attendance were received from Bro. Rev. R. J. Simpson P.G.C. Chaplain, Stanway J.W., Preston I.G., and Taylor Steward. In consequence of the indisposition of the W.M., Bro. N. B. Headon I.P.M. opened the Lodge in the three degrees. The minutes of the last meeting, including a motion to raise the initiation fee to ten guineas, were confirmed. Bros. Powell, Keith Frith, Luggar and Hudd were raised in Bro. Headon's usual careful and effective manner. Bro. J. H. Townend, the W.M., then passed Bros. Shore, Ginders, Lawson, and Wyler. The Lodge was then called off for refreshment, and on resuming, Bro. Edward Moody P.M. and Secretary, by the courtesy of the W.M., took the chair, and initiated Messrs. Royd, Roberts, Sampson, White, Boote, and the Viscount de Leliva. Invitations to visit the sister Lodge, "City of Westminster," were received by all the officers, and it was arranged that they should attend on Thursday, 13th January. The Lodge was then closed, and adjourned till the second Saturday in February.

Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, 6th January, at the Metropolitan Club, 269 Pentonville-road. Bros. Michael W.M., Side as S.W., Kingham J.W., Jas. Willing jun. I.P.M. Treasurer, Tims P.M. 177 Secretary, Scales S.D., Stiles J.D., Read I.G., and Bros. Clarke, Carter, Jones, Rogers, Cavet, Van Camp, Gilbert, Solomon, Cheek, H. Stiles, Erwood, Rapkin, &c. The Lodge was opened, and Bro. Sayers was raised to the 3rd degree. Bros. P. E. Vanderpump and E. J. Vanderpump were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft; Messrs. Ohens, Wrigley, Morgan (who had previously been balloted for), and Mr. A. B. Greenslade were initiated into the Order. The brethren of this Lodge may be congratulated on hearing the working so effectively rendered by the W.M., who was well supported by the officers. The W.M. announced that the first anniversary banquet of the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction would take place on 28th of January, at the Club, under the presidency of Bro. Jas. Willing and an efficient body of stewards. To the veteran Preceptor, Bro. T. A. Adams, is due the credit for such correct working. The Lodge was closed, and an excellent banquet followed, provided by Bro. Cox. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the brethren, after a thorough enjoyable evening, separated. The visitors were Bros. Yeats and Berrie.

Addiscombe Lodge, No. 1556.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Saturday, the 8th January, at the Alma Tavern, Addiscombe. Present—Bros. Samuel J. Turquand W.M., Mullett J.W., H. E. Frances P.M. Secretary, W. S. Masterman Treasurer, Squirejohn Pitt J.D., Fred. Carpenter D.C., A. Lambert Steward, Turquand jun. I.G., Sherrard Tyler; Rev. W. T. Jones, M.A., P.M. Chaplain. Visitors—Bros. A. C. Ebbutt P.M. 463, J. K. Pitt, R. L. Webber, J. G. Yolland P.G.S.B. Herts, W. W. Morgan. This young Lodge, which was consecrated in August last, has already obtained a good position in the opinion of the Craft. Bro. Turquand, though but a young Mason—having joined the Order in 1873—has been assiduous in acquiring a knowledge of the ceremonies, and in his conduct of the duties of the chair he always exhibits an earnest and impressive manner which sensibly affects those present. The Lodge was opened in the usual form, and the following business was transacted: Messrs. A. Plant and W. Abbott were balloted for, approved, and afterwards, with Mr. Finniger, duly initiated. Bro. Pettit was balloted for as a joining member, and accepted. Bro. Foster was then raised to the sublime degree, and, subsequently, Bros. Colston, Goodwin and Davis passed, the ceremony in each case being accurately rendered. Bro. Frances, P.M. and Secretary then rose, and, in accordance with an intimation he had given at the meeting of the Frederick of Unity Lodge, in August last, requested the Lodge to accept from him a portrait, in oils, of their esteemed Prov. G.M., Major-Gen. Brownrigg. Thereupon the W.M. proposed, and Bro. W. S. Masterman seconded, that the gift be accepted, and a vote of thanks to Bro. Frances be recorded on the minutes. This having been unanimously agreed to, the Lodge was closed. A banquet was then served by Mrs. Dallmann, the kind hostess of the Alma, and she deserves the greatest credit, both for the elegance of the repast and the attention she accorded to her guests. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

Royal Ark Mariners.—The Royal Ark vessel in connection with Robert Burns Chapter No. 143, was unmoored on Saturday evening, 8th inst., H. J. Shields F.N., Wm. McMurdo S., and D. Baker J., when six distressed Mariners were received on board, and after having had their wants relieved and being instructed in their duties as Royal Ark Mariners, the vessel was again moored in safety.

THE NUMBER SEVEN.—There is a new proof of the important part which the number Seven acted in the religious and moral life of the Semitic nations. In one of the latest publications of Professor Oppert the version of an ancient Assyrian formula of adjuration is given. In it are first enumerated the seven great disasters, which may befall mankind. On account of it seven species of gods fight, each being composed of seven; four of whom are friendly to man, and three hostile. Then follows the formula of adjuration, consisting of seven invocations by seven divers, divine spirits. Everything marches on and develops and resolves itself in seven and seven. There is, therefore, reason to believe that there is nothing fortuitous in the selection of the number seven, but that there lies in it revealed something pertaining to the primeval spirit.—*Jewish Chronicle.*

CONSECRATION OF A ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER AT ROTHESAY.

AT the last Quarterly Communication at Edinburgh, a charter having been granted to Rothesay, the Companions there applied for permission for the Principals and office bearers of No. 73, Caledonian of Unity, to be allowed to consecrate them. This having been kindly granted, on Friday, 7th January, the ceremony took place in the large hall of Bro. Kelly's Victoria Hotel, as being more suitable for the occasion than the old Masonic Hall. Comp. G. W. Wheeler, Z. of 73, P.G. 2nd S., at once proceeded to open a Lodge of Mark Masters. J. Stewart S.W., J. Kinnaird J.W., G. Macdonald P.M., J. Tweed T., J. Balfour S.D., D. Gilchrist J.D., J. Bannerman I.G., J. Wilson O.G. There were also present Comps. A. Morrison, J. Wilson, D. Buchanan, John Laurie, Andrew Holden, and J. H. Stevenson, when the following 15 brethren were advanced to that degree, viz.—J. Orkney, R. Burness, G. Innis, D. Duncan, G. Haig, J. Anderson, J. Heaton, B. B. Bell, J. Miller, Daniel Fergusson, J. C. Sharp, J. Johnson, J. Park, and D. Buchanan. A Lodge of Most Excellent Masters was then opened, and the same gentlemen were entrusted and passed through the veils. The Chapter was then opened, and the same gentlemen, also with L. Milley, were duly exalted to the Holy Royal Arch degree. The representatives of the Supreme Grand Chapter, who were G. W. Wheeler Z., J. Stewart H., J. Kinnaird J., G. Macdonald P.Z., J. Balfour S.E., D. Buchanan S.N., J. Tweed T., D. Gilchrist 1st S., J. Baunerman 2nd S., E. Barker 3rd S., and J. Wilson as G.J., then proceeded in due form to consecrate the Chapter by the name and title of St. Blane, No. 163. Comp. A. Morrison, who was designated in the charter as the 1st Z., then said he wished to resign that honour in favour of their Provost, Comp. J. Orkney, who was then unanimously chosen to the office. Comp. Morrison being duly elected to serve as P.Z., Comp. Wheeler, with the assistance of the other acting Grand Officers, then proceeded to instal the following Comps. as the first officers of 163:—John Orkney Z., Daniel Duncan H., Lauchlan Milley J., George Haig S.E., James Heaton S.N., George Innis Treasurer, Ernest Barker 1st S., Benj. Barton Bell 2nd S., John Miller 3rd S., and Daniel Fergusson Janitor. The Most Excellent Comp. Orkney then, in appropriate terms, thanked Comp. Wheeler and the rest of the Comps., who, at considerable inconvenience to themselves, had come from Glasgow to perform these ceremonies, and expressed his delight at the admirable way in which the whole of the five different ceremonies had been rendered. All had fulfilled their duties so well, that the least they could do would be to make the nine Glasgow gentlemen honorary members of the Chapter. This being unanimously agreed to, they were affiliated by Comp. Morrison P.Z. Comp. Wheeler returned thanks saying it had been a pleasure to himself and Comps. to assist in forming a new Chapter. After the protracted labour was over, the Companions sat down to a well spread table. The chair was taken by Provost Orkney, the new M.E.Z., supported on the right by Comps. G. Wheeler, D. Milley, T. Stewart, and J. Tweed. The Cronprier, M.E.H. Councillor Duncan, was supported by Comps. Balfour, Bannerman, Kinnaird, McDonald and Gilchrist. The toast of the Queen, as well as that of the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family, were received with an enthusiasm worthy of the Royal Burgh, as was also that of the three Supreme Grand Chapters of England, Ireland, and Scotland. The next was the Installing 1st Principal, and the rest of the deputation from Glasgow. The Provost dwelt on the love of the Order displayed by these Companions in coming so far at this season of the year to open their Chapter. In summer time they often had visits from residents in Glasgow, and they were trying now to render their delightful island even yet more attractive to visitors when the season should again arrive, but their friends had not waited for the fine weather to bring them; neither, while here, had they spared themselves, they had worked five different ceremonies, and all of them so effectively and well, that he had never been more delighted with anything than with what he had seen and heard that evening, and their thanks were especially due to the M.E.Z., Comp. Wheeler, for the great care and ability he had displayed in all the different portions of the work. Comp. Wheeler, in replying, said it had been a source of gratification to all the deputation from Glasgow that they should have been honoured by the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland with the permission to come to Rothesay and perform this work. He could assure them it had been a labour of love to them. Individually, he had to thank, not only the M.E.Z. for the flattering terms in which he had spoken of his labours that evening, but also his own office bearers for the way in which they had assisted him to perform his duties. It was true the work had been long and arduous this evening, but the effective way in which each one of his subordinate officers had performed their duties had made his own task comparatively light and easy, and he trusted that the new Z. would be as well supported by the officers he had installed, and if they did the prosperity of 163 would be secured. It was scarcely possible for any body to start under more favourable auspices. In the first chair they had a gentleman who, from his business capacity, benevolence and charity, their fellow-townsmen had raised to the highest position in the Royal Burgh of Rothesay as their Provost, his Masonic qualities were also well known to them, so that they could not have been more highly honoured. Then for H., they had a Town Councillor, well known as one of the first merchants in their community; as J., they had another Councillor and ex-Baillie of their Burgh. The Curator of the Museum and Aquarium was their first S., a gentleman whom he had himself exalted three years ago; the second S. was a gentleman as well known in the Stock Exchange in Glasgow as he was in Rothesay; Their Treasurer was also as favourably known in Glasgow as in Rothesay, he had not the pleasure of personally knowing the other office bearers, but he had no doubt they were equally worthy of their support. It therefore would only rest on themselves to assume a position second to none in the West of Scotland. Again thanking them, on his own behalf and that of the rest of the Glasgow Companions, he could assure them that all felt

the honour which had been conferred on them of having their names enrolled amongst the first members of St. Blane 163.

Comp. E. Barker, in a neat speech, proposed prosperity to 163, St. Blane, and the new Z., their noble Provost. Comp. Orkney thanked Comp. Barker for the flattering terms in which both him and Comp. Wheeler had spoken of him, he was afraid he should scarcely be able to fill that chair in the way they had indicated; he thought his predecessor in office, ex-Provost Duncan, who was a good public speaker, would have made them a better presiding officer, but he could assure them that, as far as his ability would permit, he would do all in his power to carry out the very excellent lessons that had been given him to night in the charges, and also in the example in the chair which he had witnessed. Comp. Duncan felt likewise that he was too young in the Order to efficiently fill the chair of H., but he was glad to obey the wishes of the assembled Companions, who appeared to think differently. Craft Masonry had been progressing very rapidly in Bate during the last two years, and he saw no reason why St. Blane Chapter should not prosper in an equal degree, at any rate it should not languish for want of any support that he could give it. The Chairman then gave Bros. Morrison and Innis, without whose exertions they would not now have been assembled, as they had entirely organised the new Chapter.

P.Z. Morrison said he was glad that their efforts so far had been so eminently successful; seven years ago he tried to raise a Chapter in the island, but the Butemen were not then quite prepared for it, and when, about two months ago, Bro. Innis, the J.W. of their Lodge, called on him to ask for his co-operation, he was only too happy to give it. He signed the petition as the nominated Z., but with the full intention of getting some more influential brother, if possible, to take that place, and the Provost having accepted it, he was most happy to retire as a P.Z., but he would be glad to do any thing for the Chapter in any office that might be temporarily vacant. (Cheers.)

Comp. Innis, Treasurer, said it was very true that he had a deal of work for the last two months, and had met with a great many rebuffs, some of them from his not being a Royal Arch Mason himself, but when in Glasgow he called on his friend Wheeler, who immediately wrote to the G.S.E., and got him the form of Charter; from his Chapter they also got a recommendation and members to sign it; now the installation; and he did not regret the trouble he had taken, or that labour, which, as Treasurer, he was likely to get. All that he hoped was, that they would give him plenty of employment.

Comp. Lieutenant Buchanan replied on behalf of the army, and as the oldest Arch Mason present. He had received the degree

at Poonah, in the Star in the East, above thirty years ago. He was glad to bear testimony to the general good conduct of the British army, as Provost Marshal for some years to the camp where there were two full European regiments, five native regiments, and two of cavalry; all the officers of these bodies came under his notice, and though there might be a few black sheep, still he was glad, as a Mason, to say the British army was not the set of scamps that some of its detractors would represent it to be.

Comp. Wheeler proposed the "First Sojourner and other officers of the Chapter." They had toasted their three Principals, but the Sojourner was really a principal officer, though ranking seventh in the Chapter, but it was the way in which work was performed that conferred honour, and not the name of the office that was held. Though himself holding office as Z., he considered it an honour to be asked, as he often was, to officiate as Sojourner in some other Chapter. Having himself exalted Comp. E. Barker, about three years since, he had no doubt he would make a good officer, for he had not only the desire to learn, but a most retentive memory, and he was glad to find that he held so important an office in their midst as Curator of the Aquarium, and now First Sojourner in the new Chapter.

Comp. Barker replied in suitable terms. Comp. J. Stewart H. 73 proposed "The commercial interests of Rothesay." When trade and commerce flourished, Masonry would also flourish, and good Masons were also good commercial men; they could not have a better example of this than their worthy Croupier.

Comp. Duncan replied, in the course of his remarks mentioning that, as a fashionable watering place, they depended for a great deal of their own prosperity on the commercial prosperity of their friends in Glasgow and other centres of industry.

Comp. Haig, S.E., gave the fireside of their First Principal, which was suitably acknowledged.

Comp. Bannerman, on behalf of the deputation from Glasgow, thanked the Rothesay brethren for the liberal manner in which they had been entertained ever since their arrival.

Comp. Miller J. proposed the "Health of the worthy host, Bro. Kelly," who had so well catered for their enjoyment.

Bro. Kelly expressed the pleasure it at all times gave him to see his Masonic brethren happy, and one way to make them happy was to give them a plentiful supply of the good things of this life.

Happy to meet, but sorry to part, was then given from the chair, and the meeting, though so long in duration, was found all too short for the enjoyment of the newly exalted Companions of St. Blane 163.

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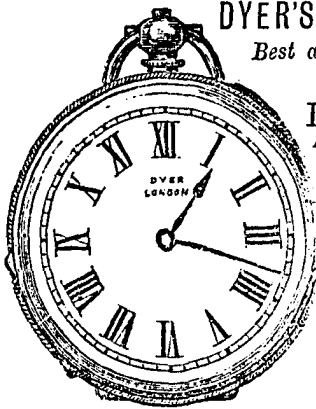
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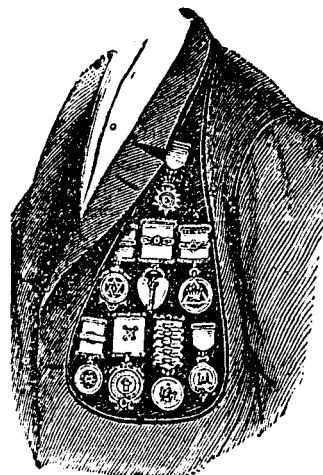
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