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THE ANACALYPsis OF GODFREY HIGGINS.

(Concluded from page 99.)

BRO. HUGHAN begins his second part of the Review of this work by quoting the following exposition of Freemasonry by the Author:—

"Freemasonry is known to be founded on principles of *universal* benevolence, and not to be confined to one class, or to one religion. I think I may venture to say, it is so constituted, that, although it would not refuse to receive a single Deist, *no test being required*, yet all its forms, ceremonies, and doctrines, are so constituted as, in a very peculiar manner, to be applicable at the same time to the doctrines of Judaism, Christianity, and Mohammedanism."

This view, thinks Bro. Hughan, is far too liberal for some Grand Lodges of the present day, and directly at variance with the regulations of those Grand Lodges which require that candidates within their several jurisdictions shall hold the Christian faith. The opinion, he owns, is correct as regards British Freemasonry, but doubts if it would commend itself to all the Grand Lodges in the United States and in Europe, though the majority of them are liberal and in harmony "with the width and breadth, and height and depth of universal Freemasonry." He then quotes, in a modernised form, the first of the Old Sectarial Charges of Dr. Anderson, who, "early as it was then to recognise the neutral platform which Freemasonry of the future was to occupy," he says, "appears to have had a glimpse of the subsequent career of the Fraternity, and of the unsectarian basis on which the permanent Freemasonic Institution was to rest." This charge distinctly lays it down that—

"Though in ancient times, Masons were charged in every country to be of the religion of that country or nation, whatever it was, yet it is now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves—that is, to be *good men and true*, or men of Honour and Honesty."

Thus, says Bro. Hughan, "the Christian character of the Society under the operative régime of former centuries, was exchanged for the unsectarian regulations which were to include under its wing the votaries of all sects—without respect to their differences, or colour, or clime, provided, the simple conditions were observed of morality, mature age, and an approved ballot." He then quotes Bro. Higgins as to the ancient mysteries in relation to Freemasonry:—

"I believe," writes the latter, "that a certain class of persons, initiated into the higher mysteries of the ancients, were what are called *Carmelites Therapeutæ* and *Essems*," or that they constituted a part of, or were formed out of these sects, and were what we now call *Freemasons*. They were also called *Chaldæi* and *Mathematici* (p. 304, vol. I.) * * * * I think the mysteries were like Masonry; indeed, we shall soon see, it is highly probable, that the Masons were a branch of the initiated—Masonry, a branch of the art. (p. 590). * * * * I think I have stated enough to raise or justify what the Jesuits call a *probable opinion*, that the Masonic ceremonies or secrets are descendants of the Eleusinian mysteries. Everybody knows the now ridiculous traditionary fancy that a Mason is, in some way, marked or branded or mutilated before he can be admitted into the Order. I believe this, like most other traditions, had not its origin from nothing. I believe the higher classes of Masons were originally persons who were admitted into the mysteries of Eleusis and Egypt, and that they were Chaldæans and Mathematici, and I believe that what the above tradition of the branding alluded to, was circumcision, and that they were circumcised. Origen and Clemens Alexandrinus both affirm, that the secret learning of the Egyptians was only taught to such persons as had undergone the operation of circumcision; for which reason, it was submitted to by Pythagoras. *The same word in Hebrew means both initiated and circumcised.*" (p. 724.)

A remark by Schiller, in connection with the initiation of Moses by the Egyptian priests, is also given:—

"These ceremonies were connected with the mysterious images and hieroglyphics. And the hidden truths so carefully concealed under them, and used in their rites, were all comprised under the name of mysteries, such as had been used in the temples of Isis and Serapis, which were the models of the mysteries of Eleusis, and Samothrace and, in more modern times, gave rise to the Order of *Freemasonry*."

And then is given an opinion of Bro. Higgins to the effect that "the mysteries were not the origin of Masonry: they were Masonry itself; for Masonry was a part of them." But, though, as we have seen, Bro. Hughan has quoted freely, with a view to make apparent the nature of Bro. Higgins's belief as to the ancient mysteries and ancient Freemasonry, he does not endorse them, save when it is distinctly so stated. Bro. Hughan thinks it well the character of the work should be known, but he will not constitute himself the judge of its merits. We "only retain," he says, "what we may adopt, and exclude from these pages what seems to us entirely fabulous," leaving it to the reader to form his own opinion from the passages quoted, passages "all the more valuable as they have been quoted direct from the originals." Proceeding in his commentary, he then gives the following declaration by the author:—

"I have no doubt that the cabalistic œconomy was similar to that of a Lodge of Freemasons, and proceeded to the top by gradation, and that Masonry, which was a part of it, existed long before the time of the Exod from Egypt. * * * * The ancient Jews maintained that their cabala was revealed by God to Moses, and was transmitted verbally; it being too sacred to be written. (This is very like Freemasonry). (p. 817, vol. I.) * * * * If a person reflect deeply upon the circumstances in which the first priests must have been placed when the earliest attempt at building a temple was made, he will perceive that it was quite natural for them to become Masons. * * * * The Christian religion was divided by the early fathers, in its secret and mysterious character, into three degrees, the same as that of Eleusis, viz.: *Purification, Initiation, and Perfection.*" (p. 822.)

To this Bro. Hughan takes exception. He "cannot see that similar customs, in early religious systems, and modern Masonic societies, should be taken as proof of the latter having been the creation of the former, or, indeed, that Masonry ever had intimate or partial connection with them. The simple fact of the introduction of grades into Freemasonry, ought surely not to be taken as indicative of the Masonic character of the ancient religions mentioned, because they also had grades, and so, of course, they were *Masons*! The *operative origin* of Masonry is a much more desirable foundation for our society to rest upon than the strange and most extraordinary beginning and early career sketched by Bro. Higgins, and which, when judged in the light of our late discoveries, certainly vanished into thin air." He thinks, however, it would be a great advantage if Bro. Dr. Mackey would examine the author's assertions, on all that refers to our history, so far as it may be involved in the study of the ancient mysteries. Such an opinion would be exceedingly valuable, and we trust the learned editor of the *Voice of Masonry* will find the time to comply with Bro. Hughan's invitation. But to return to Bro. Higgins. The following statement by him is next given:—

"The monks of Tibet, at Eleusis, in Egypt, at Jerusalem or Carmel, in our circular chapters, were the preservers of the secret Pythagorean doctrines of numbers, of the Ras, or Mystery, or Masonry, or perhaps, more properly, the doctrines of the IE, the JAN,—the mesos or *meson-ry*, or the Saviour, or cross-borne—renewed in every cycle, as described in Virgil. I need scarcely remind my Masonic reader that all the

secrets of Masonry are concealed in the Hebrew or Chaldee language; that is, in the language of the Brahmin of Ur and Colida, where Mr. Ellis was poisoned for being known to possess them (p. 790, vol. I.)"

On this, Bro. Hughan remarks:—"In our Masonic Investigations we have always been most anxious to separate fact from fiction, *actual occurrences* from simple traditions, and whilst not at all desirous to undervalue the importance of our traditions, yet we have always maintained they should not be invested with the character of being *actual realities*, when they are *not*, but that they should be just regarded simply as traditions and nothing more." On the other hand Bro. Higgins "apparently seizes hold of every tradition—no matter how absurd or unlikely—as if he had unequivocal evidence before him." Hence Bro. Hughan declines to accept sundry of his statements, "unless supported by positive proof." Hence, too, he regards the foregoing statements not as the narration of *facts*, but only as curious fancies *put into words*.

Then comes a passage from Bro. Higgins, in which is recorded "a curious incident not without food for consideration."

"After I had, from various sources and by various means, added to reasoning, nearly arrived at a conviction, that the ancient order of Freemasons arose in India, and was established there, as a mystery, in the earliest periods, my conviction acquired wonderful strength from a knowledge of the fact which I shall now mention. I shall be censured for stating facts in this way; but I write truly and for the truth, and for this purpose alone. The style or order in such a work as this is not worth naming. At the time that I learned from Captain —, the gentleman who was named in my last chapter, the particulars respecting the tomb of St. Thomas, I was also told by him that he was on the strictest intimacy with the late — Ellis, Esq., of the Madras Establishment: that Mr. Ellis told him that the password and forms used by the Master Masons in their Lodge would pass a person into the *sanctum sanctorum* of an Indian Temple; that he, Mr. Ellis, had, by means of his knowledge as a Master Mason, actually passed himself into the sacred part or adytum of one of them. Soon after Mr. Ellis told this to my informant, he was taken suddenly ill, and died, and my informant stated that he had no doubt, notwithstanding the mistake which his friends called it * * * * in giving some medicine, that he was poisoned by his servants for having done this very act, or for being known to possess this knowledge. Now, when this is coupled with the fact of the Masonic emblems found on the Cyclopean ruins of Agra and Mundore, I think, without fear of contradiction, I may venture to assume, that the oriental origin of Freemasonry cannot be disputed,—and that I may reason upon it accordingly."

Bro. Hughan thinks it unlikely that any, having the fate of this Mr. Ellis before him, will voluntarily encounter the risk of a similar fate, in which case he asks, "how are such statements to be tested? It falls in with the popular notion of the universal character and powers of Masonic signs, but certainly does not agree with our facts, which have been laboriously accumulated and examined time after time without their testimony being shaken."

The opinion of the American Masonic Bibliographer, Bro. Enoch T. Carson, is quoted as to the two works, the *Celtic Druids* and the *Anacalypsis*, by Bro. Higgins, but while Bro. Hughan expresses a very favourable judgment of their merits, he very properly points out that the views expressed in them must be most rigidly examined before they are accepted "as correct," and that "while we cannot fail to admire the diligence of the author, we must also admit that his inferences are frequently not justified by the evidence he submits." We are then invited to a consideration of the following passage bearing on the Royal Arch Degree. Says Bro. Higgins:—

"The Temple at Eleusis had a very large dome, which was of great antiquity, long before the time usually allotted to the invention of the arch, with radiated stones. * * * * I request my brother Masons of the *Royal Arch* to place themselves in the middle of the new room at Freemasons' Tavern, when lighted up, and then to reflect upon all their ceremonies, on which of course I cannot enlarge, and I suspect they will find themselves both at Eleusis and at Bitchem, and in India. * * * * We know very well that there were no arches in the Temple of Jerusalem, that is, radiated arches; but we also know that there were vaults in which there were great treasures. * * * * These arches, I apprehend, were of the nature of that of the Treasury of Atreus at Messina, and of the Cupola of Komilar, described by Col. Tod. If a person wanted to open such an arch, he would use a rope, putting it round the cap, and pulling it inside; if he wanted to open a key-stone arch he would not use a rope, but a hammer (p. 719, vol. I.)"

"The persons called Royal Arch Masons were the *Archi-tect-onici*, before the invention of key-stoned or radiated arches the Cyclopean builders of the only stone edifices, at that time, in the world, which were temples. * * * * The *Archi-tect-onici*, the *Chaldaei*, the *Gnostici*, the *Mathematici*, the *Dionisiaci*, constituted a MYSTERY, and erected Gothic buildings, the ruins of which now remain in India, thousands of years before they existed in Europe. * * * I beg to repeat to such of my readers as are Royal Arch Masons, that Solomon

was a Ras or wise man, and that a Mason in Rajapontana is called a Raz, which also means mystery; and now I take the liberty of observing to my brethren, that they are called Royal Arch Masons, not because they have anything to do with kings, but because they are Raja-Pont-an Masons (p. 770.)"

On this, Brother Hughan remarks that he has "never been able to trace the Royal Arch of Freemasonry long before 1740;" that he believes his experience agrees with that "of the editors of the *VOICE*, particularly of Dr. Mackey, who has made the Ritual and History of that degree his special subject," and that he has "had more than one friendly discussion with our esteemed and learned brother, the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford, M.A., who rather leans to a much older origin than we can ascribe to Royal Arch Masonry." He further bestows a word of just praise on the late Dr. Oliver's *Origin of the English Royal Arch* (London: R. Spencer & Co.) He further states he is pretty sure "that nothing has yet been published to prove the existence of such a degree prior to A.D., 1738," and he knows that "Rituals about the period mentioned, as well as those of later dates, clearly point out the fact that for some years after the Revival of Freemasonry in London, A.D., 1717, the *real* and *distinctive* ceremonies of Royal Arch Masonry were worked in the Master Mason's Degree. If such," he says "were not the case, what means the frequent reference to the fact that Master Masons journeyed to the West 'in search of that which was lost, but is now found,' which subsequently is declared to be the 'Master Mason's word,' and which word is then exchanged for the substituted word communicated in the former part of the ceremony? If the Royal Arch Degree in its separate and distinct form existed prior to 1738, and indeed, was as old as the Third Degree, how comes it that the regular Grand Lodge of England persistently refused to recognise it until 1813, but the body of Masons which seceded from this original and premier Grand Lodge, made much of the degree, and by it we may truly say, succeeded in making their numerical position in a few years, almost equal to the regular Grand Lodge itself?" Bro. Higgins, however, it is pointed out, "distances all of us, in his belief in the antiquity of Royal Arch Masonry, for he considers the society existed and its members flourished *before the invention of key-stoned or radiated arches*." Bro. Hughan thinks this must be intended "in a figurative sense;" otherwise, he cannot follow him in his faith, "as he has failed to afford us the necessary evidence!"

Respecting the Masonic Societies of Germany, Bro. Higgins, we are told, says:—

"About the middle of the last century, the Masonic societies showed themselves in Germany in a more prominent way than they had done for many generations, and, under the guidance of several able and philanthropic men, both Catholic and Protestant priests and laymen, it is probable, gave encouragement to resistance to the united despotism of the Roman Pontiffs and the Royal tyrants of Europe, which, in France and Germany, had risen to such a pitch as to be no longer tolerable. The activity of the Masons being discovered, it produced the persecution of their Order all over the Continent, and it was much increased in consequence of several publications of three persons, called Zimmerman, Baniel, and Robinson. The first was decidedly insane, and the other two were operated upon by groundless fears in such a manner as to be in a state very little better, and which rendered them totally incapable of distinguishing between the destruction of religion, and the destruction of the base system to which the professors of religion had made it subservient. They all admit that the British Masons had nothing to do with these hydra-headed conspiracies, and endeavour to draw a line between them and their continental brethren, being unable to see that the difference was not in the Societies, which were the same, but in the countries—Britain being comparatively free and happy, the other countries enslaved and miserable."

Bro. Hughan applauds this view of the subject. He points also that "Freemasonry, of course, is entirely neutral as a Society, both as respects religion and politics and so it has always been claimed to be since the revival of 1717." Before then, however, it had not been "neutral as regards religion, for nearly all the copies of its Regulations and traditional History commence with an Invocation to the Trinity, and contain many references to the Scripture and the Church which clearly illustrated the intimate connection subsisting between the Priesthood "of past centuries and Operative Masonry," an intimacy not wholly severed in some countries during the last century, and even now preserved in some Lodges, where the Chaplain will conclude a prayer with the words, 'through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour,' even when Jews and Turks are sitting side by side with Christians." Bro. Hughan further expresses his opinion that it is impossible to "obliterate all traces of

religion—and even *Sectarian* religion, as exhibited in the Holy Bible of the Christians—from Freemasonry, without obliterating the Society at the same time.” But we should as much as possible refrain from “exhibiting the peculiar characteristics of Christianity in our Lodge prayers, when a due regard to the universal tendencies of the Craft should incite us to sink our differences when we ‘meet on the square,’ and unite in our appeals to the Heavenly Father and Creator of the Universe, who is adored by all religious societies, and is the *Great I Am* of all creeds.” As regards politics, however, there is assuredly nothing to warrant the belief that Freemasonry was ever “a political society of any kind, at any time, or politically was ever of any consequence to mention, to any party, whether in power or otherwise. On the contrary, its real tendencies are, and appear to have ever been, to soften and well-nigh extinguish all political distinctions and rivalries within the sacred precincts of the Lodge.” In fact, says Bro. Hughan, “We know of nothing which practically is so unpolitical in its general action, and yet so purely religious in its morality and constitution—apart from Christianity—as Freemasonry.”

Then are reproduced some early traditions, quoted in the ‘*Anacalypsis*,’ as likely to prove of interest to all Masonic readers, and especially to Royal Arch Companions, who are able to detect in the following, much that is not new to them.

“The Mosque or Temple on Mount Moriah was built by the Caliph Omar, the son of Caleb, about the year 16 of the Hegira, A.D. 637. Chateaubriand says:—‘*Le Mosquée prit le nom de cette roche Gameat-el-Sakhra.*’ It has a large dome, under the centre of which is a cave, and at the top of it the sacred stone which, in all these religions, is generally found in or close to the temple or church. In the description of the Temple (of Jerusalem), given by Mons. Chateaubriand, is an account of the sacred stone to which I have alluded. In this Mahomedan Temple, there are in the stone Pillar and the Cave both the Nablî or navel of the earth, and the Yoni and the Linga, though they may now not be understood. * * * Here, if I understand Mons. Chateaubriand, the stone is placed *over* the cave. Now I do not doubt that, in the ancient Temple of Solomon, there were the cave and the mysterious stone pillar, pedestal or whatever it might be, the same as at Delphi and other places; but in it the pillar or pedestal was probably not *over* the cave but *in* it, as described by Nicephorus Callistus (a Greek historian of the fourteenth century) Lib. x. chap. xxxiii., in the following words:—‘At the time when the foundation was laid, one of the stones, to which the lowest part of the foundation was attached, was removed from its place and discovered the mouth of a cavern which had been hollowed out of the rock. Now since they could not see to the bottom, on account of its depth, the overseers of the work, wishing to be perfectly acquainted with the place, let down one of the workmen by means of a long rope, into the cavern. When he came to the bottom he found himself in water as high as his ancles, and examining every part of the cavern, he found it to be square as far as he could ascertain by feeling. He afterwards searched nearer the mouth of the cavern, and on examination, discovered a low pillar, very little higher than the water, and having placed his hand upon it, he found lying there a book, carefully folded in a piece of thin and clean linen. This book he secured, and signified by the rope his wish to be drawn up. On being drawn up he produced the book, which struck the beholders with astonishment, particularly as it appeared perfectly fresh and untouched, though it had been brought out of so dark and dismal a place. When the book was unfolded, not only the Jews but the Greeks also were amazed, as it declared, in large letters, even at its commencement, *In the beginning, &c.* To speak clearly, the writing here discovered, did most evidently contain all that Gospel which was uttered by the Divine tongue of the virgin disciple.”

Naturally, Bro. Hughan refrains from particularising the several references to the account of the cave which occur in Masonic Legends, nor does he seek to explain their bearing, “for undoubtedly it must be conceded that our Traditions are, in many cases not peculiar to Masonry, but adopted from older Societies and Historical MSS. for the purpose of conveying moral lessons.” He goes on to quote from the second of a number of old books bound together in a curious little volume. This book which has no date, but “is apparently of the same age” as the first, namely, 1699, is entitled “*An Historical Catechism, containing Ingenious Answers to many notable Questions of several wonderful matters in ancient History, as, What is the opinion of all our Historians about the apple old mother Eve tempted Adam withal—Why the devil should take the shape of a serpent: of the Building of the Tower of Babel.* * * * Part I. Registenden the Hall Book of the Company of Stationers” In this occurs, after a description of the attempt of Julian, the Apostate, to rebuild the Temple, the following, so much like the above extract from Nicephorus, “that nothing short of a common origin can account for their agreement.”

“Q. What happened at their laying a foundation?

A. There was a stone which slipped from its place, and discovered the mouth of a cave cut in a rock—The overseers of the work not

being able to see to the bottom of it, let down a labourer by a rope. Being come to the bottom, he was up to his ancles in water, and found the place four square, and laying his hand on a little pillar above water, he met with a book wrapt up in a clean *linen* cloth. Being drawn up, the spectators were amazed it should be so fresh lying in such a dark hole. The book being opened, surprised both the *Jews* and *Grecians* that were present; they found in the beginning of it these words were capital letters: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”—and indeed, saith the historian, that Scripture did manifestly contain all the Gospel which the beloved disciple, St. John, had declared.

Other curious references to legends now incorporated in Masonic degrees, Bro. Hughan says, he has been told are to be found in ancient writings, especially in a book by Philostorgos, a Greek author, who flourished in the fifth century; and he invites Dr. Mackey to dip into the history of this Greek, in order to trace, if possible, the origin of other Masonic legends, adding, “If we mistake not, the *Cave*, so graphically and similarly described in the two preceding extracts, is, in all probability, the original of the legends of the Royal Arch and some of the degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. It is surely more reasonable to suppose that each legend of our Masonic degrees is an adaptation of Traditions previously circulated without any connection with the Craft, than to believe that our Masonic legends or traditions are peculiar to the society, and have always been so—a belief contrary to fact.”

Here ends Bro. Hughan’s dissertation on Godfrey Higgins’s *Anacalypsis*. It has afforded us great pleasure to read it, and still greater pleasure to reproduce it in these columns for the benefit of our readers.

MASONIC PORTRAITS (No. 16.) THE CHURCHMAN.

“Thy Church, Sir Priest, shall dominate the world;
It shall win, by peaceful means, supremacy,
And govern men by omnipotent love.
O’er the vast globe its gentle sway shall reach,
And, with the glowing orb of day, the sun of
New Jerusalem shall shed its mild, undying beams.”

IT is the boast of our Order that its precepts find favour, not merely with various minds and temperaments, but that men of all creeds can unite on the neutral floor of the Lodge room in perfect accord and amity. Every shade and denomination of the Christian religion finds its representatives amongst us, and the pure Theist, the Brahmin, or the Mahomedan are welcomed as brothers. Modern civilization, with its levelling and humanising influences, could alone have achieved a triumph like this. The brotherhood of man is first roughly taught by our necessities and our dependence on each other, before Masonic morality—with its vast and far reaching influences—can fairly come into play. However widely the Masonry of the middle ages was spread in Europe, it was chiefly propagated amongst Christians. The early rites to which we trace our ritual were indeed wide enough to comprehend the Jew and the Greek, the Egyptian and the Chaldean, but modern Masonry, with its grand message of peace and goodwill to mankind, has finally levelled the inequalities of the human heart, and taught the world the difficult lesson of practical toleration. From one section of the Christian Church we have experienced hostility and persecution, and its rulers ignorantly declare that the principles of the Order are incompatible with true religion and morality. Masons, however, do not pay much attention to the thunders of the Vatican, nor are they inclined to return railing for railing. They point with pride to the fact that the clergy of the established religion in this country have recognised the value of the Order as a great and abiding moral force. They are proud to point to the fact that many of the distinguished brothers who have achieved the highest eminence in the Craft are clergymen, who have virtually admitted that revelation and the Order are in harmony with each other. Those principles which are eternally true, and which lie at the root of all the great religious systems of the world, will always command the veneration and the assent of mankind, and it is with these that Masonry deals. As regards practical morality and veneration for the Supreme Being, the Order is in harmony with the highest teaching of the Vedas or the Koran, with the sublime self-sacrifice of Buddha, and with the teachings of the Sacred Scriptures. Some of the hymns of the Rig Veda, in honour of the

Great Architect of the Universe, might be paraphrased for use in the Lodge. The moral teachings of Buddha, the Prince who became a beggar for the good of mankind, finds its counterpart in our ritual and our practice, and the practical morality of the Koran is, we need scarcely say, so far as it goes, in accord with ours. We may indeed boast that our principles touch the deepest chord in the human heart. The harp of a thousand strings has a gamut of wonderful range, but a child in mere worldly knowledge may play upon it, provided he is familiar with a few of the great master truths, which, while man retains his humanity, will never pale or sink into obscurity.

The Established Church in this country has supplied many Masonic recruits to our ranks who, in the pulpit and out of it, have been consistent members of the fraternity. The reverend gentleman whose portrait we are about to sketch is, perhaps, one of the most distinguished of the clerical band whose eloquence has so often been employed in the service of the Craft. His Masonic career has been a most eventful one, and is almost without a parallel in the annals of the Order. He was initiated in the Apollo University Lodge, at Oxford, in the year 1822, and was passed and raised in the usual course of things. He has served as W.M. of St. John's Lodge, Exeter, and is a subscribing member of several Lodges in the Province of Devon. In the year 1835 he was appointed Provincial Junior Grand Warden, and a similar honour was accorded him on three subsequent occasions. In the year 1844 we find him filling the honourable post of Provincial Grand Senior Warden, and in 1850 he was appointed by patent, under the hand and seal of the late Earl Fortescue, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Devon. In the year 1862 he was Grand Chaplain of Grand Lodge, an office which he has twice filled. He is a Past First Principal of St. George's Chapter, Exeter, and of the Chapter of Fidelity, Devonport. He has been Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masons (Devon), and Grand Sojourner in the Supreme Grand Chapter of England. As a Mark Mason he has risen to the highest provincial rank, and he is equally distinguished in the military orders of H.R.D.M. Grand Election Knights Templar, K.D.O.S.H. of St. John of Jerusalem, Palestine, &c., &c., and has served as Eminent Commander of the Rougemont Encampment stationed at Exeter.

We should weary our readers if we were to enumerate all the honours and distinctions which have been won by this eminent Mason, whose services have been highly appreciated by the brethren of the province in which he has mainly laboured. Testimonials and votes of thanks have been showered upon him but we have merely space to record the fact that the Rougemont Encampment, in 1846, presented their Eminent Commander with a beautiful mediæval Toast Cup of hammered silver, which was originally the property of the late Grand Master the Duke of Sussex. On his installation as P.G.M., a gold chain, with other paraphernalia of office, valued at 200 guineas, was presented to him by the members of the Province. He has often presided, with singular tact and ability, over the deliberations of Grand Lodge, and he is one of the few Knights Grand Crosses appointed by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

Such a career as this is almost startling in its exceptional brilliancy, and we are proud to say that our brother has achieved his high position in the Order by merit and industry alone. He has not been pitchforked into high office, nor has he ever endeavoured by mere self-assertion to push his way to the front. Love of the cause, and a desire to benefit humanity, have been the primary motive forces of his great career. In the service of the Church he has been a faithful minister, and all the reserve energy which he could spare from his work, as a parish priest, he has devoted to the cause of the fraternity. Benevolence, in its finest phases, is characteristic of him; he has been a large contributor to the Charities, and his amiable lady, who is, we are almost inclined to think, as good, if not as great a Mason as himself, has liberally given from her own private purse in aid of the same good cause. Socially our brother is most genial and kindly in all his relations with his fellow creatures. In his parish he is loved and honoured by all, and he fulfils the obligations incident to his sacred calling with all the simple dignity of the venerable priest who has been immortalised in Goldsmith's "Deserted Village." If the splendid talents which he has devoted to works of Christian charity and to the duties of our Order had been expended upon mere clerical intrigue, he might have risen high in the Church. But he has been content to remain a

parish priest, the friend, adviser and champion of the poor.

"Truth from his lips prevailed with double sway,
And fools, who came to scoff, remained to pray."

To many of our readers his features are as familiar as their household gods. In the south-west of England his name is a tower of Masonic strength, and the magic of his influence is widely and deeply felt in the metropolis. In the deliberations of Grand Lodge he has exercised a great and deserved influence, and perhaps there are few Masons on the great roll of illustrious brethren who have done so much to render the practical working of the Order familiar to the outer world. Such men as he are our best media of communication with that section of the public who are inclined to scoff at the high claims of the Craft. He virtually proclaims to the world that Masonry and the religion of the Bible are in harmony, and he attests that the Order exists for something better than the mere self-glorification of ambitious men, or for the mere indulgence of convivial pleasures.

MASONRY AND MAGIC.

(Continued from page 52.)

A DEFINITION of the *Astral Light* or *Soul of the World*, which seems more than accidental, was given by the gifted author of the "Coming Race" in his description of the supposed agency *Vril*. "I should call it electricity, except that it comprehends in its manifold branches other forces of nature, to which, in our scientific nomenclature, differing names are assigned, such as magnetism, galvanism, &c., the unity in natural energetic agencies, which Faraday thus intimates. *I have long held an opinion, almost amounting to conviction, in common, I believe, with many other lovers of natural knowledge, that the various forms under which the forces of matter are made manifest have one common origin, or are so directly related and mutually dependent, that they are convertible, as it were, into one another, and possess equivalent of power in their action.*"

But the only perfect definition of this agency is said to have come from immemorial antiquity in the "emerald tablet," of Hermes. This source is Egyptian, but from the nature of earliest extant notices and the reverence it has inspired through ages, we should feel no surprise at its discovery by the indefatigable Mr. George Smith upon some cylinder from Babylon, 2000 B.C. It runs: *I speak no fable, but that which is most certain and true.*

That which is above is like that which is below, and that which is below is like that which is above for working the miracles of the one thing.

As all things were engendered from one by the will of One, so all things are produced from this one thing, by adaptation.

The sun is its father, the moon its mother, the wind bore it in its womb, the earth is its nurse. . . . This thing is the very power of power, for it subdues all that is subtle and penetrates all that is solid.

It is here implied, says Levi, that the atmosphere is its receptacle or prison, and that though engendered by the influences of the sun and moon, it is set going in equipoise, or, as it were, in oscillation, by the heat that radiates from our orb.

Levi's commentary continues, that from this force or light, a universal solvent may be obtained, also a formative and coagulative agent; that it may be extracted from bodies where it lies latent, in the condition of fire, of impetus, of luminous gas, &c., &c., so as to imitate by various manifestations all forms of Creation.

Those of our readers who have no personal experience of the so-called *Phenomena* of modern spiritualism, will regard these lucubrations on the occult, as lacking a *raison d'être*, as mere empty speculations. We have, however, already observed that an occult principle will be proved, even by the movement of a pin without known cause against known natural law: and as evidence of much more, we cite the pages of the *Quarterly Journal of Science*, 1st July 1871, and the pamphlet of William Crookes, F.R.S., entitled "Researches in the Phenomena of Spiritualism." London, 1874.

We adduce also the following curious instance, which no received theory can satisfactorily explain, from our own knowledge:—

A well-known spiritualist had been giving his experience,

of what is called crystal-seeing, to a near friend of ours, to whom he lent a fine large pure crystal for the purpose of trying whether he were gifted with the supposititious faculty of a seer. Our friend, during several patient trials, could see nothing in it but reflections of the objects around him and of his own features. His housekeeper, an ordinary, unpretentious, but decidedly truthful woman, entered his study one evening upon some errand, and he casually handed the crystal to her. Holding it up, she at once exclaimed, "How very pretty!" and proceeded to describe with vivacity, a forest scene and a herd of deer. The lights and shadows of the foliage, the beautiful eyes and graceful movements of the animals were minutely dwelt upon; and she laid it down, supposing it to be a new and curious scientific toy. Our friend, as may be supposed, was much astonished, and took frequent subsequent opportunities of repeating the experiment with his housekeeper, in the presence of his wife and another. On each occasion, different spectacles were described, sometimes several scenes in succession. At last, desirous of turning the matter to some practical use, and of verifying the descriptions, he requested that an absent person might be shown, and gave the name of a relative, with whom the seer was totally unacquainted. After a pause she announced the appearance of a book, apparently bound in scarlet, and with gilt edges, open at the blank page behind the cover. This seeming highly unsatisfactory as well as enigmatical, our friend demanded to know the title of the book. The seer then described the closing of the book, the appearance of its cover, and with some hesitation spelled out the small gilt letters of the first word in its title. It was "Postage." Our friend and his wife were instantly reminded of a gift recently made to their relative, in furtherance of his pet hobby—the collecting of postage stamps—and at once recognised the description of the *Postage Stamp Album*, in which he was at the time almost absorbed, classifying and transferring to its pages his numerous collection. Of this gift, or this hobby, the seer had no knowledge, any more than of the person invoked.

In this instance, it does not seem to us that Levi's *Astral Light* theory covers all the ground. The manifestation of the album was not in the mind nor swayed by the will of any person present, and the theory of spiritualists that the appearance was intended and determined by some intelligent will, not there in the flesh, seems far more feasible. Curious experiences occurred at subsequent experiments, which were terminated by an unforeseen calamity.

Many of our readers will, no doubt, have witnessed the remarkable and eccentric performances of the planchette, of which we could also say a few words; and in cases where the planchette has spontaneously given information of facts unknown to the holder of it and to the spectators, we do not see how the Astral Light theory can be tenable, without some intelligent agency behind.

In crystal-seeing, it is asserted that the vision is not actually shown in the crystal, which is only a medium aiding its conveyance and fixing the eye, but thrown upon the brain of the seer and reflected into the eye from inwards. The mystery still remains, how objects, foreign to the seer's knowledge, and which must therefore be invented for the occasion by some external intelligence, can be presented.

Speculations upon these and upon many other analogous marvels are cleared up by Eliphas Levi in a manner quite satisfactory, to himself, but not so to us, who have not the same insight into their secret springs and their correspondence with material laws. But he does give us a faint inkling of the value and power which may be attached to symbols, and of the mathematical skeleton which underlay the formulæ of the alchemists, astrologers, wizards, and shall we say Masons—of old. He asserts that Magic, in revealing the universal law of *Equilibrium* and the *harmony resulting from the analogy of Opposites*, attacks all science at the root, and preludes a revolution in every branch of knowledge. To the generative principle of numbers it attaches the generative principle of ideas, and consequently the generative principle of worlds, completing the imperfect intuition of Pythagoras; that it maintains a clear and absolute dogma, and that the alpha and omega of universal motion (or existence), both of ideas and forms, it sums up in a few algebraic signs like an equation. This dogma is what he calls the Law of Equilibrium, or the balance which results from the analogy of opposites.

A knowledge of magic can alone give the solution of the great problem of the age, *i.e.*—

To trace out the circle of human knowledge: thence, by conveying radii, to find the centre in Deity.

To find a scale of proportion between effects, wills and causes, in order to ascend to the great first will and cause.

To perfect a knowledge of the analogies of ideas to their first source.

To render religious truth as demonstrable as a geometrical problem.

And the great magic secret has been symbolised by the lamp and poignard of Psyché, the Apple of Eve, the fire stolen from Heaven by Prometheus, and the sceptre of Lucifer, as well as by the Redeemer's Cross. To possess it in order to abuse and divulge it is to merit every punishment; to possess as it should be possessed, is to have gained the Absolute. So says Eliphas Levi.

(To be continued).

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

GRAND LODGE HONOURS!

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER, — "One who Knows" has replied to "Legitimate Ambition" in strong terms, and, according to the evidence submitted, certainly *not too strongly*, but he has not indicated any method whereby the "dead lock" complained of might be altered, avoided or remedied. His advice as to "*bowing the knee to Baal*" is evidently not such as he would follow himself, for if otherwise he would not have been "left out in the cold," and he will doubtless be aware that many of the Grand Officers have not owed their promotion or distinction to any such low, selfish and unworthy motives, at least none that I know of. In such cases we can but reason *from what we know*, and to me it has long appeared that the *real test* for Grand honours, in addition to the qualifications as to Masonic proficiency and social respectability, is the support bestowed upon our charities. Years ago no brother could be appointed a Grand Officer without having been a Grand Steward, and member of the Grand Steward's Lodge, unless after the payment of a heavy fine! I propose, now that this rule is abrogated, to require that no brother shall be called to the dais without having previously qualified as Life Governor of our Masonic charities, or served as Steward for those most excellent institutions! It would be well, also, that as of late years it has been customary to appoint Deputy Provincial Grand Masters to Grand offices who have already distinctions of value in their own provinces, the compliments paid to such brethren, and indeed to any brethren in the country *should be more sparingly* given. It should be remembered that in the *London District* there is no Provincial Grand offices to be obtained, and that a tremendous number of hard working Masons and Past Masters never receive any recognition of their valuable services, whereas in the country, each Provincial Grand Lodge usually dispenses some dozen offices presumably to worthy brethren, and in the course of years few Past Masters of average Masonic zeal and ability are overlooked. In London several Lodges have not a "*purple amongst their number!*" and yet many of their members are known throughout the City for their Masonic and general excellence. I think the number of red apron Lodges should be increased to 36 in the London district, and permanent rank be given to Past Stewards as Past Grand Officers, and those who support the charities—other conditions being equal—eventually promoted from time to time.

Fraternally yours,

A YOUNG BROTHER.

A GUINEA FOR JACK'S HOSPITAL.—Money is wanted to extend the efficiency of one of the noblest of our national charities—the most expressly national, indeed, of them all, yet at the same time more than national. That is, dear friends, the Seamen's Hospital, late the *Dreadnought*, at Greenwich, open not only to British Seamen who need laying up for repairs, but likewise to seamen of all nations requiring to go into dock. To the funds of this excellent and sorely-needed institution the Goldsmiths', the Clothworkers', the Saddlers', the Mercers', the Drapers', the Skinners', the Vintners', the Salters', and last, not least, the Worshipful Merchant Taylors' Company, have liberally subscribed—the latter to a donation of £31 10s having added a grant of free admission to their Convalescent Institution at Bognor, which has accordingly received many patients from the Seamen's Hospital during the past year. However, the support of Jack's Hospital concerns not only the City and Port of London, but every Port in England—indeed, every Port and Harbour all over the world. It is itself a Universal Harbour of Refuge. In their fifty-fifth Annual Report, just published—a pretty little blue book—the managing body of the Seamen's Hospital Society apprise all whom it concerns—that is, everybody—that, for reasons which see: "The Committee ask the public to come forward, and increase the amount received in Annual Subscriptions from £2,000 to £5,000, and then, if on an average £50 annually be received from each Port that sends patients to the Hospital in the course of the year, the Society will be established on a sound national basis." This appeal is now made known to the world at large by the one periodical which can truly boast a world-wide circulation.—*Punch*, 19th February 1876,

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

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

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SATURDAY, 19th FEBRUARY.

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

MONDAY, 21st FEBRUARY.

45—Strong Man, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell, at 8 (Instruction.)
185—Tranquility, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C., at 3.
1150—Marquess of Dalhousie, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street.
236—York, Masonic Hall, York.
331—Phoenix of Honour and Prudence, Public Rooms, Truro.
359—Peace and Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Southampton.
468—Merit, George Hotel, Stamford Baron, Northampton.
720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham.
735—Stoneleigh, King's Arms Hotel, Kenilworth.
985—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Holbeach.
1037—Portland, Royal Breakwater Hotel, Portland.
1141—Mid Sussex, Assembly Rooms, Horsham.
1238—Gooch, Prince Alfred Hotel, Southall.
1502—Israel, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool.
R. A. 1051—Rowley, Masonic Room, Athenaeum, Lancaster.
Rose Croix, Shakespeare, Masonic Room, High-street, Warwick.

TUESDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY.

14—Tuscan, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
55—Constitutional, Wheatshaf Tavern, Hand-court, W.C., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
860—Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1196—Urban, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C.
Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michael's alley, Cornhill, at 6.30.
253—Tyrian, Masonic Hall, Gower Street, Derby.
357—Apollo University, Masonic Hall, Oxford.
1016—Elkington, Masonic Rooms, New Street, Birmingham.
1228—Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone, at 8. (Instruction.)
R. A. 103—Beaufort, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
R. A. 180—St. James's Union, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
R. A. 823—Everton, Masonic Temple, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool.

WEDNESDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY.

193—Confidence, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, at 7.30 (Instruction.)
152—Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover. (Instruction.)
996—Soudes, Eagle Hotel, East Dereham, Norfolk.
1039—St. John's, George Hotel, Lichfield.
R. A. 357—Apollo University, Masonic Hall, Oxford.
R. A. 503—Belvidere, Star Hotel, Maidstone.
Rose Croix, Philips, Athenaeum, Lancaster.
Prov. Grand Lodge of Oxfordshire, Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford.

THURSDAY, 24th FEBRUARY.

General Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Lendenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W. at 8. (Instruction.)
1260—Harvey, 152 Fulham-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
1489—Marquess of Ripon, Albion Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston. (Instruction.)
78—Imperial George, Ashteton Arms Hotel, Middleton, Lancashire.
100—Friendship, Crown and Anchor Hotel, Quay, Great Yarmouth.
807—Cabbell, Masonic Hall, Theatre Street, Norwich.
966—St. Edward's, Literary Institute, Leek, Stafford.
R. A. 57—Humber, Freemasons' Hall, Osborn-street, Hull.
R. A. 216—Sacred Delta, Masonic Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool.
R. A. 279—Fortitude, Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, Leicester.

FRIDAY, 25th FEBRUARY.

569—Fitzroy, Head Quarters, Hon. Artillery Company, City-road.
861—Finsbury, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Islington, N.
1278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
1365—Clapton, White Hart, Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
1385—Gladmuir, Red Lion Hotel, Earning, Herts.
R. A. 471—Silurian, Freemasons' Hall, Dock-street, Newport, Mon.

SATURDAY, 12th FEBRUARY.

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

WEST YORKSHIRE.

MONDAY.

R. A. 139—Paradise, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.

WEDNESDAY.

304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds.
1283—Ryburn, Private Rooms, Town Hall-street, Sowerby-bridge.
R. A. 258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike.
R. A. 290—Prosperity, Masonic Hall, South-parade, Huddersfield.

THURSDAY.

810—Craven, Devonshire Hotel, Skipton.
904—Phoenix, Ship Hotel, Rotherham.

FRIDAY.

R. A. 61—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax.
R. A. 242—Magdalen, Guildhall, Doncaster.

SATURDAY.

1462—Wharfedale, Rose and Crown Hotel, Penistone.
R. A. 308—Affability, Station House, Bottoms, Eastwood.

DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND.

MONDAY.

424—Borough, Freemasons' Hall, West-street, Gateshead.
M. M. 124—Union, Freemasons' Hall, Queen-street, Sunderland.

WEDNESDAY.

1119—St. Bede, Mechanics' Institute, Jarrow.
M. M. Northumberland and Berwick, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THURSDAY.

1418—Fraternity, Freemasons' Hall, Wellington-street, Stockton-on-Tees.
R. A. 431—Ogle, Masonic Hall, Norfolk-street, North Shields.

FRIDAY.

Rose Croix, 20 Royal Kent, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

IRELAND.

MONDAY—795—Ashfield, Private Room, Cootehill, Co. Cavan.
THURSDAY—Prov. Grand Lodge, Armagh, Tontine Rooms, Armagh.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—44—St. Luke, Freemasons' Hall.
TUESDAY—151—Defensive Band, Alexandra Hall, Cockburn-street.
R. A. 40—Naval and Military, Freemasons' Hall.
WEDNESDAY—112—St. John Fisherrow, Royal Hotel, Musselburgh.
THURSDAY—392—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall.
FRIDAY—223—Trafalgar, 54 Bernard-street, Leith.

GLASGOW DISTRICT.

MONDAY—332—Union, 170 Buchanan-street.
" 536—Glydesdale, 106 Rose-street.
K. T.—St. Mungo Encampment, 213 Buchanan-street.
TUESDAY—413—Athol, 213 Buchanan-street.
" 419—Neptune, 35 James-street.
R. A.—67—Cathedral, 24 Struthers-street.
WEDNESDAY—117—Partick St. Mary, Freemasons' Hall, Partick.
510—Maryhill, 167 High-street, Maryhill.
THURSDAY—553—St. Vincent, 162 Kent-road.
570—Kenmuir, Freemasons' Hall, Springburn.
FRIDAY—153—Royal Arch, School Room, Pollockshaws.
" 347—St. John, Freemasons' Hall, Rutherglen.
" 408—Clyde, 170 Buchanan-street.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

St. John's Lodge, No. 3 bis.—This Lodge held their usual meeting in their own hall, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 18th February, Bro. Nelson in the chair, supported by Bros. W. Bell I.P.M., J. B. Young D.M., T. B. Bell S.M., J. Sellars S.W., Brownlie J.W., J. Dick Secretary, Dunn Treasurer, Cameron S.D., Paton J.D., and London Chaplain. The following P.M.'s were also present—McMillian, Smilie, Fletcher, and Bell, and amongst the Visitors, J. B. McNair I.P.M. 332. At the request of the R.W.M., Bro. T. B. Bell initiated three candidates, working the ceremony on two separate occasions. Thereafter Bro. J. McMillian P.M. raised twelve brethren to the sublime degree of Master Masons, both ceremonies being wrought with that care and completeness which make this one of the best as well as the oldest Lodge in the west of Scotland.

Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held, for the first time since its removal from the Terminus Hotel, on Thursday, the 10th inst., at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street. Bros. Black W.M., E. Grabham S.W., Rice P.M. as J.W., Starling P.M. Treas., W. H. Bywater P.M. Sec., and many brethren; Past Masters Bros. C. Tyler, Whitmore, Pound, Williams, Rice, Nicholson, Goldsmith and Potter. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Mr. F. E. W. Collard was initiated. Bro. C. Jeppes was passed to the 2nd degree. The working of the W.M. was worthy of attention, from its perfect intonation and the impressive manner of delivery. A board of installed masters was formed, and Bro. E. Grabham S.W. was duly installed by Bro. Bywater P.M., 27 W.M.'s and P.M.'s being present. The W.M. then invested his officers—Bros. Black I.P.M., Hollingsworth S.W., Allen J.W., Starling P.M. Treas., W. H. Bywater P.M. Sec., Charles S.D., J. W. Foster J.D., H. Glenn I.G., Pound P.M. W.S., and J. Gilbert P.G. Tyler, Middlesex Tyler. The W.M. in feeling terms adverted to the death of a brother of the Lodge with whom they had been associated for so many years. Bro. Dr. Whitmore, in a very excellent speech, paid a just tribute to Bro. the late John Savage, he spoke of him as a thorough good Mason; and one whom the distinguished brethren present knew and appreciated for his good qualities, which were known not only to the members of the Lodge of which he was so distinguished an ornament but also to the outer world. In order that his name should be perpetuated a committee had been formed. Bro. Bywater then read the resolution, which had been placed on the minutes, as follows:—That the members of the Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19, deeply sensible of the loss which they and the Craft have sustained by the death of their respected Bro. John Savage P.M. P.G.D. feel it due to his memory to place on the record of their proceedings the expression of their high admiration of his Masonic character and attainments. As a working Mason, and on all subjects relating to the ceremonies and observances of the Order, he was equalled by few and surpassed by none. As a member of Grand Lodge he brought to bear on all subjects that came under his consideration great sagacity. In Masonic Charities his benevolent sympathies were also enlisted in the support of deserving objects. The kindness of his disposition, characterised as it was by great heartiness and cordiality of manner, rendered him deservedly popular with all who knew him, and he supplemented these qualities by an earnest regard for the welfare and prosperity of the Craft. His memory will be perpetuated by every brother with the deepest feelings of regard and gratitude. It was resolved that a copy of the foregoing resolution and a letter of condolence be sent to the relatives of the late brother, and that printed copies be forwarded to every brother of the Lodge and other Masonic friends. Bro. Goddard gave notice of motion—"To consider the desirability of raising a sum sufficient to make the Lodge Vice-President of the three Masonic Charities." A distressed brother was relieved with the sum of £10 10s. Bro. Whitmore P.M. proposed that an address of congratulation be sent to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M. on his safe return from India. Bro. Goldsmith P.M. proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes, and the usual jewel be presented to the W.M., on his retirement from the chair, for the efficient manner he had discharged his duties during his

year of office. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren, 70 in number, sat down to a very *recherché* banquet, provided by the Company, under the personal superintendence of Bro. Whitfield. The table presented a magnificent appearance; the *menu* was perfect, and the viands and wines gave great satisfaction. Grace was said by the Rev. Bro. P. Holden, G. Chaplain Middlesex. The W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, and, in mentioning that of H.R.H. the W.M. the Grand Master, wished him a speedy and safe return to his native country, in renewed health and vigour. (Loud cheers.) Bro. Mason P.G.S.B. returned thanks for the toast of the Grand Officers in very eloquent terms, and was followed by Bro. J. Smith P.G.P. The W.M. then proposed the health of a noble brother who had honoured them by his presence. He was one who was always appreciated. His Masonic qualifications were well known and always respected, and whenever he was present the brethren were proud to have him among them. (Loud cheers.) There were also three brethren of the Province present, and he need not say that they were equally welcome. Bro. Col. F. Burdett, who, on rising, was received with enthusiastic cheers, said he was proud to hold the position of P.G.M. of Middlesex, and also pleased to see three members of the Province present. He spoke of H.R.H. Prince Leopold having been appointed P.G.M. for Oxfordshire. He said he had been present at many Lodges, but he had never seen better working—everything in connection with the ceremony had been fully carried out, and he might say, with pleasure, there had been no hitch. On behalf of himself and the brethren of the Province of Middlesex, he begged to return them his sincere thanks. (Cheers.) Bro. Collard replied to the toast of the Newly Initiated. Bro. Dr. Whitmore then rose, and said: The W.M. has proposed the toast of the distinguished visitors holding Grand Offices, but there were also many present who held high positions by their literary and other qualifications, and among them was one not unknown to fame—that was Bro. Charles Dickens. (Loud cheers.) He was the W.M. of the Maybury Lodge. He mentioned other names *seriatim*, and said they were always pleased to see them. He would couple the toast with one whom all respected as a good man and a good Mason, and that was Bro. Geo. Lambert. (Cheers.) Bro. Lambert returned thanks for the toast in his usual happy and genial manner. Bro. Black I.P.M. proposed the toast of the W.M., who was a good working Mason, and one who would efficiently carry out the duties required of him. The W.M. replied. He was pleased to see the manner in which the brethren had received the toast. His great aim would be to study their comfort, and it afforded him great satisfaction to hear the expressions of Bro. Black and the brethren, who had so cordially responded. The comfort and welfare of the Lodge had always received his utmost attention, and with their co-operation he hoped to continue to do so. Bro. Goldsmith P.M. proposed the toast of the I.P.M., Bro. Black. He possessed true Masonic talent, which they all fully recognised. Bro. J. Smith P.G.P. said he was pleased to have a toast placed his hands, and that was the Past Masters. There were 13 present; they were all able to perform their duties perfectly. They had seen the I.P.M., Bro. Black, perform the ceremonies, and Bro. Bywater's rendering of the ceremony of installation was perfect; he hoped they would live long to enjoy their proud position of Past Masters of so celebrated a Lodge. Bro. Rice P.M. responded. The toast of the Masonic Charities was given, coupled with the names of Bros. Little and Binckes. The W.M. had consented to act as Steward for the Girls' School, and he was sure the Lodge would be to the front with a worthy list. The Charities were carefully looked after. The toast having been responded to, the toast of the Treasurer and Secretary was given. Among the visitors were Bros. Col. Burdett P.G.M. Middlesex, C. R. Jardine 56, N.Y., H. Brett W.M. 134, J. Mason P.G.S.B., R. W. Stuart P.G.D., A. J. Lewis P.P.G.J.W. Middlesex, A. H. Lilley P.M. 12, G. Page P.M. No. 1, Coxage J.W., 754, R. W. Little S.G.W. Middlesex, F. Binckes P.G.S., Spicer 569, Sims 145, D. James P.M. 969, Klenck P.M. 1339, W. Wilson P.P.G.W. Herts, Gibson 142, J. B. Sorrell Green 1491, C. W. Thompson 969, W. Bateman 12, and H. M. Levy P.M. 188, &c.

Egyptian Lodge of Instruction, No. 27.—This Lodge held its usual weekly meeting at Bro. Maidwell's, the Hercules, Leadenhall-street, on Thursday evening last, 17th February, at 7.30. Present—Bros. Brient W.M., Ellis S.W., Hill J.W., Salmonese S.D., Hollands J.D., Maidwell I.G., Grammer Hon. Sec., and Austin P.M. Preceptor. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. T. Jennings being the candidate. The 1st section of the 3rd lecture was worked by the W.M., assisted by the brethren. The Lodge was then resumed to the 2nd degree and the 1st and 2nd sections of the lecture were worked by the W.M., and the 3rd section by Bro. Horsley, assisted by the brethren. All Masonic business being ended, the Lodge was closed in ancient form. The fifteen sections will be worked in this Lodge next Thursday evening (24th February) at 7 o'clock precisely. Bro. Musto P.M. will preside, Bro. Austin P.M. being S.W. and Bro. Horsley J.W.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—This Lodge held its weekly meeting at the Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, E.C., on Monday, 14th February. Present—Bros. Stock W.M., Hill S.W., Lake J.W., Pilbeam S.D., A. W. Cook J.D., Todd I.G., Tolmie Dep. Preceptor, Halford Treas., Killick Hon. Sec. The Lodge was opened in the usual manner, and the minutes confirmed. Bro. Powell passed to the degree of F.C. The W.M. worked the 1st section, and Bro. Tolmie the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th. The ceremony of installation will be rehearsed on Monday, 6th March.

Thistle and Rose Lodge, No. 73.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on the 15th February, at 170 Buchanan-street, Glasgow. Present—Bros. George McDonald R.W.M., J. Bannerman D.M., Jas. Balentine S.M., Alex. McLeod S.W., John Hanbridge J.W. R. Richards Secretary, J. S. Ampleford Treasurer, W. Kay S.D., G. McDonald J.D., W. McFarlane D.C., D. Rames Steward, B. Levy I.G., A. Kay Tyler, and P.M. Bro. T. Stuart. Business—The case of a brother just deceased was laid before the Lodge, and as he had been

ill for thirteen months, the funeral expenses were ordered to be paid, the case of the widow to be considered on a future occasion. £1 was also voted to relieve the temporary necessities of a brother. The Lodge was then raised to the 2nd degree, and Bros. G. W. Wheeler and Abraham Abrahams was raised to the F.C. degree. The Lodge was then opened in the 3rd degree, when the R.W.M. raised a brother to that sublime degree.

London Lodge, No. 108.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Saturday, the 12th inst., at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street. Present—Bros. Hyde Pullen P.G.S.B. W.M., Sims S.W., E. Dé Rhe Philipe J.W., R. W. Stewart P.G.D. Treasurer, and P.M.'s Le Maitre, F. Giles, Dudley Rolls, W. Jones, Snelgrove, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Messrs. A. Collard and B. F. Cramer were duly initiated into the Order. Bro. Wright was passed to the second degree. Bros. Horadell and Holloway were raised to the third degree. A board of Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. E. Dé Rhe Philipe, P.G.D. Kent, the W.M. elect, was installed into the chair by Bro. Hyde Pullen, in a manner that was a pleasure to listen to. The W.M. then invested his officers:—Bro. Jefferson S.W., Alphonse as J.W., R. W. Stewart P.G.D. Treas. and acting Hon. Sec. Green S.D., Alphonse J.D., Smith I.G., Davidson D.C., and Gilchrist P.M. Tyler. Bro. R. W. Stewart proposed that a Past Master's jewel should be presented to Bro. Hyde Pullen I.P.M. for the valuable services rendered by him to the Lodge during his year of office, and the regard and esteem he is held in. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to one of those *recherché* banquets Bros. C. and A. Painter are so successful in supplying. The W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. The toast of the Grand Officers could not have found a more able and eloquent exponent than Bro. J. Philbrick P.G.D., Q.C. Bro. Hyde Pullen then said he had to propose a toast he was sure would be acceptable to the brethren, and that was the W.M., he had known him from infancy, and felt proud to have had the pleasure of installing him. Bro. Philipe was well calculated to fill the chair, he was not new to Freemasonry, holding, as he does, Provincial Grand Honours. (Cheers.) The W.M. said he was fully impressed with the kind words of Bro. Pullen, and so long as he had the co-operation of the officers of the Lodge and the brethren, it would lose none of its prestige. Bro. Cramer returned thanks for the toast of the Newly Initiated. Bro. F. Binckes P.G.S. returned thanks, in his usual fluent manner, for the Visitors, who were Bros J. Philbrick P.G.D., Q.C., G. Cordwell P.G.R. Middlesex, Dr. Ramsay P.M. 259, H. King 72, W. H. Ransford 795, Fletcher 1216, W. R. Pullen 175, Snelgrove 12, Lawson 144, Heald 1365, Shand 1507 and H. M. Levy P.M. 188. The W.M. in proposing the Past Masters, mentioned their qualities. They required no eulogium on his part, so he would merely connect with the toast the name of Bro. Hyde Pullen, whom it was only to know to respect. The toast having been duly honoured, that of the Treasurer was given, also that of the Wardens and Officers, and the Tyler's toast concluded a very agreeable evening. Bros. Snelgrove, Cramer and Heald contributed to the harmony.

Peace Lodge, No. 149, West Yorkshire.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Saturday, the 12th of February, at 6 o'clock, p.m., in the Masonic Rooms, Meltham. Present—Bros. Charles Rayner W.M., Minrod Earnshaw S.W., David Cairns J.W., C. H. Redfern P.M. Secretary, Daniel Wood P.M. Treasurer, H. W. Wrigley as S.D., John Ellis as J.D., Wm. Sugg I.G., Henry Buckley Tyler Past Masters Bros. Geo. Heywood, Thomas Allen Haigh P.P.G.D., Wm. Haigh, Wm. Myers, and several other brethren. The minutes of last Lodge meeting were read and confirmed, when the W.M. rose and said:—"Brethren: Having been placed in the position which I have now the honour of occupying in this Lodge, it falls to my lot, this evening, to have to discharge a very pleasant duty, and although I feel very conscious of my inability to do that justice to it which it so much deserves, yet I feel sure that you will all agree with me when I say that no brother could help but experience great pleasure and feel very proud of having the privilege of discharging such a duty. The duty to which I refer, brethren, is that of having, on behalf of the Lodge, to present to Bro. C. H. Redfern P.M. a Past Master's Jewel, as a token of esteem and regard for the long, faithful and valuable services he has rendered to the Lodge, and as a mark of the high estimation in which he is held by the brethren. You are all aware, from the minutes which have just been read and confirmed, that, at our last Lodge meeting, a resolution was passed to present him with this jewel, and I can assure you, brethren, that in the passing of that resolution a spontaneous unanimity was displayed such as is seldom to be met with anywhere; and I must also say that in making the proposition Bro. P.M. Wood, with his usual tact, very accurately gauged the feelings of the brethren on the subject, as did also Bro. P.M. Doctor Haigh, when he so promptly seconded the proposition. The jewel has now been purchased, and an inscription engraved upon it, which I will read to you:—"Presented by the Lodge of Peace, 149, to Bro. C. H. Redfern P.M., for faithful services. February 1876." That is the inscription, brethren, and here is the jewel, which I shall now have very great pleasure in presenting to Bro. Redfern, if he will kindly step forward." Bro. P.M. Redfern, then advanced to the pedestal, and the W.M., in a very impressive manner, addressed him as follows:—"Bro. P.M. Redfern, by referring to the books, I find that you have now been a member of this Lodge for 18 years, you have been a P.M. of the Lodge 15 years, you have acted as Secretary of the Lodge 10 years. During the time that you have been a member of the Lodge you have acted as purveyor for a great number of years, in addition to performing your duties as Sec. I believe that at a very early period of your Masonic career you embraced the opportunity of making yourself thoroughly acquainted with the ceremonies; and I also believe that for the last ten or twelve years each succeeding new W.M. who has passed through this chair has been more or less indebted to you for the

Continued on page 123,

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



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G.,
Most Worshipful Grand Master, &c., &c., having been graciously
pleased to accept the special Dedication,

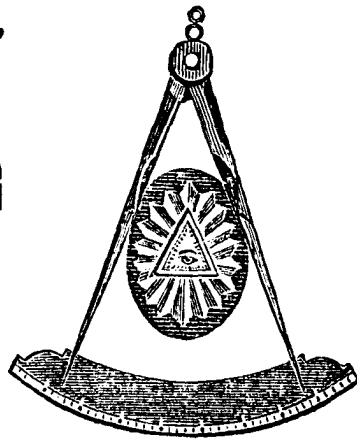
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MY OWN GHOST.
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and HEAD OF A CLAN.
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9.45, CRACKED HEADS, and THE DOCTOR'S BROUGHAM.
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FOG.
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BEE.
OLYMPIC.—At 7.0, THE SERGEANT'S WEDDING. At 7.45, CLYTIE.
At 10.0, MY WIFE'S DENTIST.
DUKE'S.—At 7.0, A TEMPTING BAIT, BLACK EYED SUSAN and
TOO TRUE.
GLOBE.—At 7.30, A BLIGHTED BEING. At 8.15, THE DUKE'S
DAUGHTER. On Monday, JO (Adapted from Bleak House).
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.
CHARING CROSS.—At 7.30, BROUGHT TO BOOK. At 8.15, MARRIED
IN HASTE, and SLIGHT MISTAKES. On Monday, THE DUKE'S
DAUGHTER.
OPERA COMIQUE.—At 7.15, A HORNET'S NEST. At 8.0, MADAME
L'ARCHIDUC, and TRIAL BY JURY.
CRITERION.—At 7.30, CRYPTOCONCHOIDSYPHONOSTOMATA, MAN
IS NOT PERFECT, and at 8.45, PIFF-PAFF.
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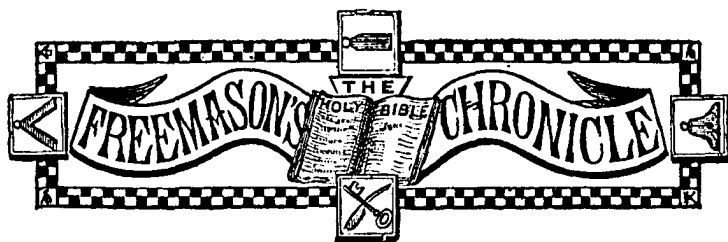
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

WE are informed, by Bro. JAS. TERRY, Secretary,
that it is the intention of the Committee to pro-
pose an increase in the annual allowance to the annuitants,
viz.: from £36 to £45 for males, and from £28 to £32
for females, a step every member of the Craft will hail with
intense satisfaction. We mentioned, last week, that ten
additional widows would be placed on the roll of inmates.

Two comparatively trifling errors occurred in our list,
published last week, of the Stewards and their several
contributions to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.
We hasten to correct them. In the one case Bro. Smithett
is set down as of Lodge 180, whereas it should have been
Lodge 58. In the other Bro. Lucking is set down as of
Lodge 1000, whereas he is of Lodge 160.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

PARLIAMENT is gradually settling down to its work,
several measures of importance having been intro-
duced. Thus, in the House of Lords, on Friday last, the
Lord Chancellor introduced a Bill having for object the
establishment of a final Court of Appeal. The noble Lord's
speech on the occasion was a very able and exhaustive one,
and clearly set before the House the character of the pro-
posed Court. After a few remarks from Lords Selborne and
Denman, the latter of whom denounced the measure as de-
structive of the constitution of their Lordships' House, the
Bill had a first reading. The sittings on Monday and
Tuesday were very brief. On Thursday the Earl of Carnar-
von described the proposed exchange with France of terri-
tory in the Gambia.

In the House of Commons, after the usual array of ques-
tions had been asked and answered, Mr. Selater-Booth, on
Friday, introduced a measure for the Valuation of Property,
which was subsequently read a first time. On Monday Mr.
Disraeli announced the composition of the new Royal
Commission, to inquire into Her Majesty's engagements
with other powers on the question of fugitive slaves. The
House then went into Committee of Supply, and the Chan-
cellor of the Exchequer, after a lengthened exposition
of the circumstances connected with the purchase of
the Suez Canal Shares, called for the vote of a sum not
exceeding four millions sterling. The Marquis of Hart-
ington sought to have the motion postponed, but Mr. Dis-

raeli, in spite of a further appeal from Mr. Gladstone and others, would only consent to an adjournment of the debate till that day week, and this was assented to by the House. On Tuesday leave was given to Mr. Hubbard to introduce a Bill explanatory of the law relating to crossed cheques, after which occurred the first division of the Session, on the second reading, moved by Mr. Rathbone, of the Municipal Officers' Superannuation Bill, which was carried by 101 to 94. On Wednesday, Mr. Beresford Hope moved the second reading of the Increase of the Episcopate Bill, the debate on which stands adjourned till some day in July. On Thursday a Bill to allow Her Majesty to add to her titles was introduced by Mr. Disraeli, and read a first time. The Merchant Shipping Bill passed its second reading.

There is little to record of the further progress of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in his Indian tour. He has visited Jeypore, and, by the latest advices, is enjoying a shooting excursion in Kumaon and the Nepaul Serai. The Royal party are advancing by easy stages towards Nepaul, and strike camp daily. On Tuesday the Prince and Lord Aylesford each shot a fine bear. It is gratifying to hear that all are in excellent health, and still more gratifying to know that His Royal Highness, no long time hence, will be back again among us. The Bill for adding to the titles of the Queen, which is the first "outcome" of the grand reception the Prince has met with in India, is now before the public, and if, as we doubt not, it passes the two Houses, Her Majesty, we presume, will henceforth be known as Empress of India as well as Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., &c.

His Grace the Duke of Abercorn was present at the Lord Mayor of Dublin's banquet, and took that opportunity of congratulating the assembled company on the manifest improvement in Irish affairs which had occurred of late. Among other matters he noticed as subject matter for congratulation was the diminution of emigration. He also announced that it was in contemplation by the Government to establish a museum of art and science in Dublin similar to that now existing in Edinburgh. His Grace is nothing if not genial, and the whole tenour of his speech was marked by the most perfect geniality. The sovereign is certainly fortunate who can point to so admirable a representative of her rule as is our respected brother the M.W.G.M. of Grand Lodge, Ireland.

On Wednesday next the Oxford Masons will hold high festival. On that day, His Royal Highness Prince Leopold will be installed Provincial Grand Master of Oxford. This will no doubt materially strengthen the position of the Craft in that province, and our Oxford brethren are to be congratulated on having so illustrious a personage for their chief. The event will be fully chronicled in these columns next week, and we doubt not the record will be a highly interesting one.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh presided, on Wednesday evening, at the annual dinner, held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, of the friends and supporters of the Warehousemen and Clerks' Schools. The Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and other notabilities were present, and an agreeable evening was spent. The usual loyal toasts were given and responded to very heartily, that of Prosperity to the Institution being specially honoured. Towards the close of the entertainment, a subscription list was announced, amounting to the very handsome sum of 2,700 guineas.

The annual dinner, held the same evening, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, was presided over by Mr. Sampson Lloyd, M.P., and among the guests were the Marquis of Salisbury, Secretary of State for India, Lord Tenterden, General Schenk, the United States' Minister, and a number of other influential gentlemen. The Marquis of Salisbury replied to the toast of Her Majesty's Ministers, eschewing party politics, of course, but speaking at some length on the importance of our commercial interests in India, and expressing equally, of course, a feeling of satisfaction at the purchase of the Suez Canal shares.

Several elections for vacant seats in Parliament have recently taken place. The most important being that for Manchester in the room of our late Bro. Callender, who is succeeded by Mr. Jacob Bright, a staunch adherent of the Liberal party. Other elections are still pending. Mr. Hurst, lately returned, after a sharp contest, for Horsham, in place of Sir S. Fitzgerald, has been unseated on a petition by Mr. Justice Quain, so that a second contest looms in the near future.

The ex-judge, Sir John Coleridge, to whose illness we alluded in our last issue, died before the week was out, at his residence, Heath Court, Ottery St. Mary, Devon, at the ripe age of eighty-five. The learned judge was a nephew of the celebrated poet, Samuel Tayler Coleridge, and several members of the same family enjoyed more or less literary reputation. He was born at Tiverton, in 1790, and was educated at Eton, which he left for Oxford, where he carried off the Chancellor's prizes, for Latin verse, and for the English and Latin essays, and took first-class Classical honours. He was called to the bar in 1819, became Recorder of Exeter and a Serjeant-at-law in 1832, and was raised to the Bench 1835. On his retirement, in 1858, he was made a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council. For a short time Sir John Coleridge was Editor of the *Quarterly*, and author of "Recollections of the Poet Keble." He also brought out an edition of Blackstone's Commentaries, in 1825. One of his sons is Lord Coleridge, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and one of his daughters is married to the present Bishop of Oxford.

On Wednesday Mr. Gladstone was presented with the freedom of the Turners' Company. The Master of the Company, Mr. Edward Caffin, presided, and Mr. Jones, in obedience to the chair, addressed Mr. Gladstone in a very flattering speech, after which the ceremony of induction was gone through with the usual formalities. The Right Hon. gentleman expressed his thanks for the honour conferred upon him that day, in a long and very genial speech, which was frequently interrupted by loud and hearty applause. A few words from the Lord Mayor, who, with the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Lady Pollock, and several other ladies, was present, and sundry complimentary votes brought the proceedings to a close.

As the year gets older, a great amount of activity is noticeable in the sporting world. At Oxford and Cambridge the crews are working hard, and will, in a short time, enter on a strict course of training. There were a number of athletic contests at the Agricultural Hall on Saturday and Monday. Then there has been the grand coursing event of the year (contest for the Waterloo Cup), the result of which we are unable to give. We note besides a somewhat warm discussion is going on as to the merits or demerits of football, owing to a player having died from injuries received when playing the Rugby Union game. We are the last people in the world to encourage games of violence, but one fatal accident no more justifies the abuse so freely lavished on this popular game than a single death in a railway accident would justify wholesale abuse of railway travelling. Athletic exercise is an essential part of a man's early training, and the more—in reason of course—we have of it the healthier, both in mind and body, are we likely to be. Athleticism may be carried too far, as, on the other hand, it may be carried not far enough. The question is not one of excess or defect, but whether games in which nasty accidents occasionally, but very rarely, occur, should be encouraged. Anything like brutal violence in football or any sport must be sternly put down, but our English youth will have to be made of different stuff ere they give up a healthy game because of a solitary fatal accident. The kind of athletic feats we feel most inclined to discourage are of the class to which belong the recent so-called International Walking Matches, where men back themselves to accomplish feats which they are never likely to be called upon to repeat in their every day life. What good end does it serve that Weston can walk his 110 or 115 miles in twenty-four hours? He shows, of course, that he has great powers of endurance, and no doubt he makes a comfortable penny out of the enthusiasm of his supporters, but will he ever be called upon to put his walking powers to such a test as this? These very big feats are well enough once in the way, but again and again repeated, they become a nuisance, and may, moreover, be harmful by inducing men to over-exert themselves.

The charge of fraudulent bankruptcy brought against a bootmaker of Hackney Road, has resulted in the committal for trial of the defendant. The case for the prosecution of the Eupion Gas Company is concluded. Council have addressed the jury in defence of their respective clients. The Lord Chief Justice has concluded his summing up, and the verdict which the jury have recorded is that of guilty against certain of the defendants, two being acquitted. We wish these charges and prosecutions were a less conspicuous feature of the age, and that people thought a little more of the old maxim about honesty being the best policy.

A deputation from the London Trades' Council, accom.

panied by Mr. Charles Lamport, F.R.S., recently waited on the Duke of Richmond and Gordon on the subject of the high price of meat. Mr. Odger, who was one of the deputation, was quite right in saying that what cost sixpence five-and-twenty years ago, costs a shilling now. This is not, perhaps, to be wondered at, if we bear in mind how luxurious the mechanic and artisan classes have become, and how wasteful they are. A working man now-a-days will scorn to eat what satisfied his father, and what many a poor clerk is only too glad to put up with. Nor in quantity either is he content with such rations as his father thrived upon. Then his wife, if he have one, has absolutely no knowledge of cookery, and uses twice as much as is necessary. Of course, in the eyes of this class of people it is thought mean to be careful. Our readers possibly remember *Punch's* butler of some years since, who before accepting a new situation was anxious to know what "wines" were allowed in the kitchen. If our memory fail not, the butler declined the service because only port and sherry—which were good enough for the parson—were allowed. People are so mighty grand now-a-days that people of plain habits, who look with any degree of affection on the simplicity of by-gone days, are held in contempt. But to return to our deputation. The President of the Council pointed out that the restrictions on the movement of cattle were absolutely necessary, if we did not wish our herds destroyed, and that to whatever cause the present high prices were attributable, a falling off in the number of beasts imported from foreign countries was not one of them. The fact is, if people ate less meat food they would be better in health, and in pocket, too. Again, what the Duke said about prices in Smithfield market is quite true. A man may buy there for eightpence or ninepence a pound what the retail butcher sells at a shilling or fourteenpence. Poor gentlefolks, who struggle through life uncomplainingly, deserve our sympathy far more than the unthrifty working classes.

From abroad there is, as regards one country, some satisfactory news to record. The Spanish armies under Quesada and other Alphonsist Generals have gained some very substantial successes, and there is, therefore, a better prospect of this miserable contest being brought to an end. We shall not, of course, cry jubilantly till we are well out of the wood, but we cannot restrain our feelings of exultation that the fair provinces of Spain, which have been so long the theatre of war, seemly likely to enjoy once again the blessings of peace. In France the elections still exercise the public mind. In Germany Prince Bismarck appears to be having it out with the press. From Turkey we hear the Bosnian insurgents have issued a manifesto against Count Andrassy's Note. They refuse to lay down their arms, and appeal to the justice of Europe. In such case the best course for Europe to pursue will be to aid the Porte in bringing the latter's unruly subjects to their senses. The reforms which have been submitted for the acceptance of the Sultan, with the approval of all the Great Powers, and accepted by His Majesty without reserve, and without sacrifice of dignity on his part, are sufficient to meet the legitimate demands of the insurgents, and we shall rejoice mightily if Europe gives these troublesome people to understand that peace is to be disturbed no longer. In the United States the centennial celebration of Independence is the all-absorbing feature of the day, and in Masonry especially there will be one on a very grand scale. The Grand Commandery have invited Knights Templar from all countries, and it is anticipated that something like fifteen thousand of them will be present. From Egypt we hear that Mr. Cave's departure has been postponed, and further, that a Burmese Embassy has reached Suez on its way to Europe. There is, too, a rumour that the Empress of Austria will pay an early visit to this country to see her sister, the Ex-Queen of Naples, at present residing here with her husband.

The Grand Lodge of Benevolence held its usual monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, on Wednesday, the 16th inst.; there was a very numerous attendance of the brethren, owing no doubt to the many distressing cases brought under the notice of the Board. Bro. J. Clabon, the President, occupied the chair, and the Vice chairs were filled by Bros. J. Nunn P.G.S. and J. Brett P.G.P. Grants to the amount of £130, voted at the previous meeting, were confirmed, and 29 new cases were

relieved to the amount of £700. The following brethren were present: Bros. R. J. Spiers, R. W. Stewart, C. A. Cottebrune, John Boyd, T. Cubitt, J. Wright, E. P. Albert, Wilcox, C. Harcourt, J. Smith, B. Swallow, J. M. Stedwell, C. Hogard, W. Howe, S. May, Poynter, T. J. Sabine, Peter Matthews, H. Massey, W. H. Myers, F. Binckes, Bingemann, H. Marsh, Barnard, R. Marsh, G. Bolton, Koch, Taylor, W. H. Lee, Holtham, Larlham, J. Hervey, H. G. Buss, Pendlebury, H. M. Levy, G. Everett, W. Mann, H. Potter, Moore, Andrews, L. J. Drew, W. H. Stephens, C. B. Payne, &c.

Loyalty and Charity Lodge, No. 1584, will be consecrated, at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, this day, Saturday, at 4 o'clock, by Bro. James Terry P.G.D.C. Herts and P.Z.

The Percy Lodge of Instruction, No. 198, which has been in abeyance for some months, will be resuscitated on Saturday, 26th inst., at Bro. Fysch's, the Jolly Farmers, Southgate Road, corner of Church Road, Islington, when Bro. James Terry, P.G.D.C. Herts, will rehearse the consecration and installation ceremonies, at seven o'clock. Brethren to appear in Masonic clothing. C. K. Killick, Hon. Secretary pro tem.

About 300 ladies and gentlemen assembled on Thursday evening, the 10th instant, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, to celebrate the 15th Annual Ball in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the St. James's Union Lodge, No. 180. Dancing commenced shortly after nine, to the strains of Coote and Tinney's band, conducted by Bro. Coote P.M., &c., and was kept up with unflagging spirit till nearly five o'clock a.m., when the company dispersed after assisting at a most enjoyable reunion. The pleasures of the evening were very much enhanced by the untiring efforts of Bro. Pillin J.W., the Hon. Secretary, to whom a great part of the success may be ascribed. We may express a hope that the object for which this Ball was held may be benefited by this successful gathering.

Royal Arch Companions will no doubt be gratified to learn that a Chapter of Improvement is about to be formed, under dispensation from the new Clapton Chapter. A preliminary meeting was held on Wednesday, 16th, at the White Hart Hotel, under the presidency of Comp. John Rumsey P.Z., at which the code of Bye-laws were arranged. The committee will meet again on Wednesday next, at 7 o'clock, to sign petition and complete arrangements.

It is always a pleasure to us to announce that some eminent brother is about to be presented with a testimonial of his worth. Bro. Spiers, who for the past twenty years has held the important rank of Deputy Provincial G.M. in the Province of Oxford will, on Wednesday next, be thus honoured by the brethren over whom he presided in that capacity so long and so meritoriously. Bro. Spiers resigned his office early last year, and in May an Honorary Committee was constituted, with Bro. Æ. McIntyre, Grand Registrar, as its president, and several influential members of the Oxford and other Provinces as members, among them Lord Skelmersdale D.G.M., the Marquis of Hamilton S.G.W., the Earl of Jersey P.G.W., the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot P.G.M. Staffordshire, Earl Percy P.G.M. Northumberland, Lord Holmesdale P.G.M. Kent, Lord Balfour of Burleigh P.S.G.W., the Earl of Beehive P.G.M. Cumberland, Sir M. Hicks Beach, Bart. P.S.G.W., W. W. B. Beach P.G.M. Hants, T. F. Halsey, P.G.M. Herts, Lieut. Col. A. W. Adair P.P.G.M. Somerset, Maxwell Close P.G.M. Burmagh, T. Mansel Talbot P.G.M. South Wales, and others. Bro. Walter Thompson, W.M. 340, is the Honorary Secretary. There is also a local committee at Oxford, over which Bro. Reginald Bird, D.P.G.M. Oxon, presides, the Treasurer being Bro. Thomas Randall, Prov. G. Treasurer. The list of the contributors is a very long one, and includes the names of H.R.H. Prince Leopold, the Earl of Jersey, Lord Clifton, and very many of those above named as on the Committee. We heartily congratulate Bro. Spiers on the honour in store for him. May he live long to enjoy this substantial recognition of a long and faithful service!

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

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instruction you were enabled to give them in the ceremonies, and for your advice and guidance in the conducting of the practical business of the Lodge. The officers of a lower degree have also been much indebted to you for the instruction they have received from you. Your usefulness to the Lodge has not ended here, but, as all the brethren very well know, whenever any work has had to be done for the Lodge, no matter of what kind, you have always been found ready to put your shoulder to the wheel and to work for the good of the Lodge with a zeal which has been altogether unsurpassable. It is on account of these great and valuable services, which you have so freely rendered to the Lodge, that the brethren have agreed to present you with this jewel, and I, in their name, have now the pleasure of handing it to you. I do so with the fullest confidence that it will be highly prized by you; that it will be treasured up by your family as an heir-loom; not for its intrinsic value, but for the warm and kind feelings of the brethren of this Lodge, which it will ever have the effect of calling to your remembrance, and when you are gone hence and are no more; when your spirit has ascended to that magnificent mansion above, not made with hands, it will no doubt be handed down to your children, and to your children's children for many generations to come, who, in their turn, will look upon it with feelings of satisfaction and pride at the thought of having had an ancestor in the olden times who was held in such high estimation among the Masonic brethren with whom it was his lot to associate." The W.M. (then shaking hands with him) said, in a very fervent manner, "Bro. P.M. Redfearn, allow me to congratulate you, and may the Great Architect of the Universe give you a long and a happy life to wear the jewel which has now been presented to you by the brethren of this Lodge." Bro. P.M. Redfearn, in a very feeling manner, then thanked the W.M. for the very flattering terms in which he had spoken of him, and of what he had done for the Lodge; he also thanked the brethren for their very handsome present, assuring them that the jewel would be highly prized by him as long as he lived. It had always been his earnest desire to do all that he possibly could for the benefit of the old Lodge of Peace, and he trusted that he should always merit a continuance of their good wishes. The Secretary then read a communication from the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, appealing to the brethren for their usual annual subscriptions to that Institution, which was liberally responded to, and some additions made to the list of subscribers. The Lodge was then closed, and supper was served in the Lodge room.

Temple Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 173.

The installation meeting of this Lodge was held at the Green Dragon, Stepney, on Monday, the 14th inst. There were present—Bros. Lacy W.M., Geo. Verry S.W., E. Gottheil J.W., Mortlock I.P.M. and Treas., Hood Sec., the rest of the officers, and a considerable number of brethren. Although only two years old, the Lodge numbers 45 subscribing members. The Visitors were—Bros. Binckes G.S., J. Terry, Southwark Lodge, Henley, Thistle, Simonds, St. Mark's, J. Smith, St. Colom's, Geo. Yaxley Macdonald, and R. Burridge, W.M. Macdonald. In the course of the evening Bros. S. H. Rawley P.M. 174, John Newton P.M. 174, E. J. Moore P.M. 174, R. C. Davies 1278, and Hicks were regularly advanced to this degree. Bro. Lacy and the rest of the officers then vacated their positions, when Bro. Mortlock P.M. assumed the chair, appointed two Grand Officers as temporary Wardens, and proceeded to instal Bro. Geo. Verry W.M. for the year. The ceremony was performed with that steady and quiet deliberation, pleasant to the ear and clear to the understanding, for which that brother's working is famous. Bro. Verry then appointed his officers as follow:—E. Gottheil S.W., J. Hood J.W., T. Mortlock P.M. Treas., Startivant Sec., Marsh M.O., Snow S.O., Mole J.O., Cundick S.D., Wallington J.D., Geo. Hollington I.G., N. Gluckstein D.C., John North Ross W.S., Grant Tyler. Bro. Verry, presenting the W.M. with a P.M.'s jewel, observed that it is not an idle compliment which has been engraved on the reverse of the jewel, but one richly deserved by Bro. Lacy. He hoped Bro. Lacy would live for many years to wear this jewel, and give his services to the Lodge. Bro. Lacy replied in suitable terms, after which a vote of thanks to Bro. Mortlock, for the excellent manner in which he performed the installation, was unanimously carried. The Lodge business being concluded, a banquet followed, after which the loyal and Mark Masonic toasts were proceeded with. Responding to the one of the Grand Officers, Bro. Binckes G.S. said: "I will lose no time in making a few observations, and they shall be brief. I do so with mingled feelings of pleasure and pain. You are all aware of the loss we have sustained in the death of our Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Romaine Callender. Having been closely associated with him during many years, I can speak of his kindly disposition, the great services he has rendered, and the liberal and material support we have received at his hands; and in his public career, outside Freemasonry, he was one who could never say nay to any request, and always ready at the call of duty. But I will not now on this festive occasion indulge in any sentimentality, for it is with us as it is with States and Nations—*Le roi est mort, vive le roi!*" We deeply deplore our loss, and shed a tear of sympathy over the grave of the departed friend; but, on the other hand, we have cause to rejoice in having acquired the services of a nobleman so highly esteemed as Lord Skelmersdale to fill the vacant post. The readiness with which the successor was secured shows the exhaustless vitality of this degree, and proves the wisdom of Earl Carnarvon when he said that no society or institution should ever place entire dependence upon one individual alone, but there should always be some one ready whose practical training and general abilities will enable him to supply the place whenever emergency may arise. I am thankful, and, with proud and heartfelt enthusiasm, say, that the studious and thoughtful now take the greatest interest in Mark Masonry, which, I am sure, they must find placed on a sound and

sure basis; and I have, therefore, every confidence that we shall always find men able, ready, and willing to undertake any duty, and to occupy any position which may be entrusted to them. I assure you, in the distribution of Grand Lodge offices, as far as is practicable, distinction is conferred upon merit alone. Every name is submitted to the Grand Master, and the passport to his favour is zeal, energy, and ability, and honour is done to those who have borne the heat and burden of the day. This is the spirit in which our affairs have been conducted for the last 15 or 16 years, and all things done straightforward, without fear, favour, or affection, and unbiassed by any extraneous influences. Hence our success. May that flourishing condition remain; and, repeating the sentiments of Past Master Lacy, may we all be spared to meet on similar occasions for many years to come." Bro. Terry, responding, said: "This toast to the Masonic Charities is, of course, more intimately connected with Craft Masonry; but we are under great obligations to the Mark Grand Lodge, and, indeed, to the members of this degree generally, for their very liberal and generous support. I will not dilate largely upon the subject, as Bro. Binckes is here, and we three Secretaries have introduced a wholesome rule, namely, whenever occasion arises, that brother should be allowed to plead for his Institution whose anniversary takes place immediately following the meeting of any Lodge at which they happen to be present. You have all heard of the grand and glorious result of the last Festival in connection with the Benevolent Institution, and I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the great support with which the Mark and other Lodges have seconded my humble efforts. But, brethren, we require all the help we can possibly obtain when we reflect that there are at the present time 46 candidates for the Girls' School, 59 for the Boys', and 58 for the Aged. I need not tell you that the interests of the Boys' School is in excellent hands. In spite of the false and malicious reports that have been spread, the calumnies, abuse, and dirty accusations which have been heaped upon our highly esteemed Bro. Binckes, he has been enabled successfully to refute them. I am sure you have never lost faith in him, and will support him with redoubled confidence." Bro. Binckes appealed on behalf of the boys with his well-known energy and apt allusions, and persisted in the statement that all the world are in favour of "Our Boys," which, while other pieces at different theatres have a short or precarious existence, "Our Boys" has already had a run for 350 nights. Respecting the Mark Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund, he was happy to state that, by means of the little annual gatherings, consisting of about 150 individuals, a sum of £600 had been invested in Canadian Guaranteed stock, and a sum of £200 to the general fund. He wished them to understand that a subscription of £5, or a collection of £10, entitles a brother to wear the Mark Charity jewel, which is presented, free of expense, by the Grand Master in open Grand Lodge. Bro. T. Mortlock P.M. announced his intention of representing this Lodge at the next anniversary. Several excellent songs were sung, by Bros. Davis, Henley, and Wallington, and a whistling duet, extremely well performed, by Bros. Mortlock and Henley, was much applauded by the brethren.

Domatic Lodge, No. 177.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, the 11th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Bros. Treadwell W.M., J. Willing jun. S.W., Palmer J.W., J. Smith P.G.P. Treas., Buscall S.D., G. Clark J.D., White I.G., Spink D.C., and P.M.'s G. Everett I.P.M., Tims, Foulger, J. Brett P.G.P., and Walford. Bros. Harris, Pinkey, Swallow, Norris, Richard, Montague, Foxcroft, Scard, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Jennings and Friend were raised to the third degree; Bros. Gwynn, Cook and J. Abrams were passed to the second degree, and Messrs. J. P. Killingback, Moss, Jewell and J. Jennings were initiated. Bro. J. R. Foulger P.M. proposed that the initiation fee be increased to £10 10s, which was carried unanimously, it was also decided that no brother be a country member unless he resides ten miles from the Lodge. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren, nearly a hundred in number, adjourned to a very excellent banquet, where the usual loyal toasts were given and harmony prevailed. The visitors were Bros. H. Massey, Hollis, Mendly, Rowe, Cruikshank, Atkins, Harper, Phillips P.G.P. and Graham.

St. James's Union Lodge, No. 180.—The first meeting of this Lodge since the installation took place on Tuesday, the 8th ult., when the W.M. being on the Continent, the chair was occupied by Bro. Bubbs P.M. Treas., the rest of the officers being in their places, viz.: Bros. W. C. Parsons I.P.M., A. Annett S.W., L. B. Pillin J.W., H. A. Stacey P.M. Hon. Sec., S. Smith S.D., E. S. Harrison J.D., E. Farwig I.G., and Stollard W.S., also Bros. Stonor P.M., Herf P.M., and several other brethren. A ballot was taken for a gentleman to be initiated into the Order, and was unanimous in his favour, but he did not arrive in time to be shown the light of Freemasonry. Bro. Heathcote was passed to the second degree. Two members of the Lodge were relieved from the Benevolent Fund, and there being no other business the Lodge was closed and adjourned to the second Tuesday in March.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—The anniversary of this Lodge was celebrated at Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street, E.C., on Wednesday, the 16th inst. A considerable number of brethren attended, no doubt induced by the announcement that the ceremonies of consecration and installation would be rehearsed by those two celebrated Masons, Bros. Terry and Constable. It would be superfluous to enter into a detailed description of the excellence which distinguished their performance, the names of the two brethren being sufficient to indicate the manner in which their respective duties were conducted. The completeness of the effect was due, in great measure, to Bro. Miller P.M., to whom the musical part had been entrusted. Bro. Turquand, the W.M. of the Addiscombe Lodge, was installed, and he, with appropriate addresses to each, appointed his officers, namely—D. Posener S.W., Churchward J.W., J. Constable

Treas., Pitt Sec., Hollands S.D., Croaker J.D., Oekenden I.G. A vote of thanks to Bros. Terry, Constable, and Miller ended the proceedings. The brethren having partaken of refreshment, at which Bro. E. Gottheil P.M. and Preceptor presided, the usual toasts were given and responded to, during which Bros. F. Binckes and Raynham Stewart unexpectedly entered; they were received with loud acclamations of pleasure. Bro. Terry, in his response, pointed out the necessity of steady support to the Benevolent Institution, and declared that if every brother were to subscribe five shillings a year a greater number of applicants might reap the benefit of the annuities, which, at the same time, could be considerably augmented. He was sure so small a sum can easily be spared, and he thought should willingly be subscribed by every individual. Bro. Constable, replying to the toast, "Prosperity to the Confidence Lodge of Instruction," said that, were he possessed of the power of a Demosthenes, he could not more fully convey to the brethren his sentiments of gratitude than is conveyed by the three simple words 'I thank you.' The duties he had had the honour to perform that evening, however onerous, were nothing compared to the trouble our Preceptor has taken, in times gone by, to perfect him in the ritual. It is to him the thanks are due, for it is to him he was indebted for the Masonic knowledge he possesses. Bro. Turquand next proposed the health of the Preceptor, whom he characterised as genial of temperament, and patient in his mode of instruction. Bro. Gottheil expressed his sincere thanks, and spoke of the many years he has been connected with the Lodge, first as Secretary, and then as Preceptor, in succession to Bro. F. Theodore Foulger. He felt still a considerable amount of nerve and activity in his constitution, and, while that is the case, the Lodge may rest assured of his services. With "The Press" Bro. W. W. Morgan's name was coupled, who said that Bro. Gottheil inadvertently represented him as the proprietor, instead of the publisher, of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE. The proprietary body is the Craft, and each one of you may participate in the proprietorship by taking a single share. The paper has been established upon certain fixed principles, which should faithfully mirror the opinions, sentiments, and aspirations of the Craft. We have hitherto strictly adhered to our programme, and met with considerable encouragement from brethren in all parts of this country and abroad. While that support is continued, it will demonstrate the necessary existence of the paper, and, when it is withdrawn, its publication will be discontinued, as a matter of course. The names of Bros. Binckes and R. Stewart were exceedingly well received. Bro. Binckes said:—"While thanking you for your kind expressions, it appears to me that I ought not to occupy your time by any remarks of mine, as I feel like an intruder, and as one who had no business to be here. But, peeping in at the door, I saw ranged around this board so many well-known faces, that I could not resist the temptation to enter and exchange greeting. The W.M. has just stated that the toast to the prosperity of the Charities had already been given, and I am sure the brother on my immediate right (Bro. Terry) has ably responded to that. I had not intended to say more than five words. But it is our duty, as Secretaries to the Institutions, to appeal to you whenever opportunity occurs, for we exist only by your suffrages and support; we cannot appeal to the outer world; indeed, they would not listen to us. You have heard it announced that for the Benevolent Institution £9,184 have been collected. Now there is amongst the Secretaries a friendly rivalry, and when, at the last Festival, this large amount was announced, I assure you I felt glad, but the first thought that passed through my mind was, I must beat that, but how? As to the means, I have not even yet arrived at anything like a clear decision. You have just heard Bro. Morgan state that you might all become part proprietors in the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE by taking a single share. Well, in the same way I wish you to become part proprietors of our Institutions, by your annual subscriptions. This evening, at the Board of Benevolence, a brother presented himself as an applicant for relief, who, but a short time since, moved in the highest circles, but, through misadventure in business and a variety of unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances, he became ruined or, in vulgar phrase, failed for £500,000. This brother, in his days of prosperity, did literally nothing to benefit our charities, yet in adversity he has immediate recourse to the Benevolent Fund. Although neglectful of his duties—for we do not like to enquire too minutely into what a man ought to have done and did not do,—a liberal amount was voted to him. But how much pleasanter it would have been for him to present himself before that Board with the consciousness of having contributed towards the relief of others when it was in his power. Now brethren, think of that, do all you can, for the demands upon our Charities vastly exceed the means at command. Bro. R. Stewart, as a member of all the Charities' Committees, and in the absence of Bro. Little, echoed the remarks of the last speaker, and pointed out the necessity of continued efforts on behalf of the Institution. Bros. Constable and Churchward contributed to the harmony of the evening by some excellent songs, and Bro. Oekenden recited, with considerable talent and effect. A very pleasant and delightful evening then came to a close. Bro. Posener will preside at the next meeting, when he proposes to rehearse the first and third degrees.

Lodge of Friendship, No. 206.—This Lodge met at the Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, on Thursday, 10th instant, Bro. R. Rumsey, the newly-installed W.M., occupied the chair. Bros. Taylor S.W., Stephens J.W., W. Rumsey Treas., Squirrell S.D., Godolphin J.D., Steel I.G., John Rumsey P.M. Sec., and a fair muster of Past Masters, members, and visitors. The only work on the summons was the initiation of Mr. Frederick W. Frances, and he having been duly balloted for and prepared, the young W.M. made his first essay, and performed the ceremony in a perfectly correct, impressive and masterly manner, to the great satisfaction of all present, and the immense delight of his relative and Preceptor, Bro. John Rumsey. The other offices were well sustained, and nothing could excel the part of J.D., by Bro. Squirrell (also his first candidate). Bro. Frances expressed himself highly pleased and gratified with his reception into

Freemasonry. After notices of motion, in accordance with the bye-laws, for sums of money to be given to the Masonic Charities, the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to pay homage to the good things of life, and passed an harmonious evening.

Star Lodge, No. 219.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, the 14th February, at their own Hall, 12 Trongate, Glasgow. Present—Bros. John Morgan R.W.M., J. Martin D.M., W. Anderson S.M., J. Horn S.W., A. Mearns J.W., F. Dow Secretary, J. Sharp Treasurer, J. Gardner S.D., J. Hill Organist, J. Pearson Tyler. Visitors—J. Allen D.M. 28, Wheeler 73, Muir, Buchan 103, A. Jack R.W.M. 128, Watson, J. Louttit R.W.M. 413, Wood R.W.M. 441, J. Law I.P.M. 570, and J. Duthie Z. 67. Business—The R.W.M., on behalf of himself, the officers and a few friends, presented the Lodge with a first class harmonium. Bro. Hill, the newly appointed Organist, in the course of the evening showed the capabilities of the instrument. The R.W.M., in his careful and elaborate style, then initiated three candidates, Messrs. Thos. McGowan, Jas. Fullerton and Wm. Golden. The Lodge was then opened in the 3rd degree, and Bro. G. W. Wheeler, at the request of the Master, raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, Bros. Wm. Scott, Wm. Robertson, Wm. McDonald and Chas. Groer.

De Sussex Chapter, No. 406.—This Chapter held its regular meeting on Friday, the 11th of February, at Freemasons' Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Present—Comps. J. Ridsdale Z., W. Cockburn H., J. Edminston J., E. Edmonson E., H. Hotham Treasurer, Armstrong N., Hughes P.S., R. Armstrong Asst. S., Dr. Armstrong I.G.; P.Z.'s Comps. Smaile, Foulsham, Hotham, Frolick. Visitors—Comps. Halliday, St. Peter's 481, Harris De Swinburn 24, Loades 24. Business—Four candidates were exalted to this supreme degree, and the following Companions were elected for the ensuing twelve months:—W. Cockburn Z., J. Edmonson H., Knox J., Hughes E., Armstrong N., T. Armstrong P.S.

St. Peter's Lodge, No. 481.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, the 14th February 1876, at Freemasons' Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Present—Bros. J. Spearman W.M., J. D. Stephen S.W., H. S. Sewell J.W., R. R. Hazard Secretary, Geo. Thompson P.M. Treasurer, R. Eynon S.D., W. Foulsham P.M. D.C., W. Grist Steward, H. G. Carr I.G., Martin P.M. Tyler. Past Masters—Bros. Cooke I.P.M., Atkinson, and Wilson. Visitors—Bros. Smaile P.M. P.G.S.W., Cockburn W.M. 24, Taylor J.W. 24, Armstrong 406. Business—The three degrees were given by the W.M. in his usual excellent manner, the proceedings being protracted to a very late hour owing to the great amount of business done.

Benevolence Lodge, No. 489.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 10th of February, at the Masonic Hall, Bridgeland-street, Bideford. Present—Bros. Thomas Russell P. Prov. G.C. J.G.W. Devon W.M., T. T. Wickham S.W., S. S. Cruwys, J.W., H. M. Burrow Sec., T. T. Wickham Treas., R. Dymond S.D. S. Goode J.D., E. Dannel (pro tem) D.C., S. G. Tapley Steward, W. Brooks (pro tem) I.G., R. Grant Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. W. L. Vellacott, C. Smaile Organist, and several other brethren. Visitor—Bro. Chapman P.M. 755. Business—Bro. Conway having given sufficient proof of his proficiency as an E.A., was passed to the degree of F.C. Other important business affecting the welfare of the Lodge was discussed and settled, and various communications laid before the Lodge by the W.M. The Lodge was then closed in due form.

Fitzroy Lodge, No. 569.—An emergency meeting of this Lodge was held on the 11th inst., at the Head Quarters of the Hon. Artillery Company, Finsbury. Bros. F. Graves W.M., Ensign W. I. Spicer S.W., R. J. Webster J.W., Ensign F. G. Stohwasser I.G., Capt. Eglese Secretary, and Capt. R. Helsham P.M. The Lodge was opened, and Messrs. Horace Gooch, W. T. Moore and C. W. J. Baker, of No. 2 Company, were balloted for, unanimously elected, and duly initiated into the Order by the W.M. in a very excellent manner. Bro. Ford was passed to the second degree, and Bro. Lieut. Henry Rawlings, of the Artillery division of the Dundee Lodge, was elected a joining member. The Lodge was then closed in due form. There was no banquet.

Kenmuir Lodge, No. 570.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on the 12th inst., Bro. Aitman R.W.M. presiding, assisted by Bro. Law I.P.M., Brown S.W., Reid J.W., and a large attendance of brethren. Amongst the Visitors were Bros. D. Allen 28, Wheeler 73, Gardner 178, Carr 278, J. Morgan R.W.M. 219, and J. Ferguson. After the Lodge was opened, the R.W.M. said their Junior Warden had presented them with a very handsome sword as an additional proof of the interest he took in the Lodge. A cordial vote of thanks was given to the J.W. for the gift of an instrument that was much required in the Lodge. Mr. J. McCallum having been proposed and unanimously accepted, was then initiated by the R.W.M., and as it was his first time of working, it augurs well for his efficiency in that office. The Lodge was then raised to the third degree, and Bro. J. Ferguson I.P.M., Dulmuir, raised a brother to the sublime degree in the solemn but peculiar style known as the Vale of Seven working, Bro. Morgan R.W.M. 219 kindly acting as the S.D. for him. The Lodge was then closed and the Visitors returned to Glasgow.

Windsor Castle Lodge, No. 771.—A meeting of the members of this celebrated Lodge was held on Tuesday, 8th instant, at the Masonic Hall, St. Allan's-street, Windsor. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. Greville Horsley Palmer, Bro. Joseph Devereux presided. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Two brethren were then raised, the ceremony being conducted in Bro. Devereux's well known and deeply impressive manner. Bro. W. A. S. Humphries, Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 976, was then elected a joining member. Bro. Devereux next proceeded

to instal Bro. William Henry Cutler as the W.M. for the ensuing year, and this ceremony was also enacted in brilliant style. The appointment of officers resulted as follow:—T. E. Scott S.W., W. V. Brown J.W., F. Fleck S.D., W. S. Cantrell J.D., J. Whitehouse Treasurer, J. S. Tolley P.M. Secretary, J. S. Barton I.G., C. Nowell Tyler, Manley, Hatch and R. G. Barton Stewards. The auditors' report was then read and adopted, the result showing the position of the Lodge was most satisfactory. A banquet followed, at the White Hart Hotel, where upwards of fifty sat down. A very pleasant evening was spent, enlivened by the excellent singing of Bros. Tolley, Large, Smith, Briggs, &c. During the evening letters of apology were read from several brethren, who were unable to attend; these included one from Bro. Sir D. Gooch, who pleaded that his duties in connection with the Opening of Parliament precluded his being present. Amongst those who attended we noticed Past Masters C. Holden 771, Bingham, Grisbrook, H. Hodges 795, King 4, J. Carter 209, Wilson 209, Dixon 209, J. Bolingbroke Ribbam, Major Young, J. H. Reid 209, A. H. Kennedy 357, Arthur W. Rooke 46, Rev. C. C. Ewbank S.W. 803, J. Wilson W.M. 209, C. Sweeting S.W. 92, Powell 771, &c.

Priory Chapter, Southend, No. 1000.—The quarterly convocation of this Chapter was held on Wednesday, the 9th inst., at the Middleton Hotel, Southend. The Rev. S. R. Wigram G.C.M.E.Z., E. C. Phillips H., H. Wood as J., S. Weston Treas., Rev. H. J. Hatch S.N., J. A. Wardell P.S., J. Willing 1st Asst., F. Gower 2nd Asst., and Companions Judd, Pisse, Cantor, Hammond and Frost. The Chapter was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. This being the night for the election of Principals and officers, the following were unanimously chosen:—Comps. Phillips Z., Lucking H., Wardell J., J. Willing P.S., Johnstone S.E., Pisse S.N., Weston Treas. Comps. Gower and the Rev. H. J. Hatch were appointed 1st and 2nd Assts. and Comp. Mountain Janitor. A vote of thanks was accorded to Comp. H. Wood P.Z. 186, for coming so far at so short a notice to act as J., Comp. Lucking being Steward at the R.M.B. Institution Festival. The annual banquet was announced to take place on 10th May, at the Middleton Hotel. A sum of three guineas was voted for a P.Z. jewel to Comp. Rev. S. R. Wigram, the retiring Z., which was suitably acknowledged. The Chapter was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshments, when a very agreeable evening was spent.

Montefiore Lodge, No. 1017.—A meeting of the above Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 9th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Present—Bros. J. Blum W.M., J. Lazarus, P.M. as S.W., Gulliford J.W., Albu S.D., L. Salomons J.D., Hochfield I.G., Handy D.C., E. P. Albert A.G.P. Secretary, and P.M.'s A. Eskell, De Solla, S. Pollitzer and J. Lazarus. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Earnstein, Hobinstock, and Kaide-nover were passed to the second degree. Bros. Sonn, Harwitz, Syer, Brall, Gallewski, and Cnsel were raised to the third degree, and Mr. E. Armand was initiated. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Cafe Royal, Regent-street, where they sat down to a very excellent supper, provided by Bro. D. Nicolls. The usual toasts were given. The visitors were Bros. J. W. Speth 183, L. Blum, N. Blum, C. Hogard P.M. 1017.

Milton Lodge, No. 1144.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, the 2nd of February, 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. Sec., James Pollitt P.P.G.D.C. E. Lan. Treas., Alfred Clayton S.D., Edwin Buckley J.D., James Driver I.G., William Hill Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Jas. White, D. B. Radcliffe, Jas. Pollitt, John Jones. Visitors—Bros. Jas. Morris P.M. Fortitude 461, David Kay P.M., Joseph Read. Business—Minutes of last meeting confirmed unanimously. Bro. Barber was passed to the 2nd degree. Bros. Witcombe and Butterworth were then raised to the sublime degree of M.M., each ceremony being gone through by the W.M. in a very solemn and impressive manner. After hearty good wishes from the visiting brethren, all adjourned to the banquet, which took place at 8 o'clock, when a very agreeable evening was spent.

Commercial Lodge, No. 1391.—This Lodge held its seventy-fourth meeting on Saturday, the 12th February, at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester. Present—Bros. R. A. Barber jun. W.M., E. Mason S.W., B. Moore J.W., J. Ewing Secretary, J. B. Hall P.M. Treasurer, A. Chamberlin S.D., G. Matt J.D., C. J. McBride D.C., H. Meadows and J. W. Hunter Stewards, E. H. Butter I.G., C. Bembridge Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Geo. Clifton, M.D., John Halford, J. B. Hall. Visitors—J. T. Thorp W.M. 523, C. Johnson P.M., J. Roadknight. Business—Mr. H. B. Ellis received an unanimous ballot, and was duly initiated by the W.M. Afterwards, on behalf of the members, the W.M., in a feeling and able address, presented a magnificent album to Bro. Dr. Clifton I.P.M., containing portraits of every brother in the Lodge, as a mark of their appreciation of his services when W.M. 1874-5. Bro. Clifton expressed his heartfelt thanks in a manly reply, and remarked that nothing the brethren could have presented would be more highly valued than this album, containing their portraits, especially as it was expected, and, he thought, undeserved. He would never forget the happy year he spent in presiding over the Commercial Lodge. This cordial and successful meeting ended at eleven o'clock, with the National Anthem.

Bon Accord Lodge of Mark Masters.—This Lodge met at 2 Red Lion-square, on Thursday, the 17th inst. Bro. John Perry Godfrey, of No. 1261, was advanced and congratulated, the ceremony being ably conducted by W. Bro. Major George Barlow, 33°, R.W. Bro. Samuel Rawson, P.D.G.M. of China, who was one of the founders of the Lodge, nearly thirty years ago, was unanimously re-elected a member, the ballot being declared with acclamation. The revision of new Bye-laws was continued and completed, W. Bro.

Lieutenant Colonel H. Somerville Burney honoured the Lodge with his presence as a visitor. The brethren adjourned to banquet at 7 Vernon-place.

Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement.—The Companions met at the Jamaica Coffee House, St Michael's-alley, Cornhill, on Tuesday, 15th February. Present—G. Newman M.E.Z., E. S. Norris J., W. V. Bedolfe H., J. Boyd Treas., T. W. White and J. Rumsey Scribes E., J. Allsopp S.N., J. Wyer P.S.; J. Smith, W. Stephens, G. K. Lemann, W. W. Morgan, J. H. Leggett. The ceremony of Exaltation was rehearsed. Comp. Rumsey worked the 1st and 2nd clauses of the 1st Section, Comp. John Boyd most ably dictating the answers. The following were elected officers for the next fortnight—Comps. Norris Z., Stephens J., Wyer H., Smith Scribe E., C. R. Miles P.S. On Tuesday, the 29th inst., after the usual business, it is proposed to rehearse the ceremony of Installation of the Principals, and we commend the attention of qualified Companions who may desire to be present to this announcement.

Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, No. 1507.—The regular meeting of the above was held on Friday, the 11th inst., at the Metropolitan Club, King's Cross. Present—Bros. Michael W.M., H. B. Fowler S.W., Kingham J.W., C. Soales S.D., W. Read J.D., Fenner I.G., W. M. Stiles Secretary, and Rapkin, Reepe, Little, W. A. Fowler, Rogers, Side, Shand, Ormiston and Tetttenborn. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, W. A. Fowler acting as candidate, and the ceremony of initiation followed, Bro. Reepe candidate. The first and second sections of the first lecture were worked by the brethren, under the direction of Bro. Side, in a very perfect manner. Bros. Rogers and Fowler were elected joining members, and Bro. Side was electing W.M. for the ensuing week.

United Military Lodge, No. 1536.—How many victories have been lost because subordinates considered the orders of their superiors unreasonable or unwise? "Sire," said the Marshal to Napoleon, "it is impossible to lead the troops by the route you have pointed out." "Let me see the order," said Napoleon. He took it, read it, returned it, and only said: "That is your order; execute it." He did execute it, and the army of Napoleon was soon bearing the victorious eagles of France across the plains of Lombardy. Equally so might the brethren have thought it would be impossible for them to find the New Masonic Hall, Plumstead, on the night of Friday, the 11th inst., in one of the densest and most disagreeable fogs which has visited us for many a day. *Præmonitus, præmonitus*; and at the assembly, 8 p.m., there were but few vacant chairs in this splendid hall. Bro. F. G. Pournall W.M. opened the Lodge, assisted by Bros. W. A. Weston S.W., G. Spinks J.W., R. Croisdale I.P.M., T. Cooper Secretary, W. Murphy Treasurer, H. G. Picken S.D., A. Shaw J.D., R. J. Lapham I.G., J. McCaffery D.C., J. Lackland Tyler, and Capt. C. Phillips P.M., R. McClellan, E. G. Latham, W. Land, R. Softley, R. Hill, E. McNight, H. Harding, T. Tims, S. Morris, Y. Sealy, J. Gibson, J. Picking, Webb, J. Warren, J. White, Williams, G. Smith, H. Oakley, D. Deeves, J. Ashworth, M. Tormay, B. Thompson, F. Sharpe, B. Revell, M. Young, J. P. Donnelly, G. Williams, H. Carlin, A. Masterson, and others. Amongst the Visitors were Bros. G. P. Davies P.M. 13, T. Hosgood 13, C. Hosgood P.M. 192, Lieut. Ward W.M. 700, T. Butt S.W. 700, T. Hutson 13, O. Hutson 13, T. Butt 700, D. C. Capon 913, J. Coombes 182, C. Morris 1331, E. Sculley 1076, A. Cleade 13, F. Archer 13, L. Cooke 700, Wray 1257, W. Harris 913, C. Jolly 913, and J. Brown P.M. 946. After the minutes of the preceding meeting had been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bro. A. Brook as a joining member; such being in his favour, he was duly admitted. C. Webb and J. Young were then presented for advancement, and were accordingly questioned by the W.M. as to their proficiency in the science; the same being satisfactory, they were prepared and introduced, and passed to the degree of F.C., in a very able manner, by the W.M. This being a military Lodge, the mode of advancing from W. to E. was perfection. Likewise a word is due to the talented Organist for the expressive rendering of Rossini's "Cujus Animam." There were two gentlemen proposed for initiation, and the W.M. brought the case of a widow of a deceased brother of Lodge 13 to the notice of the brethren, and we are pleased to say he was well supported. There being no other business before the Lodge, it was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to refreshments. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, honoured, and responded to. Bros. Brown, Harris, Jolly, and C. Hosgood responded on behalf of the Visitors. We may here state that this Lodge was consecrated on the 25th June 1875, and now numbers upwards of 105 members, and meets on the second Friday of every month at the Masonic Hall, adjoining the Sir Robert Peel Tavern, Crescent-road, Plumstead, where the W.M., his officers, and brethren generally vie with each other to carry out the hospitality for which the United Military Lodge is proverbial. *Esto perpetua.*

Alexandra Palace Lodge, No. 1541.—An emergency meeting took place at the Alexandra Palace, on Saturday, the 12th inst. In the absence of the W.M., Bro. J. C. Parkinson, the chair was occupied by Bro. G. Kelly King, who was supported by Bro. Dye S.W., Palmer J.W., E. M. Haigh S.D., Lee J.D., Daniels I.G., and Rawles Tyler. In the early part of the proceedings, Bro. J. R. Stacey P.M. and Secretary, acted as I.P.M. The ballot was taken for Messrs. George F. Harris, Alfred Stubbins, Thomas Calvert, Henry G. Gush, and Walter Delvalle, and being clear, those gentlemen were initiated into the Order. The chair was then vacated in favour of Bro. P.M. Stacey, who passed Bros. Arnold and Todd. The ceremony of raising was then most ably rendered, Bro. Ward being the candidate for the sublime degree. Both W.M.'s conducted the proceedings in a most solemn and impressive manner. An audit committee was then appointed. Letters of apology were read from the W.M., Bro. Parkinson, and two other brethren. The Secretary announced that the acting W.M., Bro. Kelly King, had requested the Lodge to accept

from him a copy of the Volume of the Sacred Law. The proffered offer was acceded to and recorded on the minutes. The business of the Lodge having been formally completed, the members repaired to the banquet room, where a very agreeable repast had been provided. The W.M. gave the health of Her Majesty, and expressed the satisfaction it had afforded all classes in her having emerged from her solitude, during the week, to take part in the opening of Parliament. In proposing the toast of the M.W.G.M. Bro. King said that His Royal Highness had done and was doing great work in the distant realms he was visiting, and he trusted that on his return to his native land he would meet with a grand reception from the Masonic body. In speaking to the health of the Grand Officers, the Chairman regretted that no representative of the purple was present, they had, however, in one of their members, a P.G.S., and he had pleasure in associating Bro. Haigh's name with the toast. Bro. Haigh briefly replied: He supposed the W.M. was correct in describing him as a companion in arms—or rather in fig leaves—with the officer of Grand Lodge. He firmly believed that those officers possessed the confidence and the esteem of the entire Craft, and he thanked all present for the heartiness with which the toast had been received, and for the kind manner in which they had associated his name with it. The Initiates were then toasted, and the W.M. said he was pleased to see that five foundation stones had been placed that day, from these he hoped that polished structures might arise, and from the quality of those brethren who had been enrolled, he firmly believed great results might be anticipated. The several Initiates, in a few words, acknowledged the compliment. Bro. Haigh now took the gavel, and proposed the health of the acting W.M., Bro. J. Kelly King, who in reply said he should be wanting in common courtesy if he did not acknowledge the kind feeling exhibited by every member of the Lodge. To Bros. Stacey, Dyte, Lee and Haigh he was especially grateful for the services they had rendered in placing the Alexandra Lodge in the position it occupied. The progress they had made had been all that could be wished, in spite of the failure of the overtures to associate the brethren connected with the Alexandra Palace. The original intention of the founders was that theirs should be essentially a Press Lodge. Saturday afternoon was the only time that could be devoted by those engaged in this capacity, and he was pleased to be able to announce that three out of the five who had joined their ranks that day were connected with the Press. They had no desire that the Lodge should become a too numerous one, and he thought it would not be long before they would have to consider the desirability of raising the entrance fee. The next toast, that of the Officers, was replied to by Bro. Dyte, who urged upon those present the benefits to be derived from Lodges of Instruction, and who said he would most readily place his office at the disposal of any who might desire to meet there for that purpose. Bro. Stacey followed, and said he would use every exertion to make the Lodge thoroughly efficient in its working. After responses from other officers, the health of the Visitors was given, which was replied to by Bro. W. W. Morgan, who said he could advance some claims to wishing prosperity to the Alexandra Palace Lodge. He was associated with the Company, inasmuch as he was one of their agents. The W.M. had endeavoured to impress upon those present that theirs was essentially a summer Lodge, and that they were there that day summoned by every aspect of winter. He (Bro. Morgan) must say the reception they had given him was anything but of a wintry nature; on the contrary, it had been of a warm and most genial character. This was the third invitation to visit them he had received, and he regretted that on the two previous occasions circumstances had prevented him availing himself of their kindness. Other toasts, followed by that of the Tyler, were given, and an agreeable evening's proceedings were brought to a close.

City of Westminster Lodge, No. 1563.—This new and rapid increasing Lodge held its regular meeting on the 10th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Air-street, Regent-street, Bros. Swallow W.M., C. A. Cotteburne P.G.P. Treas. as S.W., White J.W., Scott P.M. Sec., Turner J.D., W. C. Parsons P.M. 180 I.G., Shand D.C., Hutchinson W.S., and nearly 40 brethren. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes of the 13th January were read and confirmed. Bros. Pratt 1446 and Shepherd J.W. 945 were elected joining members. Bros. Turner and Gardner were passed to the 2nd degree, and Mr. Irving was initiated. These ceremonies were very impressively delivered by the W.M. The W.M. stated that an emergency meeting would shortly take place, as several candidates were desirous of being initiated. A very sumptuous banquet was given. In proposing the toast of the Grand Officers the W.M. was proud to have among them one whose excellent working in Freemasonry was fully recognised, he referred to Bro. C. A. Cotteburne P.G.P., who, in responding to the toast, eloquently said he was indeed gratified to belong to this Lodge, seeing so many members around him who were such excellent Masons. He then proposed the toast of the W.M., whom he had known for many years; he had laboured hard to bring the Lodge to a state of perfection and prosperity, and no Master could have started and carried out a new Lodge in a more creditable manner than their first Master. The W.M. responded. He was pleased to preside over so prosperous and harmonious a Lodge, and he was amply repaid by the success that attended it. The toast of the Visitors was given, and Bro. Sorrell replied, followed by Bros. Stiles, Townley, and other visitors, who all expressed their pleasure at the working of the W.M. Bro. Townley said he would ask Bro. Shand to propose him as a joining member. The toast of the Initiates followed, also that of the Officers. The W.M. regretted the absence of the S.W., Bro. the Rev. P.M. Holden. He was proud in the selection he had made in his officers. The Tylers toast was given, and the brethren separated.

Elliot Lodge, No. 1567.—The second meeting of this promising young Lodge was held on Saturday the 3rd inst., Bro. J. Mason W.M. in the chair, supported by Bros. H. G. Buss Prov. G. Treas. acting as I.P.M., F. Green S.W., W. Dunham J.W., J. R. Nicholls S.D., A. J. Neton J.D., J. H. Pearson I.G. S. L. Green D.C.,

J. W. Clarke W.S., W. T. Howe Prov. G.P. Treas., and J. Elliot Sec. The Lodge was opened in the usual manner, and the minutes of the consecration and an emergency meeting having been read and approved, the ballot was taken for five gentlemen as candidates for initiation. This being unanimous in each case, four of them, being in attendance, were introduced, and received the benefit of the first degree, which ceremony was rendered in a most impressive manner. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bros. Pearso and Nicholls, having passed the necessary examination, were duly advanced to the degree of Fellow Craft. The S.W. presented the Lodge with a very handsome bible, which for elegance of design and workmanship we have seldom seen surpassed. The present was duly received and acknowledged on behalf of the Lodge, by the W.M., who said he trusted that not only would the members look upon it as a gift to the Lodge for their use here, but that they may, by careful study, and strict adherence to its principles, be guided to that Grand Lodge above, where he was sure it was the earnest desire of every one present they may meet when this life and its meetings shall have passed away. Bro. Howe then proposed, and Bro. F. Green seconded, a motion that as Sir G. Elliot had given permission to use his crest for all Lodge purposes, that this become at once a banner Lodge, which motion being duly carried, the W.M.'s banner was at once unfurled, and was much admired by all present. Several gentlemen having been proposed for initiation, and one as a joining member, the Lodge business was brought to a close, after which about thirty of the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, supplied by Bro. Harris, who was assisted by the well known caterer, Bro. Stone, of Halliford. Upon the removal of the cloth the W.M. gave the usual Masonic toasts, which were well received. In proposing that of the M.W.G.M., he referred to his present visit to India, and thought that if anything was needed to prove the high estimation in which he was held both in and outside the Craft he was sure that need had been now well supplied. He trusted he would be sheltered by the G.A.O.T.U. and return safely to his native land. The Lodge was honoured by a visit from Bros. H. G. Buss P.G. Treas., R. W. Little Prov. G.S.W., J. Coutts P.G.P., E. M. Haigh P.G.S., B. Swallow Prov. G.S. and W.M. 1563, J. Green, G. Townsend, J. Barfield and A. Glover. Each of the toasts being given and received in a truly Masonic manner, the Tyler's toast brought to a close one of the most enjoyable meetings we have attended for some time, and we heartily wish the Lodge that success which it deserves, and which is evidently attending its every movement, as we understand that a list for contributions to the Girls' School was opened at the previous meeting, which already amounts to nearly £40, and we think this should stimulate some of the other Lodges in the Provinces to greater exertions on behalf of the forthcoming Festival.

Upper Norwood Lodge, No. 1586.—The consecration of this Lodge took place on the 16th inst., at the White Hart, Upper Norwood. Present — Bros. W. Jenett Miller W.M. designate, W. Hopekirk S.W. designate, G. Cragg J.W. designate, and Bros. Paul, Kidman, Drake, Pringley, Pugsby, Crowch, Ledger and J. Hammond. Visitors—Bros. Coward P.G. Org., H. E. Frances P.G.D., Surrey, Consecrating Master, W. Hammond P.P.G.D. Middlesex, Kane P.P.G.S. Warwickshire, Fox 1339, Steadman, Berham W.M. 1339, Kew P.M. 197, and F. Sawyer 1339. The brethren having formed a procession, the Lodge room was entered, Bro. Coward playing a march. The Consecrating Master then proceeded to open the Lodge in the three degrees, and the ceremony of consecration was most impressively performed. The oration, one of Bro. Frances's own composition, was heard with deep attention, and much appreciated by the brethren. At its close Bros. Coward, Fox, and Steadman gave the glorious anthem "Behold how good and joyful a thing it is, brethren, to dwell together in unity," and the brethren of the Lodge could with difficulty restrain their applause, so exquisitely was the music rendered. In fine, the whole ceremony was done well by all engaged in it, and must be looked back to as a most successful and pleasureable commencement. Bro. Kew then took the chair and installed Bro. Miller as W.M., Bro. Frances acting as D.C. and investing the officers in the following order:—Bros. Hopekirk S.W., Cragg J.W., Kidman S.D., Paul J.D., J. Hammond as Treas., Drake Sec. The ceremony of installation was ably performed. Bros. Frances, Coward, Fox, Steadman, Kew and Wm. Hammond (who had officiated as Chaplain) were then elected Honorary Members. Seven or eight gentlemen were then proposed for initiation and two for joining. The Lodge was closed and the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet that reflected great credit on the host, Bro. Ledger, and was appreciated by the brethren.

NEW ZEALAND.

The election of officers for the St. Andrew's Lodge of Freemasons, under the Scottish Constitution, was held on 23rd Nov. The result of the election was as follows:—Bros. W. C. Wilkes R.W.M., T. Ellison S.W., Barrett J.W., Lucas J. Martin S.D., Cooke J.D., Hughson Treas., Payne Sec., Kitchen Architect, the Rev. Mr. Bruce Chap., and Porter Tyler.

The brethren of the Sir Walter Scott Lodge of Freemasons at the Thames celebrated St. Andrew's Day. An emergency meeting was called to raise a number of brethren to the sublime degree of Master Masons, and the ceremony over, a cold collation, which had been prepared to the order of the newly raised brethren, was served. The chair was taken by Past Master Brodie, who had presided over the Lodge meeting, in the absence of the Rev. J. Hill W.M.

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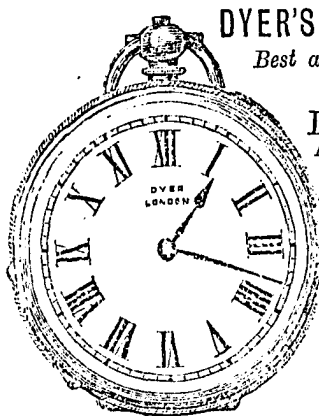
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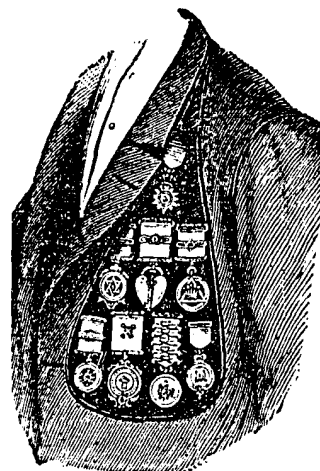
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