

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

VOL. III.—No. 63.

SATURDAY, 11th MARCH 1876.

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

THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

WE have received a copy of a pamphlet, purporting to be the Report of a Committee of Investigation appointed by Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire "to investigate the management and expenditure of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys." Into the causes that led to the appointment of this Committee it is not our purpose to enter, although we cannot help expressing our opinion that something like unfriendliness of tone pervades the wording of the report, which cannot be altogether ascribed to the results of the enquiry. It does not appear that these results are of a very serious character. The Committee asserts that the total cost per boy in the Masonic Institution is considerably greater than a reference to the cost of other similar establishments would seem to justify. The London Orphan Asylum School, for example, in 1874, maintained and educated 491 children, at an average cost per head of £31 6s 3d; the Commercial Travellers' School in like manner maintained 228 children, at a cost of £30 4s per head; the Ackworth Schools, with 290 inmates, cost £31 10s 6d per head; the Sidcote Schools, with 97 inmates, £33 19s; the Yorkshire Boys' School, with 55 inmates, £33; the Masonic Girls' School, with 140 inmates, £36 16s 11½d, and the Clergy Orphan Boys' School, with 110 inmates, £43 18s 0½d. As compared with these figures, the cost per head in the Masonic Institution, £54 10s 3d, certainly appears high, though it by no means follows that it is excessive. Even if it be a fact that the Masonic Institution is more expensive than other Institutions of a similar kind, a fact by the way which can hardly be said to be proved by a comparison with the cost of some half dozen selected establishments, it might still be replied that the full worth of the money was obtained, that the subscribers did not begrudge the expenditure, and that the Institution was in a position to afford it. We do not say that this reply would be made, but only that, for all that the investigation has proved, such a reply might be made. The second charge is a more serious one, viz.: that the instruction has not been attended with the most satisfactory results. Of the nineteen boys entered for the Cambridge Local Examination in December 1869, six failed entirely, and eleven obtained certificates only; of the ten entered for the Oxford Local in June 1871, three only obtained second class honours, four third class, and three failed entirely: and of the three entered for the Oxford Local in June 1873, two failed entirely, and the other only obtained third division. Without further particulars it would be impossible for us to express any opinion in regard to this allegation. But we would ask, may it not be that the conductors of the School aim rather at a fairly high general standard for all, than a superlative degree of excellence for a small number of show pupils? The only other subject of complaint is with regard to the mode of keeping and presenting the accounts. The Committee recommends the adoption of a mode of presenting the accounts in use in the London Orphan Asylum, by which the average outlay per head for the various items of expenditure is clearly shown. This, and some other trifling suggestions, might perhaps be adopted with advantage to the Institution. But until we have both sides of the question before us, we must refrain from expressing any decisive opinion upon the other questions raised by the Committee of Investigation.

MASONIC PORTRAITS (No. 19.)

A MODEL MASON.

"Dab thyself hero, and the false, fickle world,
Will pay thee willing homage. Declare thyself
Saint, and the dull throng will bend the knee
And worship. But, play thy part in silence,
And be but honest man; bend to no rising
Sun; keep to thy work most steadfastly,
And square thy life by duty's strictest rule;
Yet shall the mob curse thee, and Impudence
Shall trample on thy skirts, and push before thee,
To fortune and to fame."

IT has been our fortune, hitherto, to sketch the lineaments of brethren who have achieved high distinction in the Order, and, in giving them our special attention, we have been obliged to pass over many men whose zeal for Masonry is second to none of those who have achieved Grand Lodge honours. We have in our portfolio a long list of eminent Past Masters whose features and mental characteristics we hope ere long to transfer to the canvas. These gentlemen are indeed the pillars of the Masonic edifice. The fame of many of them is confined within the immediate circle of their Lodges; but they have been content to toil on in comparative obscurity, and their work is not the less valuable because it has not been trumpeted to the four winds of heaven by the heralds of fame. The Order owes much to the steady industry of a host of worthy brothers who never seek publicity, and who would be, perhaps, rather annoyed than pleased if we were to drag them, without ceremony, into the full light of day. We have the highest respect and admiration for these modest ones, and we are of opinion that the best work, both in the world and within the Order, is done by people who never take the trouble to assert themselves, and who are simply animated by a loyal devotion to duty. The subject of our sketch is a man of this stamp. He cares nothing for fame, or the hollow applause of the multitude, and we are quite certain that he will be very angry with us if we venture to say a word too much of his private worth, or of his Masonic career. To us he is known as a painstaking official, in the confidence of a great Corporation, in whose service he has spent the best years of his life. Thirty-six years since, our brother took service with the Civic Fathers, and spent the usual term of probation, if we may so call it, in hard and honourable work. Step by step he advanced in the esteem of his official chiefs, and at this present writing he holds a position analogous to that of a secretary in a great public company. Few persons who are unacquainted with the subject know anything of the real nature of the work or the responsibilities of public servants. Thoughtless people suppose that official life is a bed of roses; they imagine that the official merely plays, like Trafalgar Square fountains, from ten to four, and then retires to his neat suburban villa, to dine in happy contentment with his family. The public know nothing of the wear and tear of such a career; of the long hours of steady labour which are often exacted from a public servant, or of the heavy responsibilities which he is called upon to bear. It would be useless for us here to attempt to set the world right with reference to the duties or the emoluments of men of this class. We might as well attempt to set forth the true nature of Freemasonry to the denizens of the outer world. It is sufficient for us to say, and we speak, be it remembered, from experience, that the strain of official life is very serious, and that its rewards are not

always as brilliant as they might be. If our brother, for example, had entered upon a commercial career he might have made a fortune. As a secretary of a public company his knowledge of public business would have been simply invaluable. Many of these latter officials are realising princely incomes, and are not called upon to grind daily in the official mill. Their work is rather of the ornamental kind, but those who know the great body to which we allude are aware that it has wisely determined to keep no more cats than can catch mice. Yet, perhaps, our brother, highly as he is placed on the official roll, might have risen higher still if he had been conversant with those arts which, while men remain gullible creatures, will always help to push mediocrity to the front. He does not possess either arrogance or effrontery, and does not care to assert himself. His mind is fully stored with precedents and general official lore, but he has not the knack of "mouthing" his knowledge to make it appear more valuable than it really is, nor is he possessed of that bad eloquence which can transmute dross into pinchbeck. We have lived long enough to know that the highest success in life is rarely if ever achieved by modest unassuming worth. It is the man with the brazen front and leaden conscience who "gets on." It is the man who values himself highly who contrives to compel the world to place a fictitious value upon his own talents. Bluster has actually a high marketable value in these days, and he who is master of the art of "talking big" may be certain of success, of a kind. Yet, in the end, high personal worth is justly appreciated by the deserving few, whose opinions are of more real value than those of all the rest of the world. The man who possesses genius or talent would rather win the applause of men of high culture than the gaping adulations of fools. The homage of the latter is usually bestowed upon idols of gilded clay, whose resplendent brilliancy always far surpasses that of the sterling solid metal. We have known fools who could merely talk bunkum and strike an attitude, who went down to their graves with the praise of a thoughtless world ringing in their ears. We know honest and painstaking men, such as our brother, whose robust constitutions require no such gingerbread nutrition.

Our brother's Masonic career has not been a remarkable one, but of its kind it is, so to speak, typical. We might, indeed, style him a model Master Mason, since his knowledge of the Craft is solid and thorough. He was initiated in the Dalhousie Lodge on the 13th October 1864, and at once entered zealously into Masonic work. He attended his Lodge with the greatest regularity, and made it his business to perfect himself in Masonry. In April 1867 he was appointed Junior Warden, and in the following year he was Senior Warden. In 1867 he was elected the W.M. of the Lodge, having attained this high and honourable post in the unusually short period of less than six years. His promotion was owing entirely to his Masonic and personal merit, and we are assured that he filled the chair with honour to himself and credit to the Order. In the same year he acted as Steward at the Anniversary Festival of the R.M.B. Institution for Aged Freemasons. Some four years since he took an active part in the promotion of the Kennington Lodge, No. 1381, and was appointed acting Past Master; this Lodge is now in a flourishing condition, and we may have occasion to speak of it more fully in future sketches. In 1874 our brother was Treasurer of his Lodge, but in 1876, at the unanimous request of the brethren, he was induced to take the office of Secretary, which he still holds. To this honourable and laborious post he has brought an intellect trained to work of a congenial nature, and we are assured that he performs the duties of the post in a style which leaves nothing to be desired. His minutes of the proceedings are models of perspicuity. We should be glad, indeed, if we could say the same of similar work from the pens of Lodge Secretaries generally, who are not always the most luminous of scribes. Our brother is greatly and deservedly respected by the members of the Dalhousie Lodge, and, indeed, by all who know aught of his Masonic or his secular career. His loyal devotion to duty, and his unaffected earnestness are appreciated by those who value sterling metal, and who are not disposed to play homage to mere gilded gingerbread. He has toiled steadily and honourably for the Order, and yields to none in genuine enthusiasm for the grand principles which lie at the root of the fraternity. His kindly face would be missed if sickness should ever compel him to throw down his

secretarial pen. But he is blessed with a robust constitution, and gives ample promise of a green and honoured old age. In official work he has long since won his spurs, and we may, perhaps, be permitted here to express a hope that the substantial rewards which fortune sometimes has in store for those who do not bend the knee to Mammon, or court the rising sun of power, may yet be showered upon him. He has indeed no reason to quarrel with the fickle dame, who yet perchance may cast the best things in her budget at his feet.

MAGIC SYMBOLS IN MASONRY.

(Continued from page 117.)

WE have altered the title of these essays to the above, as conveying more clearly our design. We acknowledge our indebtedness to the erudite "Parmenio" for his letter in our last issue, and should be equally obliged to any other brother who may honour us by enlarging upon our text, and by taking up the scattered threads of Masonic symbolism. We have pointed out the value of the five pointed star and the Seal of Solomon in magical formulæ, and believe that both these emblems were prescribed for use by the Catholic Church in acts of exorcism. The exorcist (or caster out of dæmons) stood within the double triangle, and traced the pentagon upon the ground between him and the possessed one. We cannot call to mind our authority, but evidence of the same will be found in Vol. 1 of "Glimpses of the Supernatural," by Rev. Mr. Lee.

And here, we must disclaim the intention of enlisting our readers in favour of the practices of modern spiritualism, its erratic developments, and fraudulent mediums. We only wish to keep our eyes open to the unexplained phenomena which occur under the auspices of that movement, which seem closely related to animal magnetism, or to the "Psychic force" of Serjeant Cox, but which yet baffle our hypotheses. The existence of unseen forces around us is proved by the Bible and by every page of history; apparitions of the departed have been attested in scores by evidence which would be received in any court of justice; the case of the apparition to Lord Brougham* should be enough to make any man suspend judgment, and hesitate before denying their possibility.

The ceremony of RAISING in the *third degree* was evidently designed to illustrate and prefigure the inevitable transition of every man from one life into another; and this particular ceremony seems to us likely to have descended from remotest times. Psychic investigation in this connection would, we consider, be especially in place; even were we not already enjoined in the second degree to study the *hidden mysteries* of nature and science.

We cannot see the force which emanates from the loadstone, nor from the skilful mesmeriser, nor from the *will power* of individuals, of which the effects in their way are no less evident. What is that mysterious mutual attraction or repulsion perceptibly experienced by individuals in each other's presence, the tones of whose characters, constitutions or surroundings are not in harmony? Whence come the premonitions which some have, of danger to themselves or others, which in numerous recorded instances have been beneficially acted upon? All these questions are of great interest, and their attempted theoretical explanation was, in olden times, veiled under a system of symbols.

Wonderful powers were and are ascribed by the Jews to the ineffable name or Tetragrammaton. It is said to have been preserved by the Essenes, never communicated but in a whisper, and then so disguised that the connected whole remained a mystery. It was believed to include all things, and to shake heaven and earth, and is called in *Calmet* the KING-NAME. The biography of a cabbalist reputed to have possessed the knowledge of this name (Rabbi De Falk, of London, 1780), is found in the "Royal Masonic Cyclopædia,"† and it is of some interest. The Jews represented it by a triangle which contained the Hebrew letter Jod, symbol of inaccessible *Light* and primitive existence; also by three points radiating from a centre, and by their letter Schin. It is noteworthy that all these symbols are trine, implying the Trinitarian idea of Deity.

The two columns in the porchway of King Solomon's Temple have been held to symbolise the male and female

* See Lee, "Glimpses of the Supernatural," Vol. 2.

† London: J. Hogg, 1876.

principles which pervade creation. We cannot help suspecting that the Trinity of the heathen mystics consisted of these two principles, and of the Astral Light—the magic triangle.

Of early Christian writers, Irenæus says that God is *fire*; Origen a *subtle fire*, and the latter expressly states that the *Holy Spirit* is female. "The soul is maiden to her mistress, the Holy Ghost."*

The tetragrammaton is said to have been a pass-word to the secret chambers of initiation in ancient Egypt. The modern Jews say that the four lettered name of it was engraved on the rod of Moses, empowering him to work his miracles, and they accuse our Saviour of having stolen it out of the Temple.†

The late Rev. George Oliver D.D., recorded his conviction that Freemasonry is not a scion of the ancient mysteries, but the *original institution* from which all mysteries were derived; that the mysteries of all nations were originally the same, and that only local and political variations occasioned their diversity.

Freemasonry bears inherent evidence of its antiquity, it is a system of *LIGHT*, it contains a fragmentary system of astronomy, it incites to the exploration of *hidden mysteries*, and it teaches in unmistakable pantomime the resurrection from the dead. When to these points we add the possession of certain significant traditions and complex symbols, we think it is evident to a Master Mason that very much of the old system has lapsed into abeyance, which would have linked its severed fragments, and given a connected explanation to the whole. We utterly reject the accusation that it was invented in the beginning of the eighteenth century. No man of that time, whether lettered or not, would have explained the three Great Lights to mean the Sun, the Moon, and the Master of the Lodge, an apparent solecism. It is lamentable that symbols of importance are even now in process of lapsing out of our knowledge, their representation falling into disuse; for instance, the circled serpent, the rainbow, the beehive, the cross and tau.

The astronomical or astrological allegory which must in its perfection have underlain the ceremonies of Freemasonry at some distant day, is perceptible under other symbols in all religions—our own included. The animals which we always see pictured by the side of the four Evangelists (as described in Revelations) the lion, the ox, the eagle and the man, were symbols of the four cardinal points throughout the ancient world, and there is a strong presumption that the banners of the twelve tribes of Israel were no other than the twelve signs of the zodiac. All ancient religions had Cabala, or secret doctrines, which were not written but transmitted orally: time and political convulsions altered them. Some were revived under new systems, others died away. The temple of Solomon was a microcosm of the Universe in construction and wealth of symbolism, of which the like has never been repeated. Parts of the Jewish Scripture evince the profound wisdom of high Oriental philosophy, whilst other parts betray the crudest scientific doctrines, adapted probably to the limited comprehension of the vulgar. Modern criticism is separating the dross from the gold, and showing how many writers must have intervened in the authorship of even one book, as it has come down to us. Of the Creation, Genesis contains two distinct accounts; Deuteronomy records the promulgation of the law in a different manner from Exodus. In this study, as in all else, we must use our divine gift—Reason. One proof of the comparatively late authorship of part of the book of Genesis, or of a later interpolation therein‡; is the list of the kings of Edom (xxxvi. 9-43) wherein the succession is brought down to Hadad—a ruler of the time of Solomon: an indication as significant as would appear a notice of Queen Victoria in a history of the reign of Hadrian. Learned ancient Fathers—Clemens of Alexandria and Origen—held the book of Genesis to be allegorical, which the learned Jews Philo and Josephus held also. The allegory, if there be one, is now inexplicable, except as regards the received doctrines of the Church.

The motto of our Order is "Hear, See, Be Silent." The motto of Magic was "Know, Dare, Will, Be Silent." The latter is defined as the traditional knowledge of Nature's secrets, transmitted to us from the Magi, *i.e.*, Hermes, Osiris, Orpheus, Apollonius of Thyana, Julian, Apuleius, Merlin, Cornelius Agrippa, &c. The world is a battle field

to the Magician, in which free will contends with inertia for supremacy, by opposing to it "action". "Physical laws," says Eliphaz Levi, "are the mill-stones, of which thou wilt be grain, if thou art not able to be the miller. Thou art called to be ruler over air, earth, water and fire, but to govern these four symbolic beasts, they must be conquered and chained. The initiate must have a human head for speech, eagle's wings to soar, the bull's flanks for heavy marching, and the lion's claws to clear the space around." The foregoing definition would apply equally well, we conceive, to an explorer of any branch of knowledge: powers of rhetoric, ideality, laboriousness and incisiveness are useful in everything.

(To be continued.)

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE, PUNJAB.

THE Quarterly Communication of this District Grand Lodge was held on Friday, the 14th of January last, at Freemasons' Hall, Lahore. There were present R. W. B. Major M. Ramsay D.G.M., W. Bros. Walter Adlard as D.G.S.W., Col. J. Campbell as D.G.J.W., J. Brown Brunesson B.A. D.G. Chaplain, Major W. H. Mackesy D.G. Treasurer, Major Hadow D.G. Registrar, George Davies D.G. Secretary, Henry T. Tanner C.E. D.G.S. of W., Bros. William Bull D.G. Pursuivant, and George Read Tyler, and representatives of the following Lodges, viz.:—Charity 563, Hope and Perseverance 782, Ravee 1215, Mayo 1413, Light in the Himalayahs 1448, St. John the Evangelist 1483, and Industry 1485. District Grand Lodge having been opened at 7 p.m., and the routine business concluded, the R.W.D.G. Master stated that the first business was the appointment of officers for 1876, when the following were selected:—

Wor. Bro. Major W. H. Mackesy 782 as Depy. D.G.M.

" Captain John Chalmers 1394 as D.G.S.W.

" Colonel J. Campbell 1413 as D.G.J.W.

" H. T. Tanner. C.E., 1448 as D.G. Reg.

" George Davies 1215 as D.G. Sec.

" J. B. Brunesson 1483 as D.G. Chaplain.

" J. H. Hunt, M.D. 582, as D.G.S.D.

" Captain Beedle 988 as D.G.J.D.

" Colonel A. P. B. Danbar 1307 as D.G.D.C.

" Thomas Cooko 1314 as D.G. Assist. Ditto.

" A. B. Phelan, C.E., 782 D.G.S. of Wks.

" Colonel Robert Crutchly 1463 as D.G. Standard Bearer.

Bro. W. J. Lemarchand 782 as Org.

Wor. Bro. H. W. Warmington 1215 as Pursuivant.

Bros. Sirdar Bikramah Singh 782, H. L. Jones 782, W. Rosamond 1483, C. Carrol 1483, W. Donaghey 1215, Hyat Khan, C.S.I., 782, Stewards.

In the above list 12 out of the 17 Lodges in the district are represented.

The D.G.M. then referred to his visit to England, and stated that it would give him the greatest pleasure to appear among them on his return. During the absence of the D.G.M. W. Bro. Mackesy will be invested with full powers; and in announcing this the D.G.M. congratulated the brethren on having at hand one so able and willing. Referring to the visit of our M.W.G.M. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, the D.G.M. said:—

"It had been finally arranged that an address be presented to H.R.H., enclosed in a model of the left hand pillar of King Solomon's Temple, of koftgaree work. This will be a handsome as well as a Masonic Casket. As regards the presentation, I deeply regret H.R.H. is unable to receive it except at the hands of a deputation, in like manner as he received the addresses at Madras, Calcutta. On receipt of this news, I made an attempt through Sir Henry Davies, to induce H.R.H. to reconsider his decision, and permit the whole body of Masons to be present; but I am excessively sorry to say the attempt failed. The deputation will therefore consist of myself, the D.D.G.M. and the two Wardens. I know this will be felt as a great and grievous disappointment by all the brethren who prize loyalty as one of our watch-words, and who looked forward to being present at the presentation; and nobody can be more grieved than I am at their hopes being dashed to the ground. However, it is our duty as good and true Masons to bow to the wishes of our M.W.G.M., and to believe that he has good grounds for acting as he does."

From the report of the Board of General Purposes, we find that the warrant of the Morning Star Lodge, which was returned from Dera Ghazi Khan, in consequence of there not being sufficient brethren to work the Lodge, has been transferred to Dharmasalla. The accounts of the Fund of Benevolence were then submitted, after which he D.G.M. expressed his thanks to those officers who had worked under him while in charge of the District (over 3

* Class. Jour., No. LXXVI., p. 207.

† Oliver, "Signs and Symbols."

‡ "History of the Hebrew Nation,"—Sharpe.

years), and stated that he considered the satisfactory state of D.G.L. Funds was entirely due to the energy of the Secretary, W. Bro. Davies and W. Bro. Mellor. The D.G.S. then read the reports of the Board of General Purposes, and of the Fund of Benevolence, and W. Bro. Charles Harry Chetham having been unanimously elected D.G. Treasurer, the Lodge was closed.

ODDS AND ENDS.

By Walter Spencer, F.R.G.S., &c.

IN Tuesday's daily papers I find the following telegram: "Berlin, March 4. The Imperial Gazette states that Count Munster, German Ambassador in London, expressed the thanks of his Government to Commander Rodney M. Lloyd, of the 'Bullfinch,' for services rendered on the West India Station on behalf of German subjects in Columbia, during the late insurrection in Bolivar." It is not generally known nor has the Almanack de Gotha recorded, that the officer referred to is a monarch, but it is nevertheless a fact. In January 1867 he was first Lieutenant, of H.M.S. "Pelorus" then at the Pelow Islands for the purpose of enquiring into the murder of a British subject, Captain Cheyne. A long investigation ended in the guilt being brought home to H.M. the King of the Pelews, whereupon the native notables formed themselves into a Court, and executed the offender. Lieutenant Lloyd was then elected by the Islanders to fill the vacant throne, which was intimated to him in due form by the *ci-devant* heir apparent. The first and only act of sovereignty of King Rodney I. was to impress upon his people the duty of supplying his vessel with fruits and vegetables, and soon afterwards the "Pelorus" sailed away. In an old desk I find the following document pencilled on cardboard, addressed "O.H.M.S., Captain Stevens, R.N.," and dated "Head Quarters, 9 o'clock. Dear Sir,—Herewith I send Gibbons, who appears willing to impart what he knows, or pretends to know, about the murder. With him, also, go four or five natives, amongst them Arroko, and the supposed murderer, who was brought in last night, and has been staying in one of the Club Houses, but I have taken no notice, except posting sentries to watch and report. Even now I understand the supposed murderer goes off with the rest of his Club, not as a prisoner but merely to parley with you—tho' I fancy they will offer to give him up when they get on board. They say nothing can be got out of the old King, who is hiding in the bush on North Island. The place is filling with natives, but the women and nobility remain away. If you want the boats to come off soon, will you hoist letter Q, as the tide is falling, and to get away I must haul them out very far, before they ground. I think they will lay at the end of the long pier, if taken out before low water. Sincerely yours, Rodney M. Lloyd."

In the same old desk I find other curious odds and ends of *notanda*. In 1864 I was in Java, and was struck by the appearance of some of the barn-door fowls, not apparently a distinct breed, but promiscuously mixed up with everybody's poultry. Their feathers, instead of lying flat one over the other, stood straight out from the skin; when one of them was before the wind, of course the feathers blew right over the wrong way, and had a very grotesque appearance. A more extraordinary breed of fowls is in Japan; they are the size of bantams, and their legs are so short they seem to walk about on their bellies. Europeans, both in China and the Eastern Archipelagos, are often shocked at the dinner table by finding the bones of fowls jet black. This does not arise from disease, the fowls thus distinguished are as eatable and succulent as any; whether they are of a different breed to others in the same places, I forget, but the outward appearance of all is similar.

The most beautiful animal I have seen is among the *fauna* of Java. It is called the "mouse deer;" a perfectly formed deer, with delicate legs thin as matches, soft eyes, tiny hoofs, and miniature horns; it stands about a foot high. I bought two, which became tame, and would eat out of the hand: notwithstanding my care, change of climate killed them.

The cats of China are peculiar. They are born either without tails, with short tails, or with one or more joints in the tail. The latter are bent at each joint, or else seem knotted. Sailors describe the tail as "kinked." I saw

very few cats in China with tails like our cats, and those few might have been crossed with the European breed. I commend this fact to Mr. Darwin.

The prettiest dogs in the East are the Pekin dog and the Japanese pug-spaniel. The latter have great globular eyes and flat faces, the nose seeming to have been flattened in as if by a heavy blow.

A curiosity in its way is the common hairless dog of China, with shiny slate-coloured skin; the hairless tail is especially repulsive. These are the favourite pets of the Chinese ladies. They are also common in Lima and other South American cities, whither, I presume, the breed has been introduced by the Coolie immigration.

The most beautiful bird in the Philippine Isles is the "Paloma de Monte." It is a lavender tinted dove, with what looks exactly like a bleeding wound upon the breast, to which the feathers seem stained in exact imitation. The first sight of one is quite painful, and only contact can convince one that the bird is unharmed. They are rare, and, of course, the Spanish priests have attached to them a religious legend.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

THE Committee of this Institution held its regular meeting on Wednesday, Lieut. Col. Creaton in the chair. Secretary Bro. Terry reported that at the recent Festival there were 214 Stewards, whose efforts resulted in a subscription list of £9,174 10s 6d, with eight lists outstanding; six of these had since come in, and raised the total to £9,274 18s 6d. He had also communicated to Lord Skelmersdale the vote of thanks accorded him for having presided at the Festival, but as yet he had received no acknowledgment. Bro. Terry also reported the death of Bro. Farnfield, upon which Bro. Raynham W. Stewart proposed, and Bro. W. Hale seconded, a vote of sympathy with the family of our deceased Brother. The motion was declared to be unanimously accepted. Bro. Terry then reported the deaths of three annuitants. A motion by Bro. Stewart, seconded by Bro. S. Rawson, to the effect that the Stewards' visit of last year be repeated this, was carried. Other business was then transacted, and the Committee adjourned.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

A GENERAL Committee was held on Saturday last, Bro. W. Roebuck in the chair. Additions of £10 and £5 to the salaries of the fourth and fifth Masters respectively, as recommended by the House Committee, were confirmed, as also was the recommendation to purchase Kent House for £2,000, subject of course to the authorization of the Quarterly Court in April. A letter from the East and West India Dock Company, offering to receive boys educated in this Institution, was read and accepted, a letter of thanks being directed to be sent. A third gift of 14 volumes, by Bro. Head, was acknowledged, with thanks. The number of boys to be admitted at the April Election is 16. After some discussion the Committee adjourned.

EXHIBITION OF COSTUMES AT THE ALEXANDRA PALACE.

AN Exhibition of a very novel and interesting character will be held at the Alexandra Palace, under distinguished patronage, immediately after Easter. Prizes of considerable value will be awarded by the Alexandra Palace Company, and a Committee appointed to carry out the Exhibition, for the best designs in ladies costumes, the decisions being based upon the originality, elegance, and economy of the dresses displayed. Several hundred varieties, including morning, evening, ball, and bridal costumes, &c., will be included in this competitive exhibition, and valuable opportunities of comparison will thus be afforded to costumiers and others, whereby it may be hoped that greater economy and elegance in dress may be attained than is afforded by the extravagant eccentricities which too frequently characterise the fashions of the present day. As buyers from all parts of the country visit London at the above-mentioned period, this exhibition will afford them facilities for inspection hitherto unprecedented. That it will attract an immense concourse of ladies cannot be doubted, inasmuch as the attractions of the shops and show-rooms of Regent-street and the West End will, for the time being, be transferred to Muswell Hill.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

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THE SUBSCRIPTIONS AT THE RECENT FESTIVAL.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your paper of 26th Feb. is an article analysing the subscription list at the Annual Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution on the 9th ult. In that article the Province of Warwickshire in general, and the town of Birmingham in particular (and the latter with all the conspicuousness of italics), are held up to the reproach of our brother Masons, because, this year, we have contributed nothing to the funds of the Masonic Benevolent Institution, and last year raised only a "paltry sum for the service of Masonic Charity." I will not here animadvert on the want of good taste which characterises the article, nor stop to inquire how far remarks such as I have quoted are likely to goad brethren to contribute to the Institution named. I am only concerned to show that the Province of Warwickshire, including the town of Birmingham, is not behindhand in the "service of Masonic Charity." So far back as the year 1860 I find that our R.W.P.G.M., Lord Leigh, presided at the first Annual Festival of the Benevolent Institution, and on that occasion some fifty Warwickshire brethren supported him as Stewards. I believe that Lord Leigh was one of the first P.G.M.'s who ever presided at the festival of this and the other Masonic Charities. Up to this period the G.M., D.G.M., or some London Mason presided, but the Provinces rarely assisted. In the two succeeding years Lord Leigh presided, in 1861 at the festival of the Girls' and in 1862 at that of the Boys' Schools, and in the three years a sum of £1,400 was raised by the Warwickshire brethren in aid of the three Masonic Charities, and it should be remembered that at that time there were but sixteen Lodges in this Province. It is impossible to tell the amount subscribed by the Warwickshire brethren year by year for the "service of Masonic Charity," as, until 1874, there was no organised body whose special duty it was to attend to the claims of our Masonic Charitable Institutions. In September of that year, at a Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

"That a Charity Committee be formed, consisting of the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Treasurer, and Provincial Grand Secretary, and a representative to be selected from each Lodge in the Province, to be called the Charity Steward. The duty of the Charity Steward will be to bring the Claims of the (Masonic Charitable) Institutions periodically before his Lodge, to collect the voting papers of brethren and forward them to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, prior to the half-yearly election."

Since that date many meetings of the Charity Stewards have been held, and the result of their efforts was last year, not "the paltry sum of £35," but upwards of £500 was raised in this Province for the "service of Masonic Charity." Our R.W.P.G.M. has again promised to take the chair at the Boys' School Festival in June next, and of course the brethren here are anxious to support him, our energies are, therefore, this year, concentrated on the Boys' School, and from the progress already made by the Charity Stewards, I have no doubt that Lord Leigh will be as "grandly supported" by the Warwickshire brethren at the Festival of that Institution as was Lord Skelmersdale by those of Lancashire in February last. We have in this Province a Benevolent and Annuity Fund of our own, raised by voluntary contributions from the Lodges; there are always a number of widows and others receiving sums of from 5s to 8s a week from this fund. Not very long ago a sum of over £500 was raised for the support of an aged Mason and his wife, and outside, as well as inside the pale of pure Masonic Charity, our P.G.M. is continually leading us on to works of benevolence. Within a very short time the foundation stones of a church, a hospital, and an asylum for idiots have been laid, with Masonic rites, and contributions made by the brethren to each of those institutions. A life-boat, named the Lady Leigh, has been purchased by the brethren, and presented to the National Life Boat Institution, and within the last few days a sum of £300 has been guaranteed for the purchase of a reded for the Parish Church, which has recently been re-built. In fact, so far from the Warwickshire brethren being indifferent to the claims of Charity at the present time, I doubt whether at any previous period they were so active in its cause. One more instance, and I have done. One of our Lodges (938) has recently revised its bye-laws, and one runs thus:—"Within one month after the receipt of an initiation fee the Treasurer shall forward, on behalf of the Lodge, the sum of five guineas to one or other of the three Masonic Charities."

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

P.M. 468.

THE REV. R. GASCOIGNE WELDON'S SERMON ON FREEMASONRY.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—I thank you for your generous, noble advocacy of my sermon,

"Freemasonry, a Catholic Bond of Love and Unity to the Churches," in your issue of 4th March.

The times are now ripe and urgent for united action on the part of the religious denominations. Our laity, at any rate, are sick to death of our interminable, and infinitesimal, and miserable childish divisions. I can foresee that, in God's good providence, Freemasonry will form one great means of enabling us to close our ranks against the coming attacks of a bigoted, superstitious, and baneful infidelity.

Will you allow me to add that the brethren are anxious to spread this sermon in thousands over the three kingdoms, and that funds have been placed at our disposal to supply specimen copies to any Lodge, and to send them out, in not less than 12, at 6s 3d, post paid, if ordered direct from the Sec., 292, Rothesay, or from

Yours, &c., &c.,

B. Gascoigne Weldon, M.A., Incumbent and Hon. Chaplain
Rothesay, St. Paul's, 76.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND BERWICK LODGE OF MARK MASTERS.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—An error has crept into your report of the meeting of the above Lodge, the Ceremony of Advancement was performed by the W.M., Bro. R. W. Holmes P.G.J.W., and not by Bro. Foulsham P.M. Bro. Redesdale I.P.M. communicated the peculiar secrets of the degree, and explained the working tools.

Yours fraternally,

MARK MASTER.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Letters and communications must be addressed to the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, 67 Barbican, London, E.C.

We cannot undertake to receive return communications.

S. W.—In regard to the admission of members to join our Order the Book of Constitutions, page 83, is very clear on that point. Therein it states, No person shall be made a Mason without a regular proposition at one Lodge, and a ballot at the next regular Lodge; nor until his name, addition or profession, and place of abode, shall have been sent to all the members in the summons. But in cases of emergency, the following alteration as to the mode of proposing a candidate is allowed. Any two members of a Lodge may transmit in writing to the Master the name, &c. of any candidate whom they may wish to propose, and the circumstances which cause the emergency; and the Master, if the emergency be proper, shall notify the said recommendation to every member of his Lodge, stating the name, age, addition or profession and place of abode of the candidate, and may at the same time summon a Lodge to meet at a period of not less than seven days from the issuing of the summons, for the purpose of balloting for the candidate, and if the candidate be then approved, he may be initiated into the first degree of Masonry. The Master shall, previous to the ballot being taken, cause the said proposition and the emergency stated to be recorded in the Minute Book of the Lodge, and where no special Lodge of emergency is required, the foregoing is sufficient for the W.M. to issue his fiat for the admission of a candidate at any regular Lodge Meeting, should he deem that sufficient, after the necessary qualifications have been authenticated by two brethren of the Lodge.

M. M.—The fact you mention would be constitutional under dispensation, but not otherwise. See report of proceedings of last Quarterly Communication.

P. M.—We are greatly flattered by your expressed desire to reproduce some of our *Masonic Portraits* in the local press, and regret that we cannot comply with your request. They are strictly copyright, and it is probable that we shall reissue them in a permanent form.

THE TRUE MASON'S DUTY.—What can be more divine than the moral precepts of Masonry? What more sublime than Charity—the soul and essence of Masonry? To love your neighbour as yourself; to love your Creator without reserve; to love even your enemies; to forget injuries; pardon offences; conquer evil with good; to be joyful with those that are happy; to weep with those in affliction; to enlighten those who are in darkness; to reclaim those who have strayed; to judge not rashly, lest ye be judged; and to assist the unfortunate, are among the duties we are called upon to fulfil by the action of our Masonic vows. We are not to measure the riches or talents of our neighbour, but to dispense our gifts to those who lack them. Not to advance our own merit, but rather to sacrifice them to the general good of humanity. We are to be good, true, compassionate, affable, generous, merciful and clement. To be a faithful subject in the country where we live, respect the laws, a constant friend, a worthy husband, a good father, a tender, respectful and submissive son, a careful and vigilant master, full of charity toward all, and favour and countenance all honest intentions. Show me a world of true Masons, and I will point you to the peaceful abode of innocence and happiness.—*Masonic Jewel.*

Death.

JAMES—8th March, at Globe Place, Stoke Newington, Edwin, third son of Bro. John and Amelia James, aged 6 years.

REVIEWS.

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

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MAGAZINES OF THE MONTH.

THE opening of Parliament naturally furnishes *Blackwood* with an opportunity for discussing the relations between Her Majesty's Government and Her Majesty's Opposition. A hopeful view of the prospects of the former is almost a matter of course, Maga having a firm and abiding faith in Conservatism. The measures already proposed, or which may be introduced in the course of this Session, are glanced at with an approving eye, and if Maga prove a true prophet, the Session will result in the passing of several useful measures. Being of necessity neutral in matters political, we shall applaud the passing of any measure that may in any way advance the public good. In "The Dilemma" Yorke, who is still in England, enjoying himself to the best of his ability, is still a guest of the Peevors, and not without good reason. There is an attraction powerful enough to account for this. But towards the end of this Part XI., a new and exciting element of interest is aroused in us. Two of the personages who figured so prominently both before and during the siege of the Mustaphabad Residency re-appear on the scene. Of these one has been given out as dead, and the writer of the tale is to be congratulated on the rare skill he has exhibited in so interweaving the details as to induce this belief in the minds of most of his readers. Only those who have followed every incident of the story can have been prepared for such an event. We shall watch the further progress of "The Dilemma"—a most appropriate title as matters now stand—with an ever increasing interest. "Some Gentlemen in the City" is well written. Few will experience any difficulty in recognising the Goldensterns, the Conad Lloyd, and the Greshams of this fiction as being drawn from the life. In another paper, "Some aspects of Friendship" are very ably discussed, while the other contributions are equally meritorious, though hardly needing any special comment.

"Joshua Haggard's Daughter" is still the most attractive feature in *Belgravia*, the author of "Lady Audley's Secret," showing in every page of the story the skill and cunning of so practised a writer. There are some writers, of whom the author of "Twixt Green and Red," is apparently one, who think the introduction into a tale of fiction of one or more vulgar characters is a matter of course. We admit that such characters when well drawn may offer an effective picture. But there are some people too conspicuously offensive to be thrust upon our notice, and of these two at least figure in this serial. We shall be heartily glad when it no longer appears in the contents table of *Belgravia*. "How I fought my First Duel" describes to us how they manage these things in Germany. We admit the writer has shown no small amount of descriptive power, but we think German student life would be vastly improved if duelling were forbidden by the authorities. Mr. Percy Boyd describes the career, thus far, of "Lord Chancellor Cairns," and Dr. Maurice Davies contributes a paper on "Crates," while "The Strange Adventures of a Crown and Sceptre," by Mr. Robert Kemp, are in the highest degree interesting. The illustrations are generally good, Mr. George Kirby's "A Quaint Bit of Scandal,"—in which the grouping and pose of the several figures are admirably managed,—especially so.

Among the illustrations in *Cassell's Family Magazine*, that which accompanies a neat little poem, by Isabella Pyzie Mayo, entitled "Sailed to-day," is one of the best we have seen for some time in this magazine. As regards the literary contents there is quite an *embarras des richesses*, and it is somewhat difficult to make a selection when all the contributions are so well written. The serials are good, and the same may be said of the short papers. Not the least interesting among these latter are a paper by Professor Andrew Wilson, "About Sea-Cucumbers," A Family Doctor's directions as to Beautiful Hair: How to Get and Retain it," "The Game of Stool-Ball: an old pastime revived," "Howe Dress Making," "Education in Merchant Tailors' School," and "How to qualify for the Medical Profession." There is also a paper entitled "A New Way to Pay Old Debts," in which the writer offers "A few Words on Ton-tines." Mr. A. G. Payne is instructive, as usual, in his "Little Extravagancies of the Table," and there is a highly amusing story about "Our Night Alarm on the Pacific Railway," "Chit-Chat on Dress" will interest the ladies of course, and "The Gatherer" furnishes sundry notes, among which, perhaps, an explanation, "What is a Bee?" and a brief description of a new tramway car, invented by Mr. Scott-Monerieff, of Glasgow, are the most noteworthy.

We have much pleasure in quoting from *Colburn's New Monthly* the following acrostic by Mrs. Baines.

MARCH.

M arch dust, they say, is worth its weight in gold,
A peck will pay the ransom of a king.
R elentless winds now blight the early buds,—
C ruel yet kind, as when the young die soon;
H eaven spares those yet who have their work to do.

Of the other contributions, "Scattered Arrows," by Sariette Norman, will be found to contain some amusing writing. "East Indian Life," by Lieutenant-Colonel Copinger, from what we have read elsewhere of the manners and customs of Anglo-Indian society, we should judge to be a true and effective picture. Those interested in the Natural History and Resources of "Turkey," will find the agriculture of that country very fully described by the Editor. There are, likewise, sundry other contributions of considerable merit.

We have noted, in the *St. James's*, a very able paper, by Mr. Thomas

Carlisle, on "The Paralysis of the Indian Army," and a most agreeable "Olla Podrida," by the Editor. The writer of the former supports his case with a very formidable array of figures, and all we need say is, the sooner the authorities take the requisite steps to place our Indian military resources on a proper basis, the better it will be for the future maintenance of our power. We have referred to the "Grange Garden," and Mrs. Townshend Mayer's serial, "Sir Hubert's Marriage," and their merits stand in need of no further praise. We must speak in commendation, however, of Mr. John Morgan's sketch of "Robert Hall: the great Baptist Preacher," as well as of Roger Quiddam's paper, entitled "Recruits for the Ranks of Crime." Not the least attractive item in the number is a sonnet "To the Nile," by the celebrated poet, Shelley, which, the Editor tells us, has never before been published.

In the *Leisure Hour* the highly interesting "Tale of the American War of Independence" is continued, and some exciting scenes are introduced. Indeed, we are, so to speak, getting into the thick of the story. The Rev. W. Wright also continues his account of "A Trip to Palmyra and the Desert," and Dr. Rimbault contributes another of his musical papers, headed "The Story of an Old Concert Room." "The Rocket Apparatus, and its Work," is a very useful and instructive paper, while other attractions will be found in "Natural History Training," "Antiquarian Gossip on the Months," and "Weather Proverbs." We must not pass unnoticed "Schoolboy Training," and the Rev. Canon Rawlinson's "Early Civilisation—Babylon." They are very far from being the least valuable contents of a most excellent number.

Of *Sunday at Home* we can do little more than renew the praise which it has been our duty to bestow on all previous numbers. There is the usual quantity of matter for the Invalid and for the Afflicted, of Poetry, and of Pages for the Young. But besides these we have continuations of Dr. Stoughton's History of "Westminster Abbey," and of "A Jew's First Impression of England and First Intercourse with Christians," together with a description of "Prisons in Finland." The number in short is excellent both as regards its literary and pictorial contents.

The present number of *Tinsley's* is marked by the commencement of a new serial, bearing the title of "Maggie," by Mr. Frank Barrett. The two chapters forming the first instalment are written in a neat and flowing style, but it is early days yet to judge of "Maggie's" merits as a story. Of Messrs. Farjeon's and Grant's serials, suffice it to say they evince the same excellence as has distinguished the previous chapters. Dr. Maurice Davies's "Social Status Quo" is again too prosy. It is very well for him to plead "it is his nature to" speak on clerical matters, but as regards the readers they may plead with equal force "it is not their nature" to relish this kind of writing in the pages of a non-clerical magazine. It is all the greater pity that Dr. Davies should devote six out of eight pages to this single and, with all due respect, in this place uncongenial subject, for in the other two pages he proves he can deal right pleasantly with topics of general and genial interest. As for the third of his "Love Songs of All Nations" none, we are sure, will read it without a feeling of pleasure. The third of the "Thespian Cartes" is an admirable paper, in which the writer tells many a home truth as to the glaring absurdities which mark the dramatic criticism of the day. "The Gift of the Gab," and the other contributions, without exception, are well worth reading.

We have received Part I. of *Picturesque Europe*, a new serial publication by Messrs. Cassell, Petter and Galpin. The book, we are told in the accompanying prospectus, "has been several years in preparation," and its purpose is "to present a complete description and elaborate pictorial illustration of the greater part of the European Continent, by bringing together representations of the numberless objects of Nature, and of that which makes Europe so strikingly picturesque." The illustrations will consist of both steel and wood engravings, all new and original, being executed "from recent sketches taken on the spot by eminent artists," and we are assured "that neither labour nor cost has been spared" to make them not only valuable from an artistic point of view, but also trustworthy. The subjects will include mountains, rivers, lakes, and valley scenery, as well as the temples and ruins of ancient Greece and Rome, cathedrals, churches, castles, quaint towns, palaces, &c., &c., and in order, as far as possible, the perfection of the world. The letter-press will be from the pens of authors of high standing, "whose co-operation has been sought not merely for their eminent literary ability, but in view of each one's peculiar fitness for the portion of the work assigned to him." Naturally enough, with England begins this survey of *Picturesque Europe*, and it is equally natural that Royal Windsor and its surroundings should take precedence of all other places of interest in picturesque England. Accordingly, we find that the steel engraving which serves as frontispiece to the work is of Windsor Castle, by A. Willmore, from a beautiful drawing by Birket Foster. The wood engravings are the work of Mr. Whymper, from drawings by Messrs. P. Skelton, Boot, and other artists. These, too, which portray different parts of the Castle, or the noble pile itself from different points of view, and such objects of interest in its neighbourhood as "William the Conqueror's Oak," "the Watch Oak," "the Fishing Temple, Virginia Water," "In the Cedar Walk, Virginia Water," are admirably executed. The engraving on the title page is an exquisite bit of scenery at Lynmouth, and as regards the letter-press, it fully bears out the promise in the prospectus already referred to. We shall watch the progress of the work with the greatest interest, and we need only add that if succeeding parts confirm the promise of the opening one, the work will be one of the most valuable, in respect both of its literary and artistic contents, which has ever yet been published, even by the most enterprising firms. The parts are to appear monthly, and the price of each is half-a-crown.

WHAT IS MASONRY?

FROM THE *Keystone*.

AN eminent English barrister and Member of Parliament, who was also a Provincial Grand Master of Masons, once said that if Freemasonry be not scientific it is nothing. We agree with the spirit of his remark, but not at all with the letter. He stated one truth, in an exaggerated form, but not the whole truth. It is impossible to boil down into a brief verbal phrase the whole purpose and function of Freemasonry, so as to define them in a single sentence. Ours is a Royal Art, richly endowed of old, and through all the ages since deriving a constantly increasing heritage of intellectual wealth. From tradition we learn that the wisdom of Solomon founded the Craft; the architects of Europe and the East preserved its form and substance; and the revivalists of the early part of the last century, finding it had been gradually assuming a speculative as well as an operative form, superseded the latter by the former, and made the Craft what we find it to-day. It is apparent then that Freemasonry is a growth, a development; that it was not born in a day, nor reared in a generation, nor matured in a century—but is the heir of the ages, and now has more noble and glorious purposes than it ever had before. With this ancient and noble lineage, with the royal purpose of the Fraternity to develop the higher nature of its members, and make them morally and mentally wealthier, and socially happier, it need not surprise any one if it be impossible to state in a single sentence the object of Freemasonry. We will devote several sentences to an attempt to state, in as few words as possible, our view of this important subject.

Freemasonry is a social and convivial Order. It gathers into the closest fraternal intercourse those who are qualified by nature and education for admittance into its Lodges. It spreads before them refreshment that strengthens the inner man, and develops the finest social and healthiest convivial propensities. The Lodge is the Mason's home, where he meets with brethren only, sitting with them around both the Tressel Board and the Banquet Board—where heart beats to heart and hand clasps hand. In this union there is Strength, for the Mystic Tie is Love. This is one statement of what the Craft is and does.

Freemasonry is a moral Order. It builds no longer perishable edifices of stone, but living spiritual temples. Man is immortal, and it is upon man it labours. And it works with proper tools. All of the Craftsmen's implements are symbolical—every one teaching its lesson. Twenty-four inch gauge and common gavel, plumb, level, and square, trowel and compasses—all adorn a moral and point a tale, all lead to reflection upon the lower nature in man, which is to be subjected, and the higher nature which is to be made supreme. Faith in God and belief in the immortality of the soul are the first and last lessons of Freemasonry.

Freemasonry is an intellectual Order. It stores the mind with knowledge ready phrased for the memory, where if it once find lodgment it will never depart. The work of Masonry is a fruit of perennial growth and bloom, through time into eternity. Those who are made Masons in heart, and whose careers are redolent with the charities of life, whose minds expand under the culture which the Craft affords in the great hereafter when we shall rise to a higher sphere of existence will be prepared to advance from one stage of intellectual growth to another. But the work, proper, of Masonry, does not embody all of its culture. It was this thought, doubtless, that prompted the words of the English Provincial Grand Master that we quoted at the beginning of this article—that Freemasonry is nothing if not scientific. We agree with him so far as to unequivocally assert, that no matter how well the work of Masonry is done, more needs to be done, or after all the work is not well done. Sign and symbol require other and fuller explanation than those regularly given at the Altar. The truths of Masonry need to be illustrated, amply and forcibly illustrated. This is the province of the ancillary lecture. The records of every Lodge and Grand Lodge prove that, at certain epochs, Masters and Grand Masters have performed their duties in this regard, but they need to have their memories jogged continually respecting them, for they are too readily overlooked or forgotten. By means of the lecture, Freemasonry may become truly scientific, for there is scarcely any learning that may not be made tributary to the elucidation of the origin, history, and symbolism of the Craft. The brethren need it for their true understanding of the underlying principles of their Order, as well as for the adornment of their minds. It is well to exemplify the work, and thus secure its uniformity, but it is better still, after having exemplified it, to illustrate it with force of reason and fertility of imagination.

THE INVENTION OF GUNPOWDER.—That Roger Bacon knew, invented, and made the discovery of gunpowder is beyond all question, as he tells us that "thunder and lightning may be produced by art; for that sulphur, nitre, and charcoal, which, when separate, have no sensible effect, when mixed together in due proportion, and closely compressed and fired, yield a loud report." A more exact and precise description of gunpowder cannot be given in words; yet fifty-six years after the time of Bacon, the discovery was assigned to Berthold Schwartz, an Augustinian, who resided at Eriburg, in Brisgau, twenty-six miles south of Strasburg. This monk, says Sainte Foix, having put a composition of sulphur and saltpetre in a mortar, it took fire and blew off the stone which covered it with great violence, which led the chemist to think it might be used with great advantage in attacking fortified places. He accordingly added to it a quantity of charcoal, to render it more apt to take fire and to continue it. Thus, adds our author, the French were long in possession of this terrible secret, but it was left to the "ferocious temper" of the English to make use of it (!), as they did with such signal success at the battle of Cressy, thus awkwardly admitting that the English were in possession of the secret also.—From "Biographical Sketches" in the "Technical Educator" for February.

FREEMASONRY IN NEW ZEALAND.

THE late mail via, San Francisco, brings us one or two items of interest regarding Freemasonry in the far off, but rising colony of New Zealand. On the 10th of January a new Lodge, under the Scotch Constitution, was opened at Onehunga, a village some four miles from the city of Auckland. There was a large muster of brethren under the English, Scotch and Irish Constitutions, from Auckland. The dispensation from the District Grand Master at Dunedin was read by Bro. Marshall, acting Prov. Grand Secretary, and the ceremony of installation was most ably performed by Bro. M. S. Leers P.M., Sec. of the Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 1338, E.C. Bro. Leers is one of the most active and zealous Masons in that part of the colony, and is always ready to give advice and assistance when properly called upon. Bro. Niccol is the first W.M. of the new Lodge, which is called the Manukan Lodge. We may add that had there been an English District Grand Master for the Province of Auckland the warrant would undoubtedly have been applied for under the English Constitution.

The question of the appointment of a District Grand Master and formation of a District Grand Lodge in Auckland is still on the tapis, and the feeling of the oldest and most experienced brethren is entirely in favour of the appointment to that office of Mr. G. S. Graham, who was nominated at a meeting of Masters and Wardens of Lodges held some little time since. We have no doubt that Mr. Graham would do honour to the choice, but much regret the fact that Sir George Grey, one of the leading men in that part of the world, and a former governor of the Colony, should have declined to accept the office.

It is not to the interest of Freemasonry in that part of the world that the brethren should be broken up by division under the several Constitutions, and we confess that we should very much like to see a movement set on foot for a New Zealand Constitution. Such a system would much simplify matters, and would obviate the misunderstandings which occasionally arise in consequence of the different privileges exercised under the English, Irish and Scotch Constitutions.

The brethren of the Southern Star Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons celebrated the festival of St. John the Evangelist on Monday, the 27th Dec. last, at high noon, when the Worshipful Installing Officer, Bro. W. B. Sealy, installed Bro. J. C. Moutray into the chair of the Lodge as W.M. for the ensuing year. The ritual and ceremony were very effective, and the admonition, the charges and address of the Installing Officer were very impressive. The Master then invested his officers, and the Lodge adjourned until Wednesday evening, the 29th Jan, when the Craft-in-general assembled to a banquet, excellently provided at the Masonic Hall, by host Tregea. The usual loyal, patriotic, and Masonic toasts were drunk; as also the health of the retiring W.M., the W.M. elect, the Sister Lodges of the district, certain highly esteemed brethren, &c., and the evening's entertainment was heightened by good music. We are assured that the position of the Lodge at this time is highly favorable, and a prosperous and harmonious year is confidently looked forward to by the Brethren. The Wardens for the year are Bros. Dr. L. G. Boore and W. Holmes.—*Nelson Daily Times*.

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

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A SPLENDID

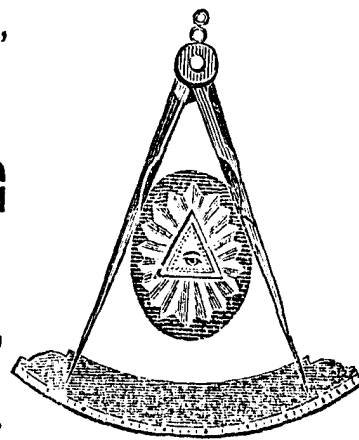
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ADELPHI.—At 7.0, VANDYKE BROWN. At 7.45, PEEP O' DAY, and MY OWN GHOST.

PRINCESS'S.—At 7.0, A HAPPY PAIR. At 8.0, RIP VAN WINKLE, and HEAD OF A CLAN.

STRAND.—At 7.0, TWO TO ONE. At 7.45, A LESSON IN LOVE. At 9.15, CRACKED HEADS, and THE RIVAL OTHELLOS.

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

GAIETY.—At 7.15, OPERETTA. At 8.0, TOTTLE'S. At 10.0, A SPELLING BEE.

OLYMPIC.—At 7.0, 'TWAS I. At 7.45, THE GASCON. At 10.30, THE RECONCILIATION.

DUKE'S.—At 7.0, TOO TRUE. At 9.0, ON THE RINK, and A TEMPTING BAIT.

GLOBE.—At 7.30, THE TAILOR MAKES THE MAN. At 8.15, JO (Adapted from Bleak House.)

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

COURT.—At 7.30, A MORNING CALL, A SCRAP OF PAPER, and A QUIET RUBBER.

ST. JAMES'S.—At 7.30, REAL AND IDEAL. At 8.30, ALL FOR HER.

CHARING CROSS.—At 7.30, THE SECRET. At 8.15, LA PERICHOLE (Last Night.)

OPERA COMIQUE.—At 7.15, A HORNET'S NEST. At 8.0, MADAME L'ARCHIDUC, and TRIAL BY JURY (Last Night.)

CRITERION.—At 7.30, CRYPTOCONCHOIDSYPHONOSTOMATA, MAN IS NOT PERFECT, and, at 8.45, PIFF-PAFF. On Monday, LOYALTY.

ALHAMBRA.—At 7.15, A QUIET FAMILY. At 8.0, DON JUAN, &c.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.—This day, POPULAR CONCERT, SPELLING BEE, GRAND ROADSTER STALLION TROTTER MEETING, &c. On Tuesday, PLOT AND PASSION. On Thursday, MAN O' AIRLIE. Open Daily, SKATING RINK, &c.

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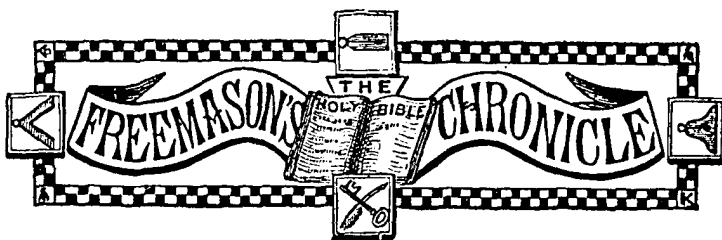
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

FRIDAY'S sitting of the House of Lords was chiefly spent in Committee on the Appellate Jurisdiction Bill. Lord Redesdale having previously offered a few remarks on the character of the measure, which he concluded by expressing approval of it, the several clauses were agreed to, in some cases with certain verbal amendments, and the Bill emerged from the Committee. On Monday, Lord Stratheden and Campbell moved for copies of the Turkish Firman on Reforms, and of the Andrassy Note. After a few words from Lord Morley, the Earl of Derby explained how matters stood, pointing out at the same time what had been the intention of the British Government, and to what extent it had committed itself in supporting the note. On Tuesday, a remark of Mr. Disraeli, in the House of Commons on the previous Friday, brought Earl Granville on his legs for the purpose of offering a personal explanation. The Earl of Derby, of course, offered some observations, and the matter then dropped. The Exchequer Bonds Bill and the Consolidated Fund Bill, both relating to the purchase money for the Suez Canal Shares, passed their second reading, and the standing orders of the House being dispensed with, they likewise passed their remaining stages.

Then Viscount Cardwell, on presenting a petition for the withdrawal of the Government Slave Circular, took the opportunity of backing the prayer of the petition. The Lord Chancellor differed. Lords Selborne, Coleridge and Hatherley were in favour of its withdrawal. Lord Derby naturally enough supported the Lord Chancellor, after which the House adjourned. At Thursday's sitting the second reading of the University of Oxford Bill, moved by the Marquis of Salisbury, was carried, after a long debate on an amendment, moved by Lord Colchester, expressing regret that any legislation should be undertaken without a more comprehensive inquiry than had yet taken place. Among the speakers were the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carlingford, the Earls of Carnarvon and Morley, Lord Houghton, and the Marquis of Salisbury. The amendment was put and negatived without a division, and the Committee fixed for that day three weeks.

Nearly the whole of Friday's sitting in the House of Commons was occupied with the discussion of Mr. O. Morgan's resolution on the subject of Burials in Churchyards. Among the principal speakers, besides Mr. Morgan himself, were Messrs. Cross and Disraeli, who vehemently opposed the resolution; while Sir W. Harcourt and the Marquis of Hartington supported it with equal vehemence. On a division, Mr. Morgan was beaten by 279 to 248, a result which elicited cheers from the Opposition, and these were followed by counter-cheers from the Conservatives. After this, the Exchequer Bonds (4,080,000) Bill, having relation to the purchase of the Suez Canal Shares, passed through Committee. After the transaction of some other business, the House adjourned at a Quarter to Two o'Clock—a division of 16 to 6 showing there was not the requisite quorum. On Monday, the Exchequer Bonds Bill passed its third reading, but not without a debate of considerable length. Mr. Gladstone criticised the conduct of the Government, complaining especially of the dismissal by M. de Lesseps of Sir D. Lange; the Marquis of Hartington and Mr. Lowe speaking in a similar strain, while Mr. Disraeli defended his cabinet. On the motion that the House go into Committee of supply on the Army Estimates, Sir W. Lawson interposed with a resolution to the effect that our interest did not warrant any increase of expenditure. Mr. H. Richard seconded it, Mr. Holms spoke to it, and Mr. Hardy opposed it. A division followed, and the House decided by 192 to 63 to go into Committee. The adjourned debate that the number of men proposed should be reduced by 10,000 was resumed. Several honourable and gallant members spoke, among them being Lord Elcho. Mr. Hardy defended the estimate of the Government, and Mr. Pease having withdrawn his resolution, the vote was agreed to, as also was the vote for the pay and other services, after which progress was reported. After the transaction of other business the House adjourned, at a quarter past four o'clock. On Tuesday, Mr. Cartwright moved for a select Committee to inquire into the mode of levying the Customs duties on wine. The Chancellor of the Exchequer opposed, as did likewise Sir J. M'Kenna, and the motion was then put and rejected without a division. The O'Donoghue was defeated on a motion relating to the Tralee Savings' Bank, by 133 to 54. A long debate followed, on a motion by Serjeant Spinks, relating to the Railway Passenger Duty. It was defeated, however, and a motion for a Committee of inquiry into the operation of the law on the present act was ultimately accepted by 137 to 23. Other business followed, and the House adjourned. On Wednesday, the second reading of Mr. M'Lagan's Game Laws (Scotland) Bill was carried, in spite of the Government opposition, by 172 to 150, majority 22. Among the other business got through was the third reading of the Epping Forest Bill. On Thursday, the greater part of the sitting was occupied with the debate on the second reading of the Royal Titles Bill. This was moved by the Prime Minister in person, who, in the course of his speech, announced that the addition proposed to be made was that of "Empress of India." Mr. Samuelson moved the adjournment of the debate. Mr. Gladstone made a long speech; other speakers followed, among them being the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Marquis of Hartington. On a division the adjournment of the debate was negatived by 284 to 31, and the second reading was agreed to. The House then went into Committee of Supply, and several army votes were passed. After some further business, the House adjourned, at a late hour.

Unquestionably the event of the week has been, at least as regards the metropolis, the opening, by Her Majesty, of

the Grocers' Company's wing of the London Hospital. The royal cortège consisted of four carriages and four, occupied by the officers and ladies of the Household, and a fifth drawn by six horses containing the Queen, H.R.H. Princess Beatrice, and the lady of the bed-chamber in waiting and the Mistress of the Robes. The route followed was through the Horse Guards, along the Thames Embankment, Queen Victoria Street, Leadenhall Street, Aldgate, and Whitechapel. All traffic was stopped for some time before the hour fixed for the visit. Military and police in strong force lined the way, and after Blackfriars Bridge was passed the number of banners, &c., &c. increased in numbers, while the manifestations of loyalty, as the Queen passed, became louder and more continuous. In Whitechapel especially the enthusiasm was most intense. The Lord Chamberlain and the Home Secretary awaited Her Majesty's arrival at the Hospital, where also the Duke of Cambridge, as President of the Institution, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, the Lord Mayor, the Vice-Presidents and other officers, the Master, Wardens, and other members of the Grocers' Company, had assembled, together with a large number of ladies and gentlemen. The ceremony having been gone through, and the wing formally declared open, two of the wards were named respectively the Queen Victoria and Princess Beatrice wards. After this the Royal party rose and left the building, but before returning to her carriage the Queen visited two of the accident wards in the Alexandra wing, expressing great sympathy with the unfortunate patients. The procession then returned to Buckingham Palace, by the same route as on going.

On Monday Her Majesty held a levée at Buckingham Palace, which was numerously attended, about 170 presentations being made. On Wednesday there was a Drawing Room, which was also very fully attended, and at which a considerable number of ladies were presented.

The Empress of Austria has arrived in England, and is expected to remain at Easton Neston, near Towcester, till the end of the hunting season. Her Imperial Majesty travels *incognito* under the style and title of the Countess Palfi. It is believed the Emperor of Austria will join Her Majesty in England in the spring.

The Prince of Wales, after visiting Nepaul, has reached Allahabad, where he was received in state by the Viceroy, and where he held a Chapter of the Star of India for the purpose of investing certain officers. His Royal Highness left for Indore on Tuesday, so that his return to England may be shortly expected.

On Thursday the Freedom of the City was presented in a gold box, of the value of 100 guineas, to the Lord Chief Justice of England. The City Chamberlain, as usual on these occasions, was the spokesman, and he spoke in the most eulogistic terms of the eminent services of his lordship. The Lord Chief Justice was loudly cheered on rising to reply, and spoke at considerable length, gratefully and gracefully acknowledging the very high honour they had that day conferred upon him. There was a numerous attendance of City magnates, including the Lord Mayor, and a strong force of ladies mustered to witness the interesting ceremony.

The funeral of Lady Augusta Stanley, wife of the Dean of Westminster, took place on Thursday, in Westminster Abbey. Besides the Dean and the principal mourners, there was a large attendance of general mourners, including a large number of distinguished personages. The Queen, who with the Princess Beatrice witnessed the sad ceremony from the gallery over the Dean's private entrance to the gallery, was represented in the procession, as also were the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, the Duke of Connaught, and other members of the Royal Family.

The Senate and New Chamber of Deputies have held their first sitting at Versailles, but they will not be fully constituted till the beginning of next week. Mr. Belknap, lately Secretary for War in the United States, will be impeached for malfeasance in the discharge of his duties. He is succeeded by Judge Taft. General Schenk has also somewhat suddenly resigned his post of Minister to the Court of St. James's. The Carlist war is at an end, and Don Carlos himself—who, by the way, was greeted on his arrival in England in a most shameful fashion—is in London. King Alphonso is expected to enter his capital in triumph, accompanied by his generals, on the 16th instant. Meanwhile great preparations are being made for his reception, and the festivities will be on the grandest scale,

There is every reason for rejoicing, when so long and terrible a struggle is at length ended. Spain will, no doubt, devote herself forthwith to the improvement and extension of its vast resources. Let us hope so at least.

OUR ROYAL BRETHREN.

February the 23rd, the day which witnessed the installation of H.R.H. Prince Leopold, as Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, saw his brother the Duke of Connaught admitted to the 18th (Rose Croix) degree at Gibraltar, in the Europa Chapter. The ceremony was performed by the M.W.S. Captain George L. Gilbard. His Royal Highness afterwards attended a Masonic Ball, in the insignia of the Order.

MANUSCRIPT CONSTITUTIONS.

We beg to ask our respected Bro. W. J. Hughan for a list of the Manuscript Constitutions traced up to this period. We have a copy of Bro. Hughan's "Old Charges," but since its publication other manuscripts have been discovered, and the complete list will be interesting to our readers.

The Inaugural Ball, at the Surrey Masonic Hall, in aid of the funds of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, has been fixed for the 19th of April. A most influential list of Stewards has already been published, and we wish the promoters every success.

The number of Bank of England notes paid in for the last seven years is about 94,000,000. They fill 18,000 boxes, and if placed side by side would reach three miles. The notes, placed in a pile, would be eight miles high, or if joined end to end would form a ribbon 15,000 miles long. Their superficial extent is more than that of Hyde Park. Their original value was over £3,000,000,000, and their weight over 112 tons.

At a meeting of the Council of the Geographical Society, in Saville Row, on Monday last, under the presidency of Mayor General Sir H. Rawlinson, His Grace the R.W. the Duke of Manchester, &c. Bro. Israel Abrahams, P.M. 188, was elected a Fellow of the Society.

On Monday, the 1st inst., a very artistic and magnificent testimonial, consisting of three solid silver flower stands, was presented to Bro. C. Best, of the Horseshoe Hotel, by his numerous friends.

Of the eighteen candidates presented for the Cambridge University Local Examination, December 1875, from the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, four only failed. Three received 1st class honours, one 2nd class, one 3rd class, and nine others satisfied the examiners.

We are pleased to hear that Bro. Sir Michael Costa had so far recovered from his recent severe illness to be able to resume the baton on Friday last at the rehearsal, by the Sacred Harmonic Society, of "Samson."

On the occasion of a recent visit to his establishment in Oxford Street, Mr. Holloway, the well known proprietor of "Holloway's Pills and Ointment," presented to his employés, in the shape of bonuses, upwards of £3,000. Those of the recipients who had been in his employ for twenty-years receiving each £200 or its equivalent, together with a congratulatory letter.

The ceremonies of consecration and installation will be worked by Bro. James Terry P.G.S.B. for Middlesex, in the Burdett Coutts Lodge of Instruction—which meets at Approach Tavern, Approach Road, Victoria Park—on Friday evening, 31st March next. Lodge will be opened punctually at 7 p.m.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

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

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SATURDAY, 11th MARCH.

191—Percy, Jolly Farmers Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
1426—Great City, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C.
R. A.—Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.

MONDAY, 13th MARCH.

45—Strong Man, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell, at 8. (Instruction.)
174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
68—Royal Clarence, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
104—St. John's, Ashton House, Greek-street, Stockport.
388—Prudence, Three Tuns Hotel, Halesworth.
411—Commercial, Flying Horse Hotel, Nottingham.
589—Druids' Love and Liberality, Clinton Arms Hotel, Redruth.
650—Star in the East, Pier Hotel, Harwich.
665—Montague, Royal Lion, Lyme Regis.
1021—Hartington, Masonic Hall, Custom House Buildings, Hindport-road, Barrow-in-Furness.
1069—United Brothers, Castle Hotel, Southsea.
1073—Greta, Court-buildings, Keswick.
1253—Travellers, Queen's Hotel, Manchester.
1350—Fermor Hesketh, Masonic Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool.
1393—Baldwin, The Castle, Dalton-in-Furness.

TUESDAY, 14th MARCH.

55—Constitutional, Wheatsheaf Tavern, Hand-court, W.C., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
860—Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
Metropolitan Chapter of Instruction, Jamaica Coffee House, St. Michael's-alley, Cornhill, at 6.30.
93—Social, Freemasons' Hall, Norwich.
284—Shakespeare, Masonic Rooms, High-street, Warwick.
892—Royal Edward, Royal Oak, Leominster.
903—Gosport, India Arms Hotel, High-street, Gosport.
1228—Beacontree, Red Lion, Leytonstone, at 8. (Instruction.)
1250—Gilbert Greenhall, Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street, Warrington.
1384—Equity, Walker's Commercial Hotel, Widnes.
1465—Ockenden, Talbot Hotel, Cuckfield, Sussex.
1479—Halsey, St. Albans, Herts. (Instruction.)
1593—Royal Naval College, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.
K. T. 101—Ancient Ebor, York.

WEDNESDAY, 15th MARCH.

174—Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
190—Oak, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street.
193—Confidence, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
121—Mount Sinai, Public-buildings, Penzance.
137—Amity, Masonic Hall, Thames-street, Poole.
175—East Medina, Masonic Hall, John-street, Ryde, I.W.
199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover. (Instruction.)
200—Old Globe, Private Rooms, Globe-street, Scarborough.
221—St. John's, Commercial Hotel, Town Hall Square, Bolton.
261—Unity and Sincerity, Clarke's Hotel, Taunton.
391—Buckingham, George Hotel, Aylesbury.
592—Cotteswold, King's Head Hotel, Cirencester.
653—Isca, Freemasons' Hall, Dock-street, Newport, Monmouthshire.
889—Dobie, Griffin Hotel, Kingston-on-Thames.
969—Sun and Sector, Assembly Rooms, Workington.
1040—Sykes, Masonic Hall, Great Driffield.
1086—Walton, St. Lawrence Boys' School, Kirkdale.
1114—Joppa, Corn Hall, Fakenham.
1129—St. Chad's, Roebuck Hotel, Rochdale.
1164—Elliot, Private Rooms, St. Germain's, Cornwall.
1206—Cinque Ports, Bell Hotel, Sandwich.
1337—Anchor, Masonic Rooms, Durham House, Northallerton.
1353—Duke of Lancaster, Athenaeum, Lancaster.
1443—Salem, Town Hall, Dawlish, Devon.
R. A. 403—Hertford, Town Hall, Hertford.
R. A. 591—Buckingham, George Hotel, Aylesbury.
R. A. 632—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Trowbridge.
R. A. 907—Royal Albert, White Hart Tavern, Abchurch-lane, E.C.
R. A. 1015—Stamford, Town Hall, Altrincham, Cheshire.

THURSDAY, 16th MARCH.

27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
55—Constitutional, Loudon Tavern, Bishopsgate-street.
169—Temperance, White Swan, High-street, Deptford.
181—Universal, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W. at 8. (Instruction.)
813—New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton.
1139—South Norwood, Public Hall, South Norwood.
1260—Hervey, 152 Fulham-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
1278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8.
1489—Marquess of Ripon, Albion Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road.
56—Howard, High-street, Arundel.
280—Worcester, Bell Hotel, Worcester.
343—Concord, Militia Officers' Mess Rooms, Starkie-street, Preston.
489—Benevolence, Masonic Hall, Bridgeland-street, Bideford, Devon.
523—John of Gaunt, Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, Leicester.
663—Wiltshire of Fidelity, Town Hall, Devizes.
1184—Abbey, Masonic Hall, Battle, Sussex.
1332—Unity, Masonic Hall, Crediton, Devon.
1512—Hemming, Red Lion Hotel, Hampton.
R. A. 339—Regularity, Crown Hotel, King-street, Penrith.
R. A. 602—Marwood, Masonic Hall, Middlesborough.

FRIDAY, 17th MARCH.

933—Doric, Earl Grey Tavern, Mile End-road, at 8. (Instruction.)
1278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
1365—Clapton, White Hart, Clapton, 7.30. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
347—Noah's Ark, Wagon and Horses Hotel, Tipton.
516—Phoenix, Fox Hotel, Stowmarket.
R. A. 556—Elias de Derham, Masonic Hall, Salisbury.

SATURDAY, 18th MARCH.

193—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
R. A.—Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

SATURDAY.

R. A. 308—Affability, Station House, Bottoms, Eastwood.

MONDAY.

296—Royal Brunswick, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
302—Hope, New Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford.
307—Prince Frederick, White Horse Hotel, Hebden Bridge.
827—St. John's, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury.
1221—Defence, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds.
R. A. 306—Alfred, Masonic Hall, Kelsall-street, Leeds.

TUESDAY.

448—St. James's, Freemasons' Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax.
495—Wakefield, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.
603—Zetland, Royal Hotel, Cleckheaton.
1522—Olicana, Crescent Hotel, Ilkley.
1545—Baildon, Angel Inn, Baildon.
R. A. 289—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds.

WEDNESDAY.

290—Huddersfield, Masonic Hall, South Parade, Huddersfield.
750—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Railway-street, Cleckheaton.
1019—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.
1391—Brighouse, Masonic Room, Bradford-road, Brighouse.
R. A. 387—Moravian, Masonic Hall, Westgate, Shipley.

THURSDAY.

439—Scientific, Private Rooms, Bingley, Yorks.
600—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford.
971—Trafalgar, Private Room, Commercial-street, Batley.
1042—Excelsior, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds.
R. A. 307—Good Intent, White Horse Hotel, Hebden Bridge.
R. A. 337—Confidence, Private Rooms, Commercial Inn, Uppermill.

FRIDAY.

1102—Mirfield, Assembly Room, Eastthorpe, Mirfield.
1311—Zetland, Masonic Hall, Great George street, Leeds.
R. A. 521—Truth, Freemasons' Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, Huddersfield.
R. A. 837—Marquess of Ripon, Town Hall, Ripon.

DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND.

MONDAY.

240—St. Hilda, Freemasons' Hall, Fowler-street, South Shields.
491—St. Peter, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
949—Williamson, Royal Hotel, Monkwearmouth.

TUESDAY.

80—St. John, Masonic Hall, Park-terrace, Sunderland.
784—Harbour of Refuge, Freemasons' Hall, Upper Church-street, West Hartlepool.

WEDNESDAY.

1334—Norman, Freemasons' Hall, Old Elvet, Durham.
1339—Fenwick, Masonic Hall, Park-terrace, Sunderland.

THURSDAY.

531—St. Helen's, Masonic Hall, Regent's-square, Hartlepool.
940—Philanthropy, Freemasons' Hall, Wellington-road, Stockton-on-Tees.

FRIDAY.

541—De Lorraine, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street-west, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

IRELAND.

WEDNESDAY—161—Excelsior, Bishop-street, Tuam.
THURSDAY—129—Industry, Dundoran, Donegal.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—145—St. Stephen, St. James' Hall, Writer's-court.
TUESDAY—1—Mary's Chapel, Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo-place.
WEDNESDAY—160—Roman Eagle, Iona Hotel, 62 Nicolson-street.
THURSDAY—48—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.
" 226—Portobello, Royal Hotel, Bath-street.
" R. A. 152—Perseverance, Lodge Room, 86 Constitution-street.
FRIDAY—R. A. 83—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.

GLASGOW DISTRICT.

MONDAY.—102—St. Mark's, 213 Buchanan-street.
" 219—Star, 12 Trongate.
" 362—St. Clair, 25 Robertson-street.
Annual Meeting, Supreme Chapter Geneva Knights Templar,
Free masons' Hall, Edinburgh.
TUESDAY—413—Athol, 213 Buchanan-street.
" 419—Neptune, 35 St. James-street.
" 441—Glasgow, 24 Struthers-street.
" R. A. 69—St. Andrews, 170 Buchanan-street.
WEDNESDAY—117—Partick, St. Mary's, New Masonic Hall, Partick.
" 354—Caledonian Railway, 30 Hope-street.
THURSDAY—27—St. Mungo, 213 Buchanan-street.
" 465—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall, Garngad-road.
FRIDAY—12—Greenock, Kilwinning Public Hall, Greenock.
" 321—St. Andrew's, Public Hall, Alexandria.
" 360—Commercial, 30 Hope-street.
" 366—St. Thomas, 90 Welgate-street, Larkhall.
" 408—Clyde, 170 Buchanan-street.
SATURDAY—28—St. John's, Black Bull, Kirkintilloch.
" 524—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall, East Kilbride.
" 544—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall, Bank-street, Coalbridge.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

British Chapter, No. 8.—A Convocation of this Chapter was held on Friday, the 3rd instant, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, and was honored by the presence of Companions distinguished in the Order, who all expressed their gratification at the admirable and perfect working of this sublime ritual. Comp. Edwin March occupied the chair of M.E.Z., Long H., H. Thorne J., Stanley Robinson S.E., Humphreys S.N., Stohwasser P.Z. Treasurer, Messent P.S., Musio 1st Asst., W. Ganz and P.Z.'s J. B. Monckton, Nettleship, Cowland, Richardson, Evans, and D. Griffiths; Comps. Pilcher,

Yeo, Barron, Grady, Webb, Edkins, T. Fenn, Glover, &c. The Chapter was opened and the minutes were confirmed. Ballots were taken and were unanimously in favour of Bros. Charles Dickens P.M. Maybury Lodge, W. B. Scott S.W. Shakespeare Lodge, W. R. Winch, and W. Blakemore, who were duly exalted into Royal Arch Masonry. The rendering of the ceremony by the M.E.Z. was a pleasure to listen to, the H., J. and the P.S. were equally perfect, and well deserved the encomiums passed on them by the Companions and Visitors. Two brethren were proposed for exaltation. Comp. Stohwasser P.Z. proposed that the sum of two guineas be given to each of the three Masonic Charities. The M.E.Z. announced his intention of serving as Steward at the next Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. The Chapter was then closed, and the Companions sat down to a banquet, where the M.E.Z. presided. He proposed the usual loyal and R.A. Toasts. The National Anthem was sung, Comp. W. Ganz accompanying on the piano. The Z. in proposing the toast of the Grand Z., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, said he had done good service to the Order, and he was sure every Companion would wish him a safe return to his native country. The Z., in proposing the toast of the Grand H., J. and the rest of the Grand Officers, said, That night they were favoured with the presence of distinguished Companions, J. Hervey G.S.E. and T. Fenn, also Comps. J. B. Monckton and W. Ganz. The two latter being members of the Chapter. They were pleased to see them at all times, and he would couple the toast with the name of Comp. J. Hervey, who replied in his usual eloquent manner: The Offices of Grand Chapter could not be better filled than at the present time; the Companions might with truth say, that they might go to 99 Chapters out of 100, and yet not find better working than that they had witnessed to-night; they had seen the duties performed admirably, which was indeed a pleasure. You have among your members one who is able to perform any functions required of him, for very few can excel him, and that is Companion Monckton. (Cheers.) He then mentioned the various qualifications of the Companions of Grand Chapter, who were always ready to render any assistance required of them. Comp. Nettleship then proposed the toast of the M.E.Z. and the H. and J., and he said the Chapter may indeed congratulate itself on the selection they had made; while the eulogistic remarks of the Grand Scribe E. was sufficient to shew how excellently they had discharged their duties. Comp. W. Ganz then played a Fantasia from Traviata. The M.E.Z. in responding said, He thanked Companion Nettleship for his kind remarks, and if he had pleased the Companions by his working it was sufficient gratification to him. Companion Long replied, the H. and J. following. The M.E.Z. proposed the Toast of the newly exalted Companions, and stated that for some time there had been no exaltations in the Chapter; they had here five, whom they were proud to see. The names of Companions Charles Dickens,—a Household Word,—Scott, Winch, Blackmore and Marshall were also well known and respected. He regretted three of these Companions were obliged to leave, but he would couple the toast with the names of Comps. Scott and Blackmore. The former Comp. responded: The words uttered in the beautiful ceremony, so admirably delivered, would never be effaced from his memory, it was so solemn and sacred that it well deserved the encomiums they heard passed, he hoped to carry out every detail in R.A. Masonry to their satisfaction. Comp. Blackmore followed. The M.E.Z. then proposed the Toast of the Visitors, and said that from time immemorial the Chapter had always been pleased to see Visitors, but they had been most highly favoured that night by distinguished Visitors, he would couple the Toast with the names of Comps. Fenn and Vallance. The former responded in a very excellent speech, and was followed by Comp. Vallance who paid the M.E.Z. a just compliment; when he had to speak of the pleasures of memory, he recollected the admirable qualities of Comp. Stohwasser, and also the late respected Comp. Herbert Lloyd, and he was sure from what he had seen the British Chapter would be pre-eminent in the Order. Comp. Nettleship returned thanks for the P.Z.'s. The M.E.Z. in proposing the Toast of the Officers, said: There was one whom every one respected, and that was Comp. Stohwasser; the Comp. Scribe E. was also equally worthy of their regard. They had seen the working of Comps. Messent, Chubb, and Musio, and did not forget Comp. W. Ganz, who was known as a talented musician and a good R.A. Mason. Comp. Stohwasser returned thanks, and said, he had held Office for 17 years, and he hoped to continue to do so. (Cheers.) Comp. W. Ganz said he had for-gone many engagements to be present at this Chapter, and the pleasing associations connected with it would never be forgotten by him. The Janitor's Toast was given, and a very agreeable evening was passed, Companions Messent and Griffiths contributing to the harmony, while Comp. W. Ganz's accompaniment was an especial musical treat. The Visitors were Companions John Hervey G.S.E., T. Fenn P.Z., P.G.S.B., Wainwright 370, J. Gossett 73, G. N. Bennett 1118, H. W. Vallance, late No. 8, J. Short, Archer 180, Whichcord, Bristo, and H. M. Levy P.Z. 188.

De Swinburn Chapter, No. 24.—This Chapter held its regular meeting on Wednesday, the 8th of March 1876, at Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Present—Comps. Smaile P.Z. acting Z., P. O. Smith H., W. Foulsham P.Z. acting as J. Comp. Main acting as E.; A. Loades Treasurer, Redesdale Z. 406 N., A. Loades P.S., Dean A.S., S. Harris A.S., J. Curry Janitor, P.Z.'s Foulsham, Smith. Visitors—Ex. Comp. Redesdale Z. 403 De Sussex, Armstrong and Munday De Sussex 406. The half-yearly banquet was held at 5 p.m., at the Royal Exchange Hotel, and at 7 p.m. the Comps. adjourned to the Chapter, when Bro. the Rev. S. H. Harris was exalted to the supreme degree of the Royal Arch, in a most impressive manner, by Ex. Comp. Smaile P.Z.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Lodge, No. 24.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 2nd of March, at Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Present—Bros. G. Cockburn W.M., A. Loades S.W., J. T. Taylor J.W., Hall P.M. as Sec.,

J. Bolden S.D., R. Carr J.D., W. Foulsham P.M. D.C., T. Boston Steward, J. W. Brewis I.G., J. Curry Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Cochran I.P.M., Hall. Visitors—Bros. Cook P.M. 481, Thompson P.M. 481, Spearman W.M. 481, Geo. E. Cohen 481, Main S.W. 546, Carnegie, Edinburgh Lodge. Business—The W.M. worked the 3 degrees in a most efficient manner, particularly the 3rd, the latter being for the first time, showing thoroughly his capability to keep up the traditions of this old Lodge, so well known in the Province for its good working.

Egyptian Lodge, No. 27.—The usual meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, the 2nd inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street. Present—Bros. John Green W.M., Hales S.W., Walker J.W., H. G. Buss P.M. Treasurer, J. B. Poole P.M. Secretary, Pattenden S.D., Richards J.D., T. Maidwell I.G., and P.M.'s Bros. Lambie I.P.M., Atkins, T. Shepperd, D. H. Jacobs, Libbis, C. B. Payne, John Coutts P.G.P. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. E. Bryer, Howell, Hansell and Patteson were raised to the 3rd degree, and F. G. Chick was balloted for and duly initiated. The Lodge working being ably and perfectly rendered by the W.M. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to a very excellent banquet provided by Bro. Clemow, and superintended by Bro. Smith. The W.M. proposed the usual toasts. Bro. John Coutts in his eloquent and genial manner responding to the toast of the Grand Officers. The health of the W.M., P.M., Wardens and Officers were given and responded to, also that of the newly initiated. Bro. Wiltshire, No. 50, New York, returned thanks for the visitors. Capital harmony emanated from Bros. D. H. Jacobs, L. H. Nerwick, T. Maidwell, Richards, Patteson and Pattenden.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—This Lodge held its regular weekly meeting on Monday, the 6th of March, at Bro. Gay's, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate. Present—Bros. Hill W.M., Trewinnard S.W., Stock J.W., Killick Sec., Hewlett S.D., Percy J.D., Lake I.G., Christopher Tyler. P.M. Bro. Beckett Preceptor. Business—The Lodge was opened in the usual manner and the minutes were confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Robison candidate; Bro. Beckett took the chair and rehearsed the ceremony of installation; Bro. Tolmie, with the assistance of the brethren, worked the 3rd, 4th and 5th sections of the 1st lecture; Bro. Trewinnard was elected W.M. for the ensuing week.

Thistle and Rose Lodge, No. 73.—This Lodge held its fortnightly meeting on Tuesday, the 7th instant. The R.W.M. Bro. G. M. Donald presided, assisted by Bros. J. Weston I.P.M., J. Bunnerman D.M., W. Macgregor acting S.W., J. Kinnard as J.W., R. Richards Sec., J. S. Ampleford Treas., G. W. Wheeler Chap., W. Kay S.D., B. Levey I.G., and A. Kay T. Among the visitors were the Rev. J. Rice P.M., Bros. R. Provost R.W.M. 4, Karie, Paton, Ross, and Carmichael 4, J. Morgan R.W.M. 219, J. M. Innis D.M. 408, R. Campbell 22, St. John, New Brunswick, and Bro. Lesling 127, Vermont. The Lodge after transacting some monetary arrangements, proceeded to consider the petition from Mr. Morris Snigman, and the Master of the Kilwinning Lodge 4, requested the Lodge to initiate for them Mr. Carl Mastormtois Neilson, which was cordially granted, the R.W.M. requesting Bro. Morgan, Master of the Star, to perform the ceremony, which he did in his usual masterly style. There being no further business, the brethren spent a couple of hours in harmony. It was remarked by the R.W.M., as a proof of the universality of the Order, that amongst the officers of the Lodge 73, they had brethren from the extreme end of England, and from Ireland, as well as north of Scotland, while of these two initiates, one was a native of Russia, and the other of Norway, and the Master of three Lodges had assisted in their initiation. Bro. Provost R.W.M. 4 by his clever ventriloquism enhanced the pleasure of the evening. Nor must Bros. Paton, Hanbridge, McInnes and Allan be omitted, as all were in excellent voice.

Rose of Denmark Chapter, No. 97.—The installation meeting of this Chapter was held on the 4th inst. There was a very good attendance of Comps., and as the M.E.Z. was unavoidably absent his place was ably filled by Comp. Terry P.Z., assisted by Comp. Newton as H. and Pendlebury P.Z. as J., Henry Martin S.N., William Dodd S.E., Joseph P. Richards P. Soj., John Green and John Walker assistants. The ceremony of exaltation was well rendered, and all the lectures admirably given. The ceremony of installation was then proceeded with, the Z. Comp. J. B. Poole being installed by Comp. Pendlebury, and the J. by Comp. Terry. Comp. Newton P.Z. Ch. 174 was inducted into the chair of H. The officers were invested in rotation. Among the visitors we noted Comp. W. R. Woodman G.D.C. Grand Chapter, Comps. Verry P.Z. Ch. 554, Hilton H. 507, Maidwell and Atkins 1056.

Panmure Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 139.—This Lodge met at the Bulham Hotel, Bulham, on Monday the 6th inst., and was opened by the W.M., Bro. Charles Pulman, who was supported by Bros. W. Platt as S.W., Mark S. Larham J.W., Thomas Poore P.P.G.D.C. I.P.M., W. Bro. James Stevens P.G.J.O. P.M., George Silley P.M., W. Poore M.O., T. J. Austin as S.O., B. Richardson D.C. as J.O., J. J. Joseph R.M., C. P. McKay Secretary, J. T. Gibson S.D., W. Ackland J.D., W. McMurray I.G., J. Rawles Tyler, W. Steedman, and other brethren. Bro. Roger Hannaford, of the Great City Lodge, No. 1426, and Walter Arnold of the Burgoyne Lodge, No. 902, were advanced to the honourable degree, with perfect ceremonial. The Lodge was draped in mourning, and Masonic mourning was worn by the brethren, in token of esteem and respect for the late Deputy Grand Mark Master, Bro. W. R. Callender.

The approved bye-laws were ordered to be printed. Propositions for advancement at next meeting were made, and the Lodge was closed in perfect harmony. Refreshment followed labour, and a brief hour or two were spent in pleasant social intercourse, the usual toasts being duly honoured, and the evening enlivened by the excellent singing of several members. This Lodge appears to be making excellent progress, and is apparently much appreciated by the brethren residing in the immediate locality, as well as by others connected with Metropolitan Lodges.

Lodge of Joppa, No. 188.—The regular meeting of this Lodge, which was numerously attended, was held on Monday, the 6th instant, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Present—Bros. A. G. Dodson W.M., L. Lazarus S.W., Miller J.W., R. Auerhaan Treas., E. P. Albert A.G.P. Sec., A. Auerhaan S.D., M. Spiegel J.D., M. Hyman I.G., Campion D.C., H. P. Isaac and Baker Stewards, H. P. Berkowicz P.M. Chap., P. E. Van Noorden Org., also P.M.'s Bros. Alexander, Israel Abrahams, Joel Phillips, O. Roberts, and H. M. Levy. The room was filled, and the Lodge having been opened, the W.M. passed Bros. West and Smith to the second degree, and raised Bros. E. Creamer, Pitchell, and Emanuel to the third degree. Ballots were then taken for the admission of Messrs. E. Stransky, Julius Rohman, and E. Davey. The former and the latter gentleman, by the courtesy of the W.M., were initiated by P.M.'s Bros. O. Roberts and H. M. Levy respectively. In accordance with a resolution passed at the last meeting of the Lodge, a letter had been sent to Bro. Hickman, the immediate Past Master, expressing the sympathy of the members with him in his sad accident. It was announced that an answer had been received, and this the worthy secretary read. It stated that Bro. Hickman had been enabled to leave the London Hospital; that he was now at his residence, and he hoped on an early occasion to be present to meet the brethren. This statement was received with great pleasure, and Bro. Alexander P.M. proposed, and Bro. Levy seconded a motion, that Bro. Hickman's letter be recorded on the minutes. Three brethren were now proposed for initiation, and two distressed brethren were relieved. The Lodge was then closed, and those present, who numbered over 100, sat down to a very sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. W. G. Jennings, and superintended by Bro. Keeping. The W.M. then proposed the usual toasts. In speaking to that of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, he said the accounts received of their noble and worthy patron were gratifying. He was pleased to be able to say that the Prince was enjoying good health, and every loyal subject and Freemason would hail his return to this country, he trusted in renewed health and vigour (Cheers.) The toast of the R.W. the Earl of Carnarvon M.W. Pro Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers was then given, the W.M. coupling with it the name of Bro. E. P. Albert P.M. Assistant Grand Pursuivant, who eloquently returned thanks. Bro. Albert said it was a pleasure for those who were privileged to be present at the Quarterly Communication to see the admirable manner in which the D.G.M. Lord Skelmersdale had discharged his duties in Grand Lodge on Wednesday, and on behalf of the Grand Officers he begged to return his sincere thanks for the way the toast had been given and received. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the Benevolent Fard, and the newly initiated brethren and officers liberally subscribed to it. Bro. L. Alexander, the President, returned thanks for the toast. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the Visitors, complimenting them by referring to their qualifications. He said the Lodge was always pleased to see them. Bro. John Constable P.M. 185 pertinently returned thanks. In the course of a speech, that was worthy of attention, he alluded to the Masonic Charities. He thought the time of the brethren might be better occupied by listening to the harmony provided, than by hearing long speeches. A call was then made on Bros. Morgan and Massey, as representatives of the Masonic press. Bro. Morgan said it had afforded him great gratification to be present, and congratulated the brethren on the prosperity of the Joppa Lodge. He thanked the W.M. for his kindness in proposing the toast, and requested permission to correct a slight mistake that he had been led into. Bro. Dodson had referred to him as the proprietor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE; this was not the case, as he was only the manager of that paper. The proprietorship was vested in the Craft, and he was proud to be able to announce that the exertions of the conductors were appreciated by the Fraternity, and that success was attending their efforts. Bro. Massey followed, saying that so far as he represented the fourth estate he would use his best endeavours to promote the welfare and advancement of the Order. The toast of the Newly Initiated was then given, Bro. Stransky replying. Bro. L. Alexander P.M. then proposed the toast of the W.M., who had performed all his duties in a respectable and creditable manner, and he was sure his working was to their satisfaction. The W.M. said he was overwhelmed by their kindness. He had but one point of view for his conduct, and that was to do his duty, and conform to the Book of Constitutions. The toast of the Past Masters followed, and Bro. I. Abrahams, H. M. Levy and O. Roberts returned thanks. To that of the Officers, Bros. H. P. Isaacs and Spiegel responded. The Tyler's toast was then given. The W.M. provided the brethren with a splendid musical entertainment, that reflected great credit on the artistes selected by Bro. P. E. Van Noorden, who had engaged the services of Madame Roche, Misses Dore and Reeves, Bros. Frank Elmore and Cherill. The brethren listened with feelings of great pleasure to the admirable singing. The visitors were—Bros. Frances, J. Constable, Lee, J. Ross, S. M. Harris, S. Godfree, G. Packer, Gaskill, Thomson, S. Levy, Belfrage, G. South, Posebury, C. J. Knight, C. Veal, A. Wallace, Sonnenberg, Cherill, H. Massey, W. W. Morgan, &c.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—This Lodge held its weekly meeting on Wednesday, the 8th March, at Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street. Present—Bros. Abell W.M., Reed S.W., Biddell J.W., J. Constable Treasurer,

Ockenden S.D., W. C. Corner J.D., Triggs I.G., Christopher Tyler. P.M. Bro. E. Gottheil Preceptor. Business—The Lodge opened and minutes confirmed. The Lodge raised to the Fellow Craft, second ceremony rehearsed by W.M., Bro. Croaker acting as candidate. Three of the sections were worked by Bro. Gottheil, assisted by the brethren. Four brethren were unanimously elected joining members of the Lodge. By a unanimous vote Bro. Constable was elected to represent the Lodge at the general Committee meetings of the Boys' School. Bro. Read was elected to preside at the next meeting when, in accordance with the bye-laws, he will rehearse the third ceremony. The sections will afterwards be worked by the Preceptor. In pursuance with notice of motion, Bro. Read proposed that the Lodge meet in future at 7 p.m. instead of 7.30, as heretofore, several amendments were proposed by Bros. W. Corner and Turner, but the original motion was ultimately agreed to. After next Wednesday, should the minutes be confirmed, the Lodge will meet at 7.0, but on the next occasion the business will commence at 7.30 p.m. as usual. About thirty brethren attended the meeting.

Percy Lodge of Instruction, No. 198.—This Lodge held its weekly meeting on Saturday, the 4th of March, at Bro. Fysh's, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, Islington. Present—Bros. Cooper W.M., Main S.W., Defriez J.W., Killick Sec., Read J.D., Saul I.G., R. Percy Preceptor. Visitors—Bros. Crosbie, Hegerty, Bridgman, Tolmie and Sadler. Business—Lodge opened in the usual manner, and the minutes of the last meeting confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Trewinnard candidate; Bro. Sadler rehearsed the lecture of the degree. Bros. Sadler and Tolmie were elected honorary members, and Bros. Crosbie, Hegerty and Bridgman joining members. The bye-laws were discussed.

Bank of England Lodge, No. 263.—This Lodge met at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Thursday, the 9th inst. Bro. Morton W.M., the Rev. Bro. Shephard P.M. 276, Prov. G. Chaplain of Essex, the Rev. Bro. Westhorp 476 (Protestant Chaplain in Rome), and Alcock 1460, honoured the Lodge as visitors, and their health was proposed by Bro. G. Chance Secretary, who alluded in graceful terms to the prosperity of Bro. Alcock's Lodge, the Thames Valley, now numbering forty-five members, result of the zeal of Bro. Colonel Peters its first W.M., who was initiated in, and a member of this Lodge.

Royal York Lodge, No. 315.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, the 7th inst., at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes confirmed. A board of Installed Masters was then formed, and Bro. W. J. Nell W.M. elect was presented to the Lodge, and was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year. He having been saluted according to ancient form by the numerous visitors and brethren, then invested his officers—Bros. Foat S.W., A. J. Hawkes J.W., C. W. Hudson Secretary, W. Packham S.D., E. J. Pope J.D., T. Chandler D.C., J. H. Kenyon Organist, F. Willard W.S., and T. Hughes Tyler. The W.M., in very feeling and appropriate terms, presented Bro. C. Sandeman, the retiring W.M., with a very elegant P.M.'s jewel in the name of the Lodge, and a silver claret cup, the gift of the officers of the Lodge who had served under him during his year of office. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room, where a banquet was provided by Messrs. Mutton, of the King's-road. It was the largest meeting of any Masonic Lodge ever held there. The room presented a very beautiful appearance, a choice view of green, and hot house plants met the eyes of the guests, and imparted fragrance. The W.M. proposed the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, including that of the R.W. the Right Hon. Lord Pelham P.G.M. Sussex, E. J. Furner M.W.D.P.G.M., the W.M., P.M.'s, Wardens, Officers and Visitors. The Past Masters, Treasurer's and the Tyler's toast concluded a very delightful evening. The musical arrangements were under the able direction of Bros. W. Devin and J. H. Kenyon, and the vocal part was sustained by Bros. Afflick and Jordan, and seldom has a Worshipful Master entered his year of office with heartier good wishes for success than Bro. Nell. The visitors were Bros. Brien P.G.W. Ancombe, J. L. Brigden P.G.J.W. Sussex (Ex-Mayor), E. Broadbridge, J. S. Byass, E. Booty, Bennett, R. Bramwell, H. Couling, O. H. Colven, C. J. Corder, C. Carpenter, J. Dixon P.G.D.C., Daniels, H. Davey, W. Freeman, G. Ford Freeman, R. B. Garwood, F. Holford, Hill, Jeffcoat, W. Kuhe Grand Organist, G.Z. of England; A. King, J. M. Kidd, T. Lane, Legg 72, T. Lamson, M. Lardelle, Martin Crawford, J. Pocock, W. Paine, Paige, Plummer, J. M. Reed, Scott P.G.S. Sussex, T. J. Sabine P.M. 73, Smith, &c.

Union Lodge, No. 332.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, the 6th March, at 170 Buchanan-street, Glasgow. Present—Bros. D. McKirdy R.W.M., D. Murray D.M., J. McInnis S.W., H. Apperson J.W., J. W. Gill Secretary, D. Ramsey Tyler; P.M. Bro. J. B. McNair. Visitors—Bros. Wheeler 73, Cameron 490, Bombay, R. Campbell 22, St. Johns, New Brunswick, and the Rev. J. Rice 122 I.C. Business—Initiation of two candidates, Messrs. Charles Lindsey and Wm. Russell, who had been duly approved of; after which the Lodge was opened in the 2nd degree, and the R.W.M., for the first time, worked the Fellow Craft degree, passing Bro. W. H. Dixon, and going through it in a very satisfactory manner. A sum was voted from the Benevolent Fund for the relief of a necessitous brother.

Caledonian Railway Lodge, No. 354.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Wednesday, the 1st of March, at 30 Hope-street, Glasgow. Present—Bros. Adam B. Ferguson R.W.M., John Harley S.W., Colin McKenzie J.W., R. A. McLean Secretary, J. D. Colquhoun Treasurer, and the rest of the office bearers present. Visitors—Bros. J. W. Burns I.P.M. 87, J. Munro R.W.M. 360, J. S.

Scott R.W.M. 419, and Wm. Philips R.W.M. 556. Business—Mr. J. McMillan and Mr. Adam Cruikshank were duly initiated by the R.W.M. The Lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bros. T. Donaldson and T. McCullum were passed to the degree of Fellow Craft by Bro. Ferguson.

Northern Counties Lodge, No. 406.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Wednesday, the 1st March, at Freemasons' Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Present—Bros. R. Knox W.M., W. Monday S.W., Thos. Halliday J.W., T. J. Armstrong Secretary, R. L. Armstrong S.D., J. Page J.D., W. Foulsham P.P.D.C., R. G. Salmon I.G., H. C. Martin Tyler. P.M.'s Bros. Hughes I.P.M., Rev. S. H. Harris, Geo. Thompson, and J. Cook. Visitors—Bros. Sperriman W.M. 481 and Rev. E. Cohan 481. Business—The 3rd degree was given by Bro. the Rev. S. H. Harris in a manner which perfectly electrified the brethren present, and called forth great commendation. The W.M. then re-occupied the chair, and initiated a candidate into our Ancient Mysteries in his usual able manner.

Union Lodge, No. 414.—The usual monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, the 7th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Reading. Present—A. Maskett Yetts W.M., S. A. Pocock S.W., E. Baker J.W., G. Botly P.M. Treas., J. Leaver Sec., C. Oades S.D., S. Bradley J.D., C. Stephens I.G., Mount D.C., F. J. Ferguson, S. Wheeler and C. Sprent Stewards, W. H. Strickland I.P.M. P.M.'s Bros. R. Bradley, J. Morris, J. A. Strachan, J. Weightman, and J. G. Cockburn. Visitors—Bros. H. S. Muir P.M., St. Anne's, Alderney, J. H. Sloane P.M. Royal Sussex, R. C. Hurley P.M. Greyfriars, and a good attendance of brethren. Business—The Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes confirmed. Mr. Archibald Brakspear and Mr. Dryland Haslam were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Ancient Freemasonry. Bros. C. G. Butler, J. E. Sydenham and F. Blackwell were severally raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons. Several candidates and a joining member were proposed and seconded.

Salisbury Lodge of Instruction, No. 435.—This Lodge held its usual weekly meeting on Thursday, the 9th March, at the Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W. Present—Bros. George Davis W.M., T. Cull S.W., Neighbour J.W., Palsford S.D., T. O. Davis J.D., Dutton I.G.; also Bros. Mander (Preceptor), Cameron, Wheeler, Stewart, Blandell, Martin, Belfrage, J. Wright. Business—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Lodge opened in the second degree, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Stewart being the candidate. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th sections were then worked by Bros. Cameron, Wheeler and Mander, assisted by the brethren. The Lodge resumed to the 1st degree, and the 5th section was worked by Bro. Cameron. Bro. Edward Dutton (Lodge No. 167), and Bro. J. Wright (P.M. 1158), were unanimously elected joining members. The Lodge was then closed in perfect harmony. The fifteen sections will be worked at the Union Tavern by the brethren on Thursday, 30th March.

St. Andrews Lodge, No. 465.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 2nd March, at their own hall, Garnad-road, Glasgow. Present—Bros. David Gilchrist R.W.M., J. Clark Depute Master, Jas. McLeish Substitute Master, G. B. Dunns S.W., Wm. Chalmers J.W., Wm. Campbell Secretary, R. Martin Treasurer, Rev. W. E. Broadhurst, Chaplain, J.D., J. Johnson Tyler. P.M. Bro. David Reid. Visitors—Bros. G. W. Wheeler 73, Gardener 178, Rev. J. Rice of Acacia Lodge, Dublin. Business—Bro. J. Clark D.M. initiated one candidate into Freemasonry, after which Bro. J. Leitch passed five to the Fellow Craft degree, as the R.W.M. said he liked to see an equal division of labour. He then opened the Lodge in the 3rd and raised six brethren to the sublime degree. All three ceremonies were well worked by the respective brethren. In the course of the evening the Rev. W. E. Broadhurst was installed as Chaplain of the Lodge, and the Rev. J. Rice was affiliated as a joining member, to act in Bro. Broadhurst's absence.

St. James's Lodge, No. 482, Staffordshire.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on the 6th inst., at the New Inn, Handsworth, Staffordshire. Bros. J. Rowlands W.M., W. H. Ward S.W., W. E. Parkes, M.D., J.W., A. Jacob S.D., J. F. Pepper J.D., Rev. W. Randall Chaplain, J. H. Parkes I.G., Parkes and Gayton Stewards, W. H. Poole Tyler, J. Jacobs Secretary P.G.J.W., F. Derry P.G.J.W. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. A. E. Ann was passed to the 2nd degree. Ballots were then taken for the admission of T. B. Sharp and J. V. Barber, which being unanimous, they were duly initiated into the Order by the W.M., in a very able and efficient manner, fully maintaining the character of this celebrated working Lodge. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to a very sumptuous banquet provided by Bro. Horley. The W.M. proposed the usual toasts, which were duly honoured.

Victoria Chapter, No. 1056.—A conclave of this Chapter assembled at Masons' Hall Tavern, Masons'-avenue, Basinghall-street, E.C., on Monday, 6th inst. The M.E.Z., Comp. Geo. Newman, presided. After the confirmation of the minutes of the preceding meeting, Bro. Geo. W. Churchley, of Lodge 299, was exalted to this degree. This being the appointed time for the election of officers for the year the votes resulted as follows:—Comps. John Daniel Taylor M.E.Z., Waldemar Noehmer H., George Hooper J., A. A. Pendlebury P.Z. S.E., W. Musto S.N., E. Gottheil P.Z. Treasurer, Ferguson P.S., Grant Janitor. The Companions then adjourned to banquet, after partaking of which, and the cloth being removed, the usual toasts were proposed and responded to. One of the visitors,

namely Comp. Nairne, in returning thanks, adverted to the pleasure and gratification he had felt in witnessing the proceedings in the Chapter. He had that evening learned a lesson not easily to be forgotten—he had seen the work done in many Chapters, being a Royal Arch Mason of many years' standing, but nowhere, in the whole course of his experience, had he seen it performed with such perfection, and where all the officers, from the M.E.Z. down to the lowest officer, were so well up to their duties. He must congratulate the Victoria Chapter, and the Companions may rest assured that under such conditions it cannot fail to prosper. He also had to thank them for their splendid hospitality, and the kind and cordial reception the visitors had received. Comp. Garrod echoed the sentiments of the preceding speaker. The visitors on this occasion were Comps. J. H. Vorkins J. 1329, H. Garrod P.Z. 507, 749, B. A. Nairne M.E.Z. 1329, P.Z. 176, J.P. Poole M.E.Z. Rose of Denmark, J. R. Conestick H. 975, J. Walker 975, T. J. Taylor 933, H. Veeking, John Green P.S. 975. The P.Z.'s present were Comps. Eenhuns I.P.Z., E. Clark, E. Gottheil, J. Forsyth and Hubbard.

Star Lodge, No. 1275.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Friday, 3rd inst., at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich. Present—Bros. J. J. Limebeer W.M., H. J. Green (W.M. 1538) S.W., R. W. Williams J.W., J. Smith P.G.P. Treasurer, F. Walters P.P.G.P. Middlesex Secretary, C. W. Williams S.D., W. B. Woodman (W.M. 1559) J.D., W. Kipps (J.W. 1531) I.G., Rev. G. H. P. Colles Chaplain, W. Ough P.G.P. P.M., C. J. Hogg P.G.S. P.M., H. Keeble P.M., and above 30 members. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. C. Marr was raised to the 3rd degree, and Messrs. J. S. Leaper, J. W. Neale, and T. Gilloch were initiated. The working was excellently done by the W.M. and Officers. Bro. Smith P.G.P. was elected to act as Steward at the Festival for the Girls' School. Several propositions were handed in for initiation and joining, after which the Lodge was closed. A very excellent banquet followed. The visitors were Bros. Thomas 130, W. Lover 1178, E. M. Hubbard P.G.S. P.M. 58, J. T. Moss P.P.G.R. Middlesex P.M. 1423, T. Reynolds 58, Stainer 172, &c.

Kennington Lodge, No. 1381.—This new and rapidly increasing Lodge met on Tuesday, the 6th inst., at the Oval, Kennington. Bro. Geo. Everett W.M. occupied the chair, Higgins S.W., Reeves J.W., E. Page P.G.S. P.M. Treasurer, W. Stewart P.M. Secretary, Walls S.D., Kohler J.D., Speedy I.G., Ellis Organist, Robinson D.C., and P.M.'s W. Mann, Koco, Gardner and Drysdale. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bro. Grimwade was raised to the 3rd degree, and Messrs. J. King and J. Wardley were duly initiated into the Order. The ceremonies were perfectly and impressively delivered by the W.M. Bro. Koch P.M. stated that the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road, would be inaugurated by a ball, and the net proceeds would be given to the three Masonic Charities. The Secretary read the bye-laws of the Lodge, which was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the large hall, and sat down to a very sumptuous and recherché dinner and dessert. The W.M. in his genial and happy manner proposed the health of the Queen and the Craft; and in giving the toast of the Most Worshipful Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, said that ever since he had been in the Order, and also at the Albert Hall in the presence of 7000 Masons, he had shown his zeal in the cause of Freemasonry; his progress in India was pleasing to note; and he wished him a safe return, in health and vigour. The toast of the Pro Grand Master the Earl of Carnarvon, and the Deputy Grand Master the Earl of Skelmersdale was then given. Both were highly distinguished in the Order, and it was gratifying to know how ably the latter had presided at the Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, where the large sum of £9,140 was collected. He also ably presided on Wednesday last at Grand Lodge. Bro. E. J. Page P.M. P.G.S. then proposed the toast of the W.M., he had been a Mason for many years, but he had never seen working done better. The Lodge would sure to be successful under his auspices, and he hoped he might live long to enjoy the fruits of his labour. (Cheers). The W.M. in reply thanked the brethren for their kind expressions; he had left the chair of one Lodge to occupy the chair here; his great aim was to do good for the Craft, and he predicted a bright future in store for the Kennington Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the visitors. He was pleased, and so were the members of the Lodge, to see them; many were well known and respected for their Masonic qualifications. It was a good custom for brethren to visit other Lodges, where an interchange of fraternal feeling was shown; brethren often see beneficial improvements. He would couple with the toast the name of Bro. Greenwood P.G.W. Surrey, who very eloquently returned thanks. He quite agreed with the pertinent remarks of the W.M. with regard to visiting Lodges, he was proud to say he had been initiated into Freemasonry by Bro. Drysdale, seventeen years ago. Bro. Allcot followed, and said he had been travelling North and South for eighteen years, and he had visited in China Lodges once a month for many years, but he had never seen better working. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the newly initiated brethren; nothing could be a greater pleasure to a W.M. than to disseminate those beautiful tenets. Eighteen years ago he was initiated, and that sacred ceremony would never be effaced from his memory. The Initiates had seen very little of it at present but the foundation, Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth and Charity. He was sure they would never regret the step they had taken; all that they had heard was but a portion of the sublime degrees in store for them. Bros. J. King and Wardley returned thanks in very appropriate terms. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the Past Masters, he was pleased to say he was the 5th W.M., and it was sufficient to recall the services they had rendered, not only to this newly formed Lodge, but to the Craft at large. Brother Page was well-known as a P.M. of several Lodges, and a Past Grand Steward, he was respected by all who have the pleasure of knowing him. The same may truthfully be said of Bros. W. Mann, Koch

and Gardner, they had rendered every service required of them. Bro. Gardner P.M. responded, he felt it almost like his mother Lodge, for he and Bro. Page had done all they could for the Lodge; it was a success, and they could not have a better W.M. than the present. The W.M. then proposed the Toast of the Treasurer and Secretary, Bros. E. J. Page and Stuart, while the Lodge had two such officers it would be sure to prosper. The toast was responded to, also that of the Wardens and Officers. The Tyler's toast concluded a very enjoyable evening. Bros. Sargood, Webb and Walls sang some ballads sweetly, Bro. Ellis ably accompanying on the piano. The Visitors were Bros. W. Palmer 177, G. L. Everett 177, Day 1139, Greenwood P.G.W. Surrey, G. A. Allcot 525 (China), H. Massey P.M. 619 and H. M. Levy P.M. 188.

Thames Valley Lodge, No. 1460.—It is proverbially acknowledged that the members of our Order know how to appreciate good things, and it is equally recognised that our brethren know where to find comfortable quarters. The members of the Thames Valley Lodge, in selecting the village of Lower Halliford, near Shepperton, as the locale for their gatherings, must be congratulated, as a more picturesque spot could not possibly have been chosen. This Lodge was consecrated in 1874, and our worthy brother Col. Peters was its first W.M. During his year of office the Lodge made such progress that it soon took a position as one of the most flourishing in the Province. The Rev. Dr. Brette, whose domestic affliction we have so recently had to announce, succeeded Col. Peters, and under his genial sway rapid strides were made. On Saturday last the brethren assembled, at four o'clock, at their rooms, at the Ship Hotel, for the purpose of installing Bro. J. Llewellyn Jones, the J.W. and W.M. elect, into the chair of King Solomon. The Lodge was duly opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Previous to the ceremony it was announced that the business on the summons, relating to the passing of Bro. M. Davis, and the raising Bros. H. H. Blythe, P. Dunn, and J. S. Tyler, would be postponed. Bro. W. Paas then rose, and said every member of the Lodge must deeply regret the cause that prevented their worthy W.M., Bro. Dr. Brette, from being present; and he proposed that a vote of condolence should be passed and sent him, thus manifesting the sympathy each brother of the Lodge felt for him in his deep affliction. This was carried, and authority given for its record on the minutes. The ceremony of installation was then proceeded with, and was ably rendered by Bro. William T. Howe, P.G.P. Middlesex P.M., and the following officers were appointed:—Rev. Dr. Brette Prov. G.C. Middlesex I.P.M., W. T. Howe S.W., T. B. Yeomans J.W., W. Paas P.G.S. Treas., J. G. Marsh P.M. 28 and 192 P.G.P. Midd., Sec., W. Sweetland S.D., J. E. Kershaw J.D., J. H. R. Gowan I.G., W. Alcock D.C., J. Woodstock Tyler. The usual charges were then given, and the customary congratulations made, after which the auditors' report was read and adopted. In the absence of Dr. Brette, it was suggested that the Boys' School, for which he had accepted a Stewardship, should not be forgotten, and a sum of five guineas was voted for that Charity, to be placed on the Doctor's list. Reference was made to the death, which had occurred since the last meeting of the Lodge, of Bro. John Magee, the J.D., and a deserved tribute was paid to his memory. It was then proposed, seconded and carried, that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow of Bro. Magee, and that the same be recorded on the minutes. Two gentlemen were then proposed as candidates for initiation, and it was announced that the ballot for them would take place at the next regular meeting. The Lodge was afterwards closed, with the usual formalities. After a short interval, an elegant repast was served, to which ample justice was done. The W.M. presided, and conducted the proceedings in a most happy and animated spirit. On proposing the health of Her Most Gracious Majesty, he referred to the fact of her sons, with but one exception, being members of our Order. On rising to give that of the M.W.G.M. the Prince of Wales, Bro. Jones said it was now a very safe and genial sort of toast he had to propose. The Prince of Wales was an Englishman in every sense of the word, and Masons might congratulate themselves upon having such a man at the head of their Order. He was sure that, on his return from India, he would not only receive a hearty welcome from the members of the Craft, but from the whole of the people of England. In speaking to the toast of the Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Past and Present, the W.M. said the brethren referred to were eminently calculated to watch over the interests, and promote the good of the Craft. Bro. Townsend here sang, in a most effective manner, "The Pride of Kildare." The next toast was that of the Provincial Grand Master of Middlesex, which was given and received in a most cordial way. Bro. Jones said that some time since, before he had the honour of acquaintance with the P.G.M., he was interested in the case of a candidate for the Girls' School, and he was advised to apply to Col. Burdett for assistance. On his replying he did not know the Colonel, he was told that did not matter, as he would find that Col. Burdett was always ready to advise and assist any one, so far as it laid in his power. He could fully endorse that sentiment, for a kinder-hearted gentleman he was sure never lived, and he had great pleasure in welcoming as a guest so true a Mason as Col. Burdett. The Prov. G.M., in reply, said he thanked the W.M. for the way in which he had proposed, and the brethren for the way in which they had received the toast. He felt it was more than he deserved. He was always anxious to do all the good it was possible, but that was only his duty. This did not apply especially to his Province, but to the world at large. He felt bound to do this, not only as a Mason, but as a public man. We all know that in our Order there are a great many who require assistance; we have our Girls' School, our Boys' School, and our Benevolent Institution, and we are all bound to do what we can for their support. He referred to a scheme for a system of organisation throughout the Province, by which the cause of charity might be promoted, and trusted that when the scheme was matured, it might be acceptable to the Order in general. He was pleased to note the progress the Thames Valley Lodge was making, and augured a proud future for it. He

advised a thorough investigation of the character of all candidates for admission, and he trusted the W.M. had been careful to appoint good officers, and that those officers would exert themselves to carry out their duties in a satisfactory manner. P.M. Col. Peters then rose to propose the health of the newly-installed W.M. He said that, as one of the founders, and a P.M. of the Lodge, he with great pleasure submitted the toast for their consideration. So long as he had known Bro. Jones he had always done his duty as a man and a Mason. During his year of office, he was sure he would do all he could for the prosperity of the Lodge. He (Col. Peters) had begun his Masonic career late in life, but he had made rapid progress. Bro. Jones was a more experienced Mason, and he was sure that all who might be initiated would be good men, and all would be done by Bro. Jones that was possible to keep up the character of the Thames Valley Lodge. The toast was then honoured in a most hearty way. Bro. Jones said he had to thank Past Master Col. Peters and the brethren for their kindness, first in electing him as their Master, and secondly for the way in which they had received the toast, and the consideration they had shown him since he had been in the chair. He hoped he should not fail; he had an eye to the fact that he might do so, hence he had been careful to appoint officers on whose assistance he knew he might rely. Those who had been appointed that day were brethren in whom any W.M. might feel a pride, and he hoped the members of the Lodge would never have cause to feel ashamed of their third Master. The W.M. then gave the toast of the Visitors, who were Bros. W. Winn P.M. 657, W. Maple 657, C. Potter 657, and A. E. Stanley Carr, Enroka Lodge, No. 47, Ireland. He assured them they might always count on a hearty welcome should they feel inclined to repeat their visit. This was acknowledged by Bro. W. Winn P.M. 657. The health of the Past Masters followed, and was replied to by Bro. Col. Peters, who deeply regretted the unavoidable absence of Bro. Dr. Brette the I.P.M. He might, however, say he was convinced that he would have every assistance from his Rev. Brother to keep up the character of the Lodge. The W.M. then proposed the health of the Officers, and referred to the excellent way in which the Senior Warden, Bro. Howe, had performed the ceremony of installation. With such officers as he had to support him, he was convinced the working would be everything that could be wished. Bro. Howe briefly replied. The toast of the Press was next proposed, and with it was coupled the name of Brother W. W. Morgan, who thanked the W.M. and brethren for the cordial reception they had given him. Their worthy I.P.M. Dr. Brette, in the midst of his affliction, had expressed a hope that he (Bro. Morgan) would visit the Lodge on the present occasion, assuring him that the members would do all in their power to make him comfortable. This had been most fully carried out, and he would long remember the kindness he had been received with. He trusted

that a brilliant future was before the Lodge. He did not, however, quite agree with what Bro. Jones had said about having to learn the bitter word fail. He did not think their W.M. need attend a Spelling Bee to learn how to spell that word; he would call to their remembrance the lines which Lord Lytton had put into the mouth of Riche-lieu,—“In the lexicon of youth that aspires to a bright manhood there must be no such word as fail.” This he was sure would be fully endorsed by all present. Bro. Morgan concluded by thanking the brethren for the kind manner in which they had responded to the toast. The evening's entertainment was enlivened by some excellent singing, Bro. Hislop's rendering of “Bon jour, Sizon,” and Bro. Marsh's “Empress of the Wave” deserving special commendation. After the Tyler's toast, the brethren returned to town, expressing themselves gratified at the arrangements which had been made for their comfort by Bro. Stone, the host of the Ship.

Duke of Connaught Lodge of Instruction, No. 1524.—

At the meeting held at the Havelock Tavern, Albion-road, Dalston, on Wednesday, the 1st March, there were present, Bros. Crane W.M., H. Meyer S.W., Brand J.W., Fieldwick S.D., Coombes J.D., Dietrich I.G., Gilchrist P.M. Preceptor, and Bros. Brasted, Poole, Hill, Meyer, Robinson, Gross, Dignam, Baber, Dallas, Lee, Chapman and Shackleton. Business—Initiation ceremony, Bro. Dignam acting as candidate. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th sections were worked by Bro. Gilchrist, assisted by the brethren. Bro. H. Meyer was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Bro. Brasted (1524) having kindly presented the Lodge with a Volume of the Sacred Law, Bro. Gilchrist proposed, and Bro. H. Meyer seconded, that a cordial vote of thanks be tendered to him, and recorded on the minutes, for his timely and serviceable gift, also the evident desire Bro. Brasted has for the prosperity of the Duke of Connaught Lodge of Instruction by enabling the brethren to conduct Masonic business in a just manner, was carried unanimously. Nothing else offering, the Lodge was closed in ancient form.

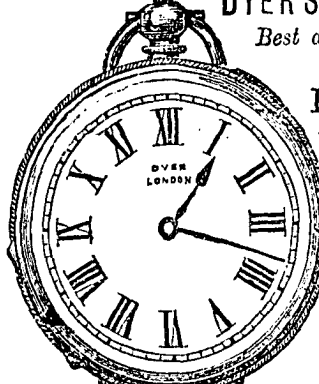
Egyptian Lodge of Instruction, No. 27.—

This Lodge held its usual weekly meeting at Bro. Maidwell's, the Hercules, Leadenhall-street, on Thursday evening, 9th March, at 7.30. Present Bros. Hollands W.M., Rudderforth S.W., Briddle J.W., Webb S.D., Crane J.D., Ellis I.G., Grammer Hon. Secretary, Austin P.M. Preceptor, and numerous other brethren. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Maidwell being the candidate. The 1st and 2nd sections of the Lecture were worked by Bro. Webb, assisted by the brethren, and the 3rd, 4th and final sections by Bro. Horsley. All Masonic business being finished, the Lodge was closed in ancient form.

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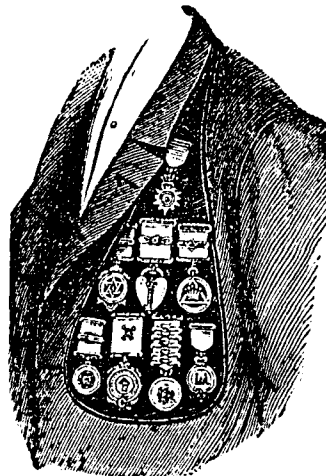
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Printed and Published for the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED, by Bro. WILLIAM WRAY MORGAN, at 67 Barbican, London, E.C. Saturday, 4th March 1876.