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CREDIBILITY OF EARLY AMERICAN MASONIC HISTORY.

WE are induced to offer some remarks on this subject, in consequence of a highly interesting letter from Bro. Jacob Norton, which appeared in these columns last week. Bro. Norton is an esteemed correspondent of ours. He treats of various subjects, and though his remarks are at times inclined to be somewhat more forcibly expressed than is judicious in matters controversial, yet we willingly accord him space to say his say, because he invariably speaks his mind frankly, and oftentimes throws a ray or two of light on matters of difficulty. It is needless to say that we have had frequent occasions to differ with him, sometimes in part only, sometimes *in toto*, but these differences do not lessen the personal esteem in which we hold him. Like many other people, he and we agree to differ, and we do so in a spirit of friendliness as become Masons. In the present case, there are one or more points on which we feel it our bounden duty to join issue with him, and we trust, in the course of the remarks we are about to offer, we shall be able to show that his comments are the result of casuistry rather than legitimate argument.

In considering the amount of credibility which attaches to the few authentic *data* that exist in connection with the early history of Freemasonry in America, we must perforce approach the subject dispassionately. We must argue the merits of the case carefully, but we must not be too exacting in the matter of positive and direct evidence. We must examine the question literally in the same manner as we should examine any other matter of historical interest. We have said we must not be too exacting on the subject of direct and positive evidence, and we have said it because there is a serious danger confronting us if we do so. Hitherto, the great defect in all Masonic histories has been the vast amount of assumption which the writers have indulged in. They have even gone beyond the ordinary limit of acceptance which enthusiasts are in the habit of laying down for themselves. They have not only shown themselves prone to accept statements on the flimsiest *data*; they have gone further, and have evolved history, most minute in all its details, from what is commonly called their inner consciousness. We have a history, which has yet to be written, but what has hitherto passed current as a veritable record of our doings is, for the most part, based on circumstantial evidence, which is oftener more than less worthless. But the spirit of inquiry is abroad, and men like Hughan and Fort, and others on both sides of the Atlantic, are diligent in their researches after truth. Their efforts have been rewarded with a certain degree of success, but it is needless to say that errors of omission and commission in the past are very far from being corrected or made good. This is essentially the case in America, where in the desire to obtain the most authentic particulars of the rise and progress of the Craft in that country, there is very naturally an eagerness to accept whatever new facts may, from time to time, be brought to light. In the letter of Bro. Norton's, which we published last week, it appears to us he is somewhat too hasty in rejecting or doubting this or that particle of evidence. We cannot, of course, expect to obtain the same authentic details of the early meetings of Masonic Lodges in what was then a distant colony of Great Britain, which we look for in these days. But if we cannot obtain this much, we may reasonably accept the circumstantial evidence, if any, which may be forthcoming, if at least

on further inquiry, it will bear the test of fair criticism. Let us, then take, so far as need be, the seven points in the Philadelphia evidence, which Bro. Norton has set forth and commented upon.

1. The article in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 3rd to 8th December 1730. "As there are several Freemasons' Lodges in this Province," &c., which proves the existence of Lodges there in 1730. On this, Bro. Norton remarks that the article "was a burlesque or satire on Masonry. Franklin, therefore, could not have been a Mason in 1730, and he could not have known whether they were Masonic Lodges or secret societies of some other kind." This, unfortunately, for Bro. Norton, is one of the most lamentable *non sequiturs* it has been our misfortune to read. Where, Bro. Norton, is your logic gone to, when you affirm without the possibility of proof, that because Franklin published in 1730 an item of Masonic news which turns out to be a "burlesque or satire on Masonry," therefore he could not have been in 1730 what we have it, on his own evidence, he was in the month of June 1732. We do not say that Franklin was a Mason in December 1730, because he gave publicity in the journal, of which he was the proprietor, to an item of Masonic news, followed by a "burlesque or satire on Masonry," though we confess we see no serious improbability that he was such. We do say this, however, that the statement in Franklin's newspaper, published on his responsibility, is reasonably acceptable, especially as it is a well-authenticated fact that, in June of the same year, a deputation was issued by our then Grand Master, the Duke of Norfolk, appointing Bro. Daniel Cox to be Provincial Grand Master of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania for a period of two years, from St. John the Baptist's Day next ensuing. The wording of the preamble of the Deputation is clear and distinct enough. "Whereas application has been made unto us by our Right Worshipful and well-beloved brother, Daniel Cox, of New Jersey, Esq., and by several other brethren, Free and Accepted Masons, residing and about to reside in the said Provinces of New York, New Jersey, and Pensilvania." Where there were already resident brethren, and others about to reside in a certain locality, there we may reasonably infer that Lodges would sooner or later be established. Whether Bro. Cox took any active part in the establishment of such Lodges is immaterial to the main question; but the statement that there were "several Freemasons' Lodges" at this distant date cannot be upset, merely because the article which followed was a "burlesque or satire on Masonry." Nor is there the slightest evidence to show that Franklin could not have been a Mason, because he allowed such a burlesque to appear in the columns of his own journal.

2. As to the announcement in the same gazette of the 26th June 1732, that, at a Grand Lodge held on the 24th of the month, William Allen was chosen G.M., Benj. Franklin Junior Warden, &c., Bro. Norton is pleased to remark "there is no evidence that the said Grand Lodge was legally constituted." There is thus much to be said in opposition to Bro. Norton's remark. The election of a Provincial Grand Master on St. John the Baptist's Day, 1732, when the two years' tenure of office by Bro. Cox had determined was in strict accordance with the letter of the deputation granted by the Duke of Norfolk on 5th June 1730. We may reasonably assume the legal constitution of the Grand Lodge, when we learn from the columns of a Philadelphia journal of the day that the action of the Grand Lodge was strictly legal. There is a circumstantiality about the announcement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* which

gives it an air of extreme probability, if not of truth, and the fact of the announcement being made in a newspaper of which the Junior Warden himself was proprietor, sufficiently justifies this view. From the general knowledge handed down to us of Franklin's character, we are not justified in assuming that he wilfully permitted the publication of a statement which was untrue.

3. Philadelphia derived its Masonic authority from Coxe, a theory which, in Bro. Norton's opinion, must be pronounced as "*not proven*." The basis of this opinion is simply that Bro. Coxe and the other Grand Masters of Pennsylvania did not comply with the requirements of the Deputation, and forward statements annually to the Grand Lodge of England as to the condition of their jurisdiction. But the late English Grand Secretary Clark has himself declared that such requirement was only exceptionally observed. If, then, we are to condemn the Pennsylvanian Grand Lodge proceedings on this ground, we must, in justice, condemn the proceedings of all the other Provincial Grand Lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England. Or, if failure in one important requirement is to be allowed to vitiate the proceedings of one American Prov. Grand Lodge, to wit, that of Pennsylvania, the failure to observe other and equally important requirements in the case of another American Prov. Grand Lodge, to wit, that of Massachusetts, must likewise vitiate the proceedings of the latter body. If, then, on Bro. Norton's own showing, the Boston G. Lodge was highly irregular in its proceedings, why should we view more favourably its legality than that of the Philadelphia Grand Lodge? What is sauce for the Philadelphian goose must be sauce for the Boston gander.

4. Bro. Franklin's application to Price, in 1734, for a charter on the ground that he (Bro. Franklin) considered "the sanction of some authority from home necessary," was made, in order to give "the proceedings and determinations of our Lodge" their due weight. If, says Bro. Norton triumphantly, the Philadelphia Lodge derived its authority from Coxe's Deputation, and if Franklin had strictly fulfilled the terms of that Deputation, there would have been no need whatever for such application. But Bro. Norton overlooks the fact that such application was made on the faith of a statement, published in "the Boston prints," that Bro. Price had received an extension of his powers, and that he had been deputed as P.G.M. "over all America." It is only fair to suppose that Bro. Franklin imagined that this extension of Price's authority was, in fact, a supersession of the original deputation "granted to Bro. Cox, and that, under these circumstances, it was his duty to apply to Bro. Price for a Deputation or Charter "confirming the Brethren in Pennsylvania in the privileges they now enjoy" (the italics are our own) "of holding annually their grand Lodge, &c., &c., &c." It must be evident from the words we have italicised that the Philadelphia Grand Lodge already enjoyed the privilege of meeting annually and electing its Grand Master. Moreover, Franklin adds that the Grand Master of Pennsylvania will only vacate the chair "when the Grand Master of all America shall be in place," that the granting of such petition will conduce "to the welfare, the establishment, and the reputation of Masonry in these parts," and he supplements this with a request for "a copy of the R.W. Grand Master's first Deputation" (that is, to Bro. Price), "and of the instrument by which it appears to be enlarged as above mentioned." The fact that Franklin makes no mention whatever of Coxe is immaterial. It is enough that he stands out for the privileges which the Philadelphia Lodge already enjoyed at the time of his application. As there is not a tittle of evidence anywhere to the effect that any deputation, charter, or patent was granted intermediately between Coxe's in June 1730, and Price's in April 1733, and as it is in the last degree improbable that Franklin would apply to Price for confirmation of those privileges he had already derived from him, it is as nearly certain as anything can be that the privileges of which Franklin speaks, can have been derived from no other source than Coxe's Deputation. That Price granted the prayer of Franklin proves nothing, except that he was perhaps vainglorious of being regarded as the principal Masonic dignitary in North America. As we advance a few years in the history of English Masonry, which then included American Freemasonry, we note that it was a practice in those days for successive Grand Masters to issue fresh patents of appointment to the same Provincial Grand Mastership. Whatever judgment we may form as to Price's action and

statements, it is impossible to arrive at any other conclusion than that, acting under the belief that Price had received from England an extension, or, if Bro. Norton prefers it, an original grant of full Masonic authority over the whole of America, Bro. Franklin was merely fulfilling his duty, as defined by the more limited Deputation issued to Coxe, in applying to Price for a confirmation of the privileges already enjoyed under that Deputation by the Philadelphia Grand Lodge. We may add that, under these circumstances, Bro. Norton's assertion that, "up to 1734, the Philadelphia organisation was *bogus*" is utterly worthless. We have the grant of Coxe's Deputation by the Duke of Norfolk, the original document being still preserved in the archives of Grand Lodge England. That Deputation was granted on 5th June 1730 on the strength of an application made by Daniel Coxe and several other brethren, Free and Accepted Masons, residing and about to reside in the said Province of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. We find in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of December 3-8 1730, published by Benjamin Franklin, who shortly afterwards, if not at the time, was himself a Mason, that it is stated as a reason for publishing a "burlesque or satire on Masonry" lately received from London, that "there are several Lodges of Freemasons erected in this Province, and people have lately been much amused with conjectures concerning them." Whether Franklin was or was not a Mason when he allowed this statement to appear in his newspaper matters not; he was a journalist, who for his own sake would be anxious that what he published in the way of statements of facts should be trustworthy, as well as that his news should be readable. But how does the publication of a "satire or burlesque on Masonry" prove that Franklin "*could not have been a Mason*" at the time? Why should a Mason be less amused than other people about a burlesque on Freemasonry? If such a thing were sent to us, and we thought it would amuse our readers, we should certainly publish it. However, we have already said this is a question of no importance. What really is important, and what Bro. Norton takes no account of, is that the Deputation and the newspaper afford concurrent testimony that in the year 1730 there were Freemasons in Pennsylvania, and the newspaper, which is the later of the two, declares that the Masons in the province were organized into Lodges—"As there are several Freemasons' Lodges in the province."

At the time we reviewed the *Dedication Memorial of the New Masonic Temple, Philadelphia*, we remarked of the evidence which Bro. Norton is now attacking, that "if not conclusive to every mind," it was "eminently respectable." We repeat this statement here with this addition. We have several times had occasion to examine this evidence, and the more we examine it, the more it finds favour in our eyes. We consider the Philadelphians have made out a very strong case of circumstantial evidence in favour of their views. Some links in the chain may, perhaps, be wanting; but the tenour of the whole is eminently respectable. If Bro. Norton, in his natural anxiety to learn the truth, is about to appoint himself counsel for the appellant in the case of *Bostonian v. Philadelphian antiquity*, which has already been for some time past before the highest Masonic tribunals in America and elsewhere, it will be necessary he should brush up his logic, for he will have some very knotty points to deal with. At all events, he will do well to bear in mind the old truism that "assertion is not argument." At present he has done nothing more than affirm his views, and thus far, at least, has done his case more harm than good.

The other points in his letter we shall deal with in a second article.

MASONIC PORTRAITS. (No. 44.)

A WARDEN OF THE FENS.

"The friend of man;
Who scanned his nature with a brother's eye,
His weakness prompt to shade, to raise his aim,
To teach the finer movements of the mind,
And with the moral beauty charm the heart."

THE present literary tastes of the public are scarcely to be commended. They incline towards the light and frivolous, to what is quickly read and as quickly forgotten. Considering, indeed, the voracity of the general reader, we are almost surprised the bookseller does not dispose

of his wares, as does the butcher of his meat—by weight. To have read a ton, or a ton and a half, of light literature in the course of a year would be a great achievement, especially as at the end of the term, the mind of the reader would be a complete blank, and all the better prepared, therefore, to repeat the effort. We cannot wholly acquit the present generation of writers of all blame in this matter; but we believe that only a very little encouragement is needed in order to guide the popular taste towards a higher class of literature. Where, for instance, shall we find a finer collection of essays on well nigh every imaginable subject than in the *Spectator*, *The Rambler*, *The Idler*, and those other works written about the same time, which, even in these days, are honourably distinguished by the title of the "British Classics." They are models of elegant prose writing. They describe and illustrate the virtues and vices of mankind. The pictures they present of the men and manners of those days are admirably drawn, for the artists recognised the truth enunciated by Pope:—

"The proper study of mankind is man."

Hence the many portraits we find scattered about in the pages of these works, will be found to be typical of different classes, and there is no one who has a tolerable range of acquaintance but will be able to trace many and strong points of resemblance between these types of character and people he is acquainted with. Let us take, for instance, the case of that fine old English knight who figures so prominently in the pages of the *Spectator*. He is introduced to us in one of the very earliest numbers, and is described as being cheerful, gay and hearty, and a "great lover of mankind." In later numbers, this outline is filled in with numerous details, and we read of the love he bears towards his neighbours, the respect in which he is held by his dependents, and the many acts of kindness which he renders towards this and that person. There is no end to the praise that is bestowed on this estimable English gentleman, nor can there be the slightest doubt the picture was taken from the life. At all events, in noting the different kinds of people that live and move around us, we constantly meet with those who bear a close resemblance to that worthy knight. In our own Society there are many such, and one in particular who, by reason of his genial and jovial nature, by the splendour of his hospitality, and the kindness he exhibits towards all he meets, may certainly be said to possess all those attributes which are ascribed to Sir Roger. Whom we have in our mind's eye at the moment has no handle to his name, but he represents in its best form that power which wealth and personal excellence combined are sure to exercise. We do not say his will to benefit people is greater or more conspicuous than that of other members of the same body, but fortunately he possesses in abundance the means to give effect to that will. He has followed through life one of those businesses, which, once it has been firmly established, goes on multiplying itself infinitely. The duties and responsibilities of a carrying agent who intervenes between the public and the great railway and steamboat companies are of a very exacting nature; and to govern and control one of these large establishments requires a man of more than ordinary ability. He must be punctual himself and the cause of punctuality in others. He must be firm in the exercise of his controlling powers, or the whole machinery will be out of gear. He must possess unusual energy, in short, he must exhibit business powers of the very highest order, or failure is the only result that may be looked for. Well, the brother whom we are now attempting to sketch has for years presided over one of these agencies with unprecedented success. He is the head of the firm, and is known all through the Midlands and in the northern counties, as well as his London compeers are in the metropolitan. He is, moreover, respected by those who labour in his service, for in his relations with his subordinates he has invariably so governed himself that as between them and him the description of Sir Roger's relations with the subordinate members of his household is strictly borne out. "A man who deserves a respect, founded on his benevolence to his dependents, lives rather like a prince than a master in his family; his orders are received as favours rather than duties; and the distinction of approaching him is part of the reward for executing what is commanded by him."

But our readers will know him best in his Masonic capacity. It is evident that such a one as we have spoken

of, in the event of his seeking initiation into our mysteries would certainly apply himself with equal energy and determination to his Masonic as to his business duties. A man who is earnestly bent on doing what is likely to be required of him, does not limit his attention to this or that undertaking. Whatsoever he means to carry out, to that he devotes himself heart and soul. He spares himself no labour to accomplish his task. He means work and will never permit himself to rest satisfied till he has achieved more than ordinary distinction. Thus we find our esteemed brother has been diligent in all that relates to Masonry; moreover, a man of his calibre would be at home in presiding over any Masonic body to which he might belong. In any assembly he would fill the chair magnificently, and he has done so, in the Chapter as well as in the Lodge, in a manner of which his brethren have every reason to be proud. But he has attained to Provincial honours as well, and he ranks at the present time as Past Grand Senior Warden of Lincolnshire. In Mark Masonry he stands pre-eminent among his brethren—it is astonishing how all the good fellows obtain distinction in this degree. About three years since, the county to which he belongs was erected into a Province under the Mark Grand Lodge of England and Wales and its colonies and dependencies, and our worthy brother was appointed by the Grand Master to be its first Prov. G.M. His installation was witnessed by one of the most magnificent gatherings of Mark Masons which it has been the good fortune of brethren of this degree to be present at. Some three hundred were there, and it is almost needless to say that the event was celebrated with an *éclat* befitting the occasion. Perhaps one fact in connection with this deserves mention. Our R.W. P.G.M.M.M. not only presided on the occasion; he was likewise the host of all present. Special trains were provided at his cost for the conveyance of intending guests, and the cost of the banquet was borne by him. Eleven months later, and a new Mark Lodge was consecrated in Lincolnshire. Previous to the ceremony, there was a gathering of all the Grand Officers of the Province at the P.G.M.'s residence, in order that they might be photographed in full Mark Masonic costume. Thence, in due course, they were conveyed to Grimsby, where the new Lodge, which was named in his honour, was duly consecrated by the worthy and worshipful Grand Mark Secretary. At the banquet which followed, the toast of the P.G.M.M.M. was proposed in pithy terms, as reported at the time in our columns. "What need," said the D.P.G.M.M.M., "to descant upon the good qualities of one so well known, who is here present amongst us? You know him; what could I say to increase the honour and estimation which he has won?" In December of last year, on the occasion of the second meeting after its establishment of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Lincolnshire, the gathering was well nigh as remarkable as on the occasion we have recorded above. Our worthy brother issued invitations to the Mark Master Masons of the Lodges in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Northumberland, Durham, Cheshire, and North Wales. The attendance of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers was of the fullest, and no wonder, for the meeting was to be a memorable one in the annals of Lincolnshire Mark Masonry. The Past Grand Officers of the Province had resolved that an enlarged and highly finished copy of the photograph taken the year previous should be presented to their respected chief. Were evidence needed, beyond what we have already offered, of the just popularity of this prince among Masonic Officers, it will be found in the record furnished in these columns a few days after the event. The proceedings were of the most enthusiastic character, and when, on the removal of the cloth, the period of speech-making began, not a single brother rose to address those present without referring to their P.G.M. in the most affectionate and most eulogistic terms. For example, one speaker, in addressing the chair, observed, "You are a most honoured man in this district, and if others can be found like you when your time is run out, we shall have cause to be hopeful for the future of Freemasonry." These, and similar complimentary remarks were freely uttered by every one who spoke and as freely and heartily applauded by those who heard them. Lincolnshire is one of our foremost provinces. It has numbered among its sons some of the worthiest and most respected brethren, and we are convinced that he who is now passing in review before us is one of the brightest and worthiest of its members. If to the record we have given thus far, we add that on the lamented death of Bro. W. Romaine Callender, M.P., he was chosen to fill the important

office of Provincial Grand Master for Lancashire and Cheshire in the Royal Order of Scotland, we shall have said enough to show that "A Warden of the Fens," is as highly respected among other Masonic bodies as he is among his brethren of the Craft, Arch, and Mark Degrees.

To proclaim that our brother is an active promoter of our Charitable Institutions, that whenever time and his engagements permit, he devotes himself heart and soul to the very onerous duties of a stewardship to this or that Charity, is simply to repeat what has already been recorded on several occasions in these columns, what has, indeed, long been known throughout Masonry. He is a Vice-Patron of the Boys, a Vice-President of the Girls, and a Vice-President or very nearly so of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. He has served some thirteen Stewardships in all, and has shown himself on all occasions, as well in Prov. Grand Lodge as in the subordinate Lodges of which he is a member, as ready to do his utmost in furtherance of the interests of our great central charities. We hope and believe there are others like him, others who are as ready to uphold the banner of Freemasonry under no matter what difficulties or at how great personal convenience. He has worthily attained to a high position in every branch of Masonry with which he is associated. In his business he has few equals, while in the circle of his family and friends there is no one more loved, more honoured, or more respected.

"Honour and shame from no condition rise;
Act well your part, there all the honour lies.
Fortune in men has some small difference made,
One flaunts in rags, one flutters in brocade;
The cobbler apron'd, and the parson gown'd,
The friar hooded, and the monarch crown'd.
'What differ more (you cry) than crown and cowl?'
I'll tell you friend! a wise man and a fool.
You'll find if once the monarch acts the monk,
Or, cobbler-like, the parson will be drunk,
Worth makes the man, and want of it the fellow;
The rest is all but leather or prunello."

The *Masonic Review* announces that the twenty-third Triennial Convocation of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the United States will be held at the Masonic Hall, Buffalo, New York, on Tuesday, the 21st instant. The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar will be held at Cleveland, Ohio, on the 28th instant.

We learn from the same source that the *Masonic Journal* of Louisville, Kentucky, is now incorporated with the *Review*. The arrangement was made too late for any comment in the July number. We trust the union of these two journals may prove advantageous to all concerned, both to those who labour and those who read.

We learn from the *Masonic Record of Western India*, that at a meeting of the Keystone Chapter of Western India, No. 757, Bombay, on the 13th May, Comps. H. W. Barrow, T. Counsell and C. Tudball, were severally elected Z., H., and J. for the ensuing year. At a recent meeting of the Lodge Morning Star, No. 1439, Palumpore, Bro. C. W. Calthrop M.D. was installed W.M. for the ensuing year. He subsequently appointed and invested the following brethren as his officers, namely, Bros. T. Cooke I.P.M. and Treasurer, J. W. Peachey and W. G. Thomas S.W. and J.W. respectively, F. O. Passy Sec., C. Davies, and G. Hughes S.D. and J.D., and A. Turnbull I.G. A P.M.'s Jewel had previously been voted to the retiring W.M., Bro. T. Cooke as a slight appreciation by the Lodge of his services since its removal to Palumpore. A meeting of the Mount Zion Lodge Preceptor, and Mount Moriah Priory, was held at Bombay, on the 4th May. E. Sir Knight H. W. Barrow Preceptor, occupied the chair. E. Sir Knights John Dixon and J. L. Madden were elected as re-joining members. Mount Moriah Priory was subsequently opened, and E. Sir Knight Barrow installed as Prior. The Officers for the ensuing year were appointed, and Sir Knight J. Luke was installed a Knight of Malta, Sir Kt. Rowe being the officiating officer.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—The exceptional weather of the season indicates a disturbed state of the atmosphere, and causes a very great tendency to the development of epidemics. It is in such seasons that diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, cramps, and fevers so frequently appear, and all should be on their guard against them. The consumption of uncooked or ripe fruit, or food not perfectly fresh, is a common exciting cause of these complaints, and if the early symptoms are not properly treated, very serious results may ensue. Holloway's Ointment, rubbed briskly and efficiently into the stomach and surface of the bowels, relieves the cramp and vomiting very quickly, and the internal use of the Pills expels from the bowels the irritant matter.

FESTIVAL OF THE MARK MASTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

OF the numerous events it is our duty to record in connection with Freemasonry, few, if any, give us greater pleasure to chronicle than the doings at the periodical festivals held in connection with the charities of our order. There it is we hear announced the result of the efforts of those brethren who undertake the office of steward, and of late these announcements have been of such enormous amounts as to merit the approbation, not only of the masonic but also of the outer world. Some nine years since a fund was established by the Mark Master Masons for the especial relief of members of that degree who had unfortunately fallen into reduced circumstances. From its commencement the subscriptions of the brethren to this fund have enabled the committee to relieve the wants of each applicant, at first by small amounts of £5 or so, but latterly by more substantial grants amounting in some cases to as much as £50; in addition to which there is funded property, amounting to £600, to the credit of the fund. It will therefore be seen that, since its inauguration, this fund has been well supported; still, we consider that if further efforts were made by the members of the Degree, the receipts might be greatly increased. Considering the very great additions to Mark Masonry during the past two or three years, we hardly think a fund, whose benefits are devoted entirely to the members thereof, should not be more widely and generally supported. The festival of 1877 was held on Wednesday last, at the Alexandra Palace, under the presidency of the R.W. Bro. Rt. Hon. the Earl of Donoughmore, who was supported by several Past and Present Grand Officers of the Degree. The dinner, which was well served, having been brought to a close, the Chairman rose to propose the toast of the Queen, before doing so he briefly referred to the nature of the various toasts of the evening, all of which he said were important ones, and he trusted would be well received. He would not keep the company long in introducing them, as it was certainly not his wish to be ranked among the members of a most objectionable class which had lately arisen; he considered it more than sufficient to have "obstructionists" in the House of Commons, without their presence at the banquet table, so would at once proceed to the work of the evening. The toast of Her Majesty, with which was coupled success to Mark Masonry, having been duly honoured, was followed by the National Anthem. The chairman next proposed that of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, coupled with the rest of the Royal Family; one member of whom—Prince Leopold—deserved especial mention in connection with Mark Masonry. The toast was well received and was followed by that of the Grand Masters. Only a few weeks since, the chairman said, he had had to propose this toast at a meeting of brethren, and he then did so after very valuable advice from the brother now sitting opposite to him (Bro. F. Binckes.) He then reminded the brethren that they had many of their Grand Masters still among them, and he would now repeat for the benefit of the ladies some other of his remarks on that occasion. He considered it a very curious fact with reference to the Mark degree that they had seven Grand Masters alive, and in good health; this he considered was very good proof that the work entailed by that office was not detrimental to health. Lord Limerick had been pleased to associate him with the work of the Mark degree for the present year, and he hoped to fill his office with credit. He specially referred to Lord Carnarvon, whose labours on behalf of Craft, as well as Mark Masonry, were so well known, and after briefly referring to the other Masters, concluded by calling upon the brethren to honour the toast. Bro. Baron De Ferrieres next rose. He remarked that it was a great pleasure to be able to say "Ladies and Brethren." The Masons of this country, he said, had not made such progress as their brethren of America with reference to the admission of ladies among their numbers. He considered that Mark Masons treated the ladies better than their Craft brethren. At the last Festival at which he was present he observed that the ladies were almost as badly provided for as at the Houses of Parliament. He felt sure they had all enjoyed themselves better on this occasion from the fact of their partaking of dinner with them, and not as at Freemasons' Hall, looking on from an uncomfortable seat in the gallery. The toast committed to his care was the health of Lord Skelmersdale and the rest of the Grand Officers, and he trusted that all present would join in giving that toast a hearty welcome. He considered Mark Masonry was not recognised as it ought to be, but he felt sure it would continue to increase. He called upon Bro. Matier to respond, who on rising, said that for the past five or six years as a rule it had been his fortune to have his name coupled with this toast. He felt that the Past Grand Officers had performed their duties to the best of their abilities, and as far as the present ones were concerned their names were in themselves a tower of strength, the result of their meeting this evening was evidence that they had performed their duties in the right spirit. Bro. Major Barlow rose to propose a toast which he was perfectly satisfied would meet with a hearty reception; he alluded to that of their Chairman. (Loud cheers). After such a reception, he said it was not necessary for him to refer to his especial qualities. The present was the most successful Festival they had ever had, and he felt that much was due to the Chairman. The song which was to follow the toast, "The Love that has Sailed away," was, he considered, a very appropriate one, from the fact of their always expecting a different Chairman to preside on such occasions as the present. He concluded by wishing health and prosperity to their Chairman, who, he hoped, would, before long, be appointed to the position of Grand Master of Mark Masonry. The Earl of Donoughmore, in reply, thanked the brethren for the compliment paid him. It was rather suddenly that he was called upon to preside on the present occasion, but, as with all sudden pleasures, he had enjoyed it the more. He would next proceed to a much more important toast—viz., Success to

the Mark Benevolent Fund. It was naturally expected that he should say a few words with reference to its history. It had been established nine years, and had been the means of relieving many distressed brethren and their families. It was not solely connected with the Freemasons of this country. They had also assisted Scotch and Irish brethren, and they would continue to render assistance wherever a real case of want occurred. They were now in a very prosperous condition; during last year they had had three substantial grants. They must not forget those to whose exertions the prosperity of the fund was mainly due. He specially referred to Bros. Meggy and Binckes. To them is due the great success of the fund. He was told that there was a scheme in contemplation by which the children of deceased Mark Masons might also receive benefits from their fund. While they might keep within bounds themselves, they might assist the other great Masonic Charities. He would conclude by proposing success to the Mark Benevolent Fund. Bro. Meggy thanked the Chairman for his remarks. He felt sure that most of those brethren who had been associated with him in the work and management of the fund would feel as gratified as he did at the remarks of their noble chairman. During the past nine years they had had the pleasure of relieving 24 families, and lately, with substantial amounts. It was well known that a sum of £20 down was of more use to a distressed family than £5 at odd times. They had £600 invested, and this sum he hoped shortly to see materially increased. Bro. Binckes followed. He was proud to say that the nection with the Mark Benevolent Fund. Their Order was recognised present was the most successful festival that had been held in con-nearly all over the world. At the present time the Grand Mark Lodge of England numbered on its books ten or eleven thousand members, which number was constantly being increased. He considered that the song which followed this toast was also very appropriate. They could quote its title "I fear no foe" with truth. With respect to the other Masonic Institutions to which the chairman had been pleased to refer, he was pleased to be able to state that Mark Masons had always been among their stoutest supporters. The list of subscriptions, as at foot, having been read by the Assistant G. Sec., Bro. F. Davison, Grand Treasurer rose and proposed the health of the Board of Stewards. Their fund had not been established many years, but at each of their annual gatherings they had been enabled to announce an increase. He would call upon Bro. Boggett of Hull who had collected the largest amount to respond to the toast. Bro. Boggett had much pleasure in responding as Mark Victor. When he undertook the office of Steward it was with the firm intention of bringing in the largest list, and he was pleased to find that his desire had been gratified. Bro. Meggy proposed, what the chairman announced as really the toast of the evening,—the ladies. He firmly believed that a great part of the success was due to their presence. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Cooper-Smith, who thanked the brethren for the hearty reception the ladies had experienced, and he was sure they were extremely grateful to Mark Masons for introducing this innovation. Among those present were the following:—Bros. C. F. Matier P.G.W., Rev. F. W. Thoyte Grand Chap., Frederic Davison Grand Treas., F. Binckes P.G.J.W. Grand Sec., Thomas Meggy P.G.M.O., Major George Barlow P.G.M.O., R. Berridge G.D.C., S. Rosenthal P.G.D.C., J. H. Wynno P.G.I.G., J. H. Spencer P.G.I.G., S. Funkensztein, A. Williams P.G. Stewards, Richard Boggett, R. S. Robinson, A. Middleton, Geo. Higgins, H. R. Cooper-Smith, Baron de Ferrieres, Captain Henry Berridge, S. J. Pulley, H. W. Binckes G. Assist. Sec., &c.

The following is a list of the amounts collected by the various Stewards:—

G. Higgins	Cheshire and North Wales	29	8	0
H. R. Cooper-Smith	Carnarvon, 7	14	14	0
J. H. Spencer	Southwark, 22	9	18	6
A. Middleton	St. Andrews, 34	11	11	0
F. M. Tindall	Britannia, 53	15	15	0
R. Arnison				
C. H. Perrot				
F. Binckes	Aldershot Military, 54	27	5	0
A. Williams	Macdonald, 104	11	11	0
J. D. Moore	Moore, 146	10	17	6
J. G. Podevin	Dover and Cinque Ports, 152	10	10	0
R. Boggett	Humber, 182	30	15	0
W. Barfoot	Simon de Montford, 194			
Major George Barlow	Studholme, 197	5	5	0
S. Rosenthal		3	6	0
Rev. F. W. Thoyte		26	0	0
J. Wordsworth		5	5	0
C. W. Wyndham		20	1	0
		£232	2	0

A TRIP TO CANTERBURY.

FOR some years past it has been the custom of one of the best friends of the Masonic Charitable Institutions, Bro. Benjamin Head, to invite the children who remain for the holidays in the School to accompany him on an excursion to some place, sufficiently near London to return the same day. Among other places thus visited were the ruins at Stonehenge, and the City and Cathedral of Salisbury.

This year, Bro. Head decided on the City of Canterbury, with its magnificent cathedral, and its pleasant promenades, and the day was fixed for Tuesday, 31st July. Accordingly, the lads, twelve in number, left Wood-green at an early hour, and were punctual at the Holborn Viaduct Station, where they were met by Bros. Fred. Binckes, C. F. Matier, Arthur Middleton, the Misses Binckes, Mrs. Matier, and Mrs. Walton. The London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Com-

pany had attached special reserved compartments to the fast train from Victoria, from which station the girls, who only mustered five, were taken charge of by Bros. Head, A. H. Diaper, and Miss Shepherd.

Both the parties joined forces at Herno Hill, and in due course arrived at Canterbury, where they were delighted to find a hearty welcome from Bros. Horatio Ward P.M. P. Prov. G.W. Wilts, and John Richard Hall P.M. and Secretary 31, who most kindly gave up the whole day to promote the comfort of the little party. After strolling through and admiring the beautiful gardens and the Dane John, a movement was made for the Fleur de Lys Hotel, where a substantial repast had been prepared by Bro. and Mrs. Ward, ample justice to which was done by all the party, both great and small. The chair was taken by Bro. Head, who was faced by Bro. F. Binckes. The only toasts proposed were the healths of the Queen, always a staunch supporter of our Masonic Charities, Bro. Benjamin Head, and Success to the Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys and Girls.

The entire party, which by this time had received several additions to its numbers, and really looked of formidable proportions, proceeded to the Cathedral, where seats had been provided for evening service.

By the thoughtful provision of Bro. Dr. Longhurst, the organist of the Cathedral, a special anthem, by Ebdou, was sung, "Behold, how good and how joyful a thing it is." At the conclusion of the service, the ladies and brethren were joined by Bro. Plant W.M. elect 31, who explained that, by the special permission of the Dean, he and Bro. J. R. Hall would now conduct them to a few of the numberless objects of antiquity contained in the venerable pile, and certainly no party of visitors, however illustrious, could desire to be conducted by more able guides than these two distinguished brethren, who were kindly assisted by Bro. Dr. Longhurst.

Born, brought up, and living, as these brethren do, under the very shadow of the "Cathedral of Christ Church," they seem to love every stone in the sacred edifice. Each little bit of carving, dating perhaps from the time of Lanfranc, or Stephen Langton, possesses for them a new interest every time they see it, and our Masonic party were, by their eloquence, thoroughly imbued with the spirit of antiquarian lore, and the memory of the heroes who lived in the days of Norman William and his descendants.

None of those present will ever, in after life, forget that they stood on the spot where Thomas A'Beckett was murdered, or that they lingered by the tomb of the heroic Edward the Black Prince.

Canterbury Cathedral has been often described by far abler pens than ours, and we shall not trench on the ground of the antiquarian, or the archaeologist; suffice it to thank those kind brethren, once more, for bringing its hidden treasures to our notice.

On leaving the Cathedral, the party returned to tea, soon after which a start was made for the station, and preparations began for the journey home; mutual and regretful leave takings were exchanged, and anticipations and hopes of another visit at some future time. The terminus at the Great City was reached at 10.20, and the little party was broken up, each to wend their homeward way, full of thanks to Bro. Head, and joyful recollection of a day which will always be remembered, with unmitigated pleasure, as a veritable *dies albo lineata*.

The arrangements were all made by our good Brother Binckes—is it necessary to say they were perfect?

CONSECRATION OF THE ROTHESAY LODGE, No. 1687.

THE consecration of this Lodge, which has received from the Grand Master sanction to use one of his titles and also the arms of the Dukedom, took place on Friday, the 27th July, at the Inns of Court Hotel, W.C., the members being honoured by the presence of the R.W. Bro. Col. F. Burdett Prov. G.M. Middlesex. After the consecration ceremony, which was performed by Bro. R. W. Little, assisted by Bro. the Rev. P. M. Holden Prov. Grand Chaplain, H. G. Bass Assist. G. Sec. as Director of Ceremonies, &c., a Board of Installed Masters was formed, and Bro. Louis Beck, the W.M. designate, was introduced, and formally installed into the chair. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Bro. Little who was labouring under severe indisposition, received the thanks of the brethren for the way in which he had performed the work. Bro. Holden gave the addresses. The newly-installed Master having been saluted, proceeded to invest his officers as follows:—Bros. B. Swallow P.G.J.D. as P.M., F. Kirk S.W., J. Hancock J.W., Docker S.D., Crossland J.D., Outhwaite I.G., Potter Tyler. The W.M. referred with pleasure to the presence of Bro. Col. F. Burdett, R. W. Little, H. G. Bass and Rev. P. M. Holden, and proposed that the thanks of the Lodge be voted and recorded on the minutes to those brethren, and also that honorary membership should be conferred upon them. This was seconded by the S.W., and carried unanimously. Bro. F. Burdett thanked the members on behalf of the brethren they had been pleased to elect as hon. members. He hoped to have the opportunity of seeing the plan on which the Lodge had been started carried out in its entirety. After a few remarks from Bro. Little, the Lodge was closed until October. The brethren, 45 in number, then adjourned to the banquet, during which an excellent band, provided by Bro. Cohen, played selections from various operas, &c.; a fantasia on Scotch airs, composed by the W.M., being deservedly encored. Grace having been sung, the toast of the Queen was given and duly acknowledged. The health of the Grand Master, who the W.M. referred to as the Duke of Rothesay, in honour of his having allowed that name to be used, was next given, followed by those of the Pro G.M. and the D.G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers. The W.M. was proud to see so many Grand Officers among them. With the latter he coupled the names

of Bros. Col. Burdett, Buss, and Cottebrune. Bro. Col. Burdett rose. Having been called upon by the W.M. to respond to the toast, which had just been so enthusiastically received; he would return his heartiest thanks. He referred to the working of the Grand Officers, and to the interest they took in all matters connected with the Order. They were honoured by having three Princes of England at the head of G.L. In Masonry they wanted quality rather than quantity. In his own Province they numbered among them some of the highest members of society. Not only is Masonry progressing throughout the kingdom, but the working has never been better carried out. Bro. Little rose and proposed the health of the W.M. From what he had seen of him he felt sure he would make a good Master. The W.M. acknowledged the compliment paid him by the Consecrating Officer. It should not be for want of exertion on his part if the Lodge did not prosper. Before resuming his seat, he had pleasure in proposing the health of the Deputy Prov. Grand Master of Middlesex, Bro. Little, who had travelled a long journey to enable him to be present to consecrate their Lodge. He, as well as every Brother present, was pleased to see him, and hoped that ere long his health would be restored, and that he would live to be among them for many years to come. Bro. Little, in a brief, but appropriate manner, responded to the toast, thanking the brethren for their good wishes. Bro. Col. Burdett then proposed the health of the founders of the Lodge. They had succeeded in getting a name for their Lodge that all might be proud of, and he wished them one and all long life, health, and prosperity. Bro. Kirk S.W. responded to the toast. The W.M. next proposed the Visitors. As a young Lodge they felt themselves honoured by the presence of so many visitors. He coupled with the toast the names of Bro. Brignall P.Prov. G.R. Durham, and Bro. H. Levander Prov. G. Sec. Middlesex, both of whom as well as Bros. G. Bubb and F. Walters replied to the toast. The Rev. P. M. Holden was pleased to propose the next toast, which, although nearly the last on the list, yet it was one of the first in order of merit. He was sure it would meet with the approbation of the brethren. He spoke of the "Charities." He was confident all the brethren were proud of the Institutions connected with our Order, and he hoped that they would flourish in the future as they had done in the past. Brother Little had already responded to a toast, so he would not couple his name with this one, but would call on their well-known Bro. Levander, who, in a very capital speech, returned thanks. The W.M. said he had represented the Benevolent Fund at the last Festival, and would be pleased to act as Steward for the Girls' School next year. The Tyler's toast was then given, and a very pleasant meeting closed. The visitors were Bros. R. W. Col. F. Burdett P.G.M. Middlesex, H. G. Buss Assist. G.S., C. A. Cottebrune P.G.P., C. B. Payne P.M. 27 G.T., E. J. Scott 749, G. Bubb P.M. 180, T. Wake 749, H. Green 1275, J. West P.G.R. Surrey, H. Levander P.G.S. Middlesex, E. H. Thiellay P.P.G.S. Middlesex, W. B. Scott P.M. 822, H. M. Levy P.M. 188, Gibb 34, N. E. Forscutt 749, E. Moody P.M. 1426, J. L. Thomas P.G.J.W. Middlesex, B. Swallow P.M. 382, H. Massey P.M. 619.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

THERE is considerable variety in the current number of *Tinsleys'*, and many of the articles show a great degree of merit. We are glad to find that where formerly there used to be three and often four concurrent serials, there are now but two. One of these, Mr. Frank Barrett's "Two Knaves and a Queen," has been running some time. It is well written, and many of the characters are extremely well-drawn. The other serial, which is from the pen of Mrs. Alexander Fraser, is entitled "A Maddening Blow," and has thus far reached only its fourteenth chapter, including, that is to say, the present instalment. This, however, is quite far enough to justify us in expressing our opinion that the tale will be very generally appreciated by novel readers. Mrs. Fraser is well known as a novelist; her stories are usually well constructed, and contain likewise some very good descriptive writing. Mr. Godfrey Turner contributes a paper entitled "Shakespeare Made Easy." We are not aware that Mr. Turner has any great claims to be regarded as an authority on Shakespeare, but he writes sensibly enough. There are two or three short stories, which are decidedly creditable—"My Heroine" by Evelyn Jerrold, and the "Two Sibyls." An "Eccentric Old Boy" gives vent to his views on education in the shape of a few "Detached Notes" thereon, which will bear analysing; while it is almost a matter of course that the poetical contributions, which include a "Love Song" of Dr. Davies's, are somewhat above the average of magazine poetry. In fine, we have occasionally read numbers which are the equal of this, but very seldom any which could justly be described as its superior.

Cassell's Family Magazine is well furnished with stories and articles of the usual character. The serial fiction remains the same. "Paul Knox, Pitman," has, throughout, been an interesting story, and the scene between Lady Elizabeth and May Gwynn is one of the best contrived in the story. "Stone Steps and Wooden Stairs" is developing, as it progresses, into an admirable tale, and, if we judge rightly, will do great credit to its author, Beatrice Leigh Hunt. Among the family and other papers must be noted "Crab and Lobster Lore," by Professor A. Wilson, hints by the Rev. G. Watkins, "How to Enjoy the Sea-side," "A Peep into my Grandmother's Work-box," a paper by Mr. Edward Oxenford on "The Origin of Names," and "A Parliamentary Paper." Then there are "My Saturday Half Holiday," "A Military Tea Party," and an article on "Local Examinations." A Family Doctor's suggestions as to "Headaches, and How to Cure Them," are worth regarding, and a short story, by Mr. G. Manville Fenn, entitled "Laura's Doctor," will be pretty generally admired. Some of the illustrations, in particular the one accompanying the "Military Tea Party," are very happy, while the "Gatherer's" notes, and the "Chit-Chat on Dress" are quite as instructive and entertaining as we have found them hitherto.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

THE BALLOT.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—It has always been my rule, when acting as W.M. or P.M., to insist that the wise provisions of the Book of Constitutions as to proposing candidates be carried out in accordance with the strict letter of the law, and have never permitted a candidate to be proposed, except in open Lodge, with the solitary exception of a gentleman going to Bombay, who desired to join the Craft before leaving this country.

By thus acting, the candidate is literally on his merits for one month, and should he not be found worthy, we have always in our Lodge found it the best plan for the objector to privately inform the W.M., who has the opportunity given him of asking the proposer to withdraw the name, which is done in almost every case, thus avoiding the painful necessity of informing a candidate of his ignominious rejection.

Now, as regards blackballing from malicious motives; or, from a feeling of personal enmity to the proposer. I can only characterise such a proceeding as below contempt, and worthy of being visited by the most severe reprobation. Alas! I know it has been, and I fear will again be done. The love of office, and the ambition to outstrip one another in the race for honours, be they real or fancied, will always create enemies out of one's own best and dearest friends, and sometimes we find men with small brains, narrow hearts, and infinitesimal intellect, who allow some paltry, and perhaps unstudied, injury to rankle in what they call their minds, until surcharged with spleen and malice, they vent their petty spite on an innocent object. From these we cannot expect anything but a course of conduct alike ungenerous and ungentlemanly. The true remedy for this class of blackballers is to still further hedge our Lodges round with precautions against the very proposition of candidates who are not likely to do credit to the Order, and admit none but those who are assured are true and faithful, and have the ring of sterling metal.

I may hint that in one Lodge to which I belong there is an understood rule, a *Lex non Scripta*, that no member shall propose a candidate, either for initiation, or as a joining member, unless he previously certifies in open Lodge, that such candidate is an intimate personal friend, and on visiting terms. This is certainly a step in the right direction. We find in Euclid, "Things which are equal to the same thing, are equal to one another."

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

P.M. and P.G.W.

CHEVALIER RAMSAY AND THE ROYAL ARCH.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In the "Pocket Companion and History of Freemasons, London, 1754," there is a section with the following title-page:—"An Apology for the Free and Accepted Masons occasioned by their persecution in the Canton of Berne, with the present state of Masonry in Germany, Italy, Flanders, and Holland. Translated from the French by a Brother. Printed at Frankfurt, 1748." This, no doubt, is a reprint of the Dublin pamphlet, 1739, which Bro. Jacob Norton is in quest of, and in the absence of the original it may be of service to him in the Masonic inquiry he is engaged upon.

Yours truly and fraternally,

JOHN HOGG.

26th July 1877.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Since writing to you yesterday, I have found in my collection a volume, in which is bound up a pamphlet of 92 pp., with the following title:—"Relation Apologique et Historique de la Société des Francs-Maçons. Par J.G.D.M.F.M. à Dublin, chez Patrice Odonoko, Libraire and Imprimeur, 1738." This would seem to be the original edition of the pamphlet which Bro. Jacob Norton is in search of.

The copy in Bro. Spencer's list went to America, and was, I believe, bought for Bro. Carson, of Cincinnati.

Yours truly and fraternally,

JOHN HOGG.

27th July 1877.

NO. 79 AND THE OLD LODGE LISTS.

By BRO. JACOB NORTON.

IN the preface to the reprint of the Dublin Lodge List of 1735, Bro. Huggan remarked, "We as Masons live for one another, and the subject (No. 79) is more likely to be decided on this side of the Atlantic, because of our greater facility for such studies." For this reason I troubled you with a communication last week upon the same subject, and must even trouble you once more,

In my last paper I called the Rawlinson list a 1733 list, but upon further consideration I feel satisfied that it was mainly copied from a 1732 list, and the few Lodges added to it up to 26th July 1733, were obtained from the Grand Secretary about the last-named date, for if he had had before him a complete 1733 list, he would not have stopped where he did, but would have added the five remaining Lodges, which complete the list for 1733. It is, therefore, possible that No. 79 may have been blank even in the 1732 list, but it was certainly soon on 26th July 1733.

I have already stated that Rawlinson was an L.L.D. and a F.R.S., but, strange to say, the name of Dr. Richard Rawlinson is not to be found either in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," in "Chambers," nor in Charles Knight's "English Encyclopædia." I found out, however, something about him at last in Alibone's "Dictionary of Authors." There is quite a lengthy paragraph in that work about R. Rawlinson, but it is not a biography; it consists of numerous hints, from which a biographer might collect materials for his purpose. Two facts must be noticed here, viz., Dr. Rawlinson died in 1759, and "The Sale of Richards's Collection of Books, MSS., etc., employed fifty-eight days." So says Alibone.

Bro. Rawlinson's Masonic zeal may be judged from his having been a member of several Lodges, from his collection of a number of Masonic curiosities, and from the pains he took in compiling his Lodge list upon an entirely novel plan, as I shall presently show. Hence I have a right to assume that a man of that peculiar taste and method would never have stopped short with his list in the middle of the year, if he had had the complete 1733 list before him; the probability therefore is that he copied the main part from a 1732 list, and obtained the numbers of the several Lodges constituted in 1733 from the Grand Secretary. As we are indebted to the Rev. Bro. J. S. Sidebotham for the little information about Rawlinson's Masonry, and about his Masonic curiosities still preserved at Oxford, I shall quote his own words about Bro. Rawlinson's Lodge list, as follows:—

"The list of recognised Lodges existing at that time may not be uninteresting. Bro. Rawlinson evidently intended to make it a complete list of every member of the Craft, and he has devoted at least an entire page to every Lodge; most of these are, however, blank, and, as in all pages which contain the list of members of the Lodge, his own name appears, we may infer that he only completed the lists of the Lodges to which he himself belonged."

I trust that the few hints indicated about a distinguished and learned brother will induce some Masonic scholar to collect and combine all the materials and facts about Dr. Rawlinson, so that Masons may know something more about him. I am sure the brother who would do that would enhance the value of a Masonic paper far more, and would confer a greater service to the Craft, than all those who fill our magazines with accounts of Ancient Mysteries, Rosicrucianism, Templarism, and what not; all which has about as much to do with Masonry as the man in the moon. I must here only add, should Alibone's Dictionary be not readily obtainable in England, for it is a Philadelphia publication, the desired information will probably be found in Watt's "Bibliotheca Britannica." And now I must resume the Lodge lists.

Bro. Hughan found in the Lodge list appended to Smith's Pocket Companion, 1728, a London Lodge, inserted and attached to No. 79. I at first supposed that the Lodges may have been renumbered in 1738, and that No. 80 took the rank of 79, or if any other blanks existed then higher up on the list, some other Lodges lower down were pushed up to No. 79. I have, however, now before me a Smith's Pocket Companion of 1733, but the Lodge list appended thereto was printed in 1737. Between No. 2 and No. 120 fifteen numbers are blank; and the Lodges numbered 78 and 80 are precisely the same Lodges as those of the earlier lists, so that there could have been no *pushing up* or the renumbering of Lodges that year; and between Nos. 78 and 80, the following is inserted: "79, Two Angels and a Crown, Little St. Martin's Lane, 2nd and 4th Friday."

I said that the Lodge list was printed in 1737; but as the last Lodge on the list is dated 20th April 1737, the main part of that list must have been copied from a 1736 list, and the few Lodges that were constituted in 1737, the editor must have obtained from the Grand Secretary. The question now to be decided is, where did that Lodge come from that assumed No. 79 in 1736 or 37? Had it been a Lodge of the Ancients, I would have supposed that they sold the old No. 79 to a new Lodge; but the Grand Lodge of England never sold the rank or precedence of its defunct Lodges; why then, did the Lodge that was held in 1736, at the Two Angels and the Crown, assume the number of a Lodge that was constituted in 1731?

To this question one rational answer only can be given, viz., that the very identical No. 79 Lodge that was constituted in 1731, after a dormancy of several years, was revised, and the Grand Lodge allowed it to retain its original No. 79. I am aware, however, that the following law was enacted by the Grand Lodge, 24th February 1735, viz.—

"If any Lodge within the Bills of Mortality shall cease to meet regularly during twelve months successive, its name and place shall be erased or blotted out of the Grand Lodge Book and engraved list, and if they petition to be again inserted and owned as a regular Lodge, it must lose its former rank and precedence, and submit to a new Constitution."

The seeming obstacle to my theory may, however, be removed under the following suppositions:—First, the brethren of No. 79 may have petitioned the Grand Lodge at that very meeting, when the above law was passed; as there was no law then existing against their resumption of their old number, they were allowed to resume it, and this very discussion may have suggested the necessity of a law to prevent other dormant Lodges from claiming their old rank, when they require to go to work again.

And, second, supposing even the petition for the restoration of its

old rank was made subsequent to the passage of the above law, it may have been argued in behalf of the petitioners, that a law cannot be made to retract for past offences; hence the 1735 law could only be applied to Lodges that should sin thereafter, and not to those who had sinned before. In law term, it is called an *ex post facto law*, and furthermore, as several other Lodges had then ceased to meet regularly, it was only good policy to reinstate No. 79, so as to induce the other defaulters to do the like. One or the other of the above suppositions may account for the restoration of the original Lodge. My theory is further strengthened by Dr. Anderson's list in his Constitution, 1738, who added to the Lodge, that held its meetings at the Two Angels, &c, "1731."

If, then, my theory is admitted, it is not impossible that the Grand Lodge of England's record may establish it as a fact. I am aware that the records of that period are very meagre, and the restoration of a Lodge may have been omitted from its minutes, but yet, something may be found in the record about No. 79. I have therefore begged my ever obliging friend, the Grand Secretary of England, to search the record from 24th February 1735 to 1737.

I would make another suggestion still; the chance is very faint; but if we fail in one direction, we may find it in another. I perceive that three Lodges, constituted in 1731, are still in existence, and who knows whether one of the Lodges may not be the identical one that was originally No. 79? The Masters of those Lodges ought therefore to be questioned; we might learn something from the exact date of a charter, or from the successive change of the numbers marked on the margin. This inquiry, if it should be deemed necessary, I am sure our Bro. Hughan, to whom the fraternity is so greatly indebted for his manifold researches in the Masonic field of inquiry, would readily do for me.

The ludicrous controversy about Masonic Mothership is mainly due to a local pride among Americans. Each one is puffed up with the notion, not only that America is the greatest country in the world, but also that his State is the greatest in the country, and his city is, or will be, the most important city in the State; thus, in the *Masonic Magazine*, Vol. II., page 5, Bro. MacCalla confesses that he was the more pleased to acknowledge his former opinion about Boston being the Mother, &c., to have been wrong, because he was a Philadelphian, and he went on to prove that Philadelphia was the true Mother. Had he proved his theory, I should not only have supported him from a feeling of principle, but I would have been entitled to some applause as the investigator of that inquiry. But on perusing his great article, I saw at once that there was more assumption than proof, and I frankly pointed out by letter to him of his short-comings, and subsequently remonstrated in the press against his baseless conclusions. But strange to say, his notion spread like wildfire. Dr. Mackey congratulated him, and only regretted that the discovery came too late for his enshrining Mother Philadelphia in his *Encyclopædia of Duncombe*, and the other *literati* also congratulated. But when Bro. Hughan's No. 79 discovery reached here, Philadelphia became rank mad with excitement. True, our Bro. Hughan qualified the joyful tidings with an admission that the Hoop Lodge is not named in any so far known English Lodge list. But as he expressed a hope that an earlier English list may yet be discovered, that may corroborate with the Dublin 1735 list, the mere hope of Bro. Hughan was accepted as an accomplished fact, and all united in singing Hosanna to No. 79, the now discovered Mother of American Masonry, and they have been singing so ever since. Bro. P.G.M. Nickerson, in the *New England Freemason*, endeavoured to recall these deluded ones to some degree of reason, but he was only jeered, and sneered, and laughed at for his pains. At last, earlier Lodge lists came to light, and assuming even that Bro. Hervey will be unable to throw any light on the history of No. 79, yet these Lodge lists by themselves have settled the vexed question. And should any one still persist that the Lodge at the Hoop in Philadelphia was the No. 79, then, let him explain why No. 79 is blank on Rawlinson's list, compiled 26th July 1733? why it is blank on Pine's list of 1734? why it is blank on all other English lists? and last, and not least, why was a new London Lodge in 1736-7 the recipient of No. 79?

I frankly confess that the streets of Philadelphia are more regular than that of any city in the world, that her system of numbering houses is the most perfect system in the world, that her Exhibition in 1876 was the largest in the world, that her Masonic Temple is the finest and grandest in the world. When I visited Philadelphia I was most handsomely received by R.W. Bro. Thomson G.S. and P.G.M., likewise Bro. MacCalla and other distinguished Philadelphia brethren, for which I am very grateful. I shall therefore say all I can in behalf of Philadelphia, and I confess that in many respects Boston is far behind Philadelphia; but nevertheless historic facts should never be perverted through personal preferences or prejudices, and the facts I laid before you and your readers must convince any one that Philadelphia cannot claim American Masonic Mothership from a legal standpoint.

And now that my labour is completed, I cannot help saying to myself that, if the Irish brother in 1735 had known that his *guess-work* would occasion so much popping up, and so much popping down, that it would give me so much trouble to colate and compare all those Lodge lists and dates, and to ponder and discriminate between the old and new style, and in this hot season, too, with the thermometer ranging about 90 deg. Fahrenheit, besides the trouble I have to give you, and Bro. Hervey, and Bro. Hughan, and perhaps to the three Worshipful Masters of the Lodges constituted in 1731, besides the *et ceteras* too numerous to mention; I say again if that brother had known all that, I am sure he would never have been guilty of giving "a local habitation and a name" to No. 79.

And, in conclusion, I hope and trust that this will be a warning and a lesson to all present and future Masonic book makers, and that they will take due notice thereof, and govern themselves accordingly. So mote it be.

Boston, U.S., 20th July 1877.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS, ST. JOHN'S HILL, S.W.

OFFICE: 5 Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, W.C.

PATRONS:

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

IN compliance with a requisition delivered to me, and signed by Lieut.-Colonel JOHN CREATON, J.P., Vice-Patron and Trustee, a Special General Court of the Governors and Subscribers of this Institution will be held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on Thursday, the 9th August 1877, at four o'clock p.m. precisely, on the following business:—

Upon the recommendation of the Building Committee, Colonel Creaton, Chairman, will move,

"That the Building Committee be authorised to expend the sum of £2,500 in the purchase of a plot of land adjoining the premises of the Institution at St. John's Hill."

R. WENTWORTH LITTLE, V.P., D.P.G.M. Middlesex,
Secretary.

30th July 1877.

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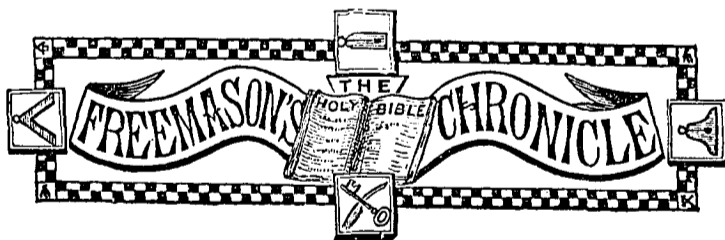
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OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

WITH the exception of one evening, an hour has sufficed for the dispatch of business in the House of Lords. There have been discussions on the subject of the Public Worship Regulation Act, the Confessional, and other matters, while on Monday, the New Army Warrant was laid before their Lordships, and several peers, among whom were the Duke of Cambridge and Viscount Cardwell, addressed the House. But if the sittings in the Lords have been comparatively quiet, those in the Commons have been inordinately protracted; indeed, one of them will be memorable in our Parliamentary annals, as being the longest which has been known in this country. On Thursday last, in reply to a feeler by the leader of the Opposition, the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave some indication of the resolutions he intended to submit to the House the following evening, after which, Mr. I. Butt moved the second reading of his University Education (Ireland) Bill, and Mr. D. Plunket, Mr. Lowe, and Sir M. H. Beach were among the speakers who took part in the debate. On a

division, Mr. Butt was defeated by 200 to 55. The House rose shortly before two o'clock. On Friday, the motion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the effect that his Resolutions should take precedence of the Orders of the day, having been carried by 319 to 40 votes, the Resolutions, two in number, were submitted and discussed. These occupied the rest of the evening. They were vehemently opposed by the Obstructive Irish members, whose conduct has rendered their introduction necessary, but with the exception of these, the whole House supported its leader, and, after several amendments had been objected to by overwhelming majorities, the first resolution was carried by 282 to 32, and the second by 250 to 7. The House adjourned shortly before two o'clock, and met again at noon on Saturday, when it went into Committee on the Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Bill. Progress having been reported, the House considered the East India Loan Bill in Committee, and disposed of the several clauses. The other business having been transacted, an adjournment took place at half-past six o'clock. On Monday, a scene occurred between the O'Donoghue and Mr. Biggar, the latter having, on Saturday, declared the O'Donoghue to be unfit to sit on a Parliamentary Committee. He was, therefore, called upon to explain his reasons, which he did very reluctantly and most imperfectly, the sympathy of the House, as expressed by Sir W. Harcourt and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, being warmly in favour of the gentleman who had been so wantonly attacked. After an expression of sorrow at the untimely death of Mr. Ward Hunt, to which the leaders of the two sides of the House gave utterance for their respective parties, the House went into Committee on the South African Bill, but owing to the obstructive conduct of certain Irish members, only clause Three was agreed to. On Tuesday, the House met at 4 o'clock, and immediately on going into Committee on the same Bill, the same tactics were renewed by the Irish. But the Government had gone down to the House, determined that their measure should emerge from Committee at no matter what cost of time and trouble. Mr. Biggar, Mr. Parnell, and their five colleagues did all they could to hinder the progress of the measure, but the Committee supported the Government splendidly. The House sat on all night. No less than four gentlemen presided as Chairmen, one succeeding the other at intervals, so as to allow of some rest being taken. Relays of members came down at different times, and though at one time the scene was in the highest degree discreditable to the contemptible minority which was doing its best to stop the Bill, the firmness of the Committee and the Government was triumphant in the end, and after a continuous sitting of nearly twenty-four hours, the Bill emerged from the Committee. It will probably be necessary for the House to take official notice of this disgraceful conduct of Mr. Biggar and his friends, in which case it will have the sympathy of the entire country. Even the Chancellor of the Exchequer was less strong in his denunciation of the Obstructives than Sir W. Harcourt and Mr. Forster, while Mr. Butt, who is the leader of the Home Rule party, was even more forcible still in denouncing them. The sitting was prolonged, for the consideration of the Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Bill, and other measures, till ten minutes past six, when it adjourned till Thursday, having sat uninterruptedly for twenty-six hours and ten minutes.

The progress towards convalescence of Prince Albert Victor of Wales has been satisfactory, and there is little doubt he will speedily be restored to health. On Saturday, after a Cabinet Council had been held in Downing-street, the Earl of Beaconsfield, accompanied by his private secretary, travelled down by the South-Eastern, and crossed to Osborne, when he had an interview with Her Majesty. The noble Earl dined with the Queen, and then returned to town. The same day the Prince and Princess Christian drove to Farningham, in order to be present at the *fête* of the Home for Little Boys, and likewise that the Princess might lay the foundation-stone of the new workshops, library, &c., &c. The Royal party were received by Viscount Sydney, Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, and the officers of the Institution, and the ceremony having been duly performed, the prizes were distributed to the boys, after which luncheon was served, the chair being occupied by Prince Christian. The subscriptions amounted to some £1,500. The Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne have crossed to Ostend for a short visit, while the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge have been to the Duke of Richmond's seat in order to be present at Goodwood Races.

The Court of Aldermen have formally declared that Sir John Bennett is not a fit and proper person to represent the Ward of Cheap. There will consequently be a new election, at which Sir John intends offering himself as a candidate.

The Goodwood meeting has been thus far a success, the gathering having been as numerous and aristocratic as ever. The principal event on the opening day was the Stewards' Cup, for which twenty three started, Sir W. Throckmorton's Herald winning by two lengths, Monk and Warrior being second and third respectively. The favourite broke a blood vessel after going a quarter of a mile, and was immediately stopped by his jockey. Twelve ran for the Goodwood Stakes, Prince George, who started favourite at 7 to 2, coming in an easy winner by eight lengths. And as in the racing world, so in Cricket there has been great activity, several first-class matches having been played during the past week. Kent has defeated Hampshire by six wickets. England has had to succumb to Gloucestershire, the latter winning the victory by five wickets, but the struggle between the great Western County and Yorkshire was very close indeed, and ended in a draw, Yorkshire having still one wicket to fall and eighteen runs to score to be victorious. Mr. W. G. Grace has not been making very large scores this season, but on this last occasion he put together 84 in his usual style.

The Ministers, by the lamented death of Mr. Ward Hunt, who, our readers doubtless are aware, was a Freemason, have lost a hard-working and highly popular colleague. It may, indeed, be said that Mr. Ward Hunt died from over-zeal in his duties. It must be in the recollection of our readers that the last occasion he attended in his place in the House of Commons, the right honourable gentleman was suffering great pain, and on the motion of the Marquis of Hartington, it was resolved that Mr. Hunt should be permitted to address the House sitting. But Mr. Hunt, though he acknowledged the graceful compliment paid him, remained standing. The late First Lord was only a little over fifty years of age. On Monday evening, as we have already said, the House of Commons paid a just tribute of respect to his memory. We offer to the widow and family of our deceased brother the expression of our deep sympathy.

America has not been in that delightful state of order which it usually enjoys. There has been a succession of terrible railroad strikes, and it has been necessary to call out the militia and the regular troops, in order to restore peace. Several conflicts have taken place between the rioters and the military, and there has been, in consequence, a most serious loss of life. However, the strike is now, fortunately, at an end.

The difficulty between Peru and Great Britain, in the matter of the ironclad Huascar, is not settled. The Law Officers of the Crown have given it as their opinion that the Huascar was virtually a piratical ship, and this, of course, exonerates the British Admiral from all blame for his conduct in attacking the vessel. It was a plucky thing to do, for the Shah and the Amethyst are wooden vessels, while the Huascar is a formidable ironclad. The Peruvian Government does not regard the matter in exactly the same light as our Admiral and Law Officers. It is indignant at the attack on this vessel, though it had previously announced that it would not be responsible for the acts of its commander. However, it is obvious that Peru cannot complain of our Admiral's conduct, having already publicly denounced the vessel he attacked, and so, no doubt, the temporary soreness will soon pass away.

The fighting in Europe has been of a far more serious character than at any previous period during the war. Only a short time since it seemed as though Russia was about to carry all before her, and people were beginning to talk of her armies occupying Adrianople, and even Constantinople itself. There was, in fact, an almost universal scare, and every one seemed to think that the occupation of Gallipoli by the English troops would very soon become an absolute necessity, if we intended upholding our interests in the East. But since then the Russians have sustained a most serious reverse. They have renewed their attempt to recover possession of Plevna, where, some time since, they were defeated, with a loss which they themselves set down at about 2,000 men. On Saturday, the Russians resumed the offensive, but after a long and desperate conflict they were repulsed, two battalions, it is said, having been almost annihilated. On Sunday, the battle was renewed, but the same ill-fortune befel the Russians, who were again the

assailants. On Monday, there was further fighting of the most desperate character, and in this the Turks came off victorious, the losses of their enemy being set down at 24,000 men, of whom some 8,000 were slain. It is possible these numbers may be exaggerated, though a three day's battle might well involve such losses. About the importance of the Turkish victory, however, there cannot be the slightest doubt whatever. Even from Bucharest the news is to the effect that a great defeat has been sustained by the Russians, the loss being set down at 10,000. But even if we go half way between the two accounts, it will be seen the conflict was a very terrible one. South of the Balkans, likewise, if the reports are true, the Turks have successfully attacked the enemy and forced them back. As matters appear to stand now, it would seem as if the Russians under the Grand Duke Nicholas were in a fair way of experiencing the same fate as their companions in arms in Asia under his brother Michael. It may even be worse, for in Asia the Russians had no broad river behind them. If Osman, Suleiman, and Mehemet Ali Pachas continue as they have begun, there will shortly be hardly a Russian on the south bank of the Danube. In Asia there has been more fighting, but it is quite thrown into the shade by the severe struggles in Europe. Moreover, the fighting here has partaken rather of the nature of skirmishes, in which only small bodies of troops have been engaged. Consequently, the losses are comparatively small. Whatever may happen next week, there is no doubt the tide of victory has turned in favour of the Turk, and very probably there may be no need whatever for the new government *à la Russe* which the Czar's Commissioner is trying to introduce into Bulgaria.

Old Warrants.

—:0:—

No. 78.

No. 25, "Ancients;" No. 38 A.D. 1814, No. 35 A.D. 1832, and No. 32 from A.D. 1863.

AUGUSTUS FREDERICK, G.M.

To all and every our Right Worshipful, Worshipful and Loving Brethren.

Seal.

We,

PRINCE AUGUSTUS FREDERICK OF BRUNSWICK LUNENBURGH,
(DUKE OF SUSSEX).

Earl of Inverness, Baron of Arklow, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, &c., &c., &c.

GRAND MASTER

Of the most Antient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of England.

SEND GREETING.

WHEREAS it appears, by the Records of our Grand Lodge, that a Warrant of Constitution, bearing date 17th October 1753, was granted to certain Brethren therein named, authorising them to open and hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, at the sign of the Crown and Thistle, in the Town of Liverpool, in the County of Lancaster, and which was then registered in the Books of the Grand Lodge No. 25. And whereas, by the Union of the two Grand Lodges, on the 27th December 1813, the said Lodge became No. 38. And by the general alteration of the numbers in the year 1832, it became, and is now, registered in the Grand Lodge Books, No. 35, meeting at the Adelphi Hotel, in the said Town of Liverpool, under the title or denomination of

No. 35 St. GEORGE'S LODGE OF HARMONY.

And whereas the Brethren composing the said Lodge have, by their Memorial, represented to us that their said Warrant hath, by some accident, become defaced, they have prayed us to grant them a Warrant of Confirmation. Now Know Ye that we, being satisfied of the reasonableness of the said request, and from the confidence reposed in the Brethren, Do hereby grant this, our WARRANT OF CONFIRMATION, unto our Right Trusty and Well-beloved Brethren, Francis Gouthwaite, Augustus S. Woodward, Ellis S. Yates, Le Gendre, Nicholas Starkie, Provincial Grand Master for the Western Division of Lancashire, John Drinkwater, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, George Green junior, Lewis Samuel, James Aspinal, John Naegeli, and other Brethren composing the said Lodge, authorising and empowering them and their Successors to continue to assemble and hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, at Liverpool, aforesaid, on the fourth Monday in every month, or at such times as to the Brethren thereof may appear necessary, and be regulated by their By-Laws, in conformity with the General Laws of the Craft,

and then and there, when duly congregated, to make, pass, and raise Free Masons, according to the Antient Custom of the Craft in all Ages and Nations throughout the known world. And further, at the petition of the said Brethren, We do appoint the said Francis Gouthwaite to be the Master, the said Ellis S. Yates to be the Senior Warden, and the said George Green jun. to be the Junior Warden, for continuing to hold the said Lodge, until such time as another Master shall be regularly elected and installed, strictly charging that every Member who shall be elected to preside over the said Lodge shall be installed in antient form and according to the laws of the Grand Lodge, that he may thereby be fully invested with the dignities and powers of his office. And we do require you the said Francis Gouthwaite, and your Successors, to take special care that all and every the Brethren are, or have been, regularly made Masons, and that you, and they, and all other the members of the said Lodge, do observe, perform, and keep the laws, rules, and orders contained in the Book of Constitutions, and all others which may from time to time be made by our Grand Lodge, or transmitted by us, our Successors, Grand Masters, or by our Deputy Grand Master for the time being. And We do enjoin you to make such By-Laws for the government of your Lodge as shall to the majority of the Members appear proper and necessary, the same not being contrary to, or inconsistent with, the General Laws and regulations of the Craft, a copy whereof you are to transmit to us. And we do require you to cause all such By-Laws and Regulations, and also an account of the proceedings of your Lodge, to be entered in books to be kept for that purpose. And you are in no wise to omit to send to us, or our Successors, Grand Masters, or to the Right Honorable Lord Henry John Spencer Churchill, our Deputy Grand Master, or to the Deputy Grand Master for the time being, at least once in every year, a List of the Members of your Lodge, with the names and descriptions of all Masons initiated therein and Brethren who shall have joined the same, together with the Fees and Monies payable thereon, according to the rules laid down in the Book of Constitutions. It being our will and intention that this, our Warrant, shall continue in force so long only as you shall conform to the laws and regulations of our said Grand Lodge.

Given under our Hands and the Seal of the Grand Lodge at London, this 11th February, A.L. 5836, A.D. 1836.

By command of the M.W. Grand Master.

H. JOHN SPENCER CHURCHILL, D.G.M.

William H. White } G.S.
Edw. Harper }

The present title, No., &c. are, The St. George's Lodge, No. 32, Liverpool.

No. 79.

No. 36, "Ancients;" No. 54 A.D. 1814 (at the Union), No. 47 A.D. 1832, and No. 40 from A.D. 1863.

ATHOLL, GRAND MASTER.

THOMAS HARPER, D.G.M.

ARCHIBALD HERRON, S.G.W. JEREMIAH CRANFIELD, J.G.W.

To all whom it may concern.

WE, the Grand Lodge of the most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons (according to the Old Constitutions granted by His Royal Highness Prince EDWIN, at York, Anno Domini Nine hundred twenty and six, and in the Year of Masoury, Four thousand Nine hundred twenty and six), in ample Form assembled, viz., The Right Worshipful The Most Noble Prince John, Duke, Marquis and Earl of Atholl, Marquis and Earl of Tullibardine, Earl of Strathray and Strathardle, Viscount Balquidder, Glenalmond and Glenlyon, Lord Murray, Belvory and Gask, Constable of the Castle of Kincleaven, Lord of Man and the Isles, and Earl Strange and Baron Murray of Stanley, in the County of Gloucester, &c., &c., &c., GRAND MASTER OF MASONS, The Right Worshipful Thomas Harper, Esq., Deputy Grand Master, The Right Worshipful Archibald Herron, Esq., Senior Grand Warden, and the Right Worshipful Jeremiah Cranfield, Esq., Junior Grand Warden (with the approbation and consent of the Warranted Lodges held within the Cities and Suburbs of London and Westminster), Do hereby authorise and empower our Trusty and Well-beloved Brethren, viz., The Worshipful Brother Thomas Sargent one of our Master Masons. The Worshipful Brother Henry Rogers his Senior Warden, and The Worshipful Brother Thomas Foster his Junior Warden, to Form and Hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons aforesaid, at the house known by the name or sign of the Castle Inn, Hastings, or elsewhere in the County of Sussex, upon the first and third Wednesday in every month (being first duly registered pursuant to the statute) and on all seasonable times and lawful occasions: And in the said Lodge (when duly congregated) to admit and make Free Masons, according to the most Ancient and Honourable Custom of the Royal Craft, in all Ages and Nations throughout the known World. And we do hereby farther authorise and empower our said Trusty and Well-beloved Brethren, Thomas Sargent, Henry Rogers, and Thomas Foster (with the Consent of the Members of their Lodge), to nominate, chuse, and install their Successors, to whom they shall deliver this Warrant, and invest them with their Powers and Dignities as Free Masons, &c. And such Successors shall in like manner nominate, chuse, and install their Successors, &c., &c., &c. Such installations to be upon (or near) every ST. JOHN'S DAY, during the continuance of this Lodge, for ever. Providing the above named Brethren, and all their Successors, always pay due Respect to this

Right Worshipful Grand Lodge, otherwise this Warrant to be of no Force nor Virtue.

Given under our Hands and the Seal of our Grand Lodge in London, this fifth day of April, in the year of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Thirteen, and in the Year of Masonry Five thousand Eight hundred and Thirteen.

ROBERT LESLIE,

Grand Secretary.

NOTE.—This Warrant is Registered
in the Grand Lodge, Vol. 2,
Letter B. 2nd April 1755.
Vol. 142.
Ent^d. Edw^d. Harper, D.G. Sec.

[SEAL.]

[SEAL.]

The present title, No., &c. are, The Derwent Lodge, No. 40, Hastings.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE, SOUTH WALES (WESTERN DIVISION.)

THE Provincial Grand Lodge of the Western Division of South Wales was held on the 26th ultimo, under the banner of the Loyal Welsh Lodge meeting at Pembroke Dock, the Right Worshipful Grand Master Bro. Major Lloyd Philipps in the chair. There was a very good muster of brethren to meet the popular Master, who was especially well supported by the Past Prov. G. Officers, although so far down West; the distance being so great we suppose was the reason that there were so very few visitors. The Right Worshipful Grand Master had therefore the greater reason to congratulate himself upon the support he received from his own Province. The Lodge having been duly opened, before proceeding to business, the Right Worshipful Grand Master took occasion to thank the brethren of the various Lodges in his Province for the addresses of sympathy and condolence he had received during his late affliction, and assured the brethren that he should never forget the many kindnesses he had received during his period of sorrow. The rôle of the Lodges was called, and responded to by a fair number of representatives from each Lodge. The report of the Provincial Grand Lodge Committee was received and adopted. The reports of the Charity Steward, Bro. A. Stour, Prince of Wales Lodge, and the Charity Commissioner, Bro. J. Beavan Philipps, were received. Both reports showed the steady progress the Province was making, thanks to the exertions of those worthy brethren, to whom votes of thanks were unanimously passed. Bro. Philipps was unanimously re-appointed Charity Commissioner, and Bro. Stour was appointed Steward to represent the Province at the next Festival of the Girls' School. Bro. W. J. Morgan P. Prov. G.J.W., in proposing that a sum of twenty guineas should be voted from the funds of Provincial Grand Lodge in aid of the Girls' School, observed that he had no doubt that Bro. Stour, to whom a vote of thanks had just been passed, would think it a still higher compliment if the Grand Lodge would give him twenty guineas to head his list, as Steward for the year for the Girls' School, instead of the fifteen guineas recommended by the Grand Lodge Committee. The proposition being seconded by Bro. the Rev. J. Marsden, after a little discussion as to the position of the Province, was carried unanimously. The same proposer and seconder then proposed that a sum of fifteen guineas should be voted from the funds of Grand Lodge, towards the Provincial Grand Lodge Fund of Benevolence. This, too, was carried unanimously. When appointing officers, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master proposed as P.G. Treas., Bro. Captain Williams, of St. David's Lodge, Milford, who had held the office for several years, with profit to the Province, and credit to himself. Bro. G. Griffiths, St. David's Lodge, Milford, rose, and in the name of Captain Williams, requested that he might be relieved from the duties of Treasurer, as his failing health (which had not permitted him to be present that day) would not allow him to give the duties the necessary attention. This announcement was received with great sorrow by all, for the captain's geniality had endeared him to all who knew him, and he was one of the best known and most regular attendants at Grand Lodge. Bro. W. J. Morgan proposed, as a successor to Bro. Captain Williams, Bro. G. Griffiths P.M. St. David's Lodge and P. Prov. S.G.W., assigning as a reason why Bro. Griffiths should be elected, that he was a fellow townsman and member of the same Lodge as the late Treasurer, and he would have the benefit of his advice and assistance, as he hoped, for many years. The proposition was unanimously carried. The new Treasurer thanked Grand Lodge for the confidence reposed in him, and, in the name of several members of Grand Lodge, requested the Right Worshipful Grand Master to present Bro. Captain Williams with a jewel which they had subscribed for, as a mark of their respect and esteem. Major Philipps complied with the request, and with great pleasure invested, in the absence of Bro. Williams, the W.M. of the Lodge to which Bro. Williams belongs, and who, curiously enough, was no other than the nephew and partner in business of Bro. Williams, Captain Mathias. In investing Bro. Mathias, the Right Worshipful Master took occasion to express his great regret at the illness of Bro. Williams, which prevented his being present on that day, and he also spoke in highly eulogistic terms of the services rendered to the Province by Bro. Williams, and thought the presentation of the jewel was a fitting and just reward for long and distinguished services to Masonry in general, and the Province of the Western Division of South Wales in particular. He further requested Bro. Mathias to wear the jewel during the day in honour of Bro. Williams. Bro. Mathias would have much pleasure in complying with the request, but was too much moved to say any more. The brethren then formed in order of procession, and attended Divine service at St. John's

Church, on return from which, and labour being resumed in Lodge, a very cordial vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Stanley Balcombe, the late Secretary, whose change of residence rendered it impossible that he could continue the active services which he had, with so much ability, rendered to the Province. The resolution was entered on the minutes, but it was also understood that the respect and esteem of the brethren will shortly take a more substantial form. Grand Lodge was then closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to Bro. Jenkins, of the Victoria Hotel, where a sumptuous banquet awaited them, and to which upwards of one hundred guests sat down, and did ample justice to. Toast and song followed in rapid succession, until the time warned those from a distance that trains were no more inclined to wait than time and tide.

We subjoin a list of the officers appointed for the year 1877-78:—

Bros. Rbt. Margravo W.M. 671 S.W., W. G. Phillips P.M. 990 J.W., David Williams (Canon) 671 and Rev. Jas. Bowden 366 Chaplains, Richard Thomas I.P.M. 476 Registrar, Geo Griffiths P.M. 336 Treas., Edward Hamer P.M. 1072 Sec., D. A. Reid W.M. 1177 S.D., T. D. Harris P.M. 378 J.D., D. Mathias W.M. 366 S. of Works, John May W.M. 464 D. of C., Hy. C. Buckley 671 Assist. D. of C., John Cavill 476 Swd. Br., W.H. Ribbon 378 Org., Edwin Thomas 378 Pars., Wm. Hy. Richards 1177, Edgar Atwood, 1072, B. E. Morgan 1072, Thomas Brown J.W. 378, Geo. W. Ford J.D. 990, W. Murray 1177 Stewards, John Williams 366 Tylor.

TALBOT LODGE, No. 1323, SWANSEA.

THE ever genial W.M. of this Lodge, Bro. J. G. Hall J.P., with the thoughtfulness so characteristic of him, issued an invitation to the Masonic members of the Joint North and South Wales Bar, who are now on circuit in South Wales, to attend Lodge on Wednesday, 1st August, and after due labour in Lodge to a slight refection, in the shape of a social dinner. The kindness and brotherly feeling of such an invitation was as genially and fraternally accepted by Bros. Æneas McIntyre Q.C. Grand Registrar of England, J. W. Bowen Q.C., B. Francis Williams, A. G. P. Lewis, W. D. Benson, and C. A. Fyffe. Perhaps it gave no little zest to the professional brethren to be present to see so worthy a young professional brother as Walter Dalton take his third degree in the honourable fraternity. The ceremony of raising was performed in the quiet unassuming manner so peculiarly his own, by the W.M., ably seconded by his officers. After the labour proper of the evening was completed the W.M. spoke in very feeling terms of the presence of a distinguished brother who had not for some little time been so often amongst them as they wished, although he was the founder of the Lodge. Since his last appearance there he had been selected by the favour of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and appointed to the honourable office of Grand Deacon of England, he very cordially wished Bro. Morris long life to enjoy the high honour he had attained, and the ease and retirement his long and distinguished services fairly entitled him to. The W.M. then instructed his S.W. according to ancient form to close the Lodge. After which the brethren repaired to the banquet room, where the usual monthly banquet was laid out, the merits of which having been properly discussed, and justice fairly done by, the W.M. gave the patriotic and Masonic toasts of the Queen and Craft, and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales Grand Master of the Order. Bro. Hall then gave what is, next to the loyal and patriotic toasts, always the toast of the evening at the Talbot Lodge, viz., "The Visitors." The W.M., in proposing this favourite toast, spoke of the great pleasure it gave him as W.M. of the Talbot Lodge, to see such a gathering of Masonic brethren belonging to the honourable profession of the Bar present as guests of the Talbot Lodge. He hoped that the fraternal knowledge of each other, began that evening, would be extended in the future by many more meetings under the banner of the same Lodge. Bro. McIntyre, in responding, spoke of the singularly friendly and gentlemanly way in which he, and other members of the North Wales Circuit, had been received by the South Wales Circuit. He could not tell, but he thought some of that kindness of feeling had been engendered by the principles of Freemasonry. He hoped that his acquaintance with the brethren of South Wales, thus auspiciously begun, would become closer and more intimate. He also spoke of the pleasure it gave him to meet, on his own ground, and in the Lodge of which he was the founder, a brother whose Masonic merits had been recognised by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. He had long known Bro. Morris by repute, but he was now glad to number him amongst his personal friends. He thanked the brethren of the Talbot Lodge on behalf of himself and other visitors for the very cordial welcome they had received at their hands, and re-echoed the wish of the W.M. that, at some future period, they might again meet at the same Lodge. Bro. J. W. Bowen, who was also called upon to respond, excused himself for the slight rust upon his Masonic knowledge which had come upon him, because of the demands which his profession made upon him. He could remember years ago, when he used to attend the St. Peter's Lodge, the great interest that he took in all Masonic labour. He hoped the time would soon come when he would be able again to give himself the pleasure of being a more frequent attendant at Lodge. He thanked the brethren for their kindly notice and reception of him. The health of the W.M. having been proposed and received in the way his name always is received, he gave "Our Next Meeting," after which song and jest whiled the hours away, a result to which the admirable singing of Bros. Harding, of 476, A. G. P. Lewis, also of 476, J. Jones Hewson, and J. B. Richards, of 1336, materially contributed. The inimitable W.M. of the Merlin Lodge, Pontypridd, Bro. Matthew Wayne Morgan, by his rich, racy humour, created roars of laughter. Altogether, we may say that a more pleasurable evening has never been spent by the Bar in South Wales; nor, we venture to say, have the hospitable Talbot Lodge ever more thoroughly enjoyed the visit of brethren from a distance than upon this occasion.

THE SURREY MASONIC HALL.

THE meeting suggested by our correspondent, "P.M., P.Z." in his letter, published in our columns last week, was held at the Surrey Masonic Hall, on the evening of Monday last. Amongst the brethren present were Bros. Dr. Pinder, G. H. N. Bridges, N. B. Heaton, M. S. Larham, T. L. Green, E. Moody, E. Clark, S. Drysdale, H. Garrod, John Constable, James Stevens, W. C. Devereux, L. J. Altman, W. Sim, G. J. Dawson, W. W. Morgan, W. Ramsey, W. Smith, J. O. Gardner, B. Turner, and numerous others, whose faces are familiar to us; but, as no signature book was prepared for reference, we cannot remember their names. Although the gathering might fairly be considered sufficiently representative, it was not, however, so large as the circumstances of the case had led many to expect, and it was soon discovered that the large Hall would not be required for the purposes of the meeting. The dining-hall was therefore thrown open, and this was very sufficiently filled by members of the Craft, shareholders in the company, or otherwise. Bro. James Stevens was nominated as chairman, but stating that he was the writer of the letter which had led to the meeting, declined that position, and Bro. N. B. Heaton P.M., of the Great City, No. 1426, was requested to preside. The chairman, after briefly explaining that the gathering together of the brethren on this occasion, was more for the purposes of consultation on the position of the Surrey Masonic Hall Company, and the risk of the building being purchased for, and devoted to other purposes, than for the passing of resolutions, condemnatory or otherwise, of past proceedings in relation thereto, hoped that the subject would be approached by each speaker in a proper Masonic spirit and, as far as possible, free from personality or bias. A cool, calm consideration was necessary, and that could not be given if feeling was to be strongly displayed. The meeting was not formal, nor held under authority. It was more as a committee of interested persons than as a body of men capable of deciding upon action, and of carrying that action to a practical result. He called upon Bro. Stevens to read the letter published in the Masonic papers, and this was done.

From this point a lengthy discussion ensued, the details of which we consider it quite unnecessary to report. Freemasons have natural feelings and impulses, and it is not to be wondered at that the narration of certain past proceedings should have occasioned indignant remarks, which, although each speaker endeavoured to avoid personality, could not fail to be unacceptable to some individuals. However, all who desired to speak were listened to with attention, and many propositions were put forward with a view to remedy the past.

A director endeavoured to explain away some of the extraordinary proceedings which were attributed to the Board, but failed to do so. Indignation was expressed that the shareholders had not been called together prior to the announcement of the sale by auction, under foreclosure by the mortgagees.

Sympathy for the builder, Bro. J. Oliver, whose unpaid balance for the erection of the building amounts to nearly £4,000, was generally expressed, and the tone of the meeting subsequently became that of a general desire to see him saved from so great a loss. Nothing, however, resulted of a practical nature, as so little time remained for carrying out any of the suggestions made, and after two hours' debate the brethren separated, very doubtful, indeed, as to the issue of the morrow's public sale of the building.

We attended the auction on the 31st ult., and noticed a moderate attendance of Freemasons. The biddings were opened by one of £3,000, which sum was increased to £4,600, at which price the Surrey Masonic Hall was sold, as we were given to understand, to Bro. Oliver, the builder, and the fact formed a subject of great congratulation among those present when the hammer fell.

WOODBIDGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

THE annual concert, previous to the vacation of this school, was held on Tuesday last, at the school-room, and was well attended. The programme, which comprised the cantata, "The Jackdaw of Rheims," and some songs and selections, was very well sustained.

On the following day, which was speech day, Col. St. John Barnes M.P. presided, and was surrounded by a large number of the principal gentry and ladies of the town and neighbourhood. Several valuable prizes, chiefly well-bound books, were distributed to the pupils of the school. Great credit and praise was given to the head master, Dr. James Russel Wood, and his assistant masters, for the efficiency shown by the boys under their care as boarders and day scholars. The names of those who received prizes were:—F. Marley, A. Hewetson, J. C. Thorpe, D. T. B. Wood, J. Arnott, W. J. Shipman, G. C. Wood, J. Devonshire, R. L. Devonshire, W. B. Hart-ridge, S. C. Wood, W. J. Naunton, A. K. M. Wood, A. H. Mayhew, E. C. Pettitt, D. B. Capon, R. E. Vaughan, and W. Jarvis.

NOTICE.—BACK NUMBERS.

Brethren who desire to complete their sets of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, should make early application for Back Numbers. At present all are in print, but of some we have only a few copies left. Cases for binding the several volumes can be had at the Office, 67 Barbican,

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, 4th AUGUST.

General Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
1223—Anderst. Kings Arms Hotel, Westerham, Kent.
1453—Truth, Private Rooms, Conservative Club, Newton Heath, Manchester.
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8.

TUESDAY, 7th AUGUST.

Coln'al Board, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
55—Constitutional, Wheatshaf, Hand-court, W.C., at 7 0. (Instruction.)
65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
177—Domatic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
201—Jordan, Devonshire Arms, Devonshire-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
551—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney. (Instruction.)
860—Dalhousie, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1471—Islington, Coopers Arms, Silver-street, F. Icon-square, E.C., at 7. (Inst.)
1472—Henley, Railway Tavern, Stratford New Town, at 8. (Instruction.)
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)

70—St. John, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth.
103—Peaufort, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol.
120—Palladian, Green Dragon Hotel, Hereford.
124—Marquis of Granby, Freemasons' Hall, Durham.
154—Adams, Masonic Rooms, Victoria Hall Trinity-road, Sheerness-on-Sea.
393—St. David's, Freemasons' Hall, The Parade, Berwick-on-Tweed.
558—Temple, Town Hall, Folkestone.
673—St. John, Masonic Temple, Hope-street, Liverpool.
734—Londesborough, Masonic Hall, Bridlington.
801—Carnarvon, Lodge Rooms, Waterloo-road, Havant.
817—Foliescne, Manor House, Honiton, Devon.
928—Friendship, Masonic Hall, Petersfield, Hampshire.
948—St. Barnabas, Masonic Room, Linlade, Leighton Buzzard.
960—Butc, Masonic Hall, 9 Woking-street, Cardiff.
1002—Skiddaw, Lodge Room, Market-place, Cocker-mouth.
1244—Marwood, Freemasons' Hall, Redcar.
1322—Waverley, Caledonia Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne.
1549—Abercorn, Abercorn Arms Hotel, Great Stanmore.

WEDNESDAY, 8th AUGUST.

Committee, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
193—Confidence, Whittington Tavern, Moor-lane, Fore-st., at 7. (Instruction.)
731—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
862—Whittington, Black Bull, Holborn, at 8. (Instruction.)
1185—Lewis, King's Arms Hotel, Wood Green, at 7. (Instruction.)
1196—Urban, The Three Bucks, Gresham-street, at 6.30. (Instruction.)
1260—Hervey, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1288—Finsbury Park, Finsbury Pk. Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Hotel, High-street, Wapping.
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
R. A. 177—Domatic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
R. A. 1365—Clapton, White Hart Tavern, Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover. (Instruction.)
204—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester.
225—St. Luke, Coach and Horses Hotel, Ipswich.
231—Fortitude, Athenaeum, Lancaster.
666—Benevolence, Private Room, Prince Town, Dartmoor, Devon.
851—Worthing of Friendship, Steyne Hotel, Worthing.
972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury.
1209—Lewises, Royal Hotel, Ramsgate.
1248—Denison, Grand Hotel, Scarborough.
1342—Walker, Stack Hotel, Walker-on-Tyne.
1398—Baldwin, The Castle, Dalton-in-Furness.
1424—Brownrigg, Assembly Rooms, Old Brompton, Chatham.
1434—Nottinghamshire, George Hotel, Nottingham.
1582—Llanidloes, Trewythen Hotel, Llanidloes, North Wales.
1643—Perseverance, Station Hotel, Hebburn.
M. M. 102—St. Cuthbert, Masonic Hall, The Parade, Berwick.

THURSDAY, 9th AUGUST.

3—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-sq., at 7. (Instruction.)
15—Kent, Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8. (Instruction.)
1321—Emblematic, Tulse-hill Hotel, Tulse-hill.
1349—Friars, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
1426—The Great City, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, E.C. at 6.30. (Instruction.)
1489—Marquess of Ripon, Albion, Albion-road, Dalston, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1612—West Middlesex, Railway Hotel, Faling, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
M. M.—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston. (Inst. at 8.30.)
35—Medina, 85 High-street, Cowes.
97—Palatine, Masonic Hall, Toward-road, Sunderland.
333—Royal Preston, Castle Hotel, Preston.
339—Unanimity, Crown Hotel, Penrith, Cumberland.
477—Mersey, 55 Argyle-street, Birkenhead.
546—Etrusean, Masonic Hall, Caroline-street, Longton, Stafford.
732—Royal Brunswick, Royal Pavilion, Brighton.
891—Tyne, Masonic Hall, Wellington Quay, Northumberland.
1035—Prince of Wales, Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool.
1055—Derby, Knowsley's Hotel, Cheetham, Lancashire.
1098—St. George's, Private Room, Temperance Hall, Tredegar, Mon.
1144—Milton, Commercial Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne.
1204—Rey'd's Imperial Hotel, Malvern, Worcestershire.
1369—Bala, P asgoch Hotel, Bala.
1416—Falcon, Masonic Hall, Castle Yard, Thirsk.
1429—Albert Edward Prince of Wales, Masonic Hall, Newport, Mon.

FRIDAY, 10th AUGUST.

Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
766—William Preston, Feathers Tavern, Up. George-st., Edgware-rd. (Inst.)
824—Ranelagh, Bell and Anchor, Hammersmith-road. (Instruction.)
902—Burgoyne, Grafton Arms, Prince of Wales-road, Kentish Town. (Inst.)
933—Doric, Lion Tavern, Carlton-square, Mile End, at 8. (Instruction.)
1026—Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, 155 Fleet-street, E.C. at 7. (Instruction.)
1227—Upton, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, F.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
1260—Hervey, Punch's Tavern, 99 Fleet-street, E.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
1278—Burdett Courts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
1365—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1642—E. Carnarvon, Mitre Hotel, Goulborne-rd, N. Kensington, at 7.30. (Inst.)
36—Glamorgan, Freemasons' Hall, Arcade, St. Mary-street, Cardiff.
697—United, George Hotel, Colchester.
786—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1087—Benudescert, Assembly Rooms, Corn Exchange, Leighton Buzzard.
1536—United Military, Masonic Hall, Plumstead.
R. A. 406—De Sussex, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle.

SATURDAY, 11th AUGUST.

Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8.
Order of St. Lawrence, Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill, at 4.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

TUESDAY.

265—Royal Yorkshire, Masonic Club, Hanover-street, Keighley.
R. A. 296—Loyalty, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
R. A. 600—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford.

WEDNESDAY.

1018—Shakespeare, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford.
R. A. 258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike.

THURSDAY.

139—Britannia, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.

FRIDAY.

459—Aire and Calder, Private Rooms, Ouse-street, Goolc.
1001—Harrogate and Claro, Masonic Rooms, Parliament-street, Harrogate.
R. A. 61—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax.

SATURDAY.

R. A. 308—Affability, Station Hotel, Bottoms, Staunfield.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—129—St. Kentigern, Royal Hotel, Penicuik
TUESDAY—5—Canongate and Leith (L. and C.), 86 Constitution-street.
WEDNESDAY—2—Canongate, Kilwinning, St. John's Chapel, St. John's-street.
R. A. 1—Edinburgh, Freemasons' Hall.
THURSDAY—8—Journymen, Blackfriars-street, High-street.
FRIDAY—56—Canongate Kilwinning, St. John-street.

GLASGOW AND THE WEST OF SCOTLAND.

During the Tourist Season, for the benefit of our travelling brethren, we purpose giving all the Masonic Meetings in the West. All the Meetings are at 8.0 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

MONDAY—Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, Freemasons' Hall, George-street, Edinburgh.
" 62—Thistle, White Swan, Dumfries.
" 83—St. Andrews, Town Hall, Crail.
" 110—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall, Aberdeen.
" 124—Kilwinning, Union Tavern, Ayr.
" 129—St. Mirren's 5 Moss-street, Paisley.
" 138—Operative, Blue Bell Hotel, Ayr.
" 154—St. Anthony, Freemasons' Hall, 3 High-street, Inverurie.
" 166—Old Aberdeen, Town Hall, Old Aberdeen.
" 237—St. John, Masonic Arms, Govan.
" 332—Union, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
" 466—St. Fergus, Freemasons' Hall, Union-street, Wick.
" 539—Myrton, Freemasons' Hall, Fort William.
" R. A. 119—Rosslyn, 25 Robertson-street, Glasgow.

TUESDAY—3 Seon and Perth, Freemasons' Hall, High-street, Perth.
" 3 bis.—St. John's, St. John's Hall, Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
" 7—Kilwinning, Freemasons' Hall, Hamilton.
" 15—Kilwinning, Freemasons' Hall, High-street, Montrose.
" 41—St. Cuthbert, Freemasons' Hall, High-street, Kirkcudbright.
" 47—Operative, Freemasons' Hall, Overgate, Dundee.
" 49—Ancient, Freemasons' Hall, Rankins-court, Dundee.
" 68—Doric Kilwinning, 61 Church-street, Glasgow.
" 73—Thistle and Rose, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
" 87—Thistle, Freemasons' Hall, 30 Cathedral-street, Glasgow.
" 92—St. John, Seatown, Banff.
" 177—St. James Old Monkland, Freemasons' Hall, Coalbridge.
" 233—Hamilton, Spalding's Hotel, Hamilton.
" 254—Caledonian, 8 Bank-street, Dundee.
" 331—St. Peter, Portland Arms, Galston.
" 339—St. Mary, Church-street, Inverness.
" 406—St. John Dalziel, Freemasons' Hall, Motherwell.
" 433—St. Thomas, Eglinton Hotel, Dolmillington.
" 437—Govandale, Farthead Hall, Govan-road, Glasgow.
" 442—Neptune, Freemasons' Hall, Prince's-lane, Ardrossan.
" 497—St. John, Brewery Hall, Cuthrie.

WEDNESDAY—4—Kilwinning, 241 Dumbarton-road, Glasgow.
" 40—St. Thomas, Abbey Inn, Arbroath.
" 93—St. Nicholas, Freemasons' Hall, Queen-street, Aberdeen.
" 178—Scotia, 12 Trongate, Glasgow.
" 333—St. George, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
" 570—Mary Hill, 167 Main-street, Maryhill.
" R. A. 113—Partick, School-room, Douglas-street, Partick.

THURSDAY—83—New Monkland, Town Hall, Airdrie.
" 109—St. Marwick, Crown Hotel, Kilmarnock.
" 185—St. Adrien, Town Hall, Pittonweon.
" 204—St. John Operative, Olive Hall, Airdrie.
" 272—St. John, Freemasons' Hall, M. deader.
" 334—St. John, Castle Inn, New Cumnock.
" 557—Blantyre, Craig Hall, High Blantyre.
" 570—Keenmuir, Freemasons' Hall, Springbourne, Glasgow.
" R. A. 50—Glasgow, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.

FRIDAY—18—Kilwinning, Freemasons' Hall, Church-street, Dumbarton.
" 153—Royal Arch, Cogen-street, Pollokshaws.
" 170—Leven St. John, Black Bull Inn, Renton, at 7.
" 399—Royal Commercial Hotel, Kilmarnock, at 7.
" 427—St. Clair, Freemasons' Hall, Cambusnethan.
" R. A. 78—Commercial, 30 Hope-street, Glasgow.

SATURDAY—28—St. John's, Black Bull, Kirkintilloch, at 6.
" 305—St. John Woodhall, Freemasons' Hall, Bellshill, Holytown.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

St. John and St. Paul's Lodge, No. 615.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held on Friday, the 27th inst., in lieu of the regular meeting, which ought to have been held on 11th July, but R.W. Bro. Viscount Holmesdale, M.P., P.G.M., was pleased to grant a dispensation sanctioning the alteration. The brethren met at the Pier Hotel, Erith, under the presidency of Bro. Dr. Spurrell P.G.J.W. Kent, supported by the officers. The minutes of the former

meeting, and of the Lodge of Emergency, were read and confirmed. A board of installed Masters was then opened, and Bro. C. Andrew P.M. and W.M. elect, was presented to the Lodge by Bro. Smeed, and Bro. T. W. Knight P.M. and Sec. installed that brother into the chair in a very perfect and impressive manner. The W.M. in investing his officers, gave each a step. The W.M. then in the name of the Lodge, presented the retiring W.M., Bro. Dr. Spnrell, with a very elegant and chaste solid gold jewel, set with diamonds, and bearing a suitable inscription, for the able manner he had conducted the duties of the chair during his year of office. For this that brother suitably returned thanks. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to banquet and dessert. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given. Bro. W. Smeed P.P.G.J.W. Middlesex P.M. 946, returned thanks for the Visitors, who were Bros. F. Binckes P.G.S., E. Costa P.M. 9, C. Relph P.M. 188 and 177, W. Neats 177, J. J. Michael P.M. 1507 and P.M. Cornwallis Lodge. R. French, Newson W.M. Hayes Lodge, &c. The musical arrangements were ably carried out under the direction of Bro. Nunn; Miss Roby, Bros. A. Hubbard, Dinham, and W. Smeed singing some capital songs.

Royal Alfred Lodge, No. 780.—Although the attendance of members at this Lodge on Friday, the 27th ult., was large, we missed many of those we are accustomed to see at the regular gatherings. The fact is, no one can deny or resist the counter-attraction of the cool sea breezes, and many of our brethren whose business avocations will permit, are now away for their annual holiday. The chair was taken at two o'clock, when Bro. J. Chambers Roe opened the Lodge. He was supported by Bros. Walter Goss S.W., Charles May J.W., J. Smith P.M. Treasurer, Hilton P.M. Secretary, Gomm S.D., Gilbert Tyler. The minutes of the last Lodge were read and confirmed, and Bro. Henry Kyezor, of the Lily Lodge, No. 820, was balloted for, and duly elected a joining member. Bros. Alfred Tolliday and Charles Penny Brown were then examined, and, having given evidence of their progress, were in due course raised to the third degree. Of those who sought preferment to the degree of Fellow Craft, Bros. George Webb and William Slater were the only ones present, and Bro. Roe worked the ceremony of the second degree in their favour. The ballot was then taken for Messrs. Edward Spencer Pearson, William Dakin Becket and Thomas Rands, and was declared satisfactory in each case. These gentlemen were then introduced, and were initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, Bro. Roe performing the ceremony, as he had done the previous ones, in a manner that reflected great credit upon him, and which called forth the approbation of all present. The election of the Worshipful Master was next proceeded with, and it resulted in the selection of Bro. W. Goss, a selection which appeared to give satisfaction to every one. Bro. J. Smith was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Gilbert was re-appointed Tyler. Arrangements were then made for the Audit Committee, and, after discussion, a sum of twenty guineas was voted from the funds of the Lodge towards the testimonial now being raised for Bro. J. Smith. The sum of five guineas was also voted for supplying a Past Master's jewel to Bro. J. Chambers Roe, in acknowledgment of the way in which he had fulfilled the duties of the chair. The Lodge was then closed, and adjourned till October next. The customary banquet, which on this occasion was served in a large tent, erected in the grounds, was then partaken of. Ample justice to the good things provided having been done, Bro. J. Chambers Roe rose to propose the toasts. He said that for reasons apparent to all, they must that evening be guarded in their remarks. He then, in brief but happy terms, proposed the health of Her Majesty the Queen. This was followed by that of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M. Next in order came the Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers past and present. With this toast was associated the name of Bro. J. Smith P.M. P.G.P., who replied in a few well-chosen and happy remarks. At that late hour in the evening it would be inflicting a punishment if he detained the brethren for any length of time. He, however, had a pleasing duty to perform, and that was to propose the health of the W.M. Many present knew the feelings of a Master on his taking the chair for the first time, and many there were who felt themselves totally inadequate, when they had taken their seat, to fulfil the multifarious duties required of them. All would agree with him (Bro. Smith) that Bro. Roe had ably performed the duties that had devolved upon him. In past times, say 40 years ago, it was a most uncommon proceeding for a Worshipful Master to instal his successor, and the services of a competent brother to perform this necessary office were in great request, and had to be secured some time prior to the day of installation. This was not the case in the present day, and the Past Masters of the Royal Alfred Lodge considered it a part of the duty belonging to their year's work to instal their successor. This it was Bro. Roe's intention to undertake, and he was sure all present would agree with him that the work would be well performed. Bro. Smith concluded by calling on all present to honour the toast. On rising, Bro. Roe remarked that Bro. Smith was a host in himself, and that when he spoke it was considered by all that he spoke volumes. On this occasion, however, he had spoken in too flattering terms; at the same time, he hoped the brethren would try to believe what he had said. Since the day he was initiated in the Royal Alfred Lodge, to the time of his being appointed its Worshipful Master, it had been his pride and his ambition to fill the chair. He had endeavoured, to the utmost of his ability, to carry out the duties that were entailed on him, and it would afford him the greatest conceivable gratification to instal his relation and brother, Walter Goss, in the chair as his successor, and he felt convinced Bro. Goss would be able to realise the great anticipations that were formed of him. Before sitting down, he would propose the health of the three candidates who had been initiated that evening. It was desirable to have fresh blood instilled into all bodies, and the brethren they had received that evening would be assured that in entering the ranks of Freemasonry

they were associating with a body of gentlemen. This toast was applied to by each of the three newly-made brethren. The health of the Visitors was given from the chair, and received suitable acknowledgment. To the toast of the Past Masters, Bros. Smith, Potter, Brown, Hilton, and Beasley replied, the latter brother remarking that the previous speakers had left him but little to say, but what he uttered would come from his heart. He must congratulate Bro. Roe upon the completion of a most successful year of office; it was his opinion that Bro. Goss would make an admirable successor. Of one thing he was sure, he would perform his duties to the best of his ability, and his ability was great; there was no question but that he would fully justify the choice the brethren had made. The remaining toasts comprised the health of the W.M. elect, and the officers, which received full honours. The Tyler then took the gavel, and brought the proceedings to a close. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Fisher, Bateman, W. E. Tucker, W. Harris, G. W. Lay, Sergeant, Sweet, Brett, Clark, Parker, Morgan, &c.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.—This Lodge held its weekly meeting on Tuesday, the 31st of July, at the Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney. Present—Bros. W. J. Smith W.M., Lorkin S.W., Pavitt J.W., E. T. Worsley Sec., Barker S.D., Johnson J.D. Christian I.G. Bros. Watkins, W. W. Morgan jun. &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes confirmed. Lodge opened in second degree, when Bro. Watkins having answered the necessary questions, the Lodge was opened in the third, and the ceremony of raising rehearsed. The Lodge was then closed down to the first. Bro. Lorkin was unanimously elected W.M. for the next meeting, and appointed his officers in rotation. We noticed that the able Preceptor of this Lodge was absent, he being with his family at the seaside. We were very pleased to find that excellent worker of the ceremonies, Bro. W. J. Smith in the chair. He is one who does not require any prompting, and is a very great assistance, especially when the Preceptor is absent. The place of meeting of this Lodge having changed hands last week, we were sorry to hear that in consequence of the new landlord requiring the Lodge room for his family, he reluctantly gave notice to that effect to the members. The Preceptor, Bro. Wallington, will be at the Lodge on Tuesday next to make necessary arrangements to secure a place for the future meetings of the Lodge.

Baldwin Lodge, No. 1398.—This Lodge held its annual meeting on Tuesday, the 31st of July, at the Castle, Dalton-in-Furness, for the installation of Bro. John Walton W.M., after which he invested his officers as follows:—Bros. R. Hosking S.W., T. Grieve J.W., R. Blake Secretary, J. Gardon Treasurer, P. Derbyshire S.D., T. Trembath J.D., R. Townley S. Steward, R. Whiteside J. Steward, E. B. Mitchell I.G., W. Pratt Tyler, F. Bell I.P.M., G. B. Ashburner Organist, F. M. Morgan Chaplain. There was a large attendance of visiting brethren (about fifteen Past Masters), and many Prov. Grand Lodge Officers. The duties of installing Bro. Walton were ably discharged by Bro. Pearson P.M. 995 and P.P.G.P., assisted by Bro. R. A. Brooke 374. 995, and 1021 Past Master, and the working tools presented by Bro. W. Whiteside P.M. 1398. The brethren afterwards adjourned to the Wellington Hotel, where a most sumptuous banquet was prepared by Bro. F. Bell, and a most agreeable and instructive evening spent, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts being ably given and responded to. We understand the Lodge meetings in future will be held on the second Wednesday in the month, instead of second Monday.

Knight of the Red Cross.—A council was held in St. Mark's Hall, Glasgow, 29th July. D. Gilchrist President, J. O. Park S.G., J. Balfour J.G., G. W. Wheeler Scribe acting Captain of the Guard, J. Bannerman Treasurer, J. Pitt Conductor. Visitor—Sir Knight John McInnes of 69. The Council having been duly opened, Sir Knight James Davidson was introduced, and duly created a Knight of the Sword, and subsequently a Knight of the East, also a Knight of the East and West, or Prince Mason. The whole of the degrees were admirably wrought by Sir Knight Gilchrist and his officers.

Royal Ark Mariner's Lodge, No. 73.—Met on Thursday last, at St. Mark's Hall, Glasgow. Comp. James Balfour F.N. opened, with J. O. Park J., David Gilchrist S., and G. W. Wheeler Scribe. Comp. J. Davidson, of Chapter 73, was received on board, and instructed in the duties of an Ark Mariner.

St. Mungo Encampment of Knights Templar.—Held an emergency meeting on 29th July, in the Star Hotel, Glasgow, Sir Knight Robert Bell P.E.C. presiding. Knights J. O. Park Genlmo., G. W. Wheeler Prelate, J. Tweed Marshal, T. A. Ferguson Treasurer acting 1st Captain, J. J. Owen as 2nd Captain, G. Wheeler as Warden. A petition was presented on behalf of Comp. James Davidson, of Chapter 73, who was introduced as a Pilgrim. Subsequently he was created a Knight of the Temple, and fully instructed in the mysteries of the Religious and Military Order. Thanks were given to the Past Commander for his services on the occasion, and the Encampment was regularly closed in due form.

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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST.

ON Sunday, 14th June, occurred one of the festal days which adorn the Masonic calendar—the Festival of St. John the Baptist. In every part of the Masonic world it has been observed in every generation, as we hope it will continue to be for ages yet to come. We propose to contribute our mite towards this by a notice of the heroic character whose natal day we thus celebrate.

All Masons justly revere the two Saints John of Jerusalem. In Europe, Masonic Lodges are generally called St. John's Lodges. Our symbolical Lodges are dedicated to them, and from such Lodges every loyal Mason professes to come. These two Saints John are St. John the Baptist and St. John the Apostle. We celebrate the birthday of the latter 27th December; of the former 24th June. Why we celebrate them will appear further along; in the meantime, let us speak of this "eminent patron of Masonry," as we affectionately style the rugged revivalist of the Judean desert.

He was by birth a Jewish Priest, his father, Zacharias, being in the regular Temple service, ministering after the course of Abijah; the order of service being regulated by families. His father and mother were both very devout worshippers of the true Jehovah. John was born about six months before Jesus, and, according to the Gospel history, from his birth was a most remarkable character. Angelic visitants apply to him the prophecy of Isaiah, in which he speaks of "the voice of one crying in the wilderness, to prepare the way of the Lord, and make his paths straight," and describe him as a moral civil engineer, "throwing up the valleys, levelling the hills, making the crooked straight, the rough ways smooth and plain." The prophecy of Malachi, in which "Jehovah should send his Malak or Messenger before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord," is also in the Gospel applied to St. John.

From his early manhood he became a prophet, that is a spirit-strong preacher of rightness. His power is found in his success; there went out to him all the habitants of Judea, Samaria, and those living beyond the Jordan. Curiosity, no doubt, led most to see the rugged ascetic in his garb, like that of old Elijah the Tishbite, of camel's hair and leather belt. But he had multitudes of converts, and for years was the most famous man before the Jewish people, until his lustre was paled by the coming of that greater One, whose shoes, he said, he was not worthy to stoop down and untie; the Rising Sun, before whom he was only to be the springing and singing lark.

As a preacher of rightness, his sermons were as bold and striking as his garb. He denounced those national sins which were leading Israel on to national ruin, and he struck home to hearts of hypocrites and pretenders, bidding them not rest in the delusive idea that the favour of God to Father Abraham would be theirs, unless they had his character; and warning them that the axe of judgment was lying at the root of their national tree, ready to cut off and consign to the burning of Gehenna the dry and rotting branches which had ceased to bear good fruit.

His death was untimely; his column early broken; he fell a martyr to his fearless fidelity to truth and right. Herodias was living in incestuous and adulterous connection with her brother. This life was of scandalous example in rulers of the Jewish people, and St. John reprov'd it. The proud spirit of the adulterous queen treasured a murderous revenge, and when on Herod's birthday her daughter, Salome, by a former lawful marriage, danced to the admiration of the tipsy king, and he promised to give her anything she would ask, her hour of vengeance had come, and she demanded the Baptist's head. A henchman brought it in, and the rugged and heroic preacher was silenced, and the guilty couple could live on in peace, only disturbed by the upbraidings of benumbed consciences.

Thus lived, and thus died, one whom Jesus has immortalised by calling him the grandest of men. When the people asked his opinion about John, he said: "What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? A dainty courtier in a king's palace? no! of all those born of woman, there hath not arisen a greater prophet than John the Baptist."

But what has Masonry to do with all this? some one may ask. Is not the symbolical Lodge universal, knowing neither Christian, Hebrew, Mahometan, or Confucian—what has it then to do with the Saints John?

A most important question, which we propose patiently to answer, and thus to vindicate our immemorial practice of venerating the name and commemorating the natal day of the heroic prophet of Judea.

St. John the Baptist is not honoured by Masons because of his relations to Jesus Christ, but because of his own personal and heroic character. Freemasonry is a system of morality, in which Uprightness and Charity are the two poles of a perfect character, within which a true Mason should ever find his orbit. St. John the Baptist is a symbolical character, illustrating Heroic Justice, and St. John the Apostle is the symbolic representative of Divine Charity. The selection of these characters has a profound moral significance, which no mere sectarian antipathies or partialities should ever be allowed to smother. In honouring the hero, we honour the heroism; in honouring the type of lofty, upright character, we honour that integrity without which every professed Mason is a fraud.

The more we study the philosophy of Masonic symbolism, the more deeply we are impressed with the conviction that the fathers who founded Masonry knew what they were about. They were wiser in their generation than many of their degenerate successors, who in France, Germany, and elsewhere, are conspiring against the character of Freemasonry as "a system of morality," revealing and enforcing our relations to Almighty God, and are seeking to make our great fraternity only a philosophical or political club, having no more relation to Jehovah than to Juggernaut.

Let no worthy Freemason forget that he hails from a Lodge of St. John of Jerusalem. Let him never fail to gauge his life by the pattern of the illustrious heroes of antiquity. So will he learn to

subdue his passions, and improve himself in Masonry. Herein lies the open secret of our noble art, to which all its esoteric secrets are but guide-boards and stepping-stones.—*Masonic Review*.

MASONIC CONSERVATISM.

OF the many excellent features of Masonry its spirit of conservatism is one much to be admired. While all other societies and organizations are to a great extent becoming modernised, seeking popularity by trying to keep pace with all the new isms of the day and catering for public favour, Masonry has stood by its original design, adhering to the old landmarks with a tenacity that has withstood the clamour of fanatics, the wild schemes of theorists, and the vaulting ambition of the unscrupulous. While the changed condition of all things else has necessitated some slight changes in the government and general management of the Craft, the purposes of Masonry to-day are the same that they were centuries ago, and we trust they will ever be found to be the same in all time to come. As from the acorn planted in mother earth first came the tender shoot which developed into a thrifty sapling, and, as the years rolled on, grew into the mighty oak, whose outspreading branches reached heavenward until it became monarch of the forest, so from its germ, the principle of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, planted in the heart of man, Masonry sprang from a small beginning thousands of years ago, and as centuries rolled past in the march of time, has grown until to-day it stands monarch of all human institutions now existing, or that have existed since the world began. Among all others there can be found no parallel in the annals of history.

It is a cardinal principle of Masonry "that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry." This declaration is often made, and is always subscribed to, by every Worshipful Master during his installation to preside over the Craft. Every Master Mason is strictly charged to carefully preserve the ancient landmarks of the Order entrusted to his care, and a faithful discharge of duty in this regard has been the constant aim of Masters and brethren, and thus from one generation to another has been transmitted unimpaired the excellent tenets of Masonry. While such has been the general rule, we regret to say there have been occasional exceptions. Some men are never satisfied to "let well enough alone." They are never happy except when experimenting in something new, even when the chances for success in it are against them. Such men are found with a hobby in Masonic Lodges as well as everywhere else; but it is when they rise to the dignity of a seat in the Grand Lodge, that the golden opportunity comes for them to get in their work. They generally find it, however, an uphill business, and only in rare instances have they succeeded in ingrafting upon Masonry any of their new fangled notions. When they have met with any success it has been only for a time, for in sober, second thought, the spirit of conservatism again triumphs, for it is then seen that it is worse than folly to attempt to refine pure gold.

The Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty displayed in the original plan of Masonry, has carried the institution safely through all the revolutions that have convulsed the world, unscathed in a single vital part, and brought it down to the present time without any material change from its original design. Upon a strict adherence to the designs, as placed upon the trestle-board by its founders, Masonry must base its hope for the future.—*Masonic Advocate*.

THE floral decoration of rooms and houses is an art which is becoming more popular every year. People are beginning to recognise the fact that our houses which are oftener than not dingy and dreary-looking, both internally and externally, may be made to look quite bright and cheerful by tastily-arranged groups of plants and flowers. Window-gardening and arca-gardening are becoming now a recognised part of house decoration, and right glad are we it is so. We oft-n pass through inferior or even squalid neighbourhoods, and it is quiet a relief to the general dinginess and dirt to see every here and there a few bright though simple plants—brilliant scarlet geraniums, the rich nasturtium, the delicate convolvulus major, and similar flowers. There is a wealth of colour in these, and the poorest habitation looks gay and pleasant when a few of them are placed in the windows or on the parlour tables. In the better class of houses may be seen the more costly lilies of Japan, choice fuchsias, and pelargoniums, with ferns and other plants. London, in fact, as it becomes larger and spreads itself over what only a few years since were green fields and market-gardens becomes more sensible of floral beauty, and it is hardly possible to walk along a single street without remarking that a goodly number of the houses are florally decorated. But as all this involves a certain outlay of money, and as without some practical person to advise, the money may be spent to no purpose, it is in accordance with common sense that people should consult an expert who will subserve his own interests by carefully and scrupulously satisfying the wants and wishes of his customers. Messrs Dick Radclyffe and Co., the well-known seed warehousemen and horticulturalists, of 128 and 129 High Holborn, have earned several distinctions for their seeds at different times, among which may be mentioned medals at the Vienna and London Exhibitions, while only a short time since medals were awarded them at Oporto and the Cape of Good Hope. What they have achieved in the way of floral decoration is known doubtless to those of our readers who have attended M. Rivière's Promenade Concerts, the Knightsbridge Skating Rink, and other popular resorts. Messrs. Radclyffe and Co. are prepared to furnish all kinds of flowers and plants for the decoration of rooms at moderate charges, and those who have had dealings with this firm know perfectly well that what they undertake to do, they carry out to perfection. Any of our friends who may be inclined to window-gardening, or who may wish to have their Lodge-rooms or dwelling-houses handsomely and effectively decorated with flowers, will find that Messrs. Radclyffe and Co. will do everything they can to give satisfaction and that what they do is invariably well done.

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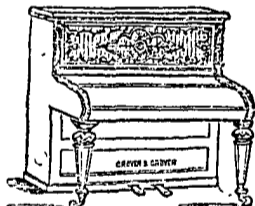
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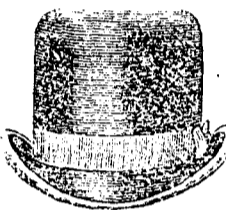
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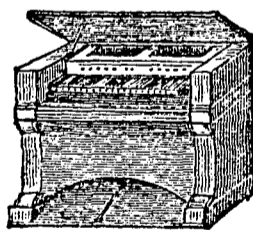
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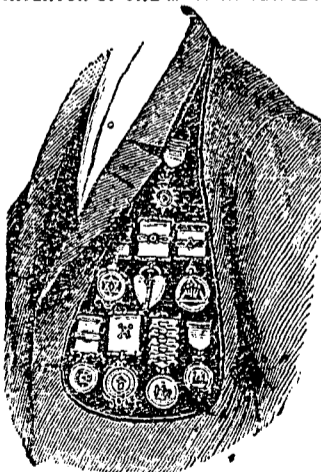
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