

THE Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

SANCTIONED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

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BRO. NORTON'S CRITICISMS.

WE are always willing, within the limits of reason, to place our columns at the disposal of Bro. Norton, or, indeed, of any brother, who has anything to say of interest to the Masonic community. But Bro. Norton will no doubt see the propriety of restricting any controversies that may arise out of such communications, especially when they relate to matters which are not of primary importance to the English Confraternity. The question whether the introduction of Freemasonry into America dates from the Coxe Deputation of 1730, or the Price Deputation in 1733, is not of that supreme importance to us that we can afford unlimited space in our columns for its discussion. While then we shall, on the present occasion, offer some few remarks on Bro. Norton's criticism of our articles on the "Credibility of Early American Masonic History," for the purpose of showing that he has failed to understand the temper and tenour of our arguments; and while, also, we shall afford him, as indeed we should afford any other correspondent whom we esteemed equally, or even less than we do Bro. Norton, the opportunity of reply, we must take this opportunity of pointing out that the discussion must not be further prolonged. We have but a modest space at our command for the discussion of general questions; and if we devote too much of it to one subject, we must do so to the exclusion of others of equal, or it may be of greater, importance. Having said thus much as to the continuance of the argument, we pass at once to Bro. Norton's criticism.

We will, in the first place, point out an error into which our correspondent, like many other correspondents, has fallen. He speaks of our articles as though they expressed the opinion of an individual. They are necessarily written each by a single person, but the views they enunciate are the views of the CHRONICLE, that is, of a body corporate, with a policy and opinions of its own on all general questions. It cannot be denied that the writer of every leading article has the opportunity of expressing his own ideas in whatever he writes, but when it is accepted editorially—and the appearance of his article in these columns, is evidence of such acceptance—then the individuality ceases, and the ideas of the person become the ideas of the journal. In the second place, we do not think it possible for Bro. Norton to find any more impartial medium for the discussion of such a matter as this credibility of early American Masonic history than an English Masonic journal. It is impossible for us to incline more favourably towards Philadelphia than towards Boston. It does not concern us, personally or impersonally, which of these twain is the Mother City of American Freemasonry. What we are interested in elucidating is the truth as to certain documents of greater or less value to all interested in the history of Freemasonry all over the world. Every one must see that a Bostonian would naturally espouse the side of Boston in any controversy until at least irrefutable evidence were given that the views of Boston were wrong. On the other hand, a Philadelphian would naturally espouse the cause of Philadelphia, until or unless it were proved that the cause of Philadelphia was unsupportable by fair argument. An English Masonic journal, however, which has no prejudice for or against either of the contestant parties, is sure, *ipso facto*, to argue the case impartially and on its merits; and the value of its argument will depend on its skill or want of skill, its insight or want of

insight, not on any inclination towards either of the parties. It will endeavour to eliminate what is trustworthy and acceptable, not because it loves Philadelphia more and Boston less, but because it is anxious to subserve the interests of truth. We do not think less well of Bro. Norton, we do not esteem him less, because he adheres to the opinions he has more recently arrived at as to Boston being the Masonic Mother City of America; but we do not attach any greater value to those opinions merely because he has re-affirmed them, for the simple reason that nothing he said in his paper of last week has in the slightest degree changed our idea of their value. For instance, he still continues to lay great stress on the assumption he made in the first instance, to the effect that Franklin could not have been a Mason in 1730, because he published a burlesque on Freemasonry. We have said, and we repeat, that this is a most lamentable *non sequitur*. This is not argument, but assertion; and, albeit Bro. C. E. Meyer, of Philadelphia, and several prominent Masons are of the same opinion as Bro. Norton, we fail to see how the mere opinion of living men can demonstrate what is undemonstrable with the evidence before us. What is of still greater importance is, that it does not, as we have said, make the slightest difference in respect of the value of this testimony whether Franklin was or was not a Mason in 1730. He was beyond all question a journalist whose interest would so far accord with his duty as to induce him to insert in the columns of the journal of which he was the proprietor only such intelligence as would be not only interesting but trustworthy. We have in existence the original of the Coxe Deputation, among the archives of G. Lodge, England, and we have it stated in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, later in the same year as to date than the Deputation, that "there are several Freemasons' Lodges in this Province," &c.; and it has been stated by Bro. MacCalla—and his statement has not been denied—that at the banquet after G. Lodge on 29th January 1731, Coxe's health was drunk as "Provincial Grand Master of North America." Bro. Hughan inclines to the belief that Lodge No. 79 in Pine's list of 1734, &c., &c., will turn out to be the Philadelphia Lodge which met at the Hoop, in Water-street, in the fall of 1730. This, of course, remains to be proved, but a man accustomed to deal with circumstantial evidence would take the existence of the Coxe Deputation, the reference to Lodges of Freemasons being holden in the Province, and the undenied statement about the recognition, in January 1731, of Coxe as P.G.M. of North America, together with Bro. Bell's letter, bearing date 1754, as being strong in favour of the Philadelphia Mothership of Freemasonry.

We must pass now to Bro. Norton's statements about Franklin and his trustworthiness at this period. We have read, in a recent issue of the *Keystone*, a series of extracts from the *Pennsylvania Gazette* already referred to, relating to Philadelphia Grand Lodge. We take our respected contemporary's words for the correctness of these extracts, and, relying on such correctness, we find that announcements about Masonry were made in Franklin's paper at frequent intervals. All these extracts point to the continuous existence of a Grand Lodge in the Province, and make us more than ever inclined to repose confidence in the first announcement of all, that "there are several Freemasons' Lodges in this Province." As we know from events which occurred elsewhere in the Masonic world about this period, that "occasional" Lodges were frequently held, there does not seem to be any improbability in the statement; but the point which it is sought to establish is, not whether several

Lodges existed as announced in the paper, but whether or no there was a Lodge of Freemasons at this time in Philadelphia, and in such case, whether there is a connection between this and the Lodge No. 79 already referred to. In order to satisfy his mind as to the mothership of Philadelphia, Bro. Norton is bent upon exacting the same evidence regarding the existence of Lodges as we look for in these days when everything is in apple-pie order. The object we had in illustrating the certainly imperfect arrangements in America during the first half of last century by known irregularities which occurred during the first half of this in one of our Indian Lodges does not seem to have struck Bro. Norton. We say, if it were possible for irregularities to occur in 1823-31 in what is probably the best organised Masonic government in the world, how much more must we expect to find even greater irregularities at a time when Masonry was hardly yet organised as to its government, in what was then a remote colony, and when communication between the latter and the mother country was infrequent. But notwithstanding all this we still find preserved in the archives of the mother Grand Lodge the original Deputation to Coxe, and we have in a Philadelphia newspaper of the time concurrent testimony to there being Freemasons' Lodges in the Province. Ought not reasonable men to be satisfied with these two facts as to the existence of Freemasonry in Philadelphia in 1730, and not only that, but of there being some kind of Masonic Government there, how imperfect soever it may have been. We feel we shall not satisfy Bro. Norton until we can produce the Lodge warrant, with Coxe's signature at foot, granted to the Lodge held at the Tun or Hoop in Water-street; but our readers generally, both at home and abroad, are fortunately not so unreasonable in their expectations as our worthy and respected friend. There is this also to be borne in mind, and it is important this should not be lost sight of. Even if Bro. Hughan and other historic experts fail to establish the identity of Lodge No. 79, as per Pine's list, with the Lodge in Water street, Henry Price of Boston will never be more than the *second* in order of seniority of the English American Provincial G.M.'s. Thus, Pennsylvania will always share with New York and New Jersey the honour of having had placed in Masonic charge of them the first Provincial Grand Master ever appointed by any of our Grand Masters over any portion of what was then our British American Colonies, and what is now the United States. All the casuistry in the world will fail to disturb this, which is an established and duly-authenticated fact. It was not till three years later that Henry Price received his Deputation. That it is easier to find more traces of his work than of Coxe's is the most natural thing in the world. Three years is time enough for an institution to raise up unto itself a number of friends or foes; indeed, we are inclined to believe that Price's Deputation is a direct outcome of the Coxe Deputation, seeing that during these years Freemasonry was making rapid strides in all directions, and what was being done in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania would sooner or later find its way into Massachusetts, and *vice versa*. But, and we repeat it with due emphasis, it is impossible to disturb the fact that the Coxe Deputation preceded that of Price, and whatever American city is privileged to call herself the mother city of American Freemasonry, *it cannot possibly be Boston*. And there are many things which point to Philadelphia as entitled to this privilege—even Bro. Norton's determined argument that Franklin, though a Mason in 1732, was not a Mason in 1730. Pray listen to this, Bro. Norton, and read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it with all that intellectual force we know you possess. If Franklin was not a Mason in 1730, but was in 1732, *he must have been made in the interim*. He cannot have been made by virtue of Price's Deputation, for that was not granted till the year 1733. *He must have been made in a Lodge*, occasional or regular, and such Lodge must have been held, under some authority such as we know Coxe to have possessed. Therefore, the fact of Franklin being a Mason in 1732, but not in 1730, would be proof positive that the Coxe Deputation had been in operation some time during the period for which it was granted, and the election of a G.M. in 1732 as announced by Franklin is testimony to the continuity of its existence.

As to Bro. Norton's argument against there being Lodges in Philadelphia, and not in Boston, on the ground of the latter being twice as old as the former, we cannot compliment him on its adoption. He might as well affirm that

Boston, as the elder of the two cities, should be at the present time the more populous. The "several Lodges" may be a euphuism for two or three Lodges; or it may refer to Lodge meetings, or, as we have already suggested, it may refer to "occasional Lodges"—we must not expect literal accuracy in the description of what was then a novelty; but such imperfection does not vitiate the trustworthiness of the statement. Then, as to Bell's statement and Franklin's statement, Bro. Norton says, "Now both statements may be false, but both cannot be true, and which of the Philadelphia witnesses am I to believe?" Our reply to this question is, Believe either or neither, Bro. Norton, or, neither or both; it will not affect the main evidence in the slightest degree if you reject them; if you accept them, they confirm it. We must demur, however, to the assertion that "both statements cannot be true." Bell speaks of "the first Philadelphia Lodge in the autumn of 1730, and Franklin of several Lodges on 3rd December 1730." Why cannot both be true? There is no absolute disagreement between the statements. The one Lodge of the autumn might have grown to be two or three in December. We do not think it likely, but we say it is not impossible. At the same time, we place greater reliance on Franklin's statement, written at the time, than on Bell's, written some four and twenty years later and from recollection, not only from its having been so written—albeit not literally accurate—but likewise because we and the world generally know something of Franklin, whereas we know little or nothing of Bell. As to Franklin's evidence being untrustworthy, because he was a young man when he wrote it, and was not over scrupulous in those days, we dismiss it at once as unworthy of any serious consideration. Similar statements were made in later years at intervals of time, and we do not suppose Franklin went on humbugging people periodically, when the general tenour of his whole life instructs us to the contrary. The best, and therefore the most trustworthy among us, are those who commit the fewest faults. The suggestion that in order to sell a few more copies of his paper, Franklin either invented or got some one else to invent for him a Masonic *exposé*, is so remarkable an absurdity that we are surprised Bro. Norton has offered it. We judge of men not by a single act, but by the whole tenour of their lives; nor should we dream of suggesting that the statement of an habitually sober man was not to be relied upon because it was made about the time when he was known to have been intemperate on one or two occasions, though we should distrust any and everything that emanated from an intemperate man, even though we know it was made during one of his intervals of temperance. But this matter is not worth arguing. However, we think we have said enough in vindication of the opinions we have expressed. The evidence in the Philadelphia case is as nearly complete as anything in the way of human evidence, relating to a remote transaction in a distant country by a secret society, working for the first time on new ground, is ever likely to be. The Coxe Deputation of 1730 is a fact. That Franklin was a Mason in 1732 is based on his own statement and admitted by Bro. Norton; we will describe it, therefore, as a fact or thing done at the time it was announced to have been done. We travel one year further forward, that is, to 1733, and we come upon another in the shape of Price's Deputation. Nothing, however, that Bro. Norton or the whole world of Freemasonry can state will induce us to believe that the third in order of sequence of these three facts takes precedence of the first and second. When we travel backwards in respect of time; when, in other words, we find it an established fact that the year which is to be comes before, instead of following, the year which is, well then, worthy Bro. Norton, we will incline ourselves favourably towards your present views; which, by the way, we have described as your "new theory" only because we have not heard you enunciate it on any previous occasion.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire will be holden on Wednesday, the 10th inst., at the Town Hall, Ripon, under the banner of the De Grey and Ripon Lodge, No. 837. From the programme we glean there will be a procession to the Cathedral, where will be held a special Masonic service, sermon by the Rev. Canon Burfield, M.A. The banquet will take place at the Unicorn Hotel, for which the Dean and Chapter of Ripon have accepted invitations. It is expected the Mayor and Corporation will join the procession to the Cathedral.

TEMPLARS AND FREEMASONS

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE ORDERS IN THE CITY OF YORK.

WE acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of a highly interesting paper on this subject, by E. Sir Knight T. B. Whytehead, E.P., which that worthy Sir Knight read on the 11th ult., before the members of the Ancient Ebor Preceptory, No. 101. To say that it is highly interesting would hardly be paying a just compliment to the author, who is known for his ability and diligence in making researches into whatever is of moment to the cause of Masonic study. His theory is a very ingenious one, and though we cannot say he has succeeded in establishing it, still it involves no very serious improbabilities. What he suggests may have taken place, though there is no direct evidence in support of it. Bro. Whytehead begins by mentioning the leading facts connected with the establishment in 1118 of the Order of the Temple, its rapid increase in numbers, wealth and power, and its doughty deeds of heroism in Palestine. He then passes on to the period when, by reason of its influence, it had come to be regarded as "a dangerous factor in the political squabbles" of the day, and "the avaricious King of France, and the unprincipled Pope who occupied the chair of Jupiter Capitolinus of Rome," combined together to work its destruction. How and by what means they succeeded in France, is a well known fact in history. In England, too, in the reign of the feeble Edward II., it was suppressed, though not with the same violence as in the neighbouring kingdom, while in "Portugal and Scotland the Knights found altars of refuge, and there the brethren were protected." However, it is to the suppression of the Order in England to which the author directs his attention principally. In 1309 Clement V. issued two Bulls to Archbishop Greenfield, "then occupying the metropolitical chair of St. Peter at York, one excommunicating the Order in the Province of York, and the other commanding the Archbishop to institute an enquiry into the conduct of the Knights, in concert with the Bishops of Durham, Lincoln, Chichester, and some other leading ecclesiastics." We are further told that "the King of France also wrote, urging the Archbishop to action." Greenfield, however, was a good as well as a sensible man, and he "wrote declining to act against the Knights, and objecting to the interference of other ecclesiastics in the affairs of his Province." The year following, however, he seems to have changed his mind, for we read "he thought it advisable to take some steps in the matter, and called a Council, in May, to examine the Templars then immured in York Castle." There were Knights who had been taken at certain Preceptories or houses in the West, East and North Ridings, to the number of twenty-four, their names being as follow:—

Wm. de Grafton (senior) Preceptor of Ribstan; Ralph de Roston, Thomas de Stannford, Henry de Kereby, Thomas de Belleby, of Penhill; Robert de Langton, Wm. de la Fenne, Preceptor of Flaxflete; Richard de Kesewyk, Stephen de Radenhalgh, Priest of Westerdale; Michael de Lowseby, priest of Sorenty (Diocese of Durham); Godfrey de Arches, Preceptor of Newsham; John de Walpole, Ivo de Etton, Henry de Craven, Roger de Hngyndon, Henry de Rouclyf, Galfred de Wylton, Walter de Gaddesby, Richard de Ripon, Thomas de Thresk, Wm. de Middleton and Walter de Clifton.

The examination ended in nothing. They denied the monstrous charges made against them. A further capture of Knights was made at a later date:—

William de Grafton (junior), John de Usflet, Edmund de Latimer, John de Poynton, Richard Engayne, Ralph de Buleford, Stephen de Stapelbrigg, and Walter le Rebel.

But the result of this examination was the same. In 1311 a Provincial Council was assembled to examine into the whole matter, and in the result the Knights submitted to its authority, and readily acquiesced in the sentence passed upon them, which was, not to the effect that they should be tortured or burnt, but that they should be sent to religious houses to do penance for their errors. Here they conducted themselves with so much propriety that, in 1312, they were all released, though many elected to remain and lead monastic lives. Bro. Whytehead then lays stress on the following point, which may, indeed, be regarded as the germ of his theory. He says:—

And here is one point which I think should not be lost sight of in the attempt which I am about to make to link the history of our

Order with that of Freemasonry in England, and especially at York. We have seen that the Archbishop of York spread his protecting ægis, as it were, over the fraternity, and disposed of them in religious houses. We know that the science of Architecture or Freemasonry (synonymous terms in those days) was preserved amongst the monastic mediæval builders. We know that these Knights, undergoing penance, would most likely be ordered to perform severe menial work, such as assisting the Masons. What then more probable than that finding themselves so nearly allied in religious belief and mystic observance, the Masonic Fraternity should have taken the Knights under their fostering care, and permitted and even aided them, in secret, in their ceremonies. It is in York, I believe, that we have the oldest evidence of the connection between Templary and Masonry, and there seems to me to be a greater probability of such an association existing in York and its neighbourhood than elsewhere, for the reasons I have already set forth.

He then very properly reminds his readers that, though the Order was suppressed, "it does by no means follow that it was extinguished;" and his idea is, that many members of the body continued to work—of necessity, in secret; that for greater security they may have allied themselves with the architects or Freemasons of those days, and as these are the operative predecessors of our present speculative Freemasons, so there is, through this connection of the Templars of the 14th century with the architects or operative Masons of the same period, a direct connection between ancient and modern Templary.

On the Continent there are several bodies claiming to be descended from the Order, but none I think with better ground than, if as good as, ourselves. There is a great gap in the history of the Order from the time of its suppression up to towards the close of the last century, but we must remember that its secrecy was essential to its existence, and that the history of Freemasonry itself is not, so far as actual records go, of a very much clearer description.

He then passes to the modern Templars, and, as showing the intimate connection between Freemasonry and Templary during the latter part of last century, he gives the following copy of an old certificate, still preserved in the archives of the York Lodge.

"GRAND LODGE OF ALL ENGLAND.

Be it known to all our Masonic Brethren throughout the whole earth that Mark Anthony Robinson, of the City of York, Yeoman, hath been initiated into our Mysteries in the undermentioned Degrees by Us particularly attested. And We recommend him (after due examination) to be received into any Lodge of Free and Accepted Maceons of the same Degrees.

Given at the City of York, under the seal of the Grand Lodge of All England, the thirtieth day of December, A.D. 1779, A.L. 5779.

Admitted to the first Degree on the 26th day of January A.D. 1779.	} Francis Smith Deputy G.M. John Coupland Senior G.W. Thomas Bewlay Junior G.W.
Raised to the second Degree on the 20th day of February A.D. 1779.	
Raised to the third Degree on the 27th day of September A.D. 1779.	
Raised to the fourth Degree, or Royal Arch Maceon, on the 27th day of October A.D. 1779.	} William Siddall G.M. John Coupland Senior G.W. Thomas Bewlay Junior G.W.
Knight Templar the 29th day of November A.D. 1779.	

JOHN BROWNE,
Grand Secretary."

In confirmation of this Christian degree being part of ancient Freemasonry, there is given the following extract from the minute-book of the G.L. of England at York:—

(At an Emergency Meeting of the Grand Lodge of All England, held Tuesday, 20th June, 1780).

"It was ordered That the Grand Lodge of All England, comprehending five degrees or orders of Masonry, shall from and after St. John's Day next, be assembled five times in a quarter, to wit, one night in the degree of Entered Apprentice, one night in the Fellow Craft's degree, one night in the Master's degree, one night in the degree or order of Knight Templar, and one night in the most sublime degree of Royal Arch * *"

and also from the same book a record bearing 18th February of the same year, marking the proceedings of the "Grand Lodge of Knight Templars," and the formation and raising of the Royal Encampment when Sir Francis Smyth was "elected to and invested in the high dignity of Grand Master and Grand Commander of the Order of Knight Templars in England." On this occasion a Bro. Francis Clubley, who had been approved at a previous Encampment, was initiated, and made a Knight and Companion of the Order, and "admitted a member of the Royal Grand Encampment of All England." It was afterwards ordered that no one be admitted to the Order who had not passed "the other degrees in Freemasonry," and unanimously

passed the ballot, and that the fee for initiation into the Order be ten shillings and sixpence to the fund, and one shilling to the messenger. There are also quoted other minutes from the minute-book, dated 18th May, and 6th July 1780. In the latter we find that a petition from Rotherham was presented for a warrant for a K.T. Encampment, signed on behalf of himself and the other Knights by Josiah Beckwith, to whose signature is appended a Mason's mark. The minute book closes with a copy of the Warrant granted in accordance with the "prayer of these Knights, authorising them to hold a 'Lodge of Knights of the Holy Tabernacle of St. John of Jerusalem, at the Druidical Lodge in Rotherham;' the Warrant bearing date 6th July 1780." Accompanying this are a series of "instructions, and principia," and orders, to make annual returns to the Grand Lodge at York, together with copy of a letter from Sir Knight Beckwith, containing Report of "the opening of a R.A. Chapter, and also a Lodge of Knight Templars, both under York Warrants, and the giving of the degrees to candidates," in the course of which it is recorded "that Brother James Simes, of Sheffield, was *re-made* a K.T." This, as Bro. Whytehead remarks, is important, as showing that York was regarded, or we should say, perhaps, regarded itself, as the Head Quarters of Templary, and that a member made under any other authority was "*re-made*" before he could be admitted. In 1791 the York Sir Knights asked for and obtained a Warrant of confirmation from the Grand Master of the Order of Knighthood in London. This Warrant, which is now in possession of the Hull Sir Knights is as follows:—

Initium Sapientiae Amor Domini.

In the name of the Grand Architect of the Universe.

THOMAS DUNCKERLEY G.M.

In the East of London, a Place full of Light, where reigneth Silence and Peace, but the Darkness comprehendeth it not.

To thom whom it may concern, greeting.

Know ye that we Thomas Dunckerley, of Hampton Court Palace, in the County of Middlesex, Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master of the Royal Exalted Religious and Military Order of H.R.D.M., K.D.O.H., Grand Elected Knights Templar of St. John of Jerusalem, &c., under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Edward, having received a petition from Sir John Watson and several Noble Knights residing at and near the City of York, of Time Immemorial, humbly requesting a Patent of Constitution to open a Conclave or Chapter of Encampment at the City of York. And we do hereby grant to the said Sir John Watson and the other Noble Knights Petitioners and their Successors full power and authority to assemble on the 14th day of March next ensuing, to instal Knights Templar, &c., at their Field of Encampment aforesaid, or at such other time and place as they and their successors, with the consent of us and our successors, for the time being shall appoint. With such powers, privileges, prerogatives, and immunities, as do from antient usage and of right belong to regular established Conclaves or Chapters, and to make Knights of the Order, subject nevertheless to the antient statutes and ordinances of our predecessors, or that may hereafter be enacted by us or our successors in a Grand and Royal Conclave.

Given at London aforesaid in our Grand Field of Encampment this 11th day of March, Anno Tues 5795, Anno Domini 1791, Anno Ordinis 673, Anno Cædis 477.

R. W. WHALLEY G. Chancellor.

W. HANNAM Acting Grand Master.

WM. EARLE Principal G. Scribe and Registrar.

The patent is engraved, only the names and dates being in writing, and Bro. Whytehead concludes from this and the title of an antient ritual in the possession of the York Lodge, that the ceremony was of a mixed character, and included several degrees now worked separately. The title of the Ritual is "Royal Union Band of Holy Royal Arch Knights Templar Priests, Order of Aaron, &c."

The York brethren worked under this warrant for some years, but no minutes of their proceedings are in existence, nor is it known where it assembled, or when it was broken up, though the Falcon Inn is mentioned as the place where, and 1809 or 1810 as the time when. The Warrant was purchased, so the author was informed by the Registrar of the "Antient York Conclave of Redemption at Hull," by some members of the Order at Hull, and they continued working under it for several years. It then became dormant, but was revived in 1862, when a Warrant of confirmation was applied for and granted. Subsequently some York brethren, who had taken the degree at Hull, applied for a Warrant, which was granted 18th December 1868, and under this the Ancient Ebor Preceptory, No. 101, is now working.

This completes the historical sketch, save that a few remarks are added, showing through whom the various Templar bodies claim their descent from the Order of the

Temple of 1118. Of course the theory broached by Bro. Whytehead is conjecture, and nothing more. Still it is, as we have said, ingenious, and may incite others to make further researches. It only remains for us to add that the author deserves great praise for the pains he has evidently taken in the completion of his sketch, and with these remarks we bid him heartily farewell.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORELAND.

THE annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Cumberland and Westmoreland was held on Friday, 28th ult., at Cockermouth, under the banner of Skiddaw Lodge, No. 1002. The proceeding commenced shortly after twelve o'clock, on the arrival of the trains east and west. Brethren were present from the two Whitehaven Lodges, the two Carlisle Lodges, and from Kendal, Kirkby Lonsdale, Longtown, Wigton, Maryport, Workington, Harrington, Millom, Frizington, Egremont, Penrith, Keswick, Appleby and Silloth. Skiddaw Lodge mustered in strong force, in honour of the occasion. The Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the New Auction Mart, the large hall of which had been fitted up with the furniture of Skiddaw Lodge, and this, aided by abundance of material in the shape of carpets, &c., kindly supplied by Bro. W. McQuhae, Station-street, transformed the room into a well-appointed Masonic temple. An excellent luncheon was provided by Bro. Peacock, on the premises, for those brethren from a distance. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Earl of Bective, M.P., was expected up till the morning of Friday, indeed, his lordship had signified his intention of being present; but Colonel Whitwell, M.P., Right Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, shortly after his arrival from Kendal, received a telegram from Lowther Castle, expressing Lord Bective's inability to attend. Bro. W. B. Gibson, the Provincial Grand Secretary, was also absent through a family bereavement. After the Charity Committee had met and drawn up their report, the Craft Lodge was opened by the officers of Skiddaw Lodge, shortly after which the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge were announced, and Colonel Whitwell, M.P., opened the Lodge in due form. The officiating officers were Bros. Lemon P.G. Treasurer as Deputy Grand Master, Kirkbride (Penrith) P.G. Senior Warden, J. Bowes (Warrington) P.G. Junior Warden, Rev. C. H. Gem (Torpenhow) P.G. Chaplain, W. Armstrong (Maryport) P.G. Director of Ceremonies, T. Atkinson (Whitehaven) P.G. Assist. Director of Ceremonies, A. Walters (Maryport) P.G. Sword Bearer, and others; indeed, the dais was crowded with past and present officers of the Province. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the appointment and investiture of officers for the year was made as follows:—

Bro. Sir R. C. Musgrave, P.M. 339, Penrith, P.G. Senior Warden.
Bro. J. A. Wheatley, P.M. 310, Carlisle, P.G. Junior Warden.
Bro. Rev. J. Thompson, 1074, Kirkby Lonsdale, P.G. Chaplain.
Bro. Rev. W. E. Strickland, 1267, Egremont, P.G. Asst. Chaplain.
Bro. J. Lemon, P.M. 327, Wigton, P.G. Treasurer.
Bro. W. B. Gibson, P.M. 119, Whitehaven, P.G. Secretary.
Bro. W. F. Lamony, P.M. 1002, Cockermouth, P.G. Registrar.
Bro. J. R. Bain, P.M. 1400, Harrington, P.G. Senior Deacon.
Bro. J. Lindow Burns-Lindow, W.M. 1267, P.G. Junior Deacon.
Bro. Godfrey, 1074, Kirkby Lonsdale, P.G. Superintendent Works.
Bro. T. Atkinson, P.M. 872, Whitehaven, P.G. Director Ceremonies.
Bro. M'Kay, 129, Kendal, P.G. Assist. Director of Ceremonies.
Bro. J. L. Paitson, W.M. 119, P.G. Sword Bearer.
Bro. W. H. Lewthwaite, P.M. 1002, Cockermouth, P.G. Organist.
Bro. J. W. Young, P.M. 1400, Harrington, P.G. Pursuivant.
Bro. J. J. Robinson, P.M. 872, Whitehaven, P.G. Tyler.

STEWARDS.

Bro. Moffatt, 1660, Frizington.
Bro. Nelson, W.M. 129, Kendal.
Bro. Jobling, W.M. 412, Longtown.
Bro. Brough, 812, Appleby.
Bro. E. Clarke, P.M. 1267, Egremont.
Bro. Salisbury, P.M. 872, Whitehaven.

Bro. Lemon's statement of accounts showed a balance of £273 7s 8d in hand. The Charity Committee's report recommended, amongst other objects, the sum of £5 to the aged widow of a Whitehaven brother; and also that the votes of the province be devoted to the election of the widow of a Longtown brother into the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and their Widows. The report being adopted, it was unanimously agreed to vote the sum of £20 from the funds in aid of the "Indian Famine Relief Fund." This being all the business, the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren were marshalled in order of procession to All Saints' Church.

The line of procession was thickly lined with spectators, there being above 200 Masons present, attired in the full clothing and insignia of their respective offices, and the delightfully fine day no doubt contributed to the attractiveness of the spectacle. The route taken was down Station Street, and round the statue of Lord Mayo, who was a member of Skiddaw Lodge up to the date of his tragic death. Here the band ceased playing, till clear of the statue, and the procession then was directed up Kirkgate to the south entrance of All Saints'. There was a full congregation, independently of the Masons. A very appropriate sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. C. H. Gem, P.P. Grand Chaplain, from 1 Corinthians iii. 16—"The Temple of God." The service was intoned by Bro. the Rev. Canon Hoskins, M.A., assisted by the choir, who kindly gave their services; Miss Cooper presided at the organ. The opening anthem was "Behold, how good and joyful." After the sermon, a collection

was made, amounting to over £18, five guineas of which will be devoted to an extra vote in perpetuity for Skiddaw Lodge, for one of the Royal Masonic Schools, in accordance with a rule of the Provincial Grand Lodge, and the remainder to the "Indian Famine Relief Fund." After church service, the procession was re-formed in inverted order to the New Market Hall, where an excellent banquet was served by Bro. Stephen Thwaite, Old Hall Inn, assisted by many of the wives, daughters, and sisters of the members of Skiddaw Lodge, who cheerfully gave their services. The hall was beautifully decorated and fitted up, but proved totally unsuited for the purposes of a large dinner, the excessively bad sounding properties of the place rendering speechifying and singing most difficult tasks.

Colonel Whitwell, M.P., presided, and proposed in succession "The Queen, the Patroness of Masonry;" "The Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family;" "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces," responded to by Bros. Captain Sewell and Captain Dodgson, 1002; and "The Bishop and Clergy of the diocese," which was acknowledged by the Rev. J. Thompson and Rev. C. H. Gem. After the chairman had given "The Prince of Wales, M.W. Grand Master of England," which was enthusiastically received, Bro. Morton gave, in very complimentary terms, "The Earl of Carnarvon Pro Grand Master, Lord Skelmersdale Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers," which Col. Whitwell, as a Past Grand Warden of England, replied to. The remainder of the toasts were as follow:—"The Earl of Bective, M.P., Provincial Grand Master," proposed by the chairman; "Colonel Whitwell, M.P., Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the rest of the Provincial Officers past and present," proposed by Bro. Lemon, and replied to by the Chairman; "The Masonic Charities," proposed by the Chairman, and acknowledged by Bro. Holme, of Kirkby Lonsdale; "The W.M. and Past Masters of Skiddaw Lodge," proposed by Bro. McKelvie, of Whitehaven, and acknowledged by Bro. Lamonby, in the unexplained absence of Bro. W. Taylor, W.M. of the Lodge; "The Masters of Lodges in the Province," proposed by Bro. Talbot, of Kendal, and responded to by Bro. Paitson, W.M. 119, Whitehaven; "The Visiting Brethren from other Provinces," proposed by Bro. R. Robinson, P.M. Skiddaw Lodge, and acknowledged by Bro. Ockenden, Lodges 1512 and 1656, Hampton, Middlesex; "To all Poor and Distressed Masons," by the Chairman.

Bro. Frears, of Whitehaven, P.P. Grand Organist, presided at the pianoforte, and the following glees and part songs were sung by several of the Cockermouth and Carlisle brethren:—"God bless the Prince of Wales" (Masonic version); "Hail, mysterious, glorious science;" "Oh, who would not a Mason be?" "Three cheers, brothers all, for the Craft we adore;" "Brothers all, of every nation," &c. The proceedings were brought to a conclusion a little before six o'clock. It is twelve years since the last Provincial Festival was held at Cockermouth, when Skiddaw Lodge was the youngest in the two counties, and the spread of the Craft may be judged from the fact that there are now above 1,700 Lodges under the English Constitution, whereas at the time mentioned there were little more than 1,000 Lodges.

MASONIC PROCESSION AT THIRSK.

THE occasion of the re-opening of the noble old Parish Church at Thirsk, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, on Tuesday last, was celebrated by the members of the Falcon Lodge of Freemasons in that town by a Masonic procession, for which a dispensation was granted by the Deputy Prov. Grand Master. Invitations had been sent to the neighbouring Lodges, and at 10 o'clock a.m. there was a master from various quarters at the Masonic Hall—a most substantial and convenient building, erected on one side of the Castle Green, mainly through the instrumentality and aid of the first Master of the Falcon Lodge, the late Bro. F. Bell, of Thirsk. Arriving at the spot, the visiting brethren experienced a hospitable reception at the hands of Bro. Anderson, the W.M. of the Falcon Lodge, who was ably and actively aided and abetted in his endeavours by his officers and brethren. At 10.30 the Lodge was opened in the first degree, and the dispensation having been read, the brethren were marshalled in procession; and, preceded by a Tyler with a drawn sword, marched to the Parish Church, the bells of which were ringing out a merry peal. Seats immediately below the chancel had been reserved for them, and soon after their arrival the choir and clergy entered in procession singing the processional hymn. Just before the commencement of the service, the W.M. of the Falcon Lodge advanced to the chancel and presented to the Vicar, Bro. the Rev. C. E. Camidge P.M. P.Z. and P.P.G. Chaplain, who is also the Chaplain of the Falcon Lodge, a beautiful alms dish, the gift of the Lodge. There was a very large attendance of the nobility and gentry of the county, the large church being completely filled by them and by the church dignitaries. The service was choral, the organist being Bro. John Camidge, of the Constitutional Lodge, Beverley, the accomplished organist of Beverley Minster, the sermon being preached by the Archbishop of York. At the close of the service, the brethren returned in procession to the Lodge room, whence they again proceeded to the large parish school room, where they sat down to a public luncheon, presided over by the Archbishop. During the course of the speaking after lunch, Major Worsley, of Hovingham, proposed the health of the Masonic body, saying that it was an impossibility to be a good Mason and a bad man. The principles of Masonry were expressed in two words—Brotherhood, Charity—and if these two words were fairly brought into operation in active life the world would be different from what it was. Bro. Anderson, the W.M. of the Falcon Lodge, made a suitable response; and, at the close of the proceedings, the brethren returned to their Hall, and closed the Lodge.

Amongst the Lodges represented on the occasion, besides the Falcon Lodge, were:—York, 236, represented by Bros. P. S. Camidge

P.P.G.O., J. Gainforth, and J. T. Seller; DeGrey and Ripon, 837, represented by the W.M. Bro. Dr. Palry, and several of his officers; Anchor, 1337, represented by Bro. T. S. Walton P.M.; Eboracum, 1611, represented by Bros. T. B. Whytehead S.W., and A. T. B. Turner, &c., &c. We noticed amongst the company and clergy many members of the Masonic body, who, however, did not join the procession.

The Masons of Thirsk may be congratulated on a very happy and successful day, the weather having been most beautiful. The attendance of Masons would have been very much larger, but for the fact of the Prov. Grand Lodge holding its meeting at Richmond on the following day.

The restoration of the Church has cost £1,500.

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.

—:O:—

OUR SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—My former letter was intended to have been read, not as an "assault" upon either of our Charitable Schools as they exist, but as a suggestion of a means of giving them a more extended usefulness without a proportionate increase of cost, by following a system very much in favour with many of the most active members of the Craft with whom I have the honour of being acquainted. I regret that your two correspondents should have misunderstood my intentions, and I think that they would not have done so had they followed much that has recently appeared both in your columns and in those of another Masonic journal.

Such being the case, I am not called upon to answer at any length the letter of "An Old Public Schoolman," but would simply venture to ask him how he calculates that if the education of 200 boys at a Middle Class School would cost 1,000 guineas per annum at a charge of 5 guineas a head, the cost of 200 girls at the same rate per head would only come to £840 per annum? I would also point out that in his calculation of the cost of education alone at the two Masonic Schools, he has entirely omitted interest upon money invested in the buildings and land occupied, and this comes to no mean sum in the course of a year. Only one more point—the class of boys who are educated in the Masonic School is not such as usually either ride or shoot; these two branches of an English boy's education do not therefore call for our special care in the Masonic Schools.

I would beg to observe, in reply to "P.M.," that in his opening sentence he has drawn conclusions without first ascertaining facts; that I am not at all anxious to disown my former letter; that I am not aware who the "Hercules" he refers to is, and that if I were, I should retort that it was a pity "Hercules" had not done the best he could for himself in some business or profession.

In conclusion, Sir, I may say that had I not felt obliged to take some notice of letters addressed to you, in consequence of a letter of mine you had been kind enough to insert having been to a great extent misunderstood, I should certainly have declined to take any notice of your two anonymous correspondents, neither of whom is able to write without introducing some amount of personality into his letter, a course most reprehensible in any newspaper correspondence, especially when the person whose letter is the subject of criticism has openly given his name, while his critics carefully withhold theirs. I of course decline to continue this correspondence.

Yours fraternally,

HUGH H. RIACH, 31st P.M.

P. Prov. G. Secretary, Oxon.

BROS. "Q." AND JACOB NORTON'S QUERIES.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—1. Bro. "Q." asks for light (if possible) to be thrown on an entry in Smith's List of Lodges, A.D. 1736, viz., "115 Scots Masons Lodge, Devil, Temple Bar." In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, I think we are safe in assuming that it was simply a Lodge wherein Scottish Freemasons congregated, hence its title. We have virtually a similar arrangement at the present day, as a "Jewish Lodge," "Polish Lodge," "Greek Lodge," &c. There were many Lodges at work in Scotland before the advent of the Grand Lodge in 1736, and so to find a "Scots Masons Lodge" in London A.D. 1734 should not be considered strange. The Lodge is named in the lists of Rawlinson, Pine's (1734), but omitted in Smith's of 1738.

2. Brother Jacob Norton wishes my opinion as to his supposed discovery about "Master Masons' Lodges," and though busy just now, I have endeavoured to gratify my friend by carefully examining the matter, the result being that I consider his views on the subject to be based upon a misapprehension, and consequently erroneous.

3. The third degree was worked by several Lodges, other than those named in Pine's List, 1734, &c., even as early as 1724, and not as he supposes by those only which are called "Masters' Lodges." No. 73, Lincoln, in Bye-Laws of 1732, provided for a brother being passed Master (raised as we should say) for a certain fee. So did 71,

London, in 1730, and 83, London, in Bye-Laws of 1731, enacted that the sum of seven shillings and sixpence was to be paid by every brother "who shall pass the Degrees" of F.C. and Master Mason.

Neither of these, and others I might mention, are alluded to as being "Masters' Lodges," though, of course, the minutes of such degrees were kept distinct in the records, as by those to which Bro. Norton refers. A "Masters' Lodge" now, as respects constitution, would mean no degrees to be given by such at all; just as with the *Grand Stewards' Lodge*, warranted A.D. 1735, and since then placed at the Head of the Roll, the members of which must be Master Masons (hence Masters' Lodge), and no "work" is allowed to be performed. There are other Lodges virtually in the same position, which charges such high fees that practically they do no work (and do not wish to), being Masters' Lodges. One I know of has fixed seventy-five guineas for its initiation fee! It is probable that this is the meaning of a Masters' Lodge, though I cannot say so for any certainty. At all events the guess of Bro. Norton, though ingenious, is not in accordance with the facts. I think my good friend must try again.

Yours fraternally

Truro, 3rd October 1877.

WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN.

A WORD MORE FOR POOR COX.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

SIR,—The chances for the orphan Cox are trembling in the balance, 400 more votes are said to be required for the candidate. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Devonshire has taken up the case this time, but instruct, in their circular, voters not to fill in for Cox; so that at the last moment the votes may be available for some other candidate. I protest against this; my votes shall not be made available in this fashion. I have sent my personal votes direct to the Secretary, filled in for Cox.

I recommend every voter in Devonshire, or elsewhere, who will lend a helping hand to the orphan Cox to do the same. Fill up your voting papers for Cox.

I would resist to the utmost of my power the disingenuous design, *pro re nata*, to throw over Cox at the last moment. Let every available vote be polled for Cox, and then we will borrow, as we now beg, or purchase, if we can, to secure the lad's election. But he is not to be thrown overboard *ad libitum*, at the last moment, at the caprice of any one.

Since Cox has been a candidate, 400 votes were borrowed from Devonshire, which have since been repaid. If it comes to the worst, let Devonshire borrow 400 votes to get Cox in; and most certainly they will be repaid. But the *legerdemain* proposal of getting the voting papers for Cox, but not filled in, and then to learn at the last moment that it was impossible to get him in, and the votes were applied to another, is a piece of strategy that will not avail with me. I thank most cordially those who have promised me support; a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether, and the success of the orphan will be secured.

Fill up your voting papers in Devonshire and elsewhere for Cox, and let not his election be lost by a manoeuvre.

Yours very truly, DANIEL ACE, D.D.

Laughton Vicarage, near Gainsborough.

3rd October 1877.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—May I be permitted to again bring before your readers the name of George Samuel Cox, who is a candidate at the forthcoming election of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys?

If the poor boy is not successful on the 15th instant, he will be unable, on account of age, to again offer himself for election.

The case is a most deserving one, and is strongly recommended by, amongst others, Bro. the Rev. J. Huyshe P.G.M. Devon, Vice Patron; Bro. L. P. Metham P.G.D. D.P.G.M. Devon; Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn*, P.G.C. D.P.G.M. Suffolk, Vice Patron, Long Melford, Suffolk; Bro. Hughan*, P.G.D. Vice Patron, Truro, Cornwall; Bro. Constable*, P.M., Vice Patron, 13 Sise-lane, London, E.C.; Bro. the Rev. Dr. Ace*, P.P.G.C. Lincolnshire, Laughton, near Gainsborough; Bro. Rodda*, P.P.G. Registrar, East Stonehouse, Devon; Bro. W. M. St. Aubyn*, 1 Brick-court, Temple, E.C., and the Charity Committee of the Province of Devon.

Proxies will be thankfully received by any of the brethren whose names are marked thus *, or by

Yours fraternally,

J. EDWARD CURTEIS, P.M. 189, P. Prov. S.G.W. Devon,

Vice President of the Institution.

St. George's Hall, East Stonehouse, Devon, 3rd Oct., 1877.

THE CONFIDENCE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I gather from your issue of last week that this Lodge of Instruction is about changing its quarters for the third time within the course of a few months. This seems to me to be a suicidal mode of proceeding. Surely it is possible to engage a respectable and proper room where the Lodge can meet and do its work. Why does it not arrange to pay a moderate rental instead of leaving the landlord of an inn to make his profit out of the refreshments he supplies? The occupant of a public house has a right to charge something for the use of a portion of his premises, which represent a certain annual value. Let the Lodge do this out of its funds and present a Life Subscribership instead of a Life Governorship as it now does, to one or other of our Charities to the most

diligent attendant. I do not like to see an errant Lodge, especially when it is one of those special Lodges set apart for the study of our ceremonies and rites.

Faithfully and fraternally yours,

A MEMBER OF THE LODGE.

AN EXPOSURE.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I received a circular from the office of the four Masonic Publications, soliciting my votes for a candidate for the Girls' School. Among the names of the brethren supporting the case, I find the name of one given as belonging to the Hervey Lodge. This brother has been struck off from the Lodge books since the 9th April 1873, for arrears; he only attended Lodge four times during his membership, and then never contributed to the Charities. I think such a case ought to be exposed, for it only does harm to our Charitable Institutions. By inserting this you will greatly oblige,

Yours fraternally,

A P.M.

SWIMMING.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BRO.—A letter of the Honorary Secretary of the London Swimming Club, which appeared in the *Standard* of Monday last, on this subject, ought to be in the hands of every one interested in boys' schools, and in the hope that you will reprint it in your columns for the special benefit of our School Committee, I enclose a copy. If it only called forth an expression of opinion from some of the subscribers, the result might be that attention would be given to this important subject.

Yours fraternally,

A LIFE GOVERNOR R.M.I.B.

3rd October 1877.

[We have pleasure in reproducing the letter referred to above.—
ED. FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.]

To the Editor of THE STANDARD.

SIR,—Now that the exodus has set in from the sea-side resorts, I would point out to those who have been envying the competent swimmer that this is an accomplishment more easily attained at this season of the year than at any other. The deplorable change in the weather in July so thinned the attendance at all metropolitan baths that any one who is really in earnest about learning to swim has only to take advantage of the slack season, and by a few nights constant attendance at any bath attain a new and lasting pleasure, as well as a valuable aid in perfecting physical culture. Even should the attempt prove abortive, the clear tepid water and application of a rough towel will amply compensate for the outlay of a few coppers.

It is a matter of great rejoicing to us to have to chronicle the rapid strides our cause is making. It is but ten years ago when a couple of champions and about a dozen, more or less, expert amateurs, were all that could be found to make up an entertainment, whereas now the temptation of a couple of medals will ensure upwards of 100 entries—all paying an entrance fee. "The Lords and Commons Race" proved that we have a plethora of amateurs who can not only swim five miles, but do it in good time (19 finishing within a quarter of an hour of the amateur champion), many of whom have since done 10, 15, and 20 miles for the honour of making a record, whilst Cavill's speedy long journeys are something to be proud of.

Those who have paddled knee deep, waiting for a wave to wet them, by coming amongst other beginners will be sure to find some one even more awkward than themselves, and thus gain a little courage to persevere. I have often seen an athlete who could obtain a certificate in general competition at the German Gymnastic School shivering at the sea side, afraid to duck his head, whilst such a developed man would learn to swim in a few hours. At every bath there is an attendant who will teach swimming as well as the shining lights of the profession. We are still willing to either instruct the beginners or improve those who have passed the beginners' stage, and our chairman is able to initiate even the expert in ornamental swimming. Unfortunately, because it is gratis, it is not appreciated. Those who come as enthusiasts, and do not swim at once, lose heart, and fail to show up again. Did any one ever learn cricket, billiards, or skating in one lesson? Others cavil at the neighbourhood in which our bath is situated, neglecting to observe the adaptability of the bath for tuition purposes, the immense body and clearness of the water, and the entire absence of "hat-touching." Our bath attendant would look frightened if any one (especially the gratuitous ticket holders) made a mistake and tipped him sixpence, whereas, at the West-end, passing compliments as to the weather with the favoured "professional" is good for a shilling. Why all do not learn to swim I cannot conceive (the School Board Acts should have included this). Mothers would send for a doctor if their boy did not walk at the usual time, and why not see they are taught to swim; papa, if he cannot swim himself, can stand up in the water and hold his son's chin up. How about the Registrar General's average of deaths from drowning? Over 2,000 per annum. Bereaved parents ought to have some qualms of conscience.

In conclusion, let me say that any one (ladies excepted) can have a gratuitous voucher by sending a stamped and directed envelope to our Secretary.

Faithfully yours,

THE HON. SEC. LONDON SWIMMING CLUB.

City of London Baths, Barbican,

1st October.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

THE ROSICRUCIAN SOCIETY IN ANGLIA.

THE Yorkshire College will be consecrated at Sheffield, at two o'clock, this day (Saturday 6th October), by M. W. Frater C. Fitzgerald Matier IX^o S.M. in *Scotid*. The Chief Adept who will be inducted, Bro. S. B. Ellis VIII^o, is well known to most of the inquiring Masons of the day, as one of the seekers after truth, and has made himself conspicuous in Yorkshire by the establishment of a Masonic Library in Sheffield. From the large number of candidates and their high Masonic qualifications a splendid future must be in store for the Society in Yorkshire.

Royal Commemoration Lodge, No. 1585.—A meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, at the Star and Garter Hotel, Putney. Amongst the officers and brethren present were the following:—Bros. J. W. Robinson W.M., Joseph Wright I.P.M., H. Smith P.M. Sec., G. Stacey P.M. Org., W. T. Morphew S.W., F. J. Holland S.D., A. Boehr J.D., T. Collings I.G., and S. Steed Tyler. The brethren were—Bros. J. W. Holland, L. Eykn, S. Pardoe, J. Rowe, F. Forss, W. Maddox, H. J. Carter, E. Goodman, R. S. Russell, J. Harrison, A. B. Weston, E. Stokes, and G. Cook. The following were Visitors: Bros. R. T. Whitley P.P.G.A.D.C. Middlesex, W. D. May P.M. 1638, J. Featherstone 1656, W. Allan 1158, S. Fane 1158, J. Hoey P.M. 316, R. T. Sumner 1360, and A. A. Denham 1044. The minutes of the last meeting having been duly confirmed, Bros. Carter, Maddox, Goodman, and Forss were ably passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, the I.P.M. Bro. J. Wright being in the chair. The W.M. having now taken the chair, invested Bro. F. Holland as J.W., the Junior Warden elected at the last meeting having removed to an inconvenient distance from the Lodge. The W.M., in a eulogistic speech, proposed Bro. R. T. Whitley P.P.G.A.D.C. Middlesex as a joining member. Bro. Past Master Wright seconded, and the ballot proved unanimous. Bro. H. Smith Sec., read a letter, sent to the W.M., from Bro. Slinn, of the Star and Garter Hotel (where the Lodge is now held), stating that he found the business of the Lodge clashed with his own, and therefore he wished the brethren to change their place of meeting as soon as possible. At the same time he wished the Lodge every success and prosperity. The W.M. said he only received the letter after the summons had been issued for convening the present meeting. Of course the brethren did not wish to burden Bro. Slinn, by interfering with his business, through holding the meetings at his house, but he (the W.M.) would say that large amounts had been spent at Bro. Slinn's hotel during the last seven times that the Lodge had met. (Hear, hear.) He should propose that a committee be formed to consider where the Lodge should be held. Bro. J. Rowe thought there would be a difficulty in finding a suitable place in Putney. There were several houses convenient for holding inquests—(laughter)—but none suitable for a Masonic rendezvous. Bro. H. Smith said he had seen Bro. Slinn that afternoon, and he had no wish to inconvenience the brethren, he did not desire to hurry them away. A committee was then formed to consider the question. Mr. W. Smith, of Upper Norwood, was proposed by Bro. Breach, and seconded by Bro. Past Master Wright as a new member; and Mr. W. Court, 11 Schofield-terrace, King's-road, Fulham, was also proposed by Bro. Harrison, seconded by Bro. Maddox. The brethren afterwards adjourned to the Half Moon Hotel, where an excellent banquet was served by Bro. E. Stokes. The usual toasts were proposed by the W.M. and received with Masonic honours. That of the Visitors was replied to by Bro. Past Master W. D. May, Past Master Whitley, Past Master Hoey, and J. Featherstone, W. Allan, S. Fane, R. T. Sumner, and A. A. Denham. A very pleasant evening was spent.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—At the Old Rodney's Head, 12 Old-street, Goswell-road, on Monday, the 1st inst. Bros. Percy W.M., Trewinnard S.W., Renshaw J.W., Tolmie Preceptor, Fenner Secretary, Hawkins S.D., Gibbs J.D., Powell I.G., Christopher Tyler, and Bros. Crawley, Wing, Hall, Burtle, Garrud, Mitchell, Millward, &c. Preliminaries being duly observed, the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed by the W.M., in a faultless manner, Bro. Crawley candidate. Bro. Tolmie worked the 5th section of the lecture, assisted by Bro. Renshaw J.W. Bro. Mitchell answered the usual questions leading to the 2nd degree, and was entrusted. Lodge was opened in the 2nd degree. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of passing, Bro. Mitchell being candidate. Lodge resumed to 1st degree. W.M. worked the 1st and 4th sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Hawkins, of Lodges Prosperity, 65, and Kingsland, 1693, and Bro. Wing, of Strong Man Lodge, 45, were unanimously elected members. Bro. Trewinnard was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Lodge was then closed and adjourned until Monday next, the 8th inst., at 8 p.m.

Upton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1227.—Held at Bros. Bolton and Lane's, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, on Friday last, 28th ult. Present—Bros. Hogarth W.M., Hine S.W., Crouch J.W., Fenner Preceptor, Townsend S.D., Smith J.D., Lane I.G., Bolton, Campbell, Kent, Wallington, &c. Lodge opened in due form. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was ably rehearsed by the W.M., Bro. Wallington candidate. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th sections of the lecture were worked by Bro. Fenner, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Wallington, P.M. and Preceptor of Dalhousie Lodge 860, was unanimously elected a member. Bro. Hine was duly elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Lodge was then closed and adjourned. We omitted to state in last week's report, that Bro. Fenner had honorary membership conferred upon him. We are glad to see this young Lodge is steadily increasing in popularity with members of the Craft.

St. John's Lodge, 3 bis.—This Lodge held its usual meeting on Tuesday, the 2nd inst., in their own hall, 213 Buchanan-street. Present—Bros. Kyle R.W.M., D. M. Neilson I.P.M., William Bell, Thomas Fletcher, James McMillan, Robert Craig P.M.'s of the Lodge, W. Cochran Sec., Brownlee S.W., Stuart as J.W., and a large number of visitors, including several distinguished brethren from the Grand Lodges of England and Ireland. The Lodge was opened in ancient form, and minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The R.W.M. having to leave, Bro. Wm. Bell P.M. was called upon to preside, when three candidates were admitted into the Order. Bro. Nicholson asked the Lodge to initiate a member for the Gael Lodge, and this being the first one made for that Lodge, the request was complied with, and the ceremony of initiation was performed by Bro. William Bell P.M. Bro. D. M. Neilson I.P.M. having entered the meeting, the acting R.W.M. requested him to take the chair, and an agreeable hour having been spent upon harmony, the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form, to meet again on Tuesday, the 9th, to hold a funeral Lodge in memory of the deceased Bro. Thomas Ramsay P.M.

Thistle and Rose Lodge, No. 73.—Held their regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 2nd. J. Kinuaird R.W.M. in the chair, supported by G. McDonald I.P.M., J. Bannerman D.M., G. W. Wheeler C., J. Finley R.W.M. 333 and J. McInnis R.W.M. 408. The Wardens A. McLeod sen. and W. T. Kay jun. were in their place; the Secretary Bro. Richards read the address of condolence to the widow of Bro. Wm. Walters, late Treasurer, which was adopted, and a deputation appointed to wait on her with the same.

The Union, No. 332.—Met on Monday, at 213 Buchanan-street, Bro. McKirdy R.W.M. presiding, when two Fellow Crafts were duly raised by the Master.

St. John's Operative Lodge, No. 347.—Held their quarterly harmony meeting in their own hall, Cathcart-street, Rutherglen, on Friday, 28th Sept. Bro. J. Conningham I.P.M. read a telegram from the R.W.M., apologising for his absence, in Dublin. There were three candidates for initiation, which ceremony was admirably performed. Deputations from the following Lodges were then received:—No. 116, headed by Bro. Hamilton R.W.M.; No. 275, by Bro. D. Ronald R.W.M., and Albert Edward No. 592, with Bro. Nisbett R.W.M. at their head. There were also Bro. Wheeler, representing No. 73, Bro. McKirdy R.W.M. No. 332, Bro. J. McInnis R.W.M. No. 400, D. B. Bell of No. 3 bis, and a great many others. In responding to the toast of the Grand Lodge, Bro. Nisbett said, as a member of Grand Committee, they had a deal more to do than those called Grand Officers. Grand Lodge was passing through a trying ordeal. Whether it would be for weal or woe would depend very much whether the Lodges in the West did their duty. He had no doubt it would be for weal, but it would require all their energy to remedy what the East had been misdoing for years. Each of the Masters heading the deputation then took the chair in turn, and a very enjoyable evening was spent by the brethren.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Comfort for every one.—It is essential for health that every organ of the body be fully competent and duly prepared for the natural execution of its appropriate function, which cannot be the case under great transitions of temperature, unless some corrective medicine be taken occasionally. When the chilling winds of spring are succeeded by summer heat, and this again gives place to autumnal chills, the liver and skin can only be maintained in efficient action by some such alterative medicine as Holloway's noted Pills, which regulate the circulation, cool the system, and fortify the nerves. In our variable climate, and in marshy districts, occasional doses of these purifying, cooling and aperient Pills will prove most efficient preservers of health.

THE THEATRES, &c.

DRURY LANE.—At 7.0, SARAH'S YOUNG MAY. At 8.0, ENGLAND. At 10.15, THE CONSCRIPTION.

COVENT GARDEN.—At 8.0, PROMENADE CONCERTS.

HAYMARKET.—At 7.15, BY THE SEA. At 8.0, ENGAGED, and MY PRECIOUS BETSY.

ADELPHI.—At 7.0, AFTER DARK. At 10.0, LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD.

LYCEUM.—At 7.0, A MARCH HARE HUNT. At 8.0, THE DEAD SECRET, and SHOULD THIS MEET THE EYE.

PRINCESS'S.—At 7.0, MISCHIEF MAKING. At 7.45, GUINEA GOLD.

OLYMPIC.—At 7.30, GOOD FOR NOTHING. At 8.30, THE MOONSTONE.

STRAND.—At 7.0, TIMOTHY TO THE RESCUE. At 7.45, FAMILY TIES, and CHAMPAGNE, A QUESTION OF PHIZ.

GAIETY.—At 7.30, AN EVASIVE REPLY. At 8.15, A MUSICAL BOX. At 9.30, BOHEMIAN GYURL.

GLOBE.—At 7.30, FARCE. At 8.0, STOLEN KISSES. At 10.0, LION'S TAIL.

VAUDEVILLE.—At 7.30, A WHIRLIGIG. At 8.0, OUR BOYS, and A FEARFUL FOG.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.—At 8.0, AN UNEQUAL MATCH.

COURT.—THE HOUSE OF DARNLEY.

OPERA COMIQUE.—At 7.30, MARRIED ANOTHER. At 8.30, LIZ.

CRITERION.—At 7.30, THE PORTER'S KNOT. At 8.45, THE PINK DOMINOES.

FOLLY.—At 7.45, UP THE RIVER. At 8.15, THE SEA NYMPHS. At 9.0, THE CREOLE.

ALHAMBRA.—At 7.20, FARCE. At 8.0, KING INDIGO. At 10.15, YOLANDE.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—This day, CONCERT, &c. On Tuesday, FAUST. On Thursday, FIREWORKS, BLONDIN on the High Rope, &c. Open daily, Aquarium, &c.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.—This day, "LOCKED OUT," DROMEDARY RACE, FIREWORKS, &c. On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, "CROSSING THE DANUBE." Open daily, HIPPODROME, NUBIAN CARAVAN ENCAMPMENT, MARAZ, &c.

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ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—THE SIEGE OF TROY. THE RUSSO-TURKISH WAR; "The Geneva Cross" sung by Rosa Garibaldi. LIGHT AND COLOUR. TORPEDOES. CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE. The Oxy-Hydrogen Microscope, Lectard the Automaton, Demonstration of New Inventions, &c. Admission to the whole, 1s. Schools and Children under ten, 6d. Open from 12 to 5 and from 7 to 10.

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PATRONS:

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

A QUARTERLY 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 Saturday, the 13th day of October 1877, at Twelve o'clock precisely, on the General Business of the Institution, to consider Notices of Motion as follows, and to elect Thirty-five Girls into the School by ballot from a list of Fifty approved Candidates. The Election will commence at One o'clock (or after the usual business is over), and close at Three o'clock precisely.

By Bro. C. F. Matier,

That the rank of Honorary Vice-Patron, with its attendant privileges be awarded to Bro. John Constable, in recognition of his services to this Institution.

By Bro. Henry Browne, V.P.

That in consideration of a legacy of Fifty Pounds bequeathed to this Institution by the late Bro. Charles John Vigne, his daughter Miss Catherine Ann Vigne be, and is hereby elected, a Life Governor of the Institution.

By Bro. Henry Browne, V.P.

That a gratuity of twenty-five guineas be awarded to Bro. F. R. W. Hedges, the senior clerk in the Secretary's office, in recognition of the attention he has given to the increased duties entailed upon the Office since the abolition of the Collectorship.

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

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VOTES ALREADY POLLED 997.

FIFTH APPLICATION.

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

OCTOBER ELECTION, 1877.

The favour of the Votes and Interest of the Governors and Subscribers is earnestly solicited on behalf of

SOLOMON HIRAM SHURY,

AGED NINE YEARS.

Son of Bro. WILLIAM SHURY, of Myland, Colchester, who is now in his 75th year. Bro. SHURY was formerly engaged in the Circulation Department of the Post Office, but, owing to severe attacks of neuralgia in the head, and defective vision, consequent upon cataract, he was compelled to resign his position when at the age of 54 years. His only permanent income since that time has been a pension of £44 a year, to which he was entitled on account of his service, and he has had to encroach continually upon his savings, till they are now quite exhausted. Consequently he cannot possibly provide for the boy's education, as he did for his children by his first marriage, and it will be a great comfort to him in his now declining days to see the lad elected into the Institution.

When in the full possession of health, Bro. SHURY was a most active Mason. He was initiated in the Saint John's Lodge, Hampstead, No. 196 (now 167) in 1848, and, after passing through the intermediate offices, eventually became W.M. When, in 1861, the state of his health compelled him to remove from the District, he tendered his resignation, and the brethren at once elected him an honorary member, in recognition of his valuable services to his mother Lodge. Bro. SHURY shortly afterwards joined the Wellington Lodge, No. 548, as a country member; and became a member of the Angel Lodge, Colchester, No. 51, in 1868; and he is still a subscribing member to both these Lodges. He was exalted in the Domestic Chapter, No. 177, in 1852, and was elected to the Third Chair, but the continued unsatisfactory state of his health compelled him to resign. He was also one of the founders of the Mount Lebanon Chapter, No. 73. When the present applicant was a child in arms, Bro. SHURY's position enabled him to make himself, wife, and child, Life Subscribers of the Boy's Institution, not thinking at the time that he should ever be compelled to avail himself of its benefits, and he has, besides this, done all in his power to excite in others an interest in the Masonic Charities. Altogether he has contributed to the funds of the Grand Lodge for the long period of TWENTY-NINE YEARS.

The case is strongly recommended (among others) by

The Right Worshipful Bro. R. J. BAG-SHAW Prov. Grand Master Essex.
R.W. Bro. RICHARD BOLTON Barton
J.L.D. P.P.G.M. for Western India.
R.W. Bro. MATTHEW E. CLARK Dep.
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V.W. Bro. Rev. C. J. MARTIN V.P.
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* W. Bro. A. D. LOEWENSTARK P.M.
548, 733, 107, and P.Z. 73, 185.
W. Bro. FREDERICK WALTERS V.P.
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W. Bro. WILLIAM PRATTARD Steward
R.M.I.G. P.M. 1326 and 1351.

W. Bro. F. ADLARD V.P. P.M. No. 7.
W. Bro. GRIFFITHS SMITH Past Grand
Steward, P.M. No. 21.
W. Bro. the Rev. R. T. WHITTINGTON,
Apollo University Lodge, No. 357,
and Angel Lodge, No. 51.
W. Bro. SAMUEL COLE, Life Governor
R.M.I.B., P.M. 184 and 1421, Past
P.G.P. Kent.
* W. Bro. HENRY T. R. WARR, Life
Gov. R.M.I.B., P.M. Albion Lodge,
No. 9.
Bro. M. D. LOEWENSTARK J.W. 1360,
S.N. Chapter 73.
* Bro. THOMAS J. RALLING P.G. Sec.
Essex.

Proxies will be thankfully received by those Brethren whose names are marked with an asterisk; or they may be sent to Bro. W. SHURY, Myland, Colchester. Proxies of other Masonic or National Institutions are most valuable for the purpose of exchange.

THE MASONIC QUARTETTE.

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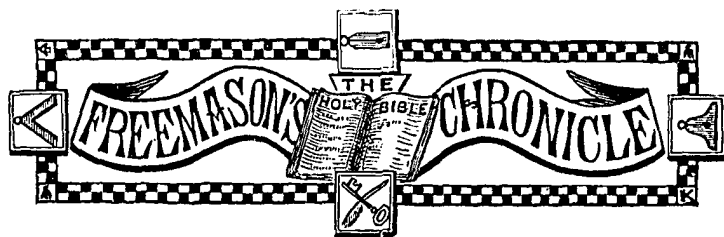
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67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THE Queen, who on Thursday last sent a letter to the Lord Mayor, in which she expressed her deep sense of gratitude that the public had so liberally subscribed to the Indian Famine Relief Fund, is still at Balmoral, whither Prince Leopold returned from St. Andrews on Friday. On Monday, she visited Braemar, with the Princess of Wales, who is reported to have looked less well than usual, and the Princess Beatrice. Having driven to the Geldie Shooting Lodge the Royal party lunched, and having enjoyed a short stroll up the hill side, returned to the Castle. The Duke of Connaught reached Taymouth Castle on Saturday afternoon, and on driving through the village of Aberfeldie, was very warmly greeted by the people. The Prince of Wales and party went on Friday to a grouse drive on the Invercauld Moors. The result of the day's sport was 70 brace of grouse and some hares. The Duke of Edinburgh, in command of H.M.S. Sultan, has left Besika Bay for Marseilles, in order to meet his wife and escort her to Malta, where she will reside for some time. His Royal Highness will then rejoin the fleet under Admiral Hornby.

Up to Wednesday evening the Indian Famine Relief Fund had already exceeded £300,000, of which £250,000 has been remitted to India for distribution among the different famine districts. Among the latest contributions are 14th instalment from the Lord Mayor of Dublin £500, Doncaster £500, Keighley, 3rd instalment, £250, Cheltenham, 3rd instalment, £300, Cambridge, 2nd instalment, £300, Reigate, 2nd instalment, £250, Colchester, 4th instalment £100, Mr. W. B. Gibbins £200, Messrs. Siemens Brothers 100 guineas, the Carpenters', Stationers', and Bakers' Companies, each 50 guineas, together with a large

number of amounts collected in various churches and chapels.

The lyric stage has sustained an irreparable loss by the somewhat sudden, though not unexpected, death of Mdle. Titiens, who passed away peacefully early on Wednesday morning. The afternoon previous she had been in excellent spirits, and a gracious message from the Queen had contributed much to cheer her up. But in the evening she became faint and slept several hours, awaking only to fall into the sleep eternal. This gifted songstress studied music at Vienna, and on returning in 1847 to her accustomed residence in Hamburg, made her first appearance before the public in the character of Lucrezia Borgia. On the 19th May last she appeared for the last time at Her Majesty's in the same character. She had been engaged in England during nineteen successive seasons, and had justly won for herself the respect and esteem of all classes for the social qualities she possessed as well as their admiration for her great musical talents. Her voice was a soprano of the richest quality. Of her singing it is impossible to speak too highly, while her acting was almost equally worthy of praise. Nor were her talents confined to operatic singing only, for she was as great a proficient in oratorio, her rendering of "I know that my Redeemer liveth," and "Rejoice greatly," being magnificent. The year before last she visited the United States, and occasionally she revisited her native Germany; but generally the most tempting offers, which were again and again made to her, failed to induce her to leave the country of her adoption. As our readers are aware, Mdle. Titiens had been ill for some months past, and had undergone an operation, which it was hoped might prove successful in restoring her to health. It was only when this had been done, however, that it was discovered a second operation would be necessary, and a fatal termination to her illness was thenceforward anticipated, though the end came, as we have said, very unexpectedly. Mdle. Titiens was about forty-six years of age, during thirty of which she had been before the public, first in Germany, and from 1858 continuously in England. She was one of the most eminent of *prime donne*, and Mr. Mapleson must feel her death most acutely, not only as one of the principal mainstays of his company, but also as one of his most intimate personal friends.

The daily papers are filled with letters respecting the condemnation of the Penge murderers. Many, and among them Mr. Charles Reade, appear to think the conviction will not stand, because the judge did not comply with the wishes of the jury by furnishing them with a copy of the indictment. Others maintain that this refusal cannot make the slightest difference in the value of the verdict. Then, again, while the two men attract no sympathy for their fate, the public appear to think that the sentence is too severe in the case of the two women, and especially in the case of Alice Rhodes, who was rarely at the residence of Patrick Staunton. There is a certain degree of force in this latter view, but no doubt the whole of the facts and the evidence will undergo a most careful review by the Home Office authorities, while the eminent judge before whom the case was tried will assuredly be consulted, particularly as to the recommendation of the jury.

Mr. Gladstone has been at Nottingham, where he has expounded his views on the Eastern Question in particular, and public affairs in general. He does not appear to have altered or modified his opinions as to the action of Russia in attacking Turkey; but we think he would be acting more wisely if he followed the example of the Ministers, and remained a silent, though watchful, spectator of events.

One of those cases which occasionally form the subject of a trial in one of our Law Courts, of an attempt to extort money by threats of publishing private correspondence, was recently tried before Mr. Justice Hawkins, in which two foreigners, Theodorides and Gorlero by name, were concerned, the prosecutrix being Miss Slade, niece of Sir Adolphus Slade. Theodorides and the lady had been engaged to be married, but the engagement was broken off. Miss Slade destroyed the letters she had received from the defendant Theodorides, but the latter did not do so, and the letters and the box in which they were contained passed into the possession of Gorlero. Subsequently £500 was demanded under a threat of publishing the letters if the demand were not satisfied. Evidence having been given of the facts, and the judge having summed up the case, the jury found a verdict of Guilty against both prisoners, who were condemned to seven years' penal servitude. We think

the verdict of the public will be "served them right," while a feeling of admiration will be shown towards the lady who had the courage to resist such a demand.

The great pedestrian feat of walking 1500 miles in 1000 successive hours at the rate of a mile and a half in each hour, starting at the commencement of each hour, will, if all goes well, be completed by about half-past five this afternoon. As the undertaking has neared its completion, the greatest interest has been excited among the public, and last Sunday it is reckoned there must have been quite 20,000 people present during the day to witness the performance, and cheer Gale in his effort to beat Time. Let our readers try, if they can, to realise what it must be; what powers of endurance, and, above all, what pluck it must require, for a man to walk for within a few hours of six weeks at the rate of a mile and a half an hour, with intervals of rest never exceeding three quarters of, and latterly little more than half-an-hour. The mere attempt to walk thirty-six miles a day for forty-two consecutive days, would tax even an unusually strong man, though, he would probably be able to enjoy some twelve hours' continuous rest on each day. But Gale has never flagged in spirits, or failed in his appetite till now, nor has he suffered so severely in his legs as might have been expected with so prolonged a strain on his system. We hope that those of our readers who have not witnessed any of his walks will go to Lillie Bridge to-day, and cheer the man who, in walking, has done what Captain Webb did last year in swimming, and that is, has surpassed all the grandest efforts ever before accomplished.

There is a lull in the warlike operations in Bulgaria. Rumours, of course, appear nearly every day to the effect that this or that army, the Russian or the Turkish as the case may be, has made an attack on this or that position; but these rumours are not often confirmed, and the belief is gaining ground that we must wait some time before hearing of any great struggle. Plevna is to be regularly besieged, under the direction of General Todleben, of Sebastopol memory, and reinforcements of the Imperial Guard and other Russian troops are being rapidly pressed forward towards Plevna and to strengthen the Czarewitch, who is no longer being pressed by Mehemet Ali. Indeed, the latter has withdrawn to his position on the Lom, as the rains have rendered any forward movements impossible, and have also, as a matter of course, rendered it difficult for him to obtain supplies. In Asia there are said to have been two more engagements, in one of which the Russians were defeated, while the result of the second was not known at the time of writing, though it was believed to be in favour of the Turks, on whose General the Sultan has very properly conferred the title of "Ghazi," that is, "the Victorious." The Montenegrins have gained further successes, as might well be expected, seeing that they have no particular force opposed to them, while the Turks, it is believed, have established a communication with the Roumanian side of the Danube. If so, the Russians will have to look sharply after the lines by which all their supplies of men and material are forwarded. As regards Servia, we hear on the one hand, of military preparations to aid Russia, and on the other, of threats by Austria that if this petty principality should engage in a second wanton war, it will go hardly with her. Considering the generous terms of peace accorded to Prince Milan in March last, and that he seems to have no idea what honour means, we cannot but think that Austria has acted both wisely and becomingly.

A concert was given on Wednesday, 26th ult., by the members of the City of London Orchestral Union, at the Schoolroom, Woodland-street, Dalston, under the conduct of Bro. G. T. H. Seddon, who was assisted by Bro. Moss and others. The novelty of the entertainment—it consisted entirely of instrumental music—seemed to be fully recognised, and from the applause which followed the efforts of the performers, we feel sure their endeavours to please were appreciated.

An influential committee has been formed amongst the musical, literary and dramatic friends of Bro. Dr. Joseph J. Pope, No. 946, who are desirous of testifying their appreciation not only of his professional kindness, but also of his social worth. It is intended to present him with a testimonial at the Royal Surrey Theatre, which (by the kindness of Bro. Holland) has been placed at the disposal of the Committee, on Thursday evening, 11th October; it is expected a large number of brethren will be present.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

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

—:O:—

SATURDAY, 6th OCTOBER.

General Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
193—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
1572—Carnarvon, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
1622—Rose, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell.
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.
1223—Amherst, Kings Arms Hotel, Westerham, Kent.
1453—Truth, Private Rooms, Conservative Club, Newton Heath, Manchester.

MONDAY, 8th OCTOBER.

45—Strong Man, Old Rodney's Head, 12 Old-st., near Goswell-rd., at 8. (Inst.)
174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
180—St. James's Union, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
957—Leigh, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Hotel, High-st., Wapping, at 8. (Instruction.)
1499—Marquess of Ripon, Pembury Tavern, Amhurst-road, Hackney, 7. (Inst.)
1623—West Smithfield, New Market Hotel, King-st., Snow-hill, at 8. (Inst.)
1625—Tredegar, Royal Hotel, Mile End-road, corner of Burdett-road. (Inst.)
London Masonic Club Lodge of Instruction, 101 Queen Victoria-st., E.C., at 6.
75—Love and Honour, Royal Hotel, Falmouth.
104—St. John's, Ashton House, Greek-street, Stockport.
151—Albany, Masonic Hall, Newport, I.W.
240—St. Hilda, Freemasons' Hall, Fowler-street, South Shields.
262—Salopian, Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury.
292—Sincerity, Masonic Temple, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool.
297—Witham, New Masonic Hall, Lincoln.
411—Commercial, Flying Horse Hotel, Nottingham.
431—St. Peter, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
502—Rectitude, Town Hall, Reading.
537—Howe, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham.
589—Druid's Love and Liberty, Masonic Hall, Redruth.
665—Montague, Royal Lion, Lyme Regis.
797—Hanley, Hanley Hall, Dartmouth.
893—Meridian, National School Room, Millbrook, Cornwall.
1021—Hartington, Masonic Hall, Custom House Buildings, Hindport-road, Barrow-in-Furness.
1069—United Brothers, Castle Hotel, Southsea.
1174—Pentangle, Sun Hotel, Chatham.
1253—Travellers, Queen's Hotel, Manchester.
1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury.
1592—Abbey, Suffolk Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds.
1611—Eboracum, Micklegate, York.
1618—Handyside, Zetland Hotel, Saltburn-by-Sea.
R. C. 12—Red Rose, Athenæum, Lancaster.

TUESDAY, 9th OCTOBER.

55—Constitutional, Wheatsheaf, Hand-court, W.C., at 7.0. (Instruction.)
65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C. (Instruction.)
167—St. John's, Holly Bush Tavern, Hampstead.
177—Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
198—Percy, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, E.C.
201—Jordan, Devonshire Arms, Devonshire-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
228—United Strength, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney. (Instruction.)
753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)
860—Dalhousie, Sisters Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1471—Islington, Coopers Arms, Silver-street, Falcon-square, E.C., at 7. (Inst.)
1472—Henley, Railway Tavern, Stratford New Town, at 8. (Instruction.)
1607—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)
1638—St. Martin's-le-Grand, The London, Fleet-street, E.C.
1604—Wanderers, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement, Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, at 7.
93—Scotia, Freemasons' Hall, Norwich.
184—United Chatham Lodge of Benevolence, Assembly Rooms, Old Brompton, Kent.
272—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Main Ridge, Boston.
284—Shakespeare, Masonic Room, High-street, Warwick.
406—Northern Counties, Freemasons' Hall, Maple-st., Newc.-on-Tyne. (Instr.)
626—Lansdowne of Unity, Town Hall, Chippenham.
650—Star in the East, Pier Hotel, Harwich.
892—Royal Edward, Royal Oak, Leominster.
903—Gosport, India Arms Hotel, High-street, Gosport.
1120—St. Milburga, Tontine Hotel, Ironbridge.
1250—Gilbert Greenhall, Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street, Warrington.
1347—Lorne, Greyhound Hotel, Sutton, Surrey.
1465—Ockenden, Talbot Hotel, Cuckfield, Sussex.
1509—Madoc, Queen's Hotel, Portmadoc.
1593—Royal Naval College, Ship Hotel, Greenwich.

WEDNESDAY, 10th OCTOBER.

Committee, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Freemasons' Hall, at 3.
3—Fidelity, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
9—Albion, Regent Masonic Hall, Air-street, Regent-street, W.
15—Kent, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C.
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth.
147—Justice, White Swan, High-street, Deptford.
193—Confidence, Greyhound Tavern, Milton-st., Cripplegate, at 7. (Instruct.)
533—La Tolerance, Horse and Groom, Winsley-street, W., at 7.45. (Inst.)
781—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.)
1305—St. Marylebone, Eyre Arms Tavern, St. John's Wood.
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Hotel, High-street, Wapping.
1446—Mount Edgumbe, 19 Jernyn-street, S.W., at 8. (Instruction.)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
R. A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
R. A. 1565—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.
281—Fortitude, Athenæum, Lancaster.
615—St. John and St. Paul, Pier Hotel, Erith, Kent.
666—Benevolence, Private Room, Prince Town, Dartmoor, Devon.
851—Worthing of Friendship, Steyne Hotel, Worthing.
972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury.
1101—Grey Friars, Masonic Hall, Reading.
1209—Lewises, Royal Hotel, Ramsgate.
1245—Denison, Grand Hotel, Scarborough.
1342—Walker, Stack Hotel, Walker-on-Tyne.
1393—Baldwin, The Castle, Dalton-in-Furness.
1424—Brownrigg, Assembly Rooms, Old Brompton, Chatham.
1434—Nottinghamshire, George Hotel, Nottingham.
1593—Francis Burdett, Albany Hotel, Twickenham.
1620—Earl Shrewsbury, Public Rooms, Cannock, Staffs.
1682—Llanidloes, Trewythen Hotel, Llanidloes, North Wales.
1643—Perseverance, Station Hotel, Hebburn.
M, M, 192—St. Cuthbert, Masonic Hall, The Parade, Berwick.

THURSDAY, 11th OCTOBER.

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.)
206—Friendship, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.
263—Bank of England, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8. (Inst.)
860—Dalhousie, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
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.)
R.A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)
M. M.—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.30. (Inst.)
35—Medina, 85 High-street, Cowes.
97—Palatine, Masonic Hall, Toward-road, Sunderland.
112—St. George, Masonic Hall, Fore-street-hill, Exeter.
216—Harmonic, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.
333—Royal Preston, Castle Hotel, Preston.
339—Unanimity, Crown Hotel, Penrith, Cumberland.
469—Hundred of Elloe, Masonic Rooms, London Road, Spalding.
477—Mersey, 55 Argyle-street, Birkenhead.
546—Etruscan, Masonic Hall, Caroline-street, Longton, Stafford.
732—Royal Brunswick, Royal Pavilion, Brighton.
739—Temperance, Masonic Room, New-street, Birmingham.
945—Abbey, Abbey Council Chamber, Abingdon, Berks.
991—Tyne, Masonic Hall, Wellington Quay, Northumberland.
1035—Prince of Wales, Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool.
1055—Derby, Knowsley's Hotel, Cheetham, Lancashire.
1093—St. George's, Private Room, Temperance Hall, Tredegar, Mon.
1144—Milton, Commercial Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne.
1204—Royd'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.
1457—Bagshaw, Bald Faced Stag, Buckhurst-hill.
1612—West Middlesex, Railway Hotel, Ealing, at 7.30. (Instruction.)

FRIDAY, 12th OCTOBER.

Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
25—Robert Burns, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
766—William Preston, Feathers Tavern, Up. George-st., Edgware-rd. (Inst.)
834—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.)
1056—Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, 155 Fleet-street, E.C. at 7. (Instruction.)
1227—Upton, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, E.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
1260—Hervey, Punch's Tavern, 99 Fleet-street, E.C., at 8. (Instruction.)
1278—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park, at 8. (Instruction.)
1298—Royal Standard, Castle Tavern, Highbury, at 8. (Instruction.)
1365—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1612—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.
780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1087—Beauesert, Assembly Rooms, Corn Exchange, Leighton Buzzard.
1289—Rock, Bedford House, Bedford-road, Rockferry, Cheshire.
1536—United Military, Masonic Hall, Plumstead.
1621—Castle, Crown Hotel, Bridgnorth.
R.A. 496—De Sussex, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle.

SATURDAY, 13th OCTOBER.

Quarterly General Court, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 12. (Election, &c.)
193—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)
1426—The Great City, City Terminus Hotel, E.C.
1607—Loyalty, Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill.
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8.
1391—Commercial, Freemasons' Hall, Leicester.
1612—West Middlesex, Institute, Ealing.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

SATURDAY.

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

MONDAY.

296—Royal Brunswick, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
1221—Defence, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds.
R. A. 151—Unanimity, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.
R. A. 495—Wakefield, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.

TUESDAY.

495—Wakefield, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.
603—Zetland, Royal Hotel, Cleckheaton.
1522—Olicana, Crescent Hotel, Ilkley.
1545—Baildon, Masonic Room, Northgate, Baildon.
R. A. 265—Judea, Masonic Club, Hanover-street, Keighley.
R. A. 289—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds.

WEDNESDAY.

1018—Shakespeare, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford.

THURSDAY.

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

FRIDAY.

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

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—145—St. Stephen, St. James's Hall, Writer's-court.
TUESDAY—1—Mary's Chapel, Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo-place.
WEDNESDAY—2—Canongate Kilwinning, St. John's Chapel, St. John's-street.
R. A. 1—Edinburgh, Freemasons' Hall.
THURSDAY—8—Journymen, Blackfriars-street, High-street.
FRIDAY—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—51—St. Machar, Freemasons' Hall, Aberdeen.
" 102—St. Mark, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
" 204—St. Paul, George Inn, High-street, Ayr.
" 205—Garthland, St. Winnoch, Eagle Inn, Loch Winnoch.
" 219—Star, 12 Trongate, Glasgow.
" 307—Union and Crown, Freemasons' Hall, Barrhead.
" 362—St. Clair, 25 Robertson-street, Glasgow.
" 381—Athol, Washington Hotel, Kirkintilloch.
" 503—St. George, Odd Fellows' Hall, Helensburgh.
" 541—Marie Stuart, Freemasons' Hall, Crosshill, Glasgow.

TUESDAY—76—Royal Arch, Freemasons' Hall, Thistle-street, Sterling.
 " 122—Royal Arch, Freemasons' Hall, High-street, Perth.
 " 230—St. Barnabas, Black Bull Hotel, Old Cumnock.
 " 299—Pannure, Freemasons' Hall, Mill-street, Arbroath.
 " 413—Athol, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
 " 419—Neptune, 35 St. James's-street, Glasgow.
 " 426—Prince of Wales, Freemasons' Hall, High-street, Renfrew.
 " 441—Glasgow, 22 Struthers-street, Glasgow.
 " 543—St. John Dalnair, Freemasons' Hall, Dalnair.
 " 556—Clydesdale, 106 Rose-street, Glasgow.
 " R. A. 69—St. Andrew, 25 Robertson-street, Glasgow.
 WEDNESDAY—178—Scotia, 12 Trongate, Glasgow.
 " 303—St. George, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
 " 510—Maryhill, 167 Main-street, Maryhill, Glasgow.
 THURSDAY—88—New Monkland, Montrose, Town Hall, Airdrie.
 " 109—St. Marcock, Crown Hotel, Kilmarnock.
 " 185—St. Adrien, Town Hall, Pittenween.
 " 334—St. John, Castle Inn, New Cumnock.
 " 557—Blantyre, Craig Hall, High Blantyre.
 " 570—Kenmuir, Freemasons' Hall, Springbourne, Glasgow.
 " R. A. 50—Glasgow, 213 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
 FRIDAY—153—Royal Arch, Freemasons' Hall, Cogan-street, Pollockshaws.
 " 170—Leven St. John, Black Bull Inn, Renton.
 " 399—Royal Blues, Commercial Hotel, Kilburnie.
 " 553—St. Vincent, 221 Dumbarton-road, Glasgow.
 SATURDAY—Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, Bellshill, Holytown, at 7.
 " 28—St. John, Black Bull, Kirkintilloch, at 6 p.m.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Royal Alfred Lodge, No. 780.—The installation meeting of this Lodge took place on Friday, the 28th ultimo, at the Star and Garter, Kew-bridge. As is well known, this Lodge has a very strong muster roll, and, consequently, its meetings are always characterised by a large amount of work and a good attendance of members. The retiring W.M., Bro. J. Chambers Roe, has been most deservedly popular with the brethren, and the new W.M., Bro. Walter Goss, whose unanimous election to the chair at the last meeting—which we recorded in our issue of the 4th August last—was looked upon as a worthy successor to a worthy Mason. Bro. Roe opened his Lodge soon after one o'clock, when there was a strong muster of members and visitors. He was supported by his officers. The minutes of last meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. called on the Audit Committee for their report. This showed the funds were in a most satisfactory condition, a balance of £121 10s 8d standing to the credit of the Lodge. The W.M. then examined Bros. Joseph Edwin Carter, George Webb and William Slater; this proving satisfactory the Lodge was advanced and the three brethren named were raised to the degree of M.M. The Lodge was then resumed, and Bros. Thomas Clarke, Edward Francis Wyer, Edward Spencer Pearson, William Deakin Becket and Thomas Rands, the five brethren whose names appeared on the agenda as candidates for the second degree, answered the usual questions, and in due course were passed. The next item on the programme was the installation of Worshipful Master, and Bro. Roe completed the duties of his year by installing his successor, performing the task in a manner that gave the most unqualified satisfaction. The brethren having been readmitted, and the customary salutes given, Bro. Goss invested his officers:—Bro. Charles May S.W., W. Gomm J.W., J. Smith P.M. Treasurer, W. Hilton P.M. Secretary, Blasby S.D., Erwin J.D., Costelow I.G., Hale P.M. W.S., Tarling D.C., Ackhurst A.D.C., Gilbert Tyler. The ballot was taken for Messrs. Robert Thomas Talbot, James Joseph Gunner and Charles Coombes, and resulted in their favour; all three gentlemen being present the new W.M. had an early opportunity to exhibit his proficiency, and by the faultless way in which he performed the ceremony gave assurance to the brethren that the prestige of the Lodge for able Masters would be upheld during the forthcoming year. After the regular business had been transacted in accord with customary demands, Bro. Goss rose, and said:—Brethren, before closing the Lodge I regret to say that I shall be unable to remain with you to banquet. A very distressing circumstance has overtaken me; one with which I am sure you will all deeply sympathise; it is the loss of my dear and only brother. In saying thus much I feel convinced I am spared further remarks upon the subject. However, before vacating the chair I desire to say a few words; and these I wish to direct particularly to the initiates of the evening. They have this day joined a society of which they previously knew little or nothing; let me hope that they may become ornaments of our time-honoured Craft. I further wish to impress upon them the necessity of advocating the genuine principles and tenets of our Order, more particularly I wish to impress upon them that they should remember a true Mason is always a gentleman. This in itself will prove of service in guiding them as Freemasons to maintain the dignity of our Order. And now, brethren, I have a duty to perform; a duty which, in the ordinary course, would have been carried out at the banquet table; but as I unfortunately, and to my deep regret, cannot join you there this evening, I have been requested, as an old and esteemed friend of Bro. Roe, to place upon his breast the jewel you have so kindly voted him. In so doing I have only to add that he has more than earned it; no officer has ever carried out the functions appertaining to his appointment more efficiently than our esteemed Bro. Roe; hence it is sufficient for me to perform this act of duty, and place this well-earned honour upon his breast, hoping he may live long in the friendship of you all to enjoy the lustre it sheds upon him, as a pledge of your kind regard. After a few remarks from Bro. Roe, who expressed the sympathy of all present with Bro. Goss in his sad bereavement, the Lodge was closed. A brief adjournment then took place, previous to the banquet, which was served in admirable style by host Stanbury. The dishes were placed on the table with a celerity we could wish more frequently practised. We are not "huge feeders;" we think forty minutes, or an hour at most, ample time for gastronomic purposes. We too often have to complain of the chilliness that pervades the surroundings at Masonic banquets, and confess a predilection for hot plates, hot soups, hot fish, &c., and are always pleased to note these

to us important features. As we have frequently remarked, much of the pleasure we look to enjoy from our after dinner proceedings is marred by the lateness of the hour at which the cloth is cleared. However, on this occasion all went merry as a marriage bell. Grace having been said, the presiding Master, Bro. J. Chambers Roe, gave the health of Her Majesty the Queen and the Craft. This was followed by the National Anthem, and Bro. Roe briefly introduced the other Loyal toasts; after these had received full honour, the acting W.M. again rose. He had now a most delicate task to perform. Every member would join with him in the deep regret he felt at the absence of their Worshipful Master. Bro. Goss and he were old friends, and he knew how anxiously his companion had looked forward to the day of his installation as W.M. of the Royal Alfred Lodge. Bro. Goss last evening called at his house, and consulted him as to what course he should adopt under the painful circumstances in which he was placed. The advice he gave was, that he should attend the Lodge, go through the business of the day, and then beg the brethren to excuse him. Bro. Goss had acted upon this advice, and the brethren had seen how well he had sustained his part in the proceedings. Bro. Roe concluded by calling on the brethren to drink the health of their W.M. in a manner consonant with the melancholy cause which had enforced his absence. Bro. Beasley P.M. then said: Brethren,—Our acting W.M. has for the moment placed the gavel in my hands, and you all know to what use I am about to put it. We are sorry to see the Master's place occupied this evening by the I.P.M., but you would not agree with me were I to say that we were sorry to see Bro. Roe where he is. We are one and all indebted to Bro. Roe; in every way has he been successful. He has during his term of office ably worked the ceremonies, and well carried out the duties. He had a large balance when he began the year, but he left a still larger one when he left the chair. Bro. Beasley closed his remarks by calling on the brethren to do full honour to the toast. Bro. Roe rose with a very great amount of regret, regret on this occasion for his enforced position; he would much rather have seen the W.M. in his place. He thanked the brethren for the kind way in which they had received the toast, and Bro. Beasley for the way in which he had proposed it. He had had a very happy time of it during the past twelve months, and what work had fallen to his lot had been to him a labour of love. He would at all times willingly exert himself to advance the Order and promote the best interests of the Lodge. In speaking to the toast of the Initiates, the acting W.M. said that unless new blood was introduced no Lodge could go on successfully. Vacancies necessarily would occur, and these vacancies must be filled up. The Royal Alfred had always been a progressive Lodge, and he trusted it would exist as long as the Craft should be recognised. That evening they had enrolled three candidates, and he called upon all present to drink to their health and prosperity. After a song, capitally rendered by Bro. Hamilton, Bro. Gunner replied. It had long been his desire to be enrolled a member of the Order, and he trusted he should prove himself a worthy member of the noble Craft. Bro. Coombes hoped that by assiduity and a firm resolve to acquaint himself with the principles inculcated by its teachings he might be found worthy of the confidence the brethren had shown when they permitted him to enrol himself under the banner of Freemasonry. Bro. Coombes thanked the acting W.M., and expressed a hope that he might long be known and respected by the members. The next toast that received recognition was the Visitors, and with it was associated the names of Bros. Morgan and Constable, who replied; the latter Bro. calling attention to the eminently satisfactory position in which the Lodge stood in regard to funds, and while fully recognising the support the brethren had always accorded the Charities urged them to still further exert themselves. Bro. Constable next acknowledged the fact of the W.M. having undertaken a Stewardship for the forthcoming Festival of the Girls' School, and expressed a hope that some of the brethren might be induced to represent each of the other Charities. He was sure the Lodge would nobly assist them, by voting a portion of the large balance in hand, notwithstanding that they had already given ten guineas to the W.M.'s list. The toast of the Past Masters was replied to by Bro. Hale, who, in answer to Bro. Constable, remarked that the Royal Alfred had always supported the Institutions; he directed attention to what had been done by Bro. Littlewood, who had taken up £90 from the Lodge, which invariably assisted those of its members who acted as Stewards. Bro. Brown also referred to what the Lodge had done for the Institutions; he was of opinion it would always hold its own; any way, they were Vice Presidents twice over, and would not be wanting when called upon. These remarks were fully endorsed by Bro. Hilton, who would give five guineas to be placed on the W.M.'s list. Bro. Gardiner was gratified to know that the I.P.M. was one of his candidates; three of the officers who had been appointed that day were his initiates, and he was pleased to know they had turned out such worthy supporters of the Order. The remaining toasts comprised the Officers, to which Bros. May, Gomm, Hilton, Blasby, Costelow and Tarling replied; meanwhile a list was passed round, and the W.M. announced the amount set down thereon as £39 15s; this will be handed to Bro. Goss in support of his Stewardship. Bro. Beasley remarked that he, too, was a Steward for the next Festival of the Girls' School; he was at the head of a very charitable Lodge, and he was sure he should be supported by its members. He should be happy to offer himself as a Steward at the after Festival of the Boys' School; he was already a Vice-President of the Benevolent Institution. The Tyler was now summoned, and a pleasant day's proceedings was brought to a close.

Percy Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 114.—The installation meeting of this Lodge was held at the Angel Hotel, Guildford, on Thursday, 20th September. The attendance of brethren was not so numerous as usual, owing to distant engagements of several members, who, however, forwarded their apologies for absence. Amongst these were the R.W. Bro. Major-General Brownrigg, C.B., Prov. Grand Master of Surrey, his Deputy, the

V.W. Bro. F. W. Harrison, the W. Bro. W. Smallpiece, Bros. Colonel Martin, Dr. La Fanque, R. Eve, T. Tyler, &c. &c. The Lodge was opened by the W.M. Bro. W. Wells, who was supported by Bros. W. M. Piggott S.W., Charrington J.W., Edgar Drewett P.M., Davies, Michaux, Neales, Seymour and others. By request of the W.M., the V.W. Bro. James Stevens P.M. and P.G.J.O. advanced into the degree Bro. R. D. Onslow, M.P. for Guildford, and subsequently installed the W.M. elect, Bro. Piggott, into the chair of A., both ceremonies being worked *in extenso*, and the addresses to the Master and Officers impressively delivered. The officers appointed for the ensuing year were Bros. Charrington S.W., Mason J.W., Eve M.O., Bolling S.O., Davies J.O., Michaux R.M., Smallpiece P.M. Treas., Drewett P.M. D.C., Piggott Sec., Seymour I.G., Neale Tyler. The Deacons' offices were left open for the ensuing meeting. The Lodge unanimously voted the sum of two guineas to the Indian Famine Fund, and transacted necessary routine business. On the proposition of the I.P.M. Bro. Wells, supported by the newly installed W.M., the thanks of the Lodge to the V.W. Bro. James Stevens, for services on this and former occasions, were unanimously voted, and he was requested to accept honorary membership in token thereof. Bro. Stevens briefly responded, and expressed the pleasure he felt in receiving so honourable a mark of approval, and his desire to be, in the future as he had been in the past, of service to the brethren generally and to the Lodge in particular. The Lodge was then closed, and, after attending the meeting of the Percy Craft Lodge, which was opened immediately subsequent, the brethren re-united at the banquet table, under the presidency of Bro. Davies, W.M. of the Craft Lodge. Bro. Piggott, the W.M. of the Mark Lodge, occupying the position of S.W. Bro. Michaux surpassed his customary excellence in the provision of viands and wines, and this important fact, coupled with a strong desire on the part of both Lodges to promote harmony and good fellowship, ensured a most successful and agreeable evening, the brethren separating at last with mutual congratulations that Craft and Mark had so happily joined forces. We commend this arrangement where circumstances may permit.

Lodge of Lights, No. 148, Warrington.—The regular monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday, 24th ult., at the Masonic Rooms. The W.M. Bro. Thos. Tunstall was supported by his Wardens and a number of P.M.'s and members, including Bro. Jno. Bowes P.M. P.J.G.W. Cumberland and Westmoreland, and Bro. T. W. Ockenden of Lodges 1512 and 1656. The Lodge was opened in due form, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and declared to be correctly recorded. After some routine business, five guineas was voted to the Indian Famine Relief Fund, on the motion of Bro. Bowes. Labour concluded, the brethren adjourned to the Lion Hotel, where an excellent supper was supplied by the host, and enjoyed by the company. After the usual loyal and Masonic toasts had been considered. The Visitors received consideration at the hands of Bro. Pickthall S.W., and was eloquently responded to by Bro. T. W. Ockenden. The Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a close.

Joppa Lodge, No. 188.—The first meeting since the vacation was held on Monday, 1st instant, at the Albion, Aldersgate-street, Bro. A. G. Dodson I.P.M. in the chair. Bros. M. Miller S.W., M. Spiegel J.W., E. P. Albert P.G.P. P.M. Sec., H. Hymans S.D., A. J. Champion J.D., Baker I.G.; P.M.'s L. Alexander, H. M. Levy, I. Abrahams; Bros. Genese, Cohen, Riebold, Bottenheim, G. Beau, Blanks, Benjamin, Hulbuth, Aaronson, Verdun, Brown, Walenski. Van Stavern, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. The first, second, and third sections of the first lecture were worked by Bro. M. Spiegel J.W. The resignation of two members was accepted with regret. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the next meeting. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to slight refreshments. The W.M. proposed the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts. Bro. E. P. Albert P.G.P. replied for the Grand Officers. The W.M. then proposed success to the Benevolent Fund attached to the Lodge, for which Bro. L. Alexander P.M. and President, returned thanks; and then proposed the toast of the acting W.M. Bro. Dodson, who had always most ably presided over them; to-night was no exception. Bro. Dodson said that at any time he might be called upon his services were at their command. The Visitors was the next toast given; all the members were pleased to see them. Bro. Abrahamson returned thanks. Bro. H. M. Levy P.M. acknowledged the toast of the Past Masters. That of the Wardens was next honoured, the acting W.M. stating that he had some experience, but he had never seen better working; he was sure, by attention to their duties, they would in due course occupy the chair. After replies from Bros. Miller and Spiegel, the W.M. gave the health of the Treasurer and Secretary. The latter brother is a P.G. officer, known and respected by all. The Treasurer was absent in Brussels, he also was worthy of our regard and respect. He had sent a letter regretting his absence, but hoped to meet the brethren in health and prosperity at their next meeting. This toast was followed by that of the Officers, which was duly responded to. Some excellent harmony emanated from Bros. Mallette, Benjamin and Lancaster. The Visitors were—Bros. Hudson 429, Abrahamson 898, M. Goldstein 898, Murzlak 898, Lancaster 1014, Blackett 318, Stunt 1011, Mallette 655, Australia.

Lodge of Instruction.—Through the exertions of the W.M., Bro. H. R. Jones, a Lodge of Instruction has been opened in connection with the Wandsworth 1044. At present it meets every Wednesday evening (the third Wednesday in the month excepted), at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Wandsworth. Bro. J. G. Carter P.M., and Bro. J. G. Kewney P.M., occasionally assisted by Bro. Past Master Boddy, are the Preceptors. It is proposed to change the night of meeting for the Instruction, as Wednesday is an inconvenient day for several members.

Tredegar Lodge, No. 1625.—It must have been with great satisfaction the members of this new Lodge, at their meeting on Monday last, listened to the Report of the Auditors. The consecration took place on Wednesday, 30th August last year, consequently the Lodge has been in existence very little over 12 months, yet is it enabled to declare itself free from all liabilities attendant on its formation. The brethren were summoned for 2 o'clock, when the chair was taken by the W.M. Bro. Charles Lacey, who was supported by Bros. S. Rawley and Clarke as Wardens, while the remaining officers were in their respective places. The Lodge was formally opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The Report of the Auditors was then submitted and received unanimous confirmation. The Lodge was now opened in the second degree, and Bros. G. F. Thomas and E. J. Emery answered the questions leading to the third degree, were entrusted and retired. The Lodge was then opened up, and these two brethren were raised to the sublime degree. A request was then made that the W.M. would give the benefit of the second degree to Bro. Adolphus George Langford, who had been initiated in the Sincerity Lodge, No. 174, but whose business engagements had prevented his being present at subsequent meetings of his own Lodge; moreover, he was now about to start for Riga, but before leaving this country, was anxious to advance a step in the Craft. All formalities requisite on these occasions being complied with, Bro. Langford was examined and in due course passed. The ballot was then brought into request for Mr. John Allsop Harrison, a candidate for initiation, and for Bro. Richard Stevens Sly, of Faith Lodge, No. 141, as a joining member. In both cases was the result satisfactory, and the W.M. initiated the first named. Bro. Lacey performed all the ceremonies in his quiet, but eminently effective style, which seemed to produce a deep impression on all the candidates for the several degrees. Bro. Thos. Mortlock, one of the honorary members, then formally presented an elegantly bound copy of the Constitutions, as also a copy of the Bye Laws of the Lodge, for the use of the W.M. for the time being. Both books bore a suitable inscription, and were greatly admired by the brethren present. The installation of the Master for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, Bro. Mortlock kindly acted as Director of the Ceremonies, and introduced Bro. George Huggett as the W.M. elect. The obligation having been taken, the brethren under the rank of installed Masters were requested to retire, a Board was formed, and the ceremony was completed. On the re-admission of the brethren, and the customary salutes over, the appointment and investment of officers followed:—Bros. G. Hollington S.W., Anning J.W., S. Rawley P.M. Treasurer, G. Ward Verry Secretary, Kendall S.D., Maud J.D., Clarke I.G., Deason D.C., Tyler W.S., Steedman Tyler. Several communications were then read, after which a suggestion, emanating from Bro. Hollington, was considered; it resulted in a collection being made in aid of the Indian Famine Fund, and a sum of over £2 was raised amongst the brethren present. The Lodge was then closed. The following were present during the evening as visitors:—Bros. H. M. Jones 13, J. B. R. Langford 174, G. T. H. Seddon J.W. 174, T. F. Harvey 174, Nailor 174, Moss 212, H. Williams P.M. 227, D. Ayling 561, L. Pott J.D. 907, J. G. Stevens P.M. 933, J. Taylor P.M. 933, W. J. Hayes 1348, W. W. Morgan 1385, J. L. Mather W.M. 1580, W. H. Farnfield W.M. 1716, R. Webb 795, &c. An adjournment took place, while preparations were made for the banquet. On the re-assembling of the brethren all expressed their gratification at the way the tables had been set out. Plans of the room were ready for inspection, and each brother had his allotted seat pointed out to him. This is an admirable arrangement, and one we should like to see more frequently adopted, particularly where space is limited. Bro. Huggett presided, and was supported right and left by Bros. John Hervey, Grand Secretary, and the I.P.M. Bro. Lacey. The dinner was capitally served, but, considering the lateness of the hour, was, to our mind, somewhat too long about. However, as to the quality of the viands the brethren were unanimous in their expressions of satisfaction. The cloth being cleared, the several toasts were given in rapid succession. Bro. Hervey replied for the Grand Officers. On rising he said:—Brethren, at this late hour of the evening I will not let one moment elapse ere I acknowledge the reception given to the toast by the brethren all round the room. I think it an honour to have my name associated with such noblemen as Lords Carnarvon and Skelmersdale. Despite the heavy demands upon his time by his colonial duties, the Earl of Carnarvon does not forget what is required of him by the Craft. As to Lord Skelmersdale, all I can say will fall short of expressing the esteem in which he is held; I would remark that if you wish further evidence of this I must recommend you to go down to Lancashire, there I am convinced you will obtain it. It has been said that no prophet has honour in his own country; here you will find a rule to the contrary. I now come to the difficult portion of my task; the kindness with which you have received me to-day, both here and in the Lodge, I greatly appreciate, I may say I feel at home here; I feel among friends. If, as your Worshipful Master has said, I did you any kindness twelve months ago, I am amply repaid by witnessing the prosperous condition in which I find the Lodge. In bygone days it had been remarked that I had been chary in my visits to this part of the metropolis, I do not think these remarks were warranted. I find that I have a numerous progeny of Lodges, consecrated by myself, herabout, and will enumerate some:—the Langthorne, the Guelph, the Bardett Contts, your own the Tredegar, and latterly the Eleanor and the All Saints. All are progressing most satisfactorily, and I rejoice in having a progeny so healthy. There is one thing I would urge upon all—Do not make your Lodge too large. The Master will always be able to carry out the duties pertaining to his office if the members will submit to his rule, and in this he will be greatly assisted if his officers will qualify themselves to efficiently perform their duties. Bro. Hervey then begged the brethren to excuse him if his remarks had been too long, and concluded by again thanking one and all for the way in which he had been received. The health of the W.M. was proposed by Bro. Lacey; all present knew him; and all believed he would do whatever he could to advance the interests of the Lodge. After a patriotic song,

which was given in capital style by Bro. Myerscough, Bro. Huggett replied: At the best of times he was not a good speaker. To hold the position of Worshipful Master in such a Lodge was, he considered, a very great honour. He would try in every way to carry out his duties satisfactorily, and he trusted his efforts would result in the prosperity of the Tredegar Lodge. He would say more on a future occasion, but to-night would content himself with thanking the brethren for the way they had received the toast. Bro. Huggett then gave the health of the Immediate Past Master. It was with all truth and sincerity he could speak of his many qualities; he had known him for the last nine years, and all with whom he was acquainted who knew Bro. Lacey honoured and esteemed him. He would place on his breast the jewel which had been presented by the Lodge, a jewel which had been thoroughly and honourably earned. The Lodge, at the conclusion of its first year's existence, was free from debt, and that result was due to their I.P.M. Bro. Lacey said he felt almost overwhelmed by the W.M.'s kind words. The brethren had paid him a high compliment by making him the first Master of their Lodge, and he thought he might congratulate himself on the great success they had met with; this he thought was due to the members generally, to whom all the credit should be accorded. The ensuing year bids fair to be an equally successful one with the last and he trusted the day was far distant when he should be separated from the members. He expressed his thanks to all, and hoped the same kindness might be exhibited to his successor, and to all who might follow him. The health of the Initiate was next given, and replied to; and the W.M. then proposed Prosperity to the Masonic Charities, and with the toast he associated the name of Bro. Binckes, P.G. Steward, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. Bro. Binckes commenced his remarks by congratulating the brethren upon the prosperity of the Lodge. At this late hour he did not wish to inflict upon them a long speech, but he looked around, and everywhere he recognised old and well-tried friends. He did not know whether he should be successful that evening in enrolling a Steward for his next Festival; this he must leave entirely to them, but he would content himself by pleading the cause of the three Charities. Bro. Binckes then urged the special claims of the Institutions, and referred to a late speech made by Bro. Farnfield, who he had pleasure in meeting earlier in the evening. Bro. Farnfield, he said, must have been indoctrinated by the opinions of his father, who, of course, always considered the Benevolent Institution was the most fit and proper one to be supported. Others might urge the claims of the Girls'; for himself, he had but one idea on the point, and that was, the foremost Institution to be supported was that of the Boys' School. Let the Craft look after the Boys, and the Boys would in time look after the Girls. Bro. Binckes then referred to some of those present who had specially exerted themselves on behalf of the Charities, and heartily thanked them for what they had already done. He next spoke of the efforts that were being made in our Lodges to assist the fund in aid of the Indian Famine, but feared that these efforts would somewhat divert the stream from our own Institutions. He concluded his remarks by making a strong appeal for a continuance of the support he had already received. The remaining toasts were then gone through, but the exigencies of the train service compelled many of the brethren to leave, amidst congratulations as to the success of the day's proceedings. Bro. G. T. H. Seddon, with his usual courtesy, ably assisted the proceedings, both in the Lodge and at the banquet, by his musical ability.

Prosperity Lodge of Instruction.—Held at Bro. Maidwell's, Leadenhall-street. According to announcement, Bro. Louis A. Leins, P.M. 65, worked the ceremony of installation on Tuesday last. Bros. Wharman S.W., Posener J.W., Fraser S.D., Forrest J.D., West I.G., Campbell, Patmore, Rowley, Hill, Daniel, Hollands, Sayer, Walker, Harris, Fraser, Glass, Posener, &c. The Lodge was opened in due form. The minutes having been read and confirmed, the Lodge opened in the second degree, and the ceremony of installation was proceeded with, Bro. Hollands W.M. elect. Bro. Hill then worked the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Forrest candidate. Bro. Rowley W.M. of Lodge 917, and Bro. Patmore D.C. Lodge 228, were elected members of this Lodge of Instruction. It was proposed by Bro. Posener, and seconded by Bro. Daniel, that a vote of thanks to Bro. Leins be recorded on the minutes, for the able and impressive manner in which he had rendered the ceremony, to the gratification and instruction of all present. This was carried unanimously. Bro. L. A. Leins said he felt it a duty, at the same time a great pleasure, to be called upon by the Prosperity Lodge of Instruction to render any Masonic instruction he could impart. Bro. Wharman will fill the chair on Tuesday, 9th instant. After a pleasant evening, the Lodge was closed. Before the brethren left the Lodge Bro. L. A. Leins gave the impressive long charge.

Kent Lodge of Instruction, No. 15.—This Lodge held its meeting on Thursday the 4th October, at the Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow. Bros. Hunt W.M., J. Pinder Preceptor, Upward S.W., Franklin J.W., W. Hallows Asst. Sec., G. Clarke J.D., also Bros. Groome, Haines, &c. After preliminaries, the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Haines acting as candidate. Bro. J. Pinder worked the first and second sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Haines 1679 was elected a member. Bro. Upward will preside next week.

Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement.—The first meeting of this old established Chapter for the season was held at its comfortable quarters, the Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, on Tuesday last, under the presidency of the following officers:—Comps. E. J. Rowe M.E.Z., P. Wagner H., J. Constable J., T. W. White Scribe E., F. Brown Scribe N., F. Buckland P.S. The usual formalities were gone through, and the minutes of the Convocation of the 29th May

duly confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed by the principals, Comp. Major E. H. Finney acting as candidate. The officers of the evening were re-elected for the ensuing fortnight, and the following Companions unanimously elected members, viz.—F. Buckland Doric Chapter, J. G. Yolland Gladsmuir Chapter, and F. Batt. Each returned thanks for the favour of membership, and promised to attend whenever circumstances would permit. We need hardly say that the ceremony and addresses were tolerably well performed, but on many former occasions we have heard the same more efficiently rendered. Improvement will no doubt follow, as the strength of the meeting fully testified the determination of Companions to work up in this branch of the art. There were present Comps. John Boyd Treas., E. Gottheil, C. W. Noehmer, F. A. White, S. H. Moore, H. Darcy, G. Darcy, R. E. Stevenson, John Seex, W. W. Morgan, &c. The Chapter will continue its meetings on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Percy Lodge of Instruction, No. 198.—At the meeting on Saturday, the 29th September, at the Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, Islington, present—Bros. J. Stock W.M., Gibbs S.W., Fennor I.W., Killick Sec., Halford Treas., Brasted S.D., Brand J.D., Elliston I.G., Pearce Preceptor. Lodge opened in due form and the minutes of last meeting were confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed. Bro. C. Lorkin candidate; also the ceremonies of passing and raising, Bros. C. Lorkin and J. A. Powell acting as candidates. The third section of the first lecture was worked. Bro. Gibbs was appointed W.M. for the next meeting.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.—Held its weekly meeting on Tuesday the 2nd of October, at Bro. Smyth's, the Sisters Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston. Present—Bros. G. Brown W.M., Defriez S.W., Young J.W., Dallas Sec., Smyth Treas., Sanders S.D., and Brasted J.D. Visitors—Bros. Lines, Cook, and others. The Lodge was opened in due form, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed; the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Forss acting as candidate. Afterwards Bro. Defriez worked the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Lines of 972, and Bro. Cook of 188 were unanimously elected members of this Lodge of Instruction. Bro. Defriez will preside at the next meeting.

Holmesdale Chapter, No. 874.—On Monday the 1st inst., a Royal Arch Chapter was solemnly dedicated and consecrated at the Sussex Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, by Companion the Rev. T. Robinson Prov. Grand J. of Kent, assisted by Comps. J. H. Eastes Prov. G.H., the Rev. W. A. Hill, and H. Ward Prov. G.H. Wilts. Amongst the Visitors were Comps. Cottebrune Assist. Soj. P.Z., Kingston H. 862, W. J. Murlis, F. Frye and W. Grist 862. After the Chapter had been formally opened and the Comps. admitted, the Petitioners were arranged in order, and addressed by the Consecrating Officer, as to whether they approved of the Principals named in the Charter, and they having signified their approval, proceeded to constitute the Chapter. An oration on the principles of the Order was delivered by the Rev. W. A. Hill. A convocation of installed principals was then formed, when Comp. the Rev. T. Robinson, then installed Comps. B. S. Wilmot and Delves into the 2nd and 3rd chairs. Comp. W. Stephens being already a P.Z. was invested, and placed in the chair as J. of the Chapter, his first act being to instal Comps. B. S. Wilmot and Delves as second Principals, after which B. S. Wilmot was finally installed as M.E.Z., according to ancient custom. Upon the admission of the Comps., the Principals were duly proclaimed and saluted, and the following Officers appointed:—Comps. R. W. Delves Scribe E., Bacon Scribe N., Williams P. Soj. The Consecrating Officers were then elected honorary members; several candidates were proposed for exaltation, and the Convocation closed. An excellent banquet followed, at which the M.E.Z. presided. The usual Loyal and Royal Arch toasts were proposed and ably responded to.

The City of Westminster Lodge, No. 1563.—Held its first meeting of the season at the Regent Masonic Hall, Air-street, Regent-street, W., on Thursday, 27th September. Present—Bros. P. M. Holden W.M., B. W. Swallow G.J.D. Middlesex I.P.M., C. A. Cottebrune Treasurer, E. J. Scott P.M. Sec., E. White S.W., J. E. Shand as J.W., B. Turner S.D., Hutchinson as J.D., Willis as I.G., Townley, Tate, Hammond, Irving, Gardner, Ward, Eastgate, Day, Döcker, Waugh, and others. Visitors—Bros. John Coutts P.G.P. W.M., Covent Garden Lodge, John Elliott W.M. 1348, A. J. Ireton S.W. 1348, A. Bassington J.W. 205, L. Beck W.M. 1687, E. H. Stanwitz P.M. 435, T. Cooper S.D. 538, James Edell 108, C. F. Lewns 95, T. J. Arnold 382, E. G. Marner 1673. Bros. Taylor and Clarke were passed to degree of Fellow Craft. Bros. Ward, Jones, Lee and Eastgate were raised to the sublime degree of M.M. by Bro. Rev. P. M. Holden W.M., in a most impressive manner. The election of W.M. for next year was then proceeded with, and Bro. E. White was unanimously chosen. Bro. Cottebrune was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Potter Tyler. The bye-laws were read, after which several propositions for initiation at next meeting were handed to the Secretary. A letter was read from Bro. Parsons P.M. 180 J.D. of this Lodge, tendering his resignation, which was received with great regret. Bro. P.M. Swallow proposed that a jewel, with collar and appendages, be presented at the next meeting to the W.M. for his ability and conduct of the Lodge during his year of office; this was carried unanimously. The Lodge was then closed, and adjourned until November. About fifty brethren then sat down to a capital dinner, prepared by Bro. Nicol, for which a hannah of venison had been kindly sent by Bro. Riley. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given by the W.M., and were enthusiastically received. In speaking of the I.P.M., reference was made to his appointment as G.J.D. of Middlesex. As to the W.M. elect, he was

satisfied he was a good Mason, and that he would do credit to the City of Westminster Lodge. During the evening, and after most of the brethren had dispersed, Bro. Scott, Secretary, suggested that the Lodge should have a ball in January, to give the wives, sisters, and ladies a treat. This was approved of by the W.M. and brethren, who at once subscribed about £10 as a guarantee fund for the purpose, to avoid taking from the funds of the Lodge. Bros. Beck, Eastgate, Lewns, &c., enlivened the proceedings with music, and the W.M. gave a recitation.

Samson Lodge, No. 1668.—The members held their first regular meeting, after the summer vacation, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on Tuesday, the 2nd inst. The following were present:—Bros. Marcus D. Loewenstark W.M., J. D. Barnett S.W., W. H. G. Rudderforth J.W., A. D. Loewenstark Treasurer, Baron D. Barnett J.D., J. Lover I.G., S. Wasserberg D.C.; Bros. H. Aarons, W. Longhton, M. Wilson, J. Quincey, H. Jewel, A. Cohen, W. Williams, J. G. Thomas, M. Eilenberg. Visitors—Bros. Valentino and H. Myers, of the Tranquillity Lodge, No. 185. The Lodge was opened by the W.M. shortly after five o'clock, and the minutes of the regular meeting of 1st May, and of the emergency meetings of 5th June, 3rd July, and 9th August were read and confirmed. Bros. W. Williams and M. Eilenberg were then raised to the 3rd degree. Mr. John Elkan was initiated into Freemasonry in a very impressive manner by the W.M., after which the W.M. passed Bros. H. Jewell and Albert Cohen. Propositions for initiation and joining were then made. The Secretary submitted the bye-laws of the Lodge for confirmation, and after the brethren had thoroughly discussed them, they were unanimously confirmed, they having been formally adopted at a previous meeting. Letters of apology were received from two of the officers, who were unavoidably absent. There being no further business, the Lodge was adjourned till 6th November, and the brethren proceeded to banquet. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given and heartily received. The Initiates' health was given and ably responded to. Altogether, the brethren spent a very pleasant evening, chiefly owing to the music that was provided; the W.M. contributed a violin solo, Miss Loewenstark played a pianoforte solo, and Miss Eugenie Samuel sang with great effect, and was heartily applauded after her respective songs. The members of the Lodge also assisted in the musical arrangements, and the brethren did not separate until 11 o'clock, having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Rothsay Lodge, No. 1687.—This recently consecrated Lodge held its first meeting of the season at the Inns of Court Hotel, Lincoln's-inn-fields, on Wednesday last. Bros. Louis Beck W.M., Kirk S.W., Hancock J.W., W. C. Parsons Secretary, Docker S.D., Cropland J.D., Outhwaite I.G., Berrow as Organist, and a numerous assemblage of the brethren. The minutes of the former and emergency meetings were read and confirmed. Bros. Duret, Jones, and Lucas were passed; Messrs. W. Taylor, E. W. Livermore, J. W. Dunton, and G. C. Michels were balloted for and unanimously accepted. These gentlemen were then initiated into the Order by the W.M., the ceremony being perfectly and impressively rendered. Bros. A. Magillivray 1559, H. Henton 1559, and J. Wako 749, were elected joining members. Propositions for joining and initiation were handed in, and the Lodge was closed until the first Wednesday in November. The brethren

then sat down to a banquet and dessert, provided by Bro. Gosden, that gave great satisfaction. The W.M., in proposing the toast of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M., said they were proud to have him at the head of the Order, especially so the members of this Lodge, from the fact of H.R.H. allowing them the use of his title and his arms, as Duke of Rothesay, on the banner of the Lodge. (Cheers). After the toasts of the R.W. Pro G.M., D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Bro. W. C. Parsons Sec. and acting I.P.M. rose: he had a pleasing duty to perform, to propose a toast in the absence of their Treasurer, Bro. Swallow; the health of the W.M., whom they all respect. He does all in his power to promote the interests of the Lodge, and he deserved their thanks for the able manner he had conducted their various ceremonies. Bro. Beck returned thanks. He regretted the absence, on account of illness in his family, of Bro. Swallow. It had always been his ambition to become W.M. The Lodge had made a good selection of officers, and he was sure that under their conduct affairs would flourish. He would ever keep its interests at heart; he again thanked them for their kind expressions. The next toast was that of the Visitors, who severally responded and complimented the W.M. The W.M. then proposed the toast of the Initiates; there were seven present, some having been initiated at the former meetings. He was sure, by the attention they had paid to the ceremony, they would be an acquisition to the Order. Bros. Livermore, Duret, Michels, and Taylor returned thanks, and the W.M. then gave the health of the Treasurer and Secretary. All regretted the absence of the former brother; he suggested that a letter be sent from the Lodge, expressing its sympathy. With regard to Bro. Parsons, he is well known and equally respected; the members are proud of him, for no Lodge could have a better Secretary. Bro. Parsons returned thanks. Anything he could do for the welfare of the Lodge would be his especial care. At a future time he would ask them to look to the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart—Charity. He had been, and hoped to be again, a Steward for one of the Charities, and he would ask the new initiates either to become Subscribers or Life Governors. (Cheers). In speaking to the toast of the Officers, the W.M. said he hoped they would place the S.W. in the chair; he would have great pleasure in installing that brother as his successor; all the officers were good working Masons. This having been responded to, the Tyler's toast was given and the brethren separated, after passing a very agreeable and harmonious evening. Visitors—Bros. Archibald Nagle 186, C. Palmer 1293, Bignell 2, G. Wood 1528, Abbott P.M. 9, Capt. Baxter W.M. Grand Stewards' Lodge, J. Berror 190, Lakin S.W. 180, H. M. Levy P.M. 188. Some very excellent singing emanated from the W.M., Bros. Baxter and Outhwaite; Bro. Berrow played some capital music on the pianoforte.

Brecknock Lodge, No. 651.—This Lodge held its monthly meeting on Monday the 1st of October, at the Masonic Rooms, Castle Hotel, Brecon. Present—Bros. Richard Webb W.M., A. Phipps S.W., T. Butcher J.W., J. A. Whittle Sec., Thos. Jones S.D., J. G. Wotton J.D., H. O. Aveline Mayhew Steward, Wm. Webb I.G., Adam Orlopp Tyler. Past Masters Bros. T. D. Roberts, E. C. Phillips, H. C. Rich. The business comprised the passing of Bros. T. C. Bargrave Watkins and John Morgan, and the consideration of several matters of interest to the members and the Craft at large.



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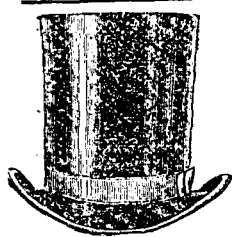
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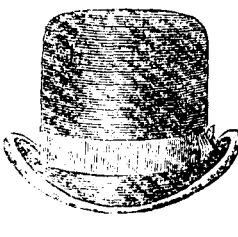
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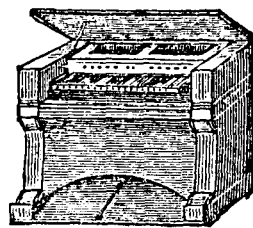
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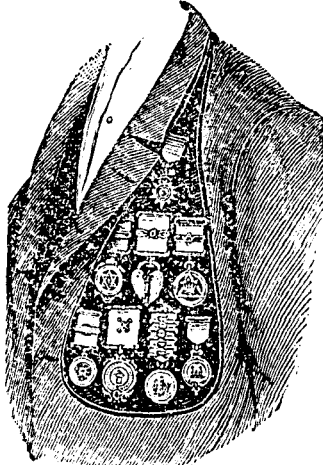
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