

:THE

# Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

SANCTIONED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

VOL. VII.—No. 163.

SATURDAY, 16th MARCH 1878.

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

## HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

*(Continued from page 82.)*

FOR many years we note but isolated events in the history of the Craft in this Province. In 1791 the Festival of St. John the Baptist was celebrated, on the 27th June, by the brethren of St. John's Lodge going in procession to Church; and it was ordered that they should "appear on the occasion in cocked hats, and likewise that the Tyler be clothed, at the expense of the Lodge, with a blue coat and waistcoat and corduroy breeches, the whole with yellow buttons, a pair of white stockings, and a three-cornered hat; and also that he be presented with a hairy cap to wear on public occasions, the latter to remain the property of the Lodge." The procession is described as having been numerous and respectable, the members being adorned with the insignia of the Craft, and accompanied by music and banners, there being also an immense crowd of spectators, who "conducted themselves in the most perfect order and regularity." On the 3rd January 1793, the number of the Lodge was changed to 471 by the filling up of blanks caused by the erasure of Lodges from the Roll, and it was announced on the same day that the Prov. G. Master had appointed the Rev. Bro. William Peters, who was appointed in 1783 Grand Portrait Painter, and whose portraits of Lord Petre, the Prince of Wales, and the Dukes of Cumberland and Manchester, adorn the walls of Grand Lodge, to be his Deputy, the same Rev. Bro. being also appointed Prov. G. Master of Lincolnshire by the Prince of Wales G.M. On the 23rd May of the same year a Lodge of Emergency was held, with a view to considering the visit of the Prov. G.M., and it was resolved that those who may be appointed Prov. G. Officers should pay for their expenses, and that certain brethren be recommended for appointment as such. On the 18th June a Prov. G. Lodge was held at the Lion and Dolphin Inn, under the presidency of the Rev. Bro. Peters, and Bro. E. Hodges, a highly respectable tradesman in the town, was invested as S.G. Warden for the ensuing year, commencing from St. John the Baptist's day, and other appointments were made, though, with one exception, none of them were in accordance with the recommendations of the Emergency meeting. At the same time, Bro. Peters, who, we read, had heard of the virtues and abilities of the son of Bro. Smith, "who is not yet a Mason, but it is probable will be one," ordered that a blue apron be reserved for him as Prov. G. Painter. On the 25th July, an Emergency meeting was held under the presidency of the Prov. G. S. Warden Bro. Hodges; and the Rev. Bro. Thomas Hoe was invested with the blue apron—white aprons being the order of the day among members of private Lodges—as Prov. G. Chaplain. On the 24th June 1794, the Rev. Bro. Peters, owing to the expected confinement of his wife, was unable to meet his brethren, but he informs the Prov. G. Secretary that it is the pleasure of the Prov. G. Master that, with the exception of the Wardens, the same Prov. G. Officers shall be continued for the ensuing year. He also states the brethren to be appointed S. and J. Wardens must be the two who have contributed most largely to the subscription for the defence of the country, then being raised in the county, to which, at a Lodge of Emergency, the members of St. John's had agreed to contribute. No brethren, however, appear to have been appointed to these offices. On the 12th July 1797, the Rev. Samuel Oliver, the "Masonic Patriarch,"

who was father of the well-known Masonic writer Bro. Rev. Dr. G. Oliver, and who died in 1847 at the advanced age of 96, was initiated in St. John's Lodge, and was passed and raised on the 6th September. During his membership the Rev. Bro. wrote twelve Masonic songs, one for each Lodge night, and one for the Festival. In June 1860 the original MSS. of these songs were presented, together with many of his own works, by the late Dr. G. Oliver, on the occasion of his being elected an honorary member of the Lodge. On the 12th September the Lodge held a meeting of Emergency, and a procession was formed to attend the funeral of Quartermaster Thompson of the 14th Light Dragoons, and lately a Knight Templar of Lodge 273 Irish Constitution, and in this they were assisted by brethren of the "Ancient" Lodge No. 91. Several brethren of the Dragoons were present. In the year 1800, Lord Rancliffe died, and on 4th February 1801 a letter was written to the Dep. Prov. G.M., requesting he would order a Prov. G. Lodge to be held with a view to appointing the P.G. Officers, in consequence of the death or removal of several of them, but nothing resulted from the application. This year the Lodge removed to the Three Cranes Inn, Gallowtree Gate, from the Lion and Dolphin, Bro. Moore having requested them to do so, "as, in consequence of Mrs. Moore's objections, it militated against his peace of mind." The first meeting at the new quarters was held on the 15th July, when a number of the officers of the Royal Horse Guards, two troops of which were quartered in the town, were initiated, among them being Cornet Packe, the same who, as "the gallant Major Packe," fell at Waterloo. On the 17th August two other officers of the same regiment were initiated, and on the 7th of the following month Private Thomas Draper, was proposed, initiated, and passed, and the next evening raised, Bro. Kelly's opinion being that this was done in order that he might serve as Tyler in a Lodge proposed to be formed in the regiment. On leaving the town the officers presented to the Lodge a regimental trumpeter's banner of crimson silk, richly embroidered in gold and silver with the royal arms, and this is still suspended over the Master's chair in the Freemasons' Hall. Though Lord Rancliffe died, as we have stated, in 1800, it was several years before another Provincial Grand Master was appointed, though an effort was made in 1807, and again the year following. In 1809 St. John's Lodge moved from the Three Cranes to the White Swann Inn, Market Place, and thence in February 1812 was despatched a letter to Lord Rancliffe, soliciting him to become Prov. Grand Master. His Lordship replied affirmatively, expressing himself much honoured by their choice, and promising that "by following ye steps of" his father he would endeavour to merit a continuance of their goodwill. This promise was certainly carried out, as during the first twenty-one years of his tenure of the appointment he never fulfilled his duties, and it was by an accident that even then the Prov. Grand Lodge was reconstituted. However, not to anticipate matters, we find that on 4th November of the year in which his Lordship accepted the appointment, a letter was written to him recommending that the Rev. Bro. W. Peters be appointed his deputy. Nothing is said as to the result of the recommendation, and Bro. Kelly opines that, as Bro. Peters had held the office of Prov. Grand Master of Lincolnshire for twenty years, it was very probably declined. At a meeting on the 5th May 1813 we read "Bro. Kgrist Justin, member of a French Lodge at Ashby-de-la-Zouch" was present. So singular a record causes Bro. Kelly to travel out of the direct road in order to give some account of it. He tells us that both at North-

ampton and the above named town were several French officers, who had been taken prisoners of war, and were residing there on parole, and that some Masonic Lodges appear to have been formed among them. One of these brethren, Louis Jean, a sub-lieutenant in the 11th demi-brigade of Light Infantry, married a native of Ashby, who, after her husband's death, settled at Leicester, and this has enabled Bro. Kelly to furnish transcripts of the deceased officer's certificates as a Master Mason and member of the Rose Croix degree. Nor does he furnish them only, but adds likewise a full and interesting description of their appearance and the signatures they bear respectively. Both these have for their heading

"A. L. G. D. G. A. D. L'n."

"Au Nom et sous les auspices du G. Or. de France.

"Et sous la protection immédiate de sa Seigneurie T. P. T. Ill. et T. R. F. Lord Moira, agissant Comme G. Maître de toutes les L.L. Regulieres du Royaume de la Grande Bretagne."

After the Union in 1813, St. John's Lodge became 525 on the Roll of the United Grand Lodge, while Lodge No. 91, "ancients" of the same town, became No. 114. The latter, however, ceased to exist about 1818. At an emergency meeting of the former, held on 12th February 1816, the R.W.M. commenced the business by stating that the "Lodge of St. John" was "the Provincial Grand Lodge," and as Lord Raneliffe had appointed no one to act as Deputy, it was duly proposed and seconded and agreed to that Bro. Alderman Fox, who had been Mayor in 1812, be recommended to his lordship for appointment to that important office. At the next, his lordship's reply in the affirmative was read, and a deputation having waited on Bro. Fox, he accepted the office, and retiring with the deputation to the Lodge, was duly installed and appointed his officers. On the 4th December, the St. John's Lodge returned from the White Swan to the Three Cranes, and then, on the 27th of the same month, the Dep. P.G. Master Fox opened a Prov. G. Lodge, and consecrated the same. However, on the 17th April of the year following, the Lodge again changed its quarters to the George Inn, and on this occasion recorded a vote of thanks to the brethren of Lodge No. 114 for the handsome manner in which they had come forward for their accommodation; and this is the last we hear of the elder of the two Lodges, which must have ceased to meet shortly after, though it was not erased from the list of Lodges till some years later. On the 21st November 1817, at a meeting of St. John's, we read that Bros. Abraham Smith and Thomas Turner were "admitted Masters of Arts and Sciences in order to their exaltation to the sublime degree"—then a necessary preliminary to the Royal Arch, otherwise termed 'passing the chair.'" Up to this time, too, we are informed that it was usual for a regular proposition to be made in open Lodge before a brother could be raised from one degree to another. On the 29th December Sir Fred. Gustavus Fowke, Bart., of Loseby Hall, joined the Lodge, and became a most useful and active member. On 17th April 1820, an address prepared by Sir F. G. Fowke, to be presented to George the Fourth on his accession to the throne, was adopted by the Lodge, and at the meeting on the 3rd May, a letter from Lord Sidmouth acknowledging the address was read. At the latter meeting, also, the warrant of confirmation was produced by Bro. W. Cooke, who was cordially thanked for his zeal in procuring it. We now come to several remonstrances against the utter inattention to his duties of Lord Raneliffe, who, from the date of his appointment, had never once taken any part in the Masonic duties of the Province, but the remonstrances had no effect; or, to speak more precisely, no notice was taken of them. Early in 1821, the Lodge moved to the Bell Inn, and in the autumn of the same year Sir F. G. Fowke initiated Mr. George Pochin, of Barkby Hall, and passed and subsequently raised Earl Howe, initiated in the Tyrian Lodge, Derby, on 25th September 1815. The latter was also made a member of the Lodge, and gave £10 towards its funds. The former became the Master in 1824, and High Sheriff of the County in 1828, when he presented his official Banner of Arms, which is still preserved by the Lodge. Further petitions were transmitted to the Grand Master as to the inattention of Lord Raneliffe, and in April 1822, Sir F. G. Fowke and Bros. Pochin and Cooke had an interview with his Royal Highness at Kensington Palace, and suggested that Earl Howe should be appointed to the office of P.G.M. To this the Grand Master assented, but still nothing whatever was

done. On 27th December 1822, Earl Howe was installed W.M. of St. John's Lodge, and during his occupancy of the chair two noteworthy events occurred. The Marquis of Hastings, the Lord Moira of ten years previously, and formerly acting Grand Master, having on 1st August posted through Leicester on his way to Donington Park, it was resolved to present him with a congratulatory address. A meeting of the Lodge was called; the address was drafted and approved, and on the morning of the 8th August a meeting was held at the Three Cranes, where shortly afterwards the Marquis arrived, and Earl Howe presented the address, which is quoted in full in Bro. Kelly's history. The Marquis, having cordially thanked the Lodge for its kindness, shortly afterwards took his departure. On the 29th of the same month, in accordance with an invitation previously submitted and accepted, the Lodge went in procession to the site of the new church of St. George, and Earl Howe laid the first stone with Masonic ceremonial, there being a vast concourse of spectators to witness the novel event. The next matter we read of refers to the worthy Sir F. G. Fowke, whose return to the county being announced as imminent, it was resolved at a meeting of the Lodge on 1st February 1822 to invite him to a banquet. The invitation was accepted, and on the 3rd March an address was presented, after which Sir Frederick was entertained at a banquet. About this time an attempt was made to erect a Masonic Hall, by shares, and a site was even purchased, but nothing resulted, and the land has ever since remained in the family of Bro. G. Pochin, to whom, with one or two brethren as trustees, it was conveyed, and who, as Bro. Kelly suggests, had no doubt completed the purchase. On 5th July 1825, Bro. John Norbury, of Snarston Hall, on behalf of Earl Howe, laid the foundation stone of the new chapel to be dedicated to St. George. In December 1827, Sir G. Fowke accepted the Mastership of St. John's, and retained it for two years. Towards the end of his term—on 15th September 1829—a Lodge of Emergency was held for the purpose of paying respect to Earl Howe. Sir F. G. Fowke presided, and having invited his lordship as S.G.W. of England to take the chair, congratulated the brethren on his presidency, and expressed a hope that at some future day the Grand Master would confer on him the dignity of Prov. Grand Master. On the 21st July 1830, an order was read from Grand Lodge, for all Lodges to wear mourning for six months for George IV., Grand Patron of the Order, and an address was prepared for presentation to William IV. On 24th January 1831, Earl Howe presided at a meeting, when a silver cup, value about £50, from Hamlet, the well-known London goldsmith, was presented to Sir F. G. Fowke, Bart. It bore a suitable inscription, and expressed the sentiments which had prompted the brethren to convey this token of their respect and affection to their worthy brother. At the Festival on the 27th December 1831, the Earl Ferrers, Prov. Grand Master of Warwickshire, was present, and strongly advised the Lodge to apply to Lord Raneliffe to elect a D.P.G.M. It was resolved to act on this suggestion, and the Earl was not only thanked, but elected a member of the Lodge; and Bro. Kelly adds that though there is no record of it, he has heard from old members that his lordship presented to the Lodge "the three handsome brass luminaries for the pedestals."

(To be continued.)

## GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

WE have received copy of the Proceedings of this Grand Lodge on the occasion of its Annual Communication on the 12th December, as well as of the Stated Communication on the 27th of the same month, when the Grand Master elect was installed in office. At the former, Bro. Percival L. Everett G. Master presided, and was supported by Bro. Charles A. Welch Deputy G. Master, Bro. Daniel W. Lawrence Senior G. Warden, Bro. Abraham H. Howland jun. as Junior G. Warden, Bro. John McClellan G. Treasurer, Bro. Charles H. Titus Recording G. Secretary, Bro. George P. Sanger Corresponding G. Secretary, other Grand Officers, and Past Grand Officers, together with the representatives of most of the Lodges in the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge. The records of the Quarterly Communication of the 12th September, and the Special Communication on the 17th September having been taken

as read and confirmed, and certain formal business having been disposed of, the Grand Master read his annual address, in which he reviewed at length the events of the year. The Grand Treasurer's accounts were satisfactory, the receipts, including a small balance from the previous year, amounting to 79,983 dollars 18 cents., while the expenditure reached only 63,813 dollars 31 cents., leaving a balance of 16,169 dollars 87 cents. The gross indebtedness of Grand Lodge was stated as 295,550 dollars, but deducting cash in hand and rents uncollected, this sum was reduced to 278,925 dollars 91 cents., being less by 12,055 dollars 80 cents. than it was the corresponding period of 1876. The expenses in respect of District Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Lecturers, amounted to the modest sum of 274½ dollars. The number of initiates for the year ended 31st August 1877 was returned as 1,035, and the total number of members in the jurisdiction as 26,226, there being 219 Lodges and two under Dispensation. Six special Warrants were issued, two for the installation of the Deputy Grand Masters for districts 7 and 9, three for the formal healing of as many persons, and one for the Constitution of Huelen Lodge at Santiago, Chili, S.A. The returns to these warrants were in all respects satisfactory. Bro. Everett then enumerated the principal features of his administration, namely, his establishment of a new system of trials for Masonic offences, the restoration of the ritual to its original purity, the preparation of a Trestle-board, and the celebration of the centenary of the Grand Lodge in March of last year. The Reports of the Audit Committee, and of the Grand Treasurer, were then submitted, after which the Grand Lodge proceeded to the election of a Grand Master, it being announced that the total number of votes that could be cast for any candidate was 540. The election fell on Bro. Charles A. Welch, the only candidate, whereupon a Committee was appointed to wait upon that brother and conduct him to the Grand East, where he gracefully acknowledged the few words of congratulation addressed to him by the Grand Master. Bros. William H. Chessman and Irving B. Saylis were then elected Grand Senior and Junior Wardens respectively, and Bros. John McClellan and Chas. H. Titus were re-elected Grand Treasurer and Recording Grand Secretary, The Directors and Audit Committee were then elected. After which Bro. Marshall P. Wilder presented to Grand Lodge, a printed copy of the eulogy pronounced before Grand Lodge on the 11th Feb. 1850, in the Old South Meeting House, by Hon. Timothy Bigelow, this gift being acknowledged by a vote of thanks to the donor. The various committees then submitted their reports, amongst them being one to propose a memorial of the late Bro. William J. Savin M.D., Past Grand Senior Warden, whose death almost at the moment when he was on the point of being installed as E. Commander of the Springfield Commandery of Knights Templar was noticed some time ago in these columns. Grand Lodge was then closed in ample form, and met again at a Stated Communication on the 27th December, when the Grand Master elect was duly obligated and installed in office, after which Past Grand Master Everett presented the Grand Master with the Golden Urn containing a lock of Washington's hair, the said urn having been presented in 1801 to Grand Master Dunn at his installation, and at the installation of his successors had been religiously confided to the care of each, to be preserved during his term of office, and then handed to the custody of his successor. The Grand Wardens, Grand Treasurer, and Recording Grand Secretary were then installed in their several offices by Grand Master, who afterwards appointed the other Grand Officers, among whom Bro. Abraham H. Howland as Dep. G. Master and Bro. Geo. P. Sanger as Corresponding G. Secretary must be noted. These having been invested, proclamation was made that Grand Lodge was fully constituted for the transaction of business. Then the Recording Grand Secretary delivered sundry reports as to the condition of the Craft in Massachusetts, and the Committee on Charity submitted theirs. From this last it appears that the receipts and disbursements amounted in each case to 1,697½ dollars. Bro. Sereno D. Nickerson, Past G.M., then, on behalf of the Winslow Lewis Lodge, presented Bro. Percival L. Everett P.G.M. with a very elegant Past Grand Master's Jewel, and the gift having been suitably acknowledged, the brethren adjourned to the banquet-room, for the purpose of celebrating the feast of St. John the Evangelist, and Grand Lodge was closed in ample form

shortly after ten p.m. Appended to these Proceedings is the Eulogy on Washington, by Hon. T. Bigelow, already referred to, a short abstract of the Proceedings at the Grand Feast, and an appendix containing the Reports of District Grand Masters, returns of Lodges, arranged in tabular form, showing the number of members affiliated to each, &c., &c., &c., and tables of the several Districts for the current year. In short, the whole condition of Freemasonry in the jurisdiction of Massachusetts is, as far as Returns go, faithfully and completely described, in a manner which reflects the highest credit on the Recording Grand Secretary, and which will doubtless be very gratifying to our Massachusetts brethren in particular, and to Craftsmen everywhere.

### GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA.

THIS Grand Lodge held its annual Communication in St. Alban's Hall, Richmond, on 10th, 11th, and 12th December 1877, and the Proceedings, copy of which we beg to acknowledge receipt of, were very satisfactory. Grand Master Richard Parker presided, and was well supported by his Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, and the representatives of most of the subordinate Lodges. On the first day, the Grand Master delivered his annual address, in review of the events of the year. The Grand Treasurer's accounts showed a total of receipts amounting to over 8,441 dollars, of which over 921 dollars formed the balance brought forward from the previous year. The expenses were over 8,044 dollars, so that there remained a balance to the good of close on 397 dollars. The assets of Grand Lodge amounted to close on 74,553 dollars, from which, however, debts to the amount of 2,400 dollars were to be deducted, leaving assets of the net value of close on 72,153 dollars. The rental for the fiscal year to 1st November 1878 was estimated at 5,500 dollars. On the second day of the Communication, the Grand Master and certain of the Grand Officers for the ensuing year were elected, and those present installed in office. The most important are Bros. Beverley R. Wellford jun., Grand Master, Peyton Skipwith Coles D.G. Master, R. Murrel Page G. Senior, and Mayo B. Carrington G. Junior Warden, Oscar M. Marshall Grand Treasurer, and William B. Isaacs Grand Secretary. The Grand Master having then made several appointments, among them being that of Bro. Jas. Evans as Grand Lecturer, a series of resolutions was submitted and adopted, having for object the erection of a suitable monument over the remains of the late revered Grand Secretary Bro. John Dove. Sundry reports were then submitted. On the third and last day Grand Lodge met under the presidency of Bro. Beverley R. Wellford P.G.M., who was well and numerously supported by the Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, and the representatives of subordinate Lodges. The Committee reported favourably on the Grand Master's address, and approved of the various recommendations it contained, after which the Committee of Jurisprudence delivered their report. The Committee on Finance and Investment reported that the receipts from the estate of the late Grand Treasurer, together with the balance from previous account, amounted to over 9,230 dollars, of which over 8,264 dollars had been paid out on account of Grand Lodge, leaving a balance due to it of 965½ dollars, against which there are outstanding in respect of Grand Lodge obligations about 900 dollars. It was also announced that the invested funds of Grand Lodge had been increased by a Richmond City six per cent. bond for 2,000 dollars. Various other reports were submitted, and sundry resolutions were passed. The D.D.G.M.'s were then duly appointed, and Grand Lodge was closed. Appended are certain returns of moneys paid to Grand Treasurer, as well as of moneys due, and returns of the various Lodges, showing their position and strength. From the latter, we gather that the number of brethren in 1877 in the jurisdiction of the Virginia Grand Lodge was 9,234, or, allowing for nineteen Lodges which had failed to make any returns, the number was estimated at 10,108. During the year, two Lodges had returned their charters, three were declared extinct, two were located in W. Virginia, and six were chartered at this Communication, while two were continued under Dispensation. During the year, 121 members had died, and 89 been reinstated, 338 had withdrawn, 11 been expelled, and 238 suspended. In an Appendix is the Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, so that the proceedings and history of Freemasonry for the year that is past are complete in all respects.

## 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.*

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## GRAND ORIENT AND ENGLISH FREEMASONRY.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—I yield to none in my admiration of Bro. Norton and his courageous advocacy of Masonic interests, but I must confess that I fail to see in what respect he has succeeded in justifying the recent action of the French Grand Orient. In my humble opinion, that body has seriously jeopardised the safety of the Craft Universal; not by reason of its firm and unalterable opposition to sectarianism, for to this Freemasonry has always been a determined opponent, but because it now sanctions the admission of those who have no religious belief whatever. My argument, roughly stated, amounts to this: Freemasonry is essentially unsectarian as regards religion, while in the matter of government it is its bounden duty to respect all forms thereof alike, but there must be some kind of religion and some form of government to start with. In other words, there must be some kind of general basis or groundwork for the superstructure of Freemasonry to rest upon. Clearly it is incapable of resting on nothing, and the negation of God in things divine, like the negation of government in things human, implies the existence of "nothing." I cannot logically arrive at the conclusion that the earth made itself, or to put it plainly, was its own creatrix as well as the creatrix of everything on the face thereof that lives, and moves, and has its being. Rejecting this idea as being utterly untenable, I must go further afield, and look for my Creator in what Bro. Thévenot calls "A Supreme Law, or a Supreme Being." Well, I am no materialist, and for this reason I cannot conceive of any law, supreme or otherwise, which is not the work of some agent. If there is a Supreme Law, then I take it there must be in the background a Supreme Being who framed that Law. I must be inverting what is commonly known as the natural order of things when I deify the *product*, and deny the attribute of divinity to the *producer*, when I honour the *act*, while I dishonour the *agent*. I decline therefore, in common with the bulk of mankind, to accept a Supreme Law, except as the expression of a Supreme will, emanating from a Supreme Being. In other words, I accept what is accepted of all men, save the lowest and most debased savages, on the one hand, and a foolish few among civilised men who claim to possess a more than human intelligence on the other. I believe in the existence of God, and so believing, I fail to see how it is possible for any one to be a true and genuine member of the Masonic brotherhood who has in him no sense of religion.

As regards sectarianism in Freemasonry, I am as strongly opposed to it as Bro. Norton, but the question raised by the act of the Grand Orient of France, in striking out the most important of the Masonic landmarks, is entirely of a different character. What more can English Freemasonry do towards vindicating the purity of its principles than accept reputable candidates, be their religious views what they may? It must first of all be shown that infidels, that is, men without any sense of religion, are a religious sect, before the Grand Lodge of England can be justly opened to the charge of sectarianism. That there are limits to the doctrine of Masonic Universality is proved by the daily practice of every branch of the Masonic community. For instance, immoral people are ineligible; and why, I ask, should irreligious people stand on a better footing than the immoral? In answer, I shall be met by the old stock argument that Freemasonry is a morality, not a religion; to which, of course, I retort, that there can be no morality which is not grounded on religion. I hold with Lord Carnarvon that if the sense of religion is struck out of our Masonic system, then all our rites and ceremonies are meaningless. Moreover, Bro. Norton has himself imposed a limit on his idea of Universality, for he says the design of Masonry "is to bring together good and true men of *all religious* denominations, that each may see that goodness and virtue are not monopolised by his Church." Thus, he excludes men who are of no religious denomination, or else I must fix him on the other horn of the dilemma, and imagine he includes persons of this class as constituting a religious denomination.

As regards "Bro. M. B.'s" letter in your last issue, it is in part a laudation of Bro. Norton, and in part an echo of his opinions. But how shall I reconcile that writer's statement "that, prior to the year 1849, no such dogmatic affirmation as the one amended ever existed in the letter of the Constitution," with the previously-quoted words of Bro. Thévenot, that "nothing has been changed in the practice of French Masonry?" Possibly Bro. Thévenot means that, whereas from 1849 till 1877 the Constitutions and practice of French Masonry were at variance, the former have now been brought into complete harmony with the latter. That is, the practice remains unchanged, while it is the Constitutions which have been altered. But we in England have nothing to guide us in forming an opinion as to the character of French Masonry, except their Constitutions; and just as we regard our Constitutions as embodying the true principles of English Masonry, so we consider those of our French brethren contain the true official exposition of French Masonic principles. Now, we are told that the retention of the famous Masonic motto is optional, not obligatory; that it may be interpreted quite as much in a "scientific and philosophic" sense, as in a "religious." I may be wrong, but I humbly submit that this involves some change "in the practice of French Masonry," especially when I infer, from a sentence in Bro. Thévenot's letter to Bro. Dr. Loth, that the retention of the formula as a religious motto has led to some very regrettable discussions. I do not suppose the

Grand Orient, in amending its Constitutions, was animated by hostility to belief in God; but it cannot be denied that the elision of the essential principle of Freemasonry from its laws places French Masonry on an entirely different footing, and indeed cuts it off from all sympathy with those branches of the Craft which still retain that essential principle. In fact, French Masonry is a kind of learned Benevolent Institution, and nothing more. At all events, it has ceased to have anything in common with the Freemasonry of Anderson, Payne, and Desaguliers in the one important particular which has formed the subject of so much discussion in the columns of the CHRONICLE and elsewhere; and French Masonry has, I repeat, no cause to feel aggrieved if we fail to see in it, in its altered conditions, any resemblance to the Freemasonry of our own land.

To enter into all the arguments for the purpose of showing that Freemasonry rests on a religious basis, and that, consequently, while it freely admits into its temples reputable persons of all creeds, it has no room for the man of no religion, would occupy far more time than I could afford to bestow, and more space than you would be justified in allotting me. Having, therefore, due regard to these two considerations, I am obliged to seem dogmatic when I would far rather appear argumentative. Still I have endeavoured to place my views clearly before you and your readers, and I think those views, in respect of their main features at all events, are accepted by all English brethren, and by an overwhelming majority of brethren in other countries. I say these are the views enunciated by the founders of speculative Freemasonry, who were all Englishmen, either native born or adopted. As regards any inroads into the original system as propounded by them, the removal of our ancient landmarks, or any perversion of Freemasonry from its original scope as defined by them, we are assuredly not the least interested, or the least capable interpreters. If others are pleased to formulate a system of Freemasonry of their own, we cannot reasonably object to their doing so; but we can and do object, and with very good reason, to acknowledge them as "true and genuine members of the fraternity." We should not be true-hearted Masons if we did not express regret when we hear of this or that section of the brotherhood withdrawing itself from our community, or compelling the other sections to withhold farther intercourse with it. At the same time, we should fail in our duty if we did not stand by the good old Craft in its hour of danger or difficulty, and do our utmost to vindicate its character to be a purely moral and unsectarian religious body. This is the least we can do in such circumstances, and if we fulfil our duty loyally, I think we need have no fear for the future triumph of Freemasonry over all its enemies.

I must apologise for troubling you once more, and remain, as always,

Your Servant and Brother,

TOLERANCE.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER.—Having had the honour and privilege of being a Freemason for many years, I have always regarded the Craft as the most noble, free, and universal of all Institutions; but after reading the account of the Proceedings of the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held on Wednesday the 6th inst., I must confess that Freemasonry appears to be a very different thing from what I have always been taught to believe it is.

The pain which I felt on a perusal, in your journal, of the resolutions carried by Grand Lodge with respect to our French brethren was quite equalled by my astonishment. The facts are simply as follow: The Grand Orient of France, in order to respect the feelings of every good and true man, has decided that in future a candidate shall not be forced to pledge his word that he believes in certain dogmas about which, possibly, he may have some doubt. That august body has therefore decided to leave out the words relating to the existence of God and the immortality of the soul. As to the first, every one believes in God, in some form or other; we in England believe in one God, our brethren in India, China, and elsewhere, in some other—totally different it may be—nevertheless, I repeat, they all believe in a God, a Supreme Ruler, a Great Architect; but a man who believes in Buddha would doubtless hesitate in an English or a French Lodge to declare his belief in God, and upon this principle the Grand Orient of France has resolved to "eliminate the name of the G.A.O.T.U. from its Ritual." As to the second elimination, it is well known that a large proportion of our Jewish brethren do not believe in the immortality of the soul, but I was never in a Lodge where an Israelite was refused permission to enter it upon this account.

With the greatest respect for the M.W. Pro Grand Master, I must say that I think he put the resolutions to Grand Lodge in a manner not altogether impartial; he treated it as a foregone conclusion that all present would vote with him; he said, "I believe that there can be but one feeling and one voice in this Grand Lodge." Again, "I apprehend that there can be no objection in this Grand Lodge, &c." and again, "I trust that it will be in the power of Grand Lodge to vote unanimously." If these remarks had not been made, I believe much could and would have been said on the other side.

It appears to me that this act of Grand Lodge is calculated to undermine the ancient and noble institution of Freemasonry; it undoubtedly will impair its usefulness, and diminish its popularity and universality; and the enemies of Freemasonry will hail with delight this act of dictatorial harshness, as well as weakness, emanating from a body where charity and freedom ought to be paramount. The Grand Lodge actually objects to "absolute liberty of conscience!" Then, may we not ask, is Masonry any longer *free*? Has his Lordship forgotten how to answer the question, "Who are fit and proper persons to be made Masons?" if so, it would be well to remind the noble Earl that there is not a word in the reply relating either to God or the soul. Can it be possible that the members of Grand Lodge have also forgotten, "What are the three grand principles upon which the Order is founded?"

The importance of the step taken by Grand Lodge cannot be over-rated. Until now, no religious discussion was allowed to take place in any Lodge; but Grand Lodge having broken through that estimable rule, how are we to prevent it being broken in our private Lodges? What bickerings, what ill-feeling, what prejudice, what hatred and contempt may not henceforth mar the harmony which exists amongst us at the present time! For, as no wars are so cruel as religious wars, so no scorn and fierceness can equal that of people whose religions are antagonistic. It is fearful to contemplate that such anarchy might prevail, and that many Lodges, in their despair of securing harmony under such rule, may throw off altogether their allegiance to Grand Lodge, and split up into sections, having various head-centres of their own. And again, suppose some eloquent Grand Officer, after reading the four last verses of the 3rd chapter of Ecclesiastes, were to come to the conclusion that our illustrious founder, King Solomon himself, did not believe in the immortality of the soul, and persuade Grand Lodge of the same; shall we, in that case, repudiate him as our first Master and fix on some one else?

The gravity of this affair is such that it deserves to be carefully considered by every Mason in the land, for it comes to this, let a man be ever so true, so faithful to Freemasonry, charitable and just, yet if he do not believe exactly what I believe he is not to be admitted into my society, he is to be discarded by me, and spurned from the door of my Lodge. But some will reply, "No, he need not believe exactly what you believe, he need not believe in your God, it is sufficient if he believe in a God, in his own God." Are we then to assume, as J. S. Mill irreverently says, "Any god will do?" If so, I would just remark, that in the sacred writings we read a description of some persons "whose God is their belly," and surely it is not desirable to admit such people amongst us; but, however strongly I myself feel upon the subject of our holy and sublime religion, I for one, should be very sorry to be guilty of the impertinence of asking a foreign brother, before entering my Lodge, what were his ideas and opinions of the G.A.O.T.U.

I hope, Sir, that you and other brethren who read these lines will give the writer credit for sincerity and good faith; all I wish to do is to have the subject well ventilated. I have the deepest respect for our M.W. Pro Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers, but I believe they have fallen, unawares, unconsciously, and without adequate consideration, into a serious error which may, unless speedily rectified or modified, prove a fatal blow to the unity of Freemasons, and I would earnestly entreat all who have a sense of the extreme importance of this act to come forward and endeavour to prevent the reproach and heavy responsibility of weakening the strong ties of brotherly love from falling upon the Grand Lodge of England.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

A Free-MASON AND P.M.

London, 12th March 1878.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—There is not much occasion for surprise at the passing, by the United Grand Lodge of England, of the resolutions upon the question of the Grand Orient of France. Much regret, however, may be felt that the arguments of Grand Lodge Committee were not recounted, and thus made public. They would, no doubt, have thrown much light upon what is termed the "fundamental principle" of our Constitutions, as regards its varied history; and Masons this side the Channel might not think it incorrect to say, in the very words of the first resolution, that the Grand Orient "has eliminated" the G.A.O.T.U. from their service.

However, on this point the Masonic world has read the official declaration of the Grand Orient, affirming the contrary. Do not the records of French Masonry testify also to the absence of all dogmatic affirmation whatever in the Constitutions prior to 1849? Is it not clearly established, by the said records, that the declaration of doctrine of that time, though never formally prescribed or acted upon officially, was, nevertheless, latterly threatening the fraternity with the danger of leaving to sectarianism—religious or irreligious minds—the power of deciding upon admission or rejection of candidates, according to their majority in the Lodges, and the construction put upon the text of the Constitution?

It must be assumed that the Grand Lodge of England, which displayed a calmness and consideration contrasting most creditably with the Irish Grand Lodge, in passing sentence upon Grand Orient, had, through its Committee, fully investigated all these matters. That before arriving at the four resolutions, carried with "vociferous cheering" at the last Grand Lodge meeting, the Committee had examined the French records, and thoroughly inquired into the Masonic history and Constitution of the Grand Orient; they might then have convinced themselves of the somewhat important difference that exists between the principles and practices of French and English Masonry, and have discovered besides evident proofs that in former times, as in the present, French Freemasonry scarcely exhibits any tint of the myth and legends of the Andersonian school; has, nevertheless, always admitted into its ranks "just, upright and moral men," without making their belief or unbelief a test question. Moreover, that that body at all times bore the character of a mere philosophical and benevolent institution, never free, however, from political influences, though they were never to be openly avowed. Thus it was it had as Grand Maitres a Philippe Egalité under the great Revolution, and a Marechal Magnan after Napoleon III.'s *coup d'état*, the former declaring that Masonry should have "no secrets," and that its meetings should be public; the latter, appointed Grand Maitre by imperial decree, started a scheme for connecting the Society with the Government, as "Société d'Utilité Publique."

Having the historical facts and circumstances of the case before their eyes, the Grand Lodge Committee could hardly have called the modifying of the second paragraph a "radical change," but must have

considered it, if not a "return to the original law of Freemasonry" (as Bro. the Chief Secretary put it), at least a fresh affirmation of the original broad basis both of ideas and principles, contradicted only by the paragraph which, for reasons already stated, was inserted in the Constitution of 1849.

Nevertheless, this being so, it may have occurred, if not to the Grand Lodge Committee, to some Masonic students who are looking for historical information, that if the principles and practices of Grand Orient have so long infringed the "fundamental rules and dogmas," it behoved the Grand Lodge of England, as the acknowledged Alma Mater of Speculative Masonry, to have remonstrated with and censured their erring brethren. For, though still admitting their origin, the latter might, perhaps, think the rights and privileges it might confer to the Mother Lodge are now extinct by prescription.

Upon that question of the Grand Orient's conduct, much discussion has arisen, and numerous criticisms been advanced since September last, but it may be observed that few, if any, have evidenced a knowledge of French Freemasonry. Yet a mere comparison of the old French with the English Ritual, or some visit to a Lodge holding under Warrant of Grand Orient, would have sufficed to show the characteristic differences between the principles, ground of action, or working of a Lodge in England, where Masonry remains in a prismatic form rather than a quasi-religious society, reviving every day some of the old chivalric or religious orders, with which it connects itself more closely than ever; and the principles, ground of action, or working of the Grand Orient in France, where Masonry assumes to be above all "thankfully philosophical," and where no rehearsal of ceremony of any of the degrees would attract a brother; while a lecture by some Bro. Orator upon some historical, scientific, or social question, always causes the largest attendance in Lodge.

Such differences have been observed and marked only since the vote of the modification of the Constitution: they have, however, always existed, and have, therefore, always proved the distinction in principles and actions, wherein now may be traced the ground of controversy as to "logical Masonic purity."

It is much to be regretted, and no one deplures the fact more than the Grand Orient itself, that the United Grand Lodge of England found it impossible to assume a judicial attitude in this particular occurrence, and to refrain from denouncing French Masonry to the world, as is specially done by the proviso of the fourth resolution passed. Let us now ask ourselves what good result can possibly follow from this step? Freemasonry, commending itself to the highest intelligences, will be looked upon, on this side, as the representative of freedom of conscience and thought, and on the other side, as the old orthodox society, essentially pledged to dogmas, though it be not a religion, but merely a "peculiar system of morality." Why, then, these unfortunate shades, these restrictions, put upon a few independent minds?

The fraternal impartiality of the CHRONICLE will not suffer the repetition of a *démenti*. There is not a single Lodge in France that protests against the so-called change in the Constitution. Not one has expressed even a desire to do so.

The point you raise as to the conduct of English brethren who may henceforth think of visiting French Lodges is no doubt full of pertinency, as it involves the question how the French are to receive their English brethren. The forthcoming International Exhibition will naturally have the effect of bringing to Paris a great number of foreign brethren. Preparations are being made by the Lodges here to give a hearty welcome to their visiting brothers, and many Lodge committees have already been formed for this purpose.

Now, it would be promoting anything but a brotherly spirit if the English visitors, under the present altered circumstances, were submitted to the annoyance of being first strictly *tuilés*, and then made to declare whether they give their approval and adhere or not to the resolutions of the Grand Lodge on the French question before they could get admittance to a Lodge. Thus, the French, in their turn, would be taking out a writ *de excommunicato capiendo* against their English brethren.

Yours fraternally,

M. B.

Paris, 11th March 1878.

## THE LATE QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In your report of, and in your Leader upon the proceedings which took place at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, on the 6th inst., an inaccuracy occurs, the importance of which will, no doubt, lead you to make a prompt correction.

The M.W. the Pro Grand Master distinctly said that under no circumstances should a foreign brother from a Lodge under the Constitutions of the Grand Orient of France be admitted as a Visitor to a Lodge under the English Constitutions unless he acknowledged that a belief in the existence of the G.A.O.T.U. was an essential landmark of the Order; and at the same time either produced his certificate, showing that he had been initiated in a Lodge where such a belief was required, or was duly vouched for as having been so initiated.

The profession of belief was to be *in addition to*, and not a substitution for, one of the other requirements.

Yours fraternally,

W. TAYLOR J.W. 1503.

29 Avenue-road, Lewisham S.E.

City of Westminster Lodge, No. 1563.—At the last meeting an umbrella was taken away, and one left in its stead. If the gentleman who made the mistake will examine the handle of the one taken, he will discover the name of the owner upon it; the address can then easily be ascertained.

### COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

THE Committee of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution met on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall. The brethren present were Colonel Creaton (in the Chair), Samuel Rawson, Hyde Pullen, A. H. Tattershall, J. A. Farnfield, Charles A. Hill, John Newton, James Brett, Benjamin Head, Edgar Bowyer, Charles A. Cottebrune, Capt. Nath. G. Philips, Joseph Smith, W. Hilton, A. J. Duff Filer, Thomas W. White, William Stephens, Thomas Cubitt, W. F. Nettleship, and the Secretary, Bro. James Terry. Respecting the financial position of the Institution and Messrs. Willis, Percival and Co., Bro. Terry said that on the 1st January the balance at the bankers was £1,245 1s 7d. Since that time the bankers had received dividends for the Institution amounting to £347 10s 10d; subscriptions £2; from Grand Chapter £37 10s; donations and subscriptions £829 6s 6d, or a total of £2,461 8s 11d. Against this, expended £1,478 0s 4d (less cheques drawn, but now in the office, £78 12s); interest on £3,000 to 28th February £10 10s; or a total indebtedness to the Institution of £1,072 10s 7d. An account had now been opened with the London and Westminster Bank, Bloomsbury Branch, for the confirmation of which the authority of the Committee would be required, and also an authority to draw cheques for £1,010 for the Widows' annuities. Authority was then given for these two objects. The report of Bro. Norris, the Warden of the Asylum at Croydon, and the report of the House Committee, were next read, the former of which informed the Committee of the visit of the Committee to the Institution on the 28th February, and of the presentation by Bro. Pratt of a marble bust of the late Earl of Zetland, and a number of books; and the latter of the payment of the annuities, the pensioning of the late gardener, the efficient state of repair of the Institution, and the greatly improved appearance of the rooms of the residents, which was attributable in a great degree to the increased payments made to the inmates and the visits of the Committee, which inspired the annuitants with a greater amount of pride in their homes. Bro. Terry said he had paid in £3,000 to the London and Westminster Bank, and a further sum of £1,000 would be paid in next day. A suggestion had been made to appeal to the Craft on behalf of the Benevolent Institution and the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, to make up the loss occasioned by the stoppage of Messrs. Willis, Percival and Co., and a brother had called at his office and given a cheque for £100 towards the amount. Also, Bro. Gordon Robins, of the University Lodge, fearing that the institution might be inconvenienced, had given his cheque for £100. The chairman thought the appeal might be postponed for three months, and Bro. Farnfield intimated that an appeal at the present moment might prejudicially affect the Festivals of the two other Institutions. Bro. Terry said there was nothing like appealing to the brethren while their feeling was warm on the subject; and, moreover, that in three months the Lodges would not be meeting again till October. The matter was then ordered to stand over for a month, by which time the meeting of Messrs. Willis and Co.'s creditors would probably be held. It was then resolved to invite the Stewards of the late Festival to visit the Institution, and the committee then presented Bro. Terry with £50, for his great exertions at the last two Festivals of the Institution, which had resulted in the raising of £24,000. The committee then adjourned.

### THE INSTALLATION MEETING OF THE KENT LODGE, No. 15.

THE annual festival of this Lodge, upon which occasion the installation of the W.M. and appointment of Officers for the year invariably takes place, was held at Freemasons' Hotel, Great Queen-street, on the 13th inst. Bro. S. Wharman W.M., with the assistance of his Wardens and subordinates, opened the Lodge, and the minutes of the last regular meeting were confirmed. Mr. Wm. Hurst presented himself as a candidate seeking the mysteries of Masonic light, and having been properly vouched for, and the ballot proving in his favour, was introduced in ancient form and instructed in the initiatory step of the Order. The W.M. then vacated the chair in favour of Bro. James Pinder P.M., who, after delivering a prefatory address relative to the duties to be observed in the selection of a chief, and the qualifications which are essential to the acceptance of the office, inquired whether all the requisite regulations had been duly complied with. Upon which Bro. Past Master Dukes presented Bro. John Henry Cambridge S.W., upon whom the unanimous suffrages of the brethren had fallen, as the W.M. elect, to receive from the presiding Master the benefit of installation. Bro. Pinder at once proceeded with the ceremony, which he performed with much sterling ability, considerable talent being manifested in the delivery of the several addresses, which he did in a manner at once unaffected and yet most impressively. That the high quality of his work was thoroughly appreciated was shown by the spontaneous vote of thanks proposed by Bro. Past Master Barlow, and carried with acclamation. The newly installed Master next invested his Officers as follow:—Bros. S. Wharman I.P.M., C. Ginnan S.W., C. E. Ball J.W., T. Sleeman P.M. Treas., W. P. Dukes P.M. Sec., W. Levy S.D., S. P. Lipscombe J.D., E. A. Wells I.G., E. P. Barlow P.M. Steward, A. Posener D.C., Beckett Tyler. The W.M. then placed upon the breast of Bro. Wharman a handsome gold P.M.'s jewel, in recognition of his services during the past year for which that Brother expressed his sincere thanks. Some minor unimportant business having been disposed of, the brethren repaired to the "Holborn," where a banquet was served in the large room (which might not inaptly be designated as the Hall of Mirrors), for three sides were completely covered with brilliant reflectors in richly

gilt frames), during the progress of which there issued sweet strains of music emanating from a band stationed in an adjacent apartment. Dessert followed, after which the proceedings were of the usual character, with the salutary difference that the speakers carefully avoided any attempt at highly-flown eloquence, in which so many miserably fail, and in most cases ignominiously break down, but contented themselves with few words, which were not only brief, but to the point. Bro. Wharman, in proposing the health of the W.M., opined that a more worthy and able man and Mason could not have been selected to occupy the chair; to which Bro. Cambridge responded. He was deeply sensible of the importance of the position of Master of the Kent Lodge. He had always devoted himself to the study of the duties of the various offices he had held, and it would be found that whatever work might come before him, he would perform it to the best of his ability, especially as he was certain to receive the support of the Past Masters and brethren. For the Visitors, who received a sincere and hearty welcome, the Rev. Bro. Berkowitz replied. He was at a loss to conceive why the duty of responding was cast upon him, seeing that there were present so many distinguished brethren who were much further advanced in the Craft than himself. He had visited the Lodge solely for the purpose of instruction and enjoyment, and in that he had succeeded up to the present moment, until the W.M. thought fit to mar his pleasure by calling upon him to speak on behalf of the Visitors. However, it was a well-known maxim in Masonry that the Worshipful Master could not err, and since he had done him the honour to select him as spokesman, he would do so in a very few words. He must first refer to the remarkably able manner in which Bro. Pinder had performed the ceremony of installation. As an old Past Master, he was bound to say that in all his experience he had never witnessed the work done with such completeness. Nor could he omit to mention the satisfaction he experienced in listening to the remarkable manner in which Bro. Wharman performed the ceremony of initiation; it struck him as nearly marvellous that a foreigner, possessing so few educational advantages, should successfully undertake so onerous a task. As for the present W.M. he entered upon his novel duties with self-possession, as if he had been used to such positions all his life. Bro. Berkowitz concluded by expressing thanks on behalf of the Visitors and himself for their fraternal reception. Bros. Reed, Maidwell, Southwood and Gottheil were each loudly called upon to say a few words, a request with which they reluctantly complied. The W.M. then announced that between the last and present meeting application had been made to him to interest himself in carrying out the desire of a number of brethren who wished to testify in some substantial manner to the esteem in which they held the retiring W.M. He readily acceded to the request, and it now became his pleasing duty to present a handsome testimonial to Bro. Wharman; may he live many years, in the enjoyment of every blessing, and when summoned from this sublunary abode to the Grand Lodge above may he hand to posterity this mark of respect, from generation to generation. The testimonial consisted of an elegant silver salver, elaborately chased, weighing nearly eighty ounces, upon which appeared the following inscription: "Presented to Bro. Simon Wharman by a majority of the brethren of the Kent Lodge, No. 15, in recognition of the ability and energy displayed during his term of office as W.M., 13th March 1878, J. H. Cambridge W.M." Up to this time the harmony of the meeting flowed evenly and serenely, but the presentation was the signal for a P.M., who had not shown himself in the Lodge for some years, either from eccentricity, jealousy, or perchance through partaking too freely and incautiously of an abundance of delicacies abnormal to his constitution, who thought proper to create a disturbance by incessant and pertinacious interruption, evincing a determination not to allow speech to the W.M. The vehement and vociferous cheering of the brethren, who one and all rallied in support of the W.M., soon determined the matter, and Bro. Wharman proceeded to thank the brethren for this most unexpected mark of their kindness, and in the course of his remarks gave the refractory Past Master a lesson he will not easily forget. The health of the Officers and the Tyler's toast ended the proceedings. Bros. Wells, W. Barlow, Rudderforth, and the newly-initiated Bro. Hurst entertained the company with some excellent songs. The Visitors were—Bros. Groome W.M. Finsbury 861, Nelson Reed W.M. 1671, Maidwell W.M. Egyptian 27, Southwood W.M. Hervey 1260, Gottheil P.M. Tranquillity 185, Rev. Berkowitz P.M. Joppa 188, Lyon S.W. Upton, Preston J.W. Finsbury 861, Rudderforth J.W. 9, Rickwood J.W. Lion and Lamb, J. Pigé J.D. 1228, Kimpton W.S. 1601, Rowley 174, Dorey Royal Alfred, Coleman Industry, W. Barlow 77, Little Guelph.

### THE "RECORD" ON FREEMASONRY.

FROM "THE RECORD" OF 8TH MARCH.

IT is not often that the mysteries of Freemasonry are such as to attract public attention. There was a time during the middle ages when the members of the Order claimed for it an antiquity amounting to the marvellous. By some it was alleged to have been introduced into Egypt by Mizraim, grandson of the patriarch Noah; by others its origin was traced to the building of Solomon's Temple; while the secrecy of its proceedings suggested a Pagan connexion with the Eleusinian mysteries; and Hales asserted that these were borrowed from the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles. It is, however, certain that in rather more modern times, Freemasonry was introduced into England towards the end of the seventh century, and that the Grand Lodge of York dated its origin from the year 926. The members of the fraternity are believed to have contributed materially to the creation of the beautiful minsters and cathedrals which adorn the history of the middle ages. In the twelfth century these Masons

appeared in Kilwinning, in Scotland; and although it was not till 1725 that the first French Lodge was formed, they are reported as having existed in France in the sixteenth century. The Grand Lodge of Ireland dates from 1730, and in 1731 another was formed for Holland at the Hague; in 1735 the German Lodge was established, whilst in 1736 the Grand Lodge of Scotland took a new start after the last Baron of Rosslyn, having no sons, surrendered the hereditary office of Grand Master, which he and his ancestors had held by grant from King James the Second of Scotland, as associated with the beautiful chapel of Rosslyn, which is still an object of attraction to English tourists.

Some of the mediæval Popes seem to have even encouraged Freemasonry for the sake of their æsthetic architecture. But in 1738, when its various Lodges were spreading over Europe, Pope Clement XII. issued a Papal Bull of Excommunication against all Freemasons. More recently Freemasonry has been denounced by various Popes along with Bible societies, as if their secret organisation was perilous to the Church as well as the State. These Papal bulls have not at all tendered to damage Freemasonry in this country, and it has been always regarded as politically a very innocent and even charitable institution, and, at all events, not more objectionable than other clubs as alike holding out temptation to convivial intemperance. The well-known Freemasons' Tavern in Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, was erected in 1786, and about the same time the charity for female children was instituted in connection with it. In the hall of this great and famous tavern, which was rebuilt a few years ago, the Bible and Missionary Societies for many years held their Meetings, until they migrated to the more commodious but not more comfortable edifices erected in the Strand and Piccadilly.

It is but a few years since the Marquis of Ripon had to resign the Grand Mastership of England on his perversion to Rome, and his vacant seat was accepted by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. We believe that the change then effected was the last occasion on which the doings of the Freemasons attracted more than a passing notice. But a recent Atheistical movement on the part of the Grand Orient of France has stirred the leaders of the English Grand Lodge, and given rise to a counter protest against holding any communion with Freemasons who eliminate from their ritual "the name of the Great Architect of the Universe." In this counter movement the Earl of Carnarvon, acting as Pro Grand Master, has taken the lead, and in another column there appears a report of the Committee appointed at the last Grand Lodge "to inquire into the circumstances relative to the elimination of the name of the Great Architect of the Universe from its ritual by the Grand Orient of France." Lord Carnarvon, as Pro Grand Master, in the absence of the Prince of Wales, before introducing the Report, requested the Grand Secretary to read the old and the new regulations of the Grand Orient of France. The Grand Secretary read the old regulations, which declared that the "principles of the Order are the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and human solidarity," and it excluded no person on account of his belief. In the altered regulations the words regarding the existence of God and the immortality of the soul were eliminated, and there were substituted the words "absolute freedom of conscience."

The Pro Grand Master then said the Committee, having regard to the circumstances of the case, proposed four Resolutions, one stating that the Grand Lodge viewed with profound regret the steps taken by the Grand Orient of France in thus removing from the regulations its foundation upon the existence of God and the belief in the immortality of the soul. This removal was declared to be opposed to all the history and traditions of Freemasonry from the earliest times to the present date. This Resolution was received with unanimous cheers. The second Resolution was that the English Grand Lodge, while most anxious, in the most fraternal spirit, to greet brethren from Foreign Lodges initiated in Lodges where the true and genuine principles were adopted, could not admit those initiated in Lodges which denied or ignored the belief in the existence of God. It would therefore be necessary to state, that no brother from a Lodge could be admitted unless his certificate showed that he had been initiated in a Lodge where the landmark of the Order was observed, or was vouched for as one so initiated, and also that he admitted his belief in the Great Architect of the Universe to be an essential landmark of the Order. The fourth Resolution was to give effect to the other three by transmitting them to all Lodges working under the Grand Lodge of England, to the sister Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland, and to all Grand Lodges in connection with this Grand Lodge.

The Earl of Carnarvon then formally moved the adoption of these Resolutions, which sever the English Grand Lodge from the Grand Orient of France, so long as it professes Atheism. He did so with expressions of deep regret, but considered that a rejection of the acknowledgment of the Great Creator of the Universe, struck at the root of the Order of Freemasons. The motion was seconded by the Earl of Sherborne, and unanimously adopted in one of the largest gatherings of the Grand Lodge ever held.

We think that this lay demonstration against the rising tide of infidelity in this country, coming as it does from such an unlooked for quarter, ought to encourage our Bishops and other dignitaries of the Church to assert somewhat more boldly the truth of God's Word written, and not allow the crude assertions of "modern criticism" to be accepted as a sufficient call to surrender one by one the citadels of the faith once delivered to the saints, and so overturn, if it were possible, "The Rock of Ages." The Archbishop of Canterbury has in his published letter condemned "the exaggerated candour exhibited in admitting the force of the reasoning of sceptical writers;" and his Grace has not hesitated to declare that "ordinary readers may naturally be startled and unsettled by the apparent readiness with which the statements of sceptical writers are accepted "as proved" in the *Argument from Prophecy*. But this is not the only specimen of the mischievous tendencies of the series of tracts entitled "Scepticism and Faith," as the Rev. Charles Bullock has fully demonstrated in his able letter to the *Record*. And we, there-

fore, do not wonder that the question is often asked, whether something more is not required from the twenty-seven Bishops, under whose presidency these books and tracts appear?

Is not the example of the lay Grand Master of the Freemasons of England in defence of the faith one which might be advantageously followed by the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England? Do not the solemn obligations of their high and holy office impose on them the duty of publicly defending from insult and attack the integrity of "Moses and the Prophets," with the rest of "God's Word written?" If the "exaggerated candour" of books written under their nominal patronage, be, according to the Most Reverend Primate's admission, calculated to "startle and unsettle" ordinary readers, are not the people entitled to look for explanation and defence to those who are recognised as their "Right Reverend Fathers in God?"

## ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

We have much pleasure in informing our readers that the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, M.W. Pro Grand Master, has kindly consented to preside at the Ninetieth Anniversary Festival of the above Institution, which will take place on Friday, the 10th May next, the day being altered from the 8th to the 10th to suit the convenience of his Lordship.

The *Freemasons' Manual and Official Directory of the Provincial Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Chapter of Kent*, edited by Bro. Thomas S. Warne, Rochester, P.M. No. 20, and Past Prov. Assist. G. Secretary of Kent, &c., &c., contains a rare amount of useful information, or, we should say, of information which must be invaluable to members of the Province. After a nominal list of the Officers of Grand Lodge England, and Provincial Grand Lodge Kent, there follows a roll of Lodges, with dates of Constitution, and localities where held, a list of towns in which they are situated, and a list of days on which they severally meet. Then are given, in numerical order, the several Lodges, with the names of Past and Present Masters, and of the other Officers, with date of installation and other useful details. Then follow similar particulars relating to R.A. Masonry, and then the bye-laws of the Prov. Grand Lodge and Prov. Grand Chapter; the whole concluding with a list of the Officers of the Provincial G. Mark Lodge, with roll of Lodges, and Officers of each Lodge, as far as it was possible to obtain them. The work has been carefully compiled, and the Editor has exercised the needful supervision in arranging his information. He merits the thanks of the brethren in his Province, as well as of all outside its limits, who take an interest in the history and distribution of the Craft throughout the different parts of the country. We heartily thank Bro. Warne for the copy he has forwarded to us, and we rejoice to hear that it is in contemplation to publish this useful work annually. Credit is also due to the printer, W. T. Wildish, Journal Office, Banks, Rochester, for the manner in which he has fulfilled his part.

During Lent, Special Services will be held at St. Anne's, Westminster. Bach's Passion St. John will be sung every Friday evening, at 8 o'clock, under direction of Mr. Barnby, with full orchestral accompaniment. Admission by Tickets, which can be had (free) of the Churchwardens, Bro. S. Webb 432, Oxford-street, W., and Bro. J. E. Shand, 2 Albert Mansions, Victoria street, S.W.

The installation ceremony will be worked at the Constitutional Lodge of Instruction (No. 55), which meets at the Bedford Hotel, Southampton-buildings, Holborn, on Tuesday, 26th March, by Bro. W. H. Marston W.M. 1599. Lodge will be opened at 7 p.m. precisely.

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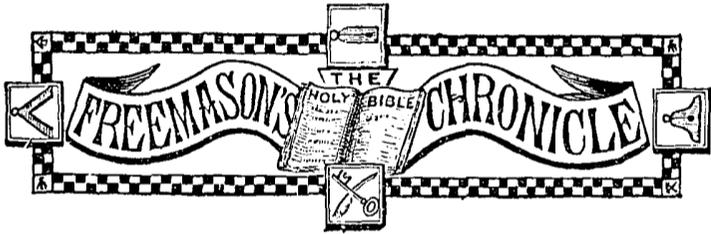
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**OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.**

IT may be, perhaps, that Lord Middleton's recent motion about the earlier meeting of the House of Lords has had some effect, for the Peers have had more than one sitting of moderate duration. Thus, on Thursday last, when, on the motion of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill had been formally passed through Committee, there was a long debate, initiated by the Duke of Argyll, on the Treaties of 1856, and the present position of England in respect to them. Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Hammond, the Earl of Carnarvon, the Dukes of Somerset and Rutland, the Earl of Feversham, and the Earl of Derby took part in it, and it was past nine o'clock when the House rose. On Friday, after various questions about different phases or branches of the Eastern Question had been disposed of, the Archbishop of York rose and moved that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty on the subject of Church Patronage, with a view to instituting inquiries into the law and existing practice as to the patronage, and resignation of benefices. Lord Houghton, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Lord Chancellor were among the Peers who addressed the House. The motion with the omission of the word "patronage" was agreed to. On Monday, the second reading of the Metropolitan Board of Works (Election of Members) Bill was moved by the Earl of Camperdown, who was defeated by 54 to 36. After this, one or two conversations ensued, one of which had reference to the Conference. Half-an-hour, however, sufficed on Tuesday for the despatch of business.

In the House of Commons on Thursday of last week, on the motion for going into Committee on the County Government Bill, Mr. Rylands moved its rejection, and his motion was seconded by Lord R. Churchill. Several members, in-

cluding Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Stansfeld, Mr. Selater Booth, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, took part in the debate that followed, and on a division, Mr. Ryland was defeated by 244 to 44. On Friday, a motion by Mr. Blennerhassett, on the Representation of Minorities had the effect of emptying the House, which was counted out at eight o'clock. On Monday, Mr. W. H. Smith would have introduced the Navy Estimates, but a long debate on the motion for going into Committee of Supply intervened, in which the subject of Naval Construction was treated at great length, and the House rose shortly before one o'clock, the debate being adjourned till Thursday. On Tuesday, Mr. Ashley moved a resolution, expressing the regret of the House at the conduct of Mr. Layard in connection with the Gladstone-Negro-ponte correspondence. An animated debate ensued, in which Mr. Sullivan and Dr. O'Leary spoke very warmly, but in the end Mr. Ashley was beaten by 206 to 132. On Wednesday, the second reading of the Abolition of Capital Punishment Bill was moved by Mr. Pease, but the proposal did not find favour with the House, and the Bill was thrown out by 263 to 64.

It is announced that the Queen will hold a Levée and a Drawing Room next week at Buckingham Palace, the former on Tuesday, and the latter on Thursday. Notice has also been given that Her Majesty's birthday will be kept on Saturday, the 25th May. We have heard likewise that it is the intention of the Queen to leave Windsor for Osborne about the middle of next month.

The Prince of Wales left Paris on Sunday evening after a pretty lengthened sojourn, during which his Royal Highness took a deep interest in the British Section of the Paris Exhibition. He reached London early on Monday, and in the course of the afternoon held a Levée at St. James's Palace, at which the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Christian, and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar attended. By the Queen's command presentations to his Royal Highness were deemed equivalent to presentations to Her Majesty. Nearly three hundred gentlemen, whose names had been previously submitted for Her Majesty's approval, were presented. The Royal Body Guard of the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, under the command of Captain the Earl of Coventry, and the Yeomen of the Guard under Captain Lord Skelmersdale, were on duty. On Wednesday afternoon the Prince of Wales presided at a meeting of the Governors of Wellington College, and in the evening he occupied the chair at the Anniversary Dinner, at Willis's Rooms, of the National Orphan Home, the Duke of Cambridge, Lord Harrowby, Lord Suffield, Lord Redesdale, and the Bishop of Winchester being among the guests. A subscription was announced amounting to upwards of £2,000, including £100 from His Royal Highness, and £20 from the Duke.

Mr. Gladstone has announced his intention of not offering himself again as a candidate for the representation of Greenwich on the principal ground that he is unable to give proper attention to the local interests of the borough. The Right Honourable gentleman, it is thought not improbable, may be returned by the Flint boroughs, in which his residence, Hawarden Castle, is situated. The election for Cirencester came off on Tuesday, when Captain Chester Master, Conservative, was returned by a majority of more than two to one over his Liberal opponent, the Hon. Ashley Ponsonby. Mr. P. Miles is the Conservative candidate for the vacancy in East Somerset, and Mr. W. S. Gore-Langton for that in Mid-Somerset. The polling for Hereford took place on Thursday, the candidates being Lieut.-Colonel Arbuthnot, Conservative, and Mr. Joseph Pulley, Liberal.

A terrible explosion occurred, on Tuesday, in the Unity Brook Colliery, Kearsley, near Bolton, by which no less than forty-four lives have been sacrificed. There were two mines, the Trencherbone, some 290 yards below the surface, and the Cannel, 60 yards lower still. Both were regularly inspected twice a day by the fireman, and it was only shortly after the second inspection, which took place during the dinner hour, that the explosion occurred. It was heard for half-a-mile round, and at once caused the greatest anxiety in the neighbourhood. As soon as possible preparations were made to descend, with a view to ascertain the amount of damage done, when it was found the miners in the upper mine were safe, though they had to be assisted to bank. After great exertions the lower mine was descended, and it was found that all the men and boys in it, to the number of forty-four, were dead. The bodies of all but two have been recovered, but

the others were so jammed in the dib-hole that their recovery was a work of some time.

On Wednesday morning a serious accident occurred in Woolwich Dockyard, the new shed in course of erection by Messrs. Shaw, near the Dockyard gate, for storing forage, having suddenly collapsed like a pack of cards, injuring more or less seriously some thirty-five of the workmen. Measures were promptly taken for the rescue and removal to hospital of the unfortunate men, and in the afternoon Col. Smith, R.E., arrived from the War Office to hold an inquiry into the circumstances. The damage is estimated at £2,000. The removal of the *débris* was at once commenced, and the work of rebuilding will be proceeded with immediately.

Another "peace" demonstration was held in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoon, the promoters being Mr. Auberon Herbert and Mr. Bradlaugh. Each of these gentlemen had a body guard, but the whole thing turned out a complete failure, as the peace party, in spite of the truncheons, were hustled out of the Park, never being able to remain more than a few moments in one place. The principal feature of this gathering was the amount of blackguardism which was perpetrated on respectable people. We think it high time a stop should be put to these gatherings, which can be held elsewhere without destruction to property.

The Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Relief Fund met at the Mansion House, the chair being occupied by Alderman Sir Thomas White. It was announced that the subscriptions amounted to £513,000. £500,000 had already been remitted, and it was resolved to send a further £4,000. It was also stated that the Eastern Telegraph Company had transmitted all the Committee's telegrams without charge, which was equivalent to a subscription of £250. A vote of thanks to the Company for such conduct was passed unanimously, and the Committee adjourned.

A meeting was held at the Mansion House on Wednesday, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, for the purpose of concerting arrangements for holding the Royal Agricultural Society's Exhibition in London in 1879. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Duke of Bedford, Lord Skelmersdale, the Earl of Ducie, the Earl of Bective, the Earl of Feversham, and others were present. Resolutions in accordance with the object of the meeting were proposed and agreed to, and it was determined to ask the necessary permission of the Duke of Cambridge, as Ranger of Hyde Park, to hold it there. It was also proposed to invite the Prince of Wales to be President of the Institution.

The Duke of Sutherland had a dinner party at Stafford House on Monday, the principal guest being Baker Pasha, to meet whom his Grace invited the Turkish Ambassador, Field Marshal Lord Strathnairn, General Sir C. Ellice, Sir Samuel Baker, and others. The Pasha's health was proposed by the Duke, and briefly but suitably acknowledged.

Sir Thomas Chambers, recently elected Recorder of the City of London in place of Mr. Russell Gurney, presided this week for the first time at the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, when opportunity was taken by the Bar to offer the learned gentleman their congratulations on his appointment. These were gracefully acknowledged, after which the business of the Court was proceeded with. The case of Madame Rachel has been adjourned till next Sessions, an application to that effect being made by the prisoner's counsel in the first instance to the Recorder, and then to Baron Huddleston, by whom it was acceded to. The trial of the Rev. Mr. Dodwell, who stands charged with having attempted to murder or do serious bodily harm to the Master of the Rolls, was fixed for yesterday, in order to meet the convenience of Sir George Jessel; the prisoner, when the day was proposed, raising no objection whatever to the arrangement, though Thursday had in the first instance been suggested.

The Earl of Carnarvon presided on Wednesday at the annual dinner of the Royal Asylum of St. Anne's Society, which was held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street. The chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, remarked that this society differed from most other asylums. The latter were intended for the poor or children of the poor, while this was intended for the children of persons who had been in a state of affluence, but by misfortune had fallen from that estate. The subscriptions were announced as amounting to about £1,600, inclusive of the Queen's annual subscription of ten guineas.

Our military preparations are being rapidly pressed

forward, and, in the event of war being necessary, we shall have a very large available force, both naval and military, and what is of still greater moment, our land forces will be well provided with transport. Good horses are being bought for the Government by Lord Henry Somerset, who, accompanied by a veterinary surgeon, is moving about in the provinces wherever there is a likelihood of getting good and serviceable animals. The Monarch and Penelope ironclads, and the Euryalus frigate will be commissioned next week, and the Messrs. Laird are urging forward the repairs to the Iron Duke as fast as possible.

The news from Vienna and the East of Europe generally bodes ill for the maintenance of peace, though there is, of course, always the chance that Russia may not insist, at the last moment, on maintaining her pretensions. From Vienna intelligence is to hand to the effect that Count Andrassy has notified to the Hungarian Delegation that Austria will not permit the establishment of a Bulgarian principality, extending to the shores of the Ægean Sea, and will oppose the occupation of Bulgaria by Russia for a longer period than six months. The Vote of Credit for sixty million florins is being pressed, and will, no doubt, be granted, but it will be held in reserve, and only used in the event of the Empire being imperilled and the mobilisation of the army becoming imperatively necessary. The insurrection in Thessaly is extending, and in most of the conflicts which have taken place between the Turkish and insurgent forces, the latter have proved victorious. Great preparations, however, are being made by the Government of the latter to suppress it, and one, or it may be two, army corps will be despatched to the scene of action, so as to bring the insurgents to book sharply. It is also said that fifty thousand Turkish troops will occupy Bosnia and the Herzegovina. As to the terms of peace, Russia still keeps them concealed, though General Ignatieff and Raouf Pasha have reached St. Petersburg, the plenipotentiaries having left Constantinople for the Russian capital *via* Odessa, with the treaty bearing the Sultan's signature. Of course, there is a general idea of the nature of the terms exacted, and we have already spoken of a big Bulgaria, Independent Servia, Montenegro, and Roumania, and a large indemnity, as forming the principal items of the peace. But the secrecy observed by Russia gives ground for the belief that there are certain other terms which are being purposely kept dark, and, meanwhile, Russia is taking advantage of the delay to strengthen and improve her position around Constantinople, and in the direction of Gallipoli. Only thus can we explain the continued advance of her troops in these directions and the reinforcements which are being poured into Roumania. On the other hand, the news that the English Government will require the whole terms of the meeting of San Stefano to be submitted to the Congress, and that Austria, Italy, and France evince an inclination to move in the same direction, does not greatly improve the chance of the Congress meeting. Supposing, however, that it should meet, Berlin will be the place of gathering, and not Baden-Baden. Another proposal of our Government, which is generally regarded as a good stroke of policy on their part, is that Greece should be admitted to the Congress, and it is said that Russia will only consent to this if Servia, Montenegro, and Roumania are also admitted. In short, the more we look into the present political situation, the more convinced are we of the enormous difficulties by which it is surrounded. We sincerely hope that matters will end peacefully, but the prospect is not encouraging.

The Second Report of the Committee of the Leicester Freemasons' Hall Library is, in most respects, satisfactory. The modest cash account for the period from 24th June 1876 to 31st January 1878 shows a balance of £3 0s 8d on the right side, the receipts being £24 12s 1d, and the expenditure for Books, and Periodicals and Binding being, together, £21 11s 5d. During the same period, about thirty volumes of Masonic Pamphlets have been bound, several Masonic Periodicals are regularly supplied, some valuable Masonic Works have been purchased, and a number of donations of books have been presented, by Bro. Kelly, Chairman of the Committee, and Bros. Hughan, Fenn, Ellis, Webb, Toller, Partridge, and others. The one point we note with regret is, that several works have been absent from the library for a long period, some of them being among those described in the former report as having "been absent from the Library for two or three years."

## 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.

## SATURDAY, 16th MARCH.

- 198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)  
1361—Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Mare-street, Hackney.  
1624—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Pimlico, at 7. (Instruction.)  
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8.  
820—Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, at 7.30. (Instruction.)  
1612—West Middlesex, Institute, Ealing. (Emergency.)

## MONDAY, 18th MARCH.

- 1—Grand Masters, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.  
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.)  
185—Tranquillity, Guildhall Tavern, Gre-ham-street, at 5.  
548—Wellington, White Swan, High-street, Deptford, at 8. (Instruction.)  
704—Camden, Red Cap, Camden Town, at 8. (Instruction.)  
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gun Hotel, High-st., Wapping, at 8. (Instruction.)  
1425—Hyde Park, The Westbourne, Craven-rd., Paddington, at 8. (Instruction.)  
1489—Marquess of Ripon, Pembury Tavern, Amhurst-rd., Hackney, at 7.30. (In.)  
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, on 2nd and 4th Mondays in each month.  
236—York, Masonic Hall, York.  
331—Phoenix of Honour and Prudence, Public Rooms, Truro.  
359—Peace and Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Southampton.  
382—Royal Union, Chequer's Hotel, Uxbridge.  
424—Borough, Freemasons' Hall, West-street, Gateshead.  
466—Merit, George Hotel, Stamford Baron, Northampton.  
622—St. Cuthberga, Masonic Hall, Wimborne.  
720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham.  
725—Stoneleigh, King's Arms Hotel, Kenilworth.  
935—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Holbeach.  
1037—Portland, Royal Breakwater Hotel, Portland.  
1141—Mid Sussex, Assembly Rooms, Horsham.  
1199—Agriculture, Honey Hall, Congresbury.  
1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury, at 8 p.m. (Instruction.)  
1502—Israel, 22 Hope-street, Liverpool.  
R. A. 1051—Rowley, Masonic Rooms, Athenæum, Lancaster.

## TUESDAY, 19th MARCH.

- Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.  
30—United Mariners, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.  
65—Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton-bldgs., Holborn, at 7. (Inst.)  
65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)  
73—Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark.  
95—Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street.  
141—Faith, 2 Westminster-chambers, Victoria-street, S.W., at 8. (Instruction.)  
177—Domatic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruction.)  
194—St. Paul, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street.  
554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney. (Instruction.)  
733—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)  
860—Dalhousie, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)  
1420—Earl Spencer, Swan Hotel, Battersea Bridge, S.W.  
1416—Mount Edgecumbe, 19 Jermyn-street, S.W., at 8. (Instruction.)  
1471—Islington, Three Bucks, Gresham-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)  
1472—Henley, Railway Tavern, Stratford New Town, at 8. (Instruction.)  
1507—Metropolitan, 269 Pentonville-road. (Instruction.)  
1602—Sir Hugh Myddelton, Crown and Woolpack, St. John Street-rd. at 8. (Inst.)  
1635—Canterbury, 33 Golden-square, W.  
Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement, Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, at 7.0.  
R. A. 933—Doric, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.  
213—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, Theatre-street, Norwich.  
248—True Love and Unity, Freemasons' Hall, Brixham, Devon.  
384—St. David, Masonic Rooms, Bangor.  
403—Hertford, Town Hall, Hertford.  
414—Union, Masonic Hall, Reading.  
960—Dute, Masonic Hall, 9 Working-street, Cardiff.  
1006—Tregullow, Masonic Rooms, St. Day, Scorrier, Cornwall.  
1113—Anglesea, Bull Hotel, Llangefin.  
1427—Percy, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle.  
1470—Chiltern, Town Hall, Dunstable.  
M. M.—York, Masonic Hall, Duncombe-place, York.

## WEDNESDAY, 20th MARCH.

- Lodge of Benevolence, Freemasons' Hall, at 6.  
Grand Stewards' Lodge, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.  
140—St. George, Trafalgar Tavern, Greenwich.  
174—Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.  
190—Oak, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.  
193—Confidence, Railway Tavern, London-street, at 7. (Instruction.)  
201—Jordan, Devonshire Arms, Devonshire-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)  
538—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, Red Lion, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street, 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.)  
1278—Burdett Courts, Salmon and Ball, Bethnal Green-rd., at 8.30. (Inst.)  
1288—Finsbury Park, Finsbury Pk. Tav., Seven Sisters-rd., at 8.0. (Instruction.)  
1507—Metropolitan, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.  
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)  
1673—Islington, London Masonic Club, 101 Queen Victoria-street, E.C. at 7.  
1707—Eleanor, Angel Hotel, Edmonton, at 8. (Instruction.)  
R. A. 177—Domatic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8.0. (Instruction.)  
R. A. 1365—Clapton, White Hart Tavern, Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)  
121—Mount Sinai, Public-buildings, Penzance.  
175—East Medina, Masonic Hall, John-street, Ryde, I.W.  
199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover. (Instruction.)  
200—Old Globe, Private Rooms, Globe-street, Scarborough.  
221—St. John's, Commercial Hotel, Town Hall Square, Bolton.  
591—Buckingham, George Hotel, Aylesbury.  
592—Cottswold, King's Head Hotel, Cirencester.  
683—Isa, Freemasons' Hall, Dock-street, Newport, Monmouthshire.  
849—Dobie, Griffin Hotel, Kingston-on-Thames.  
969—Sun and Sector, Assembly Rooms, Workington.  
972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury. (Instruction.)  
1040—Sykes, Masonic Hall, Great Driffild.  
1086—Wilton, St. Lawrence Boys' School, Kirkdale.  
1129—St. Chad's, Roebuck Hotel, Rochdale.  
1164—Eliot, Private Rooms, St. Germans, Cornwall.  
1337—Anchor, Masonic Rooms, Durham House, Northampton.  
1353—Duke of Lancaster, Athenæum, Lancaster.  
1443—Salem, Town Hall, Dawlish, Devon.  
1511—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Hornsea.  
R. A. 409—Stortford, Chequer's Inn, Bishop's Stortford,

## THURSDAY, 21st MARCH.

- House Committee, Girls' School, at 4.  
5—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-sq., at 7. (Instruction.)  
15—Kent, Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow, at 7.30. (Instruction.)  
24—Globe, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.  
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30. (Instruction.)  
63—St. Mar., Freemasons' Hall, W.C.  
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8. (Instruction.)  
169—Temperance, White Swan, High-street, Deptford.  
181—Universal, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.  
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8. (Inst.)  
813—New Concord, Rosemary Branch Tavern, Hoxton.  
1139—South Norwood, Public Hall, South Norwood.  
1278—Burdett Courts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park.  
1297—Great Northern, Freemasons' Hall, W.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.)  
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.)  
56—Howard, High-street, Arundel.  
343—Concord, Militia Officers' Mess Rooms, Starkie-street, Preston.  
449—Cecil, Sun Hotel, Hitchin.  
523—John of Gaunt, Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, Leicester.  
663—Wiltshire of Fidelity, Town Hall, Devizes.  
1327—King Harold, Britannia Hotel, Waltham New Town.  
1332—Unity, Masonic Hall, Crediton, Devon.  
1432—Fitzalan, Wynnstay Arms, Oswestry.  
1512—Hemming, Lion Hotel, Hampton Wick.  
1612—West Middlesex, Feathers Hotel, Ealing, at 7.30. (Instruction.)

## FRIDAY, 22nd MARCH.

- House Committee, Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.  
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.)  
569—Fitzroy, Head Quarters, Hon. Artillery Company, City-road, E.C.  
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, Duke's Head, 79 Whitechapel-road, 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.)  
1288—Finsbury Park Master Masons' Lodge of Inst. Finsbury Park Tavern, at 8.  
1298—Royal Standard, Alwyne Castle, St. Paul's-road, Canonbury, at 8. (In.)  
1365—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)  
1602—Sir Hugh Myddelton, Agricultural Hall, N.  
1642—E. Carnarvon, Mitre Hotel, Goulborne-rd, N. Kensington, at 7.30. (Inst.)  
R. A. 79—Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, London-street, Greenwich, at 8. (Inst.)  
780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge.

## SATURDAY, 23rd MARCH.

- 198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8. (Instruction.)  
1624—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Pimlico, at 7. (Instruction.)  
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, at 8.  
820—Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, at 7.30. (Instruction.)

## EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

- MONDAY—4—St. Luke, Freemasons' Hall.  
TUESDAY—36—St. David, Ship Hotel, East Register-street.  
405—Rifle, Freemasons' Hall.  
WEDNESDAY—160—Roman Eagle, Iona Hotel, 82 Nicolson-street.  
THURSDAY—48—St. Andrew, Freemasons' Hall.  
R. A. 152—Perseverance, Lodge Room, 80 Constitution-street.

## WEST YORKSHIRE.

## SATURDAY.

- 119—Peace, Private Rooms, Meltham.  
309—Prince George, Station House, Bottoms, Eastwood.

## MONDAY.

- 61—Probity, Freemasons' Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax.  
264—Nelson of the Nile, Freemasons' Hall, New-road, Batley.  
302—Hope, New Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford.  
307—Prince Frederick, White Horse Hotel, Hebden Bridge.  
408—Three Graces, Private Room, Haworth.  
1542—Legiolium, Masonic Hall, Carlton-street, Castleford.  
R. A. 139—Paradise, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.

## TUESDAY.

- 448—St. James, Freemasons' Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax.

## WEDNESDAY.

- 290—Huddersfield, Masonic Hall, South Parade, Huddersfield.  
337—Airedale, Masonic Hall, Westgate, Shipley.  
750—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Railway-street, Cleckheaton.  
1019—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield.  
1371—Brighouse, Masonic Room, Bradford-road, Brighouse.  
1645—Colno Valley, Lewisham Hotel, Slaithwaite.

## THURSDAY.

- 600—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford.  
971—Trafalgar, Private Room, Commercial-street, Batley.  
1042—Excelsior, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds.  
1514—Thornhill, Dearn House, Lindley, Huddersfield.  
R. A. 208—Three Grand Principles, Masonic Hall, Dewsbury.  
R. A. 307—Good Intent, White Horse Hotel, Hebden Bridge.  
R. A. 337—Confidence, Private Rooms, Commercial Inn, Uppermill.  
K. T. 65—Fearnley, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury.

## FRIDAY.

- 1102—Mirfield, Assembly Rooms, Eastthorpe, Mirfield.

## NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Egyptian Lodge of Instruction, No. 27.—At 119 Leadenhall-street, E.C., on Thursday evening last. Present—Bros. Da Silva W.M., Chapman S.W., Gladwell J.W., Ellis S.D., Lipscomb J.D., Maidwell I.G., Grammer Hon. Sec., Webb Preceptor. The second ceremony was rehearsed, Bro. Aarons candidate. The first section of the lecture was worked by Bro. Hogg; Bro. Da Silva then vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Lipscomb, who rehearsed the first degree. Bro. Jones, an E.A. of No. 27, acting as candidate. The first and second section of the first lecture were worked by Bro. Hogg,

assisted by the members. Two brethren were elected members, and the Lodge was closed.

**Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.**—Held at the Rodney's Head, 12 Old-street, Goswell-road, on Monday, the 11th instant. Present—Bros. Sparrow W.M., C. Lorkin S.W., Powell J.W., Tolmie Preceptor, Fenner Secretary, Sillis S.D., Stock J.D., Alford I.G., Christopher Tyler; also Bros. Halham, Wing, Johnston, Byott, Moseley, Thompson, Woolley, Banks, Trewinnard, Cuthbert, Isaac, Hunter, &c. Lodge opened, the minutes were read and confirmed. Bro. Wing answered the questions leading to the second degree, and was entrusted. Lodge advanced to the second degree, when the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of passing. The W.M. worked the sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. Lodge was closed to first degree, when Bro. Jas. Cuthbert, of No. 4, Glasgow Kilwinning, and Bro. J. J. Woolley of the Waulderers Lodge, No. 1604, were elected members. Bro. Lorkin was appointed to the chair for the ensuing week. A vote of thanks was awarded the W.M., this being the first time of his occupying the chair in this Lodge.

**Constitutional Lodge of Instruction, No. 55.**—On Tuesday, the 12th March, at the Bedford Hotel, Southampton-buildings, Holborn. Present—Bros. Cooper W.M., Tranter S.W., Hallam J.W., Dickins Sec., Dwarber Treas., Bramham S.D., Soper J.D., Clennell I.G., P.M. Bingemann Preceptor, Brown, Cornu, Dodson, Bond, Johnston, Linscott, &c. The Lodge being opened and the minutes read and confirmed, Bro. Johnston, a candidate for passing, answered the questions, and in due course was passed. The first and third sections of the Lecture were worked by Bro. Brown, the second and fourth by Bro. Bingemann. The Lodge was resumed, and Bro. Tranter elected W.M. for the ensuing week, Officers in rotation. The Lodge was then closed in perfect harmony, and adjourned to Tuesday, 19th March.

**Clarence Lodge No. 68.**—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Monday, the 11th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Bristol. Bros. F. Trull W.M., John Gard S.W., H. White J.W., George Perrin Sec., R. Coaffee Treas., J. Courtice S.D., E. J. Grubb J.D., C. Gilbert I.G., Bros. Hazard P.M., and Rice P.M. Tylers. P.M.'s Bros. Compton and Eastabrook jun. Visitors—Bros. Capt. C. Blick 279, G. R. Ireland, and S. M. Davies. The business comprised the reading and confirming the minutes of previous meeting. It was proposed by I.P.M. Eastabrook, and seconded by Bro. Secretary, that W. Bro. Coaffee be appointed as representative of the Clarence Lodge on the Prov. Charity Organisation Committee; carried unanimously. It was proposed by the W.M. and seconded by Worshipful Bro. Compton, that an address of condolence be sent to the widow and family of the late Bro. Knowland, sympathising with them in their bereavement.

**Ancient Ebor Preceptory, No. 101 (K.T.).**—The annual meeting for the installation of Eminent Preceptor took place at York, on Tuesday. The Preceptory was opened at 7 p.m. by the E. Sir Knt. T. B. Whythead E.P., after which Comp. J. G. Croft, of the Zealand Chapter, was admitted and installed a member of the Order by the E.P. The ceremony of installation of Sir Knt. the Rev. Wm. Valentine was then proceeded with, E. Sir Knt. J. W. Woodall, Prov. G. Constable for N. and E. Yorkshire, acting as Installing Preceptor. The newly enthroned E.P. was afterwards saluted in due form by the members, and thanked them for the honour conferred upon him. He afterwards appointed his Officers as follow:—T. B. Prissick Constable, J. S. Cumberland Marshal, T. Cooper Treasurer, T. B. Whythead Registrar, G. Simpson Capt. of Lines, J. Ward Equerry. The sum of one guinea was voted to the Masonic Boys' School, and the Preceptory was closed; after which the members met at an excellent supper, provided by Bro. J. Toes, at which the principal toasts were duly honoured. Amongst those present were the following Sir Knights:—Wm. Lawton P.E.P., Bryan Wormald P.E.P., Wm. Beauland P.E.P. (Faith, Bradford), W. Rowley (Fidelity, Leeds), P. H. Rowland, &c., &c.

**Elias Ashmole Chapter, No. 148, Warrington.**—The annual Convocation was held on Monday last. The Chapter was opened by the M.E.Z., assisted by E. Companions Brierley H. M.E.Z. elect, John Howes P.Z., Prov. G.S.N. Cumberland and Westmoreland, as J., and H. elect, H. S. Alpass P.Z., Prov. G.S.E., D. W. Finney P.Z., P.P.G.P.S., and W. S. Hawkins P.Z. When the rest of the Companions were admitted, and the minutes read and confirmed, E. Comp. Finney presented the M.E.Z. elect for the benefit of installation, and he was duly placed in the chair of Z., according to ancient custom. E. Comp. Alpass presented E. Comp. Bowes, who was duly installed, and E. Comp. Finney presented Comp. Thomas Tunstall J. elect. After the ceremony, the chiefs were saluted, the Chapter closed, and the Companions adjourned to refreshment, when a very pleasant evening was spent, under the genial guidance of the M.E.Z. The proceedings were enlivened by some excellent singing.

**Royal Sussex Lodge, No. 187.**—Held its regular meeting on Wednesday, 13th March, at Freemasons' Hall, Bristol. Present—Bros. John Morgan W.M., J. Watkin Baker S.W., H. Pidgeon J.W., C. F. Hare Secretary, J. Abraham S.D., A. Hall J.D., T. H. Prichard P.M. D.C., W. H. Bowden P.M. I.G. *pro tem*, W. Hazard P.M. Tyler, Rice P.M. second ditto. Visitors—Bros. E. J. Grabb 68, W. H. Bowden P.M. 103, C. H. Angell 625, Westbury, and S. M. Davies. After the minutes of previous meeting had been confirmed, Mr. E. D.

Morris was balloted for, accepted, and initiated, by requisition. It was proposed by the W.M., and seconded by Bro. C. F. Hare, that W. Bro. T. H. Prichard be appointed representative of the Royal Sussex Lodge on the Provincial Charity Organisation Committee. The motion was carried unanimously. W. Bro. Bowden briefly explained the object of the Committee, which was to embrace the united action of the Lodges of the Province for concentrating their voting power, and to ensure the success of their candidates. It is evident this arrangement meets with the approval of the brethren of Bristol, as all the Lodges that have received the circular from the Prov. Grand Secretary bearing on it, have responded by immediately appointing a representative. The advantage of this movement must be apparent to all, as each Lodge, through its delegate, will take an active part in securing as many votes, and collecting as many subscriptions as possible. We must congratulate W. Bro. Bowden (who is acting Secretary to the committee) on procuring the co-operation of all the Lodges in such an important measure, and while that concentrating help will not diminish the ardent zeal he has ever shown in all charity matters, it will make lighter those duties which he has hitherto for so many years most successfully carried out.

**Sussex R.A. Chapter, No. 187.**—The regular convocation was held on Thursday, the 7th of March, at Freemasons' Hall, Bristol. Present—M.E. Comps. E. A. Barrett Z., J. T. Hallam H., B. Gay P.Z. J., J. H. Pritchard P.Z. Treas., G. F. Tuckey S.E., H. Pigeon S.N., W. Munro P.S., R. L. Tuckey and E. Honey Assist. Sojs., A. Brettle Org., Wm. Hazard Janitor. Visitors—Comps. Wm. Bonham P.Z. D.C. P.G.C., S. M. Davies, &c. Usual preliminaries being disposed of, Bros. Hooper, Farler and Hare were balloted for and accepted, and the two latter brethren were duly exalted to the R. Arch degree, M. E. Comp. W. H. Bowden taking the position of First Principal.

**Confidence Lodge of Instruction No. 193.**—The regular meeting was held on the 13th inst. Bros. G. L. Walker W.M., Arons S.W., J. W. C. Bush J.W., E. Staley S.D., Beddle I.G., J. K. Pitt Secretary, J. Constable Treasurer, Christopher Tyler. The routine business having been accomplished, the W.M. rehearsed the second degree, Bro. Pitt acting candidate. The W.M. worked the first and second sections of the lecture, assisted by Bro. Constable and the brethren. Bro. Arons was elected Master for the ensuing week. Present—Bros. Fells, Hill, Hogarth, Smithers, Andrews and D. Posener.

**Percy Lodge of Instruction, No. 198.**—On Saturday, the 9th inst., at the Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, N. Present—Bros. McMillan W.M., Ross S.W., Slaughter J.W., Killick Sec., Garrod S.D., McDowell J.D., Spencer I.G., Percy Preceptor. Visitor—Bros. Elias Parr, St. James's Lodge, 97. The Lodge was duly opened and minutes confirmed. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. C. Lorkin candidate. The sections of the second Lecture were worked. Bro. Elias Parr, St. James's Lodge, 97, was elected a member, and Bro. Ross appointed W.M. for the ensuing week.

**Pomfret Lodge, No. 360, Northampton.**—There was a rather larger attendance than usual at this Lodge on Thursday last. Bro. T. Whitehouse W.M., F. Gadsby S.W., H. W. Parker J.W., J. S. Norman S.D., T. R. Wood J.D., G. Ellard I.G., G. Robinson P.M. Sec., J. T. Green P.M. D.C., J. U. Stanton P.M., and J. Bingley Stewards; Bros. B. Wilkins D.P.G.M. North and Hunts, M. A. Boeme and R. Winter P.M.'s, with a good muster of brethren, were present at the time fixed for opening the Lodge. Mr. Edward Haynes and Mr. Joseph Sadler were balloted for and duly elected. The ceremony of initiation was performed by the W.M., the various officers doing their part in a very commendable manner. On the adjournment, the brethren did full justice to the fourth degree, and the remainder of the evening passed off agreeably.

**La Tolerance Lodge of Instruction, No. 538.**—This Lodge held its regular meeting on the 13th inst., at the Horse and Groom, Winsley-street, W., for the ceremony of installation, which according to the bye-laws was to be the business of the evening. Precisely at 8 o'clock the Lodge was opened by the venerable Preceptor, Bro. T. A. Adams P.G.P., &c., and after the minutes had been read and confirmed the Lodge was opened in the second degree, and Bro. W. H. Dean W.M. No. 417 P.P.G.S.B. Dorset was presented to receive the benefit of installation, which was then proceeded with. The Lodge having been opened in the third degree, the M.M.'s retired, and Bro. Dean was duly installed into the chair, according to ancient custom. The brethren having been readmitted, the W.M. was saluted in due form and then invested his Officers as follow:—Bros. E. Child No. 538 S.W., T. W. Cooper No. 538 J.W., R. Pierpoint No. 1365 S.D., Iriath No. 1507 J.D., W. Maxsted No. 180 I.G., C. Davis P.M. No. 382 Treas., J. Hurdell No. 1348 Hon. Sec. The ancient charges were then delivered by Bro. Adams in his most effective manner. This being the night for election of Treasurer and Secretary, Bro. C. Davis P.M. 382 was unanimously elected Treasurer, and Bro. J. Hurdell D.C. 1348 Secretary. After the remaining Lodge business had been done, a cordial vote of thanks to Bro. Adams brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

**Lily Lodge of Instruction, No. 820.**—Held its weekly meeting at Mr. Palmer's, The Greyhound, Richmond, at 7.30 p.m., on Saturday, 9th March. The attendance showed a decided improvement upon previous meetings, many of the older members having responded to the call of the last W.M. to assist in preventing the collapse of this useful institution. Bros. Wade W.M., Digby S.W., Hinton J.W., Fisher S.D., Clear J.D., Hamblin I.G., Phillips Preceptor

and Secretary; Bros. Kyezor, Coyle, &c. Lodge opened up to the third degree, and Bro. Coyle was raised to the sublime degree by the W.M., carefully and correctly. Lodge was then closed down to the first, when Bro. Digby proposed that Rule 8 of the Bye-laws be expunged, and a new one substituted, which would provide that the W.M. for the night should work the degrees, with some of the sections relating to each, in regular order; the first on the first Saturday, and so on in rotation, with as many of the sections as time would permit. Bro. Hinton remarked that it would be an advantageous course; every Mason who desired a knowledge of the Craft and its true tenets should carefully study the sections. Bro. Digby was appointed to fill the chair at next meeting.

**Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.**—Held its weekly meeting on Tuesday evening, the 12th inst., at Bro. Smyth's, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston. Bro. Slaughter W.M., Brasted S.W., Wardell J.W., Carr S.D., Dignam J.D., McClean I.G., Dallas Sec., Smyth Treasurer, Past Master Wallington Preceptor; also Bros. Collins, Allen, Finch, Bonner, C. Lorkin, Marsh and others. The Lodge was opened and the minutes read and confirmed, Bro. M. Christian being properly introduced was initiated. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Weige. Bro. C. Lorkin answered the questions and was passed to the second degree. The Lodge was closed to first degree, and Bro. Allen worked the third section of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. A vote of thanks was recorded on the minutes to the W.M. for his able conduct of the duties of the chair. Bro. Brasted was elected W.M. for the ensuing week.

**Gosport Chapter, No. 903.**—A very interesting ceremony took place at the usual Quarterly Meeting of this Chapter, at the India Arms Hotel, in the present of the Officers, members, and several Principals and Past Principals of neighbouring Chapters, in presenting M.E. Comp. Main P.Z. with a very handsome P.Z. jewel, and an elegantly bound copy of "Mackenzie's Royal Masonic Cyclopaedia," the former containing a most suitable inscription, and the latter the names of the donors, each the result of a private subscription, to which nearly the whole of the members contributed. The presentation was made by M.E. Comp. Sleeman Z., on behalf of the subscribers, who in a very able manner eulogised Comp. Main in warm terms for his great ability and eloquence, and the zeal and interest evinced by him at all times in the cause of Royal Arch Freemasonry and the Craft generally, likewise referring to the great esteem in which he is held by the members of that Chapter in particular. M.E. Comp. Main thanked the Companions in eloquent words, saying that his services, always freely given, would be greatly stimulated by the recollection of their kindness and good opinion, as shown by the interesting proceedings of that evening.

**St. Augustine Lodge of Instruction, No. 972, Canterbury.**—This Lodge meets every Wednesday evening, at the Guildhall Hotel, with the exception of the second Wednesday in the month, and maintains its reputation as one of the best Lodges in the Province, the various ceremonies, as well as the lectures, sections, &c., being frequently worked in a very creditable manner. Since the commencement of the year the initiation has been rehearsed by Bros. Vile and Miskin, the latter of whom also gave the charge. The charges in both first and second degrees have been given by Bro. E. Beer, who likewise rehearsed the ceremony of raising. The fourth and fifth sections of the lecture in second degree were given by Bro. Rossiter, and he also delivered the lecture on the first tracing board. Three sections of lecture in the third degree were worked by Bro. Pringner.

**Hartington Lodge, No. 1085.**—A meeting of this Lodge was holden at the Masonic Hall, Derby, on Wednesday, 6th March. Present—Bros. G. Pipes W.M., W. Heathcote I.P.M., J. Heathcote S.W., W. B. Hextall J.W., M. H. Bobart P.P.S.G.W. Treas., J. O. Manton Sec., S. Steele S.D., J. E. Russell J.D., T. H. Hepworth M. of C., W. Butterfield I.G., W. Naylor P.G. Sec., J. Worsnop P.M., S. Pipes P.P.S.G.D., W. Biggs W.M. "Repose," and a large number of other brethren. The Lodge was opened in due form at 7.40 p.m., and the customary business performed, the two gentlemen—Mr. Joseph Albert Heford and Mr. Robert Baxter—proposed at the last meeting, were balloted for and duly elected, and Bro. Popplewell was raised to the sublime degree of a M.M. The latter being the first work of the new Master attracted particular attention, and the conduct of the ceremony was very gratifying, there being strict accuracy in his delivery, as well as in the parts of the whole of the Officers. Other business affecting the regulation of the Lodge was discussed, and after another name had been submitted for addition to the roll of the Order, the brethren expressed their gratitude to the G.A. for His favours, and adjourned until the first Wednesday in April.

**Grey Friars Lodge, No. 1101.**—Held its monthly meeting at the Masonic Hall, Reading, on Wednesday, the 13th inst. Bros. A. Welch W.M., Flanagan S.W., Danks J.W., Honey Chaplain, Stransom Treasurer, Newman D.C. acting Secretary, Ferguson S.D., Blackwell J.D., Dowsett I.G., W. Ridley Steward; P.M.'s Bros. Hurley, Margaret, Brown; Bros. Creed, Hunt, Pulley, White, Heathcote, Bailey. Visitors—Bros. Oades S.W. 414, Hawkes 414, Howlett formerly 1101. Minutes read and confirmed, the Chaplain reported he had written a letter to the widow of the late Bro. Chancellor, to which he had received a reply, which he read. Some conversation arose between the Chaplain, the I.P.M., and Bros. Brown and Bailey, upon the question of the late election. It was resolved that no further discussion be held upon the subject. The candidate of last Lodge election was admitted and initiated. A committee was formed to

meet a committee of No. 414, to discuss the rent to be paid for the Hall by No. 1101. After other business, the Lodge was closed.

**Upton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1227.**—Held at King and Queen, Norton Folgate, on Friday, the 8th inst. Present—Bros. Posener jun. W.M., Simmonds S.W., Smith J.W., Fenner Preceptor, Townsend Secretary, Hine S.D., Crouch J.D., Lane I.G.; also Bros. Bolton, Hunter, Posener sen., Ellis, Percy, &c. Lodge opened, minutes read and confirmed. Bro. Hunter answered the questions, was entrusted, and Lodge being opened in the second degree the ceremony of passing was rehearsed by the W.M. in a very careful manner. The first section was worked by Bro. Ellis, the second by Bro. Fenner, assisted by the brethren. Lodge was closed in the second degree. The fourth section of the first lecture was worked by Bro. Fenner, assisted by Bro. Ellis. Bro. Simmonds was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Lodge was then closed and adjourned. Brethren are reminded that the annual supper takes place on the last Thursday in the present month. Tickets, 3s each, can be had of Bros. Bolton or Lane, at the above address.

**The Great City Lodge, No. 1426.**—The meeting of this Lodge on Saturday, the 9th inst., was the last of the session, and consequently there was a very large attendance of members and visitors. Moreover, between this and its sister Lodge, the City of Westminster, a most cordial spirit of friendship is kept up, and it has been our pleasure on several occasions to chronicle the doings of these Lodges when fraternal visits have taken place. On the present occasion the deputation from the City of Westminster was headed by Bro. Edward White, the Worshipful Master, who was accompanied by Bros. B. H. Swallow, E. J. Scott, B. Phillips, T. W. Eastgate, and E. J. Shand; amongst the other visitors we noticed Bros. John Boyd P.G.P., J. Harrison 73, D. J. Robinson 186, W. W. Morgan 211, T. G. Carpenter 270, G. P. Palmer 359, J. T. Patterson 431, Watts 507, E. J. B. Bumstead 548, M. J. O'Connor 636, S. Poynter 902, D. P. Cama 1159, James Hammond 1169, E. Baup, Vraie Union, Switzerland, G. D. Lant 1201, J. L. Baker W.M. 1305, D. M. Dewar 1415, W. S. Whitaker 1572, W. B. Greening 1572, C. E. Soppet 1627, Thos. Preston Sec. 1669, &c. Lodge was opened by the W.M. Bro. R. Stanway, who was supported by Bros. Jas. Freeman S.W., Blackie J.W., Edward Moody P.M. Sec., N. B. Headon P.M. Treas., Catchpole S.D., Thomas Hamer J.D., Taylor I.G., W. Steedman Tyler. After the minutes had been read and confirmed, Bro. Stanway proceeded with the ceremonial portion of his work. There were two candidates for the third degree—Bros. Oppenheimer and Metchim; and one for the second degree—Bro. D. T. Keene; the customary proofs of efficiency having been given, these brethren were severally advanced a step in their Masonic career. The bye-laws of the Lodge were then read by Brother Moody. The next business was the election of Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, and this resulted in favour of the S.W., Bro. James Freeman. Bro. Stanway, in a few hearty and cordial remarks, announced the result of the ballot, and offered Bro. Freeman his sincere congratulations on his election to the chair of this important Lodge. Bro. Freeman replied, and assured the members he would do all in his power to uphold the prestige of the Lodge; he should place himself under the wing of their worthy Secretary, Bro. Moody, and he trusted, with the help of the Past Masters and the Officers of the Lodge, that, by the will of the G.A.O.T.U., his year of office would be no less successful than those of the Masters who had preceded him. The choice of Treasurer resulted in the unanimous re-election of Bro. N. B. Headon, and on a show of hands Bro. Steedman was re-appointed Tyler. Bros. Lebissart, Shaw, and Boulton were appointed auditors. A long and exhaustive discussion next ensued in reference to an application for relief that had been made by a distressed brother, Bro. Stuart-Barker, who had been deputed by the Lodge at the last meeting to inquire into the circumstances of the case, delivered his report; Bro. James Stevens P.M. also gave the result of inquiries he had made, and forcibly urged the brethren to carefully consider ere they came to a decision adverse to the applicant. However, after all details had been fully gone into, it was resolved that Bro. Barker's report be received and adopted. Routine business followed, and receipt of several interesting communications was announced. Bro. Moody remarked that he had been requested by Bro. Thomas Ford, P.M. of the Rifle Lodge of Edinburgh, to convey to the members of The Great City Lodge the hearty good wishes of the Edinburgh brethren for their continued prosperity. Bro. Stanway desired Bro. Moody to convey the thanks of the Lodge to Bro. Ford for this act of courtesy. Lodge was then closed. A substantial repast was provided, to which ample justice was done. On the removal of the cloth Bro. Stanway proceeded with the toasts. In giving the health of Her Most Gracious Majesty, he said that Masons were loyal and law-abiding men, and it was always with pleasure that they honoured their Queen. With the toast he would associate, Prosperity to the Craft. After the National Anthem the W.M. called on the brethren to drink to H.R.H. the Grand Master. At all gatherings Englishmen delight to honour the Prince of Wales, who has won the hearts of all with whom he has been associated. This toast, at all times, has an especial charm to we Freemasons, from the Prince's intimate association with us as head of the Order. He was sure all present would cordially drink the toast. In speaking of the Earl of Carnarvon, the W.M. said they were all well aware of the many calls the Pro G.M. had on him. At the same time, they knew how necessary it was that we should have a competent brother to preside in place of the Grand Master at our assemblies. Those who have the privilege of attending the Festivals of Grand Lodge must at all times be struck by the calmness of demeanour displayed by the Earl of Carnarvon, and many would take example and carry to their Lodges the same calm spirit of discrimination they there found so eminently displayed. With the toast of the D.G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers was associated the name of Bro. John Boyd P.G.P., who remarked that the last toast

offered by the W.M. was the first that required responding to. He had hoped it would have fallen into better hands, but as it had devolved on him they must take the will for the deed. Lord Skelmersdale was better known in his own Province than by the metropolitan Masons. As for the other Grand Officers, all of those who had been appointed had in their time done good suit and service for the Craft. He was here as the guest of Bro. Moody, and he felt himself in a peculiar position. He might liken himself to Temple Bar. He, like that venerable relic, was getting in the downhill of life. Temple Bar had for many years divided the Great City from the City of Westminster. Temple Bar would now very shortly be entirely removed; he was supported left and right by the Great City and the City of Westminster. Our worthy brother then completed his happy illustration by saying that it was only for him to step aside and the two cities were in still closer relation. To propose the health of the W.M. fell to the lot of Bro. Seex, who performed his task in a most graceful manner, and Bro. Stanway briefly acknowledged the compliment. The next toast was the health of the Visitors, to which Bros. White, Swallow, Baker, and others replied. The remaining toasts comprised the W.M. elect of The Great City Lodge, the Past Masters, Prosperity to The Great City Lodge, the Officers, the Masonic Charities, &c. The proceedings were enlivened by an excellent selection of music, which was admirably rendered by Bro. Thornton, Messrs. T. Harper, W. A. Frost, and Prestridge. Mr. T. Harper's performances on the trumpet were received with the warmest enthusiasm, and indeed the whole entertainment reflected the utmost credit on Bros. H. Frost 1426 and H. Bertram 1426, under whose direction it was given.

#### Marquess of Ripon Lodge of Instruction, No. 1489.

—At the Pembury Tavern, Amhurst-road, Hackney, 11th March. Present—Bros. Aspinall W.M., E. Bishop S.W., Mann J.W., Goddard S.D., McDowell J.D., Garrod I.G., Stephens P.M. Preceptor, Slaughter Secretary; also Bros. Jacob, F. Badkin, Blunt, Greenwood, Grist, Lockott, &c. After the usual preliminary business, the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Jacob being candidate. The Lodge was then opened to the third degree, and the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of raising, in a very able manner, Bro. Jacob as candidate. The Lodge was then closed in the third and second degrees. Bro. Past Master Stephens gave the brethren a report of the resolutions of the Grand Lodge of England with regard to the admission as visitors or otherwise of members of the Grand Orient of France. After which the Lodge was closed in ancient form, and adjourned to Monday, the 18th, at 7.30.

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

—At the Havelock Tavern, Dalston, on Wednesday evening, 13th inst. Present—Bros. Bonner W.M., H. Meyer S.W., McMillan J.W., Slaughter S.D., A. Ferrar J.D., Poole I.G., G. Ferrar Treas., E. Dietrich Sec., W. Fieldwick Preceptor, and a good muster of brethren. The Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes read and confirmed. The W.M. passed Bro. R. Olley. Bro. Fieldwick worked the sections of the Lecture, assisted by the brethren. The Lodge resumed to the first degree, and the third and fourth sections of the Lecture were worked by Bro. Meyer, assisted by the brethren. Bro. H. Meyer will preside at the next meeting.

**Eboracum Lodge, No. 1611.**—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Monday last, at York, the W.M. Bro. T. B. Whytehead presiding, supported by Bros. T. Cooper P.M., G. Balmford P.M., Beanland P.M., and W. H. Wyatt P.M. There were several visiting brethren from Selby and other places, and a large attendance of brethren. After a successful ballot had been taken for two candidates, Bros. Walker and Joyce were respectively passed and raised. Several names were proposed as candidates and joining members, and Bro. G. Balmford P.M. Treasurer announced that all liabilities were discharged, and that the Lodge was in a very flourishing condition. The S.W. Bro. J. S. Cumberland said that Bro. A. T. B. Turner had expressed a desire to attend the forthcoming Boys' Festival with him, as second Steward for the Lodge, and that he had accordingly forwarded his name to Bro. Binckes, an announcement which was received with applause. At subsequent refreshment an excellent collection was made for the Lodge Benevolent Fund.

**The Earl of Carnarvon Lodge, No. 1642.**—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 14th inst., at the Ladbroke Hall, Ladbroke Grove-road, Notting-hill. Present—Bros. George Penn W.M., S. H. Parkhouse S.W., Smout sen. as J.W., W. Stephens P.M. Treas., W. J. Murlis Sec., E. M. Lander J.D., Smout jun. as I.G., F. Delevanté Org., C. D. Reade Chaplain. Visitors—Bros. S. Millis 157, W. W. Morgan 211, J. S. Adkins 733, E. Arrowsmith 733, T. Slaughter 804, R. Harvey 1106, H. Manchester 1201, E. Mitton 1489, W. Grist 1489. On the assembling of the brethren the W.M. lost no time in commencing the business of the evening, which was of an exceptionally heavy nature. The minutes were read, and duly received confirmation. The ceremonial portion comprised the raising of Bro. William Oldrey, the passing of Bros. Roberts, Whittlesea, Rowland and Dewynter, while there were three candidates for initiation. The ballot was taken for three aspirants for our mysteries, Messrs. Frederick Ernest Pocock, proposed by Bro. S. H. Parkhouse S.W., seconded by Bro. W. J. Murlis P.M.; Thomas Heath, proposed by Bro. S. Smout I.G., seconded by Bro. G. Penn W.M., and Caleb Manchester. The result was satisfactory, and the two former gentlemen, with Mr. Eliab G. Rogers, who had been successfully balloted for at a previous meeting, being present, received the benefit of Masonic light. The whole of the ceremonies were performed by Bro. Penn, who acquitted himself in an eminently satisfactory manner. All his duties were fulfilled in a way that evinced he had spared no pains to master every detail pertaining to the position he occupies. Bros.

C. E. Woodward P.M. 1637, John Empson 140, R. and Reid 45, were elected joining members. After routine business, the names of two gentlemen were handed in as candidates for initiation at the next meeting, and the Lodge was closed. A capital repast was served by Bro. Linscott, to which justice was done. On the removal of the cloth, the W.M. introduced the several toasts, with most commendable brevity. After that of Her Majesty, the National Anthem was sung, the solos being entrusted to Bro. Pushman. In speaking to the toast of the M.W. the G.M. Bro Penn referred to the energy displayed by the Prince of Wales in the many duties that devolved on him; and remarked that His Royal Highness seemed never tired if it was made apparent to him that he could advance the cause of charity. This was evidenced by his taking the chair on Wednesday last at a meeting of the Governors of Wellington College, and on the same evening presiding at the anniversary dinner of the National Orphan Home at Willis's Rooms. The toast was then honoured, and Bro. Adkins favoured the company with "God Bless the Prince of Wales." The next toast was one that had an especial interest to the members—it was the health of the Pro Grand Master, whose honoured name the Lodge had received permission to bear. Bro. Penn said he looked forward to an early day when the Pro G.M. would be present, and he took the opportunity of announcing the fact that the Earl had signified his compliance with the request that had been made for him to take the chair at the approaching Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. This announcement was received with great applause, and the brethren then did full justice to the toast. Bro. Arthur Thomas here gave a most forcible rendering of a new patriotic song,—“Victoria,” by Smart, which we venture to predict will be heard again and again at our festive gatherings. After the Deputy Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers had been given, the Rev. Bro. P.M. Holden gave a recitation, illustrating an incident that lately occurred in reference to the Russo-Turkish war, and then on Bro. Murlis devolved the task of proposing the health of the W. Master. Bro. Penn acknowledged the compliment, and proposed the health of the Initiates, to which each responded. Bro. Rogers had for some considerable time wished to join the Order, and the Earl of Carnarvon Lodge in particular, as he had many esteemed friends who were associated with it. He hoped he might be considered a welcome addition to their ranks. Bro. Rogers hoped the time might come when, as the W.M. had suggested, the members admitted that night would fill the position he so ably occupied. To the toast of the Visitors felicitous replies were made by Bro. Millis and others. Bros. Woodward and Empson acknowledged the compliment paid them in being toasted as joining members. In replying for the Past Masters, Bro. Stephens recounted the glorious success that had attended the exertions of the Ball Committee, and announced the substantial amount they had been able to hand over to Bro. Stephens for his list as Steward for the Girls' School; at the same time Bro. Murlis reminded the W.M. he had a “nest egg” towards his list next year. Bro. Stephens replied for the Charities, and urged the claims of the Institutions; he specially, earnestly, and we trust to himself satisfactorily, pleaded the cause of the Girls' School, and met with a spirited response from the members. The remaining toasts comprised the Officers, the P.M.'s of other Lodges, &c., &c., and when the W.M. summoned the Tyler, the brethren agreed it was time they began to study the exigencies of the train service. The evening's entertainment was well sustained by Bros. Pushman, Arthur Thomas, the musical and humorous Delavanté, Henson, Smout, &c. Bro. Morgan gave the Wreck of the Hesperus, and Rev. Bro. Holden, in addition to the reading we have already announced, gave the Charge of the Light Brigade.

#### Earl of Carnarvon Lodge of Instruction, No. 1642.—

At the Mitre Hotel, Goulborne-road, Notting-hill, on Friday, 8th March. Bros. Penn W.M., Parkhouse S.W., Smout sen. J.W., Smout jun. S.D., Lander J.D., Adkins I.G.; Savage P.M., Murlis P.M.; Woodmason, Webster, Oldrey, Crabb, Hutton, Gabb, Newland, H. Dehane, Spiegel, Buckland, Poulter, and Lyons. This being the so-called “Officers' night,” all the Officers from the mother Lodge attended. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremonies—of initiation, Bro. Oldrey being the candidate; of passing, and afterwards raising, Bro. Crabb being candidate. All three degrees were worked in the W.M.'s usual style, and it was a pleasure to see how the Officers discharged their duties. Before closing the Lodge, Bro. Murlis rose to announce the result of the Earl of Carnarvon Lodge Ball. He informed the brethren that, after paying all expenses, they had handed over to Bro. Stephens, the Steward for the Girls' Institution, the sum of £21, and there was still a balance in hand, to be carried forward to the next year's ball. This announcement was received with cheers.

#### Wolsey Lodge, No. 1656, Middlesex.—

—What would have been an installation meeting of this Lodge was held, on the 4th inst., at the White Hart Hotel, Hampton Wick. Owing, however, to the illness of Bro. B. Sharp S.W. and W.M. elect, it was impossible to proceed with the ceremony. The regret at the cause of Bro. Sharp's absence was universal, and great sympathy was manifested towards him. Bro. W. Hammond W.M. presided, and was supported by Bro. J. W. Baldwin P.M. and P.A.G.P. who acted as S.W., Bro. J. Bond J.W., Bro. Rev. F. J. C. de Crespigny Chaplain, Bro. A. Nuthall Treasurer, Bro. T. W. Ockenden Secretary, Bro. B. R. Aston S.D., Bro. J. Hurst J.D., and Bro. T. C. Walls I.G. There were also present Bros. A. Marvin, T. A. E. Scott, C. Richer, J. Featherstone, C. R. Fitt, R. W. Forge, R. Masters, G. Malcolm, J. Piller, J. H. Duffell, A. Elphick, A. T. Aylen, C. Worthington, A. Darling, A. Humphris, F. L. Chandler, A. Abbett, A. Jobbins, F. Turner, W. Symons White, members; and Bros. F. Buckland, W. W. Morgan, Tinsley, Tagg, and one or two others. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Lodge accounts showed a favourable result, all liabilities having been satisfied, and a balance of £33 11s 6d re.

maining in hand. The Report of the Audit Committee was adopted. Bro. Robert Charles Eyres, of Loyalty Lodge, No. 358, Bermuda, was balloted for as a joining member and declared elected. On the proposition, duly seconded, of Bro. W. Hammond, the sum of thirteen guineas was voted from the Lodge funds, namely:—Three guineas towards the "Burdett Testimonial Fund," and ten guineas for the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, to be placed on the list of the Steward representing the Lodge at the next Festival. Notice of motion was given by Bro. Walls, that in Bye-law 10 the word "ten" be substituted for "five." This bye-law refers to the presentation of a P.M.'s jewel to the retiring W.M. We think this is an unwise proceeding, especially in a young Lodge like this, as it evinces a tendency to cultivate the tinsel rather than the precepts of the Craft. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to a very excellent banquet, which had the further advantage of being admirably served. On the removal of the cloth the customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were given, with a few appropriate remarks in each case. In proposing that of Col. Burdett, the G.M. of the Province, the chairman regretted the absence, and expressed his belief that Col. Burdett was in every way worthy of the position he held in the province, and that he was respected by all the brethren, not only for his ability, but for the courtesy he invariably extended towards them, as well as for the deep interest he took in everything connected with Freemasonry. To the toast of Bro. Little D.P.G.M. and the other P.G. Officers, Bro. Rev. de Crespiigny P.P.G.C., Bro. Baldwin P.A.G.P., and Bro. T. C. Walls responded, after which the health of the W.M. was proposed by the reverend brother just named, in highly complimentary terms. The W.M., in acknowledging it, referred to the very flourishing condition of the Lodge, as chiefly evidenced by the fact that there had been during his year of office, which was also the first year since the Constitution of the Lodge, as many as twenty-three gentlemen initiated in it. He also offered a little sound advice to young members as to the principles by which as Masons they should be actuated. To the toast of the Visitors, those present in that capacity returned thanks individually. In the course of the evening several brethren contributed to the pleasure of the meeting, among them being Bro. Walls, who sang, very effectively, "God Bless the Prince of Wales," and other songs, and Bro. Morgan, who recited the Fall of Wolsey, from Shakspeare's *Henry VIII.*, this, we presume, being by way of contrast to the rising fortunes of the Wolsey Lodge.

**Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement.**—On Tuesday last, there were present, at the Jamaica Coffee House, Change-alley, Cornhill, Comps. J. B. Sorrell Z., Thos. Cull H., P. Wagner J., J. Boyd Treas., Thos. W. White S.E., G. L. Walker S.N., F. Brown P.S., N. Moss, J. Constable, S. H. P. Moore, G. Darcy, R. E. K. Wilkinson, J. Pinder, G. J. Rowe, H. J. Gabb, T. W. Oekendeu. Formalities complied with, the ceremony was rehearsed, Comp. Moss candidate. Comps. Wilkinson and Gabb were elected members.

### WHY CANNOT WOMEN BE MASONS.

AT the late anniversary celebration of the Masons at Austin, Nev., the orator of the day thus discussed the question, "Why cannot Women be Masons?" It has the merit of novelty, at least. The speaker said:—

Woman sometimes complains that she is not permitted to enter our Lodges and work with the Craft in their labors, and learn all there is to learn in the institution. We learn that before the G.A.O.T.U. had finished his work, he was in some doubt about creating Eve. The creation of every living and creeping thing had been accomplished, and the G.A.O.T.U. had made Adam (who was the first Mason) and created for him the finest Lodge in the world, and called it Paradise No. 1. He then called all the beasts of the field and all the fowls of the air to pass before Adam for him to name them, which was a piece of work he had to do alone, so that no confusion might thereafter arise from Eve, who he knew would make trouble if she was allowed to participate if he created her beforehand.

Adam being very much fatigued with the labors of his task, fell asleep, and when he awoke he found Eve in the Lodge with him.

Adam, being Senior Warden, placed Eve as the pillar of beauty in the South, and they received their instructions from the Grand Master in the East, which, when finished, she immediately called the Craft from labour to refreshment. Instead of attending to the duties of her office as she ought, she left her station, violating her obligations, and let in an expelled Mason who had no business there, and went round with him, leaving Adam to look after the jewels. The fellow had been expelled from the Grand Lodge, with several others, some time before; but hearing the footsteps of the Grand Master, he suddenly took his leave, telling Eve to make aprons, as she and Adam were not in proper regalia. She went and told Adam, and when the Grand Master returned to the Lodge he found that his jewel had been stolen.

He called for the Senior and Junior Wardens, who had neglected to guard the door, and found them absent. After searching for some time, he came to where they were hid, and demanded of Adam what he was doing there, instead of occupying his official position. Adam replied that he was waiting for Eve to call the Craft from refreshment to labour again, and that the Craft was not properly clothed, which they were making provision for. Turning to Eve, he asked her what she had to offer in excuse for her unofficial and unmasonic conduct. She replied that a fellow, passing himself off as a Grand Lecturer, had been giving her instructions, and she thought it would be no harm to learn them. The Grand Master then asked what had become of his gavel; she said she didn't know, unless the fellow had taken it away.

Finding that Eve was no longer trustworthy, and that she had

caused Adam to neglect his duty, and let in one whom he had expelled, the Grand Master had closed the Lodge, and turning them out, set a faithful Tyler to guard the door with a flaming sword. Adam, repenting his folly, went to work like a man and a good Mason, in order to get reinstated again. Not so with Eve; she got angry about it, and commenced raising Cain. Adam, on account of his reformation, was permitted to establish Lodges, and work in the lower degrees, and while Eve was allowed to join him in the works of charity outside, she was never again to be admitted to assist in the regular work of the Craft. Hence the reason why a woman cannot become a Mason.—*New Zealand Paper.*

### THE THEATRES, &c.

**HAYMARKET.**—At 7.30, FARCE. At 8.15, THE HUNCHBACK. On Wednesday, THE LADY OF LYONS.

**ADELPHI.**—CARL ROSA OPERA COMPANY.

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**OLYMPIC.**—At 7.0, THE LITTLE VIXENS. At 7.45, MONEY.

**STRAND.**—At 7, OVER THE WAY. At 7.30, FAMILY TIES. At 9.30, DORA AND DIPLUNACY.

**GAIETY.**—At 7.30, THE GRASSHOPPER. At 9.15, FAUST.

**GLOBE.**—At 7.0, MY WIFE'S OUT. At 7.45, A FOOL AND HIS MONEY and ICI ON PARLE FRANCAIS.

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

**PRINCE OF WALES'S.**—At 8.0, DIPLOMACY.

**LYCEUM.**—At 7, TURNING THE TABLES. At 7.45, LOUIS XI.

**OPERA COMIQUE.**—At 8, THE SPECTRE KNIGHT, THE SORCERER, &c.

**COURT.**—NEW MEN AND OLD ACRES, &c.

**CRITERION.**—At 7.30, THE PORTER'S KNOT. At 8.15, PINK DOMINOES.

**ST. JAMES'S.**—At 8, THE SCAR ON THE WRIST.

**DUKE'S.**—At 7.30, FARCE, and MAMMON.

**FOLLY.**—LES CLOCHES DE CORNEVILLE, &c.

**ROYALTY.**—At 7.30, CAT AND DOG and LA BELLE HELENE.

**QUEEN'S.**—At 7.30, COMEDIETTA. At 8.15, THE MERCHANT OF VENICE, &c.

**ALHAMBRA.**—At 7.20, FARCE, and LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT.

**PHILHARMONIC.**—At 7.30, SARAH'S YOUNG MAN. At 8, THE GIRARDS. At 8.30, GENEVIEVE DE BRABANT. Last night.

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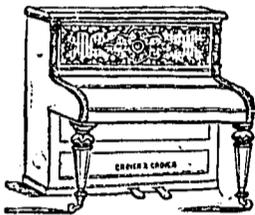
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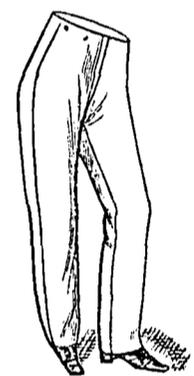
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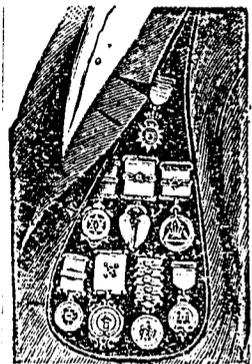
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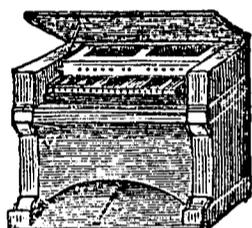
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