

THE

Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND.

(Continued from page 178.)

THE next event of any moment reveals to us his lordship, the Prov. G. Master, in a somewhat awkward position. In September 1833, the Grand Master H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex being on a visit to Colonel Wildman, Prov. G.M. of Notts, graciously visited the Lodges at Nottingham, and to this end a Grand Lodge was convened, which was numerously attended by brethren from the adjoining Provinces, among them being Lord Rancliffe, Sir F. G. Fowke, and several members of St. John's Lodge, Leicester. The Grand Master having intimated a desire that the Officers of the different Prov. G. Lodges in attendance should be presented, Lord Rancliffe found himself in a position of great perplexity. He was G. Master of his Province; but, alas! he had no Prov. G. Lodge, and consequently no Prov. G. Officers to present. The state of things was ludicrous, if not alarming, but the difficulty was overcome. His lordship withdrew to an ante-room, and then and there constituted Sir F. G. Fowke his Deputy, and the other Leicester brethren officers of his Prov. G. Lodge; and as such they were presented to His Royal Highness. It will be difficult to parallel an emergency meeting held under similar circumstances. However, the event served to rouse Lord Rancliffe to a sense of duty. On the 29th October the Prov. G. Lodge met at Leicester, and for the first time, after having held the office of P.G.M. for twenty-one years, did his lordship attend a Masonic Lodge in his Province, being installed in office, as well as Sir F. G. Fowke as D.P.G.M., by Bro. Lawrence Thompson. The Officers, too, were appointed and invested. The same evening his Lordship was present at a meeting of the St. John's Lodge, and was afterwards proposed and elected one of its members. Henceforth there are regular minutes of the proceedings of the Prov. G. Lodge, Bro. William Cooke, County Treasurer, having been appointed to P.G. Secretaryship, an office he continued to fill till 1854. However, the irregularities which had prevailed so long in the Province did not disappear immediately. Lord Rancliffe appears not to have presided as W.M. of a Lodge, yet in 1834 he was, though not without a protest from a minority of the members, elected W.M. of the St. John's Lodge, and without having previously served as a Warden. He was installed in the March following, that being the only occasion on which he attended; but notwithstanding this, at the end of his year of office, he received a vote of thanks "for his condescension in serving the office." At this time there were only two Lodges in the Province, namely—the St. John's Lodge, Leicester, and the Knights of Malta Lodge, Hinckley. But towards the end of 1834 a warrant was granted for the formation of the Rancliffe Lodge, No. 608, at Loughborough. It met for the first time under dispensation on 9th December, and was consecrated on the 13th March 1835, a Prov. G. Lodge, at which Lord Rancliffe presided being convened for the purpose, Bros. Burckhardt and Lawrence Thompson of London taking part in the ceremonies of consecration, and the installation of Bro. James Elverson as first W.M. On the day of installation a number of candidates were initiated. The career of the Rancliffe was not a prosperous one, and in 1848 it passed away. On 30th May 1836 the Ivanhoe Lodge, No. 631, at Ashby de la Zouch, was consecrated, and Bro. Edward Mammatt was installed as first W.M., Bro. Elverson being deputed to fulfil these duties

by Lord Rancliffe, and being assisted by Bros. W. M. Thistleton, Treasurer of the Prince of Wales Lodge, and Burke, P.M. No. 37, who attended from London for the purpose. On this occasion, four candidates were balloted for and approved, and regularly initiated under a dispensation granted by Bro. Elverson in the name of the Prov. G. Master. This Lodge, however, enjoyed but a brief career, and expired in 1841. The W.M., of whom it is recorded that "although totally blind from five years of age," he "was an excellent working Mason," was the heart and soul of the Lodge. He, indeed, was W.M. for the first two years, and during the last year of the Lodge's existence, and appears, moreover, to have provided most of the funds towards its establishment. Eighteen gentlemen were initiated in the Ivanhoe, seven brethren joined it, and four were elected honorary members. The fee for initiation was five guineas, as a joining member two guineas, the latter being likewise the amount of the annual subscription, and the fee payable for a visitor introduced with the approbation of the W.M. to the banquet was seven shillings and sixpence. We next note that the P.G.M. gave directions that a Prov. G. Lodge should be held in Leicester on the 12th August 1836, for the purpose of presenting an address of congratulation to His Royal Highness the Grand Master, on the happy circumstance of his being restored to sight. His Lordship, however, being absent through indisposition, and the D.P.G.M. being in Switzerland, no P.G. Lodge was held, to the regret and disappointment of the brethren assembled. On 26th September, 1838 a Prov. G. Lodge was held at Leicester under the presidency of Sir F. G. Fowke Dep. P.G.M., Lord Rancliffe being again absent through indisposition. On this occasion, Bro. Thos. Moxon was installed W.M. of St. John's Lodge, Leicester, and Bro. Thos. Brooke Miller W.M. of the Rancliffe Lodge. At this time we learn from Bro. Kelly that Freemasonry in Leicester was at a very low ebb indeed, owing to disputes and other causes, and the attendance at the Lodge was occasionally so limited that the Tyler had to be in the Lodge in order that it might be opened, while at other times no Lodge could be formed. However, the services of Sir F. G. Fowke were called into requisition, and thenceforward, but by a very gradual process, these difficulties were smoothed away. We may judge of this by the fact, as recorded by the author of this history, that, in the absence of Sir F. G. Fowke, the services of Bro. Lawrence Thompson were engaged by the Lodge to instal a W. Master, there being no resident brother capable of performing the ceremony of installation. At a Prov. G. Lodge held at Leicester on 11th July 1842, at which Sir F. G. Fowke, in the customary absence of the Prov. G. Master, presided, it was unanimously resolved to establish a Charitable Fund for the Province, and the Prov. G. Officers were appointed a Committee to carry out the resolution. On 28th November of the same year Bro. Masson, Governor of the County Gaol, and Prov. G. Treasurer, was buried with Masonic ceremonial at Knighton churchyard, the vicar of Evington, where the deceased had expressed a wish to be interred, having withdrawn his sanction for the ceremony to be performed. Sir F. G. Fowke D.P.G.M. conducted the ceremony, which, by the rarity of its occurrence, attracted a multitude of spectators, including several clergymen. About this time, also, steps were taken to establish a company for the erection of a Masonic Hall in Leicester, but the scheme did not prosper. At a Prov. G. Lodge held on 27th December, a scale of fees of honour for officers in the P.G.L. was for the first time adopted, this

being in addition to the payments from Lodges previously agreed to be levied, in order to provide collars and jewels, which up to this period the Province had been without. On the 24th July 1844 a Prov. G. Lodge was held at Loughborough, the time and place having been fixed in order to meet the convenience of Lord Rancliffe, but his Lordship did not arrive till the business of the day was over, though he was in ample time to preside at the banquet. Then, in his absence, and as the D.P.G.M. was compelled to leave immediately after the Lodge had been opened, the chair was taken by Bro. W. Kelly, Prov. J.G. Warden, and by him Bro. W. Grimes Palmer, M.R.C.S., who, we are told, is believed to be its only surviving member, was installed as W. Master of the now defunct Rancliffe Lodge, there being no other member thereof present. At this time, indeed, Freemasonry was virtually confined to the St. John's Lodge. At this very meeting of the P.G.L. a letter from Bro. Edward Mammatt was read, to the effect that the members of the Ivanhoe Lodge were all dispersed, and that there was not the slightest chance of the Lodge being revived. Under these circumstances, it was ordered that the Warrant should be returned if the Lodge was not re-opened in six months. As regards the Rancliffe, since the beginning of 1839 there had been no meeting at which seven members were present, the numbers being usually three, four, or five, while at Hinckley there had been no initiation or joining for four years. Matters, however, improved in a short time. On the 16th March 1846, a Warrant was granted to Bro. Kelly, Earl Howe, and other brethren, to form a second Lodge at Leicester, and on the 11th May 1846, a Prov. G. Lodge was held in the Exchange, for the purpose of consecrating it by the style and title of the John of Gaunt Lodge. This ceremony, as well as that of installing Bro. Kelly as the first W.M., was performed by Sir F. G. Fowke, in the absence of Lord Rancliffe, Bro. Lawrence Thompson and the Rev. T. Burnaby giving him the benefit of their assistance. It is noted as probably a circumstance which is unique in the annals of Freemasonry, that the Warrant which was granted to, among other brethren, Earl Howe, bears the signature of that nobleman in his capacity as D.G. Master. The New Lodge prospered amazingly, there being no less than twenty-six initiations during the first year, and two brethren joined it. The completion of the first year was accordingly celebrated on the 4th February 1847, by a grand Masonic Ball, at which some two hundred ladies and gentlemen were present, the expenses being defrayed by the members of the St. John's and John of Gaunt Lodges. On the 30th August of the same year the Prov. Grand Lodge met at the Bell, Leicester, the chair being occupied by Bro. Lawrence Thompson, of London, P.G.D., in the unavoidable absence of the D.P.G.M., Lord Rancliffe arriving in time to preside at the banquet. In fact, Lord Rancliffe's presidency over the Court appears to us to have been a complete farce. From the day in 1835, when the Rancliffe Lodge was consecrated, to the day of his death in 1851, his Lordship was never once present in P.G. Lodge, and not only this, but his liberality must have been on a par with his regularity, if we may judge from the fact that from 1833 to 1848 he never paid his subscriptions to St. John's Lodge, and then his arrears were wiped off the Lodge books on the ground that he was a member by virtue of his office. The wonder is, that, under these circumstances, Freemasonry got on as well as it did. Happily there were a few choice spirits, such as Sir F. G. Fowke, Earl Howe, and Bro. W. Kelly, who worked under great discouragement with a will, and with a success they well deserved; and now we rejoice to say the Province, though by no means a large one, holds an honoured place in the ranks of our English Craft. One other event which deserves notice happened during the Mastership of Lord Rancliffe. Bro. Henry Harding, Master of the John of Gaunt Lodge, having, after a brief illness, died of typhus fever, caught in the discharge of his duty as house surgeon in the Leicester Infirmary, was, on the 1st December 1848, buried with Masonic ceremonies, a Prov. Grand Lodge, under the presidency of Bro. Pettifor P.G.S.W. as Prov. Grand Master. A resolution of condolence was also passed, but no minutes of the Proceedings were entered in Prov. Grand Lodge Books, and the only record of the event is to be found in the books of the John of Gaunt Lodge.

(To be continued.)

THE LANDMARKS OF FREEMASONRY.

An Address delivered to the Members of the Eboracum Lodge of Freemasons, No. 1611, York, 27th February 1878, by Bro. T. B. WHYTEHEAD, W.M.

BRETHREN,—There can be few members of our ancient and venerable Order, however young (in a Masonic sense), who have not heard mention made of the *Landmarks of Freemasonry*. Probably most of us are aware that these so-called "Landmarks" are institutions of some importance, but I shall not be very much in error in supposing that few present this evening could exactly define these same Landmarks, and enumerate them in detail. I hope you will therefore bear with me for a few minutes whilst I endeavour to lay before you in a summarised form the results of the labours of some of our great Masonic Teachers on this point.

It seems scarcely necessary for me to define the meaning of the term "Landmark." In ancient times (as in new or thinly populated countries at the present day) stones or cairns were placed in various prominent positions, and served in lieu of fences to mark the boundaries of lands. In the volume of the Sacred Law mention is repeatedly made of Landmarks of this description, and a curse is invoked on him that removeth his neighbour's landmark. Now, in Freemasonry, one of the first items of instruction that falls upon the ears of the newly enlightened candidate is that the compasses are to keep us within due bounds with all mankind, and especially with our brethren in Freemasonry. But how are we to use the compasses in this metaphorical sense, unless we are in possession of the knowledge of our boundaries and their extent, or, in other words, with our ancient Landmarks?

It is only within the last few years that these Landmarks have been categorically laid down, although they have existed from time immemorial in the Constitutions and practical working of the Order. Several learned Masonic Students set to work a few years since to analyse the Old Charges and Constitutions, and from this process they obtained a very valuable result, which I am now about to place before you. Most investigators seem to be pretty well agreed that the Landmarks of the Order may be all included under the following twenty-five heads:—

1. *The methods of recognition.* You may easily see how important a point is this, for if we were in the least degree to alter these methods what dire confusion must inevitably ensue. Genuine brethren would fail to make themselves known, whilst the uncertainty prevailing would expose the sanctity of our Lodges to the intrusion of the cowan and the profane.

2. *The division of Craft Masonry into Three Degrees, including the Holy Royal Arch.* The Royal Arch, though frequently spoken of as a separate degree, is really no such thing, but is the complement of the Master's or Third Degree. As Lord Zetland said, in my hearing, when he was exalted:—No one could fairly call himself a thorough Mason until he had taken the Royal Arch. Originally it doubtless formed part of the Master's Degree, but was separated from it and its ceremonies extended by brethren who desired to multiply degrees. In 1813, the Grand Lodge of England declared it to be part and parcel of the Third Degree, though separately worked. This Landmark is of the last importance in days when there is a great revival of long-forgotten degrees, and when there is a disposition to import them into Craft Masonry.

3. *The Legend of the Third Degree*—that is to say the death and subsequent restoration of the leader of the Order, represented by the candidate or aspirant. It may be, and is, a matter for dispute, and a most interesting field for investigation it affords, as to the far remote origin of our ceremonies, but wherever we seek them, whether amongst the ancient Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, the Assyrians, the Romans, the Druids, the Essenes, the Druses, even the early Christians themselves, we still find the germ of the whole thing to be the death and resurrection of the founder. Had I time even to glance at the ceremonies of the various secret societies which existed amongst all nations even in the most remote antiquity, you would be surprised, if you are not already aware of the facts, with the very close resemblance existing between ourselves and all of them; in point of fact, one might almost say that the difference is in little more than nomenclature and detail.

4. *The Government of the Fraternity by a G.M. elected from the Body of the Craft.* This Landmark represents a very important principle, that of self-government. From time immemorial there have been Grand Masters; in fact, long before there was any Grand Lodge, this being quite a modern institution. Although Masons met both in York and London before the revival, no one ever heard of a Grand Lodge until 1717, and until after one was formed in London there is no authentic record of the existence of one at York; of none, at least, that arrogated to itself any jurisdiction over other Lodges.

5. *The G.M.'s prerogative to preside over any assemblage of Masons at any time or place.* In other words, the G.M. represents in himself the entire government of the Order, and just as the W.M. of a private Lodge is absolute and is accountable to none save the Grand Master (who is represented in provinces and districts by the P.G.M. or D.G.M.), so the G.M. is absolute in the Craft, and is only accountable to the G.M.O.T.U.

6. *The prerogative of the G.M. to grant Dispensations* is of the last importance as a Landmark, since it existed long before the Constitutions of the Order in England enacted that a month should elapse between the conferring of the several degrees. The G.M. can, if he chooses, dispense with this law, and allow a candidate to be initiated, passed, and raised, all at the same time if he so pleases.

7. The Seventh Landmark is somewhat of the same nature. It is the prerogative of the G.M. to give dispensations for opening and holding Lodges; in other words, he may grant to a sufficient number of Masons, the right of meeting at a certain place and conferring degrees upon certain individuals. This prerogative, like the next one, has very seldom been exercised,—never, probably, save in the case of the introduction into the Order of a Royal candidate.

8. *The prerogative of the G.M. to make Masons at sight* is, like the last, an undoubted Landmark. The function has scarcely ever been exercised, and never within modern times. The last time was in 1787, when the Prince of Wales was made a Mason by the Duke of Cumberland. By some writers this Landmark has been questioned, but there can be no doubt about its existence, and consequently of its importance.

9. *The necessity for Masons to congregate in Lodges.* The most Ancient Charges laid it down very distinctly that the brethren should meet from time to time in "Lodges." In old days there were no warranted numbered Lodges, as in these times, and a sufficient number of Masons meeting anywhere held a Lodge and then dispersed. The modern system of Warrants is of course a necessity, and, although not an ancient Landmark, is stringently enforced for the welfare of the Order.

10. *The Government of a Lodge by a Master and Wardens* is an ancient Landmark, and is frequently referred to in the Old Charges and Regulations.

11. *The necessity for the proper tiling of every Lodge* is also a very old Landmark. In the old MSS. mention is often made of the necessity for keeping off all "cowans," the punishment for whom when caught listening was to make them stand under the eaves until the droppings from the tiles running down their necks ran into their shoes. We are very careful in guarding the entrances to our modern Lodges, as the first questions at opening and closing clearly prove.

12. *The right of every Mason to be represented in Grand Lodge by the Master and Wardens of his Lodge* is a most important Landmark. In olden times every Mason was entitled to be present at every G.L. Communication. Since the Craft has become so numerous that has become impossible, and now he is represented by his Master and Wardens; but he has the right to instruct his representatives as to any matter in which he is personally interested.

13. *The right of every Mason to appeal to Grand Lodge.* This is a very notable Landmark, since it ensures to every brother strict justice. As I have said before, the W.M. of a Lodge is an absolute sovereign, and his decision is final, in all cases, in his Lodge. No member of a Lodge may resist or object to the Master's decision; but if any Brother considers such decision illegal or unjust, or that he himself is aggrieved by it, he has it in his power to appeal against it to Grand Lodge, or in other words to the Grand Master, to whom, or to his representative, the W.M. is alone accountable.

14. *The right of every Mason to visit and sit in every regular Lodge* is a great Landmark. On this subject you have often heard my expressed opinions. I am quite sure that amongst country Lodges in England there is not half enough visiting, and brethren are apt to get into a selfish groove and forget that they are not a convivial club, but merely a fraction, a tiny segment, of a huge organisation extending itself over the whole world. The working of the ceremonies moreover is apt to deteriorate where brethren have no opportunities of seeing the inside of any Lodge save their own. I have met more than one brother in York who laboured under the delusion that only one visit in the year could legally be paid to a strange Lodge, but this is a great error. So long as a brother is an actual subscribing member of any Lodge of Freemasons he may visit and sit in any other Lodge as often as he pleases and nothing can deprive him of this right save his own misconduct or ceasing to subscribe to any Lodge at all. Lodges are merely convenient divisions of the Fraternity, and only form portions of one great whole, so that if a brother is a member of one Lodge, he is a member of the whole Masonic Body, nor does membership of any particular Lodge really give any brother superiority over a brother of any other Lodge. On this point I feel inclined to enlarge, because I have very frequently noticed a disposition amongst some brethren to assert their superiority as being members of an older or wealthier Lodge. Now this is a complete delusion that could only exist in the mind of a brother who was ignorant of the first principles of Freemasonry. In case of a Masonic procession, &c., the older Lodges have precedence of the younger, but this has no significance, and is merely a convenient arrangement to preserve necessary order.

15. *The examination of unknown Visitors* is a Landmark which should be very strictly maintained, and unless a visitor can be properly vouched for by some known brother present, he should under no circumstances be admitted into a Lodge without strict examination and inspection of his credentials. In these days this is if possible more important than ever, when we hear of spurious Lodges working in several parts of the country. Young brethren, moreover, cannot be too careful amongst strangers in replying to signs. Unless there be manifest necessity it is "bad form," to say the least of it, to throw out Masonic signs, and to do so at random, and for the sake of amusement, is highly reprehensible.

16. *No Lodge can interfere in the business of another Lodge, nor give degrees to brethren belonging to another Lodge.* This is manifestly necessary to preserve that harmony which should always characterise Freemasonry. At the same time it is always competent for a Lodge at the courteous request of another Lodge to confer a degree on a brother not a member. We ourselves are making a trial of this in the case of one of our brethren now in the Colonies, who we expect will receive his Third Degree, if he has not already done so, at the hands of my own mother Lodge in New Zealand.

17. *Every Freemason is amenable to the laws and regulations of the Masonic jurisdiction in which he resides, and this although he may not be a member of any Lodge.* The fact of a Mason not being a member of a Lodge does not free him, because the very circumstance of his not being affiliated is contrary to the whole spirit of Masonry, and indeed is really a Masonic offence. If a brother lives up to the spirit of his obligations he *must*, if his circumstances enable him, be a subscribing member of some Lodge.

18. The next Landmark is one of great antiquity, but is not now regarded in the same light as formerly. It is this. *That a candidate for the Order shall be perfect in all his bodily organisation.* In addition to the definition that a man must be free by birth, of mature age, sound judgment, and strict morals, it was provided that he

should be un mutilated in any way. No doubt this took its rise from the Levitical Laws, and would seem to point to a Jewish origin. In the days when our brethren were almost all operatives it is easy to see that this was a very necessary provision, but in the case of speculative Masonry it is not at all apparent why such a condition should be imposed, and therefore it is omitted. The crippled man could not, of course, work as an operative Mason, and even now a man might be so mutilated as not to be able to make our signs of recognition. Now, in this last case, I confess to a belief that it would not be right to initiate such a man. If a brother after being made becomes so disabled as to deprive him of the power of standing to order, it is his misfortune; but once a Mason always a Mason; on the other hand, to introduce a candidate who at the outset would be unable to perform the elementary part of our exoteric working would hardly be according to the spirit of our Landmarks.

19. *A belief in the existence of a God* is a most important Landmark, so important that as you are doubtless aware, the removal of this Landmark by the Grand Orient of France has caused a breach between Irish and French Masons, and will go far, if not replaced, to occasion an entire break up of the Craft in France. French Masonry has ever been in a confused condition. In that country Masonic irregularities have been more frequent and objectionable than in any other; but all the weaknesses and follies of the past have been thrown into the shade by this last mad freak. If the fundamental belief in a Supreme Architect be done away with, what guarantee have we left that a man will carry out his obligations? The entire system of Freemasonry may be briefly comprehended in the saying—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and thy neighbour as thyself." But if we do away with God, we do away with all our responsibilities. Every man will do what he deems right in his own eyes and there will be an end to true charity. For what is charity but the great law of God? And if there be no God there is no charity—no right or wrong—no such thing as morality or the reverse. We revert in short to—chaos.

20. The next Landmark may be said to be nearly linked with the last. It is *the belief in a future state.* If we believe in God we must believe in immortality. The legend of the Order and all its teachings point to this, and, indeed, our inner consciousness assures us of our responsibilities and of the certainty of a future of rewards or punishments.

21. *The Volume of the Sacred Law* is the Twenty-first Landmark of the Order. We care not what book so long as it be the Divine Code recognised by us. With us it is the Law and the Prophets as derived from the Jewish nation. In Turkish Lodges it is the Koran. In India it may be the Vedas; in Persia the Book of Shaster, and so on. But the Divine Law as promulgated must be present as part of the furniture of every Lodge, and without it the Lodge cannot be legally opened or worked.

22. *The Equality of Masons* is one of the most beautiful of our Landmarks. I often think that a well-worked and harmonious Lodge must approach in many respects to the highest ideas of Utopia. Outside we leave our troubles, our trials, our struggles after wealth, our elbowings with the (we may almost say) hostile world, and in our closely tiled Lodge we meet nothing but kind faces, friendly hands, and a mutual desire to aid and assist one another. "We meet on the level and part on the square," is a hackneyed expression, but what a depth of meaning does it convey. And do you not think that these pleasant re-unions, when we meet on the level, do much to smooth away the acerbities of life—that we go forth once more to breast the hill with renewed energy and vigour, revived, if it be only from the knowledge that we each form one of a united band of worthy fellow-labourers, who do indeed prize honour and virtue above the external advantages of rank and fortune.

23. *Our Secrecy* is another of our great Landmarks, and one on which it is scarcely necessary for me to dilate. Did Freemasonry cease to be secret it would necessarily cease to exist at all. As a secret Fraternity we have flourished through many centuries, and as such we shall continue to flourish until time shall be no more.

24. *The Symbolic Teachings of the Order* form another Landmark. The Temple of Solomon having been selected by our ancient brethren as the peg whereon to hang the moral lessons inculcated; being indeed, as it were, the symbolic cradle of the Order, it is now a Landmark, and could not be lost sight of without the loss at the same time of our *raison d'être*, and consequently of the Order itself.

25. The last and twenty-fifth Landmark is that which teaches that no change can be made in any of them. *That it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make alterations in our Landmarks* is the creed which must be professed by every ruler in the Craft before he can be entrusted with the government of a Lodge. Our laws are as those of the Medes and Persians, and must be kept sacred and intact.

And now, Brethren, I have tried to give you in a brief form, what appears to be the pith of the researches of some of the ablest of Masonic writers, Preston, Oliver, Hughan, Findel, Fort, Mackay, Mackenzie, and others. I hope that what I have read will convey to the younger brethren something new. I am myself, comparatively speaking, but a young Mason, nevertheless I have never forgotten that the Charges tell us that "each day we are called upon to make some progress in Masonic knowledge." I fear that too often little attention is paid to the *intelligent* side of Masonry, but I trust such a charge will never be brought against this Lodge. The realities of Masonry are, I assure you, not to be discovered in the mere ritual of the three degrees. The Lodge workings are only the outer shell or elemental part of Masonic study, and although a thorough acquaintance with them at the outset is indispensable to every brother who hopes to do credit to himself and to Masonry, I hope you will never make the tremendous error of imagining that a clever Masonic ritualist is necessarily a good Mason. An old Masonic writer of the last century, William Hutchison, of Barnard Castle, says: "You are well convinced that there are some amongst us who take the shadow for the substance, who are acquainted with the ceremonies, but catch

not the spirit of the profession." Brethren, let us take care that this shall never be said of any of us, but let us, whilst not neglecting our duty as Masons, prove to the world at large and to our brethren that our professed morality and virtue is indeed a reality, and that we are worthy representatives of those of whom King Solomon said, "O! worthy Masons!"

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS. CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATION.

THE results of the last Cambridge Local Examination are now published, and we learn from the class list that the Masonic School sent up 25 candidates (2 Seniors and 23 Juniors), of whom 24 passed the examination.

Out of the 22 Juniors who succeeded, 19 gained honours and 3 satisfied the Examiners. Only 1 failed out of the 25.

SENIORS.		12. Hazeland, J. I.
1. Parker, W. R.		13. Heaviside, P. K. B.
2. Green, C. D.		14. Moon, J. H.
		15. Pinson, H. E. K.
JUNIORS.		
Honours First Class.		Third Class Honours.
3. Sage, E. T. } Distinguished		16. Sage, C.
4. Bowler, H. } in Latin.		17. Sargent, S. H.
5. Bryant, A. A.		18. Sawtell, W. E.
6. Widdowson, G. S.		19. Sparkes, W. S.
7. Booser, W. A.		20. Wellington, J. H.
8. Uwins, C. M. H.		21. Whyatt, J. G.
Second Class Honours.		Satisfied the Examiners.
9. Davenport, W.		22. Ralling, E. L.
10. Batty, J. E.		23. Dancy, W. B.
11. Grimes, A. E.		24. Tayler, H. N.

THE FIFTEEN SECTIONS

Will be worked as under.

On Wednesday evening, 27th March, at the Burdett Coutts Lodge of Instruction, Salmon and Ball, Bethnal Green-road, at half-past 6 o'clock precisely. Bro. G. Ward Verry W.M., Bro. J. E. Ives S.W., Bro. W. H. Myers J.W., and Bro. J. J. Berry I.P.M. FIRST LECTURE—Bros. M. Christian, W. J. Rawley, T. F. Harvey, J. J. Ashburner, C. K. Killick, C. H. Webb, and W. Musto. SECOND LECTURE—Bros. C. Lorkin, W. H. Myers, J. J. Berry, W. Hogg, and S. C. Hewlett. THIRD LECTURE—Bros. W. H. Wallington, T. J. Maidwell, and J. E. Ives. This Lodge of Instruction meets every Wednesday, at half-past eight o'clock.

On Friday evening, 29th March, at the Doric Lodge of Instruction, No. 933, The Duke's Head Tavern, 79 Whitechapel-road, by the undermentioned brethren of the William Preston Lodge of Instruction, at 7 o'clock precisely, when the chair will be taken by Bro. T. J. Barnes M., Bros. W. H. G. Rudderforth S.W., S. Godden J.W., and S. Cundick I.P.M. FIRST LECTURE—Bros. J. March, S. Nichols, S. Godden, G. West, R. P. Tate, W. Cleghorn, and W. Hill. SECOND LECTURE—Bros. W. J. Hall, H. G. Harris, R. Evans, W. H. G. Rudderforth, and E. Adair. THIRD LECTURE—Bros. A. Braun, J. Passingham, and J. C. Hayes. The William Preston Lodge of Instruction meets every Friday evening, at 8 o'clock, at the Feathers Tavern, Upper George-street, Edgware-road. Bro. W. H. G. Rudderforth Preceptor.

On Tuesday, 2nd April, at the Royal Arthur Lodge of Instruction, No. 1360, held at The Prince's Head, York-road, Battersea, at 7 p.m. precisely. Bros. Collings W.M., Pulsford S.W., Ratcliff J.W. FIRST LECTURE—Bros. Fane, Carter, Tosey, Oliver, Alais, Hancock, and Pulsford. SECOND LECTURE—Bros. Smith, McKay, Leaper, Cole, and Davis. THIRD LECTURE—Bros. Ratcliff, Holloway, and Colegrave. Bro. A. Withers is the Secretary.

On Wednesday, 3rd April, at the Jordan Lodge of Instruction, No. 201, Devonshire Arms, Portland-place.

On Good Friday evening, the 19th proximo, at St. Luke's Lodge of Instruction, White Hart Tavern, King's-road, Chelsea. Bro. P.M. Ardin, Zetland 511, will take the chair at 6.30 p.m. Brethren are invited to attend. The names of any one wishing to assist will be thankfully received by the Hon. Sec.

The installation ceremony will be worked by Bro. Joseph Wright, on Tuesday next, the 26th inst., at the Royal Arthur Lodge of Instruction, Princes Head, York-road, Battersea, at 8 o'clock p.m.

The ceremony of installation will be worked at the Islington Lodge of Instruction, Three Bucks, 23 Gresham-street, E.C., on Tuesday evening next, 26th inst., at 7 o'clock, by Bro. J. L. Mather P.M. 65.

The ceremony of installation will be worked at the Metropolitan Lodge of Instruction, No. 1056, which meets at the Portugal Hotel, 155 Fleet-street, E.C., on Friday, the 29th March, at 7 o'clock in the evening, by Bro. W. N. Marston W.M. 1599.

The First Annual Supper of the La Tolerance Lodge of Instruction will be held on Wednesday, the 27th of March, at the Horse and Groom, Winsley-street, Oxford-street, W. The chair will be taken by the veteran Preceptor, Bro. T. A. Adams P.G.P.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

GRAND ORIENT AND ENGLISH FREEMASONRY.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am glad to see this subject is being discussed so fully in the columns of your estimable journal, and more especially that one of your correspondents, who signs himself "M. B." hails from Paris, and is, I presume, a French brother. It is very certain there is no Craftsman, who is worthy of the name, but must deeply deplore the possibility of a severance of the mystic tie which has hitherto united the Masons of France and England. The more, therefore, the case is argued in the columns of your and other Masonic journals, the likelier are we to obtain a clear and satisfactory statement of what has happened, and the position in which English and French Masons stand to each other. As "M. B." observes in his last letter, the Paris Lodges are making preparations with a view to giving a hearty welcome to the many brethren who may be expected to visit the French capital during the exhibition, and it is desirable that English brethren should have some idea of the present relations existing between the Grand Orient and our Grand Lodge. This, however, is a matter of detail, and will doubtless receive its proper share of attention. The main point concerns the question, What, if any, change has come over the spirit of French Masonry, and it is to this that, with your permission, I will principally address myself.

I am not at all surprised to find certain differences of opinion on secondary matters among those of your correspondents who justify the recent alteration in the Constitutions of the French Grand Orient, but I confess I am surprised when I find that Bro. Norton writing from Boston U.S.A., Bro. M. B. writing from Paris, and "A Free-Mason and P.M.," agree in representing, directly or indirectly, English Freemasonry as having about it an odour of sectarianism. I do not say they all affirm this in so many words; but I think I am justified in imagining that some such idea is present in their minds, seeing that with one accord they laud the act of the Grand Orient of France in removing what most English Masons regard as a fundamental principle of the Craft, and reprove our Grand Lodge for denouncing officially such removal. In other words, the former, by setting its face directly in favour of absolute liberty of conscience, and formally protesting against any confusion of religion with Freemasonry, is praiseworthy; and as a corollary of this proposition, the latter, by its denunciation of such conduct, has justly earned for itself the character of being a sectarian body, and is blameworthy. I hardly think this represents the facts of the case. Our English Constitutions are, in their main features, the same as they have ever been; while the French Constitutions have admittedly undergone, at more than one period, sundry important changes. We are now what we were in the days of Anderson and Desaguliers, the founders, with Payne and others, of Speculative Freemasonry. In saying this, I must ask your readers to understand that I do not refer to rituals, degrees, and the like, but to the principles of the Fraternity. Before the days of these worthies, Freemasonry was unquestionably sectarian in its character. In proof of this I need do nothing more than refer your readers to Bro. Hughan's "Old Charges of British Freemasons;" but as this valuable work may not be within reach of all, I will quote, at hazard, the invocation which precedes the Charges as described, say, in the "Lansdowne MS.," bearing date, according to Bro. Hughan, about A.D. 1560. It is as follows:—

"HERE BEGINETH THE TRUE ORDER OF MASONRIE.

"The might of the Father of the Heavens the Wisdome of the Glorious Son and the goodnesse of the Holy Ghost three Persons and one God be with vs now and ever Amen."

A similar invocation will be found at the head of all the old Masonic Charges which Bro. Hughan has so laboriously collated and annotated in the work I have referred to; and the fact of this being so proves indubitably that in the Præ-Speculative period of its history Freemasonry was essentially Christian in its character. When, however, the founders of Speculative Freemasonry framed the charges and regulations for its governance, they still retained the essential principle of religion, as the most important of its bases, but changed its character from sectarian to purely unsectarian. To put the matter simply; whereas, before the foundation of the modern system it was necessary that a Mason should be a Christian; it became henceforth necessary that he should be a religious man, that is, should believe in the existence of God, but it was left to him to settle with his conscience the manner of his religious faith. And this unsectarian religious character, through all the changes which have befallen it since, it has ever retained, and still retains, in England at all events, if not in other countries. Now, I presume that none of your correspondents will venture to affirm that Britain is not the mother-country of Freemasonry, and that wherever else, in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, it has since spread itself, all other Grand Orient and Grand Lodges derive their origin, in the first instance, from our Grand Lodge, or from the Grand Lodges of Ireland and Scotland, which were established some few years later. Thus our Grand Lodge was established in 1717, and in a few years we find Masonic Lodges in France, Germany, Italy, Russia, the Netherlands, America, Spain, &c. In course of time Deputations were issued for the formation of Provincial Grand Lodges. Then independent Grand Lodges were set up, and took the place of the Prov. Grand Lodges; and so it went on till the system of Speculative Freemasonry, as founded by Desaguliers and his compeers in this country, spread thence over the face of the known world. And whithersoever Freemasonry went, it took with it the principles laid down by its founders. I think there is none who will venture to deny this proposition of mine. That in the

progress of time innovations into the system, as originally laid down, have been allowed in various countries, is undeniable. We had a schism of our own in this country, and we must not be surprised that differences should have arisen elsewhere, or that in time there should have been more or less notable departures from the original scope of Freemasonry. But while we in England have followed pretty clearly the original lines of the Masonic system, and, in particular, have retained the fundamental bases of religion and loyalty to constituted authority, other countries have materially altered the Constitutions of the Craft. Are we then to blame for protesting against such changes in the letter as well as the spirit of Freemasonry? Have we not rather a prescriptive right to resent such changes; seeing that the Freemasonry of other countries is deduced from ours? Bro. M. B. admits that the Grand Orient "at all times bore the character of a mere philosophical and benevolent institution," and he adds "never free, however, from political influences, though they were never to be openly avowed;" but this is quite another aspect of Freemasonry than that we have viewed with favour in England. We say it is a morality, and our ancient charges sufficiently describe the basis of that morality when they affirm that a Mason, if he rightly understand the art, will never be a stupid atheist, or an irreligious libertine. Surely there is nothing sectarian, illiberal, or narrow-minded in upholding the Masonic faith as it has been handed down to us through successive generations from its founders, or in our Grand Lodge saying in one fashion what Bro. M. B. has said in another fashion—namely, that French and English Freemasonry are differently constituted, and that we cannot recognise certain members holding under the French Grand Orient as true and genuine brethren. How can we be more bigoted than French Masons, when both limit the admission of candidates to just, upright, and moral men, though their definition of morality is of one kind, and ours is of another kind? In an English Lodge, at a very early stage of the proceedings, the candidate for initiation is told that the Masonic obligation he is about to contract contains nothing incompatible with his social, moral, or religious duties, and this seems to me to be a tolerably near approach to universality. We do not intrude on the man's conscience, and ask him to define the nature of those several duties. We quietly assume that he recognises there are such duties for him, as a member of the great human family, to fulfil, and leave the manner of their fulfilment to him and his conscience. Thus the only people whom we in England regard as ineligible to be received into our Lodges are those who do not recognise that there are social, moral, and religious duties for them to fulfil; for it is only these to whom the Masonic vows could prove a stumbling block.

The question is not whether French Freemasonry is what it was twenty, forty, sixty, or a hundred years ago, but whether in its principles it bears any resemblance to the Freemasonry of the founders of the Speculative system, from which it was in the first instance derived, and which is still retained by us. I have no right, nor should I be so silly as to quarrel with Bro. A. B. C. because he and I think differently, but I am fully justified in protesting against his declaration that his system and mine are the same in principle, when they are vitally distinct; or that mine which, in all its essential features, has remained unchanged *ab origine*, is wrong, while his, which was in the first instance derived from mine, but has undergone a variety of changes and modifications, is the right one. By all means let the Grand Orient of France retain its character as "a mere philosophical and benevolent institution," with or without political influence. I am satisfied that no true English Mason will wish it aught but success; but it is expecting too much of us when we are called upon to affirm that Masonry is this, and nothing more.

But let me inquire more closely into the statement "that the French records testify to the absence of all dogmatic affirmation whatever, in the Constitutions prior to 1819." On turning to page 210 of Rebold's "Histoire des trois Grand Loges de Franc-Maçons en France," I find that, on the 14th January 1818, the Grand Orient received the Report of the Permanent Commission on the question, "Comment rendre à la Maçonnerie le caractère religieux qui lui est propre?" and the Reporter, Bro. Planchet, submitted a certain proposition, the first and second clauses of the Preamble of which are as follow:—

"Considérant que le caractère de la Maçonnerie est essentiellement religieux, en ce sens que la charité, commandée par toutes les religions, est le but principal de la Maçonnerie;

"Considérant, que, si depuis quelque temps ce caractère religieux a paru s'affaiblir, cela tient sans doute à l'invasion des passions profanes et par suite à l'oubli des prescriptions réglementaires."

It is important the reader should note how, in the first place, the question which led to the Report is formulated. The words are "Comment rendre," &c., that is, "How to restore to Freemasonry the religious character which belongs to it." Now the idea of restoring or giving back such character implies that Freemasonry had already been deprived of it. We cannot give back what has not been taken away; we cannot restore a temple to its original condition which has not lost some of its original features. I imply, therefore, that the wording of this question suggests the idea that Freemasonry had at some period of its career in France lost its religious character, and that a Committee had been charged with the duty of seeing how best this could be restored. Or, if I take "rendre" to mean simply "render," as in the sentence, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," the clause "qui lui est propre," is tantamount to a recognition of the fact that Freemasonry ought to have, if it had not at the time, a religious character. I prefer, however, the former interpretation of *rendre*, and I am strengthened in this preference by the words in the second paragraph of the preamble as quoted above, "si depuis quelque temps ce caractère religieux a paru s'affaiblir,"—if for some time past this religious character has seemingly been impaired." What was non-existent previously could not have been impaired; and the conclusion I arrive at is, that though as in the case of our Constitutions there was no absolute statement of a belief in God as the essential principle of Freemasonry, there must have been at some period, more or less remotely anterior to the

date of the Report in question, some law in the French Constitutions which implied such a belief on the part of those who sought admission into the French Lodges. The first paragraph of the above preamble defines this religious character, and says, "Considering that the character of Masonry is essentially religious, in the sense that Charity, which is commanded by all religions, is the principal aim of Masonry," and the second paragraph, as I have just shown, recognises its existence previous to the report of 1818—from which sprang the Constitutions of 1819—by asserting that "for some time past" it had been seemingly "impaired." When, therefore, Bro. Thévenot declares that there has been no change in the practice of French Masonry in consequence of the alteration, last September, in the first article of the Constitutions, I accept his statement, of course, as I am fraternally bound to do, but I confess I do not understand him. My difficulty is further increased by the slight knowledge I have of the French Ritual. Of course, I can only indicate my meaning by one or two guarded references to it. In the first degree, the interpretation assigned to the M.S.S. implies belief in God. In the second degree, the mysterious G.S. has a second signification assigned as "*l'initiale de l'un des noms du G.S. A.S. de l'U.S.*" Again, one of the ornaments of the Lodge in this degree—*l'Etoile Flamboyante*—is thus in part described in a *Dictionnaire Maconnique*, published in Paris, "Chez J. Brianchon, Libraire, Rue de la Harpe, No. 30, 5825:" "*Elle est le symbole de ce feu sacré, de cette fraction de lumière divine dont le G.S. A.S. a formé nos âmes, et aux rayons de laquelle nous pouvons distinguer et connaître la vertu, la pratiquer et l'aimer. La lettre G.S. que vous voyez au centre, vous présente deux grandes et sublimes idées: l'une est le monogramme de l'un des noms du Très-Haut source de toute lumière et de toute science.*" Roughly interpreted, this means that the blazing star "is the symbol of that sacred fire, of that fraction of the light divine, of which the G.S. A.S. has fashioned our souls, and by the rays of which we are enabled to distinguish and acquire a knowledge of virtue, to practise and to love it. The letter G. in its centre offers two grand and sublime ideas: one is the monogram of one of the names of the Most High, source of all light and all knowledge." This is part of a passage quoted from some Masonic work, and I judge, therefore, that while prior to 1825 there may have been no mention of God in the Constitutions of the French Grand Orient, He was recognised in the Ritual. Rebold, again, at p. 37 of his history, in contrasting the forms of initiation into Freemasonry with those of initiation into the ancient mysteries, says: "*la franc-Maçonnerie symbolique est le résumé de la sagesse divine et humaine, c'est-à-dire de toutes les perfections qui peuvent le plus rapprocher l'homme de la divinité,*" that is "Symbolical Freemasonry is the summary of human and divine wisdom, that is to say, of all the qualities which are able to bring man in closer proximity to God." Of course, I may be wrong, but I imagine these points I have referred to give a different illustration of French Freemasonry from that which Bros. Thévenot and M. B. have presented to us. They also show that it has not always been "Godless" in the sense in which we use the word.

I am at a loss to understand the grounds on which "A Free-Mason and P.M." impugns the conduct of the Pro Grand Master at the last Communication of Grand Lodge. I think Lord Carnarvon was quite right in assuming that under the circumstances Grand Lodge would support him unanimously. We in England have always gone to the utmost limit of liberty of conscience, but we have never sanctioned anything like the license of view in which some foreign brethren have thought fit to indulge. We believe there is a point beyond which it is not permitted for us to go. We know what this point is, and I hold that Lord Carnarvon was perfectly justified in assuming that Grand Lodge would support the views of the Committee of which he, by virtue of his office, was the leading member. It was a question of well-defined Masonic principle, accepted of all true and genuine Freemasons, without the slightest demur, since the foundation of the Speculative system of Freemasonry, and not of a moot point to which this or that objection might reasonably be raised. The right of assuming that Freemasonry is what it has been defined to be rests with us who retain the old landmarks. The burden of proving that it is something else rests with the assailants. We have always strenuously held by the original definition; they, on the other hand, have varied in their ideas. Moreover, we, in the main, are a united body; they a divided one. We, too, are the founders of the system; they only the borrowers or appropriators. Can there, under these circumstances, be the slightest doubt as to which of the two Masonic bodies speaks with the greater authority? I am not seeking to establish any comparison between the respective virtues of English and French Freemasonry; both, doubtless, are excellent of their kind. I am not pitting the one against the other. I am not seeking to establish any undue rivalry between the two. I merely say to the Grand Orient, Your ideas of Freemasonry involve a complete departure from its original definition as laid down by the founders of the system, and those founders were Englishmen. We are not mistaken in our ideas, for the simple reason that we have the old charges and regulations as determined by them; and we know, moreover, that what of Freemasonry exists amongst you owes its origin in the first instance to the system as initiated in this country. I cannot take upon myself to suggest—indeed, it would be an act of impertinence on my part if I did so—what "A Free-Mason and P.M.'s" original ideas of Freemasonry may have been, but if they have turned out differently from what he anticipated, he has only himself to blame. The outside world, if it cares to trouble itself about the matter, knows perfectly well what manner of thing Freemasonry is, though it may have no knowledge whatever of its mysteries; and I cannot picture to myself a person seeking admission into the fraternity till he has first satisfied himself, in general terms, that it is a body worth joining. However, I will not further trespass upon your space at present; and in the hope that you will kindly accord me room for some further observations on this highly important question,

I remain, Dear Sir and Brother,

Fraternally yours, "Q."

CONSECRATIONS.

TRINITY LODGE, No. 1734.

ON Tuesday last, a new Freemason's Lodge, to be called the Trinity, and numbered 1734 on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of England, was consecrated in solemn Masonic form at the Golden Lion Hotel, Rayleigh. The Consecrating Officer appointed was the V.W. Bro. the Rev. Charles J. Martyn P.G.C. D.P.G.M. Suffolk and Prov. Grand Superintendent Suffolk, who is well known, not only as a popular Mason, but also as one of the most efficient Consecrating Officers in the Craft. It is needless, therefore, to say that the ceremony was most admirably performed, very valuable assistance being given by the V.W. Bro. Rev. S. R. Wigram P.G.C., P.P.G.C. Essex, P.M. No. 1000 and P.Z. No. 1000, who acted as Chaplain; W. Bro. A. Sucking P.M. Nos. 160 and 1000, M.E.Z. No. 1000, Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies; and W. Bro. J. A. Wardell P.G.A.D.C. Lodge was opened at 2.30 p.m., the Consecrating Officer appointing as his Wardens W. Bros. Burton P.G. Treas., and Thos. J. Ralling W.M. 51 P.G. Sec. The ceremony was then proceeded with, an interesting and practical oration on the nature and principles of Freemasonry, particularly as regards "The Five Points," being given by V.W. Bro. the Rev. S. R. Wigram. The musical portion was ably carried out by W. Bro. E. E. Phillips P.M. 1000, &c. The installation of the first W.M. followed, and the petitioning brethren having unanimously chosen W. Bro. Wm. Pissy P.M. 160 P.P.G.W. Essex, he was placed in the chair of K.S. in ancient Masonic form, and he subsequently invested the following as his officers for the year:—Bros. J. Allen P.M. No. 160 P.P.G.S.B. Essex S.W., E. Judd P.M. No. 160 P.P.G.R. Essex J.W., W. J. Belcham No. 160 Treas., Fred. Wiseman P.M. No. 160 S.D., F. R. Bernard J.W. Altogether the proceedings were of a very interesting and successful character, and the Trinity Lodge may be said to be launched under very favourable auspices. After the Lodge was closed, the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet provided by host Deadman, of the Golden Lion Hotel, Rayleigh. After dinner the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, between which excellent harmony was rendered by Bros. Martyn, F. Wiseman, J. Allen, E. E. Phillips, F. Bernard, Harper, Dennis, Syer, &c. The following brethren were present during the day:—V.W. Bro. the Rev. Charles J. Martyn P.G.C., &c.; V.W. Bro. the Rev. S. R. Wigram P.G.C., &c.; W. Bros. Joseph Burton P.G. Treas., Thos. J. Ralling P.G. Sec., A. Sucking P.M. 160 and 1000, M.E.Z. 1000, Prov. G.D.C., J. A. Wardell P.M. 160 and 1000, T. F. Bishop No. 276, W. Bell W.M. No. 1024, J. C. Johnstone J.W. No. 1000, W. Bishop No. 160, G. Goodman S.D. No. 160, W. V. Willson No. 160, R. A. Francis No. 1024, H. Harper J.D. No. 160, J. Harrington No. 160, B. Johnston No. 1000 P.G.A.D.C., Wm. Allen No. 160 S.W., Rev. A. F. Heaton, J. Syer, Thos. Dennis, J. Allen Tyler No. 160, W. Pissey P.M. No. 160 P.P.J.G.W. Essex, J. Allen P.M. No. 160 P.P.G.S.B. Essex, Edw. Judd P.M. No. 160 P.P.G.R. Essex, W. J. Belcham, Fred. Wiseman P.M. 160, F. R. Bernard, E. E. Phillips P.M. and P.Z. Nos. 379 and 1000, and No. 1734.

THE LYEGROVE LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS, No. 218.

THERE are few Masonic gatherings throughout the year which prove more thoroughly enjoyable to the brethren of our large cities than that of an auspicious occasion at a neighbouring Lodge, which, whilst within an accessible radius of the big centre, may be characterised as unmistakably rural. For this reason the installation of the W.M. of the Tyndall Lodge of Freemasons, No. 1363, has been an event which has, since the consecration of the Lodge at the Town Hall, Chipping Sodbury, proved a popular outing to the brethren of Bristol, who have done the intervening ten miles by rail or road, and having well filled the Town Hall with their presence, have expressed their hearty good wishes to the Tyndall Lodge, one of the most prosperous young Lodges of the West of England. It is scarcely to be wondered at then that the establishment of a Lodge of Mark Masters in connection with the Tyndall should be popular, and that the new Mark Lodge has met with an equal amount of kindness and favour from the brethren of the Mark degree of the neighbourhood was evident from the number of M.M.'s—most of whom, by the way, had aspired to Provincial, and even to Grand Lodge honours—who were present at the consecration of the Lyegrove Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 218, which took place at the Lodge Room, the Town Hall, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire. The Somersetshire Province was unmistakably represented by a considerable number of the members of the Carnarvon Lodge, Keynsham. The ceremony of consecration was most ably performed by Bro. the Rev. C. R. Davy, Past Grand Chaplain of England, assisted by Bros. W. Munro P.P.G.S.W. Somerset, G. F. Tuckey P.M. P.P.G.S.W. and P.G.S., and John B. Halford W.M. P.P.G.R. Somerset; and amongst the other brethren present were Bros. James H. Boyt S.W. 132, A. G. Williams P.P.I.G. Somerset, E. Weare, W. Lowick, A. Jones, Herbert J. Gough P.G. St. Br. Bristol, R. L. Tucker P.G.R.M. Somerset, J. M. Hunt S.W. 119, W. H. Pine, Samuel Davis G.S.W. Mon., J. P. Curtis, George Rennie Powell, R. Montague Worlock P.G.D.C. Bristol, Henry Fletcher P.G.T. Mon., R. T. Hughes, F. J. Vizard, F. K. Godwin, James Hes, Thomas Tinsley, Algernon Sudlow and Charles Isles. Bro. Geo. Rennie Powell, who first occupied the chair of the Tyndall Lodge, was the selected W.M. for the Lyegrove, and he was installed in an admirable and impressive manner by Bro. Wm. Munro. The installed brother having been proclaimed, and received with due honour by the assembled Lodge, he proceeded to make the following appointment of Officers to serve during his term of office:—Bros. G.

F. Tuckey I.P.M., J. P. Curtis S.W., Samuel Davis J.W., W. M. Lowick M.O., F. J. Vizard S.O., Algernon Sudlow J.O., F. K. Godwin S.D., John Halford J.D., Thomas Brooke Registrar of Marks, Thomas Tinsley Secretary, Rev. C. R. Davy Chaplain, W. Munro D.C., and James Hes Organist. The appointment of Officers having been made, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren spent a very pleasant hour in inspecting the most remarkable features of the quaint old town. Some curious gabled houses, dating from the early part of the sixteenth century, especially commanded attention. The brethren afterwards sat down to a dinner, which was prepared by Bro. F. K. Godwin, of the Portcullis Hotel. The W.M. presided, being supported on either hand by Bros. the Rev. C. R. Davy and W. Munro. The S.W. occupied the vice-chair, and there were some twenty-five brethren present. At the conclusion of the repast the toast of the Queen was given from the chair, and drunk with enthusiasm. The W.M. next proposed "The Grand M.M. the Earl of Limerick and the Grand Lodge of England," which toast was responded to by Bro. G. F. Tuckey P.G.S. The W.M., in proposing "The Provincial Grand Lodges of the Sister Provinces," spoke of the kindness exhibited towards the members of the Lyegrove Lodge, as beginners, by the many brethren who had come forward with great cordiality to support them. Bros. J. Gough P.G.S.B. Bristol, and John B. Halford P.P.G.R. Somerset, both expressed the pleasure it gave them to assist in the start of a new Mark Lodge, and wished every prosperity to the W.M. and its members. "The Consecrating and Installing Masters" was the next toast proposed by the W.M., and in the course of his speech he acknowledged the great kindness he had ever met with from those two distinguished brethren, and also referred with great pleasure and pride to the admirable manner in which the whole of the ceremony had been performed that day. He stated that he had witnessed ceremonies throughout the United Kingdom, and the consecration of the Lyegrove Lodge and the ceremony of his installation would compete with all. The toast was received with enthusiasm by the brethren. Bro. G. F. Tuckey next proposed the health of the W.M. He spoke of many years' acquaintance, both Masonic and social, with Bro. Powell, and congratulated the members of the Lyegrove Lodge upon the fact that the first Master of the Tyndall Lodge should also be the first to occupy the chair of the Lodge of Mark Masters. The toast was drunk with honours. Bro. Geo. Rennie Powell responded, and proposed "The health of the Officers and brethren of the Lyegrove Lodge, No. 218." He mentioned how great was the pleasure he felt in presiding over the Lodge, supported as he was mainly by the brethren who had been his Officers and successors in the chair of the Tyndall Lodge. He was also deeply grateful to Bros. the Rev. C. R. Davy, G. F. Tuckey, John B. Halford, and Wm. Munro for accepting collars in his Lodge, for he felt that their great experience and their position in Mark Masonry could not fail to shed a lustre on the Lyegrove Lodge. Bros. J. P. Curtis S.W., Samuel Davies J.W., and Algernon Sudlow J.O. all spoke of the pleasure it gave them to serve under their W.M., and doubted not the prosperity of the Lodge. The W.M. proposed, as the final toast, "The Visiting Brethren," to whom they all extended their most cordial and fraternal thanks. Bro. James H. Boyt S.W. 132 returned thanks in suitable terms, and the proceedings terminated. We should mention that the dinner was enlivened by the efforts of Bros. R. L. Tucker, H. J. Gough, and others, who sang some songs in excellent style.

NEW ZEALAND.

THE installation of the Worshipful Master of the Union Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 154 E.C., Auckland, New Zealand, took place on Tuesday, 8th January, with more than usual éclat. The solemn and impressive ceremony of the Mark Installation was well attended by a large number of Masons of the higher degrees. Bro. Burns P.M. installed his successor, Bro. Brock, ably assisted by Bros. P.M. S. Niccol and Wade. Bro. Brock W.M. invested the following Officers:—Bros. W. J. Rees S.W., Dr. F. W. E. Dawson J.W., Rev. C. M. Nelson M.O., W. P. Moat J.O., H. G. Wade P.M. Treasurer, J. H. Burns P.M. Registrar, H. Chapman S.D., J. Lewis J.D., Hargreaves I.G., C. Porter Tyler. The Lodge was then closed, and the W.M., Bro. Brock, invited the brethren to a banquet, provided by host Hood in his *recherché* style, and the following toasts were drunk with Masonic honours:—The Queen and Craft, the Grand Mark Master Mason of England and Wales, the Right Hon. Earl of Limerick; the W.M., responded to in a very able speech by Bro. Brock; the Installing Master, responded to by Bro. Burns P.M.; the newly-invested Officers, responded to by Bros. Rees S.W. and Dawson J.W.; the Visitors, Host and Hostess, the Press, the Ladies, Poor and Distressed Brethren. Some excellent songs were rendered by the brethren between the speeches, to the satisfaction of all present.

NELSON, NEW ZEALAND.

THURSDAY, the 27th December, being the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, and the 26th anniversary of the Southern Star Lodge 735 E.C., the installation and investiture of Master and Office-bearers took place, according to custom. At High Noon Lodge was opened, and two gentlemen were initiated. By one o'clock the spacious Hall was filled with brethren, among whom were Visitors from various Lodges. The retiring Master Bro. Dr. Boor officiated as installing Officer, and Bro. Dr. Squires P.M. presented the W.M. elect, Bro. W. M. Stanton, who was duly obligated and installed. The W.M. having been proclaimed and saluted, proceeded to the investiture of his Officers:—Bros. John Cann S.W., Marmaduke Sedgwick J.W., Dr. Sealy P.M. Treas., Henry M. Moor Sec., Georg Naylor S.D., Douglas J. Browne J.D., H. Clinton Baddeley I.G. Henry Hargreaves Tyler. The usual charges were effectively given

by the Immediate P.M., a procession was formed, and the Lodge proceeded to Christ Church for divine service. The service was choral, and the combined choirs of Christ Church, All Saints, Trinity, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan, with their respective Masters, were present, and the singing was highly impressive and effective. Bro. W. G. Sealy presided at the organ; the prayers were read by the incumbent Rev. Mr. Leighton, and the lessons by the Venerable Archdeacon Thorpe. The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Nelson delivered an eloquent and masterly discourse from 2 Kings x. 13, "And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him; and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot." His Lordship being requested by the brethren to permit them to publish this instructive and practical sermon or lecture, ordered it to appear in the Nelson Church Messenger for January. The church was filled from aisle to porch, and numbers who could not obtain admission remained without. After the service, the procession returned in reverse order to the hall, and Lodge was closed. In the evening, the customary banquet took place, a large company of members and visiting brethren being present. After the usual patriotic and Masonic toasts, Bro. Sealy P.M. proposed the health of the newly installed W.M., Bro. W. M. Stanton, conveying some very graceful compliments, and predicting a year of prosperity for the Southern Star Lodge. In responding, Bro. Stanton expressed himself as deeply grateful for the flattering language in which the toast had been given, but hoped that the Lodge would not expect too much at his hands; he felt considerable diffidence in undertaking the responsible position, but would use his best efforts to justify the choice of the brethren, to whom however he looked for that cordial support and unanimity of feeling and action so essential to the welfare of any social institution. The health of the Immediate P.M. was given by the W.M., and responded to in suitable terms by Bro. Boor, who proposed the retiring Officers, responded to by Bro. Cann. Telegrams were exchanged with the Marlborough Lodge of Unanimity then similarly engaged, and precisely at ten o'clock, at which moment it was announced they were toasting the Southern Star Lodge, prosperity to the brethren at Blenheim was drunk with full honours. Prosperity to the Forest Lodge of Wakefield, was then drunk, coupled with the health of Bro. Chattock P.M., who returned thanks. The Bishop and Clergy; the health of Bro. W. G. Sealy, with hearty thanks for his zeal in conducting the music of the day; the newly Initiated Brethren, responded to by Bro. Rawson; and the Visiting Brethren, were all duly given. Bro. Dyson, of Prince of Wales Lodge, Auckland, returned thanks, and Bro. Morton Tavares of Elgin Lodge, Jamaica, gave an interesting account of his thirty years' Masonic experience in various countries. The W.M. proposed prosperity to the newly formed District Grand Lodge of Auckland, and the health of Bro. George Graham the D.G.M. He described the cordial reception and fraternal treatment he received from the Auckland brethren on his visit to the consecration and installation of the Grand Lodge and Grand Master. The proceedings were enlivened from time to time with music, recitation, and song. From high noon to midnight, every incident of the Festival was harmonious and delighting; it was the largest Masonic assemblage ever seen in this city, and will long be agreeably remembered by all who had the pleasure of joining in it.

Since the above was written the W.M. has suffered, we regret to say, a bereavement in the death of his only son, Albert W. R. Stanton. Returning from the Lodge on St. John's Day, he found his boy in considerable pain, and immediately called in Bro. Dr. Squires, who, assisted by Bros. Drs. Sealy and Boor, did all that skill, indefatigable exertion, and fraternal affection could suggest or devise, but in vain; after a painful struggle of six days, with incessant attention, his constitution could no longer support the trial, and the lad died just as the clergyman had commended his spirit to the God who gave it. The brethren of the Lodge followed at the sad funeral, and the body was borne from the Mortuary Chapel and lowered into the earth by the tender hands of Masons. The coffin of the deceased Lewis was strewn with acacia sprigs, deposited by the brethren over the beloved son of their Worshipful Master, with whom and with whose family the deepest fraternal sympathy was manifested. The principal boys of the Bishop's School followed the remains of their beloved school fellow. Six of his more immediate companions being pall bearers.

A FISH ORDINARY.

OUR readers are, no doubt, aware that Billingsgate Market has recently been rebuilt by the Corporation of London; and though it will never be one of the most savoury localities in the metropolis, still, as we must have a fish market somewhere, and as this market has been located at Billingsgate from time immemorial, we must be content if the building set apart for the sale of fish is commodious and suitable, not troubling ourselves as to whether it smells as sweet, and is as cleanly in its precincts as a fashionable west-end thoroughfare. Those who are afraid of a little dirt and crowding, and whose olfactory powers are unusually sensitive, will do well to stay away from this famous market-place; but those who, like ourselves, take an interest in our food supply, will be amply repaid for their trouble and the momentary inconvenience of visiting it. They will find it a much more commodious building than its predecessor, and more imposing externally. Moreover, as there is no place in London where better and fresher fish can be had, and as the parts of the building which face the river have been selected to serve as taverns, there are several places where the visitor, after studying the architecture of the new market, will find excellent accommodation for satisfying the inner man. We were recently drawn hither in, part, by our love of architecture, as becomes true Masons,

but chiefly by a wish to test the merits of a new house opened within the last few weeks by our worthy Bro. Smith, who, for four-and-twenty years past, has enjoyed the esteem of all Craftsmen in the habit of frequenting a certain hotel in Fleet-street, where very many Lodges hold their meetings and refresh themselves when the labours of the day are ended. So highly, indeed, were the services of our worthy brother regarded, that a handsome testimonial was presented to him at the close of his career at Anderton's. We knew, therefore, that in visiting the tavern so recently opened by him, we should find everything to our satisfaction; and that whether we indulged in the humble chop and glass of bitter, or directed our attentions to the more than ordinary attractions of his Fish Ordinary in the Grand Saloon on the second floor of his house, we should have equal reason to be gratified. Our anticipations were fully realised. We tested the merits of his ordinary, and though we do not care much for word-juggling, and especially in connection with so solemn a duty as that of dining, we must nevertheless declare that these merits are worthy of extraordinary praise. The bill of fare, or, in more polite language, the *menu*, included every description of fish in season—salmon, turbot, cod, trout, red mullet, eels, whiting, white-bait, smelts, &c., &c., several *entrées*, and two or three joints. Everything that was brought to table was admirably dressed. The service was excellent, the waiters being well up to their duties, and most civil and obliging. The saloon certainly deserves the title of "grand," for it is capable of accommodating 260 guests. The tables were well laid out, the linen, glass, plate, and cutlery being all that the most fastidious could desire. There was a good wine carte, and good wines at moderate prices are to be obtained, or a tankard of our native beer may be had at the usual price. But this is far from being the limit of the accommodation at Bro. Smith's hostelry, if we may term it so. There is a handsome and well-fitted smoking saloon on the third floor, over which are placed the kitchens, while the first floor is set apart for grill rooms, where may be had chop, steak, cold meats, a plate of fish, &c., &c. On the first floor is the bar, in which, during the small hours of the morning, when the important business of the day is being transacted, there is, we are told, hardly standing room, so great is the number of hungry salesmen and fishermen as customers. Indeed, Bro. Smith contemplates an addition to this part of his establishment, so that he may be in a better position to meet the requirements of his numerous supporters. On the basement are the sculleries and other offices, so that the tavern is well appointed in all things, and with a commander-in-chief of the proved excellence of Bro. Smith, there is little doubt that his tavern will soon be as popular abroad as it is in the immediate neighbourhood; and, we may add, deservedly so. One thing we have forgotten to mention, and that is, that the charge for dining at this fish ordinary is the moderate sum of two shillings; beer, wine, and spirits are additional, and attendance at the option of the guest. We strongly advise our friends to give Bro. Smith an opportunity of proving himself as worthy of their support in his new capacity of "mine host" as he was in his former capacity of "head waiter" at Anderton's. We guarantee they will come away well satisfied he is up to the mark and a little over.

INDIAN TEA.—In this country, at the present day, the popularity of tea has increased to an extent which may fairly entitle it to rank as the national beverage, and so thoroughly have the public become imbued with the conviction of its beneficial properties, that they are wont to overlook, or ignore, the fact that, like most other articles of consumption when of bad quality, it is very often adulterated by the subtle arts of the adept in adulteration. The majority of tea drinkers may not unjustly be characterised as utterly incompetent to detect that which is pure from that which is rot, so perfect has the art of adulteration become. This is particularly the case with China teas. Our Celestial friend is pre-eminently proficient in this species of imposition, notwithstanding the apparent innocence which we seem to recognise in his very child-like and bland countenance. It is a very common delusion that tea in order to be good should pour out a dark colour, and knowing this, the Chinese resort to the employment of most dangerous and deleterious agencies to ensure this result. In face of these facts, so detrimental to the health of tea drinkers, we are happy to find that it is not impossible to procure a really genuine article, at a cost, too, even below that charged for the inferior article. This much-needed boon has been conferred upon us by Messrs. Wiltshire and Co., who have opened a depot at 255 Regent-street, Oxford-circus, for the sale of teas of guaranteed purity, a specialité with them being those grown by themselves in their large plantation in India. This firm has enjoyed the advantage of more than twenty years practical experience in the cultivation of the tea-plant in India, and the knowledge thus acquired they have resolved to utilize for the benefit of the public. Among many other advantages which they offer, may be mentioned the fact that by enabling the consumer to purchase direct from the grower, the profit which has in the usual way to be provided for the intermediary agents between the purchaser and the retailer is done away with, thereby securing to the former a saving well worthy the consideration of those who know what the expenses of housekeeping are. It is a fact worthy of note that a large consignment of tea belonging to this firm was recently sold by auction at the Mart in Mincing-lane, and realised higher prices than any others of an ostensibly similar character, a circumstance which, of itself, attests the favour in which Messrs. Wiltshire and Co.'s teas are held by those capable of forming an opinion upon their merits. We may take this opportunity of stating that any prejudice that ever existed against Indian teas is now overcome by reason of their established excellence. They reach this country in a purer state than those imported from China, and their more general adoption by us will do much to stimulate and expand an industry of our Eastern Empire hitherto sorely crippled by the combined powers of ignorance and prejudice.

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St. John's Hill, S.W.

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H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., &c., M.W.G.M.

Patroness :

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

THE NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

OF THIS INSTITUTION will be held on Friday, 10th May 1878, on which occasion

The Rt. Hon. The EARL OF CARNARVON, M.W. Pro G.M., R.W. Prov. G.M. Somerset,

Has most kindly consented to preside.

The names of brethren willing to act as Stewards will be thankfully received by

R. WENTWORTH LITTLE, V.P.,
(D.P.G.M. Middx.) Secretary.

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SIXTH APPLICATION.

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

APRIL ELECTION, 1878.

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

SOLOMON HIRAM SHURY,

AGED TEN YEARS.

Son of Bro. WILLIAM SHURY, of Myland, Colchester, who died on the 25th of February last, after two years of great suffering, in his 75th year. Bro. SHURY was formerly engaged in the Circulation Department of the Post Office, but, owing to severe attacks of neuralgia in the head, and defective vision, consequent upon cataract, he was compelled to resign his position when at the age of 51 years. His only permanent income since that time had been a pension of £14 a year, to which he was entitled on account of his service, and he had to encroach continually upon his savings, till they were quite exhausted. Consequently he had been unable to provide for the boy's education, as he did for his children by his first marriage, and his declining days were comforted with the thought that he had would eventually be elected into the Institution.

When in the full possession of health Bro. SHURY was a most active Mason. He was initiated in the Saint John's Lodge, Hampstead, No. 196 (now 167), in 1819, and, after passing through the intermediate offices, eventually became W.M. When, in 1861, the state of his health compelled him to remove from the District, he tendered his resignation, and the brethren at once elected him an honorary member, in recognition of his valuable services to his Mother Lodge. Bro. SHURY afterwards joined the Wellington, 519, as a country member; and became a member of the Angel Lodge, Colchester, No. 51, in 1868. He was exalted in the Domestic Chapter, No. 177, in 1852, and was elected to the Third Chair, but the continued unsatisfactory state of his health compelled him to resign. He was also one of the Founders of the Mount Lebanon Chapter, No. 73. When the present applicant was a child in arms, Bro. SHURY'S position enabled him to make himself, wife, and child, Life Subscribers of the Boy's Institution, not thinking at the time that he should ever be compelled to avail himself of its benefits and he has, besides this, done all in his power to excite in others an interest in the Masonic Charities. Altogether he had contributed to the funds of Grand Lodge for the long period of TWENTY-NINE YEARS.

The case is strongly recommended (among others) by

The Right Worshipful Bro. R. J. BAGSHAWE Gov. Grand Master Essex.

R.W. Bro. RICHARD BOLTON BARTON LL.D. P.P.G.M. for Western India.

R.W. Bro. MATTHEW E. CLARK Dep. P.G.M. Essex.

V.W. Bro. Rev. C. J. MARTYN V.P. D.P.G.M. Suffolk, &c.

V.W. Bro. FRED. A. PHILBRICK, Q.C., Recd. of Colchester, P.G.J.W., &c.

* W. Bro. A. D. LOEWENSTARK P.M. 518, 733, 107, and P.Z. 73, 185.

W. Bro. FREDERICK WALTERS V.P. P.G.P. Middlesex, P.M. and P.Z. 73.

W. Bro. WILLIAM PRATTARD Steward R.M.L.G. P.M. 1326 and 1351.

W. Bro. GRIFFITHS SMITH Past Grand Steward, P.M. No. 21.

W. Bro. F. ADLARD V.P. P.M. No. 7.

* W. Bro. JOHN BOWORTH P.M. 170 and 349, P.P.J.G.W. Dorset.

W. Bro. SAMUEL COLE, Life Governor, R.M.L.G., P.M. 184 and 124, Past P.G.P. Kent.

* W. Bro. HENRY T. R. WARR L.G., R.M.L.G., P.M. Albion Lodge, No. 9.

Bro. M. D. LOEWENSTARK J.W., 1360, S.N. Chapter 73.

* Bro. THOS. J. RALLING W.M. Angel Lodge, No. 51, P.G. Sec. Essex.

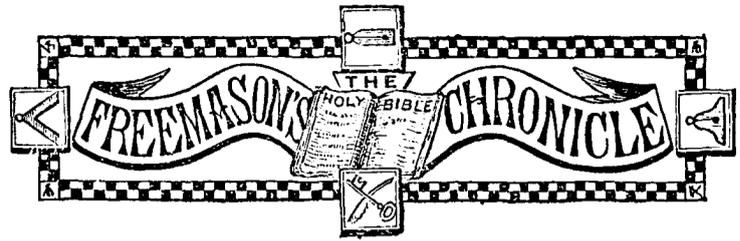
* W. Bro. the Rev. C. G. AGLAND P.M. 558, P. Prov. Gd. Chaplain, Oxford.

P. Prov. Grand Chaplain, Essex.

W. Bro. the Rev. R. T. WHITTINGTON, Apollo University Lodge, No. 357, and Angel Lodge, No. 51.

Proxies will be thankfully received by those Brethren whose names are marked with an asterisk.

Proxies of other Masonic or National Institutions are most valuable for the purposes of Exchange.



67 BARBICAN, E.C.

OUR WEEKLY BUDGET.

THERE has been little done in the House of Lords which appears to call for any comment. In answer to a question of Earl Granville's, the Foreign Secretary announced that the preliminary treaty of peace was expected to reach London this day (Saturday), it having been despatched by special courier after its ratification by the Czar. The subject of continuous railway brakes, and enlistment in and desertion from our army, were also referred to, but in a conversational manner. Two bills have likewise been introduced, one for the erection of four new bishoprics—Liverpool, Newcastle, Wakefield, and Southwell—and the other for the amendment of the Medical Acts now in force. The second reading of the former is fixed for the 26th instant, and of the latter for the 15th April.

In the House of Commons, a great deal of business has been got through, especially in Committee of Supply. The Inflexible debate was closed on Thursday, and then Sir Robert Peel rose and drew the attention of the House to the proposed representation of this country at the Berlin Congress. In Sir Robert's opinion, the Earl of Derby, and not Lord Lyons, should act for England, and he urged that the other powers, as far as was yet known, would be represented by their Chancellors, and that the presence of the Earl of Clarendon as our representative at the Paris Congress in 1856, and of Earl Granville at the London Conference in 1871, were precedents which should be followed in this instance likewise. This led to a long debate, in which Lord R. Montagu, Sir H. D. Wolff, Sir W. Vernon Harcourt, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, took a part; so long, indeed, was the discussion, that when it was over, there was no time to think of going into Committee of Supply, and accordingly the House adjourned at two o'clock. On Friday, however, on the appeal of Ministers, the House almost immediately after meeting, resolved itself into Committee of Supply, when Mr. W. H. Smith, who, on rising, was greeted with cheers from all parts of the House, submitted, in a business-like manner, the Navy Estimates for 1878-79. After the usual amount of criticism, certain votes for the number of men, their wages, &c., were agreed to. On Monday and Tuesday, the House was again in Committee of Supply on the Supplementary Civil Service and Army Estimates. A few divisions took place, but the Government carried the day in every case by overwhelming majorities. On the latter of these days the report of Supply was brought up, and agreed to. This happened at the morning sitting. In the evening, Mr. Anderson moved a resolution, condemnatory of the action of the Postmaster General in reverting to the practice of subsidies for the conveyance of mails to America, but on a division he was beaten by 117 to 92. A motion of Mr. Brown's in relation to Endowed Schools at Leeds was defeated by 101 to 55. On Wednesday, the second reading of the 'Tenants' Improvements (Ireland) Bill was moved by Mr. R. Martin, but only 17 members supported his motion, while 258 opposed it. After this, the Money Laws (Ireland) Bill was talked out, and the House rose.

On Tuesday, the Queen and the Princess Beatrice left Windsor Castle for London *via* the Great Western, and on reaching Paddington, drove under escort to Buckingham Palace. In the afternoon, Her Majesty held a *levée*, at which their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Christian, with Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Prince of Leiningen, and the Duke of Teck attended. In the Diplomatic Circles, the Turkish, Russian, German, and French Ambassadors were present, and the General Circle was numerously represented. A large number of presentations were made, the names having been previously submitted for Her Majesty's approval. On Thursday, there was a Drawing Room, at which were present all the members of the Royal Family

in London, while the Diplomatic and General Circles were numerously represented. A number of ladies were presented.

On Wednesday evening the Prince of Wales presided at the annual dinner of the Princess Mary's Village Home for Little Girls. His Royal Highness was supported by the Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Teck, the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and others. The usual speeches were delivered, and in drinking Prosperity to the Institution, the Prince announced that the sum of £5,000, which was required to complete the School House and other buildings, had been promised by an anonymous friend.

The chief event, however, of the week in the fashionable world has been the marriage of the Earl of Rosebery with Miss Hannah de Rothschild. This event took place on Wednesday, and the church in which the religious ceremony was performed was crowded with the *élite* of fashion. The bride was given away by the Earl of Beaconsfield, and Lord Carington, in the absence through ill health of Captain Tyrwhitt, acted as best man. The Duke of Cambridge was present, and the Prince of Wales arrived just before the completion of the ceremony. Their Royal Highnesses, as well as the Earl of Beaconsfield, Lord Leconsfield, the Duke of Cleveland, and the Hon. E. Primrose signed the register, after which the bridal party returned to the residence of the bride in Piccadilly, where the wedding breakfast was held, the Duke of Cambridge and the Premier being unable, owing to the pressure of official duties, to be present. After the breakfast, the Earl and Countess left for Lord Leconsfield's seat at Petworth, Sussex, where they will spend the honeymoon. The bridal presents were both numerous and valuable.

Several vacancies in the House of Commons have been filled up lately, and others are occurring or have occurred. The contest at Hereford was sharp, resulting in the return of Colonel Arbutnot, Conservative, by 1,110 votes, the Liberal candidate, Mr. Joseph Pulley, received 1066. Mr. Philip Miles and Mr. W. S. Gore-Langton have been returned unopposed, the former for East, and the latter for Mid Somerset. By the death of the Earl of Ravensworth, and the consequent elevation to the House of Peers of Lord Eslington, a vacancy has occurred in the representation of South Northumberland. There is also to be a contest for the vacant seat at Worcester.

Our naval and military preparations are in no wise slackened by the news that the preliminary peace between Russia and Turkey has been signed. On the contrary, there is an equal, if not a greater, amount of energy shown every day that we get nearer the time for examining the terms which the recent combatant powers have agreed to. At Chatham alone we have a fleet all but ready for sea—consisting of the Monarch, Penelope, Nelson, Northampton, Superb, Belleisle, and Independencia, all ironclads, with the Euryalus and smaller vessels—which is almost as strong as Admiral Hornby's in the sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles; while at our other ports we have as many more ships, which it would not take us long to put in commission. War material still goes on accumulating at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and instructions have been issued by the general in command at Aldershot, that during the months of April and May, the troops shall be exercised in the minor operations of active warfare; during April in the simpler work of outpost duty, &c., and in May in combined movements of the three arms—cavalry, infantry, and artillery.

The ill-treatment to which Dr. Armand Leslic, and two other medical men, with Mr. Bell, correspondent of the *Illustrated London News*, were subjected as prisoners by the Russians have formed the subject of a correspondence between the Russian and English Governments. It is not yet closed, but the Russian authorities have expressed the profound regret of Monseigneur the Commander-in-Chief, the Grand Duke Nicholas, who has promised the matter shall be inquired into. As there is very little doubt these gentlemen received many and great indignities, and that they were made prisoners in violation of the Geneva Convention, we trust the matter will not be allowed to rest where it is, and that these British subjects will receive compensation for their troubles. Colonel Coope, too, has published an account of his treatment as a prisoner of war in the hands of the Russians, and his testimony convicts the Grand Duke Nicholas himself of the greatest ferocity. At present, of course, this is an *ex parte* statement, but there seems to be no great reason to doubt that any British

subjects who were unfortunate enough to fall into the hands of the Tartars were treated most unceremoniously, if not with actual violence—at all events, in a manner not practised among civilised nations, whatever may be the case in Russia.

St. Patrick's Day happened to fall this year on a Sunday, and, consequently, the usual festivities, in the shape of banquets, processions, and broken heads, which occur on the anniversary of the patron saint of Ireland, were celebrated on Monday. In London, a number of Irish members of Parliament dined together at the Westminster Palace Hotel, the chair being taken by Mr. Sullivan, in the absence of Mr. Isaac Butt, who was too unwell to take part in the rejoicing. In Dublin, the day was marked in the usual military fashion, by the trooping of the colours at the Castle, and there was a procession of Nationalists through the leading thoroughfares of the Irish capital. In Belfast there were rival processions, and here, as well as at Londonderry, there was more or less serious disturbance, resulting, as usual, in not a few broken heads.

The whole of this week the Agricultural Hall has been a scene of great excitement, owing to the grand pedestrian contest for a series of prizes given by Sir John D. Astley. The whole of the arrangements are in the hands of the Amateur Athletic Club, the working committee including such well-known amateurs of athleticism as Sir John D. Astley, Lord Carington, and Messrs. J. G. Chambers and Lawes. The contest was begun on Monday shortly after midnight, and will not be over till twelve o'clock p.m. to-day. Whoever covers the longest distance in the six days, whether running or walking, will win the first prize of £500, and a champion belt of £100 value; the second best will receive £100, and the third £50, while every one of the remaining competitors who covers 460 miles and upwards will receive £10 for his trouble. Up to 11 p.m. on Thursday O'Leary, who beat Weston some time since at the same hall, Vaughan, of Chester, Brown, and Ide were at the head of the list, O'Leary having covered 369 miles, Vaughan 356 miles, Brown 333 miles, G. Ide 293 miles, J. Smith 284 miles, W. Corkey 276 miles, W. Lewis 240 miles, and J. M'Leavy 236 miles.

The Canadians have no great fancy for Fenian sedition. On the contrary, where we at home should leave these fellows to themselves, and not condescend to notice their trumpery manifestations of disloyalty, our good friends of Toronto have fiercely attacked a couple of hotels, where it was supposed that O'Donovan Rossa, whose lectures were the cause of all the excitement, was staying. He fortunately managed to escape the clutches of the mob, but revolvers were freely used, and it is feared that in one or two cases fatal consequences will be the result.

The preliminary peace between Turkey and Russia has been ratified by the Czar, conditions will not be officially known to our Government till to-day. Their terms, however, have leaked out already, and there is very little doubt that Europe will not consent to have the will of Czar Alexander forced upon it. Most of them are highly objectionable, and conflict with the interests of this or that Great Power, in a manner which it is very unlikely they will submit to with indifference. But the anxiety of the moment is directed chiefly to the threatening aspect of affairs between this country and Russia. The Earl of Derby has spoken plainly enough, and has demanded categorically of the Czar's Government that the whole of the treaty shall be submitted to the Congress and that none of the questions shall be accepted by it except unanimously. Russia has not decidedly refused these conditions, but she is moving heaven and earth to evade them; and if she decides in persisting there is little doubt that war will break out sooner or later between the two countries. Of course, it is impossible to depend on the news that is received from hour to hour, but the general purport of the intelligence which reaches us from the different foreign capitals is decidedly gloomy. However, the country has made up its mind that it will not allow Russia to dupe her any longer, and the one chance that remains of a peaceful issue from the present crisis is in the chance that the Czar, at the last moment, may recoil from insisting on his treaty, and so avoid a war, which in all probability would cost him the ascendancy in Eastern affairs which he has succeeded in acquiring after sacrificing so many lives and so many millions of money. This is about the only chance, and it is not a very promising one, of avoiding an appeal to arms.

LODGE OF BENEVOLENCE.

The usual March meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Bro. Joshua Nunn, presided, and the Senior and Junior Vice-President's chairs were occupied respectively by Bros. James Brett and James Glaisher. Among the brethren present were Bros. Hervey G. Sec., H. G. Buss Assist. G. Sec., S. Rawson, T. F. Halsey, J. M. P. Montagu, Rev. P. H. E. Bretton D.D., H. C. Levander, A. A. Pendlebury, H. M. Levy, H. Massey, John Constable, Griffiths Smith, William Stephens, Charles Atkins, C. F. Hogard, W. T. Howe, Thomas Cubitt, C. P. Cobham, Nelson Reed, H. Bartlett, T. J. Sabine, H. Garrod, D. R. Still, H. Gouldon, C. B. Payne, Edward Terry, W. C. Corner, H. Hammond, H. L. Seager, Percy W. Taylor, J. W. George, J. J. Berry, Rev. Dr. J. E. Cox, Charles Denton, E. H. Hewett, R. G. Seaborn, J. C. Mason, H. C. Soper, R. Perkins, Hugh Cotton, W. Bailey, and W. Stuart. The new cases before the Lodge were relieved with grants amounting to £115, the largest grant being £125, and the smallest £10. There were only sixteen cases, and the brethren closed the Lodge shortly after eight o'clock.

St. John of Wapping Lodge of Instruction, No. 1306.—At the Gun Hotel, High-street, Wapping, on Monday evening, 18th inst. Present—Bros. Mortlock W.M., Baldwin S.W., Cox J.W., Horsley J.D., Brame Sec., Goldstein I.G., Greely, Danter, McDonald, and several others. The minutes of last meeting read and confirmed, Bro. Brame, candidate for passing, answered the usual questions. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of passing. Bro. Danter, candidate for raising, answered the questions, and the ceremony of raising was worked by the W.M. It was a pleasure to see the Officers discharge their respective duties so perfectly. Bro. Baldwin was elected W.M. for the ensuing Monday. The brethren meet at 8 p.m.

Duke of Connaught Lodge of Instruction, No. 1524.—At the Havelock Hotel, Albion-road, Dalston, E., on Wednesday, the 20th inst. Bros. H. Meyer W.M., McMillan S.W., Slaughter J.W., Dignam S.D., O. Dietrich J.D., R. Olley I.G., G. Ferrar Treasurer, E. Dietrich Secretary, W. Fieldwick Preceptor; Bros. Lowe, Maples, Martin, Bonner. The Lodge was opened in ancient form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Lodge was then opened in the second and third degrees, when Bro. G. Ferrar, who had previously been interrogated and entrusted, was raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the W.M. performing his work in a most able and correct manner. Bro. Lowe then worked the sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. The Lodge was then closed down to the first degree, and Bro. McMillan was appointed W.M. for the next meeting.

West Middlesex Lodge of Instruction, No. 1612.—At a meeting of the above Lodge, held on the 14th inst, at the *Feathers Tavern, Ealing*, there was a strong muster of the brethren to receive the W.M., Wardens, Officers and brethren of the mother Lodge, on the occasion of their annual visit. Bros. A. Beasley W.M., H. Kasner S.W., Compton J.W., Green S.D., Tucker J.D., Fisher I.G. Johnson Treas.; there were also present Bros. Fernce, Rands, Owen, Gunner, Kingston, Gomm, Wright, Jones, Campfield, Hughes, Pooley, Stephens, Seward, Porter, Dorey, Allen, Clark, and others. The Lodge having been duly opened, the acting Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, after which the Lodge was opened in the second and third degrees, and the usual questions were put and satisfactorily replied to by Bro. Porter, a candidate for raising. After Bro. Beasley had closed down to the second degree, Bro. Kingston took the chair, and worked the ceremony of passing, Bro. Gunner candidate. Bro. Beasley resumed the chair and closed the Lodge down to the first degree. A cordial vote of thanks was proposed to Bro. Stephens, the host, for the admirable arrangements made for the brethren, and for the readiness he at all times displays to meet the wishes of the members. This was duly seconded, and carried unanimously, after which Bro. Stephens responded in suitable terms. There being no other business to transact, the Lodge closed in due form and one of the pleasantest meetings of the season was brought to an end.

Earl of Carnarvon Lodge of Instruction, No. 1642.—On Friday evening, the 15th March, at the Mitre Hotel, Goulbourne-road, Notting-hill, Bros. Adkins W.M., Woodmason S.W., Penn J.W., Smout sen. S.D., H. Dehane I.G., Savage P.M., Marlis P.M., Poulter, Hutton, Wood, Newland, Webster, Oldrey, Gabb, Dr. Pocock, Spiegel and others. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Marlis candidate; Bro. Savage worked the first section, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Dr. Pocock answered the questions for passing. The Lodge was then opened up, and Bro. Webster offered himself as candidate for raising. The usual questions having been answered, the ceremony of the third degree was rehearsed. Bro. Dr. Pocock was elected a member of this Lodge of Instruction. Bro. Woodmason will preside at next meeting.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Colds, Coughs, Shortness of Breath.—These corrective remedies are infallible for these pectoral complaints, which, neglected, often end in asthma, bronchitis, or consumption. The Ointment, when rubbed upon the chest and back, penetrating the skin, is carried directly to the lungs, whence it expels all impurities. All the blood in the body constantly passes through the lungs, and there all noxious particles tending to produce disease, can be quickly, thoroughly, and permanently neutralised, rendered harmless, or ejected from the system. Holloway's Ointment and Pills perfectly accomplish this purification; and through the blood, thus cleansed, the influence of these wonderful medicaments reaches the remotest parts of the human body; and thus cures all diseased action, whether internal or external.

DEATH OF BENTLEY SHAW, ESQ., J.P., D.L.

YESTERDAY morning, Bentley Shaw, Esq., expired at his residence, Woodfield House, Lockwood, from the effects of an apoplectic fit, which seized him three weeks ago last Tuesday. Under the treatment of Dr. Scott (Waverley House), Mr. Shaw rallied sufficiently at intervals to inspire hope, but on Tuesday the relapse was such as to prepare his family for the worst, and he peacefully breathed his last yesterday morning, about half-past eleven o'clock. His demise follows close upon that of the late rector of Lockwood, whom he followed to the grave on the 5th of January last, and it is singular to relate that the only two lay mourners who followed the Rev. T. B. Bensted's remains, Mr. T. Leigh and Mr. Shaw, have also now passed the bourne whence no traveller returns, a solemn commentary, truly, on the uncertainty of human life.

Deceased was born on the 16th January 1816, and was consequently 62 years of age. His grandfather, on his mother's side, was Mr. T. Bentley, who founded the Lockwood Brewery in 1795, and his father was Mr. Wm. Shaw, of Lockwood. About the year 1841 he became a partner in the brewery with Mr. Robert John Bentley and Mr. Henry Bentley, and for a great number of years he has been the head and resident manager of the firm of Bentley and Shaw, the prosperity of which is known wherever the Lockwood ales find their way. The deceased gentleman leaves behind him five sons and three daughters, who have to mourn the loss of a thoughtful and affectionate father.

Mr. Shaw's public career marks an epoch in the history of Freemasonry, to which he devoted time, substance, and influence, and from which in return he received many and distinguished honours. A member of the Lodge of Harmony for over thirty years, he was for eleven years Deputy Grand Master of the Province of the West Riding. So highly respected was he in this capacity, that the Masons of the Province, a few years ago, presented him with a grand costly vase, and it remained through the remainder of his life the chief testimonial that he prized. Upon the retirement of the Marquis of Ripon from the post of Provincial Grand Master, and the appointment of Sir Henry Edwards in succession, Mr. Shaw was appointed by the Prince of Wales Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch Masonry—the peerage, so to speak, in Masonic orders. It was about this period of life that Mr. Shaw had the honour of being presented at Court, at a *levée* held by the Prince of Wales on behalf of Her Majesty, the presentation being made by the Marquis of Ripon. Among other Masonic distinctions, he was at one time Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of England. Deceased was a magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant for the West Riding (being appointed to the former position in 1857), and he won the esteem of his brother magistrates at Huddersfield and Holmfirth for his cautious judgment and judicious temper. It was not on the bench, however, that he found his most congenial sphere. For many consecutive years he was churchwarden of Lockwood, and no one appreciated more than the late rector Mr. Shaw's warm interest and valuable assistance in church work. Cognate with church work he was concerned with several charities (notably the Nettleton and the Bentley), and succeeded the late Mr. George Armitage as chairman of the trustees of the Almondbury Grammar School. For several years he was president of the Lockwood Mechanics' Institution, and took an active part in the erection of the building. In politics, Mr. Shaw was a Liberal of the moderate type. It is certain he was not a peace-at-any-price man, as he supported the candidature of Colonel Akroyd against Mr. Cobden, and was at one time captain in the rifle volunteers. Mr. Leatham's views were too advanced to receive his support, but, on the other hand, he never concealed his liking for a great political pace than that at which Messrs. Stanhope and Starkey travel. Nevertheless, Mr. Shaw had the deep respect of both political parties. In proposing the "Houses of Parliament and the County and Borough Members," at a banquet on Whit Monday, 1874, to celebrate the opening of Somerset Bridge, Mr. Shaw said "he had been wondering several times why he had been selected to propose the toast. He was not a very great political man, as they were all aware. He thought he had been selected because he was a sort of intermediate man. He did not go quite in the rapid pace of the hon. member for Huddersfield, nor, perhaps, did he go at the more gentle and steady pace of his hon. friend who represented the county." This extract from Mr. Shaw's speech will illustrate his political character. At the same time, he was not one of those men who erect their trade into politics, and abandon their Liberal principles because their party deal rather harshly with certain vested interests. His mind was too comprehensive and well informed, and his heart too generous, to take such a narrow view of his electoral responsibilities.

We are sure the family and relatives of the deceased have the sympathy of all classes in their bereavement.—*Huddersfield Daily Chronicle.*

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE FREEMASONS.—Lieut. General Probyn has sent a letter on behalf of the Prince of Wales to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dorset, apologising for the delay in its transmission, and acknowledging the reception the Freemasons gave the Prince on his recent visit to Dorset. The letter says:—"I am commanded by the Prince to assure you that the prosperity of the Masonic craft is ever uppermost in his Royal Highness's thoughts, and the position of Grand Master of the Ancient Order of Freemasons is one in which he feels the greatest pride. I am specially desired to express his Royal Highness's thanks for the sentiments of loyalty and devotion contained in your address towards the Queen, the Princess of Wales, and the other members of the Royal Family."—*Standard.*

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

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

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SATURDAY, 23rd MARCH.

193—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.)

MONDAY, 25th MARCH.

4—Royal Somerset House and Inverness, Freemasons' Hall.
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.)
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.)
1632—Stuart, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell.
London Masonic Club Lodge of Instruction, 101 Queen Victoria-st., E.C., at 6, on 2nd and 4th Mondays in each month.
K. T.—Bosbury, Masonic Hall, 33 Golden-square.
48—Industry, Freemasons' Hall, West-street, Gateshead.
1177—Tenby, Royal Assembly Rooms, Tenby, Pembroke.
1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury, at 8 p.m. (Instruction.)
1611—Eboracum, Queen's Hotel, Micklegate, York. (Emergency.)
M.M. 146—Moore, Athenæum, Lancaster.

TUESDAY, 26th MARCH.

14—Tuscan, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
30—United Mariners, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street.
55—Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton-bldgs., Holborn, at 7. (Inst.)
65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
92—Moira, Criterion, W.
141—Faith, Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
145—Prudent Brethren, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
177—Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
186—Industry, The Restaurant, 2 Westminster-chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.
205—Israel, Cannon-street Hotel.
554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney. (Instruction.)
753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)
880—Dalhousie, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1196—Urban, Old Jerusalem Tavern, St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, E.C.
1446—Mount Edgumbe, 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.)
1719—Evening Star, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement, Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, at 7.0.
24—Newcastle-on-Tyne, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-st., Newcastle, 7.30. (In.)
253—Tyrian, Masonic Hall, Gower-street, Derby.
299—Emulation, Bull Hotel, Dartford.
310—Union, Freemasons' Hall, Castle-street, Carlisle.
573—Perseverance, Shenstone Hotel, Hales Owen.
1016—Elkington, Masonic Rooms, New-street, Birmingham.
1358—Torbay, Town Hall, Paignton.

WEDNESDAY, 27th MARCH.

193—Confidence, Railway Tavern, London-street, at 7. (Instruction.)
201—Jordan, Devonshire Arms, Devonshire-street, W., at 8. (Instruction.)
539—La Tolerance, Horse and Groom, Winsley-street, W., at 7.15. (Inst.)
781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
862—Whittington, Red Lion, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street, at 8. (Instruction.)
1186—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-road, at 8.30. (Inst.)
1288—Finsbury Park, Finsbury Pk. Tav., Seven Sisters'-rd., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-road, Dalston, at 8.0. (Instruction.)
1707—Eleanor, Angel Hotel, Edmonton, at 8. (Instruction.)
R. A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8.0. (Instruction.)
R. A. 1365—Clapton, White Hart Tavern, Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury.
896—Sondes, Eagle Hotel, East Dereham, Norfolk.
1039—St. John, George Hotel, Lichfield.
1119—St. Beale, Mechanic's Institute, Jarrow.
1511—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Hornsea, at 7.0. (Instruction.)
1566—Ellington, Bell Hotel, Maidenhead.
M.M.—Northumberland and Berwick, Masonic Hall, Maple-st., Newcastle.

THURSDAY, 28th MARCH.

General Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
3—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-sq., at 7. (Instruction.)
15—Kent, Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30. (Instruction.)
65—Prosperity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8. (Instruction.)
99—Shakespeare, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8. (Inst.)
766—William Preston, City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, E.C.
1349—Friars, Cheshire Cheese, Crutched Friars, E.C., at 7. (Instruction.)
1426—The Great City, Masons' Hall, Masons'-avenue, E.C. at 6.30. (Instruction.)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion Road, Dalston.
1624—West Middlesex, Feathers Hotel, Ealing, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
R.A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (Inst.)
R. A. 1615—Bayard, Masonic Hall, 33 Golden-square.
78—Imperial George, Assheton Arms Hotel, Middleton, Lancashire.
100—Friendship, Crown and Anchor Hotel, Quay, Great Yarmouth.
111—Restoration, Freemason's Hall, Archer-street, Darlington.
794—Wellington, Public Rooms, Park-street, Deal.
807—Cabbell, Masonic Hall, Theatre-street, Norwich.
66—St. Edward, Literary Institute, Leek, Stafford.

FRIDAY, 29th MARCH.

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.)
796—William Preston, Feathers Tavern, Up. George-st., Edgware-rd. (Inst.)

FRIDAY—continued.

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.)
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, at 7.30. (Instruction.)
1385—Gladsmuir, Red Lion Hotel, Barnet, Herts.

SATURDAY, 30th MARCH.

193—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, W., at 8.
820—Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, at 7.30. (Instruction.)

WEST YORKSHIRE.

MONDAY.

827—St. John's, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury.
R. A. 302—Charity, New Masonic Hall, Darley-street, Bradford.

WEDNESDAY.

304—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Gt. George-street, Leeds.
439—Scientific, Private Room, Bingley.
1233—Ryburn, Private Rooms, Town Hall-street, Sowerby Bridge.
R. A. 258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike.

THURSDAY.

904—Phoenix, Ship Hotel, Rotherham.
R. A. 275—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, South-parade, Huddersfield.
R. A. 1214—Scarborough, Scarborough Hall, Caledonia-road, Batley.

FRIDAY.

810—Craven, Devonshire Hotel, Skipton.
R. A. 242—Magdalen, Guildhall, Doncaster.

SATURDAY.

1462—Wharnciffe, Rose and Crown Hotel, Penistone.

EDINBURGH DISTRICT.

MONDAY—349—St. Clair, Freemasons' Hall.

TUESDAY—151—Defensive Band, Alexandra Hall, 429 High-street.
R. A. 40—Naval and Military, Freemasons' Hall.

WEDNESDAY—112—St. John Fishrow, Royal Hotel, Musselburgh.

THURSDAY—392—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall.

FRIDAY—223—Trafalgar, 54 Bernard-street, Leith.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

York Mark (Time Immemorial).—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday evening, in the Masonic Hall, York, the W.M., Bro. T. B. Whythead, presiding, supported by the following brethren:—Bros. Hon. W. T. Orde-Powlett S.W., Geo. Balmford P.M. as J.W., Geo. Garbutt Sec., T. Cooper P.M. Treas., J. Hollins M.O., J. Tissiman S.O., C. G. Padel J.O., M. Millington as S.D., Geo. Simpson as J.D., T. S. Camidge Organist, A. T. B. Turner I.G., Dr. Paley, Rev. W. C. Lukis, W. H. Gainforth, W. H. Wyatt, &c. A successful ballot was taken for the following brethren as honorary members: the Earl of Limerick G.M.M.M., Right Hon. Lord Skelmersdale G.M.M.M. elect, Rev. G. R. Portal P.G.M.M.M., and Frederick Binckes Grand Secretary. A successful ballot was then taken for several candidates, and Bros. William Harrison P.M. 837, A. Pratt 837, and J. G. Joyce 1611 being in attendance, were advanced to the honourable degree of M.M.M. The W.M. announced that he had received a dispensation for an appendant Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, but he had been unable to secure the presence of any qualified brethren to open the Lodge, as he had hoped to have done that afternoon, and the matter must, therefore, stand over for the present. It was agreed that the bye-laws, confirmed by the Grand Lodge, should be at once printed and circulated, and a committee was appointed to draw out a design for a lithographed Lodge summons, and submit the same to the next meeting. After the close of the Lodge, a Lodge of the venerable Order of St. Lawrence was opened by Bro. T. B. Whythead W.M., and the degree conferred upon four approved candidates. The brethren afterwards met at supper and spent a social evening.

Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement.—The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, at the Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, presided over by J. B. Sorrell M.E.Z., Thos. Cull II., P. Wagner J., T. W. White S.E., J. Boyd Treas., G. L. Walker S.N., S. P. Catterson P.S. The ordinary work of exaltation was rehearsed by the principals, Comp. R. Berridge acting candidate. The election of Officers was proceeded with, and the following will serve for the next fortnight:—Comps. J. Constable M.E.Z., P. Wagner II., Thos. Cull J., S. P. Catterson S.N., J. C. Cox P.S. Although we commend members for endeavouring to assist in the proceedings, we would respectfully suggest that those who may not be *au fait* should prefer to listen rather than prolong the ceremony by so much dictation. The following Companions were also present:—W. H. Postans, J. C. Cox, G. Darcy, G. J. Row, J. Seex.

Strong Man Lodge of Instruction, No. 45.—At the Old Rodney's Head, 12 Old-street, Goswell-road, on Monday, the 18th instant. Present—Bros. C. Lorkin W.M., J. A. Powell S.W., Frank Sillis J.W., R. G. Tolmie Preceptor, A. W. Fenner Secretary, J. Stock S.D., Wing J.D., W. Balls I.G., Christopher Tyler; also Bros. Pearey, Halham, Halford, Cuthbert, Alford, Sparrow, Leber, Currey, Woolley, Trewinnard, Hunter, Millward, &c. Minutes read and confirmed, Lodge was opened to the second degree, and Bro. Cuthbert gave proof of his efficiency. Lodge was advanced to the third degree, and the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of raising in a very excellent manner. Bro. Pearey worked the first, Bro. Sparrow the second, and Bro. Pearey the third sections, assisted by the brethren. Lodge was closed down to the first degree. Bro. W. Balls of the Mother Lodge was elected a member. Bro. Powell was duly elected W.M. for the ensuing week. A vote of thanks was unanimously voted to the W.M. for the able manner he had conducted the business of the evening.

Constitutional Lodge of Instruction, No. 55.—On Tuesday, the 19th March, at the Bedford Hotel, Southampton-buildings, Holborn. Present—Bros. Tranter W.M., Hallam S.W., Bramham J.W., Dwarber Treas., Soper S.D., Linscott J.D., Johnston I.G., Bingham Preceptor; Bros. Abell, Tate, Brown, Cornn, Rosser, and several others. The Routine business having been accomplished, the W.M. rehearsed the third degree, Bro. Rosser candidate. The first, second, and third sections of the lecture were worked by Bro. J. S. Brown. The Lodge was resumed to first degree, and Bro. Hallam elected W.M. for ensuing week.

Prosperity Lodge of Instruction, No. 65.—Held at Bro. Maidwell's, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, on the 19th inst. Bros. Daniel W.M., Maidwell S.W., Biddle J.W., Aarons S.D., Forrest J.D., Hamilton I.G., Hollands, Campbell, Roberts. After all formalities had been complied with, Bro. Aarons, a zealous worker, answered the questions leading to the third degree and was entrusted and duly raised. The Lodge was closed down to the first degree. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Aarons candidate. Bro. Brown, W.M. elect of the Prosperity Lodge, was elected W.M. for the ensuing Tuesday, when Bro. L. A. Leins, P.M. of the same Lodge, will kindly work the installation ceremony. We hope to see a goodly number of the Craft to support him.

St. James's Union Lodge, No. 180.—The brethren of this Lodge met on Tuesday, 12th inst., at Freemasons' Hall. Bros. L. B. Pillin W.M., Farwig S.W., Stollard J.W., H. A. Stacey P.M. Sec., Wade S.D., Baker as J.D., Wood I.G., L. Herf P.M. W.S., Parsons P.M. D.C.; P.M.'s A. L. Annett, Robinson, Stonor, Cameron, and Hamilton; Bros. Staden, J. Huy, Levitt, A. Wertheimer, E. Joseph, Orger, Beer, Papprell, Richards, &c. The Lodge was opened, and the minutes were confirmed. Bros. Eugene S. Benjamin 104, Chas. Wertheimer 1017, and Max Neustadt 1017, were unanimously elected joining members. Bro. E. Joseph was raised, and Bro. White was passed. Messrs. F. H. Hall, D. J. Chester, and G. Russell were balloted for and duly initiated into the Order. The working of the ceremonies by the W.M. deserves special commendation. The widow of a brother was relieved with the sum of two guineas. Bro. Parsons P.M. informed the brethren of the serious illness of their worthy and esteemed P.M. and Treasurer, who had endeared himself to every brother of the Lodge by his zeal in the cause of charity. He would not like the Lodge to close without some record being made of the affection he was held in, and he was sure every brother would offer a prayer for Bro. Bubb's speedy restoration to health. Bro. Robinson P.M. then proposed, and Bro. Levitt seconded, that it be recorded on the minutes the regret the Lodge felt at the serious illness of Bro. Bubb, and their heartfelt wishes for his speedy recovery. This was carried unanimously. The W.M. Bro. Pillin announced his intention to act as Steward at the forthcoming Festival of the Girls' School; he hoped the brethren would liberally support him. The Lodge was then closed, and the brethren sat down to an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. A. Best, and superintended by Bro. E. Dawkins. The W.M. genially presided, and proposed the Loyal and Masonic toasts. These were interspersed by songs from Bros. Sarti, Stollard, Rupell, &c. Bro. Walter Joyce favoured the company with a capital recitation. The visitors were Bros. R. Baker I.G. 188, M. Benjamin, Durlacher, W. Joyce, Docker J.W. 1687, &c.

The Francis Burdett Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 181.—Held their meeting at Mr. Baylis's, Albany Hotel, Twickenham, on Wednesday, the 20th inst., at 6 p.m. Owing to the unavoidable absence of Bro. W. Hammond, Bro. Tomlinson I.P.M. took the chair. Bros. Knaggs S.W., Court sen. J.W., W. Taylor M.O., C. Palmer S.O., H. W. Vaughan J.O., J. Tomlinson I.P.M., W. Taylor Treasurer, H. Court jun. Secretary, E. Hopwood S.D., H. Kyczor J.D., J. W. Rogers Registrar, J. N. Sanders D.C., T. W. Walls W.S., H. Taylor I.G., George Harrison Tyler, T. W. Briggs, Wm. R. Ricknell, and other brethren. Lodge was duly opened and the minutes read and confirmed. Bye-laws were read, and an alteration suggested by Bro. Court sen. met the approbation of the brethren. The candidates for advancement not being in attendance, the brethren proceeded to ballot for Bro. J. M. Steven as an honorary member. This was unanimous in his favour. It was then proposed by Bro. Tomlinson, and seconded by Bro. Palmer, that Bro. J. M. Stedwell P.M. of the Crescent, and also of the Hiram, be advanced to the degree of a M.M.M. Bro. Dr. Knaggs then rose and spoke upon matters of interest to the Lodge, the members endorsing all he said. Lodge was then closed, the brethren adjourning to the dining-room to a *récherché* repast. The usual Loyal and

Masonic toasts were given and responded to in the manner observed amongst Masous, and the brethren separated in peace and goodwill.

Lodge of Tranquillity, No. 185.—The brethren met on Monday, the 18th inst., at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, Bro. David Posener W.M. in the chair. There were present Bros. Geo. Pare S.W., W. D. Bayley J.W., John Peartree I.P.M. and Treas., P. Levy Sec., F. Croaker S.D., John B. Barber J.D., T. W. C. Bush I.G., Geo. Bilby Org., Potter Tyler. P.M.'s M. Harris, R. Z. Bloomfield, J. Constable, J. H. Ross, J. D. Barnett, N. Gluckstein, E. Gottheil. The visitors were Bros. W. Thompson 72, F. Fowler 72, Dr. G. Mickley P.M. 449, L. Maas 901, C. W. Kent P.M. 879, J. L. Lewis 1670, Egbert D. Roquis 907, T. Godwin 1556, Geo. P. Hawkes 101, Cunningham 22. The non-official brethren were comparatively few in number. A candidate for initiation was announced on the agenda, but through unforeseen circumstances the gentleman was unable to attend. This was the first time during the past four years that the Lodge had to adjourn without doing any kind of work. Supper was served, and the members gave themselves up to sober enjoyment, for what are termed the off-nights in this Lodge deserve to be regarded as some of the most truly pleasant of any in the year. The usual routine and etiquette are dispensed with. There are no stiff and uncomfortable observances necessary. The brethren dine, as it were, *en famille*. The food is plain and wholesome, and not calculated to derange the digestive organs. The beverages are of native product, and foreign vintages are not permitted to play their dastardly pranks upon British brains. Hence the assembly is less inclined to be boisterous, and great good humour prevails. The toasts were circumscribed to two, deemed most necessary; which in itself is an advantage, for that fact precludes the infliction of stereotyped phrases which are heard over and over again in every Lodge, almost without exception, and by this abstention boredom is banished for the time. The W.M. deserves to be commended for his considerate conduct in resisting the temptation of airing his eloquence at the expense, as is usually the case, of some amount of good natured patience, and contented himself by giving the loyal toasts in the manner lately introduced and more or less adopted, namely, "Loyalty to Throne, and devotion to the best interests of the Craft." The next and last toast was that of the "Visitors," for which Bro. Mikley was called upon for a reply. That brother, however, respectfully declined to take upon himself the duty of responding for the other visitors, and simply expressed his hearty thanks for the fraternal kindness of his reception, and trusted to have future opportunities of enjoying the hospitality of the Lodge. Bro. Leopold Maas begged to be allowed to say a few words. He was extremely pleased to find his friend and brother occupy the distinguished position of Worshipful Master of so important a Lodge. He had been a Mason many years, but about ten years ago he found it necessary to suspend his Masonic duties, and for the last seven years he had not visited any Lodge. He could not have come to a better place, after so long an interval, calculated to revive his former love of Freemasonry. He would conclude with a sentiment in which he was sure the rest of the visitors would chime in, and that was "Prosperity to the Lodge of Tranquillity, happiness to its Master, and may all the members continue to enjoy the privilege of fraternal love." The proceedings that followed might not unreasonably be termed an amateur concert, in which the following brethren displayed considerable ability:—Child, "Death of Nelson;" W. D. Bayley, "Mother he is going away;" J. D. Barrett, "Jack Brown;" J. Constable, "Let Brotherly love continue;" W. Thompson, "Old Familiar Faces;" J. H. Ross, "Father Molloy;" Child, "The three ages of love;" Mikley, "The Twins;" Bayley, "Tom Bowling;" Thompson, "Lovely Mountain Maid;" B. D. Barnett, "Tom Brown's Shlemasel;" Geo. Pare, "Hurrah for the life of a soldier;" Constable, "The parting glass." The meeting concluded about ten o'clock.

Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193.—Met on Wednesday, the 20th instant, at the Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C. There were present—Bros. Hyam Aarons W.M., T. W. C. Bush S.W., Biddle J.W., E. Gottheil P.M. Preceptor, J. K. Pitt Sec., Staley S.D., W. Lipscombe J.D., Bone I.G., also Bros. Walker, Ellis, Sayer, Maidwell, and Smithers. The visitor, who subsequently became a member, was Bro. J. L. Anderson, of 554. The third ceremony and its sections were rehearsed. A vote of thanks to the W.M. was unanimously agreed to, in recognition of the truly excellent manner in which he for the first time performed so difficult a ceremony. Bro. Aarons is a Masonic infant, aged nine months. It is to be hoped that such rare precocity may not be dwarfed by too close application to study. Bro. Bush was elected W.M. for next Wednesday.

Royal Union Lodge, No. 382.—The installation meeting of this, the oldest Lodge in the Province of Middlesex, took place on Monday last, at the Belmont Hall, Uxbridge. Bro. T. C. Swallow, the retiring Master, presided, and he was strongly supported by the Past Masters, Officers, and brethren of the Lodge, and by a large number of Visitors, amongst whom we noticed Bros. J. W. Cooper 538, A. Hendriks 1637, William Iron 1357, Chas. Horsley P.G. Reg. Middlesex, E. Gibson 3, J. B. Lea 1328, G. W. Chapman 1328, G. W. Lay 569, R. Pierpoint 1365, E. Schiemann W.M. 209, F. G. Baker P.M. 753, Millis P.M. 157, John Syer 1017, T. H. Russ 382, William Clarke 141, W. W. Morgan 211, J. Terry Sec. R.M.B.I., D. F. Gillion W.M. elect 1125, Thomas Morrison 141, Watson 834, F. H. Varley 1637. On the assembling of the brethren, the W.M. opened the Lodge, and called on Bro. Coombes, the Secretary, to read the minutes; these were duly confirmed, and Bro. T. C. Swallow then proceeded with the business of the day. Bro. Smith underwent the

necessary examination, and was passed to the second degree. Bro. S. Holliday, the Junior Warden, was then presented to Bro. Swallow to receive at his hands the benefit of installation. P.M.'s C. Davis and E. C. Woodward were requested to take the Wardens' chair, and Bro. Holliday was obligated. A Board of Installed Masters opened, and the ceremony was completed. On the re-admission of the brethren, and the salutations formally carried out, Bro. Holliday appointed his Officers:—Bros. T. C. Swallow I.P.M., William Webb S.W., G. E. Cook J.W., William Coombes P.M. Sec., J. L. Coulton P.M. Treas., Charles Russ S.D., Lonsdale J.D., Rowles D.C., Cooper and Garrod Stewards, Copley I.G., Longstaff Tyler, Stacey P.M. P.G.O. Organist. A notice of motion, by Bro. J. L. Coulton P.M., "That £5 be paid annually to each of the Funds of the Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows until this Lodge becomes Vice-President to each of those Charities" was then brought forward and thoroughly discussed. Our worthy brother Coulton urged the claims of the Charities, and of the R.M.B.I. in particular, on the brethren most forcibly, and pointed out the advantages the Lodge would derive if the members passed his proposition. He was ably supported by several others, and on the motion being put it received unanimous confirmation. Routine work followed, and the Lodge was closed. The brethren then adjourned to the Grapes Hotel, where the banquet was held. After they had partaken of the substantial repast provided, which Bro. Drinkwater placed on the table in admirable style, Bro. Holliday proceeded with the toasts. The first four on the list—the Queen and the Craft; H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M.; the Earl of Carnarvon Pro G.M.; Lord Skelmersdale D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers—were speedily dismissed. With the fifth toast—the Provincial Grand Master of Middlesex, Bro. Colonel Burdett; the Deputy P.G.M. and the rest of the Provincial G. Officers—was coupled the name of Bro. Coombes, but Bro. Chas. Horsley, in his usual irrepressible manner, wished to say a few words, and Bro. Coombes most courteously gave way. Bro. Horsley referred to the kind invitation he had received, and the pleasure he felt at meeting so many old friends. He regretted his duties that day had prevented his being present in the Lodge so soon as he could have desired, but he was much satisfied with the way the work which he had witnessed had been performed. Bro. Coombes thanked the brethren sincerely for the hearty way in which they had received his name in connection with the toast. Col. Burdett most strenuously exerted himself at all times to promote the welfare of the Province. He was sorry that the Colonel's engagements did not permit his being present, as he felt convinced it would have afforded the Prov. G.M. pleasure to take part in the successful meeting they had had. Bro. Coombes concluded his remarks by gracefully acknowledging the kindness and support the brethren always accorded him. The health of the W.M. was proposed in felicitous terms by Bro. Swallow, and Bro. Holliday thanked the brethren. It was a great honour they had conferred on him in electing him to the chair, and he trusted he might be able to give them satisfaction. He was sure he should receive every assistance from the Past Masters and Officers. Before resuming his seat he had a pleasing duty to perform; to present Bro. T. C. Swallow with the P.M.'s jewel which had been subscribed by the Lodge. He trusted he might live long to wear it, and have health and strength to attend the gatherings of the brethren. The remaining toasts comprised the Visitors, the P.M.'s of the Royal Union Lodge, the Officers, &c., and able replies were made by Bros. Lucy, Morgan, Fehrenbach, Conlton, Davis, Coombes, &c. The proceedings were enlivened by songs and recitations, Bros. Lucy, Davis, and others rendering good service. The summons for the Tyler just enabled the brethren who had to return to town to catch the last train.

Portsmouth Lodge, No. 487.—There was a large attendance at this Lodge on Thursday, the 14th inst., when Bro. H. Threadingham who had been elected as W.M. for the ensuing year, was installed by Bro. M. E. Frost P.M. and Prov. Grand Treas. There was an exceptionally good muster of installed Masters, among those present being Bros. G. Rake P.J.G. Warden, T. Batchelor P.P.G. Supt. Works, A. Cudlipp, G. Bond, G. S. Lancaster P.P.G.W., J. Maltby, Ubsdell, E. Groves, T. Moore, E. Bunting, P. J. Hyams P.M. 487, Dr. O'Connor W.M. 257, G. H. De Fraine P.M. 257, W. Payne W.M. 342, H. J. Guy P.M. 342, S. S. Pearce P.P.G.D. Southampton, H. Sleeman P.M. 903, G. F. Lancaster P.M. 903, E. G. Holbrook P.P.G. Reg., J. Clay W.M. 804, Dyson P.P.G. Supt. Works, H. Townsend W.M. 1428, C. B. Whitcomb W.M. 1705. The other brethren, in addition to the Officers of the Lodge, included Bros. R. J. Murrell S.W. 1069, J. R. Hayman Sec. 257, J. Road Grant J.W. 1705, Stroud Sec. 1705, Creber 1069, J. Astridge, G. F. Sherman, W. Tuck, R. Beale, W. E. Atkins, C. Groom, T. B. Johns, G. Whitehall, W. L. Smith, Arney, &c. At the conclusion of the installation ceremony, which was ably conducted by Bro. Frost, the W.M. appointed his Officers as follow:—Bros. G. Bond I.P.M., R. Osborne S.W., Loader J.W., G. S. Lancaster P.M. Treasurer, M. E. Frost P.M. and J. Astridge Secs., Palsgrave S.D., H. T. Cecil J.D., Outridge I.G., E. Groves P.M. Dir. Cer., H. Holley and G. F. Bell Stewards, Exell and Smith Tylers. A capital banquet followed, at which the W.M. presided.

Polish National Lodge, No. 534.—This Lodge held its regular meeting on Thursday, the 14th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C. Present—Bros. J. H. Cumming W.M., J. F. Ebner S.W., W. Paas P.M. Sec., John Boyd P.M. P.G.P. Treas., J. Taylor S.D., Dr. A. V. Jagielski J.D., J. Lancaster D.C., Dr. Corrie Jackson I.G., Beckett Tyler; Past Masters Bros. W. G. Moore, Nowakowski, F. Rath, &c., &c. Visitors—Bros. Saegart, Moore, J. G. Marsh, Morgan jun., &c. The chief business of the evening was the election of W.M. for the ensuing year. The choice of the brethren was unanimous in favour of the S.W. Bro. Ebner. Bro. J. Boyd was re-elected Treasurer, and Bros. Croucher, Bieling, and Haselden

Auditors. Lodge being closed, the brethren adjourned to banquet, after which the W.M. gave the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts. With that of the Grand Officers he coupled the name of Bro. John Boyd, who, in replying, thanked the brethren for the kind sentiments expressed. Bro. Rath next assumed the gavel, and hoped the brethren would forgive him if, in his remarks, he appeared more solemn than usual; they must attribute it to the circumstance of its being the last time that the duty would devolve on him. He considered that to-night he was, so to speak, singing "The Song of the Swan." This song is an allegorical and highly poetical expression of the departure of the soul into higher and purer regions. It is life fading away into eternity after it has worked out its destiny here below. If you happen to walk on the quiet shores of a still lake on a summer's evening, and listen with attention, you may hear, rising among the whispering willow trees, the flapping of the wings, and the waning breath of the spirit in a song, the sweetness of which surpasses all the sensations ever felt on earth. That is the felicity of the soul, conscious of having performed its task whilst in the body, and taking its rapt ascent to that abode where eternal reward is waiting. But to return. Many of the members thought their present Master, when he was approaching the chair, might not feel equal to its burdens, or so much of them as they could wish; therefore, a doubt passed over their minds as to what the year might turn out to be. But, so sure as the laws of nature cannot err, so sure is it that a generous and genuine mind never fails to be elevated to the high duties which it may be called upon to fulfil, and thus it is they were able to look back on the past year with pleasure, when they considered the way in which their Master had performed his duties. Bro. Rath trusted that when their present Master surrendered the government of the Lodge, that they would hear "The Song of the Swan," as a token of the felicity which is the true reward of those who have zealously and conscientiously fulfilled their duties towards their fellow workers. The W.M. suitably acknowledged the toast; if his exertions had proved successful, he should be able to retire with satisfaction. He had used every effort to make them comfortable. Before sitting down, he would propose the health of the I.P.M., which toast having been honoured, Bro. Rath rose to reply. It was but in accordance with the well-known kindness of the W.M. that he should speak favourably. The W.M. had said that he (Bro. Rath) had rendered some service to the Lodge. He could but remember with what slender means he began his duties, and how everything was wanting to enable him to preside with advantage over the Lodge; he was now astonished how he had got through his duties. To begin with, he was a stranger in the land, but that fact is not a serious one in connection with Masonry, particularly in the Polish National Lodge. His very speech had seemed a freezing impediment, but he set to work with a will, first to master the duties of the Lodge, and he thought that no one could say that he, as a Hungarian, had not performed that part of his work. When he had satisfied himself, he felt that he could swim, and counting on the indulgence of the brethren he had struck out boldly, hoping that zeal, honesty of purpose and purity of intention might carry him through, however arduous the task might prove to be. He had ever aimed at the elevation of their work from the humdrum of routine into the real meaning of our Masonic principle. How far he had succeeded he would leave to the members. He could point with pride to the present Officers of the Lodge, whom he felt were individually able to perform their duties creditably. Who could look on such a progeny and not feel proud? Each, he was sure, would be able to give a good account of himself when his day for action came. It was to this he wished to draw their attention; he was sure that if they continued with such workers the glory of the Polish National Lodge would continue to shine to the end of time. The W.M. next called upon the brethren to drink the health of the Past Masters; it was a toast always honoured in their Lodge, and one he felt sure the brethren would never neglect. They were favoured that evening with the presence of several of their Past Masters; he gave them, on his own behalf as well as on that of the members, a most cordial welcome. Bro. Nowakowski responded. The Past Masters were pleased to see so influential an assembly of brethren. Their present Master had proved himself an able leader, and shown himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him. He (Bro. Nowakowski) could look back with pleasure to the time when the Lodge was formed; it was then thought that it would be better to work the ceremonies in the mother language of the Poles, but as the founders were so ably supported by English brethren, they decided to work in the English language. Since that time they had been indebted to English brethren for much of their prosperity. He was pleased to know that many of the Hungarians who lived in London were members of their Lodge, and regretted that, from causes beyond their control, many others were prevented from joining them. Whenever he came to the Lodge he was gratified at its ever increasing prosperity, and he felt this was the feeling of all the Past Masters; in whose name he thanked the Lodge. The toast of the Visitors, proposed from the chair, was acknowledged by each, after which the W.M. gave that of the W.M. elect, Bro. Ebner. This toast he felt might almost be considered the principal one of the evening, and he felt sure that members would join him in wishing their present S.W. a happy and prosperous year in the chair to which he had that night been elected. Bro. Ebner thanked the brethren most heartily. He feared the duties were much more than he had anticipated, but the fact of his having been elected unanimously had shown him that he might reckon on the support of the members, and with their assistance he hoped to be able satisfactorily to perform his duties. The next toast, that of the Officers, was duly honoured. The W.M. thanked each for their assistance during his presidency. Bro. Taylor the S.D. trusted the Officers would continue to merit the eulogiums which had that evening been bestowed on them; he was in ill health, and hoped the brethren would excuse him making further remarks. Bro. Dr. Jagielski regretted to lose their present Master; he had always spoken in a kind manner to the Officers. He then referred to the steps taken by Grand Lodge

with reference to the action of the Grand Orient, and hoped that the matter would be thoroughly and properly settled. Bros. Corrie Jackson and Lancaster also replied; after which the Tyler was called, and he concluded the proceedings. Some excellent glees and songs were sung during the evening, greatly adding to the enjoyment of the brethren.

[The following address was delivered at a recent meeting of the Polish National Lodge by Bro. Dr. Jagielski, and in the belief that it will be read with great interest by our constituents, we have determined to reproduce it in full:—"Worshipful Master, Past Masters and Brethren,—We have to-night heard so many beautiful speeches and ideas advanced within this festive circle that it would seem almost right, as some of the preceding speakers have said, to abstain from further remarks because nothing else was really left to be added. However, I cannot hide from you that in this I differ with those who have preceded me, because, on the contrary, I see a vast field for observation before my view. My right hand neighbour, Dr. Thomas, has ventured to compare two of our most distinguished brethren with Cicero and the First Napoleon. The reason assigned for this compliment confirms the correct and able choice of the comparison. Now, could I realise a wish, it would be to have the ability of a Demosthenes, who, I think, would be a fit companion for the geniuses my brother has selected. I might then be able to clearly express in your difficult English tongue, with his resistless eloquence and mastery of utterance, all that just now crosses my mind. First of all, and in contrast with the confession of a *tabula rasa* before us, I feel somewhat surprised that no mention has been made at our banquet of the circumstance that we have unquestionably been impressed by what has occurred within the walls of our Lodge room. In the first place we have been witnesses of the ceremony of raising, which terminated with the able address of our I.P.M., and when he produced the special distinction granted to the members of the Polish National Lodge by warrant of the M.W.G.M. in 1846, which is designated the "Polish White Eagle," and which he placed in the button-hole of our new brother—"in-law," we were gratified at seeing him the recipient of the special emblem which every member of the Polish National Lodge has a right to wear in any Masonic assembly. The next solemn ceremony performed, a ceremony for the first time in our Lodge since its formation in 1846, was the presentation to Bro. Rath, by unanimous vote of the Lodge, of the still more distinctive jewel known as the "Commander's White Eagle;" this was given to our brother by our Worshipful Master to-night in the name, and on behalf of our Lodge, and we are gratified in seeing it now irradiating its brilliant light in all directions from his breast. Well was this eagle won by our dear brother; the inscription on the back shows that it has been conferred on him in acknowledgment of special, indefatigable exertions, within and on behalf of our Lodge, and as a stimulus for the members to emulate his noble example. Brethren, almost all of you have witnessed the deep emotion of our brother, and you have heard him express words of surprise, of thanks, and of joy, on receiving this exceptional favour; ay, you have heard how warmly he has expressed how his own feelings and dignity are identified with those of the Polish National Lodge. Brethren, I think we have held this night a grand Festival, as we shall remember it with pleasure, hoping that we may have repetitions of the presentation of the Commander's White Eagle within our Lodge. Every W.M. of the Polish National Lodge, it is true, wears a similar decoration for the time being; every I.P.M. of our Lodge has a right to wear the same jewel, but the presentation of the Commander's White Eagle, by the unanimous vote of the Lodge, has virtually given to this evening an exceptionally solemn expression of ceremonial festivity. So far we have followed with a gay heart the joyful impressions of the Polish White Eagle; but, brethren, there is to every bright side in this world its shadow, and it would be unbecoming and unmanly for us not to face the sad feelings which depress our hearts, when we remember the very origin of this Eagle, the symbol of virtue, innocence, and brotherly love, worn by each of us nearest to his heart. Brethren, we all love Freemasonry, and we also love our birth-place, our fatherland, and it would appear unnatural to deny the feeling of love for home. Still, although Freemasonry is said to be spread over the whole world, although it represents a Cosmopolitan union, it only occupies, considered geographically, a very small expanse of our earthly surface. To weigh the truth of my statement rightly, let us follow our Eagle in his brilliant flight over land and seas; let him cross the Baltic, and he will soon be in those regions where the hearts of men know nothing of Masonic bonds. Beyond the confines of Germany, towards the East, you will realise the same fact; try to travel with your White Polish Eagle in your box into that very country, and you will find, if you are in the birthplace of the White Eagle, that its discovery in your possession may bring you into prison; or, if a Pole, place you perhaps far beyond the confines of Europe into Siberian icefields and mines, so sadly renowned for their horrors and certain miseries, and—death. Ay, brethren, there are no Freemasons to be found now in that enormous geographical expression called "Russia"; all there is cold and strange to the sympathies of our brotherhood, from the Throne which calls itself divine, down to the humblest peasant. The same in the just discovered wilds of Africa, Australia, &c. However, brethren, pardon me, I will not disclose any more sad pictures before you, but will remind you, whenever you hear of "Masonry being spread over all the world," to recollect where the countries and nations are that are shut to our brotherhood, and will remain inaccessible and unapproachable by law of blinded force for many, many years to come. Let us, however, hope that the time may come when all the nations of the world will be brethren in Masonry, and that a universal happiness may be realised by the expression that our Craft is spread over the whole world. I thank you, brethren, for your attention, and may the Almighty give us all long life to look for years to come at the "Commander's White Eagle" on our brethren's breast, and may the ornament they wear reflect honour and glory upon the Polish National Lodge.]

Royal Alfred Lodge of Instruction, No. 780.—A meeting was held on Friday, 15th March, at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge. Bros. Walter Goss W.M., May S.W., Gomm J.W., Gunner Hon. Sec., Blasby S.D., Erwin J.D., Costelow I.G.; Past Masters Bros. J. C. Roe Preceptor, and Gardiner; Bros. Dorey, Acworth, Parker, Pearson, &c. This being the meeting preceding the assembly of the Mother Lodge, on 22nd March, the Officers were in attendance, and took their several positions. Lodge was duly opened and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremonies of raising, with Bro. Gunner as candidate; passing, with Bro. Acworth as candidate; and initiation, Bro. Parker representing the aspirant for Masonic light. The W.M. was congratulated by the P.M.'s and brethren upon the masterly manner in which he had delivered the ritual connected with the several degrees, and after resolutions—(1) to provide collars for the Officers of the Lodge of Instruction, (2) to invite the officers of the Mother Lodge in their official capacity periodically to visit the Lodge of Instruction, were carried unanimously, Lodge was closed till Friday evening, 29th March, at half-past 7, when Bro. Blasby will officiate as W.M.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.—Held its weekly meeting on the 19th inst., at Bro. Smyth's, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston. Bros. Brasted W.M., Weige S.W., Williams J.W., Dignam S.D., Young J.D., Slaiter I.G., Dallas Sec., Smyth Treasurer, Past Master Wallington Preceptor; also Bros. C. Lorkin, Collins, Farss, Brown, Cornu, Dodson Dickens, Harding, and others. The Lodge was opened in due form, the minutes read and confirmed. Bro. Christian answered the questions, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. The Preceptor gave the traditional history. The Lodge was called from labour, and afterwards resumed its Masonic duties, and closed down to the first degree. Bro. Christian worked the third section of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Bigg, of Lodge 45, and Bros. Dodson and Cornu, of Lodge 860, were elected members. Proposed by Bro. Wallington, seconded by Bro. Christian, that the sum of £5 5s be placed on Bro. Dickens's list for the Boys' Festival; carried unanimously. Bro. Weige was elected W.M. for the ensuing week.

Upton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1227.—At the King and Queen, Norton Folgate, on Friday, the 15th inst. Present—Bros. Simmonds W.M., Hine S.W., Crouch J.W., Fenner Precept., Townsend Sec., Smith S.D., Lane I.G., also Bros. Bolton, Pearey, Wartski, Strand and Hunt. Preliminaries observed, Bro. Hunt answered the usual questions leading to the third degree, and was entrusted. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Crouch, who rehearsed the ceremony of raising in an excellent manner, Bro. Simmonds being the candidate. Bro. Simmonds resumed the chair, closed the Lodge in the third degree, and resumed to the first degree, when Bro. Fenner worked the second and third sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Hine was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Lodge was then closed in due form and adjourned. The annual supper in connection with this Lodge takes place on Thursday next. Tickets, 3s each, can be had of Bros. Bolton or Lane.

Finsbury Park Lodge of Instruction, No. 1288.—Held at Finsbury Park Tavern, Holloway, N., on Wednesday, the 20th inst. Bros. P. Dickinson Preceptor, T. Goode W.M., L. R. Rogers P.M. S.W., J. Pigot P.M. J.W., Alfred Goode S.D., Press J.D., John Spurgin I.G., H. B. D. Dunn Secretary; Bros. John Evans, G. D. Edmunds, John Eldridge P.M. 167, Nettleton, of No. 90, Canada, &c. Lodge opened and minutes were read. Bro. Edmunds, candidate for raising, was examined as a F.C. and entrusted. Lodge opened in the third degree, and the ceremony was rehearsed. Bro. P.M. Dickinson worked the first and second sections of the first lecture. Bro. P.M. Rogers was elected W.M. for the ensuing week.

Finsbury Park Master Masons Lodge of Instruction, No. 1288.—At the Finsbury Park Tavern, Holloway, on Friday, 15th March, Bro. L. R. Rogers P.M. Preceptor. Bros. Payne W.M., H. B. D. Dunn S.W., Thompson J.W., Press S.D., Edmunds J.D., J. F. O. Wood I.G., Beattie, Parslow, Wilkinson, Cox, Cuthbertson, and several others. Lodge opened and minutes were read. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Parslow candidate. Bro. Beattie, candidate for passing, was examined and entrusted. Lodge opened to second degree, and the ceremony was rehearsed. Lodge closed in second degree. Bros. S. Beattie, of Metropolitan Lodge, No. 1507, W. Wilkinson, St. John's, 167, and C. F. Parslow, of Hugh Middleton, 1602, were elected members. Bro. H. B. D. Dunn will preside at the next meeting.

Marquess of Ripon Lodge of Instruction, No. 1489.—At the Pembury Tavern, Anhurst-road, Hackney, on Monday, 18th inst. Present—Bros. Cusworth W.M., E. Bishop S.W., Mann J.W., Goddard S.D., McDowell J.D., Grist I.G., Stephens P.M. Preceptor and Treasurer, Slaiter Secretary; also Bros. Hobbs P.M., F. Badkin, Jacob, Blunt, Garrod, Lockett, Paddle P.M., &c. The Lodge was opened in due form. After the confirmation of the minutes, the ceremony of installation was ably and impressively rehearsed by Bro. Cusworth, W.M. of the New Concord Lodge, No. 813. Bro. Slaiter was then placed in the chair, and the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Goddard candidate. It was unanimously resolved that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes to Bro. Cusworth, for the able and efficient manner in which he had worked the ceremony of installation. Bro. E. Bishop was elected W.M. for the ensuing two weeks. Bro. Paddle P.M. of Panmure Lodge, No. 715, was elected a member. All Masonic business being ended, the Lodge was closed in harmony, and adjourned to Monday, the 25th inst., at 7.30.

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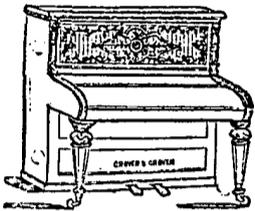
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 awarded, with costs, by Vice-Chancellor Bacon, on 19th
 January 1877, and all such practices will be summarily pro-
 ceeded against.—N.B.—See that the outer wrapper
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