

THE

Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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RESUMPTION OF WORK.

THE time is not far distant when work will have been pretty generally resumed by our Lodges, and, as on some former occasions, we think it by no means an inopportune time for offering a few remarks both on the events that are passed and those which may be awaiting us. As regards the former, nothing has happened which is calculated to evoke any other kind of feeling than one of satisfaction; as regards the latter, though it is not in the power of any one to outline for himself with accuracy the near future, he may nevertheless, by comparing circumstances one with another, hazard a tolerably shrewd guess as to whether the outlook is promising or the reverse. Nor is Freemasonry one of those societies in which the vicissitudes of fortune are either sudden or considerable; and as we have been fairly prosperous during the year which commenced in October last, so may we anticipate at least an equal measure of prosperity in the year that is about to commence. The work that has been done by our Lodges on behalf of our Institutions has been most praiseworthy. The very large number of brethren who gallantly undertook the somewhat thankless duties of Stewards proves incontestably that the support accorded to our Charities is spread over a wider area than it used to be, while the handsome totals realised at the three Festivals is proof, if proof were needed, that the distribution of support and patronage is not a source of weakness but of strength. This is a point that has often been urged by men of experience on the members of our Society, to whom it has been pointed out that the constant multiplication of modest donations and subscriptions would in the end prove more beneficial than the larger contributions of the limited few. In the year we are glancing at there was an aggregate of considerably over 800 Stewards to the Festivals of our three Institutions, which gives an average list of £50 per Steward. As there are probably not more than about from 1,200 to 1,300 Lodges in England, it will be seen from these few particulars that, speaking roughly, about two out of every three Lodges have contributed something towards the maintenance of our Schools and Benevolent Institution. This cannot be regarded as otherwise than satisfactory, showing, as it does, that the interest in these Charities is, as we have already suggested, more widespread than it used to be a few years back. This alone is matter for general congratulation.

Then, the work of Freemasonry in the Lodges has been pursued both evenly and successfully, if, at the same time, somewhat monotonously. There has been but a small increase in the number of our Lodges, and a considerable portion of those that have been warranted this year are located abroad. The slightness of the increase, however, if not a matter for congratulation, is at all events not seriously to be regretted. What is most wanted just now is consolidation, not extension, and our present efforts should be directed towards making our newest Lodges thoroughly effective rather than multiplying their number indefinitely. We have recently had an instance in the north of England that the future of a young and promising Lodge may be darkened because the members have made it their business to prefer their individual interests to the good of Freemasonry in general, and it has been reserved for a Lodge of less than six years' standing to win for itself the very questionable distinction of having, by a series of acts which are wholly blameable, brought more ridicule on Freemasonry in the course of a few days

than all our fifty year old and older Lodges have brought upon it in the full period of their existence. This but shows how true were the words of the late Bro. Hervey when on all suitable occasions he urged on young Lodges how great a necessity there was for them to exercise caution in the reception of candidates. Now that our Lodges are about to resume their meetings for the year, we may take it that this and similarly important questions will receive their due share of attention. We may also assume that the claims of our Institutions will again be urged on the notice of brethren. The School Elections in the earlier half of next month will be a convenient reminder that Stewards will be required for the Festivals of 1881, while the fact that Sir H. Edwards, Bart., Prov. G. Master of West Yorkshire, has kindly consented to preside at that of the Benevolent Institution augurs well for their prospects in the coming year. Our Lodges of Instruction, though they deserve a holiday, can hardly be said to take rest for any appreciable length of time. In the case of many, indeed, the study of Freemasonry is as ardently pursued in the warm summer months of July and August as in the middle of winter. Therefore we need say little about their resumption of work, seeing that what in so many instances has never been interrupted cannot well be resumed. We will, however, suggest that it would be a move in the right direction if the programme of instruction were made less monotonous. This class of Lodges meets weekly, and the round of their labours includes the rehearsal of the ceremonies of the several degrees, those of consecration and installation occasionally, and the working of the sections. These constitute the subjects of instruction, and only in one or two cases have we known a Lodge travel outside the course prescribed by usage and take up with any other branch of study. One would naturally imagine that the iteration of the same phrases from year's end to year's end would in time become wearisome, yet the patience of our brethren is something marvellous, and they are to be commended for their possession of this virtue. But we cannot say as much for the taste which permits them to sit down and listen week after week to the same story. The supreme effort, on which a Lodge of Instruction most prides itself is, to get through the Fifteen Sections—frequently at railway speed—in the course of a single evening; and if the task is accomplished, every one who was present goes straightway home to his couch and then sinks into a placid sleep in the firm belief he has had a share in some heroic action. We have a great respect for the sections,—as geographers have for the equator, the ecliptic, and the gulf stream,—but we are not so madly in love with them that we could not occasionally interest ourselves in other branches of Masonic study. Could not some of our Preceptors take upon themselves the duties of exposition? Can they not find it in their hearts to do something else than listen to the repetition of the same phrases and correct the steps of the insufficiently instructed? A great deal is said about the science of Freemasonry, but the science must be up in the clouds for aught we hear about it in our Lodges of Instruction. Let them see if in this approaching resumption of work they cannot find it in their hearts to introduce some branch of study, which from its novelty as well as its fitness, shall excite something more than the dead-alive interest that is now exhibited in their proceedings. Even a short original address on one of the implements of Masonry or one of the Masonic landmarks would serve as an agreeable contrast to the monotony which is now so universal and to some minds so tiresome.

MORE LITIGATION.

IT will not surprise those of our readers who have noted our reports of the proceedings during the last twelve or eighteen months of the Committees and Quarterly Court of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys to be told that it is, or shortly will be, engaged in a lawsuit with Bro. S. B. Wilson, the architect under whose direction the extension buildings at the School at Wood Green were some time since erected. The question to be determined is in respect of the professional charges of the latter, and while the action is pending both justice and etiquette require that we should abstain from offering any remarks which might be calculated to prejudice the interests of either side. Bro. Wilson's charges may be correct, the particulars he furnished may turn out to be sufficient or insufficient, but these are matters which it will come within the province of the jury to determine in accordance with the evidence; with these, therefore, we have no present concern. But we are not denied the privilege of criticising the circumstances which, after dragging their weary length over a period of about a year and a half, or it may be even longer, have landed the School and its architect in a course of litigation which, however it may result, cannot prove otherwise than expensive to both litigants.

Every one who possesses the slightest acquaintance with the law must be aware that even the victor in any action will have to pay the piper, though his expenses will necessarily prove less heavy than those of his opponent. When a plaintiff or defendant gets a verdict with costs, the general belief is that, having gained the day, the expenses he has incurred are reimbursed to him, but this is far from being the case. The term "costs" applies only to those incurred as between counsel and attorney, while the unfortunate victor has to pay those as between attorney and client. We can illustrate this by a recent case within our own knowledge, in which a gentleman had an action brought against him, and the judge's decision was adverse. Being not unnaturally dissatisfied with the result, he appealed to a higher Court, where the judges unanimously sustained his appeal, reversed the decision of the Court below, and gave judgment in his favour, with costs in both the actions. But notwithstanding his victory, he was between £50 and £60 out of pocket. The moral of this is, that law is a luxury which should be studiously avoided by all sober-minded people, and especially by those who can find a better use for their money than to put it into the pocket of an attorney. This view, however, appears to have made little or no impression on the minds of this Committee. As far as can be gathered from the brief reports which have appeared from time to time in our columns, Bro. Wilson has placed himself and his particulars as unreservedly as possible at the disposal of this Committee, and whatever may be the merits of the actual facts in dispute between them, he, at all events, is, in our judgment, absolved of all responsibility for its reference to a court of law. He has expressed himself as prepared to submit his case to arbitration, and even went so far as to name one of the most distinguished members of his profession—a gentleman whose sense of justice is above suspicion—as arbitrator. He has signified his willingness to furnish all the information it was in his power to give, and his representative wrote to that of the Committee with a view of making an appointment and coming to an amicable settlement. Indeed, Bro. Wilson appears to have exhibited even more than the proverbial patience of Job, and to have good-naturedly allowed himself to be bandied about from pillar to post, in the vain hope that the House Committee, being at length actuated by a sense of reason, as well as by a desire to avoid a trial and the attendant costs, would agree to accept his account. It is hard to see how Bro. Wilson could have done more than he has done in order to facilitate the determination of his difference with the House Committee.

We reiterate our intention of saying nothing at the present time about the justice or injustice of Bro. Wilson's charges, the sufficiency or insufficiency of his particulars. He has said—and we have no reason to question his statement—that the School was the gainer by the form in which they were presented. With this, of course, we have nothing to do. We wish, however, we could bring ourselves to believe, after a careful consideration of the preliminary circumstances, that the House Committee had

acted in the same spirit as its opponent in the suit. We fear—indeed, we feel almost confident in saying—that the counsels of some litigiously-disposed members were allowed to prevail over the common sense and business judgment of the rest. We are prepared to have it retorted upon us that the House Committee would have settled the account long since had Bro. Wilson been willing to do certain things, but this will not absolve them from blame when we bear in mind it is on record that Bro. Wilson has throughout expressed his perfect willingness to do anything or everything in reason, and more than this even the House Committee of the Boys' School, with the Genius of Discord in its midst, has no right to expect. One word more, and we have done. Whatever may be the result of the dispute, a portion of the School funds must find its way into the pockets of an attorney, unless, indeed, the House Committee is prepared to defray its own charges. We hardly imagine this unpleasant little fact will commend itself very highly to those patrons and supporters of the School who subscribed so magnificent a sum as that realised at the Anniversary Festival of 1st July.

AFLOAT.

IF we inquire into the meaning of the word Afloat, it will be found to be of brief but clear definition, and descriptive also of a class of Masons who are "borne on the waters" of a changing and uncertain life. To be afloat signifies "borne on the water; floating, swimming, moving; passing from place to place, unfixed, moving without guide or control." To be afloat, in the sense of moving, or passing from place to place; or as unfixed, and moving without guide or control, presents a condition of things so repulsive to every thinking person, that the best shrink from it with loathing, while the vicious and the idle, and idleness is akin to vice, are alone in embracing it.

It needs no stretch of the imagination to see in the application of this term that the many thousands of unaffiliated Masons who contribute nothing to the support of Masonry, but expect so much from it, are afloat on the sea of uncertainty, mere wreckage, thrown from the stable body of the Craft.

We have heretofore alluded to the disastrous condition of things, too frequently caused by non-affiliates, and to it we not only invite, but urge, the best remedial judgment of the Fraternity.

In Massachusetts, for the year 1879, no less than 1,412 were set afloat, by reason of being "suspended from membership," "discharged from membership," and "dimitted." Of the latter it is to be presumed that a liberal per centage asked a dimit that they might affiliate in other Lodges. An analysis of the figures reported shows, that 862 Master Masons were qualified in that year to become members, but the number actually accepted was 1,122, an excess of 260, taken from those dimitted.

It further appears that 141 were reinstated, and these must have come from the suspended and discharged, which leaves a total of 1,011 floating Masons, moving without guide or control, and chargeable to what may be called the Masonic flotsam and jetsam of 1879.

To the loyal Craft of Massachusetts this represents an annual financial loss of 1,011 dolls., or a loss by commutation, at 10 dolls. each, of 10,110 dolls., and yet this is not the extent by any means if we estimate, as we honestly ought, the consequential losses.

To find the remedy is not the purpose of this article, but we have no doubt that a general one would have to be modified occasionally for local purposes.

If we go beyond the limits of Massachusetts, it appears that in Connecticut 391 Master Masons were made for the year ending 1st January 1880, and that during that term 370 were set off by the three causes named as operative in Massachusetts. Of these, 70 were admitted, 45 were reinstated, leaving 276 afloat, "changing and uncertain." In Mississippi for the same year the number of Master Masons made was 250, but the dimitted and suspended numbered 772; of these, however, 234 affiliated, and 164 were reinstated, thus reducing the number set afloat, in that term and state, to 374. These losses left the total membership in each state respectively at 25,505, 14,660 and 9,025.

The amount of misconception, misconstruction and consequent misunderstanding these figures numbering those afloat represent is really appalling; they suggest families deceived by their own; widows and orphans disappointed in consequence of husbands and fathers setting themselves afloat; the Craft burdened by unjust claims, and consequent unjust censure, the principles of the Society overridden by drones on land, and shirkers at sea, who have wilfully set themselves afloat, the flotsam and jetsam of a society that needs to enforce the justice of its claims against these wilful and negligent losses.—*The Liberal Freemason.*

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—The stomach and its troubles cause more discomfort and bring more unhappiness than is commonly supposed. The thousand ills that settle there may be prevented or dislodged by the judicious use of these purifying Pills, which act as a sure, gentle, anti-acid aperient, without annoying the nerves of the most susceptible or irritating the most delicate organisation. Holloway's Pills will bestow comfort and confer relief on every headachy, dyspeptic, and sickly sufferer whose tortures make him a burden to himself and a bugbear to his friends. These Pills have long been the popular remedy for a weak stomach, for a disordered liver, or a paralysed digestion, which yield without difficulty to their regulating, purifying, and tonic qualities.

RIPPINGILLE'S MINERAL OIL COOKING STOVES AND KITCHENERS.

IF our grandfathers could but return for a brief season to the scene of their earthly cares, they would be surprised at the many ingenious contrivances which the skill of man has invented for the lessening of labour and trouble in almost every branch of duty, and especially those on the proper fulfilment of which so materially depends the comforts and convenience of domestic life. We do not say that comfort and convenience were unknown two generations ago. On the contrary, we often find ourselves disagreeing with people who never know how to exalt too highly the virtues of the present generation. Nevertheless there can be no doubt that the comforts of domestic life are greatly in advance of what they were some half a century ago, when the Charleys were the guardians of the public streets in night time, when gas for lighting purposes was but little used, and the museum of patents had not been enriched by the thousand and one appliances which are now in daily use in almost every decent household in the United Kingdom. We have vivid recollections in our school-boy days of the wonders of a certain bachelor's kettle, and the pride we experienced when, having purchased one of these out of our surplus pocket money, we found we could treat ourselves and chums to a dish of tea or cocoa of our own making. What ecstasies we should have fallen into had we been possessed of a patent frying-pan, warranted to prepare anything, at shortest notice, from a cake of toffy or a welsh rarebit to a rasher of bacon and chips, may be more easily imagined than described. But our astonishment would have known no bounds if we had ascertained that for a small outlay we could purchase an apparatus capable of preparing, without trouble and expeditiously, all the materials for a substantial tea or breakfast—we fear that a dinner would have been too serious an undertaking both as regards time and money. Yet now there are all kinds of patent stoves, varying in price from a few shillings to a few pounds, which the labour-saving housewife may command. Some of these are heated by gas, some by mineral and other oils, and it is with one kind of these latter that we purpose dealing in this article.

We must premise that what we are about to say of this particular oil stove is the result of actual and practical experience. Our knowledge is not derived from those who have heard of or seen them working, nor are we indebted to a variety of prospectuses for the estimation in which we hold it. We have made actual trial of its properties, and our readers are welcome to know all we can tell them of the result of such trial.

The chief merit of these stoves is undoubtedly that they involve no trouble whatever. If a kettle of hot water is wanted, the burner is lighted, and in due time the water is boiled. If a rasher of bacon or an egg is required, it can be cooked while the tea is drawing. Supplied with one of the smaller-sized stoves, a man in rooms or chambers would be independent of his landlady or laundress for his breakfast. All that is wanted is a fresh supply of oil from time to time, and he may daily prepare his own breakfast or tea, with no further trouble than is involved in filling his kettle with water and putting what food he may wish cooked into or upon the proper apparatus, in the saucepan or frying-pan, or on the gridiron. There is no objectionable smoke to encounter. He need have little fear of soiling his fingers in the course of his culinary operations, and after a few trials he will have no difficulty in cooking his food to a turn. The bachelor of simple wants, or even the benedict who is obliged to be up early of a morning and away betimes, will find that, without any previous course of study at a school of cookery, and with only a hint or two from his sister or his wife, he can prepare for himself a comfortable and sufficient breakfast without difficulty and in the briefest possible space of time.

The above remarks, of course, apply to the small stove, such as a bachelor would require on his breakfast-table or ready at hand at other times should he wish for a cup of tea or coffee with light refreshment. But there is the large stove, which answers at one and the same time all the purposes of a kitchen range, and cooks a joint of meat of several pounds weight, with two or three kinds of vegetables, and on the removal of the joint, will bake a pie or rice pudding, &c., &c., &c. This stove is fitted complete with oven, meat-tray, grid, stewpan, and steamer (or kettle), and costs £2 15s 6d, or with extras it will be somewhat over £3; and as the oil that is used in the preparation of a dinner is inexpensive, our readers will have little doubt about the economy of this Rippingille's Patent Stove. The remarks we have already made as to the absence of smell and smoke apply equally to the costliest as to the cheapest stove. Thus, in the summer and autumn, a fire in the kitchen is unnecessary when one of these stoves is at hand, while the trouble of cooking is even less than with the ordinary range, as there is no need for anything like that constant supervision which, in the usual culinary operations, is deemed indispensable.

We have chosen for special mention the smallest and the largest sizes of this Mineral Oil Stove. We may add that there are stoves of different gradations of size, and therefore of cost, between the two. One of the most popular of these is the A B C Breakfast Stove, though it may be made available for other purposes, and the A B C Dinner Stove, which, in all essential particulars, agrees with the large stoves already described, the price, however, is only £2 5s.

We have said that one description of this stove will be found serviceable by bachelors. Others of the intermediate stoves have been proved to be handy on board yachts, or by parties out picnicking or volunteering: the latter is appropriately called the "Canteen Stove," and the former the "Hurricane Stove." Indeed the stove, whatever size it may be, being portable, may be taken about as convenience may suggest, only of course it is better that it should be fitted for the special purpose for which it may be used than that one stove should be made to duty for all purposes.

We have completed our brief notice, but as yet we have only spoken of the stoves as "Rippingille's Portable Mineral Oil Cooking

Stoves and Kitcheners." One further piece of information is indispensable, or our readers will be at a loss to know where to procure these most serviceable of domestic utensils. Well, the sole manufacturers are the Albion Lamp Company, 118 Holborn, E.C., where the fullest particulars as to price, fittings, &c., &c., will be furnished. The Company, indeed, is located close by where the statue of the late Prince Consort faces the Holborn Viaduct, and is easily accessible from all parts of the Metropolis. We should advise any of our readers who may be desirous of possessing one of these stoves to pay the Albion Lamp Company's premises a visit, if only for the purpose of inspection. We are sure they will be well satisfied with what they see.

IS FREEMASONRY PERFORMING HER MISSION.

THE question at the head of this article is one of paramount importance to the Craft. It is one that should be made a subject of special legislation in every Lodge-room in the country. We are perfectly willing to admit that on great occasions and special exigencies, the wondrous vitality of Freemasonry is exhibited by the liberal manner in which she showers her offerings into the cup of misery and despair. We desire, however, to see something more than these spasmodic efforts. The clear, crystal waters of Masonic charity should flow in their rippling course as from a perennial spring, enriching her barren soil of poverty, and watering her parched sands of misery and distress. Does Freemasonry do so? Is Freemasonry to-day performing her holy mission?

We take up the reports of Grand Lodges, and what do we find? Extravagance and wanton waste in high places, niggardly charity and plenty of rhetorical display. We turn to the Masonic periodicals of the day and what do we read? Do we find their columns replete with the generous deeds and noble acts of individual Masons, or the liberal donations and timely assistance of Masonic bodies to their poor and impoverished brethren, their weeping widows, and starving orphans? No. We will tell you what you will find: glowing accounts of Knight Templar parades, &c., &c., rite banquets, "hifalutin" speeches of men, rejoicing in high sounding, farcical titles, and ancient Craft Masonry is kept in the back ground.

The Masonry of this continent has gone mad after high degreeism and grand titleism.

We tell the brethren, that if they do not pay more attention to the pure, simple, beautiful symbolism of Lodge, and less to the tinsel, furbelow, fuss and feathers of Scotch Ritism and Templarism, the Craft will yet be shaken to its very foundations. Scotch Ritism "founded on Masonic forgery," and only kept alive by proselyting missionaries, is a mere mushroom of the hour, and should never be compared to the pure, holy Freemasonry, which was handed down to us from the Dark Ages, and systematized in 1717. All other so-called branches of Freemasonry are very pretty offshoots, but they are only offshoots of the parent stem—engrafted branches on the oak, beautiful with leaf and fragrant with flower, but bearing no fruit. What we desire is—to see that Freemasonry which our fathers and forefathers loved kept pure and spotless, and rendered holy by generous deeds and noble actions.

Lodges, too, at the present day are too devoted to work and ritualism. Many brethren seem to think that as long as there is plenty of work in the Lodge that is all that is required. This anxiety to manufacture Masons is a terrible mistake. We have too many in our ranks now. The duty of the Brotherhood is to make the Lodge room a home, to make the members brethren in act, as well as in name; to make each brother the missionary of truth and honour, and the harbinger of goodness, and rendering generous aid to those in sorrow, sickness, misery and distress. If Lodges do this, brethren would not run mad after spurious degrees and absurd and nonsensical titles, as is now the case.

What do the brethren mean when they say: "Oh! Bro. So and So is a very high Mason?" High Mason, indeed, because forsooth he has a long purse, and consequently has taken an innumerable number of so-called grades and degrees, and wears stars and ribbons upon his breast! Why, perchance he has never presided over a Lodge or occupied the East in any Masonic body, yet brethren speak of such an one, because he writes his Sir Knight before his name, and on dress parade, in his cocked hat, with sword and baldric, looks a very handsome fellow, or has the mystic number "32" after his name, or even perchance "33," if he has the money to run over to Spain to get it with the consent of the Supreme Grand Council of the Northern Jurisdiction of the U.S., we repeat, because of these things, he is called a "very high Mason." What a farce! What a burlesque on our glorious brotherhood!!

The Freemasonry of the nineteenth century has a holy glorious, God-inspiring mission to perform. In our ranks are thousands of widows burning the midnight oil with heated brows and aching hearts. There are thousands of starving Masonic orphans running wild in New York and our large cities, learning to curse and swear, and lie and steal, and there are numbers among us sinking into idolatry, despair and ruin, through the love of strong drink. There are many of us ruined seeking solace in the gambler's hell. There are some of our daughters, once beloved and admired, who have fallen before the false smile and gilded words of her accursed, and doubly accursed, seducer. Has Freemasonry, then, no better mission to perform than teach her votaries a love of titles, display, parade, banquet, and regalia? Surely the holy mission of the Craft is to stretch forth her hand to aid and succour, protect and save. Let the tocsin be sounded, and let the Craftsmen come forward and purge our society of its false glitter and flimsy tinsel, and gild it with the pure gold of Masonic truth, Masonic honour, and Masonic charity. Then, and then only, will Freemasonry have performed her holy mission.—Corner Stone.

LODGE HISTORIES.

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ST. MICHAEL'S LODGE, No. 211.

(Continued from page 161.)

We left off last week with the Lodge just settling down in its newly-chosen quarters, the Albion, Aldersgate Street, where it still continues to meet after an almost undeviatingly-successful course of twenty years. The move was made in the year 1860, when Bro. John Laver, still happily a respected member of the Lodge, was the W. Master, there being also three other brethren, who were then as now members, namely, Bros Drysdale and Greenwood, both Past Masters at that time, and the latter Treasurer, and Bro. Parsons, also now an honoured P.M. At the first meeting held under the hospitable roof of the Albion, notice of motion was given by Bro. Kincaid to the effect that "a brother going abroad, and giving notice thereof," might "remain a member by paying a guinea a year during his absence, instead of the usual subscription, the first payment to be paid in advance." When this motion came on for discussion in due course at the next meeting in November, an amendment was proposed and seconded by Bros. Playford P.M. and Jones P.M. respectively, which so far altered the original resolution as to make it include as well brethren who lived at a distance of fifty miles from the place of meeting as those who were going abroad. Moreover, it made the act of grace depend on the approval of the officers of the Lodge, and further ordered that whenever any such brother should attend the Lodge he was to pay the visiting fee. The amendment, and original resolution having been submitted, the former was declared carried by a large majority. The same evening it was announced that the Bye Laws were out of print, and the Secretary was accordingly instructed to search the minutes with a view to discovering what, if any, additions had been made, before orders were given for a reprint to be issued. In January 1861 Bro. C. T. Manley was unanimously chosen W. Master for the year, while Bros. Greenwood and Speight were re-elected Treasurer and Tyler respectively. Subsequently, a motion was made and carried, to the effect that the sum of one guinea should be subscribed towards the Henley testimonial. Nothing, however is said as to the nature of this testimonial, which may have been intended for presentation to a Bro. Henley, or to go towards the purchase of a piece of plate to be rowed at the Royal Henley Regatta. At the installation meeting in February there was a muster of between twenty and thirty members and visitors, who attended to witness the induction of Bro. Manley into the chair of K.S. But previous to this a ballot was taken, as usual, on the motion that the customary P.M.'s jewel be presented to Bro. Laver, the retiring Master, in recognition of the services he had rendered during his term of office. The Audit Committee's report was also submitted and accepted, its tenour being less satisfactory than in previous years. Not only was there a small balance of some shillings due to the Treasurer, but there was a House Bill and Grand Lodge dues outstanding to the amount of about £21 13s, while the arrears of subscriptions due reached only £16. The deficit was, however, explained by the extraordinary expenses incurred during the year in respect of the repair and removal of furniture, new collars, repair of jewels, &c.; and but for this undue expenditure there would have been a trifling balance due to the Lodge. The furniture and effects of the Lodge were also certified correct, with the exception of four Masonic glasses missing. The ceremony of installing Bro. Manley was then proceeded with, and the Officers having been appointed and invested, the banquet followed, the last business of the evening being the presentation to Bro. Laver I.P.M. of the Past Master's jewel voted him unanimously in the earlier hours of the meeting. At the March meeting Bro. Playford gave notice of a motion for the addition to the third Bye-law of a clause requiring that whenever any member should propose a candidate for initiation he should deposit the sum of one guinea in part payment of the fee, the same to be returned in the event of the candidate being rejected. This motion was unanimously agreed to at the next meeting, on which occasion also it is recorded that, as several brethren were in arrear with their subscriptions, the Secretary was directed to write to them requesting payment, "in order that the Treasurer might be enabled to discharge the debts due by the Lodge." In November effect was for the first time given to the resolution of the preceding November, and on the motion of Bro. Kincaid, seconded by Bro. Kemp, Bros. Woodgates, Tracy, and Crawford were "placed on the absent list," the condition being the payment of one guinea in advance in February 1862, and of the visiting fee whenever they should attend the Lodge. In December Bro. Alfred Best, the present worthy proprietor of the Freemasons' Tavern, having been duly balloted for and elected, was formally initiated into the mysteries of the first degree in Freemasonry. In January 1862, Bro. Harper was unanimously elected, and in the following year regularly installed Worshipful Master of the Lodge. The Audit Committee's report for the then past year was somewhat more satisfactory. There was a balance of a few shillings in the Treasurer's hands instead of due to him, and the outstanding liabilities were about £12 19s, as against £21 13s at the previous audit, and it was estimated that the subscriptions outstanding were sufficient to cover the bills outstanding. This and the fact of the Lodge paraphernalia being in good order seems to have induced the Committee "to congratulate their brethren on the improved position and prospects of the Lodge." Bro. Best was passed to the second degree at this meeting, and the customary Past Master's jewel was voted to Bro. Manley I.P.M., subject, of course, to the requisite ballot at the next meeting, which, it is almost needless to say, was unanimously in favour of the motion; and Bro. Manley received in due course the just recognition of his services in the chair during the year 1861. On 11th March, Bro. Best was raised to the third degree. At the November meeting no less than four new members were proposed for initiation, and it was resolved, possibly in order to celebrate so agreeable an episode, that

the brethren should dine together at the next meeting in December. Be it added that the four candidates were unanimously accepted, and two of them being present were forthwith initiated into Freemasonry. In January 1863, Bro. Kemp was elected W. Master for the year, and after the re-election of Bro. Greenwood as Treasurer had taken place, a resolution was proposed by Bro. C. T. Manley, seconded by Bro. Kemp, and unanimously agreed to, "That the thanks of the brethren of the Lodge are due, and are hereby given to, Bro. Greenwood P.M., for the great attention at all times given by him to the accounts of the Lodge itself as Treasurer. No one who has followed us through this history, but will deny this was a well-merited compliment. As to the Report of the Audit Committee, which was prepared on the 3rd February, and follows the record of the above resolution, it seems difficult to say whether it forms part of the minutes of the election or installation meeting. The former would appear to be impossible, for though time flies too fast in the estimation of many, the brethren of the St. Michael's are hardly likely, just for the convenience of the moment, to have jumped suddenly from the 13th of January to the 3rd of February. We take it, therefore, that the entry of the Report is intended to belong to the February's minutes. However this may be, it is satisfactory to be told that the Lodge Funds were "in a more satisfactory state than at the last audit," and that there were no outstanding debts. What is better still, the balance in the Treasurer's hands is described as amounting to £5 4s 3d. Among the visitors at the installation of Bro. Kemp as W. Master will be found the name of the late Bro. S. B. Wilson, with the letters "P.J.G.D." attached to it, Bro. Wilson having himself filled the chair of Master two years running in this Lodge. Therefore, though he was a visitor, he was very far from being a stranger. Moreover, he took a leading part in the programme, and acted as Installing Officer on the occasion. The usual P.M.'s jewel was voted to Bro. Harper I.P.M., and then the Lodge adjourned to the Friday following the usual Wednesday, as the latter was the date set apart for the marriage of the Prince of Wales with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark. At the meeting in April it was agreed "That a banquet be given during the summer, and that the time and place be appointed by the Worshipful Master." In the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th October 1863 is an entry recording a most appropriate and well-merited tribute of respect to the memory of Bro. Kincaid Past Master and Secretary, who on the interim between April and October had passed away. Bro. Kincaid had rendered most valuable services to the Lodge. He was Worshipful Master in 1837. We find him filling the responsible office of Treasurer in the years 1840, 1, 2, 3, 4. He was for the second time chosen to fill the chair as Master for the year 1845, and after his installation it was unanimously agreed to present him with a jewel in recognition of his services during the five preceding years, but at his "own request the proposition was withdrawn, and a vote of thanks was substituted." In 1846 he resumed his old office of Treasurer till January 1848, when he was a third time elected Worshipful Master, and the year following, after a motion had been agreed to, by which the office of Secretary was made a permanent one, he was appointed to the Secretaryship, and held it at the time of his death. Thus this worthy brother had held high office as well as taken a leading part in all the business of the Lodge from the year 1840 inclusive—that is, for some four-and-twenty years, to say nothing of the minor duties he had filled in the earlier part of his career, and his first Worshipful Mastership in 1837. No wonder, then, that we read the following simple but eloquent minute to his memory:—

"The Lodge having, since the last meeting, lost the services by death of Bro. Kincaid P.M. Secretary—

"It was resolved—That it is with deep regret the brethren express their sorrow at the loss sustained by the death of our lamented Brother Kincaid P.M. and Secretary, but with an humble hope that he has been translated to the Grand Lodge above, where the world's Great Architect rules and reigns for ever."

At the November meeting we find an entry to the effect that, "Mr. Charles L. Hulbert, approved as a candidate for initiation by ballot on the 9th December last, being in attendance, was prepared, introduced, and regularly initiated into Freemasonry." So long a delay between election and initiation is most unusual, and does not say much for Bro. Hulbert's appreciation of the compliment paid him by the Lodge. It is quite possible, however, that he could offer a satisfactory explanation of the circumstances which led to it. It was afterwards agreed to refer the revision of the Bye-laws and the appointment of a Secretary in place of the late Bro. Kincaid to a Committee, consisting of the Worshipful Master and Bros. Drysdale P.M., Greenwood P.M. and Treasurer, Jones P.M., Manley P.M., and Dobree. At the meeting in January 1864, Bro. Drysdale, who had already once filled the office of Worshipful Master—namely, in the year 1849—was elected for another term, and was installed accordingly at the following meeting. A Past Master's jewel was unanimously voted, subject, of course, to the usual ballot, to the retiring Master, but, strange to say, there is no entry of any Audit Committee's report having been submitted, in accordance with custom, at this meeting. Among the visitors at the March meeting we find entered the name of Bro. Patten P.G.S.B. and Secretary of the Girls' School. On this occasion Bro. Kemp received his Past Master's jewel, which was presented to him by the Worshipful Master in an appropriate address, and suitably acknowledged. In November the business seems to have been of an unusually protracted character, so much so, indeed, that in the case of a Bro. Erlandsen, who had undergone the preliminary examination and retired, with a view of being raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the ceremony was postponed to a more favourable occasion. In January 1865, Bro. W. L. Manley P.M. was again elected W.M., and installed at the usual meeting the following month, Bro. Biggs being for the third year running appointed to the Senior Warden's chair. The Audit Committee's report was submitted and approved, there being a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £15 18s 4d. At the meeting in April it is

on record that a sum of £5 5s was voted to the Royal Freemasons' Girls' School. At the November meeting only Bros. Drysdale W.M., Jones P.M. as S.W., Dobree J.W., and Reynell were present. On the 23rd of the same month an emergency meeting was held for the purpose of raising Bro. Erlandsen to the third degree, there being every probability that the said brother, who, it will be remembered, had had his raising deferred owing to the pressure of business, would leave for Norway before the next regular meeting, and Bro. Erlandsen was raised accordingly. In January 1866 Bro. Dobree, the Junior Warden, was unanimously elected to fill the chair of the Lodge for the year; he was solemnly inducted into the chair of K.S. in accordance with ancient custom, at the meeting in February, in the presence of close on thirty members and visitors. The Audit Committee's report was again satisfactory, there being, after the liquidation of all claims, a balance in the hands of the Treasurer amounting to £10 12s 4d. On this occasion a resolution was agreed to—"That the Charity Box be sent round after each Banquet." It should also be added that Bro. Parsons was appointed by Bro. Dobree to the Senior Warden's chair. At the meeting on the 10th April Bro. Thomas Howard Lavers was elected and initiated into Freemasonry; on the 9th of October he was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and on the 13th of November he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. On the latter occasion three gentlemen were elected and initiated into the mysteries of the first degree, while Bro. Wilden, of the High Cross Lodge, Tottenham, who is still one of the Past Masters of the Lodge, was proposed as a joining member. The last entry in this, the third Minute-Book, we have had the satisfaction of describing, is the minute relating to the meeting in November 1866, and here, therefore, it is our duty to break off for the present.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

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A MASONIC TRIAL.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR BROTHER EDITOR,—Can you explain how it is that Masonic critics, when indulging in the truly British weakness of "writing to the papers," are so apt to lose their tempers, become vicious in their tone, and, mistaking abuse for wit, render their communications obnoxious and unsavoury to their reading brethren? There must be both reason and remedy for this state of things, and the sooner we discover the one, and apply the other, the better and pleasanter it will be for all of us.

An instance in point is to be found in the letter of "H." under the above heading in your issue of Saturday last, who, in objecting to the so-called "High Grades" or "Christian Degrees," or whatever in the name of wonder their promoters choose to call them, goes out of his way, at considerable labour and pains to himself, to throw mud at those brethren who have sufficient money and leisure to amuse themselves with various "Rites," to many of which they have given high sounding titles. There can be no possible objection to "H." expressing his opinions on the subject, and his own illustration of the blacksmith and his little wife will cut both ways, for I do not suppose any of the "systems" upon which he pours contempt will be either better or worse for his approval or the reverse. But I would ask such critics to refrain from giving offence without occasion. It seems that some foolish remarks in the daily press have given umbrage to "H." I should have thought that the very style of those remarks would have revealed to "H." the fact that they were not penned by Masons, or at least by Masons who know the A B C of the Fraternity, and that, therefore, it would be unjust to upbraid any section of brethren because of their appearance.

Then your correspondent gives us what he says is a sketch of some grade called the *Knights of the Mystic Square Circle*. I have looked through the lexicons of Bros. Kenning, Mackenzie, and Mackoy, but though I find many extraordinary rites named and described, I fail to find the one in question. I have myself a very large collection of rituals, both obsolete and in present working, but have nothing at all like that described by "H.," and I should esteem it a great favour if he will permit me to take a copy to add to my collection.

Outsiders, men who have not the privilege of ranking under the banners of our venerable Craft, sometimes abuse Freemasonry and apply to it all the coarse terms which your correspondent has done to the "High Grades." I understand that a person called Butler has been doing this in the pages of *Good Words*, but I am not aware that such a style of writing either does credit to the writer or harm to Freemasonry. Masons simply pity the bad taste and ignorance of the writers, and so, in the present instance, I am afraid there is nothing for it but to express compassion for the lack of good breeding and absence of knowledge displayed by your correspondent.

In conclusion, I would suggest to "H." that in future he should, when quoting for his own purposes, refrain from garbling the Constitutions. The Constitution which he only partly quotes is really the preamble to the Code of Constitutions, and is the second of the "Articles of Union" of the two Grand Lodges of England, agreed on on the 1st December 1813. This Article, when quoted in its entirety, is as follows:—

"2. It is declared and pronounced that pure Ancient Masonry

consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch. But this Article is not intended to prevent any Lodge or Chapter from holding a meeting in any of the degrees of the Orders of Chivalry, according to the Constitutions of the said Orders."

It may, perhaps, be news to "H." that some of the Rites which he regards as "spurious" were in full working order for half a century before the "Constitutions" drawn up at the Union were known, and were plainly acknowledged by the United Grand Lodge of England in the above manner.

I am, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

LIVE AND LET LIVE.

THE LATE MASONIC TRIAL.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have seen in the columns of your contemporary a letter from Bro. Tudor Trevor, one of the defendants in the late Masonic trial at Leeds, in which he invites the Craft to assist him in defraying the heavy costs, about £150, he has to pay in connection with this unfortunate piece of litigation. Now I have no sympathy whatever with either party to the suit, and I certainly have no wish to stand between Bro. Trevor and those who may feel inclined to do him a service. It is also not improbable there is a good deal yet to be said on both sides before the public will be in a position to judge rightly of the merits of the dispute. But though, after the prominent part he took in the objectionable squabble, it was hardly possible for Bro. Trevor to have escaped being made a party to the suit, the fraternity have a right to be assured that he at all events is blameless as regards the earlier stages of the difference.

If I assume, for the sake of argument, that Bro. Voigt and his friends did blackball Messrs. Tew and Casson, and did boast of having done so in the hat and cloak room adjoining, as stated by Bro. Wells in his letter which appeared last week; and if I further assume that they did, as stated by the same brother, on the very next opportunity blackball some "joining brethren, one of whom was a P.M. (twice) and P.P.G. Officer," these assumptions, supposing them to be true, put Bro. Voigt and his friends in a worse light than any in which they have as yet appeared. But do they put Bro. Trevor and those who acted with him in any better? It was, to say the least, the height of bad taste on the part of Bros. Voigt & Co. to disclose the manner in which they voted, and to threaten to repeat their conduct on future occasions. The disclosure, however, was made, not in open Lodge, but in ordinary conversation in an ante-room, and I fail to see how any one of those present when it was made could justifiably take cognisance of it and use it as a peg on which to hang a motion for exclusion from the Lodge. I quite allow it was an indecent, as well as a stupid, thing for Bros. Voigt & Co. to have said anything as to the manner in which they had voted, but what they said in the confidence of personal conversation should not have been used against them. But assuming, I say, that what these brethren did was unmasonic, is Bro. Tudor himself blameless, seeing that he had made for him almost the earliest possible opportunity for launching an hostile motion at the heads of those between whom and himself there would seem to have been irreconcilable differences? The blackballing of Messrs. Tew and Casson is said to have taken place at an emergency meeting held on the 10th January 1877. According to Bro. Wells, Bro. Voigt and his friends followed up the new system then inaugurated by blackballing, "on the next opportunity," certain brethren proposed as joining members. This must have been on the 17th of the same month, as the regular Lodge meetings are held on the third Wednesday, and within five days Bro. Trevor must have formulated his motion for exclusion, and asked and obtained the W.M.'s permission to bring it forward at an emergency meeting on the 20th. All this haste seems inexplicable, except on the theory that Bro. Trevor and his friends were desirous of getting rid of Bro. Voigt and his friends without giving the Lodge time to fully and impartially consider the pros and cons of the matter in dispute. Clearly the Alexandra Lodge was about this time divided against itself, and a strong feeling of exasperation animated the opposing parties, a feeling which neither the "system" of Bro. Voigt nor the policy of Bro. Trevor was in the slightest degree calculated to allay. I trust, therefore, the fraternity will await those further explanations which seem so necessary towards forming a correct judgment of all the circumstances ere they resolve on assisting Bro. Trevor out of difficulties which from the disclosures thus far made he seems in some measure to have brought upon himself. Bro. Trevor may rest assured that if he emerges from any further inquiry with flying colours, the delay will only intensify the sympathy which many already feel for him.

One other matter seems to call for explanation. Bro. Wells stated in his letter last week that when Bro. Casson had been blackballed, "it was suggested that Mr. Tew's name should be withdrawn; his proposer, however, declined to accede to this course, and the result was the same as in Mr. Casson's case." Did the failure of Mr. Casson, who had not, that I am aware of, been balloted for and elected at a meeting in 1875, augur so well for the success of Mr. Tew, who had, but had never reciprocated the compliment paid him by the Lodge by taking up his membership, that the latter's proposer was so sanguine of success? Or was he actuated by any other motive less apparent or excusable?

All the difficulties and doubts which can possibly arise in connection with this most nauseous exhibition are most likely to be set at rest by adopting the course which you, Sir, have suggested, that is, by referring the dispute to the Board of General Purposes, to be dealt with, on the recommendation of that body, by Grand Lodge. Of course it will be painful for the Alexandra Lodge to have the old sore

opened afresh, but it is better a single Lodge should be put to some shame than that the interests of the whole Craft should suffer.

I remain,

Truly and faithfully yours,

A LOOKER-ON.

[Our correspondent, who takes a deep interest in all that relates to Freemasonry, has assured us personally that he has written the above letter in no spirit of animosity to Bro. Trevor. Bro. Trevor, he points out, has done good service to the Craft, and he suggests there is no doubt that, whatever the upshot of the unfortunate squabble may be, the brethren chiefly concerned have shown no other care than to promote the welfare of Freemasonry—excepting, of course, in the particular matter which has led to this difference. "A LOOKER-ON" expresses his belief that his letter may seem somewhat ungracious, but he thinks it would be far better if his brethren sympathised with Bro. Trevor after rather than before inquiry.—ED. F.C.]

THE UN-MASONIC TRIAL.

BRO. VOIGT *versus* BROS. CARR, TREVOR AND LAKING.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I have only this afternoon seen your article on "The Sacredness of the Ballot," and the letters from "SPONTE SUA," P.M. Bro. B. L. Wells, and Bro. Laking, in your issues of 21st August, 28th August, and 4th September respectively. I am glad you recognise Bro. Wells' letter as a "very manly and straightforward one," for his very clear and explicit statement, supported by Bro. Laking's brief but pointed official communication, leaves me, happily, but little to add concerning the matter under discussion.

As, however, after accepting Bro. Wells' lucid explanation, which seems to have satisfied you that the plaintiff in the above action was not "as free from blame as he seemed to be on reading the early version of the circumstances," you have made an unfavourable personal allusion to me, I ask the favour of a brief word in reply.

When I reflect that throughout these unpleasant proceedings I received the hearty support of the members of Lodge Alexandra, and that our conjoint act in upholding the honour of our sublime system of MORALITY was confirmed by the highest Masonic authority of the Province, I feel that I am undeserving of your strictures, which have been doubtless founded on a misapprehension, or in ignorance of the real facts of the case.

But whatever opinions you may entertain, I cannot think you wish to uphold the plaintiff in bringing this action, or to say that I deserve to be left to pay out of my own pocket the very heavy expenses (£150 at least) which my defence of it has put me to!

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

TUDOR TREVOR P.M., P.Z., &c. &c.

120 Highgate, Kendal, 8th September 1880.

A BEGGING MASON.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I take this opportunity of warning the almoners of Lodges and other members of the Craft against one F. T—, of "Loyal Victoria" Lodge, No. 557, Callington, Cornwall, who by misrepresentation obtained money from me. He was in the neighbourhood of Havant on Friday, 3rd Sept., but I do not know whether he went West towards Southampton, North towards Guildford, or East towards Brighton. He is about forty-five years of age, 5ft. 7in. in height, dark complexion, with black whiskers, beard and moustache, and is dressed like a mechanic. He carries a basket, and states he is a plumber and painter.

His certificate is dated about 20 years back, and has one or two endorsements on it. It is much the worse for wear.

Yours fraternally,

SECRETARY 804.

Havant, 8th September 1880.

AN EXCURSION TO THE PROVINCES.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—An excursion to the Midlands is so rare a pleasure with me, that I trust you will find space for a short letter recounting the many agreeable reminiscences of my three days' trip. A Mason among Masons naturally finds himself at home, and it is worth the while of any brother who may have been eking out his existence in the "big village" for the last twelve months to make the shortest possible cut into the heart of England in order to learn how thoroughly well our fellow-countrymen in those parts fare. Before I started, I had visions of the most complete enjoyment imaginable, but the reality far exceeded the most glowing picture it was in my power to draw. Birmingham and its neighbourhood are presumably given up to the manufacture of hardware, but the worthy inhabitants are not so engrossed in their business as to

be unable to devote some time to the reception of their friends. My journey was undertaken ostensibly for the purpose of being present at the installation meeting of the St. James's Lodge, No. 482, of Handsworth, and I can honestly say I never so thoroughly enjoyed myself. The Lodge is well circumstanced in respect of quarters, and the brethren are a genial and united body. Considering, indeed, that we read so much about London Lodges and their doings, and so little about Country Lodges, it is just as well, perhaps, I should give some of my slight experience. Of the interior working of the Lodge I need say very little:—it was perfect. But the Lodge quarters, they are situated at the Handsworth Commercial Schools, and more commodious or convenient premises for the purposes of Freemasonry it has rarely been my lot to visit. The Lodge, too, has its own paraphernalia, that is, the requisite utensils and implements for an unsophisticated dinner as well as for a *recherché* banquet. It has, too, its own cook, not an elaborate-looking personage of the stereotyped character with an elaborate lancer-looking chapeau and dainty white apparel, but a buxom and comely Matron, who gave me the idea she must have been engaged all her life in the preparation of good dinners, and whose instructions were attended to by a bevy of neat lasses, who were as deeply interested as herself in the success of their joint efforts. In short, what with the kindness of my brethren and the admirable dishes of their genial servants, I had some difficulty in tearing myself away.

Some of your readers may, perhaps, be disposed to consider my letter as an impertinence, as though the Handsworth Lodge could ever be otherwise than genial and hospitable, or as if it did not know how important a part creature comforts play in this life. Others may think I am writing effusively, as though neither the brethren of the St. James's Lodge, Handsworth, nor I had had any previous ideas about comfort. But I think it would be far jollier for us all, if we occasionally interchanged experiences. In the Masonic season your columns tell us with painful iteration how this, that, or the other Lodge fared sumptuously at some hotel or tavern, about which but few people care, but we hear very little about the Lodge which has its own domestics and provides its own banquets. In this respect the brethren of Handsworth set us an example, and hence this letter of mine, which records an experience that I trust others among your readers may have the opportunity of appreciating.

Fraternally yours,

ALPHA.

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

THE General Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys held their monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall, last Saturday. The brethren who attended were Richard Tyrrell, S. Rawson, Raynham W. Stewart, W. F. C. Moutrie, Rev. Richard Morris, S. Rosenthal, Thomas Meggy, A. J. Duff-Filer, and Frederick Binckes Secretary. The business consisted in placing one candidate on the April list, granting an outfit of £5 to a late pupil of the Institution, and withdrawing one candidate (No. 34) from the October list. When this business was completed, an indemnity against personal liability was voted to the Trustees of the Institution, in an action brought by Bro. S. B. Wilson in the long standing dispute respecting his charges in connection with the new buildings at the School. On the motion of Bro. Raynham Stewart, seconded by Bro. Moutrie, a subscription list was opened for obtaining a portrait of Miss Hall, Matron of the Institution, to be hung at the School, at Wood Green. This closed the business of the meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

THE monthly meeting of the Committee of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall. There were present Bros. Lieut.-Col. Creaton Grand Treasurer (in the chair), Dr. Jabez Hogg, J. M. Case, S. Rawson, James Brett, C. A. Cottebrune, C. G. Dilley, Raynham W. Stewart, W. Hilton, C. J. Perceval, John Newton, and James Terry Secretary. Bro. Terry reported the death of one annuitant. Three candidates were passed, and placed on the list for next election. Bro. Terry produced the guarantee of the collector, Bro. John Mason; and Bro. Raynham Stewart reported that certain repairs were required at the Institution at Croydon. On the motion of Bro. J. M. Case, the matter was referred to the Building Committee, and the brethren then adjourned.

PERPETUAL JURISDICTION.

FROM THE VOICE OF MASONRY AND FAMILY MAGAZINE.

PERPETUAL Jurisdiction is one of the wretched theories of jurisprudence that have crept into the Fraternity by some short-sighted and narrow-minded policy of the would-be law-makers of Masonry. In the first place it is one that is most unfair and that too frequently does great injustice to the applicants. Mr. Wilson applies to Lodge Omega, at Gravenhurst, for initiation; unfortunately, in said Lodge there is a pig-headed member, Bro. Snarler, who has contracted a dislike to young Mr. W., because he is a temperance orator, or a Campbellite, or a high-toned ward politician. At all events Mr. Wilson is the *antithesis* of Bro. Snarler, who detests all "new fangled notions," and consequently blackballs him. Such things occur every day, and every Mason knows such to be the case. Masons are but men, and too often allow their passions and bigotry to sway their better judgment, and thus, at times, "good material" is rejected. Now, here comes the question: Is this good, but rejected material, to be for ever left amongst the rubbish of the Temple because

the old fogysm of Bro. Snarler can't stand the now fangled notions of Mr. Wilson? Perpetual jurisdiction says, "Yes;" common sense and justice say, "No."

In most Grand Lodge jurisdictions the rejected applicant is allowed to apply again after six or twelve months. Suppose, however, Mr. Wilson has removed from Cravenhurst, Ontario, and gone to California. After a number of years, he again knocks at the door of a Lodge, is he to be refused admission because Snarler, of Cravenhurst has not got over his prejudices? Mr. W. has resided years in California, is well liked, has gained a reputation for honesty and uprightness of purpose, is a rising man and known to be such; is it right or just that his application should be refused, because years before he was rejected in a Lodge hundreds of miles away, through the bigotry or narrow-mindedness of some petty-souled member?

Even supposing, for the sake of argument, that years before Mr. W. was not a fit ashlar for the Masonic Temple, is it just, honourable or right that former error of judgment is to be for ever maintained against him? Are Masons so bigoted that they cannot believe a man can reform? Are we to be more strict than the Synagogue of the Hebrew or the Church of the Nazarene? The Gentle Teacher taught Forgiveness, and surely we, the followers of Hiram, have no right to say, Mr. W., years ago, committed a crime. He has sorrowed and suffered days and nights, for weeks, months and years, for the evil passions that overcame him in the hour of temptation, but we will not forget or forgive the offence, we will show no mercy, we will not extend the hand of charity, but will, like the Pharisee of old, thank God that we are holier than he, and refuse our aid, our help and our succour, when he asks our assistance by seeking admission to our Lodge-rooms? I answer, unhesitatingly, that such a system is pernicious in the extreme. It is well, of course, under all circumstances, to make the fullest inquiries relative to an applicant for our mysteries, but to argue that a Lodge has perpetual jurisdiction over the candidate that it has once blackballed is giving an *individual* Mason a power within his own hands to commit a wrong not only against the rejected ashlar, but against the Craft universal.

Have we not all witnessed, at times, the unfortunate position of certain Lodges in which a discordant element has most un-Masonically arisen, and where, to the disgrace of the Craft, the blackball has been mercilessly used? Many of us must have witnessed, or at least heard of, such cases, and under these circumstances how unjust the law of perpetual jurisdiction proves itself to be! It is erroneous in theory and wrong in practice. A man may have been blackballed in spite; he may also justly have been blackballed, but he may have expiated his crime by a subsequent Godly and moral life. Surely such an one is not to be for ever excluded from our mysteries, which would help him to lead a truer, a better, and nobler career.

Now, many eminent jurists are decidedly opposed to this theory, and advocate the system of perpetual jurisdiction, forgetting that in so doing they are giving a power too great for one man to possess, if he is tainted with the the least particle of bigotry or sectarianism. Bro. Thomas Hardeman, in the *Voice* (page 383), in speaking of rejected material, says: "If rejected, it is noticed, or should be, to the Fraternity at large that that stone has been tried by a skillful Master Builder's square and found unfit for the building, and no other builder should take up that rejected stone and work it into the Temple, until he who first raised it from its quarry again applies his square and finds that the defect discovered in the first investigation has been removed, and gives his consent for the second builder to use it at his discretion. Jurisdiction once acquired by a Lodge, by voluntary act, inures to it perpetually, and although Grand Lodge enactment may limit the time when a candidate may renew his application in that Lodge, it may not remove or limit the jurisdiction of the same, as it has not the constitutional power to do so."

This declaration that a Grand Lodge "may not remove or limit the jurisdiction of the same (the Lodge rejecting), as it has not the constitutional power to do so," is *certainly erroneous*. In former days any seven Masons could initiate a candidate, and in 1717, when Masonry assumed its present form, the theory of perpetual jurisdiction was not even mooted, and at the present time we find the Mother Grand Lodge of England and the older Grand Lodges of Europe accepting material, without any regard to territorial jurisdiction over the candidate for one year after the passing of the ballot upon the petition of the applicant, and should the applicant remove to another jurisdiction, either subordinate or supreme, these Grand Bodies hold that the Lodge rejecting or accepting said material has no claim whatever upon the same. This, I conceive to be the true spirit of Masonry. It is only just. A man should never be subjected to the petty tyranny of a one-man power, and Freemasonry, with its enlarged ideas and liberal principles, should not subject itself to a tyranny worthy of despotic Russia or priest-ridden Spain.

Whenever an applicant applies who has been rejected in another jurisdiction it is very easy to write and inquire regarding the antecedents of such an one, and without much difficulty his course of life in his former home is readily discovered. He is not likely to seek admission a second time unless he has been imbued with a love for the principles of the Craft, nor is he likely to subject himself a second time to a rebuff unless he feels very confident he will stand the test of the overseer's square. Such being the case, perpetual jurisdiction is, as before stated, a system that may and does verge into petty tyranny and personal spite. Examples could easily be given to prove such to be the case. It is placing in the hands of an unprincipled Mason a power that no one man should possess, and since we boast of our liberal and enlightened principles, it behoves us in all cases and under all circumstances to act with fairness and justice, not only to those within the *sanctum sanctorum*, but also to those who are desirous of uniting themselves with us in the bonds of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Perpetual jurisdiction, therefore, is a contemptible and narrow-minded piece of jurisprudence that has only crept into the Craft within the past few years, and which is neither creditable to the common sense of the Brotherhood, nor worthy of the support of the Order. It is based upon a false hypothesis, and should be expunged from the statutes of a Fraternity whose watchword is Liberty and whose password is Charity.

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AN APPEAL TO THE CRAFT.

Bro. Voigt v. Bros. Carr, Trevor, and Laking.

THIS very un-Masonic Action was tried at Leeds on the 10th Aug. last, before Mr. Justice Bowen and a common jury, for libel alleged to be contained in a circular (issued according to regulation) by the W.M. (Bro. Carr) and the Secretary (Bro. Laking), two of the defendants, to the members of Lodge Alexandra, No. 1511, Hornsea, which embodied a motion by the other defendant (Bro. Trevor) for the exclusion from the Lodge of the plaintiff (Bro. Voigt) — see reports of the trial in the *Times* of 12th August and the *FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE* of 21st August last. On the 9th February 1877, a few days after his exclusion, the plaintiff served the defendants with notice of this action, without any remonstrance with them or the Lodge, or appeal of any sort to higher Masonic authority. But in consequence of the order made a few months later by Mr. Justice Field, before whom his demurrer was heard in the Queen's Bench, that the case "should stand over to go before the Grand Master," the plaintiff appealed to his Provincial Grand Master, Lord Zetland, who declined to interfere with the sentence of exclusion passed against him by the Lodge. He did not, however, withdraw the legal proceedings he had instituted against the defendants, but ultimately obtained a verdict with "One Farthing" damages.

Seeing that this Action has been brought in open defiance of all Masonic principles and law, I earnestly appeal to the Fraternity at large, to assist me in defraying the very heavy costs of my defence, which will amount to £150 at the least, and which I am quite unable to bear without their fraternal and liberal help.

TUDOR TREVOR,
Royal Cumberland Lodge, No. 41,
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P.M. P.Z. P.E.C. 30 deg. &c. &c.

120 Highgate, Kendal, 6th September 1880.

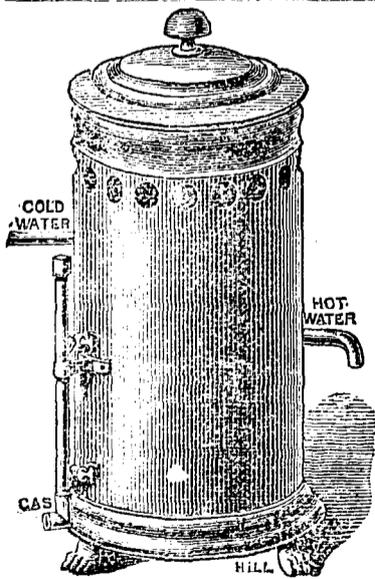
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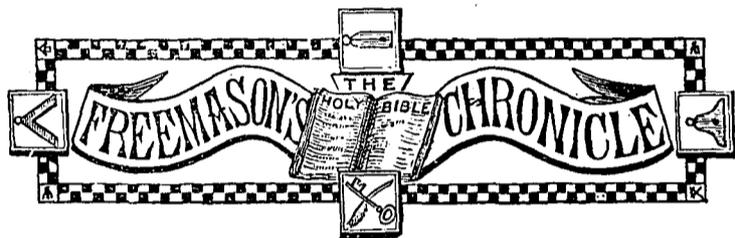
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Gleanings from Old Chronicles, &c.

In the old feudal times *fermes* were the yearly rent of Counties, Towns, Burghs, Guilds, &c., as concerted between the Crown and the fermour. *Escheats* were lands, &c., which became vested in the Crown, either by devolution, forfeiture, seizure, or some other title. *Tallage* was revenue paid to the king, and raised upon his demesnes, escheats, and wardships, and upon the Burghs and Towns of the realm. When it was paid for out of lands not held by military tenure it signified *Hidage*; when paid out of Knights' fees, it was *Scutage*; and when paid by Towns and Burghs, it was *Tallage*.

The sheriffs in old times were often called upon to perform special duties, and Madox, in his "History of the Exchequer," quotes a Royal Mandate from a Roll of the 26th year of Henry III. in which the Sheriff of Gloucester was commanded to cause twenty salmon to be brought and made into a pasty, against the approaching Christmas. *Rev Vicecomite Gloucestric salutem. Precipimus tibi, quod emi viginti Salmones et in pane poni facias; et nobis mittas Londoniam contra instans festum Natalis Domini, &c.*

Anciently the King's revenue, jewels, and other treasure used to be kept in the treasury of the Exchequer, called the Treasury of Leagues, and since known as the Pyx Chamber, on the east side of the cloisters of Westminster Abbey and at the rear of the Chapter House. The door of this chamber appears to have been lined inside and out with human skin, and driven full of nails. Mr. Scott, in his "Gleanings of Westminster Abbey," mentions that in the course of his researches he discovered a piece of what seemed to be white leather remaining on the door, but on closer examination it proved to be human skin, and he refers to an old tradition that they were the skins of Danes, tanned and fixed there as a memorial of our delivery from them. Similar marks have been found on other doors, but it is Mr. Scott's opinion that they were not the skins of Danes, but of persons executed for sacrilege, and that the custom of lining the doors of sacred treasuries with human skins was intended to terrify other depredators.

In the statute which defined the king's prerogative, and was passed in the seventeenth year of the reign of Edward the Second, it was laid down that where any ship was lost at sea, and the goods or cargo were thrown upon the land, such goods were adjudged to belong to the King. It was necessary, however, in order to constitute a wreck that the goods should come to land. If they continued at sea they were known by the barbarous names of "jetsam," "flotsam," and "ligan;" "jetsam" applying to goods cast into the sea and then sinking, or remaining under water; "flotsam" to goods which continued floating on the surface of the waters; and "ligan" to goods sunk in the sea, but tied to a cork or buoy in order to be found again. If any owner to these appeared he was entitled to recover possession, but if not, they became the King's property.

"Waifs," or *bona waviata*, were goods stolen and waived, or thrown away by the thief in his flight. The learned Blackstone draws some very fine distinctions in the case of waifs. According to him, they were given to the King as a punishment to the owner for not pursuing the thief and recovering his goods. "So that if the party robbed

exercise due diligence, and seize the thief or apprehend him afterwards, he gets his goods back again. Nor do such wai's become the property of the King until they have been seized by somebody for his use, for if the owner can secure them first, they revert to him. If the goods are hidden by the thief, or left anywhere by him, so that he had not them about him, when he fled, and therefore did not throw them away in his flight, they are not *bona vacantia*. The goods of a foreign merchant, though stolen and thrown away in flight, are never wai's, as he is generally ignorant of our laws."

"Strays" or Estrays are valuable animals found wandering in any manor or lordship without any apparent owner. Such formerly became the property of the King, but now they most commonly belong to the lord of the manor, by special grant from the Crown.

"Deodands" were chattels which were the immediate occasion of the death of any reasonable creature. These were forfeited to the King, and set apart to be applied to pious uses. (*Deo dandum*.)

The Duchy of Cornwall was originally constituted as a Duchy, and granted to the Black Prince by King Edward III. in 1337 by charter, which charter was afterwards confirmed by Act of Parliament in the eleventh year of the same reign. It laid it down that the property should be for ever vested in the Prince of Wales, the eldest son of the Sovereign, who became Duke of Cornwall at his birth, and it is by this title the Prince sits in the House of Lords. But on his accession to the throne, in the event of his having a son, the property immediately became vested in that son; but if he had none, then it remained vested in him until the birth of one. But the connection of the county with our Royal family can be traced still further back, for in an Exchequer Roll in the Remembrancer's Office it is stated that on the death of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, son of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and titular King of the Romans, who was brother of Henry III., and younger son of John, the county descended "unto Lord Edward in times past King of England, the first, as being kinsman and heir to the present Edmond, late Earl of Cornwall, that is to say, son of the Lord Henry, &c. This same Edward remained and died seised of the said county, &c., and at his death it descended to Edward II., and through him to his son and successor, Edward III., by whom, in the first instance by charter, and then more fully by Act of Parliament, it was ordained that it should for ever remain as a Duchy to the eldest son of the King of England, which should be the next heir to the kingdom, without any form of gift."

It was in the year 1558 that the first embassy from Russia—Ivan Vasilievitch being Czar—arrived in the neighbourhood of London. On his entrance into the chamber at the lodgings provided for him in Fenchurch-street, his Excellency was presented, on the Queen's behalf, with one rich piece of cloth of tissue, a piece of cloth of gold, another piece of cloth of gold, raised with crimson velvet; a piece of crimson velvet in grain, a piece of purple velvet; a piece of damask purpled, a piece of crimson damask, &c., &c. This ambassador, whose name was Osep Napea, had the misfortune to be wrecked off Kinnaird's Head. But he was subsequently received by the King and Queen (Philip and Mary), and having concluded a commercial treaty with this country, took his way homeward, laden with rich gifts, among which were a pair of lions male and female.

Hall, in his life of Henry VIII., as quoted by Strutt, describes how that monarch, "in the first year of his reign, one morning, by way of pastime, came suddenly into the chamber where the Queen and her ladies were sitting. He was attended by twelve noblemen, all apparelled in short coats of Kentish Kendal, with hoods and hoses of the same; each of them had his bow, with arrows, and a sword, and buckler, 'like outlaws or Robin Hood's men.' The Queen, it seems, was at first somewhat affrighted by their appearance, of which she was not the least apprised. This gay troop performed several dances, and then departed."

Aubrey, in his History of Wiltshire, says: "There were no rates for the poor in my grandfather's days; but for Kingston-St. Michael (no small parish) the church-ale of Whitsuntide did the business. In every parish is (or was) a church-house, to which belonged spits, crocks, &c.—utensils for dressing provisions. Here the housekeepers met, and were merry, and gave their charity. The young people were there, too, and had dancing, bowling, shooting at butts, &c., the ancients sitting gravely by, and looking on. All things were civil and without scandal."

The following enigmatical epitaph on a tablet to the memory of Anne, wife of Laurence Gibson, who died 29th December 1611, and their three sons, is, or was, to be found in one of the City churches. It is quoted in Strype's edition of Stow:—

What! is she dead?
doth he survive?
No: both are dead,
and both alive.
She lives, hee's dead,
by love, though grieving,
In him, for her,
yet dead, yet living.
Both dead and living,
then what is gone?
One half of both,
not any one.
One Mind, one Faith,
one Hope, one Grave,
In Life, in Death,
they had, and still they have.

Visitors to the charming watering place of Folkestone are always heartily welcomed at the Temple Lodge; indeed, the brethren meet during the summer months with a view to afford intending visitors an opportunity of attending.

THE LAST TESTIMONY.

IN many a Burial Service we have taken a part; in not a few we have wielded the emblem of authority, and cast the first ever-green sprig and the first handful of mould upon departed brethren. Many an incident of a touching character connected with these solemn occasions is inscribed upon our memory, and as we travel along over the wastes of life's journey, we recall them to mind, and live buried years over again in the contemplation. One such incident occurred to memory a few evenings since, as we sat, gavel in hand, in our own Lodge, and we here commit it to paper.

The death of Bro. Sales (some who read this sketch will remember the incident, though the name is fictitious) occurred in 1854, while we were lecturing in the Lodges of our district. A deputation came over the river to invite us to attend the burial, and to preside. Having first assured ourselves of the creditable Masonic standing of the deceased (without that we will never unite in, much less preside over, the burial of a Mason), we consented to go, and many members of the Lodge went with us. Arrived there early in the day, we found the deceased, prepared for interment, at his father's house, and an adjoining tenement reserved expressly for Masonic use. This was convenient for the performance of the ceremonies that followed.

Having authority from the heart-broken father (it was a favourite son who was dead; talented, enterprising, filial), we directed the coffin to be brought into the reserved room, and placed on two trestles in the midst. We then proceeded to open the funeral Lodge, the pale face of the deceased brother looking steadfastly upward in the sight of all around. It was a solemn opening. Scarcely could the officers repress their responses for emotion. The aged preacher stopped in the midst of his prayer, and could not resume it for sobbing, while from the adjacent house, the screams of distracted mother and widow came plainly to our ears. It was, indeed, a solemn opening.

The appointment of Marshal having been made, and careful directions for the burial ceremonies given to him in the hearing of all present (the attentive countenance in the coffin seeming to wait upon every word), we then inquired, as is our custom, "whether there were any present who desired to say a word as a last testimony for his departed friend and brother, ere the earth should cover him for ever from their view?"

A few moments' silence, and the old minister replied in language something like this: These hands baptised him in infancy. This right hand welcomed him to the fold of the Lord Jesus while yet he was scarcely a man. I performed his wedding service. I buried his four deceased children, one by one. I therefore give the history of his whole life when I say,—that he was a Mason, a Christian, and a man without guile, moral and upright before God and the Lodge."

This was a good testimony. A young and plainly dressed person then arose, and with that earnestness that causes all audiences to lose sight of awkwardness, said: "You know, my brethren, how I have been ravaged by sickness and misfortune. Death, fire and plunder have been my lot; and had it not been for Bro. Sales, my family and I could never have made a support. He has given us, first and last, nigh on to a fortune, and I could almost wish I was in yonder coffin in his place." As he spoke he walked to where that solemn face looked upward, and bowed down over it in an outburst of irrepressible emotion. It was long before the next person could speak.

Then the Master bore witness: "I have lived from childhood near this deceased man. I made him a Mason. His record is clear. Wherever he has gone, *I am willing to follow*. He was always first at the Lodge, first in charity, first in discipline, first in warning his brethren of their faults and dangers. Bro. Morris, write upon your memorandum book that when you wish to express a Mason in a single word, use *his name*!" Oh how tenderly that Master (a circuit judge of his district, a goodly and gracious man)—how tenderly he looked towards that pale face in the coffin while he expressed, at some length, encomiums like these! It was scarcely fancy that saw upon that dead countenance a smile of loving response.

Then the Tyler, a crooked, homely old man, having heard all that had been said in the Lodge, begged for admission that he, too, might testify to the character of the departed. Substituting a brother in his place, we granted his request, and then followed an outpouring of words, incoherent and ill-chosen, but singularly inspiring, that bathed every face in tears. The old man, too, had been a recipient of a thousand bounties from Bro. Sales, and at the conclusion of his words he fell exhausted and fainting upon the floor.

We bore the deceased Mason solemnly to his bed, his chosen resting-place—hollowed out between two little mounds, beneath which lay his four deceased children—followed by all the population of the neighbourhood. We took him in fraternal hands, no others being allowed to participate, and in straight lines, at right angles turning, with slow steps and bowed heads, we led the great procession to the Necropolis of that vicinage.

Arrived there we formed our circle, none being admitted therein save those whose interest in the departed was even more than our own, and never was the beautiful service of Webb more earnestly heeded; or, we may say, more earnestly uttered, than it was that day. And when, just before "the last honours of Masonry" were tendered to one whose face was now sealed from our eyes, we, as the presiding officer of the obsequies, repeated to the audience around the glowing testimonials that his friends had so profusely heaped upon him, we think there was not a dry eye in all that assembly.

The remembrance lives in our heart, though the actors are scattered and many of them dead. And you, oh faithful Mason, though now but a part of the mould we heaped over you, the record of your virtues is made up, and at the judgment day, you shall hear the words of welcome—"inasmuch as you did it unto the least of these!"—*Masonic Review*.

These men of the world, who go through it in armour, defend themselves from quite as much good as evil.—*The Old Curiosity Shop*.

INSTALLATION MEETINGS, &c.

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PRINCE LEOPOLD LODGE, No. 1445.

THE installation meeting of this rising Lodge was held on Thursday, the 2nd instant, when there were present many influential brethren to welcome the new Master on his induction into the chair of K.S. The Prince Leopold, though its years are but few, has already had its vicissitudes. It started under most favourable auspices, and with an excellent array of brethren as founders. But, as not unfrequently happens, the list of founders has since diminished in numbers, for the ordinary reason that certain among them have satisfied their ambition, and having assisted to start the Prince Leopold on its journey, are content to leave it to advance as best it can. However, on an auspicious occasion like the one we are about recounting, it would seem unbecoming to lay any stress on shortcomings which may be excusable, and which certainly had no deterrent effect on the joyous gathering of last Thursday, when full honour was done to the new Master on his installation. Bro. T. E. Goddard is a good fellow, if we may be permitted to use so common and so profane an expression. In the minor offices of the Lodge he has shown himself a worthy, able, and painstaking brother, and it is only fitting that his career in the Prince Leopold should be crowned as satisfactorily as it has been. The Lodge was opened with the usual preliminaries, and, as an emergency had been held a short time previously with a view to clearing off all ordinary business, the Lodge was at once able to proceed to the business of installation. Bro. S. Love Green W.M. presided at the outset, but the duties of installing officer were undertaken by Bro. W. H. Myers P.M., who, it is needless to say, performed his part most ably and successfully. Bro. Goddard was then congratulated and saluted, in accordance with custom, and the appointment and investment of Officers followed, the several offices being awarded as follow, viz.:—Bros. N. D. Partridge S.W., S. Lewis J.W., W. H. Myers P.M. and Treasurer, G. E. Walters P.M. Secretary, Macdonald S.D., Robson J.D., MacGregor I.G., G. C. Young W.M. 820 Organist, Kimble M.C., Seymour-Clarke W.S., Winkley A.S., and J. J. Marsh Tyler. The other business of the day having been completed, the Lodge was closed with the customary formalities, and the brethren adjourned to a most excellent banquet, such as mine host of the Mitford Tavern may congratulate himself upon having served. It is not often that we go out of our way to pay a compliment to a landlord, as compliments are unnecessary in the ordinary course of things, and the Mitford Tavern knows but too well how meet the taste of its guests. But the dinner on this occasion was in very way worthy of the reputation of the house, and we should regard it as—at all events—a compliment to our digestive organs if all hosts showed themselves as determined to please as our worthy friend of the Mitford. A word, too, will not be out of place in respect to the dinner-card, which was one of the tastiest of the kind we have ever seen. On the removal of the cloth, the Worshipful Master proposed, in the regular order of sequence, the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts, a few appropriate remarks serving to commend each in turn to the notice of the brethren. The toast of the evening—namely, that of the Worshipful Master—was suitably proposed by Bro. S. Love Green, who in complimentary but well-deserved terms, spoke of the many sterling qualities by which he was distinguished. In all the offices he had filled previously the W. Master had proved himself a worthy and energetic Mason, one who shrank from no labour or trouble if he saw his way to being of any service. He, therefore, anticipated that the ensuing year would be a most fortunate one, as it was impossible the Lodge could do otherwise than prosper under the genial auspices of their new Master. Bro. Goddard, after a brief interval, rose and acknowledged the complimentary terms in which his health had been proposed by Bro. Love Green, and the handsome reception it had experienced at the hands of those present. He was afraid he should hardly realise the glowing picture which had been drawn of him by his friend and brother, but he had the heart to do what was required of him, and it should be for no lack of will on his part if the Lodge did not prosper as greatly under his auspices as it had done under his able predecessors in the chair. Bro. Goddard concluded a most effective speech by proposing the toast of the Past Masters, associating with it the name of Bro. Love Green, his immediate predecessor in the chair, who, on all occasions both in season and out of season, had devoted his time and energy in order to promote the welfare of the Lodge. He congratulated Bro. Green on the testimony he had that evening received of the affectionate regard entertained for him by the members of the Lodge, and he could only hope that, when his own year of office came to an end, he should find his services had been as highly appreciated. Bro. Green, in suitable terms, acknowledged the compliment paid to him in particular, and to the Past Masters generally, who, he felt convinced, had no other object in Masonic life than to promote the welfare of their young and prospering Lodge. Bro. Myers, one of the worthiest and most genial of Past Masters, offered a few remarks, in the course of which he gave some sage advice, which was listened to with that appreciative attention which an excellent brother's remarks invariably evokes. The toast of the Visitors was proposed in appropriate terms, and suitably acknowledged by Bro. G. Ward Verry, who expressed the great gratification which both he and his fellow guests had experienced, and also congratulated the Lodge on the success which had attended it during its brief career. The Tyler's toast brought a most enjoyable evening to a close. We may add that a Past Master's jewel, in recognition of the services he had rendered to the Lodge during his year of office, was presented to, and feelingly acknowledged by, Bro. Love Green.

ST. JAMES'S LODGE, No. 482.

THE members of this flourishing Lodge assembled at their new Masonic Rooms, Wretham-road, Soho Hill, Handsworth, on Monday. There was a very large attendance, and some of the most energetic Masons of the Provinces of Staffordshire and Warwickshire assembled to do honour to the ceremony of installing Bro. John Deeley into the chair for the ensuing year. Lodge was opened punctually at three o'clock, when the W.M. Bro. J. F. Pepper was supported by Bros. John Deeley S.W., E. P. Kimpton J.W., E. W. Bradley S.D., F. W. Payton J.D., Rev. Wm. Randall, Rector of Handsworth, Chap., J. Jacobs P.M. P.P.G.R. Treas., C. W. Perkins Org.; P.M.'s Joseph Rowlands P.G.J.W., J. Jacobs P.P.G.R., F. Derry, M.A., P.P.G.J.W. Staffordshire, W. J. Whittall P.P.G.R., J. H. Parkes, Dr. Parkes, J. F. Pepper I.P.M. Visitors—Rev. C. Bullivant W.M. 1520, W. W. Morgan Sec. 211, J. Srawley S.W. 739, S. Clapp W.M. 662, James P. Powell W.M. 347, John Pursall P.P.G.S.W. &c., H. Belcher P.G.S.W. 1031, Joseph Boston W.M. 1431, Isaac Jennings W.M. 1016, Jas. Cooper I.P.M. 473, Spencer Yapp W.M. 1031, Geo. Wootton J.W. 938, Alfred Hill, M.D., P.M. Light, A. E. Green W.M. 925, W. C. McEntee P.P.G.S.W. 587, Robert Munday P.M. 828, G. King Patten P.M. 486, J. Boocock W.M. 74, E. Handley, W. H. Davis J.W. Tudor Lodge, Harborne, John Ward, John Bragg P.P.S.G.W. P.M. 739, C. E. Richardson W.M. 1163, C. Lee P.M. Albion P.P.G.J.W., and several others whose names we were unable to ascertain. The Lodge had hardly settled itself down when it was announced that the Deputy G. Master of the Province, Bro. Singleton Tudor, was in waiting, and instructions for his honourable reception were issued forthwith. When the usual compliments had been paid him, Bro. Tudor was pleased to occupy the chair while a portion of the business was transacted, which portion included the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting. In due course, Bro. Deeley S.W. and W.M. elect, was presented for the benefit of installation, and our worthy brother was accordingly installed into the chair of K.S. in the presence of a board of no less than thirty-two installed Masters—a presence which, at all events, shows the deep interest taken by the veterans of the Craft in the ordinary labours of Freemasonry. We may mention here that the ceremony was fulfilled by Bro. J. F. Pepper I.P.M., whose conduct in the chair left nothing to be desired. After Bro. Deeley had received the congratulations and salutations of those present he appointed the following brethren as his Officers for the year, namely, Bros. E. P. Kimpton S.W., W. Wykes J.W., J. Jacobs P.M. Treasurer, E. W. Bradley Secretary, Rev. W. Randall Chaplain, F. Payton S.D., Charles Payton J.D., Horton I.G., C. W. Perkins Org., Whittall P.M. M.C., and Chaplin Tyler, with Bros. Thomas Smith and G. J. Payton as Stewards. When the business had been completed, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided and served by their own people on their own plate. So unusual a circumstance is worth recording, and it would be well if other Lodges followed so admirable an example. The dinner itself, and the manner in which it was served, would have put many of our most experienced hotel and tavern keepers to the blush, and the brother who rightly thinks much of dining, and dined at Handsworth on Monday, must be said to have added largely to his experience of what is worth knowing. When ample justice had been done to the viands, the cloth was removed, and the various Loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed in regular order, the W.M. offering a few pertinent remarks in commendation of each. The agreeable task of proposing the health of Bro. John Deeley W.M. devolved upon Brother Rowlands P.M., who, albeit a fluent and able speaker, had his work cut out in order to do justice to the toast. He pointed out how that Bro. Deeley had, by a long and active course of zealous service, shown himself worthy of the high trust that day reposed in him by the Lodge. In the course of its existence of close on forty years the St. James's Lodge had had its due proportion not only of honourable men—for are not all Masons honourable?—but also of capable, courteous, and genial brethren, who make light of trouble when there was a chance of the interests of Freemasonry being promoted. Bro. Deeley had proved his worth in the subordinate offices he had filled, and he (Brother Rowlands) was well satisfied that he would be equally successful in the more onerous duties of the chair. Both the speech of the proposer and of Bro. Deeley in reply were cordially applauded by the members and their guests, and we have good reason for anticipating that, if it should be our good fortune to visit Handsworth at the corresponding period next year, we shall hear Bro. Deeley's success as W.M. spoken of in as complimentary terms then as have been his past services just recently. Bro. Deeley appropriately responded to the toast, and expressed a hope that he might be found, at the end of his year of office, to have realised the expectations which had been formed of him. The toast of the visitors was responded to by Bro. McIntee, and that of the Installing Master Bro. Pepper I.P.M. was most warmly honoured by all present. The toast of the Past Masters and the Officers followed, and that of the Tyler brought the proceedings of the evening to a most agreeable termination. Rev. Bro. Randall, in the course of an able and exhaustive speech in reply to that of the Officers, expressed the pleasure it always afforded him to take part in the work of the Lodge. He knew well how zealous were the members, both individually and collectively. They had exhibited their interest in the labours of Freemasonry by frequently meeting together for the purposes of instruction, and he could not pay them a higher compliment than to say that their working of the sections was as near perfection, in appreciation as well as in accuracy, as possible. Our Reverend Brother's remarks were received with enthusiasm. We must not omit to mention that the Deputy P.G.M. Bro. Singleton Tudor paid the Lodge a high compliment on the score of its excellent working, and the zeal and earnestness displayed by the members. We have already spoken in justly complimentary terms of the accommodation this Lodge has secured for

itself at the Handsworth Commercial Schools, and the excellence of their culinary arrangements. But it would be unpardonable omission on our part if we did not congratulate our worthy and hospitable brethren of the St. James's Lodge on the commodiousness of the premises they have been fortunate enough to secure. Not only is the cubic capacity of the Lodge room ample, but the whole suite of apartments is most conveniently arranged.

VISITATION OF GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND TO ABERDEEN.

THE Aberdeen City Province of Freemasons was honoured on Wednesday by a visitation of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Scotland (Sir Michael R. Shaw-Stewart), and a deputation from Grand Lodge. The brethren of the City Province, to the number of over a hundred, assembled at the Masonic Hall, Exchange Street, at a quarter to four, when the Lodge was opened by the Acting Provincial Grand Master (Brother Savage), the other office-bearers being:—Bros. John Crombie P.G.S.W., J. Murch P.G.J.W., Charles Wilson P.G.S.D., J. McConnachie P.G.J.D., W. Daniel P.G.I.G., Innes Outer Guard. The deputation from Grand Lodge was received with the usual honours, the organ being played by Bro. Kirby, P.G. Organist. The members of the deputation accompanying the Most Worshipful Grand Master, were:—Bros. Wm. Mann acting D.G.M., William Officer acting S.G.M., F. A. Barrow P.S.G.W., R. F. Shaw-Stewart J.G.W., William Boyd P.G.M. Aberdeenshire East, Murray Lyon G. Secretary, James Webster Acting S.G.D., Robert Morrison Acting J.G.D., William Hay G. Architect, A. D. Cairns Acting Grand Sword Bearer, R. S. Brown Acting President of Grand Stewards, John Fleming Acting Vice-President, and the following Grand Stewards:—Bros. Peter Sinclair, William Edwards, John S. Mathieson, Frederick Hurd (Acting), and Bro. W. M. Bryce Grand Tyler. The deputation having taken their places, the Sub. Prov. Grand Master gave up the badge of his authority to the M.W. Grand Master, who returned it, with an expression of confidence in the Master of the Lodge, after which the ceremony of initiation was gone through, Bros. M'Kenzie Fraser Master of St. George's and Charles Shepherd Master of St. Andrew's, taking part in the working of the degree. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Most Worshipful Grand Master expressed the pleasure he felt in being present and seeing the excellent manner in which the Aberdeen City Province was conducted, and congratulated the newly-initiated brother. The brethren of the Craft afterwards dined in the Palace Hotel, under the presidency of the genial Substitute Provincial Grand Master, the Most Worthy Grand Master and the other members of the deputation from Grand Lodge being guests, and the whole company numbering one hundred. Mr. Mann supplied an excellent dinner, the menu including a fine haunch of venison, the gift of Colonel Farquharson, of Invercauld, the Substitute Grand Master of Aberdeenshire West. The toasts of the Queen, the Prince of Wales (the Grand Patron of Masonry), the Princess of Wales, and other members of the Royal Family, were given by the Chairman; the Navy, Army, and Auxiliary Forces was given by Brother J. Murch, Provincial Grand Junior Warden, and responded to by Captain R. F. Shaw-Stewart, and Capt. F. F. Maitland Moir. The Chairman proposed "The Grand Lodge of Scotland," which was acknowledged by Brother Sir Michael R. Shaw-Stewart, who stated that the last grand visitation to Aberdeen was made in December 1851, by his Grace the Duke of Athole. To show the progress that Masonry had made since that time, he stated that in 1857 the number of initiates was 12, while in 1879 they numbered 151. The clear value of the funds of Grand Lodge in 1851 was £2,129; in November 1879 they amounted to £16,702, besides £5,845 of a fund for benevolence. In 1857, the income for the year was £1,229; in 1879 it was £4,822. The entrants recorded in Grand Lodge books in 1851 numbered 1429, and in 1879 they amounted to 3985. The youngest Lodge on the roll in 1851 was No. 362, and in last November the number of the youngest Lodge was 647. He concluded by proposing "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeen," and thanking the Freemasons of Aberdeen for the support they had given in the past to Grand Lodge, and for the kindness and hospitality they had shewn himself and Grand Lodge on this occasion. Brother Savage responded, and gave the toast of the "Grand Lodges of England and Ireland," coupled with Brother Colonel Williamson, member of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire. Brother Dr. F. F. M. Moir proposed "The Neighbouring Provincial Grand Lodges," to which Brother W. Boyd P.G.M. Aberdeenshire (East) replied, remarking that to attend a meeting of Lodges in the Province of the City of Aberdeen was, as regards Masonry, equivalent to a liberal education. Brother Officer, Edinburgh, proposed "The Colonial Provinces," and W. Mann Proxy P.G.M. of Hindostan, replied. The health of the Grand Secretary of the Aberdeen City Province (Bro. Dr. White), and the Acting Senior Warden (Bro. John Crombie), were drunk; the Architect (Bro. Hay), who proposed the latter, stating that he intended to propose the Grand Lodge do hold its meetings periodically in the principal towns of Scotland by rotation, which he thought would tend to the good of Masonry in Scotland. The proceedings, which were throughout of a very interesting, edifying, and enjoyable character, were brought to a close with the toast of Bon-Accord and the singing of Auld lang syne.

Aberdeen Free Press.

THE BOYS' NEWSPAPER.—We understand that this newspaper, the first number of which is announced to appear on the 15th, will have a wide and varied range, embracing the news of the week (specially adapted to the requirements of boys), narratives of voyages, travels, and adventures, news from schools at home and abroad, reports of all kinds of athletic sports and games, together with practical papers, entertaining stories, and new schemes for puzzles.

THE ELEMENT OF SECRECY IN THE MASONIC INSTITUTION.

IN the minds of some persons it is enough to condemn any organization that the element of secrecy enters into its system and proceedings. Such persons make no discrimination between one secret society and another; for to their inconsiderate or prejudiced thought all associations that exclude the world at large from a full knowledge of their doings are unworthy and dangerous. The assumption is that wherever there is anything concealed there is evil; and, therefore, the very moment that any number of men unite together in a secret association it is held to be the natural inference that they are engaged in some work which will not bear the light of day. Thus it is argued that the element of secrecy in any organization is quite sufficient to justify an unfavourable opinion of its purposes and work.

That there is neither logic nor fairness in such judgment is frequently shown. There is always some danger of reaching a false conclusion when a person generalizes from particular and special cases, yet it is by such a process of reasoning that all secret societies are frequently included under a sweeping case of condemnation. The Jacobin Clubs that afflicted France in the last century were composed of disloyal and designing men who plotted the overthrow of the government. They made use of secrecy to cover their base purposes. The Communists and Nihilists of the present day are supposed to be united for political purposes by a strong bond of secrecy, and it is assumed that they are thus associated because of certain objects which they have in view—objects against the peace and good order of society. But because there have been and are such organizations enveloped in mystery, it by no means follows that all secret societies are engaged in plotting treason and are alike dangerous to the community. A discrimination should be made, and every organization should be judged on its merits. Most certainly it will not do to assume that secrecy is always a cloak for baseness and wrongdoing. In the home, in business relations and enterprises, in many matters pertaining to the church and the state, there is action taken of which the world at large may not be informed. Secrecy of itself, within proper and well defined limits, ought not to excite hostility. It is only when such secrecy passes the lines of propriety, and becomes a means to unworthy ends, that it deserves to be treated as a dangerous element.

In this line of thought we may come to the enquiry—In what sense is Masonry a secret society? There is no mystery about its objects and purposes. Its moral and benevolent character has been signified to the world by manifold declarations and by practical deeds. Masonry affects no concealment of the objects it has in view and the work it is trying to do. It publishes the times of its various meetings, its general transactions, the full list of its members; and whoever is curious enough to read or enquire may ascertain what Masonry stands for and what it is doing. Let it be remembered that the Masonic Institution, in English-speaking nations at least, is not surrounded by any such impenetrable veil of mystery as has been made use of to shroud from the eye those associations and combinations already alluded to. The secrecy of Masonry is legitimate and harmless. It holds its rites and ceremonies to itself. It cherishes the means of recognition, by which members of the Brotherhood can make themselves known to each other, and does not impart these signs and tokens to the world; but these secrets, let it be kept in mind, are within the reach of any man of intelligence and good moral character who desires to obtain them, and who will conform to the ancient and well defined way of procedure. Secrecy is an element of the Masonic Institution; but it is only that secrecy which we believe to be honourable and justifiable. The general character and work of Masonry may be known and read of all men.—*Repository*.

THE MOHAWK MINSTRELS.

THE eighth annual benefit of Bro. W. Francis, one of the proprietors of this most popular troupe of Negro Minstrels, took place on Wednesday afternoon. A special programme of a varied character was provided, and the public evinced their good taste, as well as their appreciation of the efforts of the Mohawks to please them, by filling the Hall to overflowing. In the temporary absence of Mr. Harry Hunter, Mr. John Kavanagh presided as interlocutor, and, in honour of the occasion, some of the old favourites made their re-appearance, in the persons of Messrs. Vincent Layton, Ted Snow, and F. Duriah. The programme was rightly described as being replete with novelties, for every number was, to the best of our belief, new to the audience, and previously unsung. But new or old, they all went admirably, both the side-splitting humorous songs and the pathetic. The beneficiary is to be congratulated on his successful appearance as "Chirgwin the White-eyed Musical Kaffir." His brother, Mr. James Francis, made a grand hit in "The Gallant Fire Brigade." The second portion of the programme was equally effective with the first, and included a performance on the piccolo, by Mr. J. Harrington Young, who unquestionably deserves the highest encomiums it is in our power to pass upon him. Mr. W. Freeman's new and original banjo song, "The March of the Men of Garlick," was most grotesque; and the Grecian favourite, Mr. Harry Nicholls, in his various "Characterisations and Impersonations," was most deservedly applauded. Mr. Celian Kottann, the solo cornet of the Brighton Aquarium Band, made so successful a first appearance that we trust we may have the opportunity of welcoming him on many future occasions. To conclude our remarks, the evening was one of the most gratifying it has been our good fortune to be present at, and we are confident the other gala nights of this Company will be equally successful.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK.

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

SATURDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER.

- 193—Percy, Jolly Farmers, Southgate Road, N. at 8 (Instruction)
1607—Loyalty,
1624—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Piccadilly, at 7 (Instruction)
Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-st., W., at 8
1556—Addiscombe, The Surrey Club, West Croydon

MONDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER.

- 78—London Masonic Club Lodge of Instruction, 101 Queen Victoria-street, at 6
174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, London-street, E.C., at 7 (Instruction)
180—St. James's Union, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
518—Wellington, White Swan, High-street, Deptford, at 8 (Instruction)
704—Camden, Red Cap, Camden Town, at 8 (Instruction)
1306—St. John of Wapping, Gau Hotel, High-st., Wapping, at 8 (Instruction)
1366—Highgate, Gate House Hotel, Highgate
1425—Hyde Park, The Westbourne, Craven-rd., Paddington, at 8 (Instruction)
1445—Prince Leopold, Mifford Tavern, Sandringham-road, Dalston, at 8 (Inst.)
1489—Marquess of Ripon, Pembury Tavern, Amhurst-rd., Hackney, at 7.30 (In.)
1507—Metropolitan, White Swan, Coleman-street, E.C., at 7.30 (Inst.)
1608—Kilburn, 16 South Molton Street, Oxford Street, W., at 7.30 (Inst.)
1623—West Smithfield, New Market Hotel, King-st., Snow-hill, at 8 (Inst.)
1625—Tredegar, Royal Hotel, Mile End-road, corner of Burdett-road, at 8 (In.)
1693—Kingsland, Canonbury Tavern, Canonbury, N., at 8.30 (Instruction)
1695—New Finsbury Park, Plimsoll Arms, St. Thomas Road, at 8 (Instruction)

- 49—Derwent, Castle Hotel, Hastings
61—Probity, Freemasons' Hall, St. John's-place, Halifax
75—Love and Honour, Royal Hotel, Falmouth
104—St. John, Ashton House, Greek-street, Stockport
151—Albany, Masonic Hall, Newport, I.W.
240—St. Hilda, Freemasons' Hall, Fowler-street, South Shields
264—Nelson of the Nile, Freemasons' Hall, Batley
292—Sincerity, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
296—Royal Brunswick, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield
297—Witham, New Masonic Hall, Lincoln
408—Three Graces, Private Rooms, Haworth
411—Commercial, Flying Horse Hotel, Nottingham
467—Tudor, Red Lion Hotel, Oldham
481—St. Peter, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle
502—Rectitude, Town Hall, Rugby
589—Druids of Love and Liberty, Masonic Hall, Redruth
613—Unity, Masonic Hall, Southport
665—Montague, Royal Lion, Lyme Regis
721—Independence, Masonic Chambers, Eastgate-row-north, Chester
724—Derby, Masonic Hall, Liverpool (Instruction)
797—Hanley, Hanley Hall, Dartmouth
893—Meridian, National School Room, Millbrook, Cornwall
949—Williamson, St. Stephen School, Monkwearmouth, Durham
1021—Hartington, Masonic Hall, Custom House Buildings, Barrow-in-Furness
1174—Pentangle, Sun Hotel, Chatham
1221—Defence, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds
1237—Enfield, Market-place, Enfield.
1350—Fermor Hesketh, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
1436—Sandgate, Masonic Hall, Sandgate
1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury
1474—Israel, Masonic Hall, Severn-street, Birmingham
1512—Legiolium, Masonic Hall, Carlton-street, Castleford
1575—Clive, Corbet Arms, Market Drayton
1592—Abbey, Suffolk Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds
1611—Eboracum, Queen's Hotel, Micklegate, York
1618—Handyside, Zetland Hotel, Saltburn-by-Sea
R.A. 148—Elias Ashmole, Chapter Rooms, Warrington
R.A. 306—Alfred, Masonic Hall, Kelsall-street, Leeds
R.A. 827—St. John, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury
M.M.—Egerton, Bedford House, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.
M.M. 171—Union, Freemasons' Hall, Union-street, Oldham
K.T.—Jerusalem, Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester
R.C.—Walton, Skelmersdale Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool

TUESDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER.

- 65—Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton-bldgs., Holborn, at 7 (Inst.)
65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7 (Instruction)
141—Faith, 2 Westminster Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W., at 8 (Instruction)
167—St. John, Holly Bush Tavern, Hampstead
177—Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30 (Instruction)
554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney (Instruction)
753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8 (Inst.)
860—Dalbousie, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston, at 8 (Instruction)
1044—Wandsworth, Star and Garter Hotel, St. Ann's-hill, Wandsworth (Inst.)
1319—Friars, Liverpool Arms, Canning Town, at 7.30 (Instruction)
1360—Royal Arthur, Village Club Lecture Hall, Wimbledon
1440—Mount Edgcumbe, 19 Jernyn-street, S.W., at 8 (Instruction)
1472—Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich
1558—D. Connaught, Palmerton Arms, Grosvenor Park, Camberwell, at 8 (In.)
1602—Sir Hugh Myddelton, Crown and Woolpack, St. John's-st.-rd., at 8 (In.)
1707—Eleanor, Trocadero, Broad-street-buildings, Liverpool-street, 6.30 (Inst.)
Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement, Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, 6.30
117—Wynnstay, Raven Hotel, Shrewsbury, at 8 (Instruction)
131—Fortitude, Masonic Hall, Truro
184—United Chatham of Benevolence, Assembly Rooms, Old Brompton, Kent
241—Merchants, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
272—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Main Ridge, Boston
281—Shakespeare, Masonic Rooms, High-street, Warwick
406—Northern Counties, Freemasons' Hall, Maple-st., Newc.-on-Tyne (Instr.)
473—Faithful, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham
495—Wakefield, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield
503—Belvidere, Star Hotel, Maidstone
603—Zetland, Royal Hotel, Cleckheaton
624—Abbey, Masonic Hall, Union-street, Burton-on-Trent
626—Laud-downe of Unity, Town Hall, Chippenham
696—St. Bartholomew, Anchor Hotel, Wednesbury
726—Staffordshire Knot, North Western Hotel, Stafford
829—Sydney, Black Horse Shoe, Sidcup
897—Loyalty, Pleece Inn, St. Helens, Lancashire
903—Gosport, India Arms Hotel, High-street, Gosport
986—Hesketh, Grapes Inn, Croston
1214—Scarborough, Scarborough Hall, Caledonia-road, Batley
1259—Gilbert Greenhall, Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street, Warrington
1314—Acacia, Bell Hotel, Bromley, Kent
1325—Stanley, 211 Great Homer-street, Liverpool, at 8 (Inst.)
1414—Kwale, Masonic Hall, Sevenoaks
1465—Ockenden, Talbot Hotel, Cuckfield, Sussex
1545—Baldon, Masonic Room, Northgate, Baldon
1713—Wilbraham, Walton Institute, Walton, Liverpool
R.A. 43—Fortitude, Great Western Hotel, Birmingham.
R.A. 265—Judea, Masonic Club, Hanover-street, Keighley
R.A. 289—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Carlton-hill, Leeds
R.A. 991—Tyne, Masonic Hall, Wellington Quay, Northumberland
M.M. 6—Adams, Victoria Hall, Trinity-road, Sheerness

WEDNESDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER.

- 193—Confidence, Railway Tavern, London-street, at 7 (Instruction)
224—United Strength, Hope and Anchor, Crowndale-rd., Camden-town, 8 (In.)
538—La Tolerance, Green Dragon, 2 Maddox-street, W., at 7.45 (Inst.)
720—Pannure, Ballam Hotel, Ballam, at 7 (Instruction)
781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, E. (Instruction)
813—New Concord, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, N., at 8 (Inst.)
862—Whittington, Red Lion, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street, at 8 (Instruction)
1278—Burdett Coutts, Salmon and Ball, Bethnal Green-road, at 8 (Instruction)
1288—Finsbury Park, Alwyne Castle, Highbury, at 8 (Instruction)
1524—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion Road, Dalston, at 8 (Instruction)
1791—Creton, Prince Albert Tavern, Portobello-ter., Notting-hill-gate, (Inst.)
R.A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8 (Instruction)

- 20—Royal Kent of Antiquity, Sun Hotel, Chatham
86—Loyalty, Masonic Hall, Prescott, Lancashire
121—Mount Sinai, Public-buildings, Ponzance
125—Prince Edwin, White Hart Hotel, Hythe, Kent
128—Prince Edwin, Bridge Inn, Bolton-street, Bury, Lancashire
178—Antiquity Royal Hotel, Wigan.
200—Old Globe, Private Rooms, Globe-street, Scarborough
221—St. John, Commercial Hotel, Town Hall Square, Bolton
246—Royal Union, Freemasons' Hall, Cheltenham.
258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike
277—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Union-street, Oldham
325—St. John, Freemasons' Hall, Islington-square, Salford
342—Royal Sussex, Freemasons' Hall, 79 Commercial Road, Landport
340—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Commercial-street, Morley, near Leeds
387—Airedale, Masonic Hall, Westgate, Shipley
423—Sincerity, Angel Inn, Northwich, Cheshire
451—Sutherland, Town Hall, Burslem
537—Zetland, Masonic Chambers, 55 Argyle Street, Birkenhead.
580—Harmony, Wheat Sheaf, Ormskirk
581—Faith, Drover's Inn, Openshaw
592—Cotteswold, King's Head Hotel, Cirencester
594—Downshire, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7 (Instruction)
606—Segontium, The Castle, Carnarvon
633—Yarborough, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
673—St. John, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 8 (Instruction)
683—Isca, Freemasons' Hall, Dock-street, Newport, Monmouthshire
758—Ellesmere, Freemasons' Hall, Runcorn, Cheshire
795—St. John, Ray Mead Hotel, Maidenhead.
823—Everton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
910—St. Oswald, Masonic Hall, Ropergate, Pontefract
938—Grosvenor, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham
969—Sun and Sector, Assembly Rooms, Workington
972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury (Inst.)
1019—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield
1040—Sykes, Masonic Hall, Driffield, Yorks
1096—Walton, Skelmersdale Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool
1129—St. Chad, Roobuck Hotel, Rochdale
1161—De Grey and Ripon, Denmark Hotel, Lloyd-street, Greenheys, Manchester
1218—Prince Alfred, Commercial Hotel, Mossley, near Manchester
1246—Holte, Holte Hotel, Aston
1301—Brighthouse, Masonic Room, Bradford-road, Brighthouse
1337—Anchor, Masonic Rooms, Durham House, Northallerton
1353—Duke of Lancaster, Athenaeum, Lancaster
1356—De Grey and Ripon, 140 North Hill Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool (In.)
1443—Salem, Town Hall, Dawlish, Devon
1479—Halsey, Town Hall, St. Albans
1501—Wycombe, Town Hall, High Wycombe
1511—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Hornsea, Hull (Inst.)
1634—Starkie, Railway Hotel, Ramsbottom
1645—Colne Valley, Lewisham Hotel, Slaithwaite
1662—Beaconsfield, Chequers, Marsh Street, Walthamstow, at 7.30 (Inst.)
1692—Hervey, George Hotel, Hayes
R.A. 220—Harmony, Wellington Hotel, Garston, Lancashire
R.A. 409—Stortford, Chequers Inn, Bishop's Stortford.
R.A. 580—Unity, Wheat Sheaf, Ormskirk
R.A. 591—Buckingham, George Hotel, Aylesbury
R.A. 1060—Marmion, Masonic Rooms, Tamworth

THURSDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER.

- 3—Fidelity, Yorkshire Grey, London-street, Fitzroy-sq., at 8 (Instruction)
15—Kent, Chequers, Marsh-street, Walthamstow, at 7.30 (Instruction)
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
211—St. Michael, The Moorgate, Moorgate Street, E.C., at 8 (Instruction)
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8 (Inst.)
754—High Cross, Coach and Horses, Lower Tottenham, at 8 (Instruction)
1227—Upton, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, E.C., at 8 (Instruction)
1273—Burdett Coutts, Approach Tavern, Victoria Park.
1365—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton (Installation at 5)
1426—The Great City, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, E.C., at 6.30 (Inst.)
1614—Covent Garden, Nag's Head, James Street, Covent Garden, at 7.45 (Inst.)
1728—Temple Bar, Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street
R.A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8 (Inst.)
R.A. 1471—North London, Jolly Farmers', Southgate-road, N., at 8 (Inst.)
M.M.—Duke of Connaught, Havelock, Albion-rd., Dalston, E., at 8.30 (Inst.)

- 42—Relief, Albion Hotel, Haymarket-street, Bury, Lancashire
56—Howard, High-street, Arundel
98—St. Martin, Town Hall, Burslem
116—Royal Lancashire, Swan Hotel, Colne
203—Ancient Union, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7.30 (Instruction)
208—Three Grand Principles, Masonic Hall, Dewsbury
268—Union, Queen's Arms Inn, George-street, Ashton-under-Lyne
275—Harmony, Masonic Hall, South Parade, Huddersfield
283—Amity, Swan Hotel, Market-place, Haslingden
337—Candour, Commercial Inn, Uppermill, Saddleworth
343—Concord, Militia Officers' Mess Rooms, Starkie-street, Preston
344—Faith, Bull's Head Inn, Radcliffe, Lancashire
345—Perseverance, Old Bull Hotel, Church-street, Blackburn
346—United Brethren, Royal Oak Inn, Clayton-le-Dale, near Blackburn
367—Probity and Freedom, Red Lion Inn, Smallbridge
369—Limestone Rock, Masonic Hall, Church-street, Clitheroe
419—Cecil, Sun Hotel, Hitchin
456—Foresters, White Hart Hotel, Uttoxeter
462—Bank Terrace, Hargreaves Arms Hotel, Warrington
523—John of Gaunt, Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, Leicester
600—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford
605—Combermere, Seacombe Hotel, Seacombe, Cheshire
634—D'Oyley, Masonic Hall, Morpeth
659—Elagidon, Ridley Arms Hotel, Blyth
683—Wiltshire of Fidelity, Town Hall, Devizes.
846—Royd, Spring Gardens Inn, Wardle, near Rochdale
1011—Richmond, Crown Hotel, Blackfriars-street, Salford
1042—Excelsior, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds
1125—St. Peter, Masonic Hall, Tiverton, Devon
1164—Elliot, Private Rooms, St. German's, Cornwall.
1182—Duke of Edinburgh, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7.30 (Instruction)
1299—Pembroke, West Derby Hotel, West Derby, near Liverpool
1329—Blackheath, Green Man, Blackheath
1327—King Harold, Britannia Hotel, Waltham New Town
1332—Unity, Masonic Hall, Crediton, Devon
1432—Fitzalan, Wynnstay Arms, Oswestry
1576—Dec, Union Hotel, Parkgate, Cheshire
1612—West Middlesex, Feathers' Hotel, Ealing, at 7.30 (Instruction)
R.A. 201—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
R.A. 249—Mariners, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
K.T.—William de la More, Town Hall, Bootle.

FRIDAY, 17th SEPTEMBER.

House Committee Boys' School, Wood Green, at 4.
 Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
 25—Robert Burns, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
 507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 766—William Preston, Feathers' Tavern, Up. George-st., Edgware-rd. 8 (Inst.)
 780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 902—Burgoyne, Red Cap, Camden Town, at 8 (Instruction)
 933—Doric, Duke's Head, 79 Whitechapel-road, at 8 (Instruction)
 1056—Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, 155 Fleet-street, E.C. at 7 (Instruction)
 1158—Belgrave, Jermyn-street, S.W., at 8 (Instruction)
 1289—Finsbury Park M.M., Earl Russell, Isledon-road, N. at 8 (Instruction)
 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 8.0 (Inst.)
 R.A. 79—Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, London-street, Greenwich, at 8 (Inst.)
 152—Virtue, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
 401—Royal Forest, Hark to Bonny Inn, Slaidburn
 460—Sutherland of Unity, Castle Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme
 516—Phoenix, Fox Hotel, Stowmarket
 541—De Loraine, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street, Newcastle
 652—Holme Valley, Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth
 993—Alexandra, Midway Hotel, Levenshulme
 1034—Eccleshill, Freemasons' Hall, Eccleshill
 1096—Lord Warden, Wellington Hall, Deal
 1143—Royal Denbigh, Council Room, Denbigh
 1311—Zetland, Masonic Hall, Great George street, Leeds
 1393—Hamer, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 8 (Instruction)
 1773—Albert Victor, Town Hall, Pendleton
 General Lodge of Instruction, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham
 R.A. 403—Hertford, Shire Hall, Hertford.
 R.A. 521—Trubb, Freemasons' Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, Huddersfield at 7
 R.A. 837—Marquess of Ripon, Town Hall, Ripon
 R.A.—General Chapter of Improvement, Masonic Hall, Birmingham, at 5.30
 M.M. 123—Callender, Derby Hotel, Bury, Lancashire.
 K.T.—De Furnival, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
 K.T.—Jacques de Molay, Masonic Hall, Liverpool.

SATURDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER

198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8 (Instruction)
 1329—Sphinx, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, S.E.
 1624—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Pimlico, at 7 (Instruction)
 Sinai Chapter of Instruction, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8.
 149 Peace, Private Rooms, Meltham.
 380—Prince George, Private Rooms, Bottoms Eastwood.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

Percy Lodge of Instruction, No. 198.—Held at Bro. Fysh's, Jolly Farmers', Southgate-road, on Saturday last, the 4th instant. Present—Bros. J. Lorkin W.M., Gilham S.W., W. Williams J.W., R. Percy Preceptor, A. W. Fenner Sec., Powell S.D., Spencer J.D., Boas I.G.; also Bros. R. Defriez, Brasted, Fysh, Moss, Selig, Weeden, T. J. F. Williams, C. Lorkin, McMillan and Isaac. Lodge opened in due form, and the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Weeden candidate. Lodge was called off and on. The W.M. worked the first and fourth sections of the lecture. Bro. Gilham was appointed W.M. for the ensuing week. After which Lodge was closed.

Temple Lodge, No. 558.—A meeting was held on Tuesday, at the Town Hall, Folkestone. Present—Bros. François Klatt acting W.M., A. H. Holbein S.W., W. Francis J.W., S. Joseph Treasurer, J. Kennett P.M. Secretary, J. Eldridge S.D., G. Saxby J.D., W. Kennett I.G.; P.M.'s Bros. H. Stock P.P.G. Supt. of Works Kent, and several other brethren. Visitors—Bros. Brackstone Baker Emulation No. 21, Past Grand Deacon G. Lodge of England, Wm. Colegrave Southern Star 1158, Thos. R. Maples Hervey 1260, W. M. Amos S.W. Prince Edwin 125, W. B. Kennett Sandgate 1436, W. H. Catchpole The Great City 1426, G. Cordell W.M. Sandgate 1436. Lodge was opened, and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. Mr. E. Wilton, on being balloted for as a candidate for Freemasonry, was unanimously elected and initiated into the ancient mysteries. Bro. Dane, who was initiated last month, having satisfactorily answered the questions, was entrusted, and passed to the degree of F.C. Two brethren were proposed as joining members, and their names were ordered to be placed upon the summons for next meeting. A vote of thanks to Bro. Brackstone Baker was ordered to be recorded on the minutes for his kindness in attending the Lodge. Bro. Baker, in responding to the vote, referred to the number of years he had been associated with Freemasonry, and the number of Lodges he had visited. He thanked the brethren heartily, and congratulated them upon having such a thoroughly efficient Master. The evening's proceedings were quite a treat to him; the ceremonies had been gone through with smoothness and regularity, and it would be rather difficult to find the slightest fault. Hearty good wishes from several Visitors was expressed, and then Lodge was closed and adjourned.

Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 860.—Held at Bro. Smyth's, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall Road, Dalston, on Tuesday, 7th inst. Bros. Marsh W.M., Williams S.W., Christian J.W., Polak S.D., C. Lorkin J.D., Carr I.G., J. Lorkin Sec., Wallington Preceptor, also Bros. Dallas, Catlin and others. After preliminaries the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Catlin acting as candidate. Bro. Christian worked the first, and Bro. C. Lorkin the second, third and fourth sections of the lecture, assisted by the brethren. Bro. Williams was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Bro. Larter, of Lodge 1602, was elected a member. All Masonic business being ended, Lodge was closed in due form.

Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 976.—The regular meeting of this Lodge was held on Thursday, the 2nd inst., at the Blue Ball Hotel, Bruton, Somerset. Present—Bros. Jas. Stewart Boyd W.M., H. Harrold S.W., C. Lockyer J.W., F. Stockwell, M.D., Treas., Thos. Bennett P.M. Sec., Christopher Welch S.D., Thos. G. Vincent J.D.,

Wm. Palmer as I.G., J. P. Swain Tyler; Past Master Bro. Albert Huntley; Bros. Woodforde, Stevens, Phippen, Avery, Moody, Lock, Sherring, Haynes and R. Kelley. Business:—The summons for holding the present Lodge having been read, and the minutes of the last regular Lodge confirmed, Bros. Avery, Moody and Lock, candidates for passing, received the second degree at the hands of Bro. P.M. Thos. Bennett, who took the chair at the request of the W.M. Bro. H. Harrold S.W. delivered the charge. The chair was then resumed by the W.M., who closed the Lodge in the second degree, and subsequently closed in due form, after which the brethren partook of light refreshments, supplied by the hostess of the hotel.

West Middlesex Lodge of Instruction, No. 1612.—A meeting was held on Thursday, 2nd Sept., at the Feathers' Hotel, Ealing. Present—Brothers A. J. Barr W.M., J. Green S.W., E. Gelfowski J.W., H. E. Tucker Treas., J. Wells Sec., W. Seward jun. S.D., E. C. Porter J.D., C. Bellerby I.G.; P.M. Bro. C. Andrews. Visitor—Bro. Nathan; also Bros. S. Smout senior, A. Jones, C. E. Botley, F. Botley, W. Rickwood, F. C. Woolmer, E. T. Brown. Lodge was opened, and the minutes of previous meeting were read, confirmed, and signed. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. C. E. Botley candidate. Bro. Tucker was unanimously re-elected Treasurer and Preceptor and Bro. J. Wells Hon. Sec. of this Lodge of Instruction. Bros. Porter, Coop, and Seward were elected the Audit Committee for the year. Bro. J. Green was elected W.M. for next week, and the Lodge was closed in due form.

Beaconsfield Lodge of Instruction, No. 1662.—The first meeting of this Lodge of Instruction was held at Bro. Hallow's, the Chequers Hotel, Marsh Street, Walthamstow, on Wednesday, 1st September, at 7.30. Present:—Bros. Franklin W.M., F. Hallows S.W., Upward J.W., Carter S.D. Wildash J.D., W. G. Hallows I.G.; P.M.'s Groome and Pinder; Bros. Clark, Barnard, Inman, Mustart 174, Bambury 1685, Webster 1685. The Lodge was opened in due form. The acting Secretary read the proposed Bye Laws, which were, after some discussion, adopted. The election of officers resulted in Bro. W. G. Hallows being appointed Treasurer, and Bro. G. Clark, Sec. Bros. Bambury, Webster and Mustart were regularly elected members of the Lodge. Bro. P.M. Pinder, on request, agreed to be Preceptor, and he was unanimously elected an honorary member. The Lodge was then closed in form.

On 8th Sept., Bros. F. Hallows W.M., Upward S.W., Carter J.W., Wildash S.D., Bambury J.D., Webster I.G., Clark, Inman, Scrivener. Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed; the bye-laws, proposed and agreed to at previous meeting, were read and confirmed. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Scrivener as candidate. The same brother also answered the questions leading to the second degree. Lodge was then opened in the second, and Bro. Scrivener was passed. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded Bro. F. Hallows for the able manner in which he had rehearsed the ceremonies. Brother Scrivener was elected a member of the Lodge. Brother Upward was elected W.M. for next week, and Lodge was regularly closed and adjourned.

The festivities of the coming winter season are as usual receiving at the hands of theatrical managers and others, whose business it is to cater for the public, the accustomed amount of attention. Foremost in the field this year appear Messrs. A. and S. Gatti, who have for some time past been associated with Covent Garden Theatre. We understand it is their intention to produce at that establishment on Monday, 27th December, a grand Christmas comic pantomime entitled Valentine and Orson or Harlequin and the Magic Shield, the opening part of which will be written by Mr. F. C. Burnaud, and the whole produced under the personal superintendence of Mr. F. B. Chatterton. The celebrated Vokes family have been engaged, as also several other prominent members of the theatrical profession, so that we may safely predict a successful run during the coming season.

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LYCEUM.—On Saturday, THE CORSICAN BROTHERS.
ADELPHI.—At 7.30, THERESE. At 9, FORBIDDEN FRUIT.
GAIETY.—At 7.30, HAPPY VILLAGE. At 8.30, THE MIGHTY DOLLAR.
GLOBE.—At 7.30, WHICH SHALL I MARRY? and LES CLOCHES DE CORNEVILLE.
CRITERION.—At 8, JILTED. At 8.45, BETSY.
OPERA COMIQUE.—At 8, IN THE SULK. At 8.45, THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE.
FOLLY.—At 7.45, HESTER'S MYSTERY. At 8.45, THE UPPER CRUST.
NEW SADLER'S WELLS.—At 7.30, FAROE. At 8, JO.
ALHAMBRA.—At 8.0, LA FILLE DU TAMBOUR MAJOR. At 10.15, THE ALPINE BRIGADES.
CRYSTAL PALACE.—This day, CONCERT, INGOMAR, &c. On Thursday, FIREWORKS, &c.
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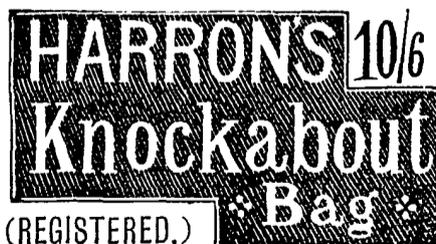
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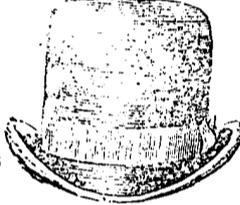
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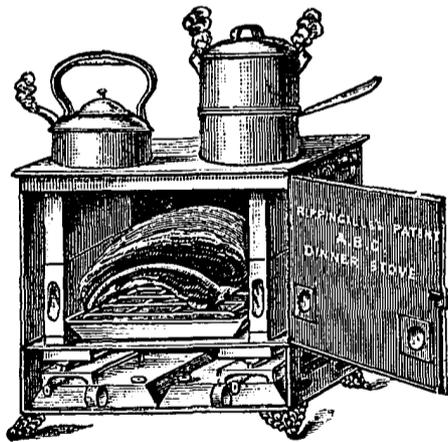
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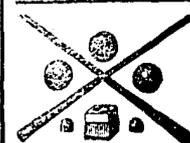
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