

THE

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PROPOSED CONVENTION.

THE GRAND ORIENT OF FRANCE AND THE SCOTCH SYMBOLICAL GRAND LODGE.

A FEW weeks since we gave, at some length, the purport of an article on this subject from *Le Monde Maçonnique* for the month of June. The writer, Bro. A. Grimaux, expressed his intention of noting sundry objections to the project, and in the July number of the same journal he has carried his intention into effect. Be it our present task to reproduce in general terms, and in their English garb, these same objections of Bro. Grimaux.

Having noted in the first place his unwillingness to wound the feelings of brethren who express it as their opinion that the Grand Orient may reckon on the symbolical Grand Lodge to aid it in bringing about the unification of French Freemasonry, and that their confederation was created for no other purpose than to realise that grand idea, Bro. Grimaux points out that, in December last, he laid it down that such a result would be quite possible when the Scotch Symbolical Grand Lodge recognised that the surest and easiest method of securing a unification was to enter purely and simply into the Confederation of Lodges holding under the Grand Orient of France, without pretending to claim privileges which did not belong to the old Lodges. While believing that the proposal for unification was honourable to those from whom it emanated, Bro. Grimaux points out that other Scotch Masons, fully comprehending that, in spite of its goodwill, the Supreme Council would never be in a position to give full effect to its democratic aspirations, had regularly and in a friendly spirit separated themselves from that body, and had ranged themselves under the banner of the Grand Orient of France. There they had found Lodges which had received them most cordially, and in a spirit of rejoicing at the influx of so many excellent brethren. No distinction was made between the old and the new members of the Order. The most perfect equality, so far as was possible in accordance with the democratic traditions of the Grand Orient, was established between them. Why, then, asks Bro. Grimaux, have not the members of the Symbolical Grand Lodge followed this wise example? Why, if they were so desirous of bringing about the fusion of the two bodies, did they create a fourth Masonic power? Why, in short, did they and do they still refuse to effect a union on a footing of equality with the French Lodges? We know not, adds our worthy brother, though we deplore that, in lieu of adopting so natural and so fraternal a course, they should have thought it possible to dictate terms which, in the form in which they were presented, appear to be wholly unacceptable. Is it the régime of the Grand Orient which is at fault, and does not appear to be sufficiently democratic in the eyes of those Scotch Lodges and brethren who have separated themselves from the Supreme Council, only after having been for years subject to the aristocratic Scotch system. It has been often so maintained, but invariably without proof, for obvious reasons.

There are many young Masons who, from constantly hearing it said in season and out of season, and under every variety of expression, that the Grand Orient is an absolute power, and ought to be reformed, arrive at the conclusion that such accusations are well founded, and, unintentionally, make common cause with the clever

adversaries of the Grand Orient of France. It may not, therefore, be out of place to set before such brethren clearly and succinctly, some idea of the organisation of that distinguished body. In the first place, its Lodges nominate all their officers for one year. Such officers must be Master Masons, and must have belonged to the Lodge for the space of at least six months. The President or Venerable—our Worshipful Master—must have been a member for at least a year, and a Master Mason of two years' standing. These are the only restrictions imposed on Masons in making their choice, and no one will venture to say they are not necessary. As in all other Societies, the chiefs or Venerables are the legal representatives of the Lodges which have elected them by ballot for their annual term of office. The bond which holds the Lodges together is the Grand Orient, which is composed of the Masters of all the Lodges in the jurisdiction, and of the Council of the Order. Every year the Grand Orient holds a General Assembly, comprised of (1) all the Venerables, or, in case of necessity, delegates from the Lodges, and (2) the Council of the Order. The Assembly nominates its President, and for the future, will also elect its other officers in the same manner as is provided in the subordinate Lodges. This system, which is absolutely unobjectionable on the ground of principle, involves no other inconvenience than the loss of some valuable time.

The Assembly, albeit truly representative of the Masonic Lodges, is unable to sit permanently, though it did so when the Provincial Lodges were represented by Parisian brethren. Hence its administrative powers are entrusted to a permanent Commission of thirty-three members, who constitute what is known as the Council of the Order—one-third being elected every year. This Council, in its turn, elects its Officers annually. It is the official representative of French Masonry, renders accounts of all its acts to the General Assembly, and is the defender of the principles and statutes of the Institution. The judicial power is distinct from the legislative and administrative powers. The Lodge decides cases in the first instance, and the Provincial or local Chambers, composed of juries chosen by the Lodges, in all cases of appeal. The Worshipful Masters and Orators of Lodges can be provisionally suspended by the Council of the Order, but judgment in first and last instance is passed upon them by the Chambers or Courts of Appeal. As regards the Lodges, the disciplinary powers belong to the Council, subject to the approval of the General Assembly. Such is the organisation, which is attacked as being the reverse of democratic, though everything depends on the system of election, while all the Officers are temporary and all the powers vested in the Masters of Lodges, and in the Council of the Order, are distinctly limited.

But there is something further to take into consideration than the organisation of the Society, and that is the spirit which animates it and the ideas it propagates. Moreover, without speaking here of what is distinctive of the Grand Orient in common with all other Masonic bodies, we can judge for ourselves, without difficulty, what it has done for the development of liberal and democratic ideas. A few instances will suffice. The Grand Orient of France signalised its birth by abolishing the privileges of the Masters of Lodges, who were in truth owners of the charters, by virtue of which those Lodges existed. The watchword was "No more Privileges, No more life-offices," and periodical election by the free and unbiassed

choice of one's peers made its appearance instead:—in other words universal suffrage was introduced into Freemasonry eighty years before it was established in our public life. To the Grand Orient belong the honour and happiness of having promulgated this system which so perfectly expresses, in the present day, our ideal of justice, a system which, later on, was adopted by the French Revolution, because it was unable to discover any other formula that answered so nearly to the generous aspirations of the men of that grand old epoch. From the very outset it had imposed on it the truly arduous task of re-uniting the scattered forces of French Masonry, which, owing to its division into innumerable systems, presented the appearance of an absolute chaos. By patience and labour this result had been happily attained, when the Scottish system re-appeared in France (having been introduced from America by the Count de Grasse-Tilly) under a new name and increased, in its transoceanic journey, by eight new degrees. Resuming forthwith its labours, the Grand Orient in 1804 concluded with the hardly-then-established Supreme Council a treaty which was very soon broken by the latter. Since then, all its efforts have been unceasingly directed towards effacing all traces of division and antagonism, and hence it is that, at a period not very remote, it has absorbed the rite of Memphis with its ninety-five degrees.

(To be continued.)

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH WALES (WESTERN DIVISION.)

THE annual meeting of this Prov. Grand Lodge took place on Wednesday, 16th inst. The brethren assembled under the banner of the Cambrian Lodge, No. 464, at the Masonic Hall, Haverfordwest. The Right Worshipful Bro. Colonel Lloyd-Phillips, Prov. Grand Master, presided, and was supported by a goodly assembly of the brethren of the Province, the Prov. Grand Officers of the year, with but one exception, being in attendance. After Prov. Grand Lodge had been formally opened, the roll of Lodges was called over, and it was found each one in the Province was represented.

The minutes of last Provincial Grand meeting, held in New Milford, in July of last year, having been read and confirmed, the Provincial Grand Treasurer's accounts for the past year were submitted. These showed a balance due to Provincial Grand Lodge of £32 19s 7d.

The election of Prov. Grand Treasurer resulted in the re-appointment of Bro. J. Jenkyn Jones, who was complimented on the zeal he had hitherto displayed in the welfare of the Province and thanked for services rendered.

Before proceeding to the appointment of Provincial Grand Officers for the next twelve months, Bro. Colonel Lloyd-Phillips expressed his gratification at the way in which the Officers of the past year had fulfilled their duties, and thanked them heartily for their services. He announced that he had received a letter from Lord Kensington, in which he regretted his Parliamentary duties precluded him from the hope of being present at the meeting, and expressing the disappointment he experienced at being compelled to absent himself. The collars of office for the next year was then distributed as follow:—

Bro. William H. Richards P.M. 1177	...	P.G. Senior Warden
Thomas Russell P.M. 464	...	P.G. Junior Warden
Rev. James Lewis 1072	...	P.G. Chaplains
Rev. J. Parkin Morgan 671	...	
J. Jenkyn Jones P.M. 476	...	
John Lewis W.M. 476	...	P.G. Treasurer
C. Rice Williams P.M. 1072	...	P.G. Registrar
Robert George W.M. 1748	...	P.G. Secretary
Joseph Gibbon W.M. 464	...	P.G. Senior Deacon
Richard Fowler Symes J.W. 990	...	P.G. Junior Deacon
John Henry Coram W.M. 990	...	P.G. Supt. of Works
Charles Mathias P.M. 464	...	P.G. D. of C.
Thomas Parker Wilson 990	...	P.G. Assist. D. of C.
R. Deane Gilbertson 1748	...	P.G. Sword Bearer
John Henry J.D. 378	...	P.G. Organist
E. Glendower Elford 378, E. P. Phillips 464, T. P. Evans J.D. 464, S. Read J.W. 464, Lewis Roberts 464, R. H. Treweeks Sec. 1748	...	P.G. Pursivant
John Williams 366	...	P.G. Stewards
	...	P.G. Tyler

The Report of the Prov. Grand Lodge Committee which met at the St. Peter's Lodge, Carmarthen, on 7th July 1882, was next presented. This stated that from the Reports sent in by the Lodges for the past year, the general state of Freemasonry in the Province is highly satisfactory, and in a prosperous condition. The Committee recommended that Wor. Bro. J. Beavan Phillips P.M. 671 P. Prov. S.G.W., be re-elected as the Charity Commissioner for the ensuing year, and Wor. Bro. Aaron Stone P.M. 671 P. Prov. J.G.W., as Assistant Charity Commissioner. It advised that votes of thanks be accorded them for their valuable services and for the great zeal which they have displayed in the cause of Freemasonry in the Province. These recommendations received the unanimous approval of the members. The Committee also recommends that Wor. Bro. Aaron Stone be elected Steward to represent this Province at the Festival of the Boys' School for 1882-3, and that a Jewel be presented to

Wor. Bro. Edwin Thomas P.M. 378 Prov. J.G.W., at the next meeting of Prov. Grand Lodge, in acknowledgment of the services he has rendered to the Province as Charity Steward; also that the best thanks of Prov. Grand Lodge be tendered to Bro. Thomas for his great exertions in furthering the cause of Freemasonry in the Province.

When the consideration of the Committee's recommendation that the sum of twenty-five guineas be voted from the funds to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys came on, Bro. G. Griffiths made an urgent appeal on behalf of a distressed brother, a man who was well known and deservedly respected throughout the Province. Unfortunately, this worthy Mason had been stricken down by paralysis, and it was deemed essentially necessary he should undergo a lengthened period of cessation from labour as the only chance of regaining his strength. Before Prov. Grand Lodge voted the sum named above for the Boys' School, Bro. Griffiths begged they would consider the urgency of this case; he had no wish to oppose the proposed vote, but he feared the funds at their disposal would not enable them to do what was required if the twenty-five guineas was thus absorbed. Bro. J. Llewellyn Davies supported; what he thought it desirable to do was, that the Provincial Grand Lodge should undertake to provide a substitute who would perform the clerical duties of the afflicted brother for a period of six months. This would entail an outlay of say £50. Some discussion followed, and several practical suggestions were made as to how this amount could be realised. The claims of the Boys' School were fully recognised, and in view of the effort that must be made at the election in October next, when the candidate supported by the Province—Geoffrey Stuart Jones—will stand his last chance of admission, it was thought imperative that the proposed grant of twenty-five guineas should be made. On the question being put, the amount was unanimously agreed to. Later on, however, £20 was voted from the Provincial Fund of Benevolence, and a Committee was formed to collect the additional £30 requisite to carry out the suggestion of Bro. Llewellyn Davies. The appeal was heartily responded to, and the brethren were enabled to return to Milford with the assurance that if repose would enable our afflicted brother to recruit his strength the means for enjoying it were secured. The next business was to receive the report of the Charity Commissioners. This directed attention to the fact that the resources had been exhausted by the efforts made to elect a child into the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls in 1881, consequently last year they started without any reserve of votes.

At the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge a candidate from this Province was adopted, a youth brought forward by the Pembroke brethren, the promotion of the interests of this Boy—Geoffrey Stuart Jones—has been the sole care of the Commissioners during the past year, and they had not yet succeeded in securing his election. The delay is unavoidable—it arises in the first place from this lad having been placed in charge so soon after efforts in favour of other candidates had placed the Province in a weak position in regard to votes, and in the second place from the fact of an election of a candidate for the Boys' School being very much more difficult than the election of a candidate for either of the other Institutions connected with Freemasonry. To make it clear it was pointed out firstly, that at each election only some 150 Boys' votes and 120 Girls' votes were forthcoming from the Province, which had succeeded in polling 1,134 votes for the Boy. The candidate has one election more before him, that in October, when he must be elected, or be disqualified by age from gaining admission at all. The Commissioners promised they would make every effort, and confidently hoped to succeed.

(To be continued.)

PROV. G. LODGE, HANTS AND ISLE OF WIGHT.

THE Prov. Grand Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight held its annual meeting in the Town Hall, Bournemouth, on Thursday, the 10th instant, R.W. Prov. G.M. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., presided, and was supported by the following, among other brethren, namely, Bros. W. Hickman P.D.G.M., J. E. Le Feuvre 130 P.G.S.W., Dr. J. R. O'Connor 257 P.G.J.W., J. Murray 76 P.G.S., T. Good 1834 P.G.S., A. J. Miller 130 P.G. Sec., A. Barfield 35 P.G.S.D., A. Dawes P.P.G. Org., W. B. Rogers P.M. 195 P.P.G. Reg., J. B. Atkinson 195 P.G.D., W. M. Heath 62 P.P.G.S.W. Dorset, T. W. Ansell 340 P.P.G. Supt. Works, A. Scott 351 P.G.D.C., G. P. Arnold I.P.M. 1428 P.G.D.C., J. Gieve I.P.M. 1069 P.G.S., E. S. Main P.M. 1776 P.P.G.D.C., J. Friedeberg P.M. 342 P.P.G.D., E. W. Rebbeck 195 P.P.G.S.W., S. R. Everitt 176 P.P.G.D., J. O. Carter 209 P.P.G.S.W. Berks and Bucks, J. T. Craven P.M. 342 P.P.G.D., J. Wallingford P.M. 903 P.P.G.J.W., J. Dew 694 P.P.G.R., J. A. Atkins 622 P.P.S. Dorset, G. Pearman 487 P.P.G. Org., J. Biggs and J. Exell P.G. Tylers. The minutes of the last regular Provincial Grand Lodge and of an especial Lodge was read and confirmed. A letter was read from the P.G. Treasurer Bro. Mark E. Frost, resigning his office. He had carried out the duties for many years, but owing to failing energy he was desirous of being relieved of the duties. Bro. Frost's resignation was accepted, but as the new Bye-Laws of the Province provided for the modification of the duties of the Prov. Grand Treasurer, the election of his successor was postponed. The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Provincial bye-laws was read, and the new bye-laws as submitted were passed after some slight modifications. A committee, consisting of the Prov. Grand Officers and the Worshipful Masters of Lodges, was appointed to consider the proposed revision of the Book of Constitutions for the government of the Craft. The Prov. Grand Master then appointed and invested the following brethren as Prov. Grand Officers for the year, namely:—

Bro. W. Hickman	...	D.P.G.M.
James Druitt, jun. 195	...	P.G. Senior Warden
A. J. Miller 359	...	P.G. Junior Warden

Rev. G. H. Defraigne 257	...	...	P.G. Chaplain
J. Ridd Hayman 309	...	...	P.G. Registrar
J. E. Le Feuvre 130	...	...	P.G. Secretary
H. W. Townsend 1903	...	...	P.G. Senior Deacon
C. W. A. Jellicoe 130	...	...	P.G. Junior Deacon
T. Stevens 195	...	...	P.G. Supt. Works
Dore 319	...	...	P.G.D.C.
Laverty 1428	...	...	P.G.A.D.C.
Willmott 1834	...	...	P.G. Sword Bearer
R. B. Cheverton 151	...	...	P.G. Pursuivant
Quickfall 1869	...	...	P.G. Organist
John Harvey 694, W. Gaumon 76,	}	P.G. Stewards	
R. W. Beale 487, John Youd 723,			
W. Dart 804, G. H. Barclay 1773			
J. Biggs and J. Exell	...	...	P.G. Tylers

The banquet which followed was presided over by the R.W. Provincial Grand Master who, on the removal of the cloth, gave "The Queen and the Craft," followed by "The Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales." In proposing the latter toast, the P.G.M. said His Royal Highness was always engaged in useful pursuits, and particularly in the cause of charity he was always anxious and ready to fulfil his Masonic duties. He hoped that ere long they would see him again presiding in the Grand Lodge of England. He was sure there would be a large concourse of brethren who would be glad to have the opportunity of testifying their Masonic loyalty. In proposing the third toast, "The Most Worshipful the Pro Grand Master of England, the Earl of Carnarvon, and the Officers and past Officers of the Grand Lodge," the Chairman alluded to Lord Carnarvon's connection with the county of Hampshire. The Deputy Prov. Grand Master Bro. Hickman then proposed the toast of "The R.W. P.G.M.," referring to Bro. Beach's great ability as a Mason, to the indebtedness of the P.G.L. for his many services, and to his having attended the present proceedings at great inconvenience to fulfil the duties of his high office. He was always most assiduous in his efforts to please the brethren, and in his anxiety to execute the duties of his office to the advantage of the Craft. The Prov. Grand Master, in responding, said it was with peculiar gratification he attended on the present occasion, because Bournemouth was situated in the most extreme part of the Province, and he and the other Provincial Grand Officers were anxious to show their active interest in the prosperity and working of the Lodge Hengist. He regarded intercourse between the Provincial Grand Lodge and the Lodges in the Province as having a most salutary influence. During his tenure of office he had always done his best to fulfil the duties adequately, and he believed, though he could not say, to some extent successfully. In the present day it was doubly important to reflect on the nature and meaning of Masonic duties, and it was especially incumbent on them to prove themselves worthy members of the Craft. Masonry was no light matter. Neophytes were not invited into their ranks to gratify curiosity, but to learn to fulfil great and important duties with regard to social life. For himself he could say that he esteemed it both a duty and a pleasure on all suitable occasions to advocate true Masonic sentiments and practices. In conclusion, he referred to the advantage to the Provincial Grand Lodge from the renewed acceptance of the office of Prov. Grand Secretary by Bro. Le Feuvre. He then proposed the health of Brother Hickman, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Bro. Hickman, in reply, said it always gave him the greatest pleasure to support the Provincial Grand Master, whose earnest desire was to uphold Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as foremost among the Provincial Grand Lodges of England. It was not quantity but quality that was desirable in the Lodges, and in this respect Hampshire had always been prominent. Brother J. Drutt jun., Bournemouth, also responded for the Officers of the Grand Lodge, and returned thanks for the honour and distinction which had that day been conferred on him—an honour as much prized at it was unexpected—of being appointed P.G.S.W. He esteemed it as an individual honour, as well as honour to his mother Lodge. Referring to the fact that his father was the oldest member of Lodge Hengist, Bro. Drutt said he could not help feeling that the position in which he found himself that day was in some degree the result of his father's long service to the Lodge. Bro. Le Feuvre P.G.S. &c., expressed the pleasure he felt at being again associated with the active Masonic working of the Province, the Masonic circumstances of which were now quite different from what they were at the time of his resignation. The toast of the Masonic Charities was then given, and duly honoured, Bro. E. T. Budden, of Wimborne, in connection therewith, singing a cha. ity song compiled and arranged by him.—*Portsmouth Times*.

GREAT WESTERN TOURIST ARRANGEMENTS.

FOR some days past fashionable London has been preparing to seek refuge in the country, from the hurly-burly of the season while strong contingents of middle class folk have already found a resting-place where the cares and troubles of business or professional avocations are momentarily forgotten. But there are thousands, both of fashionable and middle class people, who have not yet ventured on their summer holiday, and to whom a few words of advice as to where they should go and what do with themselves during their absence from London will be very welcome. One of the great advantages of our railway system is, the intercommunication that exists among the different lines which constitute it. There is now no difficulty whatever in making your way from one part of the United Kingdom to another. You may live in the West of England, but you will easily find through communication with East, South, and North. The Londoner may wish to make the circuit of England, taking the western districts first, and gradually making his way

northwards into Scotland, and thence in due time returning by the east, to resume once again his labours in the calling he follows. All this, however, is so well known to our readers that without further circumlocution we will enter on our present task of drawing their attention to the special facilities which are afforded to intending travellers by the Great Western Railway Company. The line itself traverses some of the finest parts of the country, and for convenience sake may be sub-divided into three districts, the West of England, the South Wales, and the North Wales. The first named includes the counties of Gloucester, Somerset, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall, and there is no gainsaying the fact that some of the loveliest of our English scenery is to be found in these counties. If a residence at the sea-side is preferred, there is the choice of such well-known resorts as Weymouth, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Lynton, Clevedon, Weston-Super-Mare, Minehead, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Newquay, Falmouth, St. Ives, Penzance, &c. If the tourist prefers some inland resort, there are Cheltenham, Clifton, Bath, Malvern, Leamington, and other places innumerable, which, in their several ways, are almost equally attractive. The South Wales district embraces Abergavenny, Monmouth, Chepstow, Tintern, Neath, Swansea, Carmarthen, Tenby, &c.; while the North Wales (which is reached *via* Birmingham, Shrewsbury and Ruabon), includes Llangollen, Corwen, Bala, Dolgelly, and Barmouth, and *via* Ruabon and Chester, Rhyf, Abergele, Llandudno, Conway, Bettws-y-coed, Penmaenmawr, Bangor, Carnarvon, &c., on to Holyhead. In addition, between Bristol or Milford there is communication, by a regular service of steamers, with Cork, Waterford, and the Lakes of Killarney, while from Holyhead, passage may be taken across St. George's Channel to Dublin, Belfast, &c. From Manchester it is an easy transition by rail to Scotland—Edinburgh, Glasgow, and the Highlands being equally accessible, and then turning once again in a southerly direction, communication is easily had with the Yorkshire watering-places, Scarborough, Whitby, and, by working on through other lines, with the Eastern coast, with attractions such as Hunstanton, Yarmouth, Cromer, Lowestoft, &c., &c. Then we have the Lake District, and the Isle of Man; Buxton, Matlock, and the lovely country in their neighbourhood. The Channel Islands are readily accessible from Weymouth, as likewise is Cherbourg, and thence to Paris; while with but little trouble all the favourite places on the South coast, the only District we have passed over, can be reached with the greatest facility. In short the Great Western Company, either by the lines it has under its own immediate control, or by those with which it has established relations, is in a position to convey the tourist to all parts of the United Kingdom as well as to the Continent.

In the foregoing remarks we have contented ourselves with indicating, in general terms, the wonderful facilities for travel which are offered by the Great Western Railway. We will now more precisely note the advantages the directors submit to the public during the holiday season now current. As a rule, two months is the outside limit which the tourist can ordinarily compass for his holiday, and hence tickets available for that period, but renewable on most reasonable conditions, are at the service of the public. The tickets will be issued as late as the 31st October, and they can be renewed as a rule to the 31st December. They are to be obtained at the Company's headquarters at Paddington, at Westbourne Park, Notting Hill, Uxbridge Road, Shepherd's Bush, Hammersmith, Kensington, Earl's Court, Westminster Bridge, Charing Cross, Blackfriars, Mansion House, Victoria, Kings Cross, Farringdon-street, Moorgate-street, Bishopsgate, and Aldgate Stations on the Metropolitan and Metropolitan District Lines, and at Cook's Tourist and Excursion Offices, Ludgate Circus, E.C. The fares are remarkably moderate, and every opportunity is afforded the traveller for breaking and deviating from the direct line of his journey. For North and South Wales and Valley of the Wye, circular tourist tickets are issued for no less than five different routes. By the first of these passengers go by rail to Tenby *via* Whitland or New Milford, and back to Carmarthen, thence *via* Pencader, Manchester, &c.; and Milford and Cambrian lines to Dolgelly, returning from the last-named place *via* Bala and the Vale of Llangollen to Ruabon, and thence to Shrewsbury, or *vice versa*. As the journey may be broken at frequent intervals, the tourist will have the opportunity of visiting Gloucester, Chepstow, Newport, Swansea, Tenby, Aberystwith, Dolgelly, Bala, the Vale of Llangollen, &c., &c. The second route is to Dolgelly *via* Ruabon, the Vale of Llangollen and Bala, returning from Dolgelly by way of Barmouth junction, Machynlleth, and Oswestry, or Welshpool and Shrewsbury, or *vice versa*. Route three differs from Route two in that the journey, after continuing by Barmouth and Afon Wen to Carnarvon, returns by way of the Chester and Holyhead Railway to Chester, or *vice versa*. The fourth and fifth routes traverse the Valley of the Wye, and the tickets are available for travelling only once over the same ground, except the fourth route tickets from Pontypool Road to Monmouth and back. The routes, according to the point selected for starting, are described at full length in the Company's Time Tables and Tourist Programmes.

Though these two-monthly tickets are the principal feature of the arrangements, it must not be imagined that they are the full extent of the train service for the extra holiday traffic of the season. Short return tickets to all the principal places on the line, or with which the line is in communication are issued at moderate fares, while facilities are afforded for those who may wish to avail themselves of other excursions which are not immediately included in the programme issued by the Company. Those, however, who are desirous of obtaining fuller particulars than we, having regard to the limited space at our command, are able to furnish, will do well to consult the Great Western Time Tables issued for July, August, and September. They will there find all needful information as to times, fares, possible breaks in the journey, steamboat communications in connection with the line, &c., &c. As to the comforts afforded to passengers *en route*, the Company is too well known for us to go out of our way to enlarge on them. They may be equalled, but they cannot be surpassed on any other line in the kingdom.

A HOLIDAY RAMBLE.—RICHMOND AND THE THAMES.

By Our Roving Brother.

OUR Summer Banquet at the Star and Garter was a great success. We all went down in the orthodox fashion, in "brakes" and waggonettes of the most approved fashion; the weather was splendid; and the ladies were beaming with smiles from the moment we started until dewy eve brought us home again. The dinner in the gilded pavilion, the tennis and other pastimes on the lawn, the delightful scenery from the terraced walks, all combined in settling my resolve that, instead of undergoing all the bustle and fatigue of a lengthy journey to the seaside, I would just drop down to Richmond for a modest fortnight, where, if need be, I could run up to town occasionally, and rejoin the "better half" and her troop of little chicks in the cool of the evening. It was the pleasantry of our Summer Banquet that settled the inevitable question that year, as to "Where shall we go for our annual holiday?"

With the approach of the autumn season is associated a programme of alluring trips and excursions into the country, or to the seaside, where a respite from the monotony of business can be enjoyed, and the physical powers fortified for the stern duties of life to which we must all ere long return. And were it not for these pleasant breaks in the journey, life would indeed be but a realisation of Mr. Mantalini's sage opinion that it is only "one dem'd horrid grind."

When Parliament is on the eve of rising from its labours, and the dusky grouse already dangle from the poulterers' hooks, the momentous question "Where shall we go?" always crops up. Paterfamilias scratches his head, and gravely calculates the cost, and mamma sees to the packing of the boxes; while the girls scan the tourists' handbooks and lay their plans for flirtation and conquest. And so the world—i.e. those who can afford it—soar away, with the home-returning swallows—some to the Highland moors and forests, others to Norwegian fjords and Mediterranean islands; to the fells and mountains of Switzerland; to Belgium, Germany, and the Rhine; whilst others still, with shallow purses, have to content themselves with stuffy lodgings at one or other of our own watering-places and the motley attractions of the "Spa."

However, before the "harvest moon's begun," the autumnal exodus is in full swing. Cook and Caygill could wondrous tales unfold of Continental cities which lay themselves out to entertain—and fleece!—the "distinguished foreigners" who patronise the "personally-conducted tours;" whilst at home excursion trains are hurrying to and fro with freights of pleasure-hunters whom economy, or necessity—compels to spend their holiday, if they have one at all, in their native land.

But there is a class, and one to which I may just as well at once confess I belong, who can afford neither the time nor the money to go far afield for relaxation or health. I mean the hard-worked City "hand"—the clerk, the shop assistant, and the thrifty artisan, who has enough to do in these hard times to feed, clothe, and educate the little olive branches which blossom so thickly around his hearth. And who has a keener relish for emerald meads and the fair open country than he who drudges away from year's end to year's end at the everlasting counter and the desk?

Thus, as I said at starting, and with the most agreeable recollections begotten of our summer Masonic *réunion*, the writer, measuring both his leisure and the length of his purse, decided upon staying near at home this summer; and reflection based on experience consoles him with the thought that he might have gone farther and fared worse. Perhaps the most pleasant day amongst those mapped out for our tour was that spent in the "royal" atmosphere of Richmond and the Thames, which just at this season of the year presents an attractiveness not surpassed by any of the favourite resorts on the "Contingent." There is, moreover, no anxiety or fussiness in the packing of huge trunks requisite for a long journey and a protracted stay; the classic ground, so fertile in historical associations, so replete with the beauties which Nature has lavished upon it, lies within easy hail by the practical and prosaic "iron road."

Bright were the beams of the morning sun as we left smoky, distracted London behind us, and the district railway trundled us down in half-an-hour to Richmond. How altered since our last visit, twenty years ago! Alongside the dingy old South Western station others have sprung up, connecting the town with a network of diverging lines, and the traffic must have assumed proportions which were little dreamt of in the philosophy of the inhabitants half a century since.

Signs of progress abound on every hand. In and around the Quadrant handsome buildings and shops have been erected, in bold and pleasing contrast with the irregularly-designed houses elsewhere, and which look as though they had been pitchforked into all manner of impossible places, with an utter disregard to uniformity, at various periods; whilst outside the town villas and terraces appear on the hillsides, giving to the suburbs an aspect of opulence and gentility quite gladsome to behold.

But as I am pledged only a bird's-eye-view of things in my day's ramble, I have no time to expatiate on the enterprise which has helped to induce so many "City gentlemen" to take up their quarters in this favoured locality. If we would see the "lions" of the place we must be quick about it, for they are many.

Threading an out-of-the-way passage, we come to the parish church, surrounded by thickly-grouped tombs and gravestones, and completely shut in by buildings of a by no means aristocratic description. Inside there is nothing architectural to invite a lingering stay; but we must pause before memorial to James Thomson, the poet, whose "Castle of Indolence" is well known to all who are on quotation terms with the gifted bards of England. His residence in the Kew-road is mentioned to us, where, we are told, are still the parlour in which he lived, and the furniture he used—the garden in which he basked in the sunshine, "slipper'd and with hands each in waistcoat pocket." And there come back to us memories of poor Savage and

of Collins, who loved to meet in that old summer house, and to converse with their genial and hospitable friend.

Returning by way of Richmond Green, on which the boys play merrily at cricket and other games, we are shown an ancient gateway, bearing an escutcheon of King Henry VII., and some scanty relics of a famous Royal palace, in which so many memorable scenes were witnessed. We trace back the pages of history to the palmy days when Charles I., the Duke of York and lords lived here and hunted in the New Park, when the judges and lawyers fled here to conduct their business, away from the horrible Plague in London. The imprisonment and death of Elizabeth—that impetuous creature who longed to learn the secrets of ye mystic tie!—the founding of the palace of Henry VII., by whom the name of Richmond was bestowed on Sheen; the grand tournaments that enlivened the Green in those old Tudor days; the refuge of Wolsey, and the doings of the old Cartkussian monks—are they not all written in the pages of the history of England?

Passing through George-street, which is, I suppose, the oldest portion of the town, we proceed past the bridge which spans the river, up the hill towards the magnificent terrace, and the Star and Garter, now of European fame. What a sublime prospect is here presented! The river meanders along for miles, like a winding strip of silver, amidst glimpses of lawn and garden, and woodland, and meadows of many-tinted green, whilst from the embowering glades peep here and there handsome old villas and mansions, whose gardens slope down to the water's edge, and which look like exquisite vignettes in one of Nature's title pages. Barges glide up and down, behind snorting steam tugs or panting teams; steam launches scud briskly along amidst a crowd of boats, which skim about like gay water birds; while from punts and river banks the disciples of old Izaak Walton calmly pursue the "gentle art," and form portion of the manifold pictorial effects.

We shall descend the hillside presently, but meanwhile we will saunter through the labyrinths of *salons* in the Star and Garter, where the requirements of the inner man may be satisfied at as reasonable a cost, and in as sumptuous a style, as in the very heart of London. We pass through the pavilion, with its gilded columns and artistic arcades, whose walls ever and anon resound with echoes of revelry and mirth; we gaze out upon the terraced gardens so trim and neat, and speculate upon the number of wedding parties that have sported on those slopes, and celebrated the dawn of happy married lives since the days when the "Lass o' Richmond Hill" was first sung.

We should like to ramble awhile in the Old Park, where the ear and tail of the deer "twinkle innumerable," and there is the sequestered little hamlet of Petersham, close by; but *tempus fugit!* We hear something of a "wishing tree" in the park, but cannot find it. I wonder whoever has! 'Tis said that, sitting under a certain tree, Lady Russell, forty years ago, wished she might some day come to reside in this delightful locality, and that her desire was gratified. I presume that is the origin of the term "wishing-tree," and many there be who enquire, but few who find it. Here and there, on rustic seats, little groups of visitors are clustered, deliberating over *al fresco* luncheons, whilst the frequent passing of carriages tell of resident aristocrats who love to sniff the morning air as they bound along over the well-kept drives which intersect those once royal haunts. But you who are wont to luxuriate in an occasional carriage-drive must read the rules before entering the Park, for no hackney coach "badge" is permitted within those historical precincts.

As we descend the hill we find the streets populous with visitors, whose baskets and satchels speak of considerate sisters and spouses who believe not in jaunting about on empty stomachs; while itinerant bands fill the air with dalcet strains of the most popular music. Richmond is decidedly lively on a bright summer day, and the means of enjoyment are included in a lengthy bill of fare. Enterprising caterers stand at the doors of eating-houses, and politely ask you to walk into their parlours—an invitation which is stimulated by savoury odours from steaming joints; moreover, the principal hotels, the Castle, the Talbot, the Greyhound, and others hold out tempting allurements to visitors who have brought their purses with them, and whose delight it is to fare sumptuously. Byron reminds us that—

"Man's happiness—the hungry sinner—

Since Eve ate apples, much depends on dinner;

and having so appeased the unfortunate gnawings of hunger, and feeling at peace with ourselves and all mankind, we sally forth towards the river side, passing the curious obelisk on the bridge, which informs us in a strange conglomeration of numerals and figures how many miles and a-quarter it is respectively to ever so many places round about. This monolith, whereon the public is peremptorily and in divers spots admonished to "stick no bills," also informs the visitor that the foundation-stone of the bridge was laid over a century ago—in the year 1774—and that it was completed just three years later, doubtless opened in the presence of royal and other distinguished persons, if the local records are extant and one had time to hunt them up.

Beneath the bridge we select one from amidst a crowd of pleasure-boats which are let for hire—"shilling first ower, and sixpence an ower arterwards, sir" and row away up the calm sunny waters in the direction of Twickenham. On either side the banks are glowing with rich sylvan scenes—old mansions, in the façades of which grow sturdy ivy and the more graceful creepers which depend in festoons from overhauling verandahs and terraced walks; great oaks and cedars and elms rear their stately forms above closely shaven lawns and zig-zag walks, blending into a scene of unsurpassed boldness and beauty. On the river lie moored saloon barges, whose decks are adorned with choice selections from the conservatory, and a peep into whose windows reveal an aspect pleasantly suggestive of cosy pic-nics up the river, away from the busy haunts of "the madding crowd." The boat-builders on the towing paths are brisk

with the business of the rowing clubs, of which there are several in the locality, and whose regattas attract considerable attention from aquatic men in London and the suburbs.

On past the Eyot, with the meadows of Petersham on the left, well-trimmed gardens and slopes leading up to the comparatively newly-created Cambridge Park Estate on the right, we come in view of the avenues of Ham, through the openings of which we catch sight of a melancholy mansion, with red-bricked front and high-pitched roof, well known as the celebrated Ham House, the principal legend attached to which is that Charles I. here concealed himself when pursued by Cromwell and his Roundhead crew. An old gardener made much of the story that there is still the room in which the fugitive monarch was hidden, and that the "breakfast-things" are still on the table as Charles left them when he escaped by one door at the precise moment that Cromwell entered by another. There remains also a chamber, the man said, in the state that the old Duchess of Lauderdale left it in—her desk, great chair and cane remaining as though for her Grace's return. We are not allowed to enter the gaunt old mansion, which stands grim and silent amidst its well-kept flower-beds, great trees and balconied terraces; but we can spare time to roam under the magnificent avenue towards Ham Common, where flocks of geese browse about amongst the gorse and furze, and in the pellucid atmosphere of that open spot breathe a host of poor little orphans who are cared for by Royal bounty.

On our return, we find little pic-nic parties squatted in idyllic fashion under the spreading chesnut trees by the river margin, and the whole place is alive with the rippling laughter of children who gambol about on the emerald sward, sheltered from the garish sun-heat by lines of huge trees. On the opposite bank we see another, but less antiquated, residence, once occupied by Queen Anne, when Princess of Denmark, and further distinguished by its having been the residence of Louis Philippe during the period of his first exile in England. Orleans House derived its name from the late King, when he lived there as Duke of Orleans, and up to within a recent date has been occupied by members of his family who survived his second exile, but who, since the fall of the French Empire, have returned to their native soil. Having undergone great improvements, the mansion and its ground are now the head-quarters of the Orleans Club, where gay parties may be seen disporting themselves upon the lawns during the summer months. The Four-in-Hand and Coaching clubs awaken the echoes of the kingly demesne at intervals during the season, and when garden parties and the festive doings of the "Upper Ten" are at their height.

"I suppose the existence of the club is appreciated by Twickenham people as a great source of attraction and profit?" I asked of our oicerone; to which, with a laconic grin, the old man replied, "Well, they say as it don't bring in much, but Twickenham folk is never 'appy unless they're grumblin'. However, so many grand swells, always a-comin' and goin' must bring some good to the place." So I should say, for Twickenham has not been what it was before the princes left, some years ago.

We rejoin our boat and paddle gently past the ferry, catching a view of the handsome residence of Mr. Grant Duff, M.P., formerly the temporary home of the Comte de Paris, and on to the Eel Pie Island, where parties erstwhile congregated to enjoy that popular viand; wherein that comfortable hostelry pleasure-seekers regale themselves at frequent intervals, and brethren of the mystic Craft enjoy refreshment after their "speculative" labour. Once upon a time, when our Summer Banquet was celebrated on this charming island, a facetious Brother, whose forte was the compilation of *impromptu* verses, sang a song which I believe has never yet appeared in print, and which he entitled "The Cowan's Retreat." One recommendation of it is that it may be sung in any Lodge and made *local*, by merely substituting the names of brethren in the place of the asterisks which I have inserted where the names of our members appeared in the original. The ditty was well received, to the tune of "The Captain with his Whiskers," and ran as follows:—

IMPROMPTU SONG.

The Cowan's Retreat.

Written and Sung at the Summer Banquet of the Anonymous Lodge, No. O.

By BRO. O. FULLY GREENE, Esq., W.M.

Air: "Captain with his Whiskers."

I'm a simple little country lad, as doubtless you may see,
But, with all your so-called "mysteries," you don't come over me;
Oh! I know your signs and passwords—and the "secrets" every one,
So if you try to gammon me, you'll find it can't be done.

Oh! I am so very "fly!"
And I give you leave to try,
So "take your time from me,"
And I'll prove that Masoury

Is a very pretty plaything for old fogies such as thee;
But I'm the little country lad—you don't come over me.

A friend of mine once said to me, "I'll show you every dodge
By which you may bamboozle 'em and get into a Lodge;
There is not half the difficulty that you may suppose;
So march up boldly to the door, with your finger at your nose."

Oh! I am so very "fly!" &c.

"Then," said my friend, "Outside the door a Tyler you will find;
Just whisper 'BACON' in his ear, and he'll prove very kind;
When he asks you for the *other pass*, just whisper to him 'GREENS';
And, sure as fate, he'll let you have a peep behind the scenes."

Oh! I am so very "fly!" &c.

So, according to my friend's advice, and knowing well the dodge,
I made my way, with gladsome heart, to the * * * * Lodge;
I first came to this banquet hall, was asked to go inside,
When * * * * standing at the Lodge door I espied.

Oh! I am so very "fly!" &c.

Now this man had an apron on; he looked so very grand;
With a fine blue sash around his neck; a big sword in his hand;
But I march'd up to him boldly, and said "'BACON,' my dear sir;"
But he couldn't understand the "GREENS" I whispered in his ear!

Oh! I am so very "fly!" &c.

Then he gave three loud raps at the door; I heard a voice inside,
When a man, I think called * * * * out the little trap door spied.
"Now, who comes here?" I heard him say, the Tyler says to he,
"I fancy 'tis a cowan; you had better come and see."

Oh! I am so very "fly!" &c.

Then straightway came the Inner Guard—look'd very fierce at me,
And the questions that he ax'd I'm sure were rude exceedingly;
He ax'd how old my *Mother* was, and the year that I was *made*;
I can hardly tell you all the stuff that cheeky fellow said.

Oh! I am so very "fly!" &c.

Then he spoke about some *Architect*, and how I was *prepared*;
I really thought the man was mad—so hard at me he stared;
He wouldn't have my pass-words, but he turned and said, quite cool—
"Now, Tyler, get the poker hot, we'll frizzle this poor fool."

Oh! I am so very "fly!" &c.

You may depend I didn't wait to have the test applied,
So I bolted off and very glad to find myself outside;
And if you think I'll try again, you'll find I'm no such flat,
For I'm the little country lad, so mind what you are at!

Oh! I am so very "fly!" &c.

We cannot quit the sequestered spot, however, where the little Duke of Gloucester was wont to drill his young playmates in mimic war, without patronising the Island Hotel; and having satisfied ourselves of the excellence of the interior economy of that establishment, we ply our oars again, rowing away a little in the direction of Teddington Lock, passing the delightful grounds of the late Countess Waldegrave at Strawberry Hill, and others of as nearly picturesque aspect, returning past the boathouses of the Twickenham Rowing Club, and over the shallow Middlesex side to the landing-place. Of course, we visit the church with its ancient greystone tower, disfigured by a red brick nave, but there is little in the heavy-galleried interior which strikes the visitor with admiration. Here, too, we find among the mural tablets one of more than ordinary interest, of a man who would not be buried in Westminster Abbey, though he well deserved a niche in that resting place of national greatness—I refer of course to Alexander Pope, whose house once stood a short way off. The site is now covered with a house of modern structure—one of the most extraordinary specimens of architecture which the vagrant taste of the present day in such matters can possibly conceive. Pope's willow is also gone, and so is the obelisk he raised to his venerable mother, but the grotto still remains, and is visited by the curious.

But the afternoon is growing apace, and the river is low, so that if we are to have a turn at the "gentle art" we must lose no time in getting into our punt, which the waterman has stationed in mid-stream. As we sit there, and with many more besides, and the silvery roach and dace come flickering into our creels, the twilight deepens into dreamy softness, and from the returning river craft comes wafted the harmony of songs from pleasure-parties who are sharing with us the glories of a summer's evening on the Thames.

My advice to "the likes o' me," who can only afford a day now and then to enjoy a holiday, and to inhale the fresh and invigorating country air, is "go to Richmond and the Thames;" and perhaps this little passing sketch may help them to see as much as can be comfortably crowded into one single day.

The Board of Masters meets on Wednesday next, the 23rd instant, for the purpose of settling the business to be transacted at the next Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge, and among the notices of motion that will be submitted will be the one notified by Bro. James Stevens in his letter which appeared last week in the columns of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, namely:—

"That, having regard to the great increase, during the past twenty-five years, in the number of 'Lodges within the London District' (see Book of Constitutions, page 72), this Grand Lodge desires to respectfully represent to His Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master the desirability of subdividing the said London District into Subordinate Grand Lodges, to be constituted in like manner to Provincial Grand Lodges."

We see nothing in this notice to evoke anything like an objection to its being inserted in the agenda paper, though, as a matter of course, opinions as to advisability of passing the motion in Grand Lodge must be divided. Bro. Stevens writes in a hopeful strain, and though we cannot shut our eyes to the reasonableness of "JOD'S" letter, we see no very grave objection to his proposition. At all events he has, we understand, a large number of brethren who sympathise with him in his movement.

A GOOD MASON.

ONE Brother remarked to another, in our hearing the other day, that a third person, to us unknown, was "a good Mason." We did not ponder the remark at the time, but afterwards it occurred to us, What did our Brother mean? What is "a good Mason?"

Is "a good Mason" one who is present at his Lodge meetings regularly and punctually, never failing to obey a summons or notice to attend, unless for a good Masonic reason? Is he one who shows that he is ever ready to counsel his Lodge by being present at each communication so as to make it possible for him to render service? In our view the importance of this duty can scarcely be over-estimated. "Absent in body, but present in spirit" does not amount to anything in Masonry. It is all very well to say, "I wish the Lodge success," "I hope it is growing," and all that sort of thing, but if a Brother habitually fails to attend the meetings of his Lodge, or worse still, dimits therefrom and remains unaffiliated, no matter how much prosperity he wishes Masonry, it will owe whatever lack of success it has, in part directly to his neglect. It is too true that the majority of Lodge members are, at every Lodge communication "conspicuous by their absence." This is an old complaint in another connection, at least as old as Tacitus, who was the first one, so far as the records of language show, to use this expression. We have no hesitation, therefore, in saying that "a good Mason," whatever else he is, is a regular attendant at his Lodge—that such an attendance is a necessary ingredient of goodness in Masonry. But it is not the only ingredient.

"A good Mason" regularly and promptly pays his dues to the Lodge. This financial quality is the *sine qua non* of "a good Mason." There is the highest authority for this duty, for our first Great Light directs us to "render to all their dues." Money is as necessary to a Lodge as it is to an individual—it cannot live without it. There are only two ways in which a Lodge can legitimately make money—one is by making Masons, and the other is by collecting dues from its members. To accomplish the latter, the members must each be possessed of a willing mind and a liberal hand. Masonry does not go to law for its dues—the most that it does is to suspend for non-payment of dues, and it never does this where the Brother is unable to pay. Brotherly Love forbids it. Poverty may prevent a man from becoming a Mason, but it never causes him to be cast out of Masonry—on the contrary, a Mason in distress is the ward of the Craft. "A good Mason" pays his dues as long as he is able, in order to enable his Lodge to pay its debts, and dispense needed charity to the distressed.

But a regular and punctual attendance at the Lodge, and the prompt payment of dues, although Masonic virtues of a high order, will not alone constitute "a good Mason." There are material parts of both the letter and the spirit of the law that yet remain to be fulfilled. The spirit of Masonry is the spirit of Brotherly Love. "Love is the fulfilling of the law." It is not too much to say that the main purpose of the Masonic Fraternity is to evoke and continually exhibit in action this divine principle of Brotherly Love. It is that which draws us together; which unites us into one band or society of friends and brothers; which enkindles our hearts, and opens our hands in charity; which creates that unmatched social feeling which ever distinguishes Freemasons. The "good Mason" is a good lover of his brethren, a good lover of humankind, tender-hearted, open-handed, and unselfish in the largest degree. He loves both Masonry and Freemasons. He is a good man, and *par excellence* "a good Mason."

There are other qualities that distinguish "a good Mason," which, if minor, should not be overlooked in a general view of the subject. "A good Mason" takes, reads, and promptly pays for a good Masonic newspaper. He loves knowledge, and is a continual seeker after "more Light." He likes to read the news of the Craft, to know what is said and done in the world of Masonry. In this age of the printing press, when "that angel, knowledge," is abroad in the land, the Freemason who does not have this "angel" for a regular visitant at his home, has only himself to blame. What operative Mason would think of erecting a material arch without inserting in it a keystone? And analogously, what Freemason should think of living an enlightened Masonic life, more especially in the Masonic jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, without the stated presence, aid and assistance of the *Keystone*? Its purpose is to instruct and entertain, to diffuse lawful knowledge throughout the entire circle of its readers, to be a supplemental light in Masonry, and by every thought, word and work to add to the number of "good Masons."

Having thus recalled to mind the constituted elements of "a good Mason," let us build every one of them into the temple of our lives, for they constitute the life of the building. Freemasonry is a shadow without them. Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are the living stones of the fabric, and failing to exemplify these, we fail to be "good Masons."—*Keystone*.

CORNER STONES.

IT is almost an impossibility to ascertain at what date this custom of laying corner stones was first introduced. After considerable research, we shall endeavour to give, as near as we can find out, the origin. There can be very little doubt that the original idea or form emanated from the Eleusinian and Bacchic mysteries, over three thousand years before Christ. We learn from Festus that the Estrinians had forms concerning the ceremonies observed at the founding of cities, altars, temples, walls, and gates. Plutarch tells us that Romulus before he laid the foundation of Rome, sent for men from Etruria, who informed him in all the punctilios of ceremony which he was to observe. According to Dionysius, they began with offering a sacrifice. They then dug a ditch, in which they threw the

first fruits of all things that served for human nourishment; at the same time they consulted the gods to know if their offering would be acceptable, and asked if their enterprise would be successful, and if they approved of the day chosen to do the work.

They then chalked out the boundary (exactly as we do at the present day) by a score of white earth, which they called *Terra pura*. While they were forming this boundary, they stopped at certain intervals, and placed within the excavation the *first fruits*, corn and oil, and the symbols of the religious belief at that period. In these sacrifices they invoked, beside the gods of the country, the gods to whose protection the new temple or city was recommended. In those days it was done secretly, because it was necessary that the titular gods should be unknown to the vulgar. (We do it more openly, but our form is nevertheless a sacrifice). Among the Romans, when they were to (build a temple, the Aruspices were employed to choose the place as our architect does), and the time when they should begin work. This place was purified with great care, and was encircled with garlands and fillets (we have seen flowers on a corner stone in this country and in Europe). Few notice: *then he touched the corner stone that was to be first laid in the foundations*, which was bound with a fillet, when the people, animated with enthusiastic zeal, threw it in with some pieces of money or metal, which had never passed through the furnace. (We do the same thing, only the money has passed through the mint).

When the edifice was finished there was also a consecration of it with grand ceremonies. Myth. vol. 1. p. 297. When the fruits of the earth were the only food of men, care was taken to reserve a certain portion for the gods. Sometimes water was poured over the heads of the victims, sometimes honey, sometimes oil; but generally they were sprinkled with wine, and then the wood of the fig tree, the myrtle, the vine was burnt upon the altar. There was no erecting of any altar, temple, or wall, without the use of corn, and more particularly barley, as it was the first sort of corn used by the Greeks after their diet of acorns was given up. In the dedication of Mason's halls the corn, wine, and oil are poured upon the Lodge, the processions three times around the foundation and the hall when finished, the three lights, striking the stone thrice, &c., are in conformity to the customs of the Eleusinian Bacchic mysteries.

We think, however, that the real origin of the laying of the corner stone was from India, that cradle of civilisation—some of their majestic temples prove this. The Temple of Elora is considered the most curious. No one can regard without astonishment a whole mountain of porphyry, covering nearly six miles of superficial measurement, converted into a mysterious succession of halls, chambers, anti-chambers, vestibules, courts, saloons, &c. In the midst of these apartments is the great Temple of Elora, a single apartment of five hundred feet in circumference, hollowed out of the solid granite.

Its galleries are supported by sculptured pillars; its walls are polished, into which are cut thirty-three niches, extending from floor to dome, in which are thirty-three gigantic statues of Hindoo divinities. During some convulsion of nature these statues were partially removed, and underneath them, and some columns of gigantic size, about forty feet in diameter, were found some curious coins and symbols, and grain of a character which seemed to have passed through some process for preservation.

Discoveries of the same character have been made at different periods in India. We think, therefore, that the custom is far ahead of the Egyptians, or Greeks, or Romans. We do know for certain that 715 B. C. the (*collegia fabrorum*) or Roman constructors, always performed this ceremony. We leave our readers to decide for their own part on the explanation we have endeavoured to make but bearing in mind whatever metals, coins, or articles of whatever description were placed by the ancients under their corner stones, they were purely symbolic of the religion of the age, and we do not think intended for the use of posterity; for the construction of their temples was, like their religion, intended to last for ever.—*New York Dispatch*.

At the meeting of the North London Chapter of Improvement, held 17th August, at the Canonbury Tavern, St. Mary's-road, N., Comps. Edmonds filled the chair of Z., Gregory H., Sparrow J., John Evans Sheffield S.E., Fennell S.N. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, after which the Chapter was closed until Thursday evening, the 24th inst.

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MOZART LODGE, No. 1929.

THE Installation meeting of the above Lodge was held at Harwood House, High-street, Croydon, on the 12th inst. Lodge was opened in due form by the W.M., E. M. Lott, assisted by Bros. Edwin Moss S.W. W.M. elect, Phillips J.W., and a numerous gathering of members and visitors, among whom were Bros. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke Grand Secretary, and Buss Assistant Grand Secretary. Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. The audited accounts were then submitted and passed, showing a balance on the right side. The W.M. courted the able assistance of Col. Shadwell H. Clerke to work the installation, and that worthy brother, to the delight of all present, assented and occupied the chair of W.M., appointing as his S.W. Bro. H. G. Buss Assist. Grand Secretary, Bro. E. M. Lott following J. T. Phillips in the J.W. chair. Bro. Frances P.G.D.C. Surrey acting D.C. presented Bro. Moss as the W.M. elect for the benefits of installation. Bro. Moss having applied in the affirmative to all inquiries prior to his appointment as a ruler of the Craft, received the benefits of Masonic prayer, brethren not eligible to remain in Lodge retired, and the distinguished brother in the chair gave the necessary degree, and placed Bro. Moss in the chair of K.S. The Board of Installed Masters was then closed, and the brethren of the different grades were admitted and saluted the chair in formal manner. Bro. Moss appointed his Officers for the ensuing year as follows:—Bros. Phillips Senior Warden, H. J. Lardner Treasurer, E. M. Lott Secretary, J. King Senior Deacon, W. Ainsly Junior Deacon, R. Palmer Thomas Inner Guard, F. Compton P.M. M.C., H. P. Jones Assistant M.C., J. W. Simonu Steward, J. Holdgate Assistant Steward, J. H. Liepold, Organist, J. Kift Director of Ceremonies, C. Grundtng Std. Bearer. The installing Master then delivered the final addresses in a most impressive manner, the whole of the ceremony being worked without a fault or the slightest hesitation, and the worthy brother received a Masonic ovation. There being two brethren for raising, Bro. Moss was enabled to prove to the members of the Lodge that they had selected a brother to preside over them of true merit, the ceremony being worked in a perfect manner. Lodge was resumed. Bro. E. M. Lott I.P.M., after a highly and justly complimentary address to the Installing Master, in which every one joined, moved that a vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes to that worthy brother; the motion having been unanimously confirmed, Bro. the Grand Secretary paid a high compliment to the excellent working of the Lodge, and wished them progress and prosperity. Other minor subjects were brought before the Lodge, and disposed of as business matter. Lodge was closed in due form, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, prepared by Bro. Rhodes (host), to which justice was done, grace being sung by a talented company of professionals. The Loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to—that of the Grand Officers being ably responded to by Bro. Colonel Shadwell Clerke Grand Secretary. The health of the W.M. was fully acknowledged by Bro. Moss. Bro. Moss proposed the toast of the I.P.M., at the same time fixing on his breast a valuable jewel of elegant design and great intrinsic value, being of fine massive gold. Bro. Lott returned his acknowledgments to the members for their handsome gift, and promised to be among them whenever he could. The Officers followed next, to which Bro. Phillips S.W. observed that the Officers felt and esteemed the neat compliment paid them by the W.M., and that they would one and all endeavour to show him they were worthy of his estimation, they had now entered on the second year of existence, and he himself hoped the W.M.'s project for supporting the Charities would be carried out, and thanked him for the Officers' toast. Next followed that of the Visitors. Bro. Le Resche, Mechanics Lodge, No. 245 (Jersey), replied for the Visitors. The Tyler's toast followed, and the brethren separated after a most enjoyable gathering. Part songs during the evening were rendered by the following brethren:—Bros. E. M. Lott, T. Tremere, Kift, A. Thompson, A. James, E. Collins, Schartau, and Simons.

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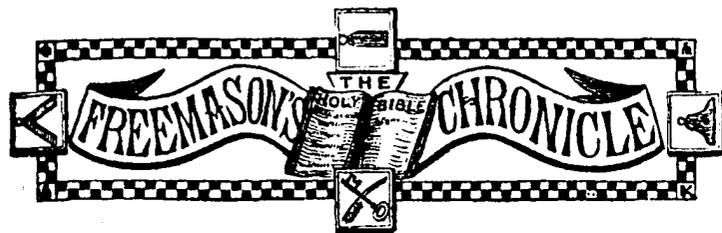
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ST. MARY ABBOTTS LODGE, No. 1974.

ANOTHER addition has just been made to the list of London Lodges in the form of the St. Mary Abbots Lodge, No. 1974, which was consecrated on Thursday, 10th inst., at the Town Hall, Kensington, by V.W. Bro. Col. Shadwell H. Clerke Grand Secretary, assisted by W. Bros. Captain N. G. Philips P.G.D. as S.W., Robert Freke Gould P.G.D. as J.W., V.W. Bro. Rev. A. F. A. Woodford P.G. Chaplain as Chaplain, W. Bro. Frank Richardson P.G.D. as Director of Ceremonies, and W. Bro. H. G. Buss Assist. Grand Secretary as I.G. The ceremony of Consecration was conducted by Bro. Clerke in his usual able manner, and the Lodge having been formally dedicated, the W.M. designate—W. Bro. Captain Adolphus Nicols P.D.G. Sup. of Works Punjab—was presented and installed. W. Bro. Col. Martin Petrie having been unanimously elected Treasurer, the W.M. invested the S.W. designate—Captain Henry Smith Andrews—with his collar of office. The J.W. designate—Francis Henry Gruggen—was unable to be present in consequence of having met with an accident. The W.M. stated that as the brother who would fill the position of Secretary was not then a member of the Lodge, he proposed to make the appointment to that office, as also to the other minor offices, later on; he should, however, be obliged to Bros. Petrie, Capt. Chas. Francis Compton and Francis Charles Compton if they would fulfil for a time the duties of Secretary and Senior and Junior Deacons respectively. Bro. Austin was elected, and invested as Tyler. Before closing the Lodge, the Secretary *pro tem.* announced the receipt of letters of regret from various brethren who had been invited, but who were unable to attend. Five propositions for joining, and one for initiation, were made. A vote of thanks to the Consecrating Officers was, on the proposition of the W.M., seconded by the S.W., unanimously passed, as was also one to the brethren who had carried out the musical portion of the day's programme. Bro. Grand Secretary acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the Consecrating Officers. A Committee having been appointed to draw up the Bye-Laws, Lodge was closed, and the brethren proceeded to banquet, which was well served by Bro. Ward. At the conclusion of the banquet, the W.M. proceeded with the customary toasts; first on the list was that of the Queen and the Craft, it was one, the W.M. said, which needed no preface from him. Noble and good herself, Her Majesty the Queen had always been the Patroness of institutions established for the welfare of her subjects, or for the relief of distress, and although it was not possible for her to take any part in the mysteries of Freemasonry, she had given her support to it by becoming Patroness of the Charitable Institutions connected with it. With the toast of her health they, as Masons, were always pleased to couple Success to the Craft. The toast having been honoured, the National Anthem was sung, and then the toast of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M., together with that of the Earl of Carnarvon, the Earl of Lathom, and the rest of the Grand Officers, present and past, was given. Masons generally, were proud to honour the Grand Master, who, since he had become their ruler, had shown them he had the power of reigning well. The founders of the Saint Mary Abbots Lodge had especial cause to be thankful to him from the fact of his having granted them a warrant of Constitution after having expressed his opinion that he considered London Lodges were sufficiently numerous. Of the Earl of Carnarvon, the Earl of Lathom, and the other Grand Officers, he could say much, but they were so well known to all who were then present, that he would simply dismiss them with the best of his wishes for their future. With the toast he had the pleasure of coupling the name of the Rev. A. F. A. Woodford Past Grand Chaplain, and that brother in due course replied. The brethren had heard his voice so very frequently that day that he almost wished the Master had given them an opportunity of listening to some other of the Grand Officers present. But being called upon by the W.M. he must first tender his thanks on behalf of the Grand Officers for the way in which the brethren had replied to the toast. The rulers of Freemasonry were men they were bound to reverence and admire, and it would always be so, as long as they fulfilled their duties as they did at present. They had that day among them several Present and Past Grand Officers, and he felt sure they were one and all animated by a desire to benefit the English Craft. Very much of the success of Freemasonry at the present time was due to the care bestowed upon it by the Grand Secretary, who had shown by the way in which he had carried out the ceremonies that day how much interest he took in the Craft. He must not forget to refer also to the Assistant Grand Secretary, Bro. Buss, whose work in the Craft had met the approval of all with whom he came in contact; more especially was this the case some time since, when the bulk of the work devolved on him. Speaking of Freemasonry generally, he could remember how, forty years ago, when a very young man, he first saw the light of Freemasonry at Gibraltar. The longer he lived the more he appreciated it, and he could but say to those around him if they only make as many friends, and spent as many pleasant evenings in it as he had done, they too would know the advantages of Freemasonry. The Worshipful Master next submitted the toast of Very Worshipful Bro. Shadwell H. Clerke, the Consecrating Officer. Were it possible for him to enjoy speechmaking, he should have very much to say in

praise of their Grand Secretary, to whom he and the founders generally were greatly indebted for assistance rendered them in the formation of their Lodge, both before and after the issuing of the warrant for its consecration. He trusted the Lodge might prosper and never forfeit the respect and regard of the brother to whom they were so much indebted for what he had done towards starting it. Bro. Clerke thought he might fairly echo the remarks of Bro. Woodford so far as what he had said as to his having spoken so often before that day was concerned. It was a great pleasure to him to reply to the toast, more especially after the way in which the W.M. had alluded to the small services he had been able to render in connection with the establishment of the Lodge. It had been a great pleasure to him to be present that day, and he had felt it his duty to assist the W.M. as far as lie in his power. He had felt from the first that the Lodge would be a successful one, and had done his best to get the needful authority from the Grand Master as early as possible. He must congratulate the founders on the successful start that had been made, and trusted that the future of the Lodge would be all they could desire. Before resuming his seat he would ask them to honour another toast—to use an oft repeated expression, the toast of the evening—that of their W.M., coupled with Prosperity to the Saint Mary Abbots Lodge. As he had said in Lodge, the W.M. was a very old and experienced Mason, having passed the chair some years since in India. He (Bro. Clerke) had seen him on many occasions in Freemasonry, and was sure he was the right sort of man to put at the head of a Lodge. He could but congratulate him and the Lodge generally on the favourable auspices under which they assembled, and had little doubt but that the first Master and the Lodge itself would prove a great success. The Worshipful Master tendered his heartfelt thanks. He assured the brethren that the present was the one period in the whole day's proceedings he had looked forward to with diffidence and misgivings. The man who could gracefully say, I thank you, under such circumstances was, in his opinion, a masterpiece. So far as he was concerned, he should do his very best for the welfare of the Lodge. He invited his brother visitors to come and see him when there was work to do in the Lodge, as if he could do his duty there, he felt they would excuse him at the toast list, and then proceeded to propose the health of the guests. The Visitors who were present must remember they were assembled that evening at a new Lodge, whose machinery had only just been set in motion. He was at present unable to say how it would work, so would not promise too much; all he could hope was that the St. Mary Abbots Lodge would eventually attain a reputation both for hospitality and good working. With the toast he had the pleasure of coupling the name of Bro. Rev. W. Francis; that brother, in responding, felt the Master could hardly have selected any one less able to reply than himself, but at the same time he could not have chosen one who had enjoyed himself more than he. He thought he might say that the Visitors had all enjoyed themselves; that each did really wish every success and prosperity to the Lodge and its founders. What was more, they felt convinced from the way in which it had been started, and the ability of the brother at its head, that the Lodge must succeed. The W.M. next proposed the health of his Officers. Of course as he had not seen them work he could not yet say anything of them; he hoped, however, the brethren would unite with him in wishing them good health and trusting they might keep up the reputation that had been established that day. He coupled with the toast the name of Col. Petrie, the Treasurer and acting Secretary. Bro. Petrie acknowledged the toast. The W.M. had said he could not say what his Officers were like as he had not tried them, but under so distinguished a master, he (the speaker) felt convinced they could hardly fail to do well. Masonry was often spoken of as an institution which created good fellowship and charity among its members, but he thought it had a much higher aim. It taught its members to prepare themselves for another world and that their aim should be to make themselves fit stones to be selected by the Great Architect of the Universe to be added to the great temple above. Brother Gould followed. The brethren had paid him the compliment of asking him to act as Junior Warden of the Lodge and to retain that position during the remainder of the day's proceedings; he thanked them, in a position which he did not think he should be able to occupy again—as one of the Officers of the Lodge. One thing had struck him which had not yet been mentioned by any of the speakers—the number of military men who had taken part in the day's proceedings. As an old soldier he felt very pleased to meet so many members of the profession. He felt there was no better class of men to be found in the world than those who had passed a military life; and he felt that the large number of military men associated with the Lodge would ensure success. The Tyler's toast was then given, and the proceedings were brought to a conclusion. The W.M. took occasion during the evening to specially thank the musical brethren for the part they had taken in the day's work. An excellent programme of music was set down to intersperse the various toasts, and the songs were most deservedly applauded. Bro. Lott undertook the direction of the music, being supported by Bros. J. Tremere, E. Moss, A. James and H. Ashton.

The Lord Mayor, who is the present G. J. Junior Warden of England, has given five guineas to the John Hervey Memorial Fund.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Diseases of Advanced Years.—The grand climacteric being passed, mankind passes to old age. Then the digestion becomes impaired, the nervous system grows feeble, and the physical powers become enervated. Now arise congestion of the liver, lungs, or head, followed by dropsy, asthma, or apoplexy, which frequently afflict and often destroy the aged. As the liver usually becomes torpid, its activity may speedily be revived by rubbing Holloway's Ointment thoroughly over the pit of the stomach and right side, at least twice a day, and taking the Pills at the same time. This treatment also disperses all other congestions by varying the parts rubbed according to the situations of the mischief.

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 Meetings, &c., as we have decided to insert only those that are verified by the Officers of the several Lodges.

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SATURDAY, 19th AUGUST.

- 1275—Star, Five Bells, 155 New North-road, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
 1278—Burdett Coutts, Lamb Tavern, opposite Bethnal G. Junct., at 8. (Inst.)
 1364—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7 (Instruction)
 1624—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Pimlico, at 7 (Instruction)
 1641—Crichton, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell
 Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-st., W., at 8

MONDAY, 21st AUGUST.

- 45—Strong Man, George Hotel, Australian Avenue, Barbican, at 7 (Instruc.)
 174—Sincerity, Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate, at 7. (Instruction)
 180—St. James's Union, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
 548—Wellington, White Swan, High-street, Deptford, at 8 (Instruction)
 704—Camden, Red Cap, Camden Town, at 8 (Instruction)
 1425—Hyde Park, The Westbourne, Craven-rd., Paddington, at 8 (Instruction)
 1489—Marquess of Ripon, Pembury Tavern, Amhurst-rd., Hackney, at 7.30 (In)
 1507—Metropolitan, The Moorgate, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., at 7.30 (Inst.)
 1608—Kilburn, 46 South Molton Street, Oxford Street, W., at 7. (Inst.)
 1623—West Smithfield, Champion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, E.C., at 8 (Inst.)
 1625—Tredegar, Royal Hotel, Mile End-road, corner of Burdett-road. (Inst.)
 1693—Kingsland, Canonbury Tavern, Canonbury, N., at 8.30 (Instruction)
 1789—Ubique, Guardsman Army Coffee Tavern, Buckingham Palace-road, S.W., at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1891—St. Ambrose Baron's Court Hotel, West Kensington. (Instruction)
 1910—Shadwell Clerke, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill
 R.A. 933—Doric, 79 Whitechapel-road, at 7. (Instruction)
 77—Freedom, Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend
 236—York, Masonic Hall, York
 331—Phoenix Public Room Truro
 359—Peace and Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Southampton
 382—Royal Union, Chequers Hotel, Uxbridge. (Instruction)
 424—Borough, Half Moon Hotel, Gateshead
 820—Lily of Richmond, Grayhound, Richmond, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 823—Everton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 925—Bedford Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham
 934—Merit, Derby Hotel, Whitefield.
 1030—Egerton, George Hotel, Wellington Road, Heaton Norris, near Stockport
 1037—Portland, Portland Hall, Portland
 1141—Mid Sussex, Assembly Rooms, Horsham.
 1199—Agriculture, Honey Hall, Congressbury.
 1208—Corinthian, Royal Hotel, Pier, Dover.
 1238—Gooch, Albany Hotel, Twickenham
 1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury, at 8. (Instruction)
 1502—Israel, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 R.A. 139—Paradise, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield.
 R.A. 827—St. John, Masonic Temple, Halifax-road, Dewsbury

TUESDAY, 22nd AUGUST.

- 55—Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton-bldgs., Holborn, at 7 (Inst.)
 65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction)
 131—Faith, 2 Westminster Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W., at 8. (Instruction)
 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.)
 980—Dalhousie, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston, at 8 (Instruction)
 1044—Wandsworth, Star and Garter Hotel, St. Ann's-hill, Wandsworth (Inst.)
 1349—Friars, Liverpool Arms, Canning Town, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 1369—Royal Arthur, D. of Cambridge, 316 Bridge-rd., Battersea Park, at 8 (In.)
 1381—Kennington, The Horns, Kennington. (Instruction)
 1446—Mount Edgcombe, 19 Jermyn-street, S.W., at 8 (Instruction)
 1471—Islington, Crown and Cushion, London Wall, at 7 (Instruction)
 1472—Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich (Instruction)
 1558—D. Connaught, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor Park, Camberwell, at 8 (In.)
 1602—Sir Hugh Myddelton, Crown and Woolpack, St. John's-st.-rd., at 8 (In.)
 1695—New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tavern, Finsbury Park, at 8 (Inst.)
 1707—Eleanor, Trocadero, Broad-street-buildings, Liverpool-street, 6.30 (Inst.)
 1839—Duke of Cornwall, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1949—Brixton, Prince Regent, Dulwich-road, East Brixton, at 8. (Instruction)
 R.A. 1275—Star, Ship Hotel, Greenwich
 24—Newcastle-on-Tyne, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-st., Newcastle, 7.30 (In)
 241—Merchants, Masonic Hall, Liverpool (Instruction)
 253—Tyrian, Masonic Hall, Gower-street, Derby
 897—Loyalty, Fleece Inn, St. Helens, Lancashire
 986—Hesketh, Grapes Inn, Croston
 1016—Elkington, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham
 1214—Scarborough, Scarborough Hall, Caledonia-road, Batley
 1343—St. John's Lodge, King's Arms, Grays, Essex
 1609—Dramatic, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 1675—Antient Briton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 R.A. 158—Adam, Masonic Rooms, Victoria Hall, Trinity-road, Sheerness

WEDNESDAY, 23rd AUGUST.

- General Committee of Grand Lodge and Lodge of Benevolence, Freemasons' Hall, at 6
 228—United Strength, Prince Alfred, 13 Crowndale-rd., Camden-town, 8 (In.)
 538—La Tolerance, Morland's Hotel, Dean Street, Oxford St. at 8 (Inst.)
 720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham, at 7 (Instruction)
 754—High Cross, Seven Sisters' Tavern, Page Green, Tottenham
 781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, E. (Instruction)
 813—New Concord, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, N. (Instruction)
 862—Whittington, Red Lion, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street, at 8 (Instruction)
 1289—Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 8 (Instruction)
 1321—Emblematic, Goat and Star, Swallow Street, W., at 8 (Inst.)
 1445—Prince Leopold, Moorgate Tavern, Moorgate Street, at 7 (Instruction)
 1475—Peckham, Lord Wellington Hotel, 516 Old Kent-road, at 8. (Instruction)
 1524—Duke of Connaught, Royal Edward, Mare-street, Hackney, at 8 (Inst.)
 1540—Chaucer, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark
 1604—Wanderers, Black Horse, York Street, S.W., at 7.30 (Instruction)
 1662—Beaconsfield, Chequers, Marsh Street, Walthamstow, at 7.30 (Inst.)
 1791—Creton, Prince Albert Tavern, Portobello-ter., Notting-hill-gate (Inst.)
 R.A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8 (Instruction)
 86—Loyalty, Masonic Hall, Prescot, Lancashire
 220—Harmony, Garston Hotel, Garston, Lancashire
 258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall Heckmondwike
 277—Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Union-street, Oldham
 380—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Commercial-street, Morley, near Leeds
 580—Harmony, Wheat Sheaf, Ormskirk
 724—Derby, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 758—Ellesmere, Freemasons' Hall, Runcorn, Cheshire
 910—St. Oswald, Masonic Hall, Ropergate, Pontefract
 972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury. (Instruction)
 1039—St. John, George Hotel, Lichfield
 1218—Prince Alfred, Commercial Hotel, Mossley, near Manchester
 1264—Neptune, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7 (Instruction)
 1392—Egerton, Stanley Arms Hotel, Stanley-street, Bury, Lancashire
 1511—Alexandra, Hornsea, Hull (Instruction)
 1633—Avon, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
 1692—Hervey, George Hotel, Hayes

- 1723—St. George, Commercial Hotel, Town Hall-square, Bolton
 R.A. 42—Unanimity, Derby Hotel, Bury, Lancashire
 R.A. 503—Belvidere, Star Hotel, Maidstone
 R.A. 605—De Tabley, Queen's Hotel, Birkenhead
 R.A. 1356—De Grey and Ripon, Masonic Hall, Liverpool

THURSDAY, 24th AUGUST.

- General Committee, Girls' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4
 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)
 87—Viruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, 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)
 902—Burgovne, Cock Tavern, St. Martin's-court, Ludgate-hill, at 6.30 (Inst.)
 1158—Southern Star, Pheasant, Stangate, Westminster-bridge, at 8 (Inst.)
 1227—Upton, Swan, Bethnal Green-road, near Shoreditch, at 8 (Instruction)
 1339—Stockwell, Cock Tavern, Kennington-road, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 1614—Covent Garden, Constitution, Bedford-street, W.C., at 7.45 (Instruction)
 1673—Langton, Mansion House Station Restaurant, E.C. at 6. (Instruction)
 1677—Crusaders, Old Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, at 9 (Inst.)
 1901—Selwyn, East Dulwich Hotel, East Dulwich. (Instruction)
 1950—Southgate, Railway Hotel, New Southgate, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 R.A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (In)
 R.A. 1471—North London, Canonbury Tavern, Canonbury Place, at 8. (Inst.)
 116—Royal Lancashire, Swan Hotel, Colne
 203—Ancient Union, Masonic Hall, Liverpool. (Instruction)
 208—Three Grand Principles, Masonic Hall, Dewsbury
 275—Harmony, Masonic Hall, South Parade, Huddersfield
 283—Amity, Swan Hotel, Market-place, Haslingden
 337—Candour, New Masonic Rooms, Uppermill, Saddleworth
 344—Faith, Bull's Head Inn, Radcliffe, Lancashire
 346—United Brethren, Royal Oak Inn, Clayton-le-Dale, near Blackburn
 348—St. John, Bull's Head Inn, Bradshawgate, Bolton
 369—Limestone Rock, Masonic Hall, Church-street, Ollitheroe
 456—Foresters, White Hart Hotel, Utteter
 462—Bank Terrace, Hargreaves Arms Hotel, Accrington
 594—Downshire, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 636—D'Ogle, Masonic Hall, Morpeth
 659—Blagdon, Ridley Arms Hotel, Blyth
 784—Wellington, Public Rooms, Park-street, Deal
 935—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Islington-square, Salford
 1164—Eliot, Private Rooms, St. German's, Cornwall.
 1325—Stanley, 214 Gt. Homer-street, Liverpool, at 8 (Instruction)
 1459—Ashbury, Justice Birch Hotel, Hyde-road, West Gorton, near Manchester
 1505—Emulation, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 1576—Dee, Union Hotel, Parkgate, Cheshire
 1580—Cranbourne, Red Lion Hotel, Hatfield, Herts, at 8. (Instruction)
 1587—St. Giles, Royal Oak Hotel, Cheadle
 1626—Hotspur, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle
 R.A. 216—Sacred Delta, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 R.A. 431—Ogle, Masonic Hall, Norfolk-street, North Shields
 R.A. 1086—Walton, Skelmersdale Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool

FRIDAY, 25th AUGUST.

- Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
 25—Robert Burns, The North Pole, 115 Oxford-street, W., at 8 (Instruc.)
 144—St. Luke, White Hart, King's-road, Chelsea, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruc.)
 569—Fitzroy, Head Quarters, Hon. Artillery Company, E.C.
 766—William Preston, Jacob's Well, George-st., Manchester-sq., at 8 (Inst.)
 780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge (Instruction)
 834—Ranelagh, Six Bells, Hammersmith (Instruction)
 933—Doric, Duke's Head, 79 Whitechapel-road, at 8. (Instruction)
 1056—Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C. at 7. (Instruction)
 1153—Belgrave, Jermyn-street, S.W., 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)
 R.A. 79—Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, London-street, Greenwich, (Inst.)
 R.A. 1602—Sir Hugh Myddelton, Agricultural Hall, N.
 401—Royal Forest, Hark to Bounty Inn, Slaiddburn
 453—Chigwell, Prince's Hall, Buckhurst Hill, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 460—Sutherland of Unity, Castle Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme
 652—Holme Valley, Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth
 810—Craven, Devonshire Hotel, Skipton
 1034—Eccleshill, Freemasons' Hall, Eccleshill
 1393—Hamer, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 1712—St. John, Freemasons Hall, Grainger Street, Newcastle upon Tyne
 General Lodge of Instruction, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham, at 7
 R.A. 242—Magdalen, Guildhall, Doncaster
 R.A. 680—Sefton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool

SATURDAY, 26th AUGUST.

- 1275—Star, Five Bells, 155 New North-road, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
 1278—Burdett Coutts, Lamb Tavern, opposite Bethnal G. Junct., at 8. (Inst.)
 1364—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney (Instruction)
 1541—Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Palace, Muswell Hill
 1624—Eccleston, Grosvenor Club, Ebury-square, Pimlico, at 7 (Instruction)
 Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W. at 8.
 149—Peace, Private Rooms, Meltham
 308—Prince George, Private Rooms, Bottoms, Eastwood.
 1462—Wharnciffe, Rose and Crown Hotel, Penistone
 R.A. 178—Harmony, Royal Hotel, Wigan.

Bro. Sir John Bennett, speaking at a gathering of hop and fruit growers, and land cultivators, held in London, on Monday, to promote the abolition of extraordinary tithes, contended it was high time such an impost should be abolished. He knew something about hop cultivation, and would say that he never grudged the manure nor their labour, but that he did the money which from time to time the parson received from him for tithes.

The installation ceremony of the High Cross Lodge will be rehearsed on Wednesday next, the 23rd inst., at four o'clock.

Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, President of the Board of General Purposes, Town Clerk of the City of London, is spending his holiday in Switzerland.

Bro. Edward Clarke, Q.C., M.P., who has been a widower for about two years, is, says *Truth*, to be married shortly.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

St. Hilda Lodge, No. 240, South Shields.—On Monday, 14th instant, the ordinary monthly meeting of the brethren of the above prosperous Lodge was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Fowler-street, when there was a numerous attendance of members and visitors; among the latter were Bros. F. Rearson 80, John Bill 991, Wm. T. Clarke 315 P.J.W. 1829 and P.S. 811, Hugh Golder S.W. 119, John Stokoe P.M. P.P.G.W. Darham; there were also present Bros. J. T. Wilson I.P.M., Jas. Roddam P.M. P.P.G.S., J. Potter P.M., J. T. Appay P.M., George Lawson P.M. P.P.G.D., Thomas Coulson P.M. P.J.G.D., &c. Lodge was opened in due form by Bro. G. A. Shotton W.M., assisted by Bros. J. H. Thompson S.W., Thos. Binks J.W. and other Officers. Bro. J. S. Wilson P.M. Secretary, read the minutes of last meeting, which were confirmed. The ballot was then taken for John Thomas Henderson, Thomas Richardson Dawson, and John Dobbyn, and in each case the Worshipful Master declared the candidates to be duly elected. Messrs. John Thomas Henderson and Thos. Fyall (previously balloted for) being in attendance, were duly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Masonry by the W.M., who performed the ceremony and delivered the charge in an exceedingly effective and impressive manner. Bro. Binks J.W., gave the working tools impressively. Owing to the excessive heat no other business was taken, and Lodge was closed in harmony.

Royal Union Lodge of Instruction, No. 382.—Held on Monday, the 14th instant, at the Chequers Hotel, Uxbridge. Present—Bros. Rowles W.M., Cotton S.W., Nicholson J.W., Brooks S.D., Taplin J.D., Duffin I.G. and Tyler, &c. After the usual formalities, the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Brooks candidate. Bro. Duffin was interrogated and entrusted, and after the Lodge had been advanced to the second degree, was passed to that of F.C. Bro. Cotton S.W. was unanimously elected to the chair for next meeting. It was resolved to secure the services of a distinguished brother in the district to rehearse the ceremony of installation, if possible, on the opening night of the next session which begins on the 4th of September. Their being nothing more offering for the good of Freemasonry, Lodge was closed and adjourned until the 21st of August.

United Pilgrims Lodge of Instruction, No. 507.—Meeting, Friday, 11th inst., at the Surrey Masonic Hall, at 7.30 p.m. Lodge opened, Bros. A. R. Cranch W.M., J. Bate S.W., H. M. Williams J.W., J. B. Sarjeant S.D., R. Poore J.D., C. H. Phillips I.G., John S. Terry P.M., Secretary, James Stevens P.M. Hon. Preceptor, E. A. Frances, E. Bye, G. W. Knight, F. Thurston, T. C. Edmunds, and others. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, and the ceremony of passing was ably rehearsed by the W.M., Bro. Stevens as candidate. Bro. Bate delivered the charge to F.C.'s. The lecture on the second tracing board was effectively given by the Preceptor, who was assisted by Bro. Frances. Lodge was closed down and called off. The brethren took part in "Entry Drill," and Lodge was called on. Bro. Bate was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and Lodge was closed after two hours of very instructive working.

Tredegar Lodge of Instruction, No. 1625.—At the Royal Hotel, Mile End-road, on Monday, 14th inst. Bros. Maud W.M., Stewart S.W., M. Isaacs J.W., Barnes S.D., Hubbert J.D., Oxley I.G. Lodge was opened in due form, with prayer, and the minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Oxley being a candidate to be passed to the second degree, answered the usual questions, and was duly entrusted. Lodge was advanced, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed, Bro. Oxley candidate. Lodge was opened in the third degree, and regularly closed down. Bro. Stewart was unanimously elected W.M. for the next meeting. Lodge was closed in due form, with prayer.

Brixton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1949.—The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday evening last, the 15th instant at Bro. Monk's, Prince Regent, Dulwich-road, East Brixton. Brother E. A. Francis Preceptor of the Lodge presided, and was supported by more than twenty members of the Lodge, besides other Visitors. Lodge was opened and closed in the third degree and the ceremonies of initiation and raising rehearsed by the W.M. in a most efficient manner. A resolution was unanimously passed, conveying the thanks of the brethren to Bro. Francis for the able manner in which he had conducted the business of the evening, and ordered to be inserted on the minutes. Bro. Phillips, Treasurer of the Lodge, having been elected W.M. for the ensuing week, Lodge was closed in due form and adjourned.

ROYAL ARCH.

Patriotic Lodge, No. 51.—The quarterly meeting of this Chapter was held on Thursday evening, the 10th instant, when the only business on the agenda was the election of Officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:—E. Comps. T. J. Ralling Z, E. Hennemeyer H., J. E. Wiseman J., J. J. C. Turner S.E., A. S. B. Sparling S.N., W. Sowman P.S., Marshall 1st A.S., Clowes 2nd A.S., W. P. Lewis P.Z. Treasurer, S. Munson Janitor. The Companions afterwards spent a pleasant hour at the festive board, under the presidency of the Z. elect.

PERSEVERANCE LODGE, No. 1643.

THE usual meeting of this Lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Ellison House (Bro. Hall's), Hebburn-on-Tyne, on Wednesday, 9th instant, when there was a very numerous attendance of the members. The Lodge was opened by Bro. G. Hardy P.M. (in the unavoidable absence of Bro. W. Bewicke W.M.), assisted by Bros. J. Brodie S.W., J. Chadwick J.W., and other Officers. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Frederick West was examined and entrusted in the test of merit and password, and retired. The Lodge having been raised to the second degree, Bro. West was passed to the second degree by Bro. Hardy P.M. There being no other business the Lodge was closed in harmony, the brethren adjourned to refreshments, and spent a pleasant evening.

OUR EARLIEST CRAFT LODGES.

FROM THE KEystone.

I HAVE received from our indefatigable Brother, the Rev. W. C. Lukis P.M., F.S.A., some more jottings from his investigations of the Stukeley Papers, and this time they are of unusual interest. They are extracts from Dr. Stukeley's Diary, and are valuable as being very early references to Masonic work in London. The question of where the doctor was made a Mason, is settled by the first entry, as follows:

"January 6 1721.—I was made a Freemason at the Salutation Tavern, Tavistock-street (London), with Mr. Collius and Captain Rowe, who made the famous diving engine.

"[I was the first person made a Freemason in London for many years. We had great difficulty to find members enough to perform the ceremony. Immediately upon that it took a run, and run itself out of breath, through the folly of the members.]"

It would have been interesting if the writer had told us how many members were required in those days to perform the ceremony. It is evident that a strict form was observed.

"June 24 1721.—The Masous had a dinner at Stationer's Hall. Present—Duke of Montague, Lord Herbert, Lord Stanhope, Sir Andrew Fountainie, &c. Dr. Desaguliers pronounced an oration.

"The Grand Master Pain pronounced an old M.S. of the Constitutions, which he got in the West of England 500 years ago. He read over a newset of articles to be observed. The Duke of Montague chose Grand Master next year, Brother Beal Deputy."

Beal is mentioned in the list of Lodges appended to the first Book of Constitutions as W.M. of Lodge No. 12. Pain (or Payne) had been re-elected Grand Master in 1720, and Dr. Desaguliers was the Immediate Past Grand Master—a brilliant meeting.

"December 27 1721.—We met at the Fountain Tavern, Strand, and by consent of the Grand Master present, Dr. Beale constituted a new Lodge there, where I was chosen Master."

Nothing is named about the qualifications for the Chair, and as Bro. Stukeley had not been twelve months a Mason, it is manifest that any Brother could be chosen to preside, as also that the verbal consent of the Grand Master or his Deputy was sufficient to authorise the formation of a Lodge.

"May 25 1722.—Met the Duke of Queensborough, Lord Dumbarton, Hinchinbroke, &c., at Fountain Tavern Lodge, to consider of Feast on St. John's."

The Fountain must have been one of the leading Lodges to have made the rendezvous of these distinguished brethren.

"November 3 1722.—The Duke of Wharton and Lord Dalkeith visited our Lodge at the Fountain."

The Duke was Grand Master in that same year, and was followed in the chair by Lord Dalkeith.

"October 4 1723.—I read my discourse of the Dorchester Amphitheatre at the Lodge, and delivered to every brother a copy."

Stukeley was a great antiquarian, and one of the best classics of his day, and although his theories on various archæological subjects are now known to be erroneous, he was a leader of thought in his time, and even yet his correspondence and close observations are of great value. Bro. Lukis is at present engaged on a volume of his writing for the Surtees Society.

"June 1726.—Being sadly plagued with the gout, I retired to Grantham, &c. Here I set up a Lodge of Freemasons, which lasted all the time I lived there."

To this Lodge at Grantham I referred in a note a few weeks ago.

"1728.—Died, my landlord, Lambert, of the Fountain Tavern, Strand, where I was Master of a new Lodge of Masons."

In his autobiography, Dr. Stukeley gives his reasons for becoming a Freemason. He says:

"His curiosity led him to be initiated into the mysteries of Masonry, suspecting it to be the remains of the mysteries of the ancients; when, with difficulty, a number sufficient was to be found in all London. After this it became a public fashion, not only spread over Britain and Ireland, but of all Europe."

It will be observed that for some three or four years after the "revival" of Masonry, very little progress, if any, was made in the Craft, which seems to have carried on a very feeble existence until the year of the Duke of Montague's Grand Mastership.

There are two entries in the Diary, which are still more remarkable. They are as follows:

"Nov. 7 1722 —Order of the Book instituted."

"Dec. 28, 1722.—I din'd with Lord Hertford, introduced by Lord Winchelsea. I made them both members of the Book, or Roman Knighthood."

Does any one know anything of this Order? Was it Masonic, or simply a literary Brotherhood? If Masonic, it shows how very soon our brethren began to hanker after more degrees.

T. B. WHYTEHEAD.

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We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

—:0:—

IS MASONRY REALLY FLOURISHING?

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your article, under the above heading which appeared in the last issue of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, opens up a very wide, and as you rightly observe, a momentous issue in relation to the Craft. And, although I fear I shall be able to add very little to the deductions you make, yet I have reason to fear there is considerable weight in them, unpalatable as their acceptance might be to us, and all who are jealous for the interests of our Ancient and Honourable Institution. It would be invidious to point to any especial cases in which members have been indiscriminately—I was almost going to say recklessly—admitted into Lodges; but it can hardly be gainsaid that instances are neither few nor far between in which by far a too large a proportion of some Lodges "lose heart" after the first few years, and either resign or grow careless and indifferent as to their responsibilities to the Craft. I wonder how many Masons there are who, though fired with enthusiasm at first, would now be unable to work themselves into a Lodge? I do not mean to insinuate that all these have fallen into the ranks of the inactivity through necessary avarice or disappointment in obtaining honours; as there may be a variety of causes to actuate men—business or private engagements—in abstaining in greater or less degree from active participation in the working of their Lodges. I do not see that such men are to be blamed entirely for this; although there can be very little doubt that some brethren, seeing there is but a remote chance of promotion, wax faint and shrink from that enthusiastic action in connection with the Craft which they evinced at the outset. One feature of your remarks must commend itself to all thinking Masons, and there can be little question that many Lodges have swollen to such unwieldy dimensions as to preclude many who aspire to office the possibility of advancement; and thus in the face of a hopeless case, nothing can be expected on the part of members but a desire to overflow into an "offshoot" Lodge, where in a short period, at all events, they might reasonably anticipate a realisation of their hopes. I can hardly see how the curb is to be put on in the matter of restricting the increasing number of men who are solicitous of joining the ranks of Freemasonry, and, as you point out in your article, the selection of candidates is a matter of the utmost difficulty, if not impossibility. When candidates appear to all external appearances just and upright men and Masons, it is absolutely impossible for anyone not possessed of "second sight" to fathom the mind and intentions of those who are admitted, as to whether their motives are mercenary or otherwise, or whether they will after a time lapse into a state of apathy, or even eventually fall back upon the Benevolent Fund. Although there may be in some cases "an excess of zeal," such as you seem to indicate, on the part of brethren to see the numbers of their Lodges increase, yet I do not think the remark applies to anything like a large proportion of them, either in the metropolis or the Provinces, and considering the number of applicants for admission, who are either withdrawn or "pilled," one can hardly doubt that there is a very large amount of discretion exercised in the selection—that is, so far as selection can be exercised—of candidates for initiation. You cannot judge of the quality of nut until it is cracked, and it is equally impossible to say how a man will turn out until you have watched his actions, and estimated the genuineness of his professions after his admission. Much, therefore, as we must all deplore the number of "drones" which exist in our Lodges, I for one cannot see how a remedy is to be found for the increase of individual Lodges, and its inevitable consequence in the multiplication in the applications for new warrants. I hope some other correspondents will express their views upon this question, which is one of considerable interest to the Craft, and that some remedy for the evils of which you so justly complain may be the outcome of their collective thought.

I remain, Dear Sir and Brother,

Yours fraternally,

A YOUNG MASON.

Boxhill, 16th August 1882.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am glad you have mooted this question. As far as mere numbers go, we have, unquestionably made huge advances since the memorable day when H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was installed Grand Master of England in the Royal Albert Hall, South Kensington. But, as you have frequently remarked, mere numerical increase is no just criterion of increased strength. Freemasonry is popular with all classes of the community and is respected by those who understand its precepts for the immense amount of good it does as a practical philanthropic Institution. A society, which annually raises over £40,000 in order to provide for the maintenance and education of orphan girls and boys and to make comfortable the declining years of its aged indigent members and their widows, is not likely to be at a loss for eulogists, and there is fair reason to suppose that its influence may be so far contagious as to

secure a number of imitators. There is, however, this danger to be considered, that in addition to the eulogists and the imitators, it also has a large number of admirers who, being as it were, a kind of beasts of prey, have no other thought in seeking admission to its ranks than to make profit out of its benevolent propensities. These people adopt different modes of procedure in order to secure the object they have in view. Some obtain entrance into the Craft by means of friends, who are also brethren, in the hope and belief that, by so doing, they will extend the sphere of their custom as tradesmen, while others, finding their commercial status becoming somewhat cranky, are only too glad to speculate to the extent of a few pounds in the shape of initiation fees and subscriptions, in the hope that, when the crisis in their affairs has arrived and their means are exhausted, they may obtain substantial help from Grand Lodge and, if they are married men, equally substantial help in bringing up their families. It may appear very un-Masonic to say so, but there is no doubt that the large accession of mere numerical strength during the past few years has brought with it a very considerable accession of weakness. This is borne out by the fact that, only a short while ago, the Fund of Benevolence was under the necessity of selling out a portion of its capital in order to make good its excess of expenditure over income. It is further demonstrated by the still more conspicuous fact that, though our Institutions have, since the Prince of Wales was elected Grand Master, enlarged the sphere of their operations to an amazing extent, and have on their books from forty to sixty per cent more recipients of their bounty than they had eight years ago, the number of applicants is still out of all proportion to the number of vacancies. This circumstance alone deserves to be recognised as an unhealthy symptom, and as showing that, however grand may be the outward proportions of Freemasonry in this country, it is not as sound as it ought to be at heart.

The multiplication of Lodges has had a great deal to do with bringing about this result. Men spend money in the Lodge, which, if they were right-minded and conscientious, they would spend at home. What need is there for a brother to be a member of several Lodges? It gives him no additional status in the Craft. It does not prove that he possesses exceptional merits, and, in nine cases out of ten, it involves him in a needless burden of expenditure. I admit there are some who, having proved themselves worthy and able Craftsmen, are fully justified in their endeavours to promote the welfare of Freemasonry by starting new Lodges, but the number of these is, in the nature of things, limited. For instance, it was understood a year or two since that warrants for no new London Lodges would be granted, yet warrants have been granted even in the course of the present year, and the cases in which the grant of a new warrant seems justifiable are few indeed. For instance, if I take only a figure view of the case, I find that London, with its population of four millions, has over 300 Lodges, or one Lodge to every 13,000; while in the Provinces there are some 1,000 Lodges to nineteen millions, or one Lodge to every 19,000. But then one half of the population are females, and from the male half of 11,500,000, we must at least deduct three-fifths who are not adults, the result being, in these circumstances, that we have one Lodge to some 2,650 male adults in London, and one to every 3,800 in the country. Let me take one step further. Quite four-fifths of these male adults are unwilling or unable pecuniarily to join the Craft, the result being that there is one Lodge to every 500 competent male adults in London, and one to every 760 in the country. Clearly, therefore, and apart from the fact that the area of the Metropolitan District is more limited, and the Lodges in closer contiguity to each other, it must be evident that no new warrants for London Lodges are needed now or for some time to come.

There are other points in your article I should like to notice, but time presses, and I must subscribe myself,

Fraternally yours,

"ALIQUID."

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Next Wednesday fortnight, 6th September, Grand Lodge holds its Quarterly Meeting, at which, amongst other business, Grand Lodge will be asked to confirm a proposition which it has already carried twice, viz., Bro. Raynham Stewart's motion for an extra grant of £800 per annum towards the above Institution. It may not be known to all the members of Grand Lodge that there is already a grant of one £800 a year to the Aged. How did that grant come about? Many years ago, 1854, when our Lodges numbered about 800, G. Lodge agreed to give to the Institution £800 a-year on condition of receiving three votes (two male and one female) annually for every Lodge under its Constitution. Since that time our strength in numbers has increased to 2,000 Lodges more or less, so that we now give 6,000 votes for the same consideration as we previously gave 2,400. On these grounds I believe the Institution is justly entitled to the extra £800 per annum; especially as since the motion, which was carried in December last, though non-confirmed in March, was then held over to know whether what the Grand Secretary read out, and the Auditor's Report confirmed, was correct, namely, that there was a handsome annual surplus on the Fund of General Purposes from which the extra grant could be well spared. At the meeting in June, it was given out that this surplus revenue was about £4,000, and the proposition was again carried. It now remains with the brethren to confirm what they have twice agreed to; to show their zeal and fidelity to the cause they profess to admire; and by a large majority endorse their previous records.

Yours fraternally,

P.M. 1607.

8th August 1882.

REVIEWS.

All Books intended for Review should be addressed to the Editor of The Freemason's Chronicle, 23 Great Queen Street, W.C.

The Political Summary. Containing the chief interesting events, and a List of the principal Bills passed in each year of the present Reign, with Tables showing Income and Expenditure in each year, &c. Also List of Administrations from 1837 to 1882. Complete in two Books. One Penny Each. Published by H. W. Allen, Ave Maria-lane, London, E.C.

A SUMMARY of this kind possesses a very considerable value for purposes of reference, provided it satisfies certain conditions, the principal of which are (1) clearness and conciseness of arrangement; (2) accuracy. The compilers specify among the sources from which they have taken their information "Hansard" and the *Times* newspaper, and better sources than these for ensuring accuracy it would have been impossible to select. The arrangement of a summary depends on the ability of the compiler, and Mr. Hime and Bro. Littelton Wilday have proved in this instance that they possess the requisite qualifications for such a task. Their method is excellent. Each year has its interesting events ranged under it on the days of their occurrence, and over each is placed the particular administration that was in power during its, or a part of its continuance. Nothing could have been better save in one respect. There should have been uniformity in superscribing these Administrations. For instance, during the first eight months of 1841 the late Lord Melbourne was Prime Minister, and during the remaining four months the late Sir Robert Peel, Bart., and to the heading "Melbourne and Sir R. Peel's Administration," no objection need be taken. In 1846 Sir Robert Peel resigned, and the late Lord John, afterwards Earl Russell, succeeded him. For the sake of consistency, therefore, the heading should have been "Sir R. Peel's and Lord John Russell's Administrations," whereas, it is "Sir R. Peel's Administration," which is true only of the first half of the year. In 1852 the description accords with that of 1841 and so it does again in 1855, when the late Lord Aberdeen was Prime Minister for a brief period and the late Lord Palmerston for the rest of the year. The next change of Ministry occurred in 1858, Lord Palmerston being succeeded by the late Earl of Derby in February, yet the whole of this year is assigned to "Viscount Palmerston's Administration." Similarly 1859 was divided in about equal parts between Lord Derby's and Lord Palmerston's Administration, yet the year is wholly assigned to that of the former. In 1866, a better, and what we hold to be correct, system is adopted. The late Earl Russell was Minister for the first half and the late Earl of Derby for the second half, and the year accordingly is divided between the two. There is no objection to the heading "Lord Derby's and Mr. Disraeli's Administrations" for 1868, because the two were virtually one and the same Ministry, and Mr. Gladstone did not take office till 9th December, while again in 1874 and 1880, the former of which was divided between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli, and the latter between the late Earl of Beaconsfield and Mr. Gladstone, what we have expressed our opinion is the proper arrangement is adopted. We consider this threefold variety is a mistake. With this exception the plan adopted is a good one, while the events of each year are clearly and concisely described.

We have not, of course, been at the pains of examining all the events that have been deemed worthy of note with a view to testing their accuracy—we could not have spared the time for such a purpose. We have, however, glanced here and there at hazard, and though we have found the majority of the entries correct, we have also lighted on some which do not quite explain themselves and which, in future issues, it will be as well to rectify. Thus we have in 1842 against "August 26" the following "Treaty of Peace concluded with China," &c., &c., and on "December 8" again, "Peace with China." In 1843 against "February 17" stands "Sir Charles Napier's victory over Scinde chiefs at Meeanee," and later in the year this was followed up by a second victory at Hyderabad, yet on "December 20" we are told that the "Scinde War commenced."

Again, as regards the eventful years 1857-8, the commencement of the Indian Mutiny is set down for "Jan. 23," and is said to have been caused by the belief formed by the Sepoys about the greased cartridges. This was, no doubt, one of many pretexts for the revolt; but the Mutiny proper dates from the outbreak at Meerut, in May—we do not remember the exact day—and the subsequent march of the mutineers on Delhi, where they massacred the English and set up the Mogul as their sovereign. The recapture by Sir Archdale Wilson, of the city of Delhi, after a six days' fight in September, is unnoticed, but in 1858 against "Sep. 11," we have the Battle of Delhi, though the mutiny was virtually at an end on the latter date. Then the second relief of Lucknow, in November 1858, when Sir C. Campbell secured the ladies and children and other non-combatants, and retired till re-inforcements arrived, is omitted. In 1867 "April 18," we have entered "Withdrawal of Mr. Gladstone from leadership of Liberal party." Of course, our memory may be at fault, yet we confess we do not remember anything of the kind having happened, nor, as the Liberal party were in a majority, do we think it likely it could have happened, especially as, in 1868, "Apr. 30," we read, "Government defeated by 65 on Mr. Gladstone's Irish Church Bill." The only resignation of his leadership by Mr. Gladstone of which we have any knowledge took place after his defeat in 1874, when he was succeeded by the Marquis of Hartington. Some other errors of little moment should also be noted. The late Princess Alice was married in July 1862—she was engaged at the time of her father's death—not in 1863, and the Parliamentary grant to the Prince of Wales on the occasion of his marriage was £40,000, not £100,000 per annum. The Revenues of his Duchy of Cornwall raise his income, no doubt, to the latter sum, but Parliament has no control over these,

which are his property, so long as he remains Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall, which will be till he becomes King.

We have noted these errors of omission and commission in no unfriendly spirit, but rather at the invitation of the compilers. There is no doubt their "Political Summary" has been well conceived, and well carried out, but errors in a compilation of such a character are inevitable, and we have no doubt that in future issues—which we shall heartily welcome—they will have disappeared.

The Alphabet of Gardening. By Shirley Hibberd, F.R.H.S., Editor of the "Gardeners' Magazine." Published at the Office of the "Gardeners' Magazine," 4 Ave Maria Lane, E.C., and at Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

OUR horticultural readers are no doubt aware that one of the principal authorities in gardening is Mr. Shirley Hibberd, whose numerous works on the subject have long since established themselves firmly in the estimation of those for whose special behoof they are written. This "Alphabet of Gardening" is essentially practical in its character, and will be equally an assistance to those who do their gardening within modest limits, and those who aspire to the higher and more ambitious flights of the art horticultural. It is written in a pleasant style and the information it contains will be found most serviceable.

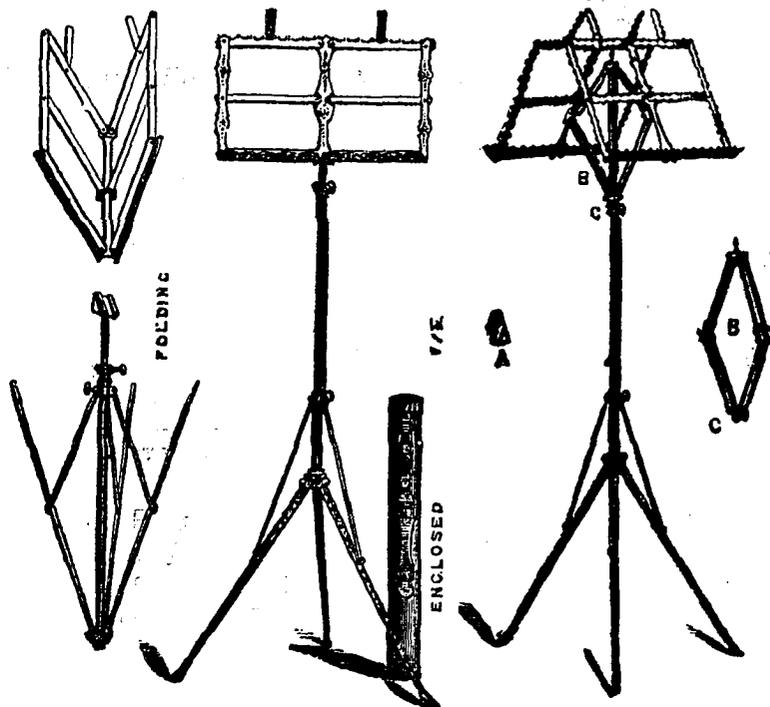
A new local metropolitan journal has recently been started in the shape of the *Clapham Free Press*. It is issued weekly, and a circulation of 5000 is guaranteed. It contains news chiefly of local interest, but it has one distinguishing feature in its Masonic column, which gives the principal Craft doings in the district in which it circulates, as well as those that are likely to prove noteworthy to Craftsmen generally.

The remains of Mrs. Thomas, wife of Bro. J. T. Thomas, C.C., of Queen Victoria-street, were interred, on Tuesday last, at Erith Cemetery, in the presence of a circle of surviving relatives and friends. Mrs. Thomas had been ailing some time, and on the night of the 8th inst. she was taken seriously ill, at her residence, Bryn Towy, Lewisham High-road, remaining unconscious till she died, on the following day, the immediate cause being apoplexy. Much sympathy is felt for Bro. Thomas and his family at this sad and unlooked for event.

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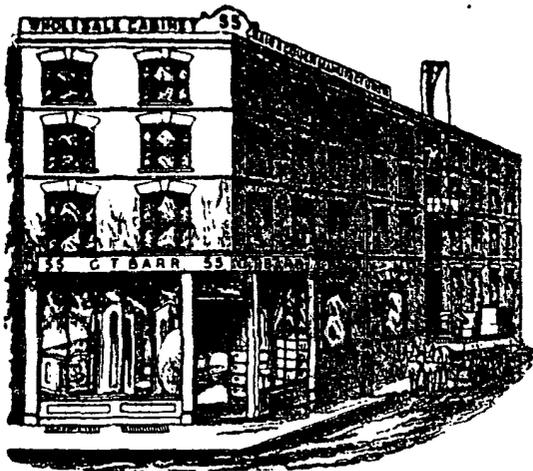
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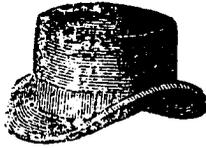
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