

Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

Reports of United Grand Lodge are published with the Special Sanction of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales
the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England.

VOL. XX.—No. 518.

SATURDAY, 13th DECEMBER 1884.

PRICE THREEPENCE.
13s 6d per annum, post free.

THE QUEBEC CORRESPONDENCE.

IT is no fault of ours if the Quebec business merits the epithet of "irrepressible." As far as the Grand Lodge of England is concerned, the Grand Lodge of Quebec may continue to exercise as long as it pleases that faculty of annoying other bodies of Freemasons which apparently occupies so much of its time, and plays therefore so conspicuous a part in the record of its proceedings. We cannot agree with the opinions it propounds, but we must at least give it the credit of possessing a rare fund of ingenuity, which enables it almost at will to distort or exaggerate the simplest facts, create misunderstandings, and stir up strife with people whose only idea is to live at peace with the world generally. We have no hesitation in saying that, if this Grand Lodge will only go on its way quietly, that which it professes to desire so ardently, namely, the inclusion of the three English Lodges in Montreal under its banner, stands a very fair chance of happening sooner or later in the ordinary course of things and without anybody's intervention. It knew or ought to have known, at the time of its establishment, and was courteously told some few years later, by the medium of the regular official channel, the conditions on which the Grand Lodge of England was prepared to recognise its existence as a separate authority and enter with it on terms of mutual and friendly intercourse. But even in those early days, when, so to speak, it was hardly on its legs, or at all events, unable to do more than waddle, this precocious little Grand Lodge must needs go stumbling about in all directions in the cockiest possible manner, just as though there were no other way for a Grand Lodge of Freemasons to assert its sovereign independence than to bully its big neighbours and make itself generally disagreeable. Ten years ago Quebec might have entered into the friendliest relations with England, and have maintained them uninterruptedly ever since—that is, if she had been so minded—if only she would have consented to accept the condition on which England was prepared to recognise her—a condition, be it remarked, which it was imperatively necessary that England should attach to her act of recognition, if she had any regard for her own honour, and which Quebec, had she been wisely governed by a similar regard for her own dignity, might and should have accepted unhesitatingly. But, as we have already suggested, Quebec was born into the world of Masonry a tremendously cocky little Grand Lodge, and considered it would be guilty of the unpardonable sin of self-disrespect, if it exhibited any scrupulous weakness towards the old-world notions of consistency and due respect for established rights. What, we may suppose it asked itself, is the good of being a perky little cock unless one keeps on crowing and crowing, not only for the purpose of proclaiming one's existence, but likewise to disturb everybody else's peace and quietness? Thus Quebec has gone on ever since, screaming out most appalling ear-piercing, cock-a-doo-doo just for all the world as if the hen of its bosom had continued laying any number of eggs daily, from the moment it burst its shell and pecked up its first particle of food. But it sometimes happens that perky little cocks of this kind, when they over-indulge themselves in the belief that all they have to do is to make noise enough, and all the other cocks in the neighbourhood will put up with their airs and graces, require to be told

severely, but firmly, that if they wish for a prolonged existence, they had better behave themselves discreetly, or their last condition may be found considerably worse than the first.

The present stage of this troublesome Quebec business is as follows. Three of the English Lodges in the Dominion of Canada which elected to remain in allegiance to England when the Grand Lodge of Canada set up for itself nearly thirty years ago are precisely of the same mind still. When England agreed to recognise the Masonic independence of Canada, it stipulated that such of its Lodges as were desirous of remaining under its banner should have full liberty to do so. Canada gracefully acquiesced in the propriety of the stipulation, and all went merry as a marriage bell till, in 1869, the Lodges in the Province of Quebec, which had necessarily been as much parties to the stipulation as those of the Province of Ontario, from which they had resolved on separating, set up a Grand Lodge of their own. This Grand Lodge was in due course recognised as an independent body by that of Canada—the Ontario Province retaining the old title—and some time afterwards officially addressed itself to the Grand Lodge of England with a view to obtaining its recognition as well. No difficulty whatever was raised by the latter, but very naturally, and very honourably, it made it a condition precedent of such recognition that the Lodges which had elected from the very outset to remain true to their old parent should continue in the enjoyment of the same status as had been stipulated for them long before such a body as the Grand Lodge of Quebec had even been dreamt of. With this just and reasonable stipulation, however, Quebec would have nothing to do. It experienced no sense of compunction in rejecting an honourable stipulation, to which, when part of the Grand Lodge of Canada, it had seen no objection. The idea never seems to have occurred to it that, in accepting the rights and privileges it had enjoyed as a part of the Grand Lodge of Canada, it accepted likewise the responsibilities, or rather liabilities, as well. We have read in the comic papers of certain dissolutions of partnership between two business men, in which one of them claimed all the assets and generously handed over to the other all the liabilities. This is practically what Quebec has been doing. It claims all the rights and privileges it had when a part of Canada, but it leaves the responsibility of honourably abiding by a particular act of agreement to the latter. It refuses to see anything disreputable in doing all in its power to set at naught an agreement to which it was once a party; and because England firmly holds by its original condition, it now announces its determination to put under the ban of its august displeasure, not only the three recusant English Lodges in Montreal, which still pertinaciously refuse to listen to the voice of its charmer Graham, but the whole body of English Masonry in addition. Well, we suppose it is one of the penalties which the United Grand Lodge of England must pay for being the Mother Grand Lodge of modern Freemasonry, as well as the most powerful and influential body in existence of its kind, that every insignificant Grand Lodge which was born, as it were, but yesterday, must fling at it a certain quantum of dirt. We hear constantly in the profane world of vulgarly-disposed people who are never happy but when they are abusing their parents and grandparents, but for whom they would never have had any existence at all. But we were under the impression that people managed things

differently in Masonry and that, at all events, if they could not manage to rub along comfortably together, they could contrive to leave each other alone. What our Grand Lodge wishes is to go on its way quietly, not interfering in any way with Quebec, its rights and privileges and powers, and at the same time not being interfered with by it or any other Grand Lodge. Its conduct has been dignified and disinterested throughout. It is its duty to uphold its three Lodges in Montreal, and we are very strongly impressed with the belief that it will go on upholding them, even though Quebec may discharge its whole armoury of popguns and finish up by finding itself disestablished as a Masonic power by the laws of the State in which it lives and in which it fulminates its anathemas against Lodges that are legally established.

We have no wish that Quebec should suffer for its wrongheadedness, nor is it likely that our Grand Master will take any further steps than he has done to vindicate the dignity of our Grand Lodge. But we would seriously ask Quebec if the game it seems desirous of playing is worth the candle. Will it be stronger if by any possibility, which is not likely to happen, our three unwilling English Lodges are forced to join it? Is it wise for a G. Lodge, which is not even a legally-established body, to enter into a state of antagonism for a purely imaginary grievance with the oldest and most powerful Grand Lodge in the world? These are points which we take the liberty of submitting to the serious consideration of the Quebec Grand Lodge.

WHAT CAN I DO?

THERE is a trite story about the Quaker who, mingling in a crowd that stood round an unfortunate man who had met with an accident, and who were loud in their expressions of sympathy, exclaimed, "I feel sorry ten pounds. Friend, how much do you feel sorry?" The narrative admits of very apposite comparison with the members of the Masonic Brotherhood, the bulk of whom, while applauding the noble self-sacrifice of a few of the more large-hearted amongst them, never ask themselves the question which heads this article. It was our duty, last week, briefly to call attention to a motion submitted to Grand Lodge with a view to exercise some hard and fast line in regard to what a worthy Brother was pleased to designate "Masonic Mendicancy." And, much as we all must abhor and detest the spirit of the man who would fatten on the sympathetic spirit of the benevolent, we repeat that to invent a means of circumventing and bringing within official cognisance the practice of private charity would be impracticable. Moreover, it would tend more than anything else could do to dam up the flow of that individual exercise of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth which are the very foundation of our Institution. It may be true—indeed, it has been frequently demonstrated—that there are many men who have disgraced their profession by levying black-mail upon unsuspecting and generous brethren, whose munificence they have abused and whose confidence they have violated. But, in our judgment, such men are few in number, and we would rather turn in another direction and ask how many are there, amongst the struggling masses of humanity, to whom a generous thought or action would be the revival of hope, if not the raising of life? Can it be doubted that there are around us, unseen, and uncared-for, many a deserving brother who, from unseen circumstances of calamity and misfortune, has been reduced to the lowest ebb of poverty and distress? Such men as these are too retiring or too proudly reticent even to look askance at the hand of charity, and so they plod along life's dreary way unnoticed and neglected. They have seen "better days," no doubt, and in the words of old hymn writers, "to beg they are ashamed." Yet, heaven knows, the opportunities for bestowing a little of the surplus substance are not wanting, if we would only look around, with our simple little inquiry in the mind's eye. The "merry" season of Yuletide is at hand, and with it come all the proverbial expansions of soul and heart and purse which have formed the themes of poets, painters, and writers in all ages, during the last eighteen centuries. It is a time when all institutions which have charity and benevolence woven into their foundations cast

about them and seek for fresh fields and pastures new, in order to make themselves more extensively useful to their fellow-creatures. And thus, while our grand Institutions of the Craft hold revel, as they ought to do, when the holly and the mistletoe darkle on the walls of our Schools, and in the happy home of the "Old Folks," where "age and want sit smiling within the gate," in the enjoyment of blessings showered upon them by the bounty of the Fraternity, there may be many means whereby we could render ourselves and others still more happy by ascertaining some deserving object of consideration at this season of the year. We are aware there are very few of the "Old Scrooge" type amongst Masons. If a deserving case could be pointed out to them there would be a response that would cheer the most ardent philanthropist by its very alacrity. But where to find them? There will be no cringing mendicant or whining impostor within the scope of such an outflow of beneficence as this. As a rule, the comparatively insignificant few who would, if they could, feed on the vitals of a Craft they have done little to support, even in their palmy days—if ever they enjoyed any—slink into obscurity and hide their faces beneath the fierce light that beats around the footstool of true and open-handed Benevolence. Such men lurk in unsuspected places, and only make their spring, tiger-like, when they see a favourable opportunity of fleecing the susceptible and the kind. But there are few cases in which they can pursue their nefarious calling very far, and it must be left to the discrimination of individuals to discern the "Ichabod" which is so palpably written on their foreheads. It is of no use to try and institute a Charity Organization Society within the pale of Freemasonry. Happily, the good deeds that are done, under the guidance of the Great Architect of the Universe, are in strict accordance with the grand tenets of our Order. There are no painful or inquisitorial searchings into the inner life or private character—no brand of Charity upon those who are relieved by the generous-hearted of the Craft. The recollections of the "north-east" corner stand out prominently in the mind of every Mason when he discovers a poor brother needing and deserving his pity; and what power on earth could stay the impulses of men thus imbued with the proper spirit of Freemasonry? At this time especially, when employment is scarce, and the race of life so keen in its competition, there are men in various grades of life who find it difficult to solve the proverbial problems of how to "make both ends meet," and to "keep the wolf from the door." Men of industry and sobriety, who would work if they could get it to do, and who would scorn to obtrude their miseries upon the consideration of others, are stalking about among us with the pallor of care, if not of hunger, upon their countenances—who carry the air of an independent spirit and nobility of nature, but deep down in whose hearts are the gnawings of well-nigh despair. These are the men whom liberal employers should seek out, and help to place their feet once more upon the rounds of the ladder of life. These are the men to whom a word kindly spoken, or an act of benevolence gracefully bestowed, would inspire with fresh courage and hope in the midst of darkest days. It may be that we are moralising; but the season, as we have said, is close at hand when the journalist feels he can stray a little out of the beaten path, and point a moral which may adorn a tale. And thus, we say, better a few mendicants and impostors grovel in their miry calling than a sympathetic word or act be withheld from the infinitely greater number who are deserving of our aid. As Tennyson says very truly, "kind hearts are more than coronets; and simple faith than Norman blood;" and this is a sentiment which is peculiarly our own, that "Charity is twice blessed—to him who gives as well as him who receives." Thus, while those who are more directly exerting themselves in behalf of the great Institutions which are the pride and boast of our Order redouble their efforts in this happy season that is coming, there is also a vast field for the outstretching of the bounds of private generosity and enlarging the borders of our individual impulses to do good. Let it not be said that any deserving brother is kept in involuntary idleness, struggling vainly in the world of keen and unrelentless competition, nor that the poverty-stricken ones amongst us are passed by "on the other side." There is scope in this great field of humanity and right thought for the exercise of the most lofty and pure benevolence, if we would only look for it, and if each asks the pertinent question, "What can I do?" There is

no man in the ranks of our Society, we are proud to believe, but would cede some portion of that which goes to cater for his own gratification, if by so doing he could confer even a transient ray of pleasure upon one less highly favoured than himself. If this spirit animated all who are ranged under the banner of the Craft, a more cosmopolitan display of manhood and love would be at once evinced, and there would be no complaining in our streets. Thus, amidst all the festivities in which young and old, who are in the enjoyment of health and comfort, hope to participate at this season, may our little motto glisten in every mind as the holly berry blushes amidst the dark and thorny foliage, and smile as the mistletoe which invites to pure and innocent merriment. Then may we look forward with additional zest to the merry season that is only a fortnight distant from us; and, because we have cherished such thoughts, we may be sure the "merry" festival will be rendered a thousand times more cheery and hilarious than it has ever been before.

NEW YORK MASONIC CHARITIES.

ARE we approaching the period when our Home Charities will take a more prominent and tangible position? We cannot persuade ourselves that the future is distant when the aged of our Fraternity will be enabled to offer their thanksgivings to the Creator for having endowed man with His godly attribute, Charity—when the orphaned youth may not only receive mental culture and an education in the arts and sciences, but a training in the habits of industry, with a development of their physical systems, that will prepare them to become useful men and worthy citizens. The Asylum that was and is intended to follow the physical fruition of success of a Masonic Hall in this city was not determined as exclusively an edifice wherein to maintain in perfect repose the indigent aged, but, to the best of our memory, we believe in the report of 1851—the rising generation that had lost the natural protector was to be cared for and prepared for a life of future usefulness as well.

What are the prospects? We know the response of that too numerous throng ever ready to hold back the brightening fates and point to the dismal creation of their own minds. That the picture is not a brilliant one in the foreground all must admit, nor do we desire to mislead in the colouring, but we can look beyond the veiled present into the sunlight of the future with strong hope. We also appreciate the present financial shadow, but that is fleecy, for it is admitted the country at bottom is prosperous.

It is impossible to close our eyes to the era of good feeling and heartiness which is the mainstay of healthfulness, pervading our Fraternity, at least locally. Distrust is passing away, confidence is manifest, a reliance upon the faithfulness of the Trustees is evident, the resources are widening and deepening, and the accountability under the new régime guaranteed.

New York, with over seven hundred Lodges, and a spirit of determination, will not fail to accomplish a declared purpose in relation to an Asylum; Missouri, with but forty-two Lodges and eight hundred members, in 1844 carried to a successful issue a similar movement, although upon a minor scale. Surely we cannot think of receding when Kentucky bristles with the light of Charity in its true Masonic Home, which is a glory to the State; when we reflect that Old Kentucky was an uninhabited wilderness at the time Masonry was established within the boundaries of New York. We do not lack, in means, in energy, in pride, in desire, and certainly not in motive, in such an undertaking—then in what—simply a financial leader. With a backing of nearly eighty thousand active enrolled men, there is needed but a General, quick to devise and determined to execute, in order to accomplish the desired end.

The debt on the Hall looks formidable—seven dollars per capita on each enrolled member. The reduction of the debt during the past year was over 35,000 dollars; but by putting the proper machinery to work, the principal would be reduced, and consequently the enormous sum required to pay interest, which is the canker eating into the vitals of the people.

Massachusetts, in her dilemma, found her General; will

not New York shortly in her emergency find a leader worthy of the cause, who, sweeping away the barrier, will open the road to the early establishment of our intended beneficent Home Charities?

If the State has provided for the education of youth, it does not give them a support nor a home-training and influence; it leaves them to eke out the substance of the widow, while developing their talents to become fitted for accomplished mechanics or successful merchants, scientific philosophers, or renowned statesmen. But, apart from school or college, how welcome would be the resting-place for the sick or enfeebled old man who has little before him for relief from the cares of this world, and who otherwise can only contemplate the pauper ward of an almshouse, in lieu of the tender care of his kindly brethren, and know and feel that the bed, the food, and the attention he receives are his due, and that in the past he has earned them all.

It is not necessary to speak of our principles, our duties, nor other hackneyed urgencies to motion, but rather let us set ourselves about the various courses to be pursued, the selecting of a directing genius, and bending our wills and our efforts to crowning the consummation of our desires with an early success.

Our strides in the last three decades, toward the accomplishment of the Hall and the Asylum, have been bold; they were well conceived, notwithstanding they were injudiciously carried out; but we have no reflections for the past, we accept the present and the inevitable. We have great confidence in the fight of the faithful, and will earnestly assist in the great contest of throwing off the incubus of debt, and thus smoothing the pillow of the deserving aged; for the wants of such are our wants—their sorrows are our sorrows, and their life cares are eminently ours. So long as they shall tabernacle on earth, they are entitled to and shall receive our regard and sympathy as brethren, even until the Grand Master of all

"Shall gather them home from every land, one by one,
As their weary feet touch the shining strand, one by one."

Our sister state of Pennsylvania has very recently set us an additional bright example. The mode adopted has been unique, but success is unquestioned. Their near future is to-day, and the benefits and blessings of Home Charities are already upon them.—*Hebrew Leader*.

THE CHARLESTOWN MOTHER SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL OF THE WORLD.

BY BRO. JACOB NORTON.

I IMAGINED that the Charleston high degree concern, which Bro. Albert Pike designates by the pompous title at the head of this article, which manufactured the Frederick the Great Charter with eight additional degrees, and which imposed her eight degrees upon the French Orient, and changed the very title of the Rite from "Lodge of Perfection" to that of "Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Masonry," I say, I imagined that the concern was in possession of a complete set of records from 1762. Recently, however, I learned from some publications issued by Bro. Folger, Grand Secretary of one of the Cerneau concerns at New York, that Bro. Pike's mother is not in possession of any records earlier than 1860, and that Bro. Pike does not know when he was made a member of the Scotch Rite, nor when he was made Grand Commander, &c. It seems then that Bro. Pike received his high degrees merely from a "Degree peddler." The whole story seemed to me so strange as to induce me to consult the Proceedings of Southern Supreme Council for 1878, p 19, and I herewith send you an exact copy on the question above hinted, Bro. Pike says:

"I have also placed in the hands of the printer here, to be reprinted, our Transactions of 1857 to 1866, of the parts of which we have no copy to furnish to any one, and of the other only some half-dozen. I have found them among what we call our 'Archives,' connected with the previous history of this Rite in the Jurisdiction. As you will see by the small package of the originals, they are few in number.

"I am often asked why we do not publish our old Transactions, to which I am compelled to reply, that we have none to publish. We have no record of the transaction

at Charleston from 1801 to 1860. What minutes we had were destroyed, with many papers, pamphlets, and books of the Secretary General during the war. [Query, what proof has he that anything belonging to the Rite was destroyed during the war?] I never saw any of them, and do not know how full or how meagre they were. There is not in the Secretariat, so far as I can find, any minute of any session from May 1801 to the session of 1860, except what is called a session at New Orleans in 1857; not even of that of 1859, at Charlestown, when our membership was enlarged, and several new members were added. Except some papers of which I have spoken, and some old letters, there is nothing to show what the Supreme Council did, from its birth until 1860, I do not know when I was elected a member, or when Grand Commander. The memory of the Secretary General, is the only means of proof of the election of any dignitary or member from 1802 to 1859.

"It is certain that no regular record book of transactions was ever kept in 1874. The Secretary General has had Ill. Bro. Webber to copy into a record book all our printed Transactions. But this is, of course, no better or higher evidence of what it contains than the printed Transactions are. It is a mere waste of labour.

"By the same resolution the Secretary General was directed to record all confidential communications of the Grand Commander, and the action taken thereon, as had heretofore been done, in the Book of Gold. But nothing of the sort had theretofore been recorded, and nothing of the sort has been recorded since.

"The Book of Gold contains only copies of old documents, many of them older than the Supreme Council, and large part of them in print and published long before they were copied into the Book. The contents are, historically, of very little value.

"The Supreme Council existed all the time, but it was not always awake. It dozed, and was dormant at least once, for quite a number of years. When I first heard of it, in 1854, I think its members were Bros. Honour, Thurman, Mackey, and Le Prince, at Charleston, Bro. McDaniel at Lynchburg, Bro. Rockwell at Savannah, and Bro. Quitman at Mississippi. The three last I think never went to Charleston, consequently there were never more than three or four at a meeting. As to the Northern Jurisdiction, Bros. Gourgass and Yates used to meet and transact business as a Supreme Council, but they did not preserve a record or minutes of what they did. [What did they do?]

"The truth is that the Rite was nothing, and the rituals almost naught; for the most part a lot of worthless trash, until 1855. Some Consistories were created, and there were very few other bodies, and a Consistory without subordinates at Louisiana. In 1859 the Rite had little life anywhere except in that State. Things have changed somewhat since then."

On reading the above curious confession of Bro. Albert Pike, I could not help thinking that, suppose the yellow fever, or some other epidemic, had swept off a few of the most active of the above-named worthies, North and South, before 1844, how many tons of paper used for printing their reports, &c., and how many hundreds of thousands of dollars might have been used for better purposes; how many lies would never have been printed; and how much disharmony would never have been engendered among American Masons. If such a catastrophe had then happened, Bro. Pike would not have been sovereign of any jurisdiction, Gourgass would not have impregnated Charles W. Moore and a few others with the Scotch degrees; there would never have been a Northern or Southern jurisdiction in the United States of America, and a certain house in Golden-square would never have had a big brass plate on its front door; our American Masons would not now have been split up into a half-dozen factions of high degrees, and our English brethren would not in a like manner have been arrayed against each other; each party excommunicating the other; all doubts about the genuineness of the Frederick the Great charter would have been hushed up; the legitimacy, purity, and orthodoxy of Cerneau's pretensions would not have been questioned; Joseph Cerneau and Frederick the Great would have been venerated as the "two parallel lines" of Scotch Rite Masonry; and last, and not least, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts would have been spared from committing the folly of assuming sovereignty over about forty degrees, the majority of which are antagonistic to the fundamental Masonic idea, viz., "Masonic universality." But the most ridiculous feature of her hypocrisy is, that

while she denounced some degrees as Masonic frauds, she hugged similar Masonic frauds to her bosom, and declared them eminently and orthodoxly Masonic.

But a question may be asked, viz., have the high degrees done no good at all? To this I answer, Yes; but only indirectly. There is an adage, viz., "When knaves quarrel the honest man gets his own;" and in that sense the high degrees have served a good purpose, for their quarrels stimulate inquiry.

Up to the period in question there were scarcely any Masonic book hunters in America, and the then Masonic books, whether printed in England or in America, were as a rule worthless. These were, however, praised up as Masonic gospel by a few. And the many, who never troubled themselves to read anything about Masonry, took it for granted that whatever was in a book was "gospel truth." Looking over the writings of American Masons, I find that a reverend luminary taught in 1801 that Joseph in Egypt originated Freemasonry. In 1821, a Professor of Law proved that Masonry came from the Mysteries. We have any quantity of printed St. John's Day orations, some more absurd than the others; but the most absurd one I have ever read was delivered I believe in 1826, by one of the most distinguished lawyers of Boston, viz., Rufus Choate. But I need not look back so far as 1826, to find Masonic ignorance. For "The American Quarterly Review of Freemasonry," edited by Bro. Mackey in 1858 and 1859, is, with little exception, full of all kind of learned Masonic twaddle. As to the Masonic press in general, every editor of a Masonic paper was of course a Knight Templar, and every Knight Templar believed that he was a veritable Sir Knight, and that Templarism was a higher degree in Masonry; hence, every editor considered himself bound in duty to defend Templarism and other Masonic moonshines, and so both writers and readers were alike deluded.

To shine as a luminary in the Grand Lodge one had to be a Knight Templar; and if, in addition, he knew the rituals, then he was a "bright Mason." Grand Lodge Libraries were not in existence. They may have had the Constitutions and some printed Reports, but that was all they cared for. Indeed, even a knowledge of the Constitutions was not essential to Masonic greatness, for the Grand Secretary was supposed in those days to be a walking Masonic Cyclopædia, and hence all questions about Masonic law, usage, history, &c., was left to the decision of that officer; and this again tended to raise the Grand Secretary up into a Masonic Pope; he became "the power behind the throne, greater than the throne." Such was the case in Massachusetts, in Illinois, and in other jurisdictions.

Now, the high degrees' fight between 1860 and 1867 divided the Masons in the Northern States into hostile camps, but as our Masonic Sir Knights do not know any other mode of warfare than by quibbling, bluffing, and arguing, and as each party had to appeal to the public, new Masonic papers were started. The new editors and new orators began to hunt after Masonic books. For seven years in succession excited Masons talked about nothing else but the rival bogus, spurious, illegitimate, Masonic impostures, &c. Masonic books became a necessity to the respective combatants; Grand Lodges began to collect libraries; the result was, the newly awakened readers exposed the old Masonic oracles as mere pretenders. Free discussion was necessarily followed by freedom of the Masonic press, and although American Masons are still far from being enlightened, and I am sorry to say that Masonic charlatans and Masonic dreamers still abound in our midst, yet it cannot be said that they possess any power either to punish or coerce those who differ from them, and here is a very curious illustration of the present state of liberty of the Masonic press.

A few months ago, Bro. Carson, owner of the greatest collection of Masonic books, a Masonic student of the highest degree, and, withal, a first-rate obliging good fellow. But, unfortunately, he is steeped over head and ears in Templarism, A. and A.-isms, and is a great stickler for what he calls "the American system of Masonry;" which means, that only what Bro. Carson calls *Masonic*, was Masonic. And there must not be in America any more or less *Masonics* than Bro. Carson sanctions; and that it was the bounden duty of a Masonic editor to cry up Bro. Carson's *Masonics*, and cry down all other *Masonics*. The editor of the Cincinnati *Masonic Review*,

though he is a high degreeer, and very often prints a great deal of worthless stuff, happened to copy some spicy extracts from papers, whose editors advocate either more or less *Masonics* for the American system than Bro. Carson allows. This put Bro. Carson out of temper, and he wrote to the publisher of the *Review*. Indeed, it was an indignant challenge: but the publisher and editor accepted the challenge, and each gave our brother Carson a most fearful *whacking*. I was sincerely sorry for friend Carson, but I could not help saying, *serve him right*. For, in the first place, there is a great deal of *moonshine* in his American system; and, second, he ought to have known that it was altogether too late for any one to succeed in muzzling the Press.

It is true that the mass of Masons are still ignorant of Masonic history. This is in a measure unavoidable as long as false legends are retained in the ritual. It is also true that many of our Masonic Editors will cheerfully publish all kind of twaddle, and will carefully exclude every particle of truth which clashes with their interest, conceit, or the notions of their patrons. But who cares? If one editor is a partizan for *moonshine* Masonry, truth can find vent through another paper. You see now, my dear Brother, that to the rising desire for reading Masonic books, which gave rise to the formation of Grand Lodge libraries and a consequent diffusion of Masonic information through the agency of a free press, we are indirectly indebted to the continuous fighting among high degreeers. Thus, the high degree storm tends to clear the Masonic atmosphere of its impurities.

The present state of high degeedom in America is anything but harmonious; thus, in the Northern States, we have four independent Supreme Councils, and two in the Southern States. Baltimore high degreeers recently sent back their charter to Pike, and took out one from one of the Cerneau concerns at New York. In California there is also trouble; so there is in Ohio, in New Hampshire, &c. Several pamphlets have recently been issued by the Secessionists in different States. Here, in Boston, we have quite a number of 32nds and 33rds too, who make no secret of expressing their disgust with all the high degrees, and I felt amused the other day, when conversing with one of these brethren, to hear him explain the difference between a 33rd who is an active member of a Supreme Council and one who is not; the former he styled a full-blooded 33rd, and the latter he called a "32½ only."

In short, *high degeedom* here is fast falling into contempt among our disinterested reading and thinking Masonic public; and if our Grand Lodges do not hasten to bring the ritual into conformity with the present state of Masonic information, and do not order the Masters of Lodges to caution candidates against taking all kinds of *so called* high degrees, Freemasonry itself will, a little sooner or later, be numbered among the *some things* of the past.

BOSTON, U.S. 31st October 1884.

The London Cottage Mission has had a busy week at the New Hall, Salmon Lane, Limehouse, and one which we trust will go a long way towards recruiting the almost exhausted funds of this most deserving Charity. On Tuesday a Bazaar for the sale of work was opened by Lady Colin Campbell, whom Mr. Austin introduced in a brief but telling speech, in which he gave a review of the work of the Mission since its inception more than a dozen years ago, and this Bazaar is to remain open daily from three till nine o'clock up till Saturday. On Wednesday, the second Children's Irish Stew Dinner of the season took place, when six or seven hundred poor little starvelings had their "One Dinner a Week," and it is earnestly to be hoped that a greater number will find their way to the Mission Hall on future Wednesdays in the coming winter; but to do this—to increase the amount of practical good being done throughout the East-end—funds are urgently wanted, indeed at this moment the action of the Mission is literally crippled for lack of them. All who would help a cause so good can forward their contributions to the Founder and Director, Mr. Walter Austin, 44 Finsbury Pavement, E.C., who will gladly acknowledge them.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Nothing preserves the health so well as these alterative Pills in changeable weather, or when our nervous systems are irritable. They act admirably on the stomach, liver, and kidneys, and so thoroughly purify the blood that they are the most efficient remedy for warding off derangements of the stomach, fever, catarrhs, quinsies, and other maladies, and giving tone and energy to enervated valetudinarians. All who have the natural and laudable desire of maintaining their own and their family's health cannot do better than trust to Holloway's Pills, which cool, regulate and strengthen. These purifying Pills are suitable for all ages, seasons, climates, and constitutions, when all other means fail, and are the female's best friend.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

THE GRAND TREASURERSHIP.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In saying that I very much regret to learn that Bro. James Willing has been nominated as a candidate for the office of Grand Treasurer, I wish it to be clearly understood that I am actuated by no motive which can in the remotest degree be said to partake of a personal character. I have always heard him spoken of as a thoroughly good fellow. I know he is a founder and P.M. of sundry Lodges, a founder and P.Z. of sundry Chapters, a member of the Board of General Purposes, and a contributor to, as well as a worker for, our Charitable Institutions. Whatever was said on Wednesday last in Grand Lodge in his behalf by the brother who proposed him, or can be said in his behalf by his most intimate friend, I accept or am prepared to accept unreservedly. But I am a supporter of the principle which was successfully asserted at the last and previous elections, and of which I understand Bro. Willing is held to be the champion on the present occasion; and it is because I consider this principle is on the one hand of so much greater importance than the brother who momentarily represents it, while, on the other hand, it derives so much, if not, as a matter of fact, the whole of its value from his personal qualifications for personal rank, that I ask your permission to explain why it is that I and others regard the candidature of Bro. Willing as a very grave mistake, made in flagrant violation of the principle which has been twice upheld successfully in Grand Lodge and of which, as I have said, he is presumed now to be the champion; and why it is that I and others most fervently trust his candidature will end in utter and even disastrous failure.

I may of course be wrong in my premises, but I have always been under the impression that the principle successfully contended for at the election of the present and immediate Past Grand Treasurers was neither more nor less than this. Grand Lodge enjoys, under the Book of Constitutions, the right of electing its Grand Treasurer, and as there is no longer attached to the office any degree or kind of responsibility, it was urged that the members of Grand Lodge should annually nominate and elect from amongst themselves some brother of eminence and distinction whom it would be an honour to the Craft to have enrolled among its chiefs, there being no other way than this open to the general body of English Freemasons for signalling their appreciation of a brother's services or merit. But the idea of any one having attained eminence and distinction implies in the very nature of things that he has done something exceptional, something which the other members of the general body have not done so well, or to the same extent that he has; or that he possesses naturally, or has acquired after a long experience or in some other way, certain attributes or qualifications which are not possessed or have not been acquired by the others. Now I will ask this plain matter-of-fact question,—Has Bro. Willing rendered any services to Freemasonry of an exceptional character, that is, any such services as would justify him in seeking or having thrust upon him the one great honour which it is in the power of Grand Lodge to confer annually? Is it not the case that there are hundreds—I may venture to say thousands—of its members who have rendered services of precisely the same kind and degree as he has? I will even put the question still more forcibly, and ask if there are not hundreds and hundreds of brethren who have done far more for Freemasonry than Bro. Willing, and who are consequently by so much the more worthy than he is of having the much-coveted honour of the purple bestowed upon them. I hold that the principle of electing annually a new Grand Treasurer is a just one, but I likewise hold that, in order to ensure its just application, there must be something like an approach to equality in point of merit between the claims of its champion to be honoured and the honour itself. There is no such approach to equality in this case of Bro. Willing, who is a very worthy member of the rank and file of Freemasonry, but who, above and beyond this, has not the slightest shadow of a shade of claim to be placed on an eminence above his brother members of the same standing in Grand Lodge.

I have studiously avoided the introduction into my statement of anything like personality. I have been obliged to name the name of Willing, because its owner has been set up as the representative of the principle I have consistently supported from the beginning. I have cheerfully agreed with every one else that he is what he is, namely, Bro. James Willing P.M. P.Z., a very good fellow and all that, but save in this respect, I have regarded him as being as absolutely impersonal as a mathematician does the algebraic symbol x . It is through no fault of mine that he is now in a position before the Craft which he has no claim to occupy, and it is from no sense of disrespect to him as a man or a Mason that I earnestly repeat the hope I have already expressed that his candidature in March next for the much-coveted collar of Grand Treasurer will prove a complete and ignominious failure.

Yours faithful and fraternally,

SYMBOL x .

The Most Worshipful Grand Master has sanctioned a warrant being issued for the Epping Lodge, No. 2077. Bro. E. G. Lewis is the W.M. designate, Bro. James Salmon the S.W., and Bro. T. J. Woodman the J.W.

INSTALLATION MEETINGS, &c.

THE CARNARVON LODGE, No. 1572.

THE installation meeting of this popular Lodge was held at the Albion, Aldersgate-street, on Saturday, 6th December instant, when the Lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Pearce, who was ably assisted by his Officers. After the minutes of the Lodge held on the 1st November had been read and confirmed, Bros. Marchand and Smith were raised, with a due regard to all preliminaries. The ballot was then brought into requisition for Mr. Gardiner Wigley, who was proposed as a candidate for initiation by the Worshipful Master, and seconded by Brother Clarricoats Treasurer, and for Mr. George Palmer, who was also proposed by the Worshipful Master, and seconded by Bro. Cotton. The result was in favour of both candidates, who were introduced and initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry. Bro. Pearce, who had conducted both these ceremonies in an eminently satisfactory manner, now expressed himself ready to proceed with the principal business of the day, that of installing his successor in the chair of the Lodge. Bro. R. E. H. Goffin, who had been unanimously elected at the last meeting, was thereupon regularly introduced and obligated as the Wor. Master elect for the ensuing twelvemonths. In due course the Board of Installed Masters was opened and the induction completed. On the re-admission of those brethren below the degree of Installed Master, the new W.M. was saluted in the three degrees, and the investment of Officers was proceeded with, the following being the names of the several brethren on whom collars were bestowed:—Bros. A. T. Pearce I.P.M., J. Russell S.W., P. Crampton J.W., J. Clarricoats Treasurer, W. S. Whitaker Sec., J. S. Stacey S.D., F. W. Willcocks J.D., J. P. Dickson I.G., H. Comfort D.C., J. Paige W.S., Dr. Basley Org., C. Thomas Tyler. Bro. Pearce then completed his labours by delivering the addresses in a most emphatic and eloquent manner. Routine work was then considered. The auditors' report, which had been printed and circulated, was taken as read and unanimously adopted. It disclosed a very satisfactory condition of affairs, while the balance to credit of the Benevolent Fund stood at £204 odd. The sum of one guinea was voted towards the entertainment of the "Old Folks" at Croydon; notice of motion to make some amendments in the Bye-laws was handed in, and then Lodge was closed. The banquet was served in that perfect manner so characteristic of the Albion, and on the removal of the cloth the toasts were ably proposed by the Worshipful Master. In speaking to the first, the W.M. referred to the interest taken by Her Majesty in each incident of every day life. Her Majesty was as well known in the humble cottage as in the princely hall, and it was this interest she took in the welfare of her subjects that had endeared her to the nation. The National Anthem having been sung, Brother Goffin spoke of the interest the Prince of Wales took in Freemasonry. It was well known that when opportunity served the Grand Master took the conduct of affairs. At any rate, when his absence was imperative he always took care he should be adequately represented; and this interest, which he at all times displayed was thoroughly appreciated by the Craft at large. The Immediate Past Master next rose. It was his privilege—and he esteemed it a high one—to propose the health of the Worshipful Master. Brother Goffin was fully competent, and was sure to advance the interests of the Lodge. In reply the W.M. said the all too kind words of Bro. Pearce had placed him in somewhat of a difficulty. He could always speak more eloquently of others than he could of himself. However, he could assure them of his interest in the Lodge's welfare, and would do his best for the comfort of the members. The outgoing Master in due course was complimented on the ability he had displayed during the year just ended, and his services were recognised by the presentation of the Past Master's jewel of the Lodge, which is one of the neatest and most substantial ornaments we have ever seen. The Initiate's toast elicited excellent replies from the two worthy gentlemen who had just ranged themselves under our banner, and then came the toast of the Past Masters. To the Secretary, Bro. Whitaker, was presented a jewel which we are assured he will value as long as he is associated with the Order. The other toasts comprised the Visitors, the Masonic Charities, and the Officers of the Lodge. In replying for the Masonic Charities, Bro. W. W. Morgan said the Worshipful Master had very kindly pointed out what was embodied in the true spirit of Charity, as understood by the outer world. He would now, by permission of the brethren, say a few words as to the practical charity exercised by the Craft at large. Before doing so, however, he would like to say a few words. In the natural order of things it might reasonably be expected that year by year we should have to mourn the loss of men who have pre-eminently distinguished themselves by the zeal they have displayed in advancing the welfare of the Institution to which all now present have the honour to belong. In this connection, he (Bro. Morgan) would refer to the loss the Craft in general had sustained by the death, which occurred on the 4th instant, of Col. Creaton, a brother who had ever evinced a most fervent interest in our several Institutions, and who was almost a constant attendant at the monthly Committee meetings, while at the Quarterly Courts, as President, he was nearly always a prominent figure. The W.M. had just handed him a telegram, from Bro. James Terry, Secretary to the Royal Benevolent Institution, which stated that both Bro. Terry and Bro. Buss, who were honorary members of the Carnarvon Lodge, excused themselves from attending Lodge that day on the ground that they were paying the last tribute of respect in their power to the memory of the late Bro. Levander Past Grand Deacon, better known perhaps as Provincial Grand Secretary of Middlesex. In the death of Bro. Levander, which occurred only on Thursday, the Craft had sustained another heavy loss, as this worthy Craftsman was always earnest in advocating and advancing the best interests of Freemasonry. With respect to the Institutions, to which his

association with the toast more particularly called for remark, Bro. Morgan reminded the brethren that the demands on them just now were very heavy. The next Festival of the Benevolent Institution would take place in February next, when Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P., Provincial Grand Master for Gloucestershire, would preside. The Benevolent Institution was providing annuities of £40 per annum each to 163 old Masons, and was distributing £32 each to 166 old women, widows of deceased brethren. In addition, there was a considerable number of widows who were receiving half of their late husband's annuities. The Girls' School was educating, clothing and maintaining something like 239 girls, while the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys was doing a similar service for some 213 lads, children of Masons deceased, or in a very impoverished condition. The respective Institutions were deserving of a more liberal support from the Craft at large than they were at present receiving, but this could only be brought about by a more extended display of generosity. Certain Lodges, by comparison, did far more than what was legitimately their proportion, and in this regard the Carnarvon was well to the fore. At the Festival of the Boys' School, held in June last, the Immediate Past Master and Installing Officer of the day, Bro. Pearce, had well represented the Lodge, and his list totalled up to the goodly sum of 100 guineas. The Lodge had done well for the other Institutions, and he (Bro. Morgan) felt assured they would continue the course they had hitherto laid down for themselves. He regretted neither of the representatives of the Institutions were present, but in their absence he would urge on the W.M., or some other zealous brother, to offer his services; it would afford him infinite gratification to be able to announce that the result of the appeal he was now so urgently making had been successful, and that the Lodge would be represented at one or other of the Festivals in 1885. Bro. Morgan concluded a forcible speech by expressing the gratification he felt at having had the opportunity of addressing the brethren on behalf of the Masonic Institutions. Before we leave this portion of our report we may state that later on the Worshipful Master consented to act as Steward at the Festival for the Girls' School in May next. Several of the Officers replied for the compliment paid them, and then the Tyler gave the parting toast. Some capital songs were given during the evening, Bros. Willcocks, Brown, Baker, Whitaker, Sexton and others rendering excellent service. Dr. Basley contributed a piano-forte solo. The following were Visitors:—Bros. Hunt 2021, Shread I.G. 74, Harlow S.D. 1613, Avery P.M. 70 P.P.G.S.D. Devon, Davis 1017, Plenderleith S.W. 1598, Genner 455, Cox I.G. 190, T. R. Smith W.M. 1558, Masters 1797, Jennings 1580, W. Smith 9758, Stock W.M. 1586, Hewitt St. Andrews, R. Smith 1708, Nairne P.M. 176, Roberts P.M. 1702 P.P.G.A.D.C. Middlesex, Sexton Org. 1321, Baker I.G. 2030, Cook 1962, Lucas S.W. 1649, Brookman No. 1 P.M. 1657, Baker S.W. 2030, Mann 507, Hamilton 569, W. W. Morgan W.M. 211, Hunt P.M. 1635, W. Smallpeice P.M. 969, L. Hopkins 1573, &c.

ST. LEONARD LODGE, No. 1766.

THE annual meeting of this Lodge was held on Wednesday, at the Town Hall, Shoreditch, when the installation of Bro. James Funston, as seventh Worshipful Master, may be said to have marked the commencement of a new era in the Lodge, from the fact that he was its first initiate, and the first of its members—outside the actual founders—who attained in it the summit of a Mason's ambition, the Master's chair. The gratifying feelings with which we regard a brother who works his way to the position of W.M. of his mother Lodge are made even more pleasing when it happens, as in this case, that the brother is also the first of the initiates of the Lodge who has risen to that dignity. The installation of such a brother seems to imply that the Lodge is quite capable of taking care of itself; that however much the fostering attention of its founders may still be required, there is no fear of an actual collapse even though the whole of them might be obliged to absent themselves from a meeting—indeed, that the Lodge has shaken off the leading strings of its parents, and is now capable of proceeding alone. In the case of the St. Leonard Lodge, as in most others similarly circumstanced, no one seems more pleased at this proof of independence than the founders themselves. The Past Masters seemed to look upon the newly-installed W.M. as a living proof that their labours in the past had not been in vain. The oldest of them remembered how he had initiated Bro. Funston into the mysteries of the Order; another called to mind how he had invested him with the distinguishing badge of a Mason; and others, in turn, referred to their particular parts in the "making" of the present Master. Nor were the pleasurable associations of the past confined to the brethren who had built up the Lodge, and to admit its first initiate; that brother, also felt particularly well pleased at his position. He considered it no small honour to be the first initiate of the Lodge installed into its chair; it was an honour that could only be enjoyed by one brother, no matter how long the Lodge might last, or to what length its roll of members might extend, and he was proud of having that honour. The installation was performed by Bro. Louis Stean, the first W.M. of the Lodge, and most ably did he carry out his work. In due course the new W.M. was saluted in the three degrees, and then he appointed the following as his Officers:—Bros. E. Walker S.W., Frank Mathews J.W., Rev. H. G. Henderson, M.A., Chaplain, Daniel King Treas., Joseph Cox Sec., R. Drysdale S.D., H. J. Thrower J.D., L. A. Harrison I.G., W. Beasley D.C., G. C. Young Org., E. T. Clark and T. Douglas Stewards, and J. Very Tyler. The Report of the Audit Committee having been received, the Lodge was closed and the brethren repaired to banquet. At the conclusion of the repast grace was sung, and then the W.M. proposed the customary toasts. The Queen and the Craft and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales M.W.G.M. having been honoured, that of the Grand Officers was submitted. The W.M. was gratified to see among them that evening a distinguished Past Grand Officer of England—Bro. W. Clarke—and had much pleasure in coupling that brother's name with the toast. The ability of the Grand Officers was so well known he hardly thought it

necessary to say many words beyond the actual introduction of the toast. Bro. Clarke, in replying, hoped he should be pardoned if he departed somewhat from the usual course of returning thanks for the Grand Officers seriatim, as he felt there were subjects in connection with Grand Lodge, of interest to the Craft at large, to which he might well refer. The Grand Officers and members of Grand Lodge were taking more and more interest in the doings of the Order day by day. Principal among the latest evidences of this was the Revised edition of the Book of Constitutions, a work which he trusted was then in the hands of most members of the Order, and by them carefully studied. They had also rebuilt the Grand Temple, and where in hopes that by the time of the next Communication of Grand Lodge it would be in the same state of comfort it had been in prior to its destruction by fire. The Grand Officers were doing their best, and would continue their efforts on behalf of the Craft, the interest of which they were at all times desirous of promoting. The I.P.M. Bro. Alfred A. Clement next proposed the health of the W.M. He was a brother who had always been esteemed and respected in the Lodge, and would doubtless carry out the duties of his high office to their satisfaction. The W.M. tendered his thanks. He had done his best to rise to the position he then occupied, and hoped the brethren considered his working in the past had been faithfully and properly performed, and that it was an earnest that he would try and deserve in the future the respect and esteem of them all. He could but remember at the time he was initiated the impression it made on him to find out the number of gentlemen with whom he had been previously associated who had supported his nomination, while since that time he had found many others whose association with the Order had been a pleasant surprise to him. Another pleasing feature in connection with his career as a Mason was the fact of his having that day been installed by the same brother who, six years ago, initiated him into the Order. Their esteemed Bro. Stean had passed more than fifty years in Masonry, and had therefore exceeded the threescore years and ten allotted to man, yet he had come forward that day and performed the ceremony in a manner which younger and more active men might well attempt to imitate. It was not perhaps for him to say how well the ceremony had been performed—there were many old Past Masters present whose experience rendered them more able to pass an opinion, but each brother could judge from what they had seen and form his own idea. He had much pleasure in calling upon them to drink the health of Bro. Stean, and in doing so express their opinion of his ability as Installing Master. The toast having been heartily honoured, Bro. Stean replied. He was very pleased to respond, and to have had the office of Installing Master conferred on him that day. He hoped what had been done in the past would be multiplied in the future. The installation of Brother Funston had afforded him much more pleasure than they could imagine; the fact of placing his first initiate in the chair being one of which he was very proud. The W.M. next proposed the toast of the Immediate P.M., coupling with it the health of the other Past Masters. The brethren who had ruled over the St. Leonard Lodge in the past had done all that lay in their power for the welfare of the Lodge and the comfort of the brethren. The Lodge had voted a P.M.'s jewel to the retiring Master—it was now with very great pleasure that the Worshipful Master presented it to Bro. Clements. In doing so, he briefly referred to the working of Bro. Clements during the past, and wished him health and prosperity in the future. The jewel bore the following inscriptions:—

On the obverse,

Sextus. Conditor.

On the reverse,

Presented to

BRO. ALFRED A. CLEMENTS,

in recognition of his high personal worth, and of the many services he has rendered the Lodge during his year of office.

10th December 1884.

Bro. Clements was the first to reply. He felt it a great pleasure, at the end of his term of office, to be presented with so handsome a gift as that he had just received at the hands of the Worshipful Master. Bros. Barr, Barnham, Benjamin and Jones, the other Past Masters of the Lodge, followed in turn. Each expressed the pleasure they felt in seeing the Lodge continuing its career of prosperity, and hoped it might go on in the future as successfully as it had done in the past. The toast of the Masonic Charities was next given from the chair, and was ably replied to by Bro. W. Clarke. The Visitors followed, Bro. Levy and others replying; after which the Masonic Press, the Treasurer, Secretary and the Officers were each honoured, and then the Tyler's toast brought the proceedings to a conclusion. Among the visitors were Bros. Francis 55, Turner P.M. 183, Fowler J.W. 1269, Collings Org. 1693, Hough 1288, Soncal jun. P.M. 569, Lobb 228, Hill 813, M. L. Levey P.M. 1962, Doubleday 193, Davey 569, Gibson P.M. 1420, Baker Senior Warden 2030, Baker Inner Guard 2030, Schartau Organist 2030, Dalzell J.W. 1519, Gwynne 1613, Frank 188, Bamberger P.M. 1366, Prendergast 569, McDowall P.M. 1962 P.P.G.D.C. Berks and Bucks, Webster P.M. 231, Geere 1962, Sims 861, Danter 392, Snook 1693, Robson W.M. 1445, Venner 901, Smith 901, Woodman P.M. 1599, Rowe 1096, Heale 45, Sanders 861, Heard 95.

Bro. Henry Anscombe, the Station Superintendent at Brighton Terminus, formerly of London Bridge, was, on Wednesday, presented with a testimonial by the townsmen and travellers on the line, consisting of a purse containing £320, and an illuminated address bearing the subscribers' names. Bro. Alderman Davey made the presentation, and the Mayor (Bro. Alderman Reeves) and a number of the leading residents of Brighton were present.

DOMATIC CHAPTER, No. 177.

AN ordinary Convocation of this Chapter was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Thursday, 27th ult., with Comp. Maclean Z., supported by Comps. Webb H., Buckhurst J., Cottobruno S.E., Hubbard P.S., Austin 1st Assistant, Buss Tr., and the following P.Z.'s:—Cubitt, Briggs, Harrison and Hill. There being no candidate for exaltation, the business was merely of a formal character, and the Chapter was soon closed. After refreshment, the usual R.A. toasts were given. Comp. Buckhurst proposed the health of the M.E.Z., who suitably replied, and hoped at the next meeting there would be two or three candidates. The following Visitors were present:—Comps. Michell, Rowley, and Dr. Corrie Jackson J. Polish National, 534. Each suitably responded to the compliment paid them. The Companions separated at an early hour.

A very interesting meeting of the Polish National Lodge, No. 534, took place on Thursday. Bro. W. Paas was presented with an elegantly illuminated address on his retirement from the Secretaryship of the Lodge, the duties of which office he has discharged most satisfactorily for the last 28 years. We shall publish a full report next week.

A public company is being formed to acquire the Masonic Hall in Waterloc-road, Portsmouth. The company has been duly registered as "The Carnarvon Lodge, Land, and Building Company," and the shares will shortly be offered. Messrs. Longcroft and Green are the solicitors to the undertaking.

We are given to understand that the result of an experiment for a tentative week at the "Imperial" was such as to warrant a more emphatic attempt to resuscitate the fortunes of this theatre. Aided by Mr. Hermann Vezin, Mrs. Digby Willoughby, and a fair company, Mr. Harry Saint Maur announces that he will open on the 15th of December with a revival of Tom Taylor's "Plot and Passion," when he trusts that the character of Desmarests as represented by Mr. Vezin may be worthy attention and criticism.

The following Festivals were held at the Freemasons' Tavern for the week ending 13th December:—

Monday—St. George and Corner Stone Lodge, Leigh Lodge, University Chapter. Tuesday—Club of Nobody's Friends, Waldeck Lodge, St. James's Union Lodge, Jerusalem Chapter, Prudent Brethren Chapter. Wednesday—Enoch Lodge, Lodge of Fidelity. Thursday—Metropolitan Dairyman's Benevolent Institution, Caledonian Society, Polish National Lodge, Pilgrim Lodge, Albion Lodge. Friday—Britannic Lodge, Bedford Lodge, Eclectic Lodge. Saturday—Phoenix Lodge, Duke of Cornwall Lodge.

FUNERAL OF BRO. MATTHEW GOTHAM.

THE remains of Bro. Matthew Gotham, whose death occurred on Tuesday night, were interred in Smithdown-road Cemetery yesterday afternoon. The funeral was attended by a large number of Freemasons, and also of gentlemen engaged in the shipping trade, amongst whom the deceased had many friends. Bro. Gotham conceived the idea of establishing the Everton Benevolent Fund for the benefit of Distressed Masons, and he carried it through to a complete issue. For upwards of eighteen years he was the general manager of the *Shipping Telegraph*, and left that position to manage the *Liverpool Mail*. But this journal not being successful, Bro. Gotham was appointed out of 417 candidates as general storekeeper under the Liverpool School Board. He remained at this post for some time, until he found that the duties were too heavy for him, owing to ill health. About a fortnight since Bro. Gotham met with a serious fall, which confined him to his room, and in a few days afterwards, to his intense grief, his only son expired, at the age of twenty-one years. The latter melancholy event was more than Bro. Gotham's failing health could withstand. He was of sterling character, undoubted honesty of purpose, and his death is much lamented. It is only a few days since he was in town.—*Liverpool Journal of Commerce*, 6th December.

ROYAL

Masonic Benevolent Institution.

VOTES AND INTEREST ARE SOLICITED FOR
MRS. JANE TRIBE, aged 64,

WIDOW of Brother George Henry Tribe, who was initiated 1858 in No. 604, Lyttelton, New Zealand; joined No. 609, Christchurch, New Zealand; was first Worshipful Master of No. 1241, Ross, New Zealand; subsequently District Grand Chaplain Westland; and District Grand Treasurer North Island, New Zealand.

Votes thankfully received by

Mr. C. BECKINGHAM, 415 Strand; or by

Bro. C. J. PERCEVAL (V.P.), 8 Thurloe Place, S.W.

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—:0:—

Grand Patron and President:

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., &c., M.W.G.M.

—:0:—

THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

OF THIS INSTITUTION WILL TAKE PLACE ON

WEDNESDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY 1885,

AT

FREEMASONS' TAVERN, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON,

UPON WHICH OCCASION

The Rt. Hon. Sir MICHAEL E. HICKS BEACH, Bart. M.P.

R.W. PROV. GRAND MASTER FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE,

has been pleased to signify his intention of presiding.

Brethren are earnestly invited to accept the Office of Steward upon this occasion, and they will greatly oblige by forwarding their Names and Masonic Rank, as soon as convenient, to the Secretary, who will gladly give any information required.

It is fraternally hoped that upon this occasion, owing to the large number of applicants and the few vacancies, Brethren will use their influence to obtain donations towards the funds of the Institution, which are much needed.

JAMES TERRY, P. Prov. G.S.W. Norths and Hunts,
 Secretary.

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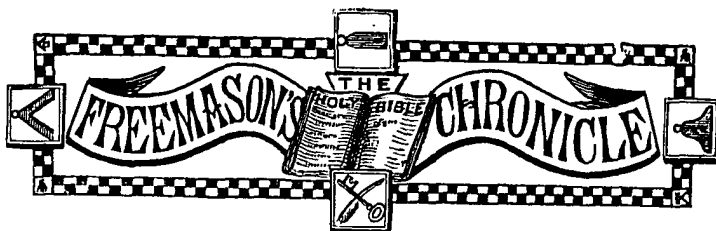
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MARK MASONRY.

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PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WORCESTERSHIRE.

THIS Province was formed at the Masonic Rooms, Worcester, on Monday, 8th inst., by Bro. the Earl of Kintore G.M.M., assisted by Bros. Shadwell Clerke P.G.W., Burridge P.G.M.O., Binckes G. Sec., Hogard G. Steward,

Matier P.G.J.W., Walker D.P.G.M. Gloucestershire, Homfray D.P.G.M. Monmouthshire, &c. The Lechmere Lodge, No. 59, was opened by Bro. H. Wilson W.M., in the presence of about 50 brethren, and the Grand Master having been announced, was received and placed in the chair. Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened, Bro. A. F. Godson was introduced, duly obligated, and installed as first P.G.M.M. of Worcestershire. He then appointed his Officers:—

Bros. Pidcock	...	...	D.P.G.M.M.
Lingham	...	...	Prov. G. Senior Warden
Taylor	...	...	Prov. G. Junior Warden
A. C. Green	...	...	Prov. G. Master Overseer
Chadwick	...	...	Prov. G. Junior Overseer
G. R. Green	...	...	Prov. G. Treasurer
Wilson	...	...	Prov. G. Secretary
Lucy	...	...	Prov. G. Senior Deacon
W. B. Williamson	...	...	Prov. G. Junior Deacon
Lamb Smith	...	...	Prov. G. Registrar
Rowe	...	...	Prov. G. Inspector of Works
Buck	...	...	Prov. G. Sword Bearer
Comber	...	...	Prov. G. Standard Bearer
Smith-Carington	...	...	Prov. G. Director of Cers.
Ottley	...	...	Prov. G. Inner Guard
A. Green	...	...	Prov. G. Steward
Smith	...	...	Prov. G. Tylers
Dugard	...	...

After the usual votes of thanks, a committee was appointed to draw up Bye-laws, and it was announced that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales had consented to receive an address from the Freemasons of the Province on his visit to Worcester on the 20th inst. Lodge having been closed the brethren dined together at the Star Hotel. The brethren present consisted, beside those mentioned, of Bros. Phillips, Warrilow, Smith, Patten, S. Treadell (from P.G. Lodge of Warwick), Humphries, P.G. Lodge Staffordshire, Sir E. E. H. Lechmere, Bart., Williamson, Hodgkiss, Sarjant, Hulme, Joseland, Underwood, Perrins, Swete, Slade and Marsh of No. 59, Elgood, Brettell, Lees, Perry and Bland of the Godson Lodge, No. 330, Marchant, Blinkhorn, E. Stephens, H. Marchant, Norton, Davies, Cullwick, Caldwell and C. Stephens of St. Ethelbert's Lodge, No. 243, W. Rowe of No. 28, Mallard and Ball of No. 115, Knott Tyler of 59.

The monthly meeting of the Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Saturday last, Bro. Joyce Murray Vice-President presiding. Amongst others present were Bros. John L. Mather, Raynham W. Stewart, William Roebuck, James Moon, F. W. Ramsay, M.D., R. Berridge, Henry W. Hunt, A. F. Godson, Richard Morris, M.A., LL.D., Head Master, Alfred Withers, F. Adlard, H. Hacker, Richard Eve, John J. Berry, C. F. Hogard, W. A. Scurrah, Geo. P. Gillard, Alfred Williams, T. Hastings Miller, W. Maple, Henry Vernon, and F. Binckes (Secretary). The minutes having been read and confirmed, nine petitions were submitted, of which six were accepted and three deferred. Of applications made for outfits by ex-pupils, four were granted and one was deferred. £500 was invested on account of the General Fund, and a sum of £20 a year towards maintenance and education was granted in the case of a boy whose health did not allow of his being housed, &c., at the School. In the course of the proceedings reference was made to the death of Bro. Lieut.-Col. Creaton, a Patron, and one of the Trustees of the Institution.

The December meeting of the Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday. Bro. Raynham W. Stewart P.G.D. occupied the chair, and among those present were Bros. Jabez Hogg, Edgar Bowyer, C. A. Cottebrune, F. Adlard, John Bulmer, James Brett, W. Hilton, J. A. Farnfield, Charles Lacey, Charles Belton, Z. B. Daniell, Thomas Cubitt, D. V. Cama, C. H. Webb, Charles Daniel, Charles Dairy, W. March, C. F. Hogard, and James Terry. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the Secretary reported the death of Brother Lieut.-Colonel Creaton, Past Grand Treasurer, one of the Trustees of the Institution. It was directed that a letter of condolence with Mrs. Creaton should be written. The death of four male and two female annuitants was reported, as well as one of the widows in receipt of half her late husband's annuity.

The Wardens' report was read, and the Chairman authorised to sign cheques. Brother Jabez Hogg's motion,

"That, in consideration of the eminent services rendered to the Institution by Bro. G. Blizard Abbott, in having written the History of the Institution, he be elected an Honorary Life Governor, with all the privileges appertaining thereto."

was carried unanimously. Ten new petitions, and one deferred, were then successively considered and dealt with, the result being that the latter was rejected, while of the new ones seven were accepted, and three deferred. An application from the widow of a deceased annuitant for the half of his annuity for the usual period was deferred for further consideration. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

The meetings of the Mount Edgcumbe Lodge of Instruction are now held every Tuesday evening at the Three Stags, Lambeth Road, S.W. Brother Wise P.M. is the Preceptor, while the duties of Secretary are efficiently carried out by Brother R. W. Edgley I.G. of the Mother Lodge. Brethren who may honour this Lodge of Instruction with a visit may rely on a cordial reception.

Old Warrants (c).

—:o:—

"Lodge of True Friendship," Calcutta, No. 315, according to Bro. Gould as an "Ancient" Lodge up to 1813, in which year Bro. Hughau claims it became 301, and thus took 383 at the Union in December 1813; altered to 265 in 1832, and 218 from A.D. 1863, at which it now remains.

ATHOLL, GRAND MASTER.

WILLIAM DICKEY, D.G.M.

ROBERT GILL, S.G.W.

GEORGE BOWEN, J.G.W.

To all whom it may concern.

WE, the GRAND LODGE of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons (according to the old Constitutions granted by His Royal Highness Prince EDWIN, at York, Anno Domini Nine Hundred Twenty and Six, and in the Year of Masonry Four thousand Nine hundred Twenty and Six), in ample form assembled, viz., The Most Worshipful the Most Noble and Puissant Prince John, Duke, Marquis and Earl of Atholl, Marquis and Earl of Tullibardine, Earl of Strathtay and Strathardle, Viscount Glenalmond, Balquider, and Glenlyon, Baron Murray of Tullibardine, Lord Belvennie and Gask, Earl Strange, Baron Strange, and Baron Murray, &c.,

GRAND MASTER OF MASONS,

the Right Worshipful William Dickey, Esq^{re}, Deputy Grand Master; the Right Worshipful Robert Gill, Esq^{re}, Senior Grand Warden, and the Right Worshipful George Bowen, Esq^{re}, Junior Grand Warden, with the approbation and consent of the Warranted Lodges held within the Cities and Suburbs of London and Westminster, do hereby authorise and empower our Trusty and Well-beloved Brethren, viz., the Worshipful Daniell Templeman, Esq^{re}, one of our Master Masons, the Worshipful Peth Henry Ormsby, his Senior Warden, and the Worshipful Thomas Breton, his Junior Warden, to form and hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons as aforesaid, at Calcutta (Lodge Room of True Friendship), upon the First and Third Tuesday in every Month, and on all reasonable times and lawful occasions, and in the said Lodge (when duly congregated) to admit and make Freemasons according to the Most Ancient and Honourable Customs of the Craft, in all Ages and Nations throughout the known world. And we do hereby further authorise and empower our said Trusty and Well-beloved Brethren, Daniel Templeman, Peth Henry Ormsby and Thomas Breton (with the consent of the Members of their Lodge), to nominate, chuse, and install their Successors, to whom they shall deliver this Warrant, and invest them with their Powers and Dignities as Free Masons, &c. And such Successors shall in like manner nominate, chuse, and install their Successors, &c., &c., &c. Such Installations to be upon (or near) every St. JOHN'S DAY, during the above named Brethren and all their Successors always pay due respect to this Right Worshipful Grand Lodge, otherwise this Warrant to be of no force or virtue.

Given under our Hands and the Seal of our Grand Lodge, in London, this Twenty Seventh day of December in the year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred Ninety and Seven, and in the Year of Masonry Five Thousand Seven hundred Ninety and Seven.

ROBT. LESLIE,

Grand Secretary.

NOTE.—This Warrant is registered in the Grand Lodge, Vol. 12, Letter M.

N.B.—If any of our Calcutta brethren would kindly forward to us the number, or numbers on the Warrant, of which the foregoing is a copy, we shall be glad to acknowledge the favour.—ED. F.C.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

LODGE OF JOPPA, No. 188.

THE regular meeting of this Lodge was held on the 1st inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C. Present—Bros. G. Bean W.M., Martin S.W., J. W. Dewsnap J.W., J. S. Lyon Treasurer, L. Lazarus P.M. Secretary, L. Wall S.D., G. M. Lion J.D., L. Davis Steward, P. E. Van Noorden Organist. Past Masters A. G. Dodson, R. Baker, L. M. Myers, H. M. Levy, M. Alexander, S. Hickman, O. Roberts. Visitors—W. W. Westley 186, C. Godsmark 1209, E. Spencer 1922, H. Lister 1320, J. W. Stunt S.W. 1320, W. P. Lyon 185, Fonillade 1381, A. Kleinen 1929. Bro. C. G. Ellis was passed. Bro. Kleinan 1929 was, by the courtesy of the W.M., raised by Bro. A. G. Dodson P.M. The election of W.M. then took place, and Bro. A. Martin was chosen. Bro. J. S. Lyon was re-elected Treasurer, and Goddard Tyler. Five brethren were elected to serve on the Board of Management, eight to serve on the Benevolent Fund, and two to act as Auditors. Bro. L. Lazarus P.M. announced his intention to act as Steward at the next annual Festival for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. Bro. H. M. Levy proposed, and Bro. A. G. Dodson seconded, that a sum of ten guineas be voted from the funds, to be placed on his list. Bro. A. G. Dodson then proposed that a sum of five guineas be given from the funds of the Lodge for the purpose of forming the nucleus of a fund to provide a jewel for the outgoing Master. This was carried unanimously, and the Lodge was closed until the 1st Monday in January. The brethren then sat down to supper, after which the W.M. proposed the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts. Bro. H. M. Levy P.M. and Senior V.P. responded on behalf of the Benevolent Fund, and then proposed the toast of the W.M., who briefly responded. The toast of the W.M. elect followed. Bro. Martin was generally respected; the W.M. was sure he would exhibit his knowledge of Freemasonry during his term of office, and prove that the brethren had selected one to preside over them able to keep the Lodge in its path of prosperity. Bro. Martin thanked the brethren for electing him as W.M.; he would do all he could for the prosperity of the Lodge. The toast of the Visitors was given, and Bro. J. W. Stunt S.W. 1320 responded. Toasts of the P.M.'s, Treasurer, Secretary, Wardens and Officers followed. The W.M. said he felt proud of the Officers who had supported him in his year of office. The Tyler's toast was given, and then a very agreeable evening was closed.

ST. MARY LODGE, No. 1312.

THE annual Festival of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, 2nd inst. when Bro. Joshua Nunn P.G.S.B. was installed as W.M., the ceremony being performed with his usual ability by Bro. Vero Taylor. The Officers for the ensuing year are as follows:—Bros. Kellett I.P.M., Hutley S.W., Fuller J.W., Tuffnell Treasurer, Malyn Secretary, Copus S.D., Brown J.D., Suckling I.G., Metson Tyler. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Taylor for his kindness in attending and performing the ceremony, which was suitably acknowledged by Bro. Taylor. Bro. Kellett was re-elected to represent the Lodge on the Essex Provincial Charity Committee. The brethren subsequently sat down to banquet at the White Hart Hotel, Bocking, the repast being excellently served by the host. In the course of the evening the health of the Worshipful Master was heartily drunk, and pleasure was expressed by all that Bro. Nunn, who is a very old Mason, and has done signal service to the Craft for many years as President of the Board of Benevolence, and other ways, had consented to be the W.M. for the ensuing year. The Worshipful Master, in responding, said having come to reside in the neighbourhood, he was pleased to do anything he could to promote the good of Freemasonry. Among the brethren present, in addition to those already mentioned, were Bros. Ralling 51, White 1437, Turner 51, Hales 650, Haiden 817; and the following members of 1312:—Bros. Cavill, Inman, Claydon, Moore, and Pomphrey.

CAXTON LODGE, No. 1853.

THE regular meeting of this Lodge was held on the 1st inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, E.C. Bros. J. Oakman W.M., J. F. Beck S.W., W. W. Richardson J.W., E. Cole Treasurer, H. Meredith P.M. Secretary, Gibson as S.D., S. Morley I.G., P.M. Dawson. Mr. G. F. Norbury was initiated, and Bro. J. O'Brien was passed. The ceremonies were well rendered by the W.M. (Bro. Oakman). A banquet followed the closing of the Lodge. The W.M., in very pertinent and eloquent terms, proposed the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts. Bro. Meredith P.M. proposed the health of the W.M., who replied, and then proposed the toast of the Visitors. Bros. Vale 901 and Griffiths 1466 responded to the toast, and gave a meed of praise to the W.M., whose working and presidency reflected great credit. The W.M., in proposing the toast of the Treasurer and Secretary, regretted the absence of the former brother, but they had Bro. Meredith P.M. and Secretary present, who from his first appearance in the Lodge up to the present time had contributed to its success. Bro. Meredith was grateful for the kind reception of the toast. He spoke of his association with the Worshipful Master, and felt proud to say that from the foundation of the Lodge they had not been in debt, and hoped by the co-operation of the brethren they never would be. The toast of the Wardens and Officers, very genially and humorously given, concluded a very enjoyable evening. The Visitors were Bros. James Geo. Reid 186, John Merry J.D. 1420, John Ermslie 1420, E. J. Richardson J.W. 1420, E. Wilkinson S.W. 1420, J. Vale 901, J. Griffiths 1466.

CHISWICK LODGE, No. 2012.

A MEETING was held on Monday, 8th inst., at the Bolton Hotel, Duke-road, Chiswick, W. Bros. Geo. Everett P.M. P.Z. W.M.,

Charles Everett S.W., George Gardner J.W., F. K. Lawrence P.M. P.Z., M.P., Treasurer, H. Price Secretary, R. Harvey S.D., J. Sadle Wood J.D., W. Gomm D.C., H. Furze acting I.G., Broad Tyler, Reichelman Organist; also Bros. A. H. Strong, H. Frnen, C. Coward, J. H. D. Meyer, Charles Notley, J. Brown, E. Bayley, R. Wimpey, C. Parker, C. Hopkins, Charles Hughes. Visitors—Smither, E. Brittain. After the minutes of previous meeting had been read and confirmed a ballot was taken, which proved unanimous in favour of a joining member. Lodge was then opened in second degree, and Bros. Packer and Meyer were passed. Bro. Notley was then examined and passed to the sublime degree of M.M., both ceremonies being performed in the Worshipful Master's well-known efficient manner. Lodge was then resumed to the first degree. This being election night, the brethren voted the Senior Warden to fill the chair as Master for the ensuing twelve months. The Treasurer was re-elected, and Bro. Broad elected Tyler. Auditors were appointed, and the Audit meeting fixed for the 29th inst. Bro. George Gardner then rose and proposed that a Past Master's jewel be presented to the outgoing Master, and expressed the great satisfaction the brethren must feel at having had the valuable services of so well-known and efficient a Mason to govern and assist them during the first year of the Lodge's existence. This proposal was seconded by Bro. C. Everett, and cordially received and agreed to. Bro. G. Gardner then announced that he had given his name as Steward for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution; he should be pleased to represent the Lodge. It was unanimously voted that Bro. Gardner should do so. Nothing further offering for the good of Freemasonry, Lodge was closed and the brethren proceeded to the banquet-room. The after-proceedings were enlivened by excellent vocal and instrumental music, by Bros. Farze, Brown, Smither, &c. Thus ended one of the pleasantest evenings this Lodge has held, and augurs well for the future.

ABBEY LODGE, No. 2030.

A REGULAR meeting of this influential Lodge was held on the 8th instant, at the Westminster Town Hall. It was numerously attended by the members, with a large array of distinguished Visitors. Bros. Burdett-Contts W.M., Baker S.W., Seager-Hunt J.W., Rogers P.M. Treasurer, Shand P.M. Secretary, Sugg P.M. S.D., Gibson J.D., Griffin Steward, Baker I.G., Schartau Organist, Rev. R. J. Simpson P.G.C. Chaplain, Spink I.P.M., Piper Assistant Wine Steward. Visitors—Bros. Roach 55, Young 33, Dresden 1602, Jarrett, Goodrich 1321, Sutton 1406, Welland 1319, Willson 1321, Ferguson 177, Sheard 74, Belt, Evans 172, Pope 1305, Terry 1298, States 1507, Mitchell 1558, Massey 619, Hammond, White 177, Ferguson 1691, Bignold 1624, Worrell 766, Levy 188, &c. Lodge was formally opened, and the minutes of last meeting were confirmed. Bros. Talbot, Davies, Dick, and Holland were raised to the third degree, and Bros. Smith, Bridgman and Berry were passed. Ballots were taken for the admission of Messrs. Hodges, Hillier, and White, who were duly initiated into the Order. The several ceremonies were performed by the W.M. perfectly and impressively, and were listened to with evident pleasure by old and distinguished Masons. The several Officers were equally efficient. Brother Spink, who during the first year is acting as Past Master, stated that the brethren of the City of Westminster Lodge had lately invited the Master and Officers of the Abbey Lodge to their installation meeting. He believed this was the first time that this brotherly and friendly act had been performed by an English Lodge; he hailed the advent of such a custom with the greatest delight, as he thought it would lead to the binding together of Lodges and brethren even closer than they were before. He could assure the brethren of the City of Westminster that the Officers of that Lodge would be invited to the next installation meeting of the Abbey. The Worshipful Master next introduced the subject of a Stewardship of the Abbey Lodge for the Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, but after some little discussion an understanding was arrived at that the Lodge should take up the support of only one Institution a-year. The Worshipful Master acted as Steward for the Girls' School last Festival, and would act for the Boys' next year. The brethren, before the Lodge was closed, on the motion of the Senior Warden, seconded by Bro. Spink, voted two guineas to the Christmas entertainment of the annuitants in the Benevolent Institution at Croydon. Hearty good wishes were given from the numerous visitors for the prosperity of the Lodge, and to the W.M. who had so successfully occupied the chair. The brethren then adjourned to the Banqueting Hall, where 90 guests sat down. Great credit is due to Bros. Bertram and Roberts, whose catering reflected credit on them. The service was superintended by Bro. Woods. After the toasts of the Queen and the Craft; His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Most Worshipful Grand Master; the Pro Grand Master the Earl of Carnarvon, and the rest of the Grand Officers; the W.M. said he would call the on Rev. R. J. Simpson. Bro. Simpson P.G.C. responded; he looked forward to the time when Brother Burdett-Contts would take his place in Grand Lodge, which he had not done as yet. He hoped to see him taking a prominent part in the proceedings of Grand Lodge; when he did, he would personally appreciate Lord Carnarvon and Lord Lathom. If Grand Lodge had been present that evening it would have been pleased with the working of the Abbey Lodge. From the W.M. downwards all the Officers did their work well, and if all Lodges did the same it would tend to raise the Craft to the high degree of excellence and power which it ought to maintain. This was really being done by the Lodges quietly and unobtrusively, and it reminded him of the building of King Solomon's temple, which was done without noise of instruments or iron, as was described by Heber—

No hammer fell, no ponderous axes rung;
Like a tall palm the mystic fabric sprang.

Bro. Spink I.P.M. said it was with great pleasure he rose to propose the next toast—the health of the Worshipful Master. They had all

witnessed Bro. Burdett-Contts' working; he had fulfilled his duties in a proper manner; in fact he (Bro. Spink) had rarely seen them done so well. The members had reason to be proud of their Worshipful Master, both for his work and for the way he carried out that Masonic duty—Charity—the corner-stone of the fabric, the bright jewel that adorned the whole erection. He was sure Bro. Burdett-Contts was proud of being Master of the Lodge. Nobody could possibly help being proud of being first Master of a Lodge whose success was without example in the history of Metropolitan Lodges or in the wide range of English Freemasonry. Having had less than a twelve months existence it had 55 or 56 members; the W. Master had initiated 24 or 25; and raised and passed 23 or 24. The Worshipful Master in reply said it was extremely difficult for him to express the great feeling of appreciation he had of the way in which his name had been received by the brethren. He hoped the working would always be a great object in the Lodge. It had been a certain amount of labour to him to get it up, for which he did not take to himself any credit, but he advanced it as a proof of his love of the work, and his respect for the Institution. He was very much indebted to his Officers, because the greater part of the excellence of his work was effected by them. With respect to Masonic Charity, the Lodge had done well, and the contributions to his list as Steward for the Girls' School were most hearty and loyal. He was proud to reflect upon the extraordinary success of the Lodge, which had been referred to by Bro. Spink. Although it was not unprecedented, it was unusual, and he did not know to what to attribute it, except to the fact that in Westminster there was a combination of circumstances which showed there was a necessity for such a Lodge. This had been proved by the fact of such a large number of brethren wishing to join, and of gentlemen wishing to be initiated. He hoped he should be excused if he ventured to think that the name he bore had to a certain extent created a prejudice in favour of the Lodge. He was sorry to have been absent from the last meeting of the Lodge, but he was grateful to Bro. Spink for having done his work. He (the W.M.) was then in Ireland with the Baroness Burdett-Contts, and the visit was interesting for many reasons. The Baroness had long before been connected with Ireland by her good works. On this, their first visit to that country, he was glad to say the Baroness was received, even in those parts with which she had not been personally connected, most cordially. When they went down to the south-west, through a bleak and Atlantic-beaten coast, which stood like a sentinel facing towards the west—nothing but 3000 miles of the ocean between it and America—the Baroness met with a reception that was one of the most extraordinary scenes he had ever realized. He had seen her received in London, by crowds stretching from Piccadilly to St. Pauls, with continuous shouting and cheering; by a Provincial town in the North, with 100,000 cheering; but that was nothing to the warmth, enthusiasm and devotion which was shown by those wild, uncouth inhabitants of the south-west of Ireland. There was certainly a cause for it, for four or five years ago she set on foot a system of assisting these people. Off the coast was an enormous quantity of mackerel, which vessels from England, Scotland, and France were sent to catch. These vessels took the fish, which were really a fortune, and the inhabitants of the Irish coast—rough, hardy and brave men—were compelled year after year, up to five years ago, to sit idly looking on at these foreigners taking away the harvest of the sea, because they had no boats to go out to sea in. The Baroness started a system of providing them with boats, on strictly commercial principles. The consequence was that a town that seven or eight years ago was in an extremely destitute condition was now practically on the road to prosperity. Companies had sprung up; the fishermen had in that short space of time been able to make sufficient money to improve their dwellings and buy land, and also to buy boats for themselves. Yet all the time they had done this they had been scrupulous in paying back their loans, and at the present time there was not £5 outstanding. In concluding, he trusted the Lodge would always cherish the traditions of the Craft and those feelings of sympathy which seemed to him the most charming element in their meetings. In speaking to the toast of the Initiates, the W.M. said he had not the pleasure of knowing all of them, but one he had known for many years; he referred to Bro. Hodges. He, with the other initiates was welcome to the Lodge. Brother Hodges eloquently responded; he felt it an honour to be initiated by his esteemed friend the W.M. He regretted he had been so long without being a member of the Order. He was followed by Bros. Hillier and White. The W.M. next proposed the toast of the Visitors, and Bros. Jarrett P.P.D.G.M. Herts, Jas. Terry P.P.G.J.D. Herts, Ferguson P.M. 1691, and Brother Sutton responded. In the course of his remarks Bro. Jas. Terry said he, as a member of the Burdett-Contts Lodge, No. 1278, fully appreciated the unbounded liberality of that noble lady the Baroness Burdett-Contts. Especially he thanked the Senior Warden, who had proposed the sum of £2 2s in aid of the Christmas Entertainment to the inmates of the Institution at Croydon. In proposing the health of the Past Masters, the W.M. referred to the great assistance he had received at the hands of Bro. Spink. This compliment having been gracefully acknowledged, Bros. Rogers (Treasurer), Shand (Secretary), Baker (S.W.), and Seager-Hunt in sequence made a few remarks, and the proceedings closed. During the evening Bros. Cantle, Baker, and Hanson contributed to the harmony.

Justice Lodge of Instruction, No. 147.—On Thursday, the 11th instant, at the Brown Bear, High-street, Deptford. Bros. Cooper W.M., Stringer S.W., J. J. Pitt J.W., Banks Treas., Speight P.M. Sec., Dale S.D., Prior J.D., Penrose I.G., Hutchings P.M. Preceptor, also Bros. J. Bedford Williams, H. G. Pitt, Penney, Dixon, and Emblin. The work comprised the rehearsal of the ceremony of initiation, Bro. J. B. Williams personating the candidate. Lodge was then called off, and on resuming Bro. H. G. Pitt answered the questions leading to the degree of F.C. in a very satisfactory manner. Lodge was opened in the second, and the ceremony of

passing rehearsed. Lodge was closed in the second degree. Bro. Stringer S.W. was elected W.M. for the ensuing Thursday.

Royal Alfred Lodge of Instruction, No. 780.—A meeting was held on Friday, 28th Nov., at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge. Present:—Bros. Monson jun. W.M., Wing S.W., Edmeston J.W., F. Botley S.D., Thomas J.D., Andrews Preceptor, C. E. Botley I.G. and Secretary. P.M.'s Bros. Hodges, Tyler, Gunner, Goss, Hilton, Blasby, Sugg; and Bros. Gillett, Turner, Edwards, Coombes, Strong, Maton, Sapsworth, S. Blasby, Brill. Visitors—Bros. Morton 1818, Clarkson 1604, R. C. Coombes 1585. The only business consisted in opening the Lodge, reading and confirming the minutes of the last meeting, and closing; after which the brethren sat down to the Annual Supper, which was excellently served by Bro. Brill, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. After the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts, harmony was indulged in. Bros. Wing, Thomas, Gillett, Strong, Brill, F. Botley, and C. E. Botley assisting. Bro. E. H. Sugg at the pianoforte.

On Friday, 5th inst., Bros. Valentine Wing W.M., F. Botley S.W., Thomas J.W., C. E. Botley Sec., Turner J.D., Andrews Preceptor, Bailey I.G. Visitor Bro. R. Norton 1818. Lodge was opened and the minutes were read, confirmed, and signed. Lodge was then opened to the third degree, closed in third, and resumed to first. The initiation ceremony was then rehearsed, Bro. C. E. Botley candidate, Bro. Norton answered the questions leading to second degree. Bro. C. E. Botley and the brethren worked the first section of the first Lecture, and Bro. Preceptor and the brethren worked the second section. Bro. Norton of the Clapham Lodge, No. 1818, was elected a member, and Bro. F. Botley was appointed W.M. for 12th December.

New Concord Lodge of Instruction, No. 813.—At the Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., on Wednesday, 10th instant, Bros. Smith W.M., Langdale S.W., Weedon J.W., Western S.D., Warner J.D., Dixie I.G., Cusworth P.M. Preceptor, Conrad Acting Secretary. Lodge was opened in due form and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Potter candidate. Bro. Potter answered the questions leading to second degree, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed. It was proposed and carried unanimously that the annual supper be held on Wednesday, the 21st January 1885, at the Jolly Farmers', at 8 o'clock. Nothing further having been offered for the good of Freemasonry, Lodge was closed in due form and adjourned.

To-day (Saturday) the installation meeting of the Gallery Lodge, No. 1928, will be held, when Bro. Minstrell W.M. will instal his successor, Bro. Duckworth. A valuable Past Master's jewel has been voted to Brother Minstrell, and we understand that, as a mark of esteem and regard for the outgoing Master, the members of the Lodge will present a valuable gold bracelet, suitably engraved, to Mrs. Minstrell. Owing to the exertions of the retiring Worshipful Master, the foundation expenses of the Lodge have all but been extinguished, and the Lodge, which has more than answered the anticipations of success of the Founders, will at the close of next year have a considerable balance, it is confidently expected, in hand.

Bro. Thomas Minstrell W.M. Gallery Lodge, No. 1928, J.W. Vitruvian, No. 87, and Z. of Gallery Chapter, Bro. P.M. Massey H. Gallery Chapter, and Bros. Hecksher, Herbert Wright, and Coulter represented the Reporters' Gallery of the House of Commons at the funeral, on Wednesday, at Brompton Cemetery, of Mr. Charles Ross, who for thirty years was leader of the *Times* Corps, and who had been connected with Parliamentary reporting since 1820. Mr. Ross was the principal witness against O'Connell when indicted for treason, he having taken the notes upon which the prosecution was founded. A splendid wreath was placed upon the coffin by Bro. Hecksher, on behalf of his colleagues and those they represented.

A Convocation of the North London Chapter of Improvement was held at the Alwyne Castle Tavern, St. Paul's-road, Canonbury, on Thursday, 11th inst. Comps. W. H. Dean M.E.Z. Provincial Grand Registrar of Dorset, A. Hubbard H., T. Minstrell J., Sheffield S.E., Radcliffe S.N., Gregory P.S., Edmonds Preceptor. Much of the success which has attended this Chapter of Improvement is due to the untiring energy and zeal of Comp. Edmonds, the highly respected Preceptor, whose exertions the Companions frequenting this Chapter never fail to recognise and acknowledge.

FUNERALS.—Bros. W. K. L. & G. A. HUTTON, Coffin Makers and Undertakers, 17 Newcastle Street, Strand, W.C. and 30 Forest Hill Road, Peckham Rye, S.E.

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, 13th DECEMBER.

- 108—London, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street
173—Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
176—Caveac, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street
1198—Perey, Jolly Farmers', Southgate Road, N., 8. (Instruction)
1276—Star, Five Bells, 155 New Cross-road, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
1364—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7. (Instruction)
1326—The Great City, Cannon Street Hotel
1612—West Middlesex, The Institute, Ealing
1824—Eccleston, Crown and Anchor, 79 Ebury Street, S.W., at 7 (Instruction)
1871—Mizpah, Albion Hotel, Aldersgate-street
1839—Duke of Cornwall, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1928—Gallery, Brixton Hall, Acre Lane, Brixton
1964—Clerkenwell, Holborn Viaduct Hotel, E.C.
2012—Chiswick, Hampshire Hog, King Street, Hammersmith, W. (Instruct.)
Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8
R.A. 811—Yarborough, Royal Pavilion, Brighton

MONDAY, 15th DECEMBER.

- 1—Grand Masters', Freemasons' Tavern, W.C.
8—British, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
21—Emulation, Albion, Aldersgate-street
22—Loughborough, Cambria Tavern, Cambria Road, near Loughborough Junction, at 7.30. (Instruction)
45—Strong Man, Excise Tavern, Old Broad Street, E.C., at 7 (Instruction)
174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, Railway Place, Fenchurch Street, at 7. (Inst.)
180—St. James's Union, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
185—Tranquillity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
212—Euphrates, Mother Red Cap, High Street, Camden Town, at 8. (Inst.)
548—Wellington, White Swan, High-street, Deptford, at 8 (Instruction)
720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham.
862—Whittington, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1425—Hyde Park, Fountain Abbey Hotel, Praed Street, Paddington, at 8 (Inst.)
1445—Prince Leopold, Printing Works, 202 Whitechapel Road, E., at 7 (Inst.)
1489—Marquess of Ripon, Pembury Tavern, Amhurst-rd., Hackney, at 7.30 (Inst.)
1507—Metropolitan, The Moorgate, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., at 7.30 (Inst.)
1537—St. Peter Westminster, Criterion, W.
1585—Royal Commemoration, Railway Hotel, High Street, Putney, at 8. (Inst.)
1608—Kilburn, 46 South Molton Street, Oxford Street, W., at 8. (Inst.)
1623—West Smithfield, Clarence Hotel, Aldersgate Street, E.C., at 7 (Inst.)
1625—Frelcgar, Royal Hotel Mile End Road, corner of Burdett Road. (Inst.)
1693—Kings'ndi, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., at 8.30 (Instruction)
1891—St. Ambrose, Baron's Court Hotel, West Kensington. (Instruction)
1910—Shadwell Clerke, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill
R.A. 1319—Asaph, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
M.M. 173—Temple, Green Dragon Tavern, Stepney
77—Freedom, Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend
236—York, Masonic Hall, York
331—Phoenix Public Room, Truro
359—Peace and Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Southampton
424—Borough, Half Moon Hotel, Gateshead
468—Merit, George Hotel, Stamford Baron, Northampton
622—St. Cuthberts, Masonic Hall, Wimborne
725—Stoneleigh, King's Arms Hotel, Kenilworth
823—Everton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7.30. (Instruction)
925—Bedford Masonic Hall, New Street, Birmingham
934—Merit, Derby Hotel, Whitefield
985—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Holbeach.
1030—Egerton, George Hotel, Wellington Road, Heaton Norris, near Stockport
1037—Portland, Portland Hall, Portland
1141—Mid Sussex, King's Arms Hotel, Horsham
1170—St. George, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
1199—Agriculture, Honey Hall, Congresbury
1208—Corinthian, Royal Hotel, Pier, Dover
1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury, at 8. (Instruction)
1502—Israel, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
1609—Carnarvon, Masonic Hall, Nottingham
R.A. 32—Jerusalem, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool
R.A. 40—Emulation, Castle Hotel, Hastings
R.A. 296—Loyalty, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey-street, Sheffield
R.A. 345—Perseverance, Old Bull Hotel, Blackburn
R.A. 482—St. James, New Inn, Handsworth
R.A. 779—St. Augustine, Town Hall, Ashby-de-la-Zouch
M.M. 141—Skelmersdale, Pitt and Nelson Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne

TUESDAY, 16th DECEMBER.

- Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, at 4
30—United Mariners, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
55—Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton-bldgs., Holborn, at 7 (Inst.)
65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction)
73—Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark
95—Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, E.C.
141—Faith, Queen Anne's Restaurant, Queen Anne's Gate, St. James's Park, Station, at 8. (Instruction)
162—Cadogan, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
177—Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30 (Instruction)
188—Joppa, Champion Hotel, Aldersgate-street, at 7.30. (Instruction)
554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney (Instruction)
763—Prince Frederick William, Eagle Tavern, Clifton Road, Maida Hill, at 8 (Instruction)
820—Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, at 7.30 (Instruction)
890—Dalhousie, Sisters' Tavern, Pownall-road, Dalston, at 8 (Instruction)
1044—Wandsworth, East Hill Hotel, Alma Road, Wandsworth (Instruction)
1321—Emblematic, Red Lion, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W., at 8 (Inst.)
1339—Stockwell, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell
1349—Friars, Liverpool Arms, Canning Town, at 7.30 (Instruction)
1360—Royal Arthur, Rock Tavern, Battersea Park Road, at 8. (Instruction)
1381—Kennington, The Horns, Kennington. (Instruction)
1420—Earl Spencer, Swan Hotel, Battersea Old Bridge
1446—Mount Edgecombe, Three Stags, Lambeth Road, S.W., at 8 (Inst.)
1471—Islington, Champion, Aldersgate Street, at 7. (Instruction)
1472—Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich (Instruction)
1540—Chaucer, Old White Hart, Borough High Street, at 8. (Instruction)
1601—Ravensbourne, George Inn, Lewisham, at 7.30 (Instruction)
1602—Sir Hugh Myddelton, King Edward VI., King Edward Street, Liverpool Road, N., at 8. (Instruction)
1695—New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tavern, Finsbury Park, at 8 (Inst.)
1707—Eleanor, Trocadero, Broad-street-buildings, Liverpool-street, 6.30 (Inst.)
1949—Brixton, Prince Regent Dulwich-road, East Brixton, at 8. (Instruction)
R.A. 11—Camden, The Boston, Junction Road, Holloway, at 8 (Instruction)
R.A. 11—Enoch, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
R.A. 19—Mount Sinai, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street
R.A. 1365—Clapton, White Hart Tavern, Clapton, at 8. (Instruction)
M.M. 238—Prince Leopold, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.

- 213—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, Theatre-street, Norwich
241—Merchants, Masonic Hall, Liverpool (Instruction)
348—True Love and Unity, Freemasons' Hall, Brixham, Devon
384—St. David, Masonic Rooms, Bangor.
402—Royal Sussex, George the Fourth, Nottingham
414—Union, Masonic Hall, Reading
418—Menturia, Mechanics' Institute, Hanley
468—Light, Great Western Hotel, Birmingham
667—Alliance, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
960—Bute, Masonic Hall, 9 Working-street, Cardiff.
1006—Tregulow, Masonic Rooms, St. Day, Scorrier, Cornwall
1032—Callender, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
1089—De Shurland, Fountain Hotel, Sheerness.
1113—Anglesea, Bull Hotel, Bangor
1276—Warren, Queen's Hotel, Birkenhead, Cheshire
1325—Stanley, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
1427—Perey, Masonic Hall, Maple-street, Newcastle
1470—Chiltern, Town Hall, Dunstable
1531—Concord, George Hotel, Frestwich
1551—Charity, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham
1570—Prince Arthur, 140 North Hill Street, Liverpool
1726—Gordon, Assembly Room, Bognor
1784—Eleanor Cross, Masonic Hall, Abington-street, Northampton
1941—St. Augustine's, Shrewsbury Arms Hotel, Rugeley
R.A. 41—Royal Cumberland, Masonic Hall, Old Orchard Street, Bath
R.A. 80—St. John's, Masonic Hall, Park Terrace, Sunderland
R.A. 315—Royal Pavilion, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
R.A. 419—St. Peter, Star and Garter Hotel, Wolverhampton
R.A. 792—Oliver, Masonic Hall, Osborne Street, Great Grimsby
R.A. 1151—Unity, Town Hall, Tywardreath, Cornwall
M.M. 1—Lebanon, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
M.M. 266—Amherst, Masonic Hall, Sandgate

WEDNESDAY, 17th DECEMBER.

- 3—Fidelity, Alfred, Roman Road, Barnsbury, at 8 (Instruction)
30—United Mariners', The Lugard, Peckham, at 7.30. (Instruction)
73—Mount Lebanon, Windsor Castle, Southwark Bridge Road, at 8. (Inst.)
174—Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
186—Industry, Railway Hotel, West Hampstead, at 7. (Instruction)
193—Confidence, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, at 7.30 (Instruction)
228—United Strength, The Hope, Stanhope Street, Regents Park, 8 (Inst.)
539—La Tolerance, Morland's Hotel, Dean Street, Oxford St. at 8 (Inst.)
720—Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham, at 7 (Instruction)
781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Burdett-road, E. (Instruction)
913—New Concord, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, N. (Instruction)
981—Finsbury, King and Queen, Norton Folgate, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
983—Whittington, Red Lion, Poppin's-court, Fleet-street, at 8 (Instruction)
992—Burgoyne, Victoria Hotel, Farringdon Road, at 7. (Instruction)
999—Maybury, Inns of Court Hotel, W.C.
1289—Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 8 (Instruction)
1349—Friars, London Tavern, Fenchurch Street
1382—Corinthian, George Inn, Glengall Road, Cubitt Town
1475—Peckham, Lord Wellington Hotel, 518 Old Kent-road, at 8. (Instruction)
1507—Metropolitan, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
1524—Duke of Connaught, Royal Edward, Mare-street, Hackney, at 8 (Inst.)
1604—Wanderers, Adam and Eve Tavern, Palmer St., Westminster, at 7.30 (Inst.)
1624—Eccleston, Criterion, Piccadilly
1662—Beaconsfield, Chequers, Marsh Street, Walthamstow, at 7.30 (Inst.)
1673—Langton, Viaduct Hotel, Holborn
1681—Londesborough, Berkeley Arms, John Street, May Fair, at 8. (Instruct.)
1791—Oraton, Prince Albert Tavern, Portobello-ter., Notting-hill-gate (Inst.)
1827—Crusaders, Imperial Hotel, Holborn Viaduct
1822—Earl of Lathom, Station Hotel, Camberwell New Road, S.E., at 8. (Inst.)
R.A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-st., at 8 (Instruction)
R.A. 933—Doric, 202 Whitechapel-road, at 7.30. (Instruction)
R.A. 1598—Ley Spring, Red Lion, Leytonstone
M.M. 1—Thistle, Freemasons' Tavern, W.C., at 8. (Instruction)
M.M. 144—Grosvenor, Masonic Hall, Air Street, Regent Street
20—Royal Kent of Antiquity, Sun Hotel, Chatham
121—Mount Sinai, Public-buildings, Penzance
175—East Medina, Masonic Hall, John-street, Ryde, I.W.
178—Antiquity Royal Hotel, Wigan
200—Old Globe, Private Rooms, Globe-street, Scarborough
221—St. John, Commercial Hotel, Town Hall Square, Bolton
246—Royal Union, Freemasons' Hall, Cheltenham.
311—South Saxon, Freemasons' Hall, Lewes
325—St. John's Freemasons' Hall, Islington-square, Salford
342—Royal Sussex, Freemasons' Hall, 79 Commercial Road, Landport
428—Sincerity, Angel Inn, Northwich, Cheshire
451—Sutherland, Town Hall, Burslem
537—Zetland, 9 Hamilton-street, Birkenhead.
581—Faith, Drover's Inn, Openshaw
592—Cotteswold, King's Head Hotel, Cirencester
594—Downshire, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7. (Instruction)
633—Yarborough, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
673—St. John, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 8. (Instruction)
683—Isca, Freemasons' Hall, Dock-street, Newport, Monmouthshire
758—Ellesmere, Masonic Hall, Rumcor, at 7.30. (Instruction)
816—Roid, Spring Gardens Inn, Wardle, near Rochdale
823—Everton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
874—Holmesdale, Royal Sussex Hotel, Tunbridge Wells
938—Grosvenor, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham
962—Sun and Sector, Assembly Rooms, Worthington
972—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury
1019—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield
1040—Sykes, Masonic Hall, Driffield, Yorks
1096—Walton, Skelmersdale Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool
1129—St. Chad, Roebuck Hotel, Rochdale
1161—De Grey and Ripon, Brunswick Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester
1208—Cinque Ports, Bell Hotel, Sandwich
1246—Holte, Holte Hotel, Aston
1255—Dundas, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth
1301—Brighthouse, Masonic Room, Bradford-road, Brighthouse
1337—Anchor, Masonic Rooms, Du ham House Northallerton
1353—Duke of Lancaster, Athenæum, Lancaster
1356—De Grey and Ripon, 140 North Hill-street, Liverpool, at 7.30 (Inst.)
1443—Salem, Town Hall, Dawlish, Devon
1511—Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Hornsea, Hull.
1536—United Military, Masonic Hall, Plumstead
1634—Starkie, Railway Hotel, Ramsbottom
R.A. 258—Amphibious, Freemasons' Hall, Heckmondwike
R.A. 274—Fidelity, Boar's Head, Newchurch
R.A. 361—Industry, Norfolk Arms, Hyde
R.A. 591—Buckingham, George Hotel, Aylesbury
R.A. 726—Royal Chartley of Fortitude, North Western Hotel, Stafford
R.A. 847—Fortescue, Masonic Hall, High Street, Honiton
R.A. 1397—Chorlton, Masonic Hall, High Lane, Chorlton-cum-Hardy

THURSDAY, 18th DECEMBER.

- House Committee Girls' School, Battersea Rise, at 4
27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
49—Gihon, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street
87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8 (Instruction)
147—Justice, Brown Bear, High Street, Deptford, at 8. (Instruction)
169—Temperance, White Swan, High-street, Deptford
179—Manchester, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street
435—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8 (Inst.)
704—Camden, Lincoln's Inn Restaurant, 305 High Holborn, at 7 (Instruction)
749—Belgrave, The Clarence, Aldersgate Street, E.C. (Instruction)

- 754—High Cross, Coach and Horses, Lower Tottenham, at 8 (Instruction)
 813—New Concord, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street
 901—City of London, Jamaica Coffee House, Cornhill, at 6.30. (Instruction)
 1153—Southern Star, Pheasant, Stangate, Westminster-bridge, at 8 (Inst.)
 1185—Lewis, Kings Arms Hotel, Wood Green, at 7 (Instruction)
 1278—Burdett Coutts, Swan Tavern, Bettinal Green Road, E., 8. (Instruction)
 1287—Great Northern, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1306—St. John, Three Crowns Tavern, Mile End Road, E. (Instruction)
 1339—Stockwell, Cock Tavern, Kennington-road, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 1426—The Great City, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, E.C., at 6.30 (Inst.)
 1558—D. Connaught, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor Park, Camberwell, at 8 (In.)
 1613—Cripplegate, Albion, Aldersgate-street
 1614—Covent Garden, Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden Lane, W.C., at 8. (Inst.)
 1622—Rose, Stirling Castle Hotel, Church Street, Camberwell. (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.)
 1681—Londesborough, Regent Masonic Hall, Air Street, W.
 1744—Royal Savoy, Yorkshire Grey, London Street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
 1901—Selwyn, East Dulwich Hotel, East Dulwich.
 1950—Southgate, Railway Hotel, New Southgate, at 7.30. (Instruction)

- Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement, White Hart, Cannon Street, 6.30.
 R.A. 79—Pythagorean, Ship Hotel, Greenwich
 R.A. 733—Westbourne, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood
 R.A. 753—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (In.)
 R.A. 1471—North London, Alwyne Castle Tavern, St. Paul's Road, Canonbury at 8. (Instruction)
 M.M. 199—Duke of Connaught, Haverlock, Albion-rd., Dalston, at 8. (Inst.)
 M.M.—Bon Accord, 8a Red Lion Square, W.C.
 M.M. 7—Carnarvon, Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court

- 42—Relief, Albion Hotel, Haymarket-street, Bury, Lancashire
 48—Industry, 34 Denmark-street, Gateshead. (Instruction)
 56—Howard, High-street, Arundel
 98—St. Martin, Town Hall, Burslem
 100—Friendship, Crown and Anchor, Great Yarmouth
 203—Ancient Union, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 268—Union, Queen's Arms Inn, George-street, Ashton-under-Lyne
 343—Concord, Militia Officers' Mess Rooms, Starkie-street, Preston
 345—Perseverance, Old Bull Hotel, Church-street, Blackburn
 367—Probity and Freedom, Red Lion Inn, Smallbridge
 623—John of Gaunt, Freemasons' Hall, Halford-street, Leicester
 600—Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street, Bradford
 606—Combermere, Queen's Hotel, Birkenhead

- 1011—Richmond, Crown Hotel, Blackfriars-street, Salford
 1042—Excelsior, Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds
 1184—Abbey, Masonic Hall, Battle
 1299—Pembroke, West Derby Hotel, West Derby, near Liverpool
 1332—Unity, Masonic Hall, Crediton, Devon
 1432—Fitzalan, Wynstay Arms, Oswestry
 1580—Cranbourne, Red Lion Hotel, Hatfield, Herts, at 8. (Instruction)
 1872—St. Margaret's, St. Mark's School, Surbiton

- R.A. 38—Cyrus, Council Chambers, North Street, Chichester
 R.A. 317—Affability, Freemasons' Hall, Cooper Street, Manchester
 R.A. 771—Windsor Castle, Masonic Hall, St. Alban Street, Windsor
 R.A. 1145—Equality, Red Lion, Accrington
 M.M.—Canynoges, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol
 M.M. 17—Portsmouth, Masonic Hall, Portsmouth
 K.T.—William de la More, Masonic Rooms, St. Helens, Liverpool

FRIDAY, 19th DECEMBER.

- House Committee Boys' School, Wood Green, at 4
 Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 7.
 6—Friendship, Willis's Rooms, St. James's
 25—Robert Burns, The North Pole, 115 Oxford-street, W., at 8 (Instruc.)
 141—St. Luke, White Hart, King's-road, Chelsea, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 201—Jordan, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Instruc.)
 766—William Preston, St. Andrew's Tavern, George St., Baker St., at 8. (In)
 780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge. (Instruction)
 834—Ranelagh, Six Bells, Hammersmith (Instruction)
 833—Doric, Duke's Head, 79 Whitechapel-road, at 8. (Instruction)
 1056—Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C. at 7. (Instruction)
 1158—Belgrave, Jermyn-street, S.W., at 8. (Instruction)
 1298—Royal Standard, Alwyne Castle, St. Paul's-road, Canonbury, at 8. (In.)
 1366—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1642—E. Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, at 8. (Instruction)
 1789—Ubique, 79 Ebury Street, Pimlico, S.W., at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1901—Selwyn, East Dulwich Hotel, East Dulwich. (Instruction)
 1962—London Rifle Brigade, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street
 R.A.—Panmure C. of Improvement, Stirling Castle, Church Street, Camberwell
 R.A. 79—Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, London-street, Greenwich. (Inst.)
 M.M.—Old Kent, Crown and Cushion, London Wall, E.C. (Instruction)
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 K.T. 6—St. George's, The Albion, Aldersgate Street
 R.C. 10—Invicta, Masonic Hall, 33 Golden-square, W.C.

- 127—Union, Freemasons' Hall, Margate
 152—Virtue, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
 271—Royal Clarence, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
 347—Noah's Ark, Wagon and Horses Hotel Tipton
 453—Chigwell, Loughton Tavern, Station Road, Loughton, at 7.30 (Inst)
 516—Phoenix, Fox Hotel, Stowmarket
 541—De Lorraine, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street, Newcastle
 663—Wiltshire Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Devizes.
 993—Alexandra, Midway Hotel, Levenshulme
 1096—Lord Warden, Wellington Hall, Deal
 1311—Zetland, Masonic Hall, Great George street, Leeds
 1393—Hamer, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 8. (Instruction)
 1773—Albert Victor, Town Hall, Pendleton
 General Lodge of Instruction, Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham, at 7

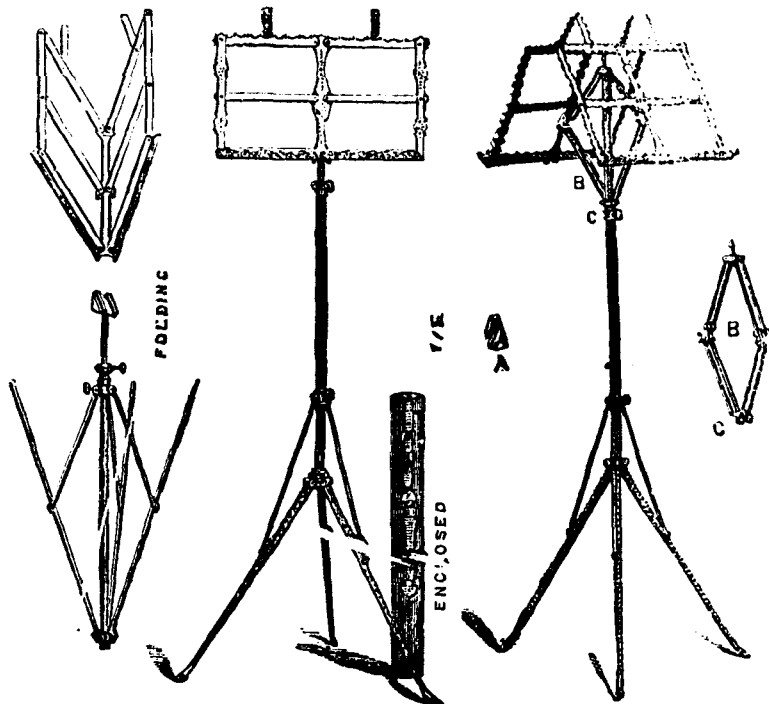
- R.A.—General Chapter of Improvement, Masonic Hall, Birmingham
 R.A. 52—Royal George, Norfolk Hotel, Norwich
 R.A. 61—Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, St. John's Place, Halifax
 R.A. 403—Hertford, Shire Hall, Hertford
 R.A. 521—Truth, Freemasons' Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, Hull
 R.A. 837—Marquess of Ripon, Town Hall, Ripon
 M.M. 66—West Lancashire, Masonic Hall, Liverpool

SATURDAY, 20th DECEMBER.

- 198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8 (Instruction)
 1275—Star, Five Bells, 155 New Cross-road, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
 1364—Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Mare-street, Hackney
 1364—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7 (Instruction)
 1624—Eccleston, Crown and Anchor, 79 Ebury Street, S.W., at 7 (Instruction)
 1641—Crichton, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell
 1732—King's Cross, Anderton's Hotel Street, Fleet, E.C.
 2012—Chiswick, Hampshire Hog, King Street, Hammersmith, W. (Instruc.)
 Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-st., W., at 8
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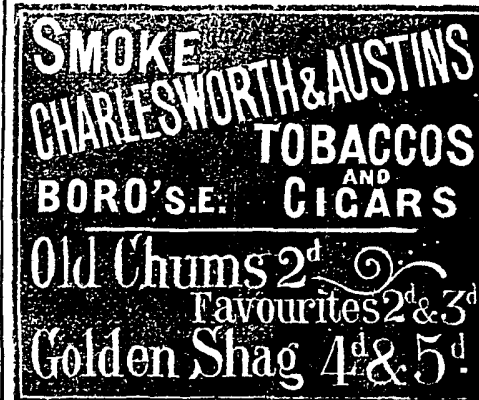
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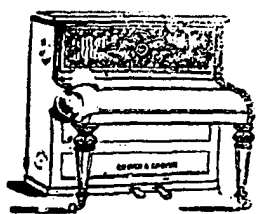
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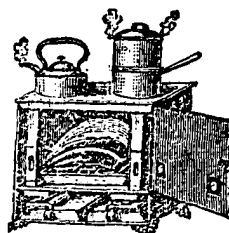
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