

THE
Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England.

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OUR TWENTY-NINTH VOLUME.

ONCE more the pleasure devolves upon us of addressing a few words to our readers at the commencement of a new Volume—to mark, as it were, the completion of another mile on our course, and to record our start on a TWENTY-NINTH STAGE. We have now been so long associated with the Craft Universal in a journalistic capacity that we regard its members as intimate personal friends, whose good wishes and encouragement it is our especial desire to secure. Our past career is the best guarantee we can offer for our future behaviour, and our fondest hope is that we may deserve, year by year, increased support from those for whom we cater, and that what we do may result for the benefit of the Craft and the advancement of its members. Once more we tender thanks for the encouragement that has been accorded us, and once again we promise to do all that lies in our power to merit an even greater share of the suffrages of Freemasons, both at home and abroad. Such are the sentiments with which we launch our TWENTY-NINTH VOLUME, which, we trust, will be brought to a successful termination in regular course, and will be followed by many more in years to come.

BROTHER SADLER'S ANSWER TO
BRO. JACOB NORTON'S

"COMMENTS ON FACTS AND FICTIONS."

(Continued from Vol. XXVIII., page 405.)

FOR reasons given in my article of the 15th December, I must beg to be excused entering into a discussion as to the truth or falsity of Dermott's account of Sir Christopher Wren's Grand Mastership; possibly Brother Norton may be right; if so Dermott, of course, must have been wrong, as many other historians have been who have had better opportunities for ascertaining the truth than a journeyman painter could have had in the middle of the last century. For my own part I am not disposed to accept either Anderson's or Dermott's account of the origin and formation of the Grand Lodge of 1717 as perfectly reliable; and, moreover, I do not expect to find any man infallible, not even Bro. Norton, who, in my opinion, is unjust to himself in stating that he disbelieves "anything and everything that was written by Dermott, and even his Grand Lodge records are, in my opinion, utterly unworthy of credence." I am not quite sure that we agree as to what should come under the definition of "records," but I think the term ought certainly to include the Minute Books and Registers of the Grand Lodge; if these are what Bro. Norton deems "unworthy of credence" I am fairly

puzzled to know what, in his opinion, is worthy of credence. I know he has seen some of the Registers, but am not sure that he has examined the Minute Books. If he has not, his expression of opinion ought not to influence any one, and if he has, I am quite certain it will not affect the views of those brethren who are personally familiar with them, and are quite as capable of forming an opinion as to their credibility as he is. I always like to give honour where honour is due, and shall, therefore, without hesitation, assign to Bro. Jacob Norton the merit of having been the very first to give expression to an opinion that the Grand Lodge records of the Ancients are "unworthy of credence." It is just possible, however, that there may be some few inquisitive people scattered about the world who would like to know something more about the said "records" before coming to a conclusion. It is but fair therefore that I should state that they are not *printed books*, but the veritable written transactions of the various meetings, in the handwriting of the different Grand Secretaries, recorded at the time of occurrence; those written by Dermott himself, which I assume that Bro. Norton considers as most "unworthy of credence," embracing a period when in their wildest dreams of future power and prosperity the Ancients could never have imagined such an event would ever come to pass as an union on more than equitable terms with their formidable opponents, who affected to hold them in so much contempt. These books were handed over, with the other property of the "Ancients," to the custody of the officials of the United Grand Lodge some twenty-four years after the death of Dermott, and I can safely say that they have never been tampered with from the time they were written to the present day.

With regard to the incident which first raised Bro. Norton's suspicions of Dermott's natural propensity for forging documents; we all know how easy it is to discover faults if we set out in search of them, and this, it appears, is what Brother Norton has done all through his investigation of this question of the "Ancients." Hence his frequent mistakes. I will readily admit that he is very much at a disadvantage in the matter of obtaining information, whereas I have every facility of daily and hourly access to original records and documents such as no other person has ever had, or, at all events, no one of this generation has ever availed himself of. The great difference between us may be accounted for by the fact that in approaching an historical subject I do so with strict impartiality. I look for *truth* and reliable evidence, and have met with a fair amount of success; hence I can see nothing inconsistent or extraordinary in the incident which first awakened Bro. Norton's suspicions, of course bearing in mind the great difference between the years 1757 and 1888, and the fact that the second letter, which he refers to as having been read in the Grand Lodge in 1762 was not read until exactly *ten years after that date*, viz., on the 2nd September 1772.

In dealing with this very difficult subject, it must be admitted that Bro. Gould has treated it most carefully and most exhaustively, according to the information at his command; and if Bro. Norton will again refer to p 446 of the fourth volume of his very valuable work he will, I make no doubt, readily admit that *he* has made the mistake and not Bro. Gould. That a Deputy Grand Secretary in 1772 should not be well posted in everything that was said and done by a Grand Secretary in the name of his Grand Lodge fifteen years previously is not a matter of surprise to me. In all

probability he was not even a Mason in 1757, and was not appointed to the office of D.G.S. until 1763. Bro. Calder, who held the office of Grand Secretary of Ireland in 1757, was superseded in 1767, for negligence, and so far as I can learn he had no connection with the Grand Lodge in 1772. The very fact of this and other correspondence being mentioned in the Transactions is, in my opinion, strong presumptive evidence, not of Dermott's duplicity, but of his honesty. The letter of 1772 is apparently copied *verbatim* into the minute book, and I am almost certain that if Bro. Norton were to read it the recollection of his having expressed an opinion that it was forged or concocted by Dermott would bring a blush of shame to his good-natured and expressive countenance. Dermott was undoubtedly by far the best and most painstaking Grand Secretary the "Ancients" ever had, hence his practice of recording apparently trivial matters, which a less scrupulous person would have omitted as of no importance. Having, I think, in previous articles, conclusively disposed of the assertion that "all the Warrants given by the Ancients during the Grand Mastership of the Earl of Blessington have somehow disappeared," I need not dilate at any great length on the statement as to there being a Warrant as well as a Deputation in Nova Scotia, which although headed *Blesinton* are not signed by the Grand Master, but by "Lau. Dermott G. Sec." At present I have only Bro. Norton's unsupported assertion on the one side; and on the other, the Transactions of "Grand Lodge at the Five Bells Tavern, 7th Dec. 1757," one of the items reading thus:—"Heard petitions from His Excellency Charles Laurence Governor of Nova Scotia, Major Erasmus James Phillips, Esq., William Nisbett, Esq., Alexander Murray, Esq., and 57 others praying to be warranted, viz., one Provincial Grand Warrant and two private Warrants for the Province of Nova Scotia." "Order'd that the Grand Secretary shall immediately prepare the said Warrants, &c." Now, to my thinking this business seems all fair and above board, and unless Bro. Norton can produce reliable evidence to the contrary I shall prefer to believe that there was as little forgery in this as in the case of Warrants issued in England.

To Bro. Norton's next question, "What kind of a Grand Master did Lord Blessington make?" I answer, unhesitatingly, as good an one as any other of that period, and better than many on either side, notwithstanding that he did not attend a single meeting of the Grand Lodge, "and was installed in his own library in Margaret-street." The correspondence relating to Lord Blessington's first election as Grand Master of the "Ancients" is given in extenso on pp 84, 85, 86 of *Masonic Facts and Fictions*, and it will be observed that his Lordship says, "As I shall be out of Town St. John's Day, I must beg leave to act by Deputy." This letter was read in Grand Lodge on the 27th December (St. John's Day) 1756, and afterwards "the Grand Lodge proceeded to the Instalment of Grand Master, which was done by proxy in the person of the Honourable Edward Vaughan, Esq., who Rec'd all the Honours, &c., &c., &c." And then the Grand Secretary proclaimed the new Grand Master, so that as a matter of fact he was installed in the same way as several of the Grand Masters on the "Modern" side. I find, on referring to the Grand Lodge minutes that Bro. Norton is mistaken in saying that "the evidence of Lord Blessington's private installation rests solely on Dermott's testimony," for the statement in question was *not made* by Dermott, but by the Deputy Grand Master (William Dickey), at a meeting of the Grand Lodge on the 25th November 1767, in the presence of the Grand Master and several other distinguished Masons, as well as the members of the Grand Lodge.

It appears that a Bro. Thomas Forsyth had a grievance, and nothing would satisfy him but to air it in Grand Lodge; the complaint from which he suffered was caused by his having been left out in the cold when the Grand Master (the Hon. Thomas Mathew) was installed privately in 1767. In his own words "he did deem the Grand Master smuggled into the Grand Lodge, by which means the D.G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers had absolutely trampled upon the good laws of Masons, &c." To which the D.G.M. replied, "That the Transaction complained of was not contrary to custom nor General Regulations. That Grand Masters in England and Ireland have been (at their own request) Installed in private, and that such Installations were never disputed, particularly the late Grand Master Earl of Blesinton, who was privately Install'd by

the G^d Officers & Secretary in his Lordship's *Liberary* in Margret Street."

"The Grand Master arose and acquainted the Brethren that he stood up to confirm what the Deputy had said. That he was privately Install'd by the Grand Officers and Secretary; that being Unanimously chosen he did not see where the objection could be made, &c." I should rather like to give the whole of the minutes of this meeting, for they are amusing as well as interesting, but as Bro. Norton thinks the records of the Ancients "utterly unworthy of credence" it would be useless to do so. I may, however, remark that this statement was made during the lifetime of Lord Blessington, and it has never been disputed before that I am aware of.

Since commencing my reply to Bro. Norton I have restricted myself to the very agreeable task of disproving his assertions and upsetting his conclusions. I will now venture to express an opinion on my own account, which is:—That it is utterly impossible and absurd for any one to hope to arrive at a just appreciation of the value and authenticity of these old records without a minute examination of the originals, and that any expression of opinion as to their credibility, which is based on abbreviated extracts, is not worth the paper it is printed on. I find I must take exception to the assertion that since the Grand Mastership of the Duke of Montague the regular Grand Lodge of England had no great difficulty in finding a nobleman who would cheerfully accept the Grand Master's office. Bro. Norton says this "is an undoubted fact;" I say it "is an undoubted fiction." In my last article I quote from the Grand Lodge minutes that the installation in 1725 was postponed for six months because they were "unprovided with a new noble Grand Master," and several other instances of a similar character are on record; indeed, this was the real origin of the abrogation of the Saints' days for the Installation of Grand Master; it was also the reason of the departure from the old custom of having a new Grand Master every year.

"It is an undoubted fact" that they were "unprovided with a new noble Grand Master in 1743, 1745, 1748, 1749, and 1750." Personally I attach no importance to this matter, for it was simply a question of "supply and demand," but, as Bro. Norton chose to make the assertion in order to support his charges against Dermott, and I knew it to be not strictly in accordance with the truth, I felt bound to show him that he was historically wrong. Considering the very great disparity between the "Ancients" and the "Moderns" at the time the former were trying to "hook" a noble Grand Master, and the prejudice which then existed against the lower class of Irish, of which this body was chiefly composed, the wonder to me is, not that they had some *difficulty* in getting one, but that they ever got one at all; and it is quite evident that Dermott must have used some potent and convincing arguments, or he would never have succeeded either with Lord Blessington or the other noblemen who followed him; more especially with the Duke of Athole, who was certainly no soft-hearted greenhorn such as Bro. Norton would have us believe was the case with Lord Blessington, but which I must beg leave to doubt, for when elected Grand Master he was 47 years old, already a Past Grand Master of Ireland, and was *created a peer* in 1745.

I was under the impression that I had effectually disposed of the unfounded and malicious partizan concoctions of Heseltine and Preston, but I was evidently mistaken, for Bro. Norton appears to have swallowed these slanders as certain small animals are said to devour the compounds artfully prepared for their destruction, *i.e.*, "with avidity," although he will not believe a single word of the other side of the story.

But, stop! I find I had nearly made a mistake myself, for he *has* condescended to admit the *possibility* that Lord Blessington "was induced, *more or less reluctantly*, to yield to Dermott's solicitation, *which he soon after regretted*. Any how, he seems to have been ashamed of his new connections, for he never went near them, and was anxious to cast himself loose from Dermott and Co." "That such was the case may be inferred from the following extract from a letter of Brother Heseltine, Grand Secretary of England, dated 1769."* Here again Bro. Norton has allowed his imagination far too much play, and, as on previous oc-

* The letter here referred to is given in Chap. VII. of *Masonic Facts and Fictions*.

casions, it has prompted him to make assertions for which he has no authority, and which are directly opposed to evidence. There cannot be, in my opinion, the shadow of a doubt that Lord Blessington *was* Grand Master of the "Ancients" from 1756 to 1760, for the "Transactions" of the Grand Lodge show that he was regularly elected and proclaimed every year, with his own permission, until the 24th December 1760, when, at a Grand Lodge of Emergency, the Deputy Grand Master announced that "his Lordship had signified his desire of quitting the Chair." The Earl of Kelly, who had intimated his willingness to accept the Grand Mastership, was nominated and elected at the same meeting, and installed on the following St. John's Day. There is no evidence, so far as I am aware, of any "reluctance" on the part of Lord Blessington to take the Chair, that he ever "regretted" that step, that he was "ashamed of his new connection," or that he "was anxious to cast himself loose from Dermott and Co." The simple fact that he performed the functions of Grand Master *longer than any* of his predecessors (with one exception), either in England, Scotland or Ireland, should suffice to dispose of each and all of these assertions. And as for his not going "near them;" that does not amount to much, for they evidently went near enough to *him* to enable him to sign the Warrants and do anything else that was required. Bro. Norton is probably not aware that some of the Grand Masters on the other side only attended Grand Lodge once during their term of office, and it may be a matter of surprise to him to learn that the present M.W.G. Master of England has not attended Grand Lodge for several years, but we do not infer thereby that His Royal Highness is ashamed of his connection, or that he wishes "to cast himself loose" from us. We know perfectly well that although our Royal Grand Master does not often preside in person over our assemblies, he takes a warm interest in the affairs of the Craft; he signs our Warrants and other documents, and indeed does everything that we can reasonably expect him to do. We also know that if H.R.H. had a desire to vacate his office he would not hesitate to give effect to such desire, in the same way as the Earl of Blessington might have done had he been so disposed. The exception to which I have alluded was Lord Byron, who was elected Grand Master of the "Moderns" on the 3rd of April 1747, and his successor was elected on the 16th March 1752. This nobleman attended Grand Lodge three times during his Grand Mastership, viz., when he was elected, when he proposed his successor, and at the ensuing Grand Feast.*

I think I have now dealt with nearly all Bro. Norton's objections; with what success I will leave to the judgment of the candid and impartial reader. I can only say that my task has been a most agreeable one, for corresponding with him, either privately or publicly, is second only to the pleasure of meeting and conversing with him, and if I have not succeeded in knocking over *all* his fads and fancies I can only express my regret, for I assure him I meant to do so, and I have done my best. He must therefore "take the will for the deed." Still, if there should be any particular subject or question which he thinks is not quite clear and satisfactory, he has only to mention it, and I shall be most happy to give it every attention. In looking over Bro. Norton's "Comments" to see whether I had left undone anything I ought to have done I stumbled against his "*whopper*," on page 242 of the CHRONICLE. Now I am not quite sure that Bro. Norton understands the meaning of the answer to which he has applied this significant phrase, and if *he* does, probably there are others who do not. I will therefore mention that the key to it may be found on the base of the pedestal which forms the frontispiece of *Masonic Facts and Fictions*, and the following explanation is given in the third and all subsequent editions of *Ahiman Rezon*:—"In the queries relative to Ancient and Modern Masonry (page xxvi.) the author of *Ahiman Rezon* has said that he could convey his mind to an Ancient Mason in the presence of a Modern Mason without the latter knowing whether either of them were Masons. He now positively asserts that he is able, with a few Masonic implements, *i.e.* two squares and a common gavel or hammer, to convey any word or sentence of

* My Note book tells me that William, fifth Lord Byron, killed William Chaworth, Esq., in a duel, 26th Jan. 1765; was tried by his peers in Westminster Hall and found guilty of Manslaughter; but, claiming the benefit of the statute of Edward VI., he was discharged upon simply paying his fees. He was great-nuncle of the celebrated poet, who succeeded him as sixth Lord Byron.

his own, or the immediate dictations of a stranger, to a skilful or intelligent Freemason of the Ancient Order, without speaking, writing or noise; and that to any distance where the parties can see each other, and at the same time be able to distinguish squares from circles. But, as Mr. Locke observed, this is not the case with all Masons (there were no Modern Masons in his time): few of them are acquainted with this secret. The writer of this note has known it for upwards of thirty years, and has never taught it to more than six persons, of which number our Right Worshipful and very worthy Deputy Grand Master, William Dickey Esq., is one, and Brother Shatwell, the publisher of this book, another."

Doubtless some of my readers are aware that Dermott alludes to what is known as "the Old Masonic Alphabet" (probably a relic of the Operative Masons), the knowledge of which he appears to have been not a little proud of, for he has used it occasionally in his Registers and Minute Books, but the best specimen of his handiwork of this kind is that previously mentioned on the frontispiece of *Masonic Facts and Fictions*. I am inclined to think that it was not so much a mystery to the Moderns as he imagined; probably it may have gone out of fashion in London and have been comparatively lost sight of in that neighbourhood: hence he fancied it was almost restricted to the Society to which he belonged; I have certainly never met with it in either books or documents appertaining to the Moderns, but I have on those belonging to their rivals. This explanation will probably render the "*whopper*" less formidable than it appears at first sight.

Hitherto my efforts have been chiefly directed towards defending the character of Laurence Dermott, and I venture to think I have at all events succeeded in proving that he was not quite "so black as he is painted;" next week I hope to be able to ask Bro. Norton's opinion on certain features of my theory as set forth in the book which he evidently imagines he has so minutely examined and so fairly and exhaustively criticised.

(To be continued.)

MASONIC FREEDOM.

THE true conception of Masonry is a grand and sublime one. It is at once an inductive and deductive philosophy of man as a social being. As a man is free so is Masonry—free. But true freedom is circumscribed by duties. The freedom of the individual man or organisation implies the freedom of other men and organisations, and is incompatible with conflict; hence the local Lodge prescribes the limit of the freedom of the individual, and the Grand Lodge defines the liberty of the offshoot. These governmental prescriptions recognise the individual as a part of a large whole. They aim at the harmony of symphony—"To see that none go away dissatisfied, harmony being the strength and support of all organisations, more especially of ours."

The most virtuous and philosophical limitation of human conduct is a positive prescription of duties. A law which forbids without defining a duty is of no benefit to any one but imbeciles and criminals in whom the last vestige of humanity is obliterated by abasement.

Freedom does not imply unlimited power on the part of the individual. My freedom is as sacred as yours and yours as mine. You have no right to curtail my liberty; nor I yours. If my lust and avarice crave wealth, it is not my privilege to wrong you by base advantage of my superiority of power; if, perchance, my wealth admits of my curtailing your ability by heavily mortgaging your property, or otherwise plunging you into difficulties from which you cannot extricate yourself. Such a principle of action would not exercise itself in "seeing that none go away dissatisfied," and would be very distantly removed from the production of harmony. Unbridled exercise of power is a strong mark of slavery—slavery to a principle of avarice and lust.

The great Napoleon of warlike fame was as great a slave to his ambition in the exercise of his power and peculiarly skilful military tactics as the lone negro weighed down by the chains of his bondage in a central African jungle.

Unbridled ambition is the offspring of selfishness, and

selfishness, with its attendant evils, is as inconsistent with Freemasonry as hatred is to love, darkness to light. The contrast is invidious. Ideal freedom and harmony are almost synonymous. All the sublime precepts of this institution of ours are based upon the positive and acknowledged facts of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. God, Grand Architect and Master Mason, and each individual and component part in the association of Masons, unitedly work out their designs of the ultimate conception of his mind in the consummation of all things. Each man has his individual work to do, and he must not encroach on the domain of his fellow Craftsman or the edifice must lack beauty and symmetry, and be insecure.

Masonry recognises man as a moral and responsible being, endowed with all the responsibilities of progression. Nor is an active being and permanency of condition possible. He must act either in the line of duty, progress and ennoblement of character, or in sad deterioration of those characteristics which make him the lord of the creation of an invisible God. There is nothing stationary in this vastly complex universe. Every created atom and molecule in restless procession advances in one vast phalanx towards the realisation of the inscrutable conception of a Master mind, the Grand Master Mason of mind and matter. We observe the progression of matter in the growth of plants, animals and the stature of man, the formation of rocks, coal and gems and the development of low animal life to a higher state of life and instinct. Yet the material creation is only the expression of the spiritual and invisible. The existence of the outward and tangible is conditional and limited by time, they flourish and die. Shall man alone with his keen insight into the laws of cause and effect be a dwarf incapable of further growth midst the development of creation? Shall his servant, matter, which everywhere is subservient to his will, grow while his growth is stunted by the perversity of his inclinations? Shall she which he tramples under his foot, with which he builds his house, clothes his body, allays his hunger, "teach men knowledge?" While she advances in the growth of development shall man alone retrograde in the backward path of declination from virtue to vice? Should such be the contemptuous ambition of any one, by the very desire of his heart he has outlawed himself from the benefit of any society or organisation which has for its object the moral elevation of man, for by the terms of our obligation we are bound to support only worthy brother Masons.

Methinks it is one of the gross evils of the day for men to fly into the precincts of noble institutions to hide their sins and crimes. One man clothes himself in the unsullied garments of the Prince of Peace to serve the devil. He hopes by outside appearance to hide the guilt of his soul, but the contrast between the immaculate livery he wears and his own inconsistent conduct brings the just contempt of less assuming men (for by common consent all detest inconsistency), and with derision they point at him the finger of scorn and call him a hypocrite. Another enters into the fraternal courts of Freemasonry, and with mock humility binds himself under the most solemn vows to uphold its dignity by consistency in life and growth in virtue, but gives the lie to his solemn oath in his daily conduct of life. He boasts of the pure principles of Masonry with loud gusto, but by the profanity of his lips, sincerity of purpose contradicts the words of his mouth. It is no wonder that men entertain misconceived ideas about our laudable assembly. They form their estimation of our conclave from the life-representation of its individual members.—*Freemason's Repository.*

Among the special features of the new volume of *Little Folks Magazine*, commencing with the January number, are:—A new serial story by Mrs. Molesworth, called "Little Mother Bunch;" another serial entitled "Red Feather: a tale of the American Frontier," by Edward S. Ellis; a special series of papers describing "Child Life at the Courts of Europe," with full-page illustrations of royal children, from authentic photographs; "Legends and Rhymes of the Birds;" "From Seed to Blossom," a series of chats by Maggie Symington; full-page fanciful illustrations by Walter Crane, with verses appropriate to the various months, &c., &c. In the January number full particulars are also printed of several new special prize competitions for 1889, in which a large number of valuable prizes and medals are offered.

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We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The excellent articles which appeared in your issues of 7th September and 27th October ought to be regarded as timely words of warning, not as "arousing fears of despondency and distrust." This is a progressive age: to stand still is to be left behind, but our glorious Masonic Charities have nothing to fear if salutary suggestions are received in a proper spirit, and endeavours made to correct flagrant defects.

It is well known that one or two antiquated Masons—unduly impressed with Metropolitan importance—think they could get on very well without the help of the Provinces. But, surely, these are only insignificant units compared with the great multitude of London brethren who (to use your own words) would regard with regret and alarm "the withdrawal of Provincial support from the London Institutions."

There can be no doubt that several of the larger Provinces are establishing their own Educational and Benevolent Institutions, and as a natural consequence that part of the contributions which have hitherto gone to support the three Royal Masonic Institutions will be diverted to found and enrich several smaller local Charities. But it must be remembered that whilst a portion of the funds are thus diverted, the London Institutions are at the same time relieved of a number of candidates. The benefits afforded by the great central Institutions being much greater than our local Charities can bestow, it would seem advisable that we, in the Provinces, should regard the Royal Educational Institutions as a higher school for eligible boys and girls, and our rich Benevolent Institution as an asylum for brethren whose needs our local funds are insufficient to supply satisfactorily.

Certainly it would not tend to the credit of the Order if our glorious Institutions—those temples built by Freemasons of former ages—were allowed to suffer penury or decay. But to my mind there is no fear of this if the management be judicious and the administration not extravagant. Provincial brethren ought to be regarded as partners in these great concerns. Let all feelings of opposition or estrangement between London and Provincial Brethren be banished, and rest assured there is sufficient opulence and benevolence in our ancient and honourable Order to support both local institutions and the three glorious Charities which justifiably evoke the pride of Freemasons.

It seems difficult to understand why the Educational Institutions should be constantly attacked whilst the Benevolent is allowed to escape the notice of censorious critics. It should always be borne in mind that the Educational Institutions have large establishments to support, as well as an expensive tutorial staff, and the recent attack upon the Boys' School proves that anything like parsimony, or anything that can be construed into harshness in the application of knowledge, will subject them to vilification and angry abuse. Again, the benefits derived from these Institutions are to a great extent developed in the future, whilst the benefits derived from the Benevolent are present and palpable. It may be that, with regard to benefits distributed in coin of the realm and immediately realisable, recipients and their friends do not scrutinise too carefully the expenses of conveyance or the filterings of the precious metal between the donors and the recipients. Yet if the accounts presented to the Court of Governors on 18th May 1888 are critically examined, no one can wonder that there exists a feeling of discontent in the Provinces.

The Benevolent Institution being divided into two Branches the accounts are also divided, but for the purpose of our examination they are given together, as on top of next page.

The Report of the Committee of Management says:—"The audited statement of accounts for the year ended March * 1888 is appended. It has been compiled with the utmost care, and has undergone a rigorous examination by the Audit Committee before being finally approved and passed, and the Committee of Management is confident the Governors and Subscribers, on inspecting it, will find the funds of the Institution have been administered with a due regard to economy."

Let us pass over the item, Jubilee Gratuities £335, for the Audit Committee do not tell us who received the gratuities, although I see in your article of 27th October you call attention to the fact that the General Committee of the Institution for Girls decided to expend the sum of one hundred guineas in order to present the staff and pupils with a medal or badge to celebrate the Centenary. Moreover, as Jubilees do not come every year, one may regard this as exceptional, not annual, expenditure. But we cannot so readily admit the "due regard to economy," when we find that the Collector received £639 15s 8d for commission on the amount contributed to the funds of this Institution. Neither of the other Institutions pays anything to a Collector. Last year the amount contributed to the Institution for Girls amounted to £50,000, yet no Collector was employed, and not one penny was paid for commission. It would seem that there can be little need for the services of a Collector to the Benevolent, because the returns are more solid, and substantial contributions will be more readily subscribed to this than to either of the other Institutions. Experience proves that an eloquent and efficient Secretary makes the best Collector. It is not supposed that the efforts of the

* Query:—Why does the year end 31st March?

Widows' Fund.	Male Fund.	Disbursements.	Male Fund.	Widows' Fund.
		Collector's Commission	271 18 6	367 17 3
		Messenger	5 0 0	5 0 0
		Postages and petty expenses	251 11 2	2 14 2
		Provincial and other expenses	80 0 1	80 0 1
		Printing	215 15 9	222 10 10
		Assistance in office	13 0 0	13 0 0
77 14 6	77 14 5	Rates and taxes, Asylum		
181 0 0	154 0 0	Jubilee gratuities		
	20 0 0	Salaries, office	417 10 0	417 10 0
62 0 0		Warden		
28 12 0	54 12 0	Matron		
		Pension, and gardener's salary		
		Hire of Hall on day of election	2 12 6	2 12 6
		Rent, &c., office	45 0 0	45 0 0
16 18 8	16 18 8	Ditto, Meadow		
		Bank charges	0 12 6	0 11 11
57 14 4	57 14 4	Entertainment of Stewards and Annuitants		
		Advertisements	37 6 10	37 6 11
		Collector's guarantee... ..	3 15 0	3 15 0
23 2 4	23 2 4	Work done at Asylum		
12 10 0	12 10 0	Medicine		
<u>459 11 10</u>	<u>416 11 9</u>		<u>1344 5 4</u>	<u>1446 18 8</u>
Total, £876 3s d7			Total, £2791 4s 0d	

Collector in the Provinces have added anything to the funds of the Institution. It is quite certain that the Collector did not influence to the smallest extent the contribution of £2670 received during this year from East Lancashire, the amounts having been remitted direct from the Lodges to the office. Let subscribers consider that Collector's commission £639 15s 8d, and £7 10s paid for guarantee, would be sufficient to make provision for

9 old men, each £40, £360; 9 widows, each £32, £288. Total £648.

and yet a Collector is allowed to allocate this amount, whilst every year we are exhorted to subscribe more because so many poor and distressed Masons and bereaved widows are knocking at the door for admission.

The amounts charged for postages seem to be very heavy—£251 14s 2d for each branch of the Institution—total, £503 8s 4d. But as the Auditors enter these as "postages and petty expenses," it is not easy to say how much has been paid for postages and how much for that convenient item in accounts "sundries."

The last published accounts of the much-abused Institution for Boys give this item—"petty expenses, including postages, £205 5s," which is probably a very reasonable amount, considering that this Institution transmits balloting papers twice during each year, whilst the Benevolent only has one issue of papers. Again, the charge for printing, £438 6s 7d, seems high compared with a similar charge in the 1887 account of the Girls' Institution, which is for stationery, books of subscribers, postage, balloting papers, printing, &c., &c. £473 2s 11d, always bearing in mind that this Institution also has two elections during each year.

It seems rather anomalous that the Educational Institutions, which are intended for the young who are beginning life, which may possibly be extended for many years, should afford two opportunities for entrance during each year, whilst the Benevolent, which is for the aged who, nearing the end of their days have little time to spare, and unless admitted speedily may never realise the kind hearted sympathy of their brethren, only opens its doors once during the year. The election of last May affords melancholy evidence of this, as several brethren had shuffled off this mortal coil in the short space of time between the making up of the list of candidates and the day of election. We may well imagine our aged and infirm brethren with their last breath uttering those pathetic words, "Too late, too late." Surely this is a case where the old Latin axiom applies, *bis dat qui cito dat*.

In the Provinces it is generally supposed that the Stewards' fees cover all the costs of the Festival and refreshments, yet we find in this account "Entertainment of Stewards and Annuitants £74 13s 9d," which seems to require some explanation. Altogether it appears from this statement of accounts that without taking into consideration the items on the left of our statement, amounting to £876 3s 7d, which perhaps it would not be right to charge as expenses of administration, it has cost £279 14s to dispense £14,387 in annuities, which is as nearly as possible 20 per cent. upon the amount distributed, so that every £1000 paid away in annuities has contributed £200 towards expenses. We are forcibly reminded of the cynic's contribution to the offertory, namely, one penny and one sovereign, placed very carefully on the plate. When asked to explain the meaning of this very eccentric almsgiving, he informed his interrogator that the sovereign was intended to carry the penny to its ultimate destination.

Perhaps the auditors in their next statement of accounts will enter a little further into particulars, so that the subscribers may be enabled better to judge how far the Committee of Management are justified in claiming credit for the administration of the funds "with a due regard to economy."

Very truly and fraternally yours,

JAMES A. BIRCH,

Chairman of Charity Committee East Lancashire.

[We insert the above letter, as requested, but much can be said on both sides of the questions raised, and we think it desirable to warn our readers not to form any independent opinion until the other side has had an opportunity for reply.—ED. F.O.]

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

—:O:—

ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 70.

THE members held their annual meeting on the 27th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth. Bro. W. T. Hocking, the W.M., presided, and the W.M.-elect, Bro. William King, was installed. Bro. W. T. Hocking the retiring W.M., J. B. Gover P.P.G. Sec., J. Griffin P.P.G.S.D., and W. F. Westcott were the Installing Officers. The following Officers were invested:—Bros. W. T. Hocking I.P.M., Wreford S.W., Evans J.W., Rev. T. W. Lemon Chaplain, Pengelly Treasurer, Gover Secretary, Colling S.D., Hicks J.D., Symons D.C., Carr A.D.C., Jacob O., Goad I.G., Griffin, Brock, Sercombe, and Burton Stewards, and Phillips Tyler. Bro. Lemon presented to the Lodge an old tracing board of the Athole Masons framed, which he said he thought would be of much interest to the members, as that was an Athole Lodge. He also presented a photograph of an engraving of the Temple of Solomon, with sections of the Council Chamber, Sanctum Sanctorum, belonging to the Yarrow Lodge 554. Both presents were very cordially accepted, with hearty thanks to the donor. Twenty guineas were unanimously voted by the Lodge to the Devon Masonic Educational Fund. In the evening the brethren held their annual banquet. Bro. W. King presided. During the evening an excellent entertainment of vocal and instrumental music and recitations was furnished by brethren. Among those who assisted were Bros. Bishopschwerder, Macey, Kennedy, Elford and Lavers. A handsome gold Past Master's jewel was presented to the immediate Past Master. It bore the inscription:—
"Presented to W. Bro. W. T. Hocking, by the members of Lodge St. John, No 70, as a mark of esteem and of their appreciation of his services as Master, on his retirement from office, December 27th A.L. 5888."

FRIENDSHIP LODGE, No. 202.

THE annual meeting was held on the 27th ult., at the Hall, Granby-street, Devonport. The W.M.-elect Bro. Richard Carter was installed. Bros. J. Leonard the retiring W.M., E. J. Knight, J. B. Price, J. Viggers, and H. Welch were the installing Officers. The Officers invested were:—Bros. J. Leonard I.P.M., Bray S.W., Oldfield J.W., Axworthy Chaplain, Welch Treasurer, Sandy Secretary, Holman S.D., Hancock J.D., Verdi D.C., Martin A.D.C., Maunder O., Corry and Collins Stewards, Lark and Tilley Assistant Stewards, Shears Tyler. Five guineas were voted to constitute Bro. J. Leonard a governor of the Devon Masonic Education Fund. Three guineas were voted between Devonport Coal, Blanket and Soup Societies. At the close of the Lodge the brethren snipped together, and a handsome gold Past Master's jewel, subscribed for by the brethren, was presented to the retiring Past Master, with the inscription:—

"Presented to Worshipful Brother John Leonard I.P.M. by the brethren of Lodge Friendship, 202, as a mark of their high esteem and regard, 1888. R. Carter W.M., A. Verdi Hon. Treas."

QUEEN'S WESTMINSTER LODGE, No. 2021.

THE Installation meeting of this Lodge was held at the Holborn Restaurant, on Tuesday, 18th ult., when Bro. Alexander Jones was installed by Bro. Delevante P.M. Organist, in the presence of a board of 36 Installed Masters. The other brethren having been readmitted, Bro. Bellerby I.P.M. delivered the addresses, and the W.M., having invested his Officers, the Lodge was closed. The brethren and visitors then adjourned to the banquetting room where covers were laid for 111, the largest number to which this Lodge has as yet attained. Grace having been sung by a musical party, kindly provided by Bro. Delevante, the W.M. rose to propose the toast of the Queen and the Craft. He had no hesitation in coupling the name of the Craft with that of Her Most Gracious Majesty, as he was convinced that there was no more loyal body of men under her sway than the Freemasons. In proposing the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., the W.M. said it was a great honour to be presided over by the "First Gentleman in the Land," and one who had made himself so popular with every class in the community. He thought the brethren would agree with him in saying that if the G.A.O.T.U. should in his own good time, see fit to call upon the Prince of Wales

to rule us, he would become the most popular monarch that had ever ruled the destinies of this mighty empire. The toast of the Pro G.M., the Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, present and past, was most ably responded to by Bro. Fenn, and in a few words by Bro. Col. Shadwell Clerke Grand Secretary, who said that he was amazed at the rapid strides the Lodge had made since he had the pleasure of consecrating it some five years ago. He trusted it would continue in its career of prosperity. Bro. Charles Bellerby I.P.M. had great pleasure in proposing the health of the W.M. Bro. Alexander Jones, whom he had been intimately acquainted with for many years, and who was his Father in Masonry. The W.M. having thanked the brethren for the exceeding cordiality with which they had received the toast, said that now he had the felicity of placing on the breast of the I.P.M. the gold jewel of the Lodge, awarded to him unanimously by the brethren for the excellent manner in which he had presided over them both in the Lodge and at the banquet table during the last twelve months. Bro. Geo. Lambert P.M. P.G.S.B. then said the W.M. had entrusted him with the gavel for the purpose of proposing the toast of the Visitors. It would probably be within the memory of most of the brethren that a Masonic Rifle Match, consisting of ten members from each of the Volunteer Lodges of the Metropolis, viz., the Queen's, the London Rifle Brigade, the 1st Surrey Rifles, and the South Middlesex, had taken place at Caterham during the Autumn, and was won, after an exciting match, by the Queen's, with a few points only to the good. A wish having been generally expressed to make the match an annual event he had great pleasure in offering for their acceptance the gavel he now held in his hand (which was a very handsome and useful present, being mounted in silver, with the four Coats of Arms of the competing regiments in silver around it). The same to be held by the W.M. of the winning Lodge for twelve months, and to be called by general desire "The Lambert Challenge Gavel." He greeted and welcomed the whole of the Visitors present, and coupled with the toast the names of the Worshipful Masters of the London Rifle Brigade Lodge, the 1st Surrey Rifles Lodge, and La France Lodge, also Brother Alderman Williamson of the Province and loyal City of Worcester. These brethren suitably responded on behalf of the Visitors. The W.M. then gave the toast of the Initiate, which was replied to by Bro. Hone in a most effective and telling manner, fairly rousing the brethren to enthusiasm. The toast of the Past Masters was given, including Bro. Bellerby I.P.M., Geo. Lambert P.G.S.B., Clifford Probyn, Payne, whose year of office, the W.M. said, was signalled by such perfection of working as few could equal and none excel. Also Bros. Herbert Lambert, George Coop Secretary, and Delevante Organist, the latter being desired by the W.M. to step forward to enable him to be invested with the P.M.'s collar and the gold jewel of the Lodge, unanimously voted by the brethren in recognition of his valuable and talented services since the formation of the Lodge. Bro. Delevante suitably responded in one of his usual characteristic and eloquent speeches. Bro. George Coop, in responding to the toast of the Secretary, made a strong appeal to the brethren to support his List for the "Old People," of which Institution he is a Steward for the forthcoming Festival. The Officers of the Lodge having each responded to the toast of their Health, the Tyler brought a most enjoyable and successful meeting to a close. The musical arrangements were of a very high order, the overture to "Zampa," led by Bro. F. Delevante, being received with loud and prolonged applause. Among the visitors were Bros. Colonel Shadwell H. Clerke Grand Sec., Thos. Fenn P.B.G.P., Wm. Bywater P.G.S.B., J. Terry P.G.S.B., W. Wilson P.G.P., W. B. Williamson P.G.W. Worcestershire, J. Zacharie D.G.M. California, Dickinson W.M. 164, Ansbacher P.M. 73, Gawith P.M. and Sec. 2045, Padmore 523, Saunders P.M. and Treasurer 1503, J. Bladen J.D. 1839, Gross W.M. 1314, Weizlar J.W. 141, St. Clair W.M. La France, Blunden P.M. 865, Cranch W.M. 1216, Turner S.W. 1216, Roach S.W. 85, Harvey J.W. 1216, Carter P.G.J.D. Kent, Gardner P.M. Sec. 2012, Walker W.M. 1962, Newton J.W. 569, Pellatt 1194, Woodward P.M. 1920, Isaacson S.W. 1321, Head 1791, Corner 312, Lambert J.W. 198, Montennis P.M. 2060, Harnell S.D. 511, Lee W.M. 198, Cornise 1319, Owen P.M. 1287, McDougall P.M. 1962, Tayton 1962, Breson P.M. 1321, Shiell 34, Wedge 749, Groves 55, Williams S.W. 198, Rees 799, Nearden 171, Rowbotham 1624, Hambleton 1319, Collens P.M. 766, Tyler 219, Watkin I.G. 1257, Birkett 569, Harris 533, Robinson 860, Goffin G.D.C. Surrey, Bullock P.M. 101, and Cleghorn P.M. 1287.

Joppa Lodge of Instruction, No. 188.—On Tuesday, the 1st instant, at the Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate-street, E.C. Bros. Moss Preceptor, R. J. Chillingworth W.M., Ansell S.W., Dodd J.W., Saqui Secretary, Pege P.M. S.D., Davis J.D., Phillips I.G.; Bros. Botibol, Marks, Poppmacher, Carrociero. Visitor—Bro. Da Costa. Bro. Moss worked the first, second, and fourth sections of the first lecture. The initiation ceremony was rehearsed, Bro. Da Costa candidate. It was resolved that the annual dinner of the Lodge of Instruction take place on the 15th instant, at the Manchester Hotel.

THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

THE annual New Year's Entertainment at the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution at Croydon took place on Wednesday, when a number of friends of the Institution assembled, and assisted in providing an evening's amusement for the residents. Among those present were Bros. James Terry (Secretary), Mrs. and the Misses Terry, C. F. Hogard, T. Hastings Miller and the Misses Miller, Thomas Cubitt, H. Cotter, J. J. Berry, W. J. Crutch, Robert Halford, Mrs. and Miss Halford, R. W. Stewart, John Newton, Mrs. and Miss Newton, Alex. Mullord and Mrs. Mullord, J. G. Tongue, Mrs. and the Misses Tongue, J. Cooper, H. Cox, C. Kempton and Mrs. Kempton, C. G. Hill and Mrs. Hill, J. W. Sacon and Mrs. Sacon, W. W. Morgan, C. J. Dury and Miss Dury, H. Massey and the Misses Massey, E. G. Smith and Mrs. Smith, the Misses Crutch, Clara Miller, M. J. and L. Raikes, J. E. Terry, Charles Lacey, &c. The

dinner was presided over by Bro. Dr. Strong, and at its conclusion the customary toast of Success to the Institution was given; with it being coupled the names of Bro. James Terry the Secretary, and Miss Norris the Matron. In the course of his reply, Bro. Terry gave a brief sketch of the work being done by the Institution, which now provides annuities for 430 old people—a striking contrast to what was being done some twenty years ago, when the Charity was scarcely known. He spoke of the great improvements that had taken place in the building of the Institution; the hall in which they were then assembled—for instance—being a modern improvement, and one which was generally appreciated. Here they were enabled once a week to have a little gathering, and the piano, which had so kindly been provided by friends, was frequently requisitioned. Speaking of the future of the Institution he said their prospects were encouraging, and he hoped that their Anniversary Festival, shortly to be held, would be a great success; at the same time the best efforts of their friends would be necessary in order to secure all that was needed for the year's work. Later in the evening a musical entertainment was provided, Bros. De Laoy, Schartau, and Kenningham, with lady assistants, giving their services. In the course of the proceedings fraternal greetings passed between those assembled at Croydon and the Lancashire annuitants, who hold a similar gathering on the same day each year. Reference was also made to the fact that the funds of the Institution are not taxed for these entertainments, the necessary charges being defrayed by a special fund provided for the purpose. The residents received the customary gifts of tea and tobacco.

THE THEATRES, &c.

Grand.—The success that Mr. Charles Wilmot deserves, after his plucky attempt to tide over his misfortune of last Christmas, is likely to be achieved from his latest pantomime. Once more he has entrusted our old friend Geoffrey Thorn with the task of preparing the book, and this gentleman entitles the pantomime "Sweet Cinderella, or Harlequin the Prince and the Lass, and the Slipper of Glass." Mr. Thorn has written a pantomime that may at once be said to be witty and amusing, both to young and old. Funny sayings, comical songs, and plenty of go, are embraced in the work, and while the author has followed closely the fairy tale, he has left plenty of scope for the display of good scenery and pretty dresses. These are seen to most advantage in the scene where a picnic is presented; a ballet, described as taking place in the Silver Moonbeams. Here there are some pretty and artistic dresses, capitably displayed by the grouping of the dancers. Later on the grand ball of the Prince's Palace is shown, and once more a ballet takes place, with equally good result; this is described as the Sappho ballet. Then follows some amusing scenes leading up to the Throne room of the Palace, where, after a fine procession, Cinderella comes forward to own the lost slipper. This is the signal for general rejoicings in the shape of the grand fête of Santa Claus and arrival of the Seven Champions. After this the principals pair off, and all ends happily with a grand transformation scene representing the "Triumph of True Love." This was most artistically arranged, and called forth loud applause. The songs are excellent, while frequent use is made of the popular topics of the day. The artistes engaged are an excellent troupe, and well fitted for their respective tasks. Miss Dot Mario gives us an ideal Cinderella, singing and dancing in excellent style, while Miss Julia Warden is vivacious and interesting as the Prince. Messrs. Fred Williams and Mark Kinghorne have plenty of scope for showing their abilities, and as the two ugly sisters they certainly avail themselves of their opportunity, while Mr. Joe Burgess is most amusing as the father of the girls. Miss Laura Maxwell is interesting as the good fairy, and Mr. L. C. Dunbar sings in most agreeable style as the Prince's Prime Minister. The Paragon Quartette, the Sisters Wallis, Miss Dora Douglas, all add to the enjoyment of the piece. A special word of praise is due to the scene allotted to the little children, who sing and dance to well-known nursery rhymes in most effective style. Mr. J. M. Jones has arranged the ballets and trained the children, and certainly he has done his work well. The Harlequinade that follows is above the average, and with Mr. Jones as Clown causes plenty of fun for all present. Mr. Wilmot is to be congratulated on his 1888 pantomime, which will rank among the most complete he has produced, and one of the best to be seen in London this year.

Mohawk Minstrels.—After a vacation during the Cattle Show Week these Minstrels returned to their favourite home at Islington with an entirely new and varied programme for the holiday season. Messrs. Campbell, Gordon, Oliver and Elsworth—the most popular of the ballad singers—gave some telling selections, whilst the comic songs were entrusted to Messrs. Johnny Danvers, Walter Howard, and Little Thomas. The first part concludes with a new comicality, produced by Mr. Campbell, entitled the "Dinner at the Mohawks' Club." The second part opens with the antics of the two Armstrongs, the latest of the tribe of knock-about comedians. To our mind they are equal to the "Macs." There is a characteristic plantation sketch, written by Mr. E. Forman, called "Will the Boys Come Back?" Little Thomas sings "Who Killed Cock Warren?" on truly comic lines, for which he is loudly encored. Mr. Schofield contributes to the grotesque element in the shape of a burlesque ballet scene. The programme concludes with the ever popular sketch "The Black Mummy." These Minstrels deserve the patronage with which their new programme has been favoured; it equals, if it does not excel, all their previous efforts.

The ball in connection with the William Preston Lodge, No. 766, will take place at the Cannon-street Hotel, on Tuesday next, the 8th inst. Tickets 15s each, to include refreshments, supper and wine, can be obtained from any of the Stewards, or from Bro. F. G. Barns J.W., 47 Fore-street, E.C.

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For Females of all ages these Pills are invaluable. No Female should be without them. There is no Medicine to be found to equal Beecham's Pills for removing any Obstruction or Irregularity of the

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System. If taken according to the Directions given with each Box, they will soon restore Females of all ages to sound and robust health. This has been proved by Thousands who have tried them and found the benefits which are ensured by their use.

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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

Grand Patron and President:
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., M.W.G.M.

Grand Patroness:
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

Bankers:
LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK (Bloomsbury Branch), 214 High
Holborn, London, W.C.

1545 Girls have been educated, Clothed and Maintained within its
walls.
244 Girls are now receiving its benefits.

ENTIRELY SUPPORTED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

101st ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL.

The Services of Brethren willing to act as Stewards on this important occasion
are earnestly solicited.

F. R. W. HEDGES, Secretary.

OFFICE—5 Freemasons' Hall,
Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, WOOD GREEN, LONDON, N.

Grand Patron:
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

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

Vice Presidents (Ex-Officio):
The Right Hon. THE EARL OF CARNARVON, M.W. Pro G.M.
The Right Hon. THE EARL OF LATHOM, R.W. Dep. G.M.

Treasurer:
GEORGE PLUCKNETT, Esq., V.P., P.G.D.

Bankers:
LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK, Limited (Bloomsbury Branch),
214 High Holborn.

1838 Boys have received the benefits of the Institution since its
foundation in 1798.

263 Boys are now being Educated, Clothed, and Maintained.

The Preparatory School was opened in January 1886, in anticipation of which
Fifteen additional Boys were elected in October 1885. Further increase of Ten
in number was made in April 1886—and another Ten in October 1886, and of
Eight in April 1887.

INVESTED FUNDS, £17,000 ONLY.

The Ninety-First Anniversary Festival

WILL TAKE PLACE IN JUNE 1889,

Under Presidency to be announced in due course.

Exceptional Need requires Exceptional Help,

To ensure which the names of Brethren willing to act as Stewards will be most
gratefully received.

CONTRIBUTIONS EARNESTLY SOLICITED.

FREDERICK BINCKES (V.-Pat., P.G. Std., P.G. Sword Bearer),
Secretary.

OFFICE—6 Freemason's Hall, London, W.C.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

FOR
AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF FREEMASONS, CROYDON.

Grand Patron and President:
H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., &c., M.W.G.M.

Treasurer:
JOHN A. FARNFIELD, Esq.

Bankers:
LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK (Bloomsbury Branch), 214 High
Holborn, London, W.C.

Upwards of 1215 Annuitants have received the benefits of the Institution since
its foundation in 1842. 180 Men and 229 Widows are Annuitants at the
present time.

Amount Paid Annually in Annuities, £14,866.

Permanent Income only £3,600.
Over 150 Candidates for next Election.

THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

Will be held on WEDNESDAY, 27th FEBRUARY 1889,

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENCY OF

The Rt. Hon. the EARL OF EUSTON,

R.W.P.G.M. Norths and Hunts.

Brethren are earnestly solicited to accept the Stewardship upon this most
important occasion, and to forward their names, with full particulars, to

JAMES TERRY (V. Patron, P.G. Sword Bearer), Secretary,

OFFICE—4 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

FOR
AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF FREEMASONS,
CROYDON.

Grand Patron and President:
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., &c., M.W.G.M.

THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

WILL TAKE PLACE AT
FREEMASONS' TAVERN, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON,
ON WEDNESDAY, THE 27TH OF FEBRUARY 1889,

UPON WHICH OCCASION

The Right Hon. the EARL of EUSTON,

R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Norths and Hunts.

has been pleased to signify his intention of presiding.

BRETHREN are earnestly invited to accept the office of Stewards
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, and supply them with the necessary cir-
culars, &c.

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 were never more needed
than at the present time. Expenditure in Annuities alone £15,000. Permanent
income only £3,600.

428 Annuitants on the funds,
140 Candidates seeking admission.

JAMES TERRY, Vice-Patron, P.G. Sword Bearer,
P. Prov. G.S.W. Norths and Hunts,
Secretary.

OFFICE:—4 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

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ing to river, whence Steam Launches can start. Specimens of Menus, with
prices, sent on application. Three Lodges meet at the Castle Hotel, and refer-
ence may be made to the respective Masters as to the catering, &c.

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WANTED.—To Purchase, for Cash, OLD BOOKS ON FREEMASONRY.
State full Title, Date, and style of Binding; with prices required.
Address, F. W., 41 Thornhill Square, Barnsbury, London, N.
Four days' silence a negative.

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FOR SALE.—THE FIRST EIGHT VOLUMES of THE FREEMASON'S
QUARTERLY REVIEW—1831 to 1841. Half bound, tooled and lettered.
In Fine Condition. Price £6 10s. Address W., Office of the FREEMASON'S
CHRONICLE, Belvidere Works, Hermes Hill, Pentonville, London, N.

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28th APRIL 1875.

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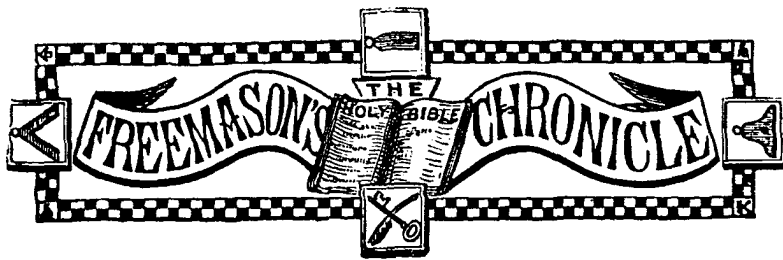
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THE MASONIC CHARITIES IN 1888.

THE year which has just closed has been an eventful one in connection with the central Charities of English Freemasonry—it has produced a splendid success, and, at the same time, what we may describe as a series of failures. The income of the three Institutions during the twelve months amounted to £82,914, a sum which is £21,855 more than the highest total of any previous year, and yet we are forced to describe the returns as disappointing—disappointing to the friends of the three Institutions alike, for in each case the figures are short of what they were expected to be. In connection with two of the Charities the totals display a heavy falling off as compared with previous returns; in the other—the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls—there is a splendid increase, but not nearly so much as many supposed would be the case after the announcements which were made in connection with its Centenary Festival. However, the Craft has very much to be proud of in connection with that celebration, which was the means of placing the Girls' School first in the returns of 1888, with an amount but little short of fifty thousand pounds.

The actual sum received by the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls during the year 1888 was £49,259 4s 4d, made up as shown elsewhere in our present issue. Too much cannot be said in praise of this splendid return, and yet—we hope we shall not be misunderstood in thus complaining—it is not what has long been expected would be the total for the year. It will be remembered that the result of the Centenary Festival—held in June last—was announced as an addition of £50,500 to the coffers of the Institution, besides which there were the usual items of permanent income to be taken into account, together with the special £2000 voted by Grand Lodge in connection with Her Majesty's Jubilee Celebration. Taking these matters into consideration £55,000 would not have been an extravagant estimate of the year's income, and even then nothing would have been reckoned on account of Annual Subscriptions, which should make a further substantial increase. We find then that the returns are some £6000 short of what might fairly have been expected, and the question naturally arises—Why should this be? We believe that a large portion of this apparent deficiency could be traced in the receipts of 1887, as several of the amounts which were included in the Centenary Festival returns were paid into the Institution during the preceding year, the object of the donors being to secure votes as early as possible when once they had decided to support the Centenary. Besides this it is probable that the large amount promised at the One Hundredth Anniversary has not yet been all paid in, so that what at first blush may appear a heavy deficiency is nothing to create actual alarm or distrust, and no doubt the Institution will ultimately enjoy the full benefit of the splendid gathering which took place at the Albert Hall, under the presidency of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

Second on the list comes the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, with a return of £21,361 15s 1d, as compared with £28,968 4s 4d the previous year—a falling off of £7606 9s 3d. This will be a sore disappointment to many, even though the total we now have to deal with shows a substantial increase of upwards of £3000 as compared with the returns of

1886. During 1887 the Benevolent Institution was particularly fortunate, and it is perhaps expecting too much to even hope that its increased income that year, of nearly £10,800, as compared with 1886, could be maintained; but there are many among us who are apt to hope against hope, and who are at once despondent when a falling off occurs, and to such the returns of 1888 will appear particularly discouraging. We cannot say that we are surprised at this heavy falling off as compared with the total of the preceding year, because we look upon such a return as was shown in 1887 as an exceptional one. We rather regard the increase of £3000 over 1886 as evidence of a steady progress—a progress, too, in face of severe opposition, for it must be borne in mind that the exceptional success of the Girls' School Festival must have had a most damaging effect on the receipts of the other two Institutions, and such being the case, it is cheering to be able to point out a clear case of advanced prosperity, such as we consider the 1888 income of the Benevolent Institution presents.

Last on the list comes the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, with a total for the year of £12,293 2s 5d, an amount £3368 13s 8d below its total of the previous year. This is disappointing, it is true; but, on the other hand, the falling off is so small as compared with what has been generally expected as to lead us to regard the return more in the form of a triumph. It is not necessary for us to recapitulate the many reasons we have previously assigned for the lack of support given to this Institution during 1888; there are the facts that its Festival occurred within a few days of that of the Sister Institution, and that its friends had to secure their support at the same time as the energetic band of 1500 Stewards were working for the Girls' Centenary. These should be sufficient to account for anything, and, as we have previously said, the surprise should rather be that so much has been done in face of such obstacles. We regard the three Institutions of Freemasonry much in the same light as we regard other mundane affairs—they are all subject to the caprices of fashion. At one time it is fashionable to support one of the Charities; at another the star of a different one appears to be in the ascendant, and later on the most neglected of the three comes to the front, while the others show a corresponding falling off. Just now the Girls' School takes the first place, but who shall say which is to be the favourite of the present year, or to which shall be awarded the first place when the returns of 1889 come to be made up?

As usual, we conclude our remarks under this head with a reference to the work of the Board of Benevolence, the total expenditure of which, during 1888, amounted to £11,468, an increase of nearly one thousand pounds over its grants of 1887. This magnificent display of generosity has one great drawback—it has been made at the expense of a heavy withdrawal of invested funds, and, as we have previously pointed out, something will have to be done ere long to keep the expenditure of the Board more nearly within the limits of its income, or the income will have to be increased so as to keep pace with the outlay. We wish we could add to this most gratifying return a mere outline of the good work which has been performed throughout the country by Masonic Funds beyond those already referred to, but such is impossible, and we are at present only able to point to the £82,914 contributed to the three Institutions, and the £11,468 spent by the Board of Benevolence, and which give a total of £94,382 as the tribute of Freemasonry—under four heads only—to the cause of charity during 1888. Our best wish is that this sum may never be decreased, so long as there remains the necessity for its expenditure in the relief of misfortune and distress among our brethren and their families, but rather that it may go on increasing year by year until such an amount is received as will

enable the Craft to provide for all the claimants found deserving of assistance.

The following are details of the several amounts as given above:—

Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

	£	s	d
Donations and Subscriptions (including £1050 from Province of Kent for Perpetual Presentation, and £105 Special Donation from Supreme Grand Chapter)	44660	14	11
Grand Lodge Special Jubilee donation	2000	0	0
Grand Lodge	150	0	0
Grand Chapter	10	10	0
Dividends	1978	13	5
Interest on Deposit	112	1	0
Three Admissions by Annual Payment, under Law 63	150	0	0
Musical Instruction	177	9	0
Sale of Old Piano	12	0	0
Sale of Old Stores	5	14	0
Sale of Books of Subscribers	2	2	0
	49259	4	4

Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

	£	s	d
Donations and Subscriptions	14982	8	9
Dividends	2253	8	9
Grand Lodge	1600	0	0
Grand Chapter	150	0	0
Grand Lodge Special Jubilee donation	2000	0	0
Interest on Cash at Call	175	17	7
Legacy	200	0	0
	21361	15	1

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

	£	s	d
Donations and Subscriptions	9384	3	6
Music Fees	87	3	0
United Grand Lodge	150	0	0
Supreme Grand Chapter	10	10	0
Special Grant United Grand Lodge	2000	0	0
Sale of Lists of Subscribers	3	6	0
Dividends	657	19	11
	12293	2	5

The Board of Benevolence.

Month.	Cases relieved.	£	s	d
January	27	792	0	0
February	46	1205	0	0
March	36	885	0	0
April	43	1075	0	0
May	42	1015	0	0
June	35	990	0	0
July	32	1000	0	0
August	26	637	0	0
September	26	740	0	0
October	45	1182	0	0
November	36	980	0	0
December	42	967	0	0
	436	11468	0	0

In *The Quiver* for January the Bishop of Moosonee writes on Christian Work among the Cree Indians, the article being illustrated by a series of illustrations by Mr. Patterson, a member of the Royal Canadian Academy. The Bishop of Derry, Dr. Allon, Prof. Blaikie, and the Rev. P. B. Power, are amongst the contributors, whilst complete stories by Miss Evelyn Everett Green and others appear in the Part.

To the *Magazine of Art* for January Mr. Wemyss Reid contributes an article on Mr. Gladstone's portraits, the paper being illustrated by a photogravure of Sir John Millais' Portrait of Mr. Gladstone in the robes of his degree, and engravings of pictures by Mr. Watts, R.A., Mr. Richmond, A.R.A., and others. Mr. Swinburne furnishes a poem, whilst Mr. Watts, R.A., and Mr. Frith, R.A., also contribute.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—The changes of temperature and weather frequently upset persons who are most cautious of their health, and most particular in their diets. These corrective, purifying, and gentle aperient Pills are the best remedy for all defective action of the digestive organs; they augment the appetite, strengthen the stomach, correct biliousness, and carry off all that is noxious from the system. Holloway's Pills are composed of rare balsams, unmixed with baser matter, and on that account are peculiarly well adapted for the young, delicate, and aged. As this peerless medicine has gained fame in the past, so will it preserve it in the future by its renovating and invigorating qualities, and its incapacity of doing harm.

MASONIC LOYALTY.

LOYALTY is a beautiful and suggestive word. It means steadfast devotion to law and order, to lawful government, to a lover, friend or brother under trying circumstances; true to a cause or to one's word. A man may be wanting in many respects, but this virtue hides a multitude of evil. Of all the pitiable elements of human nature, none is more pitiable, more despicable than baseness, dishonesty and deceitfulness of character. How sad and humiliating it is to note the many instances of bad faith, treachery, disloyalty in business relations, politics, in friendship, in domestic life. How fragrant and refreshing it is to come into the atmosphere of loyal souls, that are ever steadfast in their attachments, who will not abandon friends in trouble, or cast aside their convictions when unpopular. The patriot is loyal to his country, the lover is loyal to his wife, child or friend, the Christian is loyal to God.

This virtue is the greatest charm of Masonic character. It warms the heart with love for the Fraternity and seeks to make it a blessing to society and the world. It stimulates devotion and makes one vigilant in his duties. It saves a brother from apathy, from neglect of his Lodge, from indifference to charitable work. It makes earnest workers. It inspires one with obedience to that grand body that has a rightful claim on his allegiance. The loyal Mason is no obstructionist, is not given to fault-finding, to censoriousness, to quibbling over little things. He has the wide charity that hopeth all things, endureth all things for the good of the Order. He is not easily offended, is not fertile in inventing excuses for neglecting the meetings of the Lodge. What we need is loyal Masons, men who love the Institution and are ready to lend a hand.—*Pacific States.*

We learn that the 14th and concluding volume of Messrs. Cassell and Company's "Encyclopædic Dictionary" is ready for publication. This work, which has been in preparation for nearly 17 years, will contain about 50,000 more words than any other existing dictionary. Whilst "Webster's Unabridged Dictionary" fills 1,538 pages, and the "Imperial Dictionary" 2,222, the "Encyclopædic Dictionary" extends to no less than 5,629 pages.

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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.

—:—

SATURDAY, 5th JANUARY.

General Committee Boys' School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4
 179—Manchester, Yorkshire Grey, London St., Tottenham Court Rd., at 8 (In)
 198—Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tavern, Southgate-road, N., at 8 (Instruction)
 1275—Star, Dover Castle, Dept'ord Causeway, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
 1288—Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 8 (Instruction)
 1361—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7 (Instruction)
 1572—Carnarvon, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street
 1622—Rose, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell
 1624—Eccleston, Crown and Anchor, 79 Ebury Street, S.W., at 7 (Instruction)
 2012—Chiswick, Windsor Castle Hotel, King Street, Hammersmith, at 7.30. (In)
 Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air-street, Regent-st., W., at 4
 1362—Royal Albert Edward, Market Hall, Redhill
 1458—Truth, Private Rooms, Conservative Club, Newton Heath, Manchester
 1466—Hoya Ecclesia, Old Ship Hotel, Brighton

MONDAY, 7th JANUARY.

32—Loughborough, Gauden Hotel, Clapham, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 25—Robert Burns, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 45—Strong Man, Bell and Bush, Ropemaker St., Finsbury, E.C., at 7 (In)
 72—Royal Jubilee, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street
 144—St. Luke, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
 174—Sincerity, Railway Tavern, Railway Place, Fenchurch Street at 7. (In)
 180—St. James's Union, Union Tavern, Air-street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
 648—Wellington, White Swan, High-street, Deptford, at 8 (Instruction)
 833—Doric, Duke's Head, 79 Whitechapel Road, at 8. (Instruction)
 975—Rose of Denmark, Gauden Hotel, Clapham Road Station, at 7.30. (Inst.)
 1227—Upton, Three Nuns, Aldgate, E., at 8. (Instruction)
 1319—Asaph, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1425—Hyde Park, Porchester Hotel, Leinster Place, Cleveland Gardens, at 8. (In)
 1446—Prince Leopold, Printing Works, 202 Whitechapel Road, E., at 7 (Inst.)
 1489—Marquess of Ripon, Queen's Hotel, Victoria Park, at 7.30 (In)
 1507—Metropolitan, The Moorgate, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., at 7.30 (Inst.)
 1585—Royal Commemoration, Railway Hotel, High Street, Putney, at 8. (In)
 1608—Kilburn, 46 South Molton Street, Oxford Street, W., at 8. (Inst.)
 1623—West Smithfield, New Market Hotel, King Street, Smithfield, at 7 (In.)
 1693—Kingsland, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., at 8.30 (Instruction)
 1707—Eleanor, Seven Sisters Hotel, Page Green, Tottenham, 8. (Inst)
 1891—St. Ambrose, Baron's Court Hotel, West Kensington. (Instruction)
 1901—Selwyn, East Dulwich Hotel, East Dulwich. (Instruction)
 1924—Wickham, St. Peter's Hall, Wickham Park, Brockley
 2021—Queen's (Westminster) and Marylebone, Criterion, W., at 8. (Inst.)
 R.A. 28—Old King's Arms, Freemasons' Tavern, W.C.
 M.M. 139—Panmure, 8a Red Lion Square, W.C.

37—Anchor and Hope, Freemasons' Hall, Church Institute, Bolton-le-Moors
 53—Royal Sussex, Masonic Hall, Old Orchard-street, Bath
 113—Unanimity, Bull Hotel, Preston.
 119—Sun, Square, and Compasses, Freemasons' Hall, College-st., Whitehaven
 133—Harmony, Ship Hotel, Faversham
 154—Unanimity, Masonic Hall, Zetland-street, Wakefield
 156—Harmony, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Plymouth
 199—Peace and Harmony, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover
 236—York, Masonic Hall, York
 248—True Love and Unity, Freemasons' Hall, Brixham, Devon, at 7. (Inst)
 251—Loyal, Masonic Hall, Castle-street, Barnstaple
 338—Vitruvian, Royal Hotel, Ross, Herefordshire
 381—Harmony and Industry, Smalley's Hotel, Market street, Over Darwen
 382—Royal Union, Chequers Hotel, Uxbridge. (Instruction)
 395—Guy, Crown Hotel, Leamington Priors
 431—St. George, Masonic Hall, Norfolk-street, N. Shields
 441—Three Grand Principles, Red Lion Hotel, Petty Curry, Cambridge
 482—St. James's, Masonic Rooms, Wretham Road, Handsworth, Staffordshire
 529—Semper Fidelis, Crown Hotel, Worcester
 597—St. Cybi, Town Hall, Holyhead
 622—St. Cuthberga, Masonic Hall, Wimborne
 694—Oakley, Masonic Hall, Church Street, Basingstoke
 823—Everton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 350—St. Oswald, Town Hall, Ashbourne, Derbyshire
 928—Friedrich, Masonic Hall, Petersfield
 1009—Shakespeare, Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, Manchester
 1045—Stamford, Town Hall, Altrincham, Cheshire
 1050—Gundulph, King's Head Hotel, Rochester
 1051—Rowley, Athenaeum, Lancaster
 1077—Wilton, Red Lion Inn, Blackley, Lancashire
 1108—Royal Wharfedale, Private Room, Boroughgate, Otley, Yorks
 1124—St. Oswald, Wynnstay Arms Hotel, Oswestry
 1180—Forward, Masonic Rooms, New Hall-street, Birmingham
 1211—Goderich, Masonic Hall, Gt. George-street, Leeds
 1239—Wentworth, Freemasons' Hall, Sheffield.
 1264—Neptune, Masonic Hall, Liverpool.
 1302—De Warren, Masonic Hall, White Swan Hotel, Halifax
 1330—Skelmersdale, Queen's Hotel, Waterloo, Liverpool
 1434—Nottinghamshire, Masonic Hall, Nottingham
 1449—Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury, at 8. (Instruction)
 1519—Albert Edward, Albion Hotel, Clayton-le-Moors, near Accrington
 1573—Caradoc, Masonic Hall, Cae-street, Swansea
 1578—Merlin, New Inn Hotel, Pontypridd, South Wales
 1676—St. Nicholas, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street, Newcastle
 1798—Zion, Masonic Rooms, King Street, Manchester
 R.A. 262—Salopian, The Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury
 R.A. 380—Integrity, Masonic Temple, Morley
 M.M. 12—Minerva, Masonic Hall, Dagger Lane, Hull
 M.M. 37—Wyndham, Masonic Hall, Church-street, Basingstoke.

TUESDAY, 8th JANUARY.

46—Old Union, Holborn Viaduct Hotel
 56—Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Southampton-bldgs., Holborn, at 7 (Inst)
 65—Prosperity, Hercules Tavern, Londonhall-street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction)
 141—Faith, Victoria Mansions Restaurant, Victoria Street, S.W., at 8 (Inst.)
 177—Domestic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 180—St. James's Union, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 194—Joppa, Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate-street, at 7. (Instruction)
 198—Percy, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, E.C.
 211—St. Michael's, Albion, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
 212—Euphrates, Mother Red Cap, High Street, Camden Town, at 8. (Inst)
 643—Wellington, White Swan, Deptford
 654—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney (Instruction)
 751—Prince Frederick William, Eagle Tavern, Clifton Road, Maida Hill, at 8. (Instruction)
 820—Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, at 7.30 (Instruction)
 800—Dalhousie, Middleton Arms, Middleton Road, Dalston at 8 (Inst.)
 861—Finsbury, King's Head, Threadneedle Street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction)

917—Cosmopolitan, Cannon-street Hotel
 933—Doric, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
 1041—Wandsworth, East Hill Hotel, Alma Road, Wandsworth (Instruction)
 1198—Urban, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1321—Emblematic, Red Lion, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W., at 8 (In)
 1349—Friars, Liverpool Arms, Canning Town, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1446—Mount Edgecumbe, 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)
 1591—Royal Naval College, Ship Hotel, Greenwich
 1604—Wanderers, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1611—Covent Garden, Criterion, Piccadilly
 1635—Canterbury, 33 Golden Square, W.
 1668—Samson, Regent Masonic Hall, Air-street, W.
 1695—New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tavern, Finsbury Park, at 8. (Inst.)
 1739—Duke of Cornwall, Queen's Arms, Queen Street, E.C., at 7. (In.)
 1914—Brixton, Prince Regent, Dulwich Road, East Brixton, at 8 (Instruction)
 1989—Waldeck, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 Metropolitan Chapter of Improvement, White Hart, Cannon Street, at 6.3
 R.A. 704—'Amdeh, the Moorgate, 15 Finsbury Pavement, E.C., at 8. (Inst.)
 M.M. 22—Southwark, Bridge House Hotel, Southwark

93—Social, 23 St. Giles Street, Norwich
 131—Fortitude, Masonic Hall, Frar
 181—United Chatham of Benevolence, Assembly Rooms, Old Brompton, Kent
 241—Merchants, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 272—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Main Street, Boston
 284—Shakespeare, Masonic Rooms, High-street, Warwick
 406—Northern Counties, Masonic Hall, Maple Street, Newcastle (Instruction)
 463—East Surrey of Concord, Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, at 7.45. (Inst.)
 473—Faithful, Masonic Hall, New Street, Birmingham
 495—Wakefield, Masonic Hall, Zetland Street, Wakefield
 503—Belvedere, Star Hotel, Maidenhead
 603—Zetland, Royal Hotel, Checkheaton
 626—Lansdowne of Unity, Town Hall, Chippenham
 650—Star in the East, Pier Hotel, Harwich
 696—St. Bartholomew, Anchor Hotel, Wellesbury
 726—Saffordshire Knot, North Western Hotel, Safford
 903—Gosport, India Arms Hotel, High-street, Gosport
 1120—St. Milburga, Tontine Hotel, Donbridge
 1250—Gilbert, Masonic Rooms, Stacey, Greenhill Street, Warrington
 1314—Acacia, Bell Hotel, Bromley, Kent
 1325—Stanley, 214 Great Homer Street, Liverpool, at 8. (Instruction)
 1353—St. John, Masonic Hall, Grays, Essex. (Instruction)
 1465—O kenden, Faloot Hotel, Saton, Sussex
 1509—Madoc, Queen's Hotel, Portmadoc
 1545—Baldon, Masonic Room, Northgate, Baldon
 1678—Tonbridge, Masonic Hall, Tonbridge
 1713—Wilbraham, Walton Institute, Walton, Liverpool
 2099—Ethelbert, Masonic Rooms, Beech Street, Herne Bay, Kent
 2146—Surbiton, Spread Eagle Coffee Tavern, Surbiton. (Instruction)
 R.A. 70—St. John's, Huyshe Masonic Temple, Princes Street, Plymouth
 R.A. 253—Justice, Masonic Hall, Gower Street, Derby
 R.A. 265—Judea, Masonic Club, Hanover Street, Keighley
 R.A. 268—Union, Queen's Arms Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne
 R.A. 289—Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Carlton Hill, Leeds
 R.A. 330—St. Petrock, Masonic Hall, Turf Street, Bodmin
 R.A. 558—Temple, Masonic Hall, Folkestone
 R.A. 660—King Edwin, Freemasons' Hall, Yorkergate, New Walton
 R.A. 1055—Derby, Masonic Rooms, Bedford Street, Cheetham, Lancashire.
 M.M. 6—Adams, Victoria Hall, Trinity-road, Sheerness
 M.M. 75—Royal Sussex, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
 M.M. 152—Dover and Cinque Ports, Royal Oak Hotel, Dover

WEDNESDAY, 8th JANUARY.

Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Freemasons' Hall, at 3
 3 Fidelity, Alfred, Roman Road, Barnsbury, at 8. (Instruction)
 11—Enoch, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 13—Waterloo, Union Masonic Hall, William Street, Woolwich
 15—Kent, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 30—United Mariners', The Lugard, Peckham, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 72—Royal Jubilee, Mitre, Chancery Lane, W.C., at 8. (Instruction)
 73—Mount Lebanon, George Inn, High Street, Borough, at 8. (Inst)
 87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College Street, Lambeth
 147—Justice, White Swan, High Street, Deptford
 193—Confidence, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall Street, at 7. (Instruction)
 228—United Strength, The Hope, Stanhope Street, Regent's Park, at 8 (Inst)
 538—La Tolerance, Portland Hotel, Great Portland Street, at 8. (Inst)
 720—Panmure, Batham Hotel, Batham, at 7. (Instruction)
 749—Belgrave, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street
 781—Merchant Navy, Silver Tavern, Bardet Road, W.
 813—New Concord, Jolly Farmers, Southgate-road, N. (Instruction)
 820—Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond
 862—Whittington, Red Lion, Poppin's Court, Fleet Street, at 8. (Instruc.)
 902—Burgoyne, Goose and Gridiron, St. Paul's Churchyard, at 7. (Instruction)
 1306—Lodge of St. John, Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate, E.
 1475—Pecknam, Lord Wellington Hotel, 516 Old Kent Road, at 8. (Instruc.)
 1524—Duke of Connaught, Royal Edward, Mare Street, Hackney, at 8. (Inst.)
 1601—Ravensbourne, George Inn, Lewisham, at 8. (Instruction)
 1601—Wanderers, Victoria Mansions Restaurant, Victoria-st., S.W., at 7.30. (In)
 1662—Beaconsfield, Chequers, March Street, Walthamstow, at 7.30. (Inst.)
 1681—Londesborough, Berkeley Arms, John Street, May Fair, at 8. (Inst.)
 1694—Imperial, Cadogan Hotel, Sloane Street, Chelsea
 1718—Centurion, Imperial Hotel, Holborn Viaduct
 1922—Earl of Lathom, Station Hotel, Camberwell New Road, S.E., at 8. (In)
 1963—Duke of Albany, 153 Battersea Park Road, S.W., at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1986—Honor Oak, Moore Park Hotel, near Honor Oak Station
 2206—Hendon, Welsh Harp, Hendon, at 8. (Instruction)
 R.A. 177—Domestic, Union Tavern, Air Street, Regent Street, at 8. (Inst.)
 R.A. 720—Panmure, Goose and Gridiron, St. Paul's Churchyard, at 7. (Inst.)
 R.A. 933—Doric, 202 Whitechapel Road, E., at 7.30. (Instruction)
 R.A. 1260—John Hervey, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 R.A. 1305—St. Marylebone, Langham Hotel, W.
 R.A. 1446—Mount Edgecumbe, St. Botolph Chambers, Bishopsgate Street, E.C.
 R.A. 1524—Duke of Connaught, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street
 M.M.—Thistle, Freemasons' Tavern, W.C., at 8. (Instruction)
 M.M. 284—High Cross, Seven Sisters Hotel, Tottenham
 K.T. 129—Holy Palest, 33 Golden-square, W.C.

54—Hope, Spread Eagle Inn, Cheetham Street, Rochdale
 146—Antiquity, Bull's Head Inn, Bradbury, Bolton
 191—St. John, Knowsley Hotel, Maymarket Street, Bury, Lancashire
 204—Caledonian, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
 225—St. Luke's, Coach and Horses Hotel, Ipswich
 281—Fortitude, Masonic Rooms, Athenaeum, Lancaster
 288—Harmony, Masonic Hall, Todmorden
 453—Sympathy, Old Falcon Hotel, Gravesend
 567—Unity, Globe Hotel, Warwick
 666—Benevolence, Private Rooms, Prince Town, Dartmoor
 753—Ellesmere, Masonic Hall, Buxton, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 852—Zetland, Albert Hotel, New Bailey-street, Salford
 854—Albert, Duke of York Inn, Shaw, near Aldham
 872—St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Chatterbox, Luton
 1018—Shakespeare, Freemasons' Hall, Salam-street, Bradford
 1031—Fletcher, Masonic Hall, Now-street, Birmingham

- 1060—Marmion, Masonic Rooms Church-street, Tamworth
 1064—Borough, Bull Hotel, Burnley
 1094—Temple, Mascnic Hall, Iverpool
 1101—Grey Friars, Masonic Hall, Reading
 1209—Lewises, Royal Hotel, Ramsgate
 1248—Denison, Masonic Hall, Scarborough
 1264—Neptune, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 7. (Instruction)
 1342—Walker, Hope and Anchor Inn, Byker, Newcastle
 1356—De Grey and Ripon, 140 North Hill Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool
 1398—Baldwin, Dalton Castle, Dalton-in-Furness
 1424—Brownrigg, Assembly Rooms, Old Broad-street, Clapham
 1434—Nottinghamshire, George Hotel, Nottingham
 1611—Alexandra, Hornsea, Hull (Instruction)
 1547—Liverpool, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 1582—Llanidloes, Trewythen Arms, Llanidloes
 1643—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, Hebburn-on-Tyne
 1692—Hervey, White Hart Hotel, Bromley, Kent
 2041—West Kent Volunteer, Masonic Hall, Wilmington, Kent
 2046—Robinson, Masonic Room, Maidstone, Kent
 R.A. 24—De Swinburne, Freemasons' Hall, Grainger-street Newcastle
 R.A. 462—Bank Terrace, Hargreaves Arms Hotel, Accrington
 R.A. 809—Etheldreda, Rose and Crown Hotel, Wisbech
 R.A. 1177—Dinlych, Masonic Room, South Parade, Tonby
 R.A. 1345—Victoria, Cross Keys Hotel, Eccles

THURSDAY, 10th JANUARY.

- 27—Egyptian, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall-street, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
 87—Vitruvian, White Hart, College-street, Lambeth, at 8 (Instruction)
 91—Regularity, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 144—St. Luke, White Hart, King's-road, Chelsea, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 147—Justice, Brown Bear, High Street, Deptford, at 8. (Instruction)
 206—Friendship, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall-street, E.C.
 238—Pilgrim, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 263—Bank of England, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C.
 335—Salisbury, Union Tavern, Air-street, Regent-street, W., at 8. (Inst.)
 534—Polish National, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 657—Canonbury, Albion, Aldersgate-street
 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)
 860—Dalhousie, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
 870—Southwark, Southwark Park Tavern
 879—Southwark, Sir Garnet Wolseley, Warndon St., Rotherhithe Now Rd. (In)
 1076—Capper, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
 1158—Southern Star, Sir Sydney Smith, Chester St., Kennington, at 8. (In.)
 1278—Burdett Coutts, Swan Tavern, Botolph Green Road, E., at 8. (Instruction)
 1306—St. John, Three Crowns Tavern, Mile End Road, E. (Instruction)
 1339—Stockwell, Masons' Tavern, Masons' Avenue, E.C., at 7.30 (Instruction)
 1360—Royal Arthur, Prince of Wales Hotel, Wimbledon, at 7.30. (Inst)
 1426—The Great City, Masons' Hall, Masons' Avenue, E.C., at 6.30. (Inst)
 1471—Islington, Cock Tave n, Highbury
 1558—D. Connaught, Palmerston Arms, Grosvenor Park, Camberwell, at 8 (In)
 1671—Leopold, Austin's Hotel, 7 London Street, E.C., at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1598—Ley Spring, Red Lion, Leytonstone
 1599—Skelmersdale, Masons' Hall Tavern, Basinghall-street, E.C.
 1602—Sir Hugh Myddelton, White Horse Tavern, Liverpool Road (corner of Theberton Street) N., at 8. (Instruction)
 1612—West Middlesex, Bell Hotel, Ealing Dean, at 7.45. (Instruction)
 1614—Covent Garden, Criterion, W., at 8. (Instruction)
 1622—Rose, Stirling Castle Hotel, Church Street, Camberwell. (Instruction)
 1625—Tredegar, Wellington Arms, Wellington Road, Bow, E., at 7.30. (In.)
 1642—Earl of Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill
 1673—Langton, White Hart, Abchurch Lane, E.C., at 5.30. (Instruction)
 1677—Crusaders, Old Jerusalem Tav., St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, at 8 (Inst)
 1708—Plucknett, Bald Faced Stag, East Finchley
 1744—Royal Savoy, Blue Post, Charlotte Street, W., at 8 (Instruction)
 1791—Creton, Wheatshaf Tavern, Goldhawk Road, Shepherd's Bush. (Inst)
 1950—Southgate, Railway Hotel, New Southgate, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1987—Strand, The Criterion, Piccadilly
 1996—Priory, Berrymead Priory Constitutional Club, High-st., Acton. (Inst.)
 2168—Derby Allcroft, Athenæum, Camden Road, N.
 R.A. 73—Mount Lebanon, Bridge House Hotel, London-bridge
 R.A. 140—St. George's, Green Man Hotel, Blackheath
 R.A. 538—Vane, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 R.A. 554—Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney
 R.A. 619—Beadon, Masons' Hall Tavern, Basinghall-street
 R.A. 763—Prince Frederick William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, at 8. (In)
 R.A. 813—New Concord, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C.
 R.A. 1471—North London, Northampton House, St. Paul's Road, Canonbury, at 8. (Instruction)
 R.C. 42—St. George, 33 Golden Square, W
 35—Medina, 85 High Street, Cowes
 97—Palatine, Masonic Hall, Toward Road, Sunderland
 112—St. George, Masonic Hall, Fore-street Hill, Exeter
 139—Britannia, Freemasons' Hall, Surrey Street, Salisbury
 203—Ancient Union, Masonic Hall, Liverpool (Instruction)
 216—Harmonic, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool
 249—Mariners, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, at 8. (Instruction)
 332—Royal Preston, Castle Hotel, Preston
 339—Unanimity, Crown Hotel, Penrith, Cumberland
 469—Hundred of Elloe, Masonic Rooms, London Road, Spalding.
 477—Mersey, 55 Argyll-street, Birkenhead.
 546—Etruscan, Masonic Hall, Caroline Street, Loughton, Staff'd
 732—Royal Brunswick, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
 739—Temperance Masonic Room, New-street, Birmingham
 784—Wellington, Masonic Rooms, Park Street, Dept
 786—Croxteth United Service, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 945—Abbey, Abbey Council Chamber, Abingdon, Berks
 991—Tyne, Masonic Hall, Wellington Quay, North Shields
 1035—Prince of Wales, Masonic Hall, Kirkcaldy, Liverpool
 1055—Derby, Masonic Rooms, Bedford Street, Bury New Road, Manchester
 1093—St. George, Private Room, Temperance Hall, Trade-st., Mon.
 1144—Milton, Commercial Hotel, Ashdon-on-Bre-Ly
 1145—Equality, Red Lion Hotel, Accrington
 1147—St. David, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester.
 1182—Duke of Edinburgh, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
 1204—Roid, Imperial Hotel, Malvern, Worcestershire
 1273—St. Michael, Free Church School Rooms, Sittingbourne
 1369—Bala, Plasgoch Hotel, Bala
 1416—Falcon, Masonic Hall, Castle Yard, Thirsk
 1580—Cranborne, Red Lion Hotel, Hatfield, Herts, at 8. (Instruction)
 1583—Corbet, Corbet Arms, Towyn
 1697—Hospitality, Royal Hotel, Waterfoot near Manchester
 1782—Machen, Swan Hotel, Colleshill
 1892—Wallington, King's Arms Hotel, Carshalton. (Instruction)
 1911—De La Pré, Masonic Hall, Northampton
 1915—Graystone, Foresters' Hall, Whitstable
 R.A. 220—Harmony, Wellington Hotel, Garston, Lancashire
 R.A. 275—Perseverance, Masonic Hall, South Parade, Huddersfield
 R.A. 509—Tees, Freemasons' Hall, Stockton-on-Tees
 R.A. 613—Bridson, Masonic Hall, Southampton
 R.A. 807—Cabbell, 23 St. Giles Street, Norwich
 R.A. 818—Philanthropic, Masonic Hall, Lion Street, Abergavenny
 R.A. 889—Dobie, Griffin Hotel, Kingston-on-Thames

- R.A. 1235—Phoenix of St. Ann, Court Hotel Buxton
 M.M.—St. John's, Commercial Hotel, Bolton.
 M.M. 16—Friendship, 2 St. Stephen's Street, Devonport
 M.M. 145—Constantine, George Hotel, Colchester

FRIDAY, 11th JANUARY.

- Emulation Lodge of Improvement, Freemasons' Hall, at 8
 35—Robert Burns, Portland Arms Hotel, Great Portland Street, W., at 8. (In)
 157—Bedford, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 167—St. John's, York and Albany Hotel, Regent's Park, N.W., at 8. (Inst).
 177—Domestic, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C.
 507—United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, at 7.30. (Inst.)
 765—St. James, Princess Victoria Tavern, Rotherhithe, at 8. (Instruction)
 766—William Preston, St. Andrew's Tavern, George St., Baker St., at 8. (In)
 780—Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, at 8. (Instruction)
 834—Ranelagh, Six Bells, Hammersmith. (Instruction)
 1056—Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., at 7. (Instruction)
 1185—Lewis, Fishmongers' Arms Hotel, Wood Green, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1201—Eclectic, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1223—Beacontree, Green Man, Leytonstone. (Instruction)
 1293—Royal Standard, Builders Arms, St. Paul's Road, Canonbury, at 8. (In)
 1345—Clapton, White Hart, Lower Clapton, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 1381—Kennington, The Horns, Kennington. (Instruction)
 1442—E. Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, at 8. (Instruction)
 2000—Earl of Mornington, 8a Red Lion Square, W.C.
 2030—The Abbey Westminster, King's Arms, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., at 7.30. (Instruction)
 R.A.—Panmure C. of Improvement, Stirling Castle, Church Street, Camberwell
 R.A. 33—Britannic, Freemasons' Tavern, W.C.
 R.A. 79—Pythagorean, Portland Hotel, London Street, Greenwic'. (Inst).
 R.A. 95—Eastern Star C. of Improvement, Hercules Tav., Leadenhall Street
 R.A. 820—Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, at 8. (Improvement)
 R.A. 890—Hornsey, Porchester Hotel, Leinster Place, Cleveland Square, Paddington, W. (Improvement)
 M.M.—Old Kent, Crown and Cushion, London Wall, E.C. (Instruction)
 M.M. 355—Royal Savoy, The Moorgate, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., at 7.30. (In)
 K.T. D.—Mount Calvary, 8a Red Lion Square, W.C.
 36—Glamorgan, Freemasons' Hall, Arcade, St. Mary's Street, Cardiff
 453—Chigwell, Public Hall, Station Road, Loughton, at 7.30. (Instruction)
 458—Aire and Calder, Private Rooms, Old Street, Goolse
 526—Honour, Star and Garter Hotel, Wolverhampton
 566—St. Germain, Masonic Hall, The Crescent, Salby
 662—Dartmouth, Dartmouth Hotel, West Bromwich
 815—Blair, Town Hall, Stretford-road, Hulme
 916—Hartington, Burlington Hotel, Eastbourne
 1001—Harrogate and Claro, Masonic Rooms, Parliament Street, Harrogate
 1087—Beaudesert, Assembly Rooms, Corn Exchange, Loughborough
 1121—Wear Valley, Masonic Hall, Bishop Auckland
 1143—Royal Denbigh, Council Room, Denbigh
 1289—Rock, Royal Rock Hotel, Rock Ferry
 General Lodge of Instruction, Masonic Hall, New Street, Birmingham, at
 R.A. 119—Sun Square and Compass, Masonic Hall, Whitehaven
 R.A. 137—Amity, Masonic Hall, Poole
 R.A. 601—Eyton St. John, Wreken Hotel, Wellington, Salop
 R.A. 993—Alexandra, Medway Hotel, Levenshulme
 K.T. D.—Hope, Freemasons' Hall, Huddersfield
 K.T. D.—De Wrenne, Royal Pavilion, Brighton

SATURDAY, 12th JANUARY.

- 176—Caveac, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street
 179—Manchester, Yorkshire Grey, London St., Tottenham Court Rd., at 8. (In)
 195—Percy Jolly Farmers', Southgate Road, N., 8. (Instruction)
 1275—Star, Dover Castle, Deptford Causeway, S.E., at 7. (Instruction)
 1288—Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, Highbury, at 8. (Instruction)
 1328—Granite, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 1364—Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Triangle, Hackney, at 7. (Instruction)
 1426—The Great City, Cannon Street Hotel
 1624—Eccleston, Crown and Anchor, 79 Ebury Street, S.W., at 7. (Inst)
 1686—Paxton, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell
 1743—Perseverance, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street
 1830—Duke of Cornwall, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
 2029—King Solomon, 8a Red Lion Square, W.C.
 2012—Chiswick, Windsor Castle Hotel, King Street, Hammersmith, at 7.30. (In)
 Sinai Chapter of Improvement, Union, Air Street, Regent Street, W., at 8
 M.M. 211—Hammersmith, Windsor Castle Hotel, King Street, W. Hammersmith
 308—Prince George, Private Rooms, Bottoms, Eastwood
 2069—Prudence, Masonic Hall, Leeds
 2095—Caterham, Drill Hall, Caterham, Surrey
 R.A. 1293—Burdett, Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court
 R.C. 43—Eureka, Masonic Rooms, Pavilion, Brighton

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IN the opinion of many Brethren, the time has arrived when the long-continued services of Bro. ROBERT FREKE GOULD, P.G.D., to the literature of the Craft merit a more than passing acknowledgment. Entering this field of labour so far back as 1858, he was for many years a contributor to the Masonic Journals, but he will be best known as the author of "The Four Old Lodges;" "The Atholl Lodges;" and last, though not least, of "The History of Freemasonry," which is admitted by all authorities to be the ablest and best Masonic work ever written. Since its production, it is no longer possible to affirm, as has been constantly done by foes and friends alike, that the great body of Freemasons are without a reliable and critical history of their Society.

It is hoped that the brethren whose names are subjoined may prove to be the pioneers of a movement which will show to Bro. GOULD that the long years of study and research which he has devoted to the interest of Freemasonry are deemed worthy of substantial recognition by the Craft Universal, who in this way will best evince a genuine appreciation of his unexampled labours.

In pursuance of the above object the undermentioned brethren have therefore formed themselves into a Committee.

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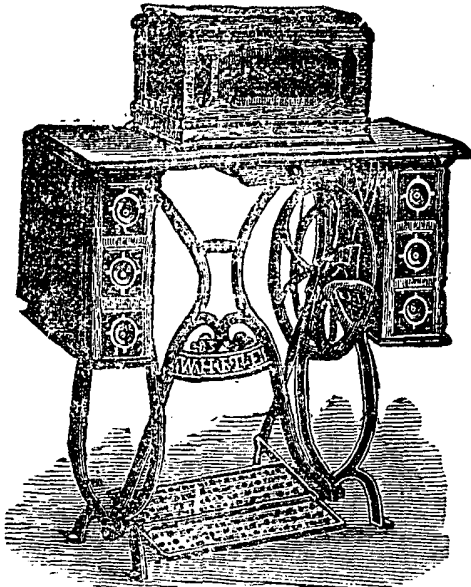
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