

Freemason's Chronicle;

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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CASUAL RELIEF.

ONE of the most difficult of the problems which have to be solved in connection with the Masonic system is that which arises when an appeal is made to a Lodge or an individual member of the Order for casual relief. No Mason who fully appreciates the teachings of the Craft can be wholly unmoved by the tale of woe and misfortune which is often preached by applicants for help, but two questions at once present themselves; is the tale a true one, and is the applicant worthy of consideration? Possibly no amount of inquiry could secure an absolutely reliable answer to these queries. How then can individuals, with little time to spare, and no handy means of obtaining information on the subject, hope to arrive at a satisfactory verdict?

Going at once to the worst form of cases, we must recognise that the professional beggar appreciates the difficulties which exist in this connection, and avails himself of them to the fullest extent. He is able to discover suitable fields for his operations, and soon makes himself a master of effectual means of approaching the susceptibilities of his victims, who have really no foundation, in the very large majority of cases, on which to base a direct refusal to answer the appeal before them. Various proposals have been made from time to time to put this matter on a more satisfactory basis, and we have more than once urged the desirability of Grand Lodge taking action so as to protect its members from impostors, but the subject is admittedly a difficult one to deal with, and it is very unlikely that any action will be taken in this direction by the authorities of the Order,—at least for the present. Under these circumstances it is apparent reform must come from the members of the Order themselves, and consequently individual Lodges often appoint an Almoner, to whom all applicants are referred by the members, while in some of the provincial towns the various Lodges meeting there combine among themselves, and elect a committee to dispense the whole casual relief of the district. This system is advantageous in many ways, as it not only relieves individual members from the annoyance of answering personal applications, but it also provides a ready and reliable means of securing assistance for those who are actually in need of it, and can fully appreciate any help which is accorded them by their fellow members of the Masonic Order.

We believe it is the sincere wish of most Freemasons to render help to their less fortunate brethren wherever and whenever it is needed, but, unfortunately, the means are not always available to do just what is desired, and, worse still, it is well known that a number of unscrupulous persons make a regular living by trading on the obligations and responsibilities which Freemasonry imposes on its members. As a

consequence many really deserving cases go unrelieved, where a little Masonic help would have been of infinite value, while Craftsmen who are ready and willing to lend a helping hand at last find they have been imposed upon, and are almost forced to register a vow to never again loosen their purse-strings, no matter how sad a case may be made out in the hope of inducing them so to do.

In connection with this subject, we cannot do better than quote the actual experience of our brethren in Plymouth and district, who, for many years past, have had the "Three Towns Casual Relief Society" in successful working. Bro. J. B. Gover, the Secretary of the Fund, speaking at a recent meeting of the members, briefly explained the circumstances under which the fund was started. At one time, he said, it was the practice of applicants for relief to go round from Lodge to Lodge, and get grants if they could from each. This was attended with disadvantages, which will at once be recognised by any of our readers who have had the smallest experience in the Craft, and the Relief Fund was started in the hope of inducing a better state of affairs. We are pleased to learn the result has been satisfactory in every way, one of the principal advantages being that the district was relieved of those who made a regular business of appealing, while it is equally certain that many who would have found it impossible to receive attention under the old system have been able to lay their claims before the committee, and have thereby secured help which has stood them in good service, and has probably placed them once more in a position to fight the battle of life. We are convinced that the well-known Secretary of this Plymouth fund would readily explain its working to any inquiring Brother, and those who contemplate forming such a Society in their own district would probably do well to open up communication with him. At the meeting to which we have referred, the report showed receipts since the last meeting £20, expenditure £27 3s 4d, while it was decided to meet the deficiency and provide funds for future purposes by making a call of £1 on each of the Lodges of the Three Towns. This call will at once explain the system on which the project is worked, and in view of the possible advantages which may accrue from an imitation of the system in other districts we think this information will be appreciated by our readers.

THE GRAND TREASURERSHIP.

A BROTHER of our acquaintance asked us, during the week, what we were going to do now the "Purplean" Fever—as he termed it—is in full blast? Well, we say to our readers, as we said to our friend, we are content to wait till the appointments are announced in Grand Lodge: doubtless the claims of the many who aspire to the purple will be dispassionately considered by

those who are privileged to counsel H.R.H. the Grand Master as to his choice. With regard to the Election of a Grand Treasurer, we shall doubtless hear a great deal at our Lodge meetings in the course of the next two months. There are two candidates who have been nominated, viz., Bro. J. D. Murray, of No. 1335, and Bro. J. S. Cumberland, one of the best known Masons of our acquaintance. Each doubtless will have a strong body of supporters, who will do their level best to secure their representative's return, but personally we think no good can result from the fact that prominence has been given to the fact that the Pro Grand Master has accepted the post of Chairman of one of the two opposing Committees. We append particulars of Brother J. S. Cumberland's Masonic Record, and will merely add that the Brother who nominated this candidate does not claim blood relationship—though it has got abroad that they are related other than in a Masonic sense.

Craft—Bro. John Speight Cumberland was initiated into Freemasonry in the Antiquity Lodge, No. 178, Wigan, Province of West Lancashire, on the 11th April 1871; Founder and P.M. Eboracum Lodge, No. 1611, York; Past Prov. Grand Warden North and East Yorkshire; Founder and first W.M. United Northern Counties Lodge, No. 2128, London; Hon. Member Antient Carthage Lodge, No. 1717, Tunis.

Royal Arch—Founder and twice M.E.Z. Eboracum Chapter, No. 1611, York; P.P.G. Std. Bearer and P.P.G.J. North and East Yorks.

Mark—P.M. York Mark Lodge (T.I.); P.P. Senior Grand Warden North and East Yorks; Past Grand Steward and Past Grand Junior Overseer Grand Mark Lodge of England; Hon. Member Old York Lodge (T.I.), Bradford.

Royal Ark Mariners.—Past Commander N.

Allied Masonic Degrees.—St. Lawrence the Martyr—P.M.; Knight of Constantinople—Past Illus. Poten.; Knight of the Red Cross of Babylon—T. Illus. Sov.; Order of the Grand High Priest—Past Pres.; Past Grand Deacon.

Knights Templar—P.E.P. Antient Ebor Preceptory, York; P.P.G. Sub-Marshal North and East Yorks; Past Grand A.D.C. Great Priory of England; Hon. Member Mary Commandery, No. 36, Philadelphia, U.S.A.; Hon. Member Apollo Commandery Chicago.

Knight of Malta.—Past Eminent Prior.

Royal Arch Night Templar Priest.—Member, 1880.

Rose Croix.—P.M.W.S. Hilda Chapter, York.

Royal Order of Scotland—P.P.S. Grand Warden Lancashire and Cheshire.

Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine.—Past M.P. Sovereign.

Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.—Past Prelate; Member of the Grand Senate.

Cryptic Masonry—Royal Master; Select Master; Super-Excellent Master.

Rosicrucian Society.—Past Celeb. and Suffragan and Hon. VIII°.

Masonic Charities.—Life-Governor of all, and has served 15 Stewardships.

A SERMON,

Preached at Iona, by the Rev. A. H. Munro, of St. Thomas, Ontario.

THE Rev. A. H. Munro, of St. Thomas, preached in the village recently, to a large assembly, a special sermon to the Masonic fraternity, taking as his text Romans xii. 21—"Overcome evil with good." Besides the members of the local Lodge, many were present from neighbouring Lodges, St. Thomas itself furnishing a large quota of prominent members of the Craft. The address was eloquent and scholarly in a high degree, and a synopsis conveys but a very inadequate impression of its power. Mr. Munro showed clearly, in tracing man's history from the dawn of creation, as written by man himself, that it is a record of crime, bloodshed, selfishness and cruelty. On the onward march down the ages evil was met by evil, and ever with the same result, till the advent of the gospel of peace announced the amazing doctrine inculcated in the text, to overcome evil with the principle of love as the one remedy to check the fierce violence of man's fallen nature.

The Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, the Egyptian and Macedonian monarchies attained to great perfection in their day as regards arts and natural sciences, as attested by recently deciphered inscriptions, but according to these same inscriptions their highest conceptions of human greatness and happiness involved appalling cruelties and

most fiendish atrocities. The doctrine of the text was undreamed of, much less practised.

The Roman Empire was the grandest hitherto known in the world, and arrived at the most advanced civilization of which Paganism was capable. Yet, what was the record of Tiberius and Nero, two names that may be said to represent it at the height of its military and literary greatness? This recall, as given by the impartial historian Tacitus, who was nearly contemporaneous, was such that no man at the present day is so lost to shame as to dare to read it to his wife and family.

Then, in the dark ages of Christianity following, the social and moral condition of the race fell back to its original barbarism, with the concomitant heathenish practices. As men wander away from moral influences and isolate themselves therefrom, the diabolical instincts of the natural man attain their highest development. Even the "noble savage," so-called, is but a filthy, greasy, lying, bloodthirsty devil. The rev. gentleman had no sympathy with the pessimists who see the world getting worse and worse. They all know the stupendous strides the world has made in the last fifty years in invention and material progress, and the improvements socially, morally and religiously have been even greater. Ancient Rome with its four or five millions of population had not a single hospital for the diseased, nor a single receptacle for the blind, the maimed, or the helpless. Modern London has one thousand houses devoted exclusively to such uses. In Rome, with all its greatness, man's heart was dead to the feeling of charity, and would ever continue so, but for the infusing into it of the blessed teaching of the Spirit of God. "Overcome evil with good."

The speaker, in concluding, reminded the Masonic brethren that because this text is not sufficiently exemplified, there will be many failures among the members of the Order, just as we see failures in the Christian church, not because, but in spite of its teachings. He had arrived at the highest pinnacle of Masonry, and saw nothing whatever objectionable in its solemn vows and obligations. A man cannot become a Christian through Masonry, nor, on the other hand, can he attain to the highest excellencies of Masonry apart from Christianity, or an acquaintance with its great moral tenets. After an eloquent appeal to the brethren to continue in the practice of the precepts taught in the Lodge-room, the speaker concluded. A large collection was taken up for the widows and orphans of Masons.

The Committee of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution held their monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday. Bro. George Everett Grand Treasurer occupied the chair; he was supported by Bros. W. H. Hubbert, C. W. Cottebrune, Joseph Freeman, S. Vallentine, James Brett, Hugh Cotter, W. J. Murlis, Charles Kempton, A. Durrant, C. F. Hogard, Alex. Mullord, C. H. Webb, A. H. Tattershall, R. Pittam Stevens, J. B. Purchas, J. Newton, John Barnett jun., F. Mead, W. Webber, L. G. G. Robbins, Dr. Jabez Hogg, John C. Matthews, W. Belchamber, and T. B. Daniell. The minutes of the November meeting having been read and verified, the Secretary reported the death of two male and one widow annuitants as well as of two accepted male candidates. A letter removing the name of a third male candidate from the list was read, and also another informing the Committee that a widow annuitant was an inmate of the Grove Hall Lunatic Asylum, to which a reply had been sent that the annuity ceased. The report of the Warden for the past month was read. Two applications from the widows of deceased annuitants were granted. The Secretary reported that Bro. Sir John B. Monckton's motion, "That Grand Lodge should vote £525 as a contribution to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution," on the occasion of its Jubilee celebration, had been carried unanimously, and a letter of thanks was ordered to be written to Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, and Bro. Jabez Hogg, who had seconded the motion. The Committee took into consideration the petitions of six male and two widow applicants, the result being that all were accepted, and the names ordered to be entered upon the list of candidates for the election in May 1892. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

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LEEDS MASONIC LOCAL RELIEF FUND.

THE Masons of Leeds are to be congratulated upon the splendid results of their Local Relief Fund, which has now been in operation several years. Previous to the formation of the society much indiscriminate relief of a spasmodic character was given by brethren at their own homes or places of business to travelling Masons, and it was found that several of these unworthy brethren, having possessed themselves of the list of members of the Lodge, made a rare harvest by going the round. Genuine cases of need were often unheeded because the really deserving brother was not the one to make parade of his necessities. A few brethren got together and the Local Relief Fund was the outcome of their conference. It is maintained by a shilling per member from each of the Lodges, and as the cost of administration is very small, this levy is found to cover about three years' relief. When a travelling Mason makes application for relief he is at once referred to the Almoner, and if the man is in dire need a small sum for food is at once given to enable full inquiry to be made into the case. If inquiries are satisfactory, ample help is given to tide over present difficulties, and the brother is helped on to the town in which his friends live. Imposture has been considerably checked, and as the Almoner always errs rather on the side of mercy, the impostor is not able to make a second call on the funds. The annual meeting of this well managed Society was held at Masonic Hall, Great George Street, Leeds, on the 4th inst., when Bro. José Richards, the president, occupied the chair. The first business was the reception of the auditors' report, which was as follows:—

In presenting their annual report the auditors cannot refrain at the outset from expressing the deep regret of this Society at the death of their painstaking and valued Almoner, the late Bro. S. Barrand. The duties that he so admirably performed have been discharged by Bro. Tudor Trevor P.M., to whom our thanks are due for his untiring labours on our behalf. His part has been no sinecure, for a glance at the accounts will show that great calls have been made upon our funds, in the administration of which we have good reason to know great assistance has been rendered in many apparently deserving cases. During the year there have been 40 acts of relief, to 37 distressed brethren. Of this number 20 were English, 10 Scotch, 3 Irish and 4 foreign Masons. During the year a levy of one shilling per member has been made upon the 8 Lodges, which has produced £19 18s, all of which sum has been paid to the Treasurer. The amount remaining in the Treasurer's hands at the end of the year is £15 9s 2d. We cannot conclude this report without regretfully alluding to the death of Bro. R. Craig, who at the time of his lamented decease was our Treasurer, a post he had occupied for some years. His place has been filled by appointment of Bro. Trevor P.M.—J. J. Fretwell P.M. 2019, T. B. Tomlinson P.M. 1221, auditors. The report was unanimously carried.

The following Officers were then appointed:—President, Bro. Trevor P.M.; Vice-President, Bro. Lucas P.M.; Treasurer, Bro. Richards P.M. Past President; Almoner, Bro. Trevor P.M.; Secretary Bro. Tomlinson P.M.; Auditors—Bros. Fretwell P.M. and Clayton P.M.

It is always gratifying to recognise the perseverance and energy displayed by foreign brethren who take office in our several Lodges to master the difficulties of our language. Bro. Heinrich Heck, the new W.M. of the William Preston, sets a laudable example. On the night of his installation he initiated a candidate, and later on, in proposing his health, addressed the Lodge, as follows:—

Brethren,—The toast I am now about to propose is one which on every such occasion is received with the greatest interest, and, as a rule, with much enthusiasm. It is the health of our Initiates. In the first instance allow me, brethren, to thank you for the very kind and cordial manner you have received the candidate proposed by myself, and seconded by Bro. P.M. Miller, also for your kindness in according him your unanimous votes. The selection of a new member for our Order is the most important duty any Lodge can engage in, and no members of a Lodge who are mindful of its well-being, as well as of the well-being of the Fraternity at large, dare treat lightly the choice as to those they initiate. I say it is the most important step the brethren can take. On the one hand it preserves our Order from decay; on the other it is the means of joining into the Order, true, honest and sincere companions. Our Initiate to-day is an intimate friend of mine, of many years standing, and from what I know of him I have every reason to believe his conduct will be such as to give you no ground to regret having elected him a member of the William Preston Lodge. And now, my dear friend and Bro. Grille, I most sincerely congratulate you on your resolution to become a Freemason, likewise on the unanimous manner in which the brethren of the Lodge have elected you. You have now become a member of the most ancient, and the most honourable society in existence. Its commencement may be traced almost from the beginning of the world. Ever since symmetry began, and harmony displayed her charms, our Order has had a being. No art, no science, preceded it. Honourable it must be acknowledged to be, as by a natural tendency it conduces to make so those who are obedient to its precepts. No institution can boast a more solid foundation than that on which Freemasonry rests,—the practice of every moral and social virtue; and to so high an eminence has its credit been advanced, that in every age monarchs themselves have been promoters of the art, and have not thought it beneath their dignity to exchange the sceptre for the trowel; have patronised our mysteries, and joined in our assemblies. Being founded as it is on brotherly love, relief and truth, it has many advantages; for where friendship is unknown jealousy and suspicion prevail; but where that virtue provides the cement, true happiness exists. In every breast there is a propensity

to friendly acts which, being exerted, sweetens every temporal enjoyment, and tends to allay the calamities of life. Friendship in connection with the grand system of universal benevolence should be the aim of every true Mason. Actuated by this sentiment each individual connects his happiness with the happiness of his neighbour, and a fixed and permanent union is established amongst men. Masonry is a science, confined to no particular country, but extending over the whole terrestrial globe; wherever art flourishes, there Masonry flourishes; add to this, by secret and inviolable signs, carefully preserved among the Fraternity, it becomes a universal language; hence many advantages are gained; the distant Chinese, the wild Arab, and the American savage will embrace a brother and know that beside the common ties of humanity there is still a stronger obligation to induce him to kind and friendly offices. Mutual toleration in religious opinions is one of the most distinguishing and valuable characteristics of the Craft. Thus, through the influence of Masonry, all those disputes which embitter life and sour the tempers of men are avoided. From this view of our system its utility must be sufficiently obvious. The universal principles of the art unite, in one indissoluble bond of affection, men of the most contrary opinions, so that in every nation a Mason may find a friend, and in every climate a home. Such is the nature of our Institution, that in the Lodge, which is confined to no particular spot, union is cemented by sincere attachment, and pleasure reciprocally communicated in the cheerful observance of every obliging office. Snob, my Brother, are the advantages of Freemasonry, but it does not follow that solely by your initiation into the Order you are entitled to the same. You must prove yourself worthy thereof. The task we have imposed on ourselves is a great and glorious one, but the carrying out of the same is not easy, it requires the whole strength and perseverance of a free and independent man to fulfil those duties he has solemnly engaged himself to fulfil. Arm yourself with the strong will of a free and independent man, and earnestly strive at such pursuits as may at once enable you to become respected in life, useful to mankind, and an ornament to the society of which you have this day become a member, and I have no doubt you will duly appreciate the value of Freemasonry, and imprint on your heart the sacred dictates of Truth, of Honour, and of Virtue. That, my Brother, will be the best gratitude you can offer the brethren who have this day acknowledged you as one equal to themselves, and may the Great Architect of the Universe grant you health and strength for many years to come, to enable you to discharge your duties as a Mason conscientiously, and may He grant me the pleasure to see you one day occupying the position I now hold, that of Worshipful Master of the William Preston Lodge.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown was held on the 1st instant, at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street. Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Past Grand Master, presided. Colonel the Hon. W. T. Orde-Powlett acted as Deputy Grand Master, Viscount Dungarvan as Senior Grand Warden, and Captain N. G. Philips as Junior Grand Warden. After some formal business had been disposed of, the Prince of Wales was nominated for re-election next March as Grand Master by Rear-Admiral Markham, Past Grand Steward. He was not only expressing his own feelings, but those of every Freemason and every Mark Mason, when he said that they sympathised with his Royal Highness in his trouble and anxiety during the present severe illness of one of the members of his family. Bro. Gordon Miller, Grand Treasurer, nominated Sir Augustus Harris for the office of Grand Treasurer for the ensuing twelve months. Grand Mark Lodge was then closed.

The Scotch Lodge, which was established in 1889, held its regular meeting, at the Scottish Corporation Hall, on 27th ult. There was a good attendance of members and visitors, under the presidency of Bro. Page W.M. The second degree was conferred by the W.M. on Bro. James Duncan Balfour, and thereafter Bro. Thomas Secretary and Bro. Whitehead P.M. (of Aberdeen Granite Works), informed the Lodge that Dr. Irvine Kempt Reid, of Aberdeen, who was initiated into Freemasonry in this Lodge at an Emergency meeting, and had left for Georgetown, British Guiana, on his appointment as Government medical officer, desired them to express his gratification at having been admitted to the Masonic Order. The brethren celebrated St. Andrew's Festival at this meeting. They partook of a capital Scotch dinner, which was succeeded by the rendering of Scotch songs and music; and reels, with the bagpipes.

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MORRIS MEMORIAL MONUMENT.

Address by Hon. Elisha S. Fitch, Past Grand Master, on the Occasion of the Dedication and Unveiling of the Monument erected by the Craft of the United States to the Memory of Bro. Rob Morris, LL.D., Past Grand Master of Masons in Kentucky and Port Laureate of Freemasonry, at La Grange, Kentucky, 29th May 1891.

AS KENTUCKIANS we have to-day relinquished our various pursuits, and assembled with one accord to demonstrate and emphasize our veneration and esteem for a late distinguished fellow citizen of our commonwealth. And as Free and Accepted Masons we have to-day emerged from our quiet retreats, under the influence of one harmonious and universal impulse, to signalize an irreparable loss to the Masonic community; to memorialize our appreciation of an earnest, devoted, well spent Masonic life; to make a votive offering at the shrine of true Masonic worth; to contemplate with fraternal pride that instructive trestleboard upon which had been traced out for our imitation and guidance the life inspiring designs of a Wise Master Builder; to symbolize and thus perpetuate in some befitting and enduring form our grateful remembrance of an illustrious brother of the Mystic Tie; "to bedew with tears and embalm with sighs," and thus freshen up and hallow that evergreen chaplet which was placed upon the honoured brow of our deceased Poet Laureate while in the zenith of his glory, by the loving hands and loyal hearts of the universal brotherhood, for which he seems to live only to love, to exemplify and to adorn! Verily, such an occasion is replete with interest, and notes a memorable epoch in the history of Kentucky Freemasonry.

This vast concourse of citizens, representing as it does every station and pursuit in life, all classes in society, all parties in politics, and all sects in religion; embracing the exalted in rank, the venerable in age, and the dignified in intellect; enlivened as it is by the presence of youth, the fascination of beauty, and the inspiration of Music; and animated as it is by a generous and all-pervading enthusiasm, "to render honour to whom honour is due"—this spontaneous rally of craftsmen from all points of the compass and every Conclave of the Order, actuated as it is by unanimity of purpose to consecrate the shrine of their wisest ritualist, their noblest champion, and their brightest exemplar—this memorial monument before us, with all its clustering associations, just dedicated by our Grand Master to the learned and laureated poet of Freemasonry, and henceforth sacred to the memory of the loved and lamented Morris—the awakened reminiscences which that cherished name inspires, and which now throng and thrill the Masonic heart, indissolubly linked as they are with undying sympathies which have stirred our emotional nature to its profoundest depths—all, all, have invested the occasion with an extraordinary significance and a moral sublimity which even the most gifted and eloquent would fail to heighten. All that could captivate the feelings, all that could enliven while it hallows the occasion, we behold around us, and nothing that could add to its sublimity is absent! Standing in such a presence, and amid such surroundings, it occurs to us that the most inspired of human tongues, though all aglow with fervid enthusiasm and capable of flashing forth the brightest gems of thought, would become spellbound and paralyzed, leaving "expressive silence to muse his praise," and his life-long labours alone to voice the enrapturing theme.

Happily for your humble speaker, the day itself has thus become its own best orator, and attests, far more eloquently than any spoken words could do, the worth and achievements of this patron saint of Masonry, thereby removing the necessity on our part of supplementing the imposing ceremonies of the hour with any elaborate biography or fulsome eulogy of the dead. It is a notable feature of this dedication of our Morris Memorial that the programme of exercises, so appropriate and touching, derives its chief merit and all its zest and pathos from the inspirations of his own gifted pen, and that in celebrating these posthumous honours to his memory his Masonic brethren could conceive of nothing so befitting as an embalment of that memory in the immortal vestments of his own genius; feeling well assured that thus embalmed the

sacred treasure would be safely consigned to posterity and ever secure the jealous "watch and ward" of the universal Craft. In forecasting this public demonstration it was indeed a wise and happy thought that the once familiar voice—now hushed in death—which for so many years directed and delighted, cheered and solaced us in our Masonic pilgrimage, should be again heard in sweet reverberating echoes as they emanate to-day from this symbolic shaft erected by his brethren to grace and guard his sleeping dust.

While in a most endearing and emphatic sense he was *our own Rob Morris*, it is no less true that he was eminently cosmopolitan in his fame and achievements, and had become "a living epistle known and read of all men," and while as Kentuckians, and especially as Kentucky Masons, we may justly claim that his adopted State should become the honoured custodian of his "mouldering urn," and faithfully guard his remains as a sacred deposit beneath her soil—it would be no less ridiculous than supremely selfish on the part of any locality to seek to monopolize or appropriate as an exclusive heritage the wide-spread influence and enviable distinction of this great apostle of Masonic Light!

Although a native of Massachusetts—born near the city of Boston, on the 31st day of August 1818—our distinguished brother commenced his Masonic career in the State of Mississippi, on the 5th day of March 1846. In pursuance of the favourable reception of his petition he travelled on horseback on the evening of that day a distance of twelve miles over a muddy road, and through a drenching rain, to the then village of Oxford, Mississippi to take his first degree, in Gathright Lodge, No. 33. He made the trip, received the degree of an Entered Apprentice, repeated the twelve miles travel and reached his home again before the dawn of the ensuing day! How very significant this first adventure for Masonic light of that earnestness of purpose and persistence of pursuit, under all surrounding circumstances, which ever characterized this enthusiastic votary of Masonry, even to the very close of life! The petition itself, upon which he was received into that Lodge, was also a very characteristic one. Before subscribing his name to the prescribed form he made the following interpolation: "I esteem the Masonic Craft, as in time the oldest; in honours the most eminent; in membership, the most numerous; in scope, the broadest of earth-born societies." It is said that "Nature to each allots his proper sphere," and in harmony with this view it would seem that our brother was prepared to sound the keynote of his Masonic mission simultaneously with his first dedication at the Masonic altar; for as the tiny acorn enfolds in embryo the future majestic oak of the forest, so this brief impromptu inspiration seems to have held in solution the life-time development of his laborious study and research. In this concise yet comprehensive appendix to his petition, we find the germinal thoughts which were amplified and elaborated through many volumes of his Masonic works, and discover the early bend of his inquisitive mind toward the esoteric mysteries of the Royal Art.

The extraordinary ardour which distinguished his initiation into the Order never abated, but was rather stimulated and intensified by each succeeding degree. We find, however, no impatient haste for advancement, but, instead of this, a deliberate purpose to master thoroughly the teachings of each degree and every department of the Institution, that he might better comprehend the whole. Hence the three degrees of the Blue Lodge, received in 1846, were not followed by the Capitular degrees until 1848; these by the Templar Orders, in 1850; these by the Scottish Rite as far as the 32°, inclusive, in 1854; these by the Cryptic Rite from 1850 to 1864. Thus within a score of years our brother completed the curriculum of the esoteric degrees embraced by both the Ancient and Accepted Rites; besides becoming thoroughly instructed in all the more modern organizations of the Fraternity. In his own language we have a characteristic summary of his progress. Said he, in 1850: "I have been around, under, and through the temple of Masonry, searching out its foundations, its builders and its trestleboard. With its builders, I have handled in turn each of its implements; with the Entered Apprentice trimming the rough ashlar on the checkered pavement; with the Fellow Craft moralizing on the pillars of the porch, and the fifteen grades of the winding stairs; with the Master Mason smoothing the indissoluble cement with silent awe; with

the Mark Master I have penetrated the quarries, found my own best block, brought it up for a place in the walls, and claimed my penny with the rest; I have shared the responsibilities of the Past Master seated in the oriental chair of King Solomon. As a Most Excellent Master my hands have aided to rear the capstone to its place, while my lips have sung the triumphant strain, "All Hail to the Morning," of Thomas Smith Webb, and my face was bowed to the pavement in acknowledgment of the descent of fire and cloud. As a Royal Arch Mason, returning from exile in Babylon, my feet have wandered weary and sore, over rough and rugged ways, seeking the Sacred Hill! As a Select Master I have wrought in silence, secrecy and darkness, upon the mystic arches within the Holy Mountain. I have stood as a Knight Templar, with companions loyal and brave, wielding my brand excalibur two-edged and cross-hilted, while guarding the shrine where the body of my departed Lord was laid! In all my career as a Mason I have ever held that excellence is granted to man only in return for labour; and nothing is worth having that is not difficult to acquire. My life has been thus far a contest with obstacles, but no man would be what he is had he tamely suffered the difficulties of life to overcome him."

It is no marvel that such an heroic spirit, so enlightened and enthusiastic, with a presence so winning, manners so courtly, and sympathies so childlike; with natural endowments so great and commanding, allied with literary attainment so varied and extensive, and dedicated withal—in mind and heart and life—to an Institution so pure in its morals and so ennobling in its philanthropy, should become a conspicuous living landmark in our midst—a bright and shining light in the Masonic firmament! The highest official stations were tendered him by the brotherhood and were rendered still more illustrious by his incumbency. From the almost innumerable posts of distinction to which he was called we may note the following as most important: Grand Lecturer of Tennessee and Kentucky from 1850 to 1854; Most Excellent High Priest, Eminent Commander, Thrice Illustrious Grand Master (Cryptic Rite), Grand Commander-in-Chief Princes of Royal Secret 32°, Supreme Consistory of Kentucky, 1859-60; Chief Conservator from 1860 to 1865; Most Worshipful Grand Master of Kentucky, 1858-59; Grand Patron Eastern Star, &c. In this degenerate age of office seeking, to his lasting credit be it spoken, that in all these promotions no artifice was ever employed, no disreputable intrigues ever resorted to; but by the mere ascendancy of his genius he rose and took his rank!

It is true that during his tenure of service in some of these official stations, notably that of "Chief Conservator," it was his misfortune to encounter the buffetings of an adverse tide; but nobly sustained by his own conscientious convictions, all the obstacles in his pathway operated like the pressure upon a well-tempered spring—only to prove the strength of the metal and its power of resistance. In his impatient zeal, not always "according to knowledge," to accomplish a praiseworthy purpose, through the "Order of Conservators," our distinguished brother awakened, for a time, an undue clamour among the Craft, as to his alleged "innovations in the body of Masonry," and especially in our own Grand Jurisdiction, in which has ever existed a sensitive distrust of all invading jurisdictions, and in which the admonition of our Great Light, "to avoid the appearance of evil," has become a pronounced feature in the orthodox faith of the Fraternity. But although some of the teaching methods of Bro. Morris were thus held as objectionable, and so declared by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, his Masonic fealty was never questioned or his personal motives assailed.

Nevertheless, morbidly sensitive as he was to the slightest breath of censure or reproach, he virtually dropped out for the time being from our assemblies in Kentucky, both Grand and subordinate. It is however a most gratifying fact that, in view of his consistent course as a good and true Mason, and under the influence of his exemplary life in our midst, inspired as it was by the example of the Great Teacher, "who when reviled reviled not again," there was a gradual subsidence of all prejudice whatever; and for years past and up to his lamented death, he had resumed his former relations to our Grand Body, and exerted his accustomed influence in shaping her policy and determining her jurisprudence. The Grand Lodge of Kentucky, over which he had presided with distinction, whose Constitution he had drafted, and whose Foreign

Correspondence he had long and ably conducted, was prompt to extend to him unmistakable and repeated assurances of restored confidence and brotherly love. The well-intended but Utopian Order of Conservators was dissolved; and with it passed away the only cloud which had intervened between the Kentucky brotherhood and this great Masonic light, leaving our sky more clear and bright and beautiful than before; and, thanks to the All-wise Architect, it was vouchsafed to our Grand Jurisdiction which had exultingly hailed the resplendent rising of this great light, and which had proudly basked in its noonday splendours, to receive also the hallowed radiance of its departing sheen as it grandly passed away in its full-orbed glory from our Masonic horizon!

The published works of Dr. Morris are valuable and voluminous, and number over seventy volumes, and are sufficiently varied in scope and topic to constitute of themselves a respectable library. Those most generally familiar to the reading public, and especially to the Masonic brotherhood, may be classified as follows:

MASONIC JURISDICTION.—Code of Masonic law, 1855; the first work upon this subject ever issued.

MASONIC RITUALS AND HAND-BOOKS.—Freemason's Monitor twelve degrees, 1859; Miniature Monitor, three degrees; Eastern Star Manual, 1859; Rosary of Eastern Star, 1865; Guide to High Priesthood, 1865; Ritual of Knight Templary, 1858; Special Help for Worshipful Master; Same for Senior Deacon; Same for Secretary; Funeral Book of Freemasons—all four published in 1866; Prudence Book of the Freemasons, 1859; Masonic Ladder, 1866; Dictionary of Freemasonry, 1867; Guide to the Consecration of Masonic Cemeteries, 1857; Discipline of Masonic offenders, 1860.

MASONIC BELLES LETTERS.—Masonic Poems, 1864 and 1876; Lights and Shadows of Freemasonry, 1852; Life in the Triangle, 1853; The Two Saint Johns, 1854; Lodge of Mystic, 1862; Tales of Masonic Life, 1860.

MASONIC HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.—Freemasons' Almanacs, 1860, 1, 2, 3, 5; Masonic Reminiscences, 1857; History of Freemasonry in Kentucky, 1859; Life of Eli Bruce, 1859.

MASONIC REPRODUCTIONS.—In a series of thirty octavo volumes, under the general title of Universal Masonic Library, are comprised fifty-six distinct works, including writings of Oliver, Mackey, Town, Portal, Preston, Hutchinson, George Smith, Morris, Anderson, Harris, Calcott, Ashe, Laurie, Devortot, Gourdin, Taylor, Creigh, Brown, Morton, Arnold, Towne.

TRAVELS.—Freemasonry in Holy Land, 1872.

MASONIC PERIODICALS.—*Kentucky Freemason*, 1853; *American Freemason*, 1853-8; *Voice of Masonry*, 1859-67; *Light of Masonry*, 1873. Besides the works thus catalogued he was for more than a quarter of a century a regular contributor to the various Masonic and literary periodicals of the day, and a constant worker with pen and tongue to utilize to the best advantage the almost boundless resources of his well-stored mind and overflowing heart. As a compiler, he was discriminating, laborious and painstaking. As an historian he was more emulous of accuracy than ambitious of style, and therefore more authentic than brilliant, more authoritative than diffusive. As a literary author and contributor his subjects were wisely selected and always of the highest moral tone, and his style uniformly chaste, pure and elevated.

"Not one immortal, one corrupted thought,
One line, which, dying, he would wish to blot."

(To be continued.)

St. Martin's Lodge, No. 379, of Mark Master Masons, Liskeard, on the 3rd instant unanimously elected Bro. W. H. Stantan S.W. as W.M. for the ensuing year; and unanimously re-elected Bro. W. Nettle P.M. P.P.G.J.W. as Treasurer, and Bro. R. Penwarden as Tyler.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Any dyspeptic sufferer aware of this purifying, regulating, and gently aperient power of these Pills, should permit no one to cloud his judgment or to warp his course. With a box of Holloway's Pills, and attention to its accompanying "Directions," he may feel thoroughly satisfied that he can safely and effectually release himself from his miseries without impairing his appetite or weakening his digestion. This most excellent medicine acts as a nerve and bodily tonic by aiding nutrition, and banishes a thousand annoying forms of nervous complaints. An occasional resort to Holloway's remedy will prove highly salutary to all persons, whether well or ill, whose digestion is slow or imperfect, a condition usually evidenced by weariness, languor, listlessness, and despondency.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS.

LOYAL CAMBRIAN LODGE, No. 110.

ON Thursday, the 1st inst., an interesting function took place at the meeting of this Lodge, at Merthyr, Bro. D. R. Lewis being presented with his portrait in oils, and with a handsomely bound and magnificently illuminated address in album form. The portrait, which has been painted by Bro. G. F. Harris, depicts the honoured recipient in a standing position, clothed in Masonic regalia, the right hand clasping the heavy mull and resting on a copy of the Bible, which stands on a cushion on a pedestal. An admirably expressive likeness is portrayed, and the picture is instinct with artistic merit. It is enclosed in a gold gilt frame of chaste design, upon which appears the following inscription:—

Presented to Bro. David Rees Lewis P.M. P.P.G.R. P.P.G.J.W., together with an album address, by the members of the Loyal Cambrian Lodge, 110, for faithful and liberal services to his Lodge and Masonry for a period of twenty years.

On the front cover of the album is a beautifully worked gold centrepiece, containing the monogram of Bro. Lewis, besides sunk medallions representing the jewels of the various offices which he still holds and has occupied. The address had been signed by the Worshipful Master, the Past Masters, the Officers, and the members of the Lodge in due form of precedence, and was couched in most complimentary terms. The presentation proceedings were graced by the presence of Brother Marmaduke Tennant P.P.G.M. At the conclusion of the business of the Lodge the company repaired to the Castle Hotel, where Bro. Jarvis, the host, provided a most *recherché* repast.

BRUNSWICK LODGE, No. 159.

AT the regular meeting, held at the Masonic Hall, Hobart Street, Stonehouse, on the 3rd inst., Bro. Stoner W.M. in the chair, the Junior Warden Bro. Roberts was unanimously elected the W.M. for the year ensuing, Mortimer P.M. P.P.G. St. Bearer as Treasurer, Bartlett P.M. Tyler, and Radmore P.M. as Representative on Committee of Petitions and Charity Steward. The installation meeting was held on Wednesday, 9th December, and the annual banquet will take place on the 13th of January next, at Bro. Routley's, Farley Hotel, Plymouth.

ST. MICHAEL'S LODGE, No. 211.

THE members of this ancient Lodge assembled at the Albion, Aldersgate Street, last Tuesday, under the presidency of the W.M. P. J. King, who was supported by Bros. Orton Cooper S.W., William Kirkland J.W., Alfred Green P.M. Treasurer, W. Radcliffe P.M. Secretary, F. J. Hentsch P.M. D.C., H. Nash I.P.M., G. King P.M., W. J. Dyer S.D., George Cockrell I.G., G. J. Copley, A. M. Kingston, &c. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. P. J. King came before the Lodge, answered the usual questions, and was subsequently passed to the second degree. The ballot was then taken and proved unanimous in favour of Mr. George C. Brightling and Mr. Cecil B. F. Mount, who were duly initiated into Freemasonry by the W.M., both ceremonies being admirably rendered. The Lodge was then closed and the brethren adjourned to supper, after which a pleasant evening was spent.

AFFABILITY LODGE, No. 371 (MANCHESTER).

A MEETING took place in the Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street, on Thursday, the 3rd instant. Present—Bros. Vultchoff W.M. S. Staton S.W. J. Read J.W., W. J. Canliffe P.M. P.P.G.D. Treas., Garside Secretary, Fred. Spencer S.D., Jackson J.D., John Bladon P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C. D.C., Bushell P.M. I.G., Whitehead Organist; P.M.'s Chesworth, Dawson, Mountain, Walmsley, Robinson, Akerman, J. Garside, and Lisenden; Bros. Rottmayer, Paterson, Guest, Simcock, Allen, Field, Marsh, Holland, Whittaker, Sinclair, Findlow, Grimshaw and Ashe. Visitors—Bros. Robinson J.W. 1219, H. Grimshaw 1055, Thomson 44. Lodge was opened at 5:30 with prayer, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Bro. H. Grimshaw, of the Derby Lodge, as a joining member, and announced favourable. The brethren adjourned for tea, and on re-assembling the Lodge was raised to the second degree. Bro. Simcock, who was a candidate for raising, answered the necessary questions leading from the second to the third degree, received the test of merit, and retired. He was subsequently raised to the sublime degree by Bro. Bushell, who also related the traditional history and presented the working tools. This being the night of election, the choice of the brethren was unanimous in favour of the S.W. Bro. Septimus Staton, who was declared elected. Bro. Staton returned thanks in appropriate terms. Bro. Canliffe was re-elected Treasurer and Bro. Sly Tyler. The W.M. Bro. Vultchoff was appointed Charity representative. On the proposition of Bro. Robinson, a Past Master's jewel was voted from the funds of the Lodge, to be presented to Bro. Vultchoff for his highly appreciated services during the past year. Bro. Canliffe gave notice of motion that the sum of twenty pounds be given to the East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution, and there being no further business the Lodge was closed. At the social board the health of the newly-raised Bro. Simcock was proposed, drunk, and responded to, as was that of the W.M. elect, Bro. Staton, by the W.M. Bro. Staton's health was

heartily drunk, and in reply he made a grand speech, the like of which, unfortunately, is not often heard at the social board. Bro. Robinson proposed the health of the Visitors in eulogistic terms, and Bros. Robinson, Hooper, and Thomson replied. An exceedingly enjoyable evening terminated shortly before eleven o'clock.

TEES LODGE, No. 509.

ON the 2nd instant the annual ceremony of installation was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Stockton, when the retiring Master, Bro. Holt, installed Bro. Burton into the chair of K.S. for the ensuing year. The newly-elected W.M. invested the following brethren as his Officers:—Bro. Holt I.P.M., Clegg S.W., Jobbing J.W., Collishaw S.D., Park J.D., Dodds I.G., Watson Treasurer, Burt Secretary, Talintyre Organist, Iley D.C., Cheetham Steward, Smith Tyler. At the conclusion of the ceremony the annual banquet was held.

ST. HELEN'S LODGE, No. 531.

ON the 3rd instant, the annual installation of W.M. and Officers was held at the Masonic Hall, Hartlepool, when Bro. Anstiu was installed W.M. in the most impressive style by Bro. Hunter P.M. P.P.G.J.W., in succession to Bro. Vickers. The W.M. elect appointed the following Officers, viz.—Bros. Marston S.W., Watson J.W., Hall Secretary, Derry S.D., Robinson J.D., Pounder I.G., Armstrong Tyler, Bros. Pinder, Carter, and Kirtley Stewards, Scott Organist, Terry Treasurer, and Metcalfe P.M. P.G.S.D. At the conclusion of the ceremony a banquet was served at the King's Head Hotel.

GROSVENOR LODGE, No. 1257.

THE December meeting was held on Tuesday, the 1st inst., at the Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Morse presiding. The routine business having been disposed of, the Lodge voted the sum of forty-five guineas to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, the sum being placed upon the list of the W.M., who is acting as Steward for the Jubilee Festival, thus constituting the W.M. for the time being Vice-President of both funds of that Institution. Two candidates for initiation at the next meeting having been proposed, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the members adjourned to the Crown-room at the Freemasons' Tavern, where they partook of a banquet, during which a selection of songs and glees was given by Bro. Stedman, Miss Riversdale, Thurey Beale, and Stedman's choir of boys. The toasts duly given and honoured were the Queen and the Craft, the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, the Pro Grand Master and the rest of the Grand Officers Present and Past, the Worshipful Master, the Past Masters, the Ladies, the Visitors, and the Charities. Bro. James Terry and Bro. C. A. Cottebrune responded in reply to the toast of the Grand Officers, the former dwelling at some length upon the honour which was accorded to Freemasonry by the highest in the kingdom. The W.M., in responding, thanked the brethren in a few well-chosen remarks for the kind manner in which the toast had been received, and also spoke in a touching manner at the regret he felt at the recent death of a near relative, in consequence of which Mrs. Morse and some other ladies were not present. The Senior Warden responded to the toast of the Ladies, and Bro. Weeks to that of the Visitors. Bro. James Terry made a strong appeal on behalf of the Charities, in reply to that toast, and after a short interval, the room having been cleared, the evening was closed with dancing, and a very pleasant time enjoyed by the brethren and visitors. Amongst those present were Bro. Cole S.W. and Mrs. Cole, Bro. A. Walton J.W., Bro. Chapman I.P.M., Bro. Pilditch Past Master and Treasurer, Mrs. and Miss Pilditch, Brother Cottebrune Past Master and Secretary and Mrs. Cottebrune, Bro. Von Joel P.M., Mrs. and Miss Von Joel, Bro. H. White P.M., Bro. John Smith P.M., Bro. Baker P.M., Bro. Wyon P.M., and Mrs. Wyon, Bro. Saunders P.M., and Mrs. Saunders, Bro. Morgan S.D., and Mrs. Morgan, Bro. N. Cole I.G., Bro. Younger D.C., Bro. James Jones W.S., Bro. Russell A.W.S., Bro. James Terry P.G.S.D. Herts, and Mrs. Terry, Bro. James Jones sen., and several other members and many ladies. The visitors also included Bro. Denisham, "Leigh," Bro. Weekes, "Fidelity," and Mrs. Weekes, Bro. Borham, "Skelmersdale," and Miss Morris, Bro. Stedman, Bro. Blunt, "Leigh," and Mrs. Blunt, &c.

EBBRINGTON LODGE, No. 1847.

BRO. Harold Roberts the W.M.-elect was, on the 8th inst., installed at the Masonic Hall, Hobart Street, Stonehouse. Bros. Harvey the retiring W.M., Nicholson, Lose, Jew, Williams, Macey, Lose jun., all of 1847, were the installing Officers. The board of Installed Masters present included Bros. Griffin, Rook, the Rev. Dr. Lemon Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden, &c. The Officers invested were:—Bros. Harvey I.P.M., Mitford S.W., Williams J.W., Jew Chaplain, Nicholson Treasurer, Lose Secretary, Gibson S.D., Keast J.D., Hosking D.C., Easterbrook A.D.C., James Organist, Mitchell I.G., Howard, Dyer, Matthews, and Purdie Stewards, Bartlett Tyler. Bro. Nicholson was re-elected the representative of the Lodge on the Committee of Petitions, and Bro. Williams was re-elected the Charity Steward. The annual banquet was appointed to be held on Tuesday, 5th January, at Bro. Parr's, New Market Hotel.

TRUTH LODGE, No. 1498 (MANCHESTER).

THE installation of Bro. Hilton took place, and the St. John's Festival was celebrated at Bro. Tom Wood's, Wheatsheaf Hotel, on Saturday, the 5th instant. Present—Bros. Wadsworth W.M., Hilton S.W., Thomas Hall P.M. J.W., Vincent P.M. Treasurer, Burgess Secretary, Shepherd J.D., Hebden P.M. P.G.D.D.C. D.C., Caldwell P.M. P.P.G.S.B.; P.M.'s Davies, Needle, Carr; Bros. Davies, Worsley, G. T. Lee, J. R. Lee, Taylor, Cooper, and Wardle. Visitors—Bros. Chadwick P.G. Secretary P.G.S.B., Thomas P.M. 2363, 204 350 P.G.J.D., Rev. Perry-Circuit P.G. Chaplain, Abbott P.M. 1459 1030 P.P.G.D.C., Warburton P.M. 163 P.P.G.D., Timperley P.M. 993 P.P.G.S.D., Farrington W.M. 1639, Wollaston W.M. 44 S.W. 2363, Outram P.M. and Secretary 1052, Nall W.M. 1375, Loft-house W.M. 1052, Wrigley P.M. and Treasurer 1052 W.M. 2363, Allitt P.M. 993 and 1633, Harrop Treasurer 2363, Macfarlane P.M. 1633, Dottie P.M. 1161, Lloyd W.M. 1077, Barlow 2363, Challenger 1055, Williams W.M. 1011, Baron Organist 1219, Mercer 2356, and Lisenden P.M. 317. Lodge was opened at 2:30, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Mr. Hirsch, who was declared elected, and initiated into Freemasonry by the W.M. The installation ceremony was then proceeded with Bro. Caldwell, who has performed the ceremony for many years, fulfilling the duty once again. The W.M. elect, Bro. Hilton, after being presented to the Installing Master by Bro. Wadsworth, was formally inducted into the chair of K.S. with all due rite and ceremony. He was subsequently proclaimed, and saluted by the Master Masons on their re-admission to the Lodge. The following brethren were invested Officers for the ensuing year, by P.M.'s Hebden, Carr, and Hall:—Archdale S.W., Burgess J.W., Vincent P.M. Treas., Hall P.M. Secretary, Shepherd S.D., Biddiscombe J.D., Hebden P.M. P.G.D.D.C. Dir. of Cers., Worsley Organist, Wardle I.G., Taylor and Cooper Stewards, and Hyde Tyler. The address to the W.M. was delivered by Bro. Hebden, to the Wardens by Bro. Buckley Carr, and the brethren by Bro. Hebden. There being no further business, hearty good wishes were expressed by the numerous Visitors, and the Lodge was closed in peace and harmony. The brethren afterwards celebrated the Festival of St. John with a banquet, and it is certainly not too much to say that Bro. Wood, the genial host fairly excelled all other efforts in superintending the preparing and serving of the same. The brilliantly lighted room, on the artistically papered walls of which were some handsome oil paintings, added to the tastefully laid table, presented a most charming *coup d'œil*, and caused expressions of admiration from all present. It goes without saying that the banquet gave perfect satisfaction. The usual loyal toasts were proposed by the W.M., and heartily drunk by the brethren. Brother Thomas's clear ringing voice being heard to advantage in God save the Queen, and God bless the Prince of Wales. The health of the Right Hon. the Earls of Lathom and Mount Edgcombe were severally proposed by the W.M., Bro. Chadwick Past Grand Standard Bearer replying on behalf of the Past Grand Officers. The health of the R.W. P.G.M. Colonel Le Gendre N. Starkie was proposed and heartily drunk, and in response to the toast of the V.W. D.P.G.M. Bro. Mellor and the Present and Past P.G. Officers, Bro. Rev. R. W. Perry-Circuit P.G. Chaplain made a brilliant speech, which was listened to with rapt attention, and loudly applauded. Bros. Thomas P.G.D. and Warburton P.P.G.D., also responded. The announcement made by Bro. Hebden P.M. P.G.D.D.C., that he was about to propose the toast of the evening, viz.: the health of the Worshipful Master, was received with loud and long applause. Bro. Hebden said it gave him exceeding pleasure to have the privilege of proposing this toast, because he felt convinced no worthier member of the Craft ever occupied the chair of K.S. As many of the brethren were aware, Bro. Hilton was a member of another Lodge, in which he had rendered good service and was much liked and appreciated. It was not often so young a man occupied the proud position of Worshipful Master, at the same time very few brethren had worked so diligently for the welfare of his Lodge in Freemasonry during the few years he had been connected with it as their Bro. Hilton had, whether it was for the success of a Masonic picnic, ball, concert or any other movement calculated to benefit his Lodge, Bro. Hilton had performed yeoman's service in the cause of each, and with the greatest credit to himself, and he (Bro. Hebden) felt sure all those who knew Bro. Hilton would cheerfully admit he richly deserved his present honourable position, and no one would envy his preferment as it would be next to impossible to find a more worthy occupant. In wishing him a successful year of office he (Bro. Hebden) felt he simply echoed the sentiments of every Brother present. Bro. Hebden's concluding remarks provoked loud applause, which having subsided, Bro. Martin Thomas's voice was again heard to advantage in "Here's to his health in a song." The W.M. in reply, after thanking Bro. Hebden for his kind remarks, and the brethren for so cordially receiving the toast, said he was not going to inflict a long speech upon them, but would content himself by remarking that he naturally felt very proud of his position, and trusted most sincerely no member of the Lodge would begrudge him the honour. It was quite true that he felt he was a younger man than is usually elected W.M. of a Lodge; at the same time having been made a member of the Craft at a younger age than most brethren are, he had taken a great delight in performing any duty that was imposed upon him to the best of his ability, and as he judged by the brethren electing him for their chief that he had given satisfaction in all he had undertaken, he hoped to win their approval and esteem at the expiration of his year of office. The W.M. proposed the health of the I.P.M. and P.M.'s, and spoke in eulogistic terms of the services rendered by Bro. Wadsworth whilst occupying the chair during the past year; his genial kindly manner had endeared him to the hearts of his brethren. As the brethren were aware, through the nature of his profession Bro. Wadsworth had been compelled to leave their meetings earlier than is usual, and this was as much a matter of regret to their I.P.M. as it was to the brethren. Respecting the services rendered that day by P.M. Caldwell, as Installing Master, he (Bro. Hilton) felt certain

every member of the Lodge thoroughly appreciated and valued them. Bro. Caldwell had performed the installation ceremony for several years, and it was a matter of regret that owing to failing health he had been obliged to absent himself from their banquet. With regard to the other P.M.'s, they were at all times ready and willing to assist the Worshipful Master in any of his duties, and he therefore felt additional confidence in commencing his year of office. In conclusion, Bro. Hilton asked the brethren to rise and drink heartily to the toast. The invitation was cordially responded to, and P.M.'s Hebden, Davies and Hall replied. The Visitors' toast was proposed and received with enthusiasm, Bros. Abbott and Seth Wrigley responding. Other toasts included the Initiate and Officers. Further toasts were proposed and responded to, a brilliant and long to be remembered evening terminating at eleven o'clock. The musical portion of the programme was for the most part carried out by members of the Minnehaha Minstrel Lodge, and also of the Amateur Minstrel Troup, the vocalists being Martin Thomas, Mercer, Brabner, and Baron. Bros. Barlow and Schofield played selections on the mandoline, guitar, and banjo, and Bro. Wrigley on the autoharp. Songs were also sung by Bros. Cooper and Lisenden, and Bro. Dottie gave one of his famed Lancashire readings, "Howd tha Tung," by the late Edwin Waugh. Immediately after the toast of "The Queen" had been proposed, Bro. Wadsworth, who was compelled to leave to fulfil his engagement at Mr. De Yongh's Concert, was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel, in recognition of his services as W.M., and for which the I.P.M. returned thanks in appropriate terms.

ST. PETROC LODGE, No. 1785.

ON Tuesday, the 1st inst., the members, after initiating Mr. Evans, chief officer of coastguards, celebrated the annual festival of St. John, at Padstow. The ceremony of installing the W.M. elect (Bro. P. Blake S.W.) was ably performed by Bro. Williams P.M., assisted by Bro. Pope P.M. P.G. Assist. Secretary, the Board of installed members included Bros. Roberts P.M. P.P.G.D.C., Bray P.M. P.P.G. Pursuivant, Martyn P.M., Stribley P.M., Martyn jun. P.M., and Langford P.M. The new Wor. Master appointed and invested his Officers, as follow:—Bros. Langford I.P.M., Hawken S.W., Williams J.W., Rev. J. Cox P.G. Chap. Chaplain, Bray P.M. P.P.G. Pursuivant Treasurer, Pope P.M. P.P.G. Assist. Sec. Secretary, Philp S.D., Griffin J.D., Stribley Dir. of Cers., Roach Organist, Brown I.G., Derrick, Slumac, Hutchins and John Stribley Stewards, Lobb Tyler. Bro. Harvey was elected Steward of the C.M.A. and B. Fund. The brethren afterwards assembled at St. Petroc private hotel, where an excellent dinner was provided by Mrs. Wills. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured. Bros. Harding, Langford, Hawken, Philp, Griffin and John Stribley enlivened the proceedings with very good songs, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH LODGE, No. 1828.

THE members held their annual installation meeting on Monday 30th ult., at the Bush Hotel. The Lodge has hitherto had rather a wandering existence, but the members now hope that in this handsome and commodious building they have found a permanent home. The ceremonies were most ably worked by Brother Weinel W.M., who on vacating the chair was presented with a handsome jewel. The new W.M. is Bro. C. Vandyk, Bros. Rosedale and Waldvogel being S.W. and J.W. respectively. The members and Visitors, to the number of 40, afterwards sat down to an excellent banquet. The musical services of Miss A. Delatoin, Mr. S. Jones, Mr. F. Searle, and others, under the direction of Bros. L. Lee and Wright, were much appreciated. Amongst the Visitors were Brother Simpson P.M. P.G.C., Abrahams A.G.P., G. Read P.M., and many other well-known Masons.

TRISTRAM LODGE, No. 2415.

SIR HEDWORTH WILLIAMSON, Bart., Provincial Master for the Province of Durham, assisted by his Deputy Master, Canon Tristram and the other Officers of the Provincial Lodge, consecrated a Freemasons' Lodge at Shildon, on Friday, 27th ult. The Lodge is designated the Tristram, after the Deputy Grand Master, and is No. 2415 in the Grand Lodge of England. The installations were as follow:—Bros. Reid P.M. P.P.G.P. First Master, Barnet S.W., Mutimer J.W., Fielden S.D., Brown J.D., Addison I.G., Thompson Treasurer, Richardson Secretary. Upwards of 100 brethren from different Lodges in the Province were in attendance. At the close of the consecration there was a banquet in the National Schools, at which the W.M., supported by Sir Hedworth Williamson, Canon Tristram, the Rev. G. Bowker, and other well-known Officers of the Craft, presided.

Covent Garden Lodge of Instruction, No. 1614.—At the Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, S.W., on the 10th inst., there were present Bros. Foan Assist. Preceptor W.M., Hambly S.W., Jarvia J.W., Reynolds Secretary, Hoggins S.D., Matthews J.D., Dakas I.G., Weeks Tyler, Martin, Samuels, Kirk, Reed, Carter, G. H. Reynolds, Burgess, Bromley. After preliminaries, Bro. Keen offered himself as a candidate for initiation, and the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony. Bro. Carter was candidate for the second degree, and the W.M. rehearsed that ceremony. The W.M. then rehearsed the third ceremony, G. H. Reynolds candidate. Bro. Hambly was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week. Nothing further offering, Lodge was closed and adjourned.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

Christmas Holidays, 1891.

TICKETS for all principal places on the London and North West-
on system, available from either Euston or Kensington (Addison Road),
and dated to suit the convenience of passengers, can be obtained at the
Spread Eagle Office, Piccadilly Circus, and other Principal Town Receiving
Offices of the Company, and at Messrs. Gaze and Son's Office, 142 Strand,
W.C., as well as at the Railway Stations.

On Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th, Special Expresses
will leave Willesden Junction at 2.45 p.m. for Bletchley, Wolverton, North-
ampton, Rugby, principal stations on the Trent Valley, and Stafford, in ad-
vance of the 2.45 p.m. ordinary train from Euston, and from Euston at 4.25
p.m. and 6.55 p.m. for Coventry and Birmingham.

On the same day the Night Irish Mail, due to leave Euston
at 8.20 p.m., will not leave until 9.5 p.m. Passengers from Birming-
ham, Liverpool, and Manchester for Holyhead and Ireland will leave at the
usual hours, and will be taken forward to Holyhead in advance of the
London train. The Mail Packet for Kingstown will not leave Holyhead until
the passengers from London are on board.

The 12.0 night Train from London (Euston), due at Warrington at 5.15 a.m.
on Christmas Day, will be extended from Warrington to Carlisle, Edin-
burgh, and Glasgow, as on ordinary week days, and will by special arrange-
ment take passengers for Kendal and Windermere.

CHRISTMAS DAY.—On Christmas Day the usual Sunday service of
trains will be run with the following additions:—The 5.15 a.m. Newspaper
Express Train from London will run to Northampton, Rugby, Birmingham,
Nuneaton, Tamworth, Lichfield, Rugeley, Stafford, Crewe, Shrewsbury,
Liverpool, Manchester, Warrington, Wigan, Preston, Lancaster, Carnforth,
Oxenholme, Kendal, Windermere, Tebay, Penrith, Carlisle, Edinburgh, and
Glasgow, but will have no connection to Chester and North Wales. The
7.15 a.m. Down Day Irish Mail from Euston to Holyhead will
be run on Christmas Day the same as on week days; and the 11.40 a.m.,
Holyhead to Chester, will leave at 11.30 a.m., and be extended to London.
The Down Mail will call, if required, at Rhyl, Conway, and Bangor, and the
Up Mail, if required, at Bangor, Conway, Colwyn Bay, Rhyl, and Holywell.

On Bank Holiday, Saturday, December 26th, numerous residen-
tial Trains in the neighbourhood of Important Cities and Towns will not be
run. The Dining Saloons between London, Liverpool, and Manchester, and
certain of the through carriages between London and provincial stations will
also be discontinued on this date.

For further particulars, see Special Notices issued by the Company.

G. FINDLAY, General Manager.

Euston Station, December 1891.

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Ordinary tickets issued in London between December 18th and 21th will be
available any day between and including those dates.

On THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24th, the 11.45 a.m. from Paddington will carry
passengers to the Minehead Branch. The 1.0 and 6.0 p.m. trains from
Paddington to Plymouth will be extended to Falmouth and Penzance. The
6.20 p.m. from Paddington to Bristol will run to Exeter, calling at Weston-
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Junction, reaching Exeter at 11.55 p.m., and will convey passengers for
stations on the Barnstaple Branch. A SPECIAL FAST TRAIN will leave
Paddington at 10.0 p.m. for New Milford, calling at the same stations between
Swindon and New Milford as the 9.15 p.m. ordinary train. A special will leave
Oxford at 10.5 p.m., Radley 10.15, and Culham at 10.23 p.m. in connection
with this train, returning from Didcot after arrival of the 10.0 p.m. special.
A SPECIAL FAST TRAIN will leave Paddington at 11.50 p.m. midnight, for
Reading, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Bridgwater, Taunton, Exeter, Dawlish,
Teignmouth, Newton Abbot (for Torquay and Kingswear), Totnes, Kings-
bridge Road, Plymouth, and Stations thence to Penzance.

On CHRISTMAS DAY the usual Sunday trains will run, but the 5.30 a.m.
newspaper train will run as on week days to Oxford, Weston-super-Mare, and
Swansea. The train will be five minutes earlier than usual between Didcot
and Oxford, so as to connect at Oxford with the 7.25 and 7.40 a.m. trains,
thence to Banbury, Leamington, Birmingham, Worcester, Malvern, Kidder-
minster, Wolverhampton, &c.

For the conveyance of Passengers returning to London on SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 27th, special trains will be run in the afternoon, from PLYMOUTH,
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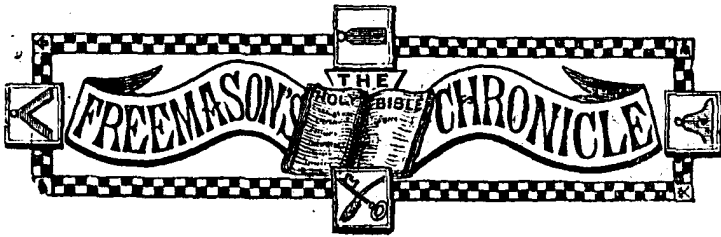
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GOSSIP ABOUT FREEMASONRY; its History and Traditions.
A Paper read by Bro. S. VALLENTINE, P.M. and Z. No. 9, to the Brethren
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SATURDAY, 12TH DECEMBER 1891.

**PROV. GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE
 AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT.**

A SPECIAL meeting of this Prov. G. Lodge was held in the Assembly Rooms, Esplanade Hotel, Southsea Beach, on Monday, the 7th instant, for the purpose of presenting Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., the Prov. Grand Master with his portrait, which had been subscribed for by the brethren of every Lodge in the Province. The gathering was a large and important one, scarcely a Lodge throughout this extensive district being unrepresented. The Prov. Grand Master is one of the most distinguished Freemasons in the country, and presides in the Grand Lodge of England oftener than any other official qualified to occupy the exalted position of Chairman of English Masons. He has occupied the position of Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for twenty-one years, and it was to mark his attaining his majority in that office that the brethren decided to present him with his portrait. The funds were raised spontaneously, and Mr. Onless, R.A., the eminent painter, was entrusted with the commission, which he has executed to the entire satisfaction of the subscribers. The ceremonies of the day were of the most impressive and interesting character, and will long be remembered by those who took part in them, while the gathering of Past Prov. Officers was the largest that has taken place in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for years past. Lodge was opened shortly before five o'clock, and almost immediately afterwards a fanfare of trumpets announced the arrival of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master of England, who was received by a special deputation and conducted to the chair on the left of the Prov. G.M. The roll of Lodges was then called, and nearly every one responded, many of the representatives coming from the most obscure and distant parts of the Province. The Prov. Grand Secretary (Bro. Edgar Goble) read letters apologising for non-attendance from the Earl of Radnor, the Right Hon. Sir William Marriott, Earl Amherst, Sir Gabriel Goldney, Bro. Montague Guest, Colonel Egerton (Comptroller to H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught), Colonel Money, &c., &c. The brethren resolved that the sum of two hundred guineas be given from the Provincial Grand Lodge funds in aid of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons on the occasion of the celebration of its Jubilee in February next. Bro. Le Feuvre, Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Past Grand Deacon of England, then addressed the Duke of Connaught, and asked his Royal Highness to present the Prov. G. Master with the portrait, and with an album containing an address setting forth the circumstances under which the presentation was made and the names of the subscribers. He said it was with feelings of the liveliest satisfaction that he asked His Royal Highness to be the mouthpiece of upwards of 3500 Freemasons of that Province in formally recognising the great work which their Provincial Grand Master had performed in the interests of the Order, not only in Hampshire and the

Isle of Wight, but throughout the country. Bro. Beach had endeared himself to his brethren, not merely by his conduct as a Mason, but by his every-day life as a county gentleman and as a member of Parliament who had enjoyed the unbroken confidence of his constituents for thirty-five years. As a Freemason, Bro. Beach had worked himself up through the various stages, succeeding the late Lord Carnarvon as Senior Warden of the Province in 1858, and being installed Grand Master of the Province by that nobleman in 1869. Under his rule Freemasonry had flourished and grown in the district beyond every anticipation. Then the Province numbered only twenty-four Lodges, whereas now there were forty-seven, while the number of Chapters of the Royal Arch had increased in the same period from 11 to 23. As to the number of brethren, there were in 1869 only 950 on the register, whereas there were now no fewer than 3500, and the roll was still being added to. He did not regard the increase in the number of members as the only test of the progress of the Order, because he believed in the strongest tests being applied to every person who sought admission to their ranks, lest the fundamental aims and objects of the Fraternity should be interfered with or frustrated, but he believed that every care was taken that only good and true men should be admitted. H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught then made the formal presentation, in a short, but felicitous speech. He felt it was perfectly unnecessary on his part to say anything to the brethren of the Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as to the good qualities of Bro. Beach, who had successfully ruled over the destinies of Freemasonry in this part of the Kingdom so many years, and who had, from the date of his initiation in 1848, never ceased to labour for the good of the Order. He (His Royal Highness), speaking as Past Grand Master of England, could assure the brethren that the good qualities of Bro. Beach were not merely appreciated in that Province, but by Grand Lodge and by Masons all over the country. The portrait was then unveiled, amidst much applause. Bro. Beach made a suitable acknowledgment, assuring the brethren how deeply he felt the great kindness and brotherly love which had prompted them to make the presentation, and said the proceedings of the day would never be effaced from his memory.

After the proceedings in Lodge the brethren adjourned to the large dining hall, where the festival banquet in connection with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution was held, under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master. The usual Masonic toasts were honoured. The proceedings were enlivened by the performance of a choice selection of music by a band under the direction of Mr. T. F. Wilton, and by a number of vocal pieces by the Alver Glee Union, under Mr. Pearman.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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—:—
ARTICLE 219.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—“Half a loaf is better than no bread,” but I trust that the Craft will not be satisfied with the “half-loaf” given them the other night by the V.W. Grand Registrar’s motion; but, like Oliver Twist, will ask for “more,” and insist upon having it. A shifting, haphazard, temporising policy never did answer, and never will; and both historically and logically I do not think the very clear wording of the law can be twisted to cover the extraordinary doctrines propounded the other evening.

The letter from a “Past Master,” printed in the *Freemason* of the 5th inst., written from Queensland, accentuates the present unsatisfactory position of matters, and I greatly regret, as the V.W. Grand Registrar did not accept my suggestion, to omit the words “in New Zealand,” that I did not follow up the suggestion by moving it as an amendment to his motion.

I am, yours fraternally,

S. R. BASKETT,

P.M. 1367 and 329, P. Prov. G. Registrar Dorset.

Evershot, Dorchester.

7th December 1891.

EDINBURGH DRAMATIC AND ARTS LODGE.

THE monthly meeting of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, 1st inst., in their Hall, Waterloo Rooms, Edinburgh. I.P.M. Bro. W. Grant Stevenson, A.R.S.A., occupied the chair in the absence of the R.W.M. David Pryde, M.A., LL.D., through illness, and amongst the officers and members present were Bros. F. W. Bridgman S.M., W. D. Young S.W., J. M. Henry J.W., William A. Davis Secretary, George A. Peacock Act.-Treasurer, D. W. Stevenson, R.S.A., Architect, T. Thompson J.D., G. W. Lingard I.G., W. K. Dickson Advocate, John Marshall, M.A., LL.D., D. A. Ross S.S.C., A. C. Wade, James Lindsay jun., Alec Neilson, &c. Messrs. N. J. D. Kennedy Advocate, and Alexander Davidson, S.S.C., were initiated, and Bro. J. Marshall, M.A., LL.D., Rector of Royal High School, was passed, the degrees being admirably rendered by the I.P.M. Thereafter the following officers were put in nomination, and elected for the ensuing year, viz., Bros. Young W.M., Pryde, M.A., LL.D., I.P.M., Stevenson, A.R.S.A., P.M., Bell, Advocate, D.M., Bonnar S.M., Henry, Architect, S.W., Stevenson, R.S.A., J.W., Deas Treasurer, Davis Secretary, and Glasse, M.A., Chaplain, Thompson S.D., Dickson, Advocate, J.D., Lindsay jun. Bible-Bearer, Black, M.B., F.R.C.P.E., Physician, Bridgman Musical Director, Lingard, Mus.Bac., Organist, Carter, C.E., Architect, Hamilton Jeweller, Anderson Bard, Wade First Steward, Campbell, S.S.C., Second Steward, Brown, M.A., First Standard Bearer, Peacock Second Standard Bearer, Macgregor I.G., Greason Tyler. Nomination of General Management Committee:—Bros. Oughton, Adamson, Blair, Mackenzie, Hamilton, Moonie. At the close of the Lodge the Brethren held their usual monthly dinner in the Waterloo Hotel, under the presidency of the I.P.M. The health of the Two Last Links was drunk with enthusiasm, and music, recitations, &c., by members of the Lodge, added to the evening's enjoyment.

The "Mallet," writing in the *Glasgow Evening News*, says:—

"It has, it is stated, been a recognised rule in some Provinces to elect in Provincial Grand offices only those who have passed through the Master's chair. If such a bye-law has been sanctioned it must show very strangely in the light of Grand Lodge law on the subject. Provincial Grand Lodges are necessarily composed largely of brethren who have not passed the chair, as two-thirds of the direct representation from the daughter Lodges are only on their way thither. The P.M. element is, as a rule, not a very large contingent. The area from which Officers are selected must be very small in any Province following such a rule as that indicated.

Freemasons have certainly the art of "push." So diligent is the working for the "Fayre" to take place in the spring, that the secretary of one of the Lodges sent a lady member of the committee a huge supply of raffle tickets, together with a request that she would go every day to some public venue and sell the articles "all round." The lady replied that she would prefer to resign her position.

The closing months of the year are a time of much interest in the Masonic Lodges of Sunderland, the election and installation of brethren to the Chairmanship of four of the Lodges taking place at this time. For the Phoenix Lodge, No. 94, Bro. William Vincent, well known in Sunderland, and especially in Musical and Masonic circles, has been elected as W.M. for the ensuing year; for the St. John's Lodge, No. 80, Bro. Gibbons has been elected as W.M.; and Bro. Birch S.W. was elected as W.M. of the Palatine Lodge, No. 97. Bro. J. R. Cutter I.P.M. P.G.T. was elected as Treasurer, and Bro. T. Grieve I.P.M. was re-elected as Tyler of the Palatine Lodge. There was a very large muster of the Palatine Lodge on Thursday, 12th ult., about thirty Past Masters and fifty brethren being in attendance. The old Lodge still maintains its efficiency as one of the best worked of the Province of Durham; Bro. E. G. Watson is the occupant of the W.M.'s chair, and Bro. Thomas Millican Watson P.M. P.P.G.D. has been for some years its most efficient Treasurer. There were many visitors from Newcastle and Jarrow Lodges at the meeting.

Fortune, in the shape of funds, favours the work of restoration and improvement at Peterborough Cathedral. At a recent meeting of the restoration Committee, Dean Argles offered to give five hundred pounds towards the removal of the organ to the triforium, and the purchase of a small organ for use during the re-construction of the greater instrument. Stalls for the choir were also accepted from the Freemasons of England, the Corporation of Peterborough, and Mr. Gates, the Chapter Clerk; and Mrs. Rigg, daughter of the late Archdeacon Davys, has promised a new litany-desk.

The W.M. and a number of the Officers and brethren of the Tennant Lodge, No. 1992, Cardiff, attended the funeral of the late Bro. Thomas Sampson, Castle-road, on Wednesday, the 2nd inst., at the New Cemetery, to show the last tribute of respect to his memory, the deceased having been an esteemed member of that Lodge.

The Directors of Spiers and Pond Limited notify that the Transfer Books will be closed from the 19th inst. to the 1st proximo, both inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the Interest Warrants for the half-year ending the 31st instant, on the Five per cent. First Mortgage Debentures, the Five per cent. Debenture Stock, and the "A" Mortgage Debenture Stock of the Company. It is also notified that the Share Transfer Books will be closed from the 19th instant to the 1st proximo, both inclusive, for the purpose of preparing Dividend Warrants for the second instalment of 4s per share, less income tax, making 8s per share paid on account of the dividend for the year ending 31st March 1891. Warrants will be posted on the 31st inst.

THE THEATRES, &c.

With some fresh lyrics, and alterations in the dialogue, which cause the story to play closer, and in consequence more intelligibly, "Miss Decima" has taken a new lease of life at the Prince of Wales Theatre, which is much better adapted for its performance. The lively heroine is now played by Miss Decima Moore, while Messrs. Hayden Coffin and Leonard Russell have also been recruited for the leading characters. Mr. David James has worked up his comparatively small part to a most diverting personage. Miss M. A. Victor makes a very amusing Senora, and Miss Annie Schuberth is a new and satisfactory Inez. This bright and lively musical comedy is a treat that should not be missed.

Signor Largo may be congratulated upon the success that has attended his operatic season at the Shaftesbury Theatre, which terminates to-night, especially with regard to the favour with which Mascagni's charming opera, "Cavalleria Rusticana" has been received. The thanks of all lovers of music are due to Signor Largo, for introducing this charming and melodious opera to the metropolis, and were it not that the artistes had to fulfil other engagements, the run of the piece might have been indefinitely prolonged, for its attractions were by no means exhausted. As it is, we shall doubtless hear it again next year, when its successful run will be resumed.

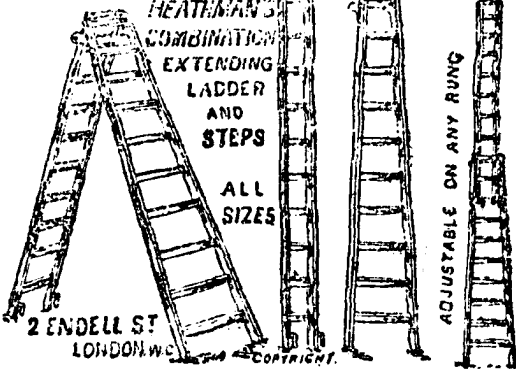
NEW OLYMPIC.—"A Royal Divorce." Mr. W. G. Wills' historical drama is still the biggest success in London, the house being nightly filled to its utmost extent. So popular has this play become that in order to meet the growing demand for seats an extra matinée is now being given, on Saturday, in addition to those on Monday and Wednesday.

THE MASONIC AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY.—"Trial by Jury" was performed by this organisation, at Sheffield, on the 27th ult., and the departure into the domain of music proved most acceptable indeed, as was shown not only by the frequency of the applause, but the extent of the audience. There was another item on the programme, namely, a domestic drama, entitled "Our Lottie," but it is a feeble piece, and the performance dragged. The impersonator of the reverend character, however, deserves commendation; the inspector did well, and Miss Ellen Rutland was sprightly and vivacious as Young Nick. But the operetta, or dramatic cantata, was "the thing." From the playing of the overture to the end it was most enjoyable. Bro. Buckley had a good orchestra, he skilfully conducted, the parts had been well allotted, there was a musical and jovial jury, and altogether this early composition of Gilbert and Sullivan had a really capital rendering. The defendant sang with great taste, the counsel for the defendant enunciated distinctly, the usher got through his vocal task in a creditable manner, and the representative of the judge, both as regards make-up and singing, was "a good judge too." The "associate" had an amusing "brother," and the two certainly made themselves more useful than ornamental. Miss Emmie Frith (the plaintiff) appeared to have entirely recovered from her recent indisposition, and her first song was loudly applauded. She is a graceful actress, as well as being a cultured vocalist. The bridesmaids consisted of Misses. Callum, Charlesworth, and Frith, and they were beautifully attired, sang sweetly, and departed themselves in a charming manner.

Liskeard Freemasons, encouraged by the success which attended their public dance last year, have made arrangements for holding a similar dance, in aid of the Masonic Charities, at the Public Hall, Liskeard, on Thursday, the 14th of January next.

Bro. W. V. Harris was, on the 3rd inst., elected W.M. of Lodge Fidelity, No. 240, Devonport. Bro. E. H. Littleton Treasurer, and Brother C. Dyer Tyler were re-elected. A balance in hand of £66 was reported. Two guineas were, as usual, voted to the Devonport Coal Fund, and one guinea to the Blanket Fund.

The annual festival and installation of the Buxton Lodge, 1688, was held at the Palace Hotel, Buxton, when the retiring W.M., Bro. Wardley, installed his successor, Bro. A. Brown.



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HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

The Great Western Railway Company issue tickets of all classes at the following City and West-end offices: 193 and 407 Oxford Street; 23 New Oxford Street; Holborn Circus; 29 Charing Cross; 5 Arthur Street East, London Bridge; 82 Queen Victoria Street; 269 Strand; 43 and 44 Crutched Friars; 26 Regent Street; 67 Gresham Street; 4 Cheapside; and the L.B. and S.C. Company's Booking Office (under Grand Hotel), Trafalgar Square. This arrangement cannot fail to be a boon to those travellers who desire to avoid the trouble of obtaining a ticket at a crowded railway station. The booking-office at the Paddington Station will also be open for the issue of tickets each day during the week preceding Christmas Day. Ordinary tickets obtained in London between December 18th and 24th will be available for use on any day between and including those days. Cheap third class tickets at reduced fares will be issued from London to the Yeovil and Weymouth districts to stations in the West of England, and to Guernsey and Jersey; similar tickets will also be issued from those districts to London, except the Channel Islands. In order to meet the extraordinary demand upon the company's resources occasioned by the enormous parcels traffic despatched both from and to London at Christmas time, special fast trains carrying parcels only, and calling at the principal intermediate stations, will run between London and Plymouth, Birkenhead, Worcester, and New Milford. On Thursday, December 24th, the 1.0 and 5.0 p.m. trains from Paddington to Plymouth will be extended to Bristol and Penzance; and the 6.20 p.m. train from Paddington to Bristol will run to Exeter; a special train will leave Paddington at 10.0 p.m. for New Milford, and will call at the same stations as the 9.15 p.m. ordinary train, and a special express to the West of England will depart at 11.50 p.m. (midnight). On Christmas Day the usual Sunday service of trains will be run, but for the convenience of persons who are unable to leave town before the morning of Christmas Day, the 5.30 a.m. train will run as on week days to Oxford, Bristol, Weston-super-Mare, Worcester, Banbury, Leamington, Birmingham, Dudley, and Wolverhampton, in which towns the London morning papers will consequently be distributed at the usual hour. On the afternoon of Sunday, December 27th, special trains will run to London from Plymouth, Swansea, and Wolverhampton, calling at the principal intermediate stations.

The London and North Western Company announce that the ticket offices at Euston, Broad Street, Kensington, and Willesden Junction will be open throughout the day from Monday 14th December, to Wednesday 23rd December (Sunday excepted), so that passengers wishing to obtain tickets for any destination on the London and North Western Railway can do so at any time of the day prior to the starting of the trains. The tickets will be dated to suit the convenience of passengers. Tickets for all the principal stations on the London and North Western system and its connections can be obtained at any time—Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted—at the following Town Receiving offices of the Company:—15 Queen Street, E.C.; Spread Eagle, 3 Whittington Avenue, Leadenhall Market, E.C.; Swan-with-two-Necks, 65 Gresham Street, E.C.; 13 Eastcheap; Cross Keys, 1 Wood Street, Cheapside, E.C.; 22 Aldersgate Street, E.C.; 65 Aldgate, E.; 30 West Smithfield, E.C.; 8 and 9 Clerkenwell Green, E.C.; Bolt-in-Tun, 64 Fleet Street, E.C.; 116 Holborn, E.C.; George and Blue Boar, 285 High Holborn, W.C.; 43 New Oxford Street, W.C.; Universal Office, Spread Eagle, Piccadilly Circus, W.; 34 Parliament Street, Westminster; Golden Cross, Charing Cross, W.C.; Hotel Windsor, Victoria Street, S.W.; 231 Edgware Road, W.; Atlas Office, 167 Tottenham Court Road, W.C.; 70 St. Martin's Lane, W.C.; 3 James Street, Covent Garden, W.C.; Lion, 108 New Bond Street, W.; 496 Oxford Street W.; Griffin's Green Man and Still, 241 Oxford Street, W.; 33 Hereford Road, Bayswater, W.; Knightsbridge, 34 Albert Gate, S.W.; Kensington, 33 High Street, W.; 117 High Street, Borough, S.E.; 233 and 234 Blackfriars Road, S.E.; Surrey Railway Office, 138 Newington Causeway, S.E.; 194 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.; Islington, "Angel," 5 Pentonville Road, N.; London, Brighton, and South Coast Company's Office, 8 Grand Hotel Buildings, Charing Cross; and at Messrs. Gaze and Son's Offices, 142 Strand, W.C. The ordinary service of express and mail trains will be supplemented by addit onal express trains as named below:—

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY, 24TH DECEMBER, a special train will leave Willesden Junction at 2.45 p.m. for Bletchley, Wolverton, Northampton, Rugby, principal stations on the Trent Valley Line, and Stafford, in advance of the 2.45 p.m. ordinary train from London (Euston). The 4.30 p.m., Euston to Birmingham, will be divided—the first portion, which will run express to Coventry and Birmingham, will leave Euston at 4.25 p.m.; the second portion of the train will leave Euston at 4.30 p.m. as usual, and convey passengers for Northampton, Rugby, Coventry, Birmingham, Walsall, Dudley, and Wolverhampton. The 7.0 p.m., Euston to Birmingham, will be divided—the first portion, which will run express to Coventry and Birmingham, will leave Euston at 6.55 p.m.; the second portion of the train will leave Euston at 7.0 p.m., and convey passengers for Bletchley, Northampton, Rugby, Coventry, Birmingham, Dudley, Wolverhampton, and Walsall. THE NIGHT IRISH MAIL DUE TO LEAVE EUSTON 8.20 P.M. WILL NOT LEAVE UNTIL 9.5 P.M. Passengers from Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester, for Holyhead and Ireland, will leave at the usual hours, and will be taken forward to Holyhead in advance of the London train. The mail packet for Kingstown will not leave Holyhead until the passengers from London are on board. The 12.0 night train from London (Euston), due at Warrington at 5.15 a.m. on Christmas Day, will be extended from Warrington to Carlisle, Edinburgh, and Glasgow as on ordinary week days, and will, by special arrangement, take passengers for Kendal and Windermere.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY the usual Sunday service of trains will be run

with the following additions:—The 5.15 a.m. newspaper express from London (Euston) will run to Northampton, Rugby, Birmingham, Nuneaton, Tamworth, Lichfield, Rugeley, Stafford, Crewe, Shrewsbury, Liverpool, Manchester; Warrington, Wigan, Preston, Lancaster, Carnforth, Oxenholme, Kendal, Windermere, Tebay, Penrith, Carlisle, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. The 7.15 a.m. down day Irish mail from Euston to Holyhead will be run on Christmas Day the same as on week days; and the 11.40 a.m., Holyhead to Chester, will leave at 11.30 a.m., and be extended to London. The down mail will call, if required, at Rhyl, Conway, and Bangor; and the up mail, if required, at Bangor, Conway, Colwyn Bay, Rhyl, and Holywell. The 11.17 a.m., Chester to Birkenhead, will wait at Chester the arrival of the 7.15 a.m. from London.

ON SATURDAY (BANK HOLIDAY), 26TH DECEMBER, numerous residential trains in the neighbourhood of important cities and towns WILL NOT BE RUN. The dining saloons between London, Liverpool, and Manchester, and certain of the through carriages between London and Provincial stations, will also be discontinued on this date; but the dining saloons on the 2.0 p.m. from London to Glasgow, and the 2.0 p.m. from Glasgow to London, will be run the same as usual.

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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, 12th December.

7108 London, Ship and Turtle, Lendenhall Street
173 Phoenix, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
176 Caveac, Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street
1426 The Great City, Cannon Street Hotel
1871 Miapah, Albion Hotel, Aldersgate Street
1558 Duke of Cornwall, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1828 Gallery, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street
1964 Clerkenwell, Holborn Viaduct Hotel, E.C.
140 Peace, Private Rooms, Moltham
308 Prince George, Rooms, Bottoms, Eastwood
2089 Prudence, Masonic Hall, Leeds
2096 George Price, Greyhound Hotel, Croydon
R.A. 911 Yarborough, Royal Pavilion, Brighton

Monday, 14th December.

5 St. George's and Corner Stone, F.M.H., W.C.
29 St. Albans, Albion, Aldersgate Street
69 Royal Naval, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
90 St. John, Albion, Aldersgate Street, E.C.
136 Good Report, Inns of Court Hotel, W.C.
193 Confidence, Anderton's, Fleet Street, E.C.
232 St. Andrews, 101 Queen Victoria Street
957 Leigh, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1237 Enfield, Market Place, Enfield
1305 St. Marylebone, Criterion, W.
1571 Leopold, Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge
1670 Adelphi, 4 Adelphi Terrace, Strand
1805 Bromley St. Leonard, Vestry Hall, Bow Road
2030 The Abbey, Town Hall, Westminster
R.O. 53 Holy Sanctuary, 33 Golden Square, W.

40 Derwent, Castle Hotel, Hastings
76 Love and Honour, Royal Hotel, Falmouth
88 Scientific, Petty Cury, Cambridge
104 St. John, White Lion Hotel, Stockport
151 Albany, Masonic Hall, Newport, I.W.
240 St. Hilda, Freemasons' Hall, South Shields
262 Salopian, the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury
292 Sincerity, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
298 Royal Brunswick, F.M.H., Sheffield
297 Witham, New Masonic Hall, Lincoln
302 Hope, New Masonic Hall, Bradford
307 Prince Frederick, White Horse, Hebden Bridge
408 Three Graces, Private Rooms, Haworth
411 Commercial, Flying Horse Hotel, Nottingham
467 Tudor, Freemasons' Hall, Oldham
481 St. Peter, Masonic Hall, Newcastle
502 Rectitude, Town Hall, Rugby
587 Howe, M.H., New Street, Birmingham
589 Druids of Love and Liberty, M.H., Redruth
613 Unity, Masonic Hall, Southampton
665 Montagu, Royal Lion, Lyme Regis
671 Prince of Wales, Thomas Arms Hotel, Llanelly
721 Independence, Masonic Chambers, Chester
797 Hanley, Hanley Hall, Dartmouth
803 Meridian, National School Room, Millbrook
940 Williamson, St. Stephen Sch., Monkwearmouth
1021 Hartington, Masonic Hall, Barrow-in-Furness
1089 United Brothers, Castle Hotel, Southsea
1112 Shirley, Masonic Hall, Shirley, Hants
1174 Pentangle, Sun Hotel, Chatham
1221 Defence, Masonic Hall, Carlton Hill, Leeds
1263 Travellers, Queen's Hotel, Manchester
1350 Fernor Basketh, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
1436 Sandgate, Masonic Hall, Sandgate
1449 Royal Military, Masonic Hall, Canterbury.
1474 Israel, Masonic Hall, Birmingham
1542 Legiolium, Masonic Hall, Castleford
1575 Clive, Corbet Arms, Market Drayton
1656 Wolsey, White Hart Hotel, Hampton Wick
1692 Abbey, Suffolk Hotel, Bury St. Edmunds
1611 Eboracum, Masonic Hall, St. Saviourgate, York
1618 Handyside, Zetland Hotel, Saltburn-by-Sea.
1966 Fidelity and Sincerity, Wellington, Somerset
1977 Blackwater, Blue Boar Hotel, Maldon
R.A. 166 Harmony, Hayshe Mas. Tem., Plymouth
R.A. 377 Hope and Charity, M.H., Kidderminster
R.A. 379 Tynte, M.H., Old Orchard Street, Bath
M.M. 9 Fortescue, Masonic Hall, South Molton
M.M. 171 Union, Freemasons' Hall, Oldham
K.T. 5 Jerusalem, Queen's Hotel, Manchester
K.T. 56 Hugh de Payens, Old Bull, Blackburn
R.C. 22 Victoria, Ipswich

Tuesday, 15th December.

Board of General Purposes, Freemasons' Hall, 4
30 United Mariners, Guildhall Tavern, E.C.
73 Mount Lebanon, Bridge House, Southwark
95 Eastern Star, Ship and Turtle, E.C.
162 Cadogan, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1339 Stockwell, Surrey M.H., Camberwell
1420 Earl Spencer, Swan Hotel, Battersea Old Bridge
1695 New Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, Highbury
2021 Queens Westminster, 8a Red Lion Sq., W.C.
2310 London Scottish Rifles, 33 Golden Square, W.
R.A. 7 Royal York of Perseverance, F.M.H., W.C.
R.A. 11 Fnoch, Freemasons' Hall, W. J.
R.A. 19 Mount Sinai, Anderton's Hotel, E.C.
R.A. 205 Israel, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.
M.M. 238 Prince Leopold, Anderton's Hotel, E.C.
126 Silent Temple, Cross Keys Inn, Brimley
213 Perseverance, Masonic Hall, Norwich
373 Socrates, George Hotel, Huntingdon
384 St. David, Masonic Rooms, Bangor
402 Royal Sussex, George the Fourth, Nottingham
414 Union, Masonic Hall, Reading
449 Mentaria, Mechanics' Institute, Hauley
444 St. James, Freemasons' Hall, Halifax
468 Light, Great Western Hotel, Birmingham
510 St. Martin, Masonic Hall, Liskeard
667 Alliance, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
779 Ferrers and Ivanhoe, M.H., Ashby-de-la-Zouch
897 Loyalty, Fleece Hotel, St. Helen's
960 Bute, Masonic Hall, Cardiff
1006 Tregulow, Masonic Rooms, Scorrier, Cornwall
1024 St. Peter's, Masonic Hall, Maldon

1089 De Shurland, Fountain Hotel, Sheerness
1113 Anglesea, Bull Hotel, Llangefni
1276 Warren, Queen's Hotel, Birkenhead
1280 Walden, Rose and Crown Hot, Saffron Walden
1325 Stanley, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
1427 Percy, Masonic Hall, Newcastle
1470 Chiltern, Town Hall, Dunstable
1534 Concord, George Hotel, Prestwich
1551 Charity, Masonic Hall, Birmingham
1570 Prince Arthur, 140 North Hill St., Liverpool
1726 Gordon, Assembly Rooms, Rognor
1764 Eleanor Cross, Masonic Hall, Northampton
1823 Royal Clarence, Masonic Hall, Clare, Suffolk
1941 St. Augustine's, Shrewsbury Arms, Rugley
2029 Haven, Lyric Hall, Easing
2146 Surbiton, Maple Hall, Surbiton
R.A. 41 Royal Cumberland, Masonic Hall, Bath
R.A. 80 St. John's, Masonic Hall, Sunderland
R.A. 915 Royal Pavilion Royal Pavilion, Brighton
R.A. 419 St. Peter, Star & Garter, Wolverhampton
R.A. 645 Humphrey Chetham, F.M.H., Manchester
R.A. 1151 Unity, Town Hall, Tywardreath, Cornwall
M.M. Lebanon, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
M.M. 268 Amherst, Masonic Hall, Sandgate
M.M. 380 Temple, Masonic Hall, Folkestone

Wednesday 16th December.

174 Sincerity, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham St. W.C.
969 Maybury, Inns of Court Hotel, W.C.
1349 Friars, Ship and Turtle, Leadenhall Street
1382 Corinthian, George Inn, Cubitt Town
1507 Metropolitan Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street
1624 Eccleston, Criterion, Piccadilly
1673 Langton, Holborn Viaduct Hotel, Holborn
1803 Cornhill, King's Head, Fenchurch Street
M.M. 144 Grosvenor, Masonic Hall, Air Street, W.

20 Royal Kent of Antiquity, Sun Hotel, Chatham
121 Mount Sinai, Public Buildings, Ponzance
125 Prince Edwin, White Hart Hotel, Hythe
128 Prince Edwin, Bridge Inn, Bury, Lancashire
137 Amity, Masonic Hall, Market Street, Poole
175 East Medina, Masonic Hall, Ryde, I.W.
200 Old Globe, Masonic Hall, Scarborough
210 Duke of Athol, Bowling Green Hotel, Denton
221 St. John, Commercial Hotel, Bolton
248 Royal Union, Freemasons' Hall, Cheltenham
274 Tranquillity, Boar's Head Inn, Newchurch
290 Huddersfield Masonic Hall, Huddersfield
311 South Saxon, F.M., Lewes.
325 St. John's, Freemasons' Hall, Salford
342 Royal Sussex, Freemasons' Hall, Landport
363 Keystone, New Inn, Whitworth
367 Airedale, Masonic Hall, Westgate, Shipley
428 Sincerity, Angel Inn, Northwich, Cheshire
451 Sutherland, Town Hall, Burslem
537 Zetland, 9 Hamilton Street, Birkenhead
581 Faith, Church Inn, Openshaw
592 Cotteswold, King's Head Hotel, Cirencester
608 Segontium, The Castle, Carnarvon
625 Devonshire, Norfolk Hotel, Glossop
683 Isca, Freemasons' Hall, Newport, Mon.
750 Friendship, Freemasons' Hall, Cleckheaton
758 Ellesmere, Freemasons' Hall, Runcorn
816 Royd, Spring Gardens Inn, Wardle
823 Everton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
874 Holmesdale, Royal Sussex, Tunbridge Wells
889 Dobie, Griffin Hotel, Kingston
938 Grosvenor, Masonic Hall, Birmingham
962 Sun and Sector, Assembly Rooms, Workington
972 St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury
1019 Sincerity, Freemasons' Hall, Wakefield
1040 Sykes, Masonic Hall, Driffield
1068 Walton, Skelmersdale M.H., Kirkdale
1129 St. Chad, Roebuck Hotel, Rochdale
1161 De Grey and Ripon, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester

1246 Holte, Aquarium Assembly Rooms, Aston
1301 Brighthouse, Masonic Room, Brighthouse
1353 Duke of Lancaster, Athenaeum, Lancaster
1403 West Lancashire, Commercial Hot, Ormskirk
1443 Salem, Town Hall, Dawlish, Devon
1511 Alexandra, Masonic Hall, Hornsea, Hull
1536 United Military, Masonic Hall, Plumstead
1634 Starke, Railway Hotel, Ramsgate
1645 Colne Valley, Lewisham Hotel, Slaitwaite
1734 Trinity, Golden Lion Hotel, Rayleigh
1797 Southdown, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex
1971 Army and Navy, Imperial Hotel, Aldershot
1988 Mawddack, St. Ann's Bldgs. Barmouth, Wales
2120 Abbey, Masonic Hall, Quartsay, Surrey
2269 St. Nicholas, Peace Hall, W. Yorkshire
R.A. 88 Pythagoras, Red Lion Hotel, Cambridge
R.A. 320 Integrity, Junction Inn, Mottram
R.A. 371 Nicholson, Freemasons' Hall, Maryford
R.A. 409 Stortford, Chequers, Bishop Stortford
R.A. 591 Buckingham, George Hotel, Aylesbury
R.A. 728 Royal Chantry of Fortitude, N.W. Hot, Staff
R.A. 847 Fortescue, Masonic Hall, Honiton
R.A. 1387 Chorlton, M.H., Chorlton-cum-Hardy

Thursday, 17th December.

49 Gihon, Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street
169 Temperance, White Swan, Deptford
179 Manchester, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street
813 New Concord, Guildhall Tavern, E.C.
1139 South Norwood, Public Hall, South Norwood
1287 Great Northern, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1613 Cripplegate, Albion, Aldersgate Street
1681 Londresborough, Regent M.H., Air Street, W.
1901 Selwyn, East Dulwich Hotel, Dulwich
R.A. 79 Pythagoreau, Ship Hotel, Greenwich
M.M. Bon Accord, Mark Masons, Hall, W.C.
M.M. 7 Carnarvon, Café Royal, W.
42 Relief, Albion Hotel, Bury
56 Howard, High Street, Arundel
98 St. Martin, Town Hall, Burslem
100 Friendship, Crown and Anchor, Gt. Yarmouth
203 Ancient Union, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
215 Commerce, Commercial Hotel, Haslingden
268 Union, Queen's Arms Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne
343 Concord, Militia Officers' Mess Rooms, Preston
345 Perseverance, Old Bull Hotel, Blackburn
346 United Brethren, Royal Oak, Clayton-to-Dale
350 Charity, Grapes Inn, Stouffville
367 Probity and Freedom, Red Lion, Smallbridge
369 Limestone Rock, Masonic Hall, Clitheroe
432 Abbey, Newdegate Arms Hotel, Nuneaton
466 Foresters, White Hart Hotel, Uttoxeter
462 Bank Terrace, Hargreaves Hotel, Accrington
523 John of Gaunt, Freemasons' Hall, Leicester

600 Harmony, Freemasons' Hall, Bradford
605 Combermere, Queen's Hotel, Birkenhead
663 Wiltshire Fidelity, Masonic Hall, Devizes
971 Trafalgar, Commercial Street, Batley
1011 Richmond, Old Bar's Head, Manchester
1042 Excelsior, Masonic Hall, Lee Is
1125 St. Peter, Masonic Hall, Tiverton, Devon
1181 Abbey, Masonic Hall, Battle
1299 Pembroke, West Derby Hotel, West Derby, near Liverpool
1332 Unity, Masonic Hall, Crediton, Devon
1337 Anchor, Durham House, Northallerton
1432 Fitzalan, Wynnstay Arms, Oswestry
1459 Ashbury, Justice Biron Ho e, West Gorton
1514 Thornhill, Dearn House, Lindley
1587 St. Giles, Royal Oak, Hotel, Cheadle
1817 St. Andrew's, Cambridge Hot, Shoeburyness
1873 St. Margaret's, St. Mark's School, Surbiton
1892 Wallington, King's Arms, Carshalton
2107 Etheldreda, White Hart Hotel, Newmarket
R.A. 645 Cyrus, Council Chambers, Chichester
R.A. 771 Windsor Castle, Masonic Hall, Windsor
R.A. 1145 Equality, Red Lion, Accrington
R.A. 1235 Phoenix of St. Ann, Court Hotel, Buxton,
M.M. Canynges, Freemasons' Hall, Bristol
M.M. 17 Portsmouth, Masonic Hall, Portsmouth
K.T. William de la More, Rooms, St. Helen's

Friday, 18th December.

6 Friendship, Willis's Rooms, St James's
201 Jordan, Freemasons' Hall, W.C.
1962 London Rifle Brigade, Anderton's Hotel, E.C.
M.M. 176 Era, Mark Masons' Hall, W.C.
K.T. 6 St. George's, The Albion, E.U.
R.O. 10 Invicta, 33 Golden Square, W.
152 Virtue, Freemasons' Hall, Manchester
401 Royal Forest, Hark to Bounty Inn, Slaidburn.
460 Sutherland of Unity, Castle Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme
516 Phoenix, Fox Hotel, Stowmarket
541 De Lorraine, Freemasons' Hall, Newcastle
652 Holme Valley, Victoria Hotel, Holmfirth
1034 Eccleshill, Freemasons' Hall, Eccleshill
1096 Lord Warden, Wellington Hall, Deal
1102 Mirfield, Assembly Rooms, Mirfield
1311 Zetland, Masonic Hall, Leeds
1773 Albert Victor, Town Hall, Pen Y Felon
R.A. 52 Royal George, Norfolk Hotel, Norwich
R.A. 355 Wiltshire, Masonic Hall, Swindon
R.A. 403 Hertford, Shire Hall, Hertford
R.A. 1010 Kingston, Masonic Hall, Hull

Saturday, 19th December.

1364 Earl of Zetland, Old Town Hall, Hackney
1814 Crichton, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell
1732 King's Cross, Anderton's Hotel, E.C.
M.M. 251 Tenterden, Anderton's Hotel, E.C.
811 Yarborough, Royal Pavilion, Brighton
2035 Beaumont, Royal Hotel, Kirkburton
M.M. 14 Prince Edward's, Station Hotel, Stansfield

INSTRUCTION.

Saturday, 12th December.

87 Vitruvian, Duke of Albany, St. Catherine's Park, near Nunhead Junction, 7'30
170 Manchester, 8 Tottenham Court Road, W.C. 8
198 Percy, Jolly Farmers' Tav, Southgate Rd., N. 8
1276 Star, Dover Castle, Deptford Causeway, S.E. 7
1288 Finsbury Park, Cook Tavern, Highbury, 8
1364 Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Hackney, 7
1524 Duke of Connaught, Lord Stanley, Hackney, 8
1624 Eccleston, 13 Cambridge Street, Pimlico, 7
2012 Chiswick, Windsor Castle, Hammersmith, 7'30
R.A. Sinai, Red Lion, King Street, Regent St., W. 8

Monday, 14th December.

22 Loughborough, Gauden Hotel, Clapham, 7'30
27 Egyptian, Atlantic Tavern, Brixton, S.W., 8
45 Strong Man, Bell and Bush, Romemacher St., 7
174 Sincerity, Railway Tavern, Fenchurch St., 7
180 St. James's Union, St. James's Restaurant, 8
248 True Love & Unity, F.M.H., Brixham, Devon, 8
382 Royal Union, Chequers Hotel, Uxbridge
548 Wellington, White Swan, High St., Deptford,
823 Everton, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, 7'30
975 Rose of Denmark, Gauden Hotel, Clapham, 7'3
1227 Upton, Three Nuns, Aldgate, E., 8
1339 Stockwell, White Hart, Abchurch Lane, 6'30
1425 Hyde Park, Prince of Wales's Hotel, corner of Eastbourne Terrace, and Bishop's Rd., W. 8
1445 Prince Leopold, 293 Whitechapel Road, E., 7
1449 Royal Military, Masonic Hall Canterbury,
1489 M. of Ripon, Queen's Hot, Victoria Park, 7'50
1507 Metropolitan, The Moorgate, E.C., 7'30
1585 Royal Commemoration, Railway Ho, Putney
1608 Kilburn, 46 South Molton Street, W., 8
1623 West Smithfield, Manchester Hotel, E.C., 7
1693 Kingsland, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., 8'30
1707 Eleanor, Rose and Crown, Tottenham, 8
1743 Perseverance, Deacon's Tavern, Wulbrook, 7
1891 St. Ambrose, Baron's Ct. Hot, W. Kensington, 8
1901 Selwyn, East Dulwich Hotel, East Dulwich, 8
2192 Walthamstow, Bridge Chambers, Ho e Street Walthamstow, 8

Tuesday, 15th December.

25 Robert Burns, 8 Tottenham Court Road, 8
55 Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Holborn, 7
141 Faith, Victoria Mansions Restaurant, S.W.
177 Domestic, Surrey M.H., Camberwell, 7'30
188 Joppa, Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate Street, 8
212 Euphrates, Mothe: Red Cap, Cannon Town, 8
241 Merchants, Masonic Hall, Liverpool
463 East Surrey Lodge of Concord, Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, 8
551 Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney, 8
700 Nelson, Star and Garter, Woolwich, 7'30
753 Prince Fred. William, Eagle Tav., Maida Hill,
820 Lady of Richmond, Grayhound, Richmond, 7'30
829 Sydney, Black Horse Hotel, Sidcup, 7

860 Dalhousie, Middleton Arms, Dalston, 8
 861 Finsbury, King's Head, Threadneedle St., 7
 1044 Wandsworth, East Hill Hotel, Wandsworth, 3
 1321 Emblematic, St. James's Restaurant, W., 3
 1343 St. John, Masonic Hall, Grays, Essex
 1349 Friars, Liverpool Arms, Canning Town, 7'30
 1446 Mount Edgecumbe, Three Stags, Lambeth Rd., 8
 1471 Islington, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., 7'30, 8
 1472 Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich
 1473 Bootle, 146 Berry Street, Bootle, 6
 1540 Chaucer, Old White Hart, Borough High St.
 1638 Brownrigg, Alexandra Hotel, Norbiton, 8
 1695 New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tav, N., 8
 1839 Duke of Cornwall, Queen's Arms, E.C., 7
 1949 Brixton, Prince Regent East Brixton, 8
 2146 Surbiton, Maple Hall, Surbiton
 Metropolitan Chapter, White Hart, Cannon St., 6'30
 R.A. 704 Camden, 15 Finsbury Pavement, E.C., 3
 R.A. 1365 Clapton, White Hart, Clapton, 8
 R.A. 1642 E. of Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, 8

Wednesday, 16th December.

3 Fidelity, Alfred, Roman Road, Barnsbury, 8
 30 United Mariners', Lugard, Peckham, 7'30
 72 Royal Jubilee, Mire, Chancery Lane, W.O., 8
 73 Mount Lebanon, George Inn, Borough, 8
 193 Confidence, Hercules Tavern, Leadenhall St.,
 228 United Strength, Hope, Regent's Park, 8
 538 La Tolerance, Portland Hot, Gt. Portland St., 8
 594 Downshire, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, 7
 673 St. John, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, 8
 720 Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham, 7
 781 Merchant Navy, Jolly Farmers, Burdett Rd., 7'30
 813 New Concord, Jolly Farmers, Southgate Rd.
 862 Whittington, Red Lion, Fleet Street, 8
 902 Burgoyne, Essex Arms, Strand, 8
 972 St. Augustine, Masonic Hall, Canterbury, 8'30
 1037 Portland, Portland Hall, Portland
 1269 Stanhope, Fox and Hounds, Putney
 1356 Toxteth, 140 North Hill Street, Liverpool, 7'30
 1475 Peckham, 618 Old Kent Road, 8
 1511 Alexandra, Hornsea, Hull
 1601 Ravensbourne, Rising Sun, Rusby Green, Catford, 8

1604 Wanderers, Victoria Mansions Restaurant, S.W., 7'30
 1662 Beaconsfield, Chequers, Walthamstow, 7'30
 1831 Londesborough, Berkeley Arms, May Fair 8
 1892 Hervey, White Hart Hotel, Bromley, Kent, 8'30
 1791 Crenton, Wheatsheaf, Shepherd's Bush, 8
 1923 Earl of Lathom, Station Hotel, Camberwell New Road, 8
 1963 Duke of Albany, 153 Battersea Park Road, 7'30
 2208 Hendon, Welsh Harp, Hendon, 8
 R.A. 177 Domatic, St. James's Restaurant, W., 8
 R.A. 720 Panmure, Goose and Gridiron, E.C., 7
 R.A. 933 Doric, 203 Whitechapel Road, E., 7'30
 M.M. Grand Masters, 3a Red Lion Square, 7

Thursday, 17th December.

144 St. Luke, White Hart, Chelsea, 7'30
 147 Justice, Brown Bear, Deptford, 8
 263 Clarence, 8 Tottenham Court Road, W.C.
 754 High Cross, Coach and Horses, Tottenham, 8
 879 Southwark, Sir Garnet Wolseley, Rotherhithe New Road
 890 Horusey, Masonic Room, Lewisham, at 8
 1017 Montefiore, St. James's Restaurant, W., 8
 1158 Southern Star, Sir Syd. Smith, Kennington,
 1183 Duke of Edinburgh, M.H., Liverpool, 7'30
 1278 Burdett Coutts, Swan, Bethnal Green Road, 8
 1306 St. John, Three Crowns, Mile End Road, 8
 1360 Royal Arthur, Prince of Wales, Wimbledon, 7'30
 1428 The Great City, Masons' Hall Avenue, 8'30
 1558 D. Connaught, Palmerston Arms, Camberwell, 8
 1571 Leopold, City Arms Tavern, E.O., 7
 1580 Cranbourne, Red Lion, Hatfield, 8
 1602 Sir Hugh Myddelton, White Horse, Liverpool Road, N., 8
 1612 West Middlesex, Bell, Ealing Dean, 7'45
 1614 Coven Garden, Criterion, W., 8
 1622 Ross, Stirling Castle, Camberwell, 8
 1625 Tredegar, Wellington, Bow, E., 7'30
 1744 Royal Savoy, Blue Posts, Charlotte Street, 8
 1950 Southgate, Railway Hot, New Southgate, 7'30
 1877 Crusaders, Old Jerusalem, St. John's Road, Clerkenwell, 9
 1998 Priory, Constitutional Club, Acton
 R.A. 753 Prince Frederick William Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, 8

R.A. 1471 North London, Northampton House, Canonbury, 8

Friday, 18th December.

Emulation, Freemasons' Hall, 6
 General Lodge, Masonic Hall, Birmingham, 8
 167 St. John's, York and Albany, Regent's Park,
 507 United Pilgrims, Surrey M.H., Camberwell, 7'30
 733 Westbourne, Swiss Cottage Tavern, Finchley Road, N.W., 8
 765 St. James, Princess Victoria, Rotherhithe, 8
 R.A. 820 Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, 8
 R.A. 890 Hornsey, Prince of Wales's Hotel, corner of Eastbourne Terrace, and Bishop's Road, W. 8
 R.A. 1275 Star, Stirling Castle, Church Street, Camberwell, 7
 780 Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, 8
 834 Ranelagh, Six Bells, Hammer Smith
 1050 Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, Fleet Street, 7
 1195 Lewis, Fishmongers' Arms, Wood Green, 7'30
 1228 Beacontree, Green Man, Leytonstone, 8
 1293 Royal Standard, Builders' Arms, Canonbury,
 1365 Clapton, Navarino Tavern, Hackney, 8
 1381 Kennington, The Horns, Kennington, 8
 1457 Bagshaw, Public Hall, Loughton, Essex, 7'30
 1642 E. Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, 8
 1901 Solwyn, Montpelier, Choumont Rd., Peckham, 8
 2021 Queen's (Westminster) and Marylebone, The Criterion, W., 8
 2030 Abbey Westminster, King's Arms, S.W., 7'30
 R.A. 95 Eastern Star, Hercules Tavern, E.C.
 R.A. 1275 Star, Stirling Castle, Camberwell, 8

Saturday, 19th December.

87 Vitruvian, Duke of Albany, St. Catherine's Park, near Nunhead Junction, 7'30
 179 Manchester, 8 Tottenham Court Road, W.C., 8
 198 Percy, Jolly Farmers', Southgate Road, N., 8
 1275 Star, Dover Castle, Deptford Causeway, S.E.,
 1288 Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, Highbury, 8
 1364 Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Hackney, 7
 1524 Duke of Connaught, Lord Stanley, Hackney, 8
 1624 Eccleston, 13 Cambridge Street, Fimlico, 7
 2012 Chiswick, Windsor Castle, Hammersmith, 7'30
 R.A. Sinai, Red Lion, King Street, Regent, St. W. 8



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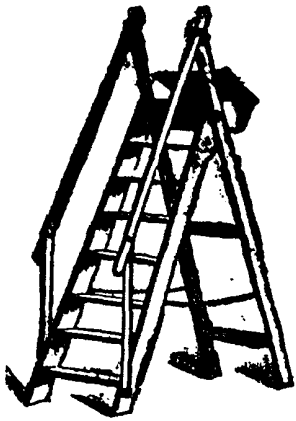
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