

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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the Most Worshipful the Grand Master of England.

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A FRENCH INVASION.

IN another part of this issue we publish a report of a meeting at Swansea, of the Tawe Lodge, recently established in that town under a Charter granted by the Grand Orient of France, and the particulars given therein will no doubt attract attention wherever they are brought under the notice of English brethren.

Bearing in mind the fact that English and French Freemasons are not on terms of friendliness with each other at the present time, England not considering French Freemasonry to be conducted in accordance with the true principles of the Craft, we suppose it must be conceded there is no obligation on the part of French Freemasons to recognise the ordinary principles of jurisdiction, which prohibit one Grand Lodge from creating subordinate bodies on territory already occupied; and that being so we must at once admit that the Grand Orient of France has not exceeded its powers in thus creating a Lodge in England, although its action is open to the severest criticism, as being contrary to the teachings of the Craft, and wholly at variance with existing customs and established precedent, even when, as is here the case, the two governing powers are not in friendly intercourse with each other; but in recognising the right of the French Masons to act as they have acted we have gone as far as we can go in their behalf; they may have the right, on a strictly legal basis; but their action is wholly indefensible when viewed from a moral standpoint; and the continuance of such practices would probably lead to undesirable results.

We have from time to time referred in our pages to various points of divergence between the working of Freemasons in England as compared with the actions of those who call themselves Freemasons in France, and it will readily be admitted that even the little we have published has been sufficient to cause regret at the introduction of the French system into this country. We sincerely hope the French Lodge now working at Swansea will only adopt the best features of what goes under the name of Freemasonry in France, leaving its political and socialistic teachings to the brethren of the home country. But the members must, in any case, bear in mind that they are joining a branch of Freemasonry quite distinct from that practised in this country, and recognise that the mere fact of their being admitted in this Tawe Lodge will not open the doors of English Lodges to them; in fact, it will be an effectual bar to their admission, in view of the prohibition against French Masonry which our Grand Lodge has rightly found is necessary to enforce.

Referring to the report in question we find that the Lodge at Swansea has been established to suit the convenience principally of the higher class of working men,

and to attract them the fee for admittance has been considerably reduced. This, we may point out, is really an advantage to Freemasonry in England, for if this Lodge confines itself to teaching the true principles of Freemasonry it will be of service to the class for whom it has been established, while if its founders attempt to make it a hotbed of dissention, under a time-honoured name, the "higher class of working-men" for whom it has been founded will not be slow to disassociate themselves from it; for we do not believe that the political intrigue and scheming which find favour across the channel are appreciated by the better class of English working men.

Except that it is contrary to the ideas of English Freemasons there does not seem to be any tangible objection to be urged against the system of cheapening Freemasonry in this country, with a view of attracting a class lower in the social scale than the present supporters of the Order; but although we see no actual objection to such a course we should be very sorry indeed to find anything of the kind attempted. We should rather endorse a proposal to raise the status of the Craft, and are staunch supporters of the rule in our Constitutions which limits the minimum fee of admission to the Order. Further than this, and zealous as we are in singing the praises of Freemasonry, we are yet of opinion that the ordinary working man would find little in it to induce him to support it in preference to his Club or Benefit Society.

One great feature that will always keep Freemasonry—as practised in England—out of favour with the class which this French Lodge is striving to attract is the fact that it is not a Benefit Society, from a mere monetary point of view. The ordinary worker wants to see something more than sentimental benefits for his subscriptions. If he pays monthly or quarterly dues he will desire to secure sick benefit, death grants and other returns which it is very unlikely will ever be available for him in connection with Freemasonry in this country, whether established under our own or any foreign Constitution. Taking all these points into consideration we may really regard the Lodge at Swansea rather in the form of an experiment than as a serious attempt to establish a rival system of Freemasonry, and accordingly, while regretting our neighbours from across the channel (even though we are not on speaking terms with each other) should have violated the principles by invading our territory, we are really of opinion that they will not do English Freemasonry any great harm, even if that were the wish or intention of the promoters of this new Lodge. It may be that they are anxious to extend the best principles of Freemasonry, and have erred through being ill advised or misinformed as to the facts on which they have acted, rather than actuated by a spirit of opposition; but in

regard to this and the many other points which arise in connection with the question we are not at present fully informed. We may hear more of this French Lodge in the future, as we shall endeavour to keep ourselves posted as to its working, but meantime we may safely regard this very recent invasion of English territory with a certain amount of equanimity, especially if, in addition to other considerations, we give the working men of Swansea credit for a sufficient amount of patriotism to keep them away from a French Masonic Lodge when, if they are really anxious to join and are worthy of admittance, they can be accommodated in one or other of the Lodges working under the English Constitution.

ISLE OF MAN.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Douglas, on the 21st ult., under the presidency of Bro. Major J. Senhouse Goldie-Taubman, Speaker of the House of Keys, Prov. G.M.

The Provincial Grand Officers having been received by the Brethren, the Lodge was opened. The Provincial Grand Secretary read the circular convening the meeting, and called over the roll of the Lodges (all being represented) and the roll of the Provincial Grand Officers. Several letters of apology for inability to attend were read, and most of the writers wished continued success to the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master said: In addressing a few words to you, Brethren, I would first of all like to speak of the Officers who are retiring, and of those who are going to take their places. First of all with regard to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He has always, practically since first appointed, annually offered his resignation, in order that other Brethren might have promotion. That is very laudable on his part; but on the other hand, we have the precedent set in England that the Deputy stays in office. The great advantage of that is that not only to the Lodge but to the Provincial Grand Master there is a sort of continuity about the policy, and practically speaking, it relieves the Provincial Grand Master of a great deal of trouble. I think that the conduct of Bro. Nesbitt (seeing that he was at first hostile to the Province), both as Secretary and since is such as to merit not only my thanks but those of the Provincial Grand Lodge. I have, therefore, asked him to continue his services for another year at least, and he has consented to do so. The Officers who retire are Bros. Webb, Morris, Moore, Colquhoun, and Watterson. All of these Brethren have voluntarily retired. I regret to a certain extent that they should have done so; but of course if there were no retirement, there would be stagnation in promotion in Grand Lodge. It is a good thing, therefore, that some retire, though these resignations so far as I know, are voluntary, and are sent in from purely private motives, of which I know nothing. I may say they have nothing to do with the Provincial Grand Lodge. I beg to thank these Brethren on my own behalf, and on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge, for what they have done in the past. Bro. Webb's resignation I wish particularly to draw attention to. He was one of our oldest Masons before I had anything to do with Masonry, and I regret his resignation particularly. I think if he had told me a little sooner that he was going to retire I might have persuaded him to keep on; but he left it to the last moment, when it was too late to see him. Therefore, unwillingly, I had to accept his resignation. Of course, that is all the better for some of those who come after him. As regards the Brethren who resign, or those I do not re-appoint—because of course if there are not sufficient resignations, and I am bound to appoint new Brethren to office instead of the old Brethren, I must state that my practice has been to have a list kept of all Brethren who have passed certain ranks, because it does not at all follow because a brother has left one rank and been out of office that he will not get promotion later on. I always take past services into consideration. The new Officers this year

are Bro. Baron as Chaplain, Bro. Rowe as Assistant-Secretary, Bro. Christian as Pursuivant, and Bro. Taylor as Assistant-Pursuivant. I have just one more remark to make, though I daresay you will hear more of it afterwards from my Deputy, or from Bro. Walter Brown, the Provincial Grand Secretary; but I am very glad to say that the cash to the credit of the Benevolent Fund is £414. Not only that, but there are outstanding fees which will raise that to £450. As we are not long established as a Province, I think that is very creditable. I am sorry that during the year I have not been able to visit the Lodges more. I have this year only visited one in Provincial character, though I have been to one or two of the Lodges, but only in my private capacity. The Lodge I did visit was St. German's, in Peel, and I am glad I did visit it because I was very proud of the position that Peel took. Peel has risen wonderfully, and is a credit to the Province. I am not saying anything against the other Lodges, but I allude to what I saw there. Peel, through my Deputy or the Secretary took the precaution to ask me, specially, to go down officially, and if any Lodge wishes me to visit particularly, if they will send either to the Deputy, or the Secretary, I will be able to see if I can arrange to go. As to the remaining Officers—Stewards—I leave it to the Lodges to nominate them, and if there is no great reason to the contrary, I accept their nomination. I am glad also to see that the numbers of the Craft in the Isle of Man are keeping up, and not only that, but increasing. In saying that, I would say as I have before stated, that I do not want the Lodges to go in merely for numbers. I wish them to elect men of standing, and make brethren of those who will be a credit to the Craft. I thank the General Purposes Committee for what they have done, and I also thank the Deputy and the Secretary for their admirable services.

The Provincial Grand Master was then saluted in due form, after which the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The report of the General Purposes Committee was read and accepted on the motion of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, seconded by Bro. Heron. The Committee in their report recommended that £300 of the money to the credit of the Benevolent Fund be invested.

Bro. Rev. E. Ferrier in seconding the motion alluded in terms of praise to the great efforts which had been made to keep up the fund. It spoke well for what had been done that there was a good sum in hand to meet contingencies. Three votes had been made during the year, £10 to one widow, and two sums of £5 to strangers' widows. He looked forward to the fund doing a great deal, and he hoped the brethren would not grow cold and careless, but that they would use their best endeavours to maintain the fund at what it ought to be and that in the next five years it would reach what it had done in the past five.

The Provincial Grand Secretary's annual report was adopted; from it we gather that the membership rose from 210 in 1891 to 266 in 1892. Other business having been disposed of and the officers appointed, the Provincial Lodge was closed, the brethren subsequently sitting down to a banquet together at the Granville Hotel, under the presidency of the Provincial chief.

THE BLACK BALL.

WE commend the following article on the uses and abuses of the black ball, from the pen of Prof. Bro. W. H. Seaman, published in the "Masonic Constellation," of St. Louis, as containing thoughts worthy of the consideration of every Mason. We have in recent numbers of *The Tidings* called the attention of our readers to the troubles and difficulties under which Lodges sometimes have been placed by the un-Masonic use of the ballot. Instances of this kind are not imaginative, they are alas not only real, but of too frequent occurrence.

We have in mind a Lodge of over seventy members, at one time one of the most flourishing in our jurisdiction, that is now experiencing a stagnation of interest and energy which if long continued must inevitably result in a surrender of the charter, and all from the abuse

of the ballot. With scarcely an exception every candidate for admission, no matter how worthy he may be, has for years past been rejected. In fact the better the reputation and standing of the candidate the more certain is he to be denied admission. None such now dare apply, nor can a member be induced to present a petition from an acceptable applicant. Having no work to do, no increase of members, their income from annual dues being insufficient for the necessary running expenses, they have to be made up by assessments or personal contributions. No wonder the interest of all is upon the wane and the talk so freely had of a surrender of the charter. What can such a Lodge do to purge themselves? It is a serious question which has come home to more than one Lodge—even those who have endeavoured to be the most conservative and careful in their selection of material; and this we consider the first and most essential means of avoiding such a condition. Next to this is the proper education of every member as to the sanctity of the ballot, and the uses and abuses of the black ball.

For this purpose and as a help to those in charge of such duties, we so frequently bring to their notice articles upon this subject. While the remedy proposed by the Brother—requiring three adverse ballots to reject a candidate—would no doubt be a preventive, yet it would not only be in contravention with long established Masonic usage, but would be in direct antagonism to the principle of unanimity which has so long been our boast, and which was intended to be our best safeguard, not only against the intrusion of the unworthy, but also the better to enable us to preserve that harmony among the members so necessary for our preservation. A single member may be in possession of facts damaging to the character of an applicant, which would render him unworthy to be admitted, but which are of such a nature that he cannot give them publicity, he cannot in justice to himself or to the Lodge cast a favourable ballot, nor would he be justified in doing so, and yet, if the regulation suggested was in force, his single objection would be of no effect. The Lodge would by its action unseat an old and well-tried Brother, in exchange for one of a doubtful reputation at least.

No, we would stand by the old rule, "never unseat an old and worthy member by the admission of a new one." No worthy Mason will make an un-Masonic use of the ballot. He, too, will be the first to correct a wrong done should he find himself mistaken. The following is the article referred to:

Masonic law and usage gives to every Master Mason in standing, the right to cast a black ball against any applicant for the mysteries, and no one can question him as to the manner of his voting. Does this, however, give right to a Master Mason to black-ball a man who is in every respect well qualified, but who has been so unfortunate as to have incurred the personal enmity of a Mason?

The Ahiman Rezon specifies that a candidate for the mysteries shall possess the following qualifications: "He must believe firmly in the Eternal God; he must be a good man and a true man of honour and honesty, always acting upon the golden precept of 'doing unto all men as they would that all men should do unto them'; he should be free from bigotry; he must be a law-abiding citizen; he should abstain from malice and slander, and evil speaking, backbiting, and should be able to practice the virtues of patience, meekness, self-denial, temperance, prudence, fortitude and justice." The cardinal tenet of Freemasonry is brotherly love towards all mankind.

Now, if a candidate must possess all these qualifications for admission, does it not follow as a natural consequence that if the applicant possesses them a Master Mason has no moral right to black-ball him on account of personal grievances only?

This question is an important one; particularly so in certain Lodges, which have to their own detriment allowed some ambitious young men to unite with them, who seem to feel that they have the right to use the Lodge to promote their own personal aggrandizement and to secure revenge on good men who have incurred their personal enmity, whom they dare not attack in open fight.

The reason for allowing one black ball to reject a candidate was for the securing none but the best material for membership, and there is no doubt but this object would be attained if more care was taken. A good Mason is distinguished by charity for all men. This is one of the teachings of the Order. Good Masons being actuated by this feeling are very loth to black-ball a candidate, particularly if he is a young man. They act on the theory that the candidate's imperfections will be eliminated by time and by associations with good Masons. This most frequently happens, but sometimes it results in securing a member who, while not vicious, fails to grasp the meaning of Masonry and causes nothing but injury to his Lodge. They absent themselves from all meetings, except election nights, when they are found as candidates for all the offices in rotation. Failing in being elected to an office,

they retire, and never appear again until some very worthy citizen applies for the mysteries, when they present themselves and a black ball is found in the box.

Thus in a quiet way they succeed in sowing dissension, without rendering themselves liable to discipline.

So great has this evil become in certain localities, that Masonry has become a by-word of reproach, and some remedial measures must soon be taken to effectually check this further growth.

In fact, it appears that a change is necessary in the manner of electing candidates. For as long as a moral coward can shield himself behind the secrecy of the ballot box and only one black ball is necessary to reject, that long will cowards be found to cast them against honourable men. In all my Masonic experience I have never known but one candidate recommended for the mysteries but who gave promise of becoming a good Mason. I have never known a black ball cast if there was a question as to the probability of the candidate living up to the obligation. The benefit of the doubt was always given to the candidate. I have, however, seen many candidates black-balled, but in every instance the candidates rejected were of the highest possible character; men who honoured Masonry by asking admittance within its sacred precincts.

The writer recognizes the right of every Mason to cast a black ball against any man with whom he feels he cannot affiliate. But he also believes that any member of the Masonic Fraternity who would allow himself to be influenced by motives of personal enmity, is not a Mason except by name; and something should be done to prevent these men from destroying the beneficial influence of a Lodge of which they may happen to be members.

It is a frequent occurrence for an applicant to find a member of a Lodge who personally objects to him. In such cases a good Mason accepts the application for the mysteries as a proffer of reconciliation, and men become united to each other by the mystic ties of fraternal friendship, who otherwise would have lived apart. To provide for such cases the laws provide that a member can object to the petition. Thus it becomes known who the objector is, and if both men are reasonable, which under such circumstances is always the case, the difference is healed. But the false Masons, the traitors to the Holy Cause, never file objections; the ballot box is a safer refuge. Under the cloak of sanctity, with which time and custom has hallowed it, they shield themselves.

If this is an evil, how can it be remedied?

By the enactment of a law which will require, after a petition has been received, reported favourably upon and no objection made, that at least three black balls must be deposited in the ballot box in order to reject the candidate. Under such a law a just Mason can protect himself at all times; unsuitable material can be rejected, and even the member who seeks personal revenge and not justice can secure his ends by objecting in a manly manner.—*Masonic Tidings.*

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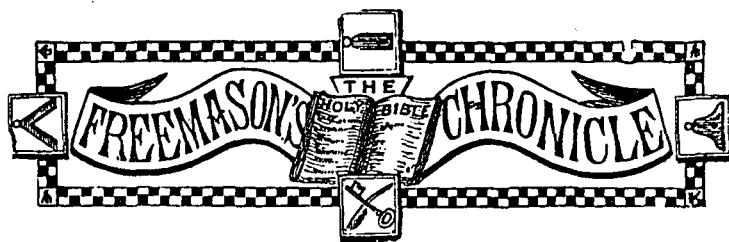
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SATURDAY, 20th JANUARY 1894.

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We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

—:o:—

THE GRAND TREASURERSHIP.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—On Friday last I visited the Domestic Lodge, and in replying to the toast of the visitors, after the usual felicitations, &c., &c., I stated that Bro. Stiles and myself were very old friends and it was our privilege to enjoy the goodwill and esteem of a large circle of influential brethren, many of whom would have voted for Bro. Stiles had they not been pledged to me, and others who would have supported me had they not already promised Bro. Stiles; and last year he was good enough to retire in favour of Bro. Cochrane, the present Grand Treasurer, and many of our mutual friends are of opinion that it will be graceful on my part and a practical expression of brotherly good feeling were I to withdraw my candidature this year in favour of Bro. Stiles and thus enable them to give me their undivided support for 1895. It was with very great pleasure that I acceded to their request and I earnestly hoped that all the brethren who had kindly promised to vote for me would transfer their allegiance to Bro. Stiles and thus secure his election by an overwhelming majority, I trusted that this would meet with approval of my many good friends as, if I am spared until next year, I shall then hope to receive their kind suffrages.

Yours faithfully,

WM. SHURMUR.

16th January 1894.

STARTLING RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN THE GREAT MASONIC CONVENTION.

THE *Bulletin des Serviteurs de Saint-Pierre*, a periodical under the high patronage of the Bishop of Grenoble, the "Mallet of the Freemasons in France," in a late issue, gives some useful and curious details about the great Masonic meeting styled a "convent" held last September. The writer of the article plainly proves that Freemasonry to-day more than ever seeks "to crush Catholicism"—to follow out Voltaire's policy—(écraser l'infame, le cléricalisme)—and he takes note of the "fresh declarations of war against the Church"—visible in the resolutions from which he quotes. In the very first sitting, F. Poulle, who was elected chairman—and here it may be well to say that the easily interpreted letters and cabalistic signs or titles here reproduced are as given in the Masonic records of the proceedings—sounded the note for the working of the convent during the session, by "describing the fight for centuries past of F. M. against clericalism," and saying that "on the battle field it is not lawful to revictual the enemy." Next, he congratulates F. M. who came off victorious in the late electoral campaign, "not forgetting those who had succumbed before a combined superiority of Clericals and Rallied." The watchword being given, it was adhered to faithfully to the end. The "Bulletin" says:—

After a debate on the F. M. of Paris and that of the provinces between the FF. Benoit Levy, de Serres, Doumer and Lafitte, about the direction to be imparted to the Order by its council, the F. Merchier proposed "to attach to the subject of the debate the report of the commission of 'Propaganda,' which is a declaration laying down the chief lines to be followed in order to put an end to undecided." He then read the following document:—

The Convent of 1893, true to the anti-clerical and humane doctrines of the F. M., being anxious that the council of the Order should give to all the L. of the Obedience a powerful impulse, capable of finally bringing about the reforms which have been so long desired and hoped for, deposes the said Council to organise, over the entire territory of the Republic, a pacific agitation, for the purpose of being permitted to finally crush clericalism by a full and complete application of the schools and military laws, the introduction of further general laws destined to bring about the separation of the Churches and the State, the suppression, pure and simple, of the Religious Orders and congregations, and the confiscation of their property by the nation.

Convinced, moreover, that Social questions take the lead over all others, that F. M. the admitted initiatrix of our Revolution of 1789, is in duty bound to be a sure and faithful guide in the pacific evolution for which democracy clamours louder and louder every day, decides that the council of the Order should start and set on foot, in every M. L. of the entire Obedience, and through them in the entire country, a movement of opinion destined to show the necessity:

"(1) Of suppressing every monopoly, chiefly that of the Banque de France, the Railways and Mines.

"(2) Of suppressing the inheritance in collateral line.

"(3) Of creating a progressive duty on the inheritance in direct line.

"(4) Of creating public assistances of every description in the towns and country, organised in such a manner as to secure for every man, temporarily unable to earn his bread, the gratification of his minimum of wants.

"Anxious, moreover, to see the M. Federation busy about the questions which most of all agitate the world at large, he desires to ask the Council of the Order to request all the L. to put on the order of the day of their deliberations this important question:—of property individually and collectively considered."

Matters were then freely discussed, and finally it was agreed that the proposed resolution should be sent to the committee of votes. Then the F. Tranier moved the following resolution, which was also referred to the committee of votes; and declared that whereas:—

"The Convent of 1893, considers that it is impossible to discuss at present the conclusions adopted by the committee of propaganda, which conclusions embrace the whole social question, they send back those same conclusions to the Lodges; but the Convent, beforehand, begs of the Council of the Order to cause the whole stress of the French Masonry to bear on the two following items, which are the groundwork of every reform and of every progress.

"(1) The separation of the Churches and the State, preparing and making use of every means in their power to bring about this separation within a very brief space of time.

"(2) The Revision of the Constitution by an assembly specially convened and elected for the purpose, no reform being possible with the present organisation."

In a third meeting, under the presidency of F. Poulle, the assembly proved that they are a State in a State, and that if their State assists its members to be elevated to the dignity of members of the Legislative Corps or the Senate, it understands that they must by all means follow its orders and vote accordingly. We read:—

The F. Colin Roudier begs next to ask the Council of the Order what are their relations with the public authorities? He reminds them that numbers of F. have come into power through Masonry, but that all of them did not remember this. He wishes to know if the Council retains always an access to them, or if any of them endeavour to push aside the step-ladder which helped them to rise? He does not blame the Council, but simply puts a question, the answer to which should enable the L. to say what attitude should be adopted in reference to such FF. MM.

F. Viguier, Chairman of the Council, said in reply, that the surest means to prevent the possibility of influencing the public authorities is that publicity which nowadays attaches to every political action. The council has done in each case what it thought to be its duty. A country cannot belong to two masters; to a Church which holds it still under subjection, and a F. M. anxious to set it free! The surest means for the M. to retain its influence is to keep intact the union between the FF. MM.

New members of the Council of the Order were next elected to replace those going out by rotation. Those elected were: The F. Thulié, Lartigue, Adrien, Durand, Fernand, Maurice (deputy), Amiable, Pouille (magistrate), Merchier (professor University), Merignarques, Lucipia (late condemned Communard), Corbière, and Bizet.

The election of the new members was scarcely proclaimed when a F. Bouvret asked the question "if the newly-elected had signed the engagement concerning their civil obsequies and the lay education of their children who are still minors?" It is no doubt in the name of liberty of conscience that this two-fold obligation is imposed on the members of the council! The new members, however, complied with the request, and gave the necessary pledges. We must now mention a few of the other resolutions proposed, and, of course, carried by acclamation. These were as follows:—

(No. 7) All titles, offices, or functions, whatever of priests, which do not date back to the time when the concordat was signed, should be suppressed by extinction; that each year a M. member of the Corps Législatif at the time of the debate on the budget be asked to propose an amendment to this effect, and all the M. members to vote in favour of such an amendment.

(No. 8) That the State should retain the exclusive monopoly of education throughout all stages of youth, from the child learning the alphabet to the university graduate.

(No. 10) That chairs of *independent morals* be created for teaching in all the stages of education.

(No. 12) That all the employees and functionaries, civil or military, of the French Republic be bound to get their children educated in establishments connected with those of the State, and this under penalty of being officially cashiered, or bound to retire.

Here are some more resolutions which we quote for the reader's edification:—

That within five years the *personnel* of the public State establishments, either of the Departments or of the Communes, be exclusively lay.

That after the expiration of the term of five years hence, the State, as well as the Departments and the Communes be prohibited from giving any grant to any establishment or society whatever whose *personnel* is not exclusively lay.

That one of the conquests to be secured is woman, for when once she is completely ours, the M. may lay down their swords and throw off their sashes: with her, our end is achieved.

We must now direct attention to a curious incident relative to the "law of silence," on which the F. seem particularly to insist, although they proclaim themselves "children of light." It was the chief subject of a meeting. We are told that the sixth and last meeting of the Convent opened with a serious debate on the "law of silence." The F. reporter read the following proposition:

1. The convent reminds every F. M. and every Lodge of the obligation of the law of absolute silence, and of the necessity for applying rigorously to any M. or lodge guilty of indiscretions, the dispositions of the article 275 of the general rule:

2. The members of the council of the Order must, by every means in their power, prevent this article 275 becoming a dead letter.

The F. Lono-Savigny next said that a vote (still more radical) had been deposited on the table by the members of the committee of votes. It prayed: "That no official document emanating from the F. M. be handed for publication either to any profane paper, or even to any M. publishers other than those of the official *Bulletin* of the G. O. F. (the Grand Orient of France):—

That the said "Bulletin" be sent only to the L., and that no private subscription to it be possible, not even through any of the Lodges. And that, moreover, the penalties enacted by the rule shall be applied in all their rigour to any F. M. guilty of M. indiscretion, whether they be the authors of the publication or do merely reproduce any official documents.

The speaker hoped the law of silence would be absolute. The F. M., he reminded his hearers, took a special engagement to this effect; at their meeting special measures were taken to prevent the admission of strangers; and yet certain things have been divulged. Some persons speak of legal indiscretions which cannot be prevented. But he would propose a modification in the "Bulletin;" mere separate fly-sheets should be sent to the L. (lodges), and the L. would put these together in pamphlet form. He was also of opinion that all private subscriptions should be cut off, because of the danger that certain collections might pass into profane hands; and, finally, he demanded that "strict measures should be taken that no newspaper, either M. or prof. divulge any secret regarding the M. deliberations."

It is often said that Freemasonry in Ireland, and even in America, has nothing in common with the European or Continental Freemasonry; that it is simply a friendly association for mutual assistance; and that it is not infidel in its aims. It is, however, an established fact that all Freemasons belong to one and the same brotherhood, have all the same secret signs by which

to recognise one another, and are bound to support one another; while their society, being a secret one, is condemned by the Church, and its members excommunicated, cut off from the Unity of the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church, and, if not reconciled with God before they die, excluded from God's kingdom for ever.—*Irish Catholic.*

FRENCH MASONRY IN ENGLAND.

THE "Tawe" Lodge of Freemasons has just been successfully started in Swansea under a charter granted by the Grand Orient of France. The Lodge, which has its headquarters in the beautifully furnished club-room of the Longlands Hotel, has already a respectable number of members, and applications for membership are numerous. The Lodge has been established to suit the convenience principally of the higher class of working men, and under the French Charter the fees, &c., have been very considerably reduced to meet the pockets of working-men desirous of joining the great Masonic brotherhood. More comfortable headquarters than the Tawe Lodge possesses could scarcely be wished, and a banquet recently held at the Longlands Hotel, for the double purpose of presenting the Worshipful Master, Bro. Ll. M. Beynon, with a magnificently worked badge and apron of the Grand Orient of France and of bringing the members into social contact, was a most propitious event. The large dining-room at the Longlands was well filled by seven o'clock, and a rare good banquet was set out. Bro. L. M. Beynon presided, and amongst those present were Bros. Edmonstone, H. and C. Beynon, J. Ferguson, senr. and junr., S. J. Griffiths, Hy. Jones, &c. The table having been cleared, the toasts were proceeded with, varied by a capital musical programme. Bro. W. G. Griffiths proposed "The Grand Orient of France," to which the Chairman responded. He offered his congratulations upon this auspicious opening of a Masonic Lodge which respectable working men could join. The grand secret of the Orient of France—of the whole Masonic brotherhood—was charity, sympathy with a brother in distress, and the alleviation of each other's difficulties and troubles. They could make a Lodge that would do them good, as the great Lodges of England and America, and the continent did. Freemasonry, in the highest sense, meant sociability and equality. Freemasonry was of particular advantage to them if they went abroad. He regretted the absence of their Warden Bro. F. J. Crawford through illness. Bro. John Griffiths (Ystalyfera) proposed the Federated Lodges, to which Bro. Thomas Williams responded.

Bro. W. J. Griffiths then called upon Bro. H. T. Williams to present the badge and apron to their chairman as a token of their respect and esteem, and as a mark of gratitude for the services which he had rendered to the Lodge.

Bro. Ll. N. Beynon having suitably acknowledged the presentation, the toast of the visitors, proposed by Bro. John B. Ferguson, and responded to by Mr. W. Nicholson, succeeded, and the evening concluded with a vote of thanks to the host and hostess.

Messrs. Thos. Williams, H. W. Nicholson, W. Williams, J. Rodda, L. Brown, and others provided the musical programme. Mr. L. Brown acting as pianist.—*Swansea Herald.*

The Clapton Chapter of Improvement, No. 1365, meets every Thursday evening at 8 p.m., at the Three Sisters Hotel, Hackney Downs, under the Preceptorship of Comp. G. W. Knight P.Z. Comp. J. Wilson P.Z. P.P.G.A.S. is the Treasurer, and Comp. Percy Trickett the Scribe. E. Royal Arch Masons will be most cordially welcomed at any of the meetings.

A meeting of the Committee working to secure the election of Bro. Alderman and Sheriff Dimsdale as Grand Treasurer was held on the 10th inst., when a President, executive Committee, Chairman and Vice-Chairman were chosen. Many city Masons are taking an active interest in Bro. Dimsdale's candidature.

A Masonic service is to be held at the church of St. James, Garlickhithe, Garlick Hill, E.C., on Thursday next, organized by the Whittington Lodge, No. 862. The collection will be devoted to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution without any deduction whatever, the expenses being guaranteed from other sources. Contributions to be added to the collection may be sent by brethren unable to attend.

THE BUGLE SOUNDS THE CALL TO ARMS, and is always cheerfully responded to by the British soldier on active service; never once has he failed his country in the hour of need. It should therefore be a great honour to be called the soldier's friend, a title which has been well earned by Holloway's Pills and Ointment. In barracks, camp, or whilst on many a weary march in hostile country these medicines have been the stay and comfort of thousands of "Our Lads in Red." In cases of dysentery, diarrhoea, fever and ague they have performed wonderful cures, and never in any disease, when a fair trial has been given, have they failed to afford relief.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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GRAND MASTER'S LODGE, No. 1.

THE installation meeting was held on the 15th, at Freemasons' Tavern, under the presidency of Bro. Charles Belton P.D.G.D. of C. W.M., who installed Major-General Frederick Gadsden as his successor. At the banquet which followed the working of the Lodge Bro. Richard Eve P.G. Treas., in responding for the Grand Officers, strongly urged the brethren to support the candidature of Brother Alderman Dimsdale for the Grand Treasurership, one of the most honourable in the list of Grand Offices. He knew of no one, he said, who could fill it better than Bro. Dimsdale, and the more the brethren knew him the more they felt he would become a shining light in Freemasonry. The position was next to that of G. Master of England, as the Grand Treasurer, like the Grand Master, was elected by the whole Craft. General Gadsden, in replying to the toast of Worshipful Master, said he was initiated in the Lodge 16th May 1853, and had consequently been a member of the Craft for 41 years. Wherever he had been, whether in India or Australia, he had joined a Lodge, and he had ever kept up his connexion with this Lodge. He was sorry to say he could find but one brother on the muster roll who was a member when he was initiated.

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MEDINA LODGE, No. 35.

THE installation was held at the Lodge Room, Cowes, on the 11th, when Bro. G. Cottell was installed, the ceremony being performed by Bro. T. M. Taylor. The new W.M. invested his Officers.

A banquet was afterwards held at the Town Hall. The after-dinner proceedings were of the usual convivial character, and an excellent repast was supplied by Bro. T. Richardson.

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LOVE AND HONOUR LODGE, No. 75.

BRO. W. J. M. Gooding was installed W.M. at the annual festival held at the Masonic Hall, Falmouth, on the 8th. Bros. T. R. Grylls and J. M. Carne officiated, supported by a large Board of Past Masters. The new Master invested his Officers for the year. Subsequently the brethren adjourned to the Royal Hotel, where the annual banquet took place. There was a large company. A most enjoyable evening was spent, the usual Masonic toasts being honoured.

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LODGE OF FREEDOM, No. 77.

GRAND regret was felt at the meeting of this Lodge, held at the New Falcon Hotel, Gravesend, on the 15th inst. for the absence of the W.M., Bro. George Rackstraw, through illness, and hopes were expressed for his speedy recovery. Bro. the Rev. A. Jackson, M.A., I.P.M. and P.G.C. for Kent presided, and was assisted by the following brethren:—Thos. Nettleingham S.W., J. A. Whitfield J.W., J. Willoughby Brown, J.P., P.M., Joseph Solomon P.M., Jonas Hill P.M., A. Ronaldson P.M., J. C. Biggs P.G.D.C. Secretary, W. H. Hedger P.M., R. J. Beamish P.M., R. C. Fowle S.D., George Masters I.G., W. Martin Org., and several other members in addition to many visiting brethren. After the Lodge had been opened Bro. Thos. Holt Sheppard, having proved his proficiency, was passed to the second degree, and Bro. J. G. Caddell was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Three brethren were accepted as joining members; the sum of ten guineas was voted for the W.M.'s charity list, and the business of the Lodge being finished the brethren adjourned to the banquet room, where a pleasant evening was spent.

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DORIC LODGE, No. 81.

THE anniversary meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Woodbridge, on Friday, the 12th inst., when Bro. A. W. Cobbold was installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The installation ceremony was performed by Bro. Walter Brooke, in the unavoidable absence of Sir John Monckton. The Worshipful Master afterwards appointed and invested his Officers for the year.

The installation banquet followed at the Bull Hotel, when Bro. Miles provided a splendid spread for the brethren.

The toast of the Prov. Grand Master, Lord Henniker, was proposed by Bro. W. P. T. Phillips, who alluded with much sympathy to Lord Henniker's recent family bereavement. They all knew, he said, what a thorough Mason Lord Henniker was, and the interest he evinced in the Province, not only in a Masonic sense, but in county business. He was sure it would be a very long time before they could get a successor as good as Lord Henniker in every relation to Masonic life. The toast was drunk in silence as a mark of sympathy with the Provincial Grand Master.

Bro. Tracey in the course of his remarks, in reply to the toast of Provincial Grand Officers, stated he had received two or three letters from Lord Henniker since his bereavement, and he had expressed very strongly his reciprocation of the sympathy which the members of the Lodges, individually and collectively, had extended towards him in his trouble.

Bro. Brooke, in submitting the toast of the evening, the Worshipful Master, said Bro. Cobbold had filled the position of S.W. under him

during the past year, and he was, therefore, perhaps better capable of speaking of his qualities as a Mason. He had frequently noticed, in fact he had always noticed, that if he had any work to perform, Brother Cobbold, in all weathers—rain, hail, or snow—put in an appearance; and when they remembered that he had to drive eight or nine miles to the Lodge and back home again that would speak volumes for what he would do as their Worshipful Master.

Bro. Tracey proposed the Masonic Charities, which was responded to by Bro. W. P. T. Phillips, who strongly urged the advisability of members subscribing so as to become life Governors.

The visitors was given by Bro. F. W. W. Gross, and duly responded to.

The Worshipful Master in proposing the Installing Master, Bro. Brooke, spoke with regret of the absence of Sir John Monckton, who had intended to be present and perform the ceremony, but at the same time he felt highly honoured that he had been installed by Bro. Brooke, whose impressive and able performance of the ceremony demonstrated his study and devotion to Masonry.

Other toasts were given.

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UNANIMITY LODGE, No. 113.

ON New Year's Day a meeting was held at the Town Hall, Preston, when there was a large attendance. Bro. G. Oakey I.P.M. installed Bro. Henry Dewhurst as W.M. of the Lodge for the next twelve months, in succession to Rev. W. G. Terry Prov. G. Chaplain. The brethren afterwards sat down to a banquet at the Bull Hotel.

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HARMONY LODGE, No. 156.

THE annual banquet was held on the 18th, at the Masonic Hall, Plymouth. There was a large attendance, and an excellent dinner was provided by Bro. Harvey, Steward. The company were presented with camellias grown in the garden of Bro. Samuel Jenkins W.M., who presided.

Bro. Stebbing, in proposing the W.M., said in Bro. Jenkins they had the representative of a profession honoured by all Englishmen—the British Navy. In him they had a brave sailor who had shed his blood for his country in India and New Zealand; and for that alone they felt they were honouring themselves in honouring him. Every member of the Lodge would strive to his utmost to make Bro. Jenkin's year of office the happiest and brightest year of his life.

The W.M. expressed his grateful thanks for the honour bestowed upon him. By blood relationship he had been connected with the Lodge since 1823. In that year an uncle of his was elected.

In the absence, through illness, of Bro. Newell I.P.M. Bro. Chapell received the P.M.'s jewel voted to him for his services.

The retiring Secretary, who is about to proceed on foreign service, was given by Bro. J. Parkhouse, who remarked that Bro. Michell had earned the affection and respect of the brethren. On behalf of the Lodge he presented him with a silver cream jug and ladle.

Other toasts followed.

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DOMATIC LODGE, No. 177.

THE annual meeting of this old Lodge was held on the 12th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, when Bro. John Barnett was installed as Worshipful Master for the year. The preliminary proceedings were presided over by Bro. Alfred Piper, the Master of the past year, who was supported by the W.M.-elect as Senior Warden, W. Wigmore J.W., G. Everett Past Grand Treasurer, Treasurer, T. Morris Secretary, G. Gardner S.D., T. H. Hobbs J.D., R. B. Hopkins Organist, T. N. Morris I.G., John Anley, Jun. Assist. Steward, and the following Past Masters: W. J. Ferguson, R. Pierpoint, N. Salmon, Edward White, W. M. Foxcroft, and J. E. Walford. The Lodge having been opened and the minutes confirmed, the Auditors' report was submitted and adopted, and then the Master was installed, subsequently appointing the following as his assistant Officers for the year: W. E. Wigmore S.W., Geo. Gardner P.M. J.W., Geo. Everett P.M. Treas., Thomas Morris Sec., T. H. Hobbs P.M., S.D., T. N. Morris J.D., James Stephens P.M. I.G., R. B. Hopkins Organist, W. S. Andrews D.C., J. Anley, Jun. A.D.C., H. N. Price P.M. and W. Hanes Stewards, T. C. Edmonds P.M. Tyler. After the customary addresses the new Master was immediately called upon to show his efficiency in the work of the first degree, two candidates needing initiation: Mr. F. G. Newell and Mr. P. V. Newell, both being proposed by the new Master of the Lodge, and seconded by the Treasurer. Bro. Barnett performed the work of the degree in a most gratifying manner, clearly demonstrating the benefit of the training he has already received in the chair of other Lodges with which he has been associated. Before concluding the work of the Lodge, the new Master invested his predecessor with a handsome Past Master's jewel, as a mark of appreciation of the services he had rendered during the year he had presided over its destinies as Master. A sum of 25 guineas was voted from the funds of the Lodge to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, for which charity the Worshipful Master is acting as a Steward this year.

The brethren subsequently dined together under the presidency of the new Master. The usual toast list was afterwards honoured. The Master referred to the recent visit of the Prince of Wales to the Temple, for the purpose of consecrating the Chancery Bar Lodge, a fact which, he considered, proved the real interest taken by the Grand Master in the practical work of the Order. Speaking to the toast of the Pro Grand Master, the Deputy, and the other Grand Officers, the President referred to the leaders as not only ornamental but thoroughly hard working Masons, as was evidenced by the consent of the Earl of Lathom to preside at the coming festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. The Lodge was

that night graced by the presence of four Past Grand Officers of England as visitors, all attending as his personal guests, while he regretted that ill-health prevented others from being among them, notably Bro. James Terry and Bro. T. Hastings Miller. All of these brethren were associated with him in active Masonic work, and were thorough good workers, and not merely ornamental representatives of Grand Lodge. They must not forget, however, they had in their midst another Past Grand Officer in the person of their esteemed Treasurer, Bro. Everett, who, in the ordinary course, should have responded to this toast, but, with his customary good heartiness, had desired to waive his priority in favour of one of the guests of the evening. The Master therefore had the pleasure of coupling with the toast the name of Bro. J. A. Farnfield, who briefly responded, bearing further testimony to the desire of the leaders of the Craft to work on its behalf, as evidenced by the presidency by the Earl of Mount-Edgumbe over the Benevolent Institution festival, when upwards of £68,000 was realized. The Immediate Past Master submitted the health of the Master, congratulating the Lodge on having secured a thoroughly good brother to preside for the year—one who had been connected with Freemasonry for many years, and gained distinction in its Lodges. He had intimately associated himself with the working of Freemasonry in its many phases, and would doubtless add to his reputation in his latest office. He called upon the company to wish their Master good health and a prosperous year of office. In reply, the Master tendered his thanks for the reception accorded to him, and the kindly terms in which his predecessor in the chair had introduced the toast. He was hardly prepared to take all the kind observations of his friend as truth, as he knew himself better than he, and hardly felt capable of carrying out so much as had been ascribed to him. If he should go wrong in any particular he should not do so without having exercised the desire to go right. He hoped to conduct the work of the chair with credit to himself, and, he trusted, not to the detriment of the decorum of the Order. The Master next gave the health of the Initiates, afterwards submitting the toast of the Charities, to which Bro. McLeod, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, replied in a most forcible speech, thanking the members of the Domatic Lodge for their continued and most consistent support of the charities of the Order, and expressing a hope that the present Master would be well supported in his efforts on behalf of the Girls School. The toast of the Installing Master and the Past Masters of the Lodge was next submitted, and was duly acknowledged. Responding as a visitor, Bro. Shurmur announced the postponement of his candidature for the office of Grand Treasurer, he resigning this year in favour of Bro. W. M. Stiles, to whom he hoped his friends would transfer their support. Other toasts followed.

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CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

ON the 8th inst. the installation meeting of this Lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, when Bro. W. Belchamber W.M. presided. There was a full complement of work before the Lodge, the three degrees being worked by the W.M., who raised Bros. Cutting and Cornish, passed Bro. Nimmy, and initiated Mr. George Reed, the ballot being previously taken for this latter gentleman.

Then followed the principal work of the day, the installation of Bro. C. E. H. Audain, which ceremony was likewise performed by Bro. Belchamber, who, throughout the meeting, acquitted himself in admirable style. The new Master appointed the following as his assistant Officers for the year:—Bros. F. Haines S.W., F. S. Plowright J.W., B. D. Kershaw P.M. Treas., Walter Wood P.M. Sec., T. Kingston S.D., A. D. Rae J.D., E. Pennock I.G., G. P. Nightingale P.M. D.C., J. Westley A.D.C., J. E. Fells P.M. and G. Spice Stewards, G. Reinhardt Tyler.

The different addresses were given by the Installing Master and the ceremony completed in due form, after which the Lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet hall, where a most enjoyable dinner was served by Bro. Clemow.

The toast of the Queen and the Craft was followed by that of the Prince of Wales, Grand Master. The W.M. said many would imagine the Grand Master's post in Freemasonry to be essentially an ornamental one, but those who were intimately associated with the Craft knew different, and recognised how admirably the Grand Master carried out the duties and responsibilities of his position. There was no work in Freemasonry which fell to the lot of the Grand Master that he did not faithfully and zealously perform. This toast was followed by that of the remaining Grand Officers.

The I.P.M. then proposed the health of the Worshipful Master. It was a pleasurable duty that devolved upon him when he submitted the health of the new ruler of the Lodge, who, he was sure, would discharge the duties of his office during the coming year with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the members.

The W.M. tendered his sincere thanks. Much as he prized the title of Worshipful Master there was one other he prized more—that of Master of the Confidence Lodge, with which he had many pleasing associations; in fact, he was more closely associated with it than with any other, for it was therein that he was initiated and therein he had passed through his various degrees. He felt the brethren might have elected a Master who would have done better in the chair, but they could not have chosen one who would more zealously guard the interests of the Lodge, or strive more earnestly to uphold its dignity.

The Master next submitted the toast of the Initiate, speaking of the qualities that were indispensable in every candidate for Freemasonry, and expressing confidence in the brother they had admitted that day.

Bro. Reed responded. He should use his best endeavours to become a good Mason, and so long as he lived should have pleasurable recollections of his hearty reception that day.

The toast of the Visitors was next given from the chair. The Master felt that while visitors might be welcomed in every Masonic

Lodge, there was none in which they were more heartily received than in the Confidence. So long as he had the directing of the Lodge, he should endeavour to ensure a hearty reception for all the guests who favoured them with their attendance.

Bro. C. Wise P.M. responding for the visitors, expressed the pleasure he experienced at being present, knowing as he did the capabilities of the I.P.M. who was an initiate of his own Lodge. He was acquainted with many members of the Confidence Lodge, including Bro. Wood P.M., who was Secretary of the Lodge of Instruction at which he was Preceptor, and from which a sum of £420 had been sent up to the Charities in four years.

Bros. Pannell, Adams, and Pitt also replied, as did Bro. Farr (Melbourne), who thanked the W.M. for the honour conferred by coupling his name, an honour which would be keenly appreciated by his own Lodge in Australia.

The W.M. proposed the Installing Master—the I.P.M., and said that Bro. Belchamber had been associated with the Lodge for many years, and was known personally to the brethren as the Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction. The W.M. invested Bro. Belchamber with a P.M.'s jewel, as a slight token of the esteem in which he was held, and as a poor recompense for the instruction they had received at his hands.

Bro. Belchamber briefly returned thanks for the reception of the toast, and for the jewel which had been called a "small token," but which he regarded as a very high token of their esteem. He also thanked the brethren for their kind attention during his year of office, and felt assured the present W.M. would exceed their expectations.

In giving the Past Masters, Treasurer, and Secretary, the W.M. said each Master in that Lodge relied very safely upon the Past Masters for assistance. He regretted the absence from the banquet table of the Treasurer, Bro. Kershaw P.M., who had expressed a wish to retire, but had consented to remain in office, although not able to dine with the brethren. The Secretary, Bro. Wood P.M., occupied an office upon which he should have to rely more than any other, and it was a relief to his mind to find his duties lightened by having such an efficient Secretary.

Bro. W. Wood P.M. Secretary, on behalf of the Treasurer, said Bro. Kershaw P.M. recognised the value always placed upon his services by re-electing him to that office. Speaking personally, he had held the office of Secretary long enough to show them he did everything he could for the Lodge, and what he had done in the past he would continue to do in the future.

Bro. Webb and the P.M.s present also responded, after which the Officers were cordially drunk, and the Tyler's toast concluded the proceedings.

OLD GLOBE LODGE, No. 200.

THE installation took place in the Masonic Hall, Scarborough, on the 17th, when Bro. John F. Seals was installed W.M. The ceremony was performed by Bro. the Hon. W. T. Orde-Powlett D.P.G.M., assisted by Bro. W. B. Richardson P.P.G.S.W., Bro. R. W. Leadbeater I.P.M., Bro. G. H. Walshaw P.P.G.D.C., and Bro. S. Middleton P.M. The newly installed Worshipful Master invested his Officers.

A banquet followed, taking place at the Pavilion Hotel.

ETONIAN LODGE, No. 209.

THE brethren held their installation meeting (by kind permission of the Mayor) at the Town Hall, Windsor, on the 6th. The Lodge was presided over by Bro. Morford W.M., when Bro. L. A. Layton was unanimously elected a joining member, and Messrs. F. Ernest Layton, J. J. Sharp, and W. J. Smith (all of Windsor) were initiated into the Craft. Bro. J. H. Lee S.W. was then installed as W.M. by Bro. C. D. Hume P.M. Sec.

The brethren adjourned to the Castle Hotel, where an excellent banquet was provided for them by Mr. Darke. The Worshipful the Mayor, Bro. F. A. Layton, honoured the company with his presence, and made a happy speech in reply to the toast of his health, cordially received by the brethren.

MINERVA LODGE, No. 250.

THE Lodge rooms in Dagger Lane, Hull, were opened on the 16th inst., after having gone under alteration and repairs, the event being celebrated by a conversazione and ball, in which a large number of brethren and their lady friends participated. The ancient building was magnificently lit up by an installation of the electric light, which will now be the illuminant of the Lodge. There was a full muster of Officers, including Bro. James Y. Torr W.M.

ONE AND ALL LODGE, No. 330.

BRO. G. B. Treverton was last week installed as W.M. by Bro. Edyvean P.P.S.G.W. The brethren subsequently adjourned to Bro. A. C. Sandoe's Hotel, and partook of an excellent banquet.

The usual toasts having been proposed and responded to, the evening was devoted to harmony, some excellent songs being rendered.

LODGE OF INDEPENDENCE, No. 721.

THE festival of St. John was celebrated at the Masonic Hall, Chester, on Monday, the 8th inst., when Bro. Councilor Thos. Browne, who was unanimously elected W.M. by the brethren at the December Lodge, was installed with the customary ceremony. The Lodge has been most fortunate of late years in its selection of Masters, and by its steady progress has earned the reputation of being (to quote the words of the Provincial Grand Secretary) the

premier Lodge of the Province; but probably no Master of recent years has enjoyed greater popularity among the brethren than the one who now enters upon office.

The installation was conducted by Bro. W. Peers P.M. assisted by Bro. I. M. Jones P.M. and the retiring Master, Bro. G. F. Adams. The attendance, which numbered close on ninety brethren, included Bro. Sir Horatio Lloyd D.P.G.M. and many other visitors.

Letters of apology were read from Bros. Lord Egerton of Tatton P.G.M., Alderman L. Gilbert (Mayor of Chester), S. Smith (town clerk), and E. Brassey P.M. 425, among others. After having been installed in the chair, Bro. Browne invested his Officers.

During the meeting the new W.M. presented his predecessor with a P.M.'s jewel, and spoke in terms of praise of the manner in which Bro. Adams had presided over the affairs of 721 during the year.

At the conclusion of business, the brethren adjourned to the banquetting room, where the new W.M. made a most genial president, the post-prandial proceedings being much enjoyed by the large company assembled.

ROYAL BRUNSWICK LODGE, No. 732.

ON the 11th inst., at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, Bro. W. A. Field was installed W.M. by Bro. W. Bennett, who has filled the chair during the past year and was subsequently presented with a gold jewel in appreciation of the manner in which he has carried out his duties during the period. The banquet was served by Messrs. Booth and Sons, of East Street, Brighton, and was a great success. The usual toasts were honoured.

LODGE OF REPOSE, No. 802.

THE anniversary festival was celebrated at the Masonic Hall, Derby, on the 18th. Bro. Arthur Brown S.W. was installed by Bro. W. J. Piper P.M. The new W.M. invested his Officers.

At the close of the Lodge the brethren dined together, and the usual Masonic list was gone through.

WEAR VALLEY LODGE, No. 1121.

ON the 12th, Bro. John Lidster was installed W.M. in the Lodge-room at the Masonic Hall, Bishop Auckland, there being a large attendance of visiting brethren from the Crook, Marquis of Granby, Whitworth, and Tristram Lodges.

In the evening the brethren celebrated the festival of St. John at the Wear Valley Hotel. In the course of the proceedings Bro. T. H. Thompson I.P.M. presented Bro. Bowman, on behalf of the Lodge, with a handsome Tyler's Jewel, in recognition of his long and faithful services as Tyler. Bro. Bowman also received a gold diamond ring for his daughter.

UPTON LODGE, No. 1227.

AT the regular meeting held on the 18th inst. Worshipful Master Charles Schmidt was supported by Bros. A. J. Millington S.W., C. Gieseke P.M. Treas., S. Toye P.M., W. Hayward P.M., J. Stroud P.M., G. H. Clark P.M., J. Brandel S.D., E. M. Jeffery J.D., G. E. Schulz I.G., W. H. H. Sherwin Org., several lay members of the Lodge and a number of visitors, among the latter being Bro. W. M. Stiles P.M. 1507, &c.

The minutes having been confirmed the ballot was taken for the election of four gentlemen (Messrs. F. Burnes, R. F. Thomson, G. A. Fischer, and I. Ursch) as candidates for initiation; they were in turn approved of. Lodge was then advanced to the second degree and Bros. William Prior and Walter James Carroll were passed. On resumption to the first degree Messrs. Burnes, Thomson, and Fischer were initiated, two other approved candidates (Mr. Seeman and Mr. Ursch) being unable to attend. Three new names were submitted for initiation, after which the Lodge was closed. The brethren subsequently sat down to dinner together, when the customary toasts were given and acknowledged.

We congratulate the members of the Upton Lodge on the prosperous outlook before them. The next meeting promises to be a particularly busy one, there being no less than two candidates eligible for raising, three for passing, and five propositions for initiation.

BAYON'S LODGE, No. 1286.

ON Monday, 15th inst., the brethren held their annual installation in the Masonic Hall, John Street, Market Rasen. Bro. T. Nettleship was installed, Bro. C. Reeve rendering the service. The usual banquet was held at the White Hart Hotel in the evening, Bro. W. King providing a most excellent menu.

ALEXANDRA LODGE, No. 1511.

ON Wednesday, 17th inst., Bro. J. J. Adamson, was installed at a large and representative gathering of Masons at Hornsea. The ceremony was performed by the retiring Master Bro. J. G. Wallis, assisted by Bro. Carter P.M.

The installation banquet was held at the Mere Hotel, when the W.M. was supported by a large number of his own brethren and many visitors. The W.M. stated that the Alexandra Lodge was never in a more prosperous condition than at present. Mrs. Prescott, of the Mere Hotel, catered for the banquet in a most satisfactory manner.