

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

WITH the commencement of February the Masons of England are fairly brought within range of the first Anniversary Charity Festival of the year, the celebration on behalf of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution being a fixture for the last Wednesday of that month. As a consequence there are but three clear weeks remaining in which to complete the work of organisation in connection with the Festival, a labour that has been receiving careful and continuous attention for months past, and on the result of which so much of the near future of the Institution depends.

This period may be regarded by some as far too brief to allow of much more being done, but it is not so. There are a very large number of Lodge meetings to be held during the days yet remaining, and much might be accomplished if active members could be induced to throw themselves heartily into the work, even at this eleventh hour; a fact that is capable of easy demonstration, not the least successful among the Stewards of the past being those who entered upon the work even nearer the day of celebration than this is—and entered upon it, be it understood, with the zeal and enthusiasm it seems to so richly deserve.

It might well be urged that the English Mason of the present day has no excuse for saying he is unacquainted with the great design of Freemasonry—to render help to those who, admitted members of the Order in their day of prosperity, have subsequently been reduced to the necessity of seeking assistance in order to provide themselves with the requirements of life, or the Widows or orphans of such Brethren; and it might be urged with almost equal force that the ordinary Mason should know something of the great Funds that are provided by the Craft to meet these claims. Yet there are many not sufficiently well acquainted with the details of the work to induce them to lend it a helping hand, for in this connection we believe it is lack of knowledge as to what is being done that is to a great extent the cause of apathy, therefore our first care should be to instruct the masses.

The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution is now annually paying away £16,080 hard cash in Annuities alone, that sum being distributed among 195 aged Masons, at the rate of £40 a year each; 240 Widows, each receiving £32; 30 others drawing half their late husband's pension, £20 each. This sum does not include anything for working expenses or the necessary expenditure in connection with the management of this great work, but the actual cash payment to the Annuitants, and, as such, its genuineness and its correctness are absolutely beyond question. In this sum there is no inclusion of controversial items such as bricks and mortar, handsome buildings, expensive sites, or the hundred and one such matters that often cause difference of opinion among supporters of other Charitable Institutions, where a considerable proportion of the amount regularly expended goes in the provision of what are often regarded as luxurious extravagances.

The Masonic Benevolent Institution is conducted on entirely different principles in this respect, and such being the case its supporters have a special plea to urge on its behalf.

Having shown that the money subscribed to this Institution goes direct to those for whom it is contributed, we may devote a moment's consideration to the number of the beneficiaries under the grants that are annually paid. From the figures already given it will be seen these amount to no less than 465; at least that is the number who are primarily benefited by the Annuities, while it is certain that many others owe much of what they are enjoying to the kindly provision made by the Masons of England through this particular Fund. These two points are, to our thinking, in themselves sufficient to enlist the sympathy of our readers on behalf of the Benevolent Institution, but there is yet another matter of prime importance and deserving of most serious attention, for in spite of the large number of Annuitants already elected there are many more equally deserving of consideration, the number of approved candidates for the next election being no less than 115, for whom but a very small number of vacancies will probably be available, but even this does not exhaust the special features that may be urged on behalf of the Benevolent Institution, for with its large outlay of £16,080 in annual pensions it has but £3,600 a year in the form of Permanent Income, leaving a deficiency of £12,480 to be annually collected from the Craft, in addition to what is regularly required for management expenses.

The opportunity that presents itself at the present time is in connection with the Anniversary Festival, which will be held on Wednesday, the 27th inst., at Freemasons' Tavern, London, under the presidency of the Viscount Dungarvan Provincial Grand Master of Somersetshire, for which Stewards are still urgently wanted. It is gratifying to know that Bro. James Terry the energetic Secretary of the Institution has already enrolled 250 such workers, but as we said at the outset there is ample time for many additions, and we hope that ere the day of the Festival comes round that total will be considerably augmented. There is a special need for a heavy subscription this year, in view of the falling off that has been experienced as a result of the strenuous efforts made to secure the success of the Jubilee of the Fund, which, as has been urged on previous occasions in our pages, not only led to large additional responsibility, but also had an appreciable effect on the amount subscribed in subsequent years. To help make good this discrepancy and to enable the Committee to continue the good work—aye, and extend it—should be the aim and ambition of every Brother who is in a position to do so. They must all remember the peculiar condition in which they were admitted to a participation of the Secrets of Masonry; will they take this opportunity of practising that virtue they then professed to admire? Anything they have to give will be thankfully received, and faithfully applied.

CONSECRATION: ST. ANDREW'S LODGE.

THE steady growth of Avonmouth during the last few years, both commercially and residentially, is a matter of common knowledge, and the progress of the village has from time to time been marked by the introduction of various institutions calculated to promote the comfort, happiness, and social welfare of those who do business or dwell in the locality. The go-ahead characteristics of the residents have recently been further accentuated by the establishment of a new Lodge and of a Masonic Hall for the accommodation of those belonging to the Fraternity who live at or near Avonmouth.

The Lodge is to be called the St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 2541, and is in the Masonic province of Gloucestershire, the Provincial Grand Master of which is Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P.

The new Lodge owes its origin to a meeting called at the Royal Hotel, in May last, when the opinion was expressed on all hands that it was desirable to create a branch of the Order at Avonmouth, and it was resolved to take the necessary steps for obtaining a warrant for the same. At this gathering Bro. Charles Holtom, who is in reality the founder of the Lodge, was elected Acting Secretary, and the arrangements throughout have been placed almost unreservedly in his hands. Owing to the illness and the absence from home of the Deputy Prov. Grand Master Bro. R. V. Vassar-Smith, the matter remained in abeyance for some months; but eventually the Deputy Provincial G.M. granted Bro. Holtom an interview, and the proposal began to take definite shape.

Bro. J. L. Bretherton P.M. 839 P.P.S.G.D. consented to become the first Master of the new Lodge, and Bro. John Weston P.M. P.P.G.P. was selected to be I.P.M. and Treasurer. The other Officers were designated as follows: Bros. Charles Holtom S.W., E. J. Pillers J.W., C. Hardwick Secretary, M. P. S. Tozer P.M. 1752 D.C., Thos. H. Gore S.D., S. Humphries J.D., C. R. Reilley I.G., and P. W. Trachy Tyler. These gentlemen, together with Bros. C. J. King, D. Moore, and J. Hargell, as founders of the Lodge, signed the petition to the Grand Master. The Lodge was named "St. Andrew's," and it was decided to meet during eight months of the year.

A committee was appointed to draw up draft Bye-Laws, also to obtain suitable premises and furnish them. Accordingly the Old Working Men's Club, in Meadow Street, was acquired for the purpose, and on 11th December a letter was received from the Provincial Grand Secretary, stating that the Warrant had been granted, and that the number of the new Lodge would be 2541.

It may be interesting to mention that the wives of the Founders defrayed the cost of the purchase of the Lodge banner, and the Rev. A. J. Harvey, Vicar of Shirehampton, presented the Lodge Bible, whilst Messrs. Bick, Wright, and Company supplied the seatings, carpets, linoleum, chairs, &c.

The ceremony of consecrating the Lodge took place on Tuesday, at the National Schools, in the presence of a large number of Brethren, chiefly from the Provinces of Gloucester and Bristol. Nearly 200 were in attendance, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather. The Provincial Grand Master took the leading part, being ably assisted by the Deputy and other Prov. Grand Officers.

As the Consecration of a Masonic Lodge is not an everyday occurrence, the deeply-interesting proceedings were watched and followed with great interest by the Brethren. A detailed description of the ceremony cannot, of course, be given, but we may be permitted to state, without divulging any of the secrets of Freemasonry, that the proceedings consisted largely of the singing and chanting of appropriate hymns, passages of Scripture, and anthems; an oration by the Prov. Grand Chaplain on the nature and principles of the institution, dedication prayers, and perambulations of the Lodge, during which the Prov. Grand Master as Consecrating Officer strewed corn (the emblem of plenty), poured wine (the emblem of joy and happiness), and oil (the emblem of unity). Salt (the emblem of friendship) was also sprinkled. The Lodge-Room was also censured by the Prov. Grand Chaplain, who, in the course of his oration, warned the members of the new Lodge that quality and not quantity was what they should look for in receiving candidates.

The musical arrangements, which were very effective, were under the direction of Bro. Frank Forty Prov. Grand Organist. After the Benediction, which closed the Consecration ceremonial, the W.M. designate was installed by the Deputy Prov. Grand Master Bro. Vassar-Smith, and the appointment of Officers of the Lodge (whose names appear above) followed.

The Lodge having been closed, a large number of Brethren dined together at the Royal Hotel, the banquet being provided by Bro. Reilley.

In responding to his health, Sir Michael Hicks Beach said, although Avonmouth was a remote corner of his Masonic Province, he was not absolutely unknown in the neighbourhood, and, therefore, it was with a double kind of pleasure he found

himself there that day. The Brethren had received them with very great kindness and hospitality, and he was sure they were deeply indebted to their Worshipful Master and their energetic Brother Holtom for the very admirable arrangements for the necessary ceremony. They had that day taken part in what he thought they would agree with him was a most interesting ceremony, namely, in adding one to the number of their Lodges in Gloucestershire. Ever since that Province was formed it had been the determination of those who had held rule over it not to sanction the constitution of a new Lodge unless they were satisfied that it did not interfere with existing Lodges, and that it was capable of holding its own. He was bound to say that, when application was first made to him for his sanction to the constitution of a Lodge at Avonmouth, he felt some little doubt about the matter. He was not sure that the foundation of such a Lodge might not interfere with the Province of Bristol; he was not sure that it would not withdraw Masonic support from it, which would not be fair to that Province. He therefore requested his Deputy to carefully inquire into the matter. That had been done, and he thought he saw by the manner in which the foundation of the new Lodge had been received by the D.P.G.M. of Bristol, and by many of the Brethren of Bristol, that the St. Andrew's Lodge at Avonmouth carried with it the complete sympathy and accord of the Brethren from Bristol. He was also satisfied that the Lodge at Avonmouth was able to maintain itself in a manner creditable to Masonry in Gloucestershire. He thought those who had taken part in the ceremony must recognise that it was to a large extent a religious ceremony. It at all events pointed out to them that there was something in Freemasonry beyond an ordinary social club. Social clubs were in themselves good things, but social clubs were apt to sometimes lead to differences and to hostility among their members. The first lesson learnt from the constitution of the Order of Freemasonry was that hostility must be removed from it at once. A Masonic Lodge must be a temple of peace and harmony, and, whatever differences of opinion might exist among them on political or religious or other important questions, it was a haven of rest from the storms of life, which in no other club could possibly be found. There was another characteristic of Masonry. Charity was one of the principal objects of Masonry—charity to those Brethren who might be in want, and to the widows and orphans of Masons, and to those who were educated in their charitable institutions. He was quite sure that though that Lodge was a young Lodge, starting as an infant, as it were, yet from the spirit already manifested, the members of that Lodge would do their very best for charity, as their other older Lodges in Gloucestershire did. He hoped and believed that that Lodge would not consider the ceremonies of Masonry as of no importance. It was true that whatever was worth doing was worth doing well. After giving some wholesome advice to the Officers of the Lodge on this subject, the Right Hon. Baronet said he trusted that what had begun so well that evening might be continued, and that the relations between the Lodge and their neighbours of Bristol might always be of an amicable character. He concluded by proposing the health of the St. Andrew's Lodge, and in doing so said he trusted prosperity and happiness might attend the Lodge till time shall be no more.

The W.M. acknowledged the compliment; and some other toasts followed, Bro. Bramble D.P.G.M. responding for the Prov. G.M. of Bristol and the Prov. Grand Officers, which was proposed by Bro. Vassar-Smith.

An interesting incident in the proceedings in the Lodge-Room was the presentation by the W.M. of a Founders' jewel to Bro. Holtom S.W., in recognition of his exertions as Secretary to the preliminary Committee.—"Bristol Times and Mirror."

The friends of Mark Masonry in Derbyshire have good reason for feeling gratified at the excellent start given to the new Province. It has commenced its career amid the good wishes of many of the most distinguished leaders of the Degree, and substantial tokens of a quickened interest on the part of its local supporters. On all hands it is agreed that the affairs of the Province are in able and competent hands, and the new P.G. Master has given strong proof of his shrewdness in the selection of his first batch of Officers. A more enjoyable and instructive gathering than that of the 14th has seldom taken place in our midst, and I shall be surprised if it be not followed very quickly by extensions in several of the populous east and north Derbyshire towns, whose Masonic residents could not be expected to associate themselves with the movement whilst its head-quarters were at Leicester.—"Derby Reporter."

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In Mexico a semi-annual receipt for dues must be exhibited besides the usual examination, before a visitor is admitted into a Lodge. This, says the "Canadian Craftsman," is not required of Americans.

ROYAL ARCH.

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GRAND CHAPTER.

A QUARTERLY CONVOCATION of the Supreme Grand Chapter will be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Wednesday, the 6th inst., at 6 p.m.

BUSINESS.

The Minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation to be read for confirmation.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the Accounts from the 17th October 1894 to the 15th January 1895, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:

To Balance Grand Chapter	-	-	£370	17	11
" Unappropriated Account	-	-	226	2	8
" Subsequent Receipts	-	-	500	9	5
					£1,097 10 0
By Disbursements during the Quarter	-	-	326	0	6
" Balance	-	-	554	8	4
" Unappropriated Account	-	-	217	1	2
					£1,097 10 0

which Balances are in the Bank of England, Law Courts Branch.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following Petitions:—

1st. From Companions Edward John H. Hoskyns, M.D., as Z, John Walker as H, William Henry Fisher as J, and six others for a Chapter to be attached to the Ecclesburne Lodge, No. 2425, Duffield, to be called "The Ecclesburne Chapter," and to meet at the White Hart Hotel, Duffield, in the county of Derby.

2nd. From Companions William Edward Murray Tomlinson, M.P., as Z, Thomas Read Wilkinson as H, Thomas Wilde Rice as J, and seven others for a Chapter to be attached to the Corinthian Lodge, No. 2350, to be called "The Corinthian Chapter," and to meet at the Bird-in-the-Hand Hotel, Hindley, Lancashire (Western Division).

3rd. From Companions George Henry Whitaker, M.D., as Z, Hawthorn Robert Thornton as H, William Mason Varley as J, and ten others for a Chapter to be attached to the Horwich Lodge, No. 2324, to be called "The Horwich Chapter," and to meet at the Bridge Hotel, Horwich, Lancashire (Western Division).

4th. From Companions John Norris Grant as Z, Wilfred Ravenshaw-Fellows Lukis as H, John William Ridal as J, and twelve others for a Chapter to be attached to the St. George's Lodge, No. 2170, Colombo, Ceylon, to be called "The Hercules Chapter," and to meet at the Freemasons' Hall, Colombo, Ceylon.

5th. From Companions William Hickley Gundry as Z, Edward Rogers Deacon as H, George Swann as J, and six others for a Chapter to be attached to the Conyers Lodge, No. 1916, Sydenham, Christchurch, N.Z., to be called "The Prince of Wales Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, Sydenham, Christchurch, N.Z.

The foregoing Petitions being regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have also received a Memorial from Companions William Henry Pitts Z, John Henry Furneaux H, James Frederick Pennock P.Z. as J, and the Members of the Keystone Chapter of Western India, No. 757, Bombay, for a Charter of Confirmation, the original having been completely destroyed by damp, and cannot be repaired.

The Committee recommend that a Charter of Confirmation be granted.

The Committee have likewise received Memorials, with extracts of Minutes, for permission to remove the following Chapters:—

"The Concord Chapter," No. 297, from the Masonic Rooms, Mint Street, to the New Buildings, Mint Street, Lincoln.

"The Sun Chapter," No. 106, from the Royal Beacon Hotel, to the New Masonic Hall, Exmouth.

"The Chiltern Chapter," No. 1470, from the Sugar Loaf Hotel, Dunstable, to the Town Hall, Luton, Bedfordshire.

"The St. Oswald Chapter," No. 910, Pontefract, Yorkshire, from the Masonic Hall, to the New Masonic Hall in that Town.

The Committee being satisfied of the reasonableness of the above requests, recommend that the removal of these Chapters be sanctioned.

The Committee have to report that the Mid Surrey Chapter, No. 1044, Camberwell, has ceased to meet, and they are informed that the Treasurer went to America and took the Charter away with him. They, therefore, recommend that the Chapter be summoned to show cause why it should not be removed from the Roll of Chapters.

The Committee have also to report that they have learned that the Albion Chapter, No. 2220, Woodstock, South Africa (W.D.), was never formed, and as the Lodge to which it was attached has been erased, they recommend that the Charter be returned.

The Committee recommend that inasmuch as the Pythagorean Chapter, No. 447, Corfu, which has made no Returns of work since 1865, and the Lodge to which it was attached has been erased, has not replied to the summons sent to it by order of the Grand Chapter, the Chapter be erased from the List of Chapters.

The Committee recommend that the Wellington Union Chapter, No. 517, Wellington, N.Z., be allowed further time in order to reply to the summons sent to it.

The Committee have further to report that the Rose of Sharon Chapter, No. 1006, St. Day, Scorrier, Cornwall, are taking steps to remove the Chapter to Redruth.

The Committee have also to report that the Charter of the Royal Hanover Chapter, No. 1777, Twickenham, Middlesex, has been returned with the report that the Chapter has ceased working, they therefore recommend that the Chapter be summoned to show cause why it should not be erased.

(Signed) ROBERT GREY, President.

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, W.C. 16th January 1895.

CONSECRATION: ROYAL NAVAL AND MILITARY CHAPTER.

ON Wednesday, 23rd ult., the Right Hon. Earl Amherst Grand Superintendent of Kent, who was accompanied by several distinguished members of the Supreme Grand Chapter, and the Provincial Grand Chapter, visited Chatham for the purpose of consecrating a new Royal Arch Chapter, the Charter for which had been granted by the Prince of Wales.

The new Chapter is designated the Royal Naval and Military Chapter, and is attached to the Lord Charles Beresford Lodge, No. 2404, meeting at the Sun Hotel, Chatham.

On the arrival of Lord Amherst at the Sun Hotel, the meeting place of the new Chapter, his lordship was received with the accustomed honours, when the consecration of the Chapter was at once proceeded with, the Provincial Grand Scribe E. Comp. T. S. Warne reading the petition to the Supreme Grand Chapter, and the charter or warrant granted by the Prince of Wales. The solemn and deeply impressive ceremony of consecration was then commenced, Comp. General T. Cuming, of Dover, P.G.J. giving an eloquent oration on the principles of Royal Arch Masonry, at the close of the delivery of which the gallant General was much applauded.

The consecration having concluded with the patriarchal blessing, given by Earl Amherst, the installation of the Principals of the new Chapter was proceeded with, the installing Officer being Comp. Warne, who, with the accustomed ceremonies, inducted Lieutenant F. Powell to the first chair, and Major E. Barrington Stephens to the second chair. Comp. H. Moody, who is now stationed at Bristol on recruiting duties, was installed in the third chair by Comp. General Cuming. The various Officers of the new Chapter were then appointed and each invested by the first Principal with the collar and jewel of his Office.

Later in the evening the consecration banquet was held at the Sun Hotel under presidency of the M.E.Z. Comp. F. Powell, who was supported by Earl Amherst, and a number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers with other Companions, when the customary Arch and others toasts were honoured.

The new Chapter, it may be added, is composed chiefly of members of the Navy and Army, and promises to have a most successful career. The whole of the interesting proceedings of the day were most satisfactorily carried out.—"Rochester Journal."

On Wednesday next, 6th inst., Earl Amherst will consecrate another new Royal Arch Chapter, at Maidstone, to be designated the Montreal Chapter.

PERSEVERANCE CHAPTER, No. 300.

A MEETING was held at the Pitt and Nelson Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Tuesday, 15th ult., Companion John Preece M.E.Z. There were also present, amongst others, Comps. George Newton, Alfred D. Rayner, Samuel Newton, Henry Lees, and Joseph Leech. Visitors:—Companions Thomas Preston P.Z. P.P.G.A.D.C., Ernest Moss P.Z. P.P.G.S.B., R. Gornall P.Z. P.P.G.P.S., and Edward Roberts P.M. (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE).

The principal business of the evening was that of installing into the chair the M.E.Z.-elect, and the investiture of Officers. The installation of Comp. Geo. Newton as M.E.Z. was most ably performed by Comp. Gornall, and the same meed of praise may be accorded to Companions Preston, whose addresses to the following Officers were admirably rendered: Companions Samuel Newton J., John Preece H., A. D. Rayner Scribe E., and J. Pownall Pr.Soj.

A substantial dinner followed, which in turn was succeeded by the festive board. Comps. Preston and Gornall treated the company to some delightful recitations, Comp. Ernest Moss rendered a time-honoured English ditty, and Comp. Edward Roberts gave two German sketches, and also a parody upon a Welsh air, the song being accompanied by Companion John Preece.

The Brethren of the Loughton district of West Essex propose to hold a Masonic Service in St. Mary's Church, Loughton, on Sunday, 10th inst., on behalf of the London Hospital. The service will commence at 3.45 p.m., and will include an Oration by Rev. Bro. T. Lloyd P.Prov.G.Chaplain Essex, Rector of Theydon Garnon. Dispensation has been granted by the Prov. G. Master for the wearing of Masonic clothing, and Brethren are cordially invited to support the movement, by allowing themselves to be enrolled as Stewards (each of whom contributes 5s. towards the expenses). Bro. C. J. A. Tijou P.A.G.P. has undertaken the duties of Director of Ceremonies, while the local Hon. Secretaries are Bros. Otto Steffen P.M. (Murray House, Loughton), and Rev. Bro. W. Linton Wilson, M.A., Prov.G.Chap. Essex. St. Mary's Church is three minutes walk from Loughton Station, on the Great Eastern Railway, and arrangements have been made for Brethren to clothe at the Lopping Hall (close to the Church), where also light refreshment will be provided.

GUARDING OUR PRIVILEGES.

GREAT laxity prevails with regard to the guarding of our Masonic Secrets. Lodges are held in places where, with a very little trouble, Cowans could be hearers, if not spectators of all that went on in a Lodge. Native servants are allowed free access to our working rooms, and in many places actually prepare them for working, and Brethren themselves are apt to talk of Lodge matters openly to their companions, Freemasons or not. It should be the duty of every District Grand Lodge to appoint an Officer to personally inspect any building in which a Lodge is proposed to be held, who, in turn, should make it his special business to discover if under any ordinary circumstances it would become unsafe, insisting, in such case, upon necessary precautions being taken before the Lodge was opened. In one of the Hill stations, a Lodge is held in a room just divided by a door from one of the most frequented places there. You can hear people talking distinctly during the time Lodge is going on, so it can be well imagined the same advantage is reciprocated by the outer world. In another station the Lodge forms one of the several rooms communicating with each other by glazed doors. As far as our casual observation served us on the occasion of our visit no attempt had been made to adapt it for a Lodge, though a matter of fifty rupees, perhaps, would have done all that was necessary. Regarding the second point, the laxity we speak of is still more culpable. That native servants should be allowed to have access to our rooms, when the various articles, especially those used in the third degree, are lying about, is bad enough in all conscience, but that they should be permitted to handle them as a part of their duty in preparing a room for work is utterly inconsistent with all the established ideas of the Order, and cannot be too severely condemned. The strict caution that we commend to the candidate should be applied to every Brother at all times and on all occasions where Freemasonry is concerned. No one has any right to presume upon the lack of intelligence in the most humble of human creatures, or imagine a servant can roam about a Lodge at will year after year and not be able to put two and two together in such a manner as to serve for a stock-subject of conversation among his *jhat bhais* for many a day. The prevention of this state of things lies in a nutshell. Every Lodge has (or should have) a serving Brother, who should thoroughly understand his position therein. No person whatsoever, unless he be a Freemason, should have access to the room where the articles used as accessories to the various degrees are kept. Where a special room is not available, such articles, it may be mentioned (excepting one which is so incapable of being concealed that the sooner it is abandoned for one that can be folded up the better) could all be easily stowed away in an ordinary trunk with a lock and key, and the world might then invade the Lodge and see nothing to *set it thinking*. Nothing that has to be done for the preparation of a Lodge or the preservation of its property should be considered any degradation by a serving Brother, nor do we think it ever has been. It is the system that attaches itself to everything Indian—even extending to Freemasonry—that is at fault: the tendency to hustle off anything approaching trouble and put up with it at the hand of a servant. Regarding the third delinquency little need be added to what has so often been said: that Brethren are much too injudicious in their conversation with Cowans is unhappily indisputable, and many a clue is given in a moment of thoughtlessness. That women, especially, have wheedled many of our secrets out of their husbands we are assured of, and it will ever be so while (to use a common phrase) the “apron string” husband exists, and we have the misfortune to receive him in our Order.—“Indian Freemason.”

WOMEN FREEMASONS.

IT is no easy matter to obtain information about Masonry from a Mason, for the simple reason that most of them do not exactly know how much they may say, how far they may go, and are wont to reply: “Ah! if you were a Mason, I could explain all that to you in detail; but as I am talking to a ‘profane’ you must excuse me if I go no farther.” And the interviewer hereupon congratulates himself for the time-being that he is a ‘profane,’ for were he not, and had he been initiated into certain secrets, his task would be a difficult one to discern what he should write and what he should omit in order not to incur the displeasure of his revered master. It requires a man endowed with the gifts of speech such as possesses the ex-Senator, Dr. George Martin, Chief of the Mixed Lodge of Freemasonry in Paris, who was so kind as to receive us, and at the same time well-acquainted with Freemasonry in all countries of the world, to make clear the actual position occupied by the woman-Freemason in France, and the impression created by this new step.

“Women Freemasons exist,” said the Doctor, when visited

by the “Sunday Times” representative at his home in the Rue Vauquelin, near the Pantheon. “I am naturally in favour of women Freemasons, ‘des franchemagones,’ and I feel convinced that before many years in this country, when one takes into consideration the rapid strides forward made by women, women Freemasons will be very numerous, and will not be regarded with any greater amount of curiosity than are those women in England who have just been granted the right of voting. Our mixed Lodge has only been formed for the last twenty months, yet I assure you we are doing good work, and our numbers are increasing rapidly.

“As is generally known, the builders, centuries ago, were the first to group themselves, and to communicate to one another, from country to country, their ideas, and the progress made in their special line of work. It is very evident that the groups or builders and Masons of those times were most seriously bound to one another, for the Renaissance took place at exactly the same period in all countries, this being all the more remarkable when the difficulties of international communications of the epoch are considered. Freemasonry was founded, and the results were immediately appreciable, for the Masons communicated their ideas to one another, and their work improved rapidly.

“Other trades and professions followed in the footsteps of the Masons, and the women soon grew desirous of grouping themselves as the men had done. I might here mention to you that one of the fundamental laws of Freemasonry is that no woman shall be admitted into the temple. So that, last century, when women in Germany tried to enter the Lodges for men, they found the doors fastened, and were compelled to found Lodges of their own, known as ‘Lodges of adoption.’ Herein, they had a ritual, signs, and secrets of their own, but these were entirely different from those adopted by the men.”

“Towards the end of last century, under Louis XVI., ‘Lodges of adoption’ were started in France. They were, as in Germany, entirely distinct from the men’s Lodges. Many ladies of the Court joined them, and became Masons of these Lodges of adoption. The Duchess de Bouillon and one of the ladies of honour of Queen Marie Antoinette were among the first to join, so that you see, even at that time, women wished to become Masons in the same way as men. Thus, a little over a hundred years ago, there existed in France a masculine and feminine Masonry. It is to-day a notorious fact that very little philosophical recreation took place among the women, who, it must be said in their favour, were exceedingly philanthropic; in the course of a few years they introduced a little music, singing, and even dancing, into their meetings. These Lodges were continued with indifferent success until about 1848 or 1850, when they disappeared altogether. In 1873, there was an attempt at reviving them, but it failed, so that since over twenty years female Lodges are entirely a thing of the past. It should be borne in mind that I have been talking of Lodges for women only, and not about Lodges for both men and women—mixed Lodges, as we term them.

“The great champion of Women’s Rights of her time, the late Madame Maria Deraines, was of opinion that there should be women Masons exactly as there are men Masons. According to her, they ought to have exactly the same ritual, the same privileges, and advantages as men. I encouraged her in this idea, and a Lodge of Freemasons, known as “Les Libres Penseurs du Pecq,” received Madame Maria Deraines among them, and initiated her into all the ritual and formalities of Freemasonry. We gave a banquet after the meeting in question and Madame Maria Deraines made a speech which was a great success and created an enormous sensation in Freemasonry circles all the world over. Such conduct on the part of our Lodge naturally did not meet with the approval of the Grand Orient, and we were placed ‘en sommeil.’ According to the Grand Orient, we had exceeded our rights, and were condemned.”

It may here be stated that in the Lodge of the Freethinkers of le Pecq were many celebrities of France, and among them was ex-Senator Dr. G. Martin. The Lodge was unable at the time to struggle against the Grand Orient, and six months after being placed ‘en sommeil,’ suspended its meetings. The idea, however, which was the cause of their rupture with the Grand Orient, was not abandoned, and no better proof of this is needed than the existence of the first mixed Lodge of France, founded nearly two years ago by Dr. Martin, and of which the Secretary, Madame Maria Martin (no relation to Dr. Martin), was good enough to explain the object to the readers of the “Sunday Times” a few weeks ago. The mixed Lodge is highly successful from all points of view, and the Masons from other Lodges, whom the mixed Lodge invites to its meetings, most heartily approve of the new movement. Continuing, Dr. Martin said:—

“There exists at the present day at Bucharest a mixed Lodge working on precisely similar lines to our own. In America, various attempts have been made to establish one, but unsuccessfully. The ‘New York Herald,’ not so very long ago, published an article on the Women Freemasons of France, but it was full

of mis-statements. On the other hand, the Vienna 'Tageblatt' printed a far more correct article. But the question is one that, with the exception of the 'Sunday Times' in London, has not been discussed in the columns of the public Press."

"There seems to be an opinion current abroad that the Grand Orient is at the head of French Freemasonry; can you tell me if this is so?"

"The Grand Orient has more Lodges in France and abroad than any other. The 'rite ecossaise,' of which our Lodge is a follower, comes next, and there are two or three others. An amalgamation of one rite with the 'rite ecossaise,' may take place shortly, and then the number of Lodges of the Grand Orient and the 'rite ecossaise' will be nearly equal. There are details into which it is impossible for me to enter with a 'profane,' like yourself, yet I may say that there is not very much difference between the two."

"Will you tell me what that difference is?"

"I do not see any reason why I should not. The Lodges of the 'rite ecossaise' swear by the 'Great Architect of the Universe' whenever they take an oath—the Great Architect of the Universe meaning the Lord Almighty. Well, the Freemasons of the Grand Orient do not wish Masons to be compelled to swear by the Lord Almighty. And why is this? For the simple reason that Freemasons have not the right to enter into any questions of religious belief, a Lodge being formed of men who group together for certain reasons, whatever be their religion and their nationality. The question was solved by swearing on the constitution of the Lodge, a solution that was satisfactory to theists and atheists alike. This explains why Masons of the Grand Orient cannot possibly be recognised either in England or America, for the reason stated that the Grand Orient Masons refuse to declare a belief in the Great Architect of the Universe—a belief in whom is the fundamental clause of the constitution of all Freemasons. On the other hand, the Masons of the 'rite ecossaise' are more liable to be recognised everywhere because of their adhering to the oath by the Great Architect of the Universe. I will give you an example. When the French Government sent two gentlemen to represent their country at the inauguration of the Statue of Liberty, by Bartholdi, in the Bay of New York, it happened that both of them were Freemasons, one being M. Spuller. They were well received by their Brother Masons and duly honoured; but, being members of the Grand Orient, they were not admitted to a meeting. On the other hand, a member of the 'rite ecossaise' on his way to the World's Fair in Chicago, remained several days in New York, where he was received by his Brother Masons, and admitted into their meetings, simply because he was accustomed to swear by the Great Architect of the Universe. The Mason in question had no introductions whatever; he made himself known by the signs and words that make Freemasons known to Brothers the world over, and he was received quite differently from the envoyes of the French Government, who had considerable prestige and were on an official mission. I do not know how matters would have been in England, but I should imagine that it would have been much the same, as American Masons are as strict as English Masons on such points."

"Would members of your mixed Lodge be received in Lodges where members of the Grand Orient are denied admittance?"

"It is difficult for me to say. I do not think so, for we should be told by many that we cannot be considered as Freemasons, for having violated a fundamental law of Masons, by which 'all women are to be excluded from the temple,' and we have committed the offence (?) of accepting women into our Lodge. In fact, if I am not mistaken, the Grand Orient has advised all its Lodges not to accept our Brothers and Sisters. One of the former, finding himself quite recently in Tonquin, was denied admittance there to a Lodge of the Grand Orient. On the other hand, one of the most important Lodges of the Grand Orient, 'Le Cosmopolite de Vichy,' admitted my wife to one of their regular meetings, and allowed her to address its members, which she did. Madame G. Martin, my wife, is of course a member of our mixed Lodge. I do not think that the Cosmopolite de Vichy is in disgrace, but I have reason to believe that the Lodge has been requested not to act in such a manner again. All this goes to show that the women of our Lodge are perfectly initiated into all the mysteries of Freemasonry; that if any one of our Sister Masons should find herself in any part of the world, she could make herself recognised by Masons, to whatever nationality or Lodge they might belong. At the present moment there are women Freemasons; the world is not accustomed to them yet, but it will be soon. And there is no doubt that the women of France will contend to become Masons who shall be recognised by all Lodges, in the same manner as they are now fighting for their municipal, political and other rights. To judge by the progress they are making, and by the success of our Lodge, in the eyes even of those who by principle condemn it, they will soon earn a well-deserved victory."

Dr. Martin entered into a few more details as to the benefits to be derived from Freemasonry in general, whether by men or

women. Sister as well as Brother Masons are capable of fulfilling the moral responsibility they assume towards orphans of Masons. Before taking leave of the Doctor, the correspondent had the honour of being introduced to the wife of the Senator, an ardent Mason, who joined in with her husband in assuring the listener of the multiple benefits to be derived from Masonry, and of the absolute necessity of the existence of "franche-maconnes." The correspondent was shown the model of the diploma, designed by a woman, to become the property of each member of the mixed Lodge. It is, the Doctor assured us, the finest diploma of any Lodge in France, and contains all the symbols of the Craft. To the uninitiated it appeared a most artistic piece of work, carefully executed, the symbolical representation of Human Right.—"Sunday Times."

MIXED LODGES.

To the Editor of the "Sunday Times."

MADAM,—To hear Madame Maria Martin, one would think that androgynous Masonry was a new thing, whereas it is nothing of the sort. To go no further back than 1738, the "Society of the Mopses," then founded, was composed of male and female Masons; so was the "Society of the Chain," in Denmark, dating from 1777. In 1810, there was founded in France the "Sovereign Chapter of the Scotch Ladies of France," which also admitted gentlemen. Androgynous Lodges were revived in Spain in 1877; the Grand Orient of Spain initiates ladies into all the mysteries of Masonry, and what are these mysteries? How can they be called mysteries when the Grand Orient of France has sanctioned the publication of them to the minutest particulars, the rites, passwords, signs, and grips of all degrees? I will mention but two works in support of this assertion, that of Bro. Bazot Grand Secretary, and that of Bro. Ragon; there is no secret of Freemasonry that is not revealed in those writings. But the list could be indefinitely extended. Freemasonry is simply a gigantic hoax, but as long as there are grown-up children, so long will there be Freemasonry. Still, it is on the wane, and so zealous Brothers see the necessity of interesting the ladies in it; hence the resuscitation of androgynous Lodges.

I am, Madam, your obedient servant,

C. W. HECKETHORNE.

30th December 1894.

MESSRS. Cassell and Company will shortly publish a new work, entitled "A King's Diary," by Mr. Percy White, author of "Mr. Bailey-Martin." It will be issued in a form peculiar to itself, and will be followed by other works produced in a similar manner. Mr. Max Pemberton is, we understand, to undertake the selection and editing of this new departure in the issue of pocket editions.

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IN compliance with a requisition signed in conformity with the Laws, a
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Governors and Subscribers
will be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Wednesday, the 13th February
1895, at 4.30 o'clock p.m. precisely, to take into consideration a proposed
addition to Laws to enable Ladies and Lewises (being minors) to qualify as
Patrons; and Lodges, Chapters and Masonic Societies to qualify as Vice-
Patrons and Patrons, and also to fill up vacancies occasioned by death or
resignation in the House and Finance Committees.

By order,

JAMES TERRY, Secretary.

** The Anniversary Festival will be held on the 27th February 1895, under
the presidency of The Viscount Dungarvan, D.L., Provincial Grand Master
for Somersetshire. The services of Brethren to act as Stewards are
fraternally invited.

PHOTOGRAPHY.

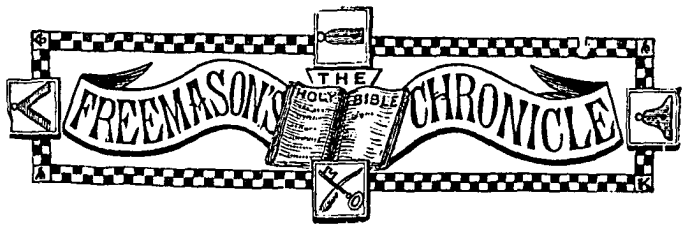
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SATURDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 1895.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE January meeting of the Board was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, 23rd ult., under the presidency of Bro. Robert Grey President of the Board, who was supported by Bros. Cottebrune and Tijou as Vice Presidents, Major General Gadsden Gd.S.Bearer, E. Cutler P.G.Organist, and many other Brethren.

The new list contained thirty-four applications, of which twenty-six were relieved with a total of £575, made up as follows: one grant of £5, seven of £10, nine of £20, five of £30, three of £40, and one to be recommended to Grand Lodge for £50.

The particulars we publish elsewhere of the Installation meeting of the True Love and Unity Lodge, No. 248, Brixham, Devon, contains reference to a proceeding we do not remember

having ever seen recorded before—"At the banquet the poor Brethren were not forgotten, their dinners being first served out and sent by messengers to their homes, with kind and fraternal greetings." This is probably an annual custom with the members of this Lodge, who are deserving of the highest commendation for their kindly thoughtfulness, and might well be imitated by many others in all parts of the country. There are probably very few among our Lodges, especially those of fair age, that have not recorded on the roll of members of the past some one or more Brethren to whom such thoughtfulness would be very acceptable once a year, and although it might not always be possible—or desirable—to serve the dinner from the same table as the present members of the Lodge dined from there need be no difficulty under that head. Once create a desire on the part of Brethren to show this kindness, and the method of carrying it out would speedily suggest itself.

o o o

THE February number of "Cassell's Magazine" opens with an article upon "Some Royal Pets," illustrated by drawings by Mr. Ernest M. Jessop, to whom special facilities were given at Windsor and Sandringham for sketchings.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

—:o:—

DISPENSING MASONIC BENEVOLENCE.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—In the course of my wanderings I came across a local paper giving a report of a recent meeting of the Menturia Lodge, No. 418 (Hanley), at which the well known Bro. E. V. Greatbach submitted the toast of the Masonic Charities. From the report I can well imagine that old enthusiast was as enthusiastic as ever in his advocacy of the claims of the distressed, but there is one part of his remarks I cannot quite reconcile. In the course of his speech, says the report, and when referring to the three great Central Charities, Bro. Greatbach advocated the localisation of the Benevolent Fund, believing the money could be much better spent near home than in London.

If Bro. Greatbach really spoke to this effect I should like to ask him what he refers to, as I fancy he must know, as well as I do, that by far the largest proportion of the annuities granted by the Benevolent Institution are spent locally, and not in London. In fact, I believe there is only accommodation at the Institution at Croydon for about thirty old people, while at the present time there are 465 annuities being annually paid, so that it is absolutely certain that 435 (or thereabouts) of the annuitants get the money to do what they like with locally. Even the annuitants at Croydon have no restrictions placed upon them, rather enjoying further benefits than those outside the home, but for all that it is frequently urged they are no better off than those outside, while the wisdom of not extending the accommodation is often demonstrated, when one hears how the old people enjoy themselves in their own localities, perhaps in the midst of family relations and friends, made virtually independent, in a financial sense, by the bounty of the Masonic Order.

If Bro. Greatbach was speaking of either of the Educational funds, he would have had ample scope for further remarks, and I think he would not have had to argue very long without getting a good number of followers. There, to my mind, lies the scope for reform. Abandon, once and for all, any idea of extending the existing Schools, and make early provision for spending the money devoted to the education and maintenance of our Boys and Girls locally—and the best results will follow, as far more might be done in that way than by continuing to keep up large and expensive "show" places near London.

I took considerable interest in Bro. Greatbach's efforts some years ago, when he made an onslaught on the Boys School, and shall make a point of looking for other utterances on his part.

I am, &c.,

ONE OF HIS ADMIRERS.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

We shall be pleased to receive particulars of Masonic meetings for insertion in our columns, and where desired will endeavour to send a representative to report Lodge or other proceedings.

—:o:—

CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

—:o:—

ST. GEORGE'S LODGE, No. 140.

THE installation meeting was held on Wednesday, 16th ult., at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, when Bro. Hermon King Lewis was installed as Worshipful Master. The ceremony was performed by the I.P.M. Bro. R. H. Perryman, assisted by a goodly array of Past Masters, Visitors, and Brethren, numbering about sixty-five.

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PROVINCIAL.

—:o:—

ROYAL KENT LODGE OF ANTIQUITY, No. 20.

THE annual festival was held on Wednesday, 16th ult., at the Sun Hotel, Chatham, and was attended by a large number of Members and Visitors.

The Royal Kent bears the honoured distinction of being the oldest Provincial Lodge of Freemasons in England, says the "Rochester Journal," the Warrant under which it at present works dating from 1723, while in point of age it is exceeded by only three Metropolitan Lodges.

Its present number in the Registry of England is 20, and was formerly 13. The Lodge was originally held at the Anchor Tavern, London—hence its sign of an anchor—but was subsequently removed to Chatham, where it has ever since been held. Unfortunately many of the early records of the Lodge were lost in the great fire which occurred at Chatham about seventy years ago.

The solemn and impressive ceremony of installing the new Worshipful Master Bro. T. Williams S.W. was most ably carried out by Bro. G. W. Church, the retiring Master, who, at a later portion of the proceedings was presented, on the part of the Lodge, with a very handsome Past Master's jewel, unanimously voted by the Brethren, in appreciation of the marked ability with which he had presided over the affairs of the Lodge during the past year.

The business of the Lodge having terminated, the Brethren partook of the annual banquet, under the presidency of the new Worshipful Master, who was supported by Bro. A. Spencer P.G.Swd.B. Prov.G.Sec., and many distinguished Provincial Grand Officers. The customary Masonic and other toasts were honoured.

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ANCHOR AND HOPE LODGE, No. 37.

THE installation meeting was held on Monday, 14th ult., at Freemasons' Hall, Institute Street, Bolton.

More than usual interest attached to the proceedings on account of the installation of Lord Stanley, the member for the Westhoughton Division, to the office of Worshipful Master. The Lodge was opened at four o'clock, there being a large assembly of local and of visiting members.

A banquet followed the closing of the Lodge, Lord Stanley presiding over an influential company, including His Worship the Mayor (Brother B. A. Dobson), Colonel Le Gendre N. Starkie Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire, &c.

o o o

BRUNSWICK LODGE, No. 159.

THE annual banquet was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth, on Tuesday, 15th ult., under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. W. Smeeth.

Bro. H. Warren presented the retiring Master Bro. Luscombe with a handsome Cathedral gong timepiece, and the W.M. in the name of the Lodge presented Bro. B. S. Johns P.P.G.S.D. with a life Governorship in the Fortescue Annuity Fund, in recognition of his services to the Lodge in connection with the recent concert in the Guildhall, the Lodge having secured a Life Governorship in the Devon Masonic Educational Fund.

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ANTIQUITY LODGE, No. 178.

THE festival of St. John was held on Wednesday, 16th ult., in the Masonic Hall, King Street, Wigan. Bro. Bullock was installed W.M. by Bro. Rev. T. H. Leeson W.M., assisted by Bro. C. B. Holmes and Bro. R. Knowles P.M.s.

Subsequently an adjournment was made to the Conservative Club, where about seventy Brethren sat down to a splendid banquet, ably catered for under the superintendence of Mr. W. Wise Secretary.

The usual list of toasts was proposed, and a capital musical entertainment was given, the gathering being a complete success.

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PERSEVERANCE LODGE, No. 213.

ON Tuesday, 15th ult., a large number of Brethren assembled at the rooms of the Masonic Association, St. Giles Street, Norwich, to witness the installation of Bro. J. Tench P.P.G.Steward. It had been hoped that Bro. Hamon Le Strange Deputy Prov.G.M. would have been present to take part in the proceedings, but an unfortunate accident prevented his attendance. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. S. Cole I.P.M.

The new Master and those now entrusted with the working of the Lodge subsequently proved their efficiency in Masonic duties, when four members were initiated.

At the banquet which followed, very warm praise was bestowed by several Visitors who hold high positions in the Craft.

During the evening Bro. S. Cole I.P.M. was the recipient of a handsome P.M.'s jewel and an illuminated address—gifts intended to show the gratitude of the members to this respected Brother for his notably meritorious services.

In submitting the toast of the Visitors, W.M. Tench announced, amid cheers, that Bro. Sergeant-Major Potter had presented to the Lodge a sword the gallant soldier had used in more than one engagement, and which had been worn by him throughout the Zulu campaign, and on the memorable occasion when Cetewayo was made prisoner. Bro. Potter was heartily thanked for his kindness.

YORK LODGE, No. 236.

THE Installation Meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Duncombe Place, York, on the 21st ult., the W.M. Bro. Arthur Jones presiding. There was a numerous attendance, including Past Masters and members of other Lodges.

After some routine business and the election of a Joining Member of the Falcon Lodge, the report of the Audit Committee, which was of a favourable character, was adopted. The installation ceremony was then proceeded with, Bro. Edwin Carter S.W. being placed in the chair. The Installing Master was Bro. A. Jones I.P.M.

The installation banquet was subsequently held at the Station Hotel, most of the Brethren who had attended the afternoon's ceremony being present. The W.M. elect occupied the chair, and was supported by the Dean of York, Bros. Peck P.G. Sec. N. and E. Yorks. P.G. Standard Bearer, &c.

The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were submitted and honoured.

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TRUE LOVE AND UNITY LODGE, No. 248.

THE Installation took place on Monday, 21st ult., at Brixham, when Bro. J. M. Davis was installed W.M. by Bro. C. Janes P.P.G.A.Sec.

An elegant banquet was served in the banqueting hall adjoining, and a very happy evening was spent. At the banquet, says the "Western Guardian," the Poor Brethren were not forgotten, their dinners being first served out and sent by messengers to their homes, with kind fraternal greetings.

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UNION LODGE, No. 268.

THE annual meeting and Festival of St. John took place at the Queen's Arms Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Thursday, the 17th ult.

In the absence of Bro. Robert Oswald W.M. the Lodge was opened at 4.30 p.m. by Brother James Fitton P.M. P.P.G.S. Besides the following principal Officers, Bros. Alfred D. Rayner S.W. W.M.-elect, J. W. Hulley P.M. P.P.G.S. J.W., A. W. Siddall P.M. P.P.S.G.D. Treasurer, Ernest Moss P.M. P.P.G.Swd.B. Secretary, there were present thirteen members and twenty-eight Visitors, representing Lodges 89, 830, 210, 1088, 1322, 1144, 300, 324, 430, 581, 1408 and 2156.

The minutes of the previous regular meeting having been read and confirmed, and the Auditors' report adopted, Brother Walter Newton P.M. P.P.J.G.D. took the chair as Installing Master, and Bro. Alfred D. Rayner S.W. was presented for installation by Bro. A. W. Siddall P.M.

After the usual preliminaries a Board of Installed Masters was opened, at which twenty-eight were present.

The investiture of the newly appointed Officers by the Installed W.M. was one of the most pleasing features of the ceremony, Bro. Rayner fully proving, by his skilful and able handling of these investitures, his undoubted ability to rule and direct his Lodge, and amply confirmed the confidence placed in him by the Brethren who had elected him as their head.

The ceremony of Installation was performed by Brother Walter Newton P.M. P.P.J.G.D. in his usual delightful and proficient manner, he being loyally supported and assisted in his work by Brothers J. W. Hulley P.M. P.P.G.S., James Fitton P.M. P.P.G.S., and Ernest Moss P.M. P.P.G.Swd.B.

Later in the evening the Brethren, to the number of over fifty, sat down to well-spread tables, and were also regaled throughout the evening with several delightful musical treats by Brothers Campbell, Ogden and Cooper; Brother John Hulme I.P.M. Arthur Sullivan Lodge, No. 2156, gave two excellent solos on the violin, besides materially assisting Bro. Batty, who made an admirable and proficient accompanist.

Two collars for the Director of Ceremonies and Steward were presented to the Lodge by Brother Henry Shaw P.M., and the Officers mentioned were invested with them.

A most enjoyable evening was spent, during which all the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were offered and enthusiastically responded to, the Brethren retiring at 11 p.m. after joining in the National Anthem.

Subjoined is a list of Officers for the year 1895: Brothers Thomas Dunks S.W., William Kinsey J.W., A. W. Siddall P.M. P.P.S.G.D. Treas., Ernest Moss P.M. P.P.G.S.B. Sec., Walter Newton P.M. P.P.J.G.D. D.C., Henry L. Holland S.D., Arthur B. Pownall J.D., Charles Pearce I.G., W. M. Boyd Steward, Dan Birkby Tyler.

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SOUTH SAXON LODGE, No. 311.

THE members held their annual meeting on the 16th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Lewes, there being an unusually large gathering of Brethren.

Bro. Allison Russell P.M. having installed Bro. Gerard Lloyd as W.M. for the ensuing year, the retiring W.M. Bro. J. H. Bull was presented with a Past Master's jewel. Bro. Bull then handed a handsome Secretary's jewel to Bro. W. Flint for his past services.

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LION LODGE, No. 312.

THE members assembled on the 21st ult., at the Masonic Hall, West Cliff, Whitby, for the purpose of installing the new W.M. Bro. W. T. Rennison. The installation ceremony was ably conducted by Bro. R. W. White P.P.G.R.

The Brethren adjourned to the Crown Hotel, and sat down to an excellent dinner.

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PHENIX LODGE OF HONOUR AND PRUDENCE, No. 331.

THE annual meeting was held on Monday, 21st ult., at Truro. The W.M. elect Bro. E. L. Carlyon J.W. was presented for installation by Bro. E. D. Anderton P.M. Prov.G.Sec. and was impressively installed by the W.M. Bro. E. W. Carus-Wilson.

The installation banquet was held at the Red Lion Hotel, where the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were observed, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Several Brethren contributed songs and recitations.

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ST. DAVID LODGE, No. 366.

THE installation meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Milford Haven. Bro. R. M. J. Leonard was installed W.M. by Bro. W. Williams P.M. P.P.G.D.C., assisted by Bros. W. R. Roberts and W. H. Bamkin.

LOYAL WELSH LODGE, No. 378.

ON Tuesday, 15th ult., Bro. W. G. Beer S.W. was installed as W.M., the ceremony of installation being performed by Bro. J. J. Morris, assisted by Bro. T. Scott Phillips and Bro. T. Brown Past Masters.

Afterwards the Brethren adjourned to the Bush Hotel, where a capital spread was provided by the Misses Jenkins. Upwards of fifty-five Brethren were present. After dinner the usual loyal toasts were honoured. During the proceedings Bro. J. J. Morris I.P.M. was the recipient of a handsome P.M.'s jewel, Bro. Nathan John P.M. making the presentation, on behalf of the Brethren.

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ROYAL UNION LODGE, No. 382.

A MEETING was held at the Chequers Hotel, Uxbridge, on Monday 21st ult., the W.M. Bro. H. J. Bragg presiding. The auditors' report and balance sheet were received.

Bro. W. H. Reed was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year, Bro. A. G. Fleming re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. G. L. Duffin re-elected Tyler.

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CESTRIAN LODGE, No. 425.

ON Thursday, 17th ult., the festival of St. John was celebrated, when Bro. Walter Welsby was installed W.M. in succession to Bro. Michael Johnson. The ceremony was impressively rendered by the retiring W.M. and Bros. F. Tait and E. Brassey P.Ms.

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ST. JAMES'S LODGE, No. 448.

THE Brethren celebrated the annual festival at the Freemasons' Hall, St. John's Place, Halifax, on Tuesday, 15th ult., when Brother Thomas Robertshaw was installed by Bros. H. S. Holdsworth P.M. P.P.D.D.C. and Alfred Robertshaw P.M.

At the close of the ceremony Bro. J. T. Ingham P.M. P.G.D. presented to Brother John William Normanton I.P.M. a very handsome Past Master's jewel, as a token of respect from the Brethren, and appreciation for the very efficient way he had discharged his duties as W.M. during the past year.

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SUTHERLAND LODGE OF UNITY, No. 460.

THERE was an exceptional degree of interest associated with the installation of the W.M. at Newcastle, on the 11th ult., when the Provincial Grand Master the Earl of Dartmouth paid a visit to the Lodge, this being his first visit in the northern part of the Province since his appointment as Prov.G.M.

The meeting place was changed from the established Lodge Room at the Castle Hotel to the Municipal Hall, owing to an anticipated large gathering. That proved to be the case, there being present upwards of one hundred Brethren, including Visitors. The company was a very influential and representative one. A very cordial welcome was given to the Provincial Grand Master, which he reciprocated with Masonic warmth.

The installation was performed with thorough effectiveness, so much so, in fact, as to elicit congratulation from Lord Dartmouth, who said the ceremony had been performed quite in accordance with the traditions of one of the oldest and most influential Lodges in the district. The Rev. L. C. A. Edgworth was installed W.M. by Bro. Skerrett, assisted by Bros. Ingamells, Snape, Newby, Hyslop and Broad.

A banquet in the Municipal Chamber followed the ceremony, and the Loyal, Masonic, and other toasts were honoured.

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CLEVELAND LODGE, No. 543.

THE installation meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, Stokesley, on 14th ult., and was well attended by members and visitors. Brother W. Lowther Carrick was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being performed by Bro. C. H. Backhouse P.P.J.G.W. Durham.

The Brethren afterwards adjourned to the Golden Lion Hotel, where an excellent banquet was provided by Bro. W. Wilson.

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CONCORD LODGE, No. 632.

THE installation of Bro. Fred. Garlick S.W. as W.M. was performed at the Lodge Room, Trowbridge, on the 14th ult., the installing Master being the Deputy P.G. Master of Wilts. Bro. C. N. P. Phipps. The ceremony was followed by a banquet at the George Hotel.

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PRINCE OF WALES LODGE, No. 671.

ON Monday, 14th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Llanelly, the Brethren met for the purpose of installing for the second time Bro. W. Buckley Roderick P.P.J.G.W., the ceremony being performed by Brother Robert Margrave P.M. P.P.S.G.W.

After the Worshipful Master had been installed, he invested the following Brethren as his Officers for the ensuing year:—Brothers Thomas Hughes S.W., Jeremiah Williams J.W., J. Beaven Phillips P.M. P.P.S.G.W. Treasurer, J. Popkin Morgan Chaplain, J. Hall Gale Secretary, J. G. Daw S.D., R. J. Edmunds J.D., C. S. Read P.M. P.P.G.S. of Wks. D.C., G. Mercer I.G., D. R. Williams Organist, Henry Steward, J. Thomas Tyler.

After the Installation ceremony the Brethren sat down to the customary banquet.

An interesting event in the proceedings was the presentation by the Brethren of the Lodge to Bro. C. S. Read P.M. P.P.G.S. of Wks. of a Past Master's jewel in recognition of valuable services to the Lodge for many years past. The presentation was made in eloquent terms by Bro. J. Ll. Thomas the outgoing Master.

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ISCA LODGE, No. 683.

THE installation of Bro. Fred Phillips took place at the Masonic Hall, Newport, Mon., on Wednesday, 16th ult. There was a good attendance of Brethren, including Col. Lyne Prov. G.M., and Bro. C. R. Lyne D.P.G.M. The Prov. G.M. presented to Bro. Forsyth a silver tea set on behalf of the Officers and Brethren of the Isca Lodge, he having well served the office of W.M. The banquet took place at the Westgate Hotel.

INDEPENDENCE LODGE, No. 721.

ON Monday, 14th ult., the Lodge celebrated the festival of St. John at the Masonic Rooms, Queen Street, Chester, when there was an attendance of nearly a hundred Brethren to witness the installation of Bro. Alfred Wild.

The installing Masters were I. Mathews Jones, W. Peers, and G. F. Adams, who conducted the ceremony in a most impressive manner.

Bro. Tom Browne the retiring W.M. was presented by the Lodge with a handsome Past Master's jewel, which he suitably acknowledged, after which Bro. Browne asked the acceptance by the Brethren of a beautifully bound album, containing the portraits of most of the living Past Masters of 721, which reflected great credit on the photographer Bro. G. Atkinson.

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WENTWORTH LODGE, No. 737.

THERE was a large attendance of visiting Brethren and others at the installation of Bro. H. H. Packer, which took place at the Masonic Hall, Wellingborough, on Monday, 14th ult. The ceremony of installation was impressively performed by Brother Owen Parker P.P.G.Std.B. the late W.M. After the installation the customary banquet was served at the Angel Hotel, a large company sitting down, and the usual toast list being gone through.

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CRAVEN LODGE, No. 810.

THE members met at the Victoria Buildings, Skipton, on Friday, 25th ult., to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, when Bro. S. Thornton was installed by the Master of the Lodge, assisted by Brother J. H. Hartley and Bro. J. Throup.

A banquet afterwards took place at the Devonshire Hotel, when visiting Brethren were present from Settle, Nelson, Ilkley, Keighley, and Buckingham. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given.

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LEWIS LODGE, No. 872.

ON Monday, 21st ult., there was a very large gathering of Brethren at Whitehaven, to witness the installation of Bro. J. Matthews, he being a well-known and much respected Mason. It was not the first time Brother Matthews had been chosen to preside over a Lodge, he having been W.M. of Lodge 1535, Light of the South, Rosario, South America.

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SINCERITY LODGE, No. 943.

TUESDAY, 22nd ult., witnessed the installation meeting at the Masonic Rooms, St. Giles's, Norwich, among those present being Bro. Hamon Le Strange Deputy Prov. G.M. Bro. A. A. Markham the retiring W.M., assisted by Bro. G. W. G. Barnard, duly installed Bro. Harry Percy Crowe into the chair of K.S.

A capital banquet was subsequently held.

Bro. Hamon Le Strange responded on behalf of the Grand Lodge of England, and in reply to the health of the Present and Past Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Norfolk, complimented the Sincerity Lodge on the excellence of the work that had been done during the evening.

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WALTON LODGE, No. 1086.

AT the Skelmersdale Masonic Hall, Kirkdale, Liverpool, on Wednesday, 16th ult., the annual meeting was held to instal Bro. Jos. Lawson S.W. There was a large number of members and visitors. The retiring Master Bro. John Miller presided.

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HUYSHE LODGE, No. 1099.

AT the regular meeting, held at Stoke, Bro. Dillon I.P.M. was presented with a Past Master's gold jewel. The W.M. Bro. Fry made the presentation, and took the opportunity of expressing in the name of the Brethren the high estimation in which Bro. Dillon is held by Freemasons generally, and for the valuable services he renders to the Order. The jewel was subscribed for by the members individually, and not from the Lodge funds. The inscription read:—

Presented to

W. BRO. W. H. DILLON I.P.M.

by the Brethren of Lodge Huyshe, No. 1099, as a mark of respect for his services to the Lodge.

January 1895.

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SHIRLEY LODGE, No. 1112.

THE festival of St. John was celebrated on Monday, 14th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Oxford Street, Shirley, when Bro. J.W. Fletcher was installed W.M., the ceremony being performed by Bro. G. F. W. Mortimer P.M. P.P.G.W., to whom a vote of thanks was passed. The customary banquet followed.

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JOPPA LODGE, No. 1114.

ON Wednesday, 16th ult., the members assembled in their Lodge Room, Corn Hall, Fakenham, to instal Bro. F. E. Smith, of Oxwick, as W.M. The ceremony was performed by P.Ms. Bros. A. Goddard and G. F. Smith.

The Brethren afterwards adjourned to the Crown Hotel, where a sumptuous banquet was served by Bro. W. Harvey, under the gavel of the newly elected W.M.

In response to an appeal for the Charities by Bro. H. A. Dewing, the sum of £7 10s was collected.

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WEAR VALLEY LODGE, No. 1121.

BROTHER R. C. DE LACEY has been installed Worshipful Master at the Masonic Hall, Bishop Auckland, in succession to Bro. Lidster, who

has been a popular Master. The installation ceremony was performed by Bro. Lidster. The Brethren afterwards dined at the Wear Valley Hotel.

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OAKWOOD LODGE, No. 1126.

THE Lodge was held in the National Schools, Romiley, on Saturday, 19th ult., Bro. John Brine W.M. presiding.

Bro. Clough S.W. W.M.-elect was introduced by Bro. John Mitchell P.M. and the ancient charges read by Bro. Woodall P.M. Sec. The W.M. then installed him into the Worshipful Master's chair in a very able and impressive manner.

The Brethren adjourned to the Romiley Arms, where the banquet was held, and the usual Masonic toasts given. Bro. Leathley, on behalf of the Lodge, presented Bro. Brine I.P.M. with a Past Master's jewel.

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EQUALITY LODGE, No. 1145.

THE installation of Bro. James Hoyle took place at Accrington, on the 10th ult., and was followed by a banquet at the Red Lion Hotel.

The Mayor Bro. Alderman Haywood P.M. of the Lodge, proposed the toast of the Wardens and other Officers of 1145. In doing so he made special references to his former connections with the Lodge, and expressed a hope that, if possible, it would be more harmonious in the coming year than it had ever been in the past.

His Worship then gave a short address upon the true principles of Freemasonry, and asserted that any man who followed the tenets laid down by the Order must become a better man and be a better citizen. True Masonry was next to religion, and he trusted that the grand principles which were taught within their Lodges would actuate them throughout their lives.

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ELMS LODGE, No. 1212.

BROTHER E. C. L. CRAZE was installed W.M. of this Lodge at the Huyshe Masonic Hall, Home Park, Stoke, on the 16th ult., by the retiring W.M., assisted by a strong Board of Installed Masters. Bro. Elliott was re-appointed Charity Steward, and the W.M. elected to the office of representative on the Committee of Petitions.

The annual banquet was fixed to take place on Wednesday, the 30th ult., at the Masonic Club.

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DUNDAS LODGE, No. 1255.

AFTER the ordinary monthly meeting on the 21st ult., at the Masonic Hall, Plymouth, the W.M. and members sat down in the club to their half-yearly supper, and a capital spread they enjoyed.

Bro. L. Wells S.W. proposed, in eulogistic terms, the health of the W.M. Dr. E. G. Dutton, who, he said, had carried out his duties with great ability and assiduity. He had proved a worthy and honourable Mason, both in and out of the Lodge, and his name would be handed down to posterity as one of a long list of Masons who had passed through the chair. Bro. Dutton was honoured, respected, and revered not only by the Masons of the Three Towns, but by the citizens generally.

Bro. Dutton, in the course of a felicitous response, claimed that Lodge Dundas only initiated honest, legitimate, and worthy candidates for Masonry, and that in proportion to its numbers the Lodge subscribed as largely as other Lodges to the great Masonic Charities. In conclusion, he cordially thanked them for associating his wife and family with the toast.

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THORNHILL LODGE, No. 1514.

AT the Masonic Hall, Lindley, on Thursday, 17th ult., Bro. William Riley was installed W.M., the installing Master being Bro. J. H. Conacher I.P.M. There was a large attendance of Members and Visitors.

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BERTIE LODGE, No. 1515.

THE annual festival took place on Thursday, 10th ult., in the Masonic Hall, Oxford, a large company being present to witness the installation of Bro. James Hastings, the ceremony being performed by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Viscount Valentia.

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URMSTON LODGE, No. 1730.

NOT only the members of the Lodge, but also Bro. John Walton sen. himself, the host of the Victoria Hotel, Urmston, may be heartily congratulated upon the success which attended the annual meeting and Festival of St. John which took place at the above house on Monday, the 14th ult. The Masonic Room, although not filled to its utmost capacity, yet contained a very large number of members and visitors, some of the latter having travelled long distances to see Bro. John Walton jun. J.W. installed into the chair of K.S.

Amongst others there were present: Bros. W. H. Jolliffe W.M., John Walton jun. J.W., Ed. L. Littler P.M. P.P.G.P. Treas., Geo. R. Lloyd P.Prov.G.Tr. Sec., Walter Bowers S.D., Geo. G. Mends J.D., Geo. A. Myers P.M. P.P.G.D.C. D.C., J. Bowers P.M. Org., J. Ormrod I.G., J. H. Marsh I.P.M., John Slyman P.M. P.P.S.G.D., Peter Heaton P.M. P.P.G.S., R. Swindells P.M., John Walton sen. P.M., James Plowman, E. W. Barratt, John Fowler, J. F. Mends, W. H. Ashworth, Edward Roberts P.M. 1459 (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE), Thos. French. Visitors: Bros. H. G. Small P.M. 368 Prov.G.D.C. (Ches.), W. Bowden P.M. 1814 P.P.G.S.B. (W.L.), Jas. J. Lambert P.M. 1387 P.P.G.R. (W.L.), J. W. Bent 2279, J. R. Meanock I.P.M. 2279, Thos. Threlfall P.M. 1773, Henry Nall P.M. Sec. 1375; Worshipful Masters: John R. R. Jeffery 1140, W. Pearson 1345, Alfred Pickford 1375, John Travers 1387, Geo. A. Batley 1814, John Knight 2216, J. Roberts 2231; H. J. McBurney 266, James Clegg 467, John Farrow 467.

The Lodge was opened about 3 p.m., and after the confirmation of minutes, and presentation of the Auditors' report and Treasurer's accounts, Bro. Slyman assumed the principal chair, being supported by Bros. Littler, Heaton, and Marsh as S.W., J.W., and I.G. respectively, the ceremony of installing Bro. John Walton jun. as Worshipful Master taking place without loss of time.

In addition to the principal Officers mentioned, Bro. Slyman had the assistance of Past Masters Lloyd, Walton sen., and J. Bowers, and the whole

of the work was so satisfactorily performed as to receive the highest commendations at the festive board which followed.

A most recherché banquet had been prepared in the large room adjoining the hotel, which was profusely decorated for the occasion, and to Mrs. Walton and her bevy of lady helpers must be accorded no small amount of praise for the warmth and comfort, and general feeling of satisfaction which prevailed.

The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, these being agreeably relieved by songs and recitations, which were rendered by Bros. Nall, Jolliffe, Marsh, Heaton, Walter Bowers, Plowman, and Roberts. Bros. J. Bowers and Travers in turn officiated at the piano.

One of the principal toasts of the evening was that of the Worshipful Master, proposed in appropriate terms by Bro. Jolliffe I.P.M., to which Bro. John Walton jun. responded in a speech which was marked by excellent good taste, and indicated that he was thoroughly alive to the many responsibilities which his new position entailed. In reverting to the work of those Masters who had preceded him in the chair, he said it was with a great amount of pleasure and satisfaction that he received the honour of following such distinguished Brethren. In his previous Offices he had endeavoured to do his duty, and hoped that as W.M. he should at all times be so actuated in his conduct, and successful in the work which he might attempt, as to merit the universal approval of his Brethren.

Bro. Walton then proposed the health of the Installing Master, saying that he had had the pleasure that day of seeing the ceremony of Installation for the first time, and although he might not be in a position to judge the work very critically, he could tell his auditors that he had been deeply impressed with what he had seen. It was really a very beautiful ceremony, and in his opinion had been most admirably performed by Bro. Slyman.

Bro. Slyman responded, saying that he thoroughly appreciated the way in which the toast of his health had been proposed, and the hearty manner of its reception. If the ceremony which he had performed had not been a pleasure, as well as a duty, it would not have been undertaken by him. Despite the fact that his throat had troubled him for the last forty-eight hours, he had persevered, and was glad to find that the Brethren were satisfied with his efforts. He spoke in feeling terms of the W.M., who he said was very highly respected, and thoroughly deserved the distinction which had just been conferred upon him.

The W.M. then proposed the health of Brother Jolliffe I.P.M. and commended him for the admirable manner in which he had performed the various ceremonies during his year of office. Bro. Walton said that nothing came wrong to him, and concluded by wishing him many happy returns of the day.

Bro. Jolliffe, in response, said that it would always be a pleasure for him to do what he could for the welfare of the Lodge. He thanked the Brethren for the hearty reception of the toast, and also the W.M. for kind remarks upon this, his birthday.

Bro. Littler proposed the health of the Visitors, in a speech which was brimful of humour, and when he drew attention to the strange combination of names he had formed from the list, the fact elicited roars of laughter. The Visitors responded.

The Officers for the forthcoming year are as follow: Bros. Walter Bowers S.W., G. G. Mends J.W., E. L. Littler P.M. P.P.G.P. Treasurer, G. R. Lloyd P.M. P.P.G.Treas. Secretary, J. Ormrod S.D., W. Hallard J.D., G. A. Myers P.M. P.P.G.D.C. D.C., John Bowers P.M. Organist, J. Plowman I.G., John Fowler sen., Thomas French, Jas. Shaw Whitley, H. H. Jones, A. Hawkins, W. Kirk Stewards, J. Slyman P.M. P.P.S.G.D. Charity Representative.

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GRENVILLE LODGE, No. 1787.

ON Tuesday, 15th ult., the annual meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, Buckingham, and gathered additional attraction this year by the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Bucks. the Rev. J. Studholme Brownrigg, who performed the installation ceremony.

A banquet afterwards took place at the White Hart Hotel, at which upwards of forty sat down. The chair was occupied by Bro. Rev. W. Miles Myres W.M.

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ZION LODGE, No. 1798.

THE regular meeting was held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Wednesday, the 9th ult., Bro. Walter Fowden W.M. After the confirmation of minutes Bro. Myer Kersh, who had expressed a desire to make further progress into Freemasonry, was passed to the degree of F.C. by Bro. George Board P.M. P.P.G.J.D.

At the festive board which followed, the W.M. proposed the health of the newly-passed Brother, who made a suitable reply.

Bro. Board proposed the health of the S.W., to which Bro. Leon Levy responded, admonishing the various Officers to rally round and support the W.M. Bro. Levy also reverted to a lecture which Bro. A. de Botton P.M. contemplates delivering at an early date, and expressed a sincere hope that many visitors might be present to listen to it.

Bro. Geo. Rideal P.M., in proposing the health of the J.W., welcomed Bro. J. Gershon upon his recent return to the Lodge after a protracted absence, and also congratulated him upon his accession to such an important office as that of J.W.

Bro. Gershon, in reply, thanked Bro. Rideal for the kind expressions of regard which were contained in his remarks, and promised that he would endeavour to devote the requisite time to the duties of the Lodge, so that he might be enabled to perform them with satisfaction to all concerned.

Bro. John Fisher I.P.M. incidentally mentioned that a present had been forwarded from Jamaica by Bro. Capt. Stone, for the benefit of the Lodge, which intimation was received with expressions of satisfaction by the Brethren. Bro. Fisher also alluded in the highest terms to the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, saying it often contained valuable articles and information which members of the Craft ought not to neglect perusing. As one who had been a reader of the paper for a length of time, he strongly advised the Brethren to become subscribers to the publication.

Our representative (Bro. Edward Roberts P.M. 1459) replied on behalf of the CHRONICLE. He suitably acknowledged Bro. Fisher's words of appreciation, and pointed out instances where advantage had been derived through the medium of our columns.

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EBRINGTON LODGE, No. 1847.

THE annual banquet was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth, on Wednesday, 23rd ult. The W.M., Bro. J. Mitchell presided, and was supported by his Officers.

During the evening the W.M., in the name of the Lodge, presented the retiring Master with a handsome watch, on the back of which was the inscription:

Presented to

W. Bro. C. J. F. WILLIAMS,

by the Brethren of Lodge Ebrington, No. 1847, in appreciation of services rendered to the Lodge during his term of office as W. Master for the year 1894.
23rd January 1895.

Bro. Williams expressed his deep gratitude for the handsome present they had made him.

The usual toast list was agreeably interspersed with songs and recitations by members and visitors, and by a conjuring entertainment by Mr. A. F. Johns. Bro. and Mrs. Harvey were heartily thanked for the admirable way in which the dinner was served for so large a company, over eighty being present.

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LUMLEY LODGE, No. 1893.

ON Tuesday, 15th ult., the Brethren celebrated the Festival of St. John. The usual installation took place at the Lodge Room, Estates Offices, Skegness, when Bro. S. G. Randall S.W. was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, the installation ceremony being performed by Bro. Kirby, of the Franklin Lodge, Boston, and Bro. Captain W. H. Gane P.M. P.G.A.D.C., of the same Lodge, in the presence of a large number of Brethren, members of the Lodge or their guests.

The customary banquet subsequently took place at the Sea View Hotel, and it was served in splendid style by the host and hostess, Bro. George and Mrs. Dunkley.

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CASTLEBERG LODGE, No. 2091.

ON Thursday, 10th ult., Bro. C. W. Buck was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year. The local members were reinforced by several visitors. Bro. F. E. Atkinson I.P.M. performed the ceremony of installation.

The Treasurer's accounts showed the Lodge to be in a flourishing financial position. After the business had been transacted, the Brethren celebrated the festival of St. John. Bro. J. L. Brayshaw acted as Director of Ceremonies at the festive board.

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MISTLEY LODGE, No. 2339.

THE anniversary meeting was held at the White Hart Hotel, Manningtree, on Thursday, 10th ult., when Bro. C. E. Garrard was installed Worshipful Master for the year, the installation ceremony being impressively performed by Bro. J. R. Butler.

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LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 581.

THE festival of St. John in connection with this Lodge was held at the Old Boar's Head, Withy Grove, Manchester, on Thursday, the 10th ult. In the absence of Bro. Abbott Preceptor, who was taking part in an installation at the Equality Lodge, No. 1145, Accrington, Bro. H. H. Warburton P.M. 163 P.P.S.G.D. directed the proceedings.

At an early hour the Lodge was opened by Bro. George W. Davies W.M. 1459, and after the confirmation of minutes, ballots were taken for Bros. Geo. Ben Goodfellow, Egerton Lodge, No. 1030, Waltham Forrest, Strangeways, No. 1219, and C. H. Bretherton, Truth, No. 1458, which were successful in each instance.

Subsequently the Brethren, numbering upwards of fifty, adjourned to a banquet provided in Mrs. Stopford's usual *recherché* style, which was followed by the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts.

Whilst the latter were in progress Bro. J. W. Abbott P.M. P.P.G.D.C. Preceptor, Fred Hilton P.M. P.P.G.D.C., and Wm. Bee P.M. P.P.G.S., who had returned from the installation above referred to, and Bros. John Chadwick P.G.Swd.B. Prov. G. Secretary, and Cliffe Prov. G.D.C., who had also been assisting at a similar function, entered the room, amidst expressions of great enthusiasm.

Bro. Alfred Hebden P.M. P.P.G.D.D.C. Secretary, made his annual statement, which contained the gratifying announcements that the year just closed had been a most successful one, thirty-eight Brethren having joined their ranks, the number of members upon the books at the present time being 183. Bro. Hebden further stated that he had three propositions to place upon the next summons. In commenting upon these facts he gave it as his opinion that it would be difficult to find another Instruction Lodge in East or West Lancashire which contained so many members. He spoke of the Preceptor in the highest terms, and said of Bro. Geo. T. Lenard Treasurer that a better one could not be desired.

Full justice was afterwards done to the various Officers, by proposing their healths, which toasts they acknowledged in suitable terms.

Bro. Geo. Rideal P.M. Zion, No. 1798 acting S.W. proposed the health of Bro. John Chadwick Provincial Grand Secretary, in a speech which was marked by that forensic ability which invariably distinguishes his legal utterances.

Bro. Chadwick responded, thanking him for the kind expressions which he had used in connection with himself. He likewise congratulated the Instruction Lodge upon its present successful condition, and said that it was mainly owing to the establishment of such an institution that there were so many good Officers of ordinary Lodges who were enabled to perform their work satisfactorily.

A capital programme had been provided for the entertainment of the Brethren, in which the following took part, viz., Bros. Thos. Hamnett 2363 (humorous and ventriloquial sketches which were very much appreciated), Sam. Luke 1458 and 2363, Cuthbert Howard 1077, and A. B. Taylor 1458 (merry songs with good and rousing chorus), Fred Hilton 1458 and 2363 (songs of the ballad class, and which might be termed the happy medium), while to Bro. W. H. Worsley S.W. 1458 was reserved the pianoforte selections. A perfect master of the art, his clever rendition and faithful interpretations of those beautiful pieces "Tarantelle, Op. 4" by Caryl, "La Fileuse, Op. 157," by Raff, and "Serenata, Op. 15," by Moszkowski, provided an intellectual treat which will not soon be forgotten. Bro. Worsley also added to his obligations by furnishing, free of cost, the piano which was used during the evening. Another excellent variety was provided by Bro. Robert Dottie P.M. 1161, whose racy dialectical sketches are too well known to need description.

The next meeting of the Lodge was to be held at 7.30 on Tuesday, the 29th ult., when the ceremony of Raising was to be rehearsed.

DALHOUSIE LODGE (No. 860) SOIREE.

ON Thursday of last week there was a brilliant gathering at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, when this Lodge gave a *soirée dansante*.

Bro. Thomas Glass W.M. was ably supported by Officers and members, prominent among whom was Bro. T. B. Dodson, the Father of the Lodge, and as every arrangement had been made to secure the comfort and enjoyment of the company a most enjoyable meeting was the result.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of the Lodge Organist Bro. Hubert Delma, who provided a number of vocal selections to alternate with the dance programme, so as to provide special pleasure for those to whom dancing is not an all sufficient attraction.

The banquet was laid in the Pillar-room, was a very full one in every way, and as a matter of course well served by Bro. Clemow, to whom at the close a well deserved vote of thanks was accorded.

The Worshipful Master, who presided, was supported in the other chairs by Bros. T. B. Dodson P.M. (Vice-President of the Festival), R. Burlaton P.M. Treas., Berry, and J. Rawes Baron Secretary.

The W.M. proposed the Dalhousie *Soirée Dansante* of 1895, remarking that, of course all present were friends of the Dalhousie Lodge, and he was glad in the name of the Executive and also in his own to give them a very hearty welcome. The friendliness of invitation was not lacking, and he hoped all present were participants in enjoyment. It would be remembered that he had promised to do all in his power to revive the pleasant meetings of the Dalhousie Summer Outings and the Annual *Soirées*, so as to bring them all together in that harmony which they all valued so much. He was glad to find by their appreciation that he had succeeded. The present occasion was another success, and in making the proposition he desired to mention all the members of the executive, as each had done his very best to promote and maintain an enjoyable success. He coupled with his proposition the name of Bro. Dodson, the "Father of the Lodge," and Bros. Burlaton and Baron.

Bro. Dodson, in reply, said the executive were very pleased to have any services they had rendered recognised, but they must not forget the part that Bro. Glass had played, for they all well knew that he never did things by halves. He acknowledged the courtesy of their proposition, and in return submitted that of their Worshipful Master, whose good qualities they all recognised as well as his influence, which was manifest in the fact of his having no less a number than 145 Brethren at his installation, with a volume of 45 of his own Visitors.

Bro. Glass, in reply, warmly thanked them for their hearty acceptance of the proposition, and in graceful terms proposed the Ladies, for whom Bro. Dodson gave some appreciative and at the same time facetious acknowledgements.

Thanks for various services rendered to the festival were deservedly accorded to Bros. Murrell, H. Humphreys, and Clemow.

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The President and Trustees of the Royal Academy of Arts have appointed Messrs. Spiers and Pond, Limited, refreshment contractors to the Academy. We understand that it is the intention of these well-known caterers to institute in the forthcoming season an "Afternoon Tea," served on small trays in the most *recherché* manner. This will be a boon which should be much appreciated by the many ladies who visit the Galleries in Burlington Gardens. Improvements will also be made in the luncheon arrangements, amongst others being the provision of a first class Grill, a feature for which these world-renowned caterers have long been famous. The firm have also under contemplation various modes of modernising the arrangements for the annual Banquet in May.

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The third annual Yachting Exhibition opened at the Royal Aquarium on Tuesday last. Yesterday (Friday) was commenced a most startling phenomenon, "Mistaken for Dead"—a human being in a nine days trance. The entranced subject will be watched day and night by gentlemen whose names will be a guarantee against deception, and any one wishing to form one of the Committee of watchers can do so.

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In "The Quiver" for February Miss Sparrow continues her account of experiences "As one of the Penniless Poor." "With the Fish-Curers" is the special subject of this month's paper. The same number contains "A Day in the Life of a Bishop," by the Rev. Montague Fowler, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

THERE has been a large demand for Mr. G. A. Sala's Autobiography, published this week by Messrs. Cassell and Company. The first large supply was exhausted on the day of publication.

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It is said that Freemasonry was originated by King Solomon. The number of wives he had to support made female society somewhat monotonous with him, no doubt, and we presume the poor man was obliged to invent something that would give him a chance to get out occasionally and have a little fun with the boys. —"Canadian Craftsman."

HOTELS, ETC.

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EALING—Feathers Hotel.

EASTBOURNE—Pier Hotel, Cavendish Place. View of Sea and Pier. A. TAYLOR, Proprietor.

EAST MOLESEY—Castle Hotel, Hampton Court Station. Specimen Menus, with Tariff, on application. JOHN MAYO, Proprietor.

Haverfordwest—Queen's Family and Commercial Hotel. BEN. M. DAVIES, Proprietor.

RICHMOND—Station Hotel, adjoins Railway Station. Every accommodation for Large or Small Parties.

SANDWICH—BELL Family and Commercial Hotel. Good Stabling. J. J. FILMER, Proprietor.

COWES (WEST)—Gloucester and Globe Hotels. G. A. MURSELL, Proprietor.

NEXT WEEK.

Further particulars as to place of meeting of the undermentioned Lodges are given in the Freemasons' Calendar and Pocket Book (published by Grand Lodge, for the benefit of the Charity Fund).

Monday.

- 12 Fortitude & Old Cumberland Ship and Turtle
25 Robert Burns, Freemason-h.
69 Unity, Inns Court Hotel
83 United Prudence, Albion
144 St. Luke's, Anderton's
256 Unions, Freemasons'-hall
1819 Asaph, Freemasons'-hall
1625 Tredegar, London Tavern
1669 Royal Leopold, Surrey Mas. Hall
1731 Cholmeley, Café Royal
1853 Caxton, Freemasons'-hall
1996 Priory, Acton
2020 St. Botolph's, Albion
2098 Harlesden, Harlesden
2242 Tyssen Amherst, Hackney
53 Royal Sussex, Bath
61 Probity, Halifax
85 Faithful, Harleston
89 Unanimity, Dukinfield
107 Philanthropic, Lynn
113 Unanimity, Preston
119 Sun, Square & Compasses, Whitehaven
135 Perpetual Friendship, Bridgewater
154 Unanimity, Wakefield
156 Harmony, Plymouth
199 Peace and Harmony, Dover
251 Loyal, Barnstaple
264 Nelson of the Nile, Batley
328 St. John, Torquay
331 Phoenix of Honour and Prudence, Truro
338 Vitruvian, Ross
395 Guy, Leamington
408 Thred Graces, Haworth
422 Yarborough, Gainsborough
428 Sincerity, Northwich
431 St. George, N. Shields
433 Hope, Brightlingsea
441 Three Grand Principles, Cambridge
467 Tudor, Oldham
478 Churchill, Oxford
482 St. James, Handsworth
529 Semper Fidelis, Worcester
613 Unity, Southport
622 St. Cuthbert, Wimborne
694 Oakley, Basingstoke
839 Royal Gloucestershire, Gloucester
850 St. Oswald, Ashbourne
928 Friendship, Petersfield
959 Prince of Wales, Ipswich
977 Fowey, Fowey
1045 Stamford, Altrincham
1050 Gundulph, Rochester
1051 Rowley, Lancaster
1070 Starkie, Southport
1071 Zetland, Saltash
1077 Wilton, Blackley
1124 St. Oswald, Oswestry
1180 Forward, Birmingham
1211 Goderich, Leeds
1239 Wentworth, Sheffield
1254 Semper Fidelis, Exeter
1264 Neytune, Liverpool
1280 Walden, Saffron Walden
1286 Bayon, Lincoln
1302 De Warren, Halifax
1312 St. Mary, Bocking
1434 Nottinghamshire, Nottingham
1452 St. Margaret, Lowestoft
1542 Legiolium, Castleford
1573 Caradoc, Swansea
1575 Clive, Market Drayton
1600 Hamilton, Alford
1954 Molesworth, Wadebridge
2039 Londonderry, Sunderland
2166 Cotehele, Calstock
2187 Adur, Henfield
2240 Arrow, Kingston
2322 East Lancashire Centurion, Manchester

Tuesday.

- Colonial Board, Freemasons'-hall, at 4
9 Albion, Freemasons'-hall
18 Old Dundee, City Terminus Hotel

- 101 Temple, Ship and Turtle
172 Old Concord, F.M.H.
217 Stability, Anderton's Hotel
765 St. James, Bridge Ho. Hotel
1159 Marquis of Dalhousie, Golden Square
1259 Duke of Edinburgh, Limeho.
1261 Golden Rule, Café Royal
1381 Kennington, Kennington pk.
1397 Anerley, Anerley
1472 Henley, North, Woolwich
1693 Kingland, Cock Tavern
2150 Tivoli, Frascati Restaurant
2190 Savage Club, F.M.H.
2398 Holborn, Holborn Rest.
2469 Hortus, Freemasons'-hall

- 47 Newstead, Nottingham
52 Union, Norwich
70 St. John, Plymouth
103 Beaufort, Bristol
120 Palladian, Hereford
124 Marquis of Granby, Durham
158 Adam's, Sheerness
160 Tyne Friendship, Rochford
226 Benevolence, Littleborough
252 Harmonic, Dudley
265 Royal Yorkshire, Keighley
294 Constitutional, Beverley
315 Royal York, Brighton
340 Alfred, Oxford
364 Cambrian, Neath
366 St. David, Milford
393 St. David, Berwick
421 Loyal of Industry, Southmolton
457 Loyal Monmouth, Monmth
484 Faith, Ashton-in-Makerfield
493 Royal Lebanon, Gloucester
510 St. Martin, Liskeard
558 Temple, Folkestone
624 Abbey, Burton-on-Trent
660 Camalodunum, Malton
673 St. John, Liverpool
685 Northumberland, Newcastle-on-Tyne
702 Sherborne, Stroud
734 Londesborough, Bridlington
789 Dunheved, Launceston
794 Warden, Sutton Coldfield
804 Carnarvon, Havant
814 Parrett and Axe, Crewkerne
847 Fortescue, Honiton
859 Isaac Newton University, Cambridge
948 St. Barnabas, Linslade
960 Bute, Cardiff
974 Pentalpha, Bradford
979 Four Cardinal Virtues, Crewe
990 Neyland, Neyland
995 Furness, Ulverston
1002 Skiddaw, Cockermouth
1072 Aberystwith, Aberystwith
1134 Newall, Manchester
1193 Doric, Wymondham
1197 Nyanza, Ilminster
1214 Scarborough, Batley
1222 Saint Kew, Weston-super-Mare
1244 Marwood, Redcar
1282 Ancholme, Brigg
1336 Square and Compass, Wrexham
1367 Beaminster Manor, Beaminster
1482 Isle of Axholme, Crowle
1488 St. Eleth, Amlwch
1509 Madoc, Portmadoc
1780 Albert Edward, Southampton
1785 St. Petroc, Padstow
1807 Loyal Wye, Builth
1823 Royal Clarence, Clare
1902 St. Cuthbert, Bodlington
1908 Cholmondeley, Frodsham
1970 Hadrian, S. Shields
2001 Narberth, Narberth
2129 Dorothy Vernon, Bakewell
2133 Swan of Avon, Stratford-on-Avon
2136 St. Michael's, Bishop's Stortford
2260 Ridley, Newcastle-on-Tyne
2290 Fairfield, Fairfield
2295 Scarisbrick, Southport
2475 Border, Blackwater

Wednesday.

- Grand Chapter, at 6
511 Zetland, Anderton's
1298 Royal Standard, Cock Tav.
1491 Athenæum, Criterion
1585 R. Commemoration, Putney
1610 Northern Bar, Café Royal
1687 Rothesay, Frascati
74 Athol, Birmingham
86 Loyalty, Preston
94 Phoenix, Sunderland
128 Prince Edwin, Bury

- 137 Amity, Poole
159 Brunswick, East Stonehouse
164 Perseverance, Sidmouth
163 Mariners, Guernsey
258 Amphibious, Heckmondwike
279 St. John, Leicester
282 Bedford, Tavistock
287 Unanimity, Stockport
298 Harmony, Rochdale
320 Loyalty, Mottram
326 Moira of Honour, Bristol
327 St. John, Wigton
329 Brotherly Love, Yeovil
341 Wellington, Rye
372 H'mony, Budleigh Salterton
380 Integrity, Morley
387 Airedale, Shipley
406 Northern Counties, Newcastle-on-Tyne
409 Stortford, Bishops Stortford
417 Faith and Unanimity, Dorchester
429 Royal Navy, Ramsgate
464 Cambrian, Haverfordwest
471 Silurian, Newport, Mon.
533 Eaton, Congleton
611 Marches, Ludlow
643 Royal, Filey
645 Humphrey Cheetham, Manchester
678 Earl Ellesmere, Farnworth
838 Franklin, Boston
929 Wavene, Bungay
970 St. Anne, East Looe
992 St. Thomas, Lower Broughton
1008 Prince of Wales, Jersey
1004 Athole, Douglas, I. of Man
1010 Kingston, Hull
1013 Royal Victoria, Liverpool
1063 Malling Abbey, W. Malling
1085 Hartington, Derby
1167 Alnwick, Alnwick
1205 Metham, East Stonehouse
1206 Cinque Ports, Sandwich
1274 Earl of Durham, Chester-le-Street
1333 Athelstan, Atherstone
1335 Lindsay, Wigan
1354 Marquis of Lorne, Leigh
1431 St. Alphege, Solihull
1461 Clausentum, Woolston
1478 Longleat, Warminster
1532 Bective, Carlisle
1620 Marlborough, Liverpool
1660 Arlecdon, Frizington
1736 St. John, Halifax
1862 Stranton, West Hartlepool
2042 Apollo, Liverpool
2193 Queen's Jubilee, Nelson
2200 Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells
2224 Fairfield, Long Eaton
2334 Jersey, Bicester
2368 Alan, Alderley Edge
2382 Loyal Hay, Hay
2391 Orde-Powlett, Middlesboro.
2453 Duke of York, Cardiff
2464 Longsight, Longsight
2490 Amphill, Amphill

Thursday.

- 10 Westminster and Keystone, Freemasons'-hall
45 Strong Man, Guildhall Tav.
192 Lion and Lamb, Cannon St. Hotel
227 Ionic, Criterion
231 St. Andrews, F'masons'-hall
538 La Tolerance, F.M.H.
822 Victoria Rifles, Freem.-hall
1178 Perfect Ashlar, Bridge Ho. Hotel
1216 Macdonald, Camberwell
1351 St. Clement Danes, Strand
1361 United Service, Café Royal
1425 Hyde Park, Paddington
1672 Mornington, Holborn Vdct.
1707 Eleanor, Liverpool Street
1765 Trinity College, 13 Maudslayi Place, W.
1772 Pimlico, Westminster
1790 Old England, Thornton Hth.
2271 St. Pancras, Midland Hotel
2291 West Ham Abbey, Stratford
2411 Clarence and Avondale, Leytonstone
24 Newcastle, Newcastle-on-Tyne
31 United Industrious, Canterbury
38 Union, Chichester
41 Royal Cumberland, Bath
57 Humber, Hull
71 Unity, Lowestoft
110 Loyal Cambrian, Merthyr Tydvil
114 British Union, Ipswich
116 Royal Lancashire, Colne

- 123 Lennox, Richmond, Yorks
195 Hengist, Bournemouth
203 Three Grand Principles, Dawsbury
219 Prudence, Todmorden
249 Mariners, Liverpool
254 Trinity, Coventry
266 Naphtali, Heywood
269 Fidelity, Blackburn
275 Harmony, Huddersfield
276 Good Fellowship, Chelmsford
283 Amity, Haslingden
289 Fidelity, Leeds
295 Combermere of Union, Macclesfield
300 Minerva, Ashton-under-Lyne
305 Apollo, Beccles
309 Harmony, Fareham
317 Affability, Manchester
332 Virtue & Silence, Hadleigh
337 Candour, Uppermill
360 Pomfret, Northampton
362 Doric, Grantham
419 St. Peter, Wolverhampton
426 Shakespeare, Spilsby
446 Benevolent, Wells, Somerset
462 Bank Terrace, Accrington
509 Tees, Durham
531 St. Helen, Hartlepool
539 St. Matthew, Walsall
630 St. Cuthbert, Howden
633 Yarborough, Manchester
637 Portland, Stoke-upon-Trent
703 Clifton, Blackpool
710 Pleiades, Totnes
792 Pelham Pillar, Grimsby
856 Restormel, Lostwithiel
913 Pattison, Plumstead
976 Royal Clarence, Bruton
1012 Prince of Wales, Bury
1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
1130 Rutland, Melton Mowbray
1164 Eliot, St. Germans
1231 Savile, Elland
1235 Phoenix of St. Ann, Buxton
1284 Brent, Topsham
1304 Olive Union, Horncastle
1324 Okeover, Ripley
1379 Marquess of Ripon, Darlington
1384 Equity, Widnes
1473 Bootle, Bootle
1500 Walpole, Norwich
1504 Red Rose of Lancaster, Padham
1513 Friendly, Barnsley
1557 Albert Edward, Hexham
1565 Earl of Chester, Lymm
1639 Watling St., Stony Stratford
1770 Vale White Horse, Faringdon
1829 Burrell, Brighton
1874 Lechmere, Kidderminster
1899 Wellesley, Sandhurst
2028 Granite, Narborough
2043 Kendrick, Reading
2091 Castleberg, Settle
2169 Osborne, East Cowes, Isle of Wight
2321 Acacia, Bradford
2350 Corinthian, Hindley
2386 Clarence, Chester

Friday.

- 157 Bedford, Freemasons'-hall
177 Domatic, Anderton's
1201 Eclectic, Freemasons'-hall
1997 John Carpenter, Albion
2399 Ordnance, Plumstead
36 Glamorgan, Working-at-Cardiff
81 Doric, Woodbridge
170 All Souls, Weymouth
355 Royal Sussex Emulation, Swindon
401 Royal Forest, Slaidburn
458 Aire and Calder, Goole
460 Sutherland of Unity, Newcastle-under-Lyme
526 Honour, Wolverhampton
652 Holme Valley, Holmfirth
680 Sefton, Liverpool
815 Blair, Hulme, Manchester
916 Hartington, Eastbourne
1001 Harrogate and Claro, Harrogate
1034 Eccleshill, Eccleshill
1074 Underley, Lonsdale
1087 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard
1102 Mirfield, Mirfield
1121 Wear Valley, Bishop Auckland
1239 Rock, Birkenhead
1428 United Service, Landport
1536 United Military, Plumstead