

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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

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

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PROFICIENCY BEFORE ADVANCEMENT.

IT would seem that the examination of Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts before allowing them to proceed further in Masonry, which in the majority of English Lodges is nothing more than a farce, is carried out religiously in some of the Jurisdictions of America, so much so that we read in one case of a Grand Master refusing to grant three dispensations that were petitioned for, "to confer second and third degrees on Entered Apprentices incapable of learning the work sufficiently well to pass a satisfactory examination," and we are pleased to see that this strict adherence to the letter of the law is applauded by others, who agree it would be well for Freemasonry if all its leaders had equally firm convictions of what is right, and had the courage to stand by them. But on the other hand it may be urged that Freemasonry does not consist of a mere observance of certain forms and ceremonies, but rather a sincere and conscientious observance of its great principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, and these are as capable of being practised by the Brother who cannot learn the work sufficiently well to pass a satisfactory examination as by the most expert elocutionist who is able to easily commit the words to memory—and probably as easily forget them.

It is in reviewing such items as this that we get ideas as to the working of Freemasonry in distant parts, and are able to compare outside systems with our own. How different this action of the American Grand Master to what we should expect in this country, where such a dispensation has probably never been thought of, much less asked for. Here we should expect to hear the candidate prompted in his replies and flounder through somehow, to be followed by the usual formula of "very well answered, Worshipful Master" from some of the Brethren who, as has been argued in our pages ere this, seem to regard such an expression as part and parcel of the ceremony, to be made use of irrespective of its adaptability, and often in direct opposition to the dictates of common sense.

Having disposed of the matter in so far as it concerns English and American ideas of what is right in regard to the observance of the letter of the law—with anything but a satisfactory verdict for the English system—we may ask how far a knowledge of the test questions is likely to affect the future of the new member, and how much we in England are to blame for allowing a candidate with the flimsiest pretence at knowledge to pass as efficient? We have often argued that mere knowledge of ritual and ceremony does not make a Freemason, in the true acceptation of the term. The spirit of Masonry is what is required, far more than the mere letter, and this being so it would almost seem that an early knowledge of certain test answers is not so essential as a proper appreciation of what is required from one Mason towards his fellows; but it is a great mistake to suppose that slovenliness at the outset has no effect on the future of a Mason. We have previously urged the necessity of creating good first impressions, and we

believe that to a careful rendering of the three ceremonies many a good Mason can ascribe his position in the Craft, while the opposite is equally noticeable in cases where the ceremonies have been carelessly worked, and no attempt has been made to impress the candidate with the necessity of earnestness and regularity. The ordinary candidate who is told he has to pass an examination before he can be allowed to take a further step in Freemasonry, and finds that the examination is merely empty form, is very apt to entertain an unfavourable opinion of the Order, while the candidate who is carefully prepared by his proposer and seconder, or other members of the Lodge, cannot fail to entertain respect for the Order, and goes on in his studies with the feeling that he is really required to take an interest in the work.

Reviewing, then, the whole of the features of the case, we may safely compliment our American Brethren for being more thorough in their preliminary lessons, and commend their action to Officers and Members of those English Lodges in which the examination of candidates prior to their advancement to a superior degree is regarded as mere empty form, the answers to the several questions being dictated by the Deacon, and repeated without any recognition of their meaning or actual knowledge of the words, much less an appreciation of the hidden lessons they are intended to convey.

POLITICS AND MASONRY.

IT is not often politics and Freemasonry are associated in an official way, but this has recently been done in the case of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge of Berks and Oxon, which was to have been held in Abingdon on the 16th, and has been postponed by the Provincial Grand Master, in consequence of the general election, until Friday, 26th inst. Strange as such a course may appear we regard it as worthy of commendation, as a Provincial gathering of Freemasons at such a time might have caused criticism and unfavourable comments, particularly if any of the prominent politicians of the district were present, as would most likely be the case.

MASONIC PILGRIMS AT WINCHESTER.

THE interesting city of Winchester, interesting in a peculiar degree to Brethren of the "mystic Craft," had on Friday and Saturday, 28th and 29th ult., the honour and pleasure of welcoming in a quiet but influential way the members of the illustrious Lodge known as the Quatuor Coronati, No. 2076, Brethren of which include many men well known in the ranks of literature and art, and who, through the medium of the Lodge, devote a portion of their work-a-day life to the wide field of Masonic research. The principal members of the Lodge arrived on Friday evening, and quarters had been prepared for them by Bro. Chapple, mine host of the Black Swan Hotel. Here they were met Bro. Hinxman Master of the ancient Economy Lodge, No. 75, T. Stopher, W. H. Jacob, Ward, and some other local Brethren, a pleasant hour being spent in the discussion of Masonic matters in general and the arrangements for the pilgrimage of the morrow in particular.

On Saturday the party was enlarged by many members of the Correspondence Circle of the Quatuor Coronati, which covers the whole world of Masonry, and many Brethren from Winchester, Southampton, and other parts of the county. Those present either during the "pilgrimage" to the grand works of ancient Masons, or at the "refreshment" which followed the pleasant labour of the day, included the Provincial Grand Master of Hants and the Isle of Wight Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., and his Deputy Bro. J. E. Le Feuvre P.G.D.

At the Cathedral the party were met by the Very Rev. the Dean, Dr. Stephens, under whose intelligent guidance the visitors were shown through the magnificent fane. At the College, one of England's best memorials of the great Craftsman William of Wykeham, Mr. Kirby, J.P., welcomed and guided the Brethren, and at St. Cross every facility was afforded for an inspection of the ancient Church and Hospital by the Master, the Rev. W. G. Andrewes; whilst at the County Hall and other points of interest in and about the city Mr. T. Stopher and Mr. W. H. Jacob were intelligent and, be it said, reverential exponents.

In the evening the Visiting Brethren were entertained on behalf of the Province to a banquet at the Guildhall, at which the Provincial Grand Master presided, supported on his right by Bro. Gould, and on his left by the D.P.G.M., Bros. Bernard Harfield and Bramsdon occupying the vice-chairs. A *recherché* cold repast was served by Bro. Chapple, after which the Prov. Grand Master, claiming there was no body of men more loyal than Masons, proposed the Queen and the Craft, which met a hearty response. He then proposed the M.W. the Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, mentioning His Royal Highness was that day taking part in a Masonic ceremony in London, at which he ought to have supported him, though he was sure his absence would be excused when it was known that he was presiding over a meeting in his own Province to welcome so distinguished a Lodge as the Quatuor Coronati.

Dr. Chetwode Crawley (Grand Lodge of Ireland), in an interesting speech, proposed the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Officers of Grand Lodge present and past.

The Provincial Grand Master, in returning thanks, said he was glad to receive a body of Freemasons whose fame extended to the uttermost parts of the earth. The Quatuor Coronati Lodge had done much to promote the interests of the Order and to elucidate its history. They were deserving of the warmest thanks for what they had done. He hoped they would be encouraged to continue their labours, and that that encouragement would be strengthened by the appreciation the Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight had shown of what they had done, and further, that when they returned to their homes they would feel that in the ancient city of Winchester they had found something worthy of their attention. He concluded by proposing the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, coupled with the name of Bro. Gould, to whose labours in connection with Masonic literature he bore eloquent testimony.

Bro. Gould made an appreciative response, specially referring to the respect entertained for Bro. Beach in the Grand Lodge of England, and thanking the Province of which he was the head for the welcome extended to the Quatuor Coronati, to the character of whose work he referred at some length.

The next toast was the Provincial Grand Master and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, for which Bro. Le Feuvre (who had assumed the chair, the Provincial Grand Master having to leave to catch the up train) responded. The speaker highly commended the objects of the Lodge, of which he said Sir Charles Warren, who first made himself known to fame in connection with the Palestine Restoration Fund, was the first Master; and he was followed by the Brother on his right, Bro. Gould, with whose elaborate History of Freemasonry many of those present were no doubt acquainted. Then the Lodge had also upon its roll of members such men as Mr. W. H. Rylands, Sir Walter Besant, Mr. Hughan, Admiral Markham, Professor Lewis, Mr. Lane, Sir Henry Burford Hancock, and many others. It was established in 1886, and in 1887, as he saw by the St. John's card for that year, which he had in his hand, the Correspondence Circle numbered 177, and a hope was expressed it would in course of time incorporate at least ten to fifteen hundred Brothers. The progress since made was proved by the fact that the Lodge at the last returns included thirty governing bodies, 137 English Lodges, of which fourteen belonged to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, fifty-six foreign and colonial Lodges, twelve other associations, and 1,596 Brethren, or a total of 1,831, which he was informed now reached 2,000. The library catalogue in 1887 showed 200 numbers; there were now 3,122. He referred in detail to the work of the Lodge, and spoke of the desirability of enlarging to a still greater extent the Correspondence Circle. Commenting on the proposal of Bro. Woodward that the Masons of England should contribute to the fund for the restoration of St. Paul's Cathedral, on the ground that Sir Christopher Wren was a Provincial Grand Master of the Order, he said the latter assertion was not an historical fact.

Let Masons contribute to the fund by all means, but not on false premises.

Bro. Le Feuvre then gave "Our Colonial Brethren," for which Dr. Hartley (South Africa) responded in an interesting speech, pointing out that the difficulties Brethren in the colonies experienced were hardly known in the mother country, where the facilities for travel were so easy.

Judge Jackson (Bengal) and the Rev. W. W. Rider (Orange Free States) also responded.

Bro. Speth Secretary of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge also made an interesting speech.

The proceedings of the evening were made additionally pleasurable by the interpretation of a musical programme, under the direction of Bro. Searle. Several quartettes were rendered in exquisite style, unaccompanied, by Mr. Gardiner and Brothers Searle, Doody, and King.—"Hampshire Independent."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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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.

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MASONIC SERMONS.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I often think when I read the so-called Masonic Sermons of reverend Brethren that they wholly lack the spirit of Freemasonry that should guide them in their utterances. Of course very great excuses must be made for them, as they probably regard their position as Christian ministers as of far more paramount importance than their association with Freemasonry, and I do not blame them for so doing, but they very often appear to entirely overlook the fact that religious as well as political discussions are particularly out of place in connection with Freemasonry.

I hold it is, comparatively speaking, an easy matter to preach a Masonic sermon in a Christian place of worship without introducing religious discussions, or saying anything that a Jew, a Protestant, or, in fact, any Mason could find fault with. Preachers of Masonic sermons should remember that Freemasonry is cosmopolitan, and probably one of its most important features is that men of all and every religions may meet under its auspices, with no fear of differing on questions of dogma, but very many of them do not recognise this, or, at least they do not preach on that basis, with the result that a large proportion of what are termed Masonic sermons are wholly opposed to one of the first principles of the Order—Fraternity.

As an instance, let me refer you to the sermon reported in your last issue as preached before the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent—an excellent discourse, no doubt, from a Christian churchman's point of view, but where is its Masonic character? Is it in any way suitable for delivery in open Lodge—and Masonic sermons should certainly possess this qualification—in the presence of Hebrew or the many other Brethren who do not agree with all the religious views of the Protestant Church? I can hardly believe anyone arguing it is satisfactory as a "Masonic" sermon, nor would one in twenty of such productions pass under such conditions. Why is this so? I regard it as the outcome of thoughtlessness on the part of our preachers, who should so frame their Masonic remarks as to allow of their being repeated to Freemasons in all parts of the world, no matter what their religion may be.

For the same reason I have frequently heard clerical Brethren called to order when asked to give Masonic grace at the banquet table, where they have introduced a formula which by no means coincided with the views of Jewish members present.

I think the universality of Freemasonry so desirable a feature to be maintained in its integrity that I hope you will give me the advantage of expressing my views.

Yours, &c.

MASTER MASON.

A NEW SITE FOR THE BOYS SCHOOL.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I was very pleased indeed to read in your last issue the announcement that the Prince of Wales had promised his special patronage for the Centenary Festival of the Boys School, and I hope the result of his interest in the good work will be equally satisfactory in the case of that Institution as it was with the Girls School, when he presided at the Centenary of that Charity.

I was also glad to see your suggestion that a scheme of removal to the country should form a part of the Centenary celebration. No doubt that would be a great undertaking, but there is a good time yet in which to act, and if the Committee of the School would at once set to work drawing up a preliminary programme, the Lodges and Brethren of England would know exactly what they were working for, and would perhaps be able to bring even this stupendous task to a successful issue without interfering with the ordinary flow of subscriptions to the Institutions, for I hope any special support secured for the Boys Centenary will not be detrimental to the ordinary funds.

As you have associated with this question that of an increase in the salary of the Head Master, I take the opportunity of doing the same, and freely express my opinion that the salary and allowances already given should be sufficient for what the Craft requires at present. In saying this I am sorry to even appear antagonistic to the present chief at Wood Green. I should be delighted to hear he had a handsome addition to his income, but the Masons of England ought not to be asked to provide it.

Yours, &c.,

ON THE ROAD.

LEARNING THE WORK.

THERE is an injurious notion current in the Craft that it is only necessary for the Officers of a Lodge to learn the work, while the members at large are privileged to remain in ignorance of it, without impairing either their character or their enjoyment as Masons. This is a serious, and sometimes a fatal error, retarding the progress of the Masonic bodies, subtracting from the enjoyment of the Brethren who are misled by it, and lessening their interest in the art and mystery of Freemasonry, and in their own particular Lodge. We shall do what we can, in the present article, to disabuse the minds of, possibly, some of the readers of the "Keystone" of this error, and thereby, through their influence with others, advance the best interests of our ancient and honourable Fraternity.

The work of the Craft is Freemasonry incarnate, the flesh and blood of our mystery, the personification of Masonic teachings. What the work does not teach is not taught in Freemasonry. What is not proven by it is not susceptible of proof. It is the alphabet of our system, the hornbook of the Masonic scholar, the authoritative exposition of Masonic truth, the encyclopædia of Freemasonry. There is not a lesson of Brotherly love, or of morality, or of charity, or of Masonic philosophy or religion approved by Freemasonry, that is not distinctly and symbolically taught in the work of the three degrees. This being true, it is apparent that not only has Masonic work a dignity that is acknowledged, but a power and a glory, in which every Brother of the Craft, from the loftiest to the humblest, from the oldest to the youngest, is entitled to share. Masonic work is the heritage of every newly-made Brother; it makes him a Mason, and it is an epitome of Masonry. If he does not know it he is Masonically blind, while the sunlight of Masonry is shining in his face.

It is evident that every initiate into the mystery of Freemasonry desires to understand and enjoy it. There are two propositions in this connection, which are axiomatic: (1) The Brother who does not know the work cannot understand Freemasonry; and (2) neither can he enjoy it as he should.

First, he cannot understand it. The beauty of the work is that it explains itself. There are no unanswered conundrums propounded by it; it gives no riddle of the Sphinx; but every truth taught is plainly and forcibly stated, and the reason for it is given in connection with the fact. This is the charm of Masonic work—it unfolds the mystery, it explains the art, it makes clear the principles and the philosophy of the Craft. But he who is ignorant of the work as a matter of form, necessarily cannot understand it as a matter of substance. He has but the merest smattering of Masonic knowledge, and is in truth a Freemason but in name. In all probability he cannot visit any Lodge unless he is vouched for, for how can a Brother who is ignorant of the work make his way into a Lodge?

But while, possibly, some Brethren may be willing to be ignorant of the work, all would like to enjoy all that is enjoyable in Freemasonry. Now, we assert, without fear of intelligent contradiction, that the Brother who does not know the work has debarred himself from enjoying some of the most pleasurable features of the Craft. He never has had the companionship of "that angel knowledge." He is powerless in the Fraternity, since "knowledge is power." To a Brother who knows the work, every meeting of his Lodge, when a degree is either conferred or rehearsed, is interesting. He loves to hear the work. He loves to impart it. He rejoices because he knows Freemasonry, and is an active, intelligent and happy participant in "the fellowship of the mystery."

After a candidate is received into the Fraternity, he finds that work is the only currency which the Craft accepts. When a strange visitor comes to a Lodge, it does not simply ask him where he hails from, but can he work? If he is "rusty," his place is not even in the outer courts of the Temple, but without in the company of the profane.

An eloquent writer has said, "God is a worker, and he has thickly strewn infinity with grandeur." Every Freemason should be a worker, and signalise his presence in the Craft by first learning the work, then teaching it, and always enjoying it. The enjoyment is inseparable from the knowledge.

Will not the reader be incited by what we have said to respect more than he has ever done before the work of the Craft, learn it thoroughly, and thereby understand its teachings fully; and last, and perhaps most of all, enjoy to the full the rich banquet of knowledge, the high intellectual pleasure, which flows from a familiarity with Masonic work?

What an impetus would be given to all of our Lodges if all of the members attending were working Masons! How correctly, impressively and beautifully the work would be done. How easy it would be to select a Brother for Junior Warden at the annual election! What a happy family would that be where all would know even as they were known! Happy day—when shall we see it? Soon, very soon, if Brethren everywhere would become earnest, faithful seekers after Masonic Light; or, even

on the lower level of mere personal enjoyment, would fully realise that Masonic knowledge is Masonic enjoyment. Ignorance is not bliss in Masonry. Brethren, be Masonically intelligent, learn the work, and you will be Masonically happy. —"Keystone."

MASONIC BREVITIES.

THE intellectual standard of a Lodge may be safely gauged by the number who read a Masonic periodical. It should be the duty of the W.M. and Brethren, when a strange face appears in the Lodge Room, to make the Visitor welcome, for the former are at home, while the latter is a guest.

Brothers, don't nurse hurt within your breasts; life is too short to cherish ill-will toward each other. If you have been wronged let it pass. What difference does it make when in a few years you pass hence to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns? Is it worth while to hate each other?

Silence, secrecy, and calmness of temper are the unmistakable marks of a true Mason.

We are always glad to see young members taking an active interest in the work, and qualifying themselves to step in and fill the place of any Officer who may be absent.

In this hard and money-getting age it is well to remember those good men who work for the good of their fellowman, who toil in our quarries and benefit others more than themselves. There may be glory, but there is much good done, all the same, by these worthy workers.

The old Masonic maxim about keeping silence if you have no good to talk about, is wise in more ways than one. It is couched in the interest of the talker as well as those talked about.

In eternity it will amount to more to have given a cup of cold water, with the right motives, to an humble servant of God than to have been flattered by a whole generation.

Human life is like a game of chess—each piece holds its place upon the chess board—King, Queen, Bishop, and Pawn. Death comes, his game is up, and all are thrown, without distinction, pell-mell in the same bag.—"Exchange."

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Every Friday Night. At 10.10 p.m. for Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Plymouth, Devonport, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Newquay, Truro, Falmouth, St. Ives, Penzance, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

Every Saturday. At 7.55 a.m. for Minehead (for Lynton and Lynmouth), Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Plymouth, Devonport, Newquay, Truro, Falmouth, St. Ives, Penzance, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

At 8.20 a.m. for Weston-Super-Mare, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Kingswear, Dartmouth, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

At 11.15 a.m. for Frome, Shepton Mallet, Wells, Yeovil, Bridport, Dorchester, Weymouth (for the Channel Islands), Portland, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

At 12.5 p.m. for Newbury, Marlborough, Devizes, Trowbridge, Warminster, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

At 12.35 p.m. for Clevedon, Bridgwater, Taunton, Minehead (for Lynton and Lynmouth), Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Wellington (Som.), Tiverton, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

At 3.30 p.m. for Swindon, Chippenham, Bath and Bristol, for 3, 10 or 17 days.

At 4.0 p.m. for Cirencester, Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Chepstow, Newport, Cardiff, Neath, Swansea, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

At 10.10 p.m. for Weston-Super-Mare, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Kingswear, Plymouth, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

Tickets pamphlets and lists of Farmhouse and Country Lodgings can be obtained at the Company's Stations and at the usual Receiving Offices.

HY. LAMBERT, General Manager.

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LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

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A WEEK OR FORTNIGHT IN NORTH WALES.

ON Every Saturday during July, August and September, Cheap Excursions will be run, leaving London (Euston) 8.15 a.m., and Willesden Junction 8.25 a.m., with trains in connection from Broad Street, Mansion House, Victoria, Kensington (Addison Road), for Shrewsbury, Rhyl, Abergele, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Dolgelly, Barmouth, Aberystwyth, and other stations in North Wales, for 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17 days.

For times, fares, and full particulars see small bills, which can be obtained at any of the Company's Stations and Town Offices.

FRED HARRISON, General Manager.

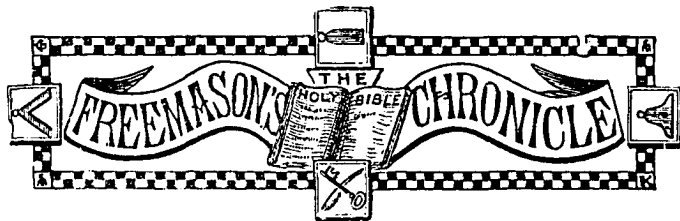
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SATURDAY, 20TH JULY 1895.

THE BOYS SCHOOL.

THE following further additions and new lists have been received in connection with the recent Festival:

LONDON.

Lodge.	Steward.	Addition of £ s. d.	Raising list to £ s. d.
169		New List.	16 0 0
RAC 1260	F. Varley	1 15 0	36 15 0
Unattached	*F. Adams	New List.	—

THE PROVINCES.

KENT.

2520 Chas. Wallington 1 1 0 71 4 6

MIDDLESEX.

2105 C. S. Stevens 10 10 0 32 11 0

NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE.

312 Rev. E. Fox Thomas 13 5 0 63 2 0

Unattached *J. H. Harrowing, J.P. New List. —

FOREIGN STATIONS.

1268 P. Rigby Nicholson New List. 43 18 10

* Amount included in Provincial or Lodge list.

CONSECRATION.

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ENGLAND'S CENTRE LODGE.

THE latest addition to the new Lodges which have been established under Lord Euston's Mastership of the Province of Northants and Hunts was consecrated at Weedon on Tuesday, 9th inst. It is named England's Centre, No. 2555, and it owes its existence largely to the initiative and energy of Bro. Lieut. W. C. Cox, who has had a large Masonic experience in Jamaica, as well as at home.

An excellent Lodge Room has been fitted up at the Horse Shoe Inn, by Mr. H. Hanson, the landlord; and on Tuesday it was very nicely decorated and arranged, the national standards forming an appropriate background to the banners of various Lodges of the Province.

The Lodge starts well, among the gifts to the Lodge being:—Holy Bible, Bro. the Rev. H. Tower; Tyler's sword, Bro. S. J. Flood, Surgeon-Major A.M.S.; Inner Guard sword, Bro. Lieutenant W. C. Cox, O.S. Department; square and compasses, Bro. E. G. Stocker, L.R.C.S.; and cushion for Bible, Miss and Master Cox.

The Consecrating Officer was Bro. E. Letchworth Grand Secretary of England, in the unavoidable absence of the Earl of Euston.

The Lodge was opened shortly before two o'clock, and the ceremony of Consecration was performed with dignity, ease, and impressiveness by the Grand Secretary, assisted by Bro. Hodgson Provincial Grand Chaplain, who gave an eloquent address on the nature and principles of the Institution. Bro. E. J. Gibbs Prov. G. Organist presided at the organ.

The new Lodge having been consecrated and dedicated, the following Brethren, who were the Founders, were appointed and invested:—Bro. S. J. Flood, Surgeon-Major A.M. Staff, 2195, W.M.; W. C. Cox, Lieut. Ord. Store Department, 2380, 445, P.M. 914, Acting P.M.; W. Smith, Sergeant-Major R.A., P.M. 2380, S.W.; James H. Morlye, P.M. 1413, J.W.; E. G. Stocker, 2380, Treasurer; C. Walsh, 873, Secretary; Rev. H. Tower, 2380, S.D.; W. G. Weston, 1093, J.D.; H. H. Jones, 743, I.G.; J. Cleland, 196, and G. O. M. Waite, 297, Stewards; G. Taylor, 215, Tyler.

The banquet was held at the Horse Shoe Inn, being provided by Host Hamson, whose catering gained the greatest satisfaction.

The new W.M. gave the Queen and Craft, and followed with the Grand Master the Prince of Wales, under whom Freemasonry had flourished all over the world. No matter, he said, where you went you would find Lodges established under the Grand Lodge of England. The other day a Lodge was constituted at Free Town on the West Coast of Africa, with a membership of negroes; and if you went to India you would find a Parsee Lodge, which those who had been present would agree was admirably worked—and that was under the Grand Lodge of England.

Bro. W. C. Cox P.M. in a few, well-chosen words, gave the health of the Prov. G.M. the Earl of Euston, the Deputy Prov. G.M. Bro. Haviland, and the Officers of Prov. Grand Lodge of Northants and Hunts. He regretted the absence of Lord Euston and Bro. Haviland, but he appropriately testified to the fact that the Provincial Grand Lodge could not be better officered. Under Lord Euston Freemasonry in the Province had widely and happily extended.

Bro. Ellard Prov. D.C., in reply, expressed, on behalf of the Officers of the Province, their warmest wishes for the success of the new Lodge. The number of candidates announced indicated that they had got a good deal of work before them, which he was satisfied from his knowledge of the Founders would be well done.

Bro. Cox said he could not, as probably the youngest Mason who had passed the chair, and as Immediate Past Master of the new Lodge, refrain at this point from asking them to drink the health of the Grand Tyler of England—Bro. Sadler, who was present that evening.

Bro. Sadler wished all success to this Anglo-Irish Lodge. He had seen much of the working of Irish Lodges, and was glad to meet with such cosmopolitan Masons as he had found in this and other like Lodges.

Bro. Buckle Prov. Grand Sec. proposed prosperity to the newly-consecrated Lodge. As almost a great grandpapa in Freemasonry he rejoiced that he had seen the number of Lodges in the Province increase from eight to fifteen. "There was," as they knew, "a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at its flood leads on to fortune." And that flood, he felt sure, they would take advantage of at Weedon. In some respects it would be a military Lodge, and being "the Centre of England," where guns and ammunition were stored, they had been established in a very important position, where he had no doubt they would do good for Masonry. He had seen a barge, possibly of cordite, as they came along; from that cordite he deduced with great humour certain lessons which gave him confidence in England's Centre Lodge, and he resumed his seat amid laughter and applause.

The W.M. Bro. Flood responded, and said it was the wish of himself and the Brethren of the Lodge that they should make the Lodge subservient to the best interests of Freemasonry.

Bro. Smith P.M. proposed the Visiting Brethren, coupled with the name of Bro. H. H. Packer, who gave a felicitous response.

Bro. Cox gave the Press, to which Bro. S. S. Campion, of the "Northampton Mercury" and the "Northampton Daily Reporter" responded. The Tyler's toast concluded the programme; several of the Brethren contributing songs to the harmony of the evening.

Telegrams of Fraternal greetings were received by Surgeon-Major Flood from Lodge Montgomery, Belfast; and Lodge 10 Belfast; besides greetings from many other quarters.—"Northampton Mercury."

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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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.

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

THE Brethren held their annual summer banquet and ladies' day at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on the 9th inst. The banquet took place in the Banqueting Room, at two o'clock, under the presidency of Bro. W. C. Thomas W.M., those present including a fair sprinkling of ladies, numbering about one hundred and twenty.

After visiting the various places of interest in the town, the company returned to the Royal Pavilion, where a dance took place in the Music Room, light refreshment being served in the North Drawing Room.

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CRAFT: PROVINCIAL.

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LODGE OF FREEDOM, No. 77.

THE original Warrant of this ancient Lodge was dated 8th June 1751, during the Grand Mastership of William, Lord Byron, when its number was 211, on the Register. Altogether it has had nine numbers granted to it. The second change was to No. 148 in 1755, and in 1770 it became 118. Owing to an error in the new numeration its fourth change raised it to No. 96, but altered to No. 97 in the following year, at which number it remained till 1792, when it was allotted No. 89. On the revision of the Roll at the Union in 1814, the Lodge became No. 113; in 1832 it became No. 91, and was finally altered to No. 77 in 1863. The centenary warrant was granted to the Lodge in 1870. With such a record it is not surprising that the annual festival occasions no small stir in the Province, and that representatives from most of the surrounding Lodges were sent to take part in the proceedings, of last Monday, when Bro. J. A. Whitfield was installed as W.M.

The Town Hall of Gravesend was placed at the disposal of the Brethren by Bro. E. Caspar Paine, mayor, who is a member of the Lodge, and was initiated therein; and a special dispensation being granted by Earl Amherst the Provincial Grand Master, the furniture was removed to the Large Hall, which formed an excellent Temple. The present and past Provincial Grand Officers were ranged upon the dais, forming an imposing body in full panoply of Masonic state, while several jewels glittered on the breasts of Brethren on the floor of the Lodge.

The Worshipful Master Bro. Thomas Nettlingham opened the Lodge punctually at half-past three, and was supported by the following Brethren: Alfred Spencer P.G.S.B. Provincial Grand Secretary of Kent, James Terry P.G.S.W.B., Wm. Russell Prov.G.Tr., R. J. Beamish P.G.D.C., J. C. Biggs P.G.D.C., G. R. Cobham G.S. of W. Essex, Joseph Hartley P.G.S.W., G. Adamson P.G.J.W., Rev. Augustus Jackson, and Rev. J. E. Player Prov. Grand Chaplains, Henry Doughty P.G.Std.Br., Thomas Deane P.G.Std.Br. Past Masters:—Joseph Solomon, George Rackstraw, W. H. Hedger, F. Teece, Orton Cooper 211, J. P. White 2402, Hy. Forss 917, C. Westwood 1343, W. J. Hayward 483, J. Driscoll 1531, J. H. Roach 1527, T. T. Hogg 483, G. A. Burrell 1424. Worshipful Masters:—T. H. Lygo 483, J. G. Turner 299, W. Dawson 829, G. Munro 1424, H. Rowley 907. Bros. Stanley, Hogg and Beamish representing Scotch Lodges, also Bros. Dr. Sells, Caspar Paine, W. Mills, Prior, Davis, Martin, &c.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, the Treasurer's report was presented showing a substantial balance, and thereby proving the prosperity of the Lodge. The chair was then taken by Bro. William Russell, who proceeded with the Installation ceremony.

The choice of the Brethren having fallen upon Brother James Albert Whitfield he was brought before the Lodge by Brother Nettlingham, and signified his assent to the ancient charges and regulations. A Board of thirty-two Installed Masters was formed, when Bro. Whitfield was regularly placed in the chair and invested his predecessor as I.P.M. Upon the re-admission of the Brethren the new W.M. was duly saluted in the various degrees, and then invested the following Brethren as his Officers for the year: R. C. Fowle S.W., W. Gunn J.W., George Rackstraw P.M. Treasurer, J. C. Biggs P.G.D.C. Secretary, Rev. Augustus Jackson, M.A., P.G.C. Chaplain, George Masters S.D., John Solomon J.D., F. W. Martin I.G., F. Hitchens P.M. D.C., Joseph Davis A.D.C., R. Matthews Organist, E. B. Wilks and A. Reid Stewards; George Martin (for the fifty-first time) was appointed Tyler. Bro. Frank Hitchens was re-appointed Charity Steward of the Lodge for the year.

When investing Bro. George Martin as Tyler for the fifty-first year the W.M. said it was a circumstance quite unique in the Masonic world, and the annals of Freemasonry had no record of a similar case. He had much pleasure in handing him the testimonial and purse of fifty sovereigns that had been subscribed by the Brethren. The testimonial ran thus:—

To BRO. GEORGE MARTIN, Tyler of the Lodge of Freedom, No. 77.

We, the undersigned members of the above Lodge, heartily congratulate you upon having completed fifty years service as Tyler. We cannot allow so interesting an event to pass unnoticed, and we therefore beg your acceptance of this address and the purse which accompanies it, a small token of our appreciation of services so long and faithfully performed. July 1895.

It was signed by Earl Amherst Prov.G.M., J. S. Eastes D.P.G.M., T. Nettlingham W.M., and by the majority of the Brethren.

As might be expected Bro. Martin was greatly overcome by this unexpected present, which had been kept a secret in order to afford him a pleasant surprise, and he said that words failed him to express his gratitude to the Brethren. He could only return his sincere thanks for their kindness, which was a reward of labour indeed. The old gentleman then shook hands with everybody in the room, and retired amid the applause of the Brethren.

Bro. Russell delivered the addresses in a very impressive manner, which subsequently obtained for him a vote of thanks from the Lodge.

The W.M. presented Bro. Nettlingham with a handsome Past Master's jewel, observing that he was held in the highest esteem and affection by the Brethren, and trusted he would long be spared to wear the jewel as a souvenir of his successful year of office.

Bro. Nettlingham suitably returned thanks, and there being no other business the Lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and the Brethren adjourned to the New Falcon Hotel, where an excellent banquet was prepared by Bro. Andrew Weatherly, the manager.

The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given, Bro. Alfred Spencer replying for the Grand Officers, and Bros. Jackson, Player and Russell for the Provincial Grand Officers.

Bro. Beamish proposed the Masonic Charities, which was acknowledged by Bro. James Terry, in one of his characteristic speeches.

Bro. Nettlingham, in eulogistic terms, gave the health of the Worshipful Master, to which Bro. Whitfield modestly responded. Bros. Turner, Driscoll, Forss, Munro, Beamish jun., and Ingram returned thanks for the Visitors, and the various Officers of the Lodge having been complimented, the interesting proceedings were brought to a termination. During the evening a capital concert was arranged by Bro. R. Matthews, in which Bros. Fred Cozens, Ceiley, Reid, and Nettlingham, and Miss E. F. Biggs, daughter of the worthy Secretary, took part.

Bro. James Albert Whitfield, the newly made W.M. of the Lodge of Freedom, No. 77, was born in 1855, at Manchester, being the son of Mr. George Whitfield of that city. He was initiated into Freemasonry on 26th May 1883, in the St. James's Lodge, No. 1579, at Enfield, Middlesex, and upon his removal to Gravesend in 1885 he became a joining member of the Lodge of which he is now Master and Almoner. In 1886 he was advanced to the Mark Degree in the Gordon Lodge, No. 364, being one of its first members. He became its Master in April 1893, and last year received the collar of Grand Junior Deacon from the Prov. Grand Mark Master of Kent. He is a life subscriber to two of the Masonic Charities, and went up as Steward to the Mark Benevolent Fund Festival on 28th July 1893.

APOLLO LODGE, No. 305.

THE annual installation meeting of this Lodge was held at Beccles, when Bro. T. A. Poll was placed at the head of affairs, the ceremony being performed by Bro. T. A. Woodroffe P.M.

PERSEVERANCE LODGE, No. 371.

ON Tuesday, 9th inst., Bro. G. W. Turney was installed at the meeting of the Lodge held in the Masonic Hall, Maryport, by Brother G. W. Kenworthy P.M. 119 P.P.S.G.W., assisted by Bro. J. C. Thompson P.M. 962 2285 P.J.G.W.

At the conclusion of the investiture the Brethren sat down to a banquet under the presidency of the Worshipful Master, who was supported by his Officers. Under Bro. Turney's rule the Lodge, it is expected, will have a prosperous year.

HOLME VALLEY LODGE, No. 652.

A NUMBER of members of this Lodge, together with Companions of the Industry Chapter, No. 652, and friends, left Holmfirth on Monday, the 15th, for the annual picnic, the trip including "a tour through the forest glades" of the Dukeries. After a journey by train to Workop, breakfast was enjoyed at the Station Hotel.

A long drive, with inspection of the different items of interest, kept the party fully employed afterwards until nearly six o'clock, when dinner was partaken of and the return train journey was commenced, the party reaching home shortly after 9 o'clock.

CAMBRIAN LODGE OF AUSTRALIA, No. 656.

THE installation of Bro. George Robinson as W.M. took place at the Lodge Rooms, Freemasons' Hall, York Street, Sydney, on Wednesday, 5th June.

The ceremony was performed by Bro. A. H. Podmore I.P.M., assisted by Bro. W. Borlaco Stevens and Bro. Dr. Maffey, Victorian Constitution, in the presence of a representative gathering of Masters and Past Masters.

Congratulations were also received from Grand Lodge of Victoria, D.G. Lodge Queensland, the D.G. Lodges of New Zealand, D.G. Lodge Transvaal, and numbers of others.

After Bro. Robinson had been conducted to the chair the Officers were invested for the year.

At the conclusion of the installation ceremony those present sat down to the banquet-table, when several toasts were honoured, including that of the W.M.

The toast of the Visitors was replied to by, amongst others, a P.M. of the New South Wales Constitution.

BENEVOLENCE LODGE, No. 666.

AT Princetown, on Wednesday, 10th inst., Brother T. C. Balkwill was installed W.M. by Bro. M. Ellis P.G.P. assisted by Bro. W. Holdstock P.P.G.P.

The Officers for the year were subsequently appointed, and the annual banquet afterwards held at the Duchy Hotel.

EVERTON LODGE, No. 823.

ON Wednesday, 17th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, this Lodge held its installation, Bro. W. Spencer being inducted into the chair of Worshipful Master.

SYDNEY LODGE, No. 829.

ON Tuesday, 9th, a meeting was held at the Black Horse Hotel, Sidcup, for the purpose of installing Bro. William Dawson, of Sidcup, as W.M. for the ensuing year. Upwards of fifty Brethren from Woolwich, Greenwich, Plumstead, Plaistow, and Sidcup attended the meeting.

The work of installation was performed in a masterly manner.

After the installation the Brethren assembled in the Vicarage gardens, for a light repast, and subsequently dined together at the Black Horse Hotel.

HUNDRED OF BOSMERE LODGE, No. 1958.

ON Wednesday, 10th inst., the annual meeting was held at the Freemasons' Hall, St. George's Square, Portsea, when Bro. W. Lindsey Pine was installed in the chair as W.M. for the ensuing year.

The ceremony of installation was impressively performed by Bro. A. Manistree I.P.M., who was afterwards awarded a hearty vote of thanks. The W.M. invested his Officers for the ensuing year.

An excellent banquet was afterwards partaken of by the members and Visitors, the toast of W.M. being proposed by Bro. A. Manistree, and suitably responded to by Bro. Pine. The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.

HORWICH LODGE, No. 2324.

ON Wednesday, the 10th instant, a party of the members of this Lodge, which is held at Horwich, spent a most agreeable day in a trip to Gisburn, the splendid weather, charming scenery, and first-class entertainment throughout the journey making the outing most enjoyable. Through the courtesy of C. B. E. Wright, Esq., the party had the pleasure of inspecting the gardens and hunting stud of Bolton Hall, which afforded all a rich treat. Gisburn Church and Sawley Abbey were other objects of interest which enhanced the day's pleasure.

ROYAL ARCH.

HENGIST CHAPTER, No. 195.

THE installation meeting took place on Wednesday, 10th inst., in the Masonic Hall, Bournemouth, under the presidency of Comp. C. T. Mile P.Z. P.P.G.S.N. Z., D. Williams H., and W. Woodhouse J.

The M.E.Z.-elect Comp. D. Williams was duly installed in the chair of Z. by Comp. H. J. Atkins P.Z. P.P.G.J., Comp. W. Woodhouse in the chair of H. by Comp. C. T. Miles, and Comp. J. J. Brazier in the chair of J. by Comp. E. W. Cross P.Z. P.P.G.S.N. The other Officers were invested.

A handsome jewel-clasp, of gold and enamels, was presented to Comp. C. T. Miles as a memento of his occupancy of the chair for the second time.

After the close of the Chapter the Companions adjourned to Stewart's Hotel, where an excellent banquet was admirably served.

The usual loyal and Arch toasts were proposed.

DE PERCY CHAPTER, No. 636.

THE annual convocation was held in the Masonic Hall, Morpeth, on Friday, 12th inst., Comp. William Davidson Z. P.G.A.S.E. presiding. There was a fair attendance of members and visitors.

After the usual initiatory business of the Chapter was gone through, Comp. John Watt and J. R. Turner were installed into the chairs of Z. and J. respectively by Comp. W. Davidson. The installation of Comp. Thomas Appleby (who was unavoidably absent) into the chair of H. was postponed until the next meeting of the Chapter.

The Chapter shortly afterwards was closed, and the company adjourned to the Queen's Hotel, where the annual banquet was held.

MARK MASONRY.

SKELMERSDALE LODGE, No. 141.

THE regular meeting of this Lodge was held at the Pitt and Nelson Hotel, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Tuesday, the 9th inst., Bro. Dr. Thomas D. Foreman W.M. There were also present:—Bros. Jno. C. Wilson S.W., J. Wagstaffe J.W. Prov.G.S.D. (Cheshire), Geo. W. Davies J.O., Jas. Bromley I.P.M., Walter Newton P.P.J.G.D. Treas., Thos. Potter P.P.G.D.C. Sec., Wyndham M. Boyd S.D., P. J. Hopley I.G., Ernest Moss P.M., J. W. Hulley P.P.G.Std.B., A. W. Siddall P.P.G.O., Joseph Leach P.M., Daniel Birkby. Visitors:—Bros. William Bee and Edward Roberts P.M.'s Craft Lodge 1459 (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE).

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bro. James Woolley Buckley, Royal Edward Lodge, No. 1088, and this being successful, the candidate was prepared and regularly advanced to the degree of Mark Mason by the W.M. Brother Bromley officiated as S.O., the other offices of O. being undertaken by Bros. Moss and Davies, whilst Bro. Boyd performed the duties of Deacon so creditably as to receive the highest commendations, not only from Bro. Foreman, but from several of the Brethren also.

The ceremony of advancement over, Bro. Foreman drew attention to the fact that Bro. Boyd, who had noticed the great difficulty under which the Lodge had hitherto laboured in being short of several articles necessary for properly conducting the ceremonies, had in a spirit of true generosity come to their aid by not only presenting them with a box of Working Tools, but also of supplying other accessories which were wanting. He expressed the gratitude of the members towards Bro. Boyd for his handsome present, a gift which had been prompted by strong attachment to his Lodge, and by pure devotion to its duties. It was an act which they could not overlook, and although Brother Boyd deprecated any mention of the matter, yet he thought it was only right that the Brethren should know to whom they were indebted for the many articles which would not only prove of the greatest utility, but which would be an adornment to the Lodge. He therefore had very great pleasure in proposing a formal vote of thanks to Bro. Boyd for his gift.

The proposition was seconded by Bro. Walter Newton in an able speech, and supported by Bro. Siddall.

At the festive board which followed, Loyal and Mark toasts were proposed and honoured, that of the Provincial Officers being responded to by Bros. Wagstaffe and Hulley.

In reply to that of the W.M., ably proposed by Brother Wilson, Brother Foreman said that he thanked the Brethren for their hearty and unanimous acceptance of the toast of his health. He had been highly delighted with the work of the evening, which reflected great credit upon the Officers, whom he mentioned individually. With regard to himself, he was willing at all times to perform every function demanded of him in connection with

Masonry, or indeed to help on every occasion in adding to the harmony of the ceremonies. Before sitting down he would take the opportunity of proposing the health of the newly-advanced Brother, congratulating him upon his connection with the Mark degree. Brother Buckley was young, although perhaps not inexperienced, and he would now have an opportunity of observing and copying many Brethren then sitting around that board who were a credit to Masonry. He spoke as a Mason of twenty-nine years standing, and therefore as one who had some experience. He concluded by saying that from the energy and enthusiasm displayed by the candidate, he believed Brother Buckley would make a good Mark Mason. Bro. Buckley responded.

Bro. Wagstaffe proposed the health of the Visitors. He said that he had frequently met Brother Bee, who was well known on account of the great interest which he took in the Craft. Of Bro. Roberts he said that he had never to his knowledge met him before, although he had often heard of him. He spoke of the great influence wielded by the press, and added that through the columns of the Masonic papers the Brethren were kept au courant of what was taking place. On behalf of the Lodge he accorded the visitors a hearty welcome, and hoped that this would not be their last visit to Ashton. Bros. Bee and Roberts replied.

Other toasts followed, the proceedings being enlivened by songs and recitations contributed by various Brethren.

We may add that the remarks of Bro. Foreman with reference to Bro. Boyd are, to our mind, quite justified, for the latter, who is an indefatigable worker, and unceasing in his researches into Masonic lore, has prepared a series of short papers for delivery in Lodges, which embrace such diverse subjects as a history of Freemasonry; Certain defects in our present Masonic system; The Masonic Apron; The Theological Ladder; The origin of the Legend in the Third Degree, &c.

INSTRUCTION.

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FRIARS LODGE, No. 1349.

AT the Plough Tavern, Bow Road, on Monday, 1st inst., there was a large attendance to support Bro. P.M. David Moss, who presided, with Bro. B. Da Costa P.M. 1349 acting as I.P.M.

After an instructive evening's work, which included the rehearsal of the fifteen Sections, the I.P.M. proposed the health of the W.M., and that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded him, the same to be inscribed upon the minutes of the Lodge, for the excellent manner he had presided that evening. He said how much pleasure it gave him to be in the position that night to do so, in the fact of Bro. Moss being the cause of the knowledge he had in Freemasonry. He also ascribed his position in the Lodge as I.P.M. to Bro. Moss, as in the years gone by, whenever he was invited to work the Sections, he always desired to have him as I.P.M.

Brother P.M. Yetton seconded the proposition, says the "East London Observer," and said he considered the night was one of welcome to England to Bro. Moss, and he knew he had the feelings of the whole of the Brethren in wishing their Brother, on his return to South Africa, God-speed, health, long life, and prosperity.

Bro. P.M. Eschwege, in supporting, said he was pleased to be present to assist Bro. Moss that night, and it gave him additional pleasure from the fact that he accompanied Bro. Moss on his first journey to South Africa; and it showed the W.M.'s love of Freemasonry, for he assisted to work the Sections to the Brethren abroad, on the voyage out. He wished their Brother a safe return, and expected it would not be long before they would again meet in South Africa.

Bro. Stewart P.M., in announcing to the W.M., said he was gratified in doing so, having worked together so many years to disseminate their knowledge of Freemasonry. He wished to supplement the proposition by adding that the thanks of the Brethren be embodied in a letter to show their appreciation to Bro. Moss, who, during his short stay in England, had given up so much of his time to Freemasonry.

Bro. Moss P.M., who spoke with some emotion, thanked all present for the support he had received. Everyone acquainted with him knew his love of Freemasonry, and he exhorted the younger Brethren to attend Lodges of Instruction as often as they possibly could, so as to hear and learn the beautiful ritual. He had the word of Bro. Terry Secretary of the funds for the "old people" that a very large percentage to the charities came from Lodges of Instruction. He said Bro. Eschwege was right in alluding to his love of Freemasonry. On his first voyage to Africa, in the ship "Moor," he soon found that Captain Griffin was a Freemason, and the Sections were worked and impressed the captain, it being the first time he had heard them. He had met the captain since at Natal, and he informed him that he never now missed the opportunity. He also informed the Brethren that he started a Lodge of Instruction at Johannesburg, though it did not meet with success at first, but he persevered, and since that time a Masonic Temple has been built, and attendances were increasing. The greatest difficulty he had to contend with was the different nationalities, and their imperfect knowledge of English. Bro. Moss then thanked the Brethren who had assisted him in working the Sections.

Bro. Stewart P.M. responded for the workers.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

A correspondent of the "Weekly Register" writes as follows:—

SIR,—Is it not somewhat odd that the meeting of "The English Church Union," as reported in your last issue, when Lord Halifax, as President, spoke in such eulogistic terms of Leo XIII., and in so sanguine a tone as to the hopes of "re-union," should have been held in "The Freemasons' Tavern?" What may follow? The submission of the English Freemasons to the Pope, with a request that His Holiness should himself be the Universal Grand Master, with Cardinal Vaughan for English Grand Master, as Cardinal Wolsey was? A glorious prospect. The practical Craftsmen might give their manual labour in building the new Cathedral, and the theoretical Masons could easily supply the funds.

Yours truly,
HIRAM ABIFF.

A DESIRABLE PUBLICITY.

IT is not as an unknown quantity that Freemasonry is represented in its organic life and expression. Its character, purposes, and benign ministries are made known by its laws and approved methods of procedure, over which no veil of secrecy is thrown. Any persons who have sufficient interest to make a careful examination of printed records, reports, forms, requirements, &c., can satisfy themselves as to the character of the Masonic institution, both as regards the system itself, in its most important features, and the manner in which it is applied and administered as a social and fraternal organisation.

The secrets of Freemasonry are few. It is well that they are no more. It is quite sufficient that there should be the secret means of identifying members of the Masonic Fraternity among themselves, and a sacred guarding of certain portions of the Masonic ceremonies, which would lose something of their charm and impressiveness were they proclaimed upon the housetops or enacted in public. Beyond the lines thus indicated there is but little call to secrecy. Indeed, as already intimated, there is a desirable publicity for Freemasonry. Not that it should obtrude itself upon the public notice, or seem to compete with the multitude of societies and orders which claim the attention of the community by frequent announcements in the secular press, and by somewhat wearisome accounts in the daily papers of meetings and work. There is no call for the Masonic organisation thus to advertise itself. It will do better to follow the long established practice of holding itself in reserve, not seeking to tell to the public the full story of its benevolent ministries—its offerings to the sick and the poor.

But it may and should so declare itself as to make evident the ideas, principles, and purposes, which have prevailing force in the shaping and applying of the Masonic system, together with a sufficient setting forth of what is being done and attempted under its direction, and by use of its influence and resources. These things should be known; or, at least, they should be within the reach of all who care to examine Freemasonry as a system and become acquainted with its fruitage. This is desirable publicity.

It is because the character of Freemasonry is so well known by those outside the lines of the Fraternity—because its aims and purposes, so frequently affirmed, are understood and approved by the general public—that the occasional opposition to which our organisation is subjected fails to have much effect. In America and Great Britain every attempt that is made to show that Freemasonry is an enemy of social order and good government, or an unworthy bond of alliance and protection as applied to its own members, falls ludicrously flat, because the public have enough information regarding the Fraternity to lead them to form a different conclusion. Sensible people in any English speaking community cannot be brought to believe that Masons meet together to plot against Church or State, or that the "secrets" of the Fraternity pertain to any binding of the conscience or the will unlawfully. The people know that Freemasonry makes open avowal of its principles and purposes, that in the face of such an avowal, and the general publicity given to the movements of this institution, there can be no conspiracy against the government, or the peace and good order of society.—"Freemasons Repository."

A neat little pocket diary has recently been issued by the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, compiled by Brother J. Morrison McLeod as a handy reference for subscribers to the Institution. Besides giving the dates of the various meetings, it affords information respecting the Board of Management, the different Committees, and many items of interest respecting the School, its Officers and the Boys. The diary may be obtained gratis upon application to Brother McLeod, at Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

Maria Deraismes, the champion of the rights of women, and who died a few months ago, has been highly honoured by the Municipal Council of Paris. A street in the Saint-Ouen district has been called after her, and her bust has been placed in a public garden in the same locality. Senators, Deputies, Municipal Councillors, and a host of persons of both sexes connected with the Woman's Rights movement attended the baptism of the street and the unveiling of the bust, which is the work of a lady sculptor, says the "Daily Telegraph." There were also present the members of the Women's Masonic Lodge called the Droit Humain.

M. Louis Martin deftly tries to kill two foes with one stone. His arrow is steeped in Anglophobia and anti-Semitism. He asks: "Is the Englishman a Jew," and his book is his answer to his title (*L'Anglais est-il un Juif?* Paris, A Savine, 1895). It is

a long and furious attack on the English, the Huguenots, the Jews, and the Freemasons, who constitute the microbes that are eating away the health of modern society. Freemasonry robbed France of her colonies and gave them to England; Freemasonry laid France at the feet of Germany in 1870. England is the home of Freemasonry. Freemasonry opens its friendly doors to Jews, the Huguenots were children of Judaism, hence the author's thesis is proved. Then the Anglo-Israel theory is utilised as a make weight, and the result is ruin to France.—
"Jewish Chronicle."

PRINCE EDWARD OF YORK.

23rd June 1895.

HAIL to the sire of kings unborn!
Hail to the scion, our king to be!
Where is the laureate to greet him this morn?
Alas! for our native minstrelsy.
A gentle poet on this day died;*
Our English Prince was on this day born;
Only a year has passed since then,
Peaceful and quiet from eve to morn.
Eastern empires in throes of war;
Rumours of Churches rent in twain;
Disasters many by sea and land;
A world of mystery, pleasure and pain.
But only a wealth of love for him;
A round of service and duteous care;
Swiftly the days have passed away,
Tending the babe that is England's heir.
Hail to the little Prince Edward of York!
Hail to thee, our fair Princess May!
England is watching with loving gaze,
Greeting thee, Princess, this festal day.

EMRA HOLMES.

* Mark Akenside, author of the poem on Pleasures of the Imagination. Died 1770.

THE CYPHER.

THE "Tyler," of Detroit, publishes an opinion from the "Trestleboard," of San Francisco, and comments as below. It is emphatically the Wisconsin idea:

"We believe every Mason, be he a Grand Master, Grand Lecturer or

Inspector, or Grand Secretary, who uses, or permits to be used, a written or printed cypher or copy of the esoteric work of Masonry, should be expelled from the Order, as were the two Brethren in Massachusetts last year. In our mind there is no palliation for the offence, concerning which every Brother is made acquainted at his initiation. And further, we believe that the Grand Lodge that winks at so flagrant a violation of obligations should be despised by all honourable Masons. We are unable to see any justification whatever for such a breach of faith, and it is no worse for an individual to violate law than for a Grand Lodge."

We indorse this protest fully and without any reservation. The time was when the hayloft, the attic, the cellar, or out in the thicket, was the place to impart and receive instruction in the esoteric part of Freemasonry, and always orally conveyed. Now laziness on the one hand, and the simplifying of the Grand Lecturer's work has brought out the "key" business and given to Freemasonry what the "pony" is to the slothful college student. We, too, boldly assert that to sanction or use a key is a glaring infraction upon the first Masonic obligation taken, and should render the man permitting or using it subject to expulsion, whether he be Grand Master or Grand full private. Who authorised any man, or body of men, to wilfully transgress his first obligation? We may whip the devil round the stump all we have a mind to, but the fact remains that the man who made the first key and the man who made the last are equally guilty of a violation of his Masonic oath. "Common usage" can make a trull of the most holy and sacred matters intrusted to our keeping, and so with this book of Masonic initials, which should be learned and burned, and all future efforts in the direction of making a mockery of a Masonic obligation should be met with the utmost rigour of Masonic discipline.—"Masonic Tidings."

FREEMASONS AND ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

A MOTION in the name of Bro. William Woodward stood on the agenda paper at the Quarterly meeting of the Grand Lodge on Wednesday, 5th ult., in reference to the proposition that the Freemasons of England should undertake the decoration of the dome and transepts of St. Paul's. It appears that by some misunderstanding Mr. Woodward was not present to support his motion, and the matter was therefore not discussed. The next meeting of Grand Lodge will be held on 4th September next, when the resolution will be again brought forward. In Masonic circles the idea is meeting with the widest support, and there seems every reason to believe that the movement will be forwarded with considerable enthusiasm. It is greatly to be hoped that the proposition may be turned into actual fact before the end of the year. The cost of the work contemplated will be large, and a patriotic and national movement such as that now proposed can alone secure the completion of the work within our generation.—"City Press."

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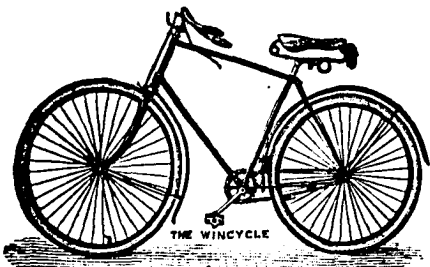
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Wednesday (Matinée), Thursday and Friday,
Macbeth. Saturday, Nance Oldfield, &c.

Terry's.—8.15, A woman's no. 9, The Passport.
Matinée, Wednesday, 3.

Globe.—8, The Journey's End. 9, Charley's Aunt.
Prince of Wales's.—7.50, A Woman's Caprice.
8.30, Gentleman Joe. Matinée, Thursday, 3.

Haymarket.—8.15, Fedora (Last night).

Gaiety.—8, The Shop Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.

Daly's.—Midsummer Night's Dream.

Criterion.—8.25, The Home Secretary (Last night).

Adelphi.—8, The Girl I left behind me.

Court.—8.0, A near shave. 8.45, Vanity Fair.
Matinée, Wednesday.

Comedy.—8.20, The Prude's Progress.

Lytic.—8.15, The revised version of An Artist's Model.
Vaudeville.—8.30, Between the Posts. 9.0, The
Strange Adventures of Miss Brown.

Alhambra.—8, Variety Entertainment. Grand
Ballets, Living Pictures, &c. 8.48, Ali Baba.

Empire.—7.45 Variety Entertainment. 10.10, Faust.

Palace.—7.50, Variety Entertainment, Ballets, &c.

Oxford.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. Matinée,
Saturday, 2.30.

Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Matinée, Saturday,
2.30.

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