

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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MULTIPLE CEREMONIES.

IN many of the affairs of life phenomenal successes very often prove to be but the first step towards failure or decay, and in this respect Masonic Lodges are no exception to a rule that is recognised on all sides, as many Brethren can doubtless testify from personal knowledge, either of Lodges with which they have themselves been associated, or with others they have learnt the private history of through their friends.

It is for this reason one so often hears the expression that a small, compact Lodge is much more desirable than one in which the membership is extensive, for in the one every member is acquainted with his fellows, and so really feels at home in their company, while in the other the Brethren are often comparative strangers to each other, and cannot feel the same spirit of Brotherhood as is the case in the smaller circle; but this feature may not prove so ready a source of weakness as some other of the attendants of great success, as among the large number of members there are frequently one or more sections or divisions of united Brethren, who make it their business to see the Lodge proceeds fairly on its course, and use every effort on their part to introduce the less familiar members to each other—very often with the best of results.

A frequent danger from great success in Freemasonry is to be found in the lack of care displayed in rendering the different ceremonies, with the effect that the early tuition of the Brethren is neglected, and the usual results ensue from building on a faulty foundation. This evil most frequently shows itself in what may be termed Multiple Ceremonies, when a number of Candidates are initiated, passed or raised at the same time, with results not only confusing to the candidates themselves, and irritating to the general body of members of the Lodge, but really dangerous to the Order at large, by bringing its ceremonies and ritual into contempt, in consequence of the general jumble up of such proceedings.

The present is by no means the first occasion attention has been devoted to this subject in the pages of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE—it is an old and well recognised evil, so much so that most of the Brethren who really take an interest in maintaining the high character of Freemasonry will not permit, if it is in their power to prevent, the more important portions of our ceremonies being carried through with more than one candidate at a time. Should there be two or more candidates for initiation, or advancement to the second or third degree, the proper course is to take each separately, and that is the method more usually adopted among those who really study to keep up a reputation for careful and proper working.

It would seem that the evil of Multiple Ceremonies is not practiced in this country only, for we find that as far away as the State of Maine the Grand Master of that Jurisdiction devotes attention to it, and in his annual address expresses himself strongly on the practice recently introduced

there of conferring degrees on "classes of candidates;" the old usage, and what he considers to be the evident meaning of the ritual, requiring that every candidate should go himself, and alone, through every part of the ceremonies.

The need for directing attention to the necessity for every candidate himself going through every part of the ceremonies is manifest when we witness two or more candidates passing their examination before being promoted to a superior degree. It is no uncommon thing, under such conditions, to hear the questions put to the different candidates in turn, and although that course may be no more objectionable than allowing all to answer simultaneously, we regard it as a by no means satisfactory method of dealing with a difficulty created by excessive prosperity.

Returning to our American item we find it is set down that the practice of Multiple Ceremonies originated in Maine at the commencement of the Civil War, when all over the State the rush of candidates to the Lodges was unprecedented, but we doubt if any so recent a period can be associated with its adoption in this country, where we fear it has become too deeply rooted to hope that it will ever be eradicated. Our contemporary "The Mallet," writing in the "Glasgow Evening News," refers to this subject in so far as it affects Scotland, where it is as prevalent, perhaps more so than anywhere else, there even being no restriction there as to the number of candidates who may be initiated at one time, but perhaps our Scottish Brethren will make an improvement in this direction, and introduce a law on the subject in the code now being prepared, which will bring the practice under that Jurisdiction more in accord with other parts of the world. It is very gratifying to see the leaders of Scottish Freemasonry so continually touching on these points, as it is evidence of a desire among those in power to improve that portion of the Order that owes allegiance to the Grand Lodge of their country.

CORNWALL.

THE Mark Grand Lodge of Cornwall is to assemble in the Old Grammar School, Lostwithiel, on Tuesday next, 30th inst., at 1:30 p.m., under the banner of Lodge Lebanon, No. 325, warranted in 1883. Brother Sir Charles B. Graves-Sawle, Bart., the esteemed Provincial Grand Master will preside, and doubtless will be proposed for the same honourable office for the ensuing three years, says the "Western Morning News." The Province was formed in 1867, with the late Sir F. Martin Williams, Bart., as the first Provincial Grand Master, and then consisted of four Lodges. There are now thirteen Lodges—held in Redruth, Truro, Hayle, Falmouth, Chacewater, Helston, Newquay and St. Columb, St. Austell, Lostwithiel, East Looe, Liskeard, Penzance, and Camborne; the last mentioned dating from 1890. A vote of condolence will be proposed to the widow and family of the lamented Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and then the ordinary business will be transacted. The meeting is an important one, and it is hoped the Brethren will do their best to attend. Arrangements have been made with the Great Western Railway Company for tickets, first and second class, at a single fare and quarter for the double journey.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE July meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday evening. Bro. Robert Grey presided during the early part of the sitting, but as he had another engagement later on General Frederick Gadsden, the next Senior Grand Officer present, took his place for the remainder of the evening. Bro. D. D. Mercer P.G.P. acted as Senior Vice President, and Brother S. Vallentine P.G.P. as Junior Vice President. Bro. Letchworth G.S., with Brothers W. Dodd and W. H. Lee attended from the Secretarial Department, and there was a large muster of Masters and Past Masters.

There were forty petitions for relief before the Brethren, but four of these were deferred and one was dismissed. The remainder were voted a total of £870. One petitioner was recommended to Grand Lodge for a sum of £50, there were six recommendations to the Grand Master for £40 each, and eight for £30 each. Fourteen of the petitioners were relieved with immediate grants of £20 each, and six with grants of £10 each.

ESSEX.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Grays, on the 17th inst., and was in every way a great success.

The Brethren of the St. John's Lodge, No. 1343 entered very heartily into the matter, and, headed by their Worshipful Master Brother C. Westwood, with Brother H. C. Borradaile as Secretary, did all in their power to render the occasion a red-letter day in the annals of the Province. The Masonic Hall, where the meeting was held, was adorned with the banners of the various Lodges, while the route from the station thereto was gay with bunting, and stretching across the road was a streamer with the sentiment, "Long live the Earl."

The Prov.G.M. the Earl of Warwick arrived at Grays Station from Easton Lodge at 1.30, accompanied by the D.P.G.M. Bro. Fred A. Philbrick, Q.C. (Recorder of Colchester), Col. Lockwood, M.P., Sir Wm. Neville Abdy, Bart., Brothers Lennox Browne P.D.G.D.C., Richard Clowes P.G.Std.B., C. E. Egerton-Green W.M. 51 Prov.G.Treas. (Mayor of Colchester), and other distinguished Brethren. The party were met at the station by Brother Westwood W.M. 1343, and the Provincial G. Secretary (Bro. Ralling), and escorted to the place of meeting.

By 2.30, at which hour the business of the day commenced, the Masonic Hall was filled to its utmost capacity, and when the Earl of Warwick accompanied by his Officers entered the hall, they were greeted with the utmost cordiality.

The minutes of the last annual Provincial Grand Lodge (at Kelvedon) having been read and confirmed, the Prov. Grand Sec. stated that letters expressing regret at their inability to attend had been received from Lord Henniker P.G.M. Suffolk, Lord Suffield P.G.M. Norfolk, Lord Amherst P.G.M. Kent, Lord George Hamilton P.G.M. Middlesex, the Rev. C. J. Martyn D.P.G.M. Suffolk, Bro. Hamon Le Strange D.P.G.M. Norfolk, J. S. Eastes D.P.G.M. Kent, R. H. Thrupp D.P.G.M. Middlesex, J. E. Le Feuvre D.P.G.M. Hants., E. Letchworth G. Sec., Col. Lambert P.G.D. Eng., N. Tracy Prov.G.Sec. Suffolk, G. W. Barnard Prov.G.Sec. Norfolk, Howard Room Prov.G. Secretary Middlesex, Andrew Durrant P.P.G.Treas., John Mann 51 P.P.G. Sec., R. Howard Ives P.M. 51 P.P.A.G.Sec., &c.

The roll of the Lodges was called by the Provincial Grand Secretary, and it was found that all were represented.

The report of the Board of General Purposes, a copy of which having been sent to each member of P.G.L. was taken as read, was presented by Brother John J. C. Turner P.P.S.G.W. Chairman of the meeting of the Board at which it was agreed to. This report showed that the accounts for the year had been audited, and that after payment of all expenses there was a balance in hand on the general account of £148 3s 7d, and on the Charity account of £36 4s 4d. The returns from the Lodges showed the strength of the Province to be 1,877 against 1,862 last year. The Board recommended the payment of the following grants:—From the General Fund—A donation of twenty guineas to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; a like sum to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; and five guineas to the funds of the Grays Elementary Schools. From the Charity Fund—A donation of twenty guineas to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The report also contained a suggestion than in future there should be a cold luncheon before the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, in preference to a hot banquet in the middle of the afternoon.

Some discussion ensued upon the last paragraph, and eventually it was decided that the question should be left to the entertaining Lodge.

The report was then adopted, and it was decided that the portrait to be inserted in the next calendar should be that of Bro. John J. C. Turner.

The Report of the Charity Committee was presented, and showed that during the year two Girls, two Boys, and two Widows had been elected in the respective Institutions. The report was adopted, a special vote of thanks being passed to the Charity Representatives for the excellent work they had done.

The Provincial Grand Master then addressed the Brethren, referring to the pleasure he felt at meeting them at these anniversary meetings when they were, with himself, actuated by the one desire that Freemasonry should be prosperous in the Province, and that the greatest amity and cordiality should exist amongst them. The years during which he had had the honour of being at the head of the Order in Essex were telling up, and each year he felt if possible more thankful for the cordial and kind support they always gave him, and proud of the position of the Order in Essex. Referring to the report of the Board of General Purposes, his Lordship said that though the returns did not show a very large increase in the number of members, it was satisfactory that in these hard times there was no decline. He was glad they were able to give so good grants to the charities, and to maintain generally their support to those noble Institutions. He found that during the past year the Province had contributed about £1,100 to the funds of the three great charities. About one half of this had gone to the Boys School, but he hoped that the authorities of the other Institutions would not think they wished to support one charity at the expense of the others, as he believed it would be found that taking one year with another the average would show that they had endeavoured to give equal liberal support to all of them. In conclusion his lordship expressed his great regret that the Secretary of the Lodge under whose auspices they were met was prevented by illness from being present. He felt sure he was expressing all their wishes when he said he trusted that Bro. Cobham's restoration to health might be speedy and complete.

The next business was the election of the Board of General Purposes for the ensuing year. There were six nominations for the four vacancies, and on a ballot being taken the following were elected, viz., Bros. W. E. Dring, Rev. Thomas Lloyd, W. D. Merritt, and J. J. C. Turner.

For the post of Provincial Grand Treasurer there was but one nomination, Bro. Nathaniel Fortescue P.M. 2374, and he was unanimously elected.

The Provincial Grand Master then announced amidst hearty applause that Bro. F. A. Philbrick had kindly assented to continue to act as his Deputy, and he heartily thanked him for the great assistance he was in the work of the Province. His Lordship then appointed and invested the Officers for the year as under:—

Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., W.M. 2504	-	Senior Warden
F. S. Guy I.P.M. 1343	-	Junior Warden
Rev. F. Haslock Chap. 1343	-	Chaplain
Millner Jutsum P.M. 2154	-	Registrar
Thomas J. Ralling P.A.G.D.C. Eng., P.M. and Sec. 51 (19th year)	-	Secretary
A. G. S. Manning P.M. 2006	-	Senior Deacons
R. Kershaw W.M. 2374	-	
Harold Francis P.M. 51	-	Junior Deacons
F. Lubbock Jermyn I.P.M. 2005	-	
J. J. Briginshaw P.M. 2256	-	Superintendent of Works
A. Lucking P.G.P. Eng. (22nd year)	-	Director of Ceremonies
J. G. Hammond I.P.M. 2184	-	Deputy Director of Cors.
A. F. Lay P.M. 2501	-	Assistant Director of Cors.
Robert Pitt W.M. 433	-	Sword Bearer
S. Winter Parker P.M. 650	-	Standard Bearers
W. A. S. Staley I.P.M. 2442	-	
J. G. Wingrove Org. 1343	-	Organist
C. Williams P.M. 276	-	Assistant Secretary
W. Carter Wood I.P.M. 1734	-	Pursuivant
J. Starling P.M. 2063	-	Assistant Pursuivant
Charles Westwood W.M. 1343	-	Stewards
G. N. Watson I.P.M. 697	-	
G. W. Randall I.P.M. 1799	-	
F. J. Cumine W.M. 1000	-	
S. Pricor W.M. 1817	-	
F. W. Pelling S.W. 1343	-	
A. W. Martin	-	Tyler.

Bro. F. S. Guy Prov.J.G.W. was elected a member of the Charity Committee, in the place of Bro. J. H. Vaux deceased.

The D.P.G.M. proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Brethren of the local Lodge for the excellent arrangements they had made for the reception of Provincial Grand Lodge. If they had been "popular candidates" the town could not have looked more gay, and he felt sure that all must have devoted considerable time and labour to the work of preparation.

Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., S.G.W. said he did not know anything about "popular candidates," but he should be pleased to second the vote of thanks.

The resolution having been carried by acclamation, Bro. C. Westwood W.M. 1343 thanked the Brethren for their kind acknowledgment of the efforts they made to render the day's proceedings a success.

The Provincial Grand Master having announced that the meeting next year will be held at Maldon, the proceedings ended.

About 140 Brethren subsequently dined together in the National Schools, under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master.—“Essex Standard.”

A pleasing feature of the day's proceedings was the presentation to the new Provincial Grand Treasurer Brother N. Fortescue of full dress and undress Provincial clothing, by Bro. Bromhead I.P.M., on behalf of the members of the Ixion Lodge, No. 2501. Bro. Fortescue expressed sincere thanks for the gift, and gratification at the kindness displayed by the members of the Lodge.

NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE.

ON Wednesday, 24th inst., the Marquis of Zetland held his Provincial Lodge at the Public Rooms, Selby, under the banner of and at the invitation of St. Germain's Lodge, No. 566, representatives from almost every Lodge in the Province being present.

The Lodge having been opened in due form, the Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. M. C. Peck (Humber Lodge, 57) reported that the Benevolence Board, which had sat earlier in the afternoon, had made six grants, varying from £10 to £20, to deserving cases.

The Provincial Grand Officers for the year were appointed as follow:

Bro. Major J. A. Barstow	-	-	-	Senior Warden
Geo. H. Anderton	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. C. E. L. Wright, M.A.	-	-	-	} Chaplains
Rev. F. J. Griffiths, M.A.	-	-	-	
Dr. A. E. Kessen	-	-	-	Registrar
M. C. Peck	-	-	-	Secretary
G. E. Stephenson	-	-	-	} Senior Deacons
Wm. A. Bruce	-	-	-	
J. W. Tindall	-	-	-	} Junior Deacons
F. W. Wardill	-	-	-	
G. W. Hudson	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
Dr. Hy. Foster	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
Sydney Smith	-	-	-	Deputy Dir. of Cers.
J. G. Wallace	-	-	-	Assist. Dir. of Cers.
W. Storey	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
W. T. Newcomb	-	-	-	} Standard Bearers
J. E. Lupton	-	-	-	
T. B. Redfearn	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
Peter Gaskell	-	-	-	Organist
C. Greensides	-	-	-	Pursuivant
H. Watson	-	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
F. J. Lambert	-	-	-	Tyler.

On the motion of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, a donation of 100 guineas was made from the fund of Benevolence of the Province to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Communications having been taken from the several Lodges, which were mostly of a very satisfactory character, a procession was formed, and the Brethren accompanied the Prov. Grand Master to the Abbey Church, in full Craft clothing, where a short service was held.

The prayers were intoned by the vicar of Selby (Bro. the Rev. A. G. Tweedie, M.A.), assisted by the Rev. W. P. Schaffter (vicar of St. James', Selby), the lessons being read by the Prov. Grand Chaplain Bro. Rev. C. E. L. Wright, M.A. (York). The anthem was specially written for the festival by the Organist of Selby Abbey (Bro. F. W. Sykes, Mus. Bac., P.M. 566 P.P.G.O.), and was taken from 1st Peter, iii, 8, “Be ye all of one mind,” &c., of which the choir, under the conductorship of Brother H. Eggleshaw P.M. Sec. 566, gave an excellent rendering.

The sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. H. C. Coryndon Baker, D.D., P.P.G. Chaplain, who founded an eloquent discourse on 1st Kings, vi, 7. The offertory is to be divided between the Educational Fund of the Province and the Benevolent Fund of the St. Germain Lodge. At the conclusion of the service the procession returned to the Lodge Room, where the Provincial Grand Master delivered his annual address.

The noble Marquis said that in January last he, as Prov. Grand Master, had the honour of laying the copestone of the Seamen's Institute at Middlesbrough, when, notwithstanding the inclement weather, the ceremony passed off with great eclat. On the 29th March last occurred the lamented death of the Right Worshipful Bro. Thomas Wm. Tew P.Prov. Grand Master of West Yorkshire, to which sad event he had alluded more particularly at the Provincial Grand Chapter last May. The fourth festival of the Educational Fund of the Province was held at York on the 23rd May, when about £540 was realised. There were now twenty-five children receiving the benefit of that useful fund, at a cost of £188 per annum. It was most encouraging to observe that although they were active in promoting that local fund the claims which the central Masonic charities had upon them were duly regarded, and their vote that day showed that the Brethren were desirous of repaying in some degree the benefits which the Province was receiving from those Institutions from which they received so much. It was trusted that the Lodges would make a determined effort to support the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution as the particular charity which had

been selected for that year's adoption. In conclusion his lordship expressed the thanks of himself and of the Provincial Grand Lodge to the Worshipful Master and members of St. Germain's Lodge for their kindness and hospitality and for the excellent arrangements for their convenience, to the Rev. P.Prov. Grand Chaplain for his admirable discourse, to P.Prov. Grand Organist for his beautiful and appropriate anthem, and the Rev. the Vicar of Selby for granting the use of the Abbey Church for the service.

A banquet was subsequently held at the Londesborough Hotel, at which the Provincial Grand Master presided, and was attended by upwards of sixty Provincial Officers and Brethren.—“Yorkshire Herald.”

CONSECRATION.

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STOKE NEWINGTON LODGE.

THIS new London Lodge was consecrated on Monday, at the Assembly Rooms, Defoe Road, Stoke Newington, among the Officers who assisted being the Rev. R. J. Simpson P.G. Chaplain, who delivered the following Oration:

We read in the Volume of the Sacred Law that when the men of Israel and Judah were appealed to by God through His prophet Micah, they replied by enquiring what sacrifices they should make in order to please the Lord, whether costly burnt offerings or thousands of rams, or thousands of rivers of oil, or their children's lives offered on the altar? The answer received through the prophet was “What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

We Masons know there is no source from which “the principles of Masonry” can be so clearly learnt as from “the Sacred Law,” and perhaps there is no single sentence of that volume which conveys more tersely or comprehensively than this the great principles which should distinguish our venerable Order—summing up as they do the moral law embodied in the ten commandments, “to do justly” and “to love mercy” embracing the second table, while “to walk humbly with our God” represents the first.

“To do justly.” How often does the inculcation of justice occur in the course of our beautiful Ritual? and, Brethren, is it not rightly so, for this is one of the holy bonds which help to bind, not only Mason to Mason, but man to man, nation to nation—it enters into the relations of family life, into the transactions of commerce, into the foundations of national safety and international Brotherhood.

For instance, it is said to be the strongest tie that links the Empire of India to her conquerors, while the pure administration of justice at home is said to be the best security for peace and order in our own United Kingdom. It can therefore be no wonder if this truly Masonic virtue, which brings such blessings on a vast scale, contributes very sensibly to promote respect and confidence amongst individual men, and not least amongst Masons and Masonic Lodges. To give to everyone, whether superiors, equals, or inferiors, their due, to do to our Brother Masons in all things what is equal and right, not to oppress nor defraud any, not to hurt them by word or deed, not to injure them in their persons, their property, or their good name, these are features in a true Mason's life which far surpass a score of brilliant traits, extensive knowledge or showy professions. “The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more into the perfect day.”

But if “to do justly” constitutes a firm bond amongst us, how much more “to love mercy,” or, in our own phrase, to practice charity?

You, my Brothers, have no need I should remind you of our three glorious Masonic Charities, by which the aged, the widow, and the fatherless are bountifully aided—Charities which in their munificent support hold the highest rank in the records of philanthropy—but let me remind you and myself that our charity as men and Masons must cover a wider field than gifts of money. How happy would it be if this divine virtue in its most comprehensive sense, bringing down the life of heaven upon earth, was always the guiding star in our Lodges and in the world—a man may have little money, and yet much charity. Gold is not God, but God is love.

It is said that half the sins of a man's life are those of the tongue—if this be at all near the truth, it is clear that “words that may do hurt” are serious breaches of the Sacred Law and stumbling blocks on the road to the Grand Lodge above. To judge fairly of the words, acts or motives of our Brothers is indeed a difficult and a dangerous task. On what slight grounds an evil report is started! how swiftly it spreads! how much it gains as it goes! But it is not only the thief that mercilessly steals his neighbour's character that is guilty, but the receiver

who shares the spoils. Our immortal dramatist has put the whole case well—

“Who steals my purse, steals trash : . . .
But he that filches from me my good name,
Robs me of that, which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed.”

Alas! it is too true that there is in most communities a certain set or coterie of persons who, so far from loving mercy, are whisperers loving to separate chief friends, and whose moral constitutions are markedly predisposed to catch any scandal-plague that may be hanging about their neighbourhood. These are not peace-makers worthy to be called Children of God, these are not of the merciful who shall obtain mercy.

What a contrast to that charity that thinketh no evil, and that rejoiceth not in iniquity. Again, an open enemy may be met, but a lurking foe eludes the grasp, and is the meanest of cowards.

One thought more, my Brethren, it is not for us to arrogantly usurp the prerogative of God—“Who art thou that judges another man's servant, to his own master he stands or falls.”

Brethren, we know as Master Masons we are specially pledged by our Masonic vows to maintain a Master Mason's honour and carefully preserve it as our own, not to injure him ourselves, nor suffer it to be so done by others if in our power to prevent it, but on the contrary to boldly repel the slanderer of his good name.

Our Grand Master Solomon says, “These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” Let us then not only do justly, but love mercy, and cultivate that divine charity which never faileth in earth or heaven.

Finally, to walk humbly with our God is manifestly our duty, our interest, and our glory. Before honour is humility, and it is especially to be borne in mind in this day of rebuke and blasphemy, when so many openly deny the God by whom they live and work, and have their being. To frame the life and conversation as in His sight and hearing who made the eye and planted the ear, to pay respect to His divine will and commands, rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, constant in prayer, this is indeed to have peace with God, and the surest way to possess love one to another. When we consider the glorious heavens, the works of His hands, and the thousand other marvels of Almighty wisdom and power, when we regard ourselves so fearfully and wonderfully made, the revolving seasons, the storehouses of His bounty filling our hearts with food and gladness, the powers of intellect, the gift of reason and the bright promise of rest and happiness, when the labourer's task is done, surely we are constrained not only by Godly fear, but by adoring love to walk humbly with that gracious God before whom angels bow, and whose majesty and beneficence fill the world.

This is the Foundation Stone of our Masonic Temple, and on this foundation may this Lodge stand fast, and may justice, love and humility distinguish its members from generation to generation.

THE HONOURS OF OFFICIAL POSITIONS.

THERE was a time, and it is within the memory of many living Masons, when to be a Grand Master of Masons was regarded as the highest honour that could be conferred upon one who was so fortunate as to be selected for that high distinction among his fellows. This distinguished honour then came unsought, in recognition of the highest attainments in the esoteric work of Masonry, and a recognised ability to become the managing head in the government of the great Brotherhood of Free and Accepted Masons. There was then no electioneering for office, nor solicitations for an appointment leading up to an election that would place the aspirant in the line of promotion and so secure this most exalted station. The Brother honoured with an appointment or election to office was usually the most surprised individual in the Grand Body, and often reluctantly accepted the honour thus conferred on him, or positively declined it, from an instinctive idea that he did not possess the requisite qualifications to discharge the duties thus imposed on him. Under such conditions, when a Grand Master had served the full term for which he was elected, and had proved an eminent fitness for that most responsible station, he was continued there for two or more terms, and until the Brethren were fully satisfied that another could be elected to succeed him who was worthy and well qualified to govern the Craft. A Grand Master in those days might well feel that the highest honours in Masoury were his to enjoy.

We have no doubt the reader has already anticipated the

thought uppermost in our mind, that there has been a lessening in the honour, dignity and importance of the office of Grand Master. In the multiplicity of Fraternal Orders, all more or less fashioned after the plan of Masonry, many Masons connected with them and interested in their work have apparently become so strongly imbued with their methods and ways of doing business that they sometimes forget that Masonry is established on an entirely different platform, and is controlled by a system of laws peculiar to itself. Instead of waiting for a recognition of their fitness for official position, as was the case in years gone by, they not only seek office, but are frequently found electioneering for themselves for official positions. In this way Brethren very poorly qualified to become the chief Officers sometimes secure a place in line, and their promotion thereafter is almost sure to follow, until the highest honours are attained. This un-Masonic method of securing office has been carried to that extent in some jurisdictions, that Grand Lodges have been compelled to legislate against it, even to the disfranchisement of those so offending. Such political methods have detracted from the high honours once connected with the office of Grand Master of Masons, by creating a road to them not based on actual merit.—“Masonic Advocate.”

“A SPRIG OF ACACIA.”

BROTHER JOHN LAURENCE MATHER, a Mason who for many years past had been a prominent figure in London Masonry, passed away on Sunday, 7th inst., and was buried the following Wednesday. Bro. Mather's initiation dated back to 1860, when he was received in the Prosperity Lodge, No. 65, in which he speedily attained the office of Treasurer, relinquishing it a few years later in order to fill the more important post of Worshipful Master. But Bro. Mather did not confine himself to his mother Lodge alone; he took an active interest in Masonry in many directions, working as Founder of six or more new Craft Lodges, and ultimately rising to the distinction of Grand Lodge honours, being appointed premier Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee in 1887. He was equally active in the Royal Arch, Mark and other degrees of Masonry, and was generally regarded as a most exemplary member of the Order. His zeal on behalf of the Institutions was also a notable feature with him—he gave largely of his means, both in his own name and in that of his wife, and served a considerable number of Stewardships for all of the Funds, usually taking up a good number of contributions from friends with which to supplement his personal donations. We long enjoyed the pleasure of numbering Bro. Mather among our friends in the Craft, and desire to add our tribute of regret at his decease.

THE Concord Lodge, No. 1534, has lost one of its influential members by the death of Bro. Alexander Allan, which occurred at his residence, Thorn Hill, Prestwich, on Sunday, the 14th inst. We have previously reverted to the fact that our deceased Brother was in failing health, and that he had many times sought the recuperative effects of a foreign climate, and to this may be attributed the fact that for some time he had not taken any very active part either in his Masonic Lodge, or in the doings of a local political club to which he was attached.

Bro. Allan was connected with the firm of Kearns, Allan and Co., Turkey Red Dyers, Baxenden, Accrington, and at the funeral, which took place on the 16th inst., the firm in question was represented, not only by one or more of his partners, but by various sections of the workpeople, and nine foremen, the latter assisting in carrying the last mortal remains. The deceased Brother had rendered himself very popular in Prestwich, as was testified by the drawn blinds, the flags at half-mast en route, and the large number of people who lined the streets.

The funeral cortege was met by the Revs. Hargreaves Heap and J. G. Knowles (curate of Prestwich), the chief mourners being Messrs. W. and T. Allan, sons of the deceased, H. Allan, James Allan, Ashworth, Barnes, J. Gray, J.P., Grindrod, Grimshaw, Hanson, the Rev. Stephen Hartley, E. H. Hilton, Kearns, Lees, Magnall, Preston, Smith, Hartley Smith, Brother Dr. Stephenson, medical officer of health, and many others, some of whom represented the local political club previously referred to. The Concord Lodge was represented by Bros. William B. Midgley W.M., Edwin S. Done S.W., John Wardle P.M. Sec., J. E. Lightbown Std., John Walkden P.M., Edward Hilton P.M., R. Hothersall P.M. P.P.G.D.D.C., Edward Roberts P.M. 1459 (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE), and B. Mallinson. Bro. Allen Mercer 1170 was also in attendance.

The floral tributes were very numerous, including one from the W.M. and Brethren of Concord Lodge, No. 1534.

The interment took place at the Prestwich church, the funeral arrangements being under the capable direction of Messrs. John Leach and Sons, Warwick Street.

IMPELLING MOTIVES.

THE question is often asked, why do so many men seek to become Masons? There is no appeal to them to enter the lines of the Fraternity. They are not importuned by their acquaintances and friends to unite with the Masonic organisation. And yet, while Freemasonry as an institution maintains this independent and dignified attitude, the streams of supply to its organic life always seem to be ample. It makes a constant increase to its membership. What are some of the impelling motives which prompt the *multitude of candidates* to knock at the doors of Freemasonry?

1. There is the glamour of secrecy veiling the Masonic institution. It holds secrets in its possession which can only be revealed to a select circle. The truths, the lessons, the obligations, the signs and ceremonies, which are thus guarded and concealed from public notice, may not be of the utmost importance, but somehow or other they attract. A young man says to himself I would like to gain information of these things sacredly kept secret by Masons, and the motive of curiosity is one of the forces that impel him to send in his application.

2. Another motive which affects some minds, more or less consciously is the antiquity of the institution. Freemasonry has great age. It has been evolved from societies and systems which bear the stamp of the remote past. It seems to represent something more of worth and interest as it is identified with personages and events of former times; as thus its ancient character is brought into view.

3. Its universality attracts. In every part of the civilised world Freemasonry is known. It is a bond of communion between men of every nation and clime. The fact of its vastness—of its application to such diverse conditions of human life and society—moves men of far-reaching thoughts and sympathies to seek entrance within its lines. They act under a prompting to put themselves in touch with a society that is indeed cosmopolitan, which practically seems to recognise the unity of the human race.

4. Its philosophy as suggested by chance reading may attract some thoughtful minds. Freemasonry has great stores of wisdom locked up in its system and in the moral enclosures to which its rich and varied symbolism points. A few studious and enquiring souls are drawn towards Freemasonry, having an idea that there is much to learn of highest wisdom by its helps—by delving in its mysteries which to the world at large may appear of but little worth.

5. The average man is no doubt wrought upon by motives of a more practical, even if of a more selfish character. Thus the desire to make friends comes into play as an actuating force. He desires companionship, fellowship, and true friends, and he believes that he will gain these by entering into the Masonic organisation. It is justifiable to find an inducement for connecting one's self with Freemasonry in this desire to cultivate the social nature, and to profit by a close and sympathetic fellowship as Brethren of the mystic tie are privileged to do.

6. It is a still lower order of motives when the inducement takes on the form of a mercenary purpose—when a candidate is led to seek entrance to a Masonic Lodge by his belief that it will help him in his business or his profession to be identified with so strong and reputable a society. Some may be actuated, at least in part, by this motive of undue selfishness, and yet under the formative influences of Freemasonry they develop into exemplary and faithful Craftsmen, finding out by experience how much larger the Masonic institution is than they had supposed—how much more benign and far-reaching are its gifts.

7. It is hoped that a few at least of the candidates for Freemasonry find an impelling motive in a just thought of what they may be the better helped to do in the ways and walks of related life by becoming Masons. They who join the Fraternity that they may render a better service for truth and for humanity constitute a royal band of supporters to the institution. Brethren who may thus be classified are the ones who point to the heights—who lead the way thither,—and who, by their unselfish services, contribute most largely to the productiveness and the glory of Freemasonry.—“Freemasons Repository.”

ONCE A MASON, ALWAYS A MASON.

FORMERLY, no doubt, there was more of meaning in this phrase than now attaches to the words. In the ancient times when no dues were imposed, and when no such number of specific requisitions were made upon Craftsmen as are now recognised in bye-laws and rules touching membership, it was generally held that when one had lawfully received the Masonic degrees he had attained a life tenure of connection with the Masonic Fraternity. It did not matter whether he were poor or rich, whether he contributed much or nothing to support the institution, whether he attended Masonic meetings or kept away,

he was still a Mason. It was only occasionally and for grave offences that sentence of expulsion was passed upon an offending Brother. Times have changed; new rules have been adopted, and now Craftsmen may withdraw from the organisation whenever they so desire, and they are liable to be shut out from the privileges of the institution by the non-payment of dues or by the commission of some technical fault. The phrase still has force, however; for the suspended or expelled Mason cannot forget the ceremonies through which he has passed, or the obligations he has taken in a Masonic Lodge. He is always a Mason, as another has said, in the obligation which rests upon him to “preserve inviolate the mysteries unfolded to him.” This obligation rests with just as binding force upon one who is suspended or expelled, as upon one who has of his own accord withdrawn from the Order.—“Freemasons Repository.”

THE CUBAN MASONS.

A RECENT letter from Havana contains the following item of interest to Masons:

Gov. Gen. Martínez Campos, acting on the supposition that the people of Havana were secretly in sympathy with the revolutionists, issued a general order when he first came here prohibiting private meetings under severe penalties. Not even the Masons were exempted, but powerful influence was brought to bear upon him in their behalf, and he at length consented to modify the proclamation so that it would not affect them. The Grand Lodge of the Island of Cuba, situated in this city, was overjoyed at this, and the Masons showed their gratitude to Campos in many ways. All this joy, however, was short lived, for the Governor General issued another order specifically prohibiting meetings of Masonic Lodges, and as a result trouble is feared in many quarters.

There is no probability that the interests of Spain were jeopardised by the Masonic meetings. It is far more likely that the new order was due to the machinations of the enemies of Masonry in Havana. However, Masonry is in Cuba to stay, whatever obstacles the Government may throw in its way.—“Masonic Home Journal.”

Bro. Emra Holmes has received the thanks of H.R.H. the Duchess of York for his birthday verses addressed to the little Prince Edward, and which appeared in our columns and in those of leading provincial journals in England, Scotland and elsewhere.

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LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

BANK HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

CHEAP EXCURSIONS will be run from London (Euston), Broad Street, Kensington (Addison Road), Willesden Junction, &c., as follow:—

On Friday night, 2nd August,

To Moffat, Dumfries, Newton Stewart, Stranraer, Wigtown, Whithorn, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright, Greenock and Gourock for 8 days.

To Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Montrose, Brechin, Arbroath, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus, Dundee, Perth, Crieff, Oban, Loch Awe, Dalnally, Tyndrum, Crianlarich, Killin, Fort William, Callander, Bridge of Allan, Dunblane, Stirling, and Inverness, for 5 and 11 days.

Note.—By these trips Cheap tickets will be issued (Third Class) at a Single fare for the Double Journey, available for return on any day within 16 days from the date of issue.

On Friday midnight, 2nd August,

To Birkenhead, Chester, Northwich, Blackburn, Bolton, Southport, Wigan, Preston, Blackpool, Crewe, Nantwich, Whitechurch, Minsterley, Craven Arms, Hereford, Leominster, Ludlow, Stafford, Newport (Salop), Wellington, Macclesfield, Stoke, Allerton, Ashton, Batley, Dewsbury, Ditton, Huddersfield, Bradford, Halifax, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Runcorn, Stalybridge, Stockport, Warrington, Widnes, Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Lancaster, Morecambe, Carnforth, Carlisle, The English Lake District, and Furness Line, for 6 days.

To Abergavenny, Dowlais, Merthyr, Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, Llandoverly, Bulth Road, Bulth Wells, Brecon, Swansea, Carmarthen, &c., for 8 days.

On Saturday, 3rd August,

To Lichfield, Tamworth, Burton, Derby, Leicester, Nuneaton, Rugby, and the North Stafford Line, for 6 days.

To Leamington, Kenilworth, Coventry, Warwick, Birmingham, Walsall, Dudley, Dudley Port, Wednesbury, Wolverhampton, for 3 and 6 days.

To Carlisle, Edinboro' and Glasgow for 8 days.

Note.—By the trip to Scotland Cheap Third Class tickets will be issued at a single fare for the double journey, available for return on any day within 16 days from the date of issue.

On Saturdays, 3rd and 17th August,

To Douglas, Isle of Man, for 10 days.

On Sunday midnight, 4th August,

From London (Euston) to Manchester for 2 days.

On Bank Holiday, Monday, 5th August,

From London (Euston), Chalk Farm and Willesden Junction to Birmingham, Coventry, Leamington, Kenilworth, Warwick, Dudley, Dudley Port, Walsall, Wednesbury, and Wolverhampton for one and four 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.

London, July 1895.

PHOTOGRAPHY.

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OLD Books and Curiosities relating to Freemasonry, Knights Templars, Rosicrucians or other Secret Societies wanted. Address, W. W. Morgan, New Barnet.

BOOKBINDING in all its branches. Price list on application. Morgan, Fleet Works, Bulwer Road, New Barnet.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY.

ON Monday, 5th August, certain booked trains will be Discontinued, of which due notice will be given by special bills at the Stations.

BANK HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS FROM ST. PANCRAS AND CITY STATIONS.

Friday, 2nd August. To Scotland.

From St. Pancras at 9.15 p.m. (Five or Eleven Days) to Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Arbroath, Forfar, Brechin, Montrose, Stonehaven, Aberdeen, and Inverness.

Saturday, 3rd August.

To Edinburgh and Glasgow (N.B.) for Eight Days from St. Pancras at 9.15 p.m.; Kentish Town 8.31 p.m. Also to Glasgow (G. & S. W.) for Eight Days, leaving St. Pancras at 9.20, and Kentish Town at 9.24 p.m.

Third Class Return Tickets at a Single Fare for the Double Journey, available for return within Sixteen Days, will be issued by these trains.

To Leicester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Derby, Newark, Lincoln, Burton, Staffordshire Potteries, Matlock, Buxton, Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, Blackburn, Bury, Rochdale, Oldham, Sheffield, Barnsley, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, York, Hull, Scarborough, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Lancaster, Morecambe, Lake District, and Carlisle, returning 8th August. See bills for times, &c.

Saturdays, 3rd and 17th August.

TO DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN).

From St. Pancras at 5.15 a.m., via Barrow, and 10.5 a.m., via Liverpool, returning any week-day within ten days.

Monday, 5th August.

To Manchester for Two Days at 12.5 Sunday midnight.

To Birmingham, for One or Four Days, and Kettering for One Day, at 6.35 a.m.

To Leicester, for One Day, at 5.40 a.m.

To St. Albans (day and half-day) 8.15 and 11.0 a.m. and 1.0 p.m.

To Harpenden and Luton (for one day) at 8.15 and 11.0 a.m.

To Bedford (day trip) leaving St. Pancras at 8.15 a.m.

Southend-on-Sea by the new and shorter route. Cheap Daily and Week-end tickets are now issued to Southend-on-Sea from St. Pancras, Kentish Town, and other Midland Stations (See Special Bills for times, fares, &c.)

Tickets and Bills may be had at the Midland Stations and City Booking Offices, and from Thos. Cook and Son, Ludgate Circus, and Branch Offices.

GEO. H. TURNER, General Manager.

Derby, July 1895.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

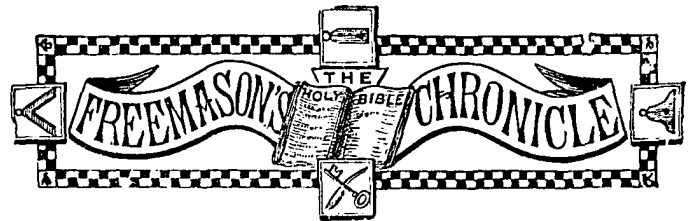
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAYS.

CHEAP THIRD CLASS DAY EXCURSION TICKETS are issued DAILY, by certain trains from Paddington, Westbourne Park, Kensington (Addison Road), Uxbridge Road, Hammersmith, &c., and from certain Stations on the Metropolitan, Metropolitan District, and North London Railways, to Staines, Windsor, Taplow, Maidenhead, Cookham, Bourne End, Great Marlow, Shiplake, Henley, *Goring, *Wallingford (not on Sundays), &c. *Not from North London Railway.

Cheap Tickets to Burnham Beeches are also issued Daily.

Tickets, bills, pamphlets of excursions, 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.



SATURDAY, 27TH JULY 1895.

CHARITY IN WEST LANCASHIRE.

ON Friday, 19th inst., a meeting of the Court of Governors of the Hamer Benevolent Institution was held at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, Bro. J. Milne P.M. 1756 occupying the chair. Two annuities of £26 each were granted to two old Brethren, and the sum of £20 was voted to assist another deserving member of the Craft. Several other petitions will be presented to the next Court, and will doubtless receive the same generous consideration, says the "Liverpool Mercury."

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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PROFICIENCY BEFORE ADVANCEMENT.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your article in this week's issue on "Proficiency before Advancement" is a very excellent one, and the title is quite as applicable to promotions in Lodges, of Officers who are quite incapable of carrying out the duties of the respective offices to which they are appointed from time to time, merely on account of their seniority in Lodge membership, to the exclusion of junior members capable of doing the work.

This state of things in some Lodges is deplorable, and does not reflect credit on the principles of the Lodges where men are promoted from one office to another, without having fulfilled their duties perhaps once after their investiture, but have not failed to participate in the pleasures of the "fourth" degree.

I understood when I was first admitted a member of this ancient and honourable Institution that promotion was given on account of "merit and ability" and not merely by seniority, as is unfortunately the practice in many Lodges. I cannot understand how Brethren can accept an office without endeavouring to make themselves in some way proficient in the necessary work, as nothing is more annoying to those interested in the Masonic Ceremonies than to see the work of the Lodge carried out in a slovenly and inefficient manner.

I should much like to see your opinion on this subject.

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

A V. Y. M.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR,—I was much interested in the article under the above title in your valuable paper, as I have from my initiation been interested in the ceremonial work.

In several Lodges that I visit I find men put into positions of J. and S.D., and also in the chairs, who cannot even do the work of I.G., and very frequently do not turn up in time to assist in the opening of the Lodge, so that a junior officer or perhaps a lay member has to occupy the position and do the work for him.

In my own Lodge I regret to say I have been present when not a single Officer has been in his position, and lay members and P.Ms. have had to do their work, and yet these men are gradually being advanced. Our J.W. this year has not taken his place in the Lodge for two or three years, and yet he turns up at refreshment, and also at the Installation meetings, and receives the collar of the higher office, and this is because he is senior as a member to A. or B., who perhaps never misses a meeting, and is willing and able to take any position that may be required of him.

To say the least of it this sort of thing is not encouraging for young members to retain membership of the Lodges when this practice continues. Our late S.W. could not assist in opening or closing even, but, fortunately for the Lodge, he left the neighbourhood before being elected to the chair.

Yours fraternally,

MASON.

A NEW SITE FOR THE BOYS SCHOOL.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am very sorry indeed to see it even suggested that the Craft should start on what may truly be termed the mad scheme of building an extension, or, more properly speaking in this case, an alternative building, in which to accommodate the pupils of the Masonic Institution for Boys. Personally I am very strongly opposed to the expenditure of the charity funds of Freemasonry in bricks and mortar, and I know there are many more members of the Order in this country equally averse to it.

The initial cost of such a procedure is bad enough, but it by no means ends there. As soon as the Craft gets a fine building it must have fine fittings, and fine servants to put in it, with the result that most extravagant ideas are formulated and generally carried through, as it only seems necessary to start a fresh cry in order to ensure a plethora of money being poured in to satisfy it—the latest illustration of this being the proposal to increase the Head Master's salary, with, as you put it, the all but certainty of a general increase all round a few weeks after. I warrant most of those who argue in favour of this increase do so on the ground that there is a very large establishment to look after at Wood Green, so that, instead of the Craft being thanked for its past liberality, it is really used as a lever by which to draw further amounts.

But I do hope, Dear Brother Editor, that this removal business is not regarded seriously—I rather wish it may be an imagination of your own; for I think the day is passed for the erection of extensive buildings by such Charities as the Educational Institutions of Freemasonry.

We are told on all sides that education is now provided by the State, and I do not think there are many who will dispute the fact that the truth of this is being brought home to the country more and more every day, as people accustom themselves to sending their children to free Schools. I can remember the time when attendance at a free School was regarded almost as a disgrace, which is certainly not the case now, and I can well imagine the next generation being astonished at the heavy fees paid by the middle classes of to-day for what in many cases is but the most indifferent tuition.

If anyone wants illustration of the advantages of distributing the benefits of the Institutions at the homes of the recipients let them turn to the Benevolent Institution, which, I venture to think, would never have attained its present proportion or usefulness if all the Annuitants had been

collected in one building. Or to be more on a par with the subject now under discussion, turn to Lancashire, where a local fund is doing almost as much good as the Masonic Boys School—or such is my opinion—at a tithe of the cost, simply by paying the cost of education, &c., of pupils at their own homes, and thereby not only helping the individual member of the family concerned but, probably, others also, without compelling the widowed mother to part with her child and thereby perhaps rob her of her only remaining comfort.

I should be very pleased indeed to hear that some special scheme was proposed in connection with the celebration of the Centenary of the Institution, but I hope and trust it will not involve any outlay in bricks and mortar. As an alternative I would suggest the creation of a Fund from which to provide education or other assistance for children at their own homes, and I venture to think that if some such course was adopted, in a few years we should find the "assistance" branch of the Institution as popular, or even more popular, than the "boarding in" arrangement that now alone prevails. At least there can be no harm in giving the matter a trial, surely no one will argue that such a course is undesirable, and I venture to think it may be the means of retaining for the Educational Institutions the support of the Provinces, some of which are already forsaking them in order to advance the interests of their local "assistance" schemes.

There are too many orphans of Masons in this country deserving of assistance to allow of them being all accommodated in one School, and on the basis of half a loaf being better than no bread I think the Institutions for Boys and Girls should seek to widely extend the number of their beneficiaries by spending smaller sums on each—and the payment of home expenses seems to be the best way to arrange this.

Yours, &c.

G. P. W.

WHY MEN JOIN THE MASONS.

THE "New York Sun," during the session of the Grand Lodge of that State, had the following editorial paragraph:

While the Freemasons are holding conference in this city will some one of them give us a satisfactory explanation why men still join that famous society? What is the attraction possessed by it. Whence does the impulse to join it spring? Do men become Masons to profit by the practical benefits of the association, or on the theory that membership will be useful to them morally, or because they think it a desirable club, or because their friends belong to it, or because wherever they may be, the world over, they are pleased by the sense of differentiation from all other men as members of a vast society? Or are they attracted by the halo of its antiquity, or by the glitter of its ceremonies, or by the unrivalled grandeur of its titles, none of which apparently is beyond a man of the more humble talents? Or what can be the influence or influences which keep the society alive and strong? Why should men be Masons, any way? Why is any one a Mason?

The following reply appeared in the "Sun" of the following day:

To the Editor of the "Sun."

SIR,—In your paper of to-day you ask that some Freemason give you a "satisfactory explanation why men still join that famous society?" I will try to answer your question, but whether my explanation will be satisfactory must depend upon the spirit in which the question is asked.

I will try to answer all your questions seriatim.

Men join that famous order or society generally unsolicited, because they have formed a favourable opinion of it from what they have been told and what they have read about it, and very few ever leave it voluntarily. It possesses the attraction of fellowship with men who have been found worthy to be accepted in its ranks, and who, therefore, will be pleasant companions. It is based on allegory, and teaches many valuable lessons in morality, and its tendencies are toward the knitting together of a Brotherhood of man.

As it is in all societies where men are brought together in intimate relation, each one feels a responsibility for the success of the fraternity resting on his shoulders. Unworthy men may get in, but they soon find that they have wandered into the wrong fold and will get out again. The order is so organised that if a man joins for mercenary motives he soon becomes marked, and is either radically cured of his error or drops out. Many men join because they believe it to be a good thing to belong to an order as universal as Masonry is, and which gives him the privilege of visiting kindred Lodges all over the world, with his Masonry as a practical letter of introduction to those who would otherwise be strangers. Others desire to find a body of men with whom they can become intimately acquainted and maintain pleasant relations.

Undoubtedly there are many people ignorant of the order and its objects who have many erroneous notions about the order, such as, for instance, the supposed immunity from punishment for wrongs committed by aid of the order, and the protection given by the members. This is absolutely false. On the contrary, the order will punish wrong-doings by its members, and will not conceal a member's misdoings.

As every one cannot join the order, and therefore it is a mark of preference to become a member, some may join for that reason.

The best reason I can give for being a member of the order is that I thought I should like it, and joined; and having been an active member for over thirty-five years, have never regretted it; have been benefited socially, morally, physically and financially in an economic way, and had I to do it over again, knowing what I do, I most certainly would join to-day if I were not already a member.

I am a Mason because I like the order, all its ceremonies and objects, and if others knew what I do they would join as well.

Hoping that my explanation will be satisfactory.

I am, truly yours,

A FREEMASON.

New York, 5th June.

"The Prude's Progress," Jerome K. Jerome's charming comedy, takes the place of "The Passport" at Terry's Theatre, and will continue its successful career on Monday, 29th July, with Miss Fanny Brough, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Edward Righton, and the original cast from the Comedy Theatre, which will shortly be required for Mr. Comyns Carr's new production.

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: PROVINCIAL.

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UNITY LODGE, No. 267.

THE festival of St. John the Baptist was celebrated at the Lodge Room, the Macclesfield Arms Hotel, Macclesfield, on Thursday, 18th inst., when Bro. Charles Stoneley was installed W.M. for the ensuing year.

The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Alfred Cockayne P.M. P.P.A.D.C. D.C., George Fountain P.M. P.P.G.S.W.B., and Jonathan White P.M. The musical portions of the proceedings were conducted by Bro. James Stevens Organist.

The newly-installed W.M. took the chair amid the hearty congratulations of the Brethren, and efficiently invested his Officers.

The proceedings in Lodge included the election of auditors, Bros. George Fountain and John Fowler being chosen.

Bro. Newhouse P.G. Secretary, in speaking on the Masonic Charities, mentioned that during the late Festival in connection with the Boys School, London, held at Brighton, and presided over by Lord Egerton of Tatton, it was announced that the contributions for the year amounted to close upon £19,000, the Province of Cheshire heading the list with about one-ninth of that amount.

In the evening the Brethren sat down to the annual banquet, successfully catered by Bro. Crowther.

The toasts were of the usual character, and were interspersed with some excellent songs and musical selections, the enjoyable proceedings terminating shortly before the statutory hour.

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MENTURIA LODGE, No. 418.

BY invitation of Bro. J. T. Howson W.M. of the Lodge and Mrs. Howson, the members, with a few representatives of other Lodges and their wives, had a most enjoyable picnic at Rudyard, on Thursday of last week.

The bulk of the company left Stoke in five saloon carriages at noon, others joined at Bucknall, and some drove by road. Luncheon was provided in the Pavilion at the Hotel, Rudyard, at 1.30. Then the company, numbering 140, enjoyed themselves in a variety of ways—cricket, boating, and other amusements. In the afternoon the visitors proceeded to Fair View, the residence of Bro. and Mrs. Munro, and explored the gardens and surrounding beautiful grounds, afternoon tea being kindly provided. At half-past five o'clock dinner took place in the Assembly Room at the Hotel, the W.M. presiding.

At the conclusion of an excellent repast, the W.M. proposed the loyal toasts, which were very heartily received.

Brother Bickley next proposed the health of the W.M., the mention of whose name was received with enthusiasm. He said the privilege of proposing that toast was accorded him by reason of his long connection with Freemasonry. It was more than thirty years since he entered the Menturia Lodge, and it was nearly twenty-five years since he held the position now occupied by Brother J. T. Howson. What Bro. Howson was doing that day was an evidence of what he was doing in the Lodge.

Bro. Howson thanked all present for having accepted the invitation of his wife and himself, and he also expressed his gratitude for the really hearty spirit in which the toast had been received. Their attendance and their acceptance of the toast so cordially constituted the highest compliment that had been paid him in Freemasonry.

The health of the Visitors, proposed by Bro. Bromley, was acknowledged by Bros. Taylor and Walters.

Brother Tunncliffe proposed the Ladies, for whom Brother R. W. Day responded.

The company then left the Dining-Room in pursuit of various amusements, which included football, dancing, and music. The most enjoyable proceedings were continued till ten o'clock, when the party were conveyed to the Potteries in a special train.

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FORTITUDE LODGE, No. 461.

ON Thursday, 11th inst., the members held a picnic, along with their wives and friends, the railway destination being Chesterfield, which was reached about half-past ten o'clock. Here the company was picked up by waggonettes, and driven to the Angel Hotel, where they partook of an excellent luncheon.

At mid-day the party entered upon a drive of twenty miles, in order to visit Hardwicke Hall, and Bolsover Castle; the drive was greatly enjoyed, but the mansions—the latter of which was in ruins—did not come up to the expectations of some of the party, who had on a previous picnic seen Chatsworth Hall. By about five p.m. they were under the sheltering wing of the "Angel" again, where the dinner served merited great praise. A little specchifying followed by Messrs. J. S. Bowker and Jos. Marshall, under the presidency of Bro. B. C. Bradley. About eight p.m. Chesterfield was left behind, and Newton was reached a little before 11 p.m.

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DE GREY AND RIPON LODGE, No. 1161.

THE regular meeting of this Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday, the 17th inst. Bro. Eugene Loebell W.M. There were also present:—Bros. J. Ellwood S.W., C. F. Vlies J.W., Thomas Forknall J.P.M., J. Scheffeld Secretary, O. M. Jones S.D., H. M. Massingham J.D., W. Cockerham Std., Julius Arensberg P.M. P.P.G.P., Buckley Carr P.M. D.C., Wm. Stoddart, S. Collinge, Mansel De Cairos, Sam Lord, James Burgess P.M., and J. D. Cameron.

Visitors:—Bros. E. Roberts P.M. 1459 (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE), Geo. Hefton, £23, J. H. Greenwood 2387, and J. D. Smith 1458.

After the confirmation of minutes, a successful ballot was taken for Mr. John Thomas Charles Blackie, Drysalter, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, he being

afterwards initiated by the W.M. The Working Tools were presented and explained by Bro. Vlies J.W., while Bro. Ellwood S.W. delivered the ancient charge. Following this was the passing into the degree of F.C. of Bro. Sam Lord, this ceremony being undertaken by the W.M. Bro. Mansel De Cairos was also a candidate for the second degree, and he was duly passed by Bro. Forknall P.M.

Certificates of membership were presented to several Brethren, after which the business of the Lodge was brought to a close, and an adjournment made to the festive board.

Loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and honoured in the usual way, these being varied by musical contributions from Bros. Smith, Greenwood, Roberts, Carr, and Lord. Bro. Greenwood, who is an acknowledged prince among entertainers, not only rendered several songs and sketches himself, but very willingly acted as accompanist to the other Brethren.

The health of the newly-initiated Brother was proposed by Brother Ellwood in very happy terms, to which Brother Blackie said, in response, that it had long been his ambition to become a Mason, and he now regretted that he had deferred doing so until the present time. He ought to have joined the Craft years ago. However, it would be his duty, not only to make himself proficient, but to do all he could to become a good Mason. He thanked them for their kind wishes towards him.

Bro. Burgess P.M., who was called upon for the next toast, said that he had been accorded a privilege that night which had seldom fallen to his lot. Bros. Lord and De Cairos had now passed through a certain groove into something better, and he sincerely hoped that they would enjoy good health, so as to enter upon their third degree in September next. The Initiate had seemed thankful for favours received, but he must look forward with the others to a great and glorious ceremony in that of the third degree. Freemasonry would make them better and happier men, as he could testify from a 21 years' experience, during which time he had never regretted his connection with it. In conclusion Bro. Burgess said that from what he had seen of the candidates, he anticipated that they would prove to be worthy Masons.

Bro. Lord, in responding, explained that one of his principal reasons for joining this Lodge was the knowledge that Bro. Burgess was a member of it. He thanked the latter for what he had said about himself and the other candidates, and also the Brethren of the Lodge for their flattering reception of the remarks.

Bro. De Cairos also expressed his thanks. The Brethren must not expect him to say much at this juncture, but what little he did utter would be of the sincere kind, and he too would endeavour to do his duty as became a true Mason.

The W.M. proposed the health of the Visitors, who responded.

Bro. Carr P.M., in proposing the health of the Worshipful Master, requested the Brethren to pardon him for degressing by a mention of the great meeting which had recently taken place at the Botanical Gardens in connection with the East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution. It had been his pleasing duty, along with Brother Forknall, to be present at the gathering, and a greater or more interesting one of its kind he had never seen. He gave its genesis, and traced its development, praising those who had been instrumental in its promotion, making the announcement that the result was a magnificent sum of £4,050, which might eventually reach to £4,500.

Bro. Carr said that the De Grey and Ripon Lodge never lost sight of its members, and gave one or two interesting facts in substantiation of his statement. He further said that the success of an institution depended upon the ability of the man at its head, and he was proud to say that they had placed their suffrages in the hands of one who, whether in cloud or sunshine, was ever with them. He was a consistent supporter of charity, that mighty arch which reaches from east to west; his efforts in the Lodge were satisfactory; his patience and diligence were a credit to him; and it was a pleasure for the Brethren to know that he could do his work, and direct and instruct his Lodge. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

Bro. Loebell W.M. responded, saying that he thanked them for their kind reception of the toast. It had been his intention to gain their gratitude and goodwill by seeking to deserve it, and he was glad if he had succeeded. He reminded his listeners that since their last meeting they had lost the Lodge Tyler by death. He hoped that he had ascended to those immortal mansions whence all goodness emanates. The toast was drunk in silence, Bro. Greenwood playing the Dead March in Saul.

Other toasts followed.

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ST. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 1343.

THIS Lodge, which only last week had the honour of entertaining the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex, an account of which appears in our present issue, met for the transaction of usual business on Wednesday, at the Masonic Hall, Grays.

The W.M. Bro. Charles Westwood and the Senior Warden Bro. F. W. Pelling wore the Provincial Collars recently conferred upon them, and there were also present Bros. Edward Ayres J.W., W. B. Heagerty P.P.G.R., Geo. R. Cobham P.P.G.S. of W., H. C. Borradaile P.G.Std.B., M. J. Tuck P.G.Std.B., James Howell P.G.Std.B., Joseph Weymouth S.D., F. G. Bird, R. Matthews Organist, Charles Cobham acting I.G., and the following Visitors: Bros. J. Askew 135, F. W. Marrian 2489, Orlton Cooper 211, and J. T. Kelly of New South Wales No. 182.

After the Lodge was opened and the minutes confirmed, Mr. H. H. Slater having been balloted for and approved, was brought before the Lodge, and was duly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Craft. The Lodge was opened in the second degree, when Bros. J. Mallinson, Charles Asplin, and Robert Walker having previously proved their proficiency, were admitted as Fellow Crafts. Bro. W. H. Brough answered the questions in this degree, and was subsequently raised to the rank of Master Mason.

The whole of the ceremonies, together with the traditional history, were given by Bro. Westwood in a highly creditable manner, and elicited the commendation of the Brethren. The impressiveness of the ritual was greatly enhanced by the excellent musical arrangements, which may be recommended to the notice of other Lodges.

The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted. A letter was read from Bro. T. J. Ralling Provincial Grand Secretary of Essex conveying the thanks of the Provincial Grand Lodge for the reception accorded them on the 17th inst., and forwarding a cheque for £25 towards the expenses, and also a gift of £5 to the Grays School.

Upon the proposition of Bro. Borradaile, seconded by Bro. Heagerty, a vote of thanks was given to the Reception Committee, and the letter from Provincial Grand Lodge was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Bro. Geo. R. Cobham announced that the Lodge Benevolent Fund had, during the past two years, dispensed the magnificent sum of two hundred guineas among the Masonic Charities. This amount was collected in weekly

subscriptions of one shilling each from forty members, and proves the power of the old proverb that "many a mickle makes a muckle." The W.M. having received the hearty good wishes of the Brethren and congratulations upon his preferment, the proceedings closed, and the Brethren adjourned to dinner provided by Bro. Cunningham, and a pleasant evening was spent.

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ST. MARGARET'S LODGE, No. 1452.

ON Tuesday evening Dr. F. W. Clark, the Medical Officer of Health for Lowestoft, received a flattering testimonial from this Lodge on the occasion of his quitting Lowestoft for Hong Kong.

There was a supper at the Crown and Anchor, prepared in Bro. Stebbings' best style, to which many members of the Lodge and a few friends sat down. Bro. Kerry Rix the W.M. of the Lodge presided, and presented Bro. Clark, in the name of the Lodge, with a most artistically-illuminated address, the following being the text:—

St. Margaret's Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons, No. 1452, Grand Lodge of England.

The Worshipful Master, Past Masters, Officers and Brethren, in open Lodge assembled, desire to place upon record their cordial appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Bro. Francis William Clark during his membership of the Lodge, to express regret at his removal from Lowestoft, and to tender to him their hearty good wishes in his new sphere of usefulness, hoping that he may find in Hong Kong a Lodge of Freemasons where his intimate knowledge of the antient usages and customs of the Craft will lead to his early Masonic advancement.

KERRY RIX W.M.

W. J. ROBERTS Secretary.

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CONCORD LODGE, No. 1534.

A MEETING of emergency to pass into the degree of F.C. Bros. J. B. Midgley jun., G. H. Nield, and Ashton Whitworth was held at the Lodge Rooms, Prestwich, on Thursday, the 18th inst. There were present:—Bros. Wm. B. Midgley W.M., E. S. Done S.W., John Wardle P.M. Sec., H. B. Fawcett S.D., J. E. Lightbourn Std., Edward Hilton P.M., John Walkden P.M., R. Hothersall P.M. P.P.G.D.D.C., Edward Roberts P.M. 1459 (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE), J. B. Midgley jun., Geo. H. Nield, and Ashton Whitworth.

Two of the ceremonies were undertaken by the W.M., while the other, that of passing Bro. Nield, was performed by Bro. Wardle P.M.

At the festive board which followed, Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, the health of the newly-passed Brethren being proposed by Bro. Walkden, who said he hoped the candidates would follow in the footsteps of those who had already gone through the various degrees of Masonry. He advised them to be regular in their attendance at the Lodge meetings, and they would find Masonry not only interesting, but of great benefit to them, for it was an institution than which no other in this country can carry such weight. As a means of emphasising this declaration, he entered into an explanation as to the unassuming and unostentatious manner in which its charity is dispensed, showing that the members who were recipients of its bounty were made so without an attempt to prove that they were being pauperised.

Mention was made of the recent death of Bro. Allan, and much sympathy was expressed thereon.

The evening being far advanced, and many Brethren having to catch their trains, Bro. Whitworth was called upon to respond on behalf of the candidates, which he did with commendable brevity.

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OGMORE LODGE, No. 1752.

THE annual meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Bridgend, on Monday, when Bro. William Francis S.W. was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. He subsequently invested his Officers, and other formal business was transacted.

After a drive to Southerndown the members and Visitors returned to Bridgend, and sat down to the usual banquet at the Wyndham Arms Hotel, the W.M. presiding. An excellent repast was served by Mrs. Jones, and the customary toasts were afterwards given.

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INSTRUCTION.

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SYMPATHY LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 483.

AT the usual weekly meeting of this Lodge, which is doing such good work in the cause of Freemasonry under the Preceptorship of Brother Hy. Forss P.M., held at the Star Hotel, Gravesend, last Monday, Bro. T. H. Lygo W.M. in the chair, the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. J. Watson being the candidate, and Bros. Ingman and Watt occupying the Wardens chairs.

After the Lodge was closed the eleventh draw of five guineas in connection with the Lodge Benevolent Fund, which is managed by Bro. J. P. White Secretary, took place, the prize falling to the lot of Bro. J. R. Cork, who thus becomes a Life Member of one of the Masonic Charities.

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ROYAL ARCH.

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ALDERSGATE CHAPTER, No. 1657.

THE annual meeting was held on Monday, 15th inst., when Comp. Geo. Kenning was installed as M.E.Z. for the year, at the Albion, Aldersgate Street. The meeting was a successful one, a large number of distinguished Companions being present, either as members or visitors.

Sir Stafford Northcote, C.B., M.P., has consented to accept the office of Prov.G.S.W. for Devon, and will be appointed at the Provincial meeting to be held at Barnstaple on the 31st inst.

MASONIC REMINISCENCES.

NO Mason in this country, or perhaps any other, during the past forty odd years, at least, kept himself so prominently before the Masonic Fraternity as did Rob Morris, and, therefore, a brief sketch of his somewhat eventful career as a Masonic author and lecturer may not be without interest to the old-timers, and especially to those who may have become connected with the institution since he passed away to another state of existence.

He was born in Mississippi, 31st August 1818, and was made a Mason in Oxford Lodge, that State, in July 1846. He became interested at once in the study of the principles and literature of the Order, and devoted all his spare time in preparing himself for whatever duties might devolve upon him as a student and teacher of Masonry. In his youth he received a liberal education and fitted himself as a geologist, but was unable to establish himself in that occupation, and followed other pursuits. In 1850 he failed in business and all his hopes for the future were blighted. The immediate cause of the disaster which overtook him, as related by himself, was on account of a crisis in the monetary system of the country, short crops, bills payable that must be paid, and bills receivable that could not be collected, false friends and—bankruptcy! He gave up all, and with a large family, clean hands, and a resolute heart, he set out to find a spot in which to commence life anew. After trying various things without success he decided to become a Masonic lecturer. From this date on until his death his entire time, talents and energies were devoted to the preparation and dissemination of the Webb Ritual heretofore referred to, the compilation and publication of a Universal Masonic Library, embracing in thirty large volumes the standard works on Masonry; the publication of a Masonic magazine; the writing of Masonic addresses, sketches, stories, and a volume of Masonic poems; the preparation and publication of annual Masonic almanacs; a republication of Webb's Monitor; an elaboration and systemization of the Adoptive Degrees of the Eastern Star, and in the discharge of other duties in the same direction too numerous to mention.

He was tall and slender of build; full dark beard trimmed short; sparkling grey eyes; and that he was a man of great intelligence, a clear, keen and incisive writer on every subject he attempted to handle, an indefatigable worker, and a most genial, entertaining companion and associate, all can truly testify who were so fortunate as to know him personally. During one of his lecturing tours, shortly after he entered upon that occupation, a local paper made of him the following excellent pen picture:

"Lank as a rattlesnake, and quiet as swift to strike; nervous as a silver poplar leaf, and almost as pale; dyspeptic to the last degree of indigestion; full of wit as an egg of meat; devoted to the science of Masonry, yet equally ready upon all subjects of science, from a star to a fossil star fish; a devourer of books, fluent as Niagara Falls and generous as the sea!"

Masonry was his sole occupation. Out of it he was compelled to secure a sufficiency to support himself and family. Some who did not understand him thoroughly, or were not conversant with his surroundings and environments, were inclined to charge him with making use of Masonry for the money he could get out of it. Knowing him personally and through a correspondence covering several years, the writer does not believe that he cared for money beyond what was necessary to provide a living for himself and family, and meet the obligations of his publication schemes. That he made no money out of his great services to the Institution is evidenced from the fact that he died penniless, everything—his library, Masonic collections, books, copyrights and electrotype plates having been swept away to secure money to pay debts incurred in pushing forward his various Masonic enterprises. Money with him came easy and went easy, and so long as creditors were not pressing him and he had enough to live on, he was as happy as a lord.

In reply to criticisms in regard to his making money out of Masonry, he wrote during the latter years of his life: "As a matter of history, I must declare that I did not enter the Masonic pursuit from mercenary motives, and that it has been anything but a source of profit to me. During my life as a Freemason I have published the first work ever issued on Masonic law; the first Masonic history in this country; the first work upon Masonic Belles Letters in any country, and three editions of Webb's Monitor. I have composed or compiled nearly seventy works of a Masonic character; written a score of Masonic addresses; hundreds of Masonic odes and poems; visited more than two thousand Lodges, and delivered lectures innumerable! In all these labours would it be strange if I had made some mistakes? For all of my services as a Mason I have made but the poorest and most inadequate support for myself and family. I have necessarily neglected the education of my children and all my home interests. At my time of life, when I ought to think of rest, I have the world to begin over, as I began it twenty-seven years ago. This is the pecuniary reward of my labours."

He was broken in health, without money, or apparently friends, and it is not much to be wondered at that he became pessimistic, and in one of his gloomy moods wrote the following:

"The future of Masonry in this country is gloomy. The times indicate great changes. Masonry for this generation has passed its meridian, and it demands the best wisdom and strength of its votaries to preserve it from a serious decline. We look for the dissolution of most of those additions to Masonry (excrescences we fear they have proved), called the 'Higher Bodies,' and shall be mistaken if some of the Grand Lodges themselves are not dissolved for want of interest and support."

In regard to the "Cryptic Degrees," as he called them, he wrote:

"I am thoroughly convinced that their claim to antiquity is entirely unfounded. If lecturers would cease to press the unfounded claims of the Chapter and Council Degrees, admit their want of antiquity and give their real history, they might well be perpetuated for their dramatic beauty."

He adopted "Rob" as a prefix early in his Masonic career. The immediate cause of this was, he stated, a determination not any longer to be confounded with Robert Morris, the author and poet, of Philadelphia, of whom he for many years complained that whenever he wrote anything in prose or verse that was good, it was credited to the Philadelphia Morris, and whenever the Philadelphia Morris wrote anything more than ordinarily dull and flat he got the discredit of it! To obviate this, and give each Morris his due, the change referred to was made.—Daniel McDonald P.G.M., in "Masonic Advocate."

MASONIC LITERATURE AND LITERARY CULTURE.

WHEN the Masonic historian of the future deals with the history of the last twenty years of Freemasonry he will assuredly point to the present period as a remarkable one in the annals of the Craft, if only as having witnessed the birth of what may be justly termed a sound Masonic historical literature. Not that we desire to say that before that period Masonic writers were unknown, for their name is legion. It has, however, only been in recent years that Masonic authors have awakened to the thought that the Craft required something more than a mixture of fact, legend, and "Fond things vainly invented" in the mental pabulum provided for it.

The works of Anderson, Preston, Oliver, Kloss, and others, which in the past were authorities to conjure by, are no longer accepted as containing the true history of the Craft. They have been subjected to the closest scrutiny, and the rules of literary criticism, when applied to them, have conclusively proved that they are no longer entitled to rank as text-books, although they will probably for all time be cherished as literary curiosities. The educational progress of the times has had a beneficial effect on Masonic literature, and in a few years it has been raised from the level of fairy tales to a position of which it need no longer be ashamed.

Masonic history and archæology may now be thoroughly studied, and the names of such writers as Mackey, Gould, Lyon, Hughan, Speth, Sadler, Lane, Whympier, Woodford, Whythead, Yarker, and others, are as familiar to reading Masons as are those of the old school above mentioned. Their labours in the cause of Masonic literature have been enormous, and the excellence of their work has widened the field of study and greatly increased the number of Masonic students, thereby benefiting the Craft in a high degree.

The Masonic newspaper press, too, has become a real power for good in Masonry; and although it has not nearly reached the standard of perfection which all earnest Masons must desire for it, yet it is, in English-speaking countries, doing much for the welfare of the Craft by keeping before the Masons the progress of the institution in all parts of the world, stirring them up to the performance of their Masonic duties, materially assisting in the establishment of international Masonic law and uniformity of legislation.

We must not omit to say a word of praise for that form of periodical Masonic literature which is, we are sorry to say, almost confined to America. We mean the annual reports of the Committees on Correspondence of American and Canadian Grand Lodges. We consider that they occupy a most important place in Masonic literature, but, as in a recent issue of this paper we specially dwelt upon their merits, we regret that we must refrain from again setting forth their value to the Craft. We recommend our Brethren to get one of them and read it. We know the verdict will be favourable.

The growing taste for the study by Masons of Masonic literature has naturally stirred up a desire for the formation of Masonic libraries. In England the Grand Lodge of England has for many years been slowly gathering together a collection of works on Masonry, but as yet the authorities of that body have not developed any ardent desire to provide the home of English Freemasonry with such a library as becomes the position it occupies in the Masonic world, and unless some change is made it is probable that it is the Lodge Quatuor Coronati, No. 2076, that now world-famed Lodge of Masonic students, that the English Craft will have to thank for supplying the wants which the ruling body should take in hand. The Library of that Lodge already numbers many volumes, besides rare MSS. and Masonic curiosities.

The formation of Masonic libraries is receiving attention from several Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodges in England. Choice collections of Masonic books are possessed by several Masonic students, notably by Bro. Whympier, of India. In America our Brethren appear to realise more fully the value of Masonic libraries. Many of their Grand Lodges have given their attention to the matter, whilst the Masonic library of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, at Cedar Rapids, is justly entitled to encomium as the finest Masonic library in the world. To Bro. T. S. Parvin the Grand Secretary of Iowa, is due the credit of gathering together and housing this splendid collection, and it is no little compliment to him that the United States Government has showed its appreciation of his work by ordering all State publications to be sent to the Masonic library at Cedar Rapids.—"South Australian Freemason."

A MODEL LODGE.

A MODEL is a pattern, a type of perfection. A model Lodge, therefore, is one approaching such perfection that it can be chosen as a pattern which others may safely imitate. The whole machinery runs smoothly. There is no friction or rattling of loose joints. The members are at peace with each other, and the harmony of brotherly affection and proper friendly regard is manifest in pleasant intercourse. There is a zealous interest in all that pertains to the Lodge, apparent to even casual observers. If one member is sick, or in distress, the whole body feels it in a sincere and expressed sympathy. "Behold how these Brethren love one another," may be correctly said. The Officers are zealous and earnest in their work. They are in their places as the Master's gavel calls the Brethren to order exactly on the minute for opening the meeting. There is no locking around to find some one to act as Junior Deacon or to fill the station of Senior Warden. As in a great engine, every wheel and piston responds at once to the magic touch of the master hand that controls it, and it becomes a thing of life, so when the Master sets the wheels of the Lodge in motion every Officer at once responds to the magic touch, and the work begins. The Junior Deacon is not pouting because he is not Junior Warden, nor is the Senior Deacon "mad" because he is not Master, but each one, in his own place, feels that his work is as important as that of any other Officer. There is no loose screw at the door, or broken dog-wheel in the West, or a rusty joint in the South. In performing their duties they act in harmony. There is an earnest desire to do everything as perfectly as it can be done. There is promptness in every movement, ready and quick response to every question, an intelligence of expression, which makes the opening ceremonies interesting and pleasant. There is an earnestness all through the degree work, a knowledge of the text and ritual, that makes it instructive and enjoyable. The Master of Ceremonies is as particular to do his part as the Senior Deacon or the Master. In the singing all unite, and when the members are invited to participate in any part of the work, the Marshal does not have to punch a dozen or more and urge them to "get up." Nor does the Senior Deacon have to wake up a sleeping Brother in the "Amen Corner." All are awake and on the alert to do their share. Such a Lodge will have a large attendance, an active, harmonious membership, and a full treasury.—"New York Dispatch."

The "National Shilling Testimonial to Dr. Grace," started some few weeks back by the "Daily Telegraph," has met with an enthusiastic response among cricketers and lovers of sport in all parts of the world, among the more recent contributions being one from five hundred subscribers in Ceylon, who forwarded £27 8s, through the "Times of Ceylon." The Editor of our contemporary desires it to be distinctly understood that while the rate of subscription has been designedly fixed at a very small sum, the object of the movement is to testify to the universal appreciation in which athletics and its most prominent champion are held throughout the community. It is doubtful if there are any among our readers who have not had an opportunity of contributing to the Fund, but if there are any such we take this opportunity of bringing the matter under their notice, and shall be pleased to hear they have supported the testimonial, either by remitting direct to the "Daily Telegraph," or to our care.

HOLIDAY TRAIN ARRANGEMENTS.

LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

THE usual facilities are offered by this Company for passengers who may desire to obtain tickets for any destination on the line on the day prior to the starting of the different trains, the principal ticket offices being kept open for the purpose throughout the week preceding the Bank Holiday. Tickets may also be obtained at the different Town Receiving Offices of the Company, which are to be found in all parts of the metropolis, these being dated so as to suit the convenience of passengers.

Several excursions are announced in connection with the Holiday, chief among which are trips to Scotland for five or eleven days, with the arrangement now so popular with this Company, of allowing passengers, on payment of a single fare for the double journey, to return at any time within sixteen days from date of issue. Such trips are arranged to leave Euston Station both on Friday and Saturday.

On Friday midnight a special excursion will be run to Liverpool, Manchester, and most other important towns of Lancashire, as also to the chief points served by the Company in Cheshire and Wales, while the Lake District and other attractive points further north will be duly catered for.

Other trips are arranged for Saturday and Sunday, the latter including a two days' excursion to Manchester, while special accommodation will also be provided on Monday, fuller details in regard to all of which will be found in our advertisement columns.

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GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

THE Great Western Company issue ordinary as well as excursion tickets at their principal City and West-end Offices, and this arrangement is probably never so much appreciated as during the week preceding the Bank Holiday, when large numbers of people avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded for obtaining tickets at their own time and without the crowding and worry inseparable from a large railway station at holiday seasons. The fares charged are the same as at Paddington and the tickets are available for use under precisely the same conditions as those issued at that station.

The following are the offices at which tickets are issued, viz.—193 and 407 Oxford Street, 23 New Oxford Street, 269 Strand, 4 Holborn Circus, 29 Charing Cross, Cambridge Circus, Shaftesbury Avenue, The Piazza, Covent Garden, 26 Regent Street, 5 Arthur Street East, London Bridge, 82 Queen Victoria Street, 181 Tottenham Court Road, 67 Grosvenor Street, 4 Cheapside, 17 Brompton Road, Minorities (opposite Goodman's Yard), Nags Head, 137

Borough High Street, and L.B. and S.C. Company's Office, under the Grand Hotel, Trafalgar Square.

The booking offices at Paddington station will be open for the issue of tickets all day on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 31st July, 1st, 2nd and 3rd August, and the tickets issued (except those for specified excursion trains) will be available for use on any of those days.

To meet the expected additional traffic by the ordinary trains on Saturday, 3rd August, the Company will run in duplicate the 3.0, 5.0 and 9.0 p.m. trains to the West of England, the 12.0 noon, 3.15 and 9.15 p.m. trains to Weymouth and South Wales. The first portion of the 9.0 p.m. train will leave Paddington at 8.55 p.m., but the first portions of the other trains will leave at the advertised times, and the second a few minutes afterwards, the long distance passengers being as far as possible taken in the first portion, but with a few exceptions both trains will stop at the advertised stations to take up and set down passengers. On Thursday, 1st August, excursion passengers will be booked to Cork at 10.45 a.m. On Friday, 2nd August, an excursion train will leave Paddington at 7.55 a.m. for Gloucester, Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, New Milford, &c. Passengers will be booked at 5.45 p.m. at excursion fares to certain stations in the South of Ireland. Fast excursion trains for the West of England will leave Paddington at 10.10 p.m. on Friday, 2nd August, and at 7.55 a.m., 8.20 a.m. and 10.10 p.m., on Saturday, 3rd August. Excursions will also be run on Saturday to Bath, Bristol, Dorchester, Weymouth, Marlborough, Devizes, Cheltenham, Worcester, Malvern, Hereford, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Oswestry, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester, Isle of Man, and other places served by the Great Western System.

In addition to the Weekly Excursion Trains to the West of England and Weymouth Districts, an Excursion Train leaves Paddington at 8.10 a.m. every Saturday, during July, August and September for Shrewsbury, Llanidloes, Aberystwyth, Barmouth, Harlech, Rhyl, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Bettws-y-coed, Bangor, Carnarvon and other stations in North Wales, for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

Passengers are also booked every Saturday to Guernsey and Jersey, via Weymouth, and the short sea passage to the Islands by the Trains leaving Paddington at 9.15 a.m. and 9.15 p.m. Third Class Return Tickets, available for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days will be issued at a Fare of 2s 6d.

On Sunday, 4th August, excursions will be run to Cirencester, Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham, &c., and at 12.15 midnight an excursion for 1 or 4 days will leave Paddington for Oxford, Leamington, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, &c. On Monday, 5th August, cheap trains will be run to Bath, Bristol, Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Reading, Pangbourne, Goring, Wallingford, &c.

Cheap Third Class Excursion tickets are issued daily by specified trains, from Paddington, Kensington (Addison Road), Hammersmith, and certain stations on the Metropolitan, Metropolitan District and North London Railways, to Staines, Windsor, Taplow, Maidenhead, Henley and other popular riverside resorts.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

ON Monday, 5th August, certain booked trains will be discontinued, of which due notice will be given by special bills at the stations.

For the convenience of the public the Midland Railway Company have arranged that the booking offices at St. Pancras and Moorgate Street stations shall be open for the issue of tickets all day on Friday and Saturday, 2nd and 3rd. Tickets to all principal stations on the Midland Railway will also be obtainable beforehand at their offices in different parts of London, the tickets obtained at these district offices being available from St. Pancras station, issued at the same fares as charged at that station, and dated to suit the convenience of passengers.

Cheap excursions will be run from London on Friday night, 2nd August, to Stirling, Perth, Aberdeen, Inverness, &c., for five or eleven days, by which third class return tickets will be issued at a single fare for the double journey, available for sixteen days. On Saturday, 3rd August, to Leicester, Nottingham, Melton, Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Burton, Derby, Manchester, Liverpool, Blackburn, Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury, the Furness District, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Barnsley, Keighley, York, Hull, Scarborough, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle, Carlisle, &c., returning the following Thursday; to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfries, Castle Douglas, Ayr, &c., for eight days, with bookings at a single third class fare for the double journey for sixteen days. On Monday, 5th August, a day trip will be run from London (St. Pancras) to St. Albans, Harpenden, Luton, Bedford, Leicester, and Birmingham, and a two days' excursion to Manchester. Tickets for these trains for starting from St. Pancras station can be obtained on the two days previous to the running of the trains at the above-named offices.

Cheap excursion trains for six days will be run to London from Carlisle, Keighley, Bradford, Leeds, Barnsley, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Rochdale, Burton, Derby, Nottingham, Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Leicester, &c., and from Manchester, Stockport, &c., for three days, on Saturday, 3rd August. Passengers will be booked by the six days' excursion trains at cheap fares to Brighton and other south coast stations for five, eight, ten, or fifteen days; to Paris and other places on the Continent, having the privilege of returning within sixteen days. On Monday, 5th August, cheap day trips to London will be run from Bradford, Leeds, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester, Birmingham, Northampton, Bedford, &c., and a two and four days' trip from Barnsley, Sheffield, Chesterfield, Manchester, Stockport, &c.

Cheap daily and week-end excursions are run from St. Pancras and other Midland Stations to Southend-on-Sea by the new and shorter route, via the Tottenham and Forest Gate Line.

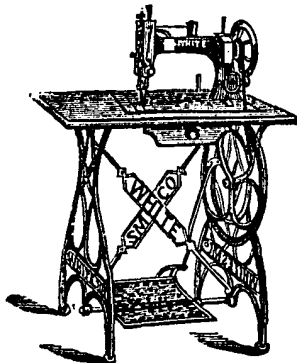
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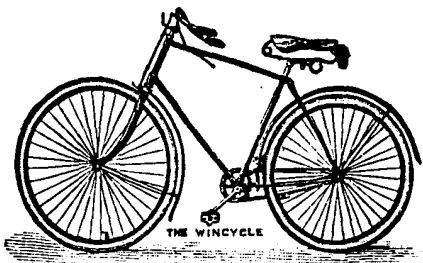
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- Covent Garden.—Italian Opera.
- Lyceum,—Nance Oldfield, &c. Last night.
- Terry's.—8.15, A woman's no. 9, The Passport. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
- Globe.—8, The Journey's End. 9, Charley's Aunt.
- Prince of Wales's.—7.50, A Woman's Caprice. 8.30, Gentleman Joe. Matinée, Thursday, 3.
- Gaiety.—8, The Shop Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
- Daly's.—Midsummer Night's Dream. Last night.
- Criterion.—8.25, The Home Secretary (Last night).
- Adelphi.—8, The Girl I left behind me.
- Comedy.—8.20, The Prude's Progress.
- Lyric.—8.15, The revised version of An Artist's Model.
- Vaudeville.—8.30, Between the Posts. 9.0, The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown.
- Avenue.—To-night, Qwong-Hi.
- Grand.—7.30, The Lady Slavey. Monday, Fanny.
- Alhambra.—8, Variety Entertainment. Grand Ballots, Juggling, Wrestling, &c.
- Empire.—7.45 Variety Entertainment. 10.10, Faust.
- Palace.—7.50, Variety Entertainment, Tableaux Vivants, &c.
- Oxford.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
- Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
- Tivoli.—2.30 and 7.45, Grand Variety Entertainment.
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- Moore and Burgess Minstrels.—St. James's Hall. Re-open Bank Holiday.
- St. George's Hall.—8, Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's Entertainment.
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LODGES AND CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Monday.

- 22 Neptune, Gauden Hotel, Clapham, 7.30
 27 Egyptian, Atlantic Tavern, Brixton, S.W., 8
 45 Strong Man, Bell and Bush, Ropemaker St.
 174 Sincerity, Railway Tavern, Fenchurch St., 7
 180 St. James's Union, St. James's Restaurant, 8
 211 St. Michael's, Noland Arms, Addison Road, Notting Hill, 8
 1227 Upton, Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate, E., 8
 1320 Blackheath, Milkwood Tav., Loughboro' Junction
 1339 Stockwell, White Hart, Abchurch Lane, 6.30
 1349 Friars, White Horse, White Horse Lane, Mile End Road, 8
 1425 Hyde Park, Prince of Wales Hotel, Bishop's Road, W., 8
 1445 Prince Leopold, 202 Whitechapel Road, E., 7
 1489 Marquess of Ripon, Queen's Hotel, Victoria Park, 7.30
 1507 Metropolitan, The Moorgate, E.C., 7.30
 1548 Wellington, White Swan, High St., Deptford, 8
 1585 Royal Commemoration, Railway Hotel, Putney
 1608 Kilburn, 46 South Molton Street, W., 8
 1623 West Smithfield, Manchester Hotel, E.C., 7
 1693 Kingsland, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., 8.30
 1707 Eleanor, Rose and Crown, Tottenham, 8
 1743 Perseverance, Deacon's Tavern, Walbrook, 7
 1891 St. Ambrose, Baron's Court Hotel, W. Kensington, 8
 1901 Selwyn, East Dulwich Hotel, East Dulwich, 8
 1975 Rose of Denmark, Gauden Hotel, Clapham, 7.30
 2030 Abbey, Town Hall, Westminster, S.W., 7.30
 2150 Tivoli, Frascati, Oxford Street, W., 7
 2192 Walthamstow, Chequers Hotel, High Street, Walthamstow, 8
 2427 Hampden, Hampden House, St. Pancras, 8
 R.A. 1471 North London, Cock Tavern, N, 8

Tuesday.

- 25 Robert Burns, Frascati, Oxford Street,
 55 Constitutional, Bedford Hotel, Holborn,
 177 Domatic, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, 7.30
 188 Joppa, Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate Street, 8
 212 Euphrates, Mother Red Cap, Camden Town, 8
 238 Pilgrim, Guildhall Tavern, E.C. (1st and 3rd Tuesday), 6.30
 263 Clarence, Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, 7.30
 554 Yarborough, Green Dragon, Stepney, 8
 700 Nelson, Star and Garter, Woolwich, 7.30
 733 Westbourne, Prince Alfred Hotel, Queen's Road, Bayswater, 8
 753 Prince Frederick William, Eagle Tavern, Maida Hill,
 820 Richmond, Station Hotel, Richmond, 8.30
 829 Sydney, Black Horse Hotel, Sidcup, 7
 861 Finsbury, King's Head, Threadneedle St., 7
 933 Doric, Plough Tavern, Bow Road
 1044 Wandsworth, St. Mark's School Rooms, Battersea Rise, 8
 1321 Emblematic, St. James's Restaurant, W., 8
 1349 Friars, Liverpool Arms, Canning Town, 7.30
 1446 Mount Edgecumbe, Three Stags, Lambeth Rd., 8
 1471 Islington, Cock Tavern, Highbury, N., 7.30
 1472 Henley, Three Crowns, North Woolwich
 1540 Chaucer, Old White Hart, Borough High St.
 1695 New Finsbury Park, Hornsey Wood Tav., N.
 1767 Kensington, Scarsdale Arms Hotel, Kensington
 1769 Clarendon, Guildhall Tavern, E.C. (1st Tuesday), 6.30
 1839 Duke of Cornwall, Queen's Arms, E.C., 7
 1949 Brixton, Prince Regent, East Brixton, 8
 2146 Surbiton, Maple Hall, Surbiton
 2411 Clarence and Avondale, M. H., Leytonstone, E.
 East London Club of Instruction, The Plough, Bow Rd. 8
 Metropolitan Chapter, White Hart, Cannon St., 6.30
 R.A. 704 Camden, 15 Finsbury Pavement, E.C., 8
 R.A. 1365 Clapton, White Hart, Clapton, 8
 R.A. 1642 E. of Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, 8

Wednesday

- 3 Fidelity, Alfred, Roman Road, Barnsbury, 8
 30 United Mariners, Lugard, Peckham, 7.30
 65 Prosperity, Old Parr's Head, Knightbridge Street
 72 Royal Jubilee, Mitre, Chancery Lane, W.C., 8
 73 Mount Lebanon, George Inn, Borough, 8
 193 Confidence, The Bunch of Grapes, Lime Street, E.C., 7
 228 United Strength, Hope, Regent's Park, 8
 538 La Tolerance, Frascati, Oxford Street, W., 8
 720 Panmure, Balham Hotel, Balham, 7
 781 Merchant Navy, Silver Tav, Burdett Road, 7.30
 813 New Concord, Jolly Farmers, Southgate Road, 8
 860 Dalhousie, Lord Stanley, Paragon Road, Hackney, 8
 862 Whittington, Red Lion, Fleet Street, 8
 1269 Stanhope, Fox and Hounds, Putney
 1475 Peckham, 516 Old Kent Road, 8
 1601 Ravensbourne, Rising Sun, Rushby Green, Catford, 8
 1604 Wanderers, Victoria Mansions Restaurant, S.W., 7.30

- 1662 Beaconsfield, Chequers, Walthamstow, 7.30
 1681 Londesborough, Berkeley Arms, May Fair, 8
 1791 Creaton, Wheatsheaf, Shepherd's Bush, 8
 1922 Earl of Lathom, Station Hotel, Camberwell New Road, 8
 1963 Duke of Albany, Clock House, Battersea Park Road, 8
 2206 Hendon, Welsh Harp, Hendon, 8
 2346 Warrant Officers, 35 Old Compton Street, W., 7.30
 R.A. 177 Domatic, St. James's Restaurant, W., 8
 R.A. 720 Panmure, Goose and Gridiron, E.C., 7
 R.A. 933 Doric, 202 Whitechapel Road, E., 7.30
 M.M. Grand Masters, Mark Masons' Hall, W.C.

Thursday.

- 144 St. Luke, White Hart, Chelsea, 7.30
 147 Justice, Brown Bear, Deptford, 8
 263 Clarence, 8 Tottenham Court Road, W.C.
 749 Belgrave, Albion Tavern, Russell Street, W.C., 8
 754 High Cross, Coach and Horses, Tottenham, 8
 879 Southwark, White Hart, New Cross Gate, S.E., 8.
 890 Hornsey, Masonic Room, Lewisham, 8
 902 Burgoyne, King's Arms, John Street, Bedford Row, W.C., 8
 1017 Montefiore, St. James's Restaurant, W.
 1158 Southern Star, Sir Sydney Smith, Kennington, 8
 1178 Perfect Ashlar, Bridge House Hotel, S.E., 7
 1182 Duke of Edinburgh, Masonic Hall, Liverpool, 7.30
 1259 Duke of Edinburgh, Eastern Hotel, Commercial Road, Lime
 house, E., 7.30
 1278 Burdett Coutts, Swan, Bethnal Green Road, 8
 1306 St. John, Three Crowns, Mile End Road, 8
 1360 Royal Arthur, Prince of Wales, Wimbledon, 7.30
 1426 The Great City, Masons' Hall Avenue, 6.30
 1558 Duke of Connaught, Palmeston Arms, Camberwell, 8
 1571 Leopold, City Arms Tavern, E.C., 7
 1602 Sir Hugh Myddelton, 45 Upper Street, N., 8
 1612 West Middlesex, Bell, Ealing Dean, 7.45
 1614 Covent Garden, Criterion, W., 8
 1622 Rose, Stirling Castle, Camberwell, 8
 1625 Tredegar, Wellington, Bow, E., 7.30
 1673 Langton, White Hart, Abchurch Lane, 5.30
 1744 Royal Savoy, Blue Posts, Charlotte Street, 8
 1950 Southgate, Railway Hotel, New Southgate, 7.30
 1677 Crusaders, Old Jerusalem, St. John's Road, Clerkenwell, 9
 1996 Priory, Constitutional Club, Acton
 R.A. 753 Prince Fred. William, Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, 8
 R.A. 1365 Clapton, Three Sisters Hotel, Hackney Downs, 8

Friday.

- Emulation, Freemasons Hall, 6
 General Lodge, Masonic Hall, Birmingham, 8
 167 St. John's, York and Albany, Regent's Park
 507 United Pilgrims, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, 7.30
 765 St. James, Princess Victoria, Rotherhithe, 8
 780 Royal Alfred, Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, 8
 834 Ranelagh, Six Bells, Hammersmith
 1056 Metropolitan, Portugal Hotel, Fleet Street, 7
 1185 Lewis, Fishmongers' Arms, Wood Green, 7.30
 1228 Beacontree, Green Man, Leytonstone, 8
 1298 Royal Standard, Castle, 81 Holloway Road, N., 8
 1365 Clapton, Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, 7
 1381 Kennington, The Horns, Kennington, 8
 1642 Earl of Carnarvon, Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, 8
 1677 Crusaders, Northampton Arms, Goswell Road
 1897 Citadel, Farleigh Hotel, Amhurst Road (near West Hackney
 Church), 8
 1901 Selwyn, Montpelier, Choumont Road, Peckham, 8
 2021 Queen's Westminster, Criterion, W., 8
 R.A. 95 Eastern Star, Hercules Tavern, E.C.
 R.A. 820 Lily of Richmond, Greyhound, Richmond, 8
 R.A. 890 Hornsey, Prince of Wales, Bishop's Road, W., 8
 R.A. 1275 Star, Stirling Castle, Church Street, Camberwell, 7

Saturday.

- 87 Vitruvian, Duke of Albany, St Catherine's Park, near
 Nunhead Junction, 7.30
 179 Manchester, 8 Tottenham Court Road, W.C.
 198 Percy, Jolly Farmers', Southgate Road, N., 8
 1275 Star, Dover Castle, Deptford Causeway, S.E.
 1288 Finsbury Park, Cock Tavern, Highbury, 8
 1364 Earl of Zetland, Royal Edward, Hackney, 7
 1524 Duke of Connaught, Lord Stanley, Hackney
 1624 Eccleston, Windsor Castle Restaurant, Victoria Stn., S.W., 7
 1719 Evening Star, Rutland Hotel, Percy Hill, Catford, S.E., 8
 2012 Chiswick, Windsor Castle, Hammersmith, W.
 R.A. Sinai, Red Lion, King Street, Regent St. W.

We shall be glad if Secretaries and others interested in Lodges of Instruction will inform us of any error or omissions in the above list. We shall also be pleased to receive Reports of the different meetings, forms for same will be forwarded on application.