

THE

# Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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

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

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SATURDAY, 24th AUGUST 1895.

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## THE OUTLOOK.

ALTHOUGH the month of August is usually regarded as a very quiet period in Masonic affairs we think it is more so than usual just now, little or nothing of an interesting character occurring to break the monotony of the recess, or give employment to the active Mason who, even at this season of the year, does not seem happy if he is not busy with the ceremonies or the ritual of the Craft.

This condition of affairs naturally causes some trouble to the Masonic Editor who desires to supply his usual quantum of news and information, but on the other hand it provides him an opportunity for "easing down," and enjoying a small share of the rest that is so essential ere the extra work of the winter season is started upon; and that being so we this week take the opportunity of shortening our labours in connection with the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

In a very few days we shall be brought face to face with direct evidence that this period of rest is abruptly drawing to a close, the arrival of the Agenda for the September Communication of Grand Lodge being usually regarded as the call to activity for the Masonic Season—and this will be issued early next week, to be immediately followed by Installation and regular meetings of many Lodges that have been in recess since March or April last.

We may, then, pause for a moment, and ask what is the position of the Craft at the present moment, and what its prospects for the immediate future? For answer, we may say the outlook is favourable, and we may fairly anticipate a continuance of prosperity during the coming season, with a steady expansion of the Order whose interests we have so deeply at heart. This view certainly applies to the Craft Degrees, but as we pointed out last week there is nothing much to boast of in the way of likely expansion of the Royal Arch, which has long appeared to be somewhat under a cloud in this country. We publish elsewhere in this issue letters from two correspondents in reference to this subject, and anticipate it will receive further attention at no very distant date, as it seems to present many points on which free and full discussion is desirable, even if not absolutely necessary. But if we are to go fully into this subject just now we shall depart from our original intention of making the present a holiday issue, therefore we leave it in the hands of our correspondents, who may, however, rely on us again taking up the subject.

But even under the conditions we have referred to we must not pass unnoticed the few events that are occurring in our midst. Since writing the above we have details of the successful meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire, held on Wednesday, and attended by upwards of four hundred Brethren, and the gathering of the Board of Masters whose duty it was to arrange the Agenda of business for the Grand Lodge of Wednesday week. The assembly at this was large and evidenced considerable interest among those who may be said to at least direct the business affairs of Grand Lodge.

## BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE August meeting of the Board of Masters and the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening, in the Board Room, Freemasons' Hall. Brothers Robert Grey, C. A. Cottebrune and D. D. Mercer occupied the chair of President, and Senior and Junior Vice President, while the Grand Secretary's office was represented by Bros. E. Letchworth, W. Lake, W. H. Lee, Henry Sadler Grand Tyler, and Frank Palmer.

Other present and past Grand Officers who attended were Brothers R. Loveland Loveland, the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, W. M. Bywater, Henry Garrod, S. V. Abraham, S. Vallentine, Thos. Webb Whitmarsh, J. H. Matthews, and William F. Smithson, and elected members of the Board Bros. George B. Chapman, Charles Dairy, George R. Langley, W. Fisher, R. H. Evans George Graveley, Robert A. Gowan, William Vincent, Walter Martin, and Joseph Mansfield. There were also present Bros. John L. Bewsey, W. F. Lamonby, George W. Mitchell, James Joseph Hall, E. W. R. Smith, C. H. Webb, H. S. Timpson, H. K. Cheese, H. Wilkinson, D. H. McGowan, Stephen Richardson, J. W. Binyon, G. H. Newington Bridges, J. George W. James, R. T. Whaites, H. Hooper, H. Keeble, Sidney W. Larkin, W. R. Boswell, C. R. Lyne, W. W. Butcher, Thomas Easterbrook, Robert Robinson, H. Massey, Henry S. Windsor, John K. Gwyn, John E. Pells and Paul J. Kilby.

The Board of Masters, or General Committee of Grand Lodge, had submitted to them the programme of business for Grand Lodge of 4th September, and after the Board was closed, and the Board of Benevolence opened, the Brethren took up the cases of distress before them.

The long list of recommendations at the July meeting were confirmed to the extent of £480, and the Brethren then dealt with the new list, which consisted of twenty cases. They deferred till the September meeting two of these, and dismissed one. Two they recommended to Grand Lodge for a grant of £100 each, and one for £50; recommended to the Grand Master two for £30 each, and granted seven of £20 each, four £10 each, and one £5.

Two of the cases were from the Metropolitan district, and two from Liverpool. Others were from Shepton Mallet, Dartford, Ventnor, I.W., Wallsend, Paignton, and Gainsborough, Port Melbourne, Vict., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Croston, East Looe, Birkenhead, Bristol, Wincanton, Newport, Mon., and Mottram.

## CHESHIRE.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday, at the Central Hall, Northwich. Lord Egerton of Tatton Provincial Grand Master presided, and there were also present Bros. His Honour Judge Sir Horatio Lloyd P.G.D. Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., P.P.G.W., J. McLeod P.P.G.W. Derbyshire and Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and a large number of present and past Provincial Officers and members of Lodges in the Province, the total being about 400.

After the Provincial Officers had answered to their names and apologies for absence had been announced, the roll of the forty-six Lodges in the Province was called over, and it was found that all were represented.

The minutes of the last meeting, held at Birkenhead, having been adopted, on the motion of Sir Horatio Lloyd, seconded by Bro. J. Clayton P.P.G.W., Bro. T. H. Annett P.P.G. Treasurer moved the adoption of the Auditor's Report, which showed that the balances standing to the credit of the Province were as follow:—Fund of general purposes £114, as against £98 last year, an increase of £16; fund of benevolence £188, as against £167 last year, an increase of £20; Cheshire Masonic Benevolent Fund £303, as against £167 last year, an increase of £135.

Bro. T. C. Thorburn P.P.G. Superintendent of Works seconded the motion, which was passed.

Upon the motion of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, seconded by Brother J. Morris P.P.G.S.B., a vote of thanks was passed to the P.G. Treasurer (Brother Enoch Evans) and the Auditors.

Bro. J. Clayton P.P.G.W. presented the Charity report and the annual report of the Committee of Benevolence. He pointed out that a sum of 100 guineas, voted by the Province to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, had not yet been paid over. The amount would be paid that day, so that instead of a balance of £302 there would be in hand a balance of £197, consisting of £114 in connection with the general purposes fund and £83 in connection with the funds of the Benevolent Institution. He thanked the Brethren for the assistance they had rendered during the past year to the Masonic Institutions, and in particular for the support they had given to Lord Egerton of Tatton on the occasion of his presiding at the annual festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, when the Province of Cheshire contributed a sum of £2,000 out of a grand total of £20,500. He moved that the reports be adopted, with the alteration to which he had referred.

Bro. J. Cookson P.P.G. Treasurer seconded the motion, which was passed.

Bro. J. Jackson P.P.G. Treasurer said that a Committee appointed some months ago to revise the Bye-laws of the Cheshire Masonic Educational Institution had now completed its labours, and in the future the Institution would be governed under the new regulations. It only remained for the P.G. Lodge to confirm the work of the Committee, and for the Provincial Grand Master to sign the revised Bye-laws. He moved that the Bye-laws as adopted by the Court of Governors be now approved.

Bro. G. H. Brown P.S.G.W. seconded the motion, which was passed, and the Provincial Grand Master then signed the Bye-laws, a copy being presented to him.

The Provincial Grand Master, in his address, thanked the Brethren for their numerous attendance. He said he thought there was a good deal of ground for congratulation in regard to some of the events which had taken place during the year in connection with Freemasonry in Cheshire. He was glad to find that the books of the various Lodges were well kept. The number of members had only increased by 37, the total number of subscribing Masons in the Province being 2,235, as against 2,198 last year. Although there had been no large increase of members there had been a thoroughly Masonic spirit shown, and all the Lodges had worked harmoniously. No complaint had been brought before him, but it had been brought to his knowledge that a case of dispute between Freemasons had been tried before a judge of assize. Fortunately the judge was himself a Mason, and had been an Officer of the Grand Lodge of England, and he (the Provincial Grand Master) believed his Lordship publicly expressed regret that the matter in dispute should not have been settled in the ordinary way among Masons by the elder Brethren of the Lodge, or by being brought before the Provincial Grand Master. He trusted that if any case of dispute should again occur, which he did not anticipate, the Masonic course would be pursued, and the matter brought before him, so that he might endeavour to settle it. It was a satisfaction to him to find that the revision of the bye-laws of the Cheshire Educational Institution had been completed. He felt satisfied that the future management of the Institution, under the new regulations, would be satisfactory to the Province. The Freemasons of Cheshire had a most creditable record of late years in carrying out the work which he was glad to initiate for the improvement of their Benevolent Institutions, and they had responded to his appeal in a noble and generous manner. He trusted that the response to the calls of benevolence which he had laid before them would not be merely spasmodic, but continuous and consistent. As an example of what could be done, he pointed out that in 1876 his predecessor, the late Lord de Tabley, took the chair at the Festival in connection with the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and £5,500 was raised, a sum which he had no doubt was thought very respectable in those days. On a similar occasion in the past year, when he (Lord Egerton) presided, the urging of the claims of that Institution was answered by the magnificent sum of £20,598 being raised, of which Cheshire contributed over £2,000. He felt sure that the number of members of the Order would increase more largely than it did if the advantages of Freemasonry were more widely known. Not only were there advantages arising from the good fellowship which Freemasonry brought about, but there were distinct advantages in the matter of provision for the aged and infirm and the education of the young. It was not a fact that those benefits were not appreciated, because they had now three widows of Masons and one aged member receiving annuities, and they had before them petitions from two widows whom they hoped to elect on to the London Charity Fund next year. He thought those facts showed that there were many cases of distress which it should be the duty of the Brethren of the Province to assist. Unfortunately they did not secure the election of a girl into the Girls Schools last time.

The case was a very deserving one, and he had no doubt they would be successful at the next election. They also hoped to secure the election of another girl who had been recommended by the Committee. In conclusion, the Provincial Grand Master referred to the losses the fraternity in the Province had suffered by death during the year. A memorial to the memory of the late Bro. James Salmon A.G.D.C.Eng. was about to be erected in one of the churches he used to visit. The P.G. Lodge of North Wales had already subscribed one-half the amount required, and the remaining £30 would no doubt soon be raised, towards which he should be happy to contribute. The D.P.G.M. had also promised to subscribe.

Bro. H. Bratt P.P.G.D.C. proposed, and Bro. L. Bentley P.P.G.Registrar seconded, the election of Bro. A. G. Peterkin P.M. Sincerity Lodge, No. 428, Northwich, as Provincial Grand Treasurer.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and Bro. Peterkin expressed his sense of the honour conferred upon him.

Brother J. M. McLeod Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys thanked the Freemasons of Cheshire for the aid they had given to that Institution at the recent Festival, over which Lord Egerton presided, by contributing the sum of £2,000, and thus helping to bring the total to the fourth largest amount ever received. He also desired to tender his thanks to her Grace the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos for distributing the prizes to the boys of the School on the day preceding the Festival.

The following Brethren were appointed Auditors, on the motion of Brother Colonel Dean P.P.G.D., seconded by Brother J. Mills P.S.G.D., viz.:—T. H. Annett P.P.G.T., A. E. Coveney P.M., H. Jackson P.P.G.D., J. R. Simm P.P.G.T., and D. F. Bird P.P.A.G.S.

The Provincial Grand Master then invested his Officers for the ensuing year as follow:

Bro. Sir Horatio Lloyd	-	-	-	Deputy
H. Bratt 428	-	-	-	Senior Warden
T. Shaw 2496	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. C. Chetwynd Atkinson 321	-	-	-	} Chaplains
Rev. G. R. Johnson 1289	-	-	-	
A. G. Peterkin	-	-	-	Treasurer
J. Fred May 296	-	-	-	Registrar
R. Newhouse 1045	-	-	-	Secretary
A. J. Pearce 1357	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
William Hardy 336	-	-	-	} Senior Deacons
William Peers 721	-	-	-	
W. Hooper 1565	-	-	-	} Junior Deacons
J. Bailey 361	-	-	-	
H. Warren 1908	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
H. Gordon Small 2368	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
Martin Stones	-	-	-	Deputy Dir. of Ceremonies
Thomas Moore	-	-	-	} Assist. Dir. of Ceremonies
A. Wainwright 1408	-	-	-	
Frank Reed 89	-	-	-	} Sword Bearer
F. E. Sharpe 1276	-	-	-	
D. S. Higson 325	-	-	-	} Standard Bearers
C. Forsdick	-	-	-	
J. Stevens	-	-	-	Organist
J. Laithwood 533	-	-	-	Pursuivant
J. Morland	-	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
T. A. Jackson 2375	-	-	-	} Stewards
S. S. Mellor 428	-	-	-	
J. H. Whiteley 293	-	-	-	
W. A. Richards 368	-	-	-	
Thomas Thorniley 287	-	-	-	
H. Capes 428	-	-	-	} Tyler.
J. Huxley	-	-	-	

Charity jewels and bars were presented to several Brethren.

The Provincial Grand Master announced that he would hold the next meeting at Macclesfield; and Bro. T. Lockett P.P.G.D. assured his Lordship that every provision would be made for the comfort of the Brethren on that occasion. The P.G. Lodge was afterwards closed.

Subsequently there was a procession to the parish church, where a sermon was preached by the Rev. E. R. Johnson P.G. Chaplain, and an offertory taken, which was divided between the Cheshire Masonic Charitable Institutions and the Northwich Victoria Infirmary. In the evening there was a banquet at the Drill Hall.—“Manchester Guardian.”

## WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

IT is apparent that in Mexico women are admitted to full fellowship with men in some Masonic bodies at least, and the fact can no longer be successfully denied, however obnoxious the idea may be to us. Some months ago the “Recorder” printed an article entitled “An Inside View of Mexican Masonry,” by Bro. Richard E. Chism W.M. of Toltec Lodge, No. 520, located in the City of Mexico, in which the writer says:

The admission of women to the three degrees of symbolic Masonry is a well attested fact. I have myself seen women clothed with regalia enter and be seated in a Mexican Masonic Lodge, when all parties not Masons had been notified to retire. It is stated, indeed, by the Mexican Masons, that

these women have an organisation of their own, separate from the male bodies, and known by the name of the Adoptive Rite. My own investigations, however, and the statements of several well informed Brethren, leave no doubt whatever that these women are invested with all the signs and passwords of the symbolic degrees from the first up to the fourteenth degree of the Scottish Rite. They have been seen in the symbolic Lodge of the first three degrees during the conferring of degrees, giving Masonic signs, and have been seen in more public celebrations, identifying themselves in every way with the male members of the Craft.

Exponents of the "Mexican side" of this unpleasant question have been heard, but they have signally failed to substantiate their case, and we fear that Bro. Chism's account of the utter debasement of the Craft and its prostitution to political aims is only too true.

The Chicago "Legal News" of 20th July says:

TRULY THE MASONIC WORLD MOVES.

The wife of T. W. Parvin, the daughter of a Past Grand Master, and the daughter-in-law of Most Worshipful Brother Theodore Sutton Parvin, of Iowa, Past Grand Master Past Grand Commander Past High Priest, and an active member of the Southern Supreme Council, 33rd and last degree, is a fourteenth degree Mason, Lodge of Perfection, and was the Worshipful Master of Martha Washington Lodge of Master Masons in Mexico.

Brother Theodore Sutton Parvin was himself knighted in Apollo Commandery, No. 1, of Chicago, 10th January 1855. He never expected then to live to see the day when his son and son's wife would meet in the same Master Mason's Lodge, and the son's wife would be the Worshipful Master.

In a personal letter to us, Mr. James B. Bardwell Secretary of the Chicago "Legal News" Company, says:

\* \* \* That women are now admitted as Masons in Mexico there is no doubt. They are not only admitted as Masons, but hold high offices in some of the Lodges. Should you desire any further proof of this fact, I am prepared to furnish it.

Not knowing but that there might possibly be some mistake in the article in the "Legal News" we wrote to Bro. T. S. Parvin, inquiring as to its authenticity. His reply leaves no room for doubt in the matter:

Cedar Rapids, 25th July 1895.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Your favour with slip from Chicago "Legal News" duly received.

Yes, "Truly the Masonic world moves," as did the physical in Gallileo's day, so fast that I can't keep up with its movements. You ask, "What does it (the statement) mean?" Just what it says, strange as it may seem. I spent two months, February and March this year, in the city of Mexico and several state capitals and learned these facts: That the Supreme Council of Mexico admits women to seats in its Lodge of Perfection, 4th to 14th degree—"no further," said the Sovereign Commander Dr. Pombo. The "Grand Dieta Symbolico" did, by its legislation of 1890, authorise the making of women Master Masons, and under that law some five of its constituent Grand Lodges did make women Masons. In a few years later that law was repealed, and they do not now make Masons of women, but those previously made are recognised and visit Lodges and Grand Lodges as I learned.

Masonry in the republic is badly mixed up, and from our standpoint is deserving of much censure upon the Grand Officers—yet from a Mexican standpoint Masonry has been a grand factor in the government and progress of her people, as I had ample opportunity to see during my visit.

Fraternally and truly,

T. S. PARVIN.

—"Masonic Record."

## BROTHERHOOD.

DOES anyone ever think what the progress of the world might be if the sentiment of brotherhood became universal, and the time, means and energies now devoted to wars and preparation for war were turned to irrigate the waste places of humanity? There is enough now squandered in that way to feed every hungry person, clothe all the naked, and provide a comfortable home and a good education for every child. We contemplate with mingled complacency and amazement the condition of our ancestors a few centuries back, but hardly reflect that future generations will regard us in much the same way.—Cornelius Hedges in "Voice of Masonry."

## MASONRY'S LESSONS STILL NEEDED.

THERE is still much need that the lessons of Masonry should be taught and exemplified in the world; that men should more thoroughly learn the great central truths of equality and fraternity, and brotherly love, relief and truth. We should all remember that no man liveth to himself alone; that we are all dependent one upon the other; that the great object in life is to be serviceable to our fellowman. And, we fondly hope, that these lessons will be so learned that out of these troublous times there will grow up a better feeling; that, when the golden sun of prosperity shall again shine, as we surely believe it will, the world will be the better for the lessons we have learned in these trying times.—J. C. Moreland Grand Master Oregon.

## DOING WORK THAT WILL LIVE.

NO society can exist long unless it has a definite, reasonable object to accomplish. The object of Freemasonry is to relieve the distressed, and promote harmony in the community. The secret work, enabling one Brother to know another wherever he may chance to meet him, is only a

means to an end, making possible the perpetuation of the Order. It should never be the chief aim, yet we fear that too many Brethren deem themselves good Masons when they are possessed only of the ritualistic work, and practice not its precepts. Empty words and forms are as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals, calling the attention of all to the vainglorious possessor of the semblance of Masonry. Far too many become members of the Order because they consider that it will gain them influence either in business or politics. These members are barnacles, weighting down the Order, and seriously interfering with those who are real Masons. They give no strength, and, like vampires, drink the very life-blood of Masonry. The unostentatious member who reads his lesson aright, carries the Fraternity onward and upward by doing good unto all, without expectation of sordid gain, and it is he who will stand before the Great White Throne and receive the greatest of all rewards. Masonry to live must be made practical in the line of establishing Masonic Homes, in dispensing charity, and in promoting a wholesome sociability and harmony amongst the members of the Lodge. Its mysteries will never hold it together, and in this advanced age, free from superstitious awe, they should not. They serve the purpose well when they act as distinguishing marks of the Order. The mission of Freemasonry is practical, and its salvation must be wrought out on this line, or it will go down never to rise again. We feel in our hearts that Masonry is doing work that will live, and that the Fraternity is making the world better; that it is fostering and strengthening a firm belief in the Great Architect of the Universe, and that it will live because it deserves to live. For all of which we are unfeignedly thankful.—Robert Lewers, of Nevada.

"Great Thoughts," which has been giving a Railway Insurance Coupon for a long time past, has now gone one better than any of its rivals in the matter of Insurance. The Coupon this week insures for £2,000 against accidents while travelling in Railway Trains, Cabs, Buses, or Steamboats; or if a twelve months' subscription is paid in advance, either to the publisher or to the subscriber's local newsagent, and the receipt registered at "Great Thoughts" office, it is not necessary for such a subscriber to sign the coupon at all, which obviates the possibility of the Insurance Company invalidating the insurance through lack of the owner's signature.

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The new up-to-date cookery book which Messrs. Cassell and Company published last autumn, after some years of preparation, is now about to be issued in sixpenny monthly parts. The work is entitled "Cassell's New Universal Cookery Book," and is written by Miss Heritage, holder of First Class Diplomas in Cookery and Domestic Economy, and contains a preface by Léonard Grünenfelder, chef, Grand Hotel, London (formerly chef of the Reform Club). It contains twelve coloured plates and numerous illustrations.

## GAIETY RESTAURANT, STRAND.

### LUNCHEONS

(HOT and COLD)—At Popular Prices, in BUFFET and RESTAURANT (on 1st floor). Also Chops, Steaks, Joints, Entrées, &c., in the GRILL ROOM.

### AFTERNOON TEA—

Consisting of Tea or Coffee, Cut Bread and Butter, Jam, Cake, Pastry, *ad lib*, at 1/- per head; served from 4 till 6 in RESTAURANT (1st floor).

### DINNERS IN RESTAURANT—

From 5.30 till 9 at Fixed Prices (3/6 and 5/-) and à la Carte. Smoking after 7.45.

## AMERICAN BAR.

### THE GRILL ROOM

is open till Midnight.

PRIVATE DINING ROOMS FOR LARGE AND SMALL PARTIES.

## MIDLAND RAILWAY.

### CHEAP EXCURSIONS FROM ST. PANCRAS AND CITY STATIONS.

ON MONDAY, 26th August, for One or Four days, to Birmingham, from St. Pancras at 6.35 a.m., and Kentish Town at 6.40 a.m.

To Scotland for 5, 11, or 16 days.

On Friday, 30th August, for 11 days, from St. Pancras at 9.15 p.m., to Carlisle, Dumfries, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Helensburgh, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Newton Stewart, Stranraer, Wigtown, and Whithorn.

Also, for 5 or 11 days to Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Arbroath, Forfar, Brechin, Montrose, Stonehaven, Aberdeen, Inverness, Fort William, &c.

Return Tickets at a Third Class Single ordinary fare for the Double Journey, will also be issued by the above train to Scotland, to return any day within 16 days from date of issue.

On Friday, 30th August, for 11 or 16 days, from St. Pancras, at 8.30 p.m. to Northallerton, Richmond, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle and Berwick.

General Excursion, Saturday, 31st August.

Cheap Trains will be run from London (St. Pancras and City Stations) to Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Burton, Matlock, Buxton, Stockport, Southport, Liverpool, Manchester, Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury, Lancaster, Morecambe, the Lake District, Barrow, Whitehaven, Carlisle, Stoke, Hanley, Burslem, Macclesfield, Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, &c. Tickets will be available for returning on Monday, 2nd September, or Thursday, 5th September.

DOUGLAS (ISLE OF MAN).

Saturdays, 31st August, and 14th September.

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

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.

On Friday, 6th September, to Belfast and North of Ireland, and on Saturday, 7th September, to Londonderry.

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.

## LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

### SUMMER EXCURSIONS.

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

On Friday night, 30th August,

To Carlisle, Moffat, Dumfries, Newton Stewart, Stranraer, Wigtown, Whithorn, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, and Gourock, for eleven days—and to Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Montrose, Brechin, Arbroath, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus, Dundee, Perth, Crieff, Oban, Loch Awe, Dalmally, Tyndrum, Crianlarich, Killin, Fort William, Callander, Bridge of Allan, Dunblane, Stirling, and Inverness, for five and eleven days.

Note.—By this trip 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.

To Lancaster, Morecambe, Carnforth, Carlisle, the English Lake District, and the Furness Line, for three and six days.

To Douglas (Isle of Man), for ten days.

On Saturday, 31st August,

To Blackpool, Birkenhead, Chester, Northwich, Blackburn, Bolton, Southport, Wigan, Preston, Crewe, Hereford, Leominster, Ludlow, Stafford, The North Stafford Line, Ashton, Bradford, Halifax, Liverpool, Manchester, Rochdale, Oldham, Runcorn, Stalybridge, Stockport, Warrington, Widnes, Burton, Derby, Leicester, Nuneaton, Rugby, Coventry, Kenilworth, Leamington, Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, &c., for 3 and 6 days.

On every Saturday during August and September.

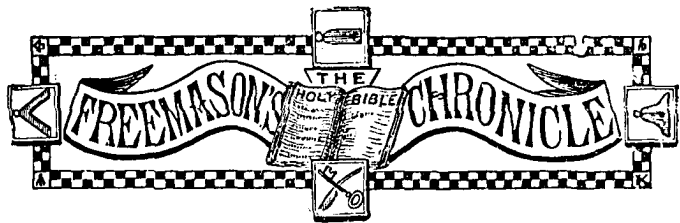
To Shrewsbury, Rhyl, Abergele, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Dolgelly, Barmouth, Aberystwyth, and other stations in North Wales, for 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17 days.

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

FRED HARRISON, General Manager.

London, August 1895.

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



SATURDAY, 24TH AUGUST 1895.

Frater the Rev. Dr. Lemon, Vicar of Poughill, Cornwall, has been presented by the Metropolitan College Rosicrucian Society of England, with a Past Celebrant's jewel on the expiration of his twelve months of office in the chair. There are only two other Rosicrucian Colleges in England, one at York and one at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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The installation of the Worshipful Master of the De la Pole Lodge, Seaton, will take place on the 28th inst., Brother A. W. Oakley P.P.G.S.B. of Devon having been unanimously elected to fill the chair for the second time. Sir Edmund de la Pole, of Shute House, has generously promised to present a buck from the Old Park at Shute, to grace the table at the usual banquet following the installation, says the "Devon and Exeter Gazette."

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An English Lodge in Glasgow—i.e., a Lodge promoted by Englishmen, and to be conducted on similar lines to the best Lodges across the Border—has long been talked of in certain circles, but as yet the proposal has not taken definite shape, says "The Mallet," in the "Glasgow Evening News," who continues: "The idea now reaches me from an entirely different quarter, and the hope is that if both parties meet, something is sure to come of it. This certainly is the right time of the year for action if the matter is to be taken up seriously."

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We regret to learn that the premises of Brother George Kenning, 16 Great Queen Street, were entered by burglars at an early hour on Thursday morning. The thieves forced open a window on the ground floor in Parker Street, and took a glass case containing Masonic jewels from one of the shop windows into the machinery room of the printing department at the back, and stripped it of its contents. Jewels worth between £600 and £700 were taken. The Bow Street Officers are investigating

the case, but neither the thieves nor the jewels have yet been traced.

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The hostility of the Roman Catholic Church to Freemasonry, on the Continent at all events, so far from abating, becomes every year more aggressive. Its latest development is to be found in the arrangements for an International Anti-Masonic Congress to be held on the 29th September. Although the leading promoters are French and Italian Catholics, it has been decided that the gathering shall take place at Brussels, "the Governments both of France and Italy being too much under the dominion of the secret societies to render it probable that the congress would be allowed to meet unmolested in either of those countries." The objects of the movement are declared to be (1) "to prove to the world, by the most convincing evidence, the evils and disasters of which Freemasonry has been the cause to mankind at large, and to the Catholic Church in particular; (2) to find the remedy for its sinister action, and to constitute, from all the active forces that can be induced to co-operate in the struggle, a permanent organisation against this infernal society." Happily, English Freemasons, as such, hold aloof from political and religious controversy, and may therefore escape the anathema.—"Morning."

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To those Catholics who are aware of the harmlessness of Masonry in these islands the utility of the project of an International Masonic Congress, which is just now occupying the attention of Continental Catholics, may appear doubtful; but it must always be remembered that in respect to religion a wide gulf separates the British Freemasons from their Continental Brethren. Of the baleful influence exercised on society by the latter there is the most explicit evidence from those who have held high positions in the society. Leo Taxil, before his conversion, was one of their leading lights, and in newspaper, pamphlet, and book he has denounced their wickedness since he has become a Catholic. Of the proposed congress he is one of the most earnest promoters. But with even greater enthusiasm is the project hailed by a more recent and more distinguished convert, Miss Diana Vaughan. She has started a subscription to help to defray the expenses incidental to the gathering, and invites all Catholics to co-operate in the undertaking. "Catholics," she says, "Freemasonry is your most dangerous enemy, and it is determined to do everything possible to destroy the Church. Be on the defence against those invaders of conscience, those enemies of religion, those corrupters of society." Such an impeachment from such an authority should leave no doubt as to the mischief being done by Masonry and its agents.—"Catholic Times."



## 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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## PROGRESS OF THE ARCH DEGREE.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR,—Your article Appearing in the issue of the 17th inst. is very opportune.

The supposed advantage that would accrue from the reduction of the probationary period has apparently remained in the land of supposition. Personally I did all in my power to prevent such a change taking place, as I thought that real reform might be delayed through such action.

That there are certain serious disadvantages under which this degree suffers, compared with the Mark degree, is well known.

In the first place the "Holy Royal Arch" is a constituent part of Craft Masonry (vide Book of Constitutions). This *might* be a great advantage, but under present conditions that which should be for good is just the opposite. Now no body of R. A. Masons can form a Chapter unless they can get a Lodge to which it can be attached. There is therefore no opportunity for young, zealous R. A. Masons to extend their work. Again, the excellent staff in the G.S.E.'s office must of necessity think first of the Craft, and afterwards of the R. A. It is needless for anyone to comment upon this. As a natural consequence the former *will* advance, and the latter *may* do so.

Worse still, this connection entirely debars any R. A. Mason from making proper progress. In the Mark it is *possible* for a man to reach the chair without having been installed Master in the Craft. In the R. A. no man can reach the Principals' chairs without having passed that in the Craft. Probably there is much to be said for this. What there is *against* it, is never considered by authority, because no Officers of Grand Chapter can have felt the position in which *many* zealous R. A. Masons have been placed. I will quote two instances to show what I mean—

A worthy Brother was exalted ten years ago. He took office as A.S. in his first year, became P.S. in his second, and S.N. in his third year. For five years he then stood by until he reached the Master's chair in a Lodge (not his mother Lodge, but one that he joined to get the office), when he duly passed on. He was zealous in attendance at a Chapter of Instruction (or, as formerly called, of Improvement) during the whole time, and is an excellent worker, as well as a good Mason.

The second instance is even worse. A Brother became P.S. in the second year after exaltation, and did his work very well. He has now stood still for over seven years, and at present has no hope of advancement. He can do all the work required in his Chapter, while some of his Principals have never done *any*.

I have trespassed too much on your space, or I might have said more.

Yours, &amp;c.,

C. W.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I would be obliged if you will permit me to make some observations upon the Article that appears under the above heading in your issue of 17th inst.

The alteration of the old rule that required twelve months as the minimum interval to elapse for a Master Mason to be admitted as a Companion did not meet with approval, because it was felt that candidates who had merely served one month as M.M. could not possibly have gained sufficient Masonic knowledge to entitle them to the privilege of admittance to the Order. I am sure that most experienced exponents of the Arch are still of that opinion, indeed, I know that in some Chapters the Companions will not propose a Candidate until he has served the full year as M.M., or can otherwise prove his proficiency. It is not unreasonable to suppose that a Master Mason has failed to grasp all the tenets of the third degree in four weeks; but the Grand Chapter in their wisdom having passed the decree, it only remains to do everything that can lessen and palliate what may be regarded as a mistake.

I cannot agree with your penultimate paragraph. Attractive as the Mark Degree undoubtedly is, it cannot be compared with the wisdom, strength and beauty of the Royal Arch ritual, neither can it be fairly said that "the Arch makes little or no advance." It may be true that "it is less zealously pushed by its adherents," but that is because knowing the grand teachings of the Degree, a Companion hesitates to introduce anyone whom he deems unable or unwilling to understand them.

I am of opinion that the Degree might be greatly extended were the convocations held more frequently. Some Chapters meet only twice a year, others three times, and I am not aware of any that meets more than four times a year. Considering the high importance of the ritual, and the great lessons to be derived therefrom, I venture to submit that every Chapter ought to meet at least six times during the twelve months, in order that the Companions may be better able to acquire the esoteric teachings of this grand Degree, and, I might add, make it worth the trouble of those Companions who have taken the pains to learn them.

Yours fraternally,

P.S.

Southend, Essex,

21st August 1895.

## "FEASTING" AS A PRELIMINARY FOR MASONRY.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I do not know whether the correspondent of the "Echo," who signs himself "Blennerhassett" has seen the correspondence in your pages the last two weeks, but that or something appears to have given him a better opinion of the Order, as in to-day's issue of the "Echo" he apparently replies to the query of someone desiring to join the Craft, and says that after being proposed and vouched for by a friend it is "a

mere question of forms and fees." Although this is hardly the correct term for a Mason of forty years experience to use, it is far less objectionable than his former method, when he included "feasting" as one of the essentials in the development of a candidate into a Free and Accepted Mason.

Yours, &amp;c.,

A PROVINCIAL.

## REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

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## CRAFT: PROVINCIAL.

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## LODGE OF FREEDOM, No. 77.

ON Monday, Bro. Jas. A. Whitfield presided at the first regular meeting of the Lodge since his installation, at Gravesend, and was supported by Bros. Thos. Nettleingham I.P.M., R. C. Fowle S.W., W. Gunn J.W., Rev. A. Jackson Chaplain, G. Masters and John Solomon Deacons, Frank Hitchens D.C., R. J. Beamish P.M., J. C. Biggs P.M., Geo. Rackstraw P.M., and a large attendance.

Messrs. Wyvel, Hartley, Lake and James George Prevost were duly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Order by the W.M., the ancient Charge being delivered by Bro. Beamish. A vote of sympathy and condolence was passed to the family of the late Bro. George R. Cobham.

Two candidates were proposed for initiation at the next meeting and there being no other business, the Lodge was closed and the Brethren adjourned to supper.

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## WEAR VALLEY LODGE, No. 1121.

ON Friday, 9th inst., the Officers and members of this Lodge presented Bro. T. H. Thompson P.M. Treasurer with a handsome jewel on his leaving for London.

A large number of Brethren and Visitors were present. The W.M. (Bro. De Lacey) and Bros. B. Boulton P.P.G.T., G. W. Jennings P.J.W., T. Dunn P.D.C., spoke in eulogistic terms of the interest Bro. T. H. Thompson had always taken in the Lodge.

The rest of the evening was spent in harmony, and the usual Masonic toasts were honoured.

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## DUKE OF YORK LODGE, No. 2449.

AN emergency meeting was held on Thursday, the 15th inst., at the Palatine Hotel, Manchester, for the purpose of Initiating Messrs. Edwin Crowther, Electrical Engineer, Cheetham, and John Henry Crowther, Commercial Traveller, Heaton Moor. There was a fair attendance, among those present being Bros. Fred Warburton W.M., Wm. Boden I.P.M., T. T. Hardicker S.W., Clement J. Hall J.W., Oates Rushton Treasurer, Robert Meggitt Secretary, John Kinsey Asst. Sec., Geo. A. Bowden S.D., T. H. Stott J.D., A. G. Bryce I.G., J. T. Whittle D.C., Arthur Scarlett Chap., W. T. Schofield P.M. P.P.G.D., Rowland H. Whitham, and John Fairbairn, Visitor:—Bro. Jas. W. Abbott P.M. 1030 P.P.G.D.C.

The first ceremony was performed by the W.M., and the second by Bro. Boden I.P.M., the Charge in the N.E. being rendered by the J.W., who also presented and explained the Working Tools.

At the festive board which followed, Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, these being varied by songs rendered by Bros. Scarlett, Stott, Hall, Rushton, Fairbairn and others.

Brother Boden I.P.M. having proposed the toast of the Initiates, they responded.

Brother Edwin Crowther expressed his regret that his initiation had entailed upon the Lodge the necessity of an emergency meeting. Had he known this, he would have hesitated before trying the generosity of the members by a nomination that put it to the inconvenience of a meeting during the vacation. That of course increased his obligation, and he was grateful to them for the benefit he had received. He might mention as a reason for the emergency, that he was going out to South Africa in the course of a few weeks, for a permanent residence, and for reasons which perhaps it would be unnecessary to go into, it had been suggested to him while in Africa that a certificate from an English Lodge would facilitate his Masonic career abroad. He congratulated himself that fortune had placed him in the way of joining a Lodge of such distinction as the Duke of York, and he begged to thank all his newly-found Brethren for the kindness which they had extended to him that evening.

Bro. John Henry Crowther said that he also thanked the Brethren of the Duke of York Lodge for their kind reception of himself and brother. Personally he had often thought of joining Freemasonry, and he was grateful to all who had put themselves out of the way that he might attain his object.

Brother Whitham, in proposing the health of the W.M., said he found himself in one of the most awkward predicaments. He was not often short of words by which to express himself, but now he felt that he was lacking in that direction. Upon his first acquaintance with Masonry, when he saw the gavel wielded, he was amazed at its power, and now that that instrument had been passed over to him he wondered what to do with it. He had, however, a duty to perform, and his Brethren would know that it was of a pleasant nature when he told them it was that of proposing the health of the W.M. The Duke of York Lodge had not a long history, but it had a tremendous reputation. Bro. Whitham spoke in eulogistic terms of Brother Warburton, and of the way in which he had performed his duties, saying that upon his termination of office he would prove to have been a compeer of those who had preceded him in the office.

Bro. Warburton W.M. responded, saying he thanked them for their kind reception of the toast of his health. It was gratifying to him that so far as his year of office had run, he had retained the good wishes of the Brethren so as to receive praise like that lavished upon him by Bro. Whitham. He had endeavoured to do his best in the past, and would not relax his efforts in the future. His success had been contributed to by his Past Masters, who, besides being members of other Lodges, had rendered assistance in this, and

were good examples to follow. In conclusion he assured his auditors that they might expect the work to go on as satisfactorily as before, for he could rely upon his Officers in any emergency.

Other toasts followed.

## ROYAL ARCH.

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ALL SAINTS CHAPTER, No. 422.

AT the annual meeting held at Gainsborough, on Tuesday, 20th inst., the Officers for the year were elected as follow:—Comps. Farmer 1st Principal, Sowby 2nd, Constable 3rd, Liversidge Principal Sojourner and Treasurer, R. G. Pearson Scribe E., Adland Scribe N., and Scott Janitor.

## HERE AND THERE.

I AM much obliged to Brother W. J. Hughan P.G.D. for the immediate response which he made to my inquiry regarding the "Blue Blanket," which interesting account appeared in your columns last week. In your next issue I hope to give another version, which has just reached me from a correspondent at a distance.

Here is a literal copy of a play bill issued by the manager of the Theatre Royal, Kilkenny, in the year 1793:—"Kilkenny Theatre Royal, by His Majesty's company of comedians. On Saturday, 14th May 1793, will be performed by command of several respectable people in this learned metropolis, for the benefit of Mr. Kearns, the tragedy of 'Hamlet!' Originally written and composed by the celebrated Dan Hays, of Limerick, and inserted in Shakspeare's works. Hamlet by Mr. Kearns (being his first appearance in that character), who, between the acts will perform several solos on the patent bag-pipes, which play two tunes at the same time. Ophelia by Mrs. Prior, who will introduce several favourite airs in character, particularly 'The Lass of Richmond Hill,' and 'We'll all be unhappy together,' from the Reverend Mr. Dibdin's 'Oddities.' The parts of the King and Queen, by direction of the Reverend Father O'Callagan, will be omitted, as too immoral for any stage. Polonius, the comical politician, by a young gentleman, being his first appearance in public. The Ghost, the Grave-digger, and Laertes, by Mr. Sampson, the great London comedian. The characters to be dressed in Roman shapes. To which will be added an interlude, in which will be introduced several sleight-of-hand tricks by the celebrated surveyor Hunt. The whole to conclude with the farce of 'Mahomet the Imposter.' Mahomet by Mr. Kearns. Tickets to be had of Mr. Kearns, at the sign of the Goat's Beard, in Castle Street. The value of the tickets, as usual, will be taken (if required) in candles, bacon, butter, cheese, soap, &c., as Mr. Kearns wishes, in every particular, to accommodate the public. No person shall be admitted into the boxes without shoes or stockings."

I heard a good retort the other day which is quite original. A male and female acquaintance of mine were engaged in a very lively discussion, when the former said, "By the bye, your sparkling witticisms remind me that the ancient Greeks applied to an unmarried lady the term 'Anecdote,' which really signified 'anything not yet given forth.'" The fair disputant answered as follows:—"I daresay you are quite right, and in the same sense the ancient Greeks would probably have described many unmarried men as 'Romances, inelegantly bound in calf.'"

Another friend of mine, who has just returned from Paris, was relating to me some sad experiences which he met with while staying in the Rue St. Honoré. This recital of his reminded me of an incident which took place shortly before my first visit to the gay city some years ago, and which was told to me while passing through this identical suburb on my way to the Jardin des Plantes. A Savoyard, whose only means of subsistence seemed to be what he gained by playing a hurdy-gurdy, was passing the window of a printseller's shop in the Rue St. Honoré, when he fell down in a faint, exclaiming at the same time, "My mother!" Upon being restored to consciousness, he was questioned as to the cause of his sudden indisposition, and explained that a painting in the shop window to which he pointed—that of a Savoyard's cot with a woman and children—was his own home depicted with portraits of his mother, brothers, and sister, a subject which had attracted the notice of some passing artist. The bystanders of the scene were so struck by the remarkable coincidence, that in their sympathy with the Savoyard they made a very substantial collection in money, which enabled the object of their solicitude to revisit his home shortly afterwards. A gentleman who was present purchased the picture for a sum of thirty francs, and magnanimously presented it to the lad.

An incident which happened in the Rue de Rivoli, a street adjoining the St. Honoré, illustrates one of the many devices of the Parisian swindler. A dandy was walking under the arcades of the Rue de Rivoli, holding in his hand a gold-headed cane of splendid workmanship. A man supported by two crutches, came up, and asked for alms in a pitiful tone. The dandy, moved to compassion, gave the beggar a small silver coin. At the same time a person near him suddenly exclaimed, "How can you, sir, allow this rogue to deceive you? Please to lend me your cane, and I will show you that the rascal runs better than I can." The dandy, without reflecting, lent his cane. The beggar, the moment he perceived it in his detractor's hand, threw away his crutches and took to his heels, being followed by the man with the cane, whilst the spectators, and the dandy particularly, remained in convulsions of laughter at the sight, and exclaiming alternately, "Oh, he will be caught!" "No, he will not be caught!" But both the racing heroes disappeared at the next turning of the street, and their victim remained waiting for his splendid cane, which cost five hundred francs.

This is what a non-Masonic paper once said of us:—"It seems that everything which occurs in Masonic Lodges is not always known to the out-

side world. For this popular ignorance Masons themselves are partly to blame. If they were to invite local reporters to attend and report the secret meetings of the Lodges, and were to treat the reporters with civility and beer, or both, no doubt they would reciprocate by giving the Lodge a good write-up. In fact, there is no occasion for the Masons to subsidise the reporter, if they desire to have their proceedings made public. All that is necessary for such a purpose would be for the Masons to inform their wives confidentially, under the promise of secrecy, what goes on in the Lodge-room, and in an incredibly short time the secrets of Masonry would be a thing of the past. As it is, however, outsiders manage to find out a good deal about Masonry, Masonic wives, or rather the wives of Masons, say, that after their husband's return from the Lodge, they do not bring the same breath back with them which they took away, but an entirely different aroma, which is redolent of whiskey and cigars, mitigated by ineffectual cloves.

Another open Masonic secret is that the Masons help each other out and wonderful stories are told of Masons caught in tight places winking at other Masons, and being relieved at once. There was a story published in a newspaper about how a man, during the American War, got out of an annoying difficulty by being a Mason. It seems that General Sheridan hung some of Mosby's men, and Mosby returned the courtesy by hanging some Federal prisoners. The great Virginia guerilla selected seven Union prisoners, and told some of his officers to escort them near to General Sheridan's line, and hang them. The Confederate officer who had charge of the hanging happened to be a Mason, and so also was one of the doomed Union prisoners. The consequence was that the Masonic prisoner was not utilised, and one who had intended to "jine," but neglected to do so, was allowed to take the Mason's place, and was duly hanged.

It is also said that the signals men make to keepers of soda-water fountains are Masonic signals. And so are those which other men make to the bar-keeper to "hang them up" on the slate.

Still another Masonic secret is that persons who have been maimed by railway, or any other accident, and who, like King Richard, are "shorn of their fair proportions," or who may be doubled up by rheumatism, are not allowed to become members of the Order. The reason for this exclusion is said to be the liability of applicants to fall off Jacob's ladder while being initiated, and smash some unlucky Masonic Brother who might be standing underneath.

But, jesting aside, liberty and civilisation owe a great debt to Masonry, and it will be a dark day for the world when Masonry is extinguished, of which, however, there is no possible danger. There is room for everybody in this world, if nobody tries to crowd anybody else.

STREBO.

## MASONIC CELEBRATIONS.

FREEMASONRY, though professedly a secret and not a proselytising Order, comes before the public tolerably often. To some extent even this ancient institution, adhering loyally as it does to the landmarks erected centuries ago, is influenced by the spirit of the age. The justification for a degree of publicity that would perhaps have been regarded as scarcely proper in the earlier days of the Craft is doubtless to be found, at least in part, in the attacks to which Freemasonry is periodically subjected. A society against which Papal Bulls are launched is bound to defend itself to the best of its ability, and, to give them their due, its champions have little difficulty in establishing that, however it may be with Continental Masonry, the charge of favouring naturalism in religion and of fostering revolutionism in politics will not lie against the well-conducted Lodges of the English-speaking race. The vigorous vindication of the Order and its principles by the Rev. F. W. Samwell last year, and by the Rev. Canon Poole on Monday evening, correctly and sufficiently answers such serious accusations. Nor is their reply merely a negative of the damaging theories advanced; it contains positive testimony alike to the essentially religious, moral, and society-commenting aims of the Masonic institution. Nevertheless a good many of the uninitiated, and, for that matter, not a few even of its members themselves, may be indisposed to take Freemasonry quite so seriously.

It is rather a misfortune for the Order that when publicly in evidence it is usually on "full-dress parade," a circumstance which tends naturally to beget an impression that there is less in it of substance than of show. The gorgeous regalia and the grandiose titles may well suggest enquiry whether there is an adequate reality behind them, while the apparent prominence given to the element of conviviality, at the same time that the rites and ceremonies preceding these festal re-unions are jealously withheld from view, supplies the uncharitable cynic with his opportunity for jeering. After all, however, is it not true that the English find no celebration fittingly perfected without a dinner, and may not Masons, too, have their innocent merry-makings without offence? That the "knife-and-fork degree" is not absolutely dominant is well enough attested by the magnitude of both private and organised Masonic charity, showing that the principles of "brotherly love and relief" are by no means virtues of which there is incessant preaching without very considerable practice.

Obscure as still is the genesis of Freemasonry, the pretensions of the mystical school of writers who claimed for it an antiquity going back at least as far as Solomon's Temple are no longer seriously put forward. The similar exaggerations of its secret teachings, as though not merely in form but in matter they stood wholly apart from the general body of human knowledge, may be with as little hesitation brushed aside. It has seemed to some critics a theme for wonderment that an enduring system could ever have been built upon, or rather around, the central legend or mythos of the Craft, not merely because of its intrinsic character, but because at best it is traditionary and unverifiable. The founders of the scheme, however, whoever they may have been, had the profound sagacity to perceive as well the adaptability of symbol and allegory to effective exposition of religious and moral truths as

the natural attraction of mystery to a large order of minds in every stage of life.

A Catholic priest, quoted by St. George Mivart, has truly said:—"God can teach us by symbols as well as by facts; ideal characters can serve for instruction as well as real ones." Freemasonry has grasped this principle and made ample use of it; and, though mystics have set up claims on its behalf which neither history nor reason will sustain, it does not boast without cause that in essence it is as honourable as in age it undoubtedly is venerable. The esoteric side of the Masonic institution is of course not the only, and perhaps not even the chief, explanation of its vitality. Certainly it is made popular among a large section by the peculiarly democratic basis of its constitution. No Court etiquette is more rigid and exacting than that of the Masonic Order; in no Court is more respect commanded for dignities and titles. But the honours of Freemasonry, except perhaps the very highest, are open to all its members, drawn as they are from every walk of life. The Lodges, as the Deputy Grand Master of South Australia Mr. Sansom remarked on Monday evening, are really little republics in their way, and his own successful career in the fraternity is evidence that the highest position may reward faithful and unremitting service.

At least as far as free choice can secure it, "all preferment among Masons is grounded upon real worth and personal merit only." True, the Grand Master is required to be "nobly born, or a gentleman of the best fashion, or some eminent scholar, or some curious architect or other artist, descended of honest parents, and who is of singularly great merit in the opinion of the Lodges." It has, however, always been sound policy for the Order to have at its head a Grand Master whose social or official rank is virtually a guarantee of the innocence of its aims and work. Appropriately, while the Earl of Kintore was our Governor, he presided over the Craft in South Australia as the Prince of Wales rules over it in England, and it accords with the fitness of things that the Lieutenant-Governor, the original occupant of the office, should have resumed its duties and responsibilities, the more so as in the past he discharged them with such fidelity and zeal, and "is of singularly great merit in the opinion of the Lodges."

Few even of enthusiasts in the Craft will be prepared to endorse Mr. Sansom's extravagant statement that the Order of Freemasonry is the most important institution in the world. Had he said that this "peculiar system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols," to cite the authoritative definition, represents a unique achievement of the human mind attempting to invent a cult based on the fundamentals of ethics and religion, and of such breadth that Christian, Jew, and even Mahometan, may meet upon the level of a common faith, Mr. Sansom would have had fewer to disagree with him. It must be a source of grief to many of the best spirits in Masonry, and yet it is not necessarily a reflection on their cherished Craft, that the performance—great as it may be—falls so far short of the grandeur of the programme.

Freemasonry, however, can be justly blamed no more than the Church, for the shortcomings of members who have failed to profit by its teachings. Mr. Gurr, one of the recently installed Masters, has said—fairly enough—that the Order, at least, presents a lofty ideal of virtuous life and moral conduct, and the mere striving towards such an ideal must be beneficial both to the individual and society. How many do strive, and how many there are to whom only the accidents of Freemasonry are attractive, are questions, vitally important indeed, which we cannot pretend to answer. But when every deduction and allowance have been made, it must still be conceded that Freemasonry—in its English dress, at all events—is inspired by worthy and even noble aims, and that society is the gainer by an institution which, despite the war of creeds, unities men around the pure altar of a common faith; which in a world of misery extends a hand of help to the afflicted; and which, in an age of unrest and class division, makes for trust and sympathy between members of all classes, and thus contributes to social peace and order.—South Australian Advertiser."

## THE PRESIDING GENIUS AT A BANQUET.

AMONG the ancient Mexicans, Mr. Dorman tells us, in his "Origin of Primitive Superstitions," Omacate was the god of mirth. His image, which was that of a man, was brought in and presided at the banquets. If this was neglected, the gods could mix hairs with the food of the guests, which was a great disgrace, as well as a great discomfort, to the participants.

Every Freemason has been present, now and then, at Masonic banquets which have had, as it were, hairs mixed with the food. The fault was not with the caterer, but the Master. The hairs are not literal hairs, not filaments growing from the skin of an animal, but metaphorical hairs, which, however, were as unpleasant mentally as the real hairs would have been physically.

Some Masters do not know how to act as the presiding genius at a banquet, and so far as they are concerned they might as well, or better, be absent. The proper presiding genius certainly is absent, and as a result figurative hairs are mixed with the food.

A Master who takes his Lodge, or High Priest his Chapter, down to the banquet hall at or near eleven o'clock at night, has at the outset provided hairs, which will run through every course. It is impossible for the large majority of members to enjoy a late banquet. They cannot and will not give the necessary time to it to make it enjoyable. They can only eat and run. Now there is nothing Masonic about that. A Masonic banquet is not simply a contribution of solids and fluids to a stomach that possibly is

already full, and that only requires at the time rest, and the entire body and mind sleep; but it is a tickling of the palate with toothsome viands in order that the social propensities may be awakened and enlivened, the hearts of all present beat in unison throughout the entire assemblage, the tongues be loosed so as to break forth in pleasant speech, story and song, and the mind prepared for the reception of all that is said and done for the benefit of Freemasonry and the healthful pleasure of all the participants. The proper genius, therefore, does not preside at a banquet unless the Brethren or Companions sit down to enjoy it at a timely, early hour in the evening.

The presiding genius, in the person of a Master who is a Master, being present, he must see to it that the entertainment is general and common, that it is not confined to a section here and a section there, but is universal around the tables. To secure this he must have arranged some general programme in advance, he must have selected, in his mind at least, and better still by communicating somewhat in advance with the Brethren themselves, those upon whom he will call to contribute to the pleasures of the intellectual feast.

Of course the waiters must be sent out of the room, of course order must be maintained, of course there must be a Master who is the director of whatever occurs, and who selects all of those who share in entertaining the Brethren. Never should the entire table, nor any one present at it, be permitted to run the feast. Only the Master can properly govern it, and make its enjoyment what Masonry intended it should be.

It is a good rule never to call upon any one out of mere compliment whom you known cannot satisfy either himself or others. It is another good rule to call upon Visiting Brethren of ability, because their voices will be new to the company, and on that account alone will attract attention. Besides it is a proper courtesy, which is always appreciated.

At a Masonic banquet every Brother should be ready and willing to do his best to contribute to the general entertainment. He should be gratifying himself while he is gratifying others. He should have some good contribution ready, in case he is called upon. He should study to please. His Brethren and himself are one, and all should be ready to throw something into the common fund for the common benefit.

If every Brother, from the Master down, were faithful in following these suggestions, the presiding genius and many other geniuses, would always be present at a Masonic banquet, and there would be no hairs mixed with the food.—"Keystone."

An American Grand Lodge recently resolved "that physical ability to earn a livelihood, and to conform substantially to the forms and ceremonies of Masonry, and be instructed in its mysteries, is all that is required, providing the candidate possesses the higher qualifications of a belief in God, of mental worth, and the record of a moral and upright life; that this interpretation of the ancient charges and regulations is not inconsistent with the true spirit of the Masonic Institution, but in keeping with its sublime teachings from time immemorial."

o o o

THE well-known Stock and Share dealers, Messrs. George Gregory and Co., refer to the approaching issue of the Report of the Consolidated Gold Fields Company, which they anticipate will be of a very stimulating character, in view of the recent course of events, as since the date of the issue of the late Report an enormous rise has taken place in the value of the Company's numerous and extensive holdings. The capital of the Consolidated Gold Fields Company consists of about £600,000 in five-and-a-half per cent. Debentures, £1,242,000 in Preferred, and £625,000 in Ordinary Shares. The conditions as regards interest that attach to the preferential portions of the Capital being of course fixed, all benefits beyond accrue to the Deferred, which are practically Ordinary Shares, and the smallness of the amount of the ordinary capital constitutes an important feature, and explains why these £1 Shares are now quoted £13 10s and good for £25. Messrs. Gregory and Co. will supply further details on application to their chief office—3 and 4 Tokenhouse Buildings, E.C.—or to either of their branch establishments.

## Candidates for the Institutions.

--:o:--

Announcements are inserted under this head at the rate of five shillings per inch, to appear each week from the time the ballot papers are issued up to the day of election, for cash with order.

## BOYS SCHOOL.

--:o:--

Votes and interest are earnestly solicited on behalf of  
CECIL HERBERT WORRELL (AGED 8 YEARS).

Whose Mother, the late Madame Worrell (Associate Royal Academy Music), died recently after a long and lingering illness. Father left with four children, entirely dependent upon him, has also a bed-ridden Mother over eighty years of age, whom he has to support on his small salary as a Clerk. Bro. William Worrell was initiated in the William Preston Lodge, No. 766, in the year 1869, and was a Member for twenty-four years, occupying the position of Secretary for eighteen years. Was one of the Founders of the William Preston Chapter, 766, and the first M.E.Z., also a Founder and second Master of the Stockwell Lodge, No. 1339, and continued a member for some years, and Secretary of the Clapham Lodge, No. 1818, for a few years from its consecration. Proxies will be thankfully received by Bro. William Worrell, 102 Amesbury Avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W.

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

## NEXT WEEK.

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

## Monday, 26th.

48 Industry, Gateshead  
491 Royal Sussex, Jersey  
557 Loyal Victoria, Callington  
999 Robert Burns, Manchester  
1177 Tenby, Tenby  
1325 Stanley, Liverpool  
1753 Obedience, Okehampton  
1861 Claremont, Croydon  
1991 Agricola, York  
2068 Portsmouth Temperance,  
Landport

## Tuesday, 27th.

253 Tyrian, Derby  
954 St. Aubyn, Morice Town  
1007 Howe & Charnwood, Loughboro  
1016 Elkington, Birmingham  
1052 Callender, Manchester  
1390 Whitwell, Millom  
1580 Cranbourne, Hatfield  
1609 Liverpool Dramatic, Liverpool  
1636 St. Cecilia, Brighton  
1650 Rose of Raby, Staindrop  
1675 Ancient Briton, Liverpool  
1942 Minerva, Fenton  
1958 Hundred of Bosmere, Portsea  
2025 St. George, Plymouth

## Wednesday, 28th.

220 Harmony, Garston  
304 Philanthropic, Leeds  
439 Scientific, Bingley  
461 Fortitude, Newton Moor  
724 Derby, Liverpool  
1119 St. Bede, Jarrow  
1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge  
1296 Vale of Brislington, Brislington  
1343 Saint John, Grays  
1756 Kirkdale, Liverpool  
1760 Leopold, Scarborough  
1775 Leopold, Church, nr Acerington  
1783 Albert Edward, Huddersfield

1989 Stirling, Cleaton Moor  
2019 Crook, Crook  
2064 Smith Child, Tunstall  
2149 Gordon, Hauley  
2320 St. Martin, Castleton  
2357 Barry, Cadoxton  
2444 Noel, Kingston-on-Thames  
2448 Bradstow, Broadstairs

## Thursday, 29th.

General Committee, Girls School,  
F.M.H., 5  
39 St. John the Baptist, Exeter  
116 Royal Lancashire, Colne  
208 Three G. Principles, Dewsbury  
275 Harmony, Huddersfield  
337 Candour, Uppermill  
426 Shakespeare, Spilsby  
590 La Cesaree, Jersey  
630 St. Cuthbert, Howden  
636 De Ogle, Morpeth  
710 Pleiades, Totnes  
807 Cabbell, Norwich  
904 Phoenix, Rotherham  
1032 Townley Parker, Chorley  
1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath  
1164 Eliot, St. Germans  
1166 Clarendon, Hyde  
1235 Phoenix of St. Ann, Buxton  
1576 Dee, Park Gate, Cheshire  
1578 Merlin, Pontypridd  
2091 Castleberg, Settle

## Friday, 30th.

318 True and Faithful, Helston  
445 Fidelity, Towcester  
516 Phoenix, Stowmarket  
566 St. Germain, Selby  
712 Lindsey, Louth  
810 Craven, Skipton  
1224 Stour Valley, Sudbury  
1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge  
2415 Tristram, Shildon  
2431 Kingsley, Northampton

## Saturday, 31st.

House Committee, Royal Masonic  
Benevolent Institution, Croydon, 3.  
308 Prince George, Todmorden  
336 Benevolence, Marple  
1462 Wharnccliffe, Penistone

## HOTELS, ETC.

—:0:—

EALING—Feathers Hotel.

EASTBOURNE—Pier Hotel, Cavendish Place. View of Sea and Pier.  
A. TAYLOR, Proprietor.EAST MOLESEY—Castle Hotel, Hampton Court Station. Specimen  
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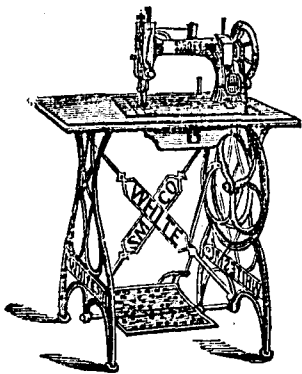
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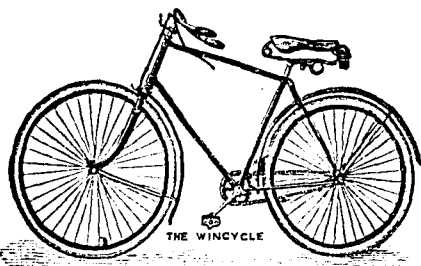
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## The Theatres, &amp;c.

—:0:—

Princess's.—7.45, Saved from the Sea.

Terry's.—8.30, The Prude's Progress.

Trafalgar.—8.15, In an Attic. 9, The Passport.  
(Last night.)Globe.—8, The Journey's End. 9, Charley's Aunt.  
Prince of Wales's.—7.35, A Woman's Caprice.  
8.15, Gentleman Joe. Matinée, Thursday, 3.

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

Criterion.—8.20; All abroad.

Strand.—A Youngster's Adventure, and New York  
Divorce.Lyric.—8.15, The revised version of An Artist's Model.  
Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.Vaudeville.—8.20, Between the Posts. 8.55, The  
Strange Adventures of Miss Brown.

Avenue.—8, Daggers drawn. 8.40, Qwong-Hi.

Grand.—Camille. On Monday, The Masqueraders.

Alhambra.—Variety Entertainment. 8.5, A day out.  
At 9.45, Titania. Grand Ballets, Juggling,  
Wrestling, &c.

Empire.—7.45 Variety Entertainment. 10.10, Faust

Palace.—7.50, Variety Entertainment, Tableaux Vi-  
vants, &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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tions daily.Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. Maskolyne's Magical  
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