

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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

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THE BOYS SCHOOL.

AS the day draws near for the Anniversary Festival of this Institution there is increased evidence of the customary care being given to the making of proper arrangements for its success, and there is every prospect that the assembly on the 24th, at Brighton, will be as much of a success as any of the Anniversaries held at that popular resort.

The second meeting of the Board of Stewards was held on Tuesday, at Freemasons' Hall, when the following report was received, and the necessary work in connection with the settlement of minor details disposed of:—

The Committee appointed at the meeting on the 8th May last, to make arrangements for the Festival, had the pleasure of submitting the following report of its proceedings:—

The exclusive use of the Royal Pavilion Buildings and Lawns at Brighton have been engaged for the day of the Festival, and the Corporation has consented to close the grounds from 2 o'clock to 8 o'clock p.m., thus securing privacy for our Stewards and Visitors.

The London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company has contracted to provide special trains of first class carriages, to leave Victoria Station at 11.0 a.m. (calling at Clapham Junction and East Croydon), and London Bridge Station at 1.35 p.m. (calling at East Croydon at 1.50); returning at 9.15 p.m. for Victoria and London Bridge. These trains will stop at East Croydon and Clapham Junction stations on both the up and down journeys.

Passengers who may miss the special trains will be allowed to travel by the ordinary trains leaving Victoria at 11.40 a.m. and 1.50 p.m., and London Bridge at 2 p.m. A limited number of passes for the trains leaving Victoria at 3.50 and London Bridge at 4 p.m., will be allowed. Application for these must reach the Hon. Sec. before Saturday, 20th June.

The return tickets are available (without extra charge) by any ordinary train on Thursday and Friday, 25th and 26th June, and on payment of 2s at the Booking Office at Brighton will be further extended to Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, 27th, 28th, and 29th June, for those who may desire to remain.

The Committee has engaged the London Military Band to play on the Eastern Lawn, from 3 to 5.15 p.m., and an Orchestral Band to play in the Dome from 5 o'clock and during the dinner, and on the Eastern Lawn from 7 till 8.30 p.m.

Brother John Sayers, of Brighton, has again undertaken the duties of caterer for the occasion, providing an excellent menu approved by the Committee. The dinner will be served in the Dome, to commence at 5.30 o'clock prompt.

In accordance with your instructions, the arrangements made include, for the Stewards fee, a dinner and railway first class ticket (London to Brighton and return). It is proposed to send to each Steward, who will have paid his fee of £2 2s, these tickets, with a request for the return of the railway ticket by 25th June if not used.

Special attention is called to the fact that Ladies who qualify as Life-Governors may act as Stewards. The fee of £1 1s includes dinner and railway tickets.

The price to be paid for Visitor's dinner tickets is: for Brethren, to include railway fare 25s each, excluding railway fare 21s each; for Ladies, including railway fare 21s each, excluding railway fare 15s each.

The Committee being of opinion that on this special occasion the Ladies should have a pleasing memento of their visit, has resolved to give each a stoppered cut-glass bottle of scent.

The Stewards' Badge selected is of Hall-marked Silver, Gilt and richly enamelled. The selection was made after inspection and careful consideration of thirteen patterns offered by five manufacturers, and your Committee feels that an exceptionally valuable jewel has been approved, and one peculiarly appropriate to the Chairman's Province.

The members of the Sussex Masonic Club will be pleased to see any Brethren at the Club, Regent House, 2 Church Street (corner of New Road), on the day of the Festival. Letters or Parcels may be addressed to the Club, care of the Secretary Bro. A. J. Freeman.

The Committee of the Smugglers' Club (Arches Nos. 130 and 131, situated on the under King's Road, nearly opposite the "Alhambra"), have kindly elected the Stewards of the Festival as Honorary Members for the day.

THE Annual Athletic Sports of the Boys in the School at Wood Green will take place to-day (Saturday), at Kempton Park, where they have kindly been invited by Bro. Geo. Everett P.G. Treas. Vice-Patron of the Institution, and one of its most enthusiastic supporters.

A special train for the conveyance of the Boys, the Board of

Management, and friends, will leave Wood Green at 11.10 a.m., calling at Ludgate Hill at 11.40, and returning from Kempton Park at 7.30. Another special will leave Waterloo (No. 8 platform) at 12.45 p.m., by both of which reduced fares will be charged to holders of invitation tickets, which may be obtained of the Secretary of the Institution, at Freemasons' Hall.

The Sports will commence at 2.30 p.m., and dancing, in the Pavilion, at 6.30, the provision of refreshments being entrusted to Messrs. Bertram and Co.

We hope the day will prove a fine one, in which case we have every reason to anticipate a most enjoyable gathering.

A special meeting of the Lewisham Lodge of Instruction, No. 2579, will be held on Tuesday, 16th inst., at the Parish Hall, Ladywell, when the chair will be taken by Bro. Christopher Sims W.M. 2579 P.M. 1208 and 861, &c., P.Z. 1381, &c., P.M.M. 223, assisted by the Officers of the Lewisham Lodge; on which occasion the symbols of the Craft Degrees in Ancient Freemasonry, and subjects relating to present-day working, with many interesting diagrams, showing the connection of our whole system and the relative dependency of its several parts, will be illustrated with lime-light diagrams by Bro. Walter Clement Tyler S.D. 862 I.G. 2579 1567, &c., and their meanings expounded by Bro. Charles L. Nelson W.M.-elect 1702 D.C. 781, &c. The Lodge will be opened at 7 o'clock, and the lecture will commence at 7.30 p.m. punctually. Master Masons only may attend, and Masonic clothing is to be worn. Trains leave Cannon Street for Ladywell at 6.30 and 7.2, and St. Paul's for Catford at 6.17 and 6.35, returning from Ladywell at 9.48, 10.39, and 11.22, Lewisham Junction at 10.56 and 11.25, and Catford at 10.15 and 10.47. The Lewisham Lodge of Instruction meets every Wednesday, at the Black Bull, High Street, Lewisham, at eight p.m.

The Broxbourne Lodge, No. 2353, will hold an emergency meeting to-day (Saturday), the gathering taking place at the Red Lion, High Barnet, of which house Bro. F. Voller has recently become the proprietor and is making such radical improvements as promise to place the establishment in the position it occupied in the "good old coaching days," when it was certainly the most important hostelry within twenty miles of London on the great north road. We believe Bro. Voller contemplates many alterations and improvements, and, in view of the splendid position of the house, we feel his energy and liberality will secure their due reward.

We understand that the Rev. Sydney H. Fleming, Vicar of St. James', Croydon, contemplates joining the Craft, and will probably be initiated in the Bedford Lodge, No. 157, at Freemasons' Hall, at the next meeting of that Lodge in the autumn, by Bro. Layton A. Richardson I.P.M. It is pretty widely known that the Rev. S. H. Fleming preached a sermon recently on Church and Stage, with special reference to the great drama, "The Sign of the Cross," which has been published, and has now reached its third edition, and caused some sensation amongst the Masonic, Theatrical, Musical, and Clerical worlds.

Following closely upon the Household Brigade Lodge, the Navy Lodge, No. 2612, was to be consecrated yesterday (Friday) at Freemasons' Hall, by the Pro Grand Master the Earl of Lathom. Rear-Admiral A. H. Markham District Grand Master of Malta was to be installed as the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

The Hornsey Lodge of Instruction, No. 890, has suspended its meetings for the summer. Subscriptions due to the Benevolent Association can be sent to the Hon. Sec. Bro. Walter Robin, 23 Mount Pleasant Road, Lewisham.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

THE Annual Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter took place on Tuesday afternoon, in the Church Institute, Bradford. The meeting was held under the auspices of the three local Chapters, the Charity, No. 302, the Warrant of which dates back to the last century, the year of its formation being 1798; the Sincerity, No. 600, which is well on the way towards its Jubilee, having been established in 1853; and the Pentalpha, No. 974, which is of more recent origin, its foundation being set down as 1892. There was a large attendance of Companions.

The proceedings commenced by the opening of an ordinary Chapter, the Principals being Comps. S. A. Bailey, Charity, 302; F. P. Carter, Sincerity, 600; and C. W. O. Smith, Pentalpha, 974. In due course these received the Provincial present and past Officers.

The Provincial Grand Chapter was opened by the Rt. Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., Provincial Grand Superintendent who, in an address, said that that was practically the first Chapter he had attended in his present position as Superintendent, and it was some years since the Provincial Grand Chapter was held in Bradford. In examining what had been done in the Province he could not help being struck by the fact that whilst the Craft seemed to be in an extremely vigorous and healthy condition, there was not the same signs of life and progress as regards the Arch. Whilst he was not fitted to offer an opinion as to the cause of that difference, he thought it would not be unfitting that he should refer to it, because he looked to that degree as being the complement and completion of a Mason's life in the Order. Whether that view be the general one he could not say, but he thought it was generally recognised and accepted that the fourth degree was a part—and really an essential part—of the work and life of a Craft Mason. Those who had watched the figures would have noticed the difference in the proportions of the two bodies. Whilst in the Province they had 3,850 Craft Masons, they had only a little over 1,300 members of the Chapters; that was, a proportion of little more than thirty per cent. Of course he was aware there were possibly some reasons which accounted for that disproportion. In the first place, as they knew, no Mason except one who had passed the chair was eligible as a Principal in a Chapter. At one time no Mason could be admitted to a Chapter unless he had been a Master Mason for twelve months. Recently, as they knew, a relaxation was made in the rules, in order to encourage, or at all events to remove what might have been an obstacle to Brethren joining, by shortening the period of time for the eligibility of a Master Mason for the Chapter. He need not point out that the absence of growth was not beneficial, but the reverse, to the Chapters themselves, because, unless they were constituted of a sufficient number of members who took an active interest in the work, it was quite impossible for there to be any life or enthusiasm in it. He mentioned the subject here because he thought at the commencement of his life in that position he should call their attention to the fact, and ask for their consideration of it. When applications for new Chapters were made such a state of things was rather discouraging, and would give a tendency for him to say "no," when he would rather comply with the request. He did not think it was consistent with his duty to create fresh Chapters unless there was a necessity for them, and if constituted they would work successfully. A new Chapter had been recently consecrated at Sheffield, by Comp. E. Jury. He was told by those who had the good fortune to be present on that occasion, that they were all highly pleased with the excellent manner in which the consecration ceremony was performed. He took that opportunity, the first he had had, to thank Comp. Jury for having acted as his Deputy. He thought all the Companions present would join with him (the speaker) in recognising what they thought was an act of great propriety which led to Comp. Jury having office in the Grand Chapter. They congratulated him upon the mark of appreciation which had been conferred upon him, and which they believed was worthily deserved. He had spoken as he had done because he felt a little anxiety lest they should lose sight of the fact that, so far as that Province was concerned, they were standing still or making comparatively little progress with the Chapters. He might, he thought, with propriety suggest that if those they had taken through the third degree had not been sufficiently informed, by the example which had been set, they should be told that that was the complement and completion of the degrees they had already obtained. The Grand Superintendent concluded by acknowledging the salutations and thanking the Companions for their attendance.

The balance-sheet, which was read by the Treasurer Comp. J. Dyson, Alfred Chapter, No. 306, Leeds, and afterwards confirmed, showed a balance in hand at the commencement of the year of £213 12s 9d, and at the end £244 6s 4d. Comp. W. Smith, Excelsior Chapter, No. 1042, Leeds, was elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Provincial Grand Superintendent then proceeded to

appoint and invest the Officers for the year; the following receiving the different honours:

Comp. H. Smith 302	-	-	-	H.
G. Buckley 61	-	-	-	J.
H. G. E. Green 154	-	-	-	S.E.
J. M. Holmes 387	-	-	-	S.N.
P. B. Coward 904	-	-	-	Registrar
T. Bates 308	-	-	-	Deputy Registrar
W. R. Thompson 208	-	-	-	Principal Sojourner
T. Atkinson 2067	-	-	-	Assistant Sojourners
F. C. Robinson 302	-	-	-	
T. B. Wilson 306	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
W. A. Slatter 154	-	-	-	Standard Bearers
C. W. O. Smith 974	-	-	-	
G. V. S. Dearden 139	-	-	-	
G. H. Holdroyd 275	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
C. Greenwood 448	-	-	-	Assistant Dirs. of Cers.
W. Allatt 258	-	-	-	
W. O. Meliciffe 600	-	-	-	
John Constable 242	-	-	-	
J. J. Martin 1019	-	-	-	Organist
				Assistant S.E.

At the close of the Chapter tea was provided at the Masonic Hall, Rawson Square.

CONSECRATION.

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SYMPATHY CHAPTER.

EARL Amherst G.H. Grand Superintendent of the Province of Kent paid a visit to the Royal Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend, on Monday, for the purpose of consecrating the twenty-sixth Chapter in the Province, the Warrant for which was granted by Grand Chapter on 5th May last.

The new Chapter, which is established under the banner of the Sympathy Lodge, No. 483, owes its existence to the energetic efforts of Comp. Henry Forss the present W.M. of the Lodge and Comp. J. P. White, an enthusiastic Mason who has achieved wonders in connection with the Masonic Charities. His lordship was supported by Comps. James S. Eastes Prov.G.H., Sibert Saunders Prov.G.J., Thomas S. Warne Prov.G. Scribe E., Horatio Ward P.P.G.S.B. as D.C., C. Wilfred Blaxland Prov.G. Scribe N., Walter S. Whitaker Prov.G.R., Alfred Spencer P.P.G.J., Edwin Morris P.P.G.S.B., Edward Barrell P.P.G.St.B., Charles R. Cockburn P.P.G.P.S., Priessnitz Jones P.P.G.D.C., George Goble P.P.G.D.C., George Briggs P.Z. and Treasurer 2147, H. Massey P.Z. 619 and 1928, Thomas H. Blamiers P.P.G.S.B., J. B. Groom H. 2046, Claud A. Hooper H. 2147, Major Crichton Walker P.P.G.S.B., George Harlow P.P.G.S.B., J. T. Reeves P.Z. 31, A. W. Southwell P.Z. 742, W. T. Wiggins H. 20, R. W. Walker P.Z. 749, D. J. J. Lyle P.Z. 503, Edwin Weller Z. 503, B. Kelly Thorpe P.P.G.J., and others.

The consecration ceremony was carried out in the customary manner, but its impressiveness was considerably enhanced by the dignity with which Lord Amherst and his Officers conducted it, and the musical arrangements of Comp. J. B. Groom.

The oration by Comp. Sibert Saunders was so excellent that we hope he will allow it to be printed.

After the Patriarchal Benediction had been given, Comps. William Russell, Henry Forss, and J. P. White were installed in the respective chairs of Z., H., and J. by Comp. T. S. Warne. The following Officers were then invested:—Comps. Arthur Ronaldson Scribe E., Robert Jeffery Beamish Scribe N., Orilton Cooper Principal Sojourner, Frank Hitchens First Assistant Sojourner, William Hawker Second Assistant Sojourner, Thomas Taskes Hogg Treasurer, Charles Cobham Director of Ceremonies, Ernest Ingman and John A. Gillett Stewards, George Martin Janitor. The names of the other Founders are Comps. John Fitch, Chas. Hind, W. Spencer Bowen, and Frederick Mitchell.

When investing the Officers the M.E.Z. addressed to each a little speech, complimentary, but to the point, which argues well for the future good working of the Chapter.

As a memento of the occasion Comp. Russell begged Lord Amherst's acceptance of a Founder's jewel, at the same time tendering the thanks of the Companions for the honour done them by his attending to consecrate the Chapter.

His lordship returned thanks, and expressed the pleasure he had in performing the ceremony that day; he was sure, from what he knew and by what he had seen that day, that the new Chapter would prove a welcome addition to the Province, and he heartily wished it success.

Comps. Eastes, Saunders, Warne, and Ward were unanimously elected honorary members of the Chapter. A large number of candidates were announced for exaltation at the next meeting; and there being no further business the Chapter was closed, and the Companions adjourned to the pleasant dining-room overlooking the Thames, where a very recherché banquet was served by Bro. Alfred J. Baldock. At its termination the usual Loyal and Arch toasts were submitted by the M.E.Z.

Comp. W. Russell Z., after the banquet, proposed the toasts

of the Queen and Royal Arch Masonry and the Grand Z. of the Order H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. In giving the former he said it would ill become the Companions on the day of the consecration of a new Chapter not to drink the toast of the Queen, and in giving the latter he observed that the Prince of Wales had been a public man from his birth upwards; he had done much for Freemasonry and for various societies, spending his money in various walks of life. He then referred to the Prince's success at the recent Derby, and said that Freemasons as well as other Englishmen congratulated him upon it. He had worked well in the Craft, and the expansion of Freemasonry since he became its head had exceeded the expectations of all the Brethren. Long might he live to patronise English sports, and to continue to act in the cause of Freemasonry as he had done so zealously for many years.

Companion Russell, in proposing the next toast, the Pro Grand Z. and the rest of the Grand Officers, said that the Brethren of Kent felt very great interest in this toast, as their Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent was now Grand H. of Grand Chapter, and several of the Companions of Kent were Past Grand Officers. Among these were Comps. R. Joynes Emmerson, Horatio Ward, Alfred Spencer, and James Smith Eastes, who had secured the prosperity of Masonry in the Province; there were no worthier Companions who could have been selected for Grand Office. If there was ever a hard working Brother in the Province, it was Bro. Spencer, who had been steadfast, and always to be found ready when wanted.

Comp. Alfred Spencer Past G. Stand. Bearer replying, said it was not necessary for him to make any comment on the merits of the Companions named in the toast, the merits of each and all of them were well known to all Masons. He might, however, say that every Companion of Kent would feel proud and honoured to think that the Prince of Wales had been pleased to give the position of Grand H. to Earl Amherst Grand Superintendent of the Province. They all wished that Lord Amherst might live long to occupy that proud and honourable position, and long also might Craft and Royal Arch Masons of Kent rally around him to sustain him in that position. For the other Grand Officers he would say that as Comp. Russell had spoken of him in very eulogistic terms he felt proud to occupy his high position given him by Earl Amherst, and he hoped in occupying that position he should be always worthy of the high terms Comp. Russell had been kind enough to apply to him.

Comp. Russell next proposed Earl Amherst Grand Superintendent of Kent. The Companions of the Province had thought many years they were in the happy position of the good man in the Bible, who found a jewel of great price, and went and sold all that he had and bought it. Years ago they found their jewel of great price, sold all they had, and bought it; and they kept that jewel in the Province of Kent for thirty-six years, and some twenty years in Royal Arch Masonry. But the jewel to a certain extent had been taken from them; there were Companions who had come and demanded to share the rights of proprietorship in that jewel, and who could say them nay? But Freemasonry was not a society which appropriated what was good and valuable, and kept it to itself. Masons were not niggardly or captious. It had pleased the Prince of Wales to appoint Earl Amherst to a position in Grand Lodge, and so far from expressing any regret at others sharing with them the proprietorship of their Grand Superintendent—that priceless jewel—they congratulated him on his preferment, and rejoiced that he had been promoted to a higher honour than it was in their power to give him. He trusted that Lord Amherst might be spared many years enshrined in the hearts of Freemasons of England and of Kent. But it was impossible for him to hold a higher place in the hearts of any Englishmen than he did in the hearts of Kentish men. That night they had to thank him for his kindness in attending personally to consecrate their Chapter, and start their barque on the sea of life. It was a happy omen to have fine weather to make good voyages, and be successful altogether in their career. They had the good wishes of the Companions in the Province generally, and, if such kindly acts as his Lordship had showered on them that day could be of any value, he thought it was a happy augury for the success that would attend this Chapter through many years of existence. Addressing Lord Amherst, Comp. Russell said the Companions thanked him for the services he had rendered that day, and they hoped he would be spared many years to rule over the destinies of Arch Masonry in the Province of Kent, and that the success which had attended his banner might go on for many years to come.

Earl Amherst, in responding to the toast, which was most cordially received, said it was always customary—he thought it was a custom which ought to be abolished—to thank the Provincial Grand Master or Superintendent for attending to do his duty. In point of fact he thought every Grand Master or Superintendent ought always to be pleased to attend to constitute either a new Lodge or a new Chapter, because he knew that he was constituting that which would increase his influence in

the cause of Masonry, and it would be ill to depute the duty to anyone but himself. The duties ought to be performed by him to whom they were assigned, whether it was the duties of Master of a Lodge, a Warden, a Deacon, or an I.G., whatever were assigned to him he ought to perform. His duties were assigned to him by the Grand Master, and he ought to perform them. Besides, there were few more beautiful ceremonies in Masonry than the consecration of a new Royal Arch Chapter or a new Craft Lodge. He was always obliged to Comp. Horatio Ward, for his unvarying devotion to the Craft in his position as Director of Ceremonies. It was a very great matter that these ceremonies should be well performed and reverently rendered. If a hitch occurred, or somebody did something improperly, the whole thing was marred and the solemnity of the ceremony was done away with. He would impress upon the Companions of his Province that they should do as Comp. Horatio Ward had done, and study to take upon themselves duties which they might at some time be called upon to fulfil. Depend upon it, although it might involve taking trouble at the time, some day or other they would be called upon to take some part, and if they were not prepared they would regret they were not perfect as Comp. Ward in that part, as they would find the ceremonies would not be worked so smoothly. It had given him very great pleasure to attend at Gravesend, and consecrate a new Chapter. There was good room for it in Gravesend without interfering with the old one. That was always the difficulty in recommending new Lodges or new Chapters—where the old Lodge or old Chapter was likely to injure the prosperity of another. But he thought there was room for this Chapter to go on and prosper, and he hoped it would for many years to come, to adorn the roll of the Grand Chapter of Kent. With respect to the kind observations which had been made concerning himself, he knew perfectly well the honour he had received from the Grand Master and Grand Z. had been felt, more or less, by every Lodge and Chapter, and every Brother throughout Kent.

Comp. Russell, in submitting to the Companions the toast of the Deputy Prov. Grand Superintendent, and the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers, said it was not many months ago a thrill of apprehension ran through all the members of the Masonic Craft when they heard that Companion Eastes was dangerously ill. It must have afforded a thrill of pleasure to every Companion that afternoon to see Comp. Eastes amongst them looking as well as he did, and so far recovered. It was very difficult on an occasion like the present adequately to express the deep feeling they all experienced when they heard of Comp. Eastes's illness; it exhibited itself day by day in the anxious enquiries to learn his condition. Thanks to the Great Architect, Bro. Eastes recovered, was with them once more, and they were truly thankful that the Great Architect had in his unbounded mercy and goodness spared him. There was no R.A. Mason in the Province more beloved than Comp. Eastes. He had a loving heart, but a firm hand, and that made them good Masons. There were other Masons in the Province who had also worked honestly, zealously, and truly in the cause, and it was to be hoped that their familiar voices might be heard for years to come, consecrating or assisting to consecrate Chapters, and installing and investing Officers.

Comp. Thomas S. Warne Prov. G.S.E., who was called upon to respond, said Comp. Russell had feelingly alluded to their dear Comp. Eastes, and he was glad to hear those kind remarks as to the delight with which they all welcomed him again among them. Unfortunately Comp. Eastes was not able to stay to the banquet, and consequently he had to reply for the Provincial Grand Officers.

Earl Amherst proposed the three Principals of the Chapter. Prov. G.S.E. had spoken of enlarging the borders of R.A.M., and what it meant. One thing it did mean, that more members would come in, and the Grand Treasurer of Kent would rejoice in that, because he would have greater power in the cause of charity, which had been the pride of the Province hitherto. For many years past Comp. Russell had been Treasurer of Kent, an honour and distinction which he hoped would be conferred on Comp. Russell for many years more.

Comp. Russell thanked his lordship, and hoped the new vessel now fairly launched on the sea might be a good and successful trader, and bring home much profit to its owners. Its owners were good Masons of the Province of Kent. All such profit meant increased prosperity to the Province in R.A. Masonry. They would all share in that, and he as Grand Treasurer would have pleasure in applying the funds. They wanted to increase the power for good of the Province.

Comps. Forss H. and White J. also replied.

The toast of the visitors was replied to by Comps. Groom and Walker, and Comps. Arthur Ronaldson S.E., Beamish S.N., and Orilton Cooper P.S. responded to a toast which Comp. Russell very genially proposed of the Companions who conceived the idea, and had the energy of carrying it into effect, of constituting the Chapter.

The proceedings then closed.

WEST LANCASHIRE CHARITY.

UNDER the presidency of Bro. W. Goodacre P.G.S.B. Prov. G. Secretary a meeting of the General Committee of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution was held on Friday, 5th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool. Applications for children to be placed on the list of candidates for election on the charity at the next Court of Governors of the Institution were considered, there being nine for the educational fund, three for the combined fund, and six for the advancement fund. All the cases were adopted, says the "Liverpool Mercury," the extra cost of the votes recommended for adoption being about £145. A vote of thanks to Bro. Goodacre, for presiding, closed the proceedings.

ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.

AN interesting gathering of the West Yorkshire Priory of the United Religious and Military Order of the Temple took place at Skipton, on Saturday. By permission of Mr. R. B. Barrett the Knights of the Order met in the ancient banqueting hall of the Castle, and in the course of an instructive address the Prior Mr. J. D. Kay gave a sketch of the history of the Castle. Mr. Harold Thomas, of Sheffield, was afterwards inducted into the office of Sub-Prior of the Province. The assembly was one of the largest on record, more than one-third of the members on the roll being present, and every Preceptory in the Province was represented. Among the visitors was Mr. W. Tyrer Sub-Prior of Lancashire, who suitably responded after salute. With the sanction of Mr. Barrett, Sergeant-Major Blake, the curator, rendered timely assistance in the arrangements for the meeting. The Knights subsequently partook of tea at the Devonshire Arms.—"Yorkshire Post."

FREEMASONRY IN ITALY.

A REUTER'S telegram from Rome, under date of 6th June, announces that in the Senate that day Signor Alessandro Bossi questioned the Government on the subject of secret societies, and asked what the Ministers intended to do with the object of making them amenable to the Common Law. Although the Senator did not mention Freemasonry, it was clear that he alluded principally to that body. The Marquis di Rudini, the Premier, in reply said that the question was a very difficult one. The statute-book made no allusion to secret societies, which, in his opinion, do no good. Associations which had ceased to be secret were now better than they formerly were. Freemasonry, continued the Premier, would serve its object if it were public. By remaining secret it became a danger to the welfare of the public administration. The Marquis di Rudini, in conclusion, said that in his opinion the time had not yet come to bring forward measures on the subject. He would do so, however, when the opportunity presented itself, not with the object of aiming a blow at Freemasonry, but for the purpose of striking at secret societies.—"Morning Post."

There is a clause in the Victorian Constitutions that all correspondence for the Grand Master must be sent to the Grand Secretary, and on the same reasoning all correspondence for the different Lodges should be sent to the Secretary of each Lodge. In every annual return the Secretary's address has to be sent to the Grand Secretary for that purpose, but strange to state the communications from Grand Lodge are generally sent to the Lodge Room, where they lie unopened until the next night of meeting. There are a few exceptions where the Secretary's address is taken notice of, but the rule is as we state. During the past week at many of the Lodges the agenda paper of the Grand Lodge meeting of the 16th March was read, having only reached the Secretary when he went to the Lodge Room on that evening. What is the use of a Secretary registering his address if no use is made of it? and what is the use of the Constitutions providing that lists and notices, &c., shall be sent seven days before the Grand Lodge meeting if they are sent where they will not be seen until after the Grand Lodge has met? How many of these notices and agenda papers are lying in the letter boxes at the Hall itself?—"Masonry." [Similar observations and enquiries might be urged on behalf of the Secretaries under the English Constitution.—Ed. F.C.]

The June number of "Pearson's Magazine" contains the sixth paper of a series of "Secrets of the Courts of Europe, the confidences of an ex-Ambassador, elicited by Allen Upward," under the title "A Royal Freemason," in which the name of our

Past Grand Master Oscar II., King of Sweden and Norway, and the suppositious working of High Grade Masonry is introduced. Surely the author does not wish us to believe his utterances are founded on fact? If he does we are afraid he has been taken in far more completely than he is likely to impose on the ordinary Masonic reader, who will easily see through so absurd and preposterous a story.

The Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne Terrace, Bishop's Road, W.—the home of the Hyde Park Lodge of Instruction and the Hornsey Chapter of Improvement—changed hands on Monday last, when Bro. Edward Stevens, of the Westbourne Lodge, No. 733, assumed control. We add our hearty good wishes to the many already showered upon him in his new home, and hope he will enjoy the continued patronage of the Lodge and Chapter just mentioned, as well as of his Brother Masons generally.

The Northern Bar Lodge, of which Mr. Justice Bruce is the Worshipful Master, will entertain the members of the Chancery Bar Lodge at a dinner to be held in the Middle Temple Hall, by permission of the Treasurer and Benchers, on Wednesday, the 24th inst., says the "Standard."

At the quarterly meeting of the Committee of the Freemason's Benevolent Institution of New South Wales, the Secretary reported that the receipt of subscriptions and donations amounting to £130 7s 6d, while the outgoings included the payment to eighteen annuitants of £99 during the quarter.

THE Directors of Spiers and Pond Limited notify that the Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th inst. to the 30th inst., both inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants, on the 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures, the 5 per cent. "A" mortgage debenture stock, and the 5 per cent. "B" debenture stock, and the 4 per cent. "C" debenture stock of the Company. The Warrants will be posted on the evening of the 30th instant.

AUTHORITATIVE RITUAL.

DURING an interesting discussion in a Madras Lodge last month upon various matters of ritual, two very interesting questions came up, one springing out of the other. A Brother first of all referred to the many historical inaccuracies, and anachronisms, and Scriptural misquotations with which the printed rituals abounded. In objecting to this statement, another Brother said that the ritual now in use was sanctioned by Grand Lodge some half century ago, and therefore could not be wrong. Both these are matters deserving discussion, and later on we shall deal with them at length. But for the present we may state what is exactly the case regarding the authorised ritual. It is true that Grand Lodge some eighty years ago spoke in terms of approbation of the method of working known as Emulation, and the Emulation Lodge of Improvement was formed with the view of crystallising that method of working. But with singular inconsistency Grand Lodge has always refused to recognise as correct any written or printed form of Emulation working, and therefore there is no possible guarantee that what Bro. Lewis prints in 1896 is identical with what Grand Lodge sanctioned. The fact that neither in Grand Lodge nor in Provincial Grand Lodge are degrees given, nor do Brethren even stand to order as Masons, clearly indicates that Grand Lodge prefers not to countenance officially any ritual.

The point has acquired importance in India from the fact that quite recently the by-laws of Lodge Coorg were sent to England for ratification in the ordinary course, and came back with one of them deleted, "such not being in accordance with the ritual authorised by Grand Lodge," or words to that effect. The offending by-law was one which required the candidate to pay his fees before receiving any degree, and we fancy there is not a Lodge in India which has not such a provision. Not for worlds would we cast a doubt upon the wisdom of the Grand Secretary, but we might ask him why after sanctioning this provision in any number of Lodge by-laws a musty regulation dating from the Union should be raked up in favour of Lodge Coorg.

It appears that in the printed rituals of the initiation the following passage occurs:

As in the course of the evening you will be called upon to pay; &c.

This presupposes that fees have not yet been paid. But in the year 1896 we are asked to suppose that when Grand Lodge said, nearly a century ago, that they had no objection to a certain form of working, they stamped with official approval every absurdity that time and tradition and incompetence might succeed in blending into it. We must, however, defer further remarks until next month.—"Indian Masonic Review."

THE BALLOT.

IN all societies where the ballot is introduced, each member is invested with an extraordinary power, which he is to use, and not abuse. The present system of taking the ballot in Lodges, is (in my humble opinion) a great mistake. I have frequently noticed, when the Deacons are taking the ballot, that there is little or no secrecy in connection therewith. It is in the power of any member to know how the Brother on either side of him votes; even the Deacons can, if so minded, tell who has black-balled a candidate. The simplest and best system adopted (to my mind) is that in use at Geelong Lodge of Unity and Prudence. The ballot box is put behind a temporary screen, placed in one corner of the Lodge, having both ends open, so that each Brother can pass through, one at a time, record his vote, and take his seat. When every Brother has voted, and the W.M. declares the ballot closed, the S.D. submits the ballot to the J.W., S.W., and lastly the W.M. By this simple method it is utterly impossible to know how any Brother votes; I therefore recommend this system to your favourable consideration, feeling convinced that the secrets of the ballot box would not then be abused. In a Masonic Lodge especially, where the most humble may black-ball the most illustrious candidate from, it may be, caprice, or other reasons; and vice versa—where questions of differences are sometimes remembered and raked up—where Brethren meeting in charity forget their principles—where the inferior dictates are unhappily allowed to have the ascendancy, and where wicked instigation prevails, the efficacy of the system is stultified, and the ballot (the instrument of precaution) becomes the instrument of wrath, and is disastrous to the vital interests of our Order. It is a grievous thing where differences of the smallest nature exist, without an opportunity occurring for their adjustment by mutual explanation and concession, or in any other way, as is often the case, where each fancies himself right and the other wrong, and where, probably, both are at fault (and in such cases the powerful barrier of pride and ill-nature are sufficient, unhappily, to preclude, it may be for years, the possibility of a settlement). It is a grievous thing, if, under such circumstances, the ballot in a Masonic Lodge is made the first medium for satisfaction—that the grievance so long smouldering, as it were, is there and by such means to be avenged.

It is a notorious fact in many instances that one half of the men who are black-balled in our Lodges, are black-balled through pique, or spite for some long past but not forgotten grievance; and, indeed, it sometimes happens that the candidate becomes the victim of a displeasure contracted by his proposer, and to which he has been no party—which is worse and worse! For example:—A and B, we will say, are both Masons, and belong to the same Lodge. A has in some way offended B, and B black-balls the first man whom A proposes. Another case:—C is, we will say, a prominent member of another Lodge. He either has been, or fancies he has been, slighted by D; however, he had not been "consulted" in some matter by the latter, who proposes shortly afterwards two or three candidates, in every way unexceptionable, and well qualified candidates for Masonry, yet each is black-balled ignominiously as though he were a blackleg, either by C, or, what is still more cowardly on his part, by some leagued friends at his instigation!

Now, how is it possible that Lodges should prosper under such influences and connivance, where hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness reign instead of charity, which "is not easily provoked," and "doth not behave itself unseemly," but "endureth all things." Let us take a brighter instance, when frailty, which is the common lot of all, may exist without corruption. I know a man who had a serious difference with a Brother; no doubt both were at fault, as is usually the case. Perhaps one "more so" than the other. The former was proposed as a candidate for Masonry in the very Lodge of which the latter was Junior Warden. It would have obviously been the easiest thing in the world for the latter to have black-balled the other; but did he do so? No! he said to himself, he knows I am a member and Officer of the Lodge, and still he comes determinately forward. He comes, therefore, evidently in a charitable and forgiving spirit, charity "hopeth all things;" he perhaps hopes I will refrain. At first I acknowledge I feel half inclined to exclude him, to pain him; but it is only an angry passing thought. He has certainly offended me, but what then? are there any reasonable grounds further? Does there exist in my own mind the slightest stain upon his social character? No; on the contrary, I consider him unexceptionable in both respects; but still he has offended me. This is all I can urge. Let me hope, then, that his character as a Mason may confirm his "good report." Instead of black-balling let me assist to show him the "light" by extending to him the right hand of fellowship, which it will be my province to do, one of the first.

Depend upon it, Brethren, our conscience is our high appeal. In all things it exists as our earthly monitor. If too weak, through our own perversity, it may be strengthened by an appeal which cannot fail, an appeal to the Great Architect of the

Universe, who is always listening to our inmost pleadings. As men, we have great duties to perform in this life; as members of a social brotherhood that binds us mystically where first we were unknown, we have still further obligations, which have been imposed upon us "of our own free will and accord." When we knelt upon the cushion before the Sacred volume we were taught what is "natural equality and mutual dependence," but, above all, our duty to God, our neighbour, and ourselves. There we saw Charity, supported by her confiding sisters, Faith and Hope. If we perform our duties like men we shall never forget our duties as Masons. There is no reason why a non-Mason may not be the best of men. There are, we know, many such; and God grant that the day may never arrive when it will be requisite that a man should be a Mason before he can be good. On the other hand, the Craft reposes on us extra duties and responsibilities; and just as the study of the dead languages facilitates the comprehension of the mother tongue, so Masonry assists us in the contemplation of religion, and of our "living in due bounds with all mankind." Let us not belie ourselves as men, but, as Masons with increased responsibilities, let us never forget that Justice should be the "guide of all our actions." Let us, then, be mindful how we exclude a candidate for Masonry. The ballot is good, and the ballot should be unanimous for election as a prudential method, i.e., one black ball should exclude. But woe to the Brother who makes use of that fatal instrument improperly, from unworthy motives, his conscience dissenting. Great power involves great responsibilities. Socrates says it intoxicates the stoutest hearts, as wine the strongest heads. Let the great power, then, which this system of voting gives, remind us how to use it. Temper justice with mercy. Let us place ourselves in the position of a candidate for Masonry, who has been excluded without due reason, as in the picture I have just painted, and be careful of our future conduct in this respect towards our neighbours and ourselves. What benevolence teaches, charity upholds. So mote it be.—W. H. Kingbury (Ballarat), in "Masonry."

THE HAPPY HOME, a weekly magazine published at 172 Strand, at the price of one penny, is hardly of a character to interest the ordinary member of our Fraternity, but there are many of our fair sisters who will find much that is useful and instructive in its pages, which are largely devoted to the all-absorbing topic of fashion, and are freely illustrated.

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On WEDNESDAY, 24th JUNE 1896,

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENCY OF
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Hon. Secretary to the Board of Stewards.

6 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

12th June 1896.

** The services of Ladies and Brethren as Stewards on this important occasion are earnestly solicited, and will be gratefully acknowledged.

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7-55 a.m. for Weston-super-Mare, Bridgwater, Taunton, Minehead (for Lynton and Lynmouth), Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Tiverton, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Launceston, Tavistock, Bodmin, Wadebridge, Newquay, Truro, Falmouth, St. Ives, Penzance, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

12-35 p.m. for Swindon, Chippenham, Bath, Bristol, Clevedon, Trowbridge, Frome, Wells, Yeovil, Weymouth (for the Channel Islands), &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.

Thursday, 18th June. At 10-45 a.m. for Cork.

Friday, 19th June. At 6-10 p.m. for Waterford, Dungarvan, Clonmel, Tipperary, Limerick, Tralee, Kilkenny, &c.

Tuesday, 16th June and Friday, 26th June. At 4-45 p.m. for Belfast, Armagh, Enniskillen, Larne, Giant's Causeway, &c.

Thursday, 18th June. At 6-10 p.m. for Killarney.

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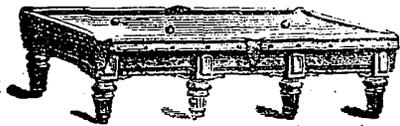
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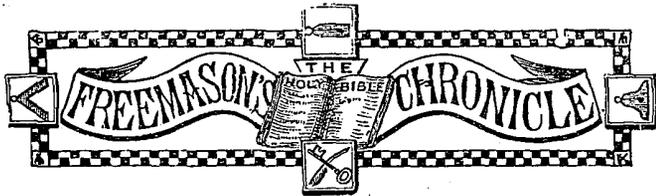
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SATURDAY, 13TH JUNE 1896.

THE GIRLS SCHOOL.

ON Friday afternoon, 29th ult., a musical and miscellaneous entertainment was given to the happy children in the Masonic School at Battersea, under the direction of Bro. Charles Cruikshanks W.M., and the Past Masters, Officers, and Brethren of the Lodge of Asaph, No. 1319. The bright, expectant faces of the scholars in their neat dresses of blue gave a cheerful aspect to the fine recreation Hall of the Institution, and when the proceedings opened, punctually at the appointed time, programmes were being scanned with eager anticipation. The dramatic items of the afternoon were the Quarrel and Reconciliation scenes from "The Rivals," with Bro. Chas. Frere as Sir Anthony, and Bro. E. E. Norris as Captain Absolute, and "A Pair of Lunatics," in which Bro. Norris and Miss Louise Brandon caused plenty of amusement. Bro. Algernon Syms recited with fervour and intensity "Fra Giacomo," and humorous recitals by Bro. George Dawson, who gave "The one-legged Goose," and Bro. George Conquest, with an original and comic description of the difficulties a Frenchman finds in speaking and understanding the English language, convulsed with laughter visitors and children alike. Vocal numbers were contributed by Bro. Chas. E. Tinney, a pleasant baritone, who sang Molloy's "The Sailor's Dance;" by Bro. F. H. Celli, who delighted and amused with "The Burglar's Serenade," accompanied by the composer, Mr. Edward Kent; by Mr. Arthur G. Cunningham, whose fine voice was heard to advantage in "Let me love Thee" (Arditi); and by Bro. George H. Dawson, with Hervey's pretty song "Once." Miss Edith Cruikshanks, who possesses a clear fresh voice, gave tasteful expression to "In Lovers' Land," and Miss Laura Dyson sang attractively "Over the Hills." Miss Stanley Lucas's rich soprano told well in "May Morning" (Denza), while Miss Ruby Maude, with the descriptive ballad, "The Fisherman's Daughter," was loudly applauded for her graphic style. Sandwiched between these more sentimental items were comic songs as well as instrumental pieces. Bro. M. B. Spurr gave a musical sketch called "A Little Music," which provoked the heartiest merriment, his playing of "Her Golden Hair," in some five or six different ways, each equally unique, being extremely diverting. Mr. Richard Cruikshanks created a vast amount of amusement with his comic performance of Grossmith's "pathetic ballad," "The Baby on the Shore," and Bro. Herbert Leonard was successful with a coarser song "Its a great big shame." A piccolo solo, "Kinloch of Kinloch," played by Bro. James A. Hamilton, and solos on the 'cello by Bro. J. E. Hambleton P.M. were much appreciated. By no means the least important or enjoyable part of the entertainment was the playing at intervals by the Masonic Orchestra, under the direction of Bro. Hambleton. The overture to "Maritana," three graceful pieces by Macbeth, Matt and Sullivan, Mendelssohn's "Wedding March," and a selection of old favourite airs were all enthusiastically applauded. The afternoon terminated with a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had provided the entertainment, and in acknowledgment Bro. Charles Cruikshanks made a few happy remarks that befitted the occasion.—"Stage."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

All Letters must bear the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

MASONIC PRECEDENCE.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—The enquiry of "I.G.," in a recent issue, as to the precedence of a D.C. and the I.G., is excruciatingly funny. Why, in my Lodge, and others I have visited, it is the D.C. who rules, the W.M. being quite secondary in importance. In my opinion the office should be abolished, and the honour of ruling the Lodge left in the hands of the W.M.

Yours fraternally,

P.M.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

To the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I am truly grateful to Bro. Keyser P.G.D. for so kindly, and in such Masonic spirit, taking up my suggestion, made some time ago (7th March last), that some eminent Brother should interest himself in the cause of this Hospital, and for which I have really worked hard for the last eighteen months.

When I first took the matter in hand I had the idea that the Freemasons would be able to take up the two empty Wards altogether. I was supported in that suggestion by Bro. Sir Joseph Dimsdale P.G.T., Bro. Richard Eve P.G.T., Bro. Rev. Brownrigg P.G.C., and several others, but, strange to say, Bro. Keyser, to whom I communicated my scheme, threw cold water upon the idea, and at the meeting I had with Bro. Richard Eve another Brother then present scorned the idea, and said if such a proposition was brought forward he would move "the previous question."

I then dropped the matter until I had further communicated with the authorities of Guy's Hospital, and next inserted the letter of the 7th March in the "Freemason," which bore the result that so eminent a Mason as Bro. Keyser took up the matter and, on my further suggestion, appealed to the Craft in general to add some additional subscriptions, in order to obtain £1,000, to endow one bed, which I truly hope and trust he will not have done in vain.

I am very sorry that illness prevented me from being present, as I would have been able to tell Grand Lodge how many Freemasons, their wives and children, partake of the benefit of this noble institution, as I kept myself informed, from month to month. There were never less than five Freemasons, nine wives of Freemasons, and, as far as could be ascertained, ten children. I mention this only that Brethren who have not sent their mite to Bro. Keyser might see how well the guineas are spent.

I trust, in justice to myself, you will be kind enough to give this a small space in your valuable publication, not that I want the credit for what has been done, but to prove to the Craft that any Brother, however insignificant, may, by perseverance, achieve great objects for the good of mankind.

Thanking you beforehand for inserting this letter,

I am, Yours, &c.,

MAURICE SPIEGEL P.M. P.Z.

[We can quite believe Bro. Spiegel has no desire for mere personal aggrandisement when he refers to this question as he does, and we also feel his remarks are particularly opportune, as showing what is possible to be done by any ordinary member of the Craft who has a sincere desire to do good. All the same honour should be given where it is due, and none can begrudge Bro. Spiegel recognition in that matter, which is one of interest to all who are concerned with the relief of suffering in our midst, and the practice of the Masonic virtue of Charity.—Ed. F.C.]

Bro. Spiegel has received the following letter from the authorities of Guy's Hospital:

DEAR MR. SPIEGEL,—We are much gratified for the sum voted to us by the Freemasons. Many friends have worked together to secure the result, and amongst those who have lent their willing aid must be reckoned yourself. Hoping that your health may soon be restored,

I am, Dear Mr. Spiegel,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. L. PERRY.

6th June 1896.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

THE death is recorded of Bro. G. Sydney Smith, a prominent member of the Order, which occurred at his residence, College Road, Norwich, on Thursday, 4th inst. The sad news was announced the same evening at a meeting of the Walpole Lodge, of which the deceased was Secretary and P.M., besides being D.C. in Provincial Grand Lodge. The announcement cast quite a gloom over the proceedings, and the expressions of regret and sympathy from Brother Masons were general. Bro. Smith had been associated with the firm of Messrs. Bullard and Sons, Limited, for about thirty years, and was much respected in his capacity as cashier. He had been suffering from a complication of diseases for the past five weeks, which terminated fatally on the lungs being attacked. The deceased leaves a widow and five children, to whom a wide circle of friends will extend their sincere sympathy.

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.

- 1506 White Horse o' K't., Hlbrn V. Hl.
77 Freedom, Gravesend
236 York, York
248 True Love & Unity, Brixham
312 Lion, Whitby
359 Peace & Harmony, South'pton
424 Borough, Gateshead
466 Merit, Stamford Baron
872 Lewis, Whitehaven
949 Williamson, Monkwearmouth
986 Hesketh, Croston
1030 Egerton, Heaton Norris
1146 De Moulham, Swanage
1199 Agriculture, Yatton
1238 Gooch, Twickenham
1255 Dundas, Plymouth
1337 Anchor, Northallerton
1443 Salem, Dawlish
1631 St. Andrew, Gorleston
1674 Carodoc, Rhyll
1814 Worsley, Worsley
1833 St. Keyna, Keynsham
2069 Prudence, Leeds
2074 St. Clare, Landport
2086 Dacre, Stevenage
2208 Horsa, Bournemouth
2349 West Lanc. Century, Blackpool
2425 Ecclesburne, Duffield
2557 Temperance, Newcastle-on-T.

Tuesday.

- Board of General Purposes, 4
1339 Stockwell, Camberwell
1695 New Finsbury Park, Via. H'tl.
2191 Anglo-American, Criterion
223 Charity, Plymouth
418 Menturia, Hanley
432 Abbey, Nuneaton
667 Alliance, Liverpool
681 Scarsdale, Chesterfield
830 Endeavour, Dukinfield
958 St. Aubin, Jersey
1006 Tregulow, St. Day
1089 De Shunland, Sheerness
1096 Lord Warden, Walmer
1225 Hindpool, Barrow-in-Furness
1424 Brownrigg of Unity, Old B'pton
1427 Percy, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1570 Prince Arthur, Liverpool
1787 Grenville, Buckingham
1893 Lumley, Skegness
1903 Pr. Ed. Saxe Weimar, P'tsm'th.
1941 St. Augustine, Rugeley
2155 Makerfield, Newton-le-Willows
2360 Victoria, Southport
2572 Tyldesley, Tyldesley

Wednesday.

- Prov. G. Lodge of Kent, Folkestone, at 12-30
Board of Benevolence, 5
700 Nelson, Plumstead
1382 Corinthian, Cubitt Town
2140 Hughenot, Criterion
2266 Cator, Beckenham
32 St. Geo. Harmony, Liverpool
121 Mount Sinai, Penzance
137 Amity, Poole
178 Antiquity, Wigan
200 Old Globe, Scarborough
210 Duke of Athol, Denton
221 St. John, Bolton
243 Loyalty, Guernsey
246 Royal Union, Cheltenham
311 South Saxon, Lewes
325 St. John, Salford
342 Royal Sussex, Landport
376 Perfect Friendship, Ipswich
581 Faith, Openshaw
591 Buckingham, Aylesbury
610 Colston, Bristol
662 Dartmouth, West Bromwich
726 Staffordshire Knot, Stafford
795 St. John, Maidenhead
823 Everton, Liverpool
865 Dalhousie, Hounslow
874 Holmesdale, Tunbridge Wells
950 Hesketh, Fleetwood
962 Sun and Sector, Workington
1019 Sincerity, Wakefield
1040 Sykes, Driffield
1086 Walton, Liverpool
1129 St. Chad, Rochdale
1136 Carew, Torpoint
1161 De Grey & Ripon, Manchester
1179 Rutland, Ilkeston

- 1212 Elms, Stoke Damerel
1301 Brighthouse, Brighthouse
1334 Norman, Durham
1353 Duke of Lancaster, Lancaster
1511 Alexandra, Hornsey
1634 Starkie, Ramsbottom
1638 Brownrigg, K'gston-on-Thames
1988 Mawddach, Barmouth
2135 Constance, Consett
2203 Farnborough & N.C., Farnboro'
2258 West. Dist. U.S., E. Stonehouse
2434 Anderida, Eastbourne
2475 Border, Blackwater
2502 Gatwick, Horley
2514 City, Liverpool

Thursday.

- House Committee, Girls School, 4-30
6 Friendship, Criterion
1320 Blackheath, Southwark
1681 Londesborough, Café Royal
1716 All Saints, Poplar
57 Humber, Hull
71 Unity, Lowestoft
98 St. Martin, Burslem
203 Ancient Union, Liverpool
230 Fidelity, Devonport
245 Mechanics, Jersey
286 Samaritan, Bacup
322 Peace, Stockport
343 Concord, Preston
345 Perseverance, Blackburn
350 Charity, Farnworth
367 Probity & Freedom, Rochdale
489 Benevolence, Bideford
600 Harmony, Bradford
605 Combermere, Birkenhead
659 Blagdon, Blyth
758 Ellesmere, Runcorn
802 Repose, Derby
833 Afan, Aberavon
939 Pelham, Worksop
940 Philanthropy, Stockton
1011 Richmond, Manchester
1037 Portland, Portland
1042 Excelsior, Leeds
1184 Abbey, Battle
1299 Pembroke, Liverpool
1327 King Harold, Waltham Cross
1332 Unity, Crediton
1386 St. Hugh, Lincoln
1393 Hamer, Liverpool
1459 Ashbury, West Gorton
1464 Erasmus Wilson, Gravesend
1534 Concord, Prestwich
1562 Homfray, Risca
1776 Landport, Landport
1869 Sandown, Sandown, I. of W'ht.
1872 St. Margaret, Surbiton
1892 Wallington, Sutton
2158 Boscombe, Boscombe
2226 St. David, Rhymney
2261 Armitage, Milnsbridge
2268 Hallamshire, Sheffield
2302 St. Mary, Southwell
2305 Stour, Ashford, Kent
2341 Clemency, Oldham
2352 Universities, Durham
2390 Exmoor, Minehead
2430 Runnymede, Wraysbury
2523 Roll Call, Hounslow
2555 England Centre, Weedon
2570 Prince Llewellyn, Cardiff

Friday.

- Board of Manag., Boys School, 2-30
143 Middlesex, Albion
975 Rose of Denmark, Kennington
2157 St. Mark's College, H'lbom Rest
152 Virtue, Manchester
271 Royal Clarence, Brighton
347 Noah Ark, Tipton
426 Shakespeare, Spilsby
516 Phoenix, Stowmarket
541 De Loraine, Newcastle-on-Tyne
566 St. Germain, Selby
712 Lindsey, Louth
993 Alexandra, Levenshulme
1108 Royal Wharfedale, Otley
1224 Stour Valley, Sudbury
1232 Hereward, Bourn
1311 Zetland, Leeds
1773 Albert Victor, Pendleton
2005 Brooke, Chingford
2063 St. Osyth Priory, Cf'ct'n-on-Sea
2251 Talbot, Stretford
2447 Palatine, Manchester

Saturday.

- 1641 Crichton, Camberwell
2041 West Kent Volunteer, Plums'd.
308 Prince George, Eastwood
336 Benevolence, Marple
1126 Oakwood, Romiley

- 1194 Villiers, Hampton Court
1326 Lebanon, Feltham
1597 Musgrave, Hampton Court
1871 Gostling Murray, Hounslow

- 1897 Citadel, Harrow Station
2035 Beaumont, Kirkburton
2228 Dene, Cookham Dene
2508 Thomas Ralling, Chingford

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

THE site selected for the Royal Agricultural Society's Show of 1896, which will be held at Leicester from the 20th to the 26th inst., being adjacent to the Midland Line at Leicester, the Company will offer every possible facility for the prompt dispatch and working of all descriptions of traffic both to and from the Royal Show. The Midland Company's dock at Welford Road, where cattle and other live stock will be dealt with, is in close proximity to the Show ground, and, in addition to this, a new station at Aylestone Road, with special siding and dock accommodation (which will be the nearest to the Show ground), has been provided for dealing with all descriptions of traffic, including machinery, traction engines, agricultural implements, &c., &c. The Midland route is the most direct between Leicester and London, the Eastern Counties, the West of England, the North of England, Scotland, &c., and the train services between these points will be found most convenient. The ordinary train service, by which passengers will be conveyed at a single fare and a quarter for the double journey from certain stations, will be supplemented by a number of special expresses.

Cheap excursion trains will also be run to Leicester from various parts of the Midland Line, particulars of which will be duly announced by special bills.

Cheap season tickets, available from Saturday, 20th June, to Saturday, 27th June, both dates inclusive, will be issued between Leicester and the surrounding stations, full particulars of which may be had on application.

Special folder time tables, giving full particulars of the Company's arrangements in connection with the Royal Show, may be had on application at Midland Stations and Agencies.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

THE Great Northern Railway Company draw attention to the fact that they are prepared to deal specially with live stock, implements, and merchandise traffic passing to and from the Royal Agricultural Show at Leicester from the 20th to 26th inst. There is a direct and convenient route between the Great Northern station and the Show Ground, and the Company will undertake cartage at a reasonable rate. Exhibits should be consigned and addressed per "Great Northern Railway."

The Great Northern Company's office and their representatives on the Show Ground will be available as usual for enquiries as to Passenger or Goods train services, and for the requirements of senders and consigners generally.

Excursion trains will be run from various points on the Great Northern Railway, full particulars of which may be obtained from bills, to be had at the various stations.

Cheap season tickets will also be issued during the Show, for the convenience of exhibitors and visitors generally, available from 20th to 27th June, both dates inclusive, between Leicester and surrounding stations.

The Theatres, &c.

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- Covent Garden.—Royal Italian Opera. This evening, Die Walkure. Monday, Die Meistersinger. Tuesday, Tannhauser. Wednesday, Pagliacci and Cavalleria Rusticana.
Lyceum.—8-15, Magda. On Saturday, 2-30 only
Globe.—8, The Journey's End. 9, Charley's Aunt. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Prince of Wales's.—7-45, A Woman's Caprice. 8-15, John Jenkins at Biarritz. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Gaiety.—8, Carmen. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
Haymarket.—Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 8-30, Trilby. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 8-30, Henry IV. Matinée, Wednesday, 2-30; Saturday, 2-15.
Duke of York's.—8, The Gay Parisienne. Matinée, Wednesday, 2-30.
Lyric.—8-15, The Sign of the Cross. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-30.
Savoy.—7-40, After All. 8-20, The Grand Duke, or the Statutory Duel. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30. Wednesday, Matinée of The Mikado.
Comedy.—8-15, French Plays.
St. James's.—8-30, The Prisoner of Zenda. Matinée, To-day and Wednesday, 2.
Princess's.—8, The Span of Life.
Daly's.—8-15, The Geisha; A story of a Tea House. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Garrick.—8-30, The greatest of these —. Matinée, Wednesday, 2-30.
Vaudeville.—8-15, Papa's wife. 9, A night out. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
Criterion.—8-25, Rosemary. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Strand.—8-30, Playing the game.
Court.—8-15, Uncle Thatcher. 9, Mam'zelle Nitouche.
Terry's.—8, An old Garden. 8-45, The Sunbury Scandal.
Royalty.—8-15, Kitty Clive. 9, The Queen's Proctor. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
Opera Comique.—8-30, Second Edition of The New Barmaid.
Alhambra.—7-45, Variety Entertainment. 9, Irish Ballet Divertissement. 10, The Animatographe. 10-35, Blue Beard.
Empire.—7-45, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet Divertissement, La Danse. Cinematographe. Second edition of Ballet Faust.
Palace.—7-45, Variety Entertainment, Tableaux Vivants, &c. Matinée, to-day, 2-15.
Royal.—7-30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2-30.
Oxford.—7-30, Variety Entertainment. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Olympia.—Grand Pleasure Gardens. Cycle Races, Concerts, &c.
Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily. Exhibition of Motor Carriages; Royal Aquarium.—Open at 10; close at 11-30, Constant Amusement.
Tivoli.—7-30, Variety Entertainment. Saturday, 2-30 also.
The London.—Grand Variety Entertainment.
Mohawk Minstrels.—(Agricultural Hall.)—Daily.
Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. Maskelyne's Magical Entertainment.
Moore and Burgess Minstrels.—St. James's Hall, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, 3.
Madame Tussaud's (Baker Street).—Open daily.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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TEMPERANCE IN THE EAST LODGE, No. 898.

THE installation meeting took place on Wednesday, 27th ult., at the Assembly Rooms, Newby Place, Poplar. There being a considerable amount of business on the agenda the Lodge was opened at an early hour, when a large number of Brethren were present.

Messrs. T. H. Clarke, G. W. Marsh and H. R. Smith were initiated, after which the ceremony of installation commenced, preceded by the usual formalities. Bro. T. S. Craze W.M., assisted by a Board of Installed Masters, inducted Bro. T. Ringrose P.M. 2184 into the chair of K.S., and he also delivered the addresses and concluded the ceremony, which was performed in a manner which gave the greatest satisfaction to all present, and adds another distinguished Brother to the long line of Past Masters who have followed out the traditions of the Temperance in the East Lodge in installing their immediate successors, says the "East London Observer."

In the business which followed, the members, with their characteristic generosity, voted several considerable sums to distressed Brethren, and the Lodge being closed, the Brethren adjourned to the London Tavern, Fenchurch Street, where they partook of an excellent banquet.

Bro. Craze, in a few well-chosen sentences, proposed the health of the W.M., who, in reply, thanked the Brethren for electing him to his present position, assuring them he would do his best to maintain the honour and reputation of the Lodge, and would do all that might conduce to its welfare. He would endeavour to follow the example of his worthy predecessors, and if he did as well as they, he would feel satisfied.

The W.M. having proposed the I.P.M. and Installing Master, Bro. Craze expressed his thanks, and hoped he had merited the Past Master's jewel and address on vellum they had presented him. He owed his knowledge of Freemasonry to the Past Masters he saw around him.

Replying for the Past Masters Bro. Graveley made a touching reference to one of their number who had joined the Grand Lodge above, viz., Bro. H. F. Rogers, the oldest P.M. of the Lodge. He was now the oldest P.M. himself, and would support the Lodge as long as he lived.

Bros. Pulsford and E. Siddars added a few words, and Bro. Byford, who also spoke as Treasurer, referred to the large balance standing to their credit, the largest they had ever had, and that in spite of large outgoings for charitable purposes.

Bro. Armstrong, in referring to the liberal votes for poor members of their own Lodge, said it gave him much satisfaction to see the application of a principle he always had at heart, and that was a nucleus fund to afford help to fallen Brothers of their own Lodge.

The three Brothers initiated responded briefly to their toast, and for the Visitors Bro. Jolly spoke eloquently, as is his wont, and Bro. Gordon with his accustomed *bonhomie*.

For the Officers, Bro. Duck, genial, but business-like, spoke of the arduous work of the Secretary, and thanked them for electing two Assistant Secretaries, both of whom would find quite enough work in so large a Lodge. He was pleased that his efforts had been appreciated.

Bros. Legg, Bussey, Burdett, Shapland, Graveley P.M., and Mason also acknowledged the toast.

INSTRUCTION.

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WESTBOURNE LODGE, No. 733.

THE regular weekly meeting was held at Bro. George Butcher's, Oliver Arms, Westbourne Terrace North, Harrow Road, on Tuesday, Bro. R. J. Rogers P.M. W.M., C. W. Barker S.W., G. Weaver J.W., T. Mogford S.D., G. Butcher J.D., F. Beasley I.G., H. Dehane P.M. Preceptor, F. Wortham Sec., Wynman, Halston, Butcher.

The W.M. opened the Lodge in his usual able manner, Brother Dehane kindly offering himself as candidate. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, which ceremony was rendered in a most satisfactory manner.

The W.M. opened the Lodge in the second degree, and afterwards vacated the chair in favour of Bro. T. Mogford: Bro. Rogers resuming the chair, Bro. Halston was examined and entrusted, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, which ceremony was also gone through in an excellent manner. The Lodge resumed to the second degree, and the Lodge was called off and on. Bro. Barker was unanimously elected Master for next meeting.

HYDE PARK LODGE, No. 1425.

ON Monday, at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne Terrace, Bishop's Road, Bro. W. Smith W.M., H. Harris S.W., Henry Crookes J.W., S. Manne S.D., G. Weaver J.D., J. Chubb I.G., H. Campbell Stwd., H. Dehane P.M., &c. Sec., W. J. Ferguson P.M. Preceptor, D. Gillion P.M., Wynman, R. J. Rogers P.M., A. Le Clair, J. H. Kelly, B. D. Barnett P.M., and several others.

Bro. Smith opened the Lodge in due form, and, by request, Bro. Chubb assumed the chair and rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. R. J. Rogers P.M. making an exemplary candidate.

Afterwards the W.M. opened the Lodge in the second degree, and Bro. Campbell was examined, entrusted and subsequently raised. A vote of thanks was unanimously awarded to Bro. W. Smith for the able manner in which he had opened the Lodge, for the first time. Bro. Harris was unanimously elected W.M. for next meeting.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT LODGE, No. 1524.

HELD at Bro. F. Weight's, the Lord Napier, West Side, London Fields, on Saturday, 6th inst., Bro. F. Islip W.M., J. H. Crispe S.W., H. Pearce J.W., G. Edwards S.D., Sexton J.D., Schlosshauer I.G., R. E. Fairclough P.M. Preceptor, F. Keblett Secretary, J. Bunker Treasurer, Ives, Whittemore, Thompson, Stevens, and others.

The initiation ceremony was rehearsed, Bro. Stevens candidate. Bro.

Crispe delivered the ancient charge, and Bro. G. Edwards Assist. Preceptor worked the first section of the lecture.

The Lodge was opened up and closed down.

Bro. Crispe was elected W.M. for the ensuing week. This Lodge will shortly close for the summer.

CRUSADERS LODGE, No. 1677.

AT the Northampton Arms, Goswell Road, on Friday, 5th inst., Bro. J. Pratt W.M., G. W. Doubfire S.W., A. White J.W., G. S. Collins S.D., J. Cave J.D., A. J. Blake I.G., C. Weeden Preceptor, E. Dimes Sec.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Brother A. Humphreys candidate.

The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Cave. Bro. Linfoot answered the questions leading to the second degree, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed.

The W.M. returned to the chair and resumed the Lodge in the first degree. Bro. Doubfire was elected W.M. for the meeting on the 12th inst.

After the business of the Lodge a Committee was formed of the Crusaders Charitable Association, when two ballots took place, resulting in favour of Bros. Collins and Ballinger.

BROMLEY ST. LEONARD LODGE, No. 1805.

AT the Bow Bells, Bow Road, E., on Wednesday, 10th inst., Bro. W. Boyce P.M. W.M., F. A. Slater S.W., G. Fennell J.W., N. R. Moffatt S.D., Alberg J.D., Weeks I.G., J. De Casseres W.M. Preceptor, F. Thornton Sec., Towner, Napthali, C. Holland, G. Warn P.M., Ben Johnson P.M., J. Gibbs P.M.

The Lodge was opened and Bro. Towner answering the questions leading to the second degree, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and the Brethren assisted Brother De Casseres to work the first section of the lecture.

The Secretary was instructed to write a letter of condolence to Brother Hambridge W.M. of the Mother Lodge, on the death of his wife, after a prolonged illness. Bro. F. A. Slater was elected to the chair for Wednesday next, the 17th, to which date the Lodge was adjourned.

CITADEL LODGE, No. 1897.

THE usual weekly meeting was held on Friday, 5th inst., at Bro. Witte's Farleigh Hotel, Amhurst Road, N., Bro. H. J. Calley W.M., Bishop S.W., I. P. Cohen P.M. J.W., Schlosshauer S.D., Jones J.D., Feistel I.G., Dunstan Preceptor, Harry Willsmer Sec., Platt, Williams, Peters, George Clark P.M., Witte, Ginder, and others.

The ceremonies of initiation and passing were rehearsed, and the lecture on the tracing board delivered by Bro. F. Dunstan.

Bro. Bishop, a very persevering and constant attendant at the meetings of the Lodge, was unanimously elected to occupy the chair for the first time at the next meeting, Friday, 13th inst.

PROVINCIAL.

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LODGE OF INTEGRITY, No. 163.

THE regular meeting of this Lodge falling on Wednesday of Whit-week, and very few Brethren being in attendance on that occasion, on account of the prevailing holidays, an emergency meeting was held on Tuesday, 2nd inst., by way of passing to the degree of F.C. Bros. Alfred Edward Madeley, and Joseph Howarth Boydell, the respective ceremonies being performed by Bro. Saml. Gaskill W.M., and R. Alf. Hepworth I.P.M.

At the festive board which followed, Loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly responded to, these being varied by songs, recitations, &c., contributed by Bros. Herbert A. Owles S.W., John E. Williams P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C., Ben Williams P.M., Edward Roberts P.M. 1459 (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE), Robt. Dottie P.M. 1161, Robt. Race, and F. Simpson.

LODGE OF SYMPATHY, No. 483.

AN ordinary meeting of this flourishing Lodge was held at the Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend, on Wednesday, when Bro. Henry Forss W.M. presided, and was supported by Bros. William Hawker S.W., J. P. Moore P.M. acting J.W., T. T. Hogg P.M. and Treasurer, Arthur Ronaldson Prov. A.G.S., A. J. Walkin acting S.D., J. N. Willis J.D., T. Galler I.G., J. C. Aylen Organist, Ernest Ingman, J. A. Gillett, C. P. Bowen, W. S. Bowen, T. D. Gee, W. P. Wilson, J. A. Axcell, A. E. Lockhart, Thomas, Smith, and others.

The visitors were Bros. George Ricks P.P.G.J.W. Somerset, G. H. Belson 2404, Walter Butler East Indian Lodge, R. Vivian 2128, E. B. Wilks 77, and Orilton Cooper P.M. 211.

The minutes were read, and the Treasurer's report was presented, after which the ballot was taken and proved unanimous in favour of Mr. Frank Pettingall, Master Mariner, who was thereupon admitted and regularly initiated into Freemasonry. Bro. T. E. Braine was passed as a Craftsman, and Bros. H. C. Toms and Hy. White were raised to the sublime degree.

All the ceremonies were rendered by the Worshipful Master in his customary admirable manner.

A very pleasing incident took place before the Lodge was closed. Bro. George Martin, to whom we have frequently referred of late as being the oldest Tyler in the United Kingdom, was called into the Lodge, and was presented with an illuminated testimonial in a handsome frame, and a purse of money which had been subscribed by the Brethren in recognition of his faithful and useful services for the past fifty years as Tyler of the Lodge in which he was initiated.

Bro. Forss made the presentation in a few well-chosen words, congratulating Bro. Martin upon his Masonic record, and trusted the G.A.O.T.U. would spare him for many happy years yet to come.

Bro. Martin expressed his thanks as well as his emotion would allow, and the old gentleman was led from the room with tears of gratitude ready to fall from his eyes.

The W.M. having received the good wishes of the visitors the Lodge was closed in due form, and the Brethren adjourned to supper.

DE GREY AND RIPON LODGE, No. 1161.

THE annual meeting and festival of St. John took place at the Freemasons' Hall, Cooper Street, Manchester, on Saturday, 16th ult., there being a good attendance of members and visitors. After the minutes had been read and confirmed, Lodge was advanced, and Bro. Buckley Carr P.M. D.C. assumed the principal chair, being supported by Past Masters Robert Dottie as S.W., and W. H. Anderton as J.W.

The ceremony of installing Bro. C. F. Vlies S.W. into the chair of K.S. was performed by Bro. Carr in a thoroughly finished and satisfactory manner; the Installing Master receiving very valuable assistance from Bro. Eugene Loebell, the retiring Worshipful Master, who addressed his successor; and from Bro. J. M. Moss, who presented and explained the working tools.

The following Officers having been appointed were regularly invested, viz., Bros. O. M. Jones S.W., H. M. Massingham J.W., Job Irlam P.M. Treasurer, J. Schofield Secretary, Buckley Carr P.M. D.C., J. M. Moss P.M. Organist, J. Porteous S.D., Walter Cockerham J.D., J. Preston I.G., S. Lord, Blackie, Barber, Richards, Thomas, and Huntley Stewards.

Bro. Allan Phillips, of the Hall, had furnished an excellent banquet, to which the Brethren afterwards sat down. The various toasts were pleasantly varied by an excellent programme, which had been provided by Bro. Dottie, all the artistes being well known in Manchester musical circles. Brother Cuthbert Blacow gave a very effective rendering of the "Star of Bethlehem," and also joined in a duet with Bro. J. D. Smith. The latter gave that now classical installation song "Here's to his health," and later on treated the company to the old but pleasing "Ruddier than the cherry." Bro. Charles Jackson, whose manipulation of the violin has attained for him a wide celebrity, played selections from the operas, as well as Scottish and other airs. The lighter portion of the musical programme was left to Bro. J. Allin, who amused the company with several humorous songs, while Bro. Dottie recited a Lancashire piece by the late Edwin Waugh, entitled "Robin O'Quitters," causing great laughter. Bro. J. H. Greenwood accompanied on the piano throughout. So well pleased were the Brethren with the musical fare for which Bro. Dottie had been responsible that a special toast was accorded to him for the share he had taken in it, to which Bro. Dottie replied in appropriate terms.

During the evening a very beautiful jewel, set with a fine diamond, was, on behalf of the Lodge, presented by Bro. C. F. Vlies W.M. to Bro. Eugene Loebell I.P.M. It bore the following inscription:—

Presented by the Brethren of the De Grey and Ripon Lodge, 1161, to
BRO. EUGENE LOBELL P.M.,
as a mark of esteem.
16th May 1896.

ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

THE regular meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on Friday, the 5th inst., Bro. Charles Rawle W.M. One of the most interesting features of the meeting was an explanation by Bro. W. T. Hesketh P.M. Secretary of the tracing board in the second degree, which was most effectively done.

At the festive board which followed, the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were relieved by songs, &c., rendered by Bros. Henry Nall P.M. Prov. G. Tr., Cyril H. Beever P.M., Wm. Rushton Org., J. M. Crone, Lee, Klindworth, Bloomer, E. Roberts P.M. 1459, and Robt. Rudman S.W. 2156.

Towards the close of the proceedings Bro. Arthur A. Moss P.M. D.C. took the opportunity of proposing the "next merry meeting," which, he explained, would be in connection with a picnic promoted by the Officers of the Lodge, to be held at Castleton, Derbyshire, on Saturday, the 13th inst. Bro. Moss hoped for a fine day, but assured his auditors that should the weather be wet, requisite provision had been made so that the pleasures of the trip might not be marred.

TRAFFORD LODGE, No. 1496.

THE regular meeting was held at the Western Hotel, Moss Side, Manchester, on the 8th inst. Bro. Joseph Kershaw P.M. took the chair in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., with Chris. Preston S.W., W. Yeadon J.W., G. Burslem P.M. Treas., J. C. Gilman P.P.S.G.D. Sec., J. S. Done S.D., H. Russell J.D., Walter Lees I.G., Fras. Long P.M. Org., H. P. Jones P.M. P.P.G.R., C. H. Moss, J. Rathbone P.M., H. Preston, A. H. Norbury, Thos. Jackson, J. H. Rowse, T. Turnbull, William Chesshyre Tyler. Visitors: H. Vaughan 1633, W. H. Barker 1633, Arnold Edwards.

The Lodge being opened, the minutes of the last regular meeting were confirmed, and Mr. John Edward Page, who at the last meeting received a unanimous ballot (but was prevented from attending), was admitted and regularly initiated into the privileges of the Craft by the acting W.M. The working tools were presented and explained by the S.W. and the charge after initiation was delivered by the J.W.

It was proposed and seconded that the Secretary be requested to write Bro. David Johnson P.M., and express the sympathy of the Brethren on hearing of the loss he had sustained by the death of his wife.

It is proposed to hold the annual picnic on Wednesday, 15th July, the district selected being Bakewell, Rowsley and Chatsworth; first-class arrangements have been made, and, favoured by fine weather, the Brethren are looking forward to a very enjoyable day's outing.

The usual questions having been put and hearty good wishes tendered, the Lodge was closed.

The Brethren then adjourned to the festive board, when the acting W.M. proposed the health of the newly-initiated, who responded in suitable terms.

Other toasts followed, and were heartily acknowledged. The intervals between the toasts were enlivened with songs from Bros. Long, Rowse, Barker, Vaughan, Lees, and Russell.

HIGH PEAK LODGE, No. 1952.

THE anniversary of this Lodge was held on Monday, the 1st inst., by dispensation, at the Town Hall, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Bro. Rev. James Given, LL.D., P.G.C. W.M.

Immediately following the reading of the summons convening the meeting, and the confirmation of minutes, was the installation into the chair of K.S. of Bro. John William Hick S.W.

The retiring W.M. performed the ceremony in a highly finished and scholarly manner, being supported by Past Masters James Whitehead P.P.G.D.C. Secretary as S.W., and Jos. T. Wright P.P.G.P. as J.W. The Board of Installed Masters consisted of upwards of twenty Brethren. Bro.

O. Roberts P.M. 597, presented and explained the working tools in the first degree, those of the second were undertaken by Bro. C. C. W. Ferguson P.M. P.P.G. Supt. of Wks., while those of the third degree were in the capable hands of Brother Jas. Heathcote P.M. Brother Vernon J. Greenhough P.M. P.P.J.G.W. addressed the newly-installed W.M. upon the nature of his duties in the chair; the address to the Wardens was rendered by Bro. Jas. W. Broadhurst P.M., and that to the Brethren generally by Bro. J. Burton Boycott P.M. P.P.G.Reg. D.C.

The following having been appointed to office for the ensuing financial year, were addressed and duly invested by the W.M.:—R. B. Garside S.W., Walter Hobson J.W., Jas. C. Hyde Treas., Walter Lingard S.D., Samuel D. Gill J.D., Jas. Whitehead P.M., &c. Secretary, J. B. Boycott P.M., &c. D.C., G. D. Goodman I.G., Edwin Walker P.M. Organist, Rev. W. Henry Scotter Chaplain.

Heartly good wishes having been expressed by visiting Brethren the Lodge was closed, and the members and visitors alike sat down to a very excellent banquet, provided by Mrs. R. H. Hyde, King's Arms Hotel, Chapel-en-le-Frith.

The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were varied by songs and sketches, the contributories being Bros. S. H. Tebb 1235, Saml. Pilkington 1235, and Edward Roberts P.M. 1459 (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE).

In reply to the toast of the Worshipful Master, ably proposed by Brother Garside S.W., Brother Hick reverted to the time of his initiation into Freemasonry. He said that on the occasion in question he had been very much impressed with its beauties, and that impression had been considerably deepened as he had progressed towards the chair, which it had been an early ambition of his to attain. It would be his sincere desire to perform the duties of his position to the best of his ability, for he considered that the Brethren had conferred a very great honour upon him that evening. Other toasts followed.

Besides those mentioned above there were present, among others, Bros. Jno. D. Simpson P.M. P.P.G.P., Jos. Lingard P.M., Jas. W. Broadhurst P.M., Wm. Ward, J. W. Cook, John Gudgin, Thos. Smith.

Visitors:—Bros. W. Broadbery W.M. 1235 P.P.G.O., R. F. Sidwell P.M. 100, W. Brierley P.M. 1235, Fredk. Rowland S.W. 1235, W. E. Cartwright J.W. 1235, Jno. H. Beckett S.W. 1688, R. A. Little W.M. 1688.

EASTERFORD LODGE, No. 2342.

Presentation to Sir William Abdy, Bart., P.G.D.Eng. P.P.S.G.W. Essex.

THE monthly meeting was held on Thursday, 4th inst., at the Temple, High Street, Kelvedon, and there was a large attendance.

The Worshipful Master Bro. C. T. Thorn presided, and after the business of the evening had been concluded, he, on behalf of the Lodge, presented to Sir W. Neville Abdy, Bart., a handsome Past Master's jewel and an illuminated address, subscribed for by the members. In making the presentation the W.M. said they had all been most anxious to present to Sir William some memento of his two years of office, as an evidence of their appreciation of the obligation they were under to him for the gift of the magnificent Masonic Temple in which they assembled. They knew that their I.P.M. was not one who cared to adorn his person with numberless decorations, but they trusted that the one now offered him would be accepted, not so much on account of its intrinsic value, but as a token of the affectionate regard which they all felt for him, and that it would be prized by him accordingly. In conclusion, the W.M. congratulated Sir William on the distinguished honour just conferred on him by H.R.H. the Grand Master, in appointing him to Office in Grand Lodge.

Sir William Abdy was loudly applauded on rising to acknowledge the gifts. He said the extremely kind words in which the W.M. had conveyed to him these handsome presents had touched him very deeply. In what he had done he had been actuated by a desire to further the best interests of Freemasonry generally, and the Lodge he dearly loved—Easterford—particularly. He felt that he was quite undeserving of so much kindness, for it had been a great pleasure to him to have been the means of providing for them a place in which they could meet in comfort, and perform with becoming dignity the grand ceremonies of the Craft. As the Master had said, he did not care for wearing a lot of jewels, but this one he assured them he should always wear with great pride and pleasure; and although he had now ceased to rule the Lodge he trusted that he should meet them all many times in that hall, and that the Lodge would always be as flourishing as it was at the present time.

The jewel, which is a very handsome one, bears the following inscription:—

Presented to
BRO. SIR WM. ABDY, BART., I.P.M.,
by the Brethren of the Easterford Lodge, No. 2342.
7th May 1896.

The illuminated address, to which were attached about seventy names, was as follows:—

TO WORSHIPFUL BROTHER SIR WM. NEVILLE ABDY, BART., P.G.D.ENG. P.P.S.G.W. P.M., &c.

We, the undersigned Brethren of the Easterford Lodge, No. 2342, of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons, beg your acceptance of a Past Master's jewel as a small token of our esteem, together with this expression of our high appreciation and recognition of the manner you have discharged the duties of your high office for two successive years as Master of this Lodge, and a Ruler of the Craft.

Your career has been marked by a genial disposition and unceasing efforts on behalf of the interests of our Order, in which your hand and heart have been ever ready in promoting and assisting our Masonic Charities. Your rendering of our beautiful ritual has been recognised by all Masons in the Province, and has added to it that lofty purpose of character which is the highest and purest teaching of our Order, and we all join in the fervent wish that the Great Architect of the Universe will bestow on you every earthly blessing, so that when you look upon this address it may be satisfaction to know you are regarded by your Brother Masons as a worthy man, a true friend, and an ornament to Freemasonry.

We desire also to place on record our heart-felt thanks for the handsome and unique Temple you, with your truly magnificent generosity, have reared as a landmark to Masonic enterprise for all time, and a token of worth and emulation among the members of the Easterford Lodge in particular. We, the members of your Lodge, shall never cease to remember the ready and unsparing help which no personal trouble or inconvenience has ever prevented you from cheerfully giving us, and we feel that in offering you this small token of our regard, its intrinsic value makes no attempt to express adequately the love and esteem entertained towards you by every member of it.

ROYAL ARCH.

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CHAPTER OF RECTITUDE, No. 581.

THE regular meeting of the above Chapter was held at the Mosley Hotel, Manchester, on Thursday, 4th inst., the following being present:— Comps. Joseph T. Richardson P.Z. P.P.G.A.S., Jas. Hayes P.Z., Henry B. Brown H., H. J. Harrison J., Robt. Rudman E., Chas. Wm. Dove N., Harry G. Walker P.S., Wm. Rostron Treas., W. Goodman, Nelson Stokes, J. M. Frost, R. Adshead, A. J. Melling P.Z. P.P.G.D.C., and others.

After the reading and confirmation of minutes, Bros. Job Shaw, Manager; Adolph Ostard, Antiquarian; both of the Ardwick Lodge, No. 2185, were balloted for and afterwards exalted into Royal Arch Masonry by Comp. Richardson.

Before the close of the Chapter, Comp. Richardson was presented with a handsome diamond brooch, the same being intended for Mrs. Richardson. The gift was made by the Companions as a token of esteem for the great interest which Comp. Richardson had always evinced in matters affecting the Chapter of Rectitude.

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HORNSEY CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT, No. 890.

AT the Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne Terrace, Bishop's Road, on Friday, Comp. J. Bailey P.Z. 1602 Z., J. C. Tilt Z. 862 H., J. Almond Z. elect 1839 J., H. Dehane P.Z. 890, 862, 2276 Prov. G.P.S. Essex S.E., A. J. Tayler H. 166 S.N., J. C. Tilt Z. 862 Treas., J. Cruttenden 779 and E. Fox H. 975 Sojs., A. Clark J. 2021, Hillier J. 837, J. Wynman (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE).

The Chapter was declared open for Improvement, and the ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. A. Clark candidate.

The M.E.Z. was complimented on the excellence of his work, in conjunction with the other Officers, and acknowledged the compliment.

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DUNDAS CHAPTER, No. 1255.

THE annual meeting was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth, on Thursday, 4th inst., when Comp. W. S. Warren was installed Z., E. G. Dutton H., and G. Hooper J., the ceremony being conducted by Comps. J. R. Lord, W. Allsford, J. Gidley, and J. Kinton Bond.

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MARK MASONRY.

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LOVE AND HONOUR LODGE, No. 94.

THE Brethren held their annual meeting on Thursday, 4th inst., when Bro. J. M. Carne P.M. was installed W.M. for the second time.

After business the Brethren retired for refreshment to the Royal Hotel, where a very pleasant evening was spent.

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THE FUSCHIA.

THIS plant was named in memory of the celebrated German physician and botanist, Leonhard Fuchs, who was born at the commencement of the sixteenth century, 200 years before its discovery.

In connection with the introduction of this plant into England, a very excellent anecdote is told by Humphreys, in his "Stories of an Archæologist." The following is merely an excerpt from the same:

A sailor leaves his young wife, and joins his ship to continue his uncertain vocation—the sea, requesting his wife Mary to take especial care, amongst other things, of a precious little slipping which has been termed the "Crimson Drop." But Jack is absent for about four years, a longer period than his wife anticipated and he had intended, and the usual result follows, misfortune and extreme indigence. In the midst of this an old gentleman of very peculiar appearance was one day observed to be viewing the "Crimson Drop" (a very valuable specimen of the *Fuschia Coccinea*) with an eye of envy. Ultimately the stranger knocked at the door, was admitted into the house, and at once stated that he had taken a fancy to the little plant in the window, offering at the same time a guinea for possession of it.

Mary, although in urgent need of the money, proved obdurate, and refused to part with the slipping. The visitor increased his offer to five guineas, but still Mary's faithfulness to her absent husband's memory triumphed over all actual necessities, and she was as adamant, although not knowing how to provide a meal for the following day, that of Christmas.

Christmas Day came with its attendant discomforts to poor Mary at Wapping, where she lived with her son and father, the latter a retired tar of the veteran type. But a few hours' sunshine amidst the snow and gloom of the season had effected wonders in the appearance of the plant. "One of the buds had expanded, the crimson calyx had unloosed the hinges of its four elliptic segments," and the plant appeared in all its perfection of loveliness.

On the day after Christmas Day, however, the landlord, clamorous for his rent, had sent a broker, who entered the house with his men and proceeded to remove the few goods which remained, amongst others being an old Jamaica chest, which the absent Jack had prized very highly. As the cart which contained the household effects moved away, the stranger before-mentioned appeared on the threshold, and, after soundly rating Mary for refusing money when in such dire need of it, repeated his offer. But Mary was too faithful to the promise made to her absent husband to relent, and again repulsed the stranger's offer to purchase the plant.

In the midst of the wife's distress, however, Jack, whose voyage had happily ended, arrived upon the scene, and as the stranger was still anxious with regard to the purchase of the plant, it was ultimately sold to him for six guineas. Jack also purchased back the Jamaica chest, which, upon being opened, revealed to the astonished spectators specie of great value, which the provident sailor had saved unknown to his wife.

In the skilful hands of the purchaser the plant multiplied, until he had at last realised by the sale of various slittings a sum of £30,000, the outcome of his investment of six guineas at Wapping.

"The Book of Rarities," by Edward Roberts P.M.

INCREASED FACILITIES FOR TOURISTS TO SCOTLAND.

IN future passengers taking tourists tickets from stations on the Midland Railway to Glasgow, via North British, or Glasgow and South Western Railways, may travel at option on the return journey either by the North British Waverley route via Edinburgh, or from Glasgow (St. Enoch) by the Glasgow and South Western route via Dumfries and Annan, an arrangement which, we venture to think, will be appreciated by those who, like ourselves, take considerable interest in studying the country passed through on a railway journey.

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THE craze for cycling, which has of late affected the aristocracy, and has naturally gone through all grades of society, has resulted in most of the leading firms of cycle manufacturers developing into Limited Companies. The latest firm to take this step is that of J. K. Starley and Company, proprietors of the Imperial Rover Cycle. The capital of the Company is the moderate one of £200,000, and as it is said that orders in hand are far above the possible production, there should be a good return for investors.

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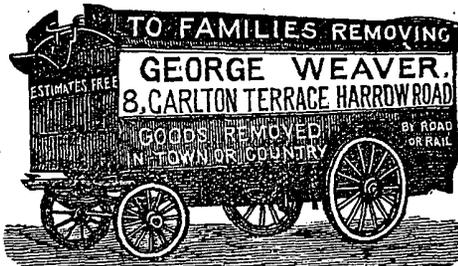
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IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST DEGREE.

WERE I asked to decide as to which one of the several Masonic degrees was the most important, as to which one calls for the most careful explanation at the hands of the Worshipful Master, I would answer at once "The Entered Apprentice." It is true that this degree does not usually receive much consideration, the trend of interest setting fairly towards the Master's degree. In many excellent Lodges the E.A. lecture is ordinarily postponed to a more convenient season, which lags behind the awakening zeal of the young Brother until the pressure of circumstances and his natural desire for more light compel him to deem it of little importance. Anciently, we are informed, it was customary for the newly-made Brother to abide for a period within the walls of the Entered Apprentice Lodge, there to be instructed in the first principles of correct Masonic life and conduct. He was not permitted to advance until he had given satisfactory evidence of his knowledge, not only of what pertained, per se, to the first degree, and differentiated it from the other symbolic degrees, but also and particularly of what its real significance was.

Not the veiled mysteries of the other degrees were at this time made manifest to him, but he was instructed in such manner as to prepare him for a logical and beautiful unfolding of the lessons partly given and partly hinted at upon his first journey towards the East. The fallow ground of his understanding was ploughed, harrowed and sowed, and he was given to believe that thorns and thistles would not spring up from the good wheat committed to the fostering care of our Mother Earth. He could confidently expect a harvest commensurate with the quality of the seed, for it is quality that counts, after all. He sought admission to the Lodge in order to learn, and his faltering steps under guidance of a true and trusty friend upon whose fidelity he might with confidence rely, were directed towards a goal he could indeed but dimly discern, but of whose existence he was inwardly conscious, because it must of necessity lie before him. If he reflected upon the matter at all, and if he was qualified to become a good Mason, he must have thought deeply; he would have known that within the husk of ceremonial and ritual lay the ripened grain of Masonic truth, and that beyond the symbols of Square and Compasses stretched the great realms of knowledge whose metes and bounds are measured and circumscribed by these Masonic implements.

The very questions with which he was plied must have aroused within his soul the most profound inquiries of time and eternity, and have brought him face to face with the great mysteries of here and the hereafter.

In the whole course of his subsequent Masonic life no more fitting opportunity could arise for impressing upon him the true meaning of Masonry. This could be done without in the least trenching upon the domain of the other degrees, and without plunging him into the deep waters of interpretation. He could be given to know that Masonry is the oldest form of natural religion, that its foundation stone is a living faith in God, and that it has no secrets except from those who scoff at its teachings. As an Entered Apprentice he could be taught that there is an ever-living, self-existent God, that man is not only responsible to Him, but conscious of that responsibility, that man is a free agent wilfully choosing good or evil, that God is his friend and guide, and that a virtuous, well ordered life merits and will receive the approbation of the Almighty.

These are but few of the lessons that can be derived in the most logical manner, from the very first section of the degree. One does not have to wait for the gradual unfolding of the symbolic degrees before he can appreciate the true meaning of Masonry; it stares him in the face before ever he stands as a corner-stone to sustain the weight of the explanations and admonitions of the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degree.

No part of Masonry is more replete with suggestions as to the highest type of religion, fuller of help in the everyday affairs of everyday life, more simple or more beautiful than the First degree. It is, perhaps, more ancient than any of the others, and comes nearer the primitive type. Its philosophy is broader, its philanthropy more intense, its essence more spiritual and heavenly than anything that follows it.

The full-blown rose that has opened its glowing heart to the warm kiss of June may be more attractive to the casual observer, but the unfolding bud which hath within its emerald walls the promise and potency of fragrance and beauty, which half conceals and half reveals the glorious handiwork of nature, is possessed of a double attractiveness—what it is and what it will be.

It is thus with the Entered Apprentice degree, and the more one reflects upon Masonry and its relations to God and man, the more will it appear that the first steps are the most important.

Brethren, let us study the first degree more, without neglecting the others. It is a vast storehouse of Masonic lore, hard to get at, but satisfying to the soul when once possessed.—W. B. P., in "Masonic Guide."

MASONIC COURTESY.

THE Mason should always be a gentleman. He is instructed in a code of morals that outwardly gives affabilities and virtues in various forms of obligations. In the Lodge and out of it the Mason finds himself solicited by influences which tend to make him peaceable, refined, and sincere, as they likewise remind him of what his attentions and courtesies should be in his relations with other persons. Sir Phillip Sydney gave a correct definition of

the true gentleman when he said it was he who possessed "lofty thoughts and a gentle heart." It is not so much the observance of technical rules that makes the man a gentleman, as it is the possession of sound principles in the mind and generous affections in the heart. Then, naturally, life will be consecrated to noble tendencies and characterised by abundant acts of goodness towards his fellow man. There are men, even members of the community, who feign to despise manners. They pretend to believe that it is immaterial whether they conduct themselves as a clown or as a gentleman. They are harsh, perhaps impolite, and at least rude in their intercourse with others. They do not consider the delicateness of other people, and appear to become proud of their open mouthed criticism of persons and events. They trample social rules, and praise themselves for being strong, independent individuals of action, and not fettered by social laws and customs. They do not think it necessary that they should be considered amiable, as they imagine that this would disclose debility. Can these be good representatives of the institution? Absolutely, they may have intrinsic virtues that compensate for their negligence of the precepts of good rearing, and which lead their friends to forget their apparent harshness; but they will not be proficient in the delicate affability which Masonry undertakes to inculcate, and under all conception it would be better that they should try to invest themselves with those manners of good education. Nevertheless, to be a gentleman something more is required than the observance of social formula, and the cultivation of refined customs. As we have already indicated, a true gentleman should possess a benevolent and affable soul, and from thence all other qualities will emanate. Comparatively, the practice of courtesy will be very easy for he who possesses a kind and fraternal spirit, and Masonry endeavours to inspire that spirit. It endeavours to square the rugged angularities of human nature, to harmonise men, and make them generous and useful, and in this manner gentlemanly and radiant in their conduct through life. Thus in their language, their walk and procedure, they will be civil, and will acquire the art of living in society; and wherever they may go they will dispense sweetness and light, and not on account of this will they in any way lose their personality or be made timid or restrained with regard to their opinions and judgments. A man can be firm and resolute in his convictions, and his fealty to that which is just never be dismayed; always be decided and intrepid, and with all this he can be courteous, pleasing and kind in his social intercourse. This world would be a little less hard and a little brighter if in it there were more consideration for human sensibility and more circumspection in the general conduct in life.—Translated from the Spanish, for "The Tyler," by Bro. Eli Broad.

THE TEMPLE OF MASONRY.

MASONRY, whatever the origin, has built itself a temple into the history and chief works of mankind. Its high regard for human rights, its fealty to true government, its loyalty to the golden rule of doing to others as you would have others do to you; its ideal of fraternity have given to it width and altitude in the movements of civilisation. It has been the constant advocate of science, the promoter of knowledge, the teacher of the wise and pure laws of living, and so it has become a large and integral portion of the best governments. Its spread has been as the spread of man on islands and continents. For the better growth of its commonwealths of Lodges and Chapters, it may, it is true, have been confined to special places, but its finer essence, its atmosphere of Brotherly love, has not been confined, but, like the air that breathes from the north and south, the east and west, breathes upon and touches all. Its dominion is in the great moral nature, and, therefore, among the changes of empires or the noiseless march of time, it cannot be changed like outward dominions. Its government may be assailed and has been assailed, but cannot be permanently overturned by any human revolutions; its truths if not victorious in one place move calmly on to achieve victories in other places. The principles which sustain it have been fountains pouring forth waters to refresh the disciples who tended the fires on the altars of the past, and still pour forth waters to refresh the thirsting lip and the yearning heart of those who wait upon its altars in the present. For, as a power in history, a society for mankind, amid difficulties and the barbarity of persecution, it has been unbroken in its course through the centuries. As such a society, with such a power, it has, as by the working of a natural law, achieved a character of its own, and a speech of its own, and that speech uttering itself in special sign, in dramatic form, in the rich vesture with which it clothes its truths, is understood by all the congregations of its temple. A light in darkness, it has enlightened times when knowledge was hidden from view, and even religion clouded by ignorance, and has moved on as through the firmament which overarches man's labours, like electric fires which flash now and then into a supreme brightness, but, unlike electric fires, it flashes and never dies.—J. Byron Murray, in "New York Tribune."

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