

# THE Freemason's Chronicle.

## A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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

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

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### THE FUTURE OF THE BOYS SCHOOL.

WE were very pleased to receive the announcement last week that the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys will shortly issue to the Subscribers a statement of the reasons for the proposed removal of the School from its present position, as sanctioned by the last Quarterly Court, but we at the same time experienced a feeling of regret that such a course should be rendered necessary by anything approaching half-heartedness in regard to the project already decided upon. Yet, in face of the state of opinion that exists, it is hardly possible to believe that any other line of procedure would be satisfactory.

In any question involving, as this does, the expenditure of a very large sum of money on new buildings, and the subsequent sacrifice of the existing property at a price far below its cost, it is but reasonable to suppose vast differences of opinion are likely to exist, and this is considerably increased by the rapid development of the subject of State Education, a feature which calls for very careful attention in connection with this removal question, for it is not very hard to imagine that within the next few years the Government will provide such facilities for the education of the growing generation as to make Schools such as those connected with the Girls and Boys Institutions almost unnecessary, or even if they are desirable it will only be under conditions which it may be almost impossible to comply with in the then existing structures.

If the subscribers of the Institution were unanimously in favour of removal we should be among the foremost in supporting such a course, and should urge its being carried out as speedily as possible, but, as is well known, unanimity does not exist, indeed we believe that even the most sanguine advocates of a change are by no means sure but that a careful canvass would produce such a display of opposition as would in reality make its advocates pause ere they attempted to disregard it, as the mere fact of a majority being in favour of removal would hardly be a sufficient endorsement of so radical a change, as there would be so much risk of offending the minority, while on the other hand, a continuance of existing arrangements, in face of a clearly expressed desire for removal, would probably cause trouble with the other section.

As we said some time back, once the removal is decided upon it will have our fullest support, because we believe that if a larger establishment is to be arranged for it will be cheaper in the end to start it on another site, but we have always been averse to the expenditure of immense sums of money in bricks and mortar, because we believe the same, or nearly equal advantages may be obtained by the maintenance and education of children among their own friends, rather than in a large central Institution, and that, too, at a cost considerably less than the present average spent on each pupil. For this reason we fully endorse the suggestion of our correspondent of last week, that a purchaser for the School premises at Wood Green should be found before any new

building is started upon, extension being meanwhile attempted by the creation of an increased number of outdoor scholarships.

Possibly this phase of the question will be dealt with by the Board of Management in their promised statement, but whether this is the case or not it is certainly worthy of consideration as an alternative proposition to that of sacrificing the existing premises and erecting new ones elsewhere, at a fabulous cost.

### MARK BENEVOLENT FUND.

THE twenty-eighth anniversary festival of the Benevolent Fund associated with the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales was held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Tavern, under the presidency of Bro. Charles Letch Mason Provincial Grand Mark Master of West Yorkshire. The Earl of Euston, Viscount Dungarvan, General Sayer, Sir Thomas Roe, Bros. Loveland Loveland, George Everett, Colonel John Davis A.D.C., Bro. C. F. Matier Grand Secretary, Major J. Woodall Woodall, and a large number of other distinguished ladies and Brethren were present. The total amount of subscriptions announced was the largest the Fund has yet had at its annual gatherings, viz., £2,406 13s 6d; and the Chairman's Province of West Yorkshire, with fifty-two Stewards, of whom fourteen were ladies, contributed £751 to this total.

### WEST LANCASHIRE CHARITY.

ON Friday, 3rd inst., a meeting of the Court of Governors of the West Lancashire Masonic Institution was held under the presidency of Bro. Dr. J. Kellett-Smith P.P.G.R., at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, when there was a large attendance of supporters of the Fund.

After transaction of the business of the various Committees of the Institution, eight children were elected on the educational fund, four on the combined fund, and six children received grants for advancement in life after leaving school, in accordance with the recommendations of the General Committee. A change in the bye-laws was adopted, on the proposition of Bro. R. H. Leake P.M. 1547, and the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Bro. Dr. Smith for presiding.

We may remind our readers that the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex is to be held on Wednesday next, at Maldon, the proceedings commencing at two o'clock, and a banquet following at five. The two local Lodges, the St. Peters, No. 1024, and the Blackwater, No. 1977, are busy at work making arrangements for the visit of the large number who are expected, and we anticipate a pleasant experience will fall to the lot of those who are present. As already announced in our columns, ladies are invited to the banquet, the Countess of Warwick being among those who have promised to attend.

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We are pleased to record the fact that Bro. Edwin Styles P.M. of the Camden Lodge, No. 704, and Secretary of the Instruction Lodge attached thereto, was last week installed M.W.S. of the Camden Rose Croix Chapter, No. 132, at the Supreme Council 33°, 33 Golden Square, and then had one candidate for perfection, Bro. R. Barnes, Golden Rule Lodge, No. 1261. The banquet was subsequently held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. Bro. Styles also fills the position of M.E.Z. of the Camden Chapter, No. 704, and displays marked ability in his several offices.

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE annual Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Thursday, the 25th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Buckingham, when Lord Addington Provincial Grand Master presided.

There was a large attendance of Brethren, many of whom went by special train which left London (Baker Street) at 12.8, arriving at 2.15, and leaving again at 6.20.

This is the first time that Prov. Grand Lodge has been held at Buckingham, and the members of the Grenville Lodge attended in good numbers, with many other representatives of the various Lodges in the Province.

Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at 2.30, and the minutes of the last meeting, held at Aylesbury in 1895, were read and confirmed. After other business had been transacted, the Provincial Grand Master proceeded to appoint and invest the Officers for the year:

Bro. H. P. Harris	-	-	-	Senior Warden
J. Stephens	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. F. G. Kiddle	-	-	-	Chaplains
Rev. V. P. Wyatt	-	-	-	
F. W. Taylor	-	-	-	Treasurer
H. Bullock	-	-	-	Registrar
J. E. Bowen	-	-	-	Secretary
A. Mitchell	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
Sampson	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
F. J. Hubbard	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
F. Edgington	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
Lewcock	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
Maclea	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
Coope	-	-	-	Standard Bearers
Gibbs	-	-	-	
Whitlock	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
H. Young	-	-	-	Organist
Crowhurst	-	-	-	Pursuivant
G. E. Reynolds	-	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
Hambling	-	-	-	Stewards.
Hobson	-	-	-	
Milne	-	-	-	
Hobbs	-	-	-	
Pulman	-	-	-	
Berry	-	-	-	

The health of the Prov.G.M. was submitted by the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, who said they now had a Provincial Grand Master whose whole heart and soul was in the Province, a distinguished Mason and citizen, the Lord High Steward of the Borough. Whether as Lord High Steward or as Provincial Grand Master he would always receive an enthusiastic welcome.

Lord Addington, in reply to the toast of his health, said he regarded the quartet they had just heard, "Come live with me," as a sonnet dedicated to him by the Province. He referred to the appeal of the Charity Secretary for Bucks and asked the Brethren to send their votes to support the cases arising from Bucks at the Masonic Institutions. He also referred to the recent meeting when the Prince of Wales presided for Guy's Hospital, when £500 was contributed by Masons.

## MARK MASONRY.

### BERKS AND OXON.

THE annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masons was held on Monday, 29th ult., in the Town Hall, Maidenhead, under the banner of the Jersey Lodge. The Provincial Grand Master Viscount Valentia, M.P., presided, and others present were the Deputy P.G. Master Bro. John Tomkins, formerly of Abingdon, but now residing at Hastings, Bro. J. T. Morland acting P.G. Master for the Craft Province of Berkshire, &c.

At half-past twelve the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge entered the hall in procession, headed by the handsome new banner, borne by Bro. Stapley immediately in front of the P.G. Master, who occupied the throne; and the customary business proceeded.

The P.G. Secretary presented a satisfactory report on the state of the respective Lodges, and the same was adopted. Bro. Margrett presented the report of the Committee of General Purposes, which referred to the purchase of a banner, and stated that the furniture of the P.G. Lodge was now perfect. The report was passed. Bro. Margrett submitted the Finance and Charity accounts, which were of a satisfactory character, and were adopted. Bro. Margrett was re-elected P.G. Treasurer.

The P.G. Master proposed a vote of thanks to the W.M. and Brethren of the Jersey Lodge for their cordial reception of the P.G. Lodge. Bro. Gardner having responded, Bro. Keyser invited the P.G. Lodge to meet under the banner of the Porchester Lodge, at Newbury, next year, when in all probability Bro. Hill would be W.M. He (Brother Keyser) would be pleased if, after the business, the Brethren would drive over to Aldermaston Park, and dine there.

The P.G. Master said he felt sure the Brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge would be only too glad to accept the invitation of the Porchester Lodge, and act upon the kind suggestion of Bro. Keyser to visit his picturesque estate at Aldermaston. The Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year were then appointed and invested.

The P.G. Senior Warden then volunteered to represent the Province at next year's festival on behalf of the Mark Benevolent Fund, and the sum of £5 5s, to be added to his list, was unanimously voted from the funds of the P.G. Lodge.

This concluded the business, and the Provincial Grand Lodge was closed. Light refreshments were then partaken of, after which the Brethren, joined by some Craft Masons and several ladies, drove to Boulter's Lock, and proceeded from thence in a steam launch to Marlow, where they landed, and partook of a cold collation at the Anglers' Hotel, the P.G. Master presiding. The party returned by water to Maidenhead in the evening, and the Mark Provincial gathering of 1896 came to a successful termination.—"Reading Mercury."

### BOSCAWEN LODGE, No. 101.

THE installation meeting was held on Monday, 29th ult., at Chacewater, when Bro. John Fitton P.G.D.C. was installed as W.M. by Bro. R. F. Frizell P.G.S.W., assisted by Bro. W. L. Chegwiddden P.P.G.J.O. The Royal Ark Mariners Lodge held its annual meeting the same day, when Bro. J. G. Shanks was ably installed into the chair by Bro. W. L. Chegwiddden W.C.N.

## ROYAL ARCH.

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### KENT.

WE were compelled a few weeks back to considerably curtail some of the speeches following the consecration of the Sympathy Chapter, at Gravesend, notably the comments of the heads of the county in regard to the past working, and the future prospects of the degree in that part of the country.

In this connection we may particularly refer to the remarks of the late Companion T. S. Warne Scribe E. of the Province, whose death since the meeting has been so much deplored. Companion Warne said he felt it a privilege to take part in the consecration of another new Chapter for Kent. When he looked back to the last twenty years, and remembered that holding the position he did the first Chapter he assisted in consecrating stood No. 11 on their roll, and now that the Sympathy was the twenty-sixth Chapter in Kent, he believed that much of the éclat and prestige acquired had occurred through the happy circumstance of having Lord Amherst as their head. Without betraying confidence he could inform the Companions that a petition was about to be presented for another Chapter in the Province, so that shortly they might hope to see a roll of thirty Chapters in Kent. He would impress upon Masons wherever he went that it was all very well to attend the consecration of Lodges and Chapters, to extend the borders of Masonry, but what did it all mean and what should it mean? That they were endeavouring to carry out the three great principles of the Order, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. If these were the watchwords they could view with calm equanimity the extension of their borders, because they knew wherever a Chapter was, there was a centre of usefulness, the Charities were fostered, and the principles of Masonry were increased. He hoped there was a fine future for this Chapter.

### SYMPATHY CHAPTER, No. 483.

THE first convocation of this Chapter after its recent consecration took place at the Royal Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend, on Wednesday, 1st inst. Comp. Henry Forss P.Z. presided, assisted by Comp. J. P. White P.Z. as H., A. Ronaldson as J., R. J. Beamish S.N., Orlton Cooper P.S., Frank Hitchens 1st A.S., W. Hawker 2nd A.S., Ernest Ingman, J. A. Gillett, W. Spencer Bowen, J. Fitch, &c.

The ballot was taken and proved unanimous in favour of nine Brethren for exaltation, but only three were able to attend, viz., Bros. C. P. Bowen, T. A. Mummery, and Geo. D. Braine. They were examined and being properly prepared were admitted as Companions of the Order. The Lectures were admirably rendered by the acting Z. and H.

A vote of sympathy and condolence from the Chapter was directed to be sent to the family of the late esteemed Companion T. S. Warne Prov. G.S.E. whose last Masonic function was the installation of the Principals of this Chapter.

Comp. Forss having expressed his willingness to act as Preceptor, it was resolved to found a Chapter of Improvement, and it was expected and hoped that all the Companions of the district would join it. This concluding the business of the evening, the Chapter was duly closed, and the Companions adjourned to supper.

FURNITURE wanted (second-hand) for Royal Arch Chapter.—Address, "Furniture," care of "Freemason's Chronicle," New Barnet.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

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## NEEDED REFORM.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Whilst agreeing in the main with P.Z.'s letter, I cannot help thinking that his methods are somewhat extreme. Were he to suggest a radius of seven miles from Manchester, and then strike due north, the removal of some thirteen Lodges from the West would probably result, but only to be replaced by a similar number from the East, becoming then simply a matter of exchange.

Yours, &c.,

P.M.M.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR,—“Masonry being a progressive science,” I am sure the whole county of Lancashire will express their sympathy for the cause which the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE has thrown open its columns to discuss. That reform is needed is clearly evident from your map, and I feel sure that the steps taken will lead to ultimate success, and that Freemasonry will no longer be seen and regulated by the uncertain “Lete o' th' Mune.”

Yours, &c.,

NOAH.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I was most gratified this morning to find that “Needed Reform” is being championed by you, and I am sure a continuance in that course will bring such suggestions from all parts of the Provinces of Lancashire that the questions will become so sifted and improvements suggested that our Provincial Grand Rulers will have very little trouble in coming to a satisfactory means of giving us this much “Needed Reform.”

Fraternally yours,

PROGRESS.

5th July 1896.

## FREEMASONRY AND THE LAW.

The following appeared in the “Tablet.”

SIR,—I shall be much obliged if you or any of your readers will kindly inform me where I can purchase Leo Taxil's book on Freemasonry, and other more recent works of the same kind. I prefer to have them in French if possible. A couple of years ago I tried numerous shops in Paris, but without success, and came to the conclusion that the Brethren there had managed to interfere with the sale of the book.

May I draw your attention to the fact that there is a Freemason's Lodge in the Temple, and that many of our leading barristers and several of the judges are members of it; at least so I gather from the daily papers.

Without for a moment supposing that the founts of justice are tainted, it seems to me clearly irregular that the Judges of England should be members of a Secret Society; and I shall be glad to hear that I am mistaken about that.

Yours truly,

J. J. L. R.

4 Cresswell Park, Blackheath,  
29th June 1896.

We desire to notify to our Manchester subscribers, many of whom are members of the Lodge of Instruction, No. 581, that the meetings usually held at the Old Boar's Head, Withy Grove, are now adjourned until Thursday, 10th September. The Lodge, which has been established for some years, has proved its usefulness in many ways, as evidenced by the reports which we have from time to time given in these columns. Brethren wishful to join may do so when the Lodge resumes its meetings, full particulars of membership, &c., being obtainable from the Secretary, Bro. Alfred Hebden, 21 Talbot Street, Withington, Manchester.

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Can any of my military readers tell me whether there is any rule in the Army Act, or the Queen's Regulations, or anywhere else, which forbids soldiers to belong to secret societies? A Service correspondent in India gravely suggests that not only is there a rule of this kind, but that Freemasons come within the scope of the rule. Seeing the extent to which Masonry flourishes in the Army, I can hardly suppose that there is any ground for this opinion, but judging by some of the stories which occasionally reach me respecting the results of Freemasonry among military men, it would be no bad thing if such a Regulation did exist.—“Truth.”

## HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.

THE Midland and North British Railway Company and the Midland and Glasgow and South Western Railway Co. have issued their popular illustrated Tourists' Guide Books for the use of tourists in Scotland during the holiday season. They have been in great part re-written, and are supplemented with the latest information. The pictures are numerous—not to speak of handy maps—and the descriptions of the country and its associations are written in an agreeable style. The books, under the respective titles of “The Land of Scott” and “The Land of Burns,” are published (John Miller, Glasgow) at the marvellously low price of threepence each.

As supplementary to our remarks of last week we may call attention to the particulars given elsewhere in this issue of the summer train service of the Midland Company from London, to Derbyshire, Lancashire, the Yorkshire Watering Places, the Lake District, &c., and also brief details of the Scotch, Isle of Man, and other arrangements, including notice of the weekly excursion to Matlock, Buxton, Liverpool, Southport, and neighbouring holiday resorts.

THE enterprising and energetic General Manager of the Midland Railway has added to that Company's series of special publications, “A Tourists' Illustrated Guide to the Holiday Resorts in the British Isles” which are in connection with the Company's network of lines. Practical information regarding fares, routes, special travelling arrangements and so forth constitutes the staple of the volume; but the introduction furnishes descriptive notes of the country traversed, and the whole is accompanied by maps and numerous vignettes.

THE London and North Western Railway Company is, as usual, keeping pace with the requirements of holiday passengers, and this week announces excursions, to run on Friday (midnight) and Saturday of next week to the principal stations on the system, with varied limits for the return journeys, as set out in the Company's advertisement given elsewhere.

THE Brighton Railway Company announces another of the favourite Saturday trips from London round the Isle of Wight, to take place to-day (Saturday), when a special fast train, conveying passengers at cheap first and second class fares, will leave Victoria Station at 9.30 a.m. (calling at Clapham Junction and West Croydon) for Portsmouth Harbour Station direct, in connection with a steamer leaving the Station Pier, for a trip round the Isle of Wight, immediately on arrival of the special train, and returning in time for the return journey of the special train to leave Portsmouth Harbour Station at 6.15 p.m. for London.

THE great popularity of cycling on the Continent, and especially in France, has induced Messrs. Cook and Son, the originators of tours and excursions, to extend their operations for the benefit of the great army of cyclists. An attractive programme has been issued descriptive of a series of fortnightly cycling tours through Normandy and Brittany, commencing 18th inst., and fortnightly afterwards. Considering the magnificent roads for which Normandy is celebrated, and the remarkable scenery in both provinces, the tours cannot fail to attract a large number of those who now take their holidays on wheels, and who may wish to be relieved of all trouble as to customs, foreign language, and hotel arrangements. Entering at Havre, the parties will travel to Rouen, and then in a south-westerly direction to St. Malo, visiting all places of interest on the route.

Bro. D. P. Cama Past Grand Treasurer has forwarded to the Lord Mayor a cheque for 100 guineas for the Mansion House Poor Box fund, with a letter, in which he states: “To-day being the anniversary of my mother's death, to mark the solemn occasion I am desirous to do some charitable act, as taught me by my religion.” This is the third occasion, within a comparatively short period, that the Mansion House Poor Box fund has benefited by our Brother's benevolence.

## “A SPRIG OF ACACIA.”

BRO. HENRY STONE, one of the most prominent men of Aldershot, died on Friday, 3rd inst., after a long and painful illness, in the fifty-third year of his age. Bro. Stone always took the deepest interest in Freemasonry. He was initiated in the Panmure Lodge, No. 723, in the year 1875, the Lodge at that time being held at the Wellington Hotel. He soon afterwards took office, and has since then passed through the whole of them. It was in 1881 that he was first elected as W.M., but, being host of the hotel where the Lodge met, the dispensation necessary for him to enter upon the office was refused. Again in 1882 the Brethren gave him their support and elected him as their Worshipful Master, but for the same reasons the P.G. Master declined to authorise him to take the office, and it was not until 1895, on a vacancy occurring through the departure from Aldershot of Bro. G. W. Reeves, the then S.W., that the Brethren for the third time elected him, and through the powerful influence brought to bear in his favour he was on this occasion installed as Master. It was an office that he had looked forward to for years, and one that he always said he should fill. In addition to the Craft Lodge, he was a Past Master of the Aldershot Military Mark Lodge, No. 54, and was, on the distribution of honours in the Jubilee year, appointed Sword Bearer by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. He was a supporter of the Mark Charities, had qualified as Patron, and was thereby the owner of some 150 votes in his own right. He also took a prominent part in resuscitating the William Stuart Preceptory, No. 76, which had been dormant for several years, and, thanks to his energy and that of a few others who did their best to assist, it is now in a flourishing condition. Besides the honours already enumerated, Bro. Stone held Provincial rank in the Royal Arch, and the Provincial Grand Priory.

## CHURCH SERVICES.

A MASONIC service, promoted by the Albert Victor Lodge, No. 1773, was held in Christ Church, Salford, on Sunday, 21st ult. Bro. Jas. Clough W.M. had the distinguished support of His Worship the Mayor of Salford (Bro. Richard Mottram) who, as a member of the Lodge, took a more than ordinary interest in the proceedings. The following prominent Masons, together with others to the number of over 300, and who represented nearly thirty Lodges, some as far away as Bolton, Heywood, Radcliffe, Todmorden, St. Helens, Liverpool, and even Durham and New Providence, Bahamas, were also in attendance, viz., Bros. James Beardmore Prov.G.D.C., Samuel Statham P.P.G.Tr., Thos. H. Jenkins P.P.S.G.D., J. W. Millward P.P.G.S. of Wks., W. Hardcastle P.P.G.D.C., Thos. Southern P.P.G.D.C., A. H. Duffin P.P.G.D.C., J. Harrop P.P.D.D.C., Richard Duxbury P.P.G.Std.Br., Thomas Pike P.P.G.Sd.Br., Councillor William Ollier P.P.G.P., Geo. W. Davies Prov.G.S., Thos. Threlfall Prov.G.S., Councillor Saml. I. Mills W.M. 2584, W. H. Fulford P.M., &c.

The Brethren were received by Bro. Mottram, in the library of Peel Park, and marched from thence to the church, crowds of curious people lining the whole of the route. Prayers were read and the service conducted by the Rev. Fergus Hill, M.A., Rector (Pendlebury). Bro. the Rev. W. Ll. O. Noott, M.A., Vicar of St. John's, Pendlebury, preached a very powerful sermon from two portions of the first book of Kings: iii, 10, and vii, 22.

The preacher said there were three essentials in the building up of every noble life, these being Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty. Whilst the first part of the text spoke of King Solomon's request to God for wisdom—"and the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked him this thing"—the second part treated of strength and beauty: "and upon the top of the pillars was lily work," pillars in this instance denoting strength, and the lily work beauty. Bro. Noott, in explaining these three essentials, said that around the City of Chester are high walls, on the top of which runs a much frequented path which is reached by a flight of steps. A popular notion is that whatever is wished for when standing on these stairs is capable of attainment within a year's time—on this account they have been called the "wishing steps." Supposing that by a stretch of the imagination this were a fact, and one had never heard of Solomon's wish; supposing also that we stood on those steps,—what would each of us wish for? Probably some would desire more money, some titles, some unlimited desires, and the means of gratifying them, some old age postponed; but how many would ask for wisdom, for understanding to discern between good and evil, for a sensitive conscience in good working order? Most men would even prefer a conscience that would fall asleep, and so give them peace.

The world in which we live is a great public school, where we are all learning something from the time when we enter until the great breaking up day, when each of us goes to his own home. Lessons of worldly wisdom which may have a tendency to sharpen us in business; how to coin money; how to acquire a good position; how to become popular,—these are the teaching of that school, but if this is all, then we have missed our real education. The world is a school where we should be trained for Heaven, where the prizes and punishments, the hopes and fears, the shiftings and changes, the work and play ought to act as schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. For this cause God sent us into the world, not only that we should labour hard for the meat that perisheth, but that we might learn, by suffering, the goodness of God, and gain that wisdom, the merchandise of which is above rubies.

In reverting to the second text, which was a suggestive detail in the building of Solomon's Temple, the preacher spoke at length of the two famous pillars Jachin and Boaz, wrought by the son of a widow of Tyre. It was said of him that his work was an inspiration, that he wrought under the direction of God: that he was a workman for the Great Architect, and that the fidelity of his trial expressed the purity of his worship. The curse of labour to-day is that God is not in it: the man, however, who is filled with a lofty purpose, whose sphere is high and heroic, who scorns what is beneath him, whose eye is fixed upon some goal, and who works with a steady will, determined that each day shall bring him nearer to his ideal, almost always achieves his mission, and lifts himself at every step into a higher atmosphere of moral dealing and of social influence; and the man who aims at nothing always hits it.

No scant worker was the widow's son of Tyre; with him there was no tacking together, no puttying and painting to conceal the flaws, he put his soul into the work, and he toiled for God. We should believe that God himself has put us into our business or profession, that we are His servants, and not the servants of mammon; that we are not simply drudges, trying to pile up a few pounds, but component parts of a great work that must be better or worse for the lives that we live.

Bro. Noott then took a retrospective view of the time of Charles the Second, contrasting the licentious actions and example of that monarch with the poor working tinker who lived contemporaneously, and who had been committed to Bedford jail. In referring to Bunyan's hopes and aspirations, he credited him not only with strength to endure, but with beauty too, adding that he had shaped the speech of the English speaking nation, and while his name is mentioned with pride, that of King Charles is execrated wherever virtue reigns. The preacher then pointed out that we could not have the lily work without the supporting columns of truth and duty, and counselled his hearers to combine strength with beauty and beauty with strength, to beware of jerry building, which was bad in a house, but far worse in a human life, closing his sermon with the following rigorous exhortation:—"May our lives be rich in beautiful works; may charity flourish amongst us as a glorious, health-blossoming flower; may the burdened heart never pour forth its sorrows to us in vain; may the distressed be always relieved; may we give generously to the object placed before us this day, one which appeals not only to Masons, but to all who possess a spark of Brotherly love; and may we, when our live's work on earth is over, and we are summoned from this sublunary abode to the Grand Lodge above, hear the words of the World's Great Architect—"Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of them my Brethren, ye have done it unto me!"

The musical arrangements were conducted by Mr. Thomas Sharples, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., Organist of Christ Church, assisted by the choir, Masonic and other friends.

His Worship the Mayor was the first to inform us, and he seemed to do so with a great amount of pleasure, that the collection had reached a sum of over £33, which, as briefly reverted to in our report of the recent Lodge meeting, will probably be remitted to the East Lancashire Systematic Educational and Benevolent Institution in full.

A MASONIC SERVICE will be held at Rainham Parish Church, on Sunday, 19th inst., at 3.45 p.m., for which a special dispensation has been obtained for the Brethren to wear Craft or Royal Arch Clothing and Jewels. The Service will be held under the banner of the Victorian Jubilee Lodge, No. 2184, supported by the St. John Lodge, No. 1343, the Liberty of Havering Lodge, No. 1437, and other Lodges. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. F. Haslock Prov. Grand Chaplain, assisted by the Ven. Archdeacon of Essex, Bro. T. Stevens Grand Chaplain of England. The Brethren will assemble at the Lodge Room, Phoenix Hotel, Rainham, not later than 3.30, and will be marshalled from there into the Church. Train from London at 2.7 and from Grays at 3.12. Brethren intending to be present will much facilitate arrangements if they will kindly intimate their intention as early as possible to Bro. W. Harvey W.M. 174 Hon. Sec. (Rainham Ferry, Essex).

The Offertory will be devoted to the Restoration Fund of the Parish Church, Rainham, for which purpose £3,000 is urgently required.

ON the occasion of the dedication of the new Hall at Minehead, already briefly reported in our columns, the proceedings commenced with Divine Service at St. Andrew's Church, where the sermon, a most appropriate one, was preached by Bro. the Rev. E. A. Sandford Provincial Grand Chaplain and curate of Henbury, near Bristol, who took as his text Ephesians iii, 17, "Rooted and grounded in love." The preacher said:

I had intended speaking from other words, but find I must confine myself as near as possible to fifteen minutes, and few words so aptly describe our position, founded as our Order is on brotherly love, relief, and truth. Though my remarks more especially will apply to the Brethren, if others are present I think they will carry some useful thoughts away with them. "Rooted and grounded in love." Would that it were so in these days among all sorts and conditions of men! To fear God and work rightly was the essence and aim, of our Craft of old. If their clothing were quaint, their diction conventional, their ritual archaic, they simply illustrated that which the Great Architect had endeavoured to indicate. It were surely nothing incongruous or irreverent that men should perceive in their simple handicraft an analogy of that after which their soul was longing—that in the sure foundation laid, in the stones carefully prepared and accurately fitted, and the mutual order and co-operation of the several degrees of Craftsmen essential thereto, they should see types and expressions of those principles which they felt essential to them as illustrations and exponents of those of faith, order and conduct, which they would inculcate and practice. Is it unreasonable that men should seek to fence their Order from the prying gaze, the officious interference, the ridicule, the sarcasm and contempt of those who had neither part nor lot with them in the matter, by signs and tokens which could not shut in secrets which they were ashamed to acknowledge, but exclude from their community any but those who had given solemn pledges of their sincerity to the great truths and principles which they would feign preserve untampered with and inviolate?



Look back at the dark ages—when civilisation was scarce, when violence and lust were for the most part limited by opportunity and controlled by capacity, when rapine and plunder were the rule rather than the exception; and can we despise and scorn the efforts of those who strove, according to their lights and opportunities, to mitigate the trials and provide for the needs of men in those dark and troublous times? Are Freemasons to be repudiated because in other lands, but never in England, privy councils of our Order may have provided opportunities for plots and conspiracy? Should we forfeit the respect and confidence of the men of this generation because the reputation of every single member of the Craft has not been always spotless? What body of men is free from mixed motives? What flock, not even excepting the flock of the Great Shepherd Himself, is altogether without black sheep? That we do not profess a form of godliness while we deny the power thereof is surely manifest from our deeds as well as words—our schools for the young, our refuges for the aged, our substantial and not seldom seasonable help to almost innumerable cases of distress.

That our gatherings are conducted in harmony with true religion is manifest from the number of clergymen amongst us, and that our tenets are compatible with true loyalty is evident from the fact that the Heir Apparent to the Throne is our Grand Master, and members of the Royal Family (past and present) have been and are Brethren, too. If we, as Masons, still seek to insure that none but those who are one with us should be members of our Order, is there any blame to us that we are endeavouring, by the maintenance of the ancient customs of our predecessors, to secure for ourselves simply what other communities, in their own peculiar way, are endeavouring to secure? It may be said, "What your forefathers professed to seek has been found, what they tried to provide had long ago been established; and therefore for all practical purposes in these practical days your Craft may as well be swept away as something which has served and is effete." I venture to submit, on the contrary, that such a Brotherhood as ours, with its high object, its long history, its grand traditions, if not more is as much as ever needed.

This age calls itself an age of civilisation, light and knowledge. But is it not also an age which, in its specious self-sufficiency, is spurning the old principles which our fathers laboured and bled and died for, and pressing on in quest of new and vague theories, which are to supersede those dry and played-out superstitions (?) and to be the religious and political creed of the future? In such a case it becomes us, as Masons, as citizens of a world wide family of our own Christian principles, to be more than "circumspect" in our lives and conversation, more than ever careful to proclaim and to promote those glorious truths which generations have tried and proved. I appeal to you, one and all, Masons and others who are here present, to make the principles you profess more than ever realities.

If our Craft had been mere antiquated pageantry, mere parading of costumes, mere histrionic ceremonial, you would not have found me here to-day, and my tongue should have been silent in such a holy place. But because I believe it has been, that it is still, and that it might be made far more than it ever has been a mighty engine for the religious, moral and social stability of our dear old England, I rejoice that I am called to speak here before you. It is said that the times are too momentous for mere trifling, however harmless or picturesque that trifling may be. It is said that every institution is on its trial, and Freemasonry, therefore, amongst the rest. It is not enough, then, that we should point to the antiquity of our Order in the past and to the roll of honoured men who have filled our ranks; it is not enough to claim for us the expediency of modern days; and even to prove these by demonstration.

Our Craft is weighed and is being weighed, in a sterner, less sentimental, sometimes in a less friendly balance, by what Freemasons are individually, and not by what we profess our Craft to be, and it will be approved or condemned as regards its worthiness as it is professed by Christian men. If we would walk circumspectly, we must take heed to ourselves. There are and there must be in every ancient community deteriorations which need restoring, abuses which need reforming, principles forgotten or overlooked which need to be re-asserted and re-affirmed. We have, as all communities have, our own peculiar besetting dangers and temptations. We are liable to be discredited by false Brethren, by those who from selfishness or indifference expose us to obloquy and contempt. Much has been done to restore, to reform, and to give increased efficiency to our Order; and we can thankfully and boldly declare, what so many other national institutions may, perhaps, declare, that many blemishes and shortcomings of former days have long ago become things of the past. Still, as Freemasons, we must remember this is no time to fold our hands and rest contented, nor is it a time to assume that we are perfect and doing all we can do with the opportunities at our command. I believe a great future is open to our Craft in the coming difficulties and complications of the future, if we will but be faithful and loyal members thereof. The more genuine we are the better we shall be appreciated, and the misrepresentations and misunderstandings with which we have to contend will be heard of no more.

May we indeed be "rooted and grounded in love." May our exemplary firmness and integrity of conduct prove we have noble purposes in view. Then shall we become ornaments to that glorious society of which we are each a part, and may our Order defy the storms of time and the winds of malice, however fiercely they may beat upon it. May it stand firm and unshaken, being built upon an everlasting rock! For you, my Brethren, here assembled, yes, for the whole family of man, let us "bow our knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He would grant us all, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in us by faith; that we, being

'rooted and grounded in love,' may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God."

## ENTERTAINMENT NOTES.

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**Empire Theatre.**—In addition to the two grand balléts, "Faust" and "La Danse," the Empire management have added this week five new items to their interesting programme. One of the best is the performance of the baboon and donkey in a miniature circus. The baboon is an accomplished jockey, and executes very cleverly the usual "daring act" which is the ambition of all circus performers. Mons. Grais and his baboon were seen here a few years ago. The Dayton Family of acrobats made their first appearance in England, as did Taffary's very comical performing dogs. Another "first appearance" was that of the Sisters Abbott, who sing duets very well, but apart from that there is nothing remarkable in their performance. The photographs depicting scenes of every day life in movement are still a popular item here as elsewhere. The new scenes include a very spirited charge of dragoons, apparently at Aldershot, and a march out of the Guards, with their band, the orchestra playing "The British Grenadiers," and keeping time to the marching of the troops. This is an excellent picture.

In order that the proposed memorial to Sir Augustus Harris shall take practical shape, a meeting of some of his business associates and friends, with Mr. Sydney Smith and Mr. Hermann Klein as Hon. Secretaries, was called for yesterday afternoon, at the Opera House. Sir Henry Irving, Mr. Tree, Mr. Wyndham, and Mr. Alexander were among those who represented the theatrical managers, and Earl de Grey, Lord Londesborough, and Mr. Higgins the opera subscribers; while actors, music hall managers, city men, Freemasons, and journalists were also represented. This Executive Committee will, a week or two hence, call a much larger meeting in the Crush Room at Covent Garden, for the first step clearly is to collect the money, while the question of what is to be done with it may afterwards be settled by the subscribers themselves. As a large proportion of the total will come from musical circles, there is a certain well-understood feeling against devoting the whole to a theatrical charity; but the result will probably be a certain grant to such a charity after a mausoleum has been built over the grave at Brompton. This, the "Daily News" understands, is the plan favoured by Lady Harris, who, however, will, of course, leave the decision to the subscribers.

SIGNOR CARLO DUCCI announces a Grand Morning Concert for Tuesday next, 14th inst., at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, Regent Street, under the immediate patronage of H.R.H. the Duchess of York, on which occasion he will have the assistance of several eminent artists. The concert will commence at 3 o'clock, tickets (10s 6d, 5s, 2s 6d and 1s each) being obtainable at the usual Agents, or of Signor Ducci, 18 Great Marlborough Street, W.

## GAIETY RESTAURANT, STRAND.

### LUNCHEONS

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

### AFTERNOON TEA—

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

### DINNERS IN RESTAURANT—

From 5.30 till 9 at Fixed Prices (3/6 and 5/-) and à la Carte. In this room the Viennese Band performs from 6 till 8. Smoking after 7.45.

## AMERICAN BAR.

### THE GRILL ROOM

is open till 12.30.

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# MIDLAND RAILWAY.

## SUMMER TRAIN, &c., SERVICES FROM LONDON.

### TO DERBYSHIRE AND LANCASHIRE.

LONDON (ST. PANCRAS) dep.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	noon.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	night	
Matlock Bath ...	8 37	9 0	10 5	10 35	12 0	12 10	12 25	2 0	4 0	5 0	9 15	12 0	
Buxton ...	9 35	1 8	1 32	...	...	4 2	...	5 14	7 25	8 26	...	3 56	
Ashbourne ...	10 20	...	2 20	...	...	4 10	...	5 50	8 20	9 10	...	...	
Liverpool ...	10 50	...	3 35	3A25	...	5 20	...	6 42	8 39	...	...	...	
Southport ...	12 15	...	4 13	...	...	6 0	...	8 5	10 15	11 29	...	8 32	
Blackpool ...	12 5	...	5 0	...	6B 5	...	...	8 35	11 35	...	...	8 30	

A—Arrive 3.45 p.m. on Saturdays. B—Arrive Blackpool (Central) at 6.50, and Talbot Road at 7.5 p.m. on Saturdays. C—Arrive 8.59 p.m. on Saturdays. D—Sundays excepted. E—Arrive at 11.55 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays. F—This time applies to Matlock Bridge.

### TO THE YORKSHIRE WATERING PLACES, THE LAKE DISTRICT, &c.

LONDON (ST. PANCRAS) dep.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	night	
Ilkley ...	2 20	...	4 0	5 40	7 25	...	...	11 55	...	7 55	...	
Harrogate ...	11 29	3 0	4 28	5 53	8 14	8 40	10 53	12 0	5 50	8 0	...	
Ingleton ...	1 5	...	4 30	5 30	7 15	8 45	...	...	...	8 20	...	
Morecambe ...	1 15	4 0	4 45	...	7 36	8 35	...	...	...	8 56	...	
Grange ...	1 3	4 13	5 8	5A48	7 36	8 18	...	...	7 30	...	9 33	
Windermere ...	1 40	...	5 5	6A40	8 15	...	...	...	8A20	...	11 0	
Barrow-in-Furness ...	1*45	4 47	5 12	...	8 5	9 0	...	...	5 30	...	10 50	
Belfast ...	...	...	...	...	...	5 30	...	...	...	...	...	

A—These times will not apply after 5th September. B—Via the English Lake District and Barrow. On certain dates (for which see special notices) the steamer arrives at Belfast later. C—Via Stranraer and Larne. D—Sundays excepted. E—Tuesdays and Thursdays excepted. \* Ramsden Dock Station.

### FIRST AND THIRD CLASS DINING CARRIAGE, ETC., SERVICE TO LEEDS AND BRADFORD.

LONDON (St. Pancras) ...	a.m.	p.m.	* p.m.	+ p.m.	
LEEDS ...	10 30	2 10	5 40	10 0	
BRADFORD ...	3 0	6 23	10 15	2 8	
	3 40	7 8	10 50	...	

A—First and Third Class Dining Carriages between London and Chesterfield. B—First and Third Class Dining Carriages between London and Leeds. \* First Class Dining Car. + Sleeping Saloon Car.

### SCOTLAND:—Increased facilities for Tourists to travel by Alternative Routes.

Passengers taking Tourist Tickets from Stations on the Midland Railway to GLASGOW, via North British or Glasgow and South Western Railways, may now 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. For Train Services to Scotland see other announcements.

### ISLE OF MAN (via Barrow). Short Sea and Picturesque Route.

Until 30th September, a First Class Paddle Steamer will sail daily (Sundays excepted) from Barrow to Douglas at 2.0 p.m., and from Douglas to Barrow until 1st October, at 9.0 a.m., in direct connection with trains from and to London (St. Pancras), and all parts of the Midland Railway System.

### NEW WEEKLY SUMMER EXCURSIONS.

EVERY SATURDAY, until further notice, to MATLOCK, BUXTON, LIVERPOOL, SOUTHPORT, BLACKPOOL, ISLE OF MAN, MORECAMBE, LANCASTER, AND ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT, for 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days. (See Midland Bills).

### WHERE TO GO AND STAY FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

"List of Furnished Lodgings in Farmhouses, Country Districts, &c."; "The Peak of Derbyshire"; "Illustrated Guide to Scotland"; and other books, may be had free on application to the Midland Company. The following new books are also now ready:—

Focket Guide to the Midland Railway (Price 6d); Holiday Tours in the British Isles (Price 3d); Pocket Diary and Guide to the Isle of Man and English Lake District (Price 2d).

Derby, July 1896.

GEO. H. TURNER, General Manager.

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Special Provision for Lodge and other meetings, including

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FIVE LODGES ALREADY MEET HERE.

Ample accommodation in the new wing of this old-established and noted Riverside Hotel for Banquets for any number up to 100. Every convenience for Ladies' Gatherings. Spacious landing to river, whence Steam Launches can start. Specimens of Menus, with prices, sent on application.

TWO BILLIARD TABLES. GOOD STABLING ACCOMMODATION.

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43 GREAT WINDMILL STREET, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE.  
NEAR THE LYRIC AND PAVILION THEATRES. V. QUINTO, Proprietor.

Recherché 1s. 6d. Lunch from 1 p.m. till 3 p.m. Soup, Fish, Entrée or Joint, Vegetables and Cheese.

Parisian 2s. 6d. Dinner from 6 till 9 p.m. Hors d'Œuvres, Soup, Fish, Entrée, Vegetables, Roast and Salad, Sweets, Savoury, Cheese and Dessert.  
CIGARS OF THE BEST BRANDS. SUPPERS AFTER THE THEATRES.

Special attention is paid to the Cuisine, and to the selection of Wines.  
Private Dining Rooms for Large and Small Parties.

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IN THE MASONIC PROVINCE OF HERTFORDSHIRE.

Newly arranged Accommodation for Masonic Meetings.  
The Banquet Room will comfortably seat 80, with smaller rooms in communication.

One of the most attractive pair's around London, close to Hadley Wood, within easy and quick reach of London. 25 Minutes Rail from Broad Street and King's Cross.

The Broxbourne Lodge now meets here.

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BRO. W. BENNETT, Proprietor.

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MOST CENTRAL POSITION IN LONDON.

SPLENDID ACCOMMODATION FOR MASONIC LODGES.  
Lodge Room, Tyler's Room, &c., on One Floor, conveniently arranged.  
THE BANQUET ROOM WILL SEAT UPWARDS OF 150 GUESTS.

LARGE HALL and other Rooms for Meetings, Smokers, Concerts, &c.  
Dinners, Wedding Breakfasts, &c., served in liberal style.  
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**D**URING July, August and September, Special Fast Excursions will leave Paddington Station as under:

**NEW DAYLIGHT SERVICE BETWEEN WEYMOUTH AND CHANNEL ISLANDS.****SATURDAY TO MONDAY TRIPS.****DIRECT STEAMERS to GUERNSEY and to JERSEY. Shortest Sea Passage.**

Every Saturday, 8.50 a.m. (Special Daylight Service Express), 9.45 p.m. (Night Boat Express) for Guernsey and Jersey, for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days. Return Fare: Third Class and Fore Cabin, 24s 6d.

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

12.25 midnight for Chepstow, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Llanelly, Carmarthen, Pembroke Dock, Tenby, Cardigan, New and Old Milford, &c., for 7 or 14 days.

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

8.5 a.m. for Wellington, Shrewsbury, Church Stretton, Leominster, Hereford, Oswestry, Welshpool, Aberystwyth, Llangollen, Corwen, Bala, Blaenau, Festiniog, Dolgelly, Barmouth, Harlech, Criccieth, Chester, Birkenhead, Liverpool, Rhyl, Llandudno, Bettws-y-Coed, Bangor, Carnarvon, Llanberis (for Snowdon), &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

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

9.30 a.m. for Douglas, Isle of Man, for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

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

12.5 noon for Newbury, Savernake, Marlborough, Devizes, Trowbridge, Warminster, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

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

6.15 p.m. for Chippenham, Bath and Bristol, for 3, 10 or 17 days.

10.10 p.m. for Swindon, Weston-super-Mare, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Torquay, Kingswear, Plymouth, Truro, Falmouth, Penzance, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

**A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.**

Thursdays, 16th, 30th July, 13th, 27th August, 10th and 24th September. 10.45 a.m. for Cork.

Fridays, 17th, 31st July, 14th, 28th August, 11th, and 25th September. 6.10 p.m. to Waterford, Dungarvan, Lismore, Clonmel, Tipperary, Kilkenny, &c.

Fridays, 24th July, 7th, 21st August, 4th, and 18th September. 4.45 p.m. to Belfast, Armagh, Enniskillen, Larne, Giant's Causeway, &c.

Thursdays, 23rd July, 20th August, and 24th September. 6.10 p.m. to Killarney.

Cheap Third Class Return Tickets are issued Daily, by certain trains, to Windsor 2/6, Burnham Beeches 3/6, Maidenhead 3/6, Henley 3/6, Goring 6/6, &c.

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

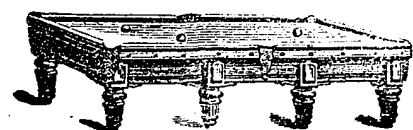
HY. LAMBERT, General Manager.

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**LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.****SUMMER HOLIDAYS.**

**C**HEAP EXCURSIONS will be run from London (Euston), Broad Street, Kensington (Addison Road), Willesden Junction, &c., as follows:

On Saturdays, 18th and 25th July,

(Friday midnight) To Lancaster, Morecambe, Carnforth, Carlisle, Windermere, and the English Lake District, for 3 and 6 days.

To Blackpool, Birkenhead, Chester, Northwich, Blackburn, Bolton, Wigan, Preston, Southport, Crewe, Whitechurch, Hereford, Leominster, Ludlow, Wellington, Stafford, the North Stafford Line, Ashton, Halifax, Huddersfield, Liverpool, Manchester, Rochdale, Oldham, Runcorn, Stalybridge, Stockport, Warrington, Widnes, Burton, Derby, Leicester, Nuneaton, Rugby, Coventry, Kenilworth, Leamington, Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Wednesbury, and South Stafford and Stour Valley Stations, for 3 and 6 days.

**EVERY SATURDAY TILL FURTHER NOTICE**

To Douglas (Isle of Man), Shrewsbury, Rhyl, Chester, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Dolgelly, Barmouth, Aberystwyth, and other stations in North Wales, and to Liverpool, Southport, Blackpool, Lancaster, Morecambe, Carnforth, Windermere, and the English Lake District, for 3, 8, 10, 15, or 17 days.

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

FRED HARRISON, General Manager.

London, July 1896.

**GREYHOUND HOTEL, HAMPTON COURT**

(UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT).

The Greyhound Hotel, now entirely Re-decorated and Furnished, contains the Best and Most Comfortable Suites of Apartments.

**Superior Lodge Accommodation.****Three Large Banqueting Rooms.**

The Cuisine is of the Highest Class, and the Cellars have been well stocked with the best known Brands of Champagne, and other Wines, &c.

Luncheons, Dinners, &c., at most reasonable charges. Ample Stabling.

Tables may be reserved for Dinners, &c., ordered for Large or Small Parties, by application to

Mrs. CONSTANCE CAULFIELD, Proprietress.

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ESTABLISHED 1884.

Wholesale and Export Cabinet Maker and Upholsterer,

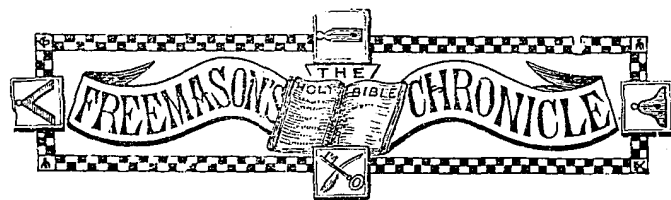
60 CITY ROAD, LONDON, E.C.

Manufacturer of

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Club, Office and Restaurant Fitter, and Billiard Seat Maker.

Experienced Workmen sent to all parts. Estimates free.



SATURDAY, 11TH JULY 1896.

We have much pleasure in learning that Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., Prov.G.M. Cumberland and Westmorland has intimated his willingness to preside over the 99th Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys on 30th June 1897, following the invitation extended by the Board of Management at its last meeting.

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We hope the Commemoration Festival of the Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association, which is to be held on Wednesday next, 15th inst., at Trentham, will prove a great success. We have every confidence that the arrangements made by the Committee and the enthusiasm of the Brethren will lead to such a result, and look for a substantial sum as the outcome.

## RITUAL V RITUALS.

THE question of traditional ritual as opposed to printed ritual, is one that has excited a certain amount of interest lately. Some months ago a Lodge was founded at Mercara, called Lodge Coorg, No. 2576, of which the Rev. C. H. Malden was the first Worshipful Master. In the ordinary course of events bye-laws were drawn up by the Lodge and submitted in the regular way to the District Grand Master, and to the Most Worshipful Grand Master. Among the regulations was one which provided that "no degree should be given until the fee for the same had been deposited with the Secretary"—or words to that effect. In due course the bye-laws came back with the above provision struck out, and the somewhat startling explanation given was that "it was contrary to the ritual approved by Grand Lodge." To get at the meaning of this it is necessary to go into detail. A statement like the following is generally heard at the conclusion of the ceremony of initiation: "As during the evening you will be called upon to pay certain fees, it is but fair you should know under what authority we act," and it may fairly be presumed that such is the statement with which the proposed bye-law appeared to be in conflict.

There are therefore two questions, quite distinct, which seem to need consideration. First, is there any real conflict between the proposed bye-law and the so-called authorised ritual; and the second and much more important question is, "What is the ritual authorised by Grand Lodge, when was it authorised, where is it to be found, and who is to say that it is correct when it is found?"

First, as to the bye-law. The Constitutions prescribe certain minimum fees for candidates for initiation, i.e., article 193 says: No person shall be made a Mason for less than £5 5s or in the colonies and places abroad for £3 3s inclusive of registration fees. It has been asked, therefore, that if the candidate at the close of the ceremony declines to pay the fee, what is to happen? This question is answered by article 194, which makes the proposer of the candidate liable for all fees. The fact is that the Lodge, as such, cannot collect fees from a person who is not recognised by it. The candidate is not even recognised as a candidate or described as such until the Brethren are satisfied that he is properly prepared. The period of his candidature extends from the moment that the S.W. has presented him as a candidate properly prepared, until he sees the light. Previous to that he is correctly described, when addressed, as Mr. A. B., and we are therefore quite disposed to agree with the ruling and with the deletion of the bye-law. To authorise the collection of fees, tacitly asserts a claim to the same, and a claim cannot be maintained against a person who is absolutely unknown to, and unrecognised by the Craft, and who, in a certain sense, may be said not yet to have been born. No financial relation can, strictly speaking, exist between a Lodge, as such, and a non-Mason. If liabilities are incurred to outsiders, it is either the Steward or the Secretary who is personally liable, and the future adjustment of the liabilities as between Brethren is a matter to be discussed in Lodge, and we are inclined to think that a considerable debt of gratitude is due to the Grand Secretary. It is a pity, however, that all this was not explained a long time ago, and seeing what wide misconception exists, we think it would be very acceptable if Bro. Letchworth would draw up an explanatory statement in which the matter would be put far more lucidly than we have been able to put it, and circulate it to the District and Provincial authorities.

The second point raised is the position that the ritual occupies in the Lodge. It appears that in 1816 the Grand Lodge of England expressed official approval of the working of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. But Grand Lodge unfortunately forgot to say what that working was, and as it is not possible for every Freemason to visit that Lodge, we are dependent, not upon tradition, but upon the traditions of a tradition. It seems that at the time of the Union in 1813 the workings of the various Lodges were found to differ very materially, and a warrant was issued for the formation of the Lodge of Reconciliation, consisting of an equal number of the two rival parties, with the object of framing a ritual which should become the uniform ritual of the Craft. They performed their task, and on 20th May 1816, the ceremonies were rehearsed before two special meetings of Grand Lodge, the Duke of Sussex presiding, and with one or two slight corrections ordered to be adopted as the recognised ritual. From this Lodge of Reconciliation a few years later sprung the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, with Bro. Peter Gilkes as its first Preceptor. That Brother died about 1833, when his old pupil, Bro. Stephen Barton Wilson, took over the Preceptorship and presided till his death, 1866. Bros. Fenn, Murton, and Richardson succeeded, and it is maintained that the ritual taught in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement at the present day by Bros. Sudlow, Rushton, and Kentish is the same that was taught in the Lodge of Reconciliation more than eighty years ago.

It appears that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has its authorised School of Work, corresponding to our Emulation Lodge of Improvement. It is known as the "Temple School," and on Tuesday, the 3rd ultimo—the day preceding the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge—a meeting was held, at which there were present the Grand and Deputy Grand Masters, the Grand Wardens, Past Grand Master Eichbaum, sundry other Grand Officers, and a large number of Officers and members of private Lodges. The ceremonies of the three degrees were rehearsed, and, according to the "Keystone," "the Grand Master not only commended the Officers for their accurate rendition of the work, but also announced it as the authorised work of the jurisdiction."

Any one who knows how the simplest statement of fact becomes

distorted until unrecognisable, even in contemporaneous circulation, will be able to understand how our complex Masonic legends and teaching and ritual, handed down for the best part of a century in one Lodge, carried thence and handed down in other Lodges and so on, may also pass beyond the pale of recognition. There is a well-known story which will bear repeating in illustration of this fact. How the Principal Sojourner detailed to the Chapter, how Cyrus, King of Prussia, said that he had been, &c., and how, when the dismayed candidate who thought he knew better, ventured to suggest that Persia probably was meant, was told that it had always been Prussia in that Chapter, and, what was more, was always going to be, and he, the candidate, had better go and study the landmarks.

We do not object to a printed ritual. Probably without it we should be more at sea than we are. But we do object to a little book being looked upon as one of the landmarks of the Order. If it be looked upon as a necessary framework on which to found applicable remarks well and good, but if the W.M. simply tries to get off the ipsissima verba without any reference to the sense, it is not well and good. He imposes extra work on himself, he wearies the Lodge, and nine times out of ten leaves out an important word which reduces the whole thing to a farce.

In saying that a ritual may be a good thing, we are far from giving a testimonial to the ordinary rituals in use. That they set forth the original Emulation working, our respect for that Lodge forbids us to believe. And no one apparently can set the matter right. The printed ritual is one of those things which every one is officially bound to ignore, and which probably every Freemason possesses. We do not know whether the Grand Secretary uses one. Probably in his exalted position the official purity which surrounds him as a halo has by this time saturated his whole Masonic existence. Still, humbler Brethren use them faute de mieux and would, we have no doubt, like to know they are using the genuine article.

We believe there is in the Grand Secretary's office a manuscript copy of the ritual, and possibly that is one reason why that eminent Brother is in such request to perform consecrations and other important functions. If our belief is correct, and the MS. in question has actually been approved of by Grand Lodge, then we cannot see any reason why a printed ritual should not be sanctioned. Much of what is inaccurate would then disappear.—"Indian Masonic Review."

WHILE Freemasonry justly takes no part in politics, it is quite within the scope of its members to display personal interest in the work of our legislative assembly, and accordingly we may direct attention to a pamphlet just issued by Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C., M.P., who is among the advocates of reform in parliamentary procedure, and who is anxious to have the rules so altered as to allow of Bills being taken up in one parliament at the stage they were left in the preceding one, a course that seems alike rational and consistent with the time saving propensities of the age. The waste of time caused by the necessary re-introduction of Bills, all but settled on previous occasions, is one of the blots on our parliamentary system.

AFTER providing for the amortization of leases, depreciation of plant sinking fund for the redemption of Debentures, the payment of Debenture interest, and carrying £15,000 to General Reserve fund and £5,000 to Amortization of Leases in advance, the report of Spiers and Pond Limited recommends the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 3s per share, less income tax, for the year ending the 31st March 1896, leaving £9,820 12s 2d to be carried forward to next year. The warrants will be posted on the 18th July. The share transfer books are closed from the 29th June to the 13th July, both inclusive.

## The Theatres, &c.

Covent Garden.—Royal Italian Opera. This evening, Romeo et Juliette. Monday, Tannhauser. Tuesday, Tristan and Isolde. Lyceum.—8, The School for Scandal. Matinée, Wednesday. Globe.—8, The Journey's End. 9, Charley's Aunt. Matinée, Saturday, 3. Prince of Wales's.—8:30, On the March. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30. Gaiety.—On Monday, My Girl. Shaftesbury.—8, The Little Genius. Haymarket.—Monday and Tuesday, 8:30, Trilby. Wednesday, Farewell Performance. 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. 8:30, The Mikado. Matinée, Saturday. Comedy.—8:30, The Countess Gucki. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2:30. St. James's.—8:30, The Prisoner of Zenda. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2. Princess's.—8, The Grip of Iron. On Monday, Drink. 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.—8:30, Rosemary. Matinée, Wednesday, 2:30. Court.—8:15, Uncle Thatcher. 9, Mam'zelle Nitouche. Royalty.—8:15, Kitty Clive, Actress. 9, The Queen's Proctor. Matinée, Saturday, 3. Alhambra.—7:45, Variety Entertainment. 9, Irish Ballet Divertissement. 10, The Animatographe. 10:35, Blue Beard. Empire.—7:40, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet Divertissement, La Danse. Cinematographe. Second edition of Ballet Faust. Palace.—8:0, Variety Entertainment, Tableaux Vivants, &c. 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. Madame Tussaud's (Baker Street).—Open daily



## 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.

- 1566 Highgate, Midland Grand H't'l.  
1922 Earl of Lathom, Camberwell  
2426 Wood Green, Wood Green  
40 Derwent, Hastings  
68 Royal Clarence, Bristol  
75 Love and Honour, Falmouth  
105 Fortitude, Plymouth  
106 Sun, Exmouth  
151 Albany, Newport, I. of Wight  
189 Sincerity, East Stonehouse  
237 Indefatigable, Swansea  
240 St. Hilda, South Shields  
297 Whitham, Lincoln  
303 Benevolent, Teignmouth  
330 One and All, Bodmin  
481 St. Peter, Newcastle-on-Tyne  
589 Druid Love & Lib., Redruth  
643 Royal, Fife  
671 Prince of Wales, Llanelly  
797 Hauley, Dartmouth  
884 Derwent, Wirksworth  
893 Meridan, Millbrook  
1221 Defence, Leeds  
1302 De Warren, Halifax  
1408 Stamford & Warr'gton, St'yb'ge  
1436 Castle, Sandgate  
1449 Royal Military, Canterbury  
1496 Trafford, Moss Side  
1611 Eboracum, York  
1618 Handyside, Saltburn-by-Sea  
1691 Quadratic, Hampton Court  
1792 Tudor, Harborne  
1885 Torridge, Great Torrington  
1948 Hardman, Rawtenstall  
1952 High Peak, Chapel-en-le-Frith  
1906 Fidelity & Sincerity, Wellington  
2376 Carnarvon, Leyland  
2422 Ebbisham, Epsom  
2487 St. Michael, Stone  
2584 Queen Victoria, Manchester

## Tuesday.

- 167 St. John, Hampstead Heath  
131 Fortitude, Truro  
184 United Chatham, New Bro'pton  
241 Merchant, Liverpool  
272 Harmony, Boston  
319 New Forest, Lymington  
371 Perseverance, Maryport  
473 Faithful, Birmingham  
496 Peace & Harmony, St. Austell  
603 Zetland, Cleckheaton  
626 Lansdowne Unity, Chippenham  
696 St. Bartholomew, Wednesbury  
764 H'r'bour of Refuge, W. H'tlepl.  
829 Sydney, Sidcup  
877 Royal Alfred, Jersey  
897 S. Helen of Loyalty, St. Helen's  
967 Three Grand Principles, Penryn  
1021 Hartington, Barrow-in-Furness  
1073 Greta, Keswick  
1220 Solway, Aspatria  
1250 Gilbert Greenall, Warrington  
1267 Kenlis, Egremont  
1314 Acacia, Bromley  
1373 St. Hubert, Andover  
1402 Jordan, Torquay  
1476 Blackpool, Blackpool  
1528 Fort, Newquay  
1545 Baildon, Baildon  
1713 Wilbraham, Walton-on-the-Hill  
1837 Lullingstone, Willmington  
1847 Ebrington, Stonehouse  
2099 Ethelbert, Herne Bay  
2134 Wilberforce, Hull  
2222 Frederick West, East Molesey  
2492 Concordia, Wendover

## Wednesday.

- General Committee G. Chapter, 4  
619 Beadon, Upper Norwood  
700 Nelson, Plumstead  
1278 Burdett Coutts, London Tavern  
2140 Huguenot, Criterion  
32 St. Geo. Harmony, Liverpool  
121 Mount Sinai, Penzance

- 137 Amity, Poole  
200 Old Globe, Scarborough  
311 South Saxon, Lewes  
325 St. John, Salford  
342 Royal Sussex, Landport  
376 Perfect Friendship, Ipswich  
591 Buckingham, Aylesbury  
610 Colston, Bristol  
726 Staffordshire Knot, Stafford  
795 St. John, Maidenhead  
823 Everton, Liverpool  
865 Dalhousie, Hounslow  
962 Sun and Sector, Workington  
1040 Sykes, Driffield  
1086 Walton, Liverpool  
1129 St. Chad, Rochdale  
1136 Carew, Torpoint  
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  
1973 Saye & Sele, Belvedere  
2203 Farnborough & N.C., Farnboro'  
2258 West. Dist. U.S., E. Stonehouse  
2475 Border, Blackwater

## Thursday.

- 255 Harmony, Richmond  
813 New Concord, Guildhall Tavern  
1623 West Smithfield, Freemasons'-h.  
57 Humber, Hull  
98 St. Martin, Burslem  
203 Ancient Union, Liverpool  
230 Fidelity, Devonport  
245 Mechanics, Jersey  
267 Unity, Macclesfield  
286 Samaritan, Bacup  
343 Concord, Preston  
345 Perseverance, Blackburn  
367 Probity & Freedom, Rochdale  
600 Harmony, Bradford  
659 Blagdon, Blyth  
758 Ellesmere, Runcorn  
802 Repose, Derby  
940 Philanthropy, Stockton  
1011 Richmond, Manchester  
1037 Portland, Portland  
1042 Excelsior, Leeds  
1184 Abbey, Battle  
1247 St. John, Plymouth  
1327 King Harold, Waltham Cross  
1332 Unity, Crediton  
1386 St. Hugh, Lincoln  
1393 Hamer, Liverpool  
1464 Erasmus Wilson, Gravesend  
1562 Homfray, Risca  
1594 Cedewain, Newtown, Mont.  
1776 Landport, Landport  
2261 Armitage, Milnsbridge  
2268 Hallamshire, Sheffield  
2305 Stour, Ashford, Kent  
2352 Universities, Durham  
2374 Shurmur, Chingford  
2390 Exmoor, Minehead  
2430 Runnymede, Wraysbury  
2523 Roll Call, Hounslow  
2555 England Centre, Weedon

## Friday.

- 1591 Studholme, Café Royal  
426 Shakespeare, Spilsby  
712 Lindsey, Louth  
1108 Royal Wharfedale, Otley  
1311 Zetland, Leeds  
2005 Brooke, Chingford

## Saturday.

- 1185 Lewis, Wood Green  
1329 Sphinx, Camberwell  
2041 West Kent Volunteer, Plums'd.  
2308 Viator, Anderton's  
308 Prince George, Eastwood  
336 Benevolence, Marple  
811 Yarborough, Brighton  
1326 Lebanon, Feltham  
1556 Addiscombe, Croydon  
1871 Gostling Murray, Hounslow  
2035 Beaumont, Kirkburton  
2228 Dene, Cookham Dene  
2381 Bushey Park, Hampton Court  
2437 Downshire, Wokingham  
2458 Eton, Eton

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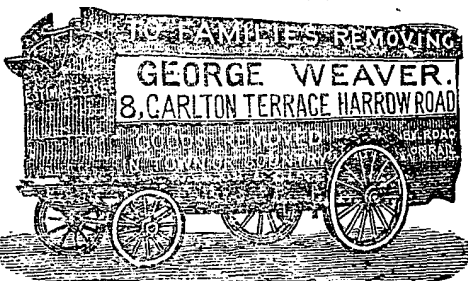
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## REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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## CRAFT: PROVINCIAL.

—:o:—

## PHILBRICK LODGE, No. 2255.

THE election meeting of this rising Lodge was held on Thursday, 2nd inst., at the Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford, under the usual climatic conditions. It is a most remarkable fact that the meetings of this Lodge are always favoured by fine weather—known as Philbrick weather—which materially adds to the attractiveness of the meetings of the Lodge, especially for Brethren who have the leisure to go down earlier than the time set down in the summons, to enjoy the beautiful forest scenery which surrounds this Hotel, and of which Essex is so justly proud. However much this county may be suffering from agricultural depression and the consequent depreciation of land values, yet from a Masonic aspect Essex holds a very high place in importance among the Provinces, by reason of the amount of its contributions to our noble Institutions.

The W.M. Bro. G. S. Daunton called the meeting for 4.30, and was supported by a fair attendance of Brethren. The Lodge was opened to the second degree, and Bro. E. C. Davis answered the usual questions in a manner which would have done credit to the most proficient of the Past Masters, showing clearly his proposer, Bro. C. Spreag, had bestowed considerable time and attention on him.

The ceremony of raising was next proceeded with, the W.M. giving the traditional history and explanation of the tracing board, and the whole being carried out in a dignified and effective manner by both the W.M. and his Officers. The ceremonies were enriched by music, Bro. Edwin Henry Lough presiding at the organ.

The next duty of the Lodge was to elect a W.M. for the ensuing year, the voting being unanimous in favour of Bro. J. Bell S.W.

The W.M., in announcing the fact to Bro. Bell, congratulated him on the vote being unanimous, and wished him as happy a year of office as he had himself enjoyed.

Bro. Bell heartily thanked the Brethren, and said he would reserve further remarks for the banqueting table.

Bro. A. R. Chamberlayne P.P.G.R. Essex was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. J. Goddard P.M. Tyler.

The W.M. gave the Brethren particulars of the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge to be held at Maldon on the 15th inst., also of his attendance at Brighton as a Steward for the 98th Festival of the Boys' Institution. He took the opportunity of informing them that he wished to go up as Steward representing the Lodge at the ensuing festival of the Old People's Institution, and he should be glad if the Lodge would vote a sum to be placed upon his list, upon which it was carried unanimously that a sum of ten guineas be placed on Bro. Daunton's list, for which resolution the W.M. expressed his most sincere thanks. He considered this sort of resolution the highest compliment they could pay him, because it was of unmistakable value. Words of thanks were not so easy to assay as were the guineas.

It was proposed by Bro. Bridgman, and seconded by Bro. T. Hawkins, that a vote of thanks be accorded to Bro. Daunton for the very pleasant Ladies' Outing he had organised and so successfully carried out, in which the Brixton Lodge was combined, on the 11th June. This was carried unanimously.

A Past Master's jewel and collar were voted to the W.M., in recognition of his past services, and the Lodge was then closed and adjourned till October.

The time set for the banquet had been encroached upon some thirty-five minutes, and the Brethren were quickly round the table, where an excellent menu was disposed of.

After the Loyal toasts a musical sketch by Bro. Edwin Henry Lough, entitled "Go on talking, don't mind me" (Grossmith), thoroughly amused the company.

Bro. P.M. Board proposed the W.M., and congratulated him on having gone so far through his year of office with such general satisfaction to all.

A Scotch song by Bro. Spreag was very much appreciated.

The W.M. rose to respond, and was enthusiastically received. He said this was the last time he should preside over them at the festive board in the ordinary course of events. He had thus far experienced a very pleasant year of office, and if he might be allowed to say so a very successful one, for which his thanks were due to several of the Past Masters and some of the Officers, as well as to two of the younger members particularly, but to every member generally; he now especially thanked those of his Officers who were present for their punctual attendance, not only at this meeting, but at previous ones, and although the term of his office would soon pass away, its pleasant memories would remain with him to the end of his days.

The toast of the W.M.-elect was next proposed, and in giving it the W.M. enlarged on the wise choice of the Brethren, for he felt sure Bro. Bell would do honour to the Lodge, and would discharge the duties annexed to the office with all the skill and ability that could be desired. He had worked side by side with the W.M.-elect in the Perseverance Lodge of Instruction, under the Preceptorship of Bro. R. Poore P.M. 1949, who spared no pains to perfect any Brethren who would attend the meetings to make them competent to do the work of any of the offices of the Craft.

Another musical sketch by Bro. Edwin H. Lough, "The Silver Wedding," was given.

The W.M.-elect rose to respond, and was vociferously received. After thanking the Brethren for the warm reception they had given him, he expressed the hope that he might receive the same goodwill and assistance from the members of the Lodge that had been accorded to the present Master, and if he could count upon this he had no doubt as to the issue of his term of Mastership. He would be content if he could only get within a measurable distance of the success achieved by the present W.M. He might let out a little secret by telling them he had in view some excellent candidates.

The W.M. now proposed the Past Masters, in doing which he observed that complaint had been heard in the Lodge with regard to their attendance. He reminded the members that they paid their dues, and that if all the number turned up at every meeting it would be necessary to reduce the sumptuousness of the banquet, raise the subscription, or become bankrupt, to say nothing about the loss which the Masonic Charities would sustain. Besides it was not reasonable to expect them to attend every meeting, they were always there when the exigencies of the occasion required them.

Bro. Bell gave a humorous lecture on un-natural history, illustrated by drawings after—a long, very long way after—Landseer, which provoked much merriment.

Bro. Salter senior P.M. rose to respond, which he did in felicitous terms.

Bro. P.M. Clark Secretary next replied, and after paying compliments to the W.M., the W.M.-elect, and the Lodge generally, he predicted a good future for the Philbrick.

Bro. A. Board expressed his opinion that the Lodge adopted a wise course in engaging the services of so competent a Brother as Edwin Henry Lough as Assistant Organist. He said good music was one of the factors which counted toward a Lodge's success.

The visitors toast was next proposed. The W.M. said it was unusual for a meeting of the Philbrick to be distinguished by so few visitors, and supposed it was a combination of misfortune. He knew it was in the case of several Brethren invited by himself, and the summer outing had, no doubt, something to answer for in this respect. With the toast the W.M. coupled the name of Bro. H. J. Lough, who responded in a very cordial manner, and after excusing his brevity volunteered to give a song, the "Winkle's wooing," which was welcomed by an encore.

The Officers were proposed by the W.M. who again expressed his thanks for their willing assistance in conducting the affairs of the Lodge.

Bro. Bell S.W. and W.M.-elect replied briefly, having spoken before.

Bro. Griffiths J.W. remarked he had the welfare of the Lodge at heart, and was ready to do all he could to further its interests, he would do all in his power to help make Bro. Bell's year of office if not excel, at least equal that of the present W.M.'s, and to striving humanity all things were possible.

Bro. Bridgman S.D. next replied in a very fluent and well worded speech, the substance of which was that he had worked his way through the various offices to the best of his ability, which statement was received with expressions of approval. He had done his best to make the W.M.'s year of office a memorable one. He was an old friend and neighbour, as also was the W.M.-elect, at whose hands he had in the past received many kindnesses which he could not forget.

The Tyler's toast was honoured, and the meeting was brought to a conclusion.

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## PRUDENCE LODGE, No. 1550.

THERE was a very full attendance of Brethren at the Freemasons' Hall, Princess Square, Plymouth, on Saturday, 4th inst., when Bro. T. W. Griffiths was installed as W.M. for the year. So many were present that it was found necessary to hold the meeting in the large hall upstairs, and those present included a large number of Brethren holding Provincial rank both in Devon and Cornwall. Bro. H. T. Robins P.M. presided, and the other installing Officers were Bros. R. G. Bird P.P.G.T., J. R. Lord P.G.D.C. and P.P.G.T., J. G. Kevern P.P.G.D.C., and C. Mutton P.M.

The Brethren afterwards sat down to supper, and during the evening Bro. Quinn recalled the fact, amidst hearty applause, that Lodge Prudence was that day celebrating its twenty-first anniversary. It had got through all the trials and anxieties of youth, and now that it had reached the full age of twenty-one he was sure they would all join in congratulating the Brethren.

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## STANLEY LODGE, No. 1325.

AT the annual meeting, held on Monday, 28th ult., Bro. Walter Tattersall was installed W.M. by Bro. J. W. Burgess P.M. P.P.G.D. He then invested the Officers.

The retiring W.M. Bro. John Barrett was presented with a Past Master's jewel and a pair of brass vases with oxidized reliefs.

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## HARROW LODGE, No. 1310.

A MOST successful meeting was held at Bro. George Brown's comfortable and pretty Hotel, so well known as the King's Head, Harrow-on-the-Hill, on Tuesday. Bro. H. J. Weston W.M., W. Harris S.W., T. L. Aubrey J.W., M. McVey S.D., G. Dingley J.D., G. Drewell acting I.G., E. Lynn P.P.G.D. P.M. 1310 Sec., J. Williams Tyler. There were also present Bros. G. Griffiths I.P.M., J. Denny, Eardley, Williams, House, Butcher, Baron, Pascoe, Dobbin, Handford, Herrin, Pryor, Birch, G. Brown, Bown, &c. Amongst the visitors we noticed Bro. H. Buckeridge W.M. 1658, Drewell I.G. 2045, Dyke 2045, J. Wynman (FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE), and others.

The W.M. opened the Lodge in due form, and the minutes of the preceding meeting were read and confirmed, after which Bros. Bown and Eardley were passed to the second degree, the working of the ritual being excellent. After this Bros. Williams, Herrin, Pascoe, and Dobbin were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, and we may again compliment the W.M. for his excellent working, indeed the rendering of both ceremonies left absolutely nothing to be desired, the duties of the chair being most impressively performed. The W.M. was ably supported by his Officers, especially the Deacons.

The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, and on the proposition of Bro. G. Griffiths I.P.M. and the Worshipful Master, Bro. George Brown, proprietor of the Hotel, was unanimously elected a joining member. After a few more Masonic transactions the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the magnificent and picturesque gardens attached to the Hotel, which after a little shower appeared to great advantage, the beautiful flowers filling the air with a fragrant perfume, and causing the Brethren's appetites to do ample justice to the full and liberal supply provided by the hospitable host, Bro. George Brown. The wine and viands were all that could be desired.

The W.M. gave the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts, in brief but happy terms, and they were duly honoured.

The toast of the W.M. was enthusiastically received and responded to, and was followed by that of the Visitors, to which Bro. H. Buckeridge W.M. 1658 replied. He felt it was best to follow a good example and say a little, but to the purpose. The working he had seen that evening both on the part of the Master, as well as the Officers, was perfect. It was quite a pleasure to him to have had the opportunity of attending and to receive such a cordial welcome. He concluded by thanking the W.M. and Brethren generally.

The next visitor who responded was Bro. Drewell, who acted as I.G. during the working. He thanked them heartily for the cordial reception they have given the visitors that evening, and was so pleased with the excellent working he had witnessed that if they would kindly accept him as a joining member he should be pleased to become associated with the Lodge.

The toast of the Officers was now heartily given, the Wardens first responding in suitable terms. Bro. McVey S.D. said he was very pleased to occupy the high position he did in the Lodge, and during his term of office would do everything in his power to give satisfaction.

Other toasts were given, and the members separated until the next meeting of the Lodge, which is due on the first Tuesday of September.

## MARWOOD LODGE, No. 1244.

ON Tuesday, 7th inst., the annual festival and installation of Bro. Christopher Forster as W.M. took place at the Masonic Hall, Redcar. The ceremony was performed by Bro. J. M. Meek P.M. P.P.G. Reg. Durham. There was a large attendance, including several Brethren from neighbouring Lodges.

## BARNARD LODGE, No. 1230.

THE members had their annual excursion on Friday, 3rd inst. Between thirty and forty members and friends journeyed per saloon carriage from Barnard Castle to Keswick in splendid weather, and from thence the party were conveyed in brakes to Lodore and Rothwaite, in Borrowdale, and back via Portinscale. Later the party took train to Penrith, where dinner was provided at the George Hotel, and afterwards the return journey was taken to Barnard Castle, all being well satisfied with their enjoyable outing.

## ST. ANDREW LODGE, No. 1151.

THE annual meeting was held on Thursday, 25th ult., in the New Masonic Hall, Tywardreath, when Bro. T. Tregenza was installed as W.M. by Bro. R. Rundell P.M., assisted by Bro. J. Doney P.M. Restormel Lodge, No. 856. A fair number of Past Masters of other Lodges were present.

Bro. R. Searle was appointed Steward for the Masonic Charities. During the past year the Brethren have removed into their new and commodious quarters, which afforded greater comfort.

The Treasurer reported the funds to be in a satisfactory state, a good balance being in hand.

After the Lodge meeting an adjournment was made to the Townhall, where an excellent banquet was provided by Bro. R. Coumbe, and the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were given.

## SUN AND SECTOR LODGE, No. 982.

THE installation of Bro. James Jones took place at the Lodge Room, Portland Square, Workington, on Wednesday, 17th ult., Bro. James Bouch W.M. presiding.

A letter of condolence was forwarded to the family of the late Bro. J. Lewthwaite.

## ST. AUBYN LODGE, No. 954.

THE annual meeting was held on Tuesday, 23rd ult., at the Masonic Hall, Morice Town, when Bro. T. W. Payne was installed as Worshipful Master for the year, and regularly appointed the assistant Officers.

## CARNARVON LODGE, No. 804.

THE annual meeting was held on 7th inst., at Havant, there being a fair attendance of members and visitors.

The Lodge having been opened by the Worshipful Master Bro. H. Nelson Price P.M., and the usual preliminary business having been disposed of, he proceeded to pass one candidate into the second degree, after which another candidate was admitted to the third degree.

The Lodge was then called off, and at 5:30 p.m. re-assembled for the purposes of installing the Master-elect Bro. Geo. Huggett, the ceremony being performed by the out-going Master in the presence of a Board of thirteen Installed Masters.

The customary formalities having been observed in the various degrees, the Worshipful Master proceeded to appoint his Officers for the ensuing year as follow: Bro. C. J. Morris S.W., J. Mew Godfrey P.M. J.W., E. S. Sprigins P.M. Treasurer (re-elected), H. W. Smith Parsons P.M. Secretary (re-appointed), W. W. Blake S.D., W. W. T. Williams J.D., Geo. Cox P.M. D.C., J. Bazley Organist, F. S. Stebbing I.G., G. Corbin and Robins Stwds., W. Burrows Tyler.

The addresses then followed, and after a vote of thanks to the Installing Master had been accepted and replied to by him, the Lodge was closed.

After the banquet that followed the toasts were duly honoured. The Brethren who responded for the Visitors were Bro. J. J. Thomas P.M. Prince Frederick William Lodge, No. 753 Prov. G. Treasurer Bucks. and Vice-President Board of General Purposes, Bro. J. R. Martyr W.M. 1903, and Bro. G. D. Birch W.M. 2153.

Bro. Fryer 487 kindly presided at the piano, various songs being well rendered by Bros. J. J. Bascombe, W. W. Blake, and G. Bevis.

## DERBY LODGE, No. 724.

THE annual meeting took place in the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, on the 24th ult., when Bro. Gustave Charles Rostock was installed as Master, in succession to Bro. J. Parry, the ceremony being efficiently conducted by Bro. J. Sharples P.M.

In the course of the successful proceedings a Past Master's jewel, together with collar, cuffs, and apron, were presented to Bro. J. Parry. A capital musical programme was provided under the direction of Bro. Hudson.

## ST. JOHN LODGE, No. 673.

ON Tuesday, 7th inst., Bro. Frederick Jenkins was installed Master of this Lodge, at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, in the presence of about 120 members and visitors, including a large number of Provincial Officers. Bro. C. Marsh P.M. was Installing Master.

Bro. J. Morgan was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel, in recognition of his services to the Lodge as W.M. during the past year.

## BANK TERRACE LODGE, No. 462.

THE pic-nic of the members took place on Wednesday, 24th ult., and was one of the most successful and enjoyable functions held in connection with the Lodge. The party, numbering about fifty, left Accrington in saloons at 7:35 for Blackpool, where they arrived at 9:30. Waggonettes were in attendance, which conveyed the party to Cleveley's Hotel, where breakfast was served. The interval after breakfast was whiled away by some

of the party having games of bowls, whilst others had short rambles down to the beach. At 12:30 the vehicles were again requisitioned for a drive to Singleton Park, via Thornton and Skippool. Arriving at this beautiful seat, the party were conducted through the grounds by the head gardener, who placed quantities of luscious fruit at the disposal of the guests, who were afterwards received at the Hall by Mrs. Miller and her brother, who personally conducted the party through the interior. Singleton Hall is noted for its handsome collection of paintings, curios, and statues, and these were shown to the visitors, who thoroughly enjoyed the treat. Mrs. Miller was warmly thanked by the party on leaving, for the kindness and attention she had bestowed upon them during their stay. The return journey to the Hotel was made via Hardbarn, Poulton (where a short stay was made), and Castle Gardens. At 4:30 dinner was served, after which the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured. The drive to Blackpool was commenced a little after seven o'clock, and the party left Central Station, homeward bound, at 8:40 p.m., arriving in Accrington at 10:20. The weather kept fine throughout the day, and the outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Great credit is due to Bros. Dewhurst and Frankland for the very efficient manner in which they made and superintended the arrangements.

## RURAL PHILANTHROPIC LODGE, No. 291.

AT the annual meeting, held at the Railway Hotel, Highbridge, on Friday, 3rd inst., Bro. C. S. Leech, of Burnham, was installed W.M. for the ensuing year in succession to Bro. Dr. Sharpe, the installation ceremony being performed by the D.P.G.M. Bro. Else P.G.D. of England.

## MARINERS LODGE, No. 249.

THE annual installation meeting was held on the 2nd inst., at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, when there was an attendance of about 150 Brethren, including numerous representatives of Grand and Provincial Grand Lodges. Bro. Thomas D. Amos was installed Worshipful Master by Bro. E. Routledge, who retired from the chair, assisted by Bro. R. G. Bradley P.P.G.D.C.

In the course of the evening the I.P.M. was presented with a Past Master's jewel and a gold watch, as marks of the esteem in which he is held.

## MERCHANTS LODGE, No. 241.

THE members held their annual installation meeting in the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, on Tuesday, 23rd ult., when Bro. A. E. Povey installed Bro. William Amos as W.M. for the ensuing year.

At the banquet Bro. Povey was presented with a Past Master's jewel, and a silver epergne, as tokens of the esteem in which he is held by the Brethren.

## PESEVERANCE LODGE, No. 164.

THE installation meeting was held on Wednesday, 1st inst., at the Masonic Hall, Sidmouth, when Bro. F. Goss was placed in the chair in succession to Bro. John Opie. The annual banquet was held at the York Hotel.

## LOVE AND HONOUR LODGE, No. 75.

THE members met at Falmouth, on Tuesday, 23rd ult., when Bro. T. G. Holder Worshipful Master presented Bro. W. F. Newman P.M. 75 P.P.J.G.W. with a splendid gold watch, in recognition of his valuable services to the Lodge for a large number of years, and on his leaving Falmouth. The watch bore the following inscription:—

Presented to

W. BRO. W. F. NEWMAN P.M. 75 P.P.J.G.W. Cornwall,  
by the members of Lodge Love and Honour, No. 75,  
as a token of their fraternal regard and a small recognition of his  
valuable services to the Lodge for a period of thirty-seven years.

## GLAMORGAN LODGE, No. 38.

AT the Masonic Temple, Cardiff, on Wednesday, 24th ult., the popular Waterworks Engineer of the Cardiff Corporation, Bro. Charles Henry Priestley was installed Worshipful Master, in the presence of a large attendance, representative of the Order in the South Wales district, prominent amongst the visitors being the Lord Bishop of Llandaff (recently installed as one of the Grand Chaplains of England), Bro. Marmaduke Tennant G.M. of the Eastern Division of South Wales; and Bro. W. Petty 33° M.S.C. of Grand Lodge, Uruguay Republic.

Bro. Priestley was installed by Bro. T. S. Harrison the Immediate Past Master, and subsequently invested his Officers.

## CHAMPION CONCLAVE SECRET MONITOR, No. 26.

A MEETING of the above Conclave was held at the Palatine Hotel, Manchester, on Tuesday, 30th ult., Bro. Buckley Carr S.R. There were also present Bros. Fletcher Armstrong C., John Marshall G.V. Sec., A. C. K. Smith 1st V.D., Wm. A. Boyer 4th V.D. G.S., Wm. Charlton, J.P., D.C., Thos. Plumpton P.G.S., and others. The principal business of the evening was that of inducting Bro. Charles Swinn P.M. and W.M. Dramatic Lodge, No. 2387, the ceremony being performed by the S.R. with great impressiveness.

Bros. Plumpton, Charlton, Marshall, Boyer, and Armstrong gave an interesting account of a very pleasant visit paid to the metropolis on the occasion of a festival in connection with the Grand Council, held on 17th June. Other matters having been disposed of the Conclave was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the festive board, the evening being passed in an enjoyable manner. Loyal and other toasts were honoured, these being interspersed with songs, recitations, &c., rendered by Bros. Carr, Marshall, and Edwd. Roberts.

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

## CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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## RAHERE LODGE, No. 2546.

THE installation meeting was held in the Great Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on the 9th ult., when 110 members and visitors were present.

Bro. Alfred Cooper P.G.D. was installed as the second W.M. by Brother Clement Godson P.G.D. W.M.

In the course of the evening Messrs. Balfour Neill, M.D., H. W. Lance, E. W. Willett, M.B., H. W. Newton, M.R.C.S., and W. H. Cross were admitted into Freemasonry.

A Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Godson, in token of his services to the Lodge during the past year. The Brethren subsequently adjourned to a banquet at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford Street.

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## NORTHERN BAR LODGE, No. 1610.

ON Wednesday, 24th ult., the Worshipful Master (Mr. Justice Bruce) and the members of the Northern Bar Lodge entertained the members of the Chancery Bar Lodge at a banquet in the Middle Temple Hall, when about 120 members of the Craft were present. Mr. Justice Bruce occupied the chair, and was supported by Lord Herschell, Mr. Justice Kennedy, and many other distinguished members.

Nearly all the members of the Chancery Bar Lodge were present, among them being Mr. Pemberton Leach (Worshipful Master), Mr. Horton Smith, Q.C., Mr. Cutler, Q.C., Mr. Swinfen Eady, Q.C., Mr. A. Birrell, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Bramwell Davis, Q.C., Mr. Warrington, Q.C., Mr. P. O. Lawrence, Q.C., the Rev. Dr. Cooper Smith, Mr. G. Borthwick, and Mr. W. D. Rawlins. A few guests apart from the Chancery Bar Lodge were also invited, among them being Lord Methuen, the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., Mr. Bucknill, Q.C., M.P., Judge Philbrick, Q.C., Mr. Hopwood, Q.C., and Mr. E. Letchworth Grand Secretary.—“Daily Mail.”

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## INSTRUCTION.

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## ST. AMBROSE LODGE, No. 1891.

THE regular meeting was held at the St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, on Thursday, 9th inst. Bro. Tavener acted as W.M., with Bro. Sandland S.W., H. Price J.W., Wynman S.D., Buxton J.D., Whitcher I.G., Hoggins Preceptor, and several other Brethren.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Hoggins candidate. A distressed Brother was relieved, and Bro. Sandland elected to the chair for the next meeting. The work was well rehearsed by the acting Master.

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## HYDE PARK LODGE, No. 1425.

AT Bro. Stevens's, Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne Terrace, Bishop's Road, on Monday, Bro. C. Riemann W.M., H. Harris S.W., G. D. Mogford W.M. 2362 J.W., H. Crookes S.D., A. S. Fowles J.D., W. Smith I.G., H. Dehane P.M. Sec., W. J. Ferguson P.M. Preceptor, A. Clark P.M., J. H. R. Kelly, G. E. Harris, H. J. Stickland P.M. 177 S.C., Johns 1402, J. Wynman.

Bro. Riemann opened the Lodge, and at his request Bro. Stickland P.M. took the chair and rehearsed the ceremony of opening the Lodge in the Scotch manner, which proved very interesting to the Brethren. Afterwards Bro. G. D. Mogford W.M. 2362 assumed the chair and opened in the second degree, subsequently rehearsing the ceremony of installation, with Bro. C. Riemann as candidate. The different addresses were given and the ceremony completed in such a way as to entitle Bro. Mogford to commendation. The Preceptor worked the second section of the first lecture, assisted by the Brethren.

On the proposition of Bro. Mogford the thanks of the Lodge were voted to Bro. Stickland P.M., for his illustration of Scotch working. Bro. Harris was elected W.M. for next meeting.

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## ROYAL ARCH.

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## HORNSEY CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT, No. 890

ON Friday, 3rd inst., at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne Terrace, Bishop's Road, Comp. J. C. Tilt Z., W. Hillier H., J. Burley J., H. Dehane S.E., J. Cruttenden S.N., W. J. Ferguson P.S., R. T. Godfrey, J. Wynman, and others.

The Chapter was declared open, and the ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Godfrey candidate, the work being well carried through. A vote of thanks was passed to Comp. Ferguson, for his admirable rendering of the duties of P.S., which compliment was duly acknowledged.

## OUTING OF KENTISH LODGES.

THE annual outing in connection with the Gundulph and Brownrigg Lodges took place on Wednesday, 1st inst. The members and friends of both Lodges went by train to Gravesend, crossed to Tilbury and embarked on two different steamers for Clacton. The members and friends of the Rochester (Gundulph) Lodge, numbering about seventy, went by the steamer Koh-i-noor, and the Brompton party, to the number of forty, went by the London Belle. Dinner and tea were provided on board.

THE FRASCATI maintains its high position as one of the chief restaurants of the metropolis, and its patrons continue to evince satisfaction at the good things and the splendid accommodation provided for them. Not the least important factor in the general success of the establishment is the care with which Mr. A. Renders superintends the whole of the business, while he is ably supported by Bro. Ernest Kalla, the Manager.

The work of Freemasonry should be performed with dignity of manner, clear, crisp and distinct speech, so that the candidate may apprehend, comprehend, and become imbued with the principles of Freemasonry. Masonry has just cause to be proud of its antiquity, proud of its ancient origin, dating back into the dim and misty past. We have just reason to be proud of our many charities and of our vast numerical strength, as well as of our standing in every community, but more than that, above all this, we have reason to be proud of the eternal truths, taught in our Craft, of the tenets and teachings of our great fraternity. Masonry at all times carried the torch of liberty and of thought; carried always the light of love and universal tolerance to all mankind. It ever held aloft its sweet signal of Brotherly love, and at all times taught the great truth of a fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. At no time did Masonry ever lend its pure and sacred hand to wrong, to oppression, or to persecution, but quietly in silence and secrecy performs its great mission of charity and brotherly love.

Quietly and in silence it aids the widow and the orphan, succours the poor, and stands by the weak, shields and defends those who suffer in mind or body, and it is at all times ready to battle for the right. It is thus that the great Masonic fraternity has just cause to be proud as the advance guard of liberal thought, as the pioneer of our civilisation, as the teacher of the immutable truths that have been isolated in former ages, but through its agencies, and through the workers in our vineyards, has popularised them and brought them and kept them before the people. It is to this we can point as the great achievement of our great fraternity. It is in this we find our greatest pride as members of the Craft—“Minstrel.”

## SCRAPS FOR SPARE MOMENTS.

OUR W.M. is not content with being considered the representative of King Solomon. He has read more of the Bible since his election to the chair than he ever did during his life before, and naturally he may well claim, as he does, to know everything about “the wisest of men.” He is not without natural wit either, and as he likes being asked a question however trivial in connection with his pet study, all sorts are concocted to puzzle him, so far unsuccessfully. The other night, after a desperate conspiracy between the S.W. and J.D., the former, apparently satisfied this time that he had a puzzler—“a regular bobby-dazzler” as he described it with a mischievous wink to me—went up to the W.M. on leaving the Lodge Room, and said aloud, “W. Sir, it has occurred to me to-night that in one respect you are very unlike King Solomon.”

“In what way?”

Well, can your tell me if what I have been told is correct—that he never laughed (which is unlike you), and if so, why?

“Certainly, Bro. S.W.” he answered promptly, with a grin of conscious satisfaction. “I do not say, mind you, that King Solomon never laughed, but if he could not there would in his case be nothing very remarkable about that. If you had 700 wives and a few hundred mothers-in-law would you feel in a particularly good humour and a laughing mood at any time?” There was a roar of laughter around them.

Both the S.W. and J.D. had forgotten something which was at the other end of the room, and I think we shall have no more historical queries of that kind for a month or two.

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I do not vouch for the truth of the following story because I have never been in a Lodge where ladies could be seen. But it looks plausible enough; and a particularly energetic lady of my acquaintance, who told it to me, may be, for anything I know, a Lady-Mason. The story goes that last week it was an installation night. There were visitors, both ladies and gentlemen, and Mrs. Solomon was duly invested and chaired with great élat. But at that point the ceremony abruptly ended, and the meeting broke up owing to a singular circumstance and extraordinary scene that followed. It seems that the keeper of the rooms has a boy of 8 or 9, who keeps white mice clandestinely, both his father and mother having forbidden him doing so. By way of airing his latter day wisdom and having his own way, he merely carried his mice and box into the Lodge room, when he was believed to have drowned the lot, box and all, in the kitchen pail according to promise. Well, the unearthly din the lady Masons made seems to have first struck terror into the white mice, which were no doubt sleeping soundly enough over the canopy, just above Queen Solomon's ostrich feather, but of course they imagined, poor innocent mites, that the world was at an end. Immediately the storm had ceased, and the following calm had steadied their nerves, the little brutes carried out their fiendish revenge. Deliberately ignoring the royal presence, they began, one on each side, to descend the curtains tied back behind her majesty. One had got half way down, when the lady in the chair of office directly opposite was seen to be standing horror-struck and speechless, with her finger pointing at the intruder, just then having a rest. Of course the other ladies looked, regarding the affair as a “mene mene tekél Belshazzar.” ous warning of some sort, but being all new-women they laughed at such superstitions. In the meantime another mouse on the other curtain, being perhaps more fond of daily gymnastics than the other, and consequently not requiring a rest, ran down to the bottom without stopping. Then there rang out such a pandemonium of shrieks and screaming that it is impossible to describe. There was a simultaneous rush for the door, and Queen Solomon had such a crushing in her hurry to get out, and moreover had fallen full length over somebody or something in the middle of the room, that it is expected the next regular Lodge meeting will be put off by dispensation of the Grand Mysterious (the latter word I may have caught wrongly, it is just possible that “Mistress” was meant, for my informant had always a little of the brogue), until the W. Mistress recovers from the terrible effects of her shock. In the meantime I am certain all Free and Accepted Masons will join in my sympathy for her. If I accentuated my personal concern by forthwith sending her a notorious mouser with a most terrifying caterwaul of his own, as my neighbours will testify, I freely forgive his return “with thanks,” which says much for my forbearance under disappointed hopes. But selfishness never does go unrewarded in this world.

GENIAL JAMIE,