

THE
Freemason's Chronicle.
A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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

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THE GIRLS SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

WE are fast approaching the time fixed for the Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls—which is to be held on Wednesday, the 12th of next month, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Lord Llangattock Prov. G.M. Eastern Division of South Wales—and it is but natural a certain amount of anxiety should exist, as to the probable result of the celebration, which it being organised in the midst of the many other special matters that are engaging the attention of the charitably disposed in this auspicious year of our Sovereign's reign.

The Masonic Girls School this year celebrates the 109th anniversary of its establishment, its work is well known to members of the Craft, and it has long enjoyed a warm place in the affections of influential Brethren in all parts of the country, but the mere fact of the regularity with which appeals are made on its behalf—and, so far, handsomely responded to by the Craft—is, in itself, a weakness in this year of special charitable appeals and fresh benevolent undertakings.

We are not at all surprised to hear that up to the present the Brethren of England have not come forward as readily as usual, offering to fulfil the duties of Steward at the coming Festival, and we fear the final returns will compare most unfavourably with those of previous celebrations; but even yet it is not too late to make a final effort on behalf of the Girls Festival of the year, and we hope our readers will one and all take the matter into serious consideration, and, if unable to personally act as Steward, at least make an effort to induce a fellow member to do so. The cause is a truly deserving one, the work carried on by the Institution is most thorough and practical, and the absolute necessity for a steady flow of contributions is manifest in the fact that the School is educating, clothing and maintaining 267 orphan daughters of the Craft.

A VINDICATION OF MASONRY.

IF we may believe the latest revelations in regard to the doings of Miss Diana Vaughan—or to be more correct, the confession of the man who has assailed the Craft under that pseudonym—one of the fiercest attacks ever made upon Freemasonry has been proved to have been based upon falsehood and deceit of the most shamefaced description. All the terrible tales related at the time of the Roman Catholic convention held last year at Trent, and all the denunciations of the heads of that Church, based on what they were told in regard to the association of Freemasonry with Devil-worship and the other toomfoolery of the "Diana Vaughan" revelations, are swept away by the latest utterance of their author—that the whole of his statements were a joke, or as M. Léo Taxil himself puts it, the finest hoax of the century, and one which crowned his career.

In another part of this issue we reproduce the full report of the meeting, held in France (and telegraphed by the Paris

correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph"), at which the exposure was made known, and we also select a few of the paragraphs which have since appeared in other papers in regard to what was at one time regarded as a serious outlook for Freemasonry, but which, as we have more than once mentioned, really proved to its advantage, because it was the means of directing public attention to the advantages of which the Craft was able to boast, and which its most rabid opponents were quite unable to disprove.

The question that now presents itself is, how will the Roman Catholics take this latest exposure of their professed authorities? We shall expect them to say that M. Taxil has been bought over by the Freemasons, and that his latest utterances are the untrue ones, while what he previously published as the experiences of Miss Diana Vaughan are true in substance and in fact. Time will prove how far we are correct in our surmise.

THE GRAND MASTER'S HOSPITAL FUND.

WE are asked to mention that the Council who are working in support of the Prince of Wales Hospital Fund are most anxious—as is usual under such circumstances—to get annual subscribers. The object aimed at is to secure a sum of £100,000 per annum for the Hospitals, which would necessitate a funded capital of three millions, but if promises are received of annual grants the work will, of course, be very much lessened. We notice the Percy Lodge, No. 198, amongst others, has recognised this, and has voted two guineas annually.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

THE Grand Lodge for the installation of the M.W. Grand Master, appointment of Officers, &c., will be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Wednesday next, 28th inst., at four o'clock in the afternoon. Grand Lodge will be opened at five o'clock precisely.

CHURCH SERVICES.

A SPECIAL Masonic Service has been arranged to be held, under the auspices of many of the South London Lodges and Chapters, in St. Peter's Church, Liverpool-Street, Walworth-road, on Sunday evening, 2nd May. Mozart's music for Freemasons will be rendered as voluntaries and anthem. The sermon will be preached by Bro. the Rev. J. W. Horsley, J.P., says the "South London Press," and the offertory will be divided between the charity for aged Freemasons and the fund for reseating of St. Peter's Church. All South London Brethren are invited to attend. A dispensation has been obtained from Grand Lodge to enable those attending the service to appear in Masonic clothing. Dr. George Millson P.M. (medical officer of health for Newington) is acting as Hon. Sec.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for a Masonic service at St. Alfege, Greenwich, on 30th May, which it is expected will be attended by the members of the Lodges not only of Greenwich and Deptford but of the surrounding district. The preacher will be Bro. the Rev. Brooke Lambert, and Grand Lodge is to be asked to grant a dispensation for clothing.

RECOGNITION OF NEW ZEALAND.

WE are pleased to be in the position to publish a second letter from New Zealand, relating to the establishment of the Independent Grand Lodge of that colony, and feel sure our readers will agree with us that to all appearances the rebels—as one of our correspondents termed them last week—have been sinned against, rather than they being the sinners. The more one hears of the controversy the greater the wonder that trouble should have arisen, or that the subject should have been left unsettled for so long a period. However, all's well that ends well, and let us hope that in the end peace and unanimity will reign among the many Freemasons of this division of the antipodes. The letter is in the following terms:

When the desire for the establishment of a Grand Lodge of New Zealand was under consideration I took an active part in it. I was a member of the Central Committee for Otago, and I attended two meetings of the Conference at Wellington and Christchurch, at which latter city the matter was decided. We installed our first Grand Master, and he—although a perfect stranger to me—asked me to accept office in the Grand Lodge, which I did. When the idea was mooted in 1886-88, we all hoped that it would be unanimously supported. Of the 148 Lodges then in New Zealand ninety-two passed the Resolution, twenty-one were opposed to it—although several said that if the Grand Lodge were inaugurated they would reconsider their decision—thirty-five took no notice of the question at all. This made it quite clear that only a small minority of the Lodges were really opposed to it, and we hoped they would be won over when the Grand Lodge became a fact.

The greatest drawback we met with, and it tended to damp the ardour of several Lodges, was the refusal of Bro. Lord Onslow to accept the position of Grand Master. The question then arose whether we should go on, or leave the matter alone till nobody knows when, probably until the present generation of all who had taken part in the movement were gone. The feelings of the Brethren had been kept strained for over three years, to say nothing of former attempts, and so we bravely resolved to go on, considering the justness of our cause in the best interests of Freemasonry.

It is all very well for the Brethren at home to say that we were getting on all right, and why should we rashly interfere; but the fact is we were not getting on all right. Lodges were being opened for which there was no necessity. A few Masons had only to get together and ask for a Charter, they knew that if the English Constitution would not grant it, the Scotch or Irish would. The result was that members were introduced broadcast who had been declined by other Constitutions, their motto being "If one will not admit you, another will." There could be no discipline, no interference would be brooked by any Constitution, and thus Freemasonry was being prostituted to the worst ends, until at last we had sunk to such a low estate that no respectable man would seek admission, and all our leading men who were Freemasons had drawn their clearance and left us.

We found after we had started that all the District Grand Lodges, as such, were opposed to us, and although the D.G.M. of Dunedin worked with us in favour of the establishment of the Grand Lodge—taking part in all our discussions—passing all our resolutions and motions, and requiring all the Lodges in his District to forward him the Lists of Votes taken (they were all unanimous) yet no sooner had we installed our Grand Master than he turned round upon us, erased the names of all who were present at the installation from the Register of the D. Grand Lodge of England, and ever since has done all he could to injure us at home as well as here. Now it is the right of every Freemason to demand an inquiry—this we have never done, as we know it would be useless, but I maintain that not even the M.W. Grand Master himself has any power or authority to strike a Brother off the Roll of his Lodge without first allowing him to be heard at the Bar of Grand Lodge. More than this, when our Grand Lodge was in course of inauguration this same District Grand Master was asked if he would accept the office of Grand Secretary. He was willing, and would have accepted the office, but his terms were not only too high, but too autocratic. His price was £350 a year, guaranteed for five years, and to live in Dunedin. Now, as he knew that Grand Lodge was to be located first in Christchurch for two years, then in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin for similar periods, it was not possible to agree to his terms—hence he did not get the appointment.

But we have safely passed through the ordeal, and are now progressing satisfactorily. It may be that the opposition we met with has been to our advantage, as many have joined us on account of it. We have now 110 Lodges and we are content.

As the Grand Lodge of England has at last condescended to recognise us as a regular Grand Lodge we, of course, occupy a different position. It proves that our actions have been throughout regular, as the Grand Lodge of England or any other Grand Lodge could never have recognised us had our proceedings been unconstitutional. But many European and American Lodges recognised us at once, and especially the Grand Lodges of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, so that our position was singular in this respect that Grand Lodges in fraternal communication with the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland were also in fraternal accord with our Grand Lodge of New Zealand. Our Grand Representatives also sat side by side with those of the Grand Lodges which did not recognise us, which is an anomaly. However, this is practically now at an end, and we shall have no strife here, certainly none from us. We do not intend to follow the action of our opponents, we have allowed them the monopoly of this un-Masonic conduct, and have worked ourselves in the true lines of our Order, and we hope that Harmony and Peace will in future flourish among us as they ought.

The consecration of the Crusaders Chapter, No. 1677, will take place next Tuesday, 27th inst., at the Holborn Restaurant, W.C., when the ceremony will be performed by Comp. Edward Letchworth Grand Scribe E., assisted by other Officers of Grand Chapter.

London Brethren in general, but particularly those of the East end, will regret to hear that the veteran Preceptor Bro. T. J. Barnes has met with an accident which has kept him at home for several days. We hope our old friend will soon be restored to his accustomed health.

A numerous meeting of Brethren was held at Tattersall's Hotel, Buluwayo, recently, for the purpose of starting a new Lodge under the Scottish Constitution. Resolutions to this effect were proposed and carried, over thirty names being given in as foundation members.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

IN compliance with the wish of the late Bro. T. P. Payne, J.P., who died on Tuesday, 6th inst., at his residence in Cranbury Avenue, Southampton, the funeral, which took place on Saturday, 10th inst., at the Southampton Cemetery, was of a private character. The weather was fine, and a goodly number of Freemasons and friends attended at the cemetery to pay a last tribute of respect and esteem to the deceased. There were a number of beautiful floral tributes from relatives and friends, also one in the shape of a Masonic emblem, "With fraternal regard from his Brother Masons, Albert Edward Lodge, 1780," together with wreaths "As a mark of respect from W. Master and Brethren of the Royal Gloucester Lodge."

ON Thursday, 15th inst., the remains of the late Bro. Richard J. Smithson, of Malton, were interred in the cemetery there, in the presence of a very large concourse of people. Deceased was a prominent Mason in the town, being one of the oldest members of the Camalodunum Lodge, of which he was a Past Master. He was also a P.Z. and P.P.G. Registrar in the Arch degree, and a Past Master and Past Provincial Officer in Mark Masonry. The funeral was attended by the W.M. and a large number of the Past Masters, Officers, and Brethren of the Camalodunum Lodge.

AN inquest was held on the 21st inst., at Deptford, by Mr. E. A. Carttar on the body of Henry Hugh Hughes, W.M. of the Addiscombe Lodge, who, whilst going to the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway station at New Cross to catch his train, staggered into the arms of another passenger, and died in a few moments. The medical evidence showed that death was due to syncope, and a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

THE mortal remains of Bro. George William Snow Townsend were laid in their last resting place at the Plymouth Cemetery on the 14th inst., in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends. Deceased, who was highly respected, was a member of Lodge Dundas, No. 1255, Plymouth, and amongst those present at the graveside were the W.M. and several of the members of that Lodge.

BRO. J. COLMAN, merchant, of London, died suddenly on 6th March, whilst on a visit to his brother at Mowbray, near Cape Town. The deceased was a P.M. of the St. John and St. Paul Lodge, of Erith. He had been married only six months.

MASONIC LOTTERIES.

FROM time to time members of the Craft are considerably annoyed by the receipt of advertisements relating to what may be termed Masonic Lotteries, and which, despite their illegality, are occasionally being promoted by Brethren in different parts, as a means of raising funds for the erection of Masonic Halls or similar purposes. We have already expressed our views on this subject, but as another instance of the evil practice has come under our notice we may again refer to it, in the hope of lessening the possibility of a recurrence of what cannot be regarded in any other light than as a grave irregularity.

The extract we give below, from the "Canadian Craftsman," speaks for itself, and we can only regret that the action of the Scottish Brethren who sent the tickets is not condemned in a much more forcible manner than is there done, for surely no criticism would be too severe to offer in connection with the project, which, it seems to us, is a clear violation of the laws of the land, and is at the same time calculated to bring the Craft in general—but more particularly the Scottish Brotherhood—into disrepute. Much as we approve the frequent most energetic action of our Brethren across the border in the matter of providing funds for Masonic Halls we can but think they go beyond the limits of good taste when they adopt the tactics here referred to. We quote the remarks of our contemporary in extenso:

GRAND SUBSCRIPTION SALE.

DURING the past month, books of tickets for a Grand Subscription Sale in aid of a fund for building a Freemasons' Hall in one of the towns in Scotland, have been received by Secretaries of the various Masonic Lodges in Canada. The tickets are sixpence each, and it is stated that the drawing will take place in June. The winning numbers are to appear in certain papers on the Saturday following. We beg to inform our Scotch friends that we are shocked at their sending out lottery tickets to Canadian Brethren to dispose of, as by our laws it is immoral to engage in the sale of such tickets, and in fact at the present time about twelve dealers in tobacco in our good city of Toronto are up before our police magistrates for the crime of selling tickets for a "Raffle," or what our Scotch friends call a "Grand Subscription Sale." Now, what would they think if by this rash act of theirs all the Secretaries of our Lodges were arrested for helping them in this undertaking, to build a Masonic Hall. If they would kindly change their scheme for building a "Masonic Hall," and call it a "Church," then all would be right, as only the Church in Canada is allowed to undertake the immoral act of gambling. Our legislators, like wise men, having respect for the sustenance of the clergy, gave them the sole monopoly of this immoral business. We are very sorry for the loss our Canadian Brethren will sustain through our laws, for by the investment of a sixpence they might win an Ayrshire cow, a prize cock, a tobacco pipe, a lamb, a Belfast smoked ham, a barrel of Canadian apples, not to mention six 3s 6d bottles of whisky that are so dear to a Scotchman's heart.

DEVONSHIRE.

THE Brethren of this Province, as already announced in these columns, have been engaged for some time past collecting money on behalf of the Indian Famine Relief Fund, and as a result Sir Stafford Northcote, Bart., M.P., the Prov. Grand Master recently forwarded £203 17s 6d to the Mansion House Fund, as the contribution of his Brethren.

WEST LANCASHIRE.

THE annual Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was held at the Working Men's Institute, Ormskirk, on Wednesday, 21st inst., the large hall being divided so as to form a Chapter and ante-rooms. The Earl of Lathom, Provincial Grand Supt. Pro. 1st Grand Principal of England presided, supported by most of the outgoing Provincial Officers.

After the Prov. G. Chapter had been opened in due form, the roll of Officers and Chapters was called, all the latter being

represented, and the total attendance exceeding 150. The accounts, showing a balance in hand of £97, were presented, audited by Comps. Jas. Platt P.P.G.P.S., James T. Callow P.P.G.T., and Jas. J. Lambert P.Prov.G.R., and adopted.

For the elective office of Provincial Grand Treasurer the only nomination was that of Comp. Philip Armstrong, of Liverpool, who was declared unanimously elected.

The retiring Auditors were re-elected, the retiring Treasurer being appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Comp. H. W. Johnstone.

The Grand Superintendent then nominated the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers and invested the following:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| Comp. A. Franceys | - | - | - | H. |
| Robert Layland | - | - | - | J. |
| W. Goodacre | - | - | - | S.E. |
| H. F. Burrows | - | - | - | S.N. |
| Philip Armstrong | - | - | - | Treasurer |
| John Murray | - | - | - | Registrar |
| John Brown | - | - | - | Principal Sojourner |
| J. W. Leathley | - | - | - | 1st Assistant Sojourner |
| W. H. Bucknell | - | - | - | 2nd Assistant Sojourner |
| James Eastham | - | - | - | } Sword Bearers |
| J. Bailey | - | - | - | |
| C. Birchall | - | - | - | } Standard Bearers |
| David Johnson | - | - | - | |
| Curwen Watson | - | - | - | } Director of Ceremonies |
| Edwin Broadbent | - | - | - | |
| Edward Rose | - | - | - | } Assistant Dirs. of Cers. |
| John Heald | - | - | - | |
| J. J. Boyle | - | - | - | } Organist |
| R. H. Pearson | - | - | - | |
| A. E. Billingsley | - | - | - | Assistant Scribe E. |

The sum of twenty-five guineas was voted to the West Lancashire Alpass Institution, and twenty guineas to the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution, while notice of motion was given to vote forty guineas to the West Lancashire Hamer Benevolent Institution.

The Prov. G. Chapter having been closed in due form, the customary banquet followed at the Wheat Sheaf Hotel.

LABOUR AND REFRESHMENT.

FOR politic reasons the directors of the Masonic Halls Company having cancelled the rule which banished refreshments from the Lodge room in the Masonic Chambers, the question has been raised, was the rule truly Masonic? Labour and refreshment are consistent parts of our system, and cannot be separated. There is a connection between the two understood by every member of the Craft in Scotland, and to conserve it is in the best interests of the social side of Freemasonry. Any real cause for drawing a line belongs to the past. The great majority of Lodges in Scotland now meet in Halls of their own, or in halls rented apart from licensed premises. There has, too, been a growing tendency among Craftsmen during the last twenty years to avoid all appearance of excess, and the reform in this respect has been more marked during the present decade.

The methods obtaining in the conduct of our meetings have, from the earliest days of the Craft, never been based upon the orthodox and commonplace rules obtaining outside, and herein lies not a little of the secret of the charm the Lodge room has for so many who enter it, but a more potent factor is found in the recognition which Masonry makes of the combination existing in every man as a religious and social being. To a truly religious man nothing is secular, for his religion touches his environment at every point. In the same way refreshment is not to the true Mason less in harmony with the tenets and objects of the Order than is labour. The spirit permeating the Lodge during labour, will not necessarily suffer, but on the contrary should rather tend to refine and raise the subsequent relaxation to a higher level of social enjoyment. Anything that tends in this direction is of great importance. Care must be taken not to undermine the genuine beneficent influence of the Craft. We must remember, too, the position of the J.W., his duties and what they imply—"The Mallet," in "Glasgow Evening News."

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From time immemorial, says the "Keystone," Freemasons have been called from labour to refreshment. The Master who proves his ability to preside at refreshment as well as at labour, by maintaining order and decreeing the succession of events, secures the highest pleasures incident to a Lodge banquet—the apt and pithy speech, the telling story, the pathetic recitation, the amusing song.

Later contributions to the Prince of Wales Hospital Fund include the following:

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|
| Percy Lodge, No. 198 | - | - | - | (ANNUAL) | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lewes Lodge | - | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Campbell Lodge, No. 315 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 | 0 |

STONE LAYING IN LANCASHIRE.

THE laying of the memorial stone of St. Matthew's Parochial Hall, Bootle, took place on Tuesday, 20th inst., with full Masonic ceremonial, the function being performed by the Right Hon. the Earl of Lathom, G.C.B., M.W. Pro Grand Master Prov.G.M. West Lancashire. The work in the parish of St. Matthew has for some years been very much hindered owing to the want of a building for Sunday School purposes, and for all the various organisations that are necessary to meet the requirements of a working class parish. In 1893 the congregation held a bazaar in order to raise funds for such a building, and cleared £570. About two years afterwards a further sum of £300 was obtained, this amount representing weekly subscriptions collected from a large number of people in the parish. Subscriptions from friends at a distance have realised about £250. This year a Jubilee Fund has been organised, and up to the present amounts to £400. The total sum in hand and promised amounts to £1,520. The contract for the first portion of the hall is for £1,900. The building committee have, therefore, to meet a deficiency of £380 on the first portion, and there is still the second portion to be built, which will cost about £1,000 more. The plans for the new hall were originally designed by the late Mr. Charles Aldridge, and are being carried out under the superintendence of Messrs. Willink and Thicknesse, Liverpool. The contractors are Messrs. G. Wood and Son. That portion of the building at present contracted for will provide a hall capable of accommodating about 400 people. This hall can be divided by folding doors so as to make one part available as a working men's club, and leave the other part available for meetings. There will be a large room for a young men's club, and a fine apartment for the Young Women's Bible Class. The upper portion, which the committee are not in a position to undertake at present, will provide a large entertainment hall, with a gallery.

A special Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in connection with the event at the Masonic Hall, Merton Road, Bootle, and from there the Brethren, in Masonic clothing, marched in procession, headed by the Borough Brass Band, to the site of the new hall behind St. Matthew's Church, where a large gathering had assembled within the enclosure before the arrival of the procession.

The Earl of Lathom was supported by a large number of Provincial Grand Officers, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of Lodges of his Province.

After the procession had entered the enclosure and the officiating Brethren had taken up their positions, the Rev. A. W. Oliver, Chairman of the Building Committee, requested the Earl of Lathom to lay the memorial stone, at the same time presenting him with a silver trowel for this purpose. He said it was with very great pleasure he welcomed his lordship to St. Matthew's parish, and on behalf of his people and on his own behalf he thanked him for this second proof of his kindness. Since his lordship laid the memorial stone of St. Matthew's Church six years ago the vicarage had been built, and they were now about to erect a parochial hall, which was essential to the work of the parish. They had had a long struggle to raise the £1,520, and they still needed £380 to complete the first portion of the hall.

Before laying the stone the Prov. Grand Master briefly addressed the gathering. He hoped the hall would prove a great benefit and boon to the parish, that the work would be soon accomplished, and that the money required would shortly be obtained. He thanked the vicar for the presentation of the trowel, and said that the records of Masonry had been handed down by honourable men from generation to generation, and the fact that there were so many conspicuous personages in the country associated with the Order was a striking proof of its loyalty and charitable aims. He then laid the memorial stone in accordance with the accustomed Masonic formula. At the conclusion of the ceremony the procession returned to the Masonic Hall.

We have a letter from Bro. Frank James, whose long association with the St. Matthew Lodge, No. 539, Walsall, we recently referred to, in which he tells us that the report of his installation was hardly correct as it reached us. Bro. James was not one of the founders of his Lodge, in 1847, but was initiated in the Lodge in March 1848, so that his jubilee of membership will occur during his present year of office as W.M. We cordially express the hope that he may continue to enjoy good health until March next, in order to then celebrate the almost unique event in regard to Masonic membership. Brother James was the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge who was initiated in it, so that he has a very good record, and one that comparatively few Brethren are able to equal.

DIANA VAUGHAN A MYTH.

NO one acquainted with the methods of Parisian "mystificateurs," or hoaxers, ever believed in the supernatural influence of Miss Diana Vaughan, any more than in the genuine conversion of M. Léo Taxil to Catholicism. The latter has now made a general confession before the public, and unblushingly proclaimed that he has been for years hoaxing Pope, Cardinals, priests, and people. Brief telegraphic reports of the Taxil meeting may have reached London, but the affair is worthy of full details, owing to the extraordinary nature of the imposture carried out by the supposed convert from Atheism and French Freemasonry. M. Léo Taxil, alias Gabriel Jogand, wrote some years ago a series of anti-religious novels and pamphlets. He pretended to reveal the mysteries of the Vatican, and to make backstairs revelations about distinguished ecclesiastics. Then he suddenly repented, retracted all his evil allegations, and went to confession to a Jesuit priest; and it was believed by hundreds of simple-minded persons, unversed in the guile of the world, that M. Taxil was a sound, practical, and intelligent convert, who was an undoubted acquisition to Catholicism. Three years ago the supposed convert was identified with the publication of a book called "The Devil in the Nineteenth Century." The author was supposed to be a Doctor Bataille, an ex-surgeon in the merchant service, who recounted as a witness events in the extraordinary career of a young person named Diana Vaughan. This damsel was said to be born of Protestant parents away down in Kentucky, and to have been made Palladian Grand Mistress of the Supreme and Mysterious Lodge of Universal Freemasonry. In this capacity Diana was alleged to have married the Devil, Asmodeus, who was commander-in-chief of seventy legions of Satanic spirits. After these monstrosities had been launched, other publications entitled "Memoirs of an ex-Palladist" and "The Eucharistic Novena" announced that Diana Vaughan had been converted to Catholicism. She was patronised, although she had never been seen, by Cardinal Parocchi, and even by the Pope himself. M. Léo Taxil published her fame far and wide in religious newspapers and periodicals, but in spite of all this some Catholics began to have strong suspicions, and at an anti-Masonic Congress held last year in Trent her existence was denied. This was supposed by the believers in Diana to be a bold step, for one man who had doubted suddenly found his head twisted around one night, and he remained for three weeks with his face where his poll ought to have been, and vice versa; until Miss Vaughan condescended to come from America in order to readjust him. In the meantime the sceptics and unbelievers who refused to regard Diana as aught but a mythical personage, persistently called on M. Taxil to produce her in the flesh, and to let her be seen and heard.

This the supposed convert promised to do, and he accordingly convoked a meeting, which took place in the Geographical Society's hall on the Boulevard Saint-Germain, and was attended by many persons, including numerous priests. It was promised that Diana would make statements about Palladism, the full truths of which were not to be revealed until 1912. There were also to be luminous projections showing a Palladist as one of the Magi; and the pact which he had made with the serpent cut in three; the treaty between Thomas Vaughan and Lucifer, son of the Morning; photographs of Albert Pike, Miss Liliana Pike, John Vaughan, and the damsel herself, who was supposed to have contracted a diabolical marriage. It was also expected that a book was to be seen which had been written by the devil; and much was heard about a picture of Miss Vaughan receiving a steel crown, made in the caverns of Gibraltar, from the hands of Asmodeus, her satanic husband. All this imposture was frankly and audaciously unveiled by its organiser amid scenes of protestation and uproar. Before he spoke, M. Taxil allowed a Turkish newspaper correspondent to win a type-writing machine, that prize being offered by the hoaxer to suit his own purpose. Then the creator of Diana Vaughan calmly announced that he was born a perpetrator of jokes at the expense of credulous humanity. *Fumisterie* was the foundation of his character as a Marseilles man, and at the age of nineteen he had terrified his fellow-townsmen by announcing that the port of the southern city was invaded by sharks of the most terrible species. He also announced that there was a lost city under the Lake of Geneva; and some people believed that they saw cafés-chantants, houses, and gardens deep down in the recesses of Blue Lake Lemman. A Polish archæologist even went so far as to write a treatise on the matter, in which he said that he had perceived something like an equestrian statue at the bottom of the inland sea immortalised by Gibbon, Rousseau, Byron, and Madame de Stael. Then Taxil started the Diana Vaughan hoax. He was prayed for by fervent monks and nuns, who almost regarded him as a father of the church and a candidate for canonisation, since he unmasked the Freemasons and brought over to Catholicity women wedded to devils. At Rome he was received with open arms, and had an audience at

the Vatican; but, as he assured his astonished auditors, he was only a false convert, and Diana Vaughan was merely a typewriting young woman whom he employed as a secretary at £6 per month. In this capacity she wrote and signed letters dictated by Taxil himself, and addressed to high prelates. A Triduum, or three days' prayer, was celebrated at the Sacré Cœur for Diana, and her hymn to Joan of Arc, a borrowed affair, was sung in several churches. Through Cardinal Parocchi the typewriting young damsel received the Papal Benediction, and was informed that her conversion was the most magnificent triumph of grace ever known. The Bishop of Charleston, who doubted Diana's existence, was, said M. Taxil, cold-shouldered by the Pope; and the Vicar-Apostolic of Gibraltar, who informed the Vatican that there were no caverns in the Rock where Masonic emblems or steel crowns for devils were manufactured, was not listened to. Then the Italian clergy, according to the hoaxer, tried to get up an imposture of their own by stating that Joan of Arc's heart was preserved in one of the cities of the Peninsula over which King Humbert rules. All this was calmly and sardonically uttered by the speaker, who, in conclusion, said to the priests and Catholic writers present that he sincerely thanked them and the bishops for having assisted him in organising the finest hoax of the century, and one which crowned his career. Taxil was vigorously hooted as he uttered these words, and the Abbé Garnier, a muscular Christian and militant Catholic, who edits a paper, called the speaker most terrible names, and lamented that he had left his big stick at the door. On leaving the hall of meeting, Taxil had to be protected by the police, who were in strong force, and he was followed not only by angry Catholics, but by persons who took up the cause of the Freemasons. It is now sincerely to be hoped that the world will hear no more about Diana Vaughan, who has been a three years' bore to everybody.—*"Daily Telegraph"* Paris Correspondent.

In the early days of the century London was startled by the announcement that an eminent foreign conjuror would upon a stated evening perform, at the Haymarket Theatre, the unparalleled feat of packing himself into a quart bottle. Of course the house was crammed for the occasion, and at the appointed hour up went the curtain, disclosing in the middle of the bare stage the familiar form of a reputed quart. Then there stepped forward from the wing a moustached gentleman in evening dress, who advanced to the footlights rubbing his hands and eyeing the audience with cheerful complacency. Amid a hush of breathless excitement the magician opened his lips and gave utterance to these words: "Ladish and shentlemans, dis is von hombog." In the twinkling of an eye he had vanished—not into the bottle, but through the stage door, where a cab was waiting to waft him into the "ewigkeit." This is precisely similar in all respects but one to M. Léo Taxil's performance a night or two ago in the rooms of the Paris Geographical Society. He had promised to produce the famous Diana Vaughan, and with splendid effrontery he got up and proclaimed that she was a myth, and her entire story a fabrication. M. Taxil, however, had courage and impudence enough not to run away, and the listeners, strange to say, Frenchmen as they were, made no attempt to offer him violence. But the Catholic hierarchs whom he gulled will assuredly not forget him, and the arm of the Church is pretty long.—*"Pall Mall Gazette."*

The gentleman who calls himself M. Léo Taxil, and has acquired some notoriety by recent shocking disclosures on the subject of Satan-worship, turns out to be a practical joker of the most determined order. His name is not Taxil at all, but Jogand, which in itself suggests a bad form of joke, and he has been engaged in a regular series of hoaxes. His conversion to Rome and the confessions of "Diana Vaughan" were only the last of his little tricks, but no doubt the most audacious. The Pope is about the last man the average joker would think of hoaxing; but M. Taxil has done it with triumphant success, according to his own shameless confession a day or two ago. Diana Vaughan, who had received the Papal blessing, is only his type-writer, and he himself, who has been received in audience by his Holiness, was never converted at all. But perhaps the confession is all a hoax—with such a liar you never can tell. Anyhow, he was mobbed, and richly deserved it. If the mob would mistake him for a log of wood and throw him into the river, it would do him a world of good, says the *"St. James's Gazette."* A touch of their own method is the best treatment for practical jokers.

M. Léo Taxil has at length confessed to the impudent forgeries by means of which he has made an income out of the simple priests of the Roman Catholic Church. Taxil was an atheist. He made a little money, but not sufficient. He perceived opportunities for making more by turning Roman

Catholic and libelling Freemasons—a proceeding of sweet savour in the nostrils of the ignorant French priests. M. Taxil timed his conversion at the exact moment for success. The Pope had been fulminating against Freemasons and their practices. The interesting convert had revelations to make. He pretended to have been a Freemason, and to have assisted his colleagues at the Black Mass. But M. Taxil's character as a blackguard was too well known, and, despite his conversion, people thought him a blackguard still—which he was and is. So he created a lady, "Diana Vaughan," who made the revelations, while Taxil drew the cash price thereof. His amazing impudence overcame some of the astutest Romanists. At the clerical congress at Trent eminent and educated clerics expressed their belief in the existence of Diana, and in the truth of her revelations about Freemasonry. Now, at last, M. Taxil has confessed that no such person exists, that he is a liar, and that his revelations were concocted. His brazen impertinence did not desert him at this crisis. He made the confession quite cheerfully. Probably it is but a prelude to his departure from the Roman Catholic Church. He has made as much money out of it as he can hope to. Now it is time to seek fresh pastures. The Roman Catholics will no doubt be glad to be rid of him.—*"Eastern Daily Press."*

M. Léo Taxil has not been kind to his dupes. Some time ago he gave to the world, under a thinly veiled anonymity, some "terrible disclosures"—a result, no doubt, of an overdose of Huysmans—as to the close connection between Freemasonry of native growth and Satan-worship. The scarifying revelations, which were made through the intermediary of a mysterious Diana Vaughan were gravely debated at the clerical congress held at Trent, in the Tyrol, last autumn, one speaker, and a prelate, if we mistake not, going so far as to assert that he had met Miss Diana Vaughan and had an edifying conversation with her. Now M. Léo Taxil—who is at present as ardent a Romanist as he was once an atheist—unblushingly tells an audience which had assembled at a meeting of the Paris Geographical Society for the purpose of hearing more revelations from Diana Vaughan on the subject of Satan-worship, that there "ain't no sich person," that, in short, she was "a myth created by his own brain as a practical joke." No doubt M. Taxil has enjoyed his joke, but we wonder what his ecclesiastical superiors will say to it all.—*"Daily Chronicle."*

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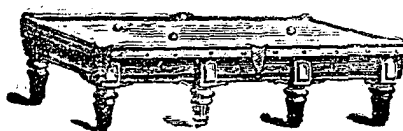
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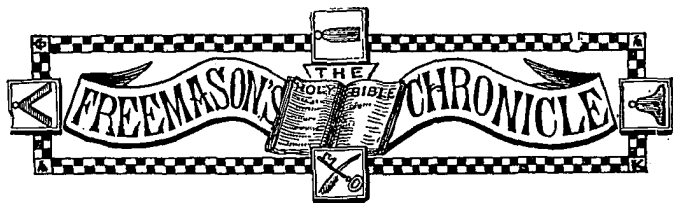
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Brethren willing to act as Stewards on this most important occasion are earnestly solicited to send in their names to the Secretary as early as convenient. Stewards are much needed, and their services will be gratefully received.

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SATURDAY, 24TH APRIL 1897.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

All Letters must bear the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

—:o:—

THE GRAND MASTER'S HOSPITAL FUND.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I had no idea, until I saw the different lists you have published, of contributions from Masonic sources to the Prince of Wales Hospital Fund, that the project of the Most Worshipful Grand Master was receiving such support as is there shown from the Lodges of England. I think the details you have been able to give are most gratifying, and this is especially the case in connection with the long list of "Daily Telegraph" contributions, because the majority of those are of the popular "shilling" variety, contributed, one may say, without encroaching on any particular funds, and yet amounting to a decent total in the end. None of us who have been asked for our shilling contribution towards one or other of the totals recorded in your last issue can possibly have been inconvenienced by responding in the way desired, and I should like to see some general effort made to bring the matter under the notice of every Lodge on the Register of England, as I feel sure if that were done there would be few absentees from the final list, and I do not believe, either, that it would have any detrimental effect on the contributions to the recognised Charities of the English Order.

I recognised you were perfectly right in raising a warning voice when it was proposed to start a Masonic branch of the Prince of Wales Hospital Fund, because I entertain the view you have often expressed—that there is a certain sum available for Masonic benevolence, and any part of it diverted to outside objects must produce a corresponding "shortage" in the Masonic totals, still I am glad to see you acknowledge that events have proved your views are by no means shared by the Lodges, and that you are now doing a real service by showing how popular the suggestion of the Grand Master is among his Brother Masons. I hope the course you have now taken will prove of benefit to the cause.

Yours, &c.,

A SHILLING CONTRIBUTOR.

CLUBS OF INSTRUCTION.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I was struck on reading the letter which appeared in your issue of a few weeks back, in which a Brother revived some of the old arguments in favour of District Grand Lodges for the metropolis, at what he had to say in regard to "irregular Lodges of Instruction, called Masonic Clubs," for until he seemed to stamp them as illegal I had no idea there was anything wrong or unconstitutional about them.

It does not necessarily follow that because your correspondent "C.W." is of opinion that these Clubs of Instruction are not wholly regular that there is anything absolutely wrong in regard to them, but I should like to know, now that I have seen the question raised, how far they are in accord with the regulations of the Craft, and if they are illegal, what is the particular section of the Book of Constitutions that applies to them.

I write as an interested individual, having been a member of one of these Clubs for a considerable time, but if there is anything in them contrary to the laws of the Craft I feel sure I may say for my fellow members, as well as for myself, we have erred in ignorance, and I think I may also say that there is not one among us but will use every effort that is possible to put matters right if we are shown to be in the wrong.

Yours, &c.,

CLUBIST.

RITUALISTIC WORK NOT ENOUGH.

WE teach our Brethren in the Lodges that Masonry is a beautiful system of morality, not a theory; that it is something which should shine forth in the everyday life and actions of each individual Mason; something which we should not be content to simply teach or profess, but to live.

I have been sometimes, and especially during the last two or three years, obliged to think that many of us look upon Masonry as a mere rendering of a perfect and beautiful ritual within our Lodge-rooms, and that as long as we are able to see that ritual performed to our satisfaction—and, mind you we are willing to spend any amount of time and trouble to that end—we have done our duty as Masons. Brethren, this is not enough; beautiful and instructive as our ritual may be, it is simply the shadow, the substance is not in it; or, as an eminent Past Master has so beautifully put it: "The ritualistic teachings, however beautiful and instructive they may be, are simply the Key, put into the Mason's hand, by which he may unlock the great Treasure House, where are garnered the stores of Masonic Truth."

This truth must be studied and the lessons drawn from it must be practiced in the every-day life of a Mason, if the outside world is to be made to believe that Masonry is what we claim it to be. The world is not in possession of our secret signs and words, and therefore only able to judge of Masonry as they see it exemplified in the Masons' lives. How often, Brethren, do they have to judge it is anything but a teacher of morality and virtue, temperance and brotherly love? Too often, I am afraid, we put our Masonry with our regalia, and leave it locked up in the Lodge-room, and forget directly we are outside what we acknowledged only a few minutes before, viz.: That the All-seeing Eye of the Most High ever beholds us.

These grand living truths, Brethren, are the bulwarks of our Institution, which have for ages and ages shielded it from the attacks of the coward and the profane. Let us see to it, therefore, that our bulwarks are kept solid and unbroken, with no breach through which an enemy can throw a dart of reproach.

I have dwelt much on this theme, but, Brethren, I have felt it necessary. What would you think of the captain of a magnificent ship, laden not only with a very valuable cargo, but also with a long list of passengers, if he knew that there was a dangerous leak in her bottom, which, if not stopped or counteracted, would soon sink her, but instead of starting men to work at the pumps and doing something to stop the leak, he went on, calmly talking to the passengers and crew about the splendid vessel in which they were travelling? We are sailing in a beautiful ship, well rigged and appointed; equipped with machinery powerful enough to keep her moving ahead over the ocean of time, but the officers must be well up in their work, and not neglect a single detail; each member of the crew must see that his individual duties are done, and done thoroughly; the committees, or engineers, must see that every part of the machinery is in perfect working order, for much of it consists of very delicate pieces, the smallest and apparently the most insignificant of which, if it becomes deranged, may seriously affect the main mechanism. Then, again, our ship must at times sail under dark and stormy skies, when the Entered Apprentices will need to be closely watched, that they keep the binnacle lights trimmed and burning so as to enable those at the helm to see the swaying compass-card, and steer clear of rocks and shoals.—Lacey R. Johnson, in "Masonic Advocate."

FREEMASONRY IN COURT.

AT Tredegar County Court, on Tuesday, before his Honour Judge Owen, Harry Elijah Hares, of Ebbw Vale, was sued by Erskine and Co., publishers, for 15s for parts of the "History of Freemasonry." Mr. T. G. Powell, for defendant, stated that the canvasser got the order for the book on representing that it was being issued privately for the benefit of the author, who was himself a Freemason, but defendant discovered afterwards that the books were in the open market and sold for the publishers. Having regard to the misrepresentation, defendant refused to receive further instalments of the work.—His Honour remarked that he read the newspapers, and had noticed some of this firm's cases already. He thought the plaintiffs should have called the canvasser, who was not present for some reason or other. The case was allowed to be withdrawn, with costs.—"South Wales Daily News."

By kind permission of Lord Egerton of Tatton and the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, a morning concert, kindly arranged by Mrs. Perkins, will take place at 7 St. James's Square, on Wednesday, 26th May, at 3.30 p.m., in aid of Rev. Dr. Stainer's Homes for Deaf and Dumb Children. The Concert is under distinguished patronage, and among the Artists who have already promised to assist are Madame Amy Sherwin, Miss Esther Palliser, Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Greta Williams, Mr. Brereton, Mr. Lawrence Kellie, Mr. Paul Mahlendorff (Piano), Mr. Squire (Violoncellist), and the Ladies' Amateur Harp, Mandoline, and Guitar Band. Madame Marianne Mapleson and Signor Denza will preside at the piano, while Bro. Wilhelm Ganz P.G.O., and Signor Arditi will officiate as conductors. The whole will conclude with Mr. Smith Wright's amusing sketch. Tickets, three for one guinea, may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Miss H. Ball, at Stainer House, 13 Paddington Green, who announces that the proceeds of the concert are for the technical instruction of the older children, who are taught trades, to enable them to become self-supporting in after life.

At the moment of going to press we have received the ballot papers for the annual election of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, to be held on 21st May next. There are 65 Male and 52 Widow candidates, with 13 and 18 vacancies respectively,

LODGE MEETINGS 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.

- 4 Rl. Som. Ho. & Iness, F.M.H.
- 26 Castle Harmony, Savoy Hotel
- 28 Old King Arms, F.H.
- 706 Florence Nightingale, W'lw'ch.
- 1615 Bayard, 33, Golden Square
- 1744 Royal Savoy, Criterion
- 2396 Bishopsgate, Gt. Eastern Hotel
- 43 St. Paul, Birmingham
- 48 Industry, Gateshead
- 62 Social, Manchester
- 353 Royal Sussex, Winhill
- 491 Royal Sussex, Jersey
- 557 Loyal Victoria, Callington
- 999 Robert Burns, Manchester
- 1008 Roy. St. Edmund's, Bury St. E.
- 1110 Tyrian, Eastbourne
- 1177 Tenby, Tenby
- 1218 Prince Alfred, Mossley
- 1258 Kennard, Pontypool
- 1325 Stanley, Liverpool
- 1688 Buxton, Buxton
- 1752 Ogmore, Bridgend
- 1753 Obedience, Okehampton
- 1861 Claremont, Croydon
- 1991 Agricola, York
- 2042 Apollo, Liverpool
- 2068 Portsmouth Temperance, L'dp't.
- 2257 Powell, Bristol
- 2279 Thornham, Thornham
- 2363 Minnehaha Minstrel, M'chester.
- 2547 Llangattock, Cardiff
- 2553 Rufford, Nottingham
- 2582 Lewisham, Smethwick
- 724 Derby, Liverpool
- 785 Twelve Brothers, Southampton
- 887 Leigh, Birmingham
- 996 Sondes, East Dereham
- 1039 St. John, Lichfield
- 1083 Townley Parker, Manchester
- 1119 St. Bede, Jarrow
- 1219 Strangeways, Manchester
- 1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge
- 1633 Avon, Manchester
- 1714 Albert Edward, Yorktown
- 1723 St. George, Bolton
- 1733 Sunbury, Sunbury
- 1756 Kirkdale, Liverpool
- 1760 Leopold, Scarborough
- 1775 Leopold, Church
- 1809 Fidelis, Guernsey
- 1953 Prudence & Industry, Chard
- 1967 Beacon Court, New Brompton
- 1989 Stirling, Cleator Moor
- 2019 Crook, Crook
- 2064 Smith Child, Tunstall
- 2149 Gordon, Hanley
- 2186 Striguil, Chepstow
- 2216 Egerton, Swinton
- 2320 St. Martin, Castleton
- 2330 St. Lawrence, Pudsey
- 2357 Barry, Cadroxton
- 2385 Godson, Oldbury
- 2444 Noel, Kingston-on-Thames
- 2448 Bradstow, Broadstairs.
- 2571 Holmes, Newcastle-on-Tyne

Thursday.

General Committee Girls School,
Freemasons' Hall, at 5.

- 39 St. John Baptist, Exeter
- 111 Restoration, Darlington
- 129 Union, Kendal
- 475 Bed. St. John Bap., Luton
- 590 La Cesaree, Jersey
- 636 De Ogle, Morpeth
- 707 St. Mary, Bridport
- 807 Cabbell, Norwich
- 904 Phoenix, Rotherham
- 966 St. Edward, Leek
- 1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
- 1097 St. Michael, Tenbury
- 1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath
- 1166 Clarendon, Hyde
- 1313 Fermor, Southport
- 1322 Waverley, Ashton-under-Lyne
- 1519 Albert Edward, Clayt'n-le-Moors
- 1578 Merlin, Pontypridd
- 1884 Chine, Shanklin, Isle of Wight
- 1957 Grove, Hazel Grove
- 2269 Peace, Wigan
- 2418 Hedworth, South Shields

Friday.

Council Boys School, F.M.H., 4.

- 602 North York, Middlesbrough
- 810 Craven, Skipton
- 1295 Gooch, New Swindon
- 1303 Pelham, Lewes
- 1385 Gladsmuir, Barnet
- 1391 Commercial, Leicester
- 1435 Annesley, Nottingham
- 1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge
- 2415 Tristram, Shildon
- 2431 Kingsley, Northampton
- 142 St. Thomas, Ship and Turtle
- 1928 Gallery, Anderton's
- 2182 Sterndale Bennett, Camberwell
- 1223 Amherst, Riverhead
- 1388 Canynges, Bristol
- 1458 Truth, Manchester
- 1466 Hova Ecclesia, Brighton
- 1494 Felix, Hampton Court
- 1550 Prudence, Plymouth
- 1567 Elliot, Feltham
- 1929 Mozart, Croydon
- 2054 Wilson Iles, Rickmansworth
- 2077 Epping, Chingford
- 2148 Walsingham, Wilmington
- 2205 Pegasus, Gravesend
- 2323 Bushey Hall, Bushey
- 2331 Ravencroft, Barnet
- 2442 St. Clement, Leigh
- 2473 Molesey, East Molesey
- 2493 Vale of Eden, Appleby
- 2541 St. Andrew, Avonmouth

Saturday.

- 142 St. Thomas, Ship and Turtle
- 1928 Gallery, Anderton's
- 2182 Sterndale Bennett, Camberwell
- 1223 Amherst, Riverhead
- 1388 Canynges, Bristol
- 1458 Truth, Manchester
- 1466 Hova Ecclesia, Brighton
- 1494 Felix, Hampton Court
- 1550 Prudence, Plymouth
- 1567 Elliot, Feltham
- 1929 Mozart, Croydon
- 2054 Wilson Iles, Rickmansworth
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- 2148 Walsingham, Wilmington
- 2205 Pegasus, Gravesend
- 2323 Bushey Hall, Bushey
- 2331 Ravencroft, Barnet
- 2442 St. Clement, Leigh
- 2473 Molesey, East Molesey
- 2493 Vale of Eden, Appleby
- 2541 St. Andrew, Avonmouth

Wednesday.

- United Grand Lodge, 4 for 5.
- 898 Temperance in East, Poplar
- 201 Jordan, Freemasons' Hall
- 212 Euphrates, Holborn Restaurant
- 32 St. Geo. Harmony, Liverpool
- 76 Economy, Winchester
- 82 Foundation, Cheltenham
- 117 Salopian of Charity, Shrewsbury
- 163 Integrity, Manchester
- 220 Harmony, Garston
- 250 Minerva, Hull
- 257 Phoenix, Portsmouth
- 304 Philanthropic, Leeds
- 439 Scientific, Bingley
- 461 Fortitude, Newton
- 540 Stuart, Bedford
- 651 Brecknock, Brecon

DUE EXAMINATION.

WE honestly believe some improvement is called for in the examination of visitors by which the time for such examination could be shortened. The idea that some clandestine or "book Mason" may gain admission to the Lodge through carelessness on the part of the Brethren is a wretched fossil unworthy attention. We do not advocate the entire abrogation of an examination, but as a general thing the committee feel like magnifying their office, and each member labours to show the visitor how well posted he (the committeeman) is. Now, the fact is, that where the test is properly worded, there is not a more solemn, binding or impressive obligation in the whole institution of Masonry. It should cover every possibility of doubt regarding the right of the visitor to sit with his Brethren in Lodges. In fact, it does; because in a majority of instances the visitor is "rusty," and yet however rusty, he is permitted to pass because he has taken one of the most solemn obligations in Masonry, and the committee instinctively feel that he could not take this test had he not a perfect right to apply for admission. Now, why should that man be hindered from at once passing in? Said one to the committee—who after administering the test had commenced at the E.A. degree and gone through the whole to the close of the Master degree, occupying a good half-hour—"Well, I guess I won't ask to visit you to night. The time has passed when I wished to see you open, and you probably will soon close. I have proved myself a well-posted Mason; you all say, and we will let it go at that." And no persuasion would induce him to sit in the Lodge. Now, if he had been as great a stickler for technicalities as was the examining committee, he might have got back by demanding to see the charter and a lot more nonsense. The fact is that we have entirely too much "red tape" about this examining business, which could be done without. After the test, five minutes should cover the rest of the examination. The Brother comes to see the work and should see it in open Lodge and not in the ante-room.

We rather admire the method of our Canadian Brethren in making an examination of a visitor. He never knows what he is to be asked until the question tumbles upon him. The lectures are not followed up in regular routine, but here and there hap-hazard, and in the degrees promiscuously the questions are asked. Committees of examination could simplify their work considerably were they to eschew mere routine questioning and bear in mind that the man before them has taken a solemn obligation covering every point they may ask him. Let us treat our visitors with a trifle more courtesy on the point of learning how much they know about the ritual of Masonry.—"Masonic Gavel."

MASONIC LAW.

FROM the Maine Masonic Text Book, compiled by Judge Josiah H. Drummond, 33d, one of the leading jurists of the country, the "Tyler" gleans the following valuable information as to the sources of Masonic law: "The law by which the Institution is governed is derived from: 1. The Ancient Landmarks; 2. The Ancient Charges; 3. The Old Regulations; 4. The Constitution of our Grand Lodge; 5. The regulations and decisions of our Grand Lodge; 6. The usages and customs of the Fraternity; 7. The Bye-Laws of the Lodge. These classes, in some instances, run into each other, but this classification appears to be the most simple and convenient that can be made.

Various attempts have been made to enumerate the Landmarks; but as no two authors agree in their enumeration, it is safe to conclude that no one of the attempts is a success. The very definition of Landmarks shows that an enumeration of them is scarcely possible. A Landmark is a law or custom of the Fraternity, that has existed from a time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. If a Landmark was originally enacted as a law, the time when, as well as the fact of an enactment, are not known. All we know is that it is a law or custom that has existed from time immemorial. We may be making Landmarks now; if any universal usage exists that has existed so long that its origin is unknown, it is a Landmark.

It has been said that the Landmarks are the unwritten law of Masonry, but this is not correct; for landmarks are found in the Ancient Charges. Indeed, the only evidence that some customs are landmarks, is the fact that they are mentioned as such in the earliest publications in relation to Freemasonry. The Landmarks cannot be repealed or changed. That they are sometimes infringed upon is doubtless true, but any enactment in violation of a landmark is void, by whatever authority it is made. All Masons agree in this, and the practical difficulty is that one denies that to be a landmark which another affirms is one."

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

DORIC LODGE, No. 933.

THE final meeting of the season of this Lodge was held on Tuesday, 13th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street.

Bro. J. Rushforth I.P.M. acted as W.M., and there were present Bros. Sherry S.W., R. Ayton jun. J.W., A. Calver P.M. Secretary, R. Ayton P.M. Treasurer, H. J. Seal S.D., Walter Gladding J.D., R. Liddiard I.G., J. Boswell Steward, Past Masters Moss, Scott, Jas. Smith, John West, W. Caslake, and R. Tucker, &c.

Visitors:—Bros. J. Boulton G.P. England, and H. Claud Hamilton 2454. After transacting formal business, the Brethren enjoyed a well served supper, and the usual toasts followed, some capital songs being given in the interval by Bros. Sole, Boswell, Seal, Scott, and H. Claud Hamilton; Bro. Calver gave a spirited recitation.

Bro. Hamilton acted throughout as accompanist in a talented manner, and his vocal assistance also was much appreciated.

MOUNT EDGCUMBE LODGE, No. 1446.

THE regular meeting was held on Saturday, 10th inst., at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, Bro. A. E. Mullins W.M. in the chair.

The W.M. having initiated in an impressive manner Messrs. Thomas Edwards and Wm. Avens, the Lodge resolved (1) that the Mount Edgcumbe Lodge of Instruction be removed from the Havelock Arms, Peckham, to the Rockingham, Newington Causeway; (2) that a Lodge of Emergency be held for the initiation of waiting candidates.

After the banquet the usual toasts were heartily given, and some capital songs sung by Bros. Richards, Stone, Harris ("The Mocking Bird"), Brown, and others.

SURREY MASONIC HALL LODGE, No. 1539.

THE annual Ladies banquet, concert and ball was held in the Surrey Masonic Hall, on Tuesday, 13th inst., and proved a perfect success. On other occasions the banquet has been held at midnight, this year it preceded the terpsichorean efforts, and was attended by 140 Brethren, their wives, daughters, and friends, says the "South London Observer."

Bro. L. E. Side W.M. presided, and after the menu had been discussed proposed the usual toasts. In giving that of the Queen Bro. Side reminded the company that she was always first in the cause of charity, and therefore had the true Masonic instinct, which was also exemplified by the prompt manner in which she expressed her sympathy with the afflicted in every calamity and disaster. The toast was loyally honoured, and the W.M. followed with that of the Prince of Wales Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, and trusted the heir to the throne, who was always foremost in all matters which were for the good of Masonry, would live long to add lustre to the Craft.

Bro. J. Morgan I.P.M. proposed the Worshipful Master, and just as the latter had told them they had every reason to be proud of the Grand Master of England, so they had reason to be proud of the Master of the Surrey Masonic Hall Lodge, for everything he had undertaken in connection with his office had been performed in an unsurpassable manner, which reflected credit not only upon himself but upon the Lodge. He asked the company to wish him, his wife and family long life and prosperity, and on their behalf he was sure he could tender to the W.M. their sense of gratitude for the splendid banquet which had been set before them, the arrangements for which had been personally supervised by him.

The W.M., in a neat speech of response, took credit to himself for one thing only—that he had done his best; and if they were pleased with his work he was gratified.

The W.M. then humorously gave the toast of the Ladies, and said some of them wondered why the feminine gender was never initiated. It was because secrets and ladies did not go well together. Bro. A. Jones suitably replied.

INSTRUCTION.

WESTBOURNE LODGE, No. 733.

ON Tuesday of last week, at the Oliver Arms, Westbourne Terrace North, Harrow Road, W., Bro. C. T. Brown W.M. 733 W.M., Wortham S.W., G. Weaver J.W., H. Dehane P.M. Preceptor, R. J. Rogers P.M. Treas., Geo. Mogford P.M. Sec., T. Mogford W.M. S.D., W. Busby J.D., H. H. Bagnall I.G., C. Halston, Wynman, Beesley, and others.

The Lodge was advanced to the second degree, when Bro. Beesley, having offered himself as candidate for raising, answered the questions, and the ceremony was rehearsed.

The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, and called off and on. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of passing, with Bro. Halston as candidate, and later on that of initiation, with Bro. W. Busby as candidate.

ANNUAL SUPPER PERSEVERANCE LODGE, No. 1743.

THE annual supper of this Lodge of Instruction took place on Monday, 12th inst., at Ridler's Hotel, Holborn, E.C., when, as is customary on such occasions, preliminaries were commenced by the opening of Lodge, which was done under the presidency of Bro. J. Gemmell as W.M., with A. Collins S.W., J. W. Rozier J.W., T. Collins I.G., J. H. Bridgman acting Secretary, and others.

The minutes having been confirmed the W.M. rose to receive propositions, when the following Brethren were proposed for Membership:—T. J. Bolton P.M. 1687, Louis Verdier 590 and 1687 P.P.G.S. Jersey, J. T. Wood 548, J.

Ruddock 1949, J. Eberstein 2562, C. M. Nisser 2562, and A. Morgan 1949. These Brethren were regularly elected, and each acknowledged the kindly greeting offered by the presiding Officer. A letter was read from Bro. Shaw stating his inability to attend, on account of his brother having met with a serious street accident, which had terminated fatally the previous Friday. Great regret was expressed by the Brethren, and it was proposed and unanimously agreed to that a letter of condolence be sent to Bro. Shaw.

Other items of business having been disposed of the Lodge was closed and the Brethren adjourned to the supper room, where a very pleasant evening was spent under the presidency of Bro. G. S. Dauntton P.M. Sec., who was supported by Bros. R. Poore P.M. P.Z. P.P.G.A.D.C. as Vice-Chairman, A. Collins Treasurer, J. Gemmell and J. Elam Stewards, with others belonging to the Committee.

There were also present Bros. R. Davies P.M. 1288 P.Z. 725 206 &c., J. H. Bridgman, F. Collins, J. Milroy, C. Courtney, H. Saunton, A. R. MacDonald, H. Rattle jun., H. Rattle, A. J. Cove P.M., G. Hagborg, Rusden Odell, A. Eades, J. J. Newland P.M. 1949, L. Gwynne Jones 1351, Charles Farris, A. Morgan, J. Wynman, and several others.

After an enjoyable repast the Chairman submitted the toast of the Queen, feeling that in this, her jubilee year, the Brethren would at least give Her Majesty a double greeting. This was followed by the toast of the Grand Master, the Chairman comparing Freemasonry, and especially its Charitable Funds at the present time, with what it was when the Prince of Wales was first chosen as ruler of the Order.

Bro. J. Gemmell W.M. of the evening proposed the toast of the Perseverance Lodge of Instruction, saying the Lodge was formed to give assistance to Brethren who desired to work their way up to such an extent as to be able to fulfil any duties they might be called upon to perform in their Mother Lodge. The Perseverance Lodge was not, however, formed for beginners alone, but for Past Masters also, for it might truly be said the beginners required the assistance of the Past Masters. The little he knew of Freemasonry, continued Bro. Gemmell, he had to thank Bro. Poore for, and he was one who always did his utmost to instruct those who placed themselves under his Preceptorship.

The Chairman asked Bro. Bridgman, as being one of the oldest members of the Lodge, to respond to the toast, and he did so in hearty terms. He thought all had to thank Bro. Gemmell for the able manner in which he had introduced the toast of their Instruction Lodge, and felt the Brethren were as gratified as he was to see its prosperity. He was pleased to recognise in Bro. Dauntton and himself the oldest members of the Lodge, and felt that as long as Bro. Poore remained as Preceptor, with Bro. Dauntton as Secretary, the Lodge would continue to progress. He felt that Brethren wishing to gain knowledge could not do better than join the Perseverance, for it would be a great difficulty to find a better Preceptor than they possessed in Bro. Poore.

The Preceptor next proposed the toast of the chairman, feeling both happy and proud to be in the position to submit the health of Bro. Dauntton for the consideration of the company. He was pleased to say that as Secretary their chairman was known as a hard working member of the Lodge. The speaker said he was Secretary of the United Pilgrims Lodge, and at the present time filled that office in the Brixton Lodge, so that he knew the hard work attached to the appointment, and could judge of the readiness with which Bro. Dauntton fulfilled its duties. The last time he had acted on behalf of the Masonic Institutions he had secured a list of £138 10s, the principal part of which had been contributed through their Lodge of Instruction. Were he to continue for hours he could not speak too highly of their Secretary, the esteem for whom was evidenced by the fact that the Brethren had subscribed together and now desired him to present to Bro. Dauntton a microscope, which they hoped would be handy in his business and also afford him the means of enjoying his leisure time. It was presented in recognition of the kindness always evinced by Bro. Dauntton towards the Brethren, and because he had done everything in his power to raise the Lodge of Instruction to its present position. The Brethren all hoped the Secretary would use their gift, in health, for many years.

Bro. Dauntton, who on rising was received with quite an ovation, said he had been Secretary for over four years. The work he performed was really a labour of love, and in recognition of it a vote of thanks was annually recorded on the minutes, but he never expected such a handsome present as that he had just received at the hands of Bro. Poore. He had done his best for their Lodge, and hoped to continue doing so. He not only thanked the Brethren for their gift, but also for having put him in the proud position he occupied that night. He had the pleasure of being initiated by their worthy Preceptor some eleven years back, and had worked side by side with Bro. Poore ever since. Bro. Poore had usually occupied the chair on such occasions as the present, but had persuaded him very much to occupy it that night. He had rather demurred, but Bro. Poore persisted, and he accepted—now he could see why Bro. Poore had so persisted. He could but say again how sincerely he thanked them for their handsome present, which he hoped to use for many years to come. So long as the Brethren were satisfied with him as their Secretary he should be happy to continue in the office.

Bro. J. T. Newland P.M. proposed the health of the Preceptor, whom they all knew as one of the very best. He had the pleasure of being initiated by Bro. Poore, the same as Bro. Dauntton had been, and could testify to his being a good worker—one who did everything to ensure satisfaction.

Bro. Poore, in reply, tendered his thanks. It was perfectly true he had had the pleasure of initiating Bros. Newland and Dauntton into Freemasonry, and had since given them all the assistance that lay in his power. He was particularly pleased to see how ably they installed their successors, and was glad to know that many others had followed in their footsteps. He invited all who desired to progress to attend on Monday nights and receive instruction at the Perseverance Lodge.

Bro. Newland next proposed the health of the Treasurer and Secretary. He was particularly pleased in being called upon to submit this toast, as he regarded it as one of the most important on their programme. They had two hard working members in Bros. A. Collins and Dauntton, and the Brethren knew, far better than he could tell them, how much the Instruction Lodge was indebted to them.

The Treasurer and Secretary each replied, and then the Preceptor proposed the toast of the visitors, to which Bro. Bolton replied. He felt sure from what he had seen the Perseverance Instruction Lodge did credit to its name.

Bro. A. Morgan submitted the toast of the Dinner Committee, also the musical entertainers, and this brought forth suitable responses from Bros. A. Collins, J. Elam, and others.

Among those who assisted in maintaining the harmony of the meeting were Bros. Gemmell, Bridgman, Lander, Louis Verdier, and others. Bro. R. Odell presided at the piano.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE KENTISH CLUB.

THE fourth annual dinner of the Kentish Club of Instruction took place on Wednesday, 14th inst., in the banqueting hall of the Restaurant Frascati, Oxford Street. For the first time in the Club's history ladies were invited to the banquet, and a large number of them availed themselves of the invitation, assisting to make the dinner one of the most successful yet held. Bro. Chas. F. Quicke—the founder of the Club—presided, having on his right Mrs. Quicke.

The President struck a most welcome keynote at the commencement of the after-dinner proceedings, in desiring that the speeches should be brief. Acting upon the hint, he himself proposed the usual toasts and the toast of the evening, the Kentish Club, in short but capital speeches. As to the latter he remarked that having ladies present at the dinner was one of the finest innovations connected with the Club, and next year he hoped that the dinner would be succeeded by a dance. He coupled with the toast the name of Bro. Cox.

The response of the Treasurer showed that a splendid work had been done by the Club, which had taught the tenets of Freemasonry to hundreds of young Masons who had gone away all the better for the tuition they had received. Neither had the benevolent side of Freemasonry been neglected by the Club, which had done its part in helping to raise the £60,000 and more required every year for the Masonic Charities.

Then came a feature of the evening, a presentation to the Chairman, which was made by the Vice-Chairman, in very graceful and complimentary terms. It took the form of an illuminated vellum of artistic design, in massive gilt frame, and set forth the Club's grateful recognition of Bro. Quicke's service as founder and Preceptor of the Club, and the desire of the members to evince their appreciation of his unvarying courtesy and of his painstaking and conscientious efforts to inculcate the tenets and principles of the Craft in its highest logical conception. The address was signed by Bros. H. Pickett, J. M. Smith, G. F. Wheeler, Alf. Cox, and Joseph Dawson. Bro. Pickett also handed to Mrs. Quicke a brooch set in pearls, remarking that it showed she was not forgotten by the members of the Club, who were aware that she was often deprived of her husband's society in consequence of his services to Freemasonry.

The presentation excited much enthusiasm, and the President, in his response, said the address should have a place of honour and prominence in his home.

The remaining toast, says the "St. Pancras Gazette," was the Ladies, proposed by Bro. Muir Smith, and responded to by Bro. H. Davenall.

PROVINCIAL.

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LODGE OF SYMPATHY, No. 483.

AN ordinary meeting of this prosperous Lodge, which is rapidly rising to a foremost position in the Province of Kent, was held at the Royal Clarendon Hotel, Gravesend, on the 14th inst.

The Worshipful Master Bro. William Hawker presided, and was supported by his Officers: Bros. Chas. Matthews S.W., John N. Willis J.W., T. T. Hogg P.M. Treasurer, Arthur Ronaldson P.M. Secretary, A. J. Walklin S.D., W. S. Bowen J.D., Ernest Ingman D.C., J. A. Gillett A.D.C., T. W. Galler I.G., T. Smith Steward, also Bros. R. J. Beamish P.P.G.D.C., Henry Doughty P.P.G.S.B., Thos. H. Lygo P.M., Henry Forss I.P.M., T. A. Mummery, T. D. Gee, H. Drake, G. A. Grant, B.A., H. White, H. Andrews, and many others.

The Visiting Brethren included Charles Westwood Prov.G.D.C. Essex, George Naylor P.P.G.D.C. Kent P.M. 20, H. Pressley 653, Robert Matthews, W. Gunn, J. G. Prevost, and H. J. Russell, all of Lodge No. 77, &c.

The Lodge having been opened the minutes were read and confirmed, and the Treasurer's report, showing a highly satisfactory balance without liabilities, was received.

The ballot was then taken for the following candidates:—Dr. Herbert Leslie Thurnell, Mr. Thomas Henry Mason, Mr. James Hewison and Mr. Edward Paramor, which proved unanimous in their favour. The first three named gentlemen being present were admitted, and regularly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Craft.

Bros. Geo. Chaney, Herbert Andrews, John Wm. Sweet, and A. G. Knight (the latter at the request of the W.M. of the St. John Lodge, of Grays) being candidates for the sublime degree were duly raised, and took their seats in the Lodge as Master Masons. Both ceremonies were creditably performed by Bro. Hawker.

Bro. H. Forss I.P.M. proposed that a Benevolent Fund be established in connection with the Lodge, and that a sum of ten guineas be voted from the Lodge funds to form its nucleus. This was seconded by Bro. Hawker and carried. It was further decided that Bro. P.M. Lygo and the Worshipful Master of the year be the Trustees for the administration of the Fund.

There being no further business, the Lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and the Brethren adjourned to supper.

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PERSEVERANCE LODGE, No. 573.

THE annual festival was celebrated under the most favourable circumstances, in the Masonic Hall, Halesowen, on Tuesday, 13th inst., Bro. R. Underwood W.M. being in the chair. There was a large attendance of Brethren belonging to the Provinces of Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Warwickshire.

Bro. H. W. Hughes, mining engineer, of Dudley, was installed W.M., the ceremony being ably performed by Bro. W. Waldron P.P.G.S.W.

At the conclusion of the business the Brethren adjourned to the Drill Hall, where a banquet was provided.

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ZION LODGE, No. 1798.

THE regular meeting was held at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Wednesday, the 14th inst., Bro. Joseph Gershon W.M. After the reading and confirmation of minutes, successful ballots were taken for Bro. Aubrey Franks, optician, Manchester, and Messrs. Jacques Higham Phillips, wine agent, and Abraham Altaras, merchant, the former as a joining member, and the latter as initiates.

Subsequently Bro. Harry Levy was raised to the degree of M.M. The respective ceremonies were performed by Past Masters Leon Levy, George

Board P.P.G.D., and S. Mamelok, assisted by Bro. B. Steel S.W., who presented and explained the working tools.

At the festive board which followed, Loyal and Masonic toasts were varied by songs, several of the Brethren being called into requisition.

ST. DAVID LODGE, No. 2226.

A MOST successful festival was held on Thursday, 15th inst., when Bro. John Randall P.G.S. was installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The Installing Master was the retiring W.M. Bro. Thomas Edwards, who performed the ceremony in a manner that called forth general encomiums. Among the visitors were the D.P.G.M. of Monmouthshire Lieutenant-Colonel Lyne.

In the evening a banquet was held at the Royal Hotel.

ZODIAC LODGE, No. 2615.

A MEETING was held on the 7th inst., at the Denmark Hotel, East Ham. The W.M. Bro. B. C. Curtis P.M. P.Z. 1472 presided, and the other chairs were occupied by Bros. T. Cowell S.W., and Wm. W. Ives J.W. There was a large attendance of Officers and Brethren, including several visitors.

Messrs. T. C. Stokes, R. B. Martin, James Taylor, and G. S. Smith were initiated into the mysteries of the Craft, and Bros. Drake, Tydeman, and Thomson were passed. The respective ceremonies were ably performed by the W.M.

Bro. Dr. Hill (North Woolwich) was elected as a joining member.

The Brethren subsequently sat down to a capital repast, prepared by Bro. G. A. Smith, after which the regular preliminary toasts were happily proposed by the W.M., whose health was afterwards submitted by Bro. Bromhead I.P.M., who referred to the correctness with which Bro. Curtis adhered to the ritual of the Craft, and to the high esteem in which he was held by the Brethren.

ROYAL ARCH.

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TRUTH INSTRUCTION CHAPTER, No. 1458.

THE first meeting of this Chapter was held at the Mosley Hotel, Manchester, on Tuesday, the 13th inst. As our readers are aware, the late respected and lamented Companion James Hill Sillitoe had been appointed Preceptor, but his sudden death compelled other arrangements; the Grand Superintendent of the Province of East Lancashire Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie therefore approved of the following appointments, viz., Comp. Arthur H. Jefferis P.Z. 645 P.P.G.J. Preceptor, Buckley Carr P.Z. 993 P.P.G.D.C., and Charles Swinn P.Z. 204 P.P.G.Stand.B. Assistant Preceptors, and Fletcher Armstrong P.Z. 935 P.P.G.A.D.C. Director of Ceremonies.

We think the initial meeting may be voted a successful one, from a numerical point of view, fifteen being present, who manifested great enthusiasm as to the ultimate prospects of the Chapter. It is undoubtedly a much needed institution, and we shall be very much surprised if it does not become very popular throughout East Lancashire and neighbouring Provinces. Its primary object is to establish a uniformity of ceremonial on the "Metropolitan System;" the subscription is very small, and the meetings, held during nine months of the year, will not make any very great exactions upon the time of those whose heart and soul are in the work of the Supreme Degree.

Those present were Companions A. H. Jefferis Preceptor, B. Carr Asst. Preceptor, Wm. Booth P.Z. 323, Jas. Cookson P.Z. 323, Dr. Thos. D. Foreman P.Z. 210, J. S. Derbyshire P.S. 1045, E. A. Ehlinger Z. 993, Council. Saml. I. Mills J. 1458, H. Hellawell S.E. 1458, Thos. Hunter S.W. 993, W. Allen Smith 1458, J. J. Dean 1458, Walter Cockerham 993, and Edwd. Roberts 1055. Visitor, Comp. Fred Batty 1730.

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MARK MASONRY.

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HENGIST LODGE, No. 125.

A T a largely-attended meeting of this Lodge, held at Bournemouth, on Wednesday, 14th inst., an illuminated address was presented to Bro. J. B. Atkinson P.G.Std.B. Eng. and P.P.S.G.W. Hants and Isle of Wight, in recognition of his zealous and devoted services to the Lodge as its Secretary during the past twenty-one years.

The presentation was made on behalf of the members by the W.M. Bro. J. J. Brazier, and it was stated in the course of the proceedings that during the whole period of twenty-one years Bro. Atkinson had not missed a single Lodge meeting. The address, which was beautifully illuminated, was supplied by Bro. H. J. Atkins.

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WORKING MEN MASONS.

THE following letter appeared in Sunday's "Weekly Times and Echo." It almost seems as though the correspondent is not quite so ignorant as he pretends. He is evidently having a "sly cut" at someone:

SIR,—Reading your interesting "Correspondence" Column on Friendly Society business of late, will you allow me to ask through your columns what are the advantages derived by a working man becoming a Freemason? Benefits they say there are none, but surely there are advantages gained by those who have not left a stone unturned to join a Lodge, even a distant one, at any cost. Also, how is it working men, particularly railway men, are not admitted to old-established, wealthy Lodges in our large towns, yet can and do join Lodges in the rural districts after having tried to join the former? If social standing did not permit him to join the Masons at one place, why should they admit him at another? There must be also something wonderfully secret and enchanting about it that if two or more railway men who are Masons meet, the talk is seldom above a whisper, or they adjourn to a corner. Lastly, will railway men's wages permit Freemasonry to be kept up as it should be without impoverishing their homes and families of what is necessary to their comfort, &c.?

A RAILWAY SERVANT.

AID FOR THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

A THEATRICAL performance in aid of the Masonic Charities was given at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Saturday, the 3rd inst., "to commemorate Her Most Gracious Majesty's long and glorious reign." The performance was under very distinguished patronage, which included such names as the Earl of Lathom, G.C.B., M.W. Pro Grand Master of England Prov.G.M. West Lanc., Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie Prov.G.M. East Lanc., the Earl of Derby, G.C.B., P.Dep.Prov.G.M. West Lanc., Lord Egerton of Tatton Prov.G.M. Cheshire, Lord Stanley, M.P., P.P.S.G.W. East Lanc., Capt. C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds D.Prov.G.M. East Lanc., R. Wylie D.Prov. G.M. West Lanc., and many others.

The programme was an exceptionally long one, and selections were given as follows:—Special Masonic Overture, composed by Bro. H. Round, Liverpool, played by brother professional musicians; the Carl Rosa, and D'Oyly Carte's opera companies; selections from the musical play, "Monte Carlo"; Miss Florence Burns and James Danvers, in their operatic burlesque pianoforte sketch; Miss Edith Leyland, operatic vocalist and reciter; Bro. John Tiller's eight champions in characteristic song and dance; Mdlle. May Plotzker, the baby première danseuse; Bro. Lindon Wyatt, and other distinguished artistes; also the comedietta, "My neighbour's wife," in which our popular Bros. J. Pitt Hardacre, E. V. Campbell, and H. Rogerson appeared, supported by leading lady actresses.

The Executive Committee consisted of Past Masters T. H. Birch, Thos. Black, F. R. Cooper, Thos. Cavanaugh, Jos. T. Richardson, M. B. Salt, Chas. Swinn, and Clare Edgar Towell; Bros. G. F. Black, lately playing with such success at the Queen's Theatre, in "Anthony and Cleopatra," E. V. Campbell, J. M. Hardie, J. H. Greenwood J.D. (conductor), J. M. Hardie jun., R. Redford, W. O. Rowlands, and P. Watson.

The function was a successful one, and the Charities will no doubt be benefitted in a substantial manner.

We are exceedingly glad to see our veteran Bro. John Cavannah, of "Lottery Ticket" fame, still to the fore. Our knowledge of him dates back several decades, when we met him on the boards of the patent theatre.

A ROYAL MEMORIAL VOLUME.

HITHERTO the public have been almost entirely excluded from the Royal Mausoleums at Frogmore; and some other places in which there are memorials of the royal illustrious dead are not at all times easy of public access. The Mausoleum at Frogmore for instance, can only be seen by special order of Her Majesty the Queen, and is only open for two hours once a year—after the anniversary service for the Prince Consort. Even during this short time admission is restricted to the inhabitants of Windsor and district and their friends. It will thus be seen that only a very limited knowledge of these magnificent memorials, which contain the best work of some of the greatest modern artists, can be obtained. Even the original plans and drawings of the artists engaged on the work have been kept strictly private. Printed descriptions have of course appeared from time to time, but these give not the slightest idea of the costly, artistic, and beautiful character of the memorials. The announcement will therefore be received with considerable interest that Her Majesty has at last been pleased to allow the publication of a graphic memorial of these artistic and magnificent abodes of the dead, and that special permission has been granted to Mr. J. S. Murray Fisher to complete and publish a work, the title of which is "The Monuments and Statuary in St. George's Chapel, Windsor; The Royal Mausoleums, Frogmore; The Albert Chapel, Windsor; and the Battenberg Memorial Chapel, Whippingham." In a work of this class the illustrations are of course the principal feature, and these will consist of between seventy and eighty full-page reproductions in photogravure, and a number of other special full-page illustrations in colours, among the latter being the memorial to the late Duke of Clarence and Avondale in the Albert Memorial Chapel, Windsor (now nearly completed), from a special drawing by the sculptor, Alfred Gilbert, Esq., R.A. (by special permission of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales) and four illustrations of the interior of the Mausoleum itself. The interior of the Duchess of Kent's Mausoleum at Frogmore will also be in colour, as well as the Battenberg Memorial at Whippingham. Her Majesty has given special authority and permission to the author, and other members of the Royal Family have heartily co-operated in giving assistance to make the work as complete and successful as possible. The author is well-known to Windsor, and has been engaged on the work for some years, while his intimate knowledge of the subject specially fits him for doing justice to the work he has undertaken. The book will be printed from new type, on paper specially made for the purpose, and in a binding which (as, indeed, has almost every detail of the work) has been submitted to and approved of by Her Majesty, to whom it is, by special permission, respectfully dedicated. The work will be issued in a limited edition "de luxe," in two volumes, imperial quarto, handsomely bound in solid morocco, at a subscription price of twelve guineas net, and the price will be raised to fifteen guineas directly after publication.

Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer upon Mr. Murray Fisher, through the Very Rev. P. T. Eliot, the Dean of Windsor, the privilege to inspect and take extracts from the interesting old Registers of St. George's Chapel, especially those relating to royalty, dating back some hundreds of years. There will also be included *facsimile reproductions* of the original entries in the register of the marriage of The Prince and Princess of Wales, together with their signatures; also of the marriage of other members of the royal family that have been solemnized in this sacred and historic building, together with the signatures of Her Majesty at all these important functions; also of the other illustrious crowned heads of Europe, and other royal personages and statesmen of this and other countries who were present and who witnessed these solemn rites. Additional photogravure illustrations will also be given of the beautiful commemoration trees planted by royalty of this and other countries in the grounds of Frogmore, with full descriptions, and the dates, &c., as given upon the tablets attached. These interesting additions to these important volumes have been conceded to the author for exclusive use in these publications.

THE Queen has been pleased to accept the Diamond Jubilee Ode, written by Mr. Edgar Lee, whose Ode in 1887 was placed, by Her Majesty's command, so conspicuously among the Jubilee presents at St. James's Palace. The Ode is written in blank verse, and is now being engrossed and illuminated by Mr. Albert Warren, who was associated with the late Owen Jones in the compilation of that colossal national work, "The Grammar of Ornament." Mr. Warren was instructor in illuminating to the Duke of Coburg, the Princess Christian, and the lamented Princess Alice, in their young days. He is the son of the first President of the Royal Institute of Painters, and illuminated the address presented by that body to Her Majesty on the occasion of the birth of the Prince of Wales. The illustrated framework of the design around the Ode has been entrusted to Mr. Arthur Fredericks, who is well known in connection with artistic ecclesiastical work. Mr. Edgar Lee, who has just resigned the editorship of the *Court Circular*, has, it is stated, sold the right of re-publishing the Ode to a well-known illustrated weekly. Curiously enough, Mr. Arthur Fredericks, who has just returned to England after a lengthy sojourn in the colonies, designed the border of the Jubilee Ode ten years ago.

MESSRS. Karslake and Co. (61 Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.) announce the publication of a series of twenty-five early portraits of Queen Victoria, from paintings and drawings made from life between 1820 and 1855. They embrace the chief pictorial representations of Her Majesty during the happiest period of her existence, from the time when she appears as an infant in the arms of her mother down to the State performance at the Grand Opera at Paris, during her visit to Napoleon III. The portraits are being admirably reproduced by the Photophane Company in a manner which leaves absolutely nothing to be desired in the matter of effect and execution and which has called forth the encomiums of judges of the highest repute. The size of the plates will be 15 inches by 11.

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Haymarket.—8-30, Under the Red Robe. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-30.
St. James's.—8, The Princess and the Butterfly. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
Strand.—8, Doctor Johnson. 9, The Queen's Proctor. Matinée, Saturday.
Daly's.—8-15, The Geisha; A story of a Tea House. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Vaudeville.—8-15, Round a Tree. 9, A Night out. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
Prince of Wales's.—8-15, La Poupée. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30. Other afternoons, at 3, A Pierrot's Life, &c.
Gaiety.—8, The Circus Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
Shaftesbury.—8, The Yashmak. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
Adelphi.—7-45, All that glitters is not gold. 9, Black Ey'd Susan.
Comedy.—8, Byeways. 9, Saucy Sally. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
Lyric.—8-15 The Manxman. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Criterion.—8-30, The Physician. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Court.—8-15, A bit of old Chelsea. 9, Sweet Nancy. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Globe.—8, Confederates. 9, The Mac Haggis. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Garrick.—8-15, The Lady Lawyer. 9, My friend the Prince. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Avenue.—8-30, On Leave. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
Princess's.—8, Two little Vagabonds. Matinée, Wednesday, 2-30.
Grand.—Next week, Two Little Vagabonds.
Parkhurst.—Next week, at 8, East Lynne.
Terry's.—8, The French Maid.
Duke of York's.—On Tuesday, 8, Lost, Stolen, or Strayed.
Alhambra.—7-45, Variety Entertainment. 8, Rip Van Winkle. The Animatographe. 9-30, Fregoli. 10-25, The Tzigane.
Empire.—7-40, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet Divertissement. The Cinematographe, &c.
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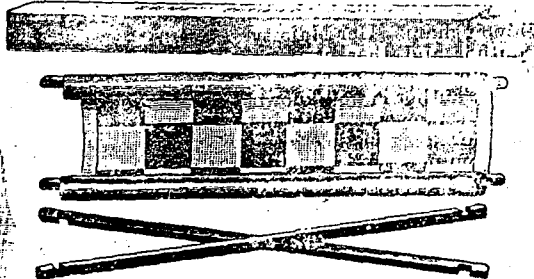
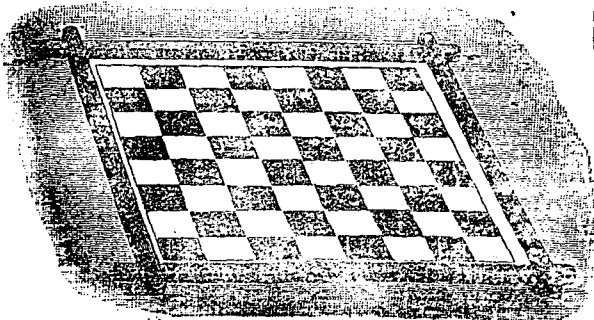
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