

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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

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OUTSIDE SHOW.

THE Ancient Charges and Regulations to which every Master, previous to his installation into the Chair of a Lodge, has to give his assent, contains a clause prohibiting public processions of Masons clothed with the Badges of the Order, without the special License of the Grand Master or his Deputy; and we believe a very strict enforcement of this regulation was rendered necessary many years back, on account of scandals which followed some public displays in the form of Masonic processions in the streets of London and elsewhere, although it seems to us that such public appearances are of themselves sufficiently outside the scope of Freemasonry to render them as undesirable as they are usually unnecessary.

It is well known that many of our Provincial Masonic rulers are becoming more and more opposed to these public appearances of Brethren, clothed in the Badges of the Order, as they learn from experience that little or nothing that is beneficial results from such displays, and for this reason it is now a matter of far greater difficulty than was hitherto the case to obtain a dispensation for an outside exhibition. Whereas a very few years back Masonic funerals were a matter of frequent occurrence in the country districts, it is well known in many Provinces that it is next to useless to make application for a dispensation allowing Brethren to appear at a graveside wearing the insignia of the Craft, and the same may also be said in regard to Masonic balls or other entertainments, which, until recently, were usually regarded as harmless exhibitions, but which are outside the scope of Freemasonry, and undesirable in the best interests of the Craft.

The latest craze in this direction takes the form of Masonic Church Services, or, if we are to take the usual term employed on similar occasions by other Societies, we should say Church Parades; and we may at once remark we view with great disfavour the growing tendency to make these Church Services exhibitions of vanity on the part of members of the Order, and, in some cases, we fear, mere questions of profit on the part of outsiders, who seek the aid of members of the Masonic Brotherhood, with their bright displays of clothing, jewels, and banners, merely to attract inquisitive sightseers, and secure a rich return in the form of a handsome offertory.

We suggest it is now time these displays of Masonry in public places of worship—which seem to have become very numerous as a part of the Jubilation fever—should be discouraged. Our churches should not need such vain exhibitions of fancy clothing and jewels, and Freemasonry should be above the cheap notoriety to be gained by public displays of its regalia.

THE BOYS FESTIVAL.

ELSEWHERE in this issue we give a full list of the Stewards of the recent Festival, and the amounts announced from each. The following additions have been received since the celebration:

LONDON.

58	Thos. C. Tanner	...	...	Addition of	5	5	0
				(making £117 12s 0d)			
235	John M. Courage	...	...	List of	31	10	0
1383	E. Flower, M.P.	...	...	"	78	15	0
1602	G. F. Wheeler	...	...	"	42	0	0
Unatt.	Percy S. Smith	...	...	"	10	10	0

NEW STEWARDS.

Unatt.	▲Eland A. Hooper	...	...		—
	John Larkin	...	...		5	5	0
	▲Mrs. Osborne	...	...		—

PROVINCIAL.

Berkshire	C. S. Spackman (1770)	...	...	List of	16	16	0
Dorsetshire	A. C. W. Freeman (Unatt.)	...	...		—
Lanc. (W.D.)	W. Baxter (1561)	...	...	Addition of	3	12	0
				(making £57 15s 0d)			
Middlesex	W. B. Benjafield (1579)	...	...	Addition of	7	7	0
				(making £63 0s 0d)			
Sussex	J. Trill (Unatt.)	...	...	List of	10	10	0
Worcesters.	A. A. Brockatt, M.D. (1204)	...	...	Addition of	2	2	0
				(making £26 5s 0d)			
"	Herbert Manley	...	...	Addition of	15	15	0
				(making £42 0s 0d)			

KENT.

THE Provincial Grand Chapter will be held on Friday next, 16th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Brewer Street, Maidstone, when the present and past Provincial Grand Officers, Principals and past First Principals of the several Chapters in the Province are summoned to attend, and all other Companions are invited to be present. The Chapter will be opened by the Right Hon. Earl Amherst Grand Superintendent, at half-past three o'clock precisely. The banquet will take place at the Town Hall, and Companions intending to be present are requested to signify the same to Comp. Felix Kite, Albion Place, Maidstone, as early as possible.

CHESHIRE CHARITY.

A MEETING of the Committee of Benevolence of the Province of Cheshire was held at the North Western Hotel, Crewe, on the 30th ult., Bro. John Clayton presiding. The Chairman reported that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, the strength of the Province had been used in securing the election of one of their boys—a lad named Travis, of Hope Lodge, to the Masonic Institution for Boys. He appealed to them to support the Boys Festival next year, at which the Prince of Wales (who was Earl of Chester) would preside. He hoped the Province would be well represented on that occasion.

Bro. T. Simpson proposed "that a jewel be designed and approved, to be worn as an emblem of office by the Charity Representatives."

The Provincial Grand Secretary said he had written to the Grand Secretary, and had asked his advice in this matter, and he had replied that the Worshipful Master would be guilty of an irregularity in permitting any jewel to be worn in the Lodge other than that pertaining to the various Officers, as laid down in Rule 29. Bro. Simpson withdrew the motion.

On the motion of the Rev. Chetwynd Atkinson, seconded by Bro. Henry Jackson, and supported by Colonel Dean, a resolution was unanimously adopted congratulating the chairman, Bro. Clayton, on having received Grand Lodge honours. Bro. Armstrong said that Bro. Clayton had well and faithfully served the Province of Cheshire for thirty years. He had been P.M. for twenty-one years, for eight years he had been Charity Steward, and for three years Deputy-Chairman and Chairman of the Committee of Benevolence. The chairman suitably replied.

CONSECRATION.

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PHILBRICK CHAPTER.

THE consecration of this, the latest addition to the roll of Royal Arch Chapters of England, took place on Friday, the 2nd inst., at the Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, a dispensation having been granted for that purpose by Grand Chapter, in consequence of the insufficiency of accommodation at the Masonic Hall, Walthamstow, where the convocations will in future be held. As may be inferred from its name the Companions will consist principally of Essex Freemasons, who have decided to show their respect and esteem for Judge Philbrick the Grand Superintendent of the Province by calling the Chapter after him. It was certainly a great disappointment to those present that his official duties prevented His Honour from being present upon so interesting an occasion, but from every other point of view the ceremony was most impressively and satisfactorily carried out.

Comp. Edward Letchworth Grand Scribe E. was the Consecrating Officer, and was assisted by Comps. Richard Clowes as H., Thomas Fenn Grand Scribe N. as J., Frank Richardson P.A.G.Soj. as Director of Ceremonies, and F. Mead P.G.D.C. as Scribe N. Comp. Henry Sadler Grand Janitor also attended with the consecrating vessels.

The Founders of the Chapter are Comps. E. R. Alexander 2256, John R. Carter 2501, Archdeacon C. G. C. Dunbar 1716, J. C. Francis 2574, Sydney Fortescue 2256, George Graveley 2374, William Garner 2472, W. S. Hooper 2488, William Harris 19, Ben Johnson 2374, T. H. Lloyd 2374, Amos Oakden jun. 2472, H. Osborne 2374, William Shurmur 2374, T. Courtenay Warner, M.P., 2256, and J. H. Wildash.

The visiting Companions were James Boulton P.A.G.D.C., James Bunker H. 1471 J. 1158, George T. Peale P.Z. 2501, S. R. Baskett P.Z. 2501 P.P.G.R. Dorset, G. H. Fennell J. 1685, John Byford jun. M.E.Z. 554 and 2374, William Thomas Legg 2374, H. J. Lardner P.Z. 3, D. Campbell J. 1403, C. J. R. Tijou P.A.G.P. England and H.-elect 1716, Henry Massey P.Z. 619 and 1928, J. R. Cleave S.E. 2488, C. M. Long J. 2256, Christian Horst 1471, A. J. Skipper 2501, G. R. Brown 2256, A. F. Lay 2501, C. J. Smith 2501, Dr. T. Scoresby-Jackson P.Z. 2256 P.P.G.S.B., C. G. Pannell 2501, H. E. Herman 1365, Joseph Atkinson 1158, J. H. Whitty 1275, C. E. Cutchey 1471, W. D. Church 1471, Orlton Cooper J. 483 P.S. 1928, James F. Haskins P.P.G.O. Essex, G. E. Gratton P.G.O. Essex, J. Tollworthy M.E.Z. 141, John Hamilton 2374, Charles F. Grey 120, Frederick Hughes 192, David Legg P.Z. 1365, Thomas Welham 2374, E. J. Lowther 1307, J. F. Sanders 1507 and 2501, &c.

The Chapter having been duly opened by the Principals, the Companions were admitted, and the opening hymn sung. Comp. Letchworth addressed the Convocation on the nature of the meeting. The signatories of the Petition were then arranged in the West, while Comp. Richardson read the Charter, and the Companions signified their assent to the Officers nominated to preside over them. Comp. Letchworth next called upon Comp. Fenn, in the absence of Judge Philbrick, to deliver the Oration. This was a most interesting lecture on the history of Freemasonry, and was highly appreciated by the Companions.

The ceremony was proceeded with in the usual manner, and the Chapter was constituted accorded to ancient form. Comp. Letchworth gave the patriarchal benediction, and this part of the proceedings came to an end. We must not forget to record the admirable musical arrangements provided by Comp. Haskins, who presided at the organ, while the singing of Comps. W. A. Frost, Alfred Kenningham (both of St. Paul's Cathedral Choir), and T. H. Lloyd lent additional dignity and impressiveness to the service.

Comp. William Shurmur was placed in the chair of Z. as the first Principal of the Chapter, and then proceeded to instal Comp. John Henry Wildash as H., and Comp. William Harris as J. The following Officers were next invested:—Comps. D. H. McGowan acting I.P.Z., H. J. Hallows P.Z. Treasurer, James Speller P.Z. Scribe E., George Graveley P.Z. Scribe N., William Gower P.S., J. R. Carter 1st A.S., W. S. Hooper 2nd A.S., Ben Johnson D.C., J. F. Haskins Organist, J. C. Francis and S. Fortescue Stewards, and T. J. Maidwell P.Z. Janitor.

Comp. Shurmur proposed to record the services of the Grand Officers by a hearty vote of thanks to be entered on the minutes of the Chapter, and as a more substantial recognition that they be made honorary members. He also asked their acceptance of a handsome silver mounted cigar case each, in lieu of more formal Founders' jewels.

Comp. Letchworth returned thanks on behalf of himself and colleagues for their kind reception. They all felt it was a great pleasure to assist in such a ceremony. He was quite at a loss to account for Comp. Philbrick's absence, but he was doubtless

detained by his judicial duties. (A telegram was received later in the evening from this gentleman saying such was the case.) The work of H. had however been kindly undertaken by Comp. Fenn, at a moment's notice, who had given them an excellent Oration. Finally he thanked them for the handsome presents, and said they would only be too glad to become honorary members.

Numerous candidates were proposed for exaltation, so there is work enough in store to last for several meetings to come. Comp. Shurmur was appointed as Steward to represent the Chapter at the Centenary of the Boys School next year, and twenty guineas was voted from the funds to head his list.

The Principals received the congratulations of the visiting Companions, and the Chapter was closed in solemn form.

The banquet took place in the large hall, and was admirably served by Comp. A. Becker, who personally superintended. Upon its termination Comp. W. Shurmur M.E.Z. proposed the Queen and Royal Arch Masonry. He said that during Her Majesty's glorious reign it had pleased the Almighty Architect in His unbounded goodness to shower upon this nation the blessings of peace, progress and prosperity. Under the fostering care of our Empress Queen the liberal arts and sciences had prospered in an astonishing manner, not only at home, but also in our colonies; and when it was considered that at the commencement of Her Majesty's reign there were only about 450 English Lodges and now there were 2,700, it was obvious that the noble science of Freemasonry had not been forgotten; it had enjoyed the entire confidence of the Queen, as well as her patronage and support.

In giving the toast of the Prince of Wales Grand Z., Comp. Shurmur referred to the late Albert Hall meeting, and added that the Prince of Wales had given a further practical proof of his devotion to the Brotherhood by consenting to preside at the Centenary Festival of the Masonic Boys School. They hoped that on that occasion it would require six figures in the £ column to express the amount donated.

The next toast, the Pro Grand Z., Grand H. and J., &c., led Comp. Shurmur to express the approval of the Order for the excellent arrangements made by Comp. Thomas Fenn for the meeting at the Albert Hall. Comp. Fenn was a capital organiser, besides which the Companions had just seen that he was blessed with extraordinary ability and a most retentive memory. The Oration he had delivered was most impressive, and would long remain in the Companions' minds.

Comp. Thomas Fenn, in replying, said that through the unaccountable absence of Comp. Philbrick he had been called upon absolutely without a moment's notice to fulfil the important duties of Chaplain for the ceremony of Consecration. If he had had the advantage of half an hour's notice he would have given a better address. He had only delivered the oration once before, and that was many years ago, and therefore it required a little consideration beforehand to deliver it properly. Again he was called upon at a moment's notice, without any opportunity of previously thinking on the subject, to respond for the Grand Officers. He was under the impression that he was a Consecrating Officer, not that his name would be connected with this toast to reply, but that he would be proposed in the next toast. But as his name had been connected with this toast he thanked the M.E.Z. very much for the complimentary terms he had used with reference to himself. At the recent meeting at the Albert Hall no doubt many thought it was a great responsibility for him to undertake at his advanced age, in his 77th year, but recollecting that he had been connected with Sir Albert Woods in other important functions in Masonry for 33 years, and that his dear friend was struck down by illness and could not attend to his duties, by virtue of the exalted rank recently conferred upon him (Comp. Fenn) he could not refuse to undertake the duties, although he felt there was some danger of his strength failing. With the kind co-operation of Companions Frank Richardson and J. H. Matthews and some others he was able to get through his task with some success. With respect to the Grand Officers many Companions would have seen that in Grand Chapter the Grand Officers often outnumbered all the other Companions. In Grand Chapter they had not always had very important business to consider, but occasionally they had. There had been attempts to alter the ceremonies, but these had been successfully combated. At the last meeting they had a decision brought before them which was very far reaching, and most important, but such cases were rare. At all events he hoped everyone who attended Grand Chapter would concede to Grand Officers they they did their duty.

Comp. W. Shurmur, in proposing the Consecrating Officers, said he approached the toast with a great amount of trepidation, or with fear that they could not adequately express their admiration and thanks for the perfect and dignified manner in which the ceremony of Consecration was performed. Grand Scribe E. had excelled himself. They had already spoken of Comp. J.'s marvellous work at a moment's notice, and the Companions must have noticed the finished manner in which

Comp. Frank Richardson, as D.C., carried out his part. Of course they knew he was a Companion of very great experience, but at the same time practice did not always confer proficiency. Then as to Comp. Mead as Scribe N., his reading was excellent, and he ought to have been a bishop. Their best and warmest thanks were due to the Consecrating Officers.

Comp. E. Letchworth Grand Scribe E., responding, said although he was deeply sensible of the high compliment the M.E.Z. had paid him in associating his name with the toast of the Consecrating Officers, he could not but feel that it was due to the fact that the Companion whose honoured name this Chapter bore, from some unexplained cause, had been absent from the ceremonies that evening. He was quite sure Comp. Philbrick could not but feel most deeply disappointed at not being present, because he had heard from Comp. Philbrick's lips how highly he appreciated the very great honour the Companions and Founders of this Chapter paid him in asking his permission to take his name. He could only express the hope that wherever Comp. Philbrick might be he was passing as pleasant an evening as the Companions of the Philbrick Chapter were. With regard to the Consecrating Officers, he thought he might say on behalf of those with whom he had been associated, as he did on his own behalf, that the consecration of a new Chapter was to one and all of them a duty of love. There was no duty they had to perform which gave them greater pleasure, and it was always a great satisfaction to him when he found himself associated in the ceremony with Companions as proficient as Comp. Fenn, whose services had been recognised by them all, and by Comps. Richardson and Mead.

Comp. Letchworth had now a very pleasing duty in proposing the health of the three First Principals of the Philbrick Chapter, and particularly Comp. William Shurmur, whom he had had the great privilege of placing in the chair of this Chapter. In addressing the Companions he saw around the table it was quite unnecessary to dilate on the merits of Comp. Shurmur, who was already well known to all of them. Comp. Shurmur was respected by them all, and he was beloved by them all. Few men had done more than Comp. Shurmur to advance the interests of the Craft and the Royal Arch in the neighbourhood in which he resided. This was the tenth year he had filled the chair of Z. of a Chapter, and in all that time he had exalted no less than 100 brethren. The members of this Chapter might well be congratulated on having at their head, in this, the most important and critical period of the Chapter's existence, a Companion so well qualified in every way to rule and guide them. Therefore it was with the greatest possible pleasure he asked the Companions to join him in drinking the health of the M.E.Z., wishing him a most agreeable and prosperous year.

Comp. William Shurmur, in replying, said it had been a great pleasure to take part in preparing the foundation of the Philbrick Chapter, and he earnestly hoped that the members might be able to raise a super-structure perfect in its parts and in some way worthy of the honoured name which the Chapter would bear. The majority of those present were what their Grand Superintendent of Essex had been pleased to call "Essex Calves," and they very much regretted his unfortunate absence. They knew that something very extraordinary must have occurred, because they had often had the privilege of sitting under his genial rule, and they knew he was never more happy than in taking part in contributing to the happiness of Freemasons, and furthering the interests of that grand society. To many men the absence of one whom they must recognise as the principal character in the Chapter would have been a knock down blow, but they hoped they might amend and stand up. There had been a large amount of opposition to this Chapter, but when he had such good friends as he had on his left and right, opposition was like wind to a kite—the more it blew the higher the kite rose. Twelve months ago they applied for a Charter for the Philbrick Chapter, with eighteen petitioners. It was opposed. They applied again with twenty-six petitioners, and the Charter was granted without reservation, and by virtue of the kindness of the Grand Chapter Officers they had had a grand kick-off, and they intended to make this Philbrick Chapter a grand success. They started right; they recognised that their Order was founded upon the basis of Charity. They started by giving twenty guineas to the Boys School—good business! and he was quite sure that with such friends as he had in the formation of this Chapter it would prove one of the greatest successes at that end of London. Their idea was that Comp. His Honour Judge Philbrick being the Grand Superintendent of Essex they ought to have an Essex Chapter, but they found there were some Chapters in Essex not so flourishing as they could wish, therefore they went geographically. Walthamstow geographically was in Essex; otherwise it was in London. They had continued faithful in well doing, and this Philbrick Chapter had become duly constituted and consecrated, and he had not the slightest hesitation in saying it would prove an

unbounded success. The H. and J. were P.M.'s of the Beaconsfield Lodge, and had proved their worth by making that Lodge a great success. They would exert themselves to the utmost to do the same with the Philbrick Chapter, and would leave no stone unturned to effect that object.

Comps. Wildash H. and Harris J. also responded.

Archdeacon Dunbar proposed the Visitors, to which toast Comp. C. J. R. Tijou P.A.G.P. England, W. D. Church P.Z. 1471, A. F. Lay Z. 2501, Capt. T. C. Walls P.D.G.D.C., and James Bunker P.Z. 1471 responded, after which the Janitor's toast was given by Comp. Maidwell, and the Companions separated.

The name of Brother and Companion William Shurmur, of Hainhault Lodge, Prospect Hill, Walthamstow, is one of the best known and widely respected in the Lodges and Chapters of the Province of Essex. Nearly a quarter of a century has passed since he received the Light of Freemasonry in the Royal Standard Lodge, No. 1298, at Islington. He afterwards joined the Islington Lodge, No. 1471, and after filling every office in the Lodge with credit, he was elected Master in 1886. Since that date his Masonic career has been one of great energy and untiring activity. In 1887 he was one of the Founders of the Highbury Lodge, No. 2192, of which he became W.M. in 1892. In 1888 he was one of the chief promoters in the foundation of the Warner Lodge, No. 2256, of which he was Treasurer, and is now a P.M. The following year he assisted in starting the Lennox Browne Lodge, No. 2318, at Buckhurst Hill, in which he has served several offices. The climax was reached in 1890, when several brethren desiring to recognise his services to the Craft, petitioned Grand Lodge for the establishment of the Shurmur Lodge, in which he was nominated as the first Master. The petition was one of the most remarkable ever presented to the Grand Master for approval, bearing as it did the signatures of no less than sixty-three petitioners. At the consecration, which was performed by the Grand Secretary Bro. Letchworth, there were nearly 400 brethren present, of whom more than one fourth were installed Masters. As we stated in our last report of this Lodge, it has now a roll of 120 members. It is a Patron of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, with 600 votes in perpetuity; a Vice-Patron of the Boys School, with thirty votes; and a Vice-Patron of the Girls School, with twenty votes; the amount subscribed to the Charities being no less than 750 guineas.

At the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex held at Walton-on-the-Naze, 30th July 1890, the brethren evinced their confidence in Bro. Shurmur, and their appreciation of his Masonic work, by unanimously electing him to the post of Provincial Grand Treasurer, and he was congratulated by Lord Brooke (now the Earl of Warwick) upon his well deserved honour. In 1893 he was a Founder and W.M. designate of the Walthamstow Lodge, No. 2472, and his final step in this direction was reached only last year, when he promoted the Guardian Lodge, No. 2625, and was made acting I.P.M.

In Royal Arch Masonry Comp. Shurmur has shown equal activity. He was exalted in the Islington Chapter, No. 1471, and quickly passed through the various offices, until in 1887 he became Third Principal. He was elected to the post of M.E.Z. in 1889, and at the urgent request of the Companions he remained in office for three years, viz., till 1891. We are compelled to abbreviate the remainder of his Offices. He is P.Z. and Scribe E. of the Empire Chapter, No. 2108; a Founder and first M.E.Z. of the Warner Chapter, No. 2256; Founder and first M.E.Z. of the Guelph Chapter, No. 1685. In December 1892 he was installed first M.E.Z. of the Shurmur Chapter, No. 2374, and was appointed Provincial Grand J. by Comp. F. A. Philbrick Grand Superintendent. He is a Founder and Treasurer of the Crusaders Chapter, No. 1677; Founder and first Z. of the St. Leonard Chapter, No. 1766; and lastly became Founder and M.E.Z. designate of the Philbrick Chapter, No. 1662.

In Mark Masonry he is W.M. of the Royal Naval Lodge, No. 239; a Founder and present W.M. of the George Gravelly Lodge, No. 461. He is a Royal Ark Mariner in the Panmure Lodge, No. 139, and a member of the Grand Master's Council, No. 1, of the Royal and Select Masters of England, and he belongs to the Mount Calvary Chapter, Rose Croix of H.R.D.M.

Bro. Shurmur has served twenty-one Stewardships to the Central Masonic Charities, and is Vice-Patron of all three. With such a record any Brother might well be satisfied, but we should not be surprised to hear very shortly that he contemplates a further addition to this long list. We sincerely trust that T.G.A.O.T.U. may grant him health, strength and long life to carry out such a magnificent career of usefulness. So mote it be.

AN OUTSIDE OPINION.

THE one chief merit of the Freemasons is that they are not a demonstrative body of men. This assertion may be doubted by persons unfamiliar with the Craft, and who notice the conspicuous display which Masons make when they demonstrate in gala attire. But that our assertion is true is proved by the fact that the public know so little about Masons and Masonry, and the principles and practices which the Craft enforces on its members. Of course they would know more if the Masons were as the Oddfellows are, and made the public a confidant in their social methods, and their fraternal operations. Some people who ought to know better manifest a strange aversion to Freemasonry because the Lodges are held in camera, and the greater part of the work of the Order is carried on under the bond of secrecy. But those who are most bitter in their attacks on Masonry really know least about it and its animating principles. In its main respect Freemasonry is a religion, and no one who loyally carries out its principles can be an alien to the faith of Christianity. In so far as its charitable work is concerned, Freemasonry is a fraternity of a most practical character, not dreamy and illusory, but helpful and utilitarian to the furthest degree. "If one member of a Lodge suffers, all the other members suffer with him." In the succour it affords to the bereaved and unfortunate, Freemasonry exemplifies the Christian precepts of mutual social helpfulness, and many volumes might be written of

its soothing ministries and its kindly charities, only Masons are not allowed to speak of those things. Masonry constitutes a great social bond. A Mason must be loyal to the institutions of his country, and to the powers that are set in authority over him. We may note how, in recent demonstrations, Masonry is one of the great stays of the English throne. The middle classes of the country are perhaps the most conservative—we use the word in its natural and not in its political sense—of any other classes or sections into which our complex society is divided. It is this class that furnishes mostly the membership of the between two and three thousand Mason's Lodges in England. We notice that a recent writer speaks of Masonry as furnishing a temptation to the young men who enter its ranks. The fact is, there are very few young men Masons, for the latter are mainly men approaching or receding from the term we call "middle life." Of course there are persons who fall below the ideals of their Craft, as there are thousands who try in every possible way to exemplify them. This is no more an argument against Freemasonry than it is against Christianity. The Brotherhood must be judged by its own principles and laws, and not by any want of loyalty on the part of some few persons who should, but fail to be, true exponents of them. Those who know really what the Order is and what it inculcates realise how unnecessary is any eulogium on its high objects and aims.—"Lancashire Express."

CHURCH SERVICE.

TO celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty's glorious reign, a Service for Freemasons will be holden (by permission of Brother the Rev. W. H. Langhorne, Vicar of Walthamstow, Chaplain Shurmur Lodge, No. 2374) at the Parish Church, St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Sunday, 18th inst., at 3.30 p.m. Dispensations have been obtained from the Grand Master allowing Brethren to appear in Craft or Royal Arch Clothing (Collars, Sashes, Aprons, and Jewels only to be worn).

Very Worshipful Brother the Venerable Archdeacon Stevens, M.A., F.S.A., Past Grand Chaplain of England, will deliver an Oration on the Principles of Freemasonry. The musical arrangements will be under the direction of Mr. J. J. Pearson, Choir Master, St. Mary's, Walthamstow.

The Brethren will be admitted on production of their Badges, and assemble in the Ancient Grammar School on the north side of the Churchyard, at 3 p.m., the procession being formed at 3.15 p.m. sharp. A gold and silver collection will be made during the service, and the offertory will be devoted to the Church Dilapidation Fund. In order that the offertory may be in no way impaired, it has been determined that the sum of 5s be contributed by each Member of the Committee, to defray the necessary expenses. Should the amount thus subscribed exceed the expenditure, the surplus will be added to the offertory.

To enable the Directors of Ceremonies to arrange the procession, it is particularly requested that all Brethren notify whether they will appear in Craft or R. A. Clothing. Ladies and non-Masons will be admitted by tickets, obtainable only of members of the Committee, the President of which is Bro. Wm. Shurmur P.M. 2374 Past G. Std.B. England, who is the Churchwarden of St. Mary's.

The Dalhousie Lodge of Instruction, No. 865 holds its meetings every Monday evening, at the Town Hall Tavern, High Street, Kensington, which establishment is under the able management of Bro. Henry Robinson, and deserves the support of Brethren of the neighbourhood.

Several items of interest are held over owing to pressure on our space.

FETE AT OXFORD.

A MUSICAL fete was given by the members of the Apollo University Lodge in the gardens of Wadham College, Oxford, by permission of the Warden and Fellows. The band of the 2nd Wiltshire Regiment played selections during the afternoon, whilst glees, madrigals, and part songs were contributed by the Kammer Glee Quartette, under the direction of Mr. E. Jackson, of New College. The arrangements were carried out by a strong committee.

About 800 attended, the company including a very large number of distinguished visitors.

AFTER providing for the amortization of leases, depreciation of plant, sinking fund for the redemption of Debentures, the payment of Debenture interest, and carrying £13,500 to reserve for amortization of leases in advance, the report of Spiers and Pond Limited recommends the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent., less income tax, for the year ending the 31st March 1897, leaving £10,288 17s 9d to be carried forward to next year. The warrants will be posted on the 17th July. The share transfer books are closed from the 28th June to the 12th July both inclusive.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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UPTON LODGE, No. 1227.

THE election meeting of this excellent Lodge was held on Thursday, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, E.C., when Bro. George Albert Peters W.M. presided, and was assisted by his Officers: Bros. J. M. Jeffery I.P.M., Henry Hyde S.W., W. A. Bray J.W., Charles Gieseke P.M. Treasurer, Charles John Free P.M. Secretary, W. J. Carroll acting S.D., A. A. Butcher J.D., and H. J. Rowberry I.G., also Past Masters Samuel Toyé, John Stroud, Charles Schmidt, Edwin Hill, Bros. John Bell, Alfred V. Noble, J. Baker, Robert S. Chapman, W. T. Hustwayte, John Angles, Frederick William Ward, G. W. Flatman, and E. Buckley.

Visitors: John Songhurst P.M. 227, J. H. Frankenstein 12 (Sydney, N.S.W.), J. G. Twinn P.M. and Secretary 1306, and Orlton Cooper P.M. 211.

After the minutes of the last regular Lodge meeting, in May, had been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for the admission of Messrs. Oliver Greenland, David Sasserath, and William Edward Greenhouse, which proved unanimous in their favour. These gentlemen being in attendance were properly prepared and subsequently received the light of Freemasonry at the hands of the Worshipful Master. Bros. Theodore Martin, Ernest Claude Holmes, and Joseph William Holmes, candidates for the second degree, proved their proficiency in a highly satisfactory manner, and were duly passed as Craftsmen.

Both the ceremonies were performed by Bro. Peters in his usual careful manner, and he must certainly be congratulated upon having had such a successful year of office, now drawing to a close, for at nearly every meeting he has had Initiates, and yet leaves some work over for his successor.

The event of the evening was naturally the election of a Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, and much satisfaction was expressed when the choice of the brethren fell upon Bro. Henry Hyde Senior Warden, who was unanimously elected to that distinguished position. Bro. Charles Gieseke P.M. was re-elected to the post of Treasurer of the Lodge, and Bro. Thomas Bowler was re-appointed the Tyler. The result was officially announced to the brethren concerned, each of whom acknowledged the honour conferred.

Bros. John Bell and John Baker were elected as the Auditors of the Accounts, which duty would have to be performed previous to the incoming of the new Master. Bro. Chas. John Free P.M., the genial but astute Secretary, threw out the hint that this meeting closed their financial year, and that in making up his returns for Grand Lodge he hoped no Brother would be reported in arrears with his subscription. The Bye-laws of the Lodge were read by the Secretary.

A Past Master's jewel was voted from the funds of the Lodge for presentation to Bro. Peters, at the termination of his year of office, in recognition of his services as Master.

As a mark of the appreciation of the services rendered by Bro. Gieseke as Treasurer for the past twelve years, it was proposed by Bro. C. J. Free that he be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge. This was seconded, supported by nearly all the Past Masters, and carried unanimously by the Brethren.

This concluded the business of the evening. The Master received the hearty good wishes of the Brethren, the closing hymn was sung, the Lodge was closed in due form, and the Brethren adjourned to supper, after which an enjoyable hour was spent.

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HAMPSTEAD LODGE, No. 2408.

THE W.M., Officers, and Brethren are to be heartily congratulated upon the complete success which attended their meeting on Tuesday, 29th ult., at the Vestry Hall, Haverstock Hill. The Lodge had determined that the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee should not pass without a special effort on its part to commemorate the event in a thoroughly fitting manner, and an emergency meeting was arranged, early in the afternoon, for the transaction of Masonic business, amongst which was the raising of Bros. F. Harcourt Gervis and Charles Robert Lowe.

The Lodge had obtained from the Grand Master a dispensation to wear full Masonic clothing and regalia at the banquet which followed the Lodge meeting, and at which a brilliant gathering of ladies added to the charming picturesqueness of the scene. At 7.30 the W.M. Bro. Fred. H. Gervis commenced to receive the guests, and until eight o'clock there was a continuous stream of ladies, relatives and friends of the members of the Lodge, in response to the invitations which had been sent to them. The W.M. was supported by his Wardens Bros. G. Titus Barham and Robert Cromwell Edwards, and in the reception room were gathered other Officers of the Lodge.

Grand Lodge of England was represented by Bros. Plumb and Kentish. The non-Masonic brotherhood was represented, by special invitation, by Mr. George Barham, Mr. Charles Johnston, Mr. John Hayns, and others. To further commemorate the event each member of the Lodge will receive the special Jubilee medal, the design of which H.R.H. the Grand Master has approved, and at the banquet each lady was presented with a very handsome cut-glass bottle filled with scent, and enclosed in a pretty light blue case bearing a suitable commemorative inscription.

At eight o'clock the whole company, numbering close upon one hundred, passed from the reception-room to the large hall. The principal staircase had been handsomely decorated with choice plants and flowers, and the hall was most tastefully laid out for dinner, which was admirably served. The ladies evinced some little astonishment at the Masonic health proposing which prevailed during the evening, and were very anxious in their inquiries why some of the Brethren wore dark blue and some light blue clothing, and as to the meaning of this and that Masonic jewel, while some more penetrating questions were also put to the Brethren, who answered with the candour customary on such occasions. Perhaps the least satisfactory of these replies was that attempted to the friendly criticism of a lady, who quietly remarked on the fact of the Masonic world being made up of brethren without any "sisters."

The first toast proposed by the W.M. was Her Most Gracious Majesty,

our Queen and Empress, who, he said, was the daughter of a Mason and the mother of Masons.

Amongst the other toasts was that of the Worshipful Master of the Hampstead Lodge, No. 2408, proposed by Bro. C. W. P. Dyke, and received with great enthusiasm.

The W.M., in responding, said that the Hampstead Lodge had been in existence five or six years. Each year there had been some talk of having a "ladies' night" or some other entertainment for the ladies, but each year had come and gone without it. But this year he and his Officers felt that the opportunity must not be allowed to slip by. Hampstead had come to the fore in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Her Most Gracious Majesty, and they felt, as Masons, that they must have a ladies' banquet for the celebration of that Jubilee at the Vestry Hall.

The Ladies was proposed by Bro. Charles S. Preston, and responded to by Bro. F. Harcourt Gervis.

INSTRUCTION.

WESTBOURNE LODGE, No. 733.

ON Tuesday, at Bro. Barnes's, Oliver Arms, Westbourne Terrace North, Harrow Road, W., Bro. W. Busby W.M., W. J. Sweet P.M. S.W., J. L. Miller J.W., H. Dehane P.M. Preceptor, R. J. Rogers P.M. Treas., G. D. Mogford P.M. Sec., G. A. Knight P.M. S.D., C. Halston J.D., G. Weaver I.G., E. W. Tucker, J. Wynman and E. White.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. R. J. Rogers P.M. being the candidate. The Lodge was called off and on, when Bro. White offered himself as a candidate for passing, and answered the usual questions. The Lodge was advanced to the second degree and the ceremony was rehearsed. The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and with the assistance of the Brethren worked the second section of the lecture.

Bro. E. W. Tucker was elected a member, and suitably responded, while Bro. Sweet was elected as W.M. for next Tuesday.

It was proposed by Bro. Dehane Preceptor and seconded by Bro. Rogers P.M., that a vote of thanks be put on the minutes to the W.M., for his working in so admirable a manner, and this was unanimously agreed to. The W.M. having thanked the Brethren for their kind remarks, Bro. R. J. Rogers P.M. was elected Deputy Preceptor, and suitably acknowledged the compliment.

ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

ON Thursday, 2nd inst., at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, Bro. J. Dennis W.M., C. Jacobs S.W., J. W. Blaydes J.W., R. H. Williams P.M. Preceptor, F. J. Larkman P.M. Treas., J. W. Cuning P.M. Sec., F. M. Ridley D.C., Justin Allen J.D., R. Goff I.G., W. Langdon, F. Craggs P.M., A. England, J. Wynman.

The Lodge was opened and advanced to the second degree, when Bro. F. J. Larkman as W.M.-elect was duly presented by Bro. Craggs P.M., the ceremony of installation being rehearsed, as also the appointment of Officers.

Bro. Dennis delivered the addresses to the W.M., and by desire of Bro. Dennis Bro. Craggs gave the address to the Officers, and Bro. R. Williams Preceptor that to the Brethren.

Bro. Alfred England J.W. of the Macdonald Lodge, No. 1216 was elected a member, and Bro. Charles Jacobs was chosen W.M. for next meeting.

Bro. Craggs, who was elected an Honorary Member (in his absence) the previous week, thanked the W.M. and Brethren in a most eloquent manner for their compliment.

DALHOUSIE LODGE, No. 865.

AT the Town Hall Tavern, Kensington, on the 5th inst., Bros. P. Cronin W.M., W. Hide W.M. 1275 S.W., J. Cox P.M. J.W., A. Williams P.M. Preceptor, C. G. Hall P.M. Treasurer, A. J. Clayton Secretary, H. Sellick S.D., R. Reid J.D., F. C. Dyer I.G., S. Aggett Steward, J. H. King, J. Wynman, H. Robinson.

The Lodge being opened in due form, Bro. Aggett offered himself as candidate for passing, was examined and entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed.

The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, called off and on, and resumed in the second degree, when Bro. J. H. King offered himself as candidate for raising, and was examined and entrusted, the third ceremony being rehearsed.

The Lodge was resumed in the first degree, when Bro. Hide was elected W.M. for the next meeting.

Bro. Preceptor proposed and Bro. Secretary seconded that Bro. Wynman be elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge of Instruction, which was carried unanimously.

Bro. Preceptor proposed and Bro. Secretary seconded that a sum of 21s be given to the West London Hospital out of the funds of the Lodge, which was also carried unanimously.

HYDE PARK LODGE, No. 1425.

ON Monday, at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne Terrace, Paddington, Bro. A. Le Claire W.M., H. Crookes S.W., J. H. Beardon J.W., G. Reed P.G.S.B. Treas., H. Dehane P.M. Sec., G. E. Harris S.D., W. H. Handover J.D., W. Smith I.G., G. Weaver Std., W. J. Ferguson P.M. 177 Deputy Preceptor, H. Chubb, H. Harris.

Bro. Read, assisted by the Brethren, worked the second, third, fourth and fifth sections of the lecture. Bro. Crookes was elected W.M. for next Lodge meeting, and appointed the Officers in rotation.

Bro. Crookes, to mark his admiration for Freemasonry, and as a memento of the honour conferred by Her Majesty the Queen, Patroness of the Order, on his father, presented £1 1s to the funds of the Lodge of Instruction.

LEOPOLD LODGE, No. 1571.

ON Thursday, at the house of Bro. J. Elliott, the Moorgate, Moorgate Street, Bro. J. Brown presided as W.M. and rehearsed the ceremonies of passing and raising. Bro. H. Down will preside next Thursday.

PROVINCIAL.

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MARINERS LODGE, No. 249.

ON Thursday, 1st inst., the members celebrated the 114th year of the Lodge's existence. The annual installation ceremony, which then took place, was attended by a most influential gathering of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge Officers, in addition to numerous Past Masters and Worshipful Masters of other Lodges in the Province of West Lancashire.

After the preliminary business had been transacted the Immediate Past Master Bro. T. D. Amos installed the incoming occupant of the chair Bro. Jno. S. Halliwell, in a most impressive manner.

During the evening congratulatory telegrams were received from all parts of England, and occasion was taken to present Bro. Amos with an exquisite Past Master's jewel in appreciation of his faithful services. The members also presented Mrs. Amos, through her husband, with a beautiful bracelet, with sapphires and ten diamonds set in 18 carat gold. Brother Amos received as an additional mark of respect a magnificent secretaire.

MINNEHAHA MINSTREL LODGE, No. 2363.

THE regular meeting was held at the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on Monday, 28th ult., Brother Fred Hilton P.M. P.P.G.D.C. W.M. An explanation of the third tracing board and the Traditional History were given to Bro. F. A. Slowe by the W.M., which, together with matters connected with the forthcoming picnic to the "Dukeries," on Monday, the 12th inst., formed the principal business of the evening. Bro. Sam Luke S.D. gave a statement as to what had been done with regard to the projected trip, and this appeared to give general satisfaction. Bro. Seth Wrigley P.M. P.P.G.D., by way of perpetuating the jubilee celebrations, sang the National Anthem.

At the festive board, loyal and other toasts were pleasantly relieved by songs, recitations, &c., given by Bros. S. H. Stubbs J.D., W. H. Purdy Org., F. Todd I.G., C. H. Beever P.M., and Edwd. Roberts P.M. 1459. Bro. Beever proposed the health of the Provincial Officers, the toast being responded to by Bro. F. W. Wollaston P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C. Chaplain. A special toast was given by the W.M. in honour of Bro. Slowe, who is about to leave this country and proceed to South America, where he will remain some considerable time. Bro. Hilton spoke very encouragingly to him, and finished some well-timed remarks by wishing him "God speed" on his travels. Bro. Slowe replied.

Other prominent members present were Bros. Edwyn A. Smith S.W., Thomas Hamnett J.W., Joseph Hilton Treasurer, M. Thomas P.M. P.P.G.D., Secretary, S. L. Watts Std., and Thos. Black P.M. P.P.G.D., &c. We may mention that the latter retired at an early hour to support his son, Bro. George F. Black, St. George Lodge, 1170, who on this evening made his advent as the new Hamlet at the Queen's Theatre of Cottonopolis. Bro. Black jun. owes his present prominence to the fact that during a recent engagement at the above theatre of Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, the lady, who happened to suffer from indisposition, was unable to appear, and Bro. Black being called upon to play the part, did so at a few hours' notice. His acting on that occasion was very favourably commented upon, and we are glad to state that his present engagement is quite the success which was anticipated.

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DURING the months of July, August and September 1897 (wind,
weather and other circumstances permitting), the Service will be as
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Day Service (Sundays excepted) Paddington, depart 8:50 a.m.,
Weymouth, depart 1:30 p.m., reaching Guernsey about 5:0 p.m. and
Jersey about 7:0 p.m.; and returning from Jersey at 8:30 a.m., and
Guernsey at 10:0 a.m., reaching Paddington by Special Boat train about
7:15 p.m.

Night Service, Paddington (Sundays excepted), depart 9:45 p.m.,
Weymouth, depart 2:15 a.m., reaching Guernsey about 6:45 a.m. and
Jersey about 9:0 a.m. There is no night service from the Islands.

Excursions will leave Paddington Station as under:

Every Saturday, 8:50 a.m. (Special Day Service Express)
and 9:45 p.m. (Night Boat Express), for Guernsey and Jersey, for 3, 8,
10, 15 or 17 days. Return Fare, Third Class and After Cabin, 24s 6d.

Passengers pass direct between the Trains and Steamers at Weymouth.

Steamers lighted by electricity.

DURING JULY, AUGUST and SEPTEMBER, SPECIAL FAST
EXCURSIONS will leave PADDINGTON STATION, as under:

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

12:25 midnight for Chepstow, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Llanelli,
Carmarthen, Pembroke Dock, Tenby, Cardigan, New and Old Milford, &c.,
for 7 or 14 days.

Every Saturday, 7:55 a.m. for Minehead, Lynton, Lynmouth,
Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Plymouth, Tavistock, Launceston, Devonport,
Newquay, Truro, Falmouth, St. Ives, Penzance, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15
or 17 days.

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

8:35 a.m. for Frome, Shepton Mallett, Wells, Yeovil, Bridport,
Dorchester, Weymouth (for the Channel Islands), Portland, &c., for 3, 10
or 17 days.

9:30 a.m., and 4:45 p.m. for Douglas (Isle of Man), for 3, 8, 10, 15
or 17 days.

11:5 a.m. for Weston-Super-Mare, Exeter, Dawlish, Teignmouth,
Torquay, Dartmouth, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

12:5 noon for Newbury, Savernake, Marlborough, Devizes, Trowbridge,
Warminster, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

12:40 noon for Clevedon, Weston-Super-Mare, Bridgwater, Taunton,
Minehead, (for Lynton and Lynmouth), Barnstaple, Ilfracombe,
Wellington (Som.), Tiverton, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

4:0 p.m. for Swindon, Stroud, Cirencester, Gloucester, Cheltenham,
Hereford, &c., for 3, 10 or 17 days.

6:15 p.m. for Chippenham, Bath and Bristol, for 3, 10 or 17 days.

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

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.

Thursdays, 15th, 29th July, 12th, 26th August, 9th, 23rd
September, 3:35 p.m. for Cork and Killarney.

Fridays, 16th, 30th July, 13th, 27th August, 10th, 24th
September, 6:10 p.m. for Waterford, Dungarvan, Lismore, Clonmel,
Tipperary, Kilkenny, Killarney, &c.

4:45 p.m. for Belfast, Armagh, Enniskillen, Larne, Giant's
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FORTNIGHTLY EXCURSIONS TO SCOTLAND.

For 5, 11, or 16 days.

From Friday, 16th July to 24th September inclusive, for 11 days (on 30th July for 8 days), from St. Pancras at 9-15 p.m., to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Helensburgh, and other North British Stations; and at 10-0 p.m. to Carlisle, Glasgow, Ayr, Kilmarnock, G. and S.W. Line, and Newton Stewart, Stranraer, Wigtown, and Whithorn.

Also on above dates, for 5 or 11 days (on 30th July for 4 or 9 days), from St. Pancras at 9-15 p.m., to Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Arbroath, Forfar, Brechin, Montrose, Stonehaven, Aberdeen, Inverness, Fort William, &c.

Return tickets at a third class single or ordinary fare for the double journey will also be issued by the above trains to return any day within sixteen days from date of issue.

Also fortnightly excursions to North of England, for 11 or 16 days (on 30th July for 8 or 16 days), from Friday, 16th July to 24th September inclusive, from St. Pancras at 8-30 p.m. Alternate Fridays to Northallerton, Richmond, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle, and Berwick.

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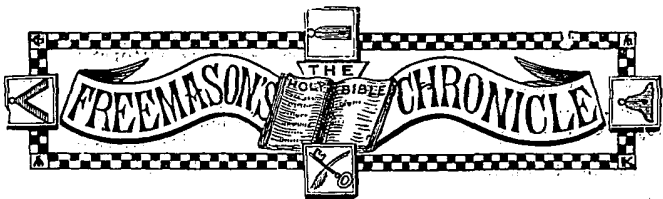
ISLE OF MAN.

Every Friday at Midnight, and every Saturday at 5-15 a.m. and 10-5 a.m. until 24th and 25th September inclusive. Also every Saturday, from 10th July to 4th September, at 9-0 a.m., to Douglas, Isle of Man, for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

Also every Saturday until 25th September inclusive, to English Lake District, Morecambe, Lancaster, Liverpool, Southport, Blackpool, Matlock, Buxton, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days. See Bills for times.

Tickets, Bills, Week-end Excursion Programme, Lodging Lists, &c., may be had at the Midland Stations and City Booking Offices, and from Thos. Cook and Son, Ludgate Circus, and Branch Offices.

GEO. H. TURNER, General Manager.



SATURDAY, 10TH JULY 1897.

HOAXES.

DR. Isaac Barrow, in his celebrated sermon "Against Foolish Talking," tells us that Aristotle places the practice of jesting in the rank of virtues. Now a jest, when perpetrated by a true humourist, is robbed of half of its sting by the neatness of its execution, or by the novelty of its method; but when performed spitefully, or through sordid motives, or when it adopts the uncompromising guise of a hoax, it cannot reasonably be excused or palliated.

The poet Byron once said to his friend, Captain Trelawney, that the ruling passion in the human breast is not ambition, power, or love of praise, but "malignity," and it would be an interesting study to trace how far his lordship's dictum is justified by the writings and actions of some of our greatest geniuses, who, unhappily, were not free from this particular vice.

Tillotson assures us that the term hoax is derived from Hocus-pocus, hoax being a corruption of hocus, which was itself a corruption of the Hocus est corpus of the mass. The word having a religious derivation, it does not seem incompatible with the general order of things that the highest representatives of the Church should sometimes have been made victims of this stupid sort of recreation. Leo Taxil, a recent but very humble addition to the ranks of Chatterton and Theodore Hook, has not hesitated to impose upon the credulity of his Pontifical Highness Leo XIII. by the Diana Vaughan business—the greatest hoax of modern times—in which Freemasonry has unfortunately played a very prominent part, although as an unconscious factor. If, however, His Holiness feels aggrieved in being victimised by a man whom admittedly he honoured with episcopal letters, and received in audience, he may find consolation in the fact that a notorious predecessor set an unworthy example in this form of fooling, the particulars of which I now relate.

A POPE'S EXPEDIENT.—Felix Peretti, whose zeal in preparing the bull against Queen Elizabeth of England gained for him the position of Cardinal Montalto (1570), ultimately attained to the higher dignity of Pope of Rome under the title of Sixtus, or Sextus V. His father was a vine-dresser near Fermo, and his indigent circumstances compelled him to send his son into the service of a farmer, whose pigs and sheep he tended. From this obscure position the lad emerged into what has been described as "the most extraordinary man of the 16th century." While inquisitor at Venice he quarrelled with the Senate, and found safety in flight from the territories of the Republic, his excuse for such an undignified proceeding being that "having made a vow to be Pope at Rome, he did not think it politic to stay and be hanged in Venice.

Upon the death of Gregory XIII. the vacancy caused quite a ferment, various factions and cabals springing into existence, and disorder of the worst kind became rampant, extending even to robbery of the nobility and people, and pillage of the churches. Montalto, whose apparent bodily

infirmities (simulated for fifteen years) kept him aloof from these disturbances, occupied his time in revising works which he had lately published. When the outrages were brought before the notice of the conclave, Montalto said, "I hope God will soon give us a Pope who will put an end to these disorders," to which Cardinal Farnese rejoined, "If you should happen to be the person I dare say there would be no cutting off of heads, or stretching of necks during your time of office." "God forbid," answered the hypocritical Montalto, "that I, who expect to die every day, should think of taking away any other person's life."

A conclave of forty-two cardinals assembled for the purpose of electing a new Pontiff, and here Montalto made the best of his infirmities, leaning on his crutch, and affecting a serious cough. His brother cardinals, imbued with the idea that by choosing a man in extremis like Montalto, it would earlier pave the way for themselves, unanimously elected him to the position of Sovereign Pontiff. The moment this gratifying fact was announced to Sextus, a miracle occurred:—"he threw aside his crutch, and with it all his assumed debility, his body straightened, he smoothed away his wrinkles, his cough ceased, and he joined the 'Te Deum' with a voice so powerful as to show the cardinals that they had caught a Tartar."

The usual ceremony of prostration followed, and it was during this important function that Cardinal Farnese remarked to the mendacious invalid, "Your Holiness seems quite a different sort of man from what you were a few hours ago." "Yes," retorted the newly-elected dignitary, "I was then looking for the keys of Paradise, which obliged me to stoop; but now that I have found them it is time to look upwards, for I have reached the summit of all human glory, and can climb no higher in this world."

At this time there was a remarkable triad of sovereigns:—Elizabeth on the throne of England, Henry IV. upon that of France, and the unscrupulous Sextus V. upon that of Rome. The latter once remarked that "three such princes were sufficient to govern the world." It is said that the Pontiff once spoke thus of Queen Elizabeth, who had jestingly remarked she would have no husband but Pope Sextus: "She is a bighead—that queen! Could I have espoused her, what a breed of great princes we might have had!"

After the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, Sextus gave expression to a sentiment which was not shared by his subjects when he applauded Elizabeth's firmness and courage in bringing a crowned head to the block:—"My God! what a glorious princess!" Then, stamping his foot, he said, "What would I not give to have it in my power to signalize myself in the same manner!"

Sextus V. was, according to Werner, in his "Humour of Italy," the object of many an epigram, and he mentions one of these which appeared in the form of a dialogue, giving Leti as his authority. "Pasquin* makes his appearance in a very dirty shirt, and being asked by Marforio the reason of this, answers that he cannot procure a clean shirt, because his washerwoman has been made a princess by the Pope; thus referring to the story that the Pope's sister had formerly been a laundress. This soon came to the ears of the Pope, who ordered that the satirist should be sought for and punished severely. All researches, however, were vain. At last by his order, and in his name, placards were posted in the public streets, promising, in case the author would reveal his name, to grant him not only his life, but a present of a thousand pistoles; but threatening, in case of his discovery by any other person, to hang him forthwith, and give the reward to the informer. The satirist thereupon avowed the authorship, and demanded the money. Sextus, true to the letter of his proclamation, granted him his life, and paid him the one thousand pistoles; but in utter violation of its spirit, and saying that he had not promised absolution from all punishment, ordered his hands to be struck off and his tongue to be bored, 'to hinder him from being so witty in future.'

WONDERFUL SWALLOWS.—A French Abbé (Peter Daniel Huet), who, by the request of Christina the Queen once resided at Stockholm, has, in one of his remarkable books describing Sweden as he saw it two centuries ago, recorded the following statement, which is undoubtedly the outcome of a hoax perpetrated upon the learned but simple divine:—"The swallows of Sweden," says Huet, "at the approach of winter plunge into the lakes and remain asleep and buried underneath the ice till the return of spring. Then, awakened by the returning heat, they leave the water and resume their usual flight." He adds that "the country-people find black patches in the ice, and that under these are small clusters and bunches of swallows, which they take home and warm into life."

HOAXING A PRIEST.—Some seventeenth century youths, desirous of amusing themselves at the expense of that great mechanical genius, Father Kircher, engraved several fantastic figures upon a stone, which they afterwards buried in a place where a house was about to be built. The workmen having picked up the stone while digging the foundation, handed it over to the learned antiquarian, who was quite delighted with it, and bestowed much labour and research in explaining the meaning of the extraordinary figures upon it.

A CHARLATAN.—That was a colossal forgery committed by Psalmanazar, who was born in France about the year 1679. By pretending to be a great traveller, he described the island of Formosa (a pure fiction), invented a new language, new characters, and even a new religion, new form of government, and a new calendar, in which the year was divided into twenty months. He hoaxed his contemporaries for a length of time, and whatever place in literature is assigned to him will be through sheer charlatanism.

QUEEN ANNE IS DEAD.—A wag, in the reign of Queen Anne, practised a very successful hoax which is described in the papers of that period:—"A well-dressed man rode down the king's road from Fulham at a most furious rate, commanding each turnpike to be thrown open, as he was a messenger conveying the news of Queen Anne's sudden death. The alarm instantly spread into every quarter of the city; the trained bands, who were on their parade, desisted from their exercise, furlled their colours, and returned home with their arms reversed. The shopkeepers began to collect their sables, when the jest was discovered—not the author of it.

HOAXING A PROFESSOR.—"A young man at Wurzburg, of the name of Roderick, practised a serious deception upon Professor Berenger at the commencement of the last century," says the "Edinburgh Journal" (1846). "Roderick cut a great number of stones into the shape of different kinds of animals and monstrous forms, such as bats with the heads and wings of butterflies, flying frogs and crabs, with Hebrew characters here and there discernable about the surface. These fabrications were gladly purchased by the Professor, who encouraged the search for more. A new supply was accordingly prepared, and boys were employed to take them to the Professor, pretending that they had just found them near the village of Eibelstadt, and charging him dearly for the time which they alleged they had employed in collecting them.

* Pasquin and Marforio were the Italian Joe Millers. (See previous article on "Epigrams.")

Having expressed a desire to visit the place where these wonders had been found, the boys conducted him to a locality where they had previously buried a number of specimens. At last, when he had formed an ample collection, he published a folio volume containing twenty-eight plates, with a Latin text explanatory to them, dedicating the volume to the Prince-Bishop of Wurzburg. The opinions expressed in this book, and the strange manner in which they are defended, rendered it a curious evidence of the extravagant credulity and folly of its author, who meant to follow it up with other publications; but being apprised by M. Deckard, a brother professor, of the hoax that had been practised, the deluded author became most anxious to recall his work. It is therefore very rare, being only met with in the libraries of the curious.

CHATTERTON'S FORGERIES.—Mr. W. H. D. Adams says of this unfortunate poet:—"When Thomas Chatterton was a pupil at the Bristol Charity School, known as Colson's or the Bluecoat, he was accustomed to spend his holidays in the beautiful old church of St. Mary Redcliffe, and there he seems to have conceived the idea of a series of poems based on the early history of Bristol, to be written in the character of one Thomas Rowley, parish priest of St. John's. He was able to do this easily, as Chatterton's father had removed from the Treasury House of the church a pile of mediæval documents. In September 1768 a new bridge across the Avon was opened with great public rejoicings, and a few days afterwards appeared in the "Bristol Weekly Journal" what purported to be a contemporary description (from an old manuscript) of the opening of the old bridge, which naturally attracted a good deal of attention. Chatterton was strongly pressed to state where he had obtained this precious manuscript, the genuineness of which no one seems to have suspected. After some hesitation he unfolded the fiction which loaded his memory with so much obloquy, and made his life so disastrous a failure, namely that 'he had received the paper in question, together with many other manuscripts, from his father, who had found them in a large chest in the upper room over the chapel, on the north side of Redcliffe Church.'"

He afterwards submitted some Rowley poems to Horace Walpole, who referred them to the poets Gray and Mason. The latter, however, immediately pronounced them to be forgeries. The closing scene of Chatterton's life is well known—that of a suicide by poison.

CRUEL HOAX.—According to the "European Magazine" (1817), "a blind man of Paris, retiring in the dusk to his hovel, after having spent the day in begging, with little success, was accosted by a person who told him that if he would go home with him, he should be well repaid for his trouble. The blind man joyfully consented to be conducted to his new friend's house, and was thus addressed by him: "I am not rich, and yet wish to show charity to the poor, which I have no other possibility of doing, unless by giving them a parcel of tales and novels, which I compose, to sell at a very moderate price for their own benefit. Here, my friend, is a good parcel of them, which you shall dispose of at the rate of twopence each, although they are intrinsically worth thrice the money." The poor fellow, after loudly expressing his gratitude, groped his way home exultingly, and sallied out early the next morning to enjoy the profits of his benefactor's productions. He cried his pamphlets by the title of a new novel as he had been directed, and for some time had no custom, but one of the books having been purchased and examined, the rest met with a most rapid sale, and the blind man returned homewards with his pockets well loaded. His pleasant ideas were, however, soon checked by his finding himself in the custody of a police officer, who told him that the book he had been selling was a most virulent and impudent satire against a person of rank. The poor blind man protested his innocence, and told his tale, which, luckily for him, was believed; but he could give no information which could lead to the contriver of this ingenious and new way of spreading abroad scandal with impunity."

THE EGG HOAX.—Charles Mackay, in his "Popular Delusions," relates the following incident. "A panic terror of the end of the world seized the good people of Leeds and its neighbourhood in the year 1806. It arose from the following circumstances. A hen in a village close by laid eggs on which were inscribed, in legible characters, the words 'Christ is coming.' Great numbers visited the spot and examined these wonderful eggs, convinced that the day of judgment was near at hand. Like sailors in a storm, expecting every instant to go to the bottom, the believers suddenly became religious, prayed violently, and flattered themselves that they repented them of their evil courses. But a plain tale soon put them down, and quenched their religion entirely. Some gentlemen, hearing of the matter, went one fine morning and caught the poor hen in the act of laying one of her miraculous eggs. They soon ascertained beyond doubt that the egg had been inscribed with some corrosive ink, and cruelly forced back again into the bird's body. At this explanation those who had prayed now laughed, and the world wagged as merrily as of yore."

(To be continued.)

"Book of Rarities," by EDWARD ROBERTS P.M.

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

Monday.	
1366 Highgate, Midland Grand H'tl.	433 Hope, Brightlingsea
1922 Earl of Lathom, Camberwell	467 Tudor, Oldham
2426 Wood Green, Wood Green	481 St. Peter, Newcastle-on-Tyne
40 Derwent, Hastings	589 Druid Love & Lib., Redruth
61 Probita, Halifax	643 Royal, Fife
68 Royal Clarence, Bristol	671 Prince of Wales, Llanely
75 Love and Honour, Falmouth	699 Roscawea, Chacewater
89 Unanimity, Dukinfield	797 Hauley, Dartmouth
105 Fortitude, Plymouth	884 Derwent, Wirksworth
106 Sun, Exmouth	893 Meridan, Millbrook
151 Albany, Newport, I. of Wight	1168 Benevolence, Sherbourne
189 Sincerity, East Stonehouse	1221 Defence, Leeds
237 Indefatigable, Swansea	1271 F'dship & Unity, Bradf'd-on-A'vn
240 St. Hilda, South Shields	1272 Tregenna, St. Ives
264 Nelson of the Nile, Batley	1286 Bayon, Market Rasen
297 Whitlam, Lincoln	1302 De Warren, Halifax
302 Hope, Bradford	1408 Stamford & Warr'gton, St'y'b'ge
303 Benevolent, Teignmouth	1436 Castle, Sandgate
307 Prince Frederick, Hebden Bridge	1449 Royal Military, Canterbury
330 One and All, Bodmin	1486 Duncombe, Kingsbridge
388 Prudence, Halesworth	1496 Trafford, Moss Side
408 Three Graces, Haworth	1542 Legiolum, Castleford
	1600 Hamilton, Alford
	1611 Eboracum, York

1618 Handyside, Saltburn-by-Sea
1691 Quadratic, Hampton Court
1792 Tudor, Harborne
1885 Torridge, Great Torrington
1948 Hardman, Rawtenstall
1952 High Peak, Chapel-en-le-Frith
1966 Fidelity & Sincerity, Wellington
1977 Blackwater, Maldon
2376 Carnarvon, Leyland
2422 Ebbisham, Epsom
2487 St. Michael, Stone
2584 Queen Victoria, Manchester

Tuesday.

167 St. John, Hampstead Heath
131 Fortitude, Truro
184 United Chatham, New Bro'pton
241 Merchant, Liverpool
272 Harmony, Boston
319 New Forest, Lymington
366 St. David, Milford
371 Perseverance, Maryport
473 Faithful, Birmingham
496 Peace & Harmony, St. Austell
603 Zetland, Cleckheaton
626 Lansdowne Unity, Chippenham
696 St. Bartholomew, Wednesbury
764 H'rbour of Refuge, W. H'tlep'l.
789 Dunheved, Launceston
814 Parrett and Axe, Crewkern
829 Sydney, Sidcup
877 Royal Alfred, Jersey
897 S. Helen of Loyalty, St. Helen's
967 Three Grand Principles, Penryn
979 Four Cardinal Virtues, Crewe
990 Neyland, Neyland
1021 Hartington, Barrow-in-Furness
1028 Royal Alfred, Alfreton
1073 Greta, Keswick
1214 Scarborough, Batley
1220 Solway, Aspatria
1250 Gilbert Greenall, Warrington
1266 Honour & Friendship, Blandford
1267 Kenlis, Egremont
1314 Acacia, Bromley
1373 St. Hubert, Andover
1402 Jordan, Torquay
1476 Blackpool, Blackpool
1482 Isle of Axholme, Crowle
1528 Fort, Newquay
1545 Baildon, Baildon
1587 St. Giles, Cheadle
1713 Wilbraham, Walton-on-the-Hill
1823 Royal Clarence, Clare
1837 Lullingstone, Willmington
1847 Ebrington, Stonehouse
1902 St. Cuthbert, Bedlington
2099 Ethelbert, Herne Bay
2134 Wilberforce, Hull
2222 Frederick West, East Molesey
2492 Concordia, Wendover

Wednesday.

Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 4.
13 Union Waterloo, Plumstead
820 Lily Richmond, Inns of Ct. Ho.
1629 United, Freemasons'-hall
1827 Alliance, Guildhall Tavern
1986 Honor Oak, Upper Norwood
2528 Lancastrian, Frascati
2581 Empress, Earl's Court
84 Doyle of Friendship, Guernsey
128 Prince Edwin, Bury
187 Rl. Sussex Hospitality, Bristol
258 Amphibious, Heakmondwike
274 Tranquility, Newchurch
277 Friendship, Oldham
281 Fortitude, Lancaster
288 Harmony, Todmorden
290 Huddersfield, Huddersfield
320 Loyalty, Mottram
323 Concord, Stockport
368 Samaritan, Sandbach
372 Harmony, Budleigh Salterton
380 Integrity, Morley
387 Airedale, Shipley
498 Royal Standard, Dudley
504 Berkhamstead, Berkhamstead
533 Eaton, Congleton
555 Fidelity, Framlingham
580 Harmony, Ormskirk
654 Peveril of the Peak, New Mills
661 Fawcett, Seaham Harbour
666 Benevolence, Dartmoor
679 St. David, Aberdare
697 United, Colchester
708 Carnarvon, Hampton Court
730 Ellesmere, Chrcley
731 Arboretum, Derby
755 St. Tudno, Llandudno
851 Worthing Friendship, Worthing
852 Zetland, Salford
906 Royal Albert Edward, Bath
910 St. Oswald, Pontefract

1018 Shakespeare, Bradford
1024 St. Peter, Maldon
1091 Erme, Ivybridge
1094 Temple, Liverpool
1107 Cornwallis, Chiselhurst
1140 Ashton, Heaton Moor
1181 De la Pole, Seaton
1209 Lewises, Ramsgate
1248 Denison, Scarborough
1331 Aldershot Camp, Aldershot
1342 Walker, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1356 Toxteth, Liverpool
1398 Baldwin, Dalton-in-Furness
1400 Curwen, Workington
1529 Duke of Cornwall, St. Columb
1544 Mount Edgcumbe, Camborne
1547 Liverpool, Liverpool
1576 Dee, Park-gate, Cheshire
1643 Perseverance, Hebburn-on-Tyne
1645 Colne Valley, Slaithwaite
1855 St. Maurice, Plympton
1879 Lord Warkworth, Amble
1932 Whitworth, Spennymoor
1958 St. George, Portsea
2156 Arthur Sullivan, Manchester
2294 Wavertree, Wavertree
2355 Chantrey, Dore
2389 Avondale, Middlewich
2423 St. Mark, Connah Quay
2450 Loxfield, Uckfield
2483 Hadrian, Westham
2504 Earl of Warwick, Buckh'rst Hill
2583 St. Thomas, Tibshelf

Thursday.

813 New Concord, Guildhall Tavern
1623 West Smithfield, Freemasons'-h.
57 Humber, Hull
98 St. Martin, Burslem
203 Ancient Union, Liverpool
215 Commerce, Haslingden
230 Fidelity, Devonport
245 Mechanics, Jersey
267 Unity, Macclesfield
286 Samaritan, Bacup
324 Moira, Stalybridge
343 Concord, Preston
345 Perseverance, Blackburn
367 Probita & Freedom, Rochdale
450 Cornubian, Hayle
456 Foresters, Uttoxeter
469 Hundred of Elloe, Spalding
472 F'ship & Sincerity, Shaftesbury
600 Harmony, Bradford
625 Devonshire, Glossop
659 Blagdon, Blyth
758 Ellesmere, Runcorn
802 Repose, Derby
940 Philanthropy, Stockton
971 Trafalgar, Batley
1011 Richmond, Manchester
1037 Portland, Portland
1042 Excelsior, Leeds
1184 Abbey, Battle
1247 St. John, Plymouth
1327 King Harold, Waltham Cross
1332 Unity, Crediton
1386 St. Hugh, Lincoln
1393 Hamer, Liverpool
1464 Erasmus Wilson, Gravesend
1514 Thornhill, Huddersfield
1562 Homfray, Risca
1594 Cedewain, Newtown, Mont.
1776 Landport, Landport
2189 Ashburton, Ashburton
2268 Hallamshire, Sheffield
2305 Stour, Ashford, Kent
2352 Universities, Durham
2374 Shurmur, Chingford
2390 Exmoor, Minehead
2430 Runnymede, Wraysbury
2523 Roll Call, Hounslow
2555 England Centre, Weedon

Friday.

255 Harmony, Richmond
401 Royal Forest, Slaidburn
460 Sut'land Unity, N'castle-u-Lyme
652 Holme Valley, Holmfirth
1034 Eccleshill, Eccleshill
1108 Royal Wharfedale, Otley
1311 Zetland, Leeds
2005 Brooke, Chingford
2078 St. Lawrence, Scunthorpe

Saturday.

1185 Lewis, Wood Green
1329 Sphinx, Camberwell
2308 Viator, Anderton's
2041 West Kent Volunteer, Plums'd.
149 Peace, Meltham
444 Union, Starcross
453 Chigwell, Chingford
811 Yarborough, Brighton
1326 Lebanon, Feltham
1556 Addiscombe, Croydon

FESTIVAL OF THE BOYS SCHOOL.—LIST OF STEWARDS AND AMOUNTS.

LONDON.

Lodge	£	s	d
1 Bro Newton Dunn	31	10	0
2 John Jupe	33	12	0
4 Robert L Devonshire	21	0	0
5 A S Reed	50	0	0
6 W H N Goschen	52	10	0
7 E F Schmattau	46	4	0
8 Arthur L Coles	25	14	6
10 Dr. R D Sweeting	45	13	0
14 R D Hancock	21	0	0
19 J H Whadcoat	10	10	0
21 Major R L S Badham	36	15	0
23 John Verity	21	0	0
25 Henry L Davis	34	7	0
26 W H Propert	24	3	0
28 Albert F Calvert			
29 George Grant	33	12	0
45 G Green Symons	68	5	0
46 Rowland Plumbe	52	10	0
58 Thomas C Tanner	112	7	0
59 A S Berenburg	148	11	6
91 V B M Zanchi	33	12	0
101 Benjamin Dowssett	45	3	0
134 Dr. Alexander Findlater	35	3	0
141 Jos. Gluckstein	59	16	6
147 John Dixon	34	15	6
162 Charles Ronaldson	21	0	0
172 Richard Cawley	84	0	0
173 N R Hart	64	1	0
176 M Slaughter	52	10	0
179 James Watts	84	0	0
188 Lewis Lazarus	100	0	0
194 Charles Hunt	82	19	0
197 His Honor Judge Masterman (see also Lo. 1118 and Prov. of Notts)	42	0	0
198 James Cowlin	33	6	0
201 Alfred Davies	91	7	0
211 Arthur B Spawforth	12	12	0
217 J F Jones	25	0	0
231 Charles D Hoblyn	49	7	0
235 John M Courage			
259 C Vincent Cotterell	52	10	0
435 George Michael	51	9	0
534 Bernard Abrahams	10	0	0
548 Walter Jones	52	10	0
569 Charles W P Dyke	103	3	0
720 George Treves	70	0	0
733 John Walford	33	12	0
765 Henry E King	71	8	0
857 R T Grisenthwaite	64	1	0
860 T B Dodson	21	0	0
879 Walter Martin	63	0	0
901 G H Fisher	44	0	0
902 Charles Butcher	43	1	0
917 H E Sanders			
957 M Burgoyne	36	15	0
1017 S A Rothschild	27	6	0
1118 His Hon. Judge Masterman (see Lodge 197)	47	5	0
1178 F W Green	123	0	0
1185 Alfred Wood	47	5	0
1201 Alexander Reside	52	10	0
1216 R A Marshall	238	7	0
1259 J W Westmoreland	82	2	0
1260 J R Reep			
1278 Herbert Grant			
1320 Samuel Johnson	65	1	6
1328 Charles Smith	23	12	6
1360 W F Driver	52	10	0
1366 R Pain Walkden	21	0	0
1382 G Brindley	65	2	0
1383 E Flower, M.P.			
1426 George J Wright	20	0	0
1445 H Winkley	38	17	0
1507 Joseph Bate	72	19	0
1539 W G Cannon	32	11	0
1540 Joseph H Polak	65	2	0
1558 James A Shelton	150	3	0
1572 J G Poynter	54	1	6
1586 E T Clarke	52	10	0
1599 E J Wickenden	67	14	6
1602 G F Wheeler			
1604 Fred W Ogg	53	0	6
1608 Charles Morrison	100	0	0
1613 F Page	78	15	0
1615 Sir W G Pearce, Bart.	35	0	0
1624 W J Hellyar (see also Kent)			
1658 H B Buckridge	42	0	0
1671 James G Vigo	150	0	0
1687 Thomas J Bolton	85	1	0
1693 Arthur W Cooper	52	10	0
1704 Hugh E Diamond	30	9	0
1704 Major H Vane Stow (see also Lo. 2578)	30	0	0
1728 Charles Weil	75	1	6
1743 Henry C Lonsdale	114	19	6
1789 W Shackleton	78	10	0
1791 R N Larter	202	13	0
1815 George Jas Wright (see also Lo. 1426)			
1839 Charles Heinekey	29	10	0
1901 Frederick E Pow			
1901 A H Fraser	115	10	0

1910 Henry J Kluht	15	15	0
2012 Richard J Steel			
2030 George White	75	0	0
2098 John J Done	21	0	0
2127 S H T Armitage, M.D.	31	10	0
2168 John P Harding	110	5	0
2202 John Wilkins	126	0	0
2202 Frank E Osborne			
2265 L S Genese	50	0	0
2291 Joseph H Pavitt	103	6	0
2310 J A Braik	55	2	6
2319 James Thompson	23	13	0
2332 Edward W Higgs	115	10	0
2361 Walter Ginger, J.P.	200	0	0
2408 Dr. F H Gervis	43	0	0
2411 A P Bebrouth	410	0	0
2455 H T Brickwell	35	2	6
2456 H Baillie Weaver	25	4	0
2488 Alfred J Thomas	68	5	0
2512 T Blanco White	105	0	0
2535 E L P Valeriani	415	5	0
2551 W M Stiles	27	6	0
2578 Maj. H Vane Stow (see also No. 1718)			
2581 Imre Kiralfy	100	0	0
2621 R A Marshall (see also No. 1216)			
2658 Alfred Saunders	37	16	0

LODGES OF INSTRUCTION.

167 Bro W Hillier	84	0	0
188 & 1507 J F Saunders	42	0	0

COMMITTEE DINNER CLUB.

Bro. John Glass	89	5	0
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GAVEL CLUB.

W G Kentish	31	10	0
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UNATTACHED.

A Frank Adams			
A John C Alton			
A Stanley J Attenborough			
A R Ballinger			
A W H Bailey			
G R Blades			
A Stewart Brown	36	15	0
W P Brown	10	10	0
W H Burney	31	10	0
A Geo H Burns			
A W H Butler			
A C W Chandler			
W H Clifton	5	5	0
J Campbell Johnstone	10	10	0
A C Hunwicks Cooper			
A Charles H Denny			
John C Edwards	10	10	0
Francis Gosnay	10	10	0
A Tom Green			
Robert Grey	21	0	0
James Irvine	10	10	0
W H Kempster, M.D.	10	10	0
Frank R Kenning	10	10	0
A J J Court			
A Walter R King			
Capt. C J Knightley	10	10	0
John Larkin, J.P.			
W S Lawrence	21	0	0
A John Lusty jun.			
H Thompson Lyon	10	10	0
J M McLeod	68	5	0
Horace B Marshall, M.A., J.P.	21	0	0
J H Matthews	52	10	0
A Daniel Mayer			
Alderman W V Morgan	105	0	0
E D Oppert	21	0	0
A J R Pakeman			
A Oscar Philippe			
F W Prior	15	15	0
David Ringrose	21	0	0
A Farquharson Roberts			
A Thomas Simkins			
C J Smith	10	10	0
George F Smith	10	10	0
Percy S Smith			
W J Songhurst	10	10	0
James Willing jun	10	10	0

LADIES.

A Mrs. Frank Adams			
Miss A R Bagshawe	40	0	0
A Mrs. W H Bailey			
A Mrs. A Stewart Brown			
Mrs. W H Burney	10	10	0
Mrs. Gluckstein	5	5	0
A Mrs. Tom Green			
A Mrs. W A Hine			
A Mrs. Lewis Lazarus			
A Mrs. J Lusty jun			
A Mrs. F G Osborne			
A Mrs. Page			
Mrs. N Smith	5	5	0
A Mrs. J G Vigo			

Miss G M Walkden	10	10	0
A Mrs. J Watts			
A Mrs. J W Westmoreland			
A Mrs. T Blanco White			
A Mrs. John Wilkins			

THE PROVINCES.

BERKSHIRE.

414 Bro C E Keyser, J.P. (see also Herts)	80	17	0
574 H D O W Astley	27	6	0
1101 F Tunbridge	36	15	0
1770 C S Spackman			
2560 W Parton	31	10	0

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

1501 Bro Walter Birch	31	10	0
2458 W B Fendick	21	0	0
Unatt. J J Simcox	10	10	0
A James Stephens			
J J Thomas	10	10	0
Mrs. James Stephens	5	5	0

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

Unatt. Bro W Briggs, LL.M.	10	10	0
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CHESHIRE.

425 Bro Alfred Sharpe	23	2	0
425 Percy Bouch	35	0	0
979 F R Oke	10	10	0
1565 A C Sparkes			
2433 John Armstrong			

CORNWALL.

Prov. Bro. E D Anderton	97	13	0
Unatt. Mrs. E D Anderton	5	5	0

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND.

Lord H Cavendish Bentinok, M.P. (the Chairman)	577	10	0
Prov. Bro. Col. F R Sewell DPGM (see also Lo. 1002)	36	15	0
119 A The Hon. H V Duncombe, M.P.			
119 A Col. W H Atkinson			
119 Isaac Maxwell	46	0	0
229 R J Nelson	5	5	0
310 Joseph Wharton	21	0	0
327 Henry Bewes	21	0	0
339 J Barnsley Thwaites	21	0	0
371 James Dickinson	31	10	0
372 J M Clark	15	15	0
962 James Jones	31	10	0
962 John Paterson			
1002 Col. F R Sewell DPGM (see also Province)			
1073 Joseph Hope	57	15	0
1974 John Roper	10	10	0
1074 T M Rallingshaw	11	0	6
1074 Charles Whitaker			
1267 S Braithwaite	21	0	0
1390 John Mills	21	0	0
1400 Lancelot Ward	10	10	0
1400 Joseph Kerly			
1532 Walter Gibbings	60	0	0
1660 E Jackson	10	10	0
1989 Charles Gowan	47	13	0
2217 T A Argles	21	0	0
2285 Joseph C Thompson (see also Prov. G. Mark Lodge)	42	0	0
Prov. G. Chap. } R.A. Chap. 119 } Comp. G Dalrymple	139	17	0
R.C. Chap. 112 }			
Prov. G. Mark Lodge Joseph C Thomp- son (see also Lo. 2285)			
Unatt. A Mrs. J Maxwell			
A Miss Sewell			

DERBYSHIRE.

253 Bro T C Eastwood	10	10	0
353 William Baker	78	15	0
353 A John Morris			
353 A Peach			
495 H W Tomlinson	21	0	0
Unatt. A Miss Tomlinson			

DEVONSHIRE.

Prov. Bro James R Wilson	82	8	6
Unatt. A F B Westlake			

DORSETSHIRE.

P.G. Lodge, P.G. Chap. & Lo. 1037 C J Freeman, J.P.	375	0	0
Unatt. A Mrs. C. J. Freeman			
A Bro C H Freeman			

ESSEX.

1343 Bro Edward Ayres	31	10	0
1734 Percy E Beard	26	5	0
Unatt. J H Bridgeman	10	10	0
A G Hayman	10	10	0
James Speller	10	10	0
Mrs. James Spelley	5	5	0

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.			2586 Robert J Ball 110 5 0			SUSSEX.		
Prov. Bro A F Sumner	115 10 0		2548 Stephen Hussey (see also No. 1637)	—		2483 Bro George Nicholson	19 2 6	
246 S P Ryland	89 5 0		1423(Ch.) Comp. G S Daunton	10 10 0		Unatt. C W Hudson	10 10 0	
702 A S Winterbotham	21 0 0		Unatt. J R Roach	42 0 0		J Trill		
761 Major-General W J Vizard	31 10 0		C Fruen	26 5 0		WARWICKSHIRE.		
1005 H Jenkins	10 10 0		A Mrs. W B Benjafield	—		502 Bro J V V Fitzgerald, Q.C.	15 15 0	
Unatt. Rev. Dr. C V Childe	10 10 0		Mrs. Mercer	5 5 0		1016 W Morgan	} 31 10 0	
Unatt. R V Vassar-Smith	10 10 0		Mrs. Fruen	10 10 0		1016 W Gay		
Mrs. Vizard	5 5 0		NORTHANTS AND HUNTS.			1016 J Barker		
Winterbotham	5 5 0		360 Bro Geo Ellard	331 7 0		WORCESTERSHIRE.		
HANTS AND ISLE OF WIGHT.			442 Isaac Whitsed (see also No. 2533)	105 0 0		1204 Bro A A Brockatt, M.D.	24 3 0	
76 Bro W Carter	47 5 0		442 Henry Carman	10 10 0		2385 Herbert Manley	26 5 0	
394 W Bates	21 0 0		445 Frank T Clarke	13 0 0		2385 AA L North	—	
1331 Serg. L Cornerford	3 0 0		1911 John Haviland	10 10 0		YORKSHIRE (WEST RIDING).		
1428 William Miller	31 10 0		1911 H W K Markham	52 10 0		306 Bro John C Malcolm		
2068 R G Pither	31 10 0		1911 Harry Manfield	10 10 0		306 W Blackburn		
Unatt. Richard Eve	15 10 0		2533 Isaac Whitsed (see also No. 442)	—		306 A Redmayne		
Unatt. John W Gieve	21 0 0		2555 E G Stocker	10 10 0		306 John Dyson		
Maj. J E Le Feuvre	36 15 0		NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.			306 W M Tate		
HERTFORDSHIRE.			Prov. Bro Enoch Hind	194 0 0		652 James Graham		
449 Bro W Weiss	22 1 0		Unatt. His Hon. Judge Masterman	36 15 0		904 F Cleeves		
860 F A Taylor	40 8 6		(see also London)			974 A P Rondell		
2218 Collected under Law 20	18 17 0		NORTH WALES.			974 W C Lupton		
2323 C E Keyser, J.P.	67 4 0		Unatt. Bro C K Benson	26 5 0		974 George F Blackburn		
Unatt. W J J James	10 10 0		A S Freme Clement	—		1102 T G Howell		
Unatt. W Metcalfe	10 10 0		OXFORDSHIRE.			1102 Walter Bailey		
Everett	5 5 0		340 Bro James Goold	63 0 0		1239 Charles Stokes		
KENT.			357 W Lewis Morgan, M.A.	56 13 0		1239 A Davidson		
615 Bro Israel Turton	200 0 0		599 J Smyth Fortescue	11 11 0		1302 W Butterworth		
874 Louis S Beale	26 5 0		1515 J Hardie McLean	25 5 6		1522 Arthur Holmes		
1692 W Burr	85 1 0		1895 J A Rigge	16 16 0		1522 Dr. R W Bates		
2099 W J Hellyar (see also No. 1624 London)	40 0 0		2414 Sydney Dunsford	10 13 0		1522 H S Smith		
2205 J L Barrett	21 0 0		SHROPSHIRE.			2491 W Gunstone		
2530 Capt. E Blanks	47 5 0		Prov. Bro Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., PGM	15 15 0		Mrs. W Blackburn		
LANCASHIRE (EASTERN DIVISION).			26 F Salisbury	63 0 0		Miss A M Blackburn		
645 Bro Isidore Gotz	34 13 0		SOMERSETSHIRE.			Miss M E Blackburn		
1083 P Summerton	10 10 0		329 Bro F Buchanan Smith	42 0 0		Mrs. F Cleeves		
2185 W J Melling	10 10 0		1893 O W Wiltshire	55 0 0		Miss A A Holiday		
Unatt. Samuel Moore			STAFFORDSHIRE.			Miss M E Holiday		
Mrs. P Summerton	5 5 0		539 Bro A Dewsbury (see also R.A.C. 539)	89 5 0		Mrs. A Redmayne		
LANCASHIRE (WESTERN DIVISION).			539 Fred Gnosill	89 5 0		Total from the Province	350 0 0	
Prov. Bro T Banner Newton	10 10 0		539(Ch) Comp A Dewsbury (see also Lodge 539)			ISLE OF MAN.		
950 Gabriel Schjoth	24 0 0		624 Bro E H Clarke	99 15 0		1242 Bro Thomas S Atkinson	10 10 0	
1070 J M McLeod (see also Unatt. London)	36 15 0		SUFFOLK.			1242 J Burman	15 15 0	
1070 Max Isaac	10 10 0		1224(Ch.) Comp G H Grimwood	31 10 0		2049 G C Heron	26 10 0	
1525 J W Burgess	36 15 0		SURREY.			FOREIGN STATIONS.		
1505 John E Williams	10 10 0		463 Bro B A Williams	47 4		MALTA.		
1561 Thomas Baxter	54 3 0		1347 Hugh Taylor	82 8 0		EGYPT.		
1730 John H Marsh	10 10 0		1638 C E Oldridge	25 4 6		ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.		
Unatt. Capt. C H Garnett	10 10 0		1872 C C Gibbes	10 10 0		2459 Bro Alfred Eaton	36 15 0	
Mrs. Thomas Baxter	5 5 0		1872 S H Hodgkin	10 10 0		The amounts from Stewards marked "A" are included in Lodge or Provincial list.		
LINCOLNSHIRE.			1892 W J Baker, C.E.	34 8 0				
792 Bro Wm Hill	10 10 0		2101 Francis Dowse	26 10 6				
MIDDLESEX.			2146 John Williams	36 15 0				
382 Bro H Mercer	31 0 0		2422 E G Wilson	15 15 0				
1549 J Blackburn	50 0 0		Unatt. Alex Edis	22 1 0				
1549 W W Mansfield	15 0 0		Mrs. Lancaster	24 3 0				
1579 W B Benjafield	55 13 0		MIDLAND RAILWAY.					
1637 Stephen Hussey (see also No. 2548)	73 10 0		WE have already spoken of the growing popularity of Ireland as a resort for Tourists, and now have pleasure in referring to excursions arranged by the Midland Company from St. Pancras and other London Stations: every Friday to Dublin, Ballina, Sligo, and the south of Ireland; and every Saturday to Londonderry; while fortnightly excursions will also be run to Belfast, Londonderry, Portrush, &c. on alternate Fridays from the 16th inst. These trips are so arranged that a fortnight is available in the Emerald Isle, and we may refer our readers for further particulars to the different announcements issued by the Company.					
2523 Charles Robinson	63 0 0		Scotland is also well served in the matter of excursions over the Midland system, trips being arranged for 5, 11 or 16 days, or tickets may be secured at a single fare for the double journey, available for return at any time within sixteen days from date of issue. Other fortnightly excursions are announced to the north of England, while cheap trips are run every week (on Fridays at midnight, and on Saturdays at 5.15 and 10.5 a.m.) to the Isle of Man. Among other trips arranged by the Company are excursions for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days to the chief holiday resorts of Lancashire, the English Lake district, Derbyshire, &c.					
FACILITIES FOR NORTH ROAD CYCLISTS.			A CLASS of the travelling public whose wants have not as yet been fully recognised by our railway authorities will welcome the introduction by the Great Northern Railway of a series of tours for stations between London and Peterboro, to include extended facilities in the form of combined tickets to cover both passengers and cycles, enabling cyclists to alight at one station on the outward journey, and to rejoin the train at another station on the homeward journey. The object of these tours is to enable the cyclist to escape the monotony of the repeated ride through the London suburbs, and to commence and end his road journey in more pleasurable country					

surroundings. Under the auspices of the Company, a special handbook has been prepared by their Official Tourist Agent, Dr. Lunn, giving particulars of sixteen alternative tours, with a capital road map of each, and in addition lists of hotels, cycle repairers and other information invaluable to cyclists. Copies of the book may be obtained at all the Company's Offices in London and the Suburbs.

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VISIT TO ARUNDEL.

ON Friday, 2nd inst., Arundel was visited by a party of Brethren and Ladies on the occasion of the annual outing of the Strand Lodge, No. 1987, whose members were accompanied by several Brethren of the Eccentric Lodge. The party, which in all numbered 48, arrived at Arundel by the 12.37 train in special saloons. Luncheon was partaken of at the Norfolk Hotel, where Host J. N. Hare provided an excellent repast. A drive to Parham, the seat of Lord Zouche, was the next item on the programme, and, after exploring the lovely and picturesque spot, the party found to their delight (especially the ladies) a refreshing cup of tea ready on the lawn, and, needless to say, something for the gentlemen. Returning to Arundel by six o'clock the party sat down to a banquet.

There were present Bro. W. M. Stiles P.G.Treas. P.M. and Secretary, Bro. E. Singleton Hooper W.M. 1987 S.W. of Eccentric Lodge, Bro. Gilmore P.M. (Royal Princess's Theatre), Bro. Campbell Assist. Sec., Bro. O'Brien J.W., Bro. J. Stephens P.M., Bro. R. Dean P.M., Dr. White J.W. Eccentric Lodge, and several other brethren from the same Lodge, whose presence was greatly appreciated. Bro. Hare (the Host) is the permanent Steward, and from remarks made at table seems to be the right man in the right place. A pleasant surprise awaited him, for Bro. Dean had the pleasure of presenting to the popular Officer a silver cigar case and silver matchbox, and Mrs. Hare was not forgotten, a beautiful scent bottle with her initials inscribed on the silver top being presented at the same time. The party left Arundel after expressing themselves delighted with the lovely scenery of Arundel Park and the drive to and from Parham.

ANNUAL PICNIC OF THE LODGE OF TRUTH, No. 1458.

WHEN Xerxes, the Persian monarch and voluptuary, pined for a new pleasure, and even offered a reward to the man who could invent one, he had probably never been introduced to that form of enjoyment which we moderns are content to designate by the name of picnic. And without wishing to enter into a homily upon the subject, we must observe that this very rational means of spending a day seems to have become one of the special features in connection with many organisations. No wonder then that the members of the Lodge of Truth should obey a natural impulse and endeavour to escape from the azote of Cottonopolis to the more congenial ozone of the country, choosing Derbyshire on this occasion, a county popularised by the writings of Sir Walter Scott and Charlotte Bronte. On the morning of Saturday last, the 3rd inst., and at an hour when myriads of toilers were wending their way citywards, a crowd of ladies and gentlemen, numbering considerably over fifty, collected on a platform of the Central Station, Manchester, bound for Grindleford, or, to give it its old title, Grindleford Bridge. A large and handsome saloon carriage had been provided, and the party, which we accompanied, went to its destination in comfort. Upon arrival at Grindleford, conveyances were in readiness, and a pleasant drive was commenced by Fox House, Burbage Brook, and Froggatt Edge. It was this delightful neighbourhood through which the river Derwent meanders that supplied the author of *Jane Eyre* with much of her scenery for the popular novel.

A keen bracing wind blew in the faces of the company as they were driven along the high roads, winding over the hills, which became merged into a soft balmy breeze as they reached the sheltered valleys. Upon arrival at Chatsworth the major portion of the company dismounted and gained admission into the palatial mansion of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire. The present edifice, which is situated in the midst of rich and fertile meadows, dates from the latter half of the 17th century, being built by William Cavendish, Earl of Devonshire. Not far away is the model village of Edensor, with its pretty church, in the burial ground of which lie the remains of Lord Frederick Cavendish, cruelly murdered in Phoenix Park, Dublin, by Irish Invincibles. The day of his funeral (6th May 1882) will live in the memory of those thousands who were witnesses of the sight. The old Duke, father of the deceased martyr, walked to the last resting place in company with another venerable celebrity, namely, Mr. Gladstone, accompanied also by the present Duke, then known as the Marquis of Hartington, who mourned the untimely loss of a beloved brother. The grave is a very unpretentious one, being marked by a homely inscription, and a cross which is equally as simple.

A brisk walk through the grounds, dotted with innumerable herds of deer, brought the party to the village of Baslow, where a capital dinner had been provided at the Devonshire Arms Hotel. Perhaps the strict municipal laws which have been enforced at Blackpool with regard to itinerant musicians may have driven some of them away to seek a precarious livelihood elsewhere; certainly our excellent meal at the "Devonshire" was ingested to the accompaniment of several instruments played by a troupe of burnt cork Orpheuses of the kerb, whose stomachs, compared with ours just repleted, seemed to have suffered somewhat from a Lenten holiday. It would be crediting our party with very little musical taste to say that they envied this performance; still they improvised a performance of their own by the aid of tin trumpets and other cheap primitive instruments, which made the welkin ring with dissonant sounds.

Another drive of three or four miles and Haddon Hall was reached. This structure, in front of which runs the river Wye, is situated fourteen miles from Buxton, and is described by Hall and Jewitt as "the most interesting and certainly the most attractive of all the ancient mansions of England." The building, though uninhabited, is kept in excellent preservation by the Rutland family, and visitors from all parts of the world find very many wonderful things to claim their attention. In the state sleeping room a bed was shown to us which Queen Elizabeth is said to have occupied. If you are of an inquisitive turn of mind, you will want to know all about Dorothy Vernon, once the heroine of a romantic elopement. The attendant will probably tell you that she was the younger daughter and co-heiress of Sir George, and she was married, not without much family opposition, to John Manners (afterwards Sir John), prior to the year 1567, the door where she made her escape from parental authority being pointed out to you. It is now called "Dorothy Vernon's door." She died in 1584, and her husband in 1611, both being buried in Bakewell Church, which ancient edifice contains some monuments of the Vernons, Lords of Haddon, and their successors of the family of Manners, elevated to the titles of Earls and Dukes of Rutland. Before leaving Haddon the party strolled on to the terrace and were photographed, which picture will form a pleasant memento of a very happy day.

Still another drive brought the party to the Rutland Arms Hotel, Bakewell, where a plain, but very welcome tea had been provided. Several Loyal and Masonic toasts were given, that of the Queen being proposed in very suitable terms by Bro. Thomas Pollitt Cooper W.M.

That in honour of the Ladies was proposed by Bro. W. H. Worsley I.P.M., who made some graceful allusions to those who were present, the reply falling to the lot of Bro. Dewhurst.

Bro. Herring P.M. introduced the name of the W.M., and infused into his speech a few of those touches which made his words very effective and acceptable to all.

The reply of Bro. Cooper W.M. was short and to the point, and he took the opportunity of reminding his audience that their stay in Bakewell was of short duration. A move was accordingly made to the station, the party reaching Manchester shortly after ten o'clock.

On the way home the toasts were continued, Bro. Worsley proposing a cordial vote of thanks to the picnic Committee, making special mention of Bro. Joseph Day, who had been appointed chairman by the W.M., and to whose indefatigable zeal the success of the outing was due. Songs and recitations whiled away the tedium of travel, the contributors being Bros. Cooper W.M., Alfred Hebden P.M. P.P.G.D.D.C., Edward Roberts P.M. 1459, Dewhurst, Whittaker, and Mr. Kinsey.

Among others we noticed that the following were present, viz., Bros. James W. Abbott P.M. P.P.G.D.C. W.M. 1030, A. B. Taylor S.W., Herbert Hellewell Secretary, and Past Masters Robert Caldwell P.P.G.S.B., and J. Archdale. As will be inferred from our previous remarks, most of the members were accompanied by their wives and lady friends.

BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY.

THE forty-sixth annual meeting of this Society was held on the 1st inst., at the Offices, 29 and 30 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane.

The report adopted states that during the financial year just closed the total receipts have reached the large sum of £18,967,010, exceeding by more than one-and-a-half million pounds the total receipts of all the other Incorporated and Un-incorporated Building Societies in the United Kingdom—numbering 2,625—as shown by the Chief Registrar's Return, presented to Parliament on the 23rd April last.

The Receipts from Subscriptions have amounted to £240,082, and from Deposits to £14,678,767. The Withdrawals have been £13,880,483, showing a Balance over the preceding year of £1,038,366, or a total increase since 1892 (a period of five years) of £3,438,741 after allowing for the large amounts withdrawn during the panic in that year. The total Liabilities on Subscriptions and Deposits now exceed nine millions (£9,113,454). The Balance of Assets in excess of Liabilities amounts to upwards of four hundred thousand pounds—£400,186 16s 4d. The total Assets are £9,513,641.

During the past year the sum of £4,317,502 has been invested in the purchase of Government and other Stocks; and Securities to the amount of £3,625,952 have been disposed of; the difference bringing up the Investments in convertible Securities and Ground Rents, including £702,348 cash at Bankers, to £3,620,913. Upwards of two millions of these funds—£2,158,589—are inscribed in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England; the amount invested in Consols and other British Government Securities being £1,515,353.

The fifteenth triennial Bonus has been apportioned this year in accordance with the Rules. The sum, with the Bonus previously set aside but not yet payable, will absorb £61,179 10s. This amount is provisionally credited to all members holding Investing Shares, but the Bonus is only payable provided the Instalments have been regularly made, and then not until the Shares have been ten years in existence.

A further sum of £25,000 has been added to the Permanent Guarantee Fund, which now stands at £200,000, the whole amount being invested in Consols. During the past year, 2,538 members have joined the Society, whilst 2,212 Current Accounts, and 7,173 Deposit Accounts have been opened, making a total of 11,923 new accounts.

The Shareholders now on the Register number 12,760, Current Accounts 17,818, and Deposit Accounts, 48,919, making a total of 79,497 Accounts now open. The number of Shares in existence at the close of the year is 65,985.

Since its establishment, the Society has returned to the Shareholders and Depositors more than one hundred and eighty millions (£180,130,326), the whole amount having been repaid upon demand. The amount advanced to Borrowers has been £3,225,315, and the amount of Interest and Bonus paid to Investors and Depositors is upwards of three millions sterling, the exact figures being £3,057,331.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION AT LANCASTER.

ON Wednesday, 30th ult., the Brethren of the various Lodges in Lancaster united in holding a banquet in the Co-operative Hall, in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. Fifty sat down to an excellent repast, after which the toast of "the Queen, the Duke of Lancaster," was proposed in felicitous terms by the Mayor, who referred to the great progress made during Her Majesty's long reign.

The Mayor next gave the health of the Prince of Wales G.M., and the present and past Grand Officers, which was also enthusiastically received. The toast of the Masonic Craft throughout the Empire was introduced by Bro. R. Nicholson, in an appropriate speech, and replied to by Bros. G. Kelland for the Lodge of Fortitude, C. F. Seward for the Rowley Lodge, and J. D. Bell for the Duke of Lancaster.

The Three Lancaster Lodges was submitted by Bro. G. Jackson, and responded to by Bros. H. Lee, J. W. Wearing, and J. E. Miller, the W.Ms.

The health of the Mayor was ably proposed by Bro. J. L. Barrow, and His Worship having responded, gave the health of Mr. J. L. Barrow, the Secretary of the banquet. The toast list was interspersed with songs, &c.

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