

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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A BACKWARD STEP.

WE are by no means surprised to hear that a section of the Scottish Craft are disposed to disagree with the alterations recently made in the Regulations of that Constitution—in regard to the interval that must elapse between the conferring of the different degrees—but we hope those who have brought about the change will stand manfully to their post, and will resent in the most imperative manner any attempt to revert to the old order of things, which allowed the three degrees to be conferred the same night, on the most flimsy of excuses, and at the same time created numerous situations which were a scandal to the Craft, and a disgrace to the Scottish section of it.

At the quarterly meeting of the Scottish Grand Lodge, held on Thursday, the Provincial Grand Master of Peebles, Roxburgh and Selkirk proposed that Provincial and District Grand Masters should have the power to grant dispensations allowing the degrees to be conferred at intervals of not less than one week, but happily there was a strong opposition, and eventually the proposal was rejected by 137 votes to 26. Another proposal on somewhat similar lines, but limited to Lodges in India and the Colonies only, was also rejected—by 105 to 41, so that it would seem the new party are at present numerically strong enough to stand firm against any alteration back to the old practice. They must not, however, relax their energies, or they may find themselves out-numbered in the near future, and one of the greatest advances towards Masonic progress in Scotland will be nullified.

The Brethren of Scotland who are working to maintain this improvement should be supported by outsiders.

PARADING MASONIC REGALIA.

WHILE on the subject of outside show and public displays of Masonic regalia, to which we have recently referred, we should like to direct the attention of Brethren generally to the very bad taste often displayed by individual members of the Fraternity, when they wear their apron, collar or jewels in public parts of licensed premises where their Lodge meeting is being held—a course that is not only contrary to the regulations of the Craft, but is calculated to bring the Craft into contempt or ridicule.

Brethren who rise to the dignity of Provincial Grand Lodge honours are generally supposed to have some knowledge of the regulations of the Craft on this subject, and they are the last who should require to be reminded of their duty in this respect. Yet we often find them among the foremost of the transgressors, especially on the occasion of their first appearance in the glory of Provincial “purple.”

We recently saw a most flagrant case, where a newly appointed Provincial Grand Officer took up a prominent position in the bar of the country Hotel where the meeting was held, clothed in all the splendour of his newly acquired rank, and evidently intending to arouse the envy of his less favoured

fellow creatures. What a pity he did not hear the remark of an outsider, evidently a man of the world, who observed: “Poor beggar, he appears to have been shut out from the Masonic banquet, and hopes to get satisfaction by making an exhibition of himself for the benefit of the yokels. He ought to come down here at Fair time.” What would have been the feelings of our decorated Brother had he heard those remarks? Yet the same probably occurs day by day when members of the Craft attempt to “show off” their decorations in public—to the annoyance of Brethren who prefer to keep Freemasonry as a secret society, and the possible amusement of the unenlightened.

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

THE quarterly meeting was held on the 5th, at Edinburgh. The attendance was up to the usual standard for the August meeting. The Right Hon. Lord Saltoun M.W. Grand Master presided.

Before the business of the meeting was proceeded with, the Grand Director of Ceremonies introduced as visitors to Grand Lodge Bros. J. Tait, from Toronto; J. G. Sharpe P.M. of Lodge No. 576, Gibraltar; and A. Paterson P.M. of Lodge No. 609, New York.

The Grand Master extended a cordial welcome to the visitors on behalf of Grand Lodge. He afterwards intimated that he had received a letter of thanks from the Secretary for Scotland for the address sent to Her Majesty on her Diamond Jubilee, and that the letter would be read at the next meeting of Grand Lodge.

The minutes of last Quarterly meeting and of Grand Committee were then approved.

A long discussion took place on a motion proposed by Dr. Middleton Provincial Grand Master of Peebles, Roxburgh, and Selkirk, to give power to Provincial and District Grand Masters to grant dispensations for the conferring of degrees at intervals of not less than one week. Bro. James Caldwell, in moving the previous question, thought it would be a mistake to go back to the old system so soon, and just as the Lodges throughout Scotland were settling down to the new rule of an interval of two weeks.

Bro. Hugh R. Wallace Provincial Grand Master for Ayrshire, seconded the previous question, and thought that any change would only result in difficulties. For Bro. Caldwell's amendment there voted 137, and for the motion 26.

A motion on similar lines to that of Bro. Middleton's was proposed by Bro. Denholm, with the difference that the change should apply to Lodges in India and the colonies only. On a vote being taken there voted in favour of the previous question 105, and for the motion 41.

Another motion, brought forward by Bro. James Muir Past G.D. of C. having for its object the introduction in Grand Lodge of voting papers for the election of members for Grand Committee, was defeated by 84 votes for the previous question, against 70 for the motion.

Other two motions on the same subject, of which notice had been given, fell to the ground, while a motion affecting two Lodges in the metropolitan district and another referring to the Mark Degree, were continued till the next meeting of Grand Lodge.

Reports were submitted showing the satisfactory state of Freemasonry in the Provinces of Perthshire West, Stirlingshire, and Argyll and the Isles. After a sitting of about two hours the Grand Lodge was closed.

The income of Grand Lodge during the quarter ending 24th July amounted to £1,593 2s 8d, while the expenditure amounted to £694 2s 7d. £132 was paid out in benevolent grants during the quarter. The grants in annuities paid by Grand Lodge to poor Brethren, widows, and orphans amounted to £1,160.—“Glasgow Evening News.”

SURREY.

THE annual meetings of the Provincial Grand Chapter and Provincial Grand Lodge were held at the Royal Asylum of St. Anne's Society, Redhill, on the 22nd ult., when there was a very large attendance, under the presidency of the Earl of Onslow, who is at the head of the Arch and Craft in this Province.

At the Chapter meeting sums of ten guineas each were voted to the three Institutions, and the general business of the year was transacted. Comp. W. Pile P.Z. was unanimously elected Prov. Grand Treasurer, and the other Officers were appointed.

At the Provincial Grand Lodge, subsequently held, sums of ten guineas each were voted to the two funds of the Benevolent Institution, to the Girls and Boys Schools, and to the Royal Asylum of St. Anne's Society, while a special grant was voted to the Centenary Festival account of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

Bro. G. B. Smallpiece was elected Prov. Grand Treasurer, and he was invested, together with the other Officers, by the Provincial Grand Master.

The usual banquet was afterwards held, at the Market Hall, the Earl of Onslow also presiding thereat, and submitting the customary toasts.

SUFFOLK.

THE annual Provincial Grand Lodge meeting was held at the Corn Exchange, Stowmarket, under the banner of the Phoenix Lodge, No. 516, on Friday, 30th ult., when the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G.Chap. officiated in the absence of Lord Henniker, the Masonic ruler of the county.

The Deputy, having opened the Lodge, read a letter from the Provincial Grand Master expressing deep regret at being unable to attend, in consequence of illness, and added that his medical adviser hoped that with a few more days' continued rest he would be considerably better.

Bro. Martyn then presented Bro. Tracy Provincial Grand Secretary, on behalf of the Lodges in the Province, with complete full dress Grand Lodge clothing, and a framed illuminated address on vellum, Bro. Martyn explaining that the presentation was the outcome of the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer conferred by the Grand Master upon Bro. Tracy. He read an extract from the Provincial Grand Master's letter, referring to Bro. Tracy, in which he expressed his sentiment of Bro. Tracy's worth, and hoping that there would be room in the address to receive his signature.

Bro. Tracy briefly acknowledged the gift, remarking that he had already been presented with the undress clothing by members of his own Lodge.

The roll of Provincial Grand Officers and the roll of Lodges were called over.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master appointed and invested the Officers for the year as follow :

Bro. A. W. Cobbold 81	-	-	-	Senior Warden
E. T. Drake 555	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. W. T. Pratt 555	-	-	-	Chaplains
Rev. J. R. M. Vatcher 1823	-	-	-	
H. J. Salmon 1008	-	-	-	Registrar
N. Tracy P.G.Std.Br. Eng. 376	-	-	-	Secretary
G. R. Quilter 2371	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
T. B. Read 114	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
T. Thwaites 376	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
J. M. Franks 376	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
E. W. Moore 388	-	-	-	Assist. Dir. of Cers.
W. T. Comber 1592	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
W. O. Bradbrook 516	-	-	-	Standard Bearers
C. W. Harper 1663	-	-	-	
Owen A. Clarke 1008	-	-	-	Organist
Alfred Spalding 376	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
W. Kemp 959	-	-	-	Pursuivant
W. H. Cook 225	-	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
F. G. Hawes 516	-	-	-	Stewards
F. C. Peacock 516	-	-	-	
H. J. Riches 1663	-	-	-	
B. W. Syer 376	-	-	-	Tyler.

The Board of General Purposes regretted being unable to present so favourable a report as last year, as the gains in number from 42 initiations and joinings 22, were rather more than balanced by resignations 43, deaths 17, and exclusions 5, resulting in a loss of one to the number, now amounting to 992. The arrears were very heavy, amounting to 106, as against 81 last year. With regard to the financial position, the course recommended by the Board last year of discharging the liabilities had been carried out, leaving a balance of £68 15s 7d, rather more than last year, but as the greater part of the fees of honour of this year were included in this, the balance was practically less, which could only be accounted for by the balance left last year being £20 less than the preceding year. With regard to the charities, the Board recommended the usual £21 to the Benevolent, £10 10s

to the Girls, and considering the Grand Master presides at the Centennial Anniversary, the Province should vote £31 10s, to the Boys Institution.

An amendment was proposed, and carried unanimously, that the sum of £52 10s, under the exceptional circumstances of the year, be granted to the Boys School, instead of the amount proposed in the report, and which was afterwards adopted nem. con.

The report of the Suffolk Masonic Charity Association, which contained no matters of public interest, was also adopted.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, in a brief address to the Brethren, said that it must be gratifying to them all to see how well Masonry was progressing in the Province. There was a very slight falling off in the numbers—one—but still they would rather have it on the other side. They all recognised, however, that they did not look so much to actual numbers as to the character and quality of the members in the Province. They had better go on as they were than increase their numbers to the disadvantage of the Craft. In almost every case there had been an increase of votes. The Province of Suffolk occupied a very different position now to what it did years ago, and he trusted that the Province would continue in its career of prosperity. Dilating upon the principles of Masonry, he observed that the great thing to be regarded was the fact that Masonry brought them together and welded them together. It made them feel that they stood upon a universal platform of brotherly love, relief, and truth. The more he saw of Masonry properly carried out, the more he respected and honoured it. In conclusion, he referred in sympathetic terms to the cause of Lord Henniker's absence, and spoke of the interest which his lordship always evinced in the welfare of the Province.

The Brethren afterwards attended Divine service at the Parish Church, the procession thither being headed by the Stowmarket Volunteer band. The sermon was preached by Bro. W. T. Pratt W.M. 555 Prov.G.Chap., the service was intoned by Bro. Rev. J. R. M. Vatcher, and the musical portion of the service was under the direction of Bro. Owen A. Clark P.G.O. The offertory was devoted to the Stowmarket Parish Nurse Fund. The service, it may be mentioned, lasted over an hour and a half—much too long in the opinion of many Brethren.

The annual banquet was subsequently held at the Institute, the catering being in the hands of Mr. Le Touzel, landlord of the Fox Hotel. The Hall was prettily adorned for the event, the floral decorations being particularly effective.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master presided, and at the conclusion of the repast submitted the usual toasts.—“East Anglian Daily Times.”

NORTH WALES.

AT the George Hotel, Bangor, on Tuesday, 27th ult., a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held, preceded by a meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter, and an ordinary meeting of the Royal Leek Lodge, No. 1849 (Bro. David Williams W.M.), under whose auspices the gatherings were held. There was an exceptionally large attendance of Brethren.

The meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter took place at noon, under the presidency of Companion Colonel the Hon. W. E. Sackville West Provincial Grand Superintendent, and he appointed the following as the Officers for the year :

Comp. Col. Henry Platt	-	-	-	H.
J. Lloyd Griffith	-	-	-	J.
J. G. Tuxford 1509	-	-	-	Scribe E.
T. A. Foster 908	-	-	-	Scribe N.
Donald Cameron 384	-	-	-	Treasurer
R. W. Newton 606	-	-	-	Registrar
H. Evans 1509	-	-	-	Principal Sojourner
W. M. Williams 384	-	-	-	Assistant Sojourners
H. Jones Roberts 606	-	-	-	
W. A. Foster 384	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
W. P. Hole 998	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
J. Hughes 1509	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
Rev. Ll. R. Hughes 1509	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
Rev. J. Fairchild 384	-	-	-	Organist
James Porter 384	-	-	-	Assistant Scribe E.
J. W. Fendick 384	-	-	-	Janitor.

Portmadoc was named as the place for holding the next annual Provincial Grand Chapter.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at two o'clock, under the presidency of Lord Harlech Provincial Grand Master, and he appointed his Officers for the year as follow :

Bro. Dr. S. Griffith 1509	-	-	-	Senior Warden
T. Coxhead 1674	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. T. Lloyd Kyffin 1849	-	-	-	Chaplains
Rev. James Smith 1509	-	-	-	
J. G. Tuxford 2569	-	-	-	Treasurer
J. Jones-Morris 1509	-	-	-	Registrar
Edward Roberts 606 1369	-	-	-	Secretary
Dr. E. J. Lloyd 1849	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
H. R. Heap 1369 1998	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
R. Jones Griffith	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works

J. Porter 755 2569 -	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
J. H. Ellis 1674 -	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
W. A. Foster 1113 -	-	-	Standard Bearer
T. S. Adams 1477 -	-	-	Sword Bearer
Caradoc Rowland 606	-	-	Assistant Secretary
Dr. W. G. Owen 606	-	-	Organist
W. Fenwick 2423 -	-	-	Pursuivant
W. J. Bradshaw 597	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
Eugene Clarke 384	-	-	} Stewards
G. H. Ashley 755 -	-	-	
N. J. Preston 1593 -	-	-	
H. C. Vincent 1849	-	-	
D. Williams 1849 -	-	-	
W. Williams 597 -	-	-	Tyler.

Newtown was announced as the town for holding the next Provincial Lodge.

The banquet was served at the George Hotel, under the presidency of Lord Harlech, Bro. Colonel Henry Platt, C.B., being the Vice-President.

Bro. James Porter acted as Director of Ceremonies, and the musical arrangements were excellently carried out under the direction of Bro. Frank Barlow, the vocalists being Messrs. Buxton, J. Jevons, and Charles James.

HANTS AND ISLE OF WIGHT.

THE annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was held at the Southsea Esplanade Hotel Assembly Rooms, on the 15th ult., under the presidency of the Provincial Grand Master Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., who was supported by representatives from all the Lodges in the Province.

The annual accounts of the Provincial Grand Treasurer Bro. J. W. Gieve, J.P., showed satisfactory progress, the current balance being £527, against £322 last year, while the total assets amounted to £1,742.

Bro. Eve P.G.Treas. Eng. P.P.S.G.W. proposed, that in view of the approaching Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, the sum of fifteen hundred guineas be granted from the Provincial Grand Lodge Funds to purchase a Perpetual Presentation to the Institution.

This was seconded by Bro. E. Goble Prov. Grand Secretary, and supported by Bro. J. W. Gieve Prov.G.Treas.

However, the seductive language of the proposer was met with strong opposition, which was received with hearty applause; this led to the original motion being withdrawn, and a substantive one was adopted voting a sum of 250 guineas as a contribution to the Institution.

The sum of twenty guineas was voted to the Masonic Festival in aid of the Mayor's Hospital Fund.

A vote of sympathy and condolence was passed with the widow and family of the late Brother W. Edmonds P.Prov.Grand Registrar.

Bro. J. W. Gieve, J.P., was unanimously re-elected Prov. Grand Treasurer, and the Provincial Grand Master appointed the following Brethren as his Officers for the ensuing year:

Bro. Col. J. B. Davis 1971	-	-	Senior Warden
Dr. R. G. Cross 928	-	-	Junior Warden
J. W. Gieve	-	-	Treasurer
Rev. F. P. Norman 1971	-	-	} Chaplains
Rev. P. H. Good 1069	-	-	
A. Paris 785	-	-	Registrar
E. Goble 309	-	-	Secretary
J. D. Morant 1069	-	-	} Senior Deacons
James Fewings 130	-	-	
W. H. Long 175	-	-	
H. B. Hawker 2208	-	-	} Junior Deacons
J. Hewitson 342	-	-	
W. Watts 698	-	-	Superintendent of Works
C. F. Brown 487	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
F. A. Dunsford 394	-	-	Deputy Dir. of Cers.
R. E. Jackman 319	-	-	} Assistant Dirs. of Cers.
G. W. S. Withers 1869	-	-	
F. Hazzard 903	-	-	Sword Bearer
E. T. Wise 1461	-	-	} Standard Bearers
G. Boyce 2068	-	-	
T. Cox 2016	-	-	
H. G. Fryer 487	-	-	Organist
G. Felton Lancaster 903	-	-	Assistant Secretary
E. Boorman 2074	-	-	Pursuivant
J. Berrow 1958	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
J. Carswell 2203	-	-	} Stewards
G. Frampton 1883	-	-	
E. G. A. Nash 2153	-	-	
W. G. Shaw 1475	-	-	
C. Martin 1428	-	-	
H. E. Windsor 1776	-	-	} Tyler.
J. Extell 487	-	-	

The Provincial Grand Master afterwards presided at a banquet, which was attended by many of the Brethren who were present at the Lodge.

In the evening the Brethren of the Craft, with their wives and a considerable number of their friends, attended the Masonic Festival which was held at the Town Hall in aid of the Mayor's Hospital Fund. There have been many pretty functions in the

building recently, and the Festival added another to the list. All the Brethren were in full regalia, and the hall had been neatly decorated for the occasion. From the front of the balconies hung the banners of the 42 Lodges that are comprised in the Province, and at the back of the dais set apart for the more distinguished of the company were the banners of the Province and its Grand Master. A big bank of palms in the centre of the room looked delightfully cool, and palms had been plentifully used in the decoration of the platform. The affair was a decided success, for it was very largely attended.

The company were received by the Mayor and Mayoress (who each wore their official chains) and the Prov. Grand Master Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., with whom were Bros. J. E. Le Feuvre Dep. Prov.G.M., J. W. Gieve, J.P., Prov.G. Treas., E. Goble Prov.G.Sec., Richard Eve P.G. Treas. England, and others.

Amongst the company were representatives from all the Lodges in the Province. The Duke of Connaught had promised to attend, but was prevented, so he wrote, from doing so by pressing military duties. But amongst the guests were many brethren high in the Craft. When the function was at its height the scene was remarkably picturesque. Practically every gentleman present wore the regalia of some degree in the craft, and the mingling of this, with the pretty toilettes of the ladies, made a very pretty picture. Probably the gathering owed some of its popularity to its free and easy nature. There was an excellent concert, but one was not expected to sit and mutely listen to this all the evening. The corridors provided a cool retreat—it was awfully hot—and were always well patronised. Here light refreshments were served, those of a more alcoholic nature being obtainable in the Grand Jury Room upstairs.

But the concert always attracted a good audience, and deservedly—for it was an excellent one. The Schartau concert party, composed of Bro. Herbert Schartau (an established favourite here), Miss Amy Sargent, Miss Lucie Johnstone, and Mr. John Josey, gave several very acceptable items. Dr. John Kyffin contributed whistling solos to the programme, and the members of the Portsmouth Orchestral Society, under Mr. W. E. Churcher, gave some charming instrumental selections. Violin solos were played by Miss Ida Gibson, L.R.A.M., and Bro. J. W. D. Pillow P.P.Grand Organist was at the organ.

The committee which arranged the function and brought it to such a successful issue was composed of the Worshipful Masters and representative Brethren of the Lodges of the district. W.M. A. E. Gibson, M.A. (Portsmouth), was the Chairman, and the Secretaries were P.A.G.S. Bro. G. Felton Lancaster (Gosport) and S.W. Bro. G. W. Edmonds (Lodge of Harmony).

DEVON.

THE Provincial Grand Chapter is to assemble at the Freemasons' Hall, Tiverton, on Monday next, 9th inst., at 8-15 p.m., by order of Comp. Walter Goddard Rogers P.A.G. Sojourner of England Acting Grand Superintendent. There are twenty-eight Royal Arch Chapters in the county, the one at Tiverton being No. 1125, formed in 1872. The Officers will be appointed for the ensuing term and other formal business transacted. Arrangements have been made with the railway companies for Companions to travel at reduced fares on production of their Masonic clothing.

CORNWALL.

THE Earl of Mount-Edgcumbe Provincial Grand Master has decided to hold the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge at Liskeard, under the banner of St. Martin's, No. 510, but the date is not yet fixed. The last occasion when the annual meeting was held at Liskeard was on 27th August 1889, and previous to that in 1881.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A NEW Masonic temple at Mafeking was opened recently by the Officers of the District Grand Lodge. The building, which is the largest of its kind in South Africa, outside Kimberley and Cape Town, is a credit to the Fraternity in every way. A procession was formed from the old Lodge to the new temple and the public were admitted to the ceremony. There was a large attendance, including a number of ladies, says the "Standard and Diggers News." Bro. Blackbeard, Mayor of Beaconsfield, represented the District Grand Master, and was supported by Brethren from all parts of the Colony and the Transvaal. The dedication ceremony having been completed Bro. Harbour, who had been chiefly instrumental in getting the building erected, was installed Master.

IRELAND AS A HOLIDAY RESORT.

WE have referred on more than one occasion of late to the increased facilities provided by the London and North Western Railway Company to meet the growing traffic to and from the holiday resorts of Ireland, and it is satisfactory to know that every fresh step in this direction is not only regarded with favour, but appears to supply incentive for further action. At the present time the Company has a splendid service of express trains and fast boats engaged on this important section of its work, all the modern improvements in the way of Breakfast, Luncheon, Tea, Dining and Sleeping Saloons being introduced in the different trains running between London (Euston) and other important towns of the country. First, second and third class tickets are issued by all the trains of the service, while special advantages are offered to holders of return tickets, who may return from Dublin (North Wall) or Greenore at their option.

The North Western Company have now provided furnished bungalows on the Golf Links at Greenore, the accommodation being of a character that should make it attractive for those who desire to visit this interesting part of the "ould country."

The new twin screw passenger steamer "Cambria" for the London and North Western Railway Company's Holyhead and Dublin (North Wall) Express Passenger and Mail Service was launched on the 4th inst., from the Leven Ship Yard, Dumbarton. Some months have now elapsed since the accelerated service between England and Ireland, arranged by the London and North-Western Railway Company in connection with the Mail Route via Holyhead and Kingstown, the Express Route via Holyhead and North Wall, Dublin, and the route via Holyhead and Greenore for the North and North West of Ireland, came into operation. As the complement of this greatly accelerated service, the Directors of the North-Western Railway called for tenders for a very fast twin screw steamer. The order was entrusted to the well-known firm of Messrs. W. Denny and Brothers, and from the beautiful lines of the vessel just launched, as well as from the reputation of the firm in this class of work, there is little doubt that the "Cambria" will more than accomplish the guaranteed speed of twenty-one knots. This is the third vessel built by Messrs. Denny for the London and North Western Railway Company, the two previous vessels, the "Rostrevor" and "Connamara," having already gained for themselves a high reputation for speed, comfort, and steadiness at sea. These latter ships are engaged in the service between Holyhead and Greenore, the port for the North and North West of Ireland. The draught of water at both terminal ports being limited, the utmost care was required in designing the internal arrangements, but with the assistance of the Company's Officials at Holyhead, the vessel has been constructed to meet all requirements. The watertight bulkheads are very numerous. The vessel will float with any one compartment bilged, and in many cases with two: the bulkheads at the forward end being specially built to do this. The arrangement of trimming tanks is very complete, to ensure the vessel being able to leave port under any condition of loading.

The principal dimensions are—

Length over all	337ft. 6in.
Breadth moulded	39ft. 0in.
Depth to awning deck	24ft 9in.

The vessel has been built of mild steel. The general appearance is extremely handsome—the two large funnels, the tapering masts, and the long range of casings and deck-houses giving her more the look of an ocean liner than of a cross-channel steamer. The passenger accommodation occupies almost the whole space of the vessel, with the exception of that required for passengers' luggage, mails, parcel post, and parcels. The first-class dining saloon is a large apartment on the main deck, capable of dining eighty passengers at a time. The framing is of waxed oak and dead-polished teak, in Grecian style, with incised and gilt decorations, and fitted with large bevel-edged mirrors. The dining tables and handsome revolving chairs are so arranged that small parties may dine together in a more home-like manner than at a long table. The side-boards are designed to correspond with the framing, and have marble tops. For warming the saloon in winter there is a handsome stove with hand-painted tiles and brass guard rails. Hot presses and carving tables are provided, and are made to contribute to the artistic appearance of the saloon by their architectural treatment. The foremast passes through this compartment, and the casing round it has been utilised to form a book-case and writing table, all contributing to the comfort of passengers. Abundant light is supplied by large sidelights, and by a large skylight overhead, with stained glass. All the seats are upholstered in terra cotta frieze velvet. The ceiling is panelled and artistically decorated in flat tints relieved with rich gilded work, while the floor is laid with heavy Brussels carpet, with runners of the same material in the principal passages.

The accommodation for ladies is very extensive, there being two large cabins for their occupation. The lower Ladies' Cabin, situated on the main deck, is framed in polished sycamore, treated in the "Adams" style, and decorated on the frieze, pilasters, panels, and dado, the upholstery being in blue frieze velvet. A commodious dressing table, with large mirror and all toilet requisites, is fitted at the fore end. Ample light is secured without sacrificing privacy, by means of stained glass windows and doors. The other Ladies' Cabin, which is situated in a large house on the awning deck, is designed in a similar style, but with figured panels and turned pilasters, and different arrangement of mouldings.

Further aft on this deck is a similar apartment for gentlemen passengers, the design of which is on classical lines, and carried out in polished teak, decorated on the frieze, pilasters, and panels. Forward of the funnels is a smoking room, a large and airy apartment in solid oak, with teak dado, having spring stuffed seats, covered with Morocco leather. The floor is laid with encaustic tiles, and the ceiling is panelled and finished to harmonise with the general design. A number of marble-topped tables are arranged in this apartment, with comfortable easy chairs for convenience of passengers, and while the ventilation is very complete, great care has been taken to prevent draught, by fitting screens with leaded and stained glass panels in way of doors and air shafts.

Immediately forward of the smoking room is the main vestibule and staircase, the framing of which is in walnut, with ash panels and sycamore mouldings, the dado being of reeded walnut. The stair is wide and of easy rise, and is fitted with handsome hand-rails carried round the stair opening. The ceiling is panelled and tinted to match the framings, and the floor of the vestibule is laid with rubber tiles, the pattern of which forms a pleasing contrast to the Morocco leather of the upholstery. The midships portion of the main deck and the greater portion of the lower deck forward of the boilers are fitted up with sleeping accommodation for first-class passengers. The beds are of the folding type, and are all fitted with spring mattresses. The sides of all state-rooms and sleeping apartments are finished in white enamel, which ensures cleanliness, and draught screens are fitted to regulate the current of air from the powerful ventilating fans. The lavatory accommodation is most complete, fresh water being laid on to all washbasins.

The steerage accommodation, which is exceptionally commodious, is situated at the after end of the ship on the main and lower decks, and has been specially designed with a view to secure the comfort of third-class passengers, and is fitted with all modern conveniences, lavatories, &c., separate rooms being provided for ladies.

The vessel is lighted throughout by electricity, the machinery being in duplicate, so that in the event of any breakdown of one engine, the other can maintain the light alone. Besides the internal illuminations, the mast-head, side, and stern lights are electric, and are fitted with tell-tales to show they are working properly. A very complete electric bell installation is fitted throughout the first-class accommodation, and the ventilation of all passenger and crew space is effected by means of electrically-driven fans to supplement the natural draught ventilation. The stewards' department is equipped in an "up-to-date" manner. The main galley is situated on the main deck abaft the passenger accommodation, and so arranged that no smell of cooking can find its way into the passenger spaces, and a separate galley is provided for the use of the crew.

The appliances for working and navigating the ship are in the complete and high-class style usual in the Company's vessels. The steering gear is Brown's combined steam tiller and hand gear, controlled from the flying bridge by the makers' telemotor. The rudder is built to the form of the ship and has a cast steel frame and forged ingot steel stock. A powerful windlass is fitted on the awning deck, forward, for working the anchors, and a slow and fast speed capstan worked from it for warping the vessel. A similar steam capstan is also fitted aft for this purpose. A steam winch is fitted forward and one aft for working the passengers' luggage, mails, and parcel post baskets. The vessel is navigated from the flying bridge, where there is a very complete arrangement of telegraphs for the engine, steering and docking signals, and speaking tubes to the engine-room and fore-castle. A similar bridge is fitted over the steering gear at the stern to facilitate the handling of the vessel in port.

In order to secure safety from fire there is a perfect fire service connected to two powerful duplex pumping engines, and supplied with a large quantity of hose. The life-saving appliances in the shape of boats (of which there are eight), life buoys, life belts, &c., are on the same extensive scale, but owing to the efficient system of sub-division by watertight bulkheads, the likelihood of these appliances being put to use, except as a drill for the crew, is very remote.

The propelling machinery consists of two sets of triple expansion engines, supplied with steam at 160lbs. per square inch by eight single-ended boilers, which are placed in two separate compartments, divided by a watertight bulkhead, so arranged that each set of four boilers can be used entirely independently of the other in case of emergency. They are constructed of mild steel to Board of Trade requirements, and each is fitted with three corrugated steel furnaces, with independent combustion chambers, arranged to work under forced draught, for which purpose four large fans are fitted. There are four cylinders to each set of engines, with cast-steel pistons, valves, with relief rings on back, and Joy's balance pistons on top of spindles. The piston-rods, connecting-rods, and valve-gear are of mild ingot steel, and the valve-gear is controlled by Brown's combined steam and hydraulic reversing gear. The crank shaft is built of mild ingot steel and is hollow, as are also the crank pins. The sole-plate and guide-columns are of cast steel in order to obtain greater strength and lightness. The engines are balanced on the Schlick principle, so as to avoid vibration. The circulating pumps are of the centrifugal type, and are arranged to pump out the machinery spaces and holds in case of serious leakage, thus forming a valuable auxiliary to the main pumping system. The feed pumps are also independent of the main engines, and are two in number, each being able to do the work if required. The feed water passes through a feed heater and filter, or may be sent direct to the boilers by means of an arrangement of by-pass valves and pipes, as desired. The system of duplication has been carried out wherever possible, so that the vessel may be considered perfectly safe even in the very remote contingency of a breakdown of half of her machinery.

This vessel is the first twin-screw steamer which the Company have built for their Holyhead and Dublin Express Service, and whilst the desirability of securing a high rate of speed has not been lost sight of, all other matters on which the comfort of passengers so greatly depends, have received special consideration, such, for example, as absence of vibration, steadiness at sea, and the provision of the most modern and complete ventilating and lavatory and sanitary appliances. As previously mentioned, the engines have been balanced on the Schlick system, and it is confidently expected that the ship will be practically free from vibration. The greatest care has also been taken in designing the ship as to the distribution of weights, and the fitting up of the bilge keels, &c. A complete system of electrically-driven mechanical ventilation has been provided, which will ensure a frequent and thorough change of air in the different spaces. This is, of course, in addition to the natural ventilation, which has also been amply provided for.

Generally speaking, it is not too much to say that the "Cambria" will be found to be unsurpassed by any vessel of its class afloat, and will be a most suitable addition to the fine fleet of steamers engaged in the London and North Western Company's Express Passenger Service to and from North Wall (Dublin). All the vessels on this service, like the "Cambria," have been specially designed to provide every modern convenience and comfort for passengers, a separate service by other steamers being provided for the cargo and live stock.

MIDLAND RAILWAY HOLIDAY TRIPS.

A LARGE and varied series of holiday trips from St. Pancras and other London Stations are being run week by week by the Midland Company, further particulars in regard to which are given elsewhere in this issue. These include excursions to different parts of Ireland for a fortnight; a fortnightly trip to Scotland for 5, 11 or 16 days—with the popular arrangement of allowing return at any time within sixteen days, at a single fare for the double journey; fortnightly excursions to the north of England; and cheap weekly trips to the Isle of Man, English Lake District, &c.

In addition to all these regular excursions there is a general one arranged for Saturday next, when tickets will be issued to the chief towns served by the Midland system, available for return the following Monday or Thursday, while on Monday next, and Monday, 30th inst. an excursion will be run to Birmingham, for one or four days.

It is announced that the Most Worshipful Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has been pleased to grant a Warrant for a new Lodge at Gateshead, to be called the Ravensworth, No. 2674.

MASONIC RESEARCH.

FREEMASONS are not free to tell their secrets; and yet they become known. It is a curious thing that if an anthropologist or an antiquary talks about the rite of initiation in the process of 'young-man making,' or the orientation of temples, or the language of symbolism, the Freemason is apt to mistake him for a brother Craftsman. The most learned of the Freemasons are trying to search out the origin and meaning of their own symbols and ritual and traditions, and they find that they are brought into contact with ancient mysteries and mythology. It is commonly supposed that the great subject of Masonry is Solomon's Temple, and that the two first secret words—Jachin and Boaz—refer merely to the pillars of the porch, as mentioned in Scripture; but really those pillars were themselves symbolical. Ancient temples were built according to a prescribed order; and the Craft was already old in the time of Solomon, of Hiram of Tyre, and 'Hiram Abiff.' A 'Revival' took place in the English Lodges in the year 1717, and some persons are inclined to think that much of their ceremonial originated only then; but the old Charges of the Masons take us back to the fourteenth century or earlier. There, however, the chain of tradition is broken. 'The real and inner meanings of our Masonic Symbols were never communicated in writing, but only orally, as the meanings of the symbols and doctrines of Pythagoras were, and the real meaning of the jargon of the alchemists.' 'Hence their actual signification, though once known, has now to a great extent been forgotten, owing to the decay of oral instruction, and if not absolutely lost, is at best imperfectly understood.'

The Quatuor Coronati Lodge, London, No. 2076, seems to consist largely of Masons who are intent upon investigation; and was started in fact for the purpose of studying the Archæology of Masonry. Some of the members concern themselves with the modern history of Masonry, and trace the system back from the present day to the trade guilds or other organisations from which it may have sprung. Others inquire into the ancient and most oriental forms of organisation which are supposed to have been Masonic in their character, and into their mysteries and symbols. It is believed that the two parties—one working backward, and the other forward—will by and by meet.

The Lodge has probably never had a more diligent or learned Worshipful Master than William Simpson, R.I., member of the Asiatic and Geographical Societies, a great traveller, and well known as the artist of the "Illustrated London News." His latest Essay—on the Orientation of Temples*—contains matter enough for a book; and much of that matter is very curious and suggestive. The starting point in the study of the subject is the squaring of sacred buildings to the four cardinal points. The four quarters were associated most intimately with the religious ideas of most of the early races of mankind. To prove this point, abundance of evidence is adduced—from the New World, from India, Burmah and Java, Siam and Cambolia, from China, Mesopotamia and Egypt. Nor are the four quarters without significance in the Jewish and Christian systems. The more one studies the subject, the more important the cardinal points appear to have been. There were gods of the quarters; and governments were founded with a relation to them. Temples, tombs, and other buildings were constructed with a reference to them; rites and ceremonies were based upon them; and some very august ceremonies of the present day still recognise the four points of the compass. These are facts which make their appeal to Craftsmen; for their own ritual gives prominence to East and West, South and North, and they have not known why. In the East, of course, the sun rises, to open and enliven the day. It was scarcely possible for man, when he began to evolve symbolism, to overlook this diurnal phenomenon. 'It was the light out of darkness. The darkness typified death, and the light life. A moral symbolism was also derived from it; and the darkness represented evil, while light appeared to be good. The solar origin of the eastern direction of temples seems so natural a conclusion that it might be accepted without further inquiry. I may just recall to Craftsmen, as the first illustration, that this solar origin is recognised in the Masonic temple; and that it is this which gives to the Masonic student an interest in the whole subject of orientation.' 'When the sun sinks in the west it closes the great Lodge for the day; but it had a still deeper symbolism. It typified the going to rest after the labours of the day—of man's labours—when they were finished in that Lodge. As the sun was supposed to go down in the west to a region that was calm and tranquil, so would man pass after the battle of life was over.' Mr. Simpson notes a scarcity of references to the south in connection with his subject, though

the Chinese turn their houses to the south, and the Hindus allot the south to the 'fathers' or the dead. The north, in the Masonic system, may be said to be a blank, and without signification. In the Zend Avesta 'hell lies in the north'; and there also was supposed to reign the mediæval Lucifer. Miss Gordon Cumming, in her book, 'In the Hebrides,' says there appears to have been an unaccountable prejudice against burying the dead on the north side of a church. 'The abode of the evil spirit lay to the north, away from the sun's gracious influence.'

Every page of Mr. Simpson's essay abounds with curious matter, the result of wide travel and patient research. We congratulate the Freemasons that they are waking up to investigate the origin and meaning of their ritual and traditions. We, ourselves, as students of Christian ceremony and doctrine, are engaged in what is essentially the same inquiry. We shall meet again in far-off fields.—"S." in the "Inquirer."

The annual picnic in connection with the Lodges in St. Helens and district was held on the 29th ult. About seventy members assembled at the railway station about half-past eight, and arrived at Oswestry soon after eleven. The Wynstay Hotel, Oswestry, had been fixed on as the head-quarters, and the arrangements included a three hours' drive through the beautiful scenery of the district. Bro. James Heaton 897 acted as Hon. Secretary.

Brother Churchwarden Bowers W.M. of the Kent Lodge, No. 15, and an Officer in the Anglo-American Chapter recently entertained the whole of the members of Christchurch Vestry to dinner at his residence at Herne Bay. Our Brother has been connected with the parish of Christchurch for 35 years, and has devoted a considerable amount of time to public work. He has been a Vestryman since 1880, and was a member of St. Saviour's Board of Guardians for five years, and of St. Saviour's Board of Works for eight years. He has also filled the offices of Overseer and Library Commissioner. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and for 21 years was a prominent member of the Lambeth Field Club. He is greatly esteemed and respected in Southwark, where his geniality and bonhomie have won him troops of friends.—"South London Press."

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

DINNERS IN RESTAURANT—

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

AMERICAN BAR.

THE GRILL ROOM

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* 'The Orientation or Direction of Temples.' By William Simpson, R.I., M.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., &c. Published for the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, by G. W. Speth, Secretary, Bromley, Kent, 1897.

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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 (Sundays excepted).—Paddington 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 AUGUST and SEPTEMBER, SPECIAL FAST**E**XCURSIONS 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, &c., for 3, 8, 10, 15 or 17 days.

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

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

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

8.35 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.), Liverton, &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.

6.5 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, 12th, 26th August, 9th, 23rd September, 3.35 p.m. for Cork and Killarney.

Fridays, 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 Causeway, &c.

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

Lists of Lodgings, Tickets, and full particulars can be obtained at the Company's Stations, and at the usual Receiving Offices.

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MIDLAND RAILWAY.**CHEAP EXCURSIONS**

FROM ST. PANCRAS AND OTHER LONDON STATIONS.

A FORTNIGHT IN IRELAND.

Every Friday, until 24th September inclusive, to Dublin, Ballina, Galway, Sligo, and South of Ireland; also on 13th August, and every fortnight until 24th September to Belfast and North of Ireland, and every Saturday, until 25th September, to Londonderry. Cheap Excursion Tour Tickets also issued to Belfast, and the North of Ireland. Every Friday during July, August, and September. See Bills for routes, fares, &c.

FORTNIGHTLY EXCURSIONS TO SCOTLAND.

For 5, 11, or 16 days.

From Friday, 13th August to 24th September inclusive, for 11 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 from Friday, 13th August, for 5 or 11 days, to 24th September inclusive, 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 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, from Friday, 13th August, for 11 or 16 days, to 24th September inclusive, from St. Pancras at 8.30 p.m., to Northallerton, Richmond, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle, and Berwick.

GENERAL EXCURSIONS, SATURDAY, 14th AUGUST.

To Leicester, Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Nottingham, Derby, Burton, Matlock, Buxton, Stockport, Southport, Liverpool, Manchester, Accrington, Blackburn, Burnley, Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury, Preston, Wigan, Blackpool, Lancaster, Morecambe, Carlisle, Windermere, Barrow, Whitehaven, Stoke, Hanley, Burslem, Macclesfield, Newark, Lincoln, Sheffield, Barnsley, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Halifax, Leeds, Bradford, Scarborough, South Shields, High Shields, Sunderland, Newcastle-on-Tyne, &c. Tickets will be available for returning on Monday, 16th August, or Thursday, 19th August.

Also on Mondays, 9th and 30th August, to Birmingham for one or four days, from St. Pancras, at 6.35 a.m. each week.

NEW CHEAP WEEKLY EXCURSIONS.**ISLE OF MAN, ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT, &c.**

Every Friday, at Midnight, and every Saturday at 5.15 a.m. and 10.5 a.m. until 24th and 25th September inclusive, also at 9.0 a.m., on Saturdays until 4th September inclusive, 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 and Bills may be had at the MIDLAND STATIONS and City Booking Offices, and from Thos. Cook and Son, Ludgate Circus, and Branch Offices.

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FIVE LODGES ALREADY MEET HERE.

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Scale of Charges and further particulars on Application.

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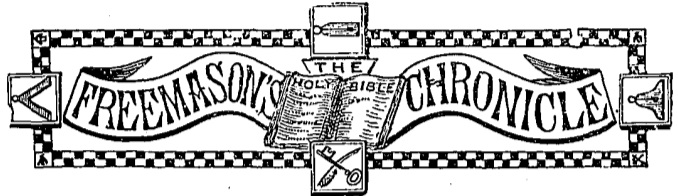
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THREE LODGES ALREADY MEET HERE.
SPECIMENS OF MENU, WITH PRICES, SENT ON APPLICATION.

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SATURDAY, 7TH AUGUST 1897.

At Dewsbury, on Wednesday, after the funeral of Dr. Hinchliffe, who was one of the oldest Freemasons in the district, it was announced that the deceased, after providing for his housekeeper and servants, had bequeathed property and shares worth some £50,000 in aid of higher education.

For many years past we have looked upon the "Keystone" (published at Philadelphia, U.S.A.) as one of the most regular and interesting of our exchanges, and had come to regard it as quite an old friend. On this account we confess to experiencing a certain amount of regret when we opened a recent number—the first of its 31st year of issue—to find it altered in size and general appearance, although we at once recognised that the alteration in quantity had not led to a deterioration of quality. We hope our contemporary will reap a richer harvest year by year in its present form than it did in the shape we have known it so long, and that the efforts of its conductors may be the means of maintaining and extending the principles of the Craft among its numerous readers.

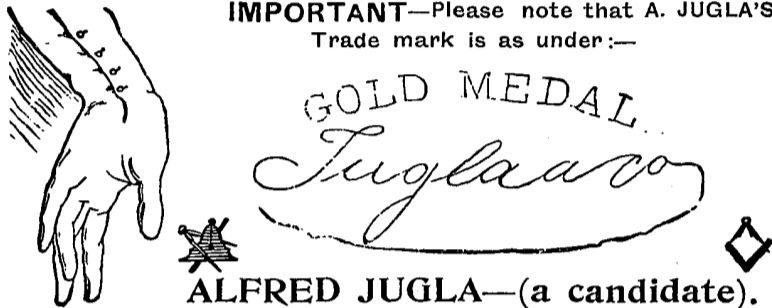
"A SPRIG OF AGACIA."

GENERAL sorrow is expressed at the death of Bro. Dr. Hunter, a Mason well known in Clerkenwell and North London, who was regarded as a most promising member of the Order, and well-known as a staunch friend and entertaining companion.

BRO. Mark Richards, of Granville-street, Shrewsbury, died after a brief illness on Sunday evening, 18th ult., at the age of 52 years. The deceased had been employed by Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son for the greater part of his life, and was held in high esteem not only by those with whom he was more intimately connected, but by a wide circle of friends in Shrewsbury, Manchester, and in North and South Wales. Fifteen years ago, when acting as the representative of Messrs. Smith and Son, at Manchester, Bro. Richards was promoted to the responsible position of superintendent of the North and South Wales district, and took up his residence at Shrewsbury, where he soon made for himself a host of friends, who entertained the highest possible respect and regard for him. Several members of the Salopian Lodge of Charity attended the funeral, which took place the following Tuesday.

ON Thursday, 22nd ult., Bro. W. Henry Chalk, who for many years has been manager of Messrs. Burgess's Iron Foundry in Ongar-road, Brentwood, was killed on the railway in the vicinity of Brentwood Station. It appears that the deceased was going to attend a meeting of the Liberty of Havering Lodge, No. 1437, at Romford, and proceeded to the station along the incline through the goods-yard. Crossing the metals from the down to the up side, he seems to have passed behind a down train, but before he reached the opposite side an up express caught him on the left shoulder. A doctor was quickly in attendance, but found that the unfortunate man was quite dead. Our deceased Brother was a retired Sergt-Major of Volunteers, and wore the long-service decoration. He was also a zealous member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, and for some time had filled the position of Secretary to the Loyal Perseverance Lodge. He was well known and highly respected in Brentwood, and by his sad death Messrs. Burgess lose a good servant.

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A Weekly Record of Masonic Intelligence.

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CHURCH SERVICES.

ON the occasion of the special service held at St. Mary's Walthamstow, already referred to in our columns, after the singing of the National Anthem the Venerable Archdeacon Stevens P.G.Chap. England delivered an Oration on the principles of Freemasonry.

In the course of an earnest address he said they were justly reminded by the National Anthem of one of the objects, and perhaps the foremost object of their service that afternoon. But there were other objects associated with it, all of which would blend together and make this gathering one helpful to them in the time to come. They had associated themselves with the great national thanksgiving for the many mercies vouchsafed to this nation during the past sixty years. Some of them were present when their Brotherhood met at the Albert Hall, and they would remember to the last days of their lives the unanimity and wonderful enthusiasm of their gratitude to Almighty God for His mercies during the Victorian era, and now they had met in church to carry on this expression of thanksgiving, and with it to associate some other very appropriate object. It was very appropriate that they had met on an occasion when they thanked God for the restoration, the strengthening of the tower of that ancient parish church, and their offerings were to go to this object.

They had met to draw closer the bonds of Brotherhood between them—to draw nearer to each other in the spirit of a true Brotherhood, and seeing that they had met to join together in this service of praise and thanksgiving it seemed to him there was one text he should leave with them, and the text was this; "Honour all men, love the Brotherhood, fear God, honour the king." There were some people in their Brotherhood who would draw lines of demarcation and separation, and admit only those who were disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, but in their Brotherhood they met those of very different shades of belief, and at the Albert Hall there were men of various races from the uttermost parts of the earth. And they were thankful for it.

They were thankful to see a bond of union could be found among those distant Brethren who were subjects of the same ruler, and there was some reason to hope when they grasped them by the hand that in the future they might be brought yet nearer in the bond of the religion of Jesus Christ. If any should say such should be excluded, he would answer, in the words of the text, "Honour all men," that was, esteem all men. In the great Brotherhood they would draw together as much as ever they could those scattered Brethren throughout the world, and trust that the Saviour might be a guiding light to their scattered and separated Brethren. When St. Peter wrote these words he no doubt had in mind the Brotherhood of Jesus Christ, but he did not think he should be straining the text if he said it suggested to them to cultivate a feeling of love for all, drawing them a little nearer to those who were outside while holding in esteem, in affectionate regard, those who were members of their Brotherhood. God be praised, the English people were free, and they valued their liberty, but let them remember they had to thank God for it as His gift to them. "Liberty, Fraternity, Equality," had been the watchword in some great national movements, and he did not know how many crimes had been done in the name of it because those who abused the watchword did not use it as servants of God, but to associate themselves with deeds of bloodshed and cruelty. They should only use this watchword as servants of God, and then they would act up to the spirit of the text, "Honour all men, love the Brotherhood, fear God, honour the king."

Perhaps of all things they had to thank God most, as associated with this Victorian age, was the steady, sustained feeling for a truer Brotherhood among mankind, and it was very significant that, in the second verse of the National Anthem, while the old spirit was kept up a new and better and higher spirit was introduced. They did not think of humbling their enemies, but prayed that wars may cease all over the world, and that there may be peace and Brotherhood among the nations of the world. They desired that war should cease—that Brotherhood among the nations should be established, among men and men, class and class, and brother and brother. Freemasons were making their mark in the promotion of this feeling. At the beginning of last year—just about Christmas time—a war-cloud came over the nation, and it was thought there was just a possibility of actual warfare between this country and the United States, between two kindred nations—between those who in very truth were Brothers in their sympathies, desires, and yearnings. And at that time much was done and many prayers were uttered that this great evil, this curse might be averted. Much was done and said, but of all acts done, probably none was more significant, more truly Christian, than that of the Freemasons of this country in their message to the Freemasons of the United States. On Christmas morning there was sent a message from Grand Lodge to the United Lodge, and no more Christian, no

more truly Masonic message could go from one nation to another, from man to man. It ran: "Glory to God in the highest; on earth peace, goodwill towards men." And Masonry in this spirit was carrying forward its work, and with God's blessing would carry it forward yet more in the years before them.

They might thank God for the marvellous growth in the numbers of their order during the last half century. They knew how the order had been going forward in numbers, and the grand principles on which the order was based were so much more fully recognised than in the days that were passed. Thus to-day he ventured to say Freemasonry was recognised as a great force to establish peace, brotherly love, and truth. In the great charities, so magnificently supported by members, they had something like an evidence of that which was the real basis and foundation of their Order, and certainly during the last few months there had been an extension in the right direction of the way in which those grand principles had been working among them. There was a time when their offerings were made largely for the charities connected with their own Order. It was well, but in later years the offerings of the Brotherhood had been given, and with no stinted hand, to other charities and objects than those immediately connected with the Order. At the meeting at the Albert Hall £7,000 was realised for the promotion of that good work initiated by their Grand Master the Prince of Wales, for the hospitals.

If they were Masons in any true sense they were builders building up a fabric, and it was very proper that they should take an active part in a building which would be the glory of their land. But they were builders in another sense. They were rearing a Brotherhood among the nations, the Brotherhood of humanity, and each had something to do in this great work. The designer was the Great Architect, whose they were and whom they served, but each had to lay a stone in the fabric.

They had their work to do, their mission to fulfil, and though it might be very small God grant that each one might lay the stone well and truly in the working day so they might go at last to the Great Architect and hear from Him "Well done, good and faithful servant." In rearing this great edifice to the Brotherhood there would be differences to the end of time, and so the text ended with the recognition of this. "Honour the king." Honour those set over them, and carry out loyally and faithfully the duties assigned to them, recognising that those higher authorities were ordained of God. When they looked on the last sixty years they asked why it had been a period so fraught with blessing. Mainly, he thought, on this account, that our Queen had recognised responsibility as a duty to be faced. This had made her reign the one that would be most remembered in history—a reign which would have a lustre in years to come greater than even now, because she in her place had done her duty. They honoured those set over others when they, in their place as the humblest among them, did their duty as unto God, and not for themselves. He asked them to carry away these four eminent Masonic texts, and strive to put them into practice in their daily life, "Honour all men; love the Brotherhood; fear God; honour the king."—*Walthamstow Guardian.*

THE Bishop of Llandaff Past Grand Chaplain of England was the preacher on the occasion of a special Masonic service held at Llandaff Cathedral, to celebrate the record reign of Her Majesty the Queen—the meeting being arranged under the auspices of the Provincial Grand Lodge of South Wales. His discourse, which was most appropriate to the occasion, was based on James i., 27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." His lordship, who addressed the congregation as "dear Brother Masons," said they had assembled to celebrate an event which in one respect was unique in the history of our country—the completion of the 60th year of the reign of Her Majesty the Queen, who had reigned longer than any one of her illustrious predecessors, and who, by the wisdom of her rule had done more than any one of those who had gone before her to extend and consolidate this mighty empire. Her beneficent influence for good had been felt throughout the world; it had contributed to the preservation of peace both at home and abroad, had promoted the happiness and prosperity of her people, had advanced the cause of civilisation, and encouraged and fostered the cultivation of arts and sciences in all their various branches. They had deep cause for thankfulness in that they had in the Queen one who during the last sixty years, by exhibiting in her own home all that was noblest and most beautiful in woman, had elevated the whole tone and morals of social and domestic life, and who by her deep and heartfelt sympathy with her subjects in their days of sorrow, had succeeded in not only securing their loyalty but in winning also their affections and their love. Her Majesty had lived the religion described in the words of the text, and they thanked God from their hearts that they had, in the highest place in the kingdom, one who had lived that religion

—a religion that embodied the whole moral code of Masonry. In conclusion, his lordship made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the Masonic Educational and Widows' Fund, and subsequently a substantial collection in aid of that fund was made.

Previous to the service in the Cathedral Lord Llangattock Provincial Grand Master of South Wales, who was supported by his Deputy Brother Marmaduke Tennant and many other distinguished Craftsmen, had received several hundred members of his Province at the National Schools, whence the Brethren marched in procession to the Cathedral.

The St. John Lodge of Instruction, No. 1306, held at Bro. Smith's, the Queen Victoria, Exmouth-street, Stepney, has adjourned its meetings until Thursday, 19th inst, when the Lodge will re-open with the annual supper. The chair will be taken by Bro. C. J. Holmes W.M. of the Mother Lodge, at 7.30. Any Brethren who wish to be present will kindly communicate their desire to the Secretary, 134 Jamaica Street, or Bro. Smith, at the above address.

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

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

- Monday.**
- 1789 Ubique, Criterion
 - 40 Derwent, Hastings
 - 61 Probita, Halifax
 - 68 Royal Clarence, Bristol
 - 75 Love and Honour, Falmouth
 - 89 Unanimity, Dukinfield
 - 105 Fortitude, Plymouth
 - 106 Sun, Exmouth
 - 151 Albany, Newport, I. of Wight
 - 189 Sincerity, East Stonehouse
 - 237 Indefatigable, Swansea
 - 240 St. Hilda, South Shields
 - 264 Nelson of the Nile, Batley
 - 297 Whitham, Lincoln
 - 302 Hope, Bradford
 - 303 Benevolent, Teignmouth
 - 307 Prince Frederick, HebdenBridge
 - 330 One and All, Bodmin
 - 388 Prudence, Halesworth
 - 408 Three Graces, Haworth
 - 433 Hope, Brightlingsea
 - 467 Tudor, Oldham
 - 589 Druid Love & Lib., Redruth
 - 643 Royal, Filey
 - 699 Roscawea, Chacewater
 - 797 Hauley, Dartmouth
 - 884 Derwent, Wirksworth
 - 893 Meridan, Millbrook
 - 1168 Benevolence, Sherbourne
 - 1221 Defence, Leeds
 - 1271 F'dship & Unity, Bradford-on-A'vn
 - 1272 Tregenna, St. Ives
 - 1286 Bayon, Market Rasen
 - 1302 De Warren, Halifax
 - 1408 Stamford & Warr'gton, St'yb'ge
 - 1436 Castle, Sandgate
 - 1449 Royal Military, Canterbury
 - 1486 Duncombe, Kingsbridge
 - 1542 Legiolium, Castleford
 - 1600 Hamilton, Alford
 - 1611 Eboracum, York
 - 1618 Handyside, Saltburn-by-Sea
 - 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
 - 2584 Queen Victoria, Manchester

- Tuesday.**
- 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
 - 696 St. Bartholomew, Wednesbury
 - 764 H'rbour of Refuge, W. H'tlep'l.
 - 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
- 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. Outhbert, Bedlington
- 2099 Ethelbert, Herne Bay
- 2134 Wilberforce, Hull
- 2222 Frederick West, East Molesey

- Wednesday.**
- Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 4.
- 1260 John Hervey, Freemasons'-hall
 - 2581 Empress, Earl's Court
 - 84 Doyle of Friendship, Guernsey
 - 128 Prince Edwin, Bury
 - 187 Rl. Sussex Hospitality, Bristol
 - 258 Amphibious, Heckmondwike
 - 274 Tranquility, Newchurch
 - 277 Friendship, Oldham
 - 281 Fortitude, Lancaster
 - 288 Harmony, Todmorden
 - 320 Loyalty, Mottam
 - 323 Concord, Stockport
 - 368 Samaritan, Sandbach
 - 372 Harmony, Budleigh Salterton
 - 380 Integrity, Morley
 - 387 Airedale, Shipley
 - 409 Stortford, Bishops Stortford
 - 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
 - 730 Ellesmere, Chrley
 - 731 Arboretum, Derby
 - 755 St. Tudno, Llandudno
 - 851 Worthing Friendship, Worthing
 - 906 Royal Albert Edward, Bath
 - 910 St. Oswald, Pontefract
 - 946 Strawberry Hill, Twickenham
 - 1018 Shakespeare, Bradford
 - 1024 St. Peter, Maldon
 - 1091 Erme, Ivybridge
 - 1094 Temple, Liverpool
 - 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
- 1544 Mount Edgcumbe, Camborne
- 1547 Liverpool, Liverpool
- 1576 Dee, Park-gate, Cheshire
- 1643 Perseverance, Hebburn-on-Tyne
- 1645 Colne Valley, Slaithwaite
- 1783 Albert Edward, Huddersfield
- 1808 Suffield, North Walsham
- 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.**
- 116 Royal Lancashire, Colne
 - 130 Royal Gloucester, South'mpton
 - 208 Three Gd. Principles, Dewsbury
 - 275 Harmony, Huddersfield
 - 283 Amity, Haslingden
 - 318 True and Faithful, Helston
 - 324 Moira, Stalybridge
 - 333 Royal Preston, Preston
 - 337 Candour, Uppermill
 - 369 Limestone Rock, Clitheroe
 - 381 Harmony & Industry, Darwen
 - 437 Science, Wincanton
 - 450 Cornubian, Hayle
 - 456 Foresters, Uttoxeter
 - 469 Hundred of Elloe, Spalding
 - 472 F'ship & Sincerity, Shaftesbury
 - 625 Devonshire, Glossop
 - 630 St. Outhbert, Howden
 - 710 Pleiades, Totnes
 - 816 Royd, Littleboro'
 - 973 Royal Somerset, Frome
 - 991 Tyne, Wallsend
 - 1099 Huyshe, Stoke, Devonport
 - 1145 Equality, Accrington
 - 1164 Eliot, St. Germans
 - 1182 Duke of Edinburgh, Liverpool
 - 1213 Bridgewater, Eccles

- 1235 Phoenix St. Ann, Buxton
- 1247 St. John, Plymouth
- 1273 St. Michael, Sittingbourne
- 1387 Chorlton, Chorlton-cum-Hardy
- 1416 Falcon, Thirsk
- 1583 Corbet, Towyn
- 1637 Hospitality, Waverfoot
- 1750 Coleridge, Clevedon
- 1763 St. Mary, Thame
- 1992 Tennant, Cardiff
- 2091 Castleberg, Settle
- 2189 Ashburton, Ashburton
- 2234 Onslow, Guildford
- 2262 Dagmar, Wraybury
- 2278 Kingswood, Broxbourne
- 2285 Eden, Workington
- 2343 Sir William Harpur, Bedford
- 2420 Fd. de Rothschild, Waddesdon
- 2449 Duke of York, Manchester

Friday.

- 36 Glamorgan, Cardiff
- 81 Doric, Woodbridge
- 170 All Souls, Weymouth
- 401 Royal Forest, Slaidburn
- 458 Aire and Calder, Goole
- 460 Sutland Unity, N'castle-u-Lyme
- 526 Honour, Wolverhampton
- 652 Holme Valley, Holmfrith
- 1001 Harrowgate & Claro, Harr'wg'te
- 1034 Eccleshill, Eccleshill
- 1087 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard
- 1102 Mirfield, Mirfield
- 1121 Wear Valley, Bishop Auckland
- 1428 United Service, Landport
- 1605 De la Pole, Hull
- 1676 St. Nicholas, Newcastle-on-Tyne
- 1983 Martyn, Southwold
- 2078 St. Lawrence, Scunthorpe
- 2554 Manchester, Manchester
- 2558 Furnival, Sheffield

Saturday.

- 1685 Guelph, Leyton
- 149 Peace, Meltham
- 370 St. George, Chertsey
- 444 Union, Starcross
- 453 Chigwell, Chingford
- 869 Gresham, Chestnut Park
- 1423 Era, Twickenham
- 1637 Unity, Harrow Station
- 1755 Eldon, Portishead

The Theatres, &c.

Her Majesty's.—8.30, The Silver Key. On Thursday and Friday, Hamlet. Adelphi.—8.15, Secret Service. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.

Daly's.—8.15, The Geisha; A story of a Tea House. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.

Vaudeville.—8.15, Round a Tree. 9, A Night out. Matinée, Wednesday, 8.

Prince of Wales's.—8.15, La Poupée. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.

Savoy.—7.40, Old Sarah. 8.20, The Yeoman of the Guard. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30. (Re-open 16th August).

Gaiety.—8, The Circus Girl.

Terry's.—8.20, The French Maid. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.30.

Comedy.—8.10, A labour of Love. 9, Saucy Sally. Matinée, Wednesday, 8.

Criterion.—8.15, Before the Dawn. 9, Four little girls. (Last day). Next Saturday, The Sleeping Partner.

Garrick.—On Monday, In town.

Grand.—Next week, Boys Together.

Princess's.—7.45, Tommy Atkins.

Parkhurst.—Next week, at 8, In Camp.

Alhambra.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. Fregoli, &c., &c. The Tzigane. Victoria and Merrie England. Cinematographe views of the Jubilee Procession.

Empire.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet, Monte Cristo, &c.

Palace.—7.45, Variety Entertainment, New American Biograph, &c.

Tivoli.—7.30, Variety Entertainment. Saturday, 2.30 also.

Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2.30.

Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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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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NEW CONCORD LODGE, No. 813.

THE annual summer excursion was held on Thursday, 22nd ult. The Brethren of the Lodge and their friends, wives, sweethearts, and sisters assembled at Paddington Station, says the "Islington Gazette," and left in saloon carriages by the 10.32 for Goring. From Goring the company walked to Streatley, where in the grounds of the Bull Hotel an excellent lunch was provided. An hour later they embarked on the "River Queen," a launch of considerable holding capacity, and had a most delightful trip to Henley. At Shiplake the company had water above as well as below, and for ten minutes the rain descended in such torrents that the ladies were forced to seek shelter in the cabin. This was the only objectionable feature of an otherwise charming day.

A banquet was provided in St. Mary's Hall, Henley, Bro. J. I. Moar Worshipful Master presiding. The banquet was long and the speeches short. The latter included the Queen and the Craft, and the Worshipful Master. Even the ladies were not toasted. The Brethren were brief—not because they were witty—but owing to the notorious punctuality of Great Western trains brevity was imperative.

However, there was time to cheer the W.M., to thank Bro. Potter Secretary of the Lodge for the part he had played in organising the trip, and a minute was spared to give one loud "Hurrah" for Bro. Herbert Sprake, who was described as the pioneer of summer river excursions so far as the New Concord Lodge is concerned.

The party left Henley by the 8.30, and arrived at Paddington a few minutes after 10 o'clock, the unanimous verdict being that a most enjoyable day had been spent.

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SCOTS LODGE, No. 2319.

THE installation meeting was held on the 22nd ult., at the Masonic Temple in the Holborn Restaurant, when Bro. James Thomson W.M. presided. A company of about 100 Brethren were present.

Bro. Dr. Daniel Mackay Forbes Past Master of the Maybury Lodge being the candidate who was elected unanimously at the last meeting of the Lodge as its Master for the year ensuing, the ceremony of installation was admirably performed in his behalf by Bro. Gellion.

Bro. James Thomson was invested with a handsome Past Master's jewel in recognition of his services to the Lodge as its Master for the past year.

At the banquet which followed the business the royal toasts were duly honoured. The health of the Worshipful Master was proposed by Bro. James Thomson, who referred to the great services of Dr. Forbes as an active member of the Scottish Corporation, of the Caledonian Asylum, of the Scottish societies in London, and of Masonic charities.

Bro. Thomas Mackenzie Past Master of the St. Andrew Lodge, No. 460, Clutha, who has discovered some of the most important passes of New Zealand, and whose explorations have been brought under the notice of the Royal Geographical Society, responded to the toast of the visitors.

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LONDON SCHOOL BOARD LODGE, No. 2611.

IT is rather late in the season for Masonic meetings in London, writes the "bell-ringer" of the "Islington Gazette," but, by the kind invitation of my Masonic Brother W. Roston Bourke, I assisted at the installation of this Lodge, on Monday, 12th ult., at the Hotel Cecil, where, by the way, there is a very fine Masonic Temple. It was quite charming to observe how Masonry enabled the School Board lions to sit down with the lambs, and how the gentlemen who fight about "isms" dwelt together in the Masonic tent in peace and unity.

It was the first installation since the Lodge was consecrated, and Bro. the Rev. A. W. Oxford, the retiring Master, installed Bro. Henry Lynn as second Master, the ceremony being commendably performed.

Bro. Lynn, in appointing his Officers, gave a fair share to Finsbury, for Canon Ingram was made Chaplain, Bro. G. Benson Clough Senior Deacon, and Bro. W. Roston Bourke Junior Deacon. Bro. Diggle, a young Mason, was, by general consent, promoted over the heads of consenters to the important post of Junior Warden, in which position he behaved so well that even the Progressives admired him.

The banquet was an elegant one, the menu being on the Hotel Cecil lines, the object of which seems to be to disguise food in as toothsome a way as possible, and serve up unconsidered trifles as tit-bits.

The School Board oratory was, by design, made merciful to the poor visitor, and the tone was of mild jocosity, blended with a little vocal music. Bro. Oxford received the usual prize for good conduct in school, a tasteful jewel.

Past Grand Deacon Nairn, Past Grand Warden Fenn, and Grand Chaplain Brownrigg beamed upon the company, and the Bland Old Man retired at the reasonable hour usually observed among Masons, with the consciousness that he had enjoyed his School Board for once without being asked to pay rates for it.

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INSTRUCTION.

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PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

A MEETING was held on Wednesday, 28th ult., at the Weavers Arms, London Wall, E.C., Bro. H. Saunior P.M. as W.M., S. E. Spencer S.W., J. Brown J.W., D. Harbord P.M. Preceptor, H. T. Meadows P.M. Sec., F. Dawe S.D., Wise J.D., Drake I.G., J. Smith P.M., C. Butcher, J. Wynman, W. Strong.

The Lodge was opened to the second degree. Bro. Strong being a candidate to be raised to the third, answered the usual questions and was entrusted. The Lodge was opened in the third degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. The excellent working of Past Master Saunior requires no comment. Afterwards, by desire of the W.M., each Brother went through the three degrees by signs, which were given to the W.M.'s satisfaction. The Lodge was regularly closed down, Bro. Spencer being elected as W.M. for the next meeting.

CONSIDERING the hot weather a very good meeting took place on Wednesday, at the Weaver's Arms, London Wall, E.C. Bro. Spencer W.M., J. Brown S.W., J. G. Rcbeson J.W., D. Harlow P.M. Preceptor, H. T. Meadows P.M. Sec., A. H. Stokes S.D., H. Saunior P.M. J.D., F. H. Farr I.G., J. Smith P.M., J. Wynman, and others.

The Lodge was opened to the second degree and Bro. Smith was entrusted, the ceremony of raising being rehearsed, he acting as candidate. The Lodge was closed down in the third and second degrees. Bro. Brown was elected W.M. for next meeting.

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WESTBOURNE LODGE, No. 733.

THE usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, 27th ult., at the Oliver Arms, Westbourne Terrace North, Harrow Road, W.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed by Bro. George Weaver, who acted as W.M., being assisted by Bro. T. Mogford W.M. as S.W., Barter J.W. Bloomsbury Rifles Lodge as J.W., R. J. Rogers P.M. Treas. Dep.Prec., G. Mogford P.M. Sec., and others. Bro. Wynman acted as candidate. After the ceremony the Lodge was called off and on. By desire of the W.M., Bro. G. Mogford P.M. Sec. occupied the chair and rehearsed the ceremony of installation, afterwards delivering the three addresses in his usual able and perfect manner, to the satisfaction of the Brethren and visitors alike.

The W.M. having resumed his chair, closed the Lodge to the first degree. Bro. T. Mogford was elected W.M. for Tuesday, 10th August, when the Brethren may expect to witness some excellent working.

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ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

ON Thursday, at Bro. W. T. Purkiss's, Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, Bro. R. Robinson W.M., R. Goff S.W., W. Langdon J.W., T. J. Larkman P.M. Treas. acting Preceptor, J. H. Cumming P.M. Sec., J. Dinnis P.M. S.D., H. R. Worth J.D., F. Craggs P.M. I.G., Justin Allen, J. W. Blaydes, J. Wynman, Barton Jones P.M., and others.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Justin Allen being candidate. The W.M. gave the ancient charge. Bro. Blaydes offered himself as candidate for the second degree, and was entrusted, the ceremony being afterwards rehearsed. Bro. Goff was elected W.M. for next meeting.

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SINCERITY LODGE, No. 189.

THE annual installation and banquet was held on the 12th ult., at the Lodge Room, Stonehouse, when Bro. Frederick Strick was installed W.M. for the ensuing year.

The banquet was held in the refectory adjoining the Lodge Room, and was admirably supplied by Messrs. Risdon and Son. After the loyal toasts, Bro. Sach proposed the Prov. Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of Devonshire, and the Prov. Grand Master and Grand Lodge of Cornwall.

Capt. Quinn responded for Devonshire, and Major Shanks for Cornwall. The latter said it was twenty-six years ago that he was installed W.M. of Lodge Sincerity, of which he was now the oldest Past Master, after the Earl of Mount-Edgcombe. He often told them in the Province of Cornwall it was in Sincerity Lodge and in the Province of Devon that the P.G. Master of Cornwall learnt his Freemasonry.

The Senior Warden Bro. Hodge proposed the toast of the evening, the health of the Worshipful Master, which was received with the greatest cordiality, and Bro. Strick suitably responded to the toast.

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FAITH LODGE, No. 484.

THE annual outing arranged under the auspices of this Lodge took place on Thursday, 22nd ult., and was very enjoyable. Alton Towers, one of the brightest spots in Staffordshire, was the destination, and thither a nice party of the Fraternity and friends proceeded. The weather was most favourable, and the arrangements, for the success of which Dr. J. N. Patter-son, of Earlestown, was mainly responsible, were all that could be desired.

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WHITWELL LODGE, No. 1390.

ON Tuesday, 27th ult., the installation of Bro. William Millar as W.M. took place at the Masonic Lodge room, Salthouse Road, Millom. There was a good number of visiting Brethren present from Barrow, Dalton, Arlecdon, Coniston, &c. The installation ceremony was effectively performed by Bro. Howarth, assisted by Bros. J. Atkinson and H. F. Fox.

A splendid banquet was provided at the Millom Castle Hotel, the host, Bro. J. Fawcett, excelling even his usual excellency in the catering department. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured.

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CEDEWAIN LODGE, No. 1594.

THE installation meeting was held at the Temple, Newtown, on Thursday, 15th ult., when Bro. Ellison was installed Worshipful Master for the ensuing twelve months.

There was a large gathering of members and visiting Brethren, and present and past Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge were also largely in attendance. The ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Danily P.M. P.P.G.W., one of the oldest Masons in the Province.

After the ceremony about forty Brethren sat down to a banquet in the Temple dining room, when the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured. By a special effort the Freehold premises have been cleared of debt.

OGMORE LODGE, No. 1752.

THE annual meeting was held on Monday, 26th ult., at Bridgend, when Brother R. G. Pugh was installed as Worshipful Master. A number of visiting Brethren attended. The W.M. having invested his Officers, a drive was taken round the coast, and in the evening the annual banquet was held at the York Hotel.

CROOK LODGE, No. 2019.

THE annual Provincial visit to this Lodge was made on Wednesday, 28th ult., at the Freemasons' Hall, Crook. There was a large muster of members to welcome the visitors, who included Bro. R. Hudson P.G.Std.B. Eng. Prov.G.Sec.

Various interesting items were included in the work of the day. Jewels were presented to Bro. R. Hudson, and the Worshipful Master Bro. J. H. Pollard presented a banner to the Lodge. Other presentations were made by Bros. T. Hardy P.P.G.P., E. Milburn P.M. P.P.G.S.D., and W. T. Wanless P.M., each of whom gave to the Crook Lodge a portrait of himself.

Afterwards a sumptuous banquet was provided for visitors and members.

HORSA LODGE, No. 2208.

A VERY enjoyable summer outing took place on Wednesday, 28th ult., when Lulworth was visited. The party, numbering nearly sixty, and including the W.M. Bro. C. Pearce and a number of ladies, left shortly after 8 a.m., the doubtful weather being responsible for the absence of a few of the Brethren. A change of horses took place at Wareham, and after leaving that place the weather cleared up, and was very fine for the remainder of the day. Luncheon and tea were served on the lawn of the Cove Hotel by Mr. J. Boyd; and in the course of the afternoon a most successful photograph of the party was taken by Bro. S. G. Witcomb. There were no speeches at the lunch, but the W.M., in a few well-chosen words, bade the Brethren and visitors welcome, and expressed the hope that, in view of the success of that most enjoyable trip, a summer outing would henceforth be considered a fixture. The return journey was commenced about 6.30, and, after another delightful drive, home was reached at ten o'clock.

WESTERN DISTRICT UNITED SERVICE LODGE, No. 2258.

THE Worshipful Master Bro. Capt. Thos. Reynolds, Devon Regiment, presided over the installation banquet held on Wednesday, 21st ult., at Bro. Routley's Farley Hotel, Plymouth. The President was supported by a distinguished gathering of Masons, consisting principally of those serving in the army and navy.

After the loyal toasts, Bro. Brebner gave the Master Bro. Captain Reynolds. He remarked that the members of the Lodge were glad to have such a distinguished Brother at their head.

Captain Reynolds returned thanks, stating that he was proud of the marked unanimity that existed amongst the Brethren.

CORINTHIAN LODGE, No. 2350.

THE annual pic-nic of the members was held on Wednesday, 21st ult., Bro. Jas. Rothwell W.M. being in charge. Waggonettes were at the Bird-i'-th'-Hand Hotel, Hindley, at 7.30 a.m., and carried the party, numbering about thirty, consisting of the members, their wives, and friends, to the L. and N.W. Railway Station, Wigan. Train for Chester was taken, the city being reached by 9.50. The Pied Bull Hotel was made the headquarters.

The ancient city was explored, the various attractions being very interesting. An excellent dinner was served at the hotel at half-past twelve, after which the party were conveyed by waggonettes to the river Dee, on which a most enjoyable trip was made. Eton Hall Gardens were visited and admired by all. Waggonettes were again in waiting, and conveyed the party from Eton to Hawarden and back to Chester. Expectations were entertained of gaining a glimpse of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, but a few only accidentally saw the G.O.M. being conveyed in his carriage from home to somewhere beyond the precincts of Hawarden. Tea was provided about 5.30, and the return journey was commenced by the 7.45 train, Hindley being reached by waggonettes from Wigan shortly before ten o'clock. The pic-nic was most enjoyable, and gave great satisfaction.

TRISTRAM LODGE, No. 2415.

THE members met at Shildon, on Friday, 23rd ult., when the Lodge was visited by the Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge, there being a very large attendance of Officers and members to welcome the visitors. The W.M. Bro. Jos. Henderson presided.

The proceedings were of an interesting character, and nearly 120 Brethren were present.

MARK MASONRY.

CHARITY LODGE, No. 76.

THE annual meeting was held at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth, on Thursday, 22nd ult., when Bro. W. Biscoe was installed W.M. The ceremony was conducted by Bro. J. R. Lord P.P.G.J.W., and Bro. J. Gidley Prov.G.Treas.

After the formal business the Brethren were entertained at supper by the W.M. The usual toasts were honoured, and a pleasant evening was spent under the genial presidency of the W.M.

WHITEHAVEN FREEMASONS AND THEIR CARETAKER.

THE permanent committee of the Sun, Square and Compasses Lodge, Whitehaven, brought an action against Rd. L. Knutsford to recover possession of the rooms which he occupied in his former capacity of caretaker. Mr. J. L. Paitson appeared for the plaintiffs and stated that

defendant, who was formally appointed by the Committee as caretaker, received notice to leave in March last, and to give up the rooms as soon as possible on the termination of that notice. This notice was sent to defendant by the Secretary, Mr. W. Hastwell, in pursuance of a resolution passed by the committee, but he had failed to leave the rooms in reasonable time, hence the present action. Defendant contended that the Secretary had no authority to turn him out, as he was not his landlord. The committee, too, had not acted in accordance with the rules of the Lodge. They owed him money but he could get nothing from them. His Honour: Have you had notice that your services were no longer required? Defendant: Yes. Then why didn't you get off the premises? They would not pay me my money. Defendant went on to say he himself had been a member of the Lodge sixteen years. His Honour said that did not matter. It had nothing to do with his office as caretaker, and having received notice to leave he ought to have given up the rooms. Defendant: I will go as soon as I can get a house convenient. His Honour made an order upon defendant to give up possession in seven days.—"Whitehaven Advertiser."

IS THERE A CYCLE SLUMP?

IN view of the statements recently widely circulated, and bearing in mind the large amount of capital invested in Cycle industries, the answer to the above question has become a matter of concern to a very large number of people. The John Griffiths Cycle Corporation Limited, speaking as a firm "admitted to be the 'World's largest Cycle dealers'" say: "We have so far this season done a larger volume of business than at any time in our history. We might give strong evidence in support of this, but a much better criterion of the present state of the Cycle trade is afforded by the recent speech of the Chairman of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co., Ltd. (Mr. Harvey du Cros sen.), at the ordinary general meeting of the Company, on the 21st ult., when handling a balance sheet showing almost one million profit in eighteen months. As is well known, fully 90 per cent.—if not more—of English-made cycles are fitted with the Dunlop Tyre, so that it will be readily understood how well qualified the Chairman of this concern is to properly pronounce as to the true state of affairs in the cycle trade." We quote that portion of Mr. Harvey du Cros' speech which deals more particularly with the subject:

Now, ladies and gentlemen, it may interest you if we look for a moment at the Cycle trade, with which this Company is very intimately connected. A great many people are writing about the Cycle trade just now, and I think some of the gentlemen who are writing do not quite understand the subject. In fact, it brings to my mind the words that Gilbert puts in the mouths of his three little girls from school—"Life is a joke which is just begun." I think a great many people seem to think that the Cycle trade is a sort of joke or swindle which has just begun; but let me tell you that the Cycle trade is a great English industry—an industry which has been extending for years, and will extend for years. People are talking about a slump in Cycles. I do not know anything about Cycle finance. There may be a slump in Cycle finance, but in the Cycle trade there cannot be a slump. The history of the Cycle trade is simply this, that it started in a very small way, but with the advent of the pneumatic tyre, which made riding a Cycle a luxury, it began to expand, and it does expand each year, and will expand each year. But the Cycle trade, by reason of the seasons, is sometimes subject to a temporary check in connection with the output, but that check is purely temporary, and it is more a question for the agent than for the manufacturer. It is my opinion that in the Cycle trade very large profits have been made during the year 1897, and I think it only remains for those at the head of these businesses to deal with their profits in a proper manner by paying reasonable dividends and building up large reserves; and those engaged making the great brands of machines should be careful to make their expansion gradual, as I believe they always have done, and are doing. I think I can illustrate my view of the Cycle trade by an incident which happened yesterday. There was a very interesting meeting of the Swift Cycle Company. The directors were complaining of a very ample interpretation placed by their managing director upon the fifth Commandment, and the managing director gave the directors a photograph and some figures. I have not got the photograph, but I have the figures. They show that in the year 1894 the turnover of that company was £50,000, in 1896 £200,000, and for ten months of this year £225,000. I happen to know something about this company, and all that £225,000 worth of machines has been sold, and they are all to be paid for. Now, you will observe that there is an expansion from one year to the other, and that is where the possibility of a season's check comes in. This £225,000 worth of machines have been made and sold, but that manufacturer now holds his hand, and if the agents want more machines, they shall have them, but if they do not want more, then the works shall remain idle. That is the extent of the slump in the Cycle trade. If it is a good season, they make a great expansion; if it is a bad season, the expansion is limited. I think that is the true position of the development of the Cycle trade.

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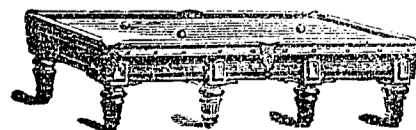
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