

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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

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FRATERNAL INTERCOURSE.

MUCH has been written in support of the injunction contained in Law 149 of the Book of Constitutions, which enjoins that the Master and Wardens of a Lodge shall visit other Lodges as often as they conveniently can, in order that the same usages and customs may be observed throughout the Craft, and a good understanding cultivated among Freemasons; and no Brother who has been present at a meeting attended by a numerous body of visitors, and has noted the hearty welcome that has been accorded them, and the pleasant interchange of sentiment that has resulted, will doubt for one moment that very great advantage does result from the carrying out of this regulation.

It is seldom, however, that we notice a more gratifying arrangement than that recorded in the report, given elsewhere in this issue, of the meeting of the St. Nicholas Lodge, at Scarborough, when the Worshipful Masters of the three other Lodges which meet in the town took a prominent part in the ceremony of installation, the ruler of the oldest Lodge giving the address to the Worshipful Master, the W.M. of the Denison Lodge addressing the Wardens, and the W.M. of the Leopold Lodge discharging the like duty to the Brethren generally, giving evidence of an amount of unanimity among the different Lodges of Scarborough it would be difficult to improve upon, and probably almost unknown in any organisation other than that of Freemasonry.

We have frequently urged the advantage of dividing the work of the installation, and have pointed out how much better it is for different Past Masters to take up the addresses, but the particular division of the work among the presiding Officers of neighbouring Lodges is a point that has hitherto escaped us, and we venture to think many of our readers will agree that it is a practice worthy of imitation on each and every possible occasion, as a practical exemplification of the true Brotherhood that abounds among members of our ancient Institution.

We do not wish to imply that the course here referred to is a wholly new feature on the part of the St. Nicholas Lodge, but the arrangement will certainly prove a new one to many Brethren coming forward for the chair, and may lead them to ask the question whether they might not profitably follow the example of their Yorkshire Brethren.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Cheltenham, on Thursday, 2nd inst., and was attended by an unusually large assemblage of members of the Order, notwithstanding the counter-attractions of the great gathering of Masons in St. Paul's Cathedral on the same day.

The Right Hon. Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart., M.P., Grand Superintendent presided, and opened Prov.G. Chapter with the usual formalities.

Comp. J. Bruton presented the Treasurer's report, which was of a satisfactory character. He was re-elected Treasurer by the unanimous vote of the Chapter.

After various routine business had been disposed of, the roll of the Chapters was called, and reports made on their behalf, and the Grand Superintendent then made his appointment of Officers for the ensuing year, as follow :

Comp. R. V. Vassar-Smith 82 839	-	-	H.
Rev. P. Hattersley-Smith 82	-	-	J.
J. B. Winterbotham 82	-	-	Scribe E.
C. G. Clark 493	-	-	Scribe N.
J. Bruton 839	-	-	Treasurer
J. L. Bretherton 839	-	-	Registrar
R. W. K. Northcott 702	-	-	Principal Sojourner
Col. R. Rogers 82	-	-	1st Assistant Sojourner
E. Lea 493	-	-	2nd Assistant Sojourner
J. L. Tickell 82	-	-	Sword Bearer
S. Millard 493	-	-	Standard Bearer
E. W. Henley 839	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
F. Hannam-Clarke 839	-	-	Organist
Lt. Evans 82	-	-	Assistant Scribe E.
Carroll 82	-	-	Janitor.

Prov.G. Chapter having been closed, a banquet was served in the dining hall, at which the Right Hon. Sir M. E. Hicks Beach presided.

WILTSHIRE.

ON the occasion of the annual meeting, reported in our last, the appointments of Officers for the Provincial Grand Lodge took place, as follow :

Bro. G. L. Palmer 632	-	-	Senior Warden
Viscount Folkestone 586	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. P. M. Smythe 2227	-	-	Chaplain
E. B. Merriman 1533	-	-	Treasurer
W. E. N. Brown 355	-	-	Registrar
H. Bevir 335	-	-	Secretary
Col. R. T. Gwyn 335	-	-	Senior Deacon
G. W. Harris 586	-	-	Junior Deacon
P. I. Leader 1533	-	-	Superintendent of Works
John Chandler 355	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
J. P. Martin 663	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
H. Mead 2227	-	-	Sword Bearer
A. H. Hancock 1271	-	-	Standard Bearer
W. S. Bainbridge 1553	-	-	Organist
W. Webster 2227	-	-	Pursuivant
T. Hogarth 1295	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
Wm. Dean	-	-	Tyler.

COLUMBIA CHAPTER.

A NEW Chapter, attached to the Anglo-American Lodge, No. 2191, was consecrated on Tuesday, at the Hotel Cecil. The Consecrating Officer was Companion Letchworth Grand Scribe E., assisted by Companions Horton Smith, Q.C., as H., Thomas Fenn—who delivered the oration—as J., C. E. Keyser as S.N., and Frank Richardson as D.C. The new Chapter made a most auspicious beginning, the ceremony being attended by a large number of distinguished Arch Masons. On the conclusion of the impressive ceremony of Consecration Companions R. Clay Sudlow, Henry S. Wellcome, and F. C. Van Duzer were installed as the three Principals.

THE CHURCH AND THE FREEMASONS.

THE magnificent service of the Freemasons at St. Paul's, in memory of the 200th anniversary of that cathedral opens

many thoughts. The most important is the relations of the Church of England to the Freemasons. One of the most important branches of the Christian Church denounces Freemasonry, and threatens excommunication to any of her children who venture to be initiated into the mystery of that proscribed Craft. The Church of England takes the opposite view, and solemnly invites the Freemasons to celebrate the bicentenary of her great cathedral in connection with the memory of the eminent Freemason, Sir Christopher Wren, who built that noble and well-famed Church. According to the Church of Rome all those 5,000 Freemasons who knelt in prayer on Thursday last in the noble building designed by one of their Craft ought to have been excommunicated; according to the Church of England they were all welcome (and more Freemasons also, for many could not find room to get in), and all accepted as Brethren in the still wider sympathy of the Holy Catholic Church. Which was right? The matter may be regarded both as respects principle and policy.

Taking policy first, the recent line of action of the Church of England in sanctioning and blessing the associations of laymen for definite and lawful purposes seems both politic and Christian. The Freemasons were not the first body invited thus to a grand service at St. Paul's. At St. Luke's-tide two thousand medical men, including in their number some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons in the world, were assembled in memory of their sainted Brother, the beloved physician and evangelist, St. Luke, to praise God in their great cathedral, to ask God for a blessing on their labours for the alleviation of human suffering, and to listen to the wise words of the Archbishop of York setting forth the sanctity of their priesthood of nature, and their solemn work. Now the Freemasons, who with their mystic symbolism import a sacred meaning to the building of edifices, especially those reared to the honour of God, were summoned in their different orders to pray to the "Divine Architect of the Universe," to sing His praises, to hear His Word in the sacred Scriptures, and the address of the Bishop of London. Both services were great successes, and no doubt thousands of men who have much influence on English society were edified and elevated by them. The advantage in this direction of policy is indisputable.

But no matter of policy can justify any failure in principle. Supposing we accepted the view that it was desirable for the state of religion in Italy, France, and Spain, that the Church of Rome should take the Freemasons under the ægis of her protection; that the continental Lodges (say the "Grand Orient of Italy") should have their Chaplains; that Mass should be celebrated at all grand Masonic functions; that, even at St. Peter's at Rome (the church which in the Roman communion holds somewhat the position of our St. Paul's, if not something still higher) there should be on grand occasions High Mass for the Freemasons—all this, it might be urged, would, though politic, be most improper if the principles of Freemasonry differ from those of the Holy Catholic Church, and, in fact, constitute a new religion. In this matter both the Freemasons and their friends are in a difficult position. They cannot properly defend their Order without exposing to the eye of the public all or most of its secrets which are held unprofitable and unsuitable to be revealed. In fact, Freemasonry is, respectable though it may be in England, a secret society, and thus is liable to all the inconveniences that secret societies have to face when attacked. Many of us are opposed to all secret societies, and the Church of Rome has decidedly taken that position. Even the Primrose League was only authorised by Rome with difficulty, and on the plea that it was hardly a secret society, as its aims and organisation were well understood by almost every Englishman.

But the plea against all secret societies is difficult to support, especially by the Church in Rome, which was itself in the first three centuries almost a secret society. It had its "tilers" in the "ostiarium," it had its passwords, its initiations, its secret meetings at night in the catacombs, its symbols and secret rites. This was forced on it by the persecution of the heathen, but certainly some of the congregations of the Church of Rome under the earlier Bishops of Rome were almost as much secret societies as our Masonic Lodges. If these early Popes were infallible, then they gave their infallible decision in favour of a secret society for the advancement of religion and morals. If they were infallibly right, then Leo XIII must be infallibly wrong, in denouncing the Freemasons. Certainly the bitterness of Rome against the Masonic craft has of late been very intense. The conduct of Count Leo Taxil, and the myth of Diana Vaughan (now so wonderfully hushed up by the Vatican), proves how strong the sentiment of Rome must be against the Freemasons, for after the mythical character of their chief accuser was exposed, and an "a priori" case made out that the vile accusations brought against them were fictitious, the Pope decided that the scandal of the imposture should be hushed up, and his officials have succeeded. As to the immorality of this procedure, there can be little doubt among most unprejudiced Englishmen. But in any

case it demonstrates the bitter hatred and aversion of Freemasonry that is experienced by the Roman Curia.

We do not say that Leo XIII and Pius IX were altogether without reason in objecting to Italian and French Freemasonry. There are many painful scandals in foreign Lodges, but the question has often suggested itself to us whether, if the Church and her faithful clergy and laity had taken Freemasonry under her patronage on the Continent, as she has in England, these scandals would have existed, or the anarchists and communists of the Continent would have had any chance of using Masonic Lodges for their evil ends. In fact, just as it is said "The best way to put down bad books is to diffuse good ones," so the best way to check bad Freemasons is to encourage good men to use the Order for philanthropic and Christian principles. This has been done in England, and we believe also in Sweden and other northern lands. We do not know all the secrets of Freemasonry, but we cannot think that the 5,000 mostly honourable and respected Englishmen, and the 150 honoured English priests who were at the Masonic function at St. Paul's, would have anything to do with Masonry if it had been such a wicked thing as Rome supposes, or had deserved the excommunication and ban of any branch of the Christian Church. We are convinced that the line of sympathy and patronage of Freemasonry that our own Anglian Church has adopted is wiser and more charitable than that of wholesale denunciation and condemnation adopted by the Church of Rome.—"Church Review."

There can scarcely be many journalists among us who have the claim to boast that they have reported the great Duke of Wellington in the House of Lords, but one such was present at the installation banquet of the Gallery Lodge on Saturday, when Bro. S. James, of the "Daily Chronicle," succeeded to the chair filled during the previous year by Bro. George Tarran, of the "Guardian." To a Lodge composed entirely of working journalists—the only such Lodge in the world, indeed—it was of special interest to hear how, just fifty years since, a young reporter, filled with trepidation at being told, on his first appearance in the gallery of the House of Lords, that he was to "take" the Duke, found his task made easy by the fact that Wellington addressed the Peers with the clear abruptness of the parade-ground, and thus enabled him to do the work so well that it secured for him a permanent engagement.—"Daily Post."

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

SUPPLEMENTARY to our notice of last week we may add that our late Bro. E. I. Reed was an active and zealous Freemason, amongst other matters taking part in the foundation of two new Lodges: the Fellowship, No. 2535, where he occupied the office of J.D.; and the Victoria, No. 2671, held at Windsor. He was a member of the Queen's Westminster Lodge and Chapter, No. 2021, also Secretary of the Lodge of Instruction attached thereto; member of the Hornsey Chapter of Instruction, the Logic, Hyde Park, Westbourne, and other Lodges of Instruction, and a supporter of our Charities. He received the Volunteer decoration for long service, in the 18th Middlesex Rifles. As an accountant in the Great Western Railway Company's service he was much esteemed by his colleagues, and anticipated being soon superannuated after his long service. He was interred in Kensal Green Cemetery, the Rev. M. C. Richardson, M.A., impressively rendering the last rites. The chief mourners were the widow, and the following members of the family: Edward Martin, Willie Charles, Thomas Harry (sons); Emma, Emily (daughters); Mrs. E. M. Reed, Mrs. W. Reed, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Matheson, Mr. Barefoot, Bro. Allistone, Dr. Parker Young. Many of his Railway and Volunteer colleagues were also present, while among the Brethren representing the different Lodges and Chapters with which he had been connected we noticed the following, among others:—J. Stephens G.A.D.C. England, H. Dehane P.P.G.S.D. Essex, J. Welford P.M. Treas. 2535, W. Thomas P.M. 2535 P.Z., A. Allistone 2535, J. F. Ayton 2535, G. Andrews 2535, G. A. Broughton 733, J. R. Crook 733, W. H. Hallett P.M. 733, H. Harnell 733, T. W. Allen P.M. P.Z. S.E. 733, H. H. Bagnall 733, A. Clark P.M. 1668, E. J. Potter 1668, T. M. Lambie S.W. 511, E. Prince W.M., J. F. Wolff S.W., and J. Baynes J.W. 2671, W. A. Cocks Sec. 2671, T. W. Turner A.D.C. 2671, W. A. Hardy Std. 2671. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. H. Cole, Harrow Road, who with considerable artistic taste displayed the wreaths to the best advantage. Amongst the most noticeable for beauty were those sent by our late Brother's children, the Victoria and Fellowship Lodges, the Queen's Westminster Lodge and Chapter, the Westbourne Lodge of Instruction, the Officers of the Accountant's Department Great Western Railway, Col. Vickerman on behalf of the 18th Middlesex Regiment, Bros. Welford and Broughton, &c.

TRUTH.

Address of Sir William A. Davis before the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar in Georgia.

BORN in the bosom of Jehovah, proclaimed by the prophets of old and confirmed by the advent of Emanuel, Truth has come on down through the centuries hoary with age, replete with honour and crowned with glory, and to-day stands before the world as the highest exponent of the purest principle that ever evoked the benedictions of mankind. Great is the strength of wine, mighty the power of the king, blessed the influence of woman, but far beyond and above all these stands the almighty force and power of truth.

Truth is a theme glorious as the morning's smile, pure as the evening's tears, brilliant as the lightning's flash, grand as the thunder's march, soft as the zephyr's breath, majestic as the cyclone's sweep. I have no harp across whose cords I can throw a song worthy of the theme.

The monument of art and genius, the temples of ambition, pride and power; aerial gardens, luxurious palaces and imperial cities, crumble like chaff and are swept into the great sea of the past. The proudest thrones of earth decay, and races of men come and go like the dews of morning before the rising sun, but truth survives the wrecks of matter and withstands the shocks of time.

Change is written upon everything earthly and of earthly origin. Mutation is characteristic of the world. Its physical structure is continually changing. Change omnipotent makes his impress on every object in nature's kingdom. Rocks, rivers, valleys, hills and mountains all succumb to the mighty force of his power. Even the grand old ocean, typical of eternity, must accede to his imperial command, and while encroaching upon one hand recedes upon another. No physical or material substance can withstand the mighty rush of the epochs, and even governments and kingdoms change at their bidding and falling, perish in their tread. Our hopes, honours, ambitions, aspirations and memories, made dear by a thousand sacred associations, are blighted at one blast, and like spectres flee before the scorching breath of time's rushing tempest. But truth, untouched by the flying fragments of years, and unmarked by the fleeting feet of time, lifts its consecrated head to heaven as unchangeable and eternal as the immutable throne of God.

Like the fabled river of yore it may disappear for awhile, but it will burst forth again in a clear and living stream.

Through the pages of history we gaze back upon ancient Egypt, the land of science and sacred recollections, but behold the red hand of the Goth and the vandal hath levelled it with the dust. Through the same mighty telescope we look; though we look in vain, for the triumphal arches that knew the Cæsars in the noon-day greatness of Roman splendour; for the golden palaces of Nero and the shrine of Apollo; for the forum that shook with the thunder of Cicero's eloquence, and the coliseum that witnessed the mightiest gladiatorial combats of all the ages; for the temple of Diana at Ephesus and the renowned oracle of Delphi. Alas! the City of the Seven Hills is strewn with the fragments of other centuries. The temples have been dissolved in flame and the oracle has long been silent. Even Carthage, with her mighty legions, and beautiful Babylon with her hanging gardens, and majestic Nineveh with her monuments of commercial enterprise and prosperity, have been forever buried in the great mausoleum of the past. Such is the unstability of all human grandeur and human greatness. But truth lives forever, and waves her triumphal banner over every field of conflict. Oceans of calamity may overwhelm her for awhile, mountains of prejudice may weigh her down for a season, but by her inherent force she will throw off these burdens as the majestic lion shakes from his mane the dew-drops of the morning, and strengthened by every conquest she moves gloriously on to her appointed destiny.

Though the bright buds of hope may wither in the dust and the sweet blossoms of anticipations be scattered on the ground to die; though care has stamped its wrinkles upon your brow, and disappointment has dimmed the lustre of your eye; though bright forms of human beauty are presented to your view and then taken from you—leaving the thousand streams of your affections to flow back in an Alpine torrent upon your hearts; though of "beauty's bloom," of "fancy's flash," of "music's breath," you may have to exclaim: "I have no pleasure in them," truth tells me that while such is human life, such cannot be the ultimate destiny of man. Truth tells me there is a realm beyond the sunset's radiant glow, where the beautiful beings which here pass like visions before us will there stay in our presence forever.

We are told that centuries before the dawn of the Christian

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Other cruises leave London 22nd December, 18th February, and 12th April.

Lecturers for the season: Sir Arthur Arnold, the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, the Head-Master of Wellington College, the Head-Master of Cheltenham College, Sir Lambert Playfair, Rev. Canon Moore LL.D., Dean Forrest, Canon Tristram, Professor Sayce, Professor Ramsay, and the Rev. W. K. R. Bedford (Chaplain of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem).

Full particulars, with a plan of the Steamer, from the

Secretary, 5 Endsleigh Gardens, London, N.W.

era, when the new-made King of Argos was about to give up his young life in obedience to the order of the gods, she whom he loved so fondly, in the wild frenzy of her grief, pleaded with him to tell her whether they would ever meet again. He answered:

"I have asked that dreadful question of the hills
That look eternal; of the flowing streams
That lucid flow forever; of the stars
Amid whose fields of azure my raised spirit
Hath trod in glory; all were dumb; but now
While I thus gaze upon thy living face
I feel the love that kindles through its beauty
Can never wholly perish. Yes, we shall meet again."

Yes, Sir Knight, Truth tells me we were born for a higher destiny than that of earth, and if we but love her virtues and practice her precepts, her divine light will illumine our path to the superb palaces of God, and there around the snow-white throne Frater and friend shall meet again.

In this utilitarian age, when the heart of man is fixed on gold, or science, or literature, there are those who declare that "Wealth is power," others affirm that "Knowledge is power," but above them all we assert that "Truth is power." Wealth cannot purchase, talent cannot reflect, knowledge cannot over-reach, authority cannot silence her. They all, like Felix, tremble in her presence. Flung her into the most tremendous billow of popular commotion, she mounts aloft in the ark upon the summit of the deluge; cast her into the seven-fold heated furnace of the tyrant's wrath, she walks with the Son of God untouched through the conflagration. When wealth and talent and knowledge and authority, when earth and heaven itself shall pass away, Truth shall rise like the angel of Manoa's sacrifice, upon the flame of Nature's funeral pyre, and ascend to her source, her heaven and her home—the bosom of God.

When we contemplate the beauties of Templarism it is natural that we should conclude that an institution so firmly founded upon the eternal principles of Truth is co-extensive and co-equal, in prestige and in power, with the Church of God. Let us announce once for all that we make no such pretensions. It is true the Templar's religion is the Christian religion—the Templar's cause is the cause of Christ—the sign by which we shall conquer is the sign of the Cross, but the Church of God is the only religious institution at whose altar Templars worship. It alone is of heavenly origin. It had its deep foundations laid in "the counsels and purposes of eternity," and the Great Master of the Universe sanctified it with His Spirit and consecrated it with the blood of His son. In His dying agonies "Christ dropped the key-stone in the highest arch of the Temple, and placing the rejected Corner stone, stained with His own precious blood, upon the summit of the highest corner," in language that shook the universe, and in words that flew from star to star; from pole to pole, and from earth to heaven, He exclaimed: "It is finished." The Church is builded upon the mercy and goodness of God, Templarism upon the chivalry and devotion of its votaries. The church is upheld and shielded by the wisdom and power of God, Templarism is maintained by the care and fidelity of man.

Love is the fulfilling of the law which binds the whole Church of Christ into one fraternal bond; so, too, should the hearts of all Knights Templar be securely interlaced and firmly bound by the strongest ties of love. Templarism had its origin in the protection of the poor and weary pilgrim coming from afar to offer up his devotions at the sacred shrine; and, to-day, every true Sir Knight stands ever ready to draw his sword in defence of the holy religion of Christ. But Templarism is a part, not the whole of, religion. It may exist only for a time—the church must stand for all eternity.

History tells us that in the Dark Ages, the era of feudal despotism, when learning was locked up in the convent, the closet and the castle; when man was absolute master of his fellow-man, and the chains of tyranny rattled on the arms of the slave, the light and power of knowledge and truth were made more evident by the great circle of darkness and ignorance which surrounded them. The Milford Bard graphically tells us that in those days of romance the infant was cradled amid the clash of arms and the turmoil of battle; to him valour was virtue, and a knowledge of way was wisdom. Then came the Crusades, and religion consisted in grappling with the Mohammedan for the sepulchre of the Saviour. As the Bard truly says, then the aspiring youth knew no piety but patriotism, no science but superstition, and his education taught him that to conquer on the field of fight was the very essence of philosophy. About this era came the Orders of Knighthood, among which the Knights Templar were peculiarly distinguished. Learning became hereditary and never was the might of mind more terribly triumphant. With the great Charles as their patron, and headed by the venerable Valette, they shook the throne of the incensed Saladin and bade defiance to the foes of Truth.

During the long dark period of despotism and decay the Templars became the ægis of Europe and a shield to the Christian world. When the clouds of war darkened the East and a volcano broke from the mountains of Emaus; when the Saracen crescent

was waved by Saladin on the walls of the Holy City, then was seen a tempest even more terrible rolling up from the West. Then the dark Iberian, the gay Gaul, the gentle German were seen battling amid the burning sands of Syria; and the Albanian and the Arab unsheathed their glittering armour for the glorious combat. Then, too, did the victorious sword of the Templar glitter in the sunbeam, and mighty was its blow.

Sir Knights, the opportunity for the display of true heroism presents itself to-day as clearly and strongly as it did to the defenders of the sacred sepulchre. It is true opportunity does not make men, but it develops them. He that would be truly great must be equal to every emergency. Each day you and I and all of us have new conflicts to meet, new battles to be fought, new victories to be won, or new defeats to be sustained. The greatest enemy with which we have to contend is Self, and he who conquers Self and brings the stubborn and resistful will into subordination to the higher and purer aspirations of the soul is a greater hero than he who plants his battle-scarred banner upon the battered battlements of his country's foe.

"To live for a cause, to endeavour
To make your deeds grace it, to try
And uphold its precepts forever,
Is harder by far than to die;
For the battle of life is unending,
The enemy, Self, never tires,
And the true knight must slay
That sly foe every day
Ere he reaches the heights he desires."

Truth is not only the essence of our Order, but is the fundamental principle of Christianity and a higher civilisation. Truth supports the feebleness of humanity. It is the crutch of old age and the solace of affliction. It is poverty's treasure and it illumines the darkness of suffering virtue. It cheers the weary hearted and the heavy laden. It brings ease to the dying sinner and saves him from eternal woe.

Its beauty is of God. It imparts sweetness to the spirit of woman and grandeur to the character of man. In the language of another, "Character stamped with truth and fashioned in the mould of an incorruptible integrity is a leaf torn from the book of life upon which is written title deeds to immortal honours."

Truth's brightest ornament is virtue. They are bride and bridegroom of all time, and as they come on down through the dark pathway of the ages, hand in hand and heart to heart, how lovely the relation! Beautiful as that of morning and her sunlight, of evening and her starry train.

As some writer has said of Christianity we can also say of Truth: If she should be compelled to flee from the mansions of the great, from the academies of the philosophers, from the halls of legislators, or the throngs of busy men, we should find her last and purest retreat with woman at the fireside; her last altar would be the female heart; her last audience would be the children gathered at the mother's knee; her last sacrifice would be the secret prayer ascending from silent feminine lips: For it was

"Not she with traitorous kiss her Saviour stung;
Not she denied Him with unholy tongue;
She, when apostles shrank, could dangers brave,
Last at the cross and earliest at the grave."

The world was a wilderness and man a sighing hermit until woman smiled. He bows at the footstool of her beauty and kneels before the unsullied shrine of her love. An eloquent tongue has truly said, that in the path of duty no sacrifice is too high or too dear for woman. The voice of pleasure or of power may pass by unheeded, but the voice of affliction never. The chamber of the sick, the pillow of the dying, the vigils of the dead or the altars of religion never miss her presence or ask her sympathies in vain.

A cynic has asked, "What is woman for?" I know that every Knight Templar here will join in the response: She is for soul, for truth, for thought, for love, for beauty and for man. She is for poetry and for art—for earth and for heaven. She is for the fulfilment of the human imagination. She is for all ages and conditions—for youth, for middle age, for old age. She is for the merry-hearted and the light-footed. She is for life, for light, for glory, and for God. She is the cream of creation—the consummate masterpiece of nature.

There is Truth in the stars which "hold festivals around the midnight throne." There is Truth in the deep blue ocean as it rolls on its ceaseless flow. There is truth in Spring's blooming flowers, in Summer's ripening fruit, in Autumn's golden sunset, in Winter's snowy mantle. There is Truth in the lightning as it darts along its fiery pathway, and there is Truth in the roll of the thunder, the rush of the tempest, and the blazing sun. There is Truth in calvaries and crucifixions—in scourges and crowns of thorns. Wherever a tear drop glistens or a perishing life rides upon the ebbing tide, there is Truth.

Yes, Sir Knights, a Truth that tells us there is a God whose Throne is in the heavens, and whose foot-stool is the earth. Who counts the stars and numbers the sands of the sea. Who

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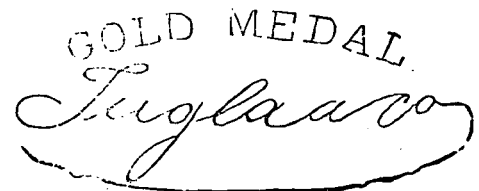
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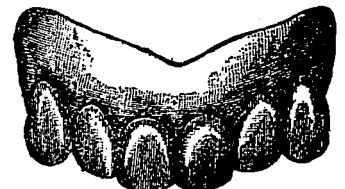
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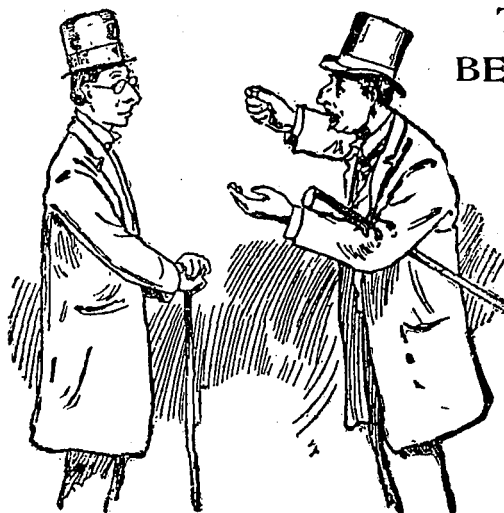
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Available for return up to sixteen days.

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There will also be Cheap Excursions to Dublin, Belfast, Londonderry, Portrush, &c. (for particulars see Bills).

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Cheap week-end tickets will be issued on Fridays, 24th and 31st December, and Saturdays, 25th December, and 1st January, from London (St. Pancras), and other Midland Stations, to the principal holiday and health resorts.

New winter tourist tickets have now been arranged to the principal tourist resorts.

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GEO. H. TURNER, General Manager.

Derby, December 1897.

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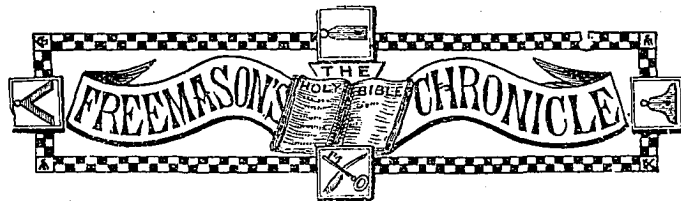
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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

ON 18th December, and during the week preceding Christmas day, Cheap Third Class Return Tickets, available on 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th or 25th December, and for return 26th December to 30th December inclusive, will be issued from Paddington, Victoria (L.C. & D. Railway), Kensington (Addison Road), Hammersmith, &c., to Bath, Bristol, Taunton, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Exeter, Torquay, Plymouth, Falmouth, Penzance, Yeovil, Dorchester, Weymouth, &c.; and on 23rd and 24th December only, to Guernsey and Jersey, to return within 14 days. Fare 25s. The tickets will be available by all trains.

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J. L. WILKINSON, General Manager.



SATURDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 1897.

R. M. I. GIRLS.

TEN of the pupils were entered last month for the School examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music. It is satisfactory to learn that the whole of the girls passed—three in the Higher Division, five in the Lower Division, and two (quite little girls) in the Elementary Division, with distinction. Miss Redgrave, the principal Governess and chief musical instructress, may well be congratulated on this pleasing result. For the College of Preceptors' Examination and the Cambridge Local Examinations, just completed, upwards of one hundred girls in all were entered.

WEST LANCASHIRE CHARITY.

ON Monday afternoon, a meeting of the Committee of the Liverpool Masonic Ball was held in the Town Hall. There was a large attendance of Brethren, Bro. J. Houlding, Lord Mayor, P.P.S.G.W. presiding, in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Dr. Dunn, Mayor of Preston, P.Prov.S.G.W. Chairman of the Committee.

Bro. R. Brown J.W. 241 Hon. Secretary announced that they had already received the names of over ninety Patrons, and eighty Stewards. Bro. Broadbridge announced that the jewels of both Patrons and Stewards had been kindly presented by the Mayor of Preston (Dr. Dunn). The Secretary further stated that they would have the presence of four chief magistrates at the festival—the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, and the Mayors of Bootle, Birkenhead, and Preston. It was resolved to hold the meeting of the general sub-committee at the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, the following Friday. The ball, which takes place on the 11th January next, is being held for the benefit of the West Lancashire Masonic Educational Institution.

The Lord Mayor, in responding to a vote of thanks for presiding, said he hoped that the large attendance that evening was an augury of the success of the annual function.

Sir Gerard Smith P.J.G.W., Governor of Western Australia, recently laid the foundation stone of the Goldfields Cathedral, to be erected at Coolgardie. The ceremony was performed with Masonic rites, in which many hundreds of Masons took part, and afforded an imposing spectacle.

The amount collected at the recent Masonic Service at Ilford—£53 10s 7d—has been made up by the members of the Langthorne Lodge of Instruction to £60, and Bro. W. Pallant Hon. Treasurer has sent a cheque for that amount to the Vicar.

The annual ball in connection with the Morecambe Lodge, No. 1561, was held on Wednesday, 8th inst., in the Albert Hall, Morecambe, and was a very successful gathering. The guests numbered about 120, and they were received from 8 to 8.30 by the W.M. Bro. Higgins and Mrs. Higgins, after which dancing commenced.

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: PROVINCIAL.

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PRINCE EDWIN LODGE, No. 125.

At a meeting held at Hythe, Kent, on the 8th inst., Bro. Cecil A. Armstrong was installed as Master of this Lodge, and appointed the following Officers:—George Taylor S.W., J. J. Reid J.W., S. H. White P.M., P.P.G.Swd.Br. Treasurer, Edward Hire P.M.-P.P.G.Swd.Br. Secretary and D.C., J. H. Brooke S.D., A. H. Williams J.D., W. R. Morgan Organist, Samuel Hurst I.G., Dr. Alan Murdoch Steward, and George Butcher Tyler. The installation dinner was afterwards held at the Swan Hotel.

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BRITANNIA LODGE, No. 139.

THERE was a large gathering of Brethren of Sheffield at the Masonic Hall, Surrey Street, on the 9th inst., on the occasion of the installation of Bro. William Gunstone as Worshipful Master.

Lodge having been opened in regular form, the W.M.-elect was duly presented. The Ancient Charges having been given by Bro. Herbert Green Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. Gunstone was installed in accordance with ancient rites by Bro. John Stokes W.M.

On the proposition of Bro. Joseph Binney P.M. P.P.G.R., a sum of ten guineas was granted out of the Lodge funds in aid of the Provincial Charity of West-Yorkshire.

A banquet, admirably served by Steward Sheldon, was subsequently provided, the newly-installed W.M. presiding.

The loyal toasts having been given, Bro. Ensor Drury P.G.D. England responded to the toast of the Grand Officers.

Bro. John Stokes proposed, in feeling terms, the health of the new W.M., dwelling upon Bro. Gunstone's geniality as a man and excellence as a Mason. Bro. Gunstone replied in felicitous phrases.

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BRUNSWICK LODGE, No. 159.

THE interior of the Masonic Hall, Hobart Street, Stonehouse, which of late has been re-decorated, was on Wednesday evening, 8th inst., much admired by a large body of Freemasons, who had assembled to witness the installation of Bro. J. Corrick as Worshipful Master of Lodge Brunswick, for the ensuing year. For the occasion the large refreshment hall, where the Brethren afterwards adjourned, was tastefully decorated. Included in the decorations was a life-size portrait of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales the Grand Master of England.

The members of the Brunswick Lodge, and of Ebrington Lodge, No. 1247, are deserving of the greatest credit for the accommodation provided for the Brethren who assemble at the Lodge's installations at this period of the year.

Bro. Corrick, whose health was heartily drunk, received the personal congratulations of the company, and a wish was expressed that the coming year would prove equally prosperous under the new regime. The installation banquet will take place at the Freemasons' Club, Plymouth, on Thursday, 20th January.

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UNANIMITY LODGE, No. 287.

THE installation of Bro. Joshua Preston as Worshipful Master took place on Wednesday, 1st inst., at the White Lion Hotel, Stockport. The W.M.-elect was honoured by a very large attendance of Provincial Officers and other prominent Brethren, including Bros. Henry Jackson P.P.G.W. Vice-Chairman of the Charity Council.

Bro. J. A. Cookson P.M. officiated as Installing Master. Bro. Wm. Booth P.M. 104 P.P.G.D. of C. gave the general address to the Brethren at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Bro. James Alfred Cookson P.M. Charity Representative gave notice of motion to vote twenty guineas from the Lodge funds to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, in connection with which it was announced that Earl Egerton of Tatton Provincial Grand Master had accepted a Stewardship, his Lordship's list being headed with one hundred guineas, as promised at the Provincial meeting held at Sandbach, on 29th December last. It is expected that in connection with this Festival the Province of Cheshire will contribute two thousand guineas, to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

The day being the Princess of Wales's birthday, a telegram was despatched congratulating Her Royal Highness, and wishing many happy returns. The following reply was received during the evening:—Sandringham, 6:35 p.m. To the Master, Unanimity Masonic Lodge, Stockport: "The Princess of Wales thanks the Lodge for kind congratulations.—Knollys."

After the Lodge was closed the Brethren, to the number of fifty-five, were entertained to a banquet, when the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to. Bro. Edmondson W.M.-elect of 323 very ably, officiated in connection with the musical arrangements. As a pleasing memento, it should be mentioned that Bro. Joshua Preston Worshipful Master presented a neatly-bound book to each member and visitor, containing a list of the members of the Lodge.

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CORNUBIAN LODGE, No. 450.

THE festival of St. John was celebrated at Hayle, on Thursday, 9th inst., there being a large attendance, notwithstanding the very stormy and wet weather. The W.M.-elect Bro. William J. Hoskin S.W. was installed in an exceedingly able manner by the retiring W.M. Bro. E. P. Broad, assisted by Bro. H. Tredinnick. The board of Installed Masters numbered twenty-six, from all the surrounding Lodges.

The Treasurer's report showed an increase of members, and an increased balance in favour of the Lodge. The sum of ten guineas was voted to Bro. G. B. Pearce P.M. P.P.S.G.W. as Steward to the R.M. Institution for Boys.

Bro. G. B. Pearce's report as Librarian was satisfactory; and he and Bros. J. G. Osborn and J. H. West were re-appointed Librarian and assistants. Hearty good wishes were expressed by the visitors, and the pleasure it gave them to be present.

After the close of the Lodge the Brethren adjourned to the dining hall, where an excellent banquet was provided by Mr. W. H. Trevena, White Hart Hotel. After the Loyal and Masonic toasts were given and duly honoured, songs, recitations, and duets were given in capital style, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

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ST. MARTIN LODGE, No. 510.

THE Brethren of this Liskeard Lodge have unanimously elected Bro. C. Mitchell S.W. as W.M. for 1898, Bro. T. White Treasurer (for the twenty-third year), and Bro. E. A. Orford Tyler. It was arranged to hold a Masonic ball next month in aid of the Centenary Fund of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

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PHENIX LODGE, No. 516.

THE installation of Bro. Edward Ballam as W.M. took place at the Fox Hotel, Stowmarket, on Friday, 10th inst.

The installation ceremony was performed by Bros. Peacock and Hawes, who did their work in a most impressive manner.

After the ceremony the Brethren sat down to a capital banquet. The Loyal toasts having been drunk with the customary honours, the W.M. gave the Grand Officers Present and Past, remarking the Lodge was very proud that night to have a Past Grand Officer amongst them.

Bro. Tracy, in response, thanked the Brethren for the kind way they had associated, his name with the toast. Owing to the enormous duties entailed upon Grand Officers he had been obliged to refuse present rank in Grand Lodge. He held unique honours, for in the present he was never past and in the past never present. He had been associated in Masonry for 40 years, but had not had much experience in seeing the work of Grand Lodge, but what he had seen was particularly good. He had a pleasant recollection of the Earl of Lathom installing the Deputy Provincial Grand Master into the chair of the Royal Arch, and Earl Amherst installing the Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Suffolk at Ipswich.

The toast of the Worshipful Master was given by Bro. Percy Hayward, who said the Worshipful Master was not by any means unknown to the Brethren, having been born in the neighbourhood, brought up amongst them, and had done his work as an Officer of the Lodge in a thoroughly efficient manner. He was quite able to occupy the chair with credit to himself and satisfaction to the Brethren.

The W.M. suitably responded.

During the evening Bro. Harper S.W. was presented with a handsome tautalus by the Brethren of the Lodge, on the occasion of his marriage, Bro. Percy Hayward remarking that it was a token of esteem and brotherly love entertained for Bro. Harper by the Brethren of the Lodge, and not for Masonic services which might in the future easily be the subject of another presentation.

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LOYAL VICTORIA LODGE, No. 557.

THIS Lodge celebrated its festival on the 7th inst., at Callington, when Bro. F. Seymour was installed W.M. by the retiring W.M. Bro. S. G. Truran.

The Brethren adjourned to Bro. Lakeman's Bull's Head Hotel, where the annual banquet was held.

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PEVERIL OF THE PEAK LODGE, No. 654.

THE annual meeting was held on Wednesday, 8th inst., in the Masonic Hall, New Mills, and was well attended. Bro. W. Wild was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, and the Officers were appointed.

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WARDEN LODGE, No. 794.

THE anniversary of the Lodge was held for the first time in the Masonic Room at the New Royal Hotel, Sutton Coldfield, on Tuesday, 7th inst., and was attended not only by a good muster of the Brethren, but by a number representing other Lodges in the surrounding towns.

The Worshipful Master Bro. Captain W. R. Traneker presided, and during the evening installed as his successor for the ensuing year Bro. Major-General H. T. Arbuthnot, who, having assumed his position, appointed and invested his Officers. The usual banquet followed, the company numbering some forty.

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ZETLAND LODGE, No. 1071.

THE installation meeting was held at Saltash, when Bro. J. Braund, of Cargreen, was installed W.M. by his predecessor Bro. N. Bray.

At the banquet which followed there was a large attendance of members and visitors. A very successful year is looked forward to.

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ELIOT LODGE, No. 1164.

THE annual festival was held at St. Germans, last week, when Bro. W. H. Foote was installed W.M. by Bro. W. H. Rowe, who has filled the chair during the past year.

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SEMPER FIDELIS LODGE, No. 1254.

THE installation of Worshipful Master took place at Exeter, on Monday, 6th inst. The Installing Master was Bro. W. A. Gregory P.M. P.P.G. Treas., and the retiring Master Bro. W. H. Chesterman. Brother Edward Sawdye W.M.-elect, having been duly installed and congratulated by the Brethren, appointed his Officers.

The Treasurer's accounts were passed, and the I.P.M. was presented with a Past Master's jewel. The installation banquet took place in the evening at the Royal Clarence Hotel.

ROYAL ALBERT EDWARD LODGE, No. 1362.

THE annual meeting was held at the Market Hall, Redhill, on Saturday, 4th inst., when Bro. T. H. Roberts P.M. 1538 and 2502 P.P.G.D. Surrey P.Z. was ably installed as W.M. by the outgoing Master Bro. H. A. Howe. A very distinguished company assembled, and the evening passed off in every way satisfactorily.

The Earl of Onslow Provincial Grand Master intended to be present, but a telegram was received from him during the day, expressing his great regret that, having caught a chill, he was unable to leave his home.

A banquet was held subsequently, at which the new W.M. presided in his usual genial and happy manner. During the proceedings he presented the out-going W.M. with a Past Master's jewel, on behalf of the Brethren, in recognition of the efficient manner in which he had filled the chair during his year of office.

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ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

THE regular meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on Friday, the 3rd inst., Bro. Alfred Pickford P.M. acting W.M.

After the reading and confirmation of minutes, a discussion took place with reference to a ladies' night, and it was decided by the unanimous vote of the Lodge that the close of the January meeting should be devoted to that purpose.

A very harmonious evening followed, the contributaries being Bros. Henry Nall P.M. P.P.G.Tr. Treas., W. T. Hesketh P.M. Sec., H. W. Bloomer I.G., Wm. Rushton Org., W. Lea, Dr. A. Denholm, J. Coupland, and others.

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FALCON LODGE, No. 1416.

ON Thursday, 9th inst., the annual festival and installation of Worshipful Master took place at Thirsk. The ceremony was performed by Bro. T. B. Whytehead P.G.S.B. England P.P.S.G.W., assisted by Bros. G. W. Kemp W.M., and F. R. Hansell P.M. of the Lodge. Bro. G. E. Myers was installed as W.M., and he invested his Officers.

A sumptuous banquet was provided at Bro. Hall's Fleece Hotel, to which a goodly number of Brethren sat down, when the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were submitted.

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LODGE OF TRUTH, No. 1458.

THE annual meeting and festival of St. John in connection with this Lodge took place at the Mosley Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester, on Saturday, 4th inst., Bro. Thomas Pollit Cooper W.M.

Although the proceedings commenced at a very early hour in the afternoon, there was a good attendance both of members and visitors. The dispensation from the Provincial Grand Master authorising the meeting was read by Bro. Herbert Hellewell Secretary, and the minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, Bro. James Doyle was passed to the degree of F.C. by the W.M.

A board of Installed Masters was then formed, with Bros. William Bee, Geo. W. Davies, and Edward Roberts as Installing S.W., J.W., and I.G. respectively, and Bro. Cooper was duly presented for re-installation, the major portion of the ceremonial being in the capable hands of Bro. Alfred Hebden P.M. P.P.G.D.C., assisted by Past Masters Buckley Carr P.P.G.D.C., Geo. T. Lenard, J. W. Vincent and W. J. Herring.

The Installing Master presented to Bro. Cooper, on behalf of the members, two very handsome jewels, one being for services to the Lodge as W.M., and the other a Jubilee jewel. The former bore the following inscription:

Presented to
W. BRO. THOMAS P. COOPER,
by the Brethren of the Lodge,
as a mark of esteem for his valuable services as W.M.
4th December 1897.

On the latter was inscribed this legend:

Presented
by the Brethren of the Lodge of Truth, No. 1458, to
W. BRO. THOMAS P. COOPER,
as W.M. during Diamond Jubilee year.
1897.

The well-timed words of Bro. Hebden in making the presentations caused great enthusiasm among his listeners.

A list of Officers for the ensuing financial year is appended:—Bros. W. J. Herring P.M. acting I.P.M., A. B. Taylor S.W., H. Hellewell J.W., Geo. T. Lenard P.M. Chaplain, John Pearce Treasurer, G. P. Taylor P.M. Secretary, Joseph Day S.D., Wm. Dewhurst J.D., Alfred Hebden P.M., &c. D.C., W. H. Worsley P.M. Organist, Robt. Stevenson I.G., R. H. Brown and L. J. W. Woodford Stewards, Fred Hilton P.M. P.P.G.D.C. Charity Representative.

A most excellent banquet followed the proceedings, and a merry evening was spent, the harmony being of a composite kind. Bro. W. Ross Cattanaich, Dramatic Lodge, No. 2387 (the host) exhibited himself in a new and pleasing character, and gave two charming sketches, which were well received. But the most notable feature of the evening was the rendering of two songs, "For all eternity" (Mascheroni), and "Il Bacio" (Arditi) by Mrs. Worsley, wife of the Organist, who, having been at an entertainment in the vicinity, kindly consented to pay the members of the Truth Lodge a visit. Mrs. Worsley was accompanied on the pianoforte by her accomplished husband, and gained a very flattering reception.

Bro. Buckley Carr proposed the health of the newly-made W.M., who replied in his characteristically humorous manner. He read two telegrams, one from Bro. Mutteen, who was in Surrey, and who congratulated him upon his second occupancy of the ancient chair, and one from his wife, the latter being sent from Crumpsall Green. Mrs. Cooper's message was as follows:—"Loving congratulations. Good wishes for a happy evening to you and your Masonic friends—but the mother and her child were not there."

Several toasts followed, notably those of the newly-passed Brother, and the Installing Masters, the latter being in the hands of Bro. Herring.

Among the visitors we noticed Bros. T. W. H. Start P.M. 1052, J. Horsfield P.M. 1077, Wm. Jones W.M. 581, F. T. Hair W.M. 1011, F. Middleton W.M. 1077, A. Rottinayer S.W. 317, and others.

BUXTON LODGE, No. 1688.

ON Monday, 29th ult., the annual installation festival was held at the Palace Hotel, Buxton, when there was a large attendance of members and visiting Brethren. After the usual routine business had been transacted Bro. T. A. Matthews S.W. was installed in the chair by Bro. J. H. Beckett W.M. The usual addresses were given by various Past Masters of the Lodge. The W.M. afterwards appointed and invested his Officers.

A vote of condolence with the family of the late Bro. W. F. Mill P.M. was passed. A similar vote was passed to the Rev. A. R. Thorold-Winckley, on the recent death of his father.

The banquet was subsequently held in the dining-room of the hotel, and was attended by between forty and fifty Brethren.

Bro. J. H. Beckett I.P.M. was the recipient of a jewel in recognition of the good work he had done during his year of office. The music was supplied under the direction of Bro. A. T. Robinson Organist of the Lodge.

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ST. PETROC LODGE, No. 1785.

THE annual festival was celebrated at Padstow, on Tuesday, 7th inst., when there was a good attendance of members of the Lodge, and visiting Brethren.

The ceremony of installing the W.M. Bro. R. P. Griffin was impressively performed by Bros. W. Brown W.M., and W. H. Pope P.P.A.G.Sec.

Bro. F. Harvey received a hearty vote of thanks for his past services, and was unanimously re-elected Steward of the C. M. A. and B. Fund.

Lodge being closed the Brethren proceeded to Bro. R. Lobb's Commercial Hotel, where an excellent dinner was provided.

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STANFORD LODGE, No. 1947.

THE annual installation was held at the Town Hall, Hove, on the 8th inst.

The Lodge was opened by the W.M. Bro. C. Fox-Goode, the chief business of the meeting being the installation of Bro. Edgar L. Voysey as W.M. for the ensuing year; the ceremony being impressively performed by Bro. Walter Potter P.M.

The retiring W.M. was presented, on behalf of the Lodge, with a Past Master's gold jewel, in appreciation of the admirable manner in which he had carried out his duties during the year.

The Lodge having been closed, the Brethren sat down to a banquet, under the presidency of the newly installed W.M.

The I.P.M. Bro. C. Fox-Goode, in proposing the Worshipful Master, said he had watched Bro. Voysey's career in Freemasonry, and could testify to the zeal and attention he devoted to every Office entrusted to him. He warmly congratulated him upon his installation, and assured him he had gained the goodwill of all the members of the Lodge. He heartily wished him a happy and prosperous year as W.M., and trusted he would be spared to give his service for many years to the Stanford Lodge.

The W.M., on rising to respond, was received with enthusiasm. He said there was a thorn concealed in every rose, and now that he had reached the proud position of W.M. of the Lodge, he experienced a thorn in trying to adequately thank the Brethren for the honour they had conferred upon him, and for the hearty manner in which they had received the toast. He was proud of the Lodge—the only one in Hove—and would try to follow in the footsteps of the distinguished Worshipful Masters who had preceded him. He had, he said, a splendid staff of Officers, and felt he could rely upon their support during the coming year, and it would be his aim to maintain that high state of prosperity to which his predecessors had brought the Lodge.

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ST. NICHOLAS LODGE, No. 2586.

AT the regular meeting held on Monday, 6th inst., at the Masonic Hall, St. Nicholas Cliff, Scarborough, Bro. Robert Forster S.W. was installed Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, before a large gathering of Brethren and Visitors from other Lodges.

Bro. G. W. Tindall P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C. was the Installing Master. The Worshipful Master of the Old Globe Lodge Bro. Dr. F. Godfrey P.M. gave the address to the newly-installed Master. The Worshipful Master of the Denison Lodge Bro. C. E. Brittain delivered that to the Wardens, and the Worshipful Master of the Leopold Lodge Bro. J. E. Ames that to the Brethren. All the addresses were given in a masterly manner, and were well received. The Brethren afterward adjourned to the St. Nicholas Boarding Establishment, next door to the Masonic Club, where they partook of a sumptuous banquet, served by Bro. Matthews, whose catering deserved, as it received, the praise of all present. The usual toast list was gone through.

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FFOREST LODGE, No. 2606.

THE installation of Bro. David Roberts took place at the Lodge Room, Perret Street, Traharris, on Thursday, 9th inst. The ceremony was performed by the retiring W.M. Bro. G. F. Harris P.P.S.G.W., after which the W.M. invested his Officers for the ensuing year.

At the close of the ceremony the Brethren who had been initiated during the past year, which was the first year in the history of the Lodge, presented the retiring W.M. with a Past Master's jewel, to mark their appreciation of his services.

Subsequently the installation banquet was held at the Navigation Hotel. Among those present was Bro. Marmaduke Tennant D.P.G.M.

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METROPOLITAN.

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MOIRA LODGE, No. 92.

THE 142nd anniversary Festival of this Lodge, one of the oldest Masonic bodies in the city of London, was celebrated at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate Street, on Tuesday, 7th inst., being the birthday of Earl Moira (first Marquess of Hastings), the patron of the Lodge.

Bro. Wickham Francis Noakes was installed as Master, in succession to the Rev. R. I. Woodhouse, rector of Merstham, and two brothers of the new Master were initiated into the Fraternity, both ceremonies being performed by Bro. R. F. Gould P.G.D.

The annual oration in memory of Earl Moira was delivered with his customary eloquence by Bro. T. L. Wilkinson. After the subsequent banquet Bro. Edward Letchworth Grand Secretary responded for the Grand Officers, the Earl of Kilmorey for the visitors, and Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., for the Past Masters.

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CONFIDENCE LODGE, No. 193.

THE members of this Lodge met on Monday last, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, under the presidency of the popular Master Bro. Thomas Kington, who was supported on this occasion by Bros. F. S. Plowright I.P.M., E. Pennock S.W., G. Spice J.W., W. D. Kershaw P.M. Treas., E. J. Davey P.M. Sec., I. W. Simeons S.D., W. Cutting J.D., S. W. Fells I.G., E. H. Lough Organist, L. G. Reinhardt Tyler; Past Masters G. Nightingale, J. Smith, J. E. Fells, J. Smither, F. Haines; together with the following lay members: Bros. M. Madders, C. Cornish, G. Baker, L. Parker, C. H. Ash, G. Bushell, H. Jacobs, M. Bailey, J. C. Turner, T. Wiffen, T. White, E. Waterby, F. Richardson, R. Owen, John Davies, C. Way.

Visitors: Bros. J. W. Turner W.M. 2671, and J. Wynman.

The Lodge was regularly opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed.

Messrs. Joseph Staal, Thomas Burnell, and Walter Houghton were presented as candidates for initiation, and were regularly admitted to the privileges of the first degree, the ceremony being rendered in an impressive manner.

The Bye-Laws were read, and then the Brethren proceeded to the election of Worshipful Master and other Officers for the ensuing year. The unanimous choice of the Brethren fell upon Bro. Pennock S.W. for the chief office, and the W.M.-elect tendered his appreciation of the honour conferred upon him. Bro. Kershaw P.M. was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Reinhardt re-appointed Tyler. Bros. Bushill and Owen were elected as Auditors.

Bro. Plowright I.P.M. proposed that a sum of ten guineas be voted from the Lodge to provide a Past Master's jewel for presentation to the Worshipful Master, on his vacating his office at the next meeting, as a mark of their appreciation of his excellent working during the time he had presided over the Lodge. This was seconded by Bro. Smith P.M., and agreed to with acclamation.

Bro. Simeons S.D. announced that he would again represent the Lodge as a Steward on behalf of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The resignation of a member was accepted with regret. The name of a candidate for joining was submitted, as also the name of a gentleman desiring initiation.

After other business and hearty greetings, the W.M. closed his Lodge, and an adjournment was made to an excellent supper, provided in Bro. Ciemow's well known form, and thoroughly enjoyed by the company present, Bro. F. S. Eyre superintending the service.

After the Loyal toasts the W.M. submitted that of the Grand Officers, remarking that if the arrangements for the recent St. Paul's Festival had been left in the hands of the Masonic authorities the unfortunate mishap that occurred on that occasion would have been prevented, and everything would have been conducted to the satisfaction of the Craft.

The I.P.M. had much pleasure in submitting the toast of the W.M. Bro. Plowright felt he should have liked to occupy his present position for another two or three years, but they had a better and more accomplished I.P.M. looming in the near future, the one who, during his occupation of the post of Master, had given the Lodge every satisfaction. He could but regret that that was the last occasion on which he would be called upon to propose the health of Bro. Kington as Worshipful Master, but such being the case he hoped they would accord the toast a special Confidence fire.

The W.M., in reply, sincerely thanked Bro. Plowright and the members for their hearty toast. He assured them he could not find words sufficient to thank them for the kindnesses he had experienced during the past year. He had many warm friends in the Lodge, and especially thanked his Officers for the hearty support they had given him during his presidency. He was pleased to hear he had given them satisfaction, and to know that he had come up to their expectation of what he would be able to do in the chair of the Lodge.

The W.M. said he had especial pleasure in submitting the next toast—that of the W.M.-elect, whose many good qualities were well known to the members of the Lodge over which he had been chosen to preside. He felt the Lodge had elected a Brother who would do credit to the office he was called upon to fill, and give them all the satisfaction they hoped for.

In reply, Bro. Pennock tendered his grateful acknowledgments. He felt sure if he received the same support from the Past Masters, Officers and Brethren, as had been accorded his predecessors in the chair, all would go well in the Confidence Lodge during his year of office.

The W.M. next submitted the toast of the I.P.M., referring to the way in which the Lodge of Confidence had prospered during the year it was under Bro. Plowright's rule, and the readiness with which he had always come forward with assistance and advice since he had vacated the chair. In fact, the members had only to call upon Bro. Plowright and they would always find him ready to do anything in his power for the Lodge. For his past and present kindnesses he felt the members would heartily honour the toast of the I.P.M. Bro. Plowright tendered his thanks for the toast.

The toast of the Initiates was next given from the chair, the W.M. offering a hearty welcome to the new members. He was sorry Brother Houghton had had to leave them, having a long journey before him, but called upon the Brethren to drink in hearty manner to the health of the other two initiates.

Bro. Burnell responded, referring to the heartiness of his reception on that occasion, which far exceeded anything he had previously experienced.

Bro. Staal also thanked the W.M. and the Lodge. He had often travelled abroad, and had been received there with great hospitality, but never had he met so hearty a reception as had been accorded him that night. He hoped the Brethren would never have occasion to regret having admitted him as a member among them.

The Visitors toast was heartily given, and acknowledged by Bros. Turner and Wynman, the former being brief in his remarks, but giving an additional contribution to the harmony of the evening as compensation.

The toast of the Past Masters was duly given, and acknowledged by each in turn; while the Officers came in for their share of praise and recognition, and the Tyler brought the proceedings to an end.

Several songs were contributed by members during the evening, and added considerably to the general enjoyment of those present.

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ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

THE regular meeting was held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, on Friday, 10th inst., when Bro. C. J. Coombs W.M. occupied

the chair, and was supported by Bros. C. Robinson S.W., Justin Allen J.W., F. J. Larkman P.M. Sec., H. Gomm S.D., J. Halstead J.D., H. T. Johnson I.G., E. Edynan and T. H. Dorey Stewards, H. R. Worth D.C., J. Gilbert Tyler; B. E. Blasby P.M., H. J. Saunders P.M., W. J. Gomm P.M., H. W. Ellis, H. Perry, T. C. Aylett, H. P. Roper, F. R. Roper, J. Roper, H. E. Furness, W. O. Vincent, W. T. Purkiss, C. J. Dorey, W. H. Ellis, J. B. Everitt.

The Lodge was advanced to the third degree, and Bro. W. Edwards was raised as a Master Mason.

Lodge was then resumed to the first degree, and the ballot having been taken for five gentlemen, candidates for initiation, they were accepted, and four of them being present were regularly initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry, these being Messrs. J. H. Willey, W. J. Cornwell, E. T. Nash, and F. Le Sueur.

Bro. Henry Tayler and Bro. Robert Harwin, of the Brentford Lodge, No. 2400 were elected joining members.

The election of Worshipful Master, Treasurer and Tyler for the ensuing year took place, with the result that Bro. C. Robinson S.W. was chosen for the position of Master, while the Treasurer and Tyler were respectively re-elected. Three junior members of the Lodge, Bros. H. W. Ellis, A. Hull, and W. Edwards, were appointed on the Audit Committee.

A presentation was made to Bro. Tom Dorey, of a handsome Jubilee Jewel, for services rendered to the Lodge.

The proceedings were shortly afterwards brought to a conclusion and the Brethren repaired to refreshment, following which the usual toasts were honoured, special attention being given to that of the Initiates, each of whom responded, thanking the Lodge for having received them as members.

Among the visitors were Bros. Phillips P.M. 2400, R. Steele P.M. 2012, Frank Price, G. H. Parsons 1612, and others.

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GALLERY LODGE, No. 1928.

THE ceremony of installation took place at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Saturday, when Bro. G. George Tarran installed Bro. Samuel James as his successor in the chair.

After the election of Bro. Henry Trounce as a joining member, and the initiation of Mr. T. Artemus Jones, the Lodge passed a vote of condolence with the Pro Grand Master the Earl of Lathom, on the lamented death of the Countess of Lathom.

The visitors present included the Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair Past Grand Chaplain, Bro. Edward Terry Past Grand Treasurer, Bro. T. A. Bullock Past Grand Sword Bearer, and Bro. Henderson Scott, the last mentioned of whom narrated his experience in the temporary House of Commons when he reported a speech by the Duke of Wellington. An excellent musical entertainment was given, after the usual banquet, by the Westminster Singers.

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EMPRESS LODGE, No. 2581.

IT is probably an event previously unknown in the annals of Freemasonry for a member of the Order, outside the pale of Royalty, to be installed as Master of a Lodge before the third anniversary of his initiation; and though some old Past Masters may regard such a course with disfavour, and perhaps look upon it as unmerited promotion, the unanimous election of Bro. John Holdsworth Dimsdale by the members of his Lodge, and the manner in which he conducted the business upon assuming the chair, should be sufficient guarantee of his fitness for the position. This unique occurrence took place at the meeting of the Empress Lodge, on Wednesday, 8th inst., at the Café Royal, Regent Street, W., the occasion being graced by a large number of Brethren, including a goodly array of Officers of Grand Lodge.

Bro. Imré Kiralfy W.M. opened the Lodge with praiseworthy promptness at half-past five, the time mentioned in the summons, when the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The ballot was taken and proved unanimous in favour of Bro. J. Weiner, of the Strand Lodge, and Bro. W. F. Alvey, of the Shurmur Lodge, becoming joining members. Bro. Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale P.G.T. Treasurer of the Lodge presented the balance sheet, and congratulated the members upon their substantial financial position, in spite of large expenses; and upon his proposition the Report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted.

The Lodge was then opened in the second degree, when Bro. Kiralfy resigned the chair in favour of Bro. Thomas Fenn P.G.W., who appointed Bro. Alderman Vaughan Morgan G.T. as S.W., Bro. Sir George D. Harris P.G.D. as J.W., and Bro. W. S. Hooper P.M. as D.C. to assist him. Bro. John H. Dimsdale was then formally presented, and having signified his assent to the ancient charges and regulations, was obligated. The Brethren having retired, a Board of Installed Masters, forty in number, was formed, and Bro. John Holdsworth Dimsdale was installed in accordance with ancient tradition. The ceremony was beautifully rendered by Bro. Fenn, and he subsequently delivered the usual addresses in an impressive and dignified manner.

The new Master's first duty was to invest his Officers for the ensuing year, and this he did in a manner that must have been gratifying both to the recipients of the collars and the numerous Grand Officers present. They were Bros. Dr. R. J. Maitland Coffin S.W., J. W. Clarke Treasurer, G. D. Coleman Secretary, C. I. Kiralfy S.D., G. C. Breese J.D., J. P. Nelson I.G., R. M. Meyer P.M. D.C., G. R. Blades A.D.C., J. S. Bhungara, W. H. Coppinger, and G. G. Kirchner Stewards, James Kift Organist, and Alfred Ellis P.M. Tyler. Bro. E. Halpe being unavoidably absent, his investiture as J.W. was postponed till the next meeting.

The W.M. in graceful terms then presented Bro. Imré Kiralfy with the Past Master's jewel that had been voted by the Lodge, as a small mark of their esteem, and trusted he might long be spared to wear it.

Bro. Kiralfy suitably returned thanks, and incidentally mentioned that he was particularly proud at passing the chair, as he had been a Mason for thirty years, and had never had an opportunity of doing so before.

Several candidates were proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and the resignation of a member was received with regret.

The W.M. announced his intention of representing the Lodge at the Centennial Festival of the Boys School next June, and Sir Joseph Dimsdale offered himself as a Steward for the Girls School Festival in May, when his friend Sir Reginald Hanson would preside.

There being no other business before the Lodge, the W.M. received the congratulations of the Visitors, and the meeting was adjourned until February.

The installation banquet was served in the large dining hall, which was prettily decorated with masses of flowers and evergreens, while the menu was of the choicest description.

Bro. J. H. Dimsdale W.M., in giving the toast of the Queen and the Craft, said he was glad to have to propose the Queen's health in the second year of Her Majesty's reign. That reign was wonderful in national improvements, and those improvements were due to the encouragement held out by her to science and art. When she acceded to the throne fears were entertained by the more thinking portion of the community, but those fears did not exist for long, and the Queen was soon beloved by her people and envied by every crowned head of Europe. And now after sixty years she had laid up a crown of joy and rejoicing which would never fade away, but would continue until time with her should be no more.

Sir Reginald Hanson P.G.W., replying to the toast which included the Grand Officers Present and Past, said the Pro Grand Master was suffering under a most dire calamity, which had touched the hearts of the people as much as the calamity which had lately overtaken the Royal Family. He trusted that the Great Architect of the Universe would send him a speedy relief from his sufferings, and that the Craft he had done so much to adorn would soon see him again among them. The rank he (Sir R. Hanson) occupied in Masonry was a high one, and on behalf of the Grand Officers he would point out that as good masters made good servants, so the Prince of Wales being a good Grand Master he got good Officers; but even then they could not do much if they did not feel that they had the entire confidence of the Craft, and he did not think Masonry could have increased as it had, but for this. He was Past Master and Founder of a Lodge the number of which was 1,000 less than the number of the Empress Lodge. That showed that in twenty-one years the Craft must have had great confidence in those appointed to rule over them. He would now come to a matter somewhat personal to himself. He thanked the first Master of this Lodge Sir J. C. Dimsdale for the exceedingly kind way in which he received the letter read out by the Secretary as to the Festival of the Girls School; he was very much touched by his coming forward on the occasion of his son being placed in the chair, and supporting him in what must be a somewhat heavy undertaking—the Festival of the Girls School. The Boys School Centenary must be abundantly supported, but let them not forget the Girls.

Sir Walter Wilkin P.G.W. said it was a matter of extreme pleasure that the Worshipful Master's chair was filled that night by one who might be said to be young in years. It was satisfactory to old servants of the Craft because the principles which governed Masonry were handed down by those who were young, and as long as these were instilled into society by principle and practice, brotherly love, relief and truth, so would they not only discharge their duty to the Craft and all society receive benefit therefrom.

Bro. Imré Kiralfy I.P.M., proposing the W.M., said it was scarcely possible for him to express the feeling he had towards the W.M., because he considered him not only a good and great Mason as a young man, but a loving son, a faithful friend, and a most devoted and energetic Mason. The Empress Lodge might congratulate itself, for they could not find a better Master anywhere. Bro. Dimsdale worked well in the Lodge of Instruction and the Brethren were all proud of him.

Bro. J. H. Dimsdale W.M., replying to the toast, said Bro. Kiralfy had left him a very difficult task to follow in his footsteps, but if at the end of his year the Brethren said he had done half as well as the I.P.M. he should be satisfied with himself. He was well supported by Bro. Kiralfy and all the members of the Empress Lodge, all friends of his; and last, but by no means the least, he had the support of his father.

Bro. J. H. Dimsdale W.M. now proposed the Installing Master. A finer specimen of a Grand Officer than Bro. Thomas Fenn it would be hard to find; he was one of the pillars of Freemasonry; no one could have given the ceremony of installation more impressively, and he hoped that other Brethren who might follow him in the chair would have some one to instal them as well. The ceremony had impressed him intensely, and he should try and follow the advice given him by Bro. Fenn.

Bro. Thomas Fenn P.G.W., acknowledging the toast, said that when his esteemed friend Sir Joseph Dimsdale invited him to instal the W.M. he took it as a great honour. Anyone would consider it a great honour to instal a W.M. of a Lodge which bore the cherished name of our Empress Queen, and any W.M. would think it an honour to rule over such a Lodge. It was a great pleasure to instal the son of his old friend. He was at the consecration of the Lodge, and it was pleasing to see the progress the Lodge had made in two years. He congratulated the W.M. and wished the Lodge all prosperity in the future.

Brother J. H. Dimsdale next proposed the I.P.M. Brother Imré Kiralfy, whom he had seen under many circumstances, as a true friend, as an ordinary Brother in a Lodge, an originator of the most wonderful spectacle the world had even seen, and as the Master of the Empress Lodge; he had excelled in them all. In the Mastership of the Lodge he had been tip top, and he had not forgotten the charitable side of Freemasonry, for he had contributed to the charities most liberally. He expressed the wish of everyone when he hoped Bro. Kiralfy might long be spared to the Brethren.

Bro. Imré Kiralfy I.P.M., in reply, said that anything that was in his power he should do for the assistance of the Lodge and its members, and he should do it with the greatest pleasure. The W.M. had referred to his abilities with reference to the exhibition; well, that work he did with the greatest pleasure; it was hard work sometimes, but he did not feel it; but the greatest pleasure he had was from his association with Freemasonry; that was without limits or bounds, and he hoped that some day he would be rich enough to do what he should like to do—take up two or three Stewardships. With reference to his association with the Lodge, he had travelled 4,000 miles to be present that evening. He went to America for a little rest and leisure; then to Chicago and New York. He could assure the W.M. that if he asked him to stand by him as a friend he should do so.

Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale responded for the Past Masters. He said the W.M. was very proud that night, but there was probably one in the room who was still prouder. The meeting carried him back two years, when he had gathered round the hospitable board of the Empress Lodge many many old friends in Freemasonry and representative Grand Officers. He would be more than human if he did not recognise by their presence that night that they had paid a very great compliment to the Empress Lodge, a compliment to its W.M., and he was also vain enough to believe that many of his friends gathered together because his son happened to be W.M. As they went through life they found friendships cementing into firm knowledge of each other, and appreciation of any worth they might have and extreme kindness to all failings; but he thanked sincerely all the Brethren assembled that night to wish God speed to a very young, but able Mason. The Empress Lodge was founded for special objects, to be a haven and home for those who desired to come within the fold of Masonry, who might be here from other parts of Her Majesty's dominions, and for them to carry away and spread those noble principles for which we strive—loyalty and love to the Great Architect of the Universe, and as a natural sequence the doing of their duty to their fellow men. The Lodge was progressing, and their appreciation of the objects and work of the Lodge was shown by the Grand Officers, than

whom there was seldom a more representative gathering in a private Lodge. He could assure them that the members of the Empress Lodge would continue to do their duty to maintain the great traditions of Masonry, and to build up year by year the traditions of the Empress Lodge. It was a proud evening for him to see his own son occupying the chair, so young almost as it was possible to fill that high position. He hoped his son would appreciate the great Mason who installed him, one of the great pillars of Masonry.

Bros. Creed and Griffin responded for the Visitors, the latter remarking that he little thought three years ago when he initiated Bro. John Dimsdale that he would have so quickly reached the chair, but he was quite sure from the admirable manner in which he had comported himself that evening that he would prove an ornament to the Lodge, and a worthy successor to those who had gone before him.

The Officers were duly complimented, and the Tyler's toast brought these pleasant proceedings to a close.

A capital entertainment was given during the evening. Among those taking part were Bros. Fred Russell ventriloquist; Channing, Arthur Strugnell, E. Cooper, I. Davies, and Mr. Kiralfy, jun., who introduced a new kind of phonograph worked by clockwork. Bro. James Kift presided at the piano.

Those present included Sir Reginald Hanson P.G.W., Alderman Vaughan Morgan Grand Treas., Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale P.G.T., Sir Walter Wilkin P.G.W., Thos. Fenn P.G.W., Edward Letchworth Grand Secretary, R. Horton Smith, Q.C., Deputy G. Registrar, Richard Eve P.G.T., W. Mason Stiles P.G.T., Sir Geo. D. Harris P.G.D., Fred West P.G.D. D.P.G.M. Surrey, Dr. Ralph B. Gooding P.G.D., G. P. Goldney P.G.D., Sir Wm. Marriott, Q.C., P.G.D., J. D. Langton P.D.G.D.C., C. Belton P.D.G.D.C., Sir Chas. Martin P.G.A.D.C., Lennox Browne P.D.G.D.C., F. Mead P.G.Std.Br., T. Hastings Miller P.G.Std.Br., C. F. Matier P.G.Std.Br., W. S. Hoyt P.G.O. No. 4, W. Henderson D.G. Registrar C. S. Africa, Joseph Rock P.G.S., R. Creed W.M. No. 1, Nathaniel Robinson W.M. 2603, J. Harbert W.M. 1987, Rev. H. C. Dimsdale 859, A. R. Meyer W.M. 900, John P. Houghton P.M. 1768, Richard Evens P.M. P.Z. 1949, Walter Clifford P.M. 2488, John Foss S.W. 2488, Nathan Robinson P.M. 55, J. R. Cleave W.M. 2648, Percy Short W.M. 2255, James Kift, Geo. P. Hadley 2488, Henry Neville W.M. 2127, Ernest D. Cooper P.M. No. 8, Edward White P.M. 177, W. Griffen P.M. 1, W. Dent 1, Thos. Dimsdale P.G.S., E. Beranger 2060, W. T. Pigott W.M. 197, H. Baker P.P.A.G.S., William H. Bourke P.M. 1635, E. B. J. Arne P.M. 1615, H. Dangerfield P.M. 1260, Walter J. W. Beard P.M. and Treasurer 101, W. Sergeant Lee P.M. 2488, Jas. H. Hawkins P.M. 569, Hy. Massey P.M. 619 and 1928, Hon. P. M. Mehta Bombay Legislative Council, A. E. Baker 1, W. H. White 55, Thos Fraser 2488, J. A. Harrison I.P.M. 2488, Orlton Cooper P.M. 211, A. J. Squires 1987, J. W. Hayes 164, W. Rapley 1987, P. J. Rowlands 2096, A. H. Hooper 46, John Witney 1446, G. W. Stillwell 1, F. W. Nelson 284, G. P. Channing J.W. 1987, W. J. Bosworth, A. E. Baker 1. Members: S. J. Templeton, N. Haskim, W. S. Hooper, C. Goovart, P. Dixon, J. H. Alabaster, C. B. Lumley, W. H. Bond, F. A. Nash, W. J. Ardington, J. S. Bhumgara, W. H. Jefeant, A. J. Howell, G. R. Blades, W. H. Coppinger, Arthur Tite, Alfred Hallows, W. G. Merrett, W. F. Allvey, N. F. Stokes, C. L. J. Noad, Bertrand Dawson, G. C. Breese.

Bro. John Holdsworth Dimsdale, the new Worshipful Master of the Lodge, was born on 10th February 1874, in London, and was initiated into Freemasonry in April 1895, in the Grand Masters Lodge, No. 1, at Freemasons' Tavern, London. He was one of the Founders of the Empress Lodge, and was appointed its first Senior Deacon, then Junior Warden, and now—as recorded here—Worshipful Master. He has been exalted into Royal Arch Masonry, in the Grand Masters Chapter; and advanced into the Mark Degree, in the Scots Lodge. We congratulate our young Brother on his rapid progress in the Craft.

INSTRUCTION.

NEW CONCORD LODGE, No. 813.

ON Wednesday, 15th inst., at the Farleigh Hotel, Amherst Road, Stoke Newington, close upon forty Brethren attended to support Bro. Powell in the chair. That Brother, during the proceedings, presented to Bro. Gush, on behalf of the Lodge, a silver fruit epergne, as a mark of the Brethren's appreciation of the services he had rendered in the position of Preceptor to the Lodge.

WHITTINGTON LODGE, No. 862.

ON Wednesday, 8th inst., at the Red Lion, Poppin's Court, Fleet Street, Bro. W. H. Latham W.M., A. Clarkson S.W., A. Collins J.W., A. V. H. Pauncefort Preceptor and Treasurer, H. T. Kobelt acting Secretary, J. Scarlet S.D., Charles Howard J.D., T. H. Pate I.G., and S. Lavington.

Bro. Kobelt, acting as a candidate for passing, was examined and entrusted, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed. Bro. Kobelt, with the assistance of the Brethren, worked the first section of the lecture.

A vote of sympathy was passed with Bro. J. C. Tilt P.M. the able and courteous Secretary of the Lodge, in his indisposition, and the sincere hope expressed that he would soon recover.

ON Wednesday, 15th inst., Bro. A. Clarkson W.M., W. Amis S.W., W. H. Latham J.W., A. V. H. Pauncefort P.M. Preceptor and Treas., Henry T. Kobelt acting Secretary, Alfred Collins S.D., T. H. Pate J.D., Percy Day I.G., and H. Kemp W.M. of the mother Lodge.

The Lodge being duly constituted the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Day acting as candidate, Bro. Clarkson vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Kemp, who worked the closing down of the Lodge.

LONDESBOROUGH LODGE, No. 1681.

WEDNESDAY'S meeting being Officers' night, there was a very good attendance at the well-known house of Bro. F. H. Vant, the Berkeley Arms, John Street, W., when the chair was occupied by the W.M. of the Mother Lodge Bro. John Lewis, supported by Bros. John Raynor S.W., H. C. Raynor J.W., T. Kelly acting Preceptor, R. Corry P.M. 1681 Secretary, J. Head S.D., J. Freer J.D., F. Gunn I.G., J. Flows, Kingshot, F. H. Vant, Mills, Brookes, T. Marks, J. Wynman, and others.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Flows acting candidate. The Lodge was advanced and Bro. Vant was examined and entrusted, the ceremony of raising being afterwards rehearsed.

Bro. W. Woodman 1549 was elected a member, which compliment was duly acknowledged. Bro. Flows was elected W.M. for next Wednesday.

WOODROW LODGE, No. 1708.

ON Monday, at Bro. Rudderforth's, Stone's Restaurant, Panton Street, Haymarket, Bro. W. West W.M., C. Wilkinson S.W., H. Wood J.W., Moss P.M. acting Preceptor, I. W. Simeons Sec., Klempner S.D., A. Butcher J.D., J. Wynman I.G., Edwards P.M., Bebrough P.M., Firminger, Morris, Baker, Dyer, Culmerhouse, and others.

The W.M. opened the Lodge to the second degree, and then vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Wilkinson S.W., and the following alteration of Officers took place:—Bro. Moss retired in favour of Bro. Edmonds P.M. as Preceptor, Bro. Butcher being S.W., West J.D., and Dyer I.G.

Bro. Wilkinson rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Culmerhouse acting as candidate. This ceremony was rehearsed in a perfect manner. Bro. Wilkinson kindly vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Bebrough, who rehearsed the ceremony of passing, Bro. Firminger being the candidate—this ceremony was also rehearsed in a perfect manner. Bro. West, a young member of the Craft, opened the Lodge in the two degrees in excellent manner.

BROMLEY ST. LEONARD LODGE, No. 1805.

AT the Bow Bells, Bow Road, E., on Wednesday, 15th inst., Bro. W. Boyce P.M. W.M., C. Holland S.W., H. Soar J.W., W. Johnson S.D., H. Corper jun. J.D., Goodman I.G., J. De Casseres P.M. Preceptor, F. Thornton Secretary, M. Corper, Gaskill, Bird.

The Lodge was opened to the second degree, and Bro. M. Corper answered the questions leading to the third, the ceremony of raising being then rehearsed by the W.M. The Brethren assisted Bro. De Casseres to work the first section of the lecture. The Lodge was resumed to the first degree, and Bro. Boyce vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Bird, who went through the ceremony of investiture of Officers. Bro. C. Holland was elected to the chair for Wednesday next.

TERRIERS LODGE, No. 2184.

AT the Sir Sydney Smith, Chester Street, Kennington, on Wednesday, at 3 p.m., Bro. C. Wetton W.M., F. Holden S.W., C. West J.W., A. Darch P.M. Preceptor, H. Sinclair P.M. Secretary, Almayo S.D., Waller J.D., Seaward I.G., T. Holland, A. Cohen, Dalmaine, Fowler, J. Wynman.

Bro. Wetton rehearsed the ceremony of installation, Bro. Holland being presented. The W.M. resumed the Lodge to the second degree, and Bro. Cohen, offering himself as candidate, was examined and entrusted, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed.

Bro. Sinclair, on behalf of the Lodge, in a most eloquent manner presented Bro. A. Darch P.M. the Preceptor with a handsome gold watch, for which presentation Bro. Darch thanked the Brethren most heartily. The watch would ever remind him of the very happy moments he had spent in the Terriers Lodge.

Bro. W. C. Fowler, of the Kennington Lodge, No. 1381, was elected a member, as also was Bro. Vernon. Bro. Holden was elected W.M. for the first Wednesday in January, as next Wednesday the Preceptor will occupy the chair, and the following week Bro. Sinclair the popular Secretary of the Lodge will preside.

HUGH OWEN LODGE, No. 2593.

ON Friday, 3rd inst., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford Street, at 7.30, Bro. H. G. Holland P.M. and W.M. of the Mother Lodge W.M. It being Officers' night the W.M. was assisted by Bros. R. H. Nicholls S.W., J. W. Hunt J.W., W. P. Neville P.M. acting Preceptor, Rev. A. Greenwood, M.A., Chaplain, F. G. Soper Secretary, H. Ramsbottom S.D., C. G. Ridgway J.D., and A. E. Frith I.G.; also Bros. W. G. Read, James Barnett, R. P. Webster, H. Roberts, R. Sandland, J. Lamb, E. Burgess, I. Cohen, and E. J. White.

The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bros. Barnett and Lamb acting as candidates. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bros. Read and Sandland acting as candidates.

Bros. Isaac Cohen, of the Joppa Lodge, No. 188, and Ernest White, of the Westbourne Lodge, No. 733, were regularly elected members.

ROYAL ARCH.

DUKE OF FIFE CHAPTER, No. 2345.

A REGULAR convocation was held at Anderton's Hotel, on Wednesday, 1st inst., Comp. J. A. Randall Z.

Although the M.E.Z. is attending the Boys Festival, and the H. the Old Peoples, the Chapter appointed Comp. S. G. Bonner to represent them at the Boys School Festival in June—the M.E.Z. gladly giving way as far as the Chapter is concerned.

The members afterwards dined under the presidency of the M.E.Z. After a capital dinner the usual toasts were honoured, the harmony of the evening being increased by the efforts of Comps. Randall, Wyer, Sinclair, Smith, Bonner, Barton, and Fitch.

The Freedom Lodge of Instruction, No. 77, will in future be held at Bro. John Simpson's, the Old Falcon Hotel, East Street, Gravesend, on Thursday evenings, at 8 o'clock.

The annual dance under the auspices of the Lodge of United Brethren, No. 346, was held at the Exchange Assembly Rooms, Blackburn, on the 9th inst., and proved another great success.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

SPECIAL arrangements have been made by the Great Western Railway to cater for the number of excursionists who may be expected to journey to and from the West of England for the Christmas holidays. All next week cheap third class return tickets will be issued from Paddington, and other London stations of the Company, to Bath, Bristol, Taunton, Ilfracombe, Exeter, Torquay, Plymouth, Falmouth, Penzance, Yeovil, Dorchester, Weymouth, &c., while on Thursday and Friday, 23rd and 24th inst., cheap tickets (25s return) will be issued to Guernsey and Jersey. These special tickets are available by all trains, while numerous excursions will also be run, particulars of which may be obtained from the Stations and Offices of the Company.

Parkhurst Theatre.—On Christmas Eve (Friday next) Mr. C. St. John Denton's company will appear in the Grand Fairy Christmas Pantomime, Cinderella, libretto by Stanley Rogers, music by Thomas P. Fish, the entirely new and beautiful scenery designed and painted by Clement C. Barnes, with charming dresses designed and made especially for this production by Mrs. Gray, the whole produced by Percy Nash. The artistes engaged give promise of an excellent performance. The scenes are (1) the Demon Wood, (2) The Forest Glade, (3) The Baron's Library, (4) The Baron's Kitchen, (5) The Exterior of the Palace, (6) Conservatory in the Palace, (7) The Ball Room, and (8) The Market Place. The Transformation will be entitled "The Elements." The Harlequinade will be rendered: Part I. by Menardo and Osborn, and Part II. by Professor Dainez and his wonderful Pony, Dog and Monkey Circus.

The Theatres, &c.

- Her Majesty's.—8.15, A Man's Shadow. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Drury Lane.—On Monday, 27th December, The Babes in the Wood. Twice daily.
 Haymarket.—8.30, The Little Minister. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
 Adelphi.—On Monday, 27th December, at 2 and 8, Secret Service. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
 Daly's.—8.15, The Geisha; A story of a Tea House. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Vaudeville.—8.15, The Cape Mail. 9, Never again. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
 Savoy.—7.40, Old Saran. 8.20, The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Lyric.—8.15, Dandy Dan, the Lifeguardsman. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Prince of Wales's.—8.15, La Poupée. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Gaiety.—8, The Circus Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
 Terry's.—7.50, Apron Strings. 8.20, The French Maid. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.30.
 Criterion.—8.15, The Liars. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 St. James's.—8, The Tree of Knowledge. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
 Duke of York's.—8.30, The Happy Life. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Comedy.—8.10, The Guinea Stamp. 9, One Summer's day. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3. On Thursday, Sheep in Wolf's clothing.
 Shaftsbury.—8.15, The Scarlet Feather. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Princess's.—8, Two little Vagabonds. (Last day).
 Royalty.—8, The Cat and the Cherub. 9, Oh! Susannah! Matinée, Saturday, 3.
 Alhambra.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. Cinematographe views of the Jubilee Procession.
 Empire.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet, Cinematographe, &c.
 Palace.—8, Variety Entertainment, New American Biograph, &c.
 Royal.—7.30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2.30.
 Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
 Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily.
 Royal Aquarium.—Open, 10 a.m., close 11.30 p.m. Constant Amusement.

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