

THE Freemason's

Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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

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

VOL. XLVI.—No. 1198.
23rd year of issue.]

SATURDAY, 25th DECEMBER 1897.

[PRICE THREEPENCE.
13/6 per annum, in advance

OUR TWENTY-THIRD YEAR.

WITH this issue we conclude the forty-sixth volume of THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE, and gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity of expressing a word of thanks to the Brethren who have supported us in the past, as well as to those who are taking an interest in our present welfare. Twenty-three years may perhaps be regarded as a brief period to look back upon in the life of a weekly paper, in face of the fact that many of our contemporaries can boast a much longer existence, but, on the other hand, viewed in connection with the immense number of periodicals which come to an end after a far shorter life, it is much to be proud of, and we experience no small amount of gratification in now being able to point to such a record.

There is, however, little time for boasting of the past; what concerns us more is the present, and the future, in connection with which we can but express the hope that our efforts will receive the same kindly recognition as has hitherto been accorded them. We assure our readers we shall use every effort in our power to win their approval; we trust our efforts will be crowned with success, and that we may gain the knowledge that we have achieved something for the good of the cause we have so much at heart—the advancement of Freemasonry, and the welfare of its Institutions.

It would be out of place for us to allow the year to close without a passing reference to the good record that has been created by the Craft in the matter of Masonic Benevolence, although our present reference to the subject must of necessity be only a passing one, and by no means complete, as there yet remains a few more days of 1897 in which to continue the good work. The year has been a memorable one in many respects, and we believe that when the returns are put before our readers it will be found that the total is much above the average, even though the figures available for comparison will by no means represent all that has been accomplished, for very much has been done by our Grand Lodge, by Private Lodges, and by different individuals on behalf of funds outside of Freemasonry proper, but close enough allied to be included under the designation of true Masonic Charity. May the year before us prove equally satisfactory in this most important feature.

CORNWALL.

THE annual Mark Grand Lodge of the Province was held at Truro, on Tuesday, 14th inst. Bro. P. Colville Smith P.G.D. England Deputy-Prov. G.M. presided, Bro. Sir Charles B. Graves Sawle having resigned the office of Prov. G.M.M. Bro. E. M. Milford acted as D.P.G.M. Bro. P. Colville Smith said that it would be known to many that a meeting was convened by the Prov. G.

Secretary in May or June last to recommend a successor to their late Provincial Grand Master, and the choice fell on a nobleman who acceded to the request made to him, but who was found not to be a Mark Mason. That difficulty had been removed, and they would have the Brother with them next Easter to be installed as Provincial Master.

The Prov. G. Treasurer reported that they started the year with £21 in the bank, and finished up with £22, after voting fifteen guineas to the charities. There has been an increase of thirty-one members during the year.

It was resolved to vote ten guineas to the Mark Benevolent Fund of London, and Bro. Venning was elected Steward of the Mark Benevolent Institution.

Bro. Milford was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Chegwiddden Auditor.

The Deputy Prov. G.M. in charge expressed great pleasure at the re-starting of St. Michael Lodge, Helston.

As the Installation of Prov. G.M.M. would take place about March, the Deputy Prov. G.M. proposed that the Prov. G. Officers be re-appointed en bloc, and this was done.

Bro. Rev. Fraser-Frizell proposed for recommendation to the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Lord Halsbury, the Lord Chancellor, as successor to the R.W. Bro. Sir C. Sawle, late Prov. G.M., resigned. Bro. Milford seconded, Bro. Clarke supported, and the proposition was carried unanimously.

The Deputy Prov. G.M. said when the Installation took place he had the promise of the attendance of the Right Hon. the Earl of Euston Pro Grand Master.

It was decided to present an address to the late Prov. G. Master on the occasion of the Installation of his successor, the following being appointed to take charge of the matter: The Deputy, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior and Junior Wardens of the Province.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Prov. G. Secretary Bro. W. J. Johns, and to the D.P.G.M.

NEW HALL IN LEEDS.

IN view of the decision of the West Yorkshire Provincial Grand Lodge to remove its Offices from Wakefield to Leeds, a Committee has for some time past been engaged in looking for a suitable site on which to erect a Masonic Hall in the latter city. Several plots of land have been inspected, and the Committee has now chosen a central site in Great George Street and Rossington Street, between the Higher Grade Board School and the City Printing Works. An offer has been made for the land, but it has not yet been definitely accepted. After the completion of the negotiations, no time will be lost in the preparations of plans and in letting the various contracts.

It is the intention of the West Yorkshire Freemasons to build a hall which will be worthy of the Craft and the city. Besides erecting offices for the transaction of the whole of the business of the Provincial Grand Lodge, handsome accommodation will be provided for the eight Leeds Lodges, all of whom will, it is believed, avail themselves of the opportunity of using the new building.

The old Masonic building in Great George Street has just been sold by private treaty for the sum of £5,000, to a professional gentleman in the city, though by the contract entered into, the members of the Philanthropic Lodge, No. 304, retain possession till the end of 1898. The hall, which was built by the Philanthropic Lodge, was opened on 27th December 1865, since which time it has served as a Masonic home. The site, building, and furniture cost £4,600. The furniture is not included in the present purchase money of £5,000. It is understood that the hall will in future be used for business and professional purposes, the ground floor being converted into shops, and the storeys into offices.—“Yorkshire Daily Post.”

NEW HALL AT BLYTH.

ON Thursday afternoon, 16th inst., the annual meeting of the Blagdon Lodge, No. 659, was held in the Lodge Room, Mechanics' Hall, Blyth, under the presidency of Bro. W. T. Richardson W.M.

In connection with the meeting the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Masonic Hall, which is being erected on a site in Beaconsfield Street, the gift of the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Sir M. W. Ridley, Bart., M.P., took place.

The outer shell of the building will be of special pressed bricks, with terra cotta ornamentation. The news room, smoke room, club room, and caretakers' apartments will occupy the space on the basement, and a large Lodge room, with suitable ante rooms and offices will be located on the first floor. The total cost is estimated at £1,100, of which about £600 has already been subscribed, and it is being built by Messrs. Goulding and Sons, of Blyth, from plans prepared by Mr. J. Goulding jun.

Forming at the present Lodge Room, the Mechanics' Hall, the Officers and members of the Blagdon Lodge, and other Brethren, including visitors from Bedlington, Tyneside, and Wearside, in full Masonic vesture, marched in procession according to the accepted order of ceremony to the site of the new building in Beaconsfield Street.

On arriving at the new building, where a considerable crowd had already gathered, Bro. W. T. Richardson W.M., after prayers, requested the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, on behalf of the Blagdon Lodge, to lay the corner stone according to ancient custom, and presented Bro. Ald. Holmes with a beautifully burnished trowel for that purpose; the trowel bearing the following inscription:

Presented by

BRO. W. T. RICHARDSON W.M. Blagdon Lodge,
on behalf of the Building Committee, to

BRO. ALD. R. H. HOLMES, J.P., P.G.D. England

Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Northumberland,
on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the Masonic Hall, Blyth, on
Thursday, 16th December A.L. 5897, A.D. 1897.

The stone-laying was carried out with the usual Masonic ceremonies, after which Bro. Ald. R. H. Holmes delivered an address. He said it was his duty to thank most heartily and

most sincerely, in the name of the Brethren of the Blagdon Lodge, their Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., M.P., for his great kindness in presenting the Brethren of that Lodge with the site, which, he believed, would be conveyed to them free of charge. He believed they would all feel it was a noble thing for their P.G.M. to do for them. Of course, a building of that kind was far more than appeared to the eye; it was not a mere question of laying the corner stone, or of an erection of brick and mortar; but in it would be symbolised all that attached to the principles and tenets and moral truths of Freemasonry. He commended the interests of the Craft to their charge, and he hoped they would ever act as true and loyal Masons, and be an example to the world as to what the principle and tenets of the Order were, and of what they involved to them personally. Might they have no cause to regret that they took part in the erection of that building to the honour and glory of the Great Architect of the Universe, and for the use and purpose of their English Freemasonry now and for ever.

Several coins of the current year, copies of local daily newspapers, and Lodge records, were placed in a large glass bottle, and deposited in the cavity of the corner stone. Bro. Holmes, having cemented the top of the cavity, and having proved the stone properly laid by the plumb rule, level, square, and setting maul, said:—"I declare this stone to be well formed, properly laid, true and trusty." Then vessels containing corn, wine, and oil, were emptied of their contents over the stone, according to ancient custom. The proceedings at the building were terminated by the singing of the beautiful Masonic anthem "Hail, Masonry Divine," after which the Brethren retired in processional order to the Lodge Room at the Mechanics' Institute, where the W.M. was installed for the ensuing year.

A Masonic ball fixed for the 19th January at the Park Hall, Cardiff, promises to be a very successful and interesting gathering. Amongst those who have promised their patronage and support are Lord Llangattock Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Marmaduke Tennant Deputy Prov.G.M., the Bishop of Llandaff, Colonel Lyne Prov. Grand Master Monmouthshire, Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. Lyne Deputy Prov.G.M. Monmouthshire, and others. By special dispensation Masonic regalia will be worn.

Co-operative Educational Travel,

ORGANIZED BY

HENRY S. LUNN, M.D., Ch., F.R.G.S. (Fellow of the Medical Society of London);

and

J. T. WOOLRYCH PEROWNE, M.A. (Late Classical Scholar, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge).

A Special Masonic Cruise

TO

Egypt and the Holy Land.

CHAPLAIN, THE VENERABLE ARCHDEACON STEVENS, P.G.C.

The cost of the Cruise will be 25 guineas, including second class return ticket London-Marseilles, via Dover and Calais, and a 25 days' cruise. Land-excursions extra. The party will leave London on 21st January, returning on 16th February.

Other cruises leave London 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.

MASONRY'S LIFE AND WORK.

An Extract from the Address of Companion James W. Taylor
Grand High Priest to the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in
Georgia.

THERE is an unwritten history, my Companions, of thoughts and deeds never recorded. There are unseen influences which ever have worked and are now working out and shaping the destiny of men and nations. They search through society in all of its ramifications, and are the great levers by which men are to be elevated—the motive power by which they are to be moved to nobler and grander purposes—pillars, by which they are to be supported in all undertakings which tend to benefit mankind; and yet, powerful as these influences are, they cannot be definitely explained by human language, and the influence they exert can never be computed.

Though each of these powers are small, and with insignificant results singly, and whose influence is unfelt or unappreciated alone, yet, combined in one channel, they are the foundation of our social and moral system, upon which rise the superstructure of our arts, our science, our morality, and our civilisation. The abandonment of old themes and the formation of new ones do not always arise from the immediate perceptible cause which the world assigns, but are the culmination of principles which have been working in the minds of men for many years, until at last the proper time and propitious surroundings kindles the latent truths into life, and, as the light of reason flows from mind to mind, and the unity of purpose from heart to heart, enthusing all with a mighty common cause, and moving nations as one man to the accomplishment of great ends.

On this principle does the Institution of Masonry diffuse its influence to the world of mankind. It works quietly and secretly, but penetrates through all the interstices of society, in its many relations, and the recipients of its many favours are awed by its grand achievements, but cannot tell whence it came. It does not operate entirely within its own sphere immediately, but its streams of influence are flowing and radiating from a mighty centre, in all directions, dispensing light and knowledge along the paths through which they flow. Its work goes on without as well as within, though it may not be seen of men or accompanied by trumpet blasts, or heralded by flying colours, yet many have felt its benign influence and been made to feel that life is worth living. Its primary and fundamental object is to promulgate the everlasting principles of truth and morality, which lie at the very foundation of all successful enterprises, and form the under-current in the tides of all enlightened national progress.

Let him, then, who would be benefitted by the Institution and advance the mighty cause of science and morality, investigate with untiring zeal and industry its profound principles, and examine with close scrutiny the nature and designs of the Order. Do not linger at the porch, but fearlessly enter its sanctuary, and the searcher after truth will find, as he proceeds, flowers of wisdom strewn on every side of his pathway; and as he progresses still further onward his way will be marked with increasing knowledge and an augmented love of the Order.

An Asiatic epilogue says: "In the baths of the east perfumed clay is used instead of soap." A poet breaks out in an enthusiastic flow of admiration at the order of a lump of clay. "Alas!" answers the clay, "I am only an ordinary piece of earth, but happened to come in contact with the rose, and have borrowed some of its fragrance."

We, Companions, can imbibe the virtues and character of Masonry, if we will only come in contact with it, and however minute may be the portion we have imbibed, constant contact with its teachings will cause its beauties to permeate through our every thought, until we absorb a sufficient amount of its virtues to dispense it lavishly upon those with whom we come in contact, and thus the great cardinal principles be perpetuated from generation to generation, gathering fresh fragrance from constant contact and association with deep thought, zealous study and research, until the world of mankind is brought under its ennobling influence—society built up, science disseminated, intelligence and morality predominating throughout the entire habitable world, and generations that come after us take up the cause where we leave it and march on to conquests greater in results and achievements.

The wages received by the Craftsman for his services in the quarries of Masonic literature tends to develop and adorn the mind, and the great truths thus obtained should not be appropriated to self only, but they are intended to instruct us how that learning can most usefully and judiciously be employed for the profit and edification of others. It holds forth to the despondent the encouraging thought that though the envious and malicious traduce his good name within the circle of Masonry, truth abounds, and the Great I AM, who sees not with the eyes of man, may yet make that stone which the builders rejected the head of the corner. It inculcates the necessary exercise of all

the duties of life, and teaches the importance of performing them with Brotherly love and systematic regularity; and thus the true Mason has exercised his talents and influence for good, diffusing light and knowledge to the uninformed, giving strength to the weak and comfort to the distressed for ages farther than the research of man has ever penetrated, and deeper than thought has ever fathomed.

The grand old Order of Masonry has stood the test of wars, pestilence and persecution, and has never been forsaken by its votaries. Here it stands, the wonder and admiration of the world, its antiquity undenied and its benefits eternal. Who founded it, or when was it founded, no one can tell. History upon history has been written relative to its origin, but beyond a given period of our acknowledged chronology, at which all records of its annals are lost, no one has been able to penetrate the dark haze of the antiquity that conceals its origin. Masonry has adapted itself to all ages and periods of time, and stages of civilisation. Just when the explorer for knowledge is about to congratulate himself on a successful solution of the period and date of its foundation, the scenery changes, and a new phase of its existence meets the view, stretching out into the limitless beyond.

Institutions after Institutions have been modelled after its pattern, but none has ever reached its grandeur or equalled its grace; and still, who instituted it or when it was founded are among the greatest mysteries that lie hidden in its bosom.

The hieroglyphics on the Egyptian Pyramids, or the broken columns of the temples of the ancient heathen, would indicate that we possess only the fragment of some vast original, forever lost to us in its entirety; but this can only be said of its material construction, for while the ruins of these old temples stand, the unquestioned evidence of their beauty, grace and grandeur, the idols that rested thereon, have fallen from the elevated positions and are seen no more, and around the capitals of these standing columns twine the wild vine and clinging moss of ages. No worshipper strays, no incense burns, or voice of supplication arises—nothing but quiet reigning within—silently pointing to the past of their former glory; but the temples of Masonry still resound with songs of adoration and praise by living votaries who with eager feet throng its courts and surround its altars, on which burns the light of truth, and from which ascend the incense of the love of warm and grateful hearts, proclaiming to the world their erection and dedication to Abraham's God, and, like Him, will remain impregnable and lasting as eternity—as universal as the God in whose honour Masonry was instituted, and expansive as the human family, filling a world or a single heart the same.

It is capable of a variety of apparition, according to the manipulation of the student; but in every view, whether the lowest or the highest, it will show that the intellectual, moral and scientific culture and improvement of man is designed as its mission.

We cannot, Companions, be unmindful of the advice to improve the mind in the cultivation of the liberal arts and sciences, and in the zealous investigation of nature, that we may be better enabled to trace the hand of God in all His works, and contemplate Him in all His wisdom, or be insensible to the invitation to be true and good men, that by struggle, toil and earnest endeavour, we may advance with courage and hope, until free from every fetter and in the full light of virtue and knowledge, we shall stand face to face with the mighty secrets of the universe, and attain that lofty height whence we can look back over the rough and tortuous paths of life through which we have been victorious, and forward to a life sublime in elevation and glorious realisation.—"Voice of Masonry."

A MIGHTY FACTOR FOR GOOD.

OUTSIDE the first and paramount positions which the Church must ever occupy in our thought, Freemasonry stands as the noblest Order ever instituted. It had its inception in the needs of humanity, and sprang into being at the very dawn of history; becoming a mighty civilising force in Egypt and Phœnicia, taking refuge at first in the mysteries of the Isian and Dionysian rites; then was broadened and elevated by the magic touch of Solomon; ages later was transported to Rome, whence its influence spread throughout Europe, where it was fostered and honoured by princes, kings and emperors.

Its members were men of proud renown, the architects and builders of the wondrous temples of Egypt and Tyre, whose Titanic ruins still attest the skill and ingenuity of the ancient Craftsmen. They too were the constructors of the sacred Judean temple of Jehovah, the pride of Israel, the wonder of the world, the despair of the archæologist, whose polished walls arose from foundation to keystone without the sound of hammer, or extra touch of chisel, so perfect was the system under which the

ancient Masons performed their work. In after times, when Rome rose to imperial power, they crowned her seven hills with palaces whose splendour dazzled the eyes of all beholders, and when the pagan days were fulfilled they erected the cathedrals of Europe for the worship of God, many of which still remain to excite our wonder and admiration.

For more than forty centuries Masonry was operative in its work, when there came a time for its fuller and wider development, to meet the growing needs of the progressive peoples. The principles and symbols of ancient Masonry served as the basis for the modern structure of Freemasonry. Whatever was crude and objectionable in the older system was eliminated. The door of the Lodge was opened to proper men of all professions, and Masonry became speculative in form and spirit. In the words of a noted writer, "It is therefore the scientific application, and the religious consecration of the rules and principles, the technical language and the implements and materials, of Operative Masonry to the worship of God as the Grand Architect of the Universe, and to the purification of the heart and the inculcation of the dogmas of a religious philosophy." This is modern Freemasonry, and is of universal application. It teaches reverence for the Master Builder of the Universe, and for His revealed will, loyalty to the government under whose protection it exists. It nourishes no bigotry, harbours no schisms, asks no man at the threshold of the Order what is his creed or politics, whether he be prince or peasant; but rather if he be a true man, moral in action, loyal in purpose, one who seeks the good of others, and will be ever ready to do his part to honour the Order into which he seeks to enter.

Governed by these principles the Order has flourished and planted its Lodges in all lands where civilisation and Christianity rule. But its path has not always been strewn with flowers. It has had to meet opposition, and sometimes persecution, because it has been misunderstood and misrepresented by its enemies. But to-day it is honoured and patronised by hosts of men who occupy the highest positions of Church and State, who have found in its principles a grand factor for the benefit of mankind. And yet our Order does not proselyte. It does not seek to enlarge its numbers by urging men to come into its fold. All who come must do so of their own accord, incited by the influence which its members sustain in the community.

It has no written creed, but the essence of its principles is embodied in the sublime idea of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. True to this noble sentiment, its deeds of charity are not blazoned before the world, but find a grateful echo in the hearts of needy Brothers, with often no other record save that written by angel pen.

The mysteries of the ancient peoples have faded from the minds of men, but evolved from them, purified and enriched by the Divine Word, moulded and fitted to meet the needs of modern thought, Freemasonry has come to bless the world. It has served to unite diverse orders of men, to break down barriers which have long divided, and caused men to meet on the level where all other measures have failed. May it ever continue in the future, as in the past, a mighty factor for good!—O. P. Allen, of Massachusetts, in "Voice of Masonry."

MASONIC TOLERANCE.

SPEAKING of tolerance in Freemasonry an exchange mentions the fact that among the elected Officers of a Lodge in India there are a Christian, a Mohammedan, a bearer of the Zendansta and the Gita.

The same principle applies to politics. Though the recent session of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky was held at the time of great political excitement, and though the members were of every shade of political opinion, the business was not in the least interfered with by politics. Neither in the elections, appointments, nor in any other respect was there any trouble on the question of political opinion. In the majority of cases elections were had and appointments made without any knowledge of the political opinions of the persons selected. Many of the members were very active politicians outside, but in the Grand Lodge they were simply Masons, co-operating for the furtherance of their common objects.

During the recent local campaign in the city of Louisville the secular press had more to say of Masons and Masonry in connection with politics than was altogether palatable to the judicious members of the Fraternity, because it was calculated to give to outsiders an impression that Masonry has something to do with politics. Those who labour under this impression should read a decision made by the Hon. Jas. A. McKenzie, himself long an active politician, who said, when Grand Master: "Masonry is non-sectarian, non-sectional, non-political and must remain so. A Mason must not use his Lodge connection to further his political ambition." Long before that, however, in

1862, the Grand Lodge declared that "the avoidance of political subjects is a cardinal principle of Masonry." This decision was approved.

These principles have, we believe, been rigidly adhered to in this Jurisdiction. If there have been exceptions, when the desire for office has tempted men to try to make unlawful use of their Lodge connection, we are sure that the response from the membership has not justified their expectations. But we think even such exceptions, if any, have been extremely rare.—"Masonic Home Journal."

MORE OF SIGHT MAKING.

THE "Old Regulations" were merely regulations subject to change at pleasure. The one requiring a petition to lie over a month was not adopted in Massachusetts, and not observed in its Lodges.

In Portland Lodge, organised in 1769, candidates were usually proposed on one night and voted on at the next Lodge (which might be in a month or less), but frequently the Lodge voted that it was "a case of emergency," and a candidate would be proposed, accepted and initiated the same night.

In Maine, under the constitution of the Grand Lodge down to 1865, if a candidate was bound on a voyage to sea, or on a long journey, the Lodge could receive his petition, accept him and confer all three degrees on him the same night, "if the Lodge considers the urgency of the case requires it."—J. H. D.

The above is from Past Grand Master Drummond, of Maine, and is in explanation of certain of his views remarked upon in the September number of the "Kansas Freemason." Grant that it is true and that the "old regulations" were subject to change; and the declaration that as far back as 1721 there was a written law which provided that "no man can be made or admitted a member of a particular Lodge without previous notice one month before given" stands.

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

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

Monday.	
706 Florence Nightingale, W'lw'ch.	1989 Stirling, Cleator Moor
39 St. John Baptist, Exeter	2064 Smith Child, Tunstall
43 St. Paul, Birmingham	2186 Striguil, Chepstow
48 Industry, Gateshead	2571 Holmes, Newcastle-on-Tyne
82 Foundation, Cheltenham	
128 Prince Edwin, Bury	Thursday.
491 Royal Sussex, Jersey	General Committee, Girls School, Freemasons' Hall, at 5.
999 Robert Burns, Manchester	111 Restoration, Darlington
1008 Roy. St. Edmund's, Bury St. E.	129 Union, Kendal
1325 Stanley, Liverpool	590 La Cesaree, Jersey
1752 Ogmores, Bridgend	536 De Ogle, Morpeth
1991 Agricola, York	807 Cabbell, Norwich
2042 Apollo, Liverpool	904 Phoenix, Rotherham
2068 Portsmouth Temperance, L'dp't.	966 St. Edward, Leek
2257 Powell, Bristol	1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
2363 Minnehaha Minstrel, M'chester.	1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath
2547 Llangattock, Cardiff	1166 Clarendon, Hyde
2582 Lewisham, Smethwick	1313 Fermor, Southport
	1322 Waverley, Ashton-under-Lyne
Tuesday.	1519 Albert Edward, Clayt'n-le-Moors
253 Tyrian, Derby	1578 Merlin, Pontypridd
564 Stability, Stourbridge	1630 St. Michael, Coventry
943 Sincerity, Norwich	1884 Chine, Shanklin, Isle of Wight
954 St. Aubyn, Devonport	1957 Grove, Hazel Grove
1016 Elkington, Birmingham	2261 Armitage, Milnsbridge
1052 Callander, Manchester	2269 Peace, Wigan
1390 Whitwell, Millon	2418 Hedworth, South Shields
1609 Liverpool Dramatic, Liverpool	
1675 Ancient Briton, Liverpool	Friday.
2025 St. George, Plymouth	Council Boys School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
2328 Albert Victor, York	602 North York, Middlesbrough
2405 Ionic, St. Helen's	810 Craven, Skipton
2518 Chas. Ed. Keyser, Hoddesden	1303 Pelham, Lewes
	1391 Commercial, Leicester
Wednesday.	1435 Annesley, Nottingham
76 Economy, Winchester	1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge
163 Integrity, Manchester	2415 Tristram, Shildon
187 Rl. Sussex Hospitality, Bristol	2431 Kingsley, Northampton
304 Philanthropic, Leeds	
439 Scientific, Bingley	Saturday.
461 Fortitude, Newton	1572 Carnarvon, Albion
651 Brecknock, Brecon	308 Prince George, Eastwood
996 Soudes, East Dereham	336 Benevolence, Marple
1083 Townley Parker, Manchester	1388 Canynges, Bristol
1219 Strangeways, Manchester	1550 Prudence, Plymouth
1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge	2493 Vale of Eden, Appleby
1714 Albert Edward, Yorktown	2541 St. Andrew, Avonmouth
1775 Leopold, Church	
1953 Prudence & Industry, Chard	

R. M. I. BOYS.

THE fourth annual examination of the whole of the pupils in the School at Wood Green was held in October last, the work being entrusted to the Cambridge University Syndicate, the same as was done on previous occasions. The Examiner's report has just been received by the Institution, and is as follows:

To the Secretary of the Local Examinations and Lectures Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Sir,—I have the honour to lay before the Syndicate the following Report of my recent Examination of the Royal Masonic School, Wood Green.

REPORT.

The number of boys in the School was almost exactly the same as last year, namely 256, instead of 253. These were presented for examination in ten Divisions, of which the lower five were examined orally in all subjects, except Arithmetic, and the upper five were examined by means of printed papers of questions and written answers, the answers being in the first instance marked by the School Staff and subsequently inspected by me and examined for the purpose of this Report. The subjects of written examination were Scripture, English Grammar, Literature, English History, Geography, Latin, French, Arithmetic, Algebra, Euclid, Theoretical Chemistry.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION.

SCRIPTURE.—(II. Samuel, I. Kings, St. Mark). In the upper classes there were some good papers and many that satisfied the examiner, although the work, as a whole, was somewhat disappointing. I may add, however, at once, that this was the only subject in which I found any falling-off from last year's standard. The lower classes, who had confined themselves to I. Samuel and St. Mark, did better in proportion than the classes above, and gave no occasion for general fault-finding.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR was a satisfactory subject all through the School, and in the higher forms the work was not only good, but particularly even.

ENGLISH COMPOSITION was tested with satisfactory results, by essay-writing among the seniors, and by letter-writing among the juniors.

LITERATURE.—Forms V and IV had read Shakespeare's "Tempest" to much good purpose, since all were able to give an excellent account of the plot, and to explain very fairly the meanings of archaic words. On the other hand, the classical allusions were but imperfectly explained, and the quotations asked for were not well remembered. The lower forms had read, with considerable appreciation, either the whole or a part of Scott's "Lady of the Lake."

ENGLISH HISTORY.—Forms V and IV had studied the Stuart period, and I was glad to find, at the top of the School, both a good general knowledge of facts, and also some more intimate acquaintance with Acts of Parliament and the constitutional history of the time. The lower forms sent up many good sets of answers on the outlines of their somewhat wider period.

GEOGRAPHY.—Form III, in its two divisions, did a very fair paper on the general outlines of the world.

LATIN.—Form V. In translating from the set subjects—Horace's "Odes," Book I, and Cicero's "Pro Murena"—only one boy failed, while several did distinctly well; and I thought it very creditable to the class that no boy gained less than 48 to 50 per cent. on a general grammar paper. Form IV obtained excellent marks for Cæsar translation, and a high average for accidence. The lower classes showed much more inequality.

FRENCH.—Form V translated readily and well from About's "Le Roi des Montagnes," and less well, though without any failures, from Molière's "L'Avare." In grammar and accidence the whole class reached a very creditable standard. Form IV sent up good translation and satisfactory grammar, while the junior forms did fairly well, good and bad being very evenly balanced.

ARITHMETIC.—Forms V and IV took a general paper of a searching character. The average work of Form V was excellent, five boys out of nine securing unusually high marks; while in Form IV also the results were, in many cases, very satisfactory. The work of the rest of the school, which showed in this subject the usual variety—of strength and weakness—has been very fairly estimated in the mark-lists, and calls for no special comment.

ALGEBRA.—Form V (to Progressions). A good average standard was reached, which might have been still higher, had not one really first-rate paper been counterbalanced by one bad failure. Forms IV and III attempted, with good success, papers adapted to their respective standards.

EUCLID.—Form V took a paper on the First Six Books with Riders, and so answered it as to secure an average of more than half-marks. Form IV had read books I, II, and showed, in the Upper Division especially, a very sound acquaintance with the text.

THEORETICAL CHEMISTRY.—Of nine boys in Form V one gave excellent answers, and six others very satisfactory ones, to an ordinary paper on the non-metallic elements. The same question-paper being offered to Form IV, seven boys out of seventeen answered it with very fair success, and the rest without any discredit.

ORAL EXAMINATIONS.

I visited the School on Tuesday, 26th October, and two following days. Arriving between nine and ten in the morning, I was taken first by the Head Master into the large school-room, where I found the Euclid and Geography papers being worked by the Upper Forms in silence and perfect order. I then went successively to Forms IIIc, IIA, IIB, IA, IB, and examined them orally in all their subjects, with results that I proceed to give.

FORM IIIc read and recited very fairly, as a class, though some boys needed prompting, and some were inclined to go too fast. Other English subjects were good, especially Grammar, which had been carefully taught, and a good beginning made with analysis. In Latin and French I supplemented my oral examinations by requiring certain sentences to be produced in writing, and in this exercise I was well satisfied with the way in which the class as a whole acquitted itself.

FORM IIA.—The Reading aloud was better here than in the class above. The Recitation also was very fair, and, in some cases, distinctly good. Scripture, Geography and English History were all satisfactory subjects, and English Grammar would have been satisfactory also, if the parsing of words had proved as good as the analysis of sentences.

FORM IIB, consisting mainly of the weaker ones who had been weeded out from the class above, read and recited pretty fairly, answered simple

questions on Scripture, English History and Grammar, and altogether did as well as could be expected of them.

FORM IA did well, according to the ages of the boys, in all their subjects, showing much intelligence and doing great credit to their teacher.

FORM IB read intelligently and knew their Recitation well, though they delivered it at much too great a rate. They professed but little in the way of Grammar, yet they evidently were being skilfully introduced to the subject. In Geography they could give definitions and were familiar with the outlines of Great Britain, whilst in Scripture and English History they showed a fair amount of knowledge and answered brightly.

I concluded my work by an inspection of the writing and drawing books throughout the Lower School. A good style of handwriting was being taught, and Drawing (a new subject), had been well begun.

The discipline of the School, so far as it came under my notice, was excellent.

SUMMARY.

A satisfactory Examination was passed, showing a general improvement since my last visit. I was pleased at finding Theoretical Chemistry added to the syllabus and a laboratory for practical work substantially fitted, furnished and ready for use.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) T. J. SANDERSON, M.A.

(Late Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge.)

BRINGTON RECTORY, HUNTINGDON,

13th November 1897.

Certified as correct,

J. H. FLATHER, M.A.,

Assistant Secretary to the Syndicate

17th November 1897.

An appendix to the Report gives the average age of the Boys in the respective forms, as follow: Form V (9 boys), average 16 years 3 months; IVA (17), 14 years 9 months; IVB (33), 13 years 11 months; IIIA (29), 13 years 5 months; IIIB (31), 13 years 2 months; IIIC (32), 12 years 7 months; IIA (32), 11 years 11 months; IIB (14), 12 years 4 months; Preparatory School—IA (31), 10 years 5 months; IB (26), 9 years 1 month.

On Friday, 17th inst., the annual ball for the Masonic juveniles was held in the Albert Hall, Lancaster, the same committee as for the Masonic ball being responsible for the arrangements. There were upwards of 300 present, and dancing was indulged in from six o'clock till one, the young folks spending an enjoyable evening.

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Special Provision for Lodge and other meetings, including

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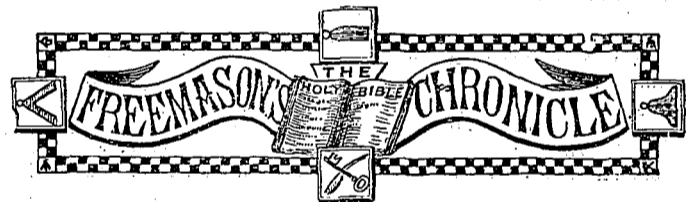
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SATURDAY, 25TH DECEMBER 1897.

Compliments of the Season.

BEFORE our next issue is in the hands of our subscribers 1897 will have come to an end, and 1898 will have been fairly started upon. We therefore gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity of tendering the season's greetings, and ask each one of our readers to accept from us the Compliments of the Season, with the very best wishes for their health and happiness in the New Year.

There are some who argue we are unnecessarily severe in our attacks on "Masonic" Church Services, but we are still of opinion they are a great mistake—very unlikely to do any good to the Craft, and opening the way to evils and abuses it is most desirable to avoid. As an instance we may point to the much abused service at St. Paul's Cathedral, which called forth lengthy accounts of Freemasonry in many of the papers of the day. One of the leading illustrated weeklies took the opportunity to reproduce some old French plates showing what purported to be different ceremonies of the Craft; and although there was nothing in them which would enable an outsider to make his way into a Lodge, or acquaint him with the secrets of Masonry, there was sufficient to make their reproduction in so public a manner a matter of regret to members of the Order. Of course we shall be told this is a far removed "side issue," but without the Church parade the reproductions would not have been called for.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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LONDESBOROUGH LODGE, No. 1681.

THE annual election meeting of this popular Lodge took place on Thursday of last week, at the Café Royal, Regent Street, W., when Bro. John Lewis W.M. presided, and was assisted by the following:—C. Rayner S.W., H. C. Rayner J.W., R. Burlington P.M. Treas., George Read P.G.S.B. Sec., Edward Head S.D., J. Freer J.D., Hewett I.G., J. F. Plows Steward, W. P. Usher Assist. Steward, F. J. Oliver P.P.G.O. Organist, Past Masters J. S. Cater, R. Corry, H. Robinson, G. Wood, G. Dickenson, R. P. Laundry, and others.

Members: W. G. Gunn, W. Harris, George Quelch, F. H. Vant, R. Ballard, J. Hooper, C. B. Leatherley, John Hewitt, T. Kelly, W. Kingshott, D. Barnard, A. J. Walker, D. W. Doughty, S. Brooks, A. Kay, G. Johnstone, F. B. Mills, C. Rickards, R. Ellison, T. A. Marks.

Visitors: C. A. Mayfield 1716, W. Long 2120, John Wade W.M. 860, C. Dart 860, J. B. Dodson P.M., Kirby, C. Dickinson, W. Hutchings P.M. 1425, H. Nash, J. Van Gelder W.M. 2432, W. Bates P.M. 1507, E. G. Cooper 1158, J. Wynman, and others.

The business of the day included the raising of Bros. Walker and Lovell, the passing of Bro. Ballard, and the initiation of Mr. T. Fielding and Mr. W. Dunscombe.

Then followed the election of Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, the unanimous choice falling upon Bro. C. Rayner S.W., who, in acknowledgment, said how much he appreciated the compliment that had been paid him by the Lodge. He assured the Brethren he would do everything in his power to follow the good example set by his predecessors in the chair, and hoped his efforts would win the approval of the Brethren.

Bro. Burlington Treasurer was re-elected, which compliment was also acknowledged. The Tyler was re-elected, and Bros. Hewitt, Brooks, Kelly, Usher, and Plows appointed as Auditors.

It was proposed and unanimously agreed to, that the Lodge present the W.M. with a jewel, for the able manner in which he had fulfilled the duties of the chair during his year of office.

After a few more transactions, and well-earned compliments and hearty good wishes, the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned to the banqueting room, where one of those excellent repasts for which the establishment is so justly famed was partaken of.

After the Loyal toasts the W.M. submitted that of the Grand Officers, coupling with it the name of Bro. George Read their Secretary. He felt that if all the Grand Officers were as able and efficient as Bro. Read then they need have no fear as to the proper management of the Craft at their hands.

Bro. Read replied, thanking the Brethren for the kindness of their reception.

In the absence of the I.P.M. the Treasurer had very much pleasure in proposing the health of the Worshipful Master. It was quite unnecessary on that occasion to refer to his good qualities, or his ability in the work of the Lodge, as the Brethren had been able to see for themselves what he was able to do in the three degrees of the Craft. He had worked the different ceremonies that day in really faultless manner, and had won the approval of the members of the Lodge.

The toast was heartily received, as was the W.M. when he rose to respond. He hoped the Brethren would believe he had done his best during his year of office in the chair of the Lodge. He was pleased to know his efforts had won him some special marks of approval. He wished the W.M.-elect a prosperous year of office, and concluded by tendering the Brethren generally the compliments of the season.

The toast of the Initiates was next given, the W.M. offering them hearty welcome, and expressing the pleasure he felt in admitting such promising members into the Fraternity.

Bro. Thomas Fielding, in reply, sincerely thanked the W.M. and Brethren for their kindness in accepting him among them as a member of the Craft. In time he hoped to prove to all of them that he was worthy of the confidence they had reposed in him.

Bros. Dunscombe endorsed the observations of Bro. Fielding, and said he also hoped to show the members of the Lodge that he was worthy; and further, make them feel proud of having accepted him as a Brother amongst them.

The health of the Visitors was next submitted from the chair, the W.M. assuring them the Londesborough Lodge was always pleased to welcome guests, and always strove to give them a hearty welcome.

Bro. John Wade W.M. 860 replied. It was not the first time he had visited the Lodge, and he hoped he should be present on many future occasions, as the meetings were always most enjoyable. As a frequent attendant at the Londesborough Lodge of Instruction he was also able to vouch for the splendid way in which the Officers were able to carry out their work. What had been done that day was absolutely faultless, and must have made a greater impression than usual on the different candidates. He again thanked them for the kind reception accorded the visitors.

Bro. Bates P.M. also responded, congratulating the W.M. on the ability he had displayed on that, the concluding night of his year's presidency in the Lodge. Other of the guests followed in similar strain.

The toast of the Past Masters was acknowledged by Bro. Laundry, and then came the health of the Treasurer and Secretary. The W.M. said that he could not remember when the Lodge was in a better financial position than at the present time, which fact spoke well for the interest shown by the Treasurer and Secretary in the welfare of the Lodge.

The Treasurer replied. Since the consecration of the Lodge, now some eighteen years back, he had been there and had seen with pleasure the progress and prosperity of the Lodge.

Bro. George Read also responded, expressing his determination to stick to his mother Lodge as long as the G.A.O.T.U. gave him health and strength to attend its meetings.

In submitting the toast of the Officers the W.M. specially referred to

Bro. C. Rayner S.W. and W.M.-elect, who was in every way the right man to be called upon to occupy the chair, being so well qualified in all the work of the Lodge. He strongly urged younger Brethren to attend the Instruction Lodge (held at the house of Bro. Vant, the Berkeley Arms, John Street, W., every Wednesday, at 8 o'clock), as by so doing they would gain the knowledge needed to place them in similar positions to those occupied by the Officers of the Lodge at the present time.

The S.W. thanked the W.M. and Brethren, and hoped he would give the same satisfaction in the chair as his predecessors had done. Other of the Officers responded, after which the Tyler concluded the list.

Some excellent songs, &c., were given during the evening, notable among those who contributed to the harmony being Bros. Kingshott, Dobson, Rickards, Head, and Van Gelder, while Bro. Oliver rendered able assistance at the piano.

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PENGE LODGE, No. 1815.

THE ordinary meeting was held at the Clarence Hall, Anerley, on the 8th inst. Present: Bros. Albert E. Pridmore W.M., H. Budd I.P.M., G. T. Crockford S.W., W. Peskett J.W., J. B. Crowe Sec., Rev. Jno. Robbins Chaplain, W. Atkinson S.D., C. G. Jones J.D., P. Betts P.M. D.C., B. W. Edey I.G., P. K. Clarke and J. M. Thody, Stewards. Bros. R. Tidmas, T. West, H. Leney, R. Jackson and W. Baker, Past Masters. T. Dunwoody, H. Aldridge, J. W. Fitzgerald, D. Parsons J. Johnson, C. R. Hall, H. Philippe, L. W. Bradbury, J. S. Hamp, H. King, E. L. Hall, O. B. Fellowes, and E. L. Partridge P.M. Tyler.

Visitors:—Bros. W. T. Hall, Cosmopolitan, Johannesburg 838, E. M. Hislop P.M. Unity 1637, W. N. Worfold 507, C. W. Pineo 257, and W. Welton 871.

The Business of the Lodge was carried through in a thorough Masonic manner, four candidates being initiated into the mysteries of the Craft, and at the conclusion of the work the Brethren sat down to a banquet, after which the usual Masonic toasts were honoured.

Bro. Pridmore, in giving the toast of the Grand Officers, laid special stress on the sad loss sustained by the Earl of Lathom, through the fatal accident which befel the Countess, and said that, realising the great amount of work he had done for Masons, and the Countess having endeared herself to the hearts of everyone concerned in Masonry, they sincerely condoled with the Earl in his bereavement.

The health of the W.M. was proposed by Bro. Tidmas P.M., who said it gave him great gratification to submit the toast, as Bro. Pridmore's work was beyond criticism. The Lodge having such a Master as Bro. Pridmore a splendid tone was given to the proceedings, and great credit reflected on the Lodge.

Bro. Pridmore, in reply, said he was surprised at getting praise from such a great critic and perfect Mason as Bro. Tidmas, as he felt fearful as to whether he should not have his chastisement. Praise from Cæsar was praise indeed.

The W.M., in giving the toast of the Joining Member, said that Bro. Robbins had travelled considerably, and having visited the Lodge had expressed himself so satisfied with the working, and the kindly disposition of all the members, that he could not desire to join a Lodge more after his own heart.

Bro. Rev. Jno. Robbins responded, saying he was a Canadian Mason, and had a profound respect for everything Masonic. He had had practical experience that where Masons were true to their solemn vows Freemasonry was a very true thing indeed. They had an instance under notice that night, when a distressed Brother appealed for assistance, and was not sent empty away. A true Brother Mason was a friend indeed. They should bear one another's burdens, remembering they were Brethren in an ancient and noble Craft.

Bro. Budd proposed the Initiates, in eloquent terms, and each of the four newly made Brethren suitably responded.

Bro. Pridmore gave the Visitors, saying he should much deplore the occasion when visitors did not grace the meetings of the Lodge. The members wished and accorded them a hearty and genial welcome. The visitors severally responded.

Bro. Dunwoody proposed the Past Masters, commenting on the excellent talent in the Lodge amongst the Past Masters. Bros. Jackson, Tidmas and Leney replied.

The W.M. gave the toast of the Officers of the Lodge, which was responded to by Bros. Crockford and Crowe.

The Tyler's toast brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

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GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC LODGE, No. 2454.

THE installation meeting was held on Monday, 13th inst., at the Holborn Restaurant, Bro. H. Guy W.M. presiding, says the "City Press."

After the opening of the Lodge and the confirmation of the minutes, the W.M. requested the G. Secretary Bro. Edward Letchworth, F.S.A., to take the chair for the purpose of installing the Worshipful Master. Bro. Letchworth acceded to the request, and with due formalities installed Bro. W. H. Cummings, F.S.A., Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, as W.M.

After Bro. Letchworth had delivered the address to the Master, Wardens, and Brethren, a vote of thanks was passed to him for the performance of the ceremonies, on the motion of Bro. T. Hastings Miller P.M., seconded by Bro. W. H. Thomas P.M.

Bro. Cummings W.M. then presented to Bro. Henry Guy I.P.M., on behalf of the Lodge, a handsome jewel of a Past Master, which had been unanimously voted to him by the Brethren, in recognition of his services as Worshipful Master during the past year. Bro. Guy feelingly acknowledged the present.

Bro. Cummings presented the Lodge with a banner. On the motion of Bro. G. F. Smith G.Org. Secretary, seconded by Bro. Henry Gadsby P.M., a cordial vote of thanks to Bro. Cummings for the gift was adopted with acclamation.

The Lodge was then closed, and the Brethren were entertained at a choice banquet. The usual toasts succeeded, and, as might be expected, some lovely music was provided for the delectation of the company.

The W.M. referred sympathetically to the loss recently sustained by the Earl of Lathom, whom, he said, he knew not only as Pro Grand Master, but as a musician, when his lordship took the chair at the Royal Society of Musicians, and gave a handsome donation.

Bro. Henry Guy I.P.M., in proposing the toast of the Worshipful Master, said the Brethren knew Bro. Cummings so well that any words of his would not add to their appreciation of the W.M. They had heard that evening that every candidate for the office of Master must be of good report, true, and

trustful, and held in high estimation among his Brethren and fellows. Bro. Cummings had been held true and trustful by being Treasurer of the Lodge since its foundation, and had been held in high estimation among his Brethren because he had been elected W.M.

Bro. W. H. Cummings, in acknowledging the toast, said Bro. Guy had spoken of him in terms far too flattering, but he could assure the Brethren that, having undertaken the very responsible office of Master of the Lodge, he intended, God helping him, to carry out the duties in a proper, straightforward and honourable manner. He felt it was his duty to accept the office, and having accepted it he should do his best, not only for their Lodge, but for the Craft in general. If at the end of his year of office he was received in the same amiable and kind way as he was that evening he should be well satisfied.

Bro. Letchworth, responding to the toast of the Installing Master, said he found it difficult to realise the fact that five years had passed since it was his privilege, assisted by several Brethren now present, to consecrate the Guildhall School of Music Lodge. On that occasion he ventured to predict that the Lodge would have before it a very successful career, and occupy a high position amongst the Lodges of the metropolis. He was most gratified to know that his prediction had been in every way fulfilled.

INSTRUCTION.

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ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

ON Thursday, 16th inst., at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, Bro. John Knight W.M., G. E. Higginson P.M. S.W., F. Craggs P.M. J.W., F. J. Larkman Treas., J. H. Cumming Sec., R. H. Williams P.M. Preceptor, H. Salter P.M., H. Whitney P.M., A. Williams P.M., R. Reid S.D., W. Hide J.D., J. Dinnis I.G., E. H. Wilcox, J. W. Blaydes, C. C. Barber, P. Cronin, R. J. Catling, J. Dinnis, R. Goff, W. Hide, C. Humble, W. Langdon, R. Manlove, D. Rawlings, F. M. Ridley, W. J. Ridgway, R. Still, H. R. Worth, and others.

The Lodge was opened in due form in the 1st and 2nd Degrees, when the Sections of the Second Lecture were worked by the following Brethren:— J. Phillips S.D. 186, Robert Reid S.W. 1275, R. J. Catling P.M. 2157, G. E. Higginson P.M. 1791, and F. Craggs P.M. 834.

The Lodge was advanced to the third Degree, and the Sections of the third Lecture were worked by Bros. A. Williams P.M. 2090, F. J. Larkman P.M. 780, and R. H. Williams P.M. 865.

The work was carried out in the most perfect manner, and gave great satisfaction, as the Sections have not been worked at this Lodge of Instruction for over 20 years, and this occasion showed that the members had spared no pains to make themselves efficient in their various parts. A vote of thanks to them was carried unanimously.

A like compliment was accorded to the W.M., S.W., and J.W., and they were elected Honorary Members. It was acknowledged by all that an instructive and well spent evening had been passed.

PROVINCIAL.

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LODGE OF INSTRUCTION No. 581.

A MEETING took place at the Old Boar's Head, Withy Grove, Manchester, on Thursday, 9th inst., when Bro. Godfrey Higham P.M. P.P.G.D.D.C. Preceptor was supported by Bros. Geo. T. Lenard P.M. Treas., Alfred Hebden P.M. P.P.G.D.D.C. Sec., and upwards of thirty members.

Bro. J. Townley Trotter having assumed the principal chair, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and an initiation was rehearsed, the working tools being presented and explained by Bro. E. H. Massie.

The yearly election of Officers then took place, with the result that upon the proposition of Bro. Higham, seconded by Bro. Wm. Bee P.M., and supported by Bro. Trotter, Bro. Hebden was unanimously chosen as Preceptor, an appointment which cannot fail to be popular, and one which will be the means of infusing additional life and vitality into this already useful and popular Institution.

Bro. Lenard was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, and upon the proposition of Bro. Hebden, seconded by Bro. Bee, and supported by Bro. Isaac Hurlow, the name of Bro. Geo. Wenham Davies P.M. 1459 was successfully submitted to the meeting as Secretary. Bros. Bee and Joseph Day were appointed Auditors, and a Committee was formed to arrange for the forthcoming Festival of St. John. This consists of the principal Officers, augmented by Bros. Massie and Bee.

The newly-elected Officers having said a few words with reference to their appointments, a vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Higham for having acted as Preceptor, vice Bro. Abbott, deceased.

Bro. Higham responded in suitable terms, and concluded by introducing a notice of motion that a sum of £5 be given from the Lodge funds to the East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution.

Principal among those who were present were Past Masters George Parker, A. Eichholz, W. J. Herring, and G. P. Taylor; Bros. Mark Steel, M. Goth, C. Koffler, W. Dagnall, A. B. Taylor, R. Stevenson, C. Virgo, and B. Wilmot. Visitor:—Bro. J. W. Fitton 2464.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 23th inst., when the ceremony of raising will be rehearsed.

ZION LODGE, No. 1798.

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting, at the Grand Hotel, Aytoun Street, Manchester, on the 8th inst., to witness the installation of Bro. Bernhard Steel S.W. Worshipful Master-elect, attested the popularity of that Brother.

After a successful ballot, Mr. Louis Mistovski, Manufacturer, Cheetham Hill, was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry, this being followed by a proposition from Bro. Simeon Mamelok P.M.—“That £10 from the Lodge Funds, and from the Charity Box Funds, be voted towards the East Lancashire Systematic Educational and Benevolent Institution.”

A Board of Installed Masters was formed, with Bro. Mamelok as Installing W.M., and Bro. Steel was duly placed in the chair of K.S., assistance in the ceremonial being rendered by Bro. Geo. Board P.P.G.D. On this occasion Bro. Mamelok was seen at his best, which, to those who know him, is indicative of careful and efficient work.

The following is a list of Officers for the ensuing financial year:—Bro. Joseph Gershon I.P.M., Leon E. Levy P.M. S.W., Mark Steel J.W., S. Mamelok P.M. Treasurer, George Crocker P.M. Secretary, Philip Joseph S.D., Walter Dagnall J.D., George Board P.M. P.P.G.D. D.C., Jacques H. Phillips Organist, Henry Norris I.G., Morris Phillips and A. Altaras Stds. Brother George Board P.M. D.C. P.P.G.D. was appointed Charity Representative.

During the banquet which succeeded, a very attractive musical programme was gone through, the contributaries being Bros. B. Steel W.M., Leon E. Levy P.M., J. H. Phillips, Henry Norris, L. Frankenstein, and others.

A very nice break in the proceedings was caused by the newly-installed W.M., who presented to Bro. Gershon I.P.M. a very handsome gold jewel, which bore the following inscription:

Zion Lodge, No. 1798.

Presented to

BRO. JOSEPH GERSHON,

by the Brethren of Zion Lodge, No. 1798,

in appreciation of his valuable services as Worshipful Master.

December 1897.

CENTURION LODGE, No. 2322.

THE annual meeting and Festival of St. John took place at the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on Monday, 6th inst. After the reading and confirmation of minutes, a successful ballot (as a joining member) was taken for Brother David Livingston Hamilton, Surgeon Lieutenant 4th V.B.M.R., late of the Wycombe Lodge, No. 1501. The passing of Bro. Lieut. Arthur Samuel Pearce was due, but this had been postponed by consent.

A board of Installed Masters was formed, consisting of Bros. Surg-Capt. Arthur H. Smith I.P.M. Installing W.M., Col. Henry L. Rocca P.M. P.P.G.J.D. as S.W., Col. John Eaton P.M. P.P.G.S.W. P.P.G.Tr. as J.W., and Major John Heap P.M. P.P.S.G.D. as I.G., and the installation of Bro. Capt. Thomas Wilding Ashworth S.W. was soon proceeded with, Bro. Smith performing the ceremony in that masterly style which had been expected from his previous successful efforts. He was assisted by Past Masters Col. J. H. Clark, J.P., P.P.G.D. Treas., who addressed the Master; Col. Rocca, who addressed the Wardens; and Major W. H. Hopkins P.P.G.D.C., who gave the proclamations and addressed the Brethren generally.

The following is a list of Officers for the ensuing year:—Surg.-Capt. J. K. Fairclough S.W., Rev. J. W. Challenor J.W., Rev. E. Bigoe Bagot Chaplain, Lieut.-Col. J. H. Clark Treasurer, Major F. Pratt Secretary, Capt. P. Nightingale S.D., Capt. G. W. Heys J.D., Major H. B. Moss I.G., Major W. H. Hopkins D.C., Major H. S. Hardy Organist, Capt. J. B. Selby, Surg. Capt. J. T. Smith, and Capt. J. E. R. Hall Stewards.

Before the Lodge was closed the following notices of motion were disposed of: one by the W.M. “that the sum of ten pounds be subscribed from the funds of the Lodge to the East Lancashire Systematic Educational and Benevolent Institution,” and the other by Bro. Rocca “that the word ‘November’ be substituted for ‘October’ in Bye-law II,” which is important, inasmuch as it throws the night of electing Officers to November.

A very excellent banquet succeeded these proceedings, which thoroughly justified the many encomiums we have previously bestowed upon the catering of Messrs. Spiers and Pond.

The formal toasts were proposed by the newly-installed W.M. and drunk with enthusiasm. That of the W.M., proposed by Bro. Rocca, was duly responded to by Bro. Ashworth, while Bro. Col. Clark, who proposed that of Bro. Major Kershaw, regretted the absence of the latter through illness. Bro. Fairclough S.W. bestowed a fitting meed of praise upon the Past Masters, Bro. Rocca giving a very able reply. Bro. Major Heap made a very effective appeal to the Brethren on behalf of the charities.

The various toasts were pleasantly varied by songs, &c. In the latter conjunction we must mention Bros. C. Hobbins P.M. 44, whose song gave great satisfaction, and Bro. Edwyn A. Smith W.M. 2363, whose excellent rendering of a pianoforte solo received similar acceptance.

Besides those already mentioned, we noticed Bros. Capt. A. J. Sykes, Major T. Ballantine, Major W. K. Bradley, Major G. H. Bates, Surg.-Capt. Stephen Nesfield, Captain T. J. Bentley, Lieuts. T. A. Fallows and Alan Ramsay. Visitors:—Bros. W. H. Norton P.M. 1534 P.P.G.D.Reg., Wm. Brookes P.M. 1009 P.P.S.G.D., John Bowers P.M. 1730 P.G.D. (W.L.), E. Faulkner P.M. 2231, Geo. D. Brookes W.M. 1009, and many others.

MARK MASONRY.

—:o:—

FRIENDSHIP LODGE, No. 16.

THE installation meeting was held at Devonport, on Thursday, 9th inst., and was attended by a large number of Mark Masons, including several members of Provincial Grand Lodge. Bro. Henry Willcocks was installed Master.

The Audit Committee presented a favourable report on the finances of the Lodge.

Bro. Willcocks presided over the annual supper, which was subsequently held in the large hall attached to the Lodge. He was supported by the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, and a large muster of the members and visiting Brethren.

Congratulatory speeches were made, and the newly installed Master expressed his gratification on becoming Master of so important a Mark Lodge, which during the past year had been so ably presided over by Bro. W. H. Tucker P.G.A.D.C. Bro. Willcocks expressed a hope that Lodge Friendship would continue to hold front rank in Devonshire Mark Masonry.

The Duke of St. Albans finds himself compelled, by reason of the unsatisfactory state of his health, to resign the Grand Mastership of the Province of Nottinghamshire, which he has held since 1877. He would, indeed, have retired some years ago, but for the relief from the more onerous duties of the office which was afforded by his appointment of Colonel Newton, as Deputy.

CHURCH SERVICE.

ON a recent Sunday, Bro. the Rev. T. Angus Morrison, parish minister of Kirkintilloch, and Chaplain of Lodge Plantation, 581, preached a Masonic sermon in Norrieston Parish Church, under the auspices of Lodge Blairhoyle (S.C.). The Brethren met in the Masonic Hall at 4 p.m., and marched in procession to the church.

Our Reverend Brother took as his text:—1 Peter ii, 17, "Honour all men. Love the Brotherhood." He pointed out that these words were not penned at a time when Christians enjoyed protection from those in authority, but a time when the organised force of a mighty empire was abetted against them. The early Christians were looked upon as innovators in religion and disturbers in the State. The Apostle repelled this charge by impressing upon his followers the necessity of submitting themselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake. In the face of dreadful persecution he said "Honour all men." This general precept was followed by its three divisions, "Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."

The belief that mankind will one day be fused into a universal brotherhood is one that lies near the heart of all wise and earnest men. Christianity, as a mighty revolution, has been spreading itself through society, revealing to men their own nature, and teaching them to honour all who are in possession of it. The Apostle would have us honour all men according to the honour due in each case. Christ took upon Himself a human body and thus dignified humanity, and made it more worthy of honour than it ever was before. He would have us honour all men, and love the brotherhood. The Christian Church is a great brotherhood made up of many members. Those members are not independent units, but parts of the great body of Jesus. From Him they receive every pulsation of Christian life, and without Him they would perish. His love for the brotherhood led Him to Calvary, and He says, "Love one another as I have loved you." In His spirit we labour to bring about the time when men shall be as eager to find out some basis of sympathy as they are now to find some ground of opposition and dislike. The true members of this brotherhood must have their hearts filled with the spirit of forbearance and goodwill and labour to remove the discordant elements which tend to drive men asunder. Their living bond of union is Jesus Christ. He is the Man of no party, the citizen of no country, the embodiment of no sectarian feeling. He is the universal Man—the Man fit to bind nations and individuals together. Every nation, tongue, and people, the moment they truly come to know Him, claim Him as their own.

Our Society, Brother Masons, has in modern times been influenced by the example and teaching of Jesus Christ. I have great pleasure in meeting with you this afternoon, and in setting before you some of the high and holy precepts of our faith. On the part of the uninitiated there is at times a tendency to look upon us with a jealous eye, and to brand our Fraternity with the vile societies of the distant past. There are, however, Brotherhoods which exist for a good purpose, and do a noble work in the world. No Forester, Shepherd, or Free Gardener, and certainly no Freemason, is ashamed or afraid to avow himself a member of his particular society. Indeed, I usually find them rather proud of the fact, and why not? In our membership may be found many of the greatest, noblest, and most honourable citizens of our land.

Our Society exists for a noble purpose. We have impressed upon our Brethren the necessity of usefulness, benevolent impulse, and charitable deeds. In England, Ireland, and Scotland thousands have reason to be thankful for their connection with the Craft. As individuals we confess our belief in God, the Almighty Maker of us all; in a future state in which we will be rewarded or punished for the deeds done in the body, and we have promised before God and our Brethren to practise the highest virtues.

In his daily walk and conversation the true Mason must be diligent, prudent, temperate, and discreet. He has promised to befriend and assist his deserving fellow men, and more particularly his Brethren of the Craft. Such benevolence is of the highest importance, and must be undertaken by every true Mason. Our aim is to make men better, citizens better, subjects better. There are among us men strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. The strong must support the weak. Let us realise, my Brethren, that a man may require the helping hand, not merely when starvation stares him in the face, but also when, by a course of sinful action, he has ventured upon the slippery by-path, which leads to disease, degradation, and ruin. As a Chaplain of your Fraternity I would not merely impress upon you the necessity of taking part in those works of love, but also lead you into communion with the great Saviour of mankind—the Brother of us all. He waits to be gracious to you. He made propitiation in His death for your sins, and not for yours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. At home and abroad, in the workshop, warehouse, farmyard, and office, in the

slums, and in the mansions, there is a work to do. Go then, Brethren, and take a true part in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ, and God in His mercy will bless you, and make you a blessing.

At the close of the service the procession was reformed, and returned to the Masonic Hall. Here Bro. James Bain W.M. thanked Bro. Rev. T. Angus Morrison, in the name of the Brethren present, for the great favour he had done them by conducting their Masonic service, and for the admirable discourse they had listened to. It was well-known that Bro. Morrison was one of the most brilliant and earnest Chaplains in the Masonic world, and they all felt deeply indebted to him for the Brotherly service he had so willingly rendered.—"Callender Advertiser."

WHAT PROFIT.

DOES Freemasonry pay? What advantage has a man who is a Mason over his neighbour who is not a member of the Fraternity? These and other related questions are quite likely to be asked of one's self, even if they are not put into the form of words, and expressed in private or public speech.

This is a practical age. It applies the test of profitableness to almost everything of human acquisition and use, and it raises the question of value in regard to man's present existence, asking whether life itself is worth having—whether it pays to maintain the hard struggle of mortal being against the trials and troubles which must be encountered. There is a mighty army of disappointed and dejected people, quite ready to declare that there is no value in life—no good in anything. Out of the ranks of such as these come the recruits for madness, and for suicide.

We pity the morbid ones, so sad and so reckless. We say to them that the gift of life is a precious boon—worth living through and through as God gives it and marks the way for its expression.

Happy are they who get life rightly focussed, so as to estimate its true value. Then will they have respect for those faculties of mind, heart, and soul which constitute man's highest endowment, and by exercise of which he not only makes his life useful, but derives for himself the utmost of strength, satisfaction and peace. Those who belong to this class are disposed to make the most and the best of present being, while they are always looking for a brighter light to shine upon their way, and a more exceeding glory to be disclosed. These, rightly numbered among the workers, the leaders, the helpers in our human world, will make willing declaration, out of their own experience, that it does pay to oppose evil, to struggle for the right, to cultivate the nobler attributes of being, and to recognise the claims of related life.

When men of this stamp pass within the lines of Freemasonry they are not likely to be disappointed. They will find enough in the Institution to justify the expenditure of thought, time and money, requisite for active and intelligent membership in the Fraternity. They will testify that Freemasonry does pay; that it has profit not to be reckoned in material values, but in benefits which constitute an abiding property of life.

Not long since a worthy Craftsman, who has held membership in Lodge, Chapter and Commandery for almost half of a century, said to the present writer: "Freemasonry has blessed and enriched my life. I have made no money by my Masonic connections. I have never been obliged to ask for any aid on Masonic grounds, but I believe that I am both a better and a happier man to-day because of my long and active identification with the Institution." Most heartily can we endorse the words of our venerable friend. We have found profit in Freemasonry. It has been of benefit to the writer by bringing him into pleasant relations with good men and true, giving him a place in a community of mutual interests, and opening the way for the establishment of enduring friendships. The observance of its rites and ceremonies has been suggestive and interesting; and to witness Masonic work well done is none the less pleasant now than it was years ago. Its profit has been realised by a study of its symbolism and its principles, and by the effort to apply its truths to the formation of character, and to the conduct of life. It has been an inspiration and a benefit in many ways, as the writer has sought a better acquaintance with the history of the Institution and the evolution of its great system of moral ideas and fraternal purposes. It has augmented the zest of life, deepened faith in the eternal verities, and made more evident the truth of the solidarity of the human race.

What profit has Freemasonry? Much profit, and in various ways, when rightly understood and applied, being judged by the tests which determine the higher values. Freemasonry pays the thoughtful, faithful Craftsman, not in the wages of the world's current coin, but in what quickens the affections, exalts the aspirations, broadens and blesses the life, thus providing a social, intellectual and moral incitement for a strong and useful manhood.—"Freemasons Repository."

THE HUMOROUS SIDE OF FREEMASONRY.

BY STREBO.

(Continued from page 173.)

The following extracts are from No. 4 Book :—

1809. 24 Augt.—Visited by Br. John Blain & Elleswood, both of the Modern Lodge, No. 33.

19 Oct.—The Master conspicuously toasted his Majesty in Ancient form, the rest of the Brethren joining giving every Mark of Loyalty to King and Constitution.

25 Oct.—Emergency Meeting for the Comemery of the Jubilee of his preasant Majesty, and was a Acomenced with the Ainchent Lodg 196. Allso, by the Modrin Lodg 33, directed to the New Church, thair to Attend Divine Servis in grait harmony. The Lod closed in harlf parst fore in the Evening with great harmonie.

Note by the compiler:—"This appears to be a Festival at which Lodges Ancient & Modern attended Divine Service, at St. George's Church, in Little Bolton, only then recently erected."

Mar. 7.—The Members of Lodge 303 duly congregated to attend the funeral of Br. Rubotim, which we regret, our Members was candidly entertained by the Lodge that our deceased Brother belong'd.

Apl. 12.—The W.M. from the chair gave "His Majesty and the British Navy, may the conquer all foes."

June 26.—St John's Day. 2 Brothers passed the Chair. After Dinner the W.M. gave from the Chair: the Grand Master, John, Duke of Athol.

June 26.—When all the Members joyed him in Antient form the S.W. gave his Majesty's Land and Sea Forces Success, when every Brother drank it deep in Clarret; during the Evening Toasts and Masonic Songs abounded.

Aug. 19.—Opened on the Night Templar order. Derly Beloved Jeromier Grayham who had his Sertifiket delivered fom him B'fore a arge Bodey of Respectobel Brothers Met on the Resectobel order.

Dec. 6.—Lodge approved of a proposed plan of general relief for the town of Bolton.

1811. 2 May.—The Lodge was engaged for some time in most serious business.

28 Nov.—When the Interests of Masonry being taken into consideration, that Interest weighing upon the minds of the whole Lodge, it was unan. Resolved, that Brother Blank having repeatedly violated his obligation by disobedience to lawful summonses sent from this Lodge, without shewing any cause for the same, he his therefore excluded from this Lodge For Ever and shall be reported as such to the Grand Lodge by next communication, and his certificate is burned by Vote.

1812. 23 July.—An application being made by Rob. Dorset Neale a Prisoner in the Fleet it was Voted to send him one-third of a Note in Common with other 2 Lodges if they approve, otherwise to send on ac. this Lodge 7/- and pay Charge of Carriage; Worshipful to do the business.

1813. Oct. 7.—Brother Blank who had been excluded For Ever was admitted by consent of the members present on those condition to come as a Visiton Member until he cleard off the Books and then came as a Subscribing Member.

1814. 31 March.—Two Br. received "that most glorious and sublime degree of Master Mason."

8 July.—Christopher Smith came forward and was short of his money & according to the Grand Lodge Rules we could not bring him forward.

25 Aug.—Same brother with two others raised to Master.

1815. 21 Oct.—There was a dispute betwist John Haggens and John Platt, and it was left to the Lodge to decide. As this being the Seckand Crime it was agend that he should be forgiven for the first it was Agread to fine hem as the By-Laws directed According to the 12 Rule. Closed in good harmony at 9 O'clock. Br. Haggens pade 10 6 as spoke on in the twelft rule. The mark of John Haggens x and gave satisfaction to the Lodge.

1816. 9 May.—Thos. Sutcliffe wishes to lie dormant for some time.

1817. 23 Oct.—When this resolution was put—"That for the futur none shall lie dormant."

No. 5 Book.

1819. 8 Apl.—Agreed to hold our Lodge Night on Saturday before full Moon, it being agreed that the Lodge of Instructions should be held on the next Sunday but one to the Lodge Night, and Spend 3d. each out of the Stock.

6 May.—Agreed that the Meeting be Saturday on or after the full Moon.

20 July.—Several repititions made in respect of a Sick Fund Established in Connexion with the Lodge.

A motion made that no Lodge business be done on Lecturing days.

Moved and secd. that Robert Roberts should have a reduction will Solgering.

1820. 1 Apl.—Agreed to move to the Two Millstones.

27 May.—More repititions about Sick business.

26 Aug.—Michl. Partington be Sencherd for not A baying is Somons and non-payment.

23 Sept.—Br. Isherwood delegated to Preston to the day of the Grand Meeting.

The first record having reference to a Provincial Grand Lodge.

21 Oct.—Ordered that there is no allowance to any person whatever out of the Lodge Room.

Brothren want to drink outside the Lodge at the expense of the Lodge.

21 Oct.—Carriid that the late Br. Tong has a few lines at the Lodge Expense, viz.,

"Here Tong reclines, &c."

This refers to an inscription on the Tombstone of this Worthy Brother in the Old Parish Churchyard of Bolton.

Nov. and Dec.—Two Brethren "expelled" for non-payment, &c.

6 Candidates admitted to the order of Red Cross of Babylon.

1821 to 1846.—No. 6 Book.

1821. 17 Feb.—Initiation of Br. William Dawson.

Subsequently a Masonic Instructor in this County, of considerable popularity.

Thomas Hankinson who was under age proposed.

24 Mch.—Do. initiated, a dispensation being obtained from the Deputy Prov.G.M.

21 Apl.—Put £21 into Bank in name of the Lodge.

19 May.—Any Br. coming in a colored handkerchief to pay 2d.

10 Nov.—Agreed that we write to the Masonic Committee, Castle Inn, North Liverpool, in answer to theirs, to comfort and console them.

Mem.—Brethren wishing to understand the nature of this record should read "Preston's Illustrations." It is sufficient to say here that the Brethren comforted and consoled by us were afterwards expell'd the Order for contempt of Grand Lodge.

1822. 9 March.—A Candidate on being ballotted for had 2 Black beans * against him, whereupon on the

6th April.—Br. J. carried by a majority—"That any Candidate being objected by more than two members, if a Majority of the Members think proper the objections shall be disclose to the Lodge for their satisfaction. Again, on the

11 May.—A motion was made—"That we are Ruled by the Grand Rules and our By Laws as they stand at present," but the Master refused to put the motion !!!

A motion was made

That the motion made by Br. J. on preseding Lodge be rescinded—put and lost.

Another person balloted for, and one black bean appeared against him.

Resolved by a Majority that our By Laws be sent to Grand Lodge for their sanction.

1824 Apl. 17.—Agreed to move to the Prince William.

And that Members who belong to their Lodge appear on St. John's Day in a clean neat apron, either Craft, Arch, or Black.

1825.—From this date the Province is divided. East Lancashire and West Lancashire.

1 Octo.—Resolved that Br. Crossley is a fit and proper person to become P.G.M. for the County of Lancaster, and a Petition be drawn to the Duke of Sussex to that effect.

29 Octo.—That our attendance on the Prov.G.Lo. be postponed till next year.

1826. 19 Aug.—Brethren appointed to look out for a private room. The W.M., W. Dawson appointed to attend the Prov. G. Meeting; allowed 21s.

18 Nov.—Stewards appointed to have charge of the Liquor; allowed 4d. each to be spent, to account every three months.

16 Dec.—2/6 each to be spent on St. John's Day, and ordered that a Quarter Barrel be allowed and provided.

1828. 24 Feb.—Removed to the 4 Horse Shoes.

5 Apl.—Resolved by 9 to 2 that we send a Provincial Officer. That William Dawson goes for a Provincial Officer, be allowed 30/- expenses, the Lodge finding his clothing.

1829. July 26.—Bro. John Warbrick appointed Provincial Grand Steward. To get his clothing as cheap as possible, allowed 15/- for exs.

1830. May 17.—That there be a Funeral Procession at the interment of Br. Val. Quin, all expenses out of the Lodge Fund.

July 10.—That there be a Procession on Thursday the 15th inst. for the purpose of the interment of our late Majisty King George the Fourth, Grand Patron of Masonry, and that one third the expense of the Band repaid from this Lodge.

1831. 22 May.—Procession to celebrate King's Birth Day.

27 Aug.—To be a Procession on King's Coronation Day. No expenses allowed out of Lodge Funds.

1835. 6 Nov.—By Law that prohibits Landlord from becoming a Member where the Lodge is held rescinded.

1837. June 24.—Granted £1 to a Lodge at Dukinfield towards a law suit for recovery of property.

1838. June 28.—Procession to Celebrate the Coronation of Queen Victoria.

Sept. 4.—Prov. G. Meeting at Manchester. 5/- allowed to Member.

The extracts extend to the year 1872, but the secretarial duties appear to have fallen into more experienced hands, and are not so amusing as the foregoing. We can therefore afford to close at the year 1838, and leave our readers to follow up the remainder if they are so desirous.

* It will not be new to the majority of our readers, that voting by beans was the old method adopted. I am reminded of a law which was enacted in Ipswich, Massachusetts (1643), that white and black beans should be used when voting, "the white being yea, and the black no."

The Freemason's Chronicle.

A Weekly Record of Masonic Intelligence.

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Published every Saturday, Price 3d.

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THE FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE will be forwarded direct from the Office, Fleet Works, Bulwer Road, New Barnet, on receipt of remittance for the amount.

The Terms of Subscription (payable in advance) are—

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MASONIC CRUISE TO PALESTINE AND EGYPT.

THE Worshipful Master of the Royal Solomon Mother Lodge, at Jerusalem, has sent an invitation to Archdeacon Stevens, Vicar of Stratford, E., Past Grand Chaplain, to bring the Masons whom he is accompanying on a twenty-five guinea cruise to Egypt and the Holy Land next month, to a special meeting of this Lodge, to be held in Solomon's Quarries, outside the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem. The Archdeacon's party has also been invited by the Worshipful Master of the Grecian Lodge, Cairo, to attend a special meeting of that Lodge. The Master wishes to afford the party special facilities for the study of Masonry in Egypt, where there are four Constitutions at work.

MASONIC DUTIES.

FREEMASONRY, my brethren, is not a mere question of signs and symbols, but is a beautiful system of morality; it is that great and universal science that includes all others. It inculcates the necessity of self-examination, and points out the duty we owe to God, our country, our neighbour, our families and ourselves. It encourages all that is charitable, kind and good, and rebukes the vicious and oppressive. It teaches us that heart helpfulness should enter into the fundamental conception of our living; it teaches us to be vigilant in expelling every element that tends to vex or irritate, and recommends the digging of some life-spring for thirsty lips.

To feed the hungry and clothe the naked is to fulfil some of the higher duties of Freemasonry. Our aim in life should be to do right, to deal justly, act honourably, to scatter seeds of kindness for the final harvest, to manfully face every issue of life, to be gentlemen honoured and respected in the community where we reside. It teaches us to avoid excesses of all kinds, particularly the indulgence in the free use of intoxicating liquors, and, above all things, what is commonly called gambling—to my mind the most vicious and demoralising practice known to all mankind.

Oh, what havoc this practice has wrought among the human family. Such demoralising practices demoralise and impair the mental and physical resources, and that is a sin against both God and man. It has been wisely said that "he who injures his health does not prove his unselfishness, but simply curtails his power of doing good. And he who injures his character by welcoming evil influences is thereby inflicting evil upon the community." It is a useless parade, my brethren, for us as Masons to talk of the subjections of irregular passions when seated within the wall of the Lodge room, if we allow them to triumph in our intercourse with the world. There is some dignity attached to being a Freemason, and to maintain that dignity should be our constant care.—Bro. Albert B. Clark P.G.M. of Idaho.

The members of the Pomfret Lodge, No. 360, Northampton, had a unique gathering on Thursday, 16th inst. They assembled to do honour to one of their number, who, just fifty years ago, occupied the position of Worshipful Master of the Lodge—Bro. Henry Philip Markham, Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Northampton, Clerk of the County Peace and of the County Council of Northampton. Bro. Markham, although old in years, has not lost the hold he got many years ago on the affection and respect of his Brethren; and the presentation of Thursday was an eloquent testimony to the feelings of regard entertained for him by his Brethren of the Craft. He was presented with a silver salver and an illuminated address on his Jubilee as W.M. of the Pomfret.

o o o

A ball in connection with the Trinity Lodge, No. 254, was held on the 17th inst., at the Corn Exchange, Coventry. The hall was prettily decorated, a prominent feature being the Lodge banner on the platform. The members of the Order appeared in regalia. The proceeds will be in aid of the Warwickshire Benevolent and Pupils' Aid Fund.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

MEMBERS of the Craft have joined with every class of the community in expressions of regret at the death, which occurred on the 19th inst., of Bro. Sir Frank Lockwood, Q.C., M.P. At the meeting of the York Lodge, No. 236, held at York, on the 20th inst., a vote of condolence was unanimously passed with the relatives of our deceased Brother, who was a member of the Lodge.

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES.

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OF course the principal interest centres in the production of the pantomime at Drury Lane, the present management having decided to follow in the steps of our late Brother Sir Augustus Harris, and present a gorgeous spectacle, the cost of which will be many thousands of pounds sterling. The subject will be the ever popular one of "The Babes in the Wood," written and invented by Messrs. Arthur Sturges and Arthur Collins, while the music has been arranged by Mr. J. M. Glover. A very strong caste has been engaged, and includes Miss Ada Blanche, the comical Dan Leno, the not exactly fairy-like Herbert Campbell, the Grigolatis, and many other favourites. It will, in accordance with the ancient traditions of the house, be produced on Boxing Night, after which there will be two performances daily.

Bro. Oscar Barrett has, by arrangement with Bro. H. T. Brickwell, engaged the Garrick Theatre for his pantomime of "Cinderella," which will be produced with the same care and attention to details that characterised his previous productions at the Lyceum and Crystal Palace.

We have already referred to the pantomime of "Cinderella" to be produced at the Parkhurst, while other of the "outside" houses will offer Christmas attractions of the good old sort.

We may especially mention the Grand, at Islington, for which our old friend Bro. Geoffrey Thorne has again supplied the book, selecting "Dick Whittington" as his subject. The pantomime here is to be produced under the direction of Bro. Oscar Barrett, and may be looked forward to as one of the most enjoyable entertainments of the season.

The new Alexandra Theatre at Dalston Junction is to be opened on Boxing Night, by Bro. F. W. Purcell, who, during his sojourn in Lancashire, won renown for the way in which he supported the cause of Masonic Charity. It was no unusual thing to hear how he gave his Theatre for special benefit performances—as our readers have more than once seen recorded in our pages—and we hope he will receive a truly Masonic welcome now that he has approached the great metropolis. It is doubtful whether Bro. Purcell will ever be able to get a "Masonic" audience in his new Theatre such as he has been accustomed to in the north—for the reason that such displays are regarded as somewhat out of place in London—but Theatrical Managers have worked wondrous charms in the past, and who shall say what is possible or impossible for them to accomplish in the future? We tender our hearty greetings to our Brother in his new home, and trust it will come up to his most sanguine expectations.

At Terry's Theatre a series of Christmas matinees of Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales has been arranged by Mr. Basil Hood, and will doubtless prove a great attraction to the children, who will be admitted at reduced prices. These matinees will not interfere with the evening performances of "The French Maid," but we may advise those who have not yet seen this lively musical comedy that they must not long delay their visit, as Bro. Edward Terry is anxious to return to his own stage, and the successful career of the "Maid" must soon be interrupted.

Owing to the lamentable death of Mr. William Terriss, the Adelphi Theatre has been closed since the fatal night, but will re-open on Monday morning next, when the performance of "Secret Service" will be resumed, with Mr. Herbert Waring and Miss May Whitty in the principal characters.

At the Tivoli Music Hall last Saturday, after the conclusion of the afternoon performance, Mr. Ascher, the musical director, presented Mr. Vernon Dowsett, the popular manager, with a silver tea and coffee service, which had been subscribed for by the staff and a few private friends, to mark the occasion of his thirty-ninth birthday.

The new year will see some important novelties at the Theatres, the principal of which is undoubtedly the opening of the Lyceum with Mr. L. B. Irving's play of "Peter the Great," which Sir Henry Irving will produce next Saturday (New Year's Day).

The laughter caused by "A Night Out," at the Vaudeville is continued with more gusto in the new three-act farce, "Never Again," adapted for the English stage from the French of Messrs. Desvallieres and Mars, and if ever a play defied description we have one here that will come under that category. From first to last it is a constant run of merriment, while during the progress of the second act laughter becomes almost painful. The complications are wonderfully interwoven, and the denouement is quite artistically brought about. Go and see it. As a foil to this rollicking farce, Clement Scott's pathetic little piece, "The Cape Mail," is presented earlier in the evening, and succeeds in drawing tears from most of the audience. The programme certainly embraces both the grave and the gay.

The popular "Geisha" has now completed its 600th performance, and still runs along as lively as ever, so there will be no change in the programme at Daly's Theatre for some time to come.

HERTFORD COUNTY COLLEGE.

THE annual distribution of prizes at Bro. Catford's popular College at New Barnet took place on Wednesday of last week, when a most satisfactory report of the year's work was presented, and a pleasant entertainment provided for the parents and friends of the pupils. The piece selected was "A Christmas Carol" (adapted from the well known work of the late Charles Dickens), in which the boys who represented the different characters displayed considerable ability, while their performance on the whole gave evidence of such careful training as must, in itself, prove that the Masters engaged at the College are well qualified for their work. It seems to us very great changes have taken place in the relations between pupils and Masters in those days, to what was the case when we were at School—instead of the fear and awe with which we used to regard our tutors, the boys of today seem to look up to the masters as companions, and, not unfrequently, even their most enthusiastic playmates, and we unhesitatingly say the transition is of great advantage to the present generation. Annual entertainments such as the one under notice are among the evidences of the change, and they probably do far more towards "bringing on" the youth of to-day than months of hard cramming and close attention to strict routine would do. Bro. Catford seems to be particularly anxious to make his pupils feel at home in their school hours, and the general happy appearance of the boys proves that he is successful in this direction, as he also seems to be in the equally important work of tuition. We wish him increased success in the coming year, and hope we may have a chance of witnessing the entertainments his pupils provide from time to time in the future.

ROYAL ARCH.

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RECTITUDE CHAPTER, No. 581.

A MEETING was held at the Mosley Hotel, Manchester, on Thursday, 2nd inst., Companion Hy. B. Brown M.E.Z., supported by Comps. Jno. C. Wilson H., Robt. Rudman J., Harry G. Walker S.E., Nelson Stokes S.N., Wm. Rostron Treasurer, W. J. Melling P.Z., Joseph Richardson P.Z. P.P.A. Soj., Wm. Kay P.Z. P.A.D.C., J. M. Frost P.Z., W. Goodman, Ben Walker, J. Shaw, Robt. Adshead, J. C. Brown, Chas. H. Griffiths, J. J. Walton, and a number of other members.

Visitors:—Comps. F. Armstrong P.Z. 935, Geo. W. Howe J. 935, Buckley Carr P.Z. 993 1458 P.P.G.D.C.

The principal business of the evening was that of Installing Comps. Rudman and Goodman as first and second Principals respectively, the Installing Principal being Comp. Carr.

A very excellent supper followed, several of the Companions being called upon to contribute songs and sketches.

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 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 Sarah. 8.20, The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein. Matinée, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
 Lyric.—8.15, Dandy Dan, the Lifeguardsman. Matinée, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
 Prince of Wales's.—8.15, La Poupée. Matinée, Monday and Saturday, 2.30.
 Gaiety.—8, The Circus Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
 Terry's.—7.50, Apron Strings. 8.20, The French Maid. Daily, at 2, Hans Andersen's Fairy tales.
 Garrick.—Daily, at 1.30 and 7.30, Cinderella.
 Criterion.—8.15, The Liars. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
 St. James's.—8, The Tree of Knowledge. Matinée, Monday next and Saturday, 2.
 Duke of York's.—8.30, The Happy Life. Matinée, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
 Comedy.—8, A Sheep in Wolf's clothing. 9, One Summer's day. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
 Shaftsbury.—8.15, The Scarlet Feather. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
 Royalty.—8, The Cat and the Cherub. 9, Oh! Susannah! Matinée, Saturday, 3.
 Parkhurst.—Daily at 7.45, and Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 2 also, Cinderella.
 Grand.—Daily at 1 and 7.30, Dick Whittington and his Cat.
 New Alexandra.—7.30, Dick Whittington.
 Alhambra.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. Donnybrook. Gathering of the Clans, &c.
 Empire.—7.50, Variety Entertainment. New Ballet, Cinematographe, &c.
 Palace.—7.45, Variety Entertainment, New American Biograph, &c.
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