

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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OUR VETERAN LEADERS.

A GLANCE at the list of Grand Officers appointed on Wednesday last supplies evidence that several of those we may term the permanent officials of Grand Lodge are now getting really old in the service, and for this reason the Craft is quite willing to leave the conduct of affairs in their hands. The respect in which they are held throughout the Jurisdiction of our Grand Lodge testifies to their continued popularity, and we think we are correct in saying that the general desire is that they may long enjoy good health, and continue to give the Craft the benefit of their experience and ability.

Before dealing with the different subordinate Officers, however, we may say a word in regard to the chief himself. Our Royal Grand Master will this year complete the twenty-fourth year of his Masonic reign, he having succeeded the Marquess of Ripon on the throne of English Freemasonry on the 2nd September 1874 and, as we shall see later on, he is in consequence one of the oldest in point of service among us. Long may he continue to preside over our destinies as Masons, and long may the Craft enjoy the privilege of his genial rule.

Foremost in respect to length of service is the Grand Director of Ceremonies Sir Albert Woods, who has continuously held the office since 1860, and has come to be regarded as one of the pillars of Grand Lodge, whose presence is anxiously looked for on all state occasions, at least. It is well known that Sir Albert's health does not permit of his being present as regularly as in years gone by, or as often as he no doubt would like to attend at the present.

Next, our beloved Pro Grand Master who, although appointed to his present high rank in 1891, had previously held the office of Deputy Grand Master since 1874, and may therefore be regarded as a permanent Officer from that date. The awful calamity which befel Lord Lathom a few months back, when his wife was accidentally killed, aroused such a wave of sympathy throughout the Craft as proved at once his popularity in our midst, and must have been some consolation to him in the hour of his great trial.

Bro. Henry Sadler follows in order, having been Tyler of Grand Lodge since 1879, and those who know our Brother will agree with us that he has not only added to the dignity of this minor office he so worthily fills, but as Librarian of the Grand Lodge of England has aroused enthusiasm in an entirely new field of operations in our midst, and has done much to interest members of the Craft in the past history of the Order, and its future development from a purely literary standpoint. As a Lecturer and Masonic Author Bro. Sadler has also won renown, and we think Grand Lodge may well be proud of him, the humblest among its Officers, but one of the

foremost in energy and active endeavour to promote the welfare of Freemasonry.

Bro. Thomas Fenn, who has had the regalia and work of Grand Director of Ceremonies conferred upon him so that he may act in the absence of Sir Albert Woods, has been a prominent worker in Grand Lodge since 1884, in which year he was appointed President of the Board of General Purposes, a post he relinquished in 1894, and in his case, too, there is a feeling that whatever he undertakes on behalf of Freemasonry will be faithfully and zealously carried through; his splendid powers of organisation and management have been shown on more than one occasion, particularly when special meetings of Grand Lodge have been held—as, for instance, last year's gathering at the Royal Albert Hall, in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

Bro. Philbrick is hardly entitled to be included in these remarks, as he gave up the post of Grand Registrar—to which he was appointed in 1884—on Wednesday last but he has truly proved himself a veteran leader in our midst, and no doubt relinquishes his post for the reason that his public duties require his presence far from the metropolis, and he probably feels he ought not to hold so important an Office in the Craft if he is no longer able to give it the attention he has done in years gone by.

Passing on we now come to our esteemed Bro. Edward Letchworth, who has occupied the chair of Grand Secretary with marked ability since 1892, and has shown to all who have come in contact with him that it is possible to manage the affairs of his high office with courtesy and gentlemanly bearing. His actions have certainly been a living exemplification of the time honoured phrase "Sauviter in modo, fortiter in re," and we can cordially wish him a long continuance in office—to the satisfaction of his Brethren, and the advantage of the Craft at large.

One of the most important Offices in connection with the management of our Masonic affairs is that of President of the Board of General Purposes, which position has been filled by Bro. Loveland Loveland since 1894, in a way that has not only called for little or no public criticism—no mean testimonial in itself—but has frequently led to congratulation and compliment from those he is appointed to rule over, and those who, in his official capacity as head of the Board, have had occasion to consult him.

The office of Assistant Grand Secretary for German correspondence was created in 1895, and was first conferred on Bro. Cæsar Kupferschmidt, who has been re-invested year by year, and has best wishes for the future from all who have come into association with him.

Bro. William Lake assumed his post of Assistant Grand Secretary in 1895, and has fully proved the wisdom of those who selected him to fill the important position. He had previously qualified as a leader in the Craft, by many years association with our contemporary, as its manager

and editor, and has proved the truth of the oft repeated opinion that a newspaper training is among the very best that can be given to anyone who may be called upon to occupy a prominent position in public affairs.

Our Deputy Grand Master dates his appointment only as far back as 1896, but he enjoys the distinction of being one of the oldest among our Provincial Grand Masters, and as such an Officer of Grand Lodge, having been appointed to preside over the Craft in Kent as far back as 1860; indeed, his length of service is only exceeded in two cases—those of Lord Leigh, who has been Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire since 1852; and the Duke of Devonshire, who has been at the head of the Derbyshire Province since 1858.

Brother J. H. Matthews President of the Board of Benevolence dates his appointment to the same year, 1896, prior to which period he had done much to win renown for himself as a leader in Freemasonry, and although the youngest—in point of length of service—among our Veteran Leaders, is none the less entitled to hearty congratulations, with his companions, at our hands.

CONSECRATION.

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OLD MASONIANS LODGE.

THE twenty-sixth century of Lodges on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England was completed on Saturday, 23rd inst., when this new Lodge, No. 2700, was consecrated at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London, and launched on its career amid hearty good wishes and many expressions of approval of the work that had thus been brought to a climax—for the Lodge, as its name implies, is intended to unite in Masonic Brotherhood ex-pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, who have thus, for the first time, a home of their own in which to prove their appreciation of what has been done for them by the Craft, and the advantages of the Masonic training they have received.

The following are the founders of the Lodge: Bros. A. F. Godson, M.P., Prov. Grand Master of Worcestershire, Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G. Chap. D. Prov. G.M. Suffolk, J. W. Woodall P.G. Treas., Richard Eve P.G. Treas., C. E. Keyser, J.P., P.G.D., J. Morrison McLeod P.G.S.B., Stanley J. Attenborough P.A.G.D.C., William P. Brown P.G. Std.B., Colonel Clifford Probyn Grand Treasurer-elect, David D. Lara Cohen P.M. 29 P.G. Std.B., James W. Burgess P. Prov. G.D. West Lancs. P.M. 1325, F. J. Hubbard 2012 591 1032 P.M. 2492 P.P.G.D. West Lancs. P.G. Treasurer Bucks, James Speller 1677 P.M. 2256 2374 P.P.G.D. Essex, Hugh E. Diamond P.M. 353 1704 P.P.G.W. Derbyshire, R. Harold Williams W.M. 63, Roland H. Ward P.M. 1892, Charles Fruen P.M. 2381, J. McDowell P.M. 240, John Henry Whadcoat, J.P., C.C., P.M. 19 37, D. Edwards Radclyffe P.M. 209 942, Daniel Mayer 1069 W.M. 59, Harry Manfield P.M. 1704 1911 2431 P.P.G.D. Norths and Hunts., Alexander Chapin P.M. 137 P.A.D.C. Dorset, A. Gartside Neville 2127, Robert Stanley Chandler 1962, E. Roehrich 34, Patrick O'Doherty 1765, H. Bowler 90, Alfred Watkins, R. E. Barnes 871, George Martin 460, Leonard Wain 199, Geo. Allison 765, J. Renton Dunlop, William Westley Chate 917, Richard Davies 176, and Joseph Roselli 29.

The Lodge was consecrated by Bro. Edward Letchworth, F.S.A., Grand Secretary, who was assisted by Bro. Richard Eve P.G. Treas. as S.W., J. Morrison McLeod P.G.S.B. as J.W., Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G.C. as Chaplain, Frank Richardson P.G.C. as D.C., T. A. Bullock P.G.S.B. as I.G.

The ceremony was carried through in regular order, and at its conclusion Bro. C. E. Keyser, M.A., J.P., P.G.D. was installed as first Worshipful Master of the Lodge, he appointing the following as his assistant Officers: Colonel Clifford Probyn, J.P., acting I.P.M., R. S. Chandler S.W., E. Roehrich J.W., Rev. C. J. Martyn P.G.C. Chap., R. Harold Williams Treas., Patrick O'Doherty Secretary, H. Bowler S.D., A. Watkins J.D., R. E. Barnes I.G., Roland H. Ward D.C., Geo. Martin Organist, Leonard Wain and W. W.

Chate Stewards. It is worthy of note that with the exception of the W.M., the acting I.P.M., and the Chaplain, all the Officers are ex-pupils of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; may they live to be as proud of their Lodge as they evidently are of their old School.

The general business in the Lodge was of the usual character, and included a splendid start in the work of Masonic benevolence by the voting of two sums, ten guineas each to the Boys and Girls Schools, the latter amount to be placed on the list of Bro. J. M. McLeod, who will this year go up as a Steward for the Girls—presumably, some may think, to gain a little experience to stand him in stead at his coming triumph at the Centenary celebration of the Boys Institution; or was it in answer to our special appeal that some of those who were working so hard on behalf of the Boys would pause for a moment, and give a thought for their less fortunate sisters? We are not egotistical, or should take all the credit to ourselves, but no matter what the inducement, we are pleased to see him advocating the needs of the Institution sister to the one he so zealously champions as Secretary, at a time when help is so very much wanted.

Candidates were proposed for the next meeting, including the son of Bro. McLeod, who comes forward as the first initiate of the Lodge, and will, we hope, rise to distinction therein, and help to make it the success his father—who has really been the moving spirit in its formation—desires.

Lodge having been closed, the company adjourned to the banquet, after which the customary toasts were given.

In submitting that of the M.W. Grand Master Bro. Keyser said all Masons were proud of having the Her Apparent to the throne at the head of the Order. On that occasion he had much pleasure in coupling with the toast the name of the Princess of Wales, who, as they were aware, had graciously promised to perform a ceremony on their behalf, at the Royal Albert Hall. Next to the Queen the Princess was the most popular lady in the world, and it was a great condescension on her part to promise to present the prizes won by the pupils of the Boys School.

Col. Clifford Probyn I.P.M. proposed the toast of the Grand Officers, thanking them for their help in launching the new Lodge, and especially referring to the services of the Grand Secretary in this direction.

Bro. Richard Eve P.G. Treasurer responded. The time had long been reached, he said, when they should have an Old Masonians Lodge. He had looked forward to it for years, but had had to wait until to-day. Now the younger branches of Masonry, knowing what Freemasonry really was, would be able to combine together to continue the good work.

The next toast was that of the Consecrating Officers, coupled with the Installing Master. The W.M. expressed the great indebtedness of the Lodge to the Grand Secretary, whose tact and skill in dealing with the work was so well known. He most certainly had none but friends in the Craft, nor outside of it. Among the Consecrating Officers they had had the Chairman of the Board of the Boys School and its Secretary as Wardens, and others who had always evinced great interest in the Institution. The Founders would doubtless be pleased to hear there was every prospect of a great amount of work coming on in the Lodge.

Bro. Letchworth, responding, said it afforded the Consecrating Officers more than usual pleasure to be associated with the ceremony that day, as they were one and all deeply interested in the Institution which the Lodge was especially connected with. He could never forget the honour the Institution did him some years back in electing him to the position now occupied by the Worshipful Master—that of Treasurer of the Institution.

A most agreeable duty now fell to Bro. Letchworth, to propose what was really the toast of the evening—success to the new Lodge, coupled with the health of the W.M. It had been his good fortune for many years to be associated in Freemasonry with Bro. Keyser, and he most heartily congratulated the Lodge on having him at its head in this most important epoch in its history. They all hoped his year of office would be a most agreeable one.

Bro. Keyser tendered thanks for the toast. He could not claim to be a tyro, as that was his ninth Mastership, and the fourth occasion on which he had filled the office of first Worshipful Master of a Lodge. When he consented to become one of the Founders of this one—as Treasurer of the Institution with which it was so intimately associated—he had no idea he was to be in office, but he was always anxious to make himself useful as far as he could, and had acceded to the request of the other Founders. He hoped they would

never have occasion to regret having made him the first Master. The Craft gave the boys every chance at the School, and it was gratifying to find so many of them able to join the great Order of Freemasonry at so early a date in their career. He hoped the Lodge would show the great amount of good the Institution was doing, and could only promise for his own part to do as he had done in the past under similar circumstances. As High Sheriff of his county, as County Councillor, and as Magistrate he had much to do, but he hoped to be able to devote a portion of his energies to the Lodge. They had that day received a cablegram from Bro. Ralling, of Cape Town, congratulating them on their consecration, and this led him to think they ought to make some arrangement to affiliate ex-pupils who were abroad, on special terms.

The W.M. next gave the toast of success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys and the other Masonic Charities. They must treat the three great Institutions as three branches of one great fund of Charity. Fair competition was doubtless desirable, as friendly rivalry was likely to induce greater support, but there must be no opposition. There was perhaps no one mixed up with the three funds more than he, for he was not only Treasurer of the Boys School, but a Trustee and one of the inner circle of the Benevolent Institution, while as a Patron of the Girls School he took more than usual interest in that branch of the good work. The Centenary celebration of the Boys School no doubt afforded a special reason for a grand Festival on its behalf, and the removal of the School led them to desire an exceptionally good return. They hoped for a round £100,000. They had several members of the House Committee of the Girls School among them that evening, including Bro. Frank Richardson, who took the greatest interest in the Institution, so much so that he believed he was right in saying that Bro. Richardson knew the names of the upwards of 200 girls in the School, and took a personal interest in each one of them.

Bro. Richardson tendered thanks on behalf of the Girls School executive, not only for the toast, but for the fraternal feeling shown that evening by the Lodge sending up a Steward for the Girls School. The spirit lately evinced, when the three Institutions virtually joined hands in the work of benevolence, in fixing an important matter in connection with the price to be paid for future presentations, was most praiseworthy. The whole of the clothes required by the pupils at the Girls School were made by the girls themselves, and all the cooking was done by them.

Brother McLeod followed. Every Officer of their new Lodge, bar one, he said, was an old Masonian. The Lodge not only gave promise of being a successful one, but a living exemplification of the benefits of the Boys School. It was due to Bro. Terry that the Old Masonians Association had grown as it had, and as the Lodge was an outcome of the Association, its foundation was really to be traced to him also. Bro. McLeod was proud of having had the opportunity of proposing his boy as the first initiate of the Lodge.

The W.M. proposed the health of the visitors, and in doing so expressed the obligation the Lodge was under to the Royal Naval Lodge, No. 59, for having recommended their petition to the Grand Master. This Lodge it was that took a prominent part one hundred years ago in forming their Institution, and it was very gratifying to find it so long afterwards taking a prominent part in work connected with the School. Bro. Stimson Senior Past Master of the Lodge was among their visitors, and they were much indebted to him for having attended—at great personal inconvenience—and seen another stage carried out in the work inaugurated by the Lodge so many years ago.

Bros. Stimson, Fortescue, and Latey (of the "Illustrated London News") responded to the toast.

The latter Brother was delighted at the insight he had received that day into the true principles of Freemasonry. He felt that if the press were to fully report the proceedings of that meeting their Brother McLeod would have his pessimistic views as to the future of the Boys School at once dispelled. He only wished the speeches and addresses of that meeting could be adequately reported to the world at large.

In proposing the toast of the Officers, the W.M. said it was not possible to say much as to their merits, because as new men they had yet to be tried. He had had the pleasure of knowing many of the Brethren who were Officers that night in the Old Masonians Association. They had to prove themselves as Officers of a Lodge, and he had no doubt as to how they would act.

Bro. Chandler S.W. said it had long been the wish of the old boys to possess a Lodge. It seemed to him very

gratifying to find the Royal Naval Lodge should be the one to recommend them and also the one which so long back recognised the necessity of establishing a fund for the help of a few Masonic orphan boys. He considered they were very fortunate in possessing as first Master of the Lodge such a worthy Mason as Bro. Keyser, and he was sure, on the foundation laid that evening, they would build up a Lodge creditable to those who had consecrated it, and creditable to the School from which it had sprung. They hoped the Lodge might be of service to the Institution, and that it would prove to the world how much they appreciated what had been done for them in days gone by.

Bro. Leonard Wain followed, expressing his pleasure at being present, and saying how proud he was to have been one of the boys of the School. He should do everything in his power to further its interests.

Bro. R. Harold Williams Treasurer was very happy to express thanks for the way in which the toast had been proposed and received. He looked back one hundred years, and tried to imagine the time when their splendid Institution was formed. He thought of the history of that time, and of its wars and troubles, and that in the midst of all the Royal Naval Lodge found time to come forward and establish their splendid Institution, in the midst of what were really very unfavourable circumstances. The Institution had been instrumental in educating a very large number of boys, and he felt it a matter for congratulation that their Lodge had been established. The Officers would do all in their power to further the interests of the Craft and of their Lodge in particular. He looked, with confidence, to a time of prosperity in the future.

Bro. P. O'Doherty Secretary said he had worked hard to bring the Lodge to a head. Some years back it was mooted, but the Old Masonians did not feel themselves strong enough to carry it through; now, however, they had made a splendid start, and he, for one, should do his best to add to the benefits of the Lodge.

The proceedings were shortly afterwards brought to a conclusion.

MARK MASONRY.

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Masons will be held, by order of the Provincial Grand Master Bro. R. V. Vassar-Smith, on Tuesday, 24th May, at Hereford.

At a meeting of the Gloucester Lodge, No. 439, at Gloucester, on Thursday, 21st inst., Bro. Vassar-Smith performed the installation ceremony at the induction of Bro. R. P. Sumner to the chair, on which occasion the Brethren of the Lodge presented to Provincial Grand Lodge, in the person of its Grand Master, a very handsome sword, for the use of the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer on ceremonial occasions.

Bro. Philpott Secretary of the Gloucester Lodge is the present Sword Bearer of the Province, and it was on his suggestion that the presentation was made.

WEST YORKSHIRE.

THE annual meeting of this Mark Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Halifax, on Wednesday, 20th inst., under the banner of Fearnley Lodge, No. 58.

The Provincial Grand Master Bro. C. Letch Mason presided, and was well supported, all the Lodges in the Province being represented, while among those present was Bro. G. H. Parke Grand Treasurer of England.

The Fearnley Lodge was opened, and the Provincial Grand Lodge duly received, when the work of the year was proceeded with, the Provincial Grand Master being nominated for the approval of the Grand Master as ruler of the Province for the next three years. The new Officers were invested, and a banquet was subsequently held.

We had hopes for the future of Freemasonry when we heard the younger generation were really taking an interest in the Craft, and we looked forward to our visit to the consecration of a Lodge of "boy" Masons, in the hope that something new and refreshing would be introduced in the after proceedings; but, like others who were there, we were

doomed to disappointment, for not only was the regular weary routine carried out in its entirety, but it seemed that the first part of the title of the new Lodge—"old"—was very much in evidence, and as a consequence we had to console ourselves with the knowledge that another century had been completed, with no immediate prospect of a departure from the old, old story—a rigmarole of mutual admiration and meaningless platitudes of empty nothingness, which, to our way of thinking, does much to nullify any pleasure which may be derived from a participation in the work in Lodge. Cannot some enterprising Brother introduce something fresh in the way of after-dinner speeches? The one who did so would win honour in our midst, and the heartiest thanks from his long suffering fellows.

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On and after Wednesday next, 4th prox., the meetings of the Confidence Lodge of Instruction, No. 193, will be held at the Bunch of Grapes, Lime Street, E.C. On the occasion of this first meeting at new quarters the annual dinner will take place (tickets 3s 6d each), at 6 o'clock, under the presidency of Bro. E. Pennock W.M. of the Mother Lodge, with Bro. W. Belchamber P.M. 193 Preceptor in the Vice Chair, and Bro. J. K. Pitt P.P.A.G.S.B. Surrey Secretary of the Instruction Lodge lending his genial support. We wish the members a successful celebration, and a long career of prosperity in their new home.

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Two of our metropolitan Lodges of Instruction have removed to the Dover Castle Hotel, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.—the Royal Victorian Jubilee, No. 2184, which meets on Tuesdays, at 8 o'clock; and the Terriers, No. 2184, which is held on Wednesday afternoons, at 3 o'clock. The first meeting of the latter, at the new quarters, will take place on Wednesday next, when it is hoped there will be a large attendance to wish the Lodge prosperity in its new home.

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A new Benevolent Fund is to be started at the meeting of the Woodrow Lodge of Instruction, on Monday afternoon next, and we have no doubt those who are taking the lead in the matter will be pleased to receive the names of outside members, in addition to those who may join from the Lodge itself.

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An important function will take place at Torquay next week, when Bro. G. C. Davie, of Barnstaple, Deputy Prov.G.M., will lay the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple that is being erected there, at two o'clock on Wednesday. After the ceremony, at which the Brethren will appear in Masonic clothing, a lunch will be held.

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A cry has been raised in some of the Scottish Lodges to the effect that, as Grand Lodge recommends Lodges in Scotland to get meeting-places distinct from licensed premises, it should assist by loans those who are prepared to build halls of their own. The cry having been put into the form of a notice of motion, its bearings will shortly be discussed by Grand Committee.

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The directors of the Portsmouth Freemasons' Club are making a new departure this week, having arranged to complete the series of entertainments that have been so successful during the winter by giving a "Bohemian Conversazione," to which each member will have the privilege of introducing a lady. Practically the whole of the extensive club premises will be pressed into the service, and even in the sacred precincts of the Lodge Room the duties of the Tyler will be suspended for the nonce, says the "Portsmouth Mail."

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It would be interesting to know what other motive than curiosity prompted a number of New York ladies to form themselves into the Manhattan Mystic Lodge of Freemasons. The male Masons, it is said, have recognised the Order, on condition that each member is either wife, widow, daughter, sister, or granddaughter of a Mason. When Mrs. Stacey, the "Mistress Mason," swore in, with mysterious rites, twenty novices, little shivers of delight, it is said, crept up and down their spines at the joy of being initiated into the mysteries of grip, password, signal of distress, and other Masonic possessions.—"Morning Leader."

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.	
16 Royal Alpha, Metropole	252 Harmonic, Dudley
72 Royal Jubilee, Anderton's	265 Royal Yorkshire, Keighley
188 Joppa, Freemasons' Tavern	315 Royal York, Brighton
256 Union, Freemasons'-hall	340 Alfred, Oxford
1319 Asaph, Freemasons'-hall	364 Cambrian, Neath
1321 Emblematic, Criterion	366 St. David, Milford
1625 Tredegar, London Tavern	393 St. David, Berwick
1924 Wickham, Brockley	421 Loyal of Industry, S'thamolton
1996 Priory of Acton, Acton	457 Loyal Monmouth, Monmouth
2098 Harlesden, Harlesden	484 Faith, Newton-le-Willows
2242 Tyssen-Amhurst, Stoke Newing.	493 Royal Lebanon, Gloucester
2535 Fellowship, Frascati	510 St. Martin, Liskeard
53 Royal Sussex, Bath	558 Temple, Folkestone
61 Probity, Halifax	599 Sherwell, Banbury
85 Faithful, Harleston	615 St. John & St. Paul, Erith
89 Unanimity, Dukinfield	624 Abbey, Burton-on-Trent
107 Philanthropic, Lynn	660 Camalodunum, New Malton
113 Unanimity, Preston	673 St. John, Liverpool
119 Sun, Sq. & Compass, Whiteh'v'n	734 Londesborough, Bridlington
135 Perpetual Friendship, B'water	779 Ferrers & Ivanhoe, Ashby'Z'ch
154 Unanimity, Waketield	789 Dunheved, Launceston
156 Harmony, Plymouth	794 Warden, Sutton Coldfield
199 Peace and Harmony, Dover	804 Carnarvon, Havant
251 Loyal, Barnstaple	814 Parrett and Axe, Crewkern
264 Nelson of the Nile, Batley	847 Fortesque, Honiton
328 St. John, Torquay	855 Sympathy, Wotton-un.-Edge
331 Phoenix Ho. & Prudence, Truro	948 St. Barnabas, Linslade
338 Vitruvian, Ross	960 Bute, Cardiff
395 Guy, Leamington	974 Pentalpha, Bradford
408 Three Graces, Haworth	979 Four Cardinal Virtues, Crewe
422 Yarborough, Gainsboro'	990 Neyland, Neyland
431 St. George, N. Shields	995 Furness, Ulverston
433 Hope, Brightlingsea	1002 Skiddaw, Cockeremouth
441 Three Grand Principles, C'b'dge	1028 Royal Alfred, Alfreton
467 Tudor, Oldham	1036 Bowyer, Chipping Norton
478 Churchill, Oxford	1067 R'y'l Forest Dean, N'h'm S'v'l.
482 St. James, Handsworth	1072 Aberystwith, Aberystwith
529 Semper Fidelis, Worcester	1096 Lord Warden, Walmor
613 Unity, Southampton	1134 Newall, Manchester
622 St. Cuthberga, Wimborne	1197 Nyanza, Ilminster
694 Oakley, Basingstoke	1214 Scarborough, Batley
699 St. Gloucestershire, Gloucester	1222 Saint Kew, Weston-super-Mare
850 St. Oswald, Ashbourne	1244 Marwood, Redcar
928 Friendship, Peterfield	1256 Fidelity, Poulton-le-Fylde
959 Prince of Wales, Ipswich	1266 Honour & Friendship, Blandford
977 Fowey, Fowey	1282 Ancholme, Brigg
1045 Stamford, Altrincham	1310 Harrow, Harrow
1050 Gundolph, Rochester	1336 Square & Compasses, Wrexham
1051 Rowley, Lancaster	1395 Wey Side, Woking Station
1071 Zetland, Sattash	1447 St. Matthew, Bart'n-on-Humber
1077 Wilton, Blackley	1482 Isle of Axholme, Crowle
1180 Forward, Birmingham	1509 Madoc, Portmadoc
1211 Goderich, Leeds	1522 Olicana, Ilkley
1239 Wentworth, Sheffield	1533 Loyalty, Marlboro'
1254 Semper Fidelis, Exeter	1587 St. Giles, Cheadle
1264 Neptune, Liverpool	1619 Sackville, East Grinstead
1286 Bayon, Market Rasen	1726 Gordon, Bognor
1312 St. Mary, Bocking	1780 Albert Edward, Southampton
1434 Nottinghamshire, Nottingham	1785 St. Petroc, Padstow
1452 St. Margaret, Lowestoft	1799 Arnold, Walton-on-Naze
1542 Legiolun, Castleford	1807 Loyal Wye, Builth
1573 Carodoc, Swansea	1823 Royal Clarence, Clare
1575 Clive, Drayton	1902 St. Cuthbert, Bedlington
1600 Hamilton, Alford	1908 Cholmondeley, Frodsham
1954 Molesworth, Wadebridge	1970 Hadrian, South Shields
2039 Londonderry, Sunderland	1981 Arnold, East Molesey
2163 Jersey, Southall	2001 Narberth, Narberth
2166 Cotchele, Calstock	2129 Dorothy Vernon, Bakewell
2187 Adur, Henfield	2133 Swan of Avon, Stratford-on-Avon
2240 Arrow, Kington	2136 St. Michael, Bishops Stortford
2497 Carville, Wallsend-on-Tyne	2260 Ridley, Newcastle-on-Tyne
2520 P. of Wales, Newcastle-on-Tyne	2290 Fairfield, Fairfield
2525 Thurston, Coniston	2339 Mistley, Manningtree
2533 Fitzwilliam, Peterborough	2490 Amphill, Amphill
2586 St. Nicholas, Scarborough	
	Wednesday.
	Grand Chapter at 6.
	1298 Royal Standard, Highbury
	1491 Athenæum, Criterion
	1585 Royal Commemoration, Holborn
	74 Athol, Birmingham
	86 Loyalty, Prescott
	94 Phoenix, Sunderland
	128 Prince Edwin, Bury
	137 Amity, Poole
	159 Brunswick, East Stonehouse
	164 Perseverance, Sidmouth
	168 Mariner, Guernsey
	258 Amphibious, Heakmondwike
	279 St. John, Leicester
	282 Bedford, Tavistock
	287 Unanimity, Stockport
	298 Harmony, Rochdale
	320 Loyalty, Mottram
	326 Moira of Honour, Bristol
	327 St. John, Wigton
	329 Brotherly Love, Yeovil
	Tuesday.
	18 Old Dundee, Cannon St. Ho.
	171 Amity, Ship and Turtle
	1257 Grosvenor, Freemasons'-hall
	1259 Duke of Edinburgh, Eastern Htl
	1472 Henley, North Woolwich
	1662 Beaconsfield, Walthamstow
	2032 Richmond, Richmond
	U. N. Counties, Inns of Cr. Htl
	2190 Savage Club, Freemasons'-hall
	2524 Train Bands, Finsbury Barr'ks.
	47 Newstead, Nottingham
	70 St. John, Plymouth
	103 Beauford, Bristol
	120 Palladian, Hereford
	124 Marquis of Granby, Durham
	158 Adam, Sheerness
	160 True Friendship, Rochford
	226 Benevolence, Littleboro'

341 Wellington, Rye
 368 Samaritan, Sandbach
 372 Harmony, Budleigh Salterton
 380 Integrity, Morley
 387 Airedale, Shipley
 406 N'thern Counties, N'castle-on-T.
 409 Stortford, Bishops Stortford
 417 Faith & Unanimity, Dorchester
 429 Royal Navy, Ramsgate
 471 Silurian, Newport, Mon.
 504 Berkhamstead, Berkhamstead
 533 Eaton, Congleton
 555 Fidelity, Framlingham
 580 Harmony, Ormskirk
 606 Segontium, Caernarvon
 611 Marches, Ludlow
 645 Humphrey Chetham, M'chester
 678 Earl Ellesmere, Farnworth
 697 United, Colchester
 838 Franklin, Boston
 910 St. Oswald, Pontefract
 929 Waveney, Bungay
 970 St. Anne, East Looe
 992 St. Thomas, Manchester
 1003 Prince of Wales, Jersey
 1004 Athole, Douglas, Isle of Man
 1010 Kingston, Hull
 1013 Royal Victoria, Liverpool
 1024 St. Peter, Maldon
 1085 Hartington, Derby
 1167 Alnwick, Alnwick
 1193 Doric, Wymondham
 1205 Methem, E. Stonehouse
 1206 Cinque Ports, Sandwich
 1274 Earl Durham, Chester-le-Street
 1333 Athelstan, Atherstone
 1335 Lindsey, Wigan
 1354 Marquis of Lorne, Leigh
 1363 Tyndall, Chipping Sodbury
 1431 St. Alphege, Solihull
 1461 Clausentum, Woolston
 1478 Lougheat, Warminster
 1493 Robin Hood, Eastwood
 1520 Earl Shrewsbury, Cannock
 1532 Bective, Carlisle
 1544 Mount Edgcombe, Camborne
 1549 Abercorn, Great Stanmore
 1576 Dee, Park-gate, Cheshire
 1620 Marlborough, Liverpool
 1645 Colne Valley, Slaithwaite
 1660 Arlecdon, Frizzington
 1736 St. John, Halifax
 1783 Albert Edward, Huddersfield
 1808 Suffield, North Walsham
 1854 Weald of Kent, Tenterden
 1862 Stranton, West Hartlepool
 2024 Raymond Thrupp, Hampt'n Ct.
 2193 Queen Jubilee, Nelson
 2224 Fairfield, Long Eaton
 2355 Chantrey, Dore
 2368 Alan, Alderley Edge
 2382 Loyal Hay, Hay
 2391 Orde-Powlett, Middlesborough
 2464 Longsight, Longsight
 2495 Goodacre, Bootle
 2556 Glyn Ebbw, Ebbw Vale
 2560 Earl of Lathom, Bury
 2583 St. Thomas, Tibshelf

Thursday.

10 W'minster & Keystone, F.M.H.
 27 Egyptian, Anderton's
 45 Strong Man, Guildhall Tav.
 231 St. Andrew, Freemasons'-hall
 1216 Macdonald, Camberwell
 1288 Finsbury Park, Highbury
 1351 United Service, Café Royal
 1425 Hyde Park, Paddington
 1445 Prince Leopold, Aldgate
 1724 Kaiser-i-Hind, Café Royal
 1765 Trinity Col., 13, Mandeville Pl.
 1790 Old England, Thornton Heath
 1950 Southgate, Beale's, Holloway
 24 Newcastle O.T., Newcastle
 31 United Industrious, Canterbury
 38 Union, Chichester
 41 Royal Cumberland, Bath
 71 Unity, Lowestoft
 110 Loyal Obrian, Merthyr-Tydvil
 114 British Union, Ipswich
 116 Royal Lancashire, Colne
 123 Lennox, Richmond, Yorks
 195 Hengist, Pournemouth
 208 Three Gd. Principles, Dewsbury
 219 Prudence, Todmorden
 249 Mariner, Liverpool
 254 Trinity, Coventry
 266 Naphtali, Heywood
 269 Fidelity, Blackburn
 275 Harmony, Huddersfield
 276 Good Fellowship, Chelmsford
 283 Amity, Haslingden
 289 Fidelity, Leeds
 294 Constitutional, Beverley
 295 Combermere Union, Macclesfield
 300 Minerva, Ashton-under-Lyne
 305 Apollo, Beccles

309 Harmony, Fareham
 317 Affability, Manchester
 318 True and Faithful, Helston
 332 Virtue and Silence, Hadleigh
 337 Candour, Uppermill
 360 Pomfret, Northampton
 361 Industry, Hyde
 362 Doric, Grantham
 419 St. Peter, Wolverhampton
 446 Benevolent, Wells
 449 Cecil, Hitchin
 450 Cornubian, Hayle
 456 Foresters, Uttoxeter
 462 Bank Terrace, Accrington
 469 Hundred of Elloe, Spalding
 472 F'ship & Sincerity, Shaftesbury
 509 Tees, Stockton
 531 St. Helen, Hartlepool
 539 St. Matthew, Walsall
 630 St. Cuthbert, Howden
 633 Yarborough, Manchester
 637 Portland, Stoke-upon-Trent
 703 Clifton, Blackpool
 710 Pleiades, Totnes
 761 St. John, Dursley
 792 Pelham Pillar, Grimsby
 856 Restormel, Lostwithiel
 913 Pattison, Plumstead
 976 Royal Clarence, Bruton
 1012 Prince of Wales, Bury
 1164 Eliot, St. Germans
 1231 Savile, Elland
 1235 Phoenix St. Ann, Buxton
 1284 Brent, Topsham
 1304 Olive Union, Horncastle
 1324 Okeover, Ripley
 1379 Marquess of Ripon, Darlington
 1384 Equity, Widnes
 1473 Bootle, Bootle
 1500 Walpole, Norwich
 1504 Red Rose of Lancaster, Padham
 1513 Friendly, Barnsley
 1557 Albert Edward, Hexham
 1565 Earl of Chester, Lymm
 1639 Watling St., Stony Stratford
 1763 St. Mary, Thame
 1829 Burrell, Brighton
 1874 Lechmere V'nt'r, Balsall H'th
 1899 Wellesley, Sandhurst
 2028 Granite, Narborough
 2091 Castleberg, Settle
 2169 Osborne, East Cowes
 2189 Ashburton, Ashburton
 2255 Philbrick, Chingford
 2317 Bisley, Woking
 2321 Acacia, Bradford
 2342 Easterford, Kelvedon
 2350 Corinthian, Hindley
 2386 Clarence, Chester
 2496 Wirral, Birkenhead

Friday.

554 Yarborough, Fenchurch Street
 2076 Quator Coronati, F'masons'-h.
 2233 Old Westminster, Café Royal
 2511 St. John at Hackney, Hackney

44 Friendship, Manchester
 242 St. George, Doncaster
 291 Royal Philanthropic, Highbridge
 306 Alfred, Leeds
 355 R'l. S.x. Emulation, Swindon
 401 Royal Forest, Slaidburn
 445 Fidelity, Towcester
 460 Sut'land Unity, N'castle-u-Lyme
 516 Phoenix, Stowmarket
 521 Truth, Huddersfield
 566 St. Germain, Selby
 574 Loy. Berkshire Hope, Newbury
 652 Holme Valley, Holmfirth
 698 Ryde, Ryde
 709 Invicta of Ashford, Ashford
 751 Eastnor, Ledbury
 837 De Grey and Ripon, Ripon
 936 Adair, Aldeburgh
 951 Prince of Wales, Stow on'Wold
 1009 Shakspeare, Manchester
 1034 Eccleshill, Eccleshill
 1074 Underley, Kirkby Lonsdale
 1224 Stour Valley, Sudbury
 1230 Barnard, Barnard Castle
 1232 Hereward, Bourn
 1375 Architect, Chorlton-cum-Hardy
 1405 Southwell, Nottingham
 1458 Truth, Manchester
 1561 Morecambe, Morecambe
 1648 Prince of Wales, Bradford
 1664 Gosforth, Gosforth
 1725 Douglas, Maidstone
 1739 Carnarvon, Swadlincote
 1754 Windsor, Penarth
 1838 Tudor Rifle V'nt'rs., W'v'h'pton
 1993 Wolseley, Manchester
 2078 St. Lawrence, Scunthorpe
 2433 Minerva, Birkenhead
 2491 White Rose of York, Sheffield

Saturday.

142 St. Thomas, Ship and Turtle
 1928 Gallery, Anderton's
 2182 Sterndale Bennett, Camberwell
 149 Peace, Meltham
 444 Union, Starcross
 453 Chigwell, Chingford
 1223 Amherst, Riverhead
 1388 Canynges, Bristol
 1466 Hova Ecclesia, Brighton

1494 Felix, Hampton Court
 1550 Prudence, Plymouth
 1567 Elliot, Feltham
 1929 Mozart, Croydon
 2077 Epping, Chingford
 2148 Walsingham, Wilmington
 2205 Pegasus, Gravesend
 2323 Bushey Hall, Bushey
 2331 Ravencroft, Barnet
 2442 St. Clement, Leigh
 2473 Molesey, East Molesey

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.

"Scottish Life."—The new illustrated Society Journal, edited by the Earl of Rosslyn, and published by Messrs. Harmsworth Brothers (price one penny) will be issued on Thursday, 12th prox., and the editor feels confident that it will prove attractive to all sorts and conditions of men and women, not only in the "bonnie land over the Border," but also to his English friends, and Scottish residents in London. No effort has been spared to make the paper, every week, acceptable to all classes. Within its covers will be found social notes on all fashionable topics and events of the week, a London letter full of the most influential and latest gossip from the great metropolis, an interview (written by a personal friend) of some Scottish celebrity, some remarks on women and their occupations, hints on dress, accounts of weddings and other social functions, &c., &c. Masonic matters will receive especial attention, and a city letter by a well known financial expert has also been arranged for. Jottings from rivers, moors and forests, and items concerning sports and pastimes (including golf and cycling) have not been forgotten. Among the writers of poetry and fiction in the first number will be found contributions from the pens of the Duchess of Sutherland, the Marquis of Lorne, Miss Olive Custance, and Mr. Leo Trevor; nor will pains be spared to make the subsequent numbers equally attractive. Articles have been promised by the following:—Countess of Rosslyn, Countess of Warwick, Countess of Westmorland, Lady Randolph Churchill, Miss Wotton, Miss Carlotta Reynal, Viscount Fincastle, V.C., Lord Charles Beresford, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., Sir Courtenay Boyle, Hon. Seymour Fortescue, B.N., Hon. R. Brett, Mr. Gerald Du Maurier, Mr. Ian Malcolm, Mr. Stamford Parry, and Mr. Frankfort Moore. A staff of artists and caricaturists have been specially engaged. The paper is edited from 1 Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C., with offices in Edinburgh. Orders for the paper should be sent to the Editor, at the London offices. The annual subscription is 6s 6d.

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The 110th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL
WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 18TH MAY 1898,
R.W. BRO. SIR REGINALD HANSON, BART., M.P., LL.D.
Past Grand Warden, Patron, Treasurer of the Institution,
IN THE CHAIR.

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

F. R. W. HEDGES, Secretary.

Office—5 Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

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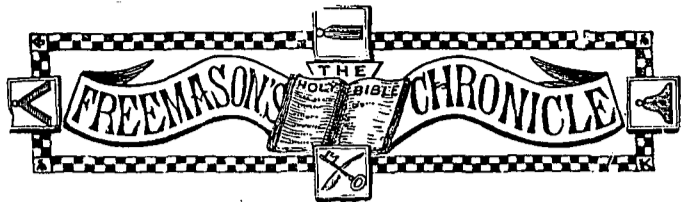
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SATURDAY, 30TH APRIL 1898.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

THE Quarterly Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter will be held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Wednesday next, 4th May, at six o'clock in the evening.

BUSINESS.

The Minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation to be read for confirmation.

Installation of Principals and Investiture of Officers for the ensuing year.

The Report of the Committee of General Purposes.

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the Accounts from the 19th January, to the 19th April 1898, both inclusive, which they find to be as follow:

To Balance, Grand Chapter	£635 16 7	
„ „ Unappropriated Account	214 16 0	
„ Subsequent Receipts	648 19 5	
	£1,499 12 0	
By Disbursements during the Quarter	£402 9 3	
„ Balance	863 3 3	
„ „ Unappropriated Account	233 19 6	
	£1,499 12 0	

which Balances are in the Bank of England, Law Courts Branch.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following petition:

From Companions Astley Herbert Terry as Z., Thomas Robin Ogier as H., John Stranger as J., and nine others for a Chapter to be attached to the St. Sampson's Lodge, No. 2598, Guernsey, to be called "The St. Sampson's Chapter," and to meet at the Masonic Hall, St. Sampson's, Guernsey.

The Committee have likewise received Memorials, with extracts of Minutes, for permission to remove the following Chapters:

- "St. Wulstan Chapter, No. 280, from 85 High Street, to the New Masonic Hall, St. Nicholas Street, Worcester."
- "Imperial Chapter, No. 1694, from Cloat's Restaurant, Victoria Street, to the Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, London."
- "St. John of Jerusalem Chapter, No. 203, from the Masonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool, to the Alexandra Hotel, Dale Street, Liverpool."
- "The Grove Chapter, No. 410, from the Cock Hotel, to the Masonic Temple, Sutton."
- "The Bedford Chapter, No. 157, from the Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, to Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London."
- "The Israel Chapter, No. 205, from the Cannon Street Hotel, to the Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, London."
- "Chapter of Prudence, No. 12, from the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall Street, to the Albion Tavern, 173 Aldersgate Street, London."
- "The Andrew Chapter, No. 834, from the Windsor Castle Hotel, Hammersmith, to the Brook Green Hotel, Hammersmith, London."
- "Temperance in the East Chapter, No. 898, from the Town Hall, Stratford, to the Masonic Hall, Romford Road, Forest Gate, London."

A Memorial, with particulars, has also been received from the Companions of the Britannic Chapter, No. 312, Whitby, praying for a Charter authorising them to wear a Centenary Jewel. The Memorial being in form, and the Chapter having proved an uninterrupted existence for 100 years, the Committee recommend that the prayer thereof be granted.

(Signed) ROBERT GREY, Acting President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.,
20th April 1898.

After the ordinary business had been disposed of, the following Resolution was passed:

"That the cordial thanks of the Committee be tendered to E. Companion Sir George D. Harris, their President, for the very able and courteous manner in which he has presided over its Meetings during the past year, and this Committee desires to express the hope that he may be speedily restored to his usual good health."

(Signed) ROBERT GREY.

Election of the Committee of General Purposes for the ensuing twelve months.

THE TEACHERS' CONFERENCE.

FOLLOWING a precedent set at Brighton and Swansea on the occasion of previous Conferences, the Brethren of one of the two local Lodges, the Royal Union, No. 246, offered the hospitality of their Lodge to the Masonic Brethren of the N. U. T., on Thursday evening, 21st inst., when a Lodge of Emergency was held at the Masonic Hall, Cheltenham, for the purpose.

The result was a very pleasant evening of work and entertainment, and notwithstanding that the accommodation of the Hall was strained to the

utmost by the largeness of the attendance, the arrangements were excellently devised and carried out.

The invitation to visiting Brethren was conveyed through Bro. Hamilton P.M., the Treasurer of the Union, and through his agency the majority of the teachers who were also Masons was reached.

In order that the visitors should see the Lodge in its ordinary working, a ceremony was taken, the W.M. Bro. H. Waghorne presiding over a full complement of Officers.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. R. V. Vassar-Smith had intended being present, but was prevented by an important meeting in London. Bro. Rev. Canon Childe Grand Chaplain, and Bro. Col. Rogers, the Mayor, were present as members of the Lodge.

After Lodge, the Brethren were entertained at dinner, the party numbering over sixty, and being catered for by the Hall Steward.

The succeeding toast list was a short one, speeches alternating with the items of an excellent musical programme under Bro. Forty's direction. There was, of course, frequent reference to the 'emergency' of the occasion, and especially so in connection with the toast of the Visiting Brethren, proposed by Bro. Norman Prov.S.G.W., and acknowledged by Bros. Ellery and Meech, and that of Worshipful Brother the Mayor, proposed by Brother Hamilton, and received with the utmost cordiality by the Brethren of the N. U. T.—"Schoolmaster."

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

—:—

CHARITY FOR ALL COMERS.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—Instead of adversely criticising the splendid efforts the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys is making to provide for the orphan sons of the Craft in this year of its centenary, with every indication of great extensions to meet the requirements of the future, I think you might go out of your way to applaud what is being done.

I am working hard in support of the coming Festival, and am pleased to think the Craft is responding so nobly as to render a grand success all but certain, and I hope, for the sake of the Grand Master who will preside, as well as in the general interests of the Institution itself, that the six figure total aimed at may be reached, and not only so, but that there may be a handsome surplus beyond.

The offer to give £20 a year to each boy unsuccessful at the two elections is most gracious, and I think any Province or organisation of Brethren who sought to take an unfair advantage of it by rushing a large number of candidates would be very ungenerous, and hardly worthy of being regarded as true Masons. The event we are looking forward to will, I hope, prove one of the grandest in the annals of Freemasonry, and to ensure this every Mason in the land should come forward and contribute as far as he is able for the good cause.

Yours, &c.,

A MASTER MASON.

To the Editor of the FREEMASON'S CHRONICLE.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—While agreeing with much you say under this heading in last week's issue I think you take too extravagant a view of what is likely to happen in response to the apparently reckless offer on the part of the Boys School. It is one thing to pass a resolution in connection with our Charitable Institutions, and quite another to carry it into execution, as witness the action of the Girls School Quarterly Court on the 16th inst., when a decision arrived at in regard to the acceptance of 1,300 guineas for a perpetual presentation was upset on the confirmation of the minutes, a proceeding which I prefer to leave standing alone before the Craft, rather than attempt to give a name to it, lest I might hurt the feelings of some of those who took a prominent part in arranging the transaction, I will call it, as being a "neutral" sort of designation.

Depend upon it if boy candidates come forward in their hundreds, as they might reasonably be expected to do if the offer was regarded as genuine, some worthy Brother would rise at the next Quarterly Court and propose the non confirmation of the minutes, or that portion of them referring to this particular item, and, strange as it seems to me, it appears the whole question could be re-opened on such a plea, and the offer deliberately withdrawn.

I find very many Brethren are, like myself, considerably surprised to find that it is quite useless to come to a decision at a stated meeting, imagining that the subject is then settled. I always thought the confirmation of the minutes was simply to decide whether or no they were properly recorded, and with all due deference to the Brother who presided at the Girls meeting referred to, I can but think he was wrong in his ruling. Most certainly it will be very unfortunate in many cases if it comes to be recognised that the tactics practised on that occasion are perfectly legitimate, and no proposition, however worthy, will be safe against the onslaughts possible in this direction; but this is going away from the subject I started upon.

The offer of the Boys School to give £20 a year to each of the unsuccessful candidates is a sort of "heads I win, tails you lose" arrangement. If it works all right it will be referred to as a splendid example of open handed generosity on the part of the Institution, if not it will be upset on the confirmation of the minutes, or such at least is the opinion of

Yours, &c.,

STEADFAST.

THE May arrangements of the Midland Railway include the appearance of new carriages, with first and third class dining cars for their principal Manchester expresses, additional breakfast and dining accommodation for Nottingham, Leeds, Bradford, and Manchester, and through trains between Carlisle and Edinburgh in connection with the dining expresses leaving St. Pancras at 2:10 p.m. and 4 p.m.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

—: o:—

CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

—: o:—

WESTBOURNE LODGE, No. 733.

Presentation to Bro. J. Welford P.M. Treasurer.

THE last meeting for the season of this prosperous Lodge took place on Thursday, 21st inst., at the Holborn Restaurant, Holborn, W.C., when there were present:—Bros. F. Wortham W.M., C. T. Brown I.P.M., G. Weaver S.W., C. E. Lilly J.W., J. Welford P.M. Treas., S. R. Walker P.M. Sec., W. Busby S.D., H. H. Bagnall J.D., E. Thomas I.G., F. Beesley and C. Halston Stewards, R. B. Hopkins Organist, S. Ellis P.M. Tyler; Past Masters: C. A. Cottebrune P.G.P., W. H. Faircloth, W. M. Roberts, T. W. Allen, J. W. Curtis, A. Arrowsmith, R. J. Rogers; Bros. T. Matthews, F. Brock, G. Butcher, M. Rockman, E. White, N. Rolles, A. Pemberton, R. Gillings, J. Martin, J. Stroud, J. Atherton, J. Kilvert, A. Clark, J. Norris, G. Goddard, J. Woodford, Leslie Barry, E. Graham, J. Arte, and several others.

Among the Visitors were Bros. C. W. Dyer 1563, H. Rolles 1381, R. Upton P.M. 1328, C. Spencer West 2182, R. Thomas 511, G. Frisbe and G. H. Frish, Scotia, 340, J. Wynman, and several others.

The Lodge was opened by Bro. F. Wortham, and the minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed.

The Lodge was advanced to the second degree, when the W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. C. Brown I.P.M., and Bros. Atherton, Tompkins, Matthews, Pemberton, and Gilling were examined, and, having answered the usual questions in a most satisfactory manner, were entrusted.

The Lodge was further opened up, and in due course those Brethren were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

The W.M. again took the chair and resumed the Lodge to the first degree, when Messrs. Leslie Barry, John Arle, and C. Graham were presented as candidates for initiation, the ballot having been proved unanimous in their favour. With the usual formalities these gentlemen were initiated into the mysteries of ancient Freemasonry, this and the former ceremony being very satisfactorily rendered.

By desire of the W.M. Bro. C. A. Cottebrune P.G.P. (father of the Lodge) in most eloquent and flattering terms presented Bro. J. Welford P.M. Treasurer with a very handsome silver tea and coffee service, including a silver salver to match.

Bro. Welford, in acknowledgment, said he was most happy and delighted to receive the elegant present; it was really more than he deserved. He could not thank Bro. Cottebrune, the W.M., and the Brethren of the Lodge sufficiently, but he could assure them it would always be regarded by him as a memento of the Westbourne Lodge, and he was sure his children would esteem it as highly as he did.

The business of the Lodge being ended, the Brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet.

The cloth removed, the W.M. gave the usual Masonic toasts, which were received in a kindly spirit.

Bro. Cottebrune responded for the Grand Officers. The quotation on the programme described them as all worthy men, and he could testify that that was a fact. The Pro Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master discharged their duties with zeal and ability, and every Officer of Grand Lodge tried to emulate them.

Bro. C. T. Brown I.P.M., in proposing the toast of the W.M., said the Worshipful Master had fulfilled his duties that evening in an admirable manner. They were not all professionals, but the W.M. was proficient in the work and would, he was sure, give equal satisfaction on future occasions.

The W.M. thanked Bro. Brown and the Brethren for their kindness, assuring them that he would do his best to give satisfaction. He now had much pleasure to announce to the Brethren the intention of having a summer outing, and felt sure the Brethren on the Committee would make it a success.

The W.M. next presented the toast of the Initiates, to whom he tendered a hearty and fraternal welcome.

Bro. C. Graham thanked the W.M. for his very kind remarks, and hoped to carry out his duties in a satisfactory manner.

Bro. John Arle thanked the W.M. for having accepted him as a Brother amongst them, and hoped to be a credit to the Lodge.

Bro. Leslie Barry most sincerely thanked the Worshipful Master for having initiated him into Freemasonry, and the Brethren for having accepted him as a Brother amongst them. He had been very much impressed with the ceremony, and assured them he should never forget his obligation. Past Master Rogers he sincerely thanked for having proposed him as a member of the Lodge, and Bro. Weaver for having seconded the proposition, and he assured the Brethren that in time to come he hoped to be able to prove to them all that the confidence reposed in him had not been misplaced. He had very much pleasure in wishing prosperity to the Westbourne Lodge, remarks which were highly appreciated.

The W.M. next gave the toast of the visitors, saying the Westbourne Lodge gave them a most hearty greeting, and hoped they had enjoyed themselves.

This was ably responded to by Bro. C. W. Dyer 1563, who complimented the W.M. on his working. It was no easy task to raise five Brethren, and to initiate three. He was pleased to say he had spent a very pleasant evening.

Bros. Spencer West 2182, R. Upton P.M. 1328, and other visitors also responded in appropriate terms.

Bro. Wortham W.M. said he had now very much pleasure to propose the health of the I.P.M. and Past Masters. They were the backbone of the Lodge, and with their assistance they would surmount every difficulty.

Bro. Welford P.M., who responded in happy terms, said the Past Masters were always pleased to render any assistance that was required of them.

The W.M. gave the Treasurer, Secretary and Officers of the Lodge, saying he could not speak too highly of their capabilities. He thanked them for their able assistance.

Bro. J. Welford P.M. Treasurer thanked the W.M. for his kind remarks, and pledged himself to do his duty to the Westbourne Lodge to the utmost of his ability. Bro. Welford again thanked the Brethren for their handsome testimonial.

Bro. S. R. Walker Secretary also thanked the W.M., and was proud to have the good wishes of the Brethren. Two years ago he was also presented with an excellent testimonial, which he should always prize in remembrance of the Westbourne Lodge.

Bro. G. Weaver S.W. said he would give all the assistance that was required of him. He was very pleased the W.M. had mentioned the summer outing, and he was sure it would be a great success.

Bro. C. Lilly J.W. also thanked the W.M., and was pleased to occupy the position he did in the Westbourne Lodge. He would do his best to give every satisfaction.

The Tyler's toast closed a most happy evening.

An excellent programme of music was provided under the able direction of Bros. Hopkins and Hawkins, who were assisted by the following Artistes: Miss Florence Venning, Bro. Guerney Russell, Bro. Spencer West (Solo Flute), Bro. Hopkins (Silver Bells), Bro. George Goddard, Bro. Roberts.

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LEY SPRING LODGE, No. 1598.

ON Thursday evening, 21st inst., the installation meeting of this Lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, when Bro. James Smith was installed Worshipful Master, in the presence of a grand attendance of members and visitors, including Bro. Walter Martin Grand Pursuivant. The installation ceremony was most impressively performed by Bro. T. Pargeter P.M.

Bro. J. P. Smyth I.P.M. was presented with a Past Master's jewel, and the installation was followed by a banquet, under the presidency of the W.M., who was warmly congratulated by both members and visitors on the exceedingly skilful manner in which he performed the arduous ceremonies of the evening.

A pleasing incident was the presentation of a photograph of the W.M. to everyone present, the gift being highly appreciated by all.

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BISHOPSGATE LODGE, No. 2396.

THIS Lodge held its annual meeting on Monday evening, at the Great Eastern Hotel, under the presidency of Bro. William Newman W.M., says the "City Press."

The W.M. raised to the third degree Bros. Percy John Clark, Arthur Patrick Albert Fiucher, and Joshua William Tremlett.

In a full Lodge Bro. Newman expressed his thanks to all the Officers for the assistance they had given him during the past year in the performance of the duties of his office. He wished particularly to thank the Secretary Bro. A. E. Pridmore who, he was sorry to say, was now retiring from the post. Bro. Pridmore had been of great service to the Lodge, and other Worshipful Masters had had the benefit of his valuable services. He felt that he could not leave the chair without stating in open Lodge the obligation he was under to Bro. Pridmore, for aiding in the good working of the Lodge during his Mastership.

Bro. Newman then installed his successor Bro. Woolf Jacobs S.W., and in due course delivered the addresses to the Master, Wardens, and Brethren generally, performing the whole of the work in the most impressive style.

In presenting a Past Master's jewel to Bro. Newman, Bro. Woolf Jacobs remarked that no Master who had left the chair of the Lodge was more worthy of the Lodge jewel than the outgoing Master, and he wished him many years of life and health to wear it as a remembrance of the Brethren's appreciation of his conduct.

Bro. Newman, in thanking the Brethren for the gift, said he should ever wear the jewel in remembrance of the hearty good wishes which the Brethren of the Lodge had expressed towards him.

Bro. E. W. Roach I.G. next presented the Audit Committee's report, and moved its adoption. The Benevolent Fund of the Lodge was, he said, in an admirable position, and no member of the Lodge in going up the hill of prosperity had ever met a friend coming down.

Bro. A. E. Pridmore, C.C., Past Secretary seconded the adoption of the report, which was then put and carried unanimously.

The Worshipful Master next said that there was one little subject he should not like to pass over, and that was that there should be some recognition of the work which Bro. Pridmore had performed for the Lodge. He thought that a vote of thanks should be passed to Bro. Pridmore for what he had done. No one had done more arduous work in the duties of Secretary than Bro. Pridmore, and it was not right that he should go out of office without a vote of thanks.

On the motion of the I.P.M., seconded by Bro. Jacobs D.C., a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Bro. Pridmore.

In acknowledging it Bro. Pridmore expressed his appreciation of the Brethren's mark of approval.

The Rev. J. J. Davies Chaplain reminded the Brethren that a Service had been proposed for the Lodge. After consulting with the Lord Mayor he had found that to hold it now would be impossible, and that it would be necessary to postpone it until September or October. At that time the Bishop of Marlborough would be able to preach, and the Lord Mayor would be in a position to be present. It would, therefore, be better to hold the Service then.

This concluded the business, and the Lodge was closed.

The Brethren afterwards partook of an excellent banquet at the hotel, and honoured the usual toasts.

Bro. Newman proposed that of the Worshipful Master, who, he said, was a Bishopsgate boy in every sense of the term. He was born in the parish, and his heart had been in it ever since.

Bro. Woolf Jacobs W.M., in his reply, after thanking the Brethren for their kindly reception of him, promised to do the best he could for the Lodge and the Brethren during his year of office, as well as after he had taken his place amongst the Past Masters.

Other toasts were honoured.

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INSTRUCTION.

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WOODROW LODGE, No. 1708.

AFTER the Easter holiday the Brethren re-assembled on the 18th at 3 p.m., at Bro. Rudderforth's (Stone's Restaurant), Panton Street, W. Bro. R. Wetton W.M., A. Butcher S.W., W. West J.W., W. H. G. Rudderforth P.M. acting Preceptor, I. W. Simeons Sec., J. Morris S.D., E. Nice J.D., J. E. Culverhouse I.G., J. Warwick, J. Wynman, H. Rose, and others.

After the usual formalities the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. J. Warwick being the candidate. That ceremony being ended, the W.M. resumed the Lodge to the first degree, and the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Rose acting as candidate. The W.M. gave the ancient charge.

Both the ceremonies, included the charge, were perfectly rendered. Bro. Butcher will preside on Monday next.

ON Monday, 25th inst., Bro. A. Butcher W.M., W. West S.W., G. Spice J.W., C. Woodrow P.M. Preceptor, I. W. Simeons Secretary, E. Nice S.D., Rudderforth P.M. J.D., J. Detrez I.G., H. J. Rose, J. W. Ollington, and other Brethren.

The Lodge was opened in the three degrees, and resumed in the first. The ceremony of Initiation was rehearsed by the W.M., Bro. E. Nice giving the charge after the degree. The Lodge was called off and on, then resumed in the second degree, when Bro. E. Spice worked the second Lecture, assisted by the Brethren. Bro. W. West was elected W.M. for next Monday, and P.M. Preceptor Woodrow gave notice that a new Benevolent Fund would be started that evening in connection with this Lodge of Instruction.

PROVINCIAL.

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LODGE OF FAITH, No. 581.

THE regular meeting was held at the Grasmoor Hotel, Openshaw, on Wednesday, 20th inst., Bro. Robert Adshad W.M.

In view of the large amount of work to be done, the Lodge was called for a very early hour in the afternoon, and a good response was made, nearly thirty Brethren putting in an appearance.

After the reading and confirmation of minutes, Bros. John T. Wilkinson and James Taylor Rimmer were passed to the degree of F.C., by the W.M., assisted by Bro. Chas. H. Griffiths J.W., the latter presenting and explaining the working tools to the candidates. Bros. Thomas Grimshaw Swarbrick and George Ogden were then raised to the sublime degree of M.M., the first ceremony being performed by Bro. Wm. Jones I.P.M., and the second by Bro. Thomas Tyers P.M. Prov.G.S.B.

Although the hour was rather advanced when Lodge business was concluded, there was still a little time for the Loyal and Masonic toasts, these being pleasantly relieved with songs, &c., several Brethren being brought under contribution. The visitors were: Bros. A. Owen P.M. 1408 P.P.G.D. Cheshire, Alfred Smith J.D. 1077, and J. W. Lawton S.D. 1166.

STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT LODGE, No. 726.

THE annual festival of St. John and the installation of Bro. William Hall S.W. took place at the Oddfellow's Hall, Stafford, on Wednesday, 20th inst. There was a large attendance of members and Brethren. The work of Installation were ably carried out by the retiring W.M. Rev. S. Wickham Jones, M.A., P.P.G. Chaplain.

During the proceedings in Lodge Bro. Marson was presented by the retiring W.M., on behalf of the members, with a gold Past Master's jewel, for the able services which he had rendered to the Lodge during his year of office.

Bro. Pyatt notified that on the 16th of May an interesting ceremony was to take place at Stone, in the unveiling of a window which had been placed in St. Michael's Church by St. Michael's Lodge, and invited the attendance of Brethren from the various Lodges.

Bro. T. Taylor mentioned that in his capacity as President of the Staffordshire Masonic Charitable Association he attended the elections in London last week, and they were successful in carrying their candidate, Geoffrey Ravenhill Glover, the son of a deceased Wolverhampton Brother, who was one of the 27 candidates elected to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. He added that the Provinces with which Staffordshire is associated, Shropshire and North Wales, also succeeded in securing the return of their candidates.

The collection for the charities taken in the Lodge amounted to £29s 6d. Subsequently an excellent dinner was provided at the Swan Hotel, at the conclusion of which the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured.

Bro. Kent replied to the toast of the Grand Officers, and congratulated the Staffordshire Knot Lodge on all that he had seen that day, which he regarded as a credit not only to Staffordshire Masonry but to the whole Craft.

Bro. F. Amies, in proposing the health of Lord Dartmouth and the Officers of P.G. Lodge, expressed the widely-felt regret that Col. Bindley D.P.G.M. contemplated resigning the position, which he has filled with so much ability and acceptance.

Bro. Barnett, in responding, emphasised this expression of regret, which is universally shared throughout the Province.

The Rev. Byrom Holland P.P.G. Chaplain also responded to the toast.

The health of the Worshipful Master was drunk with the greatest cordiality.

Bro. Wickham Jones was warmly thanked for his past services, and among the remaining toasts was that of the Masonic Charities, proposed by Bro. Nevitt, and responded to by Bro. T. Taylor and Wormal. Great stress was laid on the necessity for increased support at the coming Festival of the Boys School, and it is hoped that the Lodge may be able to send at least ten Stewards instead of the five by whom it is at present represented. It was stated that last year £100 was subscribed to the Charities through the Staffordshire Knot Lodge. During the evening music was discoursed by the members of the Lichfield Cathedral Glee Party, and contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the occasion.

SYKES LODGE, No. 1040.

THE ceremony of installing Bro. Moses Gage as W.M. was performed by Bro. F. Creaser P.M. 734 P.P.G.St.B., at the Masonic Hall, Driffield, on Wednesday, 20th inst. The Worshipful Master afterwards invested his Officers for the year.

CONCORD LODGE, No. 1534.

THE regular meeting was held at Chester Bank, Prestwich, on Tuesday, 21st inst., Bro. H. B. Fawcett W.M.

The minutes having been confirmed, Bro. Henry John Franks was passed to the degree of F.C. by the W.M., assisted by Bros. Jas. Kershaw J.W., who presented and explained the working tools, and Dr. F. Stephenson S.W., who rendered the charge.

At the festive board, Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, these being interspersed by songs, contributed by Bros. S. F. Symons P.M., W.

Hallard, Lindon Wyatt (of the Manchester Concerts), Walter Symons, Edward Roberts P.M. 1459, and Joseph Collyer 325.

ALBERT VICTOR LODGE, No. 1773.

THE regular meeting was held at the Pendleton Town Hall, on Friday, 15th inst., Brother William Lambert W.M., there being a large attendance. After the reading and confirmation of minutes, a successful ballot was taken for Mr. Albert Thomas Mills, Solicitor, Pendleton, who was initiated by Bro. J. Harrop P.M. P.P.G.D., the working tools being presented and explained by Bro. Thomas Threlfall P.M. P.P.G.S. Bro. James Massey was afterwards passed to the degree of F.C. by the W.M., the working tools of this degree being presented by Bro. Blease S.W.

The W.M. proposed a vote of condolence with the family of the late Bro. Wm. Hardcastle P.M. P.P.G.D.C., deceased 18th March. Bro. Harrop also proposed that letters of sympathy be sent to Bros. Blore and Wm. Mosley P.M., on their recent illnesses, and also that the congratulations of the members be expressed towards the latter upon his daughter's marriage. Bro. Landless was heartily welcomed upon his return from a journey abroad, taken on account of ill health.

The festive board followed, a very pleasant evening being spent.

ST. AUGUSTINE LODGE, No. 1941.

THE anniversary of this Lodge was held at the Shrewsbury Arms Hotel, Rugeley, on Tuesday, 19th inst., when there was a good muster of members of the Lodge and of visiting Brethren.

Freemasonry at Rugeley is of modern growth, says the "Staffordshire Advertiser," the Warrant of the Lodge dating from 1881. It is noteworthy, however, that in 1833, when the authentic records of Masonry at Stafford begin, Bro. Jos. George Goodwin W.M. of the Lodge of Fortitude was resident at Rugeley. Bro. Goodwin, who was a retired London merchant, took a great interest in Masonry, and held the office of P.G. Director of Ceremonies what time Earl Ferrers was P.G.M. There were upwards of twenty initiations in the Lodge of Fortitude during that year (1833) and the large amount of work necessitated frequent Lodges of emergency, so that the W.M. fairly earned the coach-hire and glass of wine that we find by the Treasurer's book he regularly charged the Lodge with.

Tuesday's proceedings began with the opening of Lodge at three o'clock, and the installation of the W.M.-elect Bro. E. Clark. The ceremony was ably performed by Bro. R. Freer, M.D., W.M. During the proceedings in Lodge Dr. Freer was presented by the W.M. with a handsome gold Past Master's jewel, for his services to the Lodge, and as a token of the esteem in which he is held by the members.

Following the proceedings in Lodge an excellent dinner was served. In proposing the Officers of the Grand Lodge Present and Past, Bro. Freer congratulated the Province upon having again received Grand honours by the appointment by the Prince of Wales of Lord Burton—a Staffordshire man and a Staffordshire Mason—as Grand Senior Warden. He gave a cordial welcome to Bro. Kent as a representative of Grand Lodge.

Bro. Kent, in replying, heartily joined in the expression of congratulation for the appointment of Lord Burton. He complimented Dr. Freer on the conspicuous ability with which he had conducted the ceremonies of the day, and Bro. Buttery on the truly impressive address which he had delivered to the Brethren.

Bro. Tunnicliffe, in proposing the health of Lord Dartmouth, Col. Bindley, and the Officers of Prov. G. Lodge, mentioned that Lord Dartmouth had given a donation of £100 to the Boys School.

Bros. Wormal and Willmore responded.

The health of the Worshipful Master was cordially honoured, and the loving cup was passed round the board. This cup is an elegantly designed vessel of solid silver. It has the inscription: "In commemoration of the 60th year of Queen Victoria's reign, and the 13th centenary of the landing of St. Augustine, the patron saint of this Lodge." The lid forms a statuette of the Queen, and on the side is a medallion of Her Majesty. Room is found for Masonic emblems and the names of the Past Masters, Officers, &c. The cup was manufactured by Messrs. Woodward and Co., of Birmingham.

A number of other toasts were honoured, and the proceedings, which were interspersed with music, were of a most harmonious character.

AGRICOLA LODGE, No. 1991.

ON Monday, 25th inst., Bro. George Woolford S.W. was duly installed to the office of W.M. at the Masonic Hall, York. The ceremony was performed in the presence of a numerous company by Bro. G. H. Stott W.M.

In the evening the installation banquet was held at the Coach and Horses Hotel.

ST. GEORGE LODGE, No. 2025.

THE Brethren met at the Freemasons' Hall, Plymouth, on Tuesday, 26th inst., when the S.W. Bro. W. H. Lang was installed W.M. for the ensuing year.

The installation ceremony was very impressively performed by the retiring Master Bro. F. M. H. Somerville.

ST. CLAIR LODGE, No. 2074.

ON Monday, 18th inst., Bro. C. R. J. Gibbs was installed W.M. at the Masonic Hall, Commercial Road, Landport. The ceremony was impressively performed by Bro. R. Windibank W.M., who was presented with a Past Master's jewel.

At the conclusion of the ceremony a banquet was served, the Worshipful Master presiding.

MINNEHAHA MINSTREL LODGE, No. 2363.

THE regular meeting was held at the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on Monday, 25th inst., Bro. Edwyn A. Smith W.M.

The minutes of 28th March having been confirmed, and one of the ancient charges read by the Chaplain, Lodge was closed at an early hour, to admit of the reception by the Brethren of the Committee of the Minnehaha Amateur Minstrel Society, who had been invited by the W.M. to participate in a capital supper.

It goes without saying that at the social board which followed, and with such a combination of talent, a very merry time was spent.

UNITED GRAND LODGE.

THE Annual Festival of Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall, London, when the Deputy Grand Master of England the Earl Amherst presided, and was supported by Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. G.M. Hants and Isle of Wight as Deputy Grand Master, General J. W. Lawrie as Past Grand Master, the Earl of Portarlington S.G.W., Sir John Monckton as J.G.W., and a large number of other members of Grand Lodge.

After the opening of Grand Lodge and the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the March meeting, as far as regarded the election of Grand Master and Grand Treasurer were concerned, the acting Grand Director of Ceremonies Bro. T. Fenn announced that there was present as a visitor the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Tasmania the Hon. Charles Davies, and called upon the Brethren to salute that Brother. This was done in ancient form, and the Most Worshipful Brother bowed his acknowledgments.

Bro. Fenn then proclaimed the Prince of Wales Grand Master for the twenty-fourth year, winding up his proclamation with the words, "Whom may The Great Architect of the Universe long preserve," a sentiment heartily endorsed by the Craft at large.

It was then announced that the Earl of Lathom and the Earl Amherst would continue in their offices of Pro and Deputy Grand Master respectively, and the latter proceeded to invest the new Officers for the year, the following being appointed:

Bro. Lord Burton	-	-	Senior Warden
Viscount Folkestone, M.P.	-	-	Junior Warden
Very Rev. the Dean of St. Asaph	-	-	Chaplains
Rev. Brooke Lambert	-	-	
Lieut.-Col. Clifford Probyn	-	-	Treasurer
John Strachan, Q.C.	-	-	Registrar
Herbert A. Rigg	-	-	Deputy Registrar
R. Loveland Loveland	-	-	Prest. Bd. Gen. Purps.
E. Letchworth, F.S.A.	-	-	Secretary
James H. Matthews	-	-	Prest. Bd. Benevolence
Sir F. Dixon-Hartland, Bart., M.P.	-	-	Senior Deacons
John Houlding (Lord Mayor of Liverpool)	-	-	
Charles L. Fry Edwards	-	-	
Reginald J. Mure	-	-	Junior Deacons
Surgeon Lieut.-Col. H. W. Kiallmark	-	-	
John Haviland	-	-	
Henry L. Florence	-	-	Superintendent of Works
Sir Albert W. Woods, Garter, F.S.A.	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
E. Luxmore Marshall	-	-	Deputy Dir. of Cers.
Bernard F. Edyvean	-	-	Assistant Dirs. of Cers.
J. T. C. Winkfield	-	-	
Henry Neville	-	-	Sword Bearer
Capt. George Hearn	-	-	
John H. Rutherglen	-	-	Deputy Sword Bearer
John Read	-	-	Standard Bearers
Arthur Stubbs	-	-	
Alfred King, Mus. Doc.	-	-	Organist
William Lake	-	-	Assistant Secretary
Cæsar Kupferschmidt	-	-	Ditto for German
George Graveley	-	-	Correspondence.
Lewis Lazarus	-	-	Pursuivant
Henry Sadler	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
			Tyler.

His Honour Judge Philbrick, Q.C., who has held the office of Grand Registrar since 1884, and is now retiring from that position, received the rank of Past Grand Warden; while the honorary rank of Past Grand Registrar was conferred on Bro. Richard Horton Smith, Q.C., who has been Bro. Philbrick's deputy the last two years; and that of Past Grand Deacon was granted to Bro. Col. H. D. Davies, Lord Mayor of London.

Earl Amherst announced that the Prince of Wales, at the express wish of Sir Albert Woods Grand Director of Ceremonies, had appointed Bro. Thomas Fenn to wear the clothing of Grand Director of Ceremonies, and to act in that office in the absence of Sir Albert Woods.

Business having been concluded by the reading of the names of the new Grand Stewards, who had been approved of by the Grand Master, Grand Lodge was closed in form, and the proceedings of the day closed with a banquet at Freemasons' Tavern, under the chairmanship of the Earl Amherst.

ROYAL ARCH.

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SUSSEX.

THE annual meeting of the members of this Provincial Grand Chapter was held at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on Saturday afternoon, 23rd inst., under the

presidency of Comp. Lieut.-General C. W. Randolph Prov. Grand Superintendent.

Each Chapter in the Province was represented, and the distinguished visitors present included two members of Grand Chapter, viz.: Comp. F. West P.G. Assist. Sojourner Prov. Grand H. Surrey, and Comp. J. Terry Past Grand Standard Bearer.

The sum of £21 was voted to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

The following Provincial Officers were appointed:

Comp. J. St. Clair	-	-	-	H.
J. Turton	-	-	-	J.
V. P. Freeman	-	-	-	Scribe E.
W. Carless	-	-	-	Scribe N.
J. M. Reed	-	-	-	Treasurer
J. P. Slingsby Roberts	-	-	-	Registrar
A. J. Carpenter	-	-	-	Principal Sojourner
Albion Russell	-	-	-	1st Assistant Sojourner
W. E. Hughes	-	-	-	2nd Assistant Sojourner
G. H. Gaze	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
H. D. Willock	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
John Wood	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
Dr. A. King	-	-	-	Organist
A. Coe	-	-	-	Janitor.

On the termination of the meeting the company sat down to an elegant banquet supplied by Messrs. E. Booth and Sons, of East Street. The Provincial Superintendent again presided, and the customary Arch toasts were honoured.

ST. ANNE CHAPTER, No. 970.

A MEETING of the Companions was held in the Masonic Hall, Looe, when Comps. E. V. Bryant, V. J. Maddock, and T. Tamblyn were respectively installed as the Principals for the ensuing twelve months in a most able manner by that grand old Mason, Comp. J. Gidley P.Z. 1205 and 2025.

The Treasurer's accounts, showing a balance of a trifle over £38 to the credit of the Chapter, were presented and passed.

Comp. Allsford, who congratulated the Chapter on the financial position, stated that this being the centenary year of the Boys Schools a special effort was being made among all Masons throughout the country to raise the sum of £100,000 in honour of the event. Subsequently the sum of five guineas was voted to the Boys School, and two guineas to the Girls.

After the Chapter had been closed, the Companions adjourned to the Ship Hotel, where the annual banquet was served by Comp. Cook, in a perfect manner.

Comp. E. V. Bryant presided, and on the cloth being removed the usual toasts were honoured. During the evening some capital songs and recitations were given.

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TRUTH INSTRUCTION CHAPTER, No. 1458.

A NOTHER successful meeting of this young Chapter was held at the Mosley Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester, on Tuesday, 19th inst.

After the reading and confirmation of minutes, a ballot was taken for Comp. James Cooper, St. John Chapter, No. 325, who was desirous of becoming a member. The ballot proved in Comp. Cooper's favour.

The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed by Comp. William Booth P.Z. 323, assisted by the following Officers, who had been appointed for the evening: Comps. C. W. Godby P.Z. 325 H., Jno. Williams P.Z. 935 J., H. Hellewell S.E., G. Crocker S.N., and P. D. Hayes J. 323 Principal Sojourner.

The Theatres, &c.

Covent Garden.—Opera season will commence 9th May.
 Lyceum.—On Wednesday, 4th May, The Medicine Man.
 Her Majesty's.—8, Julius Cæsar. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
 Haymarket.—8-30, The Little Minister. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-30.
 Adelphi.—8, The Heart of Maryland. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
 Vaudeville.—8-20, The French Maid. Matinée, Wednesday, 2-30.
 Daly's.—8-15, The Geisha; A story of a Tea House. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
 Savoy.—7-45, Old Sarah. 8-30, The Gondoliers. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
 Lyric.—8-15, Dandy Dan, the Lifeguardsman. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
 Prince of Wales's.—8-15, La Poupée. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
 Gaiety.—8, The Circus Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
 Garrick.—8, An Attic Drama. 8-45, Too much Johnson. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2-30.
 Criterion.—8-15, The Liars. Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
 St. James's.—8-15, The Conquerors. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
 Strand.—8, For Charity's sake. 9, The J.P. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
 Terry's.—8, A Warm Member. 8-45, Shadows on the Blind.
 Globe.—8, When George the fourth was King. 8-45, The Master.
 Duke of York's.—8, The Lady Wrangler. 8-45, The Dove-Cote. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
 Court.—8-30, Trelawny of the "Wells." Matinée, Saturday, 2-30.
 Comedy.—8, Constancy. 8-30, Lord and Lady Algy. Matinée, Saturday, 8.
 Avenue.—8-15, Love Wisely. 8-45, The Club Baby.
 Shaftesbury.—8, The Belle of New York. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
 Parkhurst.—Next week, The Gay Parisienne.
 Grand.—Next week, Blue Jeans.
 Alexandra.—Next week, The Private Secretary.
 Queen's Opera House, Crouch End.—Next week, The Silver King.
 Alhambra.—7-50, Variety Entertainment. One of the Boys, &c.
 Empire.—7-50, Variety Entertainment. "The Press" Ballet, &c.
 Palace.—7-45, Variety Entertainment. New American Biograph, &c.
 London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainment.
 Royal.—7-30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2-30 also.
 Egyptian Hall.—8 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
 Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily.
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STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge is to be held at Stafford, on Wednesday next, 4th prox. We hope to give a report of the proceedings in due course next week.

MASONRY'S PAST AND PRESENT.

Robert C. Hine, Grand Orator Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

FREEMASONRY is an institution whose origin is so remote that it is almost useless to speculate as to the time of its beginning, its antecedents, or the causes which brought it into being. Various periods have been named by different Masonic writers as to the time of its origin, and each writer seems to have a different theory in regard to it. Some trace it to what are known as the ancient mysteries, and others to the craft guilds of Europe; but more frequently its origin is referred to the time of the building of the Temple of Solomon to the Most High God. I believe it has been a gradual growth, perhaps from times prior to the building of Solomon's Temple, perhaps since that time.

In tracing the history of Freemasonry, it seems to me it should be separated into two distinct parts; first, that which may be called the basis or substance, such as the rough and perfect ashlar, the trowel, square and compass, and other working tools; the second, the ritual. The history of the first part is one thing, that of the ritual is quite a different matter. The ancient mysteries referred to are principally classed as the Orphic, Bacchic, Eleusinian, Samothracian, Cabiric, and Mithian. We are told that they taught the doctrine of the future life, the eternal punishment of the wicked; that the design of initiation was to restore the soul to that state from which it fell; that the initiated would be happier than other mortals, and that their souls would wing their flight directly to happy islands and the habitations of the Gods. We can hardly believe that those tools and implements of Masonry which have been selected by the Fraternity to impress upon the mind wise and serious truths, ever held any place in these mysteries. The ashlar and the working tools belonged peculiarly to the building trades, and it is through them that we must trace the origin of that part of our great institution.

On the other hand, many parts of our ritual bear close resemblance to the initiatory ceremonies of those ancient mysteries, and doubtless have been derived from them. I apprehend, therefore, that here may be found the principal cause of such wide difference of opinion shown by different writers as to the origin of Masonry. Some have tried to trace the history of one part and some that of the other.

One thing, however, is true; that whenever or wherever it originated, our earliest knowledge of it, reaching back into the dim light of the past, is that it consisted of active, practical, operative, skilled artificers. Its purpose and object as we first find it was to associate and educate practical workmen, and to protect and preserve as a monopoly the secrets of architecture and building. Advancement was only attained by proficiency. The Lodges were officered by men distinguished for their operative ability, and the Craft were educated along these lines. These features have long since disappeared, and Masonry exists to-day as an educator along moral lines only.

It is perhaps true that while men in the early dawn of the world were following that instinct which is rooted in the breasts of all people, of preparing for an existence in a future state and recognising the existence of a being superior to themselves, or God, they also recognised the interdependence of man. This would naturally lead to the formation and organisation of societies for mutual help, protection and security. And this idea has been preserved in the teachings of our lectures. We are taught that a survey of Nature and the observation of her beautiful proportions first determined man to imitate the divine plan and study symmetry and order. This gave rise to societies, and birth to every useful art. The architect began to design, &c. It appears to me that this is a sufficient explanation of the origin of this society. The first aspirations of man were of a religious nature, the societies he organised were religious ones, the associations he formed were of a religious character. Afterwards appears the operative features, and while they may have been corollary to the first idea, nevertheless they followed it chronologically.

It is possible that there gradually became engrafted upon these societies, while continuing their religious character, the operative features of various trades, and from them arose in this way the various guilds of workmen and trades unions which increased in numbers and power, and finally spread over all Europe, and one of which, the trade of the builder or workers in stone, gradually developing, formed the basis from which the Masonic Order derives its existence.

The business of the original builders' guilds was to learn how to build, and this secret was carefully preserved. Their occupation consisted largely in building the beautiful and delicate church edifices of Europe. When a church building was determined upon, the local Masons were required to be reinforced with others from distant parts of the land, and thus were congregated large numbers of craftsmen, who, during the progress of the building, dwelt in booths erected near at hand, and there held their meetings to devise plans for the building. As they were thus a travelling organisation, signs and symbols were devised in order that a Mason, having proven himself competent in one part of the country, could be accepted as such without further evidences of skill in another. It is natural that, devoting themselves so largely to church building, they should have been favoured and encouraged by the clergy and the monasteries.

Two causes, however, operated to overthrow the operative features of the societies. First, the growth of ability to perform the work among men not affiliated with the societies, or cowans, and second, the introduction of strangers among the workmen.

Gradually, there grew up alongside these guilds a body of operatives not included in their membership who, nevertheless, were Masons, and who, though bitterly opposed by the guilds as well as by legislation, increased in skill and had a tendency to break down the monopoly held by the guilds.

The introduction of non-operatives, while it tended to overthrow the operative features of Masonry, probably also tended to continue the existence of the organisation, for, were it not for them, the old societies would probably long ago have been forgotten, as has actually been the case with guilds of other trades, as the guild of free carpenters, the guild of free tailors, etc.

There is strong evidence that among the building guilds prior to this time and so long as they maintained their operative features, there existed but one degree, that of the apprentice. All the work of the Lodge was done in this degree, as it is in some countries to-day. After serving an apprenticeship for a certain period, and giving proof of his operative ability, the apprentice could become fellow or journeyman. At this advancement apprentices could be present, and even preside. The Earl of Cassilis was Master of the Lodge of Kilwinning in 1670, though only an apprentice. The Earl of Eglinton occupied the chair after him, but was only an apprentice. Lord William Cochran in 1678 was a Warden, although simply an apprentice. The rituals of the different degrees, as we have them now, were produced after the extinction of the operative features, and doubtless were borrowed from the ceremonies of some of the ancient mysteries.

At what period in its history the doors were first opened and non-operative members were admitted, cannot now be definitely determined. It is doubtless true, for human nature has changed very little, that men of wealth or of social or political position frequently sought the support of the Craft, and on the other hand it may be true that the Order sought to strengthen its position by cultivating men of high standing. These two forces would naturally lead us to believe that others than operatives were at times admitted, even at an early day. In the thirteenth century we find that a nobleman, William de Saint Patre, was appointed by Louis IX. as Grand Master of the Craft at Paris. We are told that at the time of Edward III., in England, the sheriff, mayor or alderman of the city in which a Lodge was held might be made a Fellow. In Scotland, the first record of a non-operative being present is 1600, when John Boswell, Esq., of Auchinleck, is mentioned in the minutes of the Lodge. In 1634 Rt. Hon. Lord Alexander was made a Fellow, and tried to establish a colony on the St. Lawrence river. His brother, the Earl of Stirling, was admitted the same day, and frequent admissions appear after that. In the old Lodge at Aberdeen, out of forty-nine members in 1670, only eight were known to be Operative Masons. Perhaps as large a percentage could be found in many Lodges to-day. In the famous diary of Elias Ashmole is found the following, under date of 1682: "March 10th, received a summons to appear before a Lodge at Mason's Hall, London. Eleventh, went and was admitted into the fellowship of Freemasons. Sir William Wilson, Knight, was senior fellow, being thirty-five years since making. Dined at dinner at expense of the new Accepted Mason."

Such then was the condition of the Masonic societies about the year 1700. Their business as architects and builders was gone; outsiders were performing what work was to be done, and there was no longer demand for their operative labours. Their Lodges were filled and their membership composed largely of men wholly unable to perform those duties, even if called upon. What was then to be done? Should the society be allowed to disappear and die? All praise is due to the Masonic fathers of that time who in their wisdom preserved from destruction this great institution.—"Voice of Masonry."

(To be continued.)

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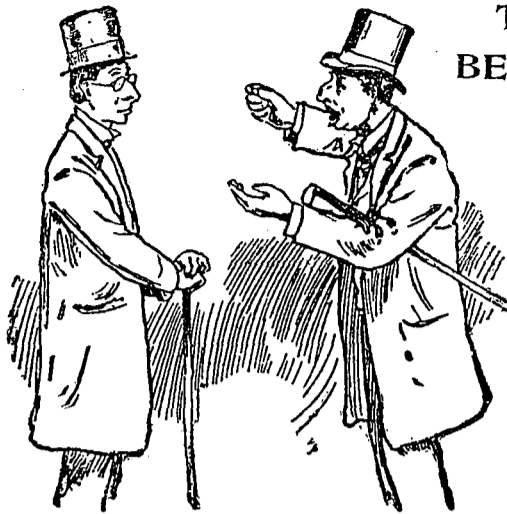
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