

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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CYCLING MASONS.

WITH two of our Lodges bearing the name of the popular sport of Cycling, and hosts of Brethren interested in its practice, it is matter for wonder that more is not done by devotees of the wheel among Freemasons to associate their favourite pastime with the work of the Craft, especially as, it seems to us, the two can be so readily connected, with the certainty of profit and pleasure resulting to all concerned. One obstacle to the union of Cycling and Freemasonry is perhaps found in the fact that while the former is more popular in the summer, the season for Freemasonry—in our large towns at least—is essentially the winter; but this hardly need stand in the way of Masonic Cycling, to any serious extent, as there should be plenty of Lodges outside of London and other large centres ready for Cycling visitors, if once the idea caught on, and was encouraged by those in a position to make it popular. Another obstacle we have heard raised is the objection of many riders to travelling in the dark, especially along country roads, but with a party of three or four, or more, with modern lamps, there is nothing very serious in that objection.

Some time back we endeavoured to arrange for a visit to a Lodge of Instruction held about ten miles away, and were surprised to find how many of our neighbours promised to accompany us. We made arrangements with the Secretary of the Lodge we proposed to visit, and a special programme was provided for the evening—everything, in fact, pointed to a successful gathering, even the moon was booked for a “full,” but unhappily we reckoned without our host, for the day set down for our visit turned out miserably wet, and a steady downpour of rain took all the Masonic Cycling enthusiasm out of the party. But there is no reason why this failure of our proposed Masonic run need defer others from attempting something more satisfactory; we are convinced it would be appreciated, and would entail but very little trouble on those who set themselves the task of carrying it into effect.

It will probably be found that a visit to a Lodge of Instruction will be best for a start, as much more is possible there in the way of novelty than could be attempted at a regular meeting, but there is no actual objection in even the latter case, provided it is understood that the guests are to be recognised as Cyclists, and not expected to appear in orthodox evening dress, or the less rigorous ordinary Lodge attire, but in this particular, as well as in other minor details, everything must be left to the ingenuity and taste of individual organisers of such gatherings as we here suggest, and which we are convinced would well repay any trouble devoted to their arrangement. Here is an opportunity for Lodges of Instruction meeting a few miles outside busy centres of civilisation. Who will be the first to put this proposition to a practical test?

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

THE Quarterly Convocation was held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall, London, under the presidency of Comp. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. Grand Superintendent of Hants and Isle of Wight Grand J. of England.

The business as set out in the agenda we published last week was regularly disposed of, the proposition of Sir Geo. D. Harris President of the Committee of General Purposes, as to a grant of one hundred guineas from the funds of Grand Chapter to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, being seconded by Companion Frank Richardson, and carried unanimously.

There have been numerous changes to record just lately among the Provincial rulers of the Craft, and yet another has this week to be mentioned, Bro. J. E. Le Feuvre, of Southampton, Deputy of the Province of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight having resigned that office, in consequence of the unsatisfactory state of his health necessitating his freeing himself from some of his duties. It need hardly be said that the resignation of so popular a Mason as Bro. Le Feuvre was received with regret, particularly when the cause of the retirement was considered, but we heartily join in the wish that Bro. Le Feuvre may yet be spared for many years to come, and that he will have further opportunities of displaying his love for the Craft. Bro. Edgar Goble, for many years Secretary of the Province, was appointed his successor.

Elsewhere we record the consecration of a new Masonic Temple at Glasgow, which was estimated to cost no less than £4,000, one half of which amount was raised nearly two years ago by means of a three days' bazaar, and that gratifying total was supplemented by some handsome donations, including one of £400 from Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart, Bart. As we have previously had occasion to remark, they do some things better in Scotland than they do in England—Masonic Halls being a case in point.

Great preparations are being made in Warwickshire for celebrating the golden wedding of Lord and Lady Leigh. On 22nd August 1848 the popular Lord-Lieutenant and Prov. Grand Master of Warwickshire was married to Lady Caroline Amelia Grosvenor, daughter of the second Marquis of Westminster, and sister of the present Duke. It is an open secret that on more than one occasion Lord Leigh refused an earldom, offered to him by Mr. Gladstone, says the “World.”

At the meeting of the West Ham Board of Guardians held last week, it was unanimously resolved to accept the tender of Bro. W. Shurmur, at £158,994, for the building of the proposed new Infirmary, subject to certain modifications to be agreed, and to sanction being given to a loan repayable in fifty years. We congratulate our esteemed Brother on this latest evidence of public confidence in his work.

An emergency meeting of the Upton Lodge, No. 1227, is called for Thursday next, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, business in the three degrees—with two candidates in each—being set down in the agenda. The work will be commenced at 5 o'clock, and will be followed by supper, at 7.

Since the institution of the Annuity Fund of the Grand Lodge of Scotland something like ten thousand pounds sterling has been paid to annuitants.

ESSEX.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Brentwood, on Tuesday, 26th July, and the peculiarly interesting character of the proceedings drew together one of the largest gatherings of the Brethren of the "Mystic Tie" ever remembered, there being some 300 Masons present from all parts of the county.

The local arrangements were in the charge of the members of the Hope and Unity Lodge, No. 214, headed by the W.M. Bro. Imbert-Terry, and the Secretary Bro. Col. Frank Landon, whilst the bulk of the clerical work was undertaken and ably carried out by Bro. John Ramsey, one of the P.M.'s of the Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master the Right Hon. the Earl of Warwick travelled direct from Warwick Castle, and on reaching Brentwood Station about 2.30, was met by Bro. F. W. Imbert-Terry W.M. 214, and the Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. Ralling. Mr. Tower, of Weald Hall, had kindly placed his carriage at the disposal of his Lordship, and he drove at once to the headquarters of the Lodge, the White Hart Hotel. Having transacted some Masonic business, his Lordship, accompanied by Bro. Col. Lockwood, M.P., made a call upon Col. and Mrs. Landon, at Red House.

The Masonic proceedings took place at the Town Hall, which, under the able management of Mr. Wallis, of Brentwood, had been converted into a very handsome Lodge Room. The walls were adorned with the elegant banners of the various Lodges, and when his Lordship entered, accompanied by a large number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers, resplendent in Masonic clothing and jewels, the spectacle was a most brilliant one.

The minutes of the last annual Provincial Grand Lodge (at Colchester) having been read and confirmed, the Provincial Grand Secretary said that letters, expressing their inability to attend, had been received from Earl Amherst Dep.G.M., Lord Geo. Hamilton Prov.G.M. Middlesex, and many others.

The roll of Lodges was called over, and all but one were found to be represented.

The report of the Board of General Purposes, a copy of which had been sent to every member of Provincial Grand Lodge, was taken as read, and, on the motion of Bro. John J. C. Turner P.M. 51 P.P.S.G.W., seconded by Bro. Richard Clowes P.M. 650 P.G.Std.B., was received and adopted. The first paragraph of the Report was as follows:—

The Board are sure the Brethren of the Province will learn with much regret that His Honour Judge Philbrick, Q.C., has intimated to the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master his desire not to be re-appointed Deputy, the necessities of his official position, and his distance from the county, preventing his taking that active part in the business of the Province which the post demands. In severing his official connection with the Province the Board trust that Bro. Philbrick will always retain a pleasant recollection of the seventeen years that he so ably acted as Deputy, and they earnestly hope that he may long be spared to take a friendly interest in its affairs, and to come amongst the Brethren as often as he can. At the suggestion of Lord Warwick, an address to Bro. Philbrick has been drawn up, and the Board have ventured to anticipate the wishes of the Brethren, by giving directions that it be suitably prepared in time for presentation at the Annual Meeting.

The report proceeded to state that the accounts showed a balance in hand of £33 on the general account, and £31 on the charity account. No less than £203 had been spent in charity, the grants including 100 guineas to the Boys School Centenary Fund, and fifty guineas to the Essex Hailstorm Relief Fund. The returns from the Lodges showed that during the past year there had been 155 initiations, compared with 167 last year, and 64 joining members, compared with 82 last year. Against this there had been 64 resignations against 106 last year, the losses by death had been 32, whilst 49 Brethren had been struck off the books of their respective Lodges, leaving the present strength of the Province 2,089 members, against 2,015 last year. The Board noted with satisfaction that the Brethren returned as "in arrear" showed a further decrease, there being 142 this year, as against 190 in 1896, and 169 in 1897. The Board recommended that in future their transactions be issued in printed form, as is done by Grand Lodge. Grants were recommended of £5 5s to Brentwood Cottage Hospital, and £10 10s each to the Girls School and the Benevolent Institution. The Board concluded their report by referring with satisfaction to the record sum of £134,000 announced at the recent Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, of which amount the Province of Essex contributed the munificent sum of nearly £4,000, the principal lists being: Shurmur Lodge, No. 2374, £525; Priory Lodge, No. 1000, £369 12s; St. Andrew Lodge, No. 1817, £367 10s; St.

Clement Lodge, No. 2442, £357; Angel Lodge, No. 51, £210; Brooke Lodge, No. 2005, £205 16s; and Shurmur Chapter, No. 2374, £205 5s.

In a supplementary report the Board stated:—"It having come to the knowledge of the Board that Lord Warwick has invited W. Bro. Colonel Lockwood, M.P., to be the new Deputy Provincial Grand Master, they heartily congratulate the Province upon the appointment of so popular and worthy a Brother to be the successor of Bro. Philbrick, and they feel sure that it will be the wish of the Brethren that the portrait in next year's Calendar should be that of the new Deputy."

The report of the Charity Committee was unanimously adopted. It recorded with satisfaction that two boys (Oldham and Pallot) had been elected, whilst a third (Hardy), though unsuccessful this time, would receive a grant of £20 per annum towards his education till elected or attained the age of eleven years, in accordance with a resolution passed by the subscribers to the School in commemoration of the Centenary. One girl (Sackett) had also been elected; whilst another (Tremlett) was considerably helped, leaving her 2,439 votes to start with at the next election.

The Earl of Warwick, who was received with hearty cheers, then addressed the Brethren. His Lordship congratulated the Province upon the vitality which it exhibited in matters Masonic. He acknowledged gratefully the support which had ever been given him since he was first called to rule over the Province, and expressed his great satisfaction at the splendid contribution sent by the Province to the Boys School Fund, and said that charity should always be the predominating factor in their work as Masons. Lord Warwick referred sympathetically to the recent accident to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales Grand Master of England. He thought they would allow him to express to the Prince, on their behalf and his own, their sympathy with His Royal Highness in his misfortune. Lord Warwick went on to express the deep regret they all felt at the retirement of Bro. Philbrick, whom he found in office when he was installed, and who had supported him with the greatest loyalty and kindness that it was possible for a Deputy to show. His Lordship then moved a resolution embodying the feeling of the Brethren, and begged Bro. Philbrick's acceptance of a beautifully engrossed album containing a copy of the resolution, in which the Brethren placed on record their deep sense of the obligation they were under to Bro. Philbrick for his devotion to the best interests of the Craft, and heartily congratulated him upon his recent elevation by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to the rank of Past Grand Warden, in recognition of his eminent services to the Craft, as Grand Registrar, from 1886 to 1898.

Bro. Philbrick, on rising to acknowledge the compliment, received quite an ovation. Speaking with evident emotion, he said there was always a peculiar element of sadness in doing anything for the last time. He had only been appointed for a short time by the late lamented Lord Tenterden, when that nobleman's sudden death caused a vacancy and their present beloved Provincial Grand Master was called to preside over them. His Lordship did him the great honour to ask him to remain in office, and had renewed that kindness year by year. Whatever service he had been able to render to Freemasonry in the Province had been a labour of love. He could, without vanity, say that during the whole time of his connection with the Province he had always endeavoured to interest himself in the progress of the Craft. That interest had been cordially reciprocated. When he was installed there were nineteen Lodges; now there were more than double that number. The Masonic spirit was truly abroad amongst the Lodges. During the whole of that time there had never been an occasion to call into operation what he might call the coercive powers of the Provincial Grand Master—not a single cloud which a little friendly advice, a little kindly forbearance, a little consideration, had not dispelled. He could not deny that the severance of the tie that had bound him to the Brethren for so many years was a very painful one, and he should not have arrived at the decision he had done had he not felt that it was for the best interests of the Craft amongst them. He thanked Lord Warwick for the great kindness and consideration he had ever exhibited towards himself, and he was most grateful to his Lordship and the Brethren for the tangible testimony of their kindness in the elegant and handsome testimonial he held in his hands. He should always be delighted to come amongst them; and meanwhile the proofs he had received of their kindness would be cherished and dear to him as long as life lasted.

The Earl of Warwick said when his late excellent Deputy intimated that he could not continue in office he naturally looked around to see who would be a fitting successor, and came to the conclusion that there was no one he should be more pleased to see in the office, or who he thought would be more acceptable to the Province generally, than his friend Col. Lockwood. Col. Lockwood was an earnest Mason; was very thorough in all he undertook, and he was quite sure the Brethren would find that the more they saw of Colonel Lockwood as Deputy the better they would like him.

Col. Lockwood said he accepted the post with very great pleasure. He hoped the Brethren would not think that because he was a "new broom" he was going to make a clean sweep of everything—because to his mind there was very little "dust" on the Masonry of the Province of Essex. He took a great interest in the work of the Craft, and trusted that he might be of some service to the good cause in Essex. The new Deputy was then inducted with the usual ceremonies, and on taking his seat at the right of the Prov. G.M. Col. Lockwood was heartily cheered.

The Earl of Warwick then proceeded to invest his Officers for the ensuing year. Having placed the collar upon the neck of the Provincial Grand Secretary Bro. Thomas J. Ralling, Lord Warwick said he had to perform a very pleasant duty, and they should all take much pleasure in the surprise that would fall upon one member of their Lodge, Bro. Ralling. They were all in the secret except himself. He was asking Bro. Ralling, for the 22nd year, to accept the office of Secretary. That was a very long measure of service, and he could say, on behalf of them all, that those duties had been performed with the greatest assiduity. He had given his time ungrudgingly. He did not believe Brother Ralling had an enemy in the Province, and it was quite certain that he might count all present at this unusually large meeting as his friends. It was now his duty to inform Bro. Ralling that he had been requested to hand him a little token of regard from the Province, in the shape of a cheque for £250. I have it here, said his Lordship, producing it from his breast pocket, nearest my heart, and nothing that I have had to perform as Provincial Grand Master has given me greater pleasure than to hand this to you. His Lordship added that he was also pleased to hand to Bro. Ralling an album with an address, setting forth the strong feelings of regard they all entertained towards him. His Lordship then handed to Bro. Ralling the testimonials, amidst a warm demonstration from the Brethren.

Bro. Ralling said this kind and generous action on the part of the Brethren had come as a very great surprise. They had kept their secret well, and so had shown a true Masonic spirit. He could only thank them for their great kindness, and for the trouble which must have been taken by some Brethren in organising this splendid testimonial. He had always received the greatest kindness from every Lodge and from every Brother in the Province, and should always value most highly the evidences of their regard he had now received. He trusted the Brethren would, under the embarrassing circumstances in which he suddenly found himself, excuse him saying more.

The following is the text of the address, which was contained, together with a complete list of subscribers, some 400 in number, in a magnificently engrossed album:

To W. Bro. Thomas John Ralling P.M. and P.Z. 51 P.A.G.D.C. England
Provincial Grand Secretary Essex.

We are desired by the subscribers, whose names are appended, to convey to you our sincere appreciation of the many kind and thoughtful services you have rendered to the Province and the Brethren generally during the twenty-one years that you have occupied the position of Provincial Grand Secretary.

We feel that such ungrudging devotion to duty merits some special recognition, and we beg your acceptance of the accompanying cheque for £250, representing subscriptions from every Lodge in the Province, as a mark of our esteem and regard.

We trust that the Province may continue for many years to have the benefit of your valued assistance.

(Signed) Warwick Provincial Grand Master.

Fred A. Philbrick Deputy Prov. Grand Master.

Wm. Shurmur Treasurer.

John J. C. Turner } Honorary Secretaries.
R. Haward Ives }

July 1898.

On the motion of Brother William Shurmur P.M. 2374 P.G.Std.Br., seconded by Bro. W. D. Merritt P.M. 1000 P.P.S.G.W., the Brethren unanimously elected Bro. E. J. Bowmaker P.M. 1000 as Provincial Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The other Officers for the year are as follow:

Bro. Robert Woodhouse	-	-	-	Senior Warden
Col. Landon	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Rev. W. Cree	-	-	-	Chaplains
Rev. W. H. Langhorne	-	-	-	
John Ramsey	-	-	-	Registrar
Thos. J. Ralling (22nd year)	-	-	-	Secretary
W. E. Facey	-	-	-	Senior Deacons
M. F. Freelove	-	-	-	
H. E. Hormon	-	-	-	Junior Deacons
F. W. Pelling	-	-	-	
F. England	-	-	-	Superintendent of Works
A. Lucking (25th year)	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
Joseph Cohen	-	-	-	Deputy Dir. of Cers.
Alfred Miller	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
J. W. Armour	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
F. J. Cumine	-	-	-	Standard Bearers
T. McD. Shelley	-	-	-	
C. H. Kempling	-	-	-	Organist
G. Gardiner	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
Q.M.-Sergt. Leaney	-	-	-	Pursuivant
C. E. Skinner	-	-	-	Assistant Pursuivant
John Spencer	-	-	-	Stewards
C. G. Cutchey	-	-	-	
E. E. Eve	-	-	-	
F. B. Townend	-	-	-	
A. S. Gardiner	-	-	-	
A. T. Gunnell Woods	-	-	-	Tyler.
A. W. Martin	-	-	-	

Five Brethren had been nominated for the four elective seats on the Board of General Purposes, and a ballot took place, which resulted as follows:

	Votes.
Bro. J. J. C. Turner P.M. 51 P.P.S.G.W.	128
J. H. Salter P.M. 234 P.P.J.G.W.	115
W. D. Merritt P.M. 1000 P.P.S.G.W.	109
W. Ernest Dring P.M. 2318 P.P.S.G.W.	95
Rev. Thos. Lloyd P.M. 2561 P.P.G.Chap.	90

One Brother was to be elected on the Charity Committee in place of the member retiring by rotation, and Bro. Robert Woodhouse Prov.S.G.W. was unanimously chosen.

The Earl of Warwick having announced that the meeting for next year would be held at Tilbury, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Hope and Unity Lodge for the excellent arrangements made for the reception of Prov. Grand Lodge, and the proceedings, which had been characterised throughout by great heartiness, closed.

Lord Warwick presided over a very large number of Brethren at the banquet which followed, and which took place in the commodious Drill Hall, which by means of drapery of Masonic blue had been transformed into an elegant banqueting hall.

After dinner, a commendably short toast list was gone through, the Provincial Grand Master's hope that their drinking of the Prince of Wales's health might do him a great deal of good being heartily cheered. At the suggestion of several Brethren His Lordship sent a sympathetic telegram to His Royal Highness, and subsequently received the following reply:

"Grand Master much touched by sympathy expressed by Brethren of Province of Essex, and sends them a friendly greeting through you.—Albert Edward."

His Honour Judge Philbrick, E. Letchworth Grand Secretary, and the Archdeacon of Essex Bro. T. Stevens P.G.C., responded for the Grand Officers. Judge Philbrick referred to his severance, officially, from the Province. Consciously he had wronged no Brother, and he parted from them all with deepest regret. If it ever lay in his power to be of service, the Brethren would command his best efforts.

Bro. Letchworth mentioned that Essex had been remarkably prolific in Grand Officers, as the county held as many as any county in England.

Archdeacon Stevens said he was an Essex man, and when the Grand Master called him to the post of Grand Chaplain he felt the honour done to the county quite as much as his own personal exaltation. He was Provincial Grand Chaplain of Essex before he was Grand Chaplain of England.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master gave the toast of the Provincial Grand Master, who was received with enthusiasm.

In response, his Lordship said he felt quite unworthy of the cordiality with which they had received his name. For sixteen years or so he had been a scourge to them, and though he felt Colonel Lockwood's flattering reference to his occupying for long years his present position, he felt that the time was coming when he must give place to a better man. He had been at any rate very earnest in his desire to do all he possibly could for Masonry in the Province. With all deference to their ecclesiastical Brethren he would in all humility recommend them to the example of Freemasons in their bearing one towards another in these somewhat critical times. They were all servants of the Great Architect of the

Universe, and one of His great principles was that they should have charity one to the other. Concluding, his Lordship said it had given him great pleasure to be able to honour, on the part of the Province, two of their most respected and distinguished Brethren.

His Lordship then proposed the health of the D.P.G.M. Col. Lockwood responded, and said that Freemasonry was still in its infancy in Essex, and it behoved every Brother to go forth that night determined to uphold and spread its great and beneficent principles.

Brother Imbert-Terry W.M. 214 responded for the Worshipful Masters of the Lodges in the Province, proposed by the Earl of Warwick, remarking that the Lodge he represented had been most anxious that everything possible should be done to make the meeting a success, and they trusted that they had been successful in their efforts.

During the dinner the band of the 1st Essex Volunteer Battalion played a selection of music; and between the speeches Bro. Schartau and a concert party gave an excellent entertainment.

CHURCH SERVICE.

THE church of St. John, West Chelsea, which has been closed for five Sundays during changes and repairs of the interior, was re-opened on Sunday, 17th ult., when the Bishop of London preached at 11 a.m. There was a Masonic Service at 3.30, when a large number of Brethren were present in regalia. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Seaver, vicar of St. John's, Holloway, and the Service read by the vicar, the Rev. F. W. A. Wilkinson, both of whom are Masons. In the evening the vicar preached. The parishioners have entered heartily into the work of restoring the church, and there were large congregations on Sunday. The repairs to the outside are in progress. Of the £1,000 wanted the vicar has obtained nearly £800.

ARE YOU SQUARED BY THIS?

Address by Brother W. H. De Hart, at a Masonic Convention in Tampa, Florida, from the "Voice of Masonry."

HOW could even a golden-mouthed or silver-tongued orator present in fullness and force the just claims and

immeasurable merits of Masonry? Masonry? What emotions swell the heart of every true Brother at the mention of that name? Masonry, venerated for its antiquity, yet often, through the ages, suspected and persecuted for its mysteries. Masonry? Under that one word I might sing to you an epic poem of lives and deeds of chivalry—clear sounding, far reaching clarion notes, telling of the great and pure-minded men of all ages, who, in Masonic grandeur loom up along the shores of time, as do the light-houses upon our treacherous coast. Lives brilliant and shining, fadeless as stars in an evening sky, shedding their benign influence on all around. Lives which, by the silent force of daily example, disapprove of all that is coarse, immoral and wrong—encouraging all that is noble and grand and elevating to the human mind, leaving behind them undying evidences of the goodness and far reaching purposes of our Order—its benefits to the sons of men, irrespective of their theological or political opinions. But that is not my purpose. Neither do I intend, on this occasion, to argue the antiquity of the Order. No man knows the exact date of the origin of symbolic Masonry, and yet no intelligent person will deny that it has existed, in a similar form to what it is to-day, since the building of King Solomon's temple. This is absolutely true of the three sections of the ancient York rite. Capitular, Cryptic and Templar Masonry, we must frankly confess, are of more recent date; but, taken as a whole, clearly understood and fully appreciated—from Entered Apprentice to Knights of Malta and Saints John—no more beautiful teachings of immortality, no more sublime a system of morality has the world ever beheld.

And yet we do not claim, Brothers, that Freemasonry takes the place of the Church—we do not set it up as a religious institution—only a moral society—ever gently wooing the mind of man away from idolatrous dogmas of vainglory and hypocrisy, envy, malice, hatred and all uncharitableness; and seeking to elevate the heart to that higher, holier sphere of gentleness, meekness, kindness and Brotherly love. I believe that our Order is a handmaid to the religion of one true God, and for that reason, fostered by Him, it has lived through the persecutions of past ages; and to-day, under the glorious sun of liberty, her Great Lights are shining in this far land—shining and preparing the minds of initiates by the pure associations of upright men, to have faith in God, hope in immortality, and charity for all their fellow men; so that their souls can be swayed by the gentle influences of the great "I am that I am" and borne on wings of love beyond the golden portals of the celestial city, into the Temple not built with hands, eternal in the heavens.

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Now, Brothers, let me call your attention, as individual Masons, to a few practical thoughts of to-day.

You are interested in the Lodge room with its working tools, its brazen pillars, its Mosaic pavement, its altars and arks, its robes and jewels. With those beautiful surroundings, and in secret conclave, you build with thought and dream the mystic temples of the soul. But do you always remember that only a tinsel veil conceals from view the hideous forms of misery and want that rankle in the dark corners of society? Do you take cognisance of and always oppose the moral pestilence and corruption that is stealing into our midst and seeking to bind in lethargy the startled sentinels of society?

Again, do you hear all the wails of the widow and orphan, and the cries of those who are in poverty and want? Oh, Brothers, let not the many doubtful men that we assist cause our hearts to grow less charitable. 'Tis better to be deceived by a dozen impostors than that one of the truly needy should go unsupplied.

Brothers, the Good Master said, "Let not your left hand know what your right doeth," and we Masons strive to keep from the world the charity we dispense, and we have found that charity is never half so sweet as when we only see the crystal tear resting on the eye of gratitude, and hear the changed cadence of the voice, as the clouds of gloom and want are dissolved by the sunshine of peace and comfort. The many faint cries of poverty, oppression and woe, that are not heard beyond the hovels of unhappiness, should make us seek the opportunity for doing good to those who have a measure of hardness and share of affliction to endure.

Again, Brothers, do all of our members visit the sick, minister to their afflictions, relieve and encourage the family when sorrow has fallen heavy upon their hearts, and they yearn for human sympathy?

Do we all go to an erring Brother in gentleness, assure him of our friendship, then kindly admonish him to reform, and lend him a helping hand to aid him in resisting the temptations that surround his life? Or do we, from want of moral courage to do our duty, pass the weak and wayward Brother by? Worse still, do we turn to him the cold shoulder and leave him to continue the downward course? Ah, Brothers, nothing is more calculated to drive a man headlong into recklessness, despondency and despair, than that same "cold shoulder"—a knowledge that those whom he was wont to trust have turned from and have no human sympathy for him.

Yes, we have all failed sometimes in our duty. The Order is not perfect. No institution composed of human beings is; and sometimes the Mason forgets his obligations and his Masonic teachings—allows his banner to trail in the dust, and would bring disgrace upon his nourishing mother. But, thank God, these cases are few; and we can point with pride to the truth that the cradle of childhood never rocked to sleep gentler, purer hearts than our members have been in all ages, and to-day on our rolls are to be found the names of men who are the highest type of manhood.

Brothers, life is a pilgrimage, and for all of us it leads at times over rough and rugged roads of trial, and through narrow, cramped paths of affliction—sooner or later to go into the dark valley of the shadow—but we have the Bible promise of a leader who says: "I will bring the blind by a way that they know not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known; I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight; these things will I do unto them and never forsake them." Sometimes we may despond—but we have only to look ahead, and there appear green spots to all, as welcome as are the oases of the desert to the panting caravans—oases where the sparkling waters and cool herbage invite to refreshment and rest. Here the weary spirit loves to linger, encouraged by the sympathetic hearts and sunny smiles of its companions.

It is encircled with a halo—renews its vigour for the journey onward, and takes fresh courage for the conflict. To such a green spot have we come on this occasion. Such meetings as this are but mile-stones along the journey of life, to which fond memory will often turn in after years, lured by the golden star of Brotherly love. And how pleasant to know that these oases may occur again and again as the years fleet by.

But while we are here assembled, let us not forget one of our principal duties as Masons, but rather open wide heaven's pure fountain of love—love to our Brothers and charity to all mankind. So, if there be here to-day one who has thought an unkind thought, said an unkind word, done an unkind act toward any Brother Mason, let there be forgiveness and reconciliation. Put away all personal ambitions which would overreach another—all jealousies and envies keen which sow this life with thorns. Love the Brethren. Practice true charity. Live up to the teachings of Masonry. Throw out the life-line to every sinking Brother, and by the "strong grip" raise him erect on this grand old ship. Then point him with a radiant finger to the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah" surrounded with white-robed Masonic spirits, in that golden tabernacle beyond the sunset.

Brothers, life is as brief as a span. How few are the hours we have to work before the night cometh! Then take the brilliant diamonds of Masonic truth, and by carrying out the teachings of our Brotherhood, set them in the pure gold of an honest life. The sands of time are running fast. Oh, the good deeds we might do while these days are going by! Square your life by this beautiful rule: "I expect to pass this way but once, therefore if there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing that I can do to my fellow human beings, let me do it now, let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." Take that in truth and sincerity, and as you go on the journey sing this poet's song:

"I live for those who love me,
For those who know me true;
For the heaven that smiles above me,
And awaits my spirit too.
For the cause that lacks assistance,
For the wrongs that need resistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that I can do."

CHARITY FOLLOWING THE JUBILEE.

A PAMPHLET has just been issued by Sir Henry Burdett, K.C.B. (The Scientific Press, 28-29 Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.) in which he traces "the effects of the Diamond Jubilee on the resources of the voluntary Charities of the country." Sir Henry argues that, despite the pessimists who are fond of writing to the newspapers to decry every movement promoted to help the most important of our charities, the year 1897 has proved to be, not only for the London hospitals but for almost every kind of philanthropic enterprise, a record year. The writer devotes attention to a subject we have often discussed in these pages—in connection with the Charities of the Craft—as to whether there is a maximum yield in the volume of charity; and certainly makes out a good case in support of his contention that special efforts and special subscriptions do not necessarily make themselves felt in future years. As is known to our readers this is not our view, and we can only hope that Sir Henry Burdett's verdict may prove to be correct—and our own wrong—in so far as the Masonic Charities, and the specially grand collection in commemoration of the Centenary of the Boys School, are concerned.

Criterion. On Monday next Mr. H. Cecil Beryl's company will appear here for the first time in the new musical farcical play, entitled "Bilberry of Tilbury," by Silvanus Dauncey and Geo. D. May; the music being by Guy Jones.

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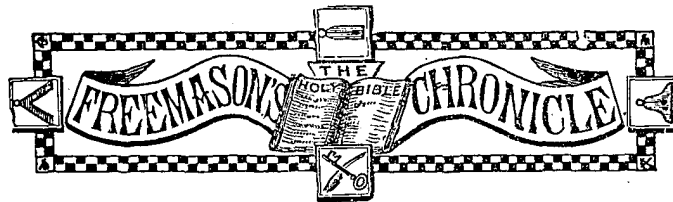
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SATURDAY, 6TH AUGUST 1898.

NEW TEMPLE AT GREENOCK.

IN the presence of a large company the new Masonic Temple in West Stewart Street, erected by Greenock St. John's Lodge, No. 175, was consecrated on Saturday afternoon, 23rd ult., by Bro. Michael Hugh Stewart, M.P., Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West. For many years the Brethren of St. John's Lodge met in the Masonic Hall, Cathcart Street, but between three and four years ago steps were taken for the erection of a Masonic Temple, and the handsome structure in West Street is the result. The building was estimated to cost about £4,000, and with the object of raising funds a three days' bazaar was held in October 1896. About £2,000 was raised by the bazaar, and this was supplemented by handsome subscriptions from Masonic Brethren in the district, including £400 from Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart, Bart. The foundation stone was laid in February 1897, by Bro. James Reid W.M., and was followed by a banquet in the Town Hall.

The building stands at the junction of West Stewart Street and Argyle Street, and with its tower and domical roof is a

notable addition to the architecture of the town. It is three storeys in height, constructed of red sandstone brought from Wemyss Bay, and contains a hall measuring 45 feet by 42 feet, Lodge room, and rooms for Committee, Officials, preparation of candidates, and Tyler. The architects are Messrs. Boston, Menzies and Boston, Greenock and Alexandria, and the work throughout has been executed by local contractors.

The Lodge was opened at four o'clock, and a reception of delegates from sister Lodges and from Provincial Grand Lodge followed. After prayer and praise, the consecration elements—corn, wine, and oil—were sprinkled on the Lodge room. The ceremony was followed by a harmony meeting, at which a number of Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to.

GREAT TRUTHS PLAINLY TOLD.

By S. T. Rowe Grand Orator Grand Lodge of Arkansas, in "Voice of Masonry."

FREEMASONRY is a moral institution, established by virtuous men, with the praiseworthy design of recalling to our remembrance the most sublime truths, in the midst of innocent and social pleasures, founded on Liberality, Brotherly Love, and Charity." It is also said of Masonry that "it is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols." But truth is its centre, a study of which leads Masons to a correct knowledge of the Great Architect of the Universe, and the moral laws which He has ordained for their government. Independent of God, there is no knowledge, no wisdom and no truth; in Him they ultimate and without Him they cannot exist. It is impossible for man to discover a truth which has not always existed, therefore, we say the truths of Masonry are co-essential, co-eval and co-eternal with the Supreme Ruler of the Universe. The principles of Freemasonry have survived the fall of man, the destruction of the flood, and the confusion of language; yea, the idolatry, the ignorance, the superstitions, the intolerance, the bigotry, the malice, the inquisition, the prisons, the wars, the fires, the famines, the diseases, the bellowing hurricanes, the rushing cyclones, the thundering volcanoes, the jarring earthquakes, the heat and the cold of the world. Indeed, they have witnessed the rise and fall of empires, and the decay of republics; breathed in the Garden of Eden, and brushed the dew from the heaven-born flowers; rejoiced at the cradle of new-born nations, and wept over the graves of sleeping heroes; rode triumphant on the waters of the mighty flood, and helmeted the everlasting mountains; spanned the mighty oceans, and planted the banner of Masonry in every clime and nation under the sun. Masonry has tamed the savages, helped to civilise nations, established law and order, upheld personal liberty and human rights, patronised the liberal arts and sciences, disseminated knowledge and wisdom, proclaimed the universal brotherhood of man, and the great central truth, one eternal and immutable Grand Master of Heaven and Earth, to whom every Mason owes his unswerving and undying allegiance. Like all truths, the principles of Masonry are founded on the everlasting granite rock, and neither kings, princes, potentates, devils, or imps of hell, seraphim or cherubim of Heaven can mar or shake them. If God, in His infinite wisdom, saw fit to sweep from the face of the earth every human being, and with the touch of His omnipotent finger blot out the earth, sun, moon, stars, planets and worlds, still the principles of Masonry would survive.

The study of Masonry leads man to the correct knowledge of God, the correct knowledge of God leads to the true worship of Him, and the true worship of Him places man in harmony with all that is true and good, enlarging his powers for usefulness in every avocation, station, position or condition in life, thereby fitting him for citizenship, in whom we find a true neighbour, a generous friend, and a clear cut and well defined power of "circumscribing his desires and keeping his passions in due bounds."

Every emblem, principle and tenet of Masonry has been baptised with truth, robed in the purest garments, freed of errors and crowned with the most beautiful wreath of undying wisdom. This is true to him only, who, by industry, diligence and perseverance will have it so. He who is satisfied with a knowledge of esoteric Masonry alone knows but little of the many sublime truths contained within her sacred precincts, which stand in the pathway of industry and diligence, weeping to be taken in, that they may not only adorn and beautify, but become "as living stones for that spiritual building—that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens." We touch not an emblem, or a principle, or a tenet in Masonry, but that it vibrates to God. Since the fall of man the world has been reeling, rocking and swaying under two dynamic forces. All the good is attributable to the one, and all the evil to the other. An incessant and an irresponsible conflict is raging within each individual between good and evil, right and wrong, truth and error, Heaven and hell, God and the

devil. The seething, writhing, frothing, howling and hissing forces of hell are continually hurling their horrid lances, wrought in the infernal forges, and steeped in the cesspools of vice and crime, like thunderbolts against every citadel of truth in the human soul, but the great truths of Masonry, heeded, constitute a security within, and an impregnable fortress surrounding the human soul, against which the weapons of evil fall, broken and shattered, at our feet, and are as harmless as the atoms which dance in the sunbeams and nestle against our window panes. Masonry is a great highway, leading from wrong to right, from error to truth, from evil to good, and from earth to Heaven. It is the champion of wisdom, strength, beauty, virtue and purity, and the eternal enemy of ignorance, weakness, ugliness, libertinism, vice and corruption. "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding, for the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies; and all the things that thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her." "The fear (love) of the Lord is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." The Mason has God's own material with which to construct his spiritual building; material evolved from his own omnific mind, washed and made pure in the water of the river of life, and furnished by the exquisite touch of the seraphic hosts of Heaven. Why, then, should a Mason use this heaven-born material for any other than grand and glorious purposes? If he is true to the teachings of the Order and true to himself, his whole being is dominated and ruled by the Grand Master of all worlds, and wherever you find him, at all times and under all circumstances, he is a valiant soldier in the front ranks, battling for home, for family, for good society, for education, for all the noble and useful institutions, for law and order, for human rights and good government. We are told that "the foundations of King Solomon's temple were laid at a profound depth, and consisted of stones of immense size and great durability. They were closely mortised into the rock, so as to form a secure basis for the substantial erection of the sacred edifice." So it is with the true Mason; he reaches the almost unfathomable depths of his own soul, and here he places the living stones of Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth, Fortitude, Prudence, Temperance and Justice, whose exact weight God alone knows, and by them his soul is mortised into that of the great God of the Universe, and upon this foundation he builds for time and eternity, for God and Heaven.

Masonry has always taught that there is but one God, who is omnific, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient; without beginning or ending of days, from everlasting unto everlasting, eternal and immutable. It has maintained this great truth with undying fidelity and unequal courage through all the dark ages, vice, ignorance and superstition of the world. We of this day are unable to fully realise the great struggle Masonry had in order to successfully uphold and transmit this great truth. The world was flooded with gods and goddesses innumerable—so much so, until men and whole nations had lost the true God. Fanaticism, intolerance, ignorance and superstition rolled back and forth over the world, mounted by imps of the infernal regions, under whose merciless sway millions succumbed, and the world was made red with the blood of the innocent. In order to appease the wrath or gain the love of the gods made of wood, stone, iron, brass, silver and gold, or of some uncouth, unclean or slimy monster, which could neither love nor hate, the most heart-rending, diabolical and fiendish crimes were committed. Masonry, by the help of that One to whom she clung, came forth triumphant, with her robes unspotted by crime, or unstained by the blood of the innocent.

Nature has always taught the true worship of God; that He is a spirit, and as such must be worshipped in spirit. While the human body is the temple in which the real and only man dwells, it is the imperative duty of all to shield and protect it from intemperance, corruption and the vices of the world; yet God does not hang the destinies of the soul upon the outward appearances of the body, but He goes to the centre of the soul and weighs each motive from the years of accountability until the temple shall have fallen, and from these the true history of life is written. It was the true spirit of worship which moved God to accept the offering of Abel, while the spurious or untrue spirit caused Him to reject that of Cain; yet, to all appearances, from a human standpoint, Cain may have made greater preparations for his offering than Abel. Henceforth, two distinct lines of worship are traceable in the history of the world. The spirit manifested by Abel has, at all times, remained with the good and the true, and has been and is the defender of truth, right, law and order, civilisation, progression, virtue, knowledge, wisdom, and all that is good, while that manifested by Cain has been and is the leader of error, of wrong, of lawlessness, of stagnation, of vice and crime, of ignorance and superstition, of idolatry, and of all that is evil. The former, Masonry has always espoused with unsuppressed devotedness, and the Mason knows that formalities are foolishness and an abomination in the sight of the Lord; that

"whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased, and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." Masonry has always taught the universal brotherhood of man. Saving themselves, the Greeks believed all other men were barbarians. The Romans were slow to accord protection to any but Romans, and Israel, the blessed of the Lord, believed that the life of one Israelite was worth more in the sight of the Lord than a whole nation of Gentiles.

The great truth, "No man liveth unto himself," seems to have been misinterpreted, or was entirely unknown to them. Segregated, haughty and intolerant, the nations of the world held each other at arm's length, as if they had been made by a distinct Creator and the world had been made for them alone. But Masonry recognised but one Creator, and one Master of all men to whom every man owes his individual allegiance, and each one may, if he chooses, partake of His infinite knowledge, wisdom, goodness, mercy and love. Masonry has ever taught harmony with God. To this end she enjoins upon her devotees the study of the seven arts and sciences, grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy, and last, but not least, the Holy Bible, which is the "rule and guide of our faith and practice."

[To be continued.]

WOOLGATHERING.

ABSENT-MINDEDNESS, and temporary absorption from passing events, seem to be diseases to which clever men are especially liable, the Italian poet and author of "Purgatory and Paradise" being no exception to the rule. According to Isaac D'Israeli:—"Poggius relates of Dante that he indulged his meditations more strongly than any man he knew; whenever he read he was only alive to what was passing in his mind; to all human concerns he was as if they had not been. Dante went one day to a great public procession; he entered the shop of a bookseller to be a spectator of the passing show. He found a book which greatly interested him; he devoured it in silence, and plunged into an abyss of thought. On his return he declared that he had neither seen nor heard the slightest occurrence of the public exhibition which passed before him."

A Forgetful Host.—Samuel Rogers used to tell a comical story about the abstractedness of Topham Beauclerk, Johnson's confrère. One day he had some friends coming to dinner, and, just before their arrival, he went up stairs to change his dress. Forgetting what he was about, he pulled off his clothes and went to bed. A servant, who came to tell him that his guests were waiting for him, found him asleep.

The Height of Philanthropy.—George Dyer, author of the "History of Cambridge," and also of some very beautiful hymns which are to be found in his "Poetics," was a very absent-minded man. According to Sir John Bowring, he was once seen in Fleet Street without his stockings, and he took off his inexpressibles to give them to a poor man who was wretchedly clad.

They Forgot they were Married.—It is difficult to imagine anyone, and more especially an actor, making a mistake in connection with his marriage; yet this occurred in the case of John Kemble, the tragedian. After the marriage ceremony and the dinner were over, he had to go to the theatre to play, and became so completely absorbed in his thespian duties that he absolutely forgot about his marriage, and went straight away from the theatre to his old bachelor rooms, where he slept for two hours before being found by his anxious friends.

A parallel case is thus related:—"In 1816, Mr. Frere married Jemima Elizabeth, the Dowager Countess of Erroll. His wife told the story of one of their early meetings. She was then in the zenith of her beauty, and he had been introduced to her at an evening party, and offered to hand her down stairs to procure some refreshments. But he was so much interested in the conversation that, having poured out a glass of negus for her, he drank it himself, and then offered her his arm to go up stairs again, and was only reminded of his mistake by her laughing remonstrance. 'This,' she added, 'convinced me that my new acquaintance was, at any rate, very different from most of the young men around us.' One day Mr. Frere called upon Mr. Murray, in Albemarle Street, and the publisher got so interested in some verses Mr. Frere was reading and commenting on, that he all at once found it was dinner time. He asked Mr. Frere to stay; but the latter startled to find it so late, said he had been married that morning, and had already overstayed the time when he had promised the Countess of Erroll to be ready for their journey into the country."

Lord Dudley.—John William Ward, Member of Parliament for Worcester, was not only very eccentric, but one of the most absent-minded men ever met in society. He was appointed by Mr. Canning as Secretary of State for foreign affairs, and discharged his duties so satisfactorily as to be rewarded with an earldom. He was the first Earl of Dudley, and bore the combined titles of Dudley and Ward.

A Rose by any other Name.—The first Lord Lytton was very absent in company. One day at dinner his lordship pointed to a particular dish, and asked to be helped of it, calling it however by a name very different from that which the dish contained. A gentleman was about to tell him of his mistake. "Never mind," whispered another of the party, "help him to what he asked for, and he will suppose it is what he wanted."

Sir Isaac Newton.—The following incident is recorded of this great mathematician. Doctor Stukeley, the antiquarian, going on one occasion to visit, was shown into the private parlour, where he waited for more than an hour without anyone appearing. Beginning to feel very hungry, and not knowing how long it would be before Sir Isaac made his appearance, the antiquarian sat down and made his dinner off a fowl which the cook had prepared for her master. At last Newton came down. He was much surprised on seeing the fowl half-eaten, and, after a moment's reflection, exclaimed, "I declare Stukeley, I've dined to-day without knowing it!" Another story is told of Sir Isaac, which, although I would recommend it to be taken cum grano, is nevertheless very humorous. The philosopher was so devoted to his studies that he prosecuted them even at the sacrifice of his meals. A faithful servant who knew his failing in this respect, had urged upon him the necessity of taking them with regularity. Accordingly she one day

supplied him with a saucepan and an egg, so that he might get a slight repast without interruption, but was horrified, when, upon entering Sir Isaac's study some time afterwards, she saw the distinguished philosopher gravely contemplating the raw egg in his hand, while his watch was being boiled in the saucepan.

To be continued.

"The Book of Rarities," by Edward Roberts, P.M.

TOURS IN IRELAND.

AHAPPY sign of the times is the increasing popularity of Ireland as a holiday resort, writes the compiler of an illustrated official guide to Greenore, Carlingford Lough, the Mourne Mountains, and the Boyne Valley, which has recently been published by Messrs. Ward, Lock and Co., under the authority of the London and North Western Railway Company, and the Great Northern Railway Company of Ireland. The work is profusely illustrated, and has maps of the district which must prove of great service to the tourist. From the particulars and views given we can imagine the spot most suitable for the enjoyment of a pleasant holiday, while the well known splendid rail and boat services of the London and North Western Company make the journey a comparatively easy matter. To those who have not yet visited this part of the Emerald Isle the book may safely be recommended as supplying some most interesting as well as instructive particulars. The London and North Western Company have likewise issued a third edition of a more modest little pamphlet, descriptive of the attractions to the Tourist in the same district, which is also illustrated with some pleasing views, and may be had, we believe, on application to the Superintendent of the Line, at Euston Station.

COOK'S TOURS.

THE third edition of Messrs. T. Cook and Son's "Programme of summer tours to various places of interest at home and abroad" should be consulted by those who desire information as to routes, fares and other particulars of holiday trips. The variety and extent of Messrs. Cook's business is too well known to require notice at our hands, and if a perusal of their programme does not provide what is desired we know that a visit or a letter to one of their offices will be almost sure to supply the deficiency.

The Great Western Railway Company announce that in addition to the usual weekly excursions to the West of England, Weymouth, Channel Islands, North and South Wales, Isle of Man, &c., excursions will be run every Friday and Saturday to Chippenham, Bath and Bristol, from Paddington Station, allowing a week, a fortnight, &c.

CASELL'S MAGAZINE for August presents the usual variety of attractive articles and provides some most interesting reading. "Colonel Rose's tunnel out of Libby" describes an "escape of escapes" which appears to be almost impossible of belief, but then we know men in desperate positions have often adopted most desperate remedies. "A little less than king" introduces us to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and his official residences, Mary Spencer Warren supplying many details of interest to the general reader, and some fine photographs of different parts of Dublin Castle. "The mummy of Thompson-Pratt" and "One hour in Cuba" are the next items, and these are followed by a further instalment of the Cornish story "Trevanion." "On the Lagoon" introduces a new sphere of operations for the visitor to Venice; and is followed by a third article in the series "In the chains of crime." "Ministers in their dens" is well illustrated with views of the different rooms at the House of Commons and chief government departments occupied by the Cabinet Ministers, while other items in the number are "The Earl and the Robins," "Sand Shows" "In the arena," "The sun dried king," &c. Altogether a fine addition to this well known serial publication.

By the kindness of Bro. C. A. Hamann, Industry Lodge, No. 361, who is traffic manager to the firm of Messrs. S. Fitton and Son, Hovis Flour Mills, Macclesfield, we have received a "Hovis loaf," baked from their celebrated flour. Others have recommended it on account of its nutritive and digestive qualities; it only remains for us to state that for quality it far excels any bread of its kind which we have been privileged to taste.

The Theatres, &c.

Criterion.—On Monday, Bilberry of Tilbury.
Vaudeville.—8:20, The French Maid. (Last day.)
Daly's.—8:15, A Greek Slave. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.
Savoy.—8:20, The Gondoliers. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.
Prince of Wales's.—8:15, La Poupée. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.
Gaiety.—8:15, A Runaway Girl. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
Strand.—8:15, No credit. 9, What happened to Jones. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
Comedy.—8, Constancy. 8:30, Lord and Lady Algy. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
Terry's.—8, Meadow Sweet. 8:45, Our Boys. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
Shaftesbury.—8, The Belle of New York. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
Grand.—Next week, The White Blackbird.
Queen's Opera House, Crouch End.—Next Week, The New Mephisto.
Alexandra.—Next week, The New East Lynne.
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 Biography, &c.
London Pavilion.—8, Variety Entertainment.
Royal.—7:30, Variety Company. Saturday, 2:30 also.
Egyptian Hall.—3 and 8, Mr. J. N. Maskelyne's entertainment.
Crystal Palace.—Varied attractions daily.
Alexandra Palace.—Open Daily. Constant Amusements. Balloon Ascents. Fireworks, &c., &c.
Royal Aquarium.—Open 10 a.m., close 11:30 p.m. Constant Amusement.

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

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

Monday.	
1789 Ubique, Criterion	679 St. David, Aberdare
40 Derwent, Hastings	730 Ellesmere, Chorley
68 Royal Clarence, Bristol	731 Arboretum, Derby
75 Love and Honour, Falmouth	755 St. Tudno, Llandudno
105 Fortitude, Plymouth	851 Worthing Friendship, Worthing
106 Sun, Fxmouth	906 Royal Albert Edward, Bath
151 Albany, Newport, I. of Wight	1018 Shakespeare, Bradford
189 Sincerity, East Stonehouse	1091 Erme, Ivybridge
237 Indefatigable, Swansea	1094 Temple, Liverpool
240 St. Hilda, South Shields	1140 Ashton, Heaton Moor
297 Whitham, Lincoln	1181 De la Pole, Seaton
303 Benevolent, Teignmouth	1209 Lewises, Ramsgate
330 One and All, Bodmin	1248 Denison, Scarborough
589 Druid Love & Lib., Redruth	1331 Aldershot Camp, Aldershot
643 Royal, Fife	1342 Walker, Newcastle-on-Tyne
797 Hauley, Dartmouth	1356 Toxteth, Liverpool
827 St. John, Dewsbury	1398 Baldwin, Dalton-in-Furness
884 Derwent, Wirksworth	1400 Curwen, Workington
893 Meridan, Millbrook	1547 Liverpool, Liverpool
1221 Defence, Leeds	1643 Perseverance, Hebburn-on-Tyne
1302 De Warren, Halifax	1855 St. Maurice, Plympton
1408 Stamford & Warrington, St'y'b'ge	1879 Lord Warkworth, Amble
1436 Castle, Sandgate	1932 Whitworth, Spennymoor
1449 Royal Military, Canterbury	1958 St. George, Portsea
1611 Eboracum, York	2156 Arthur Sullivan, Manchester
1618 Handyside, Saltburn-by-Sea	2294 Wavertree, Wavertree
1748 Castlemartin, Pembroke	2389 Avondale, Middlewich
1792 Tudor, Harborne	2423 St. Mark, Connah Quay
1885 Torridge, Great Torrington	2450 Loxfield, Uckfield
1948 Hardman, Rawtenstall	2483 Hadrian, Wexham
1952 High Peak, Chapel-en-le-Frith	2504 Earl of Warwick, Buckh'rst Hill
1966 Fidelity & Sincerity, Wellington	
2373 Hardwick, Chesterfield	
2376 Carnarvon, Leyland	
2584 Queen Victoria, Manchester	
Tuesday.	
131 Fortitude, Truro	
184 United Chatham, New Bro'pton	
241 Merchant, Liverpool	
272 Harmony, Boston	
319 New Forest, Lymington	
371 Perseverance, Maryport	
473 Faithful, Birmingham	
496 Peace & Harmony, St. Austell	
603 Zetland, Cleckheaton	
696 St. Bartholomew, Wednesbury	
764 H'rbour of Refuge, W. H'tlep'l.	
829 Sydney, Sidcup	
877 Royal Alfred, Jersey	
897 S. Helen of Loyalty, St. Helen's	
967 Three Grand Principles, Penryn	
1021 Hartington, Barrow-in-Furness	
1073 Greta, Keswick	
1220 Solway, Aspatria	
1250 Gilbert Greenall, Warrington	
1267 Kenlis, Egremont	
1402 Jordan, Torquay	
1476 Blackpool, Blackpool	
1528 Fort, Newquay	
1545 Baildon, Baildon	
1713 Wilbraham, Walton-on-the-Hill	
1837 Lullingstone, Willmington	
1847 Ebrington, Stonehouse	
2099 Ethelbert, Herne Bay	
2134 Wilberforce, Hull	
2222 Frederick West, East Molesey	
Wednesday.	
Committee Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, at 4.	
1260 John Hervey, Freemasons'-hall	
2581 Empress, Earl's Court	
84 Doyle of Friendship, Guernsey	
187 Rl. Sussex Hospitality, Bristol	
274 Tranquility, Newchurch	
277 Friendship, Oldham	
281 Fortitude, Lancaster	
288 Harmony, Todmorden	
323 Concord, Stockport	
654 Peveril of the Peak, New Mills	
661 Fawcett, Seaham Harbour	
666 Benevolence, Dartmoor	
Thursday.	
1227 Upton, Great Eastern Hotel	
130 Royal Gloucester, South'mpton	
333 Royal Preston, Preston	
369 Limestone Rock, Clitheroe	
381 Harmony & Industry, Darwen	
437 Science, Wincanton	
816 Royd, Littleboro'	
973 Royal Somerset, Frome	
991 Tyne, Wallsend	
1099 Huyshe, Stoke, Devonport	
1145 Equality, Accrington	
1182 Duke of Edinburgh, Liverpool	
1213 Bridgewater, Eccles	
1273 St. Michael, Sittingbourne	
1587 Chorlton, Chorlton-cum-Hardy	
1416 Falcon, Thirsk	
1583 Corbet, Towyn	
1697 Hospitality, Waverfoot	
1750 Coleridge, Clevedon	
1992 Tennant, Cardiff	
2234 Onslow, Guildford	
2262 Dagmar, Wraybury	
2278 Kingswood, Broxbourne	
2285 Eden, Workington	
2343 Sir William Harpur, Bedford	
2420 Fd. de Rothschild, Waddesdon	
2449 Duke of York, Manchester	
Friday.	
81 Doric, Woodbridge	
170 All Souls, Weymouth	
458 Aire and Calder, Goole	
526 Honour, Wolverhampton	
1001 Harrowgate & Claro, Harr'wg'te	
1087 Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard	
1102 Mirfield, Mirfield	
1121 Wear Valley, Bishop Auckland	
1428 United Service, Landport	
1605 De la Pole, Hull	
1676 St. Nicholas, Newcastle-on-Tyne	
1983 Martyn, Southwold	
2554 Manchester, Manchester	
2558 Furnival, Sheffield	
Saturday.	
1685 Guelph, Leyton	
869 Gresham, Chestnut Park	
1423 Era, Twickenham	
1637 Unity, Harrow Station	
1755 Eldon, Portishead	

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

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CRAFT : PROVINCIAL.

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ST. JOHN LODGE, No. 1343.

THE Right Honourable the Earl of Warwick and Brooke Provincial Grand Master of Essex honoured this Lodge with his presence at the meeting at the Masonic Hall, Grays, on Wednesday of last week. The visit was paid as a special compliment to Bro. Joseph Weymouth, the highly respected W.M., as his Lordship was unable to be present at that Brother's installation in May, as he had intended.

Bro. Weymouth presided, assisted by Bros. G. H. Silverwood S.W., Chas. Asplin J.W., Richard Clowes P.G.Std.Bearer, A. Lucking P.G.P. England Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, F. S. Guy P.P.J.G.W., W. B. Heagerty P.P.G.R., C. Westwood P.P.G.D.C., M. T. Tuck P.P.G.S.B., F. W. Pelling P.M. the newly appointed Junior Provincial Grand Deacon, N. C. Borradaile P.M. P.P.G.S.B. Secretary. There were also present: Bros. P. Atkins S.D., C. B. Chattey I.G., F. G. Guengault 1866, Joseph Burkey 898, W. J. Barnes W.M. 2501, J. King 1604, S. G. Thorne 1425, Edward Mason 77, J. Blyth 77, W. Brown, H. H. Brough, D. Pean, A. C. James, G. H. Jones, H. Tuson, Geo. Knight, F. G. Bird, H. W. P. Hunt.

His Lordship was saluted in the Master Mason's degree when entering the Lodge and briefly returned thanks for the cordial welcome extended to him. The W.M. handed to his Lordship the gavel, but he requested Bro. Weymouth to retain the chair, and proceed with the work.

The Lodge was opened in due form with prayer, and the opening hymn was sung. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken and proved in favour of Messrs. Sydney Herbert Snell, Edwin Thomas, William White, and John William Johnson. These four gentlemen being in attendance were admitted and regularly initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry. Bros. T. F. Ashdown, A. Woollings and P. W. Wilson were entrusted as Craftsmen, and were subsequently raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. Both the ceremonies were admirably performed by the W.M., who was congratulated by the Provincial Grand Master upon his rendering of the ritual.

Upon rising for the first time Bro. Weymouth proposed that a hearty vote of thanks should be accorded to the Earl of Warwick, for honouring the Lodge by his presence. His Lordship had now fulfilled a promise made to him about three years ago, that he would visit the Lodge when he, Brother Weymouth, was Master. He trusted that the Great Architect would spare his Lordship for many years to reign over them, as under his beneficent rule the Craft had made immense progress, and the Province of Essex was always to the front in matters connected with Freemasonry.

Bro. Spencer Guy seconded the proposition, which was supported by Bro. Borradaile, and carried with acclamation.

The Earl of Warwick, in reply, said it gave him great pleasure to be able to attend the meeting of the Lodge, and he thanked the Brethren for their very kind and gratifying reception. He had witnessed with much attention and interest the working of the ceremonies, and he could say without any flattery that they were most impressively carried out. He looked back to the time when he was raised, and recalled the feelings that the ritual made upon him. He never regretted being made a Mason, and certainly felt a much better man by the influence of its teaching. With regard to the Province of Essex, he was greatly gratified to see its progress. They all worked well together, and he considered that he ruled one of the most energetic and hard working Provinces in the Kingdom. In the cause of Charity, Essex was never backward, and at the recent Festival of the Boys School the Grand Master congratulated him upon the great efforts made by the Province towards that marvellous total of £134,000. Although an agricultural county, and therefore not endowed with too much riches, the Brethren had come forward with eighty-two Stewards, who collected nearly £4,000. He had met with nothing but kindness, cordiality and loyal support since his appointment as Provincial Grand Master, and he was sure that whoever ruled over the Province would always meet with the same reception. He was glad of the privilege afforded him by Bro. Weymouth of being present, and hoped on some future occasion to be with them again.

The W.M. having received the hearty good wishes of the visitors the closing hymn was sung, and the Lodge adjourned till September.

The banquet was afterwards served in the large hall, at which the Earl of Warwick was present, and a goodly number of Brethren. Bro. Weymouth presided, and in order to save time the customary Loyal and Grand Lodge toasts were given during the progress of the repast.

Bro. Richard Clowes responded for the Grand Officers, and bore testimony to the admirable work of the W.M.; and the more than excellent work of Bro. P. Atkins S.D., and Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction. He considered that while the Brethren followed their lead they would always make progress in the Craft.

The W.M., in eulogistic terms, proposed the health of the Provincial Grand Master, whose name he said was a household word among the Freemasons of Essex.

Lord Warwick, who was received with long continued applause, in reply said he had little to add to his remarks in the Lodge. He had very great pleasure in again revisiting the Lodge of St. John, under whose auspices the Provincial Grand Lodge was held in 1895, when they tendered them such a magnificent reception. He found the work well done, and carried out with decency and propriety. He would like to address a few words to the Initiates of the evening. He was quite sure they had done a good act in becoming Freemasons. After the Bible, the tenets of Freemasonry were calculated to conduct a man safely through this life, and he considered that if the clergy were more influenced by Masonic doctrines they would do more to promote the practice of Christianity. He urged upon them all to remember that "Once Masons—always Masons," and never to forget that the great cause of Charity should ever be foremost in their thoughts. He found when abroad that Masonry carried him a long way, and he always met with great cordiality. In conclusion he might say that so long as the work of the Lodge was conducted as it had been that day, so long would the Lodge of St. John rank among the foremost in the Province.

In our report of the Stanley Show we said that one of the most improved machines in the Show was the "Beeston," from the designs of Mr. Harry Parsons, the works manager of the Beeston Cycle Co., Coventry. That was our impression from a careful examination of the machines as they stood on the stall. Since then we have had the opportunity of a test of some seven or eight weeks of a "Beeston" light roadster Model D., but fitted with brake and mudguards, bringing the weight with roadster tyres up to twenty-seven pounds. This bicycle is full of special constructional features, each one of which we have found to answer well. . . . Speaking all round, we are extremely pleased with the running of the "Beeston."—"Cyclist."

Bro. F. W. Pelling Prov. J.G.D. responded for the Provincial Grand Officers, and said he regarded the distinction conferred upon him as an honour bestowed upon the Lodge. He concluded by proposing the health of the Worshipful Master, whose work had been the subject of so much commendation.

Bro. Weymouth modestly acknowledged the compliment, saying he was much honoured by the Earl of Warwick visiting the Lodge during his year of office.

Bro. Dr. Snell replied to the toast of the initiates, with a humorous little speech which was much appreciated. He said when he came out of the Lodge he thought the worst of his ordeals had been passed, and had no idea he was to be tortured into making a speech. With regard to Freemasonry, he found that popular notions were quite at variance with fact, and certainly the initiation was far less terrible than he expected. He found there was a distinct religious element quite apart from the social phase, and he was sure that neither he nor his fellow initiates would ever be forgetful of the lessons inculcated upon them that day.

Bros. Barnes, Mason, King, Thorne and Blythe responded for the visitors, and the Officers of the Lodge having been similarly complimented, the proceedings were brought to a pleasant conclusion with the Tyler's toast.

An enjoyable musical programme was provided by the W.M., the artistes being Madame Ellaline Grantley and Bros. J. Higgins, H. E. Porter, M. Borradaile, and Arthur Groves.

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ROLL CALL LODGE, No. 2523.

THE fifth annual installation was held at the Oddfellows Hall, Hounslow, on Thursday, 14th ult., and proved more successful than any similar gathering that has been held under these auspices.

The Worshipful Master Bro. H. T. Cooper presided over a large gathering, and discharged the various functions appertaining to initiation and passing, with other routine business.

At five o'clock the important event of the day took place, when Bro. W. Langdon, of Brentford, was formally installed as Worshipful Master for the year, the interesting ceremony being performed by Bro. C. Robinson P.M. Provincial Grand Registrar of Surrey.

The usual banquet followed, at which the newly-installed Worshipful Master presided, supported by about seventy Brethren. A sumptuous repast was provided by Bro. Duffy, to whom the greatest credit was given for the excellence of his provision and arrangements.

The usual Loyal and Craft toasts were subsequently proposed and honoured, and a capital programme of music was interpreted.

In the course of the proceedings a handsome jewel was presented to Bro. H. T. Cooper, by the Worshipful Master, who warmly congratulated his retiring colleague on the striking success that had attended his year of office, and upon the large number of new Brethren that had been initiated. The jewel was inscribed as follows:—

Presented to
Worshipful Brother H. T. COOPER,
by the Roll Call Lodge, as a mark of their respect and esteem, and of
appreciation of his services as Worshipful Master.

14th July 1898.

A jewel was also presented to Bro. John Price, similarly inscribed, for his services during the past three years as Treasurer of the Lodge.

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METROPOLITAN.

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EARL OF CARNARVON LODGE, No. 1642.

THE annual summer trip and banquet of this well-known Lodge took place on Thursday, 21st ult., the party travelling by saloon train from Liverpool Street terminus to Harwich at 10.20 a.m. Luncheon was served in admirable style at the Great Eastern Company's Hotel, at Harwich, at 1 p.m. After viewing the place the company left by steamboat at 3.15 p.m. for Ipswich. The return journey was made by express train, leaving Ipswich at 4.45 p.m. Tea, coffee, fruit and ices were served in the saloon en route. The banquet, which was in every way worthy of the Lodge and the hotel management, was served in the Hamilton Room of the Great Eastern Railway Co's. Terminus Hotel. The whole of the arrangements for the day were most perfectly carried out by the manager of the Hotel, Bro. Amendt and the Officers of the Great Eastern Railway Company, and in addition the weather was perfect. The usual Masonic toasts followed the banquet, and the Worshipful Master Bro. J. French was congratulated by all present on the success of the outing.

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INSTRUCTION.

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ST. MICHAEL LODGE, No. 211.

AT the Richmond Hotel, Shepherd's Bush, on the 25th ult., Bros. Ridgway W.M., Turner S.W., Ridley J.W., R. H. Williams P.M. Preceptor, C. Barter Sec., J. Wynman S.D., Prior I.G.

By desire of the W.M., Bro. Williams worked the first and second sections of the lecture. The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of passing, with Brother Barter acting as the candidate, and went through the work in a manner which called forth the approval of the Brethren.

The Secretary brought forward the appeal of a Brother in distress, and proposed that the sum of half a guinea be given him from the Lodge funds, which was seconded by the Preceptor, and unanimously agreed to.

Bro. Turner will preside on Monday next.

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ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

ON Thursday, 21st ult., at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, Bros. C. Jacob W.M., C. Humble S.W., E. H. Wilcox J.W., F. J. Larkman Treas., J. H. Cumming Sec., R. H. Williams P.M. 865 P.P.J.G.D. Middlesex Preceptor, H. R. Worth S.D., R. W. Robinson J.D., S. J. Parker I.G., F. M. Ridley Steward, S. W. Keene, W. Langdon, F. J. Cross, A. E. Furness, and others.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Cross acting as candidate.

The Lodge was called off and on. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of the esteemed Preceptor, who opened the Lodge in the 2nd degree, and Bro. Ridley answered the questions leading to the 3rd. The Lodge was advanced and the ceremony of raising rehearsed. The proficient manner in which the ritual was rendered was afterwards commented upon by the Brethren present, who thanked the Preceptor for his great kindness in so often coming amongst them at great personal inconvenience. The Lodge was then resumed to the first degree, and Bro. Humble unanimously elected to fill the chair at the next meeting.

ON Thursday, 28th ult., Bros. E. H. Wilcox W.M., H. R. Worth S.W., S. J. Parker J.W., J. H. Cumming Sec., R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.J.G.D. Middlesex Preceptor, Justin Allen S.D., J. W. Blaydes J.D., F. J. Larkman I.G., S. W. Keene P.M., C. Humble, F. J. Cross, F. M. Ridley, and others.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Keene acting as candidate. The W.M. gave the charge in an excellent manner, after which the Lodge was called off and on. Bro. Humble having answered the questions leading to the second degree the Lodge was opened up and the ceremony of passing rehearsed. Lodge was then resumed to the first degree and Bro. H. R. Worth was elected to occupy the W.M.'s chair at the next meeting.

We are glad to notice the great attention some of the Brethren who have only been initiated about eighteen months or two years pay to the excellent teaching of the esteemed Preceptor, and the way they are able to perform the duties of any of the offices when called upon.

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CHISWICK LODGE, No. 2012.

ON Saturday, 29th ult., at the Windsor Castle Hotel, Hammersmith, Bros. L. J. Powell W.M., H. J. Cousens S.W., E. Wilkins J.W., F. Craggs Treas., R. Josey Sec., J. H. Cumming S.D., P. Cronin J.D., W. Handover I.G., Arthur Williams P.M. Preceptor, E. Fox P.M., Secker, and others.

Lodge was advanced to the second degree, and Bro. Secker answered the usual questions and was entrusted. The ceremony of raising was then rehearsed. The W.M. called on Bro. Arthur Williams for the traditional history, which it is superfluous to say was given by that worthy Preceptor in a gratifying manner.

This Lodge of Instruction meets every Saturday throughout the year, at 7.30 p.m., and is usually well attended, especially by Past Masters living in the neighbourhood.

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ROYAL VICTORIAN JUBILEE LODGE, No. 2184.

ON Wednesday afternoon, 27th, at 3 o'clock, at the Dover Castle Hotel, Westminster Bridge Road, Bros. A. Darch Preceptor as W.M., A. B. Collins S.W., C. Riley J.W., C. Wetton acting Preceptor, B. Cohen S.D., T. Holland J.D., Conisbee I.G., D. White, J. Wynman.

The Lodge was advanced to the second degree, and Bro. White having offered himself as candidate for the third was entrusted, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. Bro. Darch kindly vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Holland, who rehearsed the ceremony of passing, Bro. Wetton being the candidate.

Bros. T. Conisbee and E. Vaigt (the Manager of the Hotel) were elected members, and Bro. Wetton chosen to occupy the chair on Wednesday next.

PICNIC TO CHESTER.

A COMBINED picnic to Chester, promoted by two Lodges, Industry, No. 361, and Clarendon, No. 1166, took place on Thursday, 21st ult. The party, numbering about sixty, left Hyde Station at the early hour of 8 a.m., en route for the Central Station, Manchester, whence they proceeded to the quaint old Cestrian capital, arriving there about 11 a.m. Though the distance was not very great, waggonettes had been provided, by which they were driven to the Queen Hotel, where a very excellent lunch was partaken of. After this the members of the two Lodges, with their lady and gentleman friends had another drive to a point on the River Dee where a steam launch awaited to convey them to Eccleston Ferry and the Iron Bridge, pleasant landing places about half-a-dozen miles up the river.

Upon starting, our eyes took a hurried sweep of fair Deva's Vale, where nestled the quiet homesteads and farmhouses which occasionally dotted this lovely Cheshire pasture land, then with panoramic quickness changed to villas embanking the river, succeeded by overhanging trees, under whose umbrageous foliage the occupants of several boats were resting their oars, and, if one can judge by appearances, endeavouring by leaps and bounds to become prospective benedicks.

The day was a lovely one, and as the barge glided along we were reminded of those lines written by Thomas Noel (author of "A Pauper's Drive," in which occur the memorable words—"Rattle his bones over the stones, he's only a pauper whom nobody owns,") who sings:

"Still on, still on, as we smoothly glide,
There are charms that woo the eye—
Boughs waving green in the pictured tide,
And the blue reflected sky."

Having reached the Iron Bridge our party debarked, the major portion walking to Eaton Hall, a residence of the Duke of Westminster; some hired boats and rowed on the river, while others enjoyed a lounge on the sloping bank, being cheered with an occasional invitation by the outgoing Teutonic steward to partake of a smoke, or a refreshing glass of that mixture which might be described by the elliptical term "cold without," or by an Irishman as a shorthand way of swallowing "praties," which, by the extreme goodwill of the donors could be partaken of as often as one pleased, or, to speak hibernic—even oftener.

Those who preferred to visit Eaton Hall and grounds had a rare treat. The hall itself is a perfect palace, built with superb gothic grandeur, environed by an extensive range of wooded hill, and a pleasant expanse of lake. It is said that the rent-roll of its noble owner, the third Marquis and first Duke, comparatively unknown except on account of his vast wealth, is considerably in advance of that of the reigning sovereign, being £800,000 per year.

The family name of Westminster is Grosvenor; and this noble family traces its descent in the male line to an illustrious house which flourished in Normandy for a century and a half before the conquest of England, and obtained its surname from having held the high and powerful office in that principality of Le Grosvenor. The founder of the English Grosvenors, Gilbert Le Grosvenor, came over in the time of the Conqueror, being nephew

of Hugh Lupus, Count of Avranches, afterwards Earl of Chester, uncle of the victorious monarch. The first creation in the family was a baronetage, which was granted on the 23rd February 1621-2, to Sir Richard Grosvenor, Knight. The latter had served the office of sheriff for the counties of Chester and Denbigh, was mayor of the city of Chester, and a knight of the shire in 1625.

The seventh baronet—also a Sir Richard—and the twentieth in descent from Gilbert Le Grosvenor, the companion in arms of William the Conqueror, was raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Grosvenor, on the 8th of April 1761; and advanced to the further dignities of Viscount Belgrave and Earl Grosvenor, on the 5th July 1784. His son was the first Marquis of Westminster, who was created on the 8th of September 1831. The Grosvenors have been settled at Eaton, in Cheshire, since the middle of the sixteenth century.

Upon returning to Chester the visitors walked the short distance to the Queen Hotel, and there sat down to a magnificent dinner, for which the greatest possible credit is due to the manager (Bro. H. T. Gould, Merchants Lodge, No. 241, Liverpool). This capacious hotel, which contains suites of rooms for families, and about 100 bedrooms, is situated opposite the general railway station, with which it is connected by a covered way. It has a large and beautifully laid out garden, with terraces and lawn, where, in the early portion of the day, photographs were taken of the party. We were honoured by receiving from Bro. Gould a popular guide to the city, and also a large and handsome souvenir containing many very excellent plates illustrative of that ancient city whose dwellings remind one of the lines attributed to McCann, an Irishman:

"Some raise a front up to the street,
Like old Westminster Abbey;
But thin they think the Lord to cheat,
And build the back part shabby."

During the progress of dinner, Loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and very heartily responded to, the two Worshipful Masters (Bro. Geo. Harry Scott, Industry, No. 361, and Bro. Councillor William T. Haworth, Clarendon, No. 1166), rising simultaneously to introduce that of Her Majesty the Queen.

Bro. Haworth, who afterwards proposed the health of our illustrious Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, referred in feeling terms to his recent accident, saying his auditors must all sympathise with him, and hope that he would speedily recover.

Bro. Samuel N. Brooks P.M. P.P.D.G.D.C., in responding on behalf of the Provincial Officers, said that no Province working under the Constitution had a better Provincial Grand Master than theirs had proved to be, for he was a Brother with whom they often came into contact, and one who had an admirable way of conducting business. Bro. Alderman J. Bailey P.M. 361 Treas. P.P.J.G.D., and G. F. Drinkwater P.M. 1166 P.P.G.Reg. also spoke.

The toast of the Ladies was proposed by Bro. Arthur Walker I.P.M. 361, in an excellent speech, which an American journalist would describe as "too long to report, and too good to condense." Bro. Frank Robinson S.D. 361 responded in characteristic terms.

Bro. Ernest Hampson P.M. 1166 explained the reasons for an amalgamated picnic, and added that the fact of seeing two Worshipful Masters of neighbouring Lodges side by side, and supported by their wives, was one of the finest tributes of Freemasonry. The health of other celebrities had been drunk, but it was only fair to assume that their admiration went out to those two Brethren who occupied the principal positions at the table that day, namely, Bros. Scott and Haworth, who had so ably acquitted themselves in every way.

Bro. Scott, in reply, said he could assure his friends that it gave him the greatest pleasure to be with them, and especially as W.M. So far as regarded the kind words of Bro. Hampson, who had spoken of the amalgamation of the Lodges, and of the deep Masonic feeling which subsisted between the two, he had no hesitation in saying that the Lodges were perfectly combined in their objects and desires. Not only did the members join in the picnics, but in the winter dances likewise. He thought he was in order in saying that they had had a very jolly outing, and all had thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Bro. Haworth, after thanking the proposer of the toast, said if Masonry was ever a matter of importance in Hyde, it was so at the present time, and they all worked together with the greatest unity. He also reverted to the Provincial Officers of both Lodges, saying that there was not a finer set in Cheshire.

Other toasts followed, after which Bro. Scott proposed the health of the manager of the hotel (Bro. Gould). When he and Bro. Wm. McLeod P.M. 1166 (who was present) first saw their host in an endeavour to make preliminary arrangements, he had received them most hospitably, and in true Masonic spirit, and had at once invited their trust in him by stating that if matters were left in his hands he would do his best to make the party happy and comfortable. He had carried out his promise to the very letter, as was proved by the excellent lunch of the morning, and the still more admirable dinner which they had just finished.

Bro. Gould replied, thanking them sincerely for having drunk his health. The little trouble he had exerted on their behalf had been undertaken with the greatest pleasure. He thanked them for the acknowledgment that he had done his best in responding to their requirements, and hoped this would not be the last occasion upon which he might cater for such an estimable company.

Besides those mentioned above, there were present Bros. J. H. Walker S.W., Ralph Wood, R. Stagg, T. Wharam, A. Bardsley, C. A. Hamann, A. Chadwick, W. Chadwick, all of Lodge 361; Bros. A. Moxon S.W., R. Rear J.W., Bridge Hopkinson P.M. Org., J. George, T. Webster, of Lodge 1166; also Bros. Jas. Robinson P.M. 317, R. Ramsbottom 1077, Mrs. and Mr. Marsland, Mr. Fuser, Mrs. and Mr. F. Lindley, Mrs. and Miss Shaw, Mrs. Smith, Miss Lang, and others whose names we did not procure.

Mark Twain says that "all youthful diaries commence by stating the fact that in the morning the writer got up, and end the day by remarking that when it was finished he went to bed." Our representative has recorded the doings of the Hyde picnic party in Chester, and it is only fair therefore for him to state that they arrived safely home at a decent hour, having during their return journey extracted from members and visitors alike the usual songs, recitations, &c., by way of beguiling the tedium of travel.

A MANCHESTER MARRIAGE.

DIogenes upon being asked what advantage he had derived from being a philosopher, replied, "The power of enjoying the society of myself." Evidently this was not the all-pervading sentiment in connection with an

interesting function which took place at St. Stephen's Church, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Manchester, on Wednesday, the 27th ultimo. We refer to the marriage of Miss Caroline Eliza, eldest daughter of Bro. W. J. Melling P.M. and Treasurer of the Ardwick Lodge, No. 2185, P.P.G.S.B.

The ceremony was performed at the hour of 2:30 p.m., by the Rector, Rev. J. B. McGovern, and the bridesmaids were the Misses Beatrice, Bertha, and Hilda Melling, sisters of the bride, together with Miss Minnie Craig, sister of the bridegroom, Mr. Horatio Craig, Chief Engineer on one of the Allan liners.

The wedding party afterwards adjourned to the Ardwick Town Hall, where a sumptuous breakfast had been provided, to which over seventy persons sat down, including the Rector. The caterer was Bro. H. G. Walker S.W. 2185. All the tables were adorned with a profusion of plants and flowers, and also grapes, the former having been kindly given by Bros. Robt. Ackerley and Wm. Goodman P.M., and the latter by Bro. W. Mowbray.

Bro. Melling, supported by his wife, presided, and he did not allow the opportunity to pass without proposing the loyal toast of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. He reverted to her happy reign of sixty-one years, adding that her dominions in every part of the globe and at home had been extended, and that her subjects enjoyed a freedom unknown to their ancestors, and a prosperity unexampled in the history of any nation. He hoped she might long continue to reign over the great empire, undisturbed by the jealousy of other powers; and that the foresight of Her Majesty and the Government would always enable us to steer clear, and guide the good old ship out of troubled waters.

Bro. Melling, in proposing the health of the bride and bridegroom, said that the previous toast which they had responded to was ever warmly received in all parts of the world, but he would venture to say that the one which he was about to submit to them would find a warm corner in the heart of every one sitting round that bright and cheery table. As members of families assembled at the family board, so they had met that day for the purpose of exchanging a kindly greeting, and particularly to offer their congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Craig, on the occasion of their wedding. It was the most auspicious and eventful day in the life of any man or woman, and it was not too much to say that amongst the many institutions established for the purpose of contributing to the happiness of individuals, the marriage state yielded to none, for by its influence the hand and heart were taught their respective duties, the twain being wedded together in a most solemn and sacred manner, to the end that they were thereby adorned with the evergreens of industry, sobriety, and other good attributes. They must, however, not overlook the great fact that they could not have the lily-work without the supporting columns of truth and duty. By combining and practising those great principles, and if united by common wishes, tastes and feelings, success was assured, and one's life could be made happy thereby. All things had a beginning. That same old living present was ever with them, unchanged and unchangeable, and as full of opportunity as ever: they were always making memories, good or bad, and if they could only think that what they had done that day would some time be looked down upon from the high hill-top of memory, they would find the thought a corrective of any present want of good feeling, or intolerance; and increase the graciousness engendered by kindly and unselfish conduct. These went to make up the true civilising force of love, and could be potent factors both of happiness and progress, and give a sunset ripeness to the years that were to come. Woman had passed through a marvellous discipline during the long nights of history, to teach her the virtues of patience, compassion, and love, in order that she might become the teacher of the world, and it was certainly demonstrated by all the laws of science, all the traditions of the world's past, that in the great future, evolution of society must mean the ascent of woman. It was true that man was the Lord of Creation, and that he came into the world with greater pomp than anything that preceded him, but they must not forget that the Giver of all good things, as His last and best gift to man, created woman, adorning her with all the gifts which He could bestow to make her amiable—"heaven in her eye, grace in all her steps, in every gesture dignity and love." A good wife was heaven's best gift to man, and the rarest gem the world held: she was his joy, his inspiration, his very soul, and by her loving hands he was willingly led. Whilst avoiding all false modesty, man was fully alive to his own superiority, it was therefore unnecessary for him to paint the lily or to gild the finest gold, as there was nothing he could say would raise Mr. Craig higher in their estimation than what he already held. He was, however, quite sure that he would be all that a man ought to be, and he should conclude by wishing him and his wife every success in life. "As the ivy winds itself around the knotty stem of the stately oak, and protects it when storms rage through its branches, so may they also cling to each other throughout their lives."

The bridegroom responded, saying that was the first occasion upon which he had been married. That day his wife and he had signed articles, and any time his numerous friends happened to be in Liverpool he would be glad to see them aboard his little ship—Mr. Craig's nautical way of describing his home.

In response to the toast of his health, which was very enthusiastically drunk, the Rev. J. B. McGovern said he did not know where to begin and where to end, and he really thought he would not have a chance. Accustomed as he was to public speaking, he had hardly heard so voluminous a flow of eloquence, and he congratulated the company upon having so excellent a host. His further remarks, intellectual and stimulating, were characterised by a bright and sunny optimism which had a telling effect upon his auditors, and although he spoke in a light vein of the transient interests of life, he also touched upon the graver ones.

Other toasts were given and duly replied to, after which the company made their way to the large room of the hall, where dancing was indulged in, often relieved by songs, sketches, &c., the contributors being Bros. William Rostron W.M. 2185, H. G. Walker S.W. 2185, William Wright 2185, Edwd. Roberts P.M. 1459, C. M. Nesbitt Organist 1055 and St. Paul's Church, New Cross; Mrs. Russell, Miss Wright, Mr. J. Johnson (Liverpool), and some others.

The bridal pair left at an early hour for Chester, their intention being to spend the honeymoon in Wales.

Of the wedding presents, which poured upon them in a Danaë shower, many were very handsome; we enumerate the chief:—tea urn and jug, by Bros. and Mrs. W. Mowbray and O. Fowles; splendidly mounted hair brush and comb, Bro. W. Rostron; sardine dish, Bro. Walker; fish carvers, Bro. Ackerley; crumb tray, Bro. and Mrs. E. Turner; dinner service, Bro. and Mrs. J. Wright; table linen, Bro. and Mrs. W. Goodman; besides others of value from Bro. A. Ostara, Messrs. L. Ashford, W. Birchall, C. Challinor, J. Johnson, Chas. Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Bleackley, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ashford, Mr. and Mrs. L. Clarkson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Wright, Mrs. W. Risque, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Knowles, Misses Cliffe, Consterdine, Gore, Turner, Worthington, &c.